

# The Cranberries

**The Cranberries** are an Irish rock band formed in Limerick in 1989 by lead singer Niall Quinn, guitarist  Noel Hogan, bassist Mike Hogan, and drummer Fergal Lawler. Quinn was replaced as lead singer by Dolores O'Riordan in 1990.<sup>[2]</sup> The band officially classify themselves as an  alternative rock group, but noted incorporations of  indie pop,  post-punk,  Irish folk, and  pop rock into their sound.<sup>[3]</sup>

The Cranberries rose to international fame in the 1990s with their debut album, *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?*, which became a commercial success. The band has sold over 40 million records worldwide, and achieved four top 20 albums on the *Billboard* 200 chart (*Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?*; *No Need to Argue*, *To the Faithful Departed* and *Bury the Hatchet*)<sup>[4]</sup> and eight top 20 singles on the  Modern Rock Tracks chart ("Linger", "Dreams", "Zombie", "Ode to My Family", "Ridiculous Thoughts", "Salvation", "Free to Decide", and "Promises").<sup>[4]</sup>

In early 2009, after a six-year hiatus, the Cranberries reunited and began a North American tour followed by shows in Latin America and Europe.<sup>[5]</sup><sup>[6]</sup> The band recorded their sixth album *Roses* in May 2011, and released it in February 2012. *Something Else*, an album covering earlier songs together with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, was released in April 2017.<sup>[7]</sup>

On 15 January 2018, lead singer Dolores O'Riordan was found dead of drowning in a London hotel room. She had recently arrived in London for a recording session.

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## The Cranberries



The Cranberries, guitarist Noel Hogan and lead singer Dolores O'Riordan in Barcelona, 2010

### Background information

<b>Also known as</b>	The Cranberry Saw Us (1989–1990)
<b>Origin</b>	Limerick, Ireland
<b>Genres</b>	Alternative rock <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> pop rock <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Celtic rock <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> dream pop <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> jangle pop
<b>Years active</b>	1989–2003 <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> 2009–2019 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Labels</b>	Xeric <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Island <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Universal <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Downtown <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Cooking Vinyl <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> BMG
<b>Associated acts</b>	Jetlag
<b>Website</b>	cranberries.com
<b>Members</b>	Mike Hogan <p>Noel Hogan</p> Fergal Lawler
<b>Past members</b>	Niall Quinn <p>Dolores O'Riordan</p>

# History

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## Formation and early years (1989–1992)

In 1989, brothers Mike (bass) and Noel (guitar) Hogan formed The Cranberry Saw Us with drummer Fergal Lawler and singer Niall Quinn, in Limerick, Ireland. Less than a year later, Quinn left the band.<sup>[8]</sup> The remaining band members then placed an advertisement for a female singer. Dolores O'Riordan responded to the advertisement and auditioned by writing lyrics and melodies to some existing demos.<sup>[9]</sup> When she returned with a rough version of "Linger", she was hired, and they recorded *Nothing Left At All*, a three-track EP released on tape by local record label Xeric Records, which sold 300 copies.<sup>[9]</sup> The group changed their name to "The Cranberries". The owner of Xeric Studios, Pearse Gilmore, became their manager and provided the group with studio time to complete another demo tape, which he produced. It featured early versions of "Linger" and "Dreams", which were sent to record companies throughout the UK.<sup>[9]</sup>

This demo earned the attention of both the UK press and record industry and sparked a bidding war between major British record labels. Eventually, the group signed with Island Records.<sup>[9]</sup> The Cranberries headed back into studio with Gilmore as their producer to record their first EP *Uncertain* and created a music video for the title track, which was not released.<sup>[10]</sup> The EP received poor reviews in the press and led to tension between the group and Gilmore.<sup>[9]</sup> After a difficult recording session intended for their first Island records album in January 1992, the band scrapped their work and fired Gilmore.<sup>[8]</sup> After hiring Geoff Travis as their new manager, the Cranberries headed back into the studio in Dublin in March 1992 to restart working on their first LP with Stephen Street, who had previously worked with The Smiths.<sup>[8]</sup>

During that time period, the Cranberries toured in Ireland and the UK, getting the attention of the British press. The band also recorded several studio and live sessions intended for Irish and British radio and television shows, including 2fm's *The Dave Fanning Show* and BBC Radio 1's *John Peel Show*.

