

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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OCTOBER 24, 2022 | PAGE 1 OF 22

FOR YOUR CMA  
CONSIDERATION

# HARDY

OVER 1.8 BILLION  
ON-DEMAND ARTIST  
STREAMS (U.S.)

“(HIS HITS) EMBODY THAT  
CLASSIC COUNTRY SPIRIT WHILE  
PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF  
MODERN RADIO MUSIC”

*American*  
- **songwriter**  
the craft of music

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

SONG OF THE YEAR

“SAND IN MY BOOTS” WRITTEN BY: ASHLEY GORLEY, MICHAEL HARDY, JOSH OSBORNE

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

“BEERS ON ME” PERFORMED BY: DIERKS BENTLEY WITH BRELAND & HARDY

BIG LOUD



# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

OCTOBER 24, 2022 | PAGE 2 OF 22

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## Competition, Infrastructure Issues Make Some Artists Rethink COVID-19-Adjusted Touring

Live shows are back in full force — Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena, two years after the pandemic relegated it to hockey games in front of empty seats, is currently in a run of 12 shows in a 23-day period, including country concerts headlined by **Keith Urban**, **Jason Aldean**, **Reba McEntire** and **Wynonna Judd** on successive Friday nights.

But the live-show reboot has come with its challenges. The volume of acts has caused logistical problems, including a shortage of available tour buses and operators to drive them. The loss of some venues during the shutdown — particularly at the club

level — has increased competition among touring acts for bookings in the remaining outlets, creating routing issues. And artists in smaller venues often encounter spotty attendance, thanks to the glut of concert options for a fan base that isn’t entirely back: 20% of American adults remain uncomfortable with the prospect of attending mass public events, according to a May survey by [CivicScience](#).

It’s in that context that independent singer-songwriter **Gretchen Peters** — whose body of smart, emotional work

includes hits with **Martina McBride**’s “Independence Day” and **Faith Hill**’s “The Secret of Life” — has announced that her current concert tour will be her last. She remains open to performing the occasional one-off concert, much like **George Strait** has since he quit doing full-fledged tours in

2015. The feedback from fellow artists has been mixed.

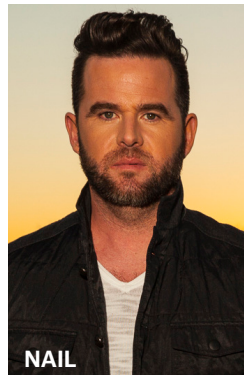
“A couple of them said, ‘Oh, no, you can’t stop,’ you know, as if ‘the show must go on’ is actually a rule,” Peters says. “I thought that was an interesting reaction. But then I’ve also gotten — and I won’t mention their names because this is something every-

body needs to make public for themselves — but I’ve also gotten quite a few ‘I’m right behind you, girl.’ I’ve gotten a few of those.”

To observers who see only the glamorous, onstage part of touring, the idea of walking away might seem shocking. But the road is never easy — it’s a business in which employees navigate a different working environment on a daily basis, and the lifestyle itself is physically taxing. The costs of putting on a concert in an era of 8% inflation have increased across the board, and many of those expenses are significantly higher. Bus drivers,



PETERS



NAIL



MEINEMA

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PETERS: ANDREW NEWIS; NAIL, JIM WRIGHT.

NOTHIN’ TURNS YOUR RADIO TO GOLD LIKE...

*Hannah Ellis*  
COUNTRY CAN

“A song that is made for true-blue country music lovers and modern-day fans alike.”  
— *Country Swag*

“... Equally comforting as it is rocking. Ellis’ vocal ability further captures the essence of what so many love about country music.”  
— *The Nash News*

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when they can be located, are sometimes getting double the daily rate they charged before the pandemic. And security costs, compounded by the volume of mass shootings in the 21st century, have risen as much as six times in the last five to eight years.

Those costs are borne by promoters and the acts themselves, who already pay their bands and crews, share commissions with business associates, rent transportation and cover volatile fuel costs. Outside of the top-tier acts, artists are facing a financial squeeze.

“They can’t go out and charge \$125, \$150 a ticket, so they either have to cut their operating costs [or] go out with less crew, or that cost gets passed on to the promoter. And the only way for the promoter to recoup is to keep their costs down, which is very difficult to do,” says Action Entertainment Collaborative partner **Nick Meinema (Trace Adkins, High Valley)**. “But the audience is not willing, or in some cases not able, to afford a higher ticket price. That becomes a conundrum.”

There are ways to combat the problem. Some of Meinema’s artists are cutting fuel costs by refusing to tour west of the Rocky Mountains unless they receive a superb contract. Others are declining Canadian offers, choosing to avoid customs issues on top of the fuel costs, or they are asking to book 10-day runs that cover two weekends and the days in between instead of traveling only on the weekend before driving back home. Additionally, some artists are booking fewer dates and discovering in the process that they create higher demand — and higher grosses — by becoming a little more scarce.

“Country music artists overlap at every level,” Meinema says.

During 2023, Reliant Talent artist **David Nail** will be doing more soft-ticket shows — fairs and festivals — where the income is more reliable.

Transportation has not been. Nail had an issue this past summer when Nashville coach companies ran out of buses. Two days before a Thursday getaway, his team finally located a vehicle in Indiana: Someone had to travel to pick it up and drive it back to Nashville, adding gas charges in the process. And it was only the morning of their departure that they were able to fly a retired driver who still had his license from Texas to man the wheel.

“A lot of that has to do, obviously, with everybody touring, but a lot of huge tours have 15 to 20 buses,” Nail says. “I can remember thinking, ‘Man, I might have to call **Luke Bryan** and just see if maybe he could double up on the buses and maybe throw me a bone.’”

In the face of that shortage, Meinema has a client who plans to tour strictly in the spring and fall in 2023, taking a summer vacation from the road for the first time in 26 years after a lackluster 2022 experience.

“The shows were great, the money was great, the merch was great, the travel — it was too much,

not the level that that artist was accustomed to having,” he says. “It just didn’t feel worth it.”

While much of the fan base is acting as if the pandemic is over, the coronavirus remains an unpredictable issue. Nail has picked up some good money by subbing last minute for other artists whose teams suffered COVID-19 infections. But the artists who have to back out of the shows still have to pay their bands and crews. And the thought of losing dates to the virus is haunting.

“It’s impossible to not feel a little different, whether it’s the meet-and-greets or whatever,” says Nail.

Peters has thought at times during a performance — particularly when the reboot began — that working without a mask made her vulnerable in smaller, indoor venues.

“I was very appreciative of the audience members that masked up early on,” she says. “But just to think, ‘Boy, how much air am I sucking in here tonight?’ I mean, I can’t wear a mask because I have to sing. For somebody with asthma, it was surreal and a bit terrifying.”

By contrast, Peters is comfortable with her decision to back out of touring, ready to discover how her work/life balance will change when her schedule is a little more predictable. She’ll miss the shows, but that’s the smallest portion of the day.

“There’s a whole list of other things that I really won’t miss,” she says. “[Particularly] airlines — I mean, it’s a long list.”

Nail, on the other hand, is committed to slugging it out, even if touring remains unpredictable for the near future.

“I don’t have that plan B,” he says. “This has to work, one way or another.” ●



BRYAN



Walker Hayes and Ciara (right) discussed their collaboration on “Y’all Life” with Kelleigh Bannen during the Oct. 17 edition of Bannen’s eponymous Apple Music show.



Warner Music Nashville artist Tyler Braden (center) visited WUBE Cincinnati on Oct. 14, meeting up with WUBE personality Jesse Tack (left) and PD Grover Collins.



Walker Montgomery and Alex Miller participated Oct. 10 in the Eddie Montgomery & Friends Golf Challenge for flood relief in Danville, Ky. From left: Walker, Eddie and Miller.



Restless Road met up with WPAW Winston-Salem, N.C., PD Clay Walker during an Oct. 4 appearance at the Carolina Classic Fair. From left: group members Garrett Nichols and Zach Beeken, Walker and group member Colton Pack.



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

# MORGAN WALLEN

ENTERTAINER  
OF THE YEAR

MALE VOCALIST  
OF THE YEAR

OVER 12.3 BILLION  
ON-DEMAND ARTIST STREAMS (U.S.)

“THE MOST  
WANTED MAN  
IN COUNTRY”

THE NEW YORKER

“AN  
AUTHENTICITY  
FANS CAN FEEL”

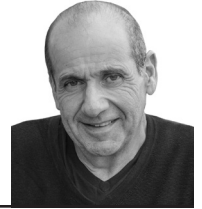
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BIG LOUD



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

# Zimmerman Shines On Top Country Albums With 'Leave The Light On'; Alabama's 'Dixieland Delight' Sports Gains



**Bailey Zimmerman's** debut collection, *Leave the Light On* (Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA), debuts at No. 2 on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart (dated Oct. 29). Released Oct. 14, the eight-song set earned 32,000 equivalent album units in its first week (ending Oct. 20), according to Luminate.

The first chart entry for the 22-year-old from Louisville, Ill., concurrently starts at No. 9 on the all-genre *Billboard* 200, where he also makes his first appearance. He co-wrote six songs on the **Austin Shawn**-produced project.

Zimmerman made history on the streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart dated Sept. 3 when he became the first act to simultaneously place three career-opening entries in the top 10 since the list launched as an all-encompassing genre ranking in October 1958: "Rock and a Hard Place," "Where It Ends" and "Fall in Love."

"My life went from, like, nothing to 100 just so fast," says Zimmerman, who worked at a meat processing plant and on a gas pipeline prior to his career in music. (He now boasts 1.7 million TikTok followers.) "I started reading books. [Fellow country artist] **Drew Baldridge** has been like a mentor for me. He was like, 'Dude, get the book *All You Need To Know About the Music Business* [by **Donald Passman**]. I learned how labels worked, all kinds of stuff. I still have a lot to learn, but I dove in to learn what's going on."

On the Oct. 29-dated Hot Country Songs survey, Zimmerman charts five titles, including two in the top 10. "Rock" pushes 9-6 with 13.7 official streams and 2,000 downloads sold. It also ranks at No. 58 on Country Airplay with 568,000 audience impressions (up 7%). "Fall," his current proper radio single, holds at its No. 8 Country Airplay high (17.2 million, up 3%) with 9 million streams and 3,000 sold.

Zimmerman rounds out his current Hot Country Songs haul with "Where" (No. 28, 4.9 million streams), "Never Leave" (No. 35, 5.1 million streams, up 40%) and "Waiting" (No. 36 debut, 2.5 million first-week streams).



ZIMMERMAN

**'DELIGHT'-FUL DEBUT** Alabama's "Dixieland Delight" arrives on the Country Digital Song Sales chart, sparked by the intense college football rivalry between the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide and the University of Tennessee's Volunteers.

The track, which led Hot Country Songs in April 1983 and became the band's ninth of 33 No. 1s (the most among duos or groups), enters Country Digital Song Sales at No. 13 with 1,500 sold, up 684%.

For those who don't follow NCAA football, here's a playbook on the song's resurgence: Tennessee beat Alabama 52-49 on Oct. 15 at the former's Neyland Stadium courtesy of a game-winning 40-yard field goal by **Chase McGrath**, ending a 15-game losing streak for Tennessee against Alabama dating to 2006.

Understandably, Tennessee fans got a tad rambunctious after the game, flooding the field and knocking over one of their own goal posts (reportedly at a cost of \$100,000). As the orange-clad kids filed onto the field, the public address system ribbingly

blared "Dixieland Delight," which is normally played after the Crimson Tide wins at its home field: Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa.

Aided by buzz and press coverage, the song that was solo-penned by **Ronnie Rogers** (who also wrote Alabama's 1990 Hot Country Songs No. 1 "Jukebox in My Mind") additionally gained by 44% in official on-demand streams, to 1.2 million, in the week ending Oct. 20.

Since Country Digital Song Sales launched in 2010, Alabama has charted one prior entry: **Brad Paisley's** "Old Alabama," on which the band is featured. The collaboration arrived at its No. 2 peak in April 2011. It went on to dominate Hot Country Songs for two frames that June, marking the group's most recent No. 1 and first since "Reckless" in 1993. ●

DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MEDALLION ALL-STAR BAND

**Biff Watson**, Bandleader and Acoustic Guitar  
**Mark Beckett**, Drums  
**Jen Gunderman**, Piano and Keyboards  
**Tania Hancheroff**, Vocals

**Kim Keyes**, Vocals  
**Rachel Loy**, Bass  
**Russ Pahl**, Steel Guitar

**Deanie Richardson**, Fiddle and Mandolin  
**Jeff White**, Acoustic Guitar  
**Charlie Worsham**, Electric Guitar



# 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	19	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud <b>★★ No. 1 (3 Weeks) ★★</b>	Morgan Wallen	31.276	+0.177	8149	117	1
2	2	20	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	28.642	-0.262	6977	-302	3
3	3	23	5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	26.098	+0.695	7033	229	2
4	4	19	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	24.320	-0.318	5687	-331	6
5	5	43	WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	23.633	-0.024	6513	34	4
6	6	21	HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	22.334	+0.851	6087	351	5
7	7	34	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	18.435	+0.062	5458	24	7
8	8	19	FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	17.190	+0.523	5112	94	8
9	9	34	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	16.394	+1.136	4863	239	9
10	10	17	COUNTRY ON Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	15.321	+0.366	4596	104	10
11	11	37	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	13.494	+0.573	4224	301	11
12	12	32	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	13.203	+0.667	3988	72	12
13	13	22	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	11.930	+1.066	3707	279	13
14	14	14	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	11.210	+0.563	3385	102	15
15	15	38	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	10.639	+0.281	3410	63	14
16	17	19	WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	9.617	+0.997	3130	285	16
17	16	29	SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	9.354	+0.237	3062	110	18
18	19	7	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville <b>★★ Most Increased Audience/Airpower ★★</b>	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	9.024	+1.482	2757	427	20
19	18	37	PARTY MODE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	8.462	+0.140	3087	17	17
20	20	47	SOUL Curb	Lee Brice	7.315	+0.253	2855	59	19
21	22	48	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	6.489	+0.595	2494	129	21
22	21	10	NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	5.731	-0.215	2103	-65	24
23	24	9	WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud <b>★★ Most Added ★★</b>	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	5.474	+0.382	1812	201	28
24	26	23	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	5.376	+0.551	2253	89	23
25	23	29	HEARTFIRST Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	5.317	-0.026	2382	-11	22
26	25	13	GOLD Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	5.210	+0.337	1877	123	26
27	27	18	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	4.629	+0.321	1866	161	27
28	32	11	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	4.287	+1.018	1503	297	30
29	28	18	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	4.282	+0.150	1723	-51	29
30	30	29	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	3.974	+0.157	1974	160	25

## 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	31	12	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	3.561	+0.237	1158	65	34
32	34	20	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	3.306	+0.345	1203	65	33
33	35	7	HOW IT OUGHTA BE Harpeth 60/BMLG	Shane Profitt	3.167	+0.248	951	82	38
34	33	15	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	3.145	+0.129	1399	93	31
35	36	9	BEER WITH MY FRIENDS Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney & Old Dominion	2.543	-0.138	951	11	39
36	37	14	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	2.347	-0.029	1158	12	35
37	38	30	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	2.098	-0.158	1261	-6	32
38	41	30	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.836	+0.217	1068	61	36
39	46	38	SON OF A Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	1.680	+0.342	949	62	40
40	39	25	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pegasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	1.680	-0.048	653	48	44
41	42	8	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek	Parmalee	1.674	+0.077	721	15	43
42	43	14	DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville	Eric Church	1.664	+0.167	809	49	42
43	40	13	Y'ALL LIFE Monument	Walker Hayes	1.639	-0.047	966	-1	37
44	44	16	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Belting Bronco/WAR	Zach Bryan	1.553	+0.143	513	53	47
45	45	12	STRANGE Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	1.452	+0.080	598	52	45
46	47	18	MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	1.231	+0.031	825	27	41
47	48	24	SONGS ABOUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Brett Eldredge	1.110	+0.016	482	-12	51
48	49	6	IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	1.093	+0.099	500	37	49
49	NEW		GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	1.082	+0.799	220	181	-
50	50	11	NEVERTIL NOW Back Blocks/BMLG/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke + Brett Young	0.921	-0.057	553	-1	46
51	52	3	YOUR HEART OR MINE Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	0.915	+0.103	444	66	53
52	54	5	EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse	Kolby Cooper	0.914	+0.180	504	46	48
53	53	5	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	0.860	+0.111	496	44	50
54	51	8	WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley	0.812	-0.017	454	20	52
55	56	6	LONGNECK WAY TO GO Big Machine/Capitol Nashville	Midland Featuring Jon Pardi	0.658	-0.033	403	-3	55
56	NEW		IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD EMI Nashville	Kylie Morgan	0.640	+0.169	342	41	58
57	57	3	SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek	Drake Milligan	0.620	+0.086	405	48	54
58	58	2	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	0.568	+0.038	153	2	-
59	RE-ENTRY		MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	0.553	+0.171	275	167	-
60	NEW		TAKE IT SLOW Valory	Conner Smith	0.511	+0.038	322	53	60



41

**PARMALEE**  
Girl in Mine

The song lifts 42-41 with a 5% gain to 1.7 million impressions. The group's latest single follows "Take My Name," which led for two weeks in June, marking the act's third No. 1.



56

**KYLIE MORGAN**  
If He Wanted to He Would

The singer-songwriter from Newcastle, Okla., makes her first Country Airplay appearance as her debut single arrives at No. 56 with 640,000 in audience. It's from her EP *P.S.*, released in July.



# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

### MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	14
YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	13
HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	12
MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	11
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	10
GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	8
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	7
HOW IT OUGHTA BE BMLG	Shane Profitt	7
YOUR HEART OR MINE Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	7
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	6

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+1.482
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1.136
WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.066
HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	+1.018
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	+0.997
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+0.851
GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+0.799
5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+0.695
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	+0.667
YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	+0.595

### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

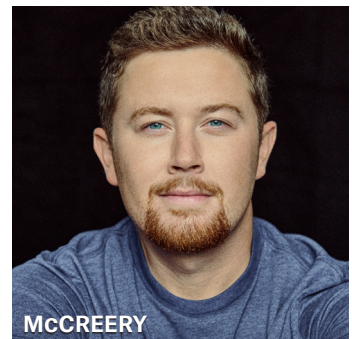
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+427
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+351
PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	+301
HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	+297
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	+285
WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+279
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+239
5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+229
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	+201
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	+161

### NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
HOW IS SHE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	0.403	1	0
BURY ME IN GEORGIA Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	0.402	2	0
HOW YOU MAKE A MAN Broken Bow	Craig Morgan	0.374	26	2
TRY LOSING ONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Tyler Braden	0.364	19	1
UP THERE DOWN HERE Big Loud	Jake Owen	0.301	25	1
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.300	2	0

### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Pamalee	16.579
2	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	14.886
3	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory	Justin Moore	13.901
4	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	13.073
5	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	12.661
6	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	11.818
7	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	10.548
8	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	10.393
9	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	9.404
10	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	8.808



ROGERS: PETER ZAVADIL; McCREERY: JOHN SHEARER

## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 23, 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	12	NOTHING BUT LOVE SONGS (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★	Randy Rogers Band	1844	47	11	9	23	HARDER STUFF (Independent)	Adam Hood	1365	-17
2	3	14	EVERYTHING HAS YOUR MEMORY (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1779	38	12	15	10	THE OLD MAN SAID (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1359	119
3	4	11	STUCK (Independent)	Ariel Hutchins	1695	81	13	13	15	GRAIN OF SALT (Independent)	Kin Faux	1353	68
4	5	13	IF IT DON'T HAVE A HONKY TONK (Independent)	Pat Green	1584	60	14	14	19	I'M NOT CRYING (Independent)	Kaitlyn Kohler	1324	73
5	7	14	LOOSE LOUD & CRAZY (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1562	132	15	16	13	HALF TO DEATH (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1168	21
6	10	20	WILDFLOWER (Independent)	Love & Chaos f/ Willy Braun	1492	136	16	17	22	COUNTRY ON THE RADIO (Big R.I.G. Country)	Robert Ray	1136	158
7	1	15	FREE MAN (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1492	-415	17	19	7	DON'T IT MAKE YOU WANNA DANCE (Independent)	Josh Abbott f/ Flatland Cavalry	1001	73
8	8	17	HURT YOU (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1427	18	18	22	9	BAD MEDICINE (Independent)	Whiskey Myers	977	97
9	11	22	BLOOD (Independent)	Jon Stork	1385	38	19	21	7	LONELY GIRL (Independent)	Cody Canada & The Departed	961	74
10	12	12	EASY AS HELLO (AuntDaddy/Thirty Tigers)	Sunny Sweeney	1384	62	20	18	23	DAMN SANDWICH (Independent)	Jordan Rainer	888	-80

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



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# CARRIE UNDERWOOD

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- **BILLBOARD**



REFLECTION: The Las Vegas Residency



CMT Music Awards

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\*Sunday Night Football



Mike McGrath, NBC Sports



Stagecoach Festival

Jeff Johnson

**ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**  
**FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR**  
**MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR**  
(\*IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU" W/JASON ALDEAN)

[CLICK HERE FOR 2022 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS](#)

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## NASHVILLE &amp; NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Alana Springsteen made her Grand Ole Opry debut on Oct. 18, the same day she turned 22. From left: Opry director of artist relations and programming strategy Jordan Pettit, Eighteen Company president/manager Basak Kizilisik, Springsteen and WSM-AM Nashville personality Bill Cody.

## RADIO &amp; RECORDS®

River House hired **Lance Houston** as vp of promotion and artist development. He arrives on the label/management side of the business after nearly three decades in radio, most recently as **WBWL** Boston PD ... Big Loud added vp of A&R **Nate Yetton**, whose presence boosts the label beyond mainstream country borders. He founded Sensibility Management, which guided the careers of **The Civil Wars**, **Birdtalker** and **Braison Cyrus**. Reach Yetton [here](#) ... ONErpm established Amplifier, a marketing management tool that provides client artists insight into specific investments in their promotional campaigns ... Country comedian **Cledus T. Judd** signed a recording deal with the CDX label ... Audacy reached a distribution agreement with United Stations for two shows, including the daily country entry *Katie & Company*, hosted by **Katie Neal**. The partnership takes effect Jan. 1, 2023 ... **KYKZ** Lake Charles, La., tapped **Aaron Zylte** as PD/morning host. He was most recently **KUSJ** Killeen, Texas, brand manager/morning personality ... **Mike Miller** was promoted to iHeartMedia/Harrisburg-Lancaster, Pa., vp of programming from Harrisburg account executive, RadioInk.com reported. The territory includes country **WRBT** Harrisburg ... **KGSC** Colorado Springs, Colo., morning co-host **Johnny Joy** added assistant music director stripes, according to RadioInsight.com ... A company led by **KUZZ** Bakersfield, Calif., morning host **Cliff Dumas** is purchasing a bundle of stations in Arkansas, Texas and Alaska from Frontier Media for \$1.3 million, RadioInsight.com reported. Country signals in the package include Texas' **KTTY** New Boston, Arkansas' **KTF5-HD3** Texarkana and **KBYB** Hope, and Alaska's **KTKU** Juneau and **KGTW** Ketchikan ... Country Radio Broadcasters (CRB) will accept nominees for the Country Radio Hall of Fame through Oct. 28 [here](#), with the recipients to be revealed during the Country Radio Seminar March 13-15, 2023 ... CRB is also presenting an October webinar, "Song Wars," with Nuvooodoo principals digging into music research across several demographics within the country audience. Sign up for the event [here](#).

## 'ROUND THE ROW

Make Wake founder **Chris Kappy** promoted **Sophia Sansone** and **Jarrold Holley** to managing partner. Sansone will continue as day-to-day manager of **Luke Combs**, while Holley remains manager for several acts, including **Drew Parker** and **Jackie Lee** ... **Michael Knox** was promoted to peermusic Nashville president from senior vp ... Belmont University is seeking a dean for the Mike Curb College of Entertainment & Music Business. Go [here](#) for more info ... Former Universal Music Group Nashville director of media marketing **Ailie Birchfield** has begun representing Nashville-based 615 Leverage + Strategy on a freelance basis. The role comes in addition to her full-time position as WE Communications account director in New York ... South by Southwest co-founder **Roland Swenson** is now executive chairman while two other execs have been promoted to co-president, **Jann Baskett** (from chief brand officer) and **Hugh Forrest** (from chief programming officer) ... Concord Music signed **Russell Dickerson** to a publishing deal ... **Jo Dee Messina** tapped 117 Entertainment for PR ... **George Birge** will make his Grand Ole Opry debut on Nov. 22, and **Ashley McBryde** will become

an Opry member during the Dec. 10 show ... *Barmageddon*, a USA Network game show executive-produced by **Blake Shelton** and **Carson Daly**, premieres Dec. 5. Shot at Ole Red Nashville, the show's trailer promises appearances by **Kane Brown**, **Sheryl Crow**, **Trace Adkins** and **Chris Young** ... Reporter-music exporter **John Lomax III** has launched a live-artist career, leaning on roots songs drawn from the work of his ancestors, musicologists **John Avery Lomax Jr.** and **Alan Lomax**. His setlists initially pull from historic cowboy songs and late folk-blues artist **Huddie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter** ... **Luke Bryan** joined as co-host when CMT's *Hot 20 Countdown* premiered its 500th episode on Oct. 22 ... Journalist and former publicist **Kay West** will be the subject of an in-depth interview on Nov. 15 during the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's annual Louise Scruggs Memorial Forum, dedicated to female executives in the country industry ... The Academy of Western Artists presented the Elmer Kelton Literary Award to freelance journalist **Vernell Hackett** and gave the Cindy Walker Humanitarian Award to frequent *Billboard* contributor **Deborah Evans Price** on Oct. 13 in Fort Worth, Texas ... **Eric Church** is among six figures to be honored by his home state during the North Carolina Awards on Nov. 15 ... Late songwriter **Jim Weatherly** ("Midnight Train to Georgia," "A Lady Like You") will receive a Mississippi Country Music Trail marker in Pontotoc on Oct. 29 ... Late Country Music Association executive director **Jo Walker-Meador** received a Tennessee Music Pathways marker on Oct. 21 in her hometown of Orlinda ... *She Believed She Could*, a stage production celebrating female singer-songwriters, will debut on Nov. 4 at the Woolworth Theatre in Nashville. Affiliated with Song Suffragettes, the show is scheduled to run every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through the year's end ... **George Strait** and **Chris Stapleton** have booked six stadium shows for 2023 with opening act **Little Big Town**, starting May 6 at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., and concluding Aug. 5 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla. ... **Shania Twain** headlines the first concert at Nashville's new soccer venue, Geodis Park, on June 7, 2023, with support acts **Kelsea Ballerini** and **BRELAND** ... Acme Feed & Seed unveiled a **Dolly Parton** mural on Oct. 21 with an endorsement from Parton ... **Riley Green** and **The Cadillac Three** will perform Oct. 26 when six racing figures are inducted into the Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway Hall of Fame ... **Kristian Bush**, **Brooke Eden**, **Maggie Rose** and a host of songwriters will perform at a hurricane relief event, Songwriters for Southwest Florida, on Nov. 2 at Nashville's 3rd & Lindsley. The concert is sponsored by BMI and iHeartMedia/Fort Myers, Fla. ... A Country Music Association Awards viewing party is slated for 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 9 at Tin Roof Nashville Downtown benefiting Musicians On Call ... CMT will air *Coal Miner's Daughter: A Celebration of the Life and Music of Loretta Lynn* on Oct. 30. The public memorial will broadcast live from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House. Additionally, the cable channel hosts "Next Women of Country: Celebrating the Songs of Loretta Lynn" on Nov. 8 at City Winery Nashville; the lineup includes **Caylee Hammack**, **Erin Enderlin** and **Tiera Kennedy** ... Actor-comedian **Leslie Jordan** died Oct. 24 in a car crash in Hollywood. He issued an independent country album, *Company's Comin'*, in 2021 with guest appearances by **Brandi Carlile**, **T.J. Osborne** and **Tanya Tucker**. ●



