

# 'MAKES IT HURT' The Cranberries reveal fans will hear 'depth and an earnestness' in Dolores O'Riordan's voice that harks back to her mid-1990s style in final album

Fergal Lawler and brothers Noel and Mike Hogan will next week release the album *In The End* just over a year since the untimely death of their beloved pal and bandmate Dolores in January 2018

By **Dave Donnelly**

19th April 2019, 7:30 am | Updated: 19th April 2019, 7:30 am

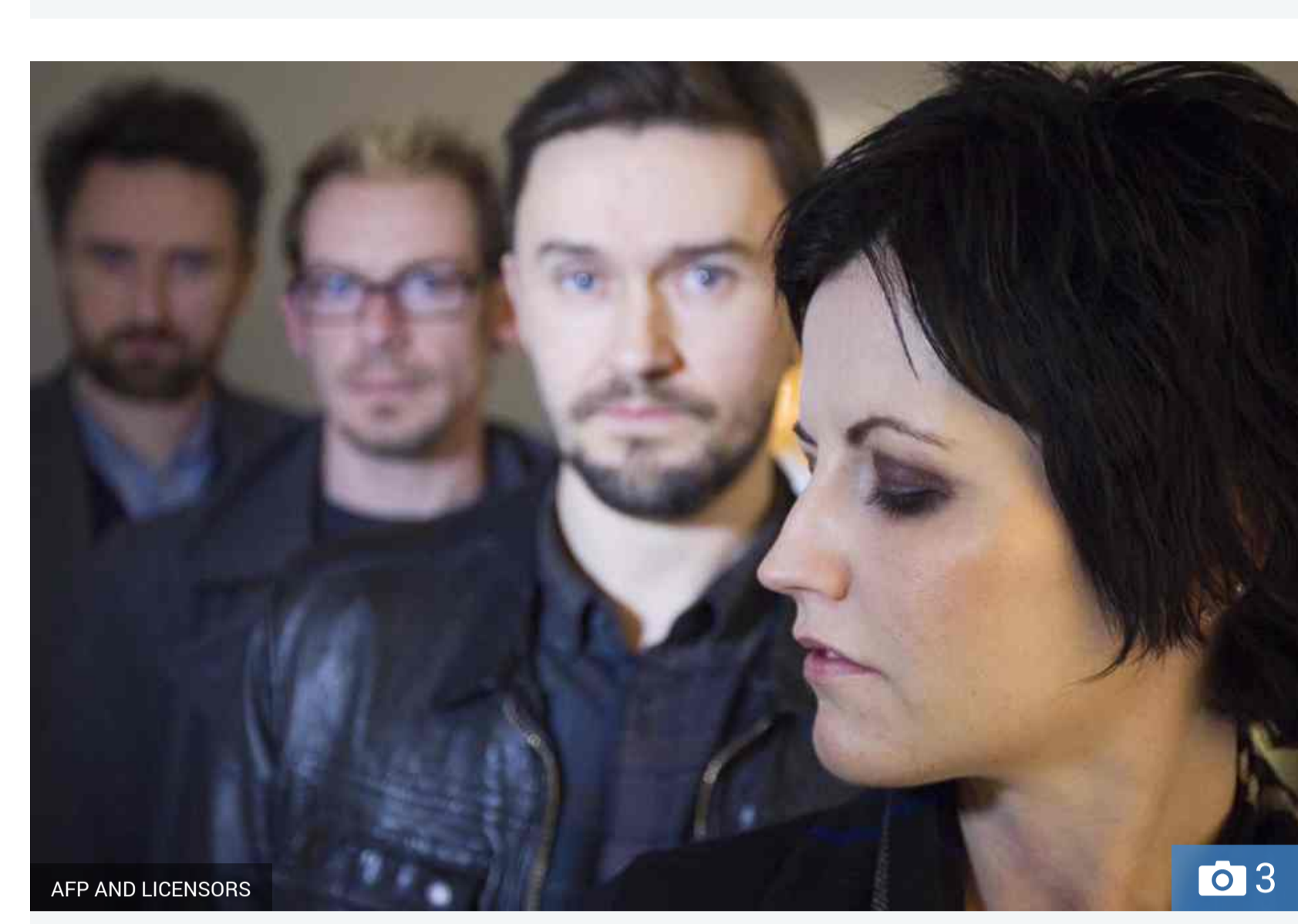


"I THINK we were still pretty much in shock," says Fergal Lawler.

