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INTRODUCTION TO "IN PERFORMANCE"

OCTOBER 26, 1986

-- GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO A NEW SERIES OF "IN PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE." IN PAST SEASONS, THE PURPOSE OF OUR CONCERTS WAS TO INTRODUCE YOUNG, TALENTED ARTISTS TO AMERICAN AUDIENCES.

-- BUT THIS YEAR WE ARE TAKING A NEW DIRECTION BY HOSTING A SERIES WHICH WILL BE A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN MUSIC. DURING THE NEXT YEAR, WE WILL SHARE WITH YOU SEVERAL OF AMERICA'S MOST TALENTED ARTISTS WHO WILL PERFORM WORKS BY SOME OF OUR GREATEST POPULAR COMPOSERS.

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AND THIS EVENING, WE ARE BEGINNING WITH THE GREAT GEORGE GERSHWIN.

-- GEORGE GERSHWIN HAS BEEN GONE ALMOST HALF A CENTURY NOW, BUT HIS MUSIC IS IN THE AIR EVERYWHERE. ALTHOUGH HIS CAREER SPANNED A MERE TWENTY YEARS, HE GAVE THE WORLD COUNTLESS TREASURES.

-- GERSHWIN'S WORK INCLUDED MOVIE MUSICALS; BROADWAY SHOWS; THE FOLK-OPERA "PORGY AND BESS;" ORCHESTRAL PIECES LIKE "RHAPSODY IN BLUE," AND MANY GREAT SONGS. HIS TALENT WAS SO DIVERSE THAT HE OFTEN WROTE VARIATIONS ON HIS OWN WORK, AND UPDATED SONGS FOR USE IN OTHER MOVIES AND SHOWS.

-- WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GERSHWIN, THE COMPOSER OF SONGS, WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THE LYRICS, TOO. HIS CHIEF COLLABORATOR WAS HIS BROTHER IRA, WHO WAS KNOWN AS "MR. WORDS" TO GEORGE'S "MR. MUSIC." AND IF YOU LOOK IN A GERSHWIN SONG BOOK OR LISTEN CAREFULLY TO A PERFORMANCE OF GERSHWIN MUSIC, YOU'LL CERTAINLY BE IMPRESSED BY THE BRILLIANCE OF IRA'S LYRICS.

-- AND TODAY, WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE WITH US SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GERSHWIN FAMILY REPRESENTING THESE TWO GREAT TALENTS. AMONG THEM:

IS MRS. FRANCES GERSHWIN GODOWSKY (GA-DOW-SKI), THE SISTER OF GEORGE AND IRA GERSHWIN. MRS. GODOWSKY, WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND? (SHE WILL BE TO YOUR LEFT, FRONT ROW). (APPLAUSE). THANK YOU.

-- NOW, I AM PROUD TO PRESENT TO YOU A REMARKABLE CAST, INCLUDING SARAH VAUGHAN, WHO HAS BEEN ONE OF THE LEADERS IN SETTING THE STANDARD FOR GERSHWIN INTERPRETATION FOR A LONG TIME NOW. WE ALSO HAVE GEORGE HERRITT AND PRISCILLA BASKERVILLE, TWO NEW OPERATIC VOICES, AND A VERY SPECIAL FRIEND OF OURS, KITTY CARLISLE. THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES TODAY

IS A WONDERFUL AND TALENTED COMPOSER IN HIS OWN RIGHT, MARVIN HAMLISCH.
AND HERE TO BEGIN OUR CONCERT IS A GROUP THAT HAS WON MANY GRAMMYS, AND
ONE I'M SURE YOU'LL ENJOY -- THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER.

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