

Keillor tour to come to the Taft

BY CLIFF RADEL
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And here's the news from Lake Wobegon . . . Garrison Keillor is coming to town. He's bringing his third annual *A Prairie Home Companion* Farewell Tour to the Taft Theatre May 22. The show starts at 7 p.m.

The concert is the second stop on a 15-show tour ending June 10 with a live national broadcast from the Universal Amphitheater in Los Angeles. The Taft concert stars folkies Robin and Linda Williams, singer/actress Kate MacKenzie, sound-effects man Tom Keith, actor/writer Dan Rowles, pianist Richard Dworsky and Buster the Show Dog.

Those are familiar names to listeners of Keillor's long-running, award-winning radio show, *A Prairie Home Companion*. During its 14-year run, the show — a throwback to the golden days of radio variety programs — won a Peabody Award, made Keillor famous for his "The News from Lake Wobegon" monologs and attracted 2 million listeners every Saturday night by showing them just how good a live radio show could be.

Following the show's final broadcast June 13, 1987, Keillor has lived a writer's life, save for last year's second annual farewell tour. Meanwhile, *A Prairie Home Companion* continues to live in reruns. It airs 3 p.m. Sundays on WGUC-FM (90.9 kHz).

As the concert's sponsor, WGUC is on a roll. The station also sponsored the March 15 *The Thistle & Shamrock* show that sold out the Emery Theatre.

Although local acts such as the Queen City Brass, Chicago Rhythm and the Katie Laur Band, appeared on *Prairie Home*, time constraints and tour logistics won't let them appear on the May 22 show.

"At first, we talked about having local performers in each city," says Chris Langer of Minnesota Public Radio, the shows' producer. "But the schedule is so tight, we barely have time for a soundcheck, much less reshaping the show each night."