billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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AUGUST 12, 2024 | PAGE 1 OF 17

GRAMMY® AWARD WINNER
CMA & ACM ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

LAINEY WILSON WHIRLWIND

NEW ALBUM AVAILABLE AUGUST 23RD

FEATURING CURRENT SINGLE
"HANG TIGHT HONEY"

NEARING TOP IO

STREAMING OVER 4 MILLION WEEKLY



billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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Top Country Albums >page 15

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

Jim.Asker@billboard.com

It's True: Jelly Roll Has Top 10 Country Digital Hit With 'Liar'



3

JELLY ROLL

chart as "Liar"

"Liar"

Jelly Roll earns his 10th top 10 on

Billboard's Country Digital Song Sales

arrives at No. 3. The track, which he co-wrote, sold 6,000 downloads Aug. 2-8 (according to Luminate) and is also new at No. 26 on the multimetric Hot Country Songs list. The cut will be on the Nashville native's album that's due later this year.



14

NATE SMITH

with 6 million

"Bulletproof"
The track lifts 15-14 on Hot Country
Songs after hitting No. 10 in June,

official U.S. streams and 1,000 sold. On Country Airplay, it rises 4-3 for a new best (27.3 million in audience, up 14%). **Smith**'s Through the Smoke headlining tour will kick off Sept. 19 in Portland, Ore., and hit 14 cities.



_

ELLA LANGLEY

Hungover

Released Aug. 2, *Hungover* enters Top Country Albums at No. 17 with 12,000 equivalent

album units earned in its opening week. It marks the first entry on the survey for the singer-songwriter from Hope Hull, Ala. Langley, 25, co-authored all 14 tracks on the set, which Will Bundy produced.



29

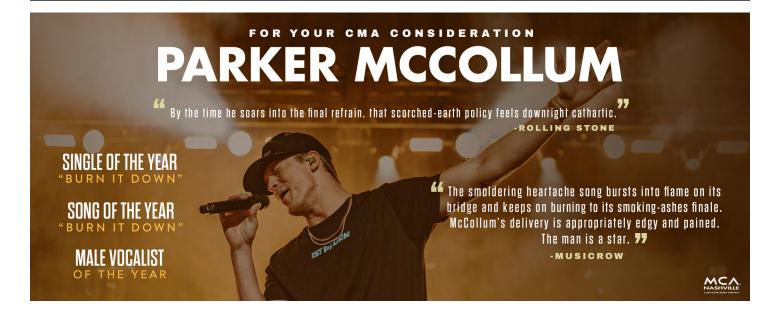
DREW BALDRIDGE

"She's Somebody's Daughter (Reimagined)" **Baldridge**'s <u>updated release</u>, which he co-wrote.

climbs 30-29 for a new Hot Country Songs high. The track by the 33-year-old Patoka, Ill., native drew 593,000 streams. On Country Airplay, it holds at its No. 5 best (24.1 million impressions, up 4%).



JELLY ROLL: CHRISTOPHER POLK, SMITH: MATTHEW BERINATO. LANGLEY: CAYLEE ROBILLARD. BALDRIDGE: JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES.





ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

2.5 MILLION+

TICKETS SOLD IN 2023 + 2024

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

"THE BEST COUNTRY SINGER OF HIS GENERATION"

- Esquire



"IT SOUNDS VERY IMMEDIATE
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE
IN THE ROOM WITH HIM
AS HE'S TELLING
THESE STORIES"

- n p r

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR "AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA"









NATE SMITH

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

"WORLD ON FIRE"

RECORD-BREAKING #1

(10 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS)

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

"BULLETPROOF" FEAT. AVRIL LAVIGNE

TOP 5 ON COUNTRY RADIO & CLIMBING

ACM NEW MALE ARTIST

OF THE YEAR

BILLBOARD ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

AMAZON **BREAKOUT ARTIST**OF THE YEAR



1.7+ BILLION GLOBAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS



CERTIFIED GOLD DEBUT ALBUM

Kameron Marlowe

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

KEEPIN' THE LIGHTS ON

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

STRANGERS WITH ELLA LANGLEY

CURRENTLY CLIMBING THE COUNTRY RADIO CHARTS



"MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT HE IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST LIVING COUNTRY SINGERS" - MUSICROW

