

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Grammys Recognize The Continued Evolution Of Country Music, And Of Nashville Overall

Country music will be operating at “cross” purposes with the Recording Academy during the 67th annual Grammy Awards and the streamed Grammys Premiere Ceremony on Feb. 2 in Los Angeles.

Twelve of the 20 nominations in the four country categories belong to artists who, just five years ago, were making music that landed outside of mainstream country: R&B icon **Beyoncé**, multigenre act **Shaboozey**, pop artist **Post Malone** and former Tennessee rapper **Jelly Roll**.

“Everyone is saying country’s bigger than it’s ever been,” notes songwriter of the year nominee **Jessie Jo Dillon** (“Messed Up As Me,” “Am I Okay?”), “but I think that’s because of these people moving into it.”

At the same time, talent from the country music capital is on the ballot in other areas that defy traditional stereotypes about Nashville: banjoist **Bèla Fleck** is nominated for two jazz awards for collaborations with late pianist **Chick Corea**; bluegrass musicians **Rob Ickes** and **Trey Hensley** are members of **The Taj Mahal Sextet**, competing for best traditional blues album; Music City’s **Cody Fry** snagged an arranging nod for his

orchestral treatment of “The Sound of Silence”; and non-classical producer of the year competitor **Ian Fitchuk** is being celebrated for work that stretches from country’s **Kacey Musgraves** to indie pop artist **Still Woozy** and Texan soul vocalist **Leon Bridges**.

Thus, the Grammys reflect the increasing cross-pollination happening in music, a phenomenon that’s particularly evident in Nashville and its best-known export: country music.

“We’re ushering in a new era,” says **Cam**, who landed a Grammy nomination nine years ago with “Burning House,” a song created in 7/4 time. This year, her writing credits make her part of the creative team nominated for Beyoncé’s album of the year nominee **Cowboy Carter**. “The boundaries are disappearing and people are mixing. Genres aren’t really quite as real as they used to be [or as] people wanted them to be.”

The volume of influences coalescing in Music City was particularly evident when the Recording Academy’s Nashville

Chapter held its annual Grammy Nominee Party on Jan. 21 at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel. Country creators rubbed shoulders with peers from Christian music, bluegrass, R&B, Americana,



Arranger Fry (left), songwriter Cam and bluegrass vocalist Tyminski attended the annual Nashville Grammy Nominee Party hosted by the Recording Academy’s Music City chapter on Jan. 21 at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel.

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classical, pop and heavy metal.

The hodgepodge of styles likely wouldn't surprise listeners paying attention to the tone of mainstream country. Programmed instruments, hip-hop phrasing, crunchy rock power chords and ragged folk/Americana voices are all present in the current brand of country, which has evolved through decades of experimentation in which country adopts sounds and techniques from other genres and from improvements in technology. It's a natural occurrence; every generation's creatives bring their own influence to the party, hoping to build on — and separate themselves from — the music that preceded them.

"Think about how many years luggage didn't have wheels," says producer **Julian Bunetta (Thomas Rhett, Kelsea Ballerini)**, a writer-producer on pop singer **Sabrina Carpenter**'s Grammy-nominated *Short n' Sweet*. "Then someone came in and said, 'Hey, what if we make this roll?' And it benefits everybody. So I think it's great, everybody coming in and cross-pollinating in the best way possible."

That hasn't always been the prevailing attitude. Every genre — from jazz to soul — has a share of followers insistent on maintaining purity within their idiom.

"When we were kids, **Barry Bales**, who plays with **Alison Krauss + Union Station**, people didn't want the band he was playing with because he had hair down touching his shoulders," says **Dan Tyminski**, who has collaborated with late EDM star **Avicii**, but has a best bluegrass album nomination for the

traditional project **Dan Tyminski: Live From the Ryman**. "Bluegrass can be strict if you're on the wrong side of it. But I don't think we have that problem anymore. I think people are pretty widely accepting."

Genres have always been fluid, as leading artists typically push the limits placed upon them. **Elvis Presley** famously blended blues, gospel and country to formulate his groundbreaking sound. **Alabama** pushed country music forward by mixing honky-tonk with Southern rock, while **Jason Aldean** incorporated hard-rock power chords and **Florida Georgia Line** grafted hip-hop influences onto the genre.

Sometimes those artists explode. Often, they do not. But they almost always face skepticism from an industry that, like most businesses, prefers predictability. Musgraves, for example, has at times frustrated her commercial partners while exploring unpredictable territory. In addition to her own nominations this year, Musgraves contributed to the Grammy-nominated *Bob Marley: One Love — Music Inspired by the Film*, putting a surprisingly folksy twist on "Three Little Birds" at the suggestion of songwriter **Sarah Buxton**. The Recording Academy celebrates Musgraves, and artists like her, in part because their work in the crevasses between the genres is inspiring, but also because it requires a level of courage to explore outside the accepted confines.

