

billboard Country Update

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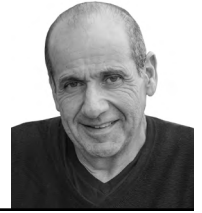
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Friday's *Billboard*
Country Update
And Country
Airplay Chart

ON THE CHARTS

Jim.Asker@billboard.com



Shaboozey's 'Topsy' Has Solid 10th Week On Songs Chart

1

SHABOOZEY

"A Bar Song (Topsy)"

The track claims a 10th week atop Hot Country Songs — tying **Beyoncé's** "Texas Hold

"Em," which first ruled in February, for the longest command this year. "Topsy" corralled 88.5 million in all-format radio reach, 33.3 million official U.S. streams and 12,000 in sales Aug. 9-15, according to Luminate.



7

DASHA

"Austin"

"Austin" ranks at No. 7 on Hot Country Songs after hitting No. 3 in April, with

11 million clicks (up 2%). On Country Airplay, it holds at its No. 15 high (13.2 million, up 2%). It's the first single from **Dasha's** *What Happens Now*, which earned 8,000 equivalent album units (up 10%) in the latest tracking week.



45

ZACH TOP

"I Never Lie"

The 26-year-old from Sunnyside, Wash., posts his first two Hot Country Songs entries: "I

Never Lie," which he co-wrote, at No. 45, with 2.8 million streams (up 26%) and 1,000 sold (up 56%), and "Sounds Like the Radio," at No. 49. The latter lifts 24-23 for a new best on Country Airplay (7.4 million, up 6%).



49

LITTLE BIG TOWN

Greatest Hits

The act charts its 10th Top Country Albums title as *Greatest Hits* opens at No. 49 (7,000

units). **Little Big Town** last reached the list in 2022, when *Mr. Sun* became its seventh top 10. The set includes the foursome's three Hot Country Songs No. 1s: "Pontoon," "Girl Crush" and the **Taylor Swift**-penned "Better Man."



SHABOOZEY: DANIEL PRAKOPCYK. DASHA: JESSICA CALLEIRO. TOP: CITIZEN KANE WAYNE. LITTLE BIG TOWN: JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES.

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

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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





TOP 40!
KELSEY HART

Life With You

#1 WOMEN 25-54 NATIONAL RADIOTRAKS
OUT-STREAMING OVER 50% OF THE CHART!

