

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## ACM Nominations Confirm HARDY's Unexpected Career Path Was Worth Its 'Wait'

Thanks in big part to “wait in the truck,” **HARDY** could take a truckload of trophies home from Texas on May 11.

With seven nominations in the 58th Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards, the singer-songwriter is the leading candidate for hardware, a position that's directly tied to his status as one of the genre's most prolific composers. Five of those nods are for “wait in the truck,” a **Lainey Wilson** collaboration he co-wrote, while the other two mentions are for songwriter-artist of the year and a song of the year entry for the **Morgan Wallen** recording “Sand in My Boots.”

**HARDY** never intended to attract this kind of attention. When he moved to Nashville from Mississippi in 2010, his sole goal was to become a country songwriter, which would have left him working primarily in anonymity behind the scenes. But when Wallen and **Florida Georgia Line** cut the **HARDY**-penned “Up Down” in 2017, it started a shift into the spotlight, where “truck” was perfectly aligned for this awards cycle.

Under the ACM's generous awards structure, in which artists who write or produce their material accrue double nominations for handling two roles in their work, **HARDY** picked up a pair

of nominations when “truck” rolled into the song of the year category and two more when it snagged a music event nod. Just as importantly, the track successfully tackled a risky subject in a culturally difficult period, depicting a murder at a time when Americans are exhausted by frequent mass shootings.

“The country's in shock,” he says.

But where the real-life violence often seems irrational or pointless, the “wait in the truck” story is redemptive. The protagonist admits his guilt and accepts responsibility for his crime, carried out to save a woman from domestic abuse. The video, which is also nominated, underscores the song's dark qualities, bringing attention to a tragic reality.

“I've gotten a lot of messages, and a lot of women have told me in person the hell that they went through,” says **HARDY**. “It was so bad that they actually do wish that somebody would have come to the rescue and done what, basically, this character did. And that means a lot.”

Though **HARDY** made his initial inroads in Nashville as a songwriter, it's doubtful that “truck” would

have been written had he not had his outlet as an artist. And that is a direct result of Big Loud's coaxing, beginning in late 2017 or early 2018.



HARDY

RYAN SMITH

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"We would talk to him a little bit and I would see him four months later, and I looked at him and I'm like, 'Wow, you look like you lost weight,'" Big Loud partner **Joey Moi** recalls. "He's like, 'Yeah, I lost like 20 pounds.' I'd come back and see him two months later, and he's down another 15 pounds. You could see he was starting to really contemplate doing the artist thing and getting himself excited about it. Finally, we all started talking, and he wanted to do it."

HARDY signed in July 2018, releasing the RIAA-certified platinum "Red-neck" as his first single. Even then, his co-writers hailed him for his ability to serve up fast, inventive slants on the English language, a skill developed by his music consumption as a kid.

"I listened to a lot of **Eminem** and a lot of **Kid Rock** and how they would find the little things that rhyme within a sentence, create internal rhymes, and that's something that I feel like I have a pretty decent grasp on," he says. "But when it comes to like, the twisting of words, I've always been a fan of words and poems, like **Shel Silverstein** ('A Boy Named Sue,' 'One's on the Way'). All that stuff, I just have always kind of had a knack for."

Those characteristics remain in the songs he's recording as an artist, though some of his material has taken on a complexity and a level of challenge that he might not have pursued if he didn't have a guaranteed outlet. Nashville's songwriters are focused on compositions with hit potential, and it's often difficult to persuade them to invest long amounts of time working on difficult songs that the public is likely to never hear. On his current album, *the mockingbird & THE CROW*, examples include "truck," with its touchy subject; "screen," a weighty juxtaposition of the screens on smartphones and back porches; and "happy," a clever personification of joy.

"I remember when we wrote 'A Rock,' I wrote it with **Jake [Mitchell]** and **Smith [Ahnuquist]**," HARDY says. "Although they're great writers, I kind of kept having to say, 'Just go with me here. I know this is weird, but I'm going to cut this. This is my thing. And just bear with me because I'm going to be really difficult.'"

HARDY has been successful at persuading that kind of cooperation, in part because he can deliver, but also because he has built solid relationships across Music Row, evidenced by collaborations with **BRELAND**, **Lauren Alaina**, **Brantley Gilbert**, **Thomas Rhett**, **Keith Urban**, **Marty Stuart** and **Ashland Craft**, just for starters. The alliance with Wilson on "truck" exemplifies the depth of his friendships.

"He's like a brother of mine," she says. "And I'll be honest — when he sent me a song that said 'wait in the truck,' I didn't know what in the world it was going to be about because every time his truck breaks down, he calls me to borrow mine."

Between the field-leading seven nominations and the wide appreciation he has generated, it seems likely that HARDY will get some trophies from the ACM to go along with the three the academy has already awarded him. But the career already looks different than he had originally anticipated. He's not allowing himself any expectations.

"The odds are in my favor," he says. "But we'll see." ●



Chase Matthew visited WQIK Jacksonville, Fla., on May 1 during his radio promotion tour. From left: Matthew, Warner Music Nashville director of radio and streaming Lou Ramirez, WQIK PD Scott "Froggy" Langley and WMN regional radio manager Connor Brock.



Black River artist MaRynn Taylor announced April 26 she had signed a management contract with Jonas Group Entertainment. From left: JGE founder Kevin Jonas Sr. and artist manager Rachel Inglesino, Taylor and JGE CEO Phil Guerini.



