# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

APRIL 5, 2024 | PAGE 1 OF 12

**BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE** 

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## **Country Music Awards Shows In A Texas State Of Mind**



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The Lone Stars are aligned for two Nashville-based country awards shows.

After testing the Brazos waters in 2023, both CMT and the Academy of Country Music are bringing their annual awards shows back to Texas this year. The CMT Music Awards air April 7 on CBS from the Moody Center in Austin. The ACM,

meanwhile, announces finalists for its awards on April 9, with the trophy ceremony streaming May 16 on Amazon Prime from the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco.

Texas has not traditionally been a big awards market, and for the country industry-centered primarily in Nashville —it means a few extra nights away from home for the show and lead-in activities. In exchange, awards producers showcase the genre's talent in one of country's primary markets, where the fan

base hasn't gotten jaded — as it might in Nashville or Los Angeles — from regular proximity to multi-artist events.

"It's packed to the ceiling, and the fans were wild and crazy and danced the whole time," ACM CEO Damon Whiteside recalls of last year's show, which featured co-hosts Garth Brooks and **Dolly Parton**. "It was probably more cowboy boots and cowboy hats than we'd ever seen in our venues before, which was fun, too. All I can say is the energy and the passion in the room was kind of off the charts."

The ACM and CMT arrived in Texas via different roads. The ACM took a risk in 2015 by presenting its awards at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, marking the first time that a major awards show had aired from a stadium. From the moment Whiteside arrived at the ACM in 2020, following a stint with the Country Music Association, Texas talk was on the table.

The Dallas Cowboys, he says, "were very excited at the thought of having our show come back."



CMT, however, transferred to Texas somewhat unexpectedly. The awards had been held on the eve of Nashville's CMA Fest in June since 2002, but when CBS' contract with the ACM Awards expired, the network rescheduled subsidiary CMT's ceremony as a spring event. That created conflicts with the host venue — producers needed access to Bridgestone Arena for at least 10 days, but the NHL's Nashville Predators had priority. Austin had courted CMT for years, and that groundwork paid off.

"Austin is the live-music capital of the world — that definitely played into it," CMT executive producer Margaret Comeaux says. "If we were going to go anywhere outside of Music City, we wanted to make sure that we were going to a place that appreciated music as much as Nashville and CMT."

Texas is fertile ground for country music. Both shows indicate that current Texas-bred hit-makers Cody Johnson and Parker **McCollum** will likely have a role in their shows. The two artists will perform at the CMT Awards, which also has appearances by native son **Lukas Nelson** and former Houston Astros pitcher  $\frac{\omega}{2}$ Roger Clemens. McCollum will also host a golf tournament  $\,^{\circ}$ 

billboard COUNTRY **Cocktail Reception** & Awards Coming May 14 in Dallas

for the ACMs, which will make performance decisions after nominees are announced. Last year, the ACMs employed Frisco-based **Corey Kent** for the week's ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Johnson and McCollum are graduates of Texas' red-dirt music scene, which has its own thriving concert scene, providing careers for such acts as Aaron Watson, Casey Donahew, Wade Bowen, The Randy Rogers Band and Bri Bagwell. The subgenre likewise has its own awards show: the Texas Regional Radio Report (T3R) Awards, named after the publication that produces them. Its charts appear weekly in the Billboard Country Update (see page 4).

The mainstream country community "still [doesn't] recognize this fully," says T3R event coordinator **Tami Millspaugh**, who also markets to red-dirt programmers through her Fort Worth-based company, Texas Record Chick Promotions. "They are starting to, in Nashville, more and more, because they are obviously cherry-picking some of the talent from here."

The T3R Awards, presented for the  $14^{\rm th}$  time on March 25, have been held in smaller venues — the 700-seat Arlington Music Hall and the event multiplex Texas Live! — but the show, much like Texas music, is in expansion mode. The most recent ceremony was filmed for the first time and could end up on a cable station or a streaming platform such as Netflix.

"We will have a show here within the next few weeks that we are going to be pitching to various networks," Millspaugh says, "and just show off what we've done."

The Texas Music Office is apparently keen to pull in more trophy presentations. Both the ACM and CMT received incentives from the state for bringing their events to town.

Austin has another event heading its way, too. The city is in the path of totality for the solar eclipse on April 8. More than 1 million tourists are expected to descend on the Texas capital to watch, according to **KVUE-TV** Austin.