**Kenny Chesney** (center) was surprised with a doctorate of humane letters from his alma mater, East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, on Oct. 21. With him are ETSU provost **Kimberly McCorkle** and president **Brian Noland**.



— FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION —



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## **JASON ALDEAN**

**MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR "IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU" WITH CARRIE UNDERWOOD**

## **LAINHEY WILSON**

**THE MOST NOMINATED CMA ARTIST**

**NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

**ALBUM OF THE YEAR *SAYIN' WHAT I'M THINKIN'***

**FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR**

**SONG OF THE YEAR "THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW"**

**MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR "NEVER SAY NEVER" LAINHEY WILSON & COLE SWINDELL**

**MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR "NEVER SAY NEVER" LAINHEY WILSON & COLE SWINDELL**

## **LOCASH**

**VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR**



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550M+ TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS

"TAKE MY NAME"  
220M+ TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS

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

MULTI-WEEK **NUMBER 1 RADIO SINGLES** WITH  
"CAROLINA" & "TAKE MY NAME"



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# billboard Hot Country Songs

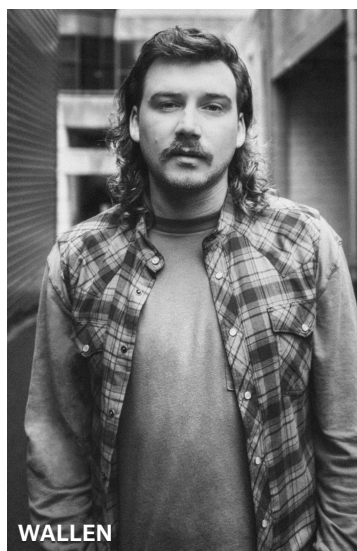
AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

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	23	<b>YOU PROOF</b> J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN,A.G.GORLEY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME) <b>★★ No. 1 (10 Weeks) ★★</b>	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	1	1
2	3	3	26	<b>SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE</b> R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	<b>Zach Bryan</b> BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/WAR	44	2
3	4	4	61	<b>WASTED ON YOU</b> J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME) <b>★★ Airplay Gainer ★★</b>	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	1
4	2	2	18	<b>THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE</b> CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,J.DAVIS,D.ISBELL,R.ISBELL)	<b>Luke Combs</b> RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	4	1
5	5	5	25	<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>Cole Swindell</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	2	3
6	9	7	19	<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	58	2
7	8	8	36	<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	8	6
8	7	9	6	<b>THANK GOD</b> D.HUFF (C.D.STALNECKER,K.A.FISHMAN,J.FREE,J.HOGE,J.MULLINS)	<b>Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown</b> ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	18	5
9	6	6	22	<b>5 FOOT 9</b> T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD,J.JOHNSTON,C.MCGILL)	<b>Tyler Hubbard</b> HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE	3	5
10	10	10	29	<b>SON OF A SINNER</b> ERNEST K,I.TOSHINSKY (J.B.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)	<b>Jelly Roll</b> BAILÉE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	9	9
11	14	14	21	<b>DON'T COME LOOKIN'</b> L.DICK (J.DEAN,C.L.DICK) <b>★★ Streaming Gainer ★★</b>	<b>Jackson Dean</b> BIG MACHINE	7	11
12	11	11	21	<b>WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND</b> P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,M.DRAGSTREM,R.J.HURD)	<b>Jordan Davis</b> MCA NASHVILLE	13	11
13	12	12	24	<b>WHISKEY ON YOU</b> L.RIMES (N.SMITH,L.RIMES,R.SUTTON)	<b>Nate Smith</b> ARISTA NASHVILLE	16	11
14	13	13	56	<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	5	11
15	15	16	13	<b>HALF OF ME</b> D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,W.BUNDY,J.THOMPSON)	<b>Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green</b> VALDORY/BMLG	6	15
16	16	15	8	<b>WAIT IN THE TRUCK</b> J.MOI,HARDY (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,J.M.SCHMIDT,R.BLAIR)	<b>HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson</b> BROKEN BOW/BIG LOUD	23	15
17	17	17	45	<b>PICK ME UP</b> R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,J.M.NITE,R.COPPERMAN)	<b>Gabby Barrett</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	11	15
18	18	19	16	<b>COUNTRY ON</b> J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (D.FRASIER,S.HAURY,M.NESLER,MITCH OGLESBY)	<b>Luke Bryan</b> CAPITOL NASHVILLE	10	18
19	19	18	40	<b>SHE LIKES IT</b> J.KERR,J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON,J.SCOTT,J.KERR)	<b>Russell Dickerson &amp; Jake Scott</b> TRIPLE TIGERS	17	13
20	20	25	6	<b>TENNESSEE ORANGE</b> K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,B.WILLIAMS,P.JENKINS,D.FANNING)	<b>Megan Moroney</b> MEGAN MORONEY	-	20
21	22	20	35	<b>SOUL</b> B.GLOVER,K.JACOBSON,L.BRICE (K.KADISH,T.FERRARI)	<b>Lee Brice</b> CURB	20	20
22	21	22	24	<b>THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW</b> J.MOI (M.WALLEN,N.GALYON,M.LAMBERT)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
23	24	26	20	<b>DOWN HOME</b> A.BOWERS,J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN,R.BALL,C.BEDELL,T.HOWELL)	<b>Jimmie Allen</b> STONEY CREEK	12	23
24	23	23	15	<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	15	23
25	25	21	32	<b>WILD AS HER</b> C.FARREN (M.WALLEN,BRETT TYLER,K.ARCHER)	<b>Corey Kent</b> COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NASHVILLE	31	15

### COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	#1 19 WKS	<b>ZACH BRYAN</b>
2		<b>MORGAN WALLEN</b>
3		<b>ERNEST</b>
4		<b>BAILEY ZIMMERMAN</b>
5		<b>ASHLEY GORLEY</b>
6		<b>CHARLIE HANDSOME</b>
7		<b>JOSH THOMPSON</b>
TIE	8	<b>AUSTIN SHAWN</b>
TIE	8	<b>GAVIN J. LUCAS</b>
10		<b>LUKE DICK</b>



### COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 7 WKS	<b>AUSTIN SHAWN</b>
2		<b>JOEY MOI</b>
3		<b>DANN HUFF</b>
4		<b>RYAN HADLOCK</b>
5		<b>ZACH CROWELL</b>
6		<b>PAUL DIGIOVANNI</b>
7		<b>JORDAN SCHMIDT</b>
8		<b>LUKE DICK</b>
9		<b>CHARLIE HANDSOME</b>
10		<b>JACOB DURRETT</b>

