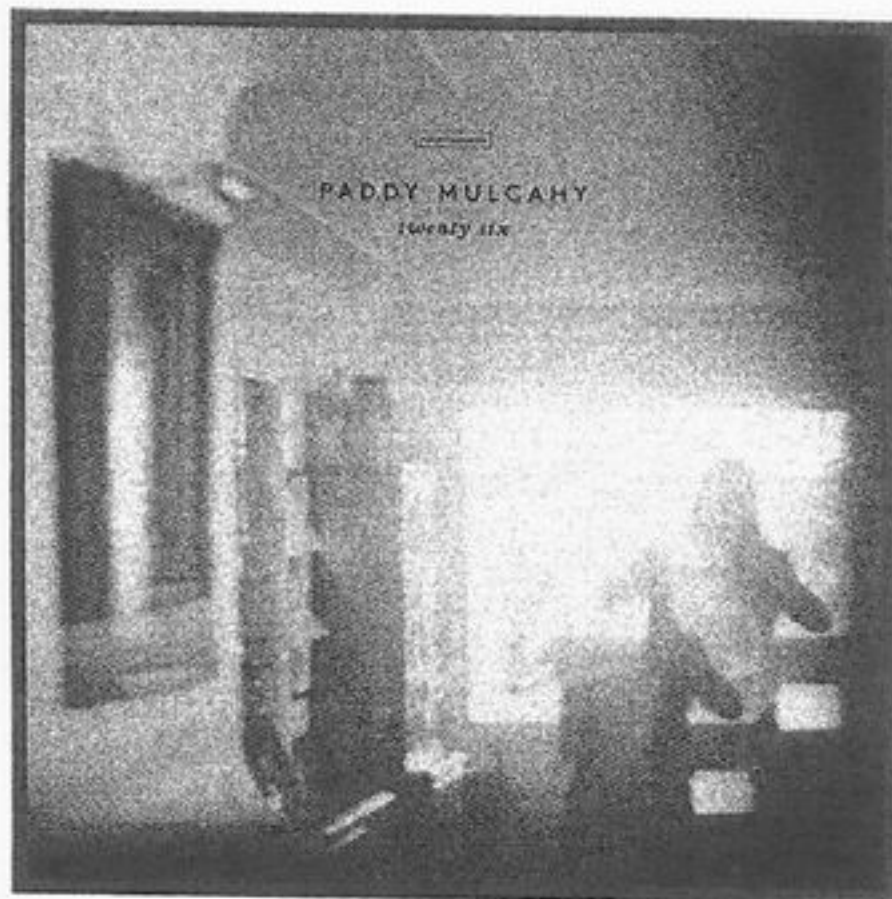


# LIMERICK MUSIC

## ALBUM REVIEWS

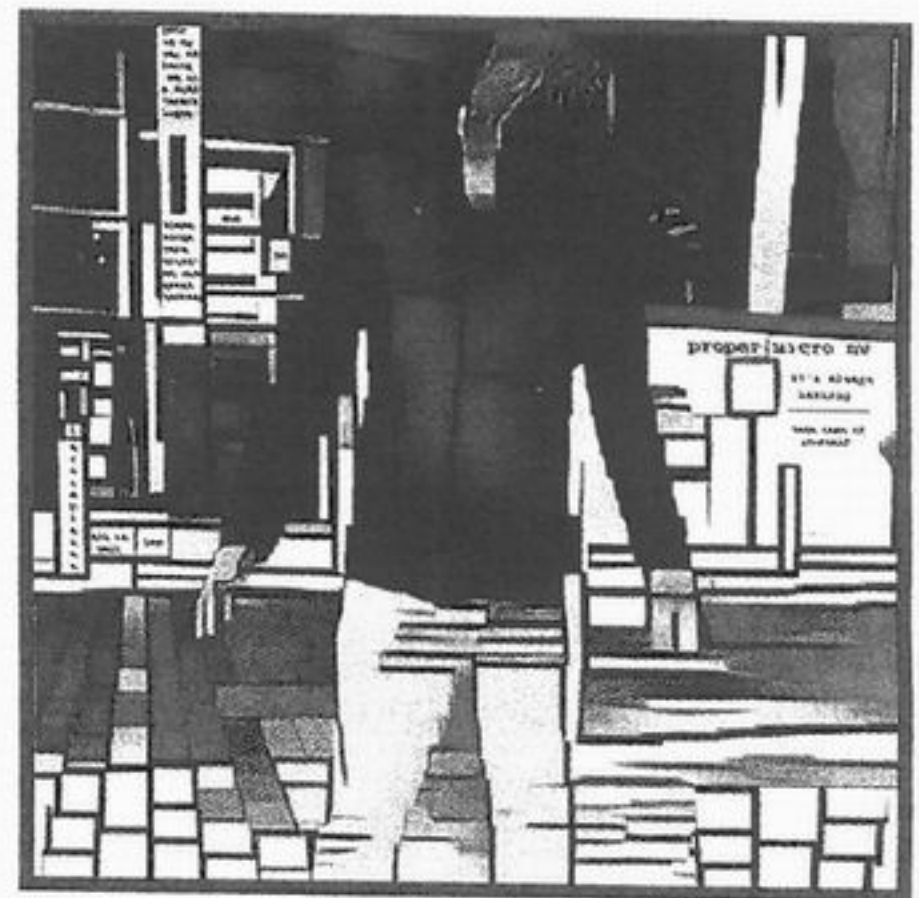


### PADDY MULCAHY TWENTY SIX

Paddy Mulcahy is best known around Limerick as a dubstep DJ performing under his stage name 'Nubus' at D.I.E. But his first passion is in fact piano, in which he was classically trained from the age of five. At nine, he learned to play the guitar and was writing music by the time he was fourteen.

In his latest E.P. *Twenty Six*, the multi-talented musician returns to his pianist roots. It was recorded in one sitting, days after returning from a trip to Canada, and the jet-lag lends raw emotion to the pieces. Opening track *Vancouver Island* has a slow build of tension, creating a dramatic and atmospheric piece. *Herkimer* is a shorter, more playful song with a quick tempo. *Saint Martin* has a dreamier, more romantic feel, leading into the calm serenity of the aptly-named 'Serendipity.' The upbeat, quick tempo of *What Happened in the Hotsprings* ensures the EP ends on a high note.

Paddy recorded this EP as a present to his girlfriend, only deciding to release it afterwards. It is fortunate for any piano fan that he did, for this is a masterful compilation.



