

LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Media Contacts:

Scott Lykins – scott@lakesareamusic.org | 585.355.6868

Carol Russell – carol@russellherder.com | 218.820.3024

Broadway Stars Take Center Stage at Lakes Area Music Festival Gala

Meghan Picerno and Andrea Ross join conductor Christian Reif and the LAMF Symphony for an unforgettable night of music and celebration, kicking off the Festival's 17th season.

Brainerd, MN (July 21, 2025) – With just days to go before the curtain rises, excitement is building for Spellbound—the Lakes Area Music Festival's dazzling Gala and the official kickoff to its 17th season. Taking place Friday, July 25 at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, this one-night-only event features Broadway powerhouses Meghan Picerno (*The Phantom of the Opera*) and Andrea Ross (*The Sound of Music*), joined by conductor Christian Reif and the Lakes Area Music Festival Symphony Orchestra.

Meghan Picerno, known for her radiant voice and commanding stage presence, shared her excitement about performing "Glitter and Be Gay" from Bernstein's *Candide*—a signature role she's performed to acclaim across the country. "Christian and I have dreamed of performing this together for years, and now it's finally happening," she said. "It's going to sparkle!"

Andrea Ross, whose theatrical credits include international tours and recordings with Andrew Lloyd Webber, expressed her joy at returning to LAMF: "There's always a bit of magic in the air on Gala night. This year, with songs from Broadway, Disney, and fairy tales, I'm thrilled to bring that enchantment to the stage—and I plan to *Wicked*-ly enjoy every second."

The mainstage performance begins at 8:00 p.m. and will serve as a vibrant celebration of the talent, generosity, and community spirit that powers LAMF all season long. Proceeds from the Gala support the Festival's year-round concerts, youth education programs, and community engagement initiatives.

Tickets to the performance are still available at lakesareamusic.org/gala or by calling 612-371-5600.

###

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).