

billboard Country Update

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NOVEMBER 14, 2022 | PAGE 1 OF 24

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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CMAAs Explore Balancing Act Between The Genre's Safe Past And Unpredictable Future

On a night when the Country Music Association spent a lot of time honoring its past, the 56th annual awards seemed to set up the genre's future with a pair of first-time winners, **Cody Johnson** and **Lainey Wilson**, tying repeat entertainer of the year **Luke Combs** as the only artists taking two trophies home.

Combs, who became a stadium headliner this year, pocketed the entertainer title and album of the year, for *Growin' Up*, with both victories representing his second time to top each of those categories. Coming a day after a contentious national election, Combs' self-assessment seemed to embody the big-picture push and pull confronting the country music business, as well as the culture at large: how do you move forward and stay fresh given that the future is full of unknown potential pitfalls?

"There's nowhere to go from here, which is kind of scary a little bit," Combs confessed in the pressroom. "There's really nowhere to go but down, which freaks me out a little bit, but I'm excited about it."

Wilson led the slate of nominees with six nods, and her two victories, as new artist and female vocalist of the year, found her contemplating the sacrifices she had made in her personal past.

"This one right here is for that 9-year-old little girl who wrote her first song, who knew in her heart that this was what she

was supposed to do," she said as she retrieved her new-artist hardware. "This one's for those 11 years that I've been here in Nashville and have not taken no for an answer. This right here is for everyone who's believed in me and a little bit for the ones that even didn't."

Johnson similarly took a lengthy path to mainstream country success, in part because he blew up in Texas and refused to sign with a major label until he could make the move on his own terms. His national profile has begun to carry the same weight that his name has in the Lone Star State, thanks to his dramatic take on the life lesson "'Til You Can't," which netted single and music video of the year.

Johnson also slipped into the male vocalist category, though he acknowledged backstage that he was a long shot.

"When you're in a category with **Chris Stapleton**, you kind of already know who's going to win that," Johnson said.

Indeed, Stapleton was among a handful of reliable acts who added to already impressive victory totals in their particular fields. He snagged his sixth male trophy in the last eight years, while fiddler **Jenee Fleenor** earned a fourth straight musician of the year title, **Brothers Osborne** picked up their fifth vocal duo honor in a seven-year window, and **Old Dominion** walked



WILSON



COMBS

DYLAN SCOTT

CAN'T HAVE MINE

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off with its fifth straight vocal group award.

The latter two acts each recognized country's past in their speeches. The Osbornes were genuinely thrown for a loop at meeting **Wynonna Judd**, who claimed seven vocal group or duo honors from 1985-1991 as one-half of **The Judds**, as they collected their award. And Old Dominion's **Matthew Ramsey** reflected on the Nov. 7 death of guitarist **Jeff Cook**, whose band **Alabama** won three vocal group trophies and three entertainer awards.

"There's nobody in this category, and really any category, that would be here without Alabama," Ramsey said.

A significant amount of airtime was budgeted for country's past. **Carrie Underwood**, **Miranda Lambert** and **Reba McEntire** opened the show with a medley honoring the late **Loretta Lynn**. **Carly Pearce**, whose **Ashley McBryde** collaboration "Never Wanted To Be That Girl" earned musical event, enlisted **Ricky Skaggs** and **Sonya Isaacs** for "Dear Miss Loretta." **Elle King** teamed with **The Black Keys** to cover **Jerry Lee Lewis'** "Great Balls of Fire." **McBryde**, **Caylee Hammack**, **Brandy Clark** and **Pillbox Patti** served up the **Linda Ronstadt/Everly Brothers** classic "When Will I Be Loved." **Patty Loveless** joined fellow Kentuckian Stapleton for a well-received reading of "You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive." And **Alan Jackson** earned a lengthy tribute as he collected the Willie Nelson lifetime achievement award.

"I've definitely lived the American dream," Jackson said before holding his trophy aloft. "And I'm still livin' that honky-tonk dream, y'all."

Jackson's CMA history includes a pair of song of the year winners, "Chattahoochee" and "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)," and this year's victors in the category were certainly aware of their predecessors. On the red carpet, the "Buy Dirt" composers — **Jordan Davis**, **Jacob Davis**, **Josh Jenkins** and **Matt Jenkins** — were asked about the previous winners that might have inspired them, and they cited winning titles off the cuff: "Whiskey Lullaby," "I Drive Your Truck" and "The House That Built Me."

"'The House That Built Me' has been kind of the North Star, from the melody, from the lyric, from the way that it just hammers you in the heart," Jordan said. "If tonight goes well, to think that I would have a song that had the same award that that song had, would be about as cool as it gets."

Finding that balance between the fear-inducing future and the safe past is country music's constant struggle, just as it challenges everyone in their personal lives and forms the basis for the progressive-vs.-conservative tug of war in the national conversation. It's worth remembering that Alabama, Ronstadt and the Killer were all considered progressive when they were introduced; they're now part of country's secure past.

"We've been blessed by the CMA so many times when we're taking risks and we're being ourselves, and it only shows that we got to keep doing that," Brothers Osborne's **John Osborne** told media backstage. "On one hand, it's terrifying because we can do anything, but on the other hand, it's exciting because we can do anything ... We're always wanting to push ourselves as performers, as musicians, as writers, as singers, as people, and we feel lucky that this community is giving us fertile ground to do that." ●



BMI honored Clint Black (center) on Nov. 2 for 60 million performances of his songs. He's flanked by BMI Nashville vp of creative Clay Bradley (left) and BMI senior director of writer publisher relations David Preston.



U.S. Army veteran Craig Morgan performed with members of the 82nd Airborne Division Choir during a Veterans Day appearance on NBC's *The Kelly Clarkson Show*. From left: Morgan, 82nd Airborne Staff Sgt. Shaquille McKenna, Clarkson and 82nd Airborne Spc. Kevin Ortiz.



Mike Ryan (center) made his Grand Ole Opry debut on Nov. 8. With him: Opry Entertainment Group director of artist relations and programming strategy Jordan Pettit (left) and WSM-AM Nashville personality Charlie Mattos.

CHRIS HULLO

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3 GREAT ARTISTS ... 1 GREAT COUNTRY SONG

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

Tyler Hubbard's '5 Foot 9' Stands Tallest On Country Airplay; Jimmie Allen's 'Down Home' Rises To Top 10



Tyler Hubbard scores his first Country Airplay leader as a solo act as “5 Foot 9” (Hubbard House/EMI Nashville) ascends to No. 1 on the survey dated Nov. 19. The song increased by 5% to 31.5 million audience impressions in the tracking week ending Nov. 13, according to Luminate.

Hubbard is half of duo **Florida Georgia Line**, with **Brian Kelley**, who is also working solo after pausing their joint career. The twosome has achieved 16 No. 1s on the chart among 19 top 10s. With “5 Foot 9,” Hubbard makes history as the first artist to top Country Airplay both with a duo/group and as a soloist, dating to the list’s January 1990 inception.

“To have my solo single go No. 1 is really special, and I’m thankful to country radio, the fans and everyone who has supported me and made this possible,” Hubbard tells *Billboard*.

Florida Georgia Line’s run started in 2012 with its launch smash, “Cruise,” which led Country Airplay for three weeks starting that December. (On the streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart, “Cruise,” helped by a pop remix with **Nelly**, dominated for 24 weeks in 2012-13 and is tied for the fourth-longest reign in the chart’s history.) The tandem most recently ruled Country Airplay as featured on **Chase Rice**’s “Drinkin’ Beer. Talkin’ God. Amen.” for one week in August 2021. Before that, the duo’s “Long Live” led for one week that April.

“5 Foot 9” is Hubbard’s second solo Country Airplay entry. “Undivided,” with **Tim McGraw**, reached No. 16 in May 2021.

Hubbard is the second artist to reach the chart’s summit after building a résumé as part of a hit-making country duo. **Wynonna Judd** rattled off three straight initial leaders as a solo act in 1992: “She Is His Only Need,” “I Saw the Light” and “No One Else on Earth.” She and her mother, **Naomi Judd**, as **The Judds**, rang up 14 No. 1s on Hot Country Songs from 1984-89 (which was then primarily based on radio airplay).

Also of note, **Darius Rucker** blasted out of the gate as a solo country act with three consecutive Country Airplay leaders from 2008-09 (not counting holiday tracks): “Don’t Think I Don’t Think About It,” “It Won’t Be Like This for Long” and “Alright.” **Hootie & The Blowfish**, with Rucker as frontman, achieved six entries, including three top 10s, on the all-genre, multimetric Billboard Hot 100 — and crowned multiple pop, adult and rock airplay charts — from 1994-96. The rock-based band has logged one Country Airplay entry: “Hold On” (No. 30, October 2019).

Hubbard co-penned “5 Foot 9” with **Jaren Johnston** (of **The Cadillac Three**) and **Chase McGill**, and co-produced it with **Jordan Schmidt**. He will release his self-titled debut solo album on Jan. 27, 2023. The Georgia-raised singer-songwriter co-wrote each of the LP’s 18 tracks.

Hubbard released the six-song EP *Dancin’ in the Country*, which arrived at No. 12 on the Top Country Albums chart dated Sept. 3. On the Nov. 19-dated survey, it ranks at No. 41 with 5,000 equivalent album units earned in the Nov. 4-10 tracking week.