ALREADY 110 STATIONS ON

NEW THIS WEEK AT
WSOC/CHARLOTTE, WUSY/CHATTANOOGA

ADD/CONVERT NOW

CURB
RECORDS

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	1	1	18	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) <small>S. COOK, N. SASTRY (C. O. CHIBUEZE, S. C. COOK, N. SASTRY, J. JONES, J. A. KENT, M. A. WILLIAMS)</small>	Shaboozey <small>AMERICAN DOGWOOD/EMPIRE/MAGNOLIA MUSIC</small>	1	1
2	2	2	15	I HAD SOME HELP <small>L. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, HOSKINS (A. R. POST, M. C. WALLEN, L. B. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, E. K. SMITH, J. J. HOSKINS, C. P. WALTERS, A. G. GORLEY)</small>	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen <small>MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD</small>	2	1
3	3	5	46	COWGIRLS <small>J. MOI, J. DURRETT (R. H. BLOCK, A. G. GORLEY, J. MADDOCKS, E. K. SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME)</small>	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST <small>MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD</small>	4	3
4	4	4	14	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA <small>CHIP MATTHEWS, J. D. SINGLETON, L. COMBS (L. COMBS, J. L. ALEXANDER, J. D. SINGLETON)</small>	Luke Combs <small>UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/ATLANTIC/SEVEN RIDGES/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE</small>	7	4
5	6	6	12	PINK SKIES <small>Z. L. BRYAN (Z. L. BRYAN)</small>	Zach Bryan <small>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/WAR</small>	-	3
6	5	3	6	LIES LIES LIES <small>J. MOI (J. J. DILLON, J. MILLER, D. ROSS, C. TOMPKINS)</small>	Morgan Wallen <small>MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD</small>	21	3
7	8	10	24	AUSTIN <small>T. HEIDELMAN (A. D. NOVOTNY, K. T. HEIDELMAN, A. WENDLER, C. R. ARNSPIGER)</small>	Dasha <small>VERSION III/WARNER/WMN</small>	15	3
8	7	8	15	MILES ON IT <small>MARSHMELLO, DIGITAL FARM ANIMALS, EARWULF, C. MCDONOUGH (MARSHMELLO, K. BROWN, J. TORREY, R. MCDONOUGH, C. MCDONOUGH, CASTLE, N. J. GALE, TERIKSEN)</small>	Marshmello & Kane Brown <small>JOYTIME COLLECTIVE/RCA NASHVILLE</small>	18	4
9	9	9	7	28 <small>Z. L. BRYAN (Z. L. BRYAN)</small>	Zach Bryan <small>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/WAR</small>	-	5
10	11	12	8	POUR ME A DRINK <small>L. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME (A. R. POST, L. B. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, J. BYRON, R. H. BLOCK, J. DOZZI)</small>	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton <small>MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD</small>	13	3
11	13	14	10	I AM NOT OKAY <small>Z. CROWELL (J. B. DEFORD, T. PHILLIPS, A. G. GORLEY, C. BROWN)</small>	Jelly Roll <small>BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/REPUBLIC/STONEY CREEK</small>	17	10
12	12	7	3	GUY FOR THAT <small>L. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, HOSKINS (A. R. POST, L. B. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, L. COMBS, J. MCNAIR, E. K. SMITH, J. J. HOSKINS)</small>	Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs <small>MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD</small>	40	7
13	14	15	27	BULLETPROOF <small>L. RIMES (A. G. GORLEY, B. JOHNSON, H. PHELPS)</small>	Nate Smith <small>RCA NASHVILLE</small>	3	10
14	10	11	10	HIGH ROAD <small>G. SIMON (R. WETZEL, A. R. ALLEN, G. SIMON, C. KARPINEN, J. MURPH, L. J. VELTZ, J. SERRATO)</small>	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph <small>YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA/RECORDS NASHVILLE</small>	32	8
15	16	16	41	DIRT CHEAP <small>T. W. WILLMON (J. PHILLIPS)</small>	Cody Johnson <small>COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN</small>	9	14
16	15	18	8	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME <small>W. BUNDY (E. LANGLEY, A. RAITIERE, R. GREEN)</small>	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green <small>SAWGOD/COLUMBIA/NASHVILLE HARBOR</small>	35	13
17	17	17	9	WHISKEY WHISKEY <small>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)</small>	Moneybagg Yo Featuring Morgan Wallen <small>CMG/N-LESS/INTERSCOPE/ICLG</small>	-	6
18	18	13	3	LONELY ROAD <small>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)</small>	mgk & Jelly Roll <small>EST19XX/INTERSCOPE/ICLG</small>	-	13
19	20	20	23	CHEVROLET <small>Z. CROWELL, B. PHILLIPS (C. MCGILL, J. L. ALEXANDER, H. PHELPS, M. WILLIAMS)</small>	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll <small>BROKEN BOW</small>	6	19
20	19	21	13	HANG TIGHT HONEY <small>J. JOYCE (L. WILSON, D. WILLIAMS, J. NIX, P. SIKES)</small>	Lainey Wilson <small>BROKEN BOW</small>	14	19
21	22	23	39	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU <small>C. STAPLETON, D. COBB (C. STAPLETON)</small>	Chris Stapleton <small>SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE</small>	26	12
22	21	22	20	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU <small>C. LACORTE (T. ARCHER, T. P. WETMORE, C. LACORTE)</small>	Tucker Wetmore <small>BACK BLOCKS/EMI NASHVILLE</small>	29	11
23	24	25	14	BEAUTIFUL AS YOU <small>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)</small>	Thomas Rhett <small>FIFTY-ONE/FORTY-NINE/VALORY</small>	20	22
24	23	19	7	AMERICAN NIGHTS <small>Z. L. BRYAN (Z. L. BRYAN)</small>	Zach Bryan <small>BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/WAR</small>	-	8
25	25	29	5	AM I OKAY? <small>K. BUSH (M. MORONEY, L. LAIRD, J. J. DILLON)</small>	Megan Moroney <small>MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE</small>	-	25

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	#1 77 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
2		ASHLEY GORLEY
3		CHARLIE HANDSOME
4		ERNEST
5		JOSH PHILLIPS
6		JESSI ALEXANDER
7		LUKE COMBS
TIE	8	LOUIS BELL
TIE	8	POST MALONE
TIE	10	NEVIN SASTRY
TIE	10	SEAN COOK
TIE	10	SHABOOZEY



CROWELL

COURTESY TAPE ROOM MUSIC

COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 36 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
2		CHARLIE HANDSOME
3		JOEY MOI
TIE	4	NEVIN SASTRY
TIE	4	SEAN COOK
6		LOUIS BELL
7		ZACH CROWELL
8		HOSKINS
9		GABE SIMON
10		TRAVIS HEIDELMAN

