



7-20-26

To Our Muni Volunteers: Thank You

As President of The Muni Board of Directors, I simply want to take a moment to thank our Volunteers.

This season has reminded me just how extraordinary our volunteer community truly is. Through every rehearsal, workday, performance, and behind-the-scenes task, you have continued to show up for one another and for The Muni. Your dedication, generosity, and love for this organization have been evident every step of the way.

For generations, The Muni has existed because countless volunteers have chosen to care for something larger than themselves. Whether you perform on stage, work backstage, play in the orchestra, build scenery, paint, sew costumes, sell tickets, work concessions, welcome patrons, serve on the Board, or volunteer in countless other ways, you are the reason The Muni continues to thrive.

This season has also reinforced that preserving this community requires more than producing exceptional theatre. It requires all of us, volunteers, leaders, and supporters alike, to approach one another with respect, thoughtful dialogue, and a willingness to listen.

Leadership within this organization is not ownership; it is stewardship. Serving as Board President has reinforced for me the responsibility that comes with that stewardship. I am committed to leading by example, encouraging respectful dialogue, and supporting efforts that continue to strengthen trust within our volunteer community. My hope is that all of us will continue working together to build an organization rooted in respect, belonging, and care for one Another.

I also recognize that this season has looked different for different people. Some members of our community chose to continue volunteering, while others chose to step away. The willingness of many members of our community to share their experiences and perspectives has challenged me to reflect on how we can continue strengthening The Muni for everyone.

I know this season has not been without challenges. Those experiences have reinforced the importance of continually evaluating ways to strengthen the organization and better support our volunteers. Many volunteers have asked what steps are being taken to strengthen The Muni moving forward. Rather than include a lengthy list in this post, The Muni will soon launch a page on our website that will outline the initiatives currently underway, provide regular updates on our progress, and identify opportunities for volunteers to share input.

I believe trust is strengthened through continued listening and meaningful action. I appreciate the thoughtful feedback that so many members of our community have shared and the willingness of volunteers to help strengthen this organization. My hope is that these efforts continue to create a positive experience for everyone who participates at The Muni.

The Muni has endured for generations because volunteers continue to invest their time, talents, and hearts in this special place. Every generation inherits this organization from those who came before and leaves it for those who follow. I hope that, together, we continue building a Muni that is worthy of that trust and leaves this organization stronger for future generations.

Thank you for believing in this organization. We simply could not do what we do without our volunteers. I look forward to enjoying our remaining performances together and continuing to build on the traditions that have made The Muni special for generations.

Thank you,

Kevin Burke III
President, Board of Directors
Springfield Municipal Opera