

BELLS & MOTLEY

Olden Music, Dance, & Storytelling

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

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

*MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AROUND THE WORLD & ACROSS TIME
~ HOW THEY SOUND, HOW THEY WORK*

Exploring winds, reeds, strings, percussion of all kinds, more!

There are SO many clever ways people have used the natural materials around them - wood and reeds, skins and horns, horse hair and tree resin, and much, much more - to create instruments for sharing the beauty of music, dance, and other cultural traditions together. What ideas did people discover about the science of sound to help shape their fabulous instrument inventions? Let's experiment as they did! As builders of instruments the Bromkas have many exciting instruments and insights to show & to share!

Sound Science & Music Appreciation, Instruments in interactive Concert

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. For example, there are many ways to vibrate a string: By plucking, as on their lute, harp, banjo... Or by bowing, as on the Swedish Nyckelharpa, a hand-carved fiddle, and their amazing 6 ft. tall tromba marina (built by John). You can also vibrate strings with a rosined wheel, as on the Hurdy Gurdy, invented 1000 years ago, which John also builds! Sondra's trapezoidal hammered dulcimer offers yet another method, and reveals fascinating geometric principles of sound. The artists' wind instruments include tin whistle, all sizes of recorders, crumhorns and other exotic reeds, and various bagpipes. Audiences are always surprised to learn that every European country has invented its own unique form of bagpipe, and how different they can be! And how about discovering the Bromkas' secret recipe for making their own drum heads from skins?

When heard in a music appreciation program, these instruments' unusual appearance will also draw the audience in closely to experience the wide range of sounds, and respond to the range of emotions induced. This interactive performance can be configured for any age group, and if desired, to correlate with integrated projects. The artists will select instruments for inclusion accordingly.

Up-Close Workshops, Further Possibilities

In an up-close workshop format, the Bromkas have developed some simple gadgets especially to assist in teaching what lies behind sound production, and can include hands-on explorations. 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. It is fascinating for people to see for themselves how gut strings, skin heads, horn whistles, cane reeds, and other sound producers can be made directly from nature, offering inspiration and information for their own musical instrument inventions.

Pricing of concerts and workshops will vary according to your needs, and reflect factors like program length, number of instruments brought, set-up/tune-up, size of audience. Block-booking discounts offered.

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**Interactive Concert,
Demonstration,
Workshop, or
Multi-Arts Residency**

Disciplines/Curricula

Music: Historic /Traditional
Music and Instruments,
Multi-Cultural Explorations
STEAM: Science of Sound
Technology & Craftsmanship

Audiences & Venues

- Public Libraries, Community Centers, Family Audiences, Schools
- Program can be adapted for any age - young children, teens, adults, & family audiences. Tell us your audience size, ages, and any special needs or interests, we'll select instruments and music accordingly.
- Program can serve as introduction to instrument-making projects; can be designed to complement a variety of related projects

Helpful Information

Let's discuss what you would like to highlight. Our programs are very adaptable:

- For "Science of Sound" focused exploration of the instruments, including hands-on explorations of the instruments, small groups are recommended. Note: Science of Sound is now part of Gr. 1 STEAM curriculum!
- "Music Appreciation" For historic/cultural-emphasis programs (rather than sound science emphasis), smaller is again better, to allow close-up look at instruments and natural acoustics. But when necessary, up to 100 allowable.
- Grants may be available from regional arts councils and other sources for in-depth instrument building residencies such as
 - exploratory inventions from recycled and "found" objects
 - harps, dulcimers (teens or older)

IN ADDITION TO LIBRARIES, SENIOR CENTERS, HERE ARE SAMPLE PROJECTS:

2018 Science of Sound presentations for 1st Gr. Palmer Elem, Baldwinsville NY

Annual workshops, many years:
Gr. 3 Valley View Elementary, Oneonta
and Gr. 6 Science Watkins Glen, NY

2 -week traditional American instrument building, playing, & dancing residency
Cincinnati 4th Gr.

Museum of Biblical Arts, NYC Adults