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	27	24	13	SWEET DREAMS G.SIMON (R.WETZEL,A.R.ALLEN,J.SERRATO,G.SIMON,S.N.HARRIS)	Koe Wetzel YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA	-	10
27	28	28	17	LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP,J.T.MINTON,J.RICE)	Luke Bryan ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	10	27
28	31	34	25	HOLY SMOKES A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,B.M.STENNIS,L.HUNGATE,M.TYLER)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	52	13
29	29	30	9	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) N.SCHWARTZ (D.BALDRIDGE,J.YEARY,C.JAYMES)	Drew Baldridge PATOKA SOUNDS/LYRIC RIDGE	5	29
30	30	31	42	LOVE YOU AGAIN A.R.SHAWN,C.BROWN (C.BROWN,CHASE MATTHEW,T.PHILLIPS)	Chase Matthew CHASE MATTHEW/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	11	29
31	32	32	20	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	8	29
32	35	39	23	NINE BALL Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	15
33	34	33	17	WORST WAY D.HUFF (R.GREEN)	Riley Green NASHVILLE HARBOR	-	32
34	33	37	18	DEVIL YOU KNOW S.MARTINEZ (G.BARHAM,Z.DYER,J.HALL,S.MARTINEZ)	Tyler Braden WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	30
35	36	27	8	WANNA BE LOVED D.COBBS (D.COLEMAN,M.COLEMAN)	The Red Clay Strays HBYCO/RCA	-	27
36	37	48	9	RELAPSE M.ELIZONDO (W.ZEIDERS,B.PENDERGRASS)	Warren Zeiders 717/WARNER/WEA	-	30
37	39	42	18	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE J.A.FOX (D.SCOTT,L.ROBINSON,R.ROWTON,R.GATLIN)	Dylan Scott CURB	-	35
38	38	36	7	COWBOYS CRY TOO A.VANDERHEYM,K.BALLERINI (K.BALLERINI,A.VANDERHEYM,N.KAHAN)	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan BLACK RIVER	49	16
39	26	-	2	LIAR Z.CROWELL (J.B.DEFORD,B.JOHNSON,A.G.GORLEY,T.PHILLIPS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/REPUBLIC/STONEY CREEK	-	26
40	41	43	4	OUT OF OKLAHOMA L.DICK (C.L.DICK,S.MCANALLY,L.WILSON)	Lainey Wilson UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/ATLANTIC/BMG/BROKEN BOW	-	40
41	40	46	3	THIS IS MY DIRT J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE,P.DIGIOVANNI,R.MONTANA,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	12	40
42	45	47	7	MAXED OUT J.COSTA (B.BLANKENSHIP)	Bayker Blankenship BAYKER BLANKENSHIP/SANTA ANNA	-	42
43	44	26	6	BETTER DAYS Z.L.BRYAN,J.MAYER,C.BRAUN,MONSUNE (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan Featuring John Mayer BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	17
44	42	35	6	BASS BOAT Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN,B.ADAMS,J.VALLANCE)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	24
45	NEW	1	1	I NEVER LIE C.CHAMBERLAIN (Z.TOP,C.CHAMBERLAIN,T.NICHOLS) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Zach Top LEO33	-	45
46	43	45	9	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
47	50	-	2	JUST LIKE JOHNNY REDFERRIN,M.WILSHIRE,J.SAGHI (B.REDFERRIN,M.WILSHIRE)	Redferrin ROUND HERE/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	47
48	47	-	3	DRINK DON'T NEED NO MIX S.COOK,M.STEVENS,N.SASTRY (C.O.CHIBUEZE,S.C.COOK,M.STEVENS,X.LANDUM,N.SASTRY)	Shaboozey Featuring BigXthaPlug AMERICAN DOGWOOD/EMPIRE	-	47
49	NEW	1	1	SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO C.CHAMBERLAIN (Z.TOP,C.CHAMBERLAIN,W.MCCUBBIN)	Zach Top LEO33	23	49
50	46	38	6	OAK ISLAND Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	18

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				YEAR-TO-DATE			YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND	2023	2024	CHANGE		
This Week	1,950,000	2,393,452,000	122,900,000				ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
Last Week	1,943,000	2,376,370,000	123,063,000	Album Consumption	58,187,000	61,590,000	5.8%	'23 58.19 million
Change	0.4%	0.7%	-0.1%	Album Sales	5,094,000	4,030,000	-20.9%	'24 61.60 million
This Week Last Year	1,882,000	2,223,698,000	133,310,000	Audio On-Demand	68,818,931,000	74,896,887,000	8.8%	TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS
Change	3.6%	7.6%	-7.8%	Video On-Demand	4,537,859,000	3,987,571,000	-12.1%	'23 73.36 billion
								'24 78.88 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending August 15, 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/or 3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit.

