

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

The 100% Unofficial Quick Guide

**for
Commentators, Broadcasters, Media, & Fans**

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Introduction

Welcome to the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026, the 24th edition of the competition that has run annually since 2003. Acts from eighteen nations will be taking to the stage in Ta'Qali, Malta on 24 October, for an incredible spectacle of music, culture, and language.

This guidebook gives you the key facts and figures for the songs you need before the show. Listing former winners, the historical track records of the different countries and all of the essential information on this year's entrants, feel free to use this guide as a second-screen resource.

Many thanks, and we hope you enjoy the 2026 Junior Eurovision Song Contest as much as we will.

Junior Eurovision Results History

Year	Host City & Country	Winning Country	Song	Singer	Runner up
2003	Copenhagen, Denmark	Croatia	<i>Ti si moja prva ljubav</i>	Dino Jelušić	Spain
2004	Lillehammer, Norway	Spain	<i>Antes muerta que sencilla</i>	María Isabel	UK
2005	Hasselt, Belgium	Belarus	<i>My vmeste</i>	Ksenia Sitnik	Spain
2006	Bucharest, Romania	Russia	<i>Vesenniy Jazz</i>	Tolmachevy Sisters	Belarus
2007	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Belarus	<i>S druz'yami</i>	Alexey Zhigalkovich	Armenia
2008	Limassol, Cyprus	Georgia	<i>Bzz</i>	Bzikebi	Ukraine
2009	Kyiv, Ukraine	Netherlands	<i>Click Clack</i>	Ralf Mackenbach	Armenia/Russia
2010	Minsk, Belarus	Armenia	<i>Mama</i>	Vladimir Arzumanyan	Russia
2011	Yerevan, Armenia	Georgia	<i>Candy Music</i>	CANDY	Netherlands
2012	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Ukraine	<i>Nebo</i>	Anastasiya Petryk	Georgia
2013	Kyiv, Ukraine	Malta	<i>The Start</i>	Gaia Cauchi	Ukraine
2014	Marsa, Malta	Italy	<i>Tu primo grande amore</i>	Vincenzo Cantiello	Bulgaria
2015	Sofia, Bulgaria	Malta	<i>Not My Soul</i>	Destiny Chukunyere	Armenia
2016	Valletta, Malta	Georgia	<i>Mzeo</i>	Mariam Mamadashvili	Armenia
2017	Tbilisi, Georgia	Russia	<i>Wings</i>	Polina Bogusevich	Georgia
2018	Minsk, Belarus	Poland	<i>Anyone I Want To Be</i>	Roksana Węgiel	France
2019	Gliwice, Poland	Poland	<i>Superhero</i>	Viki Gabor	Kazakhstan
2020	Warsaw, Poland	France	<i>J'Imagine</i>	Valentina	Kazakhstan
2021	Paris, France	Armenia	<i>Qami Qami</i>	Maléna	Poland
2022	Yerevan, Armenia	France	<i>Oh Maman!</i>	Lissandro	Armenia
2023	Nice, France	France	<i>Cœur</i>	Zoé Clauzure	Spain
2024	Madrid, Spain	Georgia	<i>To My Mom</i>	Andria Putkaradze	Portugal
2025	Tbilisi, Georgia	France	<i>Ce monde</i>	Lou Deleuze	Ukraine
2026	Ta' Qali, Malta				

Participation

Active member broadcasters of the European Broadcasting Union are eligible to participate in the contest. However, the show has been screened in several non-participating countries, and contest participation may be extended to Associate Members on an invitation-only basis, as in the past cases of Australia and Kazakhstan.

Out of the forty-one countries that have participated at least once, only one – The Netherlands – has competed in every Junior Eurovision so far. As of 2026, Georgia and France are the most successful nations at Junior Eurovision, with four wins each. Armenia, Malta, and Poland have all won twice, and Belarus and Russia, no longer participating in the Contest, also had two victories each during their years of participation.

Differences between Junior Eurovision and Eurovision

The Junior Eurovision Song Contest has undergone many changes over the years, including changes to linguistic rules and regulations on the ages of performers and songwriters. While there are many similarities between the Eurovision Song Contest and Junior Eurovision Song Contest, there are some very distinct differences too:

- Artists between the ages of nine and fourteen (at the time of the show's broadcast) are welcome to participate in Junior Eurovision.
- The songs must be sung in any of the country's national languages, with up to 40% of the lyrics permitted in another language.
- Junior Eurovision's score is tabulated by a combination of national juries and a free online public vote open to viewers from around the globe. In theory, voters are allowed to vote for their home country, a practice not permitted at Eurovision, but all voters must select three songs to support. All public votes are aggregated into a single tally, unlike Eurovision, where they are divided up by country, plus the Rest of the World Vote.
- Junior Eurovision-winning nations are given first right of refusal to host the next year, rather than the assumption that they *will* host, often seen at Eurovision. If a winning country declines, the host country is selected via a bidding system. In this year's case, Malta won the bid over other nations, including rumored submissions from San Marino and North Macedonia.

