billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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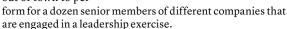
Taking Care Of Business: Nashville Songwriters Find Extra Cash In Corporate Gigs



They're the keys to a solid business plan: a sound product, an understanding of the target customer, focused marketing and country music.

That's right — country music. Nashville songwriters have over the last decade amplified a secondary source of revenue by giving more in-the-round performances beyond Music City's club circuit, particularly for America's corporate movers and

shakers. Sometimes it's a hometown gig at Nashville's Bluebird Cafe or The Listening Room for 50-75 staffers with a company enjoying an entertainment break during a conference. In other instances, the composers may travel out of town to per-



HATC

Regardless of a company's purpose, it gives songwriters — who create their material in small rooms — a chance to see their songs at work in front of an audience and to get paid for the privilege.

"A lot of songwriters are doing it because they're not making money on getting cuts anymore," says songwriter **Hillary Lindsey** ("Blue Ain't Your Color," "Jesus, Take the Wheel"). "Even if you get the album cut, if you don't have a single, you're not making money. So a lot of people are hustling and getting a lot of these gigs. If you do enough, I think you can make some money."

The development was not born in a songwriting room. Instead, it came indirectly from the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp., which is tasked with marketing Music City

DeSTEFANO

as a destination for both vacation and business travel. Songwriters are "a secret weapon of Nashville," says NCVC CEO Butch Spyridon. Roughly 20 years ago, he rounded up three writers — Brett James ("I Hold On," "Blessed"), Rivers

Rutherford ("Ain't Nothing 'Bout You," "Real Good Man") and Tim Nichols ("Live Like You Were Dying," "Heads Carolina, Tails California") — and hit a handful of other markets, attempting to entice convention bookers to plot their events in Middle Tennessee.

"The irony was it was so good, so cool and so special," Spyridon says. "The client base responded better than if they were seeing the artists. It resonated out of the gate, and so then we just never stopped."

THE MUSIC VIDEO



Around 10 years ago, some of the executives who experienced those song-writer-in-the-round performances started booking them for their own corporate events. The price was much less than booking, say, **Tim McGraw**, and the event proved more personal and intimate, as attendees heard familiar songs in the vocal-and-guitar format in which they were originally conceived. While prices vary, the typical writer might get \$5,000, so a company could conceivably book a four-person event for \$20,000 and minimal production costs, far cheaper than a corporate McGraw gig.

"Not only that, you can get the writers that wrote most of the Tim McGraw hits," says songwriter **Rob Hatch** ("I Don't Dance," "If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away"), who co-founded a songwriter booking agency, Entersong, with **Jerrod Niemann** and Indiana-based entrepreneur **Steve Stewart** this year. The company has over 50 writers on its roster, and bookings can range from appearances at established venues to informal dates at backyard barbecues or house parties.

"COVID-19 created a situation where people couldn't go out and go to concerts," Hatch says. "A lot of the private concerts popped up more because they couldn't go anywhere else."

Like any other performer, songwriters determine the workload that suits them. **Ashley Gorley** ("You Proof," "You Should Probably Leave") takes out-of-town dates only if they're with fellow writers who are already friends and/or it's in a location where he and his wife would like to vacation. **Chris DeStefano** ("At the End of a Bar," "Something in the Water") is more aggressive.

"I try to do as much of it as possible," he says. "It's a great way of reaching fans and [a chance to] do some traveling, too, which I go do a lot of times. I get to bring my wife, and that's always great. It's working vacations, but also, it's a way of really communicating directly with fans. And any opportunity I get to do that is some of the best parts of what I do."

But a number of writers have also found that the shows can become too much of a good thing, as they start eating into their family time or damaging their creativity in the writing room.

"They are good for a songwriter to get some hard cash because our money is so delayed, the way we get paid," says **Jessi Alexander** ("Never Say Never," "I Drive Your Truck"). "If you're going to pay me to come sing five songs with my friends, I'm going to do it, but I found that it was really starting to disrupt my writing — go play a gig, get home late at night, start all over again."

Some of the gigs are ideal — **Corey Crowder** ("Famous Friends," "Minimum Wage") did one for Waldorf Astoria Hotels in Hawaii — and others have ranged from a trucking tire company that employed **Track45** to a winery that booked **Hunter Phelps** ("wait in the truck," "Thinking 'Bout You"). Another songwriter booking agency, **Mike Severson**'s Songwriter City, lists a bundle of clients — including Morgan Stanley, AT&T and Amazon — on its website.

In the end, the trend is one that takes advantage of the most unique feature of Music City's creative class, providing an extra income stream to songwriters and setting the community apart in the business world.

"This kind of shows who we are," Spyridon says. "You clear away all the clutter, and there's a heart and soul, and it comes from the songwriter."



John Ford Coley (left), formerly with the pop duo England Dan & John Ford Coley, made his Grand Ole Opry debut on Nov. 12, part of a lineup that also included Lainey Wilson and Bill Anderson.



Clay Walker (center) visited with iHeartMedia Virginia-Carolina Region senior vp of programming Kix Layton (right) during a Nov. 11 appearance in Spartanburg, S.C. With them is Show Dog Nashville director of promotion and streaming Blake Nixon.



Maddie & Tae guested on the Nov. 11 edition of Apple Music Country's Today's Country Radio With Kelleigh Bannen. From left: Maddie Font, Bannen and Tae Kerr.



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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



Lainey Wilson

TWO-TIME CMA AND TWO-TIME ACM WINNER

"HEART LIKE A TRUCK" CA15 BB17

BELL BOTTOM COUNTRY #1 SALES DEBUT!

"SHE STOPS ME COLD WITH HER POWER VOCALS; HER LYRICS ENVELOP ME IN PURE EMOTION. WHAT A RECORD. WHAT AN ARTIST. SUPERDUPERSTAR."

LOIS LOUIS/KNIX/PHOENIX

"LAINEY CONTINUES TO SHINE IN OUR FORMAT WITH BELL BOTTOM COUNTRY! WE'RE DAMN LUCKY TO HAVE HER!"

MARCI BRAUN/WUSN/CHICAGO

"IT FEELS LIKE HER TURN AT **SUPERSTARDOM** IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!"

