



POPELITE Eurovision
2022

Hello, Turin!

Here we go again, with another 40 songs from every corner of the continent and beyond. Yes, it's Eurovision week – so here is your annual Popbitch guide to all of the wildest, weirdest and wankiest offerings that this year's contest has in store...



The First Half.....4–18

Banana eating wolves! Hypnotic Spanish booties! Floppy pink bucket hats and Ukrainian breakdancing! The first half rarely produces winners, but there's still lots to enjoy here.

The Second Half.....19–32

Massive sad swans! Meghan Markle's deeply hydrated hair! Bouncy folk-punk about European train travel! If you can stay awake through some of the slower, bleaker stuff then the rewards are there to be reaped.

The Stats.....33–42

Diagrams, facts, information, theory. You want to impress your mates with absolutely useless knowledge about which sorts of things win? We've got everything you need...

Those We Left Behind.....43–58

The fanny-licking Latvians: GONE. The teenage Barry Manilows: GONE. The San Marino stripper: GONE. The Georgian clown school dropouts: GONE. Some of the finest weirdos of the year were uncermoniously dumped in the semi-finals – but we remember it. We remember it all.

Are You Ready?

Eurovision can be an overwhelming experience at the best of times, and we don't want to add to the confusion. So this is a brief overview of the artist profile pages you'll find in this guide – and an explanation as to what a lot of the nonsense we've written actually means...



Artist Info	The name of the artist and the title of their song – which also handily doubles as a link to their official music video, should you want to see that too.
Language	Most of the songs are in English, but a few big winners in recent years have been in their mother tongue – so this is more of an open field than it used to be.
Theory Stuff	You can ignore most of this bit – but, basically: minor keys win more regularly than major; key changes are far less popular than you'd think; and 128bpm is a tempo death trap to be avoided at all costs.
The Nielsen Gracenote Mood	The nice people at Nielsen's Gracenote have shared their research into Sonic Moods with us this year – knowledge gained from doing impressive sounding stuff with machine learning and metadata.
Other Notes	If there's anything interesting about the act in question, we'll be sure to tell you here. But don't hold your breath...

First Half

Songs #1-13



Pt. 1: At A Glance

If you're watching for bonkers spectacle, it feels like the first half has the weirder stuff – so keep your eyes peeled for Riverdance On Acid, Daft Punk for furies and the Ukrainian amateur breakdancing championship – and just do your best with the mopey ones.



#	Country	Which One Is That?
1	Czech Rep.	A shit ton of modular synths to start the night off
2	Romania	Now That's What I Call Summer Holiday Hits! (Vol.1)
3	Portugal	As ever, off in their own little world, having a wistful lament about misery and life and that
4	Finland	Viewers of 2003 MTV, rejoice!
5	Switzerland	More sad lad ballads from the Swiss
6	France	Glitchy Celtic forest rave, liable to induce a passive trip
7	Norway	Minion monsters try to spare grandma from a grizzly death
8	Armenia	Sounds like it could be on an ad for anything from printer ink to oat milk to a dating app
9	Italy	Sexy boys with some surprisingly tender hip-hop
10	Spain	Latin-tinged booty-based banger
11	Netherlands	Holland's on Indefinable Benelux Ballad duty this year
12	Ukraine	Ragtag bunch of ravers, who look like the last people left partying at a festival
13	Germany	Targetting the TikTok generation

Czech Republic

We Are Domi originally formed at Leeds College Of Music as the backing band for singer Dominika’s exams. Other alumni inc. John Newman, Badly Drawn Boy and the guy who played the trumpet on [Touch & Go’s Would You...?](#) after the woman says “Er, would you go to bed with me?”



Artist	We Are Domi
Song	Lights Off
Language	English
Key	D minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	126bpm
Songwriters	Five <i>(inc. the band)</i>
Sounds Like	Madison Avenue goes electro-pop
Looks Like	Chvrches
Gracenote Mood	Arousing Groove
Other Notes	We Are Domi recently collaborated with former Czech entrants Lake Malawi (who turned in one of the country’s best ever results with Friend Of A Friend in 2019). If you’re still in the mood for any more music after this is all over, it’s called High Speed Kissing .

Romania

WRS got his start as a house dancer on Romania’s Got Talent, so there’s quite a few choreography breaks. Might need to rely on the ol’ “EUROPE! MAKE SOME NOISE!” trick to keep the energy up – but you’ll be mumbling “Holamibébébé” every time you get up to go to the fridge



Artist

WRS

Song

Lámame

Language

English / Spanish

Key

G minor

Key Change

No

Tempo

120bpm

Songwriters

Four

Sounds Like

Holiday resort music

Looks Like

A camp Capulet from Baz Lurhmann’s *Romeo + Juliet*

Gracenote Mood

Heavy Beat

Other Notes

WRS used to be in [a boyband called Shot](#).

Portugal

Of all the songs in line for the cultural chin-stroker vote this year, Portugal have to be close to the front of the queue. Their insistence on entering whatever the hell they want does occasionally pay off (2018, when they won). Though usually it doesn't (almost every other year).



Artist	MARO
Song	Saudade, Saudade
Language	English / Portuguese
Key	Bb minor
Key Change	No
Time Sig	6/8
Tempo	84bpm
Songwriters	One (Maro)
Sounds Like	Music for an #EatPrayLove Book Club
Looks Like	Nelly Furtado
Gracenote Mood	Sensual Groove
Other Notes	MARO is one of two acts in this year's contest to have attended the Berklee College Of Music. (Lithuania's the other) A far cry from the Love City Groove era... "Saudade" is a Portuguese word with no direct English translation. It means a "deep emotional state of melancholic longing for a person or thing that is absent".

Finland

FINLAND’S EUROVISION TRAJECTORY: 2019–PRESENT DAY

2019: Send an **internationally successful heritage act** 20 years after their biggest hit.

2021: Send a rock band who echo the **MTV2 nu-metal sound**.

2022: Send both – in the shape of **The Rasmus**.



Artist	The Rasmus
Song	Jezebel
Language	English
Key	B minor
Key Change	Yes <i>(2 semitones - the only key change in the final)</i>
Tempo	115bpm
Songwriters	TWO <i>(inc. Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee Desmond Child)</i>
Sounds Like	Bon Jovi
Looks Like	The Rasmus
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Anxious
Other Notes	Other songs co-written by Desmond Child: I Was Made For Lovin’ You – Kiss Poison – Alice Cooper Dude (Looks Like A Lady) – Aerosmith Livin’ La Vida Loca – Ricky Martin Old Before I Die – Robbie Williams Kiss The Rain – Billie Myers Thong Song – Sisqo Kings And Queens – Ava Max

Switzerland

Clearly feeling they’re on to a good thing with the whole ‘sad boi’ vibe after the wailings of [Gjon’s Tears](#) earned them third place last year, Switzerland is sticking to the theme of boys crying buckets with this rather earnest riposte to [the classic Cure song](#).



Artist

Marius Bear

Song

[Boys Do Cry](#)

Language

English

Key

F Major

Key Change

No

Tempo

60bpm

Songwriters

TWO *(inc. Marius himself)*

Sounds Like

Sam Smith

Looks Like

Niall Horan’s older brother

Gracenote Mood

Sad Soulful

Talent Show

Mystery singer on [I Can See Your Voice](#)

Other Notes

Marius is currently juggling all of his Eurovision duties (interviews; rehearsals; photo-shoots; the odd bit of busking) with getting his NFT portfolio off the ground. He’s currently looking for ~~suckers~~ investors to [buy his Eurovision song as an NFT](#), if you’re so inclined.

France

Taking their cues from Ukraine’s [insane ethno-techno rave last year](#), Alvan & Ahez’s Celtic electronica is like the sort of thing you’d stumble across at 1am at a festival and absolutely lose your fucking mind to.



Artist

Song

Alvan & Ahez

Fulenn

Language

Breton

Key

Key Change

Tempo

Songwriters

Bb minor*

No

120bpm

Two

Sounds Like

Looks Like

Friday night dance tent at Glastonbury

A Mad Max version of The Corrs

Gracenote Mood

Arousing Groove

Other Notes

The last time a song was sung in Breton was 1996 – the year of Gina G and [Ooh Ahh... Just A Little Bit](#).

** This isn’t technically in Bb minor, before we get letters. It uses a mode which exists outside the common major/minor binary. It sounds like Bb Phrygian, but we’re just trying to have fun here. Let’s not start a fight.*

Norway

Keeping the sacred flame of Nordic weirdness alight when their neighbours have gone all strait-laced, Subwoolfer are – according to their press release – 4.5 billion years old, from the Moon and the most successful band in our galaxy. So it’s nice of them to make the time.



Artist	Subwoolfer
Song	Give That Wolf A Banana
Language	English
Key	G minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	123bpm
Songwriters	Three <i>(inc. DJ Astronaut)</i>
Sounds Like	Avicii
Looks Like	Daft Punk x The Simpsons
Gracenote Mood	Arousing Groove
Weird Lyrics	<i>"Not sure I told but I really like your teeth / That hairy coat of yours with nothing underneath / Not sure you have a name, so I will call you Keith"</i>
Other Notes	Speculation about who’s behind the masks has been rife. Most popular guess: Ylvis, the band behind What Does The Fox Say?

Armenia

Rosa took her first step onto the Eurovision treadmill back in 2013, entering a song into [Armenia’s Junior Eurovision national selection](#). Unfortunately, she lost out. Even more unfortunately, it was to a song with the ominously R.Kelly-esque title... Choco Factory.



Artist	Rosa Linn
Song	Snap
Language	English
Key	C Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	85bpm
Songwriters	Six
Sounds Like	Girl In Red
Looks Like	Country Meghan Trainor
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning
Other Notes	One of the co-writers of this – the sublimely named Larzz Principato – was a co-writer on Dua Lipa’s IDGAF .

