

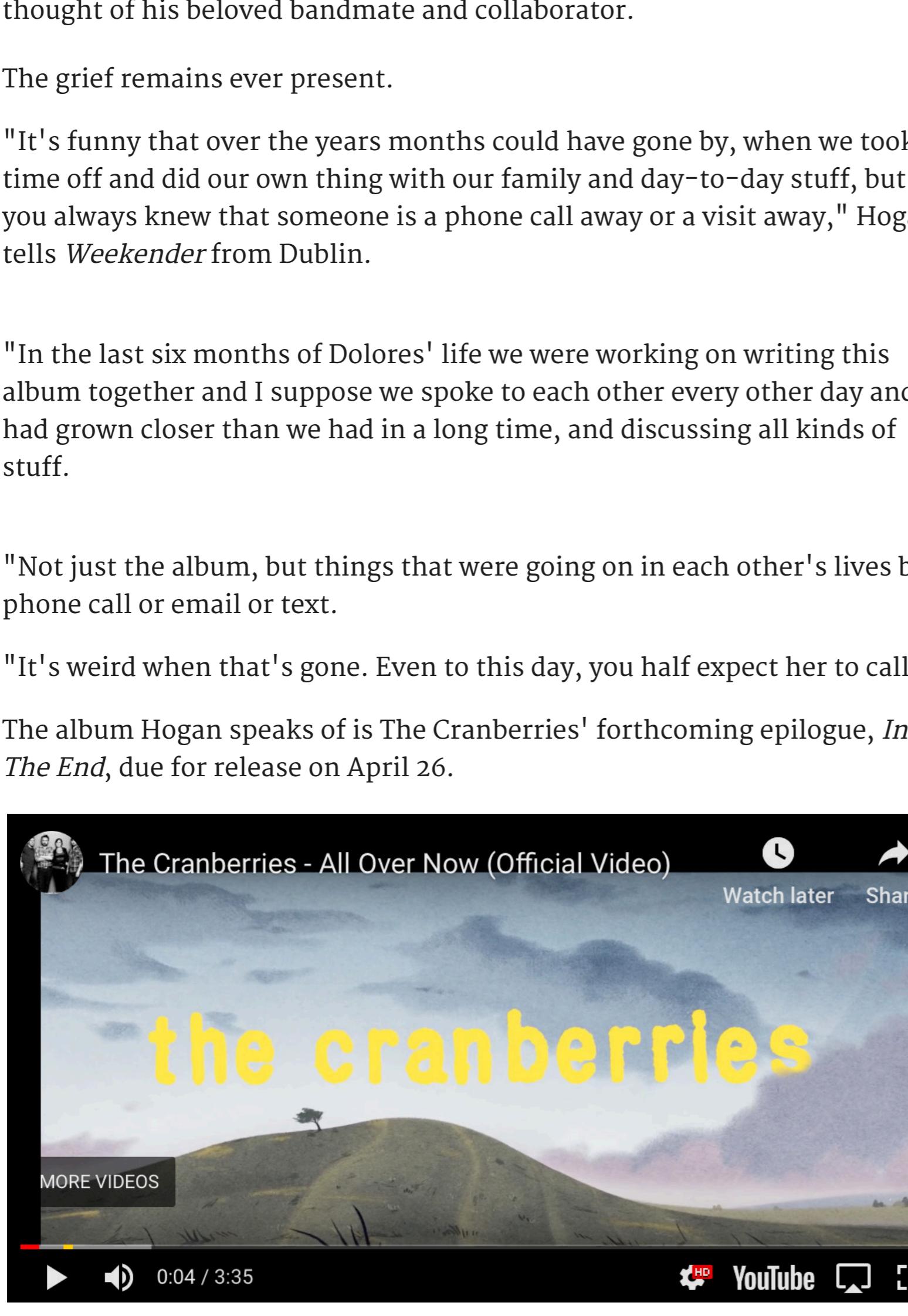
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The Cranberries prepare to farewell Dolores O'Riordan and fans with final album

Josh Leeson

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DREAM DAYS: The Cranberries in their mid '90s prime when Zombie topped the ARIA singles chart.

THERE are moments when The Cranberries guitarist Noel Hogan spots a woman from behind, and for a split second, believes it's Dolores O'Riordan.

Not a day has passed since January 15 last year, when [the 46-year-old O'Riordan was found drowned in a London hotel bathtub](#), that Hogan hasn't thought of his beloved bandmate and collaborator.

The grief remains ever present.

