Rod Gingrich

Alice’s Restaurant

Performed by Rod Gingrich, MAM 2018, Heinz College/CMU grad student

“Alice’s Restaurant” is a seminal musical work from the late 1960’s anti-Vietnam era US counterculture. It is a story-song told in the folk tradition, set to a ragtime musical background.

Written by Arlo Guthrie, son of legendary American songwriter Woody Guthrie (of “This Land is Your Land” fame), “Alice’s Restaurant” is based on autobiographical events that took place in 1965, including a fateful Thanksgiving brush with the law, and Arlo’s failed induction into the US Army. The song – at 18+ minutes - has become a tradition on classic rock radio stations, which air it at 10am on Thanksgiving morning.

Arlo Guthrie recently completed an acclaimed national tour in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of “Alice’s Restaurant.” Throughout the years he has performed the story-song countless times, sometime adding new episode to the story, both real and fictional.

Rod Gingrich has collected some of Arlo’s rare addendums to the story and woven them into a unique version of “Alice’s Restaurant” that he has performed every year for 7 consecutive Thanksgiving seasons in his native Chicago. This year he proudly brings this classic American tale to life at Pittsburgh’s Future Tenant.