

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## Ella Langley, Lainey Wilson Lead As The 60th ACMs Kick It Old School

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"Why not me when you're growin' old?"

**Wynonna Judd's** line from a throwback song in the opening medley of former winning titles asked an appropriate question as the Academy of Country Music held its 60th annual awards on May 8 in Frisco, Texas.

The show leaned substantially on nostalgia, citing classic artists in its script and featuring several 20-year-old titles among its performances as the ACMs inch toward the equivalent of retirement age.

The trophies reflected a retro quality, too. **Ella Langley** rode "you look like you love me," a partial recitation with classic country roots, to five awards.

"We grew up on classic country," Langley said as she accepted single of the year, joined by collaborator **Riley Green** and producer **Will Bundy**. "There was a lot of talking in it — **Conway Twitty**, **Johnny**

**Lee**, **David Allan Coe**. This song really changed it for me as a songwriter. It taught me to just not care so much and write what you love and write what feels good."

"How cool it is," added Green, a three-time winner, "that a song with talking verses won an award."

**Lainey Wilson** claimed four honors, including her second

straight wins for entertainer and female artist of the year, while joining host **Reba McEntire** and **Miranda Lambert** for the inaugural performance of "Trailblazer," a song that recognized pioneering women **Loretta Lynn**, **Patsy Cline**, **Dottie West** and **Tammy Wynette**. She did her own backward glancing during the evening, recalling that she saw **Crystal Gayle** perform the first time she attended the Grand Ole Opry. Wilson turned the clock back even further in her final trip to the microphone.

"I remember my parents had this old hunting spotlight that we used to take off the charger all the time," she said. "My sister would turn all the lights off in the house, and she would shine the spotlight on me as I was running back and forth across the living room. I dreamed about entertaining. I love making people feel things."

**Brooks & Dunn** swiped duo of the year for the first time in 15 years, bringing their total in the category to 17 wins. The first of those victories occurred more than three decades ago, in 1992. "We've been doing this for a long time," **Ronnie Dunn** told the crowd. "Not for one second have we ever taken it for granted or ever expected it."

The night prior, the duo had received the ACM diamond



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chairman's award during the ACM Lifting Lives Gala, an event that raised over \$1.3 million for the ACM's charitable arm. Dunn reflected at that event on their initial trophy night.

"We were walking off the stage," Dunn said. "I was looking this way, and [Kix Brooks] was looking that way, and we were both fighting back tears."

The duo's former Arista labelmate, **Alan Jackson**, also battled emotions during the awards as he became the inaugural winner of a trophy that bears his name: the Alan Jackson lifetime achievement award. Black-and-white images from his youth appeared behind him as he sang "Remember When," his voice cracking as the lyrics considered an earlier milestone: "Remember when 30 seemed so old."

Jackson first moved to Nashville from Georgia four decades ago, and he has only a May 17 date in Milwaukee left on what is believed to be his final concert tour.

"I came to Nashville with a paper sack full of songs and a crazy dream," he said. "All these years later, I'm standing here receiving such an honor like this—it's just mind-blowing."

Other awards and moments marked the passage of time in their own ways. **Old Dominion** set a new record by winning its eighth straight group of the year award. **Chris Stapleton** collected the male vocalist hardware for the fifth time in his career, just days after celebrating the 10th anniversary of the release of his breakthrough album, *Traveller*.

**Cody Johnson**'s recording of "Dirt Cheap" won song of the year behind an old-school storyline fashioned the way that Nashville writers did it decades ago: one writer, **Josh Phillips**, chipping away at the song by himself.

**Zach Top**, who is closely associated with the resurgence of '90s country influence, performed acoustic on a satellite stage after accepting the new male artist award days earlier. **The Red Clay Strays** also earned new duo or group in advance.

Plenty of other performances dug back into the ACMs' 60 years of awards history: Johnson teamed with Brooks & Dunn on the 2003 release "Red Dirt Road"; Langley, sporting a "Mama Tried" T-shirt, joined Lambert on the 20-year-old "Kerosene"; and **LeAnn Rimes** turned her 1996 traditional-country debut, "Blue," into a 1940s-style traditional-pop exercise by using a string quartet and cobalt lighting.

Additionally, **Eric Church**, who has won seven ACMs since 2011, delivered his current single, "Hands of Time," hailing "loud guitars" and a bevy of influences, including songs by **Bob Seger**, **Bob Marley**, **Meat Loaf**, **Waylon Jennings** and **Johnny Cash**.

Music is, after all, continually building on its past, and a song about that evolution is particularly appropriate on a 60th anniversary.

So was a small gesture at the end of the evening. As Wilson walked offstage with her entertainer of the year award, presenter **Blake Shelton** made a point of giving her the envelope that had contained her name. It's a memento that has future value, perhaps when Wilson is part of the crew helping the ACM look back on its history again in 10 or 15 years. ●



DAVID LEHR

Morgan Wallen's Wilder Music and Warner Chappell Music Nashville signed songwriter Jared Mullins ("Thank God," "Homemade") to a publishing deal. From left: WCMN vp of A&R/digital Jessi Vaughn Stevenson, Mullins, Wallen and WCMN senior vp/GM Phil May.



Lainey Wilson (left) greeted Premiere Networks president Julie Talbott on May 7 at iHeartCountry's Academy of Country Music remote broadcast at the Omni Hotel in Frisco, Texas. ●



The Highwomen's Natalie Hemby joined the host of *The Stephan Hogan Podcast* for an episode that debuted May 7.

