

Eurovision trivia

- Ireland has won the Eurovision Song Contest the most times, with seven wins in all, closely followed by the UK, France and Luxembourg with five wins each.
- The UK's winners are: *Puppet On A String* – Sandie Shaw (1967); *Boom Bang-A-Bang* – Lulu (joint winner in 1969); *Save Your Kisses For Me* – Brotherhood Of Man (1976); *Making Your Mind Up* – Bucks Fizz (1981); and *Love Shine A Light* – Katrina & The Waves (1997).
- Finland has finished last on eight occasions, followed by Belgium and Austria, who have had the dubious honour seven times.
- In 1969, the UK, Spain, France and the Netherlands tied and were all declared equal winners.
- The Eurovision Song Contest seems to favour female soloists. Some 26 contests have been won by women (including all four winners in 1969). The only male duo to win the Contest is the Irish entry in 1994, Paul Harrington and Charlie McGettigan.
- The shortest song performed at Eurovision was the 1957 UK entry, *All*, sung by Patricia Bredin. It lasted for one minute and 52 seconds and was followed by one of the longest, Italy's *Corde Delle Mia Chitarra*, which lasted for five minutes and nine seconds and was performed by Nunzio Gallo.
- The composer with the most entries over the years is Germany's Ralph Siegel, who, together with Bernd Meinunger, wrote the songs for 1979, 1980, 1981, 1987, 1988, 1992 and 1994. This collaboration finally proved successful in 1982 when 17-year-old Nicole won with *Ein bisschen Frieden*.
- The only person to have won three Eurovision Song Contests is Ireland's Johnny Logan: firstly as the singer of *What's Another Year?* (1980); secondly as singer and composer of *Hold Me Now* (1987); and then as composer of *Why Me?*, sung by Linda Martin (1992).
- The UK has come second a staggering 15 times, including Imaani (1998); Sonia (1993); Michael Ball (1992); Lynsey de Paul and Mike Moran (1977); The New Seekers (1972); and Cliff Richard (1968).
- Celine Dion kick-started her career with a Eurovision win in 1988. The French-Canadian performed *Ne Partez Pas Sans Moi* for Switzerland.
- ABBA's first attempt at Eurovision was in 1973 with *Ring Ring*, which failed to win the Swedish national selection competition. The song is now a favourite at concerts of ABBA tribute band Bjorn Again.
- After songs in English began to predominate the Contest, a change in the rules in 1976 said that all entries had to be sung in one of the official languages of the participating countries. This rule has recently been scrapped allowing participating countries to sing in English if they wish.
- Non-participating countries showing the Contest in recent years include Australia, New Zealand, Korea, USA, Canada, Jordan, Egypt, Hong Kong and India.
- The UK's standby jury consists of four men and four women. Four of them must be over 30, and four must be music professionals.