



Albania

Competing Broadcaster: Radio Televizioni Shqiptar (RTSh)

Debut: 2004 **Best Finish:** 4th place (2012)
Number of Entries: 14 **Worst Finish:** 17th place (2009, 2015)

A Brief History: Albania has had moderate success in the Contest, qualifying for the Final more often than not, but ultimately not placing well. Albania achieved its highest ever placing, 4th, in Baku.

Song Title: *World*
Performing Artist: Lindita [Lindita Halimi]
Composer(s): Klodian Qafoku
Lyricist(s): Lindita, Big Basta

About the Performing Artist: Born in Kosovo, Lindita is successful competitor, having been a finalist on *Albanian Idol* (2007), a top-25 finisher on *American Idol* (2013), and winner of *Top Fest* in 2009. She has studied both music and language, gaining fluency in German, Spanish, and Croatian (alongside Albanian and English).

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 04 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Armenia

Competing Broadcaster: Public Television of Armenia (ARPTV)

Debut: 2006 **Best Finish:** 4th place (2008)
Number of Entries: 11 **Worst Finish:** 18th place (2012)

A Brief History: In five of its previous attempts, Armenia landed in the Top Ten making it one of the more successful countries in the Contest today. However, Armenia has yet to reach the Top Three.

Song Title: *Fly with Me*
Performing Artist: Artsvik [Artsvik Harutyunyan]
Composer(s): Lilith Navasaryan, Levon Navasardyan
Lyricist(s): Avet Barseghyan, David Tserunyan

About the Performing Artist: Born in Armenia, Artsvik's family moved to Russia while she was still young. She has a degree in speech pathology psychology; though, she has regularly competed in musical festivals throughout Russia.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 16 **Grand Final, Song Number 05**



Australia

Competing Broadcaster: Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

Debut: 2015 **Best Finish:** 2nd place (2016)

Number of Entries: 3 **Worst Finish:** 5th place (2015)

A Brief History: Australia made its debut in ESC last year as a special guest commemorating the Contest's 60th Anniversary. Australia will be leading the way for an Asia-Pacific version of the ESC.

Song Title: *Don't Come Easy*

Performing Artist: Isaiah [Isaiah Friebrace]

Composer(s): DNA (David Musumeci & Anthony Egizii), Michael Angelo

Lyricist(s): DNA (David Musumeci & Anthony Egizii), Michael Angelo

About the Performing Artist: Isaiah is from a small town outside Melbourne and hit it big when he won *Australian X-Factor*. Since then, his music has charted across three continents. Isaiah is the first person with indigenous Australian heritage to compete in ESC.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 03 **Grand Final, Song Number 14**



Austria

Competing Broadcaster: Österreichischer Rundfunk (ORF)

Debut: 1957 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1966, 2014)

Number of Entries: 49 **Worst Finish:** Last (1957, 1991)

A Brief History: Austria has had an up-and-down track record at the Contest, finding success as often as failure. After storming to victory in 2014, it became the first host country to receive a null points in 2015.

Song Title: *Running on Air*

Performing Artist: Nathan Trent

Composer(s): Nathan Trent, Bernhard Penzias

Lyricist(s): Nathan Trent, Bernhard Penzias

About the Performing Artist: Trent was born and raised in Innsbruck. Music has been a part of his life, as he has participated in festivals across Austria and Germany since he started writing his own music at age 11. He graduated last year from the Music and Arts University of Vienna.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 02 **Grand Final, Song Number 04**



Azerbaijan

Competing Broadcaster: İctimai Televiziya (ITV)

Debut: 2008 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2011)
Number of Entries: 10 **Worst Finish:** 17th place (2014, 2016)

A Brief History: Azerbaijan took home the victory in 2011 and has six Top Ten finishes; however, the "Land of Fire" has failed to reach the Top Ten each of the last two years.

Song Title: *Skeletons*
Performing Artist: DiHaj [Diana Hajiyeva]
Composer(s): Isa Melikov
Lyricist(s): Sandra Bjurman

About the Performing Artist: After graduating from the Baku Music Academy in 2010, DiHaj attended the Institute Contemporary Music Performance in London. There, she founded an electronica band and has since won the Phoenix Debut Artist Award at the Caucasus Music Awards.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 08 **Grand Final, Song Number 12**



Belarus

Competing Broadcaster: National State Television & Radio Company (BTRC)

Debut: 2004 **Best Finish:** 6th place (2007)
Number of Entries: 14 **Worst Finish:** 2nd last (2010)

A Brief History: Belarus has had limited success, qualifying for the Final four times, 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2014. This marks the first year that the country will send an entry in its national language.

