



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Scott Lykins – scott@lakesareamusic.org | 585.355.6868

Carol Russell – carol@russellherder.com | 218.820.3024

Lakes Area Music Festival Presents Dances of Passion

Rhythms Ignite in Color

Brainerd, MN (August 6, 2026) – The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) concludes its 2026 season, *Passion*, with *Dances of Passion* on Saturday, August 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd.

The season finale brings together three vivid orchestral works that explore movement, character, and sonic imagination. Carlos Simon's *Four Black American Dances* opens the program with driving rhythmic vitality, followed by Claude Debussy's "Ibéria" from *Images*, which evokes shimmering landscapes and sunlit color. The program culminates in Igor Stravinsky's *Petrushka* (1947), a dazzling ballet score that animates a puppet's story within a bustling Russian fairground.

"This program is a thrilling way to close our season, bringing together music that is vibrant, colorful, and full of energy," said Artistic and Executive Director Scott Lykins. "From Carlos Simon's bold contemporary voice to the vivid storytelling of Debussy and Stravinsky, it celebrates the many forms passion can take while showcasing the extraordinary artistry of our Festival Orchestra."

An open rehearsal for *Dances of Passion* will take place on Thursday, August 20 at 2:15 p.m. at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, including a Q&A chat with LAMF harpists Emily Melendes and Adam Phan. Audience members are also invited to arrive one hour before each performance for a 30-minute pre-concert talk by music director and conductor Christian Reif, who will share insights into the music and composers featured on the program.

Featured artists include conductor Christian Reif and concertmaster Justin Bruns of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra.

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.

###

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).