

= Ne @-@ Yo =

Shaffer Chimere Smith (born October 18 , 1979) , better known by his stage name Ne @-@ Yo , is an American R & B singer , songwriter , record producer , dancer , and actor . Ne @-@ Yo gained fame for his songwriting abilities when he penned his 2004 hit " Let Me Love You " for singer Mario . The single 's successful release in the United States prompted an informal meeting between Ne @-@ Yo and Def Jam 's label head , and the signing of a recording contract .

= = Early life = =

Ne @-@ Yo was born in Camden , Arkansas . His father is of African American and Chinese descent , and his mother is African @-@ American . Both his parents were musicians . As a young child , he was raised by his mother after she separated from his father . In hopes of better opportunity , his mother relocated the family to Las Vegas , Nevada .

While in the Las Vegas Academy , Smith adopted the stage name " GoGo " and joined an R & B group called Envy , who appeared during amateur night on Showtime at the Apollo and on the MTV 's The Cut (hosted by Lisa " Left Eye " Lopes of TLC) . The group disbanded in 2000 , and Smith continued to write songs for other artists before starting his solo career . The stage name " Ne @-@ Yo " was coined by Big D Evans , a producer with whom Ne @-@ Yo once worked , because Evans claimed that Ne @-@ Yo sees music as Neo sees the matrix .

= = Music career = =

= = = 1998 ? 2005 : Career beginnings = = =

At an early age , Ne @-@ Yo emerged on the recording industry scene as a member of the Romford @-@ based quartet Envy , which featured Chimna Orji as its leading woman . After the group disbanded in 2000 , Columbia Records signed Ne @-@ Yo , but the label dropped him before he could release his already @-@ recorded first album . American singer Marques Houston happened to hear " That Girl " , which Ne @-@ Yo had planned to release as his debut single off his then @-@ unreleased album . Houston re @-@ recorded the song and released it as a single for his 2003 album MH . The release of the song led to Ne @-@ Yo being recognized as a top songwriter .

For the next two years , Ne @-@ Yo continued writing songs , some of which have not been officially released . He contributed songs to American singer Teedra Moses 's 2004 album Complex Simplicity , Christina Milian 's It 's About Time , and the American boy band Youngstown , none of which , however , brought Ne @-@ Yo much mainstream attention . Ne @-@ Yo has also contributed songs to singers Mary J. Blige , B2K , Faith Evans , and Musiq , among others .

A breakthrough came when Ne @-@ Yo wrote " Let Me Love You " for American singer Mario . The song reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 , and later stayed at the top spot for nine weeks . After the successful release , Tina Davis , former A & R representative for Def Jam Recordings , arranged an informal meeting with label head L.A. Reid . Despite not seeking a new contract at the time , then @-@ CEO of Def Jam Jay Z signed Ne @-@ Yo to a new deal after he performed for the label 's executives .

= = = 2006 ? 07 : In My Own Words and Because of You = = =

In early 2006 , Ne @-@ Yo released his debut album , In My Own Words , through Def Jam . Boosted by its popular second single " So Sick " , the album debuted at number one on Billboard 200 , selling over 301 @,@ 000 copies in its first week on sale . During the same week , the single had reached number one on the | Billboard Hot 100 . Later singles released were " When You 're Mad " and " Sexy Love " , which peaked at number 15 and number 7 , respectively . The album has

been certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for a shipment of over one million units .

His second album , Because of You , was released on May 1 , 2007 , and , fueled by its lead single , debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 , selling 251 @,@ 000 copies in the United States ; the feat gave Ne @-@ Yo his second number @-@ one album . The first single from the platinum @-@ selling album was the title track , which peaked at the number @-@ two spot . Despite the success of " Because of You , " later singles released charted lower and were unable to reach the Top 20 . The album has been certified platinum by RIAA for a shipment of over one million units . In December 2007 , Ne @-@ Yo and the Goo Goo Dolls performed at a fund @-@ raising concert for the then ? presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama .

= = = 2008 ? 10 : Year of the Gentleman and Libra Scale = = =

Ne @-@ Yo 's third album , Year of the Gentleman , was released internationally on August 5 , 2008 . Speaking to noted UK R & B writer Pete Lewis of the award @-@ winning Blues & Soul , Ne @-@ Yo explained the thinking behind its title : " To me Year of the Gentleman is all about a persona , a swag and a charm . I made an assessment of the music business . And , in my personal opinion , the essence of the gentleman is absent right now . Everybody kinda looks the same , everybody 's kinda doing the same thing , everybody 's kinda rude and full of themselves . Whereas a gentleman is calm , courteous , kind , charming ... So that title basically represents me trying to lead by example , and showing these cats what it is to be a gentleman in this business still . "

The album sold 250 @,@ 000 copies in its first week in the United States , debuting on the Billboard 200 at number two . Reviews for the album were positive : in one , Caryn Ganz of Rolling Stone magazine wrote that Year of the Gentleman is " actually a superb concept album about what a great boyfriend he [Ne @-@ Yo] can be " .

The first two singles , " Closer " and " Miss Independent , " peaked at number seven on the Billboard Hot 100 . The album was nominated for Best Contemporary R & B Album and Album of the Year at the 2009 Grammy Awards , " Closer " for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance , and " Miss Independent " for Best Male R & B Vocal Performance and Best R & B Song . Year of the Gentleman has been certified platinum by RIAA for a shipment of more than one million copies . The third single , " Mad , " peaked at number 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 .

On August 12 , 2008 , the New Kids on the Block released " Single , " the second single from their fifth studio album , The Block , which is a duet with Ne @-@ Yo . Ne @-@ Yo included a solo version of the song on his album Year of the Gentleman .

In December 2008 , Ne @-@ Yo performed at the Kennedy Center Honors as part of the tribute to Barbra Streisand ; he sang and danced to the song " Lover Come Back to Me , " which Streisand recorded on her second album in 1963 .

In 2009 , Billboard ranked him as the 57th Artist of the 2000s decade .

On September 2 , 2009 , Ne @-@ Yo released greatest hits album Ne @-@ Yo : The Collection in Japan . The album was also released with a limited edition CD + DVD edition complete with the music videos of singles . It debuted at number four on Japan 's Oricon weekly albums chart , selling 55 @,@ 625 copies in the first week .

In January 2010 , Ne @-@ Yo was featured in a duet with singer Mariah Carey titled Angels Cry .

In June 2010 , Ne @-@ Yo released the single " Beautiful Monster , " which became Ne @-@ Yo 's first number @-@ one single on the UK Singles Chart . It peaked at number 53 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart .

On October 8 , 2010 , Ne @-@ Yo performed some of his songs from the new album at P.C. Richard & Son Theater in New York City , an event hosted by iheartradio . Ne @-@ Yo made an appearance at New York ComicCon to announce that he was collaborating with Stan Lee for a Libra Scale comic . Ne @-@ Yo also met with fans for pictures and autographs in the Cultyard of the ComicCon . The second and third singles released off of the album are " Champagne Life " and " One in a Million , " respectively .

Libra Scale was released on November 22 , 2010 . It received critical acclaim from music critics ,

but was a commercial disappointment , debuting at number nine on the US Billboard 200 chart , selling less than all of his previous three studio albums . Ne @-@ Yo stated : " The album is based upon this short story which basically follows these three characters who are forced to choose between money @-@ power @-@ and @-@ fame versus love . Which in turn is why I 've called it ' Libra Scale ' . You know , its whole concept is based on that question of morality ? that , if you weighed it all out on a libra scale , which one of those two options would you choose ? " . Libra Scale sold 112 @, @ 000 copies in its first week . In the United Kingdom , the album debuted at number 11 on the UK Albums Chart , while debuting at number one on the UK R & B Chart .

