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For immediate release

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

Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir and International Harvester Male Chorus will join the African Children's Choir on stage for a joint finale song in a celebration of joy and hope at a public concert on 10 April. .

During the Geelong concert at the South Barwon Civic Centre, the African Children's Choir will perform songs in both English and Ugandan. The concert also includes drumming and dancing.

Marsha Gusti, President of Kwaya Australia who is sponsoring the national tour, says she is extremely proud and excited to join the Choir for its second Australian tour.

"When I first went to Uganda, I thought that as Australians, we have everything. I came home with a whole new definition of what 'everything' really is," she said.

"These people have a real joy in their heart despite the fact that materialistically, they have nothing. Many of these kids have lost family members, including one or more of their parents or siblings.

"But they never fail to bring happiness and elation to all who see them perform," she said.

"When these kids perform, it's not just a concert. They share their stories on stage, stories of hope and joy. There are no stories of misery or heartache. It is all about enthusiasm, music and song.

"People don't walk away feeling pity in any way. They walk away wanting to grab whatever is positive in their lives, just the way the kids do."

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

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.

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.

The African Children's Choir arrives in Australia on 4 April and will perform 15 concerts across the east coast of Australia, including the Geelong show. The 2015 tour follows the success of the Choir's inaugural visit in 2013 with sell out concerts and workshops.

One hundred percent of all money raised through the African Children's Choir tour will go towards their latest project: a new choir academy in Uganda.

Under One Sky concert

When: 7pm Friday 10 April 2015

Where: South Barwon Civic Centre

Tickets: \$25 / \$15

Bookings online: www.trybooking.com/GXJC

- Ends -

For media enquiries or interviews please contact Marsha Gusti at Kwaya Australia on 0433 134 773 or marsha.gusti@yahoo.com.au.

PHOTOS

07_Faces African Children's Choir

10_African Children's Choir

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

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

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.

Local community and school choirs will billet the 18 children and eight adults during their visit to Australia which includes Geelong, Melbourne, Wodonga, Canberra, Nowra, Wollongong, Sydney, Laurieton, Port Macquarie, Taree, Bellingen, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

www.kwaya.org/underonesky.html

www.facebook.com/underoneskytour2015

Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir

The GWLC sings a variety of music ranging from traditional welsh hymns and ballads to folk songs, ballads, items from stage and cinema, plus songs from other countries and cultures. Songs are usually sung in three part harmony, but may also be sung in two or even four part harmony.

www.geelongwelshlc.com.au