

LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

14th Annual Lakes Area Music Festival Runs July 30- August 21 in Brainerd

Thousands of people visit our area each year to enjoy recreation and entertainment options. With the opening of this year's season of the Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF), the region is further cementing its reputation as a must-visit destination for its thriving arts and culture scene as well.

The 14th Annual Lakes Area Music Festival runs July 30 through Aug. 21. More than 200 world class musicians from top orchestras and opera companies nationwide will live in the area, performing in chamber music, orchestra, and opera – as well as conducting various community outreach activities that extend their impact throughout the local community. This year's season will be the first to be completely staged at the brand new Gichi-zibi Center for the Arts in downtown Brainerd. A tradition special to the Lakes Area Music Festival is that all of the artists and performers live with local residents during their stay.

The festival opens July 30 and 31 with a performance of "Tribute to the Earth." This orchestral concert, led by music director, Christian Reif, includes Jean Sibelius' masterful Second Symphony, and the world premiere of a new work by Peruvian American composer, Jimmy López-Bellido. López-Bellido's "Pago a la Tierra" (tribute to the earth) is based on an ancient Andean ritual of thanksgiving for nature's bounty and is a fitting way to begin the festival.

The festival continues with world class performances of "Three Statues" from Indian American composer Reena Esmail, Afro-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's "Rain & Red Clay", "Santos & Haydn" from LAMF Composer Fellowship laureate Isaac Santos, "Ogonek & Mahler" from the LAMF's inaugural composer-in-residence Elizabeth Ogonek, and many more.

Tickets are also still available for the LAMF annual fundraising gala, taking place Friday, July 29 at 8 p.m. at the Gichi-zibi Center for the Arts. Gala: Forbidden Love tells the timeless story of enraged rivals and forbidden love and will feature Broadway stars Andrea Ross and Ryan Vona. As LAMF's largest fundraiser of the year, this event will include pre-event dinner packages, a live auction, and opportunities to support the artists and programs that deliver world-class music to the Brainerd Lakes Area.

In addition to a diverse and entertaining line up of performances, LAMF features educational opportunities for audiences of all ages – including [a week-long day camp for children](#), performance-based opportunities for youth, [open rehearsals](#), pre-concert lectures, and more.

Ensuring access to all who wish to attend is a central commitment of the Lakes Area Music

Festival. Nearly all activities are offered free or with name-your-price ticketing. More information and a complete schedule of events is available on the festival's [website](#).

About the Lakes Area Music Festival: More information is available at lakesareamusic.org. Tickets can be purchased on a “name-your-price” sliding scale, to ensure universal access to world-class performances, via the festival’s website or by calling (218) 831-0765. General inquiries can be made at (218) ASK-LAMF [275-5263]. Founded in 2009, the Lakes Area Music Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.