



vision

THE OGAE UK MAGAZINE EUROVISION 2010 ISSUE 80
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JOSH SOUNDS GOOD TO US!

INSIDE:
REVIEWS OF ALL
39 FINALISTS

INTERVIEWS WITH:
JOSH DUBOVIE
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Vision

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See '**BACK ISSUE BONANZA!**' - Inside back cover

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ED LINES

As the 55th Eurovision Song Contest rapidly approaches, I find myself writing with mixed emotions. While we look forward to the glamour and glitz of Oslo 2010, I also find myself looking back to the early days of the contest following the recent deaths of Teddy Scholten (Dutch Winner 1959) and Kenneth McKellar (UK 1966). Tributes to both singers, who died within 24 hours of each other, can be found elsewhere and our sympathies are with their families at this time.

On a much more joyous note, the song writing talents of Pete Waterman and Mike Stock will be representing the United Kingdom on the international stage in a few short weeks, and there can be no better person than Josh Dubovie to sing the song that he hopes will sound good to Europe! There will be a huge contingent of British fans in Norway cheering him on, and so we wish Josh every success both in Norway and for his future career.

But this year our loyalties are divided, with longstanding OGAE UK supporter and former winner, Niamh Kavanagh, representing the Emerald Isle once again. Incredibly it is 17 years since Niamh first won for Ireland, but her vocals have gone from strength to strength since that time. Whether she will follow in Johnny Logan's footsteps and become only the second person to win Eurovision more than once remains to be seen, but the luck of the Irish is surely on her side!

Will it be Josh, will it be Niamh ... or will it be someone completely different? Let the voting decide!

Gordon Lewis

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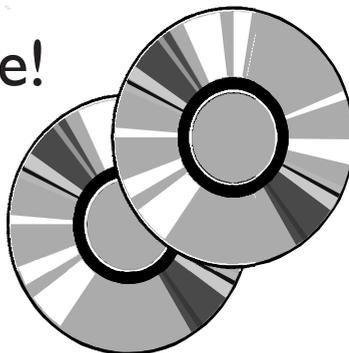
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The 55th Eurovision Song Contest

Oslo - Norway

Reviews by Hassan Yusuf

1st Semi-Final		Tuesday 25th May 2010
Running order	Performer	Song
1. Moldova	Sun Stroke Project & Olia Tira	<i>Run Away</i>
2. Russia	Peter Nalitch Band	<i>Lost And Forgotten</i>
3. Estonia	Malcolm Lincoln & Manpower 4	<i>Siren</i>
4. Slovakia	Kristina	<i>Horehronie</i>
5. Finland	Kuunkuiskaajat	<i>Työki Ellää</i>
6. Latvia	Aisha	<i>What For?</i>
7. Serbia	Milan Stankovic	<i>Ovo Je Balkan</i>
8. Bosnia & Herzegovina	Vukašin Brajic	<i>Thunder And Lightning</i>
9. Poland	Marcin Mrozicki	<i>Legenda</i>
10. Belgium	Tom Dice	<i>Me And My Guitar</i>
11. Malta	Thea Garrett	<i>My Dream</i>
12. Albania	Juliana Pasha	<i>It's All About You</i>
13. Greece	Giorgos Alkaios & Friends	<i>Opa</i>
14. Portugal	Filipa Azevedo	<i>Há Dias Assim</i>
15. Macedonia, FYR	Gjoko Taneski	<i>Jas Ja Imam Silata</i>
16. Belarus	3+2	<i>Butterflies</i>
17. Iceland	Hera Björk	<i>Je Ne Sais Quoi</i>

Also voting: France, Germany, Spain

2nd Semi-Final		Thursday 27th May 2010
Running order	Performer	Song
1. Lithuania	InCulto	<i>East European Funk</i>
2. Armenia	Eva Rivas	<i>Apricot Stone</i>
3. Israel	Harel Skaat	<i>Millim</i>
4. Denmark	Chanée & N'evergreen	<i>In a Moment Like This</i>
5. Switzerland	Michael von der Heide	<i>Il Pleut De L'Or</i>
6. Sweden	Anna Bergendahl	<i>This Is My Life</i>
7. Azerbaijan	Safura	<i>Drip Drop</i>
8. Ukraine	Alyosha	<i>Sweet People</i>
9. Netherlands	Sieneke	<i>Ik Ben Verliefd (Sha-La-Lie)</i>
10. Romania	Paula Seling & Ovi	<i>Playing With Fire</i>
11. Slovenia	Ansambel Roka Žlindre & Kalamari	<i>Narodnozabavni Rock</i>
12. Ireland	Niamh Kavanagh	<i>It's For You</i>
13. Bulgaria	Miro	<i>Angel Si Ti</i>
14. Cyprus	Jon Lilygreen & The Islanders	<i>Life Looks Better In Spring</i>
15. Croatia	Feminnem	<i>Lako Je Sve</i>
16. Georgia	Sopho Nizharadze	<i>Shine</i>
17. Turkey	maNga	<i>We Could Be The Same</i>

Also voting: Norway, United Kingdom

Eurovision Song Contest			Saturday 29th May 2010	Voting order
	Performer	Song		
1	Qualifier			Romania
2	Spain	Daniel Diges	<i>Algo Pequeñito</i>	Ireland
3	Norway	Didrik Solli-Tangen	<i>My Heart Is Yours</i>	Germany
4	Qualifier			Serbia
5	Qualifier			Albania
6	Qualifier			Turkey
7	Qualifier			Croatia
8	Qualifier			Poland
9	Qualifier			Bosnia & Herzegovina
10	Qualifier			Finland
11	Qualifier			Slovenia
12	United Kingdom	Josh Dubovie	<i>That Sounds Good To Me</i>	Estonia
13	Qualifier			Russia
14	Qualifier			Portugal
15	Qualifier			Azerbaijan
16	Qualifier			Greece
17	Qualifier			Iceland
18	France	Jessy Matador	<i>Allez Ola Olé</i>	Denmark
19	Qualifier			France
20	Qualifier			Spain
21	Qualifier			Slovakia
22	Germany	Lena Meyer-Landrut	<i>Satellite</i>	Bulgaria
23	Qualifier			Ukraine
24	Qualifier			Latvia
25	Qualifier			Malta
				Norway
				Cyprus
				Lithuania
				Belarus
				Switzerland
				Belgium
				United Kingdom
				Netherlands
				Israel
				Macedonia, FYR
				Moldova
				Georgia
				Sweden
				Armenia

ALBANIA

Performer: Juliana Pasha**Title:** *It's All About You***Songwriters:** Ardit Gjebrea/Pirro Çako

After a semi-final, 20 songs went into the final on 27th December in the 48th 'Festival I Kenges'. An expert jury awarded the top prize to Juliana Pasha, no doubt rewarding her for her persistence - she came third in the national contest three years ago, and runner-up last year. An inspiration indeed. The song, *Nuk Mundem Pa Ty*, will now be sung in English, and is a

bouncy up tempo number - and sounds as if it's been slightly reworked to give it more mid-European appeal.



Festivali I Kenges

27th December 2009

Performer	Song	Result
Juliana Pasha	<i>Nuk Mundem Pa Ty</i>	133 points
Anjeza Shahini	<i>Në Pasqyrë</i>	118 points
Kamela Islami	<i>Gjëra Të Thjeshta</i>	116 points
Pirro Çako	<i>Një Tjetër Jetë</i>	106 points
Flaka Krelani	<i>Lë Të Bëhet Çfare Te Doje</i>	99 points
Bojken Lako & Banda Adriatica	<i>Love Love Love</i>	98 points
Denisa Macaj	<i>Aria</i>	92 points
Dorina Garuci	<i>Sekreti I Dashurisë</i>	78 points
Mariza Ikonomi	<i>La, La, La</i>	76 points
Rovena Dilo	<i>Përtej Kohës</i>	69 points
Iris Hoxha	<i>Zërin Tim Ta Ndjesh</i>	67 points
Erga Halilaj	<i>Party</i>	66 points
Erti Hizmo & Lindita Halimi	<i>Nuk Të Dorezohem</i>	66 points
Goldi Halili	<i>Tirana Brodway</i>	64 points
Kejsi Tola	<i>Ndonjëherë</i>	58 points
Stefi & Endrri Prifti	<i>U Dogjem Mrekullisht</i>	45 points
Guximtar Rushani	<i>Gëzuar</i>	43 points
Era Rusi	<i>Fjalë Dhe Gjunjë</i>	41 points
Teuta Kurti	<i>Mall I Pashuar</i>	19 points
Claudio La Regina	<i>Ave Maria</i>	17 points

ARMENIA

Performer: Eva Rivas**Title:** *Apricot Stone***Songwriters:** Armen Martirosyan/ Karen Kavaleryan

The Armenian national final was held on 14th February 2010 and the winning performer was Eva Rivas singing *Apricot Stone*. Eva was declared the winner by the jury and SMS system - the results for all the acts were not announced. You might

expect a song that wins on Valentine's Day to be a love story, but instead *Apricot Stone* tells a story of missed homeland - Eva living in Russia is obviously pining for Armenia. The song also calls for peace and love throughout the world - a sentiment that we all probably share. The song is an upbeat number with some ethnic tones thrown in for good measure. A popular singer in Armenia, Eva is expected to progress to the final on 29th May.

Armenian Final 14th February 2010		
Performer	Title	Result
Eva Rivas	<i>Apricot Stone</i>	1st
Ani Arzumanyan	<i>The Mermaid Song</i>	
Another Story	<i>Ays Dzmer</i>	
Davit Ashotyan	<i>Infected Dreams</i>	
Emmy & Mihran	<i>Hey (Let Me Hear You Say)</i>	
Maria Kizirian	<i>Little Red Riding Hood</i>	
Meline Beglaryan	<i>We Must Believe</i>	
Nick Egibyan	<i>Countdown</i>	
Razmik Amyan	<i>My Love</i>	



AZERBAIJAN

Performer: Safura

Title: *Drip Drop*

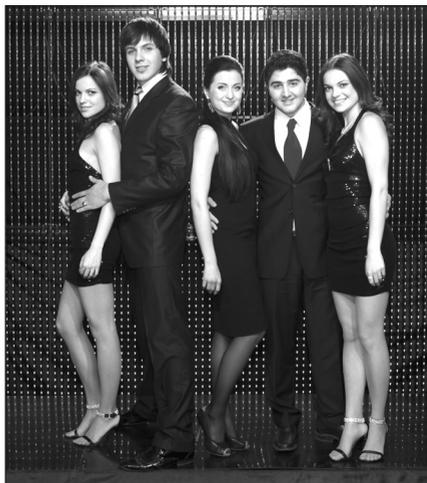
Songwriters: Anders Bagge/Stefan Örn/Sandra Bjurman

Azerbaijan have had a successful record since joining Eurovision a few years ago. This year the national broadcaster (after a semi-final) chose three acts (Safura Alizadeh, Milk & Kisses, and Maryam Shabanova) to sing three songs (*Drip Drop*, *Under My Skin*, and *Soulless*). The national final was held on 2nd March and the expert jury decided to send the beautiful Safura to Oslo. They finally made up their minds on 18th March that Safura would be singing the Swedish composed *Drip Drop*. The song is a powerful ballad that shows off Safura's voice. Safura is a seasoned performer winning the Azeri version of 'Pop Idol' a few years ago. It's expected that she'll also make a fashion statement in Oslo being interested in fashion design. Apparently she's also a big fan of the 'Twilight' saga and has the hots for actor Robert Pattison. Lucky him.



BELARUS**Performer:** 3+2**Title:** *Butterflies***Songwriters:** Maxim Fadeev / Malka Chaplin

The honour of choosing the Belarussian entry this year went to the national broadcaster, BTRC, who decided to do away with a contest and instead appoint their act. After receiving 41 applications from around the world, an internal jury choice the group 3+2 to sing *Far Away* - a lively up tempo rock/pop number. However, a few weeks later, the song was changed to *Butterflies* - a complete opposite to *Far Away*. This new song is a gentle ballad with nice harmonies - which might possibly do better for them in Oslo. The group comprising of Artyom Mihalenko, Elgiazar Farashyan, Yulia Shisko with backing vocalists, twins, Alyona and Ninel Karpovich (hence the band's name) are extremely versatile, so hopefully they can propel Belarus to the final again - only happened once before.

**BELGIUM****Performer:** Tom Dice**Title:** *Me And My Guitar***Songwriters:** Tom Dice / Jeroen Swinnen / Ashley Hicklin

Walloon broadcaster RTBF and Flemish broadcaster VRT take turns to select the Belgian entry for Eurovision. This year it's the turn of VRT who internally selected popular young singer Tom Dice to represent them in Oslo. Tom was a runner-up in the 2008 series of the Belgian version of 'X Factor'. He presented his song to the public on 7th March to much applause. It's a quiet melancholy song relying on Tom's lyrics and voice to get his autobiographical message across. Hopefully the voting public and jury will finally award Belgium a place in the final again. *Me And My Guitar* has already become a big hit in Flanders.



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Performer: Vukašin Brajić
Title: *Thunder And Lightning*
Songwriter: Dino Šaran

On 14th March the national broadcaster, BHRT, revealed Bosnia & Herzegovina's entry to Oslo. Their performer was once again internally selected. This year they chose the winner of their version of 'Fame Academy', Vukašin Brajić. Apparently he was nicknamed 'The Assassin' as he saw off his popular rivals. No doubt he's hoping for a killing in Oslo! The chosen song *Munja I Grom* was naturally in the national tongue, but has now switched to English, hence the title change. Nevertheless, *Thunder And Lightning* remains a powerful pop/rock ballad with a message of tolerance. You can't go wrong with a meaningful message. Bosnia have had a good record in the contest, but the country's participation could be in danger as they owe nearly two million euros to the EBU! Time to pass the hat round?

**BULGARIA**

Performer: Miro
Title: *Angel Si Ti (You're An Angel)*
Songwriter: Miroslav Kostadinov

There was no big contest in Bulgaria this year to find their performer for Oslo. Instead, at the end of 2009, 51 composers, writers and media experts selected Miro to represent the country. A final was held on 14th March, where the public had to vote on five songs. They eventually decided on a song composed by Miro himself, *Angel Si Ti* (translated as *You're An Angel*). Miro has tried to enter Eurovision before - in 2007 he came second in the national contest as part of the group Karizma. But since then he's had a very successful solo career. *Angel Si Ti* is a powerful up tempo pop/rock ballad that could do well for Bulgaria.

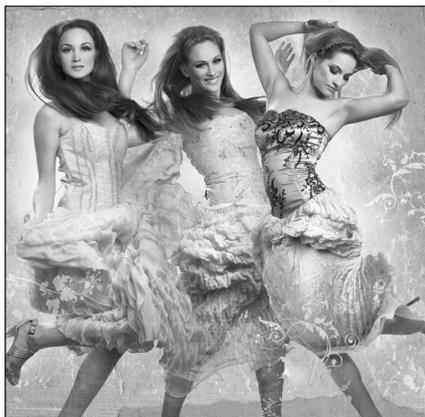
**National Final 14th March 2010**

Song	Results	
<i>Angel Si Ti</i>	48.05%	1st
<i>Twist And Tango</i>	27.42%	2nd
<i>Eagle</i>	12.47%	3rd
<i>Ostani!...</i>	8.53%	4th
<i>Moyat Pogled V Teb</i>	3.53%	5th

CROATIA

Performer: Feminnem**Title:** *Lako Je Sve* (*Everything Is Easy*)**Songwriters:** Branimir Mihaljević/
Neda Parmać/Pamela Ramljak

Yugoslavia may no longer exist, but there's still a close relationship among the old states. And here you have Feminnem, who represented Bosnia & Herzegovina in Eurovision 2005, now representing Croatia! After a semi-final where the top eight acts chosen by televoting went onto the final, 'Dora', on 6th March to join eight other pre-qualified acts, Feminnem secured their trip to Oslo by a maximum of votes both from the jury and the televote. Obviously the ladies want to improve on their last outing, where they came 14th with *Call Me*. They're the region's top girl-band, and *Lako Je Sve* is certainly a powerful up tempo ballad highlighting the trio's vocals. Could possibly do better than their last performance, though generally girl-bands have never done that well at Eurovision.



