

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

[Tom.Roland@billboard.com](mailto:Tom.Roland@billboard.com)



## They're Ba-a-ck! ACM Welcomes New Group And Duo Nominees After A Lengthy Absence

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jordan Davis' 'Tucson' Arrives At No. 1  
>page 4

Executives In Motion  
>page 8

Country Coda: 'Bubba' Led Shenandoah's 'Dance' With No. 1  
>page 12

Welcome back.

**Neon Union**, **Restless Road** and **Tigirlily Gold** are all nominated for the first time in the 59th annual Academy of Country Music Awards. But their arrival on the final ballot marks a return of the new vocal group or duo of the year trophy for the first time in five years.

**LANCO** took home the hardware when it was last presented in 2019, but it's been a veritable desert for qualifying acts since then. The ACM requires a minimum of three eligible nominees to field each of its three new artist categories — new male, new female and new group or duo — and while there were duos and groups in circulation during the interim years, they didn't quite meet the criteria. The key data point was the ACM's requirement that an artist needed to hit the top 40 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart or in Mediabase. The only act that met that goal was now-defunct **Gone West**, who reached the top 30 in 2020, but since member **Colbie Caillat** was already an established artist, the group was not eligible.

For this year's ballot, the ACM expanded the criteria to top 50 and — voilà! — three artists made the grade as finalists for the May 16 ceremony.

"That was a really big topic of discussion with our awards vot-

ing and membership committee," says ACM chief of staff/vp of artist and industry relations, board administration and governance **Tommy Moore**. "At the Academy, we really try to pride ourselves on being on the forefront of inclusivity for new artists and really want to give them the opportunity to shine."

Not surprisingly, the nominees in the category appreciate that opportunity.

"We had heard through the grapevine that they were bringing back the new duo or group of the year category, but we still thought it would be a long shot to get nominated," **Neon Union's Andrew Millsaps** notes.

The lack of new duo or group options is a glaring reality. The prospects have

been so glum during the last four years that even if the ACM had loosened the chart requirement to the top 50 during that window, the industry still would not have mustered three qualifying entries.

Part of that dearth is the nature of the beast. Particularly in the digital era, it's much easier for a solo artist to make simple videos and post them on YouTube or Tik Tok and start building a following. The effort required to form a band or duo, schedule rehearsals and plan marketing schemes is far more challenging for an ensemble. And handling relationships — both inside the act and with a larger ring of family and associates — creates more ten-



TIGIRLILY GOLD



NEON UNION

TIGIRLILY GOLD: JARED OLSON

★ FOR IMMEDIATE AIRPLAY ★

## SHABOOZEY A BAR SONG (TIPTSY)

STREAMING **58M** PER WEEK

**#3** ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

**#1** BILLBOARD HOT COUNTRY SONGS

**#1** BILLBOARD DIGITAL SONG SALES CHART



sion, making it harder during the hungry years when meager earnings are split. “Being a group or duo is such a delicate dynamic,” Tigirlily Gold’s **Krista Slaubaugh** says. “You can’t just slap two people together and call them a duo. You have to stick it out through the hard years because it’s not always going to be easy.”

Even filling out the new group/duo field is challenging. To get three nominees this year, the ACM allowed Restless Road into the category, even though it did not have a top 50 single in 2023. It had reached that level in 2022, and the group is currently charting with “Last Rodeo” (No. 58, Country Airplay).



CUS BLACK

“There’s been a slower rollout of bands, but I’m definitely starting to notice a lot more,” says Restless Road’s **Zach Beeken**. He cites **Flatland Cavalry**, which secured its first ACM vocal group nomination this year.

Notably, **The Red Clay Strays** could

have been considered for new group or duo on the strength of “Wondering Why,” which hit No. 18 on the Hot Country Songs chart dated Dec. 30, 2023. But, Moore says, no one submitted them for consideration.

The ACM’s three new artist categories differ from the Country Music Association, which has a single new artist of the year field. And it’s advantageous, since it means more artists get their first major nomination from the ACM. All of 2024’s new group or duo finalists are first-time nominees, and they’ll always associate that with the ACM.

“We try to get them into the fold early on,” Moore says, “and we find that the more we can educate them on the Academy and the charitable aspect of ACM Lifting Lives, the more inclined they are to stick with us throughout the years.”

