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Joining in the Party

By BARRY SINGER

George Gershwin loved parties. In fact, he tended to monopolize them, gloriously, at the piano. Certainly he would have viewed his 100th birthday, on Sept. 26, as one endless opportunity to play Gershwin. Much commemorative celebrating has already taken place. Here are some dates to keep in mind for those who want to join the party.

SEPT. 8 -- The cabaret singer Mary Cleere Haran opens a monthlong Gershwin engagement at the Oak Room of the Algonquin Hotel in Manhattan.

SEPT. 10-12 -- The Kennedy Center in Washington presents the premiere of a new ballet, choreographed by Hope Clark, to the 1958 Miles Davis and Gil Evans landmark jazz recording of "Porgy and Bess."

SEPT. 18 -- Paris will put on its own outdoor "Popular Ball," featuring the Claude Bolling Big Band. All the lights of the Place de l'Hotel will be turned blue for the occasion. That evening in London, the Barbican Center presents a performance of Gershwin and George S. Kaufman's "Strike Up the Band."

SEPT. 20 -- "American Rhapsody," a concert tour that will bring Gershwin to more than 30 towns across the America West, opens in Kilgore, Tex.

SEPT. 23 -- Carnegie Hall opens its 108th season with "Gershwin at 100," a gala conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas, featuring the San Francisco Symphony, the mezzo soprano Frederica von Stade along with Audra McDonald and Brian Stokes Mitchell, co-stars of "Ragtime."

SEPT. 26 -- National Public Radio will observe the actual birthday with 24 hours of Gershwin programming. At the Carnegie Recital Hall, "A Birthday Toast to Gershwin" will be offered by the Eaken Piano Trio, with the actress Dana Ivey reading excerpts from Gershwin-related writings. In the evening, "Gershwin at 100" will be reprised at the Kennedy Center.

OCT. 2-4 -- The Cite de la Musique in Paris will play host to "Gershwin Non-Stop," a three-day marathon.

OCT. 4 -- A star-studded variety show at the London Palladium will be televised by the BBC.

NOV. 4-8 -- Brooklyn, Gershwin's birthplace, gets into the act with symposiums and performances at

Brooklyn College, including a screening of the rarely seen Samuel Goldwyn-produced 1959 movie "Porgy and Bess."

NOV. 7 -- Orchestra Hall in Chicago presents a concert staging of Gershwin, Kaufman and Ryskind's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical satire "Of Thee I Sing." A reprise series "Of Thee I Sing" will be held at Freud Hall in Los Angeles, Nov. 11-22.

NOV. 12 -- The New York Festival of Song offers a concert led by Audra McDonald at the Sylvia Fine and Danny Kaye Playhouse.

NOV. 19 -- The Metropolitan Museum of Art presents a Gershwin recital by the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom and his wife, the vocalist Joan Morris.

DEC. 10-19 -- The New York Philharmonic weighs in with its tribute -- three programs, featuring Andre Previn as piano soloist, Sylvia McNair as vocal soloist and the singer Bobbie McFerrin conducting a performance of "Porgy and Bess."

DEC. 17 -- Seiji Ozawa and the Orchestre National de France perform in concert with the jazz pianist Marcus Roberts and the singer-songwriter James Taylor at the Theatre Champs-Elysee.

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