

billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Man, Oh Man: Nov. 7 Release Schedule Highlights A Country Boy's Dilemma

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To misquote **James Brown**, it's a man's, man's, man's world in country music.

In addition to the typical onslaught of individual singles and tracks, at least 11 new country albums and EPs were released on Nov. 7 that have something very basic in common: They were recorded by solo male artists. If there's ever been a release pattern that provides a glimpse into one of the genre's biggest challenges, this may be it.

The schedule's most prominent entry comes from Country Music Hall of Fame member **Willie Nelson**, whose *Workin' Man: Willie Sings Merle* draws on a bevy of classic songs by fellow Hall of Famer and former duet partner **Merle Haggard**. At the other end of the scale, **Spencer Hatcher** releases his first major-label EP, *Honky Tonk Hideaway*.

In between are two acts doing career resets, **Jake Owen** and **Ryan Kinder**; a pair of Christmas releases by **Brad Paisley** and **Hunter Hayes**; a personal comeback by **Colt Ford**; and debut albums by independent artist **Cooper Alan** and Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville act **Vincent Mason**.

That conglomeration reflects one of the ongoing issues for country marketers. Thirty-nine of the 60 titles on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart dated Nov. 15 are solo guys. Much has been made over the dearth of female voices in the genre, as well as the paucity of minority voices and the relatively small number

of groups and duos. But that forces all those male performers to compete with little space to create a unique lane for their brand. Developing that singular identity is key for artists who hope to build a career for the long haul, and they're required to walk a tightrope in the process, mining the influences that led them to this career path while breaking away from them at the same time.

"I could try to write what's on the radio," Alan says. "But that stuff's already on the radio, and those people are already doing it really, really well. So why is that a good strategy for me?"

Nelson is the best example among the Nov. 7 releases — perhaps the best example in all of country music — of a male artist who established his own turf in a crowded field. His musical phrasing, the grainy tone of his voice, the buzzy sound of his guitar and his propensity for braids and/or bandanas are a few of the elements that set him apart. Even in *Willie Sings Merle* — which features covers of such iconic titles as "Silver Wings," "Mama Tried" and "Okie From Muskogee" — Nelson's performances are distinctly recognizable.

Ford, with the release of *Little Out There*, likewise occupies a position that's specific to him. He was the first successful proponent of country-rap, and he brings his familiar flow — along with more traditional singing — to a series of songs that benefit from a personal story that makes him even more unique. It marks



ALAN



HAYES



KINDER

ALAN: MATTHEW BERINATO; HAYES: DAVID BRADLEY

DRAKE MILLIGAN TUMBLEWEED

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his first release since a near-fatal heart attack in April 2024.

"You need to know who you are and not care about everybody else," Kinder notes.

It's a lesson Kinder learned firsthand. His unique vocal tone serves in subdued settings as reassuring cotton, but becomes a searing blade when he lets it go. In some moments during his career, he has admittedly attempted to adapt to others' expectations. With new release *The Beginning of Things*, he strips down a dozen songs he wrote with producer **Luke Sheets** in his earliest years in Nashville to recapture their original essence. After previous deals with Bigger Picture and Warner Music Nashville, the indie project is something of a career reset as he refines his public persona.

"The [current] music business is the Wild West, which makes it fun and scary," he says. "I just wanted to go back to the basics for a little while, and all these songs that we recorded were the first ones me and Luke wrote when I came to town. They're the ones that got everybody excited about what I was doing. They're the reason I got signed to both of my record deals."

Owen's *Dreams To Dream* is likewise a revision. Nearly 20 years after his first album, he teamed with producer **Shooter Jennings** (**Tanya Tucker**, **Charley Crockett**), eschewing the contemporary sound that dominated his career for a raw tone that draws on the outlaw era.

The late **Luke Bell**, whose 2022 death drew a new level of attention, had established a creative lane that recalls an even earlier era. *The King Is Back*, a double album that purportedly represents all of his unreleased material, uses production techniques that recall Sun Records' 1950s heyday, melodic touches that evince **Ernest Tubb** and **Wynn Stewart**, and a yodel that hints at **Hank Williams**.

Hatcher and **Drake Milligan** borrow from more recent voices. Milligan's sophomore project, *Tumbleweed*, reaffirms his **George Strait** leanings — the Texan has a bit of Strait's tone and embraces material that one can imagine Strait recording. But Milligan delivers it more dramatically than the ever-cool country icon and adds a bit of **Elvis Presley** hip-shaking in his live shows.

Hatcher's resonance would fit in the center of a Venn diagram of **Kenny Chesney**, **Aaron Tippin** and **Mo Pitney**, wrapped in a package that fits '90s country. That era influences much of modern country, but Hatcher is betting on his real-world connection to the music and its associated lifestyle.

