

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com



## Newly Named Hall Of Famers Chesney, Carter Cash, Brown Owe Their Legacies To A Common Trait

When the Country Music Association (CMA) announced the Country Music Hall of Fame inductees for 2025 on March 25, event host **Vince Gill** recalled a moment in the 1990s when producer **Tony Brown** (**George Strait**, **Reba McEntire**) spotted one of his signature songs.

"He's the one, single-handedly, that talked me into recording 'Go Rest High on That Mountain,'" Gill recalled. "I was not going to record it. It was too personal. It was a little too hard for me to sing. And he heard it, he said, 'You have to record that song.'"

"Go Rest High" was unconventional as a single. Instead of positive and uptempo, it was slow and reverent; it lasted more than four minutes; and it drew on the deaths of Gill's brother and **Keith Whitley** for its memorial character. It peaked at No. 14 on the *Billboard* country singles chart, breaking Gill's string of a dozen top five titles. But "Go Rest High" won best country song at the Grammy Awards and song of the year at the CMA Awards, and the hundreds of times Gill has sung it publicly include the funerals for **Ralph Stanley**, **Little Jimmy Dickens** and **George Jones**.

Brown, Gill concluded, "couldn't have been more right" when he insisted on Gill recording it.

That story pointed to one of the secondary effects of the Hall of Fame. Officially, the inductions recognize people who made a

huge impact on country. The music doesn't exist without them. But those same people don't rise to legendary levels without the music, either. Or, more specifically, without the songs. With few exceptions, nearly every plaque in the building's Rotunda — where the announcement was held — can be quickly associated with a signature song. Or two. Or three or five.



BROWN



JUNE CARTER CASH



CHESNEY

**Tammy Wynette?** "Stand by Your Man."  
**Alabama?** "Mountain Music."  
**Glen Campbell?** "Wichita Lineman," "Gentle on My Mind," "Rhinestone Cowboy."  
**Charley Pride?** "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'."  
**Loretta Lynn?** "Coal Miner's Daughter," "You Ain't Woman Enough."

"Would we really know even **Johnny Cash**, if not for the songs?" asks MCA Music Publishing Nashville chairman/CEO **Troy Tomlinson**. "I can't imagine we would, right? It's always the song."

That reminder was easy to see during the Hall of Fame announcement. Brown has guided a number of signature songs during nearly 50 years as a producer: **Brooks & Dunn**'s "Believe," **David Lee Murphy**'s "Dust on the Bottle," **Reba McEntire**'s "Fancy," **George Strait**'s "Blue Clear Sky," **Wynonna**'s "No One Else on Earth" and **Steve Earle**'s "Guitar Town," for example.

But Brown's fellow 2025 inductees reinforce that thought.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**LOCASH** Shoots The Gap On Airplay >page 4

Recorded-Music Sales Are Up >page 8

Country Coda: Cole Swindell Hit 'Worth' Remembering >page 12

BROWN: JASON LOWRIE; CARTER CASH: MARTY STUART; CHESNEY: ALLISTER ANN

ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

FINAL ROUND OF AWARDS VOTING  
**60 NOW OPEN**

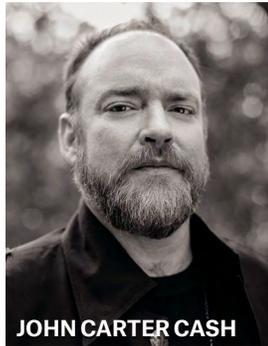
DEADLINE TO VOTE APRIL 7

**Kenny Chesney** has built his career on songs such as “No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems,” “I Go Back” and “Don’t Blink,” touching on beach life, nostalgia and life lessons as he has packed stadiums across the country for two decades.

“I just wanted to record and write songs that reflected the lives of a lot of people that came to our shows,” Chesney said. “I just wanted to spread as much positive energy and love as I possibly could.”

Fellow inductee **June Carter Cash**, meanwhile, was most closely associated on the chart with “Jackson,” a rollicking duet with Johnny, and with “Ring of Fire,” a classic she wrote about the heat she felt for the Man in Black. But even before she married him, June — as a second-generation descendent of the original **Carter Family** — was already associated with “Will the Circle Be Unbroken,” the song that provides the theme for the Hall’s Rotunda.

“That song has ancient origins,” **John Carter Cash** acknowledged during the March 25 press conference. “But there’s one person who sang that song more than anybody else in her lifetime — or anyone else’s lifetime, for that matter — and that was my mother, June Carter.”



JOHN CARTER CASH

June and Chesney both can trace at least a portion of their success to their connections with two of the oldest publishing houses affiliated with country music. **A.P. Carter** built the family’s catalog by collecting songs from the mountains that would form the backbone of its repertoire. “Wildwood Flower,” “Keep on the Sunny Side” and

“Wabash Cannonball” became some of the earliest — and most enduring — titles associated with the genre. The group’s producer, **Ralph Peer**, administered the copyrights through his publishing company, now known as peer music, with the royalties he generated setting a template for Nashville’s song-centric music business. The Carters’ songs carry influence not only in country, but also in folk and Americana.

