

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## CMA Fest Highlights Music Education, Country's Wide-Ranging Diversity

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In the middle of **Ashley McBryde's** June 8 CMA Fest performance, a halftime show broke out at Nissan Stadium.

A stream of musicians bounded onto the big stage from four different directions, streaks of gold light flashing off their tubas, trombones and faux Trojan helmets. The Roots of Music Marching Crusaders, a group of New Orleans students aged 9-14, played in front of 40,000-50,000 country fans, their brassy sound and tumultuous percussion echoing across a venue designed for football.

CMA Fest is a unique event. Geared toward a single genre, the artists perform for free, raising a reported \$2 million for music education this year. A marching band made a pop-up appearance somewhere in the event's Downtown Nashville footprint during each of the four days (June 5-8), emphasizing the industry's investment in future generations.

The Roots of Music program exemplifies the mission. "We believe music has the power to transform lives," the organization says on its [website](#), and it backs that up by focusing the kids' attention on something positive for at least 16 hours a week. The band practices five days each week, mostly after school, and the program provides music history and music theory classes, plus transportation and a meal.

"It's like a wraparound service," band director **Derrick Tabb**

says. "They can be a kid and not have to worry about things like buying an instrument or finding somebody to help them [learn] how to play an instrument. It's just giving them everything they need to be successful."

Bringing in a marching band from New Orleans, a hub for

jazz and gospel music, might seem at odds with a country-focused festival. But country has historically folded aspects of other idioms into the format.

That diversity was on prime display during CMA Fest, which attracted a reported 95,000 fans. Performances ranged from **Zach Top's** June 8 stadium appearance, which centered on '90s-country influence, to **Tanner Adell's** hip-hop blend at the Riverfront Stage on June 7. **Kashus**

**Culpepper** contributed a two-song country-blues set at the stadium's spotlight stage on June 8; **Dillon Carmichael** reeled off several rowdy party songs on June 5 at the Chevy Vibes stage in Hall of Fame Park; **Jake Worthington** drew from the lineage of **Merle Haggard**, **George Strait** and **George Jones** in an acoustic Billboard Country Live performance on June 6 at Category 10; **George Birge** weaved a **Nirvana** guitar tone into "Missin' Tonight" on June 8 at Riverfront; and **Hudson Westbrook** offered an unpretentious, middle-of-the-road interpretation of modern country during a June 7 stand at Riverfront.



Roots of Music Marching Crusaders (from left) Nylan Griffin, Zyan Vicknair and Aaron Thomas at CMA Fest on June 8.

JOHN RUSSELL

BILLBOARD  
HOT SHOT  
DEBUT 46\*

ZACH TOP  
GOOD TIMES  
& TAN LINES



LEO33

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In some cases, a single act represented the range of country's stylistic reach. **Jake Owens'** June 6 headlining concert at Ascend Amphitheater linked the rhythmic pop beat of "Alone With You," the arena-rock roots of "I Was Jack (You Were Diane)," the ultra-country tone of "Down to the Honky Tonk" and the laid-back outlaw cover of a **Waylon Jennings & Willie Nelson** cut, "I Can Get Off on You." The latter included harmonies from opening acts **Carter Faith** and **Lukas Nelson**.

**The Jack Wharff Band**, appearing at the Good Molecules Reverb stage outside the Bridgestone Arena on June 5, combined bluegrass, old-time rock'n'roll, mainstream country, **Lynyrd Skynyrd** vibes and **Avett Brothers** influences all on a single song: "Picture Perfect."

The stadium shows understandably earn the bulk of the media attention since they're designed to draw the biggest crowds and will lead to a three-hour prime-time ABC special, slated for June 26. But the most important work arguably takes place on the smaller daytime stages, where new and developing acts can make early impressions on fans who may be seeing them live for the first time.

**Jackson Dean** demonstrated a gritty, dangerous vocal tone on June 7 at Riverfront, capping his performance with ghostly harmonies on current single "Heavens to Betsy" and the snarling Southern rock of "Don't Come Lookin'." **Sam Williams**—taking a page out of the playbook of his father, **Hank Williams Jr.**—cast the shadow of his country lineage as a history he embraces and battles simultaneously. He applied dense chords to **Hank Williams Sr.'s** "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" and blended progressive elements with classic country in an interpolation of "Honkytonkin'," a song his grandfather recorded in 1947 just eight blocks from the Hard Rock Stage, where Sam performed June 6.