Artists and programmers closed a three-day Live in the Vineyard Goes Country event on April 27 with a lunchtime concert at Regusci Winery in Napa, Calif. From left: artists Drake Milligan, William Beckmann and Kat & Alex members Alex Garrido and Kat Luna.

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ALEC SAVIG



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**MAY 11**  
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# billboard Country Airplay

 AIRPLAY  
MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

 ON THE CHARTS JIM ASKER [jim.asker@billboard.com](mailto:jim.asker@billboard.com)

## Morgan Wallen's 'Last' Is First On Country Airplay; Megan Moroney Hits Top 10

**Morgan Wallen** earns his ninth *Billboard* Country Airplay chart leader as "Last Night" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) leaps from No. 5 to No. 1 on the May 13-dated survey. In the tracking week ending May 4, the single increased by 21% to 29.5 million audience impressions, according to Luminate.

The song—written by **John Byron, Ashley Gorley, Jacob Kasher Hindlin** and **Ryan Vojtesak**—reaches the Country Airplay summit in just its 11th week on the chart, completing the quickest coronation since **Luke Bryan**'s "Strip It Down" also needed only 11 frames to hit No. 1 in October 2015.

Plus, Wallen rules Country Airplay 11 weeks after his eighth leader, "Thought You Should Know," reached the top. That marks the quickest accumulation of two chart-toppers by a single act since, again, Bryan likewise went 11 weeks between notching new No. 1s "Kick the Dust Up" and "Strip It Down" in August-October 2015.

"Last Night" has also crossed over, led by its Nos. 13 and 15 ranks on Pop Airplay and Adult Pop Airplay, respectively. It added a fourth week atop the multimetric, all-genre *Billboard* Hot 100 (dated May 6).

Wallen's second top 10 on the latest Country Airplay list (and 10th career top 10) is "One Thing at a Time," the title track to his new LP. Likewise being promoted to country radio, the song ranks at No. 9 (18.3 million).

**'ORANGE' IS THE NEW TOP 10** **Megan Moroney** earns her first Country Airplay top 10 as her freshman entry, "Tennessee Orange" (Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville), rises 11-10 (17.6 million, up 2%). The song, which the 25-year-old co-wrote, marks the first top 10 by a woman in her debut appearance since **Lainey Wilson**'s "Things a Man Oughta Know," which became her first leader in September 2021. ●



WALLEN

RYAN SMITH

## MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+5.226
LOVE YOU ANYWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+2.651
NEXT THING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+2.545
DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+2.468
HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	+1.913
FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+1.759
YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	+1.619
NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1.541
YOU, ME, & WHISKEY Valory	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	+1.327
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+1.300

## MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1209
LOVE YOU ANYWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+627
NEXT THING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+571
DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+532
HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	+492
FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+407
YOU, ME, & WHISKEY Valory	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	+365
YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	+358
NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+330
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+312

## RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	19.730
2	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	17.746
3	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	17.603
4	GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	15.362
5	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	14.341
6	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	13.976
7	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	13.705
8	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	13.583
9	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	12.388
10	WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	10.224



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MAY 4, 2023

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	3	25	COWBOY CONSTITUTION (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★	Curtis Grimes	1791	108	11	12	26	VELVET CHAINS (Independent)	Ryder Grimes	1137	-31
2	2	24	LOVING ALL NIGHT (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1752	-22	12	17	11	WINE, BEER & WHISKEY (Independent)	Cannon Brand	1118	123
3	6	16	ANYMORE (Bill Grease Rec)	William Clark Green	1738	206	13	18	17	GOIN' GOIN' (Independent)	Donice Morace	1089	134
4	5	13	HONKY TONK ROLL (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1734	137	14	16	20	THINKIN' 'BOUT CHEATIN' (Independent)	Brandi Behlen	1024	6
5	4	16	SUNNY AND 72 (Independent)	Kin Faux	1710	65	15	1	29	MOUNTAIN SONG (Independent)	Flatland Cavalry	996	-851
6	7	15	CORAZON (Independent)	Matt Castillo	1479	94	16	25	4	RED DIRT CINDERELLA (Independent)	Kylie Frey	982	220
7	8	25	IT GOES ON (Independent)	Mark Powell	1336	25	17	19	10	CAN'T STAND LEAVIN' (Independent)	Adam Hood	980	42
8	9	17	LAKEVIEW GROCERY STORE (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1307	-2	18	14	23	FAST CAR (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	947	-76
9	10	26	LOCAL PARTICIPATIN' HONKY TONK (Independent)	James Robert Webb	1238	-47	19	20	14	WHAT THE WHISKEY GAVE YOU (Independent)	Cynthia Rausch	924	31
10	13	28	LONELY (Independent)	The Stateline Band	1142	-16	20	21	11	BETTER OFF (Independent)	Saints Eleven	911	47

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit [www.texasregionalradio.com](http://www.texasregionalradio.com), or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2023, Texas Regional Radio Report



