

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## The Crooked Artistic Path For ACM Guitar Player Of The Year Charlie Worsham

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A decade after **Charlie Worsham** signed his Warner Music Nashville recording contract, he will accept his first major award on Aug. 24.

As a studio musician.

Worsham's three Warner collections — 2013 album *Rubberband*, 2017 album *Beginning of Things* and 2021 EP *Sugarcane* — have won him critical acclaim for their boundless creativity, honest songwriting and deft playing.

But the award — acoustic guitar player of the year, a title that becomes official during the ACM Honors at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium — focuses more on his work as a supporting musician on recordings by **Dierks Bentley**, **Eric Church** and **Carrie Underwood**, among others. He fought back tears when he was surprised with the award's announcement at the Grand Ole Opry earlier this year, and the fact that it's not about him being front stage isn't the slightest bit of a disappointment.

"I would go for runs up and down Music Row," he says, recalling his earliest days in Nashville as a member of the band **KingBilly**, which included **John Osborne**, now one-half of **Brothers Osborne**. "We lived a block off Music Row, and I would daydream about which building I was going to own and where I was going to hang my gold records, and I would practice my acceptance speech in my head on that run. And after a few years in Nashville, we broke up as a

band, and I was kind of starting over, and I went from thinking it was just a given that I would get an award one day to thinking, 'Man, I don't know if I'm ever going to get one of these.'

"To finally receive one 16 years into living in this town was actually a much sweeter moment than I ever could have dreamed it would be."

It hasn't been easy. He has documented the emotional difficulties of trying to find a place as an artist in Nashville's crowded commercial music industry in his music — "Fist in This Town" is particularly telling — but his frustrations don't generally appear in his interactions.

"He's one of those guys that everybody's been rooting for forever," says producer **Jon Randall** (Bentley, **Parker McCollum**). "You love to see him get credit for his talent."

Worsham grew up in Grenada, Miss., a small town in a larger triangle of significant music communities: Clarksdale (**Robert Johnson**, **Sam Cooke**), Tupelo (**Elvis Presley**) and Meridian (**Jimmie Rodgers**). Worsham's talent became evident at an early age, cultivated in part by his father, a banker who played in clubs on the weekends and was a voracious reader of liner notes. His mother was a school teacher, and she diligently drove Charlie 75 minutes each way to Starkville on Wednesday nights to aid his musical education, grading papers in the next room while he took banjo lessons from **Larry Wallace**, a veteran of **Jimmy Martin's Sunny Mountain Boys**.



WORSHAM

JASON MYERS

THE VIRAL SENSATION THAT TOOK FANS BY STORM

# DYLAN SCOTT

CAN'T HAVE MINE

IMPACTING 8/29

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Young Worsham won national banjo contests, received an official commendation from the state legislature in Jackson while he was still in high school and felt assured about his future.

“Up until I officially threw my hat in the ring in Nashville, I did experience a situation in which the harder I worked, the more success would come, the more results you would get,” he says. “There’s sort of a ratio there that you could trust. And that isn’t the way the world works.”

In Nashville, KingBilly made waves — the group had its own reality show for a bit on GAC — and it wasn’t all that long after the band’s breakup that Worsham landed the Warner solo contract. His recordings generally apply his compelling guy-next-door voice to melodic songs that run a gamut of styles, matching smart lyrical twists against the quirks of life’s cycles. While the music is justly well regarded, his hard work hasn’t yielded the expected results.

“I think it was just something I had to experience,” he says with a shrug.

Warner has stayed with him, and he’s currently working toward his next project with co-producer **Jaren Johnston**, front man for **The Cadillac Three**.

In the meantime, the support work provides steady confirmation of Worsham’s abilities. He has played on projects by **Luke Combs**, **Riley Green** and **Jackson Dean**, and spent a year in a side job as a de facto member of **Old Crow Medicine Show**. Plus, there was that time when he played acoustic guitar behind **Don Henley** and **Vince Gill** on “Sacrifice” for the tribute album *Restoration: Reimagining the Songs of Elton John and Bernie Taupin*. The band also included guitar icon **Robben Ford**.

“You get back in your car and you’re driving home, you start going, ‘Wait, I was just at Vince Gill’s house with an **Eagle** and Robben Ford playing music,’” he says. “That happened. Like, ‘Did that really just happen?’”

In his way, Worsham is traveling a course that’s similar to Gill, **Marty Stuart**, **Peter Dinklage** and **Glen Campbell**, pursuing a career as an artist while backing his fellow musicians when it fits the schedule. He’s currently touring with Bentley, a move that underscores how important the musician role is in Worsham’s artistic arc.

“What makes any great musician really is restraint,” Bentley suggests. “Anybody can go out there and just ... noodle, noodle, noodle onstage and play a billion notes. Charlie knows when not to play. He knows how to stand back and accompany somebody else.”

The ACM honor is, quite possibly, just another step — albeit a rewarding one — on an uncertain road for Worsham, whose future as an artist is very much tied to his expression as a musician.

“All my favorite people had long, complicated journeys,” he says. “The gift of it, for me, is threefold. No. 1, I get to play more music, which is always the goal. No. 2, if I had had massive success out of the gate, I never would have had all these experiences in the studio with other artists — so many of my relationships with other artists began through session work. And No. 3, if the artist thing had just taken off from the get-go, I would not have had the same opportunity to gain that wisdom over these years. And more importantly, maybe, than the wisdom, the gratitude.” ●



Show Dog Nashville manager of Northeast/Midwest promotion **J.C. Coffey** (left) and **WUBE Cincinnati PD Grover Collins** (right) dropped in when **Clay Walker** performed Aug. 12 at **Lori’s Roadhouse** in Cincinnati.



**Dylan Scott** was the featured guest during the Aug. 11 edition of **Amazon Music’s Country Heat Weekly** podcast. With him are co-hosts **Kelly Sutton** (left) and **Amber Anderson**.



**ONErpm** hosted a listening party on Aug. 16 for **Gene Watson’s** new album, *Outside the Box*, due Sept. 16. From left: **ONErpm Nashville** managing director **Tim Wipperman**, **Watson**, producer **Dirk Johnson** and **ONErpm** country A&R executive **Ryan Cunningham**.

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# **TYLER HUBBARD**

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

# Chris Young And Mitchell Tenpenny Raise The 'Bar' To No. 1 On Country Airplay Chart



**Chris Young's** "At the End of a Bar," with **Mitchell Tenpenny** (RCA Nashville), jumps from No. 5 to No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart (dated Aug. 27). In the tracking week ending Aug. 21, the single increased by 11% to 23.9 million audience impressions, according to Luminate.

