

billboard Country Update

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OCTOBER 20, 2023 | PAGE 1 OF 12

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Jon Pardi Proudly Sports His Blue Collar As He Preps For His Opry Induction



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Morgan Wallen
'Thinkin' Bout'
No. 1
>page 4

Big Loud
Talks Big-Picture
Strategy
>page 8

Country Coda:
Price Fixed On
Opening Chart
>page 12

It's hard to believe — it's *really* hard to believe — but when **Jon Pardi** is inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on Oct. 24, he'll become the first California-born member in the **WSM-AM** Nashville show's 98-year history.

There've been some members over the years who lived for a period of time in the Golden State before they joined the cast — including **Jeannie Seely, Jean Shepard, Bobby Bare** and **Diamond Rio's Jimmy Olander** — but the Opry never welcomed Cali-born **Merle Haggard, Gary Allan, Cliffie Stone** or **Lee Greenwood** into the circle. Even though California is the most populated state in the country, it's not entirely crazy that it has never had a native join the Opry. For years, members were expected to play the show 26 Saturdays a year, an unrealistic commitment for anyone who lives 2,000 miles away. Plus, West Coast artists often felt disrespected by Music City.

"**Buck [Owens]** and **Merle**, back in the day, man, those cats were competing with Nashville," Pardi notes. "It was like a thing."

Indeed, the Academy of Country Music originally formed in Los Angeles to recognize acts based in the Pacific Time

Zone who were generally not on the radar in Tennessee. But things change. The ACM is now headquartered in Music City. Pardi, of course, has lived in Tennessee for 15 years — "I

moved to Nashville to really focus on songwriting," he says — and the Opry is much more flexible with its performance requirements. It's also presented three or more times a week, making it easier for artists to fulfill the commitment.

"We got to a realistic number [of shows] because I didn't want to let them down," says Pardi. "I wanted to be very careful of the Opry and always be a solid performer for them."

The relationship is starting in a healthy place. Pardi became particularly enamored of the show during the pandemic, when management insisted on continuing the Opry on a weekly basis. It kept the weekly lineup small and used a revolving contingent of artists who played without an audience, minimizing the risk of infection while keeping the Opry on the air.

"The Opry House became a very comfortable place to where I walkin', [and] **Jim [Schmerhorn]**, the security guard, says hi to everybody," Pardi notes. "It's like walking into a church or a bar really, and it grew from there."



CHRIS HOLLO

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The Opry made a production out of its Pardi invitation. During his April 28 performance at the Stagecoach Country Music Festival, restaurateur **Guy Fieri** came onstage and directed Pardi's attention to a video screen, where **Alan Jackson** asked him to join the cast. Opry executive producer **Dan Rogers** was on hand for the moment, and an Opry mic stand was placed onstage.

Pardi is quick to point out that his California roots — he was born in Dixon, outside of Sacramento — are different from the stereotype of San Francisco hippies or Los Angeles celebrities. Central California is an agricultural hotbed, loaded with farms and ranches and populated by blue-collar souls who work them.

"I represent the people you don't see on the news in California, because there's a whole lot," says Pardi. "I grew up on the agriculture side. Those are my people, and that's what I want to represent."

He's doing that with a pair of releases: a duet with Capitol Nashville labelmate **Luke Bryan** and a holiday album, *Merry Christmas From Jon Pardi*.

The single with Bryan — "Cowboys and Plowboys," released to radio via PlayMPE on Oct. 12 — revels in the differences and commonalities between California dirt and Georgia clay. The yuletide project treks through honky-tonk, western swing, gospel, jazz and island music, allowing Pardi to stretch beyond the stylistic boundaries of a standard country album. He employs a bundle of horns in the process — there's even a trumpet solo in his **Ray Charles**-inspired version of "Winter Wonderland" — though he avoided that sort of touch on the finale, a cover of **Counting Crows'** "A Long December."

It's an odd choice on the surface: It's not a country song and not really holiday music either. But Pardi saw it as a viable alternative to Haggard's "If We Make It Through December." He had received a number of well-intended suggestions to cover the Haggard song, but Pardi felt it had been done often enough. And the sentiment of "A Long December" — this year sucks; let's get to the next one — is quite similar to Haggard's classic.

