



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

**MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS
TO HARP IRELAND/CRUIT ÉIREANN**

As President of Ireland, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your successful advocacy that has led to the recent decision by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to recognise Irish harping.

The inclusion of the Irish harp on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage signifies important international recognition of the central place that harping occupies in Irish culture and heritage.

In addition, it is also of course a tribute to all those who perform and compose music for what is rightly considered our national instrument, and to all valued custodians of the magnificent art of harp making.

May I congratulate you and all those who have worked with you on the obtaining of this important international recognition. You have not only consistently and convincingly made the case for the protection and acknowledgement of the unique role the harp and harping have played, and continue to play, in our national consciousness, but also ensured that the grá for the instrument and its music has continued to spread.

It is due to your sustained and shared efforts, and those of so many who have come to love and appreciate the depth and warmth of harping, that we continue to see an increase in the number of people who take up the instrument, and as President of Ireland may I thank you for your hard work, dedication and infectious enthusiasm for the protection and international recognition of this remarkable part of our national heritage.

Míle buíochas libh agus beir beannacht don todhcháí.

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland