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OCTOBER 10, 2025 | PAGE 1 OF 13

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OCTOBER 10, 2025 | PAGE 2 OF 13

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Diamond Rio's 'One More Day' Marks 25 Years As A Cultural Connector

In the fall of 2000, songwriter **Steven Dale Jones** ("Ten Thousand Angels," "Singles You Up") played a club in Atlanta the night he learned that Arista planned to release his song "One More Day."

"I remember saying, 'This is going to be a **Diamond Rio** single, and I hope you hear it so much you get tired of hearing it,'" Jones recalls.

Twenty-five years since the song's Oct. 27, 2000, release, "One More Day" has been heard over 5.5 million times on the radio, according to BMI, putting it in league with such titles as **The Beatles'** "Penny Lane," **Dolly Parton's** "9 to 5," **Eric Clapton's** "Tears in Heaven" and **Marvin Gaye's** "What's Going On."

Diamond Rio has never been a band that commands constant media attention, so "One More Day" reached that level through a workman-like route, finding its place in people's lives through its utilitarian value: The harmony-drenched chorus has ideal sing-along qualities; it's

an attractive wedding song and even more suited for funerals. The track — and the band — stealthily established a place in culture by shepherding people through big personal moments, both in solitude and with company.

"I can never explain it exactly," Diamond Rio frontman **Marty Roe** reflects. "You understand why in hindsight. You never expect it, never want it, but there it is, and it's a blessing that something we did has helped people through all that. It's a sobering thing to go, 'Wow, that's impactful. And I didn't have anything to do with it.'"

More accurately, everyone who had a role in "One More Day" seems to have allowed the song to find its way. Its path has proven quite timely, too, helping the country process grief in a series of 2001 tragedies: a January plane crash, the February death of NAS-

CAR legend **Dale Earnhardt** and the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Even now, its 25th anniversary coincides with developments for songwriter **Bobby Tomberlin** ("A Good Day To Run," "Someday



Back row, from left: Diamond Rio's Olander, Williams, Roe and Truman. Seated: Songwriters Tomberlin (left) and Jones.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Taylor Swift
Still Gold At
Country Radio
>page 5

Country On
The Move:
Vince Gill,
Alan Jackson
>page 9

Country Coda:
Eagles'
'Lyn' Eyes'
>page 13

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It'll All Make Sense"): He's been affiliated with Curb | Word Publishing for 30 years, and he just published his autobiography, *I've Lived Country Music*.

"How wild is that?" Tomberlin says. "You know, none of that was planned."

Tomberlin wasn't planned either. He was given up for adoption after his birth in Mobile, Ala., but was fortunate enough to be welcomed into a safe, nurturing home at just 4 months old.

"The first thing the foster parent told them when they picked me up in Montgomery was, 'The only time this baby cries is when the radio is turned off,' " he notes. "So it was like I was consumed with music from the very beginning."

Tomberlin got into radio, and when he picked up a gig at **WLAY** Muscle Shoals, Ala., he met Jones, a loan officer at a local bank, on his second day in town. A decade later, both of them had relocated in Nashville, and in late 1998, Tomberlin was missing some loved ones during the holidays. He wrote part of an opening verse, concluding it with a wish for "one more day with you." The next day, he presented it to Jones at a writing appointment, and Jones immediately linked it to a three-note melody he had been carrying that fit the "One More Day" title. Jones shifted from his usual guitar to piano, a move that forced him to keep the song simple.

They finished it that day, and Jones turned in a quick demo and got a quick response. **The Clark Family Experience** put it on hold, though they let it go a short time later. **Alabama** considered it for about three days, then **Mark Wills**, and finally, it got pitched to **Brooks & Dunn**, though **Ronnie Dunn** thought it sounded like it was best-suited for Diamond Rio.

The band members heard it on the bus among a slew of potential songs, and they were fatigued enough from listening that nobody made a big deal about it. Although they all quietly agreed it was a song they should take seriously.