Non-qualifiers

Performer	Song
Bety Belle	<i>Ne</i>
Dražen Žanko	<i>Moja Ljubav Jedina</i>
Filip Dizdar	<i>Sunce</i>
Martina Vrbos	<i>Ti I Ja</i>
Mijo Lešina	<i>Tajna Ljubavi</i>
Nikola Marjanovic	<i>Ti I Muzika</i>
Rivers	<i>Bez Tebe</i>
Teška Industrija	<i>Nazovi Stvari Pravim Imenom</i>

Dora

6th March 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Feminnem	<i>Lako Je Sve</i>	32
Franko Krajcicar & Indivia	<i>Jobrni Je Jobrni</i>	28
Valungari	<i>Vol Or Ne Vol</i>	24
Doris Teur	<i>Ti Me Ne Zaslužuješ</i>	23
Žiga & ŽVS Druge	<i>Blagdani</i>	23
Klapa Iskon	<i>Vrime Za Kraj</i>	22
Franka Batelic	<i>Na Tvojim Rukama</i>	21
Dani Stipanicev	<i>Nek Nam Bude Lijepo</i>	18
Giuliano Đanic	<i>Moja Draga</i>	18
Carla Belovari	<i>Sada Osjećam To</i>	14
Swing Mamas	<i>Trio Tulipan</i>	14
Alibi	<i>Prvi Pogled</i>	12
Tihomir Kožina	<i>Za Koga Si Se Cuvala</i>	10
Sabrina	<i>Golu Si Me Skinuo</i>	8
Viva	<i>Zadnja Kap Života</i>	6
Marta Kuliš	<i>Preporodena</i>	2

CYPRUS

Performer: Jon Lilygreen & The Islanders

Title: *Life Looks Better In Spring*

Songwriters: Nasos Lambrianides / Melis Konstantinou



You can always spot the Welsh flag at Eurovision - but this year it's more than justified! The song *Life Looks Better In Spring* was written by Nasos Lambrianides and Melis Konstantinou, but they had no producer nor a singer - so they looked to the internet and found music producer Jon Gregory who's based in Wales. He suggested Jon Lilygreen and, with the group The Islanders (made up of various nationals) - an act was born. (You can read the whole story elsewhere in this issue of **Vision**.) The band went on to win the Cypriot final where they competed against eight other acts. It would've been nine, but the entry *Play*, put forward by the Bulgarian 2008 representatives for Eurovision, Deep Zone, was disqualified the previous night because it breached EBU rules by appearing on YouTube before the final. Cyprus haven't done very well in recent years, unlike their Greek cousins in the Aegean, so perhaps the public and jury wisely chose a very un-Greek song. *Life Looks Better In Spring* is a somewhat charming bittersweet ballad. Not that we should be encouraging 'friendly' voting - but **Vision** readers - you know your duty!

National Final

7th February 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Jon Lilygreen & The Islanders	<i>Life Looks Better In Spring</i>	24
Constantinos Christoforou	<i>Angel</i>	17
Hovig Demirjian	<i>Goodbye</i>	15
Soul Throw	<i>Island Of Love</i>	15
Anthi Pashi	<i>You Gotta Go</i>	13
Nicole Papanistodemou	<i>Like A Woman</i>	10
Andreas Economides	<i>Waiting</i>	9
Evagoras Evagorou	<i>I'm Gonna Be</i>	7
Vivian Douglas	<i>Rhapsody</i>	4

DENMARK

Performer: Chanée & N'evergreen

Title: *In A Moment Like This*

Songwriters: Thomas G:son / Henrik Sethsson / Erik Bernholm

The Danish Final was held on February 6th and the winner was chosen in three rounds of voting. In the first round, the top four were chosen by a jury and SMS voting. In the second round, those four songs competed in two duels - the winner in each duel being decided by SMS voting. Chanée & Tomas N'evergreen won over Simone, while Bryan Rice won over of Silas & Kat. Eventually Chanée & Tomas



Dansk Melodi Grand Prix
6th February 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Round Three		
Chanée & N'evergreen	<i>In A Moment Like This</i>	1st
Bryan Rice	<i>Breathing</i>	
Round Two qualifiers		
Simone	<i>How Will I Know</i>	
Silas & Kat	<i>Come Come Run Away</i>	
Non-qualifiers from Round One		
Jens Marni	<i>Gloria</i>	
Joakim Tranberg	<i>All About A Girl</i>	
Kaya Brüel	<i>Only Tonight</i>	
Maria Matilde Band	<i>Panik!</i>	
Sukkerchok	<i>Kæmper For Kærlighed</i>	
Thomas Barsøe	<i>Just Like Rain</i>	

N'evergreen finally beat Bryan Rice to the top spot, again with SMS voting. *In A Moment Like This* is reckoned by many fans to be one of Denmark's best entries in recent years, so expected to get through to the final and do well. It certainly is a powerful up tempo ballad-style number with the duo complementing each other. Christina Chanée has won several talent contents since she was a teenager, while Thomas N'evergreen - real name Thomas Christiansen - is very big in Russia. So a good excuse for votes other than its neighbours!

ESTONIA

Performer: Malcolm Lincoln & Manpower 4
Title: *Siren*
Songwriter: Robin Juhkental

The winning act was chosen in two rounds of voting. In the first round the top two songs were chosen by a jury and televoting. In the second round the winner was chosen by televoting. Malcolm Lincoln - the name of the group by the way and not the lead singer - was perhaps a surprise winner. *Siren* is probably the most quirkiest song of the contest - original and a bit haunting. Backing vocals will be provided by Manpower 4, a quartet formed especially for Eurovision.



Eesti Laul 2010		12th March 2010
Performer	Song	Result
Malcolm Lincoln	<i>Siren</i>	22 54%
Lenna	<i>Rapunzel</i>	18 46%
First Round Non-Qualifiers		
Violina feat. Rolf Junior	<i>Maagiline Päev</i>	17
Iiris Vesik	<i>Astronaut</i>	13
Marten Kuningas & Mahavok	<i>Oota Mind Veel</i>	12
Groundhog Day	<i>Teiste Seest Kõigile</i>	10
Disko 4000	<i>Ei Usu</i>	7
Mimicry	<i>New</i>	5
Tiiu Kiik	<i>The One And Only Love</i>	5
3 Pead	<i>Poolel Teel</i>	3

FINLAND

Performer: Kuunkuiskaajat

Title: *Työlki Ellää* (*One Can Work For A Living, Too*)

Songwriters: Timo Kiiskinen

The Finnish entry for Oslo started on the internet, where fans could vote by SMS for their favourite songs from a selection of 30. The top 15 songs then went forward to three semi-finals, although *Sydän Ymmärtää* by Maria Lund was subsequently withdrawn. The top three songs from each semi-final, decided by televoting, went forward to their final, along with a jury selected wildcard. At the final the winner was chosen in two rounds of televoting - the first to select the top three and the second to select the winner. After years of offering us hard rock and disco numbers, Finland

have gone back to the ethnic sound! *Työlki Ellää*, which received 42% of the vote and is performed by the female duo, Kuunkuiskaajat (Moon Whispers), is a charming up tempo hand-clapping effort. They'll have to tie the audience to their seats in Oslo to stop them getting up for a bop. Hands up anyone who can actually pronounce 'Kuunkuiskaajat' in one quick go. Hmmm, not many.

Euroviisut 30th January 2010		
Performer	Song	Result
Kuunkuiskaaja	<i>Työlki Ellää</i>	48,139 (42%)
Nina Lassander	<i>Cider Hill</i>	43,282
Eläkeläiset	<i>Hulluna Humpast</i>	23,120
Sister Twister	<i>Love At The First Sight</i>	
Amadeus	<i>Anastaci</i>	
Heli Kajo	<i>Annankadun Kulmassa</i>	
Linn	<i>Fatal Moment</i>	
Pentti Hietanen	<i>Il Mondo E Qui</i>	
Maria Lund	<i>Sydän Ymmärtää</i>	
Antti Kleemola	<i>Sun Puolella</i>	

Non-qualifiers

Performer	Song
Bääbs	<i>You Don't Know Tomorrow</i>
Boys of the Band	<i>America (I Think I Love You)</i>
Monday	<i>Play</i>
Osmo Ikonen	<i>Heaven Or Hell</i>
Veeti Kallio	<i>Kerro Mulle Rakkaudesta</i>



FRANCE

Performer: Jessy Matador
Title: *Allez Ola Olé (Come on! Ola! Olé!)*
Songwriters: H.Ducamin / J.Ballue



French Eurofans were not happy! After expecting the popular Christophe Willem to represent them in Oslo - to follow on the success of Patricia Kaas last year - the broadcaster, France 3, announced that the relatively unknown, Congo born Jessy Matador would be their entrant. Quite a few OGAE France members apparently cancelled their tickets! Perhaps they were being a bit premature - along with the other critics. A football chant with some nice harmonies and a very uplifting up tempo sound will probably do well for France. They've got a good draw and will certainly stand out against all the ballads. And while football and Eurovision may be strange bed partners, the European Championship will have been decided a week before the Eurovision final - and two weeks later, the World Cup begins. Those canny French - this could be a dark horse!

GEORGIA

Performer: Sofia Nizharadze
Title: *Shine*
Songwriters: Hanne Sorvaag / Harry Sommerdahl / Christian Leuzzi

After missing last year's show due to a disagreement with the EBU, Georgia are back this year. Popular singer Sofia Nizharadze was pre-selected to represent the country. She sang six songs in the final and the winner was decided by SMS voting and a jury. A song called '*Shine*' didn't do well for the Netherlands last year, but Georgia should do much better. This version of *Shine* starts off softly and erupts into a powerful rock-ballad. Songwriter Hanne Sorvaag has also co-written this year's Norwegian entry.



Georgian National Final
 27th February 2010

Song	Results
<i>Shine</i>	1st
<i>Call Me</i>	
<i>For Eternity</i>	
<i>Never Give In</i>	
<i>Our World</i>	
<i>Sing My Song</i>	

GERMANY

Performer: Lena Meyer-Landrut
Title: *Satellite*
Songwriters: Julie Frost/John Gordon



This year's journey to find the German entry for Oslo was a long affair, involving many preliminary rounds. The first two heats featured ten acts, each performing popular songs. Ten acts went forward to three elimination rounds, where five survived. These acts progressed to the quarter-final. Four then advanced to the semi-final. Two performers, Jennifer Braun and Lena Meyer-Landrut, progressed to the final, where they both sang two pre-selected songs along with an individual one. Eventually, after televoting, Lena Meyer-Landrut won over her rival singing *Satellite*. This is a highly regarded song and has even hit the top of the charts in Germany. Lena's voice and accent gives this up tempo song a very unique sound. A good result for Germany is definitely on the cards.

German Final 12th March 2010		
Song selection		
Performer	Song	
Jennifer Braun	<i>Bee</i>	
Lena Meyer-Landrut	<i>Bee</i>	
Jennifer Braun	<i>Satellite</i>	
Lena Meyer-Landrut	<i>Satellite</i>	
Jennifer Braun	<i>I Care For You</i>	
Lena Meyer-Landrut	<i>Love Me</i>	
Performer selection		
Performer	Song	Result
Lena Meyer-Landrut	<i>Satellite</i>	Winner
Jennifer Braun	<i>I Care For You</i>	Runner-up

Top ten finalists	
Performer	Results
Lena Meyer-Landrut	1st
Jennifer Braun	2nd
Christian Durstewitz	3rd
Kerstin Freking	4th
Sharyhan Osman	5th
Leon Taylor	6th
Cyril Krueger	=7th
Katrin Walter	=7th
Maria-Lisa Straßburg	=9th
Meri Voskanian	=9th

GREECE

Performer: Giorgos Alkaios & Friends
Title: *Opa*
Songwriters: Giannis Antoniou & Friends



You just can't beat a good traditional ethnic Greek song! Non-traditional Greek songs actually have done better in recent years, but *Opa* ought to get the toes tapping! It's an energetic song and should stand out. The Greek final was

Greek Final		12th March 2010
Performer	Song	Result
Giorgos Alkaios & Friends	<i>Opa</i>	1st
Manos Pyrovolakis, Eleni Furreira & Don't Ask	<i>I Kivotos Tou Noe</i>	=2nd
Yorgos Karadimos	<i>Polemao</i>	=2nd
Christos Hatzinasios	<i>Illusion</i>	
Emigre	<i>Touch Me Deep Inside</i>	
Melisses	<i>Kinezos</i>	
Sunny Baltzi & Second Skin	<i>Game Of Life</i>	

held on 12th March, and featured seven acts. Voting was by televoting and a jury. However, there was a three-way tie, so the result of televoting took precedence - sending Giorgos Alkaios & Friends to Oslo. They wrote *Opa* themselves, and Giorgos has had much international success over decades. His 'Friends' ought to be popular with the Eurovision crowd.

ICELAND

Performer: Hera Björk
Title: *Je Ne Sais Quoi (I Don't Know What)*
Songwriters: Örlygur Smári/Hera Björk



After last year's success with Yohanna's *Is It True?*, the hunt was on to do even better in Oslo! Three semi-finals each with five acts were held to find the representative for Iceland this year. The top two songs from each show, chosen by televoting, went through to the final. At the final only the top two acts were announced - with Hera Björk getting the golden ticket. She's no stranger to Eurovision, having been in the backing groups for Iceland in ESC 2008 and ESC 2009 - and even coming second in the Danish final in 2009. And those with longer memories may recognise her from an appearance in Selma's video in 1999 (*All Out of Luck*). *Je Ne Sais Quoi*, which despite it's French title will be sung in English, is a lively sort of ballad highlighting Hera's vocal range. Expect lots of dry ice - or maybe ash?

Non-qualifiers	
Performer	Song
Anna Hlin	<i>Komdu Til Mín A Morgun</i>
Arnar Jónsson	<i>Púsund Stjörnur</i>
Edgar Smári Atlason	<i>Now And Forever</i>
Karen Pálsdóttir	<i>In The Future</i>
Kolbrún Eva Víktorsdóttir	<i>You Are The One</i>
Menn Arsins	<i>Gefst Ekki Upp</i>
Steinar Logi Nesheim	<i>Every Word</i>
Sigrún Vala Baldursdóttir	<i>I Believe In Angels</i>
Sigurjón Brink	<i>You Knocked Upon My Door</i>

Icelandic Final		6th February 2010
Performer	Song	Result
Hera Björk	<i>Je Ne Sais Quoi</i>	1st
Jógvan Hansen	<i>One More Day</i>	2nd
Hvannaldalsbræður	<i>Gleði Og Glens</i>	
Íris Hólm	<i>The One</i>	
Matthias Matthíasson	<i>Out Of Sight</i>	
Sigurjón Brink	<i>Waterslide</i>	

IRELAND

Performer: Niamh Kavanagh**Title:** *It's For You***Songwriter:** Niall Mooney/Mårten Eriksson/Jonas Gladnikoff/Lina Eriksson

Well, well, well - Ireland are really back in form this year! You certainly can't go wrong with the wonderful Niamh Kavanagh! She was the clear winner in the Irish final - getting the top televote and unanimous top marks from each regional jury. Niamh, of course, was the worthy winner of ESC 1993 with *In Your Eyes*. *It's For You* is an Irish/Swedish collaboration, and is one of the more impressive ballads in this year's contest - and with Niamh's professional and powerful vocals should get Ireland into the final. And it's about time Ireland won the contest again.

Irish Final		5th March 2010
Performer	Song	Result
Niamh Kavanagh	<i>It's For You</i>	144
Mikey Graham	<i>Baby Nothing's Wrong</i>	110
Monika Ivkic	<i>Fashion Queen</i>	98
Leanne Moore	<i>Does Heaven Need Much More?</i>	78
Lee Bradshaw	<i>Rivers Of Silence</i>	50



ISRAEL

Performer: Harel Skaat**Title:** *Milim* (Words)**Songwriters:** Tomer Adaddi/Noam Horev

Harel Skaat was the pre-selected act to represent Israel in Oslo this year. He was a popular choice, having already achieved big success in Israel - after coming runner-up in the Israeli version of 'American Idol'. In the 'Kdam' show he sang four songs and *Milim* was the clear favourite of the juries and televote. The juries included members of Harel's fan club and even our friends at OGAE Israel! *Milim* (translated as 'Words') is another powerful and well regarded ballad, and Harel is bound to be a hit with Eurovision fans. You can read an interview with the talented performer elsewhere in this issue of **Vision**.



Kdam		15th March 2010
Song	Result	
<i>Milim</i>	240	
<i>Le'an</i>	188	
<i>Ela'yich</i>	152	
<i>Le'hitkarev</i>	20	

LATVIA

Performer: Aisha

Title: *What For*

Songwriters: Janis Lusens / Guntars Racs



Ten songs were entered for the Latvian final where the winner was chosen in two rounds of voting. In the first round the top three songs were chosen by televoting and a jury - points were awarded in terms of placings (1st place = 1 point etc). The three lowest scoring songs progressed to the second round. As there was a tie at the end of the second round, the televote took precedence, sending Aisha to Oslo. *What For*

is another ballad with a meaningful message. Aisha is a beautiful and powerful singer, giving the Latvian song a unique edge. She's a popular star in Latvia - and apparently the press have nick-named her 'The Bomb'. But fret not - all those attending the final in Oslo - security is always high.

