

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Creators Prep For Donald Trump's Second Term And Its Potential Impact On Freedom Of Speech

With the inauguration of a new president just six weeks away, many in country music's creative community recognize they have a role to play.

In his first administration, **Donald Trump** was frighteningly comfortable making life difficult for people who exercised their First Amendment freedom of speech rights — threatening, for example, to revoke TV licenses over negative coverage and calling for a federal investigation of *Saturday Night Live* over a skit.

For his second administration, Trump and some of his cabinet nominees have vowed to exact revenge on his perceived enemies, including journalists whose coverage he deems unflattering. Some former White House staff and advisers say Trump aspires to rule as an autocrat.

Songwriters, artists and musicians — like reporters — make their living transmitting messages, and many are aware that on certain days, they may be led to create music that might seem contrary to a thin-skinned ruler. Do they self-edit and slink to the next subject? Or do they stand up and speak their piece?

Songwriter **Dan Wilson**, who co-wrote **Chris Stapleton's** "White Horse," which won the Country Music Association's single and song of the year, is familiar with the issue. He worked with **The Chicks**, co-writing the Grammy-winning

"Not Ready To Make Nice" after they were booted out of country's mainstream for criticizing then-President **George W. Bush** and the Iraq War.

"As I've learned firsthand in the past, criticizing the president can be a fraught and dangerous thing to do," Wilson said on the red carpet before the CMA Awards. "Generally, doing

what artists do anyway, which is pointing things out that no one else will talk about, that could be a dangerous thing to do, but I don't think that's going to stop."

Most songwriters, particularly in country music, don't address political topics in their work on a regular basis.

And plenty of those creators — when pressed in recent weeks on how Trump's return to the White House might influence their art — shrugged off the subject, saying they were apolitical or didn't feel comfortable talking about it publicly.

But others were particularly sensitive about the subject. In the past, Trump has incited his followers to intimidate his detractors, and many see his return to office as a threat to their personal freedoms and, possibly, to their safety. Artists are already acutely aware of the potential reaction of the audience and media gatekeepers.

"You always think about that stuff," **Phil Vassar** noted at



WILLIAMS



WILSON



WORSHAM

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the ASCAP Country Awards red carpet. “You’re writing songs — ‘Can I say that in a song?’”

Under normal conditions, songwriters ask that question to avoid commercial and/or artistic repercussions. But in authoritarian regimes, expression is tightly guarded, creating additional emotional hurdles. In Russia, the population is famously loath to speak ill of top government officials. **Vladimir Putin** has jailed artists whose music opposes his rule. In Afghanistan, music has been outlawed in its entirety.

“The arts are frightening because the arts reveal people to themselves,” **Rosanne Cash** said at a Dec. 4 party for her new Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum exhibit, “Rosanne Cash: Time Is a Mirror.” “The arts are inherently political in that bigger sense, that it changes people and wakes them up.”

Not everyone sees the incoming administration as a threat. **Jason Aldean**, **Chris Janson** and **Brian Kelley** all participated in the Republican Convention in July, and Big Loud artist **Lauryn Watkins** is hopeful that “we are going to have more freedom of speech.”

Meanwhile, **Julie Williams**, a mixed-race, queer artist, is already concerned about being canceled by emboldened conservatives under a Trump administration. The day after the election, she wasn’t convinced she had the strength to play a Nov. 7 show celebrating her new EP, *Tennessee Moon*. But the audience response helped her recognize that her songs might be even more important over the next four years.

“For me, when I get a chance to be onstage and sing songs about growing up in the South or my queer journey, it makes me feel like I have a little bit of control, a little bit of power, over what’s happening in the world,” she said on the CMA Awards carpet. “While I can’t change what’s happening at the national level at the moment, at my shows, I can help create an environment that people feel like they belong, that they feel like there’s somebody that loves them, and just to share my stories and hope that the audience hears themselves in it.”

It’s not only the songwriters and artists who sense they have a mission. Found Sound Media founder **Becky Parsons**, who specializes in management and PR for women and minority artists, is encouraging her acts — including **Sarahbeth Taite** and **Fimone** — to present themselves authentically through their art. And she intends to do that herself.

“I’m not going to be silent,” Parsons said on the CMA Awards carpet. “I’m not going to sit down and play by your rules. I’m going to break your rules. I’m going to create the world that I want to see. Not everybody has the luxury to do that, but thankfully, I do, and that’s the kind of future in country music and the world that I want to see.”

For many artists, the mission headed into the new administration is less about confrontation than about bringing disparate people together. **Willie Nelson** famously did that by attracting an audience of cowboys, college students and hippies with country music in the mid-1970s. Today, **The War and Treaty**, **Charlie Worsham**, **Home Free**, **Frank Ray** and **Niko Moon** aim to

act as a bridge between communities.