"There was none of this 'We know it's going to be a hit,' " keyboardist **Dan Truman** suggests. "There was none of this super-excited stuff that you hear these stories about. It's so subtle and it's so simple, but we were all luckily in agreement: 'Let's put that one on hold.' "

They developed their own simple treatment — nothing flashy, but enough to take advantage of their trademark, bluegrass-tinged harmonies and **Jimmy Olander's** double-bender guitar. And they played in communal spirit, mixing some unison riffs with tradeoffs in the background: **Gene Johnson's** mandolin flowed into Truman's piano into Olander's guitar so gracefully that it felt like one musician was playing all the parts.

"One More Day" was not a first choice for a single. But when RCA Music Group Nashville president **Joe Galante** played new music at a meeting in Los Angeles, a woman in the room sent him a note suggesting that he present that song. The response was so overwhelming that the label changed plans and released it quickly. Radio programmers reacted similarly — many added it into rotation early, even though it wasn't the standard uptempo song that broadcasters routinely seek.

"We really didn't hear a whole lot about, 'Oh, it's getting great spins,' " Roe recalls. "It was more about how it affected them. And that was different — never [happened] before or since."



Trisha Yearwood (center) discussed her new album, *The Mirror*, with "Girl Crush" and "You Belong to Me" songwriter Liz Rose (left) on Oct. 8 at Nashville's Anzie Blue. They're joined by FEMco founder Leslie Fram.

At **KZLA** Los Angeles, personality **Shawn Parr** told listeners before playing it for the first time that hearing "One More Day" had inspired him to shuffle his schedule and have lunch with his son. Country radio responded. So did syndicated adult contemporary host **Delilah**, who ultimately put it in rotation on her national show. "One More Day" swelled to No. 6 on the *Billboard* AC chart.

When 10 people associated with the Oklahoma State basketball team died in a plane crash near Boulder, Colo., on Jan. 27, 2001, **KXXY** Oklahoma City remixed the song — then positioned at No. 17 on Hot Country Songs — with audio related to the tragedy to pay tribute to the victims. Three weeks later, it was at No. 8 when **Earnhardt** died during the Daytona 500. The song got another remix with related audio, which Roe heard in the cab on the way from Earnhardt's funeral on Feb. 22. "One More Day" subsequently surged to No. 1 on the March 10 list, then returned to the pole position on March 31. At that year's Country Music Association Awards, video provided another cultural connection with images from 9/11 playing behind the band as it performed live. The group members, including drummer **Brian Prout** and bassist **Dana Williams**, couldn't view the screen behind them, but they saw the emotional response of the artists in the front row, including **Shania Twain** and **Tim McGraw**.

They saw it in their concerts, too. People brought posters with the names of friends and family who had died and placed them in the vacant seat next to them. The group sometimes struggled to get through "One More Day" onstage.

"For eight or 10 years after that song was out, I swear over half the audience was in tears," Truman says. "I was so moved by that, I probably cried two or three dozen times while we played it, watching other people."

Diamond Rio again performed it during a 2010 funeral in Mississippi for 11 workers who died in the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion.

BMI has since classified "One More Day" as a standard. Tomberlin earned a greater appreciation for it when his mother died in 2020, and again when he lost his father in January. He decided to write *I've Lived Country Music* after that, and his understanding of the song's significance grew.

"Writing this book, I've gone back and I've read old emails and messages from people, and, of course, I still get them from people where the song has connected with them and helped them heal," he says. "I've sung it at many memorials, but I don't know that I realized how big of an impact the song has had on so many people."

Diamond Rio certainly does. Fans have repeatedly shared their stories of grief and regret during meet-and-greets, and the members had to learn how to listen to those stories and offer support, but not carry the weight of all that hurt with them. The group has seen firsthand reaction for 25 years since the release of "One More Day," and it continues to appreciate the power that's possible in music.

"You got to be careful what you record," Williams says, "because these songs are a little bit more than just three minutes on the radio. It means something to people." ●



Ashley McBryde (left) performed Oct. 6 for members of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's Troubadour program. With her is 16-year-old Lily Braithwaite, who sang "Story of Her Life," a song she created during the museum's summer songwriting camp.



