

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Remembering Lefty Frizzell, Who Still Influences Artists Who May Not Really Know Him



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In "What Am I Gonna Do," the opening track on **Chris Stapleton's** current *Higher* album, a broken-hearted man revels in a barroom jukebox that incessantly plays "That's the Way Love Goes."

That song celebrates two anniversaries this month: 50 years since **Johnny Rodriguez** topped Hot Country Songs with his version on Feb. 16, 1974, and 40 years since **Merle Haggard** took it to No. 1 on Feb. 11, 1984. In fact, Haggard's performance netted the only solo Grammy Award of his career.

It's a good bet that many country fans — and, perhaps, a few current country artists — don't actually know "That's the Way Love Goes." It's an even better bet that fewer know much about one of its writers, Country Music Hall of Fame member **Lefty Frizzell**, who nonetheless is inarguably one of the architects of the classic male country sound. His influence has filtered down to some members of the present generation of artists, even if they're not aware of it.

"They could have got it from [**Randy Travis**] or [**Johnny Paycheck**]," says Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum senior writer-editor **Michael McCall**. "A lot of the phrasing that he

did is so common in country music, but they may not know why they phrase that way or where it started."

Frizzell is likely best known for the first single — and biggest hit — of his career, the 1950 release "If You've Got the Money, I've Got the Time." A brisk, rousing honky-tonk number, it

spent three weeks at No. 1. **Willie Nelson** also earned a No. 1 single with his 1976 cover, and the tune eventually joined the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.

But it's just one of several Frizzell songs that earned significant updates through the years. **John Anderson's** version of "I Love You a Thousand Ways" charted in 1981, **Dwight Yoakam's** reworking of "Always Late With Your Kisses" hit the top 10 in 1988, Irish band **The Chieftains** enlisted **Mick Jagger** for the title track of the 1995 album *The Long Black Veil*, and **Keith Whitley**

delivered a key remake of "I Never Go Around Mirrors." For the latter song, Whitley — who usually blasted Frizzell's music in the back of his bus before he took the stage — persuaded Frizzell's "Mirrors" co-writer, **Sanger D. "Whitey" Shafer** ("All My Ex's Live in Texas," "I Wonder Do You Think of Me"), to compose a second verse.



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“Keith was such a huge Lefty fan, he actually went that morning to Lefty’s grave and read the verse over his grave before he went to the studio to cut it,” recalls Whitley’s former steel guitarist-road manager, producer **Carson Chamberlain (Zach Top, Billy Currington)**.

Frizzell was an innovative country singer, and his performance of “Always Late (With Your Kisses)” perhaps best reveals the three techniques that set him apart from his competitors when he arrived on the national scene. The most obvious change he introduced was the curls and bends that embellished an occasional note. But he also wrote many of his songs with a melody that dipped into his rich lower range just enough to make a statement by showing the breadth of his voice. The most subtle of his three techniques came in his phrasing; Frizzell would, at times, start a line at a loud volume before trailing off by the end — not because he had run out of breath, but because it captured the mood of that particular thought.

“I don’t remember him ever really singing the same song the same way twice,” says his younger brother, **David Frizzell**, who is working on a documentary that’s likely to be released this year. “He always had a little different curl here than he did the last time, or a little different way of pronouncing or singing a line, or taking a word and making it three or four syllables. So no matter what he sings, he came off Lefty.”

Haggard, Anderson, Nelson, Whitley, Travis, **Gene Watson, George Strait** and **George Jones** were among those who incorporated at least one of Lefty’s techniques into their own performance style.

Moe Bandy, for whom Lefty wrote the 1975 hit “Bandy the Rodeo Clown,” acknowledged the genre’s debt to Frizzell by singing “There’s a lot of Leftys now with different names” in his 1980 single “Yesterday Once More.” Ironically, Bandy was heavily influenced by Frizzell, but didn’t actually sound much like him.

“I had my own style, and I didn’t like it,” Bandy says. “I wanted to sound like Lefty and all those people, but I finally got used to it, and I liked it. But at first, I was trying to do all that stuff that Lefty and Hank and all them people were doing. Finally I found out no matter what I do, I come out as Moe Bandy.”

In the decades since then, plenty of artists took cues from Haggard, Travis and Jones, et al, and borrowed some of the techniques others had developed by emulating Frizzell. **Josh Turner, Trace Adkins, Tracy Lawrence, Garth Brooks, Dylan Scott, Toby Keith, Joe Diffie, Daryle Singletary, Scotty McCreery** and **Cody Johnson** are just some of the singers to whom parts of Lefty’s approach have been bequeathed.

“He inspired all these people that didn’t even know they was inspired by him,” notes Bandy. “It’s funny how music passes down.”

New artist **Ryan Larkins** sees himself among the beneficiaries. His debut single, “King of Country Music,” cites Saginaw, Mich., in its opening verse as an oblique homage to Frizzell, whose last No. 1 single was the 1964 release “Saginaw, Michigan.” He mines his lower register in a manner that Frizzell would likely have appreciated.

