

# HEROES

Junior  
EUROVISION

SONG CONTEST  
NICE 2023



ESCplus  
International

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*For this reason, we welcome any contributions or corrections that may be made, as it is important for us to provide accurate and up-to-date information. Furthermore, we are committed to continuously improving the quality of our content with each new edition.*

*We hope that the texts presented in this handbook are useful and provide value to your reading.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The Junior Eurovision Song Contest kicked off in 2003 in the city of Copenhagen, Denmark, featuring a total of 16 countries. The genesis of this musical event traces back to the establishment of a children's contest that started taking place in the Nordic countries since the year 2000, known as the "Melodi Grand Prix Nordic."

Preben Vridstoft, then in charge of the children and youth department at DR, felt that Danish television had lost touch with what children truly wanted to see, with outdated programs compared to new international competitors like Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon.

After an extensive study, Vridstoft discovered that the most popular programs among young audiences were musicals, such as the Dansk Melodi Grand Prix, the Danish pre-selection for the Eurovision Song Contest.

We can consider this executive as the "father" of the format, much like Marcel Bezençon is considered responsible for launching the senior contest in 1956.

Thus, the idea of organizing a Melodi Grand Prix for children quickly emerged. The producer presented the Junior Melodi Grand Prix project to DR executives and managed to garner enough support to launch the competition, whose first edition took place on April 13, 2000, receiving critical acclaim and high viewership. Such was the success of the Danish format that in 2002, Norway and Sweden joined the project. Vridstoft wanted to go even further and decided to present the idea to the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) executives.

The organization liked the idea and, in collaboration with all European public broadcasters, expanded the contest to the whole of Europe. This resulted in a great

success in terms of viewership and an exciting competition that captivated boys and girls across the continent in the early 2000s, becoming part of the soundtrack of their childhood. The project was officially presented on November 21, 2002, exactly one year before the first contest. The concept of the "Junior Eurovision Song Contest" became so popular among members that the EBU had to conduct a draw to decide which countries could participate in the show, initially planned for a two-hour duration.

A total of 41 countries, out of over 60 eligible, have competed at least once in the contest, turning the event into one of Europe's longest-standing traditions and the only European television event that has been held continuously, as the senior Eurovision Song Contest was interrupted by the health crisis in 2020, a fate that did not befall the junior contest of 2020.

Only the Netherlands have participated in every edition to date. In the inaugural edition of 2003, 16 countries founded the contest. The second edition saw the first record of participants with 18 nations competing, featuring the debuts of historic countries like France or Switzerland.

In subsequent editions, the number stabilized around 16 participants with the involvement of Eastern European countries such as Russia, Serbia, or Ukraine. The contest has had its ups and downs in terms of the number of participating countries, as during the economic crisis years of 2008-2013, it reached its historic low with 12 participants.

Countries in Eastern Europe began to dominate the competition, with only three countries from the western part, namely Sweden, Belgium, and the Netherlands, and repeated victories by Belarus, Armenia, or Georgia. In 2012, the contest was in

danger of being cancelled due to the low number of interested broadcasters. Finally, in 2013, a new management team took charge of the contest and, after a radical change in format, more focused on its target audience, children and youth, it resurged in terms of spectacle and the number of participants.

In 2014, the number returned to levels before 2008, reaching 16 participants and witnessing the returns of historical participants like Croatia, Serbia, or Cyprus, along with significant debuts such as Italy, a member of the Big 5, which ended up winning that edition. The contest gathered a total of 20 countries in 2018, setting a record at that time. In 2019, there were 19 countries in competition due to the anticipated return of Spain.

With the COVID-19 crisis, this number dropped back to 12 for the 2020 edition. In the 2021 edition, once the health crisis was under control and vaccination progress was widespread in Europe, the number of participants returned to 19. In last year's edition, due to the delicate political and economic situation in the continent due to the Ukraine-Russia War, the number of contestants has dropped to 16.

In 2023, the same number of participants is repeated thanks to the German return, ensuring that, for the first time, the Big 5 coincide in Junior Eurovision, and the anticipated debut of Estonia, bringing the contest back to Northern Europe.

On the other hand, we must regret the withdrawals of Kazakhstan and Serbia. The recent participation trends in the contest suggest a clear shift towards the west, with most participating countries from the western bloc, marking a 180-degree turn compared to the participant list from a decade ago, partly due to the withdrawals of several Eastern European countries.

A total of 329 songs have competed in the contest in these 21 years. Thirteen countries have hosted the celebration of the children's contest, with Armenia, Belarus, France, Malta, the Netherlands, and Poland being the only countries that have hosted the contest on more than one occasion.

The countries with the most victories are Georgia, which has three golds, and Armenia, France, Poland, Russia, Malta, and Belarus, with two victories each. Italy, Ukraine, Armenia, the Netherlands, Spain, and Croatia have one victory in their musical records. Eight of these victories have been with songs in a percentage of the English language, four in Russian, two in Armenian, Georgian, Polish, and French, and one in Italian, Ukrainian, Dutch, imaginary language, Spanish, and Croatian.

The contest usually has a theme in each of its editions that floods the posters and promotions in the host city and participating televisions, among them, we highlight the "Break The Ice" in 2012 or those made in the era of social media with a hashtag included, such as "#Together" in 2014, "#Discover" in the 2015 edition, or "#Imagine" in 2021. They usually focus on young artists, emphasizing the childlike qualities that participants will have to put into practice during their time at the contest, as is the case with "Heroes" the slogan of the 21st edition set to take place in Nice (France) in 2023.

Participating countries must sing in one of their official languages, while in the traditional contest, there has been language freedom since 1999. Including 40% of the song in a language other than the country's official one is allowed, such as English or French, languages that most countries choose to use.



Junior  
EUROVISION  
SONG CONTEST

# TROPHY

## ABOUT THE CONTEST

Following its successful edition in Yerevan, Armenia, in December 2022, the Junior Eurovision Song Contest is gearing up for its next instalment in 2023 in the beautiful coastal city of Nice, France. This will be the second time in three years that France takes on the hosting duties, showcasing the country and its tourist destinations. Nice, situated in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region on the shores of the Mediterranean, will serve as the venue at the Palais Nikaïa, a versatile hall capable of accommodating around 5,000 live spectators.

After months of uncertainty about the location of Junior Eurovision in France, Nice was ultimately chosen as the host, instead of Paris. The selection of Nice aims to promote the country and its appealing tourist cities. Nice joins other French cities that have hosted events in the Eurovision network, such as Paris, Cannes, Lyon, and Montpellier.

The event will be based on the theme “Heroes” with a focus on boys and girls as the “heroes of our time.” The competition will centre on supporting young talents from across Europe, and the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) will implement a protocol for the protection and safety of children to ensure transparency and the well-being of the participants.

In terms of participation, 16 countries will compete in this edition, maintaining parity with the previous one. Despite efforts to increase participation, the goal of reaching

20 countries was not achieved, partly due to the unstable geopolitical situation in Eastern Europe. However, the presence of six founding countries stands out: Spain, North Macedonia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, and the United Kingdom.

One notable achievement of this edition is the gathering of the five largest countries (Big 5) in Europe at the contest, demonstrating the strong interest of European public broadcasters in the competition. Germany returns after a year of creative hiatus, and Estonia makes its debut in Junior Eurovision. However, there are notable absences, such as Kazakhstan and Serbia, who decided to withdraw. Additionally, Azerbaijan’s return was anticipated, but it did not materialize.

Junior Eurovision will inaugurate a new child protection and safety protocol for the participating boys and girls in the contest, aiming to provide transparency in the competition. The well-being of the young contestants will be the central focus of the document. The competition will take place on November 26, a departure from previous editions that usually occurred during Christmas. The competition aims to empower young people to be confident and promote diversity and the richness of cultures in Europe.

The XXI Junior Eurovision Song Contest will feature 16 participating countries, which are reflected in the following list in strict alphabetical order:

-  Albania
-  Armenia
-  Estonia
-  France
-  Georgia
-  Germany
-  Ireland
-  Italy

-  Malta
-  Netherlands
-  North Macedonia
-  Poland
-  Portugal
-  Spain
-  Ukraine
-  United Kingdom



# HOST CITY

NICE, FRANCE

PHOTO: Ville de Nice



## HOST CITY

Nice is considered a major tourist, administrative, and industrial center on the French Riviera, alongside its neighbouring city, Marseille. The city stands as the fifth most populous in all of France, boasting 340,000 inhabitants within its urban core and an additional 900,000 in its periphery.

The location of Nice is undoubtedly privileged, situated just a few dozen kilometres from the borders of Monaco and Italy and bathed by the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean. The urban centre also serves as the capital of the Alpes-Maritimes department.

The history of Nice and its evolution to the present day is undoubtedly fascinating. Its origins are attributed to the Roman Empire under the name Cemenelum.

In fact, the remains of three large thermal complexes that dominated the city several thousand years ago are still preserved.

About seven centuries after its foundation by Augustus in 14 B.C., Nice became the possession of the Counts of Provence.

Later, the city would come under the control of the House of Savoy until its cession to France in 1860 as a gesture of compensation to Napoleon III for his support during the Italian unification.

The Provençal city boasts a major airport located just 7 kilometres from the city centre by road. The airport terminal is the second busiest in all of France, accommodating up to 8 million passengers annually.

It's not surprising, therefore, that the coastal destination has positioned itself as a star vacation spot in recent years, as many airlines serve the airport. Other ways to access the city hosting the junior contest include train or car. Nice has a TGV station that connects with other popular French

cities such as Marseille, Montpellier, or Avignon.

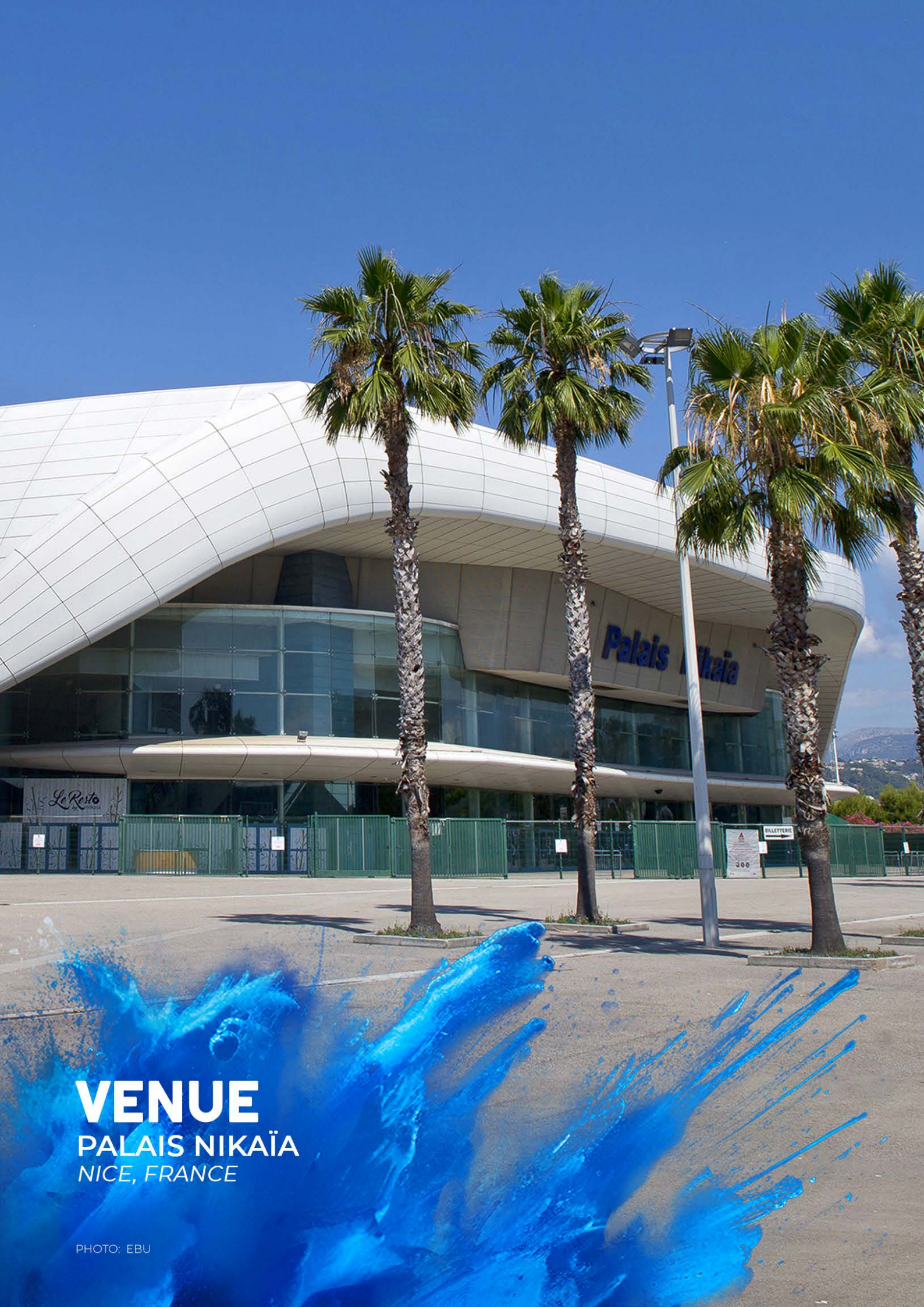
Of course, a visit to the bustling and colourful Nice would not be complete without exploring its main points of interest, neighbourhoods, monuments, activities, and most iconic areas.