Two artists on smaller stages deserved special attention. Newcomer **Preston Cooper** showcased **Steve Perry**-level clarity and control with the high notes of "One More Place I've Never Been" on the Reverb stage on June 5, then shifted into a **Chris Stapleton**-like rasp for "Dark Places." And **Charlie Worsham**, who touted an independent-label album expected later this year, brought an optimistic tone to the event on June 8 at the Dr Pepper Amp Stage, employing an uplifting tenor and tasteful guitar solos.

"This is the coolest weekend for country music in the year, as far as I'm concerned," Worsham said, noting the music-education donations.

That education component got a fair shake. Three Nashville marching bands made appearances, and a Music Has Value ensemble performed at Ascend Amphitheatre on June 7 during a **Wynonna**-led show.

"That's something for high school bands," said Big Machine Label Group president/CEO **Scott Borchetta**, who founded the Music Has Value campaign. "They'll never forget this."

The Roots of Music Marching Crusaders arguably got the best deal: performing outside the stadium in shorts and T-shirts as fans filed in for the final night, then displaying their chops on the big stage. Their Nashville trip expanded the students' sense of the world and provided incentive to keep working on the skills that music encourages, including collaboration, perseverance, focus and confidence.

"If the Lord allows us to come back," Tabb said, "we will be back." ●



Keifer Thompson (left) and Shawna Thompson of Thompson Square interviewed with *The Big 615* host Storme Warren on June 11 in Nashville.



Kameron Marlowe (center) visited KEEY Minneapolis on June 10 as he sets up his next single, "Seventeen." He's pictured with KEEY music director Patrick Knight (left) and iHeartMedia/Minneapolis-St. Paul senior vp of programming Gregg Swedberg.



BMI Nashville assistant vp of creative Mason Hunter (left) greeted Tyler Braden when Braden performed June 5 at the BMI Block Party at the Ryman Auditorium's outdoor stage.

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



ERIKA GOLDRING

# billboard

2025

# GRAMMY® FIRST LOOK

On July 19, *Billboard* will publish a GRAMMY® First Look special feature that will showcase the artists, producers and other creative professionals whose music was released between Aug. 31, 2024, and Aug. 30, 2025, and look at the early contenders for the 68th annual GRAMMY Awards® in the categories of record, song and album of the year and best new artist.

**7/16:** Online Entry Process Opens  
**8/29:** Online Entry Process Closes

Take advantage of this early opportunity during the eligibility period to showcase accomplished work to the music industry as voters prepare to cast their entries for Music's Biggest Night®.

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# billboardCountry Airplay

AIRPLAY  
MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

ON THE CHARTS JIM ASKER [jim.asker@billboard.com](mailto:jim.asker@billboard.com)

## ‘Worst’ To First: Riley Green Scores His Third Country Airplay Leader

Riley Green banks his third chart-topper on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay list as “Worst Way” (Nashville Harbor) rises 3-1 on the list dated June 21. It increased by 13% to 28.4 million audience impressions in the June 6-12 tracking week, according to Luminate.

Notably, the Jacksonville, Ala., native notches the first Country Airplay leader by an artist who solely wrote and recorded it since **Chayce Beckham**’s “23” led in April 2024. Before that, no artist had achieved the feat since **Taylor Swift**’s “Ours” topped the chart in March 2012.

Since Country Airplay launched in January 1990, “Worst Way” is the 39th leader solely authored by the soloist who recorded it.

“‘Worst Way’ is a song I wrote by myself while I was out on the road,” Green tells *Billboard*. “I wanted to create something in the spirit of [John Mayer’s 2006 song] ‘Slow Dancing in a Burning Room’ or **Eric Church**’s ‘Like a Wrecking Ball’ [from 2015], and I think with the help of my producer, **Dann Huff**, we were able to do just that. I set out to blend traditional country instrumentation with a modern edge — something smooth and reflective, but still grounded in that raw, country feel.”

Green, 36, earns his first Country Airplay No. 1 on his own, following two in featured roles: In December, **Ella Langley**’s “you look like you love me” reigned for one week, after **Thomas Rhett**’s “Half of Me” dominated for one frame in November 2022.