“Lefty is one of those guys, I don’t think about him as much I should,” Larkins says. “You can’t really put it into words just the way he would bend some of those notes and draw out certain words. I feel like nobody else would sing it that way.”

Larkins detects Frizzell’s influence in the enunciations of bluegrass-tinged **Shawn Camp** and the low notes of **Blake Shelton**, who illustrates the hand-me-down nature of Lefty’s skills.

“Lefty was very influenced by **Jimmie Rodgers**, like the yodeling kind of thing, and I can hear that,” says Larkins. “It’s funny how every generation takes something from the last one, and to think that Blake Shelton is being influenced by Jimmie Rodgers in a roundabout way, it’s an interesting thought.”

Nicknamed for a fierce punch he delivered as a schoolyard scrapper, Frizzell’s life was a tough one, some of it self-inflicted. He was imprisoned at age 19 for statutory rape, signed a series of bad contracts that cost him as much as 50% of his income and had a persistent alcohol problem. And his significant creative influence haunted him as he heard his style approximated by so many other artists through the years. He died in 1975 at age 47 from a stroke, never really receiving full credit for his innovations during his lifetime. Decades later, his style continues to have a faint, but surprising, impact on the genre through the vocal approach of a younger generation that doesn’t actually know he’s a significant source.

“He had his own way of doing it,” David recalls. “He just was so different than anybody else that I’ve ever been around.”

He was different until everybody else became a little bit like Lefty. That’s the way love goes. ●



FORD FAIRCHILD / REBECCA DLER

Keith Urban served as host when the Country Music Association presented the CMA Touring Awards on Feb. 12 at Marathon Music Works in Nashville. He’s flanked by CMA CEO Sarah Trahern (left) and senior vp of industry relations and philanthropy Tiffany Kerns.



COURTESY HUMAN ARTISTRY CAMPAIGN

A Tennessee House subcommittee unanimously passed the Ensuring Likeness Voice and Image Security Act on Feb. 13. Testifying before the committee were (from left): RIAA senior vp of public policy Jessie Richard, songwriter Jamie Moore (“Chasin’ You,” “May We All”) and singer-actor Chrissy Metz.



Adam Doleac (right) visited with *The BIG 615* host Storme Warren for a Feb. 13 appearance on the Tuneln channel.



Singer-songwriter Jenna LaMaster (center) signed a management deal with Maverick Nashville. With her: Maverick artist manager Marne McLyman and partner Clarence Spalding.



TEXAS HOLD 'EM

IMMEDIATE AIRPLAY



billboard Country Airplay

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

'World' Record: Nate Smith Ties For Longest Reign; Country Radio Welcomes Beyoncé

Nate Smith's "World on Fire" (Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville) leads *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart (dated Feb. 24) for a 10th week, tying for the longest domination in the survey's 34-year history. It matches Morgan Wallen's "You Proof," which began its command in October 2022.

In the Feb. 9-15 tracking week, "World on Fire" drew 30.8 million in audience, according to Luminate.

Smith, meanwhile, debuts at No. 40 on Country Airplay (2.5 million) with his newest single, "Bulletproof," released Feb. 8.

NEW BEY-GINNING Pop superstar Beyoncé made a surprise announcement during Super Bowl LVIII (Feb. 11), releasing two tracks noticeably different in sound from the bulk of her catalog: "Texas Hold 'Em" and "16 Carriages." The former is officially being promoted to country radio, as announced in a Columbia Nashville email to stations on Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. ET, and arrives as her first Country Airplay entry at No. 54 with 1.1 million in audience through Feb. 15.

"We immediately added it to sub-power rotation, which is where we put top trending new music," Alpha Media-owned KBAY San Jose, Calif., program director Bo Matthews tells *Billboard*. "I want people to hear it. One of the biggest artists in the world delivered a great country record for us to have fun with, and the song is really good. We are in the business of creating excitement for our listeners, and I'm embracing the moment. Plus there is plenty of room for great artists, even from other genres. It's a big country tent."

Says Tim Roberts, PD of Audacy's WYCD Detroit, "I think it's a good record, and country is so popular right now, it's great that she wants to be here. Just like we do with any song on our playlist, now the listeners will decide." ●



MATTHEW BERINATO

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+4.930
BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+2.485
MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	+2.456
I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+2.055
PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	+1.929
MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	+1.802
BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1.670
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.473
HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1.246
THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	+1.239

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+1541
PURPLE IRISES Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Gwen Stefani & Blake Shelton	+730
MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	+629
MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	+552
BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+533
I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+519
WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+403
BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+403
HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+325
PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	+306

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	19.941
2	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	19.411
3	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	15.607
4	WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	15.522
5	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	12.833
6	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	12.213
7	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	11.434
8	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	11.204
9	NEXT THING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	10.208
10	TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	9.984



