Garrison Keillor was born in 1942 in Anoka, Minnesota, and began his radio career as a freshman at the University of Minnesota, from which he graduated in 1966. He went to work for Minnesota Public Radio in 1969, and on July 6, 1974, he hosted the first broadcast of *A Prairie Home Companion* in St. Paul. The show ended in 1987, resumed in 1989 in New York as *The American Radio Company*, returned to Minnesota, and in 1993 resumed the name *A Prairie Home Companion*. Over three million listeners on more than 430 public radio stations now hear the show each week.

Mr. Keillor's most recent acting role involved playing himself in the movie adaptation of his show, *A Prairie Home Companion* (June 2006). It features Meryl Streep and Lily Tomlin as the singing Johnson sisters, Lindsay Lohan as Ms. Streep's daughter, Woody Harrelson and John C. Reilly as singing cowboys Lefty and Dusty, and Tommy Lee Jones as the Axeman, who is dispatched by the radio station's new corporate owners in Texas to shut down the show.


Mr. Keillor has received many awards, including a Grammy Award for his recording of *Lake Wobegon Days*. He has also received two Cable ACE Awards and a George Foster Peabody Award. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was recently presented with a National Humanities Medal by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1994, he was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame at Chicago's Museum of Broadcast Communications.

With Philip Brunelle, Mr. Keillor has performed with numerous orchestras, including the Chicago, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Minnesota, Dallas and National symphonies. He has appeared at Wolf Trap, Carnegie Hall and other major concert halls as a member of The Hopeful Gospel Quartet, and he has performed on his own in one-man shows across the country and on tour broadcasts of *A Prairie Home Companion*.