"I grew up on a farm in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia," Hatcher says. "I've lived a country life my whole life. Nothing about me is fake and I think that my music reflects that. It's very traditional, it's very real. And I've always been very authentic, not only to myself, but to what I believe true country music is and was founded on."

His EP's name, *Honky Tonk Hideaway*, is designed to assist in establishing his identity as a country centrist.

"The title is a pretty good representation of who I am as an artist," he says. "As far as 'honky-tonk' being such a country term, you know, it's not just a bar, it's a honky-tonk. I don't think it would be mistaken as any other genre."

Hatcher is specific about his presentation — jeans, boots, Western hat — adhering to the classic image of a male country singer. That look partially resembled the starched shirts and jackets that Strait employed to create his own version of that staunch-country identity.

In more recent years, the backward ballcap has become a style point for many



RIKERE BROTHERS



KIM TYGART

T. Graham Brown (center) welcomed Hallmark Channel associates backstage when the Grand Ole Opry celebrated the cable platform's forthcoming TV movie, *A Grand Ole Opry Christmas*, on Oct. 15. With him are Hallmark actors **Andrew Walker** and **Lacey Chabert**.

young country guys, including Mason, who's introduced through the album *There I Go*. He filters his version of country through Southern rock vibes — slide guitar and Hammond B-3 — though he altered his wardrobe recently for some strategic separation.

"This kind of sounds silly, but he's not been wearing a baseball cap for the last couple of months," says his manager, Champ Management founder **Matt Musacchio**. "All the comments on social media [have been], 'We love you without the hat. We didn't realize what you looked like.' We played into that a little bit, too. There's [a campaign] that's 'Who the fuck is Vincent Mason?' on TikTok. And it's slowly but surely kind of unraveled who he is."

Mason, and the holidays, are part of the reason that males play an outsize role in the Nov. 7 releases. His team originally targeted Oct. 31 for his first album, but Mason insisted that his fan base would likely be partying on Halloween, convincing them to wait a week to release it. Meanwhile, two holiday records — Paisley's *Snow Globe Town* and Hayes' *Evergreen Christmas Sessions* — were scheduled to take best advantage of Yuletide music purchases.

Both Christmas projects lean on familiar identities. Paisley's snaggy guitar fills and whipped-up soloing are present in "Counting Down the Days," which doubles as theme music for Hallmark's annual slate of holiday movies. Hayes displays flashes of jazz in "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and blues in "Run Rudolph Run." For Hayes, that exploration enhances his established musical personality.

"Country's a lot of different things, and my thing is I make a lot of different kinds of music," he says. "I'm very influenced by the stuff I grew up listening to that is country, and I'm really inspired by a lot of country artists right now. I don't know that I would label myself as a strictly country artist, just because I make so many different things, and I enjoy bringing so many different things into what I do."

A facile guitarist who played all the instruments on his first album, Hayes has never had trouble developing an identifiable niche.

"I've never struggled with having something unusual about what I'm doing," he says. "Honestly, the challenge has been 'How do I fit in?' That's been my challenge for my entire career."

With consumers focused primarily on individual tracks in the digital age, the album is arguably as much a branding opportunity as a creative endeavor, and Alan titled his Nov. 7 debut *Winston-Salem*, emphasizing his North Carolina roots. He took extra time this year to write and record more songs that adhere to a specific theme. The result is a hefty 20 titles that play with the city's hyphenated name. He's a family guy in the *Winston* portion of the album and a party animal in the *Salem* half.

While the imaging and branding surrounding the artist should emphasize their uniqueness as a product, the songs are ideally created without much consideration of the competition.

"I pay attention to how things are marketed and what's working strategically for other artists," manager Musacchio notes. "But when it comes to the music itself, there's never been a conversation about what other people are doing and trying to fit in in a certain way."

The key, it appears, is making music that represents the artist's creative tastes, then employing authentic marketing that accentuates their best attributes. Hopefully, they're different enough that they can find their place in a country world that's teeming with men, all vying for the affection of a specific fan base.

"There's a whole lot of pie," Alan suggests. "No matter how big or small your piece of that pie is, it's pretty good to just at least have a bite of that pie." ●



Randy Rogers (left) donated \$50,000 to the Rock Haus Foundation after the Randy Rogers Band's first Pickleball Jam on Oct. 5 in New Braunfels, Texas. He's shown with Rock Haus administrative coordinator **Bill Barry**.



IAN JOHNSON

ERNEST (left) took questions from *Culture at Large* podcast host **Marcus K. Dowling** at Nashville's *Anzie Blue* on Oct. 30.