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 2024

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	14	OKLAHOMA (Independent) ★★ 1 Week At 1 ★★	Casey Donahew	1914	124	11	13	14	PROMISE YOU ME (Independent)	Grant Gilbert	1062	68
2	3	17	IF I HAD A BAR (Independent)	Jon Wolfe	1625	58	12	14	14	RIGHT AT HOME (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1061	109
3	5	26	SITTIN' ON A PORCH (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1518	59	13	16	19	INTEXCATING (Independent)	Ben McPeak	992	59
4	4	15	OUTLAWS AND MUSTANGS (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1449	-68	14	20	6	ELLE (Underground Sound)	Cody Canada & The Departed	976	192
5	6	23	SET IT ALL DOWN (Independent)	The Great Divide	1377	95	15	18	10	SOMEBODY'S BABY (Independent)	Jon Stork	959	88
6	7	26	STICKS AND STONES (Independent)	Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real	1301	27	16	17	22	ASK ME TO DANCE (Independent)	Catie Offerman / Hayes Carl	937	48
7	8	14	A BROKEN HEART LIKE THAT (Independent)	Kyle Park	1294	64	17	25	5	I WON'T GIVE UP (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	920	236
8	11	17	THE GREYS BETWEEN (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1290	207	18	21	5	WAY IT GOES (Independent)	Mike Ryan	882	131
9	9	26	SONGS OF THE FAMILY (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1197	-23	19	15	20	LOVIN' NOT LEAVIN' (Independent)	Wade Bowen	820	-118
10	1	24	BEEN THERE (Independent)	Case Hardin	1144	-663	20	10	19	SAME PLACE TWICE (Independent)	Chad Cooke Band (Ft. Amanda Kate Ferris)	806	-316

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 2024, 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	1	36	WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	30.790	-0.582	7102	-283	3
2	3	32	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	28.900	+1.929	7464	306	2
3	6	19	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	28.147	+4.930	7714	1541	1
4	4	27	THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	26.162	+1.239	6755	200	4
5	8	22	I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	22.548	+2.055	6045	519	6
6	7	40	TRUCK BED Big Loud	HARDY	22.506	+1.188	6058	306	5
7	5	38	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	22.403	-1.804	5181	-322	8
8	9	20	MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	22.248	+2.456	5919	629	7
9	2	41	DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG	Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	19.145	-8.991	4988	-2771	9
10	10	37	BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	17.104	+1.061	4592	183	11
11	12	54	23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	16.954	+1.053	4738	147	10
12	13	16	MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	16.541	+1.802	4261	552	13
13	14	45	CREEK WILL RISE Valory	Conner Smith	14.903	+0.503	4278	35	12
14	15	26	TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	13.032	+1.473	3544	146	16
15	16	26	CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	12.115	+0.996	3618	235	14
16	17	14	WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	11.819	+0.992	3562	403	15
17	18	23	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	11.293	+1.670	3410	403	17
18	19	55	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine	Jackson Dean	10.234	+0.719	3269	72	18
19	20	35	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine	Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	9.733	+0.588	2963	17	19
20	22	14	TAKE HER HOME Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	8.891	+1.148	2793	273	20
21	21	36	GLORY DAYS Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	7.984	+0.195	2720	-54	21
22	23	9	YOUR PLACE Back Blocks/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	7.744	+0.498	2383	243	22
23	24	30	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	7.630	+1.220	2329	237	23
24	28	20	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	6.741	+0.987	2170	273	25
25	25	28	I'M NOT PRETTY Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville	Megan Moroney	6.658	+0.334	2065	3	27
26	30	5	HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	6.607	+1.246	1805	325	28
27	26	37	OUT OF THAT TRUCK Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	6.398	+0.170	2186	38	24
28	27	12	LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	5.784	-0.104	1773	66	30
29	31	21	CAN'T BREAK UP NOW Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	5.644	+0.406	2070	137	26
30	29	24	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Interscope/Belting Bronco/Warner/MCA Nashville/WAR	Zach Bryan Featuring Kacey Musgraves	5.274	-0.171	1775	-37	29

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2024, 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.

