News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UST Presents "An Evening with Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman"

WHAT: Irish harp and guitar masters Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman will perform music from their new album "FireWire." Sponsored by the University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum and The Irish Society.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2007
Reception to follow the performance.

WHERE: University of St. Thomas
Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon
Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at West Alabama

BACKGROUND: The two made their début as a duo at the 1987 Cambridge Folk Festival and since then have played in 21 countries, from Shetland to New Zealand and from San Francisco to Kyoto. In the past two years they have toured in the U.S., Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and the UK.

Chathasaigh is one of Ireland's most important and influential traditional musicians. As a teenager she invented a style of harping that quickly became the norm among her contemporaries and the younger generation of Irish players. In 2001, she received Irish music's most prestigious award, Traditional Musician of the Year, Gradam Cheoil TG4, "for the excellence and pioneering force of her music, the remarkable growth she has brought to the music of the harp and for the positive influence she has had on the young generation of harpers." Newman began to play guitar at age four and dabbled in jazz in his late teens, learning from people like Stephane Grappelli and Diz Disley. He ventured into the commercial world, producing "The Oldest Swinger in Town", which resulted in a silver disc. Chris is a prolific composer, arranger and record producer. He concentrates on traditional music and composition and is considered one of the most influential acoustical guitarists around.

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University of St. Thomas/Irish Harpist/2222

COST: Free and open to the public. No RSVP or tickets sold; first-come, first-served.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For more information contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592.

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