

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## Brothers Osborne Guitarist John Osborne Steps Into The Spotlight With Multiple Projects



Guitarist **John Osborne** is taking care of business — lots of business.

His duo, **Brothers Osborne**, is well on its way to finishing its next album. **Ashley McBryde**'s album *Wild*, produced by "John-O" — as she refers to him — arrives May 8. And Fender has introduced a new John Osborne Telecaster built to specifications that mimic his customized 1968 model. Osborne, it appears, did a great job of lining all these projects up in a fairly simultaneous way, suggesting that he's taking his career by the horns.

That notion spurs a laugh.

"I'm a very short-sighted person," he insists. "I'm glad that it appears that way, because it makes me look way more calculated than I actually am."

Spoken like a true guitar player, and Osborne definitely qualifies for that designation. In his role with Brothers Osborne, six-time winners of the Country Music Association's vocal duo of the year, he has a large hand in defining the sound, blending country with Southern and heartland rock to create a cutting swagger. Part of that is a result of his treatment of time and space in a given performance. Osborne can shred with the best — and does when it fits — but when it doesn't, he lays back, teases almost, demonstrating his strength as a player by making the listener wait for

his bursts of energy.

It's an approach to the instrument that, intentionally or otherwise, fits alongside such masterful guitarists as **Peter Frampton**, **Vince Gill** and **Keith Urban**.

"As a kid, you listen to **Eric Johnson** and go, 'Okay, I want to play that many notes,'" Osborne says. "Then you realize that's physically nearly impossible, because he's an alien. And then, you listen to **B.B. King**, and you go, 'Hang on, he's playing, like, five notes. And this is amazing — what's going on here?' And then you grow up even more, and you listen to singers. You listen to **Aretha Franklin**, or you listen to **Etta James**, and you realize, 'Okay, hang on, we're doing the same thing here. It's just that they are singing with their vocal cords; we're singing with our instruments.' All of the greats are the singers. So how do I emulate what a singer would do?"

All of that growth traces back to the earliest days of Osborne's vocational path. He played violin in third grade in Deale, Md. — an experience he says was "awful" — but his attitudes about playing music changed when he grabbed a different stringed instrument.

"When I picked up guitar, as a really shy, awkward kid, I realized, 'Wow, I can actually express myself through this in-



OSBORNE

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strument,” he notes. “I found it to be very expressive, and I attached myself to it instantaneously.”

He approaches the guitar with a working man’s attitude, comparing it to his father’s job as a plumber.

“I’m basically a plumber, just with a different tool,” he quips. “It serves its purpose.”

Osborne’s tool of choice, a 1968 Telecaster, seemingly magnetized itself to him. He was a struggling musician with two electric guitars, an acoustic, an amplifier and \$700, and he traded it all in exchange for the Tele to Nashville New and Used Music, a 50-year-old shop in the Tuscolum neighborhood that closed permanently a few weeks ago. That Tele became his go-to guitar, though he started to modify it after Brothers Osborne’s *Port Saint Joe*. Osborne borrowed now-deceased **Keith Gattis’** guitar, featuring a B-bender, a device that allows the player to emulate the slide tones of a steel guitar through a spring system, activated by the smallest finger on the pick hand, that connects to the guitar neck through the musician’s strap. It offered additional layers of expression, and Osborne continued to tweak his guitar to provide more flexibility as the duo grew creatively.

The Osborne signature Telecaster, announced by Fender in March, offers the B-bender and other details specific to his guitar: custom pickups and pickguard, a maple neck, brass saddles that support the strings on the bridge and a distressed white finish.

“The only thing that you don’t get,” he insists, “is just my dirty, grubby finger grease all over the neck.”

Though his introduction to labor came from watching his plumber dad, Osborne’s on-stage work more closely emulates an actor, changing roles depending on the function his guitar is fulfilling. That suits his ability to shift from silence to bravado in service of the song.

“You have to hire the right actor for the part, and that is a big, big part of it,” he notes. “When I’m playing rhythm guitar and I’m in the band, I’m in the foundation, I’m trying to lay back and really feel the groove with the guys and fill my spot where I’m needed. But when it comes time to solo, I have to shift gears and then become the leading actor for about 20 to 30 seconds — or three or four minutes even — and it’s your time to sing.”

Brothers Osborne help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the original Telecaster in a May 4 concert, “Fender Presents: Tele Town,” at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium, where they’ll share the stage with guitarists **Brad Paisley, Ricky Skaggs, James Burton, Brent Mason, Derek Wells, Steve Wariner and Zach Top**, among others.

