

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

OCTOBER 4, 2024 | PAGE 1 OF 12

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com



Gangstagrass Propels An Unlikely Mix Of Bluegrass And Hip-Hop To Unexpected Chart Heights

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Post Malone, Blake Shelton Ascend
>page 4

Why Kris Kristofferson Mattered
>page 8

Country Coda: When Toby Keith Was The "Man"
>page 12

When Hurricane Helene flooded the streets of Asheville, N.C., it forced the postponement of a Sept. 30 **Gangstagrass** show at The Orange Peel.

As a result, the band—a genre-busting hybrid of bluegrass and hip-hop—revised its itinerary and spent the previous night in Atlanta, creating a dinner menu of grilled salmon, beef, asparagus, mushrooms and sweet potatoes.

Despite the daunting weather and travel issues, the band was in a congenial mood. Just a week earlier, its new album, *The Blackest Thing on the Menu*, became its second project to reach No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Bluegrass Albums chart dated Sept. 28. The act's previous No. 1, 2020's *No Time*

for *Enemies*, was the first atop the chart to feature two MCs. Neither No. 1 was originally on the career menu.

"It's not like it was a goal from the start, or anything on the agenda," founder **Rench** says. "Our aim is to make great music, put out our message and play awesome shows. *Billboard* charts aren't really a part of that. It's just kind of gravy on the mashed potatoes."

The first Gangstagrass No. 1 occurred during the pandemic, and the members told themselves it was a fluky representation

of their pent-up fan base's support.

"Doing it again," MC **R-SON** says now, "that's extra special."

So was the timing: It occurred as the International Bluegrass Music Association held its IBMA Awards and conference in Raleigh, N.C. Gangstagrass decidedly tests the boundaries of the

genre. It fires up the traditional banjo and fiddle with unexpected beats and raps, fusing the sound of rural Kentucky with the music of urban New York.

On paper, the mixture probably shouldn't work. But Gangstagrass is built on a belief that folks who ride tractors have more in common with people who ride the subway than might be expected. Bluegrass and hip-hop both represent working-class cultures,

and both rely heavily on the music's pulse, be it a rolling banjo or a syncopated drum machine.

"If you have poor folks anywhere, they're telling their stories, and they're building from that," R-SON says. "It works better than people would ever have imagined, just because a lot of their existences are similar."

Rench didn't necessarily recognize that when he launched Gangstagrass as a studio experiment in 2006 from his home in Brooklyn. He made it available for free online, and the reaction



GANGSTAGRASS

MELODIE YVONNE



THE ACADEMY IS ME

APPLY TO BE A MEMBER NOW
JOIN US!

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PERIOD: OCT 1 - NOV 15 WWW.ACMCOUNTRY.COM/MEMBERSHIP

quickly exceeded his expectations.

"It was getting downloaded so much, it was crashing the site, and so I could see that people really liked it," Rench says. "I knew then that putting together a live band to actually do this, with instrumentalists, would take it in a much bigger direction."

Adding to the plot, producers for the FX series *Justified* enlisted Gangstagrass for a theme song, "Long Hard Times To Come," in 2010. The group's diverse musical origins appealed to an eclectic audience, too, bringing together seemingly incompatible constituencies.

"We got little kids, middle schoolers, high schoolers, college kids, their parents, their parents' parents, their parents' parents' parents," MC **Dolio the Sleuth** says.

"We have New York hipsters, we have proud rednecks from Texas," Rench adds. "It really is like kind of a little bit of everything."

The fan base also includes some of the band's professional peers. Dobro icon **Jerry Douglas**, who joined the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame on Sept. 26, appears on "The Only Way Out Is Through," the lead track on *The Blackest Thing on the Menu*. **Dan Tyminski**, the lead singer on *The Soggy Bottom Boys* "Man of Constant Sorrow," joined Gangstagrass to perform that song at the end of the IBMA's 2022 convention.

"The best players and these bluegrass legends, they really get it," Rench says. "The bluegrass purists that are skeptical [of] us really don't have much to stand on when they see all their favorite bluegrass players backing us up."

Gangstagrass likely reflects larger cultural trends. **Beyoncé's** *Cowboy Carter* debuted at No. 1 on Top Country Albums earlier this year. And Vice President **Kamala Harris** is the first female candidate of color to run for president on a major-party ticket. Polls and analysts suggest she has a good chance of winning. The Gangstagrass audience portends a possible future where people of disparate backgrounds can increasingly find commonality.

"We can see how crucial it will be for people to not be afraid of each other," Rench says. "There's a difference between being different and being divided, and if we can get them to not be divided and to be comfortable with each other and understand that they're part of the same citizenship of the earth and of the country, that's a huge step forward."

That's an ambitious goal, but one that's delivered with a good helping of joy. The new album features a song, "Mother," that explores economic disparities and a foreboding environmental outlook, but it's followed by "Obligatory Braggadocio," a comical self-celebration — "I got big wheels on my big truck" — over a rowdy Southern rock musical bed.

Even the album's title is the result of an inside joke that stems from fiddler **B.E. Farrow** asking a waiter, "What's the blackest thing on the menu?" When Rench suggested the title months later, the band broke into laughter, then grew quiet. *The Blackest Thing on the Menu* made a statement about the band.

"I kid you not," Dolio says. "Two rainbows shot out from the sky, a double rainbow — double rainbow — right in front of us over New York City."

