# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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Click Here For Friday's Billboard Country Update And Country Airplay Chart ON THE CHARTS

#### Jim.Asker@billboard.com

# Moroney's Top 10 Streak Continues With *Am I Okay?*



3

#### **MEGAN MORONEY**

following Lucky

Am I Okay? The Savannah, Ga., native posts her second Top Country Albums top 10,

(No. 10, May 2023), as Am I Okay? debuts at No. 3 with 43,000 equivalent album units earned July 12-18, according to Luminate. It also opens at No. 9 on the all-genre Billboard 200, marking Moroney's first top 10.



10

#### LEE GREENWOOD

"God Bless the USA"

The patriotic anthem, which originally hit No. 7 on Hot Country Songs in 1984, reenters

Country Digital Song Sales at No. 10 with 3,000 sold in the tracking week. Its 168% sales surge was sparked in part by **Greenwood**'s performance at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on July 18.



#### **BILLY STRINGS**

Live, Vol. 1

The multi-instrumentalist's set was recorded live at stops ranging from Paris to Nashville.

It enters Top Country Albums at No. 11 with 16,000 equivalent units, including 15,000 in album sales. It simultaneously tops Bluegrass Albums, marking his fourth No. 1, and arrives on Americana/Folk Albums at No. 7, becoming his third top 10.



38

#### **DREW BALDRIDGE**

"She's Somebody's Daughter (Reimagined)"
Baldridge's first entry on the multimetric
Hot Country Songs chart reenters at
a new No. 38

high with 496,000 official U.S. streams. As he is self-funding promotion to radio, the song lifts 8-7 on Country Airplay (21.3 million impressions, up 10%) — a new best for a self-released single in the chart's 34-year history.



MORONEY: CECE DAWSON. GREENWOOD: ERIKA GOLDRING/GETTY IMAGES. STRINGS: ALYSSE GAFKJEN. BALDRIDGE: JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

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## billboard COUNTRY UPDATE

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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





COWGIRLS MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST

CONGRATS MORGAN ON 15 ARTIST #1s

CONGRATS ERNEST ON YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> #1 AS AN ARTIST

