

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com



Country Radio Seminar Promotes Attitudes That Resonate Beyond Music And Broadcasting

As Country Radio Seminar's panels wound down Feb. 21, two of the most identifiable artists in modern country, **Eric Church** and **Jelly Roll**, conducted a public chat that held ramifications beyond the life of a touring act.

Much of the chatter in "The Conversation: Eric Church and Jelly Roll Get the Last Word at CRS 25" revolved around creating a unique identity in the marketplace. Plenty of artists focus on fitting into the existing format, but it's those who push the boundaries — by developing new sounds or reaching new markets — who tend to have the most impactful careers. Like Jelly Roll.

"I've never seen somebody that communicated [so well] to the people that — not that they were forgotten — but they were a challenge, or they weren't the normal people," Church said. "They were in a different lane."

Church, in fact, was a role model to Jelly Roll, creating tougher sounds and messages in the mid-2000s when the genre was focused more on feel-good themes that targeted soccer moms.

"You ushered in an outlaw movement," Jelly Roll told him. "That was the first time I really looked at country music since the '70s and was like, 'There might be a place for me in this genre.'"

"The Conversation" underscored one of the themes that wound its way through the educational part of CRS: a reminder that the people who stand out in their field are those who deliver a unique product and connect in a singular way.

There are jobs where standard practices are fundamental to success: Bookkeeping, cashiering and mail delivery are good examples. But Americans tend to look to public entities as a guide for how to succeed in the world, and while meeting standard practices is a way to get by, even bookkeepers, cashiers and postal workers can make themselves more valuable by going the extra mile through developing a bond with customers and/or co-workers that makes them stand out.

Radio programmers were challenged during CRS to follow that same ideal, though it's an approach that people in just about every field can adapt to in varying degrees.

"If you don't take chances, you're going to have a boring-ass radio station," Cumulus vp of country **Travis Daily** said during a "Why Can't We Be Friends" panel. "I drive all over the country watching my kid play baseball. There's many times I'm like, 'What state are we in?' Because we just listened to 11 radio stations and they're exactly the same. That has to be fixed."

Consider some of the artists who elevated themselves when they established a unique sound in the marketplace. **Florida Georgia Line's** "Cruise," **Sam Hunt's** "Body Like a Back Road," **Keith Urban's** "Somebody Like You" and **Zach Bryan's** "Somewhere in the Orange" all exploded during this century — not because they blended in with everything else, but because they stood out.



DASHA



JELLY ROLL



LANGLEY

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COURTESY OF COUNTRY RADIO SEMINAR

ZACH TOP



I NEVER LIE

TOP 10 & CLIMBING

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The same occurred with **Ella Langley**'s breakthrough hit, featuring **Riley Green** and propelled by spoken-word verses. Its improbable rise was discussed during "Cycle of a Song: Ella Langley's 'You Look Like You Love Me.'"

"Risk is always scary," Langley suggested. "But the thing is... country music, at the end of the day, is just about telling good stories. I think the fans just want to hear a good story."

Innovating is difficult. The world is dominated by people who would suggest moving toward the middle. It's an understandable position since it follows an easier — and safer — path. But the creators who opt for the road less traveled are more apt to be remembered even decades later. **Dwight Yoakam** fought to keep that hiccup in his voice and his unique stage moves. **Shania Twain** dared to pile rock harmonies on her country songs and to bare her midriff, which was controversial in the genre in 1995. Both artists took their lumps along the way.

"Being an artist is the weirdest job in the world," **Dasha** said during "Cycle of a Song: Dasha's 'Austin.'" "You're so picked apart and you're so celebrated at the same time. So this past year, being thrown into the weeds, I learned a lot, and I developed myself a lot as a person, as an artist, and I realized that the best way to do it is just to really be yourself because there's no real fucking way around it."

Dasha, Langley and **Shaboozey** all rose to prominence within the last year, each of them riding a sound that stands out from the crowd. And none of them were necessarily on the mainstream radar 12 months ago.

"We all run across a lot of new artists and a lot of new songs, and we end up ignoring most of them because there's just too many," Fusion Music founder **Daniel Miller** said frankly during the "Langley" panel.

