

# LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

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## Lakes Area Music Festival Launches New Era of Performances at Historic Pillsbury Castle

### Open House on July 11 Welcomes Audiences to LAMF's New Twin Cities Home

**Brainerd, MN (June 24, 2025)** – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) proudly announces a new chapter for its Winter Series: a move to the storied Pillsbury Castle in Minneapolis. Following the closure of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis—LAMF's Twin Cities winter home for the past 12 years—the historic Pillsbury estate will now serve as the Festival's new base for year-round concerts and community engagement.

To inaugurate this exciting new partnership, LAMF will host a public open house on Friday, July 11 from 6 –9 p.m. at Pillsbury Castle (116 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis). The evening will feature musical performances throughout the mansion, light hors d'oeuvres, wine and cocktails, and an exclusive unveiling of the 2025–26 Winter Series lineup.

“The move to Pillsbury Castle is a momentous step in our evolution,” said Scott Lykins, Founder and Artistic & Executive Director of LAMF. “This venue offers not just stunning architecture but an atmosphere that matches the intimacy and artistry of our Winter Series. We're honored to bring life and music into one of Minneapolis's most treasured landmarks.”

Built in 1903, the Alfred F. Pillsbury Castle is a French château-inspired Tudor Gothic mansion made of Platteville limestone, featuring grand staircases, walnut-carved fireplaces, and elegant entertaining spaces. With more than 10,000 square feet of historic splendor, the Castle provides a rich and resonant setting for the festival's beloved chamber and vocal programs.

During the July 11 Open House, guests will enjoy vignettes of chamber music throughout the estate's Great Room, Peacock Lounge, and Salon—offering an immersive musical experience where history and harmony intertwine. Featured performers include the Thalea String Quartet, Minnesota Orchestra flutist Greg Milliren, and LAMF co-founders Scott Lykins and Taylor Ward.

LAMF's Winter Series features curated programs annually in both Brainerd and Minneapolis, connecting world-class artists with audiences year-round. The Minneapolis concerts will now find their home at Pillsbury Castle, expanding LAMF's impact in the Twin Cities while honoring its intimate roots.

Tickets for the July 11 Open House are available at [lakesareamusic.org/pillsbury-castle](https://lakesareamusic.org/pillsbury-castle).

## About Pillsbury Castle

Constructed in 1903, the Alfred F. Pillsbury Castle is a two-and-one-half-story mansion of local rock-faced Platteville limestone. It is situated on a prominent corner lot and reflects the English Tudor Gothic style which enjoyed renewed popularity in American domestic architecture from the early 1880s through the 1920s. This influence is most apparent by the projecting bays and gables which are repeated in the exterior composition. The facade of the mansion is articulated by a projecting two-story entrance bay topped by a balustrade. This bay is set slightly off-center producing an asymmetrical effect often characteristic of English Gothic design. On the main story, two four-center pointed arches are set perpendicular to each other, forming an entryway, one leading to the door and the other to a terrace.

The interior boasts 10,600 square feet with stunning architectural features throughout. The Great Hall features Quartersawn Oak paneling and a grand curved oak staircase with a carved banister. The coved ceiling features ornate plasterwork with a ribbed pattern intermixed with Tudor Roses. Double pocket doors open to the Dining Room wrapped with Flame Mahogany judges paneling with dental molding and pointed segmental arch motif. A pseudo-four-centered arch opens to a five-window bay with leaded glass windows. The Reception Room features a thick band of oak crown molding, detailed oak wainscoting, and a stately paneled set of windows flanked by columns. The Great Room features a grand fireplace framed by a set of three ornately carved walnut arches with a fruit and garland motif. The paneling features beautiful, burlled walnut and the ceiling features slightly peaked box beams.

The Castle is owned by Matthew Trettel and Ryan Hanson who are generously opening up their home as an intimate venue for our Lakes Area Music Festival events. In 2024, it was transformed as the ASID (American Society of Interior Designers) Home. Nearly 10,000 attendees experienced the best of interior design and preservation craft as 30 ASID Designers came together to completely transform this historic property.

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### **About the Lakes Area Music Festival**

The Lakes Area Music Festival is Minnesota's summer home for world-class opera, orchestra, and chamber music. Celebrating its 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, more than 200 artists from the nation's top orchestras and opera companies will present 60 concert, education, and community outreach activities this July and August. Founded in 2009, the Lakes Area Music Festival sparks connections between its central Minnesota community and the nation's top classical performers to create transformative musical experiences. The Lakes Area Music Festival is a 501c3 non-profit based in Brainerd, MN. To find out more visit [lakesareamusic.org](https://lakesareamusic.org) or call 218-ASK-LAMF (218-275-5263).