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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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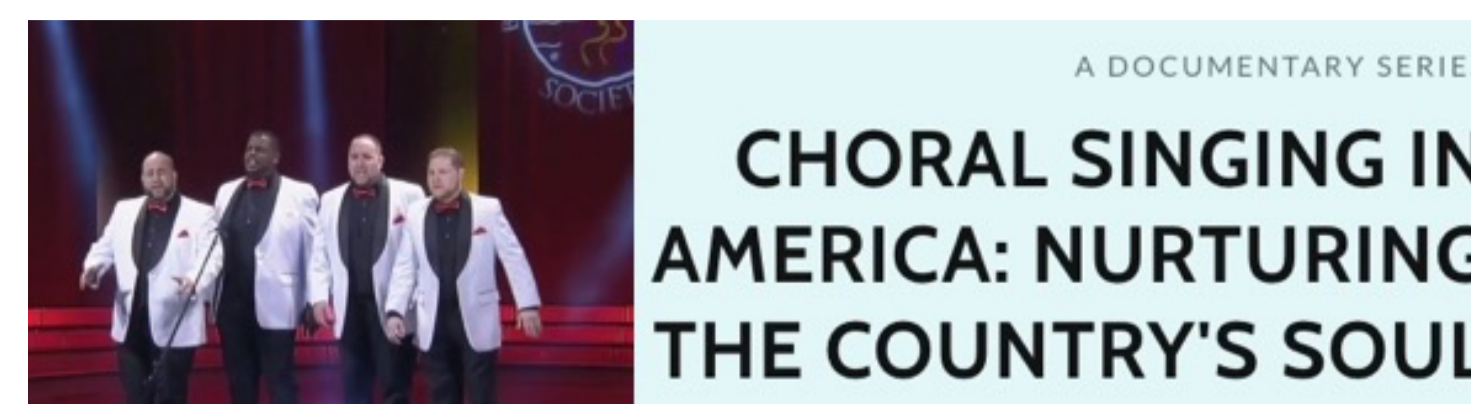
MAY 14, 2026

BARBERSHOP NEWS

The arts are getting their flowers!

There's something in the air right now, and it's not just pollen. Something life-affirming, community-building, heart-swelling.

The vital role of the arts in human wellness, happiness, and growth is at the center of the conversation right now... and that's great for Barbershoppers!



PREMIERES MAY 18 • PRIME VIDEO, APPLE TV, YOUTUBE MOVIES

New documentary uplifts singing together

Choral Singing in America is a visual representation of the breadth and depth of choral singing today. The film beautifully tells the myriad stories and sounds of American choral singers and leaders — stories that inspire, build community, foster hope, and showcase the tremendous social capital and community building of singing together.



Barbershop takes its place among many choral allies here, with performance footage and interviews with members of the Barbershop Harmony Society and Sweet Adelines International.

Watch the trailer on YouTube, and watch for the premiere next week on premium streaming platforms.



SING AND BE YOUNG



Engaging with the arts can slow biological aging, study shows

MAY 12, 2026 - 4:44 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION

Allison Aubrey

As reported on National Public Radio, a new study finds that making art may help boost longevity by slowing down your rate of aging.

"We found in this study that 'arts engagement' was related to 4% slower aging rates, meaning people were about a year younger, biologically, if they were regularly engaged in the arts," researcher Daisy Fancourt explains. "This is actually the same reduction in biological aging that we saw for physical activity."

SINGING & MENTAL HEALTH



Assael Romanelli Ph.D., LCSW

The Other Side of Relationships

RELATIONSHIPS

What Every Man Could Learn from a Barbershop Quartet

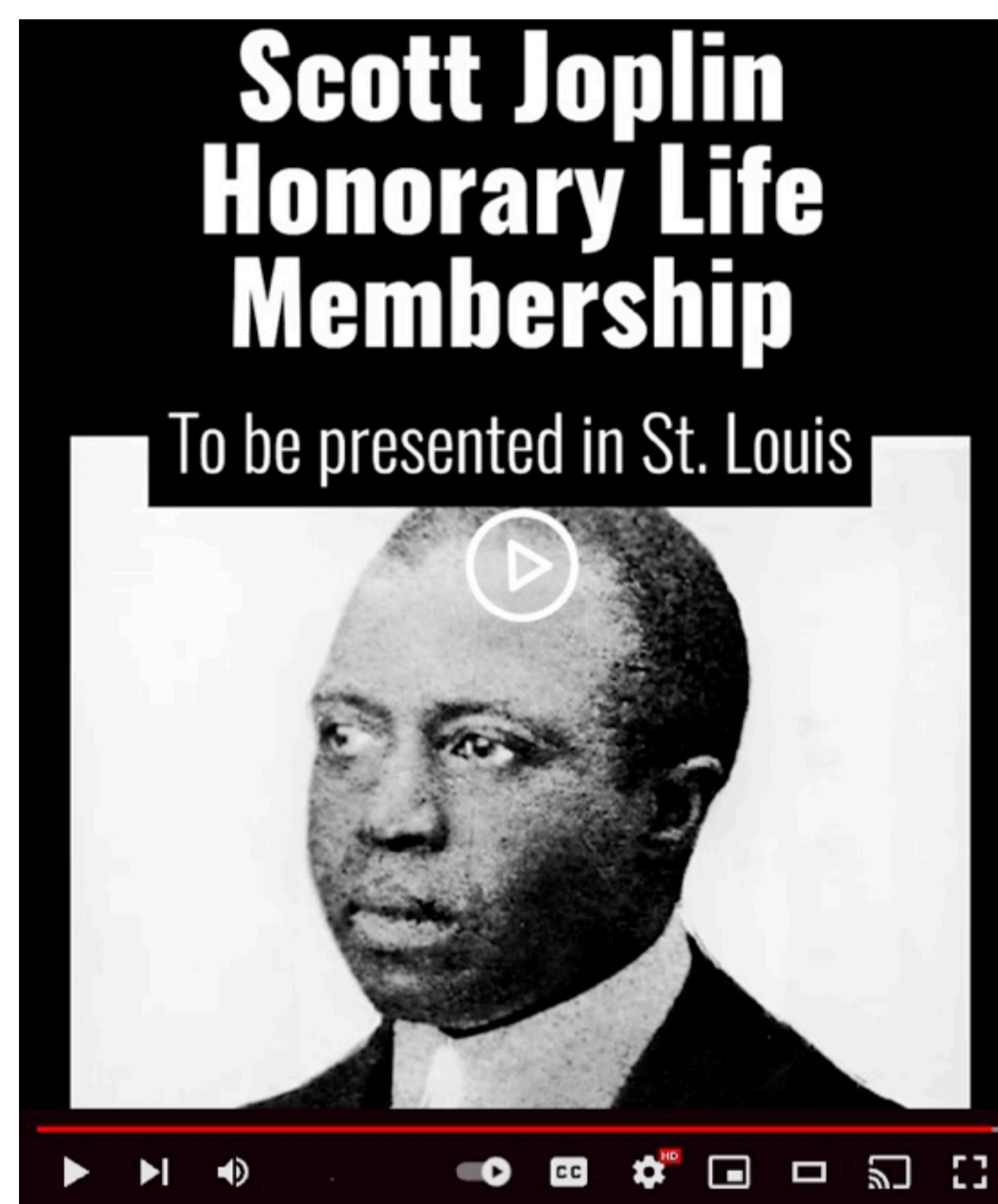
Dr. Assael Romanelli, writing with his father, Joe Romanelli, published "What Every Man Could Learn from a Barbershop Quartet" whose key findings are that "male intimacy is built through shared activity and vulnerability, not words... Every note is a chord. There is no solo. You are only as strong as the weakest voice."

BHS to honor Scott Joplin as Honorary Life Member

The music of America's "King of Ragtime" will be celebrated this summer at the BHS 2026 International Convention in St. Louis, a city long associated with the life of Scott Joplin.



