

Cathedral. As part of his varied theatrical career, Jimmy recalled with pride his appearances in the Cathedral's first Nativity Plays, under the

mer came and delighted the audience in the Turret Room, King John's Castle, with a reading of her own sensitive poems.

His
o:
le
J:
tl
L
it
G
lu
rs
st
ti
g
S
C
to
T
a
b

The
S
c
G
a
S
to
P
tl
J
In
h
(
P
r
fi
p
L
c
a

His
F
d
a
A
th
th
an
J
di
ce
a
of
Dro
hi
pi
st

TALENT AND IMAGINATION OF D.J. CHAMP

talented
Ronnie
me one
iseanna
ice.
rest in
m his
a talen-
is first
t four
pupil of
ass was
ur-hand
ell Feis.
teamed
boys in
at the
s recor-
ly suc-
venues.

t prizes
in Cork
and has
sions at
blin.

so far
Cham-
when he
e talen-
Lucey.
the jig,
ence he

he was
pete in
Father
or each
highly
adjudica-

ormance
is class-
ain and
o gifted
sis.
ing for-
talents
lets in
an Scot-
sion," he
ke very
here."
1 School
er, Ger
O'Brien,
ick Mc-

circles
annie has
ite pos-
in this
gue and
hurling
t Lime-
von four
es.
on the
'Mahony
and, at
emerged
scorer.
upil, and
playing
class in

rests is
eader of
ith Our
h Lime-

nd Mrs.
yde Ave.
e family
f twins,
0), Mark
Theresa

When it comes to spinning records there are few in Limerick who can compare in style, personality and taste with eighteen years old Billy Whelan, who displayed his versatility and talents at Greenpark Racecourse recently when winning the Halpins sponsored Disc Jockey competition, which was run in conjunction with the Old Crescent Barbecue.

For his efforts, Billy was awarded first prize from a big entry, and in addition to receiving a cheque for £30 he is to have an audition with the Eamonn Andrews Studios in Dublin.

To win, the Halpins Tea-spon-

sored D.J. competition, Billy had to hold the stage on his own for 15 minutes and spin records of his choice.

In between introducing the records and playing them, he had to do advertising spots for the company concerned.

The panel of judges, Mr. Jim Upton, Sales Manager, Halpins Tea Co.; Mr. Tom Tobin, Editor, "Limerick Leader" and "Limerick Chronicle," and Mary McDonagh, gave first prize to this former Crescent College pupil for his "originality and advertising gimmicks." Second was Michael McNamara of Ballinacurra, and third place was filled by John Sadlier of

Wickham Street. Billy took part in several operatic productions at Crescent College, and played the leading part in "The Bird-seller" last year.

As a pianist, organist and guitarist, he has appeared at the Savoy Cinema and he has also performed at concerts in the city and county.

Club Ipanema

Billy, Jedd and Niall showed courage when opening the Club Ipanema a fortnight ago. "I have always believed that such a club as ours was badly needed in Limerick," says their D.J.

The club, which is open three nights weekly, has booked some of the most publicised beat groups in the country to play future dates, and when there are no live performances, discotheque sessions are held for members.

What of Billy's future in the music world? "While I could make a living from Verno Studios, I have other ambitions for my future," Billy told me. He will, however, continue to manage the studio with university student Niall Connelly and insurance official Jedd Spencer.

It could well be that we shall be hearing a lot more about the talented Billy Whelan in the near future. His versatility and interest in the music shop business are almost certain to reap rewards for him.

Verno Studios

Most of his spare time is spent in his studio in the top floor of his home at 18 Barrington Street, where with former schoolmates, Niall Connelly and Jedd Spencer, he controls the Verno Studios, which Billy claims to be the most professionally equipped in Munster.

Recently they advertised extensively in English and Irish newspapers and magazines they made many useful contacts. Indeed, Billy, Niall and Jedd must be the youngest proprietors of a recording studio in these islands; a few weeks ago they appointed their own agent to look after their interests in London.

"What type of work do you do at the Verno Studios," I asked Billy, who also helps to manage the recently opened Club Ipanema in Post Office Lane. "Anyone who is gifted in writing lyrics can send them along to Verno Studios and leave the rest to us," he said. "We write the music, put it on tape and later on to disc. If we feel that the composition has potential we forward it to a publisher for consideration."

They also do private work, and only last week made a recording of the Shannon Folk Four, which they hope will be released on disc shortly.

Billy, Jedd and Niall also do their own songwriting, and will enter one of their works for next year's Eurovision Song Contest.

Understandably, most of their work is done in the evening and in their soundproof studio they often work to 2 a.m. They have been in operation for only a couple of months and have already made a name for themselves. "Some people sent music to us to add the lyrics and were more than pleased with the results," says Billy.

His
F
d
a
A
th
th
an
J
di
ce
a
of
Dro
hi
pi
st



Billy Whelan.



Mr. Peter O'Sullivan with his