Young rolls up his 11th leader on the chart while Tenpenny earns his first. The pair co-penned the song with **Chris DeStefano**.

"Bar" is from Young's LP *Famous Friends*, which arrived at No. 3 on Top Country Albums in August 2021, giving the Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, 37, his eighth top 10 on the tally. It follows the set's title track, Young's team-up with **Kane Brown** that led Country Airplay in July 2021 and wrapped as the chart's **top song** of 2021.

"I'm so excited to notch my 11th No. 1," says Young. "It's crazy to think that this is back to back, following 'Famous Friends,' and it truly encompasses the vision that I had for this album — making music with my friends. Celebrating this one with Mitchell Tenpenny and Chris DeStefano is going to be so special."

Young has posted 22 Country Airplay entries, starting in 2006. In 2009, "Gettin' You Home" became his first of 11 No. 1s and 17 top 10s.

As for Tenpenny, "Bar" is his first No. 1 among three top 10s. His launch entry, "Drunk Me," hit No. 2 in December 2018. "Bar" is one of two songs that Tenpenny currently sports in the top 10 as his own "Truth About You" holds at its No. 8 high (20.1 million, up 4%).

Notably, "Bar" completes the biggest weekly vault to No. 1 on Country Airplay since **Elvie Shane's** freshman hit, "My Boy," also soared from No. 5 to the summit last October.

On *Billboard's* streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs

chart, "Bar" pushes 18-16 for a new best. It drew 2.3 million U.S. streams and sold 1,000 downloads in the latest tracking week.

**FURTHER 'PROOF' OF WALLEN'S SUCCESS** Morgan Wallen achieves his seventh Country Airplay top 10 as "You Proof" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) bumps 11-10 (17.2 million, up 21%). His prior six top 10s all led the list, most recently "Wasted On You" for a personal-best three weeks in July.

Wallen wrote "You Proof" with **ERNEST, Ashley Gorley, Charlie Handsome** and **Keith Smith**, and Handsome and **Joey Moi** produced it. The song topped Hot Country Songs in its debut week on the May 28 chart, granting Wallen his record fifth No. 1 start and his sixth leader overall. It lifts 3-2 on the latest list, as it drew 14.2 million streams (up 3%) and sold 4,000 downloads (up 10%) in the tracking week in addition to its airplay.

"You Proof" leads Country Streaming Songs for an eighth week and rises 5-2 on Country Digital Song Sales, which it ruled in its debut frame in May.

**'HEADS' HITS NO. 1** Cole Swindell's "She Had Me at Heads Carolina" (Warner Music Nashville/WMN) ascends 3-1 on Country Digital Song Sales, up 11% to 5,000 sold.

He scores his first leader on the survey among his 24 chart entries, a sum that includes 13 top 10s.

The song, which Swindell co-authored, pays homage to **Jo Dee Messina's** debut single, "Heads Carolina, Tails California." The song hit No. 2 on Hot Country Songs in May 1996; on the current iteration of the chart, "Heads" climbs 4-3 for a new high, as it drew 11.9 million streams in the tracking week. On Country Airplay, it pushes 6-4, up 10% to 22.2 million impressions. ●



YOUNG (left) and TENPENNY

MATTHEW BERNATO

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# 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	5	49	AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville <b>★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★</b>	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	23.900	+2.350	6753	696	1
2	3	27	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	23.428	+1.404	6602	400	2
3	2	45	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	23.086	-0.563	5655	-93	7
4	6	11	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	22.245	+1.976	6048	476	3
5	7	10	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	21.709	+1.741	5729	426	6
6	9	43	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory	Justin Moore	20.654	+1.026	6023	278	4
7	1	16	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	20.646	-4.832	5650	-1506	8
8	8	33	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	20.584	+0.824	5919	260	5
9	4	44	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	19.715	-1.903	5163	-527	9
10	11	10	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	17.152	+2.982	4566	734	11
11	13	34	WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	15.379	+1.447	4680	506	10
12	14	14	5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	14.558	+1.291	4134	214	13
13	12	23	GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	14.498	+0.350	4515	-13	12
14	15	25	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	12.476	+0.034	3982	34	14
15	16	36	NO HARD FEELINGS Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	10.428	+0.108	3554	-19	15
16	17	8	COUNTRY ON Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	9.949	+0.849	3168	258	17
17	18	12	HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG <b>★★ Airpower ★★</b>	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	9.866	+1.584	3172	503	16
18	22	52	COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU Stoney Creek <b>★★ Airpower ★★</b>	Frank Ray	7.721	+0.705	3005	165	18
19	20	25	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	7.419	+0.117	2876	79	19
20	19	28	PARTY MODE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	7.217	-0.090	2802	3	20
21	21	29	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	7.179	-0.023	2622	9	21
22	24	10	FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	7.072	+1.182	2407	421	22
23	23	20	SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	6.236	+0.201	2164	16	26
24	25	28	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	5.709	+0.513	2274	79	24
25	NEW		NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN <b>★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience/Most Added ★★</b>	Blake Shelton	5.446	+5.446	1230	1230	33
26	26	23	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	4.989	+0.694	2199	128	25
27	29	5	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	4.799	+0.837	1590	220	29
28	27	38	SOUL Curb	Lee Brice	4.741	+0.533	2338	85	23
29	28	20	HEARTFIRST Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	4.166	+0.141	2054	125	27
30	30	13	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	4.106	+0.285	1697	50	28

## 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	32	10	WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	3.695	+0.504	1207	176	35
32	31	39	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	3.090	-0.183	1511	-60	30
33	33	9	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	2.913	+0.157	1185	47	36
34	34	27	MY BAR inDent/Mercury Nashville	Priscilla Block	2.896	+0.182	1405	38	31
35	35	20	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	2.785	+0.151	1372	62	32
36	36	14	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	1.956	-0.040	1222	-9	34
37	37	11	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	1.911	+0.044	768	-25	41
38	38	24	HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	1.828	-0.028	1069	-23	37
39	43	4	GOLD Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	1.767	+0.578	744	197	43
40	39	21	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	1.616	-0.114	992	-1	38
41	40	6	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	1.561	+0.160	766	90	42
42	46	9	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	1.491	+0.398	785	170	40
43	41	5	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	1.399	+0.147	710	85	44
44	42	4	Y'ALL LIFE Monument	Walker Hayes	1.349	+0.148	683	40	46
45	49	3	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	1.337	+0.413	478	162	49
46	44	21	NOT TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.266	+0.086	816	68	39
47	51	2	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	1.125	+0.315	448	240	50
48	45	29	SON OF A Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	1.111	-0.060	709	0	45
49	48	15	SONGS ABOUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Brett Eldredge	1.055	+0.067	481	-1	47
50	53	5	DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville	Eric Church	0.880	+0.091	479	14	48
51	54	7	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Belting Bronco/Warner	Zach Bryan	0.846	+0.138	266	46	-
52	50	16	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	0.760	-0.071	343	-14	57
53	55	18	HELL YEAH Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	0.742	+0.041	444	0	51
54	52	12	SALT, LIME & TEQUILA Red Street	Ryan Griffin	0.717	-0.088	386	3	54
55	57	9	MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	0.632	+0.016	423	4	53
56	56	3	STRANGE Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	0.616	-0.033	298	17	60
57	59	2	NEVER TIL NOW Back Blocks/BMLG/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke + Brett Young	0.605	+0.107	384	15	55
58	58	2	EASY TONIGHT RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	0.559	+0.026	288	-23	-
59	RE-ENTRY		DOWNTOWN BABY Monument	Caitlyn Smith	0.546	+0.128	363	-15	56
60	NEW		BEACH BOYS Wheelhouse	LOCASH Featuring Mike Love & Bruce Johnston	0.520	+0.087	440	63	52



