

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Albania

Competing Broadcaster: Radio Televizioni Shqiptar (RTSh)

Debut: 2004 **Best Finish:** 4th place (2012)

Number of Entries: 17 **Worst Finish:** 17th place (2008, 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 with *Suus* .

Song Title: *Karma*

Performing Artist: Anxhela Peristeri

Composer(s): Kledi Bahiti

Lyricist(s): Olti Curri

About the Performing Artist: Peristeri's music career started in 2001 after her participation in *Miss Albania* . She is no stranger to competition, winning the celebrity singing competition *Your Face Sounds Familiar* and often placed well at *Kënga Magjike* (Magic Song) including a win in 2017.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 11 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Australia

Competing Broadcaster: Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

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

Number of Entries: 6 **Worst Finish:** 20th place (2018)

A Brief History: Australia made its debut in 2015 as a special guest marking the Contest's 60th Anniversary and over 30 years of SBS broadcasting ESC. It has since been one of the most successful countries, qualifying each year and earning four Top Ten finishes.

Song Title: *Technicolour*

Performing Artist: Montaigne [Jess Cerro]

Composer(s): Jess Cerro, Dave Hammer

Lyricist(s): Jess Cerro, Dave Hammer

About the Performing Artist: Montaigne has built a reputation across her native Australia as a stunning performer, unique songwriter, and musical experimenter. She has released three albums to critical and commercial success; she performs across Australia at various music and art festivals.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 05 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Austria

Competing Broadcaster: Österreichischer Rundfunk (ORF)

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

Number of Entries: 53 **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 *nul points* in 2015.

Song Title: *Amen*

Performing Artist: Vincent Bueno

Composer(s): Tobias Carshey, Ashley Hicklin, Jonas Thander

Lyricist(s): Tobias Carshey, Ashley Hicklin, Jonas Thander

About the Performing Artist: Bueno has mostly made a name for himself in recent years as a music producer where he supports himself and other artists as Suitcase Media. However, he's been performing since childhood; after graduating from the Vienna Conservatory he won *Musical! The Show*.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 05 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Azerbaijan

Competing Broadcaster: İctimai Televiziya (İTV)

Debut: 2008 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2011)

Number of Entries: 13 **Worst Finish:** 17th place (2014, 2016)

A Brief History: Azerbaijan took home the victory in 2011 and has seven Top Ten finishes; however, the "Land of Fire" had a falling from grace, failing to finish in the Top Ten from 2014-2018.

Song Title: *Mata Hari*

Performing Artist: Efendi [Samira Azer gizi Efendiyeva]

Composer(s): Amy van der Wel, Luuk van Beers, Josh Earl, Tony Cornelisse

Lyricist(s): Amy van der Wel, Luuk van Beers, Josh Earl, Tony Cornelisse

About the Performing Artist: Efendi has competed on various Azerbaijani televised talent shows, coming in third on two of them. She also finished third in the international competition *Silk Way Star* in 2017. Prior to Eurovision, she represented Azerbaijan at the *Voice of Nur-Sultan*.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 14 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Belgium

Competing Broadcaster: Radio-télévision belge de la Communauté française (RTBF)

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

A Brief History: Walloon RTBF and Flemish VRT, take turns competing. RTBF is responsible for Belgium's sole victory: *J'Aime la Vie* in 1986. This is only the second time it is sending a Flemish act, making up for last year's cancellation.

Song Title: *The Wrong Place*

Performing Artist: Hooverphonic [Alex Callier, Raymond Geerts, Geike Arnaert]

Composer(s): Alex Callier, Charlotte Foret

Lyricist(s): Alex Callier, Charlotte Foret

About the Performing Artist: Originally formed over twenty years ago, Hooverphonic has seen an array of line-ups, but has always consisted of songwriter and vocalist Callier and guitarist Geerts. Arnaert returns to the band this year after previously being its longest-serving singer from 97-08.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 11 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Bulgaria

Competing Broadcaster: Bulgarian National Television (BNT)

Debut: 2005 **Best Finish:** 2nd Place (2017)
Number of Entries: 13 **Worst Finish:** 14th Place (2018)

A Brief History: Bulgaria was scheduled to return to the Contest this year after taking 2019 off. After initial struggles, it came into its own, qualifying for the Final from 2016-2018, including two consecutive Top Ten finishes.