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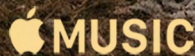
46 ADDS ON IMPACT

MUSIC CHOICE
KBAY/SAN FRANCISCO
KKBQ/HOUSTON
KKWF/SEATTLE
WKKT/CHARLOTTE
KUPL/PORTLAND
WIL/ST. LOUIS
KCYI/SAN ANTONIO
KSOP/SALT LAKE CITY
WWKA/ORLANDO
KWNR/LAS VEGAS
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WMIL/MILWAUKEE
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WUSH/NORFOLK
WTQR/GREENSBORO
WWGR/FT. MYERS
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WSSL/GREENVILLE

WLFP/MEMPHIS
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WCKN/CHARLESTON
WTGE/BATON ROUGE
WOGK/GAINESVILLE
KUZZ/BAKERSFIELD
WKRO/DAYTONA
WRBT/HARRISBURG
WWQM/MADISON
KDRK/SPOKANE
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ON THE CHARTS RUSS PENUELL rpenuell@billboard.com

Chase Matthew Scores First Country Airplay No. 1 With ‘Darlin’

Chase Matthew lands his first No. 1 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart with “Darlin’” (Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR). The single tops the ranking dated Nov. 15 with a 3% gain to 31.3 million audience impressions Oct. 31–Nov. 6, according to Luminate.

The Sevierville, Tenn., native co-wrote the song with four others, including **Jake Angel** and **Alex Maxwell**, who also share producer credits. It’s Matthew’s third charted single and follows his first top 10, “Love You Again,” which reached No. 9 in September 2024.

The coronation of “Darlin’” marks another breakout moment for the relative newcomer, highlighting both his growing fan base and rising momentum at radio. Matthew recently wrapped a special guest run on **Keith Urban**’s High and Alive World Tour, which closed in Nashville in late October, and has his own dates booked through next year.

Matthew becomes just the second artist this year to earn a career-first Country Airplay No. 1, after **Corey Kent** with “This Heart” in July. Not since **Jelly Roll** and **Nate Smith** in 2023 have so few artists done so. Last year saw nine first-time leaders, including five collaborations. Since the start of 2016, 51 artists have scored their first No. 1s on the chart; narrowing that list to solo performances puts the number at 33 (among 299 total leaders in that span).

‘3, 2, 1’ TOP 10 Washington state-born **Tucker Wetmore** breaks into the Country Airplay top 10 for a second time as “3, 2, 1” (Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville) rises 11-10 (17.6 million, up 1%). His “Wind Up Missin’ You” reached No. 2 in January.

The single also delivers a breakthrough for **Summer Overstreet**, who co-wrote it alongside veteran hit-makers **Josh Miller** and **Jordan Reynolds**. The Nashville native—the daughter of Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee **Paul Overstreet**, who penned hits of his own and for many others beginning in the 1980s—earns her first top 10 on Country Airplay as a writer. ●



ANGELA YODER

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	+6.219
STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN’ Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	+2.340
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.977
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+1.475
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	+1.401
IT WON’T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	+1.360
CHOOSIN’ TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+1.126
AIN’T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	+1.085
COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+0.959
BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	+0.943

MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	+1745
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+643
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+593
STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN’ Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	+547
CHOOSIN’ TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+389
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	+304
WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	+293
IT WON’T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	+287
HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+268
AIN’T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	+238

RECURRENTS				
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label		Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music		Shaboozey	21.345
2	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers		Russell Dickerson	20.524
3	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory		Thomas Rhett	17.719
4	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Morgan Wallen	16.476
5	BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers		Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	14.571
6	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Morgan Wallen	13.326
7	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville		Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	13.064
8	BAR NONE MCA Nashville		Jordan Davis	11.392
9	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville		Corey Kent	10.348
10	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek		Jelly Roll	10.322



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 6, 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	22	I MISS US (RedPlay Media) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Trevor Underwood	1637	115	11	13	14	GUITAR IN MY HAND (Independent)	Tilluride	1139	17
2	3	12	HIT THE HIGHWAY (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1616	153	12	4	29	ADELINE (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1127	-293
3	6	13	ALWAYS FLOWERS (Independent)	Kylie Frey	1547	220	13	19	9	EVEN GIRLS LIKE YOU (Pretty Damn Tough)	Josh Abbott Band	1063	124
4	5	20	LONELY OVER YOU (Warner Music Nashville)	William Beckmann	1484	79	14	14	15	DIED AND GONE COUNTRY (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1062	37
5	7	21	BURN (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1476	157	15	15	21	BORN RUNNIN OUTTA TIME (Sony Music Group)	Lukas Nelson	1061	41
6	8	20	TWO HANDS (Independent)	Pat Green and Corey Kent	1407	124	16	18	14	I WAS WRONG (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1053	106
7	10	14	HOLD HER HORSES (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1338	159	17	20	6	PONTIAC (SO TELL ME MOMMA) (Adub/New Revolution)	Aaron Watson	1038	111
8	9	22	BAD REPUTATION (River House)	Grant Gilbert and Hudson Westbrook	1249	57	18	17	16	THE OLDER I GET (MORE COUNTRY I’M GETTING TO BE) (Fool Hearted)	Jon Wolfe	1036	83
9	1	17	WHEN SHE KISSED ME (Almost Country)	Casey Donahew	1164	-430	19	11	20	THE OTHERS (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1035	-122
10	16	19	KEEP ME UP (Independent)	Hayden Haddock	1149	137	20	22	11	TEXAS STRONG (Independent)	Aaron Loy	948	64

