MTA 1949 A Kingston Trio Hit

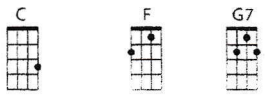
Originally a Boston mayoral campaign song, written by Jacqueline Steiner & Bess Lomax Hawes. Hawes was an anthropology professor specializing in music folklore, the sister of famed musicologist Alan Lomax.

4 beats/chord unless noted. First sung note: G 1,2,3,4 1,2-

C F C G7
Let me tell you story 'bout a man named Charlie, on that tragic and fateful day;
C F C G7 C
He put ten cents in his pocket, kissed his wife & family, went to ride on the M T A.
C F
Charlie handed in his dime at the Scully Square Station,
C G7
And he changed for Jamaica Plain;
C F
When he got there, the conductor told him "One more nickel!"
C G7 C
Charlie couldn't get off of tha-at train.

C F
Chorus: But will he ever return? No he'll never return.
C G7
And his fate is still unlearned (Poor Ol' Charley)
C F
He may ride forever 'neath the streets of Boston,
C G7 C
He's the man, who never returned. (at end, repeat line 2 more times)

C F C G7
Now, all night long Charlie rides through the stations, crying, "What will become of me?
C F C G7 C
How can I afford to see my sister in Chelsey, or my brother in Rox-bur-y?" **Chorus**
C F C G7
Charlie's wife goes down to the Scully Square Station, everyday at a quarter past two,
C F
And through the open window she hands Charlie a sandwich,
C G7 C
As the train goes rumbling through. **Chorus**
C F
Now you citizens of Boston, don't you think it's a scandal,
C G7
How the people have to pay and pay,
C F C G7 C
Fight the fare increase, vote for George O'Brien,get poor Charlie off the M T A! **Chorus**



Linda Zielinski F.U.N. 1/3/18