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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Stephen Wilson Jr.'s 'Holler' Extends Country's Violent Thread At A Turbulent Time

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Aldean, Wallen Reign On Charts
>page 5

"Killer" Hall Of Fame Class
>page 11

Makin' Tracks: John Morgan Gets It "Right"
>page 17

Country Coda: "Good" Moment For Currington
>page 20

When **Martina McBride's** dramatic "Independence Day" video was in heavy rotation on CMT in 1994, a young **Stephen Wilson Jr.** became transfixed with its blazing, black-and-white portrayal of domestic violence.

"It hit home for me," Wilson says now. "It was very impactful, because I knew exactly what that song was about. I was living it, so every time that video would come on, I was just locked into it."

The product of a shotgun wedding between two 18-year-old parents who were not, in Wilson's estimation, ready for the responsibility of a child, he ended up in his father's custody in Indiana, following in his dad's footsteps by taking up boxing at age 7. When he visited his mother in a double-wide trailer in Smyrna, Tenn., he witnessed — or simply knew — she was being physically abused by the men who shared her life.

With "Holler From the Holler," a song and video he premiered May 6, Wilson delivers a series of images even more gruesome — and more graphic — than "Independence Day," with grinding, razor-like guitars providing the soundtrack to a blood-spattering murder by a teenage boy who saves his mother from a horrific suitor.

"It's utterly real," says "Independence Day" songwriter **Gretchen Peters** of Wilson's "Holler." "I just believed it from the first chord."

"Holler" is indeed based on Wilson's real-life experiences, though the murder part is simply a fantasy, a representation of what he thinks would have been a fair outcome for the men who brutalized his mother. Co-authored with **Craig Wiseman** ("Live Like You Were Dying," "Summertime"), "Holler" has had an emotional impact on Wilson.

"That song for me ended up becoming very cathartic and very much a healing modality," he says. "When I sing that song live, I feel different each time I sing it — like a little bit better — and if it does that for me, maybe it does it for somebody else. Maybe they'll get out of that situation, instead of just wallowing in it."

"Holler From the Holler" and "Independence Day" are part of a line of violent country songs that extends to the genre's earliest days, when numerous murder ballads — including **Fiddlin' John Carson's** "Little Mary Phagan," a 1925 recording based on the 1913 rape and murder of a 13-year-old girl — reframed the era's headlines.

The genre's violent tales include the robberies in **Tim McGraw's** "Don't Take the Girl" and **Ricky Van Shelton's** "Crime of Passion"; the fistfights in **Johnny Cash's** "A Boy Named Sue" and **Bobby Bare's** "The Winner"; the gang rape in **Kenny Rogers's** "Coward of the County"; the domestic abuse in McBride's "Concrete Angel" and **Jason Michael Carroll's** "Alyssa Lies"; and the deaths in **Garth Brooks's** "Papa Loved Mama," **Marty**



WILSON

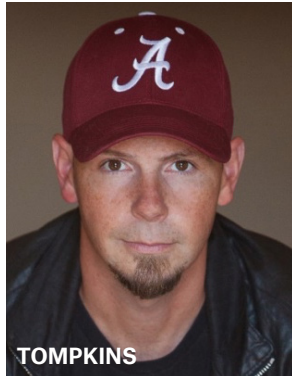
EMMA KATE GOLDEN

Niko Moon
EASY TONIGHT
30 1ST WEEK STATIONS
SXM THE HIGHWAY • MCCN • KILT • KKBO • WUBL
WXTU • WBWL • WYCD • KEYK • WQYK • KYGO • WJVC
KAJA • KNCI • KSOP • KBEQ • KRTY • WKMK • WWGR
KUZZ • WQMX • WWQM • WKRO • WPOR • WTHT
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RCA RECORDS

Robbins' "El Paso," Johnny Paycheck's "(Pardon Me) I've Got Someone To Kill" and a series of Carrie Underwood releases — "Two Black Cadillacs," "Church Bells," "Blown Away" and the metaphoric "Little Toy Guns."

"I kill people in my songs," Underwood said with a laugh in 2015. "I have characters that often are terrible."



TOMPKINS

Songwriter Chris Tompkins, who penned "Blown Away" and the revenge-vandalism classic "Before He Cheats," says he never sets out to create violent narratives, but doesn't resist them either.

"We're just kind of authors writing [mini-] novels," he says. "Sometimes it's a Stephen King novel. Sometimes it's a Danielle Steel novel."

And while many of those brutal stories are dramatic — similar to Reba McEntire's "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia" or Lefty Frizzell's "The Long Black Veil" — others can take the same tack as the movie *Pulp Fiction*, painting antisocial behavior

with a humorous brush, as in Dixie Chicks' "Goodbye Earl" and Ashley McBryde's "Martha Divine," in which a woman knocks out a rival with a shovel and buries her alive.

The song's challenge, McBryde says, was "trying to make you still want to root for this psychotic young woman that obviously has murderous intentions. She's rightfully angry, and she's a little bit psychotic, but you still want to make sure everybody's rooting for her at the end."

Violence is not generally a laughing matter, though, and Wilson's "Holler From the Holler" arrives at a timely juncture during National Mental Health Awareness Month. Domestic abuse increased during the pandemic; the Buffalo, N.Y., mass shooting is the latest in a tragic American trend; and more violence is expected after a forthcoming Supreme Court abortion ruling, according to CBSNews.com.



PETERS

Violence in music has generated controversy for several decades, particularly with genres such as death metal or drill rap that amplify their messages with dangerous sonics. A 2003 study by the American Psychological Association suggested that violent lyrics can increase aggression in listeners, though it also indicated that those attitudes tend to soften when attention turns after one violent song to less-intense entertainment. Thus, an occasional homicidal track is less likely to have an effect than a steady diet.

"Everybody from my generation just about listened to early gangsta rap stuff, and that stuff's very violent," Tompkins says. "But if you're going to get violent in country — like with 'Before He Cheats' or 'Blown Away' — you kind of have to understand where the girl's head's at."

That's likely one reason why country music, despite its historic strand of vicious material, is rarely mentioned in general discussions about the effects of violent songs.

"With country music, there has often been a kind of morality tale attached to those," Peters says. "At least the guy who murders the girl in the old-time-country murder ballad regrets it — the 'Oh, what have I done' sort of thing. I'm not saying necessarily that's a good thing, but that kind of a song could possibly have a very different effect on someone than something that's just a siren call to go fuck some shit up. I just think there has to be nuance there."

In essence, if the violence is an understandable reaction from a beaten-down underdog, it's more likely to be accepted than one in which the brutality is treated by an aggressor as sport.

With "Holler From the Holler," Wilson's protagonist certainly fits that description, and the video includes opening and closing billboards for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE, underscoring the intent behind the piece's emotional ride.

"Sometimes you got to show the train hitting the car on the tracks before someone actually moves their car off the tracks," Wilson says. "The 799-SAFE number is moving the car at the end of the video. Or at least the first step." ●



Clay Walker (center) connected with KRY5 Corpus Christi, Texas, when he performed at the American Bank Center on May 13 during Rodeo Corpus Christi. With him are Show Dog Nashville director of Southwest/Midwest promotion Greg Sax (left) and KRY5 PD Frank Edwards.



Charlie Worsham was surprised during a May 13 appearance at the Grand Ole Opry with an Academy of Country Music Award for acoustic guitar player of the year. From left: Opry vp/executive producer Dan Rogers, Worsham, ACM CEO Damon Whiteside and ACM manager of awards and membership Haley Montgomery.

CHRIS HOLLO



Curb artist Filmore (center) visited WSM-AM Nashville on May 10, a day ahead of a Grand Ole Opry performance. With him are morning personalities Bill Cody and Kelly Sutton.



C.J. Solar (center) visited WTGE Baton Rouge, La., on May 13, when he participated in a benefit concert for spinal muscular atrophy. He's flanked by WTGE personalities Brittany Rose (left) and music director Abby Leigh.

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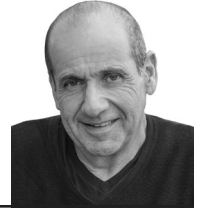


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ON THE CHARTS JIM ASKER jim.asker@billboard.com

Morgan Wallen Continues Historic No. 1 Run On Hot Country Songs; Jason Aldean Scores His 25th Country Airplay Leader



Morgan Wallen banks his record-extending fifth No. 1 debut, and his sixth leader overall, on *Billboard's* airplay-, streaming- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart as “You Proof” (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) blasts in atop the May 28-dated list.

The song marks the singer-songwriter’s second No. 1 Hot Country Songs start in as many weeks following “Thought You Should Know.”

“You Proof,” released May 13 — Wallen’s birthday — also starts at No. 1 on Country Streaming Songs and Country Digital Song Sales. The song, which Wallen wrote with **ERNEST, Ashley Gorley** and **Charlie Handsome**, and which Handsome and **Joey Moi** produced, opens with 22.4 million official U.S. streams in the week ending May 19, according to Luminate. It enters as Wallen’s ninth No. 1 and sixth entrance atop Country Streaming Songs.

The track sold 23,100 downloads and opens as Wallen’s seventh No. 1 on Country Digital Song Sales, as well as his fourth leader on the all-format Digital Song Sales tally. It’s his sixth and fourth No. 1 debut on the lists, respectively.

As “You Proof” rockets in atop Hot Country Songs, it dethrones Wallen’s own “Thought You Should Know,” which drops to No. 6. On the May 21-dated ranking, “Thought” also arrived replacing a Wallen single, “Wasted on You,” which holds at No. 2 after leading for two nonconsecutive weeks.

Only 13 songs have premiered atop Hot Country Songs since the survey’s start as an all-encompassing genre ranking in 1958 — with Wallen boasting five of them. Prior to “You Proof” and “Thought,” his “Don’t Think Jesus” launched atop the April 30 list after “Wasted on You,” his current single being promoted to country radio from his 2021 release, *Dangerous: The Double Album*, began at No. 1 that January, and “7 Summers” bowed on top in August 2020. His first Hot Country Songs chart-topper, “Whiskey Glasses,” completed a 30-week trip to No. 1 in May 2019.