Italy

Usually when a country wins Eurovision, they have the good grace to enter an absolute honker the following year so as not to look like they’re hogging the spotlight. Maybe they’re banking on homophobes tanking it, but it looks like Italy’s trying to win again...



Artist	Mahmood & BLANCO
Song	Brividi
Language	Italian
Key	G Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	123bpm
Songwriters	Three (inc. Mahmood & BLANCO)
Sounds Like	A Lin Manuel Miranda musical number
Looks Like	It’s going to generate headlines
Talent Show	<i>X Factor Italia</i> , Series 6 (2012)
Gracenote Mood	Heartfelt Passion
Other Notes	You may remember Mahmood from 2019. His song Soldi was the most streamed Eurovision song of all time for a while with 200,000,000+ streams (25 million more than Waterloo by ABBA). Duncan Laurence’s Arcade has over 900,000,000 though, so he’s not getting that title back.

Spain

Some countries really struggle to walk the line between putting in a song that properly reflects your nation’s cultural heritage and a song that’s...good. It’s a line Spain often trips over before the end of their first bar – but this dirty flamenco groove? It’s Euro catnip.



Artist

Song

Chanel

SloMo

Language

Spanish / English

Key

Key Change

Tempo

Songwriters

C# minor

No

105bpm

Five – including someone called Keith Harris

(presumably not the dead ventriloquist fella)

Sounds Like

Looks Like

Latter-day J.Lo

Cardi B

Gracenote Mood

Edgy Sexy

Other Notes

This song was originally written with Jennifer Lopez in mind, but after they sent it to her she ignored it.

Choreography was done by Kyle Hanagami – who has also worked with Britney, N*Sync, Ariana Grande, Blackpink and Jennifer Coolidge.

The Netherlands

In the UK, it can be hard to get any act with an international profile (under the age of 60) to involve themselves in Eurovision. Meanwhile, in the Netherlands, the Dutch national selection committee turned down a song by trance legend Armin van Buuren in place of this.



Artist	S10
Song	De Diepte
Language	Dutch
Key	D minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	90bpm
Songwriters	TWO (including S10 – aka Stien den Hollander)
Sounds Like	The sort of thing Belgium usually sends
Looks Like	Teenage Uma Thurman
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning
Other Notes	There always seems to be space in the Top 10 for something like this. Blanche’s City Lights. Anouk’s Birds. Indefinable Benelux ballads, basically.

Ukraine

There’s been an awful lot of chatter suggesting that Europe will give its top marks to Ukraine as a show of international solidarity. The political side to Eurovision is usually hugely overstated – but there are worse things to get behind than Ukrainian folk-rap.



Artist

Song

Kalush Orchestra

Stefania

Language

Ukrainian

Key

Key Change

Tempo

Songwriters

D minor

No

105bpm

Five

Sounds Like

Looks Like

Nothing else all evening

Acid casualties at Glastonbury

Gracenote Mood

Fiery Groove

Other Notes

Remember Ukraine’s entry last year? [Shum by Go_A](#) – the one with the woman who looked like Trinity from The Matrix wearing Orville The Duck’s skin, wailing through a folk rave? The two bands share a member: Ihor Didenchuk.

Germany

Since 2015, Germany, Spain and the UK have tended to take it in turns to plummet to the bottom of the scoreboard – occasionally ending up in a little three-way death pact taking up all three last place slots. Usually, we all deserve it. Not this year though.



Artist	Malik Harris
Song	Rockstars
Language	English
Key	G Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	81bpm
Songwriters	Three <i>(inc. Malik)</i>
Sounds Like	The Kid Laroi
Looks Like	Rami Malek
Gracenote Mood	Cool Confidence
Other Notes	Malik’s two co-writers on this song are Marie Kobylka and Robin Karow – the piano player and drummer from the unfortunately named German band Cosby.

In fairness to Marie and Robin, Cosby formed in 2013 – a year before Hannibal Buress’s routine about Bill Cosby being a serial sex offender went viral.

Second Half

Songs #14–25



Pt. 2: At A Glance

Things take a little swerve for the serious in the second act – so if you like your Eurovision dark and brooding you’ll be spoiled for choice. There’s still the odd flash of levity and madness though. Mostly from Moldova...

#	Country	Which One Is That?
14	Lithuania	Spooky slinky cabaret jazz, performed like Liza Minelli trying to turn off a lamp
15	Azerbaijan	Another moody boy ballad
16	Belgium	Huge “early noughties boy band member goes solo to show off his vocal range” vibe
17	Greece	Downbeat song about dying in a car crash, sir? Coming right up!
18	Iceland	Sitting somewhere on the Haim/Corrs continuum – but Icelandic
19	Moldova	Bouncy train-based folk-punk, led by Moldova’s answer to Tim Westwood (<i>Lawyers, pls check</i>)
20	Sweden	Reliably assured arena-filler from the masters of the modern contest; Robyn-esque energy
21	Australia	A big sad swan with a sparkly face drape and lungs for days
22	UK	WOULD YOU START THE FANS, PLEASE?
23	Poland	Can’t decide between James Bay and James Blake? Why not have both?
24	Serbia	Art performance piece about Serbian healthcare, spleens, Meghan Markle, and more
25	Estonia	Someone played a lot of Red Dead Redemption 2 in lockdown

Lithuania

Having enjoyed one of their best ever results with last year’s kooky, bloopy track [Discoteque](#), Lithuania is keeping itself on the weirder side of things with a creepy cabaret sound this year. Not as full-on bonkers as we’d like, but not without a certain charm either.



Artist	Monika Liu
Song	Sentimentai
Language	Lithuanian
Key	D minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	94bpm
Songwriters	One (<i>Monika herself</i>)
Sounds Like	The Puppini Sisters
Looks Like	Sadie Frost playing Liza Minelli
Gracenote Mood	Intimate
Talent Show	Judge on The Voice Lithuania Jury member on Kaukės (<i>The Masked Singer</i>)
Other Notes	This is the first time Lithuania has sung fully in Lithuanian since 1994. Last time, Lopšinė Mylimai by Ovidijus Vyšniauskas came in 25th, scoring nil points. So quite a low bar to clear for Monika.

Azerbaijan

We try so hard to write a snappy little intro for each of the 40-odd songs in this contest each year, looking to find some toehold anywhere we can. But sometimes we just can't. It's no-one's fault. Just one of those things. Please don't blame Nadir.



Artist	Nadir Rustamli
Song	Fade To Black
Language	English
Key	A minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	65bpm
Songwriters	Four (<i>all Swedes</i>)
Sounds Like	Josh Groban
Looks Like	A <i>Great Pottery Throwdown</i> contestant
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning
Talent Show	Winner, <i>The Voice of Azerbaijan</i> (2021/22)
Other Notes	One of the Swedes who wrote this co-wrote the 2013 winner Only Teardrops . Nadir has a degree in business administration from the Azerbaijan University of Tourism And Management. (We told you not to hold your breath...)

Belgium

There’s quite a few moonlighters in this year’s contest – acts who include ‘popstar’ as just one part of their portfolio careers. Jérémie is one of them, splitting his time between music and playing in goal for Belgian First Division B Team, Royal Excelsior Virton.



Artist	Jérémie Makiese
Song	Miss You
Language	English
Key	F# minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	144bpm
Songwriters	Four (inc. Jérémie)
Sounds Like	Justin Timberlake (Justified-era)
Looks Like	Sisqo (even got the silver jacket)
Gracenote Mood	Intimate
Reality TV	Winner, <i>The Voice Belgique</i> (2021)
Other Notes	As well as being a footballer and singer, Jérémie is also a keen geologist, and was studying for a degree in it before he had to put in on pause for everything else.

Greece

Exactly what every Saturday night pop contest needs – especially one held in the shadow of a global pandemic, while an active warzone rages on its Eastern border. A gloomy bird in white singing about how it maybe wouldn’t be so bad to die in a car crash after all.



Artist	Amanda Georgiadis Tenfjord
Song	Die Together
Language	English
Key	D minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	76bpm
Songwriters	TWO <i>(inc. Amanda)</i>
Sounds Like	Lorde
Looks Like	Lorde
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning
Other Notes	Amanda was a classmate of Norwegian pop star Sigrid. They shared the same vocal coach.

Iceland

After a couple of years of sending the obvious Popbitch cover stars (industrial electro BDSM growlers [Hatari](#); 8-bit indie disco goofballs [Daði & Gagnamagnið](#)) Iceland are ceding the spotlight and presenting something a little more trad. Which is big of them. But boring.



Artist	Systur
Song	Með Hækkandi Sól
Language	Icelandic
Key	D minor <i>(with a little Tierce de Picardie*)</i>
Key Change	No
Tempo	101bpm
Songwriters	One
Sounds Like	First Aid Kit
Looks Like	Haim
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning
Other Notes	Systur started out life as a different band, Sísý Ey – who would sing live house music. They played Glastonbury as Sísý Ey in 2016. Specifically, the Pussy Parlure on Saturday night – a stage they shared with Blackalicious, Vaults and DJ Doctor D.

** Tierce de Picardie is a musical trick where the whole song is in a minor key, but then livens up at the end by finishing on a final happy major chord.*

Moldova

Perhaps you remember Zdob și Zdub from a previous contest? Like 2005, when they were the [penny whistle-punk band with the Iggy Pop front man](#)? Or 2011, as the [rockers in traffic cone gnome hats with the unicycling fairy](#)? No? Ah, well. Third time's the charm...



