

CELTIC FEST MISSISSIPPI



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

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Event: 19th Annual CelticFest Mississippi
Date: September 10-13, 2009
Place: Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, Jackson, MS
Cost: \$12 Adult, \$8 seniors/students, \$5 ages 5-17, and \$1 under four years
Information: www.CelticFestMS.org

RECORD NUMBER OF CELTICFEST HEADLINERS

JACKSON -- CelticFest Mississippi, a 100% volunteer-run event in Jackson, is bringing more international caliber entertainment to its homegrown stages than ever before.

“Typically, we bring in two artists or groups who are well-known or influential in the Irish music scene: one to sing songs and the other to play the instrumental music and lead the Saturday Night *Céilí Mór*,” says Performer Coordinator, Don Penzien.

“This year, we’ve got FIVE headliners, the most exciting of which is **Trian**, who are a three piece made up of two of the finest Irish-American instrumentalists (Liz Carroll and Billy McComiskey) and one of the most influential Irish guitarists of modern Irish traditional music, Dáithí Sproule.”

Trian headlined CelticFest in 1994, produced two popular recordings, and eventually went their own musical ways. CelticFest marks the first time the trio has reunited in about a decade. “I understand CelticFest has ignited the return of this band to the scene, and they are playing in Philadelphia after Jackson,” says Penzien.

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 will release their first album in October, entitled *Soldier Songs: The Irish Abroad and Soldiering*.

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.

Brendan Nolan, originally from Dublin, is a fine performer on all fronts, and a hidden gem in Mississippi’s ‘backyard’, St. Pete Beach, Florida. A sensitive and thoughtful artist, Brendan has used his broad knowledge of traditional Irish songs to develop into a very fine songwriter whose work is steeped in the traditions that he’s mastered.

Lastly, CelticFest is featuring its first “dance” headliner: **Éamonn de Cógáin** is widely regarded as Ireland's most energetic emcee. He has called dances (céilís) far and wide across the Emerald Isle and is

now devolving a name for himself stateside. 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 as far away as Michigan, Rhode Island, and Florida for another round as well, including Smithfield Fair, Finvarra's Wren, Legacy, Jim Flanagan, and more. Stage performances feature dancing, music, and storytelling.

The children won't be left out— CelticFest is a family-friendly festival! There will be a Children's Area and kid-oriented vendors on the grounds.

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, Telapex, Capital Cities Beverages and Guinness, the Jackson Irish Dancers, Cups, Broadstreet, Bravo!, and Sal and Mookies. This project is also funded in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency and by the Southern Arts Federation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mississippi Arts Commission.

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