

PEOPLE | From wire reports

'Prairie Home' fan Thile thrilled to sub

Mandolinist **Chris Thile** of the band Punch Brothers says hosting "A Prairie Home Companion" is like "getting to be Luke Skywalker."

Thile will substitute for "Prairie Home" host and creator **Garrison Keillor** on the live public radio show Saturday and Feb. 14 from the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul.



Thile

A longtime "Prairie Home" fan, Thile was 15 when he made his first appearance on the show in 1996. His Nickel Creek bandmate, singer and fiddler **Sara Watkins**, hosted in 2011.

The 33-year-old Thile says Keillor told him to "just talk to the people."

Punch Brothers will be one of the musical guests Saturday.

The 72-year-old Keillor, who's on a West Coast tour of his one-man show, says he's looking forward to listening to "Prairie Home" live for the first time in its 40-year history.