

take a long time, and it's hard work. If you talk about it too much, they begin to smell the money and pile on the pressure to get it finished."

Buffett is already an accomplished writer, one of only six authors to have a New York Times No. 1 best seller in both fiction and nonfiction.

Buffett, touring for his new CD, "Far Side of the World," calls himself "just an old performer from Margaritaville" and said he has many musical influences.

"I once spent a year in Nashville, and Waylon (Jennings) was one of the few ever to record a song of mine early on. There is a country influence on me, but I really grew up on the rhythm and blues out of New Orleans."

## Garrison Keillor to debut new opera

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Garrison Keillor will debut his new opera, "Mr. and Mrs. Olson," on May 24-26 at the Ordway Center.

The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra will be featured as well as local soprano Maria Jette, who regularly appears on Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show on Minnesota Public Radio.

The opera tells the story of a married St. Paul couple searching for romance. Norman Olson is a tax man, and his wife, Karen, teaches 10th-grade English.

"It's May. He is thinking about

the lawn. She is thinking about divorce," according to Keillor.

"In search of companionship, or something, she goes into an online chat room and, there, meets a man whose mind appeals to her thoughts about living life boldly and hurling yourself forward, though you know you'll make mistakes and hurt people," he says.

Also featured are mezzo-soprano Alexandra Hughes, tenor Mark Thomsen, baritone Robert Orth and bass Brian Jauhiainen.

Andy Stein, resident violinist for Keillor's radio show, wrote and arranged the music.

## Film festival honors Spacey, Beatty

SAN FRANCISCO — Kevin Spacey and Warren Beatty were honored at the 45th San Francisco International Film Festival.

Spacey, whose new film "Swimming With Sharks" was screened at the festival, received the Peter J. Owens Award for "brilliance, independence and integrity as an actor."

Sean Penn presented that award, as well as the Akira Kurosawa Award for lifetime achievement in directing to Beatty, on Thursday night.

Festival officials hailed Beatty's 1978 directorial debut, "Heaven Can Wait," through his 1998 satire, "Bulworth."

— From The Associated Press