Keith Urban (right) greeted Central Pennsylvania broadcasters when he performed Oct. 2 in Hershey, including iHeartMedia/Harrisburg-Lancaster vp of programming Mike Miller.

IN A PERFECT WORLD



LAUREN WATKINS

NEW ALBUM
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Country Stations Refresh Nashville-Era Taylor Swift Hits Amid ‘Showgirl’ Buzz

Even without new singles at country radio, **Taylor Swift**’s presence in the format is still being felt. Her Oct. 3 release, *The Life of a Showgirl*, will see its Billboard 200 debut announced Oct. 12, following coverage of its record-setting start.

Swift’s Country Airplay chart run was formidable prior to her 2014 segue to pop, with 18 top 10s over 2006–13, seven of them rising to No. 1. Now some stations are leaning into the *Showgirl* moment by spinning her Nashville-era hits more often, keeping her presence alive on the format even as she continues to rule pop.

“We have put some throwback Taylor tracks back on,” says **MoJoe Roberts**, senior vp of programming for iHeartMedia’s Las Vegas cluster, which includes country **KWNR** (95.5 the Bull), citing “Mean,” “Love Story (Taylor’s Version)” and “Our Song” as examples. He plans to play them for at least a few weeks before reevaluating. “We want the Bull to keep a seat at the Taylor fan table,” he adds.

Swift is still a gold artist in the format, after all. Of the tracks MoJoe notes, “Our Song” and “Mean” logged the most notable presence among Country Airplay reporters Oct. 3–9, according to Luminate. The former drew 800,000 impressions (up 3%), the latter, 500,000. Plus, big gains show for “Love Story” (up 39%), “Teardrops on My Guitar” (20%) and “Tim McGraw” (36%).

Swift’s catalog still tests, says Audacy country format captain **Tim Roberts**. “She’s older now, but so is her original audience,” he reasons. “They still relate to those songs.” Some fans follow her pop albums and some don’t, he says, “but the country audience certainly remembers those early records.”

At **WYCD** Detroit, where Tim also leads programming, Swift remains a content driver. “This love story with **Travis Kelce** and the NFL connection, which touches nearly every major U.S. city, makes her relevant,” he says. “We just did a promotion for the movie, giving away premiere tickets. We packed the AMC theater and it was big for us.”

Even if *Showgirl* is geared toward, and setting records at, pop radio, Swift’s early hits prove that the country format hasn’t let go of its piece of her story. ●



MERT ATLAS & MARCUS PIGGOT

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)	
BAR NONE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+4.467	
DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	+2.172	
HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Eric Church	+2.043	
DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	+1.817	
COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+1.683	
BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+1.602	
3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+1.594	
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+1.490	
AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	+1.450	
I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.401	

MOST INCREASED PLAYS			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN	
BAR NONE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1142	
HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Eric Church	+749	
COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+630	
DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	+586	
3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+522	
DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	+450	
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+419	
TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	+404	
HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+378	
AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	+356	

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.401
2	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	12.833
3	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	12.527
4	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	12.343
5	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	10.409
6	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	10.092
7	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	9.078
8	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	8.667
9	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	8.271
10	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	7.680

The logo for the Texas Regional Radio Report, featuring a stylized Texas map with the words "TEXAS Regional Radio Report" inside.

