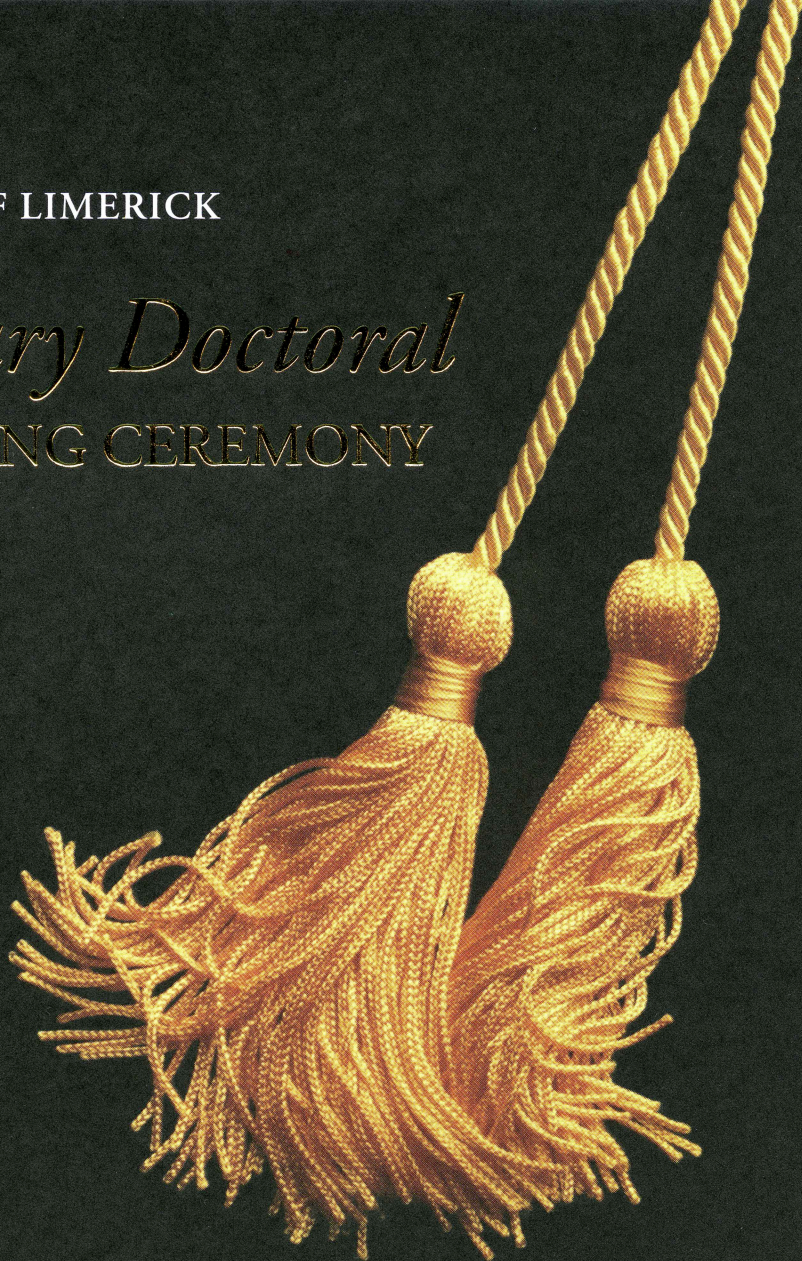


UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Honorary Doctoral
— CONFERRING CEREMONY

18 JANUARY 2019



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



Order of Proceedings

Academic Procession

Guests Rise

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Professor Kerstin Mey
*Vice President Academic Affairs &
Student Engagement*

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Ms Mary Harney
Chancellor

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Professor Eoin Devereux
Head, Department of Sociology

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*Vice President Academic Affairs &
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Guests Rise

Academic Procession

The Cranberries

Citation for Conferring of Honorary Doctor of Letters

Possibly one of the lesser-known facts about The Cranberries is that the band began life as The Cranberry Saw Us. What is better known is that all members of the group are indelibly associated with Limerick: vocalist and songwriter Dolores O'Riordan, guitarist and songwriter Noel Hogan, bassist Mike Hogan (Noel's brother) and drummer Fergal Lawler. The Cranberries' early Limerick performances in 1990 included gigs at The Flag Café, Broad Street; Ruby's Nightclub in Cruises Hotel and the Stables Bar at the University of Limerick.