2026 Host Venue: Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre, Ta' Qali

One of Malta's largest multi-purpose venues, the Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre (or MFCC) has hosted concerts, television programmes, exhibitions, festivals, and conferences. Notably for Eurovision fans, it's often been the site of Malta's National Finals, as well as *X Factor Malta*, over the years. It was opened in 2006 on the former site of a former British Royal Air Force Base (anglicized to "Ta Kali" at the time), and lies adjacent to Malta's national football stadium, a crafts village, a national park, and the Malta Aviation Museum.

Major international artists have performed at the MFCC, including Laura Pausini, David Guetta, Andrea Bocelli, and many others. Despite its impressive history, this will be the first time that Junior Eurovision will be hosted at the venue, as the 2014 Contest was held at the Shipbuilding facility in Marsa and the 2016 event was located at the Mediterranean

Conference Centre in Valletta. The MFCC can hold a maximum of 14,000 spectators, but due to camera angles and other restrictions, this year's Junior Eurovision will likely welcome a somewhat smaller number of visitors.

This year's staging was inspired by the theme of the "Festa", traditional festivals that pop up all over Malta. These joyous, colourful, high-energy parties take over the streets of towns and villages nationwide, filling public spaces with music, fireworks, food, and a feeling of community. The production team hopes to create that same vibe on stage in Ta' Qali.

2026 Hosts: Gaia, Destiny, and Keane

Gaia Cauchi

After appearing on Italian shows *Ti lascio una canzone* and *Sanremo Junior*, Mġarr-born Gaia Cauchi became a national hero back in 2013 when she clinched victory at Junior Eurovision in Kyiv with her song *The Start*, making her the first Maltese winner of any EBU-organised competition.

Since then, she's appeared on *X-Factor* in the UK, the *New Wave* festival in Russia, and, most recently, served as a coach on *The Voice Kids Malta*. She's continued to release music in both English and Maltese, and her star continues to soar.

Destiny Chukunyere

Only two years after Gaia Cauchi's Junior Eurovision win, Birkirkara-native Destiny Chukunyere nabbed Malta's second JESC trophy with *Not My Soul*, bringing down the house in Sofia, Bulgaria that year. In 2017, she made it to the semifinals of *Britain's Got Talent*.

After having her voice heard as a background singer for Michaela Pace's *Chameleon* at Eurovision 2019, she won *X Factor Malta* the following year, giving her a ticket to Eurovision in her own right. She released *All of My Love* for the cancelled 2020 Contest, and returned with *Je Me Casse* for 2021, winning her semifinal and ending up in seventh place in the Grand Final, Malta's best result since 2005.

Since 2022, she's been one of the coaches on *The Voice Kids*, where she and Gaia now help mentor the next generation of young Maltese talent.

Keane Cutajar

Joining Gaia and Destiny on stage in Ta' Qali will be veteran presenter and journalist Keane Cutajar. The trio have already worked together, having hosted the *Malta Eurovision Song Contest 2026*. Keane has also hosted Valletta's National New Year's Eve celebrations and Isle of MTV Malta, as well as other television and radio presenting duties.

2026 Songs

Quick Reference & Running Order

	Country	Artist	Song	Language(s)
01	Netherlands	Maria	<i>Stronger Together</i>	Dutch, English
02	Cyprus	Harry Georgiou	<i>Who I Can Be</i>	Greek, English
03	Portugal	Salvador Rio	<i>Alma</i>	Portuguese
04	Montenegro	Mija Vujović	<i>Muzika nas spaja</i>	Montenegrin
05	San Marino	Violamarie	<i>Ruota panoramica</i>	Italian, English
06	France	Alec	<i>Comment tu vas?</i>	French
07	Poland	Wiktor Sas	<i>Gravity</i>	Polish, English
08	Armenia	Naré	<i>Boo!</i>	Armenian, English
09	Malta	Beppe	<i>Blue Bird</i>	English
10	Italy	Matteo Trullu	<i>Che cos'è l'amore?</i>	Italian
11	Ukraine	Erika Kolesnichenko	<i>Not a Lullaby</i>	Ukrainian, English
12	North Macedonia	Ana Stojanoska	<i>Idnata jas</i>	Macedonian
13	Ireland	Caleb Kirwan and Naomi Gribben	<i>Níos láidre</i>	Irish
14	Albania	Eslin Kurti	<i>Kërce me mua</i>	Albanian
15	Georgia	Davit Lomidze	<i>Sun on the Rooftops</i>	Georgian, Italian
16	Spain	Lucas Paulano	<i>Cuore bello (te quiero, te quiero)</i>	Spanish

ALBANIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Eslin Kurti
Title (Albanian)	<i>Kërce me mua</i>
Title (English)	<i>Dance with Me</i>
Language	Albanian
Composers	Music: Enis Mullaj / Lyrics: Eriona Rushiti
Song Description	<i>Kërce me mua</i> is a light, breezy track with touches of Albanian instrumentation. Eslin asks the listener to put down their smartphones and tablets and seize the day with her, and with a vibe and rhythm as sunny and bright as summer on the Adriatic, it's hard to resist!

Artist Profile	Eslin Kurti is a 12-year-old native from the coastal city of Durrës. She balances her normal school studies with additional coursework in singing, piano, guitar, and performance at a local conservatory. She's taken part in festivals and contests throughout Albania, but this is her biggest platform yet. She comes from a musical family; Ermal Meta, who represented Italy at Eurovision 2018, is her second cousin!
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Selection Process	Broadcaster RTSH held a national final, <i>Festivali i Këngës për Fëmijë</i> , with a winner determined through the votes of a jury. The nineteen acts in the "Junior" category, aged nine to fourteen, were eligible for the ticket to Malta.
Date Selected	1 June

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2012
Years Competed	2012, 2015-2019, 2021-present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	12
Best Position	5th (2015)
Finishing Position 2025	6th place, 145 points
Artist & Song 2025	Kroni Pula, <i>Fruta perime</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Alis - <i>Nân</i>
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ARMENIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Naré
Title	<i>Boo!</i>
Language	Armenian, English
Composers	Music: Lilit Navasardyan / Lyrics: Grigor Kyokchyan
Song Description	Balancing spooky and sweet, <i>Boo!</i> is cheeky and danceable. Naré finds herself in her room at night, surrounded by shadows and scary thoughts, but dances the fear away with her friends. The vibe sometimes feels a little bit <i>Wednesday</i> , but still full of brightness and joy.

Artist Profile	Thirteen-year-old Naré Kerobyan comes from Yerevan, Armenia's capital. She had applied to represent her homeland at Junior Eurovision three times before being selected this year.
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Selection Process	Broadcaster AMPTV opted for an internal selection for this year's singer and song.
Date Announced	Artist Announced and Song Released: 23 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007 – 2019, 2021 – present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	19
Best Position	1st (2010, 2021)
Finishing Position 2025	4th place, 175 points
Artist & Song 2025	Albert, <i>Brave Heart</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Yerevan 2011, 2022

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Simón - <i>Paloma Rumba</i>
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CYPRUS

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Harry Georgiou
Title	<i>Who I Can Be</i>
Language	Greek, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Anna-Klara Folin, Laurell Barker, Nathalie Brydolf, Thomas Stengaard, Victoria Chalkitis
Song Description	A bombastic ballad well-suited to a West End veteran, <i>Who I Can Be</i> is all about a young man who's finding his own sense of autonomy as he grows up. Whether he flies or falls, he wants to be able to make his own decisions and have his choices known and respected.

Artist Profile	Londoner Harry Georgiou, aged 13, is proud of his Cypriot roots and is thrilled to fly Cyprus's flag in Malta. Despite his young age, he's already got a wealth of experience, including taking to the West End stage as Gavroche in <i>Les Misérables</i> , and as Michael Hobbs in <i>Elf</i> .
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Selection Process	Broadcaster CyBC opted for a fully internal selection for this year's act and song.
Date Announced	Artist Announced: 13 July Song Released: 24 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2004, 2006-2009, 2014, 2016-2017, 2024-present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	12
Best Position	8th (2004, 2006)
Finishing Position 2025	16th place, 50 points
Artist & Song 2025	Rafaella Panteli and Christos Georgiou, <i>Away</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Limassol 2008

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Antigoni - <i>Jalla</i>
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FRANCE

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Alec
Title (French)	<i>Comment tu vas?</i>
Title (English)	How Are You?
Language	French
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Alec, Malory Legardinier ("Malo")
Song Description	The sensitive and piano-forward <i>Comment tu vas?</i> is an open letter to a stranger, showing empathy and kindness for anyone who might be feeling alone, alienated, or hurt. With powerful vocals and a structure that rises to an anthemic finish, you may find yourself singing the title phrase long after the song ends.