It should be a good night for the blue-collar Osborne. At awards shows, when Brothers Osborne end up in a room with a half-dozen other artists, he typically feels out of place and bolts for the musicians’ dressing rooms. The “Tele Town” lineup is full of other players who presumably approach their roles with similar, working-stiff mindsets.

“I like being a side guy,” he says. “I’m like, ‘Oh, my God, these are my people.’” ●



LIBBY DANFORTH

**Carly Pearce (center)** received the Yellow Rose of Inspiration award as *Song Suffragettes* celebrated its 12th anniversary March 30 at The Listening Room in Nashville. With her: *Suffragettes* event director **Maddie Lenhart** and founder **Todd Cassetty**.



*The Bobby Bones Show* personality **Dan “Lunchbox” Chappell (left)** joined *The Price is Right* host **Drew Carey** on stage as a contestant on the March 31 episode of the CBS game show.



KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES

**SiriusXM senior VP/GM of music programming Steve Blatter (left)** attended as **Morgan Wallen** delivered a concert April 2 at The Pinnacle in Nashville in conjunction with a newly launched Wallen channel on the platform.

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Russ Penuell





# ACM AWARDS VOTER GUIDE

## E - NEWSLETTER

Billboard will publish the official Academy Of Country Music Awards Voter Guide in mid-April, in partnership with the Academy Of Country Music.

Timed with final ballots, this special digital issue will highlight the artists and emerging talent in contention for the top awards, including Song of the Year, Female and Male Vocalists, Album of the Year, Entertainer of the Year, New Female and Male Artist, and more.

Take this opportunity to remind the industry of your artists' accomplishments over the last year, as ACM members prepare to cast their ballots.

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# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY  
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ON THE CHARTS **RUSS PENUELL** [rpenuell@billboard.com](mailto:rpenuell@billboard.com)

## Justin Moore Clocks Record Run To No. 1

**Justin Moore** earns his 11th No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "Time's Ticking" (Blue Highway) rises two spots to the top of the list dated April 11, delivering 29.9 million audience impressions (up 14%) March 27-April 2, according to Luminate. True to its title, the song completes a record 67-week climb to the summit, underscoring the kind of sustained, week-by-week growth that has long defined Moore's success at country radio.



CODY VILLALOBOS

Written by Moore, **Will Bundy**, **Randy Montana** and **Jeremy Stover**, the new leader marks Moore's first since "With a Woman You Love" in September 2022. With 11 No. 1s, he continues one of the most durable runs at country radio over the past two decades. Nearly 70% of his 23 charted singles have reached the top 10, and almost 70% of those 16 titles have in turn risen to the lead position. He has averaged a new No. 1 roughly every 20 months since his August 2008 chart debut.

"Justin Moore is a consistent country radio hitmaker, and this song is no exception," Blue Highway svp of promotion and digital **Ashley Sidoti** tells *Billboard*. "His music stays true to the core, no matter where the genre is swaying. We are incredibly proud to be celebrating his 11th *Billboard* No. 1 single and the very first No. 1 single for Blue Highway Records!"

"Time's Ticking" surpasses **Michael Ray's** "Whiskey and Rain" and **Travis Denning's** "After a Few," each of which took a 65-week trip to the top. The next-longest ascents: **Scotty McCreery's** "In Between" (63 weeks), **Dylan Scott's** "Can't Have Mine" (62) and **Chayce Beckham's** "23" (60).

**BACK IN THE KNOW** **Luke Bryan** ties for his third-highest Country Airplay debut with "Country and She Knows It" (Row Crop/MCA Nashville) at No. 21 (8.1 million). The song is his 49th career entry and joins his collaboration with **George Birge**, "Ride, Ride, Ride," which holds at its No. 25 high (6.6 million, up 5%).

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	+7.980
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+4.210
TIME'S TICKING Blue Highway	Justin Moore	+3.593
SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+3.489
CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+1.439
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.364
ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	+1.330
ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	+1.308
WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	+1.064
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+1.002

### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	+1798
TIME'S TICKING Blue Highway	Justin Moore	+1151
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+1079
SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+867
ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	+508
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+367
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+366
ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	+353
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+275
CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+255

### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	16.807
2	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	13.504
3	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	13.279
4	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	11.364
5	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	10.822
6	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	10.177
7	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	9.973
8	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	9.650
9	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	9.486
10	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	9.371



