

BELLS & MOTLEY

Olden Music, Dance, & Storytelling

Participatory Family Music Performance

“MUSIC ALONG THE CANAL” *Our Canal-Era Heritage Folk Music and Instruments from Many Cultures*

Can you imagine all of the different musical traditions you would have enjoyed hearing up and down the Erie Canal in the 19th Century? In this up-close, interactive concert, Sondra and John Bromka bring back to life the sounds of the immigrants who came here from so many places during the canal era, bringing their beloved cultural traditions with them through their music, their instruments, and their dances. Hear their music again on the artists' collection of historic instruments, including Irish harp, bagpipes, bodhran, pennywhistles; French hurdy gurdies; German “hackbrett” (hammer dulcimer), African-American banjo; English squeezebox and more...

How did all of these traditions join together in our great melting pot? In two musical examples, you'll be surprised to discover how a well known song written by the famous popular American composer Steven Foster actually started out in both words and tune as an Old World Welsh harp song -- translated and Americanized to appeal to lovers of lively music in the new country.

For a Double-Treasure NYS Heritage Festival ---
The “Music Along the Canal” concert teams beautifully with our companion participatory musical folk operetta “15 Miles On the Erie Canal.”

Add heritage dances to learn for a Triple Treasure!

Sondra & John Bromka 36 South Street, Marcellus NY 13108
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Arts Disciplines

Historic /Traditional Music, Instruments, Folkways

Audiences & Venues

Schools, Libraries, Festivals, Concert & Performing Arts Series, Children's & Family Storytelling Series

An exceptional audience-building offering for A Concert Series. to bring new audiences and generations to a love and appreciation for historic music and instruments.

An ideal public audience combines all ages for inter-generational enjoyment

Helpful Information

- A versatile program that may be presented **indoors or out**, on a stage or on the floor.

- Compact & Flexible footprint of sets allows configuration in small spaces when required.

- 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 and intimate audiences when possible, but sound system is available if required.

- Length:** Programs generally run 45 min. - 1 hr., by request (Flexible- can also be longer or shorter.)

Related Programs

- An Erie Canal Participatory Dance Party
- “Where Did the Water Go” Tall-Tale skit-writing & performance wkshp/residency
- Learn to Play Pennywhistle



“...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/folktellers is far above the caliber I have seen anywhere.”

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

“...Written evaluations & audience comments after your performance confirmed that all the children, and adults, attending the program thoroughly enjoyed it. In particular, our audience liked the audience participation in the story...the music and the instruments were a big hit also. One comment sums it up: 'Invite them back!'”

-Sally Otis, Director, Hazard Library, Poplar Ridge NY

“...I highly recommend the Bromkas. It was a most educational, enlightening, & empowering experience for our children to time travel with them and be immersed in the life and culture of the Erie Canal ...truly phenomenal artists and educators who bring history to life.”

-Helen Laroche, Principal Kensington Rd. School, Glens Falls