“They are the canon of American music, the foundation,” John said.

Chesney signed his first songwriting contract with Acuff-Rose, the first country publishing firm established in Nashville. Formed by Hall of Famers **Roy Acuff** and songwriter **Fred Rose** (“Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain,” “Kaw-Liga”), the company published songs by the likes of **Hank Williams**, **Don Gibson**, **Roy Orbison** and **Boudleaux** and **Felice Bryant** (“Bye Bye Love,” “Rocky Top”).

Tomlinson, who was employed at Acuff-Rose in the early 1990s, believed strongly in Chesney’s talents as a writer, unaware of the onstage reputation that he would eventually build.

“The reason I signed him was the songs,” he recalls. “I was not thinking ‘artist,’ and I’m not sure to what degree he was.”

Writing daily for a company with the legacy of Acuff-Rose helped shape Chesney’s song sense. He routinely frustrated Tomlinson when he would cut seven or eight of his own titles for an album, then drop them in favor of songs from other writers. But through his training, Chesney could identify the good stuff and ended up building long-term success by routinely attracting some of Nashville’s best material.

“If you don’t have a great song,” Brown says, “you don’t have shit.”

Once Chesney, Brown and June have their plaques installed, they’ll join an entire room of people who similarly built their reputations on songs with lasting value. The Nashville Songwriters Association International likes to say that “It all begins with a song,” and the inductees already there attest to that with their signature melodies.

**Kris Kristofferson**: “Me and Bobby McGee,” “Help Me Make It Through the Night.” **Dolly Parton**: “Jolene,” “9 to 5,” “I Will Always Love You.” **Merle Haggard**: “Mama Tried,” “Okie From Muskogee.” **Willie Nelson**: “On the Road Again,” “Crazy.”

As much as the Hall of Fame honors the people, it really recognizes a body of work that reflects the working-class audience who form its consumer base. “That’s what creates the history,” Gill says. “The artists sing them, but we’re going to pass on and go away. The songs are what’s going to live forever.” ●



TOMLINSON

COURTESY: UNIVERSAL MUSIC PUBLISHING



**Corey Kent** (center) spent time with WCTK Providence, R.I., PD/afternoon host **Kevin Lawrence** (right) when he played *Moonshine Alley* on March 26. With them are RCA director of Northeast regional promotion **Dan Nelson**.



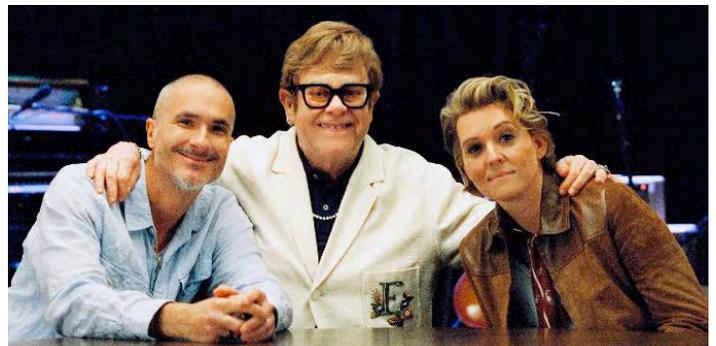
CHANCE PHEBUS

Former songwriting package the **Hit Men of Music Row** reunited for a March 25 performance at Nashville’s 3rd & Lindsley during *Tin Pan South*. From left: **Tony Mullins** (“Me and My Gang”), **Craig Wiseman** (“Live Like You Were Dying”), **Jeffrey Steele** (“What Hurts the Most”) and **Bob DiPiero** (“Blue Clear Sky”).



NATALIE SAKSTRUP

**Laci Kaye Booth** performed “Daddy’s Mugshot” when she made her Grand Ole Opry debut on March 29. From left: WME agent **Braeden Rountree**, **Big Machine Music** senior director of publishing **Michelle Attardi**, **Booth** and **Red Light** manager **Kaitlin Madewell**.



**Brandi Carlile** and **Elton John** were featured in an **Apple Music** interview with **Zane Lowe** that debuted on April 2 in conjunction with their album, *Who Believes in Angels?*



SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE  
WELCOMES



# TIGIRLILY GOLD

FOREVER FROM HERE

ADD/CONVERT NOW



SONY MUSIC | NASHVILLE

# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY  
MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

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

## LOCASH Back 'Home' Atop Country Airplay Chart

LOCASH leads *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart (dated April 12) for the first time since 2016 as "Hometown Home" (BMG/Galaxy Label Group) ascends 2-1. The song increased by 10% to 30.1 million audience impressions March 28-April 3, according to Luminate.

The duo — Preston Brust and Chris Lucas — co-authored the song with Zach Abend and Andy Albert. Jacob Rice produced it.

In early 2024, LOCASH originated Galaxy Label Group in partnership with Studio2Bee Entertainment, founded by veteran Nashville music executives Skip Bishop and Butch Waugh.

