

billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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30 Years After 'Achy Breaky Heart,' Cyrus Jackhammers His Way Forward

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It was the commercial juggernaut Music Row loved to hate. **Billy Ray Cyrus'** "Achy Breaky Heart," one of the most controversial recordings in Nashville history, launched a five-week run at No. 1 on Hot Country Songs 30 years ago, on May 30, 1992. One week later, his *Some Gave All* hit the summit on Top Country Albums for the first of 34 total weeks, setting a precedent at the time for a debut album.

The "Achy Breaky" controversy was never about the song's potential influence. Written by **Don Von Tress** as a simple tune that would appeal to kids, it didn't advocate for drinking, cheating or even swearing. Opponents didn't seem to think it posed the same sexual danger for their children as earlier antagonists associated with rock 'n' roll, R&B or jazz.

Instead, Music Row was annoyed by the song's intentional simplicity: its unusual, semi-comical lyrics and an easy-but-energetic hook and chord progression that made it an undeniable earworm. **Joe Scaife**, who co-produced it with **Jim Cotton**, presented a cassette demo to Cyrus when he was preparing to record the bulk of *Some Gave All* at Nashville's Music Mill in May 1991.

"Before we started going into rehearsal," Cyrus recalls, "he said, 'Hey, man, I got this thing that you'll either love it or hate it.' It ended up being the story of the song."

Upon its release, "Achy Breaky" opinions became the talk of the creative community, and when the Associated Press asked **Travis Tritt** for his thoughts on it, his comparatively mild

response — "I don't think 'Achy Breaky Heart' makes much of a statement" — generated a celebrity feud in a genre that mostly avoids public spats.

Still, it earned platinum status in less than three months, even though singles were barely marketed at the time, and the RIAA certified *Some Gave All* nine-times-platinum. **Johnny Cash** sent Cyrus a note comparing his polarizing effects to **Elvis Presley** and congratulating him for "the way you're handling it all." **Bob Seger** told Cyrus to disregard a negative comment in the *Los Angeles Times* after "Achy Breaky" spawned five Grammy nominations for Cyrus and Von Tress. And **Bruce Springsteen** covered it during a New Jersey concert, saying, "Everyone gets a giggle out of it, but that tune is just damn good."

"Two of my heroes stepped up to the plate, and that was good enough for me," says Cyrus today. "If the Boss was cool with it and Johnny Cash was cool with it, it didn't matter what anybody else said."

"Achy Breaky" was a key component in the era's country line dance fad, and over the next five years, country artists increasingly recorded borderline novelty songs in hopes of repeating his success. As one artist said, "We thought the fans were telling us they wanted novelty songs." Mostly, they wanted *that* novelty song.

Love it or hate it, one could argue that "Achy Breaky" was a forerunner to the last decade in country. It used a relentless,



Cyrus (left) and the cover of 1992's *Some Gave All*.

RUSSELL DICKERSON JAKE SCOTT

She Likes It

©2021 Written and Recorded in Nashville, TN RD/JS

35* - 33*

TRIPLE TIGERS RECORDS

BREAKER!

94 MILLION
WORLDWIDE STREAMS

6 MILLION WORLDWIDE
STREAMS THIS WEEK

two-chord progression that never changed throughout the song. Now that many writers use repetitive loops to create new material, the genre has had a run of titles that similarly never waver in their progressions from start to finish. The biggest differences are that the patterns are usually built on four chords rather than two and songwriters are more conscientious about changing the melodic patterns to avoid the kind of burnout that “Achy Breaky” engendered.

Meanwhile, Cyrus turned the song that Music Row loved to hate into a career that has defied experts’ expectations through unpredictable renewals. After piling up five top 10 country singles in less than two years, he waited five years for another top five (“Busy Man,” in 1998), repurposed his efforts by starring in the *Doc* cable TV series beginning in 2001, joined daughter **Miley Cyrus** in the cast of the 2006 Disney smash sitcom *Hannah Montana* and moved to Broadway with a 2012 role in *Chicago*.

Then, of course, came Cyrus’ out-of-the-blue appearance on a remix of the **Lil Nas X** single “Old Town Road,” now certified 16-times platinum. It led the Billboard Hot 100 for 19 weeks and got Cyrus into a Wild West-themed Doritos commercial. Appropriately, “Old Town Road” had the same sort of simplicity that boosted “Achy Breaky Heart.”

“Everybody can sing it, everybody can play it,” Cyrus explains. “It was a little bit of rock, a little bit of country, a little bit of bluegrass, a little bit of soul and a whole lot of hip-hop and urban music combined in this great thing that everybody could sing.”

Cyrus is haunted these days by one of his previous cuts. “Enough Is Enough,” from the 1994 album *Storm in the Heartland*, addressed domestic violence and the role of guns in global politics. The same phrase, “enough is enough,” has appeared over the last week in headlines, editorials and the title of an MSNBC special devoted to recent shooting massacres in Buffalo, N.Y., and Uvalde, Texas.

“We have to fix this — something is wrong,” he says. “I hope this is the beginning of change.”

Meanwhile, Cyrus is part of yet another cross-genre piece: “Hard Workin’ Man,” a collaboration with **The Avila Brothers** and **Snoop Dogg** that — depending on the mix — includes swatches of R&B, spirituals and EDM. (A trippy new **Yellowstone mix** was released May 27.) The country lyric in its blue-collar message, “There’s a couple of things we all need/Just a little bit of love and some elbow grease,” comes from its least likely source, Snoop Dogg, whom Cyrus only met in person when they shot a video at a truck stop on the West Side of Nashville.

Ultimately, Cyrus is still kicking it because he’s as relentless as “Achy Breaky Heart.” His determination to doggedly move forward in the face of skepticism is an admirable quality, one he credits to **Napoleon Hill**’s 1937 self-help book *Think and Grow Rich*.

“Be a jackhammer,” says Cyrus. “Anybody reaching their dreams should be a jackhammer, realizing that it’s not the force of the hammer hitting the concrete one time that breaks the concrete, it’s the repetition: pop, pop, pop. That’s how you break your concrete. Be a jackhammer; keep on keeping on.”



Tenille Arts guested May 20 on the WSM-AM Nashville morning show, chatting about a June 9 appearance at CMA Fest. From left: WSM host Bill Cody, Arts and WSM hosts Kelly Sutton and Charlie Mattos.



Randall King (center) dropped by the KCYE Las Vegas offices on May 20. He’s flanked by KCYE music director Ransom Garcia (left) and PD Shawn Stevens.



Kelly Lang (left), Jeannie Seely (center) and Mandy Barnett were among the honorees on May 21 during the Nashville Women in Film & Television WIFT Alice Awards in Brentwood, Tenn.

