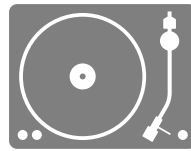


What We're
Listening to
CHECK OUT THIS
ISSUE'S
RECOMMENDATIONS



QUEEN'S TIMELESS
SUCCESS



MISS WOODWARD'S
DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Curated by Holly Mia
Garside

Edited by Charlie
Moore

THE SEMIBREVE



The United Kingdom receive 0 points from the Jury Vote, and go on to lose out on any from the public vote also.

Nil Points for the UK at a Eurovision like No Other.

Eurovision is the often forgotten annual celebration of music from across Europe, and a few other participating countries. Over its 65 year run it has gone from a prestigious black-tie concert affair to a party-atmosphere big-budget pop contest. This year, after returning from a break due to the pandemic, eyes were particularly turned towards Rotterdam (the location of the year's contest) to catch a glimpse of one of the first large-scale international events in a post-covid world. Only one act couldn't make the stage due to isolation, and they performed remotely. Eurovision was actually made up of two semi-finals and a final, all performed live and broadcast across the world. I am going to focus today on some of the highlights from the Grand Final.

The competition this year saw many firsts, including the highest ever note sang at Eurovision (Israel, B⁶) and the longest note (Moldova, 17 seconds). The competition also saw the largest stage prop in Eurovision history, only demonstrating just how far the competition has come from its black-tie, symphony orchestra beginnings. The prop was a giant inflatable moon measuring 6 metres wide, and accompanying Spain's passionate ballad that wouldn't have seemed out of place in *The Greatest Showman* (and you guessed it, it was in Spanish)!

We saw a range of acts, from music with elements of cultural traditions from around the world, using scales and instruments unusual to the western ear, to pop and rock ballads, punk and metal, and electronic music. Flo Rida, a Eurovision alumni, joined San Marino's Senhit to perform their pumping party tune 'Adrenalina'. The performance was, while modern indeed, also one of the more expected. Some countries, however, did not do what was expected.

Musical fact

In 2016, Mozart Sold More CDs than Beyoncé

Take Germany for example. After watching their performance I was unsure as to whether I had just come out of a fever dream. It was utterly unexpected, utterly chaotic, and certainly in many's opinions, utterly brilliant. A fun ukulele song, which immediately rings alarm bells, 'I Don't Feel Hate' had many struggling to do exactly that, as the song was not unlike marmite. You either love it or hate it. For anyone to suggest that the song was not intended to be ironic in some way would be ludicrous. I feel that the performance of bright colours and costume, simple chords and over the top dancing was probably poking fun at the happy, throwaway nature of so many songs with empty messages. Talking of poking, here is the giant dancing hand they had on stage, which seemed to alternate between a peace sign and a middle finger.



While Germany didn't score highly, one country scored even less than them, the UK. Coming in with 0 points, many felt this was a harsh decision, blaming it on 'Brexit Revenge'. However when you look at the performance, and the

song, it simply did not meet the high standards of Eurovision this year. Dancing below giant trumpets, James Newman's song was unfortunately unmemorable, and in my opinion, unimpressive. The government has since suggested that future entries to Eurovision should be decided in a talent-contest style showdown, to try and source the best candidate to represent our country.

Other highlights include Norway's 'Fallen Angel' By Tix. Getting his name from involuntary muscle reflexes around his eye, the blend of pop and EDM Tix offered was impressive.

Finland offered quite a scary performance of post-hardcore music. Loud and powerful, their song was choreographed with pyrotechnics and a red sea of light, giving off the complete blood-thirsty angry package.

Iceland had one of the most fun performances, perhaps only second to Germany, with each member of the band Daði Freyr wearing turquoise jumpers with 8bit renditions of their faces printed on. A highlight was the band's curved Keytars, which when placed next to each other created 360° of pure Keytar magic.

