



BELLS & MOTLEY

Olden Music, Dance, & Storytelling

*Musicians, authors, storytellers,
folklorists, historians, teachers
dance callers, & historic instrument makers!*

*"Bells & Motley's gift is their ability to connect
with audiences of all ages & levels, to ignite
a love of history, arts, ideas, and traditions."*

Sondra & John Bromka's versatile accomplishment in European, World and American historic music, dance, & literary traditions have inspired audiences for over 30 years. Theirs is an extensive collection of historic & folkloric instruments and resources, and of finely-honed concert performances and curriculum coordinated workshops.

Programs are rich with artistry, spirit, and authenticity, demonstrate a masterful command of their music, and are presented with finely honed performance & teaching skills.

For information about our publications, recordings, performance schedule, new projects & adventures:

www.bellsandmotley.com

ABOUT THE ARTISTS...

Through our years of collaboration, we've thrived artistically - developing, implementing, and collaborating on a wide range of creative arts endeavors. Here is a representative list:

- Historic & folkloric programs for libraries, village concert series, historical societies, other public venues
- Thematic programs at State & National Historic Sites, Museums (Olana, Lorenzo, Johnson Hall, Albany Museum)
- Concerts, theatrics, dance performances & workshops for regional faires & festivals (Sterling Renaissance Festival, Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, Old Songs Festival, New England Folk Festival; special historic celebrations)
- Annual performances, research, & teaching residencies in Europe, including France, Germany, Belgium, Turkey
- Community/family/youth residency days: (Erie Canal Tall Tale Writing Workshops + Performance at Lafayette Library; Medieval Arts Days at Amsterdam Library & Springfield Museum; Shakespeare Day at Oneida Library; Sackets Harbor State Historic Site "Can-Am" Day Music + Dance Workshops, linking French Canadian & Early American Heritage Traditions)
- Community arts installations & pageants (NYS Bicentennial programs; outdoor labyrinth-building/mythology projects at Broome Library & Hyde Museum; holiday pageants; Madrigal Dinners for libraries, museums, churches)
- Arts-in-Education residencies & teacher training programs, specializing in arts integration, thematic projects

Among special areas of interest and expertise: musicology & iconography; luthiary work/historic instrument building; recreation of early oral literature performance pieces & American folk operettas, historic & traditional dance research.

As an original founding ensemble at the Sterling Renaissance Festival near Oswego, NY, we are well known to the public as "the folks with all of the authentic instruments and a treasury of skills." Our passion in all endeavors is to combine early music with beguiling aspects of history, literature, fine arts, & personal artistry. We court annual international projects that serve a doubly-enriching purpose of allowing us to pursue project-driven research in the archives of Europe, while building an international circle of experts and resources in our field. Our authentic knowledge and skills work intensively at home to create specialty programs. Recent highlights included concerts and multi-media programs for French and Dutch Quadricentennial Events across NYS, as well as activities and instrument reconstructions for the 400th anniversary of the 1st opera, Orfeo. Exciting works-in-progress continue our mission of inter-connecting generations and communities through arts & education.

We enthusiastically receive commissions to script & direct original musical theater works. Our original plays have accompanied museum exhibits of Oriental, Medieval, Renaissance, and American Art; have headlined Renaissance Madrigal Dinner events for universities & community theater groups; and have provided a collaborative focus for team-building thematic projects at schools, organizations, and national corporations.

We believe that what brings it all alive for our audiences is the wide array of concepts, experiences, and diversity of skills we present and interrelate - hopefully, something to excite everybody about the arts, and to make them want to know about and love history! That diversity allows us to create a vibrant artistic context that is suitable for each and every age group, each community, cultural organization, or scholarly community that we serve.

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*Bells & Motley gratefully acknowledges funding support from:
NYS Council for the Arts, NYS Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council for the Arts,
and international, private & community arts organizations and foundations*
