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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Radio host Garrison Keillor brings his "A Prairie Home Companion" live broadcast Saturday to the Ted Constant Center at Old Dominion University in Norfolk.

## Garrison Keillor's 'A Prairie Home Companion' sails from Lake Wobegon to Norfolk

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Speaking with Garrison Keillor on the telephone turns out to be a lot like listening to his popular radio broadcast, "A Prairie Home Companion."

The conversation can begin with one topic and end up in a totally different place.

It's the result of a man who's infinitely curious about life and not timid about sharing his thoughts about the human race and its foibles. They come tumbling out of his creative mind, and not always in predictable ways.

Hampton Roads will have a chance to hear and see him up close and personal this weekend when Keillor hosts a live broadcast of his show Saturday in Norfolk.

Joining Keillor on "A Prairie Home Companion" will be harmonica player Howard Levy, conductor and Norfolk native Rob Fisher, The DiGiallonardo Sisters and the U.S. Fleet Forces Band of Norfolk. Keillor, of course, will

### Want to go?

**What:** Live broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion"

**When:** 5:45 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Ted Constant Center, Old Dominion University, Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk

**Tickets:** \$25-\$65, available by calling 757-282-2822 or online at [www.vafest.org](http://www.vafest.org).

be delivering one of his famous "News from Lake Wobegon" monologues.

This will be Keillor's third visit to Hampton Roads under the umbrella of the Virginia Arts Festival. What he says he remembers about his past two visits was that "there was water everywhere."

"I come from a flat country where everything is laid out in a gridiron pattern," he said. "I don't recall ever coming to Norfolk when I was young."

Keillor's monologues often touch on the unique aspects of the cities he visits. On an earlier broad-

cast here, he highlighted the large number of sailors who came through the Port of Hampton Roads during the war years.

He enjoys traveling and finding out about the places he visits. It amuses him that "Americans' sense of geography is not great" and that leads into a recent dinner he had with his wife's relatives in California who admitted they had never visited Washington.

"Early on I wanted to see the whole country," he said. Now, "I want to look around and get enough of a feeling for the lay of the land so I can do a very simple essay."

His monologues are laced with a dry humor that comes from his Minnesota background.

Though he occasionally tackles a controversial topic such as gun control, which he did recently when his show played Austin, Texas, Keillor said that most of the time "I make it a point of not doing it. I don't believe anyone's mind is changed by listening to someone like me."