



Voice of McDonald's II Judges – Final Competition, April 17

Ne-Yo

Grammy-Award winner Ne-Yo, who has impressed audiences with his talents since 2006 with his multi-platinum, chart-topping debut, *In My Own Words*, is fed-up with the sloppiness of current R&B. With Ne-Yo's third disc, *Year of the Gentleman*, the Las Vegas native and premier songwriter has constructed a suite of songs that shows exactly what he means by class. The songs were written over the course of his travels through Europe last year and influenced by his own fascination with the Rat Pack. Like the best artists, Ne-Yo's music has an eternal sound that appeals to fans of all ages.

In addition to penning his new collection, Ne-Yo has penned lyrics for Rihanna, Janet Jackson, Mary J. Blige and Celine Dion as well as the chart topping, record breaking, Grammy nominated song "Irreplaceable" for Beyonce.

As well as recording *Year of the Gentleman*, last year proved to be a very busy time for the young talent. He released his award-winning album, toured nationally and made multiple TV appearances including *Christmas in Washington*.

In addition to his singing and songwriting, Ne-Yo continues to give back to the community through his foundation, the Compound Foundation, which supports at-risk youth through programs aimed at teaching business, academic and life skills. Ne-Yo is also an avid supporter and friend of Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Jody Gerson, Sony ATV Music Publishing

After six years at Chappell Music, EMI's chairman asked Gerson to run his east coast publishing division. In 1991, she was tapped to re-vitalize EMI's west coast operation, where she signed and built a stable of some of the most cutting edge and innovative talent in the music industry, including Arrested Development, Enrique Iglesias, Alicia Keys, Norah Jones, Blackground Entertainment (Aaliyah), T-Boz (TLC), Kelly Clarkson, Rooney, Van Hunt and Kenna. Gerson produced the successful movies *Drumline* and *ATL*. In January 2008, Jody was appointed U.S. co-president for Sony ATV Music Publishing,

Kenneth Hertz, Goldring, Hertz and Lichtenstein, LLP

As a senior partner in the Beverly Hills law firm of Goldring, Hertz and Lichtenstein, LLP, Hertz and his partners specialize in representing talent and new media companies in the entertainment industries. The firm's clients include Will Smith, Destiny's Child, Beyonce Knowles, No Doubt, Gwen Stefani, The Black Eyed Peas, will.i.am, Herbie Hancock, Chris Brown, Britney Spears and Ne-Yo. Prior to joining the firm, Ken was in charge of music -- business and legal affairs -- for The Walt Disney Company. Ken is also a principal in Membrain - an entertainment marketing and strategy consulting firm whose client roster includes McDonald's -- and is an adjunct professor of law at USC.

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