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



# billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

**LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	26	27	21	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,A.G.GORLEY,E.M.SHACKELTON)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	27	26
27	35	41	5	NEVER LEAVE A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,C.SLIGH,G.J.LUCAS,M.KUTTER)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	27
28	31	31	9	WHERE IT ENDS A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,G.AVERILL,J.SPARGUR)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	7
29	30	33	10	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES M.KNOX (J.MORGAN,J.EDWARDS,T.KENNEDY,K.M.ALLISON)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	14	29
30	27	28	42	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBBS,C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	30	27
31	29	30	8	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T J.GEAR,H.WHITTERS (H.WHITTERS,B.SIMPSON,R.TYNDELL)	Hailey Whitters SONGS & DAUGHTERS/PIGASUS/BIG LOUD	40	29
32	28	29	12	OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	24
33	32	32	6	FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH S.SUMSER,S.SMALL,J.DURRETT (D.G.BRELAND,R.H.BLOCK,J.R.DURRETT,G.JAMES)	BRELAND BAD REALM/ATLANTIC	-	31
34	33	34	28	HEARTFIRST J.BUNETTA,S.MCANALLY (K.BALLERINI,K.FAIRCHILD,A.VANDERHEYM)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	25	25
35	34	35	10	HANDLE ON YOU JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM,M.CRISWELL)	Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	28	34
36	NEW		1	WAITING A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,G.J.LUCAS) <b>★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★</b>	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	36
37	36	36	6	BURN, BURN, BURN Z.L.BRYAN,E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	26
38	39	43	9	HEART LIKE A TRUCK J.JOYCE (L.WILSON,D.WILSON,T.ANDERSON)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	24	38
39	38	37	7	NEXT THING YOU KNOW P.DIGIOVANNI (G.JAMES,J.OSBORNE,C.MCGILL,J.DAVIS)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	-	37
40	37	40	6	NO BODY S.HENDRICKS (C.TOMPKINS,J.KEAR,R.CLAWSON)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	22	34
41	46	45	14	Y'ALL LIFE J.THIBODEAU,W.HAYES (W.HAYES,P.GOOD,J.JENKINS,C.HAYNES, JR.,J.EPPERSON)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	43	32
42	45	47	5	HUMAN T.W.WILLMON (T.LANE,T.MEADOWS) <b>★★ Sales Gainer ★★</b>	Cody Johnson COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	32	42
43	47	-	2	STARVED Z.L.BRYAN,C.BRYSON (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	43
44	40	38	26	PARTY MODE Z.CROWELL (J.FLOWERS,R.BEAVER,R.ALEXANDER,J.KEIM,M.MCGINN)	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	19	30
45	42	50	3	YOU DIDN'T D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,A.G.GORLEY,J.M.NITE,J.ROBBINS)	Brett Young BMLG	21	42
46	48	46	14	CAN'T HAVE MINE M.ALDERMAN (D.SCOTT,M.ALDERMAN,J.MELTON,D.WILSON)	Dylan Scott CURB	53	35
47	43	39	4	GOLD R.COPPERMAN,JON RANDALL,F.R.SHIPPEN,D.BENTLEY (R.COPPERMAN,C.LDICK,A.G.GORLEY,D.BENTLEY)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	26	39
48	41	-	2	WAY OF THE TRIUNE GODS T.CHILDERS,THE FOOD STAMPS,CHARLIE BROWN SUPERSTAR (T.CHILDERS)	Tyler Childers HICKMAN HOLLER/RCA	-	41
49	49	-	2	IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD B.JOHNSON,S.MCANALLY (K.MORGAN,Z.HOLUP,B.J.JOHNSON)	Kylie Morgan EMI NASHVILLE	56	49
50	44	42	17	HELL YEAH LITTLE BIG TOWN (J.WESTBROOK,P.SWEET,C.CROWDER,T.R.HUBBARD)	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	RC	22

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	1,444,000	1,718,883,000	130,560,000	56,851,000	60,233,000	5.9%	'21	56.85 million
Last Week	1,463,000	1,736,811,000	135,679,000	7,110,000	5,448,000	-23.4%	'22	60.23 million
Change	-1.3%	-1.0%	-3.8%	63,211,381,000	70,550,293,000	11.6%	TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS	
This Week Last Year	1,310,000	1,488,499,000	126,569,000	5,659,562,000	5,380,133,000	-4.9%	'21	66.87 billion
Change	10.2%	15.5%	3.2%				'22	75.93 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending October 20, 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	1	1	93	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
2	NEW	1	1	BAILEY ZIMMERMAN ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/3EE/WMN	LEAVE THE LIGHT ON		2
3	2	2	22	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
4	3	5	49	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 034504*	RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
5	5	7	229	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	2	1
6	7	6	281	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	3	1
7	4	8	6	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 996216/SMN	DIFFERENT MAN		2
8	8	9	154	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	2	1
9	6	4	17	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 997801/SMN	GROWIN' UP		1
10	9	11	390	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
11	10	12	101	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
12	RE-ENTRY	207	1	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA 68079*/LEGACY (19.98/12.98)	ELVIS: 30 #1 HITS	6	1
13	13	13	171	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		9
14	23	25	300	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	7	1
15	14	17	80	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 033578*	FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
16	17	19	218	TAYLOR SWIFT BIG MACHINE TS0300A/BMLG (18.98)	SPEAK NOW	6	1
17	15	16	28	COLE SWINDELL WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN	STEREOTYPE		6
18	12	3	3	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 872237*/RCA	CAN I TAKE MY HOUNDS TO HEAVEN		3
19	18	18	100	LEE BRICE CURB 79537*	HEY WORLD		7
20	28	31	54	CODY JOHNSON COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 666969*/WMN	HUMAN: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		3
21	16	14	5	KOE WETZEL YELLABUSH DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA	HELL PASO		3
22	22	22	333	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS		6
23	19	21	39	WALKER HAYES MONUMENT 98353*	COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM		2
24	20	24	108	HARDY BIG LOUD 836*	A ROCK		4
25	25	26	14	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		7

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

# billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	26	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
2	4	19	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
3	2	23	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
4	3	18	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS
5	5	92	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
6	6	6	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN
7	8	26	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
8	7	21	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL
9	9	19	WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH
10	11	4	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND JORDAN DAVIS
11	10	288	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
12	12	187	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN
13	14	3	WAIT IN THE TRUCK HARDY FEAT. LAINEY WILSON
14	16	3	TENNESSEE ORANGE MEGAN MORONEY
15	15	70	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
16	NEW		DON'T COME LOOKIN' JACKSON DEAN
17	13	17	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD
18	17	78	CHASIN' YOU MORGAN WALLEN
19	18	24	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN
20	19	223	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
21	20	68	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
22	NEW		NEVER LEAVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
23	RE-ENTRY		WHERE IT ENDS BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
24	21	110	HEARTLESS DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN
25	23	63	BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN

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.

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

# billboard COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	6	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN
2	2	8	WAIT IN THE TRUCK HARDY FEAT. LAINEY WILSON
3	3	20	SON OF A SINNER JELLY ROLL
4	4	23	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
5	5	25	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
6	8	28	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
7	6	43	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
8	7	26	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL
9	9	18	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS
10	11	19	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
11	19	9	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND JORDAN DAVIS
12	NEW		HEART LIKE A TRUCK LAINEY WILSON
13	NEW		DIXIELAND DELIGHT ALABAMA
14	21	7	TENNESSEE ORANGE MEGAN MORONEY
15	17	20	SOUL LEE BRICE
16	RE-ENTRY		Y'ALL LIFE WALKER HAYES
17	20	21	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD
18	16	18	DON'T COME LOOKIN' JACKSON DEAN
19	18	8	NEXT THING YOU KNOW JORDAN DAVIS
20	NEW		WAITING BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
21	NEW		GOOD HANDS KYLIE MORGAN
22	RE-ENTRY		'TIL YOU CAN'T CODY JOHNSON
23	23	5	NEVER LEAVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
24	NEW		ALL YOUR'N TYLER CHILDERS
25	RE-ENTRY		HALF OF ME THOMAS RHETT FEAT. RILEY GREEN

# billboard AMERICANA/FOLK ALBUMS

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	22	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
2	2	4	336	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
3	3	5	101	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
4	5	6	188	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		2
5	6	8	382	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	3	1
6	4	2	3	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 872237*/RCA	CAN I TAKE MY HOUNDS TO HEAVEN		2
7	7	7	5	KOE WETZEL YELLABUSH DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA	HELL PASO		2
8	8	10	14	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		2
9	10	12	46	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	ELISABETH		7
10	9	11	341	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA		1

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

# billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	NEW	1	1	AMANDA COOK MOUNTAIN FEVER 221014	CHANGES		1
2	1	1	56	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD	RENEWAL		1
3	2	2	48	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD	RAISE THE ROOF		1
4	RE-ENTRY	4	4	THE DEL MCCOURY BAND MCCOURY 0022*	...ALMOST PROUD		4
5	3	3	61	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA		1
6	4	4	33	DOLLY PARTON BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*	RUN, ROSE, RUN		1
7	7	7	47	BELA FLECK RENEW RECORDS 538689220/BMG	MY BLUEGRASS HEART		1
8	5	5	29	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER	CROOKED TREE		2
9	6	6	34	VARIOUS ARTISTS CURB/BILLY BLUE 2334 CB EX	COUNTRY FAITH BLUEGRASS		6
10	RE-ENTRY	42	42	JOHN HIATT WITH THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND NEW WEST 6514*	LEFTOVER FEELINGS		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.





# BAILEY ZIMMERMAN

**SHATTERS RECORDS WITH BIGGEST  
STREAMING COUNTRY DEBUT EVER**

*LEAVE THE LIGHT ON* EP  
BECOMES MOST STREAMED  
ALL-GENRE DEBUT OF THE YEAR



TOP 10 DEBUT ON THE  
BILLBOARD 200 CHART  
IN BOTH US AND CANADA



SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA

# COLE @ SWINDELL

THE ONLY ARTIST IN 2022 WITH  
**5** CONSECUTIVE **NO. 1** WEEKS AT **NO. 1** ON COUNTRY RADIO

COLE SWINDELL



NEVER  
SAY  
NEVER

LAINY WILSON



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION: VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR | MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR



MAKIN' TRACKS TOM ROLAND [tom.roland@billboard.com](mailto:tom.roland@billboard.com)

# No Bull: Kolby Cooper Makes 'Excuses' Work For His First Radio Single

When psychiatrist **Elisabeth Kubler-Ross** introduced the five stages of grief in her 1969 book *On Death and Dying*, the original intent was to teach about coping with the loss of significant people in our lives.