Song Title: *growing up is getting old*

Performing Artist: VICTORIA [Victoria Georgieva]

Composer(s): Victoria Georgieva, Maya Nalani, Oliver Björkqvall, Helena Larsson

Lyricist(s): Victoria Georgieva, Maya Nalani, Oliver Björkqvall, Helena Larsson

About the Performing Artist: Georgieva finally made it onto *X-Factor Bulgaria* seasons five in 2015 after three failed attempts. She went on to finish sixth. This past year, Georgieva served as a *European Ambassador of Earth Hour* and was named to *Forbes Bulgaria*'s "30 Under 30" list.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 13 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Croatia

Competing Broadcaster: Hrvatska Radiotelevizija (HRT)

Debut: 1993 **Best Finish:** 4th (1996, 1999)

Number of Entries: 26 **Worst Finish:** 23rd (2016)

A Brief History: Croatia has seen limited success throughout the years, qualifying for the Final just under half the time. Though, it does have six Top Ten finishes and Yugoslavia's lone winner came from Zadar.

Song Title: *Tick-Tock*

Performing Artist: Albina [Albina Grčić]

Composer(s): Branimir Mihaljević

Lyricist(s): Tihana Buklijaš Bakić, Max Cinnamon

About the Performing Artist: Grčić first rose to prominence by placing third on *The Voice Hrvatska* in 2019. Her success on the show led to a record contract; by 2021 she was already nominated for Best New Artist at the *Porin Awards* - a prestigious award for Croatian musicians.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 10 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Cyprus

Competing Broadcaster: Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC)

Debut: 1981 **Best Finish:** 2nd (2018)

Number of Entries: 37 **Worst Finish:** Last (1986)

A Brief History: Cyprus has had moderate success, finishing in the Top Ten ten times including reaching a new high, second place, in 2018. Cyprus holds the record for most entries without a victory, hitting 36 in 2019.

Song Title: *El Diablo* [The Devil]

Performing Artist: Elena Tsagrinou

Composer(s): Thomas Stengaard, Jimmy "Joker" Thornfeldt, Laurell Barker, Oxa

Lyricist(s): Thomas Stengaard, Jimmy "Joker" Thornfeldt, Laurell Barker, Oxa

About the Performing Artist: After competing on *Greece Got Talent*, Tsagrinou became the new lead singer of the band OtherView. Her success with the band led to coaching on the show *Just the 2 of Us* as well as voicing characters in Greek dubs of animated movies. She has been solo

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 08 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Czech Republic

Competing Broadcaster: Česká Televize (ČT)

Debut: 2007 **Best Finish:** 6th Place (2018)

Number of Entries: 9 **Worst Finish:** 25th Place (2016)

A Brief History: After several attempts and a short break, Czechia finally qualified for its first Grand Final in 2016 with *I Stand*. Since then, it has qualified twice more for the final, including a Top Ten finish in Lisbon.

Song Title: *omaga*

Performing Artist: Benny Cristo [Ben da Silva Cristóvão]

Composer(s): Filip Vlček

Lyricist(s): Benny Cristo

About the Performing Artist: Cristo began his career as a finalist on *Česko Slovenská Superstar* in 2009. Since then, he has become one of Czechia's biggest stars, using his fame to advocate for political reform, child safety online, and the environment. He's one of the first Czech stars to release VR music videos; he also competes internationally in jiu-jitsu.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 03

Grand Final Running Order TBD



Denmark

Competing Broadcaster: Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR)

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

Number of Entries: 50 **Worst Finish:** Last (2002)

A Brief History: The first Danish victory was controversial and is the reason votes are counted prior to their announcement. Its second win had one of the lowest betting odds while its third had some of the highest.

