

# Ukraine in the Eurovision Song Contest



Ukraine has participated in the Eurovision Song Contest 14 times since making its debut in 2003, winning twice. Ukraine's first victory came in 2004 with "Wild Dances" by Ruslana. The 2005 contest was then held in the country's capital, Kyiv. Its second victory at the 2016 contest with the song "1944" by Jamala, made Ukraine the first Eastern European country to win the contest twice. Ukraine has also finished second in the contest with Verka Serduchka in 2007 and Ani Lorak in 2008, third with Zlata Ognevich in 2013, and fourth with Mika Newton in 2011, for a total of six top five placements.



- Ukraine made its debut in 2003, when Oleksandr Ponomaryov finished 14th. Ukraine won the contest at the second attempt in 2004, when Ruslana won with the song "Wild Dances", defeating second-placed Serbia and Montenegro by 17 points, 280 to 263.
- On 19 September 2014, state broadcaster NTU announced that it would sit out the 2015 Contest because of financial difficulties in relation to the ongoing Ukrainian crisis.[1] However, Ukraine broadcast the contest despite not taking part. On 23 May 2015, Ukrainian Broadcaster NTU pledged to bring Ukraine back to the contest for 2016. On 16 September 2015, it was announced that Ukraine would return to the contest in 2016.



On its return to the contest in 2016, Ukraine became the first Eastern European country to win the contest twice, when Jamala won with her song "1944". The televote was won by Russia and the Jury vote by Australia, Ukraine was second in both, but won with an overall total of 534 points, with Australia second with 511 points and Russia third with 491 points. In 2017 as host country Ukraine was already pre qualified for the final however they achieved the worst result for the country 24th with 36 Points.

Since the introduction of the semi-final round in 2004, Ukraine has never failed to qualify for the final (except in 2015 when they did not participate) and has a total of nine top ten placements (six top five). The country has an average score of 143 points per contest, 233 if including the semi-finals.



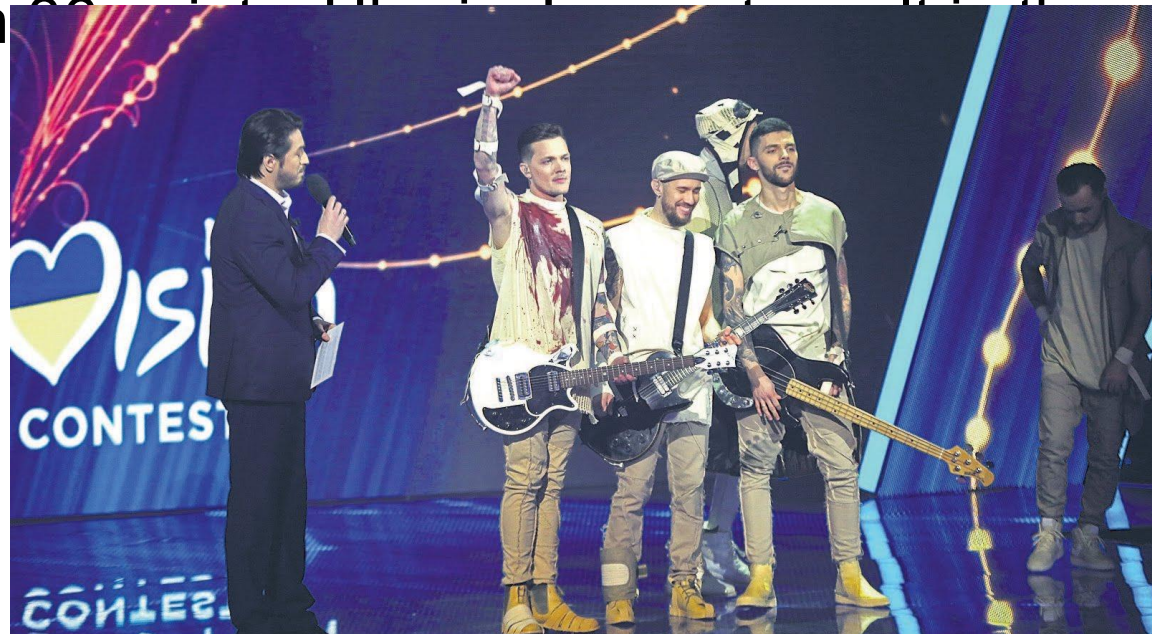
# 1944

The lyrics for "1944" concern the deportation of the Crimean Tatars, in the 1940s, by the Soviet Union at the hands of Joseph Stalin because of their alleged collaboration with the Nazis. Jamala was particularly inspired by the story of her great-grandmother Nazylkhan, who was in her mid-20s when she and her five children were deported to barren Central Asia. One of the daughters did not survive the journey. Jamala's great-grandfather was fighting in World War II in the Red Army at this time and thus could not protect his family. The song was also released amid renewed repression of Crimean Tatars following the Russian annexation of Crimea, since most Crimean Tatars refuse to accept the annexation



# Time

- O.Torvald were confirmed to be taking part in Ukraine's national selection for the Eurovision Song Contest 2017 on 17 January 2017. They competed in the third semi-final on 18 February 2017, and placed second with both the jury and televoters, effectively winning the semi-final and advancing to the final.[3] In the final, held on 25 February, they came second with the jury and televoting again, and were awarded enough points to win after a tiebreak with Tayanna. They will now represent Ukraine in the Eurovision Song Contest 2017. As Ukraine is the host country, O.Torvald did not have to compete in the semi-finals and automatically qualified for the final. The song placed 24th with 69 points, the lowest score for any Ukrainian competition to date.







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