



# vision

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## TRUE HERO

Charlotte gets the fan vote

Affiliated to Organisation Générale des Amateurs Eurovision



# Vision

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# ED LINES

Welcome to another issue of **Vision** and, by the time you read this, autumn would have certainly arrived. Not that many people living in the United Kingdom actually saw anything of summer of course but, come rain or shine, there is little we can do about the passing of time! Speaking of which, 2009 is just around the corner and as this edition went to print the European Broadcasting Union confirmed that next year's Eurovision Song Contest will be held at Moscow's Olympiski Arena, with Russian Television already promising a spectacular show.

Before then more than 40 countries will select their next Eurovision entry, including what is likely to be a totally revamped process from the BBC. While it is still too early to say what form this will take, Sir Terry Wogan is expected to be less involved than what he has been in previous years. However, any formal announcement of Terry's retirement has yet to be released and so there is still a chance that the infamous Irishman will appear once again.

Talking of Knights of the Realm, honorary or otherwise, Sir Cliff Richard had just reached number three with his latest single at the time of writing. Love him or hate him, this means that Sir Cliff now holds the honour of being the only singer to enter the top five in six separate decades. As he once sang in Eurovision, **Vision** would like to say "Congratulations" on reaching such an incredible milestone.

Until next time,

*Gordon Lewis*

## CONTENTS

Retrospective Part 2	2-7
ESC Online	8-9
Scottish Pole Dancing	10-11
Whatever Happened To...	12-13
Eurocurios	14-16
Euro Quiz	17
Turkish Son	18-19
Having Some Fun	20-21
The Day I...	22-24
Richard's Round Up	25-27
For The Record	28-33
Record Reviews	34-36
OGAE UK Accounts	Inside back cover

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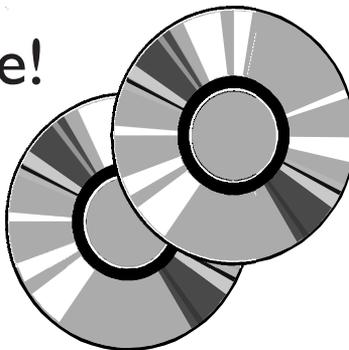
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# RETROSPECTIVE

## PART 2

Darren Jenkin returns with a selection of your comments on Eurovision 2008, as well as those all-important results that are presented slightly differently this year. So let the countdown begin!

43rd ESTONIA 5 points

"Ugh" - *David Revie*  
 "Not funny, not in tune. That's three minutes I won't get back" - *Irene Revie*

42nd BELARUS 20 points

"It just drones on" - *David Revie*  
 "Ukraine's entry of the same name was so much better" - *Steve Boon*

41st IRELAND 33 points

"Oh my God. Bring back Roland Rat" - *Kay*  
 "A well deserved non-qualifier" - *Jim Van Hoecke*  
 "Two words. Get stuffed" - *David Blunt*

40th GERMANY 37 points

"The look of the Spice Girls. The talent of the Cheeky Girls" - *Terry Clarke*  
 "Terrible harmonies. Which one is out of tune?" - *Irene Revie*

39th CZECH REP. 43 points

"She looks embarrassed by this total mess" - *Sally Frith*  
 "If you wanna have some fun, don't run". The Czech is in the post for lyrical genius" - *Sally-Ann*

38th CYPRUS 55 points

"A musical type mess" - *Sally-Ann*  
 "She really should've just left the backing singers to get on with it" - *Tim Gray*

37th FINLAND 61 points

"Taste the testosterone" - *Anon*  
 "Oh not again ..... a bad Whitesnake" - *Gary Kettle*  
 "Too noisy. No way" - *Davina Revie*

36th LITHUANIA 68 points

"Get a grip boy. All a bit angst" - *Irene Revie*  
 "Naturally I loved every grotesque

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBIN SCOTT. WITH THANKS



Ireland: Stuffed?



Lithuania: Angst



Belgium: Original



Bulgaria: Seizure

second of this" - *Martin Faulkner*  
 "Excellent. Beautiful, powerful ballad by an accomplished singer" - *Theresa Collins*  
 "If his trousers had gotten any tighter we would've seen his gonads in the night" - *Billy Boy*

35th FYR MACEDONIA 72 points

"One of their better entries but justice was at last served" - *Barry Caughtry*  
 "Persistent rhythm but little tune" - *Martin Frampton*

33rd= CROATIA 73 points

"Did he get lost on the way to the nursing home?" - *Sarah*

33rd= ROMANIA 73 points

"He was fantastic. She should've stayed at home" - *Tim Gray*  
 "Female destroys song" - *David Revie*

32nd NETHERLANDS 74 points

"A great effort by this overlooked nation" - *Rod Maybour*  
 "Bad boots but a catchy song" - *Perran*  
 "An exotic flavour but lacked seasoning!" - *Jim Van Hoecke*

31st SPAIN 82 points

"Elvis should definitely leave the building" - *Kath Dobson*  
 "What a chiki chappie with those chiki girls" - *Terry Egan*

"It's Rolf Harris in an Elvis wig" - *Andi Musson*

29th= AZERBAIJAN 84 points

"Extraordinary debut. Destined to be a Eurovision classic though for all the wrong reasons" - *Sally Ann*  
 "Best intro ever. Very inventive and different" - *Irene Revie*

29th= BELGIUM 84 points

"I know a song that'll get on your nerves" - *David Blunt*  
 "She reminded me of a boiled sweet" - *Terry Clarke*  
 "Was this a Belgian Betty Boo?" - *TJ Loveridge*  
 "Certainly the most original song in the contest" - *Jim Van Hoecke*

28th MONTENEGRO 86 points

"Mmmmmmm leather" - *Tim Gray*  
 "Lots of leather but no gimp mask" - *Kay*

27th BULGARIA 97 points

"A seizure set to music" - *Anon*  
 "For us this is early 90's techno rave. For Bulgaria this is bang up to date" - *Sally Ann*

26th GEORGIA 101 points

"The range was too low for the singer. Very dark song" - *Auntie Pam*  
 "Fantastic staging but also a lesson on



how to murder the English language”  
- *Steve Boon*

**25th DENMARK 104 points**  
“Catchy but seemed to go on all night long” - *Terry Clarke*  
“Not the Lionel Ritchie song but better” - *Terry Egan*  
“Sounds like ‘deeply dippy’” - *Marie*  
“Clean ya’ chimney sir?” - *Mark*

**24th MALTA 108 points**  
“Is it me or does this make no sense in English?” - *Steve Boon*  
“She can drown her sorrows in vodka” - *Terry Egan*  
“I’ll have a double please” - *Rod Maybour*

**23rd UK 111 points**  
“Wiggling man” - *Carly*  
“Even if we shoot Johnny Easterner there is still no hope of winning” - *Martin Frampton*

**22nd MOLDOVA 121 points**  
“Cruelty to bears. Nasty woman!!!” - *Sally Frith*  
“Weird. Personally I think the teddy stood more chance” - *Tim Gray*

**21st SAN MARINO 134 points**  
“It deserved something better than last” - *Alexandros J Roussos*  
“Deserved to do so much better and a



credible first entry” - *Barry Caughtry*

**20th POLAND 137 points**  
“Their best entry so far” - *Graham Brown*  
“Dull ballad, way too much tan and teeth whitening” - *Irene Revie*

**19th SLOVENIA 138 points**  
“A fabulous catchy song that she proceeded to ruin on her live performance” - *Sally Ann*  
“Good outfit and a great stage performance” - *Perran*

**18th ANDORRA 142 points**  
“It’s the Andorran Pussycat Dolls” - *PR Price*  
“Not bad but unimpressed with the tin man outfit” - *Kay*  
“The best song that failed to qualify” - *Terry Egan*

**17th HUNGARY 144 points**  
“One of the better entries which then proceeded to come last!” - *Sally Ann*  
“The candle was blown out a tad too early for Czesy” - *Paul Gurney*

**16th ALBANIA 145 points**  
“Beautiful song and a very capable singer. Would do well in any language” - *Theresa Collins*  
“Fantastic improvement on last years tripe” - *Anon*



France: John Lennon?



Bosnia: Bonkers

15th LATVIA 149 points

"This should've been at Junior Eurovision" - *Graham Brown*  
 "Earth to Scooch. This is how you do it" - *Martin Faulkner*

14th ISRAEL 150 points

"What a voice. I think this is great" - *Auntie Pam*  
 "Song okay. Biceps better" - *Kay*  
 "I wish I had his arms" - *Colin Taylor*

13th FRANCE 157 points

"John Lennon I know it's you!!!" - *Terry Egan*  
 "Non non non non non" - *Marie*

12th BOSNIA HERZ. 161 points

"A bit too self consciously bonkers but a cracking little song all the same" - *Martin Faulkner*  
 "In many countries they would be sectioned" - *Paul*  
 "They could've done my washing for me" - *TJ Loveridge*

11th ARMENIA 170 points

"This song demands belly dancers" - *Gary Kettle*  
 "Athletic performance by Sirusho" - *PR Price*

10th GREECE 207 points

"This is what we like. Ultra catchy and a touch of the bazookas" - *Sally Ann*

9th RUSSIA 215 points

"Despite the Timbaland touch I refused to be Putin this in my top ten" - *Sally Ann*  
 "Dull boring angst ridden winner" - *Jeremy Kerridge*  
 "6.0 6.0 6.0 6.0 6.0 for artistic impression" - *Paul*

"At least he dumped the lady in the piano" - *Andi Musson*

8th SWITZERLAND 216 points

"Result Stupido" - *Andy Roberts*  
 "A modern and rather good number from this Italian dreamboat once again ruined by poor delivery" - *Sally Ann*  
 "Beautiful. It's non qualification was the musical travesty of 2008" - *Theresa Collins*

7th SERBIA 226 points

"Another strong performance of a powerful and haunting ballad" - *Steve Boon*  
 "This is an emergency appeal. Serbia's music industry has been crippled by a drum machine drought. Please give generously" - *Martin Faulkner*  
 "It was muted that Serbia could do the double. I needed a double after this dull tribute to the Motherland" - *Sally Ann*