"Seeing 'Hometown Home' sitting at the top of the *Billboard* chart has been amazing in ways we couldn't imagine," Brust and Lucas said in a joint statement. "It's our first No. 1 since we went all in and bet on ourselves and launched our own record label. We get to appreciate this hit on so many levels: as writers, artists and as record-label executives. This song is so special. It's been epic watching it land on people's hearts. It just feels different bringing this one 'home.'"

LOCASH previously topped Country Airplay when "I Know Somebody" led for one week in October 2016. The tandem establishes the longest break between No. 1s — eight years, six months and two weeks — since David Lee Murphy went 22-plus years between leaders from 1995 to 2018. Among duos or groups, LOCASH now holds the longest gap between No. 1s since Alabama waited more than 17 years (1993-2011).

LOCASH has notched two additional Country Airplay top 10s among its 14 chart entries (including its first five under the billing LoCASH Cowboys): "I Love This Life" reached No. 2 in January 2016, and "One Big Country Song" also hit No. 2 in August 2020.

Last June, "Hometown Home" became LOCASH's first entry on the chart since "Beach Boys" dented the list (No. 58 peak) in 2022. The latter is co-billed with actual Beach Boys Bony Mike Love and Bruce Johnston. ●



JOSH BEECH

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+3.220
HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	+2.695
TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	+2.215
FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	+1.933
COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+1.680
BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.486
WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+1.445
WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.346
AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+1.220
FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	+1.158

### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+971
HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	+807
FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	+686
TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	+559
AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+428
FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+412
HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville	Eric Church	+399
WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+393
COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+385
BAR NONE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+383

### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	18.163
2	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	15.459
3	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	14.920
4	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	13.024
5	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	10.342
6	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	8.739
7	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	8.698
8	MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville	Marshmello & Kane Brown	8.595
9	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	8.243
10	AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner/WMN	Dasha	8.218



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 3, 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	13	SHE GOES GOOD WITH TEQUILA (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★	Brian Mars	1713	42	11	13	23	AUSTIN ANYMORE (Independent)	Brandi Behlen	1147	92
2	3	28	HER WAY AIN'T THE HIGHWAY (Independent)	Jake Bush	1656	105	12	17	8	ROLLIN' ON (Flying C)	Brooke Graham	1120	160
3	5	13	ABILENE (LuckySky Music)	Tori Martin	1509	48	13	14	14	PUT IT IN REVERSE (Independent)	Ben McPeak	1115	88
4	6	13	5 TO 9 (Independent)	Hudson Westbrook	1494	53	14	15	13	BUCKLE OR THE BRIDE (Independent)	Caleb Young	1099	75
5	4	19	LUBBOCK (Independent)	Flatland Cavalry	1487	0	15	12	11	THE WORKING MAN (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1094	33
6	7	12	WEST OF FT WORTH (Independent)	Grant Gilbert	1449	77	16	1	20	BORDERLINE CRAZY (Independent)	William Beckmann	1062	-758
7	10	12	SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1403	135	17	19	13	AIN'T THAT LOVE (Independent)	Bri Bagwell & Timber Wilde	1011	130
8	8	23	GOOD AGAIN, AMEN (Independent)	Keller Cox	1336	-11	18	18	11	WHAT I CAME TO DO (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1008	94
9	11	9	DAMN BABY (Independent)	Bubba Westly	1328	83	19	16	19	WHAT'S LEFT OF MY HEART (No Big Deal)	Reckless Kelly	1004	8
10	9	11	DRIVE (Independent)	Jason Boland & The Stragglers	1308	6	20	22	7	HURRICANE (CDX)	Sandee June	885	106

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 MONITORED BY **LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	2	44	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group <b>★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★</b>	LOCASH	30.142	+2.695	8685	807	1
2	3	21	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	25.325	-0.691	6678	-121	4
3	1	56	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	24.533	-2.934	6918	-1236	3
4	5	9	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud <b>★★ Most Increased Audience ★★</b>	Morgan Wallen	24.071	+3.220	6956	971	2
5	8	50	FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	22.087	+1.933	6674	686	5
6	4	24	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	21.871	-0.116	5645	-136	8
7	6	51	FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	21.704	+1.158	6274	242	6
8	7	38	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	20.485	-0.002	5165	-31	10
9	9	25	I NEVER LIE Leo33	Zach Top	20.262	+0.895	5837	223	7
10	10	20	TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	17.714	+1.150	5537	306	9
11	11	36	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	17.262	+1.346	5095	224	11
12	12	42	HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	15.526	+0.731	4934	233	12
13	14	33	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	15.095	+1.220	4837	428	13
14	15	22	TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldridge	12.665	+0.431	3979	80	14
15	16	22	BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	12.321	+1.486	3867	281	16
16	17	38	JUST TO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	11.181	+0.646	3921	313	15
17	19	14	WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	10.515	+0.899	3471	288	18
18	18	40	COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	10.339	+0.383	3696	152	17
19	22	17	WORST WAY Nashville Harbor <b>★★ Airpower ★★</b>	Riley Green	9.797	+1.445	3101	393	20
20	20	53	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	9.582	+0.489	3289	69	19
21	23	41	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	8.809	+0.862	2742	360	23
22	21	30	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	8.800	+0.402	2766	60	21
23	25	33	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	8.586	+1.680	2706	385	24
24	24	36	TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	7.714	+0.235	2747	152	22
25	28	21	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	6.026	+1.140	2104	412	25
26	27	53	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	5.087	+0.194	2007	-52	27
27	30	30	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	5.031	+0.534	2022	170	26
28	31	10	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	4.388	+0.142	1598	96	30
29	33	20	COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	4.279	+0.233	1734	76	29
30	32	28	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	4.233	+0.024	1801	17	28

## COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

### RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2025, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed in Luminate's online platform.

### TIES

On Country Airplay, if two songs are tied in audience, the song with the larger increase in audience is placed first.

### BULLETS

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles gaining audience or remaining flat from the previous week. A song will also receive a bullet if its percentage loss in audience does not exceed the percentage of monitored station downtime for the format. Titles that decline in audience but increase in detections will also receive a bullet if the total audience erosion for the week does not exceed 3%.

### RECURRENTS

On Country Airplay, descending titles below No. 10 in either audience or detections are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks, provided that they are not still gaining enough audience points to bullet or if they rank below No. 10 and post a third consecutive week of (non-bulleted) audience decline, regardless of total chart weeks. Plus, songs that ascend to a peak between Nos. 1 and 5 will remain on the chart for one additional week even if dropping below No. 10.

### HOT SHOT DEBUT

Awarded to the highest-ranking new entry on Country Airplay.

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

Most Increased Audience on Country Airplay lists the songs with the greatest week-to-week increases in total audience.

### AIRPOWER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles ranking inside top 20 in plays and audience rankings for the first time, with increases in both plays and audience.

### BREAKER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles achieving airplay (at least one detection) at 60% of reporting stations for the first time.

# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY  
MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	35	7	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	4.162	+0.623	1591	238	31
32	34	29	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	3.752	+0.191	1519	69	32
33	39	3	HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville	Eric Church	3.677	+0.700	1317	399	34
34	37	9	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	3.661	+0.385	1516	37	33
35	40	7	SHE HATES ME Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	3.010	+0.098	1216	93	35
36	43	12	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	2.981	+0.468	1178	224	36
37	45	3	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	2.976	+0.835	1039	254	38
38	41	4	RUN Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert	2.712	+0.073	851	31	45
39	44	23	RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	2.361	-0.008	1016	-19	40
40	NEW		TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River <b>★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★</b>	Chris Young	2.215	+2.215	559	559	54
41	47	20	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	2.109	+0.149	1023	45	39
42	46	4	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Republic/EMI Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	2.094	-0.001	881	88	43
43	48	10	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	1.932	+0.098	1063	31	37
44	57	2	BAR NONE MCA Nashville <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Jordan Davis	1.780	+0.899	597	383	53
45	49	10	INDIGO Lockeland Springs/Atlantic/Magnolia Music	Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna	1.758	+0.131	765	65	49
46	53	18	DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Chase Matthew	1.567	+0.216	782	125	47
47	51	13	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	1.521	+0.094	829	60	46
48	52	15	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	1.441	+0.046	920	34	41
49	50	20	BETTER THAN YOU Quartz Hill/Stone Country	Joe Nichols / Annie Bosko	1.416	-0.080	860	-34	44
50	55	17	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	1.361	+0.286	889	79	42
51	42	2	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	1.349	-1.240	332	-356	-
52	54	12	10-90 Stancaster/Thirty Tigers/Big Machine	Muscadine Bloodline	1.085	-0.137	619	-9	52
53	NEW		HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	1.084	+0.814	462	319	58
54	RE-ENTRY		HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Hudson Westbrook	1.071	+0.393	441	158	60
55	58	3	CRY Curb	Lee Brice	0.990	+0.242	413	66	-
56	56	13	WOLVES CRY Average Joes	Bryan Martin	0.909	+0.022	480	-32	57
57	RE-ENTRY		WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Vincent Mason	0.876	+0.156	620	88	51
58	60	4	FOREVER FROM HERE Monument	Tigirlily Gold	0.804	+0.062	768	78	48
59	NEW		NOT AT THIS PARTY VERSION III/Warner/WMN	Dasha	0.800	+0.094	550	43	55
60	59	8	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	0.709	-0.036	649	20	50



On April 1, Darryl Worley joined more than 10 artists for the second annual Acoustic Evening for Autism benefiting the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center treatment facility at Nashville Palace. From left: Christian country singer-songwriter Doug Mathis, Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame member Devon O'Day, Worley and Triumph Promotion lead promoter Debbie Randle.



Riley Green (center) received an RIAA-certified platinum plaque for "The Worst Way" and a gold award for his Ella Langley collaboration, "Don't Mind If I Do," on March 31 at his Duck Blind bar in Nashville. With him are Nashville Harbor president Jimmy Harnen (left) and Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta.

