



MOIRA SMILEY

singer // composer // educator

Residencies, Clinics, Workshops, Masterclasses that encompass a truly unique blend of Conservatory training, ethnomusicological grounding, and fierce creativity.

Moira (pronounced 'More-uh') has influenced a generation of young a cappella and choral singers to study and perform folk harmony repertoires, body percussion, and new, polyphonic song. She inspires singers to use their voice as an instrument - a tool for composing, improvising, and arranging.

TEACHING SPECIALTIES

Small ensemble singing / a cappella: Expert coaching on blend, timbre, style, physicality, and ensemble technique

Early European, Anglo-Celtic & American Song: Medieval/Renaissance/Baroque song & folk hymn/ballad performance practice

Eastern European Folk Harmony: Exploring harmony traditions, vocal timbre, language, performance style, and ornamentation

Extending the Voice: Meticulously researched vocal techniques and concepts to explore the farther reaches of vocal expressivity

Creating From the Voice: Structures for creating and arranging as a solo singer, and for singers creating together in ensemble

Physicality of Singing: Uncovering authentic, genre-sensitive movement, stillness, and physical ease to 'become the music'

CONCERTS WITH TALK/DISCUSSION

Moira's touring show threads traditional folk songs between her own songwriting, body percussion, loops, and storytelling. Any concert can include a pre- or post-show talk/discussion. Specialty programs include:

VOCO – quartet of extraordinary voices, folk-based, avant-garde leaning, and physical.

The Voice is a Traveler — original & traditional folk songs, unique arrangements with banjo, piano, accordion, body percussion, featuring her latest, and songs from her solo albums.

"Moira'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, Professor 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

CLASSES/SEMINARS

Designed in collaboration with college educators to fit their students' needs.

All experiential & discussion oriented.

[45-75 mins]

Sample Class or Seminar Topics:

- **Composing From Voice:** Written and Non-written Techniques
- **Tracing Influences:** Paths of Folk Songs into Art Music
- **Tracing Influences:** Paths of Folk Songs into Pop Music
- **Entrepreneurial Musician:** Building Community & Career
- **Ideas & Resources for Research & Use of non-Western Song**
- **New Songs from Ancient Forms:** Discussion & Practice
- **Mentoring Young, Creative Singers:** Listening & Strategizing

WORKSHOPS/CHORAL WORK

Tailored to the level of the participants and available for schools, festivals, and community choirs. Featuring Moira's vocal arrangements and originals. [45 mins to 3 hrs]

Whether learning & rehearsing repertoire or skill-building, all include:

- singer as musical instrument
- singer as creator & communicator
- nuanced approach to style, cultural contexts, and musicality

Exploratory, Skill-Building Workshops:

- Songs, Movement & Improvisation
- Body Percussion & Songwriting
- Improvising Towards Composing
- Anglo-Celtic Song
- East European Polyphony
- Americana: shape notes, hambone and ballads

MASTER CLASSES

Special, Set Offerings [45 mins to 3 hrs]

Masterclass:

Coaching more expansive vocal technique, embodiment, and authenticity into your singing. Moira works with several individuals or small groups 'one-on-one' within larger class settings & discussions.

Embodying Folk Songs (for Song Leaders, Directors and Musicians):

Linking vocal and gestural ideas from various song and theater traditions to create authentic, deeply musical leading and performance.

The Wild Voice: Unique folk song learning, listening and exploration of ornament, timbre, language and phrasing to open mind and voice to the many contexts and colors of vocal expression.

Moira is committed to the ambassadorial role of the artist in education, and her 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. Residencies are a combination of these offerings and are negotiated as a whole, across 1 to 5 days. ♦ ♦ ♦

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Allison Vernon, Director of Publishing & Choral Bookings

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SINGER/COMPOSER

MOIRA SMILEY

residency

Learn more
moirasmiley.com

MON, SEPT 19

9:40-10:30am | Fynes Hall

Physicality in Teaching Song

2:05-2:55pm | Marting

Body Percussion and Improvisation

3:05-3:55pm | K318

The Compositional Process

4:15-5:45pm | Fynette Kulas Music Hall

Wild Wild Voice (offered twice)

**7:30 PM | Fynette Kulas Music Hall
Showcase Concert | Free to public**

TUES, SEPT 20

12:05-1:20pm | Fynes Hall

Accessing non-western musical traditions

4:15-5:45pm | Fynette Kulas Music Hall

Wild Wild Voice (offered twice)

7:00-8:00pm | Fynes Hall

Exploring Vocal Color

Sample Residency Schedule*

PRAISE FOR CHORAL WRITING & RESIDENCY TESTIMONIALS

"Moira creates vocally-accessible and message-pertinent choral music that brings a newfound energy to the choral art."

-Dr. Iris Levine, Founder & Artistic Director VOX Femina Los Angeles

"Moira is a choral director's dream and a musician's musician... unselfishly leading heartfelt, liberating, and inspirational vocalizing."

- Miriam Davidson, Artistic Director, ANNA Crusis Women's Choir

Moira Smiley is the real thing – a person who understands what singing can be for the professional and the amateur, bringing it to life for one and all!

- Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director and Founder, VocalEssence

...with stunning authenticity, VOCO inspires singers of all ability levels..."

- Dr. Andrew Minear, Director of Choral activities, University of Alabama

"In every moment of rehearsal and performance, VOCO embodied singing at the highest level and brought out the best in all singers on stage."

- Melinda Imthurn, Artistic Director The Women's Chorus of Dallas

"Moira Smiley is a marvel - an omnivorous singing and composing chameleon... a voice that can wail or caress at will!"

- Grant Gershon, Artistic Director Los Angeles Master Chorale

"Getting groups of people singing and moving is a habit for this conservatory-trained student of folk songs and theater improv; her solo shows are often paired with residencies, teaching participants how to make their whole selves 'be' the music."

- Montana Public Radio

"Moira is the real deal. Her ability to engage singers of all ages in highly technical, full-bodied singing is truly transformational and the future of the choral art."

-Bret Amundson, Artistic Director, Lake Superior Youth Chorus

"Moira created a warm and encouraging space for us to open up, try things and cheer each other on. It was so wonderful...expanding into my own again too!" - Anne Dugan, Founding Teaching Artist at Sister Cities GirlChoir

"Moira is a masterful, artistic genius who brings true beauty, musicianship and pure humanity to the choral experience."

-Alyssa Gangarosa, Co-Founder and Artistic Director, Georgia Youth Choir

"...as a clinician, Moira brings her endless curiosity, her energy that is both grounded and compelling, and constant flexibility. As a performer, she embodies everything she teaches. Both her music and her singing are without a filter – direct conveying of emotion and a spectrum of authentic sound." – Jennifer Rodgers, Iowa State University