The posthumous award will be presented to members of his family at a special celebration on Saturday evening, July 4. Joplin, whose works included barbershop quartet passages in his 1911 opera *Treemonisha*, will be honored for his extraordinary contributions to American music and his enduring influence on the art forms that define our nation's musical soul.



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PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH

Stauffer to represent BHS at NAfME Hill Day

This June, I have the privilege of representing the Barbershop Harmony Society at the National Association for Music Education's "Hill Day 2026" in support of federal legislation and programs that advance high-quality music education. After a day-long training session, roughly 300 NAfME members and partners spend the following day meeting with legislators from their respective states and districts to advocate for measures that promote equitable access to music education. As a member of both NAfME and BHS, I can say that the Venn diagram of our mutual aims is almost a perfect circle.



What makes this experience so powerful is that it champions what we already know to be true: the myriad benefits of music education. As barbershoppers, we know anecdotally and viscerally what singing does for us — the joy, the peace, the stress relief, and the human connection that come from making beautiful art together. We also know from evidence-based research that music education positively affects cognitive function, social-emotional learning, and academic achievement. Put simply, music is good for you.

What may not be as self-evident is the behind-the-scenes work that goes into music education advocacy. As every BHS/NAfME Music Educator of the Year will tell you, it takes years — and the partnership of students, parents, colleagues, administrators, and yes, legislators — to build and sustain life-giving music programs.

Want to add your voice in support of arts education? Visit NAfME and Save The Music Foundation to learn how you can support their work. In the meantime, sing! Connect with your local music educators to see how your chapter can support their efforts. Partner with community organizations that promote music and the arts, and learn from one another as you grow together.

Remember: music is good for you — and for all of us.

Bill Stauffer
BHS Director of Music and Education

READ MORE

SUMMER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Send this to a choral director



Barbershoppers already know the life-changing experience of Harmony University. But some music educators might not yet know the depth of instruction offered there, or the superbly credentialed faculty that make it possible.

Why not pass along this info? In fact, it's found in the *March/April Harmonizer*, which itself is a treasure of great instruction.

Come to think of it, YOU belong at Harmony University, too!

LEARN MORE

SONG OF THE WEEK

As Long As I Got You

arr. Eric Ruthenberg

A bouncy melody and old school "ramble in the park" sensibility make this a great addition to your repertoire. Although you would swear you've heard it in a Disney movie, nope, this was actually an original composition for the BHS / Nashville Songwriters Association Spring Search. You HAVE heard it sung by 2024 International Quartet champs 3 and a Half Men, though, so you know it's going to be FUN!

