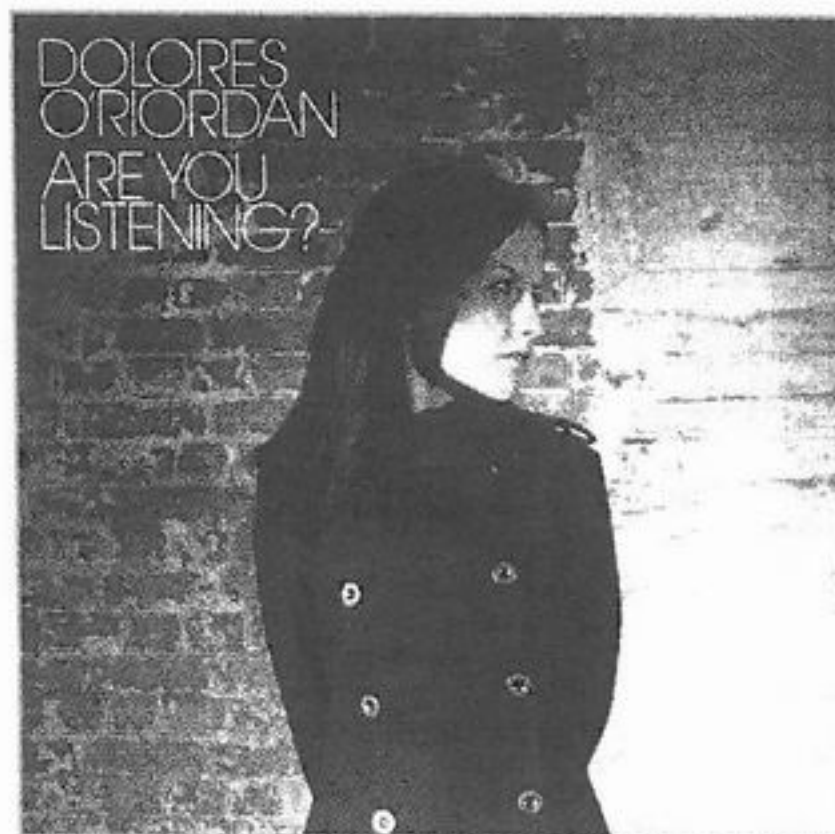


MUSIC: 10 YEARS AGO IN LIMERICK MUSIC



Are You Listening - Dolores O'Riordan

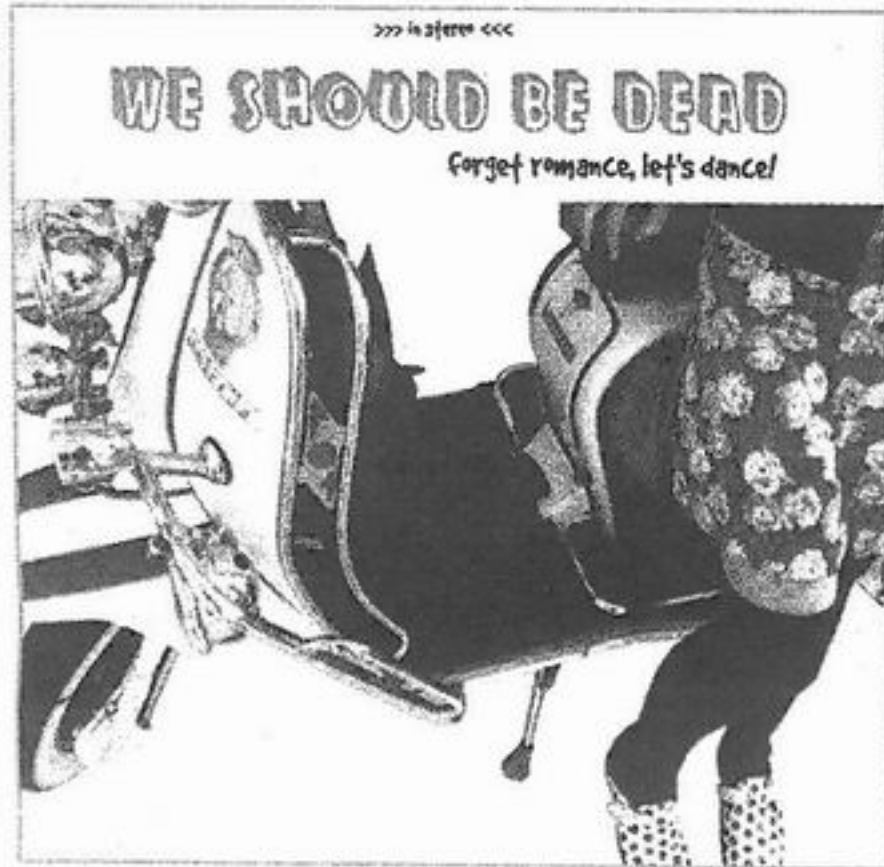
2007 was one of the many peaks in Irish music history. Aerosmith headlined Marley Park, Arctic Monkeys in Malahide Castle, Amy Winehouse and The Killers at Oxygen, The Police played Croke Park and to top it all off, the Stones took to the stage Slane, all in a year. The hit musical *Once* went global, earning itself two Grammy nominations, and Snow Patrol dominated the Meteor Music Awards. But what was going on in Limerick at the time? Here we take a look at four of the top Limerick music releases of 2007.