BUZZ JACKSON/KIIM/TUCSON

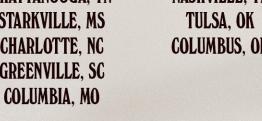
DEBUT HEADLINING TOUR SELLING OUT!

SOLD OUT

SPOKANE, WA PORTLAND, OR BEND, OR CHICO, CA SAN JOSE, CA RENO. NV VISALIA. CA BOZEMAN, MT LARAMIE, WY

MILLS, WY SILVER SPRING, MD JORDAN, NY PORTLAND, ME CHATTANOOGA, TN STARKVILLE, MS CHARLOTTE, NC GREENVILLE, SC

SPRINGFIELD, MO **GRAND RAPIDS. MI** ROOTSTOWN, OH NASHVILLE, TN NASHVILLE, TN TULSA. OK COLUMBUS, OH









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

Thomas Rhett, Riley Green's 'Half Of Me' Fills Top Spot On Country Airplay Chart; HARDY, Lainey Wilson Hit Hot Country Songs Top 10



Thomas Rhett's "Half of Me" (Valory/Big Machine Label Group), featuring **Riley Green**, ascends from No. 3 to No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart dated Nov. 26. In the tracking week ending Nov. 20, the song increased by 8% to 31 million audience impressions, according to Luminate.

"Half" is Rhett's 18th leader on the chart and Green's first. Rhett becomes one of 14 acts with as many as 18 No. 1s; **Kenny Chesney** leads with 32.

Rhett wrote his latest chart leader with his father, **Rhett Akins**; **Will Bundy**; and **Josh Thompson**. It's the second single from Rhett's sixth full-length, *Where We Started*, which arrived at its No. 2 Top Country Albums high in April, mark-

ing his sixth top 10. The title track features pop star **Katy Perry**, who (donning a black cowboy hat) joined Rhett for a performance of the song at the 56th annual Country Music Association (CMA) Awards on Nov. 9.

"It's always a big deal for me to have a song go No. 1, but this one is extra special because it's with my buddy Riley. Really glad we get to celebrate this song together with our friends at radio and fans," Rhett tells *Billboard*.

On the streaming-, airplay- and salesbased Hot Country Songs list, "Half" rebounds to its best rank (10-9) as it drew 5.1 million official streams and sold 1,000 downloads in the United States in the Nov. 11-17 tracking week.

"Half" follows Rhett's "Slow Down Summer," which rose to No. 2 on Country Airplay in May. Before that, "Country

Again" led for one week in September 2021. The Valdosta, Ga., singer-song-writer banked his first Country Airplay leader in October 2013 when "It Goes Like This," his third entry, began a three-week reign.

Green, from Jacksonville, Fla., reigns with his fifth Country Airplay hit. He notched one prior top 10, his debut entry, "There Was This Girl," which climbed

to No. 3 in March 2019. He has also hit the top 20 with "I Wish Grandpas Never Died" (No. 12, February 2020).

TRUCK' IS FLYING HARDY's "wait in the truck" (Broken Bow/Big Loud), featuring **Lainey Wilson**, rolls 14-7 on Hot Country Songs, up by 38% to 10.1 million streams in the Nov. 11-17 tracking week, following their performance of the song at the CMA Awards on Nov. 9. Wilson picked up two trophies that night as well, for female vocalist and new artist of the year.

Meanwhile, "Truck" sold 8,000 downloads (up 3%) and tops Country Digital

Song Sales for a fifth week. On Country Airplay, the song rises 25-21 (8.5 million, up 19%).

Hardy's third Hot Country Songs top 10 follows his collaboration with Dierks Bentley and BRELAND, "Beers On Me," which hit No. 5 in March. He scored his first top 10 with his second entry, "One Beer," featuring Lauren Alaina and Devin Dawson (No. 4, November 2020).

Wilson also adds her third Hot Country Songs top 10. She first reached the tier with her debut chart hit, "Things a Man Oughta Know," which advanced to No. 3 in September 2021, while "Never Say Never," with Cole Swindell, reached No. 2 in April.



opening Country Airplay top 10 as "What My World Spins Around" (MCA Nashville) lifts 12-10 (17.5 million, up 8%). The song follows "Buy Dirt" (featuring **Luke Bryan**), which led for two frames starting in January. Davis' first entry, "Singles You Up," became his first of three No. 1s, leading for one week in April 2018.



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CONGRATULATIONS THOMAS RHETT AND RILEY GREEN THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO AND DIGITAL PARTNERS!

BMLG

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

		WKS		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	3	25	HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG ★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★ Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	30.975	+2.383	7757	550	1
2	2	23	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	28.652	-0.523	6489	-250	2
3	4	24	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	26.681	-0.799	6002	-195	5
4	1	27	5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard	25.360	-6.103	6048	-1686	4
6	7	38	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine Jackson Dean	22.607	+1.538	6064	278	3
6	8	23	FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	21.996	+1.528	5991	530	6
Ø	10	36	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen	18.900	+1.602	5173	694	7
8	9	21	COUNTRY ON Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	18.695	+0.865	5078	268	9
9	11	38	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	18.315	+1.069	5159	186	8
10	12	26	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	17.467	+1.245	4554	272	10
•	13	41	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barrett	16.441	+0.657	4525	52	11
Ø	14	23	WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville Nate Smith	16.134	+2.030	4255	447	12
ß	15	11	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	15.079	+1.465	3857	263	13
4	16	18	THAT'S WHATTEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	13.415	+0.370	3646	106	14
®	17	42	OUT INTHE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band	12.785	+0.633	3620	169	15
1	18	52	YOU DIDN'T BMLG ★★ Airpower ★★ Brett Young	10.256	+1.018	3061	369	17
Ð	19	27	HEART LIKE ATRUCK Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	10.226	+1.603	3152	327	16
⊕	22	5	GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville ** Airpower ** Luke Combs	9.545	+2.034	2672	702	19
1	21	17	GOLD Capitol Nashville ** Airpower ** Dierks Bentley	8.886	+0.889	2619	304	20
20	20	22	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine Carly Pearce	8.803	+0.728	2879	284	18
3	25	13	WAIT INTHETRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	8.448	+1.361	2542	364	21
22	23	14	NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton	7.650	+0.325	2424	49	22
3 3	31	3	THOUGHTYOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ** Most Increased Audience ** Morgan Wallen	7.324	+3.007	1850	799	27
2	26	15	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	6.519	+0.542	2164	134	23
2	28	33	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	5.385	+0.169	2087	147	24
20	27	22	WATER UNDERTHE BRIDGE MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	5.358	-0.109	1911	69	26
②	30	16	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville Corey Kent	5.188	+0.520	1942	270	25
23	32	24	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	4.584	+0.343	1574	122	28
②	33	19	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban	4.358	+0.410	1512	24	29
30	34	11	HOW IT OUGHTA BE Harpeth 60/BMLG Shane Profitt	3.951	+0.235	1327	104	31

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.

