

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com



Country Radio Seminar To Focus On Human Air Talent Amid Tech Complications

As broadcasters assemble in Nashville beginning Feb. 28 for the Country Radio Seminar, expect a lot of talk. About talk.

Radio personalities' importance has been on the decline for decades. They used to pick the music on their shows. That privilege was taken away. Then many were encouraged to cut down their segues and get to the music. Then syndicated morning and overnight shows moved in to replace local talent.

But once the streaming era hit and started stealing some of radio's time spent listening, terrestrial programmers began reevaluating their product to discover what differentiates it from streaming. Thus, this year's CRS focus is talk.

"That's what's so important about this year," says iHeartMedia talent **Brooke Taylor**, who voicetracks weekday shows in three markets and airs on 100 stations on weekends. "The radio on-air personality is sort of regaining their importance in the stratosphere of a particular station."

Taylor will appear on a panel designed for show hosts — "Personal Branding: It's Not Ego, It's Branding!" — but it's hardly the only element geared to the talent. Other entries include "On Air Personalities: The OG Influencers," a research study about audience expectations of their DJs; a podcasting deep dive; and four different panels devoted to the threats and opportunities in artificial intelligence (AI).

As it turns out, artifice is not particularly popular, according

to the research study "On Air Talent and Their Roles on All Platforms," conducted by media analytics firm Smith Geiger.

"Americans have very mixed feelings about AI," says Smith Geiger executive vp of digital media strategies **Andrew Finlayson**. "This research proves that the audience is very interested in authentic content and authentic voices."

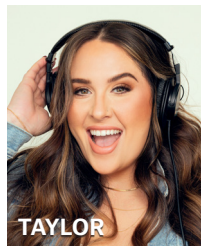
Not to say that AI will be rejected. Sounds Profitable partner **Tom Webster** expects that it will be effective at matching advertisers to podcasts that fit their audience and market priorities. And he also sees it as a research tool that can assist content creation.

"If I'm a DJ and I've got a break coming up, and I've pre-sold or back-sold the same record 1,000 times, why not ask an assistant, 'Give me something new about this record to say?'" Webster suggests. "That's the easy kind of thing right there that can actually help the DJ do their job."

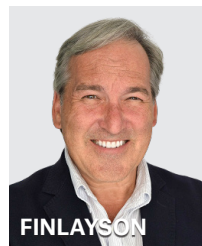
CRS has been helping country radio do its job for more than 50 years, providing network opportunities, exposure to new artists and a steady array of educational panels that grapple with legal issues, industry trends and listener research. In the early 1980s, the format's leaders aspired to make country more like adult contemporary, offering a predictable experience that would be easy to consume for hours in an office situation. The music, and radio production techniques, became more aggressive in the '90s, and as technology provided a bulging wave of competitors



WEBSTER



TAYLOR



FINLAYSON

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Warren Zeiders Hits New Heights
>page 4

The Nagging Loss Of Roni Stoneman
>page 8

Country Coda: Dwight Yoakam's 'Dixie' Memory
>page 11

AUTHORITATIVE INTELLIGENCE.
DELIVERED DIGITALLY.

billboard

DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS

CLICK HERE
FOR FREE
DELIVERY

and new ways to move around the dial, stations have been particularly challenged to maintain listeners' attention during the 21st century.

Meanwhile, major chains have significantly cut staffs. Many stations cover at least two daily shifts with syndicated shows, and the talent that's left often works on multiple stations in several different markets, sometimes covering more than one format. Those same personalities are expected to maintain a busy social media presence and potentially establish a podcast, too.

That's an opportunity, according to Webster. Podcast revenue has risen to an estimated \$2.5 billion in advertising and sponsorship billing, he says, while radio income has dropped from around \$14 billion to \$9 billion. He envisions that the two platforms will be on equal financial footing in perhaps a decade, and he believes radio companies and personalities should get involved if they haven't already.

"It's difficult to do a really good podcast," Webster observes. "We talk a lot about the number of podcasts — there are a lot, and most podcasts are not great. Most podcasts are listened to by friends and family. There's no barrier to entry to a podcast, and then radio has this stable of people whose very job it is to develop a relationship with an audience. That is the thing that they're skilled at."

That '80s idea of radio as predictable background music has been amended. It's frequently still "a lean-back soundtrack to what it is that you're doing," Webster suggests, though listeners want to be engaged with it.

"One of the people in the survey, verbatim, said it's 'a surprise box,'" Finlayson notes. "I think people like that serendipity that an on-air personality who really knows and understands the music can bring to the equation. And country music knowledge is one of the things that the audience craves from an on-air talent."

It's a challenge. Between working multiple stations, creating social media content and podcasting, many personalities are so stretched that it has become difficult to maintain a personal life, which in turn reduces their sources for new material. Add in the threat of AI, and it's an uneasy time.