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

		TWO			COUNTRY	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Artist PRODUCER (SONGWRITER) IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	AIRPLAY Rank	PEAK Position
1	1	1	17	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) ** No. 1 (9 Weeks) ** S.COOK,N.SASTRY, C.O.CHIBUEZE,S.C.COOK,N.SASTRY,J.JONES,J.A.KENT,M.A.WILLIAMS) AMERICAN DOGWOOD/EMPIRE/MAGNOLIA MUSIC	1	1
2	2	2	14	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, C. PWALTERS, A. G. GORLEY) MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	2	1
3	5	5	45	COWGIRLS J.MOI,J.DURRETT (R.H.BLOCK,A.G.GORLEY,J.MADDOCKS,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME) MORGURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	4	3
4	4	4	13	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D. SINGLETON, L COMBS, J.L. ALEXANDER, J.D. SINGLETON) UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/ATLANTIC/SEVEN RIDGES/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/ATLANTIC/SEVEN RIDGES/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	8	4
5	3	3	5	LIES LIES LIES J.MOI (J.J. DILLON, J. MILLER, D. ROSS, C. TOMPKINS) MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	22	3
6	6	6	11	PINK SKIES Zach Bryan Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN) BELTING BRONCO, WARNER/WAR	-	3
7	8	8	14	MILES ON IT MARSHMELLO, DIGITAL FARM ANIMALS, EARWULF, C. MCDONOUGH (MARSHMELLO, K. BROWN, J. TORREY, R. MCDONOUGH, C. MCDONOUGH, CASTLE, N. J. GALE, T. ERIKSEN) Marshmello & Kane Brown JOYTIME COLLECTIVERCA NASHVILLE	19	4
8	10	10	23	AUSTIN T.HEIDELMAN (A.D.NOVOTNY,K.T.HEIDELMAN,A.WENDLER,C.R.ARNSPIGER) Dasha VERSION III,/WARNER/WMN	15	3
9	9	7	6	28 Zach Bryan Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN) BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/WAR	-	5
10	11	9	9	HIGH ROAD 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	39	8
0	12	12	7	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 MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	14	3
12	7	-	2	GUY FOR THAT LBELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, HOSKINS (A.R. POST, L.B. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, L. COMBS, J. M. CNAIR, E.K. SMITH, J. J. HOSKINS) Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	36	7
B	14	11	9	I AM NOT OKAY ∠CROWELL (J.B.DEFORD,T.PHILLIPS,A.G.GORLEY,C.BROWN) ★★ Sales Gainer ★★ BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/REPUBLIC/STONEY CREEK	17	10
•	15	14	26	BULLETPROOF LRIMES (A.G.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS) ★★ Airplay Gainer ★★ RCA NASHVILLE RCA NASHVILLE	3	10
Œ	18	16	7	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME W.BUNDY (E.LANGLEY,A.RAITIERE,R.GREEN) Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green SAWGOD/COLUMBIA/NASHVILLE HARBOR	41	13
10	16	15	40	DIRT CHEAP T.W.WILLMON (J.PHILLIPS) COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	6	14
17	17	13	8	WHISKEY WHISKEY TURBO, EVRGRN, CHARLIE HANDSOME (D.D. WHITE, JR., M.C. WALLEN, J.LOWE, C.A. DURHAM, A, M. NURANI, A. G. GORLEY, E.K. SMITH, E.KLUGHAMMER, D.RUOFF, J. THOMPSON) CMG/N-LESS/INTERSCOPE/CLG	-	6
18	13	-	2	LONELY ROAD SLIMXX,BAZEXX,CHARLIE HANDSOME,T.L.BARKER (T.L.BARKER,B.ALLEN,J.DENVER,W.DANOFF,M.DANOFF,T.N.DANOFF,R.C.BAKER,S.BASIL,N.A.LONG) **ROME	-	13
19	21	23	12	HANG TIGHT HONEY J.JOYCE (L.WILSON, D.WILLIAMS, J.NIX, P.SIKES) Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	13	19
20	20	20	22	CHEVROLET Z.CROWELL,B.PHILLIPS (C.MCGILL,J.L.ALEXANDER,H.PHELPS,M.WILLIAMS) Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll BROKEN BOW	7	20
21	22	18	19	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU CLACORTE (T.ARCHER,T.P.WETMORE,C.LACORTE) Tucker Wetmore BACK BLOCKS/EMI NASHVILLE	29	11
2	23	21	38	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU C.STAPLETON,D.COBB (C.STAPLETON) CSTAPLETON,D.COBB (C.STAPLETON) SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE	27	12
23	19	17	6	AMERICAN NIGHTS ZILBRYAN (ZLBRYAN) ZILBRYAN (ZLBRYAN) ZILBRYAN (ZLBRYAN)	-	8
2	25	22	13	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) FIFTY-ONE/FORTY-NINE/VALORY	20	22
25	29	33	4	AM I OKAY? ** Streaming Gainer ** Megan Moroney K.Bush (M.Moroney, Llaird, J.J.Dillon) ** MEGan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia NaShville	-	25

