

"Gwen is such a genuine, beautiful soul," says Keys.

Adam Levine, 37, Blake Shelton, 40, Gwen Stefani, 47, and Alicia Keys, 36, return for season 12 of *The Voice* (premiering Feb. 27 at 8 p.m.)

# THE VOICE IS BACK!

THE SUPERSTAR COACHES OF NBC'S HIT SINGING COMPETITION WELCOME BACK GWEN, GANG UP ON BLAKE AND OPEN UP ABOUT FINDING LASTING FRIENDSHIP

**Gwen and Alicia, do you ever team up against the boys on the show?**

**Gwen Stefani:** They deserve it, but I think everybody wants to gang up on Alicia because she's so popular and gifted with a billion Grammys. Everybody wants to be with Alicia.

**Blake Shelton:** But the three of them gang up on me all the time! I don't know why... are y'all just intimidated?

**Alicia Keys:** Only Adam really gangs up on you, Blake, 'cause Gwen's all "Aww," and then Blake and Gwen turn into double "Aww."

**Adam Levine:** We don't gang up on the girls because that's not right. I just take all that energy and focus it on Blake.

**Is there anything that still surprises you about each other?**

**Keys:** I like Blake so much. I didn't think I was gonna *not* like you, but I think you're a cool guy! And Adam kind of surprised me—he is a big, big complainer!

**Shelton:** Just keep going. I love this.

**Levine:** I've had the longest love affair with Blake out of everyone.

**Stefani:** I wish I was you. You're so lucky!

**Levine:** I know. I remember when I first saw him, I was instantly very taken by him because he's not a cookie-cutter guy. We do mess with each other, but it comes from a place of love. It's fun to talk s--- with him.

**Stefani:** Blake's so funny.

**Shelton:** Adam needs his face slapped around, but he has a huge, huge heart. He's one of my best friends.

**Keys:** I actually just really love the dynamic of the four of us. It feels really good. And I'm so grateful that people can get to know me. I can play around and be silly and then be serious.

**Adam has a 5-month-old daughter, Alicia has two sons and Gwen three boys. Your lives must be crazy!**

**Stefani:** Yes, and my life is still crazy! I had the craziest mom morning this morning. But I love being here so much.

**Levine:** I know I'm in for it, but my baby can't talk yet!

**Stefani:** You just wait! —MELODY CHIU