“Worst Way” follows Green’s solo “Damn Good Day To Leave,” which peaked at No. 10 on Country Airplay in February, becoming his fourth of six top 10s. His new No. 1 is from his LP *Don’t Mind If I Do*, which entered Top Country Albums at its No. 8 high last November, marking his first top 10. 🎵




MATTHEW SIMMONS

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE			
TITLE	Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
WORST WAY	Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+3.197
HAPPEN TO ME	Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+1.976
BACKSEAT DRIVER	Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.961
JUST IN CASE	Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.822
GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES	Leo33	Zach Top	+1.627
BACKUP PLAN	Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	+1.624
FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK	RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+1.526
SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO	Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.476
COUNTRY SONG CAME ON	Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	+1.260
COUNTRY HOUSE	MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+1.229

MOST INCREASED PLAYS			
TITLE	Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
WORST WAY	Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+1104
JUST IN CASE	Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+743
HAPPEN TO ME	Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+664
BACKUP PLAN	Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	+545
SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO	Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+482
FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK	RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+439
COUNTRY HOUSE	MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+424
BOTTLE ROCKETS	Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	+400
BACKSEAT DRIVER	Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+399
COUNTRY SONG CAME ON	Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	+372

RECURRENTS				
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label		Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek		Jelly Roll	16.644
2	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group		LOCASH	15.760
3	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Morgan Wallen	14.959
4	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville		Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	14.870
5	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	13.210
6	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music		Shaboozey	12.933
7	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	12.519
8	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek		Jelly Roll	7.943
9	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville		Jordan Davis	7.857
10	TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek		Drew Baldridge	7.784



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JUNE 12, 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	16	GREEN IN COLORADO (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Casey Donahew	1650	84	11	15	9	FLAME (Get Joe)	Billie Jo Jones	1222	233
2	3	15	NOTHIN' BUT TEXAS (Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers)	Wade Bowen	1534	45	12	12	21	I DON'T APOLOGIZE (Independent)	James Lann	1208	-19
3	5	17	HURRICANE (CDX)	Sandee June	1451	106	13	18	12	THE MOMENT (Independent)	Sundance Head	1005	63
4	6	21	WHAT I CAME TO DO (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1434	102	14	20	7	GOD MADE A COWBOY (Independent)	Aaron Loy	986	89
5	8	9	RUBY ANN (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	1356	57	15	21	9	LAST COWBOY STANDING (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	957	74
6	7	14	BREAK ITSELF (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band	1297	-2	16	16	19	HOME FOR A HOTEL (Independent)	Ghosts of Hill County	949	-16
7	11	11	MY JOHN WAYNE (Independent)	Kylie Frey	1296	65	17	4	24	PUT IT IN REVERSE (Independent)	Ben McPeak	941	-490
8	9	23	AIN'T THAT LOVE (Independent)	Bri Bagwell & Timber Wilde	1296	43	18	19	16	I WASN'T BORN IN TEXAS (Independent)	Gary P. Nunn	926	14
9	13	10	BEER DON'T CARE (Independent)	Tilluride	1292	84	19	22	20	HOLD YOU TO IT (Independent)	Joey Green & Payton Howie	897	60
10	14	18	WHO'S HANGING THE MOON (Independent)	Josh Weathers	1282	116	20	23	11	ARE YOU A REAL COWBOY (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	861	44

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](http://www.texasregionalradio.com), or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2025, Texas Regional Radio Report

billboardCountry Airplay

AIRPLAY  
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	3	27	WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	28.401	+3.197	8534	1104	1
2	1	19	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	25.779	-1.360	6782	-339	4
3	5	51	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	23.148	+0.771	7001	317	2
4	6	32	BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	22.306	+1.961	6896	399	3
5	4	46	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	20.739	-3.923	5613	-1464	9
6	8	43	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	19.769	+1.229	6146	424	6
7	7	24	WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	19.759	+0.512	6230	44	5
8	10	12	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	19.509	+1.822	6107	743	7
9	9	31	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	19.458	+1.526	5882	439	8
10	11	63	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	18.122	+0.783	5477	112	10
11	12	40	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	16.841	+0.444	5238	105	11
12	2	43	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	15.764	-9.601	4729	-3331	12
13	15	6	BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	14.759	+1.624	4374	545	15
14	14	30	COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	14.618	+1.260	4507	372	13
15	13	17	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	14.589	+1.160	4432	214	14
16	17	20	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	12.452	+1.066	3926	256	16
17	18	13	HAPPENTO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	11.690	+1.976	3637	664	17
18	19	40	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	9.738	+0.326	3254	11	18
19	21	13	HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville	Eric Church	7.943	+1.214	2994	351	19
20	20	38	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	7.858	+0.655	2739	151	20
21	22	11	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	7.209	+1.002	2413	302	22
22	23	12	BAR NONE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	6.982	+0.790	2576	203	21
23	24	22	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Keith Urban	6.122	+0.531	2262	158	23
24	26	5	BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	5.685	+0.956	1935	400	26
25	25	39	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	5.576	+0.061	2141	104	24
26	28	19	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	4.862	+0.747	1998	219	25
27	27	14	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	4.844	+0.317	1828	68	28
28	29	12	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Hudson Westbrook	4.366	+0.305	1537	203	31
29	30	17	SHE HATES ME Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Dierks Bentley	4.287	+0.748	1849	217	27
30	35	3	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	4.209	+1.476	1599	482	29