Nice's waterfront is undoubtedly one of the first images that come to mind when thinking about the city. The scene, often reflected in postcards and souvenirs, is a true experience for tourists, fully capturing the vibrant life of the city and its maritime activity. The pedestrian space is surprisingly long; so much so that renting a bicycle is recommended to explore it fully and with greater comfort.

Place Massena and its adjacent streets, the city's nerve centre and an unavoidable visit, as a significant part of Nice's daily and nightly life takes place here. The square and its surrounding street are home to some of the most beautiful and characteristic buildings on the tourist route, well worth a photo or a selfie.

Nice is characterized by a past linked to the Roman Empire. As such, there are still remnants of the city's origins, including baths, roads, and even an amphitheatre. A visit to the city's archaeological museum will allow you to travel back in time and imagine what life was like thousands of years ago. Objects such as pottery, vases, jewellery, or sculptures are still preserved, providing a vivid depiction of the past.

The Castle Hill, an oasis of peace in the midst of bustling Nice. Although few remnants of the castle walls remain standing, it is well worth taking a stroll through the hill where it is located, a flower-filled and beautiful park where you can stretch your legs or exercise.



**VENUE**  
**PALAIS NIKAIË**  
*NICE, FRANCE*

PHOTO: EBU

## VENUE

The Palais Nikaïa in Nice is considered one of the great temples of music in France, standing out for its modernity and functionality. Over the years, it has become an iconic venue in the city of Nice, hosting various shows and events of great significance, serving as a gathering point for music, sports, and entertainment enthusiasts.

Comparable to the legendary Zénith de Paris in terms of reception capacity and exceptional technical qualities, the Palais Nikaïa is an ideal venue for major musical events. Located at Boulevard du Mercantour No. 163 in the French city, it is situated in an area frequented by tourists due to the large green areas surrounding the venue.

With a rich history and experience hosting a variety of musical events, including concerts by both national and international artists, the Palais Nikaïa has earned its reputation.

Designed by architects André Grésy and Serge Grésy at the request of the City of Nice, construction began in 2000. Before its existence, Nice only had the open-air theatre Promenade des Anglais, built in 1946. In the nineties, the idea of constructing a new space with a much larger capacity to host major events was proposed.

The multi-purpose venue opened its doors to the public on April 4, 2001, with the presence of Prince Albert II of Monaco and Elton John. The venue has significant seating capacity for a considerable number of live spectators and provides excellent acoustics for an enjoyable concert experience.

Internally, the Palais Nikaïa has been designed to offer excellent sound quality, equipped with state-of-the-art sound

systems and technology to ensure an optimal concert experience.

Constructed on six reinforced concrete towers with a suspended white exterior roof, the outer metal structure is formed by an aluminium enclosure. On its west side, the facade can open to connect with the Charles Ehrmann Stadium.

Its visually appealing exterior is designed to resemble a seabird, thanks to the oval lines of its facade. Featuring a modern and elegant architectural design that incorporates glass and steel.

The glass-fronted main entrance leads to a lobby of 1,800 m<sup>2</sup> with two central and two side staircases. This versatile hall spans over 9,500 m<sup>2</sup>, with a capacity for between 1,500 and 6,250 people, accommodating up to 9,000 spectators, including those standing. It is the largest venue in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region.

The Palais Nikaïa boasts a large performance hall that is the focal point of the venue, allowing for the organization of major concerts. This is the chosen venue for the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2023.

The main stage is spacious and equipped with state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems. It also features video screens and projections to enhance the visual experience for spectators.

While not all combined spaces are expected to be used for Junior Eurovision 2023, the Palais Nikaïa has the capacity to host very large events with an attendance of up to 50,000 people.



# HEROES

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**LOGO**

SLOGAN: Heroes

## SLOGAN AND LOGO

France Télévisions has chosen “Heroes” as the slogan for the event. It’s worth noting that during the Junior Eurovision press conference at the Eurovision Song Contest in Liverpool (United Kingdom) on May 10, the French broadcaster had already revealed the theme for the edition.

In addition, during the conference, the promotional video for Junior Eurovision 2023 was premiered, presenting the 21st edition of the competition in an epic manner.

Under the theme of “Heroes,” they aim to represent the power of all the boys and girls participating. “We want them to be real heroes before and after the show. Hopefully, Junior Eurovision will be an inspiration for their lives and careers,” added Alexandra Redde-Amiel, Entertainment Director of France Télévisions and Head of Delegation.

For the organizers, it’s more than just a slogan. Therefore, they decided to use a word that inspires and gives incredible strength to the children.

On August 29, the EBU and the French television unveiled the theme art for Junior Eurovision 2023 with the official publication of the list of participants.

The graphic image accompanying the slogan represents the energy of the word, opting for powerful and cheerful colors. There is a clear inspiration from street art, giving a modern touch to the contest logo to appeal to all generations.

The image is composed of a large display of paint, chalk, dust, and fireworks in various colors, ranging from blue to orange.

France Télévisions reveals that each country will have the colours of their respective flags within the theme art, following the pattern of previous editions. Additionally,

the slogan letters take centre stage in the composition.

In uppercase, in 3D, and with a unique typography for the occasion. They share the same colours as the rest of the emblem, but with added glows, shadows, and relief, giving the sensation that the text transcends the screen with hints of superhero comics.

As previously announced on April 3 during the presentation of Nice as the host city, the generic logo of Junior Eurovision accompanying the theme art will feature, for the first time in its history, the classic heart with the flag of the host country.

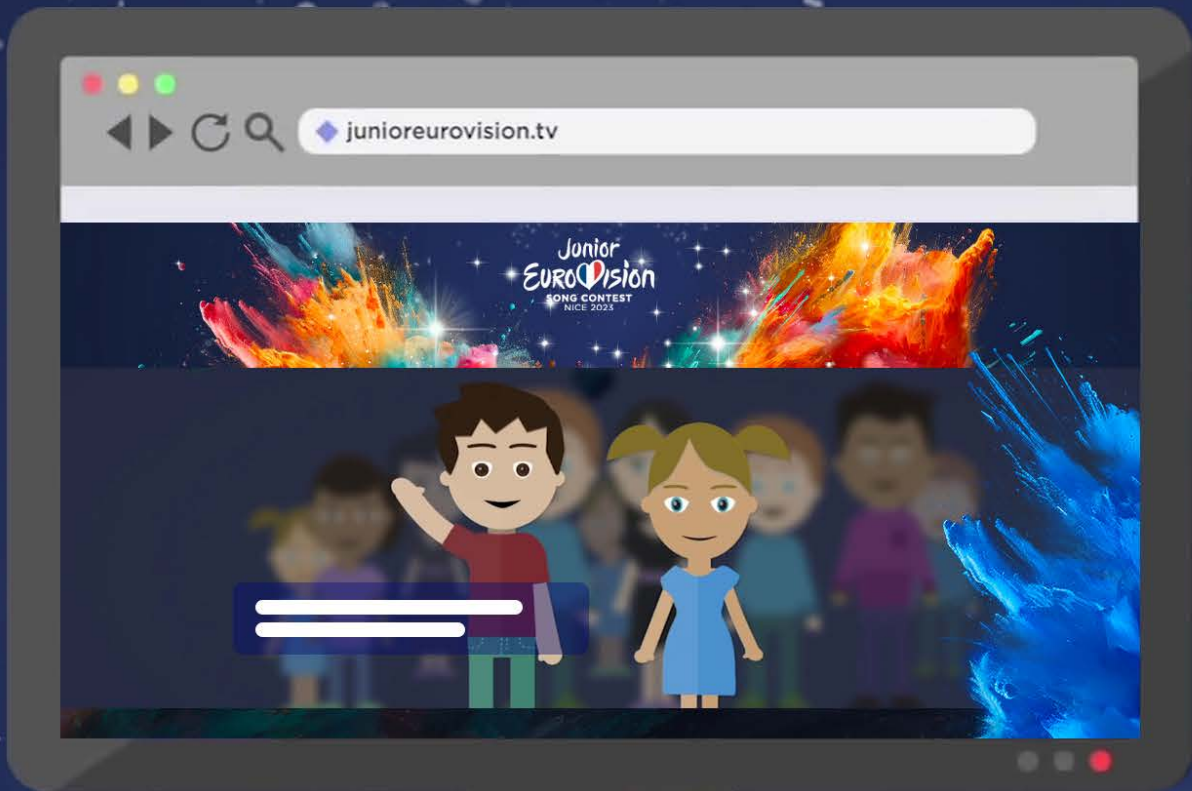
As a curiosity, RTVE (Spanish broadcaster) already revealed the official logo of Junior Eurovision 2023.

On July 20, during the photo session at the Prado del Rey Studios, the young Spanish representative Sandra Valero appeared with the traditional cube featuring the generic logo of the 21st edition and colourful backgrounds similar to those of the theme art.

Through the slogan and logo, the host broadcaster aims to create a unique experience for all participants and viewers of the 21st edition of Junior Eurovision.

The goal is to convey an explosion of happiness in a world where boys and girls are the heroes.

Alexandra Redde-Amiel announced that the French public broadcaster will offer a “unique show” with young artists as the true musical heroes, while the European competition will continue to spread music throughout Europe and the rest of the world, sharing our cultures and passions.



**VOTING SYSTEM**

## VOTING SYSTEM

The voting system for Junior Eurovision 2023 will see minimal changes compared to the previous edition. It is divided into several phases and, like the senior Eurovision, consists of 50% professional juries (comprising three adults and two children) and another 50% online voting, divided into two phases.

The first phase opens on Friday, November 24, and closes just before the live show on Sunday, November 26, at 15:59. During this phase, viewers can vote for their top three favourite songs, including the option to vote for their own country's song, unlike senior Eurovision.

The second voting phase will open on the day of the live show, once all 16 participating countries have performed. For 15 minutes, viewers can cast their votes again while traditional recaps or summaries of the songs are aired, similar to Eurovision Senior.

The difference is that voting will be done online rather than by phone, and it can be done from any country for free, even if it does not participate, in addition to voting for your own country. The voting method will be the same as in the first phase.

Once the second voting phase is closed, the results will be added to those of the first phase, calculating the percentage of support each country has received based on the total number of votes.

The final result will be composed of 50% jury and 50% online public voting (combining the two phases described above).

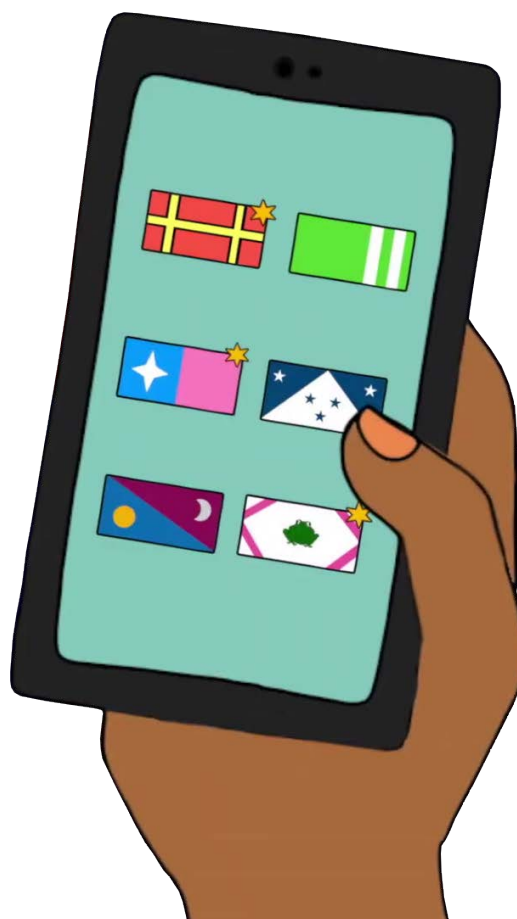
Following the pattern of recent Eurovision editions, initially, the spokesperson for each participating country (in order of performance) will announce the scores from their respective juries, scoring from 1 to 8, 10, and 12 points. Subsequently, the presenters will reveal the total scores

received by each country in the online public vote, in ascending order from fewer to more points received in the national jury voting round.

