

your FEATURED SELECTION

The Cranberries Jo The Faithful Departed

Selected By Senior Music Editor Ron Sacks

The thing that I've always respected about Irish artists is that they aren't afraid to wear their politics on their sleeves. They don't hide behind flowery metaphors, they just belt out

latest release, "To The Faithful Departed," is such a biting, unforgettable affair.

Like the Cranberries'

the guitars and quickens the tempo for an

Salvation

Hollywood

I'm Still Remembering

Will You Remember? • Joe • Bosnia

edgy sound that perfectly fleshes out Dolores' vivid lyrical imagery, as on the first single, Salvation. The song speeds along at a heartpumping pace while lines like "To all the kids with heroin eyes/don't do it/'cause it's not

> what it seems" drive the point home with all the subtlety of a sledgehammer. Free To Decide is a soaring mid-tempo number with a buoyant melody that rises above the pop/rock ghetto with the liberating lyrics: "I live as I choose or I will not live at all." Other tunes that more than grabbed my attention include the chilling I Just Shot John Lennonwhich ends in a flurry of gun shots—and the album's

powerful closer, Bosnia.

Taking the torch from U2 and Sinéad O'Connor-combining both the intent and intensity of these artists—the Cranberries' latest release is an eye-opening album that's as accessible as it is intelligent.

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Staff Writer Marc Cusa Is Sold On The Why Store

What's New: The Why Store

MUSIC MOTES

While the parade of trendy alternative groups continues unabated, I always find it refreshing to hear a new band with a feel for back-to-basics American roots rock. Much like Hootie and the Blowfish, Indiana's The

Why Store has an instinct for honest, heartfelt music. A lot of that comes from lead singer/ rhythm guitarist Chris Shaffer's husky, soulful voice. A mix between Eddie Vedder and Adam Duritz — it's one of the most distinctive sets of pipes I've heard. Shaffer shines throughout the acoustic-driven rock beat of the first single, Lack of Water. But there's another reason I've kept this track on heavy rotation recently — the scorching solo licks of lead guitarist Michael David Smith. Combined with Shaffer's tasteful acoustic rhythm guitar. Smith's hot electric riffs give songs like "Broken Glass" a unique bluesy texture. Dripping with emotion, Shaffer's pleading tones, "there's gonna be a better life for me, I'm gonna find it someday," voice an optimism that colors the whole album. Whether crooning to a lover on When I'm With You or spinning a barstool tale on Nobody, Shaffer is a strong presence. So if you're looking for a down-home rock bargain, step inside The Why Store... vou're sure to find something



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the truth and let the chips fall where they may. This is what makes U2's work so powerful, it's what The Cranberries To The Faithful Departed turned Sinéad O'Connor into a music industry martyr, and it's also one of the reasons that The Cranberries'

previous work, the initial jolt of electricity is generated from singer Dolores O'Riordan's sinewy voice as it snakes around dynam-

ic guitar and drum crescendos. But with their latest release, the band cranks up the voltage with a newfound musical aggression. Building on the ethereal groundwork of the last two albums, "To The Faithful Departed" turns up

INCLUDING: Free To Decide

When You're Gone

War Child • Forever Yellow Skies The Rebels • I Just Shot John Lennon Electric Blue



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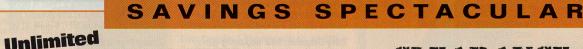


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