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## Meet Musae

Founded in 2004, Musae is a women's vocal ensemble based in San Francisco. The group performs accessible and diverse music, and aims to stretch the boundaries of traditional repertoire for women's voices. From medieval motets to Broadway ballads, Musae's signature sound brings together fifteen talented singers whose excellence, innovation, and imagination inspire a wide range of audiences throughout the Bay Area.

The women of Musae are a diverse group of, among other things, graduate students, lawyers, professional chefs, mothers, computer programmers, preschool teachers, and jewelry designers. In rehearsal, however, they are united by the same vision—to infuse music-making with joy and creativity, to commit to ongoing learning and collaboration, and to reach the highest standards of artistic excellence.

Musae members act as dynamic individuals within the larger context of the group. Unlike the singers in most vocal ensembles, each Musae member sings a number of different voice parts based on the aesthetic demands of the repertoire. The group performs without a conductor and functions as a musical collective in which each singer identifies as a leader and soloist and contributes actively to the artistic process.

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. In 2005, Musae was awarded non-profit status by the federal government.

The 2006-2007 season marks Musae's arrival as one of San Francisco's premiere women's vocal ensembles. In the fall, the group performed at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure and hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fundraising Soirée. Other season highlights include a public master class with Chanticleer, and the concerts *Home for the Holidays* in December and *The Great American Songbook* in May. Musae also established a Sustainability Fund for Recording and Outreach this season, which will allow the group to produce its second album, commission new music, and develop an expanded concert series.

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

### **2006-2007 Season Concert Programs:**

#### ***Home for the Holidays***

##### *Music of Comfort and Love*

This program will warm your heart on even the coldest of winter nights. The sweet sounds of Musae accompanied by marimba, guitar, cello, and harp will fill the evening as the group showcases Conrad Susa's dazzling "Carols and Lullabies from the Southwest." The concert also features Daley's "What Sweeter Music," Palestrina's "Hodie Christus Natus Est," Szymko's "Nada Te Turbe," and music from Ghana, Korea, and Israel. To close the program, Musae returns home with American favorite "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

#### ***The Great American Songbook***

Accompanied by a traditional bluegrass band, the women of Musae will swing their way through the Great American Songbook. The group offers unique arrangements of "I'll Fly Away," "Round Midnight," "Anything Goes," "My Funny Valentine," "People Will Say We're in Love," and a newly commissioned arrangement of "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea."

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