"Everybody has been through some shit in December," Pardi reflects. "Family gets together, it can get dark, it can get hard. And like, I don't consider it a Christmas song. But I consider it a time that people go through things because at the end of the year, not every year is a great year. Everything isn't always fantastic, but it's a healing song and that's why it's at the end."

When 2024 arrives, Pardi won't be ending a bad year: He will be setting up his first full year as an Opry member. That puts him in good stead in the annals of country music, but it also means the California-born honky-tonker will contribute as the Opry continues its longtime role among the essential tourist attractions for Nashville.

"The Opry's really, really rebranding itself to be younger and cooler," he says. "There was a point where the Opry was known for kind of being senior citizens, and now it's kind of gone further from that. Like, putting **Jamey [Johnson]** as an Opry member — I was like, 'Finally, heck yeah.' I'm so proud of what they've done. I see it more and more that the bachelorettes come to the Opry House, then they go downtown. They've done a great job. And I've kind of grown with them." 🍷



Chris Young (center) and Mitchell Tenpenny (left) celebrated the success of "At the End of a Bar" on Oct. 17 during a No. 1 party with co-producer/co-writer Chris DeStefano.

MONCELL ALLEN



Monument act Tigirlily Gold made its national TV debut on Oct. 16 during NBC's *Today With Hoda & Jenna*. From left: *Today* co-host Jenna Bush Hager, the duo's Kendra Slaubaugh, *Today* co-host Hoda Kotb and the duo's Krista Slaubaugh.

JARED OLSON



Riley Green spoke with Kelleigh Bannen on the Oct. 13 edition of Apple Music show *Today's Country Radio With Kelleigh Bannen* in conjunction with the release of his album *Ain't My Last Rodeo*.

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LUKE GRIMES

billboard Country Airplay

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

Morgan Wallen Scores His 10th No. 1 On Country Airplay With 'Thinkin' Bout Me'

Morgan Wallen banks his 10th leader on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "Thinkin' Bout Me" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) ascends from No. 2 to No. 1 on the ranking dated Oct. 28.

The single increased by 5% to 32.5 million audience impressions Oct. 13-19, according to Luminate.

The song was written by John Byron, Ashley Gorley, Taylor Phillips and Charlie Handsome, the lattermost of whom also produced the song with Joey Moi.

Wallen has another track inside the Country Airplay top 10: "Everything I Love," which pushes 10-9 for a new high (18.8 million, up 1%).

The Sneedville, Tenn., native added his ninth Country Airplay chart-topper, the cross-over smash "Last Night," when it reached the penthouse in May and dominated for eight frames. "Last Night" also led the streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs survey for 25 weeks beginning in February, giving the singer-songwriter his seventh No. 1. It's the fourth-longest-ruling hit since the chart launched as an all-encompassing weekly genre recap in 1958.

Wallen earned the first of his 10 Country Airplay No. 1s, and 12 top 10s, with "Up Down" (featuring Florida Georgia Line), which led for one week in June 2018.

ROLLING AHEAD Jelly Roll's "Save Me" (Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek), with Lainey Wilson, hops 12-10 on Country Airplay (18.1 million, up 18%). Jelly Roll adds his third top 10, following two straight No. 1s: "Need a Favor" ruled for four weeks beginning Aug. 12, 2022, after his first format entry, "Son of a Sinner," led for one week in January.

Wilson scores her sixth consecutive career-opening top 10. "Save Me" follows "Watermelon Moonshine," which dips to No. 3 (27.1 million, down 13%). The latter awarded Wilson her third leader on Oct. 7, beginning a three-week command.



WALLEN

RYAN SMITH

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi & Luke Bryan	+5.169
SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	+2.805
TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+2.432
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+2.026
THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.642
MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	+1.475
CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	+1.284
STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	+1.170
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.149
WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+1.064

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi & Luke Bryan	+1101
TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+815
SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	+687
THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+439
CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	+401
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+394
MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	+292
WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+243
I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+192
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+192

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	21.143
2	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.610
3	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	17.193
4	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	15.171
5	NEXT THING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	14.539
6	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	12.895
7	RELIGIOUSLY Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	12.326
8	LOVE YOU ANYWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	11.098
9	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek	Parmalee	8.750
10	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	8.199



