

# News from Lake Wobegon

## Arkansaw musician gets on radio

By William Foy  
Leader-Telegram staff

Living in a small town has its advantages. Just ask Yata Peinovich, whose status as a resident of Arkansaw (pop. 210) helped him get a slot Saturday on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show.

■ "A Prairie Home Companion" is broadcast from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday on public radio stations, including WHWC-FM (88.3).

■ Tickets to the show, at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, range from \$17.50 to \$23 and are available by calling (612) 290-1221 or through Ticketmaster, (612) 989-5151. The show begins at 4:45 p.m., and \$10 rush seats are sold before show time.

Yata, the lone Wisconsin resident in the finals, said it was explained to him that each participant will perform one song, and then the audience will decide who makes it to two succeeding rounds.

For his performance, he'll get back-up support from Cisco and Kate Bordeaux, Twin Cities singers who have performed often with him.

"My focus has been to find songs relating to living in small town or the country," he said of selecting material.

He expects to perform "Wisconsin Waltz," which has been

The Songwriter-Musician is one of six finalists in "Talent From Towns Under 2,000," a competition open to residents of small communities and rural areas of the upper Midwest.

Yata and the other five were chosen from more than 200 audio and video tapes. For his tape, Yata submitted three of his songs.

"I'm thrilled at the opportunity," he said.



Contributed photo

Yata Peinovich of Arkansaw will perform Saturday on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" as a finalist in the program's "Talent From Towns Under 2,000" contest.

played on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Simply Folk" and other broadcasts.

Yata, who is a social worker for the Pepin County Department of Human Services, has two albums and one 45 rpm record to his credit. He also has a great deal of material recorded in the eight-track studio he has in his home. "I hope to start releasing some stuff pretty soon," he said.

The following performers, all Minnesotans, are the other finalists in "Talent From Towns Under 2,000":

■ The Bob Brenny Polka Band, led by Minnesotan Bob Brenny of Albany (pop. 1,548).

■ Harmonica player Larry "Coop" Cooper, who lives between Pemberton (pop. 228) and St. Clair (pop. 633).

■ Pianist William Munson of Howard Lake (pop. 1,343).

■ Sometimes 8, an a cappella group consisting of men who live near Lewiston (pop. 1,298).

■ Yodeler Janet Sorenson, who lives near Fisher (pop 413).