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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 20th Annual CelticFest Mississippi, held September 9th-11th, 2011.

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). The annual festival takes place on the ground of 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 2011-2012. 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 serving residents 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 the funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, the Phil Hardin Foundation, Mississippi Endowment for the Arts at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and other private sources. The Commission serves as an active supporter and promoter of arts in community life and in arts education.

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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