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  
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	31	20	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	3.119	+0.181	1561	54	30
32	33	23	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parnalee	3.012	+0.169	1173	57	34
33	38	9	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	2.777	+0.325	1289	97	32
34	32	8	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	2.755	-0.128	892	-28	43
35	36	28	DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	2.737	+0.188	1135	57	36
36	40	5	YOU HAD TO BETHERE Blue Chair/Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney & Kenny Chesney	2.652	+0.274	1060	83	39
37	39	30	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	2.565	+0.130	1218	91	33
38	42	20	INDIGO Lockeland Springs/Atlantic/Magnolia Music	Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna	2.398	+0.111	1126	62	37
39	43	27	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	2.202	+0.175	1173	21	35
40	41	33	RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	2.191	-0.116	1061	17	38
41	46	3	STAY COUNTRY OR DIETRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	2.098	+0.387	842	131	45
42	45	25	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	1.929	+0.117	1054	30	40
43	44	9	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Lyric Ridge	Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	1.915	-0.047	674	92	49
44	47	15	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	★★ Breaker ★★ Ty Myers	1.872	+0.220	640	61	51
45	48	18	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	1.754	+0.112	1006	61	41
46	NEW		GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Leo33	★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★ Zach Top	1.627	+1.627	315	315	-
47	49	7	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	1.442	+0.026	920	42	42
48	50	7	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	1.369	+0.081	557	103	53
49	51	10	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	1.294	+0.097	852	56	44
50	55	14	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	1.283	+0.308	774	131	48
51	54	3	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	1.247	+0.185	598	33	52
52	53	11	NOT AT THIS PARTY VERSION III/Warner/WMN	★★ Breaker ★★ Dasha	1.244	+0.127	811	89	46
53	37	14	RUN Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert	1.115	-1.340	546	-568	54
54	52	13	CRY Curb	Lee Brice	1.064	-0.064	515	22	57
55	RE-ENTRY		PAPER UMBRELLAS McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw Featuring Parker McCollum	1.013	+0.280	790	127	47
56	59	4	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Big Machine	Chase McDaniel	0.950	+0.086	472	40	-
57	56	11	IF I DIE BEFORE YOU Red Street	Chris Lane	0.933	-0.023	487	9	59
58	57	3	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	0.926	+0.001	502	43	58
59	58	14	FOREVER FROM HERE Monument/Sony Music Nashville	Tigirlily Gold	0.883	-0.023	653	-85	50
60	60	2	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	0.789	+0.004	286	2	-



Caroline Jones, Noah Hicks (center) and Greylan James performed June 5 when Big Machine Label Group took over Bell Bottoms Up to showcase its artists during CMA Fest.



Blake Shelton held court with his team on June 7 prior to taking the stage at Nashville's Nissan Stadium during CMA Fest. From left: BMG Nashville executive vp of recorded music JoJamie Hahr and GM Peter Strickland, Frontline Recordings/BMG North America president Jon Loba, Shelton and Country Music Association CEO Sarah Trahern.



# billboard



2025

## GLORIA ESTEFAN 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

International superstar Gloria Estefan, *Billboard's* most successful Latin crossover artist ever, celebrates 50 groundbreaking years in music with her 30th album, "Raíces" (Roots). With 100+ million records sold, nine Grammy Awards, an Oscar nomination, and status as the first Cuban-American honored at The Kennedy Center, Estefan's illustrious career includes the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2015) and Gershwin Prize (2019) shared with husband Emilio.

Beyond music, her humanitarian foundation, Emmy-winning Red Table Talk: The Estefans, Broadway musical ON YOUR FEET!, films, and bestselling books have reshaped cultural landscapes.