"Lots of people are worried that their flights are going to get canceled, so they're trying to get out early," Comeaux says. "I am not one of those. There's a few of us that might be standing out at the arrivals gate at the airport, watching it and then going inside to get on my flight."

The ACMs, meanwhile, are connected to an ongoing Texas attraction. The Star is a 91-acre campus that houses the business center for the Cowboys' NFL team. The built-in amenities—shops, restaurants, hotels, a golf course—make for a comfortable getaway for industry attendees, many of whom go home after a Nashville awards show.

"You've got industry everywhere you go and you're bumping into people," Whiteside says of the Frisco layout. "There's a lot of meeting up for drinks at the Omni Hotel bar, which is where our board stays and it's attached to the venue."

The ACMs, which were originally centered in Los Angeles, spent roughly 20 years in Las Vegas, creating a similar temporary community on the Strip. It's possible that CMT and/or the ACM are at the start of another 20-year out-of-town run in the Lone Star State. But no one knows yet if these moves are permanent.

"There's a lot of excitement about the Texas market for the future," Whiteside says, "but we haven't made a final decision yet."



Blake Shelton raised nearly \$800,000 for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum with his Oklahoma Is All for the Hall concert at BOK Center in Tulsa on March 30. From left: museum CEO Kyle Young, Shelton, museum board chair Mary Ann McCready and Vince Gill.



Kane Brown (right) visited with Press Communications vp of programming Mike Ryan when he performed March 30 at Prudential Center in Newark N.J.



Wynonna (center) headlined as Song Suffragettes celebrated its 10th anniversary with a March 28 concert at the Fisher Center at Nashville's Belmont University. With her are Apple Music Country host Kelleigh Bannen and Song Suffragettes founder Todd Cassetty.

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## billboard



2024

## COUNTRY POWER PLAYERS

Billboard's eleventh annual Country Power Players issue will profile the people who have driven another solid year for country music in sales, streaming and publishing. This special feature will highlight those who have had the greatest impact in the genre, including recorded music, live entertainment, publishing and more in the past year.

Advertise in *Billboard's* Country Power Players issue to congratulate this year's honorees while reaching key decision-makers who are driving the music business.

#### **BONUS DISTRIBUTION**

Billboard Country Power Players Cocktail Party & Awards May 14th at Gilleys in Dallas

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# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

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### Parker McCollum Blazes To His Third Country Airplay No. 1 With 'Burn It Down'

**Parker McCollum** notches his third leader on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "Burn It Down" (MCA Nashville) rages 6-1 in its 44th week on the survey (dated April 13). The song advanced by 17% to 27.5 million audience impressions March 29-April 4, according to Luminate.

McCollum co-wrote "Burn It Down" with Hillary Lindsey, Lori McKenna and Liz Rose, and Jon Randall produced it.

The song is the second single from McCollum's album *Never Enough*, which arrived at its No. 12 best on Top Country Albums last May. Lead single "Handle on You" hit No. 2 on Country Airplay the same month, awarding the Conroe, Texas, native his third of four straight career-opening top 10s. His first entry, "Pretty Heart," led for a week in December 2020, followed by "To Be Loved by You," which reigned for a week in March 2022.



Currently on tour, McCollum makes his next

stop in Edinburg, Texas, on April 5 with special guests Corey Kent and Catie Offerman.

Meanwhile, McCollum's 6-1 vault marks the second such surge in a row on Country Airplay. On the April 6 chart, **Chayce Beckham**'s <u>solely self-written</u> "23" made the same move, becoming the 2021 *American Idol* champ's first leader

Since the chart began in January 1990, the biggest jump to the summit belongs to **Ricky Van Shelton**'s "Keep It Between the Lines," which blasted 9-1 on the list dated Oct. 12, 1991.

**BEYONCÉ & 'JOLENE': Beyoncé** debuts with her second Country Airplay entry as her reworking of **Dolly Parton**'s <u>"Jolene"</u> (Parkwood/Columbia/Columbia Nashville) begins at No. 56 (982,000 in audience). It's the second song from her new album, *Cowboy Carter*, released March 29, to make the list — lead single "Texas Hold 'Em" ranks at No. 37 (3.2 million, down 6%) in its eighth week after reaching No. 33. ●

## **MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE**

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)
BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	+3.992
OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+2.231
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.817
BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1.494
LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.418
CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+1.264
BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+1.245
YOUR PLACE Back Blocks/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	+1.097
WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.008
JOLENE Parkwood/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Beyonce	+0.982

#### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	+1050
OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+599
BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+568
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+474
CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+340
LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+340
YOUR PLACE Back Blocks/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	+326
WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine Carly Pearce Feato	uring Chris Stapleton	+316
BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+308
HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stone	y Creek <b>Jelly Roll</b>	+285

#### **RECURRENTS**

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	17.378
2	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	16.508
3	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	16.266
4	MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	15.690
5	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	14.539
6	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	9.930
7	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard	9.847
8	I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown	9.502
9	THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	9.406
10	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville George Birge	8.930



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 2024

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THIS 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	13	ELLE (Underground Sound) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★ Cody Canada & The Departed	1488	-20	11	6	22	OUTLAWS AND MUSTANGS (Late August Records) Cody Jinks	996	-381
2	3	10	MISS THANG (Deep Frey'd Music) Kylie Frey	1453	11	<b>1</b>	15	12	ALL THE ANGELENOS (Boo Clap/Thirty Tigers) Uncle Lucius	907	119
3	4	12	WAY IT GOES (Independent) Mike Ryan	1342	-49	13	14	9	MILWAUKEE (Island /IDJMG) Wyatt Flores	903	105
4	1	12	I WON'T GIVE UP (Independent) Randy Rogers Band	1286	-241	1	22	5	RUNNING OUT OF TIME (Almost Country) Casey Donahew ft. Pat Green, Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	871	169
5	7	21	PROMISE YOU ME (Independent) Grant Gilbert	1256	-14	Œ	16	22	TINY TOWN (Independent) Howard County	850	69
6	5	24	THE GREYS BETWEEN (Independent) Shane Smith & The Saints	1139	-241	10	17	11	NEON (Independent) Mikayla Lane	832	56
7	8	17	SOMEBODY'S BABY (Independent) Jon Stork	1114	-45	Ð	19	9	\$10 COWBOY (Son of Davy/Thirty Tigers) Charley Crockett	816	64
8	10	16	RIGHT NOW KINDA GIRL (Get Joe) Billie Jo Jones	1097	88	18	18	15	HELLO TEXAS (Flying C) Brooke Graham	810	41
9	12	19	TEQUILA & JESUS (Independent) Amanda Kate Ferris	1008	73	19	9	21	RIGHT AT HOME (Independent) Jamie Richards	790	-263
10	11	19	HE SINGS FOR MARY (Independent) Hayden Haddock	1004	-1	20	23	10	SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING (Independent) James Robert Webb	789	88

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

		WKS		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)	PLAYS		
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	6	44	BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville ★★ No.1 (1 Week)/Most Increased Audience ★★ Parker McCollum	27.515	+3.992	7368	1050	1
2	3	23	MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	27.298	+0.744	7177	261	2
3	5	37	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	26.960	+2.230	7148	599	3
4	4	43	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville Nate Smith	24.266	-0.484	5433	-163	8
5	2	47	TRUCK BED Big Loud HARDY	22.277	-4.904	5611	-1208	5
6	7	39	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA Warren Zeiders	21.819	-1.296	5199	-260	10
7	8	30	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard	21.429	+1.494	5883	568	4
8	9	33	TUCSONTOO LATE MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	21.119	+1.817	5599	474	6
9	10	33	CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	20.370	+1.264	5434	340	7
10	1	61	23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse Chayce Beckham	19.376	-8.775	4914	-2868	11
1	11	21	WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	18.495	+1.008	5425	255	9
12	12	21	TAKE HER HOME         Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA         Kenny Chesney	17.695	+0.871	4692	145	13
B	13	27	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	17.205	+0.821	4831	223	12
14	14	62	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine Jackson Dean	14.546	+0.722	4115	176	15
Œ	15	12	HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	14.512	+0.959	3889	285	16
16	16	16	YOUR PLACE Back Blocks/Big Loud Ashley Cooke	14.071	+1.097	4128	326	14
<b>(1)</b>	17	42	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	12.513	+0.575	3798	316	17
B	18	19	LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	11.342	+1.418	3162	340	18
19	21	27	WE RIDE Average Joes Bryan Martin	9.599	+0.923	2733	235	21
20	19	35	I'M NOT PRETTY Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville Megan Moroney	9.218	+0.168	2814	121	19
<b>3</b>	20	44	OUT OFTHATTRUCK Capitol Nashville Carrie Underwood	9.211	+0.397	2768	61	20
22	23	28	CAN'T BREAK UP NOW Columbia Nashville Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	8.445	+0.916	2732	173	22
23	22	30	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville Chris Young	7.877	+0.229	2342	56	23
24	26	8	BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville Nate Smith	6.944	+1.245	2053	308	25
25	25	45	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Chase Matthew	6.938	+0.436	2323	109	24
26	28	12	DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	4.853	+0.857	1234	212	37
2	27	25	COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi & Luke Bryan	4.475	+0.421	1664	88	28
28	29	17	CHEVROLET Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	4.319	+0.493	1539	104	30
29	30	22	RODEO MAN Pearl/Big Machine Garth Brooks & Ronnie Dunn	4.248	+0.502	1798	215	26
30	34	33	DANCE WITH YOU Nashville Harbor Brett Young	4.159	+0.715	1441	48	33

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

#### **HOT SHOT DEBUT**

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

#### **MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE**

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

#### **AIRPOWER**

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

#### **BREAKER**

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

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# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON			AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)			PLAYS	
	WEEK 31	CHART 5	TITLE Imprint/Label  MESSED UP AS ME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Artist Keith Urban	THIS WEEK 4.003	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/- 142	RANK 36
<b>3</b>	37	22	· '	Parmalee	3.946	+0.395	1507	111	32
<u>32</u>	33	11	GONNA LOVEYOU Stoney Creek  ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	3.729	+0.200	1507	126	29
<u>33</u>	36	39	. •	Dillon Carmichael	3.648			-	29
<b>34</b> 35	32	21				+0.308	1672	139	34
35 <u>36</u>	40	23	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory  SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	Justin Moore Drew Baldridge	3.470 3.267	-0.100 +0.570	1343 1272	-68 166	35
37	35	8	TEXAS HOLD 'EM Parkwood/Columbia/Columbia Nashville		3.183	-0.205	1512	42	31
37 33	39	9	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Beyonce Dan + Shay	3.121	+0.317	1171	100	38
39	38	13	SOUNDS LIKETHE RADIO Leo33	Zach Top	2.980	-0.017	1082	25	39
40	41	6	AMERICAN GIRL Tom Petty Legacy/Capitol Nashville/Valory	Dierks Bentley	2.747	+0.197	902	85	41
49	43	23	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street	Chris Lane	2.088	+0.137	928	-32	40
42	42	5	COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	2.071	-0.006	772	-1	43
43	44	13		we & Dylan Scott	1.951	+0.174	768	39	44
44	45	28	INYOUR LOVE Hickman Holler/RCA	Tyler Childers	1.672	-0.057	893	-25	42
45	54	2	AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner	Dasha	1.602	+0.590	492	199	56
46	49	27	BROKENHEARTED Brown Sellers Brown/Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	1.502	+0.108	625	1	49
47	46	4	WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Nashville Harbor	Chris Janson	1.476	-0.177	704	3	48
48	50	3	DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	1.447	+0.094	568	49	51
49	47	25	I'M IN LOVE Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	1.381	-0.091	602	-34	50
50	48	7	ITHINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	1.379	-0.032	556	7	53
<u>5</u>	55	4	THISTOWN'S BEENTOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	1.375	+0.370	548	60	54
52	51	12	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	1.335	+0.032	708	54	47
53	56	9	ITRIED A RING ON Monument	Tigirlily Gold	1.266	+0.347	713	74	46
54	52	19	LOVE YOU BACK Nashville Harbor	Lady A	1.206	+0.000	737	18	45
55	24	2	TIE UP Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	1.129	-6.196	443	-1175	57
56	N	EW	JOLENE Parkwood/Columbia/Columbia Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Beyonce	0.982	+0.982	341	341	-
<b>5</b>	NE	EW	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	0.924	+0.266	493	95	55
58	57	6	LAST RODEO 1021/RCA Nashville	Restless Road	0.913	+0.032	433	10	58
59	53	2	CALLED CRAZY Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	0.887	-0.316	192	-44	-
60	58	5	SPIN YOU AROUND (1/24) Honeyhole/Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.845	-0.010	210	-17	-



Lainey Wilson made a surprise appearance during The Black Crowes' Happiness Bastards tour launch on April 2 at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House to perform two songs including "She Talks to Angels." Wilson is flanked by band members Chris Robinson (left) and Rich Robinson.



Megan Moroney made her first appearance on *CBS Mornings* on April 1 ahead of the network's April 7 telecast of the CMT Music Awards. From left: co-host Gayle King, Moroney, co-host Tony Dokoupil and featured host Vladimir Duthiers.

## billboard

2024

# PLAYERS

On April 27th, *Billboard* will publish its annual International Power Players list. This issue will profile the leaders in the global music industry including the label executives, live entertainment execs, managers, talent agents and lawyers, and recognize their achievements. Advertise and congratulate this year's International Power Players to

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



Levi Hummon (center) visited with The Crook & Chase Countdown hosts Lorianne Crook and Charlie Chase on March 27 for a forthcoming edition of the syndicated show. Hummon is working his current Walker Hayes collaboration, "Paying for It."

#### RADIO & RECORDS

Big Machine Label Group hired senior director of digital marketing Dexter Bensman and manager of communications Rebecca Kerr. Bensman previously was director of digital marketing at Brown Sellers Brown Management. Kerr had worked with The Oriel Company as a publicity coordinator. Reach Bensman here and Kerr here... Red Street added up of streaming and playlist strategy Michael Steele and regional director of country promotion Bridget Herrmann. Steele segues from her role as Warner Music Group director of playlist programming development; Herrmann is a former Warner Music Nashville West regional promotion manager... BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville welcomed senior director of A&R Camille Kenny. She arrives from Big Loud, where she maintained the same title... Magnolia Music Group added national director of radio and streaming Ray Vaughn. He previously was director of promotion at Quartz Hill... The Red Clay Strays signed a recording deal with RCA. The band's "Wondering Why" is No. 25 on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart... Orville Peck signed with Warner. His first release for the label teams him with Willie Nelson for a cover of "Cowboys Are Frequently Secretly Fond of Each Other"... Travis Daily takes over May 1 as Cumulus/Nashville brand and content manager, overseeing the cluster's two country stations, WKDF and WSM-FM. He spent two years as PD of **KUBL** Salt Lake City... Seattle picked up two country stations on April 1. KPNW flipped from adult alternative and installed Country Top 40 host Fitz in mornings, returning him to the daily slot he occupied during the station's previous country incarnation. Rival KPLZ switched to country from adult alternative the same day... Sirius XM's new, temporary Taylor Swift station, Channel 13 (Taylor's Version), will air April 7-May 6... Zimmer/Cookeville, Tenn., promoted Jason Bailey Grider to GM for its five stations, including country WGSQ, RadioInk.com reported. He will continue to co-host mornings for talk WHUB... Colby Ericson ended his role as PD/afternoon host for KVWF Wichita, Kan., and six other stations around the state, according to RadioInsight.com. Ericson also hosted the weekly red-dirt music program 35 South... WQCB Bangor, Maine, installs David Bugenske in mornings beginning April 15, RadioInsight.com reported. His last gig was a four-year run in mornings at KFRG Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif.

#### 'ROUND THE ROW

Brown Sellers Brown Management hired two social media marketing executives, director Jessica Crans and manager Hannah Kennedy, while announcing a company restructure. Crans returns to the music business, having previously worked as a promotion coordinator for BBR Music Group before leaving to explore content creation. Kennedy is a 2022 graduate of High Point University in North Carolina. Concurrently, the company parted ways with BSB national director of digital strategy and promotion Matt Galvin and Stone Country director of promotion Kerry Wolfe... Dreamcatcher Artists hired Belmont University graduate Meg Combs to handle day-to-day management for Callista Clark, whose previously reported management deal has

been expanded to production. A new track, "Reckless," will be released April 12 with an EP anticipated in September. Reach Combs here... Tape Room Music hired catalog manager Noelle Peters and creative coordinator Luke Collins. Peters is a recent Belmont University graduate who handled catalog during a Red Light internship; Collins worked as a tour and merchandise manager for several artists, including Conner Smith and Payton Smith. Reach Peters here and Collins here... Nashville's Go West Creative made two executive appointments. Chance Stahlhut was named COO after working more than 25 years with live-events companies, including a stint as regional vp of sales at PRG Digital Studios Nashville. Rick Borja was promoted to chief innovation officer from executive technical producer... The RIAA added president stripes to the job title of COO Michele Ballantyne... WME welcomed Dasha and Tucker Wetmore to its roster... Eclipse Music Group acquired songwriter **Dean Dillon's** share of "Tennessee Whiskey," associated with **George Jones** and Chris Stapleton... Riser House Publishing signed a songwriting agreement with LANCO bassist Chandler Baldwin... Billy Strings mandolinist Jarrod Walker entered a joint publishing deal with River House and Sony Music Publishing... Warner Chappell launched Straight to the Heart, an EP featuring five original songwriter demos for George Strait hits, including "Carrying Your Love With Me" and "It Just Comes Natural"... Jordan Davis and Morgan Wallen were double winners at the Association of Independent Music Publishers' Nashville Country Awards at the Ryman Auditorium on April 1. Davis won artist-writer of the year, while "Next Thing You Know" took song of the year. Wallen won the songwriter award, and his recording "Last Night" was named the most streamed country song. Go here for a full recap... Garth Brooks, Maren Morris and Brandi Carlile are among the performers on PBS' Elton John & Bernie Taupin: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song when it airs at 7 p.m. CT on April 8... Eric Church and Outsiders Spirits launched Jypsi whiskey on April 2 in Tennessee and at whiskeyjypsi.com... Music for Seniors is renaming its 2024 concert program the Frank Dycus Legacy Free Daytime Concert Series, covering 20 interactive music events in Tennessee. The dedication was made possible through an anonymous donation from a friend of late songwriter Dycus, who wrote "Marina del Rey" and "Gonna Get a Life"... Ashley Mc-Bryde, Vince Gill, Natalie Hemby and Aaron Raitiere will perform at the third annual Coulda Shoulda Woulda event at Nashville's Cannery Hall on April 23. The concert benefits Music Health Alliance... The annual Sunday Mornin' Country returns to the Grand Ole Opry House on June 9, the final day of CMA Fest, with Brenda Lee, John Berry, John McEuen and Charlie McCoy, among others... Vocalist Norah Lee Allen, 76, died March 31 at Nashville's Vanderbilt Medical Center following a lengthy illness. She spent 40 years as a background singer with the Grand Ole Opry, joining the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in 2022. Survivors include The Oak Ridge Boys' Duane Allen, her husband of 54 years. •



Scotty McCreery (right) joined The Big 615 host Storme Warren for an April 2 appearance on Talk Shop Live to discuss his album Rise and Fall, due May 10.



Mickey Guyton and John Oates were among the artists who attended the 22nd annual Best Cellars Dinner benefiting the T.J. Martell Foundation at the Loews Vanderbilt Nashville on April 1.

## billboard



## **SPOTLIGHT: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

In the issue of April 27, Billboard will celebrate the explosion of the music industry in Dominican Republic. Their rhythms, like merenge and bachata, have influenced many global artists.

We will look at the country's booming music scene and how increasingly labels, promoters and artists are working together across international borders to further promote its music.

Advertise in this issue to position your business in front of key decision makers who are driving Dominican Republic music industry.

#### **CONTACTS**

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 $\textbf{International: Ryan O'Donnell} \mid rodonnell@pmc.com$ 

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2024

## PREMIOS HEAT 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The Heat Latin Music Awards is an annual event that is broadcasted Live on the HTV cable channel. It recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements of the biggest Latin music acts of the year, as voted by HTV viewers.

Created by Diana Montes, Premios Heat's mission is not only to support and develop up and coming Latin artists but also offer a platform where their hard work is recognized.

We invite you to take this opportunity to congratulate Premios Heat and Diana Montes, on her 10th Years Celebration.

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 $\textbf{International: Ryan O'Donnell} \mid \mathsf{rodonnell@pmc.com}$ 



# 10 Years Ago Dierks Bentley Had A 'Hold' On No. 1

In 2014, the singer-songwriter earned his 11th Country Airplay leader

On April 5, 2014, **Dierks Bentley**'s "I Hold On" topped *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart. The song became the 11th of his 18 No. 1s.

Bentley co-wrote the track with **Brett James**, and **Ross Copperman** produced it. Parent album *Riser* became Bentley's fifth of seven chart-toppers on Top Country Albums.

In April 2003, the Phoenix native made

his Grand Ole Opry debut, performing his first Capitol Nashville single, and first Country Airplay No. 1, "What Was I Thinkin'." In 2005, he became an Opry member and won the Horizon Award, now known as the Country Music Association Award for new artist of the year.

Bentley last visited the top of Country Airplay with "Beers on Me," with BRELAND and HARDY, in April 2022. His most recent album, *Gravel & Gold*, came out in February 2023.

Currently on tour, Bentley, 48, makes his next stop in Vancouver on April 19. His current single, a cover of **Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers**' 1976 classic "American Girl," ranks at No. 40 on the April 13-dated Country Airplay chart with 2.7 million in audience, up 8%, according to Luminate.

