

# Olden Christmas

Historic & Traditional Revelry  
in Celebration of the Season

***Bells & Motley*** “Evoking the Warmth & Spirit of Christmas Past with music, tales, & pageantry sure to please Revelers of Christmas present, Sondra and John’s programs knit together young, old, shy & bold in celebration of the warmest & richest traditions of the holiday season.... The Season’s Best!”

Bells & Motley absolutely *delight* with the spirited music, traditional customs, pageantry, and participatory dances that have illuminated Christmas and Mid-Winter Celebrations down through centuries of celebration. Historic traditional musical instruments please the eye, ear, and heart: **hammer dulcimer, Celtic & Medieval Harps, hurdy gurdy, bagpipes, mandolin & mandocello, fiddles, recorders, crumhorns, button accordeon, and more.**

An interactive concert program of favorites can include a variety of lively traditional French & Catalan dancing carols, ancient Medieval Christmas aires, sing-along Wassailing songs from Dickens’ England, and for rollicking fun, our trademark party-participation version of “The 12 Days of Christmas.”

*Celebrating a special Christmas theme?* Bells & Motley have a wealth of ideas and resources to help. Let us don costumes, and create just the festive atmosphere you’re looking for! And if it’s a grand-scale event you have in mind, there’s colorful banners, a participatory holiday trunk show for hands-on fun, pageantry, and delightful **Traditional Christmas Characters**, including the original “Old Father Christmas!”



## “A Holiday Celebration Most Memorable & Rare”

Specialty Christmas Themes include:

**RENAISSANCE REVELRY**  
**DICKENS’ VICTORIAN**  
**INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS**  
**TRADITIONS for 12 DAYS**  
**of CHRISTMAS**

- *Concerts – large/small, formal/informal*
- *Civic & Community events*
- *Children, Family, Adult programs*
- *Libraries, Schools*
- *House parties*
- *Corporate functions*

## ***Bells & Motley***

Olden Music and Storytelling

Sondra and John Bromka

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## MORE HISTORICAL SPECIALTIES...

*“Strike the harp & joint the chorus!”* Imagine the magic of “Deck the Halls,” originally a traditional Welsh carol, with early Celtic instruments. Hear hurdy gurdy & harp bring haunting new meaning to the Medieval mid-winter ballad “Good King Wenceslas.” Kick up your heels and dance to familiar French dance carols, joyously played on the French bagpipe & rustic-oboe duet of the shepherds. No matter how you decide to use us, *our goal is to bring an audience of strangers together as friends.* Ideas to choose from include:

**MEDIEVAL MUSIC FOR THE YULETIDE SEASON** PERIOD INSTRUMENTS, COSTUME

**CELTIC CHRISTMAS: IRISH, SCOTTISH, WELSH, BRETON, TRADITIONS**

**INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS & MID-WINTER MUSIC OF FRANCE, ENGLAND, IRELAND, ITALY, GERMANY, & MORE...**

**VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS REVELS: HAMMERED DULCIMER, CONCERTINA, FIDDLE FEZZIWIG’S BALL! A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DANCE**

## VICTORIAN OR RENAISSANCE HOLIDAY CHARACTERS & TRADITIONS,

## *and* **A HOLIDAY MUMMER’S PAGEANT...**

*“Wassail:” For A Community Holiday Celebration they’ll never Forget*

Each performance of this rollicking audience-interactive Mummer’s play is different, reflecting your community’s own unique flavor & individuality! Performed by John and Sondra with the creative assistance of your jovial crew, this is a light-hearted “trunk show” in Commedia dell’ Arte style. Provided are costumes, festive decoration, sets, and a seat-of-your pants script that will delight and involve all.

This is the perfect event to celebrate that most joyous season, & our program has been performed for all manner of groups large and small, including historic sites, corporations, madrigal dinners, churches, libraries, museums, clubs, and family parties. It’s ultimate centerpiece for 12th Night gatherings, too!

In the British Isles, the Mummer’s Play has long been an annual event. The spirited cast includes Old Father Christmas, a dancing donkey, and a bevy of other delightful characters (...that is, your guests!) The performance culminates with a team **Creation of The Grand Wassail Bowl** for all the party to share, and a traditional English Wassail toast for all, to bring health and happiness to all in the New Year to come.

## MADRIGAL DINNERS, REVELS, AND MID-WINTER PAGEANTS

*Banquets, dinner theatre, weddings...* Sondra and John are well experienced in the production of grand and gala one-of-a-kind events. They are able to assist as coordinators and consultants, offering expertise in everything from menu, to decorations, to program preparation...everything you need to insure a joyous and memorable. event. Prices vary, according to number of performers, planning/coordination requirements.

*“Large or small, young or old,  
Bells & Motley will bring your own good company together  
with song, dance, & spirited revelry.  
’Tis our custom!”*