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

THIS	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
3	35	34	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill Joe Nichols	3.347	+0.360	1492	79	30
€	38	13	BEER WITH MY FRIENDS Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney & Old Dominion	3.075	+0.449	1135	196	34
3 3	36	20	SOMETHING INTHE ORANGE Belting Bronco/WAR Zach Bryan	3.034	+0.107	1011	47	36
<u>34</u>	37	18	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	2.898	+0.028	1200	-80	33
3 ₽	40	17	Y'ALL LIFE Monument Walker Hayes	2.714	+0.392	1215	39	32
36	39	34	NOTETO SELF Magnolia Music Randy Houser	2.268	-0.247	1085	-106	35
9	41	42	SON OF A Riser House Dillon Carmichael	2.139	+0.001	992	40	37
<u>33</u>	44	12	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek Parmalee	1.957	+0.121	867	133	39
39	43	29	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud Hailey Whitters	1.946	+0.054	808	13	42
40	42	18	DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville Eric Church	1.946	+0.028	823	-5	40
49	45	10	IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers ★★ Breaker ★★ Scotty McCreery	1.760	+0.022	816	144	41
1	46	22	MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville Matt Stell	1.691	-0.012	918	17	38
43	47	16	STRANGE Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	1.659	+0.063	593	40	45
4	51	9	EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse Kolby Cooper	1.434	+0.204	631	70	43
45	49	7	YOUR HEART OR MINE Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	1.380	-0.082	545	-20	46
46	50	4	OVER FOR YOU Warner Music Nashville/WEA Morgan Evans	1.375	+0.032	449	85	51
47	48	6	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	1.346	-0.160	405	35	53
4 3	52	9	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb Dylan Scott	1.315	+0.120	626	52	44
49	55	3	HATE MY HEART Capitol Nashville Carrie Underwood	1.262	+0.323	493	138	47
50	58	2	YOU, ME, & WHISKEY Valory Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	1.026	+0.290	394	53	55
<u> </u>	54	7	SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek Drake Milligan	1.026	+0.070	482	-15	48
€	56	12	WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley	0.928	+0.015	476	41	49
53	53	15	NEVERTIL NOW Back Blocks/BMLG/Big Loud Ashley Cooke + Brett Young	0.911	-0.250	472	-69	50
54	29	2	HEAVEN BYTHEN Valory Brantley Gilbert And Blake Shelton Featuring Vince Gill	0.819	-3.982	307	-934	60
55	57	10	LONGNECK WAY TO GO Big Machine/Capitol Nashville Midland Featuring Jon Pardi	0.771	-0.076	361	6	57
56	59	3	IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD EMI Nashville Kylie Morgan	0.675	-0.028	362	8	56
⊕	RE-E	NTRY	I CAN'T DECIDE Stone Country Easton Corbin	0.664	+0.056	403	17	54
58	60	5	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville George Birge	0.636	-0.022	349	16	58
<u>59</u>	NE	₩	OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN Show Dog Nashville ** Hot Shot Debut ** Toby Keith	0.553	+0.103	439	37	52
60	RE-E	NTRY	TAKE IT SLOW Valory Conner Smith	0.513	+0.024	326	19	59





Cody Johnson met up with iHeartMusic executives when he played the Resch Center in Green Bay, Wis., on Nov. 12. From left: Warner Music Nashville director of radio and streaming Lou Ramirez, iHeartMedia/Kentucky-Indiana regional senior vp of programming Michael Jordan, Johnson and iHeartMedia executive vp of country programming Rod Phillips.



billboard

THE NO. 1s ISSUE

YEAR IN MUSIC

ISSUEDATE 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.

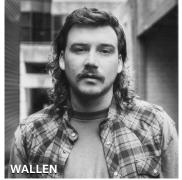
The year-end Boxscore rankings will shine a light on the most successful tours as well as the top venues and promoters.

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.

billboard Country Airplay





MOST INCREASED	AUDIENC	E
		GAIN
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	(IN MILLIONS)
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big	Loud Morgan Wallen	+3.007
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG Thomas Rhett F	eaturing Riley Green	+2.383
GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+2.034
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	+2.030
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.603
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	+1.602
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	+1.538
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+1.528
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown	With Katelyn Brown	+1.465
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud HARDY Fe	aturing Lainey Wilson	+1.361





MOST INCREASED PLAYS	
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	+799
GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	+702
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen	+694
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+550
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	+530
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville Nate Smith	+447
YOU DIDN'T BMLG Brett Young	+369
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	+364
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	+327
GOLD Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	+304





	RECURRENTS								
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)							
1	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	20.793							
2	WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	17.348							
3	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek Parmalee	16.063							
4	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	15.105							
5	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	12.199							
6	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville Mitchell Tenpenny	11.929							
7	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	10.418							
8	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	10.344							
9	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory Justin Moore	9.538							
10	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	8.590							





TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 20, 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 +/-
0	2	17	IFIT DON'T HAVE A HONKY TONK (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★ Pat Green	1814	76	O	14	13	BAD MEDICINE (Independent) Whiskey Myers	1228	19
0	3	24	WILDFLOWER (Independent) Love & Chaos f/ Willy Braun	1791	105	®	15	26	COUNTRY ON THE RADIO (Big R.I.G. Country) Robert Ray	1198	3
8	4	14	THE OLD MAN SAID (Independent) Aaron Watson	1705	34	ß	17	10	ANDERSON COUNTY (King Hall Music) Chad Cooke Band	1175	178
4	6	23	I'M NOT CRYING (Independent) Kaitlyn Kohler	1630	69	14	1	18	LOOSE LOUD & CRAZY (Independent) Jamie Richards	1141	-658
6	5	16	EASY AS HELLO (Aunt Daddy/Thirty Tigers) Sunny Sweeney	1625	25	15	9	18	EVERYTHING HAS YOUR MEMORY (Independent) Wade Bowen	1123	-365
6	7	19	GRAIN OF SALT (Independent) Kin Faux	1617	66	1	18	23	NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS AFTER MIDNIGHT (Independent) Scotty Alexander	1028	53
Ø	8	11	DON'T IT MAKE YOU WANNA DANCE (Independent) Josh Abbott f/ Flatland Cavalry	1518	28	17	11	21	HURT YOU (Independent) Cody Jinks	984	-299
8	10	17	HALF TO DEATH (Little Red Truck) Deryl Dodd	1369	15	1B	24	7	STARTS IN A BAR (Independent) Casey Donahew	958	116
9	13	12	DIE RUNNIN' (Independent) Mike Ryan	1347	136	19	21	16	THREE PEOPLE (ME, JIM BEAM AND YOU) (Independent) Sundance Head	917	54
0	12	11	LONELY GIRL (Independent) Cody Canada & The Departed	1261	34	20	20	10	COWGIRL (Independent) Jake Bush	908	30

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

ON SALE
DEC 17

2022

billboard GRAMM VOTER

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®.

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®.

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

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NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

RADIO & RECORDS®

Average Joes hired a new A&R executive and three new marketing professionals. A&R coordinator Mike Wadsworth had been working as a Nashville-based singer-songwriter. Publicity manager Ryan Bell stepped into the post after representing the company on a freelance basis during much of 2022. The label also added two marketing account managers, Madison Smith and McKennan Henninger. Smith previously served as Alpha Omicro Pi Fraternity digital marketing manager. Henninger arrives from event tech firm UNation, where she operated as a regional lead ... Riser House promoted **Megan Schultz** to label manager from product manager/head of marketing ... Arista Nashville vp of promotion Chris Schuler resigned from the position after roughly seven months ... Singer-songwriter Megan Moroney signed with Sony Music Nashville. Arista Nashville released her Kristian Bush-produced single "Tennessee Orange," currently No. 24 on Hot Country Songs, to radio via PlayMPE on Nov. 21 ... Combustion Music signed Payton Smith to the company's label, Combustion Masters, where he is recording new music with producer Chris Farren (Corey Kent, Jameson Rodgers) for release in 2023 ... Cox Media Group promoted Stephanie Callihan and J.C. Campese to vp/market manager positions in Houston and Orlando, Fla., respectively. Both executives were previously director of sales in their market. Country stations affected by the moves are KKBQ/KTHT Houston and WWKA Orlando ... Midwest Communications/Wausau, Wis., hired Jon Reilly as operations manager, filling a vacancy created by **Rusty James**' recent promotion to market manager. Reilly was previously operations manager for Townsquare/Glens Falls, N.Y., and three Albany stations, including country WKLI. The appointment takes effect Dec. 12 ... Saga Communications senior vp of operations Chris Forgy adds president/CEO to his title beginning Dec. 7. The chain's country holdings include WIXY Champaign-Urbana, Ill.; WCKN Charleston, S.C.; and WVVR Clarksville, Tenn. ... McVay Media hired producer **Ryan Kershner** to develop content on multiple platforms, RadioInk.com reported. Kershner was executive producer for Westwood One's Nights With Elaina ... A celebration of life is set for Dec. 3 to honor John "J.T." Thomas at the Church of Eleven 22 in Jacksonville, Fla. His widow, Carrie Mulvihill, shared details for the service on Thomas' Facebook page following his death on Nov. 12 after a nine-year battle with cancer. Thomas bowed out of radio after three decades in 2017, when he was iHeartMedia/Springfield, Mass., senior vp of programming. A second celebration of life is expected in his native Chicago in the future ... The Texas Regional Radio Report Music Awards will be held March 27, 2023, in Arlington, Texas, on the second day of the two-day Texas Live! conference. The first round of nominations is open through Dec. 1 ... Country Radio Broadcasters have made \$249 single-day passes available for the Country Radio Seminar March 13-15, 2023.



Dolly Parton was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Nov. 5. Zac Brown's namesake band backed her up during a rendition of "Jolene."



The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum celebrated music industry veteran Kay West during the 14th annual Louise Scruggs Memorial Forum on Nov. 15. With her is Gibson Foundation executive director Dendy Jarrett.



Brothers Osborne held a tasting event on Nov. 11 in Nashville for the duo's new limited-edition whiskey, distributed by WhistlePig. From left: Q Prime South manager Randi Tolbert, WhistlePig chief marketing officer Jason Newell, T.J. Osborne, John Osborne and Q Prime South president/founder John Peets.

