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Media Release

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CELTICFEST RECEIVES ARTS GRANT FROM MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION

(Jackson, MS) – The Celtic Heritage Society (CHS) based in Jackson has been awarded a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission to present the 19th Annual CelticFest Mississippi, held September 10th-12th, 2010.

CelticFest Mississippi is a family-oriented, 3-day event hosted by an 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. The festival features traditional music, dance, language, literature, and other activities native to Celtic nations (Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Wales, and the Isle of Man). CelticFest takes place at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum in Jackson, MS.

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 2010-2011. 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 Commission 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. “It’s the ‘meat and potatoes’, so to speak!”

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.

For information from the Mississippi Arts Commission, contact Susan Dobbs – 601/359-6031 or sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us. For information on CelticFest Mississippi, contact Valerie Pledsted at vaple21@gmail.com, 601/366-2775, or visit the festival website at www.CelticFestMS.org.

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