



Mike Denver at the UCH



COUNTRY singer Mike Denver will appear in concert at the UCH on Friday, March 18. Denver will appear with his big band and guests Ray Lynam and Mick Flavin at the show See www.uch.ie.

BIG GIGS at THE GREENHILLS

Tonight (Thurs) John McNicholl
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Jimmy Buckley
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The hilarious sell-out hit comes to Limerick for the first time!

From humble beginnings to major label album release

ALAN OWENS

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BLEEDING Heart Pigeons, one of the most exciting bands to emerge from Limerick's rich, yet often overlooked, music scene mark their recent debut album release with a gig this Friday night.

The trio - Cathal Histon, Michéal Keating and Brendan McInerney - play a hometown show Upstairs in Dolan's for booker Seoda Shows, who has long championed the West Limerick band.

Signed to Virgin/EMI, Bleeding Heart Pigeons have refined an eclectic, ambitious style that is delivered to stunning effect on the debut album *Is*, which has drawn praise from all corners and may yet be among the front runner for next year's Choice Music Prize.

That is some way off for the fledgling trio, who met at a number of years ago at Croagh School of Music. Michéal Keating and Cathal Histon went to school in Newcastle West, while Brendan McInerney went to school in Rathkeale. The like-minded trio stayed in touch after the summer school and later formed the band, entering a battle of the bands competition in 2009.

A number of years honing their craft in a farmyard shed, converted into a studio, followed before gigs in 2012 brought them



Glory awaits: Limerick's Bleeding Heart Pigeons - Michéal Keating, Brendan McInerney and Cathal Histon - play a gig Upstairs in Dolan's this Friday night to mark their debut album's release. See bleedingheartpigeons.com for more PICTURE: MATTHEW THOMPSON

“Coming from a very humble background, this whole thing was quite unlikely”

Michéal Keating

to the attention of Virgin. Yet, they were given time and scope to record the album and the influences on *Is* suggest broad reference points on what is a dreamy, eclectic and downright quirky album.

Stellar gigs at Body and Soul and Electric Picnic last year helped to give the trio a profile ahead of the album's release this February. Keating, in a letter re-

leased along with the album, admits that “coming from a very traditional, devoutly Catholic, humble rural background, this whole thing was probably quite unlikely.”

“My head is somewhere else, scattered in the internet, in music, films, books and art made by people from all over the world, people trying to find their place, people like me, Brendan

and Cathal,” he writes.

“This album documents a few years when these changes were emerging. I used the songs to help navigate my brain, as I came to realise how vulnerable I am as a person in this world. Putting all these despairs to music with Cathal and Brendan makes me feel like I can own them, even if it is just for the duration of a song.”



Teri dedicates poem to Milford Hospice staff

NICK RABBITTS

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A POPULAR Limerick poet who has beaten cancer has written a special piece for Daffodil Day, the Irish Cancer Society

