

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## 'White Horse' Is No Trojan Horse — These Are The 'Glory Days' For Familiar Song Titles

When **Dolly Parton** debuted her latest single, “World on Fire,” during the Academy of Country Music Awards on May 11, **Nate Smith** was aghast.

RCA Nashville was set to release his single with the same name to radio four days later.

“What are the odds of that?” Smith asks. “That’s crazy to me.”

The odds of two different songs with the same title being worked to the marketplace at the same time are not that large, though the likelihood that a title has been used before is pretty good:

• **Chris Stapleton**’s “White Horse,” the top debut on the current Country Airplay chart, uses the same two-word moniker as a 2008 **Taylor Swift** single and a 1984 pop single by **Laid Back**.

• **Gabby Barrett**’s “Glory Days” shares its name with a **Bruce Springsteen** classic and a recent **Chapel Hart** single.

• **Parker McCollum**’s “Burn It Down” (see Makin’ Tracks, page 10) mirrors the title of a 2012 **Linkin Park** single that topped Hot Rock & Alternative Songs. **Jason Aldean** also

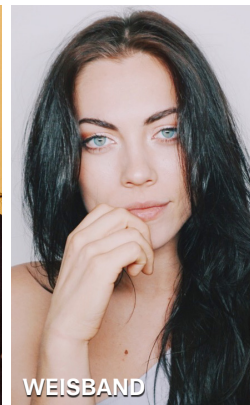
launched a Burn It Down Tour behind the similarly titled “Burnin’ It Down,” and back in the ’90s, **Marty Stuart**’s “Burn Me Down” and **Clint Black**’s “Burn One Down” were fairly close.



SMITH



LINDSEY



WEISBAND

• Meanwhile, the July 26 death of **Sinéad O’Connor**, best known for “Nothing Compares 2 U,” occurred just nine days after the release of **Mickey Guyton**’s properly spelled “Nothing Compares to You,” featuring **Kane Brown**.

Using the same title isn’t a sin, as “Glory Days” co-

writer **Seth Mosley** discovered early in his career. His first hit was **The Newsboys**’ “Born Again,” which peaked at No. 2 on the Christian chart in 2010. It came a year after **Third Day** reached No. 3 with its own take on “Born Again.”

“You can write the same title five different ways,” says “Glory Days” co-writer **Emily Weisband**.

Actually, five is a low number. There are nearly 300 songs with the name “Glory Days” in the Songview database, an online catalog of titles represented by performing rights agencies

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BMI and/or ASCAP. The index also features over 330 songs named “World on Fire,” more than 650 called “Burn It Down” and more than 50 titled “Nothing Compares to You.” **Morgan Wallen’s** “Last Night,” in fact, is one of at least 1,000 songs with that moniker.

“I guess if everybody else has been trying to do it, maybe we were on to something,” “Burn It Down” co-writer **Hillary Lindsey** reasons.

Whether or not a title has been written before hinges in great part on the familiarity of the phrase. Songwriters tend to lean toward songs that feature common language. Thus, the everyday phrase “Change of Heart” — associated with hits by **The Judds**, **Cyndi Lauper**, **Tom Petty** and **Eric Carmen** — appears nearly 800 times in Songview, while the **Joe Nichols** semi-novelty “Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off” is the only song with that title.

The age of existing hits with a particular title can influence whether a phrase gets reused. Springsteen’s version of “Glory Days,” for example, was a hit in 1985, a full 15 years before Barrett was born. When the title came up in the writing room, she didn’t know about the Boss’ version, and nobody told her about it, either. The live-in-the-moment plot she and her co-writers developed is distinctly different from Springsteen’s nostalgic take on it.

Similarly, the writers on **Carrie Underwood’s** “Dirty Laundry” had little or no awareness of **Don Henley’s** 1982 anti-media take on that title. And **Old Dominion’s** current “Memory Lane,” a title that appears more than 900 times in the Songview database, has not been a top 20 title since **Paul Whiteman’s Pennsylvanians** took it to No. 1 in 1924. And **Brothers Osborne’s** first top 10 single, 2015’s “Stay a Little Longer,” came 70 years after **Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys** recorded a Western swing hit with the same name.

“Shit, if you know the Bob Wills song, then more power to you,” **T.J. Osborne** said at the time.

Still, standard titles — such as “Georgia on My Mind,” “I Will Always Love You” or “Your Cheatin’ Heart” — are mostly out of bounds.

“There are some that when you hear it, you would never touch it or you look like assholes, like ‘Yesterday,’” says “Burn It Down” co-writer **Liz Rose**.

Titles and basic ideas cannot be copyrighted — it would be unrealistic to ask writers to avoid “Without You” (a hit for **Badfinger**, **Keith Urban** and **Dixie Chicks**) as a title, or to not address a widely familiar topic such as heartbreak, simply because those subjects had been broached before.

It would also be difficult to referee disputes when more than one version of a title emerges at the same time. When “Day Drinking,” for example, became a hit for **Little Big Town** in 2014, it was one of several songs with that title that had circulated around Music Row simultaneously. That sometimes happens when specific themes become popular and multiple songwriters attempt to capitalize on the trend. It could, however, derive from something deeper.

“Some people say that being creative, it’s just out there in the universe, and you have to just be open to it to let it flow through you,” Lindsey notes. “I believe in all that stuff. I haven’t dove all the way into all that stuff, but I believe it.”

That title, “I Believe It,” has already been written more than 150 times, and it has yet to become a hit. ●



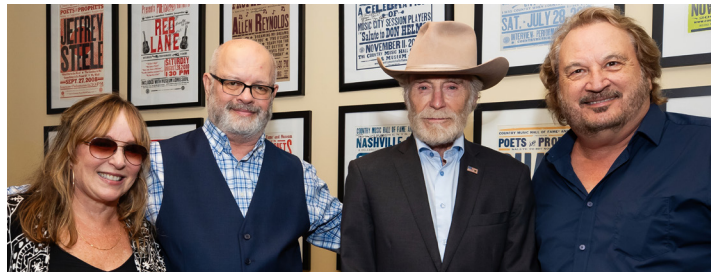
WFUS TAMPA

Monument duo Tigirlily Gold stopped by WFUS Tampa, Fla., on July 18 during the act’s radio promotion tour. From left: WFUS music director Sarah Jacobs, duo members Kendra and Krista Slaubaugh, and WFUS PD Ashley Morrison.



