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JUNE 6, 2025 | PAGE 1 OF 14



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JUNE 6, 2025 | PAGE 2 OF 14

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Celebration, And Calls To Action, At *Billboard* Power Players Event



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Wallen's Top 10
Double Play
>page 5

CMA Fest:
Off And Running
>page 9

Country Coda:
When
Miranda Lambert
'Built' A No. 1
>page 14

It's not every day that a room full of music industry executives keeps quiet during a party.

But at *Billboard*'s annual Country Power Players event, which took place June 4 at Category 10 in Downtown Nashville, they yielded to a respectful silence as a series of emotional moments highlighted the importance of health initiatives in the business.

Music Health Alliance (MHA) founder **Tatum Allsep** challenged the industry to help financially in meeting the increasing mental health needs of the creative community as she accepted the Impact award from **Brothers Osborne**. *Billboard* country chart manager **Jim Asker** announced plans to step down from his position on Aug. 15, citing health issues, as Christian artist **Lauren Daigle** presented him a commemorative *Billboard* cover plaque. And **Little Big Town** applied precision harmony to the poignant "Rich Man" as the band accepted the inaugural Ben Vaughn Song Champion award from songwriter **Liz Rose** ("Girl Crush," "You Belong With Me"). The honor is named after the former Warner Music Nashville president/CEO, who died in January.

Vaughn "has left an indelible mark on our hearts," LBT's **Karen Fairchild** said, acknowledging Vaughn's daughter who

was in attendance. "I don't feel at all worthy to talk about your dad other than to just say that we miss him, and I know you do, and we're here for you. You have a community of people here that will stand by you forever. All you do is just reach out and you tell us what you need, because that's what your dad always did for us."

Hosted by **Reyna Roberts**, the Country Power Players event included a surprise appearance by **Garth Brooks**, who handed the prestigious Executive of the Year trophy to AEG/Goldenvoice executive vp **Stacy Vee**, recognizing her contributions to the Stagecoach festival in Indio, Calif.

Brooks portrayed Vee as an underdog in a male-dominated industry.

"In this business, like so many businesses, a female needs to work 1,000 times harder than a male to get a tenth as much as the male gets," Brooks said. "That's just how it always has been. The blessing on that — I think that's what makes **Dolly Parton**, Dolly Parton. I think that's what — and I was firsthand watching this — makes **Reba McEntire**, Reba McEntire. You can't outwork her,

right? I'm married to one of the greatest singers of any format [**Trisha Yearwood**]. I watch her every day work 1,000 times harder than me to get a tenth as much as they give me. So with that, I think that kind of describes Stacy."



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BigXthaPlug scored the Innovator award, presented by **Shaboozey** just weeks after topping the Hot Country Songs chart dated April 19 with “All the Way,” a rap-country hybrid featuring **Bailey Zimmerman**.

“X is someone who didn’t just break the mold,” Shaboozey said. “He melted it down and made it his own.”



JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

Ella Langley snagged the Trailblazer award, presented by **Lainey Wilson**, while **Riley Green** — who collaborated on Langley’s “you look like you love me” — was given the Groundbreaker award by **Ronnie Dunn**, half of duo **Brooks & Dunn**.

“Any wisdom that has been passed along to me from the women in the business, I’ve tried to share it with Ella, and Ella seems like she’s all ears,” Wilson told the crowd. “She wants to listen. She wants to know more and do more and be more, and that’s what makes her just a superstar. I’m proud of Ella, not just for being the trailblazing artist that she is, but for the heart that she’s got to go with it.”

Asker announced his departure from the *Billboard* charts team while recounting the challenges he has faced as a Stage IV non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma survivor.

“They didn’t think I’d make it through the first two weeks in the hospital,” he recalled.

Asker beat those odds and subsequently ran 15 26.2-mile marathons, raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He expects to continue teaching writing classes at Columbia State Community College in Tennessee and study for another degree.

MHA, meanwhile, has made assisting cancer patients and other members of the music community its nonprofit mission. In the 12 years since its inception, the organization has reportedly benefited more than 32,000 people and saved the industry over \$145 million in health-care costs. That’s particularly noteworthy, as the majority of music-industry workers are independently contracted and historically face greater difficulty accessing insurance than corporate-employed staff.

T.J. Osborne hailed Allsep as “Nashville’s very own **Mother Teresa**.” Allsep, in turn, sought to motivate the movers and shakers in the room to step up their game during an increasingly difficult emotional period.

“In the last few months, MHA has seen a 250% increase in requests for mental health support,” Allsep said. “Y’all, that’s not a statistic. That’s a screaming flare. It is a fucking SOS call, and we have got to do better.

“We’ve got to have a plan for the long haul,” she continued. “We know that music heals, but even the healers need healing. So here’s the ask to every label, to every publisher, to every platform, to every artist, everybody who makes a living in this industry: Please don’t just admire the mission and the impact. Feel it. Fuel it. Fund it. We so desperately need you to stand with us, to nurture the noise, and then we can truly heal the music.”



BRETT CARLSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Marshmello threw a surprise DJ set on June 5 at Spotify House during CMA Fest at Nashville’s Ole Red. From left: Kane Brown, Marshmello, Ashley Cooke and Dasha.



LOGAN DOWER

Sam Hunt was among the guests when **BigXthaPlug** and **Get Engaged Media** hosted a roof party at **Loser’s** in Nashville on June 4. From left: **Arete Wellness** CEO **Adam Bobo**, **Get Engaged** partner/co-founder **Cam Fordham**, **Hunt** and guitarist **Tyrone Carreker**.



Warren Zeiders performed June 4 during a **CAA** **Whiskey Jam Takeover** at Nashville’s **Fifth + Broadway’s Skydeck**. From left: **CAA** agent **Ethan Goldish** and sports agent **Nick Thimm**, **Zeiders** and **CAA** agent **Jeff Kroner**.

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Hailey Whitters

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NEW
ALBUM
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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY **LUMINATE**

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

More Morgan: 'I'm the Problem' Tops Country Airplay For Eighth Week, 'Just In Case' Becomes His 20th Top 10

Morgan Wallen's "I'm the Problem" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) leads *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart for an eighth total and consecutive week. It holds atop the June 14-dated list with 27.1 million audience impressions (down 9%) May 30-June 5, according to Luminate.

Concurrently, "Just in Case," the Sneedville, Tenn., native's latest single being worked to country radio, gives Wallen his 20th Country Airplay top 10 — 17 of which have hit No. 1. It rises 11-10 with a 10% advance to 17.7 million in reach. Plus, Wallen's "I Ain't Coming Back," featuring **Post Malone**, ranks at its No. 32 high (2.9 million, up 5%).

"I'm the Problem" is the third Country Airplay No. 1 and title track from Wallen's new album, which opened atop the *Billboard* 200 and Top Country Albums (dated May 31) with 2025's largest week by equivalent album units: 493,000 in the United States.

Since the Country Airplay chart launched in January 1990, "I'm the Problem" is just the sixth hit to dominate for eight or more weeks — and Wallen owns three of them, as his latest joins "You Proof" (10 weeks at No. 1 beginning in October 2022) and "Last Night" (eight weeks, 2023). The other three such supremacies: **Nate Smith's** "World on Fire" (10 weeks, 2023-24), **Alan Jackson** and **Jimmy Buffett's** "It's Five O' Clock Somewhere" (eight, 2003) and **Lonestar's** "Amazed" (eight, 1999).

Meanwhile, Wallen ties **Luke Combs** for the most Country Airplay top 10s dating to the former's first week in the tier. On the May 12, 2018, chart, "Up Down" (featuring **Florida Georgia Line**) reached the region on its way to No. 1. (Combs boasts 22 total top 10s, having notched his first two in 2017.) ●



WALLEN

SPIDEY SMITH

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+5.177
EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	+2.764
WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+2.557
BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	+1.738
JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.590
THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	+1.550
COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	+1.538
HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+1.370
GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	+1.234
PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1.080

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+1683
EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	+860
THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	+460
WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+444
BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	+383
JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+369
HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+353
BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	+345
PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+322
COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	+287

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	17.483
2	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	16.221
3	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	15.816
4	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	14.991
5	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	13.950
6	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	13.443
7	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	13.321
8	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb	Dylan Scott	8.466
9	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	8.172
10	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	8.090