Song Title: *Historyja Majho Žyccia* [Story of My Life]
Performing Artist: Naviband [Artem Lukyanenko & Ksenia Zhuk]
Composer(s): Artem Lukyanenko
Lyricist(s): Artem Lukyanenko

About the Performing Artist: Lukyanenko, a journalist and multi-instrumentalist, and Zhuk, a professional vocalist, joined forces in 2013 to form Naviband. Since then, they have made the anthem for the national soccer team and won several National Music Awards.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 14 **Grand Final, Song Number 03**



Belgium

Competing Broadcaster: Radio Télévision Belge de la Communauté Française (RTBF)

Debut: 1956 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1986)
Number of Entries: 59 **Worst Finish:** Last (61, 62, 65, 73, 79, 85, 93, 00)

A Brief History: Walloon RTBF and Flemish VRT, take turns competing. RTBF boasts having Belgium's only winner, 1986's *J'Aime la Vie*. More recently, RTBF's 2015 pick, *Rhythm Inside* finished fourth.

Song Title: *City Lights*

Performing Artist: Blanche [Ellie Delvaux]

Composer(s): Pierre Dumoulin, Emmanuel Delcourt

Lyricist(s): Pierre Dumoulin, Ellie Delvaux

About the Performing Artist: Blanche was born and raised in Belgium's capital of Brussels. She first caught the attention of her writing partner Dumoulin when she was a finalist on *La Voix Belgique*. Since then, they have worked together to create contemporary songs and

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 05 **Grand Final, Song Number 23**



Bulgaria

Competing Broadcaster: Bulgarian National Television (BNT)

Debut: 2005 **Best Finish:** 4th place (2016)
Number of Entries: 11 **Worst Finish:** 5th place (2007)

A Brief History: Bulgaria has qualified for the Final twice and has come close on several occasions. Last year's *If Love was a Crime* was not only their best placing to date, but also their most commercially successful.

Song Title: *Beautiful Mess*

Performing Artist: Kristian Kostov

Composer(s): Borislav Milanov, Sebastian Arman, Joacim Persson, Alexander V. Blay, Alex Omar

Lyricist(s): Borislav Milanov, Sebastian Arman, Joacim Persson, Alexander V. Blay, Alex Omar

About the Performing Artist: Kostov has the distinction of being this year's youngest competitor, coming in at just 17 years, two months. He is a seasoned competitor, finishing in second place in Russia's *The Voice: Kids* and Bulgarian *X-Factor*. He has several top hits over the past year.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 15 **Grand Final, Song Number 25**



Croatia

Competing Broadcaster: Hrvatska radiotelevizija (HRT)

Debut: 1993 **Best Finish:** 4th (1996, 1999)
Number of Entries: 23 **Worst Finish:** 23rd (2016)

A Brief History: Like Bulgaria, Croatia returns after a two year absence from the Contest. Croatia has seen limited success throughout the years, but has qualified for the Final more often than not.

Song Title: *My Friend*

Performing Artist: Jacques Houdek

Composer(s): Jacques Houdek, Siniša Reljić, Tony Malm

Lyricist(s): Jacques Houdek, Ines Prajo, Arjana Kunštek, Fabrizio Laucella

About the Performing Artist: Houdek has become one of the biggest pop stars in Croatia over the course of his 15-album, 17-year career. His music stretches across various genres. Currently, he is a coach on *The Voice of Croatia*.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 11 **Grand Final, Song Number 13**



Cyprus

Competing Broadcaster: Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

Debut: 1981 **Best Finish:** 5th (1982, 1997, 2004)
Number of Entries: 34 **Worst Finish:** Last (1986)

A Brief History: Cyprus has had moderate success, finishing in the Top Ten nine times. However, the island nation has also finished midtable nine times and bottom of the table/non-qualification fourteen times.

Song Title: *Gravity*

Performing Artist: Hovig [Hovig Demirjian]

Composer(s): Thomas G:son

Lyricist(s): Thomas G:son

About the Performing Artist: Originally a marketing student, Hovig switched paths and begun studying jazz. He began recording music independently before finishing seventh on *X-Factor Greece*. He has since released many singles and toured throughout the region.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 15 **Grand Final, Song Number 19**



Czechia

Competing Broadcaster: Česká Televize (ČT)

Debut: 2007 **Best Finish:** 25th Place (2016)

Number of Entries: 6 **Worst Finish:** 25th Place (2016)

finally qualified for its first Grand Final in 2016 with *I Stand*. Hoping to build on that success, ČT has once again turned its young production staff.

Song Title: *My Turn*

Performing Artist: Martina Bárta

Composer(s): DWB, Kyler Niko

Lyricist(s): DWB, Kyler Niko

About the Performing Artist: A jazz vocalist, Bárta received her degree from the Jazz Institut Universität der Künste in Berlin. She is popular throughout Czechia and Germany, having been a part of several bands and musicals. She is currently developing her own act: Scotch and Soda.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 14 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Denmark

Competing Broadcaster: Dansk Radio (DR)

Debut: 1957 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1963, 2000, 2013)

Number of Entries: 46 **Worst Finish:** Last (2002)

A Brief History: The first Danish victory was wrapped in controversy and is the reason why votes are counted prior to their announcement. It's second win was one of the victors with the lowest betting odds.

