



livewire

news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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The AIG Presents
EIGHT Champions on ONE Stage for ONE Night!
July 3, 7:30pm
St. Louis
AICGOLD.COM

MAY 21, 2026

BARBERSHOP NEWS

Singing combats cognitive decline

Continuing research reveals that participating in regular group singing can significantly improve memory recall, verbal fluency, and cognitive performance in just 12 weeks—even showing potential to reverse certain effects of Alzheimer's.

Crucially, the benefits extend directly to caregivers. Shared singing reduces patient agitation, improves sleep patterns, and lowers resistance to daily care. This can significantly ease stress on caregivers and create positive shared experiences.

To maintain active cognition and enjoy these mutual benefits, consider these activities:

- **Sing together:** Whether in a more formalized chorus or group setting, or simply together one-on-one, sing with other people to trigger social neuroplastic engagement.
- **Memorize lyrics:** Regularly practice and recall new songs to give long-term memory a rigorous workout. Reviving old memories together strengthens bonds; sharing the experience of learning together builds active new memories.
- **Practice rhythmic breathing:** Focus on deep, coordinated breath control to maximize oxygen flow and mental stamina.

Dedicate 30 to 60 minutes a few times a week to make vocal exercise a powerful, protective routine for everyone involved.

[READ MORE](#)

JUST A WORD with Robert Rund

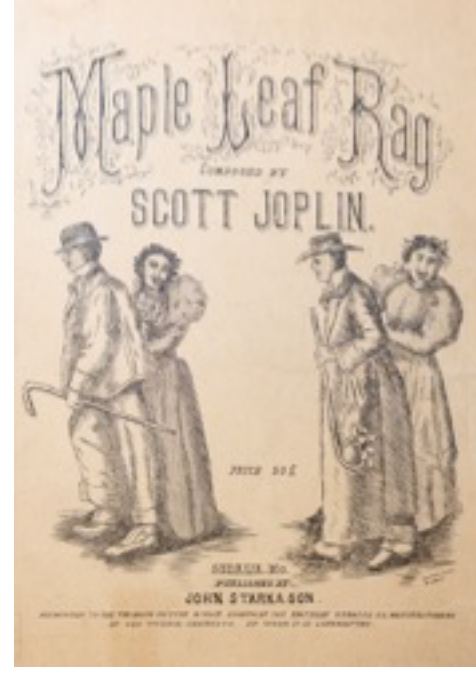


Joplin & Me

As many of you saw in last week's LiveWire, BHS will posthumously award Honorary Life Membership to Scott Joplin at this summer's International Convention in St. Louis. And honestly, it feels fitting. Joplin clearly loved vocal harmony. In fact, his 1911 opera Treemonisha includes a quartet selection that sounds about as close to early barbershop as you could imagine.

My admiration for Scott Joplin goes back a long way.

As many of you have probably heard me say before, I joined BHS in 1975, when I was just seven years old. Funny enough, that same year I picked up another hobby that would stick with me for life: the piano. And in my young mind, ragtime piano and barbershop harmony just naturally belonged together.



My mother still loves telling the story about my classical piano teacher calling her in one day to show her what I had done to my lesson book. Apparently, I had pasted barbershop tags over the endings of the classical pieces. I suppose even then I had arranging ideas!

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SPONSORED CONTENT

The Association of International Champions invites you to enjoy this year's AIC Show. Friday, July 3rd 7:30pm. St. Louis, Stifel Theatre.

We're calling it **THE MUSIC THAT MADE US**. An Amazing Eight International Champion quartets.

One Stage. One Night. Performing a once in a generation show! A perfect way to start the Fourth of July Weekend.



Three ways to experience the show.

- LIVE IN PERSON
- LIVE STREAM
- DELAYED VIEW.

Go to AICGOLD.com for tickets and Live Stream access.

