

MUSIC

# Hall of Fame fund-raising campaign kicks off in song

By JAY ORR

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Garrison Keillor, Emmylou Harris, Marty Stuart and Kathy Mattea entertained a small gathering last night to launch the campaign to raise \$15 million for the Country Music Hall of Fame's proposed new home.

Keillor is honorary national chairman for the "Bringing America's Music Home" initiative. He spoke to about 180 invited guests before dinner on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House.

The author and radio host recalled that he first visited the Hall of Fame 20 years ago to research a magazine article on member Mother Maybelle Carter.

Harris and Stuart joined Keillor in a performance of one of the Carter Family's most famous tunes, *Keep on the Sunny Side*.

Hall of Fame officials find themselves on the sunny side of their campaign goal, with more than \$8 million raised.

New gifts of \$1 million from Gaylord Entertainment Co.; \$500,000 from CBS Cable on behalf of TNN and CMT; \$250,000 from Warner Bros. Records; and \$250,000 from MCA Records were announced last night.

The new \$37 million facility will be near the Nashville Arena. Construction could begin in late May, by which time Hall of Fame officials expect to be 80% toward the \$15 million goal.

Last night's dinner offered an occasion to thank and recognize those who have given already, and to encourage people who have not been a part of the campaign to get involved, said Hall of Fame director Bill Ivey.

Campaign chairman E.W. (Bud) Wendell and New York-based museum consultant Ralph Appelbaum addressed the gathering.

"This event brings people who are close to the organization together to celebrate how far we've come with the project," Ivey said, "and to set the stage for beginning the campaign." ■