"The problem is all the genres are so set," Fleck says. "I know they need to be. [If] somebody says, 'Hey, I like stuff like this,' well, 'Here's the genre — you can go find more of it.' I understand the marketing aspect of it, but it's not always the best for the music. People have aspirations outside of their genre, and they get ghettoized into the genre, and they can't get out."

It is, however, easier than in previous generations to blend genres and still build an audience, thanks to the advent of social media. Fans are better able to skip across formats and less likely to identify with one particular category of music. The artists have a better shot at reaching them.

"All the marketing is in the hands of the artists now," Fry says. "People are fans of the artists, and we have access to so many tools now that offer us ways to connect with fans directly. If fans want to go along on that journey, there's nobody to stop the artist from taking that journey."

The country category on the Grammy ballot thus looks like an eclectic music fan's playlist as Beyoncé and Post Malone compete with the likes of **Lainey Wilson** and **Chris Stapleton**. Traditionalists may balk, but even the artists seem to appreciate the freedom it represents.

"I think it's always great for business when you have someone like Beyoncé being nominated," says songwriter **Melody Walker**, up for best American roots song for co-writing **Sierra Ferrell**'s "American Dreaming." "I don't know if it's fair for her to be competing in Americana, but it's really cool that happened, and I think it's good for us, ultimately, to have that kind of visibility. If she were to win, I think she would be as surprised as anyone, and I think that would spark a conversation." ●

ED RODE GETTY IMAGES



BUNETTA



JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

Rosanne Cash performed and participated in an interview on Jan. 26 at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum to support the exhibit "Rosanne Cash: Time Is a Mirror." From left: Museum writer-editor R.J. Smith, Cash, producer John Leventhal and Cross Road Management founder Danny Kahn.



Dustin Lynch hosted a Crash My Playa pool party on Jan. 17 during Luke Bryan's annual event in Riviera Cancun, Mexico.



BRAYLN KELLY SMITH

"Big, Big Plans" songwriter Jacob Durrett (right) posed with ERNEST when he signed with Big Loud Publishing and ERN's Cadillac Music.



Hawaiian country artist Maoli announced he signed a recording contract with ONErpm/Huff Co. on Jan. 29. From left: ONErpm country A&R executive Ryan Cunningham and country music project manager Kylie Dembek, Maoli and Huff Co. producers David Huff and Dann Huff.

GOOD YEARS

NEON UNION



RED STREET



RECORDS

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billboard Country Airplay

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

New Top 10s For Cody Johnson And Carrie Underwood, Dylan Scott

Cody Johnson and Carrie Underwood's "I'm Gonna Love You" (Cojo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN) climbs three spots to No. 9 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart (dated Feb. 8). It gained by 11% to 17.3 million audience impressions Jan. 24-30, according to Luminate.

The team-up was authored by Kelly Archer, Travis Denning and Chris Stevens. It's from the deluxe version of Johnson's 2023 album, *Leather*, that was released in November. The set reached No. 5 on Top Country Albums, becoming his fifth top five title.

Johnson, who is from Sebastopol, Texas, adds his fifth Country Airplay top 10. His latest follows "Dirt Cheap," which reached No. 5 in September; "The Painter" (No. 1 for one week, March); "Human" (No. 8, June 2023); and "'Til You Can't" (No. 1, two weeks, March-April 2022).



JOHNSON (left) and UNDERWOOD

Underwood earns her 31st Country Airplay top 10 and first since "Ghost Story," which peaked at No. 6 in October 2022. In between, she banked two top 20 hits: "Out of That Truck" (No. 18, April) and "Hate My Heart" (No. 20, May 2023). She notched her 16th and most recent No. 1 with "If I Didn't Love You," with Jason Aldean, for three weeks in October-November 2021. She boasts the second-most such top 10s among women dating to the chart's 1990 launch. Reba McEntire leads the category, with 37.

'GOOD' NEWS Dylan Scott scores his seventh Country Airplay top 10, and his fifth in succession, as "This Town's Been Too Good to Us" (Curb), which he co-wrote, lifts 11-10 (17 million, up 9%). Meanwhile, he claims concurrent top 10s for the first time as "Boys Back Home," with Dylan Marlowe, ranks at No. 6 after reaching No. 2. Scott's top 10 streak is rounded out by "Can't Have Mine," which led for one week in December 2023, becoming his third No. 1; "New Truck" (No. 1, one week, August 2022); and "Nobody" (No. 2, June 2021). ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+3.059
HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+1.911
I'M GONNA LOVE YOU Cojo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	+1.764
BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.759
I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.672
LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.609
I NEVER LIE Leo33	Zach Top	+1.588
4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.557
TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	+1.408
HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	+1.388