ALDEAN

Just one other act has achieved multiple No. 1 Hot Country Songs arrivals: **Taylor Swift**, with “All Too Well (Taylor’s Version)” last November and “Love Story (Taylor’s Version)” in February 2021.

Meanwhile, *Dangerous* rules Top Country Albums for a record-extending 59th week, up 5% to 55,000 equivalent album units.

Concurrently, “Wasted on You” pushes 7-5 for a new best on Country Airplay (21.3 million impressions, up 11%).



WALLEN

NO ‘TROUBLE’ AT ALL Jason Aldean notches his 25th Country Airplay No. 1 with “Trouble With a Heartbreak” (Macon/Broken Bow), up 15% to 24.9 million impressions.

The song, which **Kurt Allison, Brett Beavers, Tully Kennedy** and **John Morgan** wrote, is from Aldean’s double album *Macon, Georgia*, which was released in two 15-song halves; *Macon* arrived at its No. 3 high on Top Country Albums last November and *Georgia* started at No. 2 earlier in May. “Trouble” is from *Georgia*.

Aldean adds his fourth Country Airplay leader in succession following “Trouble With a Heartbreak” with **Carrie Underwood** (No. 1 for three weeks starting last October), “Blame It on You” (one week last July) and “Got What I Got” (one in October 2020).

Aldean, who first crowned Country Airplay with his second entry, “Why,” in May 2006, boasts the seventh-most No. 1s dating to the chart’s inception in January 1990. **Kenny Chesney** leads with 32, followed by **Tim McGraw** (29), **Blake Shelton** (28), **Luke Bryan, Alan Jackson** and **George Strait** (26 each).

‘7500’ = 59TH TOP 10 **Tim McGraw** posts his 59th Country Airplay top 10 as “7500 OBO” (McGraw/Big Machine) revs 11-10 (15 million, up 7%). It’s his first top 10 since “I Called Mama,” which reached No. 2 in October 2020.

McGraw’s sum of Country Airplay top 10s, which includes 29 No. 1s, marks the third-best after **George Strait** (61) and **Kenny Chesney** (60). ●

ALDEAN: GILBERT FLORES; WALLEN: BRIAN FRIEDMAN

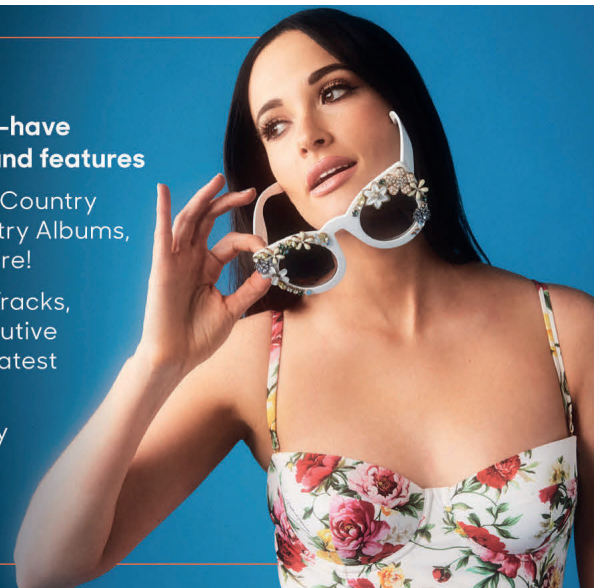
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THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO!
#2 MOST ADDED • 62 ADDS



Lainey Wilson

HEART LIKE A TRUCK

MCCN / MUSIC CHOICE
WUSN / CHICAGO
KILT / HOUSTON
KKBQ / HOUSTON
WXTU / PHILADELPHIA
WKLB / BOSTON
WKIS / MIAMI
KNIX / PHOENIX
WYCD / DETROIT

WQYK / TAMPA
KWBL / DENVER
WJVC / NASSAU-SUFFOLK
WKKT / CHARLOTTE
WSOC / CHARLOTTE
WIL / ST LOUIS
KCYC / SAN ANTONIO
KFRG / RIVERSIDE
KSOP / SALT LAKE CITY

WWKA / ORLANDO
KCYE / LAS VEGAS
KWNR / LAS VEGAS
WDSY / PITTSBURGH
KBEQ / KANSAS CITY
WDAF / KANSAS CITY
WCOL / COLUMBUS
WQDR / RALEIGH
KRTY / SAN JOSE

WGNE / JACKSONVILLE
WKHK / RICHMOND
WQNU / LOUISVILLE
WKMK / MONMOUTH-OCEAN
WYRK / BUFFALO
WBEE / ROCHESTER
WDXB / BIRMINGHAM
WZZK / BIRMINGHAM
KWEN / TULSA

KHGE / FRESNO
WGNA / ALBANY
WCYQ / KNOXVILLE
WCKN / CHARLESTON
WYNK / BATON ROUGE
WXCX / WILMINGTON
KAWO / BOISE
KCCY / COLORADO SPRINGS
WUSY / CHATTANOOGA

WQMX / AKRON
WKRO / DAYTONA BEACH
KDRK / SPOKANE
KXLY / SPOKANE
WOLF / SYRACUSE
WKSJ / MOBILE
KFDI / WICHITA
KJUG / VISALIA
WKXC / AUGUSTA

WGTY / YORK
KMDL / LAFAYETTE
WXBQ / JOHNSON CITY
WQHK / FT WAYNE
WQKQ / PORTSMOUTH
WITL / LANSING
WKML / FAYETTEVILLE
KTTS / SPRINGFIELD

CATCH LAINEY TOMORROW, 5/24 ON **NBC'S TODAY**
AND THURSDAY, 5/26 ON **THE TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON**

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	3	19	TRUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	24.929	+3.234	6887	785	1
2	6	29	SLOW DOWN SUMMER Valory	Thomas Rhett	22.054	+2.352	6312	532	2
3	5	32	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	21.697	+1.621	6252	588	3
4	1	27	DOIN' THIS River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	21.355	-3.407	6111	-889	4
5	7	16	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	21.340	+2.123	5950	606	5
6	2	34	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	20.929	-1.338	5414	-401	9
7	4	27	NEVER SAY NEVER Broken Bow/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson	20.449	-1.198	5556	-519	8
8	8	26	AA Monument	Walker Hayes	19.305	+0.809	5785	403	6
9	9	40	WILD HEARTS Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	18.866	+0.409	5628	108	7
10	11	42	7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	15.097	+0.999	4628	229	10
11	13	31	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	14.532	+1.785	4507	465	11
12	15	42	BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS Big Loud	Jake Owen	13.240	+0.771	4090	147	12
13	12	20	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	13.142	+0.345	3901	15	13
14	16	32	IF I WAS A COWBOY Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	12.164	+0.274	3812	130	14
15	17	38	NEWTRUCK Curb	Dylan Scott	10.891	+0.843	3612	75	15
16	18	36	AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	9.780	+1.235	3253	207	16
17	21	3	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	9.621	+2.164	2844	657	18
18	19	14	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	8.512	+0.462	3105	114	17
19	20	19	FLOWER SHOPS Big Loud	ERNEST Featuring Morgan Wallen	7.598	+0.037	2758	-14	20
20	22	15	EVERYONE SHE KNOWS Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney	7.302	+0.546	2485	80	22
21	23	12	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	7.081	+0.553	2492	237	21
22	24	30	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory	Justin Moore	6.465	+0.434	2778	186	19
23	26	10	GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	5.856	+1.022	2226	222	23
24	25	39	COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU Stoney Creek	Frank Ray	5.066	+0.047	2176	99	24
25	27	15	PARTY MODE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	4.669	+0.215	2109	68	25
26	29	23	NO HARD FEELINGS Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	4.560	+0.306	2044	144	26
27	30	20	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	4.507	+0.607	1486	115	31
28	28	12	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	4.181	-0.043	1581	30	28
29	31	21	WISHPFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	3.846	+0.149	1516	79	30
30	32	25	SOUL Curb	Lee Brice	3.210	+0.221	1855	34	27

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio- copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2022, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on Luminate, formerly MRC Data's platforms.

BULLETS

● Awarded on Country Airplay to titles gaining audience or remaining flat from the previous week. A song will also receive a bullet

if its percentage loss in audience does not exceed the percentage of monitored station downtime for the format. Titles that decline in audience but increase in detections will also receive a bullet if the total audience erosion for the week does not exceed 3%.

TIES

On Country Airplay, if two songs are tied in total audience, the song with the larger increase in audience is placed first.

RECURRENTS

On Country Airplay, descending titles below No. 10 in either audience or detections are moved to recurrent after 20

weeks, provided that they are not still gaining enough audience points to bullet or if they rank below No. 10 and post a third consecutive week of (non-bulletheaded) audience decline, regardless of total chart weeks.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

Awarded to the highest-ranking new entry on Country Airplay.

MOST ADDED

The total number of new adds officially reported to Billboard by each reporting station, or by an automatic-add threshold (seven plays for the first time in a chart tracking week, according to Luminate, formerly MRC Data) for stations that do not report adds.

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

Most Increased Audience on Country Airplay lists the songs with the greatest week-to-week increases in total audience.

AIRPOWER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles ranking inside top 20 in plays and audience rankings for the first time, with increases in both plays and audience.

BREAKER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles achieving airplay (at least one detection) at 60% of reporting stations for the first time.

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	33	15	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	3.090	+0.121	1327	81	32
32	NEW		5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Most Added ★★	Tyler Hubbard	2.935	+2.935	689	689	41
33	34	30	WILDER DAYS Ladylike/Arista Nashville	Morgan Wade	2.853	+0.221	1525	59	29
34	35	16	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	2.464	+0.109	1273	53	33
35	39	7	SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	1.936	+0.258	804	92	39
36	37	26	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	1.931	+0.147	1046	18	36
37	36	7	HEARTFIRST Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	1.900	-0.234	1022	-35	37
38	40	14	MY BAR inDent/Mercury Nashville	Priscilla Block	1.732	+0.247	1046	33	35
39	38	10	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	1.716	-0.103	1133	4	34
40	41	7	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	1.523	+0.156	738	48	40
41	42	19	LEARN FROM IT Valory	Conner Smith	1.326	+0.026	850	-9	38
42	NEW		HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	1.092	+1.092	272	272	-
43	43	14	WHAT A SONG CAN DO BMLG	Lady A	1.065	-0.035	671	-11	42
44	55	5	GROWING OLD WITH YOU 1021/RCA Nashville	Restless Road	1.056	+0.337	330	30	58
45	44	11	HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	0.888	-0.136	584	0	43
46	45	16	SON OF A Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	0.854	-0.128	494	-14	45
47	47	11	CAN'T DO WITHOUT ME Stoney Creek	Chayce Beckham & Lindsay Ell	0.796	+0.007	534	3	44
48	48	12	LOVE TALKING Valory	Eli Young Band	0.782	+0.023	334	6	57
49	46	4	DON'T THINK JESUS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.766	-0.178	179	-9	-
50	50	26	GIVING YOU UP Columbia Nashville	Kameron Marlowe	0.762	+0.030	401	-19	50
51	49	8	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	0.733	+0.012	483	20	46
52	51	9	DRINKIN' IT WRONG Arista Nashville	Adam Doleac	0.727	+0.031	210	4	-
53	52	8	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	0.697	+0.026	404	29	49
54	56	3	CATCHING UP WITH AN OL' MEMORY Thirty Tigers/Show Dog Nashville	Clay Walker	0.668	+0.147	373	38	53
55	53	5	HELL YEAH Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	0.609	-0.039	341	-20	55
56	54	14	MISSING ONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers	0.579	-0.038	381	6	51
57	RE-ENTRY		DATES IN PICKUP TRUCKS Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	0.558	+0.094	419	58	48
58	57	3	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pegasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	0.498	+0.031	147	-1	-
59	NEW		CRAZY ONE MORE TIME (2022) MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	0.477	+0.076	365	15	54
60	RE-ENTRY		SALT, LIME & TEQUILA Red Street	Ryan Griffin	0.448	+0.051	310	40	59



42

LAINEY WILSON
Heart Like a Truck

Co-written by Wilson, the single follows her Cole Swindell duet "Never Say Never," which became her second Country Airplay No. 1 in April. Released May 20 and helped that day by hourly plays on participating iHeartMedia stations, "Truck" rolls in at No. 42 with 1.1 million impressions through May 22.

BRIAN FRIEDMAN

GOING FOR ADDS

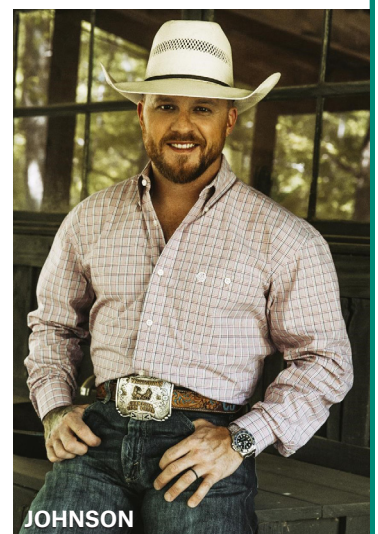
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CHRIS JANSON
Keys To The Country
Warner Music Nashville/WAR

PAIGE KING JOHNSON
Famous Enough
PCG

6/6

CODY JOHNSON
Human
Warner Music Nashville/CoJo/WMN



JOHNSON

CHRIS DOUGLAS

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	54
LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	19
WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	13
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	11
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	8
MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	6
OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	5
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	5
TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	5
EASY TONIGHT RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	5

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+3.234
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+2.935
SLOW DOWN SUMMER Valory	Thomas Rhett	+2.352
LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+2.164
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.123
DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+1.785
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+1.621
AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	+1.235
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.092
GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	+1.022

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

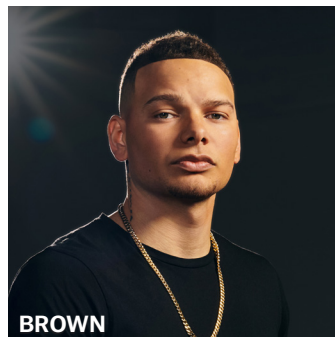
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+785
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+689
LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+657
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+606
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+588
SLOW DOWN SUMMER Valory	Thomas Rhett	+532
DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+465
AA Monument	Walker Hayes	+403
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	+237
7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	+229

NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
PASS IT ON Arista Nashville	Ryan Hurd	0.392	34	2
BEACH BOYS Wheelhouse	LOCASH	0.365	22	4
DOWNTOWN BABY Monument	Caitlyn Smith	0.350	37	0
MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	0.347	7	6
COUNTRY IN MY SOUL Quartz Hill	Thompson Square	0.327	22	4
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.297	5	2

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	16.702
2	23 MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	16.057
3	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	14.229
4	SAND IN MY BOOTS Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	13.924
5	BEERS ON ME Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley, BRELAND & HARDY	11.622
6	BUY DIRT MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan	11.438
7	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King & Miranda Lambert	11.413
8	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	10.262
9	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young + Kane Brown	10.185
10	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	8.701



BROWN: MATTHEW BERINATO

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MAY 22, 2022

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	15	UNWANTED MAN (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★	Aaron Watson	1845	84	11	13	17	WATERING HOLE (Independent)	Kendall Shaffer / Jeffery Allen Imler	1202	50
2	3	19	GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN (Independent)	Kylie Frey & Bri Bagwell	1651	84	12	14	12	THE HIGHWAY KIND (Independent)	Josh Abbott Band	1202	113
3	4	16	AIN'T WORTH THE HEARTACHE (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1621	87	13	18	8	PHONES DON'T WORK (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1147	164
4	5	25	DRIVE ME TO DRINKING (Independent)	Sundance Head	1550	65	14	1	19	WHEN YOU ROLL THAT WAY (Independent)	Case Hardin	1117	-823
5	8	12	DANCIN' WITH THE DEVIL (Independent)	Josh Ward	1536	131	15	15	18	EVEN TEXAS COULDN'T HOLD HER (Independent)	Casey Chesnutt	1089	65
6	7	14	ALL YOU GOT (Independent)	William Clark Green	1506	53	16	16	16	ANOTHER YOU (Independent)	Drew Fish Band	1064	46
7	6	13	JOHN WAYNE (Independent)	Whiskey Myers	1494	35	17	19	15	WAVE DANCER (Soundly Music)	The Wilder Blue	1033	81
8	11	11	A COWGIRL LIKE YOU (Independent)	Jon Wolfe	1446	192	18	23	11	TRACTOR TOWN (Independent)	Jake Bush	971	95
9	9	24	CAUSE HE'S A COWBOY (Independent)	Matt Castillo	1343	76	19	20	14	BEAUTIFUL LOVE SONGS (Independent)	George Navarro	970	64
10	10	24	LIKE A HURRICANE (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1291	32	20	22	14	LOVE'S GOT A HOLD ON YOU (Independent)	Bart Crow Band	924	41

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2022, Texas Regional Radio Report

#1 MOST ADDED!

TYLER HUBBARD

5 foot 9

87 FIRST WEEK STATIONS!

KKBQ	MUSIC CHOICE	WUSN	KTEX	KILT	WWKA	KEYY	WFUS
KYGO	WMZQ	WPOC	WBEE	KNIX	WGAR	KCYY	WRNS
KAJA	WWYZ	WQYK	KSOP	KSD	WIL	KTST	WQMX
WUBL	WCOL	KXKT	WAMZ	WUSY	WSSL	WKHX	WGTY
WDXB	WSIX	WTQR	WBWL	KHEY	WKMK	KWNR	KRYS
WWGR	WCOS	WBUL	KASE	KKIX	KSSN	WKML	WDSY
WGNE	KCCY	KWBL	WKXC	WCKN	WTHT	KZSN	KRTY
WEZL	KBEQ	KPLM	WDRQ	WAVW	WPGB	KXLY	
WOLF	WMAD	WRNX	WRBT	WUSJ	WXCY	WKDF	
KDRK	KCYE	KTGX	WKRO	WHEL	WNCB	WWQM	
WCTQ	WLFP	WXBQ	WJVC	KJUG	KTOM		

**“THIS IS A FREAKIN’ SMASH!
I WISH MY WIFE WAS 3
INCHES TALLER.”**

– BILLY KIDD (PD), WBEE

“F%ING WOW! NOW THAT
S%&@ IS COUNTRY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
HUBS LIKES IT, DAUGHTER
LIKES IT, I LIKE IT! YES!!!”**

– CORY MYERS (MD), WWYZ

“I LOVE IT!”

– CINDY SPICER (PD), WFUS & WQIK

**CLICK HERE FOR
UNOFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO**



NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

HALL OF FAME'S KILLER CLASS

Jerry Lee Lewis, the late **Keith Whitley** and **Joe Galante**, the influential label head who signed Whitley to RCA, were all named May 17 as the 2022 Country Music Hall of Fame inductees in the first in-person hall announcement since 2019.

They each took rather unique routes in finding their way to mainstream country significance. Lewis frequented R&B clubs as a Southern youth and broke out as a brash rockabilly star on Memphis' Sun label before focusing specifically on country in the 1960s.

Whitley ventured through bluegrass, playing alongside **Ricky Skaggs** in **Ralph Stanley's Clinch Mountain Boys** and with future **Diamond Rio** mandolinist **Gene Johnson** in **J.D. Crowe & The New South** before becoming a traditional country icon.

Galante was entranced by the early-'60s country crossover recordings of **Johnny Cash**, **Skeeter Davis**, **Roger Miller** and **Eddy Arnold** on the top 40 station in his native New York.

After joining the RCA marketing department in Manhattan, he transferred to Nashville, where he would work with Davis and Arnold, as well as **Ronnie Milsap**, **Alabama** and **Waylon Jennings**, just for starters, in a lengthy career that also encompassed Sony Music Nashville following a merger.

For Whitley and Galante to enter in the same year was a sweet irony for **Lorrie Morgan**, who was married to Whitley when he died in 1989.

"I couldn't believe it when they said Joe's going in the same day as Keith, because if it wasn't for Joe, Keith wouldn't have a career, I wouldn't have a career, my kids wouldn't have had the luxuries they've had growing up," Morgan said. "That's the man right there."

The hall announcement came 16 days after 2021 honorees **The Judds**, **Ray Charles** and musicians **Pete Drake** and **Eddie Bayers** were officially inducted following a pandemic-related delay. The 2022 class will be celebrated in a medallion ceremony this fall.

RADIO & RECORDS

Distribution/label services firm ONErpm named **Rick Butterworth** director of business development for Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia. He spent the last eight years as Ingrooves Music Group business development consultant... Americana nominees **The War and Treaty** signed a recording deal with Universal Music Group Nashville. The married duo features **Michael Trotter Jr.** and **Tanya Trotter**... Valory added singer-songwriter **Mackenzie Carpenter** to the roster. Carpenter co-wrote **Lily Rose's** "Villain"... **Andrew "Latty" Latimer** debuts May 31 as morning co-host at **WGKX** Memphis. The podcast host was most recently on air at crosstown classic hits rival **WHBQ**... Dashboard graphics company **Quu** hired executive vp of revenue **Pete Benedetti** and administrative and contracts manager **Lori Olsen**. Benedetti will continue to serve simultaneously as AlwaysMountain Time CEO while **Krista Benedetti** rises to AlwaysMountain president from co-owner/vp of sales. Olsen joins Quu after 21 years with Westwood One, including a period when the company was known as Dial-Global. She was an office administrator at the end of that run... Alpha Media/San Jose, Calif., named two official staffers, **RadioInk.com** reported, with both working at **KBAY** San Jose/**KKDV** Con-



JOHN RUSSELL/CMA

The Country Music Association revealed the 2022 Country Music Hall of Fame class on May 17. Clockwise from top left: former RCA/Sony Nashville chief **Joe Galante**; **Lorrie Morgan**, who was married to inductee **Keith Whitley** (who is in the photo Morgan is holding) when he died in 1989; and **Jerry Lee Lewis**.

cord, Calif. **Bo Matthews** becomes the cluster's permanent programming and operations director, giving him oversight of both country signals plus adult contemporary **KEZR**. He occupied that slot for seven months as an interim solution while also serving as operations manager for two Ohio markets. Additionally, **Emily Harlan** takes over as midday personality for the Bay Area country stations. She is already the San Jose Sharks digital/in-arena host... Former **KPLX** Dallas morning co-host **Brian Moote** will join **Otis Maher** as morning host at **WUBL** Atlanta, according to **RadioInsight.com**. Maher will shift into the daypart from afternoons... Anthem Entertainment launches a six-episode broadcast/podcast series, *Real Country Livin'*, with **SiriusXM** Canada on May 28. Anthem recording artist **Gord Bamford** hosts... Country Radio Broadcasters hosts a free **CRS360** webinar, "I'm a Fraud: Dealing With Imposter Syndrome," at 1 p.m. CT on May 25. Go [here](#) to register.

'ROUND THE ROW

Talkshoplive, a livestream shopping platform that has gained popularity among country artists, hired vp of marketing **Tony Grotticelli**, who moves to the company after a run as Universal Music Group Nashville vp of digital marketing. Talkshop also nabbed chief technology officer **John Hall**, who co-founded online retailer **Tradesy**. Talkshoplive country guests have included **Reba McEntire**, **Toby Keith** and **Josh Turner**... **Michelle Wright** joined the client roster at **PLA Media**... Warner Music Canada act **The Abrams** enlisted **GPS Management** and also tapped **Paladin Artists** as its U.S. booking firm and the **Sakamoto Agency** as its Canadian concert booker... Warner Chappell Music Nashville and Fourward signed singer-songwriter **Andrew Stoelzing** to a joint-venture publishing deal... **Michael Ray**, **Twinnie**, **Taylor Hicks** and **Kaylee Rose** were added as guest artists for the theatrical production *May We All: A New Country Musical*, produced by **Brian Kelley**. Opening June 7 at Nashville's Tennessee Performing Arts Center, the revolving lineup also includes **Lindsay Ell**, **Lainey Wilson**, **Canaan Smith** and **BRELAND**... **The Beach Boys** make their Grand Ole Opry debut on May 27, appearing alongside **LOCASH**. **Jackson Dean** makes his first Opry appearance on May 31... The Country Music Association's **CMA Fest** will include the return of **Fan Fair X**, an indoor mix of exhibits, merchandise and performances at Nashville's Music City Center June 9-12. Dozens of artists are scheduled, including **Trisha Yearwood**, **Jessie James Decker**, **Caitlyn Smith** and **Jimmie Allen**... The National Museum of African American Music will host screenings of the documentary *For Love & Country* during **CMA Fest** June 10-11. A panel on June 10 will also feature several of the film's participants, including **Shy Carter**, **Willie Jones** and **Frankie Statton**... **Darius Rucker** hosts a Charleston, S.C.-based renovation series, *Rucker's Reno*, on the Design Network beginning May 30... Several music industry figures were honored during the Nashville Women in Film & Television's **WIFT Alice Awards** on May 21: **Jeannie Seely**, **Kelly Lang**, **Mandy Barnett** and Middle Tennessee State University College of Media & Entertainment dean **Beverly Keel**... **Brett Kissel's** *What Is Life?* won country album of the year at the **Juno Awards** on May 15 in Toronto... **Miranda Lambert** was the lone country artist among *Time's* annual **Time100** list of the world's most influential people on May 23. She will participate in a related ABC-TV special on June 9... **Craig Morgan** was inducted into the U.S. Field Artillery Hall of Fame on May 18 at Fort Sill, Okla.... The Society of Leaders in Development (**SOLID**) raised over \$28,000 for five charities with its **Music Row Madness Tournament** on May 17 at **TopGolf** in Nashville. ●



The Cadillac Three appeared on **iHeartMedia's** syndicated *The Bobby Bones Show* on May 19 while promoting the band's role in **Miranda Lambert's** current tour. From left: **TC3's** **Neil Mason** and **Kelby Ray**, **Bones** and **TC3's** **Jaren Johnston**.

RANDY HOUSER

RH

Note to Self



SPINNING DOUBLE DIGITS AT 20+ STATIONS

#17 CPS RANK



SALES UP 20%

"'NOTE TO SELF' IS A SMASH. OUR FIRST TESTING ON IT WAS TOP 5. RANDY HAS A DISTINCTIVE VOICE AND THE SONG JUMPS OFF THE RADIO. WE ARE ALREADY PLAYING IT 28X PER WEEK AND GETTING HUGE RESPONSE."

- KRTY/SAN JOSE VP/GM

OVER 50 REPORTING STATIONS

- | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|------|------|------|
| KILT | WKIS | KMLE | WYCD | WFUS | WQYK | WJVC | WSOC | KWJJ |
| WIL | KAJA | KSOP | WWKA | WDSY | KASE | KBEQ | WQDR | KRTY |
| WKDF | WUSH | WQIK | WQKX | WAMZ | WKMK | WWGR | KSKS | KHKI |
| WCKN | WTGE | WXCX | WOGK | KCCY | WUSY | KSSN | WKRO | WTHT |
| WRNS | KXLY | WBUL | WDRM | KJUG | WKXC | WGTY | WXBQ | WQHK |
| WSLC | WUSJ | KFKF | WCOL | WNCY | MUSIC CHOICE | | | |

ON TOUR WITH CODY JOHNSON THIS FALL!



billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	NEW	1		YOU PROOF J.MOI, CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN, A.GORLEY, E.K.SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME) ★★ No. 1 (1 Week)/Hot Shot Debut ★★	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
2	2	1	39	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI, J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN, E.K.SMITH, J.THOMPSON, CHARLIE HANDSOME) ★★ Sales Gainer ★★	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	5	1
3	3	2	35	'TIL YOU CAN'T T.W.WILLMON (B.M.STENNIS, M.ROGERS)	Cody Johnson COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	6	1
4	4	3	26	AA W.HAYES, J.THIBODEAU, S.MCANALLY (W.HAYES, S.MCANALLY, L.LAIRD)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	8	3
5	5	5	18	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK M.KNOX (B.BEAVERS, K.M.ALLISON, T.KENNEDY, J.MORGAN) ★★ Airplay Gainer ★★	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	1	5
6	1	-	2	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW J.MOI (M.WALLEN, N.GALYON, M.LAMBERT)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
7	6	4	28	DOIN' THIS L.COMBS, CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D.SINGLETON (L.COMBS, D.PARKER, R.WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	4	2
8	8	9	29	TAKE MY NAME D.FANNING (M.THOMAS, A.GORLEY, D.FANNING, B.JOHNSON) ★★ Streaming Gainer ★★	Pamalee STONEY CREEK	3	8
9	7	6	49	FANCY LIKE W.HAYES, J.THIBODEAU, S.MCANALLY (W.HAYES, J.JENKINS, S.STEVENS, C.BARTOLINI)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	RC	1
10	10	11	13	DAMN STRAIT F.ROGERS, D.WELLS, A.ESHUIS (J.A.COLLINS, T.TOMLINSON)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	11	10
11	9	7	26	NEVER SAY NEVER Z.CROWELL (J.L.ALEXANDER, C.SWINDELL, C.MCGILL)	Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	7	2
12	12	15	4	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	11
13	13	14	28	SLOW DOWN SUMMER D.HUFF, J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT, R.AKINS, S.M.DOUGLAS, J.FRASURE, A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	2	9
14	16	17	20	FLOWER SHOPS J.MOI (E.K.SMITH, B.D.BURGESS, M.L.HOLMAN)	ERNEST Featuring Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD	19	14
15	11	8	30	IF I WAS A COWBOY JON RANDALL, L.DICK (M.LAMBERT, J.FRASURE)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	14	8
16	18	19	14	FALL IN LOVE A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN, B.ZIMMERMAN, G.LUCAS)	Bailey Zimmerman HURRICANE BAILEY	-	16
17	15	12	5	DON'T THINK JESUS J.MOI (J.L.ALEXANDER, M.L.HOLMAN, C.MCGILL)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	49	1
18	19	20	18	SHE LIKES IT J.KERR, J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON, J.SCOTT, J.KERR)	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott TRIPLE TIGERS	35	18
19	17	18	19	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN G.KURSTIN (M.MORRIS, R.J.HURD, JULIA MICHAELS, J.ROBBINS)	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	13	9
20	20	-	2	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC D.HUFF (K.BROWN, M.J.MCGINN, T.PHILLIPS, J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	17	20
21	14	-	2	WHISKEY ON YOU L.RIMES (N.SMITH, L.RIMES, R.SUTTON)	Nate Smith ARISTA NASHVILLE	-	14
22	24	26	13	LAST NIGHT LONELY J.PARDI, B.BUTLER, R.GORE (J.BELL, J.FOX, D.MARLOWE)	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	18	22
23	21	22	22	7500 OBO B.GALLIMORE, T.MCGRAW (M.J.MCGINN, J.SCHOTT, N.SPICER)	Tim McGraw MCGRAW/BIG MACHINE	10	21
24	23	24	31	WILD HEARTS M.FURR, K.URBAN (K.URBAN, E.PASLAY, B.F.TURSI, J.WAYNE)	Keith Urban HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	9	23
25	26	23	9	GHOST STORY D.GARCIA, C.UNDERWOOD (D.A.GARCIA, J.KEAR, H.LINDSEY, H.WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW)	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	23	18