Song Title: *Øve Oss På Hinanden* [Let's Try Together]

Performing Artist: Fyr og Flamme [Jesper Groth, Laurits Emanuel]

Composer(s): Laurits Emanuel

Lyricist(s): Laurits Emanuel

About the Performing Artist: Fyr & Flamme [Fire & Flame] formed just last year but have already had two #1 hits before winning *DMGP*. Singer Groth is well-known for acting in comedies - both movies and tv. Emanuel has been a music producer for years and is married with two kids.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 17

Grand Final Running Order TBD

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Estonia

Competing Broadcaster: Eesti Rahvusringhääling (ERR)

Debut: 1994 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2001)

Number of Entries: 26 **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: *The Lucky One*

Performing Artist: Uku Suviste

Composer(s): Uku Suviste

Lyricist(s): Uku Suviste, Sharon Vaughn

About the Performing Artist: Suviste graduated with a degree in computer systems admin in 2005, then went on to study at the Berklee College of Music. He has been competing in song festivals and music competitions since his college days, finishing 3rd in 2010's *New Wave Festival*.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 02 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Finland

Competing Broadcaster: Yleisradio/Rundradion (YLE)

Debut: 1961 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2006)

Number of Entries: 54 **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: *Dark Side*

Performing Artist: Blind Channel [Joel Hokka, Niko Vilhelm, Joonas Porko, Olli Matela, Tommi Lalli, Alekski Kaunisvesi]

Composer(s): Alekski Kaunisvesi, Joonas Porko, Joel Hokka, Niko Moilanen, Olli Matela

Lyricist(s): Alekski Kaunisvesi, Joonas Porko, Joel Hokka, Niko Moilanen, Olli Matela

About the Performing Artist: Formed in Oulu in 2013, Blind Channel has become a major force in Finland's underground rock scene. They've become known for their covers of Top 40 songs from the likes of Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and Anastacia.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 14 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

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France

Competing Broadcaster: France 2

Debut: 1956 **Best Finish:** 1st place (58, 60, 62, 69, 77)

Number of Entries: 63 **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: *Voilà*

Performing Artist: Barbara Pravi

Composer(s): Barbara Pravi, Igit

Lyricist(s): Barbara Pravi, Igit, Lili Poe

About the Performing Artist: Pravi first entered the music industry in 2014 and had her stage debut performing in the musical *Un été 44*. Pravi has continued acting and shifted to *chanson* in 2018. She has become a prolific songwriter, including the reigning Junior ESC champion *J'Imagine*.

Votes in Semi-Final 2 **Grand Final Running Order TBA**



Georgia

Competing Broadcaster: Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB)

Debut: 2007 **Best Finish:** 9th place (2010, 2011)

Number of Entries: 13 **Worst Finish:** 20th place (2016)

A Brief History: Georgia has achieved respectable finishes through its first few entries but has struggled as of late. Since 2012, it has only qualified three times, with no Top Ten finishes.

Song Title: *You*

Performing Artist: Tornike Kipiani

Composer(s): Tornike Kipiani

Lyricist(s): Tornike Kipiani

About the Performing Artist: Kipiani is an architect who has had his own band since he was 19. At 27, he won the first season of *X Factor Georgia* as well as last year's addition of *Georgian Idol* to win the right to go to ESC. In addition to singing and architecture, he is a father of three.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 10 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Germany

Competing Broadcaster: Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR)

Debut: 1956 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1982, 2010)

Number of Entries: 65 **Worst Finish:** Last (64, 65, 74, 95, 05, 15, 16)

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 16 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 the five largest tv audiences and EBU contributions automatic qualification.

Song Title: *I Don't Feel Hate*

Performing Artist: Jendrik [Jendrik Sigwart]

Composer(s): Jendrik Sigwart, Christoph Oswald

Lyricist(s): Jendrik Sigwart, Christoph Oswald

About the Performing Artist: Sigwart has been a ukulele player and enthusiast since childhood, studying the instrument at the Institute of Music at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences. In addition to singing, he also acts in musicals. He lives in his native Hamburg with his boyfriend.

Votes in Semi-Final 1

Grand Final Running Order TBA



Greece

Competing Broadcaster: Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT)

Debut: 1974 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2005)

Number of Entries: 41 **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 then - in 2013.

