



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**19 February 2015**

### **Geelong choirs to join African Children's Choir for joint finale to spectacular concert performance**

They've sung for the Queen and a long list of celebrities. Now Geelong residents have their chance to get up close and personal with the African Children's Choir on its second Australian tour in 2015.

Cottage by the Sea will host the 18 children and eight adults from the Uganda-based choir for five days when they arrive in Seacliffe, Victoria, as they prepare for their three-month tour along the eastern coast of Australia.

Tickets are now on sale for the Under One Sky concert on **Friday 10 April** which includes a joint finale song with the [Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir](#) and International Harvester Male Chorus singing with the African children in a celebration of joy and hope for their future.

"We are extremely proud to host The African Children's Choir on its second tour of Australia," Kwaya Australia President Marsha Gusti said.

"We are especially excited about this tour as it offers Geelong residents a unique opportunity to experience the diversity of Ugandan music through the choir's spectacular concert performances."

The African Children's Choir is comprised of orphaned and vulnerable children aged from 8-11 years from the disadvantaged Kampala and Luwero areas of Uganda.

Their vibrancy, outstanding musical and dancing abilities captured the world's imagination when they first started touring 30 years ago. Every year since the choir has toured North America and Europe to raise money for children's education.

Through international sponsorships, choir members have been educated to university level and often return to the community to donate their time as lawyers and doctors.

In 2012 the choir sang the specially composed 'Sing' for the Queen's Jubilee. They have performed for US Presidents, Nobel Prize winners and graced the stages of Carnegie Hall and the London Palladium. They count Matt Damon, Paul McCartney, Ellen De Generes and Bob Geldof amongst their fans.

KwaYa Australia is a charity that offers its members the chance to participate in ground-breaking altruistic life-changing projects and provides opportunities for people from different cultures to perform and engage in cross cultural musical exchanges.

#### **Under One Sky concert**

When: 7pm Friday, 10 April 2015

Where: South Barwon Civic Centre

Tickets: \$30 / \$15

Bookings online: [www.trybooking.com/GXJC](http://www.trybooking.com/GXJC)

**- Ends -**

#### PHOTOS

*07\_Faces African Children's Choir*

*10\_African Children's Choir*

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**About the African Children's Choir**

The first Choir was formed in 1984, selected from orphaned and vulnerable children in the Kampala and Luwero areas. The children travelled among the North American church communities where they impressed audiences with their vibrancy, outstanding musical talent, and dancing abilities.

They quickly became a mouthpiece for the plight of the many thousands of vulnerable children like them in Uganda. The funds they earned through donations provided for their own support and education. Proceeds from that first tour also funded the building of a choir training academy in Kampala from which a second African Children's Choir was selected.

More than 1000 vulnerable children have since been through the Choir program; the funds generated have provided the opportunity for education and hope for more than 50,000 others like them in some of the most desperate and needy areas of Africa.

Today, more than 500 children are provided education daily at two primary schools around the capital city of Kampala. Another 550 sponsored students attend secondary schools in their communities. Many graduates are now serving their communities as teachers, doctors and business people.

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[www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com)

Meet the kids preparing for their tour to Australia: <http://vimeo.com/98395905>

ABC TV report on the choir's visit to Inaburra Primary School in 2013:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjbMPhcHiTA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjbMPhcHiTA)

**About Kwaya Australia**

KwaYa is a not for profit charity based on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Its purpose is to provide opportunities for people from different cultures to perform and engage in cross cultural musical exchanges and participate in altruistic life-changing projects.

Kwaya made its first trip to Uganda in September 2011 with 35 volunteers, \$35,000 in donations and 300kg of baby goods, clothing and nappies.

In 2012, 2013 and 2014, a further 130 volunteers raised more than \$280,000 and carried another 1000kg of donated goods.

In 2013, Kwaya sponsored the African Children's Choir first visit to Australia and is sponsoring their return visit in 2015.

Local community and school choirs will billet the 18 children and eight adults during their visit to Geelong, Melbourne, Albury, Canberra, Wollongong, Sydney, Nowra, Laurieton, Port Macquarie, Taree, Bellingen, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. <http://www.kwaya.org/underonesky.html>