



UNIVERSITY
ST. ^{of} THOMAS

Contact: Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb.15, 2008

**UST Presents Traditional Irish Folk Music
by The Makem and Spain Brothers**

WHAT: The University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum and The Irish Society present The Makem and Spain Brothers, playing traditional Irish folk music with a host of various instruments and five male vocals.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12, 2008

WHERE: Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon
Parking available for \$2 in Moran Center, 3807 Graustark

BACKGROUND: Every generation has a few acts that define where a musical genre is going, performers so confident in their chosen field that they are able to completely embrace the genre and yet introduce something new to it. In Irish folk music today, that act is the Makem and Spain Brothers.

The Makem and Spain Brothers are at their best onstage where their talent and enthusiasm draw in fans who have never experienced the joy of folk music. The band of brothers, who were once considered the new kids on the block, has honed their craft over 15 years of international performances and are now one of the truly stalwart, road-tested Irish vocal groups available. They have played before millions of people from Canada to Texas, from California to the Caribbean and over to Ireland, highlighting national PBS specials and popular Irish talk shows along the way. The Makem Brothers, Shane, Conor and Rory, were born in Drogheda, County Louth, about an hour north of Dublin. They continue the lineage of one of Irish music's dynasties, begun by their grandmother Sarah Makem, who was sought after by song collectors for her store of traditional Irish songs. Their father was Tommy Makem, the modern day Bard of Armagh. Now considered an icon, he helped to bring Irish music out of the corner and into the international spotlight, where it has remained ever since.

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The Spain Brothers, too, learned Irish songs at their father's knee. Mickey's rich, baritone voice and Liam's mastery of tringed instruments quickly found a home when the Makems met the Spains and the brothers realized the power of their combined talents. Folk songs are engrained in both families and their songwriting contains the timeless qualities of folk classics, songs of the worker, songs of the sea and Irish culture. They tell the tale of Ireland and its people - a culture that has undergone terrible strife, but remains strong.

COST: Suggested donation \$10 at the door; students are free. No RSVP, seating is first-come, first-served.

CONTACT: Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592

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