

September 17, 2020

To the panel at UCAP:

I am writing to strongly recommend Darita Seth. Darita is a passionate and accomplished singer and educator, and a well-rounded musician of very high caliber.

As Interim Music Director of [Chanticleer](#), I hired Darita to sing as a countertenor in 2013. Often referred to as “America’s *a cappella* Pride and Joy,” Chanticleer is one of the leading professional choirs in the world, employing twelve full-time singers who sing over 110 concerts and five different concert programs each year, tour internationally, and lead workshops with over 5000 students worldwide. All ensemble members are expected to maintain vocal health to meet a rigorous rehearsal and concert schedule, demonstrate advanced musicianship, flexibility, knowledge of foreign languages, and well-developed written and verbal communication skills. When “at home” in San Francisco, 4-hour rehearsals occur daily, along with significant outreach to local schools and committee work to shape the finer points of the organization’s operations. A total of nearly seven months of the ensemble’s life is spent on tour.

Darita was hired for his ability to fulfill all of the above qualifications and more. His warm and strong vocal tone was immediately apparent in auditions, and he demonstrated flexibility in rehearsals, adapting to the diverse styles of repertoire as needed. Because of his skills as a pianist and conductor, Darita is an excellent sight-reader, and capably handled the pace of rehearsals and mastery of diverse repertoire. As a colleague, Darita was flexible but also knew when to gently push back, advocate for himself, and express his opinions articulately. He worked on several committees integral to Chanticleer’s success, all of which act as a liaison between the singers and the administrative staff to facilitate better strategic alignment between artist’s needs and organizational operations. Darita served on the Image Committee (working to continually update the “look” of the group in photos, social media, and the website), the Music Director Search Committee (sourcing and vetting candidates for the position; communicating with the administrative staff), and Education Committee (organizing and leading small-group workshops with students, acting as an educational ambassador on behalf of Chanticleer when the entire ensemble could not be present).

Above all else, Darita was a joy to work with. He joined the ensemble immediately after college, and his personal-professional growth was remarkable. In the years following his tenure in Chanticleer, he has remained an excellent colleague who continues to make an important impact on the lives of students, his choristers, and—by extension—audiences who have the pleasure of encountering his music-making. I highly recommend Darita Seth. Please contact me if any further information is needed.

Best regards,

Jace Wittig

Former Music Director, Chanticleer
Associate Artistic Director, Cantabile Youth Singers
Founder and Artistic Director, Gaude