

Chuck Brodsky

Two Sets

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by Michael Devlin

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When Chuck Brodsky started making his mark, music fans and media had long-since stopped looking for the “next Bob Dylan.” That’s probably a good thing, because today’s pop culture would not know its troubadour if Woody came back from the dead. Brodsky is more a child of the “next Bob Dylan’s.” He’s the next, John Prine for his irony, Harry Chapin for the story songs and portraits, Tom Paxton for his accessible wit, Loudon Wainwright for the sharpness of his commentary and Steve Goodman for his love of baseball and the charm in his distinctive voice. He’s been around long enough to have a loyal following and a repertoire that goes back 1981. Two Sets refers to just that, one on each CD in this live collection. Each song is special in its own way, whether touching, funny or thoughtful. For every “Blow ‘em Away,” a first person account of a road raging warrior with a gun, there is a song like “The Man Who Blew Kisses” about a mentally challenged fan. His songwriting inspiration comes such various places as the evening news, his own family heritage and the stories gathered on the road. Brodsky’s political commentary is as sharp and on-target as the songs that awoke a generation forty years ago. Here are two sets of music you don’t want to miss, from an artist with enough memorable material to leave his fans wanting more!