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 19, 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	21	HERE WITH YOU (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	James Lann	2033	205	11	17	24	STRAIGHT SHOT (Independent)	Jordan Rainer	1110	98
2	3	17	KNOW THAT BY NOW (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band	1737	152	12	18	9	BEEN THERE (Independent)	Case Hardin	1109	140
3	4	18	GO GET HER (Independent)	Matt Castillo	1578	51	13	13	20	HONKY TONK (Independent)	RayNicole	1106	-14
4	6	11	CHIPPING MILL (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	1567	118	14	19	11	SITTIN' ON A PORCH (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1047	91
5	7	20	IN MY BOOTS (Independent)	Ryder Grimes	1460	68	15	20	8	IF I WAS YOUR COWBOY (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	1038	90
6	5	31	PEDAL STEEL (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1425	-29	16	15	11	SONGS OF THE FAMILY (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1031	3
7	9	18	KIDDIE POOL (Cielo Azul Ent)	Olivia Harms	1396	18	17	8	17	LOSER (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1028	-359
8	14	9	HOW THE HURTIN' GOES (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1294	241	18	21	9	HELL OF A STORM (Independent)	Cory Morrow	1017	109
9	11	18	GENTLEMEN START YOUR WEEKENDS (Independent)	James Robert Webb	1291	65	19	16	18	CLOSE THE BETS (Independent)	Kyle Nix & The 38's	972	-48
10	12	17	BARS AND CHURCHES (Independent)	Sundance Head	1227	50	20	22	13	ORANGE (Independent)	Payton Howie	923	22

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
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	2	24	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★ Morgan Wallen	32.474	+1.642	8113	439	2
2	3	22	TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	31.816	+2.432	8201	815	1
3	1	22	WATERMELON MOONSHINE Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	27.064	-3.973	6957	-1128	3
4	4	40	GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	25.639	+0.019	6692	-81	4
5	6	39	STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	24.591	+1.170	6424	151	5
6	5	27	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	23.639	-0.347	5184	-77	8
7	9	57	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	21.132	+1.284	5751	401	6
8	8	32	STANDING ROOM ONLY McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	19.838	-0.165	5570	15	7
9	10	18	EVERYTHING I LOVE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.825	+0.191	4996	-133	9
10	12	21	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	18.148	+2.805	4586	687	11
11	11	24	BUT I GOT A BEER IN MY HAND Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	17.511	+0.126	4683	124	10
12	14	47	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	14.811	+1.475	4167	292	12
13	13	14	SAVE METHETROUBLE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	14.705	+0.576	4120	120	13
14	15	35	ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG	Chris Janson	12.768	+0.459	3653	-45	14
15	19	19	WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	11.488	+1.064	3247	243	18
16	16	13	WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	11.449	+0.251	3338	-1	17
17	18	46	WE GOT HISTORY Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	11.349	+0.891	3342	106	16
18	17	42	IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOIN' DOWN TOO) Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	10.618	-0.512	3343	-97	15
19	20	24	DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG	★★ Airpower ★★ Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	10.524	+0.714	2997	136	19
20	21	37	23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	8.936	+0.256	2857	56	21
21	22	28	CREEK WILL RISE Valory	Conner Smith	8.151	+0.034	2900	-21	20
22	23	32	LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Ashley McBryde	7.422	+0.204	2756	115	22
23	24	15	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	6.786	+0.416	2317	174	23
24	26	10	THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	5.987	+0.205	1832	85	26
25	25	28	NOBODY'S NOBODY EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	5.734	-0.121	2146	-42	24
26	28	5	I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	5.654	+0.472	1611	192	29
27	27	23	TRUCK BED Big Loud	HARDY	5.609	+0.421	2019	102	25
28	NEW		COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Capitol Nashville	★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★ Jon Pardi & Luke Bryan	5.169	+5.169	1101	1101	37
29	29	38	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine	Jackson Dean	4.999	+0.040	1815	99	27
30	35	9	TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	4.659	+1.149	1206	192	36