"What I see is a great deal of anxiety and stress levels, and I don't know how we fix it," concedes Country Radio Broadcasters executive director **R.J. Curtis**. "There's just so much work put on our shoulders, it's hard to manage that and then have a life."

Curtis made sure that CRS addresses that, too, with "Your Brain Is a Liar: Recognizing and Understanding the Impact of Your Mental Health," a presentation delivered by 25-year radio and label executive **Jason Prinzo**.

That tension is one of the ways that on-air talent likely relates to its audience — there are plenty of stressed, overbooked citizens in every market. And as tech continues to consume their lives, it naturally feeds the need for authenticity, which is likely to be a buzzword as CRS emphasizes radio's personalities.

"Imagine having a radiothon for St. Jude with an AI talent," Taylor says. "You'll get a bunch of facts, but you'll never get a tear. You'll never get a real story. You'll never get that shaky voice talking about somebody in your family or somebody that you know has cancer. The big thing that just will never be replaced is that emotion." ●



RACHAEL BLACK

Vince Gill invited T. Graham Brown to join the Grand Ole Opry during a Feb. 20 taping of his SiriusXM show *Live Wire*. From left: Gill, Opry talent director Gina Keltner, Brown and Opry vp/executive producer Dan Rogers.



Wade Hayes (right) appeared Feb. 20 with *The Big 615* host Storme Warren on the *TuneIn* platform.



LLOYD BISHOP

Seth Meyers (left) welcomed Stephen Wilson Jr. when Wilson made his late-night TV debut on Feb. 14 on Meyers' NBC show.

TOTAL IMMERSION

billboard

DEEP DIVE

SUBSCRIBE TO BILLBOARD PRO FOR ACCESS TO NEW REPORTS AND THE ARCHIVE

ESSENTIAL ANALYSIS of emerging business topics and trends with expert advice and action items to give industry players the competitive advantage in a rapidly changing market.

A DEEP DIVE LIBRARY stocked with intelligence on fan data, song catalog sales, TV synchs, Africa's burgeoning music business, the future of the vinyl boom, maximizing merch sales and more.

EXCLUSIVE QUARTERLY REPORTS that deliver in-depth reporting, case studies and custom data designed to serve the industry.

billboard



SXSW 2024

This issue features cover stories on the stars headlining Billboard's inaugural stage at SXSW and a preview of other festival highlights.

CONTACT

East Coast/Midwest: Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com.

Southeast: Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Latin: Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

Touring & West Coast: Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

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

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

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

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

Warren Zeiders Notches First No. 1 On Country Airplay With 'Pretty Little Poison'

Warren Zeiders' first entry on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart, "Pretty Little Poison" (717/Warner/WEA), ascends to the top of the tally dated March 2. The single advanced by 15% to 33.1 million audience impressions during the Feb. 16-22 tracking week, according to Luminate. The song is the first Country Airplay debut by any act to reign since **Nate Smith's** "Whiskey on You" in February 2023.

"I am so honored to have my first No. 1 at country radio," Zeiders tells *Billboard*. "I'm just a dude from Pennsylvania who started singing in his childhood bedroom. I never thought I'd have a song on country radio, much less it'd be No. 1 just a couple years into making music. I put everything I had into this song, and I'll never be able to thank the fans, my team and country radio enough for its success. This is my first No. 1... Lord willing, it ain't my last."



DAVID MCCUSTER

Zeiders, 24, initially gained traction by posting covers on TikTok, where he boasts 2.6 million followers. He co-authored his new leader with **Ryan Beaver** and **Jared Keim**, and **Ross Copperman** produced it. The song is the title cut from his LP that arrived at its No. 12 high on Top Country Albums last September.

Meanwhile, "Pretty Little Poison" halts the record-tying 10-week Country Airplay command of Smith's "World on Fire."

'BAR' WALKS INTO TOP 10 **Morgan Wallen's** "Man Made a Bar" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud), featuring **Eric Church**, climbs into the Country Airplay top 10 (12-9; 18 million, up 9%). Wallen earns his 14th such hit and one of two on the latest list: **Thomas Rhett's** "Mamaw's House" (Valory), on which he's featured, hops 8-6 (23.5 million, up 6%). Church notches his 18th top 10 and his first since "Heart on Fire," which hit No. 5 in April 2022. 🎵

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	+4.247
OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+2.516
BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+2.216
I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+2.078
WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.824
TEXAS HOLD 'EM Parkwood/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Beyonce	+1.711
THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	+1.652
MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	+1.500
CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+1.370
MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	+1.291

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	+1015
TEXAS HOLD 'EM Parkwood/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Beyonce	+639
OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+504
WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+478
BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+397
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+382
WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+378
I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+374
CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+362
23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	+335

