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**For Immediate Release**

**Musae releases its second album:  
"Alegría y Placer: A Musae Christmas"**

SAN FRANCISCO—Musae, the groundbreaking twelve-voice women's vocal ensemble, kicks off its 2007-2008 season with the release of its long-awaited second album. "Alegría y Placer: A Musae Christmas" captures Musae's innovative and generous approach to performance, and showcases the group's versatility with an eclectic sampling of holiday music from around the world. The CD will be released on November 20 and will be available for purchase online and at Musae's events.

Says Artistic Director Natasha Hoehn, "*alegría y placer*—happiness and pleasure—are all-too-elusive emotions in today's world. For the members of Musae, music-making has become a reliable and powerful source of joy and gratification, a source that we hope is contagious in the exciting rhythms and lush harmonies of the holiday carols, lullabies, and folksongs we've recorded for this album. We are so fortunate to have music in our lives—to bring us together, to expand our horizons, and to soothe the rough spots. This album represents the exciting next steps in our lifelong journey to explore the human—and female—voice and its wide-ranging potential to make exquisite music."

The centerpiece of the recording is local composer Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest," a dazzling work for chorus, harp, marimba, vibraphone, and guitar. Musae performed the ten-movement piece, which draws on carols and texts of Spanish and Catalan origin, to enthusiastic reviews in 2006. Adds Hoehn, "plenty of our audience members are fans of this piece, and encouraged us—with moral *and* financial support—to record it. We are thrilled to have added this gem to our repertoire!"

"Alegría y Placer" includes familiar, festive gems, with traditional carols such as "Deck the Hall" and concert favorite "Vus Vet Zayn." Musae shares the peace of the season with "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night," and "Gabriel's Message." Lesser-known tracks include "This Endris Night," a haunting piece on a medieval Christmas poem, and two settings of Catholic texts, with Tomás Luis de Victoria's "O Magnum Mysterium" on the Christmas Matins chant, and modern composer Joan Szymko's "Nada te Turbe" on a poem by sixteenth-century mystic St. Teresa of Ávila.

Musae's eclectic mix also embraces uniquely American perspectives on *alegría y placer*. Popular classic "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and an original arrangement of African-American spiritual "All Night, All Day" reflect our universal yearning for peace and comfort, present even in the darkest of times.

#### 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.

For more information, please contact [press@musae.org](mailto:press@musae.org) or visit [www.musae.org](http://www.musae.org).

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