

# Chuck Brodsky

## Bio

*"Reflects the good old U.S. of A., warts and all . . . colorful tales . . . reminds us there's a whole wide world outside our doors." -Rolling Stone*

THIS DOWN TO EARTH musical storyteller, with his dry, barb-witted social commentary combined with a deep underlying compassion, knows that the best stories are the little things in the lives of everyday people trying to muddle through with some grace. His great gift as a writer is to infuse these stories with humanity and humor, making them resonate profoundly with his listeners. His spoken introductions to his songs can be as spellbinding as his colorful lyrics, which he brings to life with a well-travelled voice and a delivery that's natural and conversational. His groove-oriented strumming and fingerpicking draw on influences from the mountains of western North Carolina where he now lives, and from lots of different good old traditional folk stuff of all kinds.

Chuck Brodsky's songwriting pokes fun at political corruption, road rage, mischief he made as a kid, even dumping garbage in the river; he sings about unsung heroes and forgotten but incredible people . . . odd characters from the game of baseball, migrant fruit pickers, the Goat Man, a clown, or "Radio," a developmentally disabled man and the love showered on him for 40 years at a high school in South Carolina (this song was used in the 2003 movie "Radio"). In addition to being fixtures on the Dr. Demento show, his songs have been recorded by Kathy Mattea, David Wilcox, Sara Hickman, Chuck Pyle, and many others, and his tune "Blow 'em Away" was selected by Christine Lavin for Shanachie's 1996 "Laugh Tracks" album. He's appeared on nationally syndicated radio programs "Mountain Stage," "Acoustic Cafe," and "River City Folk," and has performed three concerts of his celebrated baseball story songs at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Chuck's debut album, "A Fingerpainter's Murals," was released in 1995, and was a critical favorite with its collection of vividly rendered stories—from a farmer losing his land ("Acre by Acre") to a washed-up pitcher trying to hold on a little longer ("Lefty"). In 1996, Chuck released "Letters in the Dirt," introducing us to great characters, such as a roadside peach vendor still wondering after thirty years if he married the right woman ("Bill

& Annie"), and the first white baseball player in the Negro Leagues ("The Ballad of Eddie Klepp"). The album earned critical raves, and his 1998 release, "Radio," was even more widely acclaimed for its great stabs at our laughable culture, like "The Come Here's & the Been Here's," "Our Gods," and "On Christmas I Got Nothing." "Last of the Old Time," was released in 2000, and further cemented his reputation for telling it like it is with songs about phony politicians on the campaign trail ("He Came to our Town"), secret meetings ("The Boys in the Back Room"), and "Schmoozing." In the summer of 2002 Chuck released "The Baseball Ballads," which Tim Wiles, Director of Research at The National Baseball Hall of Fame calls "a new chapter in the folklore of our national pastime." His next two efforts, "Color Came One Day" (2004) and "Tulips for Lunch" (2006) were produced by JP Cormier and recorded in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. His most recent release (2008) is the live double disk "Two Sets," recorded in Dublin, Ireland, Sautee Nacoochee, GA, and Asheville, NC.



Chuck has toured extensively throughout the US, Canada, and Ireland for 18 years, playing at folk festivals such as Tønder in Denmark, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Kerrville, Philadelphia, and Strawberry, as well as the Lincoln Center Out of Door series in New York, among others. Some of the artists he's appeared in concert with include Arlo Guthrie, Janis Ian, Pete Seeger, Tim O'Brien, Ramblin' Jack Elliot, John Hartford, Greg Brown, Gillian Welch, Dick Gaughan, Tom Paxton, Ferron, Richie Havens, Patty Larkin, Steve Forbert, The Kingston Trio, and Christine Lavin. His influences include John Hartford, Mark Twain, Nic Jones, Bob Dylan, Lowell George, Jackson Browne, Steve Forbert, The Carter Family, Woody Guthrie, and David Massengill.