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

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	2	49	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	31.287	+0.881	7859	-7	1
2	6	59	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	27.476	+6.219	7794	1745	2
3	1	15	BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	25.735	-8.595	6720	-2295	3
4	3	20	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	24.006	-2.696	5650	-665	5
5	4	32	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	22.186	-2.202	5430	-503	6
6	7	44	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	21.067	+0.959	5289	189	9
7	8	24	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	19.937	+0.753	5817	128	4
8	9	60	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	19.132	+0.919	5292	293	8
9	10	17	DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	18.761	+0.921	5303	117	7
10	11	35	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	17.549	+0.160	5098	28	10
11	12	18	6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	17.358	+1.475	4930	593	11
12	16	24	STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	16.065	+2.340	4482	547	12
13	14	30	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	15.816	+1.401	4194	304	14
14	13	33	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	15.307	+0.861	4467	222	13
15	15	22	GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Leo33	Zach Top	14.176	+0.396	4188	64	15
16	18	41	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	13.231	+1.360	3885	287	16
17	17	8	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	12.495	+0.597	3519	268	17
18	19	46	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	11.066	+0.078	3211	156	18
19	21	8	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	9.271	+1.085	2597	238	22
20	20	40	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	8.950	+0.297	2919	-32	19
21	22	39	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	8.915	+0.943	2833	215	20
22	23	28	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	7.636	+0.438	2727	145	21
23	24	48	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	7.509	+0.397	2326	73	23
24	27	5	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	7.433	+1.977	1872	643	29
25	26	29	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	7.089	+0.839	1792	161	31
26	25	36	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	6.687	+0.058	1783	61	33
27	29	18	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	6.214	+0.890	1849	123	30
28	28	28	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	5.873	+0.444	1784	101	32
29	31	20	WEAK Valory	Preston Cooper	5.360	+0.206	1884	73	27
30	32	17	A SONG TO SING Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	5.329	+0.532	2021	169	24

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. 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	33	30	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Stoney Creek/Lyric Ridge	Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	5.127	+0.452	1679	105	34
32	30	51	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	5.102	-0.158	1997	-20	25
33	34	23	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	4.301	+0.125	1967	153	26
34	36	35	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	4.259	+0.448	1574	78	35
35	35	31	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	3.999	+0.029	1882	119	28
36	41	3	CHOOISIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	3.666	+1.126	817	389	47
37	38	21	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	3.536	+0.462	1237	84	37
38	39	24	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	3.000	+0.194	1110	-9	39
39	37	2	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	2.826	-0.875	835	-8	45
40	42	13	MAKING GOOD TIME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	2.763	+0.405	1132	122	38
41	40	24	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2.524	-0.055	1311	-26	36
42	43	15	NEVER CALL AGAIN Thrivin Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Gavin Adcock	2.248	+0.009	1011	4	41
43	45	18	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	2.005	-0.065	1039	-17	40
44	48	22	DRINK WITH YOU Nashville Harbor	Brett Young	1.915	+0.190	901	6	43
45	50	9	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	1.913	+0.322	721	61	55
46	54	2	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	Jordan Davis	1.862	+0.492	743	181	54
47	47	7	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	1.747	-0.076	808	-11	49
48	49	25	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Chase McDaniel/Big Machine	Chase McDaniel	1.704	+0.059	855	28	44
49	51	4	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WMN ★★ Breaker ★★	Bailey Zimmerman	1.693	+0.135	767	28	51
50	44	2	KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	1.508	-0.706	382	-183	-
51	53	6	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	1.481	+0.098	784	-6	50
52	55	17	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	1.395	+0.058	766	8	52
53	52	12	SEVENTEEN Columbia Nashville	Kameron Marlowe	1.331	-0.084	676	-38	56
54	56	8	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	Tumpike Troubadours	1.310	+0.024	406	22	-
55	57	15	I WISH YOU WOULD Valory	Mackenzie Carpenter Featuring Midland	1.270	+0.010	824	24	46
56	58	14	NO TELLIN' True To The Song/Nashville Harbor	Caroline Jones	1.144	-0.050	975	50	42
57	60	3	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	1.122	+0.141	811	97	48
58	59	10	WE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Cole Swindell	1.107	-0.041	756	9	53
59	RE-ENTRY		THE HELL YOU ARE Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	1.074	+0.126	582	8	57
60	NEW		DEVIL AIN'T DONE Stoney Creek ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Atlas	0.875	+0.127	491	19	60



Alabama's Randy Owen and his wife, Kelly Owen, were recognized with the American Hereford Association Hall of Merit Award on Oct. 25 during the organization's annual conference in Kansas City, Mo. From left: AHA president Chad Breeding, the Owens' granddaughter Harper Starnes, Randy, Kelly and AHA board member Jim Coley.



