## Brendan 'rescues' Cecilian memories of yesteryear

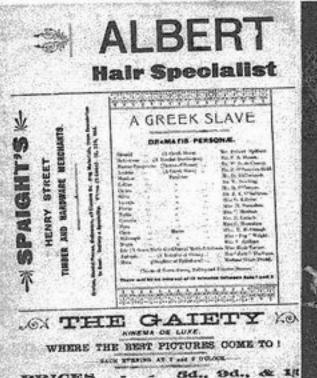
## By Rebekah Commane

A 90-year-old programme from the first ever production by The Cecilian Musical Society has pride of place in a Raheen residence, since it was rescued from a rubbish bin 20 years ago.

Brendan Naughton, a graphic designer with Cube Printing, and who resides in Raheen, recovered the memorabilia, along with two others from The Limerick Operatic Society dated 1912 and 1915, after they had been discarded at his workplace.

"When I saw them I didn't understand why they would be thrown away, but whoever did it must not have realised the historic relevance of them", Brendan told the Limerick Post.





He found the programmes for The Gondoliers, 1912, and San Toy, 1915, by The Limerick Operatic Society, and A Greek Slave, 1919, by the society now know as The Cecilians, together on a clip board.

The three productions had been performed in the Theatre Royal, Cecil Street. They are each packed with advertising from many local businesses, the majority of which are no longer in existence.

A sign of the times is the cast list for A Greek Slave, which distinguishes the females as "Miss" or "Mrs", and the ticket prices which are listed on the front covers of The Gondoliers and San Toy, ranged from £2 and 2 shillings for a box, and 6 pennies for the



gallery.

Booking for the 1912 production could be made at "McCarthy's Music Warehouse" of 56 George's Street, and for the 1915 performance, tickets were available at "Messrs. Pigott and Co. Music Warehouse", with an address of 111 O'Connell Street.

A picture of the cast of The Gondoliers, taken at St. Munchin's College in 1912, was also recovered by Brendan.

Joe Donnellan, one of the longest serving members of The Cecilians, said that he had been delighted to see the programme for A Greek Slave in such good condition, and that numerous copies had been made by the society. The

parents and grandparents of current members appeared in the 1919 production.

Brendan said he often takes out the programmes at family gatherings and parties as they spark debate.

He is happy to show them to anyone interested, and has said that when he is gone, he intends donating them to the Limerick Museum, or the library.