18

**FRANK RAY**  
Country'd Look Good on You

Ray, a former police officer in Las Cruces, N.M., scores his first top 20 hit on Country Airplay as his debut single climbs 22-18, up 10% to 7.7 million impressions.

## GOING FOR ADDS

**8/29**  
**ANDY ROSS**  
All American Heart  
Buckshot

**CRAIG MORGAN**  
How You Make A Man  
Broken Bow

**DYLAN SCOTT**  
Can't Have Mine  
Curb

**LUCIE TIGER**  
Burn It Down  
2120

**MUSCADINE BLOODLINE**  
Me On You  
Stancaster

**9/5**  
**COREY LAYNE**  
Between George Strait And Geore Jones  
Mountaintop

**9/12**  
**FLAT RIVER BAND**  
Ain't A Woman Like A River  
Early Bird

**JACOB JOHNSON**  
Back  
AJG/Bow To Stern

# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

### MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	61
HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	19
GOLD Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	12
THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	11
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	10
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	10
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	9
WILD AS HER Combustion/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	9
HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	8
JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	6

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	+5.446
YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.982
AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	+2.350
SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	+1.976
THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+1.741
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+1.584
WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	+1.447
LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+1.404
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1.291
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+1.182

### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

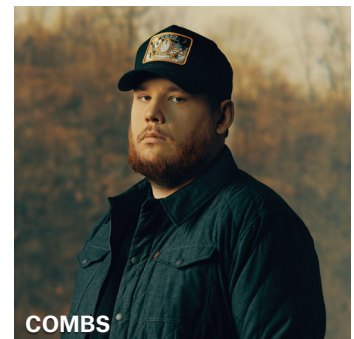
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	+1230
YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+734
AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	+696
WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	+506
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+503
SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	+476
THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+426
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+421
LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+400
WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory	Justin Moore	+278

### NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King Feat. Dierks Bentley	0.475	29	0
HOW IT OUGHTA BE BMLG	Shane Profitt	0.467	2	0
PASS IT ON Arista Nashville	Ryan Hurd	0.421	35	0
HEART OF A SMALL TOWN MCC/Curb	Tim Dugger	0.253	14	3
TRY LOSING ONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Tyler Braden	0.242	16	5
ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	0.238	4	1

### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	18.658
2	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.546
3	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	14.264
4	NEW TRUCK	Dylan Scott	13.489
5	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	13.255
6	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	10.314
7	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	8.346
8	BUY DIRT MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan	8.145
9	23 MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	7.926
10	NEVER SAY NEVER Broken Bow/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson	7.531



SHELTON: TODD STEFANI, COMBS: JEREMY COWART

## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 21, 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	17	ONE HONKY TONK TOWN (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	David Adam Byrnes	1941	289	11	13	18	ALL I NEEDED (Independent)	American Aquarium	1129	60
2	4	13	A COWBOY KNOWS HOW (Independent)	Flatland Cavalry	1757	184	12	10	27	BEAUTIFUL LOVE SONGS (Independent)	George Navarro	1090	-144
3	3	20	WORKING MAN'S WOMAN (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1725	90	13	15	15	HUMAN (Independent)	Cody Johnson	1067	49
4	1	18	TELLING ON MY HEART (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1710	-207	14	19	6	MILES DON'T MATTER (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	962	85
5	5	17	STRANGER TONIGHT (Independent)	Micky & The Motorcars	1504	6	15	17	14	HARDER STUFF (Independent)	Adam Hood	954	57
6	6	21	LOVESICK DRIFTING COWBOY (Independent)	James Robert Webb	1503	79	16	23	6	FREE MAN (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	921	115
7	9	11	HONKY TONK HIGHWAY (Independent)	Case Hardin	1404	95	17	20	13	BLOOD (Independent)	Jon Stork	879	29
8	7	27	LOVES GOT A HOLD ON YOU (Independent)	Bart Crow Band	1333	-58	18	24	8	HURT YOU (Independent)	Cody Jinks	869	77
9	12	20	THAT WAY (Cielo Azul Ent)	Sarah Hobbs	1167	43	19	21	14	DAMN SANDWICH (Independent)	Jordan Rainer	867	26
10	14	13	LIKE CONWAY TWITTY (Independent)	James Lann	1166	141	20	8	25	THE HIGHWAY KIND (Independent)	Josh Abbott Band	867	-453

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](http://www.texasregionalradio.com), or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2022, Texas Regional Radio Report





# HOW IT OUGHTA BE



**ALREADY SPINNING AT**  
WKHX/ATLANTA 34 SPINS THIS WEEK  
KEEY/MINNEAPOLIS 22 SPINS THIS WEEK

"HONESTLY, THIS IS ONE OF THE EASIEST ADDS WE'VE HAD. IT'S LIKE SHANE REACHED INTO THE MINDS OF OUR AUDIENCE AND WROTE THIS SONG."

-MIKE MOORE, PD, WKHX/ATLANTA

"I'M EXCITED FOR SHANE PROFITT AND HE'S GOING TO SOUND GREAT ON KSON! AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIS LIVE SHOW!"

- KEVIN CALLAHAN, REGIONAL VP AT AUDACY, KSON/SAN DIEGO

"AS EASY AND DEEP A PROJECT AS WE'VE GOTTEN IN 2022. LET'S GO"

-GREGG SWEDBERG, SVP OF PROGRAMMING, MINNEAPOLIS BRAND COORDINATOR/IHEARTCOUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR, KEEY/K102

"IF YOUR TITLE IS PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF A COUNTRY STATION LET ME TELL YOU "HOW IT OUGHTA BE". IT OUGHTA BE THAT WE ALL LEAD BY ADDING THIS RECORD AND HELP START THE CAREER OF OUR NEXT BIG STAR!"

