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Music

Maryna's Blog

BRIT AWARDS

At the Brit Awards with Jamala!

Hi everyone! I've got great news. I went to London to attend the Brit Awards! Maybe it doesn't sound like such a big thing but the thing is that I went as the guest of my favourite singer, Jamala! A dream of mine finally came true: I got to meet her! I won a radio show competition and the prize was a trip to the awards with the singer. I was with Jamala during the awards and I had a VIP pass which let me go backstage and meet other people from the music industry too. I still can't believe my luck! Well, I suppose dreams do come true every now and then!

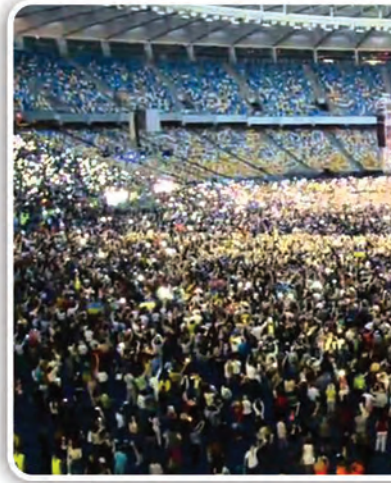
For those of you who don't know, the Brit Awards, or the Brits as they're more commonly called, is one of the most important award ceremonies in the music industry in the UK. The first British awards were held nearly 40 years ago, on 18th October, 1977 at Wembley Conference Centre, London. This year was the 37th ceremony and it took place on 22nd February at the O2 Arena in London. This annual celebration of pop music attracts the biggest as well as the most promising stars of the music industry, and also top celebrities from the world of fashion, art, cinema and theatre.

Reading

- 1 Do you like listening to music?
How does music make you feel?
Who is your favourite singer/band?
- 2 Look at the pictures. What do you know about the Brit Awards? Are there similar awards in your country? Why do you think the performers presented are so popular? Read to find out.



But enough about the awards. Let me move on to the only star that had my full attention: Jamala! Jamala is an amazing Ukrainian singer who has a rare voice. Her real name is Susana Dzhamaaladinova. She was born in Kyrgyzstan but her family moved to Crimea in 1989. Jamala's musical genius showed from a very early age. She recorded her first album when she was just 9 years old. It was a collection of Crimean Tatar songs for children. Jamala has studied opera singing and the piano. The talented singer has won many awards. In 2000, she got first prize at the International Contest Voice of the Future. In 2001, she won the third prize at the song contest Krymska Vesna (Crimean Spring). In 2004 and in 2005, she was awarded at the all-European contest Amici della Musica. She was also a guest of honour at the international festival Tricolore della Canzone Italiana. Jamala also took part in *Pa*, a musical that was staged by Olena Kolyadenko in Kyiv. Her success at the international song contest for young singers New Wave-2009 at Jūrmala, Latvia, did wonders for her career as a pop singer. Jamala's victory in the Eurovision song contest with the song "1944" made people of Ukraine proud. In the time I spent with her at the Brits, I also discovered that she's very friendly and sociable, with a very good sense of humour. Young, talented, successful and an amazing person: that's my Jamala! Post your comments about your favourite singer or group.



Wow, Maryna! It sounds like you had a blast at the Brits! Whether I'm happy or depressed, I always listen to music. It helps me share my feelings with the world. I listen to music everywhere: at home, at school, at the gym or on the bus. I love Jamala too. I think that she's one of the greatest performers of our time. I have to say, though, that my favourite Ukrainian music artists are Okean Elzy.

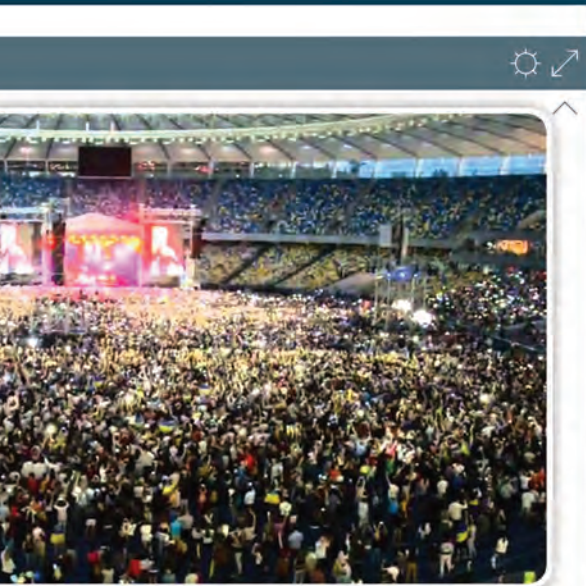
I like this band because their music is wonderful and

their songs have great lyrics. Okean Elzy was formed in 1994 in Lviv, Ukraine. There are 5 men in the group: Sviatoslav Vakarchuk - vocals, Vladimir Opsenitsa - guitar, Denys Dudko - bass, Milosh Yelich - piano, synthesizers, Denys Hlinin - drums. They're all fantastic but most of all I like the group's frontman - vocalist Sviatoslav Vakarchuk. He is one of the most successful musicians in Ukraine and has a degree in Theoretical Physics. He also speaks fluent Ukrainian, Russian, English and Polish. He's amazing, isn't he?



CHECK THESE WORDS!

backstage, commonly, promising, genius, stage, do wonders for, have a blast, lyrics, synthesizer, fluent, release



Their first live performance was held at the impressive Lviv Opera Theatre on 14 January 1995. Today, they are one of the most popular bands not only in Ukraine but in other countries too. Okean Elzy have released 9 albums since 1998. Their most popular albums so far include *Tam*, *De Nas Nema*, *Ya Na Nebi Buv* and *Zemlia*. I like all their songs, but my favourites are *Obiimy*, *Na Linii Vohniu* and *Suzi*.

In 2010, this wildly successful band went on the Dolce Vita Tour. They performed in more than 100 concerts in Europe and North America. I was lucky enough to attend their performance in Olimpiyskiy Stadium in Kyiv in June 2014. This event celebrated the band's 20th anniversary. An incredible number of over 70 thousand people came to the concert!

I can talk about them for ages. I read and watch a lot about their preferences and hobbies, friends and families, private and cultural lives. I can also tell you that not a day goes by when I don't listen to their music!

Posted by: **Sonia Ovcharenko**

3 Read the text again and choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- Maryna's dream was
 - to win a competition.
 - to meet her favourite music artist.
 - to attend the Brit Awards.
- The Brits
 - are always held at the same place.
 - started 37 years ago.
 - take place every year.
- At the age of nine, Jamala
 - made her first album.
 - started playing the piano.
 - discovered she was a talented opera singer.
- Okean Elzy first sang in public in

A 1994	B 1995	C 1998
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- What does Sonia say about Okean Elzy?
 - She listens to them daily.
 - She thinks they are better performers than Jamala.
 - She wants to see them perform live.

Vocabulary

4 Fill in: *come, stage, release, do, attract, have* in the correct form.

- Last year's appearance on TV wonders for her musical career.
- I don't want to leave the concert now, I'm a blast!
- The award ceremony celebrities from the world of fashion, music and the arts every year.
- Helen's dream true when she recorded her first album.
- Anna can't wait for her favourite band to their next album.
- Our drama teacher has a play at the local theatre.

Speaking & Writing

5 Imagine you attended the Brit Awards. Describe your experience to your partner. Say who you saw, what you did and how you felt.

6 A local radio station is offering listeners the chance to spend a day with their favourite singer or band. To enter the competition, you have to send an email to the station. In your email, say:

- who you want to spend the day with and why
- how you want to spend the time with your favourite singer or band
- why you should be the one to win this competition.