

CD review

Reviewed by Sheena Regan

HEART'S DESIRE

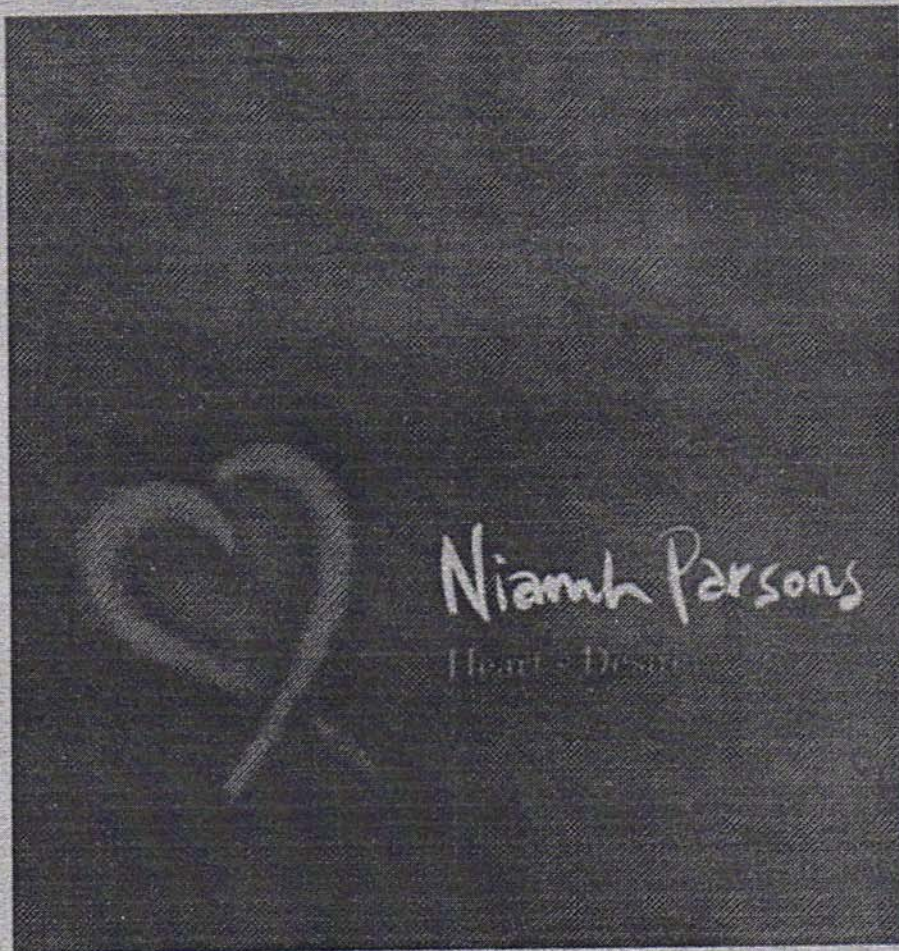
By Niamh Parsons

NIAMH PARSONS, a promising Irish vocalist, has just released her new album, *Heart's Desire*.

Niamh has emerged as one of Ireland's finest and most distinctive voices and sings both traditional and contemporary pieces with equal assurance. She has often been likened to Dolores Keane due to the great care she puts into choosing a song. "For me the song is more important than listening to my voice," she says.

Heart's Desire is a collection of 14 songs drawn from both traditional and more modern sources. Many talented musicians join Niamh including Dublin guitarist Graham Dunne and harmonica player Mick Kinsella, along with accordionist Josephine Marsh from Co Clare.

Niamh has performed in front of Bill Clinton and Bertie Ahern. Her new album is bound to be the latest in a long line of successes that will no



doubt increase her profile as an Irish vocalist.

She grew up in Dublin and was introduced to music by her father, Jack, who was "a man with a great ear for a good song," she says. Niamh learnt traditional songs and harmonies from him. In fact he instilled a true love of traditional music in all his daughters and this shines through in

the album.

Niamh's mother was a set dancer and singer from Co Clare.

Heart's Desire is dedicated to the memory of Jack Parsons.

Watch out for Niamh's tour from August to October during which she will visit many major cities around Britain