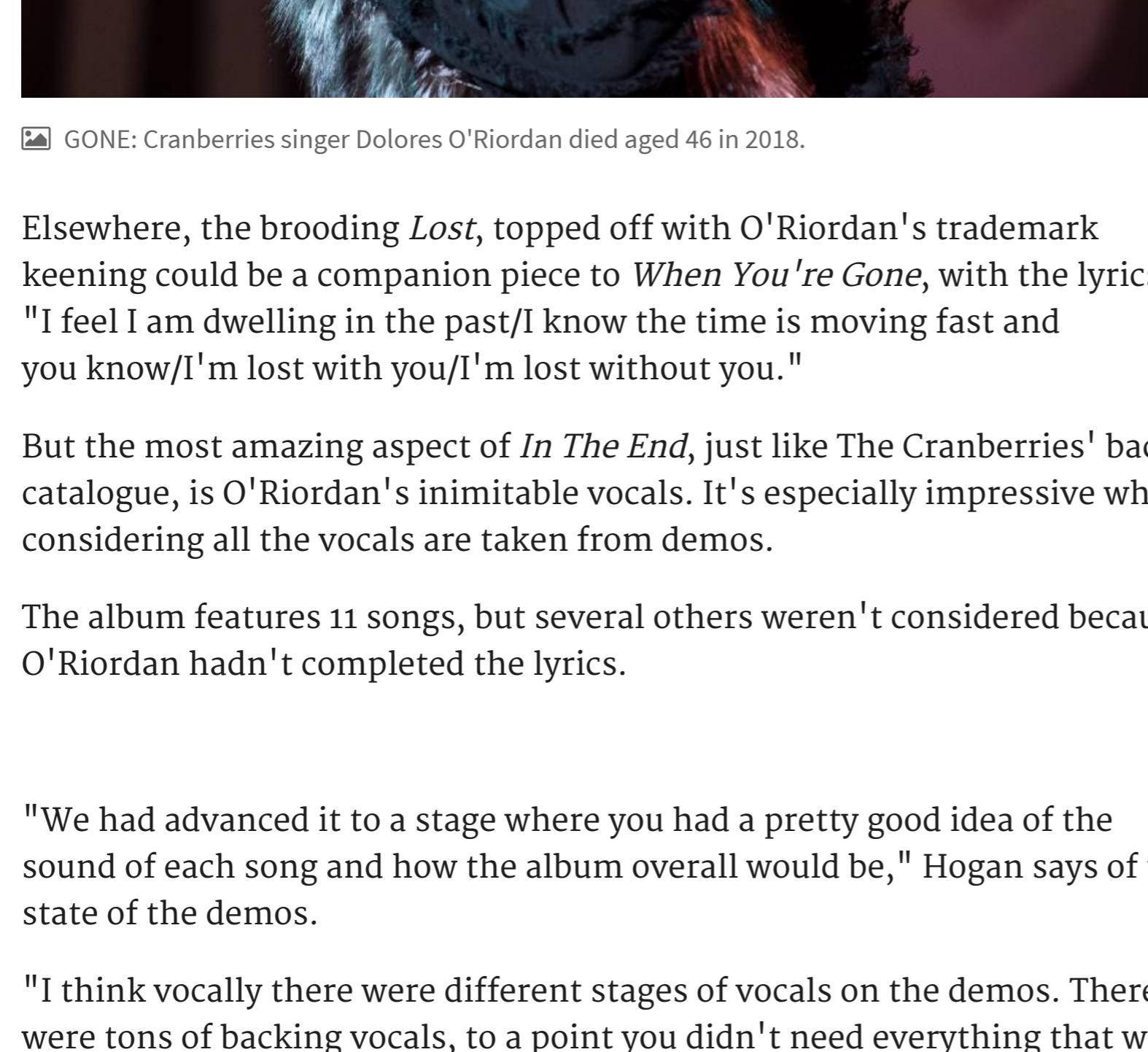
"It's funny that over the years months could have gone by, when we took time off and did our own thing with our family and day-to-day stuff, but you always knew that someone is a phone call away or a visit away," Hogan tells *Weekender* from Dublin.

"In the last six months of Dolores' life we were working on writing this album together and I suppose we spoke to each other every other day and had grown closer than we had in a long time, and discussing all kinds of stuff."

"Not just the album, but things that were going on in each other's lives by phone call or email or text."

"It's weird when that's gone. Even to this day, you half expect her to call."

The album Hogan speaks of is The Cranberries' forthcoming epilogue, *In The End*, due for release on April 26.



