

# CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS



## Arlo Guthrie & The Klezmatiks *Holy Ground: The Spiritual Music of Woody Guthrie*

Tuesday, December 7, 8 pm, 2004  
Zellerbach Hall

Arlo Guthrie, *vocals, guitar*  
Abe Guthrie, *multiple instruments*  
Gordon Titcomb, *multiple instruments*

Susan McKeown, *guest vocalist*

The Klezmatiks  
Matt Darriau, *multiple instruments*  
Lisa Gutkin, *fiddle*  
David Licht, *drums*  
Frank London, *trumpet*  
Paul Morrissett, *bass, tsimbl*  
Lorin Sklamberg, *vocals*

*Tonight's program will be announced from the stage. It will be approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes in length, and will include one intermission.*

*This performance has been made possible in part by the Friends of Cal Performances.*

*Cal Performances thanks the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their generous support.*

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

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**Holy Ground: The Spiritual Music of Woody Guthrie** was drawn from the Woody Guthrie Archives, which contains scores of songs created by Guthrie but never recorded or formally written down. Among the archives is a recently discovered collection of songs with Jewish themes ranging from Hanukah and blintzes to the horrors of World War II. Woody's daughter Nora asked her brother Arlo and The Klezmatics to compose new music for these rediscovered lyrics and to perform

them. "Holy Ground" highlights the songs in this collection that focus on Hanukah.

Woody Guthrie's favorite word was "union" – in both the political and spiritual sense. He loved to delve into the connective tissue that bound different peoples, races, religions and cultures. It is in Woody's spirit of union that "Holy Ground" continues to investigate disparate religious and spiritual worlds, always with his keen insight and great, good humor.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**Arlo Guthrie** (*vocals, guitar*) was born with a guitar in one hand and a harmonica in the other, in Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York in 1947. He is the eldest son of America's most beloved singer/writer/philosopher Woody Guthrie and Marjorie Mazia Guthrie, a professional dancer with the Martha Graham Company and founder of The Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease. He grew up surrounded by dancers and musicians: Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, Fred Hellerman and Lee Hays (The Weavers), Leadbelly, Cisco Houston, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee, all of whom were significant influences on Arlo's musical career. Guthrie gave his first public performance at age 13 and quickly became involved in the music that was shaping the world during the 1960s.

Arlo practically lived in the most famous venues of the "Folk Boom" era. In New York City he hung out at Gerdes Folk City, The Gaslight and The Bitter End. In Boston it was Club 47, and in Philadelphia he made places like The 2nd Fret and The Main Point his home. He witnessed the transition from an earlier generation of ballad singers like Richard Dyer-Bennet and blues-men like Mississippi John Hurt, to a new era of singer-songwriters such as Bob Dylan, Jim Croce, Joan Baez, and Phil Ochs. He grooved with Beat poets like Allen Ginsburg and Lord Buckley, and picked with players like Bill Monroe and Doc Watson. He learned something from everyone and developed his own style, becoming a distinctive, expressive voice in a crowded community of singer-songwriters and political-social commentators.

Arlo Guthrie's career exploded in 1967 with the release of *Alice's Restaurant*, whose title song premiered at the Newport Folk Festival and

helped foster a new commitment among the '60s generation to social consciousness and activism. Arlo went on to star in the 1969 Hollywood film version of *Alice's Restaurant*, directed by Arthur Penn.

With songs like "Alice's Restaurant" (too long for radio airplay), "Coming into Los Angeles" (banned from many radio stations, but a favorite at the 1969 Woodstock Festival), and the definitive rendition of Steve Goodman's "City of New Orleans," Guthrie was no one-hit-wonder. An artist of international stature, he has never had a hit in the usual sense.

Over the last four decades Guthrie has toured throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia winning a wide, popular following. In addition to his accomplishments as a musician, playing the piano, six- and twelve-string guitar, harmonica and a dozen other instruments, he is a natural-born storyteller, whose tales and anecdotes figure prominently in his performances.

