

Garrison Keillor lends voice to NPR's Mark Twain project

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — One of America's favorite authors is getting a new voice from one of its favorite radio personalities.

Garrison Keillor, whose "A Prairie Home Companion" is a staple on National Public Radio, has begun recording Mark Twain's "A Murder, A Mystery and a Marriage."

The rights to the story, written in 1876 but never published, were acquired by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library last year.

"There's something about Mark Twain's style and Garrison Keillor's voice that is a perfect match," Sallie Neall, vice president of Highbridge, the company that produces Keillor's audio books, told The Buffalo News for Saturday's editions.

Keillor also has agreed to serve as a judge of entries in the library's Mark Twain Writing Competition — joining a panel that includes Joyce Carol Oates, Roy Blount, Lauren Belfer, and Leslie Fiedler.

The library unveiled the first half of the story last year but cloaked the ending, leaving it up to would-be authors to write their own ending. The contest will be judged by the panel of authors and winners announced in October.