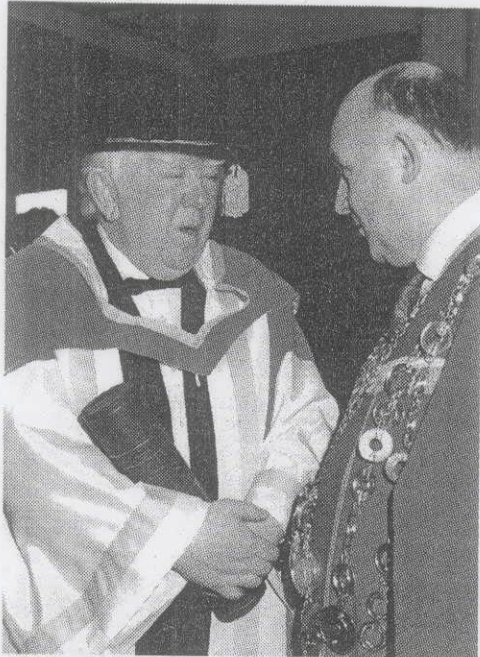


forward to embracing the challenges that 2010 hold and the positive outlook that the New year will bring.

Ciaran leaves a legacy of musical memory



Ciaran MacMathuna and the then Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon at the conferring of an Honorary Degree on the broadcaster, at the University of Limerick.

THE death of the Limerick traditional music collector and broadcaster, Ciaran MacMathuna has left a void that will be difficult to fill and in his native city, the loss of this gentle, modest man, whose encyclopaedic knowledge of Irish music and lore was an inspiration, is deeply felt.

Paying tribute to the man who garnered thousands of listeners here and abroad, to his Sunday morning radio programme, *Mc Cheol Thu*, a mix of music, poetry and reminiscence, Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon, who proposed to Limerick City Council that the Freedom of Limerick be granted to Ciaran MacMathuna, said he has many happy memories of listening to Ciaran on Sunday mornings.

A keen lover of traditional Irish music himself, Cllr O'Hanlon repeats a call he made on Limerick City Council some years ago, that a festival of traditional

new year. Managing Director of EcoWarm, Darren Lee said, "we're very lucky to be in a position to provide this

Irish music, song and dance, called after Ciaran MacMathuna be held annually in Limerick, with the support of the Irish World Music Centre, the Limerick School of Music and with the support of local musicians and the business community.

"Ciaran was born in 1925 and the family resided at John's Avenue, Mulgrave Street, in the shadow of St John's Cathedral. He had three brothers and one sister - the late Terry, Jimmy, Tommy, the late Breda who was a Nun and Brian, a legend in his own lifetime, remembered by many as a most popular secondary teacher in Sexton Street, CBS."

After completing a degree at UCD, Ciaran achieved an MA in Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore and went to work in Connemara for the Irish Place Names Commission, travelling extensively throughout Ireland and in the process meeting many native Irish speakers. He began to record tunes and songs that have gone into the archives and would never have been passed on to future generations otherwise.

In the early 50s he started work with Radio Eireann, presenting a number of programmes on traditional music and proceeded to become a producer/presenter - *A Job of Journey Work*, *Ceoilte Tire* and *Mo Ceoil Thu* became household favourites.

"It can be claimed that these programmes influenced many musicians - such as The Chieftains, The Dubliners and Bill Whelan of River Dance, all of whom put Ireland on the world stage and created huge interest in Irish music, song and dance but it is his vast repertoire of recorded material, much of which is now available in the national music library that is so important.

Speaking at the conferring of the Freedom

of approximately €200 to insulate a typical house. We understand that some elderly people simply can't afford this, and these are the very people the company is trying to help".

of the City on Ciaran in 2004, Mayor Michael Hourigan said that although he had spent most of his life in Dublin, Ciaran always spoke fondly of his native city and friends like Aine Ni Houaigh, Con Foley and Donal O'Connor.

Ciaran MacMathuna was married to the folk singer, Dolly McMahan and they had three children, Padraig, Ciaran Og and Deirdre. He won two Jacob's Awards in 1969 and 1990

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to 'crow' about

LIMERICK student, Louise Crowe, has been named runner up in a nationwide essay competition organised by the European Commission. At a prize-giving ceremony held in Dublin, Louise was presented with a new Macbook Pro Laptop, an itouch, a €500 Apple voucher, €100 book voucher, and €2000 worth of cash for her school - Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ - to purchase much-needed equipment. The judging panel which included screenwriter and Horslips band-member Barry Devlin and director of the European Commission Representation in Ireland, Martin Territt.

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