“I’m kind of over being on any one team, and I’m ready to talk to people — especially people that I don’t agree with — and better understand what their plight is,” Worsham said on the CMA carpet. “And I think country music is uniquely poised to speak to this moment.”

Moon is similarly dedicated to putting “love and positivity out there into the world.”

“We’re living in strange times,” he said, “but that doesn’t mean we have to be strangers. We’re more similar than we are different.”

That said, if Trump follows the Project 2025 agenda, as many fear he may, it is likely to embolden his most ardent supporters, who have at times resorted to violence — in Charlottesville, Va., in 2016 or in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, to name two examples.

It would be easy, in such an atmosphere, for cultural groups under siege to withdraw from the public space. But that’s all the more reason, openly gay country artist **Chris Housman** said, for creatives to speak out. He concedes that he went into a mini-depression after the election and admits that he’s among the faction of Americans who considered leaving the country. But he’s not going anywhere.

“I get so much inspiration and motivation out of challenging stuff and uncertainty and being uncomfortable,” Housman said on the CMA carpet. “It kind of feels like it’s ground zero here in the South, and in America in general, right now. If everybody leaves, if all the queer people leave, then it’s not going to change anything. So I’m just trying to dig in for that motivation and inspiration.”

Digging in against an autocrat is not comfortable. But staying quiet has consequences, too. As **Thomas Jefferson** noted, “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for men of good conscience to remain silent.” Creatives who self-censor to avoid controversy might make their lives a little easier for the short-term, but they also won’t make much of a long-term difference. Artists who stood up in the past — such as **Bob Dylan**, **Woody Guthrie**, **Bob Marley** and **Johnny Cash** — influenced the eras in which they made their music, but they also helped to improve future generations’ understanding of their times.

“A lot of the reason that we are able to remember fascists and dictators is because of the work of creatives, because of the work that we’ve done in documenting things from our authentic perspective,” said Supreme Republic Entertainment founder **Brittney Boston**, whose clients include rapper **DAX** and country singer **Carmen Dianne**. “I think it’s really important as an artist right now to be honest, to write from your heart, because a lot of people are going to be too scared to do that, and people are going to be craving that authenticity.”

If nothing else, the creative class has an opportunity as Trump moves into office threatening retribution. On those occasions when artists or songwriters have something to say, but hold back to avoid scrutiny, they chip away at their own freedoms. Those who decline to self-censor their work often discover a greater sense of empowerment, even as they continue a free-speech tradition that was etched into the Constitution.

“You find the limits of your courage, don’t you?” Rosanne Cash said rhetorically. “Let’s just go for it.” ●



COOPER NORLAND

Having announced **MuttNation Foundation's inaugural Idyllwind Award on Dec. 3**, **Miranda Lambert (left)** presented **Arizona's Lucky Break Rescue founder Cait Luca \$25,000**.