Song Title: *Where I Am*

Performing Artist: Anja [Anja Nissen]

Composer(s): Anja Nissen, Michael D'Arcy, Angel Tupai

Lyricist(s): Anja Nissen, Michael D'Arcy, Angel Tupai

About the Performing Artist: Though of Danish heritage, Anja was born and raised in Australia. In 2014, she won *The Voice Australia*. Her lifelong dream was to represent Denmark at ESC. After coming second in DMGP last year, she won the right to represent Denmark this time

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 08 **Grand Final, Song Number 10**



Estonia

Competing Broadcaster: Eesti Rahvusringhääling (ERR)

Debut: 1994 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2001)
Number of Entries: 22 **Worst Finish:** 2nd last (1994, 2011)

A Brief History: Estonia is notorious for having, what many deem to be, the worst winning song in ESC history (a title they compete with Latvia for). Other than 2001, Estonia has five other Top Ten finishes.

Song Title: *Verona*

Performing Artist: Koit Toome & Laura [Laura Põldvere]

Composer(s): Sven Lõhmus

Lyricist(s): Sven Lõhmus

About the Performing Artist: Both, Koit Toome and Laura, are major pop stars in Estonia - and Eurovision veterans. Toome represented Estonia in 1998 (finishing 12th) and Laura was a part the group representing Estonia the last time the Contest was in Ukraine, 2005.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 17 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Finland

Competing Broadcaster: Yleisradio/Rundradion (YLE)

Debut: 1961 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2006)
Number of Entries: 50 **Worst Finish:** Last (1963, 1965, 1968, 1980, 1982, 1990, 1992, 1996, 2009)

A Brief History: Finland's participation in the ESC has not been a very successful endeavor; there have been only a few moments of brightness, including a surprise landslide victory in 2006 with hard rock band Lordi.

Song Title: *Blackbird*

Performing Artist: Norma John [Lasse Piirainen & Leena Tirronen]

Composer(s): Lasse Piirainen, Leena Tirronen

Lyricist(s): Lasse Piirainen, Leena Tirronen

About the Performing Artist: Norma John consists of two friends from the southern Finnish town of Kouvola. While they have been making a splash in Finland's indie scene for fifteen years, winning Finland's national selection is their first major triumph in mainstream music.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 07 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



France

Competing Broadcaster: France 3

Debut:

1956 Best Finish:

1st place (1958, 1960, 1962, 1969, 1977)

Number of Entries:

60 Worst Finish: Last (2014)

A Brief History: France has only missed two Contests to date. France is at the center of both ties that have occurred in ESC, both of which would have resulted in a lone French victory under current rules (1969 was a four-way tie; in 1991 Sweden was awarded the win under the old tie-break rules). Despite its long history, it has finished last only once:

Song Title: *Requiem*

Performing Artist: Alma [Alexandra Maquet]

Composer(s): Nazim Khaled

Lyricist(s): Nazim Khaled, Alexandra Maquet

About the Performing Artist: Alma is from France's second city: Lyon. Though, she attended high school in the US. She graduated from a French university, during which she studied abroad in Brazil, with an MBA and a masters in marketing. She worked in Italy before moving to Belgium, where she began composing.

Voting in Semi-Final 2

Grand Final, Song Number 26



Georgia

Competing Broadcaster: Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB)

Debut:

2007 Best Finish:

9th place (2010, 2011)

Number of Entries:

10 Worst Finish: 20th place (2016)

A Brief History: Georgia has achieved respectable finishes through its first eight entries. In 2012, Georgia failed to reach the Final for the first, and so far only, time.

Song Title: *Keep the Faith*

Performing Artist: Tamara Gachechiladze

Composer(s): Anri Jokhadze

Lyricist(s): Tamara Gachechiladze

About the Performing Artist: Best known in ESC circles for being a member of Stephanie & 3G, who's political song led Georgia to withdraw in 2009. Gachechiladze regularly performs throughout Tbilisi and is a regular vocalist with the national symphony. She also won the Georgian version of *Your Face Sounds Familiar* in 2015.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 02

Grand Final, Song Number N/A



Germany

Competing Broadcaster: Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR)

Debut: 1956 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1982, 2010)
Last (1964, 1965, 1974,
Number of Entries: 62 **Worst Finish:** 1995, 2005, 2015, 2016)

A Brief History: Germany is the only country to take part in every single Contest; however, it has only won twice. Though, it has three second-places, five third-places, and 15 other Top Ten finishes. Germany's missing of the final in 1996 inspired the adoption of the Big Four (now Big Five) rule giving the countries with five largest tv audiences automatic qualification.

Song Title: *Perfect Life*

Performing Artist: Levina [Isabella Lueen]

Composer(s): Lindy Robbins, Dave Bassett, Lindsey Ray

Lyricist(s): Lindy Robbins, Dave Bassett, Lindsey Ray

About the Performing Artist: Levina has been a musical competitor her whole life, winning the German competition *Jugend Musiziert* at the age of nine. She earned her bachelors degree from London's King's College in performance and composition.

