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LOUIS ARMSTRONG CENTER FOR MUSIC & MEDICINE
ANNOUNCES 2009 “WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD” HONOREES

July 27, 2009 – Dr. Russell Portenoy, a renowned pain medicine specialist; Jon Faddis, a celebrated jazz trumpeter and educator; and Michael Kingon, pianist for the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, are the recipients of the 2009 “What a Wonderful World” Award, announced Joanne V. Loewy, DA, MT-BC, LCAT, Director of Beth Israel Medical Center’s Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine.

The honorees will be feted at a cocktail reception/silent auction on Tuesday, September 22, from 6 to 9 pm, at Beth Israel’s Phillips Ambulatory Care Center Nerken Family Atrium in Manhattan. With dancer-choreographer Mercedes Ellington presiding as mistress of ceremonies, the annual awards ceremony celebrates health care advocates, music legends and patients. A performance by the cast of the long-running Broadway production of “Chicago” will be among the evening’s musical treats.

Dr. Portenoy is Chairman and Gerald J. and Dorothy R. 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. A leading authority on pain management, cancer care, quality of life and integrative services, Dr. Portenoy also is an important advocate of music therapy, and is a widely-published researcher, author and editor, and a sought-after speaker. He is the recipient of the National Leadership Award of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, the Wilbert Fordyce Award for Lifetime Excellence in Clinical Investigation and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Pain Society.

Mr. Faddis was turned on to the trumpet at age 8 by Louis Armstrong’s guesting on “The Ed Sullivan Show” and his career was inspired by another jazz legend Dizzie Gillespie, with whom he performed whenever possible. A committed educator who fosters the development of young musicians, Mr. Faddis is Professor and Artist-in-Residence at Purchase College, State University of New York, and Director of Jazz Performance at its Conservatory of Music. He has played and recorded with giants in the music industry, including Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Gil Evans, Count Basie, Charles Mingus, Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughn, Oscar Peterson, the Rolling Stones, Billy Joel, Luther Van Dross, and Quincy Jones. In 1991 he was named Musical Director of the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, an 18-piece all-star orchestra. Mr. Faddis has received numerous honors including the Manhattan School of Music’s first-ever honorary doctorate in Jazz Studies; the JD Award for excellence in teaching in New York City high schools; the Milt Jackson Award for Excellence and Accessibility in Jazz, among others.

Mr. Kingon is a musical prodigy who began playing the piano at age 3. He performed professionally since graduating from the Manhattan School of Music in 1989. He is currently a Faculty Musician for the Ailey School and an accompanist with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, where he is celebrating his 20th anniversary. Mr. Kingon has also worked at Kaatsbaan International Dance Center in Tivoli, NY; the Joffrey Ballet School; the Juilliard School, New Jersey Dance Theater Ensemble; Barnard College, the 92nd Street Y, among others. He has also performed with revivals of “Guys

and Dolls,” “1776,” “The Me Nobody Knows,” and “The Fantasticks.” Mr. Kingon is a recipient of the New York City All City Music Award; the Otto Peccha Award, from the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria where he studied opera repertoires; and the Showmanship Award at the Luzerne Music Center, Lake Luzerne, NY. He is a patient at the Louis Armstrong Center.

The evening will feature a silent auction of 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 and Lucille Armstrong Music Therapy Program at Beth Israel, established 15 years ago as part of the jazz legend’s legacy, was the foundation for the expanded programs of The Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine, created in 2005. The Center also provides specialty treatments for children with developmental disorders such as attention deficit and pervasive developmental delays.

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 the late hospital trustee Richard Netter, and with additional support from the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. The Louis 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.