It was a development as unlikely — and as hopeful — as the band itself. ●

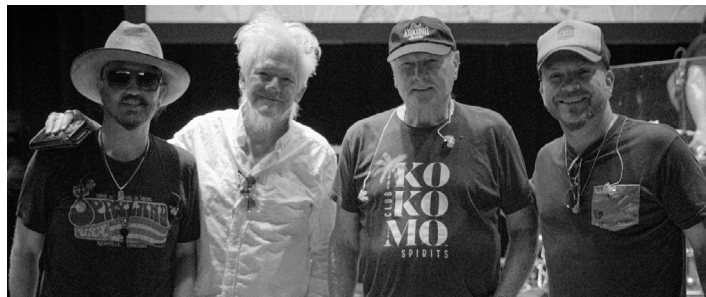


Parker McCollum (left) received three BMI Million-Air awards from BMI Nashville assistant vp of creative Mason Hunter during a Sept. 25 party at the performing rights organization's Nashville office.

AUBREY WISE



Tucker Wetmore (center) worked the crowd, which included Audacy regional vp of country/KKWF Seattle brand manager Drew Bland, during Elevation Beaver Creek in Colorado Sept. 23-25. With them is EMI manager of West Coast promotion Briarman Whitfield.



LOCASH gave a surprise three-song performance during The Beach Boys' Sept. 23 concert at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. From left: LOCASH's Preston Brust, Studio2Bee co-founder Skip Bishop, The Beach Boys' Mike Love and LOCASH's Chris Lucas.

BIG RED

SUBSCRIBE TO

billboard
COUNTRY
UPDATE

SIGN UP FOR FREE DELIVERY
EVERY MONDAY AND FRIDAY

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

EXCLUSIVE CHARTS including Hot Country
Songs, Country Airplay, Top Country Albums,
Country Streaming Songs, Country
Songwriters, Country Producers and more!

Bi-weekly content including Makin' Tracks,
On the Charts, a roundup of executive moves
and timely analysis of the latest country
news and trends

Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland
and Jim Asker





FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION



MEGAN MORONEY

"MORONEY'S BRAND OF TRUTH-TELLING, EQUALLY FUNNY AND WOUNDED, HAS STRUCK A CHORD."

— The New York Times

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

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

"I'M NOT PRETTY"

"MORONEY'S RELATABILITY IS ONE OF HER SUPERPOWERS, AS IS SEEMINGLY CHURNING OUT HIT AFTER HIT."

— People

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

"THAT OPENNESS HAS MADE HER ONE OF COUNTRY MUSIC'S FASTEST-RISING FEMALE ARTISTS."

— billboard



billboardCountry Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

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

Post Malone And Blake Shelton Raise ‘Drink’ To No. 1; Morgan Wallen, Parmalee Hit Top 10

Post Malone’s Blake Shelton-featuring “Pour Me a Drink” (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) ascends two places to the top shelf of *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart (dated Oct. 12). The collaboration advanced by 5% to 27.9 million audience impressions Sept. 27-Oct. 3, according to Luminate.

The song, which Post Malone co-wrote, is his second Country Airplay No. 1 after “I Had Some Help,” featuring **Morgan Wallen**, dominated for four weeks beginning in June. Both hits are from his introductory album in the genre, *F-1 Trillion*, which motored in at No. 1 on the Aug. 31-dated Top Country Albums chart and the all-genre *Billboard* 200 with 250,000 equivalent album units earned in the United States. The set has earned 1.1 million units over its first six weeks of release.



BRETT CARLSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Post Malone charts an additional song, and a third career top 40 entry, on Country Airplay: Fellow *F-1 Trillion* track “A Guy for That,” featuring **Luke Combs**, rebounds a spot to its No. 26 high (6.3 million, up 12%).

Shelton hoists his 29th Country Airplay No. 1, a run that started with his initial appearance, “Austin,” in 2001. He nets his first leader since “Happy Anywhere,” featuring his then-future wife **Gwen Stefani**, in December 2020. Shelton ties **Tim McGraw** for the second-most chart-toppers since the survey began in 1990. **Kenny Chesney** leads all acts with 33 No. 1s.

NEW TOP 10s **Morgan Wallen** earns his 17th Country Airplay top 10 as “Lies Lies Lies” (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) climbs 11-9 (18 million, up 12%). It follows his “Cowgirls” (featuring **ERNEST**), which became his 14th No. 1 in July.

Plus, **Parmalee**’s “Gonna Love You” (Stoney Creek) hops 13-10 on Country Airplay (16.6 million, up 6%). The group adds its seventh top 10, following “Girl in Mine,” which hit No. 3 last October, and “Take My Name,” which became the act’s third No. 1 in June 2022. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
I’M GONNA LOVE YOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	+9.065
I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+3.353
LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+3.304
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	+2.694
LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.900
HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	+1.338
POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	+1.303
MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	+1.182
COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	+1.121
GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+0.868

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
I’M GONNA LOVE YOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	+2102
LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+980
I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+923
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	+759
LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+596
GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+396
HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	+342
POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	+253
COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	+234
LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	+227

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	19.867
2	CHEVROLET Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	17.908
3	SHE’S SOMEBODY’S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	Drew Baldridge	14.086
4	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	11.909
5	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	11.209
6	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	10.575
7	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	9.151
8	THINKIN’ BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	8.099
9	DANCIN’ IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	7.880
10	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	7.219