HUBBARD

“DOWN” GOES UP **Jimmie Allen** notches his fourth Country Airplay top 10 as “Down Home” (Stoney Creek) climbs 11-10 (17.3 million, up 3%). He co-wrote the lead single from his full-length *Tulip Drive* (released in June) with **Rian Ball**, **Cameron Bedell** and **Tate Howell**.

“Down Home” follows Allen’s team-up with **Brad Paisley**, “Freedom Was a Highway,” which topped Country Airplay for one week in February, granting Allen his third leader (and Paisley his 20th). Allen’s first entry, “Best Shot,” started a three-week rule in November 2018, and “Make Me Want To” led for one week in March 2020. Additionally, his duet with **Noah Cyrus**, “This Is Us,” reached No. 48 in October 2020. ●

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AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS			
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK	
1	2	26	5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★	Tyler Hubbard	31.464	+1.472	7734	241	1
2	1	22	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Morgan Wallen	29.175	-2.014	6739	-630	3
3	5	24	HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG		Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	28.592	+1.027	7207	236	2
4	3	23	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN		Cole Swindell	27.480	-1.745	6197	-582	4
5	6	22	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville		Luke Combs	21.337	-1.976	4651	-472	10
6	4	46	WISFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA		Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	21.141	-7.793	5349	-2156	7
7	7	37	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine		Jackson Dean	21.069	+0.940	5786	190	5
8	8	22	FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA		Bailey Zimmerman	20.468	+0.789	5461	22	6
9	9	20	COUNTRY ON Capitol Nashville		Luke Bryan	17.830	-0.248	4810	-117	9
10	11	35	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek		Jimmie Allen	17.298	+0.489	4479	20	11
11	10	37	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek		Jelly Roll	17.246	-0.364	4973	-55	8
12	13	25	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville		Jordan Davis	16.222	+0.428	4282	93	13
13	12	40	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR		Gabby Barrett	15.784	-0.336	4473	-106	12
14	15	22	WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville		Nate Smith	14.104	+1.489	3808	271	14
15	17	10	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville		Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	13.614	+1.295	3594	311	15
16	14	17	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow		Jason Aldean	13.045	+0.226	3540	-5	16
17	16	41	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR		Zac Brown Band	12.151	-0.455	3451	-100	17
18	20	51	YOU DIDN'T BMLG		Brett Young	9.238	+0.365	2692	-28	19
19	22	26	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	★★ Airpower ★★	Lainey Wilson	8.623	+1.058	2825	175	18
20	25	21	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	★★ Airpower ★★	Carly Pearce	8.075	+1.240	2595	356	20
21	24	16	GOLD Capitol Nashville		Dierks Bentley	7.997	+0.654	2315	141	23
22	27	4	GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville		Luke Combs	7.511	+1.732	1970	505	26
23	23	13	NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN		Blake Shelton	7.325	-0.019	2375	92	22
24	21	50	SOUL Curb		Lee Brice	7.303	-0.484	2511	-215	21
25	26	12	WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud		HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	7.087	+0.412	2178	145	24
26	29	14	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville		Parker McCollum	5.977	+0.678	2030	282	25
27	30	21	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville		Sam Hunt	5.467	+0.545	1842	80	28
28	28	32	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville		Chris Stapleton	5.216	-0.087	1940	-79	27
29	NEW		HEAVEN BY THEN Valory	★★ Hot Shot Debut/Most Increased Audience ★★	Brantley Gilbert And Blake Shelton Featuring Vince Gill	4.801	+4.801	1241	1241	34
30	32	15	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville		Corey Kent	4.668	+0.294	1672	183	29

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. 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 in Luminate's online platform.

TIES

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

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%.

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. Plus, songs that ascend to a peak between Nos. 1 and 5 will remain on the chart for one additional week even if dropping below No. 10.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

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

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	45	2	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	★★ Breaker ★★ Morgan Wallen	4.317	+2.445	1051	705	38
32	33	23	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	4.241	+0.133	1452	202	31
33	35	18	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	3.947	+0.407	1488	98	30
34	34	10	HOW IT OUGHTA BE Harpeth 60/BMLG	Shane Profitt	3.717	+0.111	1223	79	35
35	36	33	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	2.987	+0.041	1413	64	32
36	39	19	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Belting Bronco/WAR	★★ Breaker ★★ Zach Bryan	2.926	+0.365	964	91	39
37	37	17	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	2.870	-0.019	1280	22	33
38	38	12	BEER WITH MY FRIENDS Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney & Old Dominion	2.626	-0.111	939	-79	41
39	40	33	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	2.515	+0.217	1191	76	36
40	41	16	Y'ALL LIFE Monument	Walker Hayes	2.322	+0.040	1176	106	37
41	42	41	SON OF A Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	2.138	+0.169	952	49	40
42	43	17	DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville	Eric Church	1.917	-0.020	828	-13	43
43	44	28	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pegasus/Big Loud	★★ Breaker ★★ Hailey Whitters	1.892	-0.043	795	55	44
44	48	11	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek	Parnalee	1.836	+0.225	734	40	45
45	49	9	IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	1.738	+0.246	672	74	46
46	46	21	MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	1.703	-0.107	901	-32	42
47	47	15	STRANGE Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	1.596	-0.019	553	-29	50
48	52	5	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	1.506	+0.305	370	72	56
49	51	6	YOUR HEART OR MINE Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	1.462	+0.123	565	38	48
50	50	3	OVER FOR YOU Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Morgan Evans	1.343	-0.101	364	28	57
51	56	8	EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse	Kolby Cooper	1.230	+0.201	561	86	49
52	53	8	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	1.194	+0.016	574	15	47
53	55	14	NEVERTIL NOW Back Blocks/BMLG/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke + Brett Young	1.161	+0.130	541	20	51
54	59	6	SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek	Drake Milligan	0.955	+0.041	497	10	52
55	60	2	HATE MY HEART Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	0.939	+0.123	355	56	58
56	57	11	WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley	0.913	-0.025	435	-21	53
57	58	9	LONGNECK WAY TO GO Big Machine/Capitol Nashville	Midland Featuring Jon Pardi	0.847	-0.077	355	-25	59
58	NEW		YOU, ME, & WHISKEY Valory	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	0.736	+0.119	341	63	-
59	RE-ENTRY		IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD EMI Nashville	Kylie Morgan	0.704	+0.021	354	5	60
60	RE-ENTRY		MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	0.657	+0.135	333	32	-



55

CARRIE UNDERWOOD
Hate My Heart

Co-authored by Underwood, her new single jumps 60-55 on Country Airplay, up 15% to 940,000 impressions. She performed it on the 56th annual Country Music Association Awards on Nov. 9, which aired live on ABC.



George Birge (left) appeared Nov. 3 at the Coastal Carolina Fair, where he met up with WEZL Charleston, S.C., assistant PD Ric Rush.

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY **LUMINATE**



ALEXA CAMPBELL

GILBERT

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
HEAVEN BY THEN Valory	Brantley Gilbert And Blake Shelton Featuring Vince Gill	+4.801
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.445
GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+1.732
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	+1.489
5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1.472
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+1.295
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	+1.240
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.058
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+1.027
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	+0.940



SHELTON



COURTESY CMA

WALLEN

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
HEAVEN BY THEN Valory	Brantley Gilbert And Blake Shelton Featuring Vince Gill	+1241
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+705
GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+505
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	+356
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+311
HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	+282
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	+271
5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+241
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+236
HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMMN	Cody Johnson	+202



BROWN

MATTHEW BERINATO



MATTHEW BERINATO

TENPENNY

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	16.631
2	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	15.244
3	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	12.889
4	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMMN	Cody Johnson	11.833
5	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	10.851
6	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory	Justin Moore	10.353
7	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	9.905
8	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	8.994
9	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	8.762
10	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	8.207



MOORE

CODY VILLALOBOS



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 13, 2022

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	17	LOOSE LOUD & CRAZY (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★	Jamie Richards	1799	98	11	9	20	HURT YOU (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1283	-149
2	3	16	IF IT DON'T HAVE A HONKY TONK (Independent)	Pat Green	1738	54	12	14	10	LONELY GIRL (Independent)	Cody Canada & The Departed	1227	40
3	4	23	WILDFLOWER (Independent)	Love & Chaos f/ Willy Braun	1686	31	13	17	11	DIE RUNNIN' (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1211	121
4	5	13	THE OLD MAN SAID (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1671	113	14	16	12	BAD MEDICINE (Independent)	Whiskey Myers	1209	66
5	6	15	EASY AS HELLO (Aunt Daddy/Thirty Tigers)	Sunny Sweeney	1600	87	15	15	25	COUNTRY ON THE RADIO (Big R.I.G. Country)	Robert Ray	1195	27
6	7	22	I'M NOT CRYING (Independent)	Kaitlyn Kohler	1561	67	16	12	25	BLOOD (Independent)	Jon Stork	1042	-260
7	8	18	GRAIN OF SALT (Independent)	Kin Faux	1551	111	17	20	9	ANDERSON COUNTY (King Hall Music)	Chad Cooke Band	997	61
8	10	10	DON'T IT MAKE YOU WANNA DANCE (Independent)	Josh Abbott f/ Flatland Cavalry	1490	100	18	19	22	NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS AFTER MIDNIGHT (Independent)	Scotty Alexander	975	19
9	1	17	EVERYTHING HAS YOUR MEMORY (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1488	-369	19	21	18	ONE DRINK IN (Bad Jew Jew/CDX)	Donice Morace	897	12
10	13	16	HALF TO DEATH (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1354	93	20	23	9	COWGIRL (Independent)	Jake Bush	878	53

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

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CMA NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com

Toby Keith, Luke Combs And HARDY Take Top Honors At BMI Country Songwriter Awards



JASON ALDEAN (left) and KEITH



HARDY



JOHNSON (right) with TRACK45

“Some things last forever after all.”

