



MEDIA RELEASE
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Colorado's Celtic Steps explodes on national Irish Dance scene

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Colorado's Celtic Steps School of Irish Dance had a major impact at the recent North American Irish Dance Championships held in Nashville, Tenn., on July 3-7, 2009, as it produced teams that won two of the most prestigious titles in the competition, the Senior Figure Choreography and the Senior Mixed Ceili.

The Senior Figure Choreography is the marquee competition of the North American Irish Dance Championships. Teams of 16 dancers perform the most elaborately choreographed and produced routines of the entire Championships that reminiscent of large touring Irish Dance shows. The Celtic Steps team, consisting of 16 girls from Denver and Colorado Springs performed its original "Female Warriors of Ulster" routine to win the crown. Previously, the team had finished 5th in the World Irish Dance Championships in April of 2009.

The Senior Mixed Ceili is another major championship as teams of eight dancers, both male and female, perform set routines that are judged on timing and precision. The Celtic Steps team consisted of four female dancers and four male dancers from Denver, Boulder and Colorado Springs.

Celtic Steps was the only school of the more than 100 that had teams entered in the 17 team competitions to capture two first place championships. In addition, Celtic Steps' Senior Girls Ceili team snagged third in their division.

The North American Irish Dance Championships featured more than 2,500 dancers from all across the United States, Canada and Europe ages 8 to adult contending in 52 different team and individual competitions. Celtic Steps had 28 dancers compete in different divisions.

Veteran Irish Dance professionals and certified Irish Dance teachers Aisling Toal-Casey and Shaun Casey operate Celtic Steps School of Irish Dance. Aisling was born and raised in Belfast, Ireland, and Shaun was born and raised in Lakewood, Colorado. The two met and married while touring as the leads in Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance" touring production.

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