

Exclusive Musical Instruction
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Susan Lea Blanchette
Studio Owner

October 23, 2012

Dear College Admissions Committee:

I am very pleased to recommend Adam Leibowitz for admission to your university. As the owner of Exclusive Musical Instruction, and Adam's vocal instructor at Suffield, I have watched this young man develop both academically and musically into an individual who will be able to add a great deal to your fine arts program and school.

I have seen Adam weekly for classical and musical theatre vocal instruction. Unquestionably Adam is one of the finest students I have instructed. His academic mastery combined with his talent produce results that are paralleled by only a select few. Adam has received top vocal honors as the most outstanding student in his age category. Additionally Adam is very active in Suffield Academy's musical theatre program and is currently in "How To Succeed In Business". He performed Rapunzel's Prince in the 2011 production of "Into the Woods" and in 2010 Adam played George in "The Wedding Singer". His charming performances captured the audience both musically and theatrically. Adam is a member of Honors Chamber Singers as well as the select Advance Vocal Techniques class.

Adam is one of the most dedicated, driven students I have had the joy of teaching in my thirty years in education. He has poured himself into his academic studies and musical development, yet at the same time he has not neglected the compassionate or cultural aspects of life. Adam has been a summer volunteer working with children at the Rural Mission Migrant Head Start Program on Johns Island, in South Carolina. You will find Adam is a well balanced young man who is sensitive to the needs of those around him.

Unquestionably Adam Leibowitz is an exceptional young man. Adam has a depth of personal character and determination beyond measure. I have complete confidence Adam will be a magnificent addition to your campus. His propensity for the fine arts coupled with his academic drive and compassion for those around him make him the ideal candidate. I wholeheartedly recommend him without reservation.

Sincerely:

Susan Lea Blanchette
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Studio Owner

SUSAN COLLINS
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To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure for me to recommend Adam Leibowitz for admission to college, for any of which I am confident he would prove to be an asset. I am an ASCAP award-winning singer-songwriter, singing on numerous gold and platinum records and won an Emmy for my work on Saturday Night Live (bio attached). It has been my privilege to give Adam vocal instruction for the past seven years and to produce him in the studio. An extremely talented young man and a very hard worker, Adam is focused, charming and tenacious. I have seen these qualities in Adam not only as a student but also as an emerging artist.

As a teacher of many students, I know that Adam is exceptional. He always arrives armed with an exciting musical concept to better a song's arrangement in melody, harmony, and rhythm. He demonstrates an affable presence singing the songs he loves. Adam is an engaging performer, and a well-rounded young man who will surely make a significant contribution to any program he chooses to attend.

I feel confident that Adam's innate gifts for music combined with his persistence and ability to light up a stage will make him a great success in this rapidly transforming business. If you would like to discuss this application further from my perspective, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Susan Collins Caploe
October 1, 2012

SUSAN COLLINS

began her professional career in 1966 at the Cafe Wha? in Greenwich Village singing with Jimi Hendrix in Jimmy James and the Blue Flames, the ground-breaking guitarist's group just before he left NYC for London. Then a sophomore straight out of Brooklyn's Lafayette High, Susan was managed by singer-songwriter Richie Havens, with whom she later attended Woodstock, flying in by helicopter. In 2011 Susan's close friend and musical director of 35 years, Paul Shaffer stated: "Susan Collins is my favorite singer...period!" Paul calls her "my BFF and a singer's singer - what a voice!" In 2006 Susan sang a song she co-wrote with Paul, on a bill with Harry Shearer, Marshall Crenshaw, and They Might Be Giants at NYC's Canal Room. Of this performance, Fox News.com's Roger Friedman wrote: "Collins is terrific. She can hold her own with Ronnie Spector any day of the week." Susan appeared with Spector, Lesley Gore, Lala Brooks et. al. at Lincoln Center's girl group tribute SHE'S GOT THE POWER in the summer of 2011.

YOU CAN TAKE THE GIRL OUTTA BROOKLYN, Susan's autobiographical musical revue (originated at bergenPac NJ before its NYC run), tells the story of how she started singing a cappella on the street corner of her housing project in the 1960s and went on to a career in the music business, making key vocal contributions to numerous hit records, TV shows, movies and advertising.

Recipient of the ASCAP Award for songwriting, Susan's first day job was writing for legendary producer/TV host and 2012 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, the late Don Kirshner. Susan has numerous gold records to her name, writing, singing, and/or recording with Leon Russell in Joe Cocker's Mad Dogs and Englishmen ("The Letter"), Todd Rundgren ("Hello It's Me"), Rita Coolidge and Kris Kristofferson, The New Riders of the Purple Sage, Electric Light Orchestra ("Evil Woman"/"Strange Magic"/originator of the line "Hello Cleveland" onstage in Philadelphia, later written into the film *This is Spinal Tap*), Luther Vandross, Cissy Houston, John Lennon, Odyssey ("Native New Yorker"), Paul Davis (on their #1 hit song "Sweet Life", later covered by Marie Osmond), Kiss (Ace Frehley's "New York Groove"/Speedin' Back to My Baby"), and Kiki Dee (on Jerry Ragavoy's "Stay With Me Baby"). A veteran of the National Lampoon Radio Hour (Christopher Guest's "Kung Fu Christmas"), Susan was vocal coordinator on the first several seasons of Saturday Night Live (NBC) 1976-1980, singing, co-composing, and/or arranging, among other material, Martin Mull's Emmy Award-winning "Suzy Forgives Patty" (Hearst) and "Jewess Jeans" (lip-synced by her friend Gilda Radner, part of the permanent collection of the Jewish Museum, NYC) with the Not Ready for Prime Time Players - Dan Akroyd, John Belushi, Chevy Chase, Jane Curtin, Bill Murray, and Larraine Newman - as well as comedy and musical guests including Monty Python's Eric Idle, Roberta Flack, Phoebe Snow, and Brian Wilson. A regular collaborator at SNL was composer-arranger and multiple Oscar winner (for *Lord of the Rings*) Howard Shore.

Susan has performed numerous times on Late Night (NBC) and Late Show (CBS) with David Letterman, backing such artists as Neil Diamond, Jackie Chan, and Darlene Love. She numbers among her good friends and collaborators the legendary Ellie Greenwich (late writer-producer with Jeff Barry and Phil Spector of "Leader of the Pack," "Be My Baby," "Chapel of Love," "Do Wah Diddy," and "Da Doo Ron Ron") at whose tribute Susan sang at Lincoln Center 2011; singer Ula Hedwig (original Broadway production of "Hair" and long-time member of Bette Midler's backing group The Harlettes), and folkie comedian David Buskin (of Buskin & Batteau). Susan proudly sang in a benefit for Hurricane Katrina victims with Tom Chapin.

Susan's Screen Actors Guild credits include on-camera work at New York's fabled night club The Bottom Line in the film *Boardwalk* with Lee Strasberg and Ruth Gordon, original songs for *Warriors* with George C. Scott, AM radio hit singer (songs by Fountains of Wayne's Adam Schlesinger) in *That Thing You Do* (produced by Jonathan Demme, directed by and starring Tom Hanks), and featured on the soundtrack for *Doctor Evil* and Frau Farbissina's conjugal visit in Mike Myers's *Austin Powers Goldmember*.

Susan has become an acclaimed private vocal coach and mentor to young and developing musical talent. She teaches a series of master classes at Actors Technique New York (at Pearl Studio) with professionals appearing in commercials, TV, film, and Broadway. In the summer of 2012 Collins will premiere a week-long performance intensive with ATNY at French Woods, NY.