

Prairie Home Productions and American Public Media present

A Prairie Home Companion®

With GARRISON KEILLOR

LOCAL DJ ANNOUNCES SIGN-OFF

ST. PAUL— Longtime KSJN broadcaster Gary E. Keillor is “pulling the plug.” The 73-year-old veteran who has worked a Saturday afternoon shift since 1974 said, “I want to stop before my voice gets all quavery and whispery like other geezers I meet down at the river.”

Asked for comment, KSJN manager Jim Haggard said, “We will miss him. He has been our last connection to broadcasting’s past, when DJs played big black vinyl discs and ripped news copy off the AP Teletype and everybody smoked.” Keillor said he is on the waiting list for a room at the Friendly Environs for Elderly Broadcasters (FEEB) senior center in Fridley. Asked what he will miss most when he departs, he said, “The jars of homemade preserves and knitted socks and works of art that I’ve received from listeners over the years.” Haggard denied rumors that the old man had been pushed out. “Frankly, I was surprised he was still on the air.”

After retirement, Keillor plans to spend more time on the banks of the Mississippi. “You meet some wonderful



Illustration by David Levine.

people down there. Bargemen, rafters, hoboos and alkies, mental cases, lurkers, scavengers. Every one has a story. I build a fire on a sandbar and fry up some bullheads and Spam and mushroom soup and people come from all around. I grew up along the Mississippi and now I’m going back. Skipping stones is my hobby. You find a nice flat one with just the right heft and you find a quiet backwater and throw sidearm and get 10 or 12 or 15 skips, it just makes your whole day.”

Asked if he will miss the opportunity to express his ideas and feelings to a large audience, he said, “No.”

National Underwriting by



FROM THE HOST

Another fall here in Pig's Eye, as the town was known before Father Galtier arrived and sanctified it. Our little theater squeezed in on Exchange Street, between the Methodists and the Scientologists, looking up the hill at the great dome of Cass Gilbert's state Capitol building and Archbishop Ireland's Cathedral. He was warned by engineers not to put the edifice so close to the edge of the hill, that it might slide down, but there it stands. He brought in the French architect Emmanuel Masqueray to do the Cathedral in high Romanesque style, also the Basilica in Minneapolis and the little Church of St. Louis around the corner on Cedar, and 12 other churches around the state. The poor man died of exhaustion, at age 56, collapsed on a streetcar on Selby near where he lived with his mother. Cass Gilbert became rich and famous, did the Woolworth Building in New York and the Supreme Court in Washington, and lived to be 75.

Down the hill near where the Empire Builder arrives around 10 p.m. from Chicago, bound for Seattle, and where the barges head downriver to New Orleans, loaded with corn or soybeans, is a lake, Pigs Eye Lake, named for Pierre (Pig's Eye) Parrant, a French fur trader with a bad eye who sold whiskey to the Indians. When Fort Snelling was built

in 1819, the soldiers kicked Pierre out of Mendota and he moved downstream to where downtown St. Paul is now and opened a tavern. Father

Galtier arrived around 1840 and built a chapel and renamed the town St. Paul.

Kellogg Boulevard is named for Frank B. Kellogg, a St. Paul lawyer who became Calvin Coolidge's secretary of state and who negotiated a treaty, signed by 62 countries, including all the major European powers, promising not to use warfare as a means of settling disputes. It was signed in 1928, and the next year



Frank B. Kellogg won the Nobel Peace Prize. In the following decade, Japan invaded Manchuria, Italy invaded Ethiopia, Russia invaded Finland, and Hitler invaded Poland.

Did Mr. Kellogg really imagine that his piece of paper would usher in an era of peace on earth? If he did, then we named the street after a fool. Pig's Eye, on the other hand, was a guy who sold people something they wanted. It helped dull their misery. The Kellogg treaty was signed in Paris by men in



morning coats and top hats, whereupon Kellogg retired to his mansion up on Crocus Hill and watched the world fall apart.

Chief Wabasha, for whom the street west of us was named, was a Mdewakanton-Dakota leader in the 1840s who ceded a great deal of southern Minnesota to the white men, having made the mistake of trusting them. He adopted western clothing



and the Episcopal faith and opposed the Dakota Uprising of 1862, whereupon he was humiliated by deportation to a Santee reservation in Nebraska, where his people suffered

drought, grasshoppers, smallpox, and lack of ownership rights. He is buried in Holy Faith Cemetery in northeastern Nebraska.

