

BELLS & MOTLEY

Olden Music, Dance, & Storytelling

Participatory Musical
Theater Performance,
Multi-Arts Residency

Chinese Traditional Folklore & Music

“BAWSHOU & THE DRAGON”

PERFORMANCE:

What would you do if the Sun was captured by a powerful Dragon, and hidden in a cave, deep beneath the sea? In this traditional Chinese tale of wonder and adventure, the young boy Bawshou bravely sets out to rescue the Sun from its dark prison. With the help of the magic golden Phoenix, Bawshou is able to meet the dragon's three great challenges, and heroically restores the land to prosperity for his people.

In this artistically rich telling, Bells & Motley evoke a magical atmosphere through ageless symbols, costumes, dance, and performance techniques of the Orient. The action and mystique of the tale are further highlighted by music on authentic Chinese traditional stringed, wind, and percussion instruments, including *pipa, erhu, moon lute, gong, temple bells, Chinese theater drum.*

WORKSHOPS & RESIDENCY OPTIONS:

A performance of Bawshou frequently is preceded by special workshops. Participants will gain an appreciation of Chinese traditions, and for the importance of this traditional story, as they prepare for their special roles in the storytelling presentation through dances, movement, music, and more...

First, to prime the imagination, there's a program of dragon images drawn from oriental art sources, presenting the attributes, symbolic meaning, and detailed characteristics of dragons. Next, those details are translated into the medium of mask-making. In their masks, workshop participants process with great fanfare in their starring role as the sinuous dragon of the final performance.

Additional workshops are available for a multi-day residency format. Participants learn to draw the archetypal calligraphic symbols related to our story - Dragon, Sun, Phoenix, Joy, ...- & decorate a paper lantern of their own creation. They'll learn lantern & ribbon dances. Participants also practice traditional Chinese songs, creative sound effects on simple instruments, and for Orff programs, special instrumental pieces to collaborate in the final pageant performance.

POSSIBLE THEMATIC TIE-INS:

*East-West Arts, Traditions
Chinese New Year; Earth Stewardship
Heroism & Character Development*



“...As a Children’s Librarian, I will add that I too enjoyed the performance very much. The creativity, devotion, and artistic talent of these musician/folk-tellers is far above the caliber I have seen anywhere. I would highly recommend Bells & Motley”

-Mary Jo Cohan, Bayport Public Library, Bluepoint, NY

“...Experiencing a Bells & Motley Performance is a rare trip back in time; it is a unique opportunity for today’s children to witness and genuinely experience the music and stories of long ago that continue to hold meaning and appeal.”

-Jane Minotti, Sand Lake Town Library

Arts Disciplines

Historic /Traditional
Storytelling, Music, Musical
Instruments, Folkways

Audiences & Venues

Libraries, Festivals, Concert &
Performing Arts Series,
Children’s Storytelling Series,
Art Museums, Art Camps

Captivating for children in Public
& Elementary School settings;
Family Performances

Helpful Information, Fees

- For library audiences, children seated on the floor up close to the performers creates an intimate, inclusive atmosphere that young children appreciate.

- We prefer natural acoustics whenever possible. In general, indoor audiences of up to 150 don’t need amplification, in keeping with the spirit of a historical performance.

+ Maskmaking equipment list includes scissors, gluesticks, staplers, and hole punches. Parental assistance requested for any child too young to manage scissors adeptly. Consumable materials fee is approximately \$2.00 per child.

FEES: NYS DEC grants should go in as \$600 + travel. Fees for additional workshops & residencies will be negotiated, according to numbers of participants, ages, including block booking discounts, etc.

Related Programs

- Dragon Images, Symbols, and Meaning in Oriental Art
- Dragon Mask -Making; Dragon Rod Puppet Making
- Bamboo Flute Making;
- Ribbon, Lantern, Processional dancing

Sondra and John Bromka Two North St Marcellus NY 13108
315-673-2995 sbromka@earthlink.net www.bellsandmotley.com

