

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com



How A Former Music Row Employee Is Using His Skills To Build Future Generations

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Years after **Dave Petrelli** worked in the Nashville music business, he experienced a moment in the city's Shelby Park that eclipsed any expectations he had had for his career.

A former peermusic creative assistant and Nashville Songwriters Association International director of events, Petrelli purposely segued into music education, and one step in the journey included teaching general education to fourth graders. Drawing on his innate skills, he frequently rewrote existing songs to teach students, and when a full solar eclipse occurred in the city in 2017, Petrelli prepared his classes by reworking the **Bonnie Tyler/Celine Dion** hit "Total Eclipse of the Heart" as "Total Eclipse of the Sun."

When the big day arrived, Petrelli and his wife, songwriter **Victoria Banks** ("Come On Over," "Saints & Angels"), joined thousands in the park to watch the afternoon sky turn dark. Around a dozen kids saw "Mr. Petrelli" and ran to him to sing "Total Eclipse of the Sun."

"I didn't even expect this to be a moment," he says now, "and it was a moment."

Petrelli is one of 30 instructors from eight states who will have another personal moment on Sept. 17 when the Country Music Association recognizes them as CMA Music Teachers

of Excellence at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. CMA has turned music education into a mission, funneling revenue from the annual CMA Fest into programs that are vital to the development of future generations.

The program is so appreciated that the teacher awards will be attended by as many artists as instructors, including

Walker Hayes, Jordan Davis, Riley Green, Terri Clark and Gretchen Wilson.

The teaching jobs may not be as glamorous as the touring gigs those artists pursue, but they're "way more important," CMA senior vp of industry relations **Tiffany Kerns** says. "We have the best gigs in the world, don't get me wrong. But by far, what they do is way more impressive. And I mean, talk about having deep impact in communities."

That impact is far-reaching. Music develops collaboration skills, learning to play an instrument builds discipline, and studying music rewires the brain, strengthening the connectivity between different cortexes and providing more paths for thoughts to follow. Schools with music education, according to Kerns, have lower rates of absenteeism. And since music teachers typically spend more one-on-one time with individual students as they learn their instruments, they are often the instructors whom students feel most comfortable



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with in revealing hunger or mental health issues.

In Petrelli's case, students likely relate to him in part because he's one of them in spirit. Growing up in Connecticut, his mother — who taught Spanish — died when he was 10, and he had to take care of himself sooner than his peers.

"I grew up too fast, and because of that, there's still a lot of kid in me," he says.

Petrelli leaned toward music early, and after graduating from Boston College, he taught the subject at a private Catholic elementary school for a year. He subsequently earned a songwriting degree at the Berklee College of Music, then moved to Nashville and worked his way into the music community. Once they got married, he and Banks decided at least one of them should have a job with greater security, and he shifted into education.

The "Total Eclipse of the Sun" moment grew out of his approach, which mixes music with other parts of the school's curriculum. A few years ago, when Lockeland Elementary was operating under the schoolwide theme "Lockeland is out of this world," he would have classes explore the details in songs with galactic lyrics — such as **David Bowie's** "Space Oddity," **Europe's** "The Final Countdown" or **Elton John's** "Rocket Man" — to better understand space and enhance the school experience.

"What I have found is that that gets the kids really, really, really interested in what they're going to learn today," Petrelli says. "My lesson springboards off that."

Other courses, such as math or science, have more cut-and-dried material — two plus two will always equal four — and Kerns suggests that those classes feel more "black and white" to students.

"When you walk into that music room, I really believe that Dave's students immediately feel and see color," she says. "There is something that is so vibrant about his personality and the way that he teaches, and that's a gift."

The CMA doesn't restrict its Teachers of Excellence awards to instructors who use country music in their classes. Pop, jazz, R&B and mariachi have all been used extensively by various honorees, though Petrelli does, in fact, incorporate country in his work, with songs by **Garth Brooks**, **Dolly Parton**, **Waylon Jennings** and **Shania Twain** among the material he has used.

"The storytelling aspect is huge," he says.

While teaching music may not be as glamorous as the careers of the artists that Petrelli's classes draw from, it still scratches his own artistic itch.

"I teach six classes a day, and it's six one-hour performances," he says. "It is a song-and-dance show for one hour, six times in a row. I've worked physically demanding jobs, mentally demanding jobs. I have never been as exhausted at the end of a day as when I come home from a particularly hard day of teaching."

