

# ***Bells & Motley Olden Music, Dance, and Storytelling Medieval-Renaissance Multidisciplinary Residency Suite***

*Integrating music, social studies, language arts,  
foreign languages, sciences, dance, art history*

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*The basic premise: Infuse the curriculum with arts to bring it alive*

The programs detailed below are a scaffolded sequence, a path that leads participants on a compelling step-by-step adventure in history. Authentic medieval art forms --- music, instruments, dances, fine arts, & literary arts --- criss-cross paths to reveal broad themes and a vibrant portrait of history from a cultural (and multicultural) perspective. At the same time, the programs build a powerful base of knowledge, springboard to a long list of activities that can comprise a thematic project-based extended residency, and fully complement your curriculum. The truly amazing thing is that there is an enticing entrance point for everyone – no one is left behind on this journey.

*Project-based residencies.* Our residencies vary considerably in length (according to number of students served, goals, budget, available grants, and ambition.) Below you'll find our "core" foundation sequence. Additional workshop topics are also available, for example, the art of the book: illumination and calligraphy; early ballads as oral literature; composition and songwriting – all within the realm of every student. Please do inquire for more information on those....we have over 25 years of residency designs to draw from! Residencies often include a central project or culminating event, ranging from historic costumed dance or music performances to a Renaissance Faire, a Medieval Feast, or a student pageant. We are eager to help serve the projects you have in mind, and to shape workshops accordingly. But first...a plan to lay the groundwork–

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## **• Theatre Performance: “The Tale of Yanek & Heliotrope”**

Audiences are immediately engaged when a Medieval merchant's cart overflowing with mysterious and rare musical instruments enters and wheels across the stage. Master Craftsman Yanek is en route to the greatest trading faire in all of Europe. His path crosses that of Lady Heliotrope, an exuberant *troubaritz* on pilgrimage for poetic inspiration. The fairytale spins as their tales entwine in this delightful story which has enchanted audiences for over 25 years at Faires, Renaissance Festivals, and most of all, schools. Combining our skills as playwrights, musicians, instrument makers, and historians, the performance is overlaid with a wealth of first-hand information that inspires students as it introduces the "Renaissance" ideal of imagination.

Though “Yanek & Heliotrope” is frequently used to introduce the artists and residency suite to students and faculty, we also very much enjoy offering this performance as part of a residency culmination, to celebrate the students' new knowledge and understanding. Accompanied by an extensive teachers' guide.

## **• Early Music: A Tapestry of Culture & History**

This workshop uses our full array of Medieval and Renaissance instruments, including historic harps, hurdy gurdy, nyckelharpa, medieval fiddles, lute, recorders, crumhorns, bagpipes, shawms, tabor drum, more...It's the largest touring instrumentarium in the Northeast...and it features many historic strings carefully recreated by the artists. We select our music to illustrate many aspects of Medieval and Renaissance life: poetic imagination, pilgrimage, available technology, the crusades, contact and exchange with the Arabic World, the birth of universities, diffusion of ideas, the invention of printing. We also make extensive use of a cross-cultural vocabulary list we have prepared, as well as a map of early Europe and the neighboring known world. In addition to providing a rich and rare musical experience, this program was created to underscore important historic concepts, and to inter-relate and address Learning Standards across the curriculum.

## **• Renaissance Dances, Processions, & Celebrations**

Students continually comment on how they love learning these historic circle dances, selected for success and appeal. Whether for the lively pleasure of an authentic collaborative group activity, or perhaps to prepare for performance at sharing sessions, Renaissance Faires, or arts festivals, dance is an exciting way to bring history to life, especially when done in period costumes (or hats) created by the students. Enhanced by live music on our period instruments, it's an exuberant break in routine!

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- **Life in the Middle Ages: Slide Show Forum**

- **Document-Based Explorations of Art, Architecture, Artifacts, Manuscripts (DBQ)**

An outstanding teaching tool, this acclaimed program uses a wide variety of primary source imagery to give students an accurate, informed understanding of history, on a great range of topics. Depending on our configuration, customized programs normally include daily life, customs, occupations, costumes, music and dance resources, art/literary symbolism and illumination, castles... . These are primary source images gathered first-hand in our ongoing annual research in Europe, and students in the same way come to understand and appreciate the historical research process. Limited audience size allows for lively dialogue that thoroughly involves students, and actively engages critical thinking skills.

- **Costume Follow-up Demonstration Option:**

Students learn how to create hats, simple costumes, and all manner of authentic accessories, as witnessed in above slide forum documents. Emphasis is on items students can create themselves, from materials readily found at home. This is a wonderful way to build excitement for dance workshops and special events, while learning to work with primary source documents.

- **Medieval Faires, Feasts, & Other Culminating Sharing Events**

Events range from a benchmark sharing performance of dances learned that very day, to a culminating Medieval Faire, Pageant, or Feast. Thematic projects showcase your students in an event that "makes history" and will be remembered for a lifetime. The artists are available to help you plan, as well as prepare teachers and students for a successful Faire or Festival that centers around interdisciplinary learning, and infuses the arts into curriculum.

- **Plays, Pageants, & Other Core Group Projects**

Focused special "core group" projects can also be inserted into larger residencies, & presented as part of your culmination. Student performances shine in our original Chaucerian pageant "Chanticleer Tale." We also guide students in scripting their own original "Renaissance Masques," (Elizabethan proto light opera, often featuring elements of mythology) or lively English Mummings' Folk Plays rich with symbols, allegory, and tomfoolery. Each project combines student drama, singing, and dance performances with history and literature. Other student Play and Pageant writing residencies available. DBQ worksheets, evaluation rubrics and language arts skills assessments accompany all specialty theater arts programs, to fulfill important criteria for curricular needs, as well as for grant requirements.

- **Other Hands-On Workshops available**

Labyrinths, Pilgrimages, & Chaucer; Calligraphy, Illuminated Manuscripts/The History & Art of the Book; Fine Arts projects in media including clay, paper, printmaking, and installation art; Medieval Harmonies for Music Composition

**For Teachers: Medieval Festival Planning Workshops**

The artists are available to assist in any and all aspects of your festival event. We are also pleased to provide teacher in-service workshops before or during a residency.

*For further information, materials, grant information, or additional residency outlines:*

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Sondra Bromka, John Bromka  
Two North Street Marcellus, New York 13108  
315/673-2995 sbromka@earthlink.net  
www.bellsandmotley.com

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***Interested in Funding Information?***

These arts-infused residencies are eminently eligible for assistance through a variety of sources, many of these have no specific request deadlines. First, check with your school BOCES Arts in Ed in **New York State**, or your IU in **Pennsylvania**. In certain regions, past programs have also been sponsored by Young Audiences.

For longer residencies, there are generous cash matches available from your local arts council through the Local Capacity Building (LCB) decentralization programs across New York State (tell us your county, and we'll direct you.) Also, be sure to check **Partners in the Arts** website [www.arts4ed.org](http://www.arts4ed.org) for information about SAP grants available statewide, this year due in early June (2004). For planning your residency, and for pilot programs, also take a look at their smaller TAP grants (3 deadlines per year.)

In **Pennsylvania**, Bells & Motley is privileged to be on the state roster of juried teaching artists, and thus qualify for wonderful matching grant possibilities. Begin at [www.artsnet.org](http://www.artsnet.org) to find your regional administering council. We also have found program support in other neighboring states, so please inquire.