NBC

Curb artist Harper Grace performed “Oh Say Can You See” during the July 24 edition of NBC’s *Today With Hoda & Jenna*. From left: *Today* co-host Jenna Bush Hager, Grace, *Today* co-host Hoda Kotb and Grace’s mother, Kellie Gruzins.



COURTESY OF THE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Singer-songwriter J.D. Souther was featured in a public interview on July 24 in the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum’s *Poets and Prophets* series. From left: songwriter Gretchen Peters, senior museum writer/editor Michael McCall, Souther and songwriter Gary Burr.

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## 'LICENSE' PARKS AT NO. 1

Sony Music Publishing pulls into No. 1 on the Hot 100 ranking while UMPG takes its spot at Top Radio Airplay

BY ED CHRISTMAN

**SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING CAME IN AT NO. 1 ON THE** Hot 100 Songs publishers ranking for the period from January to March, but the company was dethroned by Universal Music Publishing Group on Top Radio Airplay when it is considered a quarter split.

Olivia Rodrigo's "drivers license" dominated Hot 100 Songs, and she and co-writer Daniel "Dan" Levonian (who also did the hit's songwriting) landed Sony representatives both of them. On Top Radio Airplay, 246Gabe's "Mood" (featuring Justin Bieber) remained at No. 1 (UMPG and Kobalt control stakes in the song). Nicki Minaj's "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)" was the No. 1 writer on Top Radio Airplay, with stakes in her songs: the late Blake Shelton's "Montero" (No. 10), Justin Bieber & Benny Blanco's "Lonely" (No. 10), and Justin Bieber's "Peaches" (No. 10).

Sony had led Hot 100 Songs in seven quarters out of the chart's nine-quarter history, and had a stake in 59 songs with a 23.56% market share (up from 54 songs last season from 24.02% last quarter). It ranked second on Top Radio Airplay with 51 songs, including Chris Brown and Young Thug's "Yes Crazy" (No. 10).

UMPG's Top Radio Airplay lead reflects its increased market share (22.06%, up from 20.06%), but down to 65 songs from 88. On Hot 100 Songs, where the publisher ranked second, it earned a 22.44% market share with 58 songs (up from 20.20% and 50 songs), including The Weeknd's "Blinding Lights" (No. 1).

Market share calculations on both charts could change — but not enough to alter the rankings — because both Sony and UMPG are disputing the shares that the Harry Fox Agency assigned for Brown and Young Thug's "Yes Crazy." Publishers of earlier on that song have claimed over 50% of it, and when that happens, HFA assigns a pro-rata share to each publisher until the matter is resolved. If Sony and UMPG have the stakes in the songs that they claim, as reported to what HFA assigned, their shares could increase by 40 to 70 percentage points, although it's not clear which publishers would lose shares.

On both Hot 100 Songs and Top Radio Airplay, No. 3 is dominated the same as the previous quarter: Universal (Warner Chappell Music) and BMG, respectively. Universal retained its 18.26% market share on Top Radio Airplay (from 16.73%) and 16.96% on Hot 100 Songs (from 16.27%). Warner Chappell's share grew on both charts, reaching 10.02% on Top Radio Airplay (from 9.55%) and 10.71% on Hot 100 Songs (from 10.25%). And BMG climbed to 7.41% on Top Radio Airplay (from 6.27%) and 6.46% on Hot 100 Songs (from 5.91%).

On Hot 100 Songs, Round Hill Music came in at No. 6 (1.41%), down from No. 7 (1.65%). Pulse Music Group at No. 4 (3.02%), Big Machine Music at No. 9 (1.92%) and Downtown Music Publishing — which sold the song copyrights it owned for Concord on April 28 — at No. 10 (1.92%).

On Hot 100 Songs, Round Hill Music ranked No. 6 (1.24%), down from No. 7 (1.08%), the Hipgnosis-owned Big Deal/Warner & Music No. 11 (0.92%) and Big Machine Music No. 12 (0.92%). ST Music, also known as Songtrust, made its publisher ranking debut at No. 10 with a 0.77% share.

**TOP RADIO AIRPLAY: PUBLISHERS\***

RANK	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	"Mood"	246Gabe, Justin Bieber	REPUBLIC/UMG
2	"Blinding Lights"	The Weeknd	ISO/Republic
3	"Mood"	246Gabe, Justin Bieber	REPUBLIC/UMG
4	"Yes Crazy"	Chris Brown and Young Thug	300TBE/UMG
5	"Lonely"	Justin Bieber	REPUBLIC
6	"Peaches"	Justin Bieber, Daniel Caesar, Justin Bieber	REPUBLIC/UMG
7	"Blinding Lights"	The Weeknd	ISO/Republic
8	"Montero"	Nicki Minaj	REPUBLIC
9	"Montero"	Nicki Minaj	REPUBLIC
10	"Yes Crazy"	Chris Brown and Young Thug	300TBE/UMG

**HOT 100 SONGS: PUBLISHERS\***

RANK	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	"drivers license"	Olivia Rodrigo	REPUBLIC/UMG
2	"Blinding Lights"	The Weeknd	ISO/Republic
3	"Mood"	246Gabe, Justin Bieber	REPUBLIC/UMG
4	"Yes Crazy"	Chris Brown and Young Thug	300TBE/UMG
5	"Lonely"	Justin Bieber	REPUBLIC
6	"Peaches"	Justin Bieber, Daniel Caesar, Justin Bieber	REPUBLIC/UMG
7	"Blinding Lights"	The Weeknd	ISO/Republic
8	"Montero"	Nicki Minaj	REPUBLIC
9	"Montero"	Nicki Minaj	REPUBLIC
10	"Yes Crazy"	Chris Brown and Young Thug	300TBE/UMG

\*WARNER CHAPPELL MUSIC: MARCO MICHAEL LEONARDI (HEAD OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT); HIPGNOSIS SONGS: DEBBIE CATALANO (VP, SONGWRITER PROFILES); ANDREW WALT

# billboard Country Airplay

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

## Radio Reacts To Jason Aldean's 'Try That In A Small Town'

Since CMT pulled the video for Jason Aldean's "Try That in a Small Town" (Macon/Broken Bow) after three days in rotation, as *Billboard* reported on July 18, a firestorm of publicity about the song's intent and political messaging has followed.