It's usually a thankless job, though the Teachers of Excellence event extends a bit of appreciation. And the students do provide feedback, whether they know it or not, at moments like the 2017 eclipse. At times like that, Petrelli is reminded that the job really is an opportunity to inspire the next generation, even if it looks a little different than what he originally envisioned.

"I always dreamed of girls screaming my name," Petrelli says. "I didn't think they'd be 9 years old and waving in their car, [yelling], 'Mr. Petrelli!'"



CELESTE SMITH

All for the Hall: Dallas, held Sept. 10 at Gilley's, raised over \$375,000 for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. From left at the benefit: Scotty McCreery, Clint Black, Carly Pearce and Robert Earl Keen.



Luke Bryan visited with WFMS Indianapolis staff when he played the suburban Ruoff Music Center on Sept. 7. From left: Capitol Nashville director of Midwest regional promotion Katie Bright, Bryan and WFMS assistant PD Matt Malone and PD Brooks O'Brian.



ANDREA SCHOLLNICK

Warner Music Nashville closed its WMN: On Deck summer concert series with a Sept. 10 performance by The Band Loula on the label's patio. From left: WMN vp of marketing Justin Luffman and vp of A&R Stephanie Davenport, The Band Loula's Logan Simmons and Malachi Mills, and WMN co-chair/co-president Cris Lacy.

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

Dustin Lynch & Jelly Roll's 'Chevrolet' Cruises To No. 1 On Country Airplay

Dustin Lynch's "Chevrolet" (Broken Bow), featuring Jelly Roll, rides two spots to No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart (dated Sept. 21).

The single — Lynch's ninth Country Airplay leader and Jelly Roll's fifth — increased 10% to 30.1 million audience impressions Sept. 6-12, according to Luminate.

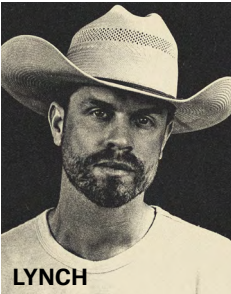
"Chevrolet" was co-written by Chase McGill, Jessi Alexander and Hunter Phelps. Mentor Williams also received writer billing, as the song interpolates his classic "Drift Away." Recorded by Dobie Gray, the original hit No. 5 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in 1973; *Uncle Kracker*'s update, featuring Gray, reached No. 9 in 2003.

"The response to this song has been absolutely wild to see in our live shows from way early on," Lynch tells *Billboard*. "This iconic melody from 'Drift Away' is deep within all of us and connects us instantly for such an epic sing-along. There's a nostalgia to it that just feels good, and it becoming my ninth No. 1 means so much, especially since I get to celebrate this with my buddy Jelly."

"Chevrolet," which Zach Crowell and Ben Phillips produced, is from Lynch's album *Killed the Cowboy*. He last topped Country Airplay with "Thinking 'Bout You," featuring MacKenzie Porter, for six weeks beginning in December 2021.

Jelly Roll, meanwhile, boasts the longest active streak of Country Airplay No. 1s from the start of a career in the format. (Kane Brown boasts the longest active run overall: six leaders, dating to July 2021.) Jelly Roll most recently ruled with "Halfway to Hell," for one week in June.

TRAVELING 'MILES' "Miles on It" (Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville), by Marshmello and the aforementioned Kane Brown, hits the Country Airplay top 10 (11-7; 20.8 million, up 19%). Marshmello reaches the tier in the DJ's first visit to the chart. Brown banks his 13th top 10 and first since "I Can Feel It," which became his 11th No. 1 in March. ●




ALYSE GAFKLEN

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)	
FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+3.348	
MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	+3.331	
CHEVROLET Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	+2.809	
POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	+2.307	
I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+2.186	
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	+1.901	
LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.669	
COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	+1.555	
AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+1.499	
4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.262	

MOST INCREASED PLAYS			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN	
MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	+974	
CHEVROLET Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	+932	
FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+840	
POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	+784	
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	+700	
LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+588	
I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+573	
AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+480	
4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+427	
THIS IS MY DIRT Valory	Justin Moore	+387	

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	Drew Baldridge	18.369
2	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	14.376
3	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	14.366
4	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	13.337
5	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Chase Matthew	12.258
6	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	11.079
7	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	8.951
8	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	8.273
9	DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	8.190
10	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	8.036