But those stages — denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance — don't apply solely to the passage of our loved ones. They play out with all sorts of losses, including the end of a job, a friend moving away, the crash of a dream or a romantic breakup. **Kolby Cooper's** first radio single, "Excuses," puts that latter scenario into a hyper context, seemingly cycling through three stages before the first chorus even appears.

The pain "may not be as great as grieving a lost loved one," Cooper reasons, "but it's still a bad one for a lot of people. And I really think we did a decent job of getting that 'Oh my God, what has happened' feeling."

It helped that Cooper's road guitarist, **Paul Olinger**, offered a real-life road map when the subject emerged in a writing room on Oct. 13, 2020. Olinger's girlfriend had dumped him the weekend prior, and all of her namby-pamby waffling in the breakup only made it worse.

"She was like, 'You're too good for me,' and 'I don't deserve you' — all this bullshit, like, 'You can do better than me,'" recalls Cooper. "Everything was just all these excuses."

That single word, "excuses," provided the impetus to explore the topic when Cooper met up with fellow songwriters **Jordan Walker** ("When It Rains It Pours," "Can't Do Without Me") and **Brett Tyler** ("Cold Beer Calling My Name," "Wild As Her") at Combustion Music in Nashville. After perhaps an hour of scrolling through ideas that didn't spark much interest, Tyler ran across "Excuses." He had the title, the melody for the back half of the chorus and not much more. But, of course, Cooper had his bandmember's heartbreak storyline. Those elements were a better match, it seems, than Olinger and his ex-girlfriend.

"I think it took like an hour to write," Walker says. "It was one of those things where we didn't really overthink anything and we kept everything simple. I think that's what kind of helps portray it to the audience because it's not something you have to think about. You just hear it once, and you get it."

They developed the scenario in a realistic manner, capturing a moment that nearly everyone has experienced.

"For me, it was a relationship from my past," notes Tyler. "When we started talking about stories and things like that, we were just kind of like, you know, 'That's just excuses. Let's cut through the crap.'"

They did that very directly in the chorus. The singer calls out his girlfriend's let-him-down-easy lines as "bullshit," saying the word outright in the initial version of "Excuses."

"I like a well-placed cuss word," Tyler says. "We were all kind of against saying 'B.S.' because B.S. just sounds like such a ridiculous way to say 'bullshit.'"

Verse two allows the guy to vent even more, though it also obliquely references the can't-win situation the girlfriend is in. He laments in the stanza that she "coulda saved us both some time/And just left me a letter." Of course, had she split by writing a letter — or, worse, by text — he would have thought she was cold and heartless.

"We were trying to figure out how we were going to write into the second chorus," says Walker. "I had the line, 'You coulda come up with a couple better,'

and so needed a rhyme for 'better.' It was kind of a joke at first. I was like, 'What if she just wrote a letter?' We talked about it, that he'd probably be even more mad if she did write a letter, but it just rhymed so well that we ran with it."

They wrote a bridge that outlined a few more options for how to dump a man and left time for a guitar solo, too. Before they parted company, they cut a work tape with acoustic guitars that Cooper could play for his producer, **Philip Mosley** (**Blacktop Mojo**, **Colby Keeling**). Mosley subsequently recorded a demo that sounded a bit heavier than the work tape, as well as a new scratch vocal on Cooper before a late-2020 session at Sound Stage.

The studio band mixed familiar country session players and local rock guys: bassist **Jacob Lowery**, drummer **Miles McPherson**, Hammond B3 player **Will Houchens**, steel guitarist **Justin Schipper** and three other guitarists — **Tim Galloway** on acoustic and **Rob McNelley** and **Spence Peppard** on electric. The crew mostly found its own direction while framing the music with a harder edge than what they heard on the demo.

"The last thing you want to do is just tell somebody of that caliber, 'Play this,'" Mosley reasons. "You've got those guys that are playing on **Joe Bonamassa** albums and playing with **Bob Seger**. The last thing you need is some little producer from East Texas telling those guys, 'Here's what you're going to play.'"

They started the production with drums, guitar and piano all playing light eighth notes, creating forward motion behind an otherwise languid and pensive verse melody. But that led to a bigger-sounding chorus.

"Miles McPherson is just a monster," says Walker, who attended the session. "Watching him bring it to life behind the drums was the moment that we all looked around like, 'Damn, this could be a lot bigger than we thought it was.'"

"Excuses" helped Cooper secure his recording deal with Wheelhouse, which featured his unvarnished "bullshit" in the vocal on his EP *Boy From Anderson County*, released Aug. 6, 2021. When they issued a single to radio via PlayMPE on Aug. 29, 2022, the profanity was edited to sound like a sonic asterisk — "bullsh\*t." They ended up trying multiple approaches to it, and finally, Mosley was summoned to Nashville from his family vacation on Sept. 10, the same day Cooper made his Opry debut. Cooper didn't want to bleep it, so they cut a version of the line that changed "some bullsh\*t that you said" to "somethin' that you said," offering an even safer option to broadcasters.

"He wasn't a fan of doing a radio edit," Mosley says. "We just backed off trying to be clever with how we got around the edit. And he just said, 'You know what? I'll just write another completely different line, just to take its place.' And it worked out great."

In its fifth charted week, "Excuses" moves to a new high of No. 52 on the Country Airplay list dated Sept. 29. It's now a staple in Cooper's live set, which finds Olinger — whose 2020 breakup inspired it — handling the song's guitar solo onstage. Now engaged to another woman, Olinger is no longer grieving as he was when "Excuses" was conceived.

"He definitely wouldn't be as happy with his ex as he is now," says Cooper. "The thing was, the week after she broke up with him, she was on a date with a rich dude from Dallas. And I don't know if they're still together, but I'm sure she's happier wherever she is." ●





# billboard Country Airplay Index

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

**5 FOOT 9** T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane 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) **3**

**B**

**BEER WITH MY FRIENDS** Amped 11 Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/God Made Most Played Most Paid Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/NZD Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Carol Vincent And Associates, LLC, ASCAP/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP (B. Simpson, L.D. Murphy, Shy Carter) **55**

**BROWN EYES BABY** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Music, SOCAN/Quivira Road Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI (W. Bundy, C. Clawson, J. Thompson, M. Wallen) **34**

**C**

**CAN'T HAVE MINE** Curb Songs, ASCAP/Curb Congregation Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Epic Entertainment, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Sony Country Side, BMI (D. Scott, M. Alderman, J. Melton, D. Wilson) **53**

**COUNTRY ON** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Beer Can Hill Music, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Getyasorne Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/KIM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP (D. Frasier, S. Haury, M. Nesler, Mitch Oglesby) **10**

**D**

**DOING LIFE WITH ME** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Jeffrey Steele Music, BMI (E. Church, C. Beathard, Jeffrey Steele) **42**

**DON'T COME LOOKIN'** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J. Dean, C. Dick) **7**

**DOWN HOME** Endurance Juliet, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Rian Ball Music, ASCAP/Shut The Red Door, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cameron Bedell Music, BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Bettie James Music, SESAC (J. Allen, R. Ball, C. Bedell, T. Howell) **12**

**E**

**EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Pigasus, ASCAP/Cockeyed Hat Music, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (H. Witters, B. Simpson, R. Tyndell) **40**

**EXCUSES** Songs Of Combustion Five, ASCAP/Megusta Music, ASCAP/Hell Write Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI (K. Cooper, Brett Tyler, J. Walker) **52**

**F**

**FALL IN LOVE** Gavin I. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Fart Creations, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.R. Shawn, B. Zimmerman, G. Lucas) **8**

**G**

**GIRL IN MINE** 33 Creative, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Sony Country Side, BMI/JM Thomas Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Own Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/creative Pulse Music, BMI/Track & Feels, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (D. Fanning, M. Thomas, A.G. Gorley, T. Wood, C. Brown) **41**

**GOING, GOING, GONE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Booileg Lyrics, BMI/Keen Chopin Publishing, BMI/Exit 185 Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI (L. Combs, R. Funcher, J. McVicar) **49**

**GOLD** EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Dude Tunes, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (R. Coppersman, C.L. Dick, A.G. Gorley, D. Bentley) **26**

**GOOD DAY FOR LIVING** Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/YesYesYall, BMI/Mason Gannon Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Revelry Music, BMI (D. Cohen, B. Hamrick, M. Mason) **31**

**H**

**HALF OF ME** Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhettro, BMI/Crocket On The Line, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Music Of MAM, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (Thomas Rhett, R. Akins, W. Bundy, J. Thompson) **6**

**HANDLE ON YOU** Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Spirit Nashville One Crescendo, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI (P. McCollum, M. Criswell) **28**

**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-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K. Ballerin, K. Fairchild, A. Vanderney) **25**

**HEART LIKE A TRUCK** Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony Country Side, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI (L. Wilson, D. Wilson, T. Anderson) **24**