This will maintain suspense until the end, with positions potentially changing significantly, making it challenging to predict the winner until the last moment.

Considering that the jury will distribute a total of 928 points as described above, for the final result to be 50% jury and 50% online voting, the online vote must also distribute another 928 points.

To calculate the points that each country will receive from the online vote, these 928 points will be distributed proportionally according to the percentages of support each country received in the online voting.



Multi-device voting  
Photo: EBU

# HEROES

STAGE

PHOTO: France Télévisions



## STAGE

A grand event like Junior Eurovision deserves a stage that matches its stature. France Télévisions unveiled the spectacular design of the stage that will host the 16 participating countries on September 27, with the presence of the French Head of Delegation, Alexandra Redde-Amiel, and the Executive Supervisor of Junior Eurovision, Martin Österdahl.

Junior Eurovision 2023 will feature an impressive stage set up at the Palais Nikaïa in Nice. The immense scenic possibilities of the venue allow the competition to have a unique stage where each country can deliver an exclusive performance.

The design seamlessly aligns with the theme of this edition of the contest, "Heroes." The space will be dominated by an imposing LED structure shaped like wings, ensuring that every participating child feels like a superhero on stage.

The floor will have a large triangular walkable platform with an LED screen, perfectly enveloping the performances.

The most recognizable element is the large winged structure covered in LEDs, helping the young artists unleash their imagination and feel like they are flying, fulfilling their dreams. This piece will measure 30 meters wide and 12 meters high.

France Télévisions has clearly opted for LED screens, surrounding the entire venue to give its personal touch to each of the performances. The official theme art of Junior Eurovision 2023 will come to life on the entire LED wall of the space.

There will also be a spectacular lighting setup, creating completely unique and distinct atmospheres for all the stage presentations prepared by the delegations that grace the stage.

At both ends of the stage, two long black catwalks will be placed, which both artists and presenters will use to add more dynamism to the grand show, captivating families across Europe.

The green room will be positioned in front of the main stage and close to the audience so that the artists can feel the support of the viewers during the show. The space will connect with the central stage through the two catwalks.

Overall, following the style of what France Télévisions offered in Paris 2021, the stage design for Junior Eurovision 2023 embraces rectangular and abstract forms, giving the space an elegant and sophisticated touch, evoking French design while maintaining a functional, dynamic, and versatile aspect.

This design takes into account the technical characteristics of the ample space provided by the Palais Nikaïa in Nice.

Furthermore, France Télévisions expects to bring together a large number of fans from across Europe, moving away from the restrictions faced by the French broadcaster in Paris 2021.

Thus, it is estimated that a total of 5,000 spectators can witness the magic of the contest live from the stands and the pit of the Palais Nikaïa, becoming protagonists of the show and each staging.

Speaking of numbers, France Télévisions has deployed its formidable technical, production, and stage design teams to deliver a visually appealing spectacle for the audience.



# HOSTS

OLIVIER MINNE  
LAURY THILLEMANN  
OPHENYA

## HOSTS

The Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2023 will have hosts of great prestige. Olivier Minne and Laury Thilleman will take on the significant responsibility of guiding the millions of viewers of the European competition, providing all the details from inside the Palais Nikaïa.

They will be accompanied from the Green Room by the TikToker Ophenya, who will be the ambassador of social media, bringing us live updates on everything happening throughout the show.

Thus, France Télévisions once again makes a significant investment, choosing faces of recognized prestige with a strong connection to the Eurovision universe.

Despite the significant challenge of leading an event of Junior Eurovision's caliber, all the masters of ceremonies this year possess the necessary qualities to make the show shine brightly, bringing the magic of the contest to the homes of all viewers.

**Olivier Minne** (1967), despite being born in Belgium, has pursued his professional career in France. He is a television presenter, actor, and producer. In 1992, while studying dramatic arts at the Cours Florent School, he began his television career on France 2's "Matin Bonheur" program. Five years later, he began hosting "Cercle De Minuit."

He was the commentator for the Eurovision Song Contest between 1995 and 1997. Additionally, he hosted the iconic "Jeux Sans Frontières" alongside Jean Riffel, a UER competition where towns from different countries participated in various sports and skill-based challenges.

He has been the host of programs such as "Les Ecrans Du Savoir," "La Cible," or "Fort Boyard," a show he has successfully presented since 2003, first with Sarah

Lelouch (2003-2005), then with Anne-Gaëlle Riccio (2006-2009), and later solo.

As an actor, he has participated in various TV series such as "Un Gars, Une Fille," "Section De Recherches," or "Simple Question De Temps," as well as several TV movies. In the theater, he has produced several plays such as "La Dame De Chez Maxim," "L'Hôtel Du Libre-Exchange," or "Le Plus Heureux Des Trois," making significant efforts to bring theatre back to television. The success of his theatrical broadcasts led the public broadcaster to continue airing other plays in prime time.

In 2017, he wrote a biography of Louis Jourdan, "Le dernier french lover d'Hollywood" and



Olivier Minne  
Photo: Laurent VU / ALP / France Télévisions



Laury Thilleman  
Photo: laurythilleman.com

produced a documentary about the life of the French Hollywood actor.

**Laury Thilleman** (1991) is a French journalist, model, presenter, and actress, crowned Miss France in 2011, subsequently reaching the 6th place in Miss Universe.

Parallel to her modelling career, Laury graduated from the Higher School of Commerce of Brittany in 2014. She then continued her training at the Training and Development Center for Journalists (CFPJ) managed by Eurosport in France, obtaining a diploma in Journalism in 2017.

After her reign as Miss France, she became a television presenter and has been part of various programs such as “Splash, Le Grand Plongeon” and “Auto-Moto.” She has also participated in several reality shows in France, including “Danse Avec Les Stars,” where she finished in 7th place. In addition, she starred in the official tour of the competition throughout France and Belgium.

From 2011 to 2015, she took part in various specials for celebrities of the show “Fort Boyard.” In one dedicated to Halloween, she competed alongside other former Miss France contestants, with the proceeds going to the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

Since 2019, Laury Thilleman has been part of France Télévisions, becoming an iconic face for the French broadcaster in recent years, hosting flagship programs like “La Fête De La Musique” or “Les Victoires De La Musique” since 2021. She has also presented numerous formats such as “La Course Des Champions,” where she shared the screen with Olivier Minne, “Allez Viens, Je T’emmène...”, “Surprise Sur Prise,” or “Paris 2024, Le Concert Événement,” the special show for the 2024 Olympics.

Thilleman is also known for her athletic abilities and has participated in numerous

challenges and adventure races. She is an advocate for fitness and a healthy lifestyle, often promoting these messages on her social media platforms. In 2018, she was a coach for the program “Un Village À La Diète” on TF1 alongside Michelin-starred chef Thierry Marx, nutritionist Dr. Vanessa Rolland, and athletics coach Renaud Longuèvre.

**Ophélie Vincent** (2000), better known as Ophenya, is an influencer and TikToker with over 6 million followers since she started on TikTok in 2019. She has become a reference for the new generation of young people, where Junior Eurovision aims to continue consolidating its strong popularity.

She can also be found on Instagram, where she posts selfies about fashion and beauty, or on her own YouTube channel where she presents clips of her best video shorts.

She uses her social media to talk about or showcase her skills in duets, trends, dance, and comedy. In December 2021, she became a dancer for the successful British singer Olly Murs.

It is estimated that her content has helped her gain 4.8 million followers on her official profiles. The French broadcaster initially wanted to keep her identity a secret. However, on September 27, RTVE announced the presence of the young influencer at Junior Eurovision 2023 in a press release.

In this way, Ophenya will be the digital protagonist on social media during the broadcast of the 21st edition. She will also accompany the representatives of the different countries in the green room, the room where the artists and delegations are located. With a figure like Ophenya's, France Télévisions aims to continue strengthening the successful role of the children's competition as an event that captures large digital audiences on the network.



Ophenya  
Photo: @ophenya\_



**PARTIC**

**IPANTS**





**SPAIN**

**SANDRA VALERO**

*LOVIU*



LYRICS: Luis Ramiro, David Parejo Martín, Alejandro Martínez Valderrama y Diego Cantero  
MUSIC: Luis Ramiro, David Parejo Martín, Alejandro Martínez Valderrama y Diego Cantero

PHOTO: RTVE





## BIOGRAPHY

Sandra Valero, a 12-year-old artist born on August 20, 2011, is a singer, actress, and model residing in Benetússer (Valencia). She has been immersed in the world of music from a young age, influenced by her great-grandparents, grandmother, uncle, and father.

Her grandmother sang opera, her uncle performs in various musical events and is also a composer, while her father is the guitarist and bassist in the Nexus Group. Her parents affectionately refer to her as “el bicho” or “el terremoto” (the bug or the earthquake) due to her boundless energy in all her activities.

Sandra has released several original songs such as “Invierno En Mi Ciudad,” “Como Maléfica,” and “Y Digo Eh.” She has also participated in other television competitions such as “Idol Kids,” where she impressed Isabel Pantoja and Eburne, earning a well-deserved golden pass. In 2022, she participated in “La Voz Kids,” where she was eliminated in the battles.

On Antena 3’s show, she was a teammate of Carlos Higes, Spain’s representative in Yerevan 2022, both being part of Aitana’s team. Sandra currently plays the role of Mowgli in “El Libro De La Selva” and has been part of the musical “El Guardaespaldas” at the Teatro Olympia in Valencia. She recently sang at the final of the Marina Baixa Football Base tournament in Benidorm, Alicante, and in the “Cántame” contest. She excels in various genres, impressing with her voice in both lively songs and ballads. Sandra declares herself an unconditional fan of the singer Aitana.

## SPAIN IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Spain is a regular participant in Junior Eurovision, having taken part in the competition nine times. Until the 2021 edition, Spain had an outstanding record in the contest, achieving excellent results in all previous participations.

The country had consistently secured a position in the Top 5 in all previous editions, with several notable moments of success. The peak of Spain’s participation in Junior Eurovision occurred in 2004 when María Isabel won with her performance of “Antes Muerta Que Sencilla” Additionally, Spain achieved second places with Sergio in 2003 and Antonio José in 2005, as well as third places with Melani García in 2019 and Soleá Fernández in 2020. In 2006, Dani Fernández also secured a fourth-place finish.

However, in the 2021 edition, Spain faced a setback, finishing in 15th place with Levi Díaz and his performance of “Reír” marking the country’s worst historical position in the contest. Last year, Spain improved its results with the performance of Carlos Higes from Valencia and his song “Señorita” reaching the sixth position in the overall standings with a total of 137 points.

Spain was second in the online vote with 78 points, only two points behind the United Kingdom. Although they narrowly missed the coveted Top 5, this performance marked a return to success for Spain in Junior Eurovision after a challenging year.

## LYRICS

I love you  
Mon amour, je t’aime  
Ti amo, eu amo-te  
Tantas formas de decir te quiero  
y gritarlas por el mundo entero

Me gustaría cada día vivir así  
traer de cada rinconcito algún  
souvenir  
Me gustaría descubrir cada Country  
saber sus secretos

Me gustaría bucear en cada mar  
me gustaría hablar la lengua de tu  
hogar  
y que me cuentes las leyendas que  
al final  
acaban en cuentos

Aprenderé a soñar en todos los  
idiomas  
aprenderé a decir

I love you  
Mon amour, je t’aime  
Ti amo, eu amo-te  
Tantas formas de decir te quiero  
y gritarlas por el mundo entero

Me gustaría que mi viaje de película  
desafiara las leyes de la física  
Hoy en la torre Eiffel  
Mañana en el Big Ben  
y cada noche en un castillo cenaré  
pastel

Y subir por los tejados  
tirar confeti por todos lados  
Y si queréis venir  
Yo os espero aquí  
estáis todos invitados

I love you  
Mon amour, je t’aime  
Ti amo, eu amo-te  
Tantas formas de decir te quiero  
y gritarlas por el mundo entero

Tantas formas de decir te quiero  
y gritarlas por el mundo entero

Aprenderé a soñar en todos los  
idiomas  
aprenderé a decir

I love you  
Mon amour, je t’aime  
Ti amo, eu amo-te  
Tantas formas de decir te quiero  
y gritarlas por el mundo entero

Tantas formas de decir te quiero  
y gritarlas por el mundo entero  
I love you



**MALTA**



**YULAN**  
**STRONGER**

LYRICS: John-Emil Johansson - Sandra Wikström - Isak Alvedahl - Elise Hedengren - Yulan  
MUSIC: John-Emil Johansson - Sandra Wikström - Isak Alvedahl - Elise Hedengren - Yulan

PHOTO: Matthias Brancalone



## BIOGRAPHY

Yulan Law is a 14-year-old Maltese artist born in 2009. From the age of five, she began taking singing lessons and has also received training in violin and piano. Notably, her father is the renowned footballer Yau Mun Law, a player and captain of the Santa Venera Lightnings FC until he suffered a cardiac arrest during a match in 2019, forcing him to stop playing. Since that incident, Yulan, who went through a delicate emotional period, dedicates all her performances to her father, with whom she shares a close bond.