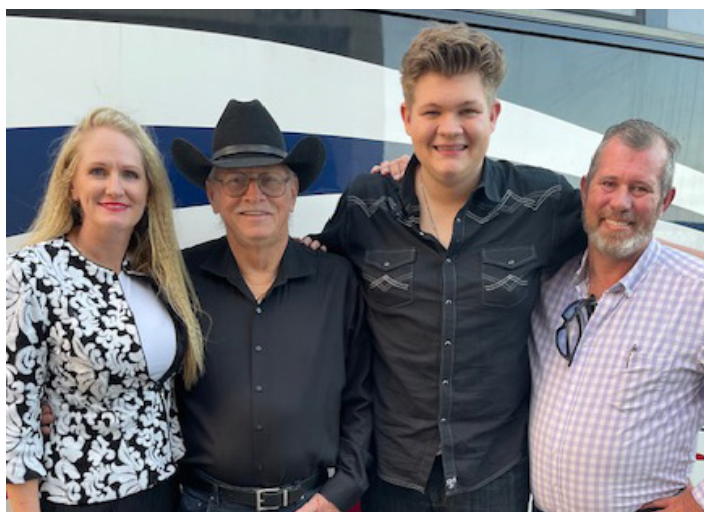
BREAKER

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	32	20	WE RIDE Average Joes	Bryan Martin	5.046	+0.221	1471	68	32
32	33	38	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Chase Matthew	4.239	-0.120	1626	-57	31
33	34	23	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young	3.906	+0.048	1323	50	33
34	35	18	COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi & Luke Bryan	2.802	-0.289	1073	-9	37
35	NEW		PURPLE IRISES Warner Music Nashville/WMN ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker ★★	Gwen Stefani & Blake Shelton	2.732	+2.732	730	730	44
36	37	22	SPIRITS AND DEMONS Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray Featuring Meghan Patrick	2.690	+0.100	969	11	40
37	38	32	DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	2.646	+0.114	1279	-24	34
38	36	15	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Parmalee	2.593	-0.090	1138	22	36
39	41	26	DANCE WITH YOU BMLG	Brett Young	2.514	+0.472	1046	168	38
40	NEW		BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	2.497	+2.485	536	533	53
41	39	14	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory	Justin Moore	2.301	+0.063	1008	26	39
42	40	15	RODEO MAN Pearl/Big Machine	Garth Brooks & Ronnie Dunn	2.088	-0.056	1254	-22	35
43	42	6	SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Leo33	Zach Top	1.908	+0.125	766	43	42
44	44	10	CHEVROLET Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	1.859	+0.225	715	71	45
45	43	21	IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler/RCA	Tyler Childers	1.654	-0.102	776	-38	41
46	48	4	ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine ★★ Breaker ★★	Tim McGraw	1.623	+0.402	743	140	43
47	54	2	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR ★★ Breaker ★★	Dan + Shay	1.483	+0.691	587	246	50
48	45	16	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street	Chris Lane	1.455	+0.110	693	19	46
49	46	15	PICKUP MAN Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Joe Diffie Featuring Post Malone	1.427	+0.111	289	7	-
50	49	18	I'M IN LOVE Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	1.333	+0.128	561	21	52
51	50	16	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	Drew Baldridge	1.278	+0.212	645	37	47
52	51	20	BROKENHEARTED Brown Sellers Brown/Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	1.194	+0.145	628	-16	49
53	52	6	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	1.102	+0.187	513	39	54
54	NEW		TEXAS HOLD 'EM Parkwood/Columbia/Columbia Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	Beyonce	1.098	+1.098	300	300	-
55	47	12	LOVE YOU BACK BMLG	Lady A	1.031	-0.212	640	-44	48
56	53	9	AIN'T ABOUT YOU 19/Wheelhouse	HunterGirl	0.907	+0.015	574	-10	51
57	55	7	KING OF COUNTRY MUSIC Red Street	Ryan Larkins	0.683	-0.027	352	-6	57
58	57	5	DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	0.680	+0.058	130	23	-
59	59	7	MAKE ME WANNA SMOKE Quartz Hill	Runaway June	0.618	+0.073	382	14	56
60	56	5	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	0.590	-0.032	430	-7	55



Billy Jam artist Alex Miller caught up with WAFC Clewiston, Fla., staff when he performed Feb. 9 at the Glades County Season of Fine Arts. From left at his bus: concert MC Sommer Foster, WAFC morning host Mike Moore, Miller and WAFC morning show producer Craig Moore.



Tenille Townes raised \$418,000 for charity with her 13th annual Big Hearts for Big Kids benefit in Grande Prairie, Canada. From left: performers Eric Paslay, Townes, Caylee Hammack and Dean Brody.

ROBERT CHAYERS

NATE SMITH

WORLD ON FIRE



#1

10 WEEKS AT BILLBOARD!

LONGEST CONSECUTIVE RUN AT NO. 1 ON
THE BILLBOARD COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART

THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO



NATE SMITH

BULLETPROOF

50+ STATIONS ADDED EARLY

IMPACTING NOW



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



Phil Vassar (center) signed a booking agreement with Action Entertainment Collaborative. He is accompanied by AEC founder Nick Meinema (left) and booking agent Travis James.

