# Clare Edwards steals the show at Eurovision 2025 amid Austria’s contentious victory



The Eurovision Song Contest 2025, held in Basel, Switzerland, delivered a captivating mix of performances, political tensions, and public engagement. While Austria emerged as the reigning champion with JJ's operatic hit "Wasted Love," much of the social media buzz and viewer affection during the event centred around a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter, Clare Edwards. Her animated and enthusiastic interpretations during Finland's Erika Vikman's performance of "ICH KOMME" garnered widespread acclaim, leading many to dub her the true star of the show.

Dressed in a dazzling purple gown, Clare captured viewers' hearts as she infused energy into her signing, transforming the experience for those with hearing impairments. Observers noted that her lively performance resonated deeply, turning what could have been a simple act of translation into a dynamic, expressive presentation. Fans took to social media to express their admiration, calling her performance "iconic" and urging the BBC to feature her as the UK's representative in future Eurovisions. Comments like "The BSL lady is having way too much fun!" and "Give that woman her own gig!" echoed the sentiment that Clare had stolen the spotlight with her artistry.

This year’s Eurovision was not merely a showcase of musical talent but also a platform for political expression. Austria's victory came in a context marked by protests and debates surrounding Israel's participation. This edition was particularly charged, as it followed the devastating events of October 7, 2023, impacting many lives, including that of Israel's contestant, Yuval Raphael. Her performance of "New Day Will Rise" was overshadowed by protests against Israel's presence, with vocal audiences expressing both support and dissent. Despite these events, Austria's JJ triumphed, receiving high marks from both juries and the viewers, thanks in part to his unique blend of operatic technique with modern pop elements.

In contrast, the UK's entry, "What The Hell Just Happened?" by the girl group Remember Monday, finished disappointingly low, garnering zero points from the public and 88 from the jury. Social media reactions reflected frustration over the UK's lacklustre performance again, with viewers lamenting the missed connection with European audiences.

Austria’s win brings with it not only national pride but financial implications as well, with increased pressure on a government already facing budget cuts. On a brighter note, JJ expressed hopes of potentially hosting the next Eurovision in Vienna, showcasing a desire to elevate Austria's cultural footprint following this success.

The event was further marred by external incidents that underscored the ongoing conflict, including pro-Palestinian protests outside the venue. Participants and audiences witnessed a charged atmosphere inside and out, as calls for peace and human rights echoed throughout the night. Despite the underlying tensions, the show, watched by millions, managed to convey a message of resilience and creativity, reminding attendees of the power of music to unite even in difficult times.

As the dust settles on this year’s Eurovision, Clare Edwards stands out as a testament to how performances can extend beyond mere entertainment, offering representation and joy to those often overlooked, while the contest itself continues to navigate the complex interplay of art, politics, and public emotion.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14724159/Eurovisions-BSL-interpreter-steals-iconic-brilliant-performance-fans-beg-represent-UK-year-didnt-realise-sign-language-graphic.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/swedens-sauna-song-is-hot-favourite-swiss-eurovision-2025-05-17/), [[3]](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/life/austria-gana-eurovision-israel-segunda-diva-melody-contenta-antepenultimo-puesto.html)
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14724159/Eurovisions-BSL-interpreter-steals-iconic-brilliant-performance-fans-beg-represent-UK-year-didnt-realise-sign-language-graphic.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 won the Eurovision Song Contest 2025 in Basel, Switzerland, with his operatic performance of 'Wasted Love.' This victory marked Austria's third win in the competition, following Conchita Wurst's success in 2014 and Udo Juergens' in 1966. JJ, a 24-year-old Filipino-Austrian countertenor from Vienna, captivated both professional juries and the global audience of over 160 million by blending opera, techno, and soprano elements in his song. Israel's Yuval Raphael, a survivor of the October 7 Hamas attacks, secured second place with his hopeful song, 'New Day Will Rise.' The contest was not without controversy, with protests demanding Israel's exclusion due to the Gaza conflict, and brief disruptions during Raphael's performance. Despite Austria's victory resulting in increased financial pressure ahead of planned national budget cuts, Austrian leaders celebrated JJ's achievement. JJ expressed hopes of hosting next year's contest in Vienna and even serving as a TV host. The event attracted 100,000 attendees, including fans from as far as Chile, and was marked by messages advocating peace and human rights, such as one from Spanish broadcaster RTVE in support of Palestine.
3. <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/life/austria-gana-eurovision-israel-segunda-diva-melody-contenta-antepenultimo-puesto.html> - The Eurovision Song Contest 2025, held in Basel, Switzerland, was won by Austria's JJ with his song 'Wasted Love,' a pop operatic piece with staging directed by Spanish artist Sergio Jaén. JJ received the majority support from the jury and narrowly beat Israel, which finished second thanks to the televote with 'New Day Will Rise,' a ballad performed by a survivor of the Hamas attack in 2023. Spain, represented by Melody with her song 'Esa Diva,' suffered a disappointing penultimate position (24th) with only 37 points despite an elaborate staging and recognized vocal performance. RTVE expressed its dissatisfaction with the result and announced the need for urgent changes in its selection process. Estonia surprised by achieving third place with Tommy Cash, and other notable performances included Sweden and Italy, finishing fourth and fifth respectively. The festival was also marked by controversial moments, political tensions over Israel's presence, and unexpected voting outcomes such as 'zero points' for Switzerland and the United Kingdom. This edition generated more interest due to its controversies than its musical quality.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_in_the_Eurovision_Song_Contest_2023> - Israel was represented at the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 in Liverpool, United Kingdom, by Noa Kirel with the song 'Unicorn.' The Israeli broadcaster, Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation (IPBC/Kan), internally selected Kirel on 10 August 2022, and the song was presented to the public on 8 March 2023. Israel competed in the first semi-final on 9 May 2023, performing in position 9. 'Unicorn' qualified for the final, placing third in the semi-final with 127 points. In the grand final on 13 May 2023, Israel performed in position 23 and finished third out of the 26 participating countries, scoring 362 points.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria_in_the_Eurovision_Song_Contest_2023> - Austria was represented at the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 with the song 'Who the Hell Is Edgar?' performed by Teya and Salena. The Austrian broadcaster, Österreichischer Rundfunk (ORF), internally selected the duo on 31 January 2023, and the song was presented to the public on 8 March 2023. Austria competed in the second semi-final on 11 May 2023, performing in position 13. 'Who the Hell Is Edgar?' qualified for the final, placing second in the semi-final with 137 points. In the grand final on 13 May 2023, Austria performed in position 1 and finished in fifteenth place overall with 120 points.
6. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/breaking-uk-finish-eurovision-2023-29972501> - Mae Muller represented the United Kingdom at the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 in Liverpool with her song 'I Wrote a Song.' Despite performing on home turf, Muller finished second from bottom in the final standings. The top three positions were taken by Loreen of Sweden, Käärijä of Finland, and Israel's Noa Kirel. The United Kingdom received points from Malta and Ukraine in the public vote, and from Sweden, Ukraine, Finland, Ireland, and Denmark in the jury vote. The results mean next year's competition will head to Sweden, on the 50th anniversary of Abba's 'Waterloo' success.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remember_Monday> - Remember Monday is a British country pop girl group consisting of members Lauren Byrne, Holly-Anne Hull, and Charlotte Steele. The group gained prominence after appearing on The Voice UK in 2019. They represented the United Kingdom in the Eurovision Song Contest 2025 with the song 'What the Hell Just Happened?', finishing in tenth place with the juries and 19th overall in the contest, with zero points from the public vote.