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	#1 11 WKS	MORGAN WALLEN
2		ERNEST KEITH SMITH
3		ASHLEY GORLEY
4		ZACH BRYAN
5		CHARLIE HANDSOME
6		MIRANDA LAMBERT
7		WALKER HAYES
TIE	8	BEN MERRITT STENNIS
TIE	8	MATT ROGERS
10		SHANE MCANALLY



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 68 WKS	JOEY MOI
2		DAVID FANNING
3		TRENT WILLMON
4		CHARLIE HANDSOME
5		ZACH CROWELL
6		MICHAEL KNOX
7		DANN HUFF
8		RYAN HADLOCK
9		SHANE MCANALLY
10		JACOB DURRETT

The weekly Country Songwriters and Country Producers charts are based on total points accrued by a songwriter and producer, respectively, for each attributed song that appears on the Hot Country Songs chart. As with Billboard's yearly recaps, multiple writers or producers split points for each song equally (and the dividing of points will lead to occasional ties on rankings).

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	22	21	4	TOMORROW ME L.COMBS,CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON (L.COMBS,D.DILLON,R.FULCHER)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	13
27	25	25	11	PRAISE THE LORD J.BUNETTA,K.FISHMAN,J.DURRETT (D.BRELAND,J.R.DURRETT,K.FISHMAN,R.H.BLOCK,THOMAS RHETT,M.W.HARDY,J.J.DILLON,D.A.GARCIA)	BRELAND Featuring Thomas Rhett BAD REALM/ATLANTIC	-	21
28	34	36	10	WILD AS HER C.FARREN (M.WALLEN,BRETT TYLER,K.ARCHER)	Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS	-	28
29	31	30	26	BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS J.MOI (B.JOHNSON,J.MINTON,H.PHELPS,G.WARBURTON)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	12	29
30	29	32	14	NEW TRUCK M.ALDERMAN,C.GIBBS,J.E.NORMAN (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,B.JOHNSON,A.GORLEY)	Dylan Scott CURB	15	29
31	28	27	23	PICK ME UP R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,J.M.NITE,R.COPPERMAN)	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	31	25
32	27	29	20	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBBS,C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	40	27
33	30	28	42	TRUTH ABOUT YOU J.M.SCHMIDT,M.TENPENNY (M.TENPENNY,M.ALDERMAN,T.ARCHER)	Mitchell Tenpenny RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	27	27
34	32	33	7	SON OF A SINNER ERNEST K.I.,TOSHINSKY (J.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONE CREEK	28	32
35	33	47	3	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Z.CROWELL (A.GORLEY,C.SWINDELL,J.FRASURE,M.D.SANDERS,THOMAS RHETT,T.NICHOLS)	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	33
36	35	35	34	WISHFUL DRINKING I.ANDRESS,J.M.SCHMIDT (I.ANDRESS,J.P.STARKER SAXE,J.PRICE,D.BROWN,R.WILLIAMSON)	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	29	31
37	36	31	12	NARCISSIST D.FANNING (A.ANNA,D.FANNING,B.WILLIAMS,A.SHERIDAN)	Avery Anna WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	31
38	40	40	21	AT THE END OF A BAR C.DESTEFANO,C.YOUNG (C.YOUNG,C.DESTEFANO,M.TENPENNY)	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny RCA NASHVILLE	16	33
39	38	45	6	HEARTFIRST J.BUNETTA,S.MCANALLY (K.BALLERINI,K.FAIRCHILD,A.VANDERHEYM)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	37	25
40	44	39	16	WILDER DAYS S.VADEN,P.EBERSOLD (M.WADE,S.VADEN)	Morgan Wade LADYLIKE/ARISTA NASHVILLE	33	36
41	39	41	13	SOUL B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,L.BRICE (K.KADISH,T.FERRARI)	Lee Brice CURB	30	39
42	37	34	11	LEAVE YOU ALONE M.GRIFFITH,D.HUFF (K.BROWN,J.MINTON,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	-	21
43	41	37	9	DEAR ALCOHOL LEX NOUR (D.NWOSU JR.)	Dax LIVING LEGEND	-	28
44	46	42	9	NO HARD FEELINGS S.MCANALLY,OLD DOMINION (M.RAMSEY,T.ROSEN,W.SELLERS,G.SPRUNG,B.F.TURSI,S.MCANALLY)	Old Dominion ARISTA NASHVILLE	26	40
45	43	44	9	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE,PDIGIOVANNI,C.MCGILL,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	22	43
46	45	43	10	GROWING OLD WITH YOU J.KEIM (C.KELLEY,J.MINTON,J.REYNOLDS)	Restless Road 1021/RCA NASHVILLE	44	42
47	42	38	12	FROM AUSTIN R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	28
48	NEW	1	1	WORTH A SHOT R.COPPERMAN (S.MCANALLY,R.COPPERMAN,J.OSBORNE)	Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley RCA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	48
49	47	48	3	EVERYONE SHE KNOWS R.COPPERMAN,K.CHESENEY (R.COPPERMAN,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER BROS./WEA	20	47
50	NEW	1	1	HELL OF A WAY TO GO J.D.SINGLETON,C.MATTHEWS (R.GREEN,ERIK DYLAN,W.MCCUBBIN)	Riley Green BMLG	-	50

The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, sales data as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT				YEAR-TO-DATE			YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND	2021	2022	CHANGE		
This Week	1,503,000	1,769,773,000	132,116,000				ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
Last Week	1,492,000	1,739,308,000	132,704,000	Album Consumption	26,540,000	27,106,000	2.1%	'21 26.54 million
Change	0.7%	1.8%	-0.4%	Album Sales	3,607,000	2,725,000	-24.5%	'22 27.11 million
This Week Last Year	1,421,000	1,597,092,000	139,701,000	Audio On-Demand	29,195,431,000	31,388,392,000	7.5%	TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS
Change	5.8%	10.8%	-5.4%	Video On-Demand	2,791,432,000	2,542,756,000	-8.9%	'21 31.99 billion
								'22 33.93 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending May 19, 2022. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Album consumption units — also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA — consists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equal one consumption unit; and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/or 3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit.

For inquiries about any Luminate, formerly MRC Data, please contact Howard Lin at Hlin@luminate.xyz **LUMINATE**

billboard



2022

COUNTRY POWER PLAYERS

Billboard's ninth annual Country Power Players issue will profile the people who have driven another solid year for the country music industry in sales, streaming and publishing. This special feature will highlight the top executives, artists and change-makers who kept the music playing during challenging times, as well as coverage of the changing face of country music.

Advertise in *Billboard's* Country Power Players issue to congratulate this year's honorees while reaching key decision-makers who are driving the music business.

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ISSUE DATE 6/25 | AD CLOSE 6/15 | MATERIALS DUE 6/16

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	71	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 031807/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
2	2	3	132	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	2	1
3	4	5	207	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	2	1
4	3	4	259	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	3	1
5	5	6	27	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 034504*	RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
6	7	7	79	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
7	8	8	368	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
8	9	9	17	WALKER HAYES MONUMENT 98353	COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM		2
9	6	2	3	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 96572*/SMN	PALOMINO		2
10	10	12	278	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	7	1
11	12	17	345	ZAC BROWN BAND HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
12	11	10	4	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 538743982*/BMG	GEORGIA		2
13	13	14	32	CODY JOHNSON COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 666969*/WMN	HUMAN: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		3
14	14	16	311	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS		6
15	15	15	149	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		9
16	17	18	6	COLE SWINDELL WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN	STEREOTYPE		6
17	19	20	281	BROOKS & DUNN ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION	4	2
18	22	25	86	HARDY BIG LOUD 836*	A ROCK		4
19	18	19	78	LEE BRICE CURB 79537*	HEY WORLD		7
20	21	21	180	TOBY KEITH SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)	35 BIGGEST HITS		1
21	20	26	190	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA 68079*/LEGACY (19.98/12.98)	ELVIS: 30 #1 HITS	6	1
22	16	23	58	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 033578*	FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
23	23	24	100	GABBY BARRETT WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	GOLDMINE		4
24	24	27	288	CARRIE UNDERWOOD 19/ARISTA NASHVILLE 500876*/LEGACY	GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1		1
25	30	32	303	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN	CALIFORNIA SUNRISE		1