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CONGRATULATIONS BACK-TO-BACK  
ACM ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

# LAINIEY WILSON



FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
ARTIST-SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR  
ALBUM OF THE YEAR *WHIRLWIND*



# billboardCountry Airplay

AIRPLAY  
MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

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

## Riley Green, Corey Kent & Ella Langley Notch New Country Airplay Top 10s

Riley Green’s “Worst Way” (Nashville Harbor) hits the top 10 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart, hopping from No. 11 to No. 8 on the survey dated May 17. It increased by 10% to 16.6 million audience impressions May 2-8, according to Luminate.

With the song—from Green’s LP *Don’t Mind If I Do*, which entered Top Country Albums at its No. 8 best last November—he banks his sixth Country Airplay top 10. It follows his duet with Ella Langley, “you look like you love me,” which led for one week in December, becoming his second chart-topper. He first led as featured on Thomas Rhett’s “Half of Me” for one week in November 2022. “There Was This Girl” was his first top 10 (No. 3, 2019).

Notably, Green wrote “Worst Way” solo. It’s the first Country Airplay top 10 solo-penned by the artist who recorded it since Chayce Beckham’s “23,” which led for one week in April 2024.



MATTHEW SIMMONS

**BIG ‘HEART’** Corey Kent lands his second Country Airplay top 10 as “This Heart” (Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville) rises 12-9 (16.4 million, up 12%). The song, from the Bixby, Okla., native’s album *Black Bandana* (which arrived last fall), follows “Wild As Her,” which hit No. 3 in May 2023.

**‘WIND’ BLOWS IN** Ella Langley achieves her second Country Airplay top 10 as “Weren’t for the Wind” (SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers) gusts 13-10 (15.5 million, up 12%). The single, from her 2024 LP *Hungover*, follows her chart-topping Riley Green team-up “you look like you love me” (see above).

**ONGOING ‘PROBLEM’** Morgan Wallen’s “I’m the Problem” (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) dominates Country Airplay for a fourth total and consecutive week (30.7 million, up 1%). The song marks the fifth of his 17 No. 1s to ring up four or more frames on top. His longest-leading hit, “You Proof,” reigned for 10 weeks beginning in October 2022. It’s tied for the longest command in the chart’s 35-year history with Nate Smith’s “World on Fire” (2023-24). ●

## MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

| TITLE Imprint/Label                                       | Artist                        | GAIN (IN MILLIONS) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA           | Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs | +10.583            |
| I NEVER LIE Leo33                                         | Zach Top                      | +4.633             |
| FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville                   | Nate Smith                    | +2.112             |
| JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                    | Morgan Wallen                 | +1.970             |
| THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville               | Corey Kent                    | +1.790             |
| WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers        | Ella Langley                  | +1.665             |
| WORST WAY Nashville Harbor                                | Riley Green                   | +1.524             |
| WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow                            | Jason Aldean                  | +1.453             |
| AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville      | Megan Moroney                 | +1.396             |
| AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory | Thomas Rhett                  | +1.309             |

## MOST INCREASED PLAYS

| TITLE Imprint/Label                                       | Artist                        | GAIN  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA           | Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs | +2684 |
| I NEVER LIE Leo33                                         | Zach Top                      | +1364 |
| THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville               | Corey Kent                    | +548  |
| JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                    | Morgan Wallen                 | +535  |
| FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville                   | Nate Smith                    | +473  |
| WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers        | Ella Langley                  | +464  |
| WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow                            | Jason Aldean                  | +382  |
| AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory | Thomas Rhett                  | +368  |
| AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville      | Megan Moroney                 | +364  |
| WORST WAY Nashville Harbor                                | Riley Green                   | +352  |

## RECURRENTS

| THIS WEEK | TITLE Imprint/Label                                       | Artist                              | TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS) |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1         | LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek             | Jelly Roll                          | 19.597                   |
| 2         | LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                   | Morgan Wallen                       | 16.856                   |
| 3         | HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville            | Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph           | 16.569                   |
| 4         | POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                 | Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton | 13.942                   |
| 5         | A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music | Shaboozey                           | 13.266                   |
| 6         | HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA            | Bailey Zimmerman                    | 13.037                   |
| 7         | I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                 | Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen | 12.470                   |
| 8         | FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN                  | Cole Swindell                       | 12.221                   |
| 9         | FRIENDS LIKE THAT Night Train/Broken Bow                  | John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean  | 12.045                   |
| 10        | THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb                      | Dylan Scott                         | 9.607                    |



# TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MAY 8, 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         | 17           | SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★ | Tristan Roberson              | 1793     | 100       | 11        | 13        | 12           | HURRICANE (CDX)                            | Sandee June                | 1222     | 46        |
| 2         | 3         | 17           | WEST OF FT WORTH (Independent)                  | Grant Gilbert                 | 1702     | 52        | 12        | 15        | 9            | BREAK ITSELF (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers) | Randy Rogers Band          | 1209     | 68        |
| 3         | 4         | 14           | DAMN BABY (Independent)                         | Bubba Westly                  | 1644     | 53        | 13        | 14        | 18           | AIN'T THAT LOVE (Independent)              | Bri Bagwell & Timber Wilde | 1160     | 15        |
| 4         | 5         | 16           | DRIVE (Independent)                             | Jason Boland & The Stragglers | 1544     | 13        | 14        | 12        | 16           | THE WORKING MAN (Independent)              | Cody Jinks                 | 1158     | -40       |
| 5         | 6         | 28           | AUSTIN ANYMORE (Independent)                    | Brandi Behlen                 | 1422     | 33        | 15        | 16        | 16           | WHAT I CAME TO DO (Independent)            | Jesse Raub Jr.             | 1111     | 10        |
| 6         | 7         | 13           | ROLLIN' ON (Flying C)                           | Brooke Graham                 | 1420     | 60        | 16        | 19        | 16           | I DON'T APOLOGIZE (Independent)            | James Lann                 | 1100     | 142       |
| 7         | 8         | 19           | PUT IT IN REVERSE (Independent)                 | Ben McPeak                    | 1379     | 74        | 17        | 1         | 18           | 5 TO 9 (Independent)                       | Hudson Westbrook           | 1072     | -695      |
| 8         | 9         | 11           | GREEN IN COLORADO (Independent)                 | Casey Donahew                 | 1375     | 92        | 18        | 17        | 13           | WHO'S HANGING THE MOON (Independent)       | Josh Weathers              | 1059     | 72        |
| 9         | 10        | 18           | BUCKLE OR THE BRIDE (Independent)               | Caleb Young                   | 1279     | 19        | 19        | 21        | 4            | RUBY ANN (Independent)                     | Turnpike Troubadours       | 1029     | 131       |
| 10        | 11        | 10           | NOTHIN' BUT TEXAS (Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers)  | Wade Bowen                    | 1277     | 53        | 20        | 25        | 6            | MY JOHN WAYNE (Independent)                | Kylie Frey                 | 923      | 147       |

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

billboardCountry Airplay

AIRPLAY  
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| THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | WKS ON CHART | TITLE Imprint/Label                                            | Artist                         | AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) |         | PLAYS     |       |      |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|------|
|           |           |              |                                                                |                                | THIS WEEK              | +/-     | THIS WEEK | +/-   | RANK |
| 1         | 1         | 14           | I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                      | Morgan Wallen                  | 30.675                 | +0.182  | 8319      | -89   | 1    |
| 2         | 4         | 30           | I NEVER LIE Leo33                                              | Zach Top                       | 27.022                 | +4.633  | 8127      | 1364  | 2    |
| 3         | 3         | 41           | WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow                                 | Jason Aldean                   | 25.209                 | +1.453  | 7363      | 382   | 3    |
| 4         | 8         | 38           | AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville           | Megan Moroney                  | 19.323                 | +1.396  | 6121      | 364   | 4    |
| 5         | 6         | 49           | HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group                           | LOCASH                         | 19.264                 | -1.187  | 5127      | -354  | 7    |
| 6         | 2         | 25           | TEXAS Ten Point/Wheelhouse                                     | Blake Shelton                  | 19.154                 | -5.463  | 5786      | -2103 | 6    |
| 7         | 9         | 27           | BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville                           | Kane Brown                     | 18.188                 | +0.767  | 5809      | 223   | 5    |
| 8         | 11        | 22           | WORST WAY Nashville Harbor                                     | Riley Green                    | 16.581                 | +1.524  | 5116      | 352   | 8    |
| 9         | 12        | 46           | THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville                    | Corey Kent                     | 16.393                 | +1.790  | 4935      | 548   | 10   |
| 10        | 13        | 19           | WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers             | Ella Langley                   | 15.505                 | +1.665  | 4953      | 464   | 9    |
| 11        | 16        | 58           | SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville | Josh Ross                      | 13.891                 | +1.284  | 4431      | 306   | 11   |
| 12        | 14        | 38           | COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville                                    | Sam Hunt                       | 13.882                 | +0.940  | 4096      | 281   | 13   |
| 13        | 15        | 27           | TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek            | Drew Baldridge                 | 12.718                 | -0.216  | 4371      | 33    | 12   |
| 14        | 18        | 26           | FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville                        | Nate Smith                     | 12.677                 | +2.112  | 3850      | 473   | 15   |
| 15        | 17        | 35           | PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville                               | Tyler Hubbard                  | 12.355                 | +0.023  | 4075      | 95    | 14   |
| 16        | 19        | 7            | JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                         | Morgan Wallen                  | 11.052                 | +1.970  | 3251      | 535   | 16   |
| 17        | NEW       |              | BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA                | Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs  | 10.588                 | +10.583 | 2686      | 2684  | 21   |
| 18        | 20        | 25           | COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville                         | Luke Bryan                     | 9.188                  | +1.195  | 2962      | 304   | 18   |
| 19        | 21        | 41           | TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine                                      | Carly Pearce                   | 8.390                  | +0.408  | 2929      | 27    | 19   |
| 20        | 23        | 12           | AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory      | Thomas Rhett                   | 8.324                  | +1.309  | 2993      | 368   | 17   |
| 21        | 22        | 15           | GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music               | Shaboozey                      | 8.065                  | +0.928  | 2843      | 288   | 20   |
| 22        | 24        | 35           | FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville                    | Jon Pardi                      | 7.391                  | +0.592  | 2643      | 121   | 22   |
| 23        | 26        | 8            | HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers                                     | Russell Dickerson              | 5.915                  | +0.661  | 1967      | 175   | 25   |
| 24        | 28        | 8            | HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville                              | Eric Church                    | 5.597                  | +1.067  | 2078      | 166   | 24   |
| 25        | 25        | 33           | HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine                                   | Jackson Dean                   | 5.573                  | +0.115  | 2083      | -118  | 23   |
| 26        | 27        | 34           | WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville                                   | Parker McCollum                | 4.823                  | -0.106  | 1817      | -91   | 26   |
| 27        | 29        | 7            | BAR NONE MCA Nashville                                         | Jordan Davis                   | 4.629                  | +0.311  | 1728      | 81    | 28   |
| 28        | 30        | 17           | STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville                        | Keith Urban                    | 4.472                  | +0.365  | 1749      | 201   | 27   |
| 29        | 32        | 6            | HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek        | Jelly Roll                     | 4.396                  | +0.891  | 1563      | 225   | 30   |
| 30        | 31        | 14           | I DARE YOU Big Machine                                         | Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers | 3.970                  | +0.024  | 1722      | -22   | 29   |

