

# The Portland Press Herald

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## Mints, moon songs and more to refresh you

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— By . PONTI

I had to wonder if Moira Smiley was related to the legendary Sesame Street character/game show host Guy Smiley.

Apparently, she's not.

She does, however, globe-trot as a vocalist and composer with her roots band, VOCO. Smiley's a soloist in early and traditional music, and creates new work for dance, theater and film. Born in Vermont, she started writing songs when she was 6 years old. She now calls Los Angeles home.

As for VOCO, they're all about stompin' rebel harmony with cello and banjo and original songs heavily influenced by Appalachia and Eastern European music.

I decided to visit YouTube for my Moira Smiley and VOCO education, and there were a number of clips to choose from.

I recommend you check out a few of them, because their sound is difficult to describe.

That said, I will throw a few adjectives at them and see if they stick: hypnotizing, haunting, beautiful, ancient, wise and pleasantly eccentric.

Moira Smiley and VOCO with Ramblin' Red and special guests Annegret Baier (of Inanna) and Full Circle. 8 p.m. Friday. One Longfellow Square, Portland. \$15 advance; \$18 door. 761-1757; [www.onelongfellowsquare.com](http://www.onelongfellowsquare.com)