Artist

Zdob și Zdub & Advahov Brothers

Song

[Trenulețul](#)

Language

Romanian / English

Key

G Major

Key Change

No

Tempo

142bpm

Songwriters

Four

Sounds Like

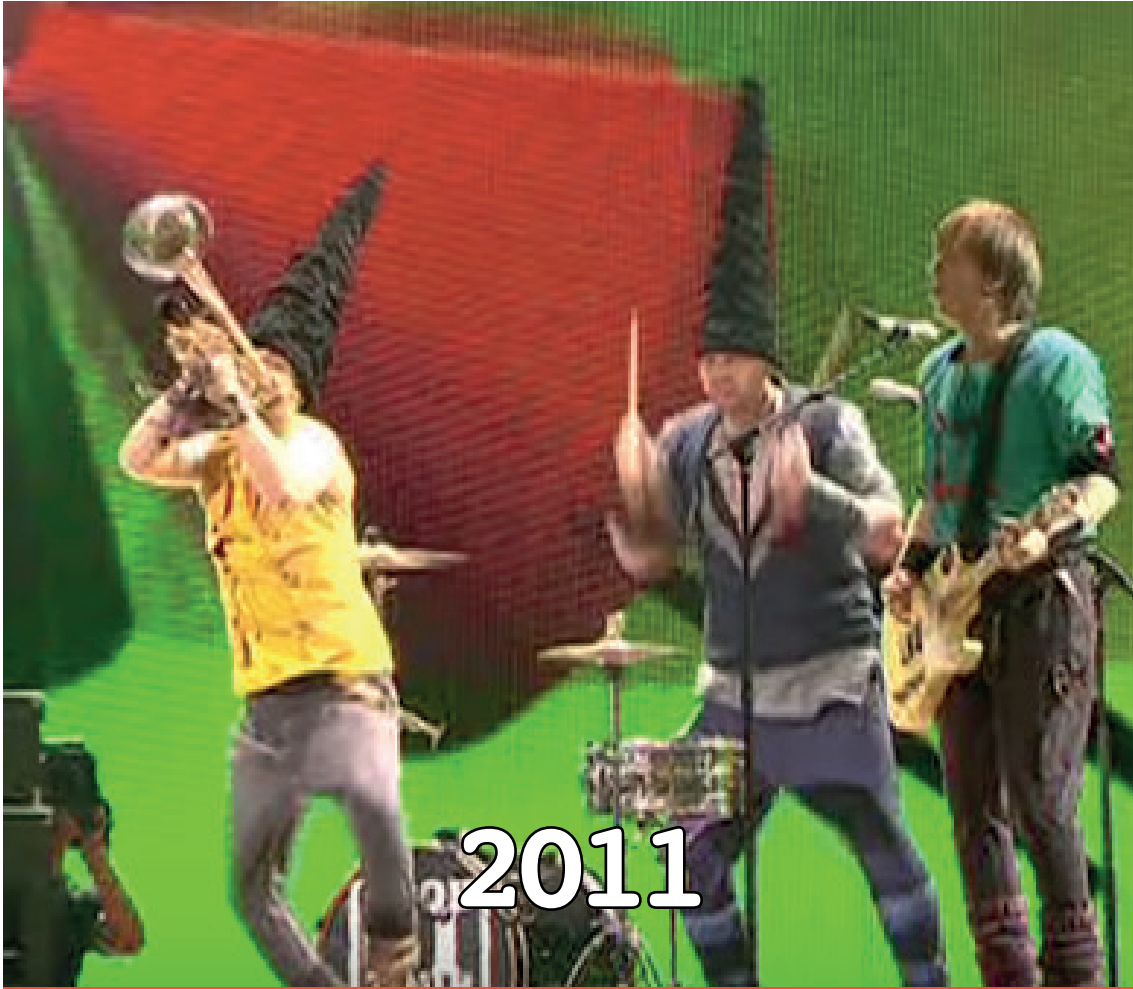
Hayseed Dixie

Looks Like

Tim Westwood and friends

Gracenote Mood

Exuberant Festive



Sweden

The undisputed masters of the modern contest, Sweden are always on top of their brief. Despite a rehearsals week that was absolutely cursed for her, her semi-final performance was every bit as self-assured as you’d imagine from [the daughter of this guy](#).



Artist

Song

Cornelia Jakobs

[Hold Me Closer](#)

Language

English

Key

Key Change

Tempo

Songwriters

F# Major

No

98bpm

Three *(inc. Cornelia)*

Sounds Like

Looks Like

Spotify Hot 50 gold dust

Jodie Whittaker

Gracenote Mood

Dark Pop Intensity

Other Notes

Most Eurovision entrants who come from TV talent shows tend to be the winners. Cornelia’s story is slightly different. She got [absolutely rinsed by the judges at her Swedish Idol audition](#) aged 16. 14 years later, not only did she have the winning song in Sweden’s national selection, but the guy she beat out to win? Swedish Idol judge, Anders Bagge!

Australia

When you travel 10,000 miles to appear in a pop contest you can't afford to half-arse it. Sheldon is certainly one of the more striking performers this year, taking the classic Eurovision sparkly dress in a new direction. By draping it over his face.



Artist	Sheldon Riley
Song	Not The Same
Language	English
Key	Bb minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	64bpm
Songwriters	Three (inc. Sheldon)
Sounds Like	Sam Smith
Looks Like	Couture Edward Scissorhands
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning
Talent Show	Bootcamp, <i>The X Factor Australia</i> (2016) Third Place, <i>The Voice Australia</i> (2018) Quarter Final, <i>America's Got Talent</i> (2020)
Other Notes	Among the superstars to have mentored Sheldon throughout his talent show tenure are Adam Lambert, Iggy Azalea, Delta Goodrem and Boy George.

United Kingdom

After years of insisting that the Eurovision is a lost cause – that we could send Ed Sheeran and still come last – we rope in Dua Lipa’s old management and end up going into the contest as the bookies’ second favourite. Almost as if our excuses have always been... bullshit?



Artist	Sam Ryder
Song	Space Man
Language	English
Key	B Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	80bpm
Songwriters	Three <i>(inc. Amy Wadge: co-writer of Thinking Out Loud)</i>
Sounds Like	Our best chance in years
Looks Like	A labrador entered the Crystal Maze
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning
Other Notes	Sam first came to prominence on TikTok when big hitters like Justin Bieber and Alicia Keys saw him performing an a cappella version of a Britney song . It’s strange how things change. 20 years ago, having long hair and a beard, singing a vocally gymnastic, a capella version of ...Baby One More Time to show off your falsetto skills was enough to make you a national laughing stock (c/f Darius, Popstars, 2001).

Poland

Increasingly, performers are employing camera effects to complement their live staging. Poland are using a ‘rain trickling down the windowpane’ filter on screen in Verse 2, but the rain looks a little... milky. And the trickling a bit, erm... dribbly. Maybe it’s just us.



Artist	Ochman
Song	River
Language	English
Key	Ab Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	140bpm
Songwriters	Four (inc. Ochman)
Sounds Like	Someone confused James Blake with James Bay and ended up with this
Looks Like	Liam Payne’s older brother
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning
Talent Show	Winner, <i>The Voice Of Poland</i> (2020)
Other Notes	Ochman is the grandson of famed Polish opera singer Wiesław Ochman .

Serbia

Congratulations if you drew “Spoken word satire on the intersection of the Serbian health service, modern-day beauty standards and Meghan Markle” in your office Eurovision sweepstake this year. A nailed-on winner. No worries. You’ll be laughing all the way to the bank...



Artist

Song

Konstrakta

In Corpore Sano

Language

Serbian *(plus a tiny bit of Latin)*

Key

Key Change

Tempo

Songwriters

G minor

No

120bpm

TWO *(inc. Konstrakta herself)*

Sounds Like

Looks Like

An art student reimagining of Toxic

Marina Abramović

Gracenote Mood

Edgy Sexy

Reality TV

The opening lyrics translate into English as:
"What could be the secret of Meghan Markle's healthy hair? / What could it be? / I think it's all about the deep hydration"

Other Notes

Konstrakta opened for Amy Winehouse at Amy's last ever gig – [Belgrade, June 18th](#).

Estonia

Some countries pick their entrants from a national selection programme. Others take winners from X Factor or The Voice. Estonia? This is the second contest in a row they’ve sent Kroonika magazine’s Sexiest Man Of The Year (c/f [Uku Suviste](#)). Which is one way to get votes...



Artist	Stefan
Song	Hope
Language	English
Key	Bb minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	123bpm
Songwriters	TWO (<i>inc. Stefan</i>)
Sounds Like	James Arthur
Looks Like	Louis Tomlinson’s older brother
Gracenote Mood	Heavy Brooding
Talent Show	The Ram, The Masked Singer (2020)
Other Notes	Stefan and Uku aren’t the only Eurovision entries to get the Sexiest Man nod from Kroonika. 2001 winner Tanel Padar won the title a few months after Eurovision , with his co-singer Dave Benton taking second place that year too. So maybe the Estonians are just uncontrollably horny for Eurovision?

