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Meet 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.

Musae functions as a musical collective in which each singer identifies as a leader and soloist contributing actively to the artistic process. The group's fifteen singers are trained in the choral tradition, but not bound by it. Each singer may sing a range of voice parts based on the aesthetic demands of the music, and the group performs largely without conductor.

In its first five seasons, Musae established itself as an up-and-coming member of the Bay Area music community. The group collaborated with acclaimed vocal ensembles Kitka and Chanticleer, performed at charity events, hosted a series of open houses, and produced a full schedule of sold-out concerts. Whether in Berkeley, Marin, on the Peninsula, or at home in San Francisco, Musae offered its audiences a new experience of women's voices with a repertoire including sacred chants, baroque masterpieces, choral standards, chamber pieces with string quartet, spirituals, folk songs, jazz, and popular music from five continents.

In 2005, Musae released its debut album, *From Argentina to Appalachia*, featuring music from North America, Venezuela, Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil. *Alegría y Placer: A Musae Christmas* followed in 2007, showcasing local composer Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest" for women's ensemble, harp, marimba, vibraphone, and guitar.

In 2008-2009, Musae celebrated its 5th Anniversary Season, during which the group presented its first ever Meet the Composer event, premiered works composed especially for the group, hosted a grand party and fundraiser at the City Club, and brought its annual December and May concerts to audiences in San Francisco, Berkeley, and Tiburon.