The singer has extensive experience in the world of singing. She embarked on her musical journey in 2019 on the popular Russian competition "New Wave Junior," where she performed "Almost There" and crossed paths with Eurovision participants like Karina Ignatyan and Demberel Oorzak.

In the same year, she also participated in "Sanremo Junior Malta," performing the ballad "A Moment Like This," which won the jury prize. Until then, she had taken part in many competitions, but one was still pending: Junior Eurovision. In 2019, she made her first attempt by competing in the "Malta Junior Eurovision Song Contest," where she successfully covered Naomi Scott's "Speechless."

In her free time, Yulan shares various covers of songs by Kenya Grace or Rihanna on her social media. Interestingly, her vocal coach is Glenn Vela, Malta's representative in 2011. Apart from music, Yulan aspires to study medicine to become a doctor.

## MALTA IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Malta is one of the founding countries of Junior Eurovision and has maintained a consistent presence in the contest over the years, with only two absences in 2011 and 2012. The country has secured two victories in the competition, showcasing its musical prowess. In 2013, Gaia Cauchi became Malta's first Junior Eurovision winner, and in 2015, Destiny Chukunyere furthered their success by clinching another victory for the island.

Malta's history in the contest also includes notable performances, such as the fourth-place achieved by Ela Mangion with her rendition of "Marchin' On" in the 2018 edition in Minsk. Additionally, they have entered the Top 10 on four other occasions.

However, Malta has experienced less notable results, having finished in last place twice: in 2005 and in 2019 with Eliana Gómez Blanco, who secured the 19th position in the final rankings. Despite these setbacks, Malta has continued to participate with determination in the contest.

In recent editions, Malta achieved eighth place in 2020 with Chanel Monseigneur and her song "Chasing Sunsets," as well as twelfth place in 2021 with the duo Ike and Kaya and their ballad "My Home." Last year, Gaia Gambuzza represented Malta with "Diamonds in the Skies," but the country finished in the last position with only 43 points.

## LYRICS

Patience

You think you cannot cope another day  
But all you need is patience  
You promised me you wouldn't fade away  
Wanting to escape, can't see that you're amazing

Look at your reflection  
All you wanna do is change it  
Have patience  
Don't let it get you down, it's just a phase

Know: you're so much more than you know  
I know we may have a long way to go  
But I see the glow in you

Look at us now  
Stronger than ever before  
We fought all the battles  
Jumped all the hurdles  
Nothing can stop us  
Take a look at us now

Saviour  
To mend a broken heart along the way  
You thought you'd need a saviour  
But you're the only one to make a change  
And as we're getting older  
We think that we'll be bolder  
But here we are still waiting to be saved

Still have a long way to go  
But I see the glow in you

Look at us now  
Stronger than ever before,  
We fought all the battles  
Jumped all the hurdles  
Nothing can stop us

When a storm is awaiting  
Just try to be patient  
I promise we'll make it somehow

Look at us now  
Stronger than ever before  
Look at us now  
Look at us, look at us  
take a look at us, look at us now  
Ooooooh take a  
Look at us now



**UKRAINE**

**ANASTASIA DMYD**

*KVITKA*

LYRICS: Svitlana Tarabarova  
MUSIC: Svitlana Tarabarova

PHOTO: UA: PBC / Anastasiia Mantach



## BIOGRAPHY

Anastasia Dymyd, a nine-year-old artist born in 2014, hails from the village of Goshiv in the Ivano-Frankivsk region, where she studies dance and singing. Her mother shares that she began humming the children's song "La familia dedo" at the age of two. Anastasia is in the fourth grade and enjoys drawing, singing, and dancing.

Her favorite place in the world is the Vyshkivskiy mountains. Her parents are Ulyana and Olag Dymyd, and she has two older sisters who left the country due to the war. Despite her young age, she has been studying music since she was five and continues to receive singing and solfège lessons from her teacher, Galina Kurus. She is the youngest participant in this year's competition.

Anastasia has participated in more than twenty singing competitions and contests, accumulating numerous awards and recognitions. Interestingly, her favorite title is from the "United Kids Festival," where she ranked among the top thirty and reached the top ten out of over 400 children.

It's worth noting that this festival took place in Almería. Anastasia holds a special affection for Spain, as a significant part of her family has found refuge in the country due to the war, residing in cities like Almería and Seville, where her sisters live. With little experience and guided by her singing teacher, she participated in her first contest, "La Voz Dorada del Valle," held in her hometown. The latest contest she participated in was the "Festival del Mar Negro," just a few months ago.

## UKRAINE IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Ukraine joined the world of Junior Eurovision in the 2006 edition held in Bucharest, Romania. In its debut, the country achieved a respectable ninth place in the standings, marking the beginning of its participation in the competition.

The country has had a remarkable trajectory in Junior Eurovision, with a record that includes several notable positions. One of the most significant moments in Ukraine's history in the contest was Anastasiya Petryk's overwhelming victory in 2012 with her emotional performance of "Nebo." Furthermore, Ukraine secured two second places in 2008 and 2013, along with a fourth place in 2018 with Darina Krasnovetska and her song "Say Love." They also achieved fifth place in 2009 and seven additional Top 10 positions in different editions.

On the flip side, Ukraine has had some poor results in the contest, including a last-place finish in 2010 and its worst historical result in 2019 when they landed in 15th place. However, in recent editions, the country has regained its strength in the voting, securing seventh place in 2020 with Oleksandr Balabanov and his song "Vidkryvai" and sixth place in 2021 with Olena Usenko's performance of "Vazhil." Last year, Ukraine slipped slightly in the rankings, securing the ninth place with Zlata Dziunka and her song "Nezlamna" (Unbreakable). Despite the ups and downs, Ukraine has proven to be a standout contender in Junior Eurovision.

## LYRICS

Колихала мати донечку Настусю  
Колихала і співала про квітку  
цілющу

Квітка, квітка - мамина лебідка  
Квітка, квітка - най, на щастя діткам  
Квітка, квітка - час летить так  
швидко  
Квітка, квітка - на щастя діткам

Квітка, квітка  
Квітка, квітка  
Квітка, квітка  
Квітка, квітка - на щастя діткам

Love will win - I know  
It's time for your magic  
Find yourself in this world  
And stop this tragedy

Сонечко сідає  
Зорі пишуть вірші  
Мамо, втомлені очі  
Зацілюю твої

Піднесу до небес  
посміхатимешся  
Квітка в серці назавжди  
залишається

Квітка, квітка - мамина лебідка  
Квітка, квітка - най, на щастя діткам  
Квітка, квітка - час летить так  
швидко  
Квітка, квітка - на щастя діткам

Квітка, квітка  
Квітка, квітка  
Квітка, квітка  
Квітка, квітка

Find yourself in this world  
And stop this tragedy, stop this  
tragedy, stop this tragedy

Квітка, квітка - мамина лебідка  
Квітка, квітка - най, на щастя діткам  
Квітка, квітка - час летить так  
швидко  
Квітка, квітка - на щастя діткам

Квітка, квітка  
Квітка, квітка  
Квітка, квітка - час летить так  
швидко  
Квітка, квітка - на щастя діткам  
Квітка, квітка



# IRELAND

JESSICA MCKEAN

*AIKLING*



LYRICS: Niall Mooney - Ken McHugh - Will Weeks - Niamh Mooney - Sophie Lennon  
MUSIC: Niall Mooney - Ken McHugh - Will Weeks

PHOTO: TG4



## BIOGRAPHY

Jessica McKean, a 10-year-old born in 2013 in the town of Lifford, the capital of Donegal County, located in the north of Ireland, is set to become the youngest representative in the history of Junior Eurovision for Ireland and the youngest in the entire 2023 edition.

Growing up surrounded by fields, cows, and picturesque landscapes, Jessica attends primary education at the Central National School in Raphoe. She took her first steps onto the stage at the age of three, participating in the well-known Fèis (festival of Gaelic arts and culture).

Supported unconditionally by her parents, Sarah and Wesley, Jessica has been encouraged since the beginning of her musical career. Her younger siblings, Louisa and Archie, aged 9 and 6 respectively, serve as a constant source of inspiration.

Recognizing her talent from an early age, her family provided her with opportunities to develop and refine her vocal and artistic skills. They traveled across the country for Jessica to participate in national contests and contests. At just two and a half years old, she received her first music lesson from Marie, her vocal coach.

Over the years, she has developed a broad vocal range, mastering everything from pop to operatic registers. Continuing her musical education online, she had to leave the in-person music center she attended due to the 2020 lockdown.

## IRELAND IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Ireland made its Junior Eurovision debut in 2015 with Aimee Banks and her operatic performance of "Realta Na Mara," featuring Irish and Latin in its lyrics. However, their debut was not entirely successful as they finished in 12th place in the final standings. Despite this start, Ireland continued participating in the competition, aiming to improve its results.

The following year, in 2016, Zena Donnelly made progress by reaching 10th place, indicating an improvement in Ireland's representation. However, in 2017 and 2018, with Muireann McDonnell and Taylor Hynes respectively, Ireland failed to surpass 15th place on both occasions.

In 2019, despite the efforts of representative Anna Kearney, Ireland secured 12th place with the song "Banshee." This result matched their second-best historical position in the contest. However, in 2021, Ireland fell to the bottom, finishing in 18th place, second to last in the standings, with Maiú Levi Lawlor and her song "Saor" (Disappear), achieving the worst historical score for the Emerald Isle with only 44 points.

Last year, Ireland achieved a notable improvement in results. Sophie Lennon stood out with her performance of "Solais," allowing them to achieve their best historical position in the contest, securing fourth place with a total of 150 points. This performance marked a positive turn in Ireland's participation in Junior Eurovision, demonstrating its ability to compete on the international stage.

## LYRICS

Chuala mé  
Guthanna sa ghaoth.  
Threoraithe ag na réalta  
Faoi scáth na hoíche  
Sheol mé.  
Trasna na Mara.  
Bhí sé cosúil le Aisling  
Do mo thabhairt go tir  
Smaragaid

Chonaic mé teach solais.  
Do mo threorú isteach.  
Do m'fháilitú ar ais

An aisling, i mo thír lán,  
Is é an chaisleán óir,  
Le seomra ann do gach duine,  
An Banríon

Gléasta i mbán.  
Thóg sí mo lámh  
Is Chan sí amhrán dom.  
Chan sí amhrán dom  
In san Seomra Óir

In ndiadh na catha  
Tagann síochán

An aisling, i mo thír lán,  
Is ea an chaisleán óir,  
Le seomra ann do gach duine,  
Faoin ngrian, faoin ghealach,  
agus scáthanna na sléibhte.  
Is ea mo aisling, is ea mo aisling.

Ag fanacht leis an rí.  
Shíl mé go bhfaca mé banshee.  
Ná bí scanraithe

Is mise an solais  
Do do threorú isteach.  
Do d'fháilitú ar ais.

An aisling, i mo thír lán,  
Is ea an chaisleán óir,  
Le seomra ann do gach duine,  
Faoin ngrian, faoin ghealach,  
agus scáthanna na sléibhte.  
Is ea mo aisling, is ea mo aisling.



# UNITED KINGDOM

STAND UNIQ<sup>3</sup>  
BACK TO LIFE

LYRICS: Sky Adams, Jakke Erixson, Jack Hawitt  
MUSIC: Sky Adams, Jakke Erixson, Jack Hawitt

PHOTO: BBC / Justin Downing





## BIOGRAPHY

STAND UNIQU3 is composed of Hayla, Maisie, and Yazmin. They were selected through Buzz Talent, one of the UK's most famous artist agencies. All three were contestants in the latest edition of The Voice Kids UK, broadcasted on the private channel ITV.

Yazmin Asim, 12 years old, resides in South Shields, Newcastle, and has dreamed of becoming a pop star since the age of 4. Her television debut happened on the blind auditions of "The Voice Kids," where she performed Lauren Spencer-Smith's "Fingers Crossed" and was chosen by the singer Ronan Keating. Despite not making it to the final, she considered this experience as her first significant opportunity to achieve her dream.

