billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

MARCH 14, 2025 | PAGE 1 OF 19

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Freddy Fender Bender: Lessons From A 50-Year-Old Country Crossover Boom Period



INSIDE ISSUE

Jelly Roll's **'Liar' Sets Personal Mark** >page 4

Eight Stations Double Up In ACM Radio Awards >page 10

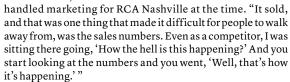
Country Coda: When **Maren Morris' 'Bones' Broke No. 1 >page 19**

When Island/Republic/MCA Nashville released Chappell Roan's "The Giver" on March 12, the move extended a pop/ country crossover trend that has seen the likes of **Shaboozey**, Beyoncè and Post Malone successfully hop genre fences.

As current as the development may be, it's also a case of history repeating. The release comes 50 years after Freddy

Fender's "Before the Next Teardrop Falls" reigned on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart dated March 15. "Teardrop" went on to top the Billboard Hot 100 on May 31, 1975, in the midst of a crossover wave.

"That song just caught fire," says Country Music Hall of Fame member Joe Galante, who



Fender's success was not an isolated example in 1975. From March 8 through June 7 that year, four different singles reached the Hot 100 summit while simultaneously becoming country hits: Fender's "Teardrop," Olivia Newton-John's "Have You Never Been Mellow," B.J. Thomas' "(Hey Won't You Play) Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song" and John Denver's "Thank God I'm a Country Boy."

When Fender was at No. 1, at least seven more titles on that



same country chart made significant Lisa," Elvis Presley's Charlie Rich's "My Elusive Dreams." Additionally, Linda Ronstadt peaked

with the Hank Williams song "I Can't Help It (If I'm Still in Love With You)," weeks ahead of the crossover follow-up "When Will I Be Loved."

Throughout the rest of 1975, the country crossover trend continued with Newton-John's "Please Mister Please," Fender's "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights," Glen Campbell's "Rhinestone Cowboy," **The Eagles**' "Lyin' Eyes," **Tanya Tucker**'s "Lizzie and the Rainman" and C.W. McCall's "Convoy."

inroads on the Hot 100 and/or the Easy Listening chart (a predecessor of adult contemporary), including Jessi Colter's "I'm Not "My Boy" and at No. 2 on country

SECOND ROUND OF AWARDS VOTING DEADLINE TO VOTE MARCH 17

Then, as now, plenty of fans and critics debated if some of those titles belonged on the country station.

"For me, the answer to 'What is country?' is: the records that the country audience, at that time, thinks belong on a country radio station," says **Ed Salamon**, a Country Radio Hall of Fame member who became PD in 1975 of **WHN** New York.

Salamon programmed plenty of crossover music, sometimes incorporating songs that weren't being promoted to the station, in an effort to appeal to a metro audience that didn't have much history with the genre.

WHN became a major success story — just five years later, the Big Apple got a *second* country radio station — but its crossover mix yielded as much hostility from Nashville as praise. Part of that was directly related to the corporate source of some of the records on the playlist: Denver, Newton-John and The Eagles were all signed out of New York or Los Angeles.

"There was such a pushback about what I did that I didn't fully comprehend it at that time," Salamon reflects. "I was taking the space that the Nashville label thought should go to one of their records on a country radio station, and I was giving it to the pop division."

Exactly one year after Fender topped the country chart, crossover mate-



rial in 1976 had subsided. The number of crossover singles was the same, but none of them had the same level of impact.

"It's the luck of the draw," says Country Radio Hall of Fame member **Joel Raab**, a consultant and former programmer for **WHK** Cleveland.

Two of those 1976 crossovers, **Cledus Maggard's** "The White Knight" and **Larry Groce's** "Junk Food Junkie," were novelty records, distinguishing them from the 1975 batch.

"We'd seen success in the crossover the year before," recalls Country Radio Hall of Fame member

Barry Mardit, whose programming history included **WEEP** Pittsburgh and **WWWW** Detroit. "If those songs weren't consistently coming, we were therefore looking for something else that would grab the ear, that would grab the attention of the listener, like a novelty song does."

Crossover records would continue through the rest of the '70s, with **Crystal Gayle**, **Dolly Parton**, **Ronnie Milsap**, **Kenny Rogers**, **Eddie Rabbitt** and a couple of **Waylon Jennings & Willie Nelson** duets benefiting. In most cases, those happened when one or more label executives were enthusiastic enough to take a risk. Record companies had to be judicious since radio stations relied heavily on local sales reports for research.

"You had to have product in stores in order for people to do sales checks," Galante notes. "So it wasn't as simple as just saying, 'Oh, I think I'll go do this.' You've got to get the goods in stores, and if it didn't move and they [were returned], you got a double whammy. And you'd spent the money. So you were careful about your shots, and you didn't go willy-nilly trying to cross over a record."

Similarly, artists often err when they purposely attempt to cross over. It's an issue that country learned the hard way in the aftermath of the 1980 *Urban Cowboy* soundtrack.

"The *Urban Cowboy* sound was a moment," Raab says. "It wasn't a trend. It was just a bunch of really good hit songs that went with a movie — and those songs, by the way, were all pretty country: [Johnny Lee's] 'Looking for Love' and [Mickey Gilley's] 'Stand by Me.' These were just really good country records. And because the movie was so popular, [some artists] said, 'Oh, you know, I'll be more pop.' And they made these really bad pop-sounding records in the early to mid-'80s."

The 2025 version of crossover is a little different — streaming data has helped identify the songs that work across formats, influencing the trajectory for music by Morgan Wallen, Ella Langley & Riley Green, Marshmello & Kane Brown, HARDY, Jelly Roll and Dasha.

Artists are interacting more freely across genre, with pairings of **Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan**, **Thomas Rhett & Teddy Swims** and Post Malone & Wallen all on the current Hot Country Songs chart. And, Galante points out, country acts are playing stadiums and arenas in major markets, unlike in the '70s, when they were mostly in small theaters in midsize metros.

