



Guitarist Chet Atkins and raconteur Garrison Keillor, an unlikely but compatible team.

Chet Atkins, Garrison Keillor Bite Into Some 'Sweet Corn'

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Just about everyone has heard of Garrison Keillor—"A Prairie Home Companion," "Lake Wobegon" and expert storyteller.

And just about everyone has heard of Chet Atkins—silky smooth guitar phenom revered by fans of jazz, country and rock alike.

But not everybody knows that the two have teamed up for an 18-city U.S. tour in something called "The Sweet Corn Show." It is coming to Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay for two sold-out shows Tuesday night.

The on-stage collaborations with Keillor began in the early 1980s, after Atkins suggested that teaming up might have popular appeal. Atkins had met Keillor as a guest on "A Prairie Home Companion," Keillor's public radio show.

Keillor tried his first live date using a non-'Prairie' format with Atkins in the Northwest.

Their mini-tour marked the beginning of occasional collaborations between the two. Atkins says audiences fall for Keillor's humorous stand-up tales of life in America, but his singing voice ain't bad, either.

"Garrison has a very pleasing voice," the guitarist said. "He's a smooth baritone. He writes a lot of songs. Some writer said that he's not a great singer, but the lyrics carry him through. He'll try anything, even falsetto. He's a great entertainer. He just charms people."

The "Sweet Corn" show opens with a Keillor monologue.

"He improvises on what we talk about during the day," Atkins said. "He doesn't

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