

Thursday, April 10, 2008, 8pm  
Zellerbach Hall

## Arlo Guthrie



### *Solo Reunion Tour: Together at Last*

*Cal Performances' 2007–2008 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.*

#### Arlo Guthrie

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. His mother was 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.

Arlo 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.

Arlo witnessed the transition from an earlier generation of such ballad singers as Richard Dyer-Bennet and bluesmen 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 Allen Ginsburg and Lord Buckley, and picked with 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's career exploded in 1967 with the release of his album, *Alice's Restaurant*, whose title song premiered at the Newport Folk Festival and helped foster a new commitment to social consciousness and activism among the '60s generation. Arlo went on to star in the 1969 Hollywood film version of *Alice's Restaurant*, directed by Arthur Penn.

Though Arlo's definitive rendition of Steve Goodman's "City of New Orleans" may have been his only "hit" song in the traditional sense, he has never the less achieved international stature. The 18-minute "Alice's Restaurant," while too long for

radio airplay, has become an American classic. The song "Coming into Los Angeles," though banned from many radio stations when first released, had become a favorite by the time he played it at the 1969 Woodstock Festival, and it remains a favorite today.

Over the last four decades, Arlo has toured throughout North America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia, winning a broad and dedicated following. In addition to being an accomplished musician—playing the piano, six and twelve-string guitars, harmonica and a dozen other instruments—Arlo is a natural-born storyteller whose hilarious tales and anecdotes are woven seamlessly into his performances.

Not to be confined to the world of folk and rock, Arlo created *An American Scrapbook*, a program of symphonic arrangements of his own songs and other American classics. Between 1998 and 2004, Arlo performed more than 40 concerts with 27 different symphony orchestras throughout the United States. His show at Boston's Symphony Hall, conducted by Keith Lockhart, was recorded and aired on PBS's *Evening at Pops*. In 2001, the Fourth of July celebration with the Boston Pops was broadcast live by A&E and attracted an audience of over 750,000.

Arlo and his family rode the Amtrak City of New Orleans train in December 2005 from Chicago to New Orleans, stopping along the way to perform benefit concerts. *Arlo Guthrie & Friends, Ridin' on the City of New Orleans (Benefiting Victims of Katrina)*, has raised over \$140,000.

His daughters Cathy (Cathyaliza) and Annie head the Guthrie business office in Austin, Texas, and main office in Washington, Massachusetts. Together they provide the business and logistical support for the various Guthrie family enterprises.

In 1983, alongside his thriving performing career, Arlo launched his own record label, Rising Son Records, which holds his complete catalogue. Over the years, the RSR catalogue has grown to include works by Abe's band, Xavier; Sarah Lee's self-titled debut album; Johnny Irion's recording, *Unity Lodge*; and Sarah Lee and Johnny's joint projects, *Entirely Live* and *Exploration*. Arlo is also heard alongside the voice of his father, Woody, on the 1997 re-release of *This Land Is Your Land*. The

## About the Artist

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album won several awards and a Grammy Award nomination for Best Musical Album for Children.

Rising Son Records has not limited itself strictly to members of the Guthrie family. Arlo and Hans Theessink co-produced *Banjoman* as a 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, Arlo has recorded an album of his orchestrated material, *In Times Like These*, released on Rising Son Records in July 2007.

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

Other projects include 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, which received its theatrical release in late 2005.

Arlo's undertakings include community projects in addition to his artistic pursuits. In 1991, Arlo purchased the old Trinity Church—the very location where the events took place on Thanksgiving 1965 that inspired Arlo to write the song “Alice's Restaurant.” The church is home to The Guthrie Center, named for his parents, and The Guthrie Foundation. The Guthrie Center is a not-for-profit interfaith church foundation dedicated to providing a wide range of local and international services. Programs include everything from providing HIV/AIDS services to baking cookies with a local service organization, from an HD walk-a-thon to raise awareness and money for a cure for Huntington's Disease, to simply offering a place 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.