Song Title: *Last Dance*

Performing Artist: Stefania [Stefania Liberakakis]

Composer(s): Dimítris Kontópoulos, Arcade

Lyricist(s): Dimítris Kontópoulos, Arcade, Sharon Vaughn

About the Performing Artist: Stefania hails from the Netherlands, where she competed in *The Voice Kids*. She went on to compete at JESC 2016 in the group Kisses. She has had several singles chart on the Dutch & Greek charts. Since 2018, she has been a lead on the teen drama series *Brugklas*.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 04

Grand Final Running Order TBD

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Iceland

Competing Broadcaster: Ríkisútvarpið (RÚV)

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

Number of Entries: 33 **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: *10 Years*

Performing Artist: Daði og Gagnamagnið

Composer(s): Daði Freyr

Lyricist(s): Daði Freyr

About the Performing Artist: The band comprises six members: Daði Freyr, Árný Fjóla, Sigrún Birna, Hulda Kristín, Stefán Hannesson, and Jóhann Sigurður. Freyr, the lead singer and songwriter, first rose to fame via his covers-based YouTube channel. His wife Árný plays keys and his sisters Sigrún and Hulda provide backing vocals. The song is about and dedicated to Daði and Árný's relationship.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 08

Grand Final Running Order TBD



Ireland

Competing Broadcaster: Radió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ)

Debut: 1965 **Best Finish:** 1st place (70, 80, 87, 92, 93, 94, 96)

Number of Entries: 54 **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. Since 2004, IRE has only 2 Top Ten finishes on 8

Song Title: *Maps*

Performing Artist: Lesley Roy

Composer(s): Lesley Roy, Philip Strand, Emelie Eriksson, Lukas Hällgren

Lyricist(s): Lesley Roy, Philip Strand, Emelie Eriksson, Lukas Hällgren

About the Performing Artist: Roy joins Finland's 2018 representative Saara Aalto as one of only a few out lesbians to make it to ESC. She splits her time between Ireland and the US. Her 2008 debut album reached #5 on Billboard's Heatseekers chart. Since then, she has written for hitmakers in Europe and America across genres.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 07

Grand Final Running Order TBD

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Israel

Competing Broadcaster: Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation (Kan/Makan)

Debut: 1973 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1978, 1979, 1998, 2018)

Number of Entries: 44 **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: *Set Me Free*

Performing Artist: Eden Alene

Composer(s): Amit Mordechay, Ido Netzer, Noam Zlatin, Ron Carmi

Lyricist(s): Amit Mordechay, Ido Netzer, Noam Zlatin, Ron Carmi

About the Performing Artist: Alene grew up in Jerusalem where she studied ballet. At 17, Alene won *X Factor Israel*. She has performed at various state events in Israel and eventually went on to win *HaShir HaBa L'Eurovision 2020* for the right to represent Israel at Eurovision.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 12 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Italy

Competing Broadcaster: Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI)

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

Number of Entries: 46 **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 30 Top Ten finishes.

Song Title: *ZITTI E BUONI* [Shut Up and Behave]

Performing Artist: Måneskin [Damiano David, Victoria De Angelis, Thomas Raggi, Ethan Torchio]

Composer(s): Måneskin

Lyricist(s): Måneskin

About the Performing Artist: The name Måneskin, Danish for "moonshine," comes from bassist De Angelis, who is half-Danish. The band is made up of childhood friends and formed in 2016 to compete in a local contest. They gained national attention after being runner-up on *X-Factor*.

Votes in Semi-Final 1 **Grand Final Running Order TBA**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Latvia

Competing Broadcaster: Latvijas Televīzija (LTV)

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

Number of Entries: 21 **Worst Finish:** 2nd Last (2003)

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

Song Title: *The Moon is Rising*

Performing Artist: Samanta Tina [Samanta Poļakova]

Composer(s): Samanta Tina, Aminata Savadogo, Oskars Uhaņš

Lyricist(s): Samanta Tina, Aminata Savadogo, Oskars Uhaņš

About the Performing Artist: Tina's career began in 2010 when she won the *O!Kartes Akadēmija* and the right to attend a prestigious music school in London. She has competed in competitions across Latvia, Lithuania, and Moldova and the famed *New Wave Festival* in Russia.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 15 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Lithuania

Competing Broadcaster: Lietuvos Nacionalinis Radijas ir Televizija (LRT)

Debut: 1994 **Best Finish:** 6th place (2006)

Number of Entries: 21 **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: *Discoteque*

Performing Artist: The Roop [Vaidotas Valiukevičius, Robertas Baranauskas, Mantas Banišauskas]

Composer(s): Vaidotas Valiukevičius, Mantas Banišauskas, Robertas Baranauskas, Laisvūnas Černovas, Ilkka Wirtanen