JWA MEDIA

NICK RAY



7th Annual  
**Songwriter's Night**

*Benefiting Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee*

Chris Young | Chris DeStefano

April 26, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

The Reserve at Fat Bottom Brewing

Free of charge to everyone, Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee uplifts and strengthens people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities, and breaking down barriers to care.

**Learn More and Buy Tickets:**

[gildasclubmiddletn.org/songwriters-night](https://gildasclubmiddletn.org/songwriters-night)

615-329-1124 | 1707 Division Street Nashville, TN 37203

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND [tom.roland@billboard.com](mailto:tom.roland@billboard.com)

Staff at Los Angeles' Crypto.com Arena surprised Kelsea Ballerini by introducing her to some adoptable puppies and making a donation to Wags & Walks on March 21. From left: Crypto.com Arena vp of marketing and communications Cara Vanderhook and senior vp of arena services Danielle Snyder, Ballerini and Crypto.com Arena president Lee Zeidman.

## PRERECORDED-MUSIC PURCHASES UP

While some recent industry statistics show a slowdown in the U.S. streaming market, spending remains quite healthy, according to new figures from market research firm MusicWatch.

Most notably, 50 million more Americans bought recorded music in 2024 than a decade earlier. Products included in that count are on-demand music subscriptions, paid internet radio subscriptions, physical formats such as CDs and LPs, and digital downloads.

Some of that increase can be attributed to population growth over the last 10 years. The total U.S. population — including people under 13 and non-internet users who are typically not counted in market research surveys — grew by roughly 19 million over that period. But since the number of music buyers far outstripped population growth, most of the increase came from a greater interest in music products.

By MusicWatch's estimate, about half of all Americans aged 13 to 70 (132 million people) paid for a music subscription in 2024, including on-demand streaming and satellite radio.

Not only are more Americans spending money on music, they're spending more. Taking inflation into account, per capita spending increased approximately 32% over the past decade. Go [here](#) for the full story. —Glenn Peoples

## RADIO & RECORDS®

The Monument label was closed down, eight years after its revival by **Shane McAnally** and **Jason Owen**. **Tigirlily Gold**'s recording contract will be moved into the Sony Music Nashville fold, while **Walker Hayes**' deal, which was initiated through Sony, is being worked out. Monument GM **Katie McCartney** is expected to announce her next opportunity in the coming weeks ... Big Loud promoted **Brianne Deslippe** to head of marketing from senior vp of global marketing and strategy. She fills the vacancy left by the departure of senior vp of marketing **Candice Watkins** ... **ERNEST** announced a joint-venture label — DeVille, formed in partnership with Big Loud — on April 4. The roster includes **Chandler Walters**, **Cody Lohden** and **Rhys Rutherford**, all of whom appear on DeVille's initial project, *Cadillac Sessions*, due May 9. The three artists, as well as ERNEST, are being managed by former Big Loud manager/head of digital **Kiley Donohoe**, through her newly established Greenhouse Management. Reach Donohoe [here](#) ... **Jennifer Stocker** was appointed iHeartMedia area president for Nebraska-Iowa, RadioInk.com reported. She previously held a similar position in the MidNorth area, where she oversaw six markets and served as Grand Forks, N.D., market president. Her new territory includes six country outlets: Iowa stations **KKSY** Cedar Rapids, **WLLR** Davenport and **KXNO-HD2** Des Moines, plus Nebraska signals **KMCX** Ogallala and **KFFF/KXKT** Omaha ... **Kira Kathleen** joined Zimmer Communications/Columbia, Mo., according to RadioInk.com. She'll handle evenings on country **KCLR** and serve as top 40 **KTX** assistant PD/afternoon drive host. Kathleen previously worked afternoons at adult contemporary **WRRM** Cincinnati before a round of layoffs ... Townsquare/Boise, Idaho, parted ways with director of content **Chris Pickett**, RadioInsight.com

reported. The cluster includes country **KAWO** ... Townsquare/Sedalia, Mo., director of content **Rob Creighton** departed, according to RadioInsight.com. The market's signals include country **KKKX** ... Country Radio Broadcasters set the leadership team for its Country Radio Seminar agenda committee: chair **Shelley Hargis** (BMG/BBR Music Group) and co-vice chairs **Krista Hayes-Pruitt** (BMG/BBR Music Group) and **Kevin Callahan** (Pamal Broadcasting). CRB is seeking additional parties to fill out the committee. Apply [here](#) by April 18 to join the agenda committee.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