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

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

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

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

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

**HOT SHOT DEBUT**  
Awarded to the highest-ranking new entry on Country Airplay.

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

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

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

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# billboard Country Airplay

 AIRPLAY  
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**LUMINATE**

| THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | WKS ON CHART | TITLE Imprint/Label                                                                            | Artist                               | AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) |        | PLAYS     |     |      |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------|-----|------|
|           |           |              |                                                                                                |                                      | THIS WEEK              | +/-    | THIS WEEK | +/- | RANK |
| 31        | 34        | 9            | RUN Vanner/Republic/Big Loud                                                                   | Miranda Lambert                      | 3.452                  | +0.097 | 1079      | 31  | 35   |
| 32        | 35        | 12           | SHE HATES ME Capitol Nashville                                                                 | Dierks Bentley                       | 3.403                  | +0.087 | 1491      | 82  | 31   |
| 33        | 36        | 7            | HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WMN                                             | Hudson Westbrook                     | 3.212                  | +0.011 | 971       | 45  | 42   |
| 34        | 37        | 9            | 3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville                                | Tucker Wetmore                       | 3.074                  | +0.256 | 1176      | 70  | 32   |
| 35        | 38        | 28           | RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA                                                                         | Warren Zeiders                       | 2.457                  | -0.156 | 1075      | 13  | 36   |
| 36        | 39        | 15           | IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville                                                             | George Birge                         | 2.261                  | +0.036 | 1174      | 9   | 33   |
| 37        | 41        | 25           | WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                                                     | ERNEST                               | 2.231                  | +0.174 | 1088      | 22  | 34   |
| 38        | 49        | 3            | I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                                                  | Morgan Wallen & Post Malone          | 2.094                  | +0.747 | 740       | 293 | 48   |
| 39        | 40        | 15           | INDIGO Lockeland Springs/Atlantic/Magnolia Music ★★ Breaker ★★ Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna |                                      | 2.062                  | -0.091 | 977       | 48  | 40   |
| 40        | 43        | 4            | FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud                                                | HARDY                                | 2.027                  | +0.228 | 969       | 98  | 43   |
| 41        | 44        | 23           | DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR                                                             | Chase Matthew                        | 1.974                  | +0.179 | 982       | 60  | 38   |
| 42        | 42        | 18           | COWGIRL Stoney Creek                                                                           | Parmalee                             | 1.955                  | +0.121 | 980       | 17  | 39   |
| 43        | 45        | 22           | GOLDEN CHILD Riser House                                                                       | Meghan Patrick                       | 1.777                  | +0.086 | 1042      | 57  | 37   |
| 44        | 46        | 25           | BETTER THAN YOU Quartz Hill/Stone Country                                                      | Joe Nichols / Annie Bosko            | 1.652                  | +0.011 | 894       | -36 | 44   |
| 45        | 47        | 20           | TIME'S TICKING Valory                                                                          | Justin Moore                         | 1.641                  | +0.107 | 976       | 30  | 41   |
| 46        | 48        | 10           | ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville                                           | Ty Myers                             | 1.494                  | -0.007 | 476       | 23  | 55   |
| 47        | 50        | 13           | BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music                              | Max McNown                           | 1.380                  | +0.141 | 808       | 50  | 46   |
| 48        | 51        | 8            | CRY Curb                                                                                       | Lee Brice                            | 1.183                  | +0.018 | 489       | -9  | 53   |
| 49        | 52        | 6            | NOT AT THIS PARTY VERSION III/Warner/WMN                                                       | Dasha                                | 1.177                  | +0.103 | 745       | 50  | 47   |
| 50        | 55        | 2            | THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN                                                       | Cody Johnson                         | 1.106                  | +0.132 | 325       | 91  | -    |
| 51        | 54        | 4            | HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Lyric Ridge                                      | Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll            | 1.047                  | +0.068 | 357       | 36  | 60   |
| 52        | 53        | 5            | TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River                                                   | Chris Young                          | 0.950                  | -0.064 | 641       | -24 | 49   |
| 53        | 57        | 6            | IF I DIE BEFORE YOU Red Street                                                                 | Chris Lane                           | 0.921                  | -0.013 | 512       | -13 | 52   |
| 54        | 56        | 9            | FOREVER FROM HERE Monument/Sony Music Nashville                                                | Tigirlily Gold                       | 0.914                  | -0.043 | 811       | 3   | 45   |
| 55        | 60        | 2            | WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb                                                                     | Dylan Scott                          | 0.862                  | +0.011 | 483       | 61  | 54   |
| 56        | 59        | 9            | WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville                                              | Vincent Mason                        | 0.831                  | -0.052 | 582       | -28 | 51   |
| 57        | 58        | 17           | 10-90 Stancaster/Thirty Tigers/Big Machine                                                     | Muscadine Bloodline                  | 0.808                  | -0.120 | 598       | -73 | 50   |
| 58        | RE-ENTRY  |              | WOLVES CRY Average Joes                                                                        | Bryan Martin                         | 0.789                  | -0.035 | 393       | -61 | 59   |
| 59        | NEW       |              | PAPER UMBRELLAS McGraw/Big Machine                                                             | Tim McGraw Featuring Parker McCollum | 0.665                  | +0.047 | 458       | 74  | 56   |
| 60        | NEW       |              | THE GIVER KRA/Amusement/Island/MCA Nashville                                                   | Chappell Roan                        | 0.512                  | +0.007 | 135       | -16 | -    |



Trisha Yearwood and songwriter Hillary Lindsey ("Girl Crush," "Jesus, Take the Wheel") received honorary doctorates from Nashville's Belmont University on May 3. From left: Belmont president Dr. Greg Jones, Yearwood, Lindsey, Belmont Board of Trustees chairman Milton Johnson and Belmont Curb College dean Brittany Schaffer.



