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BETH ISRAEL'S MUSIC THERAPY PROGRAM CONTINUES A LEGACY OF GRATITUDE TO SCANDINAVIA

More than six decades after thousands of Jews were saved from certain death by people who hid them, the gratitude continues to be expressed through a special program that brings music therapy students from Scandinavian countries to Beth Israel Medical Center's Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine.

Thanks to Scandinavia (TTS), an organization founded by Beth Israel Trustee and TTS President Richard Netter, Esq., and the late legendary Danish entertainer Victor Borge, awards countless scholarships and fellowships in countries throughout the world. As part of its commitment to the Armstrong Center, the organization awards scholarships to two students and two scholars annually in order for them to participate in the Louis Armstrong Center's innovative training and clinical program in music therapy.

"The Louis Armstrong Center is pleased to welcome Magnhild Groetting Husmoen of Norway and Jaana Lehtikoinen of Finland," announced Director Joanne Loewy, DA, LCAT, whose music therapy program has earned international recognition. "The Thanks to Scandinavia Music Therapy program benefits not only those who come to New York to experience what makes our program special, but our entire staff also has the opportunity to be exposed to the history and culture of people from different countries."

Magnhild Groetting Husmoen, 26, is a graduate student at The Norwegian State Academy of Music in Oslo, several hours south of her home in Trondheim. She studied philosophy, as well acting and theater in universities in her hometown. She also studied musicology for a year before going for her master's degree in music therapy.

A versatile musician, she plays several instruments. "As a three-year-old, I started to play the violin," Ms Husmoen remembers, and by age seven, she progressed to brass instruments – from the althorn, cornet and eventually to the French horn, which she has played for 16 years. "I also play Norwegian folk instruments -- the buckhorn, made from a goat's horn, and the lure, which is made of wood and birch bark."

The subject of Ms. Husmoen's master's thesis is the use of music therapy in the treatment of patients in a coma or persistently vegetative state. "With the knowledge and experience I will gain from my internship at Beth Israel I hope to pursue further studies in this area in a Norwegian hospital after graduating in June."

Jaana Lehtikoinen, 33, is a graduate student at University of Jyväskylä, named for the town located northeast of Helsinki. A psychiatric nurse by training, she plans to integrate music therapy in her work with adults and children suffering from developmental delay, autism and mental retardation.

"In Finland, music therapy is offered in limited medical settings. I was attracted to the holistic approach and the variety of perspectives offered by the Louis Armstrong Center's program – from music therapy in pediatric intensive care, asthma and cardio-pulmonary

diseases to oncology, among others,” said Ms. Lehtikoinen “I hope to learn a lot about the body and mind connection and how I can treat patients in a more holistic way with music.”

Ms Lehtikoinen is a talented saxophone player, as well as singer and pianist. She also dabbles in other instruments, but is extremely modest about her playing abilities with the guitar, bass and drums.

The Thanks to Scandinavia music therapy program is a valuable endeavor, according to Dr. Loewy. “It helps enhance the growth of collaborative research, practice and training in music and medicine around the world. And we hope Maghnild and Jaana can take and apply what they observe and learn here back to their respective countries.”

Messrs. Netter and Borge founded TTS in 1963 to honor heroic rescuers of Jews in World War II, building on the friendship between Scandinavians and persons of the Jewish faith worldwide. TTS has awarded more than 3,000 scholarships to students and teachers from Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) and Bulgaria for study in the United States and Israel.