

Limerick reacts to O’Riordan death: ‘We all loved her so much’

Locals recall singer who brought Limerick to the global stage and forefront of world music

By David Raleigh

Photograph : EPA



There was widespread shock in Dolores O’Riordan’s native Limerick following the announcement of her untimely death. The Cranberries lead singer had been rehearsing in Limerick venue Dolan’s Warehouse last month and had been planning a home town gig, said staff.

A book of condolence is expected to open from 10am, Tuesday morning, at Limerick City and County Council’s headquarters at Merchants Quay. Local singer-songwriter Brian O’Connor said he was in “shock” following news of her death.

O’Connor, a close friend of Cranberries guitarist Noel Hogan, described O’Riordan as “an icon” in the music industry. He recalled first meeting O’Riordan in the early 1990s during recording sessions with The Cranberries at Xeric Studios, Limerick.

Shocked

“I knew Dolores in the early days. I remember her being in the recording studio and she was obsessed with instruments and music. I can’t believe it. It’s absolutely shocking,” said O’Connor.

O’Riordan grew up in the tranquil rural townland of Ballybricken, 17kms from Limerick city and she also lived in Patrickswell. The close-knit community of Ballybricken were rallying around O’Riordan’s “devastated” mother Eileen and six siblings.

Independent Councillor Brigid Teefy is a family friend and said “it’s just unbelievable. It’s a huge shock for all here. Dolores was such a talented lady. She was simply Dolores to everybody here. She never had any security with her; she was lovely.”