That's why standing out is a key to success. **KYGO** Denver ranked No. 2 in its market in January with a 5.8 Nielsen share, according to [RadioInsight.com](#), and Bonneville/Denver director of operations **Brian Michel** took pride in playing Dasha and Shaboozey before established labels were promoting them. Being different clearly succeeded for KYGO.

"If you're just playing the best thing that a label hands you, sometimes the label priority and the audience priority is not the same thing," Michel said during "Sound Off: What Is 'Mainstream' Country?" "I would recommend [that you] find out everything that is out there. Find the best songs."

Michel was speaking to radio, but his message overlapped with Jelly Roll, Langley, Church and Dasha. And it's a message that applies to the rest of the workplace, too: There are no guarantees, but those who stand the best chance at success aren't the people who meet minimum expectations. It's those who bring a new approach, an unusual persona or a surprise bonus to the table. They're not just people who meet the requirements; they're people who do what no one else can do and literally cannot be replaced. And they're likely more focused on the consumer than on the middlemen.

"You want a leader," Church said. "You want the guy that's going to be the first guy to breach the door. And if you have an artist like that, you back that artist even if they're wrong, because they're willing to breach the door. Because a lot of artists aren't."

That's a winning attitude in any field. ●



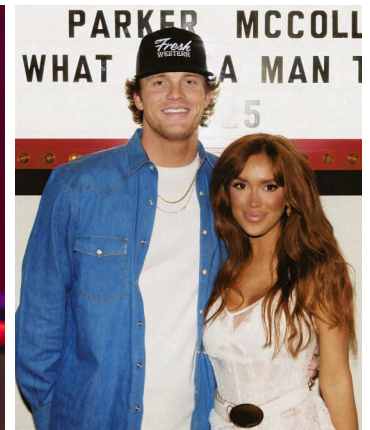
Luke Combs and Eric Church were honored as artist humanitarians of the year on Feb. 21 during the Country Radio Seminar in Nashville. From left: Country Radio Broadcasters board president Kurt Johnson, Combs, Church and CRB executive director RJ Curtis.

KAYLA SCHOEN



Ringo Starr made his Grand Ole Opry debut on Feb. 21.

CHRIS HOLLO



Parker McCollum extended an invitation to **Laci Kaye Booth** to make her Grand Ole Opry debut in March when the two appeared Feb. 22 at the Alliant Energy Powerhouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

CHRIS KLEINMEIER

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

It's All True: Zach Top's 'I Never Lie' Hits Country Airplay Top 10; 'Liar' By Jelly Roll Leads For Third Week

Zach Top earns his first top 10 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "I Never Lie" rises 12-10 on the ranking dated March 8. During the Feb. 21-27 tracking week, the single increased by 12% to 17 million audience impressions.

The 27-year-old from Sunnyside, Wash., co-authored the song with **Carson Chamberlain**, who produced it, and **Tim Nichols**. It's from Top's album *Cold Beer & Country Music*, which entered Top Country Albums last August and reached a new No. 6 best on the March 1-dated list (17,000 equivalent album units, up 4%).

On Country Airplay, "I Never Lie" is Top's second entry. His rookie single, "Sounds Like the Radio," hit No. 15 in November.

Top initially gained traction by posting videos on TikTok, where he has over 1.2 million followers. He was the first artist to sign to Leo 33, which former Universal Music Group Nashville executives **Katie Dean** and **Rachel Fontenot** launched in 2023. "I Never Lie" is likewise the label's first Country Airplay top 10.

Top will headline a pair of shows at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium on Feb. 28 and March 1.



CRB/CRS/KAYLA SCHOEN

AN EVEN BIGGER 'LIAR' Jelly Roll's "Liar" (Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek) dominates Country Airplay for a third frame, up 3% to a new weekly best 31.4 million in audience. Of his seven consecutive No. 1s, encompassing all his entries dating to his first in 2022, "Liar" marks his third to have led for three or more weeks, following "Need a Favor" (four frames in 2023) and "I Am Not Okay" (three last November).