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+691
HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	+515
BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+505
TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	+489
4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+474
HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+469
I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+399
THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	+385
LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+382
I'M GONNA LOVE YOU Cojo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	+343

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	20.159
2	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	17.547
3	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	16.252
4	COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	15.352
5	MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville Marshmello & Kane Brown	Marshmello & Kane Brown	12.771
6	LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	12.213
7	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Back Blocks/EMI Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	11.973
8	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	11.018
9	DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	10.510
10	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	9.850



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 30, 2025

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	3	26	ROPE THE WIND (Rockin R) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Amanda Kate Ferris	1638	211	11	15	11	BORDERLINE CRAZY (Independent)	William Beckmann	1177	134
2	4	17	GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1527	138	12	11	12	WHOSE TEQUILA ARE YOU DRINKIN' (Get Joe)	Billie Jo Jones	1150	49
3	2	31	BEER'S BETTER ON A BOAT (Independent)	Clay Hollis & Jesse Raub, Jr.	1524	19	13	12	19	HER WAY AIN'T THE HIGHWAY (Independent)	Jake Bush	1098	32
4	5	20	HILL COUNTRY HOME (Independent)	Kyle Park	1384	53	14	14	24	THIS COULD BE LOVE (Independent)	Kaitlyn Kohler feat. Jamie Richards	1077	29
5	7	16	MORE AFRAID OF LIVING (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	1373	68	15	16	14	GOOD AGAIN, AMEN (Independent)	Keller Cox	1074	60
6	6	27	RIDE OR DIE (Independent)	James Robert Webb	1327	5	16	17	18	STAINED YOUR CROWN (Independent)	Bart Crow Band	1062	52
7	9	9	BUY THE WORLD A ROUND (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1326	94	17	18	23	CALM AFTER THE STORM (Independent)	Britt Hoffman w/ Jerrod Medulla	886	10
8	10	14	ARE YOU WITH ME (Independent)	Case Hardin	1285	71	18	19	14	AUSTIN ANYMORE (Independent)	Brandi Behlen	802	32
9	8	20	ONE MORE FOR THE RIDE (Independent)	Ryder Grimes	1261	12	19	21	24	RIGHT HERE WITH YOU (FEAT. VALLEJO) (RedPlay Media)	Brodie Lane	780	43
10	13	10	LUBBOCK (Independent)	Flatland Cavalry	1224	163	20	20	13	SAME OL' COWBOY, DIFFERENT RODEO (Smith)	Josh Ward	770	32

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 2025, Texas Regional Radio Report

billboard Country Airplay

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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	15	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	★★ No. 1 (2 Weeks) ★★ Morgan Wallen	35.412	+1.608	9235	382	1
2	2	29	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	29.909	-1.018	7099	-388	2
3	4	12	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	★★ Most Increased Audience ★★ Jelly Roll	26.462	+3.059	7016	691	3
4	5	28	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	23.638	+1.672	6745	399	4
5	7	22	4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	22.651	+1.557	6550	474	5
6	3	56	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	22.606	-2.198	5750	-612	6
7	6	40	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	21.207	-0.045	5337	85	8
8	8	28	GUY FORTHAT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	19.540	-0.490	5508	-124	7
9	12	18	I'M GONNA LOVE YOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	17.262	+1.764	4865	343	9
10	11	47	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	17.008	+1.363	4701	385	10
11	14	11	TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	15.958	+1.408	4484	489	12
12	15	35	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	15.539	+1.388	4596	515	11
13	13	50	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	14.897	+0.145	4385	32	13
14	18	16	I NEVER LIE Leo33	Zach Top	14.874	+1.588	3895	288	16
15	17	42	FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	14.871	+1.344	4017	297	15
16	16	41	FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	13.801	+0.135	4082	128	14
17	21	33	HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	★★ Airpower ★★ Bailey Zimmerman	11.207	+1.911	3450	469	17
18	19	24	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	10.428	+0.652	3076	162	19
19	22	29	JUST TO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	★★ Airpower ★★ Kenny Chesney	9.720	+1.369	3127	343	18
20	20	13	TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek	★★ Airpower ★★ Drew Baldridge	9.524	+0.019	2984	168	20
21	23	31	COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	8.178	+0.935	2539	86	22
22	25	13	BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	7.800	+1.759	2467	505	23
23	24	27	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	7.679	+0.956	2558	266	21
24	26	32	COWBOYS CRY TOO Black River	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan	5.086	-0.145	1935	-74	26
25	27	27	TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	5.064	+0.741	1955	224	25
26	31	5	WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	4.957	+0.931	1494	248	31
27	30	44	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	4.621	+0.553	1982	154	24
28	28	44	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	4.395	+0.074	1864	-69	27
29	32	21	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	4.358	+0.626	1514	215	30
30	29	47	WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Nashville Harbor	Chris Janson	4.195	-0.122	1651	-154	28

