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## **Serbia wins Eurovision Song Contest**

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**14<sup>th</sup> May, 2007**

## THE ARTICLE

### **Serbia wins Eurovision Song Contest**

Serbia's Marija Serifovic won this year's Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday in Helsinki, Finland. She beat competitors from 23 other European countries in a three-hour televised extravaganza. The 22-year-old singer won with a simple ballad called Motiva, which means 'Prayer' in Serbian. Serifovic was elated after the victory and found it difficult to contain her excitement. She spoke at a news conference after the contest, which was broadcast live across Europe to an estimated 100 million viewers. She said: "I honestly think that a new chapter has opened for Serbia and not only in music. I'm proud." It was Serbia's first solo performance at the annual song competition. Her Serbian fans were delighted at the victory. "She has a fantastic voice and she has put Serbia on the world music map," said one fan.

The current show is very different from how it all started in the 1950s. Then, it was a formal, black-tie event, and was the flagship for the European Broadcasting Union. Over the years it has made many singers famous, although most winners simply disappeared. Perhaps the most famous artists to emerge from the show are Abba – the Swedish group who won in 1974 with their song 'Waterloo'. Many Western Europeans now view the show as an annual joke, a showcase for amateurs with little real talent, rather than a serious contest. Conversely, Eastern Europeans are taking a big interest in it. Ukraine finished second this year and won the contest in 2004, when Serbia and Montenegro finished second. Perhaps this is a sign that Eastern European rock is set to take over the music world.

## WARM-UPS

**1. MUSIC:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about music and singers. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*Serbia / competitors / singers / ballads / excitement / prayers / fans / maps / black-tie events / artists / Abba / jokes / talent / contests / rock music*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**3. HI. I'M A SINGER:** Imagine you are a famous singer. Talk to all the other "famous singers" in the classroom about being famous.

**4. MUSIC GENRES:** Which of these music genres would you like to be good at? What kind of lifestyle would you have with each? Talk about this with your partner(s).

- rock 'n' roll guitarist
- classical violinist
- pop singer
- rap artist
- opera singer
- jazz saxophonist
- street performer (busker)
- your choice \_\_\_\_\_

**5. WHEN I'M...:** In pairs / groups, talk about the best songs / artists / music to listen to while you're...

- studying English
- in the bath
- depressed
- on holiday
- at work
- with your partner
- at home alone
- driving or sitting on a train/bus/airplane

**6. WORLD MUSIC:** In pairs / groups, talk about your image of music from...

- Serbia
- Britain
- China
- South Africa
- Brazil
- Swaziland
- Japan
- Turkey

**7. QUICK DEBATE:** Have this quick debate with your partner(s). Students A think pop music is rubbish; students B think pop music is the best kind of music. Change partners and topics every two minutes.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. The Eurovision Song Contest was held in Serbia. T / F
- b. The event was a 23 hour televised extravaganza. T / F
- c. The winner spoke to 100 million people around the world. T / F
- d. One fan was happy that Serbian music has risen in world music. T / F
- e. The Eurovision Song Contest has been going for around 50 years. T / F
- f. The most famous winners of the Contest are the Beatles. T / F
- g. Many Western Europeans do not take the Contest seriously. T / F
- h. Eastern European rock music is now the best in the world. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| a. competitors  | aired             |
| b. extravaganza | folk song         |
| c. ballad       | appear            |
| d. broadcast    | dominate          |
| e. chapter      | non-professionals |
| f. formal       | spectacular       |
| g. emerge       | phase             |
| h. showcase     | contestants       |
| i. amateurs     | dressy            |
| j. take over    | exhibition        |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. a three-hour televised        | the show as an annual joke   |
| b. found it difficult to contain | has opened for Serbia        |
| c. broadcast                     | has made many singers famous |
| d. a new chapter                 | extravaganza                 |
| e. she has put Serbia on         | her excitement               |
| f. a formal,                     | to emerge from the show      |
| g. Over the years it             | over the music world         |
| h. the most famous artists       | the world music map          |
| i. Western Europeans now view    | live across Europe           |
| j. set to take                   | black-tie event              |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Serbia wins Eurovision Song Contest

Serbia's Marija Serifovic won this year's Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday in Helsinki, Finland. She beat \_\_\_\_\_ from 23 other European countries in a three-hour televised extravaganza. The 22-year-old singer won with a \_\_\_\_\_ ballad called Motiva, which means 'Prayer' in Serbian. Serifovic was elated after the victory and found it difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ her excitement. She spoke at a news conference after the contest, which was broadcast live across Europe to an \_\_\_\_\_ 100 million viewers. She said: "I honestly think that a new chapter has \_\_\_\_\_ for Serbia and not only in music. I'm \_\_\_\_\_." It was Serbia's first solo performance at the annual song competition. Her Serbian fans were \_\_\_\_\_ at the victory. "She has a fantastic voice and she has put Serbia on the world music \_\_\_\_\_," said one fan.

