



POPBITCH

**Eurovision  
2019**







# First Half

## Songs #1-13





# Pt. 1: At A Glance

Unusually for Eurovision, a load of this year's big favourites have been drawn up in the first half. That means there's a lot of very polished performances to kick things off – but the first half doesn't traditionally tend to breed winners, so we could be in for a shock...



#	Country	Which One Is That?
1	Malta	The inadvertant Culture Club sample will cause a few heads to turn
2	Albania	You do you, Albania. You do you.
3	Czech Rep.	A fun indie bop w/ spoken word hook and Early Learning Centre staging
4	Germany	Two vocalists doing screechy battle with one another over a toy piano
5	Russia	Sergey's back with more ambitious visuals and some sullen moody beats
6	Denmark	The 'quirky girl' message of love
7	San Marino	70s-sounding Euro lounge lizardry
8	N. Macedonia	A lady and a piano trying to tug at your heartstrings
9	Sweden	Dependable as ever, this has real echoes of Austria's entry last year
10	Slovenia	This year's worthy hipster choice
11	Cyprus	They found a formula with <i>Fuego</i> and they're really sticking to it
12	Netherlands	Earnest, haunting song about a dead mate – the bookies' favourite
13	Greece	A big-lunged banger



# Malta

Here's a little fact that will make you want to scream until you taste blood. [Culture Club's Karma Chameleon](#) (from which this song lifts a very distinctive vocal hook) was released in 1983. Michela was born in 2001. Meaning that *Karma Chameleon* is twice as old as she is...



Artist Michela

Song [Chameleon](#)

Language English

Key Bb minor

Key Change No

Tempo 98bpm

Songwriters Four *(inc. two Swedes)*

Sounds Like Zara Larsson x Rizzle Kicks

Looks Like Joss Stone

Reality TV [First winner of X Factor Malta](#) (2019)

Weird Lyrics *"The grass is always greener /  
When you love me deeper, darlin' /  
I can be your jungle"*

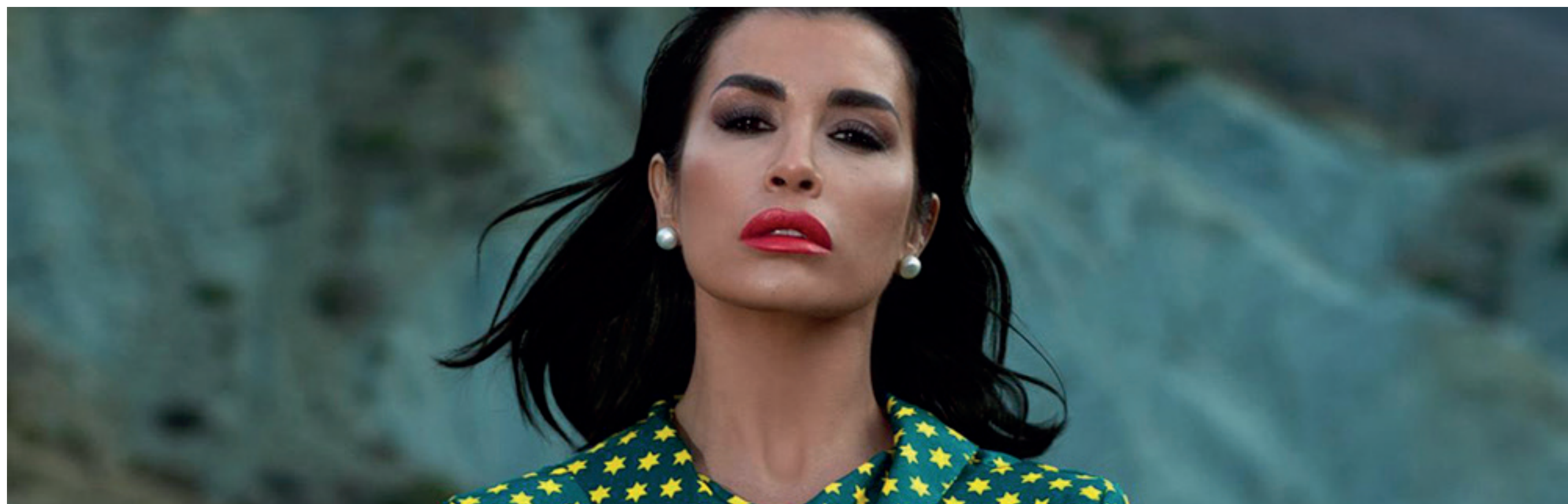
Other Notes Co-written by Joacim Persson and Boris Milanov – the team behind some big Top 5 finishers in recent contests: [If Love Was A Crime](#) (4th, 2016), [Beautiful Mess](#) (2nd, 2017) and [Nobody But You](#) (3rd, 2018)



# Albania

We'll say this for Albania. They might not always have the strongest entries.

That's it. That's all we'll say.



Artist Jonida Maliqi

Song [Ktheju Tokës](#)

Language Albanian

Key Eb minor

Key Change No

Tempo 116bpm

Songwriters Two

Sounds Like Fuck knows

Looks Like Albania's answer to [the Cock Destroyers](#)

Reality TV [Top Fest](#) (2005)

[Top Fest](#) – with her friend Tuna (2006)

Other Notes We cannot imagine who on earth would feel moved to pick up their phone and lend this song their vote, so this is almost certainly doomed to be left behind.

That said, the British public has a decent track record of putting its weight behind lost causes – so maybe we'll rally round?



# Czech Republic

Hey, hey, we're the Mockneys!  
And people say we Mockney around!



Artist Lake Malawi  
Song [Friend Of A Friend](#)

Language English

Key D minor  
Key Change No  
Tempo 106bpm  
Songwriters Three *(inc. lead singer Albert)*

Sounds Like Van She  
Looks Like Uniqlo models

Other Notes The band claim they took the inspiration for their name from [the Bon Iver song Calgary](#) because he mentions a lake in it – even though Lake Malawi is 15,000km away from most of Calgary's major bodies of water.

If you're curious about the relative mineral contents of Lake Malawi's water vs Calgary's primary reservoirs, then [the Calgary Aquarium Society has you covered.](#)



# Germany

Laurita from S!sters first made her name as a child star, singing a rewritten version of Alcazar's [Crying At The Discotheque](#) – all about how mad she is that her dad makes her brush her teeth and play with cuddly toys when what she really wants to do is [disco dance with Rambo...](#)



Artist **S!sters**

Song [Sister](#)

Language **English**

Key **C Major**

Key Change **No**

Tempo **72bpm**

Songwriters **Four**

Sounds Like **A lead balloon**

Looks Like **Daphne and Celeste gone straight**

Reality TV **Carlotta:** [Das Supertalent](#) (2009)

Runner-up on [The Voice Kids Germany](#) (2014)

**Laurita:** [Kiddy Contest](#) (2002)

Fourth place in *Star Search*

Weird Lyrics *"Tired of competing / I tried to hold you under / But honey you kept breathing"*

Other Notes **Germany has come dead last twice in the last five years, so you'd hope they'd be more careful than to risk a hat-trick like this.**



# Russia

Back to claim what he clearly feels was rightly his, Sergey lost the throne in 2016 to [a Ukranian song about Stalinist war crimes](#). Having set an extremely high bar with the [staging of his previous entry](#), he's going to need to pull out something pretty special this year...



Artist **Sergey Lazarev**

Song [Scream](#)

Language **English**

Key **G minor**

Key Change **No**

Tempo **62bpm**

Time Sig **6/8**

Songwriters **Two**

Sounds Like **Ultravox**

Looks Like **Jeremy Renner**

Other Notes Like Sergey's previous entry, this too was written by Eurovision stalwarts Dimitris Kontopoulos and [Philipp Kirkorov](#).

Among others, Kontopoulos has been behind three Top Three songs ([Shady Lady](#), 2008; [Hold Me](#) 2013; [You Are The Only One](#), 2016). Kirkorov co-wrote all of those too – but he also [represented Russia himself in 1995](#).



# Denmark

There's always one touchy-feely number about how we all ought to love one another and not let our differences divide us – but if this twee shit is the sort of thing we can expect as a reward then, quite honestly, Leonara can stuff it up her hoop.



Artist Leonara

Song [Love Is Forever](#)

Language English / French / Danish / German

Key Db Major

Key Change No

Tempo 136bpm

Songwriters Three

Sounds Like Zooey Deschanel

Looks Like A *Grazia* columnist

Other Notes Singing in another language is an easy way to Hoover up votes from other countries. Using English is the most common tactic, but by adding French and German you get potential bonus bumps from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

Most languages in a single song? Norway, 1973. [It's Just A Game](#) had English, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, German, Hebrew, Serbo-Croat, Finnish, Irish and Norwegian.



# San Marino

We knew San Marino had a tiny population (approx. 33,000; roughly the same as Bridlington) but we didn't realise they had so few available acts on hand. Still, better to see Serhat again [than getting Valentina Monetta for the fifty millionth time...](#)



Artist Serhat

Song [Say Na Na Na](#)

Language English

Key C# minor

Key Change No

Tempo 118bpm

Songwriters Two

Sounds Like Charles Aznavour x Pet Shop Boys

Looks Like Gianluca Vialli

Weird Lyrics *"Don't forget my number, call me anytime / I will always tell you life is beautiful and fine"*

Other Notes Serhat is a qualified dentist, who broke into showbiz as [the host of the Turkish version of Jeopardy](#) – a quiz show called *Riziko*.



# North Macedonia

Making their debut as North Macedonia this year, the formerly Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia now has a chance to wipe the slate clean. As FYROM, they had a very rough decade – only qualifying for the final once in the last 11 years. So the rebrand seems to be working.



Artist Tamara Todevska

Song [Proud](#)

Language English

Key F minor

Key Change Yes

Tempo 92bpm

Songwriters Five

Sounds Like Celine Dion

Looks Like Someone who does the makeover slot on *This Morning*

Other Notes Tamara is another of the five acts returning to Eurovision for another shot at the crown.

She first appeared as a backing vocalist at the 2004 contest (singing on [Life](#) by Toše Proeski) then appeared as an artist in her own right as part of the band Tamara, Vrčak and Adrijan ([Let Me Love You](#), 2008).

She was the Tamara. Obviously.



# Sweden

Not content with being masters of the modern contest, Swedes are now doubling up their workloads just to keep things interesting for themselves. For not only did John Lundvik write this song (which is one of the bookmakers' favourites) he also wrote the UK's. (Which isn't...)



Artist John Lundvik

Song [Too Late For Love](#)

Language English

Key C Major

Key Change Yes *(Two semitones)*

Tempo 105bpm

Songwriters Three

Sounds Like Sam Smith with something to smile about

Looks Like Alex Oxlade Chamberlain

Other Notes From the looks of his CV, John Lundvik appears to be the Gary Barlow of Scandinavia.

Not only was he roped in to write a song for a [Swedish royal wedding in 2010](#), he was called on to write the official song for [Sweden's Olympic Team in 2016](#), as well as multiple entries for Melodifestivalen and songs for TV and film.



# Slovenia

It's not often that Eurovision tosses out a song that could happily sit on the soundtrack to an indie movie about a millennial's quarter-life crisis, grappling with an estranged parent's secret addiction to prescription pain-killers – but Slovenia have made a decent fist of it.



Artist Zala Kralj & Gašper Šantl  
 Song [Sebi](#)

Language Slovene

Key G minor

Key Change No

Tempo 108bpm

Songwriters Two *(Zala and Gašper themselves)*

Sounds Like Rhye

Looks Like A brother and sister art collective

Other Notes Although this song was a prime candidate to get lost in among all the spectacle of the first semi, there is regularly a lot of love for an earnest indie boy-girl duo at Eurovision. So we reckon it squeaked through the semis – but is likely to be make very few ripples on the Saturday.



# Cyprus

The dark horse of last year's contest, Cyprus snatched a second place finish in 2018 with fan favourite [Fuego](#). It looks like they're aiming for a repeat performance in 2019 by sending a sunbleached carbon copy of it. Which, without trace of irony, they've called... *Replay*.



Artist Tamta

Song [Replay](#)

Language English

Key B minor

Key Change No

Tempo 102bpm

Songwriters Five *(inc. one Swede)*

Sounds Like Sia x Rihanna

Looks Like Ellie Goulding

Reality TV Runner up on [Super Idol Greece](#) (2004)

Judge on [X Factor Georgia](#), [X Factor Greece](#)

Weird Lyrics At one point it sounds like she's saying she's "shitting her body" – but the actual lyric is "*Them sheets need my body.*"

Other Notes Tamta is Georgian-Greek. It's always handy, from a tactical standpoint, to send an artist with ties to a different country as you are well-poised to soak up their 12 points.



# The Netherlands

You might think that a song written about the untimely death of a friend is a bit miserable to win a Saturday night singing contest, but if [a trip-hop song about the ethnic cleansing of 200,000 Crimean Tatars](#) can do it, then this really has no excuse not to walk it...



Artist Duncan Laurence

Song [Arcade](#)

Language English

Key A minor

Key Change No

Tempo 72bpm

Time Sig Verses 6/4; Choruses 4/4

Songwriters Three

Sounds Like James Blake

Looks Like Aaron Ramsey

Reality TV Series 5 of [The Voice Of Holland](#) (2014)

Other Notes The bookies' favourite by some margin, it's been causing the press room in Tel Aviv to fall into a rapt silence in rehearsals. If it does win though, it'll make for a wildly anticlimactic end to the show. A mournful ditty about a dead friend as the credits roll, when the crowd should be waving flags and glitter cannons are meant to be bursting?



# Greece

Remember David Sneddon? The cute little spiky haired Scottish kid off of *Fame Academy*? Well, when he's not busy writing songs for Lana Del Rey, Nicole Scherzinger and Olly Murs, he's busy helping the Greeks get better placings in Eurovision than the Brits. Cheers, pal!



Artist Katerine Duska

Song [Better Love](#)

Language English

Key Eb Major

Key Change No

Tempo 88bpm

Songwriters Four

Sounds Like Florence Welch

Looks Like Marina Diamandis

Other Notes Canadian-Greek Katerine is really keen to let it be known that she has proper indie credentials. Something she's attempted to demonstrate by doing a John Lewis ad/ Live Lounge-style version of the Arctic Monkeys' [Do I Wanna Know?](#)





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**EUROVISION**





# Second Half

## Songs #14-26





# Pt. 2: At A Glance

This is where the real business begins. The voices get weird, the costumes get fancy, the lights and pyros start in earnest. Just make sure you pace yourself throughout because you won't want to crash out before you reach the end of this...

#	Country	Which One Is That?
14	Israel	Don't hurry back from the interval; you're not going to miss much
15	Norway	Huge 'bald bloke from Aqua' vibes
16	U.K.	Also written by Sweden's entrant, this is the B-side to their A-side
17	Iceland	Leather-clad BDSM electro-glitch growlers; perverted and brilliant
18	Estonia	Could have been a ditched Katy Perry demo from 2012
19	Belarus	Strong Radio 1/Spotify playlist pop
20	Azerbaijan	Slightly static robot laser heart surgery show with a high pitch jam
21	France	A genderfluid empowerment anthem in the vague mould of Conchita
22	Italy	A prominent underdog; genuinely a good track
23	Serbia	If you need a loo break, go now; her voice will carry well enough
24	Switzerland	Slick stuff from a Swiss Liam Payne; definite contender for a Top 5 finish
25	Australia	Sydney opera/house
26	Spain	A welcome final blast of sunshine, colour and energy



# Israel

Hosting the Eurovision Song Contest gives countries a chance to showcase their nation's culture, music and personality to the wider world. So it's a bold choice Israel from here, taking this prestigious opportunity to make themselves look absolutely boring as fuck.



Artist Kobi Marimi

Song [Home](#)

Language English

Key G minor

Key Change No

Tempo 60bpm

Songwriters Two

Sounds Like Russell Watson

Looks Like If CJ de Mooi had been cast as Freddie Mercury in *Bohemian Rhapsody*

Reality TV [Rising Star](#) (2019)

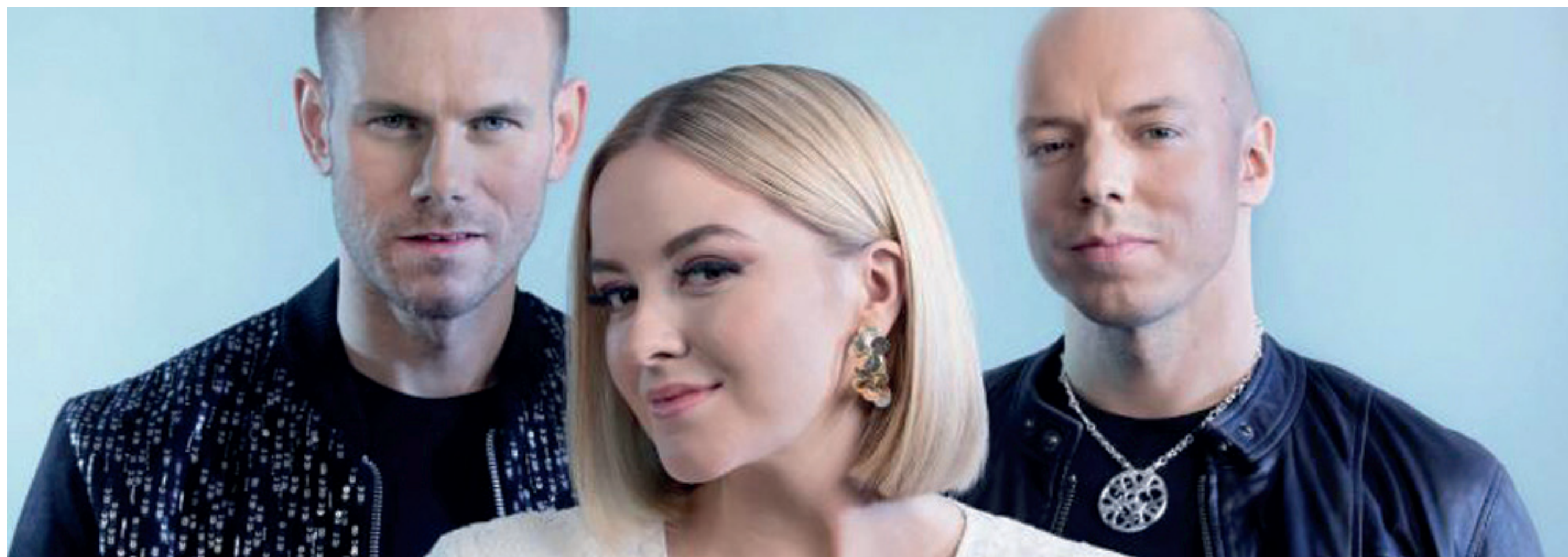
Weird Lyrics *"Nothing comes as easy as it goes / I can hug the water when it snows"*

Other Notes Kobi is already making his excuses, saying: *"I could win, I could be last place... For me it's not a competition. I'll win if I know that I did my best..."*  
Oh, aye?



