

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com

Mainstream Sounds And Genre Blends: What's New In Country For The Last Half Of 2025



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The act of making music is a worthy undertaking for the soul, but when it connects the musician to an audience, the experience deepens.

At least 15 country artists have their first album or EP set for release during the last half of 2025, and many are already receiving the kind of feedback that confirms they're making a connection.

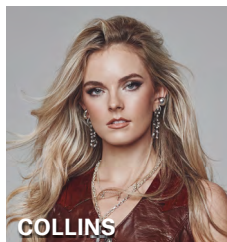
"I got these young kids, they're like 14 years old and their favorite song is 'Weak,' and their mom is sending me videos of them trying to play the solo,"

notes Valory newcomer **Preston Cooper**. "That's the most heartwarming thing ever because they're loving it and they're growing up with that music. That's important to me."

That's a sign that the hand-me-down nature of music — where the sound of one generation is incorporated and reinterpreted by the next — is alive and well.

Here's a look at the 15 country artists with their first album or EP arriving between July 1 and Dec. 31:

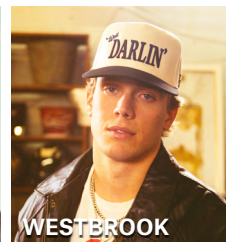
• **Annie Bosko** (Stone Country) — Bosko has already collaborated with **Joe Nichols**, **Vince Gill** and **Dwight Yoakam**. The California cowgirl has a decidedly country voice, whether she's contemplating faith in "God Winks" or kicking up her heels in "Country Girls! (Who Runs the World)." Her first album comes this fall.



COLLINS



COOPER



WESTBROOK

• **Karley Scott Collins** (Sony Music Nashville) — She applies a smoky resonance and a worldly confidence to tracks awash in hard knocks, drama and frustration. Collins enlisted **Nathan Chapman** (**Taylor Swift**, **Lady A**) to co-produce her first album, *Flight Risk*, arriving Sept. 26.

• **Preston Cooper** (Valory) — Eighteen months removed from a small-town Ohio postal route, Cooper stamps his music with a bluesy scratch and an undeniable power. His first single, "Weak," ably introduces his raw approach, further cer-

tified in the full *Toledo Talkin'*, planned for an Aug. 29 release.

• **Carter Faith** (MCA) — She certainly puts her Faith in country music. Whether she's exploring cinematic productions, honky-tonk pieces or sweaty, truck-bed workouts, the North Carolina native packages classic sounds with modern frankness, mindful of **Deana Carter** and **Lindi Ortega**. Her first album, *Cherry Valley*, is due Oct. 3.

• **Micah Fletcher** (Grey Area) — The indie artist, raised in Virginia, has his first EP, *Highway to Heaven*, on the books for a July 18 release. The six-song project pairs his everyman vocal tone with real-world songs about faith and family built on easygoing hooks and modern production.

• **Dylan Gossett** (Big Loud Texas/Mercury) — He has already pocketed a platinum single with the 2023 release "Coal" and

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made his first appearance on the Grand Ole Opry. Now Austin-born Gossett is set to mine his sturdy, uncluttered approach to country with the 17-track debut album *Westward*, on the way July 18.

• **Spencer Hatcher** (Stone Country) — Raised in Timberville, Va. — from the same I-81 corridor as country stalwarts **Ricky Van Shelton** and **The Statler Brothers** — Hatcher's unencumbered phrasing fits the '90s-country revival that's still turning heads among the genre's base. His debut EP hits the market in November.

• **Zandi Holup** (Big Loud) — The world isn't easy or simple, and Holup conveys that with detailed lyrics and spare, acoustic-guitar-based arrangements. Her grainy, sometimes shuddered vocals carry an intimate quality perfectly suited to her penchant for sad story songs. Her first album, *Wildflower*, arrives Aug. 1.

• **Alexandra Kay** (BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville) — Featured on **Jelly Roll's** 2024 tour and the *Twisters* soundtrack, Kay owns a Main Street eatery, The Coffee Girl, in her hometown of Waterloo, Ill. Her music percolates behind a girly tone and a brassy 'tude, with her first major-label album expected before year-end.