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 3, 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	13	HUNGOVER AGAIN (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Casey Donahew	1569	112	11	12	13	ME TIME (Flying C)	Brooke Graham	1127	44
2	4	20	OUTRUN THE RAIN (Independent)	James Lann	1563	146	12	13	17	BEER’S BETTER ON A BOAT (Independent)	Clay Hollis & Jesse Raub, Jr.	953	15
3	3	19	SMOKE & MIRRORS (Independent)	Chad Cooke Band	1469	42	13	14	15	KEEP LOOKIN’ DOWN THE ROAD (No Big Deal)	Reckless Kelly	950	21
4	5	17	ALL I WANNA DO IS DRINK (Independent)	Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1441	181	14	16	10	PAIN AND SORROW (Independent)	Matt Castillo	924	76
5	10	9	HIT THE HAY RUNNIN’ (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1293	159	15	17	13	TWO WAY DRIVE (River House)	Hudson Westbrook	921	96
6	6	21	WAKE UP LONELY (Independent)	Caleb Young	1292	50	16	1	22	BAD BOY GOOD MAN (Independent)	Brandi Behlen	914	-664
7	7	18	HEAVEN SHINES DOWN ON YOU (Independent)	Sundance Head	1251	58	17	18	12	ROPE THE WIND (Rockin R)	Amanda Kate Ferris	844	51
8	9	17	DRUNK SINCE DALLAS (Independent)	Grant Gilbert	1235	61	18	19	15	90SVILLE (Synapse)	Derryl Perry	828	46
9	8	18	LOST IN THE COUNTRY (LuckySky Music)	Tori Martin	1200	21	19	20	13	RIDE OR DIE (Independent)	James Robert Webb	804	64
10	11	13	WHEELS (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1164	35	20	21	21	POOR FOLK (Independent)	Scotty Alexander	737	-3

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

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	3	15	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	27.911	+1.303	7634	253	2
2	6	26	LOVEYOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	27.052	+3.304	7710	980	1
3	1	21	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	26.177	-4.536	6963	-1602	4
4	5	22	MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	25.134	+1.182	6879	193	5
5	7	17	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	24.986	+3.353	7184	923	3
6	2	23	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	24.738	-2.422	6021	-594	7
7	4	22	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	23.316	-2.208	5551	-645	8
8	8	47	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory	Justin Moore	22.088	+0.790	6439	157	6
9	11	14	LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.013	+1.900	5186	596	9
10	13	48	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Parmalee	16.604	+0.868	5100	396	10
11	12	28	AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner/WMN	Dasha	16.519	+0.469	4943	110	11
12	16	11	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	14.399	+2.694	3985	759	14
13	14	21	BEAUTIFUL AS YOU Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	13.850	+0.385	4205	112	13
14	15	37	ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	13.475	+0.010	4257	23	12
15	18	31	COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	11.520	+1.121	3740	234	15
16	20	35	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	9.952	+0.422	3124	172	17
17	17	31	MESSED UP AS ME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	9.750	-0.726	3422	-97	16
18	19	33	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	9.719	-0.125	2879	9	20
19	21	39	SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Leo33	Zach Top	9.534	+0.844	2991	154	19
20	24	12	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	9.201	+1.338	2762	342	22
21	NEW		I'M GONNA LOVEYOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN ★★ Hot Shot Debut /Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	9.096	+9.065	2108	2102	26
22	22	19	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Back Blocks/EMI Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	8.998	+0.731	2860	96	21
23	23	29	DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	8.450	+0.509	3010	194	18
24	26	39	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	7.807	+0.395	2530	84	23
25	25	32	AMERICAN GIRL Tom Petty Legacy/Capitol Nashville/Valory	Dierks Bentley	7.366	-0.437	2252	-56	24
26	27	11	GUY FORTHAT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	6.267	+0.685	1718	199	29
27	28	38	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	5.188	-0.028	2126	-30	25
28	32	24	FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	4.482	+0.355	1826	209	27
29	31	12	JUST TO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	4.352	+0.223	1390	105	36
30	34	5	4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	4.341	+0.400	1408	170	35

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-bullethead) 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.

© 2024 Billboard Media, LLC

billboard Country Airplay

 AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	33	30	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	4.189	+0.191	1696	45	30
32	35	11	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	4.115	+0.268	1482	100	34
33	30	49	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street	Chris Lane	4.083	-0.089	1793	-106	28
34	36	16	HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	3.874	+0.169	1074	27	42
35	37	30	WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Nashville Harbor	Chris Janson	3.544	-0.155	1590	-27	31
36	41	27	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	3.261	+0.391	1569	227	32
37	42	25	FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	3.193	+0.341	1295	134	38
38	38	22	WRANGLERS Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert	3.118	+0.034	1507	-9	33
39	39	7	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	2.962	+0.021	897	40	46
40	43	10	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	2.770	+0.444	1180	154	39
41	40	28	CALLED CRAZY Interscope/MCA Nashville	Kassi Ashton	2.431	-0.473	828	-195	49
42	49	18	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	2.200	+0.206	1011	-1	43
43	45	15	COWBOYS CRY TOO Black River	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan	2.176	-0.031	1127	-17	40
44	44	14	COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	2.174	-0.142	936	-21	45
45	46	35	I TRIED A RING ON Monument	Tigirlily Gold	2.135	-0.027	1343	36	37
46	48	17	FALL OF SUMMER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	2.103	+0.085	1085	88	41
47	47	10	TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	1.932	-0.117	886	-21	47
48	51	27	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	1.773	+0.271	972	102	44
49	53	24	COUNTRY BACK Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.461	+0.069	834	-11	48
50	52	17	EVERYTHING I NEED 19/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	1.453	-0.042	726	33	50
51	54	4	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	1.264	-0.037	494	-16	57
52	55	8	OVER WHEN WE'RE SOBER Valory	Brantley Gilbert Featuring Ashley Cooke	1.202	+0.046	620	42	51
53	57	7	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	1.161	+0.076	575	17	54
54	56	15	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	1.153	+0.005	590	-18	53
55	59	4	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	1.074	+0.022	542	4	56
56	58	6	BONES Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	1.050	-0.022	602	-35	52
57	RE-ENTRY		HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	1.009	+0.003	569	25	55
58	60	3	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	0.992	-0.058	447	-15	59
59	RE-ENTRY		DEVIL YOU KNOW Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Tyler Braden	0.957	+0.081	456	11	58
60	RE-ENTRY		LOVE THE LEAVIN' Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Drew Parker	0.775	+0.074	344	18	-