# Norway

It's always nice when countries attempt to fold in a little nod to their own folk traditions and indigenous cultures. However, getting a bald bloke to growl some lines of Sami over the uptempo pop beat gives KEiINO a weird, potentially unintended *Barbie Girl* energy.



Artist KEiINO

Song [Spirit In The Sky](#)

Language English / Northern Sami

Key D minor

Key Change No

Tempo 122bpm

Songwriters Six

Sounds Like **Bridge:** Carly Rae Jepsen

**Chorus:** Aqua

Looks Like A bad Cardigans tribute

Reality TV Fred-René (the one singing in Sami) was on [Norway's Got Talent](#) (2008)

Alexandra was on [Norwegian Idol](#) (2016)

Other Notes As well as singing in Sami, Fred-René has also taken a seat on the Sami Parliament of Norway, serving in various positions between 2013-17.

The style of singing in Sami is called *joik*.



# United Kingdom

Listen. We're sure Michael Rice is a nice lad. People who have bumped into him have told us he's very sweet. But until Britain quells its bonk-on the sorts of songs that even Simon Cowell has stopped giving his *X Factor* finalists as prizes, we will continue to fail at this.



Artist Michael Rice

Song [Bigger Than Us](#)

Language English

Key C Major

Key Change Yes *(Every fucking time...)*

Tempo 82bpm

Songwriters Four

Sounds Like A Center Parcs ad

Looks Like The lovechild of Chris Maloney and Sam Smith

Reality TV Winner of Series 1 of [All Together Now](#)

Other Notes Our big problem this year isn't Brexit. It's that the Swedes have given us a slightly less good version of the same song that they've entered themselves. We've got a better spot in the running order – but if people do want to vote for a big, whooshy song with a choir and a key change, then they'll probably be voting for Sweden.



# Iceland

Some of the more conservative countries in the contest lost their collective shit when [a bearded lady won in 2014](#), lamenting that Eurovision had become a “hotbed of sodomy”. What will they make of electropunk BDSM growlers Hatari? No idea – but we can’t wait to find out.



Artist Hatari

Song [Hatrið mun sigra](#)

Language Icelandic

Key E minor

Key Change Yes *(One semitone)*

Tempo 110bpm

Songwriters Three

Sounds Like Marilyn Manson goes electro

Looks Like Sexually deviant Mortal Kombat characters

Weird Lyrics The official translation of the opening lines:  
*"Debauchery unconstrained! /  
 Hangover uncontained!"*

Other Notes The lad in the spiky mask (on top of the cage, bashing it with a huge cotton bud) is the son of Iceland’s ambassador to the UK.

The children of Iceland have really taken to Hatari, [making their own costumes](#), [forming tribute acts](#) and [singing at school concerts](#).



# Estonia

The well-established cheat in Eurovision is to hire a Swede to write your song but Estonia's decided to go one further. They've hired a Swede to come and perform it too. Born in Österåker and discovered in Stockholm by [Estonia's Simon Cowell](#), Victor is a massive ringer...



Artist Victor Crone  
Song [Storm](#)

Language English

Key D Major  
Key Change No  
Tempo 128bpm *(Eurovision poison; the worst tempo)*  
Songwriters Three

Sounds Like A wet tribute to Avicii

Looks Like A sketchy nightclub owner in *Hollyoaks*

Other Notes Although the UK's entry last year (also called [Storm](#)) would suggest the opposite, inclement weather is actually a fairly strong topic to sing about. Songs that feature rain, thunder, lightning and storms in the lyrics consistently come in the Top Three:

- [Heroes](#) (1st)
- [You're The Only One](#) (3rd)
- [Calm After The Storm](#) (2nd)
- [Hard Rock Hallelujah](#) (1st)



# Belarus

After years of trying – and failing – to represent her home nation [in the reliably unwatchable noncefest that is Junior Eurovision](#), Zena has finally won the Belarusian nomination for the adult competition. (And can probably still count on the nonce vote too...)



Artist ZENA  
Song [Like It](#)

Language English

Key G minor  
Key Change No  
Tempo 105bpm  
Songwriters Three

Sounds Like Dua Lipa  
Looks Like Chloe Madeley

Reality TV Third place of series 10 of [Fabrika Zvyozd](#)

Weird Lyrics *"Put your favourite sneakers on /  
And show your emotions on the floor /  
Add hashtag to find ya"*

Other Notes If you're into Russian-dubbed versions of Pixar movies then you'll have heard Zena before. [She's the voice of Moana in Moana in Russia.](#)



# Azerbaijan

After Robin Bengtsson got away with switching out all of his "[fuckin' beautiful](#)"s for "[freakin' beautiful](#)"s in his 2016 entry *I Can't Go On*, he started something of a trend. Now all the hunky, thinly bearded men at Eurovision want to half-swear on the telly.



Artist Chingiz  
Song [Truth](#)

Language English

Key G# minor  
Key Change No  
Tempo 101bpm  
Songwriters Six

Sounds Like Jungle *(the band, not the genre)*  
Looks Like Buff Mac from *It's Always Sunny*

Reality TV Winner of [Yeni Uldez](#) (2007)  
Series Six of [The Voice of Ukraine](#) (2016)

Other Notes This is also written by Joacim Persson and Borislav Milanov, who co-wrote Malta's entry this year (plus a bunch of other great tunes in the last five years, including hits like Poli Genova's [If Love Was A Crime](#), and sorely overlooked bangers like Jana Burčeska's [Dance Alone](#)).



# France

It was only a matter of time before YouTubers got their foot in the door at Eurovision, but at least the French gave theirs a half-decent song. It's not outside the realms of possibility that the UK would choose to send LadBaby in 2020 with another parody song about pasties.



Artist Bilal Hassani  
Song [Roi](#)

Language French / English

Key F# minor  
Key Change No  
Tempo 70bpm  
Songwriters Three

Sounds Like Conchita Wurst  
Looks Like Shangela

Reality TV [The Voice Kids](#) in France (2015)

Other Notes The song was co-written with the band Madame Monsieur, who you may remember as France's entry last year with [Mercy](#).

Bilal's wigs each have their own names. The one that's getting an outing on stage at Eurovision is called... "Eurovision" (or "Vivi" for short).



# Italy

Miles cooler than any Eurovision entry has any right to be, Mahmood has caused some tedious controversy among certain shitbag elements of Italian society who think the song is not "Italian enough" to represent them. Yeah, well, too bad. Go and cry to Il Volo or something.



Artist Mahmood  
Song [Soldi](#)

Language Italian / Arabic

Key Eb minor  
Key Change No  
Tempo 95bpm  
Songwriters Three

Sounds Like Drake  
Looks Like Zayn Malik on skag

Reality TV Series Six of [The X Factor](#) (2012) – making him the Joe McElderry of Italy

Other Notes This is the fourth time Arabic has been heard in the lyrics of a Eurovision Song Contest. The first was in 1980 ([Morocco's one and only entry, Bitaqat Hub](#)), then Israel in 2009 ([There Must Be Another Way](#)) and Denmark in 2012 ([Should Have Known Better](#))



# Serbia

The joy of Eurovision is that it's like a buffet. Want to try some Serbian adult-orientated waltz-rock, but don't want to risk a full plate of it? Here, Nevena offers you a three minute morsel to sample, which you can either choose to savour – or spit discreetly into your napkin...



Artist Nevena Božović

Song [Kruna](#)

Language Serbian / English

Key Ab minor

Key Change No

Time Sig 6/8

Tempo 53bpm

Songwriters One

Sounds Like Balkan power ballad

Looks Like A model in a Luc Besson film

Reality TV Runner-up on series two of [Prvi Glas Grbije](#)

Other Notes Nevena isn't new to Eurovision, as she was previously a member of the girl band Moje 3 ([Ljubav Je Svuda](#) in 2013).

More interesting though was her turn in [Junior Eurovision, in 2007.](#)



# Switzerland

Any handsome young singer/dancer is bound to snap up a decent chunk of the teenage girl vote – but Luca's early training as a bricklayer and later work as an underwear model means that he's probably got another very important bloc of Eurovision voters sewn up too.