For inquiries about any Luminate, please contact Howard Lin at hlin@luminatedata.com

LUMINATE

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION



BROOKS & DUNN

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

35 SOLD OUT SHOWS ON THE REBOOT TOUR

“TIME-TESTED PAIR WILL BE KICKING UP DUST FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE” – BOULDER WEEKLY

“MAKE NO MISTAKE, THIS IS A ‘DON’T MISS’ SHOW.” – MEN’S JOURNAL

5.2B+ GLOBAL CAREER STREAMS | 17M+ CAREER HEADLINE TICKETS SOLD

20 #1 HITS | MORE THAN 30 MILLION ALBUMS SOLD WORLDWIDE



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

Russell Dickerson Digs Deeper Into The 'Bones' Of His Love Song History



When **Randy Travis** emerged as a game-changing country icon nearly 40 years ago, he won over the audience by mixing songs of infinite love — including “Forever and Ever, Amen,” “Deeper Than the Holler” and “I Won’t Need You Anymore (Always and Forever)” — with songs that address mortality, such as “Three Wooden Crosses,” “He Walked on Water” and “Before You Kill Us All.” And he blended both love and finality with the pledge of “’til death do us part” in “Forever Together.”

Russell Dickerson has adhered primarily to the first half of that equation during his career, embracing long and lasting love in his singles “Yours,” “Every Little Thing” and “Home Sweet.” But with his latest release, “Bones,” he manages to combine both grown-up Travis themes: commitment and the end of life.

“Bones,” he says, is “like ‘Yours’ with a mortgage payment.”

Dickerson suggested “Bones” during his last writing session of 2023, held around Thanksgiving at a wood-paneled studio on his Tennessee property. Co-writers **Parker Welling** (“Blue Tacoma,” “What’s Your Country Song”), **Chase McGill** (“Chevrolet,” “Next Thing You Know”) and **Chris LaCorte** (“23,” “Wind Up Missin’ You”) were down the road with it before anyone mentioned that **Maren Morris** already had a significant recent hit titled “The Bones.” No one was particularly concerned.

“I felt like we were pretty good,” McGill reflects. “They’re just completely different songs.”

Dickerson started strumming through a guitar progression, and LaCorte came up with a gritty riff that created a rough-cut musical tone for the work. On the lyrical side, they wanted to find different ways to incorporate the title throughout the song, so they developed a list of phrases that contained the word “bones,” including “shaking right down to my bones” and “flesh and bones.”

And as Dickerson kept singing a chorus setup line, “I’ll love ya ’til I’m six feet down in the ground,” they played with numerous payoff lines until McGill finally found the winner: “And the gold on my finger’s wrapped around/Nothin’ but bones.”

“That was just kind of the — no pun intended — nail in the coffin,” Dickerson deadpans. “It’s like, ‘Holy cow, this is a song here.’”

The melody for that chorus started at an anthemic level and maintained power through the bulk of the stanza until it reached its conclusion with calm serenity. As a result, that chorus sonically mirrors the story of the relationship it covers: intense at the start and steady over time until death brings it to a close.

“We didn’t intentionally do that, but I think there’s a feeling about that song that we kind of just followed,” Welling suggests. “I think that’s why it all matches up.”

Welling has been friends with Dickerson and his wife, **Kailey**, since all of them attended Belmont University, and she spun specific descriptors about Kailey and the couple’s relationship for the opening moments. That verse ended with the singer “shaking right down to my bones” as he proposes. The second verse finds him putting the woman on a figurative pedestal, comparing her to an angel while grading himself as “just flesh and bones.”

“It’s like, ‘Thank you for choosing me,’” Dickerson says.

They inserted new lyrics in the final chorus to drive the point of “Bones” home, folding part of a wedding vow into a line LaCorte suggested about carving a pledge into his tombstone, a word the group changed to “headstone.” The image emerged earlier in the writing process, but they saved the drama of that visual for the song’s closing moments.

“We thought the headstone line in ‘Bones’ would have been a lot to have at the halfway point of [an earlier] chorus and then land on the ‘gold on my

finger wrapped around nothing but bones,’” Welling says. “That’s just a lot of, like, casket.”

It was stark, but no more so than the deathly stories in Travis’ songs, **George Jones**’ “He Stopped Loving Her Today,” **Vern Gosdin**’s “Chiseled in Stone” or **The Carter Family**’s “Will the Circle Be Unbroken.”

