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“TOMMY MAKEM’S IRELAND” CELEBRATES IRELAND’S RICH CULTURE AND HISTORY

This month, WMHT presents a new documentary delving into Ireland’s rich culture and history. Audiences can participate in this adventure through the talents of a favorite son, host Irish folksinger and songwriter Tommy Makem. The enchanting expedition is explored in a new three-part public television series filmed entirely at some of the most breathtaking and famous sites in Ireland. It airs this month on WMHT.

Tommy Makem’s adoration by Irish and American folk music admirers makes him an ideal guide for a journey around Ireland. In *Tommy Makem’s Ireland*, Makem weaves singing, stories, poetry, and legend into a loving portrait of the Emerald Isle, inspiring audiences with a fresh appreciation for the beauty and heritage of this fabled land. An internationally celebrated performer of Irish music, Makem is also well versed in the history and lore of his homeland which is evident in the extensive firsthand knowledge he brings to this series as its host.

During this public television series, viewers will become Makem’s traveling partner as they visit medieval castles, ancient ruins and centuries-old cities including Newgrange, Belfast, Galway and countless others. They will roam the country’s rugged coastline, from the Giant’s Causeway to the Skellig Rocks and explore the urban centers, from tiny fishing villages to the city of Dublin.

Viewers of *Tommy Makem’s Ireland* will hear stories of the land from distinguished historians to everyday folk, and from the master storyteller Tommy Makem as well. And because no portrait of Ireland is truly complete without music, *Tommy Makem’s Ireland* brings traditional music to Public Television by way of Makem’s original repertoire.

Tommy Makem’s inspirational music and repertoire have earned him celebrity status among the hearts of Irish and American folk music lovers as one of the premier performers of Irish traditional music. Son of the great song collector and folksinger Sarah Makem, he first rose to fame in the U.S. in the 1960s with the group “The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem.” In the 1970s and 1980s, he performed with Liam Clancy and has appeared in folk festivals throughout the world. He is also a prolific songwriter, with over four hundred original songs to his credit, including the standard “Four Green Fields.”

Tommy Makem’s Ireland is distributed to public television stations nationwide by American Public Television. For 42 years, APT has been a prime source of programming for the nation’s public television stations. APT distributes more than 10,000 hours of programming, including *Globe Trekker*, *Nightly Business Report*, *Rick Steves’ Europe*, *Julia and Jacques Cooking at Home*, *Ballykissangel*, *Brian Jacques’ Redwall* and *Sinatra: The Classic Duets*. APT is known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques for producers. In more than four decades, it

has established a tradition of providing public television stations nationwide with program choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules. For more information about APT's programs and services, log on to APTonline.org.

Tommy Makem's Ireland is a production of WMHT Schenectady. WMHT Educational Telecommunications' non-commercial public broadcasting services include WMHT-TV, WMHT-FM 89.1/88.7, and RISE, a radio reading service for the visually impaired and print disabled, as well as community outreach and family learning initiatives. For more information visit WMHT Online: www.wmht.org.

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