The Cranberries - All Over Now

Hogan and fellow Cranberries Mike Hogan (bass) and Fergal Lawler (drums) spent most of last year working on a batch of demos O'Riordan had recorded for a future album in the months prior to her death.

Given the massive success the Irish alternative rock band enjoyed in their '90s prime with songs like *Linger*, *Dreams*, *Zombie* and *Ode To My Family* that catapulted them to sales in excess of 40 million records, the surviving members felt immense pressure to deliver a fitting tribute to O'Riordan.

Hogan admits he spent many nights awake wondering what O'Riordan would think of the finished product.

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"We had agreed between the three of us and Stephen Street, who produced it, that if we get to the point where only two or three [songs] are good, we'll release just two or three and forget about the album," he says.

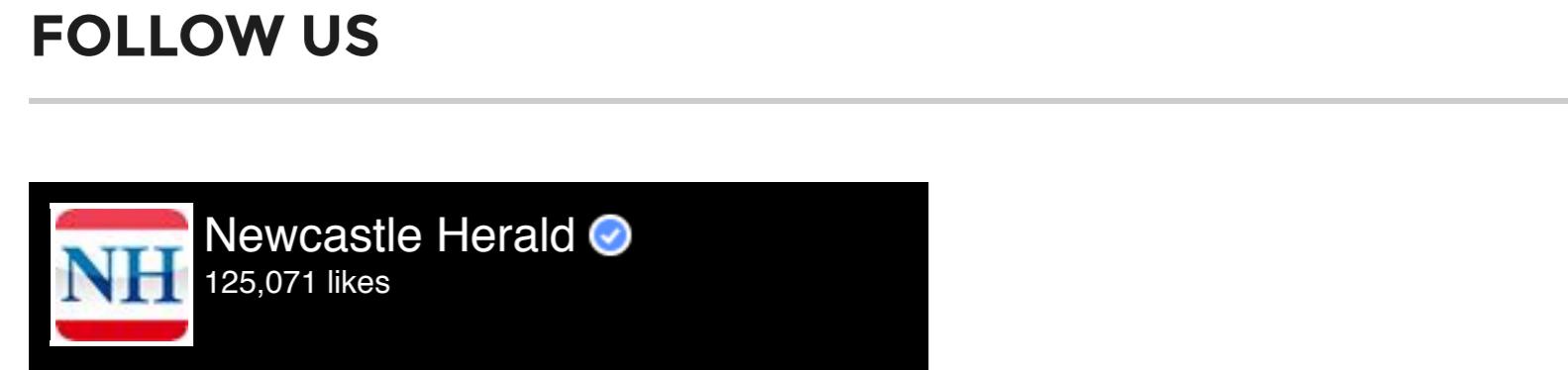
"The worry was you end up destroying the legacy of the band at the end and people go, 'they're only doing it to make more money', or whatever it might be."

"Now that's human nature. People do that and people say that. We just had to stay true to what it was we went in there to do."

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But the most amazing aspect of *In The End*, just like The Cranberries' back catalogue, is O'Riordan's inimitable vocals. It's especially impressive when considering all the vocals are taken from demos.

The album features 11 songs, but several others weren't considered because O'Riordan hadn't completed the lyrics.

"We had advanced it to a stage where you had a pretty good idea of the sound of each song and how the album overall would be," Hogan says of the state of the demos.

"I think vocally there were different stages of vocals on the demos. There were tons of backing vocals, to a point you didn't need everything that was on there."

"Then others there wasn't as much. I think we managed to fit the songs around what we had. We followed the vocal more in the studio, rather than 'let's rock this one out and Dolores can come in and re-do it later'. That wasn't an option."

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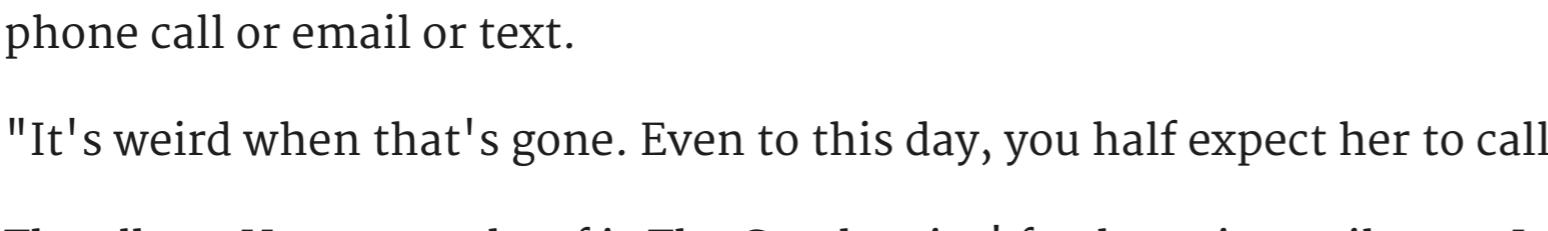
The Cranberries - Zombie

That, Hogan says, will be the legacy of The Cranberries.