# billboard Country Airplay

 AIRPLAY  
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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	5	11	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ No. 1 (1 Week)/ Most Increased Audience ★★	Morgan Wallen	29.548	+5.226	7143	1209	2
2	3	39	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	28.918	+1.913	7550	492	1
3	1	30	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	27.378	-2.004	6288	-529	6
4	4	23	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	27.276	+2.468	7063	532	3
5	2	41	GOLD Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	27.048	-2.003	6849	-521	4
6	6	40	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	23.929	+0.198	6343	84	5
7	9	42	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	19.863	+1.619	5520	358	7
8	10	34	IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	18.746	+1.300	5237	312	8
9	8	17	ONE THING AT A TIME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.272	-0.233	4653	24	10
10	11	24	TENNESSEE ORANGE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	17.602	+0.291	4768	72	9
11	12	48	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	16.965	+0.528	4446	111	11
12	13	43	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	14.402	+1.019	3866	219	14
13	15	12	NEXT THING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	14.385	+2.545	4090	571	12
14	14	18	MEMORY LANE Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	14.210	+1.107	4028	243	13
15	17	31	YOUR HEART OR MINE Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	9.703	+1.132	2926	220	17
16	16	35	HOW IT OUGHTA BE Harpeth 60/BMLG	Shane Profitt	9.493	-0.227	3138	-13	15
17	19	26	YOU, ME, & WHISKEY Valory ★★ Airpower ★★	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	9.485	+1.327	2839	365	19
18	24	16	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	8.542	+1.541	2622	330	21
19	22	14	ANGELS DON'T ALWAYS HAVE WINGS Valory	Thomas Rhett	8.475	+0.951	2572	216	23
20	18	58	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	8.430	+0.065	2985	65	16
21	21	36	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek	Parmalee	8.401	+0.618	2813	121	20
22	20	27	HATE MY HEART Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	8.383	+0.524	2857	207	18
23	27	6	LOVE YOU ANYWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	8.244	+2.651	2048	627	27
24	23	53	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	7.732	+0.230	2576	25	22
25	25	44	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Belting Bronco/WAR	Zach Bryan	6.396	-0.009	2275	78	24
26	26	14	DRINKABY Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	6.311	+0.665	2126	153	26
27	28	8	STANDING ROOM ONLY McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	5.604	+0.499	2141	189	25
28	29	16	LOOKING FOR YOU RCA Nashville	Chris Young	5.212	+0.710	1769	260	28
29	30	11	BURY ME IN GEORGIA Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	4.553	+0.603	1576	208	30
30	31	33	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	3.660	-0.075	1623	-35	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 © 2023, 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  
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	45	3	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	3.395	+1.759	792	407	43
32	35	16	GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	3.183	+0.594	1309	230	32
33	34	15	STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	2.956	+0.348	1178	80	33
34	33	22	WE GOT HISTORY Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	2.830	+0.216	1024	86	39
35	36	18	IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOING DOWN TOO) Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2.720	+0.206	1434	81	31
36	37	8	LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Ashley McBryde	2.609	+0.224	1028	13	38
37	32	5	FIRES DON'T START THEMSELVES Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	2.606	-0.638	803	-40	42
38	40	11	ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG	Chris Janson	2.468	+0.324	1140	75	34
39	38	26	HEAVEN BY THEN Valory Brantley Gilbert And Blake Shelton Featuring Vince Gill		2.357	+0.147	1048	33	37
40	39	25	IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD EMI Nashville	Kylie Morgan	2.158	-0.048	953	90	40
41	46	6	RELIGIOUSLY Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	2.036	+0.434	665	128	47
42	41	14	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine	Jackson Dean	1.970	+0.041	1062	60	36
43	43	36	WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley	1.957	+0.164	1082	78	35
44	42	23	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	1.923	+0.087	761	17	45
45	44	4	CREEK WILL RISE Valory ★★ Breaker ★★	Conner Smith	1.885	+0.160	926	117	41
46	50	13	23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	1.695	+0.225	743	67	46
47	49	4	NOBODY'S NOBODY EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	1.682	+0.147	763	81	44
48	47	28	OVER FOR YOU Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Morgan Evans	1.536	-0.010	578	9	49
49	48	6	5 LEAF CLOVER River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	1.292	-0.252	394	-115	52
50	51	8	GIVING UP ON THAT Mercury Nashville	Dalton Dover	1.158	+0.088	647	52	48
51	52	5	DRIVE YOU OUT OF MY MIND Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	0.984	+0.033	528	17	50
52	54	6	MARRY THAT GIRL Stone Country	Easton Corbin	0.745	-0.013	382	13	57
53	56	6	BOUT DAMN TIME Red Street	Neon Union	0.703	+0.068	460	34	51
54	55	4	SHOOT TEQUILA Monument	Tigirlily Gold	0.689	+0.032	390	20	54
55	53	17	FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH Bad Realm/Atlantic	BRELAND	0.668	-0.127	386	-19	56
56	57	2	A SPECIAL PLACE BMLG	Danielle Bradbery	0.589	+0.032	389	11	55
57	59	2	BE ALRIGHT Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	0.538	+0.028	390	21	53
58	NEW		THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Morgan Wallen	0.535	+0.096	138	17	-
59	RE-ENTRY		JEALOUS OF MYSELF Dreamcatcher	Tenille Arts & LeAnn Rimes	0.506	+0.023	366	34	58
60	58	4	'98 BRAVES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.492	-0.051	78	-16	-



Tenille Townes performed her gold-certified single "Somebody's Daughter" during an April 27 visit to the RIAA in Washington, D.C. From left: RIAA chairman/CEO Mitch Glazier, Shopkeeper Management day-to-day manager Crystal Dishmon, Townes, Sony Music Entertainment senior vp of public policy/government affairs Lisette Morton and RIAA COO Michele Ballantyne.



