



Missy Elliott

Origins

Melissa Elliott grew up singing in church and imagining a performing career in Portsmouth, Virginia. She formed the group Fayze, later known as Sista, and entered the Swing Mob orbit, where writers and producers learned from one another under intense conditions.

Her early life included poverty and publicly disclosed family trauma. These facts should be handled sparingly and compassionately: the important arc is that she and her mother left an abusive home, and songwriting became a route toward agency.