“What I love about country is you can go there,” McGill says. “You can say that.”



DICKERSON

LaCorte produced most of the demo that day, creating the intro by layering two different acoustic guitars, one playing a pulsing figure and the other building melodic tension with the foundational minor-key riff. It was a little raw, as LaCorte recorded the part in an uncomfortable position.

“It was recorded so haphazardly,” he says. “I had an SM7 microphone, but it was just lying on a table, and I was trying to scoot up next to it to play this thing.”

Dickerson rerecorded the demo vocals within a few weeks to ensure he had a version that showcased well for his team, and he recorded the final version in the spring. Producer **Josh Kerr** (**Maddie & Tae, for King & Country**) asked LaCorte to co-produce with him and Dickerson, and insisted that they use LaCorte’s imperfect acoustic guitar parts from the demo. The session came together so quickly that the night before,

they were uncertain where that would happen. Ultimately, they booked **Peter Frampton**’s Studio Phenix for a 6 p.m. date with drummer **Evan Hutchings**, bassist **Tony Lucido**, keyboardist **Alex Wright** and guitarist **Nathan Keeterle**. After one pass that featured some syncopation, Dickerson asked the band to play the rhythms straight, like an elephant stomping through the jungle. It needed to sound simple and determined, even if it was compiled from different sources.

“A lot of the track is Chris and the bones of the demo — pun intended — and then some other layers,” Kerr says. “I added some drum programming in the second verse and some new synth layers, so it’s a true hodgepodge of things going on in this song.”

Several elements provided a ghostly effect, including a windy sound in the opening section.

“That’s my old Moog Model D synthesizer, and it has this one mode on it that’s just called ‘Noise,’” LaCorte says. “Sometimes it just adds kind of a cool texture in the background, [but] it’s more felt than heard.”

LaCorte’s Dobro solo from the demo stayed in the master, though Kerr had him double it with electric guitar to create a quasi-slide tonality.

Dickerson purposely sang parts of “Bones” a little off-kilter. The phrasing in the opening verse is intentionally awkward, and in the final chorus, he sings two lead vocals for a brief period that lend their own haunting quality, as the voices engage in a short-term battle.

“It’s gritty, it’s crisp, there’s a lot of depth and dynamic to it,” Kerr says of Dickerson’s performance. “That’s something that we really made a point of doing in this song.”

Kailey was so enamored of “Bones” that she stayed out late one night just driving and listening to the cut.

“If she digs it,” Dickerson says, “then that’s a good sign.”