COUNTRY SONGWRITERSTM

	1	# 1 76 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
	2	AS	HLEY GORLEY
	3	СН	ARLIE HANDSOME
	4	ERI	NEST
	5	JO	SH PHILLIPS
	6	JE:	SSI ALEXANDER
TIE	7	LO	UIS BELL
TIE	7	PO	ST MALONE
	9	LUI	KE COMBS
TIE	10	NE	VIN SASTRY
TIE	10	SE	AN COOK
TIE	10	SH	AB00ZEY



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 ZACH BRYAN
2	CHARLIE HANDSOME
3	JOEY MOI
4	NEVIN SASTRY
4	SEAN COOK
6	LOUIS BELL
7	ZACH CROWELL
8	GABE SIMON
9	HOSKINS
10	TRAVIS HEIDELMAN
	2 3 4 4 6 7 8 9

The weekly Country Songwriters and Country Producers charts are based on total points accrued by a songwriter and producer, respectively, for each attributed song that appears on the Hot Country Songs chart. As with Billboard's yearly recaps, multiple writers or producers split points for each song equally (and the dividing of points will lead to occasional ties on rankings).

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK Position
26	NEW 1			LIAR ZCROWELL (J.B.DEFORD,B.JOHNSON,A.G.GORLEY,T.PHILLIPS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/REPUBLIC/STONEY CREEK	-	26
27	24	19	12	SWEET DREAMS G.SIMON (R.WETZEL, A.R. ALLEN, J. SERRATO, G. SIMON, S. N. HARRIS)	Koe Wetzel YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA	-	10
28	28	31	16	LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP,J.T.MINTON,J.RICE)	J, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Luke Bryan TEVENS (R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP,J.T.MINTON,J.RICE) ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE		28
29	30	34	8	B SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) N.SCHWARTZ (D.BALDRIDGE,J.YEARY,C.JAYMES) Drew Baldridge PATOKA SOUNDS/LYRIC RIDGE		5	29
30	31	32	41	LOVE YOU AGAIN A.R.SHAWN,C.BROWN (C.BROWN,CHASE MATTHEW,T.PHILLIPS)	Chase Matthew CHASE MATTHEW/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	11	29
3	34	35	24	HOLY SMOKES A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,B.M.STENNIS,L.HUNGATE,M.TYLER)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	51	13
32	32	40	19	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS C.CROWDER,C. DESTEFANO,A.MCANALLY,C.YOUNG (DAVID BOWIE,J.FRASURE,A.G.GORLEY,J.THOMPSON)	Chris Young RCA NASHVILLE	9	29
33	37	37	17	DEVIL YOU KNOW S.MARTINEZ (G.BARHAM,Z.DYER,J.HALL,S.MARTINEZ)	Tyler Braden Warner Music Nashville/wmn	-	30
34	33	38	16	WORST WAY D.HUFF (R.GREEN)	Riley Green NASHVILLE HARBOR	-	32
35	39	42	22	NINE BALL ZILBRYAN (ZILBRYAN) BELTING BRONCOWARNER		-	15
36	27	-	7	WANNA BE LOVED D.COBB (D.COLEMAN,M.COLEMAN)	The Red Clay Strays HBYCO/RCA		27
3	48	49	8	RELAPSE M.ELIZONDO (W.ZEIDERS,B.PENDERGRASS)	Warren Zeiders 717/warner/wea		30
38	36	24	6	COWBOYS CRY TOO A.VANDERHEYM,K.BALLERINI (K.BALLERINI,A.VANDERHEYM,N.KAHAN)	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan BLACK RIVER		16
39	42	41	17	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE J.A.FOX (D.SCOTT,LROBINSON,R.ROWTON,R.GATLIN)	Dylan Scott CURB		35
40	46	-	2	THIS IS MY DIRT J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE,P.DIGIOVANNI,R.MONTANA, J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY 12		40
41	43	45	3	OUT OF OKLAHOMA LDICK (C.LDICK,S.MCANALLY,LWILSON)	Lainey Wilson UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/ATLANTIC/BMG/BROKEN BOW		
42	35	27	5	BASS BOAT ZLBRYAN (ZLBRYAN,B.ADAMS,J.VALLANCE)	Zach Bryan - BELTING BRONCO/WARNER -		24
43	45	43	8	REMEMBER HIM THAT WAY CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,J.L.ALEXANDER,ERIK DYLAN,J.D.SINGLETON)	Luke Combs SEVEN RIDGES/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE -		12
44	26	25	5	BETTER DAYS ZLBRYAN,J.MAYER,C.BRAUN,MONSUNE (Z.L.BRYAN)			17
45	47	44	6	MAXED OUT J.COSTA (B.BLANKENSHIP)	Bayker Blankenship Bayker Blankenship/santa anna	-	44
46	38	28	5	OAK ISLAND ZLBRYAN (ZLBRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	18
4	RE-EN	ITRY	2	DRINK DON'T NEED NO MIX S.COOK,M.STEVENS,N.SASTRY (C.O.CHIBUEZE,S.C.COOK,M.STEVENS,X.LANDUM,N.SASTRY)			47
48	41	29	5	SANDPAPER J.KING,Z.LBRYAN (Z.LBRYAN)	Zach Bryan Featuring Bruce Springsteen BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	- 26	
49	40	26	13 INDIFFERENT K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,B.WILLIAMS,M.CARPENTER,M.E.CARPENTER) MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA		21		
50	NE	w	1	JUST LIKE JOHNNY REDFERRIN,M.WILSHIRE,J.SAGHI (B.REDFERRIN,M.WILSHIRE)	Redferrin Round Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	-	50

