

# LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LAMF Showcases the Drama of Grand Opera in A Night at the Opera**

**August 1 concert brings timeless arias and new talent to the Brainerd stage**

**Brainerd, MN (July 18, 2025)** – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) continues its MYTHS & MAGIC season with an operatic celebration featuring soaring arias, powerful ensembles, and emerging vocal talent. *A Night at the Opera* will be presented Friday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd, MN.

In this star-studded concert, the Festival's 2025 Opera Resident Artists join the full LAMF Symphony Orchestra to perform beloved excerpts from operatic masterpieces. From Puccini to Mozart, this program highlights the grandeur of the art form while offering audiences a front-row seat to the next generation of opera stars. Each singer has spent the summer immersed in vocal coaching, stagecraft, and professional development with LAMF's acclaimed artistic team.

"Opera is an art form rooted in myth, emotion, and transformation—making it the perfect centerpiece for this season's theme," said Taylor Ward, LAMF's Artistic Director. "These young artists are bringing new life to classic works, and audiences are going to be blown away by the caliber and depth of their performances."

This year's *A Night at the Opera* is stage directed by the renowned soprano Julia Bullock and Bretton Brown of London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, whose creative vision brings a fresh, narrative arc to the concert setting.

Conductors Christian Reif and José Luis Gutiérrez lead the orchestra, with Ilana Setapen (Milwaukee Symphony) as concertmaster. The featured singers include sopranos Jillian Tate, Sarah Rachel Bacani, and Amy Guarino, and mezzo-soprano Olivia Gronenthal.

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 performance is sponsored by Deerwood Bank. Visit [lakesareamusic.org](https://lakesareamusic.org) for tickets and full program details.

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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).