

LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

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LAMF Takes Flight with The Nightingale Chamber Concert

Chamber music meets fairytale magic on July 30 in Brainerd

Brainerd, MN (July 17, 2025) – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) continues its 2025 Season with The Nightingale, a concert that captures the wonder of birdsong, folklore, and soaring musical imagination. This chamber program takes place Wednesday, July 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd.

Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s classic tale *The Nightingale*, this immersive program features music by Camille Saint-Saëns, Olivier Messiaen, Kevin Lau, and Ernest Chausson. Lau’s newly composed musical narration breathes new life into the fairytale, while Saint-Saëns and Messiaen explore the delicate and expressive beauty of birds in flight. The program concludes with Chausson’s rarely performed Concerto for Violin, Piano, and String Quartet, blending Romantic elegance with bold harmonic color.

“This concert is a tribute to the grace and mystery of nature, through the lens of some of the most poetic music ever written,” said Scott Lykins, LAMF’s Founder and Artistic & Executive Director. “It’s whimsical, sophisticated, and uniquely LAMF.”

Featured artists include violinist Grace Park, pianist Adam Golka, narrator Loki Karuna, flutist Brook Ferguson, and clarinetist Jay Shankar, alongside the Thalea String Quartet — now in their third year as Artists in Residence at LAMF.

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 by First Western, Pequot Manufacturing, and John Sullivan. Tickets and more at 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 17th 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 or call 218-ASK-LAMF (218-275-5263).