'ROUND THE ROW

The Academy of Country Music is seeking a senior director of publicity and media relations. Go here for a job description ... Randall King extended his publishing deal with BMG and launched a joint venture with the company, Tonk On Publishing. The new firm's first signee is singer-songwriter Jake Jacobson ... Major Bob established publishing agreements with a pair of songwriters, Gunnar Latham and Josh Grider ... Songwriter Adam Wood ("Try Losing One") signed a publishing contract with Spirit Music Nashville in conjunction with Lee Brice's Pump House Music ... Sheltered Music acquired an interest in the publishing catalog of late Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame member Dennis Linde. Among the titles in the deal are "Callin' Baton Rouge," "Burning Love," "It Sure Is Monday" and "Goodbye Earl" ... Stoney Creek trio Track45 signed with United Talent Agency for concert booking ... Allie Colleen joined the booking roster at APA Nashville ... Duo BoomTown Saints inked a booking contract with Kinkead Entertainment ... The Cleverlys' Paul Harris and the comedic group's agent, Ben Wilson, formed a new booking agency, Hog Grass Entertainment. The company also signed bluegrass quintet Breaking Grass ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum signed an agreement with the University of Illinois Press to co-publish country-related books. The first title in the partnership is a companion to the museum's newest exhibit, Western Edge: The Roots and Reverberations of Los Angeles Country-Rock. Next up is the spring 2023 reissue of DeFord Bailey: A Black Star in Early Country Music, penned by David C. Morton with Charles K. Wolfe ... Backbeat Books published The Jordanaires: The Story of the World's Greatest Backup Vocal Group, by Gordon Stoker, Alan Stoker and Michael Kosser on Nov. 15 ... Dey Street Books will publish a new cookbook, Miranda Lambert: Y'ALL EAT YET? Welcome to the Pretty B*tchin' Kitchen, on April 25, 2023 ... Apple Music Country launched a three-episode Tyler Childers series, Hickman Holler Radio, on Nov. 18 ... Gibson held a grand reopening earlier in November for its Bozeman, Mont., branch, which doubled in size to facilitate increased guitar manufacturing ... Ashley McBryde was honored with the 2022 CMA international artist achievement award ... The Academy of Country Music set a Nov. 30 deadline for nominations and applications in its LEVel Up: Lifting Every Voice program, designed to support rising music leaders. Go here for info ... Carly Pearce agreed to host the 13th annual CMA Country Christmas special, premiering Dec. 8 on ABC. Guests include Scotty McCreery, Old Dominion and The War and Treaty ... Jimmie Allen, Elle King and Entertainment Tonight personality Rachel Smith were tabbed to host CBS' New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash on Dec. 31 ... ERNEST released a song celebrating the menu at Logan's Roadhouse ... Lainey Wilson sings the musical theme for a new Tractor Supply Company commercial, "Life Out Here," that debuted during the season-five premiere of Yellowstone ... Brian Kelley released "Florida Strong" on Nov. 18, with 100% of royalties earmarked for the American Red Cross and Florida Disaster Fund through Dec. 31 to support recovery from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. •

billboard Hot Country Songs

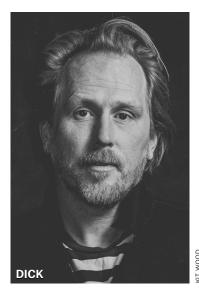
AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

		TWO				COUNTRY	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist Imprint / promotion label	AIRPLAY Rank	PEAK Position
1	1	1	27	YOU PROOF ★★ No. 1 (14 Weeks) ★★ J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN, A.G.GORLEY, E.K. SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen Mercury/Republic/big loud	2	1
2	2	3	30	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE R.HADLOCK (Z.LBRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/WAR	33	2
3	3	2	65	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	1
4	5	5	29	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Z.CROWELL (A.G.GORLEY,C.SWINDELL,J.FRASURE,M.D. SANDERS,THOMAS RHETT,T.NICHOLS)	Cole Swindell Warner Music Nashville/WMN	3	3
5	4	4	22	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,J.DAVIS,D.ISBELL,R.ISBELL)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	RC	1
6	6	6	10	THANK GOD D.HUFF (C.D.STALNECKER,K.A.FISHMAN,J.FREE,J.HOGE,J.MULLINS)	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	13	5
Ø	14	16	12	WAIT IN THE TRUCK J.MOI,HARDY (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,J.M.SCHMIDT,R.BLAIR) ★★ Streaming Gainer ★★	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW/BIG LOUD	21	7
8	7	7	26	5 FOOT 9 T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD,J.JOHNSTON,C.MCGILL)	Tyler Hubbard HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE	4	5
9	10	9	17	HALF OF ME ★★ Airplay Gainer ★★ D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,W.BUNDY,J.THOMPSON)	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green VALORY/BMLG	1	9
8	9	8	40	FALL IN LOVE A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,G.J.LUCAS)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	6	6
11	8	10	23	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE A.R.SHAWN (H.WARREN, J.HACKWORTH, J.HARVEY)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	47	2
12	11	12	25	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,M.DRAGSTREM,R.J.HURD)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	10	11
B	12	11	33	SON OF A SINNER ERNEST K,I.TOSHINSKY (J.B.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	9	9
1	13	13	25	DON'T COME LOOKIN' LDICK (J.DEAN,C.LDICK)	Jackson Dean BIG MACHINE	5	11
1	16	15	28	WHISKEY ON YOU LRIMES (N.SMITH,LRIMES,R.SUTTON)	Nate Smith ARISTA NASHVILLE	12	11
(1)	18	18	20	COUNTRY ON J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (D.FRASIER,S.HAURY,M.NESLER,MITCH OGLESBY)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	8	16
•	21	20	13	HEART LIKE A TRUCK J.JOYCE (LWILSON,D.WILSON,T.ANDERSON) ★★ Sales Gainer ★★	Lainey Wilson Broken bow	17	17
Œ	20	22	28	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW J.MOI (M.WALLEN,N.GALYON,M.LAMBERT)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	23	1
6	17	17	49	PICK ME UP R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,J.M.NITE,R.COPPERMAN)	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	11	15
29	26	30	5	GOING, GOING, GONE CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,R.FULCHER,J.MCNAIR)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	18	20
3	23	26	25	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,A.G.GORLEY,E.M.SHACKELTON)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	20	21
22	22	21	24	DOWN HOME A.BOWERS,J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN,R.BALL,C.BEDELL,T.HOWELL)	Jimmie Allen Stoney Creek	7	21
23	24	23	39	SOUL B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,LBRICE (K.KADISH,T.FERRARI)	Lee Brice CURB	RC	20
24	19	24	10	TENNESSEE ORANGE K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,B.WILLIAMS,P.JENKINS,D.FANNING)	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney	-	19
25	25	25	36	WILD AS HER C.FARREN (M.WALLEN, BRETT TYLER, K.ARCHER)	Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NASHVILLE	27	15

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	# 1 23 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
2	MO	RGAN WALLEN
3	ERN	IEST
4	ASH	ILEY GORLEY
5	CHA	ARLIE HANDSOME
6	JOS	SH THOMPSON
7	LUK	(E COMBS
8	BAI	LEY ZIMMERMAN
9	LUK	KE DICK
10	THO	DMAS RHETT