## Mainstream success (1993–1995)

The band's debut single "Dreams" was released in September 1992, followed by their first full-length album *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?* in March 1993.<sup>[8]</sup> Neither the album nor the single gained much attention, nor did a second single, "Linger". When the band embarked on a tour supporting Suede, they caught the attention of MTV, which put their videos into heavy rotation. Although "Linger" was first released in the UK in February 1993, peaking at 74, it was later re-issued in February 1994 peaking at 14. This was followed by "Dreams" (released again in May 1994, peaking at No. 27) which helped their debut album to top the UK Album Chart in June.

The group reunited with Street for *No Need to Argue*, which was released in late 1994. It would go on to peak at No. 6 on the US charts and eventually outsold its predecessor. Within a year it went triple platinum, spawning the number one hit "Zombie" and the No. 11 "Ode to My Family" on the Modern Rock Tracks chart.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1995, the band continued to tour, and released two more singles "I Can't Be with You" and "Ridiculous Thoughts". The album went 5× platinum in Canada, platinum in Switzerland, and 7× platinum in the United States.<sup>[11][12][13]</sup>

## Middle era (1996–2000)

The band's third album *To the Faithful Departed* peaked at No. 2 in the UK and No. 4 on the Billboard 200.<sup>[4][14]</sup> Despite favorable reviews, the album did not match the sales of *No Need to Argue*. The album went double platinum in the US and Gold in the UK.<sup>[11][15]</sup> The first single from the album was "Salvation" which topped the Modern Rock Tracks chart.<sup>[4]</sup> The second single from



O'Riordan singing onstage at the height of their fame, 1995

the album was 'Free to Decide'; the single's peak in the UK was 33<sup>[14]</sup> and placing on the Billboard Hot 100. In late 1996, the group cancelled their Australian and European tour, sparking rumours that O'Riordan was about to launch a solo career. In November 1996 "When You're Gone" was released as a single in the United States, peaking at 22 on the Hot 100<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1999, the group released Bury the Hatchet. The first single "Promises" was released in February. "Promises" would be the only single from the album to chart in the US and last single before their hiatus.<sup>[4]</sup> The album peaked at 7 in the UK and 13 in the US<sup>[4][14]</sup> and was certified gold in the US<sup>[11]</sup> The second single from the album was 'Animal Instinct', which didn't chart in the UK, although it did chart in France, Austria and many others.<sup>[16]</sup> The third and fourth singles were "Just My Imagination" and "You & Me", respectively. The band had a guest appearance on popular television series Charmed, performing "Just My Imagination" on the fifth episode of the second season, "She's a Man, Baby, a Man!". The group started a world tour in April 1999 and it finished in July 2000. The group partnered with Ticketmaster.com to be the first artists to sell tickets for a national tour exclusively online. It was the biggest and most successful tour of the Cranberries' career. The tour brought them back to Ireland for their first date since May 2000. They performed at Millstreet in County Cork. As the tour rolled on, the band released Bury The Hatchet – The Complete Sessions, a double CD featuring B-sides as well as live tracks taken from a show in Paris.

## Later years (2001–2003)

In October 2001, the album Wake Up and Smell the Coffee was released. The band's old producer Stephen Street had returned and produced their new music video. The album peaked at 46 on the Billboard 200<sup>[4]</sup> and reached No. 61 in the UK.<sup>[14]</sup> The first single released from the album was "Analyse", which charted in the US Adult Top 40 at a peak of 26.<sup>[4][14]</sup> In January 2002, they released the second single "Time Is Ticking Out", and some months later another one, "This Is the Day".

