billboard Country Update

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FEBRUARY 18, 2025 | PAGE 1 OF 12

ON THE CHARTS

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Click Here For Friday's Billboard *Country Update* And Country **Airplay Chart**





The crossover smash adds its 34th week atop Hot Country Songs - tying Sam Hunt's 2017 hit "Body Like a

Back Road" as the second-longest-leading title since the chart became the genre's singular songs list in 1958. Only Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line's "Meant To Be" has led longer: 50 weeks, starting in December 2017. The Virginia-born Shaboozey's hit drew 60.4 million all-format audience impressions and 16.9 million official U.S. streams and sold 5,000 Feb. 7-13, according to Luminate. The record-tying 19-week Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 also spends a recordextending 33rd week in the Country Airplay top 10.





JOHN DENVER with FAT CITY "Take Me Home, Country Roads" Following a Rocket Mortgage commercial that aired during Super Bowl LIX (Feb. 9) featuring the





DENVER: ELLEN GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES



CODY JOHNSON & CARRIE UNDERWOOD "I'm Gonna Love You" The duet rises a spot to No. 10 on Hot Country Songs, becoming

Underwood's 31st top 10 (and first since 2021) and Johnson's third. The love song continues its climb on Country Airplay (9-7; 18.8 million impressions, up 2%) and corralled 7.6 million streams (up 8%) and sold 1,000 in the tracking week.



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

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

Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



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ACADEMY of country music

ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC'S 60TH

In our March 8 issue, *Billboard* will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Academy of Country Music. Since its beginning, the academy has played a vital role in exposing country music and artists to a global audience. 2025 is a landmark year for the academy, with multiple advance celebrations and activations planned during ACM Awards week in Texas.

The academy's philanthropic partner, ACM Lifting Lives, is dedicated to improving lives through the power of music, using the strength of the country music community to provide aid in times of need, with a focus on health-related initiatives.

On the 60th anniversary of the ACM Awards, please join us in congratulating the Academy of Country Music.

CONTACTS

East Coast/Midwest: Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com Southeast: Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com Latin: Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail com Touring & West Coast: Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail com International: Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