As a result, there's less incentive for country artists to refashion their music in a play for pop success.

"Country is just so big in its own right," Mardit says, "that they don't need to do that." •



Brooks & Dunn headlined March 7 in Bakersfield, Calif., and March 8 in Norco, Calif., for Activated Events' Boots in the Park series. From left: Kix Brooks, Activated Events CEO Steve Thacher and Ronnie Dunn.



Songwriter Jessie Jo Dillon ("10,000 Hours," "Am I Okay?") received the Song Suffragettes yellow rose of inspiration award during the March 3 installment of the show at The Listening Room in Nashville. From left: event director Maddie Lenhart, Dillon and Suffragettes founder Todd Cassetty.



Fathom Entertainment featured three songwriters performing live from the Analog in Nashville to movie theaters across the country in *Music Night: Live From Nashville!* on March 11. From left: Matt Jenkins ("Buy Dirt"), Kelly Archer ("I'm Gonna Love You") and Brett James ("Jesus, Take the Wheel")



Writer-artist Dylan Davidson (center) was announced March 13 as the first artist signed to Off Road Records in partnership with Reservoir. With him are Off Road president David Fanning (left) and senior vp of marketing and promotion Jamie Graves.

KANE BROWN

ENTERTAINER

OF THE YEAR

SINGLE

OF THE YEAR
"MILES ON IT" (FEAT. MARSHMELLO)

MALE ARTIST

OF THE YEAR

MUSIC EVENT

OF THE YEAR "MILES ON IT" (FEAT. MARSHMELLO)

VISUAL MEDIA

OF THE YEAR

"MILES ON IT" (FEAT. MARSHMELLO)



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

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

Unbelievable! Jelly Roll's 'Liar' Leads Country Airplay For Career-Best Fifth Week

Jelly Roll's "Liar" (Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek) rules Bill-board's Country Airplay chart for a fifth consecutive week, becoming his sole longest-leading hit.

The song tops the list dated March 22 with 31 million audience impressions (down 5%) March 7-13, according to Luminate. The Nashville native co-authored it with Ashley Gorley, Ben Johnson and Taylor Phillips. It was produced by Zach Crowell. The track is from his studio set Beautifully Broken, which arrived as his first No. 1 on both Top Country Albums and the all-genre Billboard 200 last October.

"This is truly incredible," Jelly Roll tells Billboard. "Y'all have changed my life. Ben, Ashley and Taylor, y'all are all incredible—thank you for writing this one with me. Five weeks? This is just unreal."

"Liar" breaks out of a tie with "Need a

Favor," which led for four weeks starting in August 2023, for Jelly Roll's longest Country Airplay command. "I Am Not Okay" is next, having logged three frames on top beginning last November. All seven of his entries have hit No. 1, with four tallying multiple-week dominations; additionally, "Save Me," with Lainey Wilson, led for two frames in December 2023.

JELLY ROLL

Meanwhile, Jelly Roll is tied with **Kane Brown** for the longest active run of Country Airplay No. 1s. Most recently for Brown, "Miles on It," with **Marshmello**, led for one week in November. Brown is looking to up his streak to eight, as his latest single, "Backseat Driver" (Zone 4/RCA Nashville), holds at its No. 18 high (10 million, up 1%).

Jelly Roll's run of Country Airplay No. 1s, which began with "Son of a Sinner," his introductory hit at the format, in January 2023, is the second-longest out-of-the-gate streak in the chart's 36-year history. The longest belongs to **Luke Combs**, who snapped off 14 from the start in 2017-22.

| MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| | GAIN | | | | |
| TITLE Imprint/Label Artist | (IN MILLIONS) | | | | |
| I'M GONNA LOVE YOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood | +3.593 | | | | |
| THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb Dylan Scott | +2.597 | | | | |
| I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen | +1.786 | | | | |
| WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean | +1.596 | | | | |
| SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville Josh Ross | +1.526 | | | | |
| HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group LOCASH | +1.343 | | | | |
| PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard | +1.271 | | | | |
| WORST WAY Nashville Harbor Riley Green | +1.154 | | | | |
| FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean | +1.119 | | | | |
| 3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Republic/EMI Nashville Tucker Wetmore | +0.897 | | | | |

| MOST INCREASED PLAYS | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| TITLE Imprint/Label Arti | ist GAIN | | | | |
| I'M GONNA LOVE YOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson & Carrie Underw | ood +1240 | | | | |
| THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb Dylan Sc | ott +684 | | | | |
| WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow Jason Alde | ean +534 | | | | |
| I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wall | len +435 | | | | |
| WORST WAY Nashville Harbor Riley Gre | en +412 | | | | |
| PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubba | ard +366 | | | | |
| 3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Republic/EMI Nashville Tucker Wetmo | ore +333 | | | | |
| HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group LOCA | SH +302 | | | | |
| SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville Josh Ro | oss +301 | | | | |
| FOREVERTO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swind | lell +208 | | | | |

| | RECURRENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| THIS WEEK | TITLE Imprint/Label Artist | TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS) | | | | | |
| 1 | A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey | 18.590 | | | | | |
| 2 | POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton | 16.736 | | | | | |
| 3 | I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen | 14.845 | | | | | |
| 4 | BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott | 13.252 | | | | | |
| 5 | I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll | 11.341 | | | | | |
| 6 | GUY FOR THAT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs | 9.640 | | | | | |
| 7 | MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville Marshmello & Kane Brown | 9.537 | | | | | |
| 8 | AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner/WMN Dasha | 9.465 | | | | | |
| 9 | COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST | 8.951 | | | | | |
| 10 | WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville Nate Smith | 8.849 | | | | | |