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 3, 2026

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	20	STEADY (Leo33) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Jenna Paulette	1911	248	11	18	14	WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOU (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1122	157
2	3	12	LIFE STILL HAPPENS (Weathers Legacy Music/Sea Gayle Music)	Josh Weathers	1674	147	12	16	9	GOING THROUGH (WHISKEY LIKE WATER) (Independent)	Tilluride	1112	115
3	4	28	IS THIS THING WORKIN' (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band feat. Parker McCollum	1648	148	13	14	24	MOVING ON (Independent)	Trent Cowie	1076	6
4	6	25	RATHER BE ALONE (Broken Angel)	Love & Chaos	1558	164	14	17	11	BLESSING AND A CURSE (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1053	72
5	7	12	SO GOOD FOR ME (Independent)	Bubba Westly	1488	98	15	15	30	.30-30 (Independent)	Deryl Dodd	1045	9
6	5	27	HONKY TONK HEART (Independent)	David Lewis feat. Randall King	1393	-79	16	19	12	NEON NEVER LIES (Mirror Ball Records)	Caleb Young	1020	113
7	9	7	PAINTED YOU PRETTY (Independent)	Hudson Westbrook	1338	140	17	24	7	ONE WILD REASON (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	934	134
8	8	12	LONG WAY HOME (Independent)	Matt Daniel	1337	84	18	26	20	COWBOY KINDA PARTY (Independent)	Caleb Sutton	923	158
9	12	9	SELFISH (Independent)	Josh Abbott Band	1257	111	19	23	12	BEAUTIFUL YOU (Prophets and Outlaws Music)	Prophets and Outlaws	903	69
10	13	11	HOW MANY SORRRYS (Cameron Allbright Music)	Cameron Allbright	1176	35	20	21	18	REDEMPTION (Independent)	Chuck Wimer	882	39

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 2026, Texas Regional Radio Report

# 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
1	3	67	TIME'S TICKING Blue Highway	Justin Moore	29.932	+3.593	8417	1151	1
2	2	24	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	29.290	-0.791	7503	-47	3
3	5	12	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	27.949	+3.489	7530	867	2
4	1	39	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	26.546	-5.590	7011	-1834	5
5	4	29	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Blue Highway	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	26.080	-0.040	7150	58	4
6	6	49	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	24.624	+1.064	6924	210	6
7	7	21	DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	22.686	+0.804	6207	124	7
8	8	49	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	21.223	+0.451	5935	-13	8
9	10	14	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	18.526	+1.439	5400	255	9
10	9	16	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	18.387	+0.643	5188	275	10
11	11	57	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	17.692	+0.794	4890	353	12
12	12	23	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	17.497	+0.837	4986	39	11
13	13	50	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	14.584	+0.555	3908	90	14
14	14	44	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	14.168	+1.330	4295	508	13
15	19	7	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	12.729	+4.210	3118	1079	19
16	15	23	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	12.683	+0.537	3664	116	15
17	16	17	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	12.022	+1.308	3610	191	16
18	17	28	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	10.915	+1.002	3407	227	17
19	18	56	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	10.285	+0.574	3202	3	18
20	20	25	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	8.582	+0.220	2949	113	20
21	NEW		COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	8.008	+7.980	1804	1798	30
22	21	9	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	7.813	+0.144	2541	150	22
23	22	52	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	7.727	+0.245	2845	95	21
24	24	5	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	7.682	+1.364	2515	366	23
25	25	9	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	6.573	+0.287	2251	159	24
26	26	20	AFTER MIDNIGHT RCA Nashville/SMN	Nate Smith & Tyler Hubbard	6.370	+0.091	2154	1	27
27	23	16	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	6.178	-0.477	2028	-28	28
28	28	42	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	6.167	+0.616	2243	192	25
29	29	5	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	6.068	+0.787	1810	214	29
30	30	39	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	5.480	+0.478	2216	143	26

