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Media Release

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SOUTH ARTS AWARDS GRANT FOR FUCHSIAS AT CELTICFEST MS

(Jackson, MS) – The Celtic Heritage Society (CHS) based in Jackson has been awarded a grant from South Arts to present ***the Fuchsia Band*** from Cork, Ireland, at the 20th Annual CelticFest Mississippi, held September 9th-11th, 2011. This is the eighth year that the Celtic Heritage Society has been awarded a grant from South Arts for performance and education-based activities.

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. The Fuchsia Band, the most popular band to headline at CelticFest Mississippi, is returning as a special treat for the 20th anniversary of the festival. The Fuchsia Band volunteered their talents to cheer Mississippi audiences after Hurricane Katrina devastated the state's coast only two weeks before, an act which has endeared them to their fans, even more than their *ceol binn* (sweet music)! The Fuchsia Band will perform several stage performances and free music and dance workshops throughout the weekend.

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.

“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 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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