Also notably, "Liar" became only the second song to top both the Country Airplay and Mainstream Rock Airplay charts; it led the latter for one week in December. Jelly Roll boasts both such hits: "Need a Favor" ruled the rankings in 2023. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	+2.940
I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+2.482
I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.328
I NEVER LIE Leo33	Zach Top	+1.771
WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.374
WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+1.239
LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+0.993
TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldridge	+0.902
THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	+0.876
FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	+0.875

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	+862
I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+803
I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+773
I NEVER LIE Leo33	Zach Top	+492
WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+348
AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	+347
THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	+269
LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+267
WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+253
AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+237

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	19.309
2	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	17.617
3	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	15.827
4	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	14.042
5	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	14.007
6	MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	9.756
7	4X4XU Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	9.552
8	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	9.297
9	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	9.126
10	AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner/WMN	Dasha	7.987



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 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	2	24	HILL COUNTRY HOME (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Kyle Park	1685	162	11	13	8	5 TO 9 (Independent)	Hudson Westbrook	1239	150
2	3	18	ARE YOU WITH ME (Independent)	Case Hardin	1636	142	12	9	22	STAINED YOUR CROWN (Independent)	Bart Crow Band	1218	34
3	5	16	WHOSE TEQUILA ARE YOU DRINKIN' (Get Joe)	Billie Jo Jones	1610	188	13	16	7	WEST OF FT WORTH (Independent)	Grant Gilbert	1091	105
4	4	15	BORDERLINE CRAZY (Independent)	William Beckmann	1554	127	14	15	18	AUSTIN ANYMORE (Independent)	Brandi Behlen	1003	13
5	6	14	LUBBOCK (Independent)	Flatland Cavalry	1456	40	15	19	6	DRIVE (Independent)	Jason Boland & The Stragglers	1001	76
6	7	24	ONE MORE FOR THE RIDE (Independent)	Ryder Grimes	1404	11	16	24	7	SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	991	236
7	8	23	HER WAY AIN'T THE HIGHWAY (Independent)	Jake Bush	1319	39	17	14	28	THIS COULD BE LOVE (Independent) Kaitlyn Kohler feat. Jamie Richards		964	-83
8	11	8	SHE GOES GOOD WITH TEQUILA (Independent)	Brian Mars	1299	174	18	20	14	WHAT'S LEFT OF MY HEART (No Big Deal)	Reckless Kelly	931	55
9	10	18	GOOD AGAIN, AMEN (Independent)	Keller Cox	1291	111	19	1	13	BUY THE WORLD A ROUND (Independent)	Aaron Watson	917	-782
10	12	8	ABILENE (LuckySky Music)	Tori Martin	1253	163	20	23	6	THE WORKING MAN (Independent)	Cody Jinks	876	80

