



CHEERS!

March 2026

Scott Tucker • Artistic Director
Grace Cho • Collaborative Pianist
The Irish Inn Mates • Instrumentalists

Mission Washington Men's Camerata celebrates the unique beauty and power of men's choral music by consistently pursuing artistic excellence; expanding the breadth of its music, membership, and audiences; and building community among its members and friends.

Vision To be the most accomplished and sought-after men's chorus in the country

Scott Tucker
Artistic Director

Grace Cho
Collaborative Pianist

Jonathon Hampton
Managing Director

Frank Albinder
Artistic Director Emeritus

Nelson Smith
President

Robert Harris
Vice President

Anthony Laretto
Secretary

Matthew Burnell
Treasurer

Karen Doyne • Director
Doug Loescher • Director
Shea Murphy • Director
Carl Spatz • Director
Michael Schrier • Director
Brad Spencer • Director

Matt Sommers • Librarian
Mike Crump • Development
Jerry Olszewski • Publicity

President Nelson Smith

As we near the end of our 42nd season, there's a lot to celebrate: a renewed sense of vigor and engagement; marked growth in the size and quality of our membership; and a rekindling of fun and – yes, Camaraderie that have been a hallmark of this organization.

Bringing on our esteemed Artistic Director Scott Tucker has set us on a new course of excellence. Our first full-time Managing Director Jonathon Hampton has paved our path through his tireless efforts. And of course, we've been blessed to have the inimitable Grace Cho as Collaborative Pianist.



The Camerata's new 5-year strategic plan was approved June 11, 2025. In 10 months we've moved out, smartly, toward achieving its goals. *Full Tracker below, developed by Doug Loescher.*

- Returning to the recording studio for the first time in more than a decade
- Developing a welcoming and productive member culture, including re-auditions, a membership retreat, website improvements, planned social events, and new Section Leaders
- Reaching out into new communities and new venues (MD, VA, SE DC, and even a brewery!), and cultivating record audiences through expanded social media, partnerships, and advertising
- Partnering in concerts and workshops with young singers across the metro area
- Planning for the first of several anticipated tours
- Updating the Camerata's bylaws for the first time since 2008

I salute the leaders and members of the committees that have worked so hard on these matters, especially Board members Brad Spencer (Governance), Shea Murphy (Membership & Recruitment), Karen Doyne (Publicity), and Michael Schrier (Audit), and committee volunteers Mike Crump, Jerry Olszewski, and Matt Burnell. Of course, it has taken many other hands to keep the ball rolling – Board Members Carl Spatz and Doug Loescher; Officers Bob Harris (VP), Anthony Laretto (Secretary), and Matt Burnell (Treasurer); and of course, three cheers for our diligent Librarian Matt Sommers!

The most challenging portion of the Plan is to develop resources to support growth. We've actually done quite well in some areas, especially individual donations, including some wonderfully generous gifts by Camerata members. And with strong teamwork by Jonathon and our Development Consultant Stephanie Pressley, we've snagged some rare philanthropic grants. But we face a grim landscape – as do other arts and cultural organizations. DC funding has tightened and while the NEA is funded for another year, its future is uncertain. Foundations have largely shifted to other areas like health and research, whose public funding has also been under siege.

Our investment policy calls for using our bequest funds primarily for building the future foundations of the Camerata. Due to careful stewardship, we've been able to rely only on dividends and interest to cover recent deficits without reducing the principal balance which has benefited from positive market performance. But we have to do more. New ideas, new creativity, and strong Board and Member leadership in this area will be needed in the years ahead.



Finally, it has been a great privilege to be part of Camerata for most of its existence – and a particular honor to serve as its president for the past two years. I have been so impressed by Members' willingness to step forward – whether singing in community gigs, providing snacks for rehearsals, setting up and breaking down the rehearsal room, or simply being there for each other when needed. This is a wonderful group and I have no doubt that we can rise to any challenge. Thank you all!

Washington Men's Camerata - Strategic Plan Implementation Tracker - 2026 Milestones

		STATUS LEGEND	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Completed - Milestone substantially completed for 2026
			Additional priority milestone to complete in 2026
#	ACTIVITIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MILESTONES for FY 2026
1	Create Sequence of Three Major Milestones ----- <i>1. Studio Recordings</i> <i>2. Collaboration Partnerships</i> <i>3. 2026-2029 Concert Tours</i> ----- LEAD: AD / MD / Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Complete 2025-26 studio recordings
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Define 2026-29 collaboration partnerships
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure NSO or college orchestra agreement
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan 2029-30 concert tour logistics
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Confirm 2027 tour: NYC (UniversityGC) or Boston (IMC conference)
2	Develop Welcoming & Productive Member Culture ----- <i>(ex: re-auditions, expand singers, on-boarding, retreats, member recognition, new attire, etc.)</i> ----- LEAD: Membership Comm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Complete individual assessments for all members
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Expand membership to 60+ active singers (now at 58 active members as of 4-16-26)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish core branded group
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Define section leader roles
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Create new member onboarding process
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Publish annual guidelines on website
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host full membership retreat
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implement Member of Year awards
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Add two non-board committee members
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduce logo attire options
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host summer singing program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand professional singer sectional roles		

