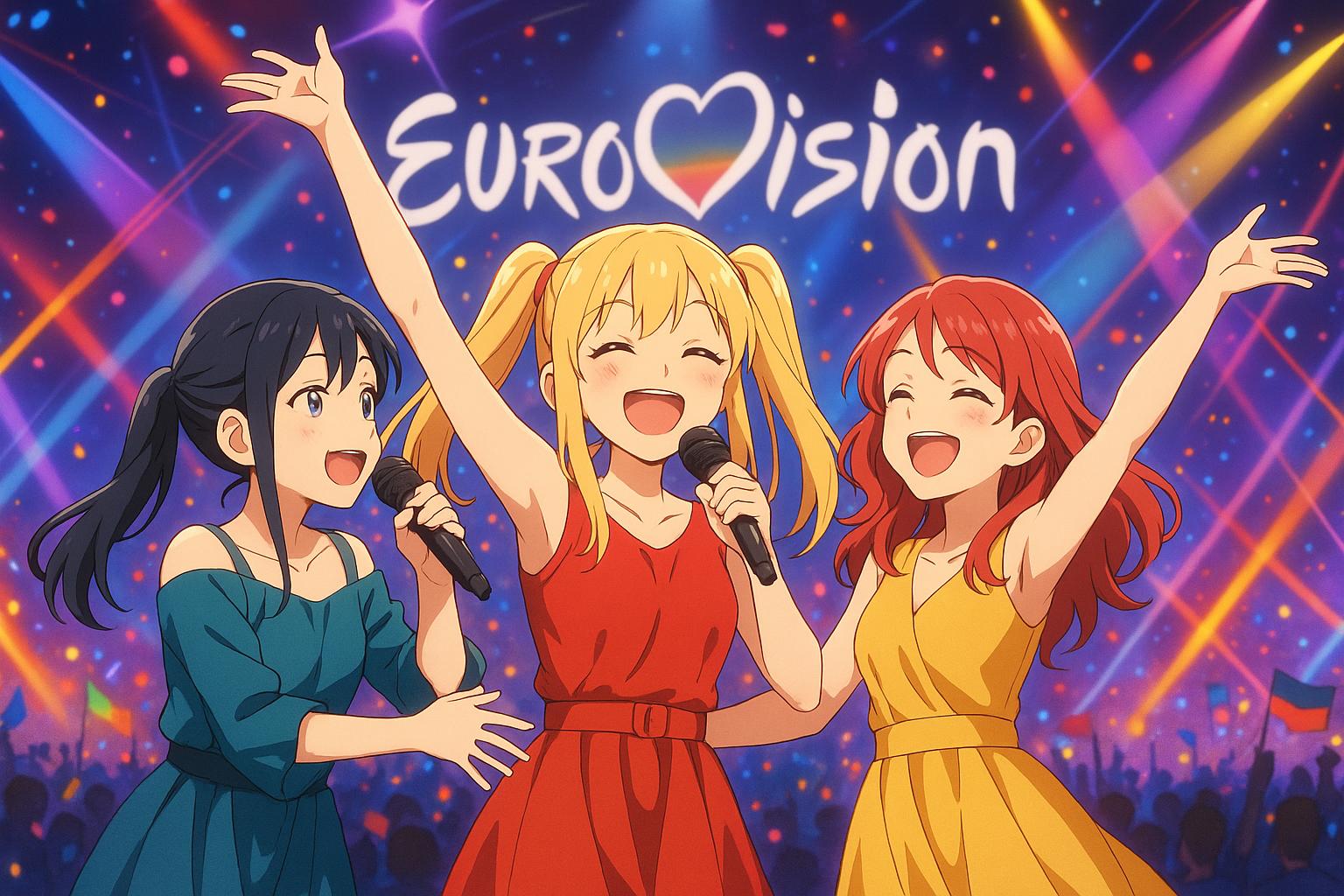
# Scott Mills likens Eurovision excitement to World Cup as UK aims for 2025 victory



Scott Mills, a prominent host on BBC Radio 2, has expressed his fervour for the upcoming Eurovision Song Contest, drawing a parallel between this iconic music competition and football's prestigious World Cup. As preparations for the 2025 contest gain momentum, Mills is set to provide live commentary alongside Rylan Clark during the semi-finals on BBC One. His enthusiasm for Eurovision embodies a collective sentiment shared across the UK, where the event is seen as a celebratory highlight amid often turbulent times.

Mills characterised Eurovision as a unique cultural phenomenon, describing it as a "melting pot" where music enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds converge. He emphasized the communal aspect of the event, where fans engage passionately, debating everything from song staging to lyrical content. "It's a bit like what people do with football but with songs," he remarked, capturing the spirit of camaraderie and excitement that the contest generates.