The Stats



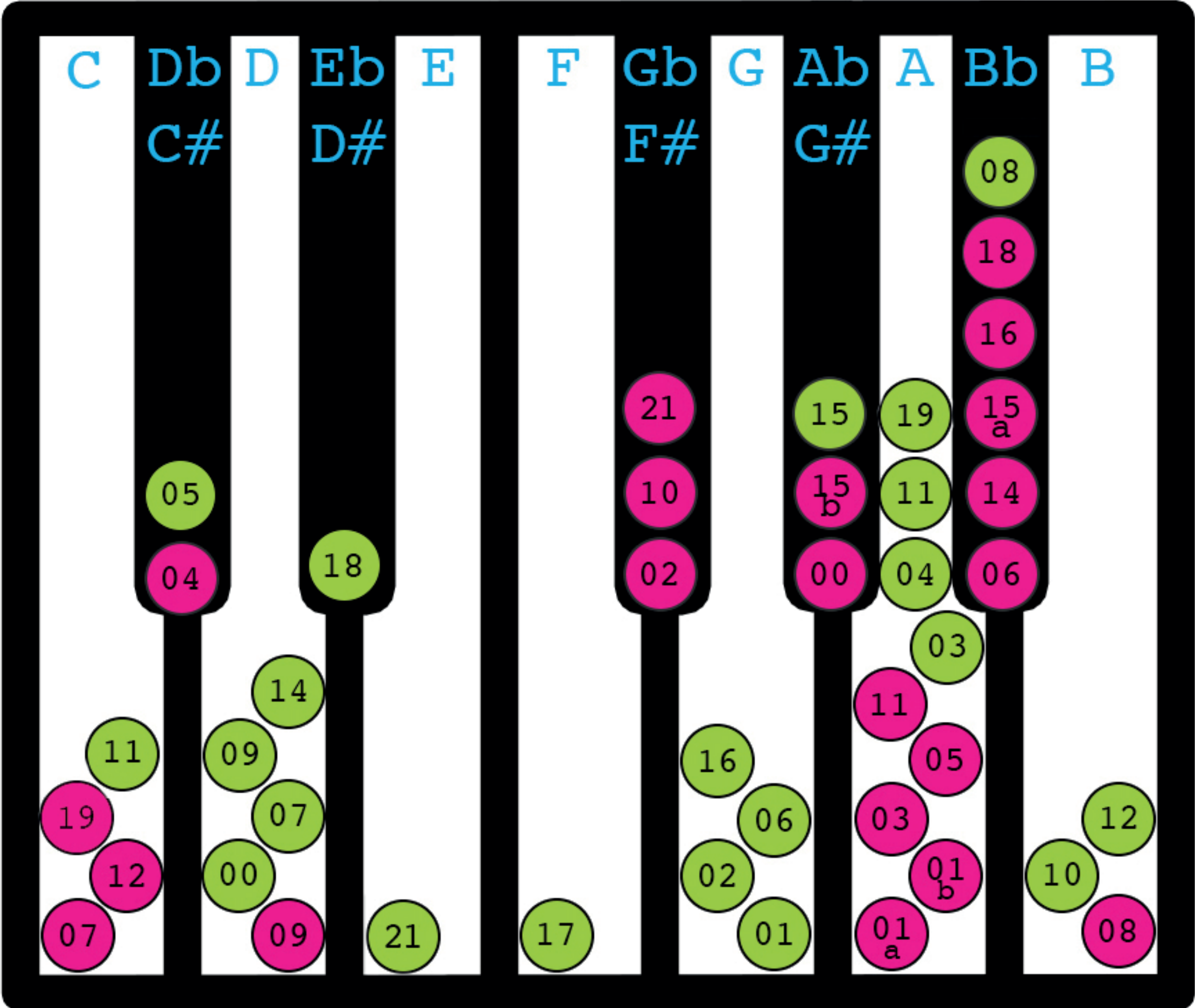
Luck Of The Draw

There's no denying that one of the most important things on the night is the running order. Where's good to go?

1	✖ 2008 ✖ 2001 _(a)
2	✖ 2004
3	
4	✖ 2007 ✖ 2001 _(b) ✔ 2003
5	
6	
7	✖ 2006
8	✖ 2018
9	✖ 2021
10	✖ 2000 ✖ 2016 ✔ 2004 ✔ 2015
11	✔ 2014 ✔ 2017
12	✖ 2012 ✖ 2010 ✔ 2019
13	✖ 2011
14	✖ 2002 ✖ 2014 ✖ 2015 ✔ 2000
15	✖ 2003
16	✖ 2017 ✖ 2019
17	✔ 2012 ✔ 2007 ✔ 2006 ✖ 2005
18	✔ 2013
19	✔ 2011 ✔ 2005
20	✔ 2009 ✔ 2001
21	✔ 2016
22	✔ 2010
23	✔ 2002 ✔ 2018
24	✖ 2009 ✔ 2008 ✔ 2021
25	
26	✖ 2013

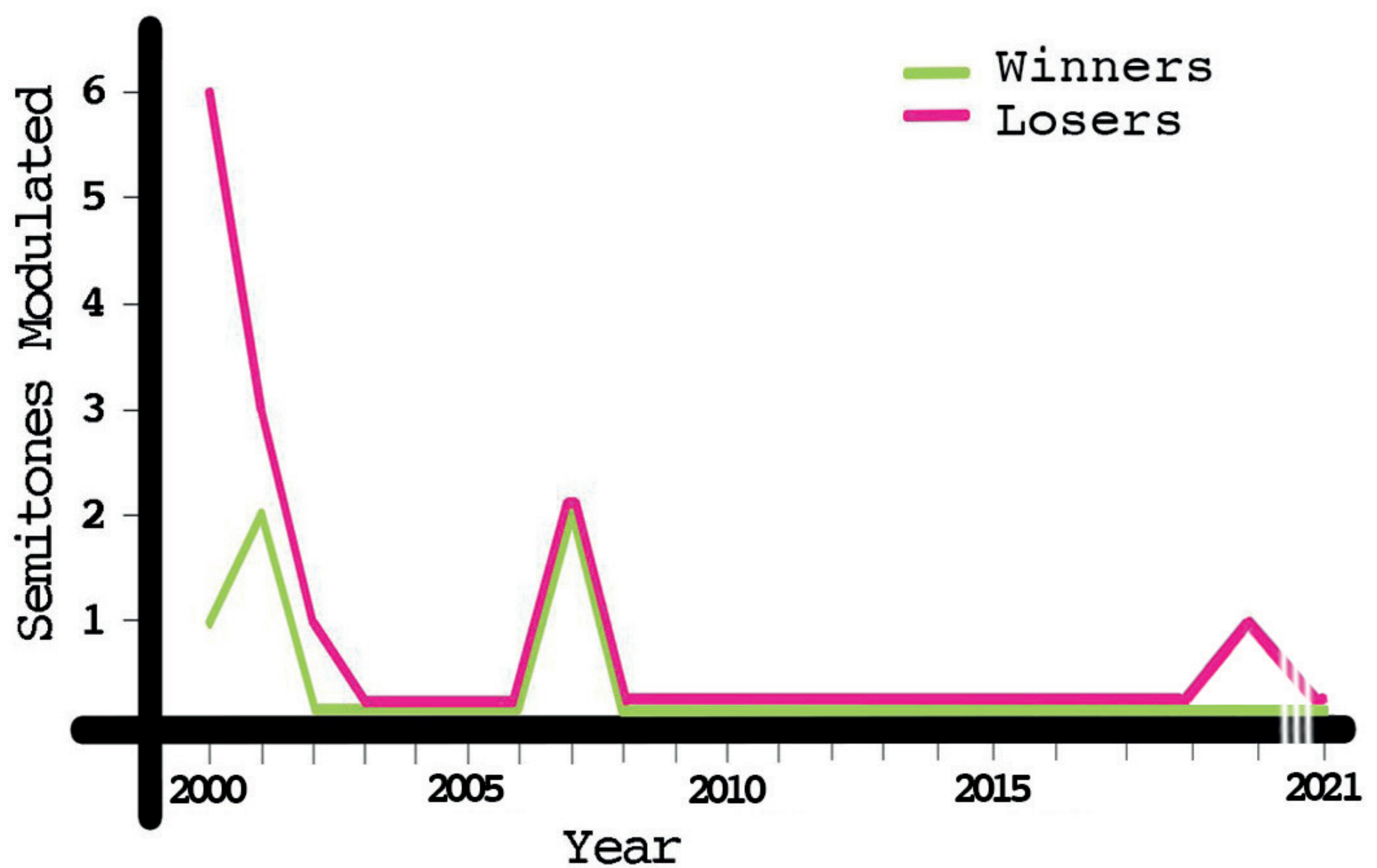
The Key To Success

There’s a common misconception about Eurovision songs all being happy, smiley, glitz and glitter. A look back at the last few decades 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 and insists everyone take a drink when they hear one — but they’re actually quite rare, and there hasn’t been a single winner to attempt one in well over a decade...