F. Scott Fitzgerald, for whom the theater is named, was born up on Laurel Avenue in September 1896, and was thrilled to leave and move to New York and Paris and Hollywood. St. Paulites of his day regarded him as a drunk and a wastrel of the Jazz Age, though now he is honored for his beautiful prose style — and *The Great Gatsby* is widely read

in 10th grade English classes and some of them come to think of the narrator, Nick Carraway, as a friend. Scott and Pierre got good and drunk on occasion but never so drunk that they imagined they could create peace on earth with a piece of paper. Scott, however, wrote some beautiful stories such as “Winter Dreams” and “Absolution” and “The Ice Palace,” and if you want to find him, you just open the book and there he is. Nobody remembers anything that Frank Kellogg said. He is just a boulevard.



GK

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A Prairie Home Companion is produced by Prairie Home Productions and distributed nationwide by American Public Media.

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A Prairie Home Companion®'s 1,436th Show St. Paul, Minnesota

When **Sierra Hull** was eight, her grandmother gave her a wonderful gift — a mandolin. Three years later, Sierra was standing next to Alison Krauss on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. Since then, this singer and mando wiz from tiny Byrdstown, Tennessee, has traveled the world playing her music, with appearances at the White House, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center. Her three albums include 2011's *Daybreak* (Rounder). A new recording, *Weighted Mind*, is scheduled for release early next year. **Ethan Jodziewicz** (bass); **Justin Moses** (banjo, guitar).

Growing up in rural Maine, **Heather Masse** sang hymns and folk songs around home with her family. Now based in New York, this New England Conservatory of Music alum is one-third of the Juno Award-winning Canadian trio The Wailin' Jennys. *Lock My Heart* is her recording with piano legend Dick Hyman. The Jennys' latest is *Bright Morning Stars* (Red House Records).

Since he was a small child, **Justin Wolfsteller** wanted to be a farmer. Now, along with his wife, Janeen, their three kids, and other family members, he runs Wild Wind Farms near Princeton, Minnesota. They raise organic vegetables — beans, peppers, potatoes, zucchini, cabbage, pumpkins, and more — and have recently started growing hops. But this time of year, their sweet corn is the hot commodity.

One minute he's mild-mannered **Tim Russell**; the next he's George Bush or Julia Child or Barack Obama. We've yet to stump this man of many voices. Says fellow APHC actor Sue Scott, "He does a better Ira Glass than Ira Glass." A well-known Twin Cities radio personality and voice actor, Tim appeared in the Robert Altman film *A Prairie Home Companion* and the Coen brothers' *A Serious Man*.

On APHC, **Sue Scott** plays everything from ditzzy teenagers to *Guy Noir* stunners to leathery crones who've smoked one pack of Camel straights too many. The Tucson, Arizona, native is well known for her extensive commercial and voice-over work on radio and television, as well as stage and movie roles, including the part of "Donna" in Robert Altman's *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Sound effects man **Fred Newman** is an actor, writer, musician, and sound designer for film and TV. Turns out, no one is more surprised than Fred that he's made a career out of doing what he used to do behind the teacher's back — crossing his eyes, making sounds, and doing voices. He readily admits that, growing up, he was unceremoniously removed from several classrooms, "once by my bottom lip."

The Fitzgerald Theater

Saturday, September 26th, 2015

Keyboardist, composer, and arranger **Richard Dworsky** is APHC's music director. He leads the band, composes themes, improvises script underscores, and collaborates with such diverse guests as Yo-Yo Ma, James Taylor, Brad Paisley, Kristin Chenoweth, and Sheryl Crow. He has released many recordings of original material and has provided music for documentaries on HBO and PBS.

Jonathan Dresel's interest in percussion has taken him from a first-place trophy at his first big drum competition (he was all of eight years old) to a degree from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music to a five-night-a-week gig with the house band on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. He has also performed with Joe Walsh, Carole King, Sheryl Crow, LeAnn Rimes, Kenny Rogers, and many more.

Bassist **Larry Kohut** has played on dozens of albums and many film scores, as well as performing with jazz artists such as Patricia Barber, Mel Tormé, Vincent Colaiuta, and Tony Bennett. In addition, he is an adjunct faculty member at Columbia College Chicago, where he teaches acoustic and electric bass.

When **Richard Kriehn** turned 10, his mom bought him a mandolin; at 19, he'd won the Buck White International Mandolin Contest. He went on to play with the Nashville Mandolin Ensemble and bluegrass group 1946. On the classical side, he has performed with numerous orchestras and was principal second violin for the Washington/Idaho Symphony.

Bluegrass to big band jazz, **Chris Siebold** knows his way around a guitar — or a bunch of other instruments, for that matter. Based in Chicago, he draws from a deep well of influences and styles, and has put his talents to work in ensembles such as Howard Levy's Acoustic Express and Kick the Cat. In 2010, he formed the band Psycales, whose album *Live at Martyrs'* was released the following year.

Make Plans ...

On **October 3, 10, and 17**, *A Prairie Home Companion* broadcasts live from the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul. And on **October 24**, we make the short trip north to Anoka, Minnesota, for a show from the Anoka High School Field House. Stay tuned.

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