

World harmony's their goal

IT IS contagious, has influences from around the world, and in October the sound of the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir will join with more than 900 male voices at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Formed in 1984, the choir has since grown into an acclaimed ensemble.

It was recently invited to perform at the prestigious choir festival by the London Welsh Male Choir.

Led by conductor Lucas

de Jong the group will tour concert halls across England and Wales, finishing at the festival in London's Royal Albert Hall.

"It's very exciting to be invited to start with, especially from across the other side of the world," choir member Ron Thomas said.

Mr Thomas is one of the 68 choristers from the group attending the 21st Festival of Male Choirs in London.

Mr Thomas sang in the

church and several choirs before signing up with the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir the day after his retirement six years ago.

"Music sings to the heart, it's a universal language," Mr Thomas said.

Leading up to its overseas tour in October, the choir will hold concerts around Melbourne to help raise money to support travelling costs.

» Details: 9893 6016



Melbourne Male Welsh Choir's Vernon Denford, Alex Young, John Cook, and Ron Thomas.

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Stonnington City Brass will perform with the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir at Malvern Town Hall on Sunday, June 8, at 2pm.

Music directors Kevin Hillier of Stonnington Brass and the choir's Lucas De Jong have spent three months arranging music to combine rich brass band sounds with stunning harmonies in songs of Welsh musical heritage.

Tickets cost \$20; \$5 (children under 12); \$18 (groups of 10).