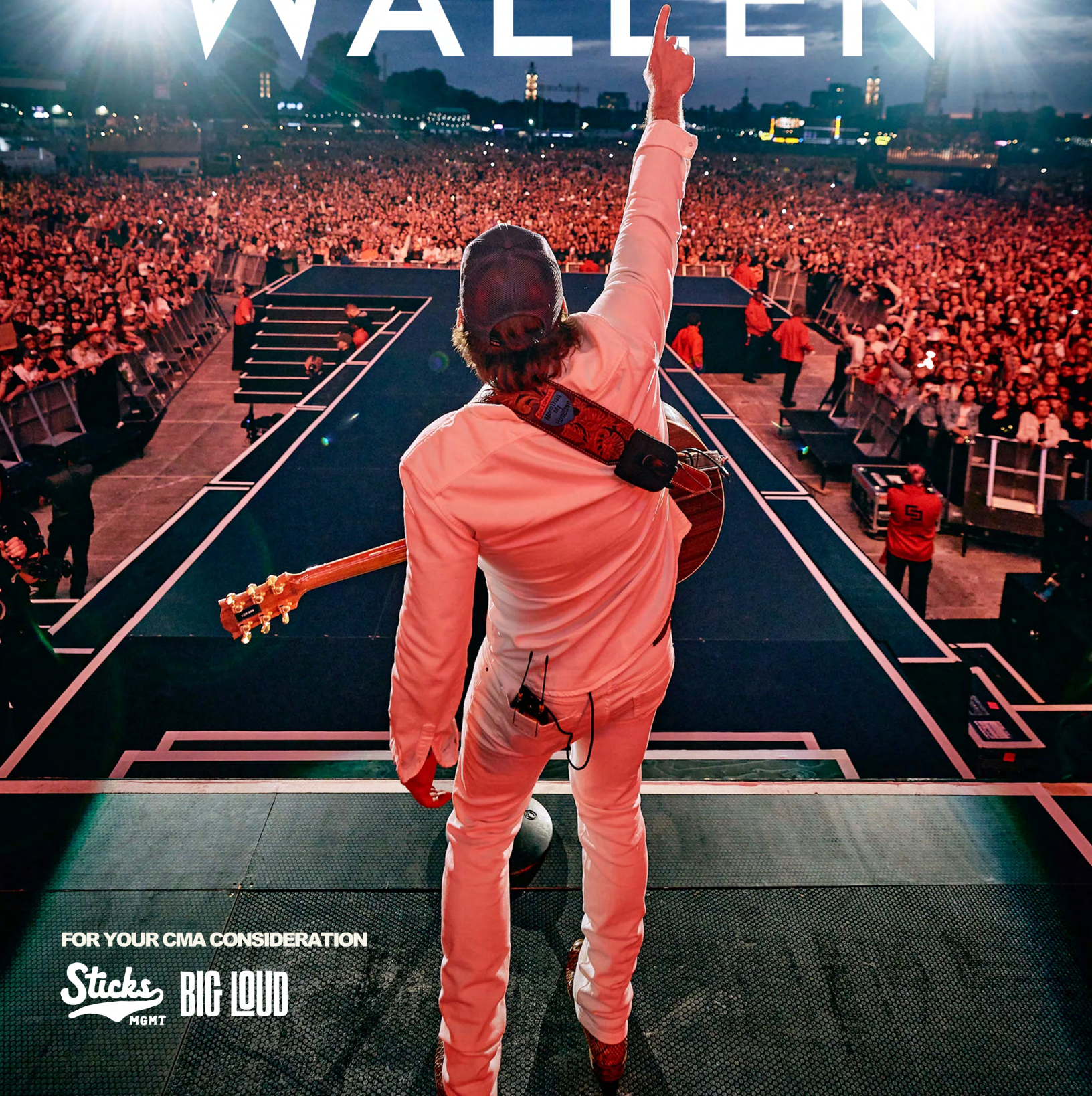
But not everyone at Triple Tigers thought it should be a single. Several alternative titles were thrown around, though Dickerson held out for “Bones.” The label released it to country radio via PlayMPE on July 15.

“It’s a little jarring at first,” he concedes, “but once you really settle into the song, that kind of fades away. I had to fight for this song to be the single, but I’m betting everything on this song.” ●

In the original edition, several quotes should have been attributed to Josh Kerr.

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

MORGAN WALLEN



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

Sticks **BIG LOUD**
MGMT

FOR YOUR CMA AWARD CONSIDERATION

STEPHEN
WILSON
JR.

SØN OF DAD

ALBUM
OF THE YEAR

NAMED BEST OF 2023 BY

billboard

RollingStone

Holler.

WHISKEY RIFF

WIDE OPEN
★
COUNTRY

Entertainment
FOCUS

"THROUGHOUT THE ALBUM, WILSON JR. OFFERS THE KIND OF NUANCED STORYTELLING THAT HAS HELPED MAKE STARS OF ARTISTS LIKE ERIC CHURCH AND CHRIS STAPLETON, AND HE HAS THE VOCAL PROWESS TO BACK IT UP. AN EXTREMELY PROMISING DEBUT."

billboard

"SØN OF DAD IS THE FRESHEST AND MOST REFRESHING THING I'VE HEARD COME OUT OF NASHVILLE IN YEARS AND YEARS... STEPHEN IS AN INCREDIBLE TALENT AND WRITES SONGS THAT NO OTHER PERSON IN NASHVILLE CAN WRITE, AND I FULLY BELIEVE THAT THIS ALBUM DESERVES TO BE ALBUM OF THE YEAR. "

HARDY

"AN ARTIST LIKE STEPHEN WILSON JR. IS A RARITY. HE CONSTANTLY INSPIRES AND REMINDS US OF WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO. SØN OF DAD IS SOME OF THE BEST MUSIC THIS TOWN HAS SEEN IN A LONG TIME. HE'S THE CREATIVE BEACON WE ALL NEED RIGHT NOW."

JOHN OSBORNE (BROTHERS OSBORNE)

"SWJ IS A REVELATION. HE STOPPED ME IN MY TRACKS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD "YEAR TO BE YOUNG 1994". HE TOUCHES A TRUTH DEEPER THAN MOST OF US KNOW HOW TO FIND. WHAT EVER STEPHEN DOES, WRITING, SINGING, PLAYING OR PERFORMING - I'M HERE FOR IT WITH AN ALMOST AGELESS-HEART."

LORI MCKENNA

"...THIS RECORD BLOWS ME AWAY. INSPIRES ME. IT'S SO HONEST. POETIC. EDGY, IN A WORLD THAT'S ALWAYS TRYING TOO HARD TO BE."

