# Celine Dion’s Eurovision 2025 absence deepens speculation amid hopes for future comeback



Eurovision 2025 in Basel, Switzerland, recently unfolded with a palpable sense of anticipation and disappointment surrounding a potential performance by Celine Dion, the legendary singer who won the contest in 1988. Fans, along with the ever-charismatic BBC presenter Graham Norton, were left hoping for Dion’s surprise appearance following Switzerland's victory in 2024 with the song "The Code" performed by Nemo, a win that echoed the nostalgia of Dion's own triumph with "Ne Partez Pas Sans Moi" nearly four decades earlier.

During the first semi-final of the competition, Dion communicated a heartfelt message, expressing her regret for not being able to attend. She reminisced about her own Eurovision victory as a “life-changing moment”. Notably, she articulated a strong desire to be there in person, which only heightened the hopes of her admirers, many of whom took to social media to voice their support for Norton, frequently noting that he seemed to yearn for Dion’s appearance more than anyone else.

This sentiment of longing was echoed throughout the BBC's broadcast of the final, where Norton remained upbeat yet gradually conceded that the dream of Dion's presence was dimming. Comments from viewers illustrated this shared disappointment; one remarked humorously on the contrast between Norton's hopeful declarations and the evening's underwhelming entertainment.

While there were whispers of Dion's private jet landing in Basel, which fueled speculation about a last-minute appearance, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) did not officially confirm any such plans. At a press briefing, Eurovision director Martin Green playfully dismissed fevered predictions about Dion's potential involvement with a remark likening the situation to waiting for Father Christmas. This ambivalence reflects the enduring uncertainty surrounding Dion's health, as she has been diagnosed with stiff-person syndrome, a rare and debilitating neurological condition, which has significantly curtailed her public performances.

In recent years, Dion has made only sporadic public appearances, with her notable comeback during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics. There, she delivered a stirring rendition of Edith Piaf's "Hymne À L'Amour" from the Eiffel Tower, a performance that marked a significant return to the limelight. However, her health challenges continue to dominate discussions about her future engagements, and many were left wondering if the Eurovision stage would witness her return.

Despite reports suggesting she declined an invitation to perform at Eurovision 2025 due to her health, conversations between Dion and the Swiss broadcaster SRG SSR remained ongoing. An SRG SSR spokesperson stated that they were still in contact with the singer, conveying a sense of hope while also respecting her health limits.

The Eurovision community, known for its passionate and fleeting nature, continues to embrace Dion as one of its most cherished figures. Her absence at the event did not go unnoticed, and the emotional weight of her legacy lingered in the air. For now, fans are left to navigate the enigmatic world of speculation regarding her future performances, as they hold onto the hope that Dion’s next chapter may still unfold in the vibrant setting of Eurovision.