COLE BARNHILL

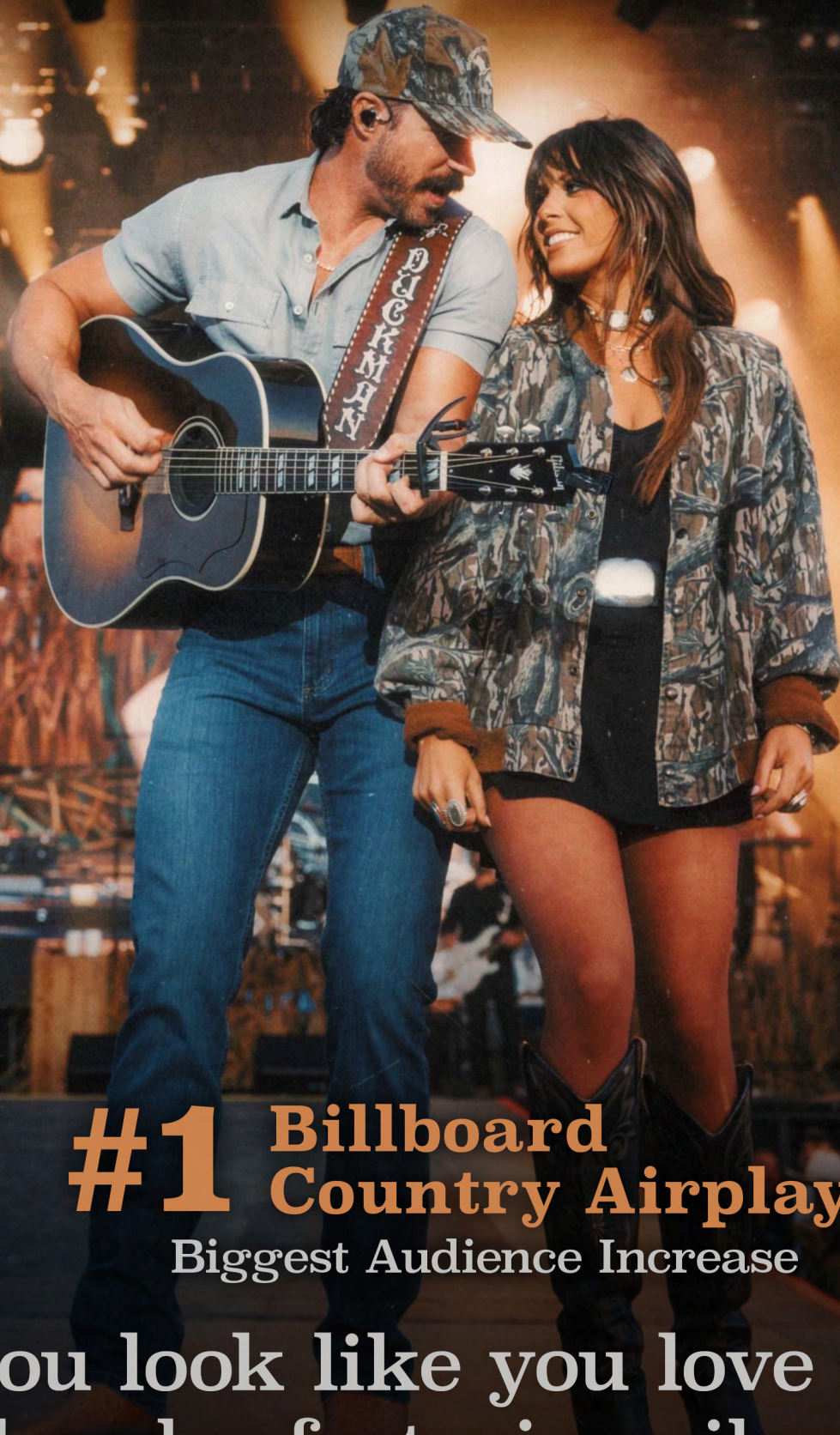
Songwriter **Rhett Akins** signed a publishing deal with **Jonas Group Publishing**, which also acquired an unspecified number of songs from his catalog. **Warner Chappell** will continue to administer his works. From left: **Jonas Group Publishing senior creative director Emily Peacock**, **Jonas Group founder/chairman Kevin Jonas**, **Akins**, **Jonas Group president George Kreis** and **Jonas Group Publishing president Leslie DiPiero**.



BRETT CARLSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Rosanne Cash (left) counted **Emmylou Harris** among the guests at a **Dec. 4 launch party** for her **Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum exhibit**, “**Rosanne Cash: Time Is a Mirror**.”

Thank you, Country Radio!



#1 Billboard
Country Airplay

Biggest Audience Increase

you look like you love me
ella langley featuring riley green



billboard Country Airplay

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

Ella Langley And Riley Green's 'You Look Like You Love Me' Sidles Up To No. 1 On Country Airplay

Ella Langley's "You Look Like You Love Me" (SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor), featuring Riley Green, leaps from No. 7 to No. 1 on Billboard's Country Airplay chart (dated Dec. 14). The song, which the pair penned with Aaron Raitiere, increased by 18% to 26.5 million audience impressions Nov. 29-Dec. 5, according to Luminate. (The six-spot leap ties for the third-greatest to the top in the chart's nearly 35-year history.)

Langley lands her first Country Airplay No. 1 with her second entry. "Strangers," with Kameron Marlowe, spent one week at No. 56 in July. Green nets his second chart-topper, following his featured turn on Thomas Rhett's "Half of Me," which led for one week in November 2022.

Meanwhile, for the first time in 2024, a woman artist rules Country Airplay. Lainey Wilson last led among women, as featured on Jelly Roll's "Save Me," for two weeks in December. Langley is the first female to reign in a lead role also since Wilson, who spent three weeks at No. 1 in October 2023 with "Watermelon Moonshine." Langley ends the longest break — 51 weeks — between women topping the chart since 2003-04.



CAYLEE ROBILLOARD LANGLEY

NEW TOP 10s Morgan Wallen banks his 18th Country Airplay top 10 as "Love Somebody" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) lifts 11-9 (20 million, up 10%). The song is the second single from his upcoming album, following "Lies Lies Lies," which topped the Nov. 23-dated chart, becoming his 15th No. 1 — and his annual high for any artist.