Following the Cranberries' temporary hiatus, lead vocalist Dolores O'Riordan launched her solo career with this album in May 2007. Filled with catchy rock songs and several powerful ballads, *Are You Listening* had all the makings of a successful solo album. It never strayed too far from the tree it fell from as it smoothly reconnected with The Cranberries' earlier work, but still stood strong as its own venture. O'Riordan's brooding and somewhat cinematic vocals made a strong return, coupled with a whole new depth of emotional and personal experience through songs on family, faith and love. The album is quite vast in its style, opening with a pleasant and almost uplifting track of *Ordinary Day* before it takes an almost immediate turn to the gruelling girl power of tracks like *Loser*. Despite being a highly credible album, O'Riordan's efforts were not reflected in the charts. This thankfully did not deter her from releasing another solo album in 2009.



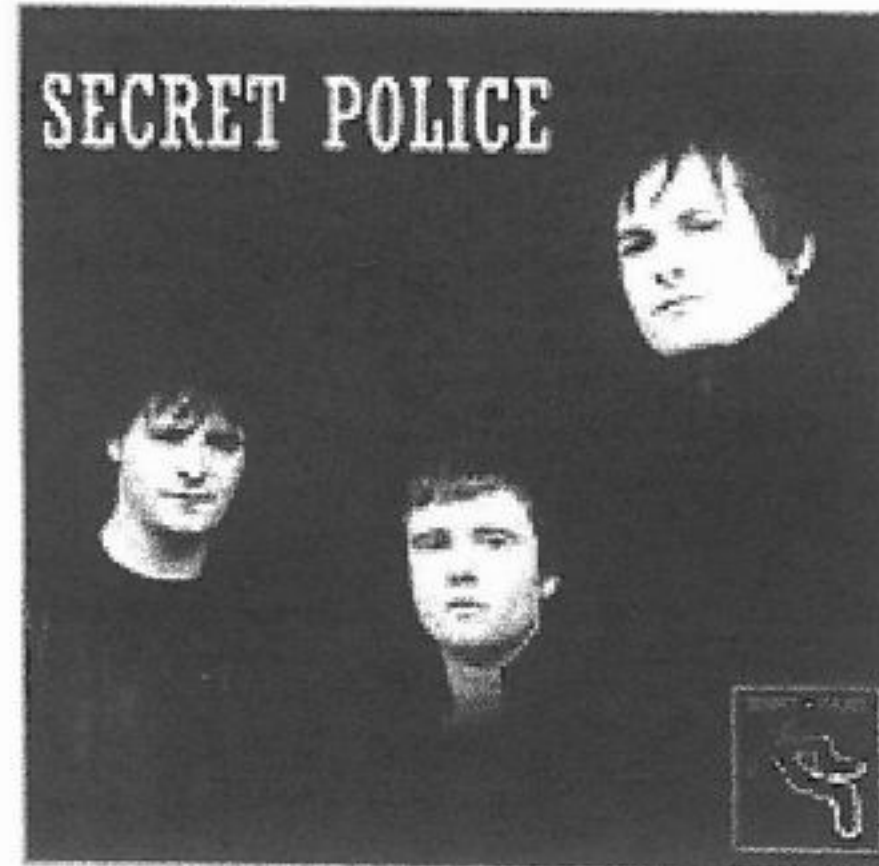
Exit Here - Vesta Varro

Vesta Varro, an alternative rock band formed in 2004, were without a doubt one of Limerick's most promising acts of 2007. Following the release of debut album *Exit Here*, Vesta Varro gained immediate global recognition. They were named Best Band at Indie Week Toronto and NME's One To Watch. Vesta Varro shared the stage with some of the greats in music including Editors, Sultans of Ping and Ocean Colour Scene. *Exit Here* is a combination of haunting ballads and an epic rock sound not too dissimilar to the early work of Muse. Vesta Varro's energetic melancholy was a force not to be reckoned with in 2007 and gave band members Keith Forde and Damien Drea some much-deserved acclaim before they set out on their separate solo careers in later years. In 2014, Vesta Varro returned to the stage in Dolan's Warehouse for a one-off reunion gig.



Forget Romance, Let's Dance - We Should Be Dead

2007 also saw the release of Limerick's Indie band We Should Be Dead's debut single. Forget Romance, Let's Dance was an instant hit, climbing up the charts to number three in Ireland. Following the huge success of their debut album in 2008, the band relocated to Los Angeles under new management the following year. Forget Romance is a fun and infectious tune, purebred for radio, proven by its instant success after its first play on BBC Radio One. When it came to hit singles, Forget Romance ticked every single box, as if reading from a success-formula upon its creation. The Irish Times labelled it as, "Sprightly songs punctuated by the right degree of cockiness." The debut album that followed was no exception, earning them a Meteor Award nomination and a place on MySpace's Featured Artists.



Boogie Call - Secret Police

Secret Police were perhaps one of Limerick's best-kept secrets of 2007. With strong influences from the 90's grunge scene, Secret Police topped the download charts for five-weeks in a row with their debut single, Bootie Call. The band were known for their striking charisma and onstage energy, a trait barely contained by their guitar-heavy recorded works. Despite their refusal to attain to the musical norms of the time, Secret Police still gathered quite the following in Limerick and across Ireland. Unfortunately, the band never did record a full album, but their handful of releases are still available to stream on MySpace.

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