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 © 2025, 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	35	5	SMILE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	3.985	+0.510	1115	119	36
32	33	34	FALL OF SUMMER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	3.689	+0.042	1625	32	29
33	34	24	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	3.683	+0.162	1438	56	33
34	36	19	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	3.536	+0.119	1474	99	32
35	37	21	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	3.517	+0.220	1341	109	34
36	38	12	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	3.406	+0.271	1111	7	37
37	40	3	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	3.093	+0.493	752	231	46
38	43	32	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	2.953	+0.542	1000	203	40
39	39	20	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	2.944	+0.061	1087	54	39
40	42	11	COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	2.878	+0.427	1101	68	38
41	41	34	EVERYTHING I NEED 19/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	2.628	+0.095	1194	25	35
42	44	22	BONES Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	2.373	+0.161	975	26	41
43	45	14	RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	2.042	+0.029	843	82	42
44	48	18	TRUCK STILL WORKS Loaded Goat/EMI Nashville	Brad Paisley	1.905	+0.341	748	77	47
45	46	11	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	1.615	+0.042	793	31	43
46	47	25	OVER WHEN WE'RE SOBER Valory	Brantley Gilbert Featuring Ashley Cooke	1.464	-0.100	760	-22	45
47	52	8	WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	1.339	+0.102	247	32	-
48	57	3	10-90 Stancaster/Thirty Tigers/Big Machine	Muscadine Bloodline	1.302	+0.301	465	213	54
49	50	11	BETTER THAN YOU Quartz Hill/Stone Country	Joe Nichols / Annie Bosko	1.291	-0.035	792	5	44
50	56	4	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	1.274	+0.249	564	145	49
51	51	9	DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	1.229	-0.037	548	-1	50
52	54	27	DEVIL YOU KNOW Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Tyler Braden	1.167	+0.046	427	12	57
53	55	6	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	1.027	-0.036	543	53	51
54	53	8	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	1.025	-0.112	747	-22	48
55	NEW		GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	1.021	+0.494	435	273	55
56	58	10	I COULD BETHAT RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Randall King	0.893	+0.065	540	-24	52
57	59	4	WOLVES CRY Average Joes	Bryan Martin	0.792	+0.048	515	24	53
58	NEW		IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	0.686	+0.426	343	249	60
59	NEW		JUST LIKE JOHNNY Round Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Redferrin	0.620	+0.112	435	40	56
60	NEW		INDIGO Lockeland Springs/Atlantic	Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna	0.599	+0.523	246	205	-



Artist-writer Brittany Moore (center) was announced the winner of the Nashville Songwriters Association International's Todd Givens Scholarship on Jan. 21. She's joined by NSAI executive director Bart Herbison and director of songwriter relations Jill Moody.



Nate Smith guested as Compass Media Network's Y'all Access celebrated its 200th episode during the weekend of Jan. 24. With him are Y'all host Kelly Sutton (left) and producer Joycer Rizer.

ella langley

weren't for the wind



already top 30 and flying!

crossing 60 million worldwide streams

thank you, country radio



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

In his final weeks, Vaughn (right) signed songwriter Sam Ellis (“More Hearts Than Mine,” “What If I Never Get Over You”) to a publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music Nashville and Madfun Entertainment. He’s shown with (from left) WCM Nashville vp of A&R Spencer Nohe, Madfun founder Alicia Pruitt and Ellis.

WARNER CHAPPELL’S BEN VAUGHN DIES

Warner Chappell Nashville president/CEO Ben Vaughn, 49, died Jan. 30. A cause of death was not disclosed.

The much-beloved Vaughn, who was *Billboard*’s 2020 Country Power Players executive of the year, joined WCN in 2012. He was promoted to president in 2017 and added the role of CEO in 2019. The Belmont University alum was honored with Belmont’s Music City Milestone Award in 2015.

Under Vaughn, WCN has consistently dominated the country music publishing market. In 2024, it was crowned ASCAP Country Music and BMI Publisher of the Year for the fifth time and marked its third consecutive quarter at No. 1 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay publisher rankings. Apart from third-quarter 2022 to third-quarter 2023, WCN was No. 1 on the rankings every quarter except two since the beginning of 2017.

Among the songwriters Vaughn worked with were Thomas Rhett, Zach Bryan, Chris Stapleton, Riley Green, Warren Zeiders, Hunter Phelps, Bailey Zimmerman, Jessi Alexander, Liz Rose, Josh Phillips and Nicolle Galyon.