Lyricist(s): Vaidotas Valiukevičius, Mantas Banišauskas, Kalle Lindroth

About the Performing Artist: The Roop was initially formed in 2014 with their debut album coming the following year. Their career went international after coming third in LIT's 2018 national final. All three members are active across the music industry in various capacities as well.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 01 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Malta

Competing Broadcaster: Public Broadcasting Services Limited (PBS)

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

Number of Entries: 33 **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: *Je Me Casse* [I'm Leaving]

Performing Artist: Destiny [Destiny Chukunyere]

Composer(s): Malin Christin, Amanuel Dermont, Nicklas Eklund, Pete Barringer

Lyricist(s): Malin Christin, Amanuel Dermont, Nicklas Eklund, Pete Barringer

About the Performing Artist: Destiny is the second JESC champion to come to the adult version, having won in 2015 with *Not My Soul* with a record number of points. This victory earned her the Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika, an honor awarded by the Maltese president for service to Malta.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 16 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Moldova

Competing Broadcaster: Teleradio-Moldova (TRM)

Debut: 2005 **Best Finish:** 3rd place (2017)

Number of Entries: 16 **Worst Finish:** 22nd place (2010)

A Brief History: Moldova has qualified for the Final more often than not as well as achieving the Top Ten in consecutive years, 2017 and 2018. Moldova may be most famous for the Epic Sax Guy meme, made from Sunstroke Project's 2010 performance.

Song Title: *Sugar*

Performing Artist: Natalia Gordienko

Composer(s): Dimitris Kontopoulos, Phillipp Kirkorov

Lyricist(s): Mikhail Gutseriev, Sharon Vaughn

About the Performing Artist: Gordienko returns to the Eurovision stage after being half of Moldova's 2006 representative. However, she has had success winning music competitions across Europe as well as winning the World Championship of Performing Arts in 2008.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 07 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



The Netherlands

Competing Broadcaster: AVROTROS

Debut: 1956 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1957, 1959, 1975, 2019)

Number of Entries: 61 **Worst Finish:** Last (1958, 1962, 1963, 1968)

A Brief History: The Dutch broke their curse in 2013, qualifying for the Final for the first time since 2004 and finishing in the Top Ten for the first time since 1998 with Anouk's *Birds*. They followed this with a second place in 2014. And in 2019, finally returned to the winner's circle, its first time there since winning in 1975.

Song Title: *Birth of a New Age*

Performing Artist: Jeangu Macrooy

Composer(s): J. A. U. Macrooy, P. L. Perquin

Lyricist(s): J. A. U. Macrooy

About the Performing Artist: Macrooy first entered the music industry with his twin brother as Between Towers in 2011. Macrooy moved to NET from his native Suriname in 2014 and began his solo career. He's become a fixture on Dutch tv - frequenting the talk show *De Wereld Draair Door* and starring as Judas in a national production of *The Passion*.

Votes in Semi-Final One

Grand Final Running Order 23



North Macedonia

Competing Broadcaster: Makedonska Radio Televizija (MRT)

Debut: 1998 **Best Finish:** 7th place (2019)

Number of Entries: 21 **Worst Finish:** 19th place (1998, 2002)

A Brief History: NMak has a history of being just short of qualifying for the Final; several times falling one place shy. In 2019, the first year competing under its new name, it achieved its first Top Ten finish and won the jury vote.

Song Title: *Here I Stand*

Performing Artist: Vasil [Vasil Garvanliev]

Composer(s): Vasil Garvanliev, Davor Jordanovski, Borche Kuzmanovski

Lyricist(s): Vasil Garvanliev

About the Performing Artist: Vasil started singing in various youth festivals in NMak. At 12, he moved to the US and joined the prestigious Chicago Children's Choir. Vasil has attended music schools and performed opera, jazz, and pop across Europe and North America.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 06

Grand Final Running Order TBD

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Norway

Competing Broadcaster: Norsk Rikskringkasting (NRK)

Debut: 1960 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1985, 1995, 2009)

Number of Entries: 59 **Worst Finish:** Last (63, 69, 74, 76, 78, 81, 90, 97, 01, 04, 12)

A Brief History: While Norway has three of the Contest's most popular winners, it also holds the records for most last place finishes (11) as well as for most "nul points" (4) - the latter a distinction shared with Austria.

