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# Australian-Born Singer Vassy to Represent U.S. at Intervision Contest in Last-Minute Switch

September 17, 2025



Singer Vassy. **Luiz Rampelotto / ZUMA Press Wire / TASS**

Australian-born singer Vassy will represent the United States at Russia's answer to Eurovision after American R&B artist B. Howard pulled out just days before the competition begins, organizers said Wednesday.

Called Intervision, the upcoming event revives a Soviet-era alternative to Eurovision that briefly ran in the 1960s and 1970s. Russia was banned from Eurovision in February 2022 following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Vassy, whose real name is Vasiliki Karagiorgos, was born in Australia to Greek immigrants, but she obtained U.S. citizenship during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Her website describes her as "one of the most recognizable figures" in electronic dance music, citing collaborations with DJs David Guetta and Tiësto. In 2023, she became the first

woman to win the ICON award at the Electronic Dance Music Awards.

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The exiled news website Novaya Gazeta Europe reported on Wednesday that mentions of Vassy's advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights had recently been removed from her Wikipedia page.

The Moscow Times reached out to the singer's agent for comment.

B. Howard, originally slated to perform for the U.S., withdrew for what organizers said were "family reasons."

Intervision begins on Sept. 20, branding itself as a "depoliticized" celebration of music. However, President Vladimir Putin personally appointed senior Kremlin officials to the competition's board and organizing committee.

Dozens of other countries are expected to participate in this year's competition.

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