The hook line of **Luke Combs’** 2021 single contemplates mankind’s quest for immortality, an effort that typically proves elusive. A great song — one that still brings satisfaction to listeners even after hundreds, even thousands, of exposures — is one of the few ways in which people can influence complete strangers and even continue to inspire others after the creator’s physical chronology stops.

Combs’ “Forever After All,” co-written by **Drew Parker** and **Rob Williford**, earned country song of the year during the BMI Country Awards on Nov. 8 after being performed more than any other title during the eligibility period. And it was just the tip of the iceberg in a ceremony that recognizes a craft where making a long-term difference in others’ lives is indeed possible.

Toby Keith was celebrated throughout the evening as a BMI Icon, a bucket-list distinction that adds him to an elite list of honorees that includes **Dolly Parton**, **Merle Haggard**, **Carole King**, **Willie Nelson**, **Brian Wilson**, **Sting** and **Loretta Lynn**.

In a simple, real-world demonstration of Keith’s powerful use of hooks and melodies, **Carrie Underwood** backed off the mic during one chorus of “Should’ve Been a Cowboy” and encouraged the room full of music business professionals to sing the entire stanza without her, which they pretty much did verbatim. Keith clearly found a way to get in people’s heads.

“He was one of the original I-don’t-give-a-damn guys,” noted current hit-maker **ERNEST**. “His energy is infectious.”

Michael Hardy, meanwhile, placed a bid for long-term relevance by claiming the BMI country songwriter of the year honor, achieved by placing five titles — more than any other writer — among this year’s 50 most played songs. His honored entries included “Beers On Me,” “Come Back As a Country Boy,” “Sand in My Boots,” “Single Saturday Night” and “Give Heaven Some Hell,” the latter a song that recognizes a friend’s earthly influence as well as his likely swagger in the afterlife.

The honor comes as Hardy tackles crime and consequences in two swampy titles that were too new to qualify for this year’s awards: “Holy Water,” the recent **Michael Ray** single that finds a preacher running moonshine out of his church’s basement, and Hardy’s current **Lainey Wilson** collaboration, “wait in the truck,” a violent plot that balances chivalry against vigilantism while landing its protagonist in prison.

“I like the outlaw stuff and the dark side of country, and I feel like it’s a lane that’s kind of wide open,” Hardy said on the BMI red carpet. “People don’t really talk about the dark and scary side of country. And I’m here for it.”

Finding a path to success as a songwriter is a low-probability endeavor, particularly in the current era. Mechanical royalties for album cuts all but dried up during the digital era, making it more difficult to earn a living

while developing the skill.

“Somebody told me once that I have better chances — and this is true — of getting into the NBA than writing a song that made it to the radio,” Hardy said. “It’s pretty crazy.”

Thus, it was a potential breakthrough evening for the 27 writers who earned a place among the most performed country songs for the first time. That list of newcomers included **Brett Tyler** (“Cold Beer Calling My Name”), **Priscilla Block** (“Just About Over You”), **John Morgan** and **Lydia Vaughan** (“If I Didn’t Love You”), **Jason Nix** (“Things a Man Oughta Know”) and **Elvie Shane** (“My Boy”).

“The song is everything,” **Midland’s Jess Carson** noted. “For us, ‘Drinkin’ Problem’ really supercharged our careers. It could have taken five or 10 years to get to the same point if it wasn’t for that one song, so we’re very aware of the power of a single song.”

It’s in that context that Keith’s BMI Icon recognition holds significant sway, celebrating a full catalog of songs that connected with a mass audience, beginning with “Should’ve Been a Cowboy,” which marks the 30th anniversary of its release in February. **Eric Church** helped honor Keith with a wildly intense vocal-and-guitar reinterpretation of “I Love This Bar,” while two of Keith’s songwriter pals — **Scotty Emerick** and BMI Icon **Dean Dillon** — delivered a ragged version of “A Little Too Late.”

Keith paid respects to a significant line of music figures who assisted his career and noted obliquely that he has now pulled off a songwriter trifecta, with enshrinements that pay homage to his full body of work, which includes “American Soldier,” “Beer for My Horses,” “Wish I Didn’t Know Now” and “How Do You Like Me Now?!”

“All I ever cared about was Songwriters Hall of Fame, Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and BMI Icon,” he said.

HARDY likewise cited a string of friends, relatives and fellow music professionals in a prepared speech (he admitted that he was tipped off to his victory in advance) as he accepted the songwriter of the year title.

And Combs, who placed both “Forever After All” and “Cold As You” among the 50 most performed songs, showed appreciation for the genre’s most prolific writers, such as **HARDY**, with his five awarded songs, and **Nicole Galyon**, **Jesse Frasure** and **Track45** member **Ben Johnson**, each of whom landed four titles among BMI’s 50 most performed. Not to mention **Ashley Gorley**, who won ASCAP’s country songwriter trophy on Nov. 7 after placing nine titles among that performing rights organization’s most performed.

“When you see somebody go up there six or seven times, that’s amazing,” Combs said. “I mean, writing a No. 1 is so hard, and then the fact that there’s people that do eight or nine to 10 of those a year, it’s kind of hard to believe.”

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Niko Moon worked with the WQYK Tampa, Fla., morning team when he participated in a guitar pull with the station on Nov. 6. From left: RCA Nashville senior director of promotion and artist development Mallory Michaels, WQYK personality J.R. Jaus and music director/co-host Launa Phillips, Moon and WQYK morning producer/co-host Kevin Ebel.

ALABAMA'S JEFF COOK REMEMBERED

When **Alabama** performed a moving version of “My Home’s in Alabama” during the Country Music Hall of Fame induction of former RCA Nashville chief **Joe Galante** on Oct. 16, the absence of guitarist **Jeff Cook** was notable, even if it was not a surprise.

Cook died Nov. 7 at his home in Destin, Fla., following a battle with Parkinson’s disease. But while his passing leaves a hole in the living, breathing tapestry of country music, he remains an important stitch in its development as one of America’s most impactful genres.

Along with lead vocalist **Randy Owen** and bassist **Teddy Gentry**, Cook founded the band in Fort Payne, Ala., cutting its teeth on the Southern club circuit with a mix of country and era-appropriate rock covers. The group hit its peak in popularity with **Mark Herndon** on drums, introducing consistent Southern rock tones and **Creedence Clearwater Revival** influences into its sound. Much of that element came from Cook’s singularly identifiable guitar, which helped propel the band to new heights.

“If you’re going to be in that spotlight, people want your thing,” singer-guitarist **Charlie Worsham** says. “They want you to double down on what only you can do, and Jeff did that beautifully.”

When Alabama signed with RCA in 1980, the RIAA hadn’t yet introduced multiplatinum awards, which arrived in 1984. The band became the first country group to earn triple-platinum albums with *Mountain Music* and *Feels So Right* in October of that year, the same month it became the first act to win three consecutive entertainer of the year honors from the Country Music Association. Alabama eventually joined the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2005.

Appropriately, **Matthew Ramsey** acknowledged Cook’s passing in an acceptance speech as Old Dominion won its fifth straight CMA group title on Nov. 9.

“Alabama is a big part of all of our childhoods,” Ramsey added backstage, “and just really is in the fabric of culture and music. Everyone who is an artist out there right now, I don’t think there’s anyone that will argue with that statement. They just absolutely broke total new ground.”

Music Row was largely disinterested in groups at the time of Alabama’s introduction, partially out of fear that a band would break up before the investment paid off, but also because marketing a group identity is more difficult than establishing a single-artist brand. Cook was an essential piece of Alabama’s public persona, offering a key voice in its three-part harmony and providing a little onstage color, too, becoming one of the first country guitarists to employ bright, flashy instruments.

“In country music, that’s kind of rare when bands are majorly successful,” singer-guitarist **Travis Denning** says. “To see a band member bring musicianship like that to the table, that’s very inspiring.”

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the [Jeff and Lisa Cook Foundation](#).