Artist Profile	Twelve-year-old Alec Burette hails from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.. Despite learning piano from age five, and guitar from age seven, Alec admits that he only started taking formal vocal lessons last year. He's appeared on <i>The Voice Kids</i> (finishing as runner-up) and <i>N'oubliez pas les enfants</i> .
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Selection Process	Broadcaster France Télévisions opted for an internal selection this year for both song and singer.
Date Announced	Artist Announced: 20 June Song Released: 24 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2002
Years Competed	2004, 2018 – present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	10
Best Position	1st (2020, 2022, 2023, 2025)
Finishing Position 2025	1st place, 248 points
Artist & Song 2025	Lou Deleuze, <i>Ce monde</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Paris 2021, Nice 2023

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Monroe - <i>Regarde!</i>
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GEORGIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Davit Lomidze
Title	<i>Sun on the Rooftops</i>
Language	Georgian, phrase in Italian
Composers	Music: Giga Kukhianidze / Lyrics: Irina Sanikidze
Song Description	A breezy song with a fair bit of retro-Italo-disco flair, <i>Sun on the Rooftops</i> is, simply put, all about enjoying the little things in life with the people who make you happy. Sunshine, music, the seaside...life is beautiful, so be sure to share your love and joy with the world!

Artist Profile	David Lomidze, aged 10, hails from the city of Gori, in eastern Georgia. He's participated in local concerts and festivals over the past three years, but he also loves football and rugby.
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Selection Process	The Georgian broadcaster used the children's talent show <i>Ranina</i> to select their artist. From a lineup of ten contestants, three eventually progressed to a Final round, where a winner was crowned. A song was then tailored to the winner's voice.
Date Announced	Artist Selection: 25 June Song Release: 16 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007 – present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	20
Best Position	1st (2006, 2011, 2016, 2024)
Finishing Position 2025	3rd place, 176 points
Artist & Song 2025	Anita Abgariani, <i>Shine Like a Star</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Tbilisi 2017, 2025

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Bzikebi - <i>On Replay</i>
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IRELAND

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Caleb Kirwan and Naomi Gribben
Title (Irish)	<i>Níos láidre</i>
Title (English)	<i>Stronger</i>
Language	Irish
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Ben Pyne, Larissa Tormey, Remy Borsboom, Shauna Carrick
Song Description	<i>Níos láidre</i> is an uplifting pop track that shows us that despite all of the twists and turns that life can throw at us, if we move forward with people by our side that we trust, any obstacle can be overcome. And with Caleb and Naomi giving us 2026's only duet, the pair are living by example!

Artist Profile	Fourteen-year-old Caleb, from near Dublin, has been in local theatrical productions and is a trained dancer, and thirteen-year-old Naomi, from Mayobridge, Northern Ireland, has performed on the <i>Late Late Toy Show</i> , as well as a number of international festivals.
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Selection Process	After elimination heats and a semifinal, three artists proceeded to the final of <i>Junior Eurovision Éire</i> . The three-member jury selected two singers as winners this year, a first for Ireland at JESC.
Date Selected	Artist Selection 4 October Song Release: 5 October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2015
Years Competed	2015 - 2019, 2021-present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	11
Best Position	4th (2022)
Finishing Position 2025	18th place, 44 points
Artist & Song 2025	Lottie O'Driscoll Murray, <i>Rúin</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	n/a - did not participate
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ITALY

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Matteo Trullu
Title (Italian)	<i>Che cos'è l'amore?</i>
Title (English)	What is Love?
Language	Italian, phrase in English
Composers	Music: Fabio Zanolini, Gregorio Castellani / Lyrics: Fabio Zanolini, Gregorio Castellani, Luca Faccini
Song Description	Midtempo rock ballad <i>Che cos'è l'amore?</i> is an almost philosophical look at love from the point of view of someone just beginning to experience it, and who knows he doesn't have all of the answers yet.

Artist Profile	Fourteen-year-old Matteo Trullu, from Cagliari, Sardinia, has been a rock fan since early childhood, and received his first electric guitar at age six. Although he had had success in a number of festivals over the years, it was his win on <i>The Voice Kids</i> this year that truly raised his profile.
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Selection Process	Italian broadcaster RAI selected their singer and song internally this year.
Date Announced	Artist Announced: 16 September Song Released: 25 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2014
Years Competed	2014 – 2019, 2021-present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	12
Best Position	1st (2014)
Finishing Position 2025	12th place, 73 points
Artist & Song 2025	Leonardo Giovannangeli, <i>Rockstar</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Sal Da Vinci - <i>Per sempre sì</i>
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MALTA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Beppe
Title	<i>Blue Bird</i>
Language	English
Composers	Music: Matthew Caruana ("Matt Blxck"), Matthew James Borg, Matthew Mercieca ("Muxu") / Lyrics: Beppe Caruana, Matthew Caruana ("Matt Blxck"), Matthew James Borg, Matthew Mercieca ("Muxu")
Song Description	<i>Blue Bird</i> is a sweet melody in waltz time, encouraging listeners to find joy in the little things in life, even something as simple as a birdsong. Wistful and nostalgic, the song reminds the listener that even the ordinary things can be magical if you take the time to notice them.