FMBB promoted **Laura Beth Hendricks**, **Ben Huddleston** and **Abby Lamb** to associate business manager. Hendricks was previously director of internal compliance and support; Huddleston and Lamb were elevated from senior account executive posts ... Perk PR & Creative hired publicist **Ali Patton**, who was formerly an agent assistant at The Neal Agency ... Nashville-based EVA — a tech company that books artists, speakers and entertainers for corporate events — launched in San Antonio and Houston, bringing the service to 10 markets total ... Developing artist **Matt Schuster** signed a management deal with Fngprnt's **Dillon Goldberg** ... Sony Music Publishing Nashville added artist-writer **Averie Bielski** to the roster ... New artist **Chandler Brown** signed a joint-venture publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville and **Devin Dawson**'s Warrior Poet Music ... The Neal Agency signed **Preston Cooper** to a booking deal ... **Randy Travis** will be honored April 8 during the Recording Academy's annual Grammys on the Hill Awards in Washington, D.C. ... Big Loud partner **Craig Wiseman** received multiple honors in Hattiesburg, Miss., on March 27. He had a marker added to the Mississippi Country Music Trail, while the city observed Craig Wiseman Day and dedicated the Craig Wiseman Bandshell ... The Country Music Association will honor 16 songwriters — including **Rory Block**, **Morgan Wallen**, **Ashley Gorley** and **Taylor Phillips** — with Triple Play Awards, recognizing three No. 1 singles in a 12-month window, on April 29. Additionally, music publishing veteran **David Conrad** will receive the songwriter advocate award ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's "Sing Me Back Home: Folk Roots to the Present" gallery was named in honor of late supporters **Judy** and **Steve Turner** ... **Dasha**, **Lindsay Ell**, **Brooke Eden**, **Sam Williams** and **David Archuleta** were the first performers announced for the 10th annual Concert for Love & Acceptance at Nashville's Category 10, slated for June 2 ... Avenue Bank founder **Van Tucker**, 67, died March 28. A former Leadership Music board member, she played a role in building a bridge between Nashville's entertainment community and its financial sector. In lieu of flowers, the family suggested donating to the Williamson County Animal Shelter ... Songwriter **Troy Seals** ("Seven Spanish Angels," "If You Ever Have Forever in Mind"), 86, died March 6 at his home in Hendersonville, Tenn., MusicRow.com reported. He was a 1988 inductee in the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame ... Country/pop singer **Johnny Tillotson**, 86, died April 1. His self-written 1962 recording "It Keeps Right On A-Hurtin'" reached the top five on both the pop and country charts. It also returned to country's top 20 in 1988 in a remake by **Billy Joe Royal**. Additionally, Tillotson lobbied four covers of former country hits into the top 10 of the Easy Listening chart in the ensuing three years: "Send Me the Pillow You Dream On," "I Can't Help It (If I'm Still in Love With You)," "Talk Back Trembling Lips" and "Heartaches by the Number." ●



Four artists and managers were announced March 31 as members of mtheory's latest Equal Access program. From left: Artists **Michael Warren** and **MORIAH**, Under Color Management founder **Kohl Almire** and Black Opry co-director **Tanner Davenport**.

# billboard



## 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](mailto:joe.maimone@billboard.com)  
**Southeast:** Lee Ann Photoglo | [laphotoglo@gmail.com](mailto:laphotoglo@gmail.com)  
**Latin:** Marcia Olival | [marciaolival29@gmail.com](mailto:marciaolival29@gmail.com)  
**Touring & West Coast:** Cynthia Mellow | [cmellow615@gmail.com](mailto:cmellow615@gmail.com)  
**International:** Ryan O'Donnell | [rodonnell@pmc.com](mailto:rodonnell@pmc.com)

ISSUE DATE 5/8 | AD CLOSE 4/8 | MATERIALS DUE 4/14

# 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) **52**

**3,2,1** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Native Notes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.Miller, S.Oberstreet, J.Reynolds) **42**

## 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) **31**

**AM I OKAY?** Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiano Music, SESAC/Concord Global Music, GMR/Songs Of CN, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, SESAC/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Moroney, L.Laird, J.Dillon) **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) **15**

**BAR NONE** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Hunter Phelps Pub Designee, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Kwsay Publishing, BMI/WritersonthehornPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (B.J.Johnson, H.Phelps, L.Vaughan) **44**

**BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES)** Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Max McOwn Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI (M.McOwn, J.Kennedy, T.K.Dabbs) **60**

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

## C

**COMING HOME** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/Tevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Tiny Handstand, ASCAP/Sharkules Music, ASCAP/More MeGusta 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.F.Tursi, S.McAnally) **18**

**COUNTRY HOUSE** Twelve6 Red Oak Songs, BMI/Still Between The Pines, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Katie In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs For Indy And Owl, ASCAP/Works Of CMT Outlander, GMR (M.Lotten, R.Copperman, J.Osborne, S.L.Hunt) **23**

**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) **29**

**COWGIRL** Tileyard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sentric Music Ltd., PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/NewMania Music North, SOCAN/VaughnCo Music Publishing Inc., PRS/Cooking Vinyl Publishing Ltd., PRS/Thomas Frank Ridley Horsley Publishing Designee, PRS/9936 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) **47**

**CRY** Songs of Litmus Music Publishing Holdings, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, ASCAP/Capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP (D.Davidson, B.Hayslip, D.A.Garcia) **55**

## 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 Services Ltd., PRS (Chase Matthew, A.Maxwell, H.Huff, C.Wilkie, Jake Angel) **46**