NATALIE HEMBY

BIG LOUD

STREAMING & SALES
DATA COMPILED BY
LUMINATE

billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	76	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD/MERCURY 037570*/REPUBLIC	ONE THING AT A TIME	5	1
2	2	2	7	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER (093624839989*)	THE GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE		1
3	3	4	188	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 03180*/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	5	1
4	4	3	4	SOUNDTRACK UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ATLANTIC 07567860632*/AG	TWISTERS: THE ALBUM		3
5	5	6	51	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 725898*/WARNER	ZACH BRYAN	■	1
6	6	5	11	SHABOOZEY AMERICAN DOGWOOD 1023*/EMPIRE	WHERE I'VE BEEN, ISN'T WHERE I'M GOING		2
7	7	7	117	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979*/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK	■	1
8	8	8	376	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	5	1
9	11	12	73	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 877494*/SMN	GETTIN' OLD	●	2
10	9	10	5	MEGAN MORONEY MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 281342*/SMN/COLUMBIA	AM I OKAY?		3
11	13	14	66	BAILEY ZIMMERMAN ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 712554*/3EE/WMN	RELIGIOUSLY. THE ALBUM.	■	3
12	10	11	4	KOE WETZEL YELLABUSH 800551*/COLUMBIA (VINYL)	9 LIVES		5
13	12	16	324	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	3	1
14	14	15	485	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	5	1
15	15	13	249	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595887*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	4	1
16	16	18	144	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 034504*	RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
17	18	17	20	BEYONCE PARKWOOD 889963* & 889965*/COLUMBIA	COWBOY CARTER		1
18	21	20	40	CHRIS STAPLETON SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE 037345*/UMGN	HIGHER		1
19	20	19	296	TOBY KEITH SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME	35 BIGGEST HITS	■	1
20	25	26	110	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	ELISABETH		17
21	23	21	196	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER	■	1
22	27	27	109	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO /WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES	●	7
23	22	23	63	JELLY ROLL BAILEE & BUDDY/BROKEN BOW/BMG 538907672*/BBMG	WHITSITT CHAPEL		2
24	26	24	394	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	7	1
25	24	22	58	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 455678*	SPEAK NOW (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1

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.

STREAMING & SALES
DATA COMPILED BY
LUMINATE

billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	7	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER (093624839989*)	THE GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE		1
2	2	2	62	NOAH KAHAN MERCURY 036702*/REPUBLIC	STICK SEASON	2	1
3	3	4	51	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 725898*/WARNER	ZACH BRYAN	■	1
4	4	3	11	SHABOOZEY AMERICAN DOGWOOD 1023*/EMPIRE	WHERE I'VE BEEN, ISN'T WHERE I'M GOING		1
5	5	5	117	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979*/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK	■	1
6	6	7	4	KOE WETZEL YELLABUSH 800551*/COLUMBIA (VINYL)	9 LIVES		3
7	7	8	431	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	5	1
8	8	10	477	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	3	1
9	9	9	20	BEYONCE PARKWOOD 889963* & 889965*/COLUMBIA	COWBOY CARTER		1
10	10	12	40	CHRIS STAPLETON SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE 037345*/UMGN	HIGHER		1

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 reserved.

STREAMING & SALES
DATA COMPILED BY
LUMINATE

billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	18	A BAR SONG (TIPS) SHABOOZEY
2	2	14	I HAD SOME HELP POST MALONE FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN
3	3	12	PINK SKIES ZACH BRYAN
4	4	6	LIES LIES LIES MORGAN WALLEN
5	5	51	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING ZACH BRYAN FEAT. KACEY MUSGRAVES
6	6	13	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA LUKE COMBS
7	7	46	COWGIRLS MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST
8	8	6	28 ZACH BRYAN
9	10	81	LAST NIGHT MORGAN WALLEN
10	11	121	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
11	13	3	GUY FOR THAT POST MALONE FEAT. LUKE COMBS
12	12	15	MILES ON IT MARSHMELLO & KANE BROWN
13	14	76	THINKIN' BOUT ME MORGAN WALLEN
14	15	23	AUSTIN DASHA
15	9	10	HIGH ROAD KOE WETZEL & JESSIE MURPH
16	16	8	POUR ME A DRINK POST MALONE FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON
17	17	8	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME ELLA LANGLEY FEAT. RILEY GREEN
18	18	9	WHISKEY WHISKEY MONEYBAGG YO FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN
19	23	9	I AM NOT OKAY JELLY ROLL
20	20	31	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE LUKE COMBS
21	19	117	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
22	21	73	FAST CAR LUKE COMBS
23	22	185	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
24	24	377	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
25	RE-ENTRY		OKLAHOMA SMOKESHOW ZACH BRYAN