Artist Luca Hänni  
Song [She Got Me](#)

Language English

Key B minor

Key Change No

Tempo 97bpm

Songwriters Five *(inc. two Swedes)*

Sounds Like Liam Payne

Looks Like Liam Payne

Reality TV [Deutschland Sucht Den Superstar](#) (2012)  
[Dance Dance Dance](#) (2017)

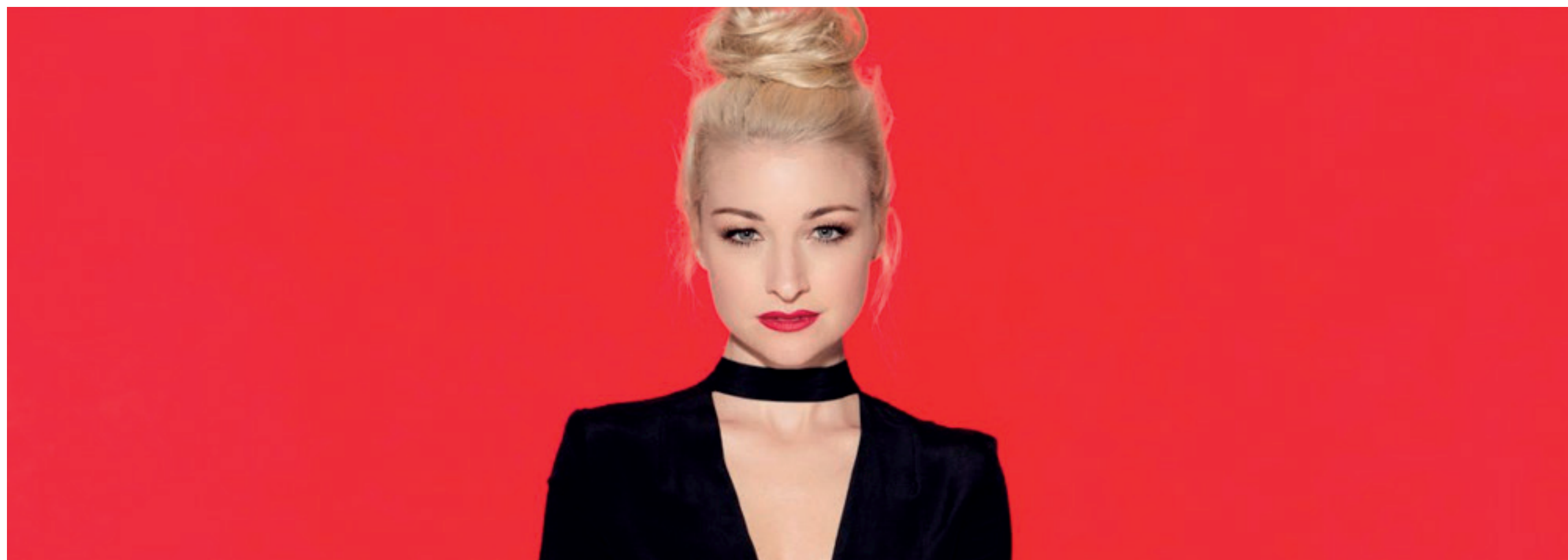
Weird Lyrics *"When she poured out a little spice / Got the whole place on a vibe"*

Other Notes If you aren't convinced by his moves, his looks or his gratuitous underwear shots, Luca is also an ambassador for children who suffer from the rare skin disorder *epidermolysis bullosa*.



# Australia

Given the worldwide success of the musical *Wicked*, it was only a matter of time before someone tried a twee, theatrical poperetta thing about a lack of gravity at Eurovision. The staging is catching everyone's attention – and it's been crawling up the bookies' markets too.



Artist Kate Miller-Heidke

Song [Zero Gravity](#)

Language English

Key Eb minor

Key Change No

Tempo 132bpm

Songwriters Three *(inc. Kate herself)*

Sounds Like Katherine Jenkins doing a bank advert

Looks Like Kaley Cuoco

Other Notes An opera singer in a huge, lighty-up, blue dress. Wherever did they get the idea...?





# Spain

It's very easy to rag on Spain for sending songs like this year after year – but in a contest where so many entries sound like generic Top 40 leisure centre radio pop, Miki actually provides a very welcome blast of energy and colour to the proceedings.



Artist Miki  
Song [La Venda](#)

Language Spanish

Key C minor  
Key Change No  
Tempo 148bpm  
Songwriters One

Sounds Like A World Cup single  
Looks Like A young Michael Ball

Other Notes Miki is also the vocalist of the Spanish cover band [Dalton Bang](#). They seem like fun.





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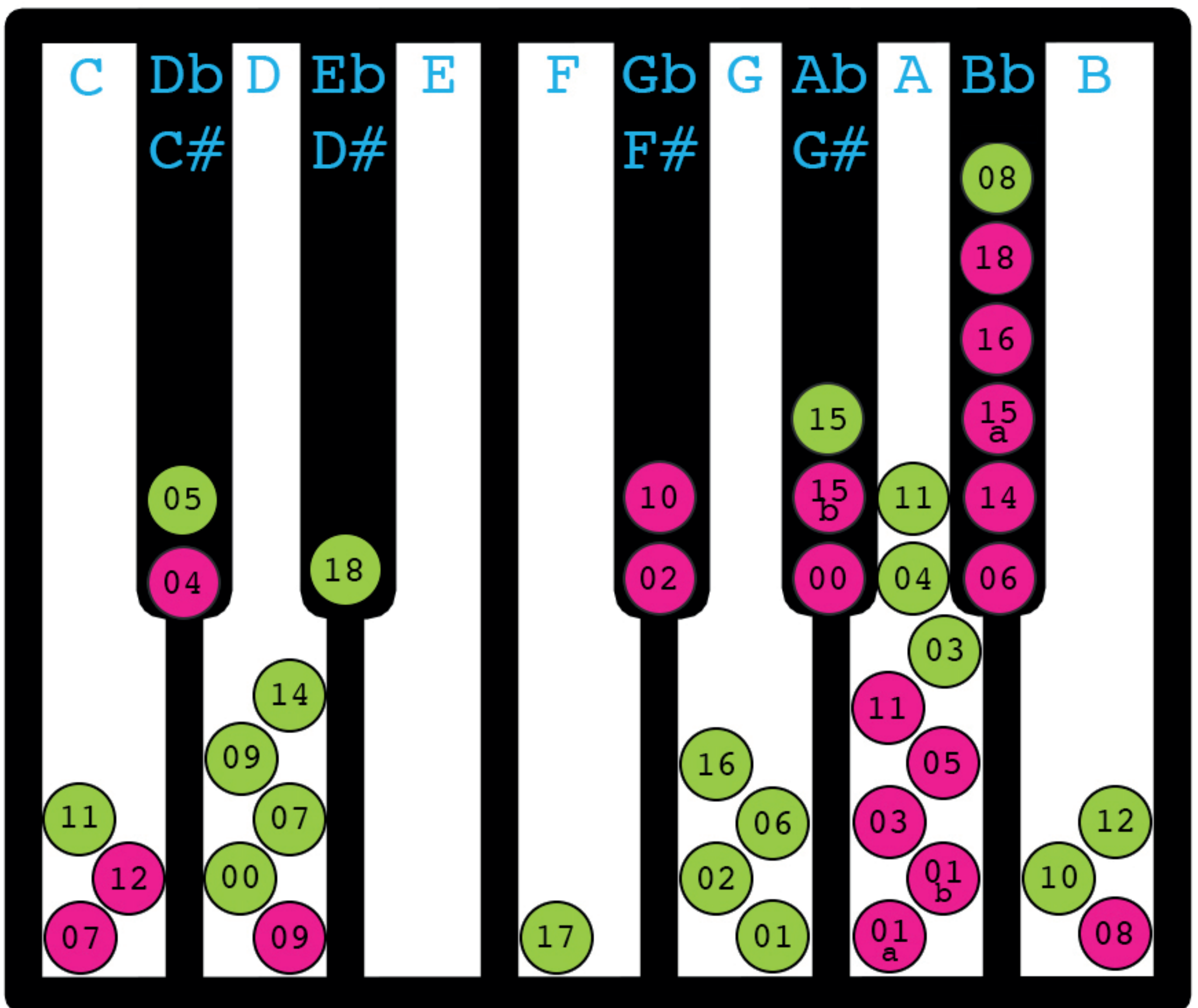
# The Stats





