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COURTESY PHOTO

Harmony Lake-Woebegon-style

Garrison Keillor, at left, the celebrated author of nine books, performer and host of National Public Radio's popular "A Prairie Home Companion," will perform Monday with the Hopeful Gospel Quartet in a benefit for Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. The show, which starts at 7:30 p.m., offers a home-spun evening of songs and story-telling. Tickets range from $22.50 to $35 and are available through BASS or at the Sacramento Community Box Office, (916) 264-5181. Tickets are almost sold-out, according to the box office Tuesday. But a few more seats are expected to come available. In addition to Keillor, the Hopeful Gospel Quartet is made up of Grammy-nominated bluegrass singer Kate MacKenzie, pictured second from left. Linda and Robin Williams complete the foursome. "It will be good to see Sacramento again," Keillor says. "I've come through here many times, once on my way from Seattle to San Francisco, with four teenagers in the car who were getting on my nerves as Sacramento came into view. They all begged to stop here, and I didn't exit, out of pure spite," he recollects, adding; "I've regretted it ever since." Keillor describes the quartet as "four friends who started singing together for fun backstage at shows, testing the acoustical properties of stairwells and toilets. We sing a little doo-wop, some folk, a hymn to sweet corn and your basic straight-edged, old-time foursome gospel, which is my favorite."

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