

The Republican.

DVD SPOTLIGHT

Sharon Shannon and Big Band, "Live at Dolans" (MVD) 4 Stars.

The great Irish accordion and fiddle player Sharon Shannon, still best known in some circles for her work with The Waterboys, is a musical virtuoso with charisma to spare.

She's also not afraid to share the spotlight and she does just that with a large cast of characters on this impressive new live DVD (also available as a double-CD set) recorded in July 2006 in Limerick, Ireland.

Shannon shines on instrumental works like "Cavan Potholes," "Bunjee Jumpers" and "Mouth of the Tobique," and especially when she joins the fiddle quartet on a wild "The Bag of Cats," late in the set. She's got an impressive cast of more than a dozen support players with her including guests like The Brennan Sisters, with their sweet familial harmonies and the single-named Mundy whose voice lifts cuts like the rockin' "July," and Steve Earle's "Galway Girl."

The only major eccentric here is Shannon's friend Jon Kenny, who sings a bizarre "Big Rock Candy Mountain," and also turns in a strange stand-up comedy routine.

Fans get a lot for the suggested retail price of \$14.95 though, as the DVD runs approximately two and a half hours, features nearly 30 songs and includes bonus features such as a fine interview with the immensely talented headliner.

(Kevin O'Hare is music writer for The Republican of Springfield, Mass.)