# The Key To Success

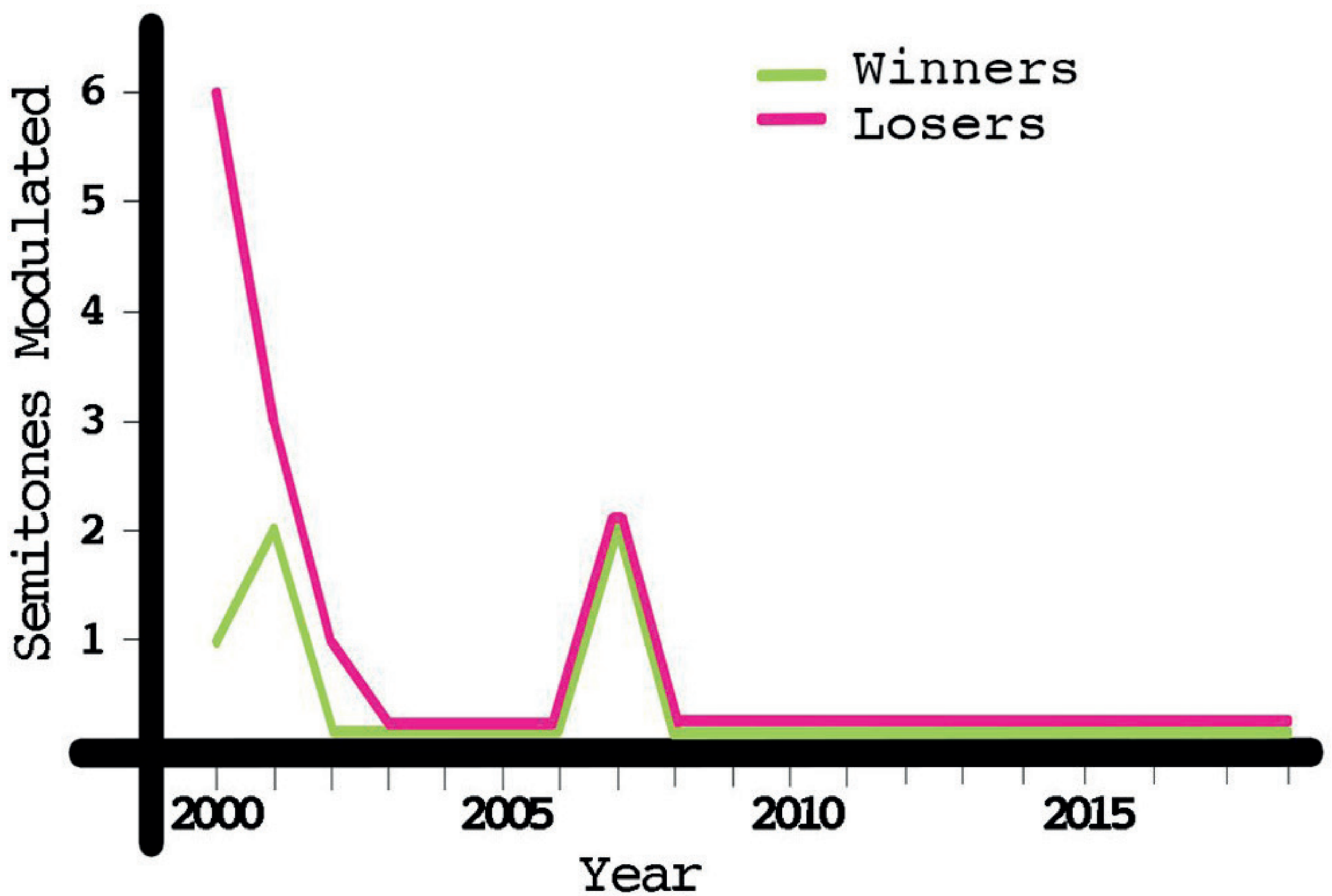
There's a common misconception about Eurovision songs all being happy, smiley, glitz and glitter. A look back at the last few years shows that you're actually much better served entering a song in a moody minor key – and steering well clear of major ones.





# Change Reaction

Everyone claims to love a key change. Everyone sticks "KEY CHANGE!!!" on their office Eurovision bingo cards – but do we actually like them? From the looks of things, we haven't seen a single winner over the last decade attempt one. Could it be that their day is done...?



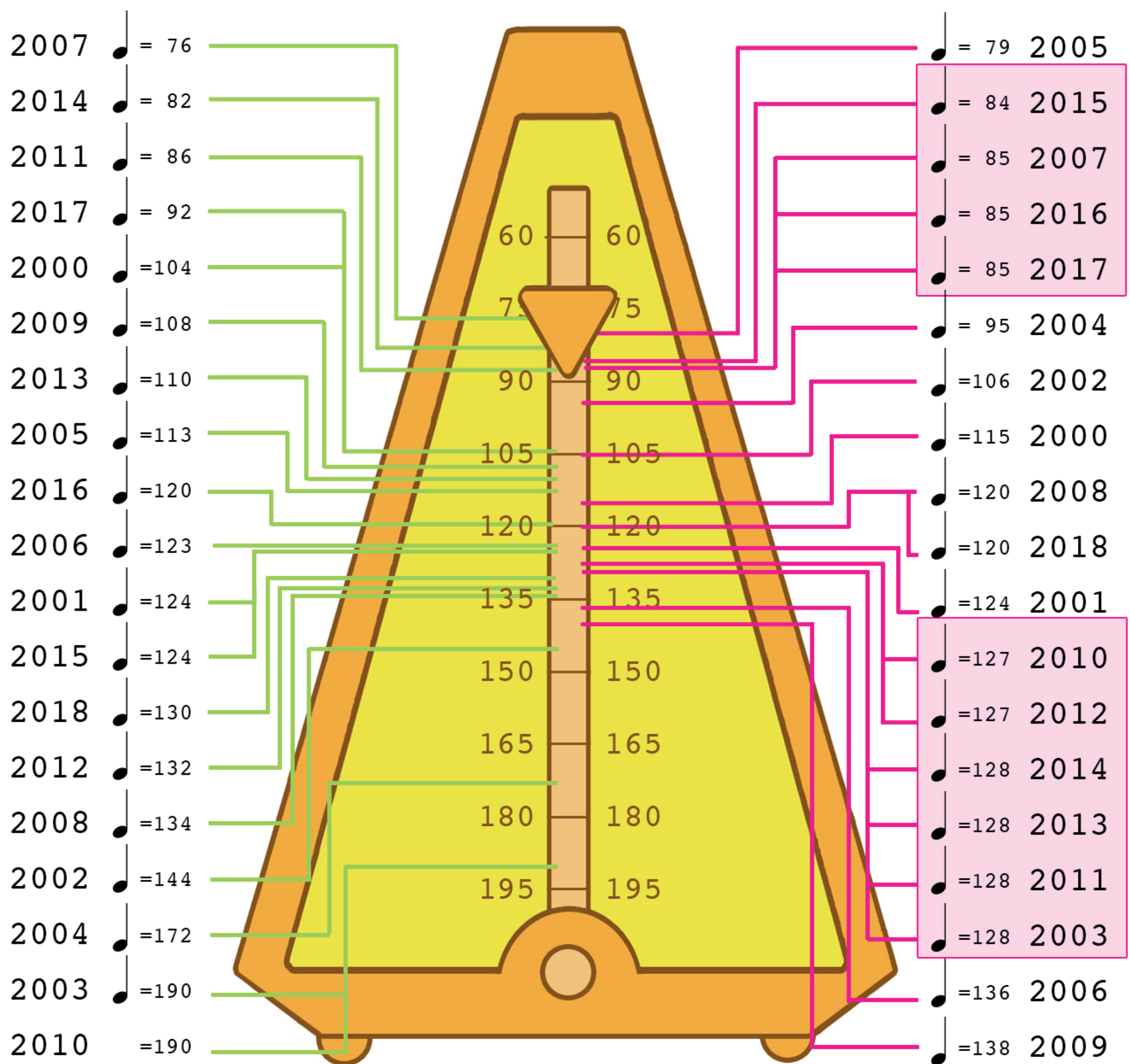


# A Need For Speed

The tempo is the heartbeat of a song; the rhythm to which it works. In a competition where you have a strict three-minute upper limit to adhere to, choosing your tempo is therefore a critical decision. And there are a couple you need to avoid: 128bpm and 85bpm.

## Winners

## Losers





# A Way With Words

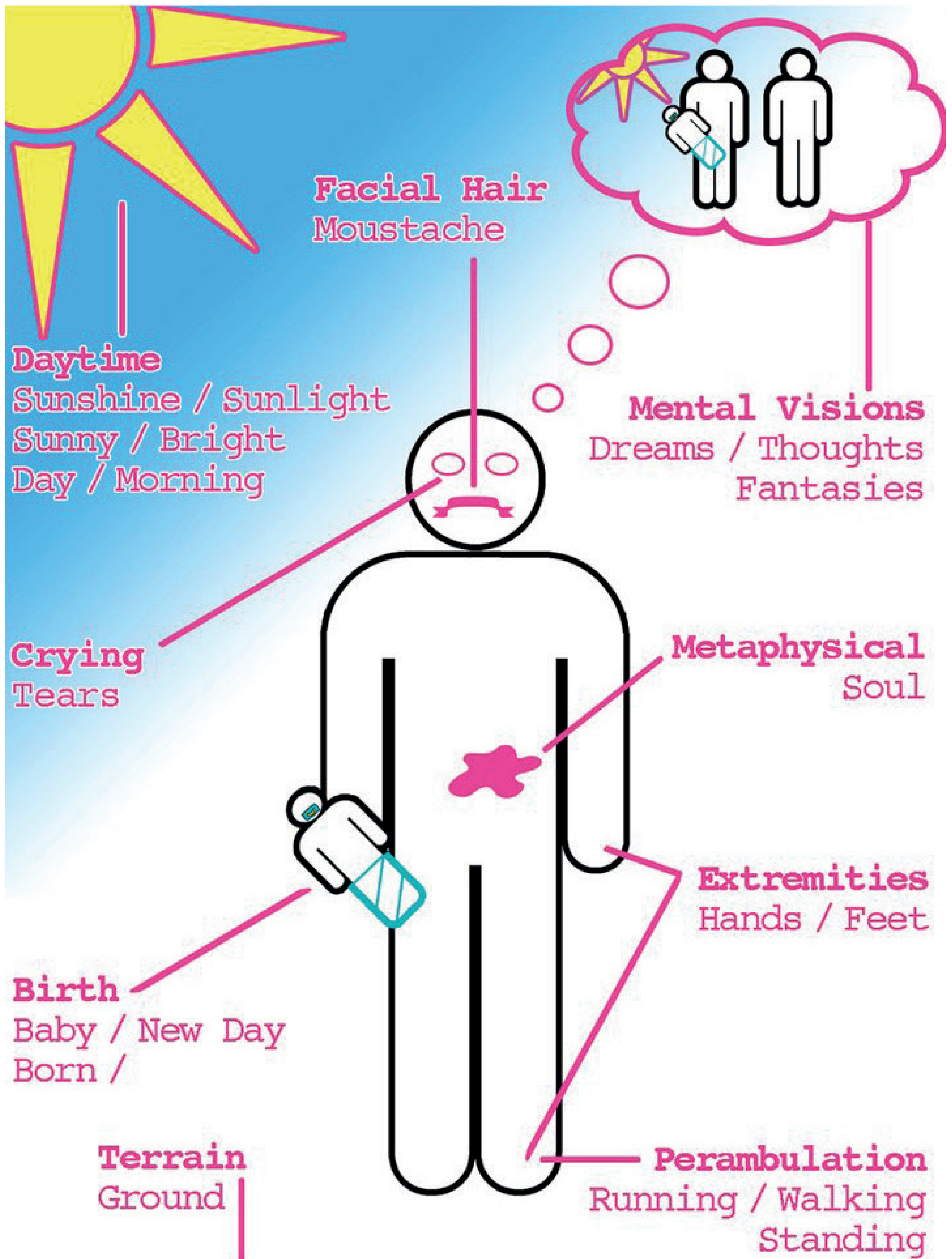
You might think that Eurovision lyrics are just a bunch of nonsense platitudes strung together in somebody's second language without much thought. Often, you'd be right. But there are a few patterns that have emerged with the winners...





