

21st March 2025

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council
Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary 2025

Dolores O'Riordan, singer, songwriter and lead vocalist with The Cranberries, was one of Ireland's most enduringly popular artists. Following discussion with Dolores' mother Eileen and her family, Limerick City and County Council established the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary in 2019, to remember and commemorate the global superstar.

This bursary, now in its seventh year, aims to support a Limerick professional musician in their career development. On 20th December 2024 an open call was issued and Limerick based professional musicians were invited to submit applications for the bursary, to develop their artistic practice. The bursary closed for applications on 12th February 2025.

A report and recommendation from the assessment panel is enclosed.

The Assessment Panel met on Tuesday 11th March 2025. 16 applications were received, representing a total ask of €63,900. The panel recommended one award as follows:

Applicant	Award Recommended
Fiana Ní Chonaill	€3,900

The approval of Limerick City and County Council is requested to award the bursary as recommended.

Mise le meas,



Etain McCooey
Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Co-ordinator
Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism
Development Directorate

Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary 2025

Report and Recommendations

Applications from professional artists who wished to be considered for the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary of up to €4,000 were invited by open call on 20th December 2024, with the scheme closing on 12th February 2025. The Assessment Panel for the bursary met on the 11th March 2025 to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications under the award criteria.

The Assessment Panel

The members of the panel were Brendan Maher and Paul McAree.

Brendan Maher is Artistic Director at The Source Arts Centre, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. He studied at Limerick College of Art and Design (BA in Design) and University College Dublin (Post Grad. Diploma in Arts Administration). He has worked at The Hunt Museum, Limerick, Galway Arts Centre and Galway Film Fleadh and was previously director at South Tipperary Arts Centre and Nenagh Arts Centre.

Paul McAree is Curator/Director at Lismore Castle Arts in Co Waterford, which has hosted solo exhibitions by artists including Gerard Byrne, Anne Collier, Dorothy Cross, Camille Henrot, Rashid Johnson and Wilhelm Sasnal. Previously McAree worked at Breaking Ground, Tate Modern and Ikon Gallery Birmingham, and also runs an occasional commissioning project, FLOOD. He co-founded and directed Colony Gallery in Birmingham from 2007 – 2010. He has curated freelance projects, co-curating Traces at Kasteel Wijlre, The Netherlands in 2018, was curator in residence at Rua Red from 2014-2016, and curator in residence at Temple Bar Gallery, 2012-2013. He has been a peer review panel member for the Arts Council and local authorities, and is a Board Member for both Temple Bar Gallery + Studios and Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh.

Information on successful application

The Assessment Panel for the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary 2025 agreed that the following recommendation go forward for approval to full Council. While the total available funding was €4,000, the recommendation is 100% of the applicants ask.

Applicant	Award Recommended
Fiana Ní Chonaill	€3,900

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The project connects professional harp players who would ordinarily work independently and encourages them to combine their artistic practices to co-create newly composed music for the harp. It will also bring together amateur harpers from all over Ireland to collaborate with the professional harpers to perform the newly composed music.