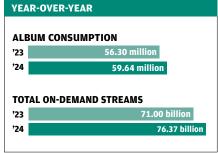
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Luminate, sales data as compiled by Luminate and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Luminate. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT						
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND			
This Week	1,943,000	2,376,370,000	123,063,000			
Last Week	1,973,000	2,410,792,000	123,291,000			
Change	-1.5%	-1.4%	-0.2%			
This Week Last Year	1,817,000	2,179,439,000	129,279,000			
Change	6.9%	9.0%	-4.8%			

YEAR-TO-DA	TE		
	2023	2024	CHANGE
Album Consumption	56,297,000	59,642,000	5.9%
Album Sales	4,948,000	3,916,000	-20.9%
Audio On-Demand	66,584,898,000	72,504,089,000	8.9%
Video On-Demand	4,403,945,000	3,864,732,000	-12.2%



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending August 8, 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 equal one consumption unit, and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/07-07,3750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit.







MEGAN MORONEY

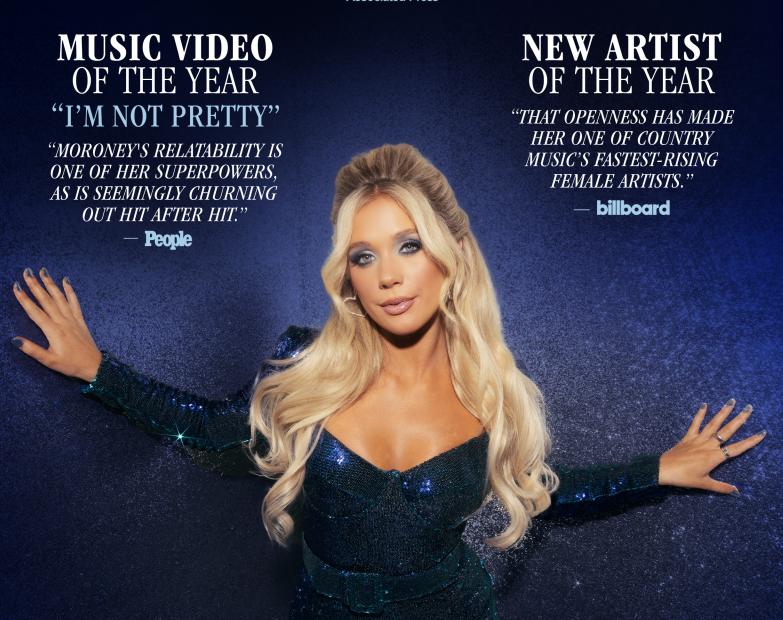
SONG OF THE YEAR "NO CALLER ID"

102+ MILLON GLOBAL STREAMS

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

"YOU'D BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND A MORE RELATABLE VOICE IN CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY MUSIC FOR YOUNG WOMEN."