# Bad Language

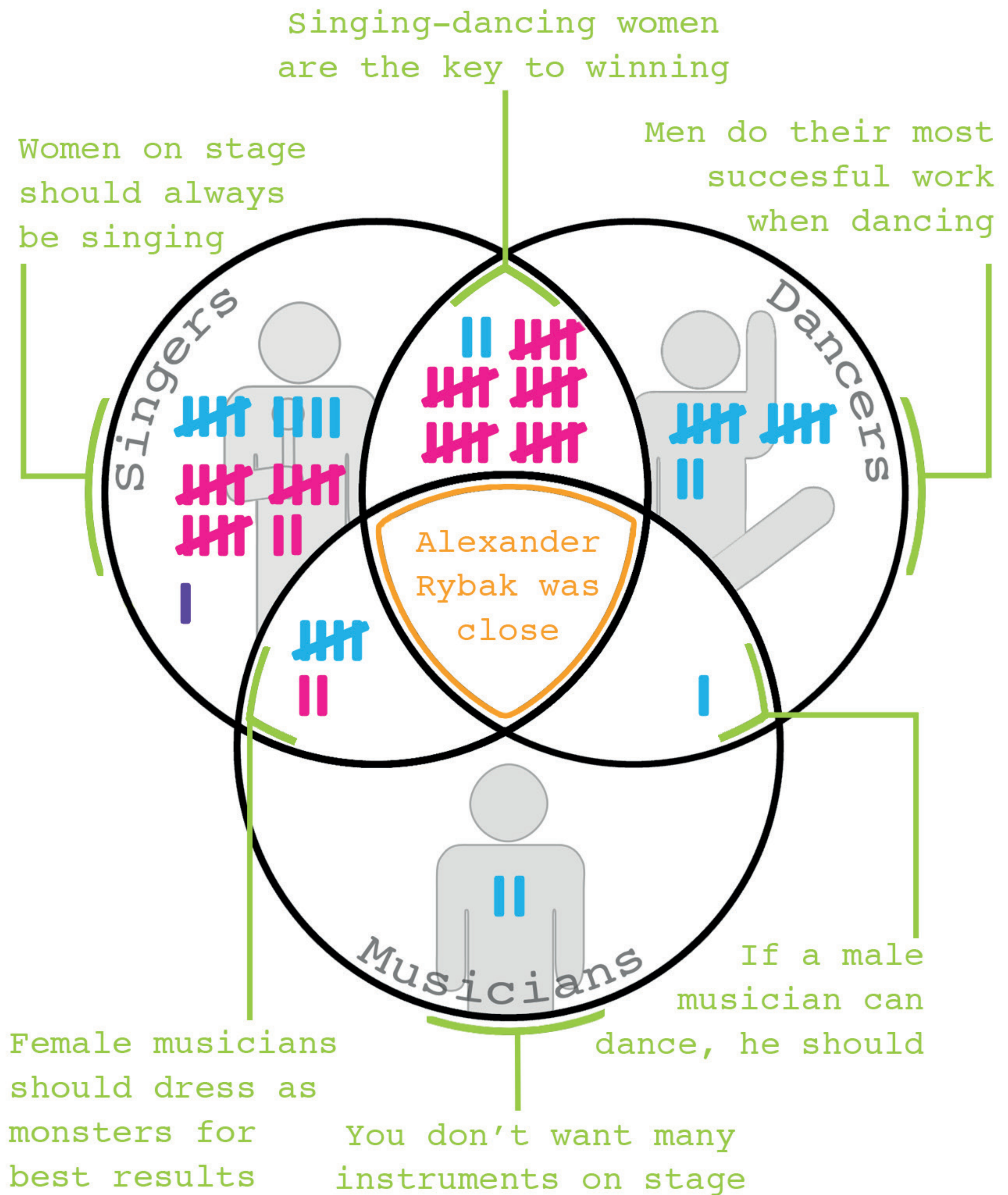
It's all very well knowing what to sing, but what should be left unsaid? There's a number of classic keyword traps that the novice Eurovision songwriter can fall into. So what words should you be avoiding if you don't want to come dead last?





# The Winning Combo

Up to six people can take to the stage per entry – either as singers, dancers, musicians or a combination of all three. How do winners use those bodies best?





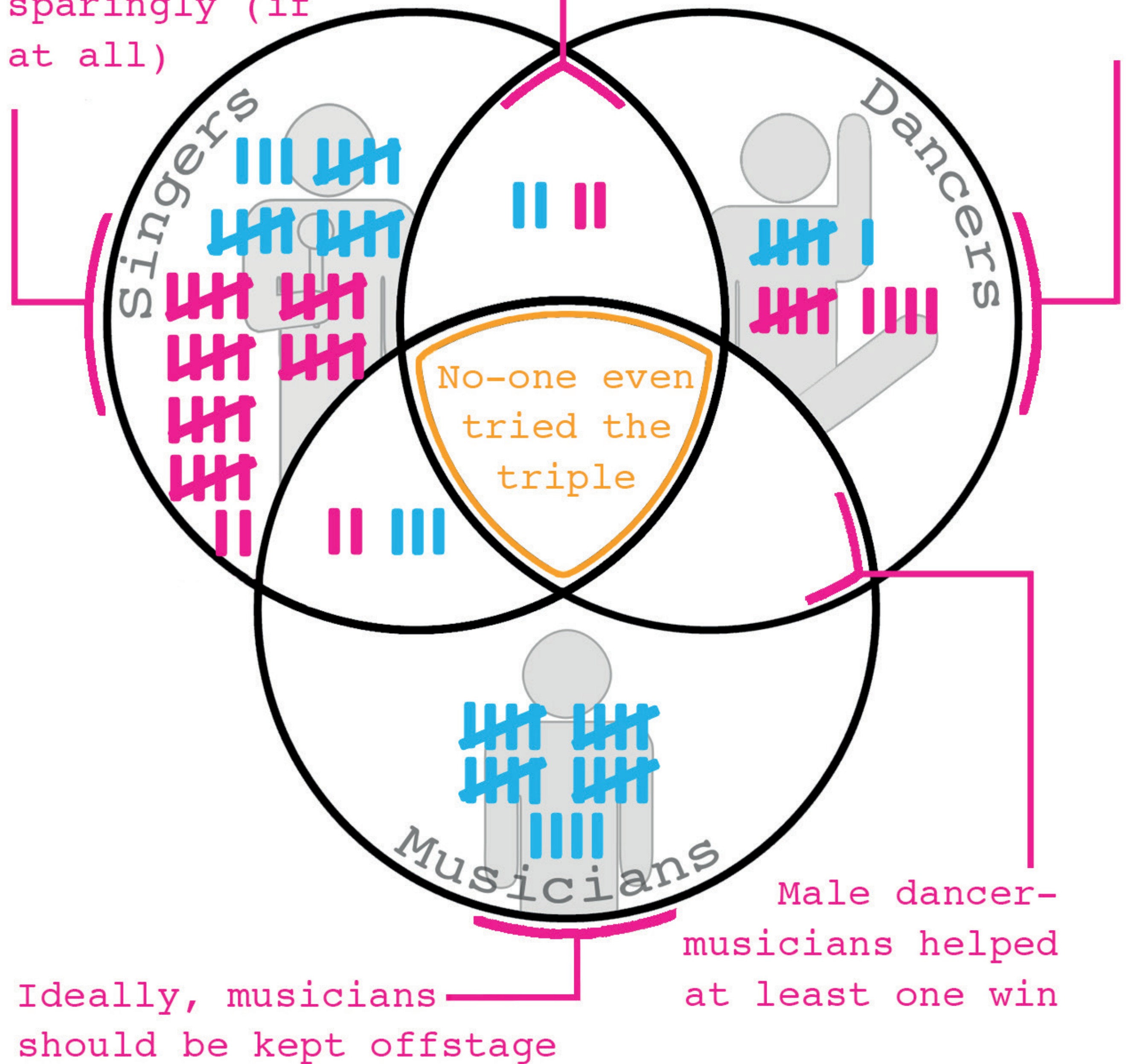
# A Bunch Of Losers

The more people you have on your stage, the more likely it is that someone will cock something up and kill your chances. So as well as making sure your backing performers are doing all the *right* things, you need to also make sure they aren't doing anything terrible...