<p>3 Enhance Audience Experience</p> <p><i>(ex: performance enhancements, more comfortable and exciting venues, post-concert receptions, etc.)</i></p> <p>LEAD: AD / MD</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Add concert lighting enhancements</p> <p>Incorporate instrumentalists in performances</p> <p>Include visual arts and poetry elements</p> <p>Join three concert series</p> <p>Establish two brewery venue partnerships</p> <p>Create pre-concert talk series</p> <p>Develop post-concert audience engagement</p> <p>Implement audience feedback system</p>
<p>4 Broaden Membership, Repertoire, Audience</p> <p><i>(ex: non-NW venues, composer diversity, female leadership, younger crowds, recruit from colleges/local churches, etc.)</i></p> <p>LEAD: MD / Board</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>12/25: Cap. Hill/Sliver Spring; 3/26: DC (Cheers concerts)</p> <p>Hired 3 female + 2 minority contractors</p> <p>Recruit 2 women for board</p> <p>5/26: CCW Young Men's Ensemble joins our concert</p> <p>Partner concerts: Sacred Music on Hill, St. Bernadette, Atlas Brew Works, Westchester, St. Ann</p> <p>2/26: Tenor-Bass festival (Bethesda)</p> <p>Enhance digital presence and communications* (See below)</p> <p>Connect with international male choruses</p>
<p>5 Move to Oversight/Advocacy Governance</p> <p><i>(ex: increase board size with more external members, revitalize advisory council, update by-laws, seek guidance on board governance)</i></p> <p>LEAD: Governance Comm.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Increase board size with more external representatives</p> <p>Establish Advisory Council</p> <p>Update by-laws</p> <p>Identify board development needs (governance)</p>
<p>6 Develop Resources to Support Growth</p> <p><i>(ex: define Skeer bequest, professionalize fundraising, grow private funds, improve member giving, seek direct sponsorships, highlight gifts and donor recognition)</i></p> <p>LEAD: Dev. Comm. / Treasurer</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>7/25: proposal for 4% max. draw-down (support dev. staffing, etc.)</p> <p>Engaged Stephanie Pressley; re-launched development committee</p> <p>11/25: request for member networks; corp sponsorship brochure created</p> <p>Individual Donations: \$81,000 YTD, including \$15K raised for recording (as of 4-16-26)</p> <p>Corporate Donations: \$1,700 YTD (as of 4-16-26)</p> <p>Government Funding: \$19,000 YTD (as of 4-16-26)</p> <p>Foundation Support: \$11,000 YTD (as of 4-16-26)</p>
<p>* Enhance Digital Presence and Communications</p> <p><i>(ex: website content and functionality improvements, communication channels, etc.)</i></p> <p>LEAD: Shea / MD / Librarian</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Redesign website with modern interface</p> <p>Launch monthly email newsletter</p> <p>Grow social media engagement by 50%</p> <p>Create video content series</p> <p>Develop online concert streaming capability</p> <p>Update digital music library archive</p> <p>Implement CRM system for donor management</p>

Artistic Director Scott Tucker

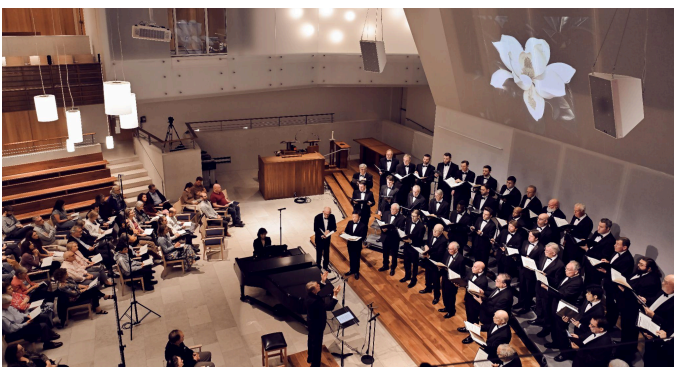
With an increase in concerts, outreach events, an influx of new membership, recording sessions, and collaboration projects, we've enjoyed a very strong season, and the future of the Camerata has never looked brighter. A huge thanks to Collaborative Pianist Grace Cho who joined us this season.



