



www.CelticFestMS.org | Celtic Heritage Society | P.O. Box 5166, Jackson MS 39296 | 601.376.9866

Media Release

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Event: CelticFest Mississippi

Date: September 10, 11, & 12, 2010

Place: Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, Jackson, MS

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BIG ACTS AT CELTICFEST MISSISSIPPI

(Jackson, MS) CelticFest Mississippi, a 100% volunteer-run event in Jackson, is bringing more international-caliber entertainment to its homegrown stages.

“Typically, we bring in two artists or groups who are well-known or influential in the Irish music scene: one to fill the “balladeer” slot and the other to play the instrumental music and lead the Saturday Night Céilí Mór,” says Performer Coordinator, Don Penzien. “Last year, we added a “dance” headliner to teach workshops and guide the Céilí Mór.”

This year, we’ve got FIVE headliners, the most exciting of which is **Téada**, a band at the forefront of traditional Irish music today. This quintet from Co. Sligo have long been true to their roots, thanks to fine individual musicianship and a lack of appetite for musical pyrotechnics. The tunes and the boys’ musicianship do the talking!

“It’s really quite gratifying -- Téada were almost booked to play in Pittsburg on our weekend for a heftier fee,” says Penzien. “But the band had heard about this Mississippi gem, the community here, and the love Mississippi shows for traditional music, and they didn’t want to miss it. Word is getting out around the country that Mississippi is a place for music.”

Headlining a second year, **Captain Mackey’s Goatskin Band** includes the Cork legend, Jimmy Crowley, and a Cork legend in-the-making, Máirtín de Cógáin. De Cógáin fronts the Fuchsia Band, CelticFest’s most popular band to date. Captain Mackey’s toured Ireland in June on their CD release for *Soldiers’ Songs*.

Irish uilleann piper, **Tim Britton**, a familiar sight to CelticFest audiences, is among the foremost of a generation making innovative contributions to the Irish tradition. A virtuoso on the rare uilleann pipes (a sophisticated Irish bagpipe, pronounced ILL-in), Tim has been touring, teaching and recording over the last thirty years.

Lastly, the **Éamonn de Cógáin** (pronounced AY-man de KOH- GON/) is widely regarded as Ireland’s most energetic emcee. He comes from a family very active in Cork’s old style dancing, and has called dances (céilís) far and wide across the Emerald Isle. Éamonn’s smooth brog and easy going nature allow people of all ages to believe that they can Céilí dance the night away without difficulty.

CelticFest’s tried-and-true local and regional performers (over 40 acts) will travel from west as Los Angeles, California, as far east as Providence, Rhode Island, and as far north as Saginaw, Michigan, and south as Orlando, Florida. “We really have folks coming from all over: Reno, Sacramento, Kansas City, points in Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Texas. They all come and volunteer their time on our stages.” Stage performances feature dancing, music, and storytelling.



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The children won't be left out— CelticFest is a family-friendly festival! There will be a Children's Area and kid-oriented vendors during the day Saturday and Sunday. Crafts, facepainting, and activities are available for parents and kids to participate.

Admission is \$12 for an adult Weekend Pass, \$8 for seniors and students, \$5 for children ages 5-17, and \$1 for children under four. "A greater value of this quality can't be had in Jackson....," says Harvey Kimble, past president of the Celtic Heritage Society.

For more information, please visit the CelticFest web site: www.CelticFestMS.org. The Celtic Heritage Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the mission of promoting and preserving the arts and culture of the Celtic nations. CelticFest is a family-oriented event, and all CHS events are open to the public.

CelticFest's sponsors include: Fenian's Irish Pub, Wine & Spirits In the Quarter, Cabot Lodge Millsaps, Branch Cable, Capital Cities Beverages and Guinness, and the Jackson Irish Dancers. This project is also funded in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency and by South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mississippi Arts Commission.

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