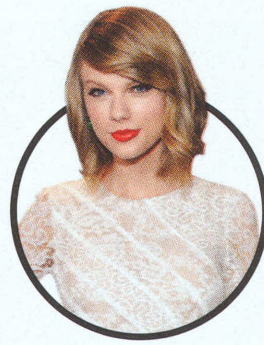




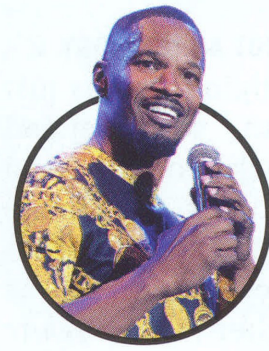
Pharrell Williams Besides "Sing," the hitmaker also collaborated on the track "Tonight, Tonight, Tonight." "Ed's guitar playing is extraordinary," he says. "He doesn't get enough credit for that."



Elton John Sheeran is managed by Stuart Camp at John's Rocket Music Entertainment Group. "He steps in with advice when I ask for it," says Sheeran of John. The two performed "The A Team" at the 2013 Grammys.



Taylor Swift The two co-wrote "Everything Has Changed" for Swift's 2012 album, *Red*, and Sheeran opened 66 dates on Swift's tour — which he commemorated by getting a "Red" tattoo on his left arm. Says Swift, "I love that he's explored so many corners of where his music can go."



Jamie Foxx A gig at Foxx's club The Foxxhole led to an invitation to the actor's house. Sheeran slept on the sofa, and had use of Foxx's home studio.

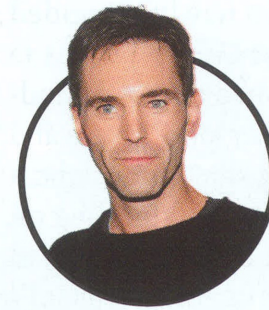


Courteney Cox "I'm good at [setting couples up]," says Sheeran, who introduced the *Friends* star to beau McDaid.



ED'S WORLD

FAMOUS FRIENDS,
FREQUENT COLLABORATORS
AND AN A-LIST ORBIT



Johnny McDaid "He's not a prima donna who believes he's at the center of the universe," says the Snow Patrol keyboardist, who lived with Sheeran for a year.



Jake Gosling The English producer has worked with Sheeran since 2008. The two co-wrote One Direction's "Moments."



Rick Rubin "Ed's not a manufactured pop artist. To treat him like one would be beneath him," says the veteran producer, who steered Sheeran toward the acoustic, à la his work with Neil Diamond and Johnny Cash.



Benny Blanco Says the producer: "When Ed starts writing, he works so quickly, you have to get out of the way and be his spotter."



One Direction After becoming friends with Harry Styles, Sheeran contributed a song to One Direction's debut album, and two to the group's follow-up. Sheeran also gave Styles something else: He tattooed a padlock on Styles' left wrist.