

O'Riordan and the Cranberries, May 2011.



now  
hear this!

## Wintry Weather Playlist:

# Dolores O'Riordan

This month the blockbuster Irish band the Cranberries returns with the moody and introspective *Roses*, its first studio album in more than a decade. Here, Dolores O'Riordan, the 40-year-old lead singer and mother of four, shares her favorite songs to warm the soul.

For cozying up with the ones you love:



"As kids we didn't have a television at home, but we did have a record player. After school I'd sit by the window while my mother, who loved Elvis to bits, played 'Love Me Tender.' For me, this song still captures that feeling of being little and secure, thinking the world was perfect and simple."

For a mood boost:



"There's a tradition in Ireland that on St. Stephen's Day, the day after Christmas, kids go house to house singing for money or candy. Once I got older, I realized people are more generous after a few pints, so I started singing in pubs. 'My Irish Molly O' was always a good song—it's strong and boisterous."

For a little nostalgia:



"I have such great memories of singing Marty Robbins's 'El Paso' in the car with my dad, who enjoys anything cowboy related. When I brought my husband home to Ireland, he was wearing a cowboy hat, and my dad was totally impressed. Now I love listening to this song with my own kids."

For feeling young:



"I often put on the Smiths to relax—especially 'There Is a Light That Never Goes Out.' I loved them as a teenager, and when I listen to them now, I'm instantly transported to adolescence. I think, *I'm young!* And then I look in the mirror and go, *Oh shit, wrinkles!*"  
—As told to Kate Rockwood

the  
donna  
files

## LOVE NOTES

Donna Brazile on shaking up Valentine's Day.



➔ **SAY NO TO SUGAR.** Our culture tells us to mourn being single or rejoice in our

couplehood by gobbling half a pound of fudge. But while I'd love to find that special someone, I'm not going to drown my emotions in chocolate; instead I'll go out with my girlfriends and swap awkward-first-date stories.

➔ **DONATE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.** There is a dark side to love, and it leaves too many women and children in dire straits. That's why I collect little shampoos when I stay in hotels and drop them off regularly at a shelter.

➔ **WEAR RED.** Usually I stick to grays, but come February I like to paint the town you-know-what. This power color makes me feel like a woman not to be messed with—and people interpret it as festive!

➔ **GROW YOUR OWN ROSES.** Most flowers are sprayed with toxic pesticides, then flown thousands of miles, only to die in days. The rosebushes in my garden have no environmental footprint—and sprout buds well into November.