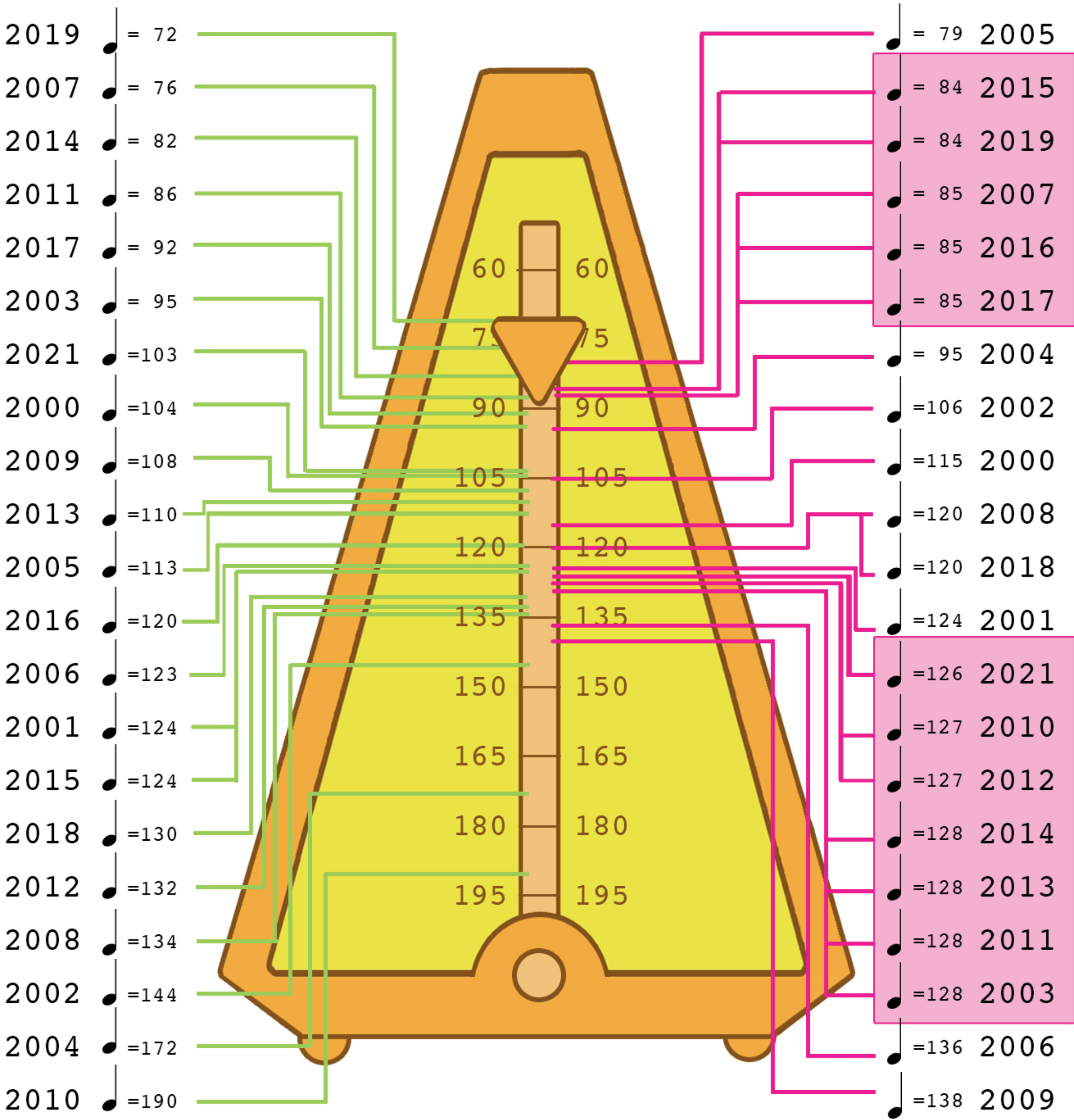


A Need For Speed

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

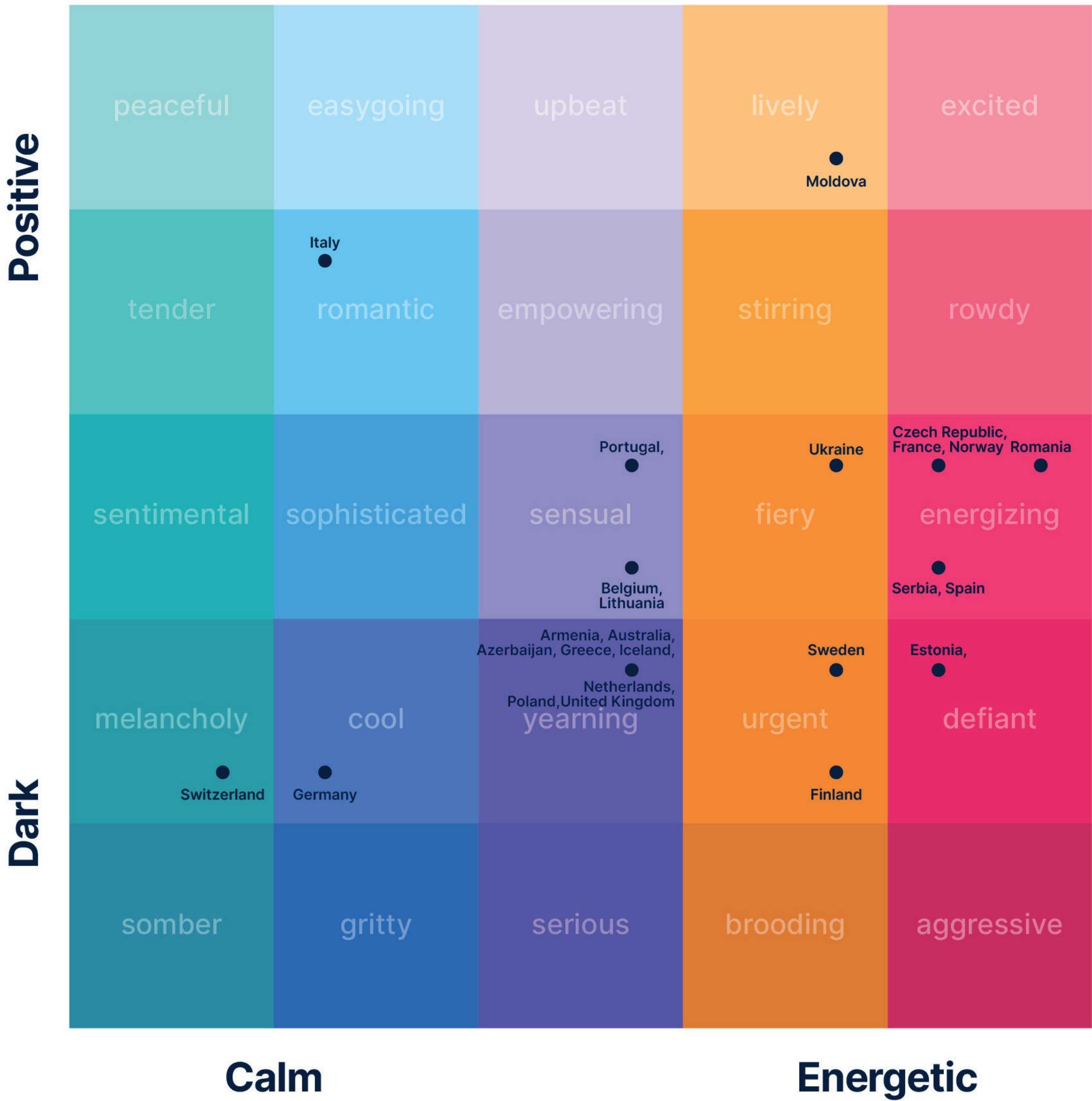
Losers



Setting The Mood

Having conducted research into the sonic moods of all the Eurovision winners in history, Nielsen’s Gracenote team have been using actual data to back up what we’ve been saying for ages: that moody downers are more likely to win these days than anything positive...

Gracenote sonic moods of 2022 Eurovision Song Contest finalists

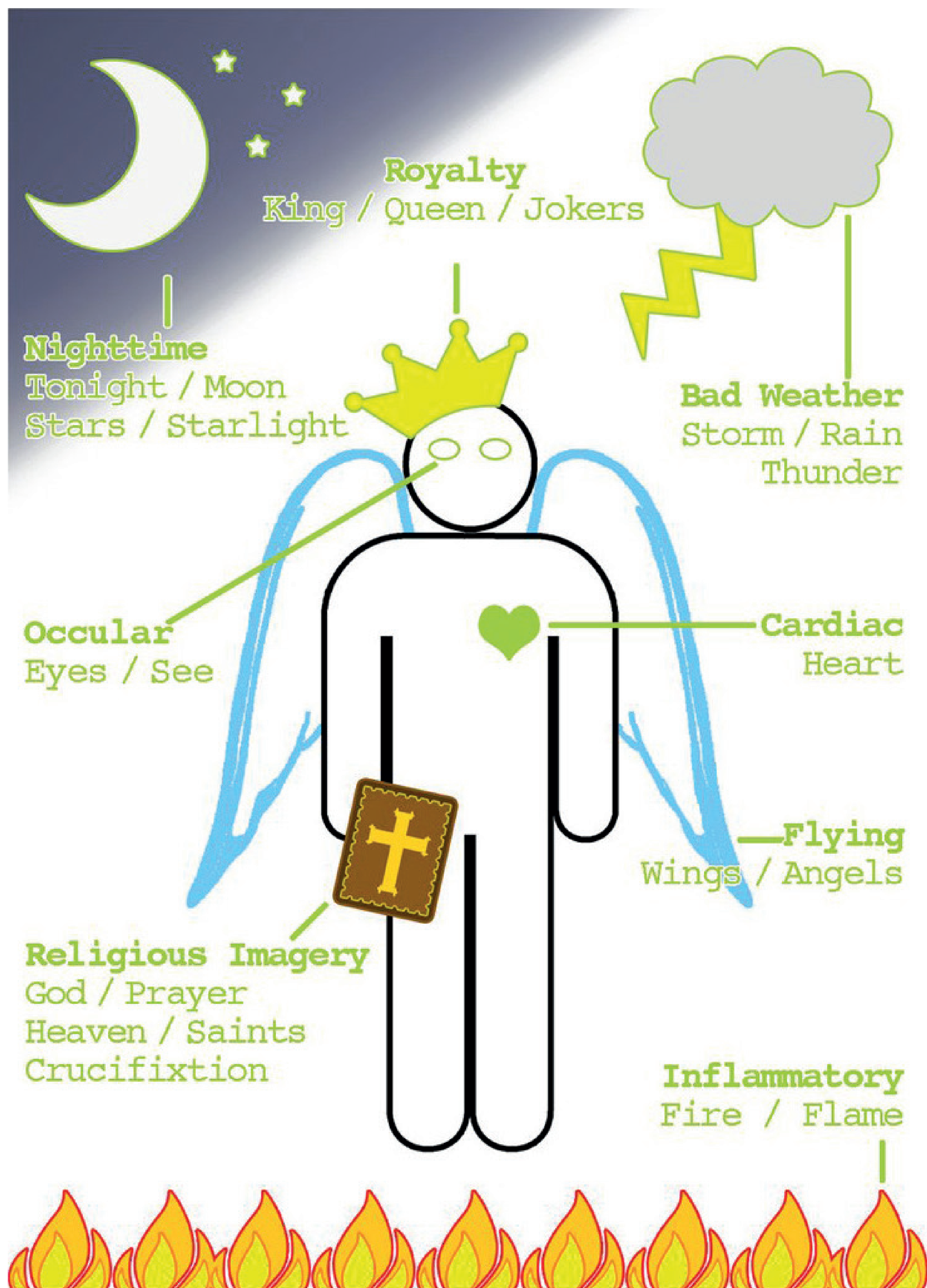


OF NOTE: 13 of the songs in the final are at the darker end of the mood spectrum, 10 are in the middle and only Moldova and Italy are at the positive end. There were five other songs in those top two rows at the start of the contest, but they all got eliminated in the semis.

