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LOUIS ARMSTRONG CENTER FOR MUSIC & MEDICINE
ANNOUNCES “WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD” HONOREES

July 31, 2008 -- In recognition of health care advocates, music legends and patients, Joanne Loewy, DA, MT-BC, LCAT, Director of The Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine, announced the recipients of the 2008 “What A Wonderful World” Awards: pediatrician Edward E. Conway, Jr., MD, MS, Chairman, Bernice and Milton Stern Department of Pediatrics at Beth Israel Medical Center; renowned jazz violinist Regina Carter, and patient Shirl Wright.

The honorees will be feted by the Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine on Tuesday, September 23, 6 to 9 pm, at a cocktail reception/silent auction to be held in the Nerken Family Atrium of the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center at 10 Union Square East. The event will benefit the patient care programs of the Louis Armstrong Center.

With dancer/choreographer Mercedes Ellington serving as Mistress of Ceremonies, the program will include the OSCAR-nominated Choir IMPACT Repertory Theatre of Harlem, featured in the film “August Rush.” IMPACT has performed nationally under the artistic direction of Columbia School of the Arts’ film division chair Jamal Joseph. Renowned trumpet artist Jon Faddis and pianist David Hazeltine will add musical highlights to the Center’s fourth annual awards celebration.

Dr. Conway is Beth Israel’s Pediatrician-in-Chief and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Critical Care. He also is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. A fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Critical Care Medicine, Dr. Conway’s area of expertise is pediatric neurological disorders and head injury. He has authored numerous articles, book chapters and abstracts and has received several awards including the Leon M. Davidoff Award for Teaching Excellence, Presidential Citations from the Society of Critical Care Medicine and Beth Israel’s Hugh Mason Hicks Award for outstanding dedication to patient care.

Ms. Carter is the most popular young jazz violinist of our time. Classically trained, her interest in jazz increased steadily and is now a genre in which she is considered among the finest. She has performed solo and with other distinguished artists and has recorded several acclaimed albums. An educator and a mentor, Ms. Carter has taught at numerous institutions including the Berklee College of Music and the Stanford Jazz Workshops. In 2006, she was the recipient of the MacArthur Fellows Program’s “genius grant” in recognition of her exceptional creativity and the future she represents in the creative arts. In 2007, she also received the International Society for the Performing Arts’ Distinguished Artist Award.

Ms. Wright is a patient at the Louis Armstrong Music and Health Clinic at Beth Israel Medical Center. She has used music therapy as a means of recovery for the past two years. Ms. Wright is a jazz vocalist and composer who has performed with world class musicians in New York, Philadelphia and Washington. She was a consultant for Gregory Royal’s “The Music of Art Blakey,” about the jazz drummer and bandleader, which played in NY’s famed Birdland. She has performed live in Harlem’s Aaron Davis Hall,

Lenox Lounge and Cotton Club; Le Retro in Tahiti; Twin's Jazz Club in DC; and B Sharp in Tallahassee, FL, among others.

The evening will feature a silent auction including musical, sport, entertainment and travel treasures, that will benefit the Armstrong Center's clinical services to those in need, including musicians and children with HIV, asthma as well as adults with Cancer, COPD and heart disease. The Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine, established in 2005, also provides specialty treatments for children with developmental disorders such as attention deficit and pervasive developmental delays. The Center expansion is based on the work of what began 14 years ago as the Louis and Lucille Armstrong Music Therapy Program at Beth Israel.

The Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine is made possible by a generous gift from the David B. Kriser Foundation and through the estate of John H. Slade, directed to Beth Israel from hospital trustee Richard Netter, and with additional support from the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. The Armstrong Center is located at the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center, 10 Union Square East, between 14th and 15th Streets in Manhattan.

For more information about the programs and services offered by the Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine, please call 212-420-2704 or check out its website at www.musicandmedicine.org.