

Limerick's musical heritage

■ Stunning 62-track compilation of Limerick songs aims to raise €20,000 for Milford

ON MacArthur Park, a seven minute slice of recording perfection that was a hit all around the world in 1968, Richard Harris sings Jimmy 'Wichita Lineman' Webb's lyrics with stunning emotion and soaring harmony.

It would turn out to be Harris' signature tune, recorded in Hollywood, California.

The song opens a stunning new compilation that features the best of Limerick music from a 50-odd year period, painstakingly assembled by Corbally man Paddy Brennan, a limited edition collection that aims to raise €20,000 for Milford Hospice.

MacArthur Park was Brennan's first and only choice to open Limerick On Record, the three CD box set of Limerick's

“The record company didn't know they owned MacArthur Park

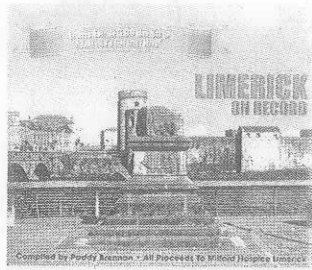
greatest hits.

But it wasn't easy to assemble the 62-track collection - which spans 1965 right up to the present day - due to recording contracts, licensing issues and royalties.

None was more pressing than securing the rights to MacArthur Park, a four-movement opus that Harris was the first to record.

“I definitely wanted MacArthur Park to be the opening track of the collection. It took me over a year to get permission for it,” explains Paddy. “The record company didn't even know that they owned it. I eventually got a catalogue number that I put to them, but still didn't get permission as it had to go to licensing, marketing, and legal.”

After reaching an impasse, Brennan contacted the Harris family, first Richard's wife Elizabeth and then his son, movie star Jared.



The cover of Limerick On Record, which contains 62 songs and a 40 page book

“Elizabeth was very helpful, delighted that Richard would be on this compilation - she said he would be very upset if he heard afterwards that he wasn't on it,” laughs Paddy. “Jared was very helpful also, he contacted the record company to try and push them, but we were at a standstill until we decided there was only one man who could help, the man who wrote the song.”

With Jimmy Webb's help - who gave full backing to the project - the rights to the song were secured and the project was up and running. But the same battle would be repeated over and over, with the passage of time muddying the waters as to ownership.

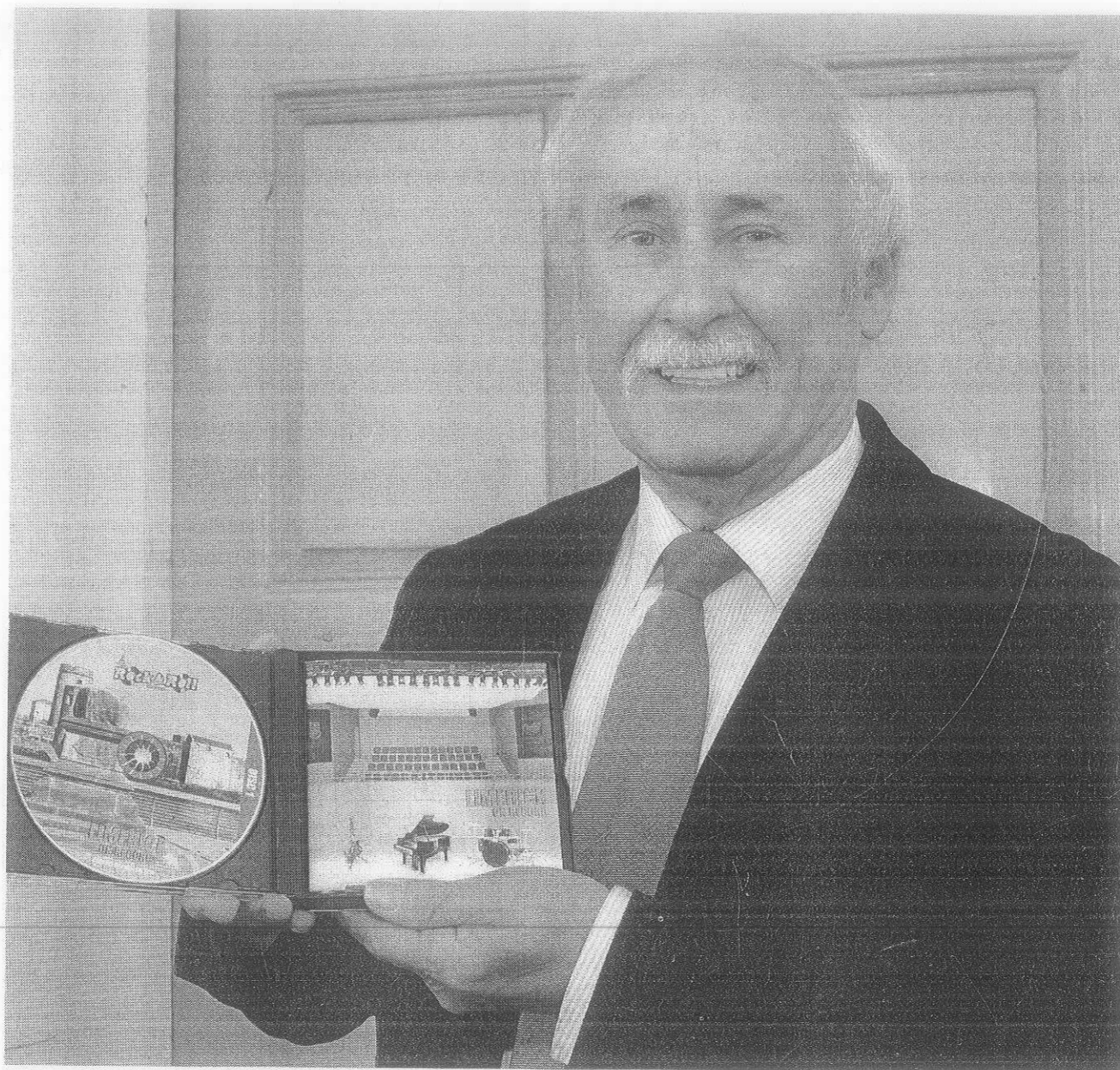
“When I got permission from the Limerick artists I had to contact all the record companies then. Lots of the recordings were not owned by the artists, rather the companies, licensing companies,” he explains.

