

Meet the KC Sisters, the Avon family band making sweet music

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The KC Sisters consists of, from left, Deanna, Elise, Kathleen, Tasha and Noelle.

Brian Gallo

The five-sister girl band based in Avon has been featured on Nickelodeon's *America's Most Talented Family*, and has nearly 56,000 followers on [TikTok](#) with nearly 1 million likes. And they're just getting started.

Two of the sisters — Deanna and Noelle — have graduated from college, Deanna from the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music and Noelle from Trinity College in Hartford. Tasha is a senior at Trinity, while twins Elise and Kathleen are sophomores, also at Trinity. Deanna and Noelle both chose jobs that allow them flexibility so the group can keep up weekly rehearsals, recordings and

performances. Deanna is an applied behavioral therapist who works with autistic children and Noelle is a financial analyst.

That the KC Sisters love music is not surprising. Mom Jennifer Casey is a professional violinist who runs the music program at Talcott Mountain Academy in Avon and is a private violin teacher. Dad Chris is a professor of jazz studies at Hartt and a jazz music arranger, directing the Hartt Big Band. When the girls were younger, Chris did most of the arrangements for their songs while Jennifer was the manager. Today, the parents increasingly are stepping aside as the sisters take over their musical destiny.

And they're very specific about their goals. During a recent interview before a rehearsal, the sisters sit around the living room in the home they grew up in and share their vision. They often finish each other's thoughts and sentences, not unlike the way they sing. Although the music they heard at home growing up included a lot of classical influences — they all studied violin — as well as plenty of Ray Charles, Count Basie and Ella Fitzgerald, they now count Carrie Underwood, Alison Krauss and especially Taylor Swift as their inspirations.

"Taylor Swift tells a story for each song," says Deanna, who writes many of the group's songs. "And they're something that you can remember," adds Noelle. "And she's switched so many times. She started in country and is now more pop."

Elise pipes in, "And she had to change her image so many times, and the way she did it was so smart."

"I always loved her and got made fun of for it," says Deanna. "Now the whole world loves her." Noelle says that several of the people with whom they've shared some of the new tunes they will release this year and next have said they sound a little like Taylor Swift.

Jennifer is the one who initially got the girls performing beyond their living room. "They were sitting around at night and singing songs. They would put on skits and little dances," she says. "And then I thought we should take them to senior homes because they would enjoy the girls singing and playing the violin." That led to recording a Christmas album in 2007, and things, she says, "kept spiraling."

The sisters credit their father with helping them develop their harmonic style and versatility. “Our dad raised us to sing them all,” Deanna says of various harmonic parts. “Gradually we have our set parts, but we like to mix it up so we can be more versatile.”

The same was true of instruments. While most homes’ walls are filled with art, the Casey living room wall features an array of guitars, a banjo, even a cello, hanging from straps. All of them started playing violin when they were 4. “Dad would say, let’s learn this instrument, whether it was guitar or drums,” says Deanna. Adds Noelle, “If you ever watch one of our shows, it’s like musical chairs. To us it’s just normal.”

In addition to writing original music, the sisters record most of their own music and make their own videos. “It’s nice to know what’s happening so when we do go into [a professional] studio later, we will know what we want. We will have experience, and that’s important.”

While they are constantly adding to their original songs, the sisters also know the value of keeping some of their cover tunes in the mix. “If you do originals for the majority, you lose the audience because they can’t dance to it,” says Elise.

The sisters are realistic about the music business, recognizing that making it as a sister band can be an uphill slog. “There are not a lot of sister bands that do what we do,” says Noelle.

On the other hand, life on the road with some of your favorite people isn’t a bad way to start a career, says Tasha. “We are close and we are friends,” she says. “The idea of traveling around, making that lifestyle work — it would be a lot of fun.”