

## Avery Wilson // Bio

At just 19, vocal prodigy Avery Wilson has enough talent, fire, and creativity in his 6'4 frame to bring an arena to its feet and capture the hearts of fans around the world. A songwriter and self-taught instrumentalist as well as a vocalist of stunning power and subtlety, Avery counts as one of his greatest goals bringing real music back into the lives of listeners. And he has the unique gifts to do exactly that.

Under the guidance of two of music's heaviest hitters —super-producer Sean Garrett (dubbed “The Pen” by Jay Z) and legendary industry icon Clive Davis — Wilson will release his debut single and album this year. In doing so, he joins a tradition that runs from Davis' history-making work with Janis Joplin, Whitney Houston, Billy Joel and Aretha Franklin (among others) to the eighteen number-one hits Garrett has written and produced for Beyonce, Usher, Miley Cyrus and more. “I don't take it lightly,” Avery says, “to be so young and to be mentioned in the same breath as some of these artists.”

Growing up the youngest of three brothers in Hamden, Connecticut, Avery was a professionally trained dancer, but didn't start singing until his father overheard him in the back seat of the family car humming along to the radio. “My father told me ‘From this day, you are not a dancer who sings. You are a singer who dances!’” says Avery. His father helped him start performing in local talent shows and competitions, and bought him keyboards and guitar — which gathered dust in Avery's bedroom until he began to teach himself how to use them.

Avery has known how to captivate an audience since he was just a child. “I always wanted to entertain,” he says. “I've been performing since I first could dance, first could tell a joke, the first time I sang. I measure my life in performances.” But singing, playing and writing music offered something special. “I grew up feeling different — I'm creative, and I had to figure out how to express myself. Outside of my family I couldn't always trust everyone to understand what I was feeling. But I could always trust music, because of the way it makes me feel when I play it. It doesn't say I'm wrong, it doesn't say I'm different.”

Local talent shows led the way to a bigger competition: season 3 of *The Voice*, where America first encountered Avery. In September, 2012, Avery was the recipient of a four-chair turn from the superstar coaches of *The Voice* — Adam Levine, Christina Aguilera, Blake Shelton and CeeLo Green — but was eliminated from Team CeeLo during the Knockout Rounds. “I learned so much,” he says of his experience. “And it gave me a chance to devote the last few years to improving my music.”

Garrett and Avery reconnected after *The Voice*, and Garrett says, “There was only one person who I thought of connecting Avery with when creating the team, and that was Clive Davis.” Davis heard Avery sing Donny Hathaway's “A Song for You,” and was so impressed he wouldn't let Avery leave his office until a deal was in motion. The love and mutual admiration between Wilson, Davis, and Garrett is strong: Avery calls Davis his “Industry Father” and Garrett his “Industry Big Brother.”

Avery's remarkable voice and engaging personality have already attracted nearly 5 million YouTube views, but he's concentrated on Vine (where he has 1 million followers) and Instagram (where he has 201K followers). He's built a collective online audience of 1.3 million across his social platforms, with online conversation about Avery Wilson increased by a staggering 298% during 2014. Wilson is intensely tuned in to the feedback of his followers, using it to help guide and mold his content. "When you have a love in life and people love you *for* it, that's an incredible feeling." Wilson says, "And when people give you love you have to give it back."

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