

An evening of Irish music at Arts Center

Amy Kortuem and her Celtic Band to perform Friday

By Kurt Hildebrandt
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ST. PETER — A musical journey full of real Irish inspiration will take place Friday (March 23) when harpist Amy Kortuem and her Celtic Band perform at The Arts Center of St. Peter starting at 7:30 p.m.

Kortuem and her bandmates — Martha Lindberg on recorder and whistle, Marti Ryan on violin and Sam Lawrence on bodhran — will provide a “fun evening of great music and inspiration,” according to Kortuem. Irish step dancer Megan Maloney will also be dancing to a few pieces during the concert.

“This will not be a formal harp concert,” Kortuem said. “My concerts are relaxed and I love to engage the audience and tell them about the music we’re performing.”

As part of this concert, Kortuem will be drawing on the inspiration she got from a trip to Ireland in May 2006. During her trip there she had time not only to perform, but also to compose and further broaden her musical skills and talents.

“The main purpose of this trip was inspiration in general,” Kortuem said. “I wanted to do it all: hear the music,



Submitted Photo

Amy Kortuem will perform music at Friday’s concert that was inspired by a trip to Ireland she took in May 2006. She’s shown above playing her harp in Ireland’s Ardferf Cathedral.

experience the culture, explore the history and the historical locations, and soak in the atmosphere.

“The trip turned out to be musically inspiring in particular. I discovered new music to perform on the harp, and also wrote some new pieces which my band and I will be performing Friday night.”

As for Friday’s performance, those attending will be provided a chance to see how this trip affected her from a professional standpoint.

“I’ll be performing new music I composed while in Ireland,” she said.

“I’ll also be sharing a few stories and insights about the trip between songs. Music was everywhere (in Ireland), and not just from literal sources, either.

“I heard music in the waves, in the wind, coming from the very rocks. I also loved being in the places where many of my favorite Irish tunes originated.”

Kortuem and her band’s performance is made possible by a grant provided by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council from funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature and the McKnight Foundation.