# Austria wins Eurovision amid protests and UK’s Remember Monday scores zero points



The United Kingdom's Eurovision entry, the girl group Remember Monday, narrowly escaped the humiliation of receiving zero points, yet ultimately fell short of claiming the coveted title, which was won by Austria’s JJ with his emotionally charged song, "Wasted Love." This year's contest, set against the backdrop of ongoing political tensions in the Middle East, has been described as one of the most controversial in the event's history.

As millions of viewers tuned in from across Europe, the competition showcased performances from 26 countries and attracted an audience of over 160 million worldwide. Hampshire-based Remember Monday, consisting of members Lauren Byrne, Holly-Anne Hull, and Charlotte Steele, performed their upbeat track, "What the Hell Just Happened?" at the St Jakobshalle arena in Basel. Despite their dynamic stage presence and vocal talent, the group's prospects had been bleak according to pre-competition odds, which placed them at 66 to 1.

While the girls garnered praise for their 'unbelievable vocals' and infectious energy, their fate was ultimately sealed when they received no points in the public vote. As the results were announced, it was revealed that JJ, whose full name is Johannes Pietsch and who gained acclaim for blending operatic elements with techno, emerged victorious with 357 points. This marked Austria's third win in the contest's storied history, following Conchita Wurst’s triumph in 2014.

Tonight's competition, however, was underscored by protests against Israel's participation, which drew significant public opposition. Demonstrations erupted in Basel, where pro-Palestinian activists clashed with police, expressing their discontent through dramatic displays, including burning flags and attempts to storm the stage. Inside the venue, tensions flared further as Yuval Raphael, representing Israel, performed her song "New Day Will Rise" amid a backdrop of conflicting cheers and jeers, illustrating the fraught atmosphere that enveloped this year's contest.

Raphael, a survivor of the October 7 Hamas attacks, faced a mixed reception during her performance, which some viewers claimed had been aided by audio sweetening techniques to mute any audible booing, a claim the European Broadcasting Union refuted. Pro-Palestinian sentiments permeated the event, with slogans such as “boycott Israel apartheid” being publicly displayed. Earlier in the week, the Swiss broadcaster acknowledged that they had received complaints regarding the treatment of demonstrators, highlighting the contentious political climate overshadowing the musical celebrations.

In the wake of these controversies, speculation arose regarding the last-minute withdrawal of Ncuti Gatwa from his role as the UK spokesperson for the jury vote. Official reasons behind his absence remained vague, though his previous vocal support for Palestinian causes had ignited theories suggesting his departure was linked to the contentious atmosphere surrounding Israel's participation. Sophie Ellis-Bextor was subsequently appointed to replace him, expressing her excitement for the role in what she termed the 'special show'.

Reflecting broader sentiments, many in the music industry voiced their disapproval of Israel’s involvement in the contest. A movement gathered momentum with over 4,000 artists and industry professionals from Nordic countries signing an open letter denouncing Israel's participation, equating it with complicity in the ongoing violence against Palestinians. Former Eurovision winners also joined the call, arguing that the event should not be exploited for political purposes.

The Eurovision Song Contest has historically allowed for a diverse representation of nations, yet this year’s proceedings highlight the intersection of culture and global politics, revealing how entertainment can serve as a platform for social issues. As the audience celebrated musical artistry, the cries for justice rang pointedly through the streets of Basel, making it clear that amidst the gaiety of song and dance, the complex narratives of the contemporary world cannot easily be dismissed.

