

Presse / 2012 / "Eurovision Song Contest 2013 - Our Song for Malmö": eleven out of twelve participants have been chosen

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And here are the eleven artists who will be trying to win over the audience in the German preliminaries with their performance in the TUI Arena in Hanover - the twelfth act will be named by NDR before Christmas:

In spring 2013, Ben Ivory will release the avant-garde art pop album "Neon Cathedral", produced by Kim Wennerström and Michael Ilbert (Cardigans, Taylor Swift, Hives, Roxette), among others. The former singer in rock band Splinter X links his music to other artistic forms of expression such as fashion, graphics and photography; the Financial Times Deutschland voted Ben Ivory "Best Music Fashion Act". His song: "The Righteous Ones".

"Franz is a boy with long hair, just like Ringo Starr, but where has he gone?" asks Betty Dittrich in her song "Lalala". Her German songs are influenced by the post-rock'n'roll and pop era of the 60s and 70s. Born in 1984 near Malmö, she now lives in Berlin. With power pop band Shebang, she celebrated successes in Scandinavia and Japan, and as a solo artist she toured clubs throughout Sweden and Denmark.

Das Blitzkids mvt. (i.e. movement) is a Berlin-based group of artists around front woman and singer Nomi as well as producer Petone. Since 2010, the electro-pop band has made a name for itself with the top 5 club hits "Blinded" and "Water", while their single "Cold" was the theme song to the cinema blockbuster "Chronicle - Wozu bist Du fähig?" in 2012. In spring 2013, the album "Silhouettes" with the single "Heart on the line" will be released.

Their songs such as "Evacuate The Dancefloor" or "Everytime We Touch" were in the international top ten - with over 30 million tracks sold, Cascada, the trio from Bonn, is one of the most famous dance acts worldwide. As well as the producer and composer duo Manuel Reuter & Yann Peifer and front woman Natalie Horler, songwriters Andres Ballinas and Tony Cornelissen (Yvonne

Catterfeld and R.I.O., among others) are also responsible for the new track "Glorious".

29-year-old, Berlin-born Finn Martin unites songwriter romanticism with electronic sounds. He signed his first record deal at the age of 17 and conquered the international charts with his band "Asher Lane". In 2006, Finn played to over a million people at Brandenburg Gate with "Asher Lane" for the semi-final of the World Football Championships. He has also been on tour with Pink. His song "Change" is the harbinger of his first solo album.

Formed in 2007, LaBrassBanda is a five-member band from Upper Bavaria with three brass players, drum and bass. Within an extremely short space of time, the band from the Chiemgau region achieved cult status with its energy-driven performances. They have released three albums and given several hundred concerts. The dominance of guitars was replaced by brass instruments, combined with drum and e-bass. And suddenly it became clear that Bavarian brass music at the core has the funky groove of a brass section.

The Ruhr district doesn't exactly offer the usual coordinates for a band whose members totes an accordion, a ukulele, a banjo, a mandolin and a glockenspiel. Or for a band which unites modern pop music with traditional folk music. On September 14, Mobilée released its debut album: "Walking On A Twine". In the meantime, the band from Duisburg has already accompanied Roxette and, this summer, also Tim Bendzko, across Germany. Their song is called "Little Sister".

Nica & Joe appeal to fans of both classical and pop music. Joe comes from Michigan, USA, while Nica grew up in Moscow, Germany and Poland. While she spent her teenage years idolizing famous female pop singers and jazz, he was fascinated by Pavarotti, Carreras and Domingo. The two qualified singers recorded two albums and wowed the audience in the final of the "X Factor". Their new song: "Elevated".

"Ave Maris Stella" ("Meersterne, sei begrüßt") is a hymn which is sung in the Catholic church in the Great Vespers service. In their version of the hymn, Die Priester feat. Mojca Erdmann combine the mysticism of medieval chant with elaborate pop music. The album from Die Priester, "spiritus dei", was nominated for two Echo awards in 2012 and achieved gold status in Germany and Austria. Star soprano Mojca Erdmann, born in Hamburg, has been celebrated at the Salzburger Festspielen, among other events. In 2011, she gave her debut at the Met in New York.

Last year, Saint Lu won the "European Border Breakers Awards" presented by Jules Holland for her debut album "Saint Lu". In December 2012, she toured across Germany, Austria and Switzerland as the support for Max Mutzke. Like the album which will be released in spring 2013, her single "Craving" was produced by Patrik Majer (Wir sind Helden). All songs on the album were written by the Austrian-born singer herself, who now lives in Berlin, and were created in collaboration with Stefan Skarbek (Amy Winehouse, Lily Allen, Sugababes, Sophie Ellis Bexter and many more).

It is difficult to imagine the German music scene without the band with the locally patriotic name which was founded 17 years ago: die Söhne Mannheims. The group of musicians delivered studio and live albums with bestseller guarantee. The guys meanwhile have hundreds of concerts in front of many thousands of spectators under their belts. Their song "Gesucht & Gefunden" could be heard in the cinema hit "Heiter bis Wolke" in September this year. In their music, they combine styles from rock to R'n'B, soul and pop to rap, hip-hop and electro. They sing "One Love".

ARD entertainment coordinator Thomas Schreiber: "Now it's final: Twelve participants will perform

their songs on February 14, 2013, in front of more than 10,000 spectators and millions of television viewers on the stage of the TUI Arena in Hanover. Radio listeners, viewers and the German jury will decide who will sing for Germany on May 18, 2013, in the grand finale of the Eurovision Song Contest in Malmö. Months of battles preceded the selection of the best circle of performers. The result is an impressive line-up: I am delighted at the high quality of our artists. The spectrum in this competition runs from extremely well-known, internationally famous bands to newcomers and young artists who have already made a name for themselves on the music scene. The music styles range from dance and electro to pop and soul and choir and brass music. Because there is something one shouldn't forget about the ESC: The decisive factor is the quality of the song. In the run-up to February 14, we will collaborate with radio stations and present the artists' songs and videos so that all of Germany knows who will be performing which song in Hanover."

Listeners of nine pop and young stations from the ARD, the TV audience and a five-man jury consisting of famous entertainment and music experts will decide which of the acts will go to Malmö in Sweden. The competition participants were selected by five music labels, the NDR and production company Brainpool. Das Erste will broadcast the final of the "Eurovision Song Contest" on Saturday, May 18 at 9.00 p.m. live from Malmö.

The German preliminary "Eurovision Song Contest 2013 - Our Song for Malmö" is a production by NDR in cooperation with Brainpool. The NDR will announce the moderator for the event at a later date.

Tickets for the show "Eurovision Song Contest 2013 - Our Song for Malmö" in the TUI Arena in Hanover are available for 19.90 euros, 27.90 euros and 36.90 euros incl. pre-sales fee at www.unser-song-fuer-malmo.tv as well as in the NDR ticket shop in Landesfunkhaus Niedersachsen, Rudolf-von-Bennigsen-Ufer 22, 30169 Hanover, E-Mail: ticketshop.hannover@ndr.de, Tel.: 0180-1637 637 / Fax: 0180 1 637 638 (for local tariff nationally, max. 42 cents per minutes from mobile networks), opening hours: Mon. - Fri.: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

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