



MEDIA RELEASE

30 April 2015

African Children's Choir returns to the Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast residents will be treated to a unique musical experience when the African Children's Choir returns to Australia for a national tour in April-June.

The choir is comprised of orphaned and vulnerable children from the disadvantaged Kampala and Luwero areas of Uganda.

Their vibrancy, outstanding musical and dancing abilities have captured the world's imagination since the choir started touring North America and Europe 30 years ago to raise money for children's education.

The African Children's Choir is returning to Australia following its inaugural visit in 2013, with sell out concerts and workshops across eastern Australia, including the Sunshine Coast.

Cool Harmonies community choir will again host the 18 children and eight chaperones from the Uganda-based choir who will present a fun filled evening of singing, drumming and dancing as they spread their message of hope.

"The purpose of the tour is to raise awareness of the orphaned and destitute children of Africa and to raise funds for the choir's program," Cool Harmonies musical director Yvonne Corstorphin said.

"Through these fundraising efforts, choir members have been educated to university level and often return to their community as lawyers and doctors.

"We are especially excited about this tour as it offers local residents a unique cultural exchange opportunity where they will get to meet and mix with the choir on a personal level through workshops, and experience the diversity of Ugandan music through their spectacular concert performances," Ms Corstorphin said.

The Sunshine Coast visit is part of a three-month tour across three States, visiting Geelong, Melbourne, Albury, Canberra, Wollongong, Sydney, Nowra, Laurieton, Port Macquarie, Taree, Bellingen, Gold Coast, and Brisbane.

Under One Sky Concert

Where: Lake Kawana Community Centre

When: Saturday, 20 June 2015

Time: 7pm

Singing and dancing workshop

Where: Coolum State School

When: Sunday, 21 June 2015

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Tickets: \$15 adults, \$2 children under 10 years

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/GUGQ

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

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Australian tour organiser: Marsha Gusti, Ph: 0433 134 773, marsha.gusti@yahoo.com.au

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. www.africanchildrenschoir.com

About Cool Harmonies

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 **\$41,000** over the past four years towards community projects locally, regionally and overseas. www.coolharmonies.com

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.

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

