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Kurt Cobain's personal items to go on show in Ireland

An exhibition dedicated to late Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain opens in Ireland next month, showcasing a selection of the grunge rock singer's belongings curated by his family. From his sketches and drawings to clothing and a car, "Growing Up Kurt Cobain" will display dozens of Cobain's personal items, some of them never seen before by the public. His daughter, Frances Bean Cobain, and mother, Wendy O'Connor, will be among the singer's relatives attending the opening at the Museum of Style Icons in Newbridge, 50 km (30 miles) southwest of Dublin.

Cobain, who had Irish ancestry, died in 1994 at the age of 27 from a self-inflicted gunshot. "I have always been the most intimately informed of who my father was by my grandmother and aunts," Frances Bean Cobain said in a statement sent to Reuters. "I am so ecstatic that their view of who Kurt was gets to be celebrated with Nirvana fans the world over." Fans of Cobain, who popularized grunge rock in the early 1990s, will be able to see the striped green sweater he wore in the video for Nirvana's 1991 hit "Smells Like Teen Spirit" and his MTV Video award for the same song. The singer's childhood drawings of cartoon characters, handwritten lyrics and powder-blue 1965 Dodge

Dart car will also be on display.

"With this exhibition we hope to bring the focus back to Kurt's roots, vision and artistic genius, to inspire everyone not to lose their creativity and childlike wonder," Cobain's sister Kim Cobain said. The small museum in County Kildare has outfits worn by the likes of Audrey Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor and Grace Kelly on display, and has previously hosted exhibitions dedicated to

Michael Jackson and Prince. The museum's owner, William Doyle, who is also chief executive of jewelry and homeware maker Newbridge Silverware, said the idea of a Kurt Cobain exhibition stemmed from his friendship with the singer's family. "The family have this feeling that they are bringing him back home," he said. "Growing Up Kurt Cobain" opens on July 19 and runs until end-September. — Reuters



Kurt Cobain is seen in 1986 in an image handed out by his family which will form part of an exhibition of his personal items which will be exhibited at Museum of Style Icons in Newbridge.



Kurt Cobain is seen on December 24, 1986 in an image handed out by his family which will form part of an exhibition of his personal items which will be exhibited at Museum of Style Icons in Newbridge, Ireland. —Reuters photos

Michael Jackson street naming scrapped



An honorary street naming in Detroit for the King of Pop was canceled Wednesday. Michael Jackson Avenue was supposed to be officially unveiled Friday in Motor City, just as the late artist's surviving brothers prepared to perform at a weekend concert. But the ceremony was called off, as members of the Jackson 5 — the family act where Michael Jackson got his start — wondered why the entire group wasn't being honored. Under city rules, honorary street names cannot be granted to groups or organizations, only persons, the Detroit Free Press newspaper reported.

A city official told the newspaper that the naming ceremony was called off while a solution is sought. "We're still working through the process," Stephen Grady told the Free Press. The street naming was announced in mid-May with much fanfare and two of the

Jackson 5 present at a news conference. The tribute was to come 50 years after the family group birthed their career with a successful recording contract audition in Detroit, which has a rich history of nurturing American artists. But Marlon and Jackie Jackson told reporters at the May event that they wanted the entire group to be honored. Michael Jackson, who started with the group, went on to become one of the most famous performers in pop music history. He died in 2009 at the age of 50 from a fatal dose of drugs, including the powerful anesthetic propofol. Had the street naming gone ahead, the King of Pop's honorary stretch of road would have been near the one named after the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin. Her street naming was last year. — AFP



Colombian singer Shakira performs on stage at the Bercy Accorhotels Arena in Paris on June 13, 2018 at the Accor Arena Paris. —AFP

Beach Boys hits get a classical spin in orchestral collaboration



The timeless California sounds of the Beach Boys have been given a new spin thanks to Britain's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The orchestra recorded arrangements of 17 of the Beach Boys best-known hits, including "Good Vibrations," "California Girls" and "Fun, Fun, Fun," and paired them with the original vocal performances for a new album "The Beach Boys with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra." The album is the first collaboration between the influential band, which found international fame in the 1960s with songs that captured California's fun-loving beach culture, and a full orchestra.

The album, recorded at London's Abbey Road Studios with the blessing of the four remaining members of the Beach Boys, was released on June 8. Beach Boys singer Bruce Johnston said the album was "like a gift from heaven." "The beautiful thing is they (producers Don Reedman and Nick Patrick) did all the work. We'd already done ours years ago because they are all the original vocal performances," Johnston told Reuters television in an interview on Wednesday. — Reuters