• **Chase McDaniel** (Big Machine) — McDaniel applies a fuzzy tone to the quiet songs on his debut album but kicks into clear, arena-level power when required. Both aspects are on display as he slips the occasional haunting piece in among songs of personal commitment on *Lost Ones*, expected Sept. 19.

• **Peech**. (Capitol Christian Music Group/Tamla) — The Utah-bred artist-writer brought his indie-folk sound to CCMG's Tamla imprint, which issues his first major-label-affiliated EP in August. His conversational phrasing and relaxed productions could easily fit in the current country landscape, nestled stylistically between Jelly Roll and **Zach Brown**.

• **Ketch Secor** (Equal Housing / Firebird) — Twenty-five years into his run with **Old Crow Medicine Show**, frontman Secor released his first solo album, *Story the Crow Told Me*, on July 11. With appearances by **Marty Stuart**, **Molly Tuttle** and **Jaren Johnston**, it revels in rough-cut country and a traveler's wisdom.

• **MaRynn Taylor** (Black River) — Her unassuming delivery and crystalline timbre give Taylor the aura of the girl next door, enhanced by the everyday topics — boys, beauty and "Season 2 of Friends" — that work their way into her material. Expect her self-titled inaugural album in August.

• **Thelma & James** (Big Loud) — Married couple **MacKenzie Porter** and **Jake Etheridge** vacillate from sweet sonic embraces to dark, dangerous soundscapes in the handful of brooding, acoustic-driven songs they've released to date. Appreciated by **John Mayer** and **Luke Combs**, they're building their debut EP, expected this fall.

• **Hudson Westbrook** (River House/Warner Music Nashville) — The red-dirt scene has increasingly yielded artists ideal for country's mainstream, and Westbrook is the latest example, behind subtle melodies and trad-country instrumentation. His first radio single, "House Again," is at No. 24 on Country Airplay; his first album, *Texas Forever*, will bow July 25. ●



Craig Morgan (center) performed "American Soundtrack" on the Independence Day episode of syndicated TV show *Live With Kelly & Mark*. With Morgan are host Kelly Ripa and co-host Mark Consuelos.



Activated Events CEO Steve Thatcher (left) welcomed Sam Hunt as the headliner on June 28 for Boots in the Park Norco in California.



Parker McCollum appeared on the July 3 installment of Amazon Music's *Country Heat Weekly* podcast featuring hosts Amber Anderson (left) and Kelly Sutton.

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



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2025

GLORIA ESTEFAN 50TH 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.

CONTACTS

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

East Coast/Midwest Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Los Angeles Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

Touring & West Coast Cynthia Mellow | cmellow625@gmail.com

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

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

billboardCountry Airplay

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

‘Good News’! Shaboozey Earns His Second Country Airplay Top 10

Shaboozey notches his second top 10 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart as “Good News” (American Dogwood/Empire/Magnolia Music) rises two spots to No. 10 on the list dated July 19. The song increased by 18% to 19.3 million audience impressions July 4-10, according to Luminate.

Shaboozey co-wrote the song with **Sean Cook, Michael Pollack, Sam Roman, Nevin Sastry** and **Jake Torrey**. It’s from the artist’s album *Where I’ve Been, Isn’t Where I’m Going*, which arrived at its No. 2 high on Top Country Albums and No. 5 on the all-genre *Billboard* 200 in June 2024; it has earned 1.8 million album-equivalent units in the United States through July 3.

Shaboozey’s rookie entry, the multigenre smash “A Bar Song (Tipsy),” dominated Country Airplay for seven weeks beginning last August. It surpassed **Carrie Underwood**’s “Jesus, Take the Wheel” (six weeks at No. 1, 2006) as the longest-leading hit on the chart to establish a country career (counting acts’ first Country Airplay entries as a lead artist or their initial songs promoted to country radio).

