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OPINION

51st Grammy show should be rewarding Sunday

By SEAN NERO
Staff writer

Hopes are sure to reach atmospheric heights at this year's Grammys. The 51st Annual Grammy Awards looks to trump last year's ceremony with fresh faces and even fresher music.

The awards ceremony will be broadcast Sunday at 8 p.m. on CBS.

Competition for three of the top four awards will be stiff, as newcomers looking to make a name for themselves will contend with

veterans that have already well-established fan bases for Record of the Year, Album of the Year and Song of the Year honors.

Last year's awards ceremony saw English singer Amy Winehouse sweep three of the "Top Four" categories. Winehouse took home the Best New Artist, Record of the Year and Song of the Year awards, but this year stands to be the first show since 2004 that each award was won by a different artist.

I am most interested in the race for Record of the Year, which is headed by English newcomers

Adele and Leona Lewis, Grammy vets Coldplay and Alison Krauss isn't going to be hindered by Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin fame.

There are a great variety of musical styles represented this year by fairly new artists, which is a far cry from the R&B-centric awards of a year ago, which featured well-established artists Beyonce, Justin Timberlake and Rihanna.

I'm hoping to see several artists take home Grammys this year. I am pulling for Coldplay to take the Record of the Year with their single "Viva La Vida." The title track to

their 2008 album was such a huge step away from their alternative rock roots and it still caught on with the fans, becoming their first number one single on the Billboard Top 100.

I would like to see Lil Wayne's album, *The Carter III*, win Album of the Year, because it managed to become the first hip-hop album since 50 Cent's 2005 release, *The Massacre*, to sell a million copies in its first week of release.

Pop/folk minstrel Jason Mraz is primed to grab Song of the Year, not only reaching the Top Ten on

the Billboard Hot 100 charts, but his song "I'm Yours," pushed his album to sell over 500,000 units after his previous album failed to chart.

I hope British songbird Adele wins Best New Artist. She proved versatility by appealing to both U.S. and U.K. fans while transcending the stereotype of what a "pop singer" should be by infusing elements of soul into her songs.

So with another Grammy Awards fast approaching, I can rest assured that the new crop of nominees will surely make for a far more interesting show than the past few years.

Have no fear! Friends are to be made here

By JAPNEET KAUR
Staff writer

Starting a conversation with a total stranger is one of the easiest things in the world.

Or, for people like me, it can be one of the hardest. We start drawing back into ourselves at the very thought of having to even make eye contact with someone we don't know. For most of my life, I was too timid or shy to initiate conversation or try to make friends. Most of my relationships were developed accidentally, or simply because the other person was exactly like me. It wasn't until my second semester

here at Ohlone—my first on the staff of the *Monitor*—that I found myself frequently initiating conversations and trying to make new friends.

Being a reporter leaves no room for shyness. It means constant interaction with new people, and more often than not, following up with the same people, which means it's not really a relief for the timid once the first encounter is over. At first, I thought I'd lose my mind because of how nervous and scared I was—now, I feel like I couldn't be more grateful for being thrust into seemingly random social encounters. I feel more confident and much less scared even in my daily life, and find myself opening up and talking to people much more

easily. Another great benefit that I'm sure I don't appreciate fully just yet is the contacts I make, and the opportunities I'm creating for myself which I may never have had otherwise.

If you're like me and shy by nature, trust me—it's a better life on this side of the fence. Always walking around with your head down, and feeling like a loner if your friends that you've known for a few years aren't around? That feeling gets real old real fast. You go through life wondering if you can do the kinds of things you see other people doing, and make your mark somewhere like they do. Then you realize you'll have to interact with people, and you decide you're

better off as a generally anonymous person.

It's not a bad thing if you don't get involved in extracurricular school activities, or other activities outside of school. It's just a terrible thing if your skill or desire is never expressed because you're too timid to do what you want to do. The first step is hard, but once you start opening up, it's worth it. As cheesy as it sounds, a whole new world of possibilities opens up to you. You can meet new people, experience new things, see new places, even, depending on what it is you decide to do.

I know my life is a lot better now that I've come out of my shell quite a bit. I sometimes still find myself shy,

but that's just my nature, and what's left over from my old self. If you feel like you're too shy or scared to take the first step yourself, think of something you're interested in and join a group or an organization that will sort of force you to go out there and come out of your shell.

It's worth it. At first it'll seem like you're going against your very nature by interacting with people you don't know, or going to places or events you wouldn't normally go to. Once you get a little used to it, it'll feel great, finally coming out of your box. It's not fun to always be wondering what you could have done if you weren't afraid—it's infinitely better to be doing it, and not be afraid of the world anymore.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What made you choose to attend Ohlone?



Telleisse Chriswell
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
"Closest to my house."



Nicole Pietkiewicz
EDUCATION
"I wasn't ready to leave home."



Cheska Collantes
LIBERAL ARTS
"Near my martial arts."



Joel Lopez
ENGLISH
"It's close by and it's cheap."



Robert Jackson
URBAN PLANNING
"It has the classes I want and good atmosphere."