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	NEW		YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
2	1	2	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN
3	2	70	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
4	3	4	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
5	5	266	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
6	7	30	'TIL YOU CAN'T CODY JOHNSON
7	4	17	AA WALKER HAYES
8	8	47	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES
9	9	165	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN
10	10	4	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK JASON ALDEAN
11	11	46	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
12	17	4	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
13	13	41	BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN
14	6	5	DON'T THINK JESUS MORGAN WALLEN
15	12	48	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
16	15	3	DAMN STRAIT SCOTTY MCCREERY
17	20	9	SHE LIKES IT RUSSELL DICKERSON & JAKE SCOTT
18	RE-ENTRY		TAKE MY NAME PARMALEE
19	18	201	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
20	24	12	FLOWER SHOPS ERNEST FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN
21	23	24	DOIN' THIS LUKE COMBS
22	22	55	CHASING AFTER YOU RYAN HURD WITH MAREN MORRIS
23	NEW		NEVER WANTED TO BE THAT GIRL CARLY PEARCE & ASHLEY MCBRYDE
24	19	81	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS
25	21	34	THINKING 'BOUT YOU DUSTIN LYNCH FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA OR MACKENZIE PORTER

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.biz/charts. Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	NEW		YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
2	NEW		ONE DAY TONIGHT NOAH THOMPSON
3	1	2	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN
4	3	26	AA WALKER HAYES
5	6	21	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
6	NEW		RED BIRD HUNTERGIRL
7	5	33	'TIL YOU CAN'T CODY JOHNSON
8	2	2	WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH
9	8	49	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES
10	14	6	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
11	7	5	DON'T THINK JESUS MORGAN WALLEN
12	4	2	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC KANE BROWN
13	NEW		WORTH A SHOT ELLE KING FEAT. DIERKS BENTLEY
14	18	62	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) ELLE KING & MIRANDA LAMBERT
15	9	28	DOIN' THIS LUKE COMBS
16	19	43	MY WISH RASCAL FLATTS
17	10	5	TAKE MY NAME PARMALEE
18	13	41	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
19	17	321	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
20	22	3	LOVE CAN BUILD A BRIDGE THE JUDDS
21	11	21	NEVER SAY NEVER COLE SWINDELL / LAINEY WILSON
22	21	9	DAMN STRAIT SCOTTY MCCREERY
23	15	51	BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN
24	23	3	GRANDPA (TELL ME 'BOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS) THE JUDDS
25	20	18	FLOWER SHOPS ERNEST FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN

billboard AMERICANA/FOLK ALBUMS

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	NEW		1	THE BLACK KEYS EASY EYE SOUND/NONESUCH 667104*/WARNER	DROPOUT BOOGIE		1
2	1	1	79	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
3	2	2	314	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
4	3	4	166	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		2
5	NEW		1	LYLE LOVETT CYCLE HOLDINGS/VERVE 035491*/VLG	12TH OF JUNE		5
6	4	5	360	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	3	1
7	6	6	319	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA		1
8	7	8	24	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	ELISABETH		7
9	8	7	276	SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS		3
10	9	9	24	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 654022*/WARNER (VINYL)	DEANN		6

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/Folk albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	11	DOLLY PARTON BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*	RUN, ROSE, RUN		1
2	9	8	7	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER	CROOKED TREE		2
3	4	5	34	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD	RENEWAL		1
4	3	2	26	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD	RAISE THE ROOF		1
5	5	4	4	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW ATO 0602*	PAINT THIS TOWN		1
6	6	7	39	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA		1
7	7	9	75	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS	CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS		1
8	RE-ENTRY		29	BELA FLECK RENEW RECORDS 538689220/BMG	MY BLUEGRASS HEART		1
9	10	-	16	VARIOUS ARTISTS CURB/BILLY BLUE 2334 CB EX	COUNTRY FAITH BLUEGRASS		8
10	RE-ENTRY		5	THE DEAD SOUTH SIX SHOOTER 154	EASY LISTENING FOR JERKS - PART 2 (EP)		5

Bluegrass Albums ranks the most popular bluegrass albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on album sales. Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

MAKIN' TRACKS TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com

Newcomer John Morgan Emerges 'Right In The Middle' Of Jason Aldean's Label

When NBC launched *American Song Contest* this spring as a competition between acts from all 50 states and several territories, it cast a few previous hit-makers — including **Michael Bolton** and **Macy Gray** — among its all-genre competitors.

But the show may have also unearthed a future star from North Carolina who has been writing in the shadows in Nashville.

John Morgan is the first signee on **Jason Aldean's** Night Train label and has made the most of the association thus far, writing eight songs on Aldean's current *Macon, Georgia* double album, including the **Carrie Underwood** collaboration "If I Didn't Love You" and Aldean's current solo single, "Trouble With a Heartbreak."

But in *American Song Contest*, Morgan introduced his voice with an effectively smooth song, "Right in the Middle," that also played up his home state with a sly reference to a "Tar Heels hoodie" in the chorus. Morgan didn't know it would be a TV competition piece when he wrote it on Nov. 10, 2021, but he was adamant about not giving it away.

"I want to write the best song that we can write today — whether it's for me or for **Thomas Rhett** or Jason Aldean, it doesn't matter," he says. "This specific day, I remember finishing this song and just being like, 'This is something I want to do for my artist stuff.' It was just something I connected to, and it just felt like me."

It should, since Morgan was a driving force at the writing appointment with **Rodney Clawson** ("American Kids," "Dirt"), **Justin Wilson** ("Kiss You in the Morning," "Momma's House") and **Will Bundy**. He came in with the title, a bit of the chorus melody and a general idea that it should be about spending time with a woman he would want to pursue were he not right in the middle of loving a memory.

"I had an idea in my phone that was similar to it that I had been wanting to write," Wilson recalls. "I never really knew how to go about it. And when John came in and brought up 'Right in the Middle' and explained, 'Hey, I ought to love everything about this. I'm just in love with this other girl still,' I kind of spoke up: 'I totally understand this.'"

Knowing where they were headed, they locked onto an opening line, "We're two minutes into a three-minute song," that serves as either a description of background music at a bar or as a metaphor for the time the singer has invested in the evening with a "small-town stunner."

The "Middle" melody was understated, but it fit the protagonist's emotional position, a blend of longing, heartbreak and nostalgia.

The chorus explained that mix, shifting focus from the woman in the room to the woman in the singer's memory, addressed in the first person as he flashes back to the two of them singing along to **Tom Petty's** "Last Dance With Mary Jane." And he takes note that she "stole my Tar Heels hoodie and a piece of my heart." Tar Heels is, of course, the team nickname for the University of North Carolina athletic department.

"We threw him a little home state love there," Clawson says. "It's funny because artists don't ever come up with that themselves. Songwriters will say, 'Well, if we're going to do a hoodie, who's your favorite team?' 'Tar Heels.' 'OK, well, let's do that Tar Heels hoodie.'"

Just as the chorus seemed it would end, they slid into another section that gently repeated the title four more times, essentially stacking two choruses

back-to-back for an extended set of hooks. It was singalong gold, but it also meant they would be chewing up a big chunk of the standard three-and-a-half minutes they would have for storytelling.

"I was actually worried about that while we were writing it," Wilson says. "When we got to the chorus, it was going so long, I was like, 'Man, are y'all sure that we need to have it this long? Or are we going to run out of time?' And I had to just trust."

One way they compensated was to cut the second verse in half. That stanza took a bit of conceptual work, too, since the natural tendency would have been to readdress the girl in front of the protagonist. Instead, they had the guy continue pining for his ex, wondering what she's doing now and if she has moved on more successfully than him.

"It took us a minute to figure out we just needed to stick on that," Clawson says. "That's not necessarily the typical way to go, but once the whole chorus is about the girl that he's still in love with, it's kind of hard to flip back to the other girl."

So what happens to that first girl?

"I would say from previous experience, she's probably gone," Morgan says with a laugh. "She paid her tab and hit the door, I'm sure."

Aldean co-produced Morgan's recording with two of his band members, guitarist **Kurt Allison** and bassist **Tully Kennedy**. Though they have a fairly identifiable sound as a unit, they were able to supply Morgan with a completely different foundation — no one's

likely to know it's Aldean's team simply from listening.

"That was something we were kind of conscious of," Aldean says. "He's a different artist than I am, and his sound's a little more laid-back and not so rock'n'roll. So that was something we knew we were going to have to do going in, and we just kind of let it happen naturally."

Kennedy, who's one of the genre's more acrobatic bassists, restrained his playing a bit, and Morgan handled the guitar fills himself, even though studio veterans Allison and **Rob McNelley** both participated.

That ultralong chorus also benefited from Aldean's experience. Morgan was challenged at finding the right places to breathe, and Aldean guided him a bit through that process to find a version that would work even beyond the studio.

"He's so good at hearing those stops and breaths and everything," Morgan says. "That's one of the benefits of having him as a part of this team. He knows what it's going to be like performing it live."

Ultimately, after working on the final vocal for "Right in the Middle," they decided a previous vocal he had cut for the demo better captured the song's emotion. As a result, they kept only a few touch-ups from his final session for the master recording.

"He's a pretty flawless singer," Aldean says. "He's not a guy that you have to coach a whole lot in there. That's one of my favorite things about him: He's got really good instincts as far as what he wants to do with the song."

With its Tar Heels reference, "Right in the Middle" was the perfect introduction for the North Carolina contestant on *American Song Contest*. Broken Bow released it on April 17, prior to Morgan's first performance on the show, with plans to work it specifically to country radio at a future date.