Willie Nelson (left) sang "Pancho and Lefty" with George Strait on April 29 in the opening show of the two-night Long Story Short: Willie Nelson 90 event at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

JOSHUA TIMMERMAN



# SONGWRITER'S NIGHT

5TH ANNUAL



## JUNE 4 6:00 PM

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Nell Maynard  
Chris Sligh  
Dakota Striplin



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[gildasclubmiddletn.org/songwriters-night](http://gildasclubmiddletn.org/songwriters-night)

Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee, is dedicated to providing support, education and hope to all people impacted by cancer, all at not cost to the community



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## NASHVILLE &amp; NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



JODY DOMINGUE

Jon Pardi (center) received a surprise invitation to join the Grand Ole Opry during his April 28 performance at the Stagecoach Festival in Indio, Calif. He's flanked by Opry executive producer Dan Rogers (left) and restaurateur Guy Fieri.

## HARD ROCK HANDOFF AT CMA FEST

The Country Music Association and the Boot Barn will pass the baton daily during CMA Fest with the return of an outdoor performance platform June 8-11.

The Hard Rock Stage, a small venue with large sonic impact, is returning to the festival, built temporarily on the Hard Rock Café's Lower Broadway entrance. The festival will feature daily performances at that locale from 10:15 a.m.-4:40 p.m. from new and developing acts, including **Harper Grace**, **Miko Marks**, **Chris Housman**, **Brooke Eden** and **Jordan Harvey**.

From 5 p.m.-10 p.m., entertainment marketing company Artistry Alliances takes over the venue's programming under a different stage name, the Boot Barn House at Hard Rock Café Nashville. Among the artists in the mix during that block are **Brian Kelley**, **Tenille Arts**, **David Nail** and **Hailey Whitters**.

That new programming wrinkle comes as CMA Fest talent announcements continue in the lead-up to the event. CMA unveiled new names for daytime stages at Walk of Fame Park and the Bridgestone Plaza, including **Ty Herndon**, **King Calaway**, **Greytan James**, **John Morgan** and **Andrew Jannakos**.

Additionally, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum slated several ancillary events, including a CMT Next Women of Country conversation and performance on June 9 with **Catie O'Ferman** and **MaRynn Taylor**, among others; a June 10 songwriter session featuring **Laura Veltz** ("Speechless," "The Bones"); and the June 10 screening of a 1990s TNN special, *Fan Fair Phenomenon*, with vintage appearances by **LeAnn Rimes**, **Kenny Chesney** and **Alan Jackson**.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

Reliant Talent hired human resources director **Sue Ann Cordell**. She arrives after working as WME assistant to the contemporary Christian music department co-head. Reach her [here](#) ... **Rachel Brittain** joined The Neal Agency as commercial and brand partnerships agent. She was previously a FlyteVu account manager. Reach her [here](#) ... Songwriter **Ashley Gorley**'s Tape Room Music promoted its three staff members: **Blain Rhodes** was boosted to president from GM, **Kelly Bolton** climbed to senior vp from vp of creative, and **Caroline Hodson** rose to manager of A&R from catalog manager ... Shore Fire Media promoted Nashville-based **Maria Eilert** to account executive from junior account exec ... **Brendan Rich** launched Rich MGMT after working as a Wide Open manager. Joining him is day-to-day coordinator **Sarah Paravia**, formerly a Wide Open day-to-day manager. Rich's initial clients include **Matt Stell**, **George Birge**, **Chris Bandi** and **Darren Kiely**. Reach him [here](#) ... QPrime teamed with manager **Aaron Frank** to create a new Nashville-based division, QPrime AF. Since 2017, he has run his own company, AMFM ... Washington, D.C.-based Artist Rights Alliance appointed **Jen Jacobsen** executive director. The music veteran was recently Kid Pan Alley executive director ... Fourward founder/CEO **Will Ward** established Fourward Ventures, a \$50 million venture capital fund ... Sony Music Publishing Nashville and Relative Music jointly signed **Cam Montgomery** to a publishing deal ... Singer-songwriter **Graham Barham** agreed to a joint publishing contract with Warner Chappell

and Cornman Music ... Singer-songwriter **Mary Kutter** joined the publishing roster at Reservoir Media ... SoNash Publishing signed **Emma Zinck** to a songwriting deal ... **Levi Hummon** established a management agreement with Jonas Group Entertainment and announced plans to renew his publishing deal with Reservoir Media ... Former *American Idol* competitor **Alex Lambert** signed a joint management agreement with Make Wake Artists and Deep Roots Management, and released his first EP, *Rebel Ways* ... **Jacob Jones** engaged PLA Media for PR ... *Shucked*, featuring an original score by **Shane McAnally** and **Brandy Clark**, received nine Tony nominations on May 2. The awards will be presented June 11 ... The late **Jeff Carson**'s name will be added to the National Peace Officers Memorial Service wall near the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on May 15 ... Nominees for the Americana Honors & Awards will be announced at 12:30 p.m. CT on May 9 ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum launched "Taylor Swift's Eras," an exhibit featuring 10 outfits tied to the singer's 10 albums, on May 1. It closes May 31 ... **Eric Church**'s Outsiders Spirits debuted a new whiskey, JYPSI, on May 2 ... The Grammy Museum Grant Program is accepting submissions for its 2023 awards through June 2. Go [here](#) for guidelines ... The Country Music Association set its schedule for this year's CMA Awards balloting. First-round voting is open July 5-14, the second round runs Aug. 2-16, and the final ballot is in play Oct. 2-27 ... Canadian folk artist **Gordon Lightfoot** died May 1 at age 84 in Toronto. He scored a pop-country crossover with his 1974 single "Sundown." He also achieved a handful of country hits as a songwriter in the '60s and early '70s, led by **Marty Robbins**' No. 1 1965 single "Ribbon of Darkness" ... Services will be held for **Claude Gray**, 91, at Lakeview Baptist Church in Longview, Texas, on May 6. Gray died April 28 in Skokie, Ill. Known as "the Tall Texan," he collected four top 10 singles during the '60s, most notably "Family Bible," a 1960 release penned by **Willie Nelson**. Go [here](#) for complete service details.