				_			
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS Ago	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY Airplay Rank	PEAK Position
1	2	1	44	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) x * No. 1 (34 Weeks) * * s.cook,N.sastry (C.o.CHIBUEZE,S.C.COOK,N.SASTRY,J.JONES,J.A.KENT,M.A.WILLIAMS)	Shaboozey AMERICAN DOGWOOD/EMPIRE/MAGNOLIA MUSIC	6	1
2	3	2	17	LOVE SOMEBODY J.MOI, CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.C.WALLEN, J.BYRON, A.G.GORLEY, J.K.HINDLIN, E.LOELV, CHARLIE HANDSOME, N.J.GALE, M.SORBARA, S.C.FRANK, S.F.F	Morgan Wallen R.MASTROIANNI,Y.GRUZMAN) MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	2	1
3	1	-	2	I'M THE PROBLEM J.MOI, CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.C. WALLEN, G.W. BLOCK, J.MCLAUGHLIN, E.K. SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	20	1
4	4	3	41	I HAD SOME HELP LBELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, HOSKINS (A.R.POST, M.C. WALLEN, L.B. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, E.K. SMITH, J.J. HOSKINS, C. P.WALT	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen ERS,A.G.GORLEY) MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	1
5	6	5	36	HIGH ROAD G.SIMON (R.WETZELA.R.ALLEN, G.SIMON, C. KARPINEN, J. MURPH, L.J. VELTZ, J. SERRATO)	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA/RECORDS NASHVILLE	3	4
6	5	4	7	SMILE J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.C.WALLEN, R.H.BLOCK, J.BYRON, E.K.SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME, L.WITKIEWITZ)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	45	2
0	7	6	23	LIAR Z.CROWELL (J.B.DEFORD, B.J.JOHNSON, A.G.GORLEY, T.PHILLIPS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/REPUBLIC/STONEY CREEK	1	6
8	8	8	26	I NEVER LIE C.CHAMBERLAIN (Z.TOP,C.CHAMBERLAIN,T.NICHOLS)	Zach Top LE033	12	8
9	10	11	23	4X4XU ★ Airplay Gainer ★★ J.JOYCE (LWILSON,J.DECIOUS,A.RAITIERE)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	4	9
0	12	12	20	I'M GONNA LOVE YOU T.W.WILLMON (C.STEVENS,K.ARCHER,T.DENNING)	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/CAPITOL NASHVILLE/WMN	7	10
0	11	9	10	INDIGO J.BECKER (S.R.BARBER,A ANNA,A.SHERIDAN)	Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna LOCKELAND SPRINGS/ATLANTIC	52	8
Ð	13	13	13	GOOD NEWS s.cook,N.sastry (c.o.chibueze,N.sastry,S.c.cook,J.torrey,M.R.Pollack,Romans)	Shaboozey AMERICAN DOGWOOD/EMPIRE/MAGNOLIA MUSIC	42	12
13	15	15	21	I AIN'T SAYIN' P.DIGIOVANNI (T.P.WOOD,S.MOAKLER,M.L.HOLMAN,E.REID)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	5	13
14	16	18	31	AM I OKAY? K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,LLAIRD,J.J.DILLON)	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	16	14
15	17	17	29	GUY FOR THAT LBELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, HOSKINS (A.R.POST, L.B. BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, L.COMBS, J.MCNAIR, E.K. SMITH, J.J. HOSKINS)	Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	8	7
16	21	20	12	BACKSEAT DRIVER D.HUFF (J.DAVIS,J.WALKER)	Kane Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	22	16
17	19	14	3	HAUNTED D.HUFF (K.BROWN,G.FOUST,J.FREE)	Kane Brown With Jelly Roll ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	-	14
18	20	21	14	WEREN'T FOR THE WIND W.BUNDY (E.LANGLEY, J.TAYLOR, J.CLAWSON)	Ella Langley SAWGOD/COLUMBIA/TRIPLE TIGERS	23	18
19	27	29	13	SOMETHIN' 'BOUT A WOMAN ** Streaming Gainer ** D.HUFF,J.BUNETTA (THOMAS RHETT,J.C.BUNETTA,I.FRANZINO,A.HAAS,J.H.RYAN)	Thomas Rhett Featuring Teddy Swims FIFTY-ONE/FORTY-NINE/VALORY	-	19
20	26	27	24	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK ** Sales Gainer ** LRIMES (N.SMITH,A.G.GORLEY,T.PHILLIPS, L.RIMES) ***	Nate Smith RCA NASHVILLE	33	20
21	23	22	51	HOLY SMOKES A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,B.M.STENNIS,LHUNGATE,M.TYLER)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	15	13
22	18	19	3	BLUE JEAN BABY ZLBRYAN (ZLBRYAN)	Zach Bryan Belting Bronco/Warner/War	-	18
23	24	24	12	TEXAS S.HENDRICKS (J.CLAWSON,K.STURROCK,J.DORR,L.GUZMAN)	Blake Shelton TEN POINT/WHEELHOUSE	13	21
24	28	28	17	DON'T MIND IF I DO D.HUFF (R.GREEN)	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley NASHVILLE HARBOR	-	24
25	25	25	39	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US J.DURRETT,CHARLIE HANDSOME (D.SCOTT,A.G.GORLEY,CHARLIE HANDSOME,J.BYRON,T.PHILLIPS)	Dylan Scott CURB	10	24

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

- 1 #1 swks CHARLIE HANDSOME 2 ZACH BRYAN
- 3 MORGAN WALLEN
 - ERNEST

4

- **ASHLEY GORLEY**
- 6 TY MYERS
- IE 7 SEAN COOK
- TE 7 SHABOOZEY
- 9 NEVIN SASTRY
- 10 JOHN BYRON



COUNTRY PRODUCERSTM

#1 CHARLIE HANDSOME 2 JOEY MOI 3 **DANN HUFF SEAN COOK** 4 **NEVIN SASTRY CARSON CHAMBERLAIN** 6 GABE SIMON 7 **ZACH CROWELL** 8 9 **PAUL DIGIOVANNI** 10 **JAY JOYCE**

The weekly Country Songwriters and Country Producers charts are based on total points accrued by a songwriter and producer, respectively, for each attributed song that appears on the Hot Country Songs chart. As with Billboard's yearly recaps, multiple writers or producers split points for each song equally (and the dividing of points will lead to occasional ties on rankings).