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JUNE 5, 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	ROLLIN' ON (Flying C) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Brooke Graham	1727	170	11	14	10	MY JOHN WAYNE (Independent)	Kylie Frey	1231	19
2	3	15	GREEN IN COLORADO (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1566	18	12	11	20	IDON'T APOLOGIZE (Independent)	James Lann	1227	-22
3	5	14	NOTHIN' BUT TEXAS (Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers)	Wade Bowen	1489	10	13	15	9	BEER DON'T CARE (Independent)	Tilluride	1208	67
4	6	23	PUT IT IN REVERSE (Independent)	Ben McPeak	1431	-14	14	16	17	WHO'S HANGING THE MOON (Independent)	Josh Weathers	1166	47
5	7	16	HURRICANE (CDX)	Sandee June	1345	21	15	21	8	FLAME (Get.Joe)	Billie Jo Jones	989	89
6	12	20	WHAT I CAME TO DO (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1332	92	16	19	18	HOME FOR A HOTEL (Independent)	Ghosts of Hill County	965	-2
7	9	13	BREAK ITSELF (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band	1299	-17	17	1	20	DRIVE (Independent)	Jason Boland & The Stragglers	944	-727
8	13	8	RUBY ANN (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	1299	76	18	20	11	THE MOMENT (Independent)	Sundance Head	942	25
9	10	22	AIN'T THAT LOVE (Independent)	Bri Bagwell & Timber Wilde	1253	-26	19	22	15	I WASN'T BORN IN TEXAS (Independent)	Gary P. Nunn	912	15
10	4	32	AUSTIN ANYMORE (Independent)	Brandi Behlen	1245	-270	20	29	6	GOD MADE A COWBOY (Independent)	Aaron Loy	897	134

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

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	1	18	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	27.140	-2.620	7121	-1096	3
2	5	42	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	25.366	+5.177	8060	1683	1
3	3	26	WORST WAY Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	25.204	+2.557	7430	444	2
4	2	45	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	24.662	-4.964	7077	-1720	4
5	4	50	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	22.377	+1.550	6684	460	5
6	6	31	BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	20.345	+1.007	6497	237	6
7	7	23	WEREN'T FOR THE WIND SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	19.247	+0.672	6186	204	7
8	8	42	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	18.539	+0.220	5722	197	8
9	9	30	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	17.931	+0.877	5443	254	9
10	11	11	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	17.688	+1.590	5364	369	11
11	10	62	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	17.340	+0.514	5365	145	10
12	12	39	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	16.397	+1.080	5133	322	12
13	14	16	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	13.430	+0.944	4218	215	13
14	15	29	COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	13.358	+1.538	4135	287	14
15	16	5	BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	13.135	+1.738	3829	383	16
16	13	31	TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldrige	12.131	-0.672	4132	-282	15
17	17	19	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	11.385	+1.234	3670	242	17
18	20	12	HAPPENTO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	9.714	+1.370	2973	353	19
19	19	39	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	9.413	+0.607	3243	168	18
20	22	37	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	7.203	+0.152	2588	14	21
21	23	12	HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville	Eric Church	6.729	+0.224	2643	84	20
22	24	10	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	6.206	+0.553	2111	149	23
23	25	11	BAR NONE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	6.192	+0.564	2373	166	22
24	26	21	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Keith Urban	5.591	+0.054	2104	129	24
25	27	38	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	5.515	+0.060	2037	-7	25
26	29	4	BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	4.729	+0.836	1535	345	29
27	30	13	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	4.527	+0.803	1760	269	27
28	28	18	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	4.115	+0.079	1779	45	26
29	31	11	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Hudson Westbrook	4.062	+0.519	1334	143	31
30	32	16	SHE HATES ME Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Dierks Bentley	3.539	+0.043	1632	30	28