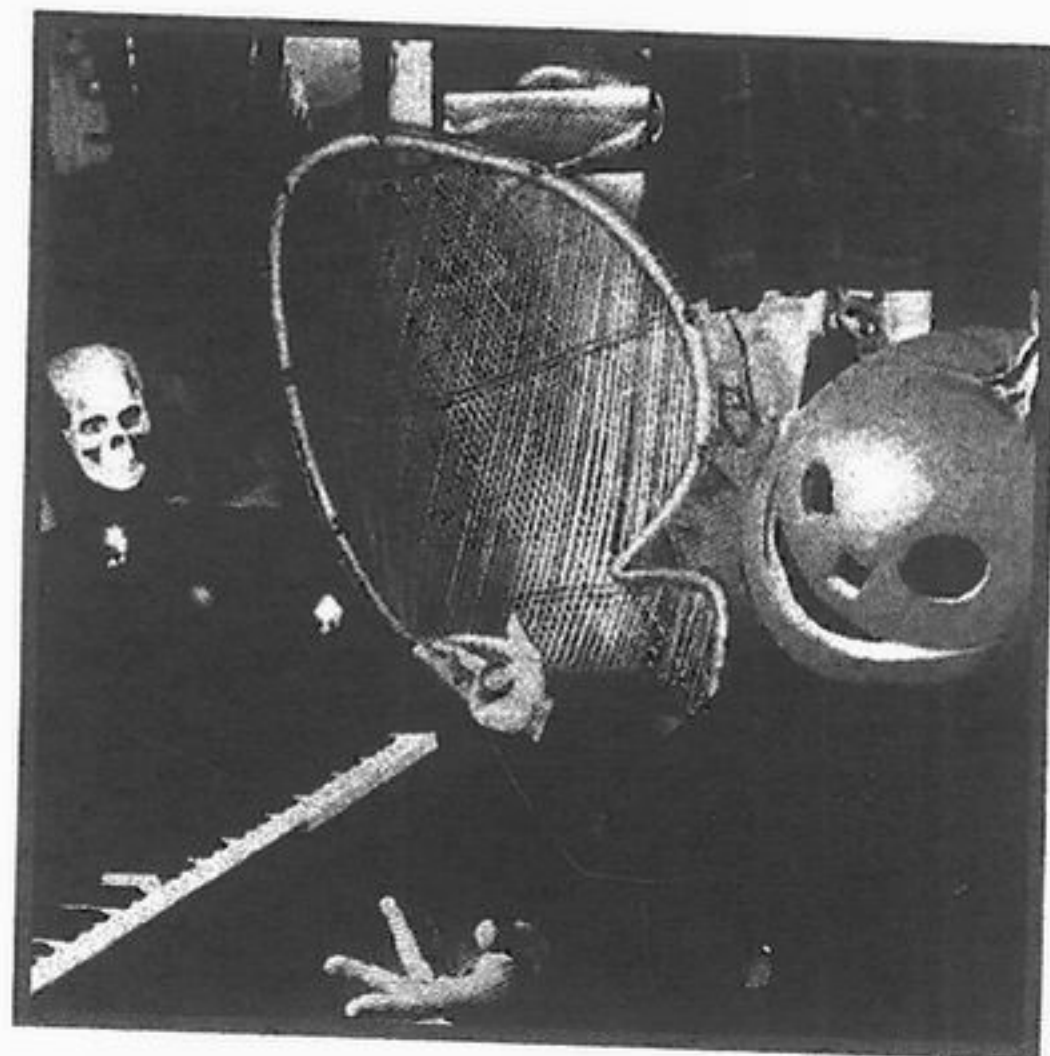
### PROPER MICRO NV IT'S ALWAYS RAINING

Limerick producer Proper Micro NV, real name Rory Hall, prides himself on reinvention and does just that with his latest EP *It's Always Raining*. Following the success of EP1, released back in June, featuring the mellow yet catchy *Revive*, the artist offers another fresh take on electronica. The first single, *Flaws*, comprises of raw vocals harmonising over a minimalistic, futuristic beat. "Oh we got flaws, but we can make an exception, and if there's hope in the world, then this will go on longer. And if not, well I'll find something stronger." Despite the tone, these few lyrics effectively describe the quest for a genuine, lasting relationship with a glimmer of optimism.



## MIKE O DONOVAN NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

Having grown up in a musical family (and passed the gene on to his son, Jamin, formerly bassist with pop rock group FRED) Mike O'Donovan's debut album *No Time Like the Present* was a long time coming. It was recorded with the help of some very well-known Irish musicians, including Dave Keary, Des Lacey, Paul Moore, James Delaney, James Hanley, Declan Aungier, Richard Nelson, Michael Buckley, Ronan Dooney, Alistair White, Mick Kinsella, Michael Buckley, Gemma Sugrue and Jack Nagle. The album was inspired by events in Mike's own life and changing perspectives. It opens with *Underground*, an upbeat celebration of freedom and love, reminiscent of music's past. *Ghosts* reflects on the pain of losing loved ones, with soft vocals over acoustic guitar. The distinctly Latin-influenced *It was on a Night Like This* and *The Dancer* conjure images of exotic lands and holidays past, aural sunshine. *Twang Song* has a rock'n'roll edge, whilst the profound lyrics of *Distant Conversation* are inspired by a true story of refugees fleeing persecution and suffering from survivor's guilt. Overall, *No Time Like the Present* spans decades, cultures, themes and genres, an auditory journey that's a pleasure to experience.



## BRIAN O'BRIEN DINNER AT 8

Brian O'Brien showcased his musical range and genre diversity by performing with hardcore metal band Roper for ten years, then spending two years with rap-rock act Campaign LK before embarking on his solo career. He released his autobiographical debut solo album *My Father's Throne* in 2013, with the song *Fake Smile* making it to the Top Ten of Ireland's iTunes chart. Currently living in Canada, the Limerick native returns with the Halloween-themed *Dinner at 8*, based on the Irish Jack-o'-Lantern legend. Poetic, story-telling lyrics are accompanied by traditionally gothic violins and piano, vaguely reminiscent of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* soundtrack.

