

# moira smiley & VOCO

## Reviews

The resulting feel of VOCO's music is at once traditional and progressive, as if you're listening to ancient folk songs blasted to bits by the vocal lasers of perfect-pitch robots from the future, and then reconstituted into clever, cosmopolitan avant-pop nuggets. Smiley and her mates are just that good.

**Bend Bulletin, 3.1.11**

I've just heard something...amazing: a quartet of young women known as moira smiley & VOCO. This is compelling and totally unique music created by four talented women...I'm increasingly blown away by it each time I put a disc in the player. (They) push the envelope of vocal music every which way...

I can't recommend this group *strongly enough* – go there and be amazed.

**Kennebec Journal, ME, 8.6.09**

When they erupt into body percussion, the audience is transfixed by the vision of sheer rhythmic joy. Brilliant dissonances, playfulness and spontaneity pervade their performance. "Circle, Square, Diamond & Flag" (live CD) is a fine introduction to this exciting new group.

**Dirty Linen Magazine, National Distribution, 9.15.09**

World folk fans, take note: moira smiley & VOCO harness high-voltage harmonies with Smiley's signature vocal arrangements. Not afraid to mix Bartók with street-singing – a genre-bending world tour of rootsy tunes. EXPECT GOOSEBUMPS.

**Seven Days, Burlington, VT, 8.8.07**

Cushioned layers of vocals in complex arrangements that defy any easy categorization. That's part of the album's charm. Lovingly executed, cleverly thought out...instruments and electronics are used judiciously to enhance the voices rather than outshine them, but the record never feels minimal.

Bottom line is...it works. A very satisfying listen.

**Sing Out Magazine, Fall 2007**

moira smiley & VOCO return a sense of wonder to vocalizing, amazing harmonies & a rapturous rendering of global musical cultures. Classical, folk and Eastern European influences, cello and banjo weave nuanced counterpoint to superb singing.

**Palo Alto Daily News, 4.27.07**

The wonder isn't that Smiley's work is so diverse...it's that it's so coherent – a quality she ascribes to her training in the classics. She's also a gifted arranger. Named American national *a cappella* champions at 2007 Harmony Sweepstakes competition...an honour that ...clearly indicates she's on the right path.

**The Georgia Straight, Vancouver, BC, 11.15.07**

Throughout, the coalescing of harmonies and contrapuntal parts was remarkable, ever true to pitch. *A capella* songs alternated with those accompanied by cello or banjo. Sacred balanced against secular expressions of everyday life. Smiley's singular capabilities at composing, arranging and singing were clearly in evidence, the concert was nothing but praiseworthy – near perfect.

**The Herald Times, Bloomington, IN, 5.20.08**

