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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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APRIL 23, 2026

BARBERSHOP NEWS



WELCOME NEW CHAPTER

Meet MI-X!

MI-X (pronounced "M-I-X") is a premier SATB barbershop chorus founded in 2023. True to the name, MI-X is a mix of genders, backgrounds, and experiences across Michigan and beyond.

In their own words, "MI-X was created to expand opportunities for singers of all gender identities to perform, compete, and be fully seen within the barbershop community. We aim to showcase the excellence and artistry of mixed barbershop harmony while building a space where everyone belongs. Now chartered under the Southeast Michigan Chapter, we're excited to keep that momentum growing within the Pioneer District and the Barbershop Harmony Society."

MEET MI-X

Honorary member Alan Osmond passes

The Barbershop Harmony Society mourns the passing of Alan Osmond, who along with his brothers Wayne, Merrill, and Jay Osmond, were named Honorary Life Members at the 1986 International Convention in Salt Lake City.

The Osmond Brothers were consummate professionals, having spent decades as entertainers whose performances were rooted firmly in an upbringing as students of the barbershop style. Under the tutelage of BHS Hall of Famer Val Hicks, they appeared regularly on the Andy Williams TV variety show and launched a career that made them household names for decades.

And they could ring chords! Enjoy this 1986 clip, plus a bonus song by their kids — a further generation of harmony!



Osmond Brothers Quartet - Honorary Life Members Ceremony 1986 International Convention - Salt Lake City

Bonus: Alan Osmond meets 2019 champ Signature at America's Freedom Festival.

CONVENTION TEES!

Travel gear: Destination STL



JUST RELEASED! Red, blue, and gray 'distressed look' varieties available for general guests, plus our special Chorus Competitor commemorative tee tag all competing choruses on the back in alphabetical order.

These tees are available online only and won't be available for purchase at the convention. There will also be some different on-site limited edition items, but this is the only chance to order the official competitor shirt. ON SALE NOW, shipping in time to wear at STL.

CHORUS COMPETITOR TEE

GENERAL ATTENDEE TEE

Can't make the full week? Try a weekend pass

It's a busy week in a busy season, and maybe you can't break away to see all the events, starting with the Sing-In, Quartet Contest and Max Gen. Variety Quartet finals on Tuesday. But show up by Friday, and you can still catch the chorus contest and the quartet finals. Get a weekend pass (Thursday-Saturday) and save!

REGISTER NOW

PEER LEARNING

Tips on building a chorus from the ground up

No matter where you are in the lifecycle of your chapter — whether a brand new start-up or long-established group with decades of experience — you'll find interesting perspectives and insights in this recent article from Chorus America. In finding your "why," groups who articulate their values and target audience create cohesion for their team and clarity for participants.

1. Who is this chorus for?
2. What values does it meet?
3. What values will guide its growth? *

Read on for tips around budgeting, recruiting, branding and more.

Who in your community has knowledge you need? How are you connecting with them to build an organization that is a recognized force making better lives?