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	19.959
2	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	19.119
3	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	15.501
4	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	12.998
5	WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	12.001
6	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	11.675
7	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	11.204
8	DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG	Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	11.015
9	NEXT THING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	10.756
10	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	10.656



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 22, 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	18	IF I HAD A BAR (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Jon Wolfe	1660	35	11	14	7	ELLE (Underground Sound)	Cody Canada & The Departed	1106	130
2	1	15	OKLAHOMA (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1632	1914	12	11	15	PROMISE YOU ME (Independent)	Grant Gilbert	1072	10
3	3	27	SITTIN' ON A PORCH (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1580	62	13	13	20	INTEXCATING (Independent)	Ben McPeak	1067	75
4	4	16	OUTLAWS AND MUSTANGS (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1469	20	14	15	11	SOMEBODY'S BABY (Independent)	Jon Stork	1038	79
5	5	24	SET IT ALL DOWN (Independent)	The Great Divide	1396	19	15	17	6	I WON'T GIVE UP (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	1006	86
6	7	15	A BROKEN HEART LIKE THAT (Independent)	Kyle Park	1311	17	16	18	6	WAY IT GOES (Independent)	Mike Ryan	953	71
7	6	27	STICKS AND STONES (Independent)	Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real	1294	-7	17	16	23	ASK ME TO DANCE (Independent)	Catie Offerman f/ Hayes Carll	893	-44
8	8	18	THE GREYS BETWEEN (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1268	-22	18	24	4	MISS THANG (Deep Frey'd Music)	Kylie Frey	828	127
9	12	15	RIGHT AT HOME (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1145	84	19	21	13	HE SINGS FOR MARY (Independent)	Hayden Haddock	826	36
10	9	27	SONGS OF THE FAMILY (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1137	-60	20	25	10	RIGHT NOW KINDA GIRL (Get Joe)	Billie Jo Jones	813	122

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
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	2	33	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	33.147	+4.247	8479	1015	1
2	1	37	WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	30.016	-0.775	6888	-214	3
3	4	28	THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	27.814	+1.652	7081	326	2
4	5	23	I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	24.627	+2.078	6419	374	4
5	6	41	TRUCK BED Big Loud	HARDY	23.624	+1.118	6222	164	6
6	8	21	MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	23.539	+1.291	6252	333	5
7	3	20	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	22.594	-5.553	5611	-2103	7
8	7	39	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	21.814	-0.590	4957	-224	9
9	12	17	MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	18.041	+1.500	4573	312	11
10	10	38	BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	17.913	+0.809	4840	248	10
11	11	55	23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	17.508	+0.554	5073	335	8
12	13	46	CREEK WILL RISE Valory	Conner Smith	14.430	-0.473	4204	-74	12
13	14	27	TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	14.102	+1.070	3926	382	15
14	16	15	WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	13.644	+1.824	4040	478	13
15	17	24	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	13.509	+2.216	3807	397	16
16	15	27	CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	13.485	+1.370	3980	362	14
17	18	56	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine	Jackson Dean	10.899	+0.665	3473	204	17
18	20	15	TAKE HER HOME Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	10.149	+1.257	3036	243	18
19	23	31	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	10.146	+2.516	2833	504	20
20	19	36	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine	Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	9.744	+0.012	2966	3	19
21	22	10	YOUR PLACE Back Blocks/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	8.473	+0.729	2558	175	22
22	24	21	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	8.002	+1.261	2548	378	23
23	21	37	GLORY DAYS Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	7.879	-0.105	2808	88	21
24	26	6	HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	7.826	+1.219	2122	317	26
25	25	29	I'M NOT PRETTY Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville	Megan Moroney	6.506	-0.151	2083	18	27
26	27	38	OUT OF THAT TRUCK Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	6.500	+0.102	2214	28	25
27	28	13	LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	6.167	+0.383	1918	145	28
28	29	22	CAN'T BREAK UP NOW Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	6.163	+0.519	2236	166	24
29	31	21	WE RIDE Average Joes	Bryan Martin	5.473	+0.428	1612	141	30
30	32	39	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Chase Matthew	4.822	+0.584	1803	177	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-bullethead) 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	33	24	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young	3.935	+0.030	1385	62	31
32	34	19	COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi & Luke Bryan	2.933	+0.131	1196	123	35
33	38	16	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Parmalee	2.871	+0.279	1220	82	34
34	54	2	TEXAS HOLD 'EM Parkwood/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Beyonce	2.809	+1.711	939	639	39
35	36	23	SPIRITS AND DEMONS Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray Featuring Meghan Patrick	2.746	+0.055	996	27	38
36	41	15	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory	Justin Moore	2.636	+0.335	1091	83	37
37	39	27	DANCE WITH YOU BMLG	Brett Young	2.617	+0.103	1099	53	36
38	40	2	BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	2.582	+0.085	665	129	48
39	37	33	DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	2.476	-0.170	1265	-14	33
40	42	16	RODEO MAN Pearl/Big Machine	Garth Brooks & Ronnie Dunn	2.464	+0.376	1330	76	32
41	44	11	CHEVROLET Broken Bow ★★ Breaker ★★	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	2.385	+0.526	858	143	41
42	43	7	SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Leo33	Zach Top	2.076	+0.168	822	56	42
43	46	5	ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	1.976	+0.353	888	145	40
44	47	3	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	1.727	+0.244	677	90	47
45	45	22	IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler/RCA	Tyler Childers	1.661	+0.007	780	4	43
46	48	17	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street	Chris Lane	1.541	+0.086	734	41	44
47	49	16	PICKUP MAN Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Joe Diffie Featuring Post Malone	1.447	+0.021	306	17	60
48	51	17	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge ★★ Breaker ★★	Drew Baldridge	1.394	+0.115	722	77	46
49	52	21	BROKENHEARTED Brown Sellers Brown/Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	1.368	+0.173	664	36	49
50	50	19	I'M IN LOVE Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	1.352	+0.019	586	25	50
51	53	7	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	1.263	+0.161	539	26	52
52	55	13	LOVE YOU BACK BMLG	Lady A	1.227	+0.196	723	83	45
53	56	10	AIN'T ABOUT YOU 19/Wheelhouse	HunterGirl	0.847	-0.061	553	-21	51
54	58	6	DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	0.842	+0.161	163	33	-
55	60	6	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	0.821	+0.231	489	59	53
56	57	8	KING OF COUNTRY MUSIC Red Street	Ryan Larkins	0.760	+0.078	367	15	56
57	RE-ENTRY		I TRIED A RING ON Monument	Tigirlily Gold	0.707	+0.131	368	46	55
58	NEW		WONDERING WHY Red Clay Strays/Thirty Tigers ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	The Red Clay Strays	0.652	+0.332	133	93	-
59	NEW		I THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	0.648	+0.269	307	141	59
60	59	8	MAKE ME WANNA SMOKE Quartz Hill	Runaway June	0.500	-0.118	378	-4	54



