

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 2010

**OSLO – NORWAY
MAY 25th – 29th**

ICELANDIC ENTRY

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‘Je Ne Sais Quoi’ will represent Iceland in the Eurovision Song Contest semi-finals in Oslo in May 2010. The music and lyrics are written by Örlygur Smári and Hera Björk, who is also the performer of the song. ‘Je Ne Sais Quoi’ was selected to represent Iceland by televoting in the Icelandic National Song Contest ‘Söngvakeppni Sjónvarpsins’ on February 6th.

The Icelandic entry will be sung mainly in English, except for the French lines in the chorus.

Title of Song: Je Ne Sais Quoi
Performer: Hera Björk
Music and Lyrics: Örlygur Smári and Hera Björk
Record Company: Hands Up Music

Biography

Hera Björk, performer, music and lyrics

Hera Björk was born in Reykjavík on March 29th 1972. Music runs in the family as her mother is a well-known pop singer; Hera Björk herself started performing at a young age - she had already recorded some children's songs and appeared in television commercials before her twelfth birthday. She won her first singing competition in 1988 aged just sixteen, and was the second runner-up in the 1991 nationwide College Singing Competition. This led to her being offered roles in various musicals, including *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Evita*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Kiss Me Kate*. She participated in the 'Sirkus Skara Skrípó' ('Skari's Comedy Circus') variety show in 1996-1997, and joined a number of ephemeral groups, namely *Orgill*, *Sweetý* and *17 Vélar*, before releasing two acclaimed albums 'Ilmur af jólum' ('The Perfume of Christmas') in 2000 and her eponymous album 'Hera Björk' in 2006, which includes an Icelandic language cover version of 2006 Norwegian Eurovision entry 'Alvedansen' ('Dance of The Elves'). She is currently working on her third album, due to be released in 2010 to coincide with the Oslo Eurovision Song Contest.

Hera Björk became a household name in Iceland when she co-hosted the variety TV show 'Stutt í spunann' (a version of 'Whose Line Is It Anyway?') during the winter of 1999-2000. She has been a regular star of various radio and television shows ever since, and is famous for her extraordinary vocal range as well as her seemingly effortless ability to glide from one vocal style to another.

Hera Björk began studying vocal techniques at the Reykjavík Academy of Singing and Vocal Arts in 1989 under the tutelage of Rut Magnússon, Bergþór Pálsson, Elín Ósk Óskarsdóttir and Erna Guðmundsdóttir, among others. She relocated to Copenhagen in 2004 to study advanced singing technique at the Complete Vocal Institute (CVI), pioneered by the institute's founder Cathrine Sadolin. The process is designed to develop technical and artistic skills and solve vocal problems; it restores overworked vocal chords and tackles voice coaching and production. After graduating as a certified CVI teacher she gave masterclasses and delivered courses all over Europe as well as working as a vocal coach for television and stage. She also found time to contribute vocals to Björk's magnificent, and entirely *a cappella* 2004 album 'Medúlla'.

Hera Björk competed in the Icelandic Eurovision preselection contest in 2007, and sang backing vocals for the Icelandic Eurovision entries in 2008 and 2009. She also participated in the Danish Eurovision preselection ('Melodi Grand Prix') in 2009, finishing in second place with the fan favourite 'Someday'. Eurovision trivia buffs will be delighted to know that she was also one of the dancers in Selma's comedy video for her Icelandic Eurovision entry 'All Out of Luck' in 1999.

Örlygur Smári, music and lyrics

Örlygur Smári, commonly known by his nickname Öggi, was born on June 30th 1970 in Reykjavík. He has been active on the Icelandic music business scene since the early 90's, and in 2000 he composed the Icelandic Eurovision entry 'Tell Me!' which finished in a respectable 12th place. Öggi was determined to make music his priority in life after having had the unique chance of participating in the Eurovision Song Contest. He moved to Stockholm, Sweden where he was busy working as a sound engineer, songwriter and producer for the next four years. This was a great way of learning the trade inside out and when he moved back to Reykjavík in the summer of 2005 he immediately opened his own music production studio, 'Poppvélin' ('Pop Machine'). Since then he has worked with a range of Icelandic artists as a producer, songwriter and engineer. He has produced and composed for the biggest names in the Icelandic music industry, much of his output going on to top the Icelandic music charts.

Öggi is renowned for his work with Icelandic singer Paul Oscar and together they created the hugely successful platinum disco album 'Allt fyrir ástina' ('All for love') in 2007. This led to their collaboration on the 2008 Icelandic Eurovision entry 'This Is My Life' performed by Euroband, featuring Regina and Fridrik Ómar; much to the nation's jubilation it became the first Icelandic entry to reach the Eurovision grand final since 2004. In 2009 Öggi and Paul Oscar collaborated on the song for the Icelandic winner of Pop Idol.

When given the chance to collaborate with Hera Björk on writing the song 'Je Ne Sais Quoi', Öggi was quite confident that it would go on to represent Iceland internationally, and is hoping this is only the start of their successes in working together.

Je Ne Sais Quoi

I am standing strong
I've overcome the sadness
in my life
Now, I look up and see
The bright blue sky above me
And it's reflecting in your eyes

Je ne sais quoi
I know you have that special something
Je ne sais quoi
Something I just can't explain
And when I see your face
I wanna follow my emotions
Je ne sais pas pourquoi

When the clouds are gone
The stars come out around us, shining
All that we see is love
Our hearts aligned together
Tell me do you feel the same?

Je ne sais quoi
I know you have that special something
Je ne sais quoi
Something I just can't explain
And when I see your face
I wanna follow my emotions
Je ne sais pas pourquoi

I just love this crazy feeling
It's like I've known you all my life

Je ne sais quoi
Je ne sais quoi
I know you have that special something
Je ne sais quoi
Something I just can't explain
And when I see your face
I wanna follow my emotions
Je ne sais pas pourquoi