Sales and streaming surges catapulted the single to No. 2 on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100 and No. 1 on the Hot Country Songs chart, dated July 29. The song, released in May, scored the biggest sales week for a country track in over 10 years, rising 27,625% to 228,000 sold July 14-20, according to Luminate. It also vaulted by 547% to 11.6 million U.S. streams.

How is that activity translating to country radio?

On the Aug. 5-dated Country Airplay chart, "Try That in a Small Town" sports a 21% gain to 7.9 million impressions July 21-27 as it holds at No. 25.

Says consultant Joel Raab, who advises programmers in both blue and red states, "Stations that I work with are largely sticking with the song. Listeners are asking for it, and there are very few objections to playing it. One station I work with did pull it for a short time because a policeman had been killed in their town. Another station was doing a country fair and one listener hadn't even heard the song, but said he'd stop listening if his station didn't play it."

"Much of the reaction is similar to what happened when Morgan Wallen was banned from radio [in 2021]," Raab continues. "Fans are afraid Jason will be banned, too. That's not going to happen, though I do applaud him for editing his video."

"This song reminds me of when Merle Haggard sang 'The Fightin' Side of Me,' which appealed to the pro-Vietnam War, conservative-leaning part of the country and contains the line, 'If you don't love it, leave it.' It was a huge hit at the time. Historically, country has waded into controversy, and it will again, particularly if it's profitable." ●



## MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	+9.547
NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+2.213
YOU, ME, & WHISKEY inDent/Valory/Mercury Nashville	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	+1.705
BURY ME IN GEORGIA Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.592
BUT I GOT A BEER IN MY HAND Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+1.399
TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.387
EVERYTHING I LOVE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.047
LOVE YOU ANYWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+1.035
WATERMELON MOONSHINE Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+0.797
PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	+0.701

## MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	+2122
NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+432
YOU, ME, & WHISKEY inDent/Valory/Mercury Nashville	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	+400
BURY ME IN GEORGIA Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+383
BUT I GOT A BEER IN MY HAND Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+358
LOVE YOU ANYWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+333
EVERYTHING I LOVE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+295
TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+260
GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+225
PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	+222

## RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	19.596
2	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	15.326
3	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	14.639
4	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	11.725
5	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	11.171
6	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	10.981
7	MEMORY LANE Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	9.168
8	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	8.828
9	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	8.452
10	IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	7.331



# TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JULY 27, 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	2	15	DRINKING GAMES (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	David Adam Byrnes	2008	148	11	1	22	CAN'T STAND LEAVIN' (Independent)	Adam Hood	1364	-540
2	3	16	STONED (Independent)	Case Hardin	1624	12	12	11	14	AGAIN (Independent)	Cody Canada & The Departed	1327	-9
3	4	15	ME WHEN I DRINK (Independent)	Kyle Park	1560	7	13	14	15	NAME ON IT (Independent)	Jake Bush	1162	81
4	6	11	TENNESSEE DRINKIN' (Independent)	William Beckmann	1464	62	14	17	19	PEDAL STEEL (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1035	146
5	5	21	SIX PACK STATE OF MIND (Independent)	Grant Gilbert f/ Josh Abbott	1453	23	15	22	5	HELL OF A LIFE (Deep Frey'd Music)	Kylie Frey	914	128
6	8	13	SEVEN YEAR ACHE (Independent)	Aaron Watson f/Jenna Paulette	1442	64	16	15	22	FIRST TIME (Independent)	Jon Stork	889	-176
7	9	17	INFINITE LINE (Independent)	The Great Divide	1432	70	17	27	5	HELLO HIGHWAY (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	886	221
8	10	19	LABEL (Independent)	Ariel Hutchins	1409	68	18	19	11	COME BACK TO BED (10X Music Group)	Love & Chaos	880	57
9	13	8	WE AIN'T THE ONLY ONES (Independent)	Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1382	119	19	20	16	BROKE DOWN (Independent)	Kendall Shaffer	876	61
10	7	12	MEAN OLD SUN (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	1365	-31	20	12	17	MORE THAN FRIENDS (Independent)	Lukas Nelson + POTR feat Lainey Wilson	874	-407

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 2023, Texas Regional Radio Report

# billboard Country 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	1	15	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	★★ No. 1 (5 Weeks) ★★	Luke Combs	33.767	-1.004	8239	-461	1
2	3	28	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek		Jelly Roll	32.690	+2.213	8204	432	2
3	2	23	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Morgan Wallen	30.142	-1.483	7230	-284	3
4	6	38	YOU, ME, & WHISKEY inDent/Valory/Mercury Nashville		Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	26.594	+1.705	7003	400	4
5	4	24	NEXT THING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville		Jordan Davis	25.930	-0.666	6282	-159	5
6	5	35	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville		Tyler Hubbard	24.126	-1.784	5343	-320	9
7	9	23	BURY ME IN GEORGIA Zone 4/RCA Nashville		Kane Brown	22.187	+1.592	5867	383	7
8	8	18	LOVE YOU ANYWAY River House/Columbia Nashville		Luke Combs	22.140	+1.035	6031	333	6
9	7	43	YOUR HEART OR MINE Capitol Nashville		Jon Pardi	21.339	+0.108	5786	13	8
10	10	26	ANGELS DON'T ALWAYS HAVE WINGS Valory		Thomas Rhett	18.284	+0.625	4829	153	10
11	11	18	RELIGIOUSLY Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA		Bailey Zimmerman	16.376	+0.406	4342	149	11
12	12	48	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek		Parmalee	15.371	+0.639	4291	66	12
13	15	12	BUT I GOT A BEER IN MY HAND Row Crop/Capitol Nashville		Luke Bryan	13.244	+1.399	3730	358	15
14	13	28	LOOKING FOR YOU RCA Nashville		Chris Young	13.199	+0.179	3807	21	14
15	14	26	DRINKABY Warner Music Nashville/WMN		Cole Swindell	12.943	+0.036	3818	29	13
16	16	20	STANDING ROOM ONLY McGraw/Big Machine		Tim McGraw	12.230	+0.488	3574	15	16
17	17	6	EVERYTHING I LOVE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	★★ Airpower ★★	Morgan Wallen	11.947	+1.047	3026	295	20
18	18	10	WATERMELON MOONSHINE Broken Bow		Lainey Wilson	11.049	+0.797	3188	205	17
19	20	28	GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Triple Tigers		Russell Dickerson	10.756	+0.646	3173	225	18
20	19	65	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud		Hailey Whitters	9.867	-0.294	3170	-53	19
21	NEW		WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★	Chris Stapleton	9.551	+9.547	2123	2122	26
22	22	45	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb		Dylan Scott	9.147	+0.351	2913	33	22
23	23	30	IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOING DOWNTOO) Black River		Kelsea Ballerini	8.647	+0.132	3002	13	21
24	24	27	STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow		Dustin Lynch	8.381	+0.512	2716	199	23
25	25	10	TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow		Jason Aldean	7.928	+1.387	2210	260	25
26	26	23	ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG		Chris Janson	5.951	+0.203	2279	28	24
27	27	34	WE GOT HISTORY Riser House/Columbia Nashville		Mitchell Tenpenny	5.729	+0.060	1827	32	28
28	28	20	LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN Warner Music Nashville/WMN		Ashley McBryde	5.145	-0.140	1969	-11	27
29	29	35	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville		George Birge	4.460	+0.470	1621	26	31
30	30	16	NOBODY'S NOBODY EMI Nashville		Brothers Osborne	4.199	+0.303	1679	92	30

## 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.



# billboard Country 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	21	2	SAVE ME THE TROUBLE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	3.741	-6.335	1258	-1050	35
32	32	25	19/BMG/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	3.720	+0.001	1466	6	33
33	31	16	CREEK WILL RISE Valory	Conner Smith	3.708	-0.130	1688	17	29
34	35	7	GLORY DAYS Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	3.328	+0.108	1293	103	34
35	33	12	DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG	Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	3.231	-0.308	1212	-90	36
36	34	26	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine	Jackson Dean	3.220	-0.041	1532	3	32
37	37	9	SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER Nashville South/Big Machine	Brian Kelley	3.047	+0.445	1192	164	37
38	41	8	OUT OF THAT TRUCK Capitol Nashville <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Carrie Underwood	2.778	+0.500	846	119	42
39	36	17	FIRES DON'T START THEMSELVES Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	2.670	-0.197	955	-28	38
40	40	12	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	2.595	+0.162	670	60	47
41	38	6	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine	Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	2.409	-0.120	870	-11	41
42	39	11	TRUCK BED Big Loud	HARDY	2.314	-0.198	925	-40	39
43	42	7	WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	2.228	+0.086	882	52	40
44	48	3	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	2.191	+0.701	644	222	49
45	43	8	BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	2.041	+0.104	710	53	45
46	44	9	ON THE BOAT AGAIN Big Loud	Jake Owen	2.037	+0.200	694	31	46
47	45	17	DRIVE YOU OUT OF MY MIND Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	1.847	+0.157	779	37	44
48	47	20	GIVING UP ON THAT Mercury Nashville	Dalton Dover	1.616	-0.002	789	-17	43
49	49	9	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	1.287	-0.133	346	-40	59
50	52	16	SHOOT TEQUILA Monument	Tigritily Gold	1.197	+0.175	610	49	50
51	50	11	SOMEBODY ELSE'S WHISKEY Stoney Creek	Frank Ray	1.183	+0.055	647	14	48
52	53	11	BAD DAY TO BE A COLD BEER Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	Chase Rice	1.010	+0.022	552	40	51
53	51	18	MARRY THAT GIRL Stone Country	Easton Corbin	0.961	-0.109	536	-17	52
54	NEW		OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	0.840	+0.840	349	349	58
55	55	2	BUY A BAR Curb	Tim Dugger	0.796	+0.053	276	-9	-
56	57	3	DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	0.738	+0.055	406	50	53
57	56	12	IF I DIE YOUNG PT. 2 RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Kimberly Perry	0.677	-0.050	351	-33	57
58	58	9	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Chase Matthew	0.668	-0.012	362	14	55
59	60	4	SAVE THE ROSES Curb	Lee Brice	0.649	+0.062	263	24	-
60	NEW		SOMETHING REAL Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	0.648	+0.065	340	25	60



Carrie Underwood performed July 22 during the Iowa IndyCar Weekend in Newton, Iowa, where Meyer Shank Racing displayed the logo of her SiriusXM channel, Carrie's Country, on one of its cars. From left: driver Conor Daly, Underwood and driver Helio Castroneves.



Jelly Roll (right) spent time backstage with fellow artist Alex Miller on July 21 during the Porter County Fair in Valparaiso, Ind.

SIRIUS XM

# billboard

# 20

# SOUNDEXCHANGE

## TWENTY YEARS OF INNOVATION

2023

# SOUNDEXCHANGE

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

SoundExchange sits at the center of the business of music, providing products and services to its 650,000+ global community of artists, labels, and publishers, enabling digital service providers to meet their obligations and advocating for creators to get paid fairly for their work.

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ISSUE DATE 8/26 | AD CLOSE 8/15 | MATERIALS DUE 8/17

NASHVILLE &amp; NATIONAL TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com



Adam Doleac (left) visited with Boston Red Sox third baseman Justin Turner on July 23 at Fenway Park, where the Sox defeated the visiting New York Mets.

## MCGRAW MAKES ROOM FOR SPRING TOUR

**Tim McGraw** remains in good standing with country fans and expects to be standing tall when spring arrives.

The country superstar announced the Standing Room Only Tour 2024 on July 28 with **Carly Pearce** on tap as the opening act. The performances will launch with three Florida shows — in Jacksonville, Tampa and Orlando — during the weekend of March 14-16 and will close out June 27 at the Footprint Center in Phoenix. The calendar includes high-profile stops at Chicago's United Center on May 31 and Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center on June 20, plus a hometown date at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena on April 25.

The tour takes its name from McGraw's current single, "Standing Room Only," positioned at No. 16 in its 20th week on the Country Airplay chart (see page 5). The track is also the title cut for his next album, due Aug. 25.

McGraw teased next year's concert run during a July 24 preview show at Los Angeles' historic Whisky a Go Go, providing a standing-room-only setting to help roll out the news. The show included a surprise appearance by **Richard Marx**, who shared the stage with McGraw for a version of his biting 1987 debut, "Don't Mean Nothing."

## RADIO & RECORDS®

Big Machine Label Group promoted **Liz Meade** to senior manager of communications from manager. Reach her [here](#). The company plans to add one more publicist for the department. Go [here](#) for details ... Monument artist **Walker Hayes** added the New York-based division of RCA to his label arrangement. The adjustment was announced July 28, in conjunction with the release of two new tracks, "Stetson" and "Show Me the Country" ... **Morgan Myles** signed a recording deal with Los Angeles-based KZZ Music/Blue Elan Records ... **WXTU** Philadelphia morning personality **Andie Summers** signed a multiyear extension with the station ... Beasley Media Group promoted **Tom Carrozza** to corporate director of production operations from Beasley/Tampa, Fla., creative services director for classic rock **WPBB** and top 40 **WLLD** ... **William Casey Atkins** started July 24 as **WKML** Fayetteville, N.C., assistant PD/afternoon drive personality. He spent the previous five years with **WKKW** Morgantown, W.V., where he handled afternoons ... Compass Media Networks made a half-dozen staff changes. **Liane Sousa** shifted to advertising sales account executive from director of affiliate sales, while **Kassandra Faber** and **Sydney Sperling** were hired as associate directors of affiliate sales. Faber recently graduated from Hofstra University, and Sperling earned a degree from Trinity College. **Jim Davison** took over as project manager for subsidiary Yamanair Creative, shifting from **KALF** Redding, Calif., PD/music director. **Matt Wallach** was promoted to accounting analyst from a junior position. And **Marc Siegel** joined as director of audio sales/GM of spoken word sponsorships and activations after a stint as classic rock **WAXQ** New York vp of sales ... **Kris Daniels** and **Joe Castelan** started July 24 as **KSKS** Fresno, Calif., morning hosts, RadioInk.com reported. **Jody Jo Mize** moved from mornings to afternoons. Daniels previously held a morning a role at **WQNU** Louisville, Ky.; Castelan most recently served as **KATM** Stockton-Modesto,

Calif., morning host/promotions director ... **Anthony "Big Ant" Simmons** added **KRMD** Shreveport, La., PD to his duties, according to RadioInk.com. He will continue as PD for hip-hop sister **KMJJ** ... **WTGE** Baton Rouge, La., PD/afternoon co-host **Abby Leigh** resigned from her position, RadioInsight.com reported ... Sticks Media acquired classic country **KTNK** Lompoc, Calif., from Cross and Crown Broadcasting, according to RadioInsight.com. Sticks' president is **KBEQ** Kansas City personality **Todd Nixon**.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

**SMACKSongs** promoted **Jeremy Groves** to senior creative director from director. Reach him [here](#) ... **Kelli Wasilauski** joined the Oriel Company as director of operations in Nashville. She was formerly Adkins Publicity vp of publicity. Reach her [here](#) ... Play It Again Music Group hired creative manager **Grayson Clotfelter** after two years on the road with **Seaforth** and **Lily Rose** ... **Pistol Annies** member **Ashley Monroe** inked a writing agreement with Sheltered Music Publishing ... Songwriter-producer-engineer **Nick Brophy** (**Kenny Chesney**, **Kip Moore**) signed a publishing deal with peermusic Nashville ... Sea Gayle added songwriter-producer **Ian Christian** ("Man Made") to its publishing roster ... Reel Muzik Werks signed songwriter **Jennifer Adan** ("She Wouldn't Be Gone") to a publishing deal ... Apple Music established **Lost & Found**, a showcase for Nashville songwriters, hosted by **Kelleigh Bannen** ... **Walker Hayes** is featured, along with his song "Haircut," in a Great Clips back-to-school campaign that launched July 25 ... **Jimmie Allen** enters new territory with a three-city stand-up comedy schedule, the invite-only **I Said What I Said** Tour, planned for October. Specific dates and markets have not yet been named by Allen, whose country career was decimated by recent sexual assault allegations ... The Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame will announce this year's inductees on Aug. 3 ... The Nashville Songwriters Association International's 24th annual **NSAI Song Contest**, presented by The Bluebird Cafe and CMT, launches Aug. 1. Among the prizes are mentoring opportunities with **Ingrid Andress** or songwriter **David Hodges** ("Because of You," "Miss Me More") ... Former MCA Nashville senior vp of marketing **Walt Wilson** died July 3 in Gallatin, Tenn., *The Tennessean* reported. Artists whose careers were the subject of his work included **Reba McEntire**, **George Strait** and **Trisha Yearwood**. No memorials are planned; the family requests that condolences and memories be communicated [here](#) ... Australian country artist **Arthur Blanch**, 94, died July 26 following a heart attack and kidney failure. He spent over a decade in Nashville during two stints in the city, recording for Dot and for Curb, and acted as a mentor for **Keith Urban**. Blanch's survivors include a daughter, Nashville publishing veteran **Jewel Coburn** ... Bassist-vocalist **Randy Meisner**, 77, an original member of **The Eagles**, died July 27 of complications from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He also worked with **Poco** and with **Rick Nelson & The Stone Canyon Band** before his run with The Eagles, which ended in 1977 following the release of *Hotel California*. He was most closely identified as the lead voice on the band's "Take It to the Limit." ●



**Bill Anderson**, a 62-year member of the Grand Ole Opry, was celebrated July 22 as the longest-serving member in the **WSM-AM** Nashville show's history. From left: Opry VP/executive producer **Dan Rogers** and Opry members **Jeannie Seely**, **Anderson** and **Vince Gill**.



