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The World-Renown *Hungarian State Folk Ensemble*, Showcases its Talent at Playhouse Square Center

Cleveland, OH, January 22nd, 2007 – For one performance only, the *Hungarian State Folk Ensemble* will wow audiences with its skill and expertise. This widely acclaimed ensemble will perform on the ***Palace Theatre stage at Playhouse Square Center on Thursday, March 1st at 7:30 PM.***

The *Hungarian State Folk Ensemble*, regarded as one of the greatest folkloric dance ensembles in the world, was established in 1951. Its aims were to collect and play authentic folk music and to preserve the folk dances and traditional costumes of Hungary and Hungarian-inhabited areas by putting them on stage before the public. During the more than four and a half decades of its existence, the Ensemble has achieved its aim by revitalizing the culture of the Hungarian people. Their rich and colorful repertoire entitles the Ensemble to be regarded as one of the top touring groups in the world.

The Ensemble has performed in 44 countries across four continents and won the admiration of an audience of more than seven and a half million people. In the last few years the Ensemble has encountered special interest in North-America – which was illustrated by their fourth invitation to undertake a three-month coast to coast American tour in 1994. They have also toured the Far East and Western Europe.

The Choreographies are all based on authentic dances, some of them collected in isolated villages with dance elements dating back hundreds of years. The extraordinary folk music that inspired Liszt, Bartók and Kodály is put on stage by both the Folk Orchestra and the world-famous Gipsy Orchestra. The members of the Folk Orchestra play authentic, traditional instruments and perform Hungarian folk music at its highest artistic level. The famous Gipsy Orchestra plays both dance accompaniments and performs alone.

Aside from its performances around the country and abroad, the Ensemble gives approximately 90-100 annual performances in its Corvin tér theatre, in the Budai Vigadó.

The *Hungarian State Folk Ensemble* will have one performance at Playhouse Square Center's Palace Theatre on March 1st at 7:30 PM. Tickets range in price from \$10 - \$44 each. To order tickets, call 216-241-6000, visit the Playhouse Square Ticket Office or log onto PlayhouseSquare.org.

As an additional treat, Cleveland's own Csárdás Dance Company will perform in the Palace Theatre Lobby at 6:45pm and will premier a new choreography set on the Youth Ensemble by Company Founder Richard Graber.

This performance engagement is a part of the Smart Seats initiative at Playhouse Square that offers smart entertainment at a smart price. For more information on Smart Seats, visit www.PlayhouseSquare.com/SmartSeats.

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Playhouse Square Foundation is a not-for-profit performing arts center whose mission is presenting and producing a wide variety of quality performing arts, advancing arts education and creating a theater district that is a superior location for entertainment, business and housing, thereby strengthening the economic vitality of the region.