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

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	16	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	31.370	+0.993	8623	267	1
2	4	32	IAIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	27.674	+2.482	8219	803	2
3	2	19	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	27.137	-0.038	6957	37	3
4	3	33	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	24.932	-0.760	6547	-161	5
5	7	39	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	22.354	+2.940	6679	862	4
6	6	22	I'M GONNA LOVEYOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	20.351	+0.635	6184	150	6
7	5	32	GUY FORTHAT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	19.795	-3.773	5907	-1665	7
8	9	51	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	18.156	+0.876	5360	269	8
9	10	46	FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	17.678	+0.693	5169	120	9
10	12	20	I NEVER LIE Leo33	Zach Top	17.043	+1.771	5056	492	11
11	11	15	TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	15.922	+0.448	4954	44	12
12	13	45	FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	15.846	+0.875	5071	226	10
13	14	4	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	14.371	+2.328	4206	773	13
14	15	37	HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	12.463	+0.572	3923	175	14
15	16	28	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	12.070	+0.571	3825	237	15
16	17	17	TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldridge	11.898	+0.902	3674	171	16
17	19	31	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	11.309	+1.374	3521	253	18
18	18	33	JUST TO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	10.502	+0.486	3562	46	17
19	21	17	BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	9.024	+0.483	3111	194	20
20	20	35	COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	8.878	+0.318	3146	121	19
21	22	9	WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	7.736	+0.847	2517	224	21
22	24	31	TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	6.226	+0.450	2284	109	24
23	26	25	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	5.914	+0.506	2174	194	25
24	27	48	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	5.526	+0.273	2325	74	22
25	25	36	COWBOYS CRYTOO Black River	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan	5.482	-0.096	2320	44	23
26	32	12	WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	4.757	+1.239	1458	348	32
27	28	48	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	4.474	+0.235	2000	23	26
28	30	36	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	4.368	+0.233	1489	95	31
29	29	38	FALL OF SUMMER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	4.337	+0.158	1887	45	27
30	31	28	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	4.120	+0.278	1705	66	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
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	35	16	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	3.750	+0.492	1425	140	33
32	33	25	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	3.695	+0.290	1619	184	29
33	34	7	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	3.413	+0.018	959	26	41
34	38	23	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	3.379	+0.403	1587	45	30
35	37	15	COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	3.205	+0.147	1303	45	36
36	36	24	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	3.099	-0.042	1298	63	37
37	39	4	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	2.844	+0.056	1325	27	35
38	40	38	EVERYTHING I NEED 19/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	2.709	+0.177	1346	17	34
39	41	5	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music ★★ Breaker ★★	Shaboozey	2.616	+0.421	1044	131	38
40	42	26	BONES Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	2.200	+0.018	1020	2	39
41	47	2	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	2.046	+0.717	852	347	44
42	43	18	RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA ★★ Breaker ★★	Warren Zeiders	1.996	+0.304	930	126	42
43	44	15	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	1.644	+0.012	840	-10	45
44	23	2	SHE HATES ME Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	1.625	-4.690	675	-1132	49
45	51	5	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	1.620	+0.409	961	227	40
46	46	15	BETTER THAN YOU Quartz Hill/Stone Country	Joe Nichols / Annie Bosko	1.519	+0.156	865	36	43
47	45	7	10-90 Stancaster/Thirty Tigers/Big Machine	Muscadine Bloodline	1.391	-0.002	539	-13	52
48	48	22	TRUCK STILL WORKS Loaded Goat/EMI Nashville	Brad Paisley	1.300	+0.030	643	-26	50
49	50	10	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	1.189	-0.049	780	8	47
50	49	13	DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	1.163	-0.081	623	-8	51
51	53	8	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	1.075	+0.058	696	30	48
52	54	12	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	1.006	+0.078	785	-5	46
53	55	5	INDIGO Lockeland Springs/Atlantic/Magnolia Music	Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna	0.948	+0.102	480	18	55
54	56	14	I COULD BETHAT RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Randall King	0.734	+0.028	508	14	53
55	57	8	WOLVES CRY Average Joes	Bryan Martin	0.727	+0.042	469	-6	56
56	58	3	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	0.698	+0.046	497	27	54
57	59	4	HUNG UP ON YOU Republic Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Bryce Leatherwood	0.666	+0.051	399	-12	59
58	RE-ENTRY		JUST LIKE JOHNNY Round Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Redferrin	0.538	+0.073	399	22	58
59	60	2	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	0.535	-0.042	156	-1	-
60	NEW		IF I DIE BEFORE YOU Red Street ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Chris Lane	0.486	-0.062	461	17	57



Bryce Leatherwood (left) performed for military veteran William Caruthers during a Musicians On Call visit to Nashville's Veterans Administration Medical Center on Feb. 11.



Billy Jam artist Alex Miller held a breakfast visit with broadcasters on Feb. 21 during Country Radio Seminar at the Omni Nashville Hotel. From left: Jay Thomas Promotions owner Jay Thomas; KWFJ Idaho Falls, Idaho, PD Don Jarrett; Miller; KFAV Warrenton, Ohio, PD/music director Mike Thomas; and WJVL Janesville, Wis., operations manager/personality Ken Scott.

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60TH ACM AWARDS PROGRAM GUIDE

The Academy of Country Music is a leading association for the country music industry that serves as a powerful advocate for country fans, artists and all facets of the business, as well as provides philanthropic aid through charitable partner ACM Lifting Lives. 2025 is a landmark year for the academy as it celebrates the 60th ACM Awards, which will be hosted by entertainment icon Reba McEntire. The May 8 awards return to the world headquarters of the Dallas Cowboys in Frisco, Texas, for a third consecutive year and stream live to a global audience on Prime Video.