Associated Press



OLD DOMINION

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

SINGLE OF THE YEAR & SONG OF THE YEAR "MEMORY LANE"

9TH CAREER #1 AT COUNTRY RADIO

RIAA PLATINUM° CERTIFIED

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

MEMORY LANE





FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

OVER 2.1+ BILLION GLOBAL CAREER STREAMS

8 #1'S ON SIRIUSXM THE HIGHWAY'S HOT 30

CERTIFIED MULTI-PLATINUM ARTIST

3 #1 COUNTRY RADIO HITS

"A PASSION FOR COUNTRY MUSIC AND SONGWRITING ALSO COMES NATURALLY TO TENPENNY" -BILLBOARD



NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR



"WILD AS HER" #1

ON COUNTRY RADIO, CERTIFIED PLATINUM

"SOMETHING'S GONNA KILL ME" CERTIFIED GOLD



"THIS HEART"

43.6M+ GLOBAL OD STREAMS

CRS NEW FACES

60,000+

CAREER HEADLINE TICKETS SOLD

927M+ GLOBAL CAREER ON-DEMAND STREAMS

COMBUSTIONMUSI



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

DYLAN
MARIOWE

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR "BOYS BACK HOME" WITH DYLAN SCOTT

114.9M WORLDWIDE STREAMS
TOP 30 AT COUNTRY RADIO

"IT'S SAFE TO SAY **DYLAN MARLOWE'S OWN SOUND, WHICH BLENDS DOWN-HOME, RAUCOUS, ELECTRIC GUITAR-DRIVEN INSTRUMENTALS AND CHARISMATIC VOCALS, IS ALSO PROVING PRETTY POPULAR.** HIS NEW SINGLE, THE DYLAN SCOTT-ASSISTED ANTHEM, 'BOYS BACK HOME', HAS EARNED MARLOWE HIS FIRST EVER BILLBOARD CHARTING SINGLE." — **HOLLER**



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

Jordan Davis Finds New Energy With His Propellant Single 'I Ain't Sayin' '

DAVIS



Jordan Davis has built quite the reputation as a modern-day storyteller, winning the Country Music Association's song of the year award in 2022 with "Buy Dirt," claiming the Academy of Country Music's song trophy this year for "Next Thing You Know" and climbing to No. 1 on the Country Airplay chart in May with "Tucson Too Late."

Moving at a ballad or midtempo pace, all three explore a life lesson or personal crossroad. But his latest release, "I Ain't Sayin'," takes a different

attitude, mirroring the barroom setting of his 2017 debut, "Singles You Up," with a steady dance texture similar to **Morgan Wallen**'s "One Night at a Time."

"It's been a minute since we've released this kind of song," Davis says. "I feel like I've been long overdue for it."

"I Ain't Sayin'" was tailor made for Davis, fashioned May 25 on the final day of a writing retreat in snowy Livingston, Mont. While he wrote that morning with several other creatives in a rented cabin, **Travis Wood** ("Girl in Mine," "'98 Braves"), **Mark Holman** ("Flower Shops," "Don't Think Jesus") and **Steve Moakler** worked in a separate building, determined to craft something a little more speedy for Davis. Holman had created a few musical tracks prior to the trip, and one of them, built around some hand claps and a buzzy acoustic guitar, energized the room.

"It might just be like little guitar parts and a little loop or something behind it just to kind of catch a vibe," Holman says. "It's not a full thing. It's just enough to be like, 'Oh, we like this. We like the feeling of this.'"

Wood had a ready-made chorus that he had penned with Los Angeles-based songwriter **Emily Reid**, with whom he frequently writes "starts" — small chunks of potential songs that can serve as a foundation during a full writing session. He reached out to her to make sure she was OK with this one getting used on this trip.

"I'm in L.A., they're in Montana, and I got the FaceTime from him," Reid remembers. "He was like, 'Hey, we're writing this "I Ain't Sayin'" idea. It's really going well. Can you just make sure this first verse makes sense?' Because sometimes when you're in the thick of it, it's hard to have perspective. And I was like, 'Damn, sounds brilliant.'"

Reid's original idea wasn't actually the title. It was the phrase "He sure as hell ain't," which became the payoff line at the end of the chorus that she and Wood had started. They weren't entirely certain what the plot should be, though it fit a scenario involving a mismatched couple. As they built it, they used the phrase "I ain't sayin'" as a repetitive lyrical device in a loaded chorus.

