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Arlo Guthrie

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THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Governors State University

Presents

Arlo Guthrie



Friday, October 25, 2002

8:00 p.m.

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Arlo Guthrie was born in Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York in 1947, the son of legendary folksinger Woody Guthrie and Marjorie Mazia Guthrie, a professional dancer with the Martha Graham Company and the founder of The Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease. He grew up surrounded by 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. Playing Greenwich Village in New York City in such places as Gerdes Folk City, The Gaslight, and The Bitter End, Arlo developed his own style, becoming a distinctive, expressive voice in a crowded community of singer-songwriters and musicians.

Arlo Guthrie's career exploded in 1967 with the release of "Alice's Restaurant," whose title song premiered at the Newport Folk Festival. It 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 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 guitars, 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 daughter, Sarah Lee, and his son, Abe. Sarah Lee contributes acoustic guitar and supporting vocals. Abe has shared the stage with his father for over 15 years, playing keyboards and providing additional vocals.

Arlo recently created a program of symphonic arrangements of his own songs and other American classics entitled "An American Scrapbook". He has been performing with various symphony orchestras across the country since the Spring of 1998. The show at Boston's Symphony Hall, conducted by Keith Lockhart, was recorded and aired on PBS' *Evening at Pops*.

Alongside his thriving performing career, Guthrie launched his own record label, Rising Son Records, in 1983. RSR, which offers Arlo's complete catalogue of music, has recently re-released the classic album "Arlo Guthrie & Pete Seeger: Together in Concert" for the first time on CD, and "Alice's Restaurant: The Massacree Revisited", a 30th anniversary re-recording of the original album with an updated version of the title song. Arlo is also heard on a recent Rounder Records release, "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".

Currently Guthrie is working on "32¢", a compilation of timeless songs written by Woody Guthrie, with special guests The Dillards. Also, Arlo and Hans Theessink are in the process of producing a tribute album to their late friend, Derroll Adams, enlisting the help of Donovan, Dolly Parton, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Billy Connolly, and others. In addition to these projects, Guthrie also has plans to record an album of his orchestrated material by the end of 2002.

Arlo's other wide-ranging activities have included acting roles on the ABC series "Byrds of Paradise" and "Relativity", 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 during Thanksgiving 1965 where 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 providing HIV/AIDS services, baking cookies with a local service organization, an HD walk-a-thon to raise awareness and funds for a cure for Huntington's Disease, and simply offering a place to meditate. The educational Guthrie Foundation is a separate not-for-profit organization that addresses issues such as the environment, health care, cultural exchange and education.

Arlo Guthrie, Rising Son Records, and The Guthrie Center & Foundation are on the World Wide Web at www.arlo.net