

Catch Eamon Carr's six o'clock report, Sundays, 6-7pm

## Lir go on the Warpath

**M**AKE WAR not love seems to be Lir's motto for '94. The hotly-tipped Irish band who've been picking up critical acclaim for their debut indie album, *Magico Magico* have signed to a hot young American company called War.

The band are expected to announce details of the signing early in the new year. However, War is an aggressive marketing company which specialises in working with touring bands.

Lir are an accomplished live act and have already made several visits to the States under their own steam.

As part of the new arrangement, Lir are expected to move to the States, probably to work the lucrative college circuit.

It's expected the band won't neglect their Irish fans. One insider says, "They'll come back to Ireland every five or six months for a few weeks' touring."

**STEPHEN Ryan and Don Ryan of The Revenants have been invited to play an acoustic set as opening act on The Cranberries' homecoming gigs tonight in Limerick and tomorrow in The Tivoli. . . . Techno act Mad Sound Disease are staging In Excelcius, a dance party with DJs Liam Dollard and Dave McDonnell, at the Head Gallery tonight. . . . At An Beal Bocht on Sunday, Hada To Hada will be celebrating the fact that their album, not out here until next month, is selling well in Germany and Scandinavia. . . . The Blue Angels, who feature on the HMV Unplugged album, promise a new harder sound when they play the Rock Garden tomorrow night.**



LIR: new record deal with War

# Catch the free

# beer vibe!

**T**HIS is it. The dance party you thought could never happen!

Next Tuesday night at The Rock Garden there's a special Christmas Beats, Beats And More Beats dance party with a stunning all-star cast of DJs. And admission is FREE to readers of The Rap!

On what promises to be a truly outrageous kaleidoscope of grooves, a crack team of Gardening Club jocks will be dropping beats from 11.30pm until 2.30am.

Already confirmed for stints on the wheels of steel are Claire and The Congo Lizard from Monday's Ju-Ju Club, Pat Best from Big Wednesday, Francoise from Friday's UFO and Aoife from Saturday's Juicy Fruit.

### Rebellion

Also set to blast a few speakers is Tony Walsh of The Hot Tribe.

If there's room on such a brilliant line-up you might even catch me slipping the mats on some garage cuts and some rap imports. Wild 'n' crazy guy, or what!



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It'll be an eclectic evening with floor-fillers from everybody from Dr. Alban to Underground Rebellion and all points in between.

Here's the deal. Rip this piece out of your *Evening Herald*, bring it along

on the night and not only will you get in FREE but you'll also get a FREE glass of Heineken to help lubricate your vibes.

Three hours of pum-pin', thumpin', funk'n' sounds to set you up for Christmas and into the year beyond. The Rap at The Rock Garden on Tuesday night. Dare you miss it?

**Dr ALBAN: his tracks will be filling the floor at the Rock Garden**



DOMINGO: good Lucia Di Lammermoor

## The 'twofer' is a singular success

**T**O some this has been the year of Gorecki's No. 3, but it was a great one all-round for classical music on CD.

Not only were there more releases than last year but they often gave better value: for example, the year saw the growing popularity of the budget Naxos label (average price £5.49) while the record companies also introduced the "twofer," a two-CD set for the price of one.

The year also saw improvements in sound quality with DG's 4D and Sony's 20-Bit technology systems giving CDs a new degree of realism.

But to the discs of the year, and to the CD which swept every award in the book, Anne Sofie Von Otter's disc of songs by Grieg. (DG £14.99)

Grieg's songs have had a bad press — too insubstantial say some — but this disc proves that they are filled with gorgeous melodies and Von Otter's radiant voice does them full justice.

New opera sets were of mixed quality but there was a good Lucia Di Lammermoor from Placido Domingo and Cheryl Studer and DG's new set of Handel's *Semele* was very enjoyable.

In the end, my favorite new opera set

### CLASSIC CDS

#### Peter Howick

was Rossini's fizzling *La Cenerentola* (Decca £29.99, two CDs) featuring the vivacious mezzo Cecilia Bartoli, a clear first choice for an opera which, I reckon, rivals *The Barber Of Seville*.

Bartoli also made a wonderful album of Italian songs by composers such as Beethoven, Schubert and Haydn (Decca £14.99.)

For serious collectors of classical songs, the year's highlight came when DG released its treasure trove of Schubert recordings by baritone Dietrich Fischer Dieskau and pianist Gerald Moore. This comprised of two nine-CD volumes at £51 each and a triple CD set of the song cycles at £29.99.

It was a good year for Schubert devotees. Nicolas Harnoncourt dusted the cobwebs off Schubert's symphonies with searching, energetic versions in a worthy follow up to his award-winning complete Beethoven set. The four-CD Schubert set costs £60.

There were so many superb re-releases from times past I don't know where to start. There was a magnificent 1950 Fidelio from

Saltzburg with Wilhelm Furtwangler, (EMI £19.99, two CDs) and a legendary 1951 Parsifal from Bayreuth conducted by Hans Knappertsbusch. (Teldec £35, 4 CDs)

Recordings standards were sometimes higher in the 1950s as well, as demonstrated by the version of Richard Strauss's *Also Sprach Zarathustra* by Fritz Reiner (RCA £9.99). This was recorded in 1954 but you'd never know it: the vivid sound almost matches the demonstration standard of today. The performance, needless to say, is tremendous.

Another '50s disc, Irmgard Seefried Sings Lieder (DG £19.99, 2 CDs) has one of the loveliest voices of the century singing songs by Schubert, Schumann and others. A desert island disc for me and other Seefried fans.

Broadway fans licked their lips over the new recording of Leonard Bernstein's early work, *On The Town* (DG £14.99). The high-powered conducting by Michael Tilson Thomas evoked Bernstein at his best.

Finally to the best value disc of the year, Philips 'twofer' of Mozart's five violin concertos by Arthur Grumiaux and conductor Colin Davis. These are perhaps the best Mozart violin concertos in the catalogue and is a steal at £14.99 for two CDs.