"When will they sing a happy song?" - *TJ Loveridge*

6th ICELAND 267 points

"Sounded great and at last got them back into the final" - *Barry Caughtry*  
"Can't wait for this at the Eurobash disco" - *Tim Gray*  
"This superior slab of perfectly executed dance is my number one. Ice ice baby" - *Sally Ann*

5th PORTUGAL 269 points

"Good finish. I mean I was glad when it finished" - *Kath Dobson*  
"What a performer. Should be in a Lloyd-Webber production" - *Irene Revie*  
"The big girl with a big voice" - *TJ Loveridge*

4th TURKEY 276 points

"Manic Street Preachers influenced band with this years most credible entry" - *Sally Ann*

3rd UKRAINE 338 points

"Yes yes yes yes. Ohhhhhhhhhh yes" - *Mark*  
"The head bobbing thing just rocks" - *Theresa Collins*  
"Slick and stylish performance" - *Jeremy Kerridge*  
"Nod a bad result" - *Andy Roberts*

2nd NORWAY 345 points

"The dark horse of the contest. Everybody's second favourite" - *Theresa Collins*  
"A proper song as they say in the trade" - *Sally Ann*  
"I still can't believe she didn't call her album 'Hold on be storing'" - *Martin Faulkner*

1st SWEDEN 346 points

"Great song. UK needs a song like this" - *Graham Brown*  
"Swedish quality. Charlotte should've scored better" - *Jim Van Hoecke*



Charlotte wins for Sweden!  
Photo by Peter Knutson

### And now for a summary of how readers voted in each of the individual shows

#### First Semi-final

Norway	724
Greece	570
Portugal	538
Poland	452
Armenia	449
Russia	410
Slovenia	380
Andorra	367
Netherlands	358
Bosnia Herzegovina	348
San Marino	319
Romania	306
Azerbaijan	257
Ireland	229
Belgium	217
Finland	216
Montenegro	214
Moldova	159
Estonia	77

#### Second Semi-final

Ukraine	613
Sweden	590
Portugal	538
Iceland	505
Turkey	414
Switzerland	396
Georgia	310
Denmark	306
Albania	295
Bulgaria	292
Malta	291
Latvia	283
Hungary	250
FYR Macedonia	220
Croatia	212
Cyprus	173
Lithuania	134
Belarus	110
Czech Republic	101

#### Eurovision Final

Ukraine	560
Sweden	539
Iceland	463
Norway	446
Serbia	334
Turkey	295
Portugal	287
Russia	285
Poland	283
Israel	273
United Kingdom	266
Denmark	261
Armenia	256
Greece	248
Latvia	246
Azerbaijan	244
Bosnia Herzegovina	199
Albania	193
France	153
Finland	138
Romania	137
Croatia	134
Georgia	126
Germany	95
Spain	85



**Ukraine: The Shady Lady**

It was certainly a closely fought contest in three of the polls. I don't read any of your comments until I have written Retro as it would be too tempting to copy some of the wondrously witty things you all come up with ... and the evil stuff as well! It is always such a pleasure to read all your efforts and I truly wish that I had greater space to print more comments. I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who submitted your votes, and especially to those that e-mailed or wrote their thoughts down and sent them to me. This article would be nothing without you! Until next year! Darren

# ESC ONLINE

Welcome to another edition of your guide to everything that's Eurovision on the World Wide Web!

We're into the long dark tea-time of the Eurovision soul that is the off-season,



making this an ideal opportunity to look at some web-based sights and sites that might have been forgotten at a busier time of the year. First up this time is <http://www.nul-points.net>, and I actually feel slightly ashamed at not having highlighted this one sooner. As the name suggests, its primary focus is on those poor unfortunate souls who've ended up right at the bottom of the scoreboard, with short profiles of each one from Fud Leclerc through to Jemini. However, it also features an incredibly comprehensive year-by-year and country-by-country guide to the Contest, with plenty of facts, opinions and pictorial accompaniment. If that isn't enough for you, there are several features on the United Kingdom's ESC history and UK finals over the years, as well as a number of polls, an unashamedly opinionated blog and various other sections. Well worth a visit, to say the least!

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If ESC nostalgia is your thing, one particularly diligent YouTube user has been working tirelessly on your behalf. Preview videos have been an integral part of the on-season experience for a number of years now, but how many of us know that they've been around since back in 1971? More remarkably still, they've all been uploaded to YouTube and compiled in one easy-to-navigate directory, making for a fascinating treasure trove of goodies old and new. A lot of money often goes into preview videos these days (unless you're

A SELECTION OF NUL POINTERS!

at the bottom of the scoreboard, with short profiles of each one from Fud Leclerc through to Jemini. However, it also features an incredibly comprehensive year-by-year and country-by-country guide to the Contest, with plenty of facts, opinions and

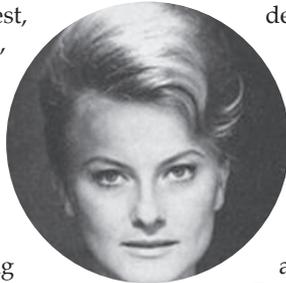


Czech), but it's the production values and heart and soul of the older efforts that make them a particular joy to watch. Visit [http://uk.youtube.com/profile\\_play\\_list?user=jief75](http://uk.youtube.com/profile_play_list?user=jief75) and see for yourself – but don't expect to achieve much for the rest of the day!



Sticking with the video theme, I have absolutely no explanation for this surreal take on the first semi-final of this year's Contest, other than it's Dutch, it's clever, and it's very, very silly. Everything else you need to know can be found at <http://www.burorenkema.nl/2008/05/zongfestiviel.php>.

It's amazing what you can find when trawling through old bookmarks to see which ones still work and which have died. A lot of the sites featured in this column over the years are sadly no longer with us, but some curiosities live on, however inexplicable their survival may be. Take this audiovisual



interpretation of the Gipsy Kings' "Volare", evidently put together by a German with a decent knowledge of Flash and too much time on his hands (<http://fun.from.hell.pl/2003-02-18/volare-karaoke.swf>) – or, for the linguistic aficionados among us, a chance to revisit ESC 1997 and see how Swedish ears interpret the Turkish language (<http://www.sithspawn.com/sarrmajja/sarrmajjan.swf>).



Meanwhile, as if to prove that you can find absolutely anything on the Internet, this little toy allows you to push, pull, warp and generally disfigure the faces of some of the "stars" of ESC 2003 (<http://www.angelfire.com/retro/jonasjg/Other/escwarp.htm>). It's surprisingly therapeutic.



Finally this time, a deserved shout-out for the BBC for once. Piggybacking on the YouTube trend, their Eurovision mini-site (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/eurovision>) offered a number of videos in the run-up to this year's Contest, and they're still available now.

Featuring clips from broadcasts past, fashion disasters and hairstyle horrors over the years and interviews with Terry



Wogan and semi-final commentators

Paddy O'Connell and Caroline Flack, you're unlikely to find anything here that you haven't seen before, but it's all reflective of a slicker and more interactive approach to the Beeb's Eurovision "product". Long may that continue, whatever Sir Terry himself may have to say about the Contest!



And that's all for now. As always, feel free to contact me at [m.d.faulkner@hamburg.de](mailto:m.d.faulkner@hamburg.de) if you have any comments or suggestions. Happy surfing! ♥



# SCOTTISH POLE DANCING

Gordon Lewis reflects on the recent Eurovision Dance Contest

THE WINNERS FROM POLAND

Hosted for a successive year by Graham Norton and Claudia Winkleman, the second Eurovision Dance Contest was broadcast live from the Scottish City of Glasgow. 14 nations gathered from all parts of Europe and, in a slight change to last year, dancing couples comprising one professional and one amateur represented each country. However, in most cases the less experienced dancer had already achieved some success in various international versions of the hit show, 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Further changes saw each couple perform just one dance, whilst the votes of a four-piece jury were combined with those of the viewing public before the final winner was announced. The jurors chosen for 2008 were Barbara Nagode Ambroz (Slovenia), Michelle Ribas (France), Sven Traut (Germany) and, from Singapore, acclaimed dancing celebrity Gladys Tay who added a truly international flavour to the overall event.

The United Kingdom, which came second from last in 2007 with Brendan Cole & Camilla Dallerup's 'James Bond' medley, were represented by former Eastender and 'The Bill' actress, Louisa Lytton. Anglo-Italian star of the BBC's 'Strictly Come Dancing', Vincent Simone, partnered Louisa for their interpretation

of Lee Mead's recording of "Paint It Black". Elsewhere the Russians were represented on British soil by the unfortunately named Alexander Litvinenko & Tatiana Navka, but denied all claims that they had any association with a now deceased ex-spy of the same name as Tatiana's partner! Despite the friendly rivalry that existed between all the contestants, with all 28 individuals uniting for a group dance whilst viewers across Europe cast their votes, tension remained high with each couple desperate to achieve 'douze points' for their respective country.

Ken Goodman and Craig Revel Horwood provided the television commentary for British viewers, but frequently disagreed in their comments following each routine. Opera singer Lesley Garrett joined the City of Glasgow choir and the cast of 'Carousel' for a medley of songs from the forthcoming West End stage production. This marked Lesley's second interval appearance, having first appeared as part of a multicultural extravaganza at the 1998 Eurovision Song Contest in Birmingham. The Song Contest also met the Dance Contest when 18 year old Dutchman, Thomas Berge, chose to sing the introductory and closing lines of the accompanying song as part of his routine with Roemjana de Haan, but failed to



impress anyone apart from the Danes and scored just one point.

Elsewhere controversy appeared when it was revealed that the non-professional half of the Russian duo, Tatiana Navka, was an Olympic and world champion ice skater, providing her with a natural advantage, whilst Ukrainian Liliya Podkopaeva had won similar accolades as a gymnast for her country. However, none of the 'non-professionals' could compete with Australian-Greek Jason Roditis. Now employed as a Surfing Instructor, Jason had previously been a professional dancer alongside his contest partner in the not so distant past!