RADIO & RECORDS

Cumulus vp of country **Charlie Cook** will end his tenure with the company on May 31. He was also Cumulus/Nashville operations manager and PD for country stations **WKDF** and **WSM-FM**. The company is actively seeking a successor in the Nashville cluster ... Neuhoff agreed to sell its six Lafayette, Ind., stations, including country **WKOX**, to Saga as the company leaves the radio business ... **Johnny Wilde** took on the morning show at **KXBG** Fort Collins, Colo., in a return to broadcasting, RadioInk.com reported. Wilde spent nearly two decades as a Denver air personality before leaving radio in 2017 to form an interior design firm, Colorado Wood Accent Walls and Barn Doors ... Southwest Media/West Texas tapped **Joel Burke** as a new market manager, according to RadioInk.com. Country signals under his supervision include **KOMX** Pampa and **KQTY** Borger. The veteran programmer was most recently **KORA** Bryan-College Station, Texas, PD/afternoon host... **KATC** Colorado Springs hired afternoon drive host/promotions director **Raj Sharan**, RadioInsight.com reported. He shifts from a PD role for two Denver sports/talk stations, **KKFN** and **KEPN** ... **Jay Fotsch** took over the **KTTS** Springfield, Mo., morning show, according to RadioInsight.com, shifting from the same daypart at top 40 rival **KSPW** ... Country Radio Broadcasters announced the talent lineups for four key label showcases during Country Radio Seminar. Warner Music Nashville will present **Ashley McBryde**, **Cody Johnson** and **Warren Zeiders**, among others, at the Feb. 28 luncheon. Universal Music Group Nashville offers **Darius Rucker**, **Chris Stapleton**, **Tyler Hubbard** and **Luke Bryan** on Feb. 29 at the Ryman Auditorium. BBR Music Group features **Parmalee**, **Chayce Beckham** and **HunterGirl** in its late-night Decades Party on Feb. 29 at the Omni Nashville. And Big Machine Label Group entertains during the March 1 lunch with **Lady A**, **Jackson Dean**, **Greytan James** and **Carly Pearce** ... **Kellie LaJack** joined independent 16Camino as senior director of promotion and marketing, following her previous gig as Dreamcatcher national director of promotion. Reach her [here](#) ... Universal Music Group Nashville signed writer-artist-producer **Hueston** to a recording deal with its new Silver Wings imprint, also affiliated with Virgin Music Group ... Country trio **Due West** joined the artist roster at **Dean Dillon**'s Unwound label. Dillon co-wrote and produced the band's album *Unbroken*, scheduled for Feb. 23 release.

'ROUND THE ROW

The Academy of Country Music hired six new staff members. VP of live events and production **Ben Carter** spent over eight years as the Los Angeles-based Academy of Television Arts & Sciences senior director of event production. ACM director of digital marketing **Matt Brum-Taylor** arrives from Big Machine Label Group, where he spent seven years as digital marketing director. New senior manager of communications and strategic initiatives **Lexi Cothran** left her post as Shore Fire Media account executive. Coordinator of finance **Kendra Williams** transfers from a staff accountant role at Forsyth & Hilario in Murfreesboro, Tenn. ACM Lifting Lives assistant **Brooke Boyd** goes full time after spending 2023 as an ACM intern. And

assistant of marketing **Heather Howard** was formerly a Universal Music Group Nashville digital marketing coordinator. Reach Carter [here](#), Brum-Taylor [here](#), Cothran [here](#), Williams [here](#), Boyd [here](#) and Howard [here](#) ... **Raj Kapoor** returns as the executive producer of the Academy of Country Music Awards in May ... Three Messina Group employees were upped to vp: **Lauren Caire** rose to vp of finance from director, **Keena Cheatham** was promoted to vp of touring from promoter rep, and **LeeAnn Rotondo** was bumped to vp of ticketing from director. Reach Caire [here](#), Cheatham [here](#) and Rotondo [here](#) ... River House Artists promoted **Kayla Adkins** to creative director of publishing from creative manager ... Nonprofit Operation Song installed **Jon Foti** as CEO, shifting from a similar role at the Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation. The organization, which pairs professional songwriters with veterans to assist their post-military development, is actively scouting for Nashville office space ... Alexandria, Va.-based Furnace Record Pressing promotes **Ali Miller** to CEO from COO, effective March 1. The company's vinyl clients have included **Eric Church**, **Norah Jones** and **Band of Horses** ... **Jon Pardi** signed with WME ... Artist-writer **Ian Harrison** pacted with UTA Nashville for representation ... **Semisonic** singer-songwriter **Dan Wilson** ("White Horse," "Not Ready To Make Nice") signed with Universal Music Publishing Group ... The International Bluegrass Music Association tabbed 25 participants for its Leadership Bluegrass class of 2024, including recording artist **Amanda Cook**, Pineworks Creative founder **Sara Gougeon** and University of Texas assistant professor **Chelsea Burns**. Go [here](#) for the full list ... **Chris Stapleton**'s All-American Road Show Tour crew claimed the first-ever crew of the year honor during the Country Music Association Touring Awards on Feb. 12 as his team snagged six categories overall to lead the trophy winners. **Lainey Wilson** employees garnered three awards. Go [here](#) for a full account ... The Nashville Songwriters Association International set Tin Pan South for April 2-6, with new venue Anzie Blue joining nine previous festival locations to showcase composers in live settings. Go [here](#) for more info ... **Scotty McCreery**'s Grand Ole Opry induction has been set for April 20. **Trisha Yearwood**'s 25th anniversary as an Opry member will be celebrated March 13 ... The Mechanical Licensing Collective filed suit against Pandora in Nashville on Feb. 12, claiming the streaming service failed to fully compensate rights holders for use of music through its Pandora Free offering ... **Lady A** was named ambassador for Cornerstone Building's Home for Good project during 2024 ... Live in the Vineyard Goes Country is slated for April 23-25 in Napa Valley, Calif., with **Hailey Whitters**, **Sara Evans**, **ERNEST**, **Larry Fleet** and **Rodney Atkins** among the participating artists ... Seminal rock drummer **Jimmy Van Eaton**, 86, died Feb. 9 at his home in Alabama, *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* reported. He played on a number of key Sun Records releases, including **Charlie Rich**'s "Lonely Weekends," **Johnny Cash**'s "Guess Things Happen That Way" and the **Jerry Lee Lewis** singles "Great Balls of Fire" and "Whole Lot of Shakin' Going On." ●