## RADIO &amp; RECORDS®

Big Loud welcomed senior vp of A&R **Sara Knabe** after a year as the founder of Cake Maker Music, a multiservice creative company. Reach her [here](#) ... Virgin Music Group signed country singer-songwriter-rapper **David Morris** to a recording contract in conjunction with Grey Area Music ... *Billboard* will begin counting combinations of merchandise and physical albums in its charts starting with the tracking week June 30-July 6. The charts stopped allowing bundled albums to count toward rankings three years ago, but is instituting specific criteria to limit abuses. Go [here](#) for specifics ... Beasley Media/Las Vegas appointed **Mike Cutchall** vp/market manager, following an interim period in the role. The five-station cluster includes country **KCYE** ... **Jodee Woods** joined the KUBL Salt Lake City morning show, RadioInsight.com reported. She previously worked the same shift at top 40 **WNDV** South Bend, Ind. ... **Jeff Cochran** was hired as Alpha/Fredericksburg, Va., operations manager and PD/afternoon host of country **WFLS**, according to RadioInsight.com. He segues from Townsquare/St. George, Utah, where he served as director of content for the seven-station group, including country **KCIN** ... **Carrie Underwood** will launch a SiriusXM channel, Carrie's Country, in June ... The Country Music Association is accepting submissions for the CMA Broadcast Awards through June 30 [here](#). 📍



Eric Church, Musicians Hall of Fame CEO Linda Chambers and outgoing Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp. CEO Butch Spyridon were inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame on May 5. From left: presenters Garth Brooks and ESPN reporter Marty Smith, Church, Chambers and Spyridon.



# billboard



2023

## COUNTRY POWER PLAYERS

*Billboard's tenth annual Country Power Players issue will profile the people who have driven another solid year for country music in sales, streaming and publishing. This special feature will highlight those who have had the greatest impact in the genre, including recorded music, live entertainment, publishing and more in the past year.*

**Advertise in *Billboard's* Country Power Players issue to congratulate this year's honorees while reaching key decision-makers who are driving the music business.**

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**ISSUE DATE 6/3 | AD CLOSE 5/23 | MATERIALS DUE 5/25**

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

# Everybody's Somebody: Brothers Osborne's 'Nobody's Nobody' Brings The Past Forward

Country music invariably draws on the past to create its present, and with **Brothers Osborne's** new single, "Nobody's Nobody," part of that past could be traced to an unlikely source: 1986 top 40 radio.

The track is built on a pulsing Wurlitzer piano figure that sounds a tad like a synthesizer, and that element could have easily fit back in the day alongside **Pet Shop Boys'** "West End Girls," **Level 42's** "Something About You" and **The Rolling Stones'** "Harlem Shuffle." The Osbornes' vocals, however, are decidedly 2023 country, creating a fresh sonic juxtaposition.

"Nobody's Nobody" "fits in pop radio in the same way that **Don Henley** would have fit on pop radio," says guitarist **John Osborne**. "There's still a big organic element to it. It's all organic instruments."

The upbeat music and humble message of "Nobody's Nobody" came together fairly organically last year, though it took a bit of effort to find the spark. Brothers Osborne had essentially recorded their next album, their first with producer **Mike Elizondo** (**Keith Urban**, **twenty one pilots**), but the duo decided to take an extra week to write new material in an attempt to beat the existing songs. On the first day, Sept. 26, they were joined at Elizondo's Phantom Studio in Gallatin, Tenn., by singer-songwriter **Kendell Marvel** ("Don't Think I Can't Love You," "Right Where I Need To Be"), and they chased down several ideas that were OK, but not quite inspiring. Marvel and the Osbornes stepped outside for a break, and while they cleared their minds, Elizondo stayed indoors, where he stumbled onto that pulsing Wurlitzer sound, essentially a string of watery, bubbling 16th notes.

"I had a delay pedal on it," he remembers. "It was kind of creating this certain rhythm, and when you play a chord, then the delay creates a rhythmic offshoot of it."

Meanwhile, the other three debated their options outdoors. Since things weren't really jelling, they could have easily called it a day. But Marvel mentioned a title he had thought about, "Nobody's Nobody." He wasn't entirely certain where to take it, but he envisioned it as something sad.

"I didn't hear it that way at all," says lead vocalist **T.J. Osborne**. "I actually heard it as, '[If] nobody's nobody, [then] everybody is somebody.' And then they were like, 'Oh shit, OK.'"

When they returned to the studio, that positive ideal seemed to match up well with Elizondo's propulsive keyboard bed, and they set to work with a new sense of purpose, developing "Nobody's Nobody" in perhaps 45 minutes.

