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Media Release

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CELTICFEST AWARDED SOUTH ARTS GRANT

(Jackson, MS) – The Celtic Heritage Society (CHS) based in Jackson has been awarded a grant from South Arts to present the headlining Irish band, *Téada*, at 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.

The grant from South Arts (formerly the Southern Arts Federation) is awarded through the Fast Track Touring program. *Téada* are from Ireland and are one of the hottest traditional music bands on the scene. *Téada*'s appearance at CelticFest will be the band's first appearance in the state of Mississippi.

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.

This grant is the second awarded to the Celtic Heritage Society from South Arts this year, after the agency awarded grant funding to present a concert and workshops featuring the *Fuchsia Band* from Co. Cork, Ireland (coming August 21st). This is the 7th year that the Celtic Heritage Society has been awarded this grant.

“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 Plested at vaple21@gmail.com, 601/366-2775, or visit the festival website at www.CelticFestMS.org.

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