

By **JULIET CHUNG**

Singer **John Legend** has signed a contract for an apartment listed at \$2.3 million, in New York's East Village neighborhood.

"I didn't want a cookie-cutter place," says the 30-year-old singer, who decided to buy the one-bedroom, two-bath apartment before a tour that began in June. The floor-through Lower Manhattan apartment of more than 1,300 square feet, in a new glass-and-steel residential tower on the Bowery and East Fourth Street, has 14-foot-ceilings and views in every direction. The price Mr. Legend agreed to pay couldn't be learned. A similarly sized unit in the building sold for \$2.59 million last month and another for \$2.5 million in June. The 15-story tower, completed this year, has a doorman, an outdoor pool and indoor parking.



Mr. Legend, who released his third album, "Evolver," last fall, says he plans to move into the apartment in November and will split his time between New York and Los Angeles.

Fredrik Eklund of Core represented the building, while Jason Walker of Prudential Douglas Elliman represented Mr. Legend and is the listing agent for the two-bedroom condominium he's selling, also in the East Village. It has been on the market since December 2008; the asking price is \$1.2 million, down from its initial listing at \$1.25 million.