"It feels like it's meant to be on radio," Morgan says. "I say that lightly because I know what I'm saying, but it felt the most in that direction to me, and everybody that I played it for has fallen in love with it." ●



MORGAN

Billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org.
(Songwriter) **Chart Position**

5 FOOT 9 T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs For Buddy/ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Music, BMI (T.R.Hubbard, J.Johnston, C.McGill) **52**

7500 OBO Smackworks Music, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Red Like The Sunset Music, ASCAP/Spicer And Everytting Nicer, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP (M.J.McGinn, J.Schott, N.Spicer) **10**

A

AA Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Spark In Your Pocket, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/The Crawford Legacy Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of CN, GMR (W.Hayes, S.McAnally, L.Laird) **8**

AT THE END OF A BAR Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/They've Gone To Play Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Monsters Hate Puppies Publishing, ASCAP/Sony CountrySide, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI (C.Young, C.DeStefano, M.Tenpenny) **16**

B

BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest, Inc., BMI/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI (B.Johnson, J.Minton, H.Phelps, G.Warburton) **12**

C

CAN'T DO WITHOUT ME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/243 Farm Creations, ASCAP (J.Walker, T.Anderson, M.Carter) **47**

CATCHING UP WITH AN OL' MEMORY
Not Listed (C.Walker, B.Girge, J.Boyer, L.Guzman) **54**

CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Heroges And Halos Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI/I've Got Issues Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/RMS, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP (M.Morris, R.J.Hurd, Julia Michaels, J.Robbins) **13**

COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU
Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP/Pickin Padre Music, ASCAP/Spirit Of Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/No Bridge Publishing, ASCAP (D.George, M.Criswell, T.Phillips, C.Taylor) **24**

CRAZY ONE MORE TIME (2022) Music Of Stage Three, BMI/Songs Of Cornman, BMI/Roll Through Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Tempo Music Investment, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Little Vampire Music, ASCAP/Little Blue Typewriter Music, BMI (K.Moore, C.Lindsey, A.Mayo) **59**

D

DAMN STRAIT Naconwhere Music, BMI/Big Mosquito Music, BMI/Kirbfinder's Mucho Love Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (J.A.Collins, T.Tomlinson) **11**

DATES IN PICKUP TRUCKS Wolf Shirt Publishing, BMI/creative Pulse Music, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Sony Story Music Publishing, GMR/We Are Creative Nation, GMR/Suzanne James Songs, GMR/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Universal Music, Brentwood Benson Publishing, ASCAP (K.Ashton, L.Laird, D.A.Garcia) **57**

DOIN' THIS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Works Of RHA, BMI/Oak Tree Swing Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sagequinnude Music, BMI/Chiffonobe Songs, BMI/Songs Of TriScore, BMI/Free Dive Music, BMI/Smothered And Covered Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, D.Parker, R.Willford) **4**

DON'T COME LOOKIN' Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Dean, L.Dick) **21**

DON'T THINK JESUS here I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jett Wilde Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Music, BMI (J.L.Alexander, M.L.Holman, C.McGill) **49**

DOWN HOME Endurance Juliet, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Bian Ball Music, ASCAP/Shut The Red Door, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cameron Bedell Music, BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Bettie James Music, SESAC (J.Allen, R.Ball, C.Bedell, T.Howell) **39**

DRINKIN' IT WRONG Sony Accent, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Bennett's Dad's Songs, SESAC/Roc Nation US Music, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., ASCAP/We-Volve Music, ASCAP/Freshy Music, ASCAP (A.Doleac, C.R.Barlowe, J.M.Schmidt) **52**

E

EVERYONE SHE KNOWS EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Influence Media Music SPV, LLC, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR (R.Copperman, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **20**

EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T W/C Music Corp., ASCAP/Pioasus, ASCAP/Lockeyed Hat Music, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (H.Whitters, B.Simpson, R.Tyndell) **58**

F

FLOWER SHOPS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/This Songs For You Pops, BMI/Jett Wilde Songs, BMI (E.K.Smith, B.D.Burgess, M.L.Holman) **19**

G

GHOST STORY Spirit Two Music Inc., ASCAP/ATheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Kigai Music, ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP/Public Domain (D.A.Garcia, J.Kear, H.Lindsey, H.Wadsworth Longfellow) **23**

GIVING YOU UP Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Idiot Circle Publishing LLC, BMI (M.Marlowe) **50**

GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/YesYesYall, BMI/Mason Gannon Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Revelry Music, BMI (D.Cohen, B.Hammick, N.Mason) **51**

GROWING OLD WITH YOU
Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETPublishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/Ireymusic, ASCAP/Buckeye26, ASCAP (C.Kelley, J.Minton, J.Reynolds) **44**

H

HEARTFIRST Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Roc Nation US Music, SESAC/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.Ballerini, K.Fairchild, A.Vanderteyn) **37**

HEART LIKE A TRUCK Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony CountrySide, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI (L.Wilson, D.Wilson, T.Anderson) **42**

HELL YEAH Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Crowd Publishing, ASCAP/T Hubb Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI (J.Westbrook, P.Sweet, C.Crowder, T.R.Hubbard) **35**

HOLY WATER Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI (A.Gorley, B.Johnson, M.W.Hardy, H.Phelps) **45**

I

IF I WAS A COWBOY Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI (M.Lambert, J.Frasure) **14**

J

JOY OF MY LIFE Cody River Music Company, ASCAP/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS (J.C.Fogarty) **40**

L

LAST NIGHT LONELY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/PIA Entertainment Publishing/Designee, BMI (J.Bell, J.Fox, D.Marlowe) **18**

LEARN FROM IT Hometowners Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Songs Of Miller Crow, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Florida Songs VibeZ, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Smith, D.Ross) **41**

LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/McGinndependence Day, SESAC/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/We-Volve Music, ASCAP/georgia song VibeZ, ASCAP (K.Brown, M.J.McGinn, T.Phillips, J.M.Schmidt) **17**

LOVE TALKING Big Music Machine, BMI/Guinevere Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Jimmy Robbins Publishing Designee, BMI/Painted Man Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Area 83 Music, BMI (M.Eli, E.Arjes, J.East) **48**

M

MISSING ONE Highly Combustible Music, ASCAP/Get Ur Soul On, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/New House of Sea Galle Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.Rodgers, S.Ahnquist, H.Phelps) **56**

MY BAR Scilla's Song Shop Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Virginia Boy Music, BMI/Lexie Hayden Publishing, BMI (P.Block, S.Alelli, L.Hayden) **38**

N

NEVER SAY NEVER Colden Rainey Music, BMI/Darin Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.L.Alexander, C.Swindell, C.McGill) **7**

NEW TRUCK Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI (M.W.Hardy, H.Phelps, B.Johnson, A.Gorley) **15**

NO HARD FEELINGS WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Music Publishing, ASCAP/McGusta Music, ASCAP/Tiny Handstand, ASCAP/Mecusta Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Jurs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, W.Sellers, G.Spring, B.F.Tursi, S.McAnally) **26**

NOTE TO SELF EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Little Britches Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (R.Houser, R.Copperman, C.Beathard, B.Pinson) **53**

O

OUT IN THE MIDDLE Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Prestige CountrySide, ASCAP/Simonetti Music Publishing, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Spirit Music Group, ASCAP/Weimerhound Music, SESAC/Day For The Dead Publishing, SESAC/Reach Music Tunes, SESAC (B.Simonetti, Z.Brown, L.Combs, J.D.Singleton) **34**

P

PARTY MODE Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/JFlow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/Downtown DLI Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/12welve Red Oak Songs, BMI/Downtown DLP Songs, BMI/12welve Sequoia, SESAC/Songs Of Downtown, SESAC/McGinnintellectual Property, SESAC/True Blue Works, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC (J.Flowers, R.Beaver, R.Alexander, J.Keim, M.McGinn) **25**

PICK ME UP Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC (G.Barrett, J.M.Nite, R.Copperman) **31**

S

SALT, LIME & TEQUILA Studio Apartment Studio, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/For The Kids gold, ASCAP (R.R.Griffin, J.P.Massey, A.A.Suppelsa) **60**

SHE LIKES IT Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Torches And Pitchforks Music, BMI/Angrny Mob Music LLC, BMI/BIANA Bangers, BMI/Tunes Of Black River, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (R.Dickerson, J.Scott, J.Kerr) **35**

SLOW DOWN SUMMER Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Ritten By Rheffro, BMI/Eastman Pond Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP (Thomas Rheff, R.Akins, S.M.Douglas, J.Frasure, A.Gorley) **2**

SON OF A RIFER House Tunes, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Pambilly Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI (D.Carmichael, P.O'Donnell, C.Beathard) **46**

SON OF A SINNER Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Melody Market, BMI (J.DeFord, E.K.Smith, D.R.Stevens) **28**

SOUL Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/A Forest Of Evergreens, ASCAP/Seven Summits Music, BMI/Tony Ferrari Publishing, BMI (K.Kadish, T.Ferrari) **30**

T

TAKE MY NAME Sony CountrySide, BMI/IM Thomas Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/33 Creative, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (M.Thomas, A.Gorley, D.Fanning, B.Johnson) **3**

'TIL YOU CAN'T Anthem Canalo Publishing, ASCAP/Deaf Aim Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/The Stennis Mightier Music, BMI (B.M.Stennis, M.Rogers) **6**

TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Stalefish Music, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Love Music, ASCAP/Irishsonmusic, BMI/Triple Play Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI (B.Beavers, K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **1**

TRUTH ABOUT YOU Sony CountrySide, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Curb Congregation Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Music Of MAM, BMI/Hits Like Hurricane, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.Tenpenny, M.Alderman, T.Archer) **27**

W

WASTED ON YOU Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.Wallen, E.K.Smith, J.Thompson, Charlie Handsome) **5**

WHAT A SONG CAN DO Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETPublishing, BMI/Universal Music Corp., BMI/Happy Rock Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI/Millicent Hill Music, BMI (C.Kelley, S.Ellis, R.J.Hurd, L.J.Veit) **43**

WILDER DAYS Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Dirty Plog Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (M.Wade, S.Vaeden) **33**

WILD HEARTS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/BIAROMA Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Pay The Nice Guy Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Jurs And Chorus, ASCAP/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC/Wild Wild West Songs, SESAC (K.Urban, E.Paslay, B.F.Tursi, J.Wayne) **9**

WISHFUL DRINKING Jonny Price Music, ASCAP/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Music By Lucky Dave Publishing, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI/Skyve Next Level Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Starker Saxe, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Straight From The Art Music, BMI/What Is An Ingrid, BMI (L.Andress, J.P.Starker Saxe, J.Price, D.Brown, R.Williamson) **29**

WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Tunes From The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulwood Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Music, BMI (J.Moore, P.D.Giovanni, C.McGill, J.S.Stover) **22**

Y

YOU DIDN'T Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/RMS, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/EMI Foray Music, SESAC (B.Young, A.Gorley, J.M.Nite, J.Robbins) **36**

billboard Hot Country Songs Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) **Chart Position**