SNEAK PEEK



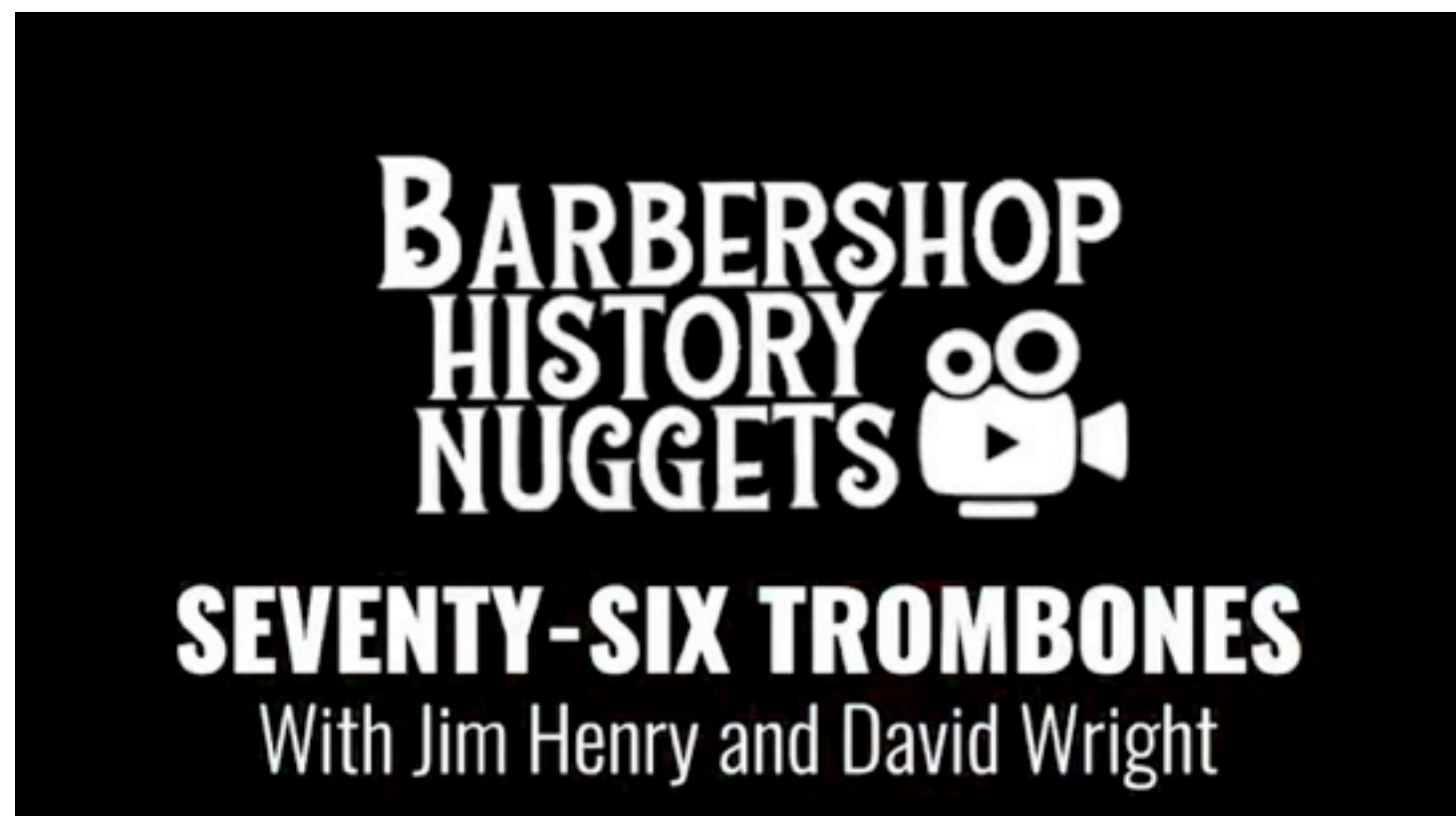
Small Fry - Vocal Spectrum

MEMORIAL DAY · U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAY

Harmony Hall will be closed on Monday, May 25

UNFORGETTABLE!

Revisiting 76 Trombones



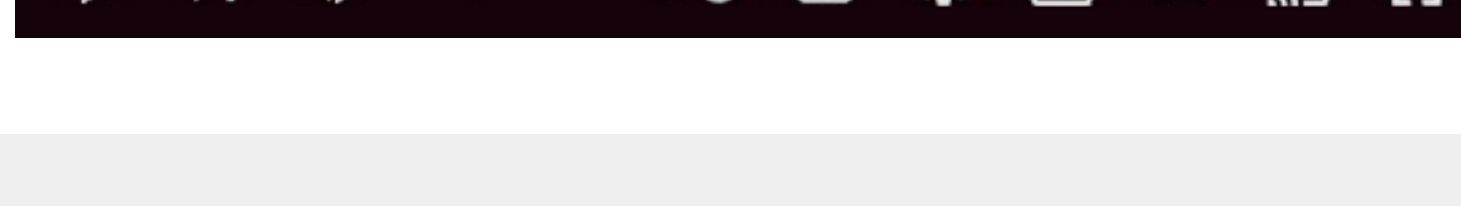
In a hobby filled with groundbreaking performances, the 2009 championship performance by the **Ambassadors of Harmony** of "Seventy-Six Trombones" still stands apart. It's one of those rare moments where creativity, musical excellence, timing, and just a little bit of magic all came together to create something timeless.

Arranger David Wright and director Jim Henry shared some fascinating behind-the-scenes stories about how the set came together and the many people who helped bring it to life on stage.

We're especially excited to share a newly remastered release of "Seventy-Six Trombones," featuring upscaled video and refreshed audio that makes this legendary performance feel brand new again.

History is made at every contest!

Whether it's a returning champ hoping to prove themselves yet again, or new emerging voices, the best in barbershop is at the BHS International Convention. The sweet, meet new competitors **Star Harmony Chorus**.



