

# The Eurovision Song Contest

## Introduction

ABBA and Celine Dion are internationally famous music artists and they have both won the Eurovision Song Contest, but when did they win it, what were the titles of their songs and which countries did they represent?



## Part one

### ■ Read the text about the Eurovision Song Contest and answer the question that follows.

Sixty-five songs have won the Eurovision Song Contest, an annual competition organised by member countries of the European Broadcasting Union. The contest, which has been broadcast every year since its debut in 1956, is one of the longest-running television programmes in the world.

There have been 62 contests, with one winner each year except the tied 1969 contest, which had four. Twenty-seven different countries have won the contest. Switzerland won the first contest in 1956. The country with the highest number of wins is Ireland, with seven. The only person to have won more than once as performer is Ireland's Johnny Logan, who performed "What's Another Year" in 1980 and "Hold Me Now" in 1987.

Winning the Eurovision Song Contest provides a unique opportunity for the winning artist(s) to capitalise on their success and surrounding publicity by launching or furthering their international career. The most notable winning Eurovision artists whose career was directly launched into the spotlight following their win were the members of ABBA. They went on to be one of the most successful bands of their time. Another notable winner who subsequently achieved international fame and success was Céline Dion.

*How many years has the Eurovision Song Contest been operating?*