SXSW 2025

This issue features cover stories on the stars headlining *Billboard*'s The Stage at SXSW and a preview of other festival highlights.

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billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY Airplay Bank	PEAK Position
26	22	23	17	ENDS OF THE EARTH B.HODD (TMYERS)	Ty Myers RECORDS/COLUMBIA/RECORDS NASHVILLE	-	20
Ð	NE	w	1	DEAR MISS ** Hot Shot Debut ** ESPEAR (ZLBRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	27
23	30	32	9	FOREVER TO ME J.M.SCHMIDT,G.JAMES (C.SWINDELL,G.JAMES,R.H.BLOCK)	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	11	28
29	32	31	15	HOUSE AGAIN R.YOUNMANS,LUKAS SCOTT (H.WESTBROOK,N.A.MEDLEY,D.ALLEY)	Hudson Westbrook RIVER HOUSE	-	29
30	33	34	35	RELAPSE M.ELIZONDO (W.ZEIDERS,B.PENDERGRASS)	Warren Zeiders 717/WARNER/WEA	43	30
3)	34	33	9	FRIENDS LIKE THAT J.ALDEAN,K.ALLISON,T.KENNEDY (J.MORGAN,B.ANDERSON,W.L.BUNDY,L.VAUGHAN)	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean NIGHT TRAIN/BROKEN BOW	14	31
32	37	37	7	HOMETOWN HOME J.RICE (C.LUCAS,P.C.BRUST,A.ALBERT,Z.ABEND)	LOCASH BMG/GALAXY LABEL GROUP	9	32
33	35	35	26	JUST LIKE JOHNNY REDFERRIN,M.WILSHIRE,J.SAGHI (J.B.REDFERRIN,M.WILSHIRE)	Redferrin Round Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	-	28
34	39	39	19	PLEASE DON'T GO T.WOODWARD,A.YANKUNAS (W.R.FLORES,R.B.PRICE)	Wyatt Flores OEG/ISLAND/REPUBLIC	-	34
35	36	36	31	COWBOYS CRY TOO A.VANDERHEYM,K.BALLERINI,K.BALLERINI,A.VANDERHEYM,N.KAHAN)	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan BLACK RIVER	24	16
36	29	26	14	HIGH ROAD Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan Belting Bronco/Warner/War	-	6
37	44	47	6	USE ME C.CHAMBERLAIN (Z.TOP,C.CHAMBERLAIN,T.NICHOLS)	Zach Top LE033	-	37
38	38	38	44	DEVIL YOU KNOW S.MARTINEZ (G.BARHAM,Z.DYER,J.HALL,S.MARTINEZ)	Tyler Braden WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	55	25
39	NE	w	1	IN CASE YOU MISSED IT RDIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,J.DAVIS,P.DIGIOVANNI,T.P.WOOD)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	-	39
40	NE	w	1	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED D.HUFF,J.BUNETTA (THOMAS RHETT,J.C.BUNETTA,J.BYRON,J.FREE,J.K.HINDLIN)	Thomas Rhett FIFTY-ONE/FORTY-NINE/VALORY	-	40
41	50	-	7	BAD LUCK C.CHAMBERLAIN (C.CHAMBERLAIN,Z.TOP,M.NESLER)	Zach Top LE033	-	41
42	48	44	4	WHISKEY DRINK M.KNOX (K.M.ALLISON, J.EDWARDS, T.KENNEDY, J.MORGAN)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	19	42
43	43	43	7	BAGGAGE A.VANDERHEYM,K.BALLERINI (K.BALLERINI,J.J.DILLON,K.FAIRCHILD,H.LINDSEY,A.VANDERHEYM)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	-	42
44	40	30	19	COWBOY SONGS LGUZMAN,M.MCGINN (G.BIRGE,M.TYLER,M.MCGINN,LGUZMAN)	George Birge RECORDS NASHVILLE	RC	18
45	46	50	5	COMING HOME OLD DOMINION,S.MCANALLY (M.RAMSEY,T. ROSEN,W.SELLERS,G.SPRUNG,B.F.TURSI,S.MCANALLY)	Old Dominion THREE UP THREE DOWN/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	21	45
46	49	49	7	SINGLE AGAIN M.GEROUX (J.ROSS,J.A.FOX,B.REMPEL)	Josh Ross The Core/Universal MUSIC CANADA/MERCURY NASHVILLE	27	43
(NE	w	1	NEED TO NOT LISTED (NOT LISTED)	Gavin Adcock THRIVIN HERE/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	47
4 3	RE-Ef	NTRY	6	WINNING STREAK Z.CROWELL,A.NIVAREL (J.B.DEFORD,A.A.NIVAREL,J.RAGOSTA,R.RAGOSTA)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/REPUBLIC/STONEY CREEK	-	24
49	RE-EI	NTRY	10	LAST OF MY KIND s.cook,M.stevens (c.o.chibueze,s.c.cook,M.r.stevens,P.cauthen,D.cohen)	Shaboozey Featuring Paul Cauthen AMERICAN DOGWOOD/EMPIRE	-	42
50	RE-Ef	NTRY	2	THOUGHT IT WAS LOVE B.HOOD (T.MYERS)	Ty Myers RECORDS/COLUMBIA/RECORDS NASHVILLE	-	48