SONG OF THE WEEK

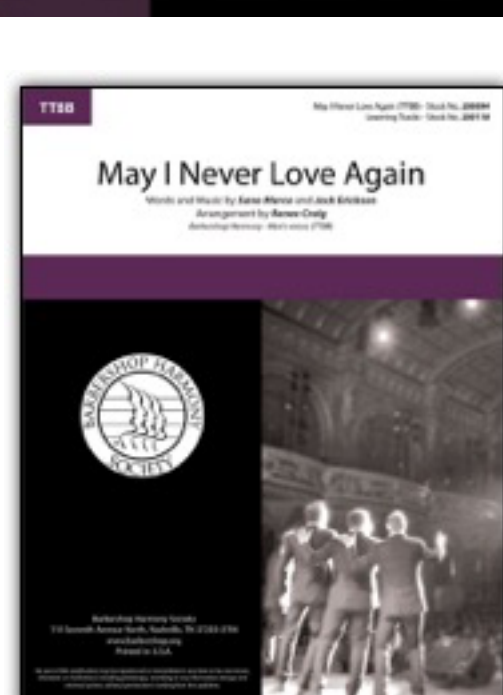
May I Never Love Again

arr. Renee Craig

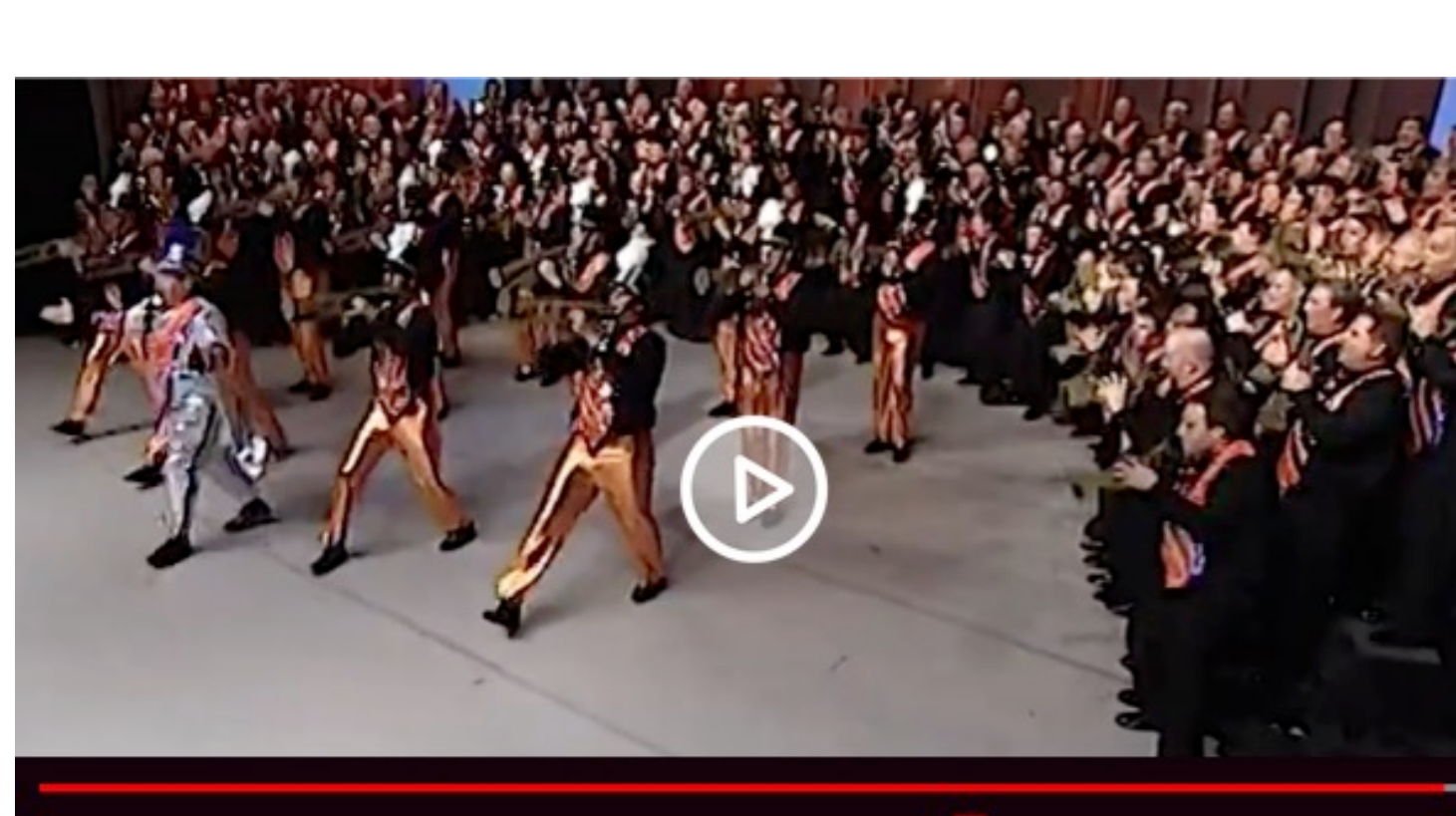
Longing, devotion... despair? This chamber steepers rich emotional weight in pristine barbershop chords.

TTBB [download](#) · [print](#) · [tracks](#)

[Preview on SoundCloud](#)



FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Ambassadors of Harmony · Seventy-Six Trombones
2009 International Chorus Contest · Anaheim
REMASTERED

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The AIG Presents
MUSIC THAT MADE US
July 3, 7:30pm
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