billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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How Little Big Town Built 25 Years Of Harmony On An Unconventional Foundation

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Shaboozey's "Bar" Tops >page 4

Musgraves
Digs "Deeper"
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Country Coda: Florida Georgia Line's "Dirt" >page 11 The standard chord in a country song has three notes, but the members of **Little Big Town** approach their material with four voices.

The incongruity is a source of tension — good tension, to misquote **John Lewis** — that adds up to 25 years. The group gave its first public performance at the Grand Ole Opry in May 1999,

sang the national anthem a day later before an Oscar de Ia Hoya boxing match in Las Vegas and received its first concert payday — a \$2,000 check after opening for Dwight Yoakam — four weeks after that.

As Little Big Town celebrates its 25th anniversary with the Aug. 9 release of *Greatest Hits*, all four of the original voices — Jimi Westbrook, Kimberly Schlapman, Karen Fairchild and Phillip Sweet — remain in the lineup in a show of unity that defies the norm.

"I think back to when we started and the people that were in town—a lot of those people are [still] here, but then there's a lot of people that aren't," Westbrook reflects. "We know how hard it is to last this long in this. But then for a group of four individuals to stay together without any switch-out of personnel within the four of us—yeah, we know how hard that is. And we're so grateful."

Little Big Town marks its silver anniversary with several no-

table undertakings. The band's *Greatest Hits* will include three new collaborations: **Sugarland** joins the group on a cover of **Phil Collins**' "Take Me Home," **Kelsea Ballerini** assists on a reworking of the 2010 LBT track "Shut Up Train," and **Miranda Lambert** updates the band's 2010 single "Little White Church."

"She came in the studio and just smoked it," Sweet says of

Lambert's performance.

Later in this anniversary year, LBT embarks on a Take Me Home Tour of 18 arenas with Sugarland, and NBC will present a two-hour holiday special, Little Big Town's Christmas at the Opry, with a slate of unnamed guests.

Plenty has changed during LBT's 25-year run. The members have been with three different labels; Westbrook and Fairchild married seven years into the band's existence; Schlapman lost her first husband to a heart attack; and the

addition of kids into the LBT mix created additional dynamics.

No matter how the tides of fortune have turned or their personal relationships have changed, they've stayed committed to the group. They've done some work outside LBT, but none of them has released a band-challenging solo album.

"I think we find real joy in creating together," Sweet says. There's something about that that heals—it brings things in





that we couldn't have done if we were all independent solo [artists]. I mean, harmony—cheesy as a word as that can be—it is a true thing. We found harmony within ourselves, and then when our voices sing together, we feel that joy, we feel that harmony, we feel something bigger than ourselves."

The 25th anniversary and Greatest Hits point in tandem to what makes Little Big Town's brand bigger than the average career. The bulk of the songs on Greatest Hits—including 2005's "Boondocks," 2012's "Pontoon" and 2014's "Girl Crush"—feel more recent than they really are. LBT's Taylor Swiftwritten "Better Man" topped Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart in 2017, seven years ago. It's the last top 10 single the group has had, though other, more recent songs—including 2020's double-platinum party track "Wine, Beer, Whiskey" and 2019's female-empowerment statement "The Daughters"—have made their biggest impact by widening the group's creative turf.

This year's Sugarland dates are a reminder of how Little Big Town connects even when country's most traditional means of exposure, broadcast radio, isn't particularly receptive. Those two acts teamed with **Jake Owen** for a 2007 cover of "Life in a Northern Town," a choice that seemed quizzical at the time: a melancholy post-new wave pop song that contrasted with the heartland rockers that were most often used as country covers during that era. "Life in a Northern Town" didn't chart, but it earned a Grammy Award nomination and became a cult favorite among the LBT fan base. It also strengthened the group's creative convictions.

"It definitely shaped the way we approach making music, following our own creative inspiration rather than trying to chase radio because that wasn't always available for us," Westbrook says. "I feel like we've probably always been that band that people gave us opportunities when we would stretch ourselves. So I think a lot of the biggest songs that we've had were moments that weren't necessarily what people would call chasing a trend. It was us just kind of following our creative inspiration."

