

Keillor plans show at Furman

GREENVILLE (AP) — Author and former radio host Garrison Keillor will kick off his 3rd Farewell Tour of "A Prairie Home Companion," a variety show based on his radio program of the same name, May 20 at Furman University.

Although Keillor "retired" from the live, nationwide radio show two years ago to move with his wife to her native Denmark, "A Prairie Home Companion" lives on between Keillor's now-annual tours and continuing re-broadcasts of old shows on National Public Radio.

Keillor has since returned to the United States and now lives in New York, where he writes books and articles for magazines such as the New Yorker and The Atlantic. His first three books were national best-sellers, and a fourth, "We Are Still Married," was published this year.

He is perhaps best known for "Lake Wogegon Days," which spent 44 weeks on The New York Times hardcover best-seller list, and another 16 weeks on the paperback list.

"A Prairie Home Companion" debuted in 1974 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. Keillor had been the morning program announcer for Minnesota Public Radio since 1968 and already had a loyal following for his music and humor pieces about life in the Midwest. The show was a hit and attracted a large regional audience over the next few years. It went national in 1980.

The show's audience grew to an estimated 4 million people, and Keillor won numerous awards, such as the Edward R. Murrow and George Foster Peabody awards. He also won an A.C.E. award, cable television's equivalent of the Emmy Award, after the final 17 live shows were broadcast on the Disney Channel.