The opening lines contrasted a hall of fame inductee against someone else whose stardom might be short-lived. But the next two lines level the playing field a bit: "Some people never ever make a name/But change the game in someone's story." **Beethoven's** mother exemplifies the thought: Most people know nothing about her, but it's a good bet that she had an effect on his enduring art.

"I think most people aren't meant to go down in the history books, but everyone has changed the trajectory of someone else's life," T.J. notes. "That is just a really simple line, but it speaks to me in such a way that just hits every time I hear it."

The individual phrases in that opening verse ended primarily with blue notes, providing just the right amount of angst and grit.

"Most American music has blues influence," says John. "It's almost impossible to not have some version of that because it's so intrinsically a part of

American culture and American roots. And it's also something that we love to sing and play. So it's just in our DNA."

The song's atmosphere changed subtly when they reached the chorus, which uses longer notes and a bed of harmonies while inserting that "everybody's somebody" sentiment. After celebrating a range of people — "sinner, saint or son of a gun" — they flipped to the "nobody's nobody" hook. And they tagged it with a slow-cooking "No, no, nobody" post-chorus that extends the hook into a bit of a mantra.

"I didn't want that to stop," T.J. says. "It just feels so good."

Elizondo built the demo, then played bass when they tracked the master version at Phantom with John on guitar, **Abe Laboriel Jr.** on drums and **Phil Towns** playing keyboards. They tried a number of different approaches they hadn't attempted on previous albums, starting with John layering more guitar parts into the fabric than in the past.

"As a guitar player, if you ask me to play more, I'm not going to say no," he quips.

He played some distinctive stabs in the chorus, with the sound intentionally washing out as the notes fade over Towns' pulsing keyboards. John also created an instrumental bridge for "Nobody's Nobody," a series of rising, dexterous patterns.

"One of my favorite bands of all time is **Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers**, and I didn't realize until I got further into playing guitar how important of a guitar player **Mike Campbell** is," says John. "When I listen to Mike Campbell, everything is so incredibly intentional and does as much service to the song as possible. And I always wanted to lean in that direction."

T.J.'s lead vocals embraced the song's inherent humility with appropriate understatement, completing each of his performances with admirable consistency.

"Once he's got it locked and programmed in his brain, he will give you three, four takes of each section — or top to bottom, depending on the process — and they will be nearly identical," Elizondo says.

The Osbornes handled the harmonies differently from past efforts. They stacked loads of vocals into the background, and T.J. contributed to the supporting voices with his brother for the first time. They sang the parts face-to-face on separate mics in the same room, with Elizondo encouraging them to keep building.

"I'm a student of all the greats you'd hear about, like [producer] **Roy Thomas Baker** doing all the **Queen** vocals with everybody on one mic," says Elizondo. "They would sing each note three or four times, and then they'd go to the next note and they just kept layering and layering."

Brothers Osborne's team, including EMI Nashville and QPrime South, was nearly unanimous in assessing "Nobody's Nobody" as the best first single from their next album, and the duo agreed. EMI released it to country radio via PlayMPE on April 6. It climbs to No. 47 after four weeks on the Country Airplay chart dated May 13.

"The subject matter really aligns with who we are and what we'd like to see in the world," John notes. "It's crazy right now, everyone's so divided. Everyone is just looking for a reason to hate another [person]. And for us to have a song that isn't just your typical life or love song — it has a positive message — it's just all the more reason for us to put this out first." ●





# billboard Country Airplay Index

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

**23** Chayce Beckham Publishing Designee, BMI (C. Beckham) **46**

**5 LEAF CLOVER** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Damn Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Family Farm Songs, BMI (L.Combs, J.L.Alexander, C.McGill) **49**

**'98 BRAVES** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Songs Of The Corn, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI (J.Byron, J.Miller, T.P.Wood) **60**

## A

**ALL I NEED IS YOU** Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkila Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Murphy The Wolf Music, BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP/KJM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Five Miles West Songs, BMI (C.Janson, B.Clawson, A.G.Gorley, Mitch Oglesby) **58**

**ANGELS DON'T ALWAYS HAVE WINGS** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Music Of Big Family, BMI/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Teddy Swims LLC, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Music Of MAM, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (Thomas Rhett, J.C.Bunetta, J.C.Dimsdale, J.Thompson) **19**

## B

**BE ALRIGHT** Endurance Juliet, SESAC/Sony, Lakeview, SESAC/Big Tail Guy Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/A Little Chutney Music, ASCAP/Family Stone Music, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Jamcastle Music Publishing, ASCAP/Chumba Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (J.Allen, J.G.Evigan, G.M.Stone, Castle) **57**

**BOUT DAMN TIME** We-Volve Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Georgia Song VibeZ, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/T Hubb Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI (H.Phelps, J.M.Schmidt, T.R.Hubbard, M.W.Hardy) **55**

**BROWN EYES BABY** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Music, BMI/Quivira Road Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP (W.L.Bundy, R.Clawson, J.Thompson, M.C.Wallen) **12**

**BURY ME IN GEORGIA** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Family Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Chorus 2 Music, SESAC/Blunts And Bonfires Music, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/McGinIntellectual Property, SESAC/True Blue Works, SESAC/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP (K.Brown, J.Hoge, M.McGinn, J.M.Schmidt) **29**