= = = 2011 ? 12 : R.E.D. = = =

On February 25 , 2011 , while on his tour in the United Kingdom , he announced his new album would be called Love and Passion and would be released in September , but this was proven false as the title was tentative . American rapper Fabolous said in an interview that he is planning a collaboration album with Ne @-@ Yo as well . Ne @-@ Yo has also written songs for Mary J. Blige , JB , Beyoncé , Monica , Alexandra Burke , Cheryl Cole and Willow Smith 's upcoming albums . Ne @-@ Yo starred in two motion pictures , the long @-@ gestating George Lucas project Red Tails , released in early 2012 , and Battle : Los Angeles , which was released in the United States on March 11 , 2011 . Ne @-@ Yo has already finished writing songs for American pop singer and Roc Nation artist Alexis Jordan and her self @-@ titled debut album as well as Jennifer Hudson for her second studio album , I Remember Me , which had a North American release on March 22 , 2011 . Ne @-@ Yo appeared in the children 's preschool show The Fresh Beat Band and was one of the few artists not to cancel appearances in the wake of the 2011 Japan earthquake .

In the spring of 2011 , Ne @-@ Yo collaborated with American rapper Pitbull and Nayer on his single " Give Me Everything " , which peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 , giving Ne @-@ Yo his second U.S. number @-@ one single , his first since 2006 's " So Sick " and his first as a guest artist . Ne @-@ Yo also revealed in an interview that he would like to collaborate with Chris Brown , Lil Wayne and Drake on his upcoming album .

In January 2012 , it was reported that Ne @-@ Yo , along with his label imprint Compound Entertainment , had moved from Def Jam Recordings to Motown Records . He was also appointed Senior Vice President of A & R of Motown , where he would serve " ... as a producer and mentor to the label 's artists , as well as seeking out and signing new talent to the label . " Ne @-@ Yo was slated to release his fifth studio album , R.E.D. (as in " Realizing Every Dream ") , on September 18 , 2012 . The album was initially titled The Cracks in Mr. Perfect . The album 's first official single , " Lazy Love , " was released on June 12 , 2012 and peaked at number forty @-@ two on Billboard 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . " Let Me Love You (Until You Learn to Love Yourself) , " co @-@ written by Australian singer @-@ songwriter Sia , was released as the second single on July 31 , 2012 . Because of Kevin McCall 's new album and the song Ne @-@ Yo will be in , Love Time , is not yet released because he and his friend Chris Brown will make an appearance on Ne @-@ Yo 's R.E.D. album in the song called What I Do , which they all will be involved in writing the beat says Ne @-@ Yo , who was interviewed by TMZ in New York . " I expect this to be a banger in clubs for the slow songs and to get Ne @-@ Yo his first top 10 song in years , " said Chris Brown , after a celebrity basketball game with Ne @-@ Yo , Kevin Hart , and other celebrities in the month of July .

On August 29 , 2012 , Ne @-@ Yo was one of the headliners alongside R & B recording artist Melanie Fiona , in the Summer Beats Concert Series , otherwise known as the MJ Birthday Concert , which was on what would have been the 54th birthday of the late American pop icon Michael Jackson which was sponsored by and live @-@ streamed by Pepsi and Billboard . He performed a medley of hits , as well as performing " The Way You Make Me Feel , " " Smooth Criminal , " and " I Just Can 't Stop Loving You " from Jackson 's best @-@ selling 1987 album , Bad , in preparation for the reissue of Bad 25 on September 18 , 2012 . The concert took place at Gotham Hall in New York City . R.E.D. was released in the United Kingdom on November 5 , and in North America on November 6 , 2012 .

In 2012 , Ne @-@ Yo was awarded the Hal David Starlight Award of the Songwriter 's Hall of Fame which honors gifted songwriters who are at an apex in their careers and are making a significant impact in the music industry via their original songs .