Her first all-Spanish studio album in 18 years, Raíces blends traditional tropical rhythms with contemporary

production, honoring Latin music's heritage while pushing boundaries forward. As Latin sounds dominate global charts, Estefan's latest work powerfully reminds the world of her pioneering role in proving cultural authenticity and international appeal could brilliantly coexist.

Join *Billboard* in congratulating Gloria Estefan on her remarkable career over the past 50 years.

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**ISSUE DATE 8/16 | AD CLOSE 8/05 | MATERIALS DUE 8/06**

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

Adam Doleac attended as Wasserman Music held its first CMA Fest Party on June 7 at its Nashville office. He's flanked by Wasserman coordinator Audrey Edgley (left) and Fusion Music manager Danielle Broome.

## MCA UNDERGOES STAFF REDUCTION

As MCA continues to fine-tune its Nashville operation under new president/CEO **Mike Harris**, the company has laid off roughly 20 employees in a round of staff cuts across multiple departments.

Among those let go are several high-level executives, including vp of media marketing **Leigh Malleus**, vp of creative services **Karen Naff** and vp of strategic marketing **Gary Keffer**, as well as senior director of marketing **Michelle Hall**, senior director of e-commerce **Troy Scott** and senior director of digital marketing **Leah Ducey**.

Also impacted are director of regional promotion **Megan Youngblood**, director of strategic marketing **Kathryn Huffman**, director of marketing and project management **Alyssa Logan**, director of marketing and artist development **Lindsey Terry**, director of streaming marketing **Chance Maxwell**, A&R manager **Sarah Marie Burke**, strategic marketing manager **Chandler Stebbins**, e-commerce and retail manager **Chris Jones**, digital marketing manager **Kaitlin Mays**, marketing project coordinator **Alex Mazza** and media marketing coordinator **Taylor Steele**.

Representatives for MCA and parent company Universal Music Group either didn't respond to a request for comment or declined to comment, but sources say the new MCA will operate as a smaller, more focused unit than the former iteration of the label, previously known as UMG Nashville.

Since Harris returned to UMG Nashville (which rebranded as MCA in April), UMG's coastal labels have continued to add to their footprints in the country music capital. In April, Los Angeles-based Interscope Geffen A&M Records announced the relaunch of the iconic Lost Highway imprint, a former UMG Nashville vehicle that went dormant from 2012 until a recent reactivation. Former Thirty Tigers executive **Robert Knotts** and UMG Nashville executive **Jake Gear** are co-heads/executive vps of the resurrected label.

In May, former Big Loud executive **Candice Watkins** was named president of Capitol Records Nashville and executive vp of Capitol Christian Music Group, operating under the Capitol Music Group Nashville umbrella.

—Melinda Newman and Jessica Nicholson

## RADIO & RECORDS®

**Ty Herndon** announced a three-album deal with Club 44 on June 13, concurrent with the release of the first recording in the deal: a duet with **LeAnn Rimes** that revisits Herndon's first single, "What Mattered Most." It sets the pace for the release of *Thirty*, an album that reimagines key Herndon titles, later this year ... Stone Country signed artist-writer **Lakelin Lemmings** to a recording contract. Her first release for the label, "American Dreamin'," will arrive June 20. She's managed by **Ash Bowers**, who doubles as her producer ... Draper Media plans to purchase six stations from Forever Media in Maryland and Delaware, according to news/talk **WDEL** Wilmington, Del., one of the stations changing hands. Also in the package is country **WXCY** Havre de Grace, Md. ... "**Jesse James**" **Halverson** is expected to join the **WKDF** Nashville morning team, RadioInsight.com reported. James is currently holding down the morning duties at **KUBL** Salt Lake City ... **Vicki Ochoa**

moved into evenings at **KPLX** Dallas-Fort Worth, according to RadioInsight.com. She previously handled overnights at rival top 40 **KLIF** ... **WCKN** Charleston, S.C., morning co-host **TJ Phillips**, 66, died June 8, **WCIV-TV** Charleston reported. Phillips spent more than three decades on-air and had been in the WCKN morning role since November 2016 ... Frontline Recordings/BMG North America president **Jon Loba** will receive the president's award from Country Radio Broadcasters during the Country Radio Hall of Fame induction event on July 21 at the Virgin Hotel Nashville.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

