

# July 4th

And the three-year-old at the picnic  
said she wanted to play the violin  
and I said, just like Joe Venuti  
and she said, you're a Joe Venuti  
and I said, you're a Joe Venuti  
and she pulled a tuft of grass and said,  
here's some Joe Venuti  
and she pointed to a sparrow scratching in the dust  
and said, there's a Joe Venuti  
and from a plastic bag she dumped  
a bunch of Joe Venutis  
and barbecue flames caressed the grilling Joe Venutis  
and men threw the Joe Venuti, popping their gloves,  
while women slurped the Joe Venuti and spit the seeds  
and the sun played hide and seek in dissipating Joe Venutis  
and through poplar branches Joe Venuti shadows danced  
across the baby's sleeping smile.

Later, like Marcus Aurelius  
observing models of human behavior,  
we watched the ducks glide away  
after the bread was gone.



## Marc Jampole

Marc Jampole is the author of *Music from Words*, published in 2007 by Bellday Books, Inc. His poetry has been published in *Mississippi Review*, *Oxford Review*, *Janus Head*, *Main Street Rag*, *Ellipsis*, *Wilderness House Review* and other journals. Over the years, four of Marc's poems have been nominated for The Pushcart Prize. More than 450 articles he has written on various subjects have been published in magazines and newspapers. Marc has worked professionally as a filmmaker, television news reporter, university instructor, options trader, advertising executive and writer.