Despite their first-time-nominee status, the three new group or duo contenders should feel a bit at home. They all attended 2023’s ACMs in Frisco, Texas, and they will return to the same venue this year, trodding familiar turf as they perform at the ACM Kickoff Concerts and walk the same red carpet. But they’ll be doing it as finalists, which presents its own uncertainties. The winner will perform at the show, though they won’t know who that is until two days before the event. All the acts have musicians on hold in case they’re needed. They’ll also discover, perhaps for the first time, what it’s like performing a truncated version of a song for their peers.

“Obviously, I’d be focusing so much on doing a good job,” Slaubaugh says, “but then you look at, like, **Chris Stapleton** in the crowd? I guess we’ll cross that bridge when we get there.”



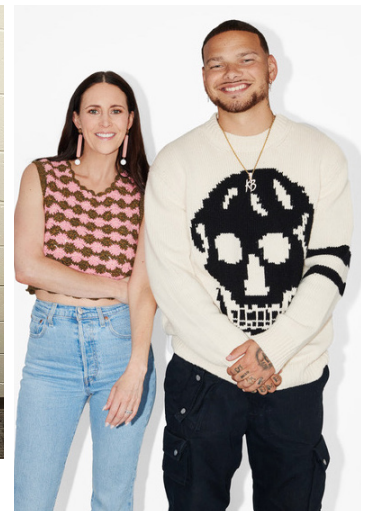
WILL BUCCOY

Sara Evans (center) performed April 24 at the Uptown Theatre in Napa, Calif., during the annual Live in the Vineyard Goes Country event. She’s pictured with actress Tori Spelling (left) and former *Dancing With the Stars* cast member Cheryl Burke.



LEE WILLARD

Bill Anderson (right) received the Dr. David Godbold lifetime achievement award from the South Carolina Entertainment and Music Hall of Fame on April 25, which was presented by Godbold.



Kane Brown guested with Apple Music Country host Kelleigh Bannen on the May 3 episode of *Today’s Country Radio*.

SUBSCRIBE TO

billboard  
COUNTRY  
UPDATE

SIGN UP FOR FREE DELIVERY  
EVERY MONDAY AND FRIDAY

The country music industry’s must-have source for news, charts, analysis and features

EXCLUSIVE CHARTS including Hot Country Songs, Country Airplay, Top Country Albums, Country Streaming Songs, Country Songwriters, Country Producers and more!

Bi-weekly content including Makin’ Tracks, On the Charts, a roundup of executive moves and timely analysis of the latest country news and trends

Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



★ FOR IMMEDIATE AIRPLAY ★

# SHABOOZEY A BAR SONG (TIPSY)



STREAMING **58M** PER WEEK

**#3** ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

**#1** BILLBOARD HOT COUNTRY SONGS

**#1** BILLBOARD DIGITAL SONG SALES CHART



# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY  
MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

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

## Jordan Davis' 'Tucson' Travels To No. 1 On Country Airplay; Jason Aldean Adds His 38th Top 10

Jordan Davis rolls up his fifth leader on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "Tucson Too Late" (MCA Nashville) ascends 3-1 on the survey (dated May 18). It increased by 14% to 30.5 million in audience May 3-9, according to Luminate.

The song was co-authored by two pairs of brothers: Jordan and Jacob Davis and Josh and Matt Jenkins. It's from Jordan's *Bluebird Days*, which arrived at its No. 3 best on Top Country Albums in March 2023, becoming his second and top-charting top 10. His rookie LP, *Home State*, entered at its No. 6 peak in April 2018.



JORDAN DAVIS

HARPER SMITH

The 36-year-old from Shreveport, La., previously led Country Airplay with "What My World Spins Around," for two frames in January 2023; "Buy Dirt" (featuring Luke Bryan; two weeks beginning in January 2022); "Slow Dance in a Parking Lot" (one week, April 2020); and his debut hit, "Singles You Up" (one, April 2018).

**NEW 'COUNTRY' TOP 10** Jason Aldean banks his 38th Country Airplay top 10 as "Let Your Boys Be Country" (Macon/Broken Bow) bumps 12-10 (16 million, up 6%). It follows "Try That in a Small Town," which reached No. 2 in October 2023 and became his 10th No. 1 on the multimeteric Hot Country Songs chart and his first on the all-genre *Billboard Hot 100*.