= = = 2013 ? present : Non @-@ Fiction and seventh studio album = = =

In March 2013 , Ne @-@ Yo collaborated with Akon on David Guetta 's single " Play Hard " , from his 2012 album Nothing but the Beat 2 @.@ 0 . He also collaborated with Jessica Sanchez on her single " Tonight " from her debut album Me , You & the Music . The single , along with the music video got released on March 21 , 2013 . In April , Ne @-@ Yo and Cher Lloyd collaborated on their single " It 's All Good " , which eventually was featured on Fruttare commercials . Around the same time , he and Celine Dion recorded " Incredible " for Dion 's 2013 album Loved Me Back to Life . " Incredible " was released as a single in February 2014 and the music video premiered in June 2014 .

On May 29 , 2014 , Ne @-@ Yo announced his upcoming sixth studio album would be called Non @-@ Fiction . That same day , he announced a new single , " Money Can 't Buy . " On September 16 , 2014 , Ne @-@ Yo released the lead single from " Non Fiction " to mainstream radio titled " She Knows " featuring Juicy J. A few months later , Ne @-@ Yo announced that the new release date for Non @-@ Fiction was January 27 , 2015 . The album included collaborations with Pitbull and Charisse Mills . The album peaked at number 5 of on the Billboard 200 chart .

In July 2015 , Ne @-@ Yo collaborated with Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike on a new song for the Tomorrowland anthem titled " Higher Place " .

In August 2015 Ne @-@ Yo announced his seventh studio album with no title yet . However , he plans on the album to drop sometime in 2016 . He also leaked a sneak peek of the potential lead single off the album titled " Hang W / " during a live recording in the studio .

On September 6 , 2015 , Ne @-@ Yo premiered two new songs off the album titled " Goodbye " and " She Leaving With Me " featuring Busta Rhymes .

= = Artistry = =

= = = Musical style and influence = = =

Ne @-@ Yo 's music is generally R & B , while he also incorporates Pop and Hip @-@ hop occasionally . His musical influences include Luther Vandross , Michael Jackson , R.kelly , Babyface , Blackstreet and Usher .

= = = Voice = = =

Ne @-@ Yo possess a light Lyric tenor vocal style .

= = = Songwriting and production = = =

Ne @-@ Yo frequently co @-@ writes with Tor Erik Hermansen and Mikkel S. Eriksen of the Norwegian production team Stargate . Ne @-@ Yo met them in a hallway at Sony Music Studios in New York , and knowing the team produced R & B records , decided to collaborate with them . The collective 's early works were tracks off In My Own Words , including " So Sick . "

Aside from working on his own album , Ne @-@ Yo also collaborates with several other artists . His works include : Rihanna 's top @-@ ten singles " Unfaithful , " " Russian Roulette , " and her number @-@ one hit " Take a Bow , " Mario Vazquez 's " Gallery , " Paula DeAnda 's " Walk Away (Remember Me) , " and Beyoncé Knowles ' Billboard Hot 100 number @-@ one single " Irreplaceable , " which stayed at the top of the chart for ten consecutive weeks . He wrote the song " I 'm You " for Leona Lewis 's debut album Spirit , and is currently writing songs for her next album

and for the debut album of fellow X Factor winner Alexandra Burke . He has also been working with Sugababes for their seventh album , with member Keisha Buchanan confirming that Ne @-@ Yo had written a song called " No More You " for their album .

In 2010 , he dueted with Mariah Carey on " Angel 's Cry , " a song on her cancelled album , Angels Advocate . Ne @-@ Yo has also written songs for Celine Dion , Whitney Houston , Carrie Underwood , Anastacia , Ciara , Corbin Bleu , Enrique Iglesias , and Dima Bilan . He collaborated with Lindsay Lohan on her new material , having already finished " Bossy " , a pre @-@ single for her new album Spirit in the Dark . In 2007 , Ne @-@ Yo confirmed that he had been contacted by producer will.i.am to work on what would have been Michael Jackson 's new album . However , at the time of Jackson 's death , Ne @-@ Yo 's collaborations with him had yet to move past the writing stage . In an interview in 2010 , Ne @-@ Yo said that , since Jackson 's death , he had been confused as what to do with the songs , as he felt that selling them to another artist or even releasing the songs himself would be disrespectful to Jackson 's legacy . In 2009 , he wrote " Truth (Saigo no Shinjitsu) " for w @-@ inds . , the Japanese pop group .

