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Media Release

June 24, 2011 – for immediate release

Event: CelticFest Mississippi

Date: September 9, 10, & 11, 2011

Place: Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, Jackson, MS

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20 YEARS OF CELTICFEST

(Jackson, MS) -- CelticFest Mississippi, the Celtic Heritage Society's annual weekend of cultural celebration is in its 20th year. Always a packed weekend of Celtic music, dance, and fun not to be missed, and 2011 is no exception.

'CelticFest' is a celebration of the Celtic nations including Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man and Brittany. It takes place on September 9th-11th at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum.

The weekend features an exceptional variety of exciting Irish and Scottish music and dance on 8 stages, plus free Celtic heritage, music and dance workshops, a children's area, specialty vendors, and plenty of food and drink. Because much of the festival takes place indoors, CelticFest will be held RAIN or SHINE.

CelticFest annually features several headlining artists of both international status and high caliber. The stages are packed with a full schedule of music, including over 45 other music and dance groups, travelling to Mississippi from as far away as California, Michigan, Rhode Island, Florida. We will be announcing this year's headliners soon.

"We're excited about the program we're building for our 20th year," says Scott Cole, one of CelticFest's planners. "It's promising to be a great anniversary!"

The festivities begin Friday night 7pm-midnight with music/dance performances on multiple stages, vendors, the ever-popular Whiskey Tasting benefit, and an open tune session. On Saturday, the gates open at 10 am with even more entertainment, workshops, and the massive Céilí Mór continuously until midnight. The gates open again 11 am Sunday for another day of Celtic fun.

A popular feature of last year's festival, the Highland Games demonstration will exhibit the caber toss, Braemar stone throw, and other Highland games. Mighty indeed!

An ever popular highlight of CelticFest, the massive Céilí Dance (pronounced 'kay-lee') caps off the Saturday night. Co. Cork native and featured Dancemaster, Éamonn de Cógáin will lead the



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Céilí for his fourth year running. No dancing experience is required to participate – beginners are welcome.

The children won't be left out— CelticFest is a family-friendly festival! There will be a Children's Area active on Saturday and Sunday at peak hours, and kid-oriented vendors and foods 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, and the Jackson Irish Dancers. This project is also funded in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency and by South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mississippi Arts Commission.

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