



## Invitation to the 2017 Melodifestival

Once again, SVT has the great pleasure to announce that submissions are now open for Sweden's Eurovision pre-selection competition: the Melodifestival.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the basic rules and conditions:

- The entries for the Melodifestival will be selected by a panel of judges and the festival producers. The panel makes their selection from the submissions for the Regular contest or Public contest as outlined below.
- The selection panel chooses entries from amongst the submissions to the **Regular contest**, for which both lyrics and music must have been written by at least one composer/songwriter who has already had a musical work published. This group of contestants includes one of the finalists from the "Svensktoppen Nästa 2017" contest, who is guaranteed a place in the next year's Melodifestival. At least 50% of the selected entries are to be written by female composers/lyricists. Entries are to be submitted by uploading a **sound file** to svt.se between 1 and 19 September, 2017.
- The selection panel (same as above) also selects five entries from the submissions to the **Public contest**, which only accepts songs by composer(s)/songwriter(s) who have NOT already had a musical work published. These five entries are qualified directly amongst the best top 100 entries. The Public Contest has no guaranteed place in the next year's Melodifestival. Entries are to be submitted by uploading a **sound file** to svt.se between 1 and 19 September, 2017.
- Songs can be uploaded to svt.se/melodifestivalen from 9.00 am on 1 September to 17.59 am on 19 September. The upload may take a few minutes so we would advise you not to wait until the last minute.

### Don't forget:

- A song may only compete in **either** the Public contest **or** the Regular contest.
- Remember to indicate whether your song is being submitted to the Regular contest and whether it has been written by a female songwriter/composer, or both a female and a male songwriter/composer.
- Overseas composers/songwriters collaborating with Swedish composers/songwriters are welcome to compete in both contests.
- Owing to the heavy demand, we will only contact you if you have been selected, which will be at some time in October/November 2017.
- **By uploading your entry to the SVT servers, you agree to the rules of the 2017 Melodifestival** and accept that your entry will be subject to the European Broadcasting Union's rules for ESC 2017 should it be selected for the contest. Pending the publication of the rules for ESC 2017 in November, please refer to the rules for ESC 2017 on our website.

Good luck and read on, because here come the rules!

Christer Björkman, Producer, SVT Stockholm, [christer.bjorkman@svt.se](mailto:christer.bjorkman@svt.se)

## COMPETITION RULES FOR THE 2017 MELODIFESTIVAL

Section A: Invitation, background, rules and selection process

Section B: Rules for the submitted entry

Section C: Rules for entries selected to compete

Section D: Other terms and conditions

Section E: Rules for the Public contest

Section F: Rules for the Regular contest

**NOTE: ALL CONTESTANTS MUST READ AND CONSENT TO SECTIONS A-D and E (Public contest) or F (Regular contest). Consent is given on submission (uploading) of entry to the SVT servers.**

### **Section A: Invitation, background, rules and selection process**

A1. The 2017 Melodifestival is a national contest comprising a number of heats and a final. The entry that wins the final of the Melodifestival goes on to represent Sweden in the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest (ESC), which is arranged by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

At least 28 songs will be competing in the 2017 Melodifestival. SVT reserves the right to decrease the number of entries allowed at a later date. The entries competing in the 2017 Melodifestival will be:

- The entries that the selection panel chooses from amongst the submissions to the Regular contest and Public contest.

- The entries comprising either musical works created by composers/songwriters that SVT has invited or entries that SVT selects from amongst the submissions plus one entry from "Svensktoppen Nästa".

SVT takes all decisions regarding the structure and design of the actual contest (including but not limited to selection process, number of heats and voting procedure) and on the TV production of the selected entries (including but not limited to issues relating to instruments and any other stage props).

A2. Swedish citizens and/or persons registered as resident in Sweden (on 1 September 2016 or later) may compete in the contest as composers/songwriters, with the exception of persons employed by Swedish Television (SVT) during the period commencing 1 September 2016 and ending 30 March 2017.

A3. Persons who are not Swedish citizens or registered residents as of 1 September 2016 may compete in the contest provided that their entry has at least one (1) composer/songwriter who meets the requirements set out in A2.