7500 OBO Smackworks Music, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Red Like The Sunset Music, ASCAP/Spicer And Everyting Nicer, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP (M.J.McGinn, J.Schott, N.Spicer) **23**

A

AA Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Spark In Your Pocket, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/The Crawford Legacy Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of CN, GMR (W.Hayes, S.McAnally, L.Laird) **4**

AT THE END OF A BAR Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/They've Gone To Plaid Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Monsters Hate Puppies Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Countryside, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI (C.Young, C.DeStefano, M.Tenpenny) **38**

B

BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI (B.Johnson, J.Minton, H.Phelps, G.Warburton) **29**

C

CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Heroes And Halos Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI/I've Got Issues Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/JRM3, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP (M.Morris, R.J.Hurd, Julia Michaels, J.Robbins) **19**

D

DAMN STRAIT Naconowhere Music, BMI/Big Mosquito Music, BMI/Kirbfinder's Mucho Love Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (J.A.Collins, T.Tomlinson) **10**

DEAR ALCOHOL Daniel Dax Entertainment, BMI (D.Nwosu Jr.) **43**

DOIN' THIS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Works Of RHA, BMI/Oak Tree Swing Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sagequinnjude Music, BMI/Chiforobe Songs, BMI/Songs Of TrIScore, BMI/Free Dive Music, BMI/Smothered And Covered Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, D.Parker, R.Williford) **7**

DON'T THINK JESUS here I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jett Wilde Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Music, BMI (J.L.Alexander, M.L.Holman, C.McGill) **17**

E

EVERYONE SHE KNOWS EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Influence Media Music SPV, LLC, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR (R.Copperman, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **49**

F

FALL IN LOVE Gavin Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, ASCAP/I Fart Creations, BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, G.Lucas) **16**

FANCY LIKE Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Holy Graffiti Music, BMI/Music Of MAM, BMI/Purplebeatz, BMI/Cameron Bartolini Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (W.Hayes, J.Jenkins, S.Stevens, C.Bartolini) **9**

FLOWER SHOPS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/This Songs For You Pops, BMI/Jett Wilde Songs, BMI (E.K.Smith, B.D.Burgess, M.L.Holman) **14**

FROM AUSTIN Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **47**

G

GHOST STORY Spirit Two Music Inc., ASCAP/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Ikigai Music, ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP/Public Domain (D.A.Garcia, J.Kear, H.Lindsey, H.Wadsworth Longfellow) **25**

GROWING OLD WITH YOU Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETPublishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/Jreynnmusic, ASCAP/Buckeye26, ASCAP (C.Kelley, J.Minton, J.Reynolds) **46**

H

HEARTFIRST Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Roc Nation US Music, SESAC/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.Ballerini, K.Fairchild, A.Vanderheyem) **39**

HELL OF A WAY TO GO Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Flatland Boy Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hit Songs Of 50 Egg Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI (R.Green, Erik Dylan, W.McCubbin) **50**

I

IF I WAS A COWBOY Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI (M.Lambert, J.Frasure) **15**

J

JOY OF MY LIFE Cody River Music Company, ASCAP/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS (J.C.Fogerty) **32**

L

LAST NIGHT LONELY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/PIA Entertainment Publishing Designee, BMI (J.Bell, J.Fox, D.Marlowe) **22**

LEAVE YOU ALONE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Family Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP (K.Brown, J.Minton, J.M.Schmidt) **42**

LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/McGinndependence Day, SESAC/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/We-Volve Music, ASCAP/Georgia Song VibeZ, ASCAP (K.Brown, M.J.McGinn, T.Phillips, J.M.Schmidt) **20**

N

NARCISSIST Avery Anna Music, BMI/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/33 Creative, BMI (A.Anna, D.Fanning, B.Williams, A.Sheridan) **37**

NEVER SAY NEVER Colden Rainey Music, BMI/Damn Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.L.Alexander, C.Swindell, C.McGill) **11**

NEW TRUCK Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI (M.W.Hardy, H.Phelps, B.Johnson, A.Gorley) **30**

NO HARD FEELINGS WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Downtown DLI Songs, ASCAP/Tiny Handstand, ASCAP/MeGusta Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, W.Sellers, G.Sprung, B.F.Tursi, S.McAnally) **44**

P

PICK ME UP Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC (G.Barrett, J.M.Nite, R.Copperman) **31**

PRAISE THE LORD Pen Point Guard Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Magic Mustang Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kyle Fishman Music, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Music Of Big Family, BMI/Hignosis Songs, BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP (D.Breland, J.R.Durrett, K.Fishman, R.H.Black, Thomas Rhett, M.W.Hardy, J.J.Dillon, D.A.Garcia) **27**

S

SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Ashley Gorley Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Colden Rainey Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.Gorley, C.Swindell, J.Frasure, M.D.Sanders, Thomas Rhett, T.Nichols) **35**

SHE LIKES IT Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Torches And Pitchforks Music, BMI/Angry Mob Music LLC, BMI/BNA Bangers, BMI/Tunes Of Black River, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (R.Dickerson, J.Scott, J.Kerr) **18**

SLOW DOWN SUMMER Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Crickett On The Line, BMI/Ritten By Rhettro, BMI/Eastman Pond Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, R.Akins, S.M.Douglas, J.Frasure, A.Gorley) **13**

SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **12**

SON OF A SINNER Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Melody Market, BMI (J.DeFord, E.K.Smith, D.R.Stevens) **34**

SOUL Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/A Forest Of Evergreens, ASCAP/Seven Summits Music, BMI/Tony Ferrari Publishing, BMI (K.Kadish, T.Ferrari) **41**

T

TAKE MY NAME Sony Countryside, BMI/JM Thomas Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/33 Creative, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (M.Thomas, A.Gorley, D.Fanning, B.Johnson) **8**

THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/A Boy Named Ford, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Wallen, N.Galyon, M.Lambert) **6**

'TIL YOU CAN'T Anthem Canalcio Publishing, ASCAP/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/The Stennis Mighty Music, BMI (B.M.Stennis, M.Rogers) **3**

TOMORROW ME Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/Dear's Cabin Publishing, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Larkin Hill Publishing, BMI/Works Of RHA, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (L.Combs, D.Dillon, R.Fulcher) **26**

TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Stalefish Music, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/Irishsonmusic, BMI/Triple Play Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI (B.Beavers, K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **5**

TRUTH ABOUT YOU Sony Countryside, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Curb Con Country Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Music Of MAM, BMI/Hits Like Hurricane, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.Tenpenny, M.Alderman, T.Archer) **33**

W

WASTED ON YOU Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.Wallen, E.K.Smith, J.Thompson, Charlie Handsome) **2**

WHISKEY ON YOU Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Corent Music, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Koala T Tunes, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Droptime Music, BMI (N.Smith, L.Rimes, R.Sutton) **21**

WILD AS HER Combustion Music, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Red Creative, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Big Loud Brett Songs, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI (M.Wallen, Brett Tyler, K.Archer) **28**

WILDER DAYS Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Dirty Mag Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (R.Wade, S.Vaden) **40**

WILD HEARTS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/MAROMA Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Pay The Nice Guy Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC/Wild Wild West Songs, SESAC (K.Urban, E.Paslay, B.F.Tursi, J.Wayne) **24**

WISHFUL DRINKING Jonny Price Music, ASCAP/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Music By Lucky Daye Publishing, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI/RyKeyz Next Level Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Starker Saxe, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Straight From The Art Music, BMI/What Is An Ingrid, BMI (L.Andress, J.P.Starker Saxe, J.Price, D.Brown, R.Williamson) **36**

WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Tunes From The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paullywood Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Music, BMI (J.Moore, P.DiGianni, C.McGill, J.S.Stover) **45**

WORTH A SHOT Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Smackwood Music, GMR (S.McAnally, R.Copperman, J.Osborne) **48**

Y

YOU PROOF Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.Wallen, A.Gorley, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **1**

COUNTRY

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

15 Years Ago Billy Currington Followed 'Good Directions' To No. 1

In 2007, the hit became his longest-reigning of six Hot Country Songs leaders

On May 26, 2007, Billy Currington's "Good Directions" began a three-week domination on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. It became the second — and longest-leading — of his six No. 1s.

Penning by Luke Bryan (who earned his first of seven No. 1s as a writer and his lone leader for another act) and Rachel Thibodeau, the song was released as the third single from Currington's

second album, *Doin' Somethin' Right*, which became his first of five top 10s on Top Country Albums in November 2005. Lead single "Must Be Doin' Somethin' Right" brought him to the Hot Country Songs summit for the first time.

Currington, 48, arrived on Hot Country Songs with "Walk a Little Straighter," which hit No. 8 in No-

vember 2003, marking his first of 14 top 10s. In his most recent trip to the tier, "Do I Make You Wanna" reached No. 5 in August 2017; it led Country Airplay the same month, becoming his 11th No. 1.

The Savannah, Ga., native released his seventh album, *Intuition*, last August, his first since 2015's *Summer Forever*, and is now on tour. —JIM ASKER

Currington



TRK	WEEKS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	ARTIST	IMPRINT & NUMBER / PROMOTION LABEL	PEAK POS.
1	3	4	32	#1 1 WK	GOOD DIRECTIONS C. CHAMBERLAIN (L. BRYAN, R. THIBODEAU)	Billy Currington Mercury	Mercury	1
2	1	2	20		SETTLIN' B. GALLIMORE, K. BUSH, J. NETTLES (J. NETTLES, K. BUSH, T. OWENS)	Sugarland Mercury	Mercury	1
3	6	7	22		MOMENTS J. LEO, T. GENTRY (A. TATE, S. TATE, D. BERG)	Emerson Drive Midas/New Revolution	Midas/New Revolution	3
4	5	5	15		HIGH MAINTENANCE WOMAN T. KEITH (T. KEITH, T. WILSON, D. SIMPSON)	Toby Keith Show Dog Nashville	Show Dog Nashville	4
5	2	1	19		STAND D. HUFF, RASCAL FLATTS (B. DALY, D. ORTON)	Rascal Flatts Lyric Street	Lyric Street	1
6	8	8	11		TICKS	Brad Paisley		