The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Luminate, sales data as compiled by Luminate and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Luminate. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT O	OUNT			YEAR-TO-DA	TE			YEAR-OVER-YEAR
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND		2024	2025	CHANGE	ALBUM CONSUMPTION
This Week	1,741,000	2,143,712,000	119,254,000	Album	9.515.000	10.136.000	6.5%	'24 9.52 million
Last Week	1,804,000	2,221,351,000	124,005,000	Consumption	9,515,000	10,150,000	0.5%	'25 10.14 million
Change	-3.5%	-3.5%	-3.8%	Audio On-Demand	11,587,328,000	12,449,654,000	7.4%	TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS
This Week Last Year	1,762,000	2,116,423,000	121,819,000					'24 12.29 billion '25 13.14 billion
Change	-1.2%	1.3%	-2.1%	Video On-Demand	704,685,000	691,942,000	-1.8%	23 13.14 0000

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending February 13, 2025. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Album consumption units – also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA – consists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equal one consumption unit; and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/or 3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit:

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



ON SALE | MARCH 8, 2025

TOP BRANDING POWER PLAYERS

On March 8, Billboard will publish its annual Top Branding Power Players issue. This feature will honor outstanding executives at householdname brands that are partnering with music stars through concert and festival sponsorship, TV commercials and product launches, according to concert promoters, branding agencies, talent agencies, music publishers and others affiliated with the industry.

Take this opportunity to congratulate this year's Top Branding Power Players on their outstanding accomplishments.

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ISSUE DATE 3/8 | AD CLOSE 2/25 | MATERIALS DUE 2/27

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

Lee Brice Takes A Modern Stab At Old-School Sounds With New Single 'Cry'

The first listen to the new Lee Brice single, "Cry," can feel confusing.

The heartbroken lyric is easy to grasp, and the hook-filled chorus is practically a celebration. But when Brice shifts into an ascendant "baby, baby, baby" melody about 40 seconds in, it momentarily seems as if "Cry" has broken into the chorus. Instead, the production simmers back down for an additional 60 seconds before the chorus officially begins.