RADIO & RECORDS®

BBR Music Group hired three new employees for its digital department: senior manager of digital advertising **Britt Epley**, manager of digital marketing **Ainsley Barry** and YouTube manager **Aaron Wilder**. Epley arrives from Universal Music Group Nashville, where she was a media buyer. Barry was previously Black

River social media coordinator. And Wilder was formerly Integrity Music playlisting and catalog development coordinator. Reach Epley [here](#), Barry [here](#) and Wilder [here](#) ... Audacy hired senior vp of advertising platforms **Seema Kumar**, formerly Warner Media vp of advertising technology ... Dashboard tech company Quu hired senior director of affiliate services **Laura Gonzo**. It marks a return to radio, where Gonzo was previously Premiere Networks senior director of affiliate marketing. She was most recently Planned Parenthood/South Atlantic director of philanthropy ... **Rob Roberts** was promoted to Cox Media/San Antonio director of operations, RadioInk.com reported. He was previously director of programming for two of the station’s seven music brands: classic hits **KONO** and classic rock **KTKX**. His new role includes oversight of country **KCY** and classic country **KKYX** ... Seven Mountains Media purchased two stations from Clarion County Broadcasting, including country **WWCH-AM** Clarion, Pa., according to RadioInsight.com ... **Randy Houser** will serve as grand marshal for the 23rd annual **WXTU** Philadelphia Toy Truck Parade, a three-mile celebration that will launch Dec. 17 in Collingswood, N.J. ... Pandora launched Sun Records Radio on Nov. 11 in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of the legendary label ... Eight artists are nominated for the Country Radio Seminar’s 2023 New Faces of Country Music show to be held March 15 at the Omni Nashville Hotel. Eligible voters will select five performers from the final eight during a five-day balloting window beginning Nov. 28: **Priscilla Block**, **Callista Clark**, **Jackson Dean**, **ERNEST**, **Jelly Roll**, **Frank Ray**, **Elvie Shane** and **Nate Smith**. OnSite chairman/owner **Miles Adcox** has also been tabbed as a featured speaker during CRS ... Country DJ Hall of Fame member **Lonnie Bell** died Nov. 8 at age 98, **KTVQ-TV** Billings, Mont., reported. Bell hosted a Sunday-morning classic country show on **KGHL**.

‘ROUND THE ROW

The RIAA promoted **Jackie Jones** to senior vp of artist and industry relations from vp. Reach her [here](#). The RIAA is also seeking a communications associate. Go [here](#) for details ... **Michael Gray** was elevated to Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum vp of museum services from executive senior director of editorial and interpretation ... Milestone Publicity upped **Jessica Bonner** to vp from account executive ... Concord Music signed **Runaway June** member **Jennifer Wayne** to a publishing deal. In addition to writing for her own group, she also co-wrote **Keith Urban**’s “Wild Hearts” ... **Diamond Rio** vocalist-mandolinist **Gene Johnson** announced his departure from the group after three-plus decades in a Nov. 6 Facebook post. He expects to continue working in bluegrass music ... **Turnpike Troubadours** were inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame on Nov. 11 ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum recognized trustee emeritus **Ken Roberts** as the 10th member of the Circle Guard, the highest rank in the Hall’s executive board structure ... The Association of Independent Music Publishers will offer a free webinar, “Explaining the Copyright Royalty Board,” at 3:30 CT on Nov. 16. Go [here](#) to register ... The 23rd annual AmericanaFest is slated for Sept. 19-23, 2023 ... **Dan + Shay** and **Cyndi Lauper** are booked to perform when the 65th annual Grammy Awards nominees are announced at 11 a.m. CT on Nov. 15 through Grammy.com and the Recording Academy’s social media ... Leadership Music launched its ninth virtual food drive, which will continue through Nov. 23. Last year’s campaign raised over \$33,000. Go [here](#) to donate. ●



Bailey Zimmerman celebrated with his team after making his Grand Ole Opry debut on Nov. 4. From left: 10th Street Entertainment artist manager **Scott Frazier**, The CORE Entertainment CEO/co-founder **Kevin “Chief” Zaruk**, Zimmerman, The CORE CEO/co-founder **Simon Tikhman** and The CORE Entertainment Canada president **Tracy Martin**.



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ALBUM OF THE YEAR
GROWIN' UP
LUKE COMBS

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR
OLD DOMINION



GARY TRUST gary.trust@billboard.com

Alabama's 40 Biggest *Billboard* Hits, From 'Tennessee River' To 'Old Alabama'

Jeff Cook, of cornerstone country group **Alabama**, died Nov. 7 at age 73 at his home in Destin, Fla. He had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2012.

"He lived to play our music we created together," Cook's cousin and bandmate **Randy Owen** shared in a Nov. 10 statement. "He could play any instrument he chose, but his harmonies I'll miss the most. I'm thankful we got to create music together for over 50 years. Wish we could play 'My Home's in Alabama' [the title track from the group's breakthrough 1980 album] one more time. Play on, Jeff."

"Closer than brothers, we lived together more than with our immediate families," wrote fellow cousin and bandmember **Teddy Gentry**. "Don't think I've known anyone who loved playing more. Jeff, along with me and Randy, experienced the highs of undreamed success, as well as some very tough early years. No other guitar player I've known had the range of styles Jeff had. No one can take your place. Ever. Rest in peace till we get to jam again."

Alabama became an unprecedented force on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart, amassing 33 No. 1s — the most among duos or groups — among 51 top 10s between 1980 and 2011.

The group — with Cook (on guitar, fiddle, keyboards and backing vocals), Owen (lead vocals and rhythm guitar) and Gentry (bass and backing vocals) being its longest-running members, dating to its 1969 formation in Fort Payne, Ala. — first topped Hot Country Songs with its first top 10, "Tennessee River," in August 1980. The song started the band's record run of 21 straight No. 1s (counting proper, non-seasonal singles) through 1987, highlighting its signature mix of rollicking core-country, pop-rock touches and affecting ballads.

Alabama also scored crossover success, notching five top 10s on the Adult Contemporary chart. On the all-genre *Billboard* Hot 100, the band tallied three top 20 hits, as well as its No. 29-peaking 1999 collaboration with ***NSYNC**, an update of the latter's "God Must Have Spent a Little More Time on You."

Alabama added its 33rd Hot Country Songs leader as featured on **Brad Paisley's** 2011 tribute track "Old Alabama." Among all acts, only **George Strait** (44), **Conway Twitty** (40), **Merle Haggard** (38) and **Ronnie Milsap** (35) have more No. 1s on the ranking.

On Top Country Albums, Alabama has charted 11 No. 1s among 26 top 10s, most recently reaching the top 10 with the No. 2-peaking *Southern Drawl* in 2015. Two years earlier, *Alabama & Friends* reached No. 2, with the set sporting covers of the group's classics by stars including **Kenny Chesney**, **Florida Georgia Line** and **Trisha Yearwood**.

In October, Alabama hit the Country Digital Song Sales chart with its 1983 Hot Country Songs No. 1 "Dixieland Delight," sparked by the song's prominent role in the celebration of the University of Tennessee football team's triumph over the University of Alabama on Oct. 15.

What follows is a recap of Alabama's most successful singles on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. The group's 1989 No. 1 "High Cotton" tops the tally. "We were walkin' in high cotton," Owen sings in the song, which echoes the band's musical legacy. "Old times there are not forgotten/Those fertile fields are never far away."

Alabama's 40 Biggest *Billboard* Hits

1. "High Cotton," No. 1 (one week), 1989
2. "Down Home," No. 1 (three weeks), 1991
3. "Forever's As Far As I'll Go," No. 1 (one week), 1991
4. "Jukebox in My Mind," No. 1 (four weeks), 1990
5. "Dixieland Delight," No. 1 (one week), 1983
6. "Love in the First Degree," No. 1 (two weeks), 1981
7. "Feels So Right," No. 1 (two weeks), 1981
8. "Fallin' Again," No. 1 (one week), 1988
9. "If You're Gonna Play in Texas," No. 1 (one week), 1984
10. "Can't Keep a Good Man Down," No. 1 (one week), 1985
11. "Lady Down on Love," No. 1 (one week), 1983
12. "There's No Way," No. 1 (one week), 1985
13. "Song of the South," No. 1 (one week), 1989
14. "40 Hour Week (For a Livin')," No. 1 (one week), 1985
15. "Old Flame," No. 1 (one week), 1981
16. "Face to Face," No. 1 (one week), 1988
17. "The Closer You Get," No. 1 (one week), 1983
18. "Take Me Down," No. 1 (one week), 1982
19. "If I Had You," No. 1 (one week), 1989
20. "She and I," No. 1 (one week), 1986
21. "Reckless," No. 1 (one week), 1993
22. "Why Lady Why," No. 1 (one week), 1980
23. "I'm in a Hurry (And Don't Know Why)," No. 1 (two weeks), 1992
24. "Tennessee River," No. 1 (one week), 1980
25. "'You've Got' the Touch," No. 1 (one week), 1987
26. "Mountain Music," No. 1 (one week), 1982
27. "Touch Me When We're Dancing," No. 1 (one week), 1986
28. "Close Enough to Perfect," No. 1 (one week), 1982
29. "Southern Star," No. 1 (one week), 1990
30. "(There's A) Fire in the Night," No. 1 (one week), 1985
31. "Old Alabama" (Brad Paisley featuring Alabama), No. 1 (two weeks), 2011
32. "Roll On (Eighteen Wheeler)," No. 1 (one week), 1984
33. "Here We Are," No. 2, 1991
34. "When We Make Love," No. 1 (one week), 1984
35. "Hometown Honeymoon," No. 3, 1993
36. "Pass It On Down," No. 3, 1990
37. "Take a Little Trip," No. 2, 1992
38. "Born Country," No. 2, 1992
39. "Then Again," No. 4, 1991
40. "Once Upon a Lifetime," No. 3, 1993