Multitasking is helpful;  
losers don't even try

Backing singers  
should be used  
sparingly (if  
at all)

Female dancers  
need to sing





# Luck Of The Draw

Most crucial of all though is where you get placed in the running order. What should you be aiming for?

1	✗ 2008 ✗ 2001 <sub>(a)</sub>
2	✗ 2004
3	
4	✗ 2007 ✗ 2001 <sub>(b)</sub> ✓ 2003
5	
6	
7	✗ 2006
8	✗ 2018
9	
10	✗ 2000 ✗ 2016 ✓ 2004 ✓ 2015
11	✓ 2014 ✓ 2017
12	✗ 2012 ✗ 2010
13	✗ 2011
14	✗ 2002 ✗ 2014 ✗ 2015 ✓ 2000
15	✗ 2003
16	✗ 2017
17	✓ 2012 ✓ 2007 ✓ 2006 ✗ 2005
18	✓ 2013
19	✓ 2011 ✓ 2005
20	✓ 2009 ✓ 2001
21	✓ 2016
22	✓ 2010
23	✓ 2002 ✓ 2018
24	✗ 2009 ✓ 2008
25	
26	✗ 2013



# The Ones We Left Behind





# Montenegro

Why is it always such a crap shoot with Montenegro? Some years they give us amazing gay disco stompers with full ponytail choreography. Other years it's rapping dubstep astronauts with wailing alien cyborg ladies. This year? It's... well. This.



Artist D mol

Song Heaven

Language English

Key D Major

Key Change Yes *(One semitone)*

Tempo 92bpm

Songwriters Two

Sounds Like S Club 7

Looks Like A Level students on results day

Other Notes "D mol" is Montenegrin for "D minor" – one of the most successful keys in recent Eurovision history. Of the 24 commonly used keys in Western pop, D minor has won three times in the last 12 years (Serbia's *Molitva*; Norway's *Fairytale*; Austria's *Rise Like A Phoenix*) – six times more than random chance would suggest.

Sadly, D minor the band appear to have written their song in D major instead. Oops.



# Finland

It's been twenty years since Darude released *Sandstorm*: a song that's taken on [a whole new lease of life in the meme age](#). Now he's this year's Eurovision heritage act, stepping into the inglorious shoes of Blue ([11th](#)), Bonnie Tyler ([19th](#)) and Engelbert Humperdinck ([25th](#)).



Artist Darude ft. Sebastian Rejman

Song [Look Away](#)

Language English

Key B minor

Key Change No

Tempo 126bpm

Songwriters Two

Sounds Like Martin Garrix

Looks Like The last two decades have passed his chin by

Other Notes The star-producer/studio-vocalist combo is becoming a fairly standard set-up at Eurovision. Norway had mid-table success with [JOWST's Grab The Moment](#) in 2017, but [Gromee's Light Me Up](#) prevented Poland from qualifying in 2018.

Want to see someone playing *Sandstorm* on the potato? [Here you go...](#)



# Poland

Tulia got their big break after they recorded a cover of [Depeche Mode's \*Enjoy The Silence\*](#) that was picked up and promoted by Depeche Mode themselves. Gahan and co are clearly more charitable than us. We'd have had our lawyers send out a cease and desist before the chorus...



Artist Tulia

Song [Fire Of Love \(Pali Sie\)](#)

Language Polish / English

Key C# minor

Key Change No

Tempo 96bpm

Songwriters Four *(But not a single one of the bandmembers)*

Sounds Like t.A.t.U

Looks Like The granddaughters of those [mad Russian grannies from 2012](#)

Other Notes Last time Poland sent women in traditional dress to perform at Eurovision it was those [buxom milkmaids who tit-wanked their churns](#). This one's got a bit of grot for the lads and dads too, as the song climaxes with the girls screaming "Love me now! Love me now! Harder and harder..."

(FYI: That shout-singing technique is known as *śpiewokrzyk* – or 'white voice'.)



# Armenia

Dependable workhorses of the contest, Armenia have put in an impressive performance since they debuted in 2006 (and have yet to properly embarrass themselves the way that some of the old guard continually do) but never quite do enough to clinch it. This year? No different.



Artist **Srbuk**  
 Song [Walking Out](#)

Language **English**

Key **F minor**  
 Key Change **No**  
 Tempo **130bpm**  
 Songwriters **Three**

Sounds Like **Tori Amos**  
 Looks Like **A pre-fame Gaga**

Reality TV **Runner-up in [X Factor Armenia](#) (2011)**  
**Fourth place in [The Voice of Ukraine](#) (2018)**

Weird Lyrics ***"Are you from those / Who will swallow down / The pain, disgrace?"***

Other Notes **The lyrics for this were written by Garik Papoyan, the co-writer of Armenia's most successful song in a decade, Aram MP3's dubstep ballad [Not Alone](#).**



# Ireland

Sarah McTernan tried to enter Eurovision last year as San Marino's entry. Sadly, it didn't work out for her – but, seeing as the Sanmarinese selection process is usually a gigantic fucking scam, it probably worked out for the best.



Artist Sarah McTernan

Song [22](#)

Language English

Key C Major

Key Change No

Tempo 125bpm

Songwriters Three

Sounds Like Eliza Doolittle

Looks Like Jack Whitehall in drag

Reality TV Came third in [The Voice Of Ireland](#) (2015)

Other Notes The staging of this song looks like [a diner designed by Cath Kidson](#) – which means its going to be an absolute slam dunk with the sorts of people who call it “Eurovizh”.



# Moldova

Pouring cold water on the reputation they were building for being fun, goofy and good – with entries like [Sunstroke Project's \*Hey Mamma\*](#) in 2017 and [DoReDos's \*My Lucky Day\*](#) in 2018 – Moldova is trying to be a little more serious this year. It's not a great look on them.



Artist Anna Odobescu

Song [Stay](#)

Language English

Key C minor

Key Change Yes

Tempo 78bpm

Songwriters Four

Sounds Like Tina Arena

Looks Like A Real Housewife Of Cheshire

Reality TV Auditioned for *The Voice Russia* (2017)

Other Notes If you want some idea of how popular this one is, Moldova's post-rehearsal press conference was supposedly so sparsely attended that organisers had to drag passing punters in to ask her questions.

Also: if you recognise Anna's sand artist, that's because Ukraine used [THE EXACT SAME WOMAN](#) in 2011...



# Latvia

Waistcoats. Flatcaps. Double basses and floppy hats. This shuffly little folk-pop number sounds like it has been precision engineered to appeal to the Radio 2 listener. Expect to see them at a Hendrick's-sponsored, artisanal farmers' market festival near you soon...



Artist Carousel  
Song [That Night](#)

Language English

Key G minor  
Key Change No  
Tempo 93bpm  
Songwriters Two

Sounds Like Katie Melua

Looks Like The opening slot on a Glastonbury stage

Weird Lyrics *"I travelled through the time /  
It felt for me like doing a crime"*

Other Notes Sabine (the singer) and Marcis (the guitarist) have been writing and performing for years and years now. If you want to hear their portfolio – including their jazzy version of *Just The Two Of Us* – [knock yourself out...](#)



# Romania

Sorry, Ester, but if you're going to invoke Earth, Wind & Fire's deathless classic by rhyming "remember" with "September" then you need to bring a song that absolutely slaps. What, you thought no-one would notice? Come on, lass. Wise up.



Artist Ester Peony  
Song On A Sunday

Language English

Key C minor

Key Change No

Time Sig 6/8

Tempo 72bpm

Songwriters Three *(inc. Ester herself)*

Sounds Like There's some little melodic fragment in there from Kiss From A Rose

Looks Like Angela from *The Office* (US)

Other Notes There's a really badly applied production effect in the first few bars of this song that sounds (presumably deliberately) like a cable came loose during the recording. It's meant to sound like that though, so don't start bashing your TV set with a slipper or anything.



# Austria

PÆNDA's real name is Gabriela Horn. Why she's chosen to give herself a stage name that looks like a cross between 'paedo' and 'panda' we couldn't tell you. Maybe it means something nicer in her native tongue?



Artist PÆNDA

Song [Limits](#)

Language English

Key C Major

Key Change No

Tempo 65bpm

Songwriters One *(Pænda herself)*

Sounds Like Kate Bush

Looks Like Sheridan Smith

Other Notes [Darude released his own remix of this song](#) last weekend. Sadly for the pair of them, it's miles more interesting than either of their respective entireties.