Today Arlo spends nearly ten months of the year on the road, and is frequently accompanied by his son Abe. On special occasions, his daughter Sarah Lee and her husband Johnny Irion contribute acoustic guitar and supporting vocals. Abe has shared the stage with his father for more than 15 years, playing keyboards and providing additional vocals. His daughter Cathyaliza heads the business office in Nashville, and daughter Annie heads the main office in Sebastian, Florida. Together they provide the business and logistical support for the Guthrie family.

Arlo recently created a program of symphonic arrangements of his own songs and other American classics in *An American Scrapbook*. By the end of 2004 he will have performed more than 40 concerts

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

with 27 different symphony orchestras throughout the US since 1998. The show at Boston's Symphony Hall, conducted by Keith Lockhart, was recorded and aired on PBS' *Evening at Pops*. The Fourth of July celebration in 2001 with the Pops attracted an audience of more than 750,000 people and was broadcast live by A&E.

Alongside his thriving performing career, Guthrie launched his own record label, Rising Son Records, in 1983. RSR, in addition to Arlo's complete catalog of music, includes recordings by Abe's band, Xavier; Sarah Lee's debut album *Sarah Lee Guthrie*; and Johnny Irion's *Unity Lodge*. Their latest release is called *Entirely Live* and their latest (2004) recording *Exploration* is due soon. Arlo is also heard on a soon-to-be rerelease of *This Land is Your Land* alongside the voice of his father Woody Guthrie. The album has won several awards including a 1997 Grammy nomination as "Best Musical Album for Children."

The latest release from RSR is *Banjoman* – Arlo and Hans Theessink co-produced this tribute to their late friend Derroll Adams, enlisting the help of Donovan, Dolly Parton, Billy Connelly, Ramblin' Jack Elliott and others. In addition to these projects, Guthrie also has plans to record an album of his orchestrated material as soon as possible.

And there are many more projects in production. The November 2003 Tribute to Harold Leventhal at Carnegie Hall with Arlo and family; The Weavers (Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, Fred Hellerman and Erik Darling); Peter, Paul and Mary; Theodore Bikel; and Leon Bibb was filmed and is scheduled for theatrical release late in 2005. Arlo's show recorded live in Sydney, Australia in June 2004 may be available late in 2004 as a DVD. There are many other projects on the way or near completion.

Arlo's other wide-ranging activities have included acting roles on the ABC series *Byrds of Paradise* and on the USA network series *Renegade*. He has written and published "The Rolling Blunder Review," a popular newsletter, since 1986, and is the author of an award-winning children's book *Moses Come Walking*, illustrated by Alice May Brock.

It was in 1991 that Arlo purchased the old Trinity Church where the Thanksgiving 1965 events took place that inspired Arlo to write the song "Alice's Restaurant." Named for his parents, The Guthrie Center is a not-for-profit interfaith church foundation dedicated to providing a wide range of local and international services. Its outreach programs include everything from providing HIV/AIDS services to baking cookies with local service organizations; organizing a walk-a-thon to raise awareness and money for a cure for Huntington's Disease; and offering a place simply to meditate. The Guthrie Foundation is a separate, not-for-profit, educational organization that addresses issues such as the environment, health care, cultural preservation and educational exchange.

Arlo Guthrie, Rising Son Records and The Guthrie Center and Foundation are on the internet at [www.arlo.net](http://www.arlo.net).

**Abe Guthrie** (*multiple instruments*) has been working with his father for more than 15 years now, playing keyboards and adding supporting vocals onstage as well as behind the scenes. A talented musician, producer, composer and engineer, he has been a major contributor to all of the projects released on Rising Son Records, as well as others.