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MARCH 13, 2025

| THIS WEEK | | WKS ON Chart | TITLE (Label) ARTIST | TW Spins | SPINS +/- | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | WKS ON Chart | TITLE (Label) ARTIST | TW SPINS | SPINS +/- |
|--------------|----|-----------------|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| 0 | 2 | 20 | ARE YOU WITH ME (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★ Case Hardin | 1744 | 30 | 0 | 13 | 9 | SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS (Independent) Tristan Roberson | 1237 | 121 |
| Ø | 3 | 17 | BORDERLINE CRAZY (Independent) William Beckmann | 1653 | 70 | Ø | 14 | 8 | DRIVE (Independent) Jason Boland & The Stragglers | 1201 | 94 |
| 8 | 5 | 10 | SHE GOES GOOD WITH TEQUILA (Independent) Brian Mars | 1543 | 140 | B | 18 | 6 | DAMN BABY (Independent) Bubba Westly | 1122 | 177 |
| 4 | 6 | 25 | HER WAY AIN'T THE HIGHWAY (Independent) Jake Bush | 1536 | 140 | • | 16 | 20 | AUSTIN ANYMORE (Independent) Brandi Behlen | 1053 | 49 |
| 5 | 4 | 16 | LUBBOCK (Independent) Flatland Cavalry | 1500 | 24 | Œ | 19 | 8 | THE WORKING MAN (Independent) Cody Jinks | 1045 | 101 |
| 6 | 8 | 10 | ABILENE (LuckySky Music) Tori Martin | 1392 | 82 | 16 | 1 | 18 | WHOSE TEQUILA ARE YOU DRINKIN' (Get Joe) Billie Jo Jones | 983 | -737 |
| Ø | 10 | 10 | 5TO 9 (Independent) Hudson Westbrook | 1345 | 78 | 17 | 17 | 16 | WHAT'S LEFT OF MY HEART (No Big Deal) Reckless Kelly | 982 | 15 |
| 8 | 9 | 20 | GOOD AGAIN, AMEN (Independent) Keller Cox | 1310 | 11 | 18 | 11 | 24 | STAINED YOUR CROWN (Independent) Bart Crow Band | 981 | -187 |
| 9 | 12 | 9 | WEST OF FT WORTH (Independent) Grant Gilbert | 1277 | 111 | 19 | 20 | 10 | BUCKLE OR THE BRIDE (Independent) Caleb Young | 970 | 82 |
| 10 | 7 | 26 | ONE MORE FOR THE RIDE (Independent) Ryder Grimes | 1249 | -136 | 20 | 21 | 11 | PUT IT IN REVERSE (Independent) Ben McPeak | 953 | 77 |

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

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

| | | WKS | AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) | | | | PLAYS | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---|---|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|------|--|
| THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | ON CHART | TITLE Imprint/Label | Artist | THIS WEEK | +/- | THIS WEEK | +/- | RANK | |
| 1 | 1 | 18 | LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek ★★ No. 1 (5 | Weeks) ★★ Jelly Roll | 30.991 | -1.551 | 8383 | -794 | 1 | |
| 0 | 5 | 41 | HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group | LOCASH | 25.435 | +1.343 | 7440 | 302 | 3 | |
| 3 | 6 | 24 | I'M GONNA LOVEYOU CoJo,/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN ★★ Most Increased Au | dience ★★ Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood | 24.484 | +3.593 | 7668 | 1240 | 2 | |
| 4 | 2 | 21 | LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud | Morgan Wallen | 23.737 | -1.944 | 6188 | -493 | 5 | |
| 6 | 7 | 53 | THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb | Dylan Scott | 22.273 | +2.597 | 6403 | 684 | 4 | |
| 6 | 4 | 35 | HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville | Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph | 21.611 | -2.596 | 5518 | -837 | 7 | |
| Ø | 8 | 48 | FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN | Cole Swindell | 19.501 | +0.855 | 5554 | 208 | 6 | |
| 8 | 3 | 34 | I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville | Jordan Davis | 18.467 | -7.005 | 5409 | -2122 | 9 | |
| 9 | 9 | 22 | I NEVER LIE Leo33 | Zach Top | 18.379 | +0.355 | 5262 | 13 | 10 | |
| 10 | 10 | 47 | FRIENDS LIKETHAT Night Train/Broken Bow John | Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean | 17.957 | +1.119 | 5455 | 207 | 8 | |
| 0 | 12 | 6 | I'MTHE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud | Morgan Wallen | 17.738 | +1.786 | 5152 | 435 | 11 | |
| Ø | 11 | 17 | TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse | Blake Shelton | 16.241 | +0.216 | 5030 | -13 | 12 | |
| B | 14 | 33 | WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow | Jason Aldean | 14.282 | +1.596 | 4349 | 534 | 13 | |
| @ | 13 | 39 | HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA | Bailey Zimmerman | 13.825 | +0.278 | 4295 | 120 | 14 | |
| ® | 15 | 30 | AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville | Megan Moroney | 12.510 | +0.277 | 4099 | 84 | 15 | |
| 1 | 16 | 19 | TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek | Drew Baldridge | 12.199 | +0.237 | 3791 | 123 | 16 | |
| Ð | 17 | 35 | JUST TO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA | Kenny Chesney | 10.229 | -0.045 | 3583 | 119 | 17 | |
| B | 18 | 19 | BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville | Kane Brown | 9.968 | +0.051 | 3261 | -124 | 19 | |
| 19 | 19 | 37 | COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville | Old Dominion | 9.671 | +0.293 | 3303 | -116 | 18 | |
| 20 | 20 | 11 | WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers | Ella Langley | 8.657 | +0.509 | 2740 | 171 | 21 | |
| 3 | 23 | 50 | SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville | Josh Ross | 7.869 | +1.526 | 2784 | 301 | 20 | |
| 22 | 22 | 27 | PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville | Tyler Hubbard | 7.750 | +1.271 | 2561 | 366 | 22 | |
| 3 3 | 21 | 33 | TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine | Carly Pearce | 7.265 | +0.373 | 2491 | 107 | 23 | |
| 2 | 24 | 14 | WORST WAY Nashville Harbor | Riley Green | 7.232 | +1.154 | 2273 | 412 | 25 | |
| 3 | 26 | 38 | THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville | Corey Kent | 5.748 | +0.616 | 1897 | 186 | 28 | |
| 26 | 25 | 38 | COWBOYS CRYTOO Black River | Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan | 5.659 | -0.075 | 2380 | -33 | 24 | |
| ② | 28 | 50 | LIFE WITH YOU Curb | Kelsey Hart | 4.891 | +0.101 | 2038 | -42 | 26 | |
| 28 | 27 | 40 | FALL OF SUMMER Triple Tigers | Scotty McCreery | 4.759 | -0.043 | 1969 | -1 | 27 | |
| 29 | 29 | 30 | COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville | Sam Hunt | 4.464 | -0.036 | 1813 | -4 | 29 | |
| 3 0 | 31 | 18 | FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville | Nate Smith | 4.262 | +0.341 | 1544 | 27 | 32 | |

