

Keillor to kick off Pops

By Barbara Vancheri
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Pittsburghers who packed the Syria Mosque in February to see Garrison Keillor haven't heard the last of the Chatter Box Cafe and other fixtures in his beloved Lake Wobegon.

Keillor, host of the now-defunct radio program, "A Prairie Home Companion," will open the 1989-90 Pittsburgh Symphony Pops season in November at Heinz Hall. Tickets for new subscribers will range from \$91 to \$180 for seven shows — one more than this year — with price depending on seat location and night.

Also in the season lineup will be singers Tony Bennett and Maureen McGovern and bandleader Skitch Henderson. Rounding out the schedule will be conductors Richard Hayman and John McGlinn along with Robert Page, who will be joined by the Mendelssohn Choir for three Christmas concerts.

"We think this year's Pops season will please a broad range of popular and light classical music lovers," Gideon Toeplitz, Pittsburgh Symphony managing director, said in a written statement. "With a Pops season more than 90 percent subscribed in recent seasons, Pittsburghers are realizing that a subscription to the Pops is the only sure way to enjoy the great stars we bring to the city."

Storyteller Keillor will join the orchestra and conductor Philip Brunelle for "Lake Wobegon Revisited" Nov. 4-6. Keillor, whose show is heard in reruns on WQED-FM, had retired from the program and moved to Denmark with his wife in 1987, but sporadic attempts to return to the "little town that time forgot" have met with great success.

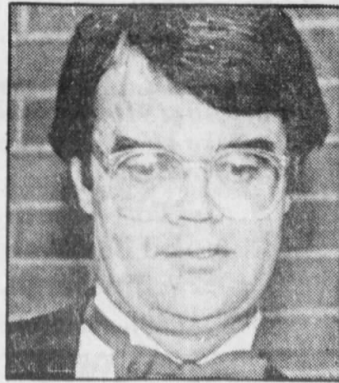
In early February, patrons paid \$25 a ticket to see Keillor at the mosque. That show was part of a four-city tour which ended at New

York's Carnegie Hall for a performance taped by the Disney Channel.

Page and the Mendelssohn Choir will celebrate "A Wonderful World of Christmas" on Dec. 21-23. Monday subscribers will attend on Thursday, Dec. 21, Sunday patrons on Dec. 22 and Saturday subscribers on Dec. 23.

The concerts of Jan. 27-29, 1990, will feature the Pops debut of conductor McGlinn, whose recording of the "Show Boat" score was nominat-

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Garrison Keillor



Tony Bennett