**Gordon Titcomb** (*multiple instruments*) began touring with Arlo in the spring of 2002. Arlo asked Gordon to join him and Abe for a few songs, and he has been playing with them ever since. Gordon has been a studio musician for 25 years and has performed more than two thousand recording sessions. Although best known for his work on the pedal steel and mandolin, Gordon also plays guitar, dobro and five-string banjo. He has recorded and or performed with: Paul Simon, Shawn Colvin, Erasure, Travis Tritt, Hank Williams Jr., and many others. He is currently recording a solo record for Rising Son. Visit his website at [www.gordontitcomb.com](http://www.gordontitcomb.com)

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**The Klezmatics** play soul-stirring Jewish roots music for our time, recreating klezmer in arrangements and compositions that combine Jewish identity and mysticism with a contemporary zeitgeist and a postmodern aesthetic. Since their founding in New York City's East Village in 1986, the Klezmatics have celebrated the ecstatic nature of Yiddish music with works which are by turns wild, spiritual, provocative, reflective and danceable.

They've reached millions of television viewers on PBS' *Great Performances* (with Itzhak Perlman), *Late Night with David Letterman*, *CBS Nightwatch*, *FOX After Breakfast*, the BBC's *Rhythms of the World* and *MTV News*. The band composed music for Judith Helfand's documentary *A Healthy Baby Girl*, which was broadcast on the PBS television series *P.O.V.*, while talk show host Rosie O'Donnell's TV special *Kids Are Punny* used an original Klezmatics cartoon score. For radio they have recorded sessions for the BBC's *John Peel Show* and are regular guests on National Public Radio's *New Sounds Live*, *Soundcheck* and *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor. They performed their score for the Pilobolus Dance Theatre's recent work *Davenen*, which premiered to capacity audiences at Washington, DC's Kennedy Center. In the summer of 2001 the band, together with Israeli singer Chava Alberstein and Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary), performed on the site of Berlin's historic New Synagogue. The resulting televised program, *Voices: A Musical Celebration*, aired on PBS and in Europe and Israel.

**Matt Darriau** (*multiple instruments/composer*) plays reeds, flutes and ethnic woodwinds. His long-standing commitment to jazz, klezmer, Balkan and Celtic music informs all his work. In addition to his work with the Klezmatics, he leads his own Balkan rhythm quartet, Paradox Trio, whose third CD, *Source* (Knitting Factory Works), explores the common ground between Balkan and klezmer music. Their second recording, *Flying at a Slant*, was nominated for a 1998 German Critics Award. Paradox Trio regularly performs at major European jazz and world music festivals. Matt recently toured the United States with his five-piece Recycled Waltz Orchestra playing the film music of Bernard Herrmann. His newest project (along with fellow Klezmatic Frank London) is the septet Ballin' the Jack, which plays early swing repertoire fused with contemporary improvisation.

Their first CD, *Jungle*, led to performances at major international jazz festivals; their latest release is *The Big Head*. Darriau is also a member of Les Miserables Brass Band and the Celtic band Whirligig. He has composed for film, theater and dance, and has received several NEA and state grants and commissions. *Jazziz* magazine named him one of the 150 most influential jazz musicians of the last 15 years, citing the impact he has had in bringing Balkan and world rhythms to jazz.

**Lisa Gutkin** (*fiddler/composer*) is one of New York City's busiest musicians. Her varied musical palette has led to collaborations with a wide array of artists, the founding of the Downtown Celtic group Whirligig, and most recently to her joining The Klezmatics. Having appeared on more than 100 recordings, Lisa also composes for film, radio, television and theater. Her most recent compositions can be heard on episodes of *Sex and the City*'s final season, and she made a cameo on-screen appearance on the show (with The Klezmatics). Lisa has performed and recorded with some of the best traditional Irish musicians on either side of the Atlantic: Tommy Sands, John Whelan, Steve Cooney and Cathie Ryan. As part of the Fast Folk collective, she appeared with The Roches, Shawn Colvin, Suzanne Vega and Richard Shindell, to name a few. She has worked with Jane Siberry, John Cale and Bob Newirth, with the Soldier String Quartet, and with contemporary R&B artist Pru. Her theater credits include Mabou Mines' *Peter & Wendy*, *Song of Songs* by Elizabeth Swados, and her most recent collaboration: the Dance Theater piece *Seeing Is Believing* with Dutch choreographer Maggie Boogaart, for which she composed and performed the music. Lisa can be heard occasionally with The Demolition String Band in their "Ola Belle Reed" project and with Lisa's Pieces (a bluegrass band featuring her original compositions). Her newly released solo album, *Sidewalk Angel*, can be obtained from Quarktet Music at Whirligig's website.

**David Licht** (*drums*) plays many styles of music, including jazz, blues, folk, rock, Brazilian and African. In the early 1980s he recorded and toured the world with the psychedelic rock-parody band Shockabilly, which featured guitar wild-man Eugene Chadbourne. Moving to New York City in 1985, David quickly became part of the second wave of the klezmer revival, listening and learning

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

from vintage 78 rpm recordings, which continue to be his biggest influence. He was the manager of the recording studio Noise NY, recorded and toured with the legendary band Bongwater, and composed and performed music for modern dance. He appears on more than 30 recordings on the Shimmy Disc label. David has performed and recorded with Andy Statman, David Krakauer, Michael Alpert, Pete Sokolow and Klezmer Plus, Giora Feidman, Zalmen Mlotek and award-winning author and storyteller Nina Jaffe. He played on the Grammy-nominated CD *Partisans of Vilna* (Shanachie) and has been staff percussion instructor for Living Tradition's Klezkamp since 1987. David has been an accomplished painter-plasterer for more than 30 years.

**Frank London** (*trumpeter/composer*) is a member of the Hasidic New Wave, has performed with John Zorn, LL Cool J, Mel Torme, Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy, LaMonte Young, They Might Be Giants, David Byrne, Jane Siberry, Ben Folds 5, Mark Ribot, Maurice El Medioni and Gal Costa, and is featured on more than 100 CDs. His own recordings include *Invocations* (cantorial music); Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars' *Di Shikere Kapelye* and *Brotherhood of Brass*; *Nigunim* and *The Zmiros Project* (Jewish mystical songs, with Klezmatics vocalist Lorin Sklamberg); *The Debt* (film and theater music); *The Shekhina Big Band*; the soundtrack to *The Shvitz*; and four albums with the Hasidic New Wave. His projects include the folk-opera *A Night in the Old Marketplace* (based on Y.L. Peretz's *Bay nakht oyfn altn mark*), *Davenen* for Pilobolus and the Klezmatics, Great Small Works' *The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln* and Min Tanaka's *Romance*. He composed music for John Sayles' *The Brother from Another Planet*, Yvonne Rainer's *Murder and Murder*, the Czech-American Marionette Theater's *Golem* and Tamar Rogoff's *Ivye Project*. He was music director for David Byrne and Robert Wilson's *The Knee Plays*, collaborated with Palestinian violinist Simon Shaheen, taught Jewish music in Canada, Crimea and the Catskills, and produced a CD by Gypsy star Esma Redzepova. He was a co-founder of Les Miserables Brass Band and the Klezmer Conservatory Band.

**Paul Morrissett** (*bass/tsimbl*) is a collector and accomplished player of traditional folk instruments of the Balkans and Scandinavia. He has traveled the world studying with ethnic masters such as Norway's premier hardanger fiddlers Hauk Buen and Alf Tveit, and Bulgaria's most esteemed folk artists, gaida player Kostadin Varimezov and gadulka players Misho Marinov and Atanas Vulchev. With Zlatne Uste Balkan Brass Band and the George Tomov Dance Ensemble Orchestra, Paul has recorded and performed in venues from Lincoln Center to Zagreb, on instruments including kaval, bass, zurla, violin, trumpet, accordion and tamburitza. He has been on the staff of Lark in the Morning, Buffalo on the Roof, and the Balkan Music and Dance camps.

**Lorin Sklamberg's** (*founding singer*) work as vocalist/accordionist can be heard on more than 36 recordings, including *Songs Are All I Have: The Musical Legacy of Vladimir Heifetz* (YIVO), *Source* with Matt Darriau's Paradox Trio, and *Knitting on the Roof* with Uri Caine (Knitting Factory), *Festival of Lights* with Jane Siberry and Marc Cohn (Six Degrees), *Don Byron Plays The Music of Mickey Katz* (Elektra/Nonesuch), *Remember The Children* (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum) and *Live in the Fiddler's House* (EMI), on which he duets with violinist Itzhak Perlman. He performed his score for Gregg Bordowitz's film *The Suicide* and produced the Yiddish band Mikveh's debut CD (*Traditional Crossroads*) and the cast recording of the New York Folksbiene Yiddish Theater's *Kids and Yiddish*. With Frank London and pianist/theremin player Rob Schwimmer he performs and records programs of Yiddish spiritual music, including *Nigunim* (Tzadik) and *The Zmiros Project* (*Traditional Crossroads*), while he and co-creators Frank London and singer Adrienne Cooper travel the globe with *ESN: Songs from the Kitchen*, an all-singing, all-cooking celebration of Jewish food. He co-founded the non-profit organization Living Traditions, coordinated its event, "Klezkamp: The Yiddish Folk Arts Program" (instructional institution for klezmerim), and co-produced and recorded its children's CD *Di Grine Katshke* (*The Green Duck*). He currently serves as sound archivist of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Susan McKeown** (*guest vocalist*) is from Dublin, Ireland. An adventurous vocalist and producer, she has established herself not only as an interpreter of traditional song with “one of the most powerful and distinctive voices in Irish music (*The Irish Voice*) but also as a woman who rocks.

Settling in the East Village over a decade ago she began carving out a career as a singer-songwriter with her debut album *Bones* (Prime/SNG) in 1996. Her often-dark lyrics draw influences from sources as far-flung as the ancient Irish legend of The Táin, the words of Chief Seattle, the poetry of Emily Dickinson and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and urban life in Manhattan. Her arrangements are unusual, unexpected, and pleasantly surprising, from the hurdy-gurdy solo on the rock song “I Know, I Know” (*Bones*) to the pairing of banjo and erhu on “The Lowlands of Holland” (*Lowlands*, 2000 Green Linnet).

Hailed by *Q Magazine* as the surprise hit of Glastonbury 2000, Susan’s heartfelt vocals and inspired music have influenced audiences and musicians alike. Susan and Richard Thompson perform backing vocals on Cathal McConnell’s song “The Gypsies.” Fairport Convention recorded Susan’s arrangement of the Robert Burns classic “Westlin’ Winds” for their album *The Wood and The Wire*.

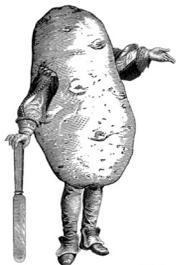
Susan is the lead vocalist in the OBIE award-winning Mabou Mines production *Peter & Wendy*, and scored music for the San Jose Repertory Theatre production of *By the Bog of Cats*, which starred Holly Hunter.

Susan has a successful career as a recording artist and tours internationally with her band The Chanting House. A performer with the unique ability to cross genres and defy categorization, Susan has been praised in the pages of *Time* and *Rolling Stone*, and has performed on the nationally syndicated radio programs *A Prairie Home Companion*, *All Things Considered*, *Mountain Stage* and *The Infinite Mind*. She has also appeared on the nationally televised *CBS This Morning* and *Sessions at West 54th* as the guest of Natalie Merchant.

Growing up in Dublin, Susan inherited her love of music from her mother Jeannie, an organist and composer who brought Susan along to her church and community gigs. Before she was a teenager Susan was taking her own solos at these events and winning classical and folk singing competitions around the city. After stints as a student of opera and musical theatre in Dublin’s Municipal College of Music and New York’s American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Susan settled in Manhattan’s East Village.

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