

BELLS & MOTLEY

Olden Music, Dance, & Storytelling

Concert Demonstration Workshop or Multi-Arts Residency

*Infusing Science with Music, Art,
& Creative Problem Solving*

“MUSIC, WORLD INSTRUMENTS, & THE SCIENCE OF SOUND”

HISTORIC AND FOLKLORIC WORLD INSTRUMENTS & SOUND PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS

Winds and reeds, plucked and bowed strings, and percussion of all kinds!

Music Appreciation Performance Choice:

Bells & Motley's collection of traditional instruments brings to life a diversity of world cultural traditions, with so many different sounds, personal musicological experiences and explorations, unique visual aesthetics of each instrument, and ingenious technologies. There are many ways to vibrate a string - plucked, picked, bowed, sympathetic, or played with a rosined wheel - as students discover upon hearing the Chinese Pipa and erhu, the Mideastern Kanun and oud, Swedish Nyckleharpa, and French Hurdy Gurdy. Audiences also enjoy the presenters' exotic reeds and bagpipes, and are surprised to learn that each European country has its own unique traditional form of bagpipe!

When experienced in a music appreciation performance, these instruments' unusual appearance will draw students to observe the variety of shapes and sizes, explore the ingenious use of natural native materials, experience the wide range of sounds, and respond to the range of emotions induced. This interactive performance can be geared to correlate with social studies/creative writing integrated projects.

Up Close Workshop Choice:

In the up-close workshop format, the Bromkas can include hands-on explorations, and have developed some simple gadgets especially to assist in teaching what lies behind sound production. Participants will be able to pluck the strings of a harp to see, hear, and test principals of string length, sound boxes & amplifiers, vibration, energy transfer, and much more. Students' fascination in learning how gut strings, skin heads, horn whistles, cane reeds, and other sound producers can be made directly from nature provides inspiration and information for students' own musical instrument inventions.

RESIDENCY OPTIONS

Students as Apprentices:

In a 5-day residency, the Bromkas guide students in the creation of their own musical instruments, either exploratory in nature, or following a specific plan. Of the latter, strummed dulcimers are especially recommended as exceptionally playable instruments, adaptable to varying abilities of most students. Linked to many countries and centuries, variations occur from Medieval Europe to the Appalachian mountains. Another successful endeavor is the building of a traditional 19-string harp, a superb learning tool for students. Other historic instrument designs are also available from John, a master builder of historic instruments, and Sondra, music educator.

During the building process, students learn hands-on about the role of sound box amplifiers, string length and proportion, spatial relations, and solid & surface geometry, ornamentation, and the handling of tools. Pride in workmanship and teamwork are other important aspects of this residency. The finished product will be a quality, versatile addition to the music teaching program. Students may work as individuals or teams.

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Curricula/Disciplines

Music: Historic /Traditional
Music and Instruments,
Technology: Instrument
Building
Science Curriculum: Sound

Audiences & Venues

- Schools, Community Venues
- Adaptable Grade 3 - HS, may serve Science of Sound, Music, Technology Curricula
- Workshop may serve as introduction to indepth projects, and will be designed around specific complementary projects implemented by teacher or artists

Helpful Information, Fees

- For music appreciation assembly-type performances, up to 100 students per session. For interactive hands-on program, single or double classes, up to about 50 people. Please discuss with artists which would best serve your needs.
- +For Science of Sound focused exploration of the instruments, single classes recommended
- + Possible instruments for children to build with artists during in-depth residencies:
 - exploratory inventions
 - bamboo flutes
 - Harps and dulcimers (these are generally built by teams of 3-4 students)
- + LCB Grants available from arts councils for residencies, applications generally due in fall of each year.

REFERENCES:

Science of Sound Workshops
annually for 3rd Graders at
Valley View Elementary, Oneonta,
Teacher Sue Dana
Watkins Glen Elementary
Gr. 6 Science, Dayle Slusser
2 -week traditional American
instrument building & playing
residency Cincinnati 4th Grade