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From slums to the stage

African Children's Choir visit - Sunshine Coast

Monday 26 August – Sunday 1 September 2013

Coolum's community choir Cool Harmonies is excited to host the African Children's Choir (ACC) of Uganda during its visit to the Sunshine Coast in August 2013.

The tour is a ground-breaking community cultural development initiative of **Kwaya Australia Inc**, providing workshop and performance opportunities for local communities to engage firsthand in a cultural exchange.

Community choirs, schools, local government representatives, universities, Aboriginal youth and health organisations and many others are invited to participate, share and enjoy an experience with the ACC.

The Uganda project

One hundred professional and non-professional singers from across Australia have come together under the direction of Dr Jonathon Welch AM and travelled to Uganda in September 2012 and April 2013 to engage in a musical and cultural exchange with the choir.

In Uganda, Kwaya travellers engaged and interacted with the children at a grass roots level, with visits to the children's homes in the slums, attended dancing and drumming workshops, exchanged skills such as gardening, drama and art, and performed to the poorest of villages as well as royalty.

Part two of the project involves the African Children's Choir travelling to Australia during July-September 2013. This includes seven nights on the Sunshine Coast, where they will be hosted by Cool Harmonies members, many of whom have travelled on tour to Uganda. The choir has been actively fundraising to help bring the ACC to the Sunshine Coast, contributing more than \$6000 towards the project in the last 12 months.

Cool Harmonies is based in Coolum Beach. The group has been singing up a storm since April 2007 and grown into a community choir with more than 60 members. Its diverse repertoire includes sounds from Africa to the Middle East, and gospel to swing. Cool Harmonies members are passionate about actively fundraising every year, and have contributed more than \$15,000 over the past two years towards a number of community projects locally, regionally and overseas.



Contact details:

Yvonne Corstorphin
Ph: 07 5471 7199 or 0403 013 555
Email: yvonne@coolharmonies.com
Web: www.coolharmonies.com