

*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!