Ne @-@ Yo ventured out to open his own recording studio , called Carrington House , in Atlanta , Georgia . He also had started his own production company , Compound Entertainment , in 2007 , and has hired several producers and songwriters in hopes of turning it into a full @-@ fledged record label . It successfully became a label , and artists such as RaVaughn , Paula Campbell , Sixx John , Adrienne Bailon and Shanell are now associated with Compound .

= = Other ventures = =

= = = Television = = =

In 2011 Ne @-@ Yo was approached by Cartoon Network to help create an animated series . Ne @-@ Yo announced that the show would be titled I Heart Tuesday and that he had created it for his sister . He also stated that he wanted to avoid having the show resemble the anime art style of The Boondocks due to the potential cost of the show 's animation style .

Ne @-@ Yo appeared in an episode of the seventh season of CSI : NY as a hit @-@ man , under his birth name of Shaffer Smith .

In 2011 , Ne @-@ Yo appeared in an episode of The Fresh Beat Band as himself .

He starred as the Tin Man in NBC 's musical telecast adaptation of The Wiz alongside David Alan Grier , Elijah Kelley , Queen Latifah , Common , Amber Riley , Uzo Aduba and Mary J. Blige . The musical telecast premiered December 3 , 2015 as a three @-@ hour event . For his performance , he received a Critics Choice Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Movie made for Television or Limited Series .

= = = Philanthropy = = =

Ne @-@ Yo is very passionate about the arts and children , and has shown his support for Little Kids Rock by filming a PSA for the organization .

= = Personal life = =

= = = Family = = =

In 2005 , Jessica White , Ne @-@ Yo 's girlfriend at the time , gave birth to a boy , naming him Chimere after Ne @-@ Yo 's middle name . Though Ne @-@ Yo believed he was the father , he later discovered the child was not his .

In June 2010 , Ne @-@ Yo told Ebony that he and his girlfriend , Monyetta Shaw , were expecting their first child together , a girl due early in 2011 . Shaw gave birth early to daughter , Madilyn Grace

Smith , on November 12 , 2010 in Atlanta , Georgia . Announcing the birth , Ne @-@ Yo said of his first child , " I 've been in love before but this feels like nothing I 've ever felt ... like I 'm in love for the first time . "

In September 2011 , Ne @-@ Yo revealed that he was expecting his second child with Monyetta Shaw . Shaw gave birth to a boy , Mason Evan Smith , on October 9 , 2011 .

In September 2015 , the singer announced that he and Crystal Renay Williams were engaged and expecting a child . They were married on February 20 , 2016 . Their son , Shaffer Chimere Smith , Jr . , was born in March 2016 .

= = = Legal issues = = =

On February 19 , 2008 , Ne @-@ Yo was arrested for reckless driving and driving without a valid license while driving through Cobb County , Georgia in his 2006 Range Rover . It was reported that he was doing about 150 mph , 100 mph over the speed limit . On June 2 , 2008 , Ne @-@ Yo pleaded guilty to driving without a valid license and no contest to the reckless driving charge . He was sentenced to 24 hours of community service .

On August 22 , 2011 , Ne @-@ Yo was sued along with rapper Pitbull and Dutch DJ Afrojack by actress Lindsay Lohan , claiming that their song " Give Me Everything " referenced her by name in the lyrics . Pitbull won the lawsuit .

= = Discography = =

In My Own Words (2006)

Because of You (2007)

Year of the Gentleman (2008)

Libra Scale (2010)

R.E.D. (2012)

Non @-@ Fiction (2015)

= = Filmography = =