

By Grace Millimaci

Music man sings from the heart

People's singing voices are like an instrument --- the more they practise the better they sound, according to musician and film-maker Martin Meader.

Mr. Meader is the founder and musical director of Sing From The Heart, a community choir established in Rockingham, Perth, Western Australia in 1988.

The group will perform contemporary, Gospel, jazz and babyboomer songs at the Kwinana/Arts Centre on Saturday.



Sing From The Heart is a spin-off of The Real Sing, a professional 28-member a-capella group established by Meader following the release of Paradise Road, which he co-wrote and co-produced.

The \$25.6 million film, featuring big name stars including Academy Award nominee Glenn Close, Shirley Valentine's Pauline Collins, Oscar winner Frances McDormand (Fargo) and E.R.'s Julianna Margulies, was based on women who arranged a vocal ensemble while they were held in a Japanese POW camp in World War II.

Their energy and passion for their singing was one of the reasons Meader started The Real Sing.

He explained that choirs encouraged people to join together and sing to make themselves and their audience feel better.

"How often do you hear people whistling these days? "It's quite rare because people are too busy living other people's lives through television, computers and radio."

Mr. Meader said people were always welcome to join Sing From The Heart, because anyone could sing provided they learnt to do it the right way. The 45-year-old is currently working on his next two films, The Way To Alphabeticus, aimed at children, and The Adventures of Charlie and Moon, a \$35 million film which has already generated interest from actors including Jeremy Irons.