Maisie Farr, 13 years old and a resident of Essex, began singing at the age of 6 with the song "Let It Go" from "Frozen." On "The Voice Kids UK," she sang S Club 7's "Reach For The Stars," although unfortunately, none of the coaches turned their chairs, and she was eliminated. Maisie is passionate about dance and acting, enjoying her free time shooting clay pigeons with her grandfather and collecting crystals.

Hayla-Essen Danns, 12 years old, hailing from Liverpool, has a special connection to Eurovision, as her grandfather was a dancer who accompanied the British representative in 1987. Her father is the famous football player Neil Danns. She has been singing since the age of three and draws inspiration from artists like Billie Eilish, Jordan Smith, and especially Rihanna. In 2020, she collaborated with Benylis Ann on the song "Top Of The World."

## UNITED KINGDOM IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

As a founding country of the Junior Eurovision Song Contest, the United Kingdom has experienced a journey with ups and downs in the competition over the years. In its initial participations, the ITV network handled the British entries, achieving noteworthy results. In 2003, they surprised everyone by securing a remarkable third place with Tom Morley's emotional song "My Song For The World." The following year, they maintained their success by finishing in second place with Cory Spedding and "The Best Is Yet To Come."

However, the 2005 edition marked a turning point in their trajectory. Joni Fuller, with her song "How does it feel," did not achieve the same success and landed in a modest 14th place. This setback, combined with low viewership affecting the contest, led the United Kingdom to withdraw from Junior Eurovision in 2006.

It's worth noting that Wales, a constituent nation of the United Kingdom, decided to participate independently in 2018 and 2019, although their results were not as remarkable, securing the 20th and 18th positions, respectively, and withdrawing in the 2020 edition.

The United Kingdom returned to the competition in 2022 under the BBC's direction and chose Freya Skye as their representative with the song "Lose My Head." Despite being considered one of the favorites, Freya achieved the fifth position in the edition held in Yerevan, partly due to health issues during Eurovision week.

## LYRICS

I get so fascinated  
In this old ghost town  
I keep on seeing faces  
When no one is around  
And I know  
That I'm playing fire, out here alone  
on my own  
I get so distracted  
I walk right into hell  
My hands just start reacting  
Am I under your spell  
So let's go  
I'm not scared of the dark, wanna go  
where the moon doesn't glow

No, I can't help it  
I just cannot help myself  
You get it  
If all our fears get buried tonight  
That's fine  
Cos maybe we can dance you back  
to life

Cos maybe we can dance you back  
to life  
Bring you back to, bring you back to,  
bring you back to, back to life

Thunder and the lightning  
Like you have never seen  
I know it should be frightening  
But I just feel so free  
In this town  
Yeah, I just wanna stay

No, I can't help it  
I just cannot help myself  
You get it  
If all our fears get buried tonight  
That's fine  
Cos maybe we can dance you back  
to life

Cos maybe we can dance you back  
to life  
Bring you back to, bring you back to,  
bring you back to, back to life

You've been living in the shadows  
And the dark is all you need  
But I wanna see you in the light  
(See you in the light)  
Can you feel your heart beating  
And the way you started breathing  
'Cos we're gonna bring you back to  
li-i-i-ife

No, I can't help it  
I just cannot help myself  
You get it  
If all our fears get buried tonight  
That's fine  
Cos maybe we can dance you back  
to life

Cos maybe we can dance you back  
to life  
Bring you back to, bring you back to,  
bring you back to, back to life



# NORTH MACEDONIA

TAMARA GRUJESKA

*KAZI MI, KAZI MI KOJ*

LYRICS: Robert Bilbilov - Kosta Petrov

MUSIC: Robert Bilbilov

PHOTO: Bojan Stoilkovski



## BIOGRAPHY

Tamara Grujeska, a 13-year-old artist born on December 2, 2010, in Gostivar, located in northwest Macedonia, has displayed a keen interest in music since a very young age. Encouraged by her musician parents, she started her musical journey at the age of 5. Her musical debut occurred at the Apple Festival with the song "Pepelashka."

Currently in seventh grade at "Goce Delchev" primary school, she attends the "Todor Skalovski" music school in Tetovo, specializing in solo singing, and also takes classes in composition and solfeggio. Tamara considers her role model to be her teacher Natasha Miha, with whom she collaborates at the Andriana Janevska music school. She also takes courses with the prestigious U.S. vocal coach Cheryl Porter. Her teachers describe her as "unique and fearless."

Having participated in numerous TV programs and competitions, both nationally and internationally, Tamara is well-known in Macedonia, evident from the many awards she has received. Notable among them is the international competition "Ezerski Biseri" in Struga, where she won the first prize. In the same year, she triumphed again at the "Zvezdichki" International Festival in Prilep with her song "Muzikata Vo Mene Ima Dom." She repeated her success at the "Skoljkice" International Festival in Novi Sad (Serbia). Last year, she competed in the "Golden Stars Rain" competition held in Moscow, Russia.

## NORTH MACEDONIA IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

North Macedonia is one of the founding countries of Junior Eurovision, having joined the competition since its inaugural edition in 2003 in Copenhagen, Denmark. At that time, the country debuted under the name "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and continued participating under that name until 2018. From 2019, Greece and North Macedonia agreed to use the name "Republic of North Macedonia."

In its debut, North Macedonia was represented by the young duo Marija and Viktorija, who performed the song "Ti ne me poznaš." Despite their efforts, the country secured the 12th position in the final rankings with only 19 points.

The country's best positions in the contest were two fifth places, achieved in 2007 and 2008. In 2007, the Macedonian duo Dimitar Stojmenovski & Rosica Kulakova performed "Ding ding dong" in Rotterdam, while in 2008, the young Macedonian singer Bobi Andonov presented "Prati mi SMS" in Limassol.

On the other hand, North Macedonia has finished in last place four times, in 2006, 2011, 2013, and 2015. In the 2021 edition, the group Dajte Muzika represented the country with the song "Green Forces," reaching the ninth position with 114 points.

In the last edition, Lara, Jovan, and Irina represented North Macedonia in Armenia with the song "Životot E Pred Mene," scoring 54 points and finishing in the 14th position. In the upcoming edition, Tamara will aim to improve on the previous year's performance as the representative of North Macedonia in Junior Eurovision.

## LYRICS

Ti slušni me,  
slušni me mene  
I gušni me,  
Nema veke vreme  
Sega ovde sme,  
Eden den  
može ke ne snema

Kaži mi, kaži mi koj  
Koj ni e kriv što nemame naši heroj  
Kaži mi, kaži mi koj  
Od gordosta srekata e považna  
Kaži mi, kaži mi koj  
Sekoja sekunda rastam i soznavam  
Kaži mi, kaži mi koj  
Me gali nežno dodeka jas zaspijam

Now, hold my hand tight  
We gonna win this fight  
No more fears, just light  
We may be lost, but we will find a  
way  
Let's shine away

Kaži mi, kaži mi koj  
Koj ni e kriv što nemame naši heroj  
Kaži mi, kaži mi koj  
Od gordosta srekata e považna  
Kaži mi, kaži mi koj  
Sekoja sekunda rastam i soznavam  
Kaži mi, kaži mi koj  
Me gali nežno dodeka jas zaspijam



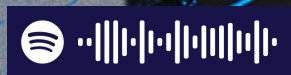
**ESTONIA**

**ARHANNA SANDRA ARBMA**

*HOIAME KOKKU*

LYRICS: Hoiame Kokku  
MUSIC: Rael Laikre / Leelo Tungal

PHOTO: Georg Savisar / ERR



## BIOGRAPHY

Arhanna Sandra Arbma is an 11-year-old artist born in 2012 in the city of Rääpina, with a population of 2000 inhabitants, located in the southeast of Estonia near the Russian border. She began singing at the age of three and started her artistic training at her local music school.

Her exploration of talent began at the age of five when she started taking singing and piano lessons, with the latter becoming her favorite instrument. Her great support has been her teacher, Margot Suur, an opera singer and a significant figure in Estonian music.

The young artist has expressed that her dream has always been to be a singer, and she attends singing classes twice a week to hone her skills. Her favorite music genres are pop and ballads, expressing a dislike for operatic styles. Arhanna has performed in numerous concert halls and competed in various contests.

However, she gained notable recognition through the singing competition show "Tähtede Lava," an Estonian version of Junior Eurovision, which she won last year with impressive performances, including "Part Of Your World" from the soundtrack of "The Little Mermaid." Additionally, she secured a second place in the talent competition "Annetekoja" and won the International "Odin" competition in the solo category with a flawless rendition of "Kuula," Estonia's entry in the Eurovision Song Contest 2012, originally performed by Ott Lepland.

## ESTONIA IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Until now, Estonia had been the only Baltic country that hadn't participated in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest. Its neighbor, Latvia, debuted in the first edition in 2003 but unfortunately withdrew in 2011 due to lack of success. Lithuania, on the other hand, became the second Baltic country to join the contest in 2007 but also opted to withdraw in 2011.

It is worth noting that despite not actively participating in Junior Eurovision, Estonia had been involved in the event. The country broadcasted the first two editions of Junior Eurovision in 2003 and 2004. However, Estonia did not show significant interest in actively participating in the competition at that time, often citing economic reasons.

Estonia's participation in Junior Eurovision represents a significant step in expanding the contest's presence in the Baltic region and demonstrates renewed interest from Estonia in this international musical event. With its debut in the competition, Estonia joins its neighbors Latvia and Lithuania, becoming an integral part of the exciting Junior Eurovision tradition in Europe.

## LYRICS

Kui üksi tunned end,  
ei murest üle saa  
ja näib, et keegi sind  
ei hoia, armasta,  
siis usu, looda, tea,  
kõik saab korda veel –  
tea, et sõber hea  
on su juurde teel.

Uu-uu-uu...

Hoiame kokku,  
nii on meil lootust,  
et sõber on olemas,  
ole olemas!

Hoiame kokku,  
nii on meil lootust,  
et sõber on olemas,  
ole olemas!

Kui tuge vajad sa,  
sõber annab nõu  
ühes temaga  
leiad endas uue jõu.

Uu-uu-uu...

Hoiame kokku,  
nii on meil lootust,  
et sõber on olemas,  
ole olemas!

Hoiame kokku,  
nii on meil lootust,  
et sõber on olemas,  
ole olemas!

Aa-aa-aa-aa

Hoiame kokku,  
nii on meil lootust,  
et sõber on olemas,  
ole olemas!

Staying together  
days will be better  
as friend is right there with you  
always there with you

Staying together  
days will be better  
I will stand by you!



**ARMENIA**

**YAN GIRLS**  
*DO IT MY WAY*

LYRICS: Maléna / Vahram Petrosyan  
MUSIC: Tokionine

PHOTO: AMPTV



## BIOGRAPHY

Yan Girls is a female group formed specifically for the occasion of Junior Eurovision. The lineup consists of five young members: Nane, Nensi, Kamilla, Syuzana, and Aida.

The group is led by Nancy Mnatsakanyan, an 11-year-old born in Yerevan in 2012. Nancy is passionate about singing and painting. She loves singing in karaoke and is an art enthusiast, painting pictures displayed in her school's gallery.

Aida, the youngest member at 9 years old, born in 2014, is passionate about singing, dancing, and surfing. Her favorite music genres include K-pop and Hip-Hop, with BLACKPINK, Triple Charms, and BTS being her preferred groups. She dreams of being the lead actress in an action movie and having her own singing and dancing studio.

Syuzanna Nikoyan, aged 10, born in 2013 in Yerevan, is a student at the Tchaikovsky Music School, where she sings, dances, plays the piano, and practices artistic gymnastics. She also competes in children's championships and considers her dog Buddy as her best friend.

Kamilla Davtyan, 11 years old, born in 2012, attends the Alexander Spendaryan Music School. She is a multi-instrumentalist, playing the piano and drums, and has been singing since the age of 4. She enjoys board games, puzzles, and building structures with Lego.

Nané Andreyan, also 11 years old, born in 2012 in Yerevan, has been a singer and dancer from an early age. She is also involved in painting and has exhibited her creations in local museums.

## ARMENIA IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Armenia made its debut in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2007, and since then, it has been a formidable competitor. Their first participation with the group Arevik, performing the song "Erazanq," secured an impressive second place, propelling Armenia onto the European music stage and setting the stage for future successful performances.

Since that promising debut, Armenia has been a strong contender in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest. In the following years, Armenian artists such as Luara Hayrapetyan (2nd place with 116 points), Dalita Avanesian (5th place with 85 points), and Betty (3rd place with 146 points) showcased Armenia's musical talent.

Notable moments for Armenia in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest include Vladimir Arzumanyan's victory in 2010 with the song "Mama" and Malena's "Qami, Qami" in 2021, which became the quintessential teenage hit of the competition. In 2020, Armenia had to withdraw from the contest due to the conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan.