“A Bar Song” also ran up 45 weeks atop the multimetric Hot Country Songs chart starting in May 2024. It claimed the longest command for a song by a single artist; overall, it trails only **Bebe Rexha** and **Florida Georgia Line**’s “Meant To Be,” which led for 50 weeks in 2017-18, for the top No. 1 run since Hot Country Songs became the genre’s singular songs survey in 1958. “A Bar Song” also ruled the *Billboard* Hot 100 for a record-tying 19 weeks.

Shaboozey has charted two other Country Airplay entries: “Highway” reached No. 49 in January, and newest single “Amen,” with **Jelly Roll**, ranks at No. 55 (1.3 million, up 10%) on the July 19 tally.

‘CASE’ STUDY **Morgan Wallen**’s “Just in Case” (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) tops Country Airplay for a second week (32.8 million, up 12%). Of the Sneedville, Tenn., native’s 18 No. 1s, it’s his 10th to lead for multiple weeks. ●




DANIEL PRAPKOYK

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)	
JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+3.434	
GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	+2.879	
PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1.594	
AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	+1.525	
BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	+1.194	
SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+1.002	
HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+0.911	
HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Hudson Westbrook	+0.857	
HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Eric Church	+0.798	
DARLIN’ Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	+0.713	

MOST INCREASED PLAYS			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN	
JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1162	
GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	+649	
BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	+462	
SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+414	
HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+362	
AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	+335	
HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+283	
PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+264	
DARLIN’ Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	+248	
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	+237	

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	16.679
2	WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	15.169
3	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	15.062
4	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	15.002
5	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	13.357
6	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	12.866
7	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	12.741
8	BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	12.311
9	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	11.566
10	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	11.412



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JULY 10, 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	14	BEER DON'T CARE (Independent)	★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★ Tilluride	1727	70	11	13	10	IT AINT THE WHISKEY (Big Loud)	Jake Worthington	1227	72
2	3	25	WHAT I CAME TO DO (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1709	55	12	12	13	LAST COWBOY STANDING (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	1195	16
3	5	27	AIN'T THAT LOVE (Independent)	Bri Bagwell & Timber Wilde	1528	118	13	14	15	ARE YOU A REAL COWBOY (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1154	83
4	4	18	BREAK ITSELF (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band	1515	-31	14	15	8	ONE NIGHT IN DALLAS (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1133	118
5	6	15	MY JOHN WAYNE (Independent)	Kylie Frey	1497	95	15	1	13	RUBY ANN (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	1050	-703
6	8	13	FLAME (Get Joe)	Billie Jo Jones	1397	28	16	16	20	I WASN'T BORN IN TEXAS (Independent)	Gary P. Nunn	1010	1
7	7	22	WHO'S HANGING THE MOON (Independent)	Josh Weathers	1376	-2	17	17	12	ADELINE (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	952	10
8	10	11	GOD MADE A COWBOY (Independent)	Aaron Loy	1331	33	18	22	5	CHEATIN' ON MY HONKY TONK (Warner Music Nashville)	Randall King feat. Braxton Keith	885	72
9	9	25	I DON'T APOLOGIZE (Independent)	James Lann	1326	5	19	19	15	IF IT RAINS TODAY (Independent)	Matt Castillo	875	18
10	11	16	THE MOMENT (Independent)	Sundance Head	1234	30	20	18	24	HOLD YOU TO IT (Independent)	Joey Green & Payton Howie	863	-49

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2025, Texas Regional Radio Report

