

'Prairie Home Companion' host to speak

NORMAN — Award-winning broadcaster and author Garrison Keillor, host of "A Prairie Home Companion," will share his wit and insight on the American landscape during a free public lecture at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Paul F. Sharp Concert Hall in Catlett Music Center, 500 W Boyd, on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus.



Garrison Keillor

Each week 2.6 million listeners on more than 450 public radio stations tune in to the show. The show blends music, comedy and storytelling with provincial fictional characters.

"We are looking forward to the visit of one of America's best-known broadcast personalities," OU President David L. Boren said. "Many Sooners are among those who enjoy his wit and philosophical pronouncements."

In addition to "A Prairie Home Companion," Keillor hosts a daily five-minute radio program, "The Writer's Almanac." He also is a frequent contributor to Time magazine and writes a bi-weekly column of advice for the lovelorn in the online magazine Salon.

Keillor is the author of 11 books, including "Lake Wobegon Days," "The Book of Guys," "The Old Man Who Loved Cheese," "Wobegon Boy" and "Me: By Jimmy (Big Boy) Valente as Told to Garrison Keillor."

Among his numerous awards, Keillor earned a Grammy Award for his recording of "Lake Wobegon Days." He also received two ACE Awards for his work on cable television and a George Foster Peabody Award. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and recently was presented with a National Humanities Medal by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1994, he was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame at Chicago's Museum of Broadcast Communications.

Keillor also has performed with many orchestras, including the Chicago, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Minnesota, Dallas and National symphonies. He has appeared at Wolf Trap, Carnegie Hall and other major concert halls as a member of The Hopeful Gospel Quartet, and he has performed his own one-man shows across the country during tour broadcasts of "A Prairie Home Companion."

A native of Minnesota, Keillor began his radio career as a freshman at the University of Minnesota. In 1969, he went to work for Minnesota Public Radio, and on July 6, 1974, he hosted the first broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion."

The show ran on public radio until 1987, resumed in 1989 in New York as "The American Radio Company," later returned to Minnesota and in 1993 resumed the name "A Prairie Home Companion."

General admission seating will be available for the event. The lobby will open at 3 p.m.

For more information, call 325-3784.