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	# 1 11 WKS	AUSTIN SHAWN				
2	JO	EY MOI				
3	DA	DANN HUFF				
4	RY	RYAN HADLOCK				
5	ZA	ZACH CROWELL				
6	PA	UL DIGIOVANNI				
7	EDI	EDDIE SPEAR				
8	LUI	LUKE DICK				
9	JA	COB DURRETT				
10	CH.	ARLIE HANDSOME				

billboard Hot Country Songs

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK Position
26	27 27 19 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	15	23	
2	32 33 14 HANDLE ON YOU JON RANDALI (P.MCCOLLUM,M.CRISWELL)		Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	24	27		
23	34	29	14	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES M.KNOX (J.MORGAN, J.EDWARDS, T.KENNEDY, K.M.ALLISON)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	14	28
29	31	36	16	OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	24
30	NE	w	1	FIFTH OF MAY E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN) ** Hot Shot Debut **	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	30
3	30	28	46	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	25	27
32	38	40	10	BURN, BURN, BURN ZLBRYAN,ESPEAR (ZLBRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	26
33	39	34	7	YOU DIDN'T D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,A.G.GORLEY,J.M.NITE,J.ROBBINS)	Brett Young BMLG	16	33
34	29	31	13	WHERE IT ENDS A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,G.AVERILL,J.SPARGUR)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	7
35	36	37	10	NO BODY S.HENDRICKS (C.TOMPKINS, J.KEAR, R.CLAWSON)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	22	34
36	35	35	11	NEXT THING YOU KNOW P.DIGIOVANNI (G.JAMES, J.OSBORNE, C.MCGILL, J.DAVIS)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE		35
37	33	38	12	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T J.GEAR,H.WHITTERS,(H.WHITTERS,B.SIMPSON,R.TYNDELL)	Hailey Whitters SONGS & DAUGHTERS/PIGASUS/BIG LOUD	39	29
33	40	41	9	HUMAN T.W.WILLMON (T.LANE,T.MEADOWS)	Cody Johnson Cojo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	28	38
39	37	39	9	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
40	28	32	10	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
49	41	43	8	GOLD R.COPPERMAN, JON RANDALL, F.R. SHIPPEN, D.BENTLEY (R.COPPERMAN, C.L.DICK, A.G. GORLEY, D. BENTLEY)	Dierks Bentley Capitol Nashville	19	39
@	42	46	6	WAY OF THE TRIUNE GODS T. CHILDERS, THE FOOD STAMPS, CHARLIE BROWN SUPERSTAR (T.CHILDERS)	Tyler Childers HICKMAN HOLLER/RCA	-	41
4 3	NE	EW .	1	THE GREATEST DAY OF MY LIFE ZLBRYAN (ZLBRYAN)	Zach Bryan Belting Bronco/Warner	-	43
44	43	49	10	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	26	43
45	47	_	2	SUN TO ME E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	45
46	49	50	7	BROWN EYES BABY D.HUFF,K.URBAN (W.BUNDY,R.CLAWSON,J.THOMPSON,M.WALLEN)	Keith Urban HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	29	42
47	45 – 2 GIRL ON FIRE D.HUFF (KMARLOWE,J.GANTT,J.OSBORNE)			Kameron Marlowe COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	45	
48	44	44	18	Y'ALL LIFE J.THIBODEAU,W.HAYES (W.HAYES,PGOOD,J.JENKINS,C.HAYNES, JR.,J.EPPERSON)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	35	32
49	RE-EI	NTRY	3	IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD B.JOHNSON,S.MCANALLY (K.MORGAN,Z.HOLUP,B.J.JOHNSON)	Kylie Morgan EMI NASHVILLE	56	49
50	NE	EW .	1	YOUR HEART OR MINE B.BUTLER,R.GORE,J.PARDI (B.BUTLER,J.EBACH,J.PIERCE)	Jon Pardi Capitol nashville	45	50

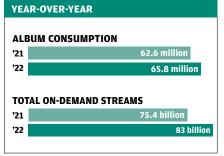
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, sales data as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Descending titles below No.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

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT								
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND					
This Week	1,396,000	1,758,000,000	125,604,000					
Last Week	1,412,000	1,667,925,000	127,305,000					
Change	-1.1%	5.4%	-1.3%					
This Week Last Year	1,933,000	1,712,620,000	149,958,000					
Change	-27.8%	2.6%	-16.2%					

YEAR-TO-DA	TE		
	2021	2022	CHANGE
Album Consumption	62,620,000	65,796,000	5.1%
Album Sales	8,126,000	5,909,000	-27.3%
Audio On-Demand	69,267,197,000	77,156,337,000	11.4%
Video On-Demand	6,183,721,000	5,890,639,000	-4.7%





STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

billboard top COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	97	MORGAN WALLEN DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC	4	1
2	2	2	26	ZACH BRYAN AMERICAN HEARTBREAK BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER		1
3	3	3	5	BAILEY ZIMMERMAN LEAVE THE LIGHT ON ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/3EE/WMN		2
4	5	4	53	TAYLOR SWIFT RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 034504*		1
6	4	7	21	LUKE COMBS GROWIN' UP RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 997801*/SMN		1
6	6	5	285	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	4	1
7	7	6	233	MORGAN WALLEN IF I KNOW ME BIG LOUD 783*	2	1
8	8	8	158	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	3	1
9	11	10	394	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	6	1
10	9	9	10	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 996216/SMN		2
11	10	11	105	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
Ð	13	16	84	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578*		1
Œ	12	15	175	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS		9
•	RE-E	NTRY	117	ELVIS PRESLEY THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89048*/LEGACY (25.98)		8
15	14	14	304	GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	7	1
16	15	17	222	TAYLOR SWIFT SPEAK NOW BIG MACHINE TS0300A/BMLG (18.98)	6	1
17	19	18	32	COLE SWINDELL STEREOTYPE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN		6
Œ	47	_	32	BURL IVES RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER MCA SPECIAL PRODUCTS/GEFFEN 322177/UME (8.98)	•	1
®	50	_	25	BRENDA LEE ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE: THE DECCA CHRISTMAS RECORDINGS DECCA/MCA NASHVILLE 70090 UME		2
30	20	23	58	CODY JOHNSON HUMAN: THE DOUBLE ALBUM COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 666969*/WMN		3
3	RE-E	NTRY	34	GENE AUTRY RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER AND OTHER CHRISTMAS CLASSICS COLUMBIA 63580/LEGACY (6.98)		1
2	24	12	3	LAINEY WILSON BELL BOTTOM COUNTRY BROKEN BOW/BMG 538841512/BBMG		12
23	21	19	104	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*	•	7
2	RE-E	NTRY	16	BOBBY HELMS GEFFEN /UME THE BEST OF BOBBY HELMS		6
25	28	33	19	ZACH BRYAN ELISABETH BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER		25