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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	16	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ No. 1 (3 Weeks) /Most Increased Audience ★★	Morgan Wallen	32.795	+3.434	9036	1162	1
2	5	35	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	23.486	+0.348	6688	84	4
3	6	47	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	23.008	+0.391	6905	127	3
4	3	55	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	22.982	-3.019	6055	-1220	6
5	7	67	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	22.975	+1.002	6935	414	2
6	8	44	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	22.873	+1.594	6447	264	5
7	4	23	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	21.632	-1.544	5515	-140	10
8	2	28	WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	21.139	-5.666	5914	-2246	7
9	9	21	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	20.532	+1.525	5819	335	8
10	12	24	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	19.322	+2.879	5382	649	11
11	10	34	COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	18.082	+0.012	5531	86	9
12	11	10	BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	17.712	+0.316	5274	197	12
13	13	17	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	16.916	+0.912	4913	283	13
14	14	44	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	12.717	+0.646	3889	102	15
15	15	9	BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	12.504	+1.194	3957	462	14
16	17	17	HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Eric Church	10.621	+0.798	3586	67	16
17	16	16	BAR NONE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	10.374	+0.495	3426	139	17
18	18	15	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	10.288	+0.680	3246	362	18
19	19	42	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	9.813	+0.562	3104	96	19
20	20	26	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Keith Urban	7.851	+0.302	2901	103	20
21	21	7	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	7.683	+0.322	2717	189	21
22	23	18	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	6.966	+0.205	2539	169	22
23	22	43	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	6.944	+0.020	2402	-99	23
24	24	16	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Hudson Westbrook	6.821	+0.857	2089	134	24
25	27	5	GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Leo33	Zach Top	4.786	+0.691	1473	158	32
26	26	21	SHE HATES ME Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Dierks Bentley	4.768	+0.324	1919	-31	25
27	25	23	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	4.647	-0.065	1918	-114	26
28	28	32	DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	4.641	+0.713	1739	248	28
29	30	27	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	4.460	+0.577	1588	188	30
30	29	3	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	4.319	+0.405	1176	61	38

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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 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	24	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	3.700	+0.249	1844	88	27
32	32	9	YOU HAD TO BETHERE Blue Chair/Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney & Kenny Chesney	3.665	+0.362	1580	164	31
33	33	13	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	3.655	+0.437	1722	237	29
34	34	12	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	3.102	+0.180	897	8	45
35	40	29	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	3.052	+0.475	1317	71	34
36	35	7	STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	2.838	+0.057	1279	126	36
37	36	34	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	2.780	+0.003	1323	11	33
38	38	31	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	2.741	+0.160	1313	54	35
39	39	19	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	2.652	+0.073	866	70	46
40	41	13	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Lyric Ridge	Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	2.454	-0.000	859	31	47
41	42	11	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	2.422	+0.059	1244	11	37
42	37	24	INDIGO Lockeland Springs/Atlantic/Magnolia Music	Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna	2.317	-0.307	1084	-56	41
43	44	11	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	2.025	+0.140	749	52	50
44	43	22	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	2.019	-0.097	1107	-10	39
45	46	7	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	2.010	+0.220	708	25	51
46	47	14	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	1.869	+0.119	1027	53	43
47	45	15	NOT AT THIS PARTY VERSION III/Warner/WMN	Dasha	1.803	-0.006	1028	-5	42
48	55	3	WEAK Valory	Preston Cooper	1.732	+0.555	828	140	48
49	49	8	PAPER UMBRELLAS McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw Featuring Parker McCollum	1.560	+0.042	1088	67	40
50	48	18	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	1.494	-0.246	928	-2	44
51	50	8	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Big Machine	Chase McDaniel	1.469	-0.023	575	4	55
52	51	5	DRINK WITH YOU Nashville Harbor	Brett Young	1.448	+0.083	683	18	52
53	57	3	USE ME Leo33	Zach Top	1.440	+0.381	82	17	-
54	52	6	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	1.432	+0.203	814	55	49
55	54	6	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	1.301	+0.114	463	62	-
56	56	7	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	1.095	+0.001	652	60	53
57	NEW		6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Megan Moroney	1.061	+0.330	387	99	-
58	NEW		KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	0.964	+0.248	564	112	56
59	53	4	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	0.958	-0.244	595	-23	54
60	58	15	IF I DIE BEFORE YOU Red Street	Chris Lane	0.905	-0.024	487	-15	60



Joe Nichols (center) threw out the ceremonial first pitch on June 26 before a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game against the Chicago Cubs at Busch Stadium. He's pictured with pitcher Matt Svanson and Cardinals mascot Fredbird.



Jamie O'Neal walked the pink carpet when Chippendales launched a residency on June 25 at the Hard Rock Café Nashville. With her (from left) are Chippendales members Teddy Zervoulakos, Mason Leech, Zac Trautman and Michael John.

