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Keillor puts spotlight on local talent

• Radio host 'discovers' voice of Akron man during broadcast from Blossom Music Center

BY JIM QUINN

Beacon Journal staff writer

It had been a quiet week for Bob Cohen. The 44-year-old business consultant from Akron had expected to spend yesterday evening at Blossom Music Center. There was nothing to suggest that he'd be a star performer for a live audience of 8,000, plus another 2 million out in public radio land.

But that's the news from yesterday's live performance of A
Prairie Home Companion, when host Garrison Keillor broadcast his two-hour show to more than 360 public radio stations. Keillor's global audience got to hear about the wondrous architecture of

to downtown Akron, a report on the past week's news from Lake Wobegon – and the bass singing voice



Associated Press file photo Garrison Keillor, shown in 1989, performed at Blossom last night.

of Bob Cohen (who can expect a little more respect from the other members of the choir the next time he sings at Beth El Congregation).

Keillor launched his show in 1974, but this is only the second time his fans in Akron have had a chance to see as well as hear it. Back in 1990 Keillor broadcast from the Akron Civic Theatre.

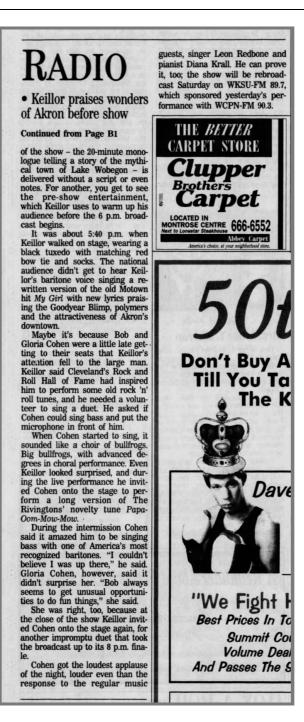
There are plenty of advantages to seeing Keillor produce the show that (along with his eight books and other writings) have prompted critics to compare his humor to the work of Will Rogers and Mark Twain.

For one thing, you can see for yourself that the best-known part

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