



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLY WRITE PRODUCTIONS

(L to R) Haben, Lianda, and Salina are anticipating the release of their yet-to-be-filled debut album, produced by John Silva. The group's videos on YouTube and MySpace have experienced more than 700,000 hits.

**BY ANDREW FICKES**

If you're a regular user of YouTube just type in "Haben Abraham" and you'll be catapulted into everything "Abraham:" Haben, 11; Lianda, 15, and Salina, 14. The three sisters from Renton have had more than 700,000 views on YouTube and MySpace since debuting their talent on the Internet sites three years ago.

"They love each other. They're really smart kids, they have a dream, and they want to go for it," says their co-manager Robert Cann. "They're just normal kids who are remarkable young artists. Their talent comes naturally to them; they don't let it go to their heads, and they work really hard."

# EriAm sisters

## Renton's stunning young divas

Haben, the most recognized of the three young divas, has been in the local, regional, and national spotlight since as early as 2005. It started with her former music teacher at Highlands Elementary School, Sheri Kittay, who recognized her dynamic talent and let her father know something should be done. Haben's father Mulugheta, a native of the East African country of Eritrea, immediately began uploading videos of Haben—including an early performance of Beyoncé's "Listen."

Cann, a senior sales manager at a Ford dealership in Issaquah, had a chance encounter with the Abraham

family when they came to purchase a vehicle. During negotiations, it came up somehow that Haben was an exceptional singer. At first, Cann thought how sweet that this young girl Haben could sing. Mulugheta and his wife Tiblets led Cann to a computer and showed him Haben on YouTube.

"My mouth just dropped after I saw her on YouTube," he says.

Cann told the family that he had connections in the local entertainment industry through his father, who during the 1960s and 1970s was an entertainment promoter.

"We began first to focus on Haben and her talent,

rather than the other two sisters, because she was the youngest and the impression was most strong," he says. "When you talk with her, you would never think that she would have a vocal talent like that, and then all of a sudden you see her live. She is a creative type, very impressive, smart and intelligent."

In March of this year, Haben (within days apart) performed on the "America's Most Talented Kids" segment of the Maury Povich TV show in New York City, the Children's Miracle Network awards in Orlando, and the second round contest audition

**SISTERS ~ page 16**



## SISTERS from page 9

of the America's Got Talent contest in Los Angeles.

"The Maury Povich show was a lot of fun," says Haben. "I made a lot of friends there. And even though I was sick that day, I did pretty well."

While singing solo is fun and has attracted attention for Haben, she says

that singing with her sisters is when she's most comfortable.

"It's fun to perform with my sisters, because we're family," she says.

The sisters together go by the name EriAm, which stands for Eritrean-American. It reflects their lineage from Eritrea to America.

With the help of Cann and the support of their parents, the sisters connect-

ed with executive producer John Silva and last June began recording a 14-track album that incorporates the sounds of R & B and soul. The summer was filled with eight-hour recording days. Three songwriters contributed tracks; four songs were originals from the sisters.

Cann says he and Mulugheta will be in negotiations with several labels for distribution, including Warner, EMI, Geffen,

Disney and Nickelodeon.

"Our short term goal for the girls is showcasing their talent and increasing their fan base, while enjoying family and school life," says Mulugheta. "The long term goal is to create a strong sisters band that is a household name and becomes a role model for many youngsters."

More information on the sisters is at [www.habenabraham.com](http://www.habenabraham.com).



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