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Girls prepare to sing with world-famous youth choir

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

THE choir from Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School will be performing with the Youth Choir Eschersheim from Frankfurt in three concerts this month.

The German choir, which celebrates its 45th anniversary next year, is the biggest youth choir in Frankfurt and has toured all over the world including Krakow, Rio de Janeiro and Tel Aviv.

The choir, well known for its peace song, spirituals and gospels, seeks to unite people across the world through its music.

Its repertoire contains more than 400 internationally known titles, and the choir emphasises what it refers to as social singing, a means to unite people by making music or listening to it.

This means the singers often perform in churches, hospitals, homes for elderly, in schools, local culture centres and even prisons.

The choir was founded in 1965 by Hans Dieter Kreis, who is also the director and conductor. It celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2005.

Director of music specialism at Simon Langton, Ms Maria Young, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to sing with such a well-travelled, well-known youth choir.

"The Eschersheim choir have recently sung in Rio, China and St Peter's in Rome. Their director, Hans Dieter Kreis, has been honoured with awards in his country for the out-



VISITORS: The Youth Choir Eschersheim are to perform with the choir from Simon Langton Girls' Grammar

standing way in which he engages young and old through music.

"The choir even hold the world record for being the Biggest Swimming Choir! No tickets are needed to attend any of the concerts as people are welcome to turn up on the day."

Simon Langton choir girls will be adding their voices to the visiting choir when they

hold a joint concert at the school at 7pm on Thursday, October 15.

There will be a further opportunity to hear the choir sing at Canterbury Cathedral at noon on Friday, October 16 and again that evening at St Peter's Methodist Church in the city at 7.30pm when they will also be joined by Lees Court Music.