Go [here](#) for the full story. —Jessica Nicholson and Melinda Newman

‘ROUND THE ROW

ShopKeeper Management promoted Crystal Dishmon, making her co-manager of Miranda Lambert, in tandem with company founder Marion Kraft. Dishmon continues to manage Tenille Townes. Laura Spinelli picks up Dishmon’s former day-to-day duties with Lambert and retains her role as ShopKeeper digital marketing manager ... Former CAA music agent Sabrina Butera launched COLLIDE Talent, a management firm for artists and influencers. Her initial roster includes country artist Austin Snell and two non-music clients. Reach Butera [here](#) ... Live-events company Activated Events hired head of marketing Chrissy Greco, formerly the JamBase head of brand and product marketing ... River House Artists and Sony Music Publishing Nashville signed artist-writer Hudson Westbrook to a joint-venture publishing agreement ... Writer-producer Lenny Pey agreed to a joint-venture publishing deal with Endurance Music Group and songwriter-producer Jordan Schmidt (“wait in the truck,” “God’s Country”) ... Artist-writer Dalton Davis joined the roster at Universal Music Publishing Nashville ... Writer-producer Ed Williams signed a publishing deal with Jody Williams Songs ... LuckySky Music signed artist-writer-producer Joseph “J4” Wandass to a publishing contract ... SOURCE Nashville set its officers: president Kari Barnhart, Studio Bank; vice president Mallory Pascal, KBFM; secretary Kasey Cleckler, Cape & Anchor; and treasurer Beth Tyson, FBMM ... The International Bluegrass Music Association named 26 members of its Leadership Bluegrass class for 2025, including Jennifer Brooke, Floyd Music School; Joseph Cornett, Billy Blue Music Publishing; and Erin Rouse, Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum. Go [here](#) for the full list ... Dolly Parton announced *Dolly: An Original Musical* will open a multiweek engagement at the Fisher Center at Nashville’s Belmont University on July 18. She is also launching Dolly U, an entertainment education program, at Belmont ... NBC will air *Opry 100: A Live Celebration* on March 19 from Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry House. Hosted by Blake Shelton, the lineup includes Garth Brooks, Lainey Wilson, Luke Combs and The War and Treaty ... The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience inducted five members, including Bobbie Gentry and Mac McAnally, on

Jan. 23 at the Mississippi State University Riley Center in Meridian ... Jelly Roll will participate Feb. 14 in *SNL50: The Homecoming Concert*, a Saturday Night Live celebration streaming on Peacock. The lineup also includes Post Malone, Miley Cyrus and Brandi Carlile ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum’s annual exhibit, “American Currents: State of the Music,” opens March 5, featuring items that represent Ella Langley, Megan Moroney and Billy Strings, among others ... Lee Greenwood will receive the Horatio Alger Award during ceremonies April 3-5 in Washington, D.C. ... Emmylou Harris and Joe Ely are among the recipients during the American Music Honors, hosted by the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music, on April 26 in Monmouth, N.J. ... Outlaw State of Kind, a foundation established by Chris and Morgane Stapleton, donated \$1 million to organizations aiding people impacted by the January wildfires in Los Angeles ... Jamey Johnson headlines the seventh annual Daryle Singletary Keepin’ It Country Jam on Feb. 11 at the Nashville Palace. Others playing the benefit include Ricochet, Rhett Akins, Dylan Marlowe, Tyler Farr and Dallas Davidson ... Academy of Western Artists founder Bobby Newton died Jan. 17. The organization recognizes creatives who advance Western heritage.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Warner Records promoted Los Angeles-based Mike Chester to GM from executive vp of promotion and commerce, where he has been involved in the careers of Zach Bryan and Warren Zeiders ... Six-piece Clay Street Unit signed a recording contract with Monument. Sam Walker fronts the Denver-based band, which also includes mandolinist Scottie Bolin, steel guitarist Brad Larrison, drummer Brendan Lamb, banjoist Jack Cline and bassist Jack Kotarba ... Big Yellow Dog signed Ethan Garner to a publishing deal and an independent recording contract ... ONErpm and Huff Co. signed Hawaiian country artist Maoli to a joint-venture recording deal ... Audacy board member Kelli Turner was appointed interim president/CEO as David Field stepped down from the position. Field will continue serving as a special advisor ... Cody Welling joined Cumulus/Flint-Saginaw, Mich., as regional vp/market manager. The role includes oversight of country WFBE Flint. Welling was previously sports/talk WBNS Columbus, Ohio, station manager/director of sales ... Townsquare established a digital advertising partnership with Steel City Media, which owns two country stations: KFKF and KBEG Kansas City ... WJZM Clarksville, Tenn., flipped from country to adult contemporary, RadioInk.com reported ... KKBBQ Houston personality Gerardo Sproet moved to middays from evenings, according to RadioInsight.com ... Brent “Dingo” Crank returns to the WQNU Louisville, Ky., morning slot in a voicetracked shift, RadioInsight.com reported. The position adds to his existing roles on WZZK Birmingham, Ala., and WCYQ Knoxville, Tenn. ... KOGM Lafayette, La., paid homage on-air on Jan. 30 to PD/midday host Steve Wiley, whose death was announced the previous day ... Country Radio Broadcasters announced its annual Country Radio Seminar research presentation will be a NuVoodoo study, “The Country Fan — Reviewing, Retaining, and Recruiting Your Listeners,” addressing audience perceptions of country radio and its audio habits. The results will be unveiled Feb. 20 during the conference in Nashville. ●