Make Wake Artists established a digital strategy department featuring head of digital marketing and social strategy **Jess Keifer** and artist strategy and management coordinator **Kyle Jonas**. Keifer was previously Sony Music Nashville senior director of fan engagement and digital marketing. Jonas has operated in the digital creative space since at least 2022, when he joined Get Engaged ... Meanwhile, Make Wake artist manager **Tyler Corrado** announced his departure for a position with Neon Coast. Reach him [here](#) ... Warner Chappell Nashville and The Core Entertainment signed songwriter **Philip Morgan** to a publishing deal ... Artist-writer **Landon Sears** joined the songwriting roster at Big Yellow Dog Music ... Peachtree Entertainment has contracted as the booking partner for three live-music venues in the Southeast: Cotton Eyed Joe (Knoxville, Tenn.), Two Dimes (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) and the Texas Club (Baton Rouge, La.) ... Anthem Music acquired the publishing catalog of Country Music Hall of Fame member **Marty Robbins**, including the signature songs "El Paso," "Big Iron" and "My Woman, My Woman, My Wife" ... Bluegrass artist **Caroline Owens** tapped Main Attraction Management for concert booking ... Sony Music Publishing Nashville launched a podcast, *Thank a Songwriter*, on June 12. The first installment is part one of SMPN CEO **Rusty Gaston**'s interview with **Ashley Gorley** ("I Am Not Okay," "World on Fire"), who was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in New York the same day the podcast debuted ... Leadership Music named 46 industry members for the program's Class of 2026, including **Zebb Luster**, River House Artists; **Katie Neal**, Audacy; and **Fount Lynch**, Warner Music Nashville. Go [here](#) for the full list ... Three-time nominee **MJ Lenderman** paced the field as finalists were named June 10 in the Americana Honors & Awards. Double nominees include **Charley Crockett**, **Gillian Welch & David Rawlings** and **Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats**. Winners will be revealed Sept. 10 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium ... The Recording Academy is adding a category for best traditional country album to the Grammy Awards. The existing best country album trophy is being renamed best contemporary country album ... Producer **Harold Shedd** (Alabama, **Reba McEntire**) will be recognized with the June 20 opening of an interactive museum-style exhibit, "The Harold Shedd Gallery," at The Hub in Bremen, Ga. ... Mental health and wellness organization Backline joined with Spotify to launch global resources hub Heart & Soul, Mental Health for Creators, accessible [here](#) ... The Society of Leaders in Development raised over \$8,800 for five charities with its Music Row Madness bowling benefit on May 17 in Nashville. 🍷



The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum hosted a Next Women of Country program celebrating several members of the CMT initiative, which launched in 2013. From left: Lanie Gardner, Kat Luna, Alexandra Kay, Dasha and MORIAH.



# billboard Country Airplay Index

**TITLE** Publishing-Licensing Org.  
(Songwriter) **Chart Position**

**3,2,1** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Native Notes Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.Miller, S.Oberstreet, J.Reynolds) **27**

## A

### AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED

Warner-Iamlerlane 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/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (Thomas Rhett, J.C.Bunetta, J.Byron, J.Free, J.K.Hindlin) **15**

**AMEN** Poorchoice Music Publishing, BMI/Songs Into Poems, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Seth Ennis Publishing Designee, BMI/Jordan Gray Publishing Designee, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/Essency Music Publishing, ASCAP/S2 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kevin Powers Publishing Designee, BMI/Baile's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI (C.O.Chibweze, J.B.DeFord, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.Winnis, J.Gray, K.J.Powers, N.Sastry) **60**

**AM I OKAY?** Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Concord Global Music, GMR/Songs Of CN, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, SESAC/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Moroney, L.Laird, J.J.Dillon) **12**

## 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) **4**

**BACKUP PLAN** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Worktape Tunes, BMI/Songs By The Bell, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (T.Beathard, J.Bell, J.Sherwood) **13**

**BAGGAGE** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/The Piano Room, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Back, SESAC (K.Ballerini, J.J.Dillon, K.Fairchild, H.Linsley, A.Vanderheyem) **58**

**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/Kursay Publishing, BMI/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (B.J.Johnson, H.Phelps, L.Vaughan) **22**

### BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES)

Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Max McNowin Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI (M.McNowin, J.Kenny, A.A.Suppella, T.K.Dabbs) **45**

