# Eurovision Song Contest 2025 set to dazzle in Basel with diverse acts and fierce competition



The stage is set and excitement is building as Europe prepares for the 69th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest, a major international event combining music, cultural celebration, and elements of geopolitical interplay. This year, the contest will take place in Basel, Switzerland, from 13 to 17 May 2025.

Eurovision, inaugurated in 1956 as a pioneering experiment in live television broadcasting and a symbol of post-World War II unity, has grown to encompass 37 participating countries, including some outside Europe such as Israel and Australia. It is often described as a “pop Olympics,” blending dramatic performances, national pride, and occasionally, political undertones, drawing an audience of 163 million viewers worldwide last year.

Switzerland, the original host of Eurovision and home to the European Broadcasting Union that runs the contest, will welcome competitors to the St. Jakobshalle arena in Basel. The city is positioned in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, near the borders with France and Germany. Swiss performers Hazel Brugger, Michelle Hunziker, and Sandra Studer will host the live broadcasts. This follows the victory of the nonbinary Swiss singer Nemo in 2024, who won with the operatic anthem "The Code."

The competition features two semifinals on 13 and 15 May, determining 20 finalists who will vie for victory alongside six pre-qualified nations: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and Switzerland as the host. Each act performs a three-minute song, after which viewers and national juries cast their votes, with the final winner revealed through an exciting points tally sequence.

The contest is famed for its diversity in music styles and showmanship, ranging from catchy pop to dramatic power ballads and beyond, with past winners including ABBA, Lordi, Conchita Wurst, Måneskin, and Kalush Orchestra. The 2025 line-up includes a wealth of entries with varied musical and thematic approaches. Bookmakers favour Sweden, which has won Eurovision seven times and seeks its eighth victory with the trio KAJ performing "Bara Bada Bastu," a celebration of sauna culture. Other strong contenders include Austria’s classically trained singer JJ with the "popera" ballad "Wasted Love," France’s Louane with the ballad "maman," Dutch artist Claude’s "C’est La Vie," and Israeli singer Yuval Raphael, a survivor of the October 7 attacks, who will perform "New Day Will Rise."

Several novel and quirky entries add to the event’s eclectic character, such as Estonia’s energetic "Espresso Macchiato" by Tony Cash, Icelandic brother duo VAEB’s rowing-themed "Róa," and Ireland’s Emmy with the space dog tribute "Laika Party." Eurovision expert Paul Jordan, known as Dr. Eurovision, remarked to The Independent, “There’s a lot of novelty acts this year... It’s kind of reflective of the chaos in the world. It’s almost like people are looking for a bit of escapism.” He also noted a presence of innuendo in some songs, referencing Australia’s Go-Jo with "Milkshake Man" and Malta’s Miriana Conte’s "Serving," whose title and lyrics were altered to comply with contest rules.

Eurovision generally avoids overtly political content, insisting on adherence to values of universality, diversity, equality, inclusivity, and neutrality. Nevertheless, political tensions often surface: Russia remains banned following its 2022 invasion of Ukraine; last year’s contest in Malmö, Sweden, saw pro-Palestinian demonstrations and Israeli singer Eden Golan received enhanced security. His song was also retitled and lyrically modified from its original "October Rain," in reference to the October 7 attacks by Hamas, to "Hurricane." He ultimately finished fifth in the competition. Contest organisers have bolstered codes of conduct and disciplinary measures following incidents such as the mid-contest expulsion of Dutch participant Joost Klein in 2024 after a confrontation with production staff.

Eurovision will be broadcast across participating countries, with the UK’s audience able to watch the contest on BBC One and BBC iPlayer, and listen on BBC Radio 2 and BBC Sounds. In the United States, viewers can stream via Peacock or through the Eurovision YouTube channel in certain regions. Voting opens at the start of the grand final on 17 May, permitting viewers to vote via phone, text, or app, though not for their own country. Fans in non-participating nations can also engage through online voting and the app.

As anticipation mounts for the incandescent performances and nail-biting vote tallies, Eurovision 2025 promises another spectacular chapter in the long-running celebration of music and culture. “Everyone seems to think that Sweden has it in the bag,” Paul Jordan observed, “but it could well be that a country sneaks up the middle.”

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://eurovision.tv/event/basel-2025> - Confirms the 2025 Eurovision dates (13-17 May) and venue (Basel, Switzerland), including semi-finals and final schedule.
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurovision_Song_Contest_2025> - Verifies host city, venue (St. Jakobshalle), 37 participating countries, Montenegro's return, and Switzerland's hosting role as 2024 winner.
3. <https://eurovision.tv/calendar> - Lists key Eurovision 2025 dates including First Semi-Final (13 May), Second Semi-Final (15 May), and Grand Final (17 May) in CEST time.
4. <https://eurovision-basel.ch/en/> - Confirms Basel's host city status and ancillary events program running 10-17 May 2025 around the contest.
5. <https://eurovision-basel.ch/en/visitors/> - Details practical information about Basel's operations during the contest period (10-17 May), including extended business hours.
6. <https://eurovision.tv/event/basel-2025> - Reiterates voting system details mentioned in the article, though specific voting app/online participation mechanisms aren't detailed in available sources.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/eurovision/eurovision-2025-host-switzerland-where-to-watch-voting-entrants-b2740838.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data