

September 7, 8, & 9
Mississippi Agricultural &
Forestry Museum, Jackson



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CELTICFEST RECEIVES ARTS GRANTS

(Jackson, MS) – The Celtic Heritage Society (CHS) based in Jackson has been awarded two grants to present the 21st Annual CelticFest Mississippi.

CelticFest Mississippi was awarded funding from the Heritage Program at the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the \$1.5 million in grants the Commission will award in 2012-2013. Grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The funding we receive from the MAC goes a long way in supporting CelticFest, for staging and grounds, as well as to take care of our volunteer artists,” says CHS President, Rob Millette. “It’s the ‘meat and potatoes.’”

The Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, serves the Mississippi residents by providing grants that support programs to enhance communities, assists artists and arts organizations, promotes the arts in education, and celebrates Mississippi’s cultural heritage. Established in 1968, the MAC is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wallace Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, the Phil Hardin Foundation, the Riley Foundation, the Mississippi Endowment for the Arts at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, and other private sources.

A second grant was awarded from South Arts through their Regional Touring program to present a CelticFest headliner, *The Máirtín de Cógáin Project*. South Arts is a not-for-profit regional arts organization 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, South Arts Executive Director.

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

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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, with particular emphasis on traditional Irish music and dance. Membership in the CHS and participation in CHS activities are open to all.

