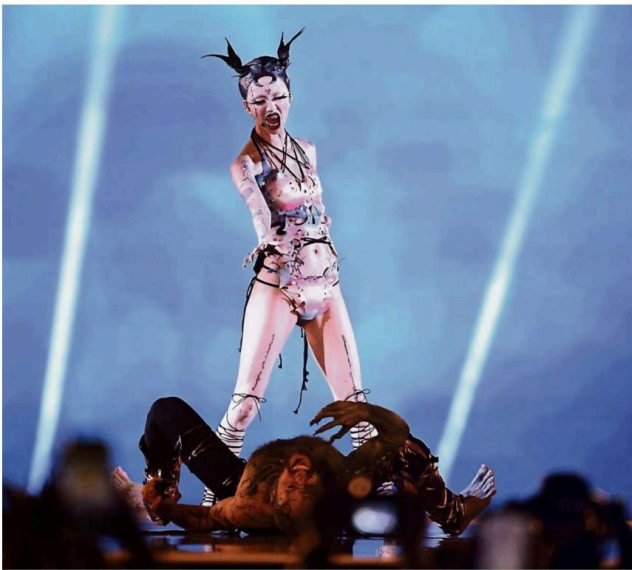


# Eurovision Song Contest



Bambie Thug performing during a rehearsal for the first semi-final at the Malmo Arena yesterday. The Irish entry's set is changed slightly from their Eurosong performance, they are now accompanied on stage with a single shirtless dancer. Picture: Jessica Gow



Previous Irish Eurovision entries, Jedward (above) and Ryan O'Shaughnessy (above right), the last Irish entry to reach a final.



## Eurovision 2024: What to know

- The theme of the 2024 Eurovision is "united by music", with 37 performers set to take to the stage.
- Under Eurovision rules, songs must be original and no more than three minutes long.
- Lead vocals must be live, and a maximum of six singers and dancers are allowed.
- While most Eurovision entries are from European nations, Australia takes part after being invited to join the 60th anniversary celebrations in 2015.
- Sixteen countries will feature in the second semi-final on Thursday.
- Sweden, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the UK are guaranteed places in the final, so do not compete in either semi-final.
- However, the host country and the 'big five' nations will perform their songs during the semi-finals.
- Fifteen countries will compete in the first semi-final tonight, including Ireland, Croatia, Ukraine and Australia.
- Sixteen countries will feature in the second semi-final on Thursday.
- The semi-finals are decided entirely by a public vote from competing countries and people in the rest of the world.
- This year's contest is being held in Malmo, Sweden, after Loreen won in 2023 with her song 'Tattoo'.
- The semi-finals will take place tonight and Thursday before the grand final on Saturday.
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British entrant Olly Alexander rehearsing 'Dizzy' at the Malmo Arena in Sweden. Picture: Corinne Cumming/EBU/PA

# Bambie bids to break Ireland's recent bad run

A smoke-filled stage, a circle of candles, shoulder horns, and a shirtless man in leather trousers are all things Irish fans can look forward to as part of our 2024 entry to the Eurovision Song Contest.

Cork's Bambie Thug will fly the flag for Ireland this evening with their song 'Doomsday Blue' as they take to the stage for the first semi-final in Malmo, Sweden.

Fourth in the running order is traditionally not the best slot, especially in a semi-final as tough as this one, but judging by the rehearsal it promises to be a performance that will go down in Eurovision history.

Ten acts from 15 will go through, with Ukraine, Lithuania, and Croatia expected to be Bambie's main competition.

The staging is as haunting and mysterious as a song such as 'Doomsday Blue' deserves. Bambie's dramatic white face makeup is topped off by hair styled into their signature antlers.

In a change from the Eurosong performance, they are

**Anna O'Donoghue**  
Malmo

joined on stage by a single shirtless dancer, who accompanies Bambie in some balletic choreography. Visually, it's something straight out of a fantasy film.

In a dramatic twist, half-way through the performance, Bambie goes on to nod to trans rights by revealing a pink and blue dress hidden underneath their costume.

This is later referenced to by host, Petra Mede.

And to top it all off, the finale comprises of a candle circle raising up to display a graphic backdrop with 'GROWN THE WITCH', the phrase coined by Bambie fans everywhere.

Eurovision theatre at its finest. Could Bambie's spell be the breaker of Ireland's Eurovision bad luck?

Ireland has not qualified for the final since Ryan O'Shaughnessy performed

'Together' in 2018. We've not had a top-five song since 'Mysterious Woman' by Marc Roberts in 1987. Our last top-10 finish came in 2011 when Jedward sought to conquer Eurovision with 'Lipstick'.

According to Eurovision World, who analyse odds from multiple bookies, Bambie Thug is currently the seventh favourite to win the competition. Surely that means we will at least make

it through to Saturday's final? Eurovision superfans on social media seem to think so as predictions come in fast and heavy from across the globe.

Social media users have been placing Irish flags next to their usernames to show support, along with their other chosen countries, while over on TikTok, we've been appearing in top-10 rankings.

Eurovision podcaster Alesia Michelle has ranked Ireland in her top five acts, alongside Ukraine, Norway, Italy, and Lithuania.

Additionally, she has praised Ireland in several of her TikToks, saying 'the fact that Ireland is sending this to Eurovision is a win'.

As stand-out as Bambie promises to be, doesn't it all come down to the voting? The answer, of course, is yes.

But this year we've something we didn't have last year — a possible vote from the UK.

When it comes to the semi-finals, only people from the countries that are participating in that semi-final can vote.

You can vote for anyone, except your own country. However, the host nation (Sweden) and the big five will also have votes in the semi-finals.

Three will vote in tonight's semi and three in Thursday's.

In Ireland's semi-final, the UK, Germany, and Sweden all have a vote.

