



# moira smiley & VOCO

offers **assemblies, workshops/residencies & master classes** that encompass a truly unique blend of Conservatory training, ethnomusicological grounding and fierce creativity.

**Moira Smiley** has influenced a generation of young *a cappella* groups to study various folk harmony repertoires, performing in pursuit of each tradition's unique vocal & performance demands and thus deepening their own creative culture of sound. She inspires young singers to use their voice as an instrument; a tool for composing, improvising and arranging.

## TEACHING SPECIALTIES

- A cappella repertoire / small ensemble singing:** Expert coaching on the special mechanics of blend, style, physicality and language  
**Early European & American Song:** Medieval, Renaissance & early Baroque performance practice & early American hymnody/balladry  
**Eastern European Folk Harmony:** Understanding of harmony traditions, vocal timbre, language, performance style, ornamentation, etc.  
**Extending the Voice:** Meticulously researched pursuit of the most flexible singing voice; exercises and concepts for technique  
**Creating From the Voice:** Exercises to create and arrange as a singer, and especially as singers together  
**Physicality of Singing:** Uncovering authentic, arresting movement, stillness and physical freedom to focus the song's communication

## CONCERTS WITH TALK/DISCUSSION

VOCO's **standard touring show** features a mixture of traditional early American and Balkan folk song with new compositions, an avant-garde sensibility and the engaging physicality of body percussion. Any concert can include a pre- or post-show talk/discussion. Specialty programs include:

**Bartók Sings**—new arrangements of Bartók's piano miniatures for voices, cello and accordion alongside the traditional songs and dances from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia that so inspired him.

**A Wintery Gust of Song**—new & traditional arrangements of songs celebrating winter and the winter holidays.

## SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

VOCO shows how fun and artistic it is to make music with the two oldest instruments in the world: our singing voice and the rhythm of feet and hands!

- Specific for elementary, middle school or high school audiences
- Featuring story-songs from the American and East European traditions
- Four-part harmony with percussive movement
- On-the-spot vocal improvisations built specifically for and with students
- Inspiring introductions to the banjo, cello and accordion.

## WORKSHOPS/RESIDENCIES

Tailored to the level of the participants and available at schools, festivals and as community outreach. Customized programs are available.

All workshops teach:

- *Improvisation & unique repertoire*
- *vocal technique*
- *rhythmic interplay with the voice*
- *using the body as an instrument*

Sample Titles:

- **Balkan Dance-Song**
- **Anglo-Celtic Song ... with a Pinch of the Balkans!**
- **Béla Bartók & Eastern European Folksong**
- **Americana: Shape-Notes, Hambone and Lonely Songs**

## MASTER CLASSES

**Songs of Eastern Europe:** Moira bridges the vocal technique & cultural context between the Western classical music student, the folklorist and the creative musician.

**Vocal Color:** To expand the capacity to improvise within a folk style, with both voice and instrument. VOCO leads exercises to build the practice of deep listening and accumulation of healthy vocal techniques for singing the soul of a traditional song.

**Physicality of the Voice:** Uses exercises from physical theater and rigorous vocal training to free the student to convey traditional Eastern European song on-stage and in the context of theater and dance.

"VOCO's skill with a myriad of vocal colors and qualities was so impressive, but even more impressive was the connection Moira made with my students. ... We found her to be a great inspiration!" ~ Dr. Katy Strand, Prof. of Music at Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University

"Truly masterful teachers...VOCO create[s] the same ecstatic response in high school students, professional choruses and in our Conference of Teachers - they are versatile, flexible and so fun to work with!" ~ Elise Witt, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

*moira smiley & VOCO has a steady commitment to the ambassadorial role of the artist in education, and their performance and teaching offerings are of the highest level, in compliance with education standards and full of heart and enthusiasm ♦ ♦ ♦ Fees (all negotiable) start at \$750 for a single program.*

For more info, contact: **Tuffet Schmelzle, 818-259-4460 or [vocogals@gmail.com](mailto:vocogals@gmail.com)**