

Prairie Home Companion

MIDDLEBURY — Garrison Keillor and the whole Powdermilk Bisquit entourage from Lake Wobegon, Minn. will be heading for Vermont next spring as part of a two-week eastern tour.

"A Prairie Home Companion," the award winning nationally broadcast radio program hosted by Keillor, will broadcast live from Mead Memorial Chapel at Middlebury College in the late spring, according to an announcement this week by Middlebury College and Minnesota Public Radio, the show's home base.

The program, which is heard each Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. over the 200 stations of National Public Radio, is now in its ninth season. Following several years of annual moves and a small but dedicated cadre of listeners, the show is now broadcast before capacity audiences each week in the World Theatre in St. Paul, Minn. The national following for the show is intensely devoted and the show's tours are sold out well in advance.

The weekly program, which features the Butch Thompson Trio as well as a variety of guest artists is highlighted by the commentaries of host Keillor.

Keillor's articles and short stories appear frequently in The New Yorker, The Atlantic and other publications. His book, "Happy to Be Here," was published to critical praise by Athenium Press earlier this year. A 20-year veteran of radio, he is the creator, mastermind, chief writer and philosopher for the two-hour long "A Prairie Home Companion."

Precise dates for the Middlebury appearance have not yet been set. According to a spokesman for the college, there will be at least two performances, one of which will be the live broadcast on Saturday evening. Tickets will go on sale about six weeks prior to the performance.