# David Garrett’s Champions League Seven Nation Army violin performance divides viewers



Champions League final viewers were left unimpressed by the pre-match performance of German violinist David Garrett, who attempted to inject a touch of artistry into the event in Munich. Performing a rearranged version of the popular White Stripes hit "Seven Nation Army," Garrett's contribution was met with considerable criticism, described by viewers as "annoying" and falling flat ahead of the much-anticipated clash between Inter Milan and Paris Saint-Germain.

"Seven Nation Army," released in 2003, has transcended its origins as an indie rock anthem to become a global sporting staple. Over the years, its catchy riff has been adopted by fans in stadiums around the world, leading to its status as a definitive sports anthem. Yet, this ubiquity has also bred a kind of listener fatigue; many have voiced concerns that its frequent usage at events has diluted its excitement. This phenomenon was echoed during a previous Champions League final in 2017, when a performance by the Black Eyed Peas was similarly derided for contributing to a delayed kick-off, with social media users deeming it "the worst" performance ever seen at the prestigious event.

In response to Garrett's performance, UEFA expressed that it was intended to "encapsulate the excitement and artistry of the moment," although many viewers felt that the delivery did not resonate. Cultural commentators have noted that while "Seven Nation Army" remains a favourite, its frequent inclusion in various sporting events has led to discussions about its evolving role and impact on fan culture. The simplicity and catchiness of the song allows it to thrive in stadium environments, yet its overexposure raises pertinent questions regarding whether the thrill of its performance is waning.

The debate surrounding musical performances at major sports events highlights a broader trend in which what was once novel can quickly become stale. Musicians are challenged to bring something new to a piece that has been adopted by the sporting community, juxtaposing artistic expression with the expectations of sporting fans. As such performances continue to stir audience reactions — whether favourable or negative — they underscore the complexities of merging entertainment with the fervour of sports celebrations.

In an era where anticipation is paramount, the challenge for artists at sporting events is not merely to entertain but to create memorable experiences that uplift the occasion. As it stands, the backlash against Garrett's performance represents a pivotal moment for event organisers contemplating the role of live music in sports fixtures, ensuring that future acts align with the energy of the occasion rather than distract from it.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14768245/Champions-League-annoying-violin-act-final.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2017/06/03/fans-not-happy-champions-league-final-kick-off-delayed-awful/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.sportingnews.com/us/other-sports/list/arena-stadium-songs-ruined-by-sports-white-stripes-seven-nation-army-smash-mouth/1kkxxf8zlznrt10j4i5999mju8), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/nov/26/seven-nation-army-terrace-anthem-blur-bernie-sanders), [[5]](https://www.npr.org/2018/07/11/626288758/american-anthem-world-cup-white-stripes-seven-nation-army)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwmusic/article/VIDEO-2CELLOS-Release-New-SEVEN-NATION-ARMY-Music-Video-20180521), [[7]](https://www.wwno.org/2018-07-11/why-seven-nation-army-is-the-one-jock-jam-to-rule-them-all)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14768245/Champions-League-annoying-violin-act-final.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2017/06/03/fans-not-happy-champions-league-final-kick-off-delayed-awful/> - In 2017, fans criticised the Black Eyed Peas' performance at the Champions League final, leading to a delayed kick-off. Observers on social media described the performance as 'so awful' and 'the worst'. The clean-up after the act also caused a delay to the match's start. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2017/06/03/fans-not-happy-champions-league-final-kick-off-delayed-awful/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.sportingnews.com/us/other-sports/list/arena-stadium-songs-ruined-by-sports-white-stripes-seven-nation-army-smash-mouth/1kkxxf8zlznrt10j4i5999mju8> - 'Seven Nation Army' by The White Stripes has been overused in sports venues, leading to listener fatigue. Its constant play at sporting events has diluted its impact, making it a prime example of a song 'ruined by overuse'. ([sportingnews.com](https://www.sportingnews.com/us/other-sports/list/arena-stadium-songs-ruined-by-sports-white-stripes-seven-nation-army-smash-mouth/1kkxxf8zlznrt10j4i5999mju8?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/nov/26/seven-nation-army-terrace-anthem-blur-bernie-sanders> - 'Seven Nation Army' has become a mainstay in football stadiums, with fans chanting its riff during matches. The song's journey from indie rock to sports anthem is explored, highlighting its cultural impact. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/nov/26/seven-nation-army-terrace-anthem-blur-bernie-sanders?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.npr.org/2018/07/11/626288758/american-anthem-world-cup-white-stripes-seven-nation-army> - 'Seven Nation Army' has become a global sports anthem, with fans chanting its riff at major events like the World Cup. Its simplicity and catchiness have made it a favourite among sports fans worldwide. ([npr.org](https://www.npr.org/2018/07/11/626288758/american-anthem-world-cup-white-stripes-seven-nation-army?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwmusic/article/VIDEO-2CELLOS-Release-New-SEVEN-NATION-ARMY-Music-Video-20180521> - 2CELLOS released a new video for their version of 'Seven Nation Army', filmed in Croatia. The video features the duo performing the song while wearing jerseys of Real Madrid and Liverpool, ahead of the UEFA Champions League final. ([broadwayworld.com](https://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwmusic/article/VIDEO-2CELLOS-Release-New-SEVEN-NATION-ARMY-Music-Video-20180521?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.wwno.org/2018-07-11/why-seven-nation-army-is-the-one-jock-jam-to-rule-them-all> - 'Seven Nation Army' has become a ubiquitous sports anthem, with fans chanting its riff at major events like the World Cup. Its widespread use has led to discussions about its overexposure and impact on fan culture. ([wwno.org](https://www.wwno.org/2018-07-11/why-seven-nation-army-is-the-one-jock-jam-to-rule-them-all?utm_source=openai))