ON SALE  
SEPTEMBER  
23

billboard

# TOP LATIN POWER PLAYERS



*On September 23rd, Billboard will profile the most influential people in Latin music, from record label executives, music publishers and management companies to radio and television stations and live entertainment*

*Join Billboard in congratulating this year's Latin Power Players*

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ON SALE 9/23 | ISSUE CLOSE 9/11 | MATERIALS DUE 9/12



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

# Parker McCollum's 'Burn It Down' Matches Smoldering Music And Message

In the chorus of his latest single, "Burn It Down," **Parker McCollum** fantasizes intensely about reducing the memories of a freshly ended relationship to "smoldering coals."

It's a subtly unique idea, that word "smolder." It's not particularly obscure, but it's not one that appears in songs every day, and it's a key entry point to the tone of "Burn It Down." The production is an all-out blaze by the time it reaches a guitar solo more than two minutes through its three-minute, 36-second running time. But it's a slow burn getting there, and McCollum credits producer **Jon Randall** (**Dierks Bentley**, **Miranda Lambert**) for that patient pacing.

"I wanted the first [chorus] to really just floor it," McCollum says. "He was like, 'Man, you just got to make them wait, you just got to make them wait.' And I remember being like, 'I think he's got to give it to them.' Now when I hear it in the store or on the radio or whatever, I'm glad we waited to grow."

McCollum's enthusiasm is the opposite of the attitude he brought to the writing session when he hosted the Love Junkies — aka songwriters **Liz Rose** ("You Belong With Me," "Girl Crush"), **Lori McKenna** ("Humble and Kind," "It All Comes Out in the Wash") and **Hillary Lindsey** ("Blue Ain't Your Color," "Ghost Story") — at his Nashville home on Sept. 27, 2022.

"I was burned out, and I so did not want to be a songwriter at all for several months," he remembers.

His album *Never Enough*, released May 12, was already finished, and when Rose arrived first, he confessed to her in the kitchen that he wasn't sure why they were even writing. It wasn't an encouraging start.

"I'm thinking, 'Oh, thanks, you know. We're all here,'" she recalls. "And then I thought, 'You know, Parker, you say that, but you know what always happens. You write that song that you didn't have, and you can't believe that you wrote [it].'" He goes, 'I know. How many times has that happened?'"

Neither told McKenna or Lindsey he wasn't into it, and once the actual work began, they spent about a half-hour just talking and strumming guitars. At some point, he worked into a slow-boiling groove and repeated the phrase "Burn it down" as if it were a mantra.

"I love songs like that," says Lindsey. "But it felt like the emotion wasn't all the way there."

McCollum soon shifted into another gear, filling in extra lines after each "Burn it down": "'Til it's ashes and smoke," "To the smoldering coals," "'Til I don't want you no more."

"It's almost like it's an answer to 'Burn it down,'" Lindsey says. "It just started to develop."

As they inserted those extra lines between the "Burn it down" phrases, McCollum began to see its bigger-picture potential, and that's when he became fully engaged.

"He was just sitting down in a chair — I feel like it was an armchair vibe, like one of those cushy armchairs," says Lindsey. "But he threw his hand back. It was as if he were onstage, and he was like, 'Burn it,' and he started visualizing what he wanted onstage. He was like, 'Oh my gosh, y'all. I think we're on to something. I need this. I need this visually. I need the fire in the back. I need this energy for my set.' It all just started coming together, and when he threw his arm back, I was like, 'Hell, yeah. You throw that arm back, partner.'"

They wrote a good part of the chorus, then shifted back to the beginning, where McCollum developed a symbolic line about an ex scattering the good-

bye across the lawn. The protagonist finds himself stuck with a house full of memories. "Burn it down," he concludes. Then in verse two, he considers the bed and the passion it represented. "Burn it down."

By the time they got to the third verse, they focused more closely on vanquishing abstractions rather than physical items, and that brought more clarity to the song's metaphorical disposition.

"My drummer was telling me he actually knows a guy who burned down his girlfriend's house," notes McCollum. "He's literally going to go to prison for a considerable amount of time, and I kind of made the joke, 'I hope he hasn't been listening to my song.' I don't think anybody has listened to the song and actually done it, I would hope. I guess in today's world, you never know."

They made a guitar/vocal worktape at the end of the session with Lindsey providing harmony. Ahead of the third chorus, Lindsey freestyled another smoldering "Burn it, burn it," teeing up the finale. McCollum brought that rough recording to Randall, who prefers that bare-bones format.

"I love listening to the work tapes," Randall says. "Because I've spent enough time as a writer and I know what goes on in those rooms, I can get a pretty good idea of what the mindset was just because I kind of know the process. And I think that that works in my favor, more than it doesn't."

Randall recognized McKenna was using an alternate guitar tuning and wanted to re-create its open, droning sound during the tracking date at Nashville's Blackbird Studios. Session player **Jedd Hughes** invented a staccato counterpoint

riff, and the band built up gradually with each new stanza, primarily from drummer **Chad Cromwell's** ascending intensity: After two verses, the kick drum joins subtly at the chorus, and the full kit is employed by verse three. The searing guitar solo brings the entire band to its maximum point and, after a quieter bridge, maxes out again for the finale.

Engineer **F. Reid Shippen** helped even more in post-production, adding a shaker at verse two and, most notably, running McCollum's voice through a filter during the first two verses. The effect hollows out his tone and emphasizes the consonants and breaths in his performance.

"I think his vocal is smoldering," says Rose. "The whole song is, honestly, the tempo and the mood of the track, and the way he's singing it. It's a lot of smoldering."

When MCA Nashville decided to make it a single, Randall did a quick, more typical, remix that dropped the vocal filtering and ramped up the sound before the first chorus. By then, everyone agreed that the slow-building approach was right for this release.