Songwriter Alice Randall (“XXX’s and OOO’s”) visited the Academy of Country Music on Feb. 21 during the setup for her forthcoming memoir, *My Black Country*. From left: ACM vp of live events and promotion Ben Carter and executive vp/chief business officer Gil Beverly, Randall and ACM CEO Damon Whiteside.



Historic Austin venue Armadillo World Headquarters is being resurrected as a brand in partnership with the city’s Major League Soccer team Austin FC. From left at a Feb. 15 celebration: Texas artists William Beckmann, Asleep at the Wheel founder Ray Benson and Gary P. Nunn.

GETTY IMAGES

billboard



2024

SPOTLIGHT: SPAIN

In the issue of March 9, Billboard will celebrate the explosion of "música latina" in Spain, where music in Spanish from around the world is finding new and fertile ground for touring, airplay and cross pollination. We look at Spain's booming music scene and how increasingly labels, promoters and artists are working together across international borders to further promote music in Spanish.

Advertise in this issue to position your business in front of key decision makers who are driving Spain's music industry.

CONTACTS

Latin: **Marcia Olival** | marciaolival29@gmail.com

East Coast/Midwest: **Joe Maimone** | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast: **Lee Ann Photoglo** | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Touring & West Coast: **Cynthia Mellow** | cmellow615@gmail.com

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

ISSUE DATE 3/9 | AD CLOSE 2/26 | MATERIALS DUE 2/28

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

Chase Matthew (center) was surprised with plaques for his platinum single “County Line” and gold “Love You Again” when he played the Grand Ole Opry on Feb. 16. With him are Ignition Management co-founders Loyd Potts (left) and Ken Madson.

REMEMBERING RONI STONEMAN

Her nimble fingers made her “The First Lady of Banjo,” though her comedic talents established her in many fans’ minds as a nag.

Veronica Loretta “Roni” Stoneman, 85, died Feb. 22, leaving a legacy that mirrors the aura of *Hee Haw*, the show that created her greatest level of public awareness. The show mixed corny humor with admirable music, a description that embodies Roni’s accomplishments. Her celebrity was derived primarily from her role as Ida Lee Nagger, a poverty-stricken “ironing board lady” constantly arguing with her lazy husband. The character drew reliable weekly laughs.

But her musical skill was impressive, too, likely a mix of genetic inheritance and real-world exposure to the craft. Roni was born May 5, 1938, the 12th of 13 children who survived into adulthood for pioneering country figure — and Country Music Hall of Fame member — **Ernest V. “Pop” Stoneman** and his wife, fiddler **Hattie Stoneman**. In August 1927, he answered an ad that led to a recording session with producer **Ralph Peer** in Bristol, Tenn., that made him one of the contributors to the “Big Bang of Country Music,” when a cluster of artists led by **Jimmie Rodgers** and **The Carter Family** gave the genre its first big boost in public perception.

Roni joined with Ernest and several of her siblings to create **The Stoneman Family**, recording with the group and as a solo performer throughout the 1960s. The Stonemans won the first Country Music Association Award for vocal group of the year in 1967, and her prowess is further etched in a 1969 clip from *The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour* that finds her the only woman in a six-person banjo ensemble that includes **Campbell**, **Steve Martin**, **John Hartford**, **Don Lineberger** and **Mason Williams**.

Stoneman would appear in other similar banjo ensembles alongside the likes of **Roy Clark**, **Grandpa Jones** and **Bobby Thompson** during her *Hee Haw* tenure.

“For 18 years on *Hee Haw*,” said Hall of Fame CEO **Kyle Young**, “she stole scenes as both a skillful banjo player and as a comical, gap-toothed country character.”
—Additional reporting by *Jessica Nicholson*.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Big Machine Label Group rebranded BMLG Records as Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment on Feb. 23, ending a nine-year run in which the parent company’s BMLG acronym was often confused with the imprint. Nashville Harbor is the third name for the label, which was founded in 2009 as Republic Nashville ... Three Riser House promotion executives were elevated to new positions. **Jeff Davis** rose to vp of promotion from East Coast regional promotion director, **Roger Fregoso** was upped to national director of promotion from senior director of West Coast promotion, and **Nathan Cruise** climbed to senior regional director of promotion from Central regional promotion director. All will continue to work the same territory ... **Randy Houser**’s Magnolia Music Group hired director of audience platforms **J.C. Coffey** to handle broadcast radio, syndication strategy and digital service provider relations. He was most recently a Show Dog Nashville regional promotion exec. Reach Coffey [here](#) ... Sony Music Nashville launched a non-country label, Free Flight, reactivating an imprint the company used in the 1970s. The first two artists are singer-songwriters **Darren Kiely** and **Ben Goldsmith** ... Canadian country artist **Tyler Joe Miller** signed a

distribution deal with The Orchard. He is set to release a new track — “Broken Man,” produced by **Emerson Drive**’s **Danick Dupelle** — on March 1 ... **Rachel Elliot** was named iHeartMedia Kentucky-West Virginia region director of country programming, RadioInk.com reported. The job includes oversight of country outlets **WAMZ** Louisville, Ky.; **WBUL** and **WBUL-HD2** Lexington, Ky.; and **WNUS** Parkersburg, W.Va. Elliot was previously an on-air talent for rock **WEBN** Cincinnati ... **WSIG** Harrisonburg, Va., PD **Tom Morgan** added the afternoon shift at **WCVL** Charlottesville, Va., to his duties, according to RadioInk.com ... Previously announced participant **Keith Urban** will be joined by seven other songwriters and artists — including **Jason Aldean**, **Rhett Akins** and **John Morgan** — at the Country Radio Seminar’s songwriter showcase, Bob Kingsley’s Acoustic Alley, on Feb. 29. The 16-player Paddle Royale Ping Pong Tournament also returns Feb. 28, with 2023 champ **Chris Lane** competing against **Tyler Hubbard**, **Sam Hunt** and **Jelly Roll**, plus **Annie Ortmeier**, Triple Tigers; **Johnny Chiang**, SiriusXM/Pandora; and **Kristen Williams**, Warner Music Nashville; among others ... Former Warner label executive **Alan Shapiro**, 76, died Jan. 14. Following a start in sales in Texas, he became a Los Angeles-based WEA vp of sales, ultimately transferring to Nashville to become GM for Giant in 1994. He helped break **Clay Walker** during his tenure. Shapiro retired in 2001. He was buried in The Woodlands, Texas.

‘ROUND THE ROW

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum promoted five staff members in its events and museum services departments. **Michael McCall** was boosted to associate director of editorial from senior writer-editor. **Grace Cavanaugh** rose to director of event services and catering from associate director. **Kelsey Reiner** was upped to associate director of event sales from senior manager. **Daniel Lonow** climbed to Haley Gallery director from manager, and **Elek Horvath** stepped to associate director of collection access from senior registrar ... Wasserman Music hired Nashville-based vp **Jonathan Insogna** from WME, where he served as an agent for 17 years. His Wasserman clients will include **Morgan Wade** and **Yola** ... The One Country lifestyle brand hired director of promotions and partnerships **Briana Galluccio**, who was most recently MCA Nashville director of regional promotion. Reach her [here](#) ... Artist-writer **Carson Wallace** signed with Red Light Management, where he will be represented by **Enzo DeVincenzo** and **Anthony DeVincenzo** ... Songwriter **Rob Hatch** (“I Don’t Dance,” “If Heaven Wasn’t So Far Away”) signed a publishing deal with Eclipse Music Group ... Young Guns Publishing added songwriter **Josh Jenkins** (“Tucson Too Late,” “Fancy Like”) to its roster ... Former St. Louis Cardinals pitcher **Adam Wainwright** will make his Opry debut as a country artist on March 9 ... **Garth Brooks**’ Friends in Low Places honky-tonk, featuring a menu guided by **Trisha Yearwood**, has its grand opening as a daily venue on March 7 in Downtown Nashville ... A Feb. 6 Melodies for Minds benefit raised \$268,000 for mental health agencies at Nashville’s Loveless Café behind performances from **Walker Hayes**, **Jana Kramer** and **Hilary Williams**, among others ... Author-songwriter **Alice Randall** (“XXX’s and OOO’s”) will be honored April 25 at City Winery Nashville as the Black Opry celebrates its third anniversary. 📍