Get your brand in front of 5,000-plus academy members, voters and music industry professionals in the ACM Awards program guide, produced by Billboard. The guide will be distributed at the ceremony at the culmination of ACM Awards Week.

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

ISSUE DATE 5/8 | AD CLOSE 4/3 | MATERIALS DUE 4/8

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

In-Law Country: How Emmylou Harris, Rosanne Cash, and Their Circle Fashioned a New Kind of Country Music, 1968-1985, authored by **Geoffrey Himes** (center), was highlighted during a Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum discussion on Feb. 22. Himes was joined by **Rodney Crowell** (left) and Museum senior director of editorial **Paul Kingsbury**.

SONGWRITERS SET FOR LIVE CALENDAR

New developments for four songwriter events — two festivals, an awards show and a live pitch session — were unveiled during the last week.

Jordan Davis, **Shaboozey**, **Trisha Yearwood** and **Ashley McBryde** are among the participants for the attractions, located in Nashville and Las Vegas.

The announcements are:

- The Warner Chappell Music Live Song Pitch Round is scheduled for March 13, at The Listening Room in Nashville. Among the writers performing are **Lydia Vaughan** (“If I Didn’t Love You”), **Josh Kerr** (“Love Me Like You Mean It”) and **Summer Overstreet** (“3, 2, 1”).
- The Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival’s lineup was announced, with shows spread across 11 Nashville venues March 25-29. Yearwood, McBryde and **Melissa Etheridge** are confirmed, along with **Hunter Phelps** (“wait in the truck”), **Craig Wiseman** (“Live Like You Were Dying”), **Austin Nivarel** (“Need a Favor”) and **Luke Laird** (“Head Over Boots”).
- Finalists were revealed for the AIMP Nashville Awards, presented by the Association for Independent Music Publishers on April 8 at Marathon Music Works. Davis, Shaboozey and **Carly Pearce** are on the ballot, along with double nominees **Tucker Wetmore**, **ERNEST**, **Laci Kaye Booth**, **Vincent Mason**, **Daniel Ross** (“Lies Lies Lies”) and **Jessi Jo Dillon** (“Am I Okay?”)
- The inaugural Las Vegas Songwriters Festival was set for Aug. 21-24 at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. Participants include **Dean Dillon** (“Tennessee Whiskey”), **Liz Rose** (“Girl Crush”), host **Matt Warren** (“Every Storm Runs Out of Rain”) and co-founder **Rob Hatch** (“I Don’t Dance”).

RADIO & RECORDS®

Mom + Pop Music opened a Nashville branch, with **Katie Fagan** joining as president. She moves into the position after working as head of A&R for Prescription Songs Nashville ... Capitol Christian Music Group senior vp of A&R **Josh Bailey** left the company with plans to create his own firm involving both Christian and country music. Among the artists Bailey worked with at Capitol CMG is **Anne Wilson** ... Big Machine signed duo **Something Out West**, featuring **Chet Hanks** and **Drew Arthur**, to a recording deal. Their first product for the label, “Leaving Hollywood,” was due for a Feb. 28 release ... Label/management firm Electric Feel signed artist-writer **Joel Crouse** ... **HARDY** launched the Crow label in partnership with Big Loud Rock. **Sikarus** is the first artist on the roster ... Beasley/Fayetteville, N.C., promoted **Sarah Weaver** to operations manager for the six-station cluster. She’ll continue to serve as PD for country **WKML** ... **Kelly Sutton** was tabbed as host of *The Nashville Show*, on the United Kingdom’s Absolute Radio Country. She’ll remain in her existing roles on *Y’all Country*, Amazon’s *Country Heat Weekly* and **WSM-AM** Nashville ... Townsquare/Lafayette, La., hired **Nanette Lavergne** as market president, overseeing seven stations, including country **KMDL**, *The Acadiana Advocate* reported. She was previously **KADN-TV** Lafayette vp/GM ... **Jessica Fuller** was promoted to iHeartMedia/Asheville, N.C., senior vp of sales from vice president, according to RadioInk.com. The group’s seven stations include