Voting in Semi-Final 2

Grand Final, Song Number 21



Greece

Competing Broadcaster: Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT)

Debut: 1974 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2005)
Number of Entries: 37 **Worst Finish:** 3rd Last (1985, 1990)

A Brief History: Until coming 17th in 2012, Greece was the only country to reach the Top Ten every year in the Semi-Final Era (since 2004). Greece has since had difficulty, reaching the Top Ten only once since last doing so in 2011.

Song Title: *This is Love*

Performing Artist: Demy [Dimitra Papadea]

Composer(s): Dimitris Kontopoulos

Lyricist(s): Romy Papadea, John Ballard

About the Performing Artist: Demy began studying music around the age of five and continues to take piano and vocal lessons to this day. In addition to her music career, she regularly performs in the largest musicals in Athens. Additionally, she is currently working on her law

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 10

Grand Final, Song Number 15



Hungary

Competing Broadcaster: Magyar Televízió (MTV)

Debut: 1994 **Best Finish:** 4th place (1994)

Number of Entries: 16 **Worst Finish:** 2nd Last (1995)

A Brief History: Hungary has inconsistently participated since joining the Contest in 1994, but has not missed a Final since rejoining in 2012. Hungary has four Top Ten finishes, 1994, 2007, 2013, and 2014.

Song Title: *Origo*

Performing Artist: Joci Pápai [József Pápai]

Composer(s): József Pápai

Lyricist(s): József Pápai

About the Performing Artist: The son of a gypsy band leader, Pápai began playing guitar age 4. Eventually, he had to choose between pursuing a career in basketball and one in music. After struggling early on, he eventually achieved notoriety in the Hungarian music scene and found his

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 07 Grand Final, Song Number 08



Iceland

Competing Broadcaster: Ríkisútvarpið (RÚV)

Debut: 1986 **Best Finish:** 2nd place (1999, 2009)

Number of Entries: 30 **Worst Finish:** Last (1989, 2001)

A Brief History: Of the five Nordic countries, Iceland has the fewest participations and is the only one that has yet to win. Iceland's 2009 second place finish garnered the most points of any Icelandic entry.

Song Title: *Paper*

Performing Artist: Svala [Svala Björgvinsdóttir]

Composer(s): Svala Björgvinsdóttir, Einar Egilsson, Lester Mendez, Lily Elise

Lyricist(s): Svala Björgvinsdóttir, Lily Elise

About the Performing Artist: Svala is the daughter of an Icelandic pop star and began performing herself at the age of 7. In 2001, she charted on American pop charts and launched her professional career. Since then, she has achieved great success and is a judge on Iceland's *The Voice*.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 13 Grand Final, Song Number N/A



Ireland

Competing Broadcaster: Radió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ)

Debut: 1965 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1970, 1980, 1987, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996)

Number of Entries: 51 **Worst Finish:** Last (2007, 2013)

A Brief History: The Emerald Isle holds the record for most wins, having hoisted the trophy seven times. Only one performer has won the Contest twice: Johnny Logan, who was the singer for both wins in the 80s. Logan also has two wins as a songwriter, his own song in 1987 and the Irish winner of 1992.

Song Title: *Dying to Try*

Performing Artist: Brendan Murray

Composer(s): Jörgen Elofsson, James Newman

Lyricist(s): Jörgen Elofsson, James Newman

About the Performing Artist: From County Galway in western Ireland, the young Murray taught himself guitar and busked on the streets. At 17, he was a part of the short-lived, but successful, boyband Hometown with whom he had two top ten singles.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 09 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Israel

Competing Broadcaster: Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA)

Debut: 1973 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1978, 1979, 1998)

Number of Entries: 41 **Worst Finish:** 2nd Last (1986, 1993, 2006)

A Brief History: Israel has competed every year since joining the ESC, except once. In 1980, Israel became the first (and only) winner not to defend its title; the country withdrew after the EBU set the date for the 1980 Contest to fall on the Israeli Day of Remembrance. Israel was also the first country to win with televoting in 1998.

Song Title: *I Feel Alive*

Performing Artist: IMRI [Imri Ziv]

Composer(s): Dolev Ram, Penn Hazut

Lyricist(s): Dolev Ram, Penn Hazut

About the Performing Artist: While IMRI has only recently achieved success as a solo artist, he has been a professional backing singer and voice actor for many years; including for each of the previous two ESC entries. He currently studies visual communication at university.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 18 **Grand Final, Song Number 01**



Italy

Competing Broadcaster: Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI)

Debut: 1956 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1964, 1990)

Number of Entries: 43 **Worst Finish:** Last (1966)

A Brief History: After a 13 year gap, Italy returned to the Contest in 2011 and brought home second place. Despite its absence, Italy remains one of the most successful ESC countries, with 26 Top Ten finishes.