The week'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.

billboard COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	18	A BAR SONG (TIPS) SHABOOZEY
2	2	14	I HAD SOME HELP POST MALONE FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN
3	5	10	I AM NOT OKAY JELLY ROLL
4	4	14	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA LUKE COMBS
5	6	3	LONELY ROAD MGK & JELLY ROLL
6	8	8	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME ELLA LANGLEY FEAT. RILEY GREEN
7	9	12	PINK SKIES ZACH BRYAN
8	10	8	POUR ME A DRINK POST MALONE FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON
9	12	15	MILES ON IT MARSHMELLO & KANE BROWN
10	7	6	LIES LIES LIES MORGAN WALLEN
11	11	15	COWGIRLS MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST
12	15	23	AUSTIN DASHA
13	3	2	LIAR JELLY ROLL
14	14	3	GUY FOR THAT POST MALONE FEAT. LUKE COMBS
15	RE-ENTRY		HIGH ROAD KOE WETZEL & JESSIE MURPH



JODY DOMINGUE

SALES DATA COMPILED BY
LUMINATE

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	5	BILLY STRINGS REPRISE 093624844778*/WARNER	LIVE, VOL. 1		1
2	3	4	24	THE DEAD SOUTH SIX SHOOTER 174*	CHAINS & STAKES		1
3	4	-	8	THE ARCADIAN WILD VERE 007*	WELCOME		2
4	NEW		1	RHONDA VINCENT UPPER MANAGEMENT DIGITAL EX	DESTINATIONS AND FUN PLACES		4
5	5	3	56	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 698603*/WARNER	CITY OF GOLD		1
6	8	9	5	BRIDGE CITY SINNERS FLAIL 027*	IN THE AGE OF DOUBT		2
7	NEW		1	THE PETERSENS THE PETERSENS	THE GREENEST GRASS (EP)		7
8	2	2	3	THE HILLBILLY THOMISTS VERE 195269307936*	MARIGOLD		2
9	7	8	13	CHICK COREA & BELA FLECK BELA FLECK 83731*/THIRTY TIGERS	REMEMBRANCE		1
10	RE-ENTRY		25	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW ATO 0882573423*	JUBILEE		1

Bluegrass Albums ranks the most popular bluegrass albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, based on album sales. Copyright 2024, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate. All rights reserved.

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

DYLAN SCOTT

OVER
4 BILLION
GLOBAL STREAMS



NEW ARTIST

MUSICAL EVENT -

"BOYS BACK HOME" WITH DYLAN MARLOWE

MALE VOCALIST

SINGLE - "CAN'T HAVE MINE"

SONG - "THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US"



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

CHAYCE BECKHAM



NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

BAD FOR ME

SONG OF THE YEAR

"23"

RIAA CERTIFIED PLATINUM
SOLO WRITTEN
#1 HIT SINGLE

19

BBR
MUSIC GROUP

WHEELHOUSE
RECORDS

BMG

A black and white photograph of Tyler Hubbard, a man with long, wavy hair and a goatee, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt. He is smiling and pointing his right hand towards the viewer. The background is a warm, abstract composition of yellow and orange tones, suggesting a sunset or a desert landscape. The overall image has a halftone or dot-matrix texture.

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
STRONG

Featuring the new single "Park"

MALE VOCALIST
OF THE YEAR

SINGLE OF THE YEAR
MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR
"Back Then Right Now"

TYLER HUBBARD

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

HUBBARD IS THE
ONLY ARTIST

... to start two separate careers
with at least three consecutive
No. 1 songs

OVER 1.5
BILLION STREAMS
TO DATE



TWO YEARS...

Two Albums,
Three Consecutive #1's,
Two Multi-Platinum Singles,
Over 200 Shows,
and a Gold Album

“ By the time he soars into the final refrain, that scorched-earth policy feels downright cathartic. ”
-ROLLING STONE

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

PARKER MCCOLLUM



SINGLE OF THE YEAR
“BURN IT DOWN”

SONG OF THE YEAR
“BURN IT DOWN”

MALE VOCALIST
OF THE YEAR

“ The smoldering heartache song bursts into flame on its bridge and keeps on burning to its smoking-ashes finale. McCollum’s delivery is appropriately edgy and pained. The man is a star. ”
-MUSICROW