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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New England Light Opera Announces Season of Music Hall Favorites

(Lexington, MA) New England Light Opera (NELO), Boston area's professional operetta company will bring three diverse musical experiences across Massachusetts during its 2009-2010 season. "With a tribute to the inventor of the pops concert, a revue of 1930s standards and a recreation of the classic musical hall favorites of pre-World War I Europe, NELO offers a unique, professional night out in venues near you," states Artistic Director Mark Morgan. "We're lucky that these musical revues can easily be toured," continues Morgan, "and music lovers throughout Massachusetts can enjoy these early musical theatre favorites."

NELO's first offering is a night devoted to the music of Victor Herbert. Herbert is best known for the 43 operettas he composed between 1894 and 1917 including *Babes in Toyland*, *The Red Mill* and *Naughty Marietta*. However Herbert was also founded the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and led the Pittsburgh Symphony from 1898-1904. His most lasting contribution to modern music may be the years he toured under the Victor Herbert Orchestra and played the popular standards of the day. Those pops concerts traveled throughout the U.S. until his death in 1924 and brought live music to many who didn't have access to big city orchestras. Following in that tradition, NELO will bring our evening of Herbert compositions to Cambridge, Hamilton and Quincy, MA. Tickets range from \$25-\$5 and are currently available through Theatermania.com for the **Friday, October 23rd concert** at Pickman Concert Hall located at the Longy School of Music, 27 Garden Street in Cambridge at 8pm and the **Sunday, October 25th concert** at Hamilton Wenham Community House, 284 Bay Road in Hamilton at 3pm.

The 1930s musical hall style of music will be celebrated with NELO's second concert of the season titled *Happy Days Are Here Again*. Join us for a revue of pre-WWII standards. We will hold two performances only at the Calderwood Pavilion, located at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St in Boston. Tickets are available at their box office for the **Friday February 26th and Saturday February 27th 8:00 pm performances**. Contact the Calderwood at 617-933-8600 or www.BostonTheatreScene.com. In addition, NELO will tour *Happy Days* to the Hamilton Wenham Community House in Hamilton for one performance on **Sunday, February 28th at 3:00 pm** and to Clark Hall, Hancock UCC, located at 23 East Elm Avenue, Quincy, MA for a special **Saturday March 6th performance at 8:00pm**. Tickets for these two performances are available through Theatermania.com.

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The final production of NELO's 09-10 season is a tribute to Franz Lehár. Lehár wrote nearly forty operettas. Of these by the far the best known is The Merry Widow which was first staged in Vienna in 1905 and has the dubious honor of being the favorite operetta of Adolf Hitler. Lehár also made a significant contribution to light music with some 65 waltzes and 50 or more marches. NELO's concert will bring the excitement of the early 1900s in Vienna to Boston musical lovers. Tickets range from \$25-\$5 and are currently available through Theatermania.com for the **Saturday, May 22nd concert at Pickman Concert Hall** located at the Longy School of Music, 27 Garden Street in Cambridge at 8pm and the **Sunday, May 23rd concert at Hamilton Wenham Community House**, 284 Bay Road in Hamilton at 3pm.

Founded in 2001, the New England Light Opera (NELO) has a three-fold mission to fill a major gap in Greater Boston's cultural life by staging productions and concerts of operetta and early musical theatre, in English; to support Boston's artistic community by offering professional performance opportunities to local singers, actors, instrumentalists, directors, technicians and others; and to increase the accessibility to, and protect the historical legacy of, significant works of light opera and musical theatre through research, reconstruction, translation and performance. For more information, visit us on the web at www.newenglandlightopera.org.

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Publicity photos and sample audio files available upon request.

For more information, contact Mark Morgan at (978)887-2045 or mark@newenglandlightopera.org