Alabama's 40 Biggest Billboard Hits recap is based on actual performance on Billboard's weekly Hot Country Songs chart. The ranking is based on an inverse point system, with weeks at No. 1 having the greatest value and weeks at lower ranks proportionately less. Due to various changes in chart rules and methodology through the years, songs have had reigns at No. 1 and on the chart of varying average lengths. To ensure equitable representation of the biggest hits from all years, certain time frames were weighted to account for the differences in song turnover rates. ●

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	1	1	26	YOU PROOF <small>J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN,A.G.GORLEY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME)</small>	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	2	1
2	3	2	29	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE <small>R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)</small>	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/WAR	36	2
3	2	3	64	WASTED ON YOU <small>J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)</small>	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	1
4	4	4	21	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE <small>CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,J.DAVIS,D.ISBELL,R.ISBELL)</small>	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	5	1
5	5	5	28	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA <small>Z.CROWELL (A.G.GORLEY,C.SWINDELL,J.FRASURE,M.D.SANDERS,THOMAS RHETT,T.NICHOLS)</small>	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	4	3
6	6	7	9	THANK GOD <small>D.HUFF (C.D.STALNECKER,K.A.FISHMAN,J.FREE,J.HOGE,J.MULLINS)</small>	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	15	5
7	7	6	25	5 FOOT 9 <small>T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD,J.JOHNSTON,C.MCGILL)</small>	Tyler Hubbard HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE	1	5
8	10	9	22	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE <small>A.R.SHAWN (H.WARREN,J.HACKWORTH,J.HARVEY)</small>	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	48	2
9	8	8	39	FALL IN LOVE <small>A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,G.J.LUCAS)</small>	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	8	6
10	9	10	16	HALF OF ME <small>D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,W.BUNDY,J.THOMPSON)</small>	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green VALORY/BMLG	3	9
11	12	12	24	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND <small>P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,M.DRAGSTREM,R.J.HURD)</small>	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	12	11
12	11	11	32	SON OF A SINNER <small>ERNEST K.I.TOSHINSKY (J.B.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)</small>	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	11	9
13	13	13	24	DON'T COME LOOKIN' <small>L.DICK (J.DEAN,C.L.DICK)</small>	Jackson Dean BIG MACHINE	7	11
14	16	16	11	WAIT IN THE TRUCK <small>J.MOI,HARDY (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,J.M.SCHMIDT,R.BLAIR)</small>	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW/BIG LOUD	25	14
15	14	14	59	WISHFUL DRINKING <small>L.ANDRESS,J.M.SCHMIDT (L.ANDRESS,J.PSTARKER SAXE,J.PRICE,D.D.BROWN,R.WILLIAMSON)</small>	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	6	11
16	15	15	27	WHISKEY ON YOU <small>L.RIMES (N.SMITH,L.RIMES,R.SUTTON)</small>	Nate Smith ARISTA NASHVILLE	14	11
17	17	17	48	PICK ME UP <small>R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,J.M.NITE,R.COPPERMAN)</small>	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	13	15
18	18	18	19	COUNTRY ON <small>J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (D.FRASIER,S.HAURY,M.NESLER,MITCH OGLESBY)</small>	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	9	18
19	24	24	9	TENNESSEE ORANGE <small>K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,B.WILLIAMS,P.JENKINS,D.FANNING)</small>	Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY	-	19
20	22	20	27	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW <small>J.MOI (M.WALLEN,N.GALYON,M.LAMBERT)</small>	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	31	1
21	20	27	12	HEART LIKE A TRUCK <small>J.JOYCE (L.WILSON,D.WILSON,T.ANDERSON)</small>	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	19	20
22	21	21	23	DOWN HOME <small>A.BOWERS,J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN,R.BALL,C.BEDELL,T.HOWELL)</small>	Jimmie Allen STONEY CREEK	10	21
23	26	26	24	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO <small>S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,A.G.GORLEY,E.M.SHACKELTON)</small>	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	20	23
24	23	22	38	SOUL <small>B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,L.BRICE (K.KADISH,T.FERRARI)</small>	Lee Brice CURB	24	20
25	25	25	35	WILD AS HER <small>C.FARREN (M.WALLEN,BRETT TYLER,K.ARCHER)</small>	Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NASHVILLE	30	15

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

- #1 22 WKS ZACH BRYAN
- MORGAN WALLEN
- ERNEST
- ASHLEY GORLEY
- CHARLIE HANDSOME
- JOSH THOMPSON
- LUKE DICK
- LUKE COMBS
- BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
- THOMAS RHETT



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

- #1 10 WKS AUSTIN SHAWN
- JOEY MOI
- DANN HUFF
- RYAN HADLOCK
- PAUL DIGIOVANNI
- ZACH CROWELL
- LUKE DICK
- JORDAN SCHMIDT
- JACOB DURRETT
- CHARLIE HANDSOME

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

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	30	40	4	GOING, GOING, GONE CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D. SINGLETON, L.COMBS (L.COMBS, R.FULCHER, J.MCNAIR)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	22	26
27	27	23	18	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Z.BROWN, B.SIMONETTI (B.SIMONETTI, Z.BROWN, L.COMBS, J.D.SINGLETON)	Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	17	23
28	32	33	9	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	-	28
29	31	30	12	WHERE IT ENDS A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN, G.AVERILL, J.SPARGUR)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	7
30	28	28	45	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBB, C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	28	27
31	36	34	15	OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	24
32	33	31	13	HANDLE ON YOU JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM, M.CRISWELL)	Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	26	31
33	38	35	11	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T J.GEAR, H.WHITTERS (H.WHITTERS, B.SIMPSON, R.TYNDELL)	Hailey Whitters SONGS & DAUGHTERS/PIGASUS/BIG LOUD	43	29
34	29	29	13	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES M.KNOX (J.MORGAN, J.EDWARDS, T.KENNEDY, K.M.ALLISON)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	16	29
35	35	36	10	NEXT THING YOU KNOW P.DIGIOVANNI (G.JAMES, J.OSBORNE, C.MCGILL, J.DAVIS)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	-	35
36	37	37	9	NO BODY S.HENDRICKS (C.TOMPKINS, J.KEAR, R.CLAWSOON)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	23	34
37	39	32	8	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
38	40	38	9	BURN, BURN, BURN Z.L.BRYAN, E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	26
39	34	41	6	YOU DIDN'T D.HUFF (B.YOUNG, A.G.GORLEY, J.M.NITE, J.ROBBINS)	Brett Young BMLG	18	34
40	41	39	8	HUMAN T.W.WILLMON (T.LANE, T.MEADOWS)	Cody Johnson COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	32	39
41	43	44	7	GOLD R.COPPERMAN, JON RANDALL, F.R.SHIPPEN, D.BENTLEY (R.COPPERMAN, C.L.DICK, A.G.GORLEY, D.BENTLEY)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	21	39
42	46	45	5	WAY OF THE TRIUNE GODS T.CHILDERS, THE FOOD STAMPS, CHARLIE BROWN SUPERSTAR (T.CHILDERS)	Tyler Childers HICKMAN HOLLER/RCA	-	41
43	49	47	9	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE C.LA.CORTE, S.MCANALLY, S.HUNT (S.L.HUNT, C.LA.CORTE, S.MCANALLY, J.OSBORNE)	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	27	43
44	44	43	17	Y'ALL LIFE J.THIBODEAU, W.HAYES (W.HAYES, P.GOOD, J.JENKINS, C.HAYNES, JR., J.EPPERSON)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	40	32
45	NEW		1	GIRL ON FIRE D.HUFF (KMARLOWE, J.GANTT, J.OSBORNE) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Kameron Marlowe COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	45
46	45	-	7	DUTTON RANCH FREESTYLE B.MANLEY (D.MORRIS, B.MANLEY)	David Morris DREAMTOWN, USA/GREY AREA	-	37
47	NEW		1	SUN TO ME E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	47
48	RE-ENTRY		2	STRANGE JON RANDALL, L.DICK, M.LAMBERT (M.L.LAMBERT, C.L.DICK, N.HEMBY)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	47	48
49	50	-	6	BROWN EYES BABY D.HUFF, K.URBAN (W.BUNDY, R.CLAWSOON, J.THOMPSON, M.WALLEN)	Keith Urban HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	33	42
50	NEW		1	UP TO NO GOOD L.RIMES (W.ZEIDERS, R.SUTTON, T.KARLAS, L.RIMES)	Warren Zeiders 717/WARNER	-	50

