The Anatomy of a Eurovision Finalist: Structural, Linguistic, and Performative Trends (1998–2012)

**Key➕Timesignature**

**(1) Structural DNA: Time Signatures and Keys in Eurovision Final Entries**

**Mainstream Time Signatures + Major Keys = Pop Music Paradigm**

Most works adopt a 4/4 time signature combined with major keys such as A, D, or E major, creating clear melodies and a strong sense of rhythm, making them easy to perform and popularize.

This results in a typical pop music style, emphasizing "listenability" and stage performance appeal.

**Uncommon Time Signatures × Rare Keys = Differentiated Expression**

Using unconventional time signatures like 3/4 or 5/4, or rare keys such as G minor or B minor, conveys ethnic characteristics or experimental styles.

These choices reflect the artist’s strategy to create a unique stage presence.

**Unknown Data: Freedom and Exploration in Creation**

There are 166 works without specified time signatures or keys, which may involve modal music, shifting meters, or non-traditional harmonic systems.

This suggests a higher degree of creative freedom and stylistic diversity.

**The choice of key and time signature is not only a technical component of musical style, but also a deeper reflection of the contestant’s creative intentions, cultural background, and strategic stage positioning.**

**language➕Group or Solo**

**(2) Language and Performance: Between Mainstream Appeal and Artistic Identity**

**The Dominance of English Highlights Communicative Power**

A total of 472 songs were performed in English, accounting for approximately 73%.

Non-English entries are often used to showcase national culture and express local identity.

**Group Performances Are More Popular**

Group acts make up 422 entries, significantly more than solo performances (153 entries).

The group format helps create a vibrant stage atmosphere and enhances both visual and auditory impact.

Language and performance formats reflect the contestants’ strategic decisions on stage:

The combination of **"**English + Group Performance" represents a widespread trend, while non-mainstream choices emphasize diversity and cultural identity.