Charles Esten visited the Country Music Association on Feb. 14 while promoting his debut album, *Ain’t Pretty*. From left: CMA senior manager of industry relations **Kate Watson** and CEO **Sarah Trahern**, **Esten** and CMA senior manager of production and talent relations **Stephanie Shank**.

billboard



2024

TOP MUSIC LAWYERS

Behind every artist, songwriter and music producer is a trusted group of advisers who provide guidance, advice and negotiate deals. Billboard's 9th annual Top Music Lawyers list will recognize the biggest names and most prominent legal minds in the world of music and entertainment law. They are the deal makers behind the major contracts and lawsuits in the music industry.

This feature will also include a round-up of top law schools attended by the notable alumni on the Top Music Lawyers list.

Join us in congratulating the 2024 top power music lawyers. Advertise to present your law firm to Billboard's influential subscribers, which include A-list artists, artist managers, business managers, label, publishing, and touring executives.

CONTACTS

East Coast/Midwest: Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com.

Southeast: Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Latin: Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

Touring & West Coast: Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

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

ISSUE DATE 3/30 | AD CLOSE 3/19 | MATERIALS DUE 3/21

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) **53**

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/Warbranger 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) **15**

BIGGER HOUSES Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., ASCAP/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Sugar Plum Songs, ASCAP/Tackbox Publishing, ASCAP (A.Albert, D.Smyers, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds) **44**

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.Ennis, J.A.Fox) **51**

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/Lit 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) **55**

BROKENHEARTED Written By Rhettro, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane 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 (R.Akins, M.Green, J.Harding) **49**

BULLETPROOF Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Caleb's Colledge Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, 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) **38**

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

C

CAB IN A SOLO Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Daquiri Music, BMI/Songs of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/Liquid Tunes, ASCAP/Beats By Baby Brent, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP (S.C.Creechery, B.Anderson, F.Rogers) **16**

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) **28**

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) **41**

COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Warner-Tamerlane 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) **32**

CREEK WILL RISE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Home Team Harmonies, BMI/South Lick Creek Songs, BMI/Songs of Miller Crow, BMI/Tunes By Trailerparker, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI (C.McGill, C.Smith, C.La Corte, P.Welling) **12**

D

DANCE WITH YOU Super Big Music, ASCAP/Calville Publishing, ASCAP/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/JRMS, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (B.Young, J.T.Minton, J.Robbins) **37**

DIRT CHEAP Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Write Or Die Music, BMI/Write The Lightning Publishing, BMI (J.Phillips) **54**

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/MVZ Music, BMI (L.Combs, Erik Dylan, R.Fulcher, T.Archer) **39**

F

FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick, J.Sherwood) **17**

FIND ANOTHER BAR Big Big Plans Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Phat Raccoon, SESAC/Universal Tunes, SESAC (C.Lane, J.Thompson, J.Ebach) **46**

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/M&M Colledge Fund, SESAC (G.Barrett, J.McNair, E.L.Weisband, S.Mosley) **23**

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) **33**

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 Madrun, 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) **24**

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.Foust, J.Free) **4**

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 Called Winner, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs With Words That Rhyme With Truck, BMI (C.Bedeil, N.Galyon, L.T.Miller) **50**

I'M NOT PRETTY Georiamo 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 THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (C. Stapleton) **59**

I TRIED A RING ON Songs Of Smack, BMI/Lily Lyrics Publishing, BMI/Sleighbells Ring Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (K.C.Slaubaugh, K.J.Slaubaugh, P.Good, J.Jenkins) **57**

K

KING OF COUNTRY MUSIC William Hill Publishing, ASCAP/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Town Of Twang, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Nashblonde Music, BMI/Ryan Larkins Songs, BMI (R.Larkins, W.Duvall, J.R.McCoy) **56**

L

LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlowe Sinclair Songs, SESAC/Higonosis Tunes, SESAC/Songs Of Portiered Music, SESAC/Allison Veltz Sensations, SESAC/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Sounds Etc Music, BMI (J.Boyer, A.Veltz-Cruz, M.Wilshire) **27**