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	14	WHOLE LOTTA LUBBOCK (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★	William Clark Green	1459	83	11	12	15	LOST IN THE COUNTRY (LuckySky Music)	Tori Martin	1003	52
2	3	15	SOME GIRLS DON'T CRY (Independent)	Billie Jo Jones	1389	41	12	14	10	WHEELS (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1001	149
3	4	19	BAD BOY GOOD MAN (Independent)	Brandi Behlen	1310	12	13	1	22	HEARTBROKE (Independent)	Joey Green	968	-511
4	6	10	HUNGOVER AGAIN (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1303	128	14	15	12	ME TIME (Flying C)	Brooke Graham	888	79
5	5	18	OUTRUN THE RAIN (Independent)	James Lann	1298	35	15	21	6	HIT THE HAY RUNNIN (Independent)	Aaron Watson	860	148
6	7	14	ALL I WANNA DO IS DRINK (Independent)	Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1225	62	16	17	15	BEER'S BETTER ON A BOAT (Independent)	Clay Hollis & Jesse Raub, Jr.	859	59
7	8	17	SMOKE & MIRRORS (Independent)	Chad Cooke Band	1203	63	17	18	12	KEEP LOOKIN' DOWN THE ROAD (No Big Deal)	Reckless Kelly	788	44
8	9	18	WAKE UP LONELY (Independent)	Caleb Young	1104	51	18	16	23	TANGLED (Independent)	Darrin Morris Band	745	-62
9	11	15	HEAVEN SHINES DOWN ON YOU (Independent)	Sundance Head	1103	144	19	22	12	TWO WAY DRIVE (River House)	Hudson Westbrook	709	52
10	10	15	DRUNK SINCE DALLAS (Independent)	Grant Gilbert	1056	40	20	23	9	ROPE THE WIND (Rockin R)	Amanda Kate Ferris	702	53

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

billboardCountry Airplay

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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	3	40	CHEVROLET Broken Bow ★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	30.089	+2.809	8336	932	1
2	2	19	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	27.304	-0.173	6365	-50	4
3	1	20	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	27.224	-0.950	6684	-190	3
4	4	18	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	27.095	+1.499	7558	480	2
5	6	23	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	23.327	-0.924	5646	-215	9
6	7	12	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	22.332	+2.307	6327	784	5
7	11	19	MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	20.784	+3.331	5762	974	8
8	8	23	LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	20.165	+0.183	5946	49	6
9	10	44	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory	Justin Moore	19.293	+1.234	5841	387	7
10	5	53	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young	18.510	-6.488	5224	-2262	10
11	14	14	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	16.953	+2.186	4951	573	11
12	13	25	AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner/WWMN	Dasha	15.040	-0.052	4500	90	12
13	15	45	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Parmalee	14.069	+0.773	4289	225	13
14	17	11	LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	13.859	+1.669	3952	588	15
15	16	34	ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	13.263	+0.314	4126	41	14
16	18	18	BEAUTIFUL AS YOU Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	12.414	+0.825	3789	353	16
17	19	28	MESSED UP AS ME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	9.152	+0.163	3349	126	17
18	24	28	COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville ★★ Airpower ★★	George Birge	8.513	+1.555	2770	343	20
19	22	30	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	8.451	+1.129	2553	204	22
20	21	36	SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Leo33 ★★ Airpower ★★	Zach Top	8.280	+0.601	2843	224	18
21	20	32	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	8.066	+0.152	2719	42	21
22	23	26	DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	7.461	+0.369	2776	142	19
23	28	8	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	7.068	+1.901	2188	700	25
24	27	16	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Back Blocks/EMI Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	6.938	+0.825	2198	267	24
25	25	29	AMERICAN GIRL Tom Petty Legacy/Capitol Nashville/Valory	Dierks Bentley	6.879	+0.551	2260	188	23
26	29	9	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	5.847	+0.706	1672	179	28
27	30	36	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	5.715	+0.707	2024	164	26
28	31	9	JUST TO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	4.096	+0.222	1251	79	36
29	34	35	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	4.048	+0.596	1852	229	27
30	39	8	GUY FORTHAT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	3.842	+1.030	1188	268	37

