

'Prairie Home Companion' wins award for broadcasting excellence

Minnesota Public Radio's "Prairie Home Companion" has won a 1980 George Foster Peabody award for excellence in broadcasting.

The weekly program, a whimsical blend of humor and music conducted by Garrison Keillor, was among 28 recipients of this year's awards. Official announcement of the awards

is expected to be made by the University of Georgia school of journalism Sunday, but a Peabody spokesman confirmed Thursday that Keillor was among the winners.

The award to Minnesota Public Radio is its second in two years. It won a Peabody Award last year for "The Way to 8A," a report on the mental

commitment process.

Among other winners of 1980 Peabody Awards are Walter Cronkite, who recently retired as anchorman of the CBS Evening News; syndicated talk-show host Phil Donahue, and actor Carroll O'Connor. O'Connor won for his performance in "Edith's Death," a segment of CBS's "Archie

Bunker's Place."

CBS also won awards for its television science program "Universe," conducted by Cronkite, and "Gideon's Trumpet," about a Florida convict's fight for legal representation. CBS and Paramount won for the miniseries "Shogun."