country **WKSF** ... **KTTS** Springfield, Mo., hired **Jennifer “Hemmy” Hemmer** as afternoon host, RadioInk.com reported. She was previously PD/afternoon host for crosstown **KSWF** ... **Kyle Matthews** is set to join **KBEQ** Kansas City as music director, according to RadioInsight.com. He leaves **KAWO** Boise, Idaho, where he was brand manager/afternoon host... **KKGO** Los Angeles hired **Bruce Scott** for mornings, RadioInsight.com reported. It’s a return to the market, where he was on-air with adult contemporary **KOST** from 2012-2015. In the interim, he spent seven years in mornings for adult contemporary **KBAY** San Jose, Calif. ... The next Country Radio Seminar is scheduled for March 18-20, 2026.

‘ROUND THE ROW

Huskins-Harris Business Management rebranded as Harris, Huelsman, Barnes & Company with the promotion of business managers **John Huelsman** and **Morgan Barnes** to partner. The move follows the retirement of former partner CPA **Donna Huskins** ... Major Bob Music promoted **Andy Friday** to COO from head of publishing and boosted **Emily Hasty** to creative director from creative coordinator. The company also recruited **Aubrey Daniels** as head of publishing. She previously served as KP Entertainment creative director ... **Brian Wagner** was named executive director for the International Entertainment Buyers Association. He segues from a role as Ryman Auditorium director of marketing and special projects ... Nashville’s W.O. Smith Music School welcomed **Valerie Cordero** as executive director. She was previously Families for Depression Awareness co-executive director ... Spirit Music Group renewed its co-publishing agreement with songwriter **David Garcia** (“Meant To Be,” “Cry Pretty”) and acquired rights to some of his catalog ... **Ryan Charles** signed a publishing deal with Concord Music ... The Society of Leaders in Development named its board and officers for 2025, including president **Zach Green**, Green P&M; vice president **Leah Ducey**, Universal Music Group Nashville; secretary **Alannah Schwartz**, Endurance Music Group; and treasurer **Kim Albritton**, ClearBox Rights ... The American Music Awards will air May 26 from Las Vegas on CBS following a two-and-a-half-year break ... Steel guitarist **Lloyd Green** received a Mississippi Country Music Trail marker at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, **WDAV-TV** reported. Green played on hits by **Alan Jackson**, **The Oak Ridge Boys**, **Charley Pride** and **Ronnie Milsap**, among others ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum received its National Medal of Arts medallion on Feb. 25 ... **Brooks & Dunn** will be recognized with a lifetime achievement award during the Western Heritage Awards on April 12 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City ... **Darius Rucker** is receiving the ambassador of golf award on June 19 in Akron, Ohio ... **Rodney Crowell** will work with students and faculty March 3-5 during an artist-in-residence stint at the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development ... **Pat Boone** enlisted **Vince Gill**, **Pam Tillis**, **Alabama**, **Larry Gatlin**, **Deborah Allen**, **Lee Greenwood**, **Billy Dean** and **Wendy Moten** for “One — Voices for Tanzania.” Due March 21, the single will raise money to bring clean water to the African nation ... **Miranda Lambert**’s MuttNation Foundation launched an “It Takes Balls” campaign for spaying and neutering in Texas ... **Brad Paisley** and **Kimberly Williams-Paisley** present Groceries With Dignity & Comedy Without, a benefit for The Store at Zanies in Nashville on April 13. Participating comedians during the previous two years have included **Nate Bargatze**, **Kevin Nealon**, **John Crist** and **Dusty Slay**. ●



Chase Rice welcomed several friends when he performed Feb. 14 at Chief’s in Downtown Nashville. From left: **Williams Sellers**, **Brandon Wilkerson**, **Rice** and former Nashville Predators center **Ryan Johansen**.



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.

CONTACT

East Coast: 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

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

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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) **47**

A

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/1317 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, J.C.Bunetta, J.Byron, J.Free, J.K.Hindlin) **41**

AM I OKAY?

Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Concord Global Music, GMR/Songs Of CN, GMR/Crawford Mercor Music, SESAC/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Moroney, L.Laird, J.J.Dillon) **15**

B

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) **19**

BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES)

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BETTER THAN YOU

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C

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WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/TwoW6 Dogwood, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Tiny Handstand, ASCAP/Sharkules Music, ASCAP/More Megausta Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Art Of CTM Music Outlander LP, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, W.Sellers, G.Spring, B.Tursi, S.McAnally) **20**

COUNTRY HOUR

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.Latten, R.Copperman, J. Osborne, S.L.Hunt) **30**

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) **35**

COWBOYS CRY TOO

Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Secret Meadow Songs, ASCAP (K.Ballerini, A.Vanderheym, N.Kahan) **25**

COWGIRL

Tilleyard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sentric Music Ltd., PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/NewManiac Music North, SOCAN/VaughnCo Music Publishing Inc., PRS/Cooking Vinyl Publishing Ltd., PRS/Thomas Frank Ridley Horsley Publishing Designee, PRS/9955 Music, BMI/Parmalee 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) **51**

D

DARLIN'

Hunter Huff Publishing Designee, BMI/Ciaran Wilkie Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Verse 2, BMI/Droptone Music, BMI/Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI (A.Maxwell, Chase Matthew, H.Huff, C.Wilkie) **50**

E

ENDS OF THE EARTH

Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **59**

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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) **29**

FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Concord 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) **31**

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Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Colden Ramey Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Swindell, G.James, R.H.Black) **9**

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.Dillon, D.Ross, R.J.Huro) **32**

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G

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Anthem Entertainment B, SOCAN/Iron Songbird Publishing B, BMI/Jackoby Songs II, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Sweet Baby RuRu Songs, BMI/World For Aaron Eshuis Concord Alto CCI, ASCAP (M.Patrick, J.Hyde, A.Eshuis) **52**

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WC Music Corp., ASCAP/S2 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/Essancy Music Publishing, ASCAP/Torrey Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS/Paco Place Songs, BMI (C.Chibuzue, N.Sastry, S.C.Cook, J.Torrey, M.R.Pollack, R.O'MANS) **39**

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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/Em 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) **7**

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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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.Velz, J.Serrato) **4**

HOLY SMOKES

Bayle 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 CTM Outlander, SESAC/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Lili Sebastian Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, B.M.Stennis, L.Hungate, M.Tyler) **14**

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BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webslinger Publishing, BMI/LoveLegend Songs, BMI/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (C.Lucas, P.C.Brust, A.Albert, Z.Abeno) **5**

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Blue Suede Boost Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (B.Lay, J.Middleton, N.A.Medley) **57**

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 Willie Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Big Bill Songs LLC, SOCAN (T.P.Wood, S.Moskier, M.L.Holman, E.Reid) **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) **54**

I DARE YOU Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, SMOOBY/Sixteen Music, ASCAP (N.J.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.White more, Jr.) **37**

IF I DIE BEFORE YOU Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WeisDwi, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC (E.L.Weisbard, J.McNair, S.Mosley) **60**

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) **6**

I'M THE PROBLEM Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Jamie McLaughlin Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, G.W.Black, J.McLaughlin, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **13**

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 Country Tunes, BMI/Oakdale Market Publishing, BMI (S.R.Barber, A.Arma, A.Sheridan) **53**

I NEVER LIE Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Anthem And Magazines Publishing, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, T.Nichols) **10**

IT WON'T BE LONG Big Machine, ASCAP/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (G.Birge, J.A.Fox, C.McGill, T.Anderson) **45**

J

JUST LIKE JOHNNY Barrell House Publishing, BMI/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Sounds Epic Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.B.Redferrian, M.Wilshire) **58**

JUST TO SAY WE DID Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Busuare Music, BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/NZD 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) **18**

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) **1**

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/CTM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP (K.Hart, K.Schienger, S.Stepakoff) **27**

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/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/Reigicide Entertainment, SOCAN (M.C.Wallen, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, J.K.Hinlin, E.Loely, Charlie Handsome, N.J.Gale, M.Sorbara, S.C.Frank, S.F.R.Mastroianni, Y.Gruzman) **3**

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) **23**

R

RELAPSE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Barre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (W.Zeiders, B.Pendergrass) **42**

