



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

An Stiúrthóireacht Gheilleagrach, Turasóireachta,
Cultúir, Réadmhaoine agus Foirgneamh Corparáideach
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Cé na gCeannaithe
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Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and
Corporate Buildings Directorate
Limerick City and County Council
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14th January 2026

To: The Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Ref: Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary 2026 Recommendation

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

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.

The bursary aims to support a Limerick professional musician in the development of their career. On 24th October 2025, an open call was issued and Limerick based professional musicians were invited to submit applications for the bursary. The bursary closed for applications on 26th November 2025.

A report and recommendation from the assessment panel is enclosed. The Assessment Panel met on Thursday 11th December 2025. 20 applications were received, representing a total ask of €77,929. The panel recommended one award as follows:

Applicant	Award Recommended
Maria Ryan	€4,000

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

Dolores O’Riordan Music Bursary 2026 Report and Recommendations

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The Assessment Panel

The members of the panel were Siobhan Mulcahy (Chair), Ann Davoren and Mary Brady.

Siobhan Mulcahy is County Arts Officer at Clare County Council. Siobhan is an experienced Arts Manager with a demonstrated history of working in local government.

Ann Davoren is Director of Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen, Co. Cork. Ann works with emerging and established Irish and international artists, curators and arts organisations to develop commissions, projects, publications, exhibitions, residencies and symposia.

Mary Brady is an independent Arts and Culture consultant specialising in arts strategy, artist development, and accessibility and participatory practice. Her extensive career spans over forty plus years, working across Ireland, the UK and within Europe. Mary has worked as Arts Officer for Laois County Council and Offaly County Council.

Information on the application recommended for approval.

The Assessment Panel for the Dolores O’Riordan Music Bursary 2026 agreed that the following recommendation goes forward for approval to full Council. The total available funding is €4,000, the recommendation is 100% of the applicants ask.

Applicant	Award Recommended
Maria Ryan	€4,000

This project will showcase Maria Ryan’s background as a classical, contemporary, and traditional violinist and vocalist. The project will see the composition and recording of a new collection of original music which will be professionally mixed and mastered. It will be accompanied by a series of high-quality performance videos, filmed in Limerick. The music will promote Limerick’s creative landscape through visually engaging, artistically produced content.