

Noah Adams to devise 'Prairie Home Companion' substitute

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Noah Adams says it would be "a folly" for anyone to try to replace Garrison Keillor and "A Prairie Home Companion." But the host of "All Things Considered" has been hired to develop a new public radio show for the Saturday night slot Keillor is vacating. Keillor, the teller of tales about life in Lake Wobegon, stunned his audience Saturday night by announcing he would leave the show after 13 years in June to "resume the life of a shy person."

Sunday, Minnesota Public Radio

President William Kling announced he has hired Adams "to come in with us and develop the new show."

"Noah is one of the best people in radio, commercial or noncommercial," Kling said.

Adams, a co-host of "All Things Considered," National Public Radio's 90-minute evening news program, for the last 10 years, said in a telephone interview Monday that the new show will feature music and literature.

"It's not designed to replace 'A Prairie Home Companion.' That would be a folly, I think," said

Adams. But it will be aired live on Saturday night from St. Paul's World Theater — just as "Prairie Home" has been.

"I don't know what the right word is," he added. "It is simply going to be a situation where we have a time slot, two hours where people are used to listening on Saturday night. We know that those people will appreciate good music. We know that they'll appreciate good literature, being treated intelligently and with some empathy, and that's what we're going to work on."

Adams, 44, is a native of Ashland, Ky., who began working as a rock 'n'

roll disc jockey in 1962 after dropping out of Eastern Kentucky State University. He said he will head out to St. Paul in the early spring to start developing the still unnamed program.

Adams joined "All Things Considered" as a production assistant 12 years ago and became the show's weekend co-host two years later. Five years ago, he became a co-host of the daily show with the veteran Susan Stamberg. She quit "All Things Considered" last August and recently began a Sunday morning news and talk show.

Adams said he is "an absolute fan"

of Keillor, whose show draws an estimated 4 million listeners over 275 American Public Radio outlets.

"I think his genius sometimes is overlooked. Somebody with the ability he has as a humorist — the ability to be able to write humor for The New Yorker and to be as wonderful a communicator as he is on the radio. It's just an extraordinary combination. It would be folly for someone to try to replace him."

Keillor, whose book "Lake Wobegone Days" topped the best-seller lists in 1985, said he wanted more time to write and to visit his recent bride's native Denmark.



NOAH ADAMS