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

billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

REAN Ta C				
LU	V	17	Αī	E

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	26	ZACH BRYAN AMERICAN HEARTBREAK BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER		1
9	3	2	340	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	6	1
3	2	3	105	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
4	4	4	192	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS		2
5	5	5	386	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	3	1
6	6	7	50	ZACH BRYAN ELISABETH BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER		6
7	7	6	18	ZACH BRYAN SUMMERTIME BLUES BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER		2
8	8	9	50	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 654022*/WARNER (VINYL)		6
9	9	11	345	THE LUMINEERS CLEOPATRA DUALTONE 1738*		1
1	11	10	7	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 872237*/RCA CAN I TAKE MY HOUNDS TO HEAVEN		2

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.

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COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

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STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST		THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST		
1	1	30	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Zach Bryan		0	1	12	WAIT IN THE TRUCK HARDY FEAT. LAINEY WILSON		
0	2	27	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN	ľ	2	2	30	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL		
3	11	63	ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE Brenda Lee		3	10	5	HEART LIKE A TRUCK LAINEY WILSON		
4	3	23	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN		4	3	52	'TIL YOU CAN'T CODY JOHNSON		
6	13	57	JINGLE BELL ROCK BOBBY HELMS		5	5	22	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS		
6	23	53	A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS BURL IVES		6	4	29	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN		
Ø	12	7	WAIT IN THE TRUCK HARDY FEAT. LAINEY WILSON		7	8	24	SON OF A SINNER JELLY ROLL		
8	6	96	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN		8	6	27	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN		
9	4	10	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN		9	7	10	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN		
0	5	22	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS		10	12	47	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN		
0	8	25	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL		11	13 32		FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN		
12	7	8	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND JORDAN DAVIS		12	9 11		COUNTRY ON LUKE BRYAN		
13	9	30	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN		13	14 59		BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN		
Ø	10	292	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON	Ī	14	11 4		WHERE WE STARTED THOMAS RHETT + KATY PERRY		
Ð	14	191	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN		Œ	20 11		THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN		
16	15	21	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD		16	17 2		YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE HARLAN ALIVE PATTY LOVELESS		
Ð	17	74	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON		17	18	23	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN		
18	16	7	TENNESSEE ORANGE MEGAN MORONEY		B	RE-EI	NTRY	DON'T COME LOOKIN' JACKSON DEAN		
ø	24	28	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN		6	RE-EI	NTRY	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW LAINEY WILSON		
20	19	4	HALF OF ME THOMAS RHETT FEAT. RILEY GREEN		2	RE-ENTRY		TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON		
4	20	82	CHASIN' YOU MORGAN WALLEN		(B)	NEW		I'M A RAM CHRIS STAPLETON		
@	22	227	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS	(₿	RE-ENTRY		TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS JOHN DENVER		
23	18	5	DON'T COME LOOKIN' JACKSON DEAN	:	23	19 24		SOUL LEE BRICE		
2	RE-EI	NTRY	HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS (RIGHT DOWN SANTA CLAUS LANE) Gene autry		3	RE-ENTRY		WAY OF THE TRIUNE GODS Tyler Childers		
25	21	23	WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH		Ø	NEW		HEAVEN BY THEN BRANTLEY GILBERT AND BLAKE SHELTON FEAT. VINCE GILL		
Tho w	الماداد	ton	streamed and top-selling paid download		untun					

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.

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THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.	
1	3	3	60	BILLY STRINGS RENEWAL ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD			
0	NEW 1		1	SAM BUSH RADIO JOHN: SONGS OF JOHN HART HARTFORD SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS 40254*		2	
3	5	6	52	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS RAISE THE ROOF ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD		1	
4	2	1	3	TRAMPLED BY TURTLES ALPENGLOW BANJODAD 15*/THIRTY TIGERS		1	
5	6	7	37	DOLLY PARTON RUN, ROSE, RUN BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*		1	
6	7	5	65	STURGILL SIMPSON THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS		1	
7	8	9	33	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY CROOKED TREE NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER		2	
8	10	8	38	VARIOUS ARTISTS COUNTRY FAITH BLUEGRASS CURB/BILLY BLUE 2334 CB EX		5	
9	RE-ENTRY		26	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW PAINT THIS TOWN ATO 0602*		1	
0	RE-ENTRY		21	PUNCH BROTHERS HELL ON CHURCH STREET NONESUCH 671077*/WARNER		1	

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

Brantley Gilbert Enlists Blake Shelton, Vince Gill For 'Heaven By Then'

Few things are more unsettling than change — moving to a new home, losing a job, getting married or ending a relationship are all fear-inducing events that lead into unknown futures.

And yet, as songwriter **Bobby Braddock** noted in his 1996 **Tracy Lawrence** single "Time Marches On," "everything changes."

That's more true in 2022 than it's likely ever been. New technologies, new vocabulary and new cultural trends dart in and out of life faster than at any time in history. The upheaval is stressful, especially when it means letting go of people or lifestyles before we're prepared.

"I'm good with the things I like, the things I love," says **Brantley Gilbert**, acknowledging his antipathy toward change. "If they're not a part of life anymore, and something happens to me and I go to heaven, I'm in a better place anyways."

That's essentially the theme of Gilbert's new single, "Heaven by Then," a collaboration with **Blake Shelton** that includes prominent harmonies by **Vince Gill**. It debuted at No. 29 on the Country Airplay chart dated Nov. 19.

The song's resistance to change is ironic, since its very existence is the result of a change in direction during a songwriter outing. It was a little past midnight on Feb. 22 at a ranch in coastal Matagorda, Texas. Brantley was hanging out on a back patio during the retreat, drinking beer and working on a new song with six other writers. As they struggled for a line, **Taylor Phillips** ("Hurricane," "Like I Love Country Music") blurted out the phrase "Heaven by then." As the words came out of

his mouth, Phillips recognized the line actually worked even better as a title. **HARDY** ("wait in the truck," "God's Country") recognized it, too.