Plus, Tucker Wetmore's "Wind Up Missin' You" (Back Blocks/EMI Nashville) becomes the singer-songwriter's first Country Airplay top 10 as it hops 12-10 (18.1 million, up 4%). The 25-year-old previously charted with "Wine Into Whiskey" (No. 56 peak, May). *Waves on a Sunset*, the debut collection from the Kalama, Wash., native — who boasts 1.2 million TikTok followers — reached No. 18 on Top Country Albums in October. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	+4.059
HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	+2.112
LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.773
LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1.513
4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.289
BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	+0.987
TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	+0.849
I NEVER LIE Leo33	Zach Top	+0.807
HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	+0.759
FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	+0.741

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	+1280
BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	+552
LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+496
HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	+453
LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+433
GUY FOR THAT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	+360
4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+305
MESSED UP AS ME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	+297
COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	+270
I'M GONNA LOVE YOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	+227

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	19.049
2	LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.889
3	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	18.709
4	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	14.486
5	CHEVROLET Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	13.236
6	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	11.988
7	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	10.574
8	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	Drew Baldridge	9.318
9	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	9.045
10	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	8.761



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 5, 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	KEEPIN ME ALIVE (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Matt Daniel	1778	220	11	14	15	ONE MORE FOR THE RIDE (Independent)	Ryder Grimes	1053	34
2	3	19	PAIN AND SORROW (Independent)	Matt Castillo	1546	89	12	15	11	MORE AFRAID OF LIVING (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	1042	29
3	4	22	TWO WAY DRIVE (River House)	Hudson Westbrook	1527	86	13	13	24	90SVILLE (Synapse)	Derryl Perry	983	-39
4	6	17	FRONT PORCH IN THE RAIN (Independent)	Hayden Haddock	1440	109	14	16	19	THIS COULD BE LOVE (Independent)	Kaitlyn Kohler feat. Jamie Richards	941	49
5	5	26	BEER'S BETTER ON A BOAT (Independent)	Clay Hollis & Jesse Raub, Jr.	1335	2	15	8	22	WHEELS (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	922	-286
6	7	12	FRIDAY NIGHT (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1294	33	16	17	9	ARE YOU WITH ME (Independent)	Case Hardin	912	79
7	10	21	ROPE THE WIND (Rockin R)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1232	74	17	18	14	HER WAY AIN'T THE HIGHWAY (Independent)	Jake Bush	909	82
8	9	22	RIDE OR DIE (Independent)	James Robert Webb	1213	35	18	20	19	DON'T ASK ME TO DANCE (Independent)	Chuck Wimer	846	47
9	11	15	HILL COUNTRY HOME (Independent)	Kyle Park	1188	35	19	22	9	GOOD AGAIN, AMEN (Independent)	Keller Cox	845	82
10	12	12	GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1160	44	20	23	13	STAINED YOUR CROWN (Independent)	Bart Crow Band	835	88

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2024, Texas Regional Radio Report

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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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	7	20	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor ★★ No. 1 (1 Week)/Most Increased Audience ★★	Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	26.468	+4.059	7721	1280	1
2	2	26	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	26.105	-1.759	6051	-337	5
3	4	40	COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	25.360	+0.677	7152	270	2
4	6	21	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	25.049	+2.112	6900	453	3
5	3	24	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	23.983	-1.926	5868	-423	7
6	1	57	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Parmalee	23.492	-5.316	6302	-1706	4
7	5	32	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	22.069	-0.909	5497	-83	8
8	10	48	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	20.908	+0.987	6024	552	6
9	11	7	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	20.070	+1.773	5345	496	9
10	12	28	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Back Blocks/EMI Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	18.118	+0.654	5059	217	10
11	14	44	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	17.031	+0.612	4924	127	11
12	15	40	MESSED UP AS ME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	13.801	+0.579	4309	297	12
13	16	20	GUY FORT THAT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	13.615	+0.627	3772	360	14
14	18	14	4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	12.803	+1.289	3706	305	15
15	17	38	DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	12.457	-0.283	3923	-43	13
16	20	20	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	11.157	+0.582	3485	187	16
17	19	42	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	10.907	+0.088	3459	161	17
18	21	39	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb ★★ Airpower ★★	Dylan Scott	9.261	+0.458	2821	180	19
19	22	34	FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	9.065	+0.653	2658	163	21
20	23	33	FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow ★★ Airpower ★★	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	9.049	+0.741	2984	178	18
21	26	4	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	8.194	+1.513	2318	433	24
22	24	47	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	8.042	-0.125	2804	-25	20
23	27	3	TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	7.526	+0.849	2024	213	27
24	28	27	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	7.404	+0.759	2401	120	23
25	25	10	I'M GONNA LOVE YOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	7.350	+0.328	2464	227	22
26	29	25	HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	6.399	+0.175	2111	114	25
27	30	21	JUST TO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	5.447	+0.309	1920	116	28
28	33	8	I NEVER LIE Leo33 ★★ Breaker ★★	Zach Top	5.275	+0.807	1301	217	38
29	31	16	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	5.030	+0.268	1471	75	32
30	32	19	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	4.909	+0.303	1867	134	29

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.