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 9, 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	23	IT AINT THE WHISKEY (Big Loud) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Jake Worthington	1641	76	11	17	8	HIT THE HIGHWAY (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1150	120
2	3	16	WEATHERMAN (River House)	Hudson Westbrook	1527	36	12	12	18	BAD REPUTATION (River House)	Grant Gilbert and Hudson Westbrook	1145	1
3	5	16	SWEET (Independent)	Bubba Westly	1513	129	13	14	19	WATCH ME GO (Mirror Ball Records)	Caleb Young	1134	51
4	4	28	ARE YOU A REAL COWBOY (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1411	7	14	16	17	BORN RUNNIN OUTTA TIME (Sony Music Group)	Lukas Nelson	1085	28
5	6	25	ADELINE (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1393	31	15	13	18	UNINVITED GUEST (Independent)	Casey Chesnutt	1081	-18
6	7	13	WHEN SHE KISSED ME (Almost Country)	Casey Donahew	1357	26	16	15	26	COUNTY FAIR (Independent)	James Robert Webb	1058	-17
7	8	18	I MISS US (RedPlay Media)	Trevor Underwood	1336	47	17	19	9	ALWAYS FLOWERS (Independent)	Kylie Frey	1036	54
8	9	16	LONELY OVER YOU (Warner Music Nashville)	William Beckmann	1331	88	18	18	16	THE OTHERS (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	982	-38
9	10	16	TWO HANDS (Independent)	Pat Green and Corey Kent	1300	77	19	22	10	HOLD HER HORSES (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	977	93
10	11	17	BURN (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1238	51	20	21	10	GUITAR IN MY HAND (Independent)	Tilluride	957	57

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

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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	28	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	30.237	-2.713	8149	-917	2
2	4	29	BAR NONE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	29.272	+4.467	8424	1142	1
3	3	16	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	28.821	+1.401	7983	289	3
4	7	45	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	24.588	+2.172	6990	586	4
5	8	11	BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	23.882	+1.602	6910	306	5
6	2	22	BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	23.706	-6.647	6542	-2170	6
7	6	37	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	23.252	-0.217	5775	-212	8
8	5	30	HAPPENTO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	21.621	-2.297	5847	-585	7
9	9	34	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	20.579	-0.169	5322	120	9
10	10	55	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	17.158	+0.707	5141	180	10
11	13	40	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	14.963	+1.683	4178	630	15
12	12	20	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	14.693	+1.376	4802	294	12
13	11	56	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	14.596	+1.075	4603	294	13
14	14	31	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	13.618	+1.595	4393	522	14
15	17	30	HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Eric Church	13.518	+2.043	4861	749	11
16	15	29	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	12.803	+0.827	3786	185	17
17	16	18	GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Leo33	Zach Top	12.002	+0.496	3911	227	16
18	18	13	DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	11.678	+1.817	3699	450	18
19	19	14	6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	10.441	+1.490	3238	419	20
20	21	37	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	9.655	+1.128	3290	331	19
21	20	26	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	9.465	+0.875	3005	173	22
22	23	20	STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	8.829	+1.248	2977	217	23
23	24	42	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	8.755	+1.183	2774	404	24
24	22	39	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Keith Urban	8.709	+0.297	3031	57	21
25	25	4	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	8.241	+1.102	2640	378	25
26	26	36	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	6.917	-0.165	2631	-14	26
27	27	35	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	6.001	+0.478	2202	145	28
28	28	44	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	5.515	+0.125	2063	108	29
29	29	32	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	5.482	+0.409	1488	134	35
30	31	24	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	5.200	+0.396	2277	140	27

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

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

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

BULLETS
Awarded on Country Airplay to titles gaining audience or remaining flat from the previous week. Titles that decline in audience but increase in detections will also receive a bullet if the total audience erosion for the week does not exceed 3%.