S

SHE HATES ME Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/DudeTunes, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Smackshot Music, BMI/Katie In Paris, BMI/Stereo Superperson Music, ASCAP/Jordan Rocks Music, ASCAP (D.Bentley, R.Copperman, A.G.Gorley, C.McGill, J.C.Allen, W.Scantlin) **44**

SINGLE AGAIN W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Allen Hill Songs, GMR/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Core Publishing, LLC, BMI/Josh Ross Publishing Designee, BMI/Real Bad Songs, SESAC (J.Ross, J.A.Fox, B.Rempel) **24**

STRAIGHT LINE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/MAROMA Music, BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/TwoW6 Dogwood, ASCAP/Jflow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sir Greg Wells Songs, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (K.Urban, C.McGill, J.Flowers, G.Wells) **33**

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

THIS HEART Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Madfun Music, BMI/Oconee River Bank Music, BMI/Bollingerse Shore, SESAC/7 Vill Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Tytanium Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC (T.Archer, W.B.Bollinger, J.A.Hackworth, M.Tyler) **28**

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 Ramey Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI (D.Scott, A.G.Gorley, Charlie Handsome, J.Byron, T.Phillips) **8**

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) **49**

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W

WEREN'T FOR THE WIND Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI (E.Langley, J.Taylor, J.Clawson) **21**

WHAT KINDA MAN Parkermar Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/WROCKENROLL MUSIC, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI (P.McCollum, J.N.Spillman, N.Hembj) **36**

WHISKEY DRINK BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/Triples Play Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irisinonmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **17**

WOLVES CRY Average ZIS Music Publishing, BMI (B.Martin) **55**

WORST WAY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) **26**

WOULD IF I COULD Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **43**

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2025

TOP MUSIC LAWYERS

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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

ISSUE DATE 4/19 | AD CLOSE 4/8 | MATERIALS DUE 4/10

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35 Years Ago The Oak Ridge Boys Flew 'High' And Landed At No. 1

In 1990, the quartet whose rich history dates to the 1940s scored its 17th Hot Country Songs leader

On March 3, 1990, **The Oak Ridge Boys'** "No Matter How High" topped *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart.

Written by **Joey Scarbury**—of "Theme From Greatest American Hero (Believe It or Not)" fame—and **Even Stevens**, and produced by **Jimmy Bowen**, the song was released as the second of two singles from the Oaks' LP *American Dreams*, after "An American Family" reached No. 4. At the

time, the band comprised **Duane Allen**, **Joe Bonsall**, **William Lee Golden** and **Richard Sterban**.

The Oak Ridge Boys' history dates to the 1940s. The group launched as the gospel/country-focused **Oak Ridge Quartet**. By 1978, the foursome had successfully transitioned to mainstream country. "No Matter How High" became the most recent of the band's 17 No. 1s on

Hot Country Songs.

The Oak Ridge Boys were inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 2011 and the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2015. **Ben James** joined the act in 2023, and Bonsall died in July 2024. The band will perform Feb. 28 and March 1 at the Grand Ole Opry House as part of the Opry's 100th-anniversary celebration.

—JIM ASKER

From left: The Oak Ridge Boys' Bonsall, Allen, Golden and Sterban in Chicago in 1995.



REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

	W	T	F	S	SA	SU	PROVIDER (SONGWRITER)	★ ★ No. 1 ★ ★ 1 week at No. 1	LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
①	2	2	12				NO MATTER HOW HIGH J. BOWEN (E. STEVENS, J. SCARBURY)	◆ THE OAK RIDGE BOYS MCA 53757	
②	4	7	9				CHAINS T. BROWN (H. BYNUM, B. RENEAU)	◆ PATTY LOVELESS MCA 53764	
3	1	1	13				ON SECOND THOUGHT R. LANDIS (E. RABBITT)	◆ EDDIE RABBITT CAPITOL 44527	
④	7	13	6				HARD ROCK BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART K. LEHNING (H. PRESTWOOD)	RANDY TRAVIS WARNER BROS. 7-19935	
5	3	3	13				SOUTHERN STAR B. BECKETT, ALABAMA (R. MURRAH, S. DEAN, R. ALVES)	ALABAMA RCA 9083-7	
6	5	11	10				FAST MOVIN' TRAIN	◆ RESTLESS HEART	