Artist Profile	Eleven-year old Beppe Caruana is from the town of Żabbar, and has been singing since age four. He was part of vocal ensemble "La Voix Harmonies", who made it to the finals of <i>Malta's Got Talent</i> , and took part in Italy's <i>Zechino d'Oro</i> festival.
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Selection Process	Maltese broadcaster PBS announced that the winner of the third series of <i>The Voice Kids</i> would represent the country at Junior Eurovision. Following Beppe's win, a song was written just for him.
Date Selected	Artist Selected: 19 September Song Released: 25 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2010, 2013 – present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	22
Best Position	1st (2013 & 2015)
Finishing Position 2025	11th place, 92 points
Artist & Song 2025	Eliza Borg, <i>I Believe</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Marsa 2014, Valletta 2016, Ta' Qali 2026

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Aidan - <i>Bella</i>
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MONTENEGRO

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Mija Vujović
Title (Montenegrin)	<i>Muzika nas spaja (Музика нас спаја)</i>
Title (English)	<i>Music Connects Us</i>
Language	Montenegrin
Composers	Music: Marko Kon / Lyrics: Marko Kon, Vasilije Čolan
Song Description	As light and as sweet as candy floss, <i>Muzika nas spaja</i> reminds us all that we all live on the same planet together, with the same sun, moon, and stars shining on all of us. Music is the universal language we have in common, so let's all enjoy the melody!

Artist Profile	Turning ten just before JESC, Podgorica native Mija Vujović is one of this year's youngest entrants. She's a member of a local children's choir, and has participated in musical festivals throughout the region.
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Selection Process	Montenegrin broadcaster RTCG opted for a fully internal selection for their singer and song.
Date Selected	Artist Announced: 3 August Song Released: 27 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2014
Years Competed	2014-2015, 2025
JESC Entries (w/2026)	4
Best Position	13th (2015)
Finishing Position 2025	17th place, 49 points
Artist & Song 2025	Asja Džogović, <i>I tužna i srećna priča</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Tamara Živković - <i>Nova zora</i>
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THE NETHERLANDS

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Maria
Title	<i>Stronger Together</i>
Language	Dutch, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Mell Jonk, Ton Dijkman
Song Description	Slow, but packed with emotion, <i>Stronger Together</i> reminds the listener that in a world full of pain, sorrow, and fear, unity and empathy will lead the way to a better tomorrow for all of us. Maria's powerful gospel-influenced vocals belie her young age.

Artist Profile	Ten year old Maria Dragan has already had an international start. Born in Italy to Romanian parents, she spent part of her childhood in London, but now calls Groningen, the Netherlands, home. She started music lessons at age four, but only recently started performing in front of audiences.
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Selection Process	<i>Junior Songfestival 2026</i> brought together four acts, and the winner was decided through an online public vote, a professional jury, and a kids' jury.
Date Selected	19 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003 – present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	24
Best Position	1st (2009)
Finishing Position 2025	10th place, 93 points
Artist & Song 2025	Meadow, <i>Freeze</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Rotterdam 2007, Amsterdam 2012

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	n/a, did not participate
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NORTH MACEDONIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artists	Ana Stojanoska
Title (Macedonian)	<i>Idnata jas (Идната јас)</i>
Title (English)	My Future Self
Language	Macedonian
Composers	Music: Nikola Micevski / Lyrics: Ilcho Nechovski
Song Description	Blending midtempo pop and traditional Balkan sounds, <i>Idnata jas</i> is all about Ana wondering what her future holds. Will her dreams come true? Will she have found joy? Is she true to herself?

Artist Profile	Ana Stojanoska, aged thirteen, comes from the town of Struga, on the shores of Lake Ohrid. She appeared on the television show <i>Muzicka Fabrika</i> this year, but Junior Eurovision is her biggest stage so far!
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Selection Process	Broadcaster MKRTV opted for an internal selection for both its performer and song this year.
Date Announced	Artist Announced: 16 June Song Reveal: 23 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2011, 2013, 2015–2019, 2021-present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	21
Best Position	5th (2007 & 2008)
Finishing Position 2025	7th place, 141 points
Artist & Song 2025	Nela Mančeska, <i>Miracle</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	n/a - did not participate
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POLAND

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Wiktor Sas
Title	<i>Gravity</i>
Language	Polish, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Antoni Alagierski (“Koder”), Coach Harrison, Małgorzata Uściłowska (“Lanberry”), Mikołaj Trybulec (“Tribbs”)
Song Description	<i>Gravity</i> is a modern pop track with a driving, energetic beat, reflecting the themes of determination and excitement for the future that Wiktor’s singing about.