Looking ahead to the 26-27 season, our appearance at the Intercollegiate Music Council (IMC) Tenor-Bass Choral Consortium Seminar in Cambridge, MA, February 25-27, 2027, takes center stage. It will give us a good chance to sing in front of conductors, many of whom will have students heading to DC in the future. It will also underscore the important notion that singing is possible, even enjoyable at any age. And finally, it gives us a chance to re-establish our reputation as a leading TTBB ensemble. The Defense of Corinth was written for the Harvard Glee Club in 1942, and so I am considering performing that tour-de-force at the conference in its 85th anniversary year. I am also considering doing it memorized and semi-staged. If we manage to do that well, we will make a lasting impression on all in attendance.



As Shea pointed out recently, care must be taken in programming the season so we don't find ourselves underprepared for either Christmas or the early Spring concert. I couldn't agree more. I will select a familiar Christmas program, and we will prepare both the Carter and the Christmas music in the Fall. We will continue with the Carter and more pairings after Christmas.



Programming and collaborations for the Spring and Summer concerts are in development. The pace and rhythm of the season will be similar to this season, with the addition of the IMC trip. We intend to secure another recording session in the early summer, likely with Sono Luminous, recording some of our best rep from the 26-27 season.

The Kennedy Center debacle has thrown a wrench into some of our plans, but talks are ongoing with orchestras—National Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Aspen Chamber Symphony—about Cherubini Requiem in D minor. It will happen, if not in the next season. Finally, I hope to apply for us to sing at the American Choral Directors Association regional conference in 2028. That's another prestige engagement, one the Camerata took on some years ago, and it's always a terrific learning experience as well as a premier platform. One of many we can look forward to. Thank you!

Treasurer Matthew Burnell

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Financial Review

FY25 ended 6/30/25. [Our form 990 is available here](#), publicly on our website's About page. Camerata generated an operating loss of about \$109,000, due largely to adding two full-time employees and a reduction in grant funds. However, this is \$94,000 better than FY24. Income of \$200,000 rose 23% year over year (YoY). Expenses of roughly \$309,000 fell 16% YoY.

Our largest source of income for the year was dividends and interest from our investment portfolio of approximately \$108,000 (+100% YoY).

Other sources of income included member dues of \$9,100, individual contributions of \$39,000, and grants of \$23,000 (-49% YoY). Visibly higher member contributions partly mitigated meaningfully lower grant income, experienced by many arts organizations as government funding has materially contracted since January 2025.

Other revenue – largely concert proceeds – remained essentially stable with FY24 at about \$21,000. Diligent expense control in multiple areas more than offset higher administrative costs.

Our balance sheet remains in strong condition, with high liquidity and de minimis debt. Total assets ended FY25 at \$1.7MM. Of this, investment securities and money market assets totaled \$1.63MM – in aggregate, these assets appreciated 4.3% YoY.

FY26 Financial Condition

Upon appointment as Treasurer in February 2026, I evaluated our investment portfolio. I concluded the portfolio is invested in line with WMC's investment policy at 53% equity, 42% fixed income, and 5% cash. There appear to be no material concentrations of geographies, industries, interest rate or credit risks, or individual securities that offer undue risk to the future performance of the portfolio relative to similarly constructed portfolios.

Our Form 990 for the fiscal year ended 6/30/26 will be submitted in July, 2026. Spending is on track for our budget of \$360,000. Lower than desired grant income has been balanced with use of investment income, as was anticipated, keeping us on budget. As of April 26, 2026, our Balance Sheet includes:

Cash & Savings	\$27,855
Money Market Savings	\$66,379
Mutual Funds	\$1,699,751
Accounts Receivable	\$19,200
Accounts Payable	\$60,000

Managing Director Jonathon Hampton

Skyrocketing Membership & Camaraderie!



65 active (+18%):
58 performers (+26%)
7 on hiatus (-7%)
18 joins (+200%) from 30
 audition sign ups (+200%)
46% new in past 2 years
 ~**17% diversity** (+70%)
 ~**56% under age 50** (+86%)

46% of members joined in the past two seasons, infusing energy and engagement with monthly bar hangouts, an active WhatsApp group chat, and intergenerational, member-organized singing and gatherings.



An Explosion of Performances & Partnerships!

New rehearsal venue of First Baptist DC has lowered rental costs and increased transportation access and space availability.

Summer Sing workshop garnered 70 participants (+16%), 45 non-members (64%), ages 15-92.



Recording sessions produced 6 new songs. Following extensive research of distribution channels and work to gain control of our media streams, release is planned for July in tandem with our season announcement celebration for donors and members.



