

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Join in the joy of singing

There is barely time to rest for Martin Meader's Sing From the Heart choirs. After performing Christmas concerts that were broadcast on Sonshine FM and beamed across the world via internet, the choirs begin rehearsing for 2003 on January 7.

The choirs were formed in 1998 by Meader, who was co-executive producer on the Bruce Beresford film, Paradise Road. (Actually, Meader wrote the original script before it was taken over by Beresford.)

Since his move into music five years ago, Meader has joined forces with fellow singer and musical director Fiona De Rooij to create three choirs, which are spread across the metropolitan area --- at Fremantle, Rockingham and Victoria Park.

In 2002, the choirs performed for big audiences at the Entertainment Centre, Mundaring Weir Hotel, Port Bouvard and Forrest Chase. The choirs also performed concerts and workshops at Hakea and Bandyup prisons.

At Christmas, the combined Sing From the Heart choirs of 120 voices performed at Graham Mabury's Nightline Christmas Carols In The Park for an audience of 5000 at Len Shearer Oval, Booragoon. This concert went to air live on Sonshine FM and was beamed via the internet to Singapore, England, Sweden, Norway, the US, Canada and New Zealand.

The choirs also perform regularly at charity concerts and at major theatres such as the Octagon and the Fly by Night Club.

According to Meader, the choirs have been bringing the joy of singing into the lives of people from all walks of life.

"The Sing From the Heart process has uplifted and inspired many people who didn't think they could sing," he said.

Membership is open to anyone who would like to sing, even those who think, or have been told, that they can't.

The repertoire ranges from gospel to jazz, with an emphasis on the baby-boomer years --- 1960's and 70's pop tunes. The Tuesday morning choir is made up mainly of retirees.