Aldean boasts the eighth-most top 10s since Country Airplay launched in January 1990. Kenny Chesney and George Strait lead with 61 each, followed by Tim McGraw (60), Alan Jackson (51), Keith Urban (44), Toby Keith (42) and Brooks & Dunn (41). Aldean breaks out of a tie with Reba McEntire, who leads all women with 37 top 10s. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist		GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic	Post Malone & Morgan Wallen		+10.359
MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown		+4.696
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis		+3.674
WRANGLERS Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert		+3.571
COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST		+2.320
WHERE THAT CAME FROM Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Randy Travis		+2.154
DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson		+1.914
YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young		+1.629
HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll		+1.538
A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey		+1.474

MOST INCREASED PLAYS			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist		GAIN
I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic	Post Malone & Morgan Wallen		+2293
MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown		+1389
WRANGLERS Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert		+1093
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis		+910
COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST		+529
DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson		+453
YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young		+425
HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll		+406
SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	Drew Baldridge		+394
TAKE HER HOME Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney		+350

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	18.700
2	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	16.464
3	TRUCK BED Big Loud	HARDY	15.467
4	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	14.988
5	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	14.757
6	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	13.643
7	MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	9.759
8	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	8.741
9	CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	8.511
10	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	8.297



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MAY 9, 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	24	TEQUILA & JESUS (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Amanda Kate Ferris	1472	126	11	13	17	8 SECONDS AT A TIME (Independent)	Ryder Grimes	1051	70
2	3	10	RUNNING OUT OF TIME (Almost Country) Casey Donahew ft. Pat Green, Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen		1321	5	12	7	24	HE SINGS FOR MARY (Independent)	Hayden Haddock	1039	-35
3	5	14	MILWAUKEE (Island/IDJMG)	Wyatt Flores	1217	45	13	15	16	NEON (Independent)	Mikayla Lane	975	56
4	9	20	HELLO TEXAS (Flying C)	Brooke Graham	1160	100	14	8	17	WAY IT GOES (Independent)	Mike Ryan	962	-105
5	6	17	ALL THE ANGELENOS (Boo Clap/Thirty Tigers)	Uncle Lucius	1151	47	15	1	26	PROMISE YOU ME (Independent)	Grant Gilbert	939	-564
6	10	15	SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING (Independent)	James Robert Webb	1111	51	16	16	8	DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS LIKE THAT (Flatland Cavalry/Interscope Records)	Flatland Cavalry	926	31
7	12	11	THE RESCUE (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1104	99	17	21	6	RAININ ON ME (Independent)	Wade Bowen	896	149
8	11	14	\$10 COWBOY (Son of Davy/Thirty Tigers)	Charley Crockett	1091	57	18	19	15	BLUE SKY GOODBYE (Independent)	Drew Fish Band	850	26
9	14	13	TE NECESITO (Independent)	Matt Castillo	1066	115	19	20	9	HUNT YOU DOWN (Independent)	Kaitin Butts	838	26
10	4	22	SOMEBODY'S BABY (Independent)	Jon Stork	1061	-149	20	18	17	I WON'T GIVE UP (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	790	-42

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](http://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	3	38	TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	30.492	+3.674	7967	910	1
2	2	35	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	27.731	+0.532	7449	61	2
3	4	32	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	27.282	+1.162	7225	157	3
4	1	42	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	27.226	-1.862	6442	-591	4
5	7	17	HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	23.899	+1.538	6404	406	5
6	6	26	TAKE HER HOME Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	23.696	+0.887	6178	350	6
7	8	44	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	18.813	-1.080	4562	-328	8
8	9	21	YOUR PLACE Back Blocks/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	18.489	+0.563	5278	267	7
9	5	26	WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	16.058	-8.365	4107	-3012	13
10	12	24	LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	16.036	+0.860	4395	211	9
11	13	32	WE RIDE Average Joes	Bryan Martin	15.213	+1.157	4328	258	10
12	11	67	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine	Jackson Dean	14.836	-0.399	4267	-11	11
13	14	47	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine	Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	13.911	-0.038	4185	-61	12
14	16	35	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young	13.274	+1.629	3767	425	14
15	15	13	BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	12.961	+1.309	3731	318	15
16	18	17	DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	12.359	+1.914	3326	453	17
17	17	50	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Chase Matthew	10.978	+0.367	3439	220	16
18	NEW		I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic	Post Malone & Morgan Wallen	10.359	+10.359	2293	2293	23
19	19	40	I'M NOT PRETTY Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville	Megan Moroney	9.614	+0.194	3071	68	18
20	22	5	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	9.608	+2.320	2402	529	22
21	21	22	CHEVROLET Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	8.737	+1.203	2636	311	21
22	20	33	CAN'T BREAK UP NOW Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	8.474	-0.495	2846	-76	19
23	23	28	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	Drew Baldridge	8.090	+1.425	2688	394	20
24	24	16	ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	6.478	+0.655	2289	73	24
25	25	26	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory	Justin Moore	5.275	+0.286	1884	159	27
26	30	10	MESSED UP AS ME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	5.087	+0.785	1722	54	28
27	27	38	DANCE WITH YOU Nashville Harbor	Brett Young	4.933	+0.168	1703	-16	30
28	29	27	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Pamalee	4.877	+0.132	1905	106	26
29	28	27	RODEO MAN Pearl/Big Machine	Garth Brooks & Ronnie Dunn	4.853	+0.106	2058	101	25
30	NEW		MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	4.700	+4.696	1392	1389	34

## COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

### RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 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	36	7	AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner	Dasha	4.582	+1.009	1333	266	35
32	32	5	LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	4.482	+0.410	1445	194	33
33	31	44	DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	4.092	-0.102	1710	-91	29
34	33	14	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	3.982	+0.015	1544	-16	31
35	34	7	TIE UP Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	3.953	+0.245	982	73	41
36	35	18	SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Leo33	Zach Top	3.902	+0.200	1461	42	32
37	NEW		WRANGLERS Vanner/Republic/Big Loud <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Miranda Lambert	3.571	+3.571	1093	1093	39
38	37	11	AMERICAN GIRL Tom Petty Legacy/Capitol Nashville/Valory	Dierks Bentley	3.293	+0.168	1203	103	36
39	38	10	COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	3.096	+0.427	1143	114	37
40	44	7	CALLED CRAZY Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	2.754	+0.837	622	164	50
41	53	2	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	2.467	+1.474	569	338	55
42	41	8	DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	2.419	+0.435	887	111	44
43	39	28	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street	Chris Lane	2.334	+0.186	1121	81	38
44	40	18	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	2.291	+0.264	953	51	43
45	NEW		WHERE THAT CAME FROM Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Randy Travis	2.154	+2.154	413	413	-
46	43	9	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	2.071	+0.139	798	31	48
47	45	17	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	1.996	+0.206	1008	75	40
48	42	9	WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Nashville Harbor	Chris Janson	1.921	-0.020	885	43	45
49	46	4	FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	1.734	-0.045	573	33	54
50	47	33	IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler/RCA	Tyler Childers	1.679	-0.092	963	-93	42
51	48	24	LOVE YOU BACK Nashville Harbor	Lady A	1.671	-0.050	844	25	47
52	50	12	IT HINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	1.657	+0.335	615	20	52
53	26	2	DRINKIN' BUDDIES Curb <b>Lee Brice, Nate Smith &amp; Hailey Whitters</b>	Lee Brice, Nate Smith & Hailey Whitters	1.655	-3.213	505	-574	57
54	49	14	I TRIED A RING ON Monument	Tigirlily Gold	1.489	+0.017	852	-25	46
55	52	6	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	1.425	+0.160	757	72	49
56	54	3	FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b> John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	1.354	+0.469	596	172	53
57	51	30	I'M IN LOVE Songs & Daughters/Pegasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	1.270	-0.022	617	-26	51
58	55	11	LAST RODEO 1021/RCA Nashville	Restless Road	0.877	+0.058	419	-13	60
59	NEW		BREAK MINE EMI Nashville <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Brothers Osborne	0.846	+0.270	337	138	-
60	59	3	COUNTRY BACK Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	0.811	+0.062	516	89	56



Old Dominion's Matthew Ramsey (center), who narrated a new Ryman Auditorium exhibit, attended the April 24 opening of the Elvis Presley celebration, "From Memphis to the Ryman." With him are Ryman GM Gary Levy and Ryman senior concerts booking manager Morgan Pitt.



T. Graham Brown joined the Grand Ole Opry during the May 3 broadcast of the WSM-AM Nashville show. From left: Johnstone Entertainment president/artist manager Cole Johnstone, Brown, Vince Gill and Opry senior vp/executive producer Dan Rogers.

