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## SCANDINAVIA ADOPTS BETH ISRAEL PROGRAM AS A MODEL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR MUSIC AND MEDICINE

July 14, 2008-- The keen interest and nascent dream in Scandinavia and neighboring countries to establish a formal curriculum that will teach the use of music in the treatment of disease has inched towards becoming a reality following a recent gathering in Copenhagen of program directors and university professors from Nordic and Baltic countries to discuss building an International School for Music and Medicine.

Serving as an inspiration was a guest speaker from the United States, Joanne V. Loewy, DA, MT-BC, LCAT, Director, Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. Dr. Loewy was invited to help the group develop a program patterned after the Louis Armstrong Center, which has had a long history of using music therapy in a hospital-based program.

Apropos of the countries involved in the International School concept, Beth Israel's program was founded in 1986 with the support of Thanks to Scandinavia (TTS), a not-for-profit organization founded by Beth Israel Trustee Richard Netter, Esq., and the late legendary Danish entertainer Victor Borge. TTS was founded to honor heroic rescuers of Jews in World War II, and builds on the friendship between Scandinavians and persons of the Jewish faith worldwide.

"The project is a collaboration between seven higher education institutions Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Lithuania with a plan to offer an intensive six-day summer program over three years that will include joint curriculum elements, development projects and research protocols," said Dr. Loewy. "The goal is to develop an integrative program that is suitable for all participating countries."

The International School will be a training academy for music therapy professors and students, and provide opportunities for supervisory internship and postgraduate training of music therapy clinicians. The program will be held in a different participating country for each of three summers -- Summer 2009 in Finland, 2010 in Lithuania and 2011 in Estonia.

"The course will include discussions of management of pain and stress, relaxation, preventive and prophylactic work, rehabilitation and palliative care, among others," Dr. Loewy said. "We are pleased to be able to share our knowledge and experience at the Louis Armstrong Center to help others develop music therapy programs that our research has shown offers benefit to people suffering from a variety of medical ailments."

For more information about the International School or the Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine, visit [www.musicandmedicine.org](http://www.musicandmedicine.org).