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
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LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	32	21	SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER Nashville South/Big Machin*	Brian Kelley	4.306	-0.024	1757	101	28
32	31	20	BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	4.224	-0.143	1533	31	30
33	30	7	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Interscope/Belting Bronco/Warner/MCA Nashville/WAR	Zach Bryan Featuring Kacey Musgraves	4.036	-0.530	1224	-108	35
34	37	3	MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	3.666	+0.594	860	158	41
35	33	19	GLORY DAYS Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	3.656	+0.008	1490	-74	31
36	34	9	CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	3.535	+0.010	1478	1	32
37	36	18	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine	Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	3.163	-0.009	1259	14	34
38	40	11	I'M NOT PRETTY Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville	Megan Moroney	3.007	+0.132	1101	41	38
39	39	20	OUT OF THAT TRUCK Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	2.999	+0.042	1268	32	33
40	38	6	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	2.944	-0.076	1046	-29	39
41	58	2	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	2.890	+2.026	582	394	48
42	43	13	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	2.330	+0.358	863	59	40
43	41	21	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Chase Matthew	2.090	-0.091	801	-26	44
44	44	29	DRIVE YOU OUT OF MY MIND Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	1.844	-0.070	831	-4	43
45	42	32	GIVING UP ON THAT Mercury Nashville	Dalton Dover	1.823	-0.235	848	-63	42
46	45	6	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young	1.676	+0.077	510	51	50
47	48	15	DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	1.541	+0.070	783	-6	45
48	47	12	SOMETHING'S GONNA KILL ME Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	1.525	+0.053	656	13	46
49	49	3	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	1.436	-0.002	389	47	56
50	54	3	WE RIDE Average Joes	Bryan Martin	1.224	+0.160	486	47	52
51	46	4	CAN'T BREAK UP NOW Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	1.171	-0.340	486	-46	53
52	51	5	SPIRITS AND DEMONS Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray Featuring Meghan Patrick	1.037	-0.044	609	12	47
53	55	4	IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler/RCA	Tyler Childers	1.003	+0.052	375	15	58
54	52	30	MARRY THAT GIRL Stone Country	Easton Corbin	0.999	-0.075	521	-31	49
55	53	11	SOMETHING REAL Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	0.987	-0.078	477	-26	54
56	57	7	WINE COUNTRY Curb	Hannah Ellis	0.884	-0.031	493	41	51
57	56	9	DANCE WITH YOU BMLG	Brett Young	0.877	-0.066	458	-24	55
58	60	3	BROKENHEARTED Brown Sellers Brown/Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	0.655	-0.019	382	18	57
59	59	7	GOOD WITH ME RCA/Monument	Walker Hayes	0.645	-0.034	258	-12	-
60	NEW		I'M IN LOVE Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	0.580	+0.232	272	137	-



Gene Watson celebrated his 80th birthday with the Grand Ole Opry on Oct. 12, a day after he reached the milestone. From left: Opry executive producer Dan Rogers, Rhonda Vincent, Watson and The Bellamy Brothers' Howard and David Bellamy.



Shenandoah's Mike McGuire (left) and Marty Raybon (right) dropped by iHeartMedia's syndicated *The Bobby Bones Show* on Oct. 17 to talk with Bones about the group's collaboration with Luke Combs on "Two Dozen Roses."

DERREK KUPISH

FOLLOWING THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE COUNTRY AWARDS PERFORMANCE...

A photograph of Toby Keith performing on stage. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt, a cowboy hat, and a guitar strap. He is pointing his right index finger upwards. The background is dark with blue stage lighting.

DON'T LET THE OLD MAN IN
TOBY KEITH
IMPACTING OCT. 30TH

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TO WATCH EMOTIONAL PERFORMANCE!

“Scott Borchetta, Allison Jones, George Briner and I all had the honor of working with Toby at DreamWorks Records. After seeing Toby’s incredible performance of “Don’t Let The Old Man In” on The People’s Choice Country Awards on September 28th, we were so moved, we jumped right in to promote this song at Country Radio and DSP’s”

JIMMY HARNEN
PRESIDENT / CEO | BMLG RECORDS



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

Warner Music Nashville labelmates Ian Munsick (left) and Chase Matthew posed with a bust of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital founder Danny Thomas on Oct. 12 during the Memphis institution's Country Cares seminar.

BIG LOUD TALKS STRATEGY

Head versus heart; science versus art.

In the digital era where data abounds, old-fashioned music skills and modern spread sheet analysis can coexist, but deciding when to employ them is part of the art.

That was a key takeaway from an Oct. 18 panel discussion featuring two Big Loud executives, senior vp/GM **Patch Culbertson** and senior vp of A&R **Sara Knabe**, presented by the Association of Independent Music Publishers at SESAC Nashville.

In the Big Loud model, gut-level assessments dominate in signing artists and writers, while number-crunching drives the decisions when the label takes singles to radio. But with digital consumption providing the bulk of record-company revenue, getting onto the nation's airwaves isn't even a consideration unless the numbers justify it.

"Radio's honestly the last thing we talk about with any artist that's interested in partnering with Big Loud," explained Culbertson. "It is the last thing we talk about in terms of your marketing strategy and campaign. What I want to equip all our radio team with is the power of the audience telling those stations that [something] is a hit, not that the radio person has to convince them."

He added, "Especially for developing artists, you're talking about the 55- to 60-week debut-single campaign. If you don't have the hit in your hand, why are you going to go and do three or five months of radio setup and launch with that, and it's going to be crickets when you are performing those records in front of those fans?"

The label's roster houses 27 artists, he said, and only three of them were "research signings": "Everybody else was a story of just either an incredible voice, incredible songs, just flooring us either performing on a stage somewhere or in our own offices, or just star quality they give off when they walk into the room."

The approach has worked. Since its 2015 launch, Big Loud has signed and developed the genre's most-consumed current artist, **Morgan Wallen**, plus **HARDY**, **ERNEST** and **Hailey Whitters**, a Country Music Association Award nominee for best new artist. It has also developed gold singles for **Larry Fleet** and **Lily Rose** — signs of strong market penetration, even if the songs didn't become top 10 titles at radio.

Big Loud's volume approach to recording may play a part as well. Since core fans demand a constant supply of new music, the label encourages artists to cut songs when they're ready, even if no album or EP is planned. It's part of the development process — "Even studio experience is part of their growth," Knabe said — and more music increases the possibility that something breaks through with strong numbers.

In the Big Loud model, that's when the head takes over from the heart.

RADIO & RECORDS

Jonas Group Entertainment launched Red Van Records, with JGE CEO **Phil Guerini** overseeing the label. Inaugural signee **Levi Hummon** will release his first single under the new agreement — "Paying for It," a collaboration with **Walker Hayes** — on Oct. 27. Lakeside Entertainment Group will handle label services for Red Van ... Artist-writer **Scotty Hasting** signed with Black River. His first single, "How Do You Choose," will arrive Nov. 3 ... Singer-songwriter **Olivia Lane** joined the artist roster at BEC Recordings ... BMLG Records partnered with **Toby Keith** for the rerelease of his 2018 single, "Don't Let the Old Man In," to radio, following his performance of it at the People's Choice Country Awards ... **Jonathan Wier** returned to the **WKLB** Boston morning show on Oct. 18 after a year away ... Saga/Jonesboro, Ark., promoted **Mitch Mahan** to operations manager, ArkansasBusiness.com reported. He was formerly the PD for classic rock **KEGI**. The seven-station cluster includes country **KDXY** and classic country **KJBX-HD2** ... **Kevin Miskimins** was hired as 5 Star Media/Clarksville, Tenn., GM, according to RadioInk.com. He was most recently iHeartMedia/South Florida market president. His new territory includes country **WVVR** and classic country **WCVQ-HD3** ... **WFMS** Indianapolis morning host **Jim Denny** will retire following his Dec. 15 airshift, RadioInsight.com reported. It concludes a 35-year stint at the station ... Country Radio Broadcasters is accepting applications for the Rusty Walker Scholarship Program. Three recipients will be awarded registration, hotel and airfare for the Country Radio Seminar, slated for Feb. 28–March 1, 2024, in Nashville.