Warren Zeiders delivered an acoustic version of his current single, “Relapse,” during a Jan. 9 visit to the Academy of Country Music’s Nashville headquarters. From left: underscore works management founder Charly Salvatore and director of marketing Jamie Ernst, Zeiders and ACM director of industry relations and awards Haley Montgomery and executive vp/chief business officer Gil Beverly.



WOMEN IN MUSIC

On March 22, *Billboard* will publish its highly anticipated Women in Music special issue, featuring top women in the music business who are creating excitement and making their mark across labels and in publishing and touring.

Coinciding with this issue will be the Women in Music awards ceremony on March 29. The event will bring together music's most prominent women artists and the industry's top women business executives to recognize and celebrate their achievements.

Take this opportunity to congratulate the most powerful and talented women in music and wish them continued success.

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ON SALE 3/22 | **AD CLOSE** 3/11 | **MATERIALS DUE** 3/13

billboard

billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

10-90 Azalea Bloom Publishing, BMI/Summit Drive Publishing, BMI/Kendell Marvel Publishing Designee, SESAC (G.S.Stanton, C.Muncaster, K.Marvel) **48**

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) **5**

A

AM I OKAY? Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo 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.J.Dillon) **18**

B

BACKSEAT DRIVER Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River Music, ASCAP/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Fire, BMI/Seeker From The Speaker Music, BMI/On Cor Music, BMI (J.Davis, J.Walker) **22**

A BAR SONG (TIPSY) Kreshendo, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/S2 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Essency Music Publishing, ASCAP/Rangoe Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Hood Hop Music, ASCAP/Tarpo Music Publishing, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Le Seek 'Cest Chic, ASCAP (C.O.Chibueze, S.C.Cook, N.Sastry, J.Jones, J.A.Kent, M.A.Williams) **7**

BETTER THAN YOU Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Prickin Padre Music, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP (D.George, J.Pierce) **49**

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.McGill) **42**

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) **6**

C

COMING HOME WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Twoe6 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 Goe Met Ric Music, GMR/ART of C/TM Music Outlander LP, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, W.Sellers, G.Sprung, B.F.Tursi, S.McAnally) **21**

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) **33**

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.Ailey, R.Beaver, N.A.Medley) **40**

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.Vanderheyem, N.Kahan) **24**

COWGIRL Tileyard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sentric Music Ltd., PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/53 Creative, BMI/Peter Daniel Newman Publishing Designee, SOCAN/NewManiac Music North, SOCAN/VaughnCo Music Publishing Inc., PRS/Cooking Vinyl Publishing Ltd., PRS/Thomas Frank Ridley Horsley Publishing Designee, PRS/8936 Music, BMI/Parmaele Music Publishing, BMI (J.D.Lewis, D.Fanning, P.D.Newman, R.Jay, T.F.R.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **50**

D

DARLIN' Hunter Huff Publishing Designee, BMI/Ciaran Wilkie Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., 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) **51**

DEVIL YOU KNOW ZDyer Publishing, BMI/Silly Sweater Publishing, ASCAP/Group Projects Writers, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Turntable Music Pub, ASCAP/HALLPASS, ASCAP (G.Barham, Z.Dyer, J.Hall, S.Martinez) **52**

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) **41**

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.Chiswell, F.Rogers, D.George, B.Anderson) **32**

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) **36**

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.Cock) **15**

FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomii 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/Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Miller, C.Tompkins, J.J.Dillon, D.Ross, R.J.Huro) **35**

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/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Kear Publishing, BMI (J.Morgan, B.Anderson, W.L.Bundy, L.Vaughan) **16**

G

GOLDEN CHILD Anthem Entertainment B, SOCAN/Iron Songbird Publishing B, BMI/Jackoby Songs II, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing B, BMI/Sweet Baby RuRu Songs, BMI/World For Aaron Eshuis Concord All CCI, ASCAP (M.Patrick, J.Hyde, A.Eshuis) **54**

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GUY FEAR SO COUNTRY 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) **8**

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) **34**

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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 C/TM Outlander, SESAC/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Li Sebastian Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, B.M.Stennis, L.Hungate, M.Tyler) **17**