Eirodziesma		27th February 2010	
Performer	Song	Result	
Second round			
Aisha	<i>What For?</i>	3	1st
Dons	<i>My Religion Is Freedom</i>	3	2nd
Ivo Grisinš-Grislis	<i>Because I Love You</i>	6	3rd
First round results			
Lauris Reiniks	<i>Your Morning Lullaby</i>	11	=4th
Projekts Konike	<i>Digi Digi Dong</i>	11	=4th
Trianas Parks	<i>Lullaby For My Dreammate (Diamond Lullaby)</i>	11	=4th
Kristine Karkla-Purina	<i>Rišti Rašti</i>	12	=7th
Kristina Zaharova	<i>Snow In July</i>	12	=7th
H20	<i>When I Close My Eyes</i>	17	9th
PeR	<i>Like A Mouse</i>	20	10th

LITHUANIA

Performer: InCulto

Title: *East European Funk*

Songwriters: InCulto

Those wacky Lithuanians are at it again! Well you need a sense of humour at Eurovision - and this year's somewhat tongue-in-cheek entry belongs to Lithuania (again - remember *We Are The Winners* in ESC 2006?). Three semi-finals were held where the top three from each show, chosen via televoting and a jury, progressed to the final along with three wildcards. The viewing public and the jury decided to take a chance with InCulto and their energetic fun funk song, *East European Funk*. It's always good to have variety at Eurovision - and this will definitely stand out!

Non-qualifiers

Song	Performers
4Fun	<i>Don't You Know</i>
Audrius Zavadskis	<i>Right Now</i>
Avenue Acoustic	<i>Aklomis Myliu Tavo Vard</i>
The Cavaliers	<i>We Are About To Love</i>
Daina Bileviciūtė	<i>Myliu Gyventi</i>
Donatas Montvydas	<i>Running Fast (DQ)</i>
Eva	<i>Nes Tū Pamiršai</i>
Gabriele	<i>Girl</i>
Gaudentas Janušas	<i>Man Nieko Nereikia</i>
Imantas	<i>Won't You Come Back</i>
Kačka, Ruta & Kivi	<i>Tonight</i>
Mariaana Seppern	<i>My Home Is Europe</i>
Marta Lukošiuė	<i>Meiles Ruduo</i>
Mini Me	<i>Always</i>
Mino	<i>Angela</i>
Mundis & Electric Ladi	<i>Sielos Muzika</i>
Onsa	<i>Will You Be My Wife</i>
Raimonda Masiulytė	<i>Ledine Sirdis</i>
Saules Klīošas	<i>Tū Atejai</i>
Sirdeles	<i>Aš Ir Tū</i>
Soliaris	<i>So High</i>
Urte Šilagalytė	<i>Angelai</i>

**Lithuanian Final**

4th March 2010

Performer	Song	Result
InCulto	<i>East European Funk</i>	24
Aiste Pilvelytė	<i>Melancolia</i>	20
Evelina Sašenko	<i>For This I'll Pray</i>	14
Agama	<i>Field Of Kings</i>	13
Merunas	<i>Rosa</i>	12
Sasha Song & Nora	<i>Say Yes To Life</i>	12
Ruslanas Kirilkinas	<i>I'm In Love With A Boy Who's In Love With A Fairytale</i>	7
Ramunas Difartas	<i>Blues Of Life</i>	6
Eden	<i>Nirvana</i>	4
Monika Linkyte	<i>Give Away</i>	3
Amberlife	<i>Material World</i>	1
Jurate Miliauskaite	<i>Let It Rain</i>	1

MACEDONIA, FYR**Performer:** Gjoko Taneski feat. Bili & Pejcin**Title:** *Jas Ja Imam Silata (I Have The Strength)***Songwriter:** Kristijan Gabroski

Last year Macedonia were very unlucky not to get to the final with a rather good hard rock song. *Jas Ja Imam Silata* is another strong rock/pop ballad with a bit of rap thrown in for good measure. The top eight songs (out of 14) from the two semi finals qualified for the final chosen by televoting and a jury. At the final, the winner was again chosen by the same method, but as there was a tie at the top slot, the jury decision took precedence, sending Gjoko Taneski (and Bili & Pejcin) to Oslo. It's good to see Macedonia offering some diversity to Eurovision again. The Balkan countries have a tendency to send their top stars to Eurovision (but probably unheard of in western Europe), and this is the case again.



Non-qualifiers

Performer	Song
Duo Slajd	<i>Mrazam</i>
Kerber	<i>Corbadžija</i>
Gorjan Stojanovsk	<i>Najmila</i>
Daniel Stojmanovski	<i>Akcija Reakcija</i>
Natasa Malinkova	<i>Sever I Jug</i>
Igor Mitrovic	<i>Malecka</i>
Pampersi	<i>Sni</i>
Teodora Trajkovska	<i>Ljubovna Pesna</i>
Bojan Aleksovski	<i>Beli Konji</i>
Dimitar Andonovski	<i>Kameno Srce</i>
Jova Radevska	<i>Se Ušte Cekame</i>
Parketi	<i>Ti Si Kisi Fenomen</i>

Skopje Fest

20th February 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Gjoko Taneski feat. Bili & Pejcin	<i>Jas Ja Imam Silata</i>	22
Vlatko Ilievski	<i>Srekja</i>	22
Maja Vukicevic	<i>Fama</i>	14
Vlatko Lozanoski	<i>Letam Kon Tebe</i>	12
Nade Talevska	<i>Srekjen Kraj</i>	11
Bravo Bend	<i>Taa Ima Se</i>	9
Aleksandar Belov	<i>Ostani</i>	8
Angela Zdravkovska	<i>Zaboravaš</i>	6
Suzana Spasovska & Darko Nesovski	<i>Bog Go Ima Sekoj Kljuc</i>	5
Esmas Bend	<i>Džipsi Dens</i>	3
Treta Dimenzija	<i>Bolest Zaraza</i>	2
Kristijan Jovanovski	<i>Nikoj Na Ovoj Svet</i>	1
Tumbao Salsa Band	<i>Poludena Vo Nocta Studena</i>	1
Darko Ilievski	<i>Lagi</i>	0
Viktorija Apostolova	<i>Zaboravi Na Se</i>	0
Vodolija	<i>Solza</i>	0

MALTA

Performer: Thea Garrett

Title: *My Dream*

Songwriters: Jason Cassar/Sunny Aquilina

Everyone expects Malta to eventually win Eurovision - and this year they're putting their hopes in another traditional but powerfully effective ballad, *My Dream*, sung by Thea Garrett. The journey to Oslo was a long one - with six semi-finals that eventually produced 20 finalists, decided by a mixture of a jury, televoting and SMS voting. At the final the winner was decided equally by a jury and televoting. Thea was a clear winner - nearly double the points of her nearest rival. Apparently the songwriters, Jason Cassar and Sunny Aquilina introduced the popular Maltese star, Chiara, to ballads - so they're definitely on the right track. Thea, at 18 years old, will be one of the youngest performers in Oslo.

Non-qualifiers

Performer	Song
Aldo Busuttill	<i>Pizzicato</i>
Aly	<i>Curiosity</i>
Baklava	<i>Euphoria</i>
Cynthia Attard	<i>If I Knew</i>
Dario Bezzina	<i>Grave Dancers</i>
Francesca Borg	<i>I Surrender</i>
Godwin Lucas & Eve Daly	<i>The Best Years</i>
J. Anvil	<i>Mirage</i>
Jessica Muscat	<i>Fake</i>
Josef Tabone	<i>Who Cares?</i>
Mike Spiteri	<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues</i>
Miriam Christine	<i>Beautiful Contradiction</i>
Raquela	<i>Here I Am</i>
Richard Edwards	<i>Change</i>
Roger Tirazona	<i>Silver Rain</i>
Rosman Pace	<i>Hypnotized</i>

**Eurosong Final**

20th February 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Thea Garrett	<i>My Dream</i>	102
Glen Vella	<i>Just A Little More Love</i>	58
Tiziana Calleja	<i>Words Are Not Enough</i>	45
Pamela	<i>Hold On</i>	40
Eleanor Spiteri	<i>Velvet Ocean</i>	39
Wayne Micallef	<i>Save A Life</i>	36
Lawrence Gray	<i>Stories</i>	33
Claudia Faniello	<i>Samsara</i>	31
Ruth Portelli	<i>Three Little Words</i>	31
Dorothy Bezzina	<i>Moments</i>	27
Klinsmann	<i>Her Name Was Anne</i>	26
Nadine Axisa & Clifford Galea	<i>Once In A Lifetime</i>	19
Priscilla & Kurt	<i>Waterfall</i>	19
Eleanor Cassar	<i>Choices</i>	16
Petra Zammit	<i>All I Need</i>	14
Ryan Dale & Duminka	<i>One 4 U</i>	13
Audrey Marie Bartolo	<i>Good Intentions</i>	10
Claire Galea	<i>Ole Satchmo Blues</i>	9
Foxy Federation	<i>Fired Up</i>	9
SilverClash	<i>Broken</i>	5

MOLDOVA**Performer:** Sunstroke Project & Olia Tira**Title:** *Run Away***Songwriters:** Anton Ragoza / Sergey Stepanov / Alina Galetskaya

Moldova might be one of the least well-off countries in Europe, but their commitment to Eurovision is 100%. They had a quarter-final of 50 songs, where the top five, voted by SMS were sent to the semi-finals to join various pre-qualifiers. Two semi-finals were held of 15 acts each. The top seven of each, decided by a jury and televoting progressed to the final on 6th March. The winning act was again decided by a jury

and televoting. Sunstroke Project & Olia Tira were the clear winners singing their energetic funk/pop song *Run Away*. Sunstroke Project & Olia Tira are two separate acts that have joined forces to represent their country. Sunstroke Project have just been around just for a few years, but have performed all over Europe - while Olia Tira is a popular singer and broadcaster. They're a lively and colourful act which will make a nice addition to Oslo.



Non-qualifiers	
Performer	Song
Constantinova & Fusu	<i>The Robbery</i>
Corina Cuniuc & Denis Latisev	<i>Forever</i>
Cristy Rouge	<i>Don't Break My Heart</i>
Dana Marchitan	<i>Day And Night</i>
Duet Brand	<i>S.O.S.</i>
Formatia Todo	<i>Dance 4 Life</i>
Gloria	<i>I'm Not Alone</i>
Irina Tarasiuc	<i>Lucky Star</i>
JJ Jazz	<i>So Many Questions</i>
Marcel Rosca	<i>If Love Is The Thing</i>
Mariana Mihaila	<i>Say I'm Sorry</i>
MBeyeline	<i>Never Step Back</i>
Mihai Teodor	<i>Ai-Ai-Ai</i>
Nicoleta Gavrilita	<i>De Tristete</i>
Veronica Lupu	<i>Poza Ta</i>
Vitalie Toderascu	<i>Ti-auduci Aminte</i>

Moldovan Final 6th March 2010		
Performer	Song	Result
Sun Stroke Project & Olia Tira	<i>Run Away</i>	24
Millenium	<i>Before You Go</i>	17
Pasha	<i>You Should Like</i>	17
Cristina Croitoru	<i>My Heart</i>	14
Boris Covail	<i>No Name</i>	8
Alexandru Manciu	<i>Ramii Linga Mine</i>	6
Dyma	<i>Manipulate</i>	6
Pavel Turcu	<i>Imn Eurovision</i>	6
Valeria Tarasova	<i>See You Soon</i>	6
Doinita Gherman	<i>Meloterapia</i>	5
Eugen Doibani	<i>Love Sweet Love</i>	4
Gicu Cimbir	<i>Cine Sunt Eu</i>	3
Carolina Gorun	<i>Addicted</i>	0
Proiectul Monkey Mind & Daniela	<i>Smile</i>	0

NETHERLANDS

Performers: Sieneke
Title: *Ik Ben Verliefd (Sha-La-Lie) (I'm In Love (Sha-La-Lie))*
Songwriter: Pierre Kartner

Popular composer Pierre Kartner was the pre-selected songwriter for this year's Dutch song. Five acts performed his composition *Ik Ben Verliefd (Sha-La-Lie)* on 7th February. Only an expert jury (80%) and studio audience (20%) were allowed to vote. As there was a tie at the top, Kartner had the deciding vote and awarded the golden ticket for Oslo to Sieneke. All the performers were coached by well-known singers. Sieneke



was mentored by Marianne Weber, and *Ik Ben Verliefd (Sha-La-Lie)* is a bouncy feel-good song that will definitely stand out - but might possibly be deemed a bit old-fashioned. It reminds you of a day at the fun-fair. The Netherlands have struggled in recent years to get to the final, but a sweet-natured song might do it for them.

Dutch Final 7th February 2010	
Performer	Result
Sieneke	1st
Loekz	2nd
Vinzzent	3rd
Marlous	=4th
Peggy Mays	=4th

NORWAY

Performer: Didrik Solli-Tangen

Title: *My Heart Is Yours*

Songwriter: Hanne Sørvaag / Fredrik Kempe

Norway as usual made finding their Eurovision entry a big affair with Melodi Grand Prix (MGP) over a number of weeks. Four semi-finals were held with the top two songs (chosen by televoting) in the first three semi finals qualifying for the final. The third and fourth placed songs battled it out in the last semi-final with two wildcards. At the final the winner was chosen in two rounds of voting - the first to select the top four (by televoting), and the second to select the winner (regional juries and televoting). The clear favourite emerged in the form of Didrik Solli-Tangen singing the powerful love ballad, *My Heart Is Yours*. Didrik certainly has a strong voice and gives this Irish-sounding song his all. And all credit to Norway for not trying to emulate a similar song that won them Eurovision last year. But can they do the double?



Non-qualifiers

Performer	Song
Belinda Braza	<i>Million Dollar Baby</i>
Elisabeth Carew	<i>Rocketfuel</i>
The Diamond	<i>European Girl</i>
Fred Endresen	<i>Barracks On The Hill</i>
Gaute Ormåsén	<i>Synk Eller Svøm</i>
Hanne Haugsand	<i>Don't Stop</i>
Heine Totland	<i>The Best Of Me Is You</i>
Johnny Hide	<i>Rewind Love</i>
Karoline Garfjell	<i>Tokyo Night</i>
Lene Alexandra	<i>Prima Donna</i>
Mira Craig	<i>I'll Take You High</i>
Skanksters	<i>Life Is Here Today</i>
Tomine Harket	<i>Be Good To Me</i>

Norsk Melodi Grand Prix

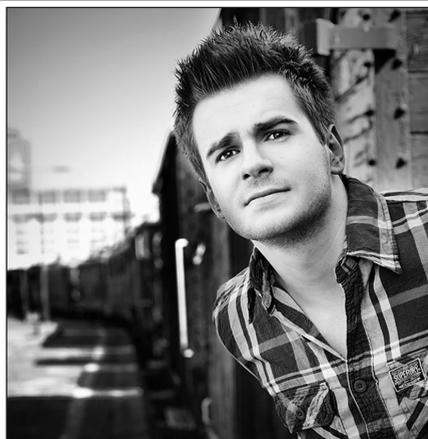
6th February 2010

Song	Performer	Result
Didrik Solli-Tangenx	<i>My Heart Is Yours</i>	466,675
A1	<i>Don't Wanna Lose You Again</i>	278,882
Keep Of Kalessin	<i>The Dragontower</i>	241,164
Bjørn Johan Muri	<i>Yes Man</i>	169,174
Alexander Stenerud	<i>Give It To Me</i>	
María Arredondo	<i>The Touch</i>	
María Haukaas Storeng	<i>Make My Day</i>	
Venke Knutson	<i>Jealous 'Cause I Love You</i>	

POLAND

Performer: Marcin Mroziński**Title:** *Legenda* (*The Legend*)**Songwriters:** Marcin Nierubiec/Marcin Mroziński

Ten acts were entered for the Polish final on 14th February and the winner was chosen by SMS voting. The clear winner, receiving over a third of total votes was Marcin Mroziński singing his co-composed song *Legenda* ('The Legend'). Marcin's fans have high hopes for this song. It certainly is an unusual pop ballad - a bit haunting with an ethnic-sounding background. Interesting - but in a good way!



Polish Final

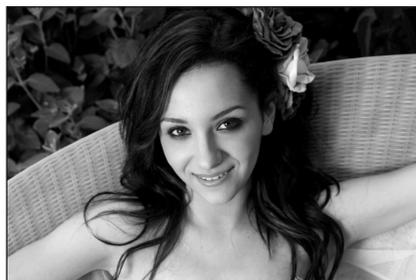
14th February 2010

Performer	Song	Result (%)
Marcin Mroziński	<i>Legenda</i>	33.61
Anna Cyzon	<i>Love Me</i>	15.13
Iwona Węgrowska	<i>Uwieziona</i>	14.94
Aneta Figiel	<i>Mysl O Tobie</i>	9.06
Leszcze	<i>Weekend</i>	8.44
Nefer	<i>Chcialem Zostac Sam</i>	5.97
Vir	<i>Sunrise</i>	4.45
Sonic Lake	<i>There Is A Way</i>	3.44
Zosia	<i>To Co Czuje (Jak Ptak)</i>	3.04
Dziewczyny	<i>Cash Box</i>	1.92

PORTUGAL

Performer: Filipa Azevedo**Title:** *Há Dias Assi* (*It's One Of Those Days*)**Songwriter:** Augusto Madureira

Portugal have in recent years discovered their form and qualified for the final. 30 acts entered the quarter final of 'Festival de Canção'. The top 24 acts chosen by internet voting made it to the two semi-finals. The top six acts from both semi-finals (chosen by televoting) made it to the final on 6th



March. The winner from the 12 acts, chosen by televoting, was Filipa Azevedo with her rock-style ballad *Há Dias Assi*. It's a decent effort, but may get lost among the other ballads. Still, Filipa knows how to belt it out! Portugal still remains the longest participating country not to have won Eurovision. Let's wish them well.