ERIC AHLGRIM

CHRIS HOLLO

# LILY ROSE

OUT NOW



RUNNING  
OUTTA  
TIME

BIG LOUD

republic  
records

Mercury  
RECORDS

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND [tom.roland@billboard.com](mailto:tom.roland@billboard.com)

Big Loud CEO/partner **Seth England** (center) was recognized May 1 as a 2024 recipient of the T.J. Martell Foundation lifetime music industry award. The honor will be presented Sept. 17 in New York. He's flanked by Martell chairman of the board of trustees **John Esposito** (left) and Republic executive vp of business and legal affairs and business development **Steve Gawley**.

## RADIO & RECORDS®

Empire Nashville promoted **Heather Vassar** to senior vp of operations from vp of marketing and boosted **Sarah-Beth Gerlec** to director of business and legal affairs from Nashville counsel. The company also hired director of A&R **Hannah Galluzzi**, who spent the last six years with Universal Music Group Nashville, most recently as manager of A&R ... **KUBL** Salt Lake City picked up **John E. Kage** as its new PD, just weeks after he left iHeartMedia/Denver, where he served as PD for both country **KWBL** and top 40 **KDHT** ... **Tori Dunn** joined Cumulus/Stockton-Modesto, Calif., as promotions director and **KATM** morning co-host. She transfers from Cumulus/Boise, Idaho, where she served as marketing director for the cluster and **KIZN** midday cohost ... **Beasley/Las Vegas** promoted **Ashley McIntyre** to local sales manager from senior account executive. The six-station cluster includes country **KCYE** ... **KTHI** Boise flipped to country from classic hits on May 6, *The Idaho Statesman* reported ... **Mike "Sandman" Sanders** joined **WZZK** Birmingham, Ala., as PD, according to RadioInk.com. He arrives after working weekends at adult contemporary **WJXA** Nashville ... **WULF** Elizabethtown, Ky., midday host **Kevin Jagers** added PD stripes, RadioInk.com reported ... Late-morning personality **Drew Walker** parted ways with **WUSN** Chicago after two decades, according to RadioInsight.com, teasing another Windy City gig on the horizon on his way out the door ... **McVay** Media president **Mike McVay** and Skyview Networks president/CEO **Steve Jones** will receive the giants of broadcasting and electronic arts award from the Library of American Broadcasting Foundation on Nov. 12 at New York's Gotham Hall ... Nonprofit Mentoring and Inspiring Women in Radio named **WKML** Fayetteville, N.C., PD/morning co-host **Sarah Weaver** its first country radio mentee. The program offers a full year of networking and development along with attendance at the Country Radio Seminar ... Former Associated Press Radio correspondent **Natalie Windsor**, 72, died May 5 in Los Angeles following a major stroke, according to AP Connecting. She spent 20 years with AP, pointedly including country music in her celebrity coverage.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum hired two writer-editors: former *Rolling Stone* writer-editor **Jon Freeman** and singer-songwriter **Allison Moorer**. The museum also promoted three staffers: **Brad Henton** rises to senior director of culinary, event and museum sales from director of museum sales and guest experience, **Paige Maillet** ascends to director of guest experience from associate director of guest relations, and **Kayleigh Shoemaker** is bumped to director of public programs from senior manager ... Los Angeles-based Full Coverage Communications hired vp **Taylor Vaughn**, formerly Republic vp of media, and welcomed publicist **Amy McBrayer**, who leaves a similar role at Press Here. Full Coverage clients include **Tim McGraw** and **Carly Pearce** ... Eclipse Music Group and Electric Feel Publishing signed **Jackson Nance** to a songwriting deal ... Artist-writer **Derek Austin** inked a publishing contract with Warner Chappell Nashville and a management deal

with **WHY&HOW** ... Songwriter **Jenn Schott** ("7500 OBO," "Better Than You Left Me") joined the **SMACKSongs** writing staff ... Sony Music Publishing Nashville inked **Brian Fuller** to a songwriting contract ... Teen country artist **Maddox Batson** picked up a booking deal with **WME Nashville** ... **Zach John King** tapped the **Neal Agency** for concert booking ... Rise Music Group agreed to manage country trio **Hayefield** ... The Songwriters Hall of Fame inducted the late **Cindy Walker** ("You Don't Know Me," "Cherokee Maiden") on April 19. The event took place at Nashville's Columbia Studio A, during a master session featuring **Liz Rose** ("Girl Crush," "You Belong With Me"), one of Walker's ardent admirers ... **Reba McEntire** is the central character in *Happy's Place*, a sitcom that was greenlit by NBC, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. The series reteams her with several actors and production staffers from the *Reba* sitcom, including comedic actor **Melissa Peterman** ... Paced by song of the year entry "In Your Love," **Tyler Childers** snagged three nominations in the Americana Music Honors and Awards, announced May 7. He joins **Sierra Ferrell** as the leading nominees, with each up for artist, album and song of the year. Also on the list are double-nominee **Brandy Clark**, **Charley Crockett**, **Jason Isbell** and **The Red Clay Strays**. Go [here](#) for the full ballot ... **Post Malone**, **Parker McCollum**, **Nate Smith**, **Blake Shelton** and **Gwen Stefani** are among the most recently announced performers for the 59th annual Academy of Country Music Awards on May 16 in Frisco, Texas ... "Boxes," written by **Nate Smith**, **Chris Sligh** and **Sash McVeigh**, took first place in the country division of the International Songwriting Competition, a multigenre contest that includes **Rosanne Cash**, **Kristian Bush** and **Gabby Barrett** among the judges. Go [here](#) for a full list of winners ... **Lainey Wilson** joins the cast of country stars with Downtown Nashville bars as she plans to open **Bell Bottoms Up** in the building that previously hosted **Florida Georgia Line**'s **FGL House** ... **TidalWave Comics** published a 22-page comic book, *Female Force: Taylor Swift*, centered on the singer's charitable efforts ... Thirty country artists helped the Country Music Association notify this year's honorees in the CMA Foundation Music Teachers of Excellence program on May 7. The recipients, who live in eight different states, will be recognized during a Sept. 17 Nashville event ... **Craig Campbell** hosts his 10th annual **Celebrity Cornhole Challenge & Concert** on June 4 in Nashville ahead of **CMA Fest**. Proceeds benefit the **Kenny Campbell Foundation** ... **Miranda Lambert** will hold an Oct. 5 **Music for Mutts** benefit concert at Nashville's **Ascend Amphitheater** ... **Marcus King** established the **Curfew Foundation** to assist musicians battling mental health issues and addiction ... The Nashville School of Traditional Country Music, founded by **Nikki Lane** and **Kevin Martin**, has received nonprofit status. Go [here](#) for more information ... **Tracy Lawrence** raised over \$250,000 for the homeless with his **Mission: Possible** golf tournament on May 6 ... Songwriter **Wayland Holyfield**, 82, died May 6 in Nashville. A member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, he held a leading role as a mentor in the community after rolling up a lengthy hit list, including **Anne Murray**'s "Could I Have This Dance," **Crystal Gayle**'s "I'll Do It All Over Again," **Charley Pride**'s "Never Been So Loved (In All My Life)," **Don Williams**' "You're My Best Friend" and **Billy Dean**'s "Only Here for a Little While." 🍷



**Cole Swindell** performed May 2 at the **Coffee Butler Amphitheater** during the **Key West Songwriters Festival**, presented by **BMI**, in Florida. From left: **BMI Nashville** assistant vp of creative **Mason Hunter**, **BMI president/CEO Michael O'Neill**, **Swindell** and **BMI Nashville** vp of creative **Clay Bradley** and assistant vp of creative **Leslie Roberts**.



# TWO BIG CHEERS

for our 2024 Billboard Country  
Power Players



**JOHNNY CHIANG**

Vice President,  
Music Programming – Country,  
SiriusXM & Pandora



**BEKAH DIGBY**

Associate Director,  
Talent & Industry Relations –  
Country & Christian, SiriusXM & Pandora

Congrats from your friends at

**SiriusXM** | **pandora**<sup>®</sup>



# “DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE” RILEY GREEN

**STREAMING. SELLING. GROWING!**

Pikeville, KY **SOLD OUT**  
Evansville, IN **SOLD OUT**  
Huntsville, AL **SOLD OUT**  
Cape Girardeau, MO **SOLD OUT**  
Salem, VA **SOLD OUT**  
Lexington, KY **SOLD OUT**  
Jonesboro, AR **SOLD OUT**  
Biloxi, MS **SOLD OUT**  
Baton Rouge, LA **SOLD OUT**  
Tuscaloosa, AL **SOLD OUT**  
Atlanta, GA **SOLD OUT**  
Greenville, SC **SOLD OUT**  
Anaheim, CA **SOLD OUT** (x2!)  
San Jose, CA **SOLD OUT**  
Bakersfield, CA **SOLD OUT**  
Phoenix, AZ **SOLD OUT**

**“THROUGHOUT THE EVENING, GREEN EFFORTLESSLY SHOWCASED HIS VERSATILITY AS AN ARTIST, SEAMLESSLY TRANSITIONING BETWEEN HEART-WRENCHING BALLADS AND UPTEMPO ANTHEMS.”**

ALL COUNTRY NEWS

**“EACH SONG WAS A TESTAMENT TO GREEN’S ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH HIS AUDIENCE ON A DEEPLY PERSONAL LEVEL, LEAVING A LASTING IMPRESSION THAT WOULD LINGER LONG AFTER THE FINAL NOTES HAD FADED AWAY.”**

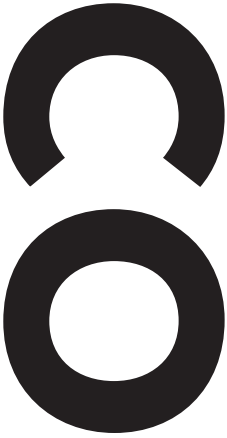
ALL COUNTRY NEWS

**“IF YOU EVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO CATCH [RILEY GREEN] LIVE, DON’T HESITATE - IT’S AN EXPERIENCE YOU WON’T SOON WANT TO MISS.”**

ALL COUNTRY NEWS

**READ FULL ARTICLE HERE!**

NASHVILLE  
*Harbor*  
RECORDS &  
ENTERTAINMENT



30 Years Ago

# Shenandoah's 'Bubba' Scooted To No. 1

In 1994, the group scored its fifth Hot Country Songs leader

On May 14, 1994, **Shenandoah's** "If Bubba Can Dance (I Can Too)" hit No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart.

The group's **Marty Raybon** and **Mike McGuire** wrote the song with **Bob McDill**, and **Don Cook** produced it. It was released from Shenandoah's LP *Under the Kudzu*, which also spun off the No. 3-peaking ballad "I Want To Be Loved Like That."

Raybon and McGuire co-founded Shenandoah in Muscle Shoals, Ala., in 1984. Rounding out the original quintet were **Ralph Ezell**, **Jim Seales** and **Stan Thorn**. The act notched 15 Hot Country Songs top 10s in 1988-95, including four other No. 1s. Shenandoah's accolades include the Academy of Country Music's 1991 vocal group of the year honor.

Shenandoah initially disbanded in 1997 when Raybon left to launch a solo career. He rejoined in 2014, and the group, fronted by him and McGuire, still tours and records. Last year, Shenandoah and **Luke Combs** united for an update of "Two Dozen Roses," which hit No. 2 on Country Digital Song Sales.

—JIM ASKER



From left: Shenandoah's McGuire, Thorn, Raybon, Ezell and Seales in 1994.

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
PRODCR (SONGWRITER)	*** NO. 1 ***																												LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL											
1	2	4	14	IF BUBBA CAN DANCE (I CAN TOO) D. COOK (M. RAYBON, M. MCGUIRE, B. MCDILL)														1 week at No. 1										◆ SHENANDOAH (C) (V) RCA 62761												
2	1	3	11	A GOOD RUN OF BAD LUCK J. STROUD, C. BLACK (C. BLACK, H. NICHOLAS)														◆ CLINT BLACK (C) (V) RCA 62762																						
3	5	7	10	BEFORE YOU KILL US ALL K. LEHNING (K. FOLLESE, M. T. BARNES)														◆ RANDY TRAVIS (C) (V) WARNER BROS. 18208																						
4	4	6	12	ADDICTED TO A DOLLAR J. STROUD, D. STONE (D. STONE, R. HOOD, R. MADDOX, K. TRIBBLE)														◆ DOUG STONE (C) (V) EPIC 77375																						
5	7	9	14	YOUR LOVE AMAZES ME C. HOWARD (A. HUNT, C. JONES)														◆ JOHN BERRY LIBERTY ALBUM CUT																						
6	8	11		ROBE THE MOON														◆ JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY																						