

# Cranberries lead singer in Taiwan for 'Listening'



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Famed Irish singer/songwriter Dolores O'Riordan performs during an announcement of her new solo album entitled 'Are You Listening?' Monday, April 23,

Dressed in her favorite color - black - Dolores O'Riordan, vocalist and songwriter of the Irish alternative rock band The Cranberries, yesterday appeared in Taipei to promote her solo debut album "Are you Listening?" - created during a four-year break from a busy tour schedule.

"I was 18 when I joined the Cranberries. For 14 years, I never actually took any time off. I finally got the chance to enjoy ordinary days and an ordinary life," O'Riordan said.

O'Riordan was referring to one of the songs, "Ordinary Day" of the new album "Are You Listening?," which is expected to be released on May 8 worldwide. The song is among one of the three songs that O'Riordan played live during yesterday's press conference. The other two songs she performed live were an old hit "Linger," and another new track "Angel Fire."

When asked by reporters how she has managed to maintain her voice in the best condition over the years, O'Riordan said with a beaming smile that "it is a gift that I was given." She disclosed that she uses steaming machines to keep her throat moist.

O'Riordan said that she has a deep following in Asia despite the fact that it has been 10 years since the band held a live concert in Taiwan. She said Taiwan's food, in particular, attracts her the most. Shumais, ginger bean curd pudding, and "milk tea with pearl" are her favorites.

Taiwan is the first of the three Asian stops that are included in O'Riordan's album promotion tour. She made a brief stop in Taiwan and will leave today for Hong Kong. She said in the news conference that she looks forward to holding a concert in Taiwan in the near future, and that she will sing old hits as well as songs from the new album.

The Cranberries rose to mainstream popularity in the 1990s after famous lush ballad "Linger" made a huge hit in the United States and then achieve major success in the United Kingdom. O'Riordan's distinctive, powerful voice leaves a unique impression on fans of The Cranberries whenever the band's music is played on air.

The Cranberries quickly became international stars, as both the 1993 debut album, "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?" and its 1994 follow-up, "No Need to Argue" sold millions of copies worldwide and produced a string of hit singles.

Despite the Cranberries not having officially disbanded, they have been on a hiatus since 2005.

Famous Cantonese singer Faye Wang (王菲) is said to be a big fan of The Cranberries, and that her music style is influenced by the band.