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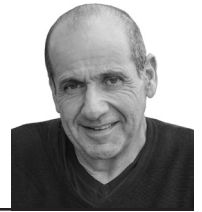
THOMAS RHETT FEATURING RILEY GREEN

GOING FOR ADDS NOW



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

Zach Bryan Zooms In At No. 1 On Top Country Albums; Scotty McCreery, Bailey Zimmerman Score Top 10 Songs



Zach Bryan earns his first *Billboard* Top Country Albums chart leader as the 26-year-old singer-songwriter from Oologah, Okla., launches *American Heartbreak* (Belting Bronco/Warner Records) at No. 1 on the June 4-dated list. The hefty 34-track set, released May 20, opens with 71,000 equivalent album units in the week ending May 26, according to Luminate — the biggest week for a country album in 2022.

Streaming-equivalent album units account for 64,500 of that starting sum, equaling 84.1 million on-demand official streams — likewise the best streaming frame for a country album this year.

The LP bows at No. 5 on the all-genre *Billboard* 200, where it's Bryan's first entry. It also premieres atop Americana/Folk Albums, becoming his first No. 1 among three top 10s, and Top Rock Albums, where it's his first leader and second charted title, after 2019's *DeAnn* spent one week at No. 31 in February.

American Heartbreak — Bryan's first major-label LP and his third overall — is his second Top Country Albums entry. 2020's *Elisabeth* entered at No. 50 in February and reached No. 41 in March.

The U.S. Navy veteran simultaneously achieves his first top 10 on the multimetric Hot Country Songs chart: The new set's "Something in the Orange" (which he wrote solo) soars 12-3. It pushes 4-2 for a new high on Country Streaming Songs, up 47% to 12.9 million official U.S. streams, and reenters Country Digital Song Sales at No. 16 after arriving at its No. 11 best (May 7), up 66% to 1,900 sold.

American Heartbreak dethrones **Morgan Wallen's** *Dangerous: The Double Album* (Big Loud/Republic) on Top Country Albums as the latter dips to No. 2 (51,000 units, down 7%). *Dangerous* has ruled the list for a record-breaking 59 weeks. It last ceded the summit on the Jan. 8 chart to **Taylor Swift's** *Red (Taylor's Version)*, which logged its seventh week on top after starting at No. 1 last November.

Meanwhile, Wallen's current single being promoted to country radio,

"Wasted On You," rebounds 2-1 on Hot Country Songs for its third week atop the chart, with 11.3 million streams (down 2%) and 3,900 sold (down 5%). On Country Airplay, the song climbs 5-4 for a new high, up 6% to 22 million impressions.

'FALL' FORWARD **Bailey Zimmerman** lands his first Hot Country Songs top 10 as his rookie entry, "Fall in Love" (Hurricane Bailey), bounds 16-10. The track, which he co-wrote, drew 9.7 million streams (up 33%) and sold 2,500 in the tracking week. The 22-year-old Louisville, Ill., native gained traction by posting videos on TikTok, where he boasts nearly 1 million followers. He signed to Warner Music Nashville in April.



BRYAN

'STRAIT' AHEAD **Scotty McCreery** nets his seventh Country Airplay top 10 as "Damn Strait" (Triple Tigers) climbs 11-9 (15.6 million, up 10%). The song follows "You Time," which became the 2011 *American Idol* victor's fourth No. 1 last October. On Hot Country Songs, "Strait" shoots 10-8 for a new best, also bolstered by 6.3 million streams and 1,500 sold.

DOUBLE 'TROUBLE' **Jason Aldean's** "Trouble With a Heartbreak" (Macon/Broken Bow) tops Country Airplay for a second week (26 million, up 8%). It became his 25th leader on the May 28 ranking and now marks his 12th multi-week No. 1. The song is the 16th to ascend to No. 1 on the chart this year and just the fifth to dominate for multiple weeks.

NOAH'S ARC **Noah Thompson**, the 20-year-old from Louisville, Ky., who won the latest season of ABC's *American Idol*, claims his first leader on Country Digital Song Sales as "One Day Tonight" (19/BMG) ascends 2-1. The track sold 11,000 downloads, up 62%, in the tracking week ending May 26, with *Idol's* season finale having aired May 22.

Plus, **HunterGirl**, who finished as the season's runner-up, jumps 6-2 with "Red Bird" (19/BMG), up 187% to 9,900 sold. ●

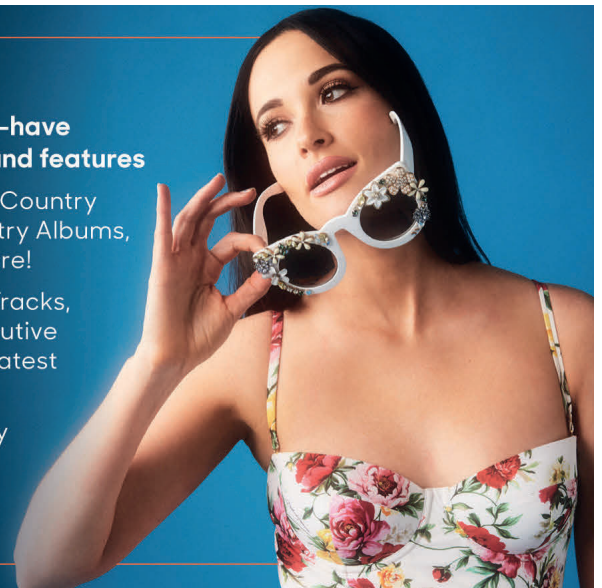
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ASHLEY COOKE & BRETT YOUNG

