

BELLS & MOTLEY

Olden Music, Dance, & Storytelling

*Musicians, authors, storytellers,
folklorists, historians,
dance callers, early instrument makers*



Sondra & John Bromka are true “Renaissance” artists whose accomplishments in historic music, dance, & literary traditions have inspired audiences for over 25 years. Theirs is an extensive collection of historic & folkloric instruments, finely-honed performance pieces, authentic resources, lively arts workshops.

Programs are rich with artistry and spirit, demonstrating a masterful command of music, performance, & teaching arts. “Bells & Motley’s gift is their ability to connect with audiences of all ages & levels, to ignite a love of history, arts, and cultural traditions.”

For information about our publications, recordings, performance schedule, new projects & adventures:
www.bellsandmotley.com

MORE ABOUT THE ARTISTS...

Through our years of collaboration, we’ve thrived artistically, developing, implementing, and collaborating on a wide range of creative multidisciplinary arts endeavors, for an equally wide range of venues. Here is a representative list:

- Concerts, storytelling performances, workshops for schools, public libraries, village concert series
- Thematic music & dance programs for Historic Sites (Olana, Lorenzo, Johnson Hall, Albany Museum)
- Concerts, theatrics, and workshops for faires & festivals at home (Sterling Renaissance Festival, Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, Old Songs Festival, New England Folk Festival; Living History & Bicentennial Festivals)
- Annual performances & teaching residencies abroad (in France, Germany, Belgium, Turkey)
- Community family/youth programs: (Erie Canal Tall Tale Writing-Performance at Lafayette Library; Medieval Arts Days at Amsterdam Library and Springfield Museum; Shakespeare at Oneida Library)
- Community multi-arts installations & happenings (outdoor labyrinth-building/mythology projects at Broome Library & The Hyde Museum; holiday pageants; Madrigal Dinners for libraries, museums, churches)

We’ve enthusiastically received commissions to script & direct original musical theater works for arts & business organizations. Our works have accompanied museum exhibits of Oriental, Medieval, and Renaissance Art; headlined Renaissance Madrigal Dinner events for universities & community theater groups; provided a central theme for team-building multi-arts projects at schools, organizations, and national corporations.

As original founding members of the Sterling Renaissance Festival near Oswego, NY, we are known 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, & building an international circle of experts in the field.

The part that really brings it all alive for audiences at home is the wide array of concepts and skills we can interrelate - hopefully, something to entice everybody! The diversity allows us to create a vibrant living context and understanding for each project, suitable for each age group, community, cultural organization, or scholarly community that we serve. Among our areas of interest and expertise: musicology and iconography; luthiary work/instrument building; re-creation of early oral literature and theater performance pieces; historic and traditional dance research.

The central idea behind our work: Artistry is the flower of human achievement, that which should be most remembered of a culture, and the heart of a community. Custom residencies are welcome; please entertain us with your ideas!

*Bells & Motley’s programs are presented annually under the auspices of
NYS Council for the Arts, NYS Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council for the Arts, Meet the Composer,
Partners in Arts Education, regional arts councils, and other community arts organizations.
Matching Funds for public programs & Arts-in-Education residencies are available annually.
John & Sondra will do their very best to offer assistance and guidance for your success.*

The Arts are well worth it!

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