

Fashion mogul Berge's radical chic library goes on sale

Revolutionary tomes by Karl Marx and the Russian anarchist Mikhail Bakunin from the library of one of the richest men in fashion go under the hammer today in Paris. The fourth part of the sale of the late style mogul Pierre Berge's collection of rare books—one of the richest in private hands—are expected to make several million euros. It includes a first edition of Bakunin's seminal "Statism and Anarchy" which was secretly printed in Switzerland in 1873, the only one of his books published during his lifetime.

It will be sold alongside a proof of his old rival Karl Marx's "Das Kapital" which includes the communist thinker's corrections. The publisher's contract for the work and letters between Marx and his French editor, his friend Friedrich Engels and the French proto-anarchist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon went for 1.7 million euros (\$1.9 million) at a separate sale by auctioneers Ader Nordmann's in Paris on Tuesday. The star lot in the Berge sale is likely to be the very first numbered print of a rare luxury edition of Marcel Proust's "Swann's Way", the first volume of his masterpiece, "Remembrance of Things Past".

Proust, Plutarch, Montaigne

With an asking price of between 600,000 and 800,000 euros it leads what auctioneers deemed a treasure trove of French literature bookended by a rare first edition of Jean Genet's sexually ex-

plicit "Funeral Rites" from 1953. Other expensive tomes in the Berge sale are likely to be a series of Renaissance masterpieces led by the first French translation of Plutarch's "Lives of the Noble Greeks and Romans" from 1508. Printed on parchment with 54 large painted illustrations, it is expected to make up to 600,000 euros.

Bidding for a 1580 first edition of French philosopher's Michel de Montaigne's "Essays" could go to around half a million euros. A 1542 copy of the landmark illustrated botanical work "Notable Commentaries on the History of Plants" by the Swiss naturalist Leonhart Fuchs has a similar estimate. "This fourth sale of his books reflects the Pierre Berge that we knew and loved," said antiquarian books expert Benoit Forgeot, who put the sale together with Sotheby's.

"It is the man interested by a thousand things—obviously literature his main passion—but also mythology, botany, gardens and politics," he told AFP. Berge, who founded the Yves Saint Laurent fashion house with the eponymous designer, his longtime lover, was a supporter of left-wing causes and gay rights. He died in September 2017 after making sure that his and Yves Saint Laurent's fortune would go to their philanthropic foundation. The vast art collection the couple put together was sold off in what was dubbed "the sale of the century" in 2009 for 340 million euros (\$409 million at the time). —AFP



In this file photo French businessman Pierre Berge poses at his office in Paris, France. — AFP

Faulkner marks decade in music with festive song

Newton Faulkner is marking a decade in music with the release of his new festive single 'Wish I Could Wake Up'. The 33-year-old singer/songwriter first came to attention with his hit song 'Dream Catch Me' in 2007 from his double platinum-selling debut LP 'Hand Built By Robots', and to mark 10 years of his signature percussive guitar-playing, the flame-haired star is putting out a romantic acoustic ballad.

Speaking about the inspiration for the track, Newton said: "This song's about wanting to wake up next to someone special at Christmas, and how that person can make any day, Christmas or not, seem so much better just by being there." As well as the single, Newton has also announced a Best Of album, 'The Very Best Of Newton Faulkner...So Far', comprised of his original material and covers including Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody'.

On the album, he said: "The Best Of feels like a real milestone, I'm so proud of it as a body of work and the second disc was so much fun to make. "I love the challenge of covering songs, which probably is reflected in my song choices. "For people that have seen me live before, there are some old favorites and there's also some tracks no one has ever heard me do." Newton will also head out on a UK and Ireland tour in support of the double-sided LP, kicking off on April 22 at Bournemouth's O2 Academy, before wrapping at Glasgow's Old Fruitmarket on May 6.

He said: "It's going to be awesome to be doing a tour where the challenge isn't to do as much new stuff as possible, but just to do the best set, with the best songs from any point in my career." 'Wish I Could Wake Up'



is out on Friday when tickets for the tour go on general from 9am from newtonfaulkner.com. 'The Very Best Of Newton Faulkner...So Far' is due to be released in March.

Newton Faulkner's 2019 tour dates are as follows:

- 22 April, Bournemouth - O2 Academy
- 23 April, Exeter - Great Hall
- 24 April, London - Palladium
- 26 April, Birmingham - O2 Institute
- 27 April, Liverpool - O2 Academy
- 29 April, Gateshead - Sage Gateshead
- 1 May, Leeds - Becketts Student Union
- 2 May, Dublin Academy
- 4 May, Manchester - Albert Hall
- 5 May, Leicester - De Montfort Hall
- 6 May, Glasgow - Old Fruitmarket — Bang Showbiz

The Fizz's Jay Aston says UK will never win Eurovision again

The Fizz star Jay Aston doesn't believe the UK can ever win the 'Eurovision Song Contest' ever again. Jay and her bandmates - Mike Nolan and Cheryl Baker and former member Bobby G - were crowned the winners of the annual competition back in 1981 when known as Bucks Fizz with their pop classic 'Making Your Mind Up', and their performance will always be remembered due to the skirt ripping dance routine.

Jay, 57, still watches Eurovision every year but she holds out no hope that a British representative will ever take home the prize again because our European cousins just won't give us the points needed for victory. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, she said: "I'm not sure we can win again, I think it would be miraculous if the UK could win. We have sent some good things over and we've always come in the bottom five. There's no way we would want to do it again, I wouldn't mind reading out the points though."

Although Jay is despondent about the UK's chances of winning again, she would like The Fizz to be part of BBC show 'Eurovision: You Decide' and help select the artist and track which will represent the UK when the competition heads to Israel in

2019. She said: "The Fizz should be on the panel to pick the song, for sure." The Fizz have just released their first ever festive album, 'Christmas With The Fizz', which is made up of covers of classic songs and a couple of original compositions. Jay - who this year overcame her battle with mouth cancer - admits producer Mike Stock was the driving force behind the LP and he encouraged the trio to pick their favorite songs for the album.

She said: "We'd spoken about doing a Christmas album for years and after we did our album last year with Mike Stock he was

the obvious person to do it with. We were recording a new album at the time, which we had got halfway through, and we went from that to record 'Jingle Bells' in May, which was quite fun. It was very hot in the studio but it was fun. "Mike essentially chose the tracks, but we all threw a few ideas in the hat but they were songs we liked and songs we wanted to cover. Mike wanted to do 'Mull of Kintyre' and we wanted to do 'White Christmas', because we'd done it live a few times. I think it's a really good album and I think it's come out great." —Bang Showbiz



Christmas With The Fizz