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.

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY LUMINATE

| THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | WKS ON | | AUDIENCE (I | | | PLAYS | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| | 30 | CHART 27 | TITLE Imprint/Label Artist FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi | 4.234 | +/- +0.256 | THIS WEEK | +/- -13 | RANK 30 |
| ③ | 32 | | · | | | - | - | |
| <u> </u> | 34 | 25 | , and the second | 3.692 | +0.182 | 1643 1504 | -80 80 | 31 |
| 3 3 | | 17 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | | | | |
| <u>34</u> | 38 | 7 | GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey | 3.484 | +0.555 | 1315 | 127 | 37 |
| 3 ₽ | 35 | 26 | WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville Parker McCollum | 3.334 | +0.134 | 1339 | -16 | 36 |
| <u>36</u> | 36 | 40 | EVERYTHING I NEED 19/Wheelhouse Chayce Beckham | 3.159 | +0.093 | 1444 | 51 | 34 |
| 3 | 37 | 6 | I DARE YOU Big Machine Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers | 3.155 | +0.184 | 1344 | 9 | 35 |
| <u>33</u> | 40 | 4 | SHE HATES ME Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley | 2.961 | +0.485 | 1078 | 105 | 39 |
| 39 | 39 | 4 | AFTER ALLTHE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett | 2.887 | +0.266 | 1082 | 42 | 38 |
| 40 | 33 | 9 | STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban | 2.440 | -0.942 | 899 | -62 | 42 |
| 49 | 41 | 20 | RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA Warren Zeiders | 1.985 | +0.041 | 895 | -4 | 43 |
| ② | 44 | 7 | IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville George Birge | 1.879 | +0.299 | 1001 | 79 | 40 |
| 43 | 43 | 17 | WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ERNEST | 1.870 | +0.234 | 952 | 58 | 41 |
| 4 | 45 | 9 | 10-90 Stancaster/Thirty Tigers/Big Machine Muscadine Bloodline | 1.565 | +0.023 | 587 | 1 | 52 |
| 45 | 47 | 7 | INDIGO Lockeland Springs/Atlantic/Magnolia Music Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna | 1.369 | +0.047 | 606 | 8 | 51 |
| 46 | 50 | 10 | COWGIRL Stoney Creek Parmalee | 1.346 | +0.175 | 759 | 42 | 47 |
| 47 | 46 | 17 | BETTERTHANYOU Quartz Hill/Stone Country Joe Nichols / Annie Bosko | 1.330 | -0.149 | 828 | -25 | 45 |
| 48 | 49 | 12 | TIME'S TICKING Valory Justin Moore | 1.250 | -0.004 | 841 | 19 | 44 |
| 49 | NE | EW | 3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Republic/EMI Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★ Tucker Wetmore | 1.176 | +0.897 | 459 | 333 | 56 |
| 50 | 48 | 24 | TRUCK STILL WORKS Loaded Goat/EMI Nashville Brad Paisley | 1.166 | -0.106 | 615 | -47 | 50 |
| 5 | 51 | 15 | DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chase Matthew | 1.158 | +0.049 | 626 | 1 | 48 |
| €2 | 52 | 14 | GOLDEN CHILD Riser House Meghan Patrick | 1.098 | +0.152 | 792 | 14 | 46 |
| 53 | 53 | 10 | WOLVES CRY Average Joes Bryan Martin | 0.811 | -0.124 | 507 | 6 | 54 |
| 54 | 55 | 4 | ENDS OFTHE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Ty Myers | 0.739 | +0.018 | 180 | 6 | - |
| 55 | 54 | 5 | BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music Max McNown | 0.725 | -0.088 | 619 | 9 | 49 |
| 56 | 56 | 6 | HUNG UP ON YOU Republic Nashville/Mercury Nashville Bryce Leatherwood | 0.704 | +0.046 | 379 | -24 | - |
| 5 | NE | EW | HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Hudson Westbrook | 0.664 | +0.234 | 149 | 39 | - |
| 58 | 59 | 2 | WISHYOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville Vincent Mason | 0.662 | +0.024 | 463 | 52 | 55 |
| 59 | NE | EW | CRY Curb Lee Brice | 0.636 | +0.155 | 309 | 118 | - |
| 60 | 57 | 16 | I COULD BETHAT RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WMN Randall King | 0.623 | -0.033 | 347 | -101 | - |



Vincent Mason performed March 7 in the KKWF Seattle New Country Night Out series at Steel Creek. From left: Tampa Bay Buccaneers player Cade Otton, MCA Nashville director of Midwest promotion Donna Passuntino, Mason and Audacy regional vp of country/KKWF brand manager Drew Bland.



Kane Brown took part in the multi-artist Texas Independence Jam, presented by KSCS Dallas, on March 9 at Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth. From left: KSCS/KPLX PD Mike Preston, Brown, KSCS assistant PD/music director Al Farb, Cumulus/Dallas promotions director Jessica MacKenzie-Williams and Sony Music Nashville vp of radio marketing and promotion Mallory Michaels.