ALSO: Of the nine “yearning” songs which began the competition, only one (North Macedonia) went out at the semi-final stage.

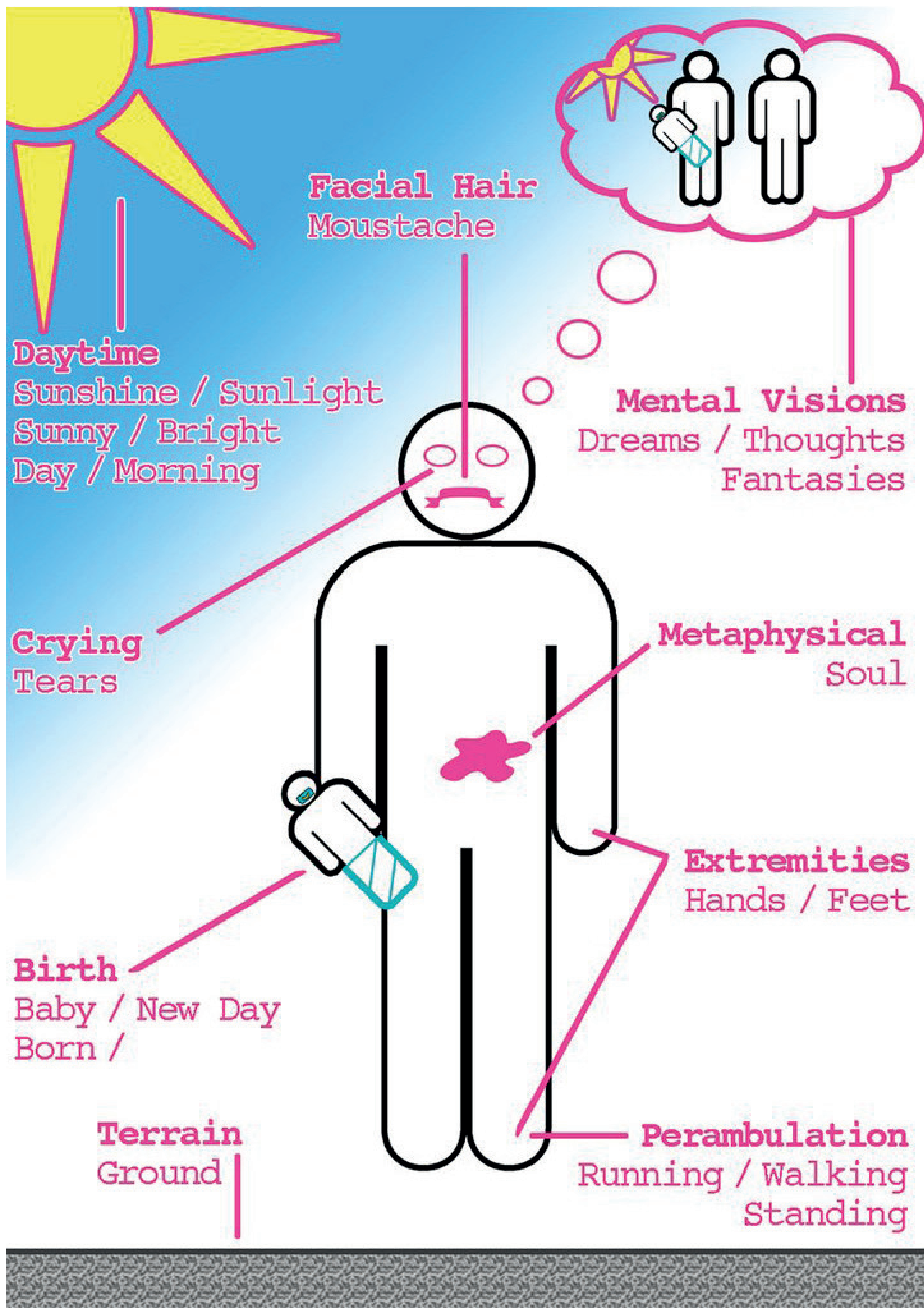
A Way With Words

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...



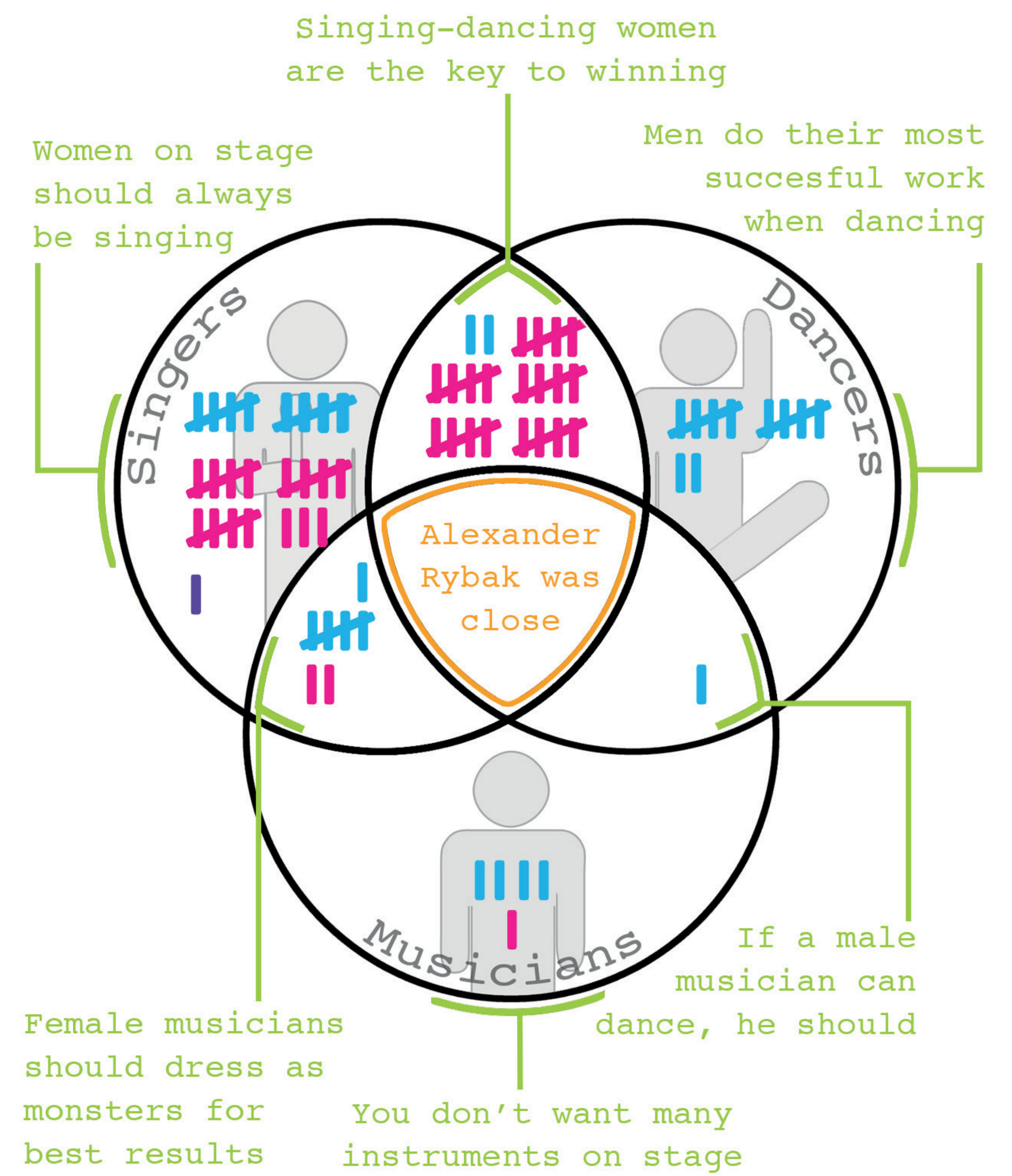
Bad Language

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?