Last year, the UK didn't have a vote in our semi-final, so here's hoping we get some neighbourly support this year.

In a change from previous years, the UK, Germany, and Sweden will perform during Tuesday's semi-final while

France, Italy, and Spain will take the stage on Thursday. These entries cannot be voted for until they perform in the grand final.

All of this being said, tonight's show promises the usual weird and wonderful, including a special performance from our very own Johnny Logan, the Windows95man being birthed from a giant egg, and someone named Baby Lasagna.

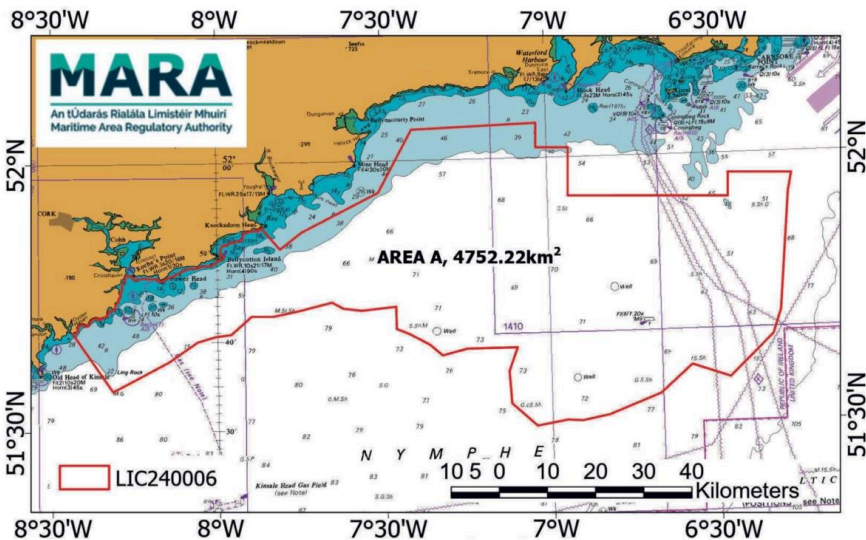
And audiences in the UK, Germany, Sweden, and the other countries which are not competing in either semi-final can vote.



An Roimh Comhshaoil,  
Aeráid agus Cumarsáid  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011  
Invitation for public submissions on an application for a maritime usage licence and an appropriate assessment



### PUBLIC NOTICE - Proposed Maritime Usage Licence LIC240006

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARAR) for a maritime usage licence under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation in the proposed south coast DMAP (Designated Maritime Area Plan) located off the coast of Counties Cork, Waterford and Wexford, to inform future offshore renewable energy development. The surveys will include geophysical surveys using multibeam echosounder, sub bottom profiler, surface towed sparkers, mini-air-gun and hydrophones. The surface towed sparker system will be the primary sound source used, with the mini-air-gun utilized when inadequate sub surface penetration is achieved due to local geological conditions. Other surveys will include Day Grab or Hammon Grab, drop camera and side scan sonar. The licence application is for a period of 12 months and the survey is expected to take place over a maximum duration of 52 days.

A related Natura impact statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura impact statement are available for inspection on MARAR's website <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/applications/lic240006/> and at the following address by appointment - Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARAR on the Licence application and the Natura Impact statement may do so quoting ref: LIC240006 DECC to the following e-mail address - [licences@marar.gov.ie](mailto:licences@marar.gov.ie) or by post to the following address - Licence Unit, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARAR is 17.30 on 7 June. MARAR will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARAR will either grant, part grant or refuse the Licence application.

Dated this 7th day of May 2024

*John O'Connell*  
Representative of the Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

**'Eurovision is always war by other means'**  
Analysis: 9

# Sweden eye another win on 'Waterloo' anniversary

Charlotte McLaughlin

Sweden's Eurovision Song Contest act Marcus & Martinus have said they hope to have Abba fans on their side as this year's event celebrates the 50th anniversary of the pop group winning the competition.

The twin singing duo, full names Marcus and Martinus Gunnarsen, will first perform *Unforgettable* during tonight's semi before competing on Saturday in the final. They are already through to the closing event following Sweden's Loreen winning the trophy with 'Tattoo' at Liverpool in 2023.

Asked about Abba winning the competition in 1974 with *Waterloo*, Martinus said that "it would be way easier to win" if the pop group were on stage with them at the Malmo Arena.

"We have to focus on our number," he added. "We're going to do what represents us, but of course, it would be nice to have Abba supporters on our side."

Martinus also said that they had not had a message from Abba so far.

Sweden and Ireland are level for the most wins in Eurovision's history at seven each, as the Norwegian-born singers enter the event.

Asked about the pressure of being on the cusp of potentially making history, 22-year-old singer Martinus said: "We've been artists for 12 years now so we kind of, I feel like we've experienced in these moments where it's

a lot of pressure on us. "We've been touring in Europe, we have had our own arena tour. We've been doing a lot of stuff and yeah, we know it's a lot of pressure on Sweden this year."

He said they were "more excited than nervous".

But Martinus said that "nervous thing is actually when we've done and just going to sit in the green room and just wait for the results, that's like, the worst thing".

The duo rose to fame at the age of 10 when they triumphed in the Norwegian singing talent show *Melodi Grand Prix Junior* in 2012 and have gone on to be recognised at Spellemannprisen, the country's music awards, as well as coming top of the charts.

Talking about them both being Norwegian and representing Sweden, Martinus called the fellow Nordic country their "big brother".

"I think Norway is very proud of us, especially when you have two Norwegian guys representing Sweden, which is one of the biggest countries when it comes to Eurovision," he added.

"So the prime minister (Jonas Gahr Støre) wrote on Twitter to us and said he was proud, and I think if the prime minister is proud of us, I think yeah, the whole of Norway should."