**HOW IT OUGHTA BE** Anthem Music Publishing B, BMI/Old Tom Music Publishing, BMI/Tennessee Backwoods Music, BMI/Fraser Made Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/KIM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP (S. Proffitt, D. Frasier, Mitch Oglesby) **33**

**HUMAN** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Heytone Music, ASCAP/She And I, LLC, BMI/Songs Of Mighty Isis Music, BMI/It's Killer Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (T. Lane, T. Meadows) **32**

**I**

**IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD** Songs Of Smack Blue, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Bad Angel Entertainment, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI (K. Morgan, Z. Holup, B. J. Johnson) **56**

**IT MATTERS TO HER** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs With Words That Rhyme With Truck, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Brocephus Music, BMI (S.C. McCreery, L.T. Miller, R. Akins) **48**

**J**

**JOY OF MY LIFE** Cody River Music Company, ASCAP/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS (J.C. Fogerty) **30**

**K**

**THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Booileg Lyrics, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Ten Point Publishing, BMI/Lunkertown Music, BMI/Sony Country Side, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI (L. Combs, J. Davis, D. Isbell, R. Isbell) **4**

**L**

**LONGNECK WAY TO GO** Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kitt Cass Publishing Corporation, BMI/Little Brocephus Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Top Top Music, ASCAP/Tropical Cowboy Publishing, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP (J. Carson, C. Duddy, M. Wystrach, R. Akins, A.G. Gorley) **55**

**M**

**MAN MADE** Melodies Of Sea Gayle Music, SESAC/Brett Sherokey Publishing, SESAC/Still Working For The Woman, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (B. Sherokey, L. Christian) **46**

**MIND ON YOU** Whiskey Side, ASCAP/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlow Sinclair Songs, SESAC/MTNoize, SESAC/Average 7.5 Music Publishing, BMI (G. Beyer, J. Boyer, M. Tyler, Colt Ford) **59**

**N**

**NEVER TIL NOW** Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Back Block Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Rounding Third Publishing, BMI (A. Cooke, M. Roy) **50**

**NO BODY** Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Ertie Bird Expressions, ASCAP/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/kiqai Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Shirt At Work, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (C. Tompkins, J. Kearn, R. Clawson) **22**

**NOTE TO SELF** EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Little Britches Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sea Gayle Tavern Houses Music, BMI/Songs Of Ole L Paso, BMI (R. Houser, R. Coppersman, C. Beathard, B. Pinson) **58**

**O**

**OUT IN THE MIDDLE** Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Prestige Countrywide, ASCAP/Simonetti Music Publishing, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Spirit Music Group, ASCAP/Weimeround Music, SESAC/Day For The Dead Publishing, SESAC/Reach Music Tunes, SESAC (B. Simonetti, Z. Brown, L. Combs, J.D. Singleton) **15**

**P**

**PARTY MODE** Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/JFlow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Twelve6 Red Oak Songs, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Twelve6 Sequoia, SESAC/Songs Of Downtown, SESAC/McGinn Intellectual Property, ASCAP/True Blue Works, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J. Flowers, R. Beaver, R. Alexander, J. Keim, M. McCain) **19**

**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/Luis Like A Nite Music, SESAC (G. Barrett, J.M. Nite, R. Coppersman) **11**

**R**

**ROCK AND A HARD PLACE** Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs In The Key Of Black, BMI/Hill Music, BMI/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI (B. Zimmerman, R. Warren, J. Hackworth, J. Harvey) **58**

**S**

**SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA** Ashley Gorley Publishing Desigee, ASCAP/Be Light Publishing, BMI/Gorden Rainey Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP (A.G. Gorley, C. Swindell, J. Frasure, M.D. Sanders, Thomas Rhett, T. Nichols) **2**

**SHE LIKES IT** Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Torches And Pitchforks Music, BMI/Angrny Mob Music LLC, BMI/BNA Bangers, BMI/Tunes Of Black River, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/716 Music, BMI (R. Dickerson, J. Scott, J. Kerr) **17**

**SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE** Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Desigee, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z. Bryan) **44**

**SONGS ABOUT YOU** One O'Clock Road, Inc., BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Altadena Songs Of Woodbury, BMI/Active Noun Music, BMI (B. Eldredge, J.J. Dillon, B. West) **47**

**SON OF A RISER** House Tunes, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Pamblily Music, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI (D. Carmichael, P.O. Donnell, C. Beathard) **39**

**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.B. DeFaro, E.K. Smith, D.R. Stevens) **9**

**SOUL** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/A Forest Of Evergreens, ASCAP/Seven Summits Music, BMI/Tony Ferrari Publishing, BMI (K. Kadash, T. Ferrari) **20**

**SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO** Sony Country Side, BMI/Marzia Music, BMI/Deston Song Slayer, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Stalefish Music, BMI/Music Of Big Deal, BMI/Highland House Of Hits, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI (D. Milligan, B. Beavers, T.A. Mc Bride) **57**

**STRANGE** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Wrucke For You Publishing, BMI (M. Lambert, C.L. Dick, N. Hembry) **45**

**T**

**TAKE IT SLOW** Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Songs Of Miller Crow, BMI/Hometowners Music, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI/Marik Trussell Music, ASCAP/Future Heartbeat Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (C. Smith, R.J. Hurd, M. Trussell) **60**

**THANK GOD** Feels Like Friday Music, SESAC/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kyle Fishman Music, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Song Island Palms, LLC, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Chorus 2 Music, SESAC/Blunts And Bonfires Music, SESAC/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Jaded Muffins Music, BMI/Dead Aim Music, BMI (C.D. Stalenecker, K.A. Fishman, J. Free, J. Hoge, J. Mullins) **18**

**THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES** Triple Play Music, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Irishsonmusic, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Zona Blue Music, BMI (J. Morgan, J. Edwards, T. Kennedy, K.M. Allison) **14**

**W**

**WAIT IN THE TRUCK** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Humerus Publishing Global, BMI/Round Hill Verses Publishing, BMI/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Notypical Music, ASCAP/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/The Money Tree Vibeze, ASCAP (M.W. Hardy, H. Phelps, J.M. Schmitt, R. Blair) **25**

**WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE** Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Between The Pines, LLC, ASCAP/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Cari Tables Music, SESAC/Hard Your Hat His, SESAC/Miller Crow Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (S.L. Hunt, C. La Corte, S.M. Anally, J. Osborne) **29**

**WHAT HE DIDN'T DO** Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Songs Of Yellow Room Music, BMI/For The Kids Platinum, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Redfeather Publishing, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Own Domain Music, ASCAP (C. Pearce, A.G. Gorley, E.M. Shackleton) **27**

**WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND** Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Matt Draa Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J. Davis, M. Dragstrom, R.J. Hurd) **13**

**WHISKEY ON YOU** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Greent Music, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Kaiga 1 Tunes, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Droptime Music, BMI (M. Smith, L. Rimes, R. Sutton) **16**

**WILD AS HER** Combustion Music, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Red Creative, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Big Loud Brett Songs, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Sonofgroceries Music, BMI (M. Wallen, Brett Tyler, K. Archer) **31**

**WISHFUL DRINKING** Jonny Price Music, ASCAP/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Work By Lucky Dave Publishing, BMI/Music By Music Of Art, BMI/RyKyz 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 (I. Andress, J.P. Starker Saxe, J. Price, D.D. Brown, R. Williamson) **5**

**WORTH A SHOT** Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Smackwood Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (S.M. Anally, R. Coppersman, J. Osborne) **54**

**Y**

**Y'ALL LIFE** Songs Of Smack, BMI/Spark In Your Pocket, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Universal Music - MGB Songs, ASCAP/D2 Pro Publishing, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC (W. Hayes, P. Good, J. Jenkins, C. Haynes, Jr., J. Epperson) **43**

**YOU** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/Buckeye 26, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Revnmusic, ASCAP/Lawnranglers, ASCAP (D. Smyers, D.M. Barnes, J. Reynolds) **36**

**YOU DIDN'T** Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/IRMS, ASCAP/Music Magic, ASCAP/EMI Foray Music, SESAC/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Own Domain Music, ASCAP (B. Young, A.G. Gorley, J.M. Nite, J. Robbins) **21**

**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/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (M. Wallen, A.G. Gorley, E.K. Smith, Charlie Handsome) **1**

**YOUR HEART OR MINE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/honkytonkatolic Music Publishing, BMI/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Phat Racon, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP (B. Butler, J. Bach, J. Pierce) **31**



# 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) **9**

**B**

**BURN, BURN, BURN** Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **37**

**C**

**CAN'T HAVE MINE** Curb Songs, ASCAP/Curb Congregation Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/ EbachEntertainmentFam, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (D.Scott, M.Alderman, J.Melton, D.Wilson) **46**

**COUNTRY ON** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Beer Can Hill Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Getyasome Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/KJM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP (D.Frasier, S.Haury, M.Nesler, Mitch Oglesby) **18**

**D**

**DON'T COME LOOKIN'** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick) **11**

**DOWN HOME** Endurance Juliet, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Rian Ball Music, ASCAP/Shut The Red Door, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cameron Bedell Music, BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Bettie James Music, SESAC (J.Allen, R.Ball, C.Bedell, T.Howell) **23**

