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**CONNECTICUT LYRIC OPERA TO PERFORM *HANSEL AND GRETEL*
WITH LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN**

New London, CT – Sept. 17, 2007 – Connecticut Lyric Opera (CLO), along with students from New London's Regional MultiCultural Magent School and other area schools, will present Engelbert Humperdinck's delightful fairy tale opera, *Hansel and Gretel*, on Oct. 14, 17 and 18 for local children and families as part of its *OPERAtunities* program.

OPERAtunities is a musical outreach and education program that offers hands on exposure to opera to local underserved students who would not otherwise be exposed to this unique performing arts form. The students that participate in *OPERAtunities* will not only get an opportunity to perform small roles and sing in the chorus, but will also prepare their own costumes and participate in the decoration of the set for this specially adapted *Hansel and Gretel* production. The first performance on Sunday, Oct. 14, at First Congregational Church, 66 Union St. in New London, is open to the public, while the performances on Wed. Oct. 17 and Thur. Oct. 18 are exclusively for area elementary school students.

This abridged English language version of *Hansel and Gretel* has been adapted to appeal to younger students, and those attending with their schools will have prepared for the experience by studying educational materials about classical music and opera and practicing several choruses to be performed during the show. In keeping with their mission, by performing with local students, CLO aims to **Inspire** school age children by showing them what their **Involvement** and the involvement of their classmates can accomplish, **Instilling** in them a lifelong appreciation of opera and other art forms that they might not otherwise be exposed to. Later this season, CLO will present abridged versions of their mainstage productions of *La Boheme* in November and *Die Fledermaus* in April for older students.

Now in its fifth season, CLO is a non-profit cultural and educational organization committed to contributing to the cultural life of SE Connecticut, encouraging the development of Connecticut based singers and musicians, and presenting opera to people of all ages in the hopes of fostering a love of opera and other musical performing arts. The *OPERAtunities* program is made possible by the generous support of the Bodenwein Public Benevolent Trust, Liberty Bank and a number of other of contributors.

**To obtain tickets for schools and public organizations, or for more information contact
Connecticut Lyric Opera at 860-861-1069 or visit CtLyricOpera.org.**