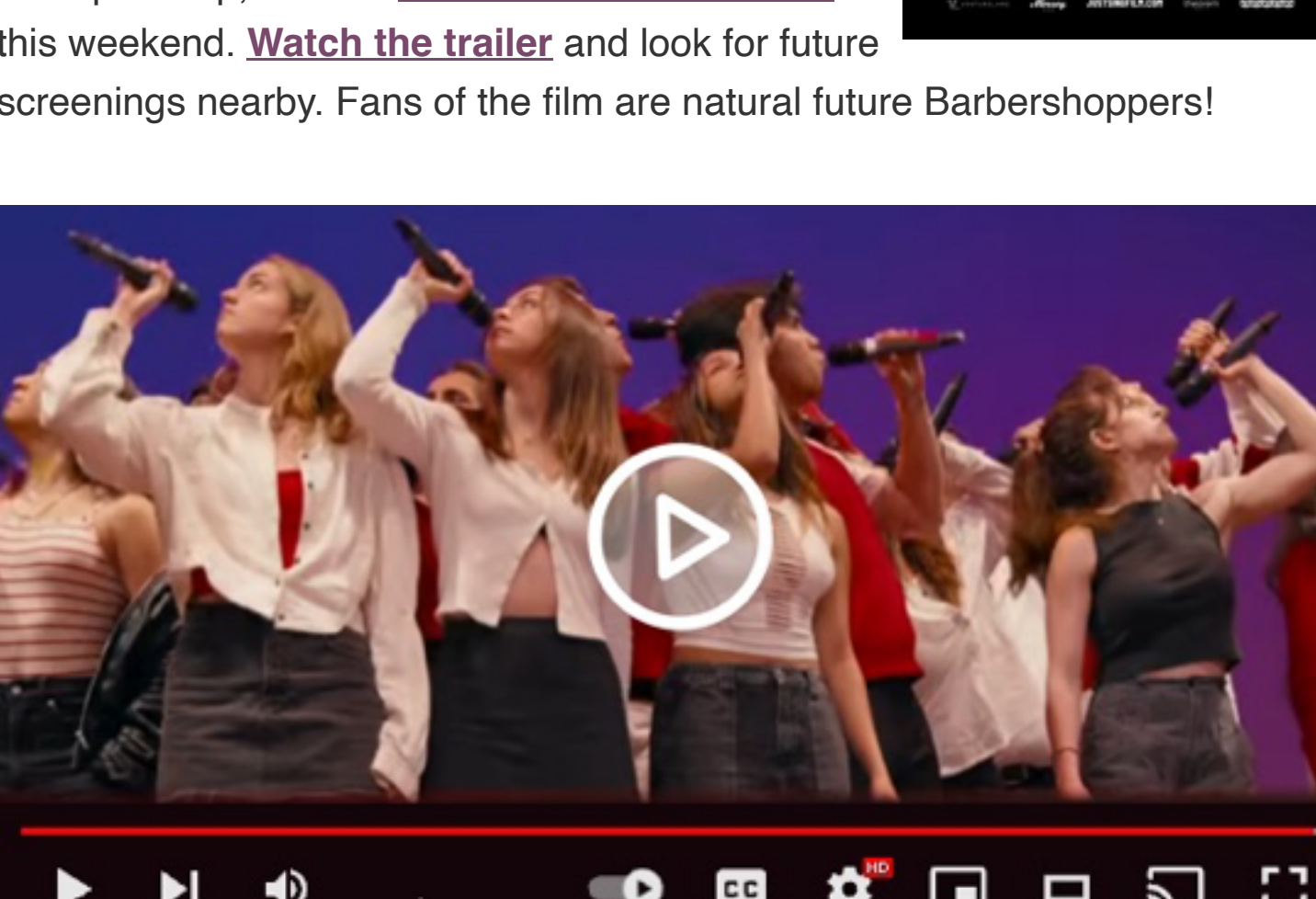
"PITCH PERFECT," BUT REAL

JUST SING, the aca-doc, opens this weekend

JUST SING is a music-filled coming-of-age documentary that follows a group of college vocalists on their journey to one of the world's most electrifying a cappella stages. As they chase a championship dream, the film goes beyond rehearsals and performance, revealing the personal stories, pressures, friendships, and self-discovery that shape their lives along the way.



Coinciding with this weekend's ICCA championship, the film releases in select cities this weekend. Watch the trailer and look for future screenings nearby. Fans of the film are natural future Barbershoppers!



Trailer: JUST SING

HARMONIZER HIGHLIGHT

Break out of rehearsal ruts

Barbershop Education Master Your Craft

DESIRABLE DIFFICULTIES

HOW TO BREAK OUT OF REHEARSAL RUTS

Used thoughtfully, these tools can reinvigorate rehearsal energy while reinforcing musicianship, listening skills, and ensemble accountability.

Whether you have been directing for years or are just starting out, these tools can help you break out of rehearsal ruts. Over time, even well-designed rehearsals can begin to feel predictable both for directors and singers. One effective way to disrupt that rut is by intentionally introducing desirable difficulties: small, purposeful variations to rehearsal that require increased attention and engagement, helping to get the rehearsal back to life.

A 3-hour implementation observed the progress of established teams conducted. Each is designed to stretch singers' greater awareness and mutual responsibility both during rehearsal and beyond it. Used thoughtfully, these tools can reinvigorate rehearsal energy while reinforcing musicianship, listening skills, and ensemble accountability.

REHEARSAL TIME
There are no resting low singers physically and cognitively connect with the music. Using a range of activities within a rehearsal reinvigorates singers with the music. This is a single week of engagement, then you're done. Rehearsal changes the routine. Break by making the rehearsal spread themselves throughout the week, starting guests at 45 minutes each singer. Sets, all the best music is not new, followed by the best and then the best. Chorus members are for these exercises to spend time on a portion of a well-known song. Encourage members to listen closely to the music. There is a range of activities within a rehearsal encourages singers to connect with the repertoire in multiple ways rather than relying on a single mode of engagement.