Song Title: *Occidentali's Karma* [Westerner's Karma]

Performing Artist: Francesco Gabbani

Composer(s): Francesco Gabbani, Filippo Gabbani, Fabio Ilacqua, Luca Chiaravalli

Lyricist(s): Francesco Gabbani, Filippo Gabbani, Fabio Ilacqua, Luca Chiaravalli

About the Performing Artist: Gabbani has the distinction of being the only artist to win both, the Newcomer's Section and the Main Section at Italy's famed San Remo in consecutive attempts. He did so after taking a break from singing to focus on composing. His older brother Filippo co-wrights with him and is his official drummer.

Voting in Semi-Final 1

Grand Final, Song Number 09



Latvia

Competing Broadcaster: Latvijas Televīzija (LTV)

Debut: 2000 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2002)

Number of Entries: 17 **Worst Finish:** 2nd Last (2003)

A Brief History: Latvia is often referred to as the weakest winner in ESC history. Though, it had one of the lowest betting odds of any winner. Latvia's has three Top Ten finishes, 2000, 2002, and 2015.

Song Title: *Line*

Performing Artist: Triana Park [Agnese Rakovska, Arturs Strautins, Edgars Vilums, Kristaps Erglis]

Composer(s): Agnese Rakovska, Kristaps Ērglis, Kristians Rakovskis

Lyricist(s): Agnese Rakovska

About the Performing Artist: Formed in 2008, Triana Park has toured extensively throughout Latvia, Europe, and even performed at South-by-Southwest. The band was brought together by lead singer Agnese Rakovska, who holds two bachelor degrees.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 18

Grand Final, Song Number N/A



Lithuania

Competing Broadcaster: Lietuvos Nacionalinis Radijas ir Televizija (LRT)

Debut: 1994 **Best Finish:** 6th place (2006)
Number of Entries: 17 **Worst Finish:** Last (1994, 2005)

A Brief History: After Estonia won in 2001, and Latvia in 2002, eyes turned to LIT to continue the Baltic's streak in 2003, but the luck had run out. LIT has only placed in the Top Ten twice 2006 and 2016.

Song Title: *Rain of Revolution*

Performing Artist: Fusedmarc [Viktorija Ivanovskaja, Denisas Zujevas, Stasys Žakas]

Composer(s): Denis Zujev, Viktoria Ivanovskaja, Michail Levin

Lyricist(s): Denis Zujev, Michail Levin

About the Performing Artist: Fusedmarc is one of the biggest groups in Lithuania, having won Best Music Breakthrough at the Alternative Music Awards in 2005 and haven't looked back. They are torch bearers for electronic music and Lithuania across the continent.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 16 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



(Former Yugoslav Republic of) Macedonia

Competing Broadcaster: Makedonska Radio Televizija (MKRT)

Debut: 1998 **Best Finish:** 12th place (2006)
Number of Entries: 18 **Worst Finish:** 19th place (1998, 2002)

A Brief History: Macedonia has a history of being just short of qualifying for the Final; twice it has fallen one place short. It's biggest successes remain 12th place in 2006 and 13th place in 2012.

Song Title: *Dance Alone*

Performing Artist: Jana Burčeska

Composer(s): Joacim Persson, Alex Omar, Bobi-Leon Milanov, Florence A.

Lyricist(s): Joacim Persson, Alex Omar, Bobi-Leon Milanov, Florence A.

About the Performing Artist: Burčeska first rose to prominence by finishing fifth in *Macedonian Idol* in 2010 and when she first started competing in the *Skopje Fest* music festival. She is a UNICEF Ambassador, focusing on ending school violence.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 03 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Malta

Competing Broadcaster: Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)

Debut: 1971 **Best Finish:** 2nd place (2002, 2005)

Number of Entries: 30 **Worst Finish:** Last (1971, 1972, 2006)

A Brief History: Despite its tiny size and lack of success, Malta is one of the ESC's most fervent countries. Additionally, an ESC legend, Chiara, hails from Malta; coming in 3rd in her first attempt, 2nd in her second, and bringing Malta to the Final in 2009 after two missed qualifications. Malta returned to the Top Ten in 2013 with pediatrician Gianluca Bezzina.

Song Title: *Breathlessly*

Performing Artist: Claudia Faniello

Composer(s): Philip Vella, Sean Vella

Lyricist(s): Gerard James Borg

About the Performing Artist: On her eleventh attempt, Faniello won the right to represent Malta at ESC. While she works as a special education teacher, she is an accomplished singer, having won various competitions since her youth and participating in festivals for helping the **Semi-Final 2, Song Number 04** **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Moldova

Competing Broadcaster: Teleradio-Moldova (TRM)

Debut: 2005 **Best Finish:** 6th place (2005)

Number of Entries: 13 **Worst Finish:** 22nd place (2010)

A Brief History: Moldova has qualified for the Final more often than not, but has not done so since 2013 - also the last time it submitted a song in its own language. Moldova has finished in the Top Ten twice.