Today, 29 years later, we are delighted to welcome Noel, Mike and Fergal back to the campus to acknowledge and honour their phenomenal achievements in the music industry and to mark the life and work of their friend and sister in music, Dolores O'Riordan.

Renowned for their trademark 'Indie' guitar sound and distinctive Celtic-tinged lilting vocal style, The Cranberries' rise to fame in the early 1990s was nothing short of meteoric. Released in 1993, their debut album, *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?*, sold over five million copies in the USA alone and was number 1 in several countries, including the UK. With the release of four more albums – *No Need to Argue*, *To the Faithful Departed*, *Bury the Hatchet* and *Wake Up and Smell the Coffee* – and numerous number 1 singles, including *Linger*, *Dreams* and *Zombie*, the band achieved significant commercial and critical success around the world over the course of the next ten years.



Dolores O'Riordan made a unique contribution to popular music. Her distinctive voice carried resonances from her experiences of church singing, her school choir, country and western, traditional Irish ballads and songs in both Gaelic and English. Dolores's voice carried strong traces of the 'Sean Nós' (old style) Gaelic tradition of unaccompanied singing that so beautifully conveys sadness, regret and loneliness.

Between 1994 and 2004, The Cranberries repeatedly toured the world and played to crowds in excess of 18,000. On their 1995 tour of the UK and continental Europe, the band performed for over 500,000 people. As well as instantly recognising their distinctive sound on the radio, chances are that everybody here today has felt that little surge of pride when hearing a Cranberries track in a movie – *Prêt-à-Porter*, *The Next Karate Kid*, *Clueless*, *Boys On the Side*, *Mission Impossible*,

You've Got Mail – or a television series – *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Malibu Shores*, *Charmed*, *The Sopranos*. Not surprisingly, their songs have also been used by Bord Fáilte to promote Irish tourism, and in August of last year, *Dreams* was played to welcome the victorious Limerick Senior Hurling Team back to the city.

In 2009, following a five-year period in which they took time out to pursue individual projects, The Cranberries reunited to perform on the occasion of the induction of Dolores O'Riordan as an honorary patron of Trinity College's Philosophical Society. Having enjoyed the experience so much, the band embarked on a sell-out world tour and subsequently went on to record a sixth studio album, *Roses*, in April 2012. Later that year, The Cranberries performed in China, Japan, The Philippines, Australia and New Zealand as well as continental Europe, the UK and the USA, and in 2016, they played a series of sold-out European shows in Poland, France and Switzerland. As a measure of their continuing popularity, the band has over four million followers on Facebook and over two million listens per month on Spotify. Eight of the band's singles are listed in the prestigious Modern Rock Track charts and, to date, four of their six studio albums have been in the Top 20 US Billboard charts.

The Cranberries are strongly associated with Limerick. With sales in excess of 40 million records worldwide, the band has contributed significantly to the local economy and cultural industries. They located their international business operations here and have quietly contributed to the civic life of the city of Limerick and its environs through numerous charitable activities. Individual band members have mentored younger and less-experienced musicians in the region, working with them as producers, sharing their vast knowledge of the music industry and providing them with recording infrastructure. Perhaps the greatest manifestation of The Cranberries' dedication to their hometown was seen in their performance as the headline act at the opening of the Special Olympics in Thomond Park in 2010. On that evening, Dolores O'Riordan told the

22,000-strong audience that anything is possible if you have a dream. She said that The Cranberries had a dream when they started the band as teenagers 20 years ago in Limerick and that they never stopped following that dream.

In early 2017, The Cranberries recorded *Something Else* with a string quartet from the Irish Chamber Orchestra in the ICO studios at the University of Limerick. The album featured string arrangements of the band's classic songs as well as new compositions. The seeds of this special collaboration were sown when Dolores was accompanied by the ICO in an exhilarating performance on New Year's Eve 2013 at Merchant's Quay to launch Limerick City of Culture 2014.

The Cranberries have many earlier connections with the University of Limerick. As well as their gigs at the Stables, it was at a Students' Union concert in Limerick that they were offered a multi-million-pound recording and publishing deal with Island Records. In 1995, they performed in the Foundation Building at the Limerick launch of ESAT Digifone, and their major Irish homecoming concert was organised by the Students' Union. More recently, Noel Hogan lent his support as a participant at the UL-organised symposium on the singer Morrissey and has contributed to a collection of scholarly essays edited by the university's Popular Music and Popular Culture Research Cluster. It is therefore both timely and fitting that a Limerick-based university so committed to promoting culture and the performing arts chooses to honour the globally significant achievements of four of Limerick's citizens. Noel, Mike, Fergal and members of the O'Riordan family, we are delighted to honour you and Dolores here today.

