

# History of the Camerata Club of Yakima

In 1915 three Yakima men organized a group of community men who enjoyed singing. This led to what became the **Camerata Club of Yakima**. The name was suggested by Professor A.B. Dow after the 15<sup>th</sup> century Florentine opera group of the same name.

The men rehearsed during the fall months and gave their first concert, under the direction of Thomas Toll, on the evening of January 14, 1916 at the First Christian Church. Over the years concert locations have included the A.C. Davis and Eisenhower High Schools, the First Methodist Church, the Selah High School, the Capitol Theatre, Central Lutheran Church, Englewood Christian Church, and the Four Square Church.

The club has operated continuously since 1916 except for two breaks. During World War II and again in the 1970's, the club discontinued performances. In the early 1990's, several former members led the group back into operation under the Direction of Roger Stansbury, who taught music at a number of local schools.

Each year the Camerata Club presents a Spring Concert to entertain the public and to raise funds for the club's operation. For many years the Club participated in the International Choral Festival in April each year. It involved choral groups from Washington state and British Columbia. This Festival was hosted each year by one of the clubs, alternating between Washington state and Canada.

The Camerata Club of Yakima is organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. In addition to providing entertainment for many private events and community events, the Club provides music scholarships through a

performance competition for Yakima Valley high school juniors and seniors to support their continuing music education.