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	34	36	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	4.899	+0.494	2041	188	26
32	36	5	BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	4.114	+0.150	1122	104	39
33	35	39	WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Nashville Harbor	Chris Janson	4.059	-0.009	1762	44	30
34	37	23	COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	3.860	+0.340	1447	138	33
35	38	31	WRANGLERS Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert	3.198	-0.128	1604	7	31
36	39	24	COWBOYS CRY TOO Black River	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan	3.154	-0.046	1436	-34	34
37	40	19	TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	3.130	+0.062	1360	104	36
38	42	36	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	3.126	+0.205	1396	3	35
39	41	26	FALL OF SUMMER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	2.910	-0.072	1357	24	37
40	44	13	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	2.371	+0.106	902	7	43
41	43	11	HEAVENSTO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	2.324	+0.046	956	9	42
42	45	5	TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldridge	2.294	+0.142	975	55	41
43	48	16	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	2.168	+0.256	982	55	40
44	47	13	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	2.126	+0.137	843	59	45
45	46	26	EVERYTHING I NEED 19/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	1.885	-0.187	893	-19	44
46	49	6	RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	1.687	+0.069	638	38	49
47	50	14	BONES Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	1.661	+0.108	776	35	46
48	55	12	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	1.631	+0.272	743	51	47
49	52	10	TRUCK STILL WORKS Loaded Goat/EMI Nashville	Brad Paisley	1.515	+0.066	635	40	50
50	51	24	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	1.423	-0.037	600	1	51
51	56	4	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	1.358	+0.032	553	45	55
52	58	17	OVER WHEN WE'RE SOBER Valory	Brantley Gilbert Featuring Ashley Cooke	1.319	+0.057	683	4	48
53	54	3	COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	1.303	-0.090	537	47	56
54	57	15	LOVE THE LEAVIN' Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Drew Parker	1.223	-0.051	492	-9	58
55	53	19	DEVIL YOU KNOW Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Tyler Braden	1.157	-0.271	424	-43	-
56	RE-ENTRY		WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	1.029	+0.262	463	61	59
57	59	2	I COULD BETHAT RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Randall King	0.923	-0.036	561	6	54
58	60	3	BETTER THAN YOU Quartz Hill/Stone Country	Joe Nichols / Annie Bosko	0.900	+0.057	585	5	52
59	NEW		DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Chase Matthew	0.881	+0.047	421	36	-
60	NEW		HIGHWAY American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	0.796	+0.275	518	96	57



Kassi Ashton performed Nov. 25 during a KWEN Tulsa (Okla.) Boots & Barstools show. From left: KWEN director of branding and programming Matt Bradley, Ashton, KWEN assistant director of branding and programming Jenny Law and MCA Nashville director of Midwest promotion Donna Passuntino.



Koe Wetzel had dinner with KSCS/KPLX Dallas staff on Dec. 2 while supporting his Jessie Murph collaboration, "High Road." From left: RECORDS Nashville executive vp of promotion Josh Easler, KSCS/KPLX PD Mike Preston, Wetzel, KSCS assistant PD/music director Al Farb and RECORDS Nashville senior director of national promotion David "Bubba" Berry.

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2025

67TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS® PROGRAM BOOK

The Recording Academy® represents the voices of performers, songwriters, producers, engineers and all music professionals. Dedicated to ensuring the recording arts remain a thriving part of our shared cultural heritage, the academy celebrates artistic excellence through the GRAMMY Awards® – music's only peer-recognized accolade and highest achievement. As the world's leading society of music professionals, the academy works year-round to foster a more inspiring world for creators.

Get your brand in front of 12,000-plus Recording Academy members, GRAMMY® voters and music industry professionals in the GRAMMY Awards® Program Book, produced by *Billboard*. The program book will be distributed at multiple locations throughout GRAMMY® Week, including the nominees reception and GRAMMY® House, a new experiential activation for music creators.

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ISSUE DATE 1/18 | AD CLOSE 1/6 | MATERIALS DUE 1/8

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

Corey Kent caught up with several broadcasters when he performed Nov. 21 at the Buckhead Theater in Atlanta. From left: Cox Media Group (CMG) executive vp of radio Rob Babin, CMG Radio vp of audience and operations Chris Eagan, Kent, RCA Nashville regional promotion manager Southeast Ali O'Connell and WUBL Atlanta personality Jeremy "Otis" Maher.