HOMETOWN HOME BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Websinger 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) **12**

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.Mosker, M.L.Holman, E.Reid) **4**

I COULD BE THAT RAIN Brian Fuller Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Deluge Music, BMI/Mason Thornley Songs, BMI (B.Fuller, M.A.Thornley) **56**

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/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (C.Stevens, K.Archer, T.Denning) **9**

INDIGO Sam Barber Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sparky Sky Songs, BMI/To A T Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Firebird Cinema, BMI/Oakdale Market Publishing, BMI (S.R.Barber, A.Arna, A.Sheridan) **60**

I NEVER LIE Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Music And Magazines Publishing, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, T.Nichols) **14**

IT WON'T BE LONG Big Machine, ASCAP/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Tranne Anderson Publishing Designee, BMI (G.Birge, J.A.Fox, C.McGill, T.Anderson) **58**

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JUST LIKE JOHNNY Barrell House Publishing, BMI/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Sounds Epic Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.B.Redferin, M.Wilshire) **59**

JUST TO SAY WE DID Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Basurue 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) **19**

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) **3**

LIFE WITH YOU Mike Gurb Music, BMI/Hits From The Hart, BMI/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Indeciso Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/C/TM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP (K.Hart, K.Schlienger, S.Stepakoff) **28**

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/1317 Music, ASCAP/E!ot Lovely Publishing Designee, ASCAP/LNC Is The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Stellar Sun Songs, ASCAP/Famous Virgins, Inc., SOCAN/Regicide Entertainment, SOCAN (M.C.Wallen, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, J.K.Hinlin, E.Loew, Charlie Handsome, N.J.Gale, M.Sorbara, S.C.Frank, S.F.R.Mastroianni, Y.Guzman) **1**

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.Bernhill, J.B.DeFord, J.T.Wilson) **46**

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 Vibeze, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, J.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, C.Smith) **29**

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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 C/TM Outlander, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC (J.Clawson, K.Sturrock, J.Dorr, L.Guzman) **11**

THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (C.Stapleton) **13**

THIS HEART Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Madfun Music, BMI/Oconee River Bank Music, BMI/Bollingersey Shore, SESAC/T VII Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Titanium Music, SESAC/Melodies Of C/TM Outlander, SESAC (T.Archer, W.B.Bollinger, J.A.Hackworth, M.Tyler) **38**

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) **10**

TIME'S TICKING Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Tunes From The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP (J.Moore, W.L.Bundy, R.Montana, J.S.Stover) **53**

TOUGH PEOPLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI/Round Hill Lyrics, BMI/Bumipin Does Music, BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (D.Baldrige, J.Walker, A.Sanders, L.Combs) **20**

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WHAT KINDA MAN Parkermack Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/VRUCKENROLLMUSIC, BMI/Music Of C/TM Outlander Music LP, BMI (P.McCollum, J.N.Spillman, N.Hemby) **39**

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billboard



SPOTLIGHT: SPAIN

In the March 8 issue, *Billboard* will celebrate the explosion of *música latina* in Spain, where music in Spanish from around the world is finding new and fertile ground for touring, airplay and cross-pollination. We will look at Spain's booming music scene and how labels, promoters and artists are increasingly working together across international borders to further promote music in Spanish.

Advertise in this issue to position your business in front of key decision-makers who are driving Spain's music industry.

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ISSUE DATE 3/8 | AD CLOSE 2/24 | MATERIALS DUE 2/26

C

55 Years Ago Tom T. Hall Locked Up 'A Week' At No. 1

In 1970, the artist nicknamed "The Storyteller" earned his first Hot Country Songs leader

On Jan. 31, 1970, Tom T. Hall's "A Week in a Country Jail" began a two-week sentence atop *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart.

The track, which Hall wrote, chronicles his arrest for speeding in Paintsville, Ky. It was produced by Jerry Kennedy.

Hall was born May 25, 1936, in Olive Hill, Ky. He gravitated to country and bluegrass music early on, and, after enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1957, he performed over the Armed Forces Radio Network while serving in Germany. Following his discharge, he moved to Nashville in 1964.

"Jail" was the first of seven Hot Country Songs No. 1s among 21 top 10s for Hall, who was nicknamed "The Storyteller." He also penned multiple hits for other artists, including 1968's Hot Country Songs and Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 "Harper Valley P.T.A." by Jeannie C. Riley.

