



Choir gives voice to power of music

Elle Farcic

Country music star Beccy Cole firmly believes music can be a tool for breaking down the barriers of race, disability and sexuality.

"When you hear someone singing and they have a great voice, all of those other things don't matter," she said.

Cole said her long-held view was reaffirmed by a visit to Perth yesterday for the Variety Youth Choir's 15-year anniversary concert.

The group formed in 1998

after rave reviews of what was supposed to be a one-off performance by Variety WA scholarship recipients.

It has grown into a successful 55-person choir that includes able-bodied, disabled and disadvantaged youth.

Choir member Katie O'Donnell, 31, said the group aimed to promote the Variety message, encourage inclusion and put on good shows.

"The choir showcases what Variety is all about and shows audiences that things like disabilities don't have to be an obstacle," she said.



In harmony: Beccy Cole with Variety Youth Choir members, from left, Chris Cutler, 12, Perri Hinton, 9, and Lilyan Smith, 14. Picture: Nic Ellis