Maybe something to consider for 2020 though...?



# Croatia

If you watched Eurovision in 2017, there's no way you'll have forgotten the big Croatian lad who sang a bilingual pop/opera duet with himself, dressed in a half tuxedo/half leather jacket. It may not surprise you to learn that he also had a hand in writing this one too...



Artist Roko

Song The Dream

Language English/Croatian

Key F minor

Key Change Yes *(One semitone)*

Tempo 113bpm

Songwriters Three

Sounds Like Michael Ball x Muse

Looks Like A young Warwick Davis

Reality TV Croatia's Got Talent (2011)

Winner of Pinkove Zvezdice (2017)

Runner up of Zvezdice (2018)

Weird Lyrics *"I have a dream /*

*A dream as beautiful as it is extreme"*

Other Notes There seems to be a minor bromance blossoming between Roko and Michael Rice. The two have been on Instagram recording amateur a cappella mash-ups.



# Lithuania

As is common for acts these days, Jurij got his start at Eurovision doing backing vocals for another act. In Jurij's case, he got to sing some of the best Eurovision lyrics of this century: "Because of my shoes / I'm wearing today / One is called love / The other is pain"



Artist Jurij Veklenko

Song Run With The Lions

Language English

Key C Major

Key Change No

Tempo 80bpm

Songwriters Three

Sounds Like A Darius Danesh comeback single

Looks Like Lithuanian James McAvoy

Reality TV *Lithuania's Got Talent*

*The Voice Of Lithuania* (2013)

Other Notes This is an extremely deep cut, but if you remember the Lithuanian national selection process in 2017 you'll no doubt have seen the drag entry Lolita Zero singing the song *Get Frighten*.

Well, Jurij was the one actually singing the main vocal. Lolita was lip syncing to him.



# Hungary

One of five returning acts this year, Joci Pápai was a surprising Top Ten success in 2017 with [Origo](#). And while it's certainly possible that the Eurovision audience is crying out for more Hungarian language Romani folk-pop, we're not sure this will hit the spot.



Artist Joci Pápai  
Song [Az én Apám](#)

Language Hungarian

Key Eb minor  
Key Change No  
Tempo 96bpm  
Songwriters Two *(inc. Joci himself)*

Sounds Like Joci Pápai  
Looks Like Chabuddy G

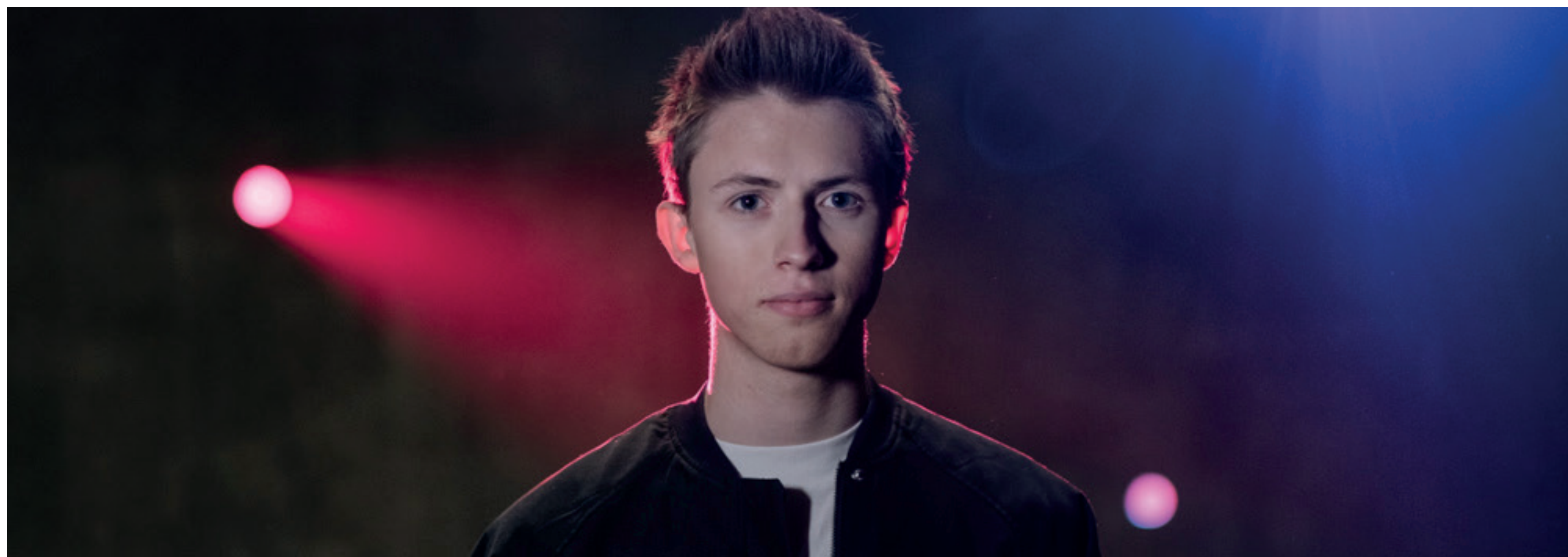
Other Notes Since he was last at Eurovision, Joci has been showing his funnier side on Hungary's *Your Face Sounds Familiar* – as Boy George





# Belgium

Over the last decade, the Belgians have had patchy form with their entries. Oscillating between failing to qualify from the semis and comfortably hitting the Top Five with songs like [Rhythm Inside](#) and [City Lights](#), they didn't qualify last year. So this year is probably good?



Artist **Eliot**

Song [Wake Up](#)

Language **English**

Key **G minor**

Key Change **No**

Tempo **145bpm**

Songwriters **Two** *(inc. Eliot himself)*

Sounds Like **Bastille**

Looks Like **Simon from *The Inbetweeners***

Reality TV **Series 7 of *The Voice Belgique***

Other Notes **Eliot's co-writer on this also wrote [Blanche's City Lights](#) – which came fourth in the contest in 2017.**



# Georgia

You know how you get those bearded, serious sorts who go on televised talent shows like *The X Factor* to show off their chops and wank on about 'real music'? Your Matt Cardles, your James Arthurs etc...? Well, this is what they look like in Georgia.



Artist Oto Nemsadze

Song [Keep On Going](#)

Language Georgian / Abkhaz

Key B minor

Key Change No

Tempo 120bpm

Songwriters Two

Sounds Like Chris Cornell in a *Lord Of The Rings* musical

Looks Like The lead singer from *The Commitments*

Reality TV Winner of [Geostar](#) (2010)

Runner up of [The Voice Of Ukraine](#) (2013)

Winner of [Georgian Idol](#) (2019)

Other Notes This is the first time Abkhaz has appeared in Eurovision. It's the 71st language to be heard in the competition so far – behind Japanese, Udmurt, Antillean Creole and Mühlviertlerisch.



# Portugal

Fuck knows what we did to them in Lisbon last year, but Portugal clearly isn't in a hurry to host the competition again...



Artist Conan Osiris

Song [Telemóveis](#)

Language Portuguese

Key E minor *(Though no-one seems to have told the band)*

Key Change No

Tempo 123bpm

Songwriters One *(Conan himself)*

Sounds Like An interpretative dance show written to teach kids about the dangers of online radicalisation

Looks Like James Franco in *Spring Breakers*

Weird Lyric One line of the official translation reads: *"Snitchery never gave birth to anyone"*

Other Notes When he was doing promo for this, Conan sang a version of it on the Portuguese equivalent of *Good Morning Britain* where he and his guitarist started singing, on air, "The clitoris is the only part of a woman's body that was designed to give pleasure."



# Photo Credits

**Albania:** Edvina Meta

**Armenia:** AMPTV

**Australia:** Jo Duck

**Austria:** Patrick Muennich

**Azerbaijan:** Alexandr Porubaymykh

**Belarus:** BTRC

**Belgium:** Wouter Struyf

**Croatia:** Damjna Fiket/Marko Košutić

**Cyprus:** Kynthia Kindeli

**Czechia:** Tomas Gal

**Denmark:** Thomas Cato

**Estonia:** Stina Kase

**Finland:** Anton Sucksdorff

**France:** Fifou

**Georgia:** Giorgi Tsaava

**Germany:** NDR/Hendrik Lüders

**Greece:** Efi Gousi

**Hungary:** TV2

**Iceland:** Lilja Jóns

**Ireland:** RTÉ 2019/Lili Forberg

**Israel:** Ronen Akerman

**Italy:** Attilio Cusani

**Latvia:** Aiga Redmane

**Lithuania:** Lukas Grikas

**Malta:** Jonathan Brincat

**Moldova:** Margarita Cernei

**Montenegro:** Miodrag Marković & Isidora Mijanović

**Netherlands:** Paul Bellaart

**North Macedonia:** Cedomir Popovski

**Norway:** Julia Marie Naglestad

**Poland:** Grzegorz Gołębiowski

**Portugal:** Royal Contemporary

**Romania:** Cat Music

**Russia:** Daniil Velichko

**San Marino:** Cem Talu

**Serbia:** Alek Živković

**Slovenia:** Ana Šantl

**Spain:** José Irún

**Sweden:** Sotarn

**Switzerland:** SRF/Lukas Maeder

**United Kingdom:** BBC/Joe Giacomet