That inspiration plays out unlike any other act in the format, in great part because LBT crams four voices into those three-note chords. In some of the act's most effective pieces—"When Someone Stops Loving You," "Silver and Gold," "Leavin' in Your Eyes," "Tumble and Fall"—there are moments when the extra voice wedges itself in on a note that makes the harmonies thick and unstable with a slight sting of dissonance. Even if those songs don't land among the band's greatest hits, they fill out the members' creative palette and put them in a distinct sonic country space.

"There's tones between the tones," Sweet explains. "There's beautiful things that happen when we create together that I can't explain. There's vibrations and overtones and things that happen. You can't explain it; you just have to feel them. [If] it goes to No. 58 on the charts, who cares? We loved it."

Those songs, it can be argued, are — alongside the still-necessary hits — the key to the group's longevity, keeping the fan base interested in Little Big Town's work even as they keep the members interested in staying together.

"We're still out here, fighting and loving every minute of it," Westbrook says. "And I'm grateful that after 25 years that it's still happening."



Country Music Association CEO Sarah Trahern (center) received the Bob Kingsley Living Legend Award at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville on July 22. With her are Jeannie Seely (left) and Trisha Yearwood.



Brad Tursi performed July 17 at the Blue Room in Nashville to promote the July 19 release of his solo album *Parallel Love*.



Koe Wetzel (right) chatted with Today's Country Radio host Kelleigh Bannen about his new album, 9Lives, on the July 19 edition of the Apple Music Country show.

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



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AMERICANA MUSIC ASSOCIATION 25th 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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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

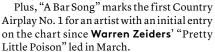
ON THE CHARTS JIM ASKER jim.asker@billboard.com

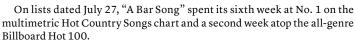
Shaboozey's 'A Bar Song (Tipsy)' Is Top Shelf On Country Airplay Chart

Shaboozey scores his first No. 1 in his first appearance on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "A Bar Song (Tipsy)" (American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music) ascends to the top of the list dated Aug. 3. It increased by 14% to 31.4 million audience impressions July 19-25,

according to Luminate.

The song by the Virginia native (born Collins Obinna Chibueze) interpolates J-Kwon's 2004 hip-hop classic "Tipsy," having helped it become the first song to go top 10 on the following charts: Country Airplay, Rhythmic Airplay, Pop Airplay and Adult Pop Airplay. Notably, the Country Airplay coronation for "A Bar Song" is its first on any airplay ranking. (It bullets at its Nos. 4, 5 and 6 highs on Rhythmic Airplay, Pop Airplay and Adult Pop Airplay, respectively.)





CHEVROLET' PULLS INTO TOP 10 Dustin Lynch's "Chevrolet" (Broken Bow), featuring **Jelly Roll**, rides into the Country Airplay top 10 (11-10; 19 million, up 5%).

Lynch adds his 12th top 10 on the chart and first since "Stars Like Confetti" hit No. 2 last November. He earned his eighth and most recent leader when "Thinking 'Bout You," featuring **MacKenzie Porter**, began a six-week domination in December 2021.

Jelly Roll nets his fifth career-opening Country Airplay top 10 following four consecutive No. 1s; "Halfway to Hell" became his latest leader in June. He has an additional track on the ranking, as his newest solo single, "I Am Not Okay" (Bailey & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek), rises 18-17 (10 million, up 13%).

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Improving // abol Aution	GAIN
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	(IN MILLIONS)
GUY FOR THAT Mercury/Republic Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	+5.605
A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey	+3.736
I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	+2.379
POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	+2.312
LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Row Crop/Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	+1.454
MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville Marshmello & Kane Brown	+1.440
LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	+1.422
AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	+1.229
SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	+1.216
I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	+1.115

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN
GUY FOR THAT Mercury/Republic Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	+1345
A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey	+1058
I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	+812
POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	+638
AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	+372
SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge Drew Baldridge	+335
LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Row Crop/Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	+327
MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville Marshmello & Kane Brown	+308
LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	+290
I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	+283

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	18.015
2	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville Nate Smith	12.372
3	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	11.321
4	WE RIDE Average Joes Bryan Martin	11.124
5	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard	10.596
6	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	9.384
7	HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	9.274
8	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard	8.912
9	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	8.687
10	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	8.292



