

The Celtic Heritage Society

P.O. Box 5166, Jackson, Mississippi 39296-5166
www.CelticFestMS.org

MARCH 10, 2009 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: St. Patrick's Celebration
Date: March 22, 2009 from 12:00-7:30pm
Place: Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, Jackson, MS
Cost: \$5 Adults; \$4 Seniors; \$2 Children aged 5-18
Website: www.CelticFestMS.org
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AUTHENTIC ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

(Jackson, MS) – The Hal and Mal's St Paddy's Parade, the Celtic Heritage Society, Jackson Irish Dancers are teaming up to show the Irish side of Jackson! After the parade on Saturday, get on the Sunday green for a great afternoon and evening featuring live Irish music, Irish dancing, music and dance workshops, plenty of food and drink, and loads of family-friendly fun, ending with a céilí that evening - all at the Ag Museum.

The performers for the day feature Irish imports Máirtín de Cógáin & Jimmy Crowley, both former headliners for *CelticFest Mississippi*. Máirtín and Jimmy hail from County Cork, Ireland, and now perform together as *Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band*.

Other Irish and Celtic performances include Jim Flanagan, the Jackson Irish Dancers, Legacy, Spirits of the House, and St. Brigid's. Specialty item vendors will sell their wares, and plenty of food and drink can be purchased to keep the fun going strong!

"This is a family-oriented event with an emphasis on Irish culture," Rob Millette, President of the Celtic Heritage Society. "Music, dancing, crafts, you name it. It's about enjoying yourself!"

A highlight of this event is a prelude to the 1st annual *Filum Festival* that will take place at *CelticFest Mississippi* in September, 2009. Co-sponsored by the Crossroads Film Society, this mini-film festival will be hosted by Corkman Máirtín de Cógáin who appeared in the movie *Wind that Shakes the Barley* that was awarded top honors at the Cannes' Film Festival in '07.

Workshops on a variety of traditional Irish culture will be offered all afternoon, with all ages welcome. Topics include Irish dance (basic footwork, beginning set dancing, and step dancing), Irish music (flute, tin whistle, guitar, bouzouki, and others), and Irish language (Gaelic). Workshops will take place in the former Craftsman's Guild building at the Ag Museum. A full schedule of events will be posted in a downloadable format on the CelticFestMS.org website the week of the event.

Capping off the evening is a Céilí Dance (pronounced 'kay-lee'), from 6-7:30pm, featuring live music and a guided dance. No dancing experience is required to participate – beginners are welcome. And in fact, no participation is required, for those who prefer to be entertained.

Links to the performers' websites and a downloadable schedule can be found on the CelticFestMS.org website.

Admission for the day is \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors, \$2 for children ages 5-18, and children under the age of 4 are free. Parking is free in the Smith Wills Stadium lot, with a walk-in entrance for the Ag. Museum. It's a packed day of Irish music, dance, and fun not to be missed!

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. All CHS events are open to the public. Sponsored by the Clarion Ledger, MetroMix, Guinness, Coors, Wine & Spirits in the Quarter, Fenian's Pub, Crossroads Film Society, and the Celtic Heritage Society, and the Jackson Irish Dancers.

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