"Everybody kind of fought me on it, and I think everybody thought I was crazy to not go big on the first chorus," Randall says. "But eventually everybody came back and said, 'The coolest part of the song is that it waits to get big.' Which breaks [with] the way everybody thinks in town."

Country radio received the single via PlayMPE on June 5, and it moves to No. 45 on the Country Airplay chart dated Aug. 5. "Burn It Down" seems positioned for a long, smoldering life rather than flaming out in a flash, which would aptly reflect both the slow build McCollum experienced on the day he wrote it and the arrangement that Randall oversaw.

"He's such a seasoned veteran," McCollum says. "He knew exactly what he was doing. I was the young guy trying to bust it out real quick, and he was right. He usually is." ●



# billboard Country Airplay Index

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

**23** Chayce Beckham Publishing Designee, BMI (C. Beckham) **32**

## A

**ALL I NEED IS YOU** Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla 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/KIM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Five Miles West Songs, BMI (C.Janson, B.Clawson, A.G.Gorley, Mitch Oglesby) **26**

**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) **10**

## B

**BAD DAY TO BE A COLD BEER** Sony CountrySide, BMI/Dack Janiels Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Justin Thomas Publishing Designee, ASCAP (C.Rice, B.Pendergrass, J.Byron, J.B.Thomas) **52**

**BURN IT DOWN** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/BMCMC Songs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Songs From The Sendero Music, BMI (P.McCollum, H.Lindsey, L.McKenna, L.Rose) **45**

**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/McGinn Intellectual Property, SESAC/True Blue Songs, SESAC/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (K.Brown, J.Hoge, M.McGinn, J.M.Schmidt) **7**

**BUT I GOT A BEER IN MY HAND** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Janie Family Farm Songs, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Range Music, BMI/Warburton Music, BMI (C.McGill, M.Dragstrem, G.Warburton) **13**

**BUY A BAR** Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Whiskey Tub Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI (B.Kinney, J.Thompson) **55**

## C

**CAN'T HAVE MINE** Curb Songs, ASCAP/Curb Congregation Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ebach Entertainment Fam, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI (D.Scott, M.Alderman, J.Melton, D.Wilson) **22**

**CREEK WILL RISE** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Home Team Harmonies, BMI/South Lick Creek Songs, BMI/Songs Of Miller Crow, BMI/Tunes 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.Welling) **33**

## 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) **6**

**DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (R.Green, R.Montana, J.D.Singleton) **35**

**DRINKABY** NonTanya 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.Pheips, J.Pardi, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **15**

**DRINKIN' PROBLEMS** Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Townes Van Hawke Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Larkin Hill Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI (L.Combs, Erik Dylan, R.Fulcher, T.Archer) **56**

**DRIVE YOU OUT OF MY MIND** Wolf Shirt Publishing, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Todd Sherman Clark, SOCAN (K.Ashton, T.P.Wood, T.S.Clark) **47**

## E

**EVERYTHING I LOVE** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Elijah Blue Music, BMI/Unichappell Music, Inc., BMI (M.C.Wallen, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, A.G.Gorley, G.Allman, R.K.Payne) **17**

**EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Pioasis, ASCAP/Loveked Hat Music, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (H.Whitters, B.Simpson, R.Tyndell) **20**

## F

**FAST CAR** Purple Rabbit Music, ASCAP (T.L.Chapman) **1**

**FEARLESS (THE ECHO)** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick, J.Sherwood) **36**

**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.Isbell) **39**

## 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/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Track & Feels Publishing, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Tape Room Publishing, SESAC/Songs By Slip Joint, BMI (D.Fanning, M.Thomas, A.G.Gorley, T.P.Wood, C.Brown) **12**

**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) **48**

**GLORY DAYS** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WeisOwl, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/MGM College Fund, SESAC (G.Barrett, J.McNair, E.L.Weisband, S.Moseley) **34**

**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) **19**

## I

**IF I DIE YOUNG PT. 2** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cinq Trax, ASCAP/BLK Crvtt, BMI/Songs Of Influence, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs & Daughters Publishing, BMI/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/Lyridge Music, ASCAP/A Town Called Winner, BMI/Ballads Of AMR Songs, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/A Boy Named Ford, BMI (K.M.Perry, N.Galyon, J.Robbins) **51**

**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 Goe Met Ric Music, GMR (K.Ballerini, J.C.Bunetta, S.McAnally) **23**

## L

**LAST NIGHT** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Ragtop Music, ASCAP/Prescription Music, ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, J.K.Hindlin, Charlie Handsome) **3**

**LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN** Canned Biscuits Songs, BMI/Darin County 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, C.R.Harrington, J.L.Alexander) **28**

**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/WeisOwl, ASCAP (C.Young, C.DeStefano, J.McNair, E.L.Weisband) **14**

**LOVE YOU AGAIN** Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Publishing, SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI (C.Brown, Chase Matthew, T.Phillips) **58**

**LOVE YOU ANYWAY** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Keep Choppin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI (L.Combs, R.Fulcher, D.Isbell) **8**

## 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.Corbin, A.Craig, S.Minor, W.Kirby) **53**

**MIND ON YOU** Whiskey Side, ASCAP/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlow Sinclair Songs, SESAC/MTNoize, SESAC/Average Z/S Music Publishing, BMI (G.Birge, J.Boyer, N.Tyler, Colt Ford) **29**

## N

**NEED A FAVOR** Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Austin Nivarel Publishing, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Robert Ragosta Publishing, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI (J.B.DeFord, A.A.Nivarel, J.Ragosta, R.Ragosta) **2**

**NEXT THING YOU KNOW** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP (G.James, J.Osborne, C.McGill, J.Davis) **5**

**NOBODY'S NOBODY** Trampy McCauley, ASCAP/All The Kings Peris, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songstein Publishing, ASCAP/Simma Da Na Music, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Marvel Madness Music, BMI (J.Osborne, T.J.Osborne, M.A.Elizondo, Jr., K.Marvel) **30**

## O

**ON THE BOAT AGAIN** Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Kyle Fishman Music, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI (R.H.Block, D.Dawson, K.A.Fishman, W.Nelson, B.Pendergrass) **46**

