

# Moira Smiley & VOCO

## Moira Smiley & VOCO

## Educational Offerings

1. Residency/Workshop Offering
2. Assembly Offering

### 1. Workshop/Residency

Each member of **VOCO** is a strong teacher. A residency or workshop with **Moira Smiley & VOCO** teaches improvisation, vocal technique, rhythmic interplay with the voice and using the body as an instrument. **VOCO** tailors a workshop to the level of its participants and makes use of its work as an ensemble to break down and share the mechanics of creating music with other people with just the voice and body. **VOCO** workshops can be playful and experiential for everyone (improv, simple song-learning, harmony singing...) and/or challenging for singers and musicians who want to stretch their vocal technique and improvisational palette.

Past clinics, residencies & workshops include *UCLA Dept. of Music, Indiana University Dept. of Music, UC Santa Cruz Dept. of Music, Birmingham University (UK), Dartington International Summer School (UK), Rockefeller University, Warren Wilson College* and many other colleges & universities in the U.S. Also festivals: *California WorldFest, Swannanoah Gathering, LOTUS World Music Festival* and others, *Minneapolis High School Choral Depts.* (4 district schools) and for several other high school music departments throughout the U.S.

### 2. Assembly

**Moira Smiley & VOCO** (vocals, cello, banjo) brings shimmering four-part vocal harmony, crooked rhythms and inventive instrumentals to original & traditional folksong. With vocal sounds called up from Sarajevo to Dublin, Appalachia to the Avant-garde, **Moira Smiley & VOCO** is about the voice - explored with unrivaled integrity and playfulness. **VOCO** pulls the audience in with laughter, participation, improvisation and percussive movement, and their joyous and moving story songs. Singing new spirituals, old ballads and dance-songs, these improvisors leap high across vocal bounds while cello and banjo weave in the funk and grace at the low end. In their school assembly programs, they show their playful use of the voice, and both the quirks and beauty of the banjo, accordion and cello. **VOCO** touches on the folk traditions that celebrate how people sing together (North American, Balkan, South African especially) - with harmony, improvisation and ornamentation.

**See more about VOCO, and hear music samples at:**

[www.moirasmiley.com](http://www.moirasmiley.com) and [www.sonicbids.com/voco](http://www.sonicbids.com/voco)

**Moira Smiley & VOCO** are:

Moira Smiley - vocals, percussion, accordion

Jess Basta - vocals, body percussion

Christine Enns - vocals, body percussion

Jessica Catron - cello, electronics

John Ballinger - vocals, banjo, percussion, clarinet