Having received maximum marks from the jurors, Denmark took an early lead in the voting but Poland, who eventually scored a well-deserved victory, soon overtook the Danish nation. But as with many a recent Eurovision Song Contest, questions must be asked about the fairness of televoting in an increasingly political age. Of the five eastern European countries

taking part, all five were at the top of the final scoreboard leaving the west to return home disappointed once again. Although some will claim the results showed little diaspora voting overall, others will argue that the final outcome is further evidence of eastern domination.

Finally, whilst Marcin Mroczek & Edyta Herbus were celebrating their win in front of journalists at a press conference, European viewers were left wondering whether the Azeri couple were still celebrating the 'surprise' on-air proposal by Eldar Dzhaferov to his partner, Anna Sazhina. It added such a touching and romantic moment to the show, with the pair pledging their love for each other and promising to marry should Azerbaijan win. It's just a shame that the press release and accompanying photograph announcing this special occasion was issued 24 hours before the international broadcast, and we may never know whether Eldar and Anna have since scored better in other areas of their partnership! **V**

THE RESULTS				
Country	Dance Couple	Music	Style	Points
Poland	Marcin Mroczek & Edyta Herbus	"Whatever Happens"/ "Black Or White"	Fusion of Rumba and Cha-Cha with Modern Jazz Dance flavour	154
Russia	Alexander Litvinenko & Tatiana Navka	"Koni Priveredliviye"	Fusion of Cha-Cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble and Russian Dance	121
Ukraine	Serhij Kostetskiy & Liliya Podkopaeva	"In The Mood"	Jive	119
Lithuania	Saulius Skambinas & Karina Krysk	"Teka Teka Skaisti Saule"	Rumba, Cha-Cha and acrobatic elements	110
Azerbaijan	Eldar Dzhaferov & Anna Sazhina	"The Phantom Of The Opera"	Fusion of Paso Doble, Azeri Folk Dance, Rumba and Tango	106
Denmark	Patrick Spiegelberg & Katja Svensson	"Twin Peaks" Theme/"Igen & Igen"	Fusion of Samba, Tango, Paso Doble and contemporary Jazz Dance	102
Greece	Jason Roditis & Tonia Kosovich	"Misirlou"/"Pump It"	Fusion of Latin dances	72
Portugal	João Tiago & Raquel Tavares	"Tirei A Sorte"	Fusion of Rumba and Tango	61
UK	Vincent Simone & Louisa Lytton	"Paint It Black"	Fusion of Paso Doble, Tango and Jive	47
Finland	Mikko Ahti & Maria Lund	"Satumaa"	Tango	44
Ireland	Gavin O'Fearraigh & Dearbhla Lennon	"The Mama Song"	Paso Doble and Rumba with a Hard Shoe Irish Dance	40
Sweden	Danny Saucedo & Jeanette Carlsson	"Hung Up"	Cha-Cha	38
Austria	Dorian Steidl & Nicole Kuntner	"The Pink Panther Theme" (Medley)	Slowfox & Jive	29
Netherlands	Thomas Berge & Roemjana de Haan	"Angels"	Rumba and Show Dance	1

# WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...



# ESTHER HART

In his regular column looking at Song For Europe entrants, **Marcus Keppel-Palmer** looks at the career of Esther Hart

**E**sther Hart. Hold on just a cotton-picking moment. Wasn't she the Dutch girl who represented the Netherlands in Riga 2003? This column looks at songwriters and performers from the UK pre-selection only. So what is Esther Hart doing here?

And that is a good question, but one that will be answered shortly. Esther was born on 3rd June 1970 in Epe, in the east of the Netherlands, and christened Esther Katinka Hartkamp; Katinka after the Dutch entry in 1962. Music played a part in Esther's early life, and she joined and performed with the children's choir De Lenteklokjes, who recorded several albums. Esther sang the lead on "Silent Night" for one of these releases.

Whilst at school, Esther became involved in an eight-piece group called Release, releasing a single called "Celebrate". On leaving school, she went to Rotterdam to

study at the music Conservatory, training her mezzo-soprano vocal style in a soulful manner and graduating in 1994, having trained as a music teacher.

However, Esther was a doer as well as a teacher and she threw herself with gusto into the Dutch music scene. She

participated in an album by D-Wys and the Voices of Soul called "Organtasy".

Under the guidance of jazz organist Carlo de Wijs, Esther sang "White Butterfly".

Alongside Carlo, she also performed at several jazz festivals and sang on the soundtrack of a little-

known film called "Fakin Da Funk" starring Pam Grier and Ernie Hudson. In 1995, Esther participated in a harmony group called Stars en Belles and recorded a Christmas album with them.

Esther supplemented her singing career by teaching at various music schools and, most notably, at the Rock Academy in Tilburg. In 1998 she



Glinda in The Wiz

recorded and released her first solo album called "Fruit At The Bottom", with a single called "Love This Life" released from it. Eclectically, her next recording was in 1999 when she sang on several songs for a children's charity for an album of Dutch children's songs called "In De Maneschijn", which was followed by a 2000 dance track released in Germany and becoming a UK dance hit called "Ain't No Lies".

In 2003, Esther was approached to participate at Eurovision for both the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Esther convincingly won the second Dutch semi-final and then the final with "One More Night". However, before that she was asked to sing "Wait For The Moment" in the UK pre-selection, and a recorded version of the song written by Danny Davies was chosen by Radio 2 listeners to go forward to the Song For Europe.

But Esther couldn't represent two countries. She chose to continue in the Dutch pre-selection, leaving "Wait For The Moment" to be re-titled "Now And Forever" and to be sung firstly by United Colours of Sound and then finally by Simon Chapman, which led to an unsuccessful protest by the writer of Emily Reed's song. As it turned out, Esther eventually trumped the UK's representatives, Jemini, at Eurovision.

She released a solo album called "Straight From The Heart", which included "One More Night" but not "Wait For The Moment". Two further singles were released from the album and Esther was asked to be vocal coach for the Dutch

entrants at Junior Eurovision in 2003 (Roel), 2004 (Klaartje & Nicky) and 2005 (Tess). 2004 also saw Esther participate as the coach of the girls in the Dutch version of Popstars: The Rivals, and duetted with jazz musician Toots Thielemans on the Unicef album, "What A Difference A Day Makes", singing the Charlie Chaplin song "Smile".

Esther continued to get involved with various projects. A 2006 theatre tour saw her performing Queen songs in "Queen In Concert", as well as joining a grouping called De Eurostars which toured singing Eurovision songs. The group included Franklin & Maxine, as well as Marlayne from ESC 2000. Esther and Marlayne also toured as a duo known as the 80's Ladies, singing hits from that era. She continued to record, but mainly contributed to albums of children's songs; a recurring interest of hers.

Theatre beckoned and Esther took the role of Glinda in The Wiz; the musical which was made into a film starring Michael Jackson and Diana Ross. Esther played the role alongside Glennis Grace, who also participated at Eurovision in 2005.

In 2008, Esther took time out from her pop, dance, soul, jazz and musicals career to give birth to a son; the father being Aram Kersbergen of the Metropole Orchestra. Would Esther have fared better for the UK than Jemini in 2003? We will never know the answer to that one, but it seems that Esther's decision to pass on the Song For Europe was one that opened doors for her. ▼



The 80's Ladies

# EURO CURIOS

More Eurovision curiosities by Thomas Latham

Claims and counter claims have always revolved around the Eurovision Song Contest, and rumour has it that the BBC wanted to revert to the one artist format for the pre-selection in 1985, choosing Lena Zavaroni as their choice. However, the Music Publishers' Association, who then had greater control over the UK entry, blocked any move towards this, as they wanted songwriters to be able to choose their own artists. Does anyone know anymore about this? Incidentally, you can find Lena's performances of Eurovision winners "Hallelujah" (IL79), "What's Another Year" (IE80), "Making Your Mind Up" (UK81) and SFE runner-up "Don't Panic" (SFE81) on YouTube.



Cilla Black



Lena Zavaroni

Presumably these come from her BBC show of 1980-1982 but do suggest that she may have been a Eurovision-friendly artist. 1985 would have been the year after the BBC had apparently asked Bonnie Tyler to perform all the songs, so it is possible that this format was being seriously considered in the mid-1980s. This information originally came from Wikipedia, which is not always 100% reliable, but it is worth noting some of the other rumours they have on their site.

Cilla Black hosted A Song for Europe in 1968 and 1973, and was the original choice to sing the UK entry in 1968. She turned it down, believing it unlikely that the UK

could score back-to-back wins; something that may have indeed happened if Spain had not 'interfered' with the voting according to a recent Spanish documentary. Cilla lost out again in 1970 as she was expecting her first child. Slade, Peters & Lee and Elaine Paige also reputedly turned down similar opportunities in the seventies and eighties.

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice submitted a song for Lulu in 1969 entitled "Try It And See", which was later re-written as "King Herod's Song" in the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar". Personally, I always thought that the song from "Jesus Christ Superstar" to have been submitted to the contest was "Everything's Alright". Also according to Wikipedia, Liz McClarnon's song "(Don't It Make You) Happy" from 2007 samples Dusty Springfield's "Son Of A Preacher Man". Can anyone confirm or deny this?

Talking of Andrew Lloyd Webber's murky SFE past, theatre producer David Ian, who was one of the judges on the BBC's "How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria" (as well as on ITV's "You're The One That I Want"), also has a Eurovision related CV. This former actor was twice



runner-up in SFE when, in 1984, he was a member of First Division who performed "Where The Action Is" and, two years later, sang "Don't Hang Up On Love" as part of the group Jump; both songs being written by Paul Curtis and Graham Sacher.

Wikipedia is not the only place to find rumours about the British Eurovision pre-selections. Some conspiracy theorists claim that Sister Sway lost out in 1999's GBSC when the BBC decided to disregard votes from the North West of England. An unusually high proportion of votes from this region went to the Jackson sisters who came from (surprise, surprise) Manchester and were signed to the Blackburn-based label All Around The World. The theory claims that the BBC had already invested in a documentary about Precious and wanted to see a return for their money so fiddled the result. I'm not one to give any credence to such theories but, in the light of more recent 'phone-voting scandals, who knows if there is any substance to this one. Incidentally, "Until You Saved My Life" (written by Pete King and Lee Monterverdi) was not originally planned as a Eurovision entry, but was submitted when they realised how 'Euro' it was; "like a modern-day Bucks Fizz number" as quoted by the Manchester Evening News.