'ROUND THE ROW

Opry Entertainment Group hired **Gary Scott** as senior vp/COO. He was previously a principal in Ridgeline Hospitality Group ... Downtown Artist & Label Services Nashville promoted **Jeanette Porcello** to director of A&R from senior manager ... PLA Media hired senior media relations manager **Krista Dykes**. It marks a return to Music Row for the former Country Music Association media relations manager, who is host/executive producer of the *Secret Mom Hacks* podcast ... Concert/management veteran **Troy "Tracker" Johnson** will launch Track mgmt in January 2025 in partnership with Live Nation. Johnson has served as a tour manager for **Morgan Wallen**, **HARDY** and **Florida Georgia Line**, among others. The initial staff includes managers **Emily Smith** and **Drew Magid**, both of whom were previously managers at Big Loud. The initial TRACK roster includes **HARDY**, **Dallas Smith**, **Jake Worthington** and **McCoy Moore**. Moore also enlisted The Neal Agency for concert booking and artist development ... Business management firm O'Neil Hagaman promoted **Tiffany Wiggers** to principal from manager ... **Emily Ann Roberts** signed a publishing deal with Jody Williams Songs and Warner Chappell Nashville ... Artist-writer **Dallas Slade** entered a joint-venture publishing agreement with Warner Chappell Nashville and **Alexander Palmer's** 1 Track Music ... WME added EMPIRE recording artist **CeCe** to its booking roster ... **Parker McCollum** was added to the lineup for the CBS special *New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash*. He'll join the telecast from a Dec. 31 event at Brooklyn Bowl, with SiriusXM personalities **Cody Alan** and **Caylee Hammack** participating ... Girlilla Marketing founder/CEO **Jennie Smythe** will publish her autobiography, *Becoming Girlilla: My Journey to Unleashing Good — In Real Life, Online, and in Others*, on April 15 through Simon & Schuster's Resolve Editions ... The Billboard Music Awards air Dec. 12 on Fox, Paramount+ and Amazon's Fire. **Jelly Roll**, **Megan Moroney** and **Teddy Swims** are among the announced performers ... The Country Music Association heads to the United Kingdom in March for its annual C2C: Country to Country Festival, launching the next edition with a *CMA Songwriters Series* show in London on March 13. **Darius Rucker** will host with appearances by **Jessi Alexander**, **Wyatt Flores**, **Mickey Guyton** and **Tucker Wetmore** ... The Birthplace of Country Music Museum in Bristol, Tenn.-Va., received the American Association for State and Local History's award for excellence in honor of its exhibit "I've Endured: Women in Old-Time Music" ... *Bluegrass Underground* creator **Todd Mayo** and roots-music journalist **Craig Havighurst** will be featured in a Dec. 12 installment of WHO KNEW's *The Smartest People in the Room* webcast series. Go [here](#) to sign up for free ... Songwriter **Nicolle Galyon** presents a Jan. 18 fundraiser, *Nicolle Galyon & Friends*, at the Fox Theatre in her hometown of Hutchinson, Kan. **Rodney Clawson**, **Will Bundy**, **Lauren Watkins** and **RaeLynn** guest at the show, with proceeds earmarked for the firstborn fund, aiding the local community ... The Academy of Country Music's ACM Lifting Lives foundation

awarded grants to 20 beneficiaries, including 10 memory-care agencies funded through **Scott** and **Sandi Borchetta's** Music Has Value. Among the 20 recipients are Abe's Garden Community, Musicians On Call, the Children's Eye Foundation and the Country Music Foundation.

RADIO & RECORDS®

BMG promoted **Katie Kerkhover** to Frontline Recordings North America senior vp of A&R from BBR Music Group vp of A&R. The Nashville-based executive will split her time between Music City and Los Angeles ... Big Loud Records promoted **Stefanie Carter** to senior vp of finance from vice president ... **Chris Young** joined the artist roster at Black River ... **The Band Light**, a four-piece act formed in suburban Spring Hill, Tenn., signed a recording deal with Red Van and a songwriting agreement with Jonas Group Publishing ... Waco, Texas, talent **James Hollingsworth** signed a recording contract with Big Mac Entertainment, a Southeast Texas-based label with distribution through Virgin/Intercept ... Country trio **Due West** enlisted GrassRoots Promotion for management, promotion and marketing of its album *Unbroken*, co-written and produced by **Dean Dillon** ... **KPLX** Dallas personality **Ryan Fox** will take over as the host of Westwood One's *American Country Countdown* beginning the weekend of Jan. 4-5, 2025. He replaces **Kix Brooks**, who concludes an 18-year run in the high-profile position during the weekend of Dec. 28-29 ... Westwood One introduces a syndicated, five-hour evening show with the Dec. 31 launch of *Country Nights Live With Bev Rainey*. The host is currently **KRST** Albuquerque, N.M., PD/midday personality ... Guaranty Media/Baton Rouge, La., promoted **Michelle Southern** to operations manager for the cluster, including country **WTGE**, **RadioInk.com** reported. Southern was already employed in the market group as classic rock **WDGL** PD/afternoon host ... **KIZN** Boise, Idaho, assistant PD/music director/morning co-host **Alana Lynn** resigned to take a job outside of broadcasting, according to **RadioInsight.com** ... **KMLE** Phoenix morning co-host **Gunner Jackson** concluded a five-year stint with the station, **RadioInsight.com** reported ... Premiere Networks is offering a four-hour holiday package, *After MidNite With Granger Smith Presents: A Smith Family Christmas Special*, for broadcast Dec. 20-31 ... Voting for performers on Country Radio Seminar's 2025 New Faces of Country Music Show closes Dec. 6. Five acts will be selected from a slate of 10: **Ashley Cooke**, **Bryan Martin**, **Chase Matthew**, **Chayce Beckham**, **Dasha**, **Drew Baldrige**, **Dylan Marlowe**, **Tucker Wetmore**, **Warren Zeiders** and **Zach Top** ... Radio promotion veteran **Sam Cerami** died Nov. 28. After launching his career in 1954 at Decca, where he took part in breaking the seminal **Billy Haley & His Comets** single "Rock Around the Clock," Cerami worked for at least a half-dozen labels, contributing to the careers of **Garth Brooks**, **Donna Fargo**, **Kenny Rogers**, **Toby Keith** and **Alan Jackson**, among others. A celebration of life and dinner is planned in Cerami's honor on Dec. 18 at the Hilton Green Hills in Nashville. RSVP [here](#) to attend. ●