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

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT				YEAR-TO-DATE			YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND	2021	2022	CHANGE		
This Week	1,412,000	1,667,925,000	127,305,000				ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
Last Week	1,345,000	1,614,768,000	128,265,000	Album Consumption	60,673,000	64,391,000	6.1%	'21 60.67 million
Change	5.0%	3.3%	-0.7%	Album Sales	75,400,000	57,750,000	-23.4%	'22 64.39 million
This Week Last Year	1,293,000	1,462,043,000	127,209,000	Audio On-Demand	67,542,100,000	75,512,383,000	11.8%	TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS
Change	9.2%	14.1%	0.1%	Video On-Demand	6,033,735,000	5,764,871,000	-4.5%	'21 73.58 billion
								'22 81.28 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending November 10, 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	96	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 0331807/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
2	2	2	25	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
3	3	3	4	BAILEY ZIMMERMAN ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/3EE/WMN	LEAVE THE LIGHT ON		2
4	7	9	20	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 997801*/SMN	GROWIN' UP		1
5	4	4	52	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 034504*	RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
6	5	5	284	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	3	1
7	6	6	232	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	2	1
8	8	7	157	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	2	1
9	9	8	9	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 996216/SMN	DIFFERENT MAN		2
10	11	11	104	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
11	10	10	393	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
12	15	13	174	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		9
13	16	15	83	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 033578*	FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
14	14	14	303	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	7	1
15	17	16	221	TAYLOR SWIFT BIG MACHINE TS0300A/BMLG (18.98)	SPEAK NOW	6	1
16	13	12	210	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA 68079*/LEGACY (19.98/12.98)	ELVIS: 30 #1 HITS	6	1
17	NEW		1	HOME FREE HOME FREE	SO LONG DIXIE		17
18	NEW		1	RUSSELL DICKERSON TRIPLE TIGERS 876998	RUSSELL DICKERSON		18
19	18	17	31	COLE SWINDELL WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN	STEREOTYPE		6
20	23	21	57	CODY JOHNSON COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 666969*/WMN	HUMAN: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		3
21	19	18	103	LEE BRICE CURB 79537*	HEY WORLD		7
22	21	22	42	WALKER HAYES MONUMENT 98353*	COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM		2
23	20	19	336	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS		6
24	12	-	2	LAINIE WILSON BROKEN BOW/BMG 538841512/BBMG	BELL BOTTOM COUNTRY		12
25	29	30	26	THOMAS RHETT VALORY TR0550A*/BMLG	WHERE WE STARTED		2

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

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard AMERICANA/
FOLK ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	25	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
2	3	3	104	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
3	2	2	339	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
4	4	4	191	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		2
5	5	5	385	HOZIER RUBBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	3	1
6	7	9	49	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	ELISABETH		6
7	6	6	17	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		2
8	9	11	49	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 654022*/WARNER (VINYL)	DEANN		6
9	11	10	344	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA		1
10	NEW		1	DEAN LEWIS ISLAND/GEFFEN DIGITAL EX/IGA	THE HARDEST LOVE		10

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

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard
COUNTRY
STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	29	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
2	2	26	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
3	3	22	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
4	5	9	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN
5	6	21	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS
6	4	95	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
7	10	7	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND JORDAN DAVIS
8	9	24	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL
9	7	29	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
10	8	291	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
11	RE-ENTRY		ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE BRENDA LEE
12	13	6	WAIT IN THE TRUCK HARDY FEAT. LAINIE WILSON
13	RE-ENTRY		JINGLE BELL ROCK BOBBY HELMS
14	11	190	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN
15	12	20	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD
16	20	6	TENNESSEE ORANGE MEGAN MORONEY
17	14	73	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
18	21	4	DON'T COME LOOKIN' JACKSON DEAN
19	15	3	HALF OF ME THOMAS RHETT FEAT. RILEY GREEN
20	19	81	CHASIN' YOU MORGAN WALLEN
21	16	22	WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH
22	18	226	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
23	RE-ENTRY		A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS BURL IVES
24	17	27	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN
25	RE-ENTRY		FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH BRELAND

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

SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	NEW		1	CHOSEN ROAD THOROUGH BREAD 5113	APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS		1
2	1	-	2	TRAMPLED BY TURTLES BANJODAD 15*/THIRTY TIGERS	ALPENGLOW		1
3	3	2	59	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD	RENEWAL		1
4	RE-ENTRY		10	CHOSEN ROAD SONG GARDEN 4508	APPALACHIAN HYMNS		4
5	6	1	51	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD	RAISE THE ROOF		1
6	7	4	36	DOLLY PARTON BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*	RUN, ROSE, RUN		1
7	5	3	64	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA		1
8	9	6	32	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER	CROOKED TREE		2
9	RE-ENTRY		4	FRANK SOLIVAN & DIRTY KITCHEN COMPASS 4801	HOLD ON		6
10	8	5	37	VARIOUS ARTISTS CURB/BILLY BLUE 2334 CB EX	COUNTRY FAITH BLUEGRASS		5

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

THE NO. 1s ISSUE

DECEMBER 14, 2021 • BILLBOARD.COM

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THE NO. 1s ISSUE

YEAR IN MUSIC

ISSUE DATE 12/10 | **AD CLOSE** 11/29

MATERIALS DUE 11/30

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billboard's Year in Music, the No. 1's, will wrap up 2022 with an extraordinary editorial package.

Included will be year-end charts, interviews, and analysis on the year's top artists, titles and labels as well as the year's top producers, songwriters and publishers.

The year-end Boxscore rankings will shine a light on the most successful tours as well as the top venues and promoters.

This highly-anticipated year in music—the No.1s, serves as a compilation of must-have information. It is referenced year-round by everyone in the music and touring industry as their de facto resource for *billboard* historical data and information.

Advertise in this signature collector's edition and position your company, artist or breakthrough achievement to the power players in the industry. This issue provides the ideal showcase to run a brand or congratulatory message to acknowledge success over the past year.

CMA Week In Pictures

Three different artists — Luke Combs, Lainey Wilson and Cody Johnson — took home two trophies during the 56th annual Country Music Association Awards on Nov. 9 at Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena. It marked a further return from pandemic lockdown, as two of the three performing rights organizations reinstated their in-person awards earlier in the week, while ASCAP held a slimmed-down afterparty. Following are a few images from the TV show and related events.



Cody Johnson (center) celebrated two wins with Warner Music Nashville co-president Ben Kline and Cris Lacy.



Thomas Rhett and Katy Perry walked the carpet prior to performing “Where We Started” on the show.



“Buy Dirt” won song of the year for its four co-writers (from left), Jacob Davis, Matt Jenkins, Josh Jenkins and Jordan Davis.



Jenee Fleenor scored her fourth musician of the year trophy.



The War and Treaty and Caylee Hammack followed their CMA performances by partying with Universal Music Group Nashville. From left: The War and Treaty’s Michael Trotter Jr., Hammack, The War and Treaty’s Tanya Trotter and UMGN president Cindy Mabe.



Chris Stapleton accepted his sixth male vocalist trophy in the last eight years.



Garth Brooks (right) and his “That’s What Cowboys Do” co-writer, John Martin, walked the red carpet on Nov. 7 during an ASCAP Country Music Awards event at SoHo House in Nashville.



Musical event of the year winner Carly Pearce celebrated at Big Machine Label Group’s post-show soiree. From left: Big Machine Records GM Clay Hunnicutt, BMLG executive vp of A&R Allison Jones, Pearce, BMLG president/CEO Scott Borchetta and Starstruck president Narvel Blackstock.



Alan Jackson showed off his Willie Nelson career achievement award backstage.

JOHNSON: ALAN POIZNER; THE WAR: CHRIS HOLLO; STAPLETON: COURTESY OF CMA; BROOKS: ED RODE; PEARCE: CATHERINE POWELL; GETTY IMAGES; JACKSON: COURTESY OF CMA.



2022

billboard GRAMMY® VOTER GUIDE

Billboard will publish its annual GRAMMY® Voter Guide showcasing the music and artists that made an impact during the eligibility period for the 65th GRAMMY Awards®.

ON SALE 12/17
ISSUE CLOSE 12/6
MATERIALS DUE 12/7

This special issue will highlight the artists, producers and other creative professionals whose work is in contention this year, including for Record Of The Year, Album Of The Year, Song Of The Year, and Best New Artist.

Take this opportunity to remind the industry of the accomplished work that was released between October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022, as the members of the Recording Academy® prepare to cast their ballots for Music's Biggest Night®.

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

Tenille Arts' 'Jealous Of Myself': A Moody Masterpiece With A Classic Misdirection

On Jan. 14, songwriter **Emily Weisband** posted a TikTok video of a new song and asked her followers to play publisher and suggest who should record it.

The responses brought a string of worthy targets: **Maren Morris**, **Kelsea Ballerini**, **Camila Cabello**, **Lauren Daigle**, **Demi Lovato** and **Danielle Bradbery**, among others.

Additionally, **Tenille Arts** offered her own ideas about whom Weisband should have sing it: "Ummm, you. Or me. Lol"

Weisband didn't know it at the time, but Arts — despite the "Lol" — was very serious about "Jealous of Myself."

"That melody was stuck in my head the minute that I heard it," Arts says. "I kept going back and watching that TikTok over and over again."

"Jealous of Myself" became her newest single when Dreamcatcher Artists released it to country radio via PlayMPE on Oct. 14, exactly nine months after Arts first heard the TikTok. The song's actual birth came a day prior to its TikTok debut, when Weisband and **Old Dominion's Trevor Rosen** met Big Loud writer **John Byron** in an upstairs writing room at his publisher's offices.