-TRAVIS DAILY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, WQYK/TAMPA

"THIS COLLECTION OF SONGS IS DEEP AND SPEAKS TO THE CORE. HE'S A GUY WE'RE LOOKING AT AS ONE WHO WILL BREAK THROUGH."

-STEVE GEOFFERIES, IHEART MEDIA/ RSVP PROGRAMMING

"EVERY SONG YOU PLAYED ME FROM THE PROJECT WAS REALLY GOOD!"

-CHARLIE COOK, VP COUNTRY FORMAT-CUMULUS, OPERATIONS MGR. CUMULUS NASHVILLE, PF WKDF-FM 103.3 COUNTRY



## NASHVILLE &amp; NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Tenille Arts performed outdoors for WITL Lansing, Mich., listeners on Aug. 17. From left: Dreamcatcher Artists vp of promotion Jim Dandy, Townsquare/Lansing director of content Jonathan "J.R." Ruppel, Arts and Dreamcatcher promotion manager Charlie Dean.

## PROMOTER BEN FARRELL REMEMBERED

Nashville-based concert promoter **Ben Farrell**, best-known for a 33-year working relationship with **Garth Brooks**, died Aug. 10 at age 76 of unknown causes.

"I love Ben Farrell," said Brooks in a statement. "And like **Chris LeDoux**, Ben Farrell will continue to be the kind of man I want to be: honest, fair and hard-working. I am lucky to have known him."

Farrell launched his career in 1970 with Varnell Enterprises, assisting founder **Lon Varnell** with concert promotions, marketing and on-site supervision. He remained at the firm his entire career, rising through the ranks to become its president. Other acts he worked with included **Elvis Presley**, **Elton John**, **Lawrence Welk**, **The Statler Brothers**, **Charley Pride**, **Merle Haggard**, **George Strait**, **Ricky Skaggs**, **The Carpenters** and **Barbara Mandrell**.

More recently, he also participated in concerts involving **Alan Jackson**, **Toby Keith**, **Kenny Chesney**, **Brad Paisley**, **Luke Bryan**, **Miranda Lambert** and **Dierks Bentley**, among others.

"He was a dear friend and was, professionally, just a brilliant promoter," says Brooks' longtime manager **Bob Doyle**. "And he was one of those people who never misrepresented the situation. He gave you his honest opinion, whether it was good or bad, and he usually had a solution."

Farrell was born July 17, 1946, in Jackson, Tenn. His father, **Kerby Farrell**, was an MLB player and manager, affiliated with the Boston Braves, Chicago White Sox and Cleveland Indians in the '40s and '50s. The younger Farrell attended David Lipscomb University on a baseball scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1966, he was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies, segueing to the farm systems of the Houston Astros and White Sox. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1968 and performed two years of active service, training troops for Vietnam.

He is survived by his wife, **Autumn**, and daughter, **Ella Grace**.

Services will be held at Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville, with visitation set for Aug. 23 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. and a celebration of life scheduled for Aug. 24 at 11 a.m. CT.

—Jessica Nicholson

## RADIO & RECORDS®

**Lisa Matrianni** joined Wheelhouse as director of Midwest/Southeast promotion. She was previously a Monument promotion director. Reach her [here](#) ... Big Machine Label Group made a trio of moves in its communications department. **Quinn Kaemmer** joined as senior director, arriving from BBR Music Group, where she held a similar title. BMLG promoted **Shelby Paul** to director of communications from manager. Additionally, **Macy Kaiser** joined the department as publicity coordinator, following a stint as Country Music Association communications assistant. Reach Kaemmer [here](#), Paul [here](#) and Kaiser [here](#) ... **Shelby Kennedy** joined ONErpm as director of A&R in Nashville. A co-writer of **Reba McEntire**'s "I'm a Survivor," Kennedy was most recently Amazing Songs North America president ... Cumulus Media appointed **Deborah Farrington**, co-founder/managing partner of New York-based tech services firm StarVest, to the board of directors ... **Kert Radel** starts in September as vp of broadcast operations for classic country **WNKR** Middletown, Ohio, and adult hits **WNKN**, *The Cincinnati Enquirer* reported. He spent the

last 14 years as Chamber of Commerce president/CEO for nearby Fairfield, following a 34-year run in radio ... **WDSY** Pittsburgh morning co-host **Kristen Buccigrossi** was laid off following her Aug. 16 shift, according to *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, along with **Kevin Battle**, a personality from news/talk sister **KDKA** ... Cox Media Group regional vp **Keith Lawless**, responsible for Tampa, Fla., and Houston, is leaving the company after 25 years, RadioInk.com reported ... **Taylor Walet** was promoted to iHeartMedia/Nebraska-Iowa area president, according to RadioInsight.com, expanding on his existing role as Iowa region president. He will oversee 36 brands across six markets, including Nebraska country outlets **KXKT** and **KFFF** Omaha, and **KOGA** and **KMCX** Ogallala, plus Iowa country signals **KXNO-HD2** Des Moines, **KKSJ** Cedar Rapids and **WLLR** Davenport ... **Annie Fox** and **Cole Dunbar** started Aug. 22 as the morning team at **WLHK** Indianapolis, RadioInsight.com reported. Fox had been doing mornings at **WMDH** New Castle-Muncie, Ind., while Dunbar was producer for the morning show at top 40 **WZPL** Indianapolis. With their arrival, former WLHK morning host **Mindy Winkler** shifted to evenings ... Saga Communications CEO/founder **Ed Christian** died Aug. 19 following a short illness. He started the company in 1986 and expanded it to 27 markets. The chain features 27 country stations, including **WPOR** Portland, Maine, and **WKCN** Charleston, S.C. ... National Association of Broadcasters president/CEO **Curtis LeGeay** will participate in a keynote Q&A with Country Radio Broadcasters board president **Kurt Johnson** during the Country Radio Seminar March 13-15 in Nashville. A CRS360 webinar provides a sneak peek at the seminar on Aug. 24 at 1 p.m. CST. Go [here](#) to register.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