Four self-produced concerts—*Seasons*, *Christmas with the Camerata* in DC and MD, and *Cheers* garnered similar revenue to recent concerts ~\$18,000 but broader audiences of 855 (+23%) in new venues and concert series, with our free concert bringing in our largest audience of 350, and dozens of students attending free, helped by new promotion on Eventbrite, collaborative social media posts, and program advertisement exchanges. Thousands of dollars in savings on riser and venue rentals was reallocated to guest instrumentalists, production staff, program printing, and supplemental visual art.

Five co-productions with University of Michigan Glee Club, Capital Hill Business Improvement District, Clydes, Atlas Brew Works, and The Westchester DC yielded new media, and increases in online engagement, auditioners, mailing list, concert audiences, publicity, local awareness, donors, and income of \$5,500 (+129%).

Educational collaborations with the Young Men's Ensemble of the Children's Chorus of Washington performing, and a workshop with Strathmore Youth Chorus and Landon School.

Music Library now has reorganized and accessible digital assets of 131 Choral Tracks, and 130 digital works, plus a new database of 3,431 printed works. 6 organizations have sourced 18 works.

Broader Publicity & Public Awareness!



WETA TV and FM Radio featured 2 pieces in 12 Songs of the Season airings.

72 YouTube videos have garnered nearly 50,000 streams.

4 National organizations American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, Arts Administrators of Color, and Arts Education Partnership have been joined, their conferences attended, our name and events promoted, and professional development resources utilized.

Press articles were earned in Stroll Magazine, Hill Rag, SoVaNow, and Mecklenburg Sun.

Advertisements ran in The Washington Post, WETA Classical FM, Facebook, Instagram and in program exchanges with 5 partners arts orgs.

Updated Branding & Merchandise are generating income, awareness, and a unified, modern look that's becoming increasingly recognizable.



Individual Donors Stepping Up Support

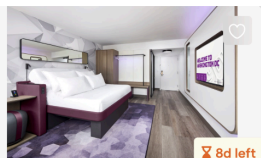


Donations increased to 150 donors (+90%) giving \$71,000 (+35%) with members giving \$34,600 (+32%) and non-members giving \$34,600 (+127%) and companies giving \$1,750 (+84%), plus several thousand dollars worth of in-kind donations from 17.

New Database saves us thousands of dollars in fees, improves recordkeeping, and has doubled recurring giving.

Digital and mail campaigns are garnering more giving from individuals and increased corporate matching.

ONLINE AUCTION NOW-8/13



LUXURY HOTEL STAY & ROOFTOP SOIRÉE

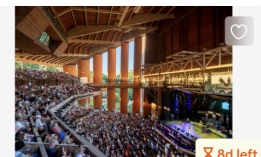
No bids yet | Starting Bid \$225



RARE WHISKY TASTING

No bids yet | Starting Bid \$100

Our online auction is open now through August 13! Bid on packages of exclusive experiences and merchandise provided, in part, by our friends and partners. Don't miss this rare opportunity. [Browse now!](#) To bid, sign into your Givebutter account or register in seconds. For help email info@camerata.com.



CARMEN AT WOLF TRAP & MUSIC AT THE WESTCHESTER

No bids yet | Starting Bid \$175



CRAFT BEER EXPERIENCES

No bids yet | Starting Bid \$80

BROWSE + BID



Stewardship has increased with in-person donor events, individual engagement, and expanded cohorts and perks.

Grant applications have increased with dozens researched and tracked, so far yielding \$31,000, with tens of thousands of dollars in requests pending or forthcoming.

A Wonderful & Wide Road Ahead!

Dozens of videos are being licensed for online streaming.

Boston tour plans are underway with IMC conference participation and local educational workshops.

26-27 concert planning is underway with pursuit of new concert series participation in Silver Spring, MD, and new venues in Southwest DC, Alexandria, VA, Metro Center DC, and Prince George's County, MD, plus staging partnerships. A July 25, 2026 season announcement celebration will welcome donors and workshop participants with a silent auction.

Recording continues summer 2027 with 2025 recorded tracks to be released July 2026.

Ballot

From the Bylaws:

Membership. There shall be seven elected members of the Board of Directors. Each elected member must meet all of the requirements for membership in the Group described elsewhere in the By-Laws.

Election. Board members shall be elected by a majority of members of the Group who are present and voting at the annual meeting...In even-numbered years, four persons shall be elected...The consent of a majority of those entitled to vote who are present and voting shall be necessary for any person to be elected to the Board. Absentee ballots shall not be permitted.

Tenure. Each elected Board member shall serve a term of two years. That term shall begin on the first day of June next following the date of election.

There are four Board vacancies and five candidates for election. Please make a check mark in the box next to a maximum of **four** names you wish to elect.

Mike Crump

Kidus Fasil

Bob Harris

Brad Spencer

Doug Loescher