

'Prairie Home' tickets disappear fast

Garrison Keillor proved once again that he's the Garth Brooks — or U2, or Madonna, or insert your arena star of choice — of the public radio scene.

Keillor's weekly St. Paul, Minn.-based variety show, "**A Prairie Home Companion**," on Feb. 23 will visit Stephens Auditorium in Ames. (The show is broadcast on WOI 640 AM and 90.1 FM.) Earlier this week WOI Public Radio members flooded the Iowa State Center ticket office with orders via mail and fax, selling out the show long before tickets were to go on sale to the general public in January.

WOI has about 9,000 members. Each member could order up to four tickets. Stephens holds about 2,700 seats. The Keillor show was part of a well-publicized WOI pledge drive.

Doing the math? The sellout is no surprise, right?

Members won't know for sure until mid-January whether they are among the ticket holders. Those who won't be able to go to the Ames show might want to try to purchase tickets to Keillor's home stand at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, on Feb. 9 and March 2, 16, 23 and 30. Tickets (\$29, \$24 or \$19) go on sale to the public Jan. 22 through Ticketmaster. Or those who feel lucky can appear at 4:15 p.m. the day of any show at the Fitzgerald and try to grab a pair of rush tickets for \$10 each.