

Keillor feels at home in U.P.

HOUGHTON, Mich. (AP) — Author and humorist Garrison Keillor can relate to the Upper Peninsula's long winters. After all, he's from Minnesota.

"March, which runs halfway to two-thirds of the way through April, was designed to show people who don't drink what a hang-over is like," Keillor said Tuesday.

The host of the public radio program "A Prairie Home Companion" was in town for a hymn sing and storytelling session at Michigan Tech University.

After walking on stage singing

"Home on the Range," Keillor quickly assembled a choir from among the audience of 600.

When someone called for "In the Garden," he replied, "Where I come from, we always sang this as a funeral hymn. That's all right. It's been a long winter."

Afterward, he said, "Beautiful — and may you all rest in peace."

In a brief interview, Keillor said he has two books in the works. One is another story about the mythical town of Lake Wobegon; the other is a novel about a little girl who plays the violin and is self-conscious in her odd family.