

The Bulletin

Bend, Oregon

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Moira Smiley Brings VOCO to Sisters, OR

...this year the 2011 series will wrap up with **moira smiley & VOCO**, a quartet of women who combine striking four-part harmonies with minimalist instrumentation (cello, banjo, “body percussion”) to produce a sound that’s rooted in Appalachia, Eastern Europe and the improvisational tradition.

The resulting feel of VOCO’s music is at once traditional and progressive, as if you’re listening to ancient folk songs (from across the globe) 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.

The band’s bio says VOCO combines “the energy of street singing and the elegance of a string quartet,” and that probably makes more sense than some rambling about robot mouth-lasers from the future. Better yet, visit www.moirasmiley.com and hear it for yourself.