

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Nashville Songwriters Hall Of Fame Event Centers On Big Stars And Bigger Inspiration

The Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame induction on Oct. 11 was populated by stars, including new members **Keith Urban** and **Kix Brooks**, presenter **Dolly Parton** and performers **Eric Church** and **Kenny Chesney**.

But one of the most inspiring pieces of the evening revolved around a songwriter, **John Jarrard** (“Blue Clear Sky,” “Money in the Bank”), who wasn’t even in the room. The night’s first recipient, recognized as a legacy inductee, Jarrard’s remarkable story was recounted by a former co-writer, presenter **Gary Nicholson** (“The Trouble With the Truth,” “Working Without a Net”), and widow **Janet Jarrard**. Diagnosed with diabetes at age 12, John lost his sight a year after his move to Nashville, battled through the resulting depression and became one of the city’s most determined successes. He fit his songwriting sessions around four-hour dialysis appointments and psychotherapy, and frequently dismissed offers of a ride home, instead navigating some of Music City’s busiest streets on foot using his cane, his hearing and his self-reliance.

Jarrard’s life philosophy, Nicholson recalled, was “Keep on walkin’,” and even after enduring organ transplants and the loss of limbs and digits, he was a force in the songwriting com-

munity, penning nearly 20 country hits. **BlackHawk** delivered one of those tunes — “I Sure Can Smell the Rain,” a title that carries extra heft for a songwriter who couldn’t see — with impeccable three-part harmony. It took more than 22 years after Jarrard’s death until he finally received his induction, and some of the attendees were young enough that they were not aware of his contribution. His story was so compelling that people

could be heard even after the ceremony — three hours after his segment in the program — admiring Jarrard’s tenacity.

“We all need inspiring stories,” Janet said prior to the event at the Music City Center, finding purpose in the wait for his induction. “There’s a whole new generation of people in the music business who didn’t know him, and now I’m privileged enough to be able to share a little bit about what he accomplished in spite of the

things that he went through. So in my estimation, it’s kind of the right time.”

Jarrard joined the Hall alongside **Casey Beathard** (“Don’t Blink,” “How ’Bout Them Cowgirls”), **Rafe Van Hoy** (“Golden Ring,” “What’s Forever For”), **David Lee Murphy** (“Big Green Tractor,” “Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not”), plus Brooks and Urban, whose entrance marked the first time he has been enshrined in a Hall of Fame.



From left: URBAN, BROOKS, VAN HOY, BEATHARD and MURPHY

BEY MOSER

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IT'S TIME TO **APPLY FOR OR RENEW YOUR ACM MEMBERSHIP**

DEADLINE 10.23.23

VOTE LEAD CHANGE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

“The writing one’s crazy because I think of **Kris Kristofferson** and **John Prine**, **Townes Van Zandt** as writer-poets — and I don’t come from that place,” Urban said before the ceremony. “But I love that. I think for the longest time I didn’t even see myself as a writer because I don’t write like that.”

Church honored Urban’s induction by reworking his upbeat anthem “Who Wouldn’t Wanna Be Me” as a spare, spiky contemplation. Church also performed “Like Jesus Does” — with an evangelistic second verse by **Joanna Cotten** — to usher Beathard into the ranks. Church hailed Beathard “as a North star for me as a writer. He’s an even better person.”

In his acceptance speech and a preshow conversation, Beathard outlined the unpredictability and synchronicity involved in his relocation to Tennessee and in his emergence as a writer. He also noted the death of a son and the higher understanding of a songwriters’ role he has since discovered.

“You move here for yourself — I did,” he said on the red carpet. “You meet a wife, you have a family, and you start realizing life is bigger than you. And so you get that to carry into a room or to write about, and then it becomes, ‘Man, I’ve had some success, but there’s got to be more.’ So then it becomes, ‘Man, just pay attention in these rooms.’ What am I doing if I’m not paying attention to the guy or girl I’m writing with and we can’t share something? I can encourage ‘em, give ‘em hope and talk about stuff, and put something out there that might give somebody life.”

Van Hoy’s induction was accompanied by **John Conlee**’s spot-on version of “Lady Lay Down,” a 1979 song that preceded two other Van Hoy compositions that became Conlee hits: “Friday Night Blues” and “I’m Only in It for the Love.”

“If my life was cake,” Van Hoy said, “most of it would be icing.”

Chesney sang Murphy’s road warrior song “Living in Fast Forward” prior to his induction. Murphy marveled before the dinner how the best songs survive in people’s minds as time moves forward.

“You might spend your whole life writing songs,” he said, “and then one night, one song falls out that touches people in a way that you didn’t know was going to happen, and it all comes together. And then you have a song that people sing in bowling alleys and dive bars across the country, and they’re songs that stay in our lives.”

Brooks’ induction came four years after his duo, **Brooks & Dunn**, was added to the Country Music Hall of Fame. **Cody Johnson** performed an acoustic version of “Only in America” as a lead-in, and Brooks admitted he was more at home with the songwriters recognition than he had been when he made the Country Hall.

“It’s still kind of unreal to me to be in the Rotunda,” he said on the red carpet. “This is why I came here — to write songs, you know. Not to have a piece of bronze up there next to **Hank Williams**.”

That said, the Songwriters Hall also places him in a club with Williams, not to mention **Willie Nelson**, **Loretta Lynn** and **Parton**, who shared his view of songwriting as the center of her creativity.

“With everything I’ve done,” she said while inducting Urban, “if I had to give it all up and just keep one thing, I’d be a songwriter.” ●



ALAN POIZNER

Darius Rucker (left) was inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame Oct. 4 along with **Duane Eddy**, **Don McLean** and Country Music Hall of Fame member **Joe Galante**. With Rucker is pro wrestler **Ric Flair**, who inducted him.



WILL BUCCINOY

George Birge (left) and **Matt Stell** participated in an Oct. 3 event during Forefront Networks’ Elevation Beaver Creek music and wine festival in Colorado. With them is Forefront partner **Bobbii Jacobs**.



AUSTIN SCREWS

Warren Zeiders received a plaque recognizing 1 billion career streams on Oct. 4 before he headlined at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium. From left: Warner senior vp of A&R **Isaac Green**, **Underscore Works** Management founder **Charly Salvatore**, **Zeiders** and Warner co-chairman/CEO **Aaron Bay-Schuck**.

TOTAL IMMERSION

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2023

TOP BUSINESS MANAGERS

On November 18th, Billboard will showcase the most in demand business managers whose financial expertise ensure their music industry clients invest (and spend) their money wisely.

Making money in the music industry is hard enough for artists and executives which is why they turn to an elite few to help with financial profit and investment.

As a result of the rise of branding deals and streaming services, the task of managing artist income has become more complicated than ever making the role of music business managers invaluable.

Advertise in this issue and reach an elite group of influencers who guide their clients' financial fortunes and know a thing or two about how to invest their own money.

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY **LUMINATE**

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

'Can't' Can: Dylan Scott Earns Fifth Country Airplay Top 10

Dylan Scott earns his fifth top 10 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "Can't Have Mine" (Curb) rises 11-9 in its 56th week on the ranking (dated Oct. 21). It increased by 8% to 19.8 million audience impressions during the Oct. 6-12 tracking week, according to Luminate.

Scott co-authored the song with Matt Alderman, Josh Melton and Dallas Wilson. It's from his LP *Livin' My Best Life*, which arrived at its No. 12 high on Top Country Albums in August 2022.

"Can't Have Mine" follows "New Truck," which became the second Country Airplay No. 1 for the 32-year-old Bastrop, La., native in August 2022 when it led for one week. Before that, "Nobody," hit No. 2 in June 2021, "Hooked" climbed to No. 2 in September 2018, and "My Girl," his third of nine entries, led for one frame in July 2017.

Scott is currently on his *This Town's Been Too Good to Us* Tour with supporting acts Taylor Holder and Matt Schuster. The next stop is in Atlanta (Oct. 13), followed by Knoxville, Tenn. (Oct. 14).



ASTRIDA VALIGORSKY/GETTY IMAGES

THIRDRound of 'Moonshine' Lainey Wilson's "Watermelon Moonshine" (Broken Bow) dominates Country Airplay for a third week (31 million, up 2%). Her third No. 1 marks her first to rule for three weeks. Her rookie entry, "Things a Man Oughta Know," led for one week in September 2021, and her collaboration with Cole Swindell, "Never Say Never," ruled the summit for two frames starting in April 2022.

Meanwhile, "Moonshine" marks the sixth song to dominate Country Airplay for three or more weeks of the 15 titles that have ascended to No. 1 so far in 2023. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	+3.187
THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.732
GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+1.749
CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	+1.437
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.295
STANDING ROOM ONLY McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	+1.257
WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+1.196
STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	+0.993
WE GOT HISTORY Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	+0.972
SAVE ME THE TROUBLE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	+0.680

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	+908
THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+650
GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+498
CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	+442
STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	+436
WE GOT HISTORY Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	+299
STANDING ROOM ONLY McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	+239
MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	+227
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+221
WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+216

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	19.109
2	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	17.255
3	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	15.396
4	RELIGIOUSLY Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	15.089
5	NEXT THING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	14.200
6	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	13.241
7	LOVE YOU ANYWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	12.493
8	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek	Parmalee	11.098
9	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	8.384
10	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	7.863



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 12, 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	22	COME BACK TO BED (10X Music Group) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Love & Chaos	1857	253	11	11	17	GENTLEMEN START YOUR WEEKENDS (Independent)	James Robert Webb	1226	55
2	2	20	HERE WITH YOU (Independent)	James Lann	1828	60	12	12	16	BARs AND CHURCHES (Independent)	Sundance Head	1177	82
3	5	16	KNOW THAT BY NOW (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band	1585	34	13	13	19	HONKY TONK (Independent)	RayNicole	1120	31
4	6	17	GO GET HER (Independent)	Matt Castillo	1527	55	14	17	8	HOW THE HURTIN' GOES (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1053	114
5	7	30	PEDAL STEEL (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1454	52	15	16	10	SONGS OF THE FAMILY (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1028	76
6	10	10	CHIPPING MILL (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	1449	135	16	14	17	CLOSE THE BETS (Independent)	Kyle Nix & The 38's	1020	58
7	8	19	IN MY BOOTS (Independent)	Ryder Grimes	1392	12	17	18	23	STRAIGHT SHOT (Independent)	Jordan Rainer	1012	86
8	4	16	LOSER (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1387	-211	18	19	8	BEEN THERE (Independent)	Case Hardin	969	58
9	9	17	KIDDIE POOL (Cielo Azul Ent)	Olivia Harms	1378	47	19	21	10	SITTIN' ON A PORCH (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	956	77
10	1	19	WE AIN'T THE ONLY ONES (Independent)	Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1309	-514	20	23	7	IF I WAS YOUR COWBOY (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	948	72

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

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	21	WATERMELON MOONSHINE Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	31.037	+0.663	8085	105	1
2	3	23	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	30.832	+2.732	7674	650	2
3	2	21	TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	29.384	+0.669	7386	105	3
4	5	39	GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	25.620	+1.749	6773	498	4
5	4	26	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	23.986	-0.753	5261	-242	8
6	7	38	STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	23.421	+0.993	6273	436	5
7	6	39	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	22.089	-1.561	4907	-489	10
8	10	31	STANDING ROOM ONLY McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	20.003	+1.257	5555	239	6
9	11	56	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	19.849	+1.437	5350	442	7
10	12	17	EVERYTHING I LOVE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.634	+0.616	5129	184	9
11	13	23	BUT I GOT A BEER IN MY HAND Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	17.384	+0.314	4559	33	11
12	16	20	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	15.343	+3.187	3899	908	13
13	14	13	SAVE ME THE TROUBLE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	14.129	+0.680	4000	135	12
14	15	46	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	13.336	+0.284	3875	116	14
15	17	34	ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG	Chris Janson	12.309	+0.428	3698	103	15
16	19	12	WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	11.197	+0.629	3339	161	17
17	18	41	IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOING DOWNTOO) Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	11.129	+0.022	3440	-72	16
18	20	45	WE GOT HISTORY Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	10.458	+0.972	3236	299	18
19	21	18	WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	10.424	+1.196	3004	216	19
20	22	23	DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG	Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	9.811	+0.662	2861	31	21
21	23	36	23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	8.680	+0.431	2801	70	22
22	24	27	CREEK WILL RISE Valory	Conner Smith	8.117	+0.476	2921	150	20
23	25	31	LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Ashley McBryde	7.217	-0.042	2641	-5	23
24	26	14	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	6.370	+0.177	2143	58	25
25	27	27	NOBODY'S NOBODY EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	5.854	+0.127	2188	3	24
26	28	9	THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	5.783	+0.572	1747	194	27
27	30	22	TRUCK BED Big Loud	HARDY	5.188	+0.398	1917	126	26
28	31	4	I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	5.182	+0.622	1419	198	33
29	29	37	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine	Jackson Dean	4.960	+0.028	1716	-45	28
30	32	6	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Interscope/Belting Bronco/Warner/MCA Nashville/WAR	Zach Bryan Featuring Kacey Musgraves	4.566	+0.153	1332	52	34

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-bulletheaded) audience decline, regardless of total chart weeks. Plus, songs that ascend to a peak between Nos. 1 and 5 will remain on the chart for one additional week even if dropping below No. 10.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

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

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

Most Increased Audience on Country Airplay lists the songs with the greatest week-to-week increases in total audience.

AIRPOWER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles ranking inside top 20 in plays and audience rankings for the first time, with increases in both plays and audience.

BREAKER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles achieving airplay (at least one detection) at 60% of reporting stations for the first time.

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	34	19	BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	4.367	+0.134	1502	14	31
32	33	20	SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER Nashville South/Big Machine	Brian Kelley	4.330	-0.000	1656	-58	29
33	36	18	GLORY DAYS Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	3.647	+0.300	1564	38	30
34	35	8	CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	3.525	+0.042	1477	55	32
35	42	8	TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	3.510	+1.295	1014	221	39
36	38	17	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine	Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	3.171	-0.030	1245	29	35
37	41	2	MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	3.073	+0.494	702	227	46
38	40	5	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	3.020	+0.320	1075	58	37
39	37	19	OUT OF THAT TRUCK Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	2.957	-0.295	1236	-91	36
40	39	10	I'M NOT PRETTY Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville	Megan Moroney	2.875	+0.160	1060	94	38
41	44	20	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Chase Matthew	2.181	+0.195	827	31	42
42	43	31	GIVING UP ON THAT Mercury Nashville	Dalton Dover	2.057	-0.027	911	-18	40
43	45	12	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	Sam Hunt	1.972	+0.055	804	58	43
44	46	28	DRIVE YOU OUT OF MY MIND Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	1.914	+0.082	835	-4	41
45	49	5	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young	1.599	+0.283	459	124	53
46	53	3	CAN'T BREAK UP NOW Columbia Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	1.511	+0.419	532	67	50
47	51	11	SOMETHING'S GONNA KILL ME Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	1.473	+0.221	643	58	47
48	47	14	DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	1.471	+0.059	789	16	44
49	54	2	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	1.438	+0.377	342	130	59
50	48	22	SOMEBODY ELSE'S WHISKEY Stoney Creek	Frank Ray	1.315	-0.011	736	-22	45
51	58	4	SPIRITS AND DEMONS Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray Featuring Meghan Patrick	1.081	+0.159	597	93	48
52	55	29	MARRY THAT GIRL Stone Country	Easton Corbin	1.073	+0.030	552	-3	49
53	52	10	SOMETHING REAL Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	1.065	-0.050	503	-10	51
54	59	2	WE RIDE Average Joes	Bryan Martin	1.064	+0.154	439	94	55
55	60	3	IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler/RCA	Tyler Childers	0.951	+0.054	360	24	58
56	57	8	DANCE WITH YOU BMLG	Brett Young	0.943	-0.089	482	-22	52
57	56	6	WINE COUNTRY Curb	Hannah Ellis	0.915	-0.125	452	1	54
58	NEW		WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Luke Combs	0.864	+0.314	188	91	-
59	RE-ENTRY		GOOD WITH ME RCA/Monument	Walker Hayes	0.679	+0.041	270	0	-
60	RE-ENTRY		BROKENHEARTED Brown Sellers Brown/Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	0.674	+0.051	364	-16	57



Crystal Gayle officially inducted Sara Evans into the Grand Ole Opry on Oct. 7. From left: Opry vp/executive producer Dan Rogers, Gayle, Evans and One Spark Entertainment founder Craig Dunn.



Mitchell Tenpenny (center) raised over \$92,000 for his 10Penny Fund for cancer with his second annual cornhole tournament on Oct. 10 at Sony Music Publishing in Nashville. Presenting him with a donation are Columbia Nashville director of Southeast promotion Mark Gray and North Carolina-based Gladwell Orthodontics vp of business development Emily Abecasis.

CHRIS HOLLO

THE NO. 1s ISSUE

DECEMBER 10, 2022 • BILLBOARD.COM

billboard

Plus

THE LEADING
LABELS

THE TOP
PRODUCER AND
SONGWRITER

THE YEAR
IN MUSIC

billboard

THE NO. 1s ISSUE

YEAR IN MUSIC

ISSUE DATE 12/9 | **AD CLOSE** 11/28

MATERIALS DUE 11/30

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billboard's Year in Music, the No. 1's, will wrap up 2023 with an extraordinary editorial package.

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

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

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

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

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

JASON LOWRIE/BFA

Ian Munsick and Lainey Wilson (right) performed for a Lone River Ranch Water consumer event on Oct. 3 in Downtown Nashville. Joining them are Lone River founder and CEO Katie Beal Brown.

BEHIND CODY JOHNSON'S LEATHER

The cover art for **Cody Johnson's** album *Leather*, out Nov. 3 on COJO Music/Warner Music Nashville, features a close-up of the singer's tattooed hands, work-worn and slightly bloodied, gripping a strip of leather.

A former bull rider, the Texan is better known nowadays for his energetic showmanship and his nine-week *Billboard* Hot Country Songs No. 1 " 'Til You Can't." But when the 2023 Country Music Association male vocalist of the year nominee isn't making music, Johnson is riding, roping and training horses and raising cattle — as he was the day the album cover was shot.

"I was working at the ranch that day, so I told my photographer, **Chris Douglas**, to come over," Johnson tells *Billboard*. "That's blood and hair in that picture from castrating bulls and giving them shots that day. We didn't stage any of that. We got started at 5 a.m. and worked all day, and he ended up getting some incredible photos while we were working."

The cover image conveys a sense of work ethic, grit and an uncompromising sense of self, all of which are apparent on the 12-song follow-up to 2021's *Human: The Double Album*. As with his previous sets, Johnson's mission wasn't to simply find the best songs, but to record ones that reveal nuances of his own artistry.

"People appreciate authenticity, whether it's me being a cowboy and singing something that reminds people of '90s country stuff they grew up on, or someone like the **Zach Bryans** and guys that are more like what probably is considered Americana, or **Jelly Roll**, who is completely the opposite of me musically," Johnson says. "But authenticity is the common thread."

Go [here](#) for the full story.

—Jessica Nicholson

RADIO & RECORDS®

Triple Tigers promoted **Raffaella Braun** to vp of national promotion from national director. Reach her [here](#) ... Black River elevated **Dawn Delvo** to vp of communications from head of media and public relations. Additionally, the company hired publicity coordinator **Ally Roden**, a former CMA Fest communications assistant. Reach Delvo [here](#) and Roden [here](#) ... ONErpm Nashville signed singer-songwriter **Dan Smalley** to a recording contract, with an album expected in 2024 ... Exceleration Music and Rounder co-founded a new label, Down the Road, that will concentrate on Americana acts ... Bluegrass musician **Jeff Autry** joined the roster at Turnberry Records ... **WDEZ** Wausau-Stevens Point, Wis., is actively seeking a new brand manager. Interested parties can reach market manager **Rusty James** [here](#) ... **WQNU** Louisville, Ky., hired assistant PD/afternoon host **Mike Rowe**, RadioInk.com reported. It marks a return to the market, where he previously handled mornings at classic rock **WSFR**. In the interim, he served as **WLVK** Fort Knox, Ky., PD/morning personality ... **Meredith Frye** started Oct. 6 as Forcht Broadcasting/London, Ky., GM, according to RadioInk.com. Her oversight includes country **WFTG**. She owns an eponymous photography business and previously served as an Ashley Home Furniture store manager ... **WSM-AM** Nashville welcomed morning-show producer **Eryn Cooper**, RadioInsight.com reported. She was most recently **WNFN** assistant brand manager ... **Tom Hanrahan** resigned

as SummitMedia/Birmingham vp of country programming and talent development, according to RadioInsight.com. The job included the PD role for country **WZZK** ... Former **WSIX** Nashville personality **Gerry House** will enter the Radio Hall of Fame on Nov. 2 during a ceremony in New York. Former ABC Watermark executive **Tom Rounds**, who produced *American Country Countdown*, will also be recognized as a legend of radio ... Beasley Media introduced a new-music discovery format, Nutune Country, on seven HD2 stations, including **WXTU-HD2** Philadelphia, **WKLB-HD2** Boston and **WGYK-HD2** Tampa, Fla.

'ROUND THE ROW

Jody Williams Songs promoted **Tenasie Courtright** to creative manager from coordinator. Reach her [here](#) ... The FlyteVu marketing firm enacted three staff changes. **Sina Seger** was promoted to GM from vp of accounts, and **Nicole Ranieri** was promoted to head of accounts from director. Additionally, FlyteVu hired head of talent **Ally Venable**, who was a team leader for Mandolin Entertainment ... UTA Nashville signed **Fancy Hagood** to a concert booking contract ... Red Street Publishing added **Daymon Osborn** to its songwriting roster ... **Garth Brooks** will deliver a Dive Bar concert on Nov. 24 to open his Nashville club, the Friends in Low Places Bar & Honky-Tonk ... **Dolly Parton** launches the first episode in a four-edition Apple Music show, *What Would Dolly Do?*, on Oct. 25 ... South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, will recognize **Ricochet** lead vocalist **Heath Wright** as a distinguished alum on Nov. 2 ... **Roger McGuinn** and **Marty Stuart** will unveil a "Jolly Roger" mural on Oct. 14 at Stuart's Congress of Country Music in Philadelphia, Miss. ... **Lainey Wilson** will host the third annual Opry NextStage Live at the Grand Ole Opry House on Dec. 6, recognizing six developing artists who are receiving exposure through the program ... The family of the late **John Prine** donated an elaborate 1942 Wurlitzer jukebox to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. **Steve Goodman** gifted Prine the music device as a thank-you for his contributions to "You Never Even Called Me by My Name." A box set, *John Prine: The Oh Boy Singles*, will be released Nov. 24 with eight two-sided seven-inch vinyl discs ... The Crew, a group of Nashville music executives, will host its 13th annual Country Music Association Awards Viewing Party on Nov. 8 at Tin Roof downtown, with proceeds benefiting Musicians On Call. Reach **Morgan Brasfield** [here](#) for more info ... Sideman **Buck Trent**, 85, died Oct. 9 in Branson, Mo. The inventor of the electric banjo, Trent spent a number of years in the cast of *Hee Haw*. He also received two CMA Awards for collaborations with **Roy Clark**. Trent played on Clark's "I Never Picked Cotton," as well as **Porter Wagoner's** "Green, Green Grass of Home" and the **Dolly Parton** hits "Jolene," "Coat of Many Colors" and "I Will Always Love You" ... **Ron Haffkine**, who produced and managed **Dr. Hook & The Medicine Show**, died Oct. 8 at his home in Mexico. Haffkine, 84, also worked with songwriter **Shel Silverstein** ("A Boy Named Sue," "One's on the Way"), **Waylon Jennings** and **Mac Davis**, and produced **Davis Daniel's** top 10 1991 single, "For Crying Out Loud." 📍



Wheelhouse artist HunterGirl met Music Choice senior manager of programming Jim Murphy on Oct. 10 during her inaugural radio promotion tour.

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2023

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Billboard will publish its annual GRAMMY® Voter Guide showcasing the music and artists that made an impact during the eligibility period for the 66th GRAMMY Awards®.

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**GRAMMY
AWARDS®**

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

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A

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LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN Canned Biscuit Songs, BMI/Damp Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triple Rae Creative Inc., BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.McBryde, C.H.Harrington, J.Alexander) **25**

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OUT OF THAT TRUCK Carrie-Okie Music, BMI/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, BMI/4TheKiz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/WritersOnTheCorn Publishing, BMI (C.Underwood, D.A.Garcia, L.Vaughan) **39**

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T

THINKIN' 'BOUT ME John Byran Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane 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/IDP Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, Charlie Handsome) **2**

TRUCK BED Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, BMI/Emileigh Songs, BMI/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI (M.W.Hardy, A.G.Gorley, B.Johnson, H.Phelps) **27**

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CODA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

5 Years Ago Russell Dickerson Rolled To No. 1

In 2018, "Blue Tacoma" became his second of four consecutive Hot Country Songs leaders

On Oct. 13, 2018, **Russell Dickerson's** "Blue Tacoma" pulled into the No. 1 spot on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart. It became his second of four career-opening, and total, leaders on the list.

Dickerson co-penned the song with **Parker Welling** and **Casey Brown**, the latter of whom produced it. The single was released from Dickerson's debut LP, *Yours*, which hit No. 5 on Top

Country Albums. The song followed his debut Country Airplay No. 1, "Yours," and preceded his leaders "Every Little Thing" and "Love You Like I Used To." It also scored a synch in the *X-Men* franchise film *Logan*, starring **Hugh Jackman**.

Now 36, Dickerson, from Union City, Tenn., earned a bachelor's degree in music from Nashville's Belmont University. He signed with Triple Tigers

Records in October 2016. Dickerson is currently touring; he will make his next stop on Oct. 26 in Cleveland.

Dickerson's latest single, "God Gave Me a Girl," which he co-wrote, pushes 5-4 on Country Airplay (6.8 million impressions, up 8%, according to Luminate). "I love alliteration," he told *Billboard* last year of the song, "and my reputation precedes myself as the love song guy." —JIM ASKER

Dickerson at the 2018 CMA Fest in Nashville.



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		RANK
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	
1	2	32	BLUE TACOMA Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	44.041	+3.756	8114	556	1
2	1	29	HOTEL KEY RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	37.734	-5.450	6893	-1116	3
3	3	19	SIMPLE BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	36.460	+1.694	7183	472	2
4	5	14	SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	34.072	+3.913	6572	756	4
5	6	33	BREAK UP IN THE END Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	31.916	+2.156	6229	348	5
6	7	22	HANGIN' ON RCA Nashville	Chris Young	30.150	+1.868	5640	285	6