The current show is very different from \_\_\_\_\_ it all started in the 1950s. Then, it was a formal, black-tie event, and was the \_\_\_\_\_ for the European Broadcasting Union. \_\_\_\_\_ the years it has made many singers famous, although most winners simply disappeared. Perhaps the most famous artists to \_\_\_\_\_ from the show are Abba – the Swedish group who won in 1974 with their song 'Waterloo'. Many Western Europeans now \_\_\_\_\_ the show as an annual joke, a showcase for amateurs with little real talent, rather than a \_\_\_\_\_ contest. Conversely, Eastern Europeans are taking a big \_\_\_\_\_ in it. Ukraine finished second this year and won the contest in 2004, when Serbia and Montenegro finished second. Perhaps this is a \_\_\_\_\_ that Eastern European rock is set to take over the music world.

*opened*  
*simple*  
*delighted*  
*estimated*  
*proud*  
*competitors*  
*map*  
*contain*  
*serious*  
*interest*  
*flagship*  
*view*  
*over*  
*how*  
*sign*  
*emerge*

## LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### Serbia wins Eurovision Song Contest

Serbia's Marija Serifovic \_\_\_\_\_ Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday in Helsinki, Finland. She beat competitors \_\_\_\_\_ European countries in a three-hour televised extravaganza. The 22-year-old singer \_\_\_\_\_ ballad called Motiva, which means 'Prayer' in Serbian. Serifovic was elated after the victory and found \_\_\_\_\_ excitement. She spoke at a news conference after the contest, which was broadcast live across Europe to an estimated 100 million viewers. She said: "I honestly think \_\_\_\_\_ opened for Serbia and not only in music. I'm proud." It was Serbia's first solo performance at the annual song competition. Her Serbian fans were \_\_\_\_\_. "She has a fantastic voice and she has put Serbia \_\_\_\_\_," said one fan.

The current show is very different \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1950s. Then, it was a formal, black-tie event, and was the flagship for the European Broadcasting Union. \_\_\_\_\_ made many singers famous, although most winners simply disappeared. Perhaps the most famous artists \_\_\_\_\_ show are Abba – the Swedish group who won in 1974 with their song 'Waterloo'. Many Western Europeans \_\_\_\_\_ an annual joke, a showcase for amateurs with little real talent, rather than a serious contest. Conversely, Eastern Europeans are taking \_\_\_\_\_. Ukraine finished second this year and won the contest in 2004, when Serbia and Montenegro finished second. Perhaps this is a sign that Eastern European rock \_\_\_\_\_ the music world.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'song' and 'contest'.

song	contest

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helsinki</li><li>• 23</li><li>• simple</li><li>• broadcast</li><li>• chapter</li><li>• fantastic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• current</li><li>• over</li><li>• emerge</li><li>• talent</li><li>• interest</li><li>• set</li></ul>
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## STUDENT SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about MUSIC in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2	STUDENT 3
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## DISCUSSION

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What kind of music do you like?
- c) Do you think you'd like to listen to ballads from Serbia?
- d) What do you know about the Eurovision Song Contest?
- e) Do you like looking at music contests?
- f) Would you like to take part in a music contest?
- g) How do you think it feels to talk to 100 million people?
- h) If you had to sing on TV, what would you sing and wear?
- i) Have you ever found it difficult to contain your excitement?
- j) Do you think Marija has put Serbia on the world music map?



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### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think televised song contests are a good idea?
- c) What do you think of the idea of a world song contest?
- d) How has music changed since the 1950s?
- e) Is music in your country dominated by American and British artists?
- f) Do you think music stars in your country can be famous around the world?
- g) Do you like Abba?
- h) Would you like Eastern European rock to take over the music world?
- i) If you could be any singer, who would you be?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

## **SPEAKING**

### **WORLD SONG CONTEST:**

You have entered the first World Song Contest with your partner(s). Together, agree on the information in the table and state your reasons:

Information	Reasons
Name	
Costume	
Name of song	
Genre	
Opening line of song	
Stage show	
Winning speech ideas	

- Change partners and share your ideas.
- Vote on the best ideas.
- As a class, agree on a class rock group.

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

### Serbia wins Eurovision Song Contest

Serbia's Marija Serifovic (1) \_\_\_\_\_ this year's Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday in Helsinki, Finland. She (2) \_\_\_\_\_ competitors from 23 other European countries in a three-hour televised extravaganza. The 22-year-old singer won with a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ ballad called *Motiva*, which means 'Prayer' in Serbian. Serifovic was elated after the victory and found it difficult to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ her excitement. She spoke at a news conference after the contest, which was broadcast live across Europe to an estimated 100 million viewers. She said: "I honestly think that a new (5) \_\_\_\_\_ has opened for Serbia and not only in music. I'm proud." It was Serbia's first solo performance at the annual song competition. Her Serbian fans were delighted at the victory. "She has a fantastic voice and she has put Serbia on the world music (6) \_\_\_\_\_," said one fan.