Song Title: *Hey, Mama!*

Performing Artist: SunStroke Project [Serghei Ialovitki, Anton Ragoza, Serghei Stepanov]

Composer(s): Anton Ragoza, Serghei Ialovitki, Seghei Stepanov, Mihail Cebotarenc

Lyricist(s): Alina Galetcaia

About the Performing Artist: SunStroke Project originated in 2007, but became complete in 2010 with the addition of Ialovitki. They return to Eurovision after having previously represented the country in 2010 alongside Olia Tira with the song *Run Away*; during which, Stepanov's performance earned him the moniker "Epic Sax Guy" after a looped video of him performing the song's riff went viral.

Semi-Final , Song Number 12 **Grand Final, Song Number 07**



Montenegro

Competing Broadcaster: Radio Televizija Crne Gore (RTCG)

Debut: 2007 **Best Finish:** 13th place (2015)
Number of Entries: 9 **Worst Finish:** 19th place (2014)

A Brief History: In its first five attempts, MNG failed to reach the Final, but qualified in both 2014 and 2015. Previously, the Montenegrin band No Name reached 7th place for Serbia & Montenegro in 2005.

Song Title: *Space*

Performing Artist: Slavko Kalezić

Composer(s): Momčilo Zeković Zeko

Lyricist(s): Adis Eminić, Iva Boršić, Momcilo Zekovic Zeko

About the Performing Artist: Kalezić is a classically trained actor, having earned a bachelors and a masters in acting and dance. He's currently a member of the Montenegrin National Theatre. His music career sparked in 2013, when he was a semi-finalist on *X-Factor Adria*.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 06 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



The Netherlands

Competing Broadcaster: AVROTROS

Debut: 1956 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1957, 1959, 1975)
Number of Entries: 59 **Worst Finish:** Last (1958, 1962, 1963, 1968)

A Brief History: The Dutch broke their curse in 2013 year, qualifying for the Final for the first time since 2004 and finishing in the Top Ten for the first time since 1998 on the back of Anouk's *Birds*. They followed this with a second place in 2014, their best finish since winning in 1975.

Song Title: *Lights and Shadows*

Performing Artist: O'G3NE [Lisa, Amy, and Shelley Vol]

Composer(s): Rick Vol, Rory de Kievit

Lyricist(s): Rick Vol

About the Performing Artist: The Vol sisters (Lisa is one year older than twins Amy and Shelley) join the list of Junior ESC stars to make the leap to the adult version.

Their name, pronounced "Oh-gene," represents their ill mother's Type O blood and the fact that they're three sisters. They're also the only group act to win *The Voice* in the world.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 06 **Grand Final, Song Number 06**



Norway

Competing Broadcaster: Norsk Rikskringkasting (NRK)

Debut: 1960 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1985, 1995, 2009)
Number of Entries: 54 **Worst Finish:** Last (1963, 1969, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1981, 1990, 1997, 2001, 2004, 2012)

A Brief History: While Norway has three of the Contest's most popular winners and holds the record for the highest point total, it also holds the records for most last place finishes (11) as well as for most "null points."

Song Title: *Grab the Moment*

Performing Artist: JOWST [Joakim With Steen] feat. Aleksander Walmann

Composer(s): Joakim With Steen

Lyricist(s): Jonas McDonnell

About the Performing Artist: JOWST started making music when he was 15. He has completed schooling in music production and worked as a teacher before his career took off. He composed this entry using Facebook to elicit feedback from friends. Walmann was a finalist on Norway's *The Voice* in 2012 and has since worked with many popular artists and began voice acting.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 12 **Grand Final, Song Number 17**



Poland

Competing Broadcaster: Telewizja Polska (TVP)

Debut: 1994 **Best Finish:** 2nd place (1994)
Number of Entries: 20 **Worst Finish:** 2nd Last (2008)

A Brief History: Poland, which has participated inconsistently, is still seeking to duplicate the success of its debut entry having qualified for the Final only four times since they were introduced in 2004.

Song Title: *Flashlight*

Performing Artist: Kasia Moś

Composer(s): Kasia Moś, Rickard Bonde Truumeel, Pete Barringer (DWB)

Lyricist(s): Kasia Moś, Rickard Bonde Truumeel, Pete Barringer (DWB)

About the Performing Artist: Moś, who has a bachelor's in music performance, is an accomplished theatre actress and pianist, coming from a family of classical musicians and composers. She came to prominence after being a finalist on *Must Be The Music*.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 11 **Grand Final, Song Number 02**



Portugal

Competing Broadcaster: Rádio e Televisão de Portugal (RTP)

Debut: 1964 **Best Finish:** 6th (1996)
Number of Entries: 49 **Worst Finish:** Last (1964, 1974, 1997)

A Brief History: Portugal has the record for most participations without a victory. The country's most recent success is a string of qualifications from 2008-2010. Since 2012, Portugal has competed intermittently for financial reasons.

