



Sept. 10, 11, 12, & 13 • P.O. Box 5166, Jackson MS
CelticFestMS.org

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CELTICFEST MISSISSIPPI RECEIVES ARTS FUNDING

(Jackson, MS) – The Celtic Heritage Society (CHS) based in Jackson has been awarded two grants to present the 18th Annual CelticFest Mississippi, and is awaiting notification of a third grant.

Grant funding awarded to CelticFest from the Heritage Program at the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) is a portion of the \$1.5 million in grants the Commission will award in 2009-2010. The grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The funds from the MAC are used to support the staples of CelticFest, sort of the ‘meat and potatoes’. The grant goes a long way in supporting the festival proper, for staging and grounds, as well as to take care of our volunteer artists,” says CHS President, Rob Millette.

The Mississippi Arts Commission is a state agency that serves more than 1.7 million people of the state through grants that support programs to enhance communities; assist artists and arts organizations; promote the arts in education and celebrate Mississippi’s cultural heritage. Established in 1968, the Mississippi Arts Commission is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wallace Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, Donna & Jim Barksdale, the Phil Hardin Foundation and other private sources. The Commission serves as the official grants-making and service agency for the arts in Mississippi.

A second grant from the Southern Arts Federation (SAF) was awarded to CelticFest from the competitive Regional Touring Program to present *Captain Mackey’s Goatskin and String Band* from Co. Cork, Ireland. A third grant from the SAF’s Fast Track program was secured to present the Irish ensemble, Trian.

The Southern Arts Federation (SAF) is a not-for-profit regional arts organization is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), foundations, corporations, individuals and member states. The organization works in partnership with the nine state arts agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

“We are pleased to be able to offer grants to performing arts organizations that enrich the arts and culture in our nine-state region,” said Gerri Combs, SAF Executive Director.

For information from the Mississippi Arts Commission, contact Susan Dobbs – 601/359-6031 or sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us. For information about the Southern Arts Federation, contact Ann-Laura Parks—404/874-7244, ext 25 or aparks@southarts.org. For information on CelticFest Mississippi, contact Valerie Plested at vaple21@gmail.com or 601/366-2775.

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CelticFest Mississippi is a family-oriented event hosted by an enthusiastic, all-volunteer team from the Celtic Heritage Society, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to study, promote, and preserve Celtic traditions and cultures in Mississippi. This includes music, dance, language, literature, and other activities native to Celtic nations (Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Wales, and the Isle of Man).