## 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 © 2026, 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-bullethead) 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  
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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	33	3	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	4.614	+0.864	1647	367	31
32	31	30	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	4.172	+0.029	1644	83	32
33	32	11	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	3.833	-0.031	1459	82	34
34	35	6	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	3.662	+0.212	1253	64	38
35	36	38	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	3.560	+0.196	1625	34	33
36	34	15	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greylan James	3.455	-0.015	1375	7	36
37	37	27	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	2.978	-0.041	1233	19	39
38	39	24	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	2.963	+0.396	1435	105	35
39	38	10	GARY Mercury/Big Loud	Stephen Wilson Jr.	2.847	-0.134	1137	45	40
40	40	20	STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Alexandra Kay/Wheelhouse	Alexandra Kay	2.318	+0.064	1272	56	37
41	44	10	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Flatland Cavalry	2.079	+0.071	754	17	49
42	43	23	THE HELL YOU ARE Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	2.060	+0.048	1026	39	41
43	42	11	MAKE A LIAR Blue Highway	Jackson Dean	1.971	-0.140	964	-13	44
44	45	6	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	1.956	+0.132	750	28	50
45	46	8	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	1.870	+0.120	960	84	45
46	53	5	WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	1.834	+0.454	916	143	47
47	47	14	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	1.691	-0.013	977	38	43
48	48	21	KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	1.634	+0.039	923	30	46
49	50	9	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	1.589	+0.113	692	4	52
50	51	10	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	1.568	+0.173	994	43	42
51	41	2	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	1.517	-0.604	684	98	53
52	54	6	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	1.511	+0.293	738	67	51
53	49	29	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	Tumpike Troubadours	1.484	-0.014	548	5	58
54	NEW		BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	1.419	+0.694	240	107	-
55	56	12	HIGHS & LOWS Quartz Hill	Matt Cooper	1.276	+0.132	759	15	48
56	52	20	TRAVELIN' SOLDIER CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	1.222	-0.158	226	-19	-
57	55	17	DEVIL AIN'T DONE Stoney Creek	Atlas	1.163	-0.049	671	-25	54
58	59	7	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor	The Band Perry	0.931	+0.124	658	60	57
59	58	3	THOUGHT IT WAS LOVE RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	0.866	+0.009	345	8	-
60	57	5	KEEPS ME SANE Tyler Nance/Santa Anna	Tyler Nance	0.840	-0.019	508	14	59



Jacob Hackworth performed April 1 during a Country's Next Big Thing show presented by KWNR Las Vegas at the Fremont Street Experience. From left: EMI/Mercury manager of West Coast promotion Briarman Whitfield, iHeartMedia/Las Vegas senior VP of programming MoJoe Roberts, Hackworth, KWNR personality Sammi Tempesta and Westwood One VP/GM of Network Formats George King.



American Idol judges (from left) Lionel Richie, Carrie Underwood and Luke Bryan appeared March 26 on SiriusXM Front Row on the satcaster's Hits 1 and Carrie's Country channels.

CINDY ORD GETTY IMAGES

# ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

## 61ST ACM AWARDS PROGRAM

The Academy of Country Music is a leading association for the country music industry that serves as a powerful advocate for country fans, artists and all facets of the business, as well as provides philanthropic aid through charitable partner ACM Lifting Lives. The 61st ACM Awards will be returning to the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on May 17. It will be preceded by ACM Lifting Lives Country On The Green hosted by Riley Green & Friends on May 15 at Topgolf, and the ACM's Next Wave: Country Beach Bash on May 16 at Mandalay Bay Beach!

**Put your artist or brand in front of 5,000-plus academy members, voters and music industry professionals in the ACM Awards program guide, produced by *Billboard*. The guide will be distributed at the ACM Awards ceremony, with digital distribution to 50k ACM members across the world!**

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



SCOTT RITCHIE

Ringo Starr attracted a number of A-listers for a March 30 listening party at Los Angeles' Village Studios for his country- and Americana-influenced album *Long Long Road*, due April 24. From left: Sean Penn, Starr, Jeff Bridges, producer T Bone Burnett (*The Wallflowers*, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*) and John Mellencamp.

**RADIO & RECORDS®**

**Adam Star** returned to Beasley/Augusta, Ga., March 30 as PD for the five-station cluster, including country **WKXC**. After his first run in Augusta, he served as Beasley/Fort Myers, Fla., operations manager. Those Florida stations were divested in sales to Fort Myers Broadcasting and Sun Broadcasting that were finalized earlier this year ... Beasley Media Group hired VP of human resources **Bill Sontag**, who had consulted the company for several months. He spent 20 years previously at Procter & Gamble, where he ended his tenure as director of US benefits ... Skyview president/CEO/chairman **Steve Jones** announced he had assumed full leadership of the company in an April 1 memo. Its properties include *Country Top 40 with Fitz* and *B-Dub Radio* ... **Ann Marie Licata** rose to iHeartMedia Multiplatform Group CEO from Markets Group & Sales Operations president ... **Jamie Cutburth** joined iHeartMedia as executive VP of marketing, segueing from NBCUniversal executive VP of marketing & brand partnerships ... Audacy named **Debbie Kenyon** its Central US regional president, expanding on her existing role as Audacy/Detroit senior VP/market manager. The Motor City cluster includes country **WYCD** ... **Sammi Tempesta** returned to **KWNR** Las Vegas, where she's handling weekends. She previously spent three years with the Beasley/Las Vegas cluster before leaving in 2024 to work as campaign development manager for Blood Cancer United, formerly known as the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society ... Connoisseur Media announced the sale of four Topeka, Kan., stations to KNZA, Inc., known publicly as MSC Radio Group. The quartet of signals includes two country outlets, **KTPK** and **WIBW-FM** ... Connoisseur agreed to purchase six Lincoln, Neb., stations from NRG Media, including country **KFGE** ... **Candace Dold** joined the **WPOC** Baltimore morning team, RadioInk.com reported. She arrives from **WBFF-TV**, where she was an anchor/reporter for 14 years ... Cumulus/Salt Lake City welcome **Joyce Wirthlin** as VP/market manager, according to RadioInk.com. The appointment gives her oversight of five stations, including country **KUBL**. She moves into the new position from six-station rival iHeartMedia/Salt Lake City, where she served as president ... **KKGO** Los Angeles personality **Cathy Martindale** announced her retirement, RadioInsight.com reported. A 2022 Country Radio Hall of Fame inductee, she spent most of the last 13 years at **KKGO**, the finale of a 52-year broadcasting career that includes stops at **KSCS** Dallas and **WSM-AM** Nashville, plus a decade in TV ... **Hannah Lane** accepted the evening daypart at **KSCS** Dallas, according to RadioInsight.com. She moves into the gig after wrapping her morning role at **WUSJ** Jackson, Miss., on April 10.

