



MEDIA RELEASE

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Kate Miller-Heidke shares stage with African Children's Choir and 1000 singers for Wollongong arena show

Independent pop star Kate Miller-Heidke will take to the stage with the renowned African Children's Choir and 1000 singers in a Massed Choir Spectacular in Wollongong in May.

The African Children's Choir is back in Australia after sell-out performances along the east coast in 2013. This tour includes the massed choir performance with Miller-Heidke at WIN Entertainment Centre, Wollongong, on Sunday, May 17.

"I feel lucky that my life as an artist is leading me towards experiences I'd never even dreamed of," Miller-Heidke said of her work with the African Children's Choir. "I have a feeling this one is going to be unforgettable."

One hundred singers from the Sydney Children's Choir and the Gondwana Campbelltown Indigenous Children's Choir will be part of a 1000-strong choir drawn from more than 20 school and community choirs around Australia, including:

- Sea Naturals, Kirrawee
- Macarthur Singers, Raby
- Keiraview Singers, Wollongong
- SingGongGo, Wollongong
- Fairy Meadow Public School, Balgownie
- Mount Brown Public School, Dapto
- Berkeley Songbirds and Illawarra Union Singers, Minnamurra

The massed choir will be conducted by top Australian music directors Dr Jonathon Welch, of Choir of Hard Knocks fame, Lyn Williams (Sydney Children's Choir and the Gondwana Campbelltown Indigenous Children's Choir), Rachel Hore (Big Sing in the Desert), Janet Swain (Song Dynasty, Mullumbimby) and Yvonne Costorphin (Cool Harmonies, Sunshine Coast).

The African Children's Choir works in Uganda and other African countries. Since 1984 it has educated more than 52,000 children from extremely poor families until they graduate from university, supported by donors from countries like Australia. They grow up to free themselves from poverty and become leaders in their communities.

In that time, this charity has brought children from Africa on concert tours around the world, performing in huge stadiums, on TV and for local communities. They have sung for Queen Elizabeth II, the late Nelson Mandela and Ellen DeGeneres. And they have shared the stage with Sir Paul McCartney, Annie Lennox, Will Smith and Alicia Keys.

Gold Coast charity Kwaya Australia is hosting the African Children's Choir's Australian tour.

Kwaya president Marsha Gusti said: "The Wollongong concert is about bringing together different cultures through music, while helping to raise funds for vulnerable children in the slums of Africa to provide them with an education they would never otherwise have had."

As well as the Wollongong Massed Choir Spectacular, the African Children's Choir is performing in Canberra, Nowra, Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Port Macquarie, Laurieton, Taree, Bellingen, Mullumbimby, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

The children have already performed to Victorian audiences in Geelong, Sunbury, Melbourne, Bendigo and Wodonga. Appearances on TV and radio in Victoria have also been popular with the public.

"We are especially excited about this tour as it offers residents a unique cultural exchange opportunity where they will get to meet and mix with the choir on a personal level through public workshops and concert performances," Mrs Gusti said.

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Media contact: Marsha Gusti, phone 0433 134 773.

CAPTIONS

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"Unforgettable": Kate Miller-Heidke.

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Inspirational: The African Children's Choir in Kampala, Uganda, prepare for the Australian tour.

GIG GUIDE: Performances near Sydney

African Children's Choir

Kate Miller-Heidke will star with the African Children's Choir and a 1000-strong massed choir in Wollongong. The African Children's Choir has educated more than 52,000 children to university level, helping free them from poverty. These children have performed for Queen Elizabeth II and Ellen DeGeneres, and sung with Sir Paul McCartney and Annie Lennox.

Saturday, May 9, 7pm: Our Lady of Fatima Primary School, 389 Port Hacking Road, Caringbah.

Thursday, May 14, 7pm: Inaburra Primary School, Billa Road, Bangor.

Sunday, May 17, 2pm: Wollongong Massed Choir Spectacular with pop star **Kate Miller-Heidke** and 1000 singers including the Sydney Children's Choir and the Gondwana Campbelltown Indigenous Children's Choir, WIN Entertainment Centre, Corner of Crown & Harbour streets, Wollongong.

Book tickets at kwaya.org.