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) **30**

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) **52**

M

MAKE ME WANNA SMOKE WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Flying Tamarack 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) **60**

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.McGill, M.C.Wallen) **6**

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) **9**

O

ONE BAD HABIT Smacksters Music, ASCAP/Holy Ship Music, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Ice House Tunes, ASCAP/OTM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bellamarla, ASCAP (M.Beeson, A.Eshuis, T.Lane) **43**

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/WritersontheCormPublishing, BMI (C.Underwood, D.A.Garcia, L.Vaughan) **26**

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) **19**

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) **3**

PICKUP MAN EMI Full Keel Music, ASCAP/Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP/EMI Longitude Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI (K.K.Phillips, H.Perzew) **47**

PRETTY LITTLE POISON Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Twelve6 Sequoia, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (W.Zeders, J.Keim, R.Beaver) **1**

R

RODEO MAN LWR, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Pambilly Music, BMI (R.Dunn, P.O'Donnell) **40**

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) **8**

THE SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Beattyville Music, BMI/Higonosis Beats, BMI/Smells Of Rich Mahogany, BMI (D.Baldrige, J.Yeary, C.Jaymes) **48**

SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Little Acre Music, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, W.McCubbin) **42**

SPIRITS AND DEMONS Higonosis Tunes, SESAC/Songs Of Portiered Music, SESAC/Allison Veltz Sensations, SESAC/Alexander Palmer Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/MTNoize, SESAC (A.Palmer, A.Veltz-Cruz, M.Tyler) **35**

T

TAKE HER HOME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/Bigder Bendable Music, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (H.Phelps, M.W.Hardy, Z.Arend) **18**

TEXAS HOLD 'EM Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Oakland 15 Music, ASCAP/Elizabeth Lowell Boland Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Megan BiffHow Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Brian Bates Publishing, ASCAP/Nate Ferraro Publishing Designee, ASCAN/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 Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulwood 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) **36**

TRUCK BED Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, BMI/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) **5**

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 Madrun, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jenktown, ASCAP (J.Davis, J.Jenkins, M.Jenkins) **13**

W

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 Goe Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments, GMR (C.Pearce, P.Good, S.McAnally) **20**

WE RIDE Average ZJS Music Publishing, BMI/Vernon DiAngelo Brown Jr. Publishing Designee, BMI (B.Martin, V.D.Brown Jr.) **29**

WHERE IT ENDS Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Gold Room Special Music, BMI/Higonosis Beats, BMI/Holy Hell Music, BMI/London Electric Music, BMI/London Margate Songs, BMI (B.Zimmerman, G.Averill, J.Sparjurg) **22**

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE Warner-Tamerlane 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.Turnbull) **7**

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) **14**

WONDERING WHY Lawd Hamercy Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Music By Bodacious Publishing, BMI/Copyright Control (A.G.Nix, B.L.Coleman, D.Couch) **58**

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) **2**

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/Telemetry 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/James Music America, ASCAP/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI (David Bowie, J.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, J.Thompson) **31**

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) **21**

C
O
U
N
T
R
Y
C
H
A
R
T
S

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

35 Years Ago

Dwight Yoakam ‘Sang’ A No. 1 Song

In 1989, the singer-songwriter with distinctly edgy vocals and a roots-based blend of country music scored his second Hot Country Songs leader

On Feb. 25, 1989, **Dwight Yoakam’s** “I Sang Dixie” topped *Billboard’s* Hot Country Songs chart, becoming his second of two leaders after “Streets of Bakersfield,” with **Buck Owens**, reigned in October 1988.

Yoakam wrote “I Sang Dixie,” which **Pete Anderson** produced. Parent LP *Buenas Noches From a Lonely Room* became Yoakam’s third and most recent

No. 1 on Top Country Albums.