I recently came across a 2000 CD compilation by Danish duo Lecia and Lucienne, who tried to take part in Eurovision a couple of times. "The



Collection" (Disky - DSI 990502) has quite a few Eurovision related tracks, including a few I hadn't come across before. As well as their 1980 Melodi Grand Prix entry, "Bye Bye" written by Tommy Seebach (DK79/81/93), there are Danish cover versions of three ABBA songs ("Waterloo", "I Am Just A Girl" and "Money Money Money"), a live version of Finland 1976 and a fairly straightforward cover of "Genghis Khan" (DE79).

The website Jock 'n' Roll ([www.jocknroll.co.uk/index\\_files/Trivia.htm](http://www.jocknroll.co.uk/index_files/Trivia.htm)) has put me on the track of some interesting pieces of trivia about a couple of the Scottish entrants to SFE over the years. James Oliver, who came 6th in 1985 with "What We Say With Our Eyes" and 7th in 1989 with "Can't Stop Loving You", was also a member of Klass who came last in 1988 with "One More Chance". The site claims his real name is James McClure, but I wonder if he is also the same as the James McLaren who co-wrote "One More Chance" with Linda Carroll (the other half of Klass). Perhaps they have confused him with Chris McClure, who is better known to us as Christian (who came 3rd equal in the 1978 SFE with the Martin/Coulter composition, "Shine It On"). There's an interesting interview with Christian to be found at [www.sunnygovan.com/GF/A-E/Christian.html](http://www.sunnygovan.com/GF/A-E/Christian.html), in which he talks about his life, his career and his appearance in a certain SFE. He seems to misremember some facts, but I would be very interested to know more about the song "Home" that he recalls being submitted that year.

Speaking of 1978, I recently came across a promo for the US release of Co-Co's "Bad Old Days", which is on Private Stock Records (PS 45 195). Private Stock seems to have been a subsidiary of Hansa Records, who were responsible



The Hawking Brothers

for the European release. Both sides of the promo are exactly the same and I wonder if the album was also released over there in any format.

Meanwhile, Gordon Campbell, who came 9th in 1987 with his self-penned "Just Let Me Be", had previously been UK 800 metre champion and wrote songs like "Because I Love You" and "Radio" (the latter with Bob Heatlie) for Shakin' Stevens. Gordon also sang backing vocals on both tracks but has more recently been a lecturer at Stow College in Glasgow, co-director of Edinburgh's The Music Kitchen with former Bay City Roller Stuart 'Woody' Wood and manager of the MacDonald Brothers from ITV's "The X Factor".

Finally, I recently discovered that The Hawking Brothers won a Country Music Association of Australia award for 'Best Vocal Group Or Duo' in 1977 for their version of "This House Runs On Sunshine", which had been one of the Shadows' SFE entries a couple of years earlier. Nice to know the song won something.

If you have any information about releases that may be of interest to others, or even just questions, then please contact me, Thomas Latham, at Long Close, Prior Park Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1BL. ♡

# EURO QUIZ

This issue's quiz takes a look at those songs unfortunate enough to be performed from second in the draw – often considered the “draw of death”! A suitably unlucky 13 questions await... by **Martin Faulkner** and **Marcus Keppel-Palmer**

1. Second is statistically one of the weaker draw spots, but what is the best position achieved by a song drawn there?
2. At the other end of the scale, who is the only artist to have achieved “nul points” from second in the draw under the current scoring system?
3. How many UK entries have been performed from second in the draw?
4. Which country was originally drawn second in 1988 only to withdraw after its entry was found to be in breach of Eurovision rules?
5. Vicky Leandros and “L’amour est bleu” were second out of the hat in 1967, but who took the
7. Which artist performed from second in the draw just one year after performing first?
8. Jessica Garlick participated in the first series of “Pop Idol” shortly before appearing at ESC 2002. Where did she finish in “Pop Idol” and what song did she sing in the show in which she was eliminated on December 22nd?
9. Which entry drawn second prompted its country's Minister of Culture to threaten his resignation if the song were sent to the Contest?
10. Which is the only second-drawn song this millennium to be performed at ESC in a different language to that in which it won its national final?



song to the top of the US charts the following year?

6. Who is the only singer drawn second to have enjoyed a top 3 single in the UK charts prior to appearing in the Contest – albeit as a member of a group?



11. What is Gina G's surname?



12. To date, how many songs drawn second in an ESC semi-final have qualified for the final?
13. A total of three singers have been drawn second when representing one country then subsequently returned to perform for another. Name them.

*Answers on inside back cover*

# TURKISH SON

Copenhagen 2001 and Turkey's representative was Sedat Yuce, a male singer performing a quiet ballad, "Sevgiliye Son", which finished 11th and ushered in the Turkish years of high finishes.

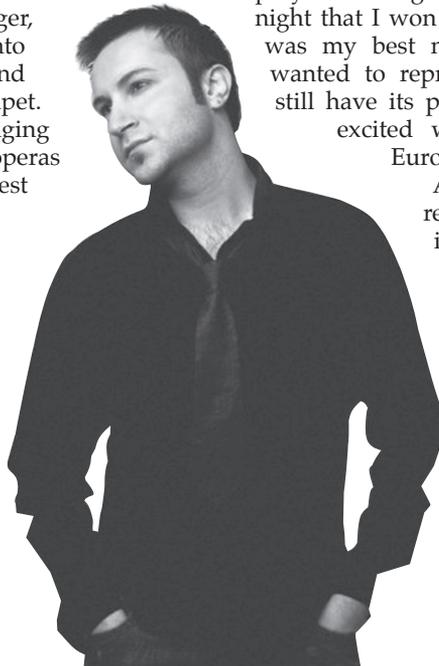
Marcus Keppel-Palmer had the opportunity to have a quick chat with Sedat to catch up on his career

**S**edat begins by explaining his background. "I was born in 1976 in Izmir. I have always been interested in music and have done a wide variety of things in music, such as playing trumpet in a symphony orchestra and singing in Latin, pop and jazz groups. I didn't select music as a job because I believe that people are born as musicians. I started with a child choir when I was in primary school. I took part in operas as a teenager, and then I got into the conservatory and started to play trumpet. Playing trumpet, singing and playing in operas became my greatest ambitions."

I ask Sedat how his participation in 2001 came about following two previously unsuccessful attempts. In 1996 he came third, and in 1999 he also

competed in the Turkish pre-selection. Sedat explains that "the composer, Semih Güneri, offered me the song to sing, and when I listened to the song I really liked it. I accepted his offer happily, and we won the pre-selection and qualified for the final. To be in the Eurovision Song Contest was my childhood dream. I never forget that when I was eight years old I told my mother 'Mum, I'll be in this contest one day'. I think God heard my prayers and I got into the contest. The night that I won the final ... that night was my best night because I really wanted to represent my country. I still have its pride and I always get excited when I am watching Eurovision."

And what does Sedat recall of the experience in Copenhagen? "I tried to do my best performance in Copenhagen, but I confess that I was a little inexperienced on stage" he explains. "It could have been much better. But it is in my



personality to criticise myself. I have never said that 'this is okay or enough'. I was really excited all the time, both backstage and on the stage. Generally, people liked my song; there was some criticism, sometimes a few people said that it's very slow but, in general, they liked it. And I have never heard bad criticism about my performance. It became the second best slow song in the general voting. And being 11th overall is not bad." At the time, of course, it was a solidly good result for a country more used to propping up the bottom of the board!

But that wasn't Sedat's first experience of Eurovision. "No," he laughs. "While I was in the conservatory I did the backing vocals for the Turkish Eurovision finals in 1993. That was my first experience of Eurovision." So does he want to try for Eurovision again? "As I said, I was inexperienced then. Now I feel myself much readier with my compositions – since Eurovision I have had the confidence to write my own songs - and with my voice. If TRT lets me, I would like to compete again. I watch Eurovision every year. Since I participated, the music and sounds have really changed. In my opinion, this is normal because everything is changing and it's good. Increasing the number of countries is okay, because new countries can and seem to make much better shows and sing better songs."

Our discussion turns to Turkish music in general. Sedat was not a fan of the Turkish Eurovision entry for 2008. "Actually, I have always thought that if Turkey compete with songs that have Turkish culture in them, we can be much more successful in the contest. Mor ve Otesi is a successful group, but I regret to say that their song can be much better and I don't like it. After Sertab Erener's success in

2003, Eurovision became very popular in Turkey. I thank her for this. Turkish music is growing up day by day and I am happy with this."

And finally, I ask Sedat what is his current plans are. He looks forward, saying "I am planning to release my solo album. Lots of my fans are waiting for this." Will he come to the UK to perform? For his fans, he holds out that bone of hope.

"I would like to come. Maybe I'll come to perform in the UK after my solo album." But with that, Sedat bustles off the line to prepare for his concert later that night. ▼



# HAVING SOME FUN



Despite singing one of the least successful songs at Eurovision 2008, Tereza Kerndlova was determined to 'Have Some Fun' when Ian Fowell spoke to her a few days before she flew to Belgrade

**Ian Fowell:** First of all, congratulations on winning the Czech Eurosong competition and earning the right to represent the Czech Republic at the Eurovision Song Contest. What were your feelings when you won?

**Tereza Kerndlova:** I was very surprised, but also very happy that I had this chance to take part in the Eurovision Song Contest.

**IF:** Is "Have Some Fun" now a chart and radio hit in the Czech Republic?

**TK:** Yes, I think that it still is.

**IF:** Have you released a new album in the Czech Republic and can you tell us something about the songs and the style of music?

**TK:** I have. The album is called "Have Some Fun". Most of the songs are in English and the style of music is more pop than R'n'B because I wanted to also try this.

**IF:** Have you been to other countries to promote the song? If so, where and what were your opinions of those places?

**TK:** I have been, for example, to Latvia, Malta, Ukraine and Belgium,

and I must say that I am satisfied with my promo tour. People were very friendly everywhere and they seemed to like my song and my music.