With Remember Monday missing from the winner's circle, and the evening marred by conflict and controversy, the ramifications of this year's contest will likely echo long after the final notes fade, leaving a stain on the event that champions unity through music while grappling with the persistent divides within society.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8
2. Paragraph 2
3. Paragraphs 2, 5
4. Paragraph 2
5. Paragraph 1
6. Paragraph 1
7. Paragraph 1

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723323/Britain-Eurovision-Remember-Monday-avoids-nul-point-victory.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/swedens-sauna-song-is-hot-favourite-swiss-eurovision-2025-05-17/> - Austria's JJ wins Eurovision crown with 'Wasted Love' – Reuters reports that Austria's JJ (Johannes Pietsch) won the Eurovision Song Contest 2025 in Basel, Switzerland, with his operatic-techno fusion song 'Wasted Love'. This marks Austria's third Eurovision victory, following Conchita Wurst's win in 2014. The event drew over 160 million viewers worldwide and attracted 100,000 attendees to Basel. The contest was politically charged due to the ongoing war in Gaza, leading to protests and calls to exclude Israel from the competition. Despite the tensions, organizers emphasized unity and inclusivity, allowing Palestinian flags in the audience while restricting performers to national flags.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/38de9d9fc86f75180036a6834edae2c2> - Austria's JJ wins Eurovision Song Contest with pop-opera song 'Wasted Love' – The Associated Press reports that Austrian countertenor JJ, whose full name is Johannes Pietsch, won the 69th Eurovision Song Contest in Basel, Switzerland, with his operatic techno-pop song 'Wasted Love'. This marks Austria's third Eurovision victory and its first since Conchita Wurst's win in 2014. Israel's Yuval Raphael finished second with 'New Day Will Rise', despite significant public support and amid protests over Israel's participation due to the ongoing Gaza conflict. The competition showcased diverse musical entries from 26 countries and attracted around 160 million viewers worldwide.
4. <https://www.whattowatch.com/watching-guides/eurovision-2025-release-date-host-country-uk-entry-hosts-and-everything-we-know> - Eurovision 2025: release date, host country, finalists, Remember Monday interview and everything we know – WhatToWatch.com provides comprehensive details about the Eurovision Song Contest 2025, set to take place on Saturday, May 17, in Basel, Switzerland. The UK is represented by country-pop girl band Remember Monday with their song 'What the Hell Just Happened?'. The trio, who previously appeared on The Voice UK, are eager to dazzle with theatrical flair and tight harmonies. The article also covers the host country, finalists, and other key aspects of the upcoming contest.
5. <https://as.com/tikitakas/musica/quienes-son-remember-monday-el-duo-de-reino-unido-que-quiere-ganar-eurovision-2025-con-what-the-hell-just-happened-n/> - Quiénes son Remember Monday, el dúo de Reino Unido que quiere ganar Eurovisión 2025 con 'What the Hell Just Happened?' – AS.com introduces Remember Monday, the British country-pop trio representing the UK in Eurovision 2025 with their song 'What the Hell Just Happened?'. The group consists of Lauren Byrne, Holly-Anne Hull, and Charlotte Steele, who met in school in 2013 and began singing together during Monday breaks. They gained prominence after reaching the finals of The Voice UK alongside Jennifer Hudson. The song was co-written by the trio and other collaborators, marking the first time a British girl group represents the UK in Eurovision since 1999.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_in_the_Eurovision_Song_Contest_2025> - United Kingdom in the Eurovision Song Contest 2025 – Wikipedia provides detailed information about the UK's participation in Eurovision 2025. The country is represented by the country-pop trio Remember Monday with their song 'What the Hell Just Happened?'. The article covers the selection process, the songwriters, and the group's performance in the contest, where they placed nineteenth out of 26 countries with 88 points. It also includes references to various sources detailing the UK's entry and performance in the competition.
7. <https://news.sky.com/video/uks-eurovision-act-remember-monday-is-turning-hate-comments-into-music-13326525> - UK's Eurovision act Remember Monday is turning hate comments into music – Sky News reports on the UK's Eurovision entrant for 2025, Remember Monday, a pop band representing the UK in Switzerland. The article highlights how the group is addressing online trolling by turning negative comments into music. Members of the country-pop girl group Lauren Byrne, Holly-Anne Hull, and Charlotte Steele discuss how they combat online hate by singing those insults, finding humor in the process. The band will represent the UK at Eurovision 2025 with their original song 'What the Hell Just Happened?'.