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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MUSAE ANNOUNCES 5TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON  
MEET THE COMPOSER EVENT

November 8, 2008 6:30pm  
a.Muse Gallery  
614 Alabama Street, San Francisco

Free Admission

SAN FRANCISCO—September 28, 2008—Musae, the groundbreaking twelve-voice women's vocal ensemble, kicks off its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with a special behind-the-scenes event featuring the winners of the group's 2008 Commission Competition. The composers, Graham Meyer and David Smith, will speak about the creative process and present a preview of their new works. Wine and cheese will be served. All are invited to this unique opportunity to hear Musae perform and to interact with the artists in an intimate setting.

Graham Meyer, inspired by one of Musae's favorite words, "magic," set the text of the John Keats sonnet "When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be." The poem, which uses the evocative phrase "the magic hand of chance," describes the speaker's concern about dying before fully unleashing his creativity, pursuing romance, or experiencing love. The piece distills the very essence of Musae's challenge each season to push artistic boundaries and inspire audiences with heartfelt, adventurous music making. Meyer, an amateur composer in Chicago, is a choral singer, arranger, and an assistant editor at *Chicago* magazine.

David Smith, a composer living in Ukiah, writes for chamber ensemble, chorus, and orchestra. His piece, "Muse Light," revolves around the theme of inspiration and the creative process, the joy of making something beautiful. "Muse Light" was commissioned for Musae and Bossa Five-O, the acclaimed Bay Area bossa nova band collaborating with Musae on the May 2009 concert program, *The Road Home*.

Musae will present the world premiere of both commissions during this program to audiences in San Francisco and Berkeley. Both pieces will also be recorded for inclusion on Musae's forthcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CD, which will be released in the fall of 2009.

#### 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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