



**milwaukee  
irish fest**

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**Milwaukee Irish Fest named Celtic Music Event of the Year**

*Ireland's Music Awards recognizes Irish Fest's success in preserving Celtic music*

MILWAUKEE – September 18, 2009 – Milwaukee Irish Fest recently announced that it was awarded Celtic Music Event of the Year by *Ireland's Music Awards*. This acknowledgement comes as part of *The World Fleadh* Irish and Celtic music festival, the only awards recognizing Irish traditional, folk and Celtic music in Ireland.

Hosting their inaugural year, *Ireland's Music Awards* are chosen based on voters' choice (ages 18 and older) between the months of September through July each year. This year's ceremony was held August 1, 2009 at The Royal Theatre & Events Centre, Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland. *Ireland's Music Awards* honor the most popular musicians, vocalists, acts, producers, composers and lifetime achievers at a gala ceremony held in Ireland annually.

"It is only fitting that Irish Fest, the largest and most authentic Irish event in the world, should be honored as the Celtic Music Event of the Year for our inaugural awards presentation," said Brian O'Donovan, director of the *Boston Icons Festival* and producer/host of *A Celtic Sojourn*, WGBH radio, Boston.

"We are proud to accept this award on behalf of our more than 4,000 volunteers that organize the festival each year," said Ed Ward, founder, Milwaukee Irish Fest. "Music is the centerpiece of Irish culture and our festival. Every year we strive to bring the best Celtic entertainment to Milwaukee, incorporating everything from traditional music to new, contemporary sounds."

**About Milwaukee Irish Fest**

Milwaukee Irish Fest is the world's largest celebration of Irish music and culture, showcasing more than 100 entertainment acts annually at the four-day, 16-stage event at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Lake Michigan. Passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people, Irish Fest teaches Ireland's music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children's activities, and genealogy at the festival and through year-long programming. For more information, visit [irishfest.com](http://irishfest.com).

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