

# LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Music Meets Magic in Magical Keys at LAMF**

**Family-friendly concert on August 3 features pianist-illusionist Igor Lipinski; Sound Garden event at Northland Arb also offers musical discovery for all ages**

**Brainerd, MN (July 22, 2025)** – Prepare to be dazzled as the Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) conjures a unique blend of musical virtuosity and theatrical wonder in *Magical Keys*—a one-of-a-kind concert event for audiences of all ages. This spellbinding program takes place Sunday, August 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd.

Starring internationally acclaimed pianist and magician Igor Lipinski, *Magical Keys* weaves together classical showpieces by Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, Ravel, and more with sleight-of-hand illusions and storytelling. Lipinski's original program, developed in collaboration with Teller of Penn & Teller, is unlike anything else in classical music today. The concert will be conducted by Christian Reif with Ilana Setapen (Milwaukee Symphony) as concertmaster.

"Igor Lipinski holds a special card in his hands," wrote *The Buffalo News*. "His performances are magical. Literally." A native of Poland and a prize-winning concert pianist, Lipinski has appeared with orchestras and festivals worldwide, including a recent appearance at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Now a tenured professor at the University of Oklahoma, he continues to innovate through boundary-breaking performances like *Piano Illusions*, which inspired this LAMF program.

The magic doesn't stop there. Families can also enjoy *Sound Garden* on Saturday, August 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the Northland Arboretum—a free, interactive outdoor experience where attendees encounter musicians along forested trails. From hidden horns to strings in the shade, this musical scavenger hunt invites listeners of all ages to explore the sights and sounds of the orchestra in nature's concert hall.

"Both of these events invite curiosity and wonder," said Scott Lykins, LAMF Executive & Artistic Director. "Whether you're wandering the woods or watching a pianist pull off impossible feats, these programs celebrate imagination—and the magic of music."

Part of LAMF's 2025 MYTHS & MAGIC season, *Magical Keys* and *Sound Garden* embody the Festival's commitment to access, innovation, and community engagement. The 2025 season runs July 25–August 17 and features more than 200 artists from the nation's top orchestras and opera companies in concerts, operas, and family-friendly events across central Minnesota.

Magical Keys is sponsored in part by Essentia Health. 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).