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ALBUM OF THE YEAR

FATHERS & SONS

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

"AINT NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA"

VISUAL MEDIA OF THE YEAR

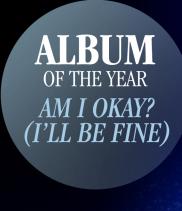






MEGAN MORONEY

FEATURED ON
NPR's Tiny Desk
Rolling Stone's Future Of Music COVER
Billboard's 2025 Women In Music Rulebreaker



FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

SINGLE OF THE YEAR "AM I OKAY?"



VISUAL MEDIA OF THE YEAR "AM I OKAY?"

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



Big Machine Label Group chairman/CEO Scott Borchetta (center) received the Bob Kingsley living legend award on March 10 at the Grand Ole Opry House. Celebrating with him (from left) are *Crook & Chase* co-host Lorianne Crook, BMLG executive vp of creative Sandi Spika Borchetta, *Crook & Chase* co-host Charlie Chase and Country Music Association CEO Sarah Trahern.

8x2 ON ACM RADIO AWARDS BALLOT

Eight stations received double nominations as the Academy of Country Music announced finalists for the ACM Radio Awards on March 10.

Outlets that were recognized in both the on-air personality and station of the year categories were **WUSN** Chicago (major market); **WSIX** Nashville and **WQDR** Raleigh, N.C. (large market); **WHKO** Dayton, Ohio; **WIVK** Knoxville, Tenn.; and **WUSY** Chattanooga, Tenn. (medium market); and **KCLR** Columbia, Mo.; and **WYCT** Pensacola, Fla. (small market).

The winners will be announced ahead of the 60th ACM Awards and celebrated during ACM Awards week.

The ACM Awards will be held May 8 at Ford Center at The Star in Frisco, Texas, and stream live on Prime Video. **Reba McEntire** will again host the show. This will mark the 18th time she has hosted or co-hosted the event, placing her just one show behind **Bob Hope** as the most frequent host of any major awards show. Hope hosted or co-hosted the Academy Awards 19 times between 1940 and 1978. McEntire first co-hosted the ACM Awards in 1986, alongside **Mac Davis** and **John Schneider**, and first served as solo host in 2002.

The awards return to Frisco for the third consecutive year. Ford Center at The Star opened in 2016 and serves as the practice facility for the Dallas Cowboys, as well as the home for many major sporting events throughout the year.

Go here for the full list of ACM Radio Awards finalists. —Paul Grein

RADIO & RECORDS®

Big Loud announced the signing of Thelma & James on March 14. The duo includes MacKenzie Porter, who was already on the roster as a solo artist, and her husband, Jake Etheridge. The move follows the January release of their collaboration ``Happy Ever After You" ... Writer-producer David Fanning(Parmalee, Avery Anna) launched Off Road Records in partnership with Reservoir. Its first signee is Dylan Davidson, whose inaugural single in the deal, "Wine Night," was issued March 14. Co-partner Jamie Graves serves as senior vp of marketing and promotion, segueing from Warner Music Nashville senior director of commercial partnerships ... Craig Campbell's Grindstone Recordings enlisted Hodges Entertainment owner Steve Hodges for the promotion team behind new single "Missing You" ... Sammy Arriaga's Dead Rose label partnered with Walk Off Entertainment, owned by 615 House founder Chris Ruediger. The first single in the arrangement, "Left My Heart in Texas," was released March 14 ... Sirius XM reduced its staff size on March 10, with the bulk of the layoffs in the product and technology group. It marked the third straight year of staff reductions for the satcaster ... Audacy enacted a round of layoffs that likely affected over 250 employees, RadioInsight.com

reported. Among those who were let go: Audacy/Nashville country music digital content lead **Monica Rivera** and **KFRG** Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif., morning co-host **Guy David**... **WGNE** Jacksonville, Fla., hired **Steve Sutton** to join the morning team, according to RadioInsight.com. He replaced **Eden Kendall**, who recently left the company, returning Sutton to a role he last occupied in 2022.

'ROUND THE ROW

PR firm Sacks & Co. made two moves in its Nashville office, promoting Catherine Snead to senior director of publicity from director and hiring associate Jessica Vandergriff, a former 117 Entertainment publicist ... Spotify Nashville head of editorial Rachel Whitney has taken a sabbatical ... The Academy of Country Music is seeking a head of strategic partnerships/revenue. Send résumés and applications to the ACM here ... Concord Music Publishing signed artist-writer Zachary Knowles to the roster ... The Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame will induct The Great Divide, Stoney LaRue, Jason Boland & The Stragglers and Cross Canadian Ragweed on April 10 during a concert at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater, Okla. ... Cross Canadian Ragweed will also receive a key to the city of Arlington, Texas, during the 15th annual Texas Regional Radio and Music Awards March 23-24. Michael Martin Murphey will similarly receive a key to the city plus a T3R living legend award ... The Nashville Songwriters Association International named Josie Bisto's "Love Lies" the song category grand-prize winner in the 25th annual NSAI Song Contest. The track will be performed by co-writer Meagan Allen on March 27 during the Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival in Nashville ... The Unsigned Only Music Competition has rebranded as the Unsigned Only Music Awards. Among the judges in this year's multigenre event are LeAnn Rimes, Ruthie Foster and The Devil Makes Three ... Bobby Bare Jr. will host an Americana salute to Bobby Bare on April 7 at Nashville's Basement East that features Steve Earle, Shawn Camp, Jamey Johnson and Emmylou Harris & Buddy Miller. The concert is the first of four events in a weeklong celebration of Bare's 90th birthday that folds in the Bluebird Cafe, the Grand Ole Opry House and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum ... Next Century Spirits acquired Kenny Chesney's Blue Chair Bay Rum. Chesney retains a stake in the brand ... Jordan Davis partnered with Wolverine Boots. The agreement includes plans for a custom collection arriving this fall ... Darryl Worley, T. Graham Brown, John Berry and Jamie O'Neal headline an Acoustic Evening for Autism, a benefit set for the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's autism program, on April 1 at the Nashville Palace ... T.G. Sheppard and Kelly Lang will host Country for a Cause on June 4 at Nashville's 3rd & Lindsley on the eve of CMA Fest. The lineup includes The Oak Ridge Boys, Mandy Barnett, Jimmy Fortune and Lacy J. Dalton.