Song Title: *Amar pelos Dois* [Love for the Both Us]

Performing Artists: Salvador Sobral

Composer(s): Luísa Sobral

Lyricist(s): Luísa Sobral

About the Performing Artist: Sobral launched his music career in 2009, coming seventh on *Ídols* (a show which his sister (the song's writer) finished previously finished third on). Sobral, who previously studied psychology, took advantage of his time living in the US and Spain to learn about various music traditions in the two countries. Sobral has been struggling with health conditions having had emergency hernia surgery during the Portuguese national finals and missing the week of rehearsals in Kyiv.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 09 **Grand Final, Song Number 11**



Romania

Competing Broadcaster: Televiziunea Română (TVR)

Debut: 1993 **Best Finish:** 3rd (2005, 2010)
Number of Entries: 20 **Worst Finish:** 22nd (1998)

A Brief History: Romania's 4th place Tornerò in 2006 is viewed by many as one of the best songs to not win. In 2016, Romania was disqualified weeks before the Contest due to unpaid debts by the participating broadcaster.

Song Title: *Yodel It!*

Performing Artist: Ilinca [Ilinca Băcilă] feat. Alex Florea

Composer(s): Mihai Alexandru

Lyricist(s): Alexa Niculae

About the Performing Artist: Ilinca is a veteran of music competitions, having reached the live rounds of Romania's *X-Factor* and the semi-finals of *The Voice of Romania* - all before 17. Florea has had a similar trajectory, competing on different seasons of the same shows. He is currently working on his masters in theatre.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 05 **Grand Final, Song Number 20**



San Marino

Competing Broadcaster: Radiotelevisione della Repubblica di San Marino (SMRTV)

Debut: 2008 **Best Finish:** 24th place (2014)
Number of Entries: 8 **Worst Finish:** 24th place (2014)

A Brief History: San Marino has only qualified for the Final once, on Valentina Monetta's third (consecutive) attempt in 2014 with the song *Maybe* . This year marks the return of Ralph Siegel, who composed SM's entries from 2012 to 2015.

Song Title: *Spirit of the Night*
Performing Artist: Valentina Monetta & Jimmie Wilson
Composer(s): Ralph Siegel
Lyricist(s): Jutta Staudenmayer, Steven Barnacle

About the Performing Artist: Monetta, an R&B and jazz performer, returns to the Contest for the fourth time. She previously represented her home country 2012-2014. Wilson is an American who currently lives in Germany. He is a veteran of musical theatre, including having played President Obama in *Hope* .

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 10 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Serbia

Competing Broadcaster: Radio Television of Serbia (RTS)

Debut: 2007 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2007)
Number of Entries: 10 **Worst Finish:** 18th place (2016)

A Brief History: Serbia won the Contest with its debut as an independent nation in 2007 with the song *Molitva* . Since then, Serbia has three Top Ten finishes and has qualified seven out of nine times.

Song Title: *In Too Deep*
Performing Artist: Tijana Bogićević
Composer(s): Borislav Milanov, Joacim Persson, Lisa Desmond, Johan Alkenaes
Lyricist(s): Borislav Milanov, Joacim Persson, Lisa Desmond, Johan Alkenaes

About the Performing Artist: An experienced backing singer, Bogićević returns to the ESC stage after providing back-up to Nina for 2011's *Čaroban* . Her biggest solo hits to date are 2010's *Tražim* and 2013's *Čudo* .

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 01 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Slovenia

Competing Broadcaster: Radiotelevizija Slovenija (RTV SLO)

Debut: 1993 **Best Finish:** 7th place (1995, 2001)

Number of Entries: 22 **Worst Finish:** 3rd Last (1993, 2003)

A Brief History: Slovenia has had few notable entries to the Contest, neither winning nor coming in last in the Final. Slovenia's most popular entry remains 2001's *Energy*. Additionally, many heads turned in 2002 when three of Slovenia's top drag queens performed *Samo Ljubezen*.

Song Title: *On My Way*

Performing Artist: Omar Naber

Composer(s): Omar Naber

Lyricist(s): Omar Naber

About the Performing Artist: Omar's career first took off in 2004, when he won *Battle of the Talents* and the right to compete in Slovenia's national selection. He won and represented Slovenia in Kyiv in 2005 with *Stop*. He returns to Kyiv an accomplished singer and songwriter.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 17 **Grand Final, Song Number N/A**



Spain

Competing Broadcaster: Televisión Española (TVE)

Debut: 1961 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1968, 1969)

Number of Entries: 57 **Worst Finish:** Last (1962, 1965, 1983, 1999)

A Brief History: Spain debuted while Franco still ruled the country and was trying to gain acceptance in of Europe. It wasn't until the contentious victory of 1968 that it came into its own, scoring 22 Top Ten finishes (incl. a second victory) since.

