

# **IYASU BERHE; A GRAND ETHIOPIAN AND AN ARTIST WITH EXCEPTIONAL TALENT**

**By**

**Yohannes Gebresellasi (Ph.D) Canada**

Iyasu Berhe : a great artist with an extraordinary talent, a vibrant motivator, a freedom fighter, an advocate of culture and a symbol of unity in diversity. He can move mountains with his dazzling, prolific and extraordinary stage performance and sway audiences as he likes with his glittering, dynamic and articulate oratory skills. Iyasu is one and only; he is an art, he is music and he is culture. He is a man who motivates and persuades individuals, groups, communities and even the whole nation for a good cause. He is a soldier, a teacher, a business man. He is simply a great Ethiopian who loves his country and his people. Iyasu is a good man with exceptional talent. Iyasu symbolizes brilliance, creativity and uniqueness. When he was in the field fighting for freedom, he went beyond fascinating and energizing his comrades in arms and reached communities across the nation and abroad. His art and his music is beyond borders. His music can make one cry for love of freedom, it can make one laugh and enjoy because Iyasu is simply hilarious and at times funny. To be with Iyasu is simply to have fun and enjoy life because he was a happy man. One can say more and more about this extraordinary man but what remains in my mind for ever is when he came to North America to inspire Ethiopian Diasporas and what a show it was! All Ethiopian Diasporas there wanted to have a bit of him; they all rushed to salute him; they all rushed to embrace him; they all loved and admired him and they all showered him with gifts and presents. Even before he started singing, there was a cue of people from the audiences ready to shower him with gifts of love and admiration. Here at home, Iyasu Berhe is a household name because he was everywhere from coast to coast of the nation helping fund raise for communities, for youth, for women, for the elderly and the likes. He is master of ceremony with exceptional stage talent. He can make the impossible possible. Finally though, he has to stop all that outstanding performance because as he is but human, he is tired and he has to rest for good. We do not want him to rest even for a while though; may be not him either but the other power wanted him to rest. We have no power to stop that even if we wanted to so all of a sudden, his heart has to stop functioning and he has to go to rest for ever. We all are going to miss him as he was with as in good and in bad times. We shall cherish his exceptional talent and personality as long as we lived. His unique service to our country and our people at home and abroad shall never be forgotten and will be remembered for ever. May God bless him and may God give strength and courage to his family and friends.