BIG LOUD

## billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

| THIS<br>WEEK | LAST<br>WEEK                                 | TWO<br>WEEKS<br>AGO | WKS ON<br>Chart | TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)  | Artist<br>Imprint / promotion label  | COUNTRY<br>AIRPLAY<br>RANK | PEAK<br>Position |
|--------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|--|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| 0            | 1  | 1                   | 14              | A BAR SONG (TIPSY) ★★ No. 1 (6 Weeks)/Airplay Gainer ★★ s.cook,n.sastry,j.jones,j.a.kent,m.a.williams)   | Shaboozey  AMERICAN DOGWOOD/EMPIRE/MAGNOLIA MUSIC  | 3                          | 1                |
| 2            | 2  | 2                   | 11              | I HAD SOME HELP LBELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, HOSKINS (A.R. POST, M.C. WALLEN, L.B. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, E.K. SMITH, J. J. HOSKINS                       | Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen<br>S,C.P.WALTERS,A.G.GORLEY) MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD | 2                          | 1                |
| 3            | 3  | 1                   | 2               | LIES LIES LIES J.MOI (J.J.DILLON,J.MILLER,D.ROSS,C.TOMPKINS)   | <b>Morgan Wallen</b><br>MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD  | 27                         | 3                |
| 4            | 6  | 3                   | 42              | COWGIRLS  J.MOI,J.DURRETT (R.H.BLOCK,A.G.GORLEY,J.MADDOCKS,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME)   | Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST<br>MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD                                | 1                          | 3                |
| 5            | 4  | 4                   | 8               | PINK SKIES<br>Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN)  | Zach Bryan<br>Belting Bronco/Warner/War  | -                          | 3                |
| 6            | 5 47 3 28 Zach Brya Selting Bronco/Warner/Wa |                     | -               | 5  |  |                            |                  |
| Ø            | 7  | 7                   | 11              | MILES ON IT  MARSHMELLO, DIGITAL FARM ANIMALS, EARWULF, C.M.CDONOUGH (MARSHMELLO, K. BROWN, J. TORREYR, M.CDONOUGH, C. M.CDONOUGH, CASTL               | Marshmello & Kane Brown  LE,N.J.GALE,TERIKSEN) JOYTIME COLLECTIVE/RCA NASHVILLE            | 22                         | 4                |
| 8            | 10   | 8                   | 20              | AUSTIN T.HEIDELMAN (A.D.NOVOTNY,K.T.HEIDELMAN,A.WENDLER,C.R.ARNSPIGER)   | Dasha<br>Version III/Warner/Wmn  | 17                         | 3                |
| 9            | 15   | 10                  | 6               | HIGH ROAD)  ★★ Sales & Streaming Gainer ★★ G.SIMON (R.WETZEL,A.R.ALLEN,G.SIMON,C.KARPINEN,J.MURPH,L.J.VELTZ,J.SERRATO)                                 | Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA/RECORDS NASHVILLE                             | 54                         | 8                |
| 10           | 9  | 6                   | 47              | I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN,K.MUSGRAVES)  | Zach Bryan Featuring Kacey Musgraves INTERSCOPE/BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/MCA NASHVILLE/WAR    | RC                         | 1                |
| 0            | 13   | 12                  | 10              | AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA CHIP MATTHEWS.J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,J.L.ALEXANDER,J.D.SINGLETON)  | Luke Combs UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/ATLANTIC/SEVEN RIDGES/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE                      | 10                         | 4                |
| 12           | 11   | 5                   | 4               | POUR ME A DRINK LBELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME (A.R. POST, L.B. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, J. BYRON, R. H. BLOCK, J. DOZZI)                                      | Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton<br>MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD                           | 24                         | 3                |
| 13           | 12 9 5 WHISKE                                |                     | 5               | WHISKEY WHISKEY TURBO EVRORN, CHARLIE HANDSOME (D.D. WHITE, JR., M.C. WALLEN, J.LOWE, C.A. DURHAM, A. M. NURANI, A.G. GORLEY, E.K. SMITH, E.K. LUGHAMI | Moneybagg Yo Featuring Morgan Wallen  MER,D.RUOFF,J.THOMPSON) CMG/N-LESS/INTERSCOPE/ICLG   | -                          | 6                |
| 14           | 14   | 11                  | 6               | I AM NOT OKAY Z.CROWELL (J.B.DEFORD,T.PHILLIPS,A.G.GORLEY,C.BROWN)   | Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/REPUBLIC/STONEY CREEK  | 18                         | 10               |
| 15           | 16   | 13                  | 4               | YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME<br>W.BUNDY (E.LANGLEY,A.RAITIERE,R.GREEN)  | Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green<br>SAWGOD/COLUMBIA                                      | -                          | 13               |
| 10           | 20   | 15                  | 23              | BULLETPROOF LRIMES (A.G.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)   | <b>Nate Smith</b><br>RCA NASHVILLE   | 4                          | 10               |
| 17           | 8  | 45                  | 3               | AMERICAN NIGHTS Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN)  | <b>Zach Bryan</b><br>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/WAR   | -                          | 8                |
| Œ            | 19   | 14                  | 37              | DIRT CHEAP T.W.WILLMON (J.PHILLIPS)  | Cody Johnson<br>COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN  | 6                          | 14               |
| 19           | 29   | 19                  | 16              | WIND UP MISSIN' YOU C.LACORTE (T.ARCHER,T.P.WETMORE,C.LACORTE)   | Tucker Wetmore<br>BACK BLOCKS/EMI NASHVILLE  | 31                         | 11               |
| 20           | 17   | -                   | 2               | BETTER DAYS Z.L.BRYAN, J.MAYER, C.BRAUN, MONSUNE (Z.L.BRYAN)   | Zach Bryan Featuring John Mayer<br>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER                                   | -                          | 17               |
| 3            | RE-EN  | NTRY                | 10              | INDIFFERENT K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,B.WILLIAMS,M.CARPENTER,M.E.CARPENTER)  | Megan Moroney  MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE                                   | -                          | 21               |
| 22           | 36   | 23                  | 19              | CHEVROLET Z.CROWELL,B.PHILLIPS (C.MCGILL,J.L.ALEXANDER,H.PHELPS,M.WILLIAMS)  | Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll<br>BROKEN BOW  | 11                         | 22               |
| 23           | 33   | 26                  | 9               | HANG TIGHT HONEY J.JOYCE (L.WILSON,D.WILLIAMS,J.NIX,P.SIKES)   | <b>Lainey Wilson</b><br>BROKEN BOW   | 13                         | 23               |
| 24           | 18   | _                   | 2               | OAK ISLAND<br>ZLBRYAN (ZLBRYAN)  | <b>Zach Bryan</b><br>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER   | -                          | 18               |
| 25           | 24   | -                   | 2               | BASS BOAT<br>ZLBRYAN (ZLBRYAN,B.ADAMS,J.VALLANCE)  | Zach Bryan<br>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER  | -                          | 24               |

#### **COUNTRY SONGWRITERS**<sup>TM</sup>

|     | 1 | # <b>1</b><br>73 WKS | ZACH BRYAN     |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|---|----------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|     | 2 | ASI                  | HLEY GORLEY    |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | 3 | CH                   | ARLIE HANDSOME |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | 4 | ERI                  | NEST           |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | 5 | JO:                  | SH PHILLIPS    |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIE | 6 | CA                   | PO             |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIE | 6 | J-K                  | J-KWON         |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIE | 6 | NE                   | VIN SASTRY     |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIE | 6 | SE                   | AN COOK        |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIE | 6 | SH                   | ABOOZEY        |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIE | 6 | TAI                  | RBOY           |  |  |  |  |  |



# TIE 4 SEAN COOK COUNTRY PRODUCERS™ 1 #1 32WKS ZACH BRYAN 2 JOEY MOI 3 CHARLIE HANDSOME TIE 4 NEVIN SASTRY TIE 4 SEAN COOK 6 LOUIS BELL 7 GABE SIMON 8 KRISTIAN BUSH 9 HOSKINS 10 TRAVIS HEIDELMAN