Song Title: *Do It for Your Lover*

Performing Artist: Manel Navarro

Composer(s): Manel Navarro, Antonio Rayo "Rayito"

Lyricist(s): Manel Navarro, Antonio Rayo "Rayito"

About the Performing Artist: Navarro made his name performing acoustic covers and original tunes on social media. He was discovered by DJ and producer Alan Walker who was impressed with Navarro's version of one of his songs and began mentoring the young singer.

Voting in Semi-Final 1 **Grand Final, Song Number 16**



Sweden

Competing Broadcaster: Sveriges Television (STV)

Debut:

1958 Best Finish:

1st place (1974, 1983, 1991, 1999, 2012, 2015)

Number of Entries:

57 Worst Finish:

Last (1963, 1977)

A Brief History: Sweden is known for many things, not the least of which being ABBA (1974); *Waterloo* remains one of the most popular ESC songs ever. Sweden is the only country to win after a tie (1991) and has the highest rated national selection: *Melodifestivalen*. It has missed only two Finals, 1976 (sat out in fear of winning and having to host) and 2010. Sweden sits second overall with six wins.

Song Title: *I Can't Go On*

Performing Artist: Robin Bengtsson

Composer(s): David Kreuger, Hamed "K-One" Pirouzpanah, Robin Stjernberg

Lyricist(s): David Kreuger, Hamed "K-One" Pirouzpanah, Robin Stjernberg

About the Performing Artist: Bengtsson plays trumpet and guitar since his early years. At seventeen, he achieved third place on *Swedish Idol* in 2008. In 2010, he finished second on Sweden's version of *Wipeout*. He is at ESC after finishing 5th in *Melodifestivalen* last year.

Semi-Final 1, Song Number 01

Grand Final, Song Number 24



Switzerland

Competing Broadcaster: SSR SRG

Debut:

1956 Best Finish:

1st place (1956, 1987)

Number of Entries:

58 Worst Finish:

Last (1964, 1967, 1974, 1998, 2011)

A BRIEF HISTORY: THE SWISS STARTED OFF WITH A BANG, WINNING THE FIRST CONTEST, HELD ON HOME SOIL IN LUGANO. THEY RETURNED TO THE WINNER'S CIRCLE IN 1987 ON THE BACK OF A RISING STAR FROM CANADA: CÉLINE DION. SINCE 2004, CH HAS ONLY BEEN IN FOUR FINALS.

Song Title: *Apollo*

Performing Artist: Timebelle [Miruna Manescu, Emanuel Daniel Andriescu, Samiel Forster]

Composer(s): Elias Näslin, Alessandra Günthardt, Nicolas Günthardt

Lyricist(s): Elias Näslin, Alessandra Günthardt, Nicolas Günthardt

About the Performing Artist: Originally a boy band based out of the University of Bern, Timebelle took on its current form at the behest of their manager who brought in Manescu when three of the original members left the group. Their name comes from the English translation of one of Bern's most famous sites, the Zytglogge.

Semi-Final 2, Song Number 13

Grand Final, Song Number N/A



Ukraine

Competing Broadcaster: National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (UA:PBC)

Debut: 2003 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2004, 2016)
Number of Entries: 14 **Worst Finish:** 18th place (2005)

A Brief History: Despite its relatively low number of entries, Ukraine has proven itself a force to be reckoned with; collecting two wins, two second-places, and another five Top Ten places.

Song Title: *Time*

Performing Artist: O.Torvald [Zhenia Halych, Denys Miziuk, Mykola Rayda, Oleksandr Solokha, Mykyta Vasyl'yev]

Composer(s): Zhenia Halych, Denys Miziuk

Lyricist(s): Kamenchuk Yevhen

About the Performing Artist: O.Torvald was founded in 2005 by longtime friends Halych and Miziuk. Over the past twelve years, the band has released five albums and has toured throughout Ukraine and Europe. They routinely perform in festivals with some of the world's

Voting in Semi-Final 2 **Grand Final, Song Number 22**



United Kingdom

Competing Broadcaster: British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

Debut: 1957 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1967, 1969, 1978, 1982, 1998)
Number of Entries: 61 **Worst Finish:** Last (2003, 2008, 2010)

A Brief History: The UK, while tied for second in the wins column, stands above the rest when it comes to total success: five wins, 14 second-places, three third-places, and 14 other Top Ten finishes.

Song Title: *Never Give Up on You*

Performing Artist: Lucie Jones

Composer(s): Emmelie de Forest, Daniel Salcedo, Lawrie Martin

Lyricist(s): Emmelie de Forest, Daniel Salcedo, Lawrie Martin

About the Performing Artist: When Welsh singer Jones was eliminated in an *X-Factor* duel to Jedward (Ireland '11 & '12), it sparked a public outcry. Since then, she has developed a successful career in musical theatre. In 2016, she toured as the lead in both *Legally Blonde* and *Rent*.

Voting in Semi-Final 1 **Grand Final, Song Number 18**