**OUT OF THAT TRUCK** Carrie-Okie Music, BMI/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, BMI/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Writersonthe.com Publishing, BMI (C.Underwood, D.A.Garcia, L.Vaughan) **38**

**OUTSKIRTS** Universal Music Works, GMR/Pearl Hunt Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Flow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/Twelve Dogwood, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Foxwood Entertainment Group Music Division, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP (S.L.Hunt, J.Osborne, J.Flowers, Z.Crowell) **54**

## P

**PRETTY LITTLE POISON** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Twelve Sequoia, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (W.Zeiders, J.Keim, R.Beaver) **44**

## R

**RELIGIOUSLY** Alexander Palmer Songs, BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Cuts Of Reach Music, ASCAP/I Fart Creations, BMI/Jesse Jaye 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) **11**

## S

**SAVE ME** Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Songs Of 78, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.B.DeFord, D.R.Stevens) **49**

**SAVE ME THE TROUBLE** Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Speakers Go Boom Music, BMI/Sugar Plum Songs, ASCAP (A.G.Gorley, D.Smyers, J.Minton, J.Reynolds, S.Mooney) **31**

**SAVE THE ROSES** Love Cannons Publishing, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Kyroll Music, ASCAP/Mike Curb Music, BMI/Torches And Pitchforks Music, BMI/Shore Hits Music, BMI (L.Brice, K.Jacobs, J.Leathers) **59**

**SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER** Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, BMI/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP (D.A.Garcia, M.W.Hardy, H.Lindsey) **37**

**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/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MESSY INTERNATIONAL Music, BMI (K.J.Slaubaugh, R.J.Slaubaugh, K.Griffin, D.Mescon) **50**

**SOMEBODY ELSE'S WHISKEY** Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, BMI/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP/Pickin Padre Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP (D.George, F.Ray, F.Rogers) **51**

**SOMETHING REAL** DudeTunes, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP (D.Bentley, R.Copperman, M.W.Hardy, C.L.Dick, A.G.Gorley) **60**

**STANDING ROOM ONLY** Amped 11 Publishing, BMI/Tommy Cent Publishing Designee, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., 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) **16**

**STARS LIKE CONFETTI** Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, ASCAP/Music Of MAM, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricknet 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) **24**

## T

**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) **40**

**TRUCK BED** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson, H.Pheips) **42**

**TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI/That's Me! Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Red Street Country, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, BMI/Thrash Town Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.K.Lovelle, N.Thresher) **25**

## W

**WATERMELON MOONSHINE** Sony Accent, ASCAP/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Ikigai Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (L.Wilson, J.M.Schmidt, J.Kear) **18**

**WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/Smackwood Music, GMR/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/Warner Goe Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR (C.Pearce, P.Good, S.McAnally) **41**

**WE GOT HISTORY** Sony CountrySide, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (M.Tenpeny, A.Albert, D.Dawson, J.M.Schmidt) **27**

**WHITE HORSE** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/House Of Sea Gavle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, BMI/Songs From The Alcove, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (C.Stapleton, D.D.Wilson) **21**

**WORLD ON FIRE** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Corent Music, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI (N.Smith, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, L.Rimes) **43**

## Y

**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/Inflamed By The Red White And Blue, ASCAP (J.L.Alexander, B.Berryhill, C.Taylor) **4**

**YOUR HEART OR MINE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Honkytonkholio Music Publishing, BMI/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Phat Racon, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP (B.Butter, J.Ebach, J.Pierce) **9**



# COUNTRY

## 40 Years Ago George Jones Got 'Lucky' To No. 1

In 1983, the legend scored the most recent of his 13 Hot Country Songs leaders

On July 30, 1983, **George Jones'** "I Always Get Lucky With You" topped *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart, marking the most recent of the icon's 13 No. 1s. **Merle Haggard**—who co-wrote the song with **Gary Church**, **Freddy Powers** and **Tex Whitson**—originally released it in 1982.

From October 1958 (when Hot Country Songs became an all-encompassing genre chart) to 2011, Jones logged a record 158 entries, including 71 top 10s through 1990's "A Few Ole Country Boys," with **Randy Travis**. He led the chart longest with "Tender Years" (seven

weeks, 1961), followed by "She Thinks I Still Care" (six, 1962) and "White Lightning" (five, 1959).

Jones was married four times, most famously to **Tammy Wynette** (1969-75), with whom he shared three No. 1 hits from 1973-77. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1992 and died in April 2013 at age 81. Marking 10 years since his passing, the all-star concert *Still Playin' Possum: Music & Memories of George Jones* was held in April and is scheduled to premiere on PBS' *Great Performances* later this year.

—JIM ASKER

Jones at the 1988 CMA Awards in Nashville.

REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS

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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE—Artist (Producer)	WKS. AT #1	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
1	2	13	I ALWAYS GET LUCKY WITH YOU—George Jones <small>(B. Sherrill) T. Whitson, F. Powers, G. Church, M. Haggard; Shade Tree, BMI; Epic 34-03883</small>	35	39	36
2	4	11	HE'S A HEARTACHE (LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HAPPEN)—Janie Fricke (B. Montgomery) <small>J. Silbar, L. Henley, Bobby Goldsboro, ASCAP/House Of Gold, BMI; Columbia 38-03899</small>	37	45	37
3	3	12	YOUR LOVE'S ON THE LINE—Earl Thomas Conley (N. Larkin) <small>E.T. Conley, R. Scruggs; Blue Moon/April, ASCAP/Full Armor, BMI; RCA 13525</small>	38	44	38
4	5	11	I LOVE HER MIND—The Bellamy Brothers (D.&H. Bellamy) <small>D. Bellamy; Bellamy Brothers/Famous, ASCAP; Warner/Curb 7-29645</small>	39	42	39
5	6	10	LOST IN THE FEELING—Conway Twitty (C. Twitty, J. Bowen) <small>L. Anderson; Old Friends, BMI; Warner Bros. 7-29636</small>	40	41	40
6	8	9	LOVE SPONGE—The Judds (R. Chancey)			