Ashley Cooke was among the guests for *Christmas at Belmont: Live From Nashville*, premiering Dec. 11 on Amazon Prime and Amazon Music. From left: Taillight TV executive producer Tom Forrest; artists **Dwan Hill**, **Cooke** and **Cody Fry**; and Belmont University president **Dr. Greg Jones**.

JANUARY 25, 2025

billboard

POWER 100

CELEBRATING THE POWER PLAYERS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

The 2025 **BILLBOARD POWER 100** will celebrate the executives who are creating excitement and making a difference in the global music industry. Featured will be those who have had the greatest impact in recorded music, live entertainment, touring, publishing and other industry verticals within in the past year.

Take this opportunity to congratulate the 2025 Billboard Power 100 honorees. Your ad will reach an influential and affluent audience of decision-makers in the global music industry.

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ISSUE DATE 1/25 | AD CLOSE 1/14 | MATERIALS DUE 1/12

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) **14**

A

AM I OKAY? Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiano Music, SESAC/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.Dillon) **29**

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BACKSEAT DRIVER Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River Music, ASCAP/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Seeker From The Speaker Music, BMI/On Cor Music, BMI (J.Davis, J.Walker) **32**

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BETTER THAN YOU Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Pickin' Padre Music, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP (D.George, J.Pierce) **58**

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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/HOME team Harmonies, BMI/Tunes Of TrailerParker, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI (R. Dickerson, C.LaCorte, P.Welling, C.McCall) **47**

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) **8**

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/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) **22**

C

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.Jursi, S.McAnally) **34**

COUNTRY HOME 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.Cooperman, J.Osbome, S.L.Hunt) **43**

COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southern Kid Music, ASCAP (D.Alley, R.Beaver, N.A.Medley) **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.Ballerin, A.Vanderhey, N.Kahan) **36**

COWBOY SONGS Wide Open, ASCAP/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/PeerMusic III, Ltd., BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Cinq Songs, SESAC/Boom Town Songs, SESAC/More McGinnIntellectual Property, SESAC (G.Birge, M.Tyler, H.McGinn, L.Guzman) **3**

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) **15**

DARLIN' Hunter Huff Publishing Designee, BMI/Ciaran Wilkie Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Verse 2, BMI/Droptime Music, BMI/Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI (A.Maxwell, Chase Matthew, H.Huff, C.Wilkie) **59**

DEVIL YOU KNOW ZDyer Publishing, BMI/Silly Sweater Publishing, ASCAP/Group Projects Writers, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/WritersontheornPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Turntable Music Pub, ASCAP/HALLPASS, ASCAP (G.Barham, Z.Dyer, J.Hall, S.Martinez) **55**

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) **45**

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) **39**

FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Corent Music, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (N.Smith, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, L.Rimes) **51**

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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/WritersontheornPublishing, BMI/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Ksway Publishing, BMI (J.Morgan, B.Anderson, W.L.Bundy, L.Vaughan) **20**

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.Dean, A.Sheridan) **6**

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) **13**

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) **41**

HIGH ROAD Yellabush Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Kenny + Betty Tunes, LLC, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Gabe Simon Pub Designee, ASCAP/Escondido House Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jessie Murph Publishing Designee, BMI/Millicent Hill Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Josh Serrato Publishing Designee, ASCAP (R.Wetzel, A.R.Allen, G.Simon, C.Karpinen, J.Murph, L.Veltz, J.Serrato) **4**

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HOLY SMOKES Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/I!art 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) **26**

HOMETOWN HOME BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Woblinger Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Relative Red Music, BMI/Brieger Bendable Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (C.Lucas, P.C.Brust, A.Albert, Z.Abez) **24**

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 Bill Songs LLC, SOCAN (T.P.Wood, S.Moakier, M.L.Holman, E.Reid) **16**

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) **2**

I COULD BE THAT RAIN Brian Fuller Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Deluge Music, BMI/Mason Thornley Songs, BMI (B.Fuller, M.A.Thornley) **57**

