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## Every Tune Tells a Story

By Robbie Woliver

Chuck Brodsky is a man who lives to tell a tale, and what tales this singer-songwriter from Philadelphia has. He worked as a migrant fruit picker, ice cream truck driver, Israeli kibbutz laborer, bank courier (he was fired after losing a \$10 million check), and a street singer in Europe. With insight and good humor, he has taken these life experiences and distilled them into old-fashioned story songs (Mark Twain is a big influence) brimming with wit and compassion.

Mr. Brodsky and his Dylanesque style captured the attention of the national folk scene with his 1995 debut, "A Fingerpainter's Murals," which included "Blow 'em Away," about a commuter gone mad (a pistol is involved) and "We Are Each Other's Angels," which was recorded by Kathy Mattea, the country-folk star.

In 1996, he released "Letters in the Dirt," which featured lyrical portraits of such characters as a roadside peach vendor ("Bill & Annie") and the first white baseball player in the Negro Leagues ("The Ballad of Eddie Klepp").

Mr. Brodsky's latest CD, "Radio," is one of the strongest of his career, featuring insightful songs, memorable characters and first-rate instrumentation. He will perform music from "Radio" and other audience favorites at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Cultural Center's Folk Project Minstrel Coffeehouse series, [300 Mendham Road, Morristown, \(973\) 335-9489](#).