**BOTTLE ROCKETS** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs Of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/FluidTunes II, ASCAP/Beats By Baby Brent, ASCAP/Burley Bishop Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Spirit Nashville Three, SESAC/Songs Of Fluid II, SESAC/Hop On The Buss, SESAC/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP/Songs Of Spirit One Nashville, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI/Woah, ASCAP/Monica's Reluctance To Lob, ASCAP/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP (S.C.McCreery, B.Anderson, D.George, J.Bussey, F.Rogers, M.Criswell, B.Hamrick, D.Rucker, M.Bryan, D.Felber, J.Sonefeld) **24**

### BURNED DOWN HEAVEN

Nothing Like You Heard Sound, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC (C.M.Daniel, J.M.Nite, L.Rimes) **56**

## C

**COUNTRY HOUSE** Twelve6 Red Oak Songs, BMI/Still Between The Pines, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane 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) **6**

**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/Southend Kid Music, ASCAP (D.Ailey, R.Beaver, N.A.Medley) **14**

**COWGIRL** Tiltevard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sentric Music Ltd., PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/NewManiac Music North, SOCAN/VaughnCo Music Publishing Inc., PRS/Cooking Vinyl Publishing Ltd., PRS/Thomas Frank Ridley Horsley Publishing Designee, PRS/B956 Music, BMI/Parmalee Music Publishing, BMI (J.D.Lewis, D.Fanning, J.D.Norman, R.Jay, T.F.R.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **32**

**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) **54**

## 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-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Kobalt Music Services Ltd., PRS (Chase Matthew, A.Maxwell, H.Huff, C.Wilkie, Jake Angel) **35**

## E

**ENDS OF THE EARTH** Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **44**

## F

**THE FALL** Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Keep Chopin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (B.Pinson, R.Fulcher, J.S.Stover) **48**

**FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG** Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/FBRI Country Tunes, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, B.Bailey, A.G.Gorley) **33**

**FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Corent Music, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (N.Smith, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, L.Rimes) **9**

**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.C.Anally, P.C.Good) **59**

**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/Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Miller, C.Tompkins, J.J.Dillon, D.Ross, R.Huro) **18**

## 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 Eshtuis Concord Alto CCI, ASCAP (M.Patrick, J.Hyde, A.Eshuis) **39**

**GOOD NEWS** Kreshendo, ASCAP/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.Chibweze, N.Sastry, S.C.Cook, J.Torrey, M.R.Pollack, ROMANS) **16**

**GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES** Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Major Bob Productions, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Don't What I Do, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, W.M.Cubbin) **46**

## 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) **19**

**HAPPEN TO ME** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Gard Tabales Music, SESAC/Hand Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Warner-Iamlerlane 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) **17**

**HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH** Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/Music By Elevation Worship Publishing, BMI/Be Essential Songs, BMI/Benjamin Hastings Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Baile's Ballads, BMI (B.M.Lake, S.Furtick, B.W.Hastings, C.J.Brown, J.B.DeFord) **43**

**HEART OF STONE** Baile's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Foxwood Entertainment Group Music Division, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/God Made Most Played Most Paid Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (J.B.DeFord, Z.Crowell, B.Pendergrass, Shy Carter) **21**

**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-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Dean, B.Davis, D.Williams) **20**

**HOUSE AGAIN** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southend Kid Music, ASCAP/Saxet HW Music, BMI (H.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Ailey) **28**

## I

**I AIN'T COMING BACK** Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bell Ear Publishing, ASCAP/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Works, GMR/Posty Publishing, GMR/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI (M.C.Wallen, L.B.Bell, M.W.Hardy, A.R.Post, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **34**

**I DARE YOU** Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/Sixteen Music, ASCAP (N.J.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.Wittmore, Jr.) **26**

**IF I DIE BEFORE YOU** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Weislow, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC (E.L.Westband, J.McNair, S.Mosley) **57**

**I'M THE PROBLEM** Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Jamie McLaughlin Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Bo Jewell Club, BMI (M.C.Wallen, G.W.Block, J.McLaughlin, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **2**

**INDIGO** Sam Barber Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane 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.Aima, A.Sheridan) **38**

**IT WON'T BE LONG** Big Machine, ASCAP/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane 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) **31**

## J

**JUST IN CASE** Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Electric Feel Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Orange Music Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/1317 Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI (M.C.Wallen, A.W.Bak, J.Byron, J.K.Hindlin, B.Pendergrass, J.P.Thompson, Charlie Handsome, E.K.Smith) **8**

## 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.Novotny, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson) **52**