#1
MOST
ADDED

35
FIRST WEEK
STATIONS



BIG LOUD

BMLG
RECORDS

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	1	20	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK <small>Macon/Broken Bow</small> ★★ No. 1 (2 Weeks) ★★	Jason Aldean	26.356	+1.972	7208	388	1
2	2	30	SLOW DOWN SUMMER <small>Valory</small> ★★ Most Increased Audience ★★	Thomas Rhett	24.815	+3.316	7178	925	2
3	3	33	TAKE MY NAME <small>Stoney Creek</small>	Parmalee	23.928	+2.949	6885	723	3
4	5	17	WASTED ON YOU <small>Republic/Big Loud</small>	Morgan Wallen	22.047	+1.288	6295	421	4
5	6	35	'TIL YOU CAN'T <small>Co.Jo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN</small>	Cody Johnson	19.948	-0.215	5344	8	7
6	9	41	WILD HEARTS <small>Hit Red/Capitol Nashville</small>	Keith Urban	19.087	+0.865	5747	183	5
7	8	27	AA <small>Monument</small>	Walker Hayes	18.888	+0.083	5744	50	6
8	7	28	NEVER SAY NEVER <small>Broken Bow/Warner Music Nashville/WMN</small>	Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson	18.257	-1.889	5033	-509	8
9	11	32	DAMN STRAIT <small>Triple Tigers</small>	Scotty McCreery	15.628	+1.413	4699	218	9
10	10	43	7500 OBO <small>McGraw/Big Machine</small>	Tim McGraw	15.503	+0.497	4682	52	10
11	12	43	BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS <small>Big Loud</small>	Jake Owen	13.568	+0.554	4238	173	11
12	13	21	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN <small>Columbia Nashville</small>	Maren Morris	12.920	+0.165	3886	47	12
13	14	33	IF I WAS A COWBOY <small>Vanner/RCA Nashville</small>	Miranda Lambert	12.241	+0.398	3780	1	13
14	15	39	NEW TRUCK <small>Curb</small>	Dylan Scott	11.600	+1.087	3741	183	14
15	16	37	AT THE END OF A BAR <small>RCA Nashville</small>	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	11.126	+1.451	3650	393	15
16	17	4	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC <small>RCA Nashville</small>	Kane Brown	10.737	+1.377	3247	445	16
17	18	15	LAST NIGHT LONELY <small>Capitol Nashville</small>	Jon Pardi	9.039	+0.824	3176	116	17
18	19	20	FLOWER SHOPS <small>Big Loud</small>	ERNEST Featuring Morgan Wallen	7.527	+0.082	2770	34	19
19	20	16	EVERYONE SHE KNOWS <small>Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA</small> ★★ Airpower ★★	Kenny Chesney	7.224	+0.085	2680	222	20
20	22	31	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE <small>Valory</small> ★★ Airpower ★★	Justin Moore	7.144	+0.811	2873	127	18
21	21	13	DON'T COME LOOKIN' <small>Big Machine</small>	Jackson Dean	7.089	+0.223	2484	17	21
22	23	11	GHOST STORY <small>Capitol Nashville</small>	Carrie Underwood	5.917	+0.143	2194	-11	23
23	24	40	COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU <small>Stoney Creek</small>	Frank Ray	5.209	+0.261	2205	62	22
24	27	21	TRUTH ABOUT YOU <small>Riser House/Columbia Nashville</small>	Mitchell Tenpenny	5.074	+0.703	1674	206	28
25	25	16	PARTY MODE <small>Broken Bow</small>	Dustin Lynch	4.652	+0.022	2138	40	24
26	26	24	NO HARD FEELINGS <small>Arista Nashville</small>	Old Dominion	4.603	+0.094	2096	51	25
27	29	22	WISHFUL DRINKING <small>Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA</small>	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	4.426	+0.623	1653	155	29
28	28	13	SON OF A SINNER <small>Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek</small>	Jelly Roll	4.287	+0.084	1743	141	27
29	31	16	PICK ME UP <small>Warner Music Nashville/WAR</small>	Gabby Barrett	3.270	+0.287	1355	49	31
30	30	26	SOUL <small>Curb</small>	Lee Brice	3.021	-0.018	1850	32	26

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-bulleted) 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	31	WILDER DAYS Ladylike/Arista Nashville	Morgan Wade	2.742	-0.011	1631	128	30
32	34	17	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	2.475	+0.060	1234	-36	33
33	35	8	SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers ★★ Breaker ★★	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	2.212	+0.354	930	147	37
34	37	8	HEARTFIRST Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2.152	+0.291	1115	101	34
35	36	27	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	2.007	+0.148	1079	60	35
36	39	11	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	1.872	+0.285	1300	189	32
37	32	2	5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville ★★ Most Added ★★	Tyler Hubbard	1.701	-0.956	618	-31	41
38	38	15	MY BAR inDent/Mercury Nashville	Priscilla Block	1.626	-0.082	1004	-33	36
39	40	8	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	1.626	+0.088	800	62	39
40	41	20	LEARN FROM IT Valory	Conner Smith	1.554	+0.248	911	59	38
41	43	15	WHAT A SONG CAN DO BMLG ★★ Breaker ★★	Lady A	1.148	+0.077	689	10	40
42	42	2	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow ★★ Breaker ★★	Lainey Wilson	1.035	-0.051	504	232	45
43	44	6	GROWING OLD WITH YOU 1021/RCA Nashville	Restless Road	1.028	+0.033	352	37	55
44	45	12	HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	0.981	+0.147	578	19	42
45	51	9	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	0.905	+0.177	512	30	44
46	NEW		WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Jordan Davis	0.856	+0.856	195	195	-
47	47	12	CAN'T DO WITHOUT ME Stoney Creek	Chayce Beckham & Lindsay Ell	0.852	+0.086	536	13	43
48	50	27	GIVING YOU UP Columbia Nashville	Kameron Marlowe	0.847	+0.084	395	-9	50
49	49	5	DON'T THINK JESUS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.802	+0.035	194	15	-
50	46	17	SON OF A Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	0.780	+0.025	485	13	46
51	48	13	LOVE TALKING Valory	Eli Young Band	0.764	+0.025	305	-7	60
52	53	9	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	0.758	+0.108	411	16	48
53	52	10	DRINKIN' IT WRONG Arista Nashville	Adam Doleac	0.716	-0.004	218	19	-
54	54	4	CATCHING UP WITH AN OL' MEMORY Thirty Tigers/Show Dog Nashville	Clay Walker	0.664	-0.003	399	23	49
55	55	6	HELL YEAH Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	0.661	+0.057	381	47	52
56	56	15	MISSING ONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers	0.560	-0.026	372	-20	54
57	58	4	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	0.537	+0.039	160	13	-
58	60	3	SALT, LIME & TEQUILA Red Street	Ryan Griffin	0.515	+0.067	322	13	57
59	57	5	DATES IN PICKUP TRUCKS Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	0.503	-0.033	388	-23	51
60	NEW		COUNTY ROADS Wheelhouse	Elvie Shane	0.480	+0.100	422	1	47



21

JACKSON DEAN
Don't Come Lookin'

The debut Country Airplay entry for the singer-songwriter from Odenton, Md. (which he co-wrote) holds at its No. 21 high, up 3% to 7.1 million in audience.

