

For more information:
Marcellus Free Library
32 Maple Street, Marcellus NY
Phone (315) 673-3221
www.library.marcellusny.com

For more about the Performers, contact:

BELLS & MOTLEY
OLDEN MUSIC & STORYTELLING

Sondra Bromka, John Bromka
Two North St Marcellus, NY
Phone (315) 673-2995
sbromka@earthlink.net
www.bellsandmotley.com

BELLS & MOTLEY Consort of Olden Music *at Marcellus Free Library*

I. Photo Exposition

“From Art to Wood to Music: Sculpted Sound”
Medieval Musical Instrument Iconography & Instrument Building

II. Concert-Discussion-Guided Tour

“Musical Instrument Mysteries & Metamorphoses”
Hurdy Gurdies, Fiddles, Rommelpots, Lutes, Harps, & More
with Marcellus musicians, cultural historians, artists, instrument
Sondra & John Bromka, Bells & Motley Consort



JULY 2008: Photo Exposition at Marcellus Library

Throughout the month of July, Marcellus Library is hosting a unique photo-documentary presentation that will appeal to anyone who is curious about music, art, history, or making things of from wood, earth, stone, bone! Representing the research of popular area musicians and storytellers John and Sondra Bromka, aka Bells & Motley Consort, this exhibit explores a more visual side of their artistry, and shows their explorations and research trail in the re-creation of historic instruments and music at venues that include our own Sterling Renaissance Faire, and extends to concerts as far away as France, Belgium, and Turkey.

On the afternoon and evening of July 24, the exhibit will expand to include instruments under construction (and de-construction), prototypes, and many fine examples of finished instruments, and also the drawings and sketches, materials and tools that lead to their recreation. A vibrant, interactive concert from 7:00-8:30 pm caps it off to bring the images and instruments to life, illuminating the art and science behind their music. Bells & Motley's wildly diverse and unique collection of historic instruments is reputed to be the largest collection of its kind in the northeast. The exhibit, concert, and discussion are open to the public, with guaranteed appeal to all ages.

A rare offering... miss it at your own risk!

When you see an ethereal angel with a harp carved in the doorway of a Romanesque cathedral, do you wonder what kind of sounds that harp might make, and what that harp's strings would have been made of? How would her music compare to that of the rotund carved stone sow, who plays her harp way up on the cathedral's rooftop, for the entertainment of other gargoyles and grotesqueries? And how different still from the cacophony of so many bagpipe-playing donkeys, bunnies, humans, and other fanciful creatures, depicted blowing into the skins of other beasts in painted parchments found in abundance all over Europe. What did this iconography mean to the artists who carved and painted these images in the Middle Ages, and what does it reveal for musicologists today?

Over the course of many years, the Bromkas have made annual research pilgrimages across Europe in search of Medieval and Renaissance frescoes, sculptures, and other works of art that illuminate the music, dance, and other cultural expressions of our past. Take some time this month to explore the details of the artists' exquisite photographic collection of frescoes, sculptures, tapestries, paintings, and parchments, which they use to inform their reconstructions and performances of early music, and curious stories and mysteries behind them.



"People from many and varied backgrounds, disciplines and fields of interest will find much to enjoy in Sondra and John Bromka's multi-media program, "From Art to Wood to Music: Sculpted Sound"... The Bromkas cut a wide swath through the cultural history of the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Within the realms of art, music, history, sociology and craftsmanship, the audience will come away with an appreciation of the interconnectedness of all of these areas and a jumping-off point to explore new paths of knowledge."

*Katherine Chave,
Director Onondaga Free Library*

THE PHOTO EXHIBIT

Entering the photo exhibit, you will see a wall devoted to "Instruments with Skins & Gut" featuring images of bagpipes, drums, rommelpots, early fiddles and viols, gutters, and more. Also, note the artists successful experiments in creating parchments, destined for instrument making. Another wall depicts all manner of historic harps, psalteries, dulcimers, and related instruments, and answers some of the most frequently asked questions concerning these instruments, while posing new mysteries to ponder. Two more walls highlight John's luthiery specialty in the research and reconstruction of various citterns, gutters, lutes, and hurdy gurdies as they appeared across medieval Europe.

Keep an eye to a special webpage the artists have designed to accompany this show:

www.bellsandmotley.com/earlyinstrumentexpo.html