Byron went into the appointment with an agenda. He had previously lost an eight-year relationship, and he had also recently discovered that his ex had started seeing a man from Colorado who was now moving to Nashville to be near her. Byron was bummed, and his disappointment led to that "Jealous of Myself" title.

"I was very jealous of him," concedes Byron, "but I was definitely more jealous of me when I did have her. So when I thought of the title, I wrote it down."

He also held it for that Jan. 13 appointment with Weisband, believing she could provide a woman's perspective for the idea's inherent vulnerability. It got a positive response when he introduced it, and while they continued winding through other potential titles, they kept coming back to "Jealous." Initially, Byron and Rosen mapped out a musical direction on guitar.

"We were trying to just start somewhere with some chords," Rosen recalls. "But then at one point, Emily walked over — he had a piano sitting there — and she just sat down and started playing. It's incredible how when she just starts singing whatever comes off the top of her head, we're like, 'Oh, my God. That's it.' That was magical."

At some point, they came up with the full hook, "I'm jealous of myself when I had you," and they determined to make it a mystery for the first-time listener by creating a storyline that would sound initially as if the new girlfriend was the target of the jealousy. Rosen landed on the opening line, "She's a little bit younger," which established a path for the story.

"That is such a good misdirection," says Rosen. "It sounds like it's a younger girl, but it's the picture of 'me' when I was younger. So everything else sort of started to fall in around that."

The mystery, and the jealousy, fits in a surprisingly melancholy musical package — surprising, since the bulk of Weisband's chord progression is major chords, but the flow feels more moody, like a minor key.

"I tend to play different voicings of major chords, so sometimes they'll sound a little more like longing than just the basic major chord," she says. "There'll be like one little note off in the chord that kind of makes it feel a little more dissonant because [I think] the full range of human experience is like this bittersweet, tension thing."

The melody followed in bittersweet suit. In the pre-chorus, it hangs on the seventh note of the key, one that begs for resolution. But it simultaneously falls in the middle of the chord, literally creating heartbreaking dissonance

with two of the three notes in the triad.

Byron played piano for a piano-vocal demo at the end of the session, with Weisband delivering a smoky vocal on the floor, hunched over a microphone she clutched with both hands.

"When Emily sings, she does whatever she needs to get into the real emotion," says Byron. "She gets down on her knees and starts wearing into this song, and it's just breaking my heart because the title is already near and dear to me. And so she's ripping my heart out."

They determined that it needed an extra diversion after the second chorus, so Weisband added a soaring vocal section on the fly. When it was completed, Weisband was anxious to have people hear "Jealous."

"Writing songs, to me, has been my healer throughout my life, and that's why I do it," she says. "If it's my healer to write it, then it's going to heal somebody else who listens to it, you know? I kind of feel that way about every sad song I get to be a part of writing; it's absolutely a part of the healing."

Once Arts heard it on TikTok the next day, her team reached out to the writers, and a few weeks later, she enlisted producer **Nathan Chapman** (**Taylor Swift**, **Keith Urban**), who had produced three tracks on her 2021 album, *Girl to Girl*.

"One of my favorite things that he said to me last time we were working together was to sing the verses like you were telling a story and then to sing the choruses like you're a singer," she recalls. "The amount of emotion that he was able to get out of my vocals in

the past, I just knew that he was going to be able to pull that out of me."

OneRepublic's Ryan Tedder had recently mentioned to Chapman that '80s pop sounds were beginning to feel in vogue again, and when Arts mentioned that she thought "Jealous" needed an '80s sort of sound, Chapman thought it was an astute read. He had keyboard player **Dave Cohen** apply an era-appropriate electric piano, and he gave it a slow build.

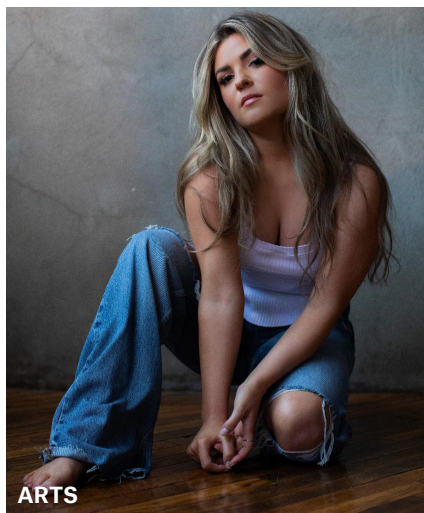
"A lot of songs in the '80s kind of bloom like that, and it's because people's attention spans were a lot longer," reasons Chapman. "I thought, 'If we're going to be in that world, let's really unfold the track the way those songs are treated. Let's not only hit the piano tones and drum sounds, but let's hit the architecture of how those records are made as well.'"

He also chose to record it like a pop song, building it one track at a time with drummer **Aaron Sterling**, who also programmed a bass part; Cohen; and guitarist **Kevin Kadish**. Chapman, Arts, and **Sara Haze** added backing vocals, which grew in prominence as the song progressed. And late in the process, Arts and Dreamcatcher founder **Jim Mazza** visited Chapman's studio, convincing him at that point to add atmospheric steel guitar to lend a little more country and a little more pain.

"This is one of those songs where it's like, 'All right, producer, don't screw it up,'" Chapman says. "You got a great song. You had a great direction for the artists, and you got a great vocalist who's going to crush the vocal — don't screw it up." And in this one situation, I don't think I did."

Arts debuted "Jealous of Myself" during a CMA Fest performance in June, and fans asked afterward where they could purchase it. It has since become a featured song in the set, and she's optimistic that it could become a standout on the airwaves, too, once it gets exposed there.

"It's a true country song to me," she says. "It's a story song, it says something new that really hasn't been out there, and I think Nathan's production is so different and unique. And that's been the response that we've had from country radio, that it doesn't sound like anything else out there right now. I hope that's a good thing and that we can have another No. 1." ●



billboard Country Airplay Index

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

5 FOOT 9 T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane 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) **1**

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, D.L. Murphy, Shy Carter) **58**

BROWN EYES BABY WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Jamlerlane 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, R.Clawson, J.Thompson, H.Wallen) **33**

C

CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb Songs, ASCAP/Curb Congregation Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/EpicEntertainment, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (D.Scott, M.Alderem, J.Melton, D.Wilson) **52**

COUNTRY ON Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Beer Can Hill Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Getyasorne Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/KJM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP (D.Fraser, S.Haury, M.Nesler, Mitch Oglesby) **9**

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 Music, ASCAP/Rian Ball Music, ASCAP/Shut The Red Door, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cameron Bedell Music, BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Bettie James Music, SESAC (J.Allen, R.Ball, C.Bedell, T.Howell) **10**

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.Tyndel) **43**

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) **51**

F

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

G

GIRL IN MINE 33 Creative, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/M Thomas Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My 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/Tape Room, SESAC (D.Fanning, M.Thomas, A.G.Gorley, T.Wood, C.Brown) **44**

GOING, GOING, GONE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Booledge Lyrics, BMI/Keep Choppin Publishing, BMI/Exit 185 Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI (L.Combs, R.Fulcher, J.McNair) **22**

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.Copperman, C.L.Dick, A.G.Gorley, D.Bentley) **21**

GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/YesYesYes, BMI/Mason Gannon Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Revelry Music, BMI (D.Cohen, B.Hamrick, M.Mason) **35**

H

HALF OF ME Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhettro, 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) **3**

HANDLE ON YOU Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkermag Publishing, BMI/Spirit Nashville One Crescendo, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI (P.M.Collum, M.Criswell) **26**

HATE MY HEART Carrie-Okie Music, BMI/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP (C.Underwood, D.A.Garcia, M.W.Hardy, H.Lindsey) **55**

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) **19**

HEAVEN BY THEN Not Listed (Not Listed) **29**

HOW IT OUGHTA BE Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Old Tom Music Publishing, BMI/Tennessee Backwoods Music, BMI/Fraser Made Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/KJM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP (S.Prohitt, D.Fraser, Mitch Oglesby) **34**

HUMAN BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Heytune 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, J.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 Lane Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI (K.Morgan, Z.Holup, B.J.Johnson) **59**

IT MATTERS TO HER Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs With Words That Rhyme With Trucks, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Brocephus Music, BMI (S.C.McCreery, L.T.Miller, R.Akins) **45**

J

JOY OF MY LIFE Cody River Music Company, ASCAP/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PKS (J.C.Fogerty) **28**

K

THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Booledge 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.Sobel, R.Isbell) **5**

L

LONGNECK WAY TO GO Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kitt Cass Publishing Corporation, BMI/Little Brocephus Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/100Top Music, ASCAP/Tropical Cowboy Publishing, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (J.Carson, C.Duddy, M.Wystrach, R.Akins, A.G.Gorley) **57**

M

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

MIND ON YOU Whiskey Side, ASCAP/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlow Sinclair Songs, SESAC/MI Noise, SESAC/Average J's Music Publishing, BMI (G.Birge, J.Boyer, M.Tyler, Colt Ford) **60**

N

NEVER TIL NOW Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Back Block Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Rounding Third Publishing, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.Cooke, M.Roy) **53**

NO BODY Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Ertie Bird Expressions, ASCAP/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/ikigai Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Shift At Work, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (C.Tompkins, J.Kear, R.Clawson) **23**