Barely three months had passed since Dolores O'Riordan's [sudden death at the age of 46](#) had stunned the music world.



Dolores O'Riordan died aged 46



Dolores, right, with, from left, Noel Hogan, Fergal Lawler and Mike Hogan

For the three people she'd been closest to for more than half of her life — Lawler and brothers Noel and Mike Hogan — it was a case of finding a way to get by as they grieved.

The remaining members of The Cranberries sought to find some measure of closure for their friend the only way that made sense to them — by going into the studio to record.

The result is *In The End*, the final recorded action of O'Riordan and the last thing the biggest band ever to come out of [Limerick](#) would commit to tape.

"It was April when we went into the studio," Fergal tells *Something for the Weekend*. "It was only a few months after she passed away."

"I think it was a good idea to go in then, when we were all feeling emotionally-charged. That does come across."

"We really focused on what we were doing and felt it had to be really good, for her. You don't want to f\*\*\*ing make a balls of it."

Mike adds: "I think if we waited a year to do it, it wouldn't be the same. The emotion wouldn't be there."

"It wouldn't have come across as good either. I think we knew after a week we were in there that it was good and we kept going."

Guitarist Noel is perhaps the closest of the band to Dolores in the sense they wrote the bulk of the songs together before bringing them to the group.

## 'AFTER THE FUNERAL...WE STARTED THIS PROCESS OF LISTENING THROUGH THE DEMOS'

"It's hard to imagine that time without us doing this album," he says.

"It helped us. We noticed it at the time. You wonder how you would have handled it. About a month after the funeral is when we started this process of listening through the demos."

"I guess it slightly distracted you from all the other things that were going on. You had this focus and we knew we were going to go in in April and record."

"You were getting used to the idea that she wasn't around anymore, but also we'd been living with this and focusing on this, and it was like a therapy for us."

"It helped us accept that she wasn't here anymore. It also helped us to bring closure to the band. It's nice that we had this album to say goodbye and put it out there."

"Otherwise the band would have finished on the 15th of January last year — that would have been it."

There's a hard edge to the songs that harks back to the band's heavier mid-90s material, with lead single *Wake Me When It's Over*, for instance, evoking the style of the classic *Zombie*.

There is a depth and an earnestness to many of the tracks too that will be more familiar to those who fell in love with the band's 1990 debut *Everybody Else Is Doing It So Why Can't We?*

As Fergal notes: "Dolores' voice [on the album] is quite soft and innocent. "There's an innocence there. It had been lost a little bit because she had got into singing live and being more aggressive with her voice."

Dolores and Noel had been sending material back-and-forth across the Atlantic from Limerick to New York, where O'Riordan lived, for months before her untimely passing.

## 'SHE WAS IN REALLY GOOD SPIRITS IN NEW YORK'

A persistent back problem forced her off tour, so she enthusiastically took to writing as — in a tragic twist of irony — she was in the best place emotionally and mentally that she had been for years.

"There's a lot of discussion about things ending and coming to an end," says Noel. "A lot of that is to do with her own personal life. She had well-documented mental health problems and she was getting divorced, and a lot of that was behind her, was how she felt that summer. She was in really good spirits in New York. The hard times, if you want to call them that, were behind her."

"She was saying, 'I have tonnes to say now — I've been through so much in the last three years so let's do this album when the stuff is fresh in my head.'"

"There's a common thread of things ending and coming to a conclusion. "I think people will read a bit more into it, unfortunately, based on what happened."

"Her attitude was very much 'I'm moving on from that now.' She was very excited about this album — and that is why we wanted to finish it — and going back and touring."

He continues: "That's what makes it harder to accept. When you get that phone call and you're going, 'I can't believe this.'"

"She'd been in a good place for so long, and in high spirits, that it hurts that little bit more that she didn't get to live that longer."

"It's like someone made a mistake. Those first few days, you're thinking the phone is going to ring and someone is going to say there's been a big mix-up and she's fine."

"You know in your heart and soul that's not going to happen, but your mind races trying to make sense of it all. Even now, there are days when it doesn't seem real."

"I imagine anyone who loses a friend or family member, that's got to be what goes through your head. Thankfully, we've had this to lean on."