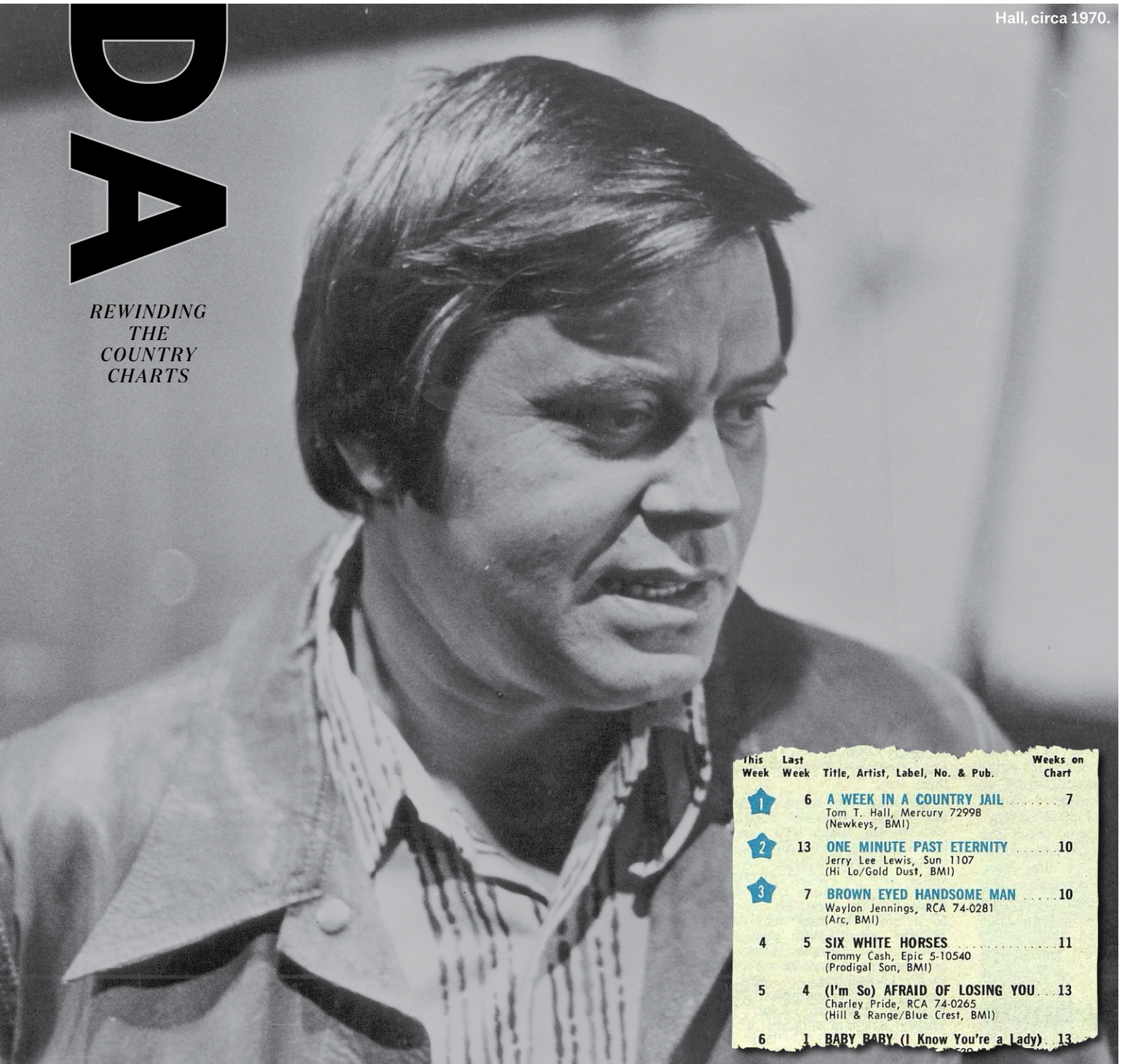
Hall's prolific career led to his inductions into the Country Music Hall of Fame (2008), the Bluegrass Hall of Fame (2018) and the Songwriters Hall of Fame (2019). He died on Aug. 20, 2021, from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at his home in Franklin, Tenn.

—JIM ASKER

CO DA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

Hall, circa 1970.



This Week	Last Week	Title, Artist, Label, No. & Pub.	Weeks on Chart
1	6	A WEEK IN A COUNTRY JAIL 7 Tom T. Hall, Mercury 72998 (Newkeys, BMI)	7
2	13	ONE MINUTE PAST ETERNITY 10 Jerry Lee Lewis, Sun 1107 (Hi Lo/Gold Dust, BMI)	10
3	7	BROWN EYED HANDSOME MAN 10 Waylon Jennings, RCA 74-0281 (Arc, BMI)	10
4	5	SIX WHITE HORSES 11 Tommy Cash, Epic 5-10540 (Prodigal Son, BMI)	11
5	4	(I'm So) AFRAID OF LOSING YOU 13 Charley Pride, RCA 74-0265 (Hill & Range/Blue Crest, BMI)	13
6	1	BABY BABY (I Know You're a Lady) 13	13