

A Prairie Home Companion is a two-hour weekly variety show broadcast live from the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, Minnesota, with occasional broadcasts from locations in the U.S. and around the world.

>> **THE LINEUP**

The show offers a quirky blend of comedy sketches, topical subjects and music. Musical guests range from legends like Emmylou Harris and Taj Mahal to church choirs, rockabilly bands and accordionists. Special theme shows include the popular "Joke Show" and the "Talent From Towns Under 2,000" show. *A Prairie Home Companion* has also welcomed artists including National Poet Laureate Billy Collins and humorists Ray Blount Jr., Studs Terkel and Al Franken.

At the heart of the program is host Garrison Keillor's humor-writing talent and unrivaled ear for great radio. He's the creator of hilarious skits like the weekly "Adventures of Guy Noir, Private Eye," "The Catchup Advisory Board" and of course the stories from the town "that time forgot and the decades cannot improve" in Keillor's signature monologue, "The News from Lake Wobegon."

>> **AUDIENCE**

Since its first live broadcast in 1974, *A Prairie Home Companion* has had a passionately loyal audience. Keillor hosted that first broadcast at Macalester College in St. Paul. Producer Margaret Moos sold tickets for \$1 for adults (50 cents for children) and the audience of 12 produced a total gate of less than \$8. Today, *A Prairie Home Companion* packs over 1000 people into the Fitzgerald Theater for every broadcast. Over 3.3 million* U.S. listeners tune in to the show each week on over 530 public radio stations. In addition, the show can be heard internationally on World Radio Network and the Armed Forces Networks. The show is also audio streamed live with pictures on the Web at www.prairiehome.org

>> **THE PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION TEAM**

A consummate storyteller, Garrison Keillor is the internationally known author of 13 books and a regular contributor to *Time* magazine, the *Atlantic Monthly* and numerous other publications. Keillor has won numerous awards including a Grammy, two ACE Awards and a Peabody.

Inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1994, Keillor has been revered as "a modern-day Mark Twain" by CNN and *Time*. "When you start up a radio show like this one," Keillor says, "you don't stop to think of the consequences, I guess. You happen to know a few musicians, you feel like being the announcer and telling some jokes, your Saturdays are free, and the next thing you know, an engineer is pointing his finger, and you sing, 'Look who's coming through the door.'"

Regular performers Tom Keith, Tim Russell, Sue Scott, newcomer Fred Newman and Rich Dworsky along with The Guy's All-Star Shoe Band, join Keillor each week.

“*A Prairie Home Companion* has become a neighborhood of the air, an answer to an American desire to fence off a small portion of the cultural landscape as a refuge from the coarseness, cynicism and irony that are postmodern life.”

— *The Washington Post*

A Prairie Home Companion is produced by Minnesota Public Radio, the largest station-based producer of national programming in the industry. To learn more about A Prairie Home Companion, go to www.prairiehome.org