01		Italy	524	14		Sweden	109
02		France	499	15		Serbia	102
03		Switzerland	432	16		Cyprus	94
04		Iceland	378	17		Israel	93
05		Ukraine	364	18		Norway	75
06		Finland	301	19		Belgium	74
07		Malta	255	20		Azerbaijan	65
08		Lithuania	220	21		Albania	57
09		Russia	204	22		San Marino	50
10		Greece	170	23		Netherlands	11
11		Bulgaria	170	24		Spain	6
12		Portugal	153	25		Germany	3
13		Moldova	115	26		United Kingdom	0

Of course we can't talk about Eurovision without mentioning the winners, and Italy's Måneskin were their key to success. The band, in minimal steampunk-esque clothing, performed a relatively heavy rock song called 'Zitti E Buoni', entirely in Italian. The performance was certainly impressive, with crowd interaction and constantly building textures of

guitars. The drop down to just drums and vocals, followed by a break into the chorus had those who were privileged enough to be in the audience screaming at the top of their voices in appreciation. The atmosphere in the arena when they performed was electric, and in the end, a performance as impressive and energetic as that deserved to win.

Charlie Moore
L3

The Importance of a Creative Outlet.

Since GCSE and A-Level examinations are now in full swing and Year 10/12 end of year exams are only a month away, tensions both inside and outside of school for students and teachers are understandably high. After a strange year of being stuck at home with little to do, the sudden influx of work is overwhelming for the vast majority working for and in the education system. At times like this, it can feel as if the stresses of work and the work itself is taking over any free/leisure time you have: it's for this reason that I believe having some form of creative distraction is so important.

According to Forbes, those who write about their daily experiences have a higher count of CD4+ lymphocytes, the white blood cell type that is the key to your immune system. For those who are prone to getting ill due to overworking (as I am), this is extremely important to ensure that all hard work doesn't go to waste on the day of an important exam. Furthermore, studies show that those who play a musical instrument have better connectivity between their left and right brains. This significantly improves cognitive function: one very important cognitive function during exam season is memory, something that can be aided heavily by practising your instruments.

While, during such a busy time, many may feel that they have no time to spare to engage in something creative when they could be revising or marking, sometimes spending just a small section of the day indulging in something besides academics can be very effective for your revision. Of course, it doesn't have to take over your work entirely, but even just half an hour per day can give you the mental rest that you need to regain focus and determination towards your academic goals. If you already play an instrument perhaps try some sight-reading, or if you enjoy cooking you could make dinner for your family. Below are a few suggestions that should take 30 minutes maximum:

- Practising sight-reading/scales on your instrument
- Doing a quick sketch
- Cooking a 30-minute meal (you can find a list of these [here](#))
- Listen to a piece of classical music (in 1993, a study showed that students who listened to classical music before some tests performed better)
- Write a short story/poem

I talked to Jaya Scholer in 11S about her creative outlets during exam season and she said this: "I cook while listening to my Spotify playlists for around an hour and a half every evening. It helps me take my mind off of exams/studying and gives me a break from sitting down." Moreover, Tashime Boujamaa in 10L mentioned how she takes her mind off exams in the form of knitting. She knits for half an hour a day after her daily hour of revision so that she can focus on her knitting project instead of exam stresses.

In conclusion, why not pursue something you enjoy if it also improves your academic achievements? Although it may feel scary to put aside some of the time you could be spending revising, all the scientific evidence points to it being very beneficial in the long run. In Camp Hill fashion, I feel it fitting to end with this quote from Albert Einstein: "Creativity is intelligence having fun".

Holly Mia Garside
10C

Desert Island Discs

~Miss Woodward~

1. *Desdemona* - The Kids from "Fame" – This was my favourite television show as a 7-year-old because it was full of dancing and singing and started with the infamous words from Debbie Allen "You've got big dreams. You want fame. Well, fame costs and here is where you start paying; in sweat". I was given a vinyl copy of the album by Father Christmas in 1983 and I played it over and over, making up dance routines with my sister. I love the change in the genre at the beginning of *Desdemona* and its catchy pop sensibilities so it was played more than the other tracks.

2. *Buffalo Stance* - Neneh Cherry – Neneh Cherry was the coolest female in pop back in the '80s, mainly because of her punk attitude and appearing on Top of the Pops heavily pregnant in some cycling shorts. *Buffalo Stance* has such a slick set of lyrics about survival supported by an array of fantastic samples to produce one of the finest dance tracks of all time. It is still guaranteed to get me on the dance floor with all of my friends and I know every word.

3. *Land: Horses/ Land of a Thousand Dances / La Mer(de)* - Patti Smith – I came across Patti Smith when I was 16 years old and she changed my whole perspective on being a woman hence I named my daughter after her. She is a true icon whose life is art itself and this song encapsulates her genius in the 9 minutes. The exploration of dynamics, use of the piano and her raucous voice permeating throughout, interchanging between poetry and song which have created a piece of music that makes you want to run free.

4. *Requiem* - Faure – Both of my parents are musicians and my mum was a founding member of the CBSO chorus so we would often go to concerts at the Town Hall as children. One evening, I went to see her perform the Faure Requiem and I remember the whole piece so vividly, particularly Sanctus where the music swells as the chorus sing "Hosanna, in Excelsis". It's probably not ideal to think of your mum when you listen to a requiem as she is very much alive and kicking!

5. *Pushit* - TOOL – Unsurprisingly, I spent my teenage years listening to copious amounts of rock music, I was especially fond of "grunge" and I was very fortunate to see a lot of bands play in small venues in Birmingham. TOOL was one of these that I saw at The Institute in Digbeth and I have stayed an avid fan ever since. The band's use of instruments to create soundscapes is so innovative, particularly the drums and guitars, there isn't one extraneous note or beat in this piece. Furthermore, it encapsulated the anger and frustration I felt at that point in my life where music was my escape.

6. *Baba O-Riley* - The Who – At my wedding, I walked down the aisle to the introduction of this song, so it always makes me smile and gives me butterflies as it takes me back to that moment when I linked arms with my dad, took a deep breath and tried not to cry. I just love Keith Moon bashing the hell out of the drums as Pete Townsend's guitar chords resonate, classic rock at its finest. Beats the traditional wedding march any day!

7. *Jubilee Street* - Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds – Nick Cave is one of the greatest lyricists of all time, he has a knack for producing such vivid imagery with his words and this is one of his most beautiful creations. The first time I heard this song, I was heavily pregnant with my son, lying

on the sofa listening to the album and it brought me to tears. I love the melody that the strings play which contrasts so beautifully with the guitar chords and then the backing vocals leading to such a tremendous finale.

8. *A Girl Called Johnny* - The Waterboys – Despite being an utterly miserable teenager, I always had one band that would lift my spirits and that was The Waterboys. They make me so happy! Whenever they play, a group of us always go and see them, including some other members of staff, where we lose ourselves in the fun by singing and dancing like fools! This song has always been my favourite as I loved the description of the woman who sounded so cool, and it was only later on in life that I found out that the focus of the song is Patti Smith so confirmed its top status.

This was such a hard task and there are so many other tracks and artists missing from here including Mark Lanegan, Nina Simone, Marvin Gaye and Pearl Jam. I nominate Mr Cox to share his Desert Island Discs next time.

GET IN TOUCH!



Do you have:

- A musical story to tell?
- A performance to share?
- A song, piece or album you love?

We want to hear from you!

A great opportunity to share and demonstrate your communication and organisation skills! Contact

Charlie at

15moore502@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk

or Holly at 17garsideh557@kechg.org.uk

How Queen Has Managed to Entertain Generations.