Armenia continues to be a prominent participant in Junior Eurovision, consistently delivering noteworthy performances and securing commendable positions in the competition.

## LYRICS

Էս երգը քեզ տանելույա,  
Ու տեղից քեզ վեր հանելույա,  
Մեր ուժից հիմա հողը կդողա,  
Baby now you are in my area!

Բարի - բարի չստացվեց էս երգը մի  
տեսակ,  
Բայց արի ու արի ու արի ու տես ուր  
հասանք,  
Օ – աաաա (տես ես ուր հասանք), օ –  
աաաա:

I'm too cool to be a fool,  
So don't you mess with me!

I'mma do it my way,  
And I'm breaking the rules,  
No matter what they say,  
Ain't nothing I can't do!

Չեմ սիրում ես չա-չա-չա, Էդ իմ ոճը չի,  
Ես պիտի լինեմ ոնց կամ ու չեմ ամաչի,  
Boom, now I run this room and your  
eyes are on me,  
Wroom, move it with the groove,  
movin' with your body.  
I'll take me to the stop, never gonna'  
stop,  
I'm number one I'm never gonna'  
lose!

Դե տանը մի մսա, տանը մի մսա, տանը  
մի մսա, դե արի դուրս,  
Օ – աաաա (դե արի դուրս), օ – աաաա:

Կամ արի փոխենք էս խաղը,  
Կամ մի խանգարի:

I'mma do it my way,  
And I'm breaking the rules,  
No matter what they say,  
Ain't nothing I can't do!



**POLAND**

**MAJA KRZYŻEWSKA**

*I JUST NEED A FRIEND*

LYRICS: Patryk Kumor - Carla Fernandes - Marissa

MUSIC: Carla Fernandes - Dominic Buczkowski-Wojtaszek - Patryk Kumor - Piotr Zborowski

PHOTO: Krzysztof Szlezak / Universal Music Poland





## BIOGRAPHY

Maja Krzyżewska, a 12-year-old artist born in 2011 in Suwałki, a small town in northwest Poland located just 30 kilometers from the border with Lithuania and Russian Kaliningrad. She lives with her parents and has two siblings, Oliwier, aged 6, and Lila, aged 4. Additionally, she has a dog named Elbrus with whom she enjoys walks.

Maja has been involved in the world of music and performance since the age of four when she first took the stage in a competition in "Izbica Kujawska," a small town in the center of the country. Following this event, she joined a music group at school and began taking piano lessons. Maja mentions that she inherited her talent from her mother, who was also an artist in her youth, part of a Polish folk music group.

Known as the "Maja from the end of the world," she often jokes that living in a rural area, isolated from big cities, poses a barrier to her growth and development as an artist.

However, she hones her talent at the cultural center of Suwałki, the well-known "Stудиo Piosenki Światlik," under the guidance of Emila Kulbackiego, her teacher and role model, stating that if you truly want something, you can overcome "all obstacles." Among the music styles she favors, lyrical pop stands out, a range through which she gained recognition as a participant in the sixth season of The Voice Kids.

## POLAND IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Poland is one of the founding countries of Junior Eurovision, having debuted in the competition in 2003. However, their initial participation was not as successful, as in 2004, on their second appearance, they finished in last place and decided to withdraw indefinitely from the contest.

Poland's return to Junior Eurovision in 2016 marked a new beginning in their contest history. In the 2017 edition, the country surprised by breaking into the Top 10, showcasing its potential on the international stage of Junior Eurovision.

Poland achieved two consecutive victories in the contest, with Roksana Węgiel winning in 2018 with her performance of "Anyone I Want to Be" and Viki Gabor securing another victory in 2019 with the song "Superhero." These back-to-back wins were an impressive feat for Poland in Junior Eurovision.

In 2020, Poland maintained a strong performance in the contest, finishing in ninth place with Ala Tracz and her song "I'll Be Standing." The 2021 edition was equally successful, as Sara James reached the second position in the Paris classification with the song "Somebody," solidifying Poland's presence on the podium.

However, in last year's edition, Poland experienced a dip in performance with Laura and her song "To The Moon," which secured the tenth place with a total of 95 points. Despite this result, Poland has proven to be a standout country with a significant fan base in Junior Eurovision, boasting a track record that includes victories, podium finishes, and a triumphant return to the contest.

## LYRICS

I just need a friend  
uuu uuu u

My place on earth  
I never had one  
they told me  
That I would find my way  
Small town girl  
In an endless world  
All alone

Czy wysłuchasz mnie poukładasz  
Každy mój dzień  
Właśnie ktoś jak ty  
Będzie obok  
Będzie obok

I just need a friend  
uuuu uuuu  
Tell me there's someone who  
Would fly me to the moon  
uuuu uuuu  
And never let me go  
We are beautiful like butterflies  
Even if we break our wings  
Tak dobrze, że cię mam  
uuuu  
razem łatwiej iść pod wiatr

Dziś to co mam  
To nadzieje  
Że każdy z nas  
Gdzieś znajdzie dom  
Za dużo łez,  
W wielkim świecie  
Pośrodku my  
(samotni)

Czy wysłuchasz mnie poukładasz  
Každy mój dzień  
Właśnie ktoś jak ty  
Będzie obok  
Będzie obok

Tak Dobrze, że cię mam  
uuuu uuuu  
Razem łatwiej iść pod wiatr  
uuuu uuuu  
Dokładnie tak jak ja  
Masz niespokojne sny  
Czy będziesz tu gdy zgubię się  
I poszukasz ze mną gwiazd  
Tak dobrze, że cię mam  
uuuu  
budujemy nowy świat

If we find each other  
I would be your someone too  
Choć tak wiele nas różni to  
jednak więcej łączy dziś

I just need a friend  
Tak dobrze, że cię mam  
We are beautiful like butterflies  
Even if we break our wings  
I just need a friend  
uuuu uuuu  
Are you the one for me



**GEORGIA**

**ANASTASIA & RANINA**  
*OVER THE SKY*

LYRICS: Mebo Nutsubidze  
MUSIC: Mebo Nutsubidze - Betkho

PHOTO: GPB



## BIOGRAPHY

The musical trio “Ranina” marks a significant milestone in the history of Junior Eurovision, comprising three young talents from Georgia who have competed in the same contest.

Anastasia Vasadze, an 11-year-old and winner of Ranina 2023, is an artist with an innate musical talent from an early age. Accumulating awards, including the “Golden Muse 2021” title leading her to the International Festival of Malta, she is also a student at the prestigious St. Georges International School, engaging in ballet and football. Her musical influences, such as Whitney Houston, Lady Gaga, and Beyoncé, mirror her passion. Anastasia, an advocate for justice, aspires to be a designer or judge in the future.

Nikoloz Kharati, also 11, embarked on his musical journey early on, studying music and composition at the Evgeni Micheladze school. He has participated in significant children’s competitions and collaborated with Georgia’s Junior Eurovision 2012 representative, Anri Jokhazde. Besides his musical passion, Nikoloz plays the piano and enjoys horseback riding, Formula 1, and motorcycles.

Oto Bazerashvili, the third member, aged 12 and hailing from Ikalto, was discovered for his Georgian folk singing talent by his mother, a professional soldier. Studying solfeggio, he dreams of pursuing Georgian philology. Alongside his love for music, Oto practices judo, competing regionally and considering it a crucial outlet in his life.

## GEORGIA IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Georgia made its Junior Eurovision debut in 2007, showcasing consistent success by clinching victory three times. In 2008, “Bzz...” secured the title, followed by Candy in 2011 and Mariam Mamadashvili in 2016. The latter triumph granted them the honor of hosting the contest in 2017, with Tbilisi as the venue.

Throughout its Junior Eurovision history, Georgia has come close to victory twice, securing second place in 2012 with the catchy “Funky Limonade” and narrowly missing glory again in 2017. Additionally, they have achieved top-five positions six times, highlighting their consistent ability to shine on the international stage.

While some performances have been more discreet, like their 14th place in 2019, 11th in 2014, and 10th in 2015, recent years have seen Georgia reclaiming success. In 2020, they reached sixth place, 2021 saw a commendable fourth place with Nikoloz Kajaia’s entertaining song “Let’s Count The Smiles,” and last year, Mariam Bigvava with “I Believe” secured a top-three spot with a total of 161 points.

## LYRICS

გაჯეროდეს  
You're the hero you've been always  
looking for  
გესმოდეს  
You're the hero you've been always  
waiting for

შენს ოცნებებს ვერ შეცვლის სხვა  
შენს სურვილებს მიაწვდენ ცას  
მე შენ გვერდით მიგულე დღეს, სვალ,  
ზეგ  
„რანინა ჰე!“

შენს ამბებს შენ თვითონ დაწერ  
სხვა ვერავინ შეგიშლის ხელს  
სულ გახსოვდეს რომ ამ ამბის გმირი,  
შენ ხარ!  
„რანინა ჰე!“

გაჯეროდეს  
You're the hero you've been always  
looking for  
ნეტა ჩიტად მაქცია, ჰე!  
გესმოდეს  
You're the hero you've been always  
waiting for

მე შენთან მიგულე  
დღეს! სვალ!  
ვიმღუროთ  
რანინა ჰე!

მე შენთვის დავხატავ  
მთებს, გზებს, ზღვებს!  
რანინა ჰე!

გაჯეროდეს  
You're the hero you've been always  
looking for  
ავფრინდებოდი ველადა, ჰე!  
გესმოდეს  
You're the hero you've been always  
waiting for

We will find a way to shine and be  
bright  
რანინა ჰე  
All the changes we will make will  
bring the light  
რანინა ჰე  
We will find a way to shine and be  
bright

Just believe in yourself  
And start to shine

გაჯეროდეს  
You're the hero you've been always  
looking for  
გესმოდეს  
You're the hero you've been always  
waiting for

We will find a way to shine and be  
bright



# PORTUGAL

## JÚLIA MACHADO

*WHERE I BELONG*



LYRICS: Aurora Pinto - Fernando Daniel - João Direitinho

MUSIC: Aurora Pinto - Fernando Daniel - João Direitinho - Luís "Twins" Pereira

PHOTO: Pedro Pina RTP/ RTP Divulgação



## BIOGRAPHY

Júlia Machado, a 13-year-old artist born on August 15, 2010, in the United States, currently resides in Long Branch (New Jersey). Despite living in the U.S., she maintains a strong connection with Monsanto and Amiais de Cima, a municipality in Alcanena, where her grandparents and cousins live.

Her parents left this place 22 years ago in search of a better life. Júlia is currently in the 8th grade at Escola Secundária de Alcanena. She started singing at the age of six, her passion for music so evident that her parents enrolled her in a music and singing school, where she had her first performance.

As a child, she always wanted to be surrounded by music, often carrying a Hello Kitty microphone she never wanted to let go of. She confesses that music helps her express what she feels. After the pandemic, she auditioned for the musical "The Little Mermaid" in the United States and was selected. This marked her first significant opportunity in the entertainment world.

At the end of 2022, she auditioned for the 4th edition of "The Voice Kids Portugal," where she was chosen. Simultaneously, she was on tour with "The Lion King" show, lending her voice to one of the main characters. Her journey on The Voice was tremendously successful, quickly standing out among the other contestants. She was part of the team led by the singer Aurea.

## PORTUGAL IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Portugal made its debut in Junior Eurovision in 2006 with the participation of Pedro Madeira, who achieved a respectable 14th place. However, the following year, Jorge Leiria couldn't maintain the same level of success and finished in 16th place. Despite being popular with the audience, Portugal decided to withdraw from the contest, and its absence lasted until 2017.

Portugal's return to Junior Eurovision in 2017 coincided with Salvador Sobral's victory at the Eurovision Song Contest in Kiev. In that same year, Mariana Venancio represented Portugal and secured a 14th place in the contest. While not winning, Portugal's return to the competition marked a new chapter in its Junior Eurovision participation.

In the subsequent years, Portugal continued participating in the contest, although the results varied. In 2018, Rita Laranjeira achieved the country's worst historical position by finishing in 18th place. In 2019, Joana Almeida secured the 16th position, although she had a good result in the televote.

In 2021, Portugal came close to entering the Top 10, finishing in 11th place with Simão Oliveira's performance of "O Rapaz." Finally, last year, the country managed to break into the Top 10, thanks to the talent of Nicolás Alves and his song "Anos 70," which secured the eighth place with a total of 121 points.

## LYRICS

Lugar 31, aqui vou eu de novo  
esperar que o tempo traga o que a  
vida não trouxe  
14:14 e peço outro desejo  
mais vale acreditar naquilo que não  
vejo

Perdida por 100, perdida por 1000,  
talvez já nem faça sentido eu estar  
aqui  
Quero ir para Lisboa, começar de  
novo  
viver num "quase tudo", sabe-me a  
tão pouco

Mais uma viagem sem saber ao certo  
o que esperar de mim, o que esperar  
do mundo  
Mais um pôr do sol que o céu nos  
promete,  
mais uma razão para largar tudo

I wanna go to a place where I belong  
I wanna go to a place that I can call  
Call home, call home  
to a place that I can call  
Call home, call home

Procuro a luz no meu peito  
e sinto a voz que me conduz  
de volta para um lugar melhor  
Escrevo o destino  
nas linhas tortas à minha maneira  
Que a vida seja para sempre assim

Mais uma viagem sem saber ao certo  
O que esperar de mim, o que esperar  
do mundo  
Mais um pôr do sol que o céu nos  
promete  
Mais uma razão para largar tudo

I wanna go to a place where I belong  
I wanna go to a place that I can call  
Call home, call home  
to a place that I can call  
Call home, call home

A place where I can bury all my  
ghosts  
A place to escape from this black  
hole  
Um sítio onde eu possa voltar

I wanna go to a place that I can call  
Call home, call home  
a place that I can call  
Call home, call home

Where I belong



**FRANCE**

**ZOÉ CLAUZURE**  
*CŒUR*

LYRICS: Noée Francheteau  
MUSIC: Julien Comblat, Jérémy Chapron

PHOTO: L-A Le Blay / France Télévisions



## BIOGRAPHY

Zoé Clazure is a 13-year-old artist born in 2010 in Montrouge, near Paris. Unsurprisingly, she is passionate about music, attending singing and piano classes since the age of 6 with her teacher, Maï. She claims to have started singing almost before speaking. In her free time, she is also a model for major children's clothing brands and a voice actress for children's series, such as "Slumberland."

Zoé is one of the most influential figures in the French youth scene with an enviable national and international projection. She has tens of thousands of followers on her social media accounts, especially Instagram and TikTok.

The young artist stands out for her natural charisma, angelic voice, and the emotion she conveys while singing. She gained public recognition after participating in the seventh season of "La Voz Kids" in 2020, where she was part of the team led by the famous artist Soprano, coincidentally the same team as her two predecessors, Enzo and Lissandro.

Zoé managed to impress Soprano with a magnificent rendition of Marina Kaye's "Homeless." However, she only made it to the quarter-finals in the competition. After her stint on the show, she participated in other major French television formats like "Les Victoires De La Musique" and became a finalist in the young talent competition in her city, Montrouge. Additionally, she is an accomplished songwriter, jotting down lyrics and chords in her notebook.

## FRANCE IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

France's participation in Junior Eurovision began in 2004 in Lillehammer, Norway. Thomas Pontier represented France with the song "Si on voulait bien," achieving a respectable sixth place with 78 points. However, the following year, France chose to withdraw from the competition, taking a hiatus for over a decade.

France's return to Junior Eurovision occurred in 2018 in Minsk, Belarus, with the remarkable Angéline Nava and her song "Jamais Sans Toi," earning an impressive second place with 203 points. In 2019, in Gliwice, Poland, Carla Lazzari represented France with the catchy song "Bim Bam Toi," securing a fifth place with 169 points.

The pinnacle came in 2020 when Valentina Tronel dazzled in Warsaw, Poland, with her performance of "J'Imagine," giving France its first victory in the competition with 200 points. The excitement continued in 2021 when Enzo with "Tic Tac" claimed the third place with 187 points.

Finally, in 2022, Lissandro and his impressive rendition of "Oh Maman" secured France's second victory in Junior Eurovision, this time in Yerevan, with a total of 203 points. France's journey in the competition showcases an impressive resurgence and a continued commitment to musical excellence in Junior Eurovision.

## LYRICS

Mon cœur bat en rythme  
Il palpète si vite  
Quand je chante pour toi-oi-oi-oi  
J'veux que le monde entier  
Nous voit exister  
Quand je chante, ay-ay-ay-ay

Je me lève pour voir le monde  
Je m'élève, je rêve, mon cœur  
s'inonde  
Ça traîne, je regarde la montre  
Je veux qu'ça cesse et je le montre  
Je regarde mes rêves tout le temps  
Je veux y croire ça me hante  
C'est pour ça que je chante

Mon cœur bat en rythme  
Il palpète si vite  
Quand je chante, ay-ay-ay-ay

J'veux que le monde entier  
Nous voit exister  
Quand je chante, ay-ay-ay-ay  
Toi, ah, Ah-ha  
C'est comme ci comme ça, eh-ya  
(Ah, ay-ay-ay-ay)

Avance vers la victoire  
Pus peur d'aucun de ces regards  
Pourtant certains préfèrent  
Te voir échouer mais t'accélères

Je déploie mes ailes doucement  
J'le fais pour nous vraiment  
Chaque fois que je chante

Mon cœur bat en rythme  
Il palpète si vite  
Quand je chante, ay-ay-ay-ay

J'veux que le monde entier  
Nous voit exister  
Quand je chante, ay-ay-ay-ay

Toi, ah, Ah-ha  
C'est comme ci comme ça, eh-ya  
(Ah) Ay-ay-ay-ay  
Toi, ah, Ah-ha  
C'est comme ci comme ça, eh-ya  
(Ah, ay-ay-ay-ay)

Mon cœur bat en rythme  
Il palpète si vite  
Nos cœurs battent en rythme  
Nos cœurs battent trop vite

Pour toi yeah  
(Nos cœurs battent en rythme)  
(Nos cœurs battent trop vite)

-J'veux que le monde entier  
Nous voit exister (Nos cœurs battent  
en rythme, ay-ay-ay-ay)

Quand je chante, ah... eh-yeah  
Ah, eh-yeah  
C'est comme ci, ci comme ça  
Ah-ah-ah  
Je chante pour toi



**ALBANIA**

**VIOLA GJYZELI**  
*BOTA IME*

LYRICS: Eriona Rushiti  
MUSIC: Enis Mullaj

PHOTO: RTSH





## BIOGRAPHY

Viola Gjyzeli, aged 14, was born on March 8, 2009, in Tirana, the capital of Albania. From an early age, Viola showed an interest in music. Her dedication and talent are reflected in her ability to play the piano and guitar, skills she has perfected while attending the “Jordan Misja” National Art College, where she is currently studying.

She has participated in numerous significant musical events in the Albanian and Kosovar scenes, including the famous Festivali i Këngës për Fëmijë (Children’s Song Festival) in 2017 and 2018, where she secured the second and third places respectively, showcasing her ability to captivate audiences of all ages. She has also taken part in Festivali i Ansambleve 2021, Festivali Tingujt e Adriaikut 2017 (where she finished in second place), Tirana Talent 2019, which she won, Festivali i Ansambleve 2020, or the “Sounds of the Adriatic” contest. She has also been part of various children’s choirs responsible for the Christmas festivals organized by the municipality of Tirana.

The young artist is inspired by great performers; she has mentioned that her role model is the renowned singer Elhaida Dani, who reached the top 10 of the televote in Eurovision 2015 with her rendition of “I’m Alive.” Viola has expressed her dream of becoming an internationally recognized artist like her idols, Dua Lipa and Rihanna.

Viola is not only a musical prodigy but also a passionate reader of fantasy and science fiction, with a special affection for the Harry Potter and Percy Jackson series.

## ALBANIA IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Albania made its debut in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2012 in Amsterdam, finishing in the last position. After withdrawing in 2013 and 2014, the Balkan country returned strongly in 2015, achieving a fifth place. In recent years, Albania has obtained more modest positions in the ranking, such as the 13th place in the Valletta 2016 and Tbilisi 2017 editions, with Klesta Qehaja and her emotional ballad “Besoj” against school bullying, and Ana Kodra with her ecological song “Don’t touch my tree.”

In 2018, Albania finished in the 17th position with “Barbie” by Efi Gjika, and in 2019, Isea Çili and her song “Mikja ime fëmijëri” occupied the same place. Anna Gjebrea and her pop song “Stand By You” secured the 14th position in Paris 2021. In Yerevan 2022, Kejtlin Gjata achieved a notable improvement, reaching the 12th position with her ballad “Pakëz Diell.”

Despite ups and downs in results, Albania has maintained its participation in Junior Eurovision, and its representatives have tackled diverse themes, from school bullying to environmental protection. The country continues to be an active part of this competition that highlights youth musical talent in Europe. Viola Gjyzeli’s triumph at Junior Fest 2023 with her song “Bota Ime” represents a new chapter in Albania’s participation history in the contest.

## LYRICS

Jo jo! Jo jo!  
Mos lufto!  
E kam unë një botë  
E imja është ajo  
E vogël është ajo  
E mbushur, e mbushur plot

Uuuuu

Ëndërrroj  
Aty ëndërrroj  
Aty jam e vertetë  
Askush nuk më gjykon  
Aty unë rrezikoj  
Në vendin tim, jetoj aty, unë

Më lini të jem e vertetë  
Të jetoj si dua vet

Refreni  
Jooo nuk gaboj  
Kur ëndërrroj  
E them unë çdo dëshirë  
E them se jam e lirë  
Jam e lirë, jam e lirë , jam e lirë

Sa herë ëndërrroj  
Jo nuk gaboj  
Se jam e lirë , në vend të lirë  
për çdo dëshirë, cdo dëshirë  
uuu  
Ëndërrroj

.....

Ëndërrroj  
Aty ëndërrroj  
Aty jam e vertetë  
Askush nuk më gjykon  
Aty unë rrezikoj  
Në vendin tim, jetoj aty, unë

Më lini të jem e vërtetë  
Të jetoj si dua vet

Refreni

.....

Jo, jo mos lufto!



**ITALY**



**MELISSA & RANYA**  
*UN MONDO GIUSTO*

LYRICS: Franco Fasano - Marco Iardella  
MUSIC: Franco Fasano - Marco Iardella

PHOTO: Claudia Comoni



## BIOGRAPHY

Melissa Agliottone, 13, born in Civitanova Marche, but raised in Sant'Elpidio a Mare, in the province of Fermo, had an unusual entry into the world of music. Suffering from panic attacks, her mother encouraged her to take a piano course with composer Massimo Saccutelli and singing classes at the "Il Palco" school in their locality. She enjoyed these experiences so much that she eventually took up drumming lessons as well. This exposure led her to dream of becoming a multi-instrumentalist.

Once immersed in the world of music, Melissa attended the "Roberta Faccani" singing school and studied singing, piano, and drums at the "Annibal Caro" school.

Ranya Moufidi, also 13, is a singer, actress, and model of Moroccan origin, born in Ciserano, in the Italian region of Bergamo. Her love for music was influenced by her father, who sells musical instruments and is also a passionate singer and musician. Besides her musical talent, Ranya loves languages; she is proficient in English, Italian, Arabic, Spanish, and French. Her major influences include Adele, Ariana Grande, Katy Perry, Gaia, Irama, Shakira, and Iggy Azalea. She also participated in the first Italian edition of The Voice Kids alongside Melissa.

The young artists were chosen directly through a meticulous process conducted by Rai Kids in collaboration with the record label Universal Music Italy.

## ITALY IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Italy made its debut in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2014 and left a remarkable impact by winning with Vincenzo Cantiello and his emotional rendition of "Tu primo grande amore" in Malta. However, over the years, Italy has experienced varied results in the competition.

In 2015, sisters Chiara and Martina represented Italy but couldn't replicate the success of their predecessor, finishing in the penultimate position. However, in 2016, Fiamma Boccia once again elevated the country's standing in the junior contest by securing third place with the heartfelt song "Cara Mamma."

In the following years, Italy managed to maintain its position in terms of results. In 2017, Maria Iside secured 11th place with her performance of "Scelgo," while in 2018 and 2019, Marco and Melissa, and Marta Viola achieved solid seventh places, solidifying their presence in Junior Eurovision.

In the Paris 2021 contest, Italy finished in the tenth position with Elisabetta Lizza and her song "Specchio (Mirror On The Wall)." Last year, Chanel Dilecta and her catchy hit "Bla Bla Bla" were just one point away from reaching the Top 10, garnering a total of 95 points.