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JULY 25, 2024

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THIS WEEK		WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIS	T SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
0	2	28	8 SECONDS AT A TIME (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1 ★★ Ryder Grim	s 1506	39	0	13	11	GOD'S DOIN' (Independent) Curtis Grimes	980	31
Ø	3	19	PAINTED HORSES (Independent) Jordan Rain	er 1369	107	12	12	15	HEARTBROKE (Independent) Joey Green	978	25
8	4	17	MY KIND OF WEATHERED (Independent) Kin Fa	ıx 1280	54	ß	14	12	BAD BOY GOOD MAN (Independent) Brandi Behlen	950	39
4	1	17	RAININ ON ME (Independent) Wade Bow	n 1243	-340	•	15	10	OUTRUN THE RAIN (Independent) James Lann	908	73
6	7	14	JUST DRIVE (Independent) Case Hard	in 1228	89	15	5	19	DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS LIKE THAT (Flatland Cavalry/Interscope) Flatland Cavalry	875	-284
6	6	19	UNDOMESTICATED ME (Independent) Mark Pow	II 1220	69	1	17	17	SUNSHINE (Independent) Deryl Dodd	851	52
Ø	8	26	BLUE SKY GOODBYE (Independent) Drew Fish Ba	ıd 1169	43	Ø	19	7	WHOLE LOTTA LUBBOCK (Independent) William Clark Green	843	130
8	9	15	CHANGE THE GAME (Independent) Cody Jin	(s 1068	45	®	22	8	SOME GIRLS DON'T CRY (Independent) Billie Jo Jones	794	105
9	10	23	THIS AIN'T MY FIRST RODEO (Independent) Olivia Har	ıs 1048	43	1	21	16	TANGLED (Independent) Darrin Morris Band	737	38
0	11	23	DAMN GOOD FRIENDS (Independent) Keller C	x 1003	15	20	23	9	SMOKE & MIRRORS (Independent) Chad Cooke Band	731	48

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	3	13	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music ★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★ Shaboozey	31.403	+3.736	8449	1058	1
2	1	16	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	31.358	-2.319	8229	-835	2
3	2	12	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	31.108	-1.907	7847	-693	3
4	4	24	BULLETPROOF RCA Nashville Nate Smith	23.190	+0.571	6752	244	4
5	7	39	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge Drew Baldridge	22.546	+1.216	6549	335	5
6	6	28	DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	21.892	+0.530	6322	227	6
7	5	43	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	20.182	-1.526	5266	-391	10
8	10	11	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	19.795	+1.229	5650	372	8
9	8	46	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville Chris Young	19.134	-0.125	5825	28	7
0	11	33	CHEVROLET Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	19.014	+0.933	5522	217	9
0	12	61	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Chase Matthew	15.749	+0.753	4676	139	11
Ð	14	16	LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Row Crop/Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	14.249	+1.454	4017	327	14
B	13	11	HANGTIGHT HONEY Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	13.657	+0.265	4111	118	12
1	15	37	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory Justin Moore	13.338	+1.100	4079	231	13
₽	16	27	ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine Tim McGraw	12.704	+0.906	3853	122	15
1	17	18	AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner/WMN Dasha	11.491	+0.519	3581	192	16
Ð	18	7	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek ★★ Airpower ★★ Jelly Roll	9.987	+1.114	2892	283	17
B	20	21	MESSED UP AS ME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban	8.874	+0.892	2872	190	18
19	22	12	MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville ★★ Airpower ★★ Marshmello & Kane Brown	8.805	+1.440	2676	308	20
20	19	11	BEAUTIFUL AS YOU Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett	8.613	+0.150	2670	53	21
3	24	5	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	7.991	+2.312	2162	638	23
22	21	38	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek Parmalee	7.901	+0.105	2784	27	19
3 3	23	25	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	7.144	-0.019	2558	25	22
2	27	4	LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	6.518	+1.422	1605	290	30
3	26	29	SOUNDS LIKETHE RADIO Leo33 Zach Top	6.135	+0.734	2156	125	24
20	NEW GUY FORTHAT Mercury/Republic ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★ Post Malone Featuring Luke Comb		5.605	+5.605	1345	1345	35	
3	28	19	DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Nashville Harbor Riley Green	5.506	+0.617	2029	203	26
28	25	49	DANCE WITH YOU Nashville Harbor Brett Young	5.183	-0.272	2092	-29	25
29	29	22	AMERICAN GIRL Tom Petty Legacy/Capitol Nashville/Valory Dierks Bentley	5.102	+0.461	1708	33	28
3	30	21	COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville George Birge	4.830	+0.203	1880	123	27