That "baby, baby, baby" thing falls where songwriters typically place a prechorus, a short segment that eases the listener from the verse into the chorus. But since the "baby, baby, baby" moment grows in volume, then slides backward, it operates like a reverse prechorus, playing a bit of a head fake with the listener.

"That kind of threw me when I first heard it," Brice says. "I was like, 'Oh, is this the chorus?' I mean, I didn't know — is it part of the verse? It was unique. But it didn't throw me off as far as whether I like the song or not."

As "Cry" continues its three-and-a-half-minute run, that "baby, baby, baby" melody appears repeatedly in the background — sometimes quietly, sometimes louder — turning that quirky, counterintuitive piece from a stumbling block into a unifying element.

"The first time I heard it, I was like, 'Is that the chorus? The "baby, baby, baby"?' "producer **Ben Glover (Chris Tomlin, Anne Wilson**) says. "And then I was like, 'No,' but it was cool. And then I heard the chorus hit and I was like, 'Well, I love that chorus.'"

"Cry" clearly works differently than the typical country song, and much of its peculiarity was embedded by the songwriters — **Dallas Davidson** ("Boys 'Round Here," "What Makes You Country"), **Ben Hayslip** ("Honey Bee," "Small Town Boy") and **David Garcia** ("Meant To Be," "Southbound") when they gathered in Garcia's office in 2019. Hayslip announced at the start of the session that he wanted to throw out the rules and write something that inspired them, rather than trying to craft something for the marketplace.

BRICE

Davidson hails **Otis Redding** as his favorite singer and Hayslip counts "When a Man Loves a Woman" by **Percy Sledge** as his favorite song, and it wasn't long before the three writers started chasing a song with pieces of soul and doo-wop laced over their country tendencies. Garcia built a musical track with a chord pattern rooted in the 1950s and '60s. Davidson had begun experimenting with improvisational melodies, and he positioned himself at a microphone and belted out what became the basic structure of the first verse, beginning with a keeper line: "Who says a man don't cry?"

"I sang my heart out and I mumbled and stumbled, and this [or that] flew out and they're going, 'Hey, see — try this,' "Davidson recalls. "Then we'd sit back down and we'd type up a line. I'd go back in there and I'd sing it, and it was fun, man, but that was a total freestyle."

And part of that freestyle included the "baby, baby, baby" reverse prechorus. They kept it.

"On normal days, if we're trying to write a radio hit, in our minds, we don't do that part right there," Hayslip says. "But on this particular day, the mindset we were in was 'Let's just write something cool and different and write it for us.'"

The verses played up the drama of a tormented heart, with the opening lyric, "Who says a man don't cry?," providing the theme for subsequent variations: Verse two asks, "Who says a man don't hurt?," and verse three follows with "Who says a man don't beg?" That latter line was a nod to **The Temptations**' "Ain't Too Proud To Beg."

"I had a lot of Motown going on in my head," Davidson says. "All my favorites were talking to me – from **Sam & Dave, Sam Cooke** to Otis. There were a



lot of voices in my head that day, going, 'Sing it like this, boy. Sing it like this.' "

Garcia intensified his playing when they arrived at the chorus, and that turned "Cry" from a ballad into more of a Motown-like party with an energetic sound masking the self-pitying story.

"When he was playing on the chorus, this whole song became what it was," Hayslip says. "When we first started writing this song with the verses, I don't think we envisioned this song becoming what it became. We were writing a sad song, and the more the track kept going, we're like, 'Hey, this feels like an uptempo, feel-good song.'"

In 2024, Brice – on a day that he was working with Jerrod Niemann –

invited Davidson over to his studio to hear his next album. Davidson was impressed by the project, but also thought it was missing one element, which could be filled by "Cry." He played Brice the demo, and Brice immediately asked for rights to record it and started building his own version, playing guitars and keyboards, plus offbeat percussion — he employed a washboard and played kick drum and snare with his thumb instead of a drumstick. Niemann chipped in on percussion, and — according to the credits — so did the Holy Spirit, who didn't actually sign the Musician Union's session card.

