

BELLS & MOTLEY

Olden Music, Dance, & Storytelling

Participatory Family Storytelling/Music Performance

“THE BOY WHO WENT TO VISIT THE NORTH WIND”

Here is a performance that will actively engage and enrich young children and adults alike. Sondra and John Bromka bring audiences on a wind-swept journey to “long ago and far away” with the telling of the traditional tale “The Boy Who Went to Visit the North Wind.” Look forward to an energetic, meaningful, and interactive tandem storytelling experience that is underscored with live music on the Celtic harp, resonant with historic authenticity, and alive with the kinds of varied and abundant participation that will engage audiences of all ages.

“The Boy Who Went to Visit the North Wind” is also a tale of magic. The story unfolds when a poor boy’s meal is unwittingly blown away, taken to the four corners of the earth by the all-powerful North Wind, and cannot be returned. In exchange, a magic tablecloth, magic donkey, and magic stick are three marvelous gifts offered by the Wind. But in the end, the most important gift of all is surely the North Wind’s sage advice: *“All you have to do is keep your eyes & ears open.”*

As in the best of traditional folktales, there is the timeless appeal of thought provoking themes. Here, justice & fairness are of universal concern to young children and parents. And children will love the inclusion of their favorite storytelling elements: patterns and repetition, personification, and especially, the wondrous and curious ways of “long ago & far away.”



“WHO HAS HEARD THE WIND?” *Mini-Concert*

The artists’ extensive early instrument collection features a joyous diversity of historic Medieval, Renaissance, & traditional instruments. Playing upon the wind as our theme and setting, we are pleased to usher in our performance journey with an early music mini-concert, specially highlighting a diverse collection of early wind instruments of all shapes, sizes, and sounds. The audience is treated to consorts of recorders, of curious crumhorns, and as a special treat, historical bagpipes both loud and soft. Imagination is then courted with a mysteriously ancient and evocative gemshorn. As you enjoy this exploration of historic instruments, you will marvel at the wonderful ways human kind has used wood, animal horn, reed, leather, and ingenuity to invent instruments that create a rainbow of musical sounds.

These two complementary programs unite perfectly to appeal to all the senses, a memorable and meaningful feast for the eyes, ears, and imagination!

Considering Earthday, Environmental awareness, and related thematic events, the artists can also explore mankind’s long partnership with the wind as energy, and how cultures around the world have shaped, utilized, and interacted with the wind’s many powers and wonders. Windmills, kites, sailboats, seeds... wind contributes significantly to our lives, our pleasures, & to our history.



“...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/folk-tellers is far above the caliber I have seen anywhere. I would highly recommend Bells & Motley”

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

“...Experiencing a Bells & Motley Performance is a rare trip back in time; it is a unique opportunity for today’s children to witness and genuinely experience the music and stories of long ago that continue to hold meaning and appeal.”

-Jane Minotti, Sand Lake Town Library

Arts Disciplines

Historic /Traditional
Storytelling, Music, Musical
Instruments, Folkways

Audiences & Venues

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

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

An ideal audience combines all
ages for intergenerational
enjoyment & appreciation.

Helpful Information

- A versatile program that may be presented **indoors or out.**
- 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 when possible. In general, indoor audiences of up to 150 don’t need amplification, in keeping with the spirit of historical performance.
- Discreet music-quality amplification can be provided by artists for larger audiences, or according to circumstance.
- **Program length:**
Storytelling+mini-concert generally run about one hour.
(Can also be longer or shorter.)

Related Programs

“Who Has Heard the Wind”
Historic Instrument
Mini-Concert;
Hands-on Recorder or
Pennywhistle Workshops;
Bamboo Flute Making for Teens
Medieval Arts Activities Day

