

## The Gwida Eurovision interviews — Anne Marie David

# “There should be two Eurovision Song Contests”

In 1973, the Eurovision Song Contest was won by Anne Marie David with *Tu Te Reconnaitras* for Luxembourg. In 1979 Ms David returned to the contest, this time representing her native France with *Je Suis l'Enfant Soleil*, which placed third, nineteen points less than the winning *Hallelujah*. **Frederick Zammit** talks to former Eurovision 1979 participant and 1973 winner Anne Marie David.

Anne, nearly 30 years have passed since you participated in the Eurovision Song Contest. What are your memories of this experience?

Both experiences will stay like the best way to improve myself in front of a large foreign concurrence. It's always important to know to what limits you can represent something in front of so many various countries, audiences and civilisations.

Each country has its own culture, past and language and just in one night, through the Eurovision show, you reach at the same time all these various sensibilities, just with one song and just with what you are! It's marvellous. Then, when you win, it means more than anything else, more than a victory, more than a brilliant future.

For me it meant that me, Anne Marie, little girl from nowhere the day before, all of a sudden, I've become the most important person for millions viewers, reaching their heart, just with my song, just with the language of my heart. That's for me the most important.

Do you still follow the Eurovision Song Contest?

When I decided to retire in 1987 after the Chilean festival of *Vina del Mar* I've stopped completely to watch TV so of course, to watch Eurovision Song Contest, but from 2003, when my



fans have pushed me to come back again, then of course I again, watched the contest.

How has the contest changed during the years?

Well many things have changed but not in a good way. First of all a big confusion has arrived in the show itself. No more orchestra, the use of backing tracks, mixing together singers, groups and soloists singers is completely mad.

If nowadays there was in the same show ABBA and Anne Marie David, both winners in the 70's, the choice would be totally possible but totally unfair, because we both won, but in separate competitions.

So for me there should be two Eurovision song contests: one night for groups and show and a second night for soloist singers. And I'm sure that both nights would catch the same number of viewers but for different reasons.

Another point that makes

me angry is that there is no more visible jury!

Suspensions are aroused in this way. You can see if votes are bought when you see how the juries vote but with televoting it's impossible! My mother who follows Eurovision doesn't call or vote with televoting. I'm sure she not alone!

Would you consider participating again?

You know, almost every year I'm asked to return to Eurovision. I would love to do it, sincerely as I adore the competition. I've once been the winner for 1973 and even if I am placed last in another edition, I would still like to take part.

But sincerely too, I'm sure that a lot would laugh seeing 'granny Anne Marie' compete again and I'm not really sure that's my place.

Eurovision is such an opportunity to discover new

artists that I think it's better to leave that to young singers who need this wide audience to become famous. But I would love to coach artists for Eurovision efficiency.

After the Eurovision Song Contest you have worked on various musical projects, amongst which you recorded some songs in Turkish. Can you fill us in on the details.

I've discovered during the Tokyo Festival that I was famous in Turkey with my winning song. I've given my phone number to Senay, the

Turkish artist, who represented Turkey there, and some days later I received a call to go to Turkey for three concerts. It was so successful that I went back for seven concerts two months later and at that time it was again so successful that I gave

77 concerts and it continued like this for five years, so I decided to learn Turkish and sing in Turkish

I keep the Turks in my heart as they keep me. It's a very old love story between us.

Eurovision aside, which is your favourite music genre?

I love good music, good lyrics, rhythm and feeling ... I almost love all music even classical, opera etc... I'm born in a family where there was no exclusion of any kind of music. I love groups and soloists, Barbra Streisand and Michael Jackson, the Beatles and Queen .... African rhythms and Latinos too...

Anne Marie, a message to Maltese Eurovision fans...

Keep loving this beautiful event and try to help to increase it's interest all over ... and keep on loving us!