Warren Zeiders visited with iHeartMedia personnel when he performed May 3 at Boston's MGM Music Hall. With him are iHeartCountry personality Jessica Callahan (left) and WBWL Boston music director/assistant PD Amanda Jo Parker.

A full-page photograph of Riley and Ella standing side-by-side, each holding a large, ornate silver trophy. Riley, on the left, is wearing a tan cowboy hat, a grey suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. Ella, on the right, is wearing a black lace dress with a large gold 'DG' belt buckle and a black feathered shawl. They are both smiling at the camera. The background is a solid teal color with a large black circular shape behind the couple.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
RILEY & ELLA**

**ACM60**  
AWARDS  
**WINNERS**

**"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME"**

**SINGLE  
OF THE YEAR**

**MUSIC EVENT  
OF THE YEAR**

**VISUAL MEDIA  
OF THE YEAR**

NASHVILLE  
*Harbor*  
RECORDING  
ENTERTAINMENT

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

JEFF EASON



Wilson won Fox's *The Masked Singer* on May 7 after delivering eight performances during season 13 dressed as a character known as Pearl.



Orville Peck (left) visited Red Eye NY on April 30 to chat about Broadway with the club's *Stage Fright* host, Marti Gould Gummings.

## WILSON SET TO 'PARTY' AGAIN

After winning season 13 of *The Masked Singer* on May 7, **Gretchen Wilson** tells *Billboard* she's ready to crank things up again with an all-star *Here for the Party* reboot after being sidelined by a run of serious health issues.

"I had some post-COVID health stuff," she said during her *Masked Singer* exit interview. "I'm a long-hauler. I've got medications I'll have to take for the rest of my life — high blood pressure, asthma. These are all things I didn't have right before COVID."

Wilson also shattered a leg and an ankle in a freak accident at a wedding, confining her to a wheelchair and cast for eight months.

She is working on a reimagined version of her 2004 album, *Here for the Party*, featuring duets on each track. Participants thus far include **Travis Tritt** and **Chapel Hart**. Wilson, who was a presenter at the Academy of Country Music Awards on May 8, hopes her *Masked Singer* victory will create momentum for the project.

Go [here](#) for the full story.

—Gil Kaufman

## RADIO & RECORDS®

Empire Nashville senior vp of operations **Heather Vassar** parted ways with the company on May 2, six years after she joined the firm ... Universal Music Group Nashville executive vp of marketing **Lori Christian** exited after 16 years ... **Zach Bryan** renewed his recording relationship with Warner ... Big Loud Texas, founded by **Miranda Lambert** and **Jon Randall** with Big Loud, announced a publishing wing on May 5. **Lizzy Rector** was named publishing director after serving as Big Machine Music creative director. The division's first signee is artist-writer **Timothy Allen** ... **Larry Cordle's** Mighty Cord label signed bluegrass vocalist **Val Storey** and released her first single under the agreement, a cover of **The Beatles'** "I've Just Seen a Face," on May 7 ... Connoisseur Media announced the acquisition of Alpha Media, expanding the chain to 218 stations across 47 markets. Alpha has 29 country stations, including **KUPL** Portland, Ore.; **KLLB** Lubbock, Texas; and **KGNC** Amarillo, Texas ... Mid-West Family/South Bend, Ind., vp of content **Bill Gamble** is no longer affiliated with the firm. The cluster includes country **WYTZ** ... SuiteRadio launched *Rowdy on the Rise*, a syndicated one-hour show hosted by **Rowdy Yates**, RadioInk.com reported ... Seven Mountains Media/Frankfort, Ky., hired **Dale O'Brian** as operations manager, according to RadioInsight.com. He will also serve as PD/afternoon host for country **WFKY**. He was previously **WPAW** Greensboro, N.C., morning personality.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum promoted **Ed Schulte** to senior director of facilities, operations and sustainability from director. He replaces **Leigh Anne Wise**, who is retiring after 41 years at the museum ... WME Nashville hired **Alexis Rosenberg** as head of external relations. She arrives after three years with the Nashville Soccer Club, where she was senior director of premium and membership services ... Artist-writer **Grace Tyler** signed with Concord Music Publishing ... **Maggie Reeves** entered a joint-venture publishing deal with Dream 3 and Kobalt Music ... Warner Chappell Nashville and Ignition