Live Nation presented Jordan Davis (center) a plaque to celebrate six sold-out U.K. performances when the tour leg launched Feb. 13 in London. With him are WME Nashville co-head Becky Gardenhire and Red Light Management artist manager Zach Sutton.

CALEB COCKRELL



WOMEN IN MUSIC

On March 2nd, *Billboard* will publish its highly anticipated Women in Music special issue, featuring top women in the music industry who are creating excitement and making their mark across labels, publishing and touring.

Coinciding with the issue, *Billboard's* Women in Music awards ceremony will be held March 6th. This event will bring together music's most prominent female artists and the industry's top female business executives to recognize and celebrate their achievements.

Take this opportunity to congratulate the most powerful and talented women in music and wish them continued success.

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International: Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

ON SALE: 3/2 | **AD CLOSE** 2/20 | **MATERIALS DUE** 2/22

billboard

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

23 Chayce Beckham Publishing Designee, BMI (C. Beckham) **11**

A

AIN'T ABOUT YOU BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/19 Tunes, ASCAP/Huntergrimmusic, BMI (T.H.Wolkonowski) **56**

B

BACK THEN RIGHT NOW T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbringer Publishing, BMI/Songs of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Ever Songs, ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, J.J.Dillon, G.Warburton, D.A.Garcia) **17**

BIGGER HOUSES Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Sugar Plum Songs, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP (A.Albert, D.Snyfers, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds) **47**

BOYS BACK HOME Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs of PIA Entertainment, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs From The Rose Hotel, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC (D.Marlowe, S.Ems, J.A.Fox) **53**

BREAKIN' IN BOOTS Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/124 Records, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BRRCOFFEE, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Dead Aim Music, BMI/A Sebastian Music, BMI/Young Guns Publishing, LLC, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (M.Stell, N.Cyphert, J.A.Fox, B.M.Stennis) **60**

BROKENHEARTED Ritten By Rhettrio, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/All Night Lindsa Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Detroit Records And Tapes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (R.Akins, J.Harding) **52**

BULLETPROOF Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs LLC, ASCAP/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (A.G.Gorley, B.Johnson, H.Phelps) **40**

BURN IT DOWN Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/BMCMB Songs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Songs From The Sendero Music, BMI (P.McCullum, H.Lindsey, L.Mckenna, L.Rose) **10**

C

CAB IN A SOLO Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/Lit Tunes, ASCAP/Beats By Baby Brent, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP (S.C.McCreery, B.Anderson, F.Rogers) **15**

CAN'T BREAK UP NOW WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Razor And Tie Music Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/oter the Musical, BMI/Metairie Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Treyor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/12weeb Dogwood, ASCAP (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, T.Brown, E.L.Weisband) **29**

CHEVROLET Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Almo Music Corp., ASCAP (C.McGill, J.L.Alexander, H.Phelps, M.Williams) **44**

COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhettrio, 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) **34**

CREEK WILL RISE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Home Team Harmonies, BMI/South Lick Creek Songs, BMI/Songs of Miller Crow, BMI/Tunes By Trailermaker, 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) **15**

D

DANCE WITH YOU Super Big Music, ASCAP/Galville Publishing, ASCAP/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/IRMS, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (B.Young, J.T.Minton, J.Robbins) **39**

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) **9**

DIRT CHEAP Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Write Or Die Music, BMI/Write The Lightning Publishing, BMI (J.Phillips) **58**

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) **37**

F

FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Little Louder Songs, BMI/Ermiegon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick, J.Sherwood) **18**

FIND ANOTHER BAR Big Big Plans Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Phat Racoon, SESAC/Universal Tunes, SESAC (C.Lane, J.Thompson, J.Each) **48**