'ROUND THE ROW

Business management firm Farris, Self & Moore promoted **Stephanie Alderman** to partner from business manager. Reach her [here](#) ... Banner Music hired **Sabrina Stewart**, a recent graduate of Belmont University's music business program, as operations manager. She joins creative director **Zach Green** as the newest staff members. Green joined the team in May following two years as BMG Music creative coordinator. Reach Stewart [here](#) and Green [here](#) ... **Jordan Davis** sold the majority share of his publishing catalog to Anthem Entertainment ... Fiddler **Jenee Fleenor** signed a publishing contract with Warner Chappell Nashville ... Morris Higham Management signed on to represent the *Shady Ladies of Music City* podcast, featuring **Evelyn Shriver** and **Susan Nadler**. Season three will launch Nov. 10 ... The Academy of Country Music's membership window closes Oct. 23. Go [here](#) to apply or renew ... The International Bluegrass Music Association Foundation and Leadership Bluegrass Alumni will offer an MC master class webinar free at 11 a.m. CT on Nov. 8. No advance registration is necessary for the Zoom class, accessible [here](#) ... Children's publisher Little Golden Books will publish a **Willie Nelson** biography on Nov. 3 ... **Kane Brown**, **David Nail**, **Shenandoah** and **Craig Campbell** are among the performers who have been added to A Heroes & Friends Tribute to Randy Travis on Oct. 24 at the VBC Propst Arena in Huntsville, Ala. ... Music Health Alliance is offering free open enrollment assistance to the music community for Medicare, Oct. 15–Dec. 7, and health insurance, Nov. 1–Jan. 15. Go [here](#) for details. ●



Alex Miller guested Oct. 18 on the WSM-AM Nashville morning show in advance of the Oct. 20 release of his EP *Country*. From left: WSM co-host Bill Cody, Miller and WSM co-hosts Kelly Sutton and Charlie Mattos.

KELSEA

ROLLING UP THE WELCOME MAT: A SEARING COUNTRY ALBUM FROM THE HEART

*"A BRUTAL,
BEAUTIFUL
TELLING"*

*American
songwriter*
the craft of music

*"UNVARNISHED
VULNERABILITY"*

billboard

*"STRIKINGLY
CANDID"*

The New York Times

*"CUTTINGLY
HONEST"*

TASTE OF COUNTRY

*"THE BEST
MUSIC OF
HER CAREER"*

MUSICROW

*"MOVING AND
INTIMATE"*

RollingStone

57TH
ACMA
AWARDS
NOMINEE

**FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

BLACK RIVER
RECORDS

SANDBOX
ENTERTAINMENT

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

23 Chayce Beckham Publishing Designee, BMI (C. Beckham) **20**

A

ALL I NEED IS YOU Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane 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/KM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Five Miles West Songs, BMI (C.Janson, B.Clawson, A.G.Gorley, Mitch Oglesby) **14**

B

BACK THEN RIGHT NOW T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbaner Publishing, BMI/Songs of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/4Ever Songs, ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, J.J.Dillon, G.Warburton, D.A.Garcia) **40**

BROKENHEARTED Ritten By Rhettro, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/All Night Linda Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Detroit Records, And Tapes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, M.Green, J.Harding) **58**

BURN IT DOWN Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/ParkerMac Publishing, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/BMCMDSongs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Songs From The Sendero Music, BMI (P.McCollum, H.Lindsey, L.Mckenna, I.Rose) **32**

BUT I GOT A BEER IN MY HAND Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Supper Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbaner Publishing, BMI (C.McGill, M.Dragstrem, G.Warburton) **11**

C

CAB IN A SOLO Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Daguon Music, BMI/Songs of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP/Beats By Baby Brent, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP (S.C.McCreery, B.Anderson, F.Rogers) **36**

CAN'T BREAK UP NOW WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Razor And Tie Music Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Tofer The Musical, BMI/Weistrie Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, T.Brown, E.L.Weisband) **51**

CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb Songs, ASCAP/Curb Congregation Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ebanchertainment, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI (D.Scott, M.Alderman, J.Melton, D.Wilson) **7**

COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhettro, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Southern Boy Songs Worldwide, BMI/Jacob Rice Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/No Bridge Publishing, ASCAP (R.Akins, J.Rice, C.Taylor) **28**

CREEK WILL RISE Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Home Jean 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, R.La Corte, P.Veiling) **21**

D

DANCE WITH YOU Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caville Publishing, ASCAP/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/TRMS, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (B.Young, J.T.Minton, J.Robbins) **57**

DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Supper Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (R.Green, R.Montana, J.D.Singleton) **19**

DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/PeermusicJLL, Ltd., BMI/Townes Van Hawke Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Larkin Hill Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI (L.Cornos, Erik Dylan, R.Fulcher, T.Archer) **47**

DRIVE YOU OUT OF MY MIND Wolf Shift Publishing, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Todd Sherman Clark, SOCAN (K.Ashton, T.P.Wood, T.S.Crank) **44**

E

EVERYTHING I LOVE Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Elijah Blue Music, BMI/Unichappel Music, Inc., BMI (M.C.Wallen, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, A.G.Gorley, G.Allman, R.K.Payne) **9**