**IF:** What other plans do you have to promote the song between now and the contest in Serbia?

**TK:** Now I don't have any plans. From now on I must prepare for the contest very intensively, so there are no promo tours or anything like that. Just my full concentration on the performance.

**IF:** Will you be using backing singers and dancers in Belgrade?

**TK:** Yes, of course. I have two vocalists and two dancers performing with me, and also one DJ.

**IF:** Do you have any memories of the Eurovision Song Contest and, if so, do you have a favourite song?

**TK:** I must say that I like Eurovision, but the first time I saw it was last year because we – the Czech Republic - took part in it for the very first time. And my favourite song is "Wild Dances" from Ruslana.

**IF:** Have you heard all the songs from this year's Eurovision? If so, do you have any favourites?

**TK:** Yes, I have. I think that all of them are

very good. I have some favourites, but I will keep it to myself!

**IF:** You were in a girl group called Black Milk. Could you tell me something about their music and how many albums you released with them?

**TK:** The style of music was pop with a little R'n'B, and we published two CD albums.

**IF:** Do you still keep in touch with the girls from Black Milk and do they also have solo careers now?

**TK:** No, I don't, but as far as I know they have their solo careers.

**IF:** Your father is a jazz and swing musician. Have his influences rubbed off on you and do you like this type of music?

**TK:** Of course! My father influenced me in my way of singing and I also like his type of music.

**IF:** You also have another talent - tap dancing. Can you say something about this?

**TK:** Yes, I used to do tap dancing. But unfortunately I had to stop because of singing. There was no time for both activities and I wanted to sing so much. I did tap dancing in a tap group and we were champions in the Czech Republic six times, champions of Europe and 4th in the world championship.

**IF:** Thank you Tereza. Take care and let's have some fun in Belgrade! ▼



# THE DAY I... GOT CLOSE TO PADDY O'CONNELL

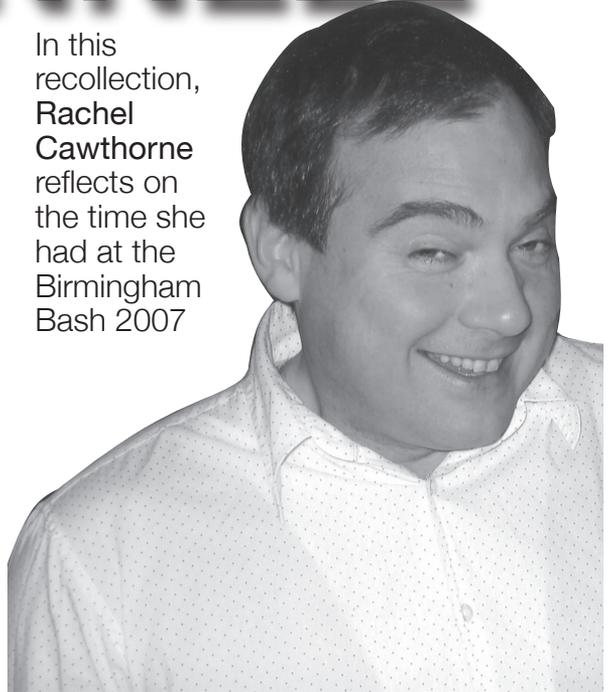
**“W**hat are you drinking?” I ask.

A pair of oceanic, sensitive eyes look up to the ceiling, either to contemplate the mysteries of the universe, or to decide whether to accept a beverage from a diminutive, hyperactive Eurovision aficionado.

“Lager - any lager, thanks”, comes the response, and I immediately charge past other members of OGAE in order to achieve my objective - a tepid pint of Stella Artois. Once bought, I tread with care, balancing two glasses of house white on my left hand whilst cradling the pint of lager in the other. With all the finesse of someone who has just undergone an hour of chiropractic therapy, I finally make it back to my table and my new found friend.

To my delight, this new found friend is none other than BBC3 Eurovision broadcasting icon Paddy O'Connell. He is also BBC Breakfast's business

In this recollection, Rachel Cawthorne reflects on the time she had at the Birmingham Bash 2007



correspondent and the voice of Broadcasting House, Radio 4's Sunday news programme. I'm thrilled that he has graced us with his presence at the OGAE UK Convention 2007 aka Birmingham Bash. I'm even more thrilled to find myself sitting adjacent to someone who most believe to be the living embodiment of Eurovision.

"Thanks." He smiles as I hand him his drink. We watch my fellow OGAE members perform their alternative version of Stars In Their Eyes and I can't help wondering what he makes of it all. But each time I turn to pass comment, invariably his eyes are alight with pure joy, and we both agree that each performance is first-rate!

The evening, for me, is rapidly turning into (pardon the cliché) some enchanted one. I'm positively glowing, although I'm not entirely certain whether it is induced by alcohol or by the luminosity of Paddy's smile. Either way, I'm amazed at my audacity, constantly bombarding him with questions.

"What's your ideal Saturday night?" I probe.

He informs me that he is no party animal, and that a few lagers and a selection of his favourite films suffice as an evening's entertainment - he has to

rise early to present Broadcasting House on Sunday mornings.

Of course he does! What did I expect?

Debauchery, curry houses and night clubs?

I feel that I am getting to know him and it does not take the influx of text messages he receives on his phone to convince me that he is a genuinely lovely guy - it simply confirms it. If I bore him with my job description as a Children's Librarian, it is never reflected in his eyes for a second. In fact I find his cordiality charming. He even offers to do a talk for one of my local schools, passing me his 'phone number and e-mail address before the Stella Artois takes effect. My mind is on fast-forward - I know that the children will adore him because of his genuineness and openness.

Our table becomes even more animated, if that is possible. Paddy replenishes my wine as the topic of conversation switches to the 2007 Belarus entry, Dima Koldun, protege of Russian composer and singer Philip Kirkorov.

"Who is Philip Kakeroff?" he asks.

"He's big in the Baltics" I explain, "and his protege Dima won Star Factory which is the equivalent of our Fame Academy or X Factor."

The conversation flows, but my fourth glass of house white has brought about an unwelcome fuzziness of mind and I begin to regret not helping myself to that second portion of tarragon chicken and rice from the hot buffet table. The excitement has proved all too much for me!

But I am determined to hit the dance floor. Despite the fact that my dance moves are not dissimilar from those of a Thunderbirds puppet, I manage to appreciate the Eurovision hits alongside friendly OGAE members. And as they play Tina Karol's "Show Me Your Love" for the tenth time, I throw my arms about Paddy's waist before shouting into his left ear lobe, "come on, show us your best dance moves!" He looks at me with pity ... I obviously do not get out that much. But he does manage a few ungraceful





steps before retreating to the edge of the dance floor, leaving me encircled by at least thirty Tina Karol devotees.

There is, undoubtedly, much love in the house, and I am driven by an intense desire to purchase champagne in order to convey mine. I exit the dance floor and head for the bar, intermittently having photographs taken with anyone who will have them taken with me.

"What would you like?" A sickeningly pretty bar girl notices my vulnerable state and quite possibly decides to take advantage of it.

"Champagne please" I beam.

Indeed, I do get my champagne. Veuve Clicquot ... at £49.95 per bottle. Paddy receives his glass with thanks, remarking on my kindness. I consider that inebriation would be a more accurate observation. And as I continue to share with him my stories of unrequited love in Sheffield, he nods sympathetically in the right places, endeavouring not

to fall asleep. But with the realisation surfacing that the bar does not stock enough Veuve Clicquot to fill every OGAE member's glass, I accept defeat. My bed in room 1226 beckons me, so I bid everyone goodnight.

Collapsing onto my bed, I reflect on the evening, grinning inanely. Despite his reluctance to sway his hips, I am amazed at how Mr O'Connell has embraced the 2007 Birmingham Bash, and has swiftly been accepted into our family. He is the brother we have never had, the husband we single girls would like to have, and the friend that we will always have. He is fun, compassionate, intelligent and entirely loveable. He has imbued our personal sphere with his wit and charm. And as I fall into the arms of Morpheus, I contemplate the 2008 event, with the hope that our friend will return. Only next time, I'll make a firm promise to myself to exercise sobriety! ▼

# RICHARD'S ROUNDUP

What's new from OGAE UK President Richard Crane

Once again the summer has failed to materialise, but the film version of "Mamma Mia" has had enough warmth for millions of cinema goers. The strength of ABBA's songs has resulted in a surge of sales and downloads, propelling "Gold" to number one in the album chart for the first time since 1999. Its cumulative sales of over four million now makes it the third best selling album of all time in UK, trailing The Beatles' "Sergeant Pepper" and Queen's "Greatest Hits". At the end of July no less than 12 ABBA songs were in the Top 200. ABBA's original "Mamma Mia" peaked just outside the Top 50, and was closely followed by the soundtrack version of "Honey Honey".

"Dancing Queen" almost reached the Top 75, as did Meryl Streep's version of



"Mamma Mia" and, also from the film, "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme". Further down "Lay All Your Love On Me" and "Dancing Queen" both charted from the soundtrack, whilst the other ABBA originals were "The Winner Takes It All", "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme", "Waterloo" and two songs making their UK chart debut; "Honey, Honey"

and "Slipping Through My Fingers". Alongside "Gold" on the album chart, the original stage recording of "Mamma Mia" reached a new chart peak of 13 (it had previously reached number 56 in 1999) and 2005's budget collection, "18 Hits", climbed 22 places higher than its previous peak last year. "More ABBA Gold" has also been re-issued and is expected to join the other three albums in the charts soon.

As well as topping the UK compilation

chart, the soundtrack to "Mamma Mia" is also the best selling album in America. This feat is made all the more surprising when you realise that ABBA never had a Top 10 album in America during their career; the highest position reached being number 14 in 1977 for "ABBA: The Album". Which brings us to "ABBA: The Movie", which was given a limited cinema run prior to its debut on DVD (Polydor 9871700). "ABBA: The Album" (Polydor 1731763) was re-issued last year with bonus tracks and a DVD featuring videos and television performances of tracks taken from the album. Watch out too for a five CD box set of solo recordings from Agnetha Faltskog. "The Collection" is due for release in September through BMG (88697352352). Meanwhile Edsel have re-issued the Blancmange album, "Mange Tout" (ESD 2023), which includes their fabulous version of "The Day Before You Came".

