

*Admirable Eccentrics* is a modest homage to two former Zeitgeistigen Menschen: Bob Samarotto, reed player/composer/poet, and Eric Stokes, composer/trusted advisor/poet/ friend. Eric's "Music is..." a whimsical manifesto of his populist view of music and life, inspired me to add a singer to the ensemble, which in turn led to a search for other texts by strong, independent free-thinkers. Ben Franklin's own epitaph joined the mix, as did Bill Holm's "Advice." Wishing to step into a world that both Bob and Eric inhabited with joy, I included improvisatory sections. And since "music is for the people – for all of us," we all get to improvise. Enjoy!

The Body  
of  
Benjamin Franklin, Printer  
(Like the cover of an old book,  
Its contents torn out,  
And stripped of its lettering and gilding)  
Lies here food for worms.  
Yet the work itself shall not be lost,  
For it will (as he believes) appear once  
more  
In a new  
And more beautiful Edition  
Corrected and Amended  
By  
The Author.

∞ ∞ ∞

#### Advice

Someone dancing inside us  
has learned only a few steps:  
the "Do-Your-Work" in 4/4 time,  
and the "What-Do-You-Expect" waltz.  
He hasn't noticed yet the woman  
standing away from the lamp,  
the one with black eyes  
who knows the rumba  
and strange steps in jumpy  
rhythms from the mountains of Bulgaria.  
If they dance together,  
something unexpected will happen.  
If they don't, the next world  
will be a lot like this one.

Bill Holm, from *The Dead Get By With Everything* (1990)

∞ ∞ ∞

Music is for the people.

For all of us:

the dumb, the deaf, the dogs and jays, handclappers, dancing moon watchers,  
brainy puzzlers, abstracted whistlers, finger-snapping time keepers, crazy, weak, hurt,  
weed keepers, the strays.

The land of music is everyone's nation--her tune, his beat, your drum--  
one song, one vote.

Eric Stokes