

Chuck Brodsky's Tulips for Lunch

By Donald Teplyske

Appearing in Red Deer on Sunday, Chuck Brodsky is an incredible writer who demands much of his audience. His songs are not easily ingested creations to be devoured while chatting, filing or reading; his require attention, and if one isn't open to such challenges, then his talents are likely to be missed.

Brodsky's songs are poignant with shadings of humour serving as salve for the bite.

For those willing to make the commitment, Brodsky is a singer-songwriter who crafts mundane daily situations into compelling character studies that transcend song; his Radio came several years before the successful movie.

This latest album (with a title taken from a character encountered at a Nova Scotia folk festival) continues within Brodsky's well established tradition of creating sports songs that aren't truly about sport, identifying with outcasts who contain more humanity than those who do the marginalizing, and raising to iconic status those who go about making lives better and brighter.

A Toast to the Woman in the Holler is one such number in which Brodsky acknowledges a simple act of kindness and with deft use of word choices, brings a mind-movie to fruition.

Recorded in Nova Scotia by J.P. Cormier, who adds a range of instrumental embellishments, Tulips for Lunch is another masterful creation from an artist with whom too few are familiar.