

The highs and lows of the Red Army choir



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Picture: DARREN SEILER

FEW performing groups find themselves in as many different situations as the singers and dancers of Russia's Great Red Army Choir & Dance Ensemble.

Four weeks ago, they were risking their lives performing for wounded soldiers in war-torn Chechnya. Now they are

here for an eight-week national tour, including Adelaide at Her Majesty's Theatre on October 23.

Yesterday, the 38 singers and 13 dancers touring Australia gave an impromptu performance of Men at Work's *Down Under* and the football anthem *Up There Cazaly*.

Group leader Colonel Igor Shustikov said the ensemble, which last performed in Australia two years ago, had some new local material in its repertoire, including AC/DC's *It's a Long Way to the Top*.

"We think it will be a hit in Russia as well," he said.