A4. It is SVT's intention to reserve approx. 30% of the contest's places for entries sung mainly in Swedish. The same song may be submitted as separate entries if it is sung in different languages (SVT does not need to be informed in advance that the song is being entered more than once).

A4.1. It is SVT's intention to reserve at least 50% of the contest's places for entries written by female composers/lyricists either alone or with male colleagues.

A5. SVT retains the right to disqualify entries with lyrics/titles that might be considered offensive and/or might risk being barred from competing in the ESC.

A6. Names of entries and composers/songwriters will be publicised consecutively by SVT in October and November 2016. A composer/songwriter who has submitted an entry may not withdraw it later.

### **Section B: Rules for the submitted entry**

B1. Only works that have not previously been made publicly available – be it through public transmission, performance, publication, distribution or otherwise – may compete. The requirement against previous publication/distribution precludes the release of either the tune or the lyrics to the public in any way or format, be it on disk, cassette, video, film, in printed form, etc. The requirement against previous public performance precludes its performance at concerts or similar. The requirement against public transmission precludes its broadcast or public dissemination via radio, TV, internet or mobile telephone network.

B2. Only entries longer than two (2.00) minutes but shorter than three (3.00) minutes may compete. An entry falling either side of this time band will remain in the selection process on condition that the judges deem it possible to re-arrange the song to the accepted length and that the composer(s)/songwriter(s) consent to the fact and execution of the required modification. Wholly instrumental entries will not be accepted; songs must include vocals, sung or spoken.

B3. Entries may be submitted in any language, which will remain the language of performance in the 2017 Melodifestival unless SVT instructs otherwise in connection with the selection process.

B4. Artists singing on a submitted entry must be aware that the entry has been formally submitted to the year's competition and must be prepared, should SVT so wish, to perform it in the heat, the Swedish final and the ESC. However, the artist selected for the 2017 Melodifestival is not necessarily the one who will represent Sweden at the ESC. Participating artists must be at least 16 years of age before the entry's first day of competing for the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest. (Note: This age limit does not apply to composers/songwriters.)

### **Section C: Rules for entries selected to compete**

C1. As soon as SVT has announced the selected entries and their reserves, SVT renounces all claims regarding the other submitted entries. However, entries amongst the 100 top songs at the time of selection will remain as reserves in the contest until 15 November 2016.

C2. As soon as an entry has been selected to compete in the 2017 Melodifestival its composer(s)/songwriter(s) must immediately furnish SVT with the following material:

1. The competing work's lyrics, written out clearly in the language that the composer(s)/songwriter(s) used for the entry. If a language other than Swedish or English is used, however, a written Swedish translation of the lyrics must be attached.
2. A contest form and an Artist form (unless Demo artist) completed in full and **personally signed** by the composer(s)/songwriter(s) (see Annex 1).

C3. After consulting with the various entries' composers/songwriters, SVT decides which artists are going to perform the selected works in the 2017 Melodifestival and 2017 ESC. The final decision is that of SVT. If any composer(s)/songwriter(s) refuse(s) to accept SVT's decision, SVT is entitled to disqualify the song and replace it with another.

C4. SVT may decide that an entry be performed with an instrumental soloist who plays his/her instrument live during broadcast.

C5. A maximum of eight (8) persons may take part in the performance of a competing entry in the Melodifestival. When representing Sweden in the European Song Contest, however, this number is reduced to six (6).

C6. The provision of instrumental backing tracks is a condition of entry in the contest. If these backing tracks include a pre-recorded chorus, the chorus may not feature the performing artist(s), who must sing live. The entry that is to represent Sweden at the ESC will not be allowed to use such pre-recorded choruses on its backing track. On signing the artists who are to perform the various entries, SVT will require the contract to include an obligation to produce and deliver to SVT the required backing tracks and a clause assigning the intellectual property rights to SVT for the use of such tracks. In the event that a contract containing such stipulations is not drawn up or that backing tracks meeting the contest requirements are not delivered to SVT on time, SVT reserves the right to disqualify the entry.

C7. The composers/songwriters of the selected entries hereby grant SVT the right to:

- use, itself or through the granting/transfer of use to a third party, without temporal or territorial constraints, the submitted musical work (lyrics and/or music) as regards:
  - the public dissemination, performance, issuance, publication or distribution of the work by itself or a third party or otherwise making it accessible to the public, including but not limited to the means specified in these contest rules and – *as regards the winning entry* – the means specified in the rules issued by the EBU governing participation in the Eurovision Song Contest.
- record/produce copies of the work thus required.

