



Arlo Guthrie

with Abe Guthrie, *keyboards*
and Gordon Titcomb, *mandolin, banjo*
and guests

The Mammals

Sunday, October 30, 2005, 7 pm
Zellerbach Hall

Alice's Restaurant

Fortieth Anniversary Massacree Tour

Tonight's performance will be announced from the stage

This performance is made possible, in part, by the generous support of the members of the Cal Performances Producers Circle and Friends of Cal Performances.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Arlo Guthrie 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's 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-song writers such as Bob Dylan, Jim Croce, Joan Baez, and Phil Ochs. He grooved with the 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, Arlo 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 over 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, *An American Scrapbook*. Between 1998 and 2004 Guthrie performed over 40 concerts with 27 different symphony orchestras throughout the US. The show at Boston's Symphony Hall, conducted by Keith Lockhart, was recorded and aired on PBS's Evening at Pops. The 4th of July celebration in 2001 with the Pops attracted an audience of over 750,000 people and was broadcast live on 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 catalogue of music RSR includes recordings by Abe's band, Xavier, Sarah Lee's debut album *Sarah Lee Guthrie* and Johnny Irion's recording *Unity Lodge*.

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.

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 *Mooses Come Walking* illustrated by Alice May Brock.

In 1991 Arlo purchased the old Trinity Church. It was Thanksgiving 1965 that events took place at the church which 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 a local service organization; an HD 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 & Foundation are on the World Wide Web at www.arlo.net.

Abe Guthrie (*keyboards*) has been working with his father for more than 16 years, 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 the projects released on Rising Son Records, as well as others.

Gordon Titcomb (*mandolin, banjo*) began touring with Arlo in the spring of 2002. Arlo asked Titcomb to join him and Abe for a few songs, and Titcomb has been playing with them ever since. Titcomb has been a studio musician for 25 years and as performed more than two thousand recording sessions. Although best known for his work on the pedal steel and mandolin, Titcomb 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. Visit his website at www.gordontitcomb.com.

A folk-rock quintet, **The Mammals** have evolved since their birth in the spring of 2001, picking up new sounds and styles along the way. Today,

wielding the combined power of Appalachian fiddle-banjo alchemy, their own contemporary lyric poetry, and a dynamic rock-n-roll rhythm section, (bassist Jacob Silver and drummer Chris Merenda) The Mammals look to the future with warm-blooded glee.

"It's the band I've wanted to be in since I was seventeen!" crows guitarist/banjoist and singer, Tao Rodriguez-Seeger, who grew up as fascinated by AC/DC as by his banjo-picking grandfather, Pete Seeger. "Music is music," adds Michael Merenda, who shares the banjo/guitar duties, and is the group's primary songwriter, "People think that The Mammals have pushed and broadened the boundaries of folk music. I think we've barely even started. There are no boundaries. There are conventions."

It's that wild-eyed attitude that has characterized the band from the beginning and continues to attract new audiences today. Their first CD, *Born Live* (humble abode music) is a rough-hewn collection of their early live recordings and gives the impression of a self-made bootleg. Teaming up months later with their highly-regarded producer/engineer, Max Feldman, The Mammals entered the home recording studio, and created a more polished but equally energetic gem, *Evolver* (humble abode music.) This is the CD that eventually caught the ear of Jim Olsen at Signature Sounds. In January 2004, The Mammals released another live concert sampler called *Migration* (humble abode music) and in April 2004 wowed fans with their most evolved studio recording to date, *Rock That Babe* (signature sounds). The Mammals are based in Woodstock, NY.