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	LAST	WKS ON	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	AUDIENCE (I		PLAYS THIS WEEK +/- RANK			
WEEK	WEEK 32	CHART 23	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	4.777	+/- +0.574	1589	+/- 121	RANK 31	
32	31	9	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Back Blocks/EMI Nashville Tucker Wetmore	4.349	+0.118	1362	155	34	
33	33	29	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	4.132	+0.410	1628	214	29	
<u>3</u>	34	28	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Matt Stell	3.307	+0.031	1542	-40	32	
3 5	35	18	CALLED CRAZY Interscope/MCA Nashville Kassi Ashton	2.995	-0.080	815	13	44	
36	37	39	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street Chris Lane	2.938	+0.183	1397	123	33	
3	39	20	THISTOWN'S BEENTOO GOOD TO US Curb Dylan Scott	2.576	+0.023	1101	46	39	
38	38	20	WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Nashville Harbor Chris Janson	2.524	-0.135	1212	35	37	
3	41	14	FRIENDS LIKETHAT Night Train/Broken Bow John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	2.508	+0.225	986	26	41	
40	40	15	FOREVERTO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	2.419	+0.070	891	63	43	
49	NE	w	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Jordan Davis	2.379	+2.379	812	812	45	
₩	42	7	SIX FEET UNDER (CALEIGH'S SONG) Big Loud Rock/Mercury/Republic/Big Loud HARDY	2.329	+0.066	760	18	46	
43	44	12	WRANGLERS Vanner/Republic/Big Loud Miranda Lambert	2.283	+0.116	1054	34	40	
4	43	25	ITRIED A RING ON Monument Tigirlily Gold	2.162	-0.007	1222	66	36	
45	45	18	TIE UP Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band	2.070	-0.080	1187	70	38	
46	46	13	DRINKIN' BUDDIES Curb Lee Brice, Nate Smith & Hailey Whitters	1.973	-0.005	687	12	51	
④	47	4	COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville Old Dominion	1.936	+0.028	673	-16	52	
48	55	2	JUSTTO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	1.600	+0.588	637	261	53	
49	48	17	LIFE WITH YOU Curb Kelsey Hart	1.592	-0.109	894	-81	42	
50	51	7	FALL OF SUMMER Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	1.553	+0.256	757	113	47	
5	49	5	COWBOYS CRYTOO Black River Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan	1.491	+0.022	703	64	50	
€	50	6	HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	1.361	-0.040	498	6	55	
6 3	52	8	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group LOCASH	1.295	+0.014	737	3	49	
<u> </u>	53	14	COUNTRY BACK Magnolia Music Randy Houser	1.224	+0.060	755	26	48	
⊕	54	2	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	1.120	+0.096	383	41	-	
50	57	8	DEVILYOU KNOW Warner Music Nashville/WMN Tyler Braden	0.984	+0.075	444	4	59	
5	NE	w	YOU LOOK LIKEYOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	0.827	+0.308	213	98	-	
63	58	17	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville Josh Ross	0.814	+0.033	595	12	54	
<u> </u>	60	10	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville Corey Kent	0.810	+0.066	494	3	56	
60	59	7	EVERYTHING I NEED 19/Wheelhouse Chayce Beckham	0.778	+0.023	458	39	58	



Jessie G and Lewis Brice performed July 18 at Zero Dock Street in Carthage, N.Y., at a show presented by WFRY Watertown, N.Y. Clockwise from left: Brice, Stephens Media Group/Watertown operations manager Stan Soboleski, local artist Patrick Sampson and Jessie G.