C8. Performance rights compensation and compensation for the production of copies for use by SVT and other parties as per the above will be paid in the normal manner to the collecting society representing the composers/songwriters. The payment of such compensation for the use of protected material by a third party is not the responsibility of SVT.

C9. The composer(s)/songwriter(s) must ensure that they are legally entitled to assign the required right of use to SVT and a designated third party when that right is part-owned by another party, such as a collaborator, music publisher or record label.

C10. The composer(s)/songwriter(s) must ensure that no contract has been entered into with a third party that prevents the granting of rights as specified in C7 and C9. Once the submitted musical work is covered by the composer's(s')/songwriter's(s') membership of STIM, although no earlier than its initial performance in the contest, SVT's right of disposition over said work is limited by the terms of the membership contract. If the right of the composer(s)/songwriter(s) to produce copies of a work is managed by the NCB (the Nordic Copyright Bureau), it is incumbent upon SVT or the party to which SVT has granted right of use to acquire a so-called mechanisation licence from NCB, should this be required, for the intended use of the material.

C11. The composer(s)/songwriter(s) may not authorise the production of copies/mechanisation of submitted works without the express consent of SVT. Should SVT thus consent, the licence is granted by NCB in accordance with the composer's(s')/songwriter's(s') membership contract with STIM/NCB. The composer(s)/songwriter(s) may not oppose any licensing approved by SVT provided that the intended use does not infringe their statutory moral rights.

C12. SVT retains the right to use the titles of the submitted entries and, when relevant, the names and photographs of the composers/songwriters and artists for the purposes of marketing a) the 2017 Melodifestival and the 2016 ESC and b) goods and services linked to the 2017 Melodifestival and the 2017 ESC, either itself or through the assignment of rights to a third party, without liability for specific compensation to the composers/songwriters.

C13. No entry, be it in the form of printed sheet music, vinyl record, cassette or any other form of reproduction, may be marketed or labelled with the words "Melodie Grand Prix", "Eurovision Song Contest", "ESC", "EUROSONG" or any other text of the same or similar meaning unless written permission to do so has been obtained from the EBU. The same applies to all forms of rendering works publicly accessible, regardless of media.

C14. Without the express consent of SVT, a selected contest entry may not be performed publicly, published, distributed or otherwise made accessible to the public earlier than as follows:

- Entries ranked 5th-8th in a heat may be made accessible to the public as soon as the broadcast of that heat has come to an end.
- Entries ranked 4th-1st in a heat may be made accessible to the public as soon as the broadcast of the fourth heat has come to an end.

C15. The participation of an entry in the Melodifestival may not be commercially marketed until it has been eliminated from the contest or, as regards the remaining entries, after the Final, at the earliest.

C16. An entry may not be made available or used for commercial purposes until 30 days after it has been eliminated from the contest or, as regards the remaining entries, after the Final, at the earliest.

## **Section D: Other terms and conditions**

D1. The work or its participation in the contest and the selected artist may not be used in commercial or other contexts in a way that might jeopardise SVT's impartiality or neutrality; e.g. in a manner that could make SVT's broadcast of the work appear to provide undue commercial benefit.

D2. The composers/songwriters competing in the contest undertake to participate in the following activities, should SVT so wish, without any other compensation than reimbursement for travel, board and lodging where necessary (stated times refer to preliminary attendance hours):