Chris Stapleton (center) was accompanied by drummer Derek Mixon (left) and bassist J.T. Cure when he guested on SiriusXM's *The Howard Stern Show* on Sept. 25.



Conner Smith received an RIAA-certified gold single for "Creek Will Rise" on Oct. 1. From left: Big Machine Label Group executive vp of A&R Allison Jones, Smith, BMLG president/CEO Scott Borchetta and Make Wake Artists founder Chris Kappy.

Album Of The Year • Best Country Album

LAINÉY WILSON

WHIRLWIND

Produced by GRAMMY® Winner Jay Joyce

“the best release of her career”

THE TENNESSEAN



4x4xU

Song of The Year • Best Country Song

Hang Tight Honey

Best Country Solo Performance

Good Horses

feat. Miranda Lambert

Best Country Duo/Group Performance

Out Of Oklahoma

(from “Twisters”)

Record Of The Year

Song Written For Visual Media



BMG

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com

EVAN HARNEY

Bryce Leatherwood performed "Hung Up on You" during his Grand Ole Opry debut on Sept. 14. From left: Morris Higham Management president Clint Higham, Universal Music Group Nashville chair/CEO Cindy Mabe, Leatherwood, Opry senior vp/executive producer Dan Rogers and Morris Higham manager Robert Filhart.

WHY KRISTOFFERSON MATTERED

The death of **Kris Kristofferson**, 88, on Sept. 28 yielded a mass of media tributes.

During his lifetime, he earned attention as an actor, a solo artist and a member of **The Highwaymen**.

But his contributions to the Nashville songwriting community will remain his most significant achievement. Kristofferson combined the common-man language and pathos of **Hank Williams** with the literary bite of **Bob Dylan** to raise the bar on country compositions.

A string of titles in the late 1960s and early '70s changed the game. "Help Me Make It Through the Night," "Sunday Morning Coming Down," "For the Good Times" and "Me and Bobby McGee" addressed core concepts — loneliness, freedom, sexuality and regret — with an unprecedented frankness. And with enviable commercial success.

Plenty of masterful composers have followed, but none have had an effect as direct and immediate as Kristofferson.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Republic hired executive vp of artist and label strategy **Mary Catherine Kinney**. She previously was Spotify Nashville strategic music partnerships lead... **Jamey Johnson** signed a recording contract with Warner Music Nashville through his Big Gassed label. The first new music in the arrangement is "Someday When I'm Old," released Oct. 4... Artist-writer **Colt Graves** inked a deal with Universal Music Group Nashville and **Timbaland**'s Mosley Music. Graves plans to release the first track under the agreement, "Burning House," on Oct. 18... **Lindsey Ell** joined the roster at Universal Music Canada with an EP, *love myself*, due Oct. 25... Beasley Media transferred **Ronnie Glover** to Las Vegas to serve as cluster manager, effective in December, moving from his current position as Fayetteville, N.C., vp/market manager. Country signals affected by the shift include **KCYE** Las Vegas and **WKML** Fayetteville... Beasley promoted three sales executives to regional positions in Florida, where the chain covers two markets: Tampa and Fort Myers. **April Brinks-Bailey** rises to regional director of agency sales from Tampa national sales manager, **Stacie Waldrop** becomes regional digital sales manager after holding the same title in Tampa, and **Randy Cable** is upped to regional director of sales from a similar role in Fort Myers. Beasley's lone country signal in Florida is **WQYK** Tampa... **Cody Clark** joined **KRST** Albuquerque, N.M., as assistant PD/afternoon drive personality, RadioInk.com reported. With the move, PD **Bev Rainey** slides into middays, replacing **Megan Marie**, who transfers to the morning show at adult contemporary sister **KMGA**. Clark previously was PD for Las Vegas-based online station *countryafradio.com*... **KMZT-AM** Los Angeles flipped to classic country from classical, according to RadioInsight.com. The outlet is a sister to country **KKGO-FM**... The Country Radio Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for its 2025 class [here](#) through Oct. 28... Longtime broadcaster **Boyd Meredith**, known professionally as **A.J. McCloud**, died Oct. 4 at his home in Decatur, Ala., of a suspected heart attack, his family reported. Meredith, 62, spent more than 35 years in radio, with stops at **WAMZ** Louisville, Ky., and **WDRM** and **WWFF** Huntsville, Ala. Memorial plans are pending. Shelton Funeral Home in Decatur is expected to provide services.