## C

**CAN'T HAVE MINE** Curb Songs, ASCAP/Curb Congregation Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/EbchEntertainmentFam, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (D.Scott, M.Alderman, J.Melton, D.Wilson) **30**

**CREEK WILL RISE** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Home Team Harmonies, BMI/South Lick Creek Songs, BMI/Songs Of Miller Crow, BMI/Isles By Trailerparker, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI (C.McGill, C.Smith, C-La Corte, P.Weiling) **45**

## D

**DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY** T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/MAROMA Music, BMI (T.R.Hubbard, R.Copperman, J.M.Nite, K.Urban) **4**

**DRINKABY** Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/Rednecker Music, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (H.Phelps, J.Pardi, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **26**

**DRIVE YOU OUT OF MY MIND** Wolf Shirt Publishing, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Todd Sherman Clark, SOCAN (K.Aston, T.P.Wood, T.S.Clark) **51**

## E

**EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Pioasus, ASCAP/Locked Hat Music, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (H.Whittets, B.Simpson, R.Tyndell) **24**

## F

**FAST CAR** Purple Rabbit Music, ASCAP (T.L.Chapman) **51**

**FEARLESS (THE ECHO)** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emleon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick, J.Sherwood) **42**

## FIRES DON'T START THEMSELVES

Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Slip, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Southern Boy Songs Worldwide, BMI/Jacob Rice Publishing, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (B.Hayslip, J.Rice, D.Jisbell) **37**

**FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH** Pen Point Guard Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, 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.Black, J.R.Durrett, G.James) **55**

## G

**GIRL IN MINE** 33 Creative, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/IM Thomas Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppo's Picks, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Track & Reels Publishing, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Reels Publishing, SESAC/Songs By Slip Joint, BMI (D.Fanning, M.Thomas, A.G.Gorley, T.P.Wood, C.Brown) **21**

**GIVING UP ON THAT** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/DropTime Music, BMI/Whiskey Dixie Music Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP (D.Dover, A.Craig, J.Pierce) **50**

**GOD GAVE ME A GIRL** Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Foxwood Entertainment Group Music Division, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP (R.Dickerson, A.G.Gorley, C.McGill, Z.Crowell) **32**

**GOLD** EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Emleon 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) **5**

**GOOD DAY FOR LIVING** Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Vestfesta, BMI/Mason Gannon Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Revelry Music, BMI (D.Cohen, B.Hamrick, N.Mason) **20**

## H

**HANDLE ON YOU** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Spirit Nashville One Crescendo, ASCAP/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI (P.McCollum, M.Criswell) **2**

**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) **22**

**HEAVEN BY THEN** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Indiana Angel Music, BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Wake And Jake Music, BMI/Big Digger Songs, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, J.Mitchell, R.Montana, H.Phelps, T.Phillips) **59**

**HOW IT OUGHTA BE** Anthem Music Publishing 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.Proffitt, D.Fraser, Mitch Oglesby) **16**

**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) **11**

## I

**IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD** Songs Of Smack Blue, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Bad Angel Entertainment, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI (K.Morgan, Z.Holup, B.J.Johnson) **40**

**IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOING DOWN TOO)** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Music Of Big Family, BMI/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Smackwood Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR (K.Ballerini, J.C.Bunetta, S.McAnally) **35**

**IT MATTERS TO HER** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs With Words That Rhyme With Truck, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Brocephus Music, BMI (S.C.McCreery, L.T.Miller, R.Akins) **8**

## J

**JEALOUS OF MYSELF** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI (E.L.Weisband, J.Byron, T.Rosen) **59**

## L

**LAST NIGHT** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppo's Picks, ASCAP/Rap Kingpin Music, ASCAP/Prescription Music, ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, J.R.Hindlin, Charlie Handsome) **1**

**LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN** Canned Biscuit Songs, BMI/Damn Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Trippe Rae Creative Inc, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.McBryde, R.Harrington, J.L.Alexander) **36**

**LOOKING FOR YOU** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sir Reginald The Fifth, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Monsters Hate Puppies Publishing, ASCAP/Young Man Publishing, BMI/WeisDwl, ASCAP (C.Young, C.DeStefano, J.McNair, E.L.Weisband) **28**

**LOVE YOU ANYWAY** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Keep Choppin Publishing, BMI/Exit 185 Songs, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (L.Combs, R.Fulcher, D.Jisbell) **25**

## M

**MARRY THAT GIRL** Lottievillie Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/No Man Can Eat 50 Eggs Music, BMI/Cowboy Revival Music, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Cactus Town Music, BMI (E.Cordin, A.Craig, S.Minor, W.Kirby) **52**

**MEMORY LANE** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pie Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, B.T.Jursi, J.J.Dillon) **14**

**MIND ON YOU** Whiskey Side, ASCAP/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlow Sinclair Songs, SESAC/MTNoize, SESAC/Average 215 Music Publishing, BMI (G.Girge, J.Boyer, N.Tyler, Colt Ford) **44**

## N

**NEED A FAVOR** Austin Nivare Publishing, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Rop Ragosta Publishing Designee, BMI/Balle'e's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI (A.A.Nivare, J.Ragosta, R.Ragosta, J.B.DeFord) **18**

**NEXT THING YOU KNOW** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Hang On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackwood Music, ASCAP/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP (G.James, J.Osborne, C.McGill, D.Janis) **13**

**NOBODY'S NOBODY** Trampy McCauley, ASCAP/All The Kings Pens, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Stonestep Publishing, ASCAP/Simma Da Na Music, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Marvel Madness Music, BMI (J.Osborne, T.J.Osborne, M.A.Elzondo, Jr, K.Marvel) **47**