Jody Williams Songs promoted **Nina Jenkins Fisher** to senior director of creative from director ... **Theresa Wolters** joined MusiCares as vp of health and human services, following a 12-year affiliation with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, where she concluded as senior director of catalytic initiatives and program optimization ... Songwriter **Justin Wilson** ("Momma's House," "Kiss You in the Morning") signed with Concord Music Publishing ... Singer-songwriter **Willie Morrison** joined the roster at Edgehill Music Publishing ... Onsite Workshops lead **Debbie Carroll** was named president for Leadership Music's 27-person board, which includes four new members: **Nic Dugger**, TNDV: Television; **Michelle Tigard Kammerer**, Amazon Music; **Torie Mason**, Warner Music Nashville; and **Neal Spielberg**, Spielberg Entertainment. Go [here](#) for the full board list ... **Ty Herndon** partnered with Pivotal Moments Media to launch the Soundboard podcast, featuring mental health conversations with celebrities. The inaugural guest is **LeAnn Rimes**. Upcoming episodes will feature **Cody Alan** and **Michael Ray** ... Streaming service TIDAL established Music School, a learning hub with playlists designed to educate users about specific genres, instruments and geographic locations. The collection includes four country playlists: Country for Beginners, Neotraditional Country 101, Alt-Country 101 and Country and Folk for Kids ... The Country Music Association hosted its ninth annual CMA EDU Leadership Summit Aug. 11-12 ... The next edition of Live in the Vineyard Goes Country is scheduled for April 25-27, 2023. ●



**Zac Brown** (left) welcomed WIL St. Louis music director **Marty Brooks** on his bus when he played the Hollywood Casino Amphitheater on Aug. 12.



Universal Music Group Nashville chairman/CEO **Mike Dungan** visited EMI Nashville artist **Kylie Morgan** when she made her Grand Ole Opry debut on Aug. 16.

**THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO  
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



**PARMALEE**  
**GIRL in**  
**MINE**

**MCCN / MUSIC CHOICE**  
**KKBQ / HOUSTON**  
**WUBL / ATLANTA**  
**KNUC / SEATTLE**  
**WYCD / DETROIT**  
**WJVC / NASSAU-SUFFOLK**  
**WIL / ST LOUIS**  
**KAJA / SAN ANTONIO**  
**KNCI / SACRAMENTO**  
**KSOP / SALT LAKE CITY**  
**WWKA / ORLANDO**  
**KWNR / LAS VEGAS**  
**KBEQ / KANSAS CITY**  
**WGAR / CLEVELAND**

**WCOL / COLUMBUS**  
**WGNE / JACKSONVILLE**  
**WPAW / GREENSBORO**  
**KJKE / OKLAHOMA CITY**  
**WKMK / MONMOUTH-OCEAN**  
**WSSL / GREENVILLE**  
**WYRK / BUFFALO**  
**WDXB / BIRMINGHAM**  
**WZZK / BIRMINGHAM**  
**KHGE / FRESNO**  
**KHEY / EL PASO**  
**WXCX / WILMINGTON**  
**WOGK / GAINESVILLE**  
**WQMX / AKRON**

**WWQM / MADISON**  
**WKRO / DAYTONA BEACH**  
**WPOR / PORTLAND**  
**WTHT / PORTLAND**  
**WRNS / GREENVILLE**  
**KXLY / SPOKANE**  
**WDRM / HUNTSVILLE**  
**KJUG / VISALIA**  
**WGTY / YORK**  
**WQHK / FT WAYNE**  
**WUSJ / JACKSON**  
**WKML / FAYETTEVILLE**  
**KTOM / MONTEREY**

**OVER 1 BILLION TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS**



# 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
1	1	1	9	<b>THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE</b> CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D. SINGLETON, L.COMBS (L.COMBS, J.DAVIS, D.ISBELL, R.ISBELL) <b>★★ No. 1 (4 Weeks) ★★</b>	<b>Luke Combs</b> RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	5	1
2	3	3	14	<b>YOU PROOF</b> J.MOI, CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN, A.G.GORLEY, E.K.SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME) <b>★★ Airplay Gainer ★★</b>	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	10	1
3	4	4	16	<b>SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA</b> Z.CROWELL (A.G.GORLEY, C.SWINDELL, J.FRASURE, M.D.SANDERS, THOMAS RHETT, T.NICHOLS) <b>★★ Streaming Gainer ★★</b>	<b>Cole Swindell</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	4	3
4	2	2	52	<b>WASTED ON YOU</b> J.MOI, J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN, E.K.SMITH, J.THOMPSON, CHARLIE HANDSOME)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	1
5	5	5	15	<b>LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC</b> D.HUFF (K.BROWN, M.J.MCGINN, T.PHILLIPS, J.M.SCHMIDT)	<b>Kane Brown</b> RCA NASHVILLE	7	3
6	8	8	27	<b>FALL IN LOVE</b> A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN, B.ZIMMERMAN, G.J.LUCAS)	<b>Bailey Zimmerman</b> ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	22	6
7	6	6	13	<b>5 FOOT 9</b> T.HUBBARD, J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD, J.JOHNSTON, C.MCGILL)	<b>Tyler Hubbard</b> EMI NASHVILLE	12	6
8	9	10	26	<b>LAST NIGHT LONELY</b> J.PARDI, B.BUTLER, R.GORE (J.BELL, J.FOX, D.MARLOWE)	<b>Jon Pardi</b> CAPITOL NASHVILLE	2	8
9	7	7	10	<b>ROCK AND A HARD PLACE</b> A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN, H.WARREN, J.HACKWORTH, J.HARVEY)	<b>Bailey Zimmerman</b> ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	2
10	10	9	17	<b>SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE</b> R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	<b>Zach Bryan</b> BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	51	3
11	11	12	20	<b>SON OF A SINNER</b> ERNEST K.I., TOSHINSKY (J.B.DEFORD, E.K.SMITH, D.R.STEVENS)	<b>Jelly Roll</b> BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	19	11
12	12	11	26	<b>DAMN STRAIT</b> F.ROGERS, D.WELLS, A.ESHUIS (J.A.COLLINS, T.TOMLINSON)	<b>Scotty McCreery</b> TRIPLE TIGERS	9	6
13	15	14	47	<b>WISHFUL DRINKING</b> I.ANDRESS, J.M.SCHMIDT (I.ANDRESS, J.P.STARKER SAXE, J.PRICE, D.D.BROWN, R.WILLIAMSON)	<b>Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt</b> ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	11	13
14	14	17	15	<b>WHISKEY ON YOU</b> L.RIMES (N.SMITH, L.RIMES, R.SUTTON)	<b>Nate Smith</b> ARISTA NASHVILLE	31	14
15	16	18	22	<b>WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE</b> J.S.STOVER, S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE, PDIGIOVANNI, C.MCGILL, J.S.STOVER)	<b>Justin Moore</b> VALORY	6	15
16	18	21	34	<b>AT THE END OF A BAR</b> C.DESTEFANO, C.YOUNG (C.YOUNG, C.DESTEFANO, M.TENPENNY)	<b>Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny</b> RCA NASHVILLE	1	16
17	17	16	55	<b>TRUTH ABOUT YOU</b> J.M.SCHMIDT, M.TENPENNY (M.TENPENNY, M.ALDERMAN, T.ARCHER)	<b>Mitchell Tenpenny</b> RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	8	16
18	19	22	36	<b>PICK ME UP</b> R.COPPERMAN, Z.KALE (G.BARRETT, J.M.NITE, R.COPPERMAN)	<b>Gabby Barrett</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	24	18
19	20	19	31	<b>SHE LIKES IT</b> J.KERR, J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON, J.SCOTT, J.KERR)	<b>Russell Dickerson &amp; Jake Scott</b> TRIPLE TIGERS	23	13
20	21	23	22	<b>GHOST STORY</b> D.GARCIA, C.UNDERWOOD (D.A.GARCIA, J.KEAR, H.LINSEY, H.WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW)	<b>Carrie Underwood</b> CAPITOL NASHVILLE	13	12
21	22	24	15	<b>THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW</b> J.MOI (M.WALLEN, N.GALYON, M.LAMBERT)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
22	27	28	12	<b>WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND</b> PDIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS, M.DRAGSTREM, R.J.HURD)	<b>Jordan Davis</b> MCA NASHVILLE	30	22
23	23	15	23	<b>WILD AS HER</b> C.FARREN (M.WALLEN, BRETT TYLER, K.ARCHER)	<b>Corey Kent</b> COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NASHVILLE	45	15
24	25	25	12	<b>DON'T COME LOOKIN'</b> L.DICK (J.DEAN, C.L.DICK)	<b>Jackson Dean</b> BIG MACHINE	14	24
25	31	32	4	<b>HALF OF ME</b> D.HUFF, J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT, R.AKINS, W.BUNDY, J.THOMPSON)	<b>Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green</b> VALORY/BMLG	17	25

### COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

- #1 10 WKS **ZACH BRYAN**
- MORGAN WALLEN**
- ERNEST**
- ASHLEY GORLEY**
- CHARLIE HANDSOME**
- BAILEY ZIMMERMAN**
- CHASE MCGILL**
- LUKE COMBS**
- JOSH THOMPSON**
- MITCHELL TENPENNY**



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### COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

- #1 81 WKS **JOEY MOI**
- AUSTIN SHAWN**
- ZACH CROWELL**
- DANN HUFF**
- JORDAN SCHMIDT**
- RYAN HADLOCK**
- CHARLIE HANDSOME**
- JACOB DURRETT**
- SHANE MCANALLY**
- LINDSAY RIMES**

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	30	7	<b>COUNTRY ON</b> J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (D.FRASIER,S.HAURY,M.NESLER,MITCH OGLESBY)	<b>Luke Bryan</b> CAPITOL NASHVILLE	16	19
27	26	27	26	<b>SOUL</b> B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,L.BRICE (K.KADISH,T.FERRARI)	<b>Lee Brice</b> CURB	28	26
28	24	26	22	<b>NO HARD FEELINGS</b> S.MCANALLY,OLD DOMINION (M.RAMSEY,T.ROSEN,W.SELLERS,G.SPRUNG,B.F.TURSI,S.MCANALLY)	<b>Old Dominion</b> ARISTA NASHVILLE	15	24
29	33	34	12	<b>WHAT HE DIDN'T DO</b> S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,A.G.GORLEY,E.M.SHACKELTON)	<b>Carly Pearce</b> BIG MACHINE	42	29
30	30	29	33	<b>JOY OF MY LIFE</b> D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	<b>Chris Stapleton</b> MERCURY NASHVILLE	35	27
31	28	-	2	<b>TOLD YOU I COULD DRINK</b> S.SUMSER,S.SMALL,Z.MANNO (Z.MANNO,C.KELLEY,D.BRELAND)	<b>BRELAND Featuring Lady A</b> BAD REALM/ATLANTIC	-	28
32	36	37	11	<b>DOWN HOME</b> A.BOWERS,J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN,R.BALL,C.BEDELL,T.HOWELL)	<b>Jimmie Allen</b> STONEY CREEK	26	32
33	32	31	19	<b>HEARTFIRST</b> J.BUNETTA,S.MCANALLY (K.BALLERINI,K.FAIRCHILD,A.VANDERHEYM)	<b>Kelsea Ballerini</b> BLACK RIVER	29	25
34	40	36	21	<b>DEAR ALCOHOL</b> LEX NOUR (D.NWOSU JR.)	<b>Dax</b> LIVING LEGEND/RECORDS/COLUMBIA	-	28
35	34	35	17	<b>PARTY MODE</b> Z.CROWELL (J.FLOWERS,R.BEAVER,R.ALEXANDER,J.KEIM,M.MCGINN)	<b>Dustin Lynch</b> BROKEN BOW	20	30
36	38	38	6	<b>OUT IN THE MIDDLE</b> Z.BROWN,B.SIMONETTI (B.SIMONETTI,Z.BROWN,L.COMBS,J.D.SINGLETON)	<b>Zac Brown Band</b> HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	21	36
37	39	33	17	<b>TOMORROW ME</b> CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,D.DILLON,R.FULCHER)	<b>Luke Combs</b> RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	13
38	46	46	3	<b>OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW</b> E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	<b>Zach Bryan</b> BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	38
39	37	40	5	<b>Y'ALL LIFE</b> J.THIBODEAU,W.HAYES (W.HAYES,P.GOOD,J.JENKINS,C.HAYNES, JR.,J.EPPERSON)	<b>Walker Hayes</b> MONUMENT	44	32
40	41	42	8	<b>HELL YEAH</b> LITTLE BIG TOWN (J.WESTBROOK,PSWEET,C.CROWDER,T.R.HUBBARD)	<b>Little Big Town</b> CAPITOL NASHVILLE	53	40
41	NEW	1	1	<b>THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES</b> M.KNOX (J.MORGAN,J.EDWARDS,T.KENNEDY,K.M.ALLISON)	<b>Jason Aldean</b> MACON/BROKEN BOW	27	41
42	43	43	13	<b>GOOD OL' MAN</b> M.TRUSSELL (D.GREEN,J.MILLER,L.STARR,M.TRUSSELL)	<b>Drew Green</b> VILLA 40/RCA NASHVILLE	-	41
43	42	41	18	<b>DON'T THINK JESUS</b> J.MOI (J.L.ALEXANDER,M.L.HOLMAN,C.MCGILL)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	1
44	49	49	5	<b>SONGS ABOUT YOU</b> N.CHAPMAN (B.ELDRIDGE,J.J.DILLON,B.WEST)	<b>Brett Eldredge</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	49	43
45	35	44	7	<b>CAN'T HAVE MINE</b> M.ALDERMAN (D.SCOTT,M.ALDERMAN,J.MELTON,D.WILSON)	<b>Dylan Scott</b> CURB	-	35
46	47	47	9	<b>COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU</b> F.ROGERS (D.GEORGE,M.CRISWELL,T.PHILLIPS,C.TAYLOR)	<b>Frank Ray</b> STONEY CREEK	18	46
47	45	48	4	<b>WORTH A SHOT</b> R.COPPERMAN (S.MCANALLY,R.COPPERMAN,J.OSBORNE)	<b>Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley</b> RCA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	45
48	48	-	2	<b>SON OF THE DIRTY SOUTH</b> A.BAYLIS,DJ.CHILL (B.GILBERT,A.BAYLIS,J.B.DEFORD)	<b>Brantley Gilbert Featuring Jelly Roll</b> VALORY	-	48
49	RE-ENTRY	2	2	<b>WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE</b> C.LA.CORTE,S.MCANALLY,S.HUNT (S.L.HUNT,C.LA.CORTE,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	<b>Sam Hunt</b> MCA NASHVILLE	33	49
50	NEW	1	1	<b>YOU</b> D.SMYERS,S.HENDRICKS (D.SMYERS,D.M.BARNES,J.REYNOLDS)	<b>Dan + Shay</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	43	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	1,493,000	1,774,915,000	127,339,000				<b>ALBUM CONSUMPTION</b>	
Last Week	1,497,000	1,763,372,000	123,643,000	Album Consumption	44,646,000	49,960,000	11.9%	'21 44.65 million
Change	-0.3%	0.7%	3.0%	Album Sales	5,633,000	4,383,000	-22.2%	'22 49.96 million
This Week Last Year	1,346,000	1,525,002,000	128,201,000	Audio On-Demand	49,566,031,000	54,790,805,000	10.5%	<b>TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS</b>
Change	10.9%	16.4%	-0.7%	Video On-Demand	4,497,839,000	4,185,920,000	-6.9%	'21 54.06 billion
								'22 58.98 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending August 18, 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	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	84	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 0331807/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
2	2	2	13	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
3	3	3	8	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 997801/SMN	GROWIN' UP		1
4	4	5	220	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	2	1
5	5	4	272	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	3	1
6	6	6	145	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	2	1
7	9	9	203	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA 68079*/LEGACY (19.98/12.98)	ELVIS: 30 #1 HITS	6	1
8	7	7	381	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
9	8	8	40	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 034504*	RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
10	10	11	92	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
11	11	12	19	COLE SWINDELL WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN	STEREOTYPE		6
12	21	14	291	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	7	1
13	13	15	30	WALKER HAYES MONUMENT 98353	COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM	●	2
14	15	16	358	ZAC BROWN BAND HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
15	16	17	162	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY	■	9
16	14	13	234	SHANIA TWAIN MERCURY NASHVILLE 003072/UMGN (13.98)	GREATEST HITS	4	1
17	17	20	91	LEE BRICE CURB 79537*	HEY WORLD	●	7
18	20	21	113	GABBY BARRETT WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	GOLDMINE	■	4
19	18	19	324	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS	■	6
20	22	23	193	TOBY KEITH SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)	35 BIGGEST HITS	■	1
21	23	22	71	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 033578*	FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
22	19	18	5	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		7
23	25	25	294	BROOKS & DUNN ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION	4	2
24	24	24	45	CODY JOHNSON COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 666969*/WMN	HUMAN: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		3
25	28	27	99	HARDY BIG LOUD 836*	A ROCK	●	4