This year's contest is particularly significant for the UK, as the nation attempts to reclaim its Eurovision glory. The trio Remember Monday, comprising Lauren Byrne, Holly-Anne Hull, and Charlotte Steele, will represent the UK with their song "What The Hell Just Happened?" This marks a notable return to non-solo acts for the UK, which has not seen a female group compete since 1999, aligning with a drive to revitalise Britain's chances in the highly competitive arena.

Historically, the UK has a storied relationship with Eurovision, having secured victory five times since its inception. Iconic winners include Sandie Shaw in 1967 and Lulu in 1969, adding to a legacy that has seen British entries frequently occupy top spots. However, in recent years, the nation has faced struggles, with last year's representative, Sam Ryder, achieving a commendable second place with "Space Man" but ultimately falling short against Ukraine's popular entry. This underscores the evolving landscape of Eurovision, where both nostalgic appeal and contemporary performances clash in a vibrant spectacle.

Eurovision's significance reaches far beyond the contest itself; it has become an integral part of British cultural life. The 2023 competition in Liverpool set a record with an astonishing average of 9.9 million viewers, peaking at 11 million, marking it as the most-watched final in the contest's history. The return of such high viewership illustrates the enduring allure of Eurovision and its ability to unite audiences in celebration.

As excitement builds for the grand finale in Basel, Switzerland, on May 17, the anticipation surrounding the event reflects not only a desire for artistic expression but also a collective yearning for moments of joy and connection. Mills encapsulated this sentiment perfectly, stating, "There is no bad news at Eurovision… it’s just happy, happy, joy, joy and love." This joyful escapism is what Eurovision embodies for countless fans, offering a refreshing retreat from the complexities of the world.

In this light, the question arises: can the UK recapture the magic of past victories and secure a win in 2025? With devoted fans eagerly awaiting the results, one thing remains certain: Eurovision continues to be a celebration of music and a testament to the enduring power of community.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Paragraphs 1, 2
3. Paragraphs 5
4. Paragraph 5
5. Paragraph 5
6. Paragraph 5
7. Paragraph 5

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/news-opinion/eurovision-our-world-cup-uk-31629085> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-65501904> - Scott Mills, a BBC Radio 2 presenter, has been announced to provide live commentary for the Eurovision Song Contest 2025 semi-finals alongside Rylan Clark. Mills expressed his excitement for the event, describing Eurovision as a time of 'joy' and 'love', offering viewers a brief escape from reality. He emphasized the communal experience of the contest, likening it to a melting pot where everyone shares the same enthusiasm for the music and performances.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2023/may/14/this-years-eurovision-is-most-watched-final-in-song-contests-history-say-bbc> - The Eurovision Song Contest 2023, held in Liverpool, attracted a record-breaking audience, with an average of 9.9 million viewers and a peak of 11 million tuning in. This marked the highest UK viewing figures for the contest in history. The event featured Swedish pop star Loreen's victory with her song 'Tattoo', and British entrant Mae Muller finishing second from bottom with 'I Wrote a Song'.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/eurovision-song-contest-final-viewers-bbc-sweden-win-loreen-british-liverpool-blue-b1080967.html> - The Eurovision Song Contest 2023 in Liverpool became the most-watched grand final in history, with the BBC reporting an average of 9.9 million viewers and a peak of 11 million. The event showcased Loreen's victory for Sweden with 'Tattoo' and featured British entrant Mae Muller, who finished second from bottom with 'I Wrote a Song'.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/ireland-sweden-spain-cliff-richard-dutch-b1155985.html> - The United Kingdom has a storied history in the Eurovision Song Contest, securing five victories: in 1967 with Sandie Shaw's 'Puppet on a String', in 1969 with Lulu's 'Boom Bang-a-Bang', in 1976 with Brotherhood of Man's 'Save Your Kisses for Me', in 1981 with Bucks Fizz's 'Making Your Mind Up', and in 1997 with Katrina and the Waves' 'Love Shine a Light'.
6. <https://www.officialcharts.com/chart-news/eurovisions-highest-charting-songs-in-the-uk__26224/> - The Official Charts Company provides a list of Eurovision songs that have achieved significant chart success in the UK. Notably, ABBA's 'Waterloo' topped the UK Singles Chart in 1974, and Celine Dion's 'Ne Partez Pas Sans Moi' reached number one in 1988. The list highlights the enduring popularity of Eurovision entries in the UK music scene.
7. <https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/uk-winning-eurovision-entries-4624163> - The United Kingdom has won the Eurovision Song Contest five times: in 1967 with Sandie Shaw's 'Puppet on a String', in 1969 with Lulu's 'Boom Bang-a-Bang', in 1976 with Brotherhood of Man's 'Save Your Kisses for Me', in 1981 with Bucks Fizz's 'Making Your Mind Up', and in 1997 with Katrina and the Waves' 'Love Shine a Light'.