The following year a greatest hits album was released entitled Stars – The Best of 1992–2002 which was released alongside eponymous DVD of music videos. The album peaked in the UK at 20.<sup>[14]</sup> The song "Stars" was released as a single from that album. They started a European tour in mid-October 2002, which ended in December of the same year

At the end of February 2003, the Cranberries started working with Stephen Street and debuted their work for the first time in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 29 May 2003 performing the songs "Astral Projection" and "In it Together".<sup>[17]</sup> That September, the band announced they were taking some time to pursue individual careers and scrapped sessions for a sixth studio release.

## Hiatus and solo careers (2004–2008)

Dolores O'Riordan started collaborating with other musicians in 2004 before launching her solo career with the album Are You Listening? in 2007, following it with No Baggage in 2009. Dolores O'Riordan performed "Linger" in the 2006 movie Click.

Noel Hogan started a new project called Mono Band, whose first full-length self-titled album saw a limited release in 2005. He went on to form Arkitekt with singer-songwriter Richard Walters.<sup>[18]</sup> He has also been working as a producer with Supermodel Twins, from his native Limerick and Remma. Fergal Lawler was a member of The Low Network, whose first album was released in 2007. He has also worked with Walter Mitty and the Realists<sup>[19]</sup> as well as Last Days Of Death Country<sup>[20][21]</sup> as both producer and musician.



O'Riordan singing solo, 2007

## Reunion and Roses (2009–2015)

The Cranberries reunited in January 2009 to celebrate O'Riordan becoming an Honorary Patron<sup>[22][23]</sup> of University Philosophical Society (Trinity College, Dublin) The group indicated at the time that this did not signify an official reunion, but on 25 August 2009, in anticipation of the release of No Baggage, O'Riordan announced that the Cranberries would be reuniting for a North American and European tour.<sup>[24]</sup> O'Riordan indicated that the band would be playing songs from her solo albums and a lot of the Cranberries' classic hits as well as some new group compositions.

The Cranberries recorded *Roses* at the Metalworks Studios in Mississauga, Canada, from 18 April<sup>[25]</sup> to 15 May<sup>[26]</sup> 2011 with Stephen Street,<sup>[25]</sup> who previously collaborated with the band on their first, second and fifth albums. The Cranberries worked on 15 tracks during the *Roses* session, although not all were included on the album.<sup>[27]</sup> The album was released on 27 February 2012.<sup>[28]</sup>

O'Riordan started legal proceedings against Noel Hogan in October 2013.<sup>[29]</sup> The case was struck out in July 2015 and the cause was not divulged.<sup>[30]</sup>

O'Riordan began recording new material with D.A.R.K. in April 2014.<sup>[31]</sup>

## O'Riordan's death and final albums (2016–2019)

A new acoustic Cranberries album titled *Something Else* was released on 28 April 2017, through BMG.<sup>[7]</sup> *Something Else* featured orchestral arrangements of prior releases, and three new songs.

With the release of the new album, the group announced a tour which was to include dates in Europe, parts of the UK, and North America. The shows were scheduled in smaller venues, with live orchestral accompaniment. However, in May 2017, shortly into the European tour, The Cranberries had to cancel the remainder of the European dates due to O'Riordan's health, with the band's website citing "medical reasons associated with a back problem".<sup>[32]</sup> The North American tour dates were cancelled in July when her recovery had not progressed enough for her to participate.<sup>[33]</sup>

On 15 January 2018, O'Riordan died unexpectedly in London, England.<sup>[34]</sup> The inquest into her death was adjourned until 3 April while the coroner awaits the results of "various tests".<sup>[35]</sup> On 6 September 2018, it was ruled that she died as a result of accidental drowning in a bathtub due to sedation by alcohol intoxication.<sup>[36]</sup>

On 7 March 2018, the band announced they were releasing a special 25th anniversary newly remastered anniversary edition of the debut album *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We*, with previously unreleased material as well as other bonus material from the time of the album. However, with O'Riordan's death it was delayed until late 2019.<sup>[37]</sup> The band also decided to complete their new album underway at the time O'Riordan died, for which she had already recorded the vocals.<sup>[38]</sup> Noel Hogan confirmed their next album will be out next year and will be the band's last: "We will do this album and then that will be it. There is no need to continue."<sup>[39]</sup>