"When we were punching out that phrasing, we wanted to do something that felt really fresh," Reid notes. "We wanted to make it really rhythmic and get a lot in there."

When they came up with one particular line, "I'm here and he's MIA," they felt it had a lot of potential, though once they finished writing it, Reid put it out of her mind. Thus, the call from Wood was a welcome surprise.

As it started taking shape in Montana, Wood, Moakler and Holman unlocked the opening verse, depicting a woman who had bought a beer for a date who seems to have stiffed her. The protagonist presents himself as a short-term alternative, though the writers knew instinctively that he couldn't be too pushy.

"We could have gone to further extremes with the guy and the girl," Moakler says, "but we ended up choosing [to] walk the line, I think, in a cool way where he's not overtly trying to steal the girl. He sees his opportunity, and he seems like a relatable guy, you know. That was the job of the day."

As the protagonist moves in during the second verse, he attempts to reframe the woman's bad moment with a bit of hope: "He let you down, but here's the

upside"—using a word, "upside," in a way that's rarely heard in a country song.
"It's a little different," Holman acknowledges, "which is always good."

They saved the most elaborate lyrical twist for the end of that second verse, guaranteeing that that stanza could meet—if not exceed—the quality established in verse one.

"'I ain't trying to change that miss to a missus/But he don't know what he's missing'—I just love that wordplay," Wood says. "It perfectly paraphrases the

'I ain't sayin' I'm the one, I'm just saying he ain't.' I mean, you couldn't find a cooler way to paraphrase that."

They debated "He Sure As Hell Ain't" as the title, but settled on "I Ain't Sayin'," avoiding a slightly profane word in favor of the song's most frequently heard phrase.

"I think we picked the right one," Moakler says. "I haven't heard a song called that. The only hang-up with the song is, people say, 'What's it called?' And you say, 'I Ain't Sayin.' 'And they say, 'Wait, why won't you tell me?'"

Holman quickly whipped a demo together, and Wood went back to his cabin, where Davis' small group was still writing in a different room. When that team finished, Wood had writer-producer **Paul DiGiovanni** (**Travis Denning**, **Justin Moore**) play the demo, which seemed to connect with Davis.

"Jordan was pretty effusive about it, but I didn't know if he was just being polite," Wood says. "When we hit that miss/missus line, he turned around and looked at me after that line. So I was like, 'I think he likes it.'"

Indeed, the next week, Davis, DiGiovanni and a studio band tackled "I Ain't Sayin' " at Sound Stage in Nashville with drummer **Nir Z** sharing duties 50/50 with the programmed percussion.

"The loop thing was going basically throughout the whole song, so I needed to just go to another level on the master and just keep the energy going," DiGiovanni says. "The demo was like the verse feel the whole time, and I just kind of kicked it over the top."

But the enhancements were comparatively incremental.

"We never made a lyric change, we never made a melody change," Davis says.
"We dropped the key a half step from the original demo, maybe we bumped the [beats per minute] down a couple. But other than that, it was basically taking Mark's demo and letting Paul kind of pepper in his touch on it."

While the tracking band established most of the rhythm and textural sounds, DiGiovanni did add some color during overdubs, including a Spanish-flavored guitar in the background, steel-sounding guitar parts and a Southern rock-like twin guitar break.

"It didn't need a shreddy, really crazy guitar solo by any means," he says. "There's so much melodic stuff happening in the song, so I just tried to do something that was kind of familiar. I think I sat down and put my track on loop and played like five or six different kinds of melody things, and that one just stuck out."

Davis tends to inject downward-sliding grace notes into his vocal performances, and though the writers didn't specifically put that into "I Ain't Sayin'," it adapted well to his approach.

"That chorus melody, I was kind of like, 'Wait a second, you're sure I didn't write this?' "he notes. "It just felt like something that I would write and something that I would say."

MCA Nashville released "I Ain't Sayin'" to country radio via PlayMPE on July 24, and it's at No. 52 in its beginning stages on the Country Airplay chart dated Aug. 17.

"It's something that I think people want," Davis says of its breezy, summerish sound. "It feels like it's the right release right now."



STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

billboard top country albums

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	2	75	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD/MERCURY 037570*/REPUBLIC ONE THING AT A TIME	5	1
2	2	1	6	ZACH BRYAN THE GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER (093624839989*)		1
3	4	4	187	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180"/REPUBLIC DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	6	1
4	3	3	3	SOUNDTRACK TWISTERS: THE ALBUM UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ATLANTIC 075678606632*/AG		3
6	6	7	50	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 725898*/WARNER		1
6	5	6	10	SHABOOZEY WHERE I'VE BEEN, ISN'T WHERE I'M GOING AMERICAN DOGWOOD 1023*/EMPIRE		2
Ø	7	8	116	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979*/WARNER AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
8	8	10	375	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	6	1
9	10	9	4	MEGAN MORONEY MEGAN MORONEY MEGAN MORONEY;COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 281342*/SMN/COLUMBIA		3
10	11	5	3	KOE WETZEL YELLABUSH 800551*/COLUMBIA (VINYL)		5
11	12	11	72	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 877494*/SMN	•	2
Ð	16	17	323	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783* IF I KNOW ME		1
13	14	13	65	BAILEY ZIMMERMAN RELIGIOUSLY. THE ALBUM. ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 712554*/38E/WMN		3
14	15	14	484	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN		1
15	13	12	248	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN		1
16	18	16	143	TAYLOR SWIFT RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 034504*		1
Ð	NE	w	1	ELLA LANCIEV HINCOVED		
18	17	15	19	BEYONCE COWBOY CARTER PARKWOOD 889963* & 889965*/COLUMBIA		1
19	NEW 1 GAVIN ADCOCK ACTIN' UP AGAIN THRIVIN HERE/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE DIGITAL EX/WMN			19		
20	19	18	295	TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME		1
21	20	21	39	CHRIS STAPLETON HIGHER SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE 037345*/UMGN		1
22	23	19	62	JELLY ROLL BAILEE & BUDDY/BROKEN BOW/BMG 538907672*/BBMG		2
23	21	23	195	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
24	22	20	57	TAYLOR SWIFT SPEAK NOW (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 455678*		1
25	26	24	109	ZACH BRYAN ELISABETH BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EXWARNER		17

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country 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 reserved.

bilboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

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PEAK POS.	CERT.	TITLE	WEEKS ON CHT	2 WEEKS AGO	LAST WEEK	THIS
1		EAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE 1839989*)	6	1	1	1
1	2	STICK SEASON	61	2	2	2
1		ZACH BRYAN	50	5	4	3
1		N, ISN'T WHERE I'M GOING	10	4	3	4
1		AMERICAN HEARTBREAK	116	6	5	6
3		9 LIVES	3	3	7	6
1	6	TRAVELLER	430	7	8	7
1	3	HOZIER	476	10	10	8
1		COWBOY CARTER	19	8	9	9
1		HIGHER	39	11	12	10

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, Billiboard Media, LLC and Luminate. All rights reservejing to 2021.

billboard

COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

billboard

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

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	THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST		THIS	LAST	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	
	1	1	17	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) SHABOOZEY	I	1	1	17	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) SHABOOZEY	
	2	2	13	I HAD SOME HELP POST MALONE FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN		2	4	13	I HAD SOME HELP POST MALONE FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN	
	8	4	11	PINK SKIES ZACH BRYAN		3	NI	w	LIAR Jelly roll	
	4	3	5	LIES LIES LIES MORGAN WALLEN		4	5	13	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA LUKE COMBS	
	6	8	50	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING ZACH BRYAN FEAT. KACEY MUSGRAVES		6	6	9	I AM NOT OKAY JELLY ROLL	
	6	5	12	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA LUKE COMBS		6	2	2	LONELY ROAD MGK & JELLY ROLL	
	Ø	9	45	COWGIRLS MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST		Ø	10	5	LIES LIES LIES MORGAN WALLEN	
	8	7	5	28 ZACH BRYAN		8	7	7	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME ELLA LANGLEY FEAT. RILEY GREEN	
	9	10	9	HIGH ROAD KOE WETZEL & JESSIE MURPH		9	11	11	PINK SKIES ZACH BRYAN	
	10	11	80	LAST NIGHT MORGAN WALLEN	I	10	8	7	POUR ME A DRINK POST MALONE FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON	
	0	13	120	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN	I	11	12	14	COWGIRLS MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST	
	12	12	14	MILES ON IT MARSHMELLO & KANE BROWN	I	12	9	14	MILES ON IT MARSHMELLO & KANE BROWN	
	13	6	2	GUY FOR THAT Post malone feat. Luke combs	I	®	NI	w	GOOD HORSES Lainey Wilson Feat. Miranda Lambert	
	Ø	14	75	THINKIN' BOUT ME MORGAN WALLEN	I	14	3	2	GUY FOR THAT POST MALONE FEAT. LUKE COMBS	
	15	15	22	AUSTIN DASHA		15	15	22	AUSTIN Dasha	
	©	19	7	POUR ME A DRINK POST MALONE FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON	ľ	3/6		100		
	Ð	21	7	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME ELLA LANGLEY FEAT. RILEY GREEN						
	18	20	8	WHISKEY WHISKEY MONEYBAGG YO FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN						
	19	22	116	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN						
	20	17	30	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE LUKE COMBS						
	21	18	72	FAST CAR LUKE COMBS						
	@	25	184	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN						
	23	23	8	I AM NOT OKAY JELLY ROLL			5	2		
	24	24	376	TENNESSEE WHISKEY Chris Stapleton		1	4	1		
ı				LONGLYBOAD	1					