**'ROUND THE ROW**

Artist management/publishing house Ignition hired three new employees. Director of artist relations & digital and social media **Vanessa Menzo** joins the team following five years as an independent social media manager. Manager of

operations & creative/digital strategy **Kennedy Fisher** arrives after working as a Riser House executive assistant/promotion coordinator. And day-to-day manager **Taylor Burke** comes aboard to support country artist **Tyra Madison** after working as a digital content creator. Reach Menzo [here](#), Fisher [here](#) and Burke [here](#) ... Sony Music Publishing promoted Nashville-based **Shane Knotts** to senior VP of global royalties from VP, extending a 31-year relationship with the company ... Writer-musician **David Ryan Harris** joined Spirit Music Nashville as a VP of A&R and staff songwriter through a joint-venture partnership with his company, Peace Pourage ... **Anne Wilson** performed the national anthem for the April 1 launch of NASA's Artemis II space mission ... **Kane Brown** will perform April 25 at the Draft Theater, adjacent to Acrisure Stadium, in Pittsburgh for the NFL Draft Entertainment Series as the league wraps the three-day event ... *Howdy! The Minnie Pearl Story* authors **Mary Ellen Pethel** and **Don Cusic** will discuss the late comedian in an installment of the Curb Lecture Series April 8 at RCA Studio B in Nashville. Go [here](#) for ticket info ... The final recorded performance by songwriter **Brett James** ("Jesus, Take the Wheel," "I Hold On"), captured for the live **Bobby Bones**-hosted broadcast series *Music Night*, is available for streaming on multiple platforms ... Lifting female voices is the central goal of "Wine, Women & Song," an April 16 event at Napa Valley's Whetstone Winery presented by Wildfire Entertainment Group, FEMco and SK Collective. Participants include **Maggie Rose**, **Emily Ann Roberts**, **Kylie Frey**, **Morgan Myles**, **Erin Grand**, **Charly Reynolds** and **Sasha** ... A new student art exhibit, "Connection," opened in the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's Taylor Swift Education Center ... The Grand Ole Opry's annual Salute the Troops edition is slated for May 19 with **Craig Morgan**, **The War and Treaty** and **Lauren Alaina** among the performers ... **Kane Brown**, **Katelyn Brown**, **Maddie & Tae**, **BRELAND**, **Dasha** and **Restless Road** were joined by Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse in an April 2 live appearance in Nashville on the eve of the release of a new Disney EP, *Main Street Country* ... Comedian **Byron Kennedy** presents two Nashviva shows April 4 at The Listening Room in Nashville, blending standup with appearances by established songwriters **Jordan Walker** ("When It Rains It Pours"), **Adam Craig** ("Close Your Eyes") and **Trent Tomlinson** ("Damn Strait") ... **Tom Truitt's** WHO KNEW "The Smartest People in the Room" pairs Songwriters of North America executive director **Erin McAnally** with American University professor **Linda Bloss-Blum** for an April 9 webinar. Go [here](#) to register for free ... **Cooper Alan** raised more than \$500,000 for his foundation with his March 28 debut at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium ... **HARDY**, **Zach Top**, **Jordan Davis** and **Ashley Cooke** are among the participants in Folds of Honor Tennessee's sixth annual Rock 'N Jock Celebrity Softball Game June 1 at Nashville's First Horizon Park ... The second annual Erv Woolsey Memorial Race, named for **George Strait's** late manager, will be held at Louisville's Churchill Downs horse track on June 14. ●



CHANGE PHEBUS

Travis Denning performed March 24 at 3rd & Lindsley during the Nashville Songwriters Association International's Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival. From left: Denning and songwriters Cole Taylor ("You, Me, & Whiskey"), Matt Mulhare and Kelly Archer ("I'm Gonna Love You").