**Reference Map**1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3
2. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3
3. Paragraph 2
4. Paragraphs 2, 6
5. Paragraphs 1, 4
6. Paragraphs 5, 6
7. Paragraphs 5, 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/eurovision/celine-dion-eurovision-2025-graham-norton-b2753024.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/eurovision/celine-dion-eurovision-2025-graham-norton-b2753024.html> - Eurovision fans expressed sympathy for Graham Norton after Celine Dion failed to make a special appearance at the final in Basel, Switzerland. Speculation had mounted that the Canadian singer could perform, given Switzerland's victory in 2024—their first since Dion's own triumph in 1988. Dion, 57, won the contest in Dublin in 1988 with 'Ne Partez Pas Sans Moi'. Nemo's victory with 'The Code' in Malmö in 2024 marked the country's first triumph since. She did appear during the first semi-final on Tuesday (13 May), saying in a video message that she wanted 'nothing more' than to be in Basel, and recalling her triumph as a 'life-changing moment'. Throughout the BBC broadcast of the event, which was won by Austria and their singer JJ with the song 'Wasted Love', Norton mentioned that he was longing for Dion to make an appearance. However, as the night wore on, even he admitted that he had given up hope of seeing her. On social media, people couldn’t help but feel sorry for the popular Irish broadcaster. 'When Graham has promised us Celine Dion all night but they give us an alpine horn instead,' one person wrote. A second viewer noted: 'I feel for Graham Norton every time he says 'Celine Dion' like he's trying to manifest her I think he wants it more than anyone in the world.' 'Meanwhile, Celine Dion gets ready for bed knowing that the whole of Europe’s been waiting for her to turn up,' another viewer joked. At a press briefing on Saturday (17 May), Eurovision director Martin Green, from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), commented on Dion, saying: 'My answer was going to be, Father Christmas exist, you’ll have to wait and see.' The singer has curtailed her touring schedule in recent years due to health challenges, including stiff-person syndrome (SPS). However, she made a moving comeback performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics, singing Edith Piaf's 'Hymne A L’Amour' from the Eiffel Tower. It was reported that Dion sent in a video message for the first semi-final rehearsals wishing the contestants luck, appearing to rule out her return, but this appeared to be dismissed by Swiss broadcaster SRG SSR. An SRG SSR spokesman said: 'All elements of the first semi-final show were played through and rehearsed intensively. There are currently no changes regarding Celine Dion – we are still in close contact with her.'
3. <https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/05/16/la-bbc-aviva-los-rumores-sobre-la-sorpresa-historica-que-podria-tener-preparada-eurovision-el-jet-privado-esta-aqui-cadena-ser/> - As the grand final of Eurovision 2025 in Basel, Switzerland, approached, rumors intensified about a potential surprise appearance by Celine Dion. The legendary Canadian singer, who won the contest in 1988 representing Switzerland, could return to the St. Jakobshalle stage. During the first semi-final, Dion's heartfelt message expressed her desire to be in Basel, hinting at her absence. However, recent reports, including confirmations from the BBC and local media, indicated that Dion's private jet had landed in Basel, fueling speculation about her participation. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) had not confirmed these rumors, but anticipation among festival followers was high. Dion's recent health challenges, including stiff-person syndrome, made her presence uncertain. Host Sandra Studer expressed hope, though without certainty, stating, 'I think we can still say we haven't lost hope that she will come. But honestly, I don't know.' Fans eagerly awaited the resolution of this mystery at the 69th edition of the festival on Saturday.
4. <https://elpais.com/television/2025-05-14/celine-dion-reaparece-en-eurovision-con-un-emotivo-mensaje-para-los-eurofans-cambio-mi-vida.html> - Celine Dion, winner of the Eurovision Festival in 1988 representing Switzerland with the song 'Ne Partez Pas Sans Moi', reappeared with an emotional message during the first semi-final of Eurovision 2025 in Basel. In her intervention, the Canadian artist gratefully recalled how that moment marked a turning point in her career and expressed her affection for Switzerland, the country that trusted her talent. Although she could not attend in person due to her suffering from stiff-person syndrome (SPS), a rare neurological disease diagnosed in 2022 that affects her mobility and voice, Dion emphasized the special meaning of the contest in her life. Her message moved the eurofans, and a group of former participants paid tribute by performing her winning song on stage. This appearance follows her reunion with the public during the opening gala of the Paris Olympics in 2024, marking her return to the spotlight after four years of absence. Additionally, in the documentary 'I Am: Celine Dion', released in June 2024, the artist shared details of her health status and the challenges she faced.
5. <https://metro.co.uk/2024/09/11/eurovision-boss-teases-legends-return-36-years-after-winning-song-contest-21584596/> - Eurovision Song Contest 2025 executive Moritz Stadler hinted at the possibility of a global superstar returning to the competition decades after their initial victory. In an interview, Stadler acknowledged Celine Dion's legendary status and mentioned ongoing discussions about her potential participation, stating, 'We are in contact, we leave this open to the very last day.' This statement fueled speculation about Dion's return to the Eurovision stage, where she had previously won in 1988 representing Switzerland with the song 'Ne Partez Pas Sans Moi'.
6. <https://en.euromix.co.il/2025/03/17/maybe-yes-celine-dion-is-still-in-talks-for-a-performance-at-eurovision-2025/> - Speculation about Celine Dion's possible participation in Eurovision 2025 increased after Switzerland's victory with Nemo last year. Following reports that Dion had declined the invitation due to her health condition, the Swiss national broadcaster, SRG SSR, clarified that the singer is still in talks about performing at the 69th edition of the competition, depending on her health. The broadcaster stated, 'We are still in conversations yes. It all depends of course on her health. We already contacted the channel that posted it to correct it.'
7. <https://en.euromix.co.il/2025/03/15/celine-dion-declines-eurovision-2025-is-damiano-david-heading-to-the-stage/> - Reports indicated that Celine Dion declined the invitation to perform at Eurovision 2025 due to her severe health condition. Despite efforts from the Swiss national broadcaster, SRG SSR, and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to bring her back to the Eurovision stage, the singer decided that traveling to Basel would be too challenging in her current state. Celine Dion was diagnosed several years ago with Stiff-Person Syndrome, a condition affecting the brain’s control over muscle function, making it difficult for her to control her voice. She has openly shared her struggle with the illness in the documentary 'I Am: Celine Dion'. Even before her condition worsened, she had already canceled her planned tour.