G

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.Mosley) **21**

GONNA LOVE YOU Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs By Slip Joint, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Camp James Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Major, Bob Productions, BMI (M.Thomas, D.Fanning, A.Dean, A.Sheridan) **38**

H

HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Influence, BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI/Songs Of Madlum, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jenktown, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (J.B.DeFord, J.Frasure, M.Jenkins, J.J.Dillon) **26**

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) **5**

I'M IN LOVE MR. Canoe Music, BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/James Edward Allen BMI Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Influence, BMI/A Town Call Winner, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs With Words, That Rhytmie With Truck, BMI (C.Bedell, N.Galyon, L.T.Miller) **50**

I'M NOT PRETTY Georgiamo 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-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (M.Moroney, B.Williams, M.E.Carpenter, M.Carpenter) **25**

IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler Songs, BMI/Hares And Haints Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (T.Children, G.A.Seale, Jr.) **45**

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/351 Music, BMI (Z.L.Bryan, K.Musgraves) **30**

K

KING OF COUNTRY MUSIC William Hill Publishing, ASCAP/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Town Of Iwang, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Nashblonde Music, BMI/Ryan Larkins Songs, BMI (R.Larkins, W.Duvall, J.R.McCoy) **57**

L

LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlowe Sinclair Songs, SESAC/Hipgnosis Tunes, SESAC/Songs Of Portiered Music, SESAC/Allison Veltz Sensations, SESAC/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Sounds Epic Music, BMI (J.Boyer, A.Veltz-Cruz, M.Wilshire) **28**

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-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI (C.Brown, Chase Matthew, T.Phillips) **32**

LOVE YOU BACK Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Weisowl, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP (J.McNair, L.Rimes, E.L.Weisband) **55**

M

MAKE ME WANNA SMOKE WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Flving Jamarack Music, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Ella Langley Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Yes Yes Yes, BMI (J.D.Sellers, E.Langley, B.Hamrick) **59**

MAMAW'S HOUSE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (Thomas Rhett, M.Dragstrom, C.McCill, M.Wallen) **8**

MAN MADE A BAR Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Hell Write Songs, BMI/Stellar Way With Words Publishing, BMI (R.H.Block, J.Dozzi, L.Fleet, Brett Tyler) **12**

O

ONE BAD HABIT Smacksters Music, ASCAP/Holy Ship Music, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/House Tunes, ASCAP/TM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Beliamarla, ASCAP (M.Beeson, A.Eshuis, T.Lane) **46**

OUT OF THAT TRUCK Carrie-Okie Music, BMI/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/WritersontheCornPublishing, BMI (C.Underwood, D.A.Garcia, L.Vaughan) **27**

OUTSKIRTS Universal Music Works, GMR/Pearl Hunt Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackworks Music, ASCAP/Flow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/12weeb 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) **23**

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-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Nashblonde Music, BMI (K.Higgins, B.Davis, R.Larkins) **4**

PICKUP MAN EMI Full Keel Music, ASCAP/Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP/EMI Longitude Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI (K.K.Phillips, H.Perdew) **49**

PRETTY LITTLE POISON Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/12weeb sequoia, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (W.Zeiders, J.Kem, R.Beaver) **2**

PURPLE IRISES Break Out My Cocoon LLC, BMI/Hertz Lichtenstein Young & Polk, LLP, ASCAP/Niko Rubio Songs, ASCAP/12weeb The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Son Of The Dentist Publishing, BMI/The Place To Be Is LMC Publishing, BMI/All Noise Publishing, BMI (G.Stefani, S.C.Haldin, J.G.Hazell, N.Rubio) **35**

R

RODEO MAN LWR, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Pambilly Music, BMI (R.Dunn, P.O'Donnell) **42**

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) **7**

SHE'S SOMEONE'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music, Inc., BMI/Beating The Music, BMI/Hipgnosis Beats, BMI/Smells Of Rich Mahogany, BMI (D.Badridge, J.Yeary, C.Jaymes) **51**

SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Little Acree Music, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, W.McCubbin) **43**

SPIRITS AND DEMONS Hipgnosis Tunes, SESAC/Songs Of Portiered Music, SESAC/Allison Veltz Sensations, SESAC/Alexander Palmer Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/M.Noize, SESAC (A.Palmer, A.Veltz-Cruz, M.Tyler) **36**

T

TAKE HER HOME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (H.Phelps, M.W.Hardy, Z.Aeoni) **20**

TEXAS HOLD 'EM Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Oakland B Music, ASCAP/Elizabeth Lowell Boland Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Megan Biffi How Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Brian Bates Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Nate Ferraro Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Raphael Saadiq Publishing Designee, ASCAP (B.G.Knowles Carter, E.L.Boland, M.Bulow, B.V.Bates, N.Ferraro, Raphael Saadiq) **34**

THIS IS MY DIRT Double Barrel Ac Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paullywood Music, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Anthem Songs Of CountryWood, ASCAP (J.Moore, P.D.Giovanni, R.Montana, J.S.Stover) **41**