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

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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	32	21	FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	3.829	+0.167	1481	61	31
32	33	46	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street	Chris Lane	3.602	+0.058	1602	-9	29
33	37	27	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	3.556	+0.560	1594	248	30
34	NEW		FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★	Jon Pardi	3.348	+3.348	840	840	49
35	36	27	WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Nashville Harbor	Chris Janson	3.280	+0.241	1443	102	32
36	35	25	CALLED CRAZY Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	3.077	+0.035	973	50	43
37	41	8	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	3.062	+0.363	1142	83	38
38	40	22	FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	2.862	+0.120	1099	-20	40
39	38	19	WRANGLERS Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert	2.775	-0.072	1377	5	33
40	55	2	4X4XU Broken Bow ★★ Breaker ★★	Lainey Wilson	2.703	+1.262	922	427	44
41	46	13	HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	2.567	+0.567	872	149	47
42	42	24	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	2.524	-0.075	1264	-12	35
43	43	11	COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	2.345	+0.182	1032	195	41
44	47	4	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	2.243	+0.378	704	89	53
45	45	32	I TRIED A RING ON Monument	Tigirlily Gold	2.195	+0.149	1346	79	34
46	50	25	TIE UP Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	1.939	+0.149	1129	13	39
47	51	7	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	1.919	+0.159	869	44	48
48	48	14	FALL OF SUMMER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	1.770	-0.068	905	7	45
49	49	12	COWBOYS CRY TOO Black River	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan	1.764	-0.029	1023	35	42
50	54	15	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	1.751	+0.236	890	58	46
51	44	20	DRINKIN' BUDDIES Curb	Lee Brice, Nate Smith & Hailey Whitters	1.751	-0.303	645	-83	54
52	52	7	TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	1.748	+0.076	753	30	52
53	56	21	COUNTRY BACK Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.370	+0.081	807	68	51
54	57	24	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	1.238	+0.044	839	28	50
55	58	5	OVER WHEN WE'RE SOBER Valory	Brantley Gilbert Featuring Ashley Cooke	1.182	+0.010	566	47	58
56	59	14	EVERYTHING I NEED 19/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	1.169	+0.151	607	45	55
57	53	5	LOVE THE LEAVIN' Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Drew Parker	1.127	-0.413	408	-80	-
58	RE-ENTRY		THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	1.066	+0.104	587	43	56
59	RE-ENTRY		DEVIL YOU KNOW Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Tyler Braden	0.983	+0.178	429	20	-
60	RE-ENTRY		BONES Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	0.876	+0.012	575	24	57



CHRIS HOLLO

Tucker Wetmore was surprised during his Sept. 10 Grand Ole Opry debut with RIAA-certified gold singles for "Wind Up Missin' You" and "Wine Into Whiskey." With him are Back Blocks Music CEO Rakiyah Marshall (left) and Universal Music Group Nashville chair/CEO Cindy Mabe.



DAVID LEHR

EMI UK presented Morgan Wallen with plaques for three of his singles when he performed Sept. 5 in Glasgow, Scotland. From left: Live Nation talent buyer Aaron Spalding, EMI UK marketing executive Alex Henderson, Live Nation UK touring and festival executive Ellie Rapaport, Wallen and Big Loud senior vp of global marketing and strategy Brianne Deslippe.

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CONTACTS

Northeast | Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast | Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