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-bulletheaded) 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	40	19	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	2.937	+0.610	1507	181	30
32	34	7	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	2.883	+0.231	920	77	44
33	33	22	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	2.844	+0.140	1116	-2	36
34	NEW		EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker ★★	Dustin Lynch	2.776	+2.764	863	860	46
35	21	2	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	2.733	-4.859	1117	-755	35
36	37	27	DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	2.549	+0.151	1078	34	38
37	39	13	RUN Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert	2.454	+0.096	1114	23	37
38	36	8	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	2.453	-0.001	1192	76	32
39	38	29	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	2.435	+0.067	1127	-3	34
40	41	4	YOU HAD TO BETHERE Blue Chair/Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney & Kenny Chesney	2.378	+0.117	977	64	42
41	35	32	RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	2.307	-0.312	1044	-117	40
42	42	19	INDIGO Lockeland Springs/Atlantic/Magnolia Music	Sam Barber Featuring Avery Anna	2.287	+0.136	1064	58	39
43	43	26	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	2.027	+0.161	1152	46	33
44	44	8	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Lyric Ridge	Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	1.962	+0.161	582	2	53
45	45	24	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	1.812	+0.024	1024	22	41
46	51	2	STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse ★★ Breaker ★★	Blake Shelton	1.711	+0.669	711	216	50
47	47	14	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	1.652	+0.122	579	17	54
48	46	17	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	1.642	-0.005	945	35	43
49	53	6	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb ★★ Breaker ★★	Dylan Scott	1.416	+0.449	878	213	45
50	48	6	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	1.289	-0.040	454	-5	-
51	49	9	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	1.197	-0.046	796	15	47
52	52	12	CRY Curb	Lee Brice	1.128	+0.153	493	23	58
53	50	10	NOT AT THIS PARTY VERSION III/Warner/WMN	Dasha	1.117	-0.062	722	13	49
54	58	2	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	1.062	+0.280	565	120	55
55	54	13	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	0.975	+0.041	643	-7	52
56	57	10	IF I DIE BEFORE YOU Red Street	Chris Lane	0.956	+0.150	478	16	59
57	60	2	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	0.925	+0.164	459	80	60
58	59	13	FOREVER FROM HERE Monument/Sony Music Nashville	Tigirlily Gold	0.906	+0.128	738	35	48
59	56	3	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Big Machine	Chase McDaniel	0.864	+0.041	432	-9	-
60	NEW		AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	0.785	+0.417	284	126	-



A George Jones statue was unveiled June 3 outside the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. With the statue are Jones' widow, Nancy Jones, and Jamey Johnson.



Craig Campbell (second from left) guested on Audacy's Rob + Holly on June 5 in Nashville's Hard Rock Café during CMA Fest. From left: Rob + Holly co-hosts Rob Stone and Holly Hutton, and Grindstone promotion director Matt Galvin.

CATHERINE POWELL

billboard

2025

PRIDE ISSUE

On June 21, *Billboard* will publish its seventh annual Pride Issue, honoring culturally moving and influential people who have contributed to the community's history and its current landscape. Year-round, *Billboard* covers LGBTQIA+ issues across our editorial channels, including Billboard Pride. Building on this platform, *Billboard* will dedicate the month of June to celebrate love, acceptance, diversity and what it means to be queer in music.

All month long, *Billboard* will be the go-to destination for music- and entertainment-related Pride content. Leveraging our iconic voice within music and culture, *Billboard* will curate a mix of engaging video and social content featuring thought-provoking panels, heartfelt performances and glam tutorials — all in the spirit of building a community for consumers and influencers in celebration of Pride.

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JOHN DAVIS/GETTY IMAGES



Mitchell Tenpenny (center) dropped by SiriusXM's Music Row Happy Hour: CMA Fest Edition on June 5 at Chief's on Broadway in Nashville. He's flanked by SiriusXM country music programmer Trapper John Morris (left) and SiriusXM/Pandora vp of music programming – country Johnny Chiang.

CMA FEST OPENS IN NASHVILLE

The Country Music Association's annual CMA Fest got underway June 5 with a few wrinkles.

Jason Aldean closed the opening night's Nissan Stadium show in fairly typical fashion after midnight, but fans had to make parking adjustments as the city works to replace the event's primary venue. A stadium is being built next to Nissan, chewing up thousands of parking spaces. Surprisingly, parking was still accessible at Music City Center downtown, suggesting that an increasing number of attendees are using rideshare options for their commute.

