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Lakes Area Music Festival Presents Haydn's Passion Symphony

Lyricism Meets Virtuosity

Brainerd, MN (August 5, 2026) – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) continues its 2026 season, *Passion*, with *Haydn's Passion Symphony* on Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd.

The program pairs dramatic intensity with elegant brilliance, beginning with Haydn's Symphony No. 49, "La Passione," and concluding with Poulenc's *Sinfonietta*, a work filled with wit, color, and rhythmic sparkle.

In between, Richard Strauss's Horn Concerto No. 2 features Dallas Symphony Orchestra Principal Horn Daniel Hawkins, a familiar face to Festival audiences who has performed with the Lakes Area Music Festival orchestra since 2018. Winner of the International Horn Competition of America, Hawkins previously served as Utility Horn of the San Francisco Symphony and has appeared as a soloist and guest musician with major ensembles including the Houston Symphony and New World Symphony. Strauss's concerto showcases both lyrical warmth and virtuosic brilliance in one of the horn repertoire's most celebrated works. This performance is sponsored in memory of longtime LAMF board member and supporter Mary Farmer.

"Daniel has been an important part of the Lakes Area Music Festival family for many summers, so it's especially exciting to welcome him back to center stage as a featured soloist in one of the horn repertoire's most celebrated works," said Artistic and Executive Director Scott Lykins.

Featured artists also include conductor Christian Reif, horn soloist Daniel Hawkins, and concertmaster Eunice Kim of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

An open rehearsal for *Haydn's Passion Symphony* will take place on Monday, August 17 at 2:15 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts. Audience members are also invited to join music director Christian Reif for a 30-minute pre-concert discussion in the concert hall one hour before the performance.

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.

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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).