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Lakes Area Music Festival Presents Zorongo Flamenco

Fire, Rhythm, and Raw Emotion

Brainerd, MN (July 31, 2026) – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) continues its 2026 season, *Passion*, with *Zorongo Flamenco* on Saturday, August 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chalberg Theatre at Central Lakes College in Brainerd.

Born of fire, rhythm, and raw emotion, flamenco is a tradition defined by driving guitar, percussive dance, and expressive voice. Rooted in the same Spanish musical heritage that inspired Bizet's *Carmen*, it channels themes of love, loss, longing, and defiance with striking immediacy.

"Flamenco is the perfect companion to Carmen," said LAMF Executive and Artistic Director Scott Lykins. "Both are rooted in the same Spanish traditions and express love, longing, pride, and passion with extraordinary intensity. Zorongo brings an authenticity and artistry that makes this a wonderful complement to our opera production."

This performance features Minnesota's Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre, one of the few American ensembles dedicated to both traditional and contemporary flamenco. Known for bold, socially engaged programming, the company brings the artistry and intensity of the form to audiences while fostering education and community engagement.

The performance features acclaimed flamenco singer Alfonso Cid, whose career has taken him to Carnegie Hall, London's Royal Albert Hall, and Lincoln Center, alongside dancers Amanda Dlouhy and Rachel Holmes Fargione. Guitarists Ross Fellrath and Ben Abrahamson, both of whom have studied extensively in Spain with master flamenco artists, complete the ensemble, bringing the artistry and traditions of flamenco to life.

The Lakes Area Music Festival's 2026 season, *Passion*, runs July 31 through August 23 and features orchestral concerts, chamber music, opera, dance collaborations, and community events throughout central Minnesota.

Tickets and additional information are available at lakesareamusic.org.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Ben Abrahamson, Guitar

Ben Abrahamson has studied flamenco guitar in Barcelona and with renowned flamenco artists including Pedro Cortés Jr. He performs regularly with Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre and serves on the faculty of MacPhail Center for Music.

Alfonso Cid, Flamenco Singer

Alfonso Cid studied at the Cristina Heeren Foundation for Flamenco Art and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, London's Royal Albert Hall, and venues throughout Europe and Mexico. He also appeared on Romeo Santos' recording of “Mi Santa” with flamenco guitarist Tomatito.

Amanda Dlouhy, Dancer

Amanda Dlouhy has danced with Susana di Palma and Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre since 2015 and received a McKnight Fellowship for Dancers in 2011. She toured with Ragamala Dance from 2005–2013 and has traveled to Spain four times to study flamenco.

Rachel Holmes Fargione, Dancer

Rachel Holmes Fargione has performed with flamenco artists throughout the New York tri-state area and was selected for both Jacob's Pillow's Flamenco and Spanish Dance Program and Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana's Artist Development Program.

Ross Fellrath, Guitar

Ross Fellrath is a Minneapolis-based flamenco guitarist specializing in traditional flamenco. He has studied in Jerez de la Frontera, Sevilla, and Madrid with leading flamenco artists and performs regularly with Zorongo Flamenco and the Twin Cities Flamenco Collective.

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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).