

Garrison Keillor to tell tall tales in Elmira

Solo show
next Thursday

Only a couple of months before stepping down as host of the long-running public radio show "A Prairie Home Companion," author and performer Garrison Keillor will stop at the Clemens Center in Elmira next Thursday (May 19) for "An Evening of Storytelling."

The show serves as the final offering of the the 2015-16 Elmira College Presidential Lecture Series.

"A Prairie Home Companion," which Keillor created and has hosted since 1974, attracts more than 4 million listeners on more than 600 public radio stations each week. Chris Thile, 35, a mandolin player for Nickel Creek and The Punch Brothers, will take over hosting duties.

When asked whether there would be any special "farewell" event as he left the radio show, Keillor recently told the Tampa Tribune:

"No farewell shows, thanks, because the show will go on with Chris Thile hosting it. And I don't want to make a big deal of retirement. I've done the show for 42 years, which is an eon in broadcasting, and frankly longevity isn't a great honor in this field — the real honor is to have been fired, which I've never achieved. Bob & Ray were fired over and over again, a testament to their stature: brilliance makes manage-

ment nervous."

The 73-year-old is also the host of the daily radio and online program "The Writer's Almanac" and the editor of several anthologies of poetry, most recently "Good Poems: American Places." A bestselling author, he has published more than two dozen books, including "Lake Wobegon Days," "The Book of Guys," "Pilgrims," "Guy Noir and the Straight Skinny" and "Homegrown Democrat." In 2006, Keillor played himself alongside a cast that included Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin and Kevin Kline, in the critically acclaimed film adaptation of "A Prairie Home Companion" directed by Robert Altman.

With Grammy, ACE and George Foster Peabody awards, Keillor also has been honored with the National Humanities Medal and election to the American Academy of Arts and

IF YOU GO

- » **What:** "Garrison Keillor: An Evening of Storytelling"
- » **When:** 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19
- » **Where:** The Clemens Center, 207 Clemens Center Parkway, Elmira
- » **Tickets:** \$70, \$59.50, \$49.50 and \$25; available at the Clemens Center box office, by phone at (607) 734-8191 or (800) 724-0159, or online at www.clemenscenter.com. (Discounted tickets are available for Elmira College students, faculty and staff with college ID by visiting the box office.)

Letters.

Elmira College's Presidential Lecture Series focuses on distinguished speakers and topics relevant to the school's mission as well as the global society in the fields of science, religion, media, technology, politics, business, culture



GETTY IMAGES

Author and host of "A Prairie Home Companion" Garrison Keillor performs May 19 at the Clemens Center in Elmira.

and the arts. The series aims to cultivate academic discourse outside of the classroom and foster a sense of community ded-

icated to academic excellence and social responsibility. For more information, go online to www.elmira.edu/pls.

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