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FOR RELEASE: *Immediately through May 20, 2014*

U.S. Air Force Celtic Band takes First Tour

Who/What: Celtic Aire, the premier Celtic and folk band of the United States Air Force, will kick off its first national tour with a free performance at Carnegie Mellon University's Kresge Theatre on May 20 at 7:30 p.m. Stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., the group is comprised of five Airmen musicians. Using multiple instruments and lush vocal harmonies, they have a large repertoire of Celtic folk songs, Irish reels and jigs, and pub songs, and even cover versions of pop songs.

The U.S. Air Force's only bagpiper, Technical Sgt. Adam Tianello, will be performing with Celtic Aire as well. This tour will take the group through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. This concert is sponsored by the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music. Free tickets for this concert are available at:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/631506>

Celtic Aire member, Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Hoffmann, is a Pittsburgh native. He graduated from South Park High School in 1994, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Music degree from Duquesne University in 1998. Hoffmann's bio and photo are available at:

<http://www.usafband.af.mil/ensembles/BandBio.asp?BandBioID=718>

Master Sgt. Joe Haughton also has connections to Pittsburgh having received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music from Carnegie Mellon University in 2002. During and after his undergraduate studies, he performed extensively with Pittsburgh Opera Company. Haughton's photo and bio is available at:

<http://www.usafband.af.mil/ensembles/BandBio.asp?BandBioID=716>

When: May 20, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Carnegie Mellon University, Kresge Theatre, Pittsburgh, Pa.

INTERVIEW OPTIONS:

Members of Celtic Aire are available for in-studio or phone-in interviews; live performances on local morning shows including bumpers and teasers; and coverage before, during and after concerts. They can perform acoustically or with sound reinforcement utilizing their professional sound engineer. To set up interviews and/or request more information contact Technical Sgt. Mandi Harper (contact info listed above).

For more information about Celtic Aire, including photos and links to the group's free, downloadable music, please visit:

<http://www.usafband.af.mil/aboutus/media/celticaire.asp>

BACKGROUND ON CELTIC AIRE:

Formed in 2007, Celtic Aire is a subset of The United States Air Force Band's Singing Sergeants, the official chorus of the U.S. Air Force. In addition to community relations concerts in Washington, D.C., and the surrounding area, this small ensemble regularly performs at official functions for military and civilian leaders including the president, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the U.S. Air Force chief of staff. In 2009, Celtic Aire deployed to Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar and Kyrgyzstan in support of diplomatic and troop morale initiatives as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Technical Sgt. Adam Tianello will also be performing on this tour. As a member of The U.S. Air Force Band's Ceremonial Brass, he is the only bagpiper in U.S. Air Force. He regularly performs ceremonies and high-level functions at Arlington National Cemetery and other venues in metropolitan Washington, D.C. A native of Rochester, N.Y., his Air Force career began in 2009 as a member of the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

As part of The U.S. Air Force Band, these Airmen musicians honor those who have served, inspire American citizens to heightened patriotism and service, and positively impact the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America. The excellence demonstrated by these Airmen musicians is a reflection of the excellence carried out 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by Airmen stationed around the globe. Celtic Aire is proud to represent all Airmen, whose selfless service and sacrifices ensure the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America.

For more information about The United States Air Force Band, please visit: www.usafband.af.mil or contact Sergeant Harper, listed above.

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