JASON DAVIS

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R&B/HIP-HOP POWER ISSUE

R&B/hip-hop dominates every other genre, claiming one-quarter of all music consumption.

On Aug. 30, *Billboard* will publish its R&B/Hip-Hop Power Players list showcasing the producers, creatives, executives and publishers who have made R&B/hip-hop the hottest genre on earth.

Advertise and congratulate the people who are driving this industry and reach an influential audience of decision-makers in music and pop culture.

CONTACTS

East Coast/Midwest Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Los Angeles Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

Touring & West Coast Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

ISSUE DATE 8/30 | AD CLOSE 8/19 | MATERIALS DUE 8/21

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

Tyler Braden (center) showed up at Riley Green's Duck Blind in Nashville during the ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp June 17-24 to lead attendees with Williams syndrome in karaoke. With him are campers Joshua Dean (left) and Rory McDonagh.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Lost Highway and Capitol Nashville seeded the labels' joint promotion department with vp **Luke Jensen** and regional director **Megan McCaffrey**. Both Nashville-based executives arrive from the recently shuttered Monument label, where they held similar titles. Additional hirings for Lost Highway and Capitol are expected ... Big Machine Label Group launched the Ascend Music imprint in partnership with ASCEND4M, headed by founder/CEO **Joel Klaiman**. The new venture is focused on cross-genre acts, including its first signee: Americana-and-rock duo **Marfa**, comprising **Bryce Menchaca** and **Kellen Wall** ... Brown Sellers Brown rebranded as Quartz Hill Music Group, with **Ash Bowers** tapped to oversee the company as executive vp. He was promoted to the role from director of artist management. The group includes labels Quartz Hill and Stone Country, as well as BSB Management. Reach Bowers [here](#) ... Dollywood Radio has been added to the iHeartRadio app, RadioInk.com reported. The station features music by **Dolly Parton** and artists from her primary genres ... iHeartMedia/Wisconsin Metro president **Jeff Tyler** announced his retirement, according to RadioInk.com. He spent roughly three decades with iHeart and related companies, including a stint in Minneapolis. The Wisconsin area includes country stations **WMAD** Madison and **WMIL** Milwaukee ... **KOTS** Deming, N.M., flipped from Spanish variety to classic country, RadioInsight.com reported. **KXPZ** Las Cruces midday host **Leslie T Travis** takes on mornings at KOTS, while adult contemporary **KDEM** Deming PD **John Krehbiel** adds the KOTS midday shift ... **KLEY** Wellington, Kan., switched to classic country from classic hits, according to RadioInsight.com ... McVay Media president **Mike McVay** and Premiere Networks president **Julie Talbott** were named among the 2025 additions to the Radio Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place Oct. 30 at the Swissotel Hotel in Chicago.

'ROUND THE ROW

Krista Dykes launched She Laughs Media, a podcast booking and publicity firm. To accommodate the new role, she left her position as PLA Media senior media relations manager, though she continues to host her *Secret Mom Hacks* podcast. Reach Dykes [here](#) ... Miami-based **David Hanono** was named vp of digital strategy and revenue ops for Get After It Media, which includes the country-focused Heartland Network. Hanono arrives from Olympusat, where he was vp of international sales and digital services. Heartland launched three weeks of CMA Fest-related content on July 11 with appearances by **Billy Dean**, **Pam Tillis** and producer **Keith Stegall** (**Alan Jackson**, **Zac Brown Band**) ... Business management firm Wiles + Taylor promoted five employees: account managers **Lizzy Stone** and **Amy Gellick**, business managers **David Zeigler** and **David Murray**, and director of financial reporting and compliance **Karla Stafford** ... RED Creative Group vp of publishing **Taylor Lamb** left the company to become a 30A Wealth Management financial advisor ... Neon Coast hired artist manager **Tyler Corrado**, who will work with **Restless Road** and **Dylan Schneider**; and management coordinator **Dawson Simmons**, responsible for Restless Road and indie band **Nightly**. The firm simultaneously added artist-writer **Alyssa Flaherty** to the roster. Corrado was most recently a Make Wake artist manager. Simmons was Results Global account manager of talent projects and music marketing ... Music Row veterans **Dave Kelly** and **Bekah**