# billboard

2026

# WOMEN IN MUSIC

SPECIAL ISSUE



FEATURING

**ERYKAH BADU**

Doechii

Tyla

Megan Moroney

Gracie Abrams

aespa

GloRilla

Meghan Trainor

Ángela Aguilar

Muni Long

Jennie

+

EXECUTIVES OF

THE YEAR

WOMEN AGENTS

TAKE THE LEAD

On April 18, *Billboard* will publish its highly anticipated Women in Music special issue, featuring top women in the music business who are making their mark across top industry sectors.

Coinciding with this issue will be the Women in Music awards ceremony on April 29 at Hollywood Palladium. The event will bring together music's most prominent women artists and the industry's top women business executives to recognize and celebrate their achievements.

**Take this opportunity to congratulate the most powerful and talented women in music and wish them continued success.**

## CONTACTS

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ISSUE DATE 4/18 | AD CLOSE 4/7 | MATERIALS DUE 4/9

# billboard Country Airplay Index

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

**A**  
**AFTER MIDNIGHT** W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Designee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vibez From Tree Vibez Music, ASCAP/Concord Alto CCI, ASCAP/Five Docks Down Music Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/T Tree Music, BMI (C.Brown, C.Crowder, T.R.Hubbard) **26**

**AIN'T A BAD LIFE** Warner-Tamerlane 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) **5**

**ALL MY EXES** Lylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSHEAT 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/Music By Work Of Art, BMI (Lauren Alaina, J.A.Gutch, B.J.Johnson, W.Philips) **32**

**AMEN** Poorchoice Music Publishing, BMI/Songs Into Poems, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/Jordan Gap Publishing Designee, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/Essancy 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.Chubuzev, J.B.DeFord, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.W.Ennis, J.Gray, K.Powers, N.Sastry) **4**

**B**  
**BEAUTIFUL THINGS** Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiano, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triple Rae 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) **16**

**BE BY YOU** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Songs By Porchlight, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Highway 75 Publishing, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Wildhawk Publishing, BMI (D.Alley, S.Banks, N.Walsh) **54**

**BE HER** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sea Gayle Distillery Music, ASCAP/Endurance Music Group, BMI/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI/Ross & Rae Music, ASCAP/Relative Rights, ASCAP (E.Langley, S.Ahnquist, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **15**

**BOOTS OFF** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Crawford Mercer Music, GMR/Songs Of CN, GMR (J.Pardi, W.McCubbin, L.Laird) **33**

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

**C**  
**CHANGE MY MIND** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Flatland Boy Music, BMI/Hit Songs Of 50 Egg Music, BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI (R.Green, Erik Dylan, R.Montana) **9**

**CHEVY SILVERADO** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sparko Phone Music, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI (T.Beathard, I.Juber, G.J.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman) **20**

**CHOOSIN' TEXAS** Langley Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Luke Dick Publishing Designee, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI (E.Langley, C.L.Dick, M.Lambert, J.Taylor) **2**

**COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Trailer Parker Iwang Lab, BMI/Hometeam Publishing LLC, BMI/Kilometre Music Group B, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP (J.L.Miller, P.Welling, M.Dragstrom) **21**

**D**  
**DAYS LIKE THESE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Tiltawhir Music, BMI/Lucky Three Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/ONE TOOTH PRODUCTIONS, BMI/Super LCS Publishing, BMI (L.Combs, B.Cobb, A.Raitiere) **7**

**DEVIL AIN'T DONE** Atlas Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/SpiritVault Songs II, ASCAP/4Ever Songz, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Works By Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbanger Publishing, BMI (S.Haywood, D.A.Garcia, G.Warburton) **57**

**DON'T TELL ON ME** Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI/Kwsay Publishing, BMI/WritersonthehornPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan, L.Vaughan) **24**

**DON'T WE** Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, R.H.Block, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, Charlie Handsome) **29**

**E**  
**EASY TO LOVE** Hit Train Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane 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, C.Crowell) **35**

**ENDS OF THE EARTH** Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **11**

**F**  
**THE FALL** Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Keep Choppin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (B.Pinson, R.Fulcher, J.S.Stover) **8**

**FIREWORKS** Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Music, BMI/Good Brody 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) **38**

**G**  
**GARY** Poems On Junk Mail, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (S.L.Wilson Jr.) **39**

**GET TO DRINKIN'** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Works By Kinda Country Songs, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Brody James Music, BMI/Akin For Jonas Music, BMI/.8 Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/ERN'S Cadillac Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Fire, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Kyle Sturrock Music, ASCAP (Z.J.King, R.Akins, T.Archer, K.A.Fishman, K.Sturrock) **34**

**GOOD DAMN** Indiana Angel Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (B.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, T.Philips) **51**

**H**  
**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) **18**

**HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH** Game Rooster Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (E.Felker) **53**

**THE HELL YOU ARE** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Two Twelve 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/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Wes/Owl, ASCAP (A.Cooke, S.W.Ennis, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, E.L.Weisband) **42**

**HIGHS & LOWS** Songs Of North Chapel Music, BMI/Endurance Music Group, BMI/318 Records Publishing, BMI (M.Cooper) **55**

**HOLDIN' IT DOWN** Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Redd Up Publishing, BMI/Aaron Presley Beachum Publishing Designee, BMI/Evan Christian Mayo Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (Chase Matthew, E.Escue, A.Maxwell, Presley Aaron, E.C.Mayo, J.Center) **50**

**I**  
**I AIN'T COMING BACK** Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane 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) **13**

**K**  
**KEEPS ME SANE** Anthems Of Platinum Grammer, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Copyright Control (C.T.L.Nance, D.Napier, B.McCollough) **60**

**KID MYSELF** Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/T Tree Music, BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Total Schmidt Songs, ASCAP (J.Morgan, T.R.Hubbard, J.M.Schmidt) **30**

**KILLED THE MAN** Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Riser House Tunes, SESAC/I Barely Even Know Er Music, BMI/International Dog Music, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/LuVegas Publishing, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI (M.D.Whitworth, J.D.Conrad, T.Cartwright, C.B Baldwin) **48**

**KILLIN' ME** Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endless Tour Music, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI (P.McCollum, R.Rogers, M.Criswell) **52**

**L**  
**LET HIM IN ANYWAY** Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Biggie Bendable Music, BMI/Best Damn Music, BMI (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, K.S.Clark, C.Wallace) **45**

**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) **37**

**M**  
**MAKE A LIAR** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick, R.Montana) **43**

**MCARTHUR** Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Relative Music Group Family, ASCAP/Head Coach Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Old Bandana, BMI (M.W.Hardy, R.C.McGill, J.Rodgers, J.Thompson) **22**

**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-Tamerlane 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.Philips, A.G.Gorley, A.Sheridan) **14**

**N**  
**NEVER COMIN' BACK** ONE TOOTH PRODUCTIONS, BMI/Invoked Lamb Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Lyric Music Publishing, GMR/CN Songs From 1508, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, GMR (C.Cordero, L.Laird, A.Retiere) **41**

**P**  
**PAINTED YOU PRETTY** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Saxet HW Music, BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/FBRL Country Tunes, BMI (H.Westbrook, Lukas Scott, B.Bailey) **44**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL** Smack Back Music, BMI/Concord Bartone CCI, BMI/Midtown Mistake Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Colton Venner Publishing, BMI (C.Park, G.Tyler, C.Venner) **58**

**R**  
**RIDE, RIDE, RIDE** Big Music Machine, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/T Tree Music, BMI (G.C.Birge, T.R.Hubbard, C.Brown, P.Welling) **25**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW** Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Corey Kent Music, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Lighting Street Publishing, BMI/Melodies Of CIM Outlander, SESAC/Michael Tyler Music, SESAC/MT Room, SESAC/Young Guns Tunes, SESAC (Corey Kent, T.Archer, A.Goodloe, M.Tyler) **17**

**S**  
**SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Hits Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Braven Baker Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, R.Montana, J.D.Singleton) **3**

**SOUTH OF SANITY** Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Major Bob Productions, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Doan What I Do, BMI/Getysayome Music, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, M.Nesler) **27**

**STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART** Cinq Trax, ASCAP/Litridge Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/Karley Scott Collins Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Susan Perb Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Mod Junkie, BMI (J.Robbins, K.S.Collins, Sasha Aler Sloan) **40**

**T**  
**THOUGHT IT WAS LOVE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs By Leroy, BMI (T.Myers) **59**

**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) **23**

**TIME'S TICKING** Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Anthem 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) **1**

**TRAVELIN' SOLDIER** Bruce Robinson Music, BMI/Tiltawhir Music, BMI (B.Robson) **56**

**TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND** Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane 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) **12**

**W**  
**WATER AT A WEDDING** Relative Red Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI (G.J.Egan, M.Dragstrom, R.C.McGill) **36**

**WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE** Gurb 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) **6**

**WHAT IF WE DON'T** Beejo Fetch Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Song Factory, BMI/Merf Music Publishing LLC, BMI/Colton Sounds, BMI/Songs Of Merf Music LLC, BMI (A.McBryde, T.Box, R.Clay) **46**

**WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/All Essential Music, ASCAP/Pravin Cowboy Publishing, SESAC/So Essential Tunes, SESAC/Songs That Dog Will Hunt, BMI/Capitol CMG Paragon, BMI/Sugar Rain Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (B.M.Lake, J.Sooter, H.Bentley, D.Southerland) **49**

**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) **19**

**WOMAN** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Family Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Copyright Control/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (K.Brown, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson, T.Philips) **31**

**WORTH YOUR WILD** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Home Team Music, BMI/Tunes Of Trailer Parkers, BMI/Track & Feels Publishing Designee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (R.Dickerson, P.Welling, C.Brown) **47**

**WRONG HEARTS** BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Weslinger Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Drag Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP (P.C.Brust, C.Lucas, M.Dragstrom, J.Thompson) **28**

# billboard

2026

# COUNTRY POWER PLAYERS



*Billboard's* 12th annual Country Power Players issue will celebrate the executives and artists who have propelled country music to another stellar year. This special feature will highlight those who have had the greatest impact in the genre over the past year, spanning recorded music, streaming, radio, publishing, management and live entertainment.

Advertise in *Billboard's* Country Power Players issue to congratulate this year's honorees while reaching key decision-makers who are driving the music business.

## BONUS DISTRIBUTION

Billboard Country Power Players Cocktail Party & Awards  
June 3 in Nashville.

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# COUNTRY

REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS

30 Years Ago

## Wynonna Judd's 'To Be Loved By You,' A Hall Of A Hit

It marked her 18th No. 1 in 12 years as a solo artist or duet member

Hindsight is 20/20, and 30 years down the road, it's easy to look back and see Wynonna's "To Be Loved by You" — which topped *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs on April 6, 1996 — as a hall-of-fame project.

Wynonna, of course, earned a spot in the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2022 as one-half of **The Judds**, while the single's producer, **Tony Brown** (**George Strait**, **Vince Gill**), joined the same Hall in 2025. Both of the "To Be Loved by You" songwriters — **Gary Burr** ("I Try to Think About Elvis," "That's My Job") and **Mike Reid**

("Stranger in My House," "I Can't Make You Love Me") — became Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame members in 2005.

Wynonna infused "To Be Loved by You" with dramatic, R&B-shaded dynamics, debuting the recording at No. 59 on Hot Country Songs on Jan. 6, 1996, ahead of the Feb. 13 release of her Curb/MCA album *Revelations*. She performed it in an ABC-TV special, also titled *Revelations*, on Feb. 23, and climbed to the top of the country list in the single's 14th charted week. It marked the last of her

four solo No. 1s, following 14 previous chart-toppers accrued from 1984-89 with The Judds, featuring now-deceased mother/duet partner **Naomi Judd**, who announced her health-related retirement from touring in 1990.

Wynonna covered another Hall of Famer on March 30 when she sang **Tammy Wynette's** "Woman to Woman" during taping for a PBS *Great Performances* episode, "Forever Yours: The First Lady of Country Music," slated for later this year.

—TOM ROLAND

Wynonna Judd performs at the Rosemont Theater in Rosemont, Ill., April 11, 1996.



					*** No. 1 ***		
WEEKS ON CHART	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	PEAK POSITION	SONG	ARTIST	WEEKS AT NO. 1	WEEKS ON CHART
1	2	5	14	<b>TO BE LOVED BY YOU</b> T. BROWN (G. BURR, M. REID)	WYNONNA (V) CURB 55084/MCA	1 week at No. 1	1
2	3	3	17	<b>WALKIN' AWAY</b> M. D. CLUTE, T. DUBOIS, DIAMOND RIO (A. ROBOFF, C. WISEMAN)	◆ DIAMOND RIO (C) (V) ARISTA 1-2934		2
3	6	6	13	<b>HYPNOTIZE THE MOON</b> J. STROUD (S. DORFF, E. KAZ)	◆ CLAY WALKER (C) (V) GIANT 17704/REPRISE		3
4	4	7	18	<b>TOO MUCH FUN</b> J. STROUD, R. TRAVIS, D. MALLOY (C. WRIGHT, T. J. KNIGHT)	◆ DARYLE SINGLETARY GIANT ALBUM CUT/REPRISE		4
5	8	10	13	<b>NO NEWS</b> D. COOK, W. WILSON (S. HOGIN, P. BARNHART, M. D. SANDERS)	◆ LONESTAR (C) (V) BNA 64386		5
6	9	11	14	<b>YOU GOTTA LOVE THAT</b> NEAL MCCOY			6