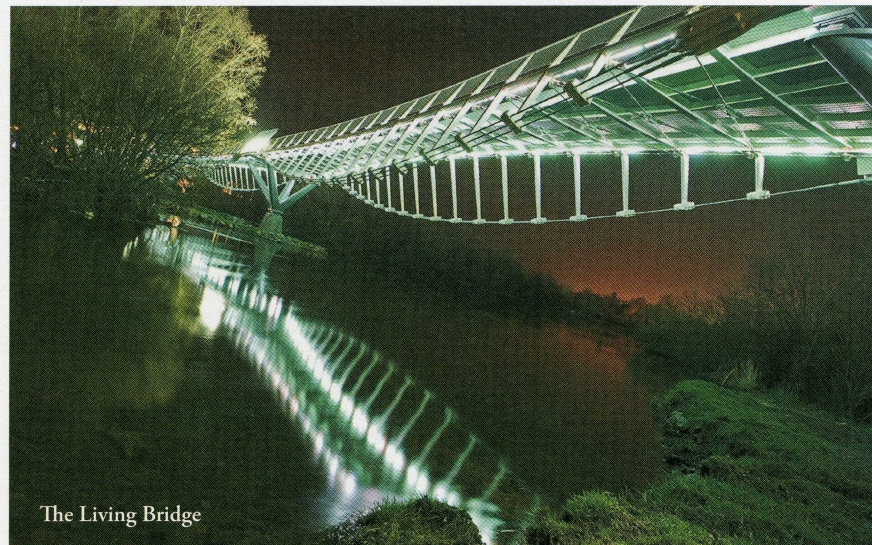
President, I present to you The Cranberries and ask that you confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters upon Noel Hogan, Mike Hogan and Fergal Lawler and upon Dolores O'Riordan (posthumously).





Presenting the University of Limerick

Since its foundation, the University of Limerick has upheld the principles of free enquiry and expression, has actively encouraged innovation in its teaching, research and scholarship, and has promoted learning and knowledge relevant to the nation's social and economic needs.



The Living Bridge

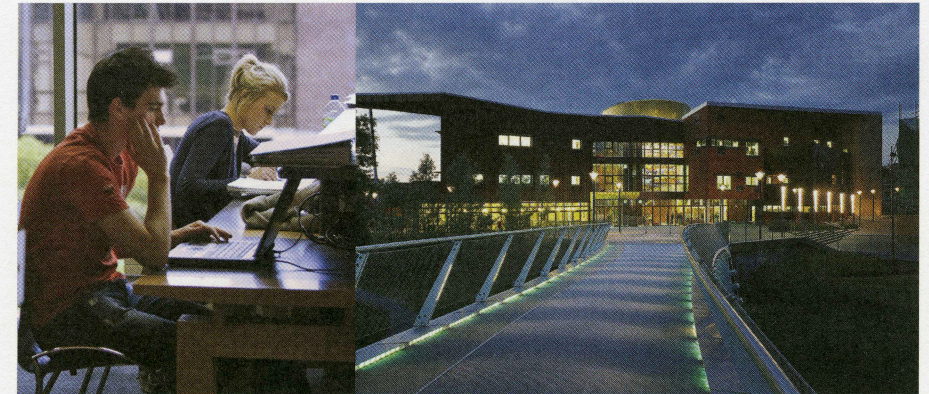
With its fine parklands gently embracing both banks of the River Shannon, the natural beauty of the Plassey campus has helped to generate a civilised and generous context for our educational enterprise. Through this rich physical, intellectual and innovative environment, the university has continued to attract an international team of talented teachers and researchers. The flourishing of UL as an educational institution of true excellence and well-proven relevance has led to its recognition as a centre for significant development in the region. The growth of the university has benefited both the National Technology Park, home to many research, development and manufacturing partners, and Limerick city, which is enjoying its resurgence as a leading Irish city.

