

For Immediate Release

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Media Contact: Jim Miller
Phone: 972-480-0621, **Cell:** 214-457-1573
www.ntif.org.

Public Information: 972-943-4616

2010 NORTH TEXAS IRISH FESTIVAL
28th Annual Festival to Feature Celtic Canadian Connection
March 5-6-7 at Fair Park
Presented by the Southwest Celtic Music Association

DALLAS –The 2010 North Texas Irish Festival, (NTIF) recognizes the Irish influence on the French Acadian Regions of Eastern Canada at its 28th annual festival, March 5-6 and 7 at Fair Park. Performers from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and other provinces along the eastern Canadian seaboard will be featured at the Festival.

The NTIF will also continue to stress the need for a “Green” eco-friendly way of living by working with several corporate sponsors featuring products and services designed to protect and preserve the environment.

The annual North Texas Irish Festival, presented by the Southwest Celtic Music Association, (SCMA), is one of the largest Celtic cultural events in the nation and will open its 2010 event beginning Friday night. The NTIF features many of the top Irish musicians and dancers in the world and a number of cultural presentations on eight stages at Fair Park. Again, the NTIF will open its festival on Friday night, March 5th, at 6 PM with full festival activities, including performances by international and regional musicians.

The festivities will continue throughout the weekend, including Saturday, March 6 through Sunday, March 7, and feature some of the very finest in Irish and other Celtic entertainment including world famous bands, award-winning dancers, enchanting storytellers, and educational workshops. The festival will also offer a variety of delicious Irish and international food and drink, cultural crafts, and ethnic vendors. More details are posted on the website at www.ntif.org.

Irish-French Acadian Headliners

In the spirit of the cultural connection between the music of the Canadian Atlantic Provinces and that of Ireland, several outstanding bands will be headlining the festival. Those include **Grand Dérangement**, performing exciting, highly poetic, insightful Acadian tunes, **Vishten**, with original creative music from the new Acadia, **Gabelle**, an all female band offering traditional Acadian songs, and **Samantha Robichaud**, the lively, youthful Atlantic Coast artist with her dazzling display of rhythm and beauty on the fiddle. Rounding out the Atlantic Canada area are the world famous **Great Big Sea**, carrying the music of Newfoundland wherever they go, the **Irish Descendants**, celebrating the East Coast Canadian-Irish music with lilting ballads and toe

tapping reels, and **The Barra MacNeils**, returning for their second NTIF, bringing captivating vocal harmonies from Nova Scotia to Dallas. Also featured will be popular Irish entertainers, **David Munnely** and **Sliabh Notes**.

The North Texas Irish Festival has been a Dallas tradition since 1983. The three-day NTIF is now recognized as the largest single cultural event held in Fair Park and, with an attendance of over 62,000 people, is second only to that of the State Fair of Texas. The Festival has always highlighted the music, dance and culture of Ireland. The nine large stages will showcase not only the French Acadian connection but international musicians from the Ireland and the U.S. The NTIF caters to almost every taste, from the high energy Celtic rock bands such as **Town Pants** to very traditional Irish tunes and **Ed Miller** from Edinburgh, by way of Austin, with his Scottish folk ballads.

Equally well represented are the colorful traditional and modern Irish dancers with their hand-embroidered dresses and fast foot-tapping rhythms. Some of the finest dancers in the country are located in local Metroplex schools, and they delight our audiences with continuous performances on our Emerald dance stage. In addition there will be dance workshops throughout the weekend and everyone is encouraged to get into the spirit of Ireland at the Saturday night Ceili, or Irish dance party.

Performers

Internationally known as a showcase for the best in Celtic entertainment, this year's festival will feature a rich blend of traditional and modern Celtic bands as well as solo artists. Full festival activities will kick off on a big Friday night of high-energy performances this year. Again in 2010 the NTIF will feature several top regional and local bands. In addition, performances by area dance groups will include the well-known Emerald School of Dance, the Shandon School of Irish Dance, the McTeggart Irish Dancers and the Maguire Academy

Cultural

The festival brings a wide variety of exhibitors, workshops, plays and demonstrations. The popular "**Scottish Village**" will return again this year where local Scottish clans will feature demonstrations and explanations as to the strong connection between the Irish and Scots in their music, ancestry and culture. "**Urchin Street**" will offer a special place where the younger Celts can find entertainment, education, play and fun, including music, dance, storytelling, theater, magic and mystery. Many special activities and giveaways will be part of expanded Urchin Street programs this year.

Hours, Admission and Location

Gates open on Friday evening, March 5 at 6 p.m. with the last performance til 10:30 p.m., Saturday, March 6 from 10:30 a.m., last performance til 11 p.m. and Sunday, March 7 from 11:30 a.m., last performance til 7 p.m. Adult tickets are Free until 7 pm Friday night and \$10 after, \$15 for Saturday or Sunday, or \$30 for a 3-day weekend pass. *Children 11 and under* are admitted free. Members of the SCMA, Students (with ID) and Senior Citizens receive a \$2 discount at the gate. **Discount one-day tickets will be available beginning February 8, 2010 at all Metroplex Tom Thumb stores.** The event will take place in Fair Park's historic buildings

and the adjacent open areas. Parking is available in and around Fair Park. **Detailed directions and parking tips are available on the home page of our website at www.ntif.org.**

DART

DAR is the official transportation provider of the NTIF, for the first time ever brings the DART Light Rail Line directly to the main gate of NTIF at Fair Park from many locations throughout the Metroplex. "Go GREEN – take the Green to the Green and save some Green!"

The public can call **972-943-4616** or visit www.ntif.org for more information or to volunteer to work at the festival.

About the Southwest Celtic Music Association

The Southwest Celtic Music Association (SCMA) is the producing organization for the North Texas Irish Festival (NTIF). Over 600 volunteers will help in organization, promotion and execution of this year's festival. The first such festival was held on March 5, 1983 at the legendary Nick Farrelly's Lounge on Oak Lawn and was billed as the First Texas Céili. This event was so popular that it has continued every year since on the first weekend in March as the North Texas Irish Festival. Shortly after the first festival, the all-volunteer Southwest Celtic Music Association was formed to promote the study, performance and preservation of traditional Celtic music, dance and culture. In 1984, the event was moved to Fair Park and its name changed to the North Texas Irish Festival. The Southwest Celtic Music Association is a 501(c) 3 corporation headquartered in Dallas, Texas and serves a five-state regional area. The organization maintains a web site at www.scmatrix.org.

Sponsors

The North Texas Irish Festival is produced and sponsored by the Southwest Celtic Music Association. Generous sponsors include, North Texas Tollway Authority, Guinness, Coors Light, George Killian's Irish Red, Harp, Smithwick's, Coca Cola, Tom Thumb, the Radisson Hotel @ Mockingbird Station, Sullivan-Perkins and DART. Media support is provided by CBS Radio stations; KLUV, KLLI, KRLD, KVIL, KJJK and KOAI, NBC 5, and Quick,

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