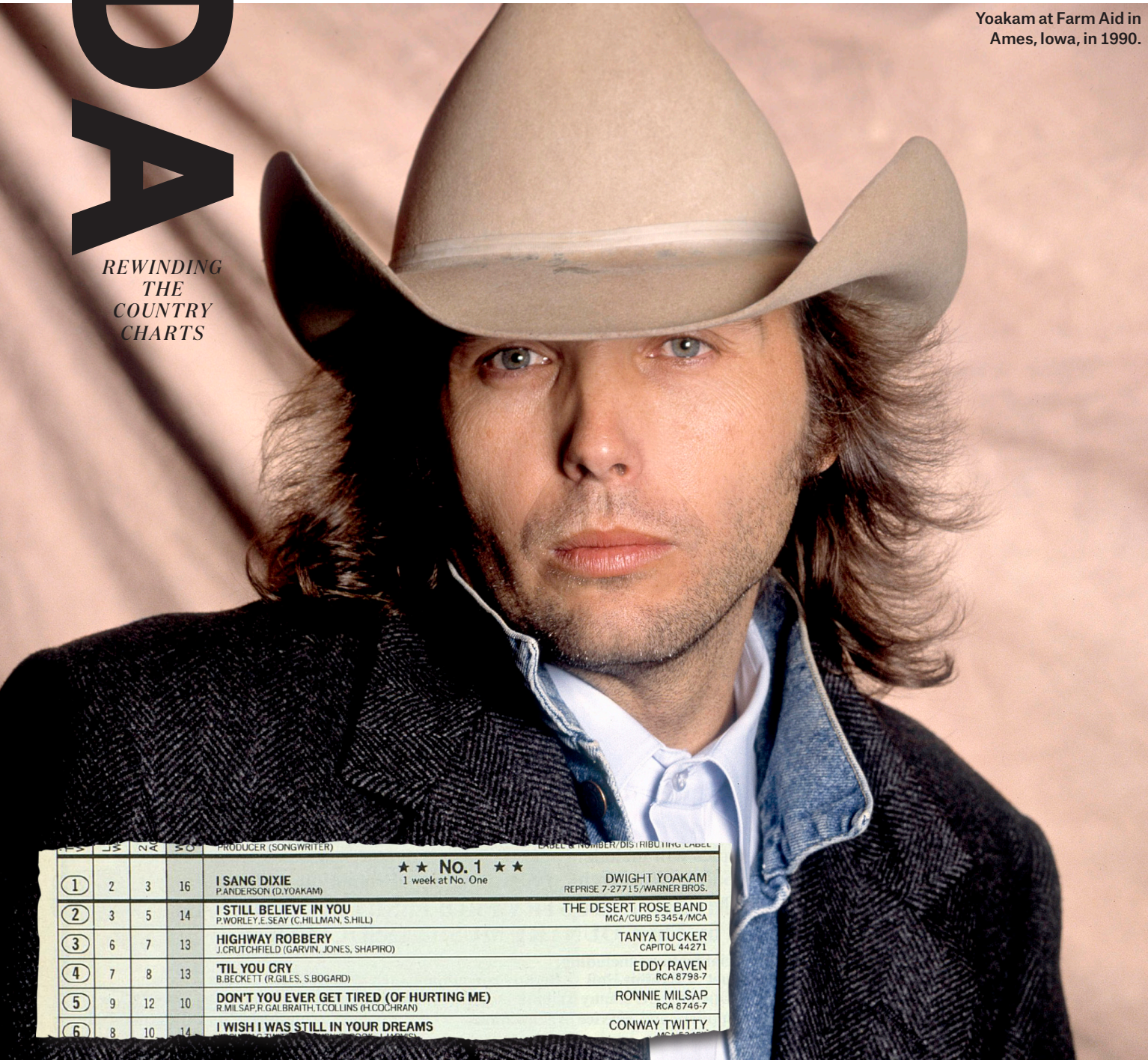
By the time he was in elementary school, Yoakam — from Pikeville, Ky. — was learning how to play the guitar. After a short stint in Nashville, he moved to Los Angeles and gained traction in the thriving rock scene, signing to Reprise Records in 1986. That same year, Yoakam won the trophy for top new male vocalist from the Academy of Country Music. He

has also forged a successful acting career, including a breakthrough role in the 1996 Academy Award-winning movie *Sling Blade*, directed by **Billy Bob Thornton**.

Earlier in February, Yoakam, 67, performed **Simon & Garfunkel’s** 1969 classic “The Boxer” at the Americana Music Association’s tribute to **Paul Simon** at the Troubadour in Los Angeles.

—JIM ASKER

Yoakam at Farm Aid in Ames, Iowa, in 1990.



	1989	1990	1991	1992	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	*** NO. 1 ***	LABEL & NUMBER / DIS / RBD / IIR / LABEL
①	2	3	16		I SANG DIXIE P. ANDERSON (D. YOAKAM)	1 week at No. One	DWIGHT YOAKAM REPRISE 7-27715 / WARNER BROS.
②	3	5	14		I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU P. WORLEY, E. SEAY (C. HILLMAN, S. HILL)		THE DESERT ROSE BAND MCA / CURB 53454 / MCA
③	6	7	13		HIGHWAY ROBBERY J. CRUTCHFIELD (GARVIN, JONES, SHAPIRO)		TANYA TUCKER CAPITOL 44271
④	7	8	13		'TIL YOU CRY B. BECKETT (R. GILES, S. BOGARD)		EDDY RAVEN RCA 8798-7
⑤	9	12	10		DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED (OF HURTING ME) R. MILSAP, R. GALBRAITH, T. COLLINS (H. COCHRAN)		RONNIE MILSAP RCA 8746-7
⑥	8	10	14		I WISH I WAS STILL IN YOUR DREAMS		CONWAY TWITTY