To make a long process of singing more engaging for the audience, make groups, when starting up, start and practice rehearsing.

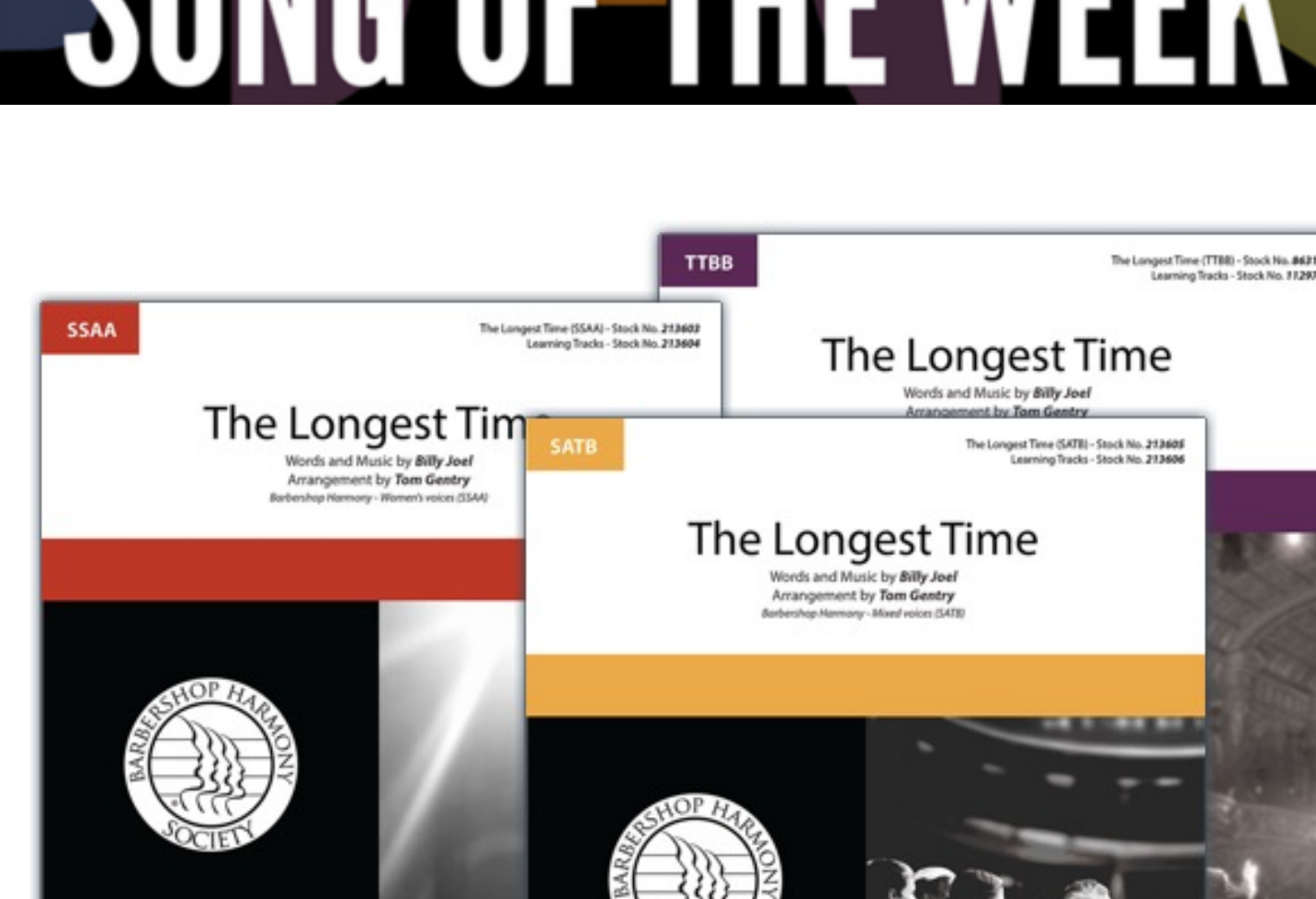
Rehearsal during rehearsal rehearsal patterns. If your chorus can't move from the middle to the back, or allow singers to choose where they stand. The middle plus ask singers from the middle of the chorus to step to the outside, and what singers hear and how they perform rehearsal and find.

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Mix it up! Reinvigorate your chorus rehearsals with new singing exercises that reinforce musicianship, boost listening skills, and deepen engagement. Jennifer Cooke brings great tips for energizing the best night of the week in the current Harmonizer, in mailboxes now and always online.