Artist Profile	Wiktor Sas comes from the town of Przechlewo, in Pomerania. The fourteen-year-old was the champion of the 2026 edition of <i>The Voice Kids</i> , and released his debut single, <i>Bilet</i> , soon afterwards.
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Selection Process	Polish broadcaster TVP announced last year that their representative for the 2026 Junior Eurovision Song Contest would be the winner of the ninth season of <i>The Voice Kids</i> .
Date Selected	Artist Announced: 9 May Song Released: 18 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2004, 2016 – present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	13
Best Position	1st (2018, 2019)
Finishing Position 2025	8th place, 139 points
Artist & Song 2025	Marianna Klos, <i>Brightest Light</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Gliwice 2019, Warsaw 2020

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Alicja - <i>Pray</i>
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PORTUGAL

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Salvador Rio
Title (Portuguese)	<i>Alma</i>
Title (English)	<i>Soul</i>
Language	Portuguese
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Diogo Piçarra
Song Description	Balancing Salvador’s delicate voice with a beat that’s almost reminiscent of drum n’ bass, <i>Alma</i> highlights the bonds of love, inscribed in our souls, that time and distance could never break.

Artist Profile	Twelve-year-old Salvador Rio comes from a small town near Lisbon. Despite singing since early childhood, he only started taking formal musical lessons last year. His victory on <i>The Voice Kids</i> was his first foray into musical competition. He has, however, been performing as an actor, working in commercials, film, TV, and voiceover work.
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Selection Process	Portuguese broadcaster RTP gave the ticket to Malta to the winner of <i>The Voice Kids</i> . A song was then written for Salvador by Diogo Piçarra, his coach on the show.
Date Announced	Artist Selection: 24 May Song Reveal: 23 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2006
Years Competed	2006-2007, 2017-2019, 2021-present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	11
Best Position	2nd (2024)
Finishing Position 2025	13th place, 73 points
Artist & Song 2025	Inês Gonçalves, <i>Para onde vai o amor?</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Bandidos do Cante - <i>Rosa</i>
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SAN MARINO

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artists	Violamarie
Title (Italian)	<i>Ruota panoramica</i>
Title (English)	<i>Ferris Wheel</i>
Language	Italian, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Denny Montesi, Piero Romitelli, Emilio Munda
Song Description	A uplifting bit of joyous contemporary pop, <i>Ruota panoramica</i> uses the image of a Ferris wheel to show that even though life inevitably has its ups and downs, if you face challenges without fear, anything is possible.

Artist Profile	Despite representing San Marino, eleven-year-old Violamarie (Ledda) actually hails from Milan, Italy. She was a participant in the <i>Zecchino d'Oro</i> Festival in 2023, and has also taken part in festivals throughout Italy and San Marino. She's also well-established on social media, with hundreds of thousands of followers on TikTok and Instagram.
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Selection Process	Sammarinese broadcaster SMRTV opted for an internal selection for this year's singer and song.
Date Selected	Artist Announced: 8 September Song Reveal: 25 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2013
Years Competed	2013-2015, 2024-present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	6
Best Position	9th (2025)
Finishing Position 2025	9th place, 125 points
Artist & Song 2025	Martina CRV, <i>Beyond the Stars</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Senhit feat. Boy George - <i>Superstar</i>
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SPAIN

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Lucas Paulano
Title (Spanish)	<i>Cuore bello (te quiero, te quiero)</i>
Title (English)	<i>Beautiful Heart (I Love You, I Love You)</i>
Language	Spanish, some Italian
Composers	Music: Blas Cantó, Carlos Almazán, Dangelo Ortega / Lyrics: Blas Cantó, Carlos Almazán, Daniel Ángelo, Lucas Paulano
Song Description	A dramatic, yet wistful ballad, <i>Cuore bello (te quiero, te quiero)</i> focuses on a sweet moment when the singer felt loved, supported, and cared for. Despite time passing, and people coming and going from our lives, memories remain with us forever.

Artist Profile	Ten-year-old Lucas Paulano comes from the city of Jaén, Andalusia, and grew up in a musical family. His big breakthrough came last year, when he won <i>La Voz Kids</i> at the age of eight, and released his debut single, <i>Todo Sigue Igual</i> , soon afterwards.
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Selection Process	Spain's song and singer for Junior Eurovision were internally selected.
Date Announced	Artist Announced: 30 July Song Reveal: 28 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2006, 2019 - present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	12
Best Position	1st (2004)
Finishing Position 2025	5th place, 152 points
Artist & Song 2025	Gonzalo Pinillos, <i>Érase una vez</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Madrid 2024

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	n/a - did not participate
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UKRAINE

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist	Erika Kolesnichenko
Title	<i>Not a Lullaby</i>
Language	Ukranian, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Svitlana Tarabarova
Song Description	Starting off as an almost-operatic ballad, <i>Not a Lullaby</i> quickly pivots into a high-energy, danceable wake-up call, reminding us that life isn't just a dream, and that you have to take action in order to make things happen for yourself.

