

LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lakes Area Music Festival Presents Lovers in the Night

Passion Beneath the Stars

Brainerd, MN (August 5, 2026) – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) continues its 2026 season, *Passion*, with *Lovers in the Night* on Wednesday, August 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd. The program explores music inspired by longing, intimacy, and moonlit transformation.

Experience the rhythms of Manuel de Falla's *7 Popular Spanish Songs*, the nocturnal lyricism of Joaquín Turina's *Escena andaluza* (Andalusian Scene), and Arnold Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* (Transfigured Night), performed by the Thalea String Quartet with special guests. Schoenberg's work traces a moonlit walk between two lovers that transforms tension into transcendence.

An open rehearsal for *Lovers in the Night* will take place on Monday, August 3 at 2:15 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, offering audiences a behind-the-scenes look at the work as it comes together. A pre-concert lecture will also be offered one hour prior to the concert on August 5 (6:30pm) by LAMF's artistic advisor Loki Karuna.

Featured artists include Kumiko Sakamoto and Christopher Whitley (violin), Lauren Spaulding (viola), and Alex Cox (cello) of the Thalea String Quartet, joined by internationally-acclaimed guests: Kristen Docter (viola), Coleman Itzkoff (cello), and Timothy Lovelace (piano).

The Thalea String Quartet is known for its vibrant, collaborative approach and emotionally direct performances across a wide-ranging repertoire. The ensemble has appeared at venues including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and Massey Hall, and works regularly with artists across genres while championing new music through commissions by composers including Paola Prestini, Anthony R. Green, Akshaya Avril Tucker, and Tanner Porter. The quartet served as the Stewart String Quartet in Residence at the University of Toronto and was previously the Doctoral Fellowship String Quartet at the University of Maryland. They have also held fellowship positions at the University of Texas at Austin and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

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).