

Keillor broadcasts Danish Christmas

Writer/humorist Garrison Keillor of "A Prairie Home Companion" fame will host a 90-minute radio Christmas special from Copenhagen. "An American's Christmas in Copenhagen" is this Saturday, Dec. 17, over KEMC-FM in Billings at 91.7, 6 p.m.

This unique Christmas special will depart from the usual "A Prairie Home Companion" format and feature Keillor describing the holiday traditions of Denmark as he conducts a walking tour of Copenhagen and reflects in a series of short monologues.

Featured will be performances of Danish carols by one of Copenhagen's best known choirs as well as a visit to a Danish family home for the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree candles. Keillor will perform briefly before an audience of American exchange students, talking about being away from home for the holidays.

In 1987 following a much publicized departure from 13 years of live broadcasts of "A Prairie Home Companion," Keillor moved to Copenhagen with his Danish wife. Since that time he has moved back to the U.S., but continues to visit Copenhagen frequently. Since spending his first Christmas in Copenhagen, Keillor has hoped to produce a yule radio program.

"As a loyal son-in-law of Denmark, I'd like to show you around my Copenhagen, the loveliest city in the world, on the most wonderful night," says Keillor. "In the cold dark damp of December 24, all Danes cook a goose, light a candle in the house and dance around the Christmas tree singing 'Nu er der jul igen,' and so does this American. Velkommen."

"An American's Christmas in Copenhagen" is produced by Minnesota Public Radio.