"There's Dolores the public Dolores, and then there's Dolores our friend. "We lived in each other's pockets for 30 years, so it's weird not having her there."

"Even though you might have gone through spells of not speaking to each other, because you have your own lives, and a few weeks go by, but you know someone is on the end of a phone or email."

"That's very hard to sink in still. In those few years before Dolores passed away, there had been a lot of celebrities who passed away, like David Bowie."

## MOST READ IN NEWS

- DEAD MAN WOKING** Mobsters chow down on takeaway's turf in Mr Flashy's turf before shooting
- WALL BUSTERS** Four more ATMs stolen after they were ripped from walls in Kells and the North
- TERROR MURDER** Young journalist shot dead in Derry by masked gunman as cops blame New IRA
- PAY UP OR LOSE** CAR Drivers caught without car tax paid will soon be able to pay on the spot

"Little did we think, looking at that going 'that's terrible,' that you're going to be in that position in five months' time."

"When it hits you, it's really hard to explain how much it hits you."

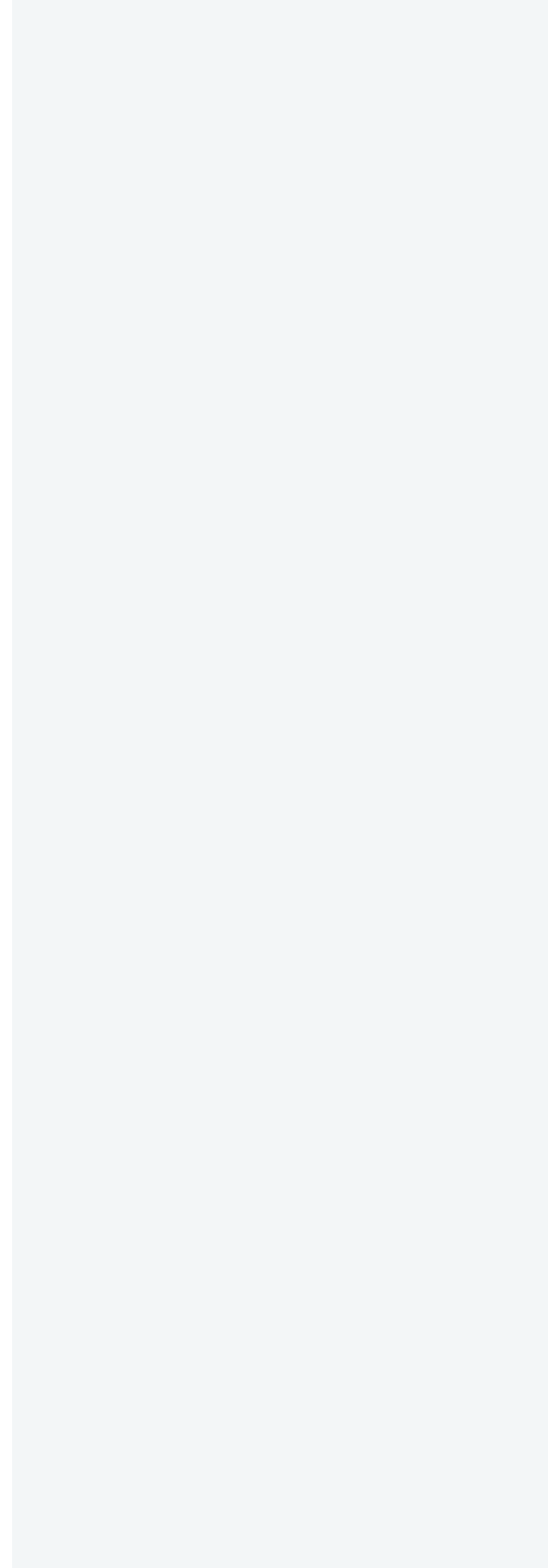
*In The End* is released next Friday, April 26.



*In The End*

## TOPICS

- Dolores O'Riordan
- Limerick



## MORE FROM THE SUN

by Taboola



### BONO IN THE HOUSE U2 star Bono and wife Ali attend Nancy Pelosi's speech to Dail chamber

The Irish Sun



### LOWDOWN What is Tiger Woods net worth, how many majors has he won and who is his girlfriend?

The Irish Sun