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.

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	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	13	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
2	2	2	327	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
3	3	4	92	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
4	4	5	179	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY	■	2
5	5	7	373	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	3	1
6	6	6	5	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		2
7	7	9	332	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA	■	1
8	15	12	187	JOHN MELLENCAMP MERCURY 536738*/UME	THE BEST THAT I COULD DO 1978 - 1988	3	4
9	10	11	383	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1608*	THE LUMINEERS	3	1
10	12	10	289	SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS		3

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	14	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
2	2	9	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS
3	5	12	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL
4	4	83	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
5	3	10	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
6	6	17	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
7	7	17	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
8	8	8	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD
9	10	279	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
10	9	178	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN
11	11	10	WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH
12	12	60	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES
13	13	15	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN
14	18	10	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC KANE BROWN
15	15	61	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
16	17	54	BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN
17	14	59	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
18	16	43	TIL YOU CAN'T CODY JOHNSON
19	NEW		PICK ME UP GABBY BARRETT
20	19	214	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
21	23	9	WILD AS HER COREY KENT
22	20	4	LAST NIGHT LONELY JON PARDI
23	22	69	CHASIN' YOU MORGAN WALLEN
24	21	30	AA WALKER HAYES
25	RE-ENTRY		HEARTLESS DIPOLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. 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](http://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	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	39	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD	RAISE THE ROOF		1
2	3	3	24	DOLLY PARTON BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*	RUN, ROSE, RUN		1
3	2	2	47	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD	RENEWAL		1
4	RE-ENTRY		39	BELA FLECK RENEW RECORDS 538689220/BMG	MY BLUEGRASS HEART		1
5	4	6	52	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA		1
6	RE-ENTRY		21	WATCHHOUSE TIPTOE TIGER 002*/THIRTY TIGERS	WATCHHOUSE		1
7	5	7	20	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER	CROOKED TREE		2
8	9	-	25	VARIOUS ARTISTS CURB/BILLY BLUE 2334 CB EX	COUNTRY FAITH BLUEGRASS		8
9	RE-ENTRY		16	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW ATO 0602*	PAINT THIS TOWN		1
10	RE-ENTRY		20	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](mailto:tom.roland@billboard.com)

# Tiera Kennedy's Introduction To Radio, 'Found It In You,' Comes From A Personal Place

**Tiera Kennedy** found a unique angle for her first radio single: She ran it through a Cameron lens.

Kennedy co-wrote "Found It in You" with songwriter-producer **Cameron Bedell**, who is currently enjoying a run as co-writer of **Jimmie Allen's** "Down Home." But "Found It" also relies heavily on another Cameron, **Kamren Kennedy**, whom she married last Oct. 2. The couple became an item in 2014 when she posted a photo on social media of a camera that she wanted to buy. Kamren sent a direct message offering to train her in photography, and he became both her creative director and her man.

He was also the subject when she wrote with Bedell for the first time at Liz Rose Music on Jan. 28, 2019.

"I started talking about my husband — he was just my boyfriend at the time," she recalls. "But I started talking about all the things I love about him. We just started listing them and put it into a song."