“It wasn't easy because lots of them had been dissolved, taken over, amalgamated - it was a maze. I persisted and searched out the copyright - and got a lot of help from Jim Liddane, of the International Songwriters Association, a friend of mine all my life.”

The charitable element to the project was the key, and the companies relented.

The result is stunning, a detailed and historic collection that captures Limerick's musical heritage - with 27 songs that have never appeared on CD before, such as Grannies Intentions' Sandy's on the Phone and The Story of David; Reform's You Gotta Get Up; We 4's Early Morning Rain (featuring Suzanne Murphy); Bojangle; Farron Folk; Tommy Drennan; Eugene Wallace; Gimik - featuring Jon Kenny; Toucandance; The Groove and more.

Of course, staples such as



On Record: Paddy Brennan of Limerick Rock and Roll Club, who devoted most of the last two years to assembling the definitive collection of Limerick Music - Limerick On Record - funds from which are to go to Milford. Picture: Adrian Butler

the Cranberries, The Hitchers, Tuesday Blue, Johnny Duhan, Jimmy Buckley and Mick Hanley are all included - as are relative newbies in Windings, Parliament Square and Hermitage Green.

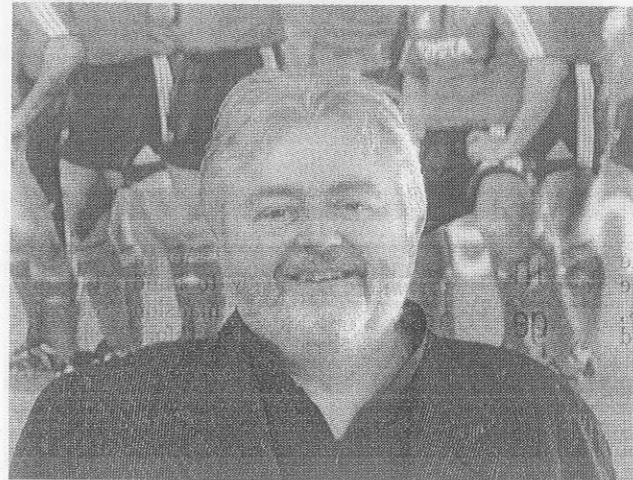
“I drew up a dream list of the acts I wanted to hear on CD well over ten years ago,” says Paddy. “Then, when I started looking at it again, it was obvious there were more acts - it started growing and growing.”

“There are 27 songs on this that were never on CD. There is country music, jazz, instrumental, opera, pop, rock and punk. It is Limerick's musical

heritage. I wanted to encapsulate the whole period and genres - there is everything there if you want to sit down and pick out a category.”

The album is limited to 1000 copies due to licensing agreements, and as such is already a rarity, so don't delay in getting your hand on this exquisite collection, all of the proceeds for which go directly to Milford.

Get Limerick On Record at Savins, O'Mahony's, Euro Empire, Milford Hospice, University Concert Hall, O'Donnell's Boutique on Catherine Street and the Hunt Museum.



Riverdance composer Bill Whelan, who launched the album in Thomond Park this week



Pictured at the young artist exhibition in Adare, from left, Emily Robards, Rachael Wilhite, Keith Hurley, Martina Gleeson and James Canty. Missing are Eoin Barry, Katie Hession and Philip Desmond

Adare centre to showcase work from young artists

Norma Prendiville

A GROUP of young artists from Adare and nearby communities is all set to do their bit for the local Alzheimer Centre.

The group will hold an exhibition of their work in the Village Hall in Adare on December 8 and 25% of all sales on the night or on the following Sunday will be donated to the centre.

The idea for the venture comes from Martina Gleeson who is very familiar with the work done by the centre. “My grandmother Mary Canty has Alzheimers and a carer comes from the centre every day,” Martina says, explaining the reason which prompted the idea.

“Last year, we had a similar exhibition and it raised about €650 for the centre.”

Martina is delighted that her friends and fellow art-students have again decided to take part in the exhibition - and she has added an extra two people to this year's line-

up. All, bar one, are students at the Limerick College of Art and Design.

On Saturday week, the artists exhibiting will include Martina, Eoin Barry, Emily Robards and James Canty from Adare, Katie Hession from Crecora, Keith Hurley from Ballybrown, Philip Desmond from Croom and Rachael Wilhite from Kilmcummin.

“It was a really good success last year and a lot of local people thought it was a good night. It is a chance for us to show our work but also to raise money for the Alzheimer Centre,” Martina says.

The work on display will be contemporary, Martina explains. “It is a mixed-media exhibition and will include paintings, photographs and prints.”

The exhibition will be launched at 8pm on Saturday, December 8 and all works will be for sale. The exhibition will continue on Sunday, December 9 from 1pm to 6pm when people will again have a chance to view and to buy.

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