



**ethnic excellence:** Albanian Vladimir Kocibelli will perform at a benefit concert to keep multicultural music alive. Picture: BEN SWINNERTON

## Boite bites back

Even a snub by the Australia Council can't stop the music, writes Andra Jackson

**B**ACK in the '70s when the Boite started, SBS was finding its feet and multicultural radio was in its infancy.

The first ethnic community radio station, ABC-run 3ZZ, had been closed down a few years earlier for political reasons and its frequencies were passed to the Boite for keeping.

The Boite, a world music venue at Fitzroy, has continued to act as

source, VicArts, is yet to confirm its funding.

The only organisation of its type in the country, the Boite has received Australia Council funding every year since 1979, making up half its finances.

In jeopardy are 80 concerts it holds a year at Fitzroy and four community choirs.

New Boites were being launched in St Kilda and Wangar-



performing for the Boite come from non-English speaking communities," he says.

The Boite also holds school concerts — last month's performance by the Chinese Music Ensemble at St Kilda Town Hall was attended by 800 children.

"It is important culturally to get young kids to take this music seriously and enjoy it," King says.

"It is fantastic in terms of breaking down barriers between people."

King estimates the Boite needs to raise \$25,000 by February to