Music signed artist-writer **Ethan Escue** to a publishing agreement ... Nashville-based Ryan Aviation Group established a board of directors featuring **Bill Silva**, Bill Silva Entertainment; **Brent Daugherty**, Gallagher & Co.; **Josh Joseph**, Big Plan Holdings/Edgehill Music; and **Dan Ryan**, Ryan Aviation ... **Luke Combs**, Country Music Association (CMA) Awards executive producer **Robert Deaton** and steel guitarist **Clyde Mattocks** are among five inductees announced for the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame, **WRAL-TV** Raleigh, N.C., reported. The ceremony will be Oct. 16 at the Mooresville Performing Arts Center ... Nineteen dates were added to the inaugural run of *Dolly: An Original Musical* Aug. 19-31 at Belmont University's Fisher Center in Nashville ... **Leslie Fram's** FEMcountry set its first showcase for June 5 at City Winery Nashville, featuring **Caylee Hammack**, **Brittney Spencer**, **Abbey Cone**, **Lucie Silvas** and **Rita Wilson** ... Collaborations have been scheduled for Nissan Stadium during CMA Fest June 5-8, pairing **Brooks & Dunn** with **Marcus King**, **Cody Johnson** with **Carin Leon** and **Rascal Flatts** with **Carly Pearce** ... The CMA named 30 educators across 11 states for this year's CMA Foundation Music Teachers of Excellence. They will be officially honored on Sept. 10 at Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center ... The Nashville Songwriters Association International will give **Alabama** the Kris Kristofferson lifetime achievement award and **Brenda Lee** the president's keystone award during the Nashville Songwriters Awards Sept. 23 at the Ryman Auditorium ... **Brad Paisley** partnered with the Fender Custom Shop for a limited-edition 1967 "Lost Paisley" Telecaster, announced May 6. Fender will sell 67 pieces, priced at \$7,000; Paisley will sell 19 and assist in building them ... **Chris Stapleton's** Traveller Whiskey was announced May 8 as the first official whiskey of MLB ... **LeAnn Rimes** has been cast as a regular in the upcoming ABC drama *9-1-1: Nashville* ... Texas red-dirt artist **Tristan Roberson** inked a partnership with Twinstone Hats to sell a cowboy hat styled after his debut album, *One Night in Dallas*, released May 9 ... **Jordan Davis** is participating in a Wolverine Boots program providing \$7,500 of work gear for each of eight companies, in addition to advertising and VIP accommodations at one of Davis' shows ... Australian contestants **Samantha McGrath** and **Liam Quinn** won the country category in the Unsigned Only International Songwriting Competition for their composition "Nostalgic." Go [here](#) for a full list of winners ... **Ingrid Andress**, **Billy Gilman**, **Tiera Kennedy** and **Runaway June** joined the lineup for **Ty Herndon's** 10th annual Concert for Love & Acceptance on June 2 at Nashville's Category 10 ... **Sammy Hagar** will host the annual Toby Keith & Friends Golf Classic May 30-31 in Oklahoma, carrying on the late country artist's charitable efforts, which included the construction of the OK Kids Korral for the families of children receiving medical care ... **Justin Moore's** fifth annual golf classic raised over \$475,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital April 27-28 in Little Rock, Ark. ... The Academy of Country Music's charitable wing, ACM Lifting Lives, unveiled a guitar wall on May 5 with six instruments donated by Gibson Guitars for the Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Frisco, Texas, set to open in July. The design includes photos of six artists performing at the ACM Awards: **Ronnie Dunn**, **Cody Johnson**, **Miranda Lambert**, **Parker McCollum**, **George Strait** and **Tanya Tucker**. ●



BRAYLN KELLY SMITH

Lambert announced the formation of Big Loud Texas Publishing as part of her Big Loud Texas joint venture on May 5. From left: Big Loud Texas vp **Brendon Anthony**, Big Loud Texas Publishing director **Rector**, Lambert and Big Loud Texas co-founder **Randall**.

# SCOTTY McCREERY

LAUNCHING  
MAY 19TH

# billboard Country Airplay Index

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

**10-90** Azalea Bloom Publishing, BMI/Summit Drive Publishing, BMI/Kendell Marvel Publishing Designee, SESAC (G.S.Stanton, C.Muncaster, K.Marvel) **57**

**3,2,1** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jornil 10 Music, BMI/Native Notes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.Miller, S.Overstreet, J.Reynolds) **34**

## A

### AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED

Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Songs By 10K HRS Publishing, BMI/1317 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (Thomas Rhett, J.C.Bunetta, J.Byron, J.Free, J.K.Hindlin) **20**

**AM I OKAY?** Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Concord Global Music, GMR/Songs Of CN, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, SESAC/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Moroney, L.Laird, J.J.Dillon) **4**

## B

**BACKSEAT DRIVER** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Back River Music, ASCAP/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Seeker From The Speaker Music, BMI/On Cor Music, BMI (J.Davis, J.Walker) **7**

**BACKUP PLAN** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Worktape Tunes, BMI/Songs By The Bell, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (T.Beathard, J.Bell, J.Sherwood) **17**

**BAR NONE** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Tape Room LLC Series 1, ASCAP/Hunter Phelps Pub Designee, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Kwsay Publishing, BMI/WritersontheconPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (B.J.Johnson, H.Phelps, L.Vaughan) **27**

### BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES)

Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Max McNowin Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI (M.McNowin, J.Kenney, A.A.Suppella, T.K.Dabbs) **47**

**BETTER THAN YOU** Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Pickin Padre Music, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP (D.George, J.Pierce) **44**

## C

**COUNTRY HOUSE** Twelve6 Red Oak Songs, BMI/Still Between The Pines, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Katie In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs For Indy And Owl, ASCAP/Works Of CMT Outlander, GMR (M.Lotten, R.Copperman, J.Osborne, S.L.Hunt) **12**

### COUNTRY SONG CAME ON

Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southern Kid Music, ASCAP (D.Alley, R.Beaver, N.A.Medley) **18**

**COWGIRL** Tileyard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sentric Music Ltd., PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/NewManiac Music North, SOCAN/VaughnCo Music Publishing Inc., PRS/Cooking Vinyl Publishing Ltd., PRS/Thomas Frank Ridley Horsley Publishing Designee, PRS/9936 Music, BMI/Parmalee Music Publishing, BMI (J.D.Lewis, D.Fanning, P.D.Newman, R.Jay, T.F.R.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **42**