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.Phelps) **6**

TUCSON TOO LATE Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Bent Prop Publishing, ASCAP/Smackworks Music, ASCAP/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC/Songs Of Madlum, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jenktown, ASCAP (J.Davis, J.Davis, J.Jenkins, M.Jenkins) **14**

W

WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE BMG Gold Songs, BMI/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, P.Good, S.McAnally) **19**

WE RIDE Average ZIS Music Publishing, BMI/Vernon Diangelo Brown Jr. Publishing Designee, BMI (B.Martin, V.D.Brown Jr.) **31**

WHERE IT ENDS Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane 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.Spargur) **24**

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI/Sea Gable Pub House Publishing, ASCAP/10 & 2 Bullfish Music, ASCAP/Spark Ark Songs, ASCAP (R.Montana, D.Turnbull) **3**

WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Pedal Down Music, ASCAP/27MusicPub, ASCAP (L.Wilson, T.Anderson, P.Sikes) **16**

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/Nate Smith Music Publishing Company, ASCAP (N.Smith, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, L.Rimes) **1**

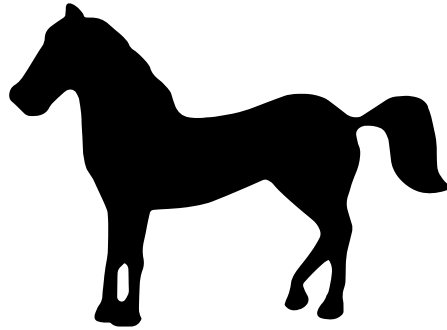
Y

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-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Eletricity Rhythm House Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing Company, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Jortes Music America, ASCAP/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI (David Bowie, J.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, J.Thompson) **33**

YOUR PLACE Twelve Two Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain Tunes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (A.Cooke, J.T.Minton, M.Trussell) **22**

billboard

The Stone Pony



1974 50 2024

ASBURY PARK ★ NEW JERSEY

2024

THE STONE PONY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Stone Pony is 50! With the support of artists, fans and the city of Asbury Park, The Pony has created a rich history and produced many unforgettable moments as the cradle for rock 'n' roll legends. The venue boasts a loyal and diverse fan base that has been visiting the venue's intimate beachside setting for half a century ... and counting.

The Stone Pony has become a symbol of the value of a musical past and the promise of what continues to be a bright and hopeful future. The 50-year milestone will add to its historical significance, highlighting all involved in this marquee year, with a dedication and commitment to music artistry and its enduring impact.

Billboard will celebrate The Stone Pony's 50th in the March 9 issue. Please join in saluting the venue on this historical milestone.

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International: Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

ISSUE DATE 3/9 | AD CLOSE 2/27 | MATERIALS DUE 2/29

COUNTRY

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

20 Years Ago Toby Keith Paid Tribute To The 'American Soldier'

The single became the late genre cornerstone's 13th Hot Country Songs No. 1

On Feb. 21, 2004, **Toby Keith's** "American Soldier" started a four-week command on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart.

Keith wrote the story about a member of the U.S. Army Reserves with **Chuck Cannon** and produced it with **James Stroud**. The song was released from Keith's LP *Shock'n Y'all*, which ruled Top Country Albums for 13 weeks and the

all-genre *Billboard* 200 for one frame. It yielded two other Hot Country Songs No. 1s: "I Love This Bar" and "Whiskey Girl."

Keith, who died Feb. 5 at age 62 after battling stomach cancer, was born July 8, 1961, in Clinton, Okla. Starting in 1993, he rolled up 76 Hot Country Songs hits, including 20 No. 1s among 42 top 10s. On Top Country Albums, he banked 10

leaders among 24 top 10s. Outspoken with his political opinions and a strong supporter of the military, Keith played events for multiple presidents and more than 200 shows in Iraq and Afghanistan for the USO.

Following Keith's passing, his 2008 LP *35 Biggest Hits* vaulted to No. 1 on both Top Country Albums and the *Billboard* 200.

—JIM ASKER



Keith onstage in Cincinnati in 2004.

WEEK	NO.	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST	SONGWRITER	ALBUM	WEEKS AT NO. 1
1	2	14	Toby Keith	J. STROUD, T. KEITH (T. KEITH, C. CANNON)	DREAMWORKS 002046	1 Week At Number 1
2	1	16	Alan Jackson	K. STEGALL (A. JACKSON)	ARISTA NASHVILLE ALBUM CUT	1
3	4	17	Tim McGraw	B. GALLIMORE, T. MCGRAW, D. SMITH (A. OSBORNE, D. ALTMAN)	CURB ALBUM CUT	3
4	5	27	Terri Clark	B. GALLIMORE (T. NICHOLS, R. GILES, G. GODDARD)	MERCURY 001257	4
5	6	25	Brad Paisley	F. RODGERS (C. DUBOIS, B. PAISLEY)	ARISTA NASHVILLE ALBUM CUT	5