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 Hoes Music, BMI/Songs Of Ole L Paso, BMI (R.Houser, R.Copperman, C.Beathard, B.Pinson) **39**

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) **17**

OVER FOR YOU Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/LiveMadLove, ASCAP/SongsByME, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Tim Sommers Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (G.Warburton, M.E.Love, M.Evans, T.Sommers) **50**

P

PICK ME UP Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC (G.Barrett, J.M.Nite, R.Copperman) **13**

R

ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Songs In The Key Of Black, BMI/Tvill Music, BMI/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Music, SOCAN/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI (H. Warren, J.Hackworth, J.Harvey) **48**

S

SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Ashley Gorley Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Golden Rainey Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Roc Nation WC Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Jamlerlane 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) **4**

SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **36**

SON OF A RISER House Tunes, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Pambilly Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI (D.Carmichael, P.O'Donnell, C.Beathard) **41**

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) **11**

SOUL Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/A Forest Of Evergreens, ASCAP/Seven Summits Music, BMI/Tony Ferrarri Publishing, BMI (K.Kadish, T.Ferrari) **24**

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Sony Countryside, 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.McBride) **54**

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.Hemby) **47**

T

THANK GOD Feels Like Friday Music, SESAC/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kyle Fishman Music, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Goat Island Farms, LLC, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Chorus 2 Music, SESAC/Blunts And Bottires Music, SESAC/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Loaded Muffins Music, BMI/Dead Aim Music, BMI (C.D.Steinkcker, K.A.Fishman, J.Free, J.Hoge, J.Mullins) **15**

THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Triple Play Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane 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) **16**

THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/A Boy Named Ford, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Wallen, N.Galyon, M.Lambert) **31**

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/Nottypical Music, ASCAP/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/The Money Tree Vibez, ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, H.Phelps, J.M.Schmitz, R.Blair) **25**

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Between The Pines, LLC, ASCAP/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hand Your Hat Hits, 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.McAnally, J. Osborne) **27**

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 Domain Music, ASCAP (C.Pearce, A.G.Gorley, E.M.Shackleton) **20**

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**

WHISKEY ON YOU Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Covent Music, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Koala Tunes, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Droptime Music, BMI (N.Smith, L.Rimes, R.Sutton) **14**

WILD AS HER Combustion Music, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane 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) **30**

WISHER DRINKING Jonny Price Music, ASCAP/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Music By Lucky Dave Publishing, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI/RVKEYZ Next Level Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Starker Saye, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Strait From The Art Music, BMI/What Is An Ingrid, BMI (L.Andress, J.P.Starker Saxe, J.Price, D.D.Brown, R.Williamson) **6**

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.McAnally, R.Copperman, J. Osborne) **56**

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) **40**

YOU BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/Buckeye 26, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Irevminusic, ASCAP/Lawinwringlers, ASCAP (D.Smiers, D.M.Barnes, J.Reynolds) **37**

YOU DIDN'T Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/IRMS, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/EMI Foray Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP (B.Young, A.G.Gorley, J.M.Nite, J.Robbins) **18**

YOU, ME, & WHISKEY WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gussy, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Anthem Coal Mining Songs, BMI/Randolph County Music, BMI/Taylor Made By The Red White And Blue, BMI (J.L.Alexander, B.Berryhill, C.Taylor) **58**

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/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (M.Wallen, A.G.Gorley, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **2**

YOUR HEART OR MINE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Honkytonkaholic Music Publishing, BMI/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Phat Racon, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP (B.Butter, J.Ebach, J.Pierce) **49**

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. Johnson, C. McGill) **7**

B

BROWN EYES BABY WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane 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, R. Clawson, J. Thompson, M. Wallen) **49**

BURN, BURN, BURN Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L. Bryan) **38**

C

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 Loud Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J. Dean, C.L. Dick) **13**

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) **22**

DUTTON RANCH FREESTYLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Branley Music, BMI (D. Morris, B. Manley) **46**

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) **33**

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.J. Lucas) **9**

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/Jimmy Sad Publishing, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI (D.G. Breland, R.H. Block, J.R. Durrett, G. James) **28**

G

GIRL ON FIRE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Idiot Circle Publishing LLC, BMI/Songs Of Red Bandana, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (K. Marlowe, J. Gantt, J. Osborne) **45**

GOING, GOING, GONE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Keep Choppin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI (L. Combs, R. Fulcher, J.M. Nair) **26**

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) **41**

H

HALF OF ME Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhettro, 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) **10**

HANDLE ON YOU Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkernac Publishing, BMI/Spirit Nashville One Crescendo, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI (P. McCollum, M. Criswell) **32**

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) **21**

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) **40**

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/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kindacrazy Music, BMI/Mary Kutter Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (A.R. Shawn, B. Zimmerman, C. Sigh, G.J. Lucas, M. Kutter) **37**

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) **35**

NO BODY Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Ertie Bird Expressions, ASCAP/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/Kigai 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) **36**

O

OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L. Bryan) **31**

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) **27**

P

PICK ME UP Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC (G. Barrett, J.M. Nite, R. Copperman) **17**

R

ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Songs In The Key Of Black, BMI/Twill Music, BMI/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Music, SOCAN/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI (H. Warren, J. Hackworth, J. Harvey) **8**

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/Roc Nation WC Publishing Designee, 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**

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) **12**

SOUL Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/A Forest Of Evergreens, ASCAP/Seven Summits Music, BMI/Tony Ferrari Publishing, BMI (K. Kadish, T. Ferrar) **24**

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. Hemby) **48**

SUN TO ME Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L. Bryan) **47**

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) **19**

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. Stalenecker, K.A. Fishman, J. Free, J. Hoge, J. Mullins) **6**

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) **34**

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) **20**

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UP TO NO GOOD PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Dropline Music, BMI (W. Zeders, R. Sutton, T. Karlas, L. Rimes) **50**

W

WAIT IN THE TRUCK Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck 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 Vibeaz, ASCAP (M.W. Hardy, H. Phelps, J.M. Schmidt, R. Blair) **14**

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/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (M. Wallen, E.K. Smith, J. Thompson, Charlie Handsome) **3**

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Between the Pines, LLC, ASCAP/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hand Your Hat Hits, 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. McAnally, J. Osborne) **43**

WAY OF THE TRUENE GODS Hickman Holler Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (T. Childers) **42**

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 Domain Music, ASCAP (C. Pearce, A.G. Gorley, E.M. Shackleton) **23**

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) **11**

WHERE IT ENDS Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Gold Room Special Music, BMI/Hignosis Beats, BMI/Holy Hell Music, BMI/London Electric Music, BMI/London Margate Songs, BMI (B. Zimmerman, G. Averill, J. Spargur) **29**

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) **16**

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/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Music By Lucky Daye Publishing, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI/RyKeyz Next Level Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Starker Saxe, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Straight From The Art Music, BMI/What Is An Ingrid, BMI (L. Address, J.P. Starker Saxe, J. Price, D.D. Brown, R. Williamson) **15**

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) **44**

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 Domain Music, ASCAP (B. Young, A.G. Gorley, J.M. Nite, J. Robbins) **39**

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/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (M. Wallen, A.G. Gorley, E.K. Smith, Charlie Handsome) **1**

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45 Years Ago
Waylon Jennings Scored A No. 1 'Prize'

In 1977, the legend earned his sixth Hot Country Songs leader

On Nov. 19, 1977, **Waylon Jennings'** "The Wurlitzer Prize (I Don't Want To Get Over You)" notched its first of two weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. Written by **Bobby Emmons** and **Chips Moman**, the song became Jennings' sixth of 15 leaders.

"Prize" was released from *Waylon & Willie*, which contains a mix of tracks by Jennings and **Willie Nelson**, as well as solo songs by each. It also includes the pair's "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys," which ruled Hot Country Songs for four weeks in 1978.

Jennings was born June 15, 1937, in Littlefield, Texas. In 1959, he played bass in **Buddy Holly's** band on his Winter Dance Party Tour. He performed during Holly's final show at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, on Feb. 2 of that year. Holly, **J.P. Richardson** (aka **The Big Bopper**) and **Ritchie Valens** perished in a plane crash following the concert.

A major player in country music's outlaw movement of the 1970s, Jennings was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2001. He died at age 64 in 2002. —JIM ASKER

Jennings onstage at Oakbrook Terrace in Oakbrook, Ill., in 1977.

★	4	7	THE WURLITZER PRIZE (I Don't Want To Get Over You/Lookin' For A Feeling)—Waylon Jennings (B. Emmons, C. Moman/W. Jennings), RCA 11118 (Baby Chick, BMI/Waylon Jennings, BMI)
	2	10	ROSES FOR MAMA—C.W. McCall (J. Wilson, G. Dobbins, W. Sharpe), Polydor 14420, (Chappell, ASCAP)
★	5	10	BLUE BAYOU—Linda Ronstadt (R. Orbison, J. Melson), Asylum 45431 (Elektra) (Acuff-Rose, BMI)
★	6	7	FROM GRACELAND TO THE PROMISED LAND—Merle Haggard (M. Haggard), MCA 40804 (Shade Tree, BMI)
★	7	6	HERE YOU COME AGAIN—Dolly Parton (B. Mann, C. Weil), RCA 11123 (Screen Gems-EMI/Summerhill Songs, BMI)