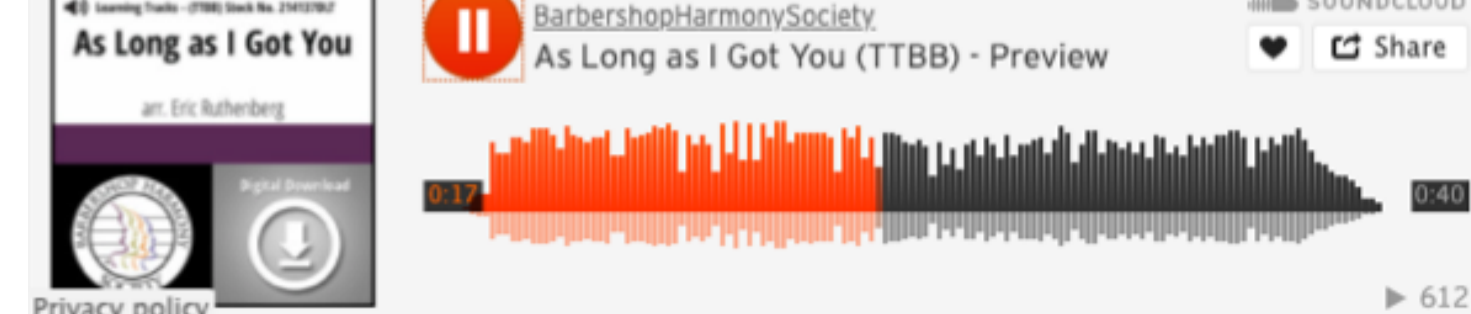


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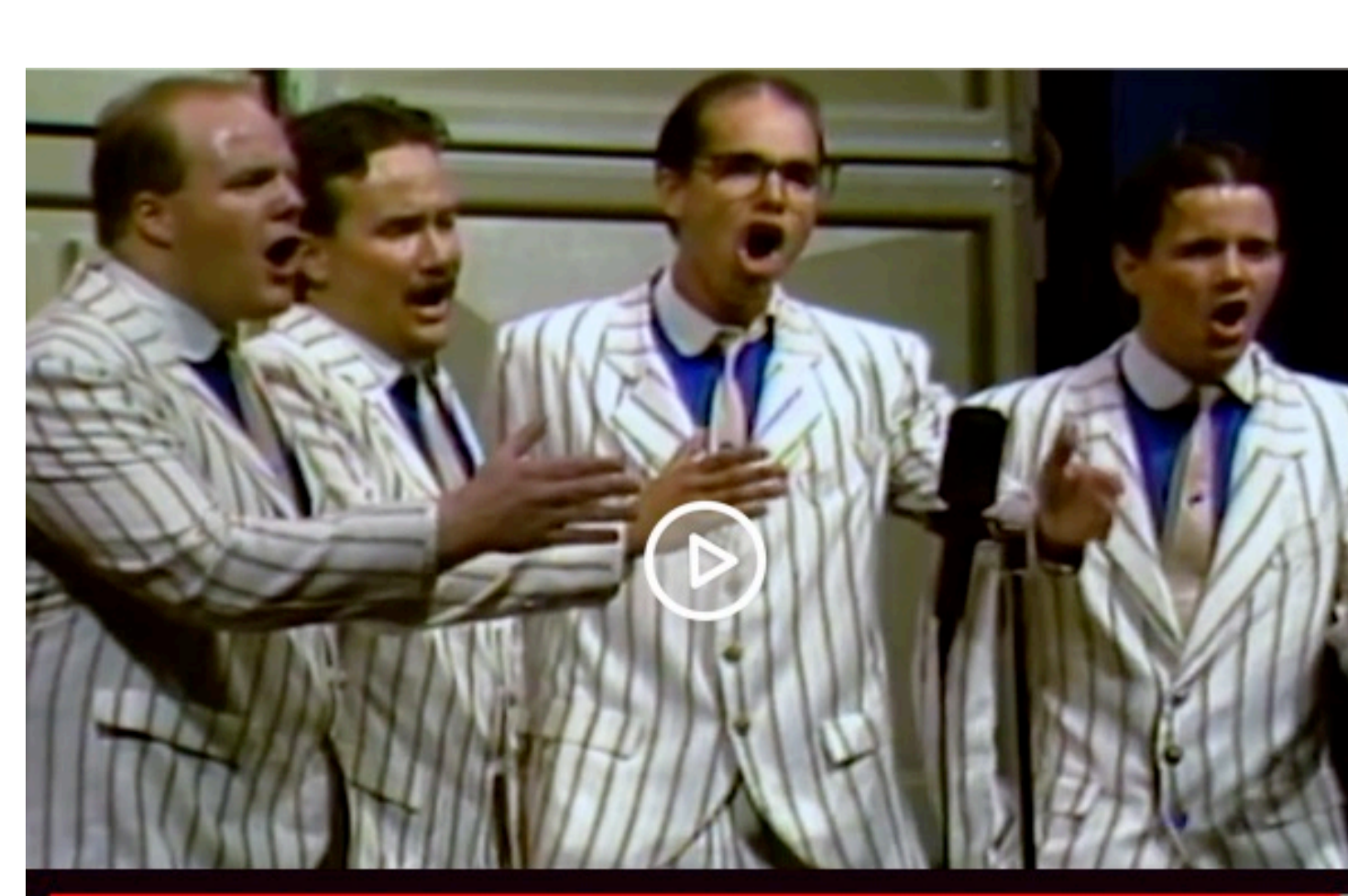
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FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Second Edition - Just a Cottage Small (by a Waterfall)
1988 International Quartet Contest - San Antonio