

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Stack, Consul General of Ireland, Hold Irish-American Heritage Month Event Featuring Photography Exhibit at State Capitol

HARRISBURG – Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack was host for an observance of Irish culture and heritage in the state Capitol today as he welcomed photographer Robin Hiteshew of Philadelphia, whose photographic exhibit of Irish musicians is currently on display in the East Wing atrium. Barbara Jones, the Consul General of Ireland posted in New York, was also on hand, along with Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro Cortes and several legislators.

“March is Irish-American Heritage Month, and St. Patrick’s Day will be here soon. I think this is a wonderful, and very appropriate way, to kick off our official celebration here in Pennsylvania,” Stack said.

The exhibit, called “The Face of Irish Music,” displays 50 black and white portraits of artists who play traditional tunes exemplifying Irish culture. Hiteshew, from Philadelphia, has spent more than 30 years on the project depicting such artists. The exhibit of his work began showing in the Capitol on March 1 and will remain through March 20.

“These portraits illustrate the continued vitality of Irish music, both in Ireland and in the United States,” Hiteshew said. “In addition, they underscore the ongoing interrelationship between musicians living in Ireland and those in diasporic communities such as New York, Boston and Philadelphia.”

Most of the images were taken in Philadelphia and other east coast cities and represent a wide range of talent dedicated to traditional Irish music.

Stack, whose maternal and paternal grandparents emigrated from Ireland to the United States, is sponsoring Capitol exhibit.

“The Irish are a tough and resilient people, and wherever they have gone, they have thrived. This photographic exhibit captures their strength, while also illustrating their creativity and their dedication to preserving their cultural heritage. The artistry of Robin’s photography faithfully conveys a sense of the artistry of the music. We are very pleased that we can have it on display here in the Capitol,” Stack said.

In addition to focusing on Hiteshew’s photos, the event also included presentations from Sen. John Blake (D-Lackawanna), Sen. John Rafferty (R-Montgomery), and Rep. Marty Flynn (D-Lackawanna) to Consul General Jones, commemorating March as Irish-American Heritage Month in Pennsylvania.

MEDIA CONTACT: Gary Tuma – 717-787-3300, gtuma@pa.gov

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