Sir Cliff Richard is hoping to dominate the charts over the next few months with a new single, album and book. "They Said It Wouldn't Last (My 50 Years In Music)" (EMI 2165922) is an eight CD boxed set which includes 34 unreleased tracks, a 50 page booklet and a re-press of Cliff's first 78 rpm record "Schoolboy Crush" / "Move It". "My Life, My Way" is the title of Cliff's autobiography and



Cliff



Alvin

it is expected to top the best seller list between now and Christmas, alongside his official calendar. If you are looking for new material from Cliff then check out "A Celebration Of Song" (EMI 2272742). The album is Olivia Newton John's new duets

CD and features "Find A Little Faith" with Cliff, alongside other tracks featuring Barry Gibb, John Farrar, Delta Goodrem, Keith Urban and others. Many of you will also know that "Big Ship" by Cliff Richard was a rejected Song For Europe entry, but may not be aware that the song was originally offered to Herman's Hermits. Their recording of the song has

remained unreleased for 40 years and finally sees the light of day on "Into Something Good: The Mickie Most Years 1964-1972" (EMI 2284172); a four CD set including songs written by John Carter, Geoff Stevens, Graham Gouldman and Kenny Young.

"Matt Sings, Nelson Swings" finally has a commercial release on EMI (5175792), and elsewhere tracks by Lisa Millet and Imaani feature on the triple CD by dance act Copyright. "Voices and Visions" is on Defected (COPVV01CD). Justin Hawkins has re-emerged as Hot Legs, whilst Cherry Red keep up their superb re-issue programme with the debut of

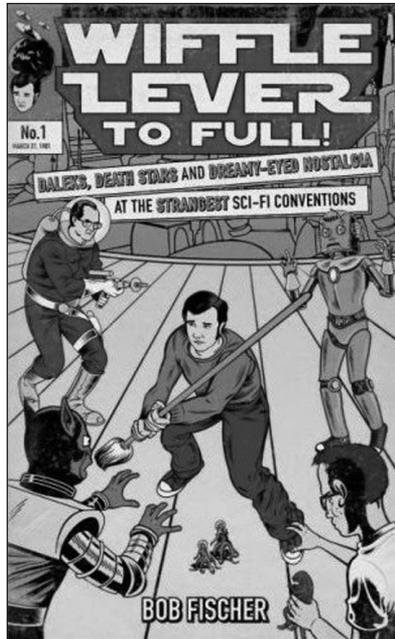
Alvin Stardust's first three albums on CD. "The Untouchable" (GLAMCD 69), "Alvin Stardust" (GLAMCD 70) and "Rock With Alvin" (GLAMCD 71) have all recently appeared. Those interested in cover versions of UK Eurovision entries might like to check out Morgan Fisher's "Hybrid Kids 1 & 2". The former Mott the Hoople keyboard player released two albums of cover versions in the late seventies including a bizarre version of "Save Your Kisses For Me". Tony Christie follows the duet trend with "Made In Sheffield" (Universal) which sees him team up with singers and musicians who were also born in Sheffield.

Scooter continue their current run of success with the release of a third single, "I'm Lonely", from the number one album "Jumping, All Over The World". BWO (Bodies Without Organs) reached number 69 in the UK with their Melodifestival entry "Lay Your Love On Me". Brian McFadden has a new album due out and has done a series of interviews to promote it. This has included him blaming poor sales of his first album on the split



with Kerry Katona, the record company giving him a list of things he could and couldn't write about, and his belief that only gay men should wear pink clothes! Talking of ex-Atomic Kitten Kerry, congratulations to Liz McClarnon on winning "Celebrity Masterchef".

Another issue of Vision and Kate Ryan has yet another release in the dance charts. This time it's a track called "All For You", but let's hope that it actually gets a commercial release this time! I know that many of you are Doctor Who fans, so I will take this opportunity to recommend "Wiffle Lever To Full" by Bob Fischer. It's published by Hodder & Stoughton, and takes an amusing look at the world of science fiction conventions. Finally, Celine Dion has



topped a poll by Total Guitar to find the 'worst cover version of all time'. Her version of AC/DC's "You Shook Me All Night Long" came out top despite the fact that she has never recorded the song! As it has only ever been performed live, how did all these metal heads come to hear it?

Until next time ... ♣

# FOR THE RECORD

For anyone visiting Belgrade it was relatively easy to collect the various CD singles available, but with fewer and fewer commercial versions appearing 2008 is still proving a challenge for the majority of Eurovision collectors. As always, **Vision** provides an overview of all 43 entries whilst recognising that other releases may also be available

## ALBANIA

### "Zemrën E Lamë Peng"

**Olta Boka**

*RTSH Promo*

A promotional CDR and DVDR, each featuring the latest offering from Albania, was circulated to media and press representatives attending the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest.



sleeve, the press version was included in the accompanying folder but without the sleeve.

## ARMENIA

### "Qele Qele" Sirusho

*ARMTV Promo*

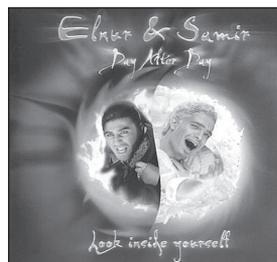
Sirusho provides four versions of her ethnic sounding entry on a CD single that was only issued as part of the official press pack and accompanied by a DVD containing the video.

## AZERBAIJAN

### "Day After Day" Elnur & Samir

*İctimai Promo*

The first entry from Azerbaijan appears on a multimedia CD (PC only) that features audio and video performances of "Day After Day", together with biographies and photographs of Elnur &



Samir alongside various scenic pictures of this debut nation. A second CD Rom, depicting the singers on the sleeve, includes five versions of the debut entry, although there are reported technical problems with some discs.

## BELARUS

### "Hasta La Vista" Ruslan Alehno

*TVR Promo*

Distributed as part of a press folder without separate sleeves or covers, the single contains

## ANDORRA

### "Casanova" Gisela

*Universal/Vale Music*

0602517 730359

Released as a one-track single in a card

English, Russian and four remixes of "Hasta La Vista", together with a selection of multimedia photographs. The accompanying DVD includes the official video.

**BELGIUM**

**"O Julissi Na Jalini"**

**Ishtar**

*Universal 06025 1766779*  
"O Julissi Na Jalini" is accompanied by the slower "Come All Ye Fair", which has a traditional folk quality to it. Belgium also



became the first country to circulate their entry to the media on a USB memory stick, providing yet another technological advancement for Eurovision collectors!

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

**"Pokusaj" Laka**

*BHRT DK-BV7-08-07804*

Love him or hate him, Laka's entry is promoted on this two-disc set. The CD contains Bosnian, instrumental and karaoke recordings alongside the English version, "Experiment", where

Laka confirms "we are living in a wacky world"! The accompanying DVD features the video, footage from the Bosnian final and a press section.

**BULGARIA**

**"DJ, Take Me Away"**

**Deep Zone & Balthazar**

*Virginia/Universal Music Promo MK53137*

Nine versions of the Bulgarian entry are included on this promotional CD that also includes the official video. The single is presented in a white paper sleeve with a black and white sticker detailing the track listing. An earlier eight track promotional single has also been circulated with photo inlay, and "DJ, Take Me Away" has received a commercial release as part of Deep Zone & Balthazar's latest album. Ten versions plus the video appear on the press promo, whilst a second ten version CD minus the video has recently appeared in circulation! Confusingly each single appears to have the same catalogue number.

**CROATIA**

**"Romanca" Kraljevi**

**Ulice & 75 Cents**

*Menart Promo*

Originally issued as a one-track promotional CD, a multi-track promo (MenArt 10910825) has

subsequently appeared that also includes a Russian version and two remixes alongside videos, biographies and photographs.

**CYPRUS**

**"Femme Fatale" Evdokia Kadi**

*PIK Promo*

Issued as a promotional CD, the disc contains the original version of "Femme Fatale" together with the Funny Remix, Electro Radio Mix, Electro Extended Mix and Radio Dub Mix. An earlier white label release suggests that the Funny Remix should actually be Funky!

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

**"Have Some Fun"**

**Tereza Kerndlová**

*Universal 176 623-0*

"Have Some Fun" appears in its official Eurosong 2008 version, the original Radio Mix and an Ultimix Remix. The video is also included, together with a multimedia section with photographs and biographies.

**DENMARK**

**"All Night Long" Simon**

**Mathew**

*My Way Music M 20155-2*

Vocal and singback versions form the basis of this two-track CD, whilst a multimedia section features press photos and music video.

**ESTONIA**

**"Leto Svet!" Kreisiraadio**  
*Eesti Rahvusringhääling*  
 742252 000464

Four versions of the annoying yet infectious Estonian entry are featured on the official CD release.

**FINLAND**

**"Missä Miehät Ratsastaa" Teräsbetoni**  
*Warner Music 5051442*  
 687026



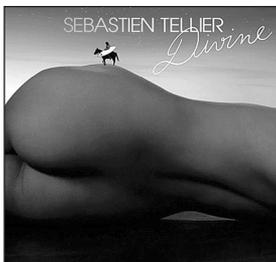
Two versions of Finland's latest offering are accompanied by the slightly less rocky "Kaukaiset Tulet".

**FRANCE**

**"Divine" Sébastien Tellier**

*Record Makers REC48-01*

The Eurovision version of "Divine" is featured on a one-track promo CD, whilst a second promotional disc includes four alternative versions. An EP CD (Lucky 018D) features Eurovision, Album, Kasper Winding, Danger and Midnight Juggernaut Remixes, whilst different combinations of these tracks



are found on 7" (REC 47) and 12" (REC 49) singles – both of which were surprisingly released for the UK market!

**GEORGIA**

**"Peace Will Come" Diana Gurtskaya**

*GPB Promo*

Issued as a promotional two-disc set, the single contains the song and the accompanying DVD features the official video.