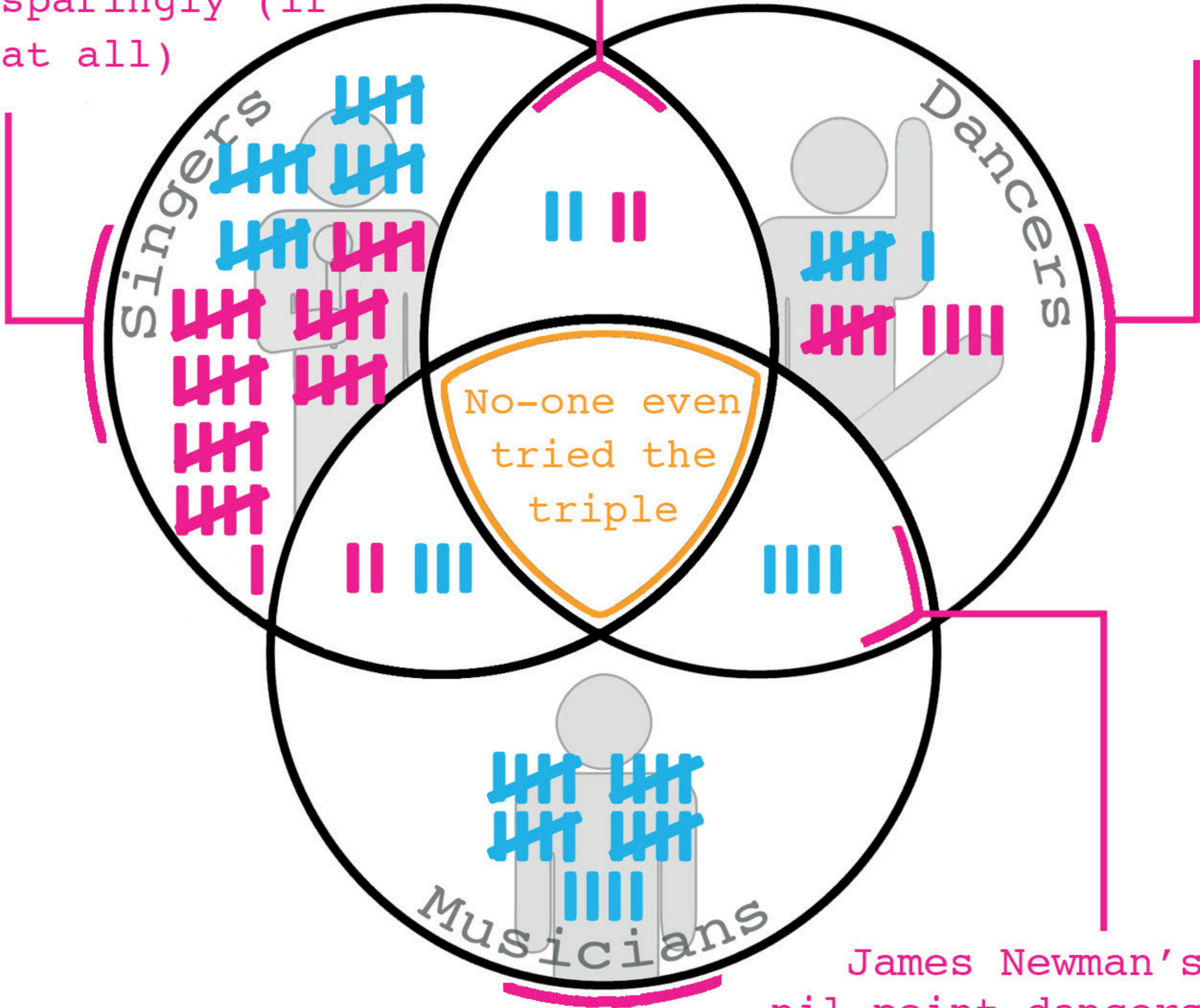
A Bunch Of Losers

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)

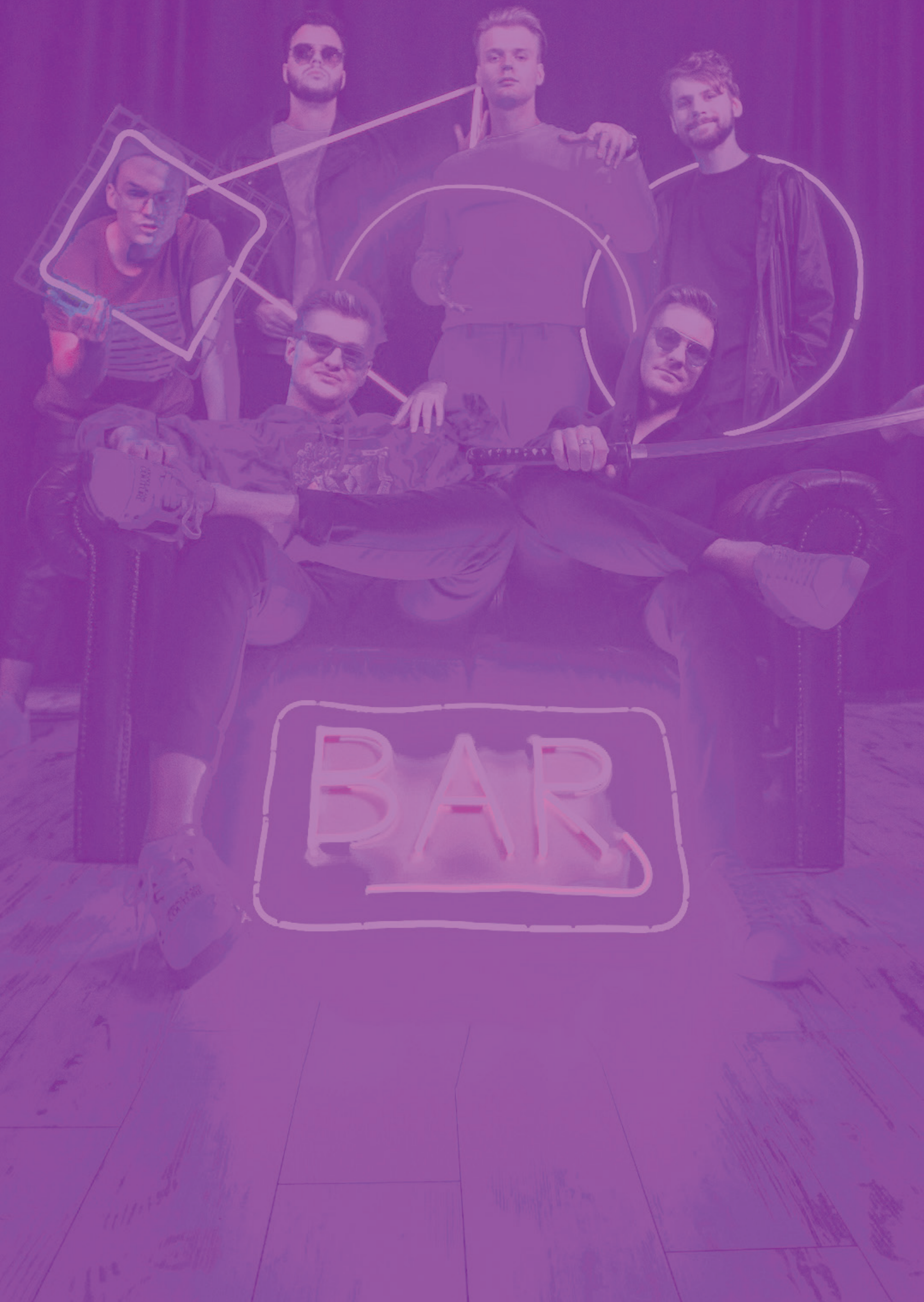
Female dancers
need to sing



Ideally, musicians
should be kept offstage

James Newman's
nil point dancers
mimed trombone choreo

The Ones We Left Behind



Albania

It can be hard to make a lasting impression if you’re the first act on. Ronela had a perfect solution – a dance routine which involves a bit of crotch grabbing and a brief flash of lady-loving – but rumours are swirling that she’s been asked to tone it down for the family audience.



Artist	Ronela Hajati
Song	Sekret
Language	Albanian / English
Key	F minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	100bpm
Songwriters	One (Ronela herself)
Sounds Like	Hardcore Holly Valance
Looks Like	Tulisa
Gracenote Mood	Idealistic Stirring

Other Notes Ronela earned some international attention in 2015 after accidentally sparking an ISIS terror panic while shooting a music video. A truck full of backing dancers dressed as Aladdin and Ali Baba rolled up into the Albanian capital and were mistaken for extremist terrorists when they started dancing on top of cars. A national freak-out ensued, with one local MP posting pictures of the supposed ‘takeover’ to Facebook...

Latvia

Featuring the most explicit refence to cunnilingus in Eurovision since **Yodel In The Canyon Of Love** lost out to Katrina And The Waves in the UK heats, the original opening line to this song was so strong they’ve had to snip it. The crowd will probably fill in the gap though.



Artist	Citi Zēni
Song	Eat Your Salad
Language	English
Key	E minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	115bpm
Songwriters	Four
Sounds Like	Bruno Mars
Looks Like	H from Steps/James Newman/Epic Sax Guy
Gracenote Mood	Fiery Groove
Weird Lyrics	Absolutely chock full of them. We don’t want to spoil the opening line for you here, so here’s an honorable mention instead: <i>"Bend over, then jiggle that peach / You recyclin’ while I’m loving those cheeks"</i>
Other Notes	The band have been winning the content wars with flashmobs, TikToks and memes. Still too early to tell if that counts for much.

Slovenia

Task an AI with writing a set of Eurovision lyrics and it would probably churn out something about a thunderstorm setting fire to your heart. So LPS are taking a pretty big gamble writing a disco song about screwing up a gig so badly your girlfriend dumps you.



Artist	LPS
Song	Disko
Language	Slovene
Key	E minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	120bpm <i>(with a little 70bpm Middle 8)</i>
Songwriters	Five <i>(The band themselves)</i>
Sounds Like	Vintage Barry Manilow
Looks Like	A sixth form jazz quintet
Gracenote Mood	Jubilant Soulful
Other Notes	LPS stands for Last Pizza Slice (an absolutely shameless bit of pandering to the host nation). The band have just recorded an English language version of this in their hotel room in Turin. Might have been smarter to do that before the submission deadline, but who are we to argue with the LPS muse?

Croatia

Look, as much as we'd like it to be, not everything at Eurovision can be an insane spectacle. Sometimes we have to let an MOR popstar pick up an acoustic guitar and sing a little ditty about relationship troubles while some fella practises his gymnastics around her.



Artist	Mia Dimšić
Song	Guilty Pleasure
Language	English
Key	F Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	84bpm
Songwriters	Three
Sounds Like	Taylor Swift
Looks Like	Kendall Jenner
Gracenote Mood	Intimate
Other Notes	The Swifties were out in force to tell Mia just how much they thought that this sounds like Taylor’s song Willow from Evermore.

Even going so far as to make mash-ups.

Bulgaria

A few years ago, Bulgaria was one of Eurovision’s most serious competitors. Landing a surprise Top 5 placement in 2016 clearly gave them a taste for victory and, for a while, they were throwing everything they could at it to clinch a win. Obviously the mood has since passed...



Artist	Intelligent Music Project
Song	Intention
Language	English
Key	D Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	160bpm
Songwriters	One (A Bulgarian businessman)
Sounds Like	Diet Scorpions
Looks Like	A covers band who play real ale events
Gracenote Mood	Driving Dark Groove
Other Notes	Intelligent Music Project is essentially the vanity project of Bulgarian businessman Milen Vrabevski. Though Milen made his millions in medical research, he also writes music, then gets musicians with weirdly impressive credentials to perform it on his behalf. Musicians who have been part of IMP at various points include Ronnie Ramero of Rainbow, John Payne of Asia and Carl Sentance.