DAVID McCLISTER

GOING FOR ADDS

6/6
AARON GOODVIN
Boy Like Me
Warner Music Canada

CODY JOHNSON
Human
CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN


JORDAN DAVIS
What My World Spins Around
MCA Nashville

THOMAS RHETT FEAT. RILEY GREEN
Half Of Me
BMLG/Valory

6/13
TIFFANY WOYS
I Don't Want You Back
Tiffany Woys

6/20
COLE SWINDELL
She Had Me At Heads Carolina
Warner Music Nashville/WMN

TY HERNDON
Til You Get There
Pivotal



HERNDON

JEREMY RYAN

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

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

MOST ADDED®		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	20
TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	19
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	19
PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	15
SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	14
MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	10
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	7
KEYS TO THE COUNTRY Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	7
NO HARD FEELINGS Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	6
LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	5

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
SLOW DOWN SUMMER Valory	Thomas Rhett	+3.316
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+2.949
TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.972
AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	+1.451
DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+1.413
LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.377
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.288
NEW TRUCK Curb	Dylan Scott	+1.087
WILD HEARTS Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	+0.865
WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+0.856

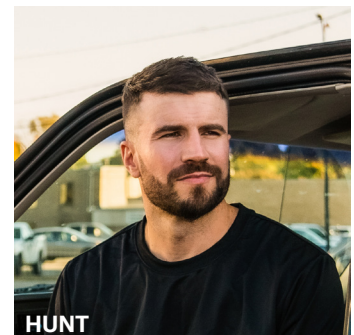
MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
SLOW DOWN SUMMER Valory	Thomas Rhett	+924
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+723
LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+445
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+421
AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	+393
TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+388
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+232
EVERYONE SHE KNOWS Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney	+222
DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+218
TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	+206

NEW AND ACTIVE					
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS	
KEYS TO THE COUNTRY Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	0.406	19	7	
MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	0.353	17	10	
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER Big Yellow Dog/Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Jessie James Decker	0.351	12	0	
YOU PROOF Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	Morgan Wallen	0.329	4	2	
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.307	5	1	
EASY TONIGHT RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	0.301	13	1	

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	15.950	
2	23 MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	14.378	
3	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	12.723	
4	SAND IN MY BOOTS Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	11.954	
5	DOIN' THIS River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	11.619	
6	BUY DIRT MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan	10.470	
7	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King & Miranda Lambert	10.455	
8	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	10.417	
9	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young + Kane Brown	10.083	
10	BEERS ON ME Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley, BRELAND & HARDY	9.697	



RHETT



HUNT

RHETT: JOHN SHEARER, HUNT: STEVEN WORSTER



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MAY 29, 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	3	17	AIN'T WORTH THE HEARTACHE (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Curtis Grimes	1824	203	11	9	25	CAUSE HE'S A COWBOY (Independent)	Matt Castillo	1351	8
2	2	20	GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN (Independent)	Kylie Frey & Bri Bagwell	1731	80	12	10	25	LIKE A HURRICANE (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1277	-14
3	5	13	DANCIN' WITH THE DEVIL (Independent)	Josh Ward	1706	170	13	11	18	WATERING HOLE (Independent)	Kendall Shaffer / Jeffery Allen Imler	1257	55
4	6	15	ALL YOU GOT (Independent)	William Clark Green	1687	181	14	16	17	ANOTHER YOU (Independent)	Drew Fish Band	1183	119
5	7	14	JOHN WAYNE (Independent)	Whiskey Myers	1644	150	15	15	19	EVEN TEXAS COULDN'T HOLD HER (Independent)	Casey Chesnutt	1101	12
6	8	12	A COWGIRL LIKE YOU (Independent)	Jon Wolfe	1568	122	16	17	16	WAVE DANCER (Soundly Music)	The Wilder Blue	1079	46
7	4	26	DRIVE ME TO DRINKING (Independent)	Sundance Head	1535	-15	17	18	12	TRACTOR TOWN (Independent)	Jake Bush	1039	68
8	1	16	UNWANTED MAN (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1408	-437	18	19	15	BEAUTIFUL LOVE SONGS (Independent)	George Navarro	1008	38
9	12	13	THE HIGHWAY KIND (Independent)	Josh Abbott Band	1396	194	19	20	15	LOVE'S GOT A HOLD ON YOU (Independent)	Bart Crow Band	1003	79
10	13	9	PHONES DON'T WORK (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1386	239	20	22	20	FOLLOW (Highway 90)	William Beckmann	971	81

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

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



STEVE LOWRY

Matt Stell (center) celebrated his 2020 No. 1 single “Everywhere but On” on May 24 in a pandemic-delayed party hosted by ASCAP and SESAC at The Local in Nashville. Also honored were his co-writers, **Lance Miller (left)** and **Paul Sikes**.

ADIEU TO ARRANGER BILL WALKER

“Good night, **Bill Walker!**”

At the close of *The Johnny Cash Show*, which ran weekly on ABC-TV from 1969-1971, **Cash** traditionally ended the night with an adios to the show’s music director, beaming for the camera in the orchestra pit.

Walker, 95, died May 26 in Nashville, waving a final goodbye after quietly influencing the sonic direction of country music from the mid-1960s into the 1980s. The native Australian met **Jim Reeves** during a stint with RCA in Johannesburg, where he was responsible for arranging cover songs from America for local consumption. Walker subsequently moved to the United States to work for Reeves, but he arrived on American soil the same day that Reeves died in a plane crash in 1964.

Despite that setback, he quickly found work through RCA Nashville, where he was regularly hired by producer-label executive **Chet Atkins**, who hoped to expand the division’s impact on pop and R&B, and by **Eddy Arnold**, for whom Walker arranged the crossover hits “Make the World Go Away,” “Turn the World Around” and “What’s He Doing in My World.”

Walker became one of just a handful of in-demand Nashville arrangers in the midst of the Nashville Sound, a musical direction that eschewed traditional instruments, such as steel guitar and banjo, and embraced easy-listening effects, including string sections and smooth background singers.

He slowly broadened the sound of the genre, expanding from smaller string ensembles at the beginning of his Nashville tenure to larger casts with French horns, trumpets, harps and orchestral percussion — including timpani and triangles — by the time he wrote the charts for Cash’s “Sunday Morning Coming Down” and **Sammi Smith**’s “Help Me Make It Through the Night” in 1970.

Walker was methodical, almost subversive, in his approach.

“I just did it,” he said in 2019. “I was very careful. I did a lot of them with Chet as producer, and he knew what RCA wanted.”

In many cases, that jibed with what American country audiences wanted. Walker’s arrangement credits included No. 1 singles such as **Roy Clark**’s “Come Live With Me,” **Marty Robbins**’ “My Woman, My Woman, My Wife” and **Donna Fargo**’s “Funny Face” and “The Happiest Girl in the Whole U.S.A.”

In addition to his participation on the Cash show, Walker also arranged music for the CMA Awards for several years and worked with the likes of **Ray Charles**, **Tennessee Ernie Ford**, **Crystal Gayle**, **Ann-Margret** and **Conway Twitty** in TV ventures.

Memorial details will be announced at a later date.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Warner Music Nashville chairman/CEO **John Esposito** will receive Country Radio Broadcasters’ 2022 president’s award on June 30 during the Country Radio Hall of Fame induction at Virgin Hotel Nashville ... **KVET** Austin welcomed “**Wayne D**” **Danielson** and **Tay Hamilton** on May 31 as morning co-hosts alongside **Bama Brown**, who has been in the time slot for five years. The trio also handles afternoon drive at **WSIX** Nashville ... **WYRK** Buffalo, N.Y., hired **Megan Carter** for the afternoon shift. She was previously heard during evenings at **WDVI** Rochester, N.Y. ... **WXTU** Philadelphia morning co-host **Dave Cruise** parted ways with the station after three years, RadioInsight.

com reported ... Two Midwestern stations adopted new country formats, according to RadioInsight.com: **KBXB** Sikeston-Cape Girardeau, Mo., flipped to classic country from country, while **WJDK** Seneca, Ill., switched to country from adult contemporary.

‘ROUND THE ROW

Tanya Tucker tagged **Scott Adkins**, of newly formed Adkins Entertainment, as her manager and hired **Kurt Vitolo**, of KV Financial Group, as her business manager. Adkins Publicity continues to handle Tucker’s PR ... Valory recording artist **Mackenzie Carpenter**, who co-wrote **Lily Rose**’s “Villain,” signed with G Major Management ... Black River reached a global administration deal with Sony Music Publishing. The deal covers Black River’s catalog, as well as current writers **Josh Kerr** (“Love Me Like You Mean It”), **Bryan Simpson** (“A Guy With a Girl”) and **Maddie & Tae**’s **Hannah Kerr** ... Sheltered Music added **Gordie Sampson** (“Jesus, Take the Wheel,” “Knockin’ Boots”) to its songwriting roster ... Producer-songwriter **Brandon Day** (**Brantley Gilbert**, **Steven Lee Olsen**) reached a songwriting agreement with Empire Publishing and Warner Chappell Nashville ... Reservoir and One Riot established a joint-venture publishing agreement with **Margo Price** and **Jeremy Ivey** ... PLA Media added **Will Carter** to its PR roster ... Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium was recognized as a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame landmark during a May 26 ceremony that included **Bonnie Raitt** and **Old Dominion** ... **Craig Morgan** presented Operation Finally Home with a \$100,000 check for its work with wounded veterans and first responders during the Grand Ole Opry’s annual Salute the Troops edition on May 24. Morgan also participated in PBS’ National Memorial Day Concert on May 29 ... **Brooke Eden** partnered with the RIAA for Music Matters, a program that encourages the use of music to help people find their unique voices. The campaign will launch June 23 with multiple appearances in schools, medical centers and recording studios ... **Dierks Bentley** and **Elle King** will host when ABC airs the annual *CMA Fest* special on Aug. 3. Produced by **Robert Deaton**, the three-hour event revolves around the stadium concerts during this year’s festival, June 9-12, in Nashville. Overlapping with the festival, Spotify will offer performances at Ole Red by 40-plus acts, including **Ashley McBryde**, **Mickey Guyton** and **Midland**. Additionally, the festival-adjacent “Sunday Mornin’ Country” concert returns to the Grand Ole Opry House on June 12 with over 20 acts, including **Brenda Lee**, **John Berry** and **Charlie McCoy** ... The Country Music Association will open the first-round ballot for the 56th annual CMA Awards July 6-15. The second round will be conducted Aug. 3-16, with the final vote under way Oct. 3-28 ... The Academy of Country Music’s charitable wing, ACM Lifting Lives, initiated a mental health video series, *The Check-In*, on May 31. Three videos were posted [here](#) featuring **Jimmie Allen**, **Lindsay Ell** and **Brothers Osborne**’s **John Osborne** ... **Chase Rice**’s second Welcome to the Farm live venue will open in St. Petersburg, Fla., in late July, following the original club in Cleveland, which debuted in December ... The Black Music Action Coalition partnered with four other organizations for a three-week music accelerator program at Nashville’s Tennessee State University, overlapping with Music Row’s increased attention on employment equity in the local industry. ●



Warner Music Nashville director of radio accounts **James Marsh** (left) competed as a dancer during a May 21 Dancing for Safe Haven event at the Omni Nashville Hotel. WMN executive vp of artist development **Shane Tarleton** chaired the benefit, which raised over \$751,000.

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	2	2	40	WASTED ON YOU <small>J.MOI, J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN, E.K.SMITH, J.THOMPSON, CHARLIE HANDSOME)</small> ★★ No. 1 (3 Weeks) ★★	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	4	1
2	1	-	2	YOU PROOF <small>J.MOI, CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN, A.GORLEY, E.K.SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME)</small>	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
3	12	12	5	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE <small>R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)</small> ★★ Streaming Gainer ★★	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	3
4	5	5	19	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK <small>M.KNOX (B.BEAVERS, K.M.ALLISON, T.KENNEDY, J.MORGAN)</small>	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	1	4
5	3	3	36	'TIL YOU CAN'T <small>T.W.WILLMON (B.M.STENNIS, M.ROGERS)</small>	Cody Johnson COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	5	1
6	8	8	30	TAKE MY NAME <small>D.FANNING (M.THOMAS, A.GORLEY, D.FANNING, B.JOHNSON)</small> ★★ Airplay Gainer ★★	Parnalee STONEY CREEK	3	6
7	4	4	27	AA <small>W.HAYES, J.THIBODEAU, S.MCANALLY (W.HAYES, S.MCANALLY, L.LAIRD)</small>	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	7	3
8	10	10	14	DAMN STRAIT <small>F.ROGERS, D.WELLS, A.ESHUIS (J.A.COLLENS, T.TOMLINSON)</small>	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	9	8
9	6	1	3	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW <small>J.MOI (M.WALLEN, N.GALYON, M.LAMBERT)</small>	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
10	16	18	15	FALL IN LOVE <small>A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN, B.ZIMMERMAN, G.LUCAS)</small>	Bailey Zimmerman HURRICANE BAILEY	-	10
11	13	13	29	SLOW DOWN SUMMER <small>D.HUFF, J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT, R.AKINS, S.M.DOUGLAS, J.FRASURE, A.GORLEY)</small>	Thomas Rhett VALORY	2	9
12	20	20	3	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC <small>D.HUFF (K.BROWN, M.J.MCGINN, T.PHILLIPS, J.M.SCHMIDT)</small>	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	16	12
13	15	11	31	IF I WAS A COWBOY <small>JON RANDALL, L.DICK (M.LAMBERT, J.FRASURE)</small>	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	13	8
14	14	16	21	FLOWER SHOPS <small>J.MOI (E.K.SMITH, B.D.BURGESS, M.L.HOLMAN)</small>	ERNEST Featuring Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD	18	14
15	19	17	20	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN <small>G.KURSTIN (M.MORRIS, R.J.HURD, JULIA MICHAELS, J.ROBBINS)</small>	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	12	9
16	18	19	19	SHE LIKES IT <small>J.KERR, J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON, J.SCOTT, J.KERR)</small>	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott TRIPLE TIGERS	33	16
17	21	14	3	WHISKEY ON YOU <small>L.RIMES (N.SMITH, L.RIMES, R.SUTTON)</small>	Nate Smith ARISTA NASHVILLE	-	14
18	22	24	14	LAST NIGHT LONELY <small>J.PARDI, B.BUTLER, R.GORE (J.BELL, J.FOX, D.MARLOWE)</small>	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	17	18
19	23	21	23	7500 OBO <small>B.GALLIMORE, T.MCGRAW (M.J.MCGINN, J.SCHOTT, N.SPICER)</small>	Tim McGraw MCGRAW/BIG MACHINE	10	19
20	17	15	6	DON'T THINK JESUS <small>J.MOI (J.L.ALEXANDER, M.L.HOLMAN, C.MCGILL)</small>	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	49	1
21	24	23	32	WILD HEARTS <small>M.FURR, K.URBAN (K.URBAN, E.PASLAY, B.F.TURSI, J.WAYNE)</small>	Keith Urban HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	6	21
22	37	36	13	NARCISSIST <small>D.FANNING (A.ANNA, D.FANNING, B.WILLIAMS, A.SHERIDAN)</small>	Avery Anna WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	22
23	28	34	11	WILD AS HER <small>C.FARREN (M.WALLEN, BRETT TYLER, K.ARCHER)</small>	Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS	-	23
24	25	26	10	GHOST STORY <small>D.GARCIA, C.UNDERWOOD (D.A.GARCIA, J.KEAR, H.LINDSEY, H.WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW)</small>	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	22	18
25	35	33	4	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA <small>Z.CROWELL (A.GORLEY, C.SWINDELL, J.FRASURE, M.D.SANDERS, THOMAS RHETT, T.NICHOLS)</small>	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	25

