

# McCormack Singers celebrate 25 years of musical harmony



In perfect harmony at the McCormack Singers reunion were Paddy McCormack, conductor (left), and the Mayor, Ald. Jim Kemmy, T.D.

A NOSTALGIC reunion took place recently in O'Driscoll's lounge when present and past members of the McCormack

Singers gathered to celebrate the silver jubilee of the choir, which was founded in 1967.

As was to be expected, some

splendid singing permeated the evening with up to fifty voices rendering some of the well loved pieces made known by the choir and making a sound that in quality has made the Singers so popular down the years.

Originally the idea of Liam Benson, aided and abetted by Paddy McCormack, the group was modelled on the famous Tapscott Singers of Canada and originally had twelve singers. Over the years, however, the choir has been extended and at present has its largest ever membership. Having sung in and then hosted choirs from Germany and Wales plus performing in the U.S.A., the group has gone from strength to strength and have been wonderful Limerick ambassadors of music down the years.

Welcoming former and present members of the choir and guest of honour Mayor Jim Kemmy, T.D., chairman of the Singers Joe Neiland spoke on the continuing success of the choir, the largest contributor to which he said was its conductor since its inception, Paddy McCormack.

"We have seen many local musical groups fall by the wayside in the past twenty five years but I am glad to say that the McCormack Singers are still going stronger than ever." He paid tribute to the Mayor, a man whom he said was no stranger to the arts and whose contribution to local history was well chronicled.

The Mayor, in reply, congratulated the choir on achiev-

ing their silver jubilee. "The McCormack Singers have been one of the outstanding musical combinations the city has produced," he said. "They have enriched the musical heritage of Limerick and provided an image that does credit to our city... they have brought with them happiness with their singing both at home and abroad. I wish them every success for the the future," the Mayor concluded.

Paddy McCormack, conductor, reiterated the mayor's comments on the contribution the choir has made to the musical heritage of the city. "We are singing better than ever and the future of the choir looks assured. This reunion has been so successful that I would like to see it become an annual event"

A presentation was then made to the the conductor by the chairman, which took the form of a replica of the Treaty Stone, the emblem first chosen by the choir.

A hugely enjoyable social evening followed with members of the choir, past and present, contributing songs to the accompaniment of John Kilgarriffe on the organ.

● To celebrate their silver jubilee, the McCormack Singers are putting on a special concert at the Crescent Hall this Thursday night, 8 o'clock. Special guests will be the Bavarian Student Youth Orchestra, an attraction that should appeal to all genuine music lovers in the city.



Founder members of the McCormack Singers at their recent silver jubilee reunion pictured with the Mayor, Ald. Jim Kemmy, T.D.. Back, from left; Sean O'Shea, Des Carroll, Jim Hartigan, Dave McCarthy, Mike Daly, Denis O'Shaughnessy, Sean Prendegast, Michael O'Brien. Front: (left): Jack Saunders, Liam