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I NEVER LIE Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broken To Quit Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Music And Magazines Publishing, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, T.Nichols) **28**

J

JUST TO SAY WE DID Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Basura Music, BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/NZD Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Carol Vincent And Associates, LLC, ASCAP/Songsofbi, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP (K.Chesney, D.L.Murphy, Brett James, M.Dragstrom) **27**

L

LIAR Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/TDP Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (J.B.DeFord, B.J.Johnson, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips) **21**

LIFE WITH YOU Mike Curb Music, BMI/Hits From The Hart, BMI/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Indeciso Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/CMT Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP (K.Hart, K.Schienger, S.Stepakoff) **31**

LOVE SOMEBODY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/13117 Music, ASCAP/Elo Loely Publishing Designee, ASCAP/LMC Is The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Stellar Sun Songs, ASCAP/Famous Virgins, Inc., SOCAN/Requie Entertainment, SOCAN (M.C.Wallen, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, J.K.Hindlin, E.Loely, Charlie Handsome, N.J.Gale, M.Sorbara, S.C.Frank, S.F.R.Mastroianni, Y.Guzman) **9**

LOVE THE LEAVIN' Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Sony Accord, ASCAP/Nepasongs, ASCAP (D.Parker, M.J.Rogers, L.Rimes) **52**

M

MESSED UP AS ME Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Time 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) **12**

O

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/Georgia Song VibeZ, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, J.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, C.Smith) **44**

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.Bloch, J.Dazzo) **5**

R

RELAPSE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (W.Zeidlers, B.Pendergrass) **46**

S

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T

TEXAS Songs Of Smack, BMI/CTM Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Kyle Sturrock Music, ASCAP/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CMT Outlander, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC (J.Clawson, K.Sturrock, J.Dorr, L.Guzman) **23**

THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (C.Stapleton) **17**

THIS HEART Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Madfun Music, BMI/Oconee River Bank Music, BMI/Bollingershire Shore, SESAC/T Vill Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Tytanium Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CMT Outlander, SESAC (T.Archer, W.B.Bollinger, J.A.Hackworth, M.Tyler) **50**

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) **18**

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W

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WHAT KINDA MAN Parkermack 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) **47**

WHISKEY DRINK BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/Tripole Play Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishtonsmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **30**

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, C.LaCorte) **10**

WOULD IF I COULD Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **56**

WRANGLERS WC Music Corp., ASCAP/AMAEB, ASCAP/Ryan Keith Carpenter Publishing Designee, ASCAP (A.M.Butts, E.McKeever, R.K.Carpenter) **35**

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) **1**

CODA

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

40 Years Ago Earl Thomas Conley Took A 'Chance' And Won

In 1984, the artist whom Luke Bryan shouts out in his latest hit continued his streak of Hot Country Songs leaders

On Dec. 8, 1984, **Earl Thomas Conley's** "Chance of Lovin' You" hit No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart.

Conley co-authored the hit with **Randy Scruggs**, and **Nelson Larkin** produced it. The song was released as the lead single from Conley's LP *Treadin' Water*, which yielded two other No. 1s: "Honor Bound" and "Love Don't Care (Whose Heart It

Breaks)." At the time, he was on a run of nine straight leaders. The Portsmouth, Ohio, native posted 18 Hot Country Songs No. 1s in 1981-89, among 25 career top 10s.

Prior to breaking through as a recording artist, Conley was a successful Nashville songwriter, co-writing, among other hits, **Conway Twitty's** 1976 No. 1 "This Time I've Hurt Her More Than She Loves Me."

Conley died at age 77 in April 2019. At his memorial at the Country Music Hall of Fame that September, **Luke Bryan** sang Conley's 1986 No. 1, "Once in a Blue Moon." The late singer's inspiration lives on: Bryan's newest single, "Country Song Came On," includes the line: "Blame it on ETC for keepin' that neon burnin' on me."
—JIM ASKER

Conley at the Poplar Creek Music Theater in Hoffman Estates, Ill., in 1985.

PRODUCER/LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL				
1	2	3	14	CHANCE OF LOVIN' YOU N.LARKIN, E.T.CONLEY/RCA 13877 Weeks at No. One: 1 EARL THOMAS CONLEY
2	3	4	14	NOBODY LOVES ME LIKE YOU DO J.E.NORMAN/CAPTOL 5401 A.MURRAY & D.LOGGINS
3	5	7	12	SHE'S MY ROCK B.SHERRILL/EPIC 04-04609 GEORGE JONES
4	6	10	10	WHY NOT ME B.MAHER/RCA/CURB 13923 THE JUDDS
5	7	9	12	I LOVE ONLY YOU M.MORGAN, P.WORLEY/WARNER BROS. 7-29203 NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND

PAUL NATKIN/GETTY IMAGES