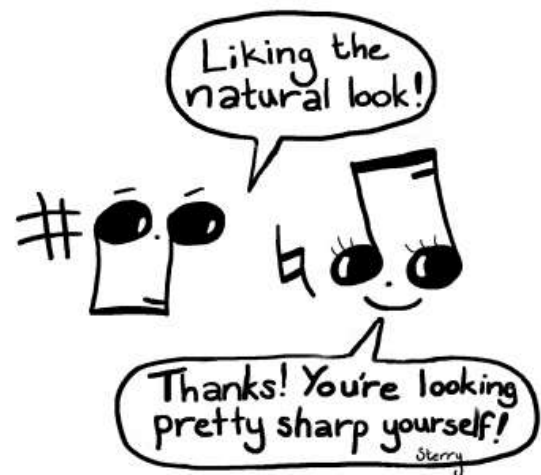
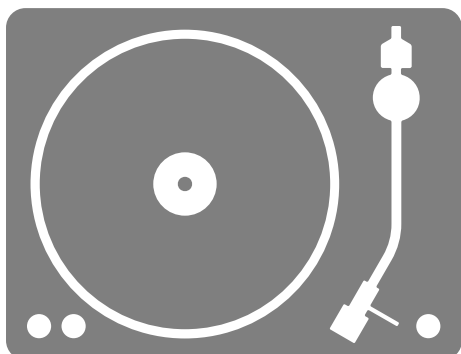
Queen, the eclectic rock group that have managed to capture the minds and hearts of generations, have written numerous hits. From 'Bohemian Rhapsody,' the 45-year-old classic, to 'Somebody to Love' and 'We will rock you,' the spread of their music was and continues to be, far-reaching. Not only do their songs span tens of genres, but Queen also pioneered Progressive Rock and managed to master the art of perfectly blending and utilising numerous instruments and styles to create hit singles and incredibly catchy albums. Of course, it helps that until his tragic death, Freddie Mercury, equipped with a stunning 4 Octave vocal range, acted as the lead singer of the band, as well as writing numerous songs and masterpieces. The band's abundant songs have resonated with generations, even our own: from Live Aid in 1985, which was watched by around a quarter of the world's population at the time, to the revolutionary music video for Bohemian Rhapsody which changed music forever, Queen has always managed to capture the hearts and minds of so many, and their lyrics and music genuinely resonate with people. It is no wonder that the timeless masterpiece that is Bohemian Rhapsody is the oldest song to surpass 1 billion listens on Spotify, and has also racked up 1.2 Billion views on youtube.



Opening of the music video to Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*

Not only is Queen's music eclectic and charismatic, but it is also timeless. Teenagers and adults alike can genuinely enjoy every one of their songs, and they have had a huge impact on music worldwide.

By Maya Desai 10W



What we're listening to: *Etude Op.25, No.11 in A Minor (Winter Wind) - Frédéric Chopin*

Chopin was a renowned composer and virtuoso pianist of the Romantic period, best known for his solo piano pieces and piano concerti. This piece was composed in 1836 and is considered to be one of the most difficult of Chopin's 24 Etudes, which are some of the most challenging and evocative pieces of all the works in the piano concert repertoire.

The piece changes in intensity throughout various parts of the piece, some points sounding soft and calming, whereas others are ominous, loud and thundering.

The first four bars characterise the melody quite simply and at a *lento* tempo. However, this introduction gives a deceiving impression, as after a short pause, come tumultuous sounding (hence the dub, 'Winter Wind') cascades of semiquaver-tuplets, which require a lot of stamina to be played. Originally, Chopin had composed the piece to just contain the tumultuous part but was suggested by his close friend Charles A. Hoffman to add the slow and short introduction. The left-hand plays very heavy, forte quavers and crochets, giving quite an ominous sound. The right-hand plays rapid cascading scales and arpeggios that sound similar to that of a strong wind gusting. The right hand is not heavy in comparison to the left but still played forte.

I would recommend listening to [this performance by pianist Rousseau](#).

If you like this piece, you may also like...

- Etude Op.25, No.10 in B Minor - Chopin
- Appassionata 3rd Movement - Ludwig van Beethoven
- Etude Op.10 No.4 (Torrent) - Chopin
- La Campanella - Frank Liszt

Zaynab Hashmi 8X