**GERMANY**

**"Disappear" No Angels**

*Universal/Polydor 1762504*

Four versions of "Disappear", including the original single version and three extended remixes, are featured alongside the official video from No Angels.

**GREECE**

**"Secret Combination" Kalomira**

*Heaven Music 52049*  
 581126 2 3

The commercial release features four versions of "Secret Combination", including the instrumental. A one-track

promo (CM S 00282) is in circulation together with a DVD containing the video clip; both of which were included in the official press pack.

**HUNGARY**

**"Candlelight" Csézy**

*Magneoton MTON080*

The English and original Hungarian versions of Csézy's romantic ballad are both featured on this two-track single. An earlier release (Magneoton MTON072) also includes the Hungarian Radio Pop Mix.

**ICELAND**

**"This Is My Life"**

**Euroband**

*RUV Promo*

A one-track promo features the excellent "This Is My Life", whilst Euroband's album of the same name (Mediaplant 5539 CD RIGG CD001) contains the official commercial release alongside various covers of past Eurovision songs, including an English version of "Ne Partez Pas San Moi".

**IRELAND**

**"Irelande Douze Points"**

**Dustin the Turkey**

*RTE/Kite Entertainment*  
 CD Douze12

Whatever people think of the Turkey, Dustin provides two versions of his infamous Eurosong with backing vocals

from Kitty B and Ann Harrington, whose Uncle Paul (Harrington) won for Ireland in 1994.

**ISRAEL**

**"The Fire In Your Eyes"**

**Boaz Mauda**

*Tedy Productions Promo*

A one-track promo featuring the Hebrew-English version is contained within a card press folder. This version is a different recording to that featured on the official compilation album.

**LATVIA**

**"Wolves Of The Sea"  
Pirates Of The Sea**

*Universal 7320470 097755*

Unusually the latest Latvian entry is the subject of a one-track release that appears to have only been circulated for promotional purposes.

**LITHUANIA**

**"Nomads In The Night"**

**Jeronimas Milius**

*LRT Promo*

This underrated entry is featured on a one-track CD with accompanying booklet, both of which are presented within a DVD case.

**FYR MACEDONIA**

**"Let Me Love You"**

**Tamara feat. Vračak &**

**Adrijan**

*MPT 45004*

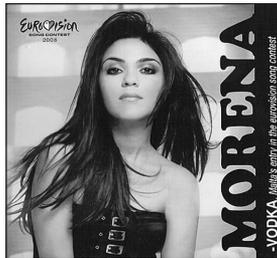
The introduction of partial jury voting meant that

FYRoM missed out on the final, even though they were ahead of Sweden in the televote. This double disc set includes six amazing versions of "Let Me Love You" performed in English, Macedonian, Russian, Serbian, Albanian and Turkish. There are also two karaoke tracks. The accompanying DVD features six versions of the same video; one for each recorded language.

**MALTA**

**"Vodka" Morena**

*MaltaSong T80RD-D0018*



Two versions of "Vodka" are accompanied by "Casanova" which, like the Eurovision entry, is also from the pen of Philip Vella and Gerard James Borg. Not to be confused with the Andorran entry of this same name, Morena's "Casanova" came 5th in the Maltese final and may have been a better choice for the Mediterranean island. The commercial and press versions of "Vodka" have different photographs on their respective covers.

**MOLDOVA**

**"A Century Of Love"**

**Geta Burlacu**

*TRM Promo*

The Eurovision and Remix versions of "A Century Of Love" are featured on this two-track disc, whilst a multimedia section includes photographs, biography and video. Also hidden away are five MP3 files, two of which feature Geta's entry alongside "Ciririp", "Jumpparale" and "O Damgeana". The foldout card sleeve contains an informative booklet complete with lyrics.

**MONTENEGRO**

**"Ne Daj Mi Da**

**Poludim" Stefan**

**Filipovic**

*RTCG Promo*

The foldout cardboard sleeve contains an audio CD featuring the Montenegrin and English version, "Never Forget I Love You", whilst the accompanying DVD also includes the same two versions in video format. A booklet featuring photographs and biographies completes the package.

**NETHERLANDS**

**"Your Heart Belongs To Me" Hind**

*B-Hind 97030*

Vocal and instrumental versions of Hind's Eurovision offering are

## RECORD RELEASES

featured on a single that appears to have been released by her own record company!

### NORWAY

#### **"Hold On, Be Strong"**

**Maria**

*Universal Music 176784 6*

The Deepfrost Café Radio Mix and Deepfrost Café Club Mix accompany the album version of Maria's song. NRK, in association with Universal Music, have also distributed a DVD that features an electronic press kit.

### POLAND

#### **"For Life" Isis Gee**

*Adam Gee Records/*

*Universal 1766829*

Originally issued to accompany Isis Gee's album, "Hidden Treasure", the single has now appeared in its own right. Two vocal versions of "For Life" are featured, whilst promotional releases also include the instrumental arrangement.

### PORTUGAL

#### **"Senhora Do Mar" Vânia Fernandes**

*RTP Promo*

The song that many claim to be the true winner of Eurovision 2008 is featured in five versions, including karaoke, instrumental, Rui da Silva's Temporal Mix and

the English translation, "Lady Of The Sea".

### ROMANIA

#### **"Pe-o Margine De Lume" Nico & Vlad**

*CAT Music 101 2644 2*

This one-track single also includes the official video starring Nico & Vlad.

### RUSSIA

#### **"Believe" Dima Bilan**

*All Music 606464 045227*

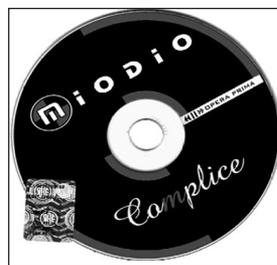
The Russian release of Dima's winning song contains no less than five versions of "Believe", two versions of "As Earlier" plus the official video clip, photo gallery and biography. The first European release, issued by Universal, features the Eurovision and Russian versions, as well as a Radio Edit and video. EMI issued a similar single in Scandinavia, replacing the Eurovision arrangement with a Spanish version. Further international releases are expected during coming months. A promotional DVD single issued to the press contains two versions of "Believe", with and without the violin, a video clip and slideshow.

### SAN MARINO

#### **"Complice" Miodio**

*Opera Prima ITOPMP0802*

Privately released in a clear plastic sleeve, the full version of San Marino's



debut entry is featured on this extremely rare one-track single.

### SERBIA

#### **"Oro" Jelena Tomašević**

*RTS CD 417184 Sokoj*

The first single contains Serbian, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek versions of "Oro" and was distributed ahead of the contest in relatively small quantities. A second version (RTS 417160 Sokoj) contains these four tracks alongside an instrumental, karaoke and Zeljko Jokzimovic Remix, whilst the accompanying DVD (RTS 490696 Sokoj) contains videos and photographs, as well as a performance of another song, "Kosova".

### SLOVENIA

#### **"Vrag Naj Vzame"**

**Rebeka Dremelj**

*Menart 3 831023 834450*

The English version, "Heavy Weather", accompanies the original Slovenian interpretation, with both versions accompanied by their respective remixes. A

karaoke track is also included.

#### SPAIN

##### **"Baila El Chiki Chiki"** **Rodolfo Chikilicuatre**

*TVE Promo*

Without a record contract, TVE hurriedly circulated a one-track promo to the press in Belgrade. Since then a French record label has obtained permission to release an imminent single that will also contain a French version of Roldolfo's "Chiki" song!

#### SWEDEN

##### **"Hero"** Charlotte Perrelli *M&L Records/Universal* MLCDS0098

The last entry to be chosen for 2008 was also one of the first to be released on single. Former Eurovision winner Charlotte Perrelli (Nilsson) provides the vocal version of "Hero", which accompanies the instrumental arrangement on this two-track disc. The promotional release also features videos and a multimedia section.

#### SWITZERLAND

##### **"Era Stupendo"** Paolo Meneguzzi

*Around the Music Promo*

This double disc set features the video clip on DVD, plus two versions of "Era Stupendo" on a single that includes a photo gallery. The single

has also been circulated in a clear plastic wallet, whilst the commercial release of "Era Stupendo" is found on Paolo's latest album "Corro Via" (Around the Music 088697 278602). An extremely rare promotional release featuring the original and English version, "We Were Amazing", was distributed to a select number of delegates in Belgrade, whilst a more recent one-track promo of "Era Stupendo" is also in circulation.

#### TURKEY

##### **"Deli"** Mor ve Ötesi *TRT/Rakun Promo*



Issued as a two-disc set, the CD features the audio track whilst the DVD contains a wealth of features including photographs, biographies and the official video.

#### UKRAINE

##### **"Shady Lady"** Ani Lorak *Ani Lorak/NTU Promo*

The one-track promo from Ukrainian superstar Ani Lorak includes biographies, press

releases and a slightly sensuous photo gallery, and was issued as both a CD and DVD, whilst a second promo release combines both discs into one package. A CD/DVD set issued to the press in Belgrade contains six versions of "Shady Lady" including one performed in Russian, as well as a multimedia section. And for collectors of pre-selection songs, all of Ani's offerings can be found on a five-track limited release (Lavina LM CD 536).

#### UNITED KINGDOM

##### **"Even If"** Andy Abraham

*B-line/Universal BLINE001*

Four versions of "Even If", including the one that appears on Andy's latest album, are featured alongside the official video.

#### VARIOUS

##### **"Eurovision Song Contest Belgrade 2008"** *CMC/EMI 2169972*

As always, the official compilation album contains all 43 entries from this year's Eurovision Song Contest and remains the easiest way of obtaining the songs from each participating nation. Easiest, that is, unless you also wish to collect the various language and remix versions from each country!

# RECORD REVIEWS

## BRAINSTORM

**Tur Kaut Kam Ir Jābūt**  
Brainstorm Records  
BRCD219



By far the most memorable entry of 2000, Brainstorm have taken a different direction with every album they've released since. Their new offering is perhaps their bravest and most experimental album to date, and is well worth a listen. However, this will certainly surprise anyone who expects to hear songs in a similar style to "My Star". Clearly influenced by hip-hop/urban rhythms, standout tracks include the catchy "Bronza" and "Vakardienas Trakums", and I would challenge

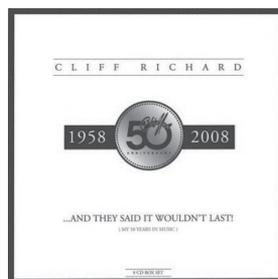
anybody not to find themselves dancing around the room to the infectious "Ai Nu Lai". Other favourites are the title track, which features the accomplished Latvian rapper Gustavo (who also produced this album), as well as the melodic "Atliek Nosargāt".

An English language version of this album, provisionally titled "Fire Monkey", is planned for release early next year. **TC**

## CLIFF RICHARD

**And They Said It  
Wouldn't Last (My 50  
Years In Music)**  
EMI 2165922

Half a century ago Columbia Records signed a young teenager by the name of Harry Webb and transformed him into the star that would become Cliff Richard. His first single was due to be "Schoolboy Crush", but a last minute change saw the record flipped in favour of the original B-side, "Move It". Had that



decision not been taken, it's just possible that Cliff would have been forgotten within a few years. Whilst his debut release only reached number two, females across the country flocked to see the one that many considered to be a British Elvis and the rest, as is so often said, is history. In 1959, one year after his launch, Cliff finally hit the number one spot with his sixth single, "Living Doll", and 50 years later remains as popular as ever amongst his loyal fans. This eight CD box collection brings together the best of what has been an amazing career, but at more than £100 it is likely

to prove a costly purchase during these credit crunch days. Although not all the singles are included, Cliff's cover of Italy's 1968 entry "Marianne" being one such track, there are countless A and B-sides, album tracks, re-mixes and never heard alternate studio recordings. One disc is devoted to live performances, whilst another reflects on Cliff's Christian faith; although other gospel tracks and Christmas carols are also found interspersed between the many hits. Everyone who buys this collection will have their favourite song ... or songs ... but "Zip A Dee Doo Dah", "Spoonful Of Sugar" and "Chim Chim Cheree" are unlikely to be amongst them! However, their inclusion does seek to recall that Sir Cliff Richard's career embraces many genres, including time spent as an actor on the West End stage. Expensive, but a very important collection within the history of British popular music. **GL**

#### VARIOUS

##### **Eurobeat – Almost Eurovision**

*Glynn Nicholas Group (Unnumbered)*

Produced to accompany the hit stage show of the same name, this

Australian cast recording from 2007 contains all ten entries plus the interval act, "I'm Sarajevo (Taste Me!)", performed by Boyka with the Sarajevo Chorus. Those who have seen the live performance will especially appreciate this album that enables them to relive the openly suggestive lyrics of



Estonia's "Together Again", sung by Toomas Jerker & the Stone Hard Boys, K. G. Boyz's Russian "Ice Queen" with its Backstreet Boys similarity and Germany's electro-pop "Be-Bop for Veronda" by Nepotism! Iceland is clearly inspired by Bjork, whilst Sweden is good old-fashioned schlager that has always been popular at the real Eurovision Song Contest. Written by Craig Christie and Andrew Patterson, the show evolved when they were refused entry into the BBC's Song for Europe contest because of their Australian nationalities. However, whether you see Eurobeat at your local

theatre or listen to this release, it is clear that the two men behind the production have a clear understanding of all things Eurovision with the ability to write songs that would not be out of place in Moscow next year! Also included is "Vindaloo", which will feature as the United Kingdom's 'entry' when the show goes to Amsterdam in 2009. For further information, including availability, visit [www.eurobeatthemusical.com](http://www.eurobeatthemusical.com) You will not be disappointed! **GL**

#### VARIOUS

##### **Mamma Mia – Original Soundtrack**

*Polydor 1774183*

It may be more than 34 years since ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest, but ABBA mania is back in town, as this number one original soundtrack album testifies. Released to accompany the hit movie of the same name, and based on the long running and extremely successful stage production of "Mamma Mia", this release combines the vocal talents of acting stars as diverse as Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Meryl Streep, Julie Walters and newcomer, Ashley Lilley. However, acting and singing doesn't always go hand in hand and, for this reviewer,



there is an element of karaoke once the songs have been detached from the electrifying cinema experience. Admittedly there are good vocals from Amanda Seyfried on "Lay All Your Love On Me", where she is joined by Dominic Cooper, and "Gimme Gimme Gimme (A Man After Midnight)", but even her vocals are weak on the opening track, "Honey Honey". The whole cast recordings of "Voulez Vous" and "Thank You For The Music" help salvage the talents of the less musical, but it cannot be denied that no one can sing ABBA like ABBA can! GL

## Singled Out

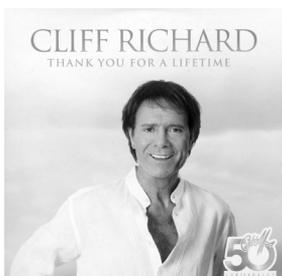
### CLIFF RICHARD

#### Thank You For A Lifetime

EMI 2364622

Celebrating 50 years in show business, what could be the last ever-physical single release from Sir Cliff Richard has been exclusively stocked

by Woolworths. "Thank You For A Lifetime" is a biographical number that condenses Cliff's exceptional career into just over three minutes. It is a subtle prayer of thanks and full of nostalgia, but the words "even if the curtain falls" suggest that this could also be an epitaph as well. The second track, "Mobile Alabama School Leaving Hullabaloo" is classic Cliff and reflects the rock'n'roll style that launched him back in 1958. Whilst most



expect this to be his final single, excluding possible downloads, Sir Cliff will no doubt continue performing and releasing albums for many years to come. GL

## DVD Review

### VARIOUS

#### Eurovision Song Contest Belgrade 2008 – The Official DVD

EMI/CMC Entertainment

2169979

The latest Eurovision DVD comprises a triple

disc set and features all three live shows in their entirety. Preview videos for the top ten countries at the final are divided across the two DVD's containing the semi-finals, whilst a somewhat rehearsed winner's press conference completes the package. This latter feature reveals something of international feeling towards Dima Bilan's victory, and it is clear that the assembled journalists were less than enthusiastic about a Russian win, with some clearly disinterested in what was happening around them. Many who were in Belgrade claimed that this year's result was a foregone conclusion and, as the video footage confirms, there is little to disprove such theories. Be that as it may, this DVD set is still an essential purchase for the Eurovision fan. GL



# Vision

## Account Summary: 1st April 2007-31st March 2008

### OGAE UK Main Account

Income Categories  
Membership fees £5,806.56

Total Income Categories £5,806.56

Expense Categories  
Vision £4,104.42  
Ex-gratia payments £500.00  
Expenses £101.34  
Bank fees £3.75  
Total Expense Categories £4,709.51

Grand Total £1,097.05

#### Cash Position as at 31st March 2008

Total cash £5,657.12  
Debts \* £6,527.00  
Total assets **-£869.88**

#### Cash Position as at 31st July 2008

Total cash £7,324.80  
Debts \* £6,527.00  
Total assets **£797.80**

\* As explained at the Birmingham Bash 2007, much of this debt for 'Eurosong News' is historic and dates back to 2000-2002. Despite efforts by OGAE UK to offer payment, the amount remains outstanding. Please note that payments are made in Euro and the sterling equivalent represents the current exchange rate (September 2008). In view of the poor performance of sterling against the Euro in recent months, OGAE UK is currently attempting to negotiate a significantly lower and fairer amount with the publishers of 'Eurosong News'.

### OGAE UK - Convention Account (Convention and Tickets)

Income Categories  
Ticket Receipts\* £10,320.00  
Convention Receipts £4,297.65  
Total Income Categories £14,617.65

Expense Categories  
Ticket Payments\* £10,383.78  
Convention Payments £4,222.45  
Total Expense Categories £14,606.23

Grand Total £11.42

#### Cash Position as at 31st March 2008

Total cash £2,134.95  
Debts £0.00  
Total assets **£2,134.95**

#### Cash Position as at 31st August 2008

Total cash £3,164.95  
Debts £0.00  
Total assets **£3,164.95**

\* Due to the timing of the Eurovision Song Contest, ticket receipts and payments for any one contest may be received and/or paid in two different financial years, providing a temporary distortion to the annual summary

## Euro Quiz Answers

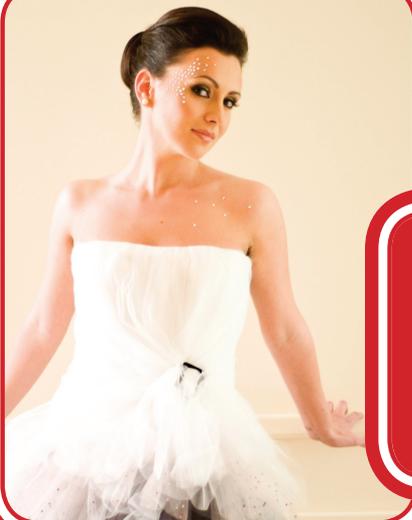
- 2nd ("I Belong" by Kathy Kirby in 1965)
- Jahn Teigen in 1978.
- Six (1965, 1974, 1996, 2002, 2005 and 2008).
- Cyprus.
- Paul Mauriat (and his Orchestra)
- Arsenium (Moldova 2006), who hit #3 in 2004 as a member of O-Zone ("Dragostea Din Tei")
- Sebnem Paker (in 1996 and 1997)
- 9th; "Merry Christmas Everyone"
- "Shir Habatlanim" (Israel 1987)
- "Angel" (Iceland 2001, originally "Birta")
- Gardiner
- Two (Israel and Sweden 2008)
- Siw Malmkvist (Sweden 1960 and Germany 1969), Doris Dragovic (Yugoslavia 1986 and Croatia 1999) and Romuald (Luxembourg 1969 and Monaco 1974)

# THE 'LAST' PAGE



**First Semi-final  
2008**  
"Complice"  
**Miodio**

Received five points  
(3 from Greece and  
2 from Andorra)



**Second Semi-final 2008**  
"Candlelight"  
**Csezy**

Received six points  
(4 from Serbia, 1 from Denmark  
and 1 from Georgia)