

# Scene & heard

## A chat with Garrison Keillor

Author, storyteller and radio personality Garrison Keillor will captivate audiences Monday at the F.M. Kirby Center with his unique blend



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of comedy, charisma and wisdom.

Keillor is best known for his 42-year run as host of live radio variety show "A Prairie Home Companion." He played himself in a 2006 movie adaptation of the show alongside a cast that included Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin and Kevin Kline.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30. Tickets range from \$35 to \$55.

For ticketing information, visit [www.kirbycenter.org](http://www.kirbycenter.org) or call 570-826-1100.

In anticipation of his appearance, Keillor answered a few questions for me about life, inspiration and storytelling.

**CJ: What was it that first interested you in the concept of storytelling, writing and comedy?**

**GK:** When I was five, I stole money from my mother and, as punishment, I was sent up to Grandma's farm, which I loved, and there I got to help Uncle Jim go haying with his workhorses Prince and Scout.

While helping him put hay in the mow, I fell through a hole and dropped into the bull's pen and had to be rescued. It was an exciting week. And I thought to myself, "I have to remember this. All of it." My first inclination to be a writer.

**CJ: What can audiences expect to hear from your show here in Wilkes-Barre?**

**GK:** Well, we will sing some, the audience and I, because people love to do that... I'll talk a little about being 74 which I think is a wonderful thing, despite the small humiliations and the feeling of being an alien in contemporary culture — I am grateful for it all. I do some poetry, I tell a story about my first girlfriend. I may tell you about my aunt Evelyn's life and death and her rather exciting funeral. I don't know yet.

**CJ: Do you have any stand-out or highlights memories from over the years?**

**GK:** The time in 1976 when I came running out and leaped up on stage and hit my head on the concrete ceiling and fell down stunned. People laughed and laughed, thinking I did it on purpose. It was my introduction to performing. A disaster is not a disaster if people think it was intentional. Never betray uncertainty.