19 Recordings/BMG Nashville artist Colin Stough earned plenty of support from his team when he played the Grand Ole Opry on Oct. 29. From left: BBR Music Group vp of PR Mark Logsdon, Opry executive producer/senior vp Dan Rogers, Stough, Rainier Entertainment owner Laurel Kittleson and 19 Entertainment executive vp of music Joey Arbagey.

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Hudson Westbrook (center) received an RIAA-certified platinum plaque for "House Again" prior to a benefit concert on Nov. 1 in Stephenville, Texas. He's joined by co-writers Dan Alley (left) and Neil Medley.

THREE ACTS GET FOUR GRAMMY NODS

With the expansion of the country categories in the Grammy Awards, Tyler Childers, Chris Stapleton and Miranda Lambert all earned four country nominations when finalists for the 68th annual event were announced Nov. 7.

Previously, a single trophy was given for best country album, but that category was split beginning this year into the best traditional and best contemporary fields. As a result, similarly rooted acts — including Willie Nelson, Charley Crockett and Margo Price — all found a traditional route onto the ballot. More contemporary acts — including Kelsea Ballerini, Jelly Roll and Eric Church — all compete in their own space.

In addition to the three quadruple country nominees, Lainey Wilson and Zach Top snagged three nods each, while Price, Jelly Roll and Shaboozey picked up two nominations apiece.

Go [here](#) for the complete list of finalists.

RADIO & RECORDS®

BBR Music Group/BMG North America made five staff changes to its A&R team. Camille Kenny was promoted to vp of A&R, with newly hired Jacee Badeaux taking her vacated senior director role. He was previously Big Yellow Dog senior director of A&R. Tahsin Rakib Himi rose to BMG director of A&R research from director of analytics engineering, while Kennedy Nickerson was bumped to manager of A&R from senior coordinator. Talia Heimanson takes over as A&R coordinator, joining from Red Bull Records, where she was executive assistant in the A&R department. Reach Kenny [here](#), Badeaux [here](#), Himi [here](#), Nickerson [here](#) and Heimanson [here](#) ... Country-rock band 49 Winchester signed with MCA Nashville, with MCA chief creative officer Dave Cobb producing. The group's first product in the agreement, a cover of Black Sabbath's "Changes," was released Nov. 7 ... CDX Records signed Robert Bacon to a recording deal ... Todd Violette joined Connoisseur/Palm Springs, Calif., as operations manager. He'll also serve as PD for country KDES. A former iHeartMedia/Indianapolis on-air host and programmer, Violette replaces Dax Davis, who recently became Connoisseur/San Antonio director of sales ... Beasley/Las Vegas country station KCYE moves back to 102.7 FM on Nov. 13, swapping its current 107.9 FM slot with adult contemporary sister KVGS ... Bobby Bones' Nashville Podcast Network added *The Upload With Brooke Taylor*, a faith-based program that debuted Nov. 5 with an episode featuring Tyler Hubbard. Future installments will include Walker Hayes, Russell Dickerson, Gabby Barrett and Anne Wilson ... Grace Blazer was promoted to iHeartMedia/Miami senior vp of programming from vp, RadioInk.com reported. The cluster includes country WMIA ... SiriusXM launched 23 holiday channels on Nov. 4. Among them are Country Christmas and Holidays With Anne Murray and Friends.