The theme might have been rooted in her personal life, but the song's name resided in Bedell's cell phone.

"I had this title sitting in my Notes — 'Found It in You,'" he remembers. "I was wanting to write this song where it's like, you know, 'Everything I've been looking for, it's over — the search is over. I found it.' She's immediately like, 'Oh, my God, I love that. We have to do that.' So it just happened very naturally."

Bedell formed a progression made primarily of major chords, creating a cheery backdrop for her optimistic message and intended blend of genres.

"She grew up on country music predominantly — you know, she loves **Dolly [Parton]**," Bedell says. "But innately, she has a pretty strong R&B sense to her music and to her vocals. She's a perfect blend of country and some of that old-school R&B. That's exactly where I thrive."

They started listing Tiera's future husband's positive traits on line one, highlighting his willingness to listen, his patience and his encouragement. And the first verse's final line — the setup to the chorus — might be the most important one in the song, recognizing that "real good love's just hard to find."

The chorus then shifted into another gear with two ascending groups of three notes — "I-I-I, found it in..." — leading to "you," the man she's celebrating. The chorus portrays him as the puzzle piece that completes her: a source of confidence, happiness and security.

Remarkably, very little of "Found It in You" focuses on the physical. There's no real reference to sex, no description of their visual being — other than an appreciation that he loves her whether she's "all dressed up or lettin' all my hair down."

"He's my best friend at the end of the day, and so it's really not just about the physical things for the both of us," Kennedy says. "I mean, we genuinely love being together and I feel like we bring out the best in each other. I really just wanted to show that in the song."

But avoiding tactile intimacy also allows "Found It in You" to serve a more universal purpose.

"I am obviously talking about a significant other, but my hope with this song was that people could listen to it, and it could be about a friend or anyone in their life," she says. "I feel like everybody has that person in their life that

kind of changed their world. And so I hope that people think about that when they listen to it."

The song took another step when they recorded the beginnings of a demo at the end of their writing appointment. The chorus ran nine lines, repeating the title three times, but during one of the takes, she extended it further, singing "I found it in you" three more times at the stanza's end.

"Working on getting her to be a little bit freer with her vocals, I was like, 'You're so good that the last thing I want you to do is be uptight. Like, I know this is the first time we've met, but you've got it, girl, and you're so good. So just do your thing. Even if it's too much,'" Bedell recalls. "So after she sang that first chorus, she just started doing that. That was a kind of mistake that turned into a nice little chunk of gold."

After the coronavirus hit in 2020, they packaged "Found It in You" with several other songs for recording. Bedell shipped them off to other musicians, who added their parts around Kennedy's vocals one at a time and returned the tracks digitally. She released that version independently in October 2020, and it helped build attention around her.

Valory announced Kennedy's signing on Aug. 5, 2021, and the team decided to rerecord several of her songs, including "Found It in You," with producer **Dann Huff (Keith Urban, Kane Brown)**. They held a tracking session in September with a five-piece band — guitarists **Ilya Toshinsky** and **Derek Wells**, bassist **Craig Young**, drummer **Aaron Sterling** and keyboardist **Charlie Judge** — at Nashville's Sound Stage. The sound quality itself was brighter, the group dynamic created more energy, and they switched the spiky rhythm guitar from acoustic on the demo to electric on the master, adding a touch more muscle. But the alterations were minor.

"The idea on something like that is to not throw the baby out with the proverbial bathwater," Huff says. "When they get to that point

in their discussions with a label, they love what [the artist is] doing. So to change it outright would be stupid. That's not really the drill; it's to elevate it."

**Paul Franklin** layered steel guitar on top of it to enhance the country part of the balance, though he also paid a nod to Kennedy's R&B roots with a background line in the second verse that — after Huff did some EQ work — sounded like a gangsta-rap synth line from an early-'90s **Dr. Dre** production.

Kennedy redid her vocals at Huff's home studio and worked on background vocals with Bedell, though **Melissa Fuller** layered in an additional voice later. Huff also overdubbed mandolin and some extra guitar parts, including a twin-guitar passage in the waning moments. He insisted that Bedell get first credit in their co-producing arrangement.

"He's a multifaceted guy," Huff says. "He and Tiera have a serious connection. That's who she trusts. You tread lightly on those relationships."

Valory released "Found It in You" to country radio via PlayMPE on July 18. And Kennedy hopes it brings a little optimism into the world, much as it represents the positivity she receives from her two Camerons: her producer/co-writer and her husband/creative director.

"I always think about who I wrote the song about, even when I perform it live," she says. "I want people to feel the happiness that I felt from that song." ●









# C

## 70 Years Ago Kitty Wells 'Made' It To No. 1

In 1952, the artist known as the Queen of Country Music scored the first genre chart leader for a solo woman

On Aug. 23, 1952, **Kitty Wells'** "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels" began a six-week domination on *Billboard's* Best Selling Retail Folk (Country & Western) Records chart — and became the first leader on a *Billboard* country survey by a solo female artist. Authored by **J. D. "Jay" Miller** and produced by **Paul Cohen**, "Angels" was also ground-breaking as an early hit about infidelity from a woman's perspective. Wells recorded it at Nashville's Castle Studio in her first session for Decca Records.

Wells was born **Muriel Deason**

on Aug. 30, 1919, in Nashville. She helped pave the way for numerous other female country stars and eventually was dubbed the Queen of Country Music. She married **Johnny Wright**, her manager, in October 1937. They were wed until Wright died in 2011.

Wells added two more No. 1s among 35 top 10s on *Billboard* country song charts through 1965: "One by One," with **Red Foley**, in 1954 and "Heartbreak U.S.A." in 1961. Inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1976, Wells died in July 2012.

—JIM ASKER

# DA

REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS

Wells, circa 1950.

Rank	Weeks	Title	Artist
5	2	1. IT WASN'T GOD WHO MADE HONKY TONK ANGELS	K. Wells
		I Don't Want Your Money	Dec 78126232; 14519-28232
20	1	2. WILD SIDE OF LIFE	Hank Thompson
		Cryin' in the Deep Blue Sea	Cap 17811942; 1451F-1942—BM1
5	5	3. FULL TIME JOB	E. Arnold
		Shepherd of My Heart	V 78120-4787; 14547-4787—BM1
8	4	4. LADY'S MAN	Hank Snow
		Married by the Bible Divorced by the Law	V 78120-4733; 145147-4733—BM1
14	7	5. ARE YOU TEASING ME	Carl Smith
		It's a Lonely, Lively World	Col 178120922; 14834-20922—BM1
17	3	6. ALMOST	G. Messersmith