The University of Limerick takes great pride in the breadth of its student population – it opened its doors to 15,000 students this year, including students from the United States, Canada, Latin America, the Continent, Asia and Africa and a growing number of part-time students who combine study with work. From the outset, UL has taken the dynamically changing world beyond the campus as the essential guide for its future direction. Our Cooperative Education programme, one of the largest of its kind in the EU, is one example of how the university connects to the world beyond its gates. Each year the programme places close to 2,000 students in paid work experience in industry, business and the professions. UL participates actively in the Erasmus+ programme, which facilitates student and staff mobility to other institutions in the EU; we send and receive more Erasmus students than any other Irish institution. Our commitment to international mobility is further reflected in degree courses that offer an integrated semester at a partner university.

UL comprises four faculties: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Kemmy Business School; Education and Health Sciences; and Science and Engineering. Our academic programmes are research oriented and foster problem-based learning. They nurture critical and creative thinking, stimulate inquisitiveness and the imagination and foster lifelong learning. The academic affairs of the university are controlled by Academic Council, whose membership includes academic staff, senior officers and student representatives. Academic Council is responsible for the accreditation and review of programmes, academic regulations, marks and standards, academic awards and quality assurance. UL accredits programmes delivered in a number of other institutions, including Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Institute of Technology and the Garda College, Templemore.



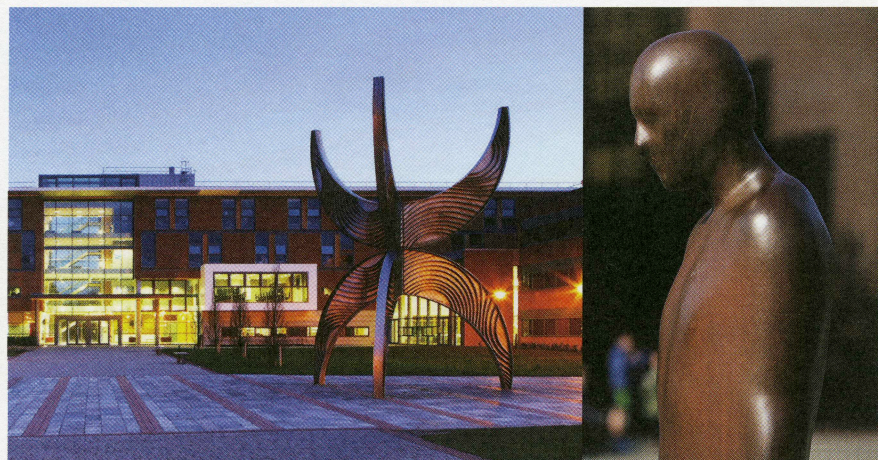
The University of Limerick is located along the River Shannon.



UL's research community is committed to the pursuit of excellence in the generation of new knowledge that has a global impact. We pride ourselves on a reputation for delivering research that makes a difference across industry, society, culture and the economy. The university is recognised for world-leading achievements in the areas of materials, advanced manufacturing, software, health and applied mathematical sciences.

Research at the university is reinforced by the ongoing development of interdisciplinary research institutes, centres and units and through collaboration with international academic and industrial partners. UL currently has three multidisciplinary institutes: the Bernal Institute, the Health Research Institute and Lero – the Irish Software Research Centre, as well as a number of externally funded specialist research centres. UL researchers have attracted in excess of €215 million in funding awards in the past five years.

The UL campus incorporates the most modern recreational, sporting and coaching facilities, including the University Arena. The growing north campus hosts the Sports Pavilion, all-weather sports pitches, Thomond and Cappavilla student villages and the Quigley student residences. It features iconic buildings for Health



Sciences, the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and the Graduate Entry Medical School. Linking the north and south campuses, the unique Living Bridge has become a principal attraction for visitors from near and far. The arts have been a central point of reference for the university. Major art and sculpture collections throughout the campus stimulate the working environment and encourage contemplation and appreciation. Situated in the Foundation Building, the Bourn Vincent Gallery is dedicated to contemporary exhibitions. The University Concert Hall, where conferring ceremonies take place, hosts a variety of events all year round. UL is home to the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Association of Irish Choirs. Regular performances by these groups and their guests are a feature of campus life.

Above all else, it is the quality of our graduates and of the education we provide that remains our central concern. UL graduates are the university's true ambassadors, and their endeavours beyond the campus will be the most enduring testimony to our achievements.



Plassey House, University of Limerick



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