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Musae presents
Alegría y Placer: The Rhythm of the Holidays

Saturday, December 15, 2007 8pm
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

Sunday, December 16, 2007 4pm
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1755 Clay Street, San Francisco

Encore Performance
Wednesday, December 19, 2007 8pm
Old St. Hilary's Church
201 Esperanza Street, Tiburon

Tickets are available at www.musae.org.
\$25 reserved, \$15 general admission. Group and other discounts also available.
FREE for children under 5
For more information, please contact events@musae.org.

SAN FRANCISCO—October 9, 2007—Musae, the groundbreaking twelve-voice women's vocal ensemble, brings its innovative and generous approach to performance to the first concert series of its fourth season, *Alegría y Placer: The Rhythm of the Holidays*. The December concerts feature uplifting and heart-warming carols, lullabies, and other tunes with roots in Spain, Latin America, and Africa.

Says Artistic Director Natasha Hoehn, "Our goal is to put the magic back in the holiday season for our audiences. This program sparkles with the vibrancy and joy—*alegría y placer*—that we all crave during the holiday season . . . not the kind that comes from a big shopping spree, but the kind that comes from connecting to something larger than yourself."

The centerpiece of the show is local composer Conrad Susa's acclaimed *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*. This dazzling work for chorus, harp, marimba, vibraphone, and guitar is highlighted on Musae's second album, "*Alegría y Placer: A Musae Christmas*," to be released November 9, 2007. Musae performed the ten-movement piece, which draws on carols and texts of Spanish and Catalan origin, to enthusiastic reviews in 2006. After recording the *Carols*, Musae brings this audience favorite back, in a live performance with full instrumental accompaniment. "When else will you get to hear the amazing sounds of a harp, marimba, and guitar, joined with the expressive voices of the twelve women of Musae?!" asks Hoehn.

Musae also performs fresh interpretations of seasonal favorites, in a handful of surprising and delightful arrangements. Beloved carols *The Holly and the Ivy*, *Silent Night*, and *Still, Still, Still* feature in contemporary, jazz-inspired settings, both innovative and familiar.

Musae bridges the sixteenth century and the present with an eclectic set of pieces by Spanish composers: the program includes Renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria's *Duo Seraphim* and his lesser-known motet *Natus est nobis*, as well as a setting of *Tota pulchra es* by contemporary Spanish composer Ramiro Real. All three pieces share Latin texts that rejoice in Christmas mysteries of faith and the incarnation.

Two African works, *Wana Baraka* from Kenya and *Dubula* from South Africa, round out the program with the joy and celebratory rhythm of the holidays.

ABOUT MUSAE

Musae is a women's vocal ensemble based in San Francisco. The group takes its name from the original "ladies of song," the classic nine muses of Greek mythology. Since its founding in 2004, Musae has performed diverse and accessible music throughout the Bay Area, and continues to stretch the boundaries of traditional repertoire for women's voices.

In its first two seasons, Musae released its debut album "From Argentina to Appalachia," collaborated with acclaimed vocal ensembles Kitka and Chanticleer, and produced a full schedule of sold-out concerts. The group's repertoire included sacred chants, baroque masterpieces, women's choral standards, chamber pieces with string quartet, spirituals, folk songs, jazz, and popular music from five continents.

Last season, Musae welcomed its audiences *Home for the Holidays* with its December concert series, and collaborated with a fabulous jazz combo to swing its way through *The Great American Songbook* in May. The group generated exciting support at *Fall For Us*, its 1st Annual Fundraising Soirée, where generous donors helped establish the Te Quiero Fund for Sustainability and Outreach. Musae invited its fans behind the scenes at April's *4/4 Time* open rehearsal, and then took the music back behind closed doors this summer to record its second album, "Alegria y Placer: A Musae Christmas."

Musae launches its 2007-2008 season with the release of this recording, featuring Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest" for women's chorus and guitar, marimba, vibraphone, and harp; Musae performs this favorite again in December, with full instrumental accompaniment. Mark your calendars for Musae's 2007-2008 season, and join us as we create a new experience of women's voices.

For more information, please contact press@musae.org or visit www.musae.org.

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