

October 3, 2014

Dear Friends,



AFRICANCHILDRENSCHOIR™

It really does seem like yesterday when two buses loaded with Aussies showed up at our primary school outreach in Nkumba for the first time ever. The school they arrived at was pretty run down. The facilities were probably rather shocking at first glance, especially to those who had not set foot in a poverty stricken country before. The kids gathered, the Aussies gathered and somehow these two very different groups of people had to find common ground.

"Now, get ready to knock out this beat," a voice said. "Take your right hand and thump your chest. Got it? Now, thump your chest then snap your fingers. Good, now thump your chest, snap your fingers, then clap. Thump, snap, clap. Excellent! Again: thump, snap, clap. Now add two chest thumps and another clap. Thump, snap, clap, thump-thump, clap. Again, slowly. Thump, snap, clap, thump-thump, clap. Everyone together: thump, snap, clap, thump-thump clap. Again. A bit faster. Got it?"

Imagine hundreds of little children giggling and laughing as they try to catch this beat. Common ground found, thank you Harley Mead.

It can be really easy to get caught up in what divides us. We have racial, cultural, political and class divides all around us, every day. Sometimes these differences prohibit us from engaging in exchange. Sometimes these differences paralyze the progress of humanity and keep us from experiencing the joy we can find in common ground. Harley cut through the barriers, drew people together, and taught us all something about putting everything aside and finding the same beat.

We will forever be grateful to Harley for generously sharing his talent with the children of Uganda and pioneering a musical and cultural exchange between Australia and Africa that has grown to change countless lives. The beat goes on!

Bless,

Scott Lambie

African Children's Choir

*Helping
Africa's most
vulnerable
children today,
so they can
help Africa
tomorrow*

Music for Life Uganda

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The African Children's Choir™ is part of the Music for Life™ organization, with offices in the USA, Canada, UK and South Africa