A Randy Travis biopic, Forever and Ever, Amen, was announced March 5 at the Grand Ole Opry, with Clay Walker tapped to portray Travis as an adult. From left: producer Eric Groth, Walker, Travis and Travis' wife/spokesperson, Mary Travis.

JASON ALDEAN

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION



LAINBY WILSON

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

ALBUM OF THE YEAR WHIRLWIND

SONG OF THE YEAR "4X4XU"

SINGLE OF THE YEAR "4X4XU"

VISUAL MEDIA OF THE YEAR "4X4XU"











ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

SNL 50 Season Premiere Musical Guest:

HISTORIC

Album Beautifully Broken reached #1 on Billboard Top 200

MOMENTOUS

1 of 1 country artists to help +1M souls heal together in-concerts

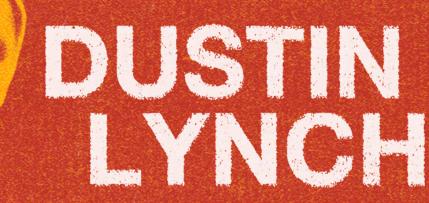
UNMATCH

ACM AVARDS









MUSIC EVENT OF THE YEAR DUSTIN LYNCH "CHEVROLET (FEAT. JELLY ROLL)"







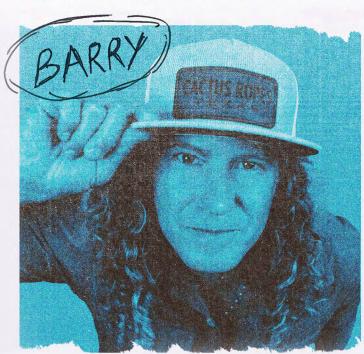
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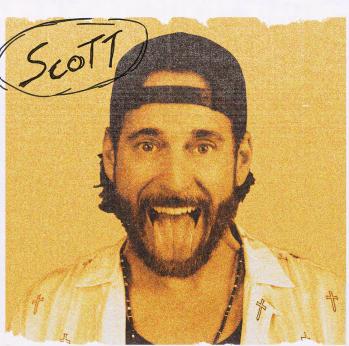
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FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION









GROUP OF THE YEAR











ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

JELLY ROLL
LAINEY WILSON

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

JASON ALDEAN
JELLY ROLL

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

LAINEY WILSON

GROUP OF THE YEAR

PARMALEE

NEW MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

CHAYCE BECKHAM DREW BALDRIDGE

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

JELLY ROLL BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN
LAINEY WILSON WHIRLWIND

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

LAINEY WILSON "4X4XU"
JELLY ROLL "I AM NOT OKAY"

SONG OF THE YEAR

LAINEY WILSON "4X4XU"

MUSIC EVENT OF THE YEAR

DUSTIN LYNCH "CHEVROLET (FEAT. JELLY ROLL)"

JOHN MORGAN "FRIENDS LIKE THAT (FEAT. JASON ALDEAN)"

VISUAL MEDIA OF THE YEAR

LAINEY WILSON "4X4XU"



billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

10–90 Azalea Bloom Publihing, BMI/Summit Drive Publishing, BMI/Kendell Marvel Publishing Designee, SESAC (G.S.Stanton, C.Muncaster, K.Marvel) **44**

3,2.1 Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jornil 10 Music, BMI/Native Notes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BM SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.Miller, S.Overstreet, J.Reynolds) **49**

AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED

Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byran 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,

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) 15

BACKSEAT DRIVER Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River Music, ASCAP/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Seker From The Speaker Music, BMI/On Cor Music, BMI (*J.Davis, J.Walker*) **18**

BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Max McNown Music, BMI/ Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/ Ready Set Publishing, BMI (M.McNown, J.Kenney, T.K.Dabbs) **55**

BETTER THAN YOU Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/ Brumby Cooper Oits Music, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Pickin Padre Music, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP (D.George, J.Pierce) 47

COMING HOME WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Twelveb Dogwood, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Tiny Handstand, ASCAP/Sharkules Music, ASCAP/Tiny Handstand, ASCAP/Sharkules Music, ASCAP/Bernefeusta Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Art of CIM Music Outlander IP, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR (M.Ramsey, T. Rosen, W.Sellers, G.Sprung, B.F.Tursi, S.McAnally) 19

COUNTRY HOUSE Twelve6 Red Oak Songs, BM/ Still Between The Pines, BM/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BM/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BM/Katie In The Sky With Diamonds, BM/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) 29

COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing ARCAIP/Brancica, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southend Kid Music, ASCAP (D.Alley, R.Beaver,

COWBOYS CRY TOO Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESA(/Yoandeezy Songs, SESA(/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESA(/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Secret Meadow Songs, ASCAP (K.Ballerin, AVanderheym, N.Kahan) 26

COWGIRL Tilevard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/ Sentric Music Ltd., PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/NewManiac Music North SO(AM/Naughnico Music Publishing Inc., PRS/Cooking Vinyl Publishing Ltd., PRS/Thomas Frank Ridley Horsley Publishing Designee, PRS/8936 Music, BMI/Parmal Publishing, BMI (JDLewis, Drānning, PDNewman, R.Jay, T.F.R.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) 46

CRY Songs of Litmus Music Publishing Holdings, BM/ Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/ Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, ASCAP/ Capitol (NG Genesis, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP (D.Davidson, B.Hayslip, D.A.Garcia) 59

D

DARLIN' Hunter Huff Publishing Designee, BMI/Ciaran Wilkie Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Verse 2, BMI/Droptime Music, BMI/Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Kobalt Music Servies Ltd., PRS (Chase Matthew, A.Maxwell, H.Huff, C.Wilkie, Jake Angel) 51

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) **36**

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/Seats By Baby Brent, ASCAP (S.C.McCreery, M.Criswell, F.Rogers, D.George, B.Anderson) E.

FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK SONY Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Coreent Music, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BM/Rudy Rocks The USA, BM/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BM/TDP Publishing, BM/ Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (N.Smith, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, 1, Pimer) 30

FOREVER TO ME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Colden Rainey Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number I Music, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/Big Loud Mountain ILL, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Swindell, G.James, R.H.Block) 7

FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER (oncord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Tompkins Family Vacation. ASCAP/Rio Music Machine, BM/Rio Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BM/I Finally Got Some Publishing, BM/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Miller, C.Tompkins, J.J.Dillon, D.Ross, R.J.Hurd) 31

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/ WritersonthecornPublishing, BMI/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/ Ksway Publishing, BMI (J.Morgan, B.Anderson, W.L.Bundy, Ukunhan II)

G

GOLDEN CHILD 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

GOOD NEWS 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/Parco, Place Songs, BMI (CO.Chibueze, N.Sastry, S.C.Cook, J.Torrey, M.R.Pollack, ROMANS) 34

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/Song Tree Publishing, BMI/Songo Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Daddy's Horne Music, BMI/Songo Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Dean, B.Davis, D.Williams) 32

HIGH ROAD Yellabush Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Kenny + Betty Tunes, LLC, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Gabe Simon Pub Designee, ASCAP/Escondido House Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jessie Murph Publishing Designee, BMI/Millicent Hill Music, BMI/Sig Music Machine, BMI/Josh Serrato Publishing Designee, ASCAP (RWetzel, Ar. Allen, G. Simon, C. Karpinen, Murph I.) (Allett J. Seratol 6. J.Murph, L.J.Veltz, J.Serrato) 6

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

HOMETOWN HOME 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.Abend) 2

HOUSE AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/ Party Of 5 Songs, ASCAP/Southend Kid Music, ASCAP/ Hudson, Westbrook Publishing Designee, BMI (H.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Alley) 57

HUNG UP ON YOU 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) **56**

I AIN'T SAYIN' Concord Copyrights, BM//Creative Pulse Music, BM/Trash Man Songs, SOCAN/Highway 76 Songs, BM//Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp, BM//Et Wilde Songs, BM//Big Loud Mountain LLC, BM//Bid Dill Songs LLC, SOCAN (T.P.Wood, S.Moakler, M.L.Holman, E.Reid) 8

I COULD BE THAT RAIN Brian Fuller Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Deluge Music, BMI/Mason Thornley Songs, BMI (B.Fuller, M.A.Thornley) 60

I DARE YOU Nick Jonas Publishing, BM/PWZ Publishing House, BM/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BM/Shay Mooney Music, BM/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/BSXteen Music, ASCAP (N.J.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.Whitmore, Jr.) 37

PM 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) 3

I'M THE PROBLEM Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Jamie McLauglin Publishing Designes, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (McKwallen, G.W. Block, JMcLaughlin, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) 11

INDIGO Sam Barber Music Publishing, BM//Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BM//Sparky Sky Songs, BM//To A T Creative, BM//Sony Tree Publishing, BM//Tape Room Hits, BM//Firebird Country Tunes, BM//Oakdale Market Publishing, BM/ (Sx.Barber, A.Anna, A.Sherdan) 45

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,

IT WON'T BE LONG Big Machine, ASCAP/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMJ/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. BMJ/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMJ/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMJ/Sony Countryside, BMJ (GBirge, JA-Fox, CMGBII), T.Anderson) 42

JUST TO SAY WE DID Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Basuare Music, BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/ N2D Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Carol Vincent And Associates, LLC., ASCAP/Songsofbj, ASCAP/WC Music Corp. ASCAP/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP (K. Chesney, D.L. Murphy, Brett James, M.Dragstrem) 17

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)

LIFE WITH YOU Mike Curb Music, BMI/Hits From The Hart, BMI/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Indectso Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/CTM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP (K.Hart, K.Schlienger, S.Stepakoff) 27

LOVE SOMEBODY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BM//Honey Hole Publishing, BM//Big Loud Mountain LLC, BM//John Byram Music, BM//Sony, Cross Keye Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/13117 Music, ASCAP/Elof Loelv Publishing Designee, ASCAP/IMC Is The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Sony, Songs LLC, BMI/Stellar Sun Songs, ASCAP/Famous Virgins, Inc., SOCAN/Regicide Entertainment, SoCAN (McWallen, Jayron, AGGorfey J.K.Hindlis, ELoely Charlie Handsome, N.JGale, M.Sorbara, S.C.Frank, S.F.R.Mastroianni, Y.Gruzman) 4

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) 12

RELAPSE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing (orp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (W.Zeiders, B.Pendergrass) 41

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/ Smackshof Music, BMI/Katle In Paris, BMI/Stereo Supersonic Music, ASCAP/Jordan Rocks Music, ASCAP (D. Bentley, R. Copperman, A. G. Gorley, C. McGill, J. C. Allen, W. Scantlin) 38

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, ULC, BMI/Josh Ross Publishing Designee, BMI/Real Bad Songs, SESAC (L/Ross, J.A.Fox, B.Rempel) 21

STRAIGHT LINE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/ MAROMA Music, BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/IFlow Records & Tages, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sir Greg Wells Songs, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (KUrban, C.McGill, J.Flowers, Globels J. Off. G.Wells) 40

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, ESSA(/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC (JClawson, K.Sturrock, J.Dorr, L.Guzman) 12

THIS HEART Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Madfun Music, BMI/Oconee River Bank Music, BMI/ Bollingersey Shore, SESAC/T VIII Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Iytanium Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC (TArcher, W.B.Bollinger, J.A. Hackworth, M.Tyler) 25

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, BM/Warner-Iamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/John Byran Music, BMI/Ken Rainey Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI (D.Scott, AGGorley, Charlie Handsome, JByron, T.Phillips) 5

TIME'S TICKING Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/ Big Music Machine, BMI/W Music Corp., ASCAP/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Music of the Corn, ASCAP/Wind Willy Music, ASCAP/Music of the Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing, Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Junes from The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP (JMoore, WLBundy, RMontana, J.S. Stower) 48

TOUGH PEOPLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI/Round Hill Lyrics, BMI/Bumpin Does Music, BMI/ Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Songs of Universal, Inc., BMI (*D.Baldridge*, *JWalker, A.Sanders, L.Combs*) 16

TRUCK ON FIRE BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Redfeather Publishing, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Warner-Iamerlane Publishing Corp., BM/ RADIOBULLETSPublishing, BMI (C.Pearce, J.A.Ebach, C.Kelley) 23

TRUCK STILL WORKS Sea Gayle Distillery Music, ASCAP/Papaw's Whiskey Music, ASCAP/W Music Corp., ASCAP/Taperoom Music, ASCAP/Series I, ASCAP/Hunter Phelps Pub Designee, ASCAP/Wild Will, Music, ASCAP/Music of The Corn, ASCAP/Quivira Road Songs, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Warner-lamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Water Woods Music, ASCAP (Braisley, H.Phelps, W.L.Bundy, R.Clawson, C.Duðois) 50

WEREN'T FOR THE WIND Sony Tree Publishing, BM/Bridge 1 Music, BM/Songs Of Smack, BM/ Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BM/Music Of CTM Outlander Music I, BM/Langley Publishing, BM (£ Langley, JTaylor, JClawson) 20

WHAT KINDA MAN Parkermac Publishing, BMI/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/ WRUCKENROLLMUSIC, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI (PMcCollum, J.N.Spillman, N.Hemby) 35

WHISKEY DRINK BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/ Triple Play Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI (X.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) 13

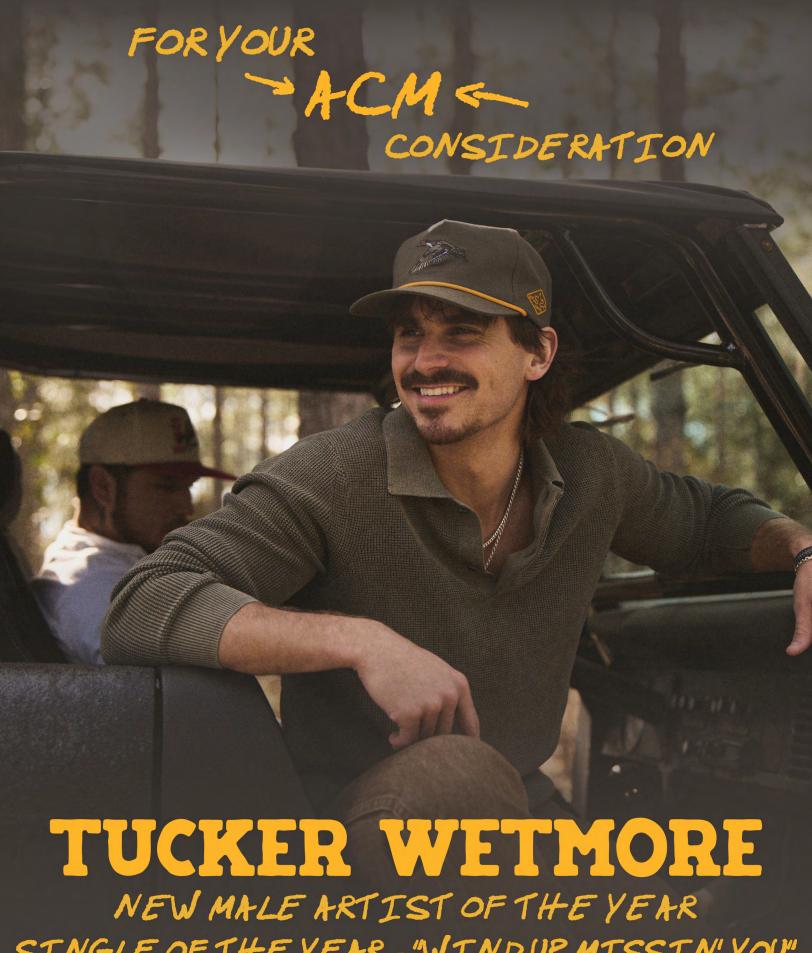
WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbanger Publishing, BMI/ Big Ass Pile of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G. Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) 58

WOLVES CRY Average ZJS Music Publishing, BMI (B.

WORST WAY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) 24

WOULD IF I COULD Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI

ENDS OF THE EARTH Ty Myers Publishing



SINGLE OF THE YEAR - "WINDUP MISSIN" YOU"









5 Years Ago No 'Bones' About It: Maren Morris Was No. 1

After a year-plus climb, crossover smash "The Bones" topped Hot Country Songs in March 2020 On March 14, 2020, Maren Morris' "The Bones" rose one spot to No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart, becoming her first leader on the list.

The song — which Morris cowrote with Laura Veltz and Jimmy Robbins, and Greg Kurstin produced — reached the penthouse in its 53rd chart week, beginning a 19-week domination. It also led Country Airplay for two frames in February 2020, becoming her fourth leader, and ruled Adult Pop Airplay for one week that April and Adult Contemporary for one week that September.

"The fans have spoken on this one," Morris told Billboard upon "The Bones" crowning Country Airplay. "It's a real, gritty love song. I couldn't be more proud that it's become one of the biggest songs of my career to date."

The Arlington, Texas, native sent her debut single, "My Church" (which pays homage to the Grand Ole Opry), to No. 5 on Hot Country Songs in March 2016; her first of nine top 10s. In August 2024, she segued to pop with the EP *Intermission*. Her next run of tour dates will begin July 12 in Quebec.