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GREEN
country congs, respectively, from cales reports collected

HARPER SMITH

ek's top-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.

bilboard Bluegrass Albums

25 16 2 LONELY ROAD

SALES DATA COMPILED BY
LUMINATE

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	4	BILLY STRINGS REPRISE 093624844778*/WARNER	LIVE, VOL. 1		1
0	2	_	2	THE HILLBILLY THOMISTS VERE 195269307936*	MARIGOLD		2
3	4	9	23	THE DEAD SOUTH SIX SHOOTER 174*	CHAINS & STAKES		1
4	RE-ENTRY		7	THE ARCADIAN WILD VERE 007*	WELCOME		2
5	3	4	55	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 698603*/WARNER	CITY OF GOLD		1
6	5	8	19	BELA FLECK BELA FLECK 83939*/THIRTY TIGERS	RHAPSODY IN BLUE		1
7	8	10	12	CHICK COREA & BELA FLECK BELA FLECK 83731*/THIRTY TIGERS	REMEMBRANCE		1
8	9	3	4	BRIDGE CITY SINNERS FLAIL 027*	IN THE AGE OF DOUBT		2
9	RE-ENTRY		3	AJ LEE & BLUE SUMMIT SIGNATURE SOUNDS 2156*	CITY OF GLASS		2
0	RE-ENTRY		3	BECKY BULLER DARK SHADOW 202401*	JUBILEE		1

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NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

"WARREN ZEIDERS
HAS TAKEN THE WORLD
BY STORM"
US WEEKLY

"COUNTRY PRODIGY"
HOLLER

"PAVES THE WAY FOR A LIFE OF STARDOM" COUNTRY NOW

WARREN ZEIDERS

2.5 BILLION CAREER STREAMS

480 MILLION STREAMS ON "PRETTY LITTLE POISON" SINGLE

2X PLATINUM SONG "PRETTY LITTLE POISON"

WARNER
RECORDS

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*) **9**

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AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Wic Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Hist Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Pictures Music, ASCAP (LCombs, JLAlexander, JD.Singleton) 4

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Universal, Inc., BM/Essancy Music Publishing, ASCAP/
Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/EMI April Music,
Inc., ASCAP/Hood Hop Music, ASCAP/Tarpo Music
Publishing, ASCAP/Kobalt Sounds Music Publishing LLC,
ASCAP (COC.hibueze, S.C.Cook, N.Sastry, J.Jones, J.A.Kent,
M.A.Williams) 1

BASS BOAT Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Adams Communications, Inc., SOCAN/Almo Music Corp., ASCAP/ Irving Music, Inc., BMI/Universal Music Works, GMR (ZL.Bryan, B.Adams, J.Vállance) 42

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DEVIL YOU KNOW ZDyer Publishing, BMI/Silly Sweater Publishing, ASCAP/Group Projects Writers, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/ WritersonthecornPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Turntable Music, LLC, ASCAP/ HALLPASS, ASCAP (G.Barham, Z.Dyer, J.Hall, S.Martinez) **33**

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HANG TIGHT HONEY Louisiana Lady, ASCAP/ Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Daddy's Home Music, BMI/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Sounds Of Soperman Music Publishing, ASCAP (LWilson, D.Williams, INIV P.Sieco 19

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BMI/Telemitry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Sony Cross
Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company
Publishing Company, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/
MV2 Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Jones
Music America, ASCAP/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI
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