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	#1 4 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
2		MORGAN WALLEN
3		ERNEST
4		ASHLEY GORLEY
5		CHARLIE HANDSOME
6		MIRANDA LAMBERT
7		JESSE FRASURE
TIE	8	BEN MERRITT STENNIS
TIE	8	MATT ROGERS
10		BEN JOHNSON



ERNEST

CHRIS HORNBUCKLE

COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 69 WKS	JOEY MOI
2		DAVID FANNING
3		RYAN HADLOCK
4		EDDIE SPEAR
5		MICHAEL KNOX
6		TRENT WILLMON
7		DANN HUFF
8		AUSTIN RAKESH SHAWN
9		JACOB DURRETT
10		CHARLIE HANDSOME

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 <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	29	31	27	BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS J.MOI (B.JOHNSON,J.MINTON,H.PHELPS,G.WARBURTON)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	11	26
27	30	29	15	NEW TRUCK M.ALDERMAN,C.GIBBS,J.E.NORMAN (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,B.JOHNSON,A.GORLEY)	Dylan Scott CURB	14	27
28	NEW		1	HEAVY EYES E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	28
29	31	28	24	PICK ME UP R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,J.M.NITE,R.COPPERMAN) ★★ Sales Gainer ★★	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	29	25
30	34	32	8	SON OF A SINNER ERNEST K.I.TOSHINSKY (J.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	28	30
31	33	30	43	TRUTH ABOUT YOU J.M.SCHMIDT,M.TENPENNY (M.TENPENNY,M.ALDERMAN,T.ARCHER)	Mitchell Tenpenny RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	24	27
32	32	27	21	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBBS,C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	39	27
33	NEW		1	5 FOOT 9 T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD,J.JOHNSTON,C.MCGILL)	Tyler Hubbard EMI NASHVILLE	37	33
34	26	22	5	TOMORROW ME L.COMBS,CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON (L.COMBS,D.DILLON,R.FULCHER)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	13
35	38	40	22	AT THE END OF A BAR C.DESTEFANO,C.YOUNG (C.YOUNG,C.DESTEFANO,M.TENPENNY)	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny RCA NASHVILLE	15	33
36	47	42	13	FROM AUSTIN R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	28
37	36	35	35	WISHFUL DRINKING I.ANDRESS,J.M.SCHMIDT (I.ANDRESS,J.PSTARKER SAXE,J.PRICE,D.BROWN,R.WILLIAMSON)	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	27	31
38	41	39	14	SOUL B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,L.BRICE (K.KADISH,T.FERRARI)	Lee Brice CURB	30	38
39	NEW		1	MINE AGAIN E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	39
40	45	43	10	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE,PDIGIOVANNI,C.MCGILL,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	20	40
41	40	44	17	WILDER DAYS S.VADEN,P.EBERSOLD (M.WADE,S.VADEN)	Morgan Wade LADYLIKE/ARISTA NASHVILLE	31	36
42	NEW		1	LATE JULY LOUIE NICE,Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	42
43	39	38	7	HEARTFIRST J.BUNETTA,S.MCANALLY (K.BALLERINI,K.FAIRCHILD,A.VANDERHEYM)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	34	25
44	43	41	10	DEAR ALCOHOL LEX NOUR (D.NWOSU JR.)	Dax LIVING LEGEND	-	28
45	44	46	10	NO HARD FEELINGS S.MCANALLY,OLD DOMINION (M.RAMSEY,T.ROSEN,W.SELLERS,G.SPRUNG,B.FTURSI,S.MCANALLY)	Old Dominion ARISTA NASHVILLE	26	40
46	46	45	11	GROWING OLD WITH YOU J.KEIM (C.KELLEY,J.MINTON,J.REYNOLDS)	Restless Road 1021/RCA NASHVILLE	43	42
47	NEW		1	HAPPY INSTEAD E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	47
48	NEW		1	ONE DAY TONIGHT J.ROBBINS (J.GRIFFIN,T.ANDERSON,B.SHEROKY)	Noah Thompson 19/BMG	-	48
49	RE-ENTRY		3	HIGHWAY BOYS E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	40
50	RE-ENTRY		2	OPEN THE GATE E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	48

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	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
This Week	1,516,000	1,794,407,000	130,674,000	28,689,000	27,964,000	-2.5%	'21	28.69 million
Last Week	1,503,000	1,769,773,000	132,116,000	2,847,000	3,774,000	32.6%	'22	27.96 million
Change	0.9%	1.4%	-1.1%	33,266,302,000	30,795,071,000	-7.4%	TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS	
This Week Last Year	1,415,000	1,594,732,000	140,250,000	2,675,698,000	2,931,702,000	9.6%	'21	35.94 billion
Change	7.1%	12.5%	-6.8%				'22	33.73 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending May 26, 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**