SONG OF THE WEEK



The Longest Time

arr. Tom Gentry

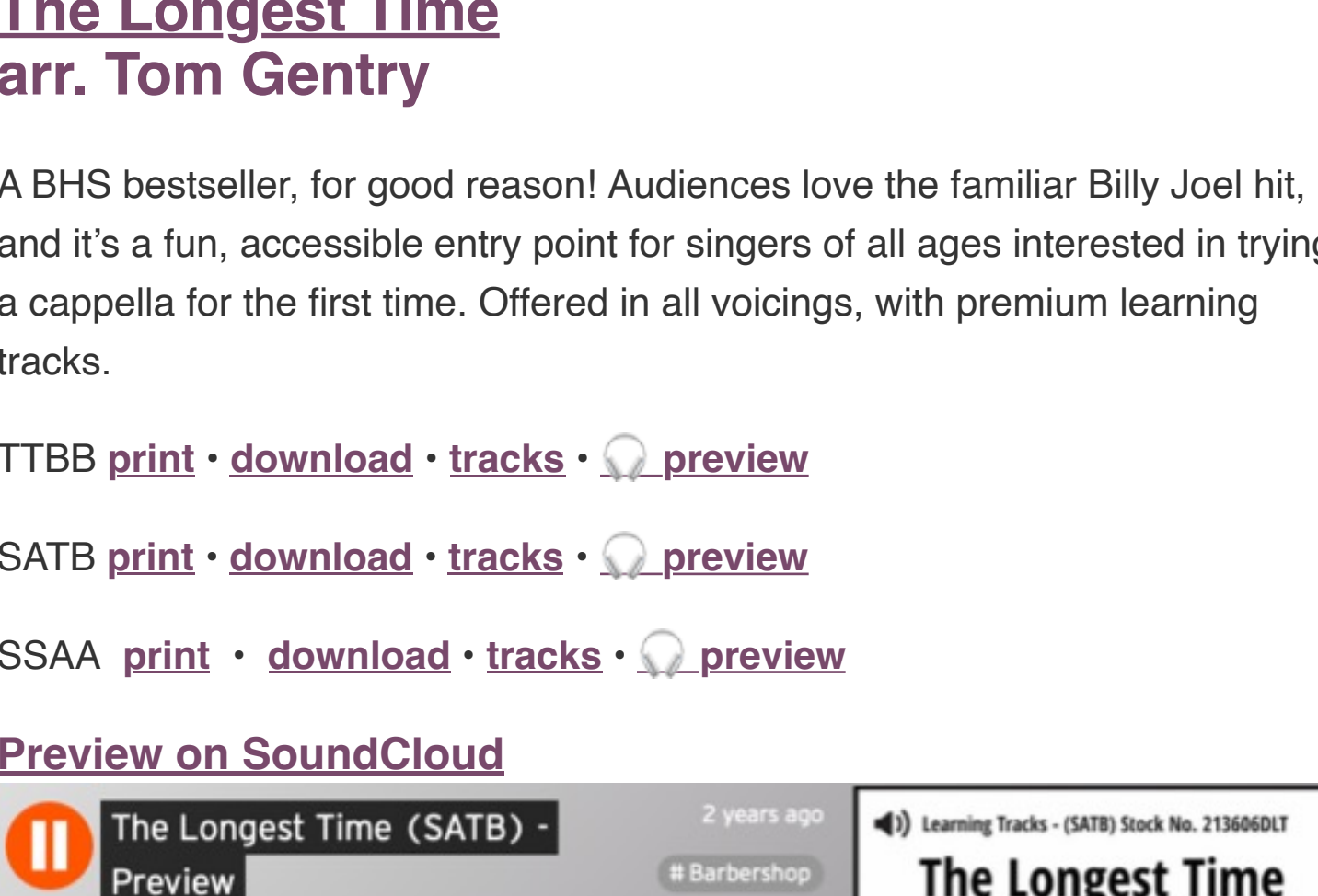
A BHS bestseller, for good reason! Audiences love the familiar Billy Joel hit, and it's a fun, accessible entry point for singers of all ages interested in trying a cappella for the first time. Offered in all voicings, with premium learning tracks.

TTBB print • download • tracks • preview

SATB print • download • tracks • preview

SSAA print • download • tracks • preview

Preview on SoundCloud



FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Cleveland Heights Women's Barbershoppers - Where is Love? 2026 Junior Chorus Festival - Pasadena

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