

US jazz singer Kate McGarry in concert at Dolan's this week

Upstairs at Dolan's, Wednesday April 4

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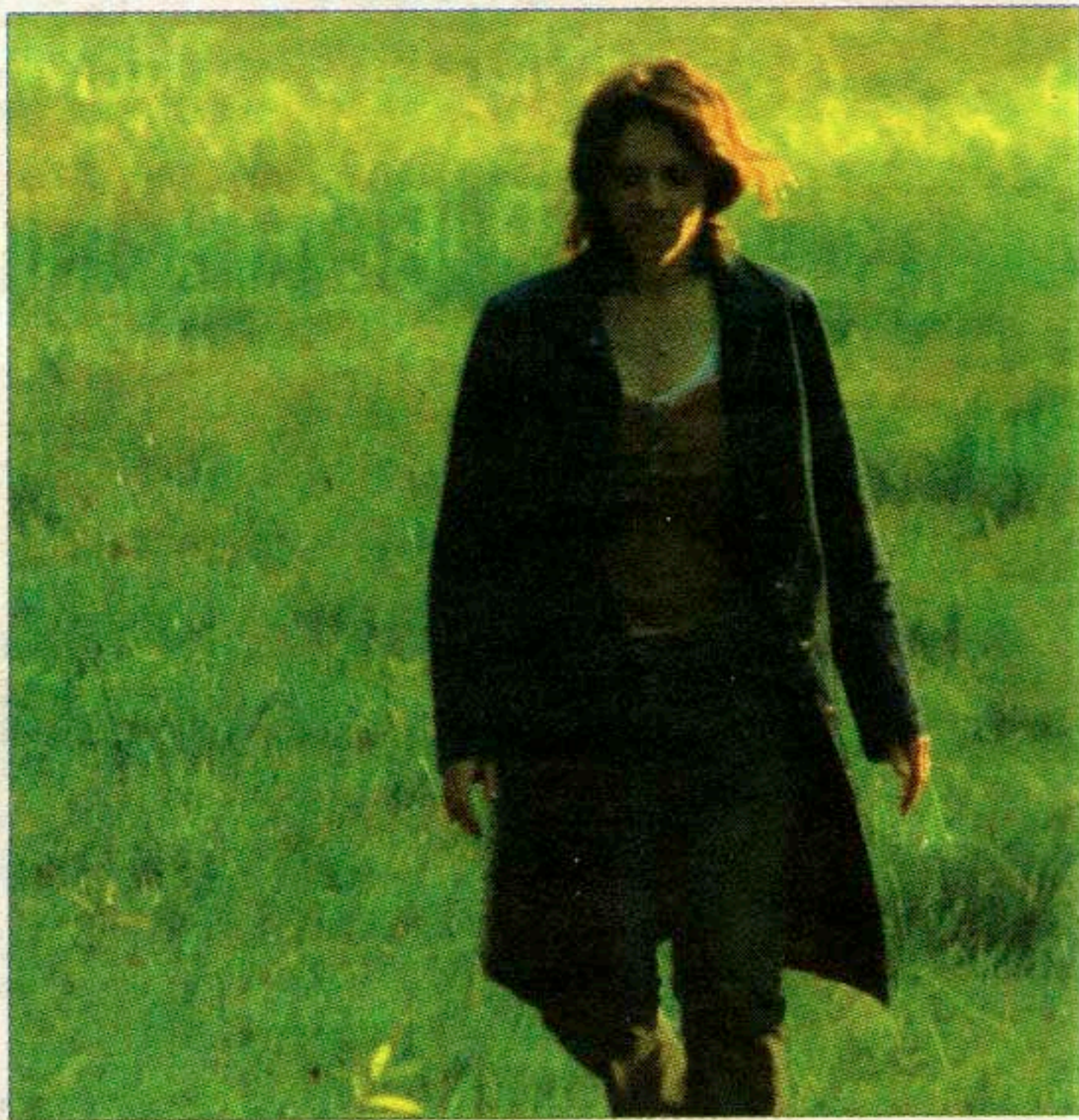
AMERICAN jazz singer Kate McGarry is just about to unveil her new album, almost titled *Miracles Like These*. Not the worst title in itself, but it does conjure up images of the 'Jesus squad' at large.

However, when the high-spirited McGarry fields the *Limerick Independent's* call at her New York base literally hours before departing for her first European tour, it is obvious that she is no religious nut. So much so that the album title has been changed.

"It's now going to be called *The Target*. 'Miracles Like These' is a lyric from the song 'The Target', and when we put it all together, it probably looked a lot more religious than we thought it would be. We didn't want people expecting a Christian Jazz record," she exclaims before quickly adding, "not that there's anything wrong with that."

The Target is Kate's fourth solo album, and the first since 2005's extremely well-received *Mercy Streets*. It has been anything but the routine career path for the Massachusetts native, who released her first album *Easy To Love* before flirting with film music and then taking a break from the public spotlight before returning in 2001 with second album *Show Me*.

For this album, recording started in July with her band, which includes guitarist husband Keith Ganz who will also be appearing on this tour with her. With herself and Ganz chipping in with a song each, the process of selecting songs was something she terms as



Kate McGarry plays live in Limerick, Upstairs at Dolan's, this Wednesday, April 4.

a strange one. "It really depended on different songs. For instance, 'The Heather On The Hill' is a song I've known for twelve years but it just never came up. But when it came to this album, it seemed really obvious that I should do it. I also asked Keith to do some arrangements for the record", McGarry says.

When they tour, McGarry and Ganz will be augmented by some local players on their travels. "For the most part, we're doing dual concerts, but we'll be doing some with some of your fine musicians like John Daly in Limerick. Since I haven't travelled overseas, it is a new format to me, but I like the idea that it leaves a bit of room to do something new".

Not surprisingly with her name, there is some Irish ancestry in there. "There is a joke in my family that we're 4/5 Irish and 1/5 Scottish," says

McGarry laughing. "My Mom's family are Murray's and I got my name from my Irish-born great grandmother Catherine.

"When we were growing up in Cape Cod, there was this Irish pub, and they used to have a family called Mullhollands from Galway over every summer, and they use to all play and sing there. They were the most beautiful times of my childhood."

And while McGarry's own studies were as varied as to take in Indian, Brazilian and Celtic music, she stills feels the influence of those days in the Irish pub. "Before I had ever heard jazz, I was listening to traditional music. Seriously, you don't know who excited I am to be finally going to Ireland!"

Kate McGarry plays Upstairs at Dolan's Wednesday April 4. Doors at 8.30pm, and tickets are €13 (Book on 061-314483 or www.dolans.ie).