

GATC OF THE WEEK

LIMERICK CHORAL UNION MARKS 50 YEARS OF SONG WITH CONCERT THIS FRIDAY

FEW groups can claim to have a 50 year musical pedigree, but the Limerick Choral Union are still commissioning new work as they celebrate such a significant milestone.

The 110-strong choir will sing spirestone, written by classical composer Fiona Linnane and playwright Mary Coll, to mark '50 years of song', in the UCH this Friday.

The popular choir, formed in 1964, still boasts two current members who sang Mozart's 'Requiem' 50 years ago and boasts members from 18 to 80 years of age.

The celebratory concert will feature the world premiere of spirestone on Good Friday, April 18, while soloists Franzita Whelan, Sarah-Ellen Murphy, Julian Hubbard and Gyula Nagy will all also perform.

"Most of the choir are Limerick and are very proud of the choir and the singing tradition, and I wanted something that we could sing out with pride," says Mary Coll.

"We didn't want a ballad, a sentimental piece, but something that caught a little of the sound, the smell, the taste, the spirit of a place."



THE LOWDOWN

Limerick Choral Union was formed in 1964 to accommodate the RTE Orchestra on a tour to the city at the time. The choir has gone from strength to strength and now boasts 110 members, with very strong family traditions running throughout. See www.uch.ie for tickets for Friday's show