"We had the real Holy Spirit with us," Brice says with a laugh, "and he didn't want no money."

Brice laid down a lead vocal within a few days, though he struggled a bit and decided to give it all he had on one final take so that he would have a guide for the rest of the recording process.

"I was sick, and I just threw it down," he says. "I had to sing through it one time because I knew I needed at least a scratch vocal on there, and that ended up being the vocal on the song, for the most part. I think I went in and I hit a couple of spots, but it was so real. I had to stretch so hard because I was so sick."

Brice turned it over to Glover, who called on other musicians to work on "Cry," and the team would frequently keep parts of a performance, then enlist another player to do more. As a result, the final features two basses, four electric guitars and four keyboards, plus programming from four different contributors.

They used some of Davidson's demo vocal for harmonies and took pieces of his quirky "baby, baby, baby" prechorus and threw them around the track, each sounding a little different from the others.

"If it's going to be a thing," Brice says, "let's make it a thing."

Glover added plenty of supporting vocals, too, including a section with **Beach Boys** overtones, and some electronically altered voices.

Glover similarly applied filtering to a Hammond B-3 around the threeminute mark.

"It sounds like R2-D2," Glover says.

Niemann played a steel guitar solo, and Glover gave that its own sonic treatment.

"We wanted it to sound a little bit like **John Lee Hooker** or that really nasty early Stratocaster," Glover adds. "It sounds like it's played through a tiny little amp — that kind of charm."

In the end, "Cry" folds in country, old-school and doo-wop, but with enough modern elements that those retro influences sound current — think **Amy Winehouse** or **Meghan Trainor**. Curb released it as a single on Jan. 31 after Brice identified that sound as a potential next wave.

"I started even hearing demos coming in where more people are doing this kind of vibe," he says. "I don't want to be following it. I want this to come out first." ●





2025

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.

CONTACTS

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

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		\$		TO TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS		
WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT	DEAK
1	1	1	102	MORGAN WALLEN ONE THING AT A TIME BIG LOUD/MERCURY 037570*/REPUBLIC	7	
2	2	3	214	MORGAN WALLEN DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC	6	
3	3	4	26	POST MALONE F-1 TRILLION MERCURY 602465958249*/REPUBLIC		
4	5	5	18	JELLY ROLL BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN BAILEE & BUDDY/STONEY CREEK/BMG 602468028123*/REPUBLIC		
5	4	37	46	BEYONCE COWBOY CARTER PARKWOOD 889963* & 889965*/COLUMBIA		
6	8	6	143	ZACH BRYAN AMERICAN HEARTBREAK BELTING BRONCO 86979*/WARNER		
7	10	8	33	ZACH BRYAN THE GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE BELTING BRONCO 093624839989*/WARNER		
8	9	7	77	ZACH BRYAN ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 725898*/WARNER		
9	7	9	37	SHABOOZEY WHERE I'VE BEEN, ISN'T WHERE I'M GOING AMERICAN DOGWOOD 1023*/EMPIRE	•	
10	11	10	30	ZACH TOP COLD BEER & COUNTRY MUSIC LE0330001*		
11	6	2	3	KANE BROWN THE HIGH ROAD		
12	12	11	15	SAM BARBER RESTLESS MIND LOCKELAND SPRINGS/ATLANTIC DIGITAL EX/AG		
13	13	13	402	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	6	
14	16	16	511	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	6	
15	17	15	65	CODY JOHNSON LEATHER COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 725512/WMN		
16	20	25	66	CHRIS STAPLETON HIGHER SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE 037345*/UMGN	•	
17	15	14	350	MORGAN WALLEN IF I KNOW ME BIG LOUD 783*	3	
B	23	24	222	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	2	
19	19	17	99	LUKE COMBS GETTIN' OLD RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 877494*/SMN		
20	22	21	17	RILEY GREEN DON'T MIND IF I DO NASHVILLE HARBOR 843930116935/BMLG		
21	21	18	31	MEGAN MORONEY AM I OKAY? MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 281342*/SMN/COLUMBIA		
22	18	12	3	TY MYERS THE SELECT RECORDS 288964*/COLUMBIA		1
23	25	22	30	SOUNDTRACK TWISTERS: THE ALBUM UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ATLANTIC 075678606632*/AG	•	
24	26	19	170	TAYLOR SWIFT RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 034504*		
25	24	20	28	ELLA LANGLEY HUNGOVER SAWGOD DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA		