Digby have partnered as digital and streaming consultants, working in tandem while maintaining their separate, eponymous consultancies. Kelly has been consulting for the past two years, following a run at Big Machine Label Group. Digby was most recently SiriusXM/Pandora head of country and Christian artist and industry relations. Reach Kelly [here](#) and Digby [here](#) ... Nashville's Ryan Aviation Group promoted **George Wozniak** to CEO from vp ... The Ward Organization promoted **Amanda Stophel** to COO from president of subsidiary Encore Luxury Coach. The Ward umbrella also covers Encore Music Group ... **Tucker Beathard** ("Backup Plan") re-signed as a songwriter with Little Louder Music ... Writer-producer **Seth Alley** (**Troy Cartwright**) agreed to a joint publishing deal with Endurance Music Group and **Tyler Hubbard**'s HAYLO Music ... Kobalt signed a publishing deal with songwriter **Derrick Southerland** ("More Hearts Than Mine," "Lady Like") that included the acquisition of a portion of his catalog ... BMG Music added artist-writer **Ana Cristina Cash** to its publishing roster ... Artist-writer **Kenny Whitmire** signed a publishing deal with River House and Sony Music Publishing ... Leo33 artist **Trey Pendley** signed a booking agreement with WME and tapped Blue Harbor Music for publishing ... Artist-writer **Will Jones** picked up a booking agreement with WME and a joint-venture publishing deal with Blue Harbor and Lady Luck Songs ... The Neal Agency added the DJ duo **AD/HD** to its booking roster. The act is a side project for songwriters **Ashley Gorley** ("I Am Not Okay," "Fix What You Didn't Break") and **Jesse Frasure** ("Park," "Dirt on My Boots") ... Sony Music Publishing Nashville CEO **Rusty Gaston** joined the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's board ... The Academy of Country Music set its 18th annual ACM Honors for Aug. 20, moving the event for the first time to new Nashville venue The Pinnacle. The ACM also announced more than two dozen winners who will be recognized during the event, including artist-songwriter of the year **Lainey Wilson** and ACM Icons **Eric Church** and **Ben Vaughn**. Go [here](#) for details ... The Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala is set for Oct. 6 at the Music City Center. Three winners will enter the hall from among 12 nominees. Those candidates are listed [here](#) ... **Sierra Hull** and SiriusXM Bluegrass Junction personality **Joey Black** will host the nominations announcement for the International Bluegrass Music Association's IBMA Bluegrass Music Awards at 10 a.m. CT on July 16 from the satcaster's Nashville offices ... **Brenda Lee** and **Jeannie Seely** return as hosts of the SOURCE Nashville Hall of Fame Awards, slated for Aug. 26 at the Musicians Hall of Fame ... **Chris Hillman** and **Dwight Yoakam** will be the subjects of an in-depth interview on Aug. 23 at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in conjunction with the exhibit "Western Edge: The Roots and Reverberations of Los Angeles Country-Rock." The interview will be conducted by California-based music journalist **Erin Osmon** ... Host **Sheryl Crow** and **Dolly Parton** are among the participants as the *Stand Up to Cancer* fundraiser airs from Nashville for the first time on Aug. 15. The multinetwork benefit will take place at The Pinnacle ... The Store, co-founded by **Brad Paisley** and **Kimberly Williams-Paisley**, is accepting donations at a dozen locations through July 25 for its second annual School Store project, providing school supplies for more than 500 Nashville-area children ... A celebration of life for songwriter-photographer **Stacy Widelitz** is slated for 5:30 p.m. CT on Aug. 20 at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's CMA Theater. ●



Keith Urban (center) caught a moment with two members of the WUBE Cincinnati morning team, Anna Marie and assistant PD Jesse Tack, during a June 26 concert stop at the Riverbend Music Center.



ON SALE | AUGUST 30, 2025

2025

ATLANTA SPOTLIGHT

Atlanta is constantly credited with setting music trends and influencing pop culture. On August 30, *Billboard* will spotlight Atlanta as a center of power in the music business. This special editorial feature will focus on Atlanta's music scene and top venues within the region, as well as pay tribute to the city's rich history of music and talent.

