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Lakes Area Music Festival Presents Two Elegant Evenings of Cabaret in Nisswa and Aitkin

Rising Opera Stars Take Center Stage July 18-19

Brainerd, MN (June 25, 2026) – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) welcomes audiences to two stylish and intimate evenings of Cabaret, featuring the Festival's 2026 Opera Resident Artists in performances on Saturday, July 18 at Grand View Lodge's Norway Center in Nisswa and Sunday, July 19 at the historic Ripple Center in Aitkin. Both events begin at 7:30 p.m. A cash bar is available beginning one hour before the event.

A favorite summer tradition, Cabaret offers audiences the opportunity to experience exceptional vocal talent up close in elegant, cabaret-style settings. Whether in the timeless charm of the Norway Center or the historic Ripple Center, where Vaudeville acts once graced the stage, guests will enjoy an evening of music, storytelling, and theatrical flair performed by some of opera's most promising emerging artists.

"These Cabaret nights are always among the most joyful of the Festival," said Taylor Ward, LAMF's Artistic Director. "Our audiences get to experience these incredible singers up close in beautiful venues, and the performers love the freedom and spontaneity of the evening."

Featured performers include soprano Léa Nayak, mezzo-soprano Isabella Chaney, tenor Zachary Olmoz, and baritone Seungchan Hong, members of LAMF's 2026 Opera Resident Artist program. They will be joined by baritone and Artistic Director Taylor Ward and pianist Connor Buckley of Sarasota Opera. Limited capacity and consistent sellouts make these events some of the most in-demand tickets of the season.

The 2026 Lakes Area Music Festival season, *Passion*, runs July 31 through August 23 and explores music's power to move, inspire, and connect. Featuring more than 200 artists from the nation's leading orchestras, opera companies, and ensembles, the season includes orchestral concerts, chamber music, opera, dance collaborations, and community events throughout central Minnesota.

Tickets are available 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 18th 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).