## F

**FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Coerent 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) **25**

**FOREVER FROM HERE** Smack Back Music, BMI/Sleighbells Ring Publishing, BMI/Lily Lyrics Publishing, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Songs Of CTM Publishing, BMI/Smack Attack Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Nash And Stella Songs, SESAC/Me Gusta Music, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/Art Of CTM Music Outlander LP, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR (K.J.Slaubaugh, K.J.Slaubaugh, S.McAnally, P.C.Good) **58**

**FOREVER TO ME** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Colden Rainey Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Swindell, G.James, R.H.Bock) **7**

**FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 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/1 Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Miller, C.Tompkins, J.J.Dillon, D.Ross, R.J.Huro) **27**

**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/WritersonthehornPublishing, BMI/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Ksway Publishing, BMI (J.Morgan, B.Anderson, W.L.Bundy, L.Vaughan) **5**

## 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) **50**

**GOOD NEWS** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/S2 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/Essency 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.O.Chibueze, N.Sastry, S.C.Cook, J.Torrey, M.R.Pollack, ROMANS) **28**

## H

**HANDS OF TIME** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Endurance Sierra Charlie, ASCAP/More Magic Carusoe Music, ASCAP (E.Church, Scooter Carusoe) **33**

**HAPPEN TO ME** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hand Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (R.Dickerson, C.LaCorte, J.J.Dillon, C.McGill, R.Hazard) **37**

**HEART OF STONE** Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Foxwood Entertainment Group Music Division, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/God Made Most Played Most Paid Publishing, BMI (J.B.DeFord, Z.Crowell, B.Pendergrass, Sly Carter) **53**

**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) **30**

**HIGH ROAD** Yellabush Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Kenny + Betty Tunes, LLC, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Gabe Simon Pub Designee, ASCAP/Escondido House Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jessie Murph Publishing Designee, BMI/Millicent Hill Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Josh Serrato Publishing Designee, ASCAP (R.Wetzel, A.R.Allen, G.Simon, C.Karpien, J.Murph, L.J.Veltz, J.Serrato) **8**

**HOLY SMOKES** Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/1 Fart Creations, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/This Is Chromatic Music, BMI/MT ROOM, SESAC/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) **12**

**HOMETOWN HOME** BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Weslinger 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.Abedo) **1**

**HOUSE AGAIN** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southern Kid Music, ASCAP/Hudson Westbrook Publishing Designee, BMI (I.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Alley) **54**

## I

**I DARE YOU** Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/8Sixteen Music, ASCAP (N.J.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.Whitmore, Jr.) **34**

**I'M THE PROBLEM** Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Jame McLaughlin Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, G.W.Block, J.McLaughlin, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **4**

**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.Arina, A.Sheridan) **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, T.Nichols) **9**

**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) **43**

## J

**JUST IN CASE** Not Listed (M.C.Wallen, A.W.Bak, J.Byron, J.K.Hindlin, B.Pendergrass, J.P.Thompson, Charlie Handsome, E.K.Smith) **51**

**JUST TO SAY WE DID** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Basuarie 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) **16**

## 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) **2**

**LIFE WITH YOU** Mike Curb Music, BMI/Hits From The Heart, BMI/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Indeciso Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/CTM Outlander Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP (K.Hart, K.Schienger, S.Stepakoff) **26**

**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/Lolet Loely Publishing Designee, ASCAP/LNC Is The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Stellar Sun Songs, ASCAP/Famous Virgins, Inc., SOCAN/Regicide Entertainment, SOCAN (M.C.Wallen, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, J.K.Hindlin, E.Loey, Charlie Handsome, N.J.Gale, M.Sorbara, S.C.Frank, S.F.R.Mastroianni, Y.Guzman) **6**

## N

**NOT AT THIS PARTY** Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Dashville Publishing House, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI (A.D.Novoty, A.G.Gorley, B.Johnson) **59**

## 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 Vibe, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, J.Frasera, A.G.Gorley, C.Smith) **22**

## R

**RELAPSE** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (W.Zeidlers, B.Pendergrass) **39**

**RUN** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Lambert) **38**

## 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 Supersonic Music, ASCAP/Jordan Rocks Music, ASCAP (D.Bentley, R.Copperman, A.G.Gorley, C.McGill, J.C.Allen, W.Scantlin) **35**

**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) **20**

**STRAIGHT LINE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/MAROMA Music, BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Twelve6 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) **36**

## 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) **10**

**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/Titanium Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC (T.Archer, W.B.Bollinger, J.A.Hackworth, M.Tyler) **21**

**THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US** Curb Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Ken Rainey Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI (D.Scott, A.G.Gorley, Charlie Handsome, J.Byron, T.Phillips) **3**

**TIL THE LAST ONE DIES** Not Listed (Not Listed) **40**

**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) **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, J.Walker, A.Sanders, L.Combs) **14**

**TRUCK ON FIRE** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Redfeather Publishing, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETS Publishing, BMI (C.Pearce, J.A.Ebach, C.Kelley) **24**

## 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) **17**

**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 (P.McCollum, J.N.Spillman, N.Hembry) **32**

**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/Irissonmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **11**

**WISH YOU WELL** Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbaner Publishing, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G.Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) **57**

**WOLVES CRY** Average ZIS Music Publishing, BMI (B.Martin) **56**

**WORST WAY** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) **19**

**WOULD IF I COULD** Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **41**

# billboard



2025

## TOP MUSIC LAWYERS

---

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

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

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

### CONTACTS

**East Coast/Midwest: Joe Maimone** | [joe.maimone@billboard.com](mailto:joe.maimone@billboard.com).

**Southeast: Lee Ann Photoglo** | [laphotoglo@gmail.com](mailto:laphotoglo@gmail.com)

**Latin: Marcia Olival** | [marciaolival29@gmail.com](mailto:marciaolival29@gmail.com)

**Touring & West Coast: Cynthia Mellow** | [cmellow615@gmail.com](mailto:cmellow615@gmail.com)

**International: Ryan O'Donnell** | [rodonnell@pmc.com](mailto:rodonnell@pmc.com)

---

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

**C**  
**O**  
**D**  
**A**  
REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS

10 Years Ago

# Cole Swindell Hoisted 'Whiskey' To No. 1

In 2015, the singer-songwriter notched his second of eight Country Airplay chart-toppers

On April 4, 2015, **Cole Swindell's** "Ain't Worth the Whiskey" hit No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart, marking the second of his eight leaders.

The song — which he co-wrote with **Josh Martin** and **Adam Sanders**; it was produced by **Michael Carter** — was released from his eponymous debut LP. The album arrived at its No. 2 peak on Top Country Albums, becoming his first

of six top 10s.

Swindell was born June 30, 1983, in Bronwood, Ga. He attended Georgia Southern University as a marketing major. **Luke Bryan** is also an alum, and both were members of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Swindell went on to co-write multiple songs for other artists — including Bryan's 2014 No. 1 "Roller Coaster" — and most recently ruled

Country Airplay in 2022 for a career-best four weeks with "She Had Me at Heads Carolina."

Swindell's latest single, "Forever to Me," ranks at No. 6 (20.5 million in audience, up 3%, according to Luminate) on the April 12 Country Airplay chart, having become his 13th top 10. It previews his album *Spanish Moss*, due June 27.

—JIM ASKER

Swindell at ACM Presents: Superstar Duets in Arlington, Texas, in 2015.

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	3	24	AIN'T WORTH THE WHISKEY Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	44.035	+4.588	7705	855	1
2	4	32	LONELY EYES RCA Nashville	Chris Young	40.948	+2.820	7016	399	3
3	5	10	HOMEGROWN Varvatos/Republic/BMLG/Southern Ground	Zac Brown Band	40.893	+3.622	7242	599	2
4	6	32	HOMEGROWN HONEY Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	39.169	+2.967	7008	444	4
5	7	19	TAKE YOUR TIME MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	37.906	+3.778	6584	750	5
6	8	30	DRINKING CLASS	Lee Brice	35.206	+1.446	6413	276	6

# billboard



# AC/DC 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

AC/DC ignited a rock revolution with its first recordings, paving the way for one of the most legendary careers in music history. Its 1975 debut album, *High Voltage*, introduced the world to its signature sound — blistering guitar riffs, pounding rhythms and electrifying energy. During the past five decades, AC/DC has sold over 200 million records worldwide; delivered anthems like “Back in Black,” “Highway to Hell” and “Thunderstruck”; and cemented its status as one of the greatest rock bands of all time. Celebrating 50 years since its first recording, AC/DC is proving that rock’n’roll is louder than ever.

The band is set to embark on its highly anticipated 2025 U.S. tour, bringing its legendary stage presence and timeless hits to fans across the country. This is more than a celebration — it’s a historic moment in music that will unite generations of rock lovers.

- 50th-Anniversary Retrospective: A deep dive into AC/DC’s five decades of rock dominance

- Photos and Interviews: Stories from the band, industry legends and rock icons
- Scenes From the 2025 U.S. Tour: What to expect from its biggest tour in years
- Collector’s Cover: A must-have for die-hard fans and music collectors

This issue is a must-own piece of rock history, just like AC/DC’s music. With content, tour insights and a celebration of its unstoppable legacy, it’s the ultimate tribute to one of rock’s most enduring bands.

## CONTACTS

**East Coast/Midwest** Joe Maimone | [joe.maimone@billboard.com](mailto:joe.maimone@billboard.com)

**Southeast** Lee Ann Photoglo | [laphotoglo@gmail.com](mailto:laphotoglo@gmail.com)

**Los Angeles** Aki Kaneko | [moishekaneko@gmail.com](mailto:moishekaneko@gmail.com)

**Latin** Marcia Olival | [marciaolival29@gmail.com](mailto:marciaolival29@gmail.com)

**Touring & West Coast** Cynthia Mellow | [cmellow615@gmail.com](mailto:cmellow615@gmail.com)

**International** Ryan O’Donnell | [rodonnell@pmc.com](mailto:rodonnell@pmc.com)

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