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

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bi		b	DC		A COMPI	& SALE: LED BY
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	88	NOAH KAHAN STICK SEASON MERCURY 036702*/REPUBLIC	2	1
2	2	14	46	BEYONCE COWBOY CARTER PARKWOOD 889963* & 889965*/COLUMBIA		1
3	5	3	143	ZACH BRYAN AMERICAN HEARTBREAK BELTING BRONCO 86979*/WARNER		1
4	3	2	503	HOZIER HOZIER HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	4	1
5	7	5	33	ZACH BRYAN THE GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE BELTING BRONCO 093624839989*/WARNER		1
6	6	4	77	ZACH BRYAN ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 725898*/WARNER		1
7	4	6	37	SHABOOZEY WHERE I'VE BEEN, ISN'T WHERE I'M GOING AMERICAN DOGWOOD 1023*/EMPIRE	•	1
8	8	7	15	SAM BARBER RESTLESS MIND		6
9	10	8	61	HOZIER UNREAL UNEARTH RUBYWORKS 881624*/COLUMBIA	•	1
10	9	9	457	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	6	1

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2025, Billibard Media, LLC and Luminate. All rights reserved.

			FEE	BRU	AR	Y 18	8, 2025 PAGE 9 OF 12
CC)UI	NT	pard RY 11NG SONGS	CC)UI	NT	Song sales
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART		THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON Chart	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	2	I'M THE PROBLEM MORGAN WALLEN	1	2	44	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) SHABOOZEY
2	2	44	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) SHABOOZEY	2	1	2	I'M THE PROBLEM MORGAN WALLEN
3	3	17	LOVE SOMEBODY Morgan Wallen	3	4	17	LOVE SOMEBODY MORGAN WALLEN
4	4	40	I HAD SOME HELP Post malone feat. Morgan Wallen	4	3	7	SMILE MORGAN WALLEN
5	5	7	SMILE MORGAN WALLEN	6	RE-EI	NTRY	TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS John Denver with fat city
6	6	10	INDIGO SAM BARBER FEAT. AVERY ANNA	6	5	36	I AM NOT OKAY Jelly Roll
0	8	11	GOOD NEWS Shaboozey	7	6	13	GOOD NEWS Shaboozey
8	7	77	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING ZACH BRYAN FEAT. KACEY MUSGRAVES	8	RE-EI	NTRY	PLEAD THE FIFTH Cooper Alan
9	11	19	I NEVER LIE Zach top	9	NE	w	PERSONAL JESUS Johnny Cash
10	10	107	LAST NIGHT MORGAN WALLEN	10	7	16	LIAR Jelly Roll
11	12	39	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Luke combs	11	12	39	I HAD SOME HELP Post malone feat. Morgan Wallen
12	13	147	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Zach Bryan	12	14	9	I NEVER LIE ZACH TOP
13	15	36	HIGH ROAD KOE WETZEL & JESSIE MURPH	13	11	11	4X4XU LAINEY WILSON
14	16	38	PINK SKIES Zach Bryan	14	13	21	HIGH ROAD KOE WETZEL & JESSIE MURPH
15	9	32	LIES LIES LIES Morgan Wallen	15	10	20	I'M GONNA LOVE YOU Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood
16	14	72	COWGIRLS MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST				
17	18	98	FAST CAR LUKE COMBS		-	4	Tab
18	21	398	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON			and the	000)+++++
ً₿	23	13	I'M GONNA LOVE YOU Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood			Contraction of the second	
20	19	101	THINKIN' BOUT ME MORGAN WALLEN				
4	RE-EI	NTRY	LIAR Jelly Roll				The later
2	RE-EI	NTRY	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Chris Stapleton				
23	17	27	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Tucker wetmore				11923 B.
24	24	37	MILES ON IT MARSHMELLO & KANE BROWN				
25	RE-EI	NTRY	I AM NOT OKAY Jelly Roll	JE		R	DLL
	and share	A	streamed and ten colling naid download				and a structure for any sector source state and the state of