"HARDY looked at me and was like, 'What did you just say?' "Phillips recalls. "I was trying to play it off like I didn't say nothing. And then I was like, 'Boys, I think we're writing the wrong song.' HARDY grabbed the guitar, and I mean, honestly, it was pretty much a walk in the park. It was very fastly written."

So fast that **Jake Mitchell** ("One Beer," "Some Girls") was able to send everyone a work tape at 2:03 a.m.

"It was just like a pack of dogs on a three-legged cat," quips Gilbert. "We were all so excited to get it done."

As they searched for an opening line, HARDY served up a few examples of change that a Southern country boy would find unacceptable. **Brock Berryhill** ("What Happens in a Small Town," "Homesick") rhymed one of those examples with "When No. 3 is just a number."

"Yes," HARDY said — they had the first line.

The No. 3, as NASCAR fans know, was painted on the hood of the late Dale Earnhardt's car.

"I grew up with my dad watching those races every Sunday," says Phillips, who has a No. 3 tattoo on his wrist. "When Earnhardt passed away, it was like the last of a dying breed. I mean, it definitely changed racing."

That No. 3 represents change in other ways, too. During the 20th century, die-hard baseball fans associated it with **Babe Ruth**. The current hip-hop generation connects the number with **Chance the Rapper**'s ball cap.

Along with **Randy Montana** ("Beer Never Broke My Heart," "I Hope You're Happy Now") and **Hunter Phelps** ("Give Heaven Some Hell," "Cold Beer Calling My Name") — seven writers in all — they fashioned a series of images that would demonstrate the dissolution of a Southern country life: when the dirt roads are all paved, deer hunting is outlawed and "John Deeres are dinosaurs."

"I don't know if I'll ever beat that line," Phillips says. "When the country boy life goes extinct, that's really what it is. For me, when we can't be country anymore, there's no point in me living. I would just hate life."

They emphasized that point of view in the chorus with a few twisted lines that work better with a melody than they do on paper: "Idon't wanna go today, but I don't wanna live/Down here at a place that thinks that that place don't exist/There comes a day this country's somewhere country don't fit in/Hell, I hope I'm in heaven by then."

"Everyone was sitting there for a second, making sure it made sense," recalls

Mitchell. "It's tricky, twisty wordplay. But we kind of came to the conclusion, 'Well, we've said "Heaven" two or three times through the song by now.' So we figured that people knew what we were talking about."

They developed more lyrical images than a three-minute song would allow and inserted a bridge that underscored the singer's acceptance of death in the event that the world changed too much around him. Meanwhile, the musical elements held up from the time they started on "Heaven," which helped them wrap it in less than two hours.

"We all went to the same chords naturally when we were singing the melody," Mitchell notes. "A lot of times when we write, we'll try three or four different chord progressions over a melody or something. I just remember the melody and the chords stayed the same from the second we started."

Berryhill finished the demo with HARDY singing lead on March 4, then co-produced a

tracking session with Gilbert at Nashville's Sound Stage on March 23 using a six-piece studio band: guitarists Ilya Toshinskiy and Derek Wells, steel guitarist Jess Franklin, bassist Craig Young, drummer Miles McPherson and keyboardist Alex Wright. The overall sound was a little more relaxed than Berryhill's demo, and Wells created a descending signature lick that set the right tone for the cut.

"Derek has a couple of different electrics layered on there, and Ilya doubled that with the Dobro," says Berryhill. "It's a stacked part, for sure."

The team thought the range and topic would fit Shelton, and Gilbert considered it a bucket-list moment when he agreed to add his voice. In fact, Shelton was so strong that they gave him the lead voice on more lines than they had originally planned. Gilbert drove back to Nashville from Georgia to adjust some harmonies around Shelton. And Gilbert and Berryhill decided that Gill would be an even better harmony singer. They asked, and Gill obliged, lining up artists from three different generations of country music on a song about change.

"It's three completely different voices," Berryhill says. "And together, it sounds so cool because you literally hear all three of their voices independently."

Valory released "Heaven by Then" to country radio via PlayMPE on Nov. 9, two days before the label issued Gilbert's album So Help Me God. "Heaven" exists at No. 54 in its second week on Country Airplay. The interplay among Gilbert, Shelton and Gill is just a tad rough around the edges, appropriately reflecting the late-night hangout setting behind the song's origin and capturing the reluctance often applied to change.

"This one definitely called for giving you that front-porch vibe," Gilbert says. "[It's] looking at the world off the front porch, picking the six-string and watching it pass you by. And being OK with it."



billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

5 FOOT 9 T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs For Buddy. ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Music, BMI (T.R. Hubbard, J. Johnston, CMCGIII) 4

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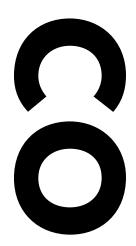
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Y'ALL LIFE Songs Of Smack, BMI/Spark In Your Pocket, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Universal Music - MGB Songs, ASCAP/D2 Pro Publishing, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC (WHayes, PGood, JJenkins, C.Haynes, Jr., JEDOPESON) 48

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5 Years Ago Luke Combs' 'Rains' Reigned

In 2017, Combs claimed his first of five Hot Country Songs No. 1s

On Nov. 25, 2017, Luke Combs' "When It Rains It Pours" topped Billboard's streaming-, airplayand sales-based Hot Country Songs chart for its first of two frames at the summit, marking his first of five No. 1s.

Combs co-wrote "Rain" with Ray Fulcher and Jordan Walker. It was released as the second single from his set *This One's for You*, which dominated Top Country Albums for a thenrecord-tying 50 weeks. Launch single "Hurricane" hit No. 3 on Hot Country Songs.

The 32-year-old Combs, from Asheville, N.C., sent his first

14 proper singles, through "Doin' This" in May, to No. 1 on Country Airplay, a record streak over the chart's history.

At the 56th annual Country Music Awards on Nov. 9, Combs was a double winner. He took home trophies for album of the year — for his third Top Country Albums No. 1, *Growin' Up*—and entertainer of the year, which he earned for a second time.

On the charts dated Nov. 26, Combs' latest single, "Going, Going, Gone," ranks at Nos. 18 and 20 on Country Airplay and Hot Country Songs, respectively.

-JIM ASKER

