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## **LAMF Opens Its 2025 MYTHS & MAGIC Season with Spellbinding Symphonie Fantastique**

**Epic storytelling and orchestral sorcery come to life July 27 in Brainerd**

**Brainerd, MN (July 16, 2025)** – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) opens its summer season with an electrifying orchestral program that conjures drama, hallucination, and magic. Titled *Symphonie Fantastique*, the performance will take place Sunday, July 27 at 3 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd, MN.

Rich with narrative and imagination, this program features Berlioz's fever-dream *Symphonie fantastique*, in which an artist descends into madness in five vivid movements. The concert also includes *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, best known from Disney's *Fantasia*, as well as *Femmes de légende (Legendary Women)*, *II. Salomé* by Mel Bonis, and Lysenko's heroic Overture to *Taras Bulba*. Audiences will also be treated to the world premiere of *North Long Lake, MN* by Jonathan Cziner—a work inspired by the landscapes of central Minnesota and commissioned specially for this occasion.

"This concert sets the stage for our entire season," said Scott Lykins, LAMF's Founder and Artistic & Executive Director. "It's immersive, imaginative, and filled with music that tells vivid stories without a single word."

Conducted by Christian Reif, the performance features a symphony orchestra composed of musicians from the nation's leading ensembles.

The 2025 Lakes Area Music Festival Season, running July 25 to August 17, invites audiences on a journey through fairytales, legends, and epic sagas with the theme MYTHS & MAGIC. More than 200 world-class musicians from the nation's top orchestras and opera companies converge in central Minnesota each summer to present orchestra concerts, chamber music, opera, and family-friendly events. Highlights this season include Wagner's *Ring Without Words* and a new production of *Hänsel & Gretel* set in the North Woods. From spellbinding symphonies to storybook settings, LAMF offers transformative musical experiences for audiences of all ages.

This concert is sponsored in part by the National Bank of Commerce. For tickets and more information, visit [lakesareamusic.org](https://lakesareamusic.org).

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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](http://lakesareamusic.org) or call 218-ASK-LAMF (218-275-5263).