Denmark

Subscribing to the ‘Two Songs Are Better Than One’ school of songwriting, REDDI are really making the most of their three minutes of stage time by splitting it clean down the middle. 90 seconds of tender piano ballad, then 90 more of breakneck Busted punk pop.



Artist	REDDI
Song	The Show
Language	English
Key	C Major
Key Change	Yes <i>(one semitone)</i>
Tempo	72/188bpm <i>(second big tempo change of the contest)</i>
Songwriters	Five
Sounds Like	The Donnas
Looks Like	A Kelly Osbourne/Bonnie Tyler face-swap
Gracenote Mood	Dark Pop Intensity
Other Notes	The band’s drummer, Ihan, is making a return appearance at Eurovision. She last played a decade ago, sitting on the kit for Denmark’s 2012 act, Soluna Samay, in Azerbaijan.

Austria

How, you might wonder, does a fresh-faced 20 year old producer manage to capture the sound of 90s nappy night youth club trance so authentically? Well, he’s had a little help. Among the co-writers LUM!X has drafted in on Halo is Gabry Ponte. Of Turin’s own **Eiffel 65**.



Artist	LUM!X <i>(ft. Pia Maria)</i>
Song	Halo
Language	English
Key	F minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	150bpm
Songwriters	Five
Sounds Like	N-Trance
Looks Like	N-Dubz
Gracenote Mood	Arousing Groove
Weird Lyrics	<i>"Philosophers like Socrates / Said to find yourself, think on your feet / Go sharpen your teeth"</i>
Other Notes	If you’re wondering if Pia Maria is a stage name – a play on the underage drinker’s coffee liqueur of choice, Tia Maria – it’s not. Her parents actually called her that.

Montenegro

The Eurovision audience has really done Montenegro dirty over the years. They’ve sent some incredible stuff (**dubstep astronauts; croaky old man rapping; gay space disco bangers**) and yet we only seem to vote for them when they send this sort of heartfelt sad stuff. Shame.



Artist	Vladana
Song	Breathe
Language	English
Key	G minor
Key Change	No
Time Sig	6/8
Tempo	51bpm
Songwriters	Two <i>(inc. Vladana)</i>
Sounds Like	A Disney ballad
Looks Like	Kacey Musgraves
Gracenote Mood	Smoky Romantic
Other Notes	Vladana’s co-writer, Darko Dimitrov, has written a number of previous Eurovision entries before – including Proud (jury vote winner in 2019), Loco Loco (an audience favourite in 2021) and Lost And Found (an absolute stinker, that tripped over its laces straight out of the trap in 2018). So very much a mixed bag...

Israel

If you caught any of the **American Song Contest**, you'll have seen what happens when artistes take a pop contest too seriously and strip it of any high camp fun. There's always a risk it could happen to Eurovision – but not while Michael Ben David has anything to do with it.



Artist	Michael Ben David
Song	I.M
Language	English
Key	G# minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	120bpm
Songwriters	Three
Sounds Like	A Drag Race final� challenge
Looks Like	Israeli Rylan
Gracenote Mood	Fiery Groove
Reality TV	Winner, <i>The X Factor Israel</i> (2021)
Other Notes	Michael's not been making himself wildly popular backstage. Our sources in Turin say he's been "stamping about like he's the prince of clothes, interrupting other people's interviews, trying to muscle in on impromptu musical performances by other acts, and generally being a bit of a dick."

Georgia

Formed by three dropouts from a circus arts academy, the band became friends after discovering a shared shitness at actual circus skills. So they turned their hands to music instead. The Tbilisi Big Top’s loss is Eurovision’s gain.



Artist	Circus Mircus
Song	Lock Me In
Language	English
Key	D Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	107bpm
Songwriters	Four <i>(the band)</i>
Sounds Like	An early Damon Albarn side project
Looks Like	Mighty Boosh characters
Gracenote Mood	Happy Excitement
Weird Lyrics	<i>"Take me to the spacecraft / Take me to dance club / Take me to the spacecraft Take me to dance club"</i>
Other Notes	If the prospect of a band of Georgian circus school dropouts enticed you, but this song isn't quite to your tastes, maybe you'd prefer the prog-disco of Semi Pro ? Or the hazy dream-pop of Weather Support .

Malta

We’re guessing there aren’t many entrants in this year’s competition who have an estimated personal fortune of \$80 million and whose **fathers were named in the Paradise Papers** – but it takes all sorts to make a European pop competition...



Artist	Emma Muscat
Song	I Am What I Am
Language	English
Key	G Major
Key Change	No
Tempo	97bpm
Songwriters	Four <i>(inc. Emma)</i>
Sounds Like	Rachel Platten going gospel
Looks Like	Holly Valance
Talent Show	Finalist, Amici di Maria De Filippi <i>(2018)</i>
Other Notes	This wasn’t supposed to be the song Malta entered. Emma initially won the Maltese selection process with a song called Out Of Sight . However, owing to some “feedback” (people saying they hated it) it was swiftly swapped out for I Am What I Am – a song that had originally been entered into Sweden’s national selection Melodifestivalen.

San Marino

Every year there’s a country that looks to the previous winner for inspiration – then enters something similar. So if you enjoyed Måneskin’s wiry, topless, snake-hipped, leather trousered, guylinered Italian rock, here’s the Sammarinese remix. (It’s quite something...)



Artist	Achille Lauro
Song	Stripper
Language	Italian
Key	E minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	140bpm
Songwriters	Eleven (inc. Achille)
Sounds Like	Gary Glitter
Looks Like	Machine Gun Kelly
Gracenote Mood	Heavy Brooding
Weird Lyrics	"She’s a cowboy / My heart is her sex toy She’s my bad boy / Madonna in Playboy She’s a Barbie / Because she’s got 600 HP I’m her Beagle / She’s my personal Jesus”
Other Notes	Achille tried to represent Italy for the last few years but caused too much controversy: in 2019 for singing about the pleasures of taking ecstasy; and in 2022 for performing a fake baptism on stage.

Cyprus

Truly an international all-star effort. Andromache was born in Germany, raised in Greece and represents Cyprus. The song was written by Swede-Iranians, Kosovo-Albanians and Greek Cypriots. And the arrangement features the Greek bouzouki and the Albanian fyell brezi.



Artist

Song

Andromache

Ela

Language

English / Greek

Key

Key Change

Tempo

Songwriters

Eb minor

No

96bpm

Nine

Sounds Like

Looks Like

Holiday resort pop

Lana Del Rey

Gracenote Mood

Intimate

Talent Show

Live Shows, *The Voice Of Greece* (2015)

Other Notes

The lyrics for this basically hit on every winning cliché in Eurovision. Growing wings. Flying away. Feeling heavenly. Singing about her eyes. All proven successes – but some of them have been quite heavily disguised in Greek. Will mop up the Europop/Classics Scholars vote then.

Ireland

Brooke claims she wrote this song after reading Debbie Harry’s autobiography but the lyrics don’t make it clear exactly which incident inspired it. Presumably not the bit where David Bowie flashed his cock at her. Or she took a bunch of heroin. Or got a lift from Ted Bundy.



Artist	Brooke
Song	That’s Rich
Language	English
Key	B minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	122bpm
Songwriters	Three <i>(inc. Brooke)</i>
Sounds Like	Icona Pop
Looks Like	Lolly
Gracenote Mood	Upbeat Pop Groove
Talent Show	Third Place, <i>The Voice UK</i> (2020)
Other Notes	Brooke’s co-writers for this (Izzy Warner and Karl Zine) wrote a song that featured on that Eurovision comedy Will Ferrell made for Netflix.

Brooke’s been a favourite with journalists in Turin. Full of good stories – mostly about how many bones she’s broken.

North Macedonia

Andrea caused a bit of a scandal at the Turquoise Carpet launch event by tossing her little handheld North Macedonian flag away so that she could pose for photos without it. Cue flag shaggers getting pissy and the national broadcaster asking her to apologise...



Artist	Andrea
Song	Circles
Language	English
Key	C#minor
Key Change	No
Tempo	72bpm
Songwriters	Two
Sounds Like	The sort of thing a modern X Factor winner would make a real meal out of
Looks Like	Zosia Mamet
Gracenote Mood	Energetic Yearning

Photo Credits

Intro Page: NRK

Armenia: Robert Koloyan

Austria: Felix Vratny

Azerbaijan: Ictimai TV

Belgium: Henri Doyen

Bulgaria: Orlin Nikolov

Croatia: Goran Čižmešija

Czechia: Barbora Nosková

Cyprus: Konstantinos Manolas

Denmark: Agnete Schlichtkrull

Estonia: Ako Lehemets

Finland: Venla Shalin

France: Thomas Braut / France TV

Georgia: Circus Mircus

Germany: Anna Maria Boshnakova

Greece: Kostas Karydas

Iceland: Mummi Lú

Ireland: Ruth Medjber

Israel: Noa Ataya

Italy: Bogdan Chilldays Plakov

Latvia: Citi Zēni

Lithuania: Visvaldas Morkevičius

Malta: Matthew B. Spiteri

Moldova: Zdob și Zdob

Montenegro: Aleksandra Jovic

Netherlands: Marie Wynants

North Macedonia: Martin Trajanovski

Norway: NRK

Poland: Slawomir Kuchanski

Portugal: RTP

Romania: Vlad Andrei

San Marino: RTV San Marino

Serbia: Kosta Đuraković

Spain: TVE

Switzerland: SRF

Ukraine: Maxim Fesenko

UK: Parlophone Music

Thanks to [Nielsen's Gracenote](#) for the Sonic Moods.