



Presents NE-YO

Shaffer Chimere Smith (born on October 18, 1982 in Camden, Arkansas but raised in Las Vegas, Nevada) is an American R&B singer-songwriter. He is best known by his stage name, Ne-Yo. He is currently signed to Def Jam Records. He was previously best known for co-writing Mario's 2004 number one hit, "Let Me Love You", before he began a recording career of his own in 2005. Ne-Yo's debut album, *In My Own Words*, was released in early 2006 and debuted at number one on *The Billboard 200* selling 301,000 copies in the first week. During the same period, Ne-Yo's second single, "So Sick", (produced by Stargate) became the number one song on the *Billboard Hot 100* chart. He is of African-American, Puerto Rican, and Chinese descent.



While still in high school, Ne-Yo belonged to R&B group Envy, going by the stage-name GoGo. Since the group's disbanding in 2000, Ne-Yo had substantive success as a songwriter, co-authoring songs for artists such as Mary J. Blige, Ruben Studdard, Marques Houston, Faith Evans, Christina Milian, B2K, Nivea, Tyrese, Rihanna, Jamie Foxx and Heather Headley. After getting out of a record deal with Columbia Records that saw no released material, Ne-Yo decided to remain as a songwriter, but a close friend introduced him to L.A. Reid, who signed Ne-Yo on the spot to Def Jam Records.



The singer's nickname was given to him by a friend (Shawn Milligan), who stated that the singer could 'see' music like Keanu Reeves's "Neo" character could see the Matrix in *The Matrix* film trilogy. Ne-Yo added the "-Yo" to match rap culture. In the *May Vibe Magazine* it states that Ne-Yo has a Chinese grandfather. Ne-Yo said that growing up his father 'Wiley' would abuse his mother. The singer also has a son named Chimere.

Def Jam released "Stay", featuring Peedi Crakk, as Ne-Yo's debut single in 2005, and Ne-Yo's debut album *In My Own Words*, Ne-Yo's debut album was released in February 2006. "Stay" was well-received by the urban community, reaching number 36 on the *Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles & Tracks*, but failed to chart on the *Billboard Hot 100*. The album's second single, "So Sick", was a larger success, reaching number-one on the *Hot 100* and the *Pop 100*, as well as the official UK chart.

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