Sam Hunt spent time with several Ohio radio executives when he headlined the Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls on July 19. From left: WGAR Cleveland PD Carletta Blake, MCA Nashville director of Midwest promotion Donna Passuntino, Hunt, WQMX Akron PD/morning host Sarah Kay and WQMX assistant PD/music director Cherise Richards.

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CLIVE DAVIS INSTITUTE OF RECORDED MUSIC

2024

THE CLIVE DAVIS INSTITUTE OF RECORDED MUSIC

20TH 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.

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Drew Baldridge paid a visit to the Academy of Country Music's Nashville office on July 18. From left: Sony Music Publishing Nashville CEO Rusty Gaston, ACM chief of staff/vp of industry relations and awards, board administration and governance Tommy Moore, Baldridge, ACM director of industry relations and awards Haley Montgomery and ACM CEO Damon Whiteside.

KACEY MUSGRAVES DIGS 'DEEPER'

Kacey Musgraves released her latest album, *Deeper Well*, in March, but she has more songs for fans.

"We're going deeper," she said July 25 in announcing the expanded version, Deeper Into the Well, on Instagram.

The release includes seven new songs and will arrive Aug. 2. Musgraves is previewing the album with "Irish Goodbye" on July 26. The song, which Musgraves has previously performed in concert, centers on someone struggling to forgive an ex-lover who left without properly ending the relationship.

"I'll forgive your faults if you'll forgive mine/But it's hard to forgive your Irish goodbye" are among the song's key lyrics.

Notable songs on Musgraves' *Deeper Well* included the title track, "Too Good To Be True" and "The Architect," which Musgraves performed during an appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. Seven-time Grammy Award winner Musgraves produced *Deeper Well* with collaborators **Daniel Tashian** and **Ian Fitchuk** and recorded the album at New York's Electric Lady Studios.

The 14-track *Deeper Well* marked the follow-up to Musgraves' 2021 album, *Star-Crossed*. Over the past year, Musgraves notched her first Billboard Hot 100 chart-topper with the **Zach Bryan** duet "I Remember Everything," which also won a Grammy for best country song by a duo or group.

In April, Musgraves embarked on the *Deeper Well* world tour, launching the tour in Dublin, Ireland. The trek will run through December, concluding with two shows at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena. — *Jessica Nicholson*

RADIO & RECORDS

BMG promoted **Jen Morgan** to vp of global content and creative from BBR Music Group vp of creative and imaging. Reach her here... Rounder signed writer-artist **Ken Pomeroy** to a recording deal. She appears on the *Twisters* soundtrack with "Wall of Death"... Connoisseur Media sold its Frederick, Md., radio stations, country **WFRE** and news/talk **WFMD**, to Local Daily Media, which expands its existing portfolio of four stations in Virginia and North Carolina. That includes two country outlets in Wilmington, N.C.: **WNTB** and **WBQK**... **Sara McClure** was promoted to iHeartMedia vp of unified partnerships from iHeart/Sacramento, Calif., market president, RadioInk.com reported. Sacramento's seven stations include country **KYRV-HD2**. Filling the community's metro president role is **Steve Darnell**, who moves into the position after four years as iHeart Pacific area president... **Brent "Dingo" Crank** was hired as **WZZK** Birmingham, Ala., afternoon host, according to RadioInsight.com. He stepped down in June from a morning post at **WDRM** Huntsville, Ala., and afternoons at **WAMZ** Louisville, Ky.

'ROUND THE ROW

BMG Nashville established a joint venture with Triple Play Music, owned by Jason Aldean, bassist Tully Kennedy and guitarist Kurt Allison. The new deal includes the signing of songwriter Neil Thrasher ("Try That in a Small Town," "How Country Feels")... St. Louis-based Atomic Junkshot rebranded as Atomic Junction... Old Dominion will receive the Angels Among Us award during the 35th annual St. Jude Country Cares Seminar in Memphis in October. The gathering will include performances by Jon Pardi and Megan Moroney... EMI Nashville artist Anne Wilson received four nominations for the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards. The ballot, revealed July 24, included around 20 artists, songwriters and producers affiliated with country music, including Dolly Parton, Travis Tritt, Lainey Wilson and Larry Gatlin. The awards will be handed out Oct. 1 in Nashville. Go here for the complete list... Nate Smith, Ashley Cooke, Jamey Johnson and Lee Ann Womack are among the first round of performers announced for the Nashville Songwriter Awards at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium on Sept. 24... Dwight Yoakam, The War and Treaty, Wyatt Flores, Brandy Clark and Charles Wesley Godwin were among the initial performers announced for the Americana Music Association's annual Honors & Awards show at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium on Sept. 18... Sheryl Crow teams with Jason Isbell in The Art of Music, the first installment in a PBS series shot at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The episode was set to debut in July... The Grand Ole Opry will feature 10 Opry Country Christmas shows Dec. 1-23. Hosted by Larry Gatlin, the holiday installments will include appearances by Trace Adkins, Scotty McCreery, Chris Young and The Oak Ridge Boys... Dustin Lynch joined Beard Club, a men's grooming brand, as an equity partner... Jordan Davis will perform Sept. 16 at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's annual Nightfall at the Hall event, open to the museum's Troubadour members, music professionals ages 21-45... Farm Aid is slated for Sept. 21 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., with board members Willie Nelson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp and Dave Matthews leading the talent. Others in the lineup include Charley Crockett, Mavis Staples, Joy Oladokun, Cassandra Lewis, and Lukas Nelson with The Travelin' McCourys... Brad Paisley's The Store is introducing The School Store, an effort that provides supplies for students of financially struggling families... The Charlie Daniels Journey Home Project hosts its 10th Patriot Awards Dinner at City Winery Nashville on Sept. 11... Songwriter-producer Jerry Fuller, 85, died July 18 at his home in Sherman Oaks, Calif. In addition to writing and producing pop titles by AI Wilson, Rick Nelson and Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, Fuller penned John Conlee's 1984 country hit "Way Back" and co-produced Collin Raye's early-1990s singles "Love, Me" and "Every Second"... Former pop/country singer Sandy Posey, 80, died July 20 at her home in Lebanon, Tenn. She had three top 20 pop singles in the 1960s, topped by "Born a Woman," before shifting to country in the early 1970s and scoring another top 20 release with "Bring Him Safely Home to Me" on Columbia. Posey also provided a backing voice on Elvis Presley's "Suspicious Minds," "Don't Cry Daddy" and "In the Ghetto" and sang on hits by Waylon Jennings, Jim Ed Brown, Percy Sledge and George Hamilton IV. •



Bryce Leatherwood (left) and Dalton Dover (right) hung with KATM Stockton/KSKS Fresno, Calif., PD Andy Winford on July 17 when they played a KATM concert in Lodi.

2024

billboard

GRAMMY CONTENDERS ISSIIF

Billboard will publish its annual GRAMMY® Contenders special issue showcasing the music and artists that made an impact during the eligibility period for the 67th GRAMMY Awards®.

This special issue will highlight the artists, producers and other creative professionals whose work is in contention this year in categories including record of the year, album of the year, song of the year, best new artist, producer of the year, non-classical and songwriter of the year, non-classical.

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billboard Country Airplay Index

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10 Years Ago

Florida Georgia Line Planted Another No. 1

In 2014, "Dirt" became the duo's fourth of six Hot Country Songs chart-toppers

On July 26, 2014, Florida Georgia Line — Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley — reached No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart with "Dirt," the pair's fourth of six career leaders on the list.

Written by **Rodney Clawson** and **Chris Tompkins** and produced by **Joey Moi**, "Dirt" arrived as the lead single from Florida Georgia Line's sophomore album, *Anything Goes*, the act's second of

four Top Country Albums No. 1s. The set also became the act's sole leader on the all-genre Billboard 200.

Kelley, from Daytona Beach, Fla., and Hubbard, from Snellville, Ga., met in 2008 while attending Belmont University in Nashville at a weekly oncampus student worship service. Their debut smash, "Cruise," dominated Hot Country Songs for 24 weeks in

2012-13, a record to that point. Their collaboration with **Bebe Rexha**, "Meant To Be," ruled for a now-best 50 weeks in 2017-18.

Currently, Hubbard and Kelley are each working on their own careers. In June, Kelley told *Billboard*, "All I can say is I think we're both finding our groove in the solo world. And you never know what time can do."

