



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“AN AFTERNOON OF IRISH SONG AND STORY
WITH DANNY O’FLAHERTY”**

HOUSTON (July 31, 2006) — Danny O’Flaherty will perform music from his native Ireland about the sea-faring Celts and others who made their living from the sea and the land at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20, in Jones Hall on the University of St. Thomas campus, sponsored by the University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies, The Irish Society and KPFT Radio’s Irish Aires. Parking will be available in Moran Center, corner of Graustark and West Alabama. “An afternoon of Irish song and story with Danny O’Flaherty” is first-come, first-served; no RSVP or tickets sold.

“Danny O’Flaherty is originally from the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland, and he previously lived in New Orleans, but resettled in East Texas following Hurricane Katrina,” said Lori Meghan Gallagher, director of the Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas. “His father was a lobster fisherman who respected nature and the bounty it provided. He also sings about immigration, the sacrifices made by those who have gone before us, love and the struggles of the Irish, both in Ireland and in America.”

Growing up in a little village in Connemara, Ireland, Danny O’Flaherty had little exposure to western pop culture and television. He was influenced instead by evenings of music and stories around a turf fire, listening to the elder family members as they passed on centuries of history and tradition. Like his father, he learned to fish for lobster. At that point in his life, he had no idea what his future would hold in store: His love of music would take him around the world.

more

University of St. Thomas/O’Flaherty/22222

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In the early 1970s, Danny came to America, working as a miner while learning English. Music remained his first love. In 1971, he joined the Irish Minstrels on tour across the United States. Influenced by their musical style, he and his brother Patrick formed in 1974 their own group, The O'Flaherty Brothers, later known as The Celtic Folk. Musical influences over the years also include folk entertainers Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers.

Danny came to New Orleans with his brother Patrick and friend Noel Nash to play at the World's Fair. Captivated by the charm and Irish history in Louisiana, they opened O'Flaherty's Irish Channel Pub. Until Hurricane Katrina hit, the pub was a cultural icon in the French Quarter, the hub of all things Celtic in Louisiana. Flaherty is now touring again, giving audiences an opportunity to experience his timeless ballads. He has written children's music.

He played on the steps of the Capitol in 1981 to a crowd of 500,000 people on Solidarity Day. O'Flaherty also performed at President Reagan's Inaugural Ball, for Pope John Paul II at the National Cathedral, and to President and Mrs. Herzog in Israel. From television appearances to radio programs around the world, Danny continues to be a favorite among interviewers.

University of St. Thomas is a private institution committed educating leaders of faith and character, and to the liberal arts and the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.

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