F

FAST CAR Purple Rabbit Music, ASCAP (T.L.Chapman) **6**

FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emleon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (D.Dean, C.L.Dick, J.S.Sherwood) **29**

G

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) **45**

GLORY DAYS Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Weisow, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M&M College Fund, SESAC (G.Barrett, J.McNair, E.L.Weisband, S.Mosley) **35**

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) **4**

GOOD WITH ME Walker Hayes Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Shane McAnally Publishing Designee, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/Art of CTM Music, Outlander LP, BMI/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Scott Stepakoff Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/CTM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (W.Hayes, S.McAnally, S.Stepakoff) **59**

I

I CAN FEEL IT Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Phil Collins LTD, PRS/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Family Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Chorus 3 Music Publishing, ASCAP/Goat Island Palms, LLC, BMI/Songs By 10K HRS Publishing, BMI (P.D.Collins, K.Brown, G.Foist, J.Free) **26**

IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOIN' 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, BMI/Song Songs, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR (K.Balcerin, J.C.Bunetta, S.McAnally) **18**

I'M IN LOVE Not Listed (Not Listed) **60**

I'M NOT PRETTY Georajamo Music, SESAC/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/Tack Mack Tunes, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Redneck Resume Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (M.Moroney, B.Williams, M.E.Carpenter, M.Carpenter) **38**

IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler Songs, BMI/Hares And Haints Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (T.Childers, G.A.Seale, Jr.) **53**

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/551 Music, BMI (Z.L.Bryan, K.Musgraves) **53**

L

LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN Canned Biscuit Songs, BMI/Damn Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triple Rae Creative Inc, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.McBryde, C.R.Harrington, J.L.Alexander) **22**

LOVE YOU AGAIN Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Designee, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI (C.Brown, Chase Matthew, T.Phillips) **43**

M

MAMAW'S HOUSE Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Supper Big Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (Thomas Rhett, M.Dragstrem, C.McGill, M.C.Wallen) **34**

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) **54**

MIND ON YOU Whiskey Side, ASCAP/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlow Sinclair Songs, SESAC/MTNoize, SESAC/Average ZIS Music Publishing, BMI (G.Birge, J.Boyer, M.Tyler, Colt Ford) **12**

N

NOBODY'S NOBODY Trampy McCauley, ASCAP/All The Kings Pens, 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.Maniel) **25**

O

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

OUTSKIRTS Universal Music Works, GMR/Pearl Hunt Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Flow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/Twelve6 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) **42**

P

THE PAINTER BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Pompano Run Music, BMI/Songs For Ellie May, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Well That Was Awkward Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Nashblonde Music, BMI (K.Higgins, B.Davis, R.Larkins) **24**

PRETTY LITTLE POISON Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Twelve6 Dogwood, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Songs By Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (W.Zeders, J.Keim, R.Beaver) **23**

S

SAVE ME Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Songs Of 78, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.B.DeFord, D.R.Stevens) **10**

SAVE ME THE TROUBLE Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane 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 Songs, BMI/SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP (A.G.Gorley, D.Smyers, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds, S.Mooney) **13**

SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP (D.A.Garcia, M.W.Hardy, H.Lindsey) **31**

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/Redneck Music, BMI/Emleon Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP (D.Bentley, R.Copperman, M.W.Hardy, C.L.Dick, A.G.Gorley) **55**

SOMETHING'S GONNA KILL ME Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Anthem Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/WritersontheCornPublishing, BMI (Corey Kent, A.Goodloe, J.Taylor, L.Vaughan) **48**

SPIRITS AND DEMONS Hipgnosis Tunes, SESAC/Songs Of Portierfield Music, SESAC/Allison Veltz Sensations, SESAC/Alexander Palmer Songs, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/MTNoize, SESAC (A.Palmer, A.Veltz-Cruz, M.Tyler) **52**

STANDING ROOM ONLY Amped 11 Publishing, BMI/Tommy Cecil Publishing Designee, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Red Toe Rocker, ASCAP (T.Cecil, M.Purphy, C.Weseman) **8**

STARS LIKE CONFETTI Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI/Crickle On The Line, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Kyle's Kinda Night, ASCAP/Miller Crow Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (J.Thompson, Thomas Rhett, Z.Crowell) **5**

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/TDP Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, Charlie Handsome) **1**

TRUCK BED Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck 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/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI (M.W.Hardy, A.G.Gorley, B.Johnson, H.Phips) **21**

TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Love Music, ASCAP/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irissomusic, BMI/That's Me! Music Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Red Street Country, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Thrash Town Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/King Pen To Paper Songs, ASCAP (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.K.Loveless, N.Thresher) **2**

TUCSON TOO LATE Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Bent Prop Publishing, ASCAP/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC/Songs Of MadTun, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jenktown, ASCAP (J.Davis, J.Davis, J.Jenkins, M.Jenkins) **30**

W

WATERMELON MOONSHINE Sony Accent, ASCAP/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Kigaiq, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Louisiana Lady, ASCAP (C.Wilson, J.M.Schmidt, J.Kear) **3**

WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/Smackwood Music, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments, GMR (C.Pearce, A.Good, S.McAnally) **37**

WE GOT HISTORY Sony CountrySide, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (M.Tenpeny, A.Albert, D.Dawson, J.M.Schmidt) **17**

WE RIDE Average ZIS Music Publishing, BMI/Vernon DiAngio Brown Jr., Publishing Designee, BMI (B.Martin, V.D.Brown, Jr.) **50**

WHERE IT ENDS Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Gold Room Special Music, BMI/Hipgnosis Beats, BMI/Holy Hell Music, BMI/London Electric Music, BMI/London Margate Songs, BMI (B.Zimmerman, G.Averill, J.Spargour) **49**

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI/Sea Gayle Pub House Publishing, ASCAP/10 & 2 Bullfish Music, ASCAP/Spark Ark Songs, ASCAP (R.Montana, D.Tumbull) **41**

WHITE HORSE WC Music Corp., ASCAP/House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Songs From The Alcove, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Son Of A Miner songs, ASCAP (C.Stapleton, D.D.Wilson) **16**

WINE COUNTRY Mike Curb Music, BMI/Her Futur Music, BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Lowman Music, ASCAP/EE Posse Publishing, BMI/EMPIRE Strikes First, BMI (H.Ellis, L.Cagerberg, N.Wayne) **56**

WORLD ON FIRE Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Corent Music, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Pony's Picks, ASCAP/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Nate Smith Music Publishing Company, ASCAP (N.Smith, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, L.Rimes) **15**

Y

YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS WC Music Corp., ASCAP/EMI Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sony Music Publishing UK Ltd., PRS/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Telemirya Rhythm House Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Jones Music America, ASCAP/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI (David Bowie, J.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, J.Thompson) **46**



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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CODA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

65 Years Ago Ray Price's 'City Lights' Shined At No. 1

The classic topped the first all-encompassing Hot Country Songs chart

On Oct. 20, 1958, *Billboard* combined prior country song rankings—which had launched with the Most Played Juke Box Folk Records listing in 1944—into the singular Hot Country Songs chart (then named Hot C&W Sides). The makeover, as noted that issue, marked “a new and expanded form of service.”

The first track to rule the new survey: **Ray Price's** “City Lights.” Written by **Bill Anderson**, it reigned for 13 weeks. Multiple covers have been recorded, with **Mickey Gilley's** likewise a No. 1 in 1975.

Price was born Jan. 12, 1926, in

Peach, Texas. He became known as “the Cherokee Cowboy” and was one of the first artists to use strings in country music.

Price amassed over 100 entries on *Billboard's* country singles charts from 1952-89, including six Hot Country Songs leaders among 33 top 10s. In 1996, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He died on Dec. 16, 2013, at age 87.

In August, **Vince Gill** and **Paul Franklin** released the tribute album *Sweet Memories: The Music of Ray Price & The Cherokee Cowboys*.

—JIM ASKER

Price, circa 1957.



MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

TITLE	Artist, Company, Record Number	WEEKS ON CHART
1 CITY LIGHTS	Ray Price, Columbia 41191	1
2 ALONE WITH YOU	Faron Young, Capitol 3982	1
3 SQUAWS ALONG THE YUKON	Hank Thompson, Capitol 4017	1
4 BLUE BOY	Jim Reeves, RCA Victor 7266	1
5 YOU'RE THE NEAREST THING TO HEAVEN	Johnny Cash, Sun 302	1
6 THE WAYS OF A WOMAN IN LOVE		