

October, 2017

Dear RCTC Music Family:

You may have heard by now that as of this fall, I have retired from Rochester Community and Technical College. (It seems so strange to write those words!)

If I count my two years as a student at RCTC, the total adds up to 34 years. Actually it was six years before that, at a concert in 1962 that included the "RJC" Choir, that I knew I would make music directing my life's work. I was only 12 at the time and no one believed me. But I knew for sure from that night on. In other words, there are few things in my life that have been more influential and positive, than this much loved college.

I am so deeply thankful for having had the opportunity to facilitate music-making with all of the students who have been so wonderful, lovable, energetic, talented, real, inspiring, fun and so much more. I kind of fell in love with them from the very beginning and it has never stopped. If any past and present Band, Choir, Aires and Jazz Band members are reading this: You have all been and remain so special to me. All of the music and wonderful times we were able to experience and enjoy together are now a permanent part of me – part of my Soul.

Of course, a *Huge Thanks* goes out to all of you, our kind and steadfast patrons, who have so loyally supported us all of these years. It was such a blessing to have you there – cheering for the students, who so deserved it. Music is such a human, giving, and sharing thing and having the support of people like you who enjoyed and were moved by their music has been a blessing beyond measure! It takes a village as they say, and you have been that village. You have my undying gratitude.

I also want to acknowledge and thank my wonderful colleagues and administrators over the years. I know that you will keep RCTC the great and caring college it has always been. And to Rhonda Jenson, our department secretary, thank you for who you are and for all that you have done. You have been more a part of our success through the years than you will ever know.

My very best wishes go out to the ensembles and their Interim Director, Dr. David Kassler, as they continue to put music into their own lives and into the lives of others.

God Bless,
Chuck Blattner