



## News Release

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### **Rocky Mountain Power Foundation grant supports Malad Valley Welsh Foundation**

MALAD, Idaho — Music groups will entertain audiences at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Malad Valley Welsh Festival thanks in part to the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation. The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation awarded a \$1,500 grant to Malad Valley Welsh Foundation to help support the local and regional choirs and soloists that will be invited to sing in the evening concert that is a centerpiece event of the Festival.

“We appreciate the financial support for the Welsh Festival from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation. The money will be used to ensure that quality choirs and soloists are able to travel to Malad to participate in the Festival,” said Jean Thomas, Co-Chair of the Welsh Festival Committee.

Malad Valley has the largest per capita percentage of residents with Welsh ancestry outside of Wales itself, according to BYU researchers. The Malad Valley Welsh Festival grew out of the desire of local residents to honor their heritage. The Festival includes music concerts, presentations on the literature, history, and culture of Wales, displays of family and community history, craft and food vendors, pioneer games, and other events for everyone, whether of Welsh descent or not.

“This Festival celebrates and shares the rich Welsh heritage of the residents of Malad Valley, and the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is pleased to be a partner with others in the community to sponsor this worthy event,” said Glen Pond, Rocky Mountain Power's customer and community manager.

The Festival's night choral and soloist concert will eventually become an *eisteddfod* (a Welsh festival of literature, music and performance), patterned after the oldest and most famous choral competition in the world that is held in Wales annually. This year each chorus was asked to sing a composition by Evan Stephens, the third conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir who made the choir into the accomplished choral group it is today. Stephens' family settled in the Malad Valley, and he visited the area many times, sometimes as a judge of an early *eisteddfod* that was held alternately in Malad and Samaria from the late 1890s until World War I.

The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation grant will help support honoraria and some travel expenses for choirs that will come from northern Utah and southern Idaho to be part of the 2011 Welsh Festival.

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#### **About the Malad Valley Welsh Foundation**

The Malad Valley Welsh Foundation, founded in 2005, is the legal and fund-raising arm of the Welsh Festival. Its all-volunteer board is comprised of 12 local residents. The Foundation has sponsored six Welsh Festivals with attendance at the two-day events topping 1,500 every year with a third from the local area and two-thirds from outside of Idaho (16 states and three foreign countries were represented last year). The Foundation takes care of all fund raising, bill paying,

budgeting, and auditing for the Festival. Since the first Festival in 2005, the Festival has operated in the black and has been able to build the Festival's reputation for a quality cultural and arts festival.

**About the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation**

The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is part of the PacifiCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation was created in 1988 by PacifiCorp, an electric utility serving 1.7 million customers in six Western states as Rocky Mountain Power (Utah, Wyoming and Idaho) and Pacific Power (Oregon, Washington and California). The foundation's mission, through charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power. For more information visit, [www.rockymountainpower.net/rmpfoundation](http://www.rockymountainpower.net/rmpfoundation).