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	NEW	1	1	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
2	1	1	72	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
3	2	2	133	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	2	1
4	4	3	260	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	3	1
5	3	4	208	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	2	1
6	5	5	28	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 034504*	RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
7	7	8	369	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
8	6	7	80	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
9	8	9	18	WALKER HAYES MONUMENT 98353	COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM		2
10	10	10	279	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	7	1
11	9	6	4	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 96572*/SMN	PALOMINO		2
12	11	12	346	ZAC BROWN BAND HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
13	13	13	33	CODY JOHNSON COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 666969*/WMN	HUMAN: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		3
14	14	14	312	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS		6
15	16	17	7	COLE SWINDELL WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN	STEREOTYPE		6
16	15	15	150	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		9
17	12	11	5	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 538743982/BBMG	GEORGIA		2
18	23	23	101	GABBY BARRETT WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	GOLDMINE		4
19	17	19	282	BROOKS & DUNN ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION	4	2
20	21	20	191	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA 68079*/LEGACY (19.98/12.98)	ELV1S: 30 #1 HITS	6	1
21	20	21	181	TOBY KEITH SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)	35 BIGGEST HITS		1
22	19	18	79	LEE BRICE CURB 79537*	HEY WORLD		7
23	18	22	87	HARDY BIG LOUD 836*	A ROCK		4
24	24	24	289	CARRIE UNDERWOOD 19/ARISTA NASHVILLE 500876*/LEGACY	GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1		1
25	33	41	6	PARMALEE STONEY CREEK/BMG DIGITAL EX/BBMG	FOR YOU		25

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STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	NEW	1	1	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
2	3	2	315	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
3	2	1	80	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
4	1	—	2	THE BLACK KEYS EASY EYE SOUND/NONESUCH 667104*/WARNER	DROPOUT BOOGIE		1
5	4	3	167	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		2
6	6	4	361	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	3	1
7	7	6	320	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA		1
8	8	7	25	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	ELISABETH		7
9	9	8	277	SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS		3
10	10	9	25	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.

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	2	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
2	4	5	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
3	3	71	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
4	12	5	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
5	2	3	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN
6	5	267	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
7	6	31	'TIL YOU CAN'T CODY JOHNSON
8	9	166	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN
9	18	3	TAKE MY NAME PARMALEE
10	11	47	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
11	10	5	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK JASON ALDEAN
12	7	18	AA WALKER HAYES
13	8	48	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES
14	13	42	BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN
15	15	49	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
16	RE-ENTRY		WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH
17	17	10	SHE LIKES IT RUSSELL DICKERSON & JAKE SCOTT
18	16	4	DAMN STRAIT SCOTTY MCCREERY
19	19	202	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
20	22	56	CHASING AFTER YOU RYAN HURD WITH MAREN MORRIS
21	25	35	THINKING 'BOUT YOU DUSTIN LYNCH FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA OR MACKENZIE PORTER
22	24	82	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS
23	RE-ENTRY		IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU JASON ALDEAN & CARRIE UNDERWOOD
24	RE-ENTRY		CHASIN' YOU MORGAN WALLEN
25	14	6	DON'T THINK JESUS MORGAN WALLEN

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.

SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	12	DOLLY PARTON BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*	RUN, ROSE, RUN		1
2	4	3	27	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD	RAISE THE ROOF		1
3	3	4	35	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD	RENEWAL		1
4	2	9	8	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER	CROOKED TREE		2
5	6	6	40	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA		1
6	5	5	5	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW ATO 0602*	PAINT THIS TOWN		1
7	7	7	76	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS	CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS		1
8	8	—	30	BELA FLECK RENEW RECORDS 538689220/BMG	MY BLUEGRASS HEART		1
9	NEW	1		JAELEE ROBERTS MOUNTAIN HOME 2015/CROSSROADS	SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T COUNT ON		9
10	RE-ENTRY	15		PUNCH BROTHERS NONESUCH 671077*/WARNER	HELL ON CHURCH STREET		1

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

Cody Johnson Finds The Artful Path To Being 'Human'

When **Cody Johnson's** life-affirming anthem " 'Til You Can't" spent a total of nine weeks at No. 1 on Hot Country Songs, he lofted his already enviable career to the next level.

He also created a dilemma: What comes next?

Johnson and his team considered numerous factors for the follow-up single — tempo, how much the new song varied from the last, what the research looked like — and Johnson finally decided they were thinking too much about the market and not enough about the art. They narrowed it down to two songs, but if either choice lived up to expectations, he was looking at a can't-lose proposition.

"Three different people said this exact same thing: 'God Bless the Boy' is a CMT Award; 'Human' is a Grammy Award," Johnson recalls. "I think that taking that chance of releasing 'Human' and saying, 'Look, I'm going to be vulnerable in front of the world' [is the right one]. I'm man enough. I'm tough enough to say, 'Look, this is how I feel.'"

"Human" is a reflection of one of life's most powerful paradoxes, that the strongest people are those who are able to recognize and confront their weaknesses. The song weighs the temptations and rigors of life on the road against the difficulties that it creates for a spouse back home and addresses them with incredible humility.

"The biggest job is keeping under control, making sure that you're not going to turn into 'that person,'" he says. "The more fame and the more money — you watch people and you watch their careers, where they change and they turn into different people. And then you see their lives fall apart, their careers fall apart, and it's like they were a detriment under themselves. Keeping that at bay is really the job, and realizing that there are other things that are more important, I think, is the big takeaway."

The humility in "Human" is a stark representation of its writers, particularly **Travis Meadows** ("What We Ain't Got," "Better Boat"), who has been unwaveringly open about a battle with addiction that has driven his songwriting.

"After really struggling to get sober, I almost lost everything," he says. "My name was all I had, and I did not want to put my name on something ridiculous. I was trying to build a legacy. I was trying to get sober and trying to say something worth saying and trying to leave my son something because it was obvious it wasn't going to be money. So maybe he could listen back to some of those songs and learn some lessons about how to be alive, be human."

Meadows and **Tony Lane** ("Hello World," "On My Way to You") penned "Human" at the Firehall in Nashville on Jan. 16, 2014, working from a couple of phrases — "All the headlights/All the midnights" — that Lane had sketched out, not knowing where they would lead. "Human" was a word Meadows had in his list of potential titles, and he didn't know what it was about either, but they started mumbling through different syllables and phrases, working toward some nebulous finish line.

"I think more of the sound of words than I do the philosophical nature behind them," says Lane. "To me, it's always clicking words together, and if it feels right, then it's right for me. Usually, the philosophy comes after the writing of the words."

Lane and Meadows both played guitar with open tunings, a technique that lets the strings reverberate more. That rich foundational bed is one of the reasons they could leave significant space between many of the lines, beginning with the opening observation: "I thought by now I'd have it figured out/How not to make the easy things so hard to do."

"I learned a long time ago that sometimes the best editing gets done with

an eraser," Meadows says. "And if you're hanging pictures on the wall and you cover the whole thing with nothing but pictures and there's no space on the wall, that just starts looking tacky and over-full. You kind of have to pace it."

They painted the protagonist as a once-aspiring cowboy who now makes his living with a guitar and feels the need to apologize to his mate for getting "careless with your heart."

"I call 'em 'left-handed love songs,'" says Lane. "They're kind of the imperfect cowboy, the broken guy, but it's still a love song."

By the end of the first chorus, the guy confessed his internal uncertainties and self-doubts, and the hook became clear: "I'm still learning to be human."

