

A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION BIOS

One of America's most beloved radio hosts and acclaimed humorists, **Garrison Keillor** hosted his first broadcast of *A Prairie Home Companion* in 1974. His live variety show is now heard by more than three million listeners on over 500 public radio stations across the country. A noted author, Keillor has written more than a dozen books, and is a frequent contributor to *Time* magazine. His novel, *Lake Wobegon Days*, was chosen by the BBC World Service as its first book club selection. He has been honored with numerous awards for his contributions to radio, television and literature, including the National Humanities Medal in 1999 and election to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 2001.

Tom Keith provides sound effects and character voices for *A Prairie Home Companion*. A St. Paul native, Keith has performed with Garrison Keillor since 1976. With vocal gymnastics and a variety of props, he creates creaking doors, footsteps, barking dogs—even elephants. Keith's alter ego, Jim Ed Poole, co-hosts *The Morning Show* on Minnesota Public Radio. Keith is also one of 20 contributors—including former Beatle Paul McCartney and folksinger Pete Seeger—to a kids' activity book, called *Open Ears* (Ellipsis Kids).

Tim Russell uses his many voices for radio and television commercials. He's also familiar to radio listeners throughout the Midwest as a personality on WCCO-AM 830, where he co-hosts "WCCO Mid-day Live with Tim Russell and Patty Peterson" weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Russell has been honored by *Mpls-St. Paul Magazine* as "Best Radio Host," and the Minnesota Broadcasters Association has named him "Outstanding Radio Broadcast Personality."

Sue Scott joined the cast of *A Prairie Home Companion* in 1992. Originally from Arizona, she moved to the Twin Cities 20 years ago and has since become established in the theater and commercial markets. She has performed with such theaters as Great American History Theatre, Mixed Blood Theater and the Illusion Theater. Scott is a veteran voice-over talent and is frequently heard in commercials. In addition to *A Prairie Home Companion*, she has been heard on Minnesota Public Radio in a multitude of character roles over the last 14 years.

Each week on *A Prairie Home Companion*, **Richard Dworsky** leads The Guy's All-Star Shoe Band and appears as a keyboardist, composer and arranger. A *Prairie Home* regular since 1986, he has accompanied Garrison Keillor on extensive concert tours in the U.S. and Europe, and provided original music for many of Keillor's recordings. Dworsky has been a studio musician for 29 years; spent two years as keyboardist for singer Al Jarreau; composed many musicals for Minneapolis' Children's Theatre Company, including *The Marvelous Land of Oz*, televised on Showtime; and underscored the animation, *A Joan Walsh Anglund Christmas*.