# **billboard** Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

| THIS<br>WEEK | LAST<br>WEEK   | TWO<br>WEEKS<br>AGO   | WKS ON<br>CHART   | TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)   | Artist   | COUNTRY<br>AIRPLAY<br>RANK | PEAK<br>Position |
|--------------|--|---|---|---|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| 26           | 34   | 20  | 35  | THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU C.STAPLETON D.COBB (C.STAPLETON)   | Chris Stapleton SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE                      | 32                         | 12               |
| 2            | 40   | 24  | 10  | BEAUTIFUL AS YOU  J.BUNETTA,J.H.RYAN,AMMO,D.HUFF (THOMAS RHETT,J.C.BUNETTA,J.E.COLEMAN,J.K.HINDLIN,A.IZQUIERDO,Z.KELSEY,J.H.RYAN) | Thomas Rhett<br>FIFTY-ONE/FORTY-NINE/VALORY                  | 19                         | 22               |
| 28           | 35   | 21  | 9   | SWEET DREAMS G.SIMON (R.WETZEL,A.R.ALLEN,J.SERRATO,G.SIMON,S.N.HARRIS)  | Koe Wetzel<br>YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA                             | -                          | 10               |
| 29           | 26   | - 2 SANDPAPER J.KING,Z.LBRYAN (Z.LBRYAN)                                  |   |   | Zach Bryan Featuring Bruce Springsteen BELTING BRONCO/WARNER | -                          | 26               |
| 30           | NEW 1 AM I OKAY?  K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,LLAIRD,J.J.DILLON)  ** Hot Shot Debut **                       |   | Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE | -   | 30   |                            |                  |
| 31           | 32 16 3 COWBOYS CRY TOO A.VANDERHEYM,K.BALLERINI, K.VANDERHEYM,N.KAHAN)                            |   |   | Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan<br>BLACK RIVER  | 49   | 16                         |                  |
| 32           | 22   | _   | 2   | THE WAY BACK J.KING,Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN,B.ADAMS,J.VALLANCE)  | Zach Bryan<br>Belting Bronco/Warner                          | -                          | 22               |
| 33           | 23   | _   | 2   | THE GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE<br>ZLBRYAN,CBRAUN (ZLBRYAN)  | Zach Bryan<br>Belting Bronco/Warner/War                      | -                          | 23               |
| 34           | 44   | 28  | 21  | HOLY SMOKES A.R. SHAWN (A.R. SHAWN, B. ZIMMERMAN, B. M. STENNIS, L. HUNGATE, M. TYLER)  | Bailey Zimmerman<br>ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA       | 50                         | 13               |
| 35           |  |   | 13  | LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP,J.T.MINTON,J.RICE)   | <b>Luke Bryan</b><br>ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE              | 14                         | 35               |
| 36           | 46 27 3 NEW TO COUNTRY A.R.SHAWN, (A.R.SHAWN, J.A.HACKWORTH, H. WARREN, T. GALLOWAY, B. ZIMMERMAN) |   |   | Bailey Zimmerman<br>ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA  | -  | 27                         |                  |
| 37           | RE-EI  | SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER ( N.SCHWARTZ (D.BALDRIDGE,J.YEARY,C.JAYMES)     |   | SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) N.SCHWARTZ (D.BALDRIDGE,J.YEARY,C.JAYMES)  | Drew Baldridge<br>PATOKA SOUNDS/LYRIC RIDGE                  | 7                          | 37               |
| <b>33</b>    | RE-ENTRY 13  |   | 13  | WORST WAY<br>D.HUFF (R.GREEN)   | Riley Green<br>NASHVILLE HARBOR                              | -                          | 32               |
| 39           | 50   | 50 38 38 LOVE YOU AGAIN A.R. SHAWN, C. BROWN, CHASE MATTHEW, T. PHILLIPS) |   |   | Chase Matthew CHASE MATTHEW/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN       | 12                         | 29               |
| 40           | 48   | 36  | 16  | YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS C.CROWDER,C. DESTEFANO,A.M.CANALLY,C.YOUNG (DAVID BOWIE,J.FRASURE,A.G.GORLEY,J.THOMPSON)             | Chris Young<br>RCA NASHVILLE                                 | 8                          | 29               |
| 41           | 25   | 29  | 6   | PURPLE GAS ZLBRYAN (N.E.HOFMANN)  | Zach Bryan & Noeline Hofmann<br>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER        | -                          | 19               |
| <b>②</b>     | 49   | 31  | 14  | DEVIL YOU KNOW S.MARTINEZ (G.BARHAM, Z. DYER, J. HALL, S. MARTINEZ)   | <b>Tyler Braden</b><br>Warner Music Nashville/WMN            | 57                         | 30               |
| 43           | 42   | 25  | 5   | REMEMBER HIM THAT WAY CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D. SINGLETON, L.COMBS (L.COMBS, J.L.ALEXANDER, ERIK DYLAN, J.D. SINGLETON)                 | Luke Combs<br>SEVEN RIDGES/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE                | -                          | 12               |
| 44           | 28   | -   | 2   | BOONS<br>ZLBRYAN (ZLBRYAN)  | Zach Bryan<br>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER                          | -                          | 28               |
| 45           | 47 33 19 NINE BALL ZLBRYAN (Z.LBRYAN)  |   |   | Zach Bryan<br>Belting Bronco/Warner   | -  | 15                         |                  |
| 46           | RE-ENTRY 14 WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE JA-FOX (D.SCOTT, LROBINSON, R. GATLIN)                           |   | J.A.FOX (D.SCOTT,LROBINSON,R.ROWTON,R.GATLIN)           | Dylan Scott<br>CURB   | -  | 35                         |                  |
| 47           | 27 – 2 MECHANICAL BULL ZL.BRYAN (ZL.BRYAN)   |   | Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN)                                   | Zach Bryan<br>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER   | -  | 27                         |                  |
| 48           | NE   | W   | 1   | MAMA I LIED<br>K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,B.WILLIAMS,D.MESCON,R.HATCH)   | Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE      | -                          | 48               |
| 49           | 38   | _   | 2   | NORTHERN THUNDER<br>ZLBRYAN (ZLBRYAN)   | Zach Bryan<br>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER                          | -                          | 38               |
| 50           | RE-EI  | NTRY  | 5   | RELAPSE M.ELIZONDO (W.ZEIDERS,B.PENDERGRASS)  | Warren Zeiders<br>717/WARNER/WEA                             | -                          | 30               |

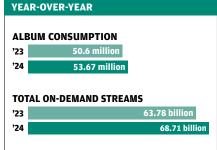
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Luminate, sales data as compiled by Luminate and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Luminate. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

#### **COUNTRY MARKET WATCH**

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

| WEEKLY UNIT COUNT   |                   |                    |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                     | ALBUM CONSUMPTION | AUDIO<br>ON-DEMAND | VIDEO<br>ON-DEMAND |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| This Week           | 1,998,000         | 2,424,881,000      | 120,506,000        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Last Week           | 2,000,000         | 2,457,689,000      | 117,962,000        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change              | -0.1%             | -1.3%              | 2.2%               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| This Week Last Year | 1,959,000         | 2,273,451,000      | 136,381,000        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change              | 2.0%              | 6.7%               | -11.6%             |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| YEAR-TO-DA           | TE             |                |        |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
|                      | 2023           | 2024           | CHANGE |
| Album<br>Consumption | 50,601,000     | 53,671,000     | 6.1%   |
| Album Sales          | 4,510,000      | 3,544,000      | -21.4% |
| Audio On-Demand      | 59,798,540,000 | 62,217,557,000 | 4.0%   |
| Video On-Demand      | 3,986,306,000  | 3,493,034,000  | -12.4% |



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending July 18, 2024. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Album consumption units — also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA — consists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equival one consumption unit. and consumption unit. Set of the design of the sales whereby 10 tracks equival one consumption unit.



### billboard



# AMERICANA MUSIC ASSOCIATION 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In our Aug. 24 issue, *Billboard* will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americana Music Association. Since its beginning in 1999, the association has given a voice and a home to roots musicians all over the world.

Through its efforts, the Recording Academy now recognizes the genre with multiple Grammy Awards, including best Americana album, best American roots performance, best American roots song and best Americana performance. With the addition of AMERICANAFEST, the Americana Music Association has played a vital role in exposing the music and artists to a global audience.

On its 25th anniversary, please join us in congratulating the Americana Music Association on its remarkable achievements on behalf of the many talented roots musicians around the world.

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MAKIN' TRACKS TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com

#### Drew Parker's 'Love The Leavin' ': The Bluesy Ballad Country Hadn't Bargained For

When **Elisabeth Kübler-Ross** introduced the five stages of grief in 1969, she provided an understanding of the complex reactions people use as coping mechanisms for severe loss.

The five stages — denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance — don't always occur exclusively, or even in order, and though they were originally identified to assist people struggling with death, they also apply to other significant experiences, such as the loss of a job, a theft or the breakup of a relationship. That lattermost situation is the source of grief in **Drew Parker**'s

"Love the Leavin'," featuring a desperate singer in the bargaining stage, attempting to negotiate his way out of a broken heart.

"It is definitely exactly where it lives," Parker says.

He created "Love the Leavin'" in February during a co-write with Matt Rogers ("'Til You Can't," "Freedom Was a Highway") at the Middle Tennessee home of Lindsay Rimes ("World on Fire," "Cool Again"). Parker had finished recording his debut album — Camouflage Cowboy, released July 12 — so it was a low-pressure appointment. He brought up the title, written in his notes as "Love the Leavin' (Out of You)," initially believing it should be witty and uptempo, an "I hate to see you go, love to watch you leave kind of thing," Parker says.

Rimes explored a series of musical foundations, allowing them to weed out options that didn't work or seemed too cliché.