Artist Profile	Eleven-year-old Erika Kolesnichenko comes from the city of Bila Tserkva, south of Kyiv. She started taking music lessons at age six, and since then she's participated in festivals and competitions throughout Ukraine.
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Selection Process	Six songs took part in a televised national final, <i>Natsvidbir na Dytiache Yevrobachennia – 2026</i> , with the winner being determined by the votes of a jury and a public vote.
Date Selected	26 September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2006
Years Competed	2006 – present
JESC Entries (w/2026)	21
Best Position	1st (2012)
Finishing Position 2025	2nd place, 177 points
Artist & Song 2025	Sofia Nersesian, <i>Motanka</i>
Previous JESC Hosting	Kyiv 2009 & 2013

Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Artist/Song	Leléka - <i>Ridnym</i>
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Junior Eurovision 2026: By the Numbers

Who's coming to Tbilisi?

- 16 Nations (two fewer than last year, following the withdrawal of Azerbaijan and Croatia)

Which countries participating at Junior Eurovision weren't present at the 2026 Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna?

- Ireland
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Spain

Who's singing?

- Male Soloists (8): Cyprus, France, Georgia, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Spain
- Female Soloists (7): Albania, Armenia, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, San Marino, Ukraine
- Duos and Groups (1): Ireland

How old are the performers?

- 10: Georgia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Spain
- 11: Malta, San Marino, Ukraine
- 12: Albania, France, Portugal
- 13: Armenia, Cyprus, Ireland (Naomi), North Macedonia
- 14: Ireland (Caleb), Italy, Poland

How were the performers and songs chosen?

- Internal Selection: Armenia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino, Spain
- National Final or Festival: Albania, Netherlands, Ukraine
- Partial National Final (artist publicly selected, song internally chosen): Georgia, Ireland, Malta, Poland, Portugal

What language will the song be performed in?

- Bilingual (including English): Armenia, Cyprus, Netherlands, Poland, San Marino, Ukraine
- Monolingual in English: Malta
- Monolingual in a language other than English: Albania, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Spain

How many songs this year were written (at least partially) by the performer, according to the Junior Eurovision website?

- France
- Malta
- Spain

How many songs this year were written (at least partially) by a former Eurovision, Junior Eurovision, or National Final alum, or a songwriter with Junior Eurovision or Eurovision history?

- Albania:

- Eriona Rushtiti: In addition to Albanian JESC entries *Bota ime* (2023) and *Vallëzoi* (2024), lyricist Eriona was also on the writing team for ESC entries *Ktheju tokës* (2019) and *Duje* (2023).
- Enis Mullaj: Enis worked alongside Eriona on *Bota Ime*, *Ktheju tokës* and *Duje*.
- Armenia:
 - Lilit Navasardyan: Composer Lilit contributed to JESC entries *Love* (2015) and *Brave Heart* (2025), as well as ESC entries *LoveWave* (2016), *Fly With Me* (2017), and *Paloma Rumba* (2026), all for Armenia.
 - Grigor Kyokchyan: Lyricist Grigor worked on *Dance!*, Armenia's JESC song for 2022.
- Cyprus: The Cypriot entry this year draws from an experienced pool of ESC songwriting talent, including:
 - Anna-Klara Folin: *Bigger Than Us* (United Kingdom, 2019)
 - Laurell Barker: *Stones* (Switzerland, 2018), *Bigger Than Us* (United Kingdom, 2019), *She Got Me* (Switzerland, 2019), *Sister* (Germany, 2019), *Empires* (Poland, 2020), *El Diablo* (Cyprus, 2021)
 - Thomas Stengaard: *Only Teardrops* (Denmark, 2013), *You Let Me Walk Alone* (Germany, 2018), *Sister* (Germany, 2019), *Adrenalina* (San Marino, 2021), *El Diablo* Cyprus, 2021), *Fade to Black* (Azerbaijan, 2022), *Break a Broken Heart* (Cyprus, 2023), *We Will Rave* (Austria, 2024), *What the Hell Just Happened?* (United Kingdom, 2025), *Eins, Zwei, Drei* (United Kingdom, 2026), *Superstar* (San Marino, 2026), *Mother Nature* (Luxembourg, 2026)
 - Victoria Chalkitis (aka Victoria Halkiti): While this is Victoria's first time as a JESC songwriter, she's an experienced backing vocalist at the main Contest. You can hear her on *Ellada, Hora Tou Fotos* (Greece, 1993), *Diri Diri* (Greece, 1994), *Love Me Tonight* (Belarus, 2005), *Secret Combination* (Greece, 2008), *Aphrodisiac* (Greece, 2012), *Oniro Mou* (Greece, 2018), *Prison* (Moldova, 2020), *Sugar* (Moldova, 2021), *Liar* (Cyprus, 2024), *Shh* (Cyprus, 2025), and *Bangaranga* (Bulgaria, 2026).
- France:
 - Malory "Malo" Legardinier: Malo' cowrote *Comme ci, comme ça*, France's JESC entry for 2024. He was also in the running to represent France at Eurovision 2018, coming in third place with *Ciao*.
- Georgia:
 - Giorgi "Giga" Kukhiadnidge: Giga, an absolute legend in Junior Eurovision circles, has been behind the JESC songs for Georgia in 2008 (*Bzz...*), 2010 (*Mari Dari*), 2011 (*Candy Music*), 2012 (*Funky Lemonade*), 2013 (*Give Me Your Smile*), 2014 (*Happy Day*), 2015 (*Gabede*), 2016 (*Mzeo*), 2017 (*Voice of the Heart*), 2020 (*You Are Not Alone*), 2021 (*Let's Count the Smiles*), 2022 (*I Believe*), 2024 (*To My Mom*), and 2025 (*Shine Like a Star*). In addition, he composed *Echo*, Georgia's song for Eurovision 2023, and *On Replay*, the country's song for 2026.
 - Irina Sanikidze: Irina was the lyricist on *For You*, Georgia's ESC entry in 2018.
- Ireland:
 - Ben Pyne: Ben was on the writing team for *Poison Cake* (Croatia, 2025)
 - Larissa Torney: Larissa was one of the co-writers for *Laika Party* (Ireland, 2025)
- Malta:
 - Matthew "Matt Blxck" Caruana: Fan-favorite Matt Blxck is a two-time runner-up at Malta's National Final, with *Banana* in 2024 and *Ejja lejja ħdejjja 'l hawn (The Flute)* in 2026. In addition, he came in seventh place in 2022 with *Come Around*, and third place in 2023 with *Up*.
 - Matthew James Borg: Borg has worked on Maltese JESC entry *Diamonds in the Skies* (2022), as well as ESC entries *Dance (Our Own Party)* and *Loop* (2023 and 2024, respectively)

- Matthew “Muxu” Mercieca: Muxu has become one of JESC’s most notable names, having written *The Start* (2013), *Diamonds* (2014), *Not My Soul* (2015), *Parachute* (2016), *My Home* (2021), and *I Believe* (2025) for Maltese artists. At ESC, he was also on the songwriting teams for *Warrior* (2015), *Taboo* (2018), and *Serving* (2025).
- Montenegro:
 - Marko Kon: Marko Kon represented Serbia alongside Milan Nikolić at Eurovision 2009 with *Cipela*, but sadly failed to qualify for the Grand Final that year.
- Poland:
 - Małgorzata “Lanberry” Uściłowska: Lanberry is a two-time JESC-winning songwriter, having worked on *Anyone I Want to Be* in 2018 and *Superhero* in 2019. She also participated in Poland’s 2017 National Final for Eurovision, coming in sixth place with *Only Human*.
 - Mikołaj Maciej “Tribbs” Trybulec: Tribbs worked on Eurovision entries *Friend of a Friend* (Czechia, 2019), *Universo* (Spain, 2020), *River* (Poland, 2022), *Watergun* (Switzerland, 2023), and *Solo* (Poland, 2023).
- Portugal:
 - Diogo Piçarra: Diogo is one of Portugal’s biggest stars, and attempted to represent his country at Eurovision in 2018. However, his song *Canção do Fim* was accused of plagiarism, and he withdrew from the National Final.
- Spain:
 - Blas Cantó: Blas was selected to represent Spain at Eurovision in 2020 with the song *Universo*, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the contest was cancelled. He got his chance the following year, however, coming in 24th place with *Voy a quedarme*. In addition, as a member of the boy band Auryn, he was in the running to sing for Spain at Eurovision 2011, but the group came in second place to Lucía Pérez.
- Ukraine:
 - Svitlana Tarabarova: Svitolana also wrote Ukraine’s Junior Eurovision entries *Kvitka* in 2023, *Hear Me Now* in 2024, and *Motanka* in 2025.

Credits

Thanks go out to the ESC Insight Team for their assistance in editing, and an incredible amount of credit and appreciation go out to the European Broadcasting Union and its member broadcasters for continuing to make the Junior Eurovision Song Contest an innovative, inclusive, and memorable event for over two decades.

May the best song win!