## P

**PAPER UMBRELLAS** Spirit Nashville One Crescendo, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI/DESTON SONG SLAYER, BMI/Marzia Music, BMI (M.Criswell, D.Milligan) **55**

**PARK** T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane 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.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, C.Smith) **11**

## R

**RELAPSE** Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (W.Zeiders, B.Pendergrass) **40**

**RUN** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Lamberg) **53**

## S

**SAME MOON** Sony CountrySide, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulywood Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Chapter Blue, BMI (M.Tenpeny, P.D.Giovanni, D.Southerland, D.Wilson) **51**

**SHE HATES ME** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Dudejones, 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) **29**

**SINGLE AGAIN** W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Allen Hill Songs, GMR/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Core Publishing, LLC, BMI/Josh Ross Publishing Designee, BMI/Real Bad Songs, SESAC (J.Ross, J.A.Fox, B.Rempel) **10**

**SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO** Sony CountrySide, BMI/Story Farmer, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Down Boogie Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/tackbox Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Fest Catalog, BMI (C.Wallen, T.Anderson, D.Wilson, A.Aldert, E.Harburg, H.Arien) **30**

**STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN'** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Chimney Pot Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Madfun, ASCAP/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/FBRI Country Tunes, BMI (D.Parker, G.Barnham, S.Ellis, B.Bailey) **41**

**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) **23**

## T

**THIS HEART** Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Madfun Music, BMI/Oconee River Bank Music, BMI/Bollingersever Shore, SESAC/T 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) **3**

**TIL THE LAST ONE DIES** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Slip, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI (B.Hayslip, S.Mosley, J.Walker) **49**

**TIME'S TICKING** Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Music Of The Core, ASCAP/Warner-Iamlerlane 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) **42**

## 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) **7**

**WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE** Curb Songs, ASCAP/Logan Robinson Publishing Designee, NS/Ricky Rowton Publishing Designee, NS/Robbie Gatlin Publishing Designee, NS (D.Scott, L.Robinson, R.Rowton, G.Gatlin) **47**

**WHAT KINDA MAN** Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/VRUCKENROLL MUSIC, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI (P.McCollum, J.N.Spillman, N.Hembry) **25**

**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-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irissonmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **5**

**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/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G.Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) **50**

**WORST WAY** Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) **1**

**WOULD IF I COULD** Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **37**

## Y

**YOU HAD TO BE THERE** Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/Warner-Iamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Redneck Resume Music, BMI/Tack Mack Tunes, BMI (M.Moroney, B.Williams, M.Carpenter, M.E.Carpenter) **36**



CODA

REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS

5 Years Ago

Travis Denning Hit No. 1 ‘After’ A Record Rise

In 2020, the singer-songwriter completed a 65-week climb to the top of Country Airplay

On June 13, 2020, **Travis Denning**’s “After a Few” hit No. 1 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart in its 65th week on the survey, wrapping the longest rise to the top since the ranking began in 1990.

The aptly titled “After a Few” is now tied for the record with **Michael Ray**’s “Whiskey and Rain,” which led in January 2022.

Denning co-authored his lone

Country Airplay leader with **Kelly Archer** and **Justin Weaver**. **Jeremy Stover** produced it.

When Denning crowned Country Airplay, he told *Billboard*, “I think this is a great testament that sometimes great things take time. I’m so proud of this song for fighting its way up the chart and even more grateful at how much steam it still had once it hit top 10.”

Denning, 32, is from Warner Robbins, Ga. He married **Madison Montgomery** — the daughter of **John Michael Montgomery** — in May 2023. He co-wrote the **Cody Johnson/Carrie Underwood** single “I’m Gonna Love You,” which peaked at No. 3 on Country Airplay. Denning released his latest LP, *Roads That Go Nowhere*, in 2024. He is currently working on new music.

—JIM ASKER

Denning at the 2020 CMT Awards in Arrington, Tenn.

WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	2	65	AFTER A FEW Mercury	Travis Denning	32.090	+3.012	8268	535	1
2	1	20	DOESTO ME River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs Featuring Eric Church	27.612	-3.666	7093	-1156	3
3	5	35	I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY NOW Curb/Big Machine	Carly Pearce & Lee Brice	27.103	+3.462	7322	730	2
4	3	45	CHASIN' YOU Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	26.547	-1.543	6545	-269	4
5	4	23	NOBODY BUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Duet With Gwen Stefani	24.504	-1.975	6008	-393	5