Take the opportunity to advertise in this issue and position your business in front of key decision-makers who are driving the music industry in the capital of the Peach State.

CONTACTS

East Coast/Midwest Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Los Angeles Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

Touring & West Coast Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

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billboard Country Airplay Index

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

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Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Music Of CMT Outlander Music LP, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI (E.Langley, J.Taylor, J.Clawson) **8**

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, R.Gatlin) **41**

WHAT KINDA MAN

Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Jamierlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/VRUCKENROLLMUSIC, BMI/Music Of CMT Outlander Music LP, BMI (P.McCollum, J.N.Spillman, N.Henry) **23**

WISH YOU WELL

Big Music Machine, BMI/Works By Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbranger 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) **50**

WOULD IF I COULD

Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **37**

WRONG HEARTS

BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webstring Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Drac Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP (P.C.Brust, C.Lucas, M.Dragstrem, J.Thompson) **59**

Y

YOU HAD TO BE THERE

Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiano Music, SESAC/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/Warner-Jamierlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Redneck Resume Music, BMI/Track Mack Tunes, BMI (M.Moroney, B.Williams, M.Carpenter, M.E.Carpenter) **32**

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TOP LATIN POWER PLAYERS

On Oct. 11, *Billboard* will profile the most influential people in Latin music, from label executives, music publishers and management companies to radio and TV stations and live entertainment.

Join *Billboard* in congratulating this year's Latin Power Players.

CONTACTS

East Coast/Midwest Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Los Angeles Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

Touring & West Coast Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

ISSUE DATE 10/11 | **AD CLOSE** 9/30 | **MATERIALS DUE** 10/2

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21 Years Ago Tim McGraw Lived At No. 1 For Almost Two Months

In 2004, “Live Like You Were Dying” began a seven-week Hot Country Songs reign

On July 17, 2004, **Tim McGraw**’s “Live Like You Were Dying” topped *Billboard*’s Hot Country Songs chart, beginning a seven-week command. It stands as the longest-ruling of his 26 No. 1s.

The inspirational ballad — McGraw’s 20th Hot Country Songs leader — was written by **Tim Nichols** and **Craig Wiseman**. McGraw co-produced it with **Byron Gallimore** and **Darran Smith**.

The track was released as the lead single from McGraw’s same-named LP, which launched at No. 1 on Top Country Albums, becoming the seventh of his 17 leaders, and the all-genre *Billboard* 200, where he logged the third of his four chart-toppers.

“Live Like You Were Dying” won several major awards, including a Grammy for best country song and song and single of the year honors at the 2004 Country Music

Association Awards.

Now 58, McGraw has been married to **Faith Hill** since 1996. He boasts 56 Hot Country Songs top 10s, from “Indian Outlaw” in 1994 through “I Called Mama” in 2020. He has live dates lined up this summer, including on Aug. 30 at Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa, where he’ll headline the venue’s first-ever concert.

—JIM ASKER

McGraw at the 2004 Radio Music Awards in Las Vegas.

			PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	TIME RINT & NUMBER/PROMOTION LABEL	
				NUMBER 1	1 Week At Number 1
	2	5	LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING B. GALLIMORE, T. MCGRAW, D. SMITH (T. NICHOLS, C. WISEMAN)	Tim McGraw CURB ALBUM CUT	1
	7	8	I GO BACK B. CANNON, K. CHESNEY (K. CHESNEY)	Kenny Chesney BNA ALBUM CUT	2
	1	2	WHISKEY GIRL J. STROUD, T. KEITH (T. KEITH, S. EMERICK)	Toby Keith DREAMWORKS 002546	1
	3	1	IF YOU EVER STOP LOVING ME R. RUTHERFORD (B. DIPIERO, T. SHAPIRO, R. RUTHERFORD)	Montgomery Gentry COLUMBIA ALBUM CUT	1
	5	6	LOCO D. L. MURPHY, K. TRIBBLE (D. L. MURPHY, K. TRIBBLE)	David Lee Murphy AUDIOJAM ALBUM CUT/KOCH	5