

BLOCKBUSTER WEEKEND

Millennium event draws Sen. Obama to big lineup

By Charles Storch
Tribune staff reporter

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Garrison Keillor, author and host of radio's "A Prairie Home Companion," are scheduled to join a large cast of performers during next month's "Blockbuster Weekend" in Chicago's Millennium Park.

The city on Thursday will announce the additions to its extravaganza, a series of free-to-the public performances Sept. 10 to 12 presented by the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

Obama is to narrate Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait," part of the program by the CSO and guest conductor William Eddins at 4 p.m. Sept. 11.

Keillor is to join several Steppenwolf ensemble members and others for a concert-style reading of Studs Terkel's "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 12.

Also joining Steppenwolf's Robert Brueler, K. Todd Freeman and Sally Murphy will be guests



Tribune file photo by Candice C. Cusic

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) will narrate Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" during next month's "Blockbuster Weekend" in Chicago's Millennium Park.

Cheryl Lynn Bruce, Jeff Dumas, Kurt Elling, Ernest Perry, Mary Ann Thebus and Dennis Zacek.

"Blockbuster" is to open at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 10 with a concert of operatic excerpts by stars of

the Lyric Opera roster, including Denyce Graves, Sandra Radvanovsky, Andrea Rost, Nathan Gunn, Matthew Polenzani and Nicole Cabell. John Mauceri is to conduct the Lyric Orchestra.