Song Title: *Fallen Angel*

Performing Artist: TIX [Andreas Andresen Haukeland]

Composer(s): Andreas Haukeland

Lyricist(s): Andreas Haukeland, Emelie Hollow, Mathias Haukeland

About the Performing Artist: Haukeland's stage name TIX is a tribute to his Tourette Syndrome. He first rose to fame in 2015 when his song *Sjeiken 2015* became a summer hit. He has had a continuous string of hits, dominating Spotify charts. He's also a successful producer and songwriter, including *Sweet but Psycho* by Ava Max.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 09

Grand Final Running Order TBD



Poland

Competing Broadcaster: Telewizja Polska (TVP)

Debut: 1994 **Best Finish:** 2nd place (1994)

Number of Entries: 23 **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 six times since they were introduced in 2004.

Song Title: *The Ride*

Performing Artist: RAFAŁ [Rafał Brzozowski]

Composer(s): Joakim Övrenius, Thomas Karlsson, Clara Rubensson, Johan Mauritzson

Lyricist(s): Joakim Övrenius, Thomas Karlsson, Clara Rubensson, Johan Mauritzson

About the Performing Artist: Brzozowski first gained fame on *The Voice of Poland* and has been a popular artist in Poland. He has also become a well-known tv host, hosting *The Name of the Tune* and *Wheel of Fortune*. He was a top wrestler as a student and is currently upgrading his pilot

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 06

Grand Final Running Order TBD

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Portugal

Competing Broadcaster: Rádio e Televisão de Portugal (RTP)

Debut: 1964 **Best Finish:** 1st (2017)

Number of Entries: 52 **Worst Finish:** Last (1964, 1974, 1997, 2018)

A Brief History: Portugal held the record for most participations without a victory until it finally won in 2017 with *Amor Pelos Dois*. Other than 2017, Portugal has not seen much success; its next best placing is 6th in 1996.

Song Title: *Love is on My Side*

Performing Artists: The Black Mamba [Pedro Tatanka, Miguel Casais, Marco Pombinho, Pity Vaz, Gui Salgueir

Composer(s): TATANKA

Lyricist(s): TATANKA

About the Performing Artist: Formed in 2010, The Black Mamba has released three albums, two of which reached the top twenty. The band crosses genres, allowing them opportunity to tour across Europe and the Americas and to share the stage with Lenny Kravitz and John Legend.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 12 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**



Romania

Competing Broadcaster: Televiziunea Română (TVR)

Debut: 1993 **Best Finish:** 3rd (2005, 2010)

Number of Entries: 22 **Worst Finish:** 22nd (1998)

A Brief History: Romania's 4th place entry, *Tornerò*, in 2006 is viewed by many as one of the best songs to not win. In 2018, Romania failed to qualify for the Final for the very first time. A feat it repeated in 2019.

Song Title: *Amnesia*

Performing Artist: ROXEN [Larisa Roxana Giurgiu]

Composer(s): Adelina Stîngă, Viky Red

Lyricist(s): Adelina Stîngă, Viky Red

About the Performing Artist: Despite only beginning her music career in 2019, Giurgiu already has two chart topping songs, hitting #3 as the featured on Sickotoy's hit *You Don't Love Me* and #1 with her solo debut single *Ce-ți Cântă Dragostea*.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 13 **Grand Final Running Order TBD**

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Russia

Competing Broadcaster: Channel One Russia (C1R)

Debut: 1994 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2008)

Number of Entries: 24 **Worst Finish:** 17th place (1995)

A Brief History: Russia is one of the most successful countries in the Contest, only failing to qualify twice, 1996 and 2018, and finishing in the Top Ten 13 times, including one win, four 2nd places, and four 3rd places.

Song Title: *RUSSIAN WOMAN*

Performing Artist: Manizha [Manizha Sanghin]

Composer(s): Ori Avni, Ori Kaplan

Lyricist(s): Manizha Sanghin

About the Performing Artist: Sanghin was born in Tajikistan and is ethnically Persian. She comes from a lineage of feminist activists; her grandmother was one of the first Tajik women to stop wearing a veil. Sanghin follows this path through her advocacy work and activism on behalf of children's health, victims and survivors of domestic violence (for which she released an app), and LGBTQ+ people. Her music career began when she was 12 and started winning competitions and awards across the former Soviet states.