One new development was apparent at the start of the day. Steel fencing at the Riverfront stage was positioned in snakelike fashion, different from previous years. Slow-moving fan groups clogged the path, and it took a half hour just to enter the venue. As a result, those who arrived at the gate 10 minutes before **Megan Moroney's** opening performance only got to see her final number. Foot traffic moved more smoothly later in the day.

A Fan Alley is set up for the first time along First Avenue, connecting Riverfront with the Dr Pepper Amp Stage near Ascend Amphitheater. That street was used in previous years as a hub for back-end services, including emergency vehicles, and made the path something of an undeveloped desert for fans. With this year's shift, the Alley features food trucks, a Wild Turkey mechanical bull ride and concessions, including an Idahoan Potatoes giveaway of mashed potatoes.

CMA is presenting artists making their festival debut pins. Roughly 70 acts are making their inaugural appearances, including **Preston Cooper**, whose set at the Good Molecules Reverb Stage featured an angsty cover of **Gavin DeGraw's** "I Don't Wanna Be."

The daytime stages were loaded with covers, including **Liam St. John's** inventive version of **Britney Spears'** "Toxic," **Lauren Watkins'** easygoing take on Aldean's "Amarillo Sky," **Kylie Morgan's** medley of **Gwen Stefani** titles and **Mae Estes'** unlikely mashup of **Vince Gill's** "Liza Jane" and the **Jessie J/Ariana Grande/Nicki Minaj** pop hit "Bang Bang."

Musically Fed returned this year to continue repurposing unused backstage catering to assist local food programs.

Ashley McBryde and **Cody Johnson** have been named co-hosts of the three-hour ABC CMA Fest special, set to air June 26.

The 2026 festival has already been scheduled for June 4-7.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Big Loud hired senior vp of radio promotion **Lauren "LT" Thomas**. She was most recently Sony Music Nashville senior vp of promotion. ... **Rob Femia** added COO to his role as Music Corporation of America executive vp of business and legal affairs. ... Riser House hired vp of streaming and strategy partnerships **Alex Heimerman**, formerly a digital strategy specialist at The Trenches; product manager **Hayley Irvine**, arriving from BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville, where she was marketing manager; and project and label relations coordinator **Eliza Charette**, who segues from Big Loud executive promotion assistant. ... Artist-writer **Cole Goodwin** signed with Big Machine. His first release in the deal, "Girlfriend's Got a Boyfriend," is due June 13. ... In other Big Machine news, the company will celebrate two decades in operation with a free Aug. 29 concert,

Big Machine 20, on Lower Broadway in Nashville. The bill includes both current and former label signees such as **Riley Green**, **Sheryl Crow** and **Brett Young**. ... Audacy promoted **Michael Biemolt** to president of digital sales from executive vp. ... Connoisseur/Connecticut market manager **Kristin Okesson** will add Long Island to her territory on June 9, RadioInk.com reported. In the process, she accepts oversight of country **WWWF** Bay Shore, N.Y. ... Radio One/Indianapolis hired **Nick Jordan** as assistant PD/on-air talent for two stations, including country **WLHK**, according to RadioInsight.com. ... Stephens Media Group sold its four stations in Monroe, La., to Warrior Media for \$450,000, RadioInsight.com reported. The cluster includes country **KMYT**.

'ROUND THE ROW

Roughly one-quarter of the Academy of Country Music's staff was laid off June 5. Go [here](#) for details. ... **Leslie Cohea** will join WME Nashville as partner/music touring agent on July 14, arriving from Sandbox Entertainment, where she was GM. ... Former Taylor Guttman partner **Rachel Guttman** launched entertainment legal firm Gutt Law. Other initial staff includes attorney **Victoria Powell**, a former associate at Taylor Guttman, and head of operations **Morgan Brasfield**, who was Kobalt Music creative manager. ... FEMco owner **Leslie Fram** was named governor of the Recording Academy's Nashville Chapter. FEMcountry, meanwhile, established a strategic partnership with Nashville's AB Hillsboro Village, launching a monthly summer series of all-female shows starting July 16. ... Sony Music Publishing Nashville added **Frank Ray** to songwriter roster. ... Spirit Music Group formed a joint music publishing venture with NFL player **DeAndre Hopkins** and writer-producer-manager **Erik Belz**. The first signee is Nashville-based country-rap hybrid artist **LECADE**. ... WME Nashville signed country-leaning Hawaiian writer-artist **Maoli** for representation. ... **Tristan Roberson** tabbed The Kirby Organization for booking. **Michael Kelley** is the responsible agent. ... **Kane Brown** will make his film debut alongside **Taylor Lautner** in *The Token Groomsman*. Production is expected to begin later this year. ... **Lisa Brokop** and RDR Music Group co-founder **Joe Wood** will be inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame during Country Music Week events Sept. 10-13 in Kelowna, British Columbia. ... Late artist manager **Erv Woolsey** will be recognized with the inaugural Erv Woolsey Memorial Race on June 15 at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. ... **Lukas Nelson** will receive the Rob Wasserman memorial ambassador award on June 18 during a performance at Gibson Garage Nashville. ... University of Georgia Press has published **Chet Atkins: Mr. Guitar**, authored by **Dr. Don Cusic**. ... The International Bluegrass Music Association awarded its 2025 international band performance grant to **The Often Herd** from Northern England. ... **Lainey Wilson** launched a footwear line, Golden West Boots, on June 5. ... **Taylor Holder** won the Craig Campbell Celebrity Cornhole Challenge on June 3 in Nashville. The event raised over \$30,000 for the Kenny Campbell Foundation. ... **Darius Rucker's** annual concert on June 2 racked up \$815,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Ryman Auditorium show included appearances by **Morgan Wallen**, **Luke Bryan** and **Kashus Culpepper**. ... **Jackson Dean** will perform July 27 at Music Row for MusiCares: A Jody Williams Songs Takeover at Chief's on Broadway. **The Eric Church Band** will back a series of performers during the benefit, including Jody Williams Songs writers **Driver Williams** ("Smoke a Little Smoke"), **Jason Nix** ("Hang Tight Honey") and **Jeremy Spillman** ("Sinners Like Me"). ●



iHeartMedia/Greensboro-Winston-Salem, N.C., senior vp of programming **J.T. Bosch** (left) was among the guests when **Keith Urban** performed May 30 in Charlotte, N.C.

billboard

2025

GRAMMY® FIRST LOOK

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

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

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

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

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

PICTURE THIS

BILLBOARD COUNTRY POWER PLAYERS

Billboard hosted a Country Power Players Party on June 4 at Nashville’s Category 10 to recognize honorees on the annual list. Here are a few images associated with the event.



Lainey Wilson presented and Carin León performed for Power Players guests.



Little Big Town performed “Rich Man” as it accepted the Ben Vaughn Song Champion award. From left: LBT’s Jimi Westbrook, Kimberly Schlapman, Karen Fairchild and Phillip Sweet.



Goldenvoice/AEG executive vp Stacy Vee accepted the Executive of the Year trophy.



Reyna Roberts hosted the Power Players event.



Before he claimed the groundbreaker award, Riley Green (center) posed on the red carpet with Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta (left) and Nashville Harbor president Jimmy Harnen.



Music Health Alliance founder Tatum Allsep accepted the impact award from Brothers Osborne members TJ Osborne (left) and John Osborne.



Garth Brooks made a surprise appearance to introduce Executive of the Year winner Stacy Vee.



Billboard country chart manager Jim Asker was surprised with a farewell honorary cover, presented by Christian artist Lauren Daigle.



Bailey Zimmerman (left) and BigXthaPlug shared a moment on the red carpet.

billboard



2025

GLORIA ESTEFAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

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

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

3.2.1 Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Native Notes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.Miller, S.Overstreet, J.Reynolds) **27**

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) **13**

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

AM I OKAY? Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Concord Global Music, GMR/Songs Of CN, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, SESAC/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Moroney, L.Laird, J.J.Dillon) **2**

B

BACKSEAT DRIVER Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River Music, ASCAP/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Seeker From The Speaker Music, BMI/On Cor Music, BMI (J.Davis, J.Walker) **6**

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) **15**

BAGGAGE Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Seif Made Entertainment, BMI/The Piano Room, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Vandezye Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC (K.Ballerini, J.J.Dillon, K.Fairchild, H.Linsley, A.Vanderheyem) **57**