- 1-2 press conference(s), max 4 hours.
- 1 pre-recorded interview, max 4 hours.
- 1 live heat broadcast. SVT will cover the costs of travel, board and lodging for 72 hours if the distance travelled is more than 70 km from door to door.
- All press conferences arranged by SVT before and after a heat and before the final should the composer(s)/songwriter(s) entry qualify.
- Attendance (for up to 72 hours as for the heat – see above) if the entry qualifies for the 5th programme – “Andra chansen” (the Second Chance, which for selected entries is an extra qualifying heat for the final). SVT will cover the costs of travel, board and lodging for 72 hours if the distance travelled is more than 70 km from door to door.
- 1 live final broadcast as per instructions to be issued later. SVT will cover the costs of travel, board and lodging for 72 hours if the distance travelled is more than 70 km from door to door.
- 1 live or pre-recorded interview for a “krönikeprogram” (review) to be recorded and (possibly) broadcast the day after the final, max. 6 hours.
- All post-final press conferences arranged by SVT for the winning entry.
- Attendance at the ESC for a period of approximately 15 days and all requisite press conferences there, max 8 hours.
- 1 live or pre-recorded ESC-related interview for an “årskrönikeprogram” (review of the year) to be recorded and (possibly) broadcast in the autumn of 2016, max 6 hours.

D3. Should a submitted entry or a composer/songwriter, artist or their representative breach these rules in any way, SVT reserves the right to disqualify the entry and on so doing to wholly or partly refuse any form of compensation or payment, and to recover any compensation or payment already disbursed. In the event of a breach of the rules covering publication and the contest itself by a composer/songwriter, contracted artist or their representative, the person or persons in breach of the rules shall individually or together and in relation to their complicity meet any demands of the injured party and discharge SVT from liability for all damages. SVT disclaims all responsibility for such damages.

D4. These contest rules were approved and adopted in June 2016 by SVT, which also reserves the right to amend and/or revise them and decide on their more direct application.

## **Section E: rules for the Public contest**

E1. Entries competing in the Public contest are subject to the same terms and conditions provided in Sections A-D, with the addition of those given in this section E.

E2. Entries for which all composers/songwriters meet the following requirements are welcome to take part:

- The composer(s)/songwriter(s) must not have had another work released as a phonogram on any physical recording medium (e.g. CD) for sale in Sweden or abroad before 1 October 2016.
- The composer(s)/songwriter(s) must not have had another work made available for sale via electronic network to a recipient in Sweden or abroad before 1 October 2016.

E3. Entries are to be submitted by being uploaded as a **SOUND file** to [svt.se/melodifestivalen](http://svt.se/melodifestivalen) from 1 September 2016 to 17.59 am on 19 September 2016.

### **Section F: Rules for the Regular contest**

F1. Entries competing in the Regular contest are subject to the same terms and conditions provided in Sections A-D, with the addition of those given in this section F.

F2. Entries that meet the following requirements are welcome to take part:

At least one of the composer(s)/songwriter(s) must have had another work released as a commercial phonogram on any physical recording medium/ for sale via electronic network to a recipient in Sweden or abroad before 1 October 2016. This requirement does not, however, apply to contestants participating by invitation of SVT.

F3. Entries are to be submitted by being uploaded as a sound file to [svt.se/melodifestivalen](http://svt.se/melodifestivalen) from 1 September 2016 to 17.59 am on 19 September 2016.

### CONTEST FORM 2017

1. If your entry is selected, you are to submit the form below, signed by all persons concerned, immediately.
2. Please use a printer. Do not complete the form freehand.

Title of entry	
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We the undersigned, who together own 100% of the copyright for the above entry, have read and fully agree to the contest rules that SVT has publicised for participation in the 2017 Melodifestival:

Name						
Civil Reg. No.						
Address						
Tel. No.						
Email						
Lyrics and music (write L/M , alternatively L or M)						
Signature						

If relevant:

The entry has been published by:	
Name and email address of a contact person at the publishing company:	

If you are selected, please send the form to:

SVT  
Melodifestivalen 2017  
105 10 Stockholm

**The 2017 Melodifestival – Artist form**

1. If the performing artist is a Demo artist and does not wish to perform the song in the contest, check the box labelled DEMO. You do not have to upload a photograph.
2. If your entry is selected, you are to submit the form below, signed by all persons concerned, immediately.
3. Please use a printer. Do not complete the form freehand.

<b>Title of entry</b>	
<b>Name of individual artist(s)</b>	
<b>Name of group (if relevant)</b>	
<b>Place of residence</b>	
<b>Tel. No.</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Musical background</b>	
<b>Experience of performing on stage and/or TV</b>	
<b>Name and email of contact person (if other than above artist(s))</b>	

**All details are compulsory.**

If you are selected, please send the form to:

SVT  
 Melodifestivalen 2017  
 105 10 Stockholm