'ROUND THE ROW

CMT senior vp of music strategy and talent **Leslie Fram** concluded her tenure in the role on Sept. 30 amid a broad round of Paramount Global staff cuts... Big Yellow Dog Music hired two new staff members: assistant catalog administrator/assistant coordinator of label services **Brannen Carter** and assistant coordinator of A&R **Alana Morgan**. Carter, a recent graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, formerly interned at Major Bob Music. Belmont University grad Morgan interned with Big Yellow Dog for nine months. The firm also promoted **Morgan Brady** to senior publishing and label analyst/senior coordinator of label services from sales and streaming analyst... Songwriter **Terri Jo Box** re-signed with Jonas Group Publishing... **Maren Morris** signed with WME for representation... The late **Tony Joe White** ("Polk Salad Annie," "Rainy Night in Georgia") was tabbed as a 2024 inductee into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, entering in the legacy category. The ceremony takes place Nov. 6 at Music City Center... Eight inductees will be recognized in the National Museum of African American Music's inaugural awards gala on Oct. 5, including Curb founder **Mike Curb**, Americana Music Association executive director **Jed Hilly**, singer-songwriter **Allison Russell** and songwriter **Alice Randall** ("XXX's and OOO's," "Girls Ride Horses Too")... **Luke Bryan**, **Lainey Wilson** and **Peyton Manning** will host the Country Music Association Awards on ABC on Nov. 20... **Emmylou Harris** will be honored Oct. 10 among five total recipients as the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals presents its 2024 Humane Awards in New York. The prize recognizes her animal care program, Bonaparte's Retreat... The music of songwriter **JT Harding** is central to *Music City: A New Musical*, set to run off-Broadway from Oct. 27 through Nov. 17 at the West End Theater in Manhattan. Focused on Nashville's music community, the production features new pieces as well as some of Harding's previous hits, including "Sangria," "Somewhere in My Car" and "Beers and Sunshine"... The Heartland Network launches a full season of *Queen City Country* on Oct. 6, hosted by **Adam Wurtzel** and **Kim Coon**. The show's pilot aired in July... **Lainey Wilson** hosts the fourth annual Opry NextStage Live concert on Dec. 9 at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House. Among the performers: **Madeline Edwards**, **Chase Matthew**, **Ella Langley** and **Wyatt Flores**... **Tyler Hubbard** performed Sept. 29 at the Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and Walk in New York, with 40,000 participants retracing the final steps of a 9/11 New York firefighter. The event coincided with the Sept. 27 release of Hubbard's "Heroes"... **Miranda Lambert**'s MuttNation Foundation donated \$100,000 to help animals and shelters affected by Hurricane Helene... The family of **John Prine**, through the late singer-songwriter's Hello In There Foundation, will donate proceeds from this year's "You Got Gold: Celebrating the Songs of John Prine" to Hurricane Helene disaster relief. The event encompasses four days of music Oct. 9-12 at a handful of Nashville venues... **Morgan Wallen**'s foundation launched a "HELP" campaign to aid Hurricane Helene victims. The effort includes a food and water drive at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Knoxville on Oct. 9 and a same-day box-packing push at Second Harvest in Nashville... **Eric Church** assigned his royalties for a newly released song, "Darkest Hour," to the state of North Carolina to assist with hurricane relief. ●



ROBBY STEVENS

Cole Swindell (left) and **Clay Walker** caught up backstage during a Sept. 23 concert at Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Morrison, Colo.



MARO HAGOPIAN

Luke Bryan (right) visited with host **Andy Cohen** on the Oct. 1 edition of the SiriusXM show *Andy Cohen Live* while promoting his new album, *Mind of a Country Boy*.

"Outlaw superstar"
GQ

"The music we turn to when we're struggling can be like a hand on our shoulder. For a legion of Americans today, the music that does that is by Jelly Roll."
The New York Times

"Jelly Roll has emerged as a force to be reckoned with in the music industry."
songwriter

"for everyone who's facing the same struggles, Jelly Roll is their Springsteen"
VARIETY

JELLY ROLL

FOR YOUR
GRAMMY® CONSIDERATION

"I AM NOT OKAY"

- RECORD OF THE YEAR
- SONG OF THE YEAR
- COUNTRY SOLO PERFORMANCE
- COUNTRY SONG

2024 IHEARTDADIO AWARD WINNER FOR BEST NEW ARTIST (COUNTRY) & BEST NEW ARTIST (POP)

2024 ACM AWARDS WINNER

3X 2024 CMT MUSIC AWARD WINNER - MOST AWARDED ARTIST

2024 CMA TRIPLE PLAY AWARD WINNER

2023 CMA AWARD WINNER FOR BEST NEW ARTIST

2024 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER

2024 POLLSTAR AWARD WINNER FOR NEW HEADLINER OF THE YEAR



billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org.
(Songwriter) **Chart Position**

4X4XU Sony Countryside, BMI/Story Farmer, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Songs Of One Riot Music, BMI/ONE TOOTH PRODUCTIONS, BMI/Super LCS Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (L.Wilson, J.Decious, A.Raitiere) **30**

A

AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Hits Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Pictures Music, ASCAP/Braven Baker Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, J.L.Alexander, J.D.Singleton) **3**

AMERICAN GIRL Almo Music Corp., ASCAP/Tarka Music, ASCAP (T.E.Petty) **25**

AM I OKAY? Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo Music, ASCAP/Concord Global Music, GMR/Songs Of CN, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, SESAC/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Moroney, L.Laird, J.J.Dillon) **39**