## LYRICS

ci sono cose che vorrei capire ma non è facile  
mi sento crescere ogni giorno in mezzo a mille novità  
il mondo è in mano a chi ne fa le regole  
ma c'è una luna nuova che per fortuna mi illuminerà

ascoltala quella speranza senza dire niente ci accompagnerà  
chiudi gli occhi e vedrai che cantando a due voci più forte sarà

senti che un cielo c'è oltre le nuvole con quell'azzurro che grigio non è e anche se adesso qui piovono lacrime  
cerco un riparo sicuro per me provo a lottare piuttosto che piangere  
per un mondo che un giorno sarà giusto per me ...

ci sono cose che mi fanno male ma c'è la musica  
che mi sa prendere per mano l'anima dal cuore in poi

then you'll realize  
all the emotions that you are feeling could be just like mine  
so you keep on believing and trying for 'cause music speaks louder than words

senti che un cielo c'è oltre le nuvole and it will shine on you day after day day after day  
and if we run in the grass or in a rainy road  
I'll find a shelter between friends like you  
and I will try to struggle not to give up  
per un mondo che un giorno sarà

giusto per me  
giusto per me ... singing our music together  
a right world for me we are gonna sing our music forever  
giusto per me singing our music together



# GERMANY

FIA

OHNE WORTE

LYRICS: Martin Fliegenschmidt - Sascha Seelemann - David Jürgens  
MUSIC: Martin Fliegenschmidt - Sascha Seelemann - David Jürgens

PHOTO: NDR / Emma Wedemeyer



## BIOGRAPHY

Fia-Marie Lin, known as Fia, is a 12-year-old artist born on August 20, 2011, in Shanghai, one of China's most populous cities, where she resided with her family for a short period. She currently lives in Berlin with her sister Emilia, her mother Inga (who manages her social media), and her father Lin.

Fia started singing at a young age and received training from various vocal coaches like Danny Igel, Sonja, Franziska, and also on The Voice Kids, where she participated in the 2023 edition, being part of the team of the well-known Lena Meyer-Landrut (winner of Eurovision 2010 and representative in 2011).

Throughout the program, she showcased her talent by performing various pieces in different phases of the competition. In the blind auditions, she dazzled with Jessie J's "Flashlight," emotionally impacting the jury by using sign language (ASL) to communicate with her sister Emilia.

Later in the battles, she took on Billie Eilish's "Everything I Wanted," and in the final, she surprised the audience with P!nk's "Dear Mr. President." All her performances went viral on YouTube, captivating people worldwide with her use of sign language. She is passionate about music and entertainment, dreaming of becoming a star. After the competition, she began uploading adapted covers to YouTube.

## GERMANY IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

Germany's participation in Junior Eurovision is relatively recent, making its debut in 2020 with Susan and her song "Stronger with you." However, their start was not the most notable, finishing last in the standings. Despite this result, Germany decided to give it another try in 2021 with Pauline and her song "Imagine Us." Fortunately, they achieved a significant improvement in their position, reaching 17th place, a notable advance compared to their debut.

In 2022, Germany made the decision not to participate in Junior Eurovision, reflecting its willingness to rethink its approach and strategy for future editions of the contest. This pause provided them with the opportunity to reflect on their participation and find ways to enhance their performance in the event.

It is essential to highlight that Germany's history in Junior Eurovision has been marked by moments of uncertainty and exploration. Although they confirmed their participation in the 2003 and 2004 contests, they ultimately did not compete.

On other occasions, such as in 2015 and 2016, Germany broadcasted the contest without participating or voting. For many years, the country has sent observers to the contest to assess their potential participation in future editions.

## LYRICS

Am Ende war's am Anfang nur ein  
Ton  
nur ein Augenblickkontakt

der durch jede Tür und alle Wände  
bricht  
und uns sofort, sofort verbunden hat

wir waren uns so nah und doch so  
fremd  
haben gehofft, dass es passiert

zwei im Dunkeln, die sich sehen für  
einen Moment,  
ein Moment, der für immer leuchten  
wird

Ohne Worte  
haben wir uns sofort verstanden  
Ohne Worte war,  
wie wir zueinander fanden  
Ohne Worte  
wie zwei Seelenverwandte  
Ohne Worte Ohne Worte Ohne

Lass sie alle reden, wie sie wollen  
unsere Liebe ist was zählt

Du bist meine Superkraft, ich geb dir  
Halt  
such ich ein Licht, dann strahlt dein  
Herz so hell

wir gehn unsern Weg, egal was  
kommt  
Hand in Hand, trennt uns nichts auf  
dieser Welt

Ohne Worte  
haben wir uns sofort verstanden  
Ohne Worte war,  
wie wir zueinander fanden  
Ohne Worte  
wie zwei Seelenverwandte  
Ohne Worte Ohne Worte Ohne

Ohne Worte Ohne Worte

Am Ende war's am Anfang nur ein  
Ton  
nur ein Augenblickkontakt

Ohne Worte  
haben wir uns sofort verstanden  
Ohne Worte war,  
wie wir zueinander fanden  
Ohne Worte  
wie zwei Seelenverwandte  
Ohne Worte Ohne Worte Ohne

Ohne Worte  
Ohne Worte  
Ohne Worte  
Sans Paroles (Französisch)  
Ohne Worte  
Without words (Englisch)  
Sin palabras (Spanisch)  
Ohne Worte



# NETHERLANDS

SEP & JASMIJN  
*HOLDING ON TO YOU*

LYRICS: Robert Dorn  
MUSIC: Robert Dorn

PHOTO: Femke Ham



## BIOGRAPHY

Sep Jansen, a 13-year-old from Tilburg in the southern part of the country, is currently in the 2nd year of secondary school at “De Nieuwste School” in his city. He ventured into the world of music at a young age, encouraged by his parents. Sep takes music classes at “Factorium Cultuurmakers,” a renowned multidisciplinary center for performing arts, where he has been involved since the age of 5.

He is also part of the group “MusicAllFactory” and works as a coach for “Theater Positief.” Professionally trained in piano at the “Pianoschool van den Akker,” Sep is not only a musician but also an actor who loves performing. He has taken theater classes and participated in several plays, with his ultimate aspiration being to take part in a musical.

Jasmijn Torrico, aged 14, resides in Hoogland, Utrecht province. Living with her parents and two sisters, Sophie and Fleur, she shares a deep affection for her labradoodle, Jip. Jasmijn has a keen interest in science at school, but her favorite subject is music.

She enjoys school contests organized by her teachers and has a background in sports, finishing 7th in the 32nd school run in 2016 representing her school, Basisschool de Berkenschool. Later, she shifted her focus to another passion, dancing, excelling in various styles like Latin, dancehall, hip-hop, ballet, and even tap dancing. She attends Studio Pauline in Leusden, Netherlands, and is part of the dance team “Pink Explosion.”

## NETHERLANDS IN JUNIOR EUROVISION

The Netherlands has been a consistent participant in Junior Eurovision, attending every edition since its inception. Over the years, the country has experienced varying results, with moments of success and instances of poor outcomes in the contest.

The pinnacle of the Netherlands' participation in Junior Eurovision occurred in 2009 when Ralf Mackenbach secured victory with his performance of “Click Clack.” This notable achievement marked a milestone in the country's history in the contest. Additionally, in 2011, Rachel achieved an impressive second place with the song “Teenager.”

The Netherlands has had the honor of hosting Junior Eurovision twice, in 2007 and 2012, showcasing its ongoing commitment to the event and its significance in the Eurovision community.

Throughout its participation, the Netherlands has achieved three fourth places and reached the Top 10 on six other occasions, highlighting its ability to consistently perform well in the contest.

In 2019 and 2020, the Netherlands secured a notable fourth place in both editions, thanks to Matheu and the group Unity, respectively. However, in 2021, the country experienced its worst result, dropping to the 19th position with Ayana and “Mata Sugu Aō Ne.” Last year, the Netherlands made a remarkable recovery, reaching the seventh place with Luna and her performance of “La Festa,” accumulating a total of 128 points.

## LYRICS

Ben je er wel  
Of ben je er niet  
Is het misschien maar  
Alleen wat ik zie  
Is er een weg die we gaan  
En hoe zullen de sterren dan staan

Ik kan niet zonder  
Maar wat is dan met  
Ik weet als geen ander  
Wat ik aan je heb  
Niet alles heeft altijd een naam  
Maar wat zijn we dan nu van elkaar

Ik weet dat ik je niet wil laten gaan

I try to dance  
Here on my own  
But I am holding on to you  
Will you be there  
Wil jij dit ook  
Oh I am holding on to you

I'm holding on to you

I'm holding on to you

Wat ik ook doe  
Of wat ik ook denk  
Je zit in m'n hoofd en  
Het wil niet meer weg  
Laat ik mezelf in de waan  
Oh of is dit dan waar we nu staan

Ik weet dat ik je niet wil laten gaan

I try to dance  
Here on my own  
But I am holding on to you  
Will you be there  
Wil jij dit ook  
Oh I am holding on to you

I'm holding on to you babe

Ben jij er wel of niet  
Is het wat ik wil zien  
Ik weet niet meer wat ik moet  
Bij alles wat ik denk  
En alles wat ik doe  
I'm holding on to you

Hoe alle sterren ook staan  
Ik weet dat ik jou niet laat gaan

I try to dance  
Here on my own  
But I am holding on to you  
Will you be there  
Wil jij dit ook  
Oh I am holding on to you

I'm holding on to you babe

I'm holding on to you



**SHO**



**OW**



## FINAL

NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2023










## RUNNING ORDER

	Country	Performer (s)	Song
01	<b>Spain</b>	Sandra Valero	<i>LOVIU</i>
02	<b>Malta</b>	Yulan	<i>Stronger</i>
03	<b>Ukraine</b>	Anastasia Dymyd	<i>Kvitka</i>
04	<b>Ireland</b>	Jessica McKean	<i>Aisling</i>
05	<b>United Kingdom</b>	STAND UNIQU3	<i>Back To Life</i>
06	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Tamara Grujeska	<i>Kaži Mi, Kaži Mi Koj</i>
07	<b>Estonia</b>	ARHANNA	<i>Hoiame Kokku</i>
08	<b>Armenia</b>	Yan Girls	<i>Do It My Way</i>
09	<b>Poland</b>	Maja Krzyżewska	<i>I Just Need A Friend</i>
10	<b>Georgia</b>	Anastasia & Ranina	<i>Over The Sky</i>
11	<b>Portugal</b>	Júlia Machado	<i>Where I Belong</i>
12	<b>France</b>	Zoé Clazure	<i>Cœur</i>
13	<b>Albania</b>	Viola Gjyzeli	<i>Bota Ime</i>
14	<b>Italy</b>	Melissa & Ranya	<i>Un Mondo Giusto</i>
15	<b>Germany</b>	FIA	<i>Ohne Worte</i>
16	<b>Netherlands</b>	Sep & Jasmijn	<i>Holding On To You</i>
















LISTEN TO ALL THE SONGS  
FROM JUNIOR EUROVISION 2023  
ON OUR SPOTIFY LIST



# SCORECARD

	Notes	Points
01 	<b>Spain</b> Sandra Valero <i>LOVIU</i>	
02 	<b>Malta</b> Yulan <i>Stronger</i>	
03 	<b>Ukraine</b> Anastasia Dymyd <i>Kvitka</i>	
04 	<b>Ireland</b> Jessica McKean <i>Aisling</i>	
05 	<b>United Kingdom</b> STAND UNIQU3 <i>Back To Life</i>	
06 	<b>North Macedonia</b> Tamara Grujeska <i>Kaži Mi, Kaži Mi Koj</i>	
07 	<b>Estonia</b> ARHANNA <i>Hoiame Kokku</i>	
08 	<b>Armenia</b> Yan Girls <i>Do It My Way</i>	
09 	<b>Poland</b> Anastasia & Ranina <i>I Just Need A Friend</i>	
10 	<b>Georgia</b> Tamara Grujeska <i>Over The Sky</i>	
11 	<b>Portugal</b> Júlia Machado <i>Where I Belong</i>	
12 	<b>France</b> Zoé Clazure <i>Cœur</i>	
13 	<b>Albania</b> Viola Gjyzeli <i>Bota Ime</i>	
14 	<b>Italy</b> Melissa & Ranya <i>Un Mondo Giusto</i>	
15 	<b>Germany</b> FIA <i>Ohne Worte</i>	
16 	<b>Netherlands</b> Sep & Jasmijn <i>Holding On To You</i>	

## SCOREBOARD

HEROES		Spain	Malta	Ukraine	Ireland	United Kingdom	North Macedonia	Estonia	Armenia	Poland	Georgia	Portugal	France	Albania	Italy	Germany	Netherlands	ONLINE VOTING	TOTAL
			Spain	■															
	Malta		■																
	Ukraine			■															
	Ireland				■														
	United Kingdom					■													
	North Macedonia						■												
	Estonia							■											
	Armenia								■										
	Poland									■									
	Georgia										■								
	Portugal											■							
	France												■						
	Albania													■					
	Italy														■				
	Germany															■			
	Netherlands																■		

# NOTES

# HEROES



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