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/Kwasya Publishing, BMI/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (B.J.Johnson, H.Phelps, L.Vaughan) **23**

BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES)

Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Max McNowin Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI (M.McNowin, J.Kenny, A.A.Suppasa, T.K.Dabbs) **48**

BOTTLE ROCKETS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs Of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/FluidTunes II, ASCAP/Beats By Baby Brent, ASCAP/Burley Bishop Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Spirit Nashville Three, SESAC/Songs Of Fluid II, SESAC/Hop On The Buss, SESAC/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP/Songs Of Spirit One Nashville, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI/Woah, ASCAP/Monica's Reluctance To Lob, ASCAP/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP (S.C.McCreery, B.Anderson, D.George, J.Bussef, F.Rogers, M.Criswell, B.Hammick, D.Pucker, M.Bryan, D.Felber, J.Sonefeld) **26**

BURNED DOWN HEAVEN

Nothing Like You Heard Sound, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC (C.M.Daniel, J.M.Nite, L.Rimes) **59**

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) **8**

COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southend Kid Music, ASCAP (D.Ailey, R.Beaver, N.A.Medley) **14**

COWGIRL Tilverd 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/8956 Music, BMI/Parmalee Music Publishing, BMI (J.D.Lewis, D.Fairning, N.Roman, R.Jay, T.F.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **33**

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) **52**

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) **36**

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.Hall, H.Phelps, Z.Crowell) **34**

ENDS OF THE EARTH

Thy Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **47**

F

THE FALL Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Keep Chopin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (B.Pinson, R.Fulcher, J.S.Stover) **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) **38**

FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK

Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Corrent 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) **9**

FOREVER FROM HERE Smack Back Music, BMI/Sleighbells Ring Publishing, BMI/Lily Lyrics Publishing, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Songs Of CMT Publishing, BMI/Smack Attack Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CMT Outlander, SESAC/Nash And Stella Songs, SESAC/Me Gusta Music, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/Art Of CMT Music Outlander LP, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR (K.J.Slaubaugh, K.J.Slaubaugh, S.McAnally, P.C.Good) **58**

FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER

Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Tompkins Family Vacation, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Miller, C.Tompkins, J.J.Dillon, D.Ross, R.J.Huro) **19**

G

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

GOOD NEWS Kreshendo, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/S2 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/Essency Music Publishing, ASCAP/Torrey Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS/Paco Place Songs, BMI (C.O.Chibueze, N.Sastry, S.C.Cook, J.Torrey, M.R.Palack, ROMANS) **17**

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.Chrup, Scooter Carusoe) **21**

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) **18**

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) **44**

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 Block 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) **22**

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) **20**

HOUSE AGAIN

Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southend Kid Music, ASCAP/Saxet HW Music, BMI (H.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Ailey) **29**

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) **32**

I DARE YOU

Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/85xteen Music, ASCAP (N.J.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.Whitmore, Jr.) **28**

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.McVair, S.Mosley) **56**

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/Dakdale Market Publishing, BMI (S.R.Barber, A.Anna, A.Sheridan) **42**

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 Well Music, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI (G.Birge, J.A.Fox, C.McGill, T.Anderson) **31**

J

JUST IN CASE

Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-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 Block Publishing, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, 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) **10**

N

NOT AT THIS PARTY

Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Dashville Publishing House, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI (A.D.Novotny, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson) **53**

P

PARK T

Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., 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) **12**

R

RELAPSE

Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (W.Zeiders, B.Pendergrass) **41**

RUN

Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Lambert) **37**

S

SAME MOON

Sony CountrySide, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulwood Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Chapter Blue, BMI (M.Tenpenney, P.D.Giovanni, D.Southerland, D.Wilson) **34**

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 CMT 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) **30**

SINGLE AGAIN

W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Allen Hill Music, BMI/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**

SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO

Sony CountrySide, BMI/Story Farmer, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Drown Boogie Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Feast Catalog, Inc., ASCAP (L.Wilson, T.Anderson, D.Wilson, A.Albert, E.Y.Harburg, H.Arlen) **35**

STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN'

Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Chimney Pot Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Madrun, ASCAP/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/FBRI Country Tunes, BMI (D.Parker, G.Barham, S.Ellis, B.Bailey) **46**

