

Songs Through Tradition and Experimentation:
Programs inspired by Béla Bartók and Eastern European Folksong

moira smiley & VOCO perform original and traditional songs of searing emotion and exquisite vocal harmony. Long steeped in Slavic song traditions, Moira brings deep love and understanding of Balkan song cultures together with new composition and improvisation. In the spirit of Hungarian composer / ethnographer, Béla Bartók, **VOCO** performs and teaches arrangements of rural songs from Bulgaria and Hungary alongside original material featuring cello, accordion, banjo and percussion (including percussive movement). VOCO's concerts and residencies create lively discussion of the living art of folk music performance. VOCO's programs have received funding from The American Composers Forum, Meet the Composer and Durfee Foundations - most recently for their program featuring arrangements of B. Bartók's "Mikrokosmos" piano miniatures. VOCO leads workshops and masterclasses while on performance tours across the U.S. and Canada.

EDUCATION WORK: CONCERT with DISCUSSION

moira smiley & VOCO's concert is a lively, engaging performance of traditional and new music inspired by Eastern Europe and Appalachian folk music. Program Options for performance:

1. **"Bartók Sings"** - in the spirit of Hungarian collector/composer, Bela Bartók, we feature new arrangements of Bartók's piano miniatures for voices, cello and accordion alongside the traditional songs and dances that so inspired him. Traditional songs are from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia. (1 hour, with pre- and/or post-show talk)
2. 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, audience participation. (Full concert length, 1 hour, discussions and etc. are very flexible)

EDUCATION WORK: WORKSHOPS FOR UNIVERSITY – LEVEL STUDENTS

1. **Songs of Eastern Europe:** Moira leads a workshop for experienced singers that translates, dissects and celebrates several styles of Eastern European traditional song. Her award-winning teaching builds bridges of vocal technique and cultural context between the Western classical music student, the folklorist and the creative musician.
2. **Vocal Color:** Moira & VOCO lead a challenging workshop for music students to expand their capacity to improvise within a folk style - with the instruments they specialize in. VOCO's cellist is expert in leading these workshops to free the improvising musician in each student. The rest of the time focuses on the voice, as VOCO leads exercises to build the practice of deep listening and accumulation of healthy vocal techniques for singing the soul of a traditional song.
3. **Physicality of the Voice:** Designed for College-age music students, this workshop 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.