'ROUND THE ROW

Danny Nozell's CTK Enterprises hired three executives: Patrick Kells joined as head of retail merchandising, building on a 30-year history that includes four years as a retail consultant; Robert Kelley was named Dolly's Life of Many Colors Museum GM, following a role as 2022 Special Olympics USA Games vp of operations; and Adam Davis was added as CTK director of content development and archiving after seven years as a Sony Music Nashville content producer. Reach Kells [here](#), Kelley [here](#) and Davis [here](#) ... Belmont University's new Center for Mental Health in Entertainment tapped Debbie Carroll as executive director. She arrives after serving as OnSite vp of entertainment and specialized services. Additionally, the Country Music Association donated \$3 million to the center ... CMT's long-running *Hot 20 Countdown*, hosted by Cody Alan and Carissa Culinar, will conclude at the end of the year. It's the last original regular music program on the network ... Songwriters Ben Chapman and Meg McRee signed a publishing deal with Steve Markland's Blue Harbor Music ... Warner Chappell Nashville added artist-writer Brendan Walter to its publishing roster ... Spirit Music Nashville signed a publishing and artist development agreement with Louisiana-bred Joe Bryson ... *American Songwriter* relaunched its *Off the Record* interview series as a video program and podcast. Hosted by editor-in-chief Lisa Konicki, the program's initial episode, featuring Colbie Caillat, went live Nov. 5 ... FEMco's Master This Workshop, hosted by Leslie Fram and Shanna Strassberg, will launch Dec. 2 with guest Brittney Spencer at Anzie Blue in Nashville ... The campaign behind Kenny Chesney's autobiography, *Heart Life Music*, included a cover story in the Nov. 14 issue of *Newsweek* ... **HARDY** will be featured in a Dec. 6 edition of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's *Songwriter Session* series ... Lee Greenwood, Exile, The Gatlin Brothers, The Bellamy Brothers and Restless Heart's Larry Stewart are among nearly a dozen acts participating in *Veterans Day Country Concert*, an RFD-TV special airing Nov. 8 ... Jordan Davis and Lauren Daigle were announced as co-hosts of *CMA Country Christmas*, which will air Dec. 2 on ABC. The Country Music Association also revealed the first nine performers for the 59th annual CMA Awards on Nov. 19. They include Luke Combs, Ella Langley, Shaboozey, Megan Moroney and Stephen Wilson Jr. Whiskey Jam founder Ward Guenther has agreed to host the official CMA Awards After Party ... Donna Jean Godchaux-MacKay, 78, died Nov. 2 at Alice Hospice in Nashville following a bout with cancer. A featured vocalist with The Grateful Dead, she also appeared as a background vocalist on a number of Elvis Presley recordings, including "In the Ghetto," "Kentucky Rain" and "Suspicious Minds" ... Recording artist and background singer John Wesley Ryles, 74, died Nov. 2, according to a Facebook post made by his wife, Joni Lee Twitty, on the Facebook page for her father, Conway Twitty. The Louisiana-born Ryles snared a top 10 country single with his 1968 release "Kay" on Columbia and peaked at No. 5 in 1977 with an MCA release, "Once in a Lifetime Thing." As a session vocalist, Ryles participated in a long line of hits, including Brooks & Dunn's "My Maria," Alan Jackson's "Gone Country," Ricky Van Shelton's "I Am a Simple Man" and Clay Walker's "She Won't Be Lonely Long." ●



Sony Music Nashville signee McCoy Moore (center) performed Oct. 30 at the Music Ranch in Lakeland, Fla., at a show hosted by the city's WPCV. He's flanked by Hall Communications/Lakeland vp of programming-WPCV PD Bob Walker (left) and RCA Nashville Southeast regional promotion manager Ali O'Connell.

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GRAMMY
AWARDS®

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

20 CIGARETTES Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (C.LaCorte, R.McCall, J.L.Miller, B.Pendergrass) **24**

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

6 MONTHS LATER Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiano, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Burrito Lovers Music, ASCAP/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MESSY INTERNATIONAL Music, BMI/Shannanigans Publishing, SESAC/Eclipse Three Music, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC (M.Moroney, B.Williams, D.Mescon, R.Hatch) **11**

A

AIN'T A BAD LIFE Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain Tunes, ASCAP/Mark Trussell Pub Designee, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, M.Trussell) **19**

ALL MY EYES Iylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBAT PUBLISHING, BMI/Only Legends Music, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Hoops Don't Lie Publishing, BMI/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/My Songs Of Work Of Art, BMI (Lauren Alaina, J.A.Gutch, B.C.Johnson, W.Philips) **45**

AMEN Poorchoice Music Publishing, BMI/Songs Into Poems, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, 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/Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI (C.O.Chibuzue, J.B.DeFord, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.W.Ennis, J.Gray, K.J.Powers, N.Sastry) **27**

B

BACK IN THE SADDLE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Show Me Your Titles LLC, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Hits Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Braven Baker Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, D.Ilsell, J.D.Singleton) **3**

BAGGAGE Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela 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.Ballerni, J.J.Dillon, K.Fairchild, L.Hinsey, A.Vanderheyne) **41**

BEAUTIFUL THINGS Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiano, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triples Real Creative Inc, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP (M.Moroney, C.R.Harrington, J.J.Dillon, J.L.Alexander) **39**

BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Max McIlwain Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI/Fugitive Songs Publishing, BMI (M.McIlwain, J.Kerney, A.A.Suppella, T.K.Dabbs) **21**

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.Daniel, J.M.Nite, L.Rimes) **48**

C

CHEVY SILVERADO Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sparks Phone Music, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI (T.Beathard, J.Luber, G.J.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman) **49**

CHOOSIN' TEXAS Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Luke Dick Publishing Designee, BMI/Miranda Lambert Publishing Designee, BMI/Joeybeth Taylor Publishing Designee, BMI (E.Langley, C.L.Dick, M.Lambert, J.Taylor) **36**

COWGIRL Tileyard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sentric Music Publishing Ltd, PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/NewManix Music North, SOCAN/VaughnCo Music Publishing Inc., SOCAN/Cooking Vinyl Publishing Ltd., PRS/Thomas Frank Ridley Horsley Publishing Designee, PRS/8936 Music, BMI/Parmalee Music Publishing, BMI/Matt Thomas Music Publishing, BMI (J.D.Lewis, D.Fanning, P.D.Newman, R.F.J.R.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **6**

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

DEVIL AIN'T DONE Atlas Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/SpiritVault Songs II, ASCAP/Ever Songz, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbanger Publishing, BMI (S.Haywood, D.A.Garcia, G.Warburton) **60**

DON'T MIND IF I DO Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) **9**

DRINK WITH YOU Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Road, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Off The Record, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (B.Young, J.V.Frasure, T.Lucca, E.L.Weisband) **44**

E

EASY TO LOVE Hit Train Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/HALLPASS, ASCAP/Turntable Music Pub, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Rocky Creek James, ASCAP/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/PTNB Publishing, ASCAP (D.Lynch, B.J.Johnson, J.R.Hall, H.Phelps, Z.Crowell) **52**

ENDS OF THE EARTH Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **26**

F

THE FALL Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Keep Choppin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (B.Pinson, R.Fulcher, J.S.Stover) **28**

FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/FBRL Country Tunes, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Corrent Music, ASCAP/Nate Smith Music Publishing Company, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Designee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, B.Bailey, C.Brown, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, N.Smith) **13**

FIREWORKS Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Publishing Designee, BMI/Good Boy Gravy, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Eclipse One Music, BMI/Y'all Come Back Now, BMI/Taylor Goyette Entertainment, BMI (B.Baber, J.James, T.Goyette) **57**

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 CCL, ASCAP (M.Patrick, J.Hyde, A.Eshuis) **23**

GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach top Music, BMI/Major Bob Productions, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Down What I Do, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, W.McCubbin) **15**

H

HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/Music By Elevation Worship Publishing, BMI/Be Essential Songs, BMI/Also Also Industries, BMI/Bailee's Ballads, BMI (B.M.Lake, S.Furrick, B.Hastings, C.J.Brown, J.B.DeFord) **31**

HATE HOW YOU LOOK Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Round Hill Verses Publishing, BMI (N.Sainato, C.McKenna, J.Farren, C.Yancey) **47**

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/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/God Made Most Played Most Paid Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (J.B.DeFord, Z.Crowell, B.Pendergrass, Sny Carter) **5**

HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Game Rooster Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI (E.Felker) **54**

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-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Dean, B.Davis, D.Williams) **2**

THE HELL YOU ARE Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Two Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/The Blocks Are Back Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Better Bad Songs, SESAC/Philopians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Weislow, ASCAP (A.Cooke, S.W.Ennis, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, E.L.Weisband) **59**

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/Saxet HW Music, BMI (H.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Ailey) **14**

HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triples Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Tristrammusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **17**

I

I AIN'T COMING BACK Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela 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) **25**

I DARE YOU Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/Sixteen Music, ASCAP (N.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.Whitmore, J.K) **20**

I GOT BETTER Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philopians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Joey Reeves Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI (M.C.Wallen, M.W.Hardy, R.C.McGill, B.Pendergrass, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, J.S.Reeves) **4**

IT WON'T BE LONG Big Machine, ASCAP/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (G.C.Birge, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, T.Anderson) **16**

I WISH YOU WOULD Tack Mack Tunes, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Concord Arch Songs, ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain Tunes, ASCAP/Boom Town Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/Tompkins Family Vacation, ASCAP/1508 creative Nation Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.E.Carpenter, J.Hutcherson, J.Moore, C.Tompkins) **55**

K

KID MYSELF Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Total Schmidt Songs, ASCAP (J.Morgan, T.R.Hubbard, J.M.Schmidt) **43**

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L

LONG LIVE COUNTRY Shane Proffitt Publishing Designee, BMI/Matt Rogers Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI (S.Proffitt, M.Rogers, L.Rimes) **51**

M

MAKING GOOD TIME WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/12w6 Dogwood, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Smackshot Music, BMI/Katie In Paris, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/South Of CT Publishing, BMI/Music Of Blackheart, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP (M.T.Ramsey, T.J.Rosen, B.F.Russ, R.Cooperman, Ross Ellis) **40**

ME & A BEER Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Firebird Country Tunes, BMI/Oakdale Market Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP (C.Janson, T.Phillips, A.G.Gorley, A.Sheridan) **33**