## Style

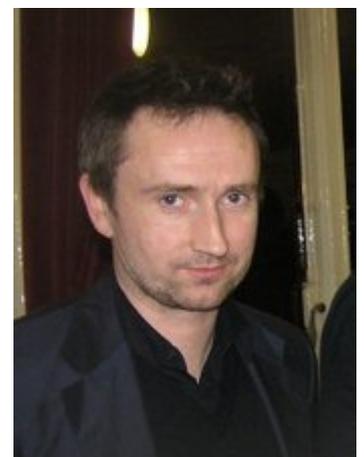
Their music has been likened to singers such as Sinéad O'Connor and Siouxsie and the Banshees.<sup>[40]</sup> O'Riordan stated her singing style incorporating yodelling was inspired by her father who used to sing "The Lonesome Cattle Call": "I just kept with my father all the time, just copying him and eventually I learned how to do it. Then over the years there were artists like Sinéad O'Connor and Siouxsie from Siouxsie and the Banshees and even Peter Harvey was doing it. It was something that you could work into The Cranberries' format because a lot of that was used in religious Irish music."<sup>[41]</sup> The other members, Lawlor, Mike and Noel Hogan, were inspired by bands like the Cure, Echo & the Bunnymen, Siouxsie and the Banshees, the Clash and Joy Division. Noel Hogan stressed though that at their beginnings: "All these roads led to the Smiths, who became very big in our lives later on."<sup>[42]</sup>

## Awards and nominations

### Brit Awards



The Cranberries reformed in 2012, from left to right: Fergal Lawler Dolores O'Riordan, and Mike Hogan (Noel Hogan of camera)



Co-founder and guitarist Noel Hogan has co-written many of the band's songs.

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1995	Themselves	Best International Group	Nominated

### ECHO Awards

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1996	Themselves	Best International Group	Nominated

### Ivor Novello Awards

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1995	"Zombie"	Best Contemporary Song	Nominated
1997	Themselves	International Achievement	Won

### Juno Awards

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1996	<i>No Need to Argue</i>	Best Selling Album (Foreign or Domestic)	Won

### MTV Europe Music Awards

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1995	"Zombie"	Best Song	Won

### MTV Video Music Awards

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1994	"Linger"	Viewer's Choice (Europe)	Nominated
1995	"Zombie"		Nominated
		Best Alternative Video	Nominated
1996	"Salvation"	Best Art Direction	Nominated

### Pollstar Concert Industry Awards

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1994	Themselves	Best New Rock Artist	Nominated

## Members

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#### Current

- Mike Hogan – bass, backing vocals (1989–2003, 2009–present)
- Noel Hogan – lead and occasional rhythm guitar, backing vocals (1989–2003, 2009–present)
- Fergal Lawler – drums (1989–2003, 2009–present)

#### Former

- Niall Quinn – lead vocals, rhythm guitar (1989–1990)
- Dolores O'Riordan – lead vocals, rhythm and occasional lead guitar keyboards (1990–2003, 2009–2018) (died 2018)

#### Touring musicians

- Russell Burton – keyboards, rhythm guitar (1996–2003, 2012)
- Steve DeMarchi – rhythm guitar, backing vocals (1996–2003)
- Denny DeMarchi – keyboards, rhythm guitar, backing vocals (2009–2011)
- Johanna Cranitch – backing vocals (2012)

## Discography

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- *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?* (1993)
- *No Need to Argue* (1994)
- *To the Faithful Departed* (1996)
- *Bury the Hatchet* (1999)
- *Wake Up and Smell the Coffee* (2001)
- *Roses* (2012)
- *Something Else* (2017)
- *In The End* (2019)<sup>[43]</sup>

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## External links

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- [Official website](#)
  - [The Cranberries at Curlie](#) (based onDMOZ)
  - [Thompson, Stephen](#) (Feb 23, 2012).["The Cranberries"](#) (podcast). *National Public Radio* Tiny Desk Concerts. Host Bob Boilen.
  - ["The Cranberries". \*Song Kick\*](#).
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