The current show is very different from how it all started in the 1950s. Then, it was a (7) \_\_\_\_\_, black-tie event, and was the flagship for the European Broadcasting Union. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the years it has made many singers famous, although most winners simply disappeared. Perhaps the most famous artists to emerge (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the show are Abba – the Swedish group who won in 1974 with their song 'Waterloo'. Many Western Europeans now (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the show as an annual joke, a showcase for amateurs with little real talent, rather than a serious contest. Conversely, Eastern Europeans are taking a big interest (11) \_\_\_\_\_ it. Ukraine finished second this year and won the contest in 2004, when Serbia and Montenegro finished second. Perhaps this is a sign that Eastern European rock is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to take over the music world.

- |     |                |             |               |                |
|-----|----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) winnings   | (b) wonder  | (c) won       | (d) win        |
| 2.  | (a) won        | (b) beat    | (c) victory   | (d) defeat     |
| 3.  | (a) simple     | (b) simply  | (c) samples   | (d) simile     |
| 4.  | (a) contestant | (b) content | (c) container | (d) contain    |
| 5.  | (a) chapter    | (b) index   | (c) contents  | (d) front page |
| 6.  | (a) globe      | (b) mapped  | (c) map       | (d) atlas      |
| 7.  | (a) informal   | (b) formal  | (c) formality | (d) form       |
| 8.  | (a) Over       | (b) Overly  | (c) Overdone  | (d) Overall    |
| 9.  | (a) with       | (b) of      | (c) for       | (d) from       |
| 10. | (a) sight      | (b) viewer  | (c) view      | (d) eyesight   |
| 11. | (a) or         | (b) in      | (c) on        | (d) of         |
| 12. | (a) sunset     | (b) settle  | (c) setting   | (d) set        |

**WRITING:**

Write about music for 10 minutes. Read and correct your partner’s paper.

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## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about the Eurovision Song Contest. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MUSIC POSTER:** Make a poster about your favourite musicians. In particular, focus on how your musical tastes have changed. Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one(s).

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about world music. Choose three or four countries / genres to write about. Decide if your article will be

- for people your age
- for your grandparents
- for Martians who have never heard Earth music
- for people who hate the music you'll write about
- other

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Marija Serifovic. Ask her three questions about the Eurovision Song Contest. Give her three pieces of advice about her life as a world music superstar. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. F      c. T      d. T      e. T      f. F      g. T      h. F

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| a. competitors  | contestants       |
| b. extravaganza | spectacular       |
| c. ballad       | folk song         |
| d. broadcast    | aired             |
| e. chapter      | phase             |
| f. formal       | dressy            |
| g. emerge       | appear            |
| h. showcase     | exhibition        |
| i. amateurs     | non-professionals |
| j. take over    | dominate          |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. a three-hour televised        | extravaganza                 |
| b. found it difficult to contain | her excitement               |
| c. broadcast                     | live across Europe           |
| d. a new chapter                 | has opened for Serbia        |
| e. she has put Serbia on         | the world music map          |
| f. a formal,                     | black-tie event              |
| g. Over the years it             | has made many singers famous |
| h. the most famous artists       | to emerge from the show      |
| i. Western Europeans now view    | the show as an annual joke   |
| j. set to take                   | over the music world         |

### GAP FILL:

#### Serbia wins Eurovision Song Contest

Serbia's Marija Serifovic won this year's Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday in Helsinki, Finland. She beat **competitors** from 23 other European countries in a three-hour televised extravaganza. The 22-year-old singer won with a **simple** ballad called *Motiva*, which means 'Prayer' in Serbian. Serifovic was elated after the victory and found it difficult to **contain** her excitement. She spoke at a news conference after the contest, which was broadcast live across Europe to an **estimated** 100 million viewers. She said: "I honestly think that a new chapter has **opened** for Serbia and not only in music. I'm **proud**." It was Serbia's first solo performance at the annual song competition. Her Serbian fans were **delighted** at the victory. "She has a fantastic voice and she has put Serbia on the world music **map**," said one fan.

The current show is very different from **how** it all started in the 1950s. Then, it was a formal, black-tie event, and was the **flagship** for the European Broadcasting Union. **Over** the years it has made many singers famous, although most winners simply disappeared. Perhaps the most famous artists to **emerge** from the show are Abba – the Swedish group who won in 1974 with their song 'Waterloo'. Many Western Europeans now **view** the show as an annual joke, a showcase for amateurs with little real talent, rather than a **serious** contest. Conversely, Eastern Europeans are taking a big **interest** in it. Ukraine finished second this year and won the contest in 2004, when Serbia and Montenegro finished second. Perhaps this is a **sign** that Eastern European rock is set to take over the music world.

### LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - c    2 - b    3 - a    4 - d    5 - a    6 - c    7 - b    8 - a    9 - d    10 - c    11 - b    12 - d