N

NEVER CALL AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Luck Tunes, BMI/World For Colton Venner, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Tea Farm Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI (G.Adock, J.Taylor, C.Venner, J.Rauton) **42**

NO TELLIN' Caroline Jones Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Dark Bars Music, BMI/Smack Back Music, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI (C.D.Jones, L.McLamb, C.Park) **56**

S

SAME MOON Sony Countryside, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulwood Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Chapter 10, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Drown Boogie Music, BMI (M.Tenpening, P.D.Giovanni, D.Southerland, D.Wilson) **38**

SEVENTEEN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Idiot Circle Publishing LLC, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI/Sony Pop Music Publishing, GMR/Eldridge Publishing Co., GMR/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI (K.Marlone, T.Beathard, A.Goodloe, J.Taylor, B.Springsteen) **53**

SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Sony Countryside, BMI/Story Farmer, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Drown Boogie Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Fest Catalog, Inc., ASCAP (L.Wilson, T.Anderson, D.Wilson, A.Albert, E.H.Harburg, H.Arian) **7**

A SONG TO SING Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/NaynerPuddinPie Publishing, SESAC/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI (M.Lambert, C.Stapleton, J.Frasure, J.Fleener) **30**

STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Writersontheorcpublishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Chimney Pot Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Madfun, ASCAP/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/FBRL Country Tunes, BMI (D.Parker, G.Barham, S.Ellis, B.Bailey) **12**

T

TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Silo, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI (B.Hayslip, S.Mosley, J.Walker) **35**

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-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Tunes From The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (J.Moore, W.L.Bundy, R.Montana, J.S.Stover) **18**

TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Jake Mitchell Publishing Designee, BMI (J.Davis, D.Dawson, J.Mitchell, J.Thompson) **46**

W

WEAK WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Ohiofrick Music, ASCAP/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC/Smockey Mill Music, SESAC/Sonic Style Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/742 Sage Songs, BMI/4WarrensMusic, BMI (P.Cooper, L.Miller, B.Warren, B.D.Warren) **29**

WE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON 8 Publishing, BMI/Young Guns Publishing, LLC, BMI/CTM Publishing, BMI/Combustion Music, BMI (K.A.Fishman, T.Archer, M.Tyler) **58**

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) **22**

WHAT KINDA MAN Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela 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) **8**

WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbanger Publishing, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G.Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) **34**

WOULD IF I COULD Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Llilon, S.Ewing) **32**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Websinger 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) **37**



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THE NO. 1s ISSUE

YEAR IN MUSIC

ISSUE DATE 12/13 | **AD CLOSE** 12/2

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Billboard's Year in Music: The No. 1s will wrap up 2025 with an extraordinary editorial package. Included will be year-end charts, interviews and analysis of the year's top artists, songs, albums and labels as well as the top producers, songwriters and publishers.

The year-end Billboard Boxscore charts will shine a light on the most successful tours and the top concert venues and promoters in the world.

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CODA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

15 Years Ago

Taylor Swift's *Speak Now* Forever Holds Its Place In History

In 2010, the original set debuted at the peak of Top Country Albums, Billboard 200

Speakers were widely attuned to **Taylor Swift** when *Speak Now* debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums and the Billboard 200 dated Nov. 13, 2010.

It followed 2008's *Fearless* as the second of six Swift albums that started atop both lists.

Speak Now's release was heavily publicized, with performances at New York's Kennedy Airport, on ABC-TV's

Dancing With the Stars and on Los Angeles' Hollywood Boulevard as she shot an NBC special, *Taylor Swift — Speak Now*.

Five of the album's singles reached the Hot Country Songs top five: "Mine," "Back to December," "Mean," "Sparks Fly" and "Ours." The latter two hit No. 1, with "Ours" emerging from a Target-exclusive version of the CD.

Speak Now logged 13 weeks at No. 1 on

Top Country Albums, while rerecording *Speak Now (Taylor's Version)* led for two weeks in 2023. In addition to the six titles that ruled both the country and all-genre albums lists, Swift's 2008 EP *Beautiful Eyes* reached No. 1 on Top Country Albums. Nine more of her sets have led only the Billboard 200, including *The Life of a Showgirl*, which is now in the penthouse for a fourth week.

—TOM ROLAND

Swift at the 2010 Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's All for the Hall benefit in Los Angeles.

IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL (PRICE)					
1	HOT SHOT DEBUT	1	#1 1 WK	TAYLOR SWIFT	Speak Now
2	1	2	2	SUGARLAND	The Incredible Machine
3	2	3	3	DARIUS RUCKER	Charleston, SC 1966
4	5	2	3	THE BAND PERRY	The Band Perry
5	3	3	5	KENNY CHESNEY	Hemingway's Whiskey
				ZAC BROWN BAND	