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by Luminate. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/charts. Copyright 2025, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate. All rights reserved. ERIC RYAN ANDERSON

bi		b	C		COMPI	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK
1	1	2	6	ALISON KRAUSS A HUNDRED MILES OR MORE: A COLLECTION ROUNDER/CRAFT 610555/CONCORD	•	1
2	2	1	20	BILLY STRINGS HIGHWAY PRAYERS REPRISE 726466*/WARNER		1
3	3	3	28	SOUNDTRACK O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? LOST HIGHWAY/MERCURY 170069*/UME	8	1
4	4	4	74	THE STEELDRIVERS THE STEELDRIVERS ROUNDER/CRAFT 610598*/CONCORD		2
5	5	5	6	ZACH TOP ZACH TOP RBR 0035		5
6	7	7	83	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS		1
7	6	6	55	THE STEELDRIVERS RECKLESS ROUNDER/CRAFT 610624*/CONCORD		2
8	8	8	83	BILLY STRINGS HOME ROUNDER 610063*/CONCORD		1
9	9	9	6	THE DEAD SOUTH GOOD COMPANY SASKOMUSIC 128*/SIX SHOOTER		9
10	10	10	110	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW O.C.M.S. OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW 30349*/ACONY	•	1

Bluegrass Albums ranks the most popular bluegrass albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, based on multimeric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track-equivalent albums, and streaming-equivalent albums). Copyright 2025, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate. All rights reserved



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 Hot Country Songs 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/ Warmer-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (*LWison*, *J.Decious*, A.Raitiere) 9

AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED

Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Songs By 10K HRS Publishing, BMI/I3117 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, J.C.Bunetta, J.Byron, J.Free, J.K.Hindlin) **40**

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, LLaird, J.J.Dillon) 14

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) 16

BAD LUCK Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Setyasome Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (C.Chamberlain, ZTop, Mikeiar) 41

BAGGAGE Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/ Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/The Piano Room, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC (KBallerini, J.D.IIIlon, K.Fairchild, H.Lindsey, AVanderheym) **43**

A BAR SONG (TIPSY) Kreshendo, ASCAP/ WC Music Corp., ASCAP/S2 Songs ILC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Essancy Music Publishing, ASCAP/ Range Media Partners ILC, ASCAP/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Hood Hop Music, ASCAP/Tarpo Music Publishing, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing ILC, ASCAP/Le Seek Cest Chic, ASCAP (Co.Chibueze, S.C.Cook, N.Sastry, J.Jones, J.A.Kent, MAIWiliams) 1

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- IPM 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 (CStevens, KArcher, TDenning) 10

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Creative Music Pulse Music, BMI/Trash Man Songs, SOCAN/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/ Paulywood Music, ASCAP/Bent Prop Publishing, ASCAP (JDavis, JDavis, PDiGiovanni, T.P.Wood) **39**

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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) **25**

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2025

TOP MUSIC LAWYERS

Behind every artist, songwriter and music producer is a trusted group of advisers who provide guidance, advice and negotiate deals. *Billboard*'s 10th annual Top Music Lawyers list will recognize the biggest names and most prominent legal minds in the world of music and entertainment law. They are the dealmakers behind the major contracts and lawsuits in the music industry.

This feature will also include a round-up of top law schools attended by the notable alumni on the premier Music Lawyers list.

Join us in congratulating the 2025 most powerful music lawyers. Advertise to present your law firm to *Billboard's* influential subscribers, which include A-list artists, artist managers, business managers and label, publishing and touring executives

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