"It's the music, it's as simple as that," he says. "People will forget the band – as they do – but when the songs come on they'll remember them and think, 'that reminds me of when I was in college or my childhood'."

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SALVATION: The surviving Cranberries completed Dolores O'Riordan's demos.

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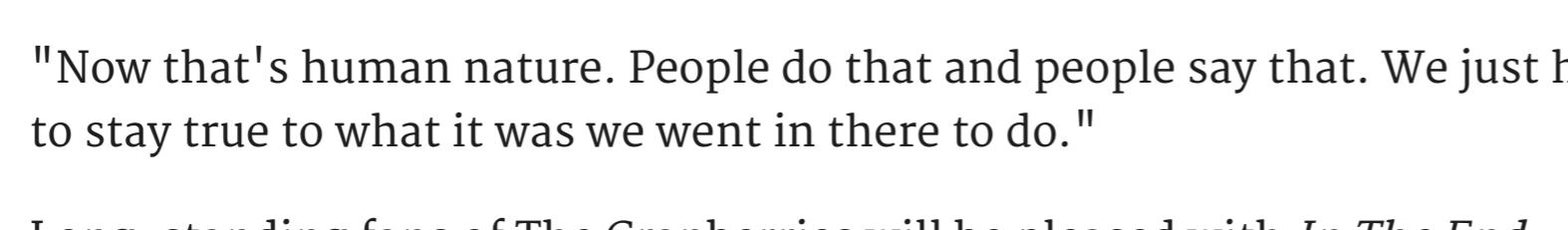
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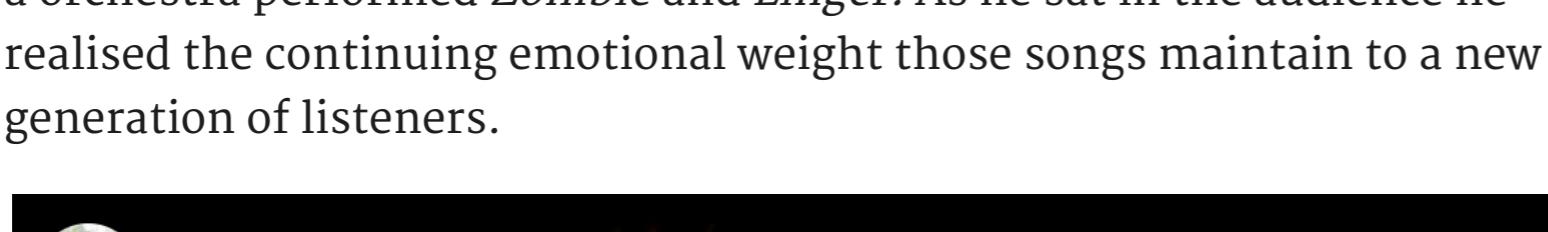
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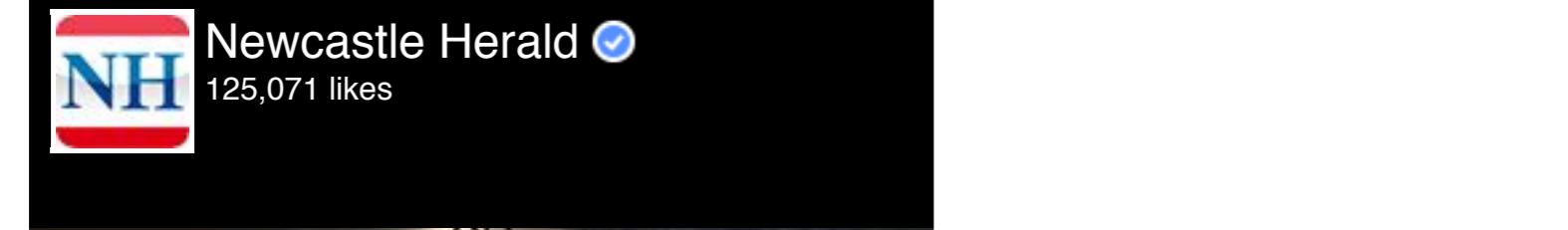
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