AUSTIN ROSCAMP PUBLISHING, ASCAP/Travis Heidelberg Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Dash, BMI/Adam Wendler Publishing Designee, GEMA (A.D.Novotny, K.T.Heidelman, A.Wendler, C.R.Amspiger) **11**

B

A BAR SONG (TIPSY) Kreshendo, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/S2 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Essency Music Publishing, ASCAP/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Hood Ho Music, ASCAP/Tarpo Music Publishing, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (C.Chobueze, S.Cook, N.Sastry, J.Jones, J.A.Kent, M.A.Williams) **6**

BEAUTIFUL AS YOU Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Music Of Big Family, BMI/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Don Wyan Music, BMI/Alien Cargo Plane Music, ASCAP/Top Notch High Quality Music, ASCAP/1317 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Maverick King Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Sidron Publishing LLC, BMI/The Place To Be Is LMC Publishing, BMI (Thomas Rhett, J.C.Bunetta, J.E.Coleman, J.K.Hindlin, A.Izquierdo, Z.Kelsey, R.J.Ryan) **13**

BIGGER HOUSES Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Turtle Garden Publishing, BMI (A.Albert, D.Smyers, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds) **16**

BONES Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Home Team Music, BMI/Tunes Of TrailerParker, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI (R.Dickerson, C.LaCorte, P.Welling, C.M.Gill) **56**

BOYS BACK HOME Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs of PIA Entertainment, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs From The Rose Hotel, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Real Bad Songs, SESAC (D.Marlowe, S.Ennis, J.A.Fox) **24**

BREAKIN' IN BOOTS Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/124 Records, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BRROFFEE, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Lil Sebastian Music, BMI/Young Guns Publishing, LLC, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Real Bad Songs, SESAC (M.Stell, N.Cyphert, J.A.Fox, B.M.Stennis) **27**

C

CALLED CRAZY Wolf Shirt Publishing, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Twelve6 Sequoia, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WeisOwl, ASCAP (K.Ashton, J.Keim, E.L.Weisband) **41**

COMING HOME WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Tiny Handstand, ASCAP/Sharkules Music, ASCAP/Megusta Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Art Of CMT Music Outlander LP, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, W.Sellers, G.Sprung, B.F.Turst, S.McAnally) **44**

COUNTRY BACK Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/I'm Your Huckleberry Music, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Nepasongs, ASCAP (R.Houser, M.J.Rogers) **49**

COUNTRY HOUSE Twelve6 Red Oak Songs, BMI/Still Between The Pines, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Katie In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs For Indy And Owl, ASCAP/Works Of CMT Outlander, GMR (M.Lotten, R.Copperman, J.Osborne, S.L.Hunt) **53**

COWBOYS CRY TOO Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Secret Meadow Songs, ASCAP (K.Ballerini, A.Vanderheym, N.Kahan) **43**

COWBOY SONGS Wide Open, ASCAP/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., ASCAP/Cinq Songs, SESAC/Boom Town Songs, SESAC/More McGinIntellectual Property, SESAC (G.Birge, M.Tyler, M.McGinn, L.Guzman) **15**

D

DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Flatland Boy Music, BMI/Hits Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Wildhawk Publishing, BMI/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Prestige Countrywide, ASCAP (R.Green, Erik Dylan, J.D.Singleton, N.Walsh) **23**

DEVIL YOU KNOW Zdyer Publishing, BMI/Silly Sweater Publishing, ASCAP/Group Projects Writers, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/WritersontheconPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Turntable Music, LLC, ASCAP/HALLPASS, ASCAP (G.Barham, Z.Dyer, J.Hall, S.Martinez) **59**

E

EVERYTHING I NEED Songs By 19 Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI (C.Beckham, J.Pierce, L.Rimes) **50**

F

FALL OF SUMMER Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs Of Spirit One Nashville, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI/Spirit Two Music Crescendo, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/FluidTunes II, ASCAP/Burley Bishop Music, ASCAP/Beats By Baby Brent, ASCAP (S.C.McCreery, M.Criswell, F.Rogers, D.George, B.Anderson) **46**

FIND ANOTHER BAR Big Big Plans Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Phat Racoon, SESAC/Universal Tunes, SESAC (C.Lane, J.Thompson, J.A.Ebach) **33**

FOREVER TO ME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Colden Rainey Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Swindell, G.James, R.H.Black) **37**

FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Tompkins Family Vacation, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/I Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Miller, C.Tompkins, J.J.Dillon, D.Ross, R.J.Hura) **51**

FRIENDS LIKE THAT Triple Play Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For Margo, ASCAP/Sea Gayle Pub House Publishing, ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/WritersontheconPublishing, BMI/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Ksway Publishing, BMI (J.Morgan, B.Anderson, W.L.Bundy, L.Vaughan) **28**

G

GONNA LOVE YOU Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs By Slip Joint, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Camp James Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Major Bob Productions, BMI (M.Thomas, D.Fanning, A.Deane, A.Sheridan) **10**

GUY FOR THAT Posty Publishing, GMR/Universal Music Works, GMR/Bell Ear Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI (A.R.Post, L.B.Bell, Charlie Handsome, L.Combs, J.McNair, E.K.Smith, J.J.Hoskins) **26**

H

HEAVENS TO BETSY Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Well That Was Awkward Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Daddy's Home Music, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Dean, B.Davis, D.Williams) **57**

HIGH ROAD Yellabush Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Kenny + Betty Tunes, LLC, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Gabe Simon Music Publishing, ASCAP/Escondido House Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jessie Murph Publishing Designee, BMI/Laura Veltz Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Josh Serrato Publishing Designee, ASCAP (R.Wetzel, A.R.Allen, G.Simon, C.Karipinen, J.Murph, L.J.Veltz, J.Serrato) **20**

HOLY SMOKES Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/I/Fart Creations, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/This Is Chromatic Music, BMI/MT ROOM, SESAC/Melodies Of CMT Outlander, SESAC/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Lil Sebastian Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, B.M.Stennis, L.Hungate, M.Tyler) **34**

HOMETOWN HOME BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webslinger Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Relative Red Music, BMI/Biggor Bendable Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (C.Lucas, P.C.Brust, A.Albert, Z.Abend) **42**

I

I AIN'T SAYIN' Concord Copyrights, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Trash Man Songs, SOCAN/Highway 76 Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jett Wilde Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bid Dill Songs LLC, SOCAN (T.P.Wood, S.Moakler, M.L.Holman, E.Reid) **32**

I AM NOT OKAY Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Track & Feels Publishing Designee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (J.B.DeFord, T.Phillips, A.G.Gorley, C.Brown) **5**

I HAD SOME HELP Posty Publishing, GMR/Universal Music Works, GMR/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Bell Ear Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/ERN's Cadillac Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.R.Post, M.C.Wallen, L.B.Bell, Charlie Handsome, E.K.Smith, J.J.Hoskins, C.P.Walters, A.G.Gorley) **7**

I'M GONNA LOVE YOU Meaux Mercy, BMI/Moody Producer Music, BMI/Capitol CMG Paragon, BMI/Concord Road, BMI/Stars And Stripes And Maple Leaf Music, BMI/Crack The Glass Songs, BMI/I'm About To Go RED On Ya Music, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI (C.Stevens, K.Archer, T.Denning) **21**

I TRIED A RING ON Songs Of Smack, BMI/Lily Lyrics Publishing, BMI/Sleighbells Ring Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (K.J.Slaubaugh, K.J.Slaubaugh, P.Good, J.Jenkins) **45**

J

JUST TO SAY WE DID Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Basura Music, BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/N2D Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Carol Vincent And Associates, LLC, ASCAP/SongsOfJ, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP (K.Chesney, D.L.Murphy, Brett James, M.Dragstrom) **29**

L

LIES LIES LIES Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/I Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/Tompkins Family Vacation, ASCAP (J.J.Dillon, J.Miller, D.Ross, C.Tompkins) **9**

LIFE WITH YOU Mike Curb Music, BMI/Hits From The Hart, BMI/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Indeciso Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/CTM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP (K.Hart, K.Schienger, S.Stepakoff) **36**

LOVE THE LEAVIN' Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Nepasongs, ASCAP (D.Parker, M.J.Rogers, L.Rimes) **60**

LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Little Brocephus Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Slip, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Turtle Garden Publishing, BMI/Southern Boy Songs Worldwide, BMI/Jacob Rice Publishing, BMI (R.Akins, B.Hayslip, J.T.Minton, J.Rice) **2**

M

MESSED UP AS ME Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments, GMR/Smackstack Music, GMR/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Quivira Road Songs, BMI/Twelve6 Red Oak Songs, BMI/Still Between The Pines, BMI (J.J.Dillon, S.McAnally, R.Clawson, M.Lotten) **17**

MILES ON IT Marshmellow Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Family Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Torrey Songs, BMI/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/Cirkt Breaker Ventures, ASCAP/Iamcastle Music Publishing, BMI/Chumba Music, BMI/Kobalt Music Services Ltd., PRS/Songs Of Spirit UK Ltd, PRS/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI (Marshmello, K.Brown, J.Torrey, R.McDonough, C.McDonough, Castle, N.J.Gale, T.Eriksen) **4**

O

ONE BAD HABIT Smacksters Music, ASCAP/Holy Ship Music, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Ice House Tunes, ASCAP/CTM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bellamaria, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (M.Beeson, A.Eshuis, T.Lane) **14**

OVER WHEN WE'RE SOBER Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Indiana Angel Music, BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Magnolia Dawn Music, SESAC (B.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, J.B.DeFord, J.T.Wilson) **52**

P

PARK T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI/Songs Of Influence, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Torrey Song Vibeze, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (G.R.Hubbard, J.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, C.Smith) **55**

POUR ME A DRINK Posty Publishing, GMR/Universal Music Works, GMR/Bell Ear Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI (A.R.Post, L.B.Bell, Charlie Handsome, J.Byron, R.H.Black, J.Dozzi) **1**

S

SINGLE AGAIN W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Allen Hill Songs, GMR/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Core Publishing, LLC, BMI/Josh Ross Publishing Designee, BMI/Real Bad Songs, SESAC (J.Ross, J.A.Fox, B.Rempel) **48**

SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Little Ace Music, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, W.McCubbin) **19**

T

THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (C.Stapleton) **18**

THIS HEART Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Madiun Music, BMI/Oconee River Bank Music, BMI/Bollingersey Shore, SESAC/T Vill Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Titanium Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CMT Outlander, SESAC (T.Archer, W.B.Bollinger, J.A.Hackworth, M.Tyler) **54**

THIS IS MY DIRT Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulwood Music, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Anthem Songs Of Countrywood, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Full Draw Publishing, BMI (J.Moore, P.D.Giovanni, R.Montana, J.S.Stover) **8**

THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Ken Rainey Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI (D.Scott, A.G.Gorley, Charlie Handsome, J.Byron, T.Phillips) **31**

TRUCK ON FIRE BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Redfeather Publishing, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETPublishing, BMI (C.Pearce, J.A.Ebach, C.Kelley) **47**

W

WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Backkilla Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hubcap Music, BMI/T Tree Music, BMI/Ingram House Music, BMI/Queens Write Hits, BMI/Songs Of Hit Vibeze Music, BMI (C.Janson, B.Hubbard, T.R.Hubbard, J.Ingram, R.Lynn) **35**

WHAT KINDA MAN Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/WRUCKENROLLMUSIC, BMI/Music Of CMT Outlander Music LP, BMI (P.McCollum, J.N.Spillman, N.Hembry) **58**

WHISKEY DRINK BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/Triple Play Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonic Music, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **40**

WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back Block Music, BMI/Combustion Music, BMI/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC (T.Archer, T.P.Wetmore, L.ClaCorte) **22**

WRANGLERS WC Music Corp., ASCAP/AMAEB, ASCAP/Ryan Keith Carpenter Publishing Designee, ASCAP (A.M.Butts, E.McKeever, R.K.Carpenter) **38**

Y

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/ONE TOOTH PRODUCTIONS, BMI/Riley Green Publishing Designee, BMI (E.Langley, A.Raitiere, R.Green) **12**

ISSUE DATE
10/26/24

AEG
PRESENTS

LIVE NATION

MOODY
CENTER

TACOMA
DOME

25 Scotiabank
Arena

#LIVESUMMIT

NOVEMBER 14

BillboardLiveMusicSummit.com

billboard
LIVE MUSIC
SUMMIT + AWARDS

In November, for the first time ever, *Billboard* will honor the 100 most powerful people in the concert business at the Billboard Live Music Summit & Awards, which returns to Los Angeles on Nov. 14 as a must-attend event for the decision-makers and thought leaders shaping the future of the touring industry.

The 2024 Touring Power Players will be recognized in the Oct. 26 print issue of *Billboard* and celebrated at the Live Music Summit, which will include panel discussions and award presentations to the year's most visionary leaders worldwide.

Advertise in this issue to reach agents, artists, managers, venues, promoters and event producers. **Congratulate the 2024 Live Music Power Players, as well as the Legend of Live, Executive of the Year, lifetime achievement honoree and the Top Tour.**

BONUS DISTRIBUTION:

Billboard Live Music Summit & Awards 11/14

ON SALE: 10/26

AD CLOSE: 10/15 / **MATERIALS DUE:** 10/17

CONTACT:

East Coast/Midwest: Joe Maimone
joe.maimone@billboard.com

Latin: Marcia Olival
marciaolival29@gmail.com

Touring and West Coast: Cynthia Mellow
cmellow615@gmail.com

Southeast: Lee Ann Photoglo
laphotoglo@gmail.com

International: Ryan O'Donnell
rodonnell@pmc.com

COUNTRY

30 Years Ago Toby Keith Was The 'Man' At No. 1

In 1994, the iconic singer-songwriter notched his second of 20 Hot Country Songs leaders

On Oct. 8, 1994, **Toby Keith's** "Who's That Man" ascended to No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. It became the second of his 20 career leaders, among 42 top 10s.

The hit, which Keith wrote, was released as the lead single from his sophomore set, *Boomtown*, his first of 24 top 10s on the Top Country Albums chart, where his total includes 10 No. 1s.

Born July 8, 1961, in Clinton, Okla., Keith signed to Mercury Records in 1993. He led Hot Country Songs that June with his first entry, and one of his signature songs,

"Should've Been a Cowboy."

Brashly outspoken about his political opinions and an avid supporter of the military, Keith played events for U.S. presidents and the USO.

In 2021, Keith was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. He died Feb. 5 after battling stomach cancer. On Oct. 20, he will be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, along with **John Anderson** and guitar master **James Burton**. The ceremony will be held at the hall's CMA Theater in Nashville.

—JIM ASKER

Keith in 1994.

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

WEEK	WEEKS ON CHART	WEEKS TO NO. 1	WEEKS TO NO. 1	TITLE	ARTIST
WEEK	WEEKS ON CHART	WEEKS TO NO. 1	WEEKS TO NO. 1	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
1	3	9	11	WHO'S THAT MAN N. LARKIN, H. SHEDD (T. KEITH)	★ ★ ★ No. 1 ★ ★ ★ 1 week at No. 1 ♦ TOBY KEITH (C) (V) POLYDOR 853 358
2	2	2	13	DOWN ON THE FARM J. STROUD, B. GALLIMORE (R. K. PHILLIPS, J. LASETER)	♦ TIM MCGRAW CURB ALBUM CUT
3	1	1	13	THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN J. SLATE, J. DIFFIE (J. GREENEBAUM, S. WHIPPLE, T. MARTIN)	♦ JOE DIFFIE (C) (V) EPIC 77577
4	11	13	7	SHE'S NOT THE CHEATIN' KIND D. COOK, S. HENDRICKS (R. DUNN)	♦ BROOKS & DUNN (V) ARISTA 1-2740
5	6	10	14	CALLIN' BATON ROUGE A. REYNOLDS (D. LINDSEY)	♦ CARTH BROOKS LIBERTY ALBUM CUT
6	8	11	14	I TRY TO THINK ABOUT ELVIS	♦ PATTY LOVELESS