The second verse and the final chorus introduced more imagery — his knack for burning bridges and his tendencies toward crazy behavior and whiskey; her steady support without trying to reshape his personality. They provided just enough specifics to give the listener a sense of the characters' inner world but left it open enough for the consumer to insert their own experiences into the storyline.

"We're both pretty keen on the economy of words," Meadows says. "I would rather say three really good ones than 20 trying to make a point. And I know Tony is the same way."

They recorded a spare guitar/vocal at the Brentwood studio of **Sal Oliveri**, who dropped the faintest of keyboard pads underneath Meadows' world-worn vocal and buzzing acoustic guitar. The demo subsequently bounced around Music Row for the next seven years with several artists expressing admiration for the work. Still, none of them grabbed it.

None, at least, until producer **Trent Willmon** played it for Johnson, who thought "Human"

was an ideal representation of his life and his relationship with his wife, **Brandi Johnson**.

"It's a positive outlook on the dark stuff and being grateful for a woman that will put up with your shit," says Willmon. "We can all relate to that."

They recorded it during the summer of 2021 at Nashville's Starstruck Studios, with the musicians offering light touches: Drummer **Jerry Roe's** subtle kick drum paces the track, while steel guitarist **Mike Johnson** and fiddler **Jenee Fleenor** inject counter-lines into the canyons between the singer's phrases without filling every second. Keyboardist **Alex Wright** drops in a pulsing synth tone every so often, modernizing the performance just a hair while allowing it to keep its earthy honesty.

"You could be the best guitar player and the best fiddle player, the best steel player in the world, but if you're playing on top of the singer, that's the most frustrating thing for a singer," Willmon notes. "And in country music, it's all about stories. It's all about that lyric."

Johnson delivered the vocal with perceptible conviction — "It's easy to tell a story when you've walked that path," he says — and Willmon enlisted a female vocalist to represent Brandi's harmony in Johnson's real-life relationship. **Miranda Lambert** was interested but unavailable when they needed her. Texan **Kylie Frey** took the part instead and provided the right energy.

"She was a great addition," says Johnson. "It softened it up just enough, but not to where it changed the feel. It didn't rob the song of its masculinity."

Warner Music Nashville released "Human" to country radio via PlayMPE on May 3. It goes for adds on June 6.

"It's just such a beautiful picture of what we all do," Johnson suggests. "We all are born, we all die, and we are space in between. We all go through the same process of being human." ●



billboard Hot Country Songs 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) **33**

7500 OBO Smackworks Music, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Red Like The Sunset Music, ASCAP/Spicer And Everything Nicer, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP (M.J.McGinn, J.Schott, N.Spicer) **19**

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) **7**

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) **35**

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) **26**

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) **15**

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) **8**

DEAR ALCOHOL Daniel Dax Entertainment, BMI (D.Nwosu Jr) **44**

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) **20**

F

FALL IN LOVE Gavin Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/Baily Zimmerman Publishing, ASCAP/I Fart Creations, BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, G.Lucas) **10**

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) **36**

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) **24**

GROWING OLD WITH YOU

Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETS Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/Jreymusic, ASCAP/Buckeye26, ASCAP (C.Kelley, J.Minton, J.Reynolds) **46**

H

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

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) **43**

HEAVY EYES Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **28**

HIGHWAY BOYS Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **49**

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/Telemity Rhythm House Music, BMI (M.Lambert, J.Frasure) **13**

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) **18**

LATE JULY Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **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 Vibe, ASCAP (K.Brown, M.J.McGinn, T.Phillips, J.M.Schmidt) **12**

M

MINE AGAIN Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **39**

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) **22**

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) **27**

NO HARD FEELINGS WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Downtown DJL 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) **45**

O

ONE DAY TONIGHT Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP/MMORF Music Publishing, ASCAP/Noby Sidez, ASCAP/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Sea Gayle Writer House Music, SESAC (J.Griffin, T.Anderson, B.Sheroky) **48**

OPEN THE GATE Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **50**

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) **29**

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/Telemity 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) **25**

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.Ker) **16**

SLOW DOWN SUMMER Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Ritten By Rhettro, BMI/Eastman Pond Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Telemity 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) **11**

SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **3**

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) **30**

SOUL Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/A Forest Of Evergreens, ASCAP/Seven Summits Music, BMI/Tony Ferrari Publishing, BMI (K.Kadish, T.Ferrari) **38**

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) **6**

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) **9**

'TIL YOU CAN'T Anthem Canalc Publishing, ASCAP/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/The Stennis Mightier Music, BMI (B.M.Stennis, M.Rogers) **5**

TOMORROW ME Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/Dean'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) **34**

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) **4**

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) **31**

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) **1**

WHISKEY ON YOU Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Coreent Music, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Koala T Tunes, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/DropTime Music, BMI (N.Smith, L.Rimes, R.Sutton) **17**

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) **23**

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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.Pastay, B.F.Tursi, J.Wayne) **21**

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, S.Price, D.Brown, R.Williamson) **37**

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/Paulyouwood Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Music, BMI (J.Moore, P.DiGiovanni, C.McGill, J.S.Stover) **40**

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) **2**

CODA

60 Years Ago Ray Charles’ ‘Stop’ Started Its No. 1 Run

In 1962, the classic song “I Can’t Stop Loving You” began a five-week reign on the Billboard Hot 100 before Charles’ impact on Hot Country Songs

On June 2, 1962, **Ray Charles’** “I Can’t Stop Loving You” started five weeks of domination on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100. The iconic song was authored by **Don Gibson**, whose original version hit No. 7 on the Most Played C&W by Jockeys chart in 1958.

Ray Charles Robinson was born Sept. 23, 1930, in Albany, Ga. Known best for his work in blues, jazz and R&B, “Loving” is from his groundbreaking 1962 album *Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music*, which melded pop and country styles. It crowned the Billboard 200 for 14 weeks.

Charles made his first appearance on Hot Country Songs in 1980 with “Beers to You,” with **Clint Eastwood**. His 1985 collaboration with **Willie Nelson**, “Seven Spanish Angels,” became his lone No. 1 among 13 entries. “Angels” is from Charles’ LP *Friendship*, which led Top Country Albums.

Charles was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986. He died on June 10, 2004, at age 73. On May 1, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame with **Eddie Bayers**, **Pete Drake** and **The Judds**.

—JIM ASKER

Charles in a 1962 portrait.

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

1	4 21 53	I CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU	5
		Ray Charles, ABC-Paramount 10330	
2	1 2 3	STRANGER ON THE SHORE	12
		Mr. Acker Bilk, Atco 6217	
3	2 1 1	SOLDIER BOY	11
		Shirelles, Scepter 1228	
4	10 13 19	LOVERS WHO WANDER	7
		Dion, Laurie 3123	
5	3 3 2	MASHED POTATO TIME	14
		Dee Dee Sharp, Cameo 212	
6	9 12	EVERYBODY LOVES ME BUT YOU	9