Semi-Final 1 , Running Order 03

Grand Final Running Order TBD



San Marino

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

Debut: 2008 **Best Finish:** 19th place (2019)

Number of Entries: 11 **Worst Finish:** 24th place (2014)

A Brief History: San Marino has qualified for the Final twice, on Valentina Monetta's third (consecutive) attempt in 2014 and on Serhat's return in 2019 with *Say Na Na Na* , which climbed to tenth in the televote.

Song Title: *Adrenalina* [Adrenaline]

Performing Artist: Senhit [Senhit Zadik Zadik] feat. Flo Rida [Tramar Dillard]

Composer(s): Thomas Stengaard, Joy Deb, Linnea Deb, Jimmy Thörnfeldt, Kenny Silverdique, Suzi Pancenkov, Malou Linn Eloise Ruotsalainen, Chanel Tukia, Senhit Zadik Zadik, Tramar Dillard

Lyricist(s): Thomas Stengaard, Joy Deb, Linnea Deb, Jimmy Thörnfeldt, Kenny Silverdique, Suzi Pancenkov, Malou Linn Eloise Ruotsalainen, Chanel Tukia, Senhit Zadik Zadik, Tramar Dillard

About the Performing Artist: Senhit was SM's second-ever performer back in 2011. She started as a musical theatre actress before moving to dance and edm genres after competing in ESC. Flo Rida is one of the biggest rappers from the early 2010s, having earned four Grammy nominations in as many years, and continues to write and perform on hits to this day.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 01

Grand Final Running Order TBD

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Serbia

Competing Broadcaster: Radio Television of Serbia (RTS)

Debut: 2007 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2007)

Number of Entries: 13 **Worst Finish:** 18th place (2016, 2019)

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 eight out of eleven times.

Song Title: *LOCO LOCO*

Performing Artist: Hurricane [Sanja Vučić, Ivana Nikolić, Ksenija Knežević]

Composer(s): Nemanja Antonić, Darko Dimitrov

Lyricist(s): Sanja Vučić

About the Performing Artist: Vučić is a philology student and polyglot. She also represented Serbia in 2016. Nikolić is an economics student and championship dancer. Knežević studies media and piano; she was a backing singer for her father's 2015 entry for Montenegro. Hurricane formed in 2018 in Saint Martin and is now based in L.A.

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 09

Grand Final Running Order TBD



Slovenia

Competing Broadcaster: Radiotelevizija Slovenija (RTV SLO)

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

Number of Entries: 26 **Worst Finish:** 2nd Last (2014)

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

Song Title: *Amen*

Performing Artist: Ana Soklič

Composer(s): Ana Soklič, Žiga Pirnat, Bojan Simončič

Lyricist(s): Charlie Mason, Ana Soklič, Žiga Pirnat

About the Performing Artist: Soklič has been studying vocal performance her whole life in opera, pop, jazz, and R&B. She has performed across Europe and in Dubai. At 2019's Slovenian Song Festival, Soklič won two jury awards. She also performs with orchestras, singing jazz standards.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 02

Grand Final Running Order TBD

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Spain

Competing Broadcaster: Televisión Española (TVE)

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

Number of Entries: 60 **Worst Finish:** Last (1962, 1965, 1983, 1999)

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

Song Title: *Voy a Quedarme* [I'm Going to Stay]

Performing Artist: Blas Cantó [Blas Cantó Moreno]

Composer(s): Blas Cantó, Leroy Sánchez, Daniel Ortega, Dan Hammond

Lyricist(s): Blas Cantó, Leroy Sánchez, Daniel Ortega, Dan Hammond

About the Performing Artist: Cantó first reached fame as part of the boy band Auryn, which released four albums - two went gold, two went platinum - and had six top ten charting hits. The band split in 2016 and Cantó began a solo career, which started when he won the celebrity singing competition *Tu Cara Me Suena*. Both the original and rerelease of his debut album, *Complicado*, reached #1.