Article by: Laura Duhan



# THE LIMERICK MAGAZINE

## Music

### GIG OF THE MONTH

### PADDY DENNEHY AND THE RED HERRING

*From appearing on the Late Late Show, to supporting Imelda May at King John's Castle, to playing small, intimate venues around the county before performing at every major Irish festival from Longitude to Knockanstockan to Electric Picnic, it's safe to say that the past two years have been hugely successful for Paddy Dennehy and the Red Herring.*

The jazz/folk group are fronted by Mary Immaculate College graduate and Bruree native Paddy Dennehy, whose vocals beautifully contrast with those of Cappamore's Johanna O'Brien. They combine the power of a big band sound with intense and intimate lyrics to excellent effect. The band draw inspiration from a wide variety of artists, including Tom Waits, Louis Armstrong, Randy Newman, George Gerswhin, Billie Holiday, Mick Flannery and Hozier, and this is reflected in their masterful and frequently-evolving sound. Once Upon a Night varies between soft and slow piano sounds and the full impact of a big band. Hozier's influence is most clearly felt in the raw vocals and kick-drums of Sable. Hate to Say I Love You So blends smooth jazz and mellow lyrics for an intimate and romantic tone. Even the minimalist, mournful You Know What I'm Talking About retains that intensity.

The Dance combines soft piano with violins to create a sad yet optimistic mood. Their single Hard Times, released in October, is reminiscent of Irish trad with a punch of jazz. To highlight the extent of their musical range, the band even released a very different but just as catchy cover of Britney Spears' Toxic on Youtube.

Having toured the country, gaining followers and garnering incredible praise from the likes of Glen Hansard and Ciaran Lavery, the group return to their native Limerick for a victory lap. Performing in Dolans Warehouse on 23rd December, Paddy Dennehy and The Red Herring provide the perfect sound to prepare you for both a nostalgic family Christmas and the manic party season to come.

Article by: Laura Duhan

Photography by: Tarmo Tulit



