

By EUGENE PHELAN

FOUR young Limerick musicians were this week on the threshold of fame, following the news that they are signing a major record deal for an undisclosed six-figure sum.

The Cranberries will next week sign with Island Records who also have U2, Bob Marley and The Christians, on their books.

The record deal comes after months of chasing by several major international record companies for the signatures of the talented foursome; Fergal Lawlor, Parteen, Noel and Mike Hogan, Moyross and Dolores O'Riordan, Ballybricken.

Representatives of Warner Brothers, CBS, Sony, and Virgin were among those who tried to get The Cranberries to sign.

They have just completed a successful tour of England and their demo tapes were so impressive that music gurus have been camping on their doorstep.

Manager of the group, Pearse Gilmore, who runs Xeric Studios in Edward Street, believes that The Cranberries can be for Limerick what U2 were to Dublin.

"They have decided to base themselves entirely in Limer-



The Cranberries: hoping to put Limerick on the musical map at last. From left: Fergal Lawlor, Noel Hogan, Dolores O'Riordan and Mike Hogan.

ick and record all their albums and singles at Xeric Studios," he enthused.

The reaction from the music press to the Limerick group has been extremely encouraging. But then we had Tuesday Blue some years back, who almost made it to the big time, only to be dropped by their American record company.

"The reason Tuesday Blue did not make it was that they did not break into England. That is why the Cranberries will succeed. Already a second-

tour of England has been organised," said Pearse.

The recent tour included Norwich, Manchester, Newcastle, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Coventry, Oxford, Leeds, London, Northampton.

Also signing on the dotted line next week is Pearse Gilmore. He is being hired by Island Records to look for up and coming bands around the country.

Island are using his studio for recording, and have acquired £45,000 of studio credit

for use by Island artists from all over the world.

"The press reaction from English music tabloids such as N.M.E. and Melody Maker has been phenomenal with reviews and interviews due to be published next week," says Pearse, former frontman with Private World.

The Cranberries play Limerick Lark in the Park this Sunday. Their first release on Island will be EP scheduled for September, with an album coming in the New Year.