**E**

**EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Pigasus, ASCAP/Cockeyed Hat Music, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (H.Whitters, B.Simpson, R.Tyndell) **31**

**F**

**FALL IN LOVE** Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/I Fart Creations, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, G.Lucas) **7**

**FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH** Pen Point Guard Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Mustaine Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (D.G.Breland, R.H.Block, J.R.Durrett, G.James) **33**

**G**

**GOLD** EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/DudeTunes, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (R.Copperman, C.L.Dick, A.G.Gorley, D.Bentley) **47**

**H**

**HALF OF ME** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhett, BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Music Of MAM, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (Thomas Rhett, R.Akins, W.Bundy, J.Thompson) **15**

**HANDLE ON YOU** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Spirit Nashville One Crescendo, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI (P.McCollum, M.Criswell) **35**

**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) **34**

**HEART LIKE A TRUCK** Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI (L.Wilson, D.Wilson, T.Anderson) **38**

**HELL YEAH** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Crowd Publishing, ASCAP/T Hubb Publishing, BMI/It's Killer Music, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI (J. Westbrook, P.Sweet, C.Crowder, T.R.Hubbard) **50**

**HUMAN** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Heytone Music, ASCAP/She And I, LLC, BMI/Songs Of Mighty Isis Music, BMI/It's Killer Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (T.Lane, T.Meadows) **42**

**I**

**IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD** Songs Of Smack Blue, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Bad Angel Entertainment, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI (K.Morgan, Z.Holup, B.J.Johnson) **49**

**J**

**JOY OF MY LIFE** Cody River Music Company, ASCAP/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS (J.C.Fogerty) **30**

**K**

**THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Ten Point Publishing, BMI/Lunkertown Music, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI (L.Combs, J.Davis, D.Isbell, R.Isbell) **4**

**N**

**NEVER LEAVE** Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/I Fart Creations, BMI/Kindacrazy Music, BMI/Mary Kutter Music, BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, C.Sligh, G.Lucas, M.Kutter) **27**

**NEXT THING YOU KNOW** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Family Farm Music, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP (G.James, J.Osborne, C.McGill, J.Davis) **39**

**NO BODY** Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Ertie Bird Expressions, ASCAP/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/kiagai Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Shirt At Work, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (C.Tompkins, J.Kear, R.Clawson) **40**

**O**

**OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW** Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **32**

**OUT IN THE MIDDLE** Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Prestige Countrywide, ASCAP/Simonetti Music Publishing, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Spirit Music Group, ASCAP/Weimerhound Music, SESAC/Day For The Dead Publishing, SESAC/Reach Music Tunes, SESAC (B.Simonetti, Z.Brown, L.Combs, J.D.Singleton) **24**

**P**

**PARTY MODE** Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/JFlow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/Downtown DLJ Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Twelve6 Red Oak Songs, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Twelve6 Sequoia, SESAC/Songs Of Downtown, SESAC/McGinnIntellectual Property, SESAC/True Blue Works, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J. Flowers, R.Beaver, R.Alexander, J.Keim, M.McGinn) **44**

**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) **17**

**R**

**ROCK AND A HARD PLACE** Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs In The Key Of Black, BMI/Tvill Music, BMI/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI (B. Zimmerman, H.Warren, J.Hackworth, J.Harvey) **6**

**S**

**SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA** Ashley Gorley Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Colden Rainey Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP (A.G.Gorley, C.Swindell, J.Frasure, M.D.Sanders, Thomas Rhett, T.Nichols) **5**

**SHE LIKES IT** Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Torches And Pitchforks Music, BMI/Angrny Mob Music LLC, BMI/BNA Bangers, BMI/Tunes Of Black River, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/716 Music, BMI (R. Dickerson, J.Scott, J.Kerr) **19**

**SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE** Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **2**

**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.B.DeFord, E.K.Smith, D.R.Stevens) **10**

**SOUL** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/A Forest Of Evergreens, ASCAP/Seven Summits Music, BMI/Tony Ferrari Publishing, BMI (K.Kadish, T.Ferrari) **21**

**STARVED** Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **43**

**T**

**TENNESSEE ORANGE** Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Major Bob Productions, BMI/Bone Bone Creative, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI (M.Moroney, B.Williams, P.Jenkins, D.Fanning) **20**

**THANK GOD** Feels Like Friday Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kyle Fishman Music, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Goat Island Palms, LLC, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Chorus 2 Music, SESAC/Blunts And Bonfires Music, SESAC/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Jaded Muffins Music, BMI/Dead Aim Music, BMI (C.D.Stalneck, K.A.Fishman, J.Free, J.Hoge, J.Mullins) **8**

**THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES** Triple Play Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Irishsonmusic, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Zona Blue Music, BMI (J.Morgan, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, K.M.Allison) **29**

**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) **22**

**W**

**WAITING** Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Gavin Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/I Fart Creations, BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, G.Lucas) **36**

**WAIT IN THE TRUCK** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Humerus Publishing Global, BMI/Round Hill Verses Publishing, BMI/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/The Money Tree Vibezy, ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, H.Phelps, J.M.Schmidt, R.Blair) **16**

**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) **3**

**WAY OF THE TRIUNE GODS** Hickman Holler Songs, BMI (T.Children) **48**

**WHAT HE DIDN'T DO** Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Songs Of Yellow Room Music, BMI/For The Kids Platinum, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Redfeather Publishing, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Own Domain Music, ASCAP (C.Pearce, A.G.Gorley, E.M.Shackleton) **26**

**WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND** Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Matt Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Davis, M.Dragstrom, R.J.Hurd) **12**

**WHERE IT ENDS** Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Gold Room Special Music, BMI/Hipgnosis Beats, BMI/Holy Hell Music, BMI/London Electric Music, BMI/London Margate Songs, BMI (B.Zimmerman, G.Averill, J.Spargus) **28**

**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) **13**

**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/Sonofgroceries Music, BMI (M.Wallen, Brett Tyler, K.Archer) **25**

**WISHFUL DRINKING** Jonny Price Music, ASCAP/Moder 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 (I.Andress, J.P.Starker Saxe, J.Price, D.D.Brown, R.Williamson) **14**

**Y**

**Y'ALL LIFE** Songs Of Smack, BMI/Spark In Your Pocket, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Universal Music - MGB Songs, ASCAP/D2 Pro Publishing, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC (W.Hayes, P.Good, J.Jenkins, C.Haynes, Jr., J.Epperson) **41**

**YOU DIDN'T** Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/JRM3, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/EMI Foray Music, SESAC/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Own Domain Music, ASCAP (B. Young, A.G.Gorley, J.M.Nite, J.Robbins) **45**

**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/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (M.Wallen, A.G.Gorley, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **1**



# COUNTRY

5 Years Ago

## No 'Ifs' About It: Kane Brown And Lauren Alaina Reached The Top

In October 2017, "What Ifs" became Brown's first Country Airplay Leader and Alaina's second

On Oct. 28, 2017, **Kane Brown's** "What Ifs," featuring **Lauren Alaina**, topped *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart. Brown co-wrote the song with **Matt McGinn** and **Jordan Schmidt**, and **Dann Huff** produced it.

The single was Brown's first of eight Country Airplay leaders and Alaina's second of four. It was released from Brown's introductory LP that arrived at the

Top Country Albums summit, becoming his first of two No. 1 sets.

Concurrently, "What Ifs" began a five-week command on *Billboard's* streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart. It dethroned **Sam Hunt's** "Body Like a Back Road," which had logged a then-record 34-week domination. "All I can say is, 'Thirty-four weeks? Sam Hunt?' Damn. I'm happy

to get in there," Brown told *Billboard* upon learning of his achievement.

Brown, now 29, and Alaina, 28, are both from Georgia and were childhood friends, having met at Lakeview Middle School in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., in a choir class. In May, Alaina hopped onstage during a Brown concert in Chattanooga, Tenn., near where they grew up. The twosome performed "What Ifs." —JIM ASKER

Brown (left) and Alaina at the 2018 CMT Music Awards at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

WEEK	WEEK	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	ARTIST	IMPRINT/PROMOTION LABEL	POS.	CHART
2	1	<b>#1 2 WKS</b> <b>WHAT IFS</b> ▲ Kane Brown Featuring Lauren Alaina D. HUFF (K. BROWN, M. MCGINN, J. SCHMIDT)	1	ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	45	
1	2	<b>BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD</b> ▲ Z. CROWELL (S. HUNT, Z. CROWELL, J. OSBORNE, S. MCANALLY)	1	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	37	
4	3	<b>AG</b> <b>WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS</b> S. MOFFATT (L. COMBS, R. FULCHER, J. WALKER)	3	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	18	
5	5	<b>UNFORGETTABLE</b> D. HUFF, J. FRASURE, THOMAS RHETT (THOMAS RHETT, J. FRASURE, A. GORLEY, S. MCANALLY)	4	Thomas Rhett VALORY	11	
3	4	<b>SMALL TOWN BOY</b> ● Z. CROWELL (R. AKINS, B. HAYSLIP, K. FISHMAN)	2	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	34	
8	8	<b>GREATEST LOVE STORY</b>		LANCO		