

MY FIRST, MY LAST, MY EMBRYO

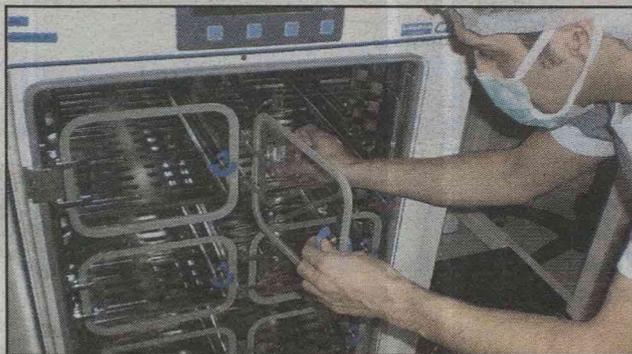
SEDUCTIVE:
Barry White's
pop music

SOUL superstar Barry White was famously proud of couples making babies to his music – but now his smooth tones are being tasked with the conception of Irish embryos in a Kildare laboratory.

His seductive bass baritone was so effective that the singer's name came up in a Senate report on the American birth-rate boom of the mid-1970s.

Now the late singer is being used along with classical composers and pop superstars in the baby-making process in one fertility clinic in Ireland.

The renowned Spanish fertility clinic, Institut de Marques, which has just opened its doors in Clane, Co. Kildare, has carried out a pioneering scientific study



INCREDIBLE: Foetuses have been seen responding to music

Barry's good vibrations make Irish IVF babies

showing that musical vibrations increase the success of **IVF**.

Fittingly, White is the most streamed music through the iPods fitted in the incubators where embryos are developing.

Beautiful

Fertility Consultant at the Institut Marques Ireland Dr Hans Arce said there is science behind the built-in music system which regularly airs the velvet tones of Barry White.

He explains how the music vibrations help to mimic the process the embryo goes through in the first five days of life when it travels through the Fallopian tubes of the mother until it gets to the womb.

He said: "The embryo is never static in the Fallopian tubes in a woman. It's like being in a river where the water is constantly washing your skin away.

"The thing is in the lab, embryos spend five days in a petri dish without being washed away. The reason for the music is not just that it is beautiful, it's the vibrations the music causes.

"There is also a theory that possibly these acoustic vibrations can cause a mechanical effect in the embryo it-

By **LYNNE KELLEHER** 

self, enhancing its growth. We studied to see how it improved to see how much it improved the fertilisation of eggs and it did. It does work.

"The music depends on the biologists. There has been Barry White and there has been classical music.

"An iPod has been built inside the incubator. We have the music and also we have photos the patients can see of their embryos live. It's a really beautiful process."

The new Kildare clinic of the group – which reports a high success rates of 89 per cent in In-Vitro Fertilisation with donor egg treatments – will have a specialist medical team from the group's headquarters in Barcelona join 23 professionals already working here.

Dr Arce said the Institut, who have seen hundreds of Irish patients at their Barcelona and Dublin clinics over the past 10 years, are now seeing how babies respond to music in pregnancy.

In a study car-

ried out on pregnant mums, Mozart and Bach topped the list for reactions from babies growing in the womb, but Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody was third on the list, with eight out of 10 fetuses reacting to the rock song.

Six out of 10 babies responded to Adele's biggest hit, Someone Like You, while a similar number reacted to the Grammy-winning guitarist Carlos Santana.

Singing

He said: "It's a funny thing. They open their mouth. The kids are listening to music and opening their mouths so it looks like they are singing."

The scientific study, carried out in more than 1,000 patients, discovered foetuses can hear from week 16 (measuring 11cm).

The clinic has also invented a device called a Babypod, which is inserted internally into the mother so that a baby can hear music.

The Babypod is also being used by couples after they have an embryo implanted to help the pregnancy process.

"I think around 10 per cent of my patients are using this as part of the fertility treatment process. We are using it as a study right now," said Dr Arce.

"Mothers are using the Babypod once or twice a day."



REVELATION: Dr Arce's tunes



SWEET MUSIC:
Embryos responded
to the tunes of Queen
(top), Carlos Santana
(above) and Adele



SOUNDS OF LOVE

**THE most popular
tunes and sounds
played to embryos in
lab experiment:**

1. Mozart - Little Serenade
2. Bach - Flute
3. Mantra
4. Queen - Bohemian Rhapsody
5. Mozart - Piano
6. Drums
7. Voice
8. Mickey Mouse's Voice
9. Maternal Voice
10. Strauss
11. Adele - Someone Like You.
12. Carlos Santana - Fiesta Criolla
13. Cradle Song
14. Guitar
15. Vivaldi