

**PRESS RELEASE
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17th Annual Celtic Fling Celebration

Music, Dance, Culture, Highland Games, Arts & Crafts and so much more!

The Celtic traditions of dance, music, food, games, and crafts come alive every year at the Celtic Fling celebration on the grounds of the PA Renaissance Faire. On over 35 acres, the Celtic spirit is felt as it captivates the hearts of all those that join in the festivities. There is something for everyone – a music festival, a dance competition, a sporting event, a cultural celebration, a food fest, and an arts and crafts show all rolled into one dazzling weekend. The merriment starts at 11:00 AM and concludes at 10:00 PM both Saturday and Sunday, June 28th and 29th.

Music for Your Heart & Soul

The Celtic Fling is the premiere location to hear the best in Celtic entertainment with its rich blend of non-stop traditional and modern performances. The weekend celebration is kicked-off with a Friday Night Concert featuring Gaelic Storm and Carbon Leaf.

Saturday and Sunday, the beat of the bands continues to resonate across the festival with 13 entertainers mesmerizing their audiences through instrument and voice. Back by popular demand is Scots born **Albannach**, and the rousing and raucous band, **Scythian**. **Barleyjuice**, **Dublin 5**, **The Gothard Sisters**, **Kilmaine Saints**, **Poor Man's Gambit**, **Rukus**, **Screaming Orphans**, and **Tartan Terrors** will all bring their unique talents to the pool of exceptional Celtic music. Traditional music will be celebrated with fiddle and voice by **Neidfyre**.

The Feis – Irish Dance Competition

Thousands of dancers and their families will descend upon the Celtic Fling to compete in the Celtic Fling Feis Competition, officially sanctioned by the North American Feis Commission and the only Feis in Central, PA. Saturday, June 27th, the Feis Competition will showcase the traditional Irish dance. Girls, boys, men and women ranging in ability from beginner to champion will captivate audiences as they compete in hard shoe and elegant soft shoe jigs. The audience will get a rare look at this unique dance practiced today as it has been since 18th century rural Ireland.

Athletics Scottish Style

Saturday, June 27, men and women will compete in sanctioned Highland Games including the Scottish Hammer, the Caber Toss, The Sheaf Toss and Stone Weight Throw. The Athlete of the Day earns an automatic berth in the East Coast Championship and the coveted North American Highland Games Championship.

The Grace of Tradition

The Fling will showcase an array of Celtic history, culture and tradition. Historians, storytellers, re-enactors and traditional Celtic musicians will fill both days. A gathering of the Clans will offer the chance to explore clan histories and become familiar with the worthwhile missions the clans and societies maintain. A traditional Irish wake demonstration honoring the period between a death and the burial, a time for not only mourning the death but celebrating life. Celtic critters including Greyhound, Great Dane, Irish Setter and Irish Wolfhound rescue organizations, and Irish Draught horses will help round out the cultural experience of the weekend.

Arts, Crafts, and Food

Hundreds of craftsmen will provide a unique shopping opportunity for guests to purchase everything from Celtic themed clothing and jewelry to items made of wood, pewter, leather, glass and more.

Culinary highlights include Irish Boxyty, Corned Beef Reubens, Tiger Pies, Haggis and more from 22 kitchens throughout the site. Each year, patrons assist with the Scotch Egg Challenge and will help to beat last year's record of 4290 eggs sold during the weekend.

Gates for the pre-Fling Friday night, June 26 concert open at 5:30 PM. Concert tickets are \$29.95 at the gate and \$26.95 in advance. The Celtic Fling & Highland Games take place Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, 11 AM - 10 PM. One-day Saturday or Sunday admission at the gate is \$26.95 for adults and \$10.95 for children ages 5 to 11. Guests can save by purchasing Fling tickets in advance online at PaRenFaire.com, or purchasing a two-day pass valid for Saturday and Sunday. Festival details, performer biographies and advanced one or two-day tickets can be purchased at PaRenFaire.com or by calling (717) 665-7021.

The Celtic Fling & Highland Games is located on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire on Route 72, a half mile South of PA Turnpike exit 266, 14 miles East of Hershey and 15 miles North of Lancaster.

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