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BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER'S LOUIS ARMSTRONG CENTER FOR MUSIC & MEDICINE HONORS "WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD" AWARDEES

October 1, 2009 -- Honoree **Jon Faddis** and members of the Broadway cast of "**Chicago**" brought down the house at the fourth annual **What a Wonderful World Awards** program at Beth Israel Medical Center's Nerken Family Atrium on **Tuesday, September 22nd**. In addition to honoring celebrated jazz trumpeter, composer and educator **Faddis**, **The Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine** also recognized and presented etched crystal globes to his 2009 co-honorees – renowned pain medicine specialist **Russell Portenoy, MD**; and pianist **Michael Kingon**.

"We were honored to have dancer/choreographer **Mercedes Ellington** as our mistress of ceremonies, and to hear the rousing songs by the Broadway cast of musical hit **Chicago**," said **Joanne Loewy, DA, MT-BC, LCAT**, Director of the Louis Armstrong Center. "We were thrilled to hear three trumpeters who are the future of jazz – **Max Darché, Bruce Harris** and **Kyla Moscovich**." Broadway stars **Nicole Bridgewater** and **Melissa Ray Mahon** sang "My Own Best Friend," and **Kecia Lewis-Evans** raised the roof with "When You're Good to Mama." The young trumpet stars, accompanied by pianist **David Hazeltine**, paid tribute to their teacher/mentor and event honoree, Jon Faddis.

Dr. Portenoy is Chairman and Gerald J. Friedman Chair of Beth Israel's Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care. He is Chief Medical Officer of Continuum Hospice Care/The Jacob Perlow Hospice and Professor of Neurology and Anesthesiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Portenoy was honored for his embrace of music therapy as a component of treatment and healing process.

Mr. Faddis, who has been an avid supporter of the work of the Louis Armstrong Center, was praised as a consummate musician, conductor, composer and educator by **Robert O'Meally, PhD**, Professor and Founder, the Center for Jazz Studies, Columbia University. Mr. Faddis has earned his international reputation for commanding one of the broadest dynamic ranges on the trumpet, including in its highest registers, and for his commitment to education. His close friend and mentor, Jon Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, declared of Faddis, "He's the best ever, including me!"

Mr. Kingon is a musical prodigy who began playing the piano at age 3. He has performed professionally since graduating from the Manhattan School of Music in 1989. He is celebrating 20 years of association with the Alvin Ailey School as Faculty Musician and an accompanist with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. He is benefiting from the services provided by the Louis Armstrong Center.

In tribute to the 110th birthday of jazz great **Duke Ellington**, Mr. Kingon played "Reflections in D," and emcee **Mercedes Ellington**, Duke's granddaughter, along with dancers **Michael Choi** and **Kent Drake**, co-choreographed and performed a dance to the tune of "Sophisticated Ladies."

The Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine is located at **Beth Israel's Phillips Ambulatory Care Center**, 10 Union Square East, between 14th and 15th Streets in Manhattan. Established in 2005, it was an expansion of the work that began 15 years ago as the Louis and Lucille Armstrong Music Therapy Program at Beth Israel. It was made possible by a generous gift from the David B. Kriser Foundation and through the estate of John H. Slade, directed to Beth Israel by hospital trustee, the late Richard Netter, and with additional support from the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation.

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.