"Lindsay is such a mad scientist," Rogers says. "He'll go from a song being 130 [beats per minute] to a waltz to four-on-the-floor, and

then all of a sudden, we settled into that 6/8 ballad thing. It just came out, and Drew starts singing what we're writing. He has such a massively powerful voice that it just felt very natural."

As the song morphed into a ballad, Parker moved to an upright piano, an instrument that inspires a different set of melodies for him than his usual guitar. In the process, they fashioned a chord progression that consists of as many minor seventh chords as it does more standard major triads.

"I don't know that I've ever really put two minor chords butted up to each other in a chord progression," Parker says, "but for some reason, it worked really, really well in the song."

They wrote "Love the Leavin'" in linear fashion, starting with the first line as the protagonist offers reasons for his partner to stay instead of going home. It's raining, it's late — his pleading echoes that of "Baby, It's Cold Outside."

The chorus raised the energy, firmly punctuating the stanza's opening lines with higher melodies and stabbing phrases. It relied heavily on blue notes that cry out — much like the protagonist — for resolution.

"It almost comes off like blues," Rogers says. "It doesn't sound like country." In verse two, it's clear that a flicker remains, and Parker suggests they "pour gas" on their emotions, creating a bonfire that would last at least for the night.

That sentiment was underscored again in a short, two-line bridge that repurposes phrases from separate sections: The first line in the bridge uses the melody from line three of the chorus, while the bridge's closing line matches the melody from the end of the verses.

"We could have gone to a different chord," Rimes says, "but there's already enough crafty chords in the song."

Rimes produced the demo around an acoustic piano, with spare drums and bass parts, designed to frame the vocal without drowning it. Parker responded with a lead performance that captured all of the song's Kübler-Ross grief.

"Drew sang his ass off," Rimes says. "Honestly, it felt like we could put the demo out."

Rimes finished that demo the same day, and the writers all texted each other enthusiastically, believing they'd built something special. That was confirmed by their publishers.

"You always know a song is a successful song when you get bombarded by the entire team," Rogers says. "And all of us, instantly when we submitted the song, it was just like bombs going off on our phone."

The publishers weren't the only ones who liked it. In short order, Morgan Wallen, Luke Combs and Nate Smith all asked if they could place it on hold. The writers felt even more strongly about "Love the Leavin'" and its future potential. But Warner Music Nashville (WMN) co-chair/co-president Cris Lacy required a change of plans.

"A couple days later, I went and played it for my label, and Cris Lacy was like, 'Why are you not cutting this?' "Parker recalls. "I was like, 'Well, my record's done.' She was like, 'Your record is not done. You have to cut this.'"

The label gave Parker an extremely tight deadline so it could release it as a single ahead of the album. Producer Jacob Rice (Conner Smith, Chase Daniel) booked session musicians for the Curb 43 studios in April, but he didn't wait for the band's participation to get Parker's vocal.

"We actually started tracking the vocals before we cut the band," Rice says. "We used the demo track that Lindsay created to start cutting

vocals to get ahead, because the turnaround time that we were given was so short we had to get this thing done quickly."

Parker was challenged, especially because the most difficult moment in the production occurred when his voice was most exposed.

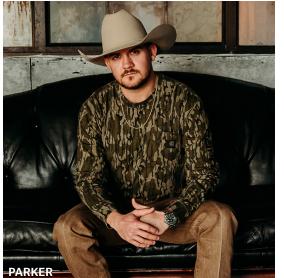
"I think we cut it in C sharp; that is extremely high for me," Parker says. "It was the hardest vocal I've ever cut, and I sang it over and over and over and over and over and over, mainly for that last chorus part where the band kind of cuts out. It gets that gravel in there, and my voice cracks. It's breaking — it almost sounds like I'm crying. I wanted that. And so to get that I had to cut the song in a key that I normally wouldn't sing in."

Rice recorded several different songs during the instrumental tracking session, primarily using musicians who were best suited for "Love the Leavin'." They were careful not to overplay, leaving plenty of space for Parker's performance to shine. Sol Philcox-Littlefield overdubbed a blues-rock guitar solo, and Parker insisted on a steel guitarist, Eddie Dunlap, to heighten the song's country quotient. Rice also snuck a prog-rock mellotron into the mix on the second and third choruses.

"The Beatles made it popular [primarily through "Strawberry Fields Forever"], and I'm a huge fan of classic rock," Rice says. "We didn't make it super apparent in the mix. It's more of a supporting thing than anything. But I love using those types of things because it kind of makes it older-sounding but in a cool fresh way."

WMN released "Love the Leavin" to country radio through PlayMPE on June 24, banking on Parker's emotional performance and the band's strategic playing to help the label bargain with stations.

"Everybody that is close to me, I've heard many of them say, 'It sounds like I've heard it before,' "Parker says. "It does feel that way, which I think gives it that little classic edge." •



### billboard



# CLIVE DAVIS INSTITUTE OF RECORDED MUSIC

2024

# THE CLIVE DAVIS INSTITUTE OF RECORDED MUSIC

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** 

The Clive Davis Institute at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts is the first and only program of its kind to provide professional business, artistic and academic training toward a BFA in recorded music.

CDI recently relocated to Brooklyn, at 370 Jay St. – NYU's new home for media, technology and the arts.

For 20 years, CDI has provided students with the necessary tools to become visionary creative entrepreneurs in the evolving global music industry. To honor CDI's mission of higher education and support of the next generation of music industry leaders, please join *Billboard* in congratulating the institute and its founder, Mr. Clive Davis, on its 20th anniversary.

#### **CONTACTS**

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LUMINATE

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

#### billboard top COUNTRY ALBUMS

| THIS | LAST<br>WEEK | 2 WEEKS<br>AGO | WEEKS<br>ON CHT | ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL                                       | CERT | PEAK<br>POS. |
|------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--|------|--------------|
| 1    | 1            | 7              | 3               | ZACH BRYAN THE GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER (093624839989*) |      | 1            |
| 2    | 2 1 72       |                | 72              | MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD/MERCURY 037570*/REPUBLIC  ONE THING AT A TIME                     | 5    | 1            |
| 3    | NEW          |                | 1               | MEGAN MORONEY  MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 281342*/SMN/COLUMBIA                     |      | 3            |
| 4    | 3 2 18       |                | 184             | MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC  DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM                     | 6    | 1            |
| 5    | 4            | 3              | 7               | SHABOOZEY WHERE I'VE BEEN, ISN'T WHERE I'M GOING AMERICAN DOGWOOD 1023*/EMPIRE           |      | 2            |
| 6    | 5            | 5              | 47              | ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 725898*/WARNER   |      | 1            |
| 7    | 6            | 6              | 113             | ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979*/WARNER  AMERICAN HEARTBREAK                             |      | 1            |
| 8    | 7            | 8              | 372             | LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN                 | 6    | 1            |
| 9    | NEW          |                | 1               | JOHNNY BLUE SKIES PASSAGE DU DESIR HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 83434*/THIRTY TIGERS                |      | 9            |
| 10   | 8            | 9              | 69              | LUKE COMBS GETTIN' OLD RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 877494*/SMN                        | •    | 2            |
| 0    | NEW 1        |                | 1               | BILLY STRINGS REPRISE 093624844778*/WARNER   |      | 11           |
| Œ    | 13           | 12             | 320             | MORGAN WALLEN IF I KNOW ME<br>BIG LOUD 783*  | 3    | 1            |
| 13   | 11 13 62     |                | 62              | BAILEY ZIMMERMAN RELIGIOUSLY. THE ALBUM. ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 712554*/3EE/WMN  |      | 3            |
| 1    | 15           | 14             | 245             | LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN       | 4    | 1            |
| 15   | 10           | 4              | 16              | BEYONCE COWBOY CARTER PARKWOOD 889963* & 889965*/COLUMBIA                                |      | 1            |
| 16   | 14           | 15             | 481             | CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN                                 | 6    | 1            |
| 17   | 16           | 18             | 140             | TAYLOR SWIFT RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 034504*                                     |      | 1            |
| 18   | 9            | 11             | 292             | TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME                                 |      | 1            |
| Œ    | 18           | 16             | 59              | JELLY ROLL BAILEE & BUDDY/BROKEN BOW/BMG 538907672*/BBMG                                 |      | 2            |
| 20   | 17           | 24             | 54              | TAYLOR SWIFT SPEAK NOW (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 455678*                               |      | 1            |
| 21   | 12           | 10             | 5               | LUKE COMBS FATHERS & SONS SEVEN RIDGES/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 281426*/SMN                    |      | 2            |
| 22   | 21           | 20             | 36              | CHRIS STAPLETON HIGHER SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE 037345*/UMGN                              |      | 1            |
| 23   | 20           | 19             | 390             | GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)                           | 7    | 1            |
| 24   | 23           | 25             | 42              | THOMAS RHETT 20 NUMBER ONES VALORY TR06001A*/BMLG  |      | 7            |
| 25   | 22           | 17             | 106             | ZACH BRYAN ELISABETH BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER                                    |      | 17           |

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#### billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

|   |     |   | SALES<br>D by |
|---|-----|---|---------------|
| Ш | IMI | 1 | ATE           |

| THIS | LAST                       | 2 WEEKS<br>AGO | WEEKS<br>ON CHT | ARTIST TITLE   | CERT. | PEAK<br>POS. |
|------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|-------|--------------|
| 1    | 1                          | 6              | 3               | ZACH BRYAN THE GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER (093624839989*) |       | 1            |
| Ø    | 2                          | 2              | 58              | NOAH KAHAN STICK SEASON MERCURY 036702*/REPUBLIC   | 2     | 1            |
| 3    | 3                          |                |                 | SHABOOZEY WHERE I'VE BEEN, ISN'T WHERE I'M GOING AMERICAN DOGWOOD 1023*/EMPIRE           |       | 1            |
| 4    | 4                          | 4              | 47              | ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 725898*/WARNER   |       | 1            |
| 5    | 5                          | 5              | 113             | ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979*/WARNER  AMERICAN HEARTBREAK                             |       | 1            |
| 6    | NEW 1                      |                | 1               | JOHNNY BLUE SKIES PASSAGE DU DESIR HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 83434*/THIRTY TIGERS                |       | 6            |
| Ø    | NE                         | NEW 1          |                 | BILLY STRINGS LIVE, VOL. 1 REPRISE 093624844778*/WARNER                                  |       | 7            |
| 8    | 6                          | 3              | 16              | BEYONCE COWBOY CARTER PARKWOOD 889963* & 889965*/COLUMBIA                                |       | 1            |
| 9    | 7                          | 7              | 427             | CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN                                 | 6     | 1            |
| 10   | 8 8 17 HOZIER UNHEARD (EP) |                |                 | 3  |       |              |

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2024, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate. All rights reservable.

#### billboard billboard

COUNTRY

|   | ST   | RE           | À٨              | iing songs  | Ď    | ĬĞ         | ĬŤ   | ÀĹ              | SONG SALES   |
|---|------|--------------|-----------------|---|------|------------|------|-----------------|--|
|   | THIS | LAST<br>WEEK | WKS ON<br>CHART | TITLE<br>ARTIST   | THIS | WEEK       | WEEK | WKS ON<br>CHART | TITLE<br>ARTIST  |
|   | 1    | 1            | 14              | A BAR SONG (TIPSY)<br>SHABOOZEY                             | 1    |            | 1    | 14              | A BAR SONG (TIPSY)<br>SHABOOZEY  |
|   | Ø    | 2            | 10              | I HAD SOME HELP<br>Post malone feat. Morgan Wallen          | e    | •          | NE   | w               | REVELATION<br>John Rich Feat. Sonya Isaacs   |
|   | 3    | 3            | 2               | LIES LIES LIES MORGAN WALLEN                                | 3    | 3          | 3    | 10              | I HAD SOME HELP<br>Post Malone Feat. Morgan Wallen   |
|   | 4    | 4            | 8               | PINK SKIES<br>ZACH BRYAN                                    | 4    |            | 4    | 6               | I AM NOT OKAY<br>JELLY ROLL  |
|   | 5    | 5            | 2               | 28<br>ZACH BRYAN  | Ę    | 5          | 2    | 2               | LIES LIES LIES<br>MORGAN WALLEN  |
|   | 6    | 7            | 42              | COWGIRLS<br>MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST                      | e    | 5          | 7    | 4               | YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME<br>ELLA LANGLEY FEAT. RILEY GREEN  |
|   | Ø    | 14           | 6               | HIGH ROAD<br>KOE WETZEL & JESSIE MURPH                      | €    |            | 9    | 11              | MILES ON IT<br>MARSHMELLO & KANE BROWN   |
|   | 8    | 8            | 47              | I REMEMBER EVERYTHING<br>ZACH BRYAN FEAT. KACEY MUSGRAVES   | ٤    | 3          | 5    | 4               | POUR ME A DRINK POST MALONE FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON  |
|   | 9    | 9            | 77              | LAST NIGHT<br>MORGAN WALLEN                                 | ٤    | •          | 6    | 8               | PINK SKIES<br>ZACH BRYAN   |
|   | 0    | 11           | 11              | MILES ON IT<br>MARSHMELLO & KANE BROWN                      | 1    | ) R        | E-EN | NTRY            | GOD BLESS THE USA<br>LEE GREENWOOD   |
|   | 11   | 10           | 4               | POUR ME A DRINK<br>POST MALONE FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON          | 1    | <b>D</b> 1 | 13   | 5               | HIGH ROAD<br>KOE WETZEL & JESSIE MURPH   |
|   | 12   | 12           | 5               | WHISKEY WHISKEY<br>MONEYBAGG YO FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN         | 1    | 2          | 8    | 11              | COWGIRLS<br>MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST   |
|   | ®    | 17           | 19              | AUSTIN<br>DASHA   | 0    | 3          | 11   | 10              | AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA<br>LUKE COMBS  |
|   | 14   | 13           | 117             | SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN                          | 0    | 1          | 12   | 19              | AUSTIN<br>Dasha  |
|   | 15   | 15           | 72              | THINKIN' BOUT ME<br>MORGAN WALLEN                           | 1    | 5 1        | 10   | 5               | WHISKEY WHISKEY<br>MONEYBAGG YO FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN  |
|   | 16   | 16           | 4               | YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME<br>ELLA LANGLEY FEAT. RILEY GREEN |      |            |      |                 | LANGLEY  |
|   | Ð    | 18           | 69              | FAST CAR<br>LUKE COMBS                                      |      |            |      |                 | The state of the s |
| н |      |              |                 |   |      |            |      |                 | CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE  |



streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by Luminate. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/charts. Copyright 2024. Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate. All rights reserved.

#### billboard Bluegrass ALBUMS

AMERICAN NIGHTS ZACH BRYAN

22 27 WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE LUKE COMBS

I AM NOT OKAY

WASTED ON YOU

TENNESSEE WHISKEY BETTER DAYS

ZACH BRYAN FEAT. JOHN MAYER

AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA LUKE COMBS

18 6 2 19 21 113 YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN

24 9

22 23 5

23 RE-ENTRY

25 19 2

SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

| THIS | ARTIST  ARTIST |  | ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL | CERT.  | PEAK<br>POS. |   |
|------|--|--|--|--|--------------|---|
| 0    | NEW  |  | 1  | BILLY STRINGS LIVE, VOL. 1 REPRISE 093624844778*/WARNER                                |              | 1 |
| 0    | NEW  |  | 1  | BRIDGE CITY SINNERS IN THE AGE OF DOUBT FLAIL 027*                                     |              | 2 |
| 3    | 6 –  |  | 52   | NICKEL CREEK REPAIR 04015*/THIRTY TIGERS   |              | 1 |
| 4    | RE-ENTRY   |  | 6  | DARIN & BROOKE ALDRIDGE TALK OF THE TOWN BILLY BLUE 5321                               |              | 1 |
| 6    | 4 3 7  |  | 7  | SWAMP DOGG BLACKGRASS: FROM WEST VIRGINIA TO 125TH ST OH BOY 083*/THIRTY TIGERS        |              | 2 |
| 6    | 1 – 16   |  | 16   | BELA FLECK BELA FLECK 83939*/THIRTY TIGERS  RHAPSODY IN BLUE                           |              | 1 |
| Ø    | RE-ENTRY   |  | 4  | MARK & MAGGIE O'CONNOR LIFE AFTER LIFE OMAC 30*  |              | 2 |
| 8    | 3 4 53   |  | 53   | MARTY STUART AND HIS FABULOUS SUPERLATIVES ALTITUDE SUPERLATONE/SNAKEFARM 800068*/PIAS |              | 1 |
| 9    | 9 – 20   |  | 20   | THE DEAD SOUTH CHAINS & STAKES SIX SHOOTER 174*  |              | 1 |
| 1    | 8 5 52 MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGH<br>NONESUCH 698603*/WARNER   |  | 52   | MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY CITY OF GOLD NONESUCH 698603*/WARNER                     |              | 1 |

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# billboard LATIN MUSIC WEEK

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### billboard Hot Country Songs Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

**28** Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (*Z.L.Bryan*) **6** 

Α

AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Songs Of Universal, Inc., BM/Bootleg Lyrics, BM//WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Hits Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Pictures Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, JL.Alexander, JD.Singleton) 11

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BASS BOAT Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BM/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BM/Adams Communications, Inc., SOCAN/Almo Music Corp., ASCAP/ Irving Music, Inc., BM/Universal Music Works, GMR (ZLBryan, BAdams, J/Jallanee) 25

BEAUTIFUL AS YOU Warner-Tamerlane Publishing, Gorp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Music Of Big Family, BMI/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Don Wyan Music, BMI/Alien Cargo Plane Music, ASCAP/Top Notch High Qualify Music, ASCAP/I3117 Music, ASCAP/Sobalt Sounds Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Maverick King Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/SIdron Publishing LLC, BMI/The Place To Be Is LMC Publishing, BMI (Thomas Rhett, J.C.Bunetta, J.E.Coleman, J.K.Hindlin, A.Izquierdo, Z.Kelsey, J.H.Rvan) 27

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BULLETPROOF Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Caleb's College 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 (AGGorley, BJohnson, H.Phelps) 16

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COWBOYS CRY TOO Sony Cross Keys
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I HAD SOME HELP Posty Publishing, GMR/ Universal Music Works, GMR/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Bell Ear Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP (A.R.Post, M.C.Wallen, L. B.Bell, Charlie Handsome, E.K.Smith, J.J.Hoskins, C.P.Walters, A.G.Gorley) 2

INDIFFERENT Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/ Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Redneck Resume Music, BMI/ Tack Mack Tunes, BMI (M.Moroney, B.Williams, M.Carpenter, M.E.Carpenter) 21

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LOVE YOU AGAIN Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Desingee, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big

Road Songs, ASCAP/Tompkins Family Vacation, ASCAP

(J.J.Dillon, J.Miller, D.Ross, C.Tompkins) 3

LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Little Brocephus Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Slip, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Turtle Garden Publishing, BMI/Southern Boy Songs Worldwide, BMI/Jacob Rice Publishing, BMI (R.Akins, B.Hayslip, J.T.Minton, URC) 276

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NEW TO COUNTRY I Fart Creations, BMI/ Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/T Vill Music, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Lii' Ninja Time-Mae, ASCAP (AR-Shawn, J.A.Hackworth, H.Warren, T.Galloway, B.Zimmerman) 36

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**PINK SKIES** Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan)

POUR ME A DRINK Posty Publishing, GMR/ Universal Music Works, GMR/Bell Ear Publishing, ASCAP/ Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byran Music, BMI (A.R.Post, L.B.Bell, Charlie Handsome, J.Byron, R.H.Block, J.Dozzi) 12

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