**CRY** Songs Of Litmus Music Publishing Holdings, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, ASCAP/Capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP (D.Davidson, B.Hayslip, D.A.Garcia) **48**

## D

**DARLIN'** Hunter Huff Publishing Designee, BMI/Ciaran Wilkie Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Verse 2, BMI/Droptime Music, BMI/Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Kobalt Music Services Ltd., PRS (Chase Matthew, A.Maxwell, H.Huff, C.Wilkie, Jake Angel) **41**

## E

**ENDS OF THE EARTH** Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **46**

## 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/Tunes From The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP (B.Pinson, R.Fulcher, J.S.Stover) **50**

### FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG

Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/FBRI Country Tunes, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, B.Bailey, A.G.Gorley) **40**

**FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Music, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (N.Smith, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, L.Rimes) **14**

### FOREVER FROM HERE

Smack Back Music, BMI/Sleighbells Ring Publishing, BMI/Lily Lyrics Publishing, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Songs Of CTM Publishing, BMI/Smack Attack Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Nash And Stella Songs, SESAC/Me Gusta Music, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/Art of CTM Music Outlander LP, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR (K.J.Slaubaugh, K.J.Slaubaugh, S.McAnally, P.C.Good) **54**

### FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER

Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jornil 10 Music, BMI/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Tompkins Family Vacation, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/I Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Miller, C.Tompkins, J.J.Dillon, D.Ross, R.J.Huro) **22**

## G

**THE GIVER** Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Daniel Leonard Nigro Music, ASCAP/Paul Jacob Cartwright Publishing Designee, ASCAP (K.R.Amstutz, D.L.Nigro, P.J.Cartwright) **60**

**GOLDEN CHILD** Anthem Entertainment B, SOCAN/Iron Songbird Publishing B, BMI/Jackoby Songs II, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Sweet Baby RuRu Songs, BMI/World For Aaron Eshuis Concord Alto CCI, ASCAP (M.Patrick, J.Hyde, A.Eshuis) **43**

### GOOD NEWS

Kreshendo, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/52 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/Essancy Music Publishing, ASCAP/Torrey Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS/Paco Place Songs, BMI (C.O.Chibweze, N.Sastry, S.C.Cook, J.Torrey, M.R.Pollack, ROMANS) **21**

## H

**HANDS OF TIME** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Endurance Sierra Charlie, ASCAP/More Magic Carusoe Music, ASCAP (E.Church, Scooter Carusoe) **24**

### HAPPEN TO ME

Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hand Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (R.Dickerson, C.LaCorte, J.J.Dillon, C.McGill, R.Hazard) **23**

**HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH** Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/Music By Elevation Worship Publishing, BMI/Be Essential Songs, BMI/Benjamin Hastings Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Bailee's Ballads, BMI (B.M.Lake, S.Furtick, B.W.Hastings, C.J.Brown, J.B.DeFord) **51**

### HEART OF STONE

Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Foxwood Entertainment Group Music Division, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Book Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/God Made Most Played Most Paid Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (J.B.DeFord, Z.Crowell, B.Pendergrass, Shy Carter) **29**

**HEAVENS TO BETSY** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Well That Was Awkward Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Daddy's Home Music, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Dean, B.Davis, D.Williams) **25**

**HOMETOWN HOME** BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webslinger Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Concord Boulevard, ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (C.Lucas, P.C.Brust, A.Albert, Z.Aband) **5**

**HOUSE AGAIN** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southern Kid Music, ASCAP/Hudson Westbrook Publishing Designee, BMI (H.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Alley) **33**

## 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 (M.C.Wallen, L.B.Bell, M.W.Hardy, A.R.Post, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **38**

**I DARE YOU** Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/8Sixteen Music, ASCAP (N.J.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.Whitmore, Jr) **30**

**IF I DIE BEFORE YOU** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WeisDwi, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC (E.L.Weisband, J.McNair, S.Mosley) **53**

### I'M THE PROBLEM

Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Jamie McLaughlin Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Bo Jewell Club, BMI (M.C.Wallen, G.W.Block, J.McLaughlin, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **1**

### INDIGO

Sam Barber Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sparky Sky Songs, BMI/To A T Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Firebird Country Tunes, BMI/Oakdale Market Publishing, BMI (S.R.Barber, A.Anna, A.Sheridan) **39**

### I NEVER LIE

Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Music And Magazines Publishing, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, T.Nichols) **2**

### IT WON'T BE LONG

Big Machine, ASCAP/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Weill Music, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (G.Birge, J.A.Fox, C.McGill, T.Anderson) **36**

## J

**JUST IN CASE** Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Electric Feel Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Orange Music Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/1317 Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Back Book Publishing, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI (M.C.Wallen, A.W.Bak, J.Byron, J.K.Hindlin, B.Pendergrass, J.P.Thompson, Charlie Handsome, E.K.Smith) **16**

## N

**NOT AT THIS PARTY** Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Dashville Publishing House, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI (A.D.Novaty, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson) **49**

## P

**PAPER UMBRELLAS** Spirit Nashville One Crescendo, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/DESTON SONG SLAYER, BMI/Marzia Music, BMI (M.Criswell, D.Miligan) **59**

**PARK** T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI/Songs Of Influence, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Georgia Song Vibe, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, J.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, C.Smith) **15**

## R

**RELAPE** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Book Publishing, BMI (W.Zeiders, B.Pendergrass) **35**

**RUN** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Lamberg) **31**

## S

**SHE HATES ME** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/DudeTunes, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Smackshot Music, BMI/Katie In Paris, BMI/Stereo Supersonic Music, ASCAP/Jordan Rocks Music, ASCAP (D.Bentley, R.Copperman, A.G.Gorley, C.McGill, J.C.Allen, W.Scantlin) **32**