## O

**ONE THING AT A TIME** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, A.G.Gorley, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **9**

**OVER FOR YOU** Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/LiveMadLove, ASCAP/SongsByME, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Toni Sommers Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (G.Warburton, M.E.Love, M.Evans, T.Sommers) **48**

## R

**RELIGIOUSLY** Alexander Palmer Songs, BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Cuts Of Reach Music, ASCAP/I Art Creations, BMI/Jesse Jave Music, ASCAP/Mighty Oak Music Co., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI (A.Palmer, A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, F.Romano, Marty James) **41**

**ROCK AND A HARD PLACE** Songs In The Key Of Black, BMI/Tvill Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Music, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI (H.Warren, J.Hackworth, J.Harvey) **3**

## S

**SHOOT TEQUILA** Songs Of Smack Blue, BMI/Lily Lyrics Publishing, BMI/Sleighbells Ring Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Tentative Music, Inc., BMI/Round Hill Lyrics, BMI/Meson David Asher, BMI/MESSY INTERNATIONAL, BMI (K.J.Slaubaugh, K.J.Slaubaugh, K.Griffin, D.Meson) **54**

**SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE** Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (L.Bryan) **25**

**A SPECIAL PLACE** Mod Junkie, BMI/Susan Perb Publishing, BMI/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Herbes And Haisos Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/IRKS, ASCAP/Music Magic, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (S.McAnally, M.Morris, J.Robbins, Sasha Ale Sloan) **56**

**STANDING ROOM ONLY** Amped 11 Publishing, BMI/Tommy Cecil Publishing Designee, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS IV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Red Toe Rocker, ASCAP (T.Cecil, P.Murphy, C.Wiseman) **27**

**STARS LIKE CONFETTI** Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Music Of MAM, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Kyler's Kinda Night, ASCAP/Miller Crow Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (J.Thompson, Thomas Rhett, Z.Crowell) **33**

## T

**TENNESSEE ORANGE** Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Bone Bore Creative, BMI/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.Moroney, D.Fanning, P.Jenkins, B.Williams) **10**

**THINKIN' BOUT ME** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, Charlie Handsome) **58**

## W

**WE GOT HISTORY** Sony Countryside, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tackbox Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/TDP The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP (M.Tenpenny, A.Aldert, D.Dawson, J.M.Schmidt) **34**

**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/Sonorogroceries Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, Brett Tyler, K.Archer) **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/Smackwood Music, ASCAP (S.McAnally, R.Copperman, J.Osborne) **43**

## Y

**YOU** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/Buckeye26, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/JeynnMusic, ASCAP/Lawmyrangers, ASCAP (D.Smyers, D.M.Barnes, J.Reynolds) **7**

**YOU, ME, & WHISKEY** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Anthem Coal Mining Songs, ASCAP/Randolph County Music, ASCAP/Taylor Made By The Red White And Blue, ASCAP (J.L.Alexander, B.Berryhill, C.Taylor) **17**

**YOUR HEART OR MINE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Honkytonkatonic Music Publishing, BMI/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Phat Racon, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP (B.Butter, J.Ebach, J.Pierce) **15**



C

# 45 Years Ago Dolly Parton Was 'Alright,' And No. 1

In 1978, the legend notched her eighth Hot Country Songs leader

On May 6, 1978, **Dolly Parton's** "It's All Wrong, But It's Alright" began a two-week reign on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. It became her eighth of 25 No. 1s, the most among women.

Parton wrote the song, and **Gary Klein** produced it. It was released as the second single from Parton's *Here You Come Again*, which became her second of eight No. 1s on Top Country Albums. The title track topped Hot Country Songs for five frames.

Parton was born in Sevier County, Tenn., on Jan. 19, 1946. The icon is widely known for her

infectious personality, unique vocal stylings, songwriting, acting and rousing live performances. Her legendary career led to her induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame last November. She has been a member of the Grand Ole Opry since 1969.

On May 11, Parton will co-host the 2023 Academy of Country Music Awards at the Ford Center in Frisco, Texas, with fellow superstar **Garth Brooks**. The event will livestream on Amazon Prime Video at 8 p.m. ET.

—JIM ASKER

Parton in 1978  
in Los Angeles.

REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS

★	3	8	IT'S ALL WRONG, BUT IT'S ALRIGHT/ TWO DOORS DOWN—Dolly Parton (D. Parton), RCA 11240 (Velvet, BMI)
★	4	9	SHE CAN PUT HER SHOES UNDER MY BED (ANYTIME)—Johnny Duncan (A. Schroeder, B. Halley), Columbia 3-10694 (Dandy Dittys Unlimited, ASCAP/Super Songs Unlimited, BMI)
3	2	12	HEARTS ON FIRE—Eddie Rabbitt (E. Rabbitt, E. Stevens, D. Tyler), Elektra 45461 (Briarpatch/Deb Dave, BMI)
★	5	8	I'M ALWAYS ON A MOUNTAIN WHEN I FALL—Merle Haggard (C. Howard), MCA 40869 (ATV/Shade Tree, BMI)
5	1	12	EVERYTIME TWO FOOLS COLLIDE—Kenny Rogers & Dottie West (J. Dyer, J. Tweel), United Artists 1137 (United Artists, ASCAP/Window, BMI)