West Coast | Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

International | Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

Latin | Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com



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Lainey Wilson was surrounded with BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville support when she performed current single “4x4xU” on NBC’s *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* on Sept. 10. From left: BMG Nashville GM Peter Strickland, BMG/North America CFO Joe Gillen, Wilson and BMG Nashville executive vp of recorded music JoJemie Hahr and vp of publicity Mark Logsdon.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Jamie Younger joined The Core Records as the Nashville-based label’s new vp of artist development. She held the same title in her previous role at Warner Music Nashville ... Indie artist **Kip Moore** partnered with Virgin Music Group for label representation. His first new music in the relationship, “Live Here To Work,” is due Sept. 20 ... Guy Clark LLC established the Truly Handmade label to provide an outlet for performing songwriters. **Lindi Ortega**, **Jedd Hughes**, **Jack Barksdale** and **Mike Delevante** are among the initial projects on the release schedule through early 2025, along with a live **Guy Clark** recording from 1970 ... Artist-writer **Christian Hayes** signed with Capitol. A five-track EP, *Last I Love You*, will be released Sept. 20 ... Big Loud and the **Dallas Smith** imprint Local Hay signed **Hailey Benedict** to a recording deal, as well as songwriting contracts with the labels’ related publishing companies. Her first single in the arrangement, “Things My Mama Said,” is expected Oct. 4 ... Artist-writer **True Youngblood** agreed to a recording deal with Lost City and a publishing arrangement with parent company MV2 Entertainment. His first release for the company, “If I Were a Cowboy,” was slated for Sept. 13 ... **Kelli Belles** earned a recording contract with Deluge Records Nashville and a publishing agreement with Deluge Music ... **Jill Strada** joined iHeartMedia/Atlanta as senior vp of programming, RadioInk.com reported. The role includes oversight of country **WUBL**. She served as CEO for the Stradagy Group for the last two years, following a seven-year run with Cox Media Group/Miami, where she was director of operations ... **WZZK** Birmingham, Ala., parted ways with midday host **Dana Landon** after eight years, according to RadioInsight.com. PD **Mike Sanders** has taken over the shift. Landon also voice-tracked a shift for SummitMedia sister **KFDI** Wichita, Kan. ... “DJ Blake” **Stadel** started Sept. 12 as morning host for **WLFZ** Springfield, Ill., RadioInsight.com reported. He moves from mornings at top 40 sister **WDBR** ... Five Westwood One/Cumulus programs earned broadcast personality nominations in the Country Music Association’s Broadcast Awards, unveiled Sept. 9. The **Kix Brooks**-hosted *American Country Countdown* and *Country Gold With Terri Clark* are finalists among weekly national shows, while daily national entries include *Nights With Elaina*, *PickleJar Up All Night With Patrick Thomas* and *The Steve Harmon Show*. Six local stations snagged double nominations: major market **WXTU** Philadelphia and **KCYT** San Antonio; large market **KFRG** Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif., and **WQDR** Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; and medium market **WIVK** Knoxville, Tenn., and **KXKT** Omaha, Neb. Go [here](#) for the full list of nominees ... Kaspar Broadcasting owner/CEO **Steve Kaspar**, 71, died Sept. 4. A songwriter-musician in his younger years, his radio holdings included country **KFAV-FM/KWRE-AM** Warrenton, Mo. Go [here](#) for his complete Legacy.com obituary ... Country Radio Broadcasters is accepting applications for the Lisa McKay Women in Radio Scholarship through Sept. 30. Recipients will receive registration and travel accommodations for next year’s Country Radio Seminar, slated for Feb. 19-21.

‘ROUND THE ROW

Morris Higham Management hired former Warner Music Nashville executive vp of artist development **Shane Tarleton**. There is no title for the new role ... Apple Music promoted **Michael Bryan** to global head of country music from director of editorial operations and audio production ... Spirit Music Nashville promoted **Kennedy Murphy** and **Andy Hodges** to creative director from creative coordinator ... The Mechanical Licensing Collective promoted five employees. **Ellen Truly** rose to chief marketing and external affairs officer, expanding her existing marketing title. **Lindsey Major** ascended to chief member experience officer from head of customer experience. **Andrew Mitchell** was elevated to chief analytics and automation officer from head of analytics. **Joya Carmichael** stepped up to chief administrative officer from head of operations. And **Rick Marshall** was lifted to general counsel from assistant general counsel ... Outback Presents boosted **Emily Scerri** to vp of entertainment strategy from director of touring. Reach her [here](#) ... Big Yellow Dog added songwriter **Trent Tomlinson** (“In Case You Didn’t Know,” “Damn Strait”) to its publishing roster ... One Riot and Reservoir signed songwriter **Jon Decious** (“4x4xU”) to a publishing agreement that included the acquisition of his catalog ... Warner Chappell Nashville signed a publishing deal with developing artist-writer **Ian Harrison** ... Singer-songwriter **Anslee Davidson** agreed to a publishing contract with Major Bob Music ... Country artist **Erin Kirby** scored a songwriting deal with Concord Music ... Songwriter-producer **Andy Skib** (“Famous”) garnered a publishing contract with Sheltered Music ... The average music-related income among respondents to the first Greater Nashville Music Census is \$52,000. The effort drew more than 4,200 participants. An overview of the census results is available [here](#) ... **Morgan Wallen** nabbed seven nominations to lead the finalists for the 58th annual Country Music Association Awards, revealed Sept. 9. **Cody Johnson** and **Chris Stapleton** picked up five nominations; **Post Malone** and **Lainey Wilson** collected four apiece. Go [here](#) for the full list ... **Hailey Whitters**, **Chris Young** and **Dan Wilson** topped the list of talent added to the performance lineup for the seventh annual Nashville Songwriters Awards, scheduled for Sept. 24 at the Ryman Auditorium ... **Keith Urban**, **Kane Brown**, **Miranda Lambert**, **Lady A**, **Kelsea Ballerini**, **Parker McCollum** and **The War and Treaty** are on board as performers for NBC’s People’s Choice Country Awards on Sept. 26 at Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry House ... Indie artist **Chancey Williams** was inducted into the Cheyenne Frontier Days Hall of Fame in Wyoming on Sept. 6 ... **Steven Curtis Chapman**’s Grand Ole Opry induction is scheduled for Nov. 1 ... **Becky Buller** will deliver the keynote speech on Sept. 24 during the International Bluegrass Music Association’s conference in Raleigh, N.C. ... **Kelsea Ballerini** sold out an Oct. 29 concert at New York’s Madison Square Garden to celebrate the Oct. 25 release of her new album, *Patterns* ... CBS booked two nights of concerts Oct. 3-4 at NashHouse Southern Spoon and Saloon to promote the Oct. 18 debut of its series *Fire Country*. Among the performers: **Matt Koziol**, **Madison Kozak**, **Caitlyn Smith**, **Maura Streppe** and **Adam Wakefield** ... **Tracy Lawrence** will hold his 19th annual Mission:Possible Turkey Fry and benefit concert on Nov. 26. The show’s lineup has not been announced ... Australian producer-guitarist **Mark Moffatt**, who worked in Nashville since 1995, died Sept. 6 of pancreatic cancer. He was a three-term board president for the Americana Music Association. ●



Gretchen Wilson met with *The Big 615* host Storme Warren for the Sept. 3 edition of *The StormeCast*.



CMT host Cody Alan (right) interviewed Chayce Beckham on Sept. 12 for an upcoming episode of the *CMT Hot 20 Countdown*.

ON SALE
SEPTEMBER
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On Sept. 28, *Billboard* will profile the most influential people in Latin music, from label executives, music publishers and management companies to radio and TV stations and live entertainment.

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COUNTRY

20 Years Ago Keith Urban Was No. 1 For 28 ‘Days’

In 2004, the singer-songwriter and guitar master began a four-week rule on Hot Country Songs

On Sept. 18, 2004, **Keith Urban**’s “Days Go By” notched its first of four weeks atop *Billboard*’s Hot Country Songs chart. It became the fifth of his 16 career No. 1s.

The song, which Urban wrote with **Monty Powell** and produced with **Dann Huff**, was released as the lead single from *Be Here*, Urban’s first of seven Top Country Albums chart-toppers. The set yielded two more No. 1s: “Making Memories of Us” and “Better Life.”

Urban, who was a judge for four seasons on ABC’s *American Idol* from 2013-16, has won the cov-

eted entertainer of the year trophy from the Country Music Association twice, in 2005 and 2018. The New Zealand native, who grew up in Australia, has also achieved 21 No. 1s on the Country Airplay chart. His latest single, “Messed Up as Me,” ranks at a new No. 17 best on the Sept. 21-dated survey (9.2 million, up 2%). It introduces his album *High*, due Sept. 20.

Urban, 56, lives in Nashville with his wife, actress **Nicole Kidman**, and their two daughters. His Las Vegas residency at the Fontainebleau will kick off Oct. 4.—JIMASKER

Urban at the 2004
Billboard Music Awards in
Las Vegas.

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

				👑 NUMBER 1 👑	1 Week At Number 1	
1	3	3	12	DAYS GO BY K. URBAN, D. HUFF (K. URBAN, M. POWELL)	Keith Urban CAPITOL ALBUM CUT	1
2	2	1	16	LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING B. GALLIMORE, T. MCGRAW, D. SMITH (T. NICHOLS, C. WISEMAN)	Tim McGraw 🏆 CURB ALBUM CUT	1
3	1	5	22	GIRLS LIE TOO B. GALLIMORE (C. HARRINGTON, K. L. OVELACE, T. NICHOLS)	Terri Clark 🏆 MERCURY ALBUM CUT	1
4	7	10	14	HERE FOR THE PARTY M. WRIGHT, J. SCAIFE (G. WILSON, J. RICH, B. KENNY)	Gretchen Wilson 🏆 EPIC 78951/EMN	4
5	5	7	30	SHE THINKS SHE NEEDS ME R. SCRUGGS (S. LEMAIRE, C. MILLS, S. MINOR)	Andy Griggs RCA ALBUM CUT	5