**SINGLE AGAIN** W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Allen Hill Songs, GMR/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Core Publishing, LLC, BMI/Josh Ross Publishing Designee, BMI/Real Bad Songs, SESAC (J.Ross, J.A.Fox, B.Rempel) **11**

**STRAIGHT LINE** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/MAROMA Music, BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/JFlow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sir Greg Wells Music, SESAC/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (K.Urban, C.McGill, J.Flowers, G.Wells) **28**

## T

**TEXAS** Songs Of Smack, BMI/CTM Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Kyle Sturrock Music, ASCAP/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC (J.Clawson, K.Sturrock, J.Dorr, L.Guzman) **6**

**THIS HEART** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Madfun Music, BMI/Oconee River Bank Music, BMI/Bollingersey Shore, SESAC/T Vill Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Tytanium Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC (T.Archer, W.B.Bollinger, J.A.Hackworth, M.Tyler) **9**

**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 (G.Hayslip, S.Mosley, J.Walker) **52**

**TIME'S TICKING** Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Tunes From The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP (J.Moore, W.L.Bundy, R.Montana, J.S.Stover) **45**

**TOUGH PEOPLE** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI/Round Hill Lyrics, BMI/Burnin Does Music, BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (D.Baldrige, J.Walker, A.Sanders, L.Combs) **13**

**TRUCK ON FIRE** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Redfeather Publishing, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETPublishing, BMI (C.Pearce, J.A.Ebach, C.Kelley) **19**

## W

**WEREN'T FOR THE WIND** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI (E.Langley, J.Taylor, J.Clawson) **10**

**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) **55**

**WHAT KINDA MAN** Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/VRUCKENROLLMUSIC, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI (P.M.Collum, J.N.Spillman, N.Hemby) **26**

**WHISKEY DRINK** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/Triple Play Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **3**

**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 Book Publishing, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G.Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) **56**

**WOLVES CRY** Average ZJS Music Publishing, BMI (B.Martin) **58**

**WORST WAY** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) **8**

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

# billboard



2025

## COUNTRY POWER PLAYERS

*Billboard's* 12th annual Country Power Players issue will profile the people who have driven another solid year for country music in sales, streaming and publishing. This special feature will highlight those who have had the greatest impact in the genre, including recorded music, live entertainment and publishing, in the past year.

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 on June 4, TBD in Nashville

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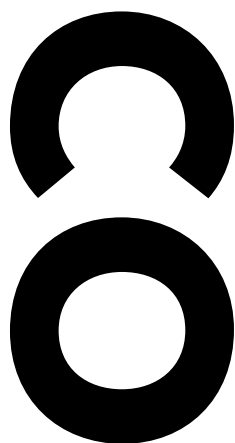
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**ISSUE DATE 5/31 | AD CLOSE 5/20 | MATERIALS DUE 5/22**



45 Years Ago

# Emmylou Harris' 'Still Waters' Made Waves

In 1980, the celebrated artist earned her fourth Hot Country Songs No. 1

On May 10, 1980, **Emmylou Harris'** "Beneath Still Waters" left all competitors in its wake, hitting No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart.

The song, authored by **Dallas Frazier** and produced by **Buddy Killen**, was released from Harris' album *Blue Kentucky Girl*. It became her fourth of seven Hot Country Songs No. 1s among 27 top 10s logged in 1975-89.

Harris was born April 2, 1947, into a military family stationed in Birmingham, Ala. She attended Gar-Field High School in Woodbridge, Va., and graduated as the class valedictorian. Although she won a scholarship to the University of North Carolina, she was headed toward music and eventually moved to New York, where she honed her skills in the fledgling folk music scene.

Influenced by country-rock pioneer **Gram Parsons**, Harris built a successful career in commercial country music. Her achievements include inductions into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame (2003) and the Country Music Hall of Fame (2008). Now 78, she still performs and will be on the road this summer. On July 29, she'll appear at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass., with **Graham Nash**. —JIM ASKER

Harris in Chicago in 1980.

| (Writer), Label & Number, Artist, Label (Producer, Licensee)                                                                  |   |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|
| ★                                                                                                                             | 2 | 11 |
| 2                                                                                                                             | 3 | 11 |
| ★                                                                                                                             | 4 | 9  |
| ★                                                                                                                             | 5 | 9  |
| ★                                                                                                                             | 6 | 10 |
| 6                                                                                                                             | 7 | 10 |
| BENEATH STILL WATERS—Emmylou Harris<br>(D. Frazier), Warner Bros. 49164 (Acuff-Rose, BMI)                                     |   |    |
| TWO STORY HOUSE—<br>George Jones & Tammy Wynette<br>(G. Tubbs, D. Lindsey, T. Wynette), Epic 9-50849<br>(ATV/First Lady, BMI) |   |    |
| GONE TOO FAR—Eddie Rabbitt<br>(E. Stevens, E. Rabbitt, D. Malloy), Elektra 46613<br>(DeeDee/Briarpatch, BMI)                  |   |    |
| THE WAY I AM—Merle Haggard<br>(S. Throckmorton), MCA 41200 (Cross Keys, ASCAP)                                                |   |    |
| MORNING COMES TOO<br>EARLY—Jim Ed Brown & Helen Cornelius<br>(K. Fleming, D.W. Morgan), RCA 11927 (Pi-Gem, BMI)               |   |    |
| LET'S GET IT WHILE THE GETTING'S                                                                                              |   |    |

REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS