



NOTEWORTHY

The latest in the world of barbershop

● CHANGING LIVES THROUGH SINGING

John Wernega earns top educator honor

Arguably the leading expert on barbershop for elementary and middle school singers, he is now the 2021 BHS/NAFME Music Educator of the Year winner

In recognition of his excellence in teaching and impact on young singers, John Wernega of Quinton Township School received the 2021 Music Educator Award by the Barbershop Harmony Society and NAFME, The National Association for Music Education.

The BHS/NAFME award honors educators “who give students the opportunity to learn and participate in the joy and power that music education brings in uplifting the human spirit and fostering the well being of society.”

John Wernega is arguably the

most influential barbershop leader in the country at the elementary and middle school levels. Over the past six years, his young singing groups, particularly the **Wildcat Harmonizers**, have appeared across the U.S. at major barbershop festivals and conventions, and hosted local events drawing hundreds of young singers.

Like so many educators, John juggles his classroom duties with fundraising, costuming, set building, show scripting, and much more. John is a prodigious arranger, creating works for all his school and barbershop ensembles, and for



Four of John's Wildcat Harmonizers continued singing into their high school years. The Quin-Tones became the 2019 Next Generation Barbershop Junior Varsity Quartet Champions.

himself as a multi-instrumentalist YouTube performer. He still finds time to be a Philadelphia New Year's Day Mummer, and a church organist and choir director. It's not known if he ever actually sleeps.