



**Media Release**  
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## **Grass roots cultural exchange opportunities with the African Children's Choir**

Sunshine Coast residents have their chance to get up close and personal with the African Children's Choir when it visits Coolum later this month.

Cool Harmonies community choir will host and billet the 18 children and eight adults from the Uganda-based choir, who will provide workshop and concert opportunities for the local community.

Made up of orphaned and vulnerable children from the disadvantaged Kampala and Luwero areas of Uganda, the African Children's Choir is touring Australia from July-September to raise awareness of Africa's destitute children and raise funds for its programs.

"Cool Harmonies are extremely proud to host the African Children's Choir on its first tour of the eastern coast of Australia," says Musical Director Yvonne Corstorphin.

"Many of our choir members have already had an opportunity to work with the children at a grass roots level during their visits to Uganda over the last three years, exchanging skills through workshops such as dancing, singing, drumming and art, and performing alongside them for the poorest of villages to royalty," she said.

"We are especially excited about this tour as it offers our own local residents a unique cultural exchange opportunity where they will get to meet and mix with the choir on a personal level."

Tickets are now on sale for an up close and personal workshop experience on 29 August which encourages participants to learn drumming, Lugandan dance and song with the African Children's Choir.

A special performance will also be held at the Sunday morning service at Noosa Christian Outreach Church on 1 September.

The African Children's choir will also interact with students at Coolum State Public School during its week-long stay on the Coast.

The tour is a community cultural development initiative of Kwaya Australia Inc, a not for profit organisation based on the Gold Coast. Cool Harmonies members have been fundraising over the past two years to help bring the African Children's Choir to the Sunshine Coast.

### **Singing & dancing workshop**

Where: Coolum Civic Centre, Park St, Coolum Beach (near library)

When: Thursday, 29 August 2013, 10am-12pm

Tickets: \$15

Bookings: [www.kwaya.org](http://www.kwaya.org)

### **Concert**

Where: Noosa Christian Outreach Church, Cnr Beckmans & Eumundi Roads, Noosaville

When: Sunday, 1 September at 9.30am

Entry: Donation

- ENDS -



### **Contact details:**

Yvonne Corstorphin

Ph: 07 5471 7199 or 0403 013 555

Email: [yvonne@coolharmonies.com](mailto:yvonne@coolharmonies.com)

Web: [www.coolharmonies.com](http://www.coolharmonies.com)

*Photos 01 & 02 ACC Aust Group: Members of the African Children's Choir tour are excited about their first visit to the Sunshine Coast this month.*

*Photo 03 – ACC host families: Cool Harmonies choir members Libby Packer, Yvonne Corstorphin, Sally Johnson, Lyn de Waard and Lenore O'Kane will billet members of the African Children's Choir when they visit the Sunshine Coast this month.*

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Hari Kotrotsios 0414 635 407 [hari.kotrotsios@hotmail.com](mailto:hari.kotrotsios@hotmail.com)

Australian tour organiser: Marsha Gusti 0433 134 773 [marsha.gusti@yahoo.com.au](mailto:marsha.gusti@yahoo.com.au)

The African Children's Choir Director of Development, Scott Lambie, and Kwaya Australia President Marsha Gusti are travelling with the African Children's Choir during its visit to the Sunshine Coast.

They are both available for interviews on Tuesday, 27 August.

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#### **About the African Children's Choir**

The first Choir, formed in 1984, 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 an orphanage 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.

#### **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 \$15,000 over the past two years towards a number of community projects locally, regionally and overseas.