STRAIGHT LINE

Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/MAROMA Music, BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/12w66 Dogwood, ASCAP/Flow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sir Grew Wells Songs, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (K.Urban, C.McGill, J.Flowers, G.Wells) **24**

T

THIS HEART

Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Madrun Music, BMI/Ocoone River Bank Music, BMI/Bollingerese Shore, SESAC/T Vill Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Titanium Music, SESAC/Melodies Of CMT Outlander, SESAC (T.Archer, W.B.Bollinger, J.A.Hackworth, M.Tyler) **5**

TIL THE LAST ONE DIES

Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Silo, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI (B.Hayslip, S.Mosley, J.Walker) **51**

TIME'S TICKING

Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Music Of The Core, ASCAP/Warner-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/Bumpin Does Music, BMI/Boogleg Lyrics, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (D.Baldrige, J.Walker, A.Sanders, L.Combs) **16**

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 CMT Outlander Music LP, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI (E.Langley, J.Taylor, J.Cawson) **7**

WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE

Curb Songs, ASCAP/Logan Robinson Publishing Designee, NS/Ricky Rowton Publishing Designee, NS/Robbie Gatlin Publishing Designee, NS (D.Scott, L.Robinson, R.Rowton, R.Gatlin) **49**

WHAT KINDA MAN

Parkemar Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/WRUCKENROLLMUSIC, BMI/Music Of CMT Outlander Music LP, BMI (P.M.Collum, J.N.Spillman, N.Henby) **25**

WHISKEY DRINK

BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/Triple Play Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **4**

WISH YOU WELL

Big Music Machine, BMI/Works By Range Media Partners, BMI/Warbaner Publishing, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G.Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) **55**

WORST WAY

Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (Green) **3**

WOULD IF I COULD

Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **39**

Y

YOU HAD TO BE THERE

Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Redneck Resume Music, BMI/Tack Mack Tunes, BMI (M.Moroney, B.Williams, M.Carpenter, M.E.Carpenter) **40**

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REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

15 Years Ago Miranda Lambert Found A Home At No. 1

In 2010, ballad "The House That Built Me" became the singer-songwriter's first Hot Country Songs leader

On June 12, 2010, **Miranda Lambert's** "The House That Built Me" started a four-week reign on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart, becoming her first of five career No. 1s.

The ballad was co-written by **Tom Douglas** and **Allen Shamblin** and co-produced by **Frank Liddell** and **Mike Wrucke**. It appeared on Lambert's *Revolution*, which debuted at No. 1 on Top

Country Albums, marking her third of seven straight career-opening, and total, No. 1s.

The nostalgic composition finds Lambert looking back on her childhood home and its legacy and earned her the Grammy Award for best female country vocal performance in 2011.

Lambert was born in Longview, Texas, on Nov. 10, 1983, and came to

prominence after finishing third on the USA Network's talent show *Nashville Star* in 2003. The seven-time winner of the Country Music Association's female vocalist of the year award signed to Big Loud in partnership with Republic Records in April 2024. Her latest album, *Postcards From Texas*, released last September, opened at its No. 8 high on Top Country Albums. —JIM ASKER

Lambert in 2010.

	PRODDUCER (SONGWRITER)	IMPRIET / NUMBER / PROMOTION LABEL	
1	#1 1 WK THE HOUSE THAT BUILT ME FLIDDELL, M. WRUCKE (T. DOUGLAS, A. SHAMBLIN)	Miranda Lambert COLUMBIA	1
2	1 1 29 THE MAN I WANT TO BE J. STROUD (B. JAMES, T. NICHOLS)	Chris Young RCA	1
3	3 5 21 I GOTTA GET TO YOU T. BROWN, G. STRAIT (J. LAUDERDALE, J. RITCHEY, B. LARSEN)	George Strait MCA NASHVILLE	3
4	6 9 15 CRAZY TOWN M. KNOX (D. CLAWSON, B. JONES)	Jason Aldean BROKEN BOW	4
5	5 2 34 GIMMIE THAT GIRL M. WRIGHT (R. AKINS, D. DAVIDSON, B. HAYSLIP)	Joe Nichols SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL	1
6	10 11 20 WATER	Brad Paisley	