Non-qualifiers

Performer	Song
Claudisabel	<i>Contra Tudo E Todos</i>
David Navarro	<i>Quem E Que Será?</i>
Dennisa	<i>Meu Mundo De Sonhos</i>
Evelyne Filipe	<i>A Tua Voz (Por Um Momento)</i>
Filipe Delgado	<i>Serei Eu</i>
Gonçalo Madruga	<i>Cores De Um Mundo</i>
Nina Pinto	<i>Meu Coração Não E Meu</i>
Nucha	<i>Chuva</i>
Nuno & Fábria	<i>Amar (Vieste Para Me Salvar)</i>
Ouro	<i>Arco-Iris Dentro De Mim</i>
Terra D'Água	<i>Amanhã No Mar</i>
V-Boy	<i>Quando Eu Penso Em Ti</i>

Festival da Canção 6th March 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Filipa Azevedo	<i>Há Dias Assim</i>	19
Catarina Pereira	<i>Canta Por Mim</i>	18
Vanessa	<i>Alvorada</i>	14
Banda Trocopasso	<i>O Mundo De Pernas Para O Ar</i>	13
The Agency	<i>É Assim Que As Coisas São</i>	12
Nuno Pinto	<i>Fogo Lento</i>	12
Ricardo Martins	<i>Caminheiro De Mim</i>	12
Gonçalo Tavares	<i>Rios</i>	7
Seis Po' Meia Dúzia	<i>Pássaro Saudade</i>	7
Jorge Guerreiro	<i>Ai Lisboa</i>	1
Rui Nova	<i>Uma Canção A Cid (O Sol E As Estrelas)</i>	1
Filipa Galvão Telles	<i>O Amor Não Sabe</i>	0

ROMANIA**Performer:** Paula Seling & Ovi**Title:** *Playing With Fire***Songwriter:** Ovidiu Cernăuțeanu

Romania just held a final this year to find their entrant for Oslo. It was held on 6th March and the winner was decided by regional juries and televoting. Both voting blocks decided that Paula Seling & Ovi performing *Playing With Fire* should be the winning song. It's a powerful rock/pop up tempo duet that might do well for Romania after a few years of unimpressive results at Eurovision. It'll definitely stand out.

**Romanian Final**

6th March 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Paula Seling & Ovi	<i>Playing With Fire</i>	24
Catalin Josan	<i>Around Around</i>	16
Luminita Anghel, Tony Tomas & Adrian Piper	<i>Save Their Lives</i>	16
Hotel FM	<i>Come As One</i>	14
Paula Seling & Kamara	<i>It's Not Too Late</i>	13
Lora & Sonny Flame	<i>Come Along</i>	11
Alexa	<i>Baby</i>	5
Anda Adam & Connect-R	<i>Surrender</i>	5
Razvan Crivaci	<i>Jackpot</i>	5
Zero	<i>Lay Me Down</i>	5
Alexandra Ungureanu	<i>Crazy</i>	1
Dalma	<i>I'm Running</i>	1
Lucia Dumitrescu	<i>See You In Heaven, Michael</i>	0
Lulu & The Puppets	<i>Searching For Perfect Emotion</i>	0
Pasager	<i>Running Out Of Time</i>	0
Tina G.	<i>Love Is War</i>	0

RUSSIA

Performer: Peter Nalitch & Friends**Title:** *Lost And Forgotten***Songwriter:** Peter Nalitch

Russia just held one national selection show this year and the winner was chosen by televoting and a jury. The top slot went to the Peter Nalitch Band (recently changed to 'Peter Nalitch & Friends') - who apparently became famous overnight from a YouTube clip! He obviously caught the imagination of the Russian public and the result is a ticket to Oslo. Peter and his pals are singing *Lost And Forgotten* in a new style of music called 'Jolly Babury' - and jolly it is! It's a bit difficult to describe - maybe a karaoke version of a Russian military song? Yes...very, er, interesting.



Russian Final		7th March 2010
Performer	Song	Points (%)
Peter Nalitch Band	<i>Lost And Forgotten</i>	20.9
Oleg Bezinskikh	<i>Crowning</i>	16.1
Buranovskiy Babushki	<i>Dlinnaya-Dlinnaya Beresta I Kak Sdelat' Iz Nee Aishon</i>	12.9
Jet Kids	<i>Hey Say</i>	11.8
Pavla	<i>Infatuated</i>	10.9
Alexander Panaiotov	<i>Maya Showtime</i>	10.6
Ana	<i>Dva Golosa</i>	10.1
Antonello Carozza	<i>Senza Respiro</i>	9.4
Natalia Damas & L'Brand	<i>Much Closer</i>	9.2
Para-bellum	<i>Ptitsa</i>	8.6
Ed Shulzhevskiy	<i>Without You</i>	8.2
Elena Esenina	<i>Mir Bez Tebya</i>	7.9
Los Devchatos	<i>Chocolate</i>	7.5
Princessa Avenue	<i>Lovers</i>	7.2
Scenakardia	<i>Styokla</i>	6.9
Yulika	<i>Delete</i>	6.6
Natalia Terekhova	<i>Everything</i>	6.3
Polina Kozhikova	<i>For You</i>	5.8
Nano	<i>Take It Away</i>	5.1
Ekaterina Frolova	<i>Tout Va Bien</i>	4.4
Jay Stever	<i>I Love, I Love, I Love You</i>	3.9
Miusha	<i>Big Bang</i>	3.4
Alaska	<i>Piastry</i>	2.7
Alena Roxis	<i>My Tears</i>	2.0
Pyotr Sukhov	<i>Ya Uletayu</i>	1.6

SERBIA

Performers: Milan Stanković

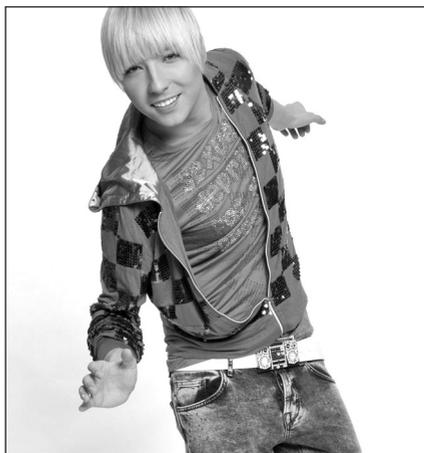
Title: *Ovo Je Balkan (This Is The Balkans)*

Songwriters: Goran Bregović / Marina Tucaković / Ljiljana Jorgovanović

Either due to controversy surrounding past semi finals in the 'Beovizija' show or financial constraints, this year the national broadcaster decided to internally select their entry to Oslo. Composer Goran Bregović wrote three ethnic sounding songs and three internally selected acts were chosen to sing a song each. SMS voting decided the winner in the form of the androgynous-like Milan Stanković. *Ovo Je Balkan* is a fun ethnic song which ideally seems to suit Milan's style of singing and image. It's a lot of fun and should do well. And all credit to the Serbs for not taking themselves too seriously!

Serbian Final 13th March 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Milan Stankovic	<i>Ovo Je Balkan</i>	58,428
Emina Jahovic	<i>Ti Kvariigro</i>	49,706
Oliver Katic feat. Jelena Markovic	<i>Predsednice Halo</i>	20,971



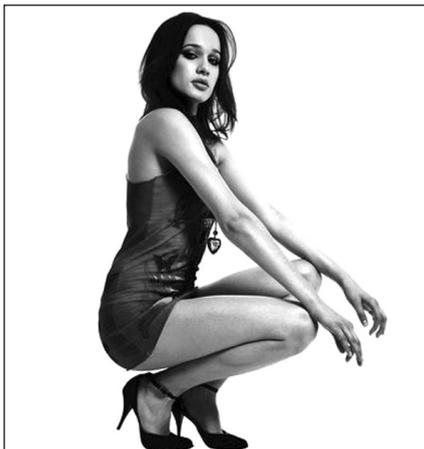
SLOVAKIA

Performers: Kristina Pelakova

Title: *Horehronie*

Songwriters: Martin Kavulic / Kamil Peteraj

Slovakia came back to the Eurovision family last year - and it's great to see that they're taking the contest so seriously with a lot of air time. Six quarter-finals were held with the top four songs from each show, chosen by SMS, going forward to two semi-finals, each featuring 12 acts. Six acts from each show, chosen by SMS voting and a jury, headed for the final. The same method of voting was used at the final, but as there was a tie for the top position, the SMS public vote took precedence, giving the charismatic Kristina Pelakova the ticket to Oslo. A wise choice as *Horehronie* (named after an area in Slovakia) is a very effective up tempo ethnic number that certainly stands out. This could do really well.



Non-qualifiers

Performer	Song
Petra Humenanská	<i>Rosa Rosí</i>
Robo Mikla	<i>Voda A Ohen</i>
Renáta Conková & Martina Polievková	<i>Dúha</i>
Michaela	<i>O Nás</i>
Richard Canaky & FBI	<i>Zlomené Kridla</i>
Get Explode	<i>Blue Sun</i>
Horská Chata	<i>Myslíš Ze Vieš Kto Som</i>
Martin Konrád	<i>Ja Viem</i>
Dáška Kostovcik & Peter Bic Project	<i>Dážd</i>
Peter Bažik	<i>Paradise Vs Babylon</i>
Alone	<i>Strašne Mi Chýbaš</i>
Smola a Hrušky	<i>Pridaj Si Ma</i>

Slovakian Final 27th February 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Kristína	<i>Horehronie</i>	23
Mista	<i>Emotions</i>	23
Aya	<i>Do Neba Volám</i>	17
Tomáš Bezdeda	<i>Na Strechách Domov</i>	17
Miro Jaroš	<i>Bez Siedmeho Neba</i>	16
Pavol Remená, Klára & Liquid Error	<i>Figaro</i>	14
Sona	<i>Skús Ma Viest</i>	13
Martina Schindlerová	<i>Môžeš Ist</i>	8
Marian Bango	<i>Iy Tu Ticho Spíš</i>	7
Mayo	<i>Tón</i>	7
Robo Opatovsky	<i>Nieco Máš</i>	7
Free Voices	<i>Z Osnov</i>	4

SLOVENIA

Performers: Ansambel Žilindra & Kalamari

Title: *Narodnozabavni Rock (Native Folk Rock)*

Songwriters: Marino Legovič/ Leon Oblak

Seven songs from the Slovenian semi-final chosen by televoting qualified for the final. And at the final (EMA 2010), Ansambel Žilindra & Kalamari won the contest by a landslide! The televoters obviously saw something in *Narodnozabavni Rock* - possibly two separate songs! It's an unusual, but very effective, uplifting mixture of pop/rock and folk music. Something for everyone! Definitely gets those toes tapping, so should be a colourful addition to Oslo. Slovenia failed to get into the Eurovision final last year, but they might be luckier this time round.



Non-qualifiers

Performer	Song
Martina Feri & Tomaž Nedoh	<i>Le En Dan</i>
Petra Pecovnik	<i>Iz Navade</i>
Sara Kobold	<i>Od Tod Do Vecnosti</i>
Saša Zamernik	<i>Živim Za Zdaj</i>
Vaso & D Plejbeks	<i>Grema Na Emo</i>
Ylenia Zobec	<i>Priznam</i>
Zadnji Taxi	<i>Franjo</i>

EMA 21st February 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Ansambel Roka Žilindre & Kalamari	<i>Narodnozabavni Rock</i>	15,907
Nina Pušlar	<i>Dež</i>	3,527
Langa	<i>Roko Mi Daj</i>	3,462
Manca Špik	<i>Tukaj Sem Doma</i>	2,264
Hamo & Gal	<i>Crni Konji Cez Nebo</i>	1,918
Marko Vozelj	<i>Moj Si Zrak</i>	1,597
Martina Šraj	<i>Dovolj Ljubezni</i>	1,479
Brigita Šuler	<i>Para Me</i>	1,244
Nuša Derenda	<i>Sanjajva</i>	1,040
Lea Sirk	<i>Vampir Je Moj Poet</i>	751
Vlado Pilija	<i>Tudi Fantje Jocejo</i>	513
Tangels	<i>Kaj In Kam</i>	444
Stereotipi	<i>Daj Mi En Znak</i>	298
Anastazija Juvan	<i>Nežna</i>	273

SPAIN

Performer: Daniel Diges

Title: *Algo Pequeñito (Something Tiny)*

Songwriters: Jesús Cañadilla/Luis Miguel de la Varga/Daniel Diges/Alberto Collado

The finalists for the Spanish entrant were chosen from submitted entries published on the national broadcaster's website. 313 songs were listed (from 480 entries) and more than 5,700,000 votes were registered. After various disqualifications and scrutiny of the voting, the top ten highest scorers went through to the televised final. The winner at the final, 'Destino Oslo', on 22nd February was chosen by televoting and a jury. Both voting blocks agreed with their choice for Oslo - Daniel Diges, singing his co-composed entry, *Algo Pequeñito*, which translates as 'Something Tiny'. Well tiny shouldn't be the points that this song receives in Oslo. It's widely regarded by many to be the best Spanish song in ages. Best described as a classical song with a bit of a waltz thrown in. Daniel is a well known personality in Spain - as an actor on television and singer in musical theatre. One minor point - is it fair for anyone to have so much hair?



Destino Oslo 22nd February 2010

Performer	Song	Result
Daniel Diges	<i>Algo Pequeñito</i>	118
Coral Segovia	<i>En Una Vida</i>	97
Lorena	<i>Amor Mágico</i>	77
Venus	<i>Perfecta</i>	54
Samuel & Patricia	<i>Recuérdame</i>	50
Ainhoa Cantalapiedra	<i>Volvere</i>	49
José Galisteo	<i>Beautiful Life</i>	49
Anabel Conde	<i>Sin Miedos</i>	47
Fran Dieli	<i>Cuando Se Trata De Ti</i>	24
John Cobra	<i>Carol</i>	15

SWEDEN

Performer: Anna Bergendahl

Title: *This Is My Life*

Songwriters: Bobby Ljunggren/
Kristian Lagerström

Melodifestivalen was in full force again this year. The first four semi-finals featured eight acts and had two rounds of televoting. In the first round, the top song automatically qualified for the final, while the bottom three songs were eliminated. In the second round, the top song (out of the remaining four) also qualified for the final, while the second



and third placed songs went forward to the fifth semi-final where they had a second chance to qualify for the final. In the fifth semi-final the eight songs competed in groups of pairs. The most popular song from each pairing was chosen by televoting, then the winners of pairs one and two competed against each other to qualify for the final as did the winners of pairs three and four. The winner at the final was chosen by televoting and 11 regional juries with an international jury - and emerged in the form of the lovely Anna Bergendahl playing her guitar and singing *This Is My Life*. The song is a lovely pop ballad and Anna's slightly-musky voice gives it a special quality. You can't go wrong with a good under-stated Swedish song!

Melodifestival		13th March 2010
Performer	Song	Result
Anna Bergendahl	<i>This Is My Life</i>	214
Salem Al Fakir	<i>Keep On Walking</i>	183
Eric Saade	<i>Manboy</i>	159
Darin	<i>You're Out Of My Life</i>	117
Timoteij	<i>Kom</i>	95
Andreas Johnson	<i>We Can Work It Out</i>	50
Ola	<i>Unstoppable</i>	47
Jessica Andersson	<i>I Did It For Love</i>	37
Peter Jöback	<i>Hollow</i>	32
Pernilla Wahlgren	<i>Jag Vill Om Du Vågar</i>	12

Non-qualifiers			
Performer	Song	Performer	Song
Alcazar	<i>Headlines</i>	Jenny Silver	<i>A Place To Stay</i>
Anders Ekborg	<i>The Saviour</i>	Johannes Bah Kuhnke	<i>Tonight</i>
Andra Generationen & Dogge	<i>Hippare Hoppare</i>	Kalle Moraeus & Orsa Spelmän	<i>Underbart</i>
Anna-Maria Espinosa	<i>Innan Alla Ljusen Brunnit Ut</i>	Linda Pritchard	<i>You're Making Me Hot-Hot-Hot</i>
Crucified Barbara	<i>Heaven Or Hell</i>	Lovestoned	<i>Thursdays</i>
Elin Lanto	<i>Doctor Doctor</i>	Neo	<i>Human Frontier</i>
Erik Linder	<i>Hur Kan Jag Tro På Kärleken</i>	Noll Disciplin	<i>Idiot</i>
Frispråkarn	<i>Singel</i>	Pain of Salvation	<i>Road Salt</i>
Getty Domein	<i>Yeba</i>	Pauline Kamusewu	<i>Sucker For Love</i>
Hanna Lindblad	<i>Manipulated</i>	Py Bäckman	<i>Magisk Stjärna</i>
Highlights & MiSt	<i>Come And Get Me Now</i>	Sibel	<i>Stop</i>

SWITZERLAND

Performer: Michael von der Heide
Title: *Il Pleut De L'Or (It's Raining Gold)*
Songwriters: Michael von der Heide/
 Pele Loriani/Heike Kospach/ André
 Grüter

If you're missing a traditional French song in this year's contest - well, here you are! The Swiss internally-selected



their entry again - this time in the form of popular star Michael von der Heide. He co-composed his entry *Il Pleut De L'Or*, which translates as 'It's Raining Gold'. And perhaps it deserves a gold star - it's a slightly old-fashioned uplifting pop number, but there's nothing wrong in that. Hopefully, it'll get the Swiss back into the final again. And if we're honest - most songs sound better in French!

TURKEY

Performer: maNga

Title: *We Could Be The Same*

Songwriters: maNga/Evren Özdemir/
Fiona Moverly

There was lots of speculation that Turkish superstar Tarkan would be Turkey's act for this year's Eurovision - however, the national broadcaster, TRT, went down another route - they asked the public to select their entry for Oslo via internet voting. TRT then approached the top three chosen acts. Wisely they settled on the group who in 2009 won the award for Best European Act, the oddly spelt maNga, at the MTV Europe Music Awards. The group have also won other notable awards - and usually stay clear from any belly-dancing nonsense. *We Could Be The Same* is an impressive pop/rock song with some unique noises which even the occasional rap can't ruin!



UKRAINE

Performer: Alyosha

Title: *Sweet People*

Songwriters: Olena Kucher (Alyosha)/
Borys Kukoba/Vadim Lisitsa

What a palaver! On 6th March, Ukraine held a final with their internally-selected performer Vasyl Lazarovych singing five songs. The winning song, voted by televoting and a jury decided that he should sing *I Love You...* in Oslo. In all honestly it was a dire slow-moving ballad. However, it was all change as politics intervened! A new government emerged after elections in Ukraine, and appointed a new head for the national broadcaster. The powers that be decided that they wanted to choose the country's entry for Oslo (someone obviously heard *I Love You...*) so held a new final on 20th March. This new final was a more impressive affair with 20 acts. Voting was decided by a jury and SMS voting. The top ten results were revealed with Vasyl Lazarovych's *I Love You...* this time coming seventh. There was a tie at the top so the jury went with Alyosha singing the ballad *To Be Free* (a bit less dire than *I Love You...*). However, there was more drama - it was revealed that *To Be Free* broke EBU rules as it was on a CD some



years back. Someone obviously didn't read the rules. Anyway, it was decided that Alyosha should still go to Oslo, but a new song was chosen, *Sweet People*, which is another slow-moving ballad. Alyosha, a powerful singer, certainly gives it her all. As of printing, Ukraine haven't changed their minds again - but were fined for confirming their entry late.

Ukrainian Final (version 2)			20th March 2010	
Song	Performer	Result	Song	Performer
Alyosha	<i>To Be Free</i>	1st	Dazzle Dreams	<i>Emotional Lady</i>
Masha Subko	<i>Ya Tebya Lyublyu</i>	2nd	El Kravchuk	<i>Fly To Heaven</i>
Matias	<i>Angely Ne Umirayut</i>	3rd	Julia Voice	<i>Zavyazhi Mne Glaza</i>
Nataliya Valevskaya	<i>Europa</i>	4th	Max Barskih	<i>White Raven</i>
Zlata Okhnevych	<i>Tiny Island</i>	5th	Mia	<i>Vona</i>
Iryna Rosenfeld	<i>Forever</i>	6th	Mirra Gold	<i>Crazy Lady</i>
Vasyl Lazarovych	<i>I Love You</i>	7th	SH & BB	<i>Ne Zhuris</i>
Band Zakliopky	<i>Anybody Home?</i>	8th	Shanis	<i>Lechu K Tebe</i>
St'Ereo	<i>Ne Shodi S Uma</i>	9th	Vitaliy Kozlovskiy	<i>I Love?</i>
Ivan Berezovskiy	<i>Utro</i>	10th	Vladislav Levitskiy	<i>Davay, Davay!</i>

UNITED KINGDOM

Performer: Josh

Title: *That Sounds Good To Me*

Songwriters: Pete Waterman/Mike Stock/Steve Crosby



The British final, Your Country Needs You, was held on 12th March. Famous music producer Pete Waterman (of Stock Aitken & Waterman fame) was internally-selected to write the entry for Oslo. The winner was chosen in two rounds - in the first round, six acts performed cover versions of previous Stock Aitken & Waterman hits. Pete Waterman then chose three acts to go forward to the second round to perform the ESC entry *That Sounds Good To Me*. The winner was then chosen by televoting - and the public decided that Josh Dubovie sang the song best. *That Sounds Good To Me* is a somewhat old-fashioned song, but has a good up-lifting beat and is easy to understand. Mike Stock, who co-wrote the song, is adapting *That Sounds Good To Me* to fit in more closely with Josh's voice. There's a review of YCNY elsewhere in this issue of **Vision** as well as an interview with Josh. We wish our young performer the best of British luck and many OGAE UK members will be waving the flag with pride in Oslo!

Eurovision: Your Country Needs You 12th March 2010	
Performer	Result
Josh	1st
Alexis	2nd
Esmá	3rd
Karen	
Miss Fitz	
Uni5	

● Austria, Monaco and San Marino failed to return to Eurovision again. Andorra, Czech Republic and Hungary also pulled out this year, but Georgia returned after a years absence.

● Many thanks to www.natfinals.50webs.com, www.esctoday.com and www.eurovision.tv for the source material and photos.

THE VERDICTS!

Hassan Yusuf leads the opinions for this year's songs!

Okay - you've just read my (nearly) unbiased reviews for all the entries for this year's contest. But what do I really think so far?

Well, I've had to listen to all the songs a few times to do the reviews, so I've started to like a few of them that I didn't originally. However, I don't think the contest is as bad as first thought. Okay, there may be many ballads - but there's definitely enough variety to cater for all tastes.

I might be a Turkish Cypriot in origin, but my favourite song this year is the Greek entry - a great ethnic-like romp. But right up there is the Irish song - and who I would prefer to win. Not only is it a great song, but Niamh Kavanagh is a lovely person. I met her briefly many years ago at a Eurovision convention, and she was very friendly and down-to-earth. And I always feel nice people should win Eurovision. And besides, there's an interview with Niamh in the bag for the next issue of **Vision**. Go Ireland!

But I have a sneaking suspicion that France might do it. It's a fab song - and you can't go wrong with an uplifting football chant. But I could be completely wrong as I think this year it's wide open.

My other favourites are Turkey - a great modern sound (the Turks do well with bands); Slovakia - another great ethnic sound; Finland is just great fun; Estonia is wonderfully weird; Sweden just works for me; and Belarus is a nice surprise.

For the past three years, my favourite songs have failed to get to the final - I doubt that'll be the case this year!

Anyway, I asked some of the membership their views. Here are the thoughts of those that replied.

Robin Scott

The second semi-final has the strongest songs so some good ones will be lost.

The most disappointing song is Malta. This does nothing at all for me, from a country that has had a lot of great entries. Next from bottom is Russia which picked a song best not taken with alcohol.

From the first semi-final, Latvia, Belgium and Iceland are the strongest. From the second semi-final, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Romania, Ireland and Turkey stand out. In the final, Spain, followed by Norway are head and shoulders above the others.

Overall I would hope my top ten to be: 10th Denmark, 9th Turkey, 8th Ireland, 7th Azerbaijan, 6th Switzerland, 5th Latvia, 4th Belgium, 3rd Norway, 2nd Romania, 1st Spain with the UK 12th based on the original version of the song.

Elaine Dove

Many people think this year is a weak contest, but of the three I have been involved with this is my favourite yet.

In a contest that includes many ballads I feel there is a chance for a song with a bit of quirkiness to do well. By far my favourite is the Netherlands. It is the sort of song that makes me think - this is what Eurovision is all about. You can't dislike a song that makes you grin from ear to ear whilst listening to it. The same goes for Serbia - it has grown and grown on me and makes me smile. Belgium is another favourite of mine - it is the sort of music that I would listen to away from Eurovision.

For fun and something a bit unusual I will be championing InCulto and *East European Funk* - it's fun, its quirky and

makes me want to dance. The glittery pants are also an added bonus!!!!

In the battle of the ballads I feel that Croatia and Belarus are the stand out songs. Croatia has a strong beautiful melody and I think the song from Belarus will look and sound amazing on stage.

I love the Macedonian rock song and I am glad it got a good placing in its semi-final draw.

At this moment in time my top ten songs are: Netherlands; Belgium; Belarus; Lithuania; Serbia; Macedonia, FYR; Croatia; Denmark; Greece; Azerbaijan.

Thomas Latham

Out of the Big Four I think that Spain and Germany will do well this year with the latter being a real contender for the top spot. Otherwise Sweden seems a safe top ten bet. Elsewhere, there are a lot of ballads sung by female singers, which means a few of them will get lost along the way. This could help Israel, who have a male singer - or a more up tempo song like Germany's. However, it does make it look like a solo female winner is the likeliest outcome.

Paul Jordan

LIKE:

Norway: I love this, I know I shouldn't, it's a bit like a bad version of *My Heart Will Go On*. With a good performance I think this could do well.

Estonia: LOVE IT - my favourite - I love how it's original, quirky and a bit left-field. I think it might struggle to qualify which is a shame as I reckon it's quite a credible ditty.

Greece: Hilarious and surely in with a shout. Great listening to while jogging!

Denmark: I like this although it's a tad 'High School Musical'/'Glee' for my liking. I think this will qualify, but don't

think it will be setting the scoreboard alight either.

Iceland: A good disco stomper - love it, although not sure if it's just a fan favourite.

Belgium: Very 'Dawson's Creek', I like it a lot and can see this doing well.

Lithuania: It's rubbish, but fun rubbish. I hope these boys know that Elaine Dove has them in her "things to see and people to do" list!

Ireland: I like it, but I'm not sure if that's because it's her and I love *In Your Eyes* so much. Could flop or do well - not sure.

Azerbaijan: I think this is the winner - strong performance, good singer. I can see this getting votes from jurors and public alike. Armenia won't be too pleased!

Netherlands: Completely bonkers but fun. Reminds me of 'Loose Women'.

Serbia: Not sure of this one, he looks a little like Sally Webster from 'Coronation Street'. Like the dancers though!

Bulgaria: Not got much substance but I like the beat and it will be good Euroclub fodder!

SURPRISES:

Albania: Wow, I saw her win the national final (family Christmas, nothing better to do!) and thought she was a bit like Yvette Fielding on crack. Much improved and I can see this doing well particularly if it's drawn after a bunch of dull songs (of which there are plenty!) in the final.

Croatia: When I heard Feminem were back with a ballad I didn't hold out much hope, their backing singers carried them in 2005. I think it's very strong though and could well be up there.

DISAPPOINTMENTS:

Russia: Why oh why didn't they send those six singing babushkas? That had winner written all over it!



Ukraine: I think this exemplifies the term "dirge". Horrendous.

Israel: I don't get it at all!

As always these opinions will change several times, probably by Oslo I'll be predicting a UK win...

Mandy Norman

I'm not sure I've seen all of them. There are so many ballads this year it's unbelievable. I reckon therefore something more quirky might win. I know this is a bit left of field, but I think Lithuania could be a dark horse. The women voters will love it and it's a pretty funky tune. I just love the silver pants! Fantastic!

Oooh! Liking Belgium very much too.

So it looks like those shiny Lithuanian pants are a hit with the ladies! The next three members gave opinions for every song! Not enough room to list them all, so here's a selection of their views.

Andrew Main

I haven't got a clue who is going to win this year! The standard may be slightly down overall, but I think it's more because there are not one or two stand-out songs and it's a more level playing field. There are still three or possibly four horrors again this year. I think the winner will come from any one of six to ten countries.

Lots of ballads this year and many of them good stand alone songs. But throw them all together into the mix and some will get lost and cancel each other out.

But of the ones that stand a chance to win are Croatia, Ireland, Belarus, Belgium and Azerbaijan.

Of the up tempo/mid tempo ones with chances to win - then it has to be between Greece, Albania, Armenia, Denmark and Germany. I will be surprised if the winner

is not contained somewhere within those two groups.

If we are to have a surprise winner then there are several more countries with an outside chance. So overall as I said, a very level playing field - expect the winner to score less than 260 points in the final.

My personal favourite is Croatia. A powerful Balkan ballad, but not another *Lane Moje* or *Molitva*.

Femminem are very welcome back in the contest - I can see them doing really well with this song - powerful vocals, good mix of harmonies and some subtle choreography.

Ireland is another stunning ballad. Celtic feeling and a powerful song, Niamh is another welcome return and she is so going to deliver this in Oslo. She will succeed on performance alone where many other younger singers might falter.

One of the best up tempos in the contest is Albania. Since this song has been remixed and moved to English, it has come on leaps and bounds. A very powerful singer, she will really belt this out live. A sure fire qualifier and a good draw in the final - then who knows...

If it's a quality song that wins then we can look no further than Tom Dice and his guitar from Belgium. A lovely slow start and it builds beautifully. This sort of genre is very popular with the public and many people around Europe will remember this so expect lots of points.

Then we have Denmark with some mid-tempo Swedish-written pop. It's common for a boy/girl song to do well in Eurovision and Denmark ticks all the right boxes. An instantly memorable song will hook many people. Two good singers too who seem to have the right chemistry together.

Greece is going to be a dangerous one



too. It smacks of ethnicity and will leave the viewers as breathless as Georgio's friends. It stands a great chance to win the whole thing - dependant again on its draw in the final.

If as in previous years we are going to get an Eastern winner then it's any one from three. The ones that have the best chance are Armenia - if Eva can truly cut it live; Azerbaijan with a very modern contemporary ballad; or Belarus with a wonderful slushy ballad. All are totally dependant on the live performance and vocals, but if either of them can pull everything together then we could head eastwards again in 2011.

My final prediction for the winner is one of the automatic finalists. Many were going for Spain or Norway and although I expect both to do well performance wise, the draw has not been at all kind to either. I would expect Spain to get their best finish for years and for Norway to still possibly hit the top ten.

But I have to consider Germany this year as a contender for the crown. A contemporary and quirky pop song sung by an even more quirky young singer in Lena. I think this will be instantly noticed and expect to do really well. If it's tight on the scoreboard it might just do it.

Liam Whelan

Azerbaijan: They will not win Eurovision with a ballad. They are far too dramatic. I think they overdid it with their performances so far, but they will soon get the combination just right. I do not see why we need backing dancers for a ballad. I love elements of this song but the childish 'drip drop' does not match the dramatic ballad it is.

Bulgaria: I love Miro. I wish he sent something closer to *Losing Control*. I

do like this though. I just hope there will be no silliness on stage during the instrumentals.

Croatia: This is amazing but again, why do we need to dance during a ballad? I think the girls are a tad dramatic. But the song, splendid.

Estonia: Quirky. I like. Yeah!

Finland: I LOVE THIS! I kind of hoped it would have opened the first semi as it would have been such a charming little start to the contest. Quaint. Cute. Shows pride in national culture, music and language. Yes. Yes. Yes. Love it. Love it. Love it. (*Editor's note: I think he loves it.*)

France: I quite enjoyed the one minute preview of the song, but when I heard the full thing it was like the one minute preview repeated three times. Bland.

Germany: I love it. It is so different. This will be one of the songs I listen to after the contest is finished.

Greece: Yeah, this is not bad. It is original in many ways and I love the beat. I cannot wait to hear it in Euroclub.

Ireland: The songs I hate, others will love - the songs I love others may hate or dislike. This is safe. The voting structure that suits safe songs is back. Go n-éirí an bóthar leat, Niamh. I quite like it. It makes me homesick.

Israel: I love Hebrew in song so I guess I am a bit biased. It is strong, but not as strong as other Israeli ballads.

Latvia: I love this, the performance with the women pretending to launder, etc, was a bit silly, but no, Latvia has gone for something different again.

Moldova: I love this, but I fear it will be like Moldova in ESC 2006 - hard to perform live and way too many personalities and colours on stage to make any sense.

Poland: It is like a trifle, so many layers... but some of the layers are like marmite



and lamb... and... things that do not really go together or belong in a trifle. It certainly is a fusion. It is more a piece of art than a song.

Romania: I am very glad this was not disqualified. This will be a great addition to the line-up – original.

Slovakia: Along with Finland this is my personal favourite. I am not sure about the final costumes as I got a feeling of Ruslana. She is so pretty and the dancers are amazing and it is a beautiful song.

Spain: I love this. I hope the circus theme comes on stage too. It is all very lovely.

Switzerland: This is another one I cannot stop listening to. I hope he loses that gold jacket.

Turkey: This is a very strong entry in a year where not a lot of effort has been put in by many countries. Here is an example of a song that is not at all my typical taste, yet I still cannot stop listening to it.

David Elder
Semi-final one

Moldova: This gives me hideous flashbacks of 'Miami Vice' jackets with padded shoulders, knitted jumpers tucked into skinny jeans and white slip-on shoes, such is the complete 1980's feel of the song. Saxophones aren't sexy!

Russia: One can't help thinking that the savvy Russians thought, "Okay, we just spent 27 million roubles on the thing last year, so let's find the most horrendous pub-band we can and give them a dog of a song. We'll even throw in some comedy lines about throwing a photo of a lost lover into the fire...that's bound to sink like a stone, so no more organising headaches for us!"

Estonia: Imagine lying in bed with the worst migraine known to man. Your

head is bursting with disturbing noises and visions that won't give you peace. Welcome to the world of this year's Estonian contribution...

Slovakia: Like a homely little woodland pixie, Kristina beckons you in to her Eastern European fairytale with a sprightly little folk dance complete with haunting flutes and other woodwind type instruments.

Finland: Take two striking (but slightly barking) blondes, give one an accordion and send them off to a wedding in the village hall where they whip up a frenzy with their turbo-folk dance and you've pretty much got the idea...

Poland: This young chap has one of the best vocal ranges in this year's contest. Sadly, he's singing one of the most horrendous songs in Eurovision's history.

Belgium: A Belgian Bob Dylan with a simple guitar ballad. Likely to appeal to listeners who yearn for the hippy, trippy days of flower power and free love.

Greece: Ooh, leather boys and facial hair! It's like Village People were never gone. The song's very bangy and shouty in a typically Greek way, but it's really rather jolly!

Portugal: Aww bless! Imagine the bride's wee sister getting up to give us a song at the wedding.

Tears in all the aunties' eyes. There may well be tears after this one too.

Belarus: Hideous English pronunciation but the song soars high above most in the first semi-final. Nice harmonies in a big show-stopping ballad.

Iceland: The big lass with the big voice is back and this time she's front stage! Euro cheese of the highest order, but for many of us who have been "around the block" this is what Eurovision is all about!

Semi-final two

Lithuania: Very clever lyrics and the most inspired use of hot pants on a Eurovision



Finland: Whipping up a frenzy!

stage since the heady days of Clodagh Rogers. These boys are all about fun – and they deliver.

Armenia: It's ethnic, up tempo and it's about fruit. What's not to love about this super ditty?

Denmark: Tale as old as time... it's Beauty & The Beast! Despite the bloke's ill advised perm, this catchy song has all the ingredients of a classic Euro entry, and looks set to feature on playlists for years to come.

Netherlands: The Dutch go Post-Retro-Modern with an ironic twist as they roll out the barrel organ for a right royal knees-up that is the very essence of everything good and bad about Eurovision in one fail swoop - magnificent!

Romania: Apparently this is all about smouldering and unrequited love over the top of two pianos. It's frenetic, bolshie, and inspired.

Slovenia: "Just for a hoot let's take some alpine folk music and mash it together with some hard Slovene rock – people will laugh and love it" said Mr Slovenian... We're not laughing, and no, we don't!

Ireland: Easily the best song in the semis this year. Niamh's sweeping and soaring vocals will launch this stunning Celtic ballad into the stratosphere. Yes, it's Titanic, but this ain't gonna sink!

Bulgaria: Miro can deliver, and despite the sudden ending, this is another of the stronger songs in semi-final two.

Croatia: Nice vocal harmonising, and the hair is fabulous, but this one does nothing for me. More Balkan angst from a group of gurlies who really ought to know better after the joy that was *Call Me*.

Georgia: Ah! This is a nice ballad, and could prove to be the dark horse of the competition. It's simple, heartfelt,

unassuming and confident. What's Tbilisi like in May then?

Turkey: A fresh and contemporary sound from a credible band with a good following across the continent. Another top ten place beckons for the country who can virtually do no wrong in Eurovision these days.

Final

Spain: If ever any song was going to break the 'Curse of Number Two' then this is it! It's retro. It's theatre. It's a waltz! The lovechild of Tom Jones and Leo Sayer has a cracker of a voice and I can easily see us sipping sangria and eating tapas this time next year...

Norway: Now you see, for me, this is head and shoulders above the other 38 songs! The dramatic build to the classic anthemic crescendo, the charisma of the singer, the fact that this is gonna go down bigger in the hall than any other song – I think it's Norway's to lose...

France: Well, it's different! I have absolutely no idea how a summer football anthem is going to do in this field, but to be fair, it's not a ballad, and it's not pretentious, so Bonne Chance!

Germany: Okay, it's possibly the most relevant song in terms of the current music scene in Europe, but I can't get past the abhorrent vocal stylings and "faux cockney" of Miss Meyer-Landrut, who presents all the charm of a 12 year old spoiled stage school brat!

And that's it for now! Thanks to all above for their views (and apologies for the edits and cuts). You'll all be able to give your views by filling in the Retrospective form to be found in the centre-pages of this edition of **Vision**. Nothing too rude please - honestly, the things we had to cut from David Elder's piece... ⑦



EURO QUIZ

Irish eyes are smiling on this quiz. Can you recognise the song title and artist of each of the following from the first line of these Irish Eurovision entries?

1. "I don't wanna live my life without you"
2. "Rushing for the papers every day"
3. "My love, I need your touch"
4. "I hear your voice on the wind"
5. "So much to do, so little time"
6. "Saw you at an airport"
7. "When you're lonely, when you're blue"
8. "Love can build you up"
9. "I remember sixty-two"
10. "It seemed life had no answers for me"

See inside back cover for answers



Eurobash 2010 Saturday, 16th October 2010 Chancellors Hotel & Conference Centre, near Manchester

OGAE UK is proud to announce that booking is now open for Eurobash 2010, which will take place on Saturday, 16th October at a brand new venue – Chancellors Hotel & Conference Centre, near Manchester.

This year, rather than just having one space, we have an entire venue to ourselves! In addition to the main room in which most events will take place, there are separate areas for dining, tea/coffee, the bar and chilling out.

Eurobash 2010 is open to all members and friends of OGAE UK.

The event will include:

- The first Eurobash in Manchester and a contest celebrating some great Eurovision 'firsts'
- The hotly contested Euroquiz
- The Guest List - Eurovision celebrities answer your questions
- Stars in Their Eurovision Eyes
- The Euro Disco - where you pick the songs

To request full details and a booking form, please email eurobash@btinternet.com. There are two booking options available: a Eurobash Package Price, which covers the cost of all Bash events and accommodation for the Saturday night, and a Day Delegate rate, which does not include accommodation.

Please note that accommodation cannot be booked directly for the Saturday night with the hotel.

JOSH SOUNDS GOOD

Gordon Lewis reviews a slimmed down version of the show that chose a singer for Europe



Pete Waterman and Graham Norton

One year after its inaugural series, *Your Country Needs You* returned as a one night special on Friday, 12th March 2010 where six acts battled for the prize of representing the United Kingdom at the 55th Eurovision Song Contest. The imitable Graham Norton introduced the show before previewing the hits of Kylie Minogue, Jason Donovan, Bananarama and Steps, marking the arrival of this year's appointed songwriter, Pete Waterman. Joining Pete to comment on the performances were Jade Ewen and Bruno Tonioli.

With all six acts performing a classic



The six hopeful acts: (from left to right) Alexis, Miss Fitz, Josh, Karen, Uni5 and Esma

Stock, Aitken & Waterman song, 18 year old Karen Harding from Newcastle had the unenviable task of opening the show with her version of Kylie's *What Do I Have To Do*. She appeared to be very nervous and sounded out of tune at times, but the celebrity panel remained supportive of her performance.

Despite being the least experienced singer taking part, 20 year old Alexis Gerred from Kent seemed slightly more confident once he had recovered from a shaky start to *Never Gonna Give You Up*. However, when compared to the original recording from Rick Astley, Alexis's vocals remained significantly weak.



Formed just three weeks before the broadcast, Uni5 were given the task of singing *Last Thing On My Mind* which had originally been released by Bananarama and then, back in 1998, provided Steps with their first Top Ten hit. Although trying to look and sound like the popular boy/girl fivesome, the combined efforts of Amy (18), Daniella (19), Sam (22), Dani (22) and Lee (25) were not good enough.

Esma Akkic had spent most of her 17 years in Austria and was the youngest performer taking part. Singing the Donna Summer number, *This Time I Know It's For Real*, Esma displayed strong

vocals but found herself breathless by the end of the song. Nonetheless, the panel were confident that Esma could develop a successful musical career.

At the age of 19, Essex boy Josh Dubovie has regularly performed at major festivals and charity events across the UK, and his confidence in performing live was clearly evident. He was delighted to be singing Jason Donovan's *Too Many Broken Hearts* and easily gave the best performance of the evening.

Comprising three friends who had formed a trio after two of them had failed at the 2009 auditions for *Your Country*

Needs You, Marina (25), Gemma (27) and Maiken (23) gave good individual performances during their version of the Kylie/Steps number, *Better The Devil You Know*. As a group, the harmonies of Miss Fitz were more than questionable.

All six performers had done their best, and were reunited on stage for an ABBA tribute featuring *Take A Chance On Me* and *Dancing Queen*.

Pete Waterman then decided which three would sing the Eurovision song for the public vote, announcing that Esma, Alexis and Josh would go head-to-head in performing *That Sounds Good To Me*, which Pete had co-written

especially for the contest with his former professional partner Mike Stock (who had now also joined the panel).

Although Alexis appeared happy singing the song, the lyrics were clearly suited to a talent show winner rather than a song contest entry. Musically the number was typically Stock, Aitken & Waterman, but with similarities to the opening of Kim Wilde's 1981 hit *Kids In America*, it was more a case of '*That Sounds Dated To Me!*'

Esma began her version of the song from a seated position, and it looked as if she would give a sensual and passionate performance. Unfortunately, nerves got the better of her and poor Esma's lack of experience became apparent when she forgot her words partway through the song.

Finally, Josh returned to the stage and, even though Peter Waterman

suggested that *That Sounds Good To Me* was not really suited to the teenager's voice, it was clear that Josh was the only one of the three likely to give a good performance in Oslo. But would the British public agree?

As voting lines opened, Graham looked back over the past 12 months, explaining how Jade's short lived solo career had led to her becoming a member of chart topping girl band the Sugababes who sang their latest single *Wear My Kiss*. Confident and contemporary, it has to be said that this might have made a better song for the international contest!

Once the Top Tips to win Eurovision had been revealed,

including singing in English and avoiding gardening equipment, a film of Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber saw the song writing baton officially passed to Pete Waterman. Telephone lines were then closed and votes counted while 2009 contest winner, Alexander Rybak, provided yet another energy charged performance of *Fairytale*.

It was then time for Graham Norton to announce the results to three very nervous singers and an expectant audience. Esma was awarded third place, no doubt the result of her forgetfulness, and the overall winner was declared as Josh Dubovie. As the winning reprise began and the final credits rolled, the UK had once again chosen the singer that would represent the country at Eurovision. Good luck Josh! ♣



Josh singing *That Sounds Good To Me*

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A word from OGAE UK President Paul Marks-Jones

Well, well, we're certainly hurtling towards Oslo 2010 aren't we? I hope you have all enjoyed the national finals season and are ready to support Josh either in Oslo or from afar.

One of the topics that has dominated the last few months has been tickets!!!

I'm delighted to announce that we were able to secure the largest number of tickets ever for OGAE UK members with a total of 102 members travelling to Norway in May. Securing tickets for such an event is a really tricky task and it's thanks to the hard work done by OGAE Norway's president in his negotiations with the Norwegian national broadcaster, NRK, that we're able to send so many people this year. And also this side, the excellent co-ordination by David Ransted and Simon Bennett ensured that any news was sent out as soon as possible giving you enough time to do the necessary. And of course, thanks to all our prompt payments we were the only club to fully meet the deadline!

But the work doesn't stop there! Distributing these tickets once in Oslo is another task altogether and

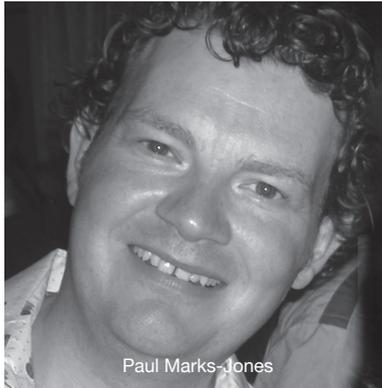
one that requires great co-operation from all concerned. I am sure it will go swimmingly and details will be communicated in due course. We're also conscious about member cards, but I can assure you that this is in hand and we are reliant on the Greek club getting them to us as soon as possible.

While on the subject of tickets you will know that we were able to secure several entrances from the BBC for this year's Your Country Needs You. I am so happy that we were able to send some fans to cheer the show along. Hopefully this will be something I'll be

able to continue and pass on the benefits to our members.

And so the next stop is Oslo! I hope to meet many of you there who I don't already know - you know what I look like, so please come and say 'hello' if you see me around. It's always a pleasure to chat with the members and see them enjoying themselves at the event we so dearly love and enjoy.

So dust off those Union Flags and get ready to wave them high in the Telenor Arena! ♥





Vision: Let's get the obvious question out of the way. Have you ever been a fan of Eurovision? What were your earliest memories - and do you have any favourites from past UK entries?

Josh: I know I watched Eurovision as a child, but only really took notice of it when I started performing as it was more up my street. I remember my parents having Eurovision parties and all of their friends would watch the show and try to bet on which country they thought would win. As far as my favourite UK entry is concerned, it has to be Andy Abrahams. I met him the year that he represented us. He has an awesome voice and he is a great guy, the song should have had a better place!

You seemed quite comfortable performing on Your Country Needs You. Do you think your acting experience helped?

Definitely. I think my early love for

acting helped me to overcome the fear of nerves, as performing is something I just love doing. Don't get me wrong, I do get the occasional butterfly, but I use it towards my performance.

You seemed to be Pete Waterman's favourite performer on the show - and of course with the voting public - but how were you feeling during the live show? You appeared to be quite confident, but you must have had doubts throughout the show.

To be honest, when all of the acts were standing on the stage ready to hear who had been chosen for the top three, I was hoping and praying. Esma was chosen first and even though I was doubting myself, I was okay because I knew there were two more to go through, but when Alexis was chosen I was sure that Pete would put a band through. I had prepared myself for the worst, but thankfully Pete chose me! Then the pressure was really on. After giving a

slightly nervous but excited performance of *That Sounds Good To Me* all I could do was wait. I definitely had no idea that I would win the public vote.

Did singing *That Sounds Good To Me* come easy to you? Mike Stock is apparently adapting the song to suit your vocals. How is that going?

Singing *That Sounds Good To Me* was definitely different to anything I've ever sang before but I loved the challenge. After a lot of hard work, I think I've got a grasp on it now.

It makes sense to know your competition - have you heard any of the other songs for this year's contest yet? If so, what are your favourites? And do you think *That Sounds Good To Me* has any special qualities to stand out from the crowd?

Personally, my favourite is Spain's entry this year *Algo Pequeñito*. Daniel Diges has a fantastic voice and I think that this is a performance to watch out for. On the other hand, *That Sounds Good To Me* is very upbeat and is just a general feel-good song, which everybody can sing along to. I think it will do well.

Previous winners of Eurovision in recent years have all been decent songs - but have relied on a gimmick to capture the imagination of the viewing public. Can we expect a bit of a show from you, or are you keeping

the same act as on *Your Country Needs You*?

The act is VERY different from *Your Country Needs You*, but it is equally as good, if not better! All I can say is that there are a lot of levels involved... and wind machines!

Eurovision hasn't exactly set on fire the careers of previous UK performers (though Jade joining the Sugababes is an exception) - what are your realistic expectations?

I realise that being in the Sugababes myself is probably not a possibility... However, as long as I enjoy the whole process and give my best performances everywhere that I can, who knows what the future has in store for me? I am just going to work hard and see where things take me.



“I definitely had no idea that I would win the public vote”

Your interest in music seemed to be in swing - would you feel more comfortable singing a swing song at Eurovision?

Swing is one of my favourite types of music, I love the whole Rat Pack era. But to be honest I do have an eclectic taste in music from club to classic, R&B to indie, rock etc. But I don't think swing would be very suited to the Eurovision Song Contest. I think our song *That Sounds Good To Me* hopefully ticks all the Eurovision boxes.

Eurovision hasn't got a 'cool' reputation as it once did in the past (long before you were born) and is in

fact often looked down upon. Do you think your peers will ever take you seriously again?

My friends and family seem to be taking it as seriously as I am, they are all so supportive of me. They have been following me since I was nine when I started and they seem generally happy to see me doing what I love! Eurovision is a very unique competition – some people love it, some not so much, but I don't see why it can't be as cool as it was back in the day!

As you probably know, until last year, the UK has had unimpressive results since 2003. Even though you won our national final, there's no guarantee that any act will do well or badly in the contest - it seems wide open this year - but deep down are you preparing your mind for the best - and worse?!

I must admit, there was a slight trend growing with our UK entry scores, but I think Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jade Ewen broke the ice for us. With a little bit of luck we can follow in their footsteps. All we can do as a United Kingdom is support our country in Eurovision; the team have worked so hard so I hope we can all pull through and hopefully bring home the medal this year!

You've performed live in front of 17,000 women in the past! So you're obviously used to large crowds, but having over a hundred million

people watching you must feel quite daunting! What keeps you calm and focused?

What a day that was! In Oslo, luckily for me, the viewing public will be behind a camera. The arena is still huge, but once it gets past about 100 people, they just become a sea of heads and you can't really make out any expressions. Usually I just try to stay as calm and collective as possible and I don't really think about

how many people there are, but on the night I know my mind will be completely in the zone!



“I know my mind will be completely in the zone!”

Do you have any projects planned after Eurovision? Having a connection with Pete Waterman can't do any harm.

The Big P! How fantastic it has been to work with him already. To be honest I am going to wait and see what happens after Eurovision. There are things that I would like

to do in my life and I believe that if you want something enough then you will get it no matter what. So until then... practice, practice.... and more practice.

Finally Josh - many thanks for answering our questions. You'll be pleased to know that there will be many Brits in Oslo supporting you - with around 120 OGAE UK members flying the flag! All the best of British luck - enjoy the whole mad experience and have a fab time!

Thank you very much and I will do my absolute best to try and bring home the title this year! ♥

EURO CURIOS

More Eurovision curiosities by Thomas Latham

The last edition of **vision** mentioned the four CD box-set *Stora Schlagerboxen, Vol 2 (PREMIUM BOX 017)*, which can be ordered online from www.premiumpublishing.com. If you are at all interested in Swedish music 1954-1969 then it is well worth getting. It contains tracks by almost a who's who list of artists of the period such as Agnetha Fältskog, Anni-Frid Lyngstad, Siw Malmqvist, Wenche Myhre and Gitte Haenning (as well as many other Scandinavian female singers of the 1950s and 1960s). The only other two directly Eurovision-related tracks seem to be *Augustin* (SE 1959) covered by Maud Akerlind and Birgith Kjellgren's cover of the Danish entry from the same year as *Ah, Ifall Jag Vore Du Anda*, neither of which I had ever come across before although both were covered a number of times in Sweden in 1959.

It is rare for non-winning Song For Europe entries to chart in the UK, but rarer still for them to chart overseas. However, occasionally an artist takes part in the UK's pre-selection process who is able to overcome the stigma of failing to win and one such is Sam Fox, who, with her group Sox, charted in the UK (number 47) with *Go For The Heart* but did even better in the Netherlands where she reached number 13. In December 2009 a new double CD collection of her

hits was released by Sony that contains her GBSC entry.

From time to time composers got to record their own SFE entry and one such was, after a fashion, Ian Gourlay. Together with his concert orchestra he provided musical backing for Scottish music hall duo Ken & Alan Haynes on their 1966 LP *The Hill O'Kinnoull* (Waverley ZLP 2075), which is today regarded as something of a classic of its type. The duo's favourite song from the album was *As Long As The Sun Shines* which came third in the

1966 SFE for Kenneth McKellar and was written by Ian Gourlay and Cliff Hanley (Hanley is probably best known for writing the lyrics to *Scotland The Brave*). Sadly Alan Haynes (real name Eddie Robertson) died in 2006 but Ken Haynes (his real name) seems to be still going as a presenter for Radio Forth (as he has



been, according to their website, since "the dawn of time"). Ian Gourlay was a founder member of (and singer with) the BBC Scottish Variety Orchestra. He went on to become a composer and conductor, his best known composition probably being *Song Of The Clyde* (also recorded by Kenneth McKellar). It would be interesting to know whether, when invited to write a song for Kenneth McKellar, Gourlay wrote a new song or merely recycled one already prepared

for Ken & Alan Haynes's first recording (three other compositions by him and Hanley appear on their LP).

Incidentally, I recently solved a puzzle about a 1966 SFE cover version that has been puzzling me for ages. I knew that Sheila Southern had recorded *Country Girl* by Robert Farnon (coming third that year) but could not find hide nor hair of it anywhere. Problem solved. Apparently, it was retitled *Country Boy* for her, which makes sense now that I think about it. You can find it on her 1989 CD *With Love* (Horatio Nelson Records – CD SIV 1107) with backing from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Robert Farnon himself and in an arrangement by his son David.

Whilst mentioning 1966 I could not leave you without mentioning that a cover of that year's winning song (from Kenneth McKellar's SFE) has finally turned up. It was recorded by Goon Harry Secombe and released as the B-side of his 1966 single *I Long To See The Day* (Philips BF1477). You can also find it, for example, on the CD *The Very Best of Harry Secombe* and in many download stores too. However, it still seems to be the least covered of any UK Eurovision entry until 1983's *I'm Never Giving Up*.

Cherry Red Records (www.cherryred.co.uk/) have released a number of CDs featuring Eurovision

curiosities recently and, in particular, their 7Is label has produced a number of 1970s LPs on CD for the first time, most of them with bonus tracks. Neither of their two Sinitta (SFE 1984) collections contain

Imagination but they have added Hazell Dean's entry from the same year (*Stay In My Life*), has been included as a bonus track on the CD version of her debut LP *Heart First* (CRPOP44). Three of Dana's albums have been released by 7Is on glamcdd98. *Have A Nice Day, Love Songs & Fairy Tales* and *The Girl Is Back* contain a number

of her post-Eurovision hits as well as *Have Love Will Travel*, which is a cover of the song that came fourth in Olivia Newton John's 1974 SFE. Sadly, although the release does contain some of her German language releases, Dana's *Bau Dein Haus Auf Liebe* (a cover of the Shadows' *This House Runs On Sunshine* from 1975) is missing. Meanwhile, the Nolan Sisters' *20 Giant Hits PLUS...* The Target Recordings (glamcdd100) contains their version of *Save Your Kisses For Me* (UK 1976) as well as, coincidentally, *Have Love Will Travel*. Rumour

has it, 7Is will one day release a number of early New Seekers' records and hopefully they will add some of the later Brotherhood of Man albums as well.

Sometimes SFE covers turn up where you'd expect them (on CD) and sometimes they turn up in the oddest places. *Another*



Time, Another Place came fourth in Clodagh Rodgers' 1971 SFE but it was a big hit for Engelbert Humperdinck, reaching number 13 in the UK charts and number 43 in the US. Humperdinck toured widely including stays in Las Vegas (he released a 1972 LP entitled *Live At The Riviera Las Vegas*) and it is probably because of his American success that an instrumental version of the song was featured in an episode of the TV show 'Murder She Wrote' starring Angela Lansbury. The episode in question was 'A Killing In Vegas' from the series' eighth season filmed in 1991.

Whilst on the subject of American TV, I have a question to pose: what connects the Eurovision Song Contest, cartoon show 'Josie and the Pussycats' and the television series 'Charlie's Angels'? I discovered the answer by following what at first seemed to be a false trail. You see, sometimes song titles can be misleading. After all, how many songs can there possibly be entitled *La La La* other than the winner of the ESC in 1968? Well apparently at least one, which was written by American songwriters Sue Steward and Danny Janssen.

However, the fact that this is a completely different song does not mean there is no Eurovision connection, since finding this out led me to the fact that singer Steward recorded a version of *Knock Knock Who's There?* (UK

1970), which was released by her record company (Capitol 2899) against her wishes. It was issued in the US even before Mary Hopkin's own version (which reached number 92 on the Billboard chart but not until 1973). Steward hated the song, describing it as "horrible!", and was actually rather pleased when it didn't chart. Meanwhile, she was also a writer for the real life group based on cartoon series 'Josie and the Pussycats', which included South Dakota native Cheryl Stoppelmoor on most lead vocals.

Stoppelmoor later married a man called Ladd and became one of Charlie's Angels replacing Farrah Fawcett-Majors in the TV series in the 1970s. When Cheryl Ladd released an album in the late 70s she asked old friend Steward to co-produce it and so the connection is complete.

Incidentally, Andra Willis also covered and released a version of *Knock Knock Who's There?* in the US. It can be found on Paramount records (PAA-0048). Willis was a regular on 'The Laurence Welk Show' in the US between

1967 and 1969, but I can find little else about her.

If you have any information about releases that may be of interest to others, or even just questions, then please drop me a line: Thomas Latham, 4 Thirlmere Gardens, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1FN. ♡



Over the past few years, Cyprus has struggled with the semi-finals. This year, both the jury and televote was in one mind, giving top marks to the ballad, *Life Looks Better In Spring*, sung by Jon Lilygreen & the Islanders. The song, reminding one of *Fireflies* by Owl City, was indeed Cypriot in origin, having been written by Nasos Lambrianides and Melis Konstantinou, but surprisingly the group was one of all nations, emanating principally from Wales. Shortly after Jon & the Islanders, comprising Charalambos Kallona (bass), Sylvia Stand (piano), Jon Gregory (drummer/producer), Katherine Squire and Sean Watts (backing-vocalists), returned from the Greek capital, Athens, performing in the national final there, they were kind enough to talk to **Vision**.

Inevitably, the first question was to find out how does someone from Newport end up representing Cyprus in the Eurovision Song Contest? Jon explained: "To cut a long story short, Jonathan Gregory and Sylvia Strand, who are married, run a music production company in the Rhondda Valley, South Wales. Cypriot song writer Nasos Lambrianides found them on the internet and asked them to produce his song *Life Looks Better In Spring*." Jon Gregory takes over: "Jon Lilygreen happens to work for me and Sylvia as a session singer and the resulting demo was entered into the Eurovision song contest in Cyprus, it made the final beating 75 entries and we were invited to come over and perform the song live.

We all thought it was a great excuse for a working holiday, but to our amazement we won the competition and here we are – officially representing Cyprus!"

How was this backing group of all nations put together? Jon, who is only 22, but yet still experienced in the music business, says: "Everybody in the group work as freelance musicians and we've all worked for Jon G and Sylvia's studio as session musicians. We all share a love for music and as well as being friends we really enjoy the buzz of playing together." That buzz certainly came across in their performance at the Cypriot final, beating veteran Constantinos Christoforou. Jon Gregory is well aware of

SPRINGING TO OSLO

Marcus Keppel-Palmer talks to this year's entrants for Cyprus, Jon Lilygreen & the Islanders

the need to promote the song around Europe, before heading to Oslo. "We're busy trying to have as much fun as possible as this is a once in a lifetime opportunity – how often do a bunch of Welsh/Scottish/English/Norwegian musicians get to represent Cyprus in Eurovision? Jon L and I are off to Amsterdam at the end of April and we're all going to London for a promo gig. We've just spent ten days in Cyprus and Athens and had a great time and we're looking forward to going back out there at the beginning of May. Our plan is to release the single in the UK and the rest of Europe." I hope Pete Waterman is taking note and looking to promote the UK entry in similar terms.

Speaking of which, I ask whether or not the Islanders have heard any of the opposition for Eurovision this year? Possibly diplomatically, Jon replies: "We've not really had any time

to listen to any of the other entries and our aim is to enjoy the ride, rock hard and hopefully get through to the final! We're really looking forward to meeting the other entries and hopefully spend time jamming and getting to know them when we're in Oslo." It sounds like there may well be some interesting concerts happening in Oslo outside of Eurovision. I am impressed with the attitude the band has towards Eurovision, mixing hard work with that element of fun necessary.

With that in mind, I wonder if the performing arts student and the song production team are big Eurovision fans and what impact they feel appearing in Eurovision might have. Jon Gregory replies: "Entering Eurovision has never even entered our minds before – we're just jobbing musicians who love our job. However, now that we're in it, it's definitely good fun!" And the future? Jon L explains: "We're not too worried about the camp/kitsch reputation as we're not a gimmicky band. Hopefully people can see that we really enjoy playing together and that making music is what we're about."

I ask the band about their backgrounds and their influences. They have all been playing since they were young and have been gigging from about the age of 15-16. Jon Lilygreen loves John Mayer; Katherine is a big Julie London fan; Sean likes singing Lionel Richie songs; Jon G is fond of Tori Amos and Queen; and Sylvia will sing and play anything

as long as there are harmonies involved. It seems to show in the Eurovision entry and Jon G confirms: "We've definitely put our own stamp on *Life Looks Better In Spring* – especially Jon L's beautiful guitar fills and Sylvia's vocal arrangement." Certainly, in my mind it is one of the better entries this year and a good chance for finishing high up the table.

So where does Jon see his career going after Eurovision? He seems very determined: "We all want to earn a living as musicians – whether we play to 15 people in a small club in South Wales or 150 million people across Europe it really doesn't matter as long as we get to do



what we love. Eurovision is a one off experience for us and we are determined to enjoy it. However, we all have our separate careers outside this band and we will continue to pursue those

after our Eurovision experience is over as well as meeting up for the odd drunken jam in the pubs of South Wales!"

Time is running out, so finally I ask Jon & the Islanders to suggest why **Vision** readers should give them their televote. They reply: "Eurovision is a song contest and we are real musicians performing a song that we have arranged and produced without the glitz and glamour that normally follows a Eurovision entry. Bring back live music to Eurovision and vote for Cyprus!"

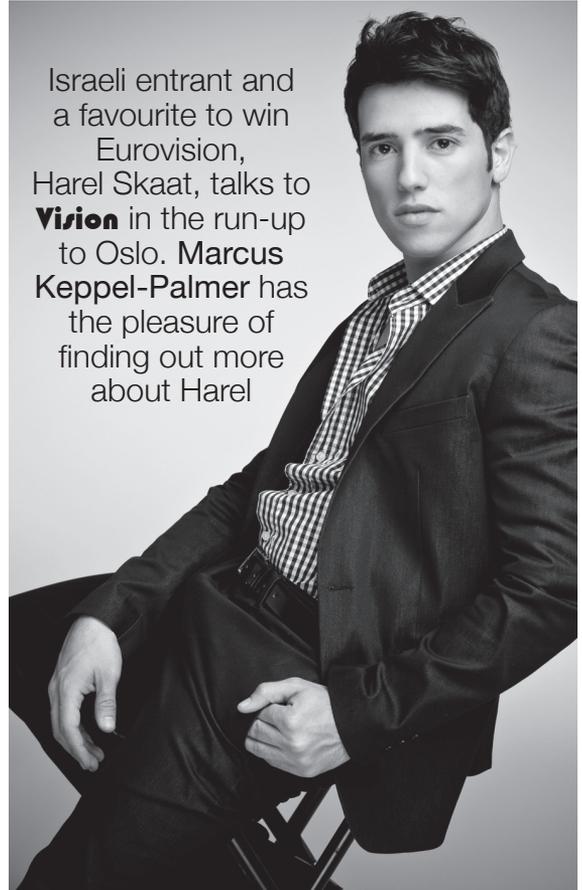
Well, I am sure many of the readers from **Vision** will take this to their hearts and vote for the local Welsh band representing Cyprus. Good luck! ♣

IT'S ONLY WORDS, AND

In the press release publicising their entrant this year, IBA, the Israeli broadcaster, mentions the unique vocal ability of Harel Skaat, who rose to prominence as runner-up in the Israeli version of 'American Idol' - 'A Star Is Born 2004'. Such was the unique vocal talent, that he was noticed at the age of five and won his first competition at the aged six, and by the time he was 15, Harel had more experience in the entertainment industry than many artists get in their lifetime. So, with his performance on the biggest stage of all coming up, Harel kindly took a few minutes to talk to **Vision** and started by explaining how he had been selected to sing by IBA.

"It has come up for the past five years, when the Israel Broadcasting Authority approached me and asked if I would represent Israel in the Eurovision Song Contest", Harel clarifies, and this year IBA got their man. In 2005 Harel had been working on his first album, self-titled, which reached gold certification three weeks after release in 2006. Five singles from the album all sold well and one, *And You*, topped the charts for seven weeks. Following that, Harel toured extensively, before recording and releasing a second album. Hence, IBA finally persuaded him to perform this year.

In the Israeli final, Harel sang four songs and *Milim*, which means *Words* in English, won convincingly. I ask Harel about what the presentation will be like on stage in Oslo. He says: "I will be performing on the Eurovision stage with Tomer Adaddi, my pianist and the composer of the song. Of course we will also have several back-up vocalists,



Israeli entrant and a favourite to win Eurovision, Harel Skaat, talks to **Vision** in the run-up to Oslo. Marcus Keppel-Palmer has the pleasure of finding out more about Harel

but we're not sure yet how many." And before then, how will Harel be promoting the song? "The song *Milim* was released as a single in Israel", he somewhat modestly tells me, "and now it is played on radio stations all over Israel, and is a part of my new show. Between now and Eurovision I will keep performing in Israel, and I hope to have the time to perform in Europe as well."

WORDS ARE ALL I HAVE



I ask Harel about whether Eurovision has ever been a dream for him. He affirms that it has: "As a child I would imagine the moment I walk up the Eurovision stage. Back then it was a very big and respectable song contest." And is he worried about the contest being seen now as a campy kitsch fest? It would appear not. Harel is realistic when he replies: "I'm well aware of the contest's reputation today, but I choose to ignore it. I take this project very seriously, and that's why the song that was chosen is first and foremost a song that suits me and my musical style. I wouldn't try to pick a song by what suits the competition or the genre. I hope to be judged as an artist, without any other context, and urge the public to do so." It seems not for nothing that he has been installed as pre-contest favourite.

As a favourite, I wonder if he has any songs that might be seen as threats. Harel seems much focussed, properly, on his own fortunes. "I have not yet heard any

"I hope to be judged as an artist, without any other context, and urge the public to do so"

of the competing songs for this year's Eurovision, simply because I wanted to approach the Israeli pre-selection contest with a clear mind, focussing on my own songs. I have been very focussed on my own work, and now I am on holiday – I'm very curious to listen to the opposition when I return. Also, I believe that the best choices are made when you are free of any influences,

and so I prefer not to know what the other artists are doing. I am sure all of the competitors are good and talented artists." I privately ask myself whether any of the other artists will have his ability and experience, but that will be determined in May.

I ask Harel about the song he is singing in Norway. Is it representative of his style of music? "*Milim* absolutely represents my personal style and taste in music, I really love this song." He is adamant about this. And does he have any musical idols? On this point he is more guarded. "I can't point out one singer that has influenced me more than others because in each and every singer or band I listen to, I find that certain something that I appreciate and admire. I appreciate many different artists from a broad range of genres – from classical music to mainstream pop and rock singers."

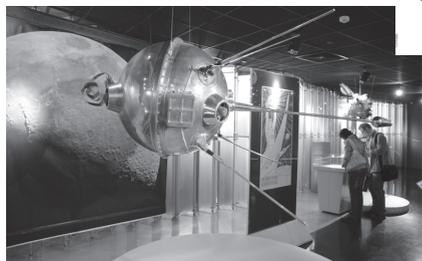
Harel suggests to me that he hopes Eurovision will put him on the European map, saying "I hope to reach as many hearts as I can throughout Europe." If it is the hearts of those who find him attractive, I don't think he will have much difficulty; but I suspect he is looking to emulate the recent successes of Dima Bilan and Alexander Rybak.

Finally, I ask him to suggest why the UK fan should vote for Harel Skaat at Eurovision? Even in this, he is disarmingly charming: "I think each person can and should vote for whoever touched him or her most. I can only hope that this would be me." With a great song and great voice, we are likely to see many sets of douze points heading in Harel's direction. ♥

MOSCOW REMEMBERED

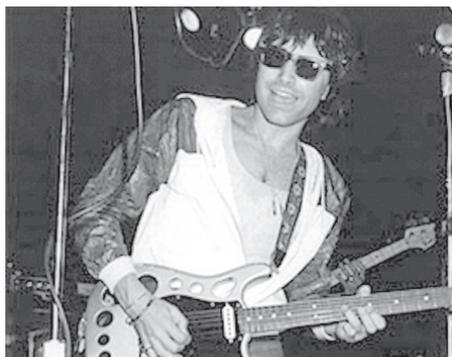
While we're all preparing for Oslo, let's look back at last year's contest with David Ransted's photo diary from Moscow





WHATEVER HAPPENED TO RUSS BALLARD

In the ongoing series of singers and composers who have participated in the UK selection over the years, **Marcus Keppel-Palmer** looks at the career of Russ Ballard, who co-wrote the UK's 2001 entry



Russ Ballard was born in October 1945 in Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire and from an early age was encouraged to learn to play the piano by his parents – his father having played in his own dance band. However, football was more important to Russ than music until he suffered an accident aged 12 and was blinded in his right eye.

Russ became attracted to rock 'n' roll and soon learned to play the guitar, which paved the way to him forming his first group while still at school called Rick Nicholl and the Rebels. Although

enthusiasm was high, the remaining group members were not hugely committed, so Russ had to recruit some new members including a new singer, Buster Meikle, and a new drummer, Bob Henrit, with whom Russ would work with for many years.

Still at school, the band played regularly around the area and through Helen Shapiro's help even recorded a couple of songs with Norrie Paramor, Cliff Richard's producer at EMI. However, these recordings were never released. In 1961 the group became

Buster Meikle & The Daybreakers and Russ started writing songs, one of which was subsequently recorded by The Shadows as an instrumental.

In the following year Ballard and Henrit left The Daybreakers to form The Roulettes, who were Adam Faith's backing band. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Adam Faith was a huge pop star with several Number One hits. However, with the rise of the beat groups, it was felt Adam should have a backing band, so the Roulettes were formed. Between 1962 and 1967, the band would support Adam live and on many studio recordings, including a number of hits, such as *The First Time* and *Message To Martha*.

As well as backing Adam Faith, The Roulettes had their own recording career, which failed to yield a UK hit. Russ and Bob were asked by their old colleague Buster Meikle to help him out recording with a new group, called Unit 4. They went in to record *Concrete and Clay*, which was released



under the band name Unit 4 + 2, in recognition of the role that Ballard and Henrit played. The song became a huge worldwide hit and reached Number One in the UK charts in 1965. This success contrasted with the lack of success of The Roulettes and in 1967, Ballard and Henrit became full-time members in Unit 4 + 2. By now, Ballard was regularly writing songs including a couple recorded by Manfred Mann.

In 1968, Ballard and Henrit were asked by the former leader of the Zombies, Rod Argent, to join his progressive group

called Argent – hence Ballard became joint lead singer and songwriter. One of his songs, *Liar* from the first Argent album subsequently became a Top Ten hit in the USA for Three Dog Night. Argent's biggest hit was *Hold Your Head Up*, reaching number five in 1972, although another single, *God Gave Rock And Roll To You* (written by Ballard) later featured in the movie 'Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey', was recorded by Kiss.

By 1974 and suffering from depression he decided to leave Argent and concentrate on his writing and session playing. An early hit was *I Don't Believe In Miracles* for Colin Blunstone, who had been the lead singer of The Zombies with Rod Argent. By now, Russ's old friend Adam Faith was managing Leo Sayer and

Ballard was asked to play on the first Leo Sayer album, which included the hit song *The Show Must Go On*. Leo Sayer had also written songs for the former lead singer of The Who, Roger Daltrey, and Russ was asked to play on his first solo

album. Subsequently he also contributed to the second Daltrey album and ended up producing it as well as writing some of the songs.

In 1975, Ballard released his first solo album entitled *Russ Ballard*, which was well-received but yielded no hits. Following the birth of his son, Russ released a second solo album in 1976 called *Winning*, the title track subsequently becoming a US hit for Santana, but failing internationally. Never mind, as shortly after Hot Chocolate would reach Number One with Ballard's *So You Win*

Again and a number of other songs from the *Winning* album became hits, most notable *Since You've Been Gone* sung by Rainbow.

Russ also wrote *New York Groove* which was a hit for Hello; produced the *Another Year* album for Leo Sayer, which featured *Moonlighting*; wrote a further hit single for Rainbow – *I Surrender* – and even found time to record and release a third solo album before the end of the 1970s.

The 1980s started with Ballard being in demand as ever, writing and producing for the band America, before writing *I Know There's Something Going On* for ex-ABBA vocalist, Anni-Frid, and, to even things up *Can't Shake Loose* for Agnetha, which became US hits. Ballard continued to record as well, releasing four more solo albums in the 1980s, including a second self-titled album – songs from which were heavily featured in the television series 'Miami Vice'. The late 1980s saw Ballard working with Elkie Brooks.

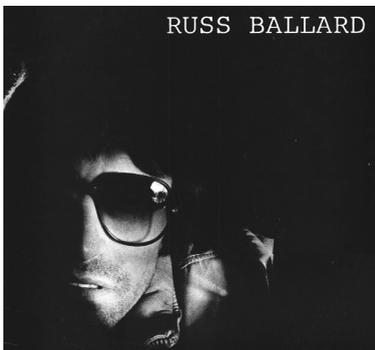
In 1990, he returned to touring, teaming again with Roger Daltrey, and continued as a songwriter and producer. 1995 saw Ballard release another solo album *Seer* and with his son, Christian, showing aptitude as a songwriter, Russ turned to writing with him. Come 2001, Russ saw two of his songs entered in to the Song For Europe contest. *Twisted* by

Money Penny, which was co-written with his son, Christian (and others), failed to make the TV final four, but his other song, *No Dream Impossible*, co-written with Chris Winter, a producer with whom Ballard had worked with since the 1970s, won the vote and took Lindsay Dracass all the way to Copenhagen where she finished 15th.

In 2003, Adam Faith died and this persuaded Russ to get back together with Bob Henrit and they formed a new band, which included Chris Winter and toured extensively in Germany.

Even at 60, you can't keep an old rocker down, and Russ released a new album in 2006 called *The Book Of Love*.

Russ Ballard has enjoyed a lengthy and varied career as a singer, guitarist, songwriter and producer, which stretched from the beat groups of the 1960s, through prog rock in the 1970s to Eurovision. Whilst he may be slowing down slightly, his son Christian Ballard has formed a songwriting and production team called the Snowflakers with his co-writer of *Twisted*, Andy Murray, and – showing that Song For Europe is a meeting place – Peter Kirtley who co-wrote another of the 2001 hopefuls, *Just Another Rainbow*. No doubt, however, the son is reminded by the father just who did get to write the Eurovision song that year. ♣



RUSS BALLARD



Lindsay Dracass at ESC 2001

ESC ONLINE

Martin Faulkner seeks out everything that's Eurovision on the World Wide Web!

Welcome to the pre-contest edition of our look at all things Eurovision on the World Wide Web.

In a break from tradition, there won't be much in the way of artist websites this time round, if only because the 2010 crop don't seem to have much in the way of an online presence between them! At least you can comfort yourself with the official site of Israeli star Harel Skaat (www.harelskaat.com), which has



much to recommend it. Sadly, the same cannot be said for Turkish band maNga, as their site is currently undergoing reconstruction – it should be worth a visit once they're finished, though (www.manga.web.tr (Editor's note: as of printing it's still only in Turkish)). And if you're lucky enough to be going to Oslo,



you've probably already found your way around the various tourist websites, but www.visitoslo.com/en seems to be as good a starting point as any.

With this year's entrants not providing much in the way of interactivity, let's turn our attention to more retro passions. The BBC's ESC coverage can be patchy, but when they get it right, the results are worthwhile. Take this collection from the Radio Times (bit.ly/aYhAkO), which provides a selection of covers from the magazine's Eurovision-week editions over the years. It's fascinating to see



just how things have changed – and the many ways in which they really haven't at all!

I've never shied away from featuring foreign-language sites in this column – many of us Euro-centric types can

string together a sentence or two in an unfamiliar tongue, and failing that, there's always Google Translate. Besides, it would be a shame to miss out on such valuable resources as prespain.blogspot.com, a wonderfully comprehensive guide to the Spanish national finals and internal selections over the years, garnished with plenty of audio and video material. Similarly, the Dutch site *Eurovision Artists* contains a historical database full of information on the 'Nationaal Songfestival', as well as plenty of the more typical content about ESC in general – check it out at www.eurovisionartists.nl.

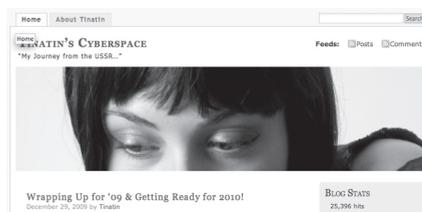


Another site in Dutch (and a favourite theme of this column), www.eurovisionradio.eu/playlist.php is – as you might have guessed – an online ESC radio station. The language barrier is particularly negligible here: simply click on “Webradio” and the rest will be obvious. It doesn't offer anything that isn't available elsewhere (unless you count interviews with Tom Dice in Dutch), but it's one for the collection.

Blogs are another recurring theme here, and while the internet gives every fan the right to speak their mind, it's always rewarding to stumble across a

well-written collection of reviews of past ESC years such as that offered by Phutty, an Australian living in Estonia, at phuttyeurovision.blogspot.com. You may agree or disagree with his take on things, but either way you'll have something to read over your morning coffee.

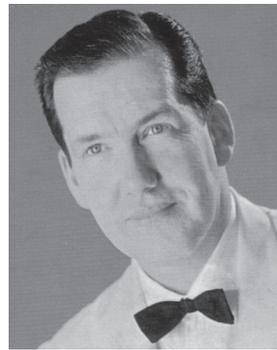
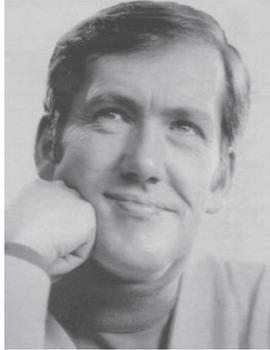
Another blog that was brought to my attention recently is that of Tinatin, the Georgian-born co-writer of last year's runner-up, *Is It True?* (from Iceland (tinatinmusic.wordpress.com)). Inevitably, it's the entries from around the time of last year's contest that will be of particular interest to fans, but the



rest of the blog provides a telling insight into the life of a songwriter and how her ESC experience continues to affect her even now.

On a related note, this blog entry, bit.ly/cyHLLhs, closes our journey through cyberspace with a lesson that all of this year's entrants would be wise to heed. It poses a simple question: “Eurovision 2009 – Who's still popular?” The answers may surprise a few people – although the science behind using the popular scrobbling site *last.fm* is, it must be said, far from foolproof – and it'll be interesting to see just which of the 2010 contenders are still topping the listening charts this time next year.

With that in mind, have a terrific time in May, whether you're in Norway or in front of the TV screen at home – and happy surfing! 📺



KENNETH McKELLAR

1927-2010

Former UK entrant and Scottish tenor, Kenneth McKellar, died on 9th April 2010 at the age of 82 just one week after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He had been living at the home of his daughter, Jane, in Lake Tahoe, USA who said that her father “Kept very, very spirited and funny and warm right through to the end, so that was a blessing.” She hopes that “People will remember him for the breadth of the music he made. He also had a great sense of humour”.

The singer was known for his recordings of Scottish songs; particularly those attributed to Robert Burns, and frequently appeared in musicals, on television and on radio. Signed to Decca in the early 1960s, McKellar was an important soloist in the recording of Handel’s *Messiah*. He would often appear on BBC television and radio, which led to him being chosen to sing the UK’s Song for Europe in 1966.

Singing five songs in the national final, viewers voted for *A Man Without Love* which clearly suited McKellar’s voice, but failed to convince the European

jurors. The song came ninth, out of 18 entries, and remained the UK’s lowest placed entry until Co-Co performed *The Bad Old Days* in 1978. However, this lack of success did not deter McKellar, who continued to perform around the globe.

A very private man throughout his life, McKellar was born in Paisley on 23rd June 1927 and later graduated from Aberdeen University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. Wishing to develop his singing talents, he then studied at London’s prestigious Royal College of Music. His wife died in 1990, after which McKellar made very few public appearances.

Paying tribute to Kenneth McKellar, Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond said: “As well as being an outstanding entertainer with a magnificent voice, he also had a deep commitment to helping the careers of young performers. Kenneth McKellar commanded a huge international audience, and took the songs of Scotland worldwide. He is a great loss to music and the country, and will be sorely missed both at home and abroad.” ♣



TEDDY SCHOLTEN

1926-2010

The second Dutch Eurovision winner, Teddy Scholten, died on 8th April 2010 following a short illness. Born on 11th May 1926 in Rijswijk she began her career as a child actor. During World War II she met and fell in love with Henk Scholten, whom she married in 1947. In 1959 Teddy was invited to take part in the 'Nationaal Songfestival' where she performed two songs, *De Regen* and *N Beetje*. The latter won the national final, and the popular actress and singer travelled to Cannes, France, where she sang her way to international victory on behalf of the Netherlands.

Soon after the contest, Teddy also recorded a Dutch version of the second placed song, *Sing Little Birdie*, which had been sung by Pearl Carr & Teddy

Johnson for the United Kingdom, as well as a cover of the third place French entry, *Oui, Oui, Oui*. Teddy's career continued until the 1970s, during which time she became a television presenter and commentator.

After retiring from the stage and screen, Teddy became an ambassador for the Red Cross and was seen in the audience at the special Eurovision 25th Anniversary concert in Norway staged during the second half of 1981. This one off show and its accompanying album

also helped to raise money for the organization that Teddy was so fond of.

Teddy is the fifth Eurovision winner to die but, like Andre Claveau, Jean-Claude Pascal, Grethe Ingmann and Frida Boccaro, she will not be forgotten. ♣



BACK ISSUE BONANZA!



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Throughout the Eurovision fortnight, Sunday, 16th May - Saturday, 29th May, there will be many websites offering you the latest information on rehearsals and press conferences.

But for a more personal view of events in Oslo, check out Hassan Yusuf's daily blog on our website: www.uk.ogae.net

The first installment will be available on Monday, 17th May.

Euro Quiz Answers

1. *Without Your Love* by Gary O'Shaughnessy 2. *Horoscopes* by Sheeba 3. *Come Back To Stay* by Dickie Rock 4. *The Voice* by Eimear Quinn 5. *Take Him Home* by Jump The Gun 6. *Mysterious Woman* by Marc Roberts 7. *That's What Friends Are For* by The Swarbriggs 8. *Love?* by Donna & Joe 9. *Rock 'n' Roll Kids* by Paul Harrington & Charlie McGettigan 10. *Happy Man* by Cathal Dunne

THE 'LAST' PAGE



Luxembourg 1958
"Un Grand Amour"
Solange Berry
Received one point
from Switzerland



Netherlands 1958
"Heel De Wereld"
Corry Brokken
Received one point
from Switzerland