Votes in Semi-Final 2

Grand Final Running Order TBA



Sweden

Competing Broadcaster: Sveriges Television (STV)

Debut: 1958 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1974, 1983, 1991, 1999, 2012, 2015)

Number of Entries: 60 **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: *Voices*

Performing Artist: Tusse [Tousin Michael Chiza]

Composer(s): Joy Deb, Linnea Deb, Jimmy "Joker" Thörnfeldt, Anderz Wrethov

Lyricist(s): Joy Deb, Linnea Deb, Jimmy "Joker" Thörnfeldt, Anderz Wrethov

About the Performing Artist: Chiza began his career in 2018, at the age of 16, when he was a semi-finalist on *Talang 2018* (Sweden's *Got Talent*) and cemented his rising star the following year by winning *Swedish Idol*. Chiza is of Congolese descent and talks openly about the racism he has faced.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 04

Grand Final Running Order TBD

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



Switzerland

Competing Broadcaster: The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SSR SRG)

Debut: 1956 **Best Finish:** 1st place (1956, 1987)

Number of Entries: 61 **Worst Finish:** Last (1964, 1967, 1974, 1998, 2011)

A Brief History: Switzerland started off with a bang, hosting and winning the very first ESC. They won again in 1987 recruiting a rising star from Canada: Céline Dion. Since 2004, CH has been in five Finals, reaching the Top Ten in 2005 and 2019.

Song Title: *Tout l'Universe* [The Whole Universe]

Performing Artist: Gjon's Tears [Gjon Muharremaj]

Composer(s): Wouter Hardy, Nina Sampermans, Gjon Muharremaj, Xavier Miche

Lyricist(s): Wouter Hardy, Nina Sampermans, Gjon Muharremaj

About the Performing Artist: Muharremaj's stage name comes from when he brought his grandfather to tears at the age of nine by singing. Three years later, his grandfather brought him to his native Albania for *Albania's Got Talent*, where Muharremaj finished 3rd. He then went to be a semi-finalist on *Die Grössten Schweizer Talente* and *The Voice* (France).

Semi-Final 2, Running Order 16

Grand Final Running Order TBD



Ukraine

Competing Broadcaster: Suspilne (UA:PBC)

Debut: 2003 **Best Finish:** 1st place (2004, 2016)

Number of Entries: 16 **Worst Finish:** Second Last (2017)

A Brief History: Despite its relatively few entries, Ukraine has proven itself a force to be reckoned with; collecting two wins, two second-places, another five Top Ten places, and a 100% qualification record.

Song Title: *SHUM* [Noise]

Performing Artist: Go_A [Kateryna Pavlenko, Ihor Didenchuk, Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Hryhoriak]

Composer(s): Taras Shevchenko, Kateryna Pavlenko

Lyricist(s): Kateryna Pavlenko

About the Performing Artist: Producer Shevchenko and singer Pavlenko met in 2012 and formed Go_A as a call to move towards alpha - the beginning - intertwining traditional folk sounds and techniques with modern beats and presentation. All four members are avid folklorists. In 2016, the band won *The Best Track in Ukraine* with *Vesnianka*, this began an international career of performing in festivals around Europe and the Mediterranean.

Semi-Final 1, Running Order 15

Grand Final Running Order TBD

Eurovision Obsession Presents: ESC 2021 Country Profiles



United Kingdom

Competing Broadcaster: British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

Debut: 1957 **Best Finish:** 1st place (67, 69, 78, 82, 98)

Number of Entries: 63 **Worst Finish:** Last (2003, 2008, 2010)

A Brief History: The UK, while tied for third 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, the most recent in 2009.

Song Title: *Embers*

Performing Artist: James Newman

Composer(s): James Newman, Conor Blake, Danny Shah, Tom Hollings, Samuel Brennan

Lyricist(s): James Newman, Conor Blake, Danny Shah, Tom Hollings, Samuel Brennan

About the Performing Artist: At 35, Newman is already an accomplished songwriter, having worked with some of the UK's and US' biggest stars (including his younger brother John). He's penned several chart-topping tracks, the 2014 Brit Award winner for British Single of the Year, and two Grammy nominated songs. He has eight singles as a vocalist, including Dutch DJ Armin van Buuren's hit *Therapy*, which charted in Belgium, the Netherlands, and the US.

Votes in Semi-Final 2

Grand Final Running Order TBA