

Lincoln Center Plans Busy Jazz Season

By BEN RATLIFF

The 10th season of Jazz at Lincoln Center, beginning in September, will embrace more than 450 events worldwide, including extended touring residencies by the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra in France, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic and England.

The schedule, announced yesterday by Rob Gibson, the organization's executive producer and director, will also include concerts and educational programs centering around Louis Armstrong's centennial year; an expansion of the annual Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival to include Canadian schools; and a number of concerts at the Hammerstein Ballroom in Manhattan featuring the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, reaffirming the connection between jazz and dancing.

Continuing its emphasis on jazz education, the organization will initiate the Louis Armstrong Jazz Curriculum Project, a multimedia educational program on the history of jazz for elementary and middle school students across the

country. Through Warner Brothers Publications, Jazz at Lincoln Center will release the first set of Essential Jazz Editions, a series of newly transcribed compositions and arrangements of jazz masterpieces, starting with classic New Orleans jazz and advancing through to the present.

The Armstrong programming, encompassing concerts, lectures, and film, will center on three ideas, said Wynton Marsalis, artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

"The first is his virtuosic trumpet playing," he said. "It's not old, and it will never be old. The second is that he was the first jazz musician to make playing the American popular song an important part of jazz. And the third is that his world vision has become the general vision of the world — the acceptance of people everywhere. He was the first jazz musician to go to many different countries. Everywhere he went, he played with the musicians there, and his way of playing was one that recognized the similarities between different styles of music."

Other than the concerts of Armstrong music, the season's program of performances at Lincoln

Diverse events celebrate Louis Armstrong's centennial.

Center includes a commissioned soundtrack by the trombonist Wycliffe Gordon to accompany the 1925 Oscar Micheaux silent film "Body and Soul"; separate Alice Tully Hall concerts devoted to the music of John Lewis and Benny Golson; a solo-piano concert by Marcus Roberts at Avery Fisher Hall; a Valentine's Day concert featuring the singer Dianne Reeves with a string orchestra; and a jazz-vocalist series in Lincoln Center's Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse.

An announcement about Jazz at Lincoln Center's new building on Columbus Circle, including information about design and construction, is scheduled for April 5, Mr. Gibson said. The building is to be completed in the fall of 2003.