

Henley's itch for performing

IRVINE, Calif. — Don Henley's nervousness was contagious — his girlfriend got hives.

"It's the hardest show I ever did," Henley said backstage after the Eagles' tour opener Friday. "They'll get easier now."

Arista Records President Clive Davis stopped by Henley's dressing room to gush about the "memorable night" and relatives streamed in with plaudits. Jack Nicholson, Cher, Richard Lewis and Ed Begley Jr. also attended.

Though moved by the crowd's warm reception, Henley (who lost 16 pounds preparing for the tour) says he didn't succumb to nostalgia. "I was too busy just trying to get it right. But I had my moment. Before the show, I gave Glenn (Frey) a big hug and we talked about how lucky we are."

— Edna Gundersen