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

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

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

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

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

billboard Country Airplay

 AIRPLAY
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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	32	16	WEAK Valory	Preston Cooper	4.721	+0.324	1658	47	33
32	40	4	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	4.631	+1.450	1412	356	37
33	37	26	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Lyric Ridge	Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	4.313	+0.839	1396	196	38
34	33	13	A SONG TO SING Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	4.216	-0.063	1704	31	31
35	34	47	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	4.207	+0.210	1770	63	30
36	35	24	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	4.163	+0.176	1384	135	39
37	36	25	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	3.768	+0.010	1131	53	43
38	39	27	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	3.574	+0.368	1664	122	32
39	38	19	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	3.511	+0.274	1605	119	34
40	41	31	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	3.110	+0.384	1452	98	36
41	42	20	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	2.608	-0.052	1132	36	42
42	44	20	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2.319	+0.300	1233	116	41
43	43	17	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	2.164	-0.092	1021	-52	44
44	45	9	MAKING GOOD TIME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	2.124	+0.153	924	63	47
45	46	11	NEVER CALL AGAIN Thrivin Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Gavin Adcock	1.885	-0.042	959	19	46
46	48	18	DRINK WITH YOU Nashville Harbor	Brett Young	1.732	+0.210	919	33	48
47	50	14	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	1.676	+0.200	981	46	45
48	47	21	PAPER UMBRELLAS McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw Featuring Parker McCollum	1.671	-0.098	1303	-17	40
49	55	14	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	1.653	+0.561	826	282	50
50	49	21	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Chase McDaniel/Big Machine ★★ Breaker ★★	Chase McDaniel	1.577	+0.075	814	104	51
51	51	8	SEVENTEEN Columbia Nashville	Kameron Marlowe	1.316	-0.014	691	28	56
52	52	13	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	1.315	+0.014	798	17	52
53	56	2	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	1.241	+0.193	744	60	54
54	54	11	I WISH YOU WOULD Valory	Mackenzie Carpenter Featuring Midland	1.237	+0.118	774	48	53
55	53	3	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	1.211	+0.059	694	32	55
56	58	5	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud ★★ Breaker ★★	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	1.081	+0.151	608	69	58
57	57	10	NO TELLIN' True To The Song/Nashville Harbor	Caroline Jones	0.924	-0.039	868	23	49
58	RE-ENTRY		WE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON Warner Music Nashville/WAR ★★ Breaker ★★	Cole Swindell	0.901	+0.141	675	35	57
59	NEW		20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Morgan Wallen	0.885	+0.601	115	60	-
60	59	15	USE ME Leo33	Zach Top	0.880	-0.006	65	-3	-



Craig Morgan received the Order of the St. Michael-Airborne Award on Sept. 29 during a Tim Montana & Friends concert at City Winery Nashville that helped raise over \$307,000 for charity. From left: Brig. Gen. Travis McIntosh; Morgan's wife, Karen Greer; Morgan; and Special Ops Xcursions founder Scott Graves.



Sam Hunt welcomed Louisiana radio executives when he performed Oct. 4 at Gretna Fest, across the Mississippi River from New Orleans. From left: MCA Nashville director of regional promotion Katelyn Lester; WTGE Baton Rouge, La., PD Jimmy Brooks; Hunt; and WNOE New Orleans PD Casey Carter.

ISSUE DATE
10/25/25



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In November, *Billboard* will honor the most powerful people in the live entertainment industry at the Billboard Live Music Summit & Awards, which returns to Los Angeles on Nov. 3 as a must-attend event for the decision-makers and thought leaders shaping the future of the touring industry.

The 2025 Touring Power Players will be recognized in the Oct. 25 print issue of *Billboard* and celebrated at the Live Music Summit, which will include panel discussions and award presentations to the year's most visionary leaders worldwide.

Advertise in this issue to reach agents, artists, managers, venues, promoters and event producers and to congratulate the **2025 Touring Power Players**, as well as the **Legend of Live**, **Touring Artist of the Year** and **Executive of the Year**.

BONUS DISTRIBUTION:

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AUSTIN FREDLINE

Josh Ross (center) sang "Hate How You Look" during his national TV debut on Oct. 7 on *Live! With Kelly & Mark*. Ross is flanked by hosts Mark Consuelos and Kelly Ripa.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Vince Gill signed a lifetime recording contract with MCA, guaranteeing his long-term presence as one of the label's leading creators. In conjunction with the agreement, Gill will release a series of new EPs each month for the next year. The first installment, *50 Years From Home: I Gave You Everything I Had*, will arrive Oct. 17 ... MCA director of media marketing **Cindy Finke** closed a four-year stint at the company on Oct. 6. Reach her [here](#) ... Four Nashville-area executives, including FlyteVu co-founder **Jeremy Holley**, established By Design, a label and publishing company with additional divisions: Archetype Music, a music rights acquisitions firm, and Blueprint, an enterprise that assists artists in their nonprofit efforts. Holley's three fellow principals are former Capitol Christian Music Group senior vp of A&R **Josh Bailey**, former Word president/CEO **Rod Riley** and former Word vp of marketing, promotion and new business **Josh Thompson**. The initial signings include country hit-maker **Frankie Ballard** ... **Brantley Gilbert** joined the roster at BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville with plans to release new music in 2026 ... The Country Music Association announced its Broadcast Award winners on Oct. 7. Broadcast personality trophies went to: **Lon Helton**, *Country Countdown USA* (weekly national); **Rob Stone** and **Holly Hutton**, *The Rob and Holly Show* (daily national); **Chris Carr**, **Sam Sansevere** and "**Dubs**" **Michael Wilczynski**, **KEEY** Minneapolis (major market); **Mike Wheless** and **Amanda Daughtry**, **WQDR** Raleigh-Durham, N.C. (large market); **Melissa "Mo" Wagner** and **Greg "StyckMan" Owens**, **WUSY** Chattanooga, Tenn. (medium market); and **Ben Butler** and **Arnie Andrews**, **WCOW** La Crosse, Wis. (small market). Station victors include **KKBQ** Houston (major market); **WUBE** Cincinnati (large market), **WIVK** Knoxville, Tenn. (medium market); and **WXBQ** Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol, Tenn. (small market) ... **Mandy Barnett** launched a SiriusXM show, *Sundays With Mandy*, on Oct. 5, filling the slot that **Jeannie Seely** formally occupied on Willie's Roadhouse ... Beasley Media Group promoted **Shaun Greening** to chief accounting officer from vp of financial reporting ... **Aleese Fielder** joined Townsquare/Odessa-Midland, Texas, as market president, where she'll oversee five stations, including country **KNFM**. She was former NRG Media/Wausau, Wis., market manager, where her portfolio included country **WYTE** ... **Lori Mae Tevault** joined the morning team at **WKDQ** Evansville, Ind., where she started her radio career as an intern. She left broadcasting for more than a decade, working most recently as a Heritage Federal Credit Union mortgage loan originator ... Connoisseur/Portland, Ore., promotes **Mark Handwerger** to market manager from director of sales, effective Oct. 16, RadioInk.com reported. The cluster includes country **KUPL** ... **Carletta Blake** signed on as **WKHK** Richmond, Va., brand manager/afternoon host, according to RadioInk.com. She was most recently PD at **WGAR** Cleveland ... A wave of iHeartMedia layoffs affected country talent and programmers in multiple markets, RadioInsight.com reported. Among the casualties: **WPOC** Baltimore assistant PD/afternoon host **Jeff St. Pierre**; **WTQR** iHeartMedia/Greensboro-Winston-Salem, N.C., senior vp of programming **JT Bosch**; **KMJX** Little Rock, Ark., PD **Kevin "Cruise" Mercer**; iHeartMedia/Nashville digital director **Kaitlyn Askew**; and **WFUS** Tampa, Fla., assistant PD/midday host **Sarah Jacobs** ... Country Radio Broadcasters is accepting nominees for

the 2026 artist humanitarian award through Dec. 15. The recipient will be recognized during Country Radio Seminar March 18-20, 2026, in Nashville. Submit nominees to CRB executive director **RJ Curtis** [here](#) or business manager **Chasity Crouch** [here](#).

'ROUND THE ROW

Tucker Wetmore's manager, **Autumn Ledin**, officially announced the launch of Ledin Management, in partnership with Red Light. She was formerly Back Blocks Music senior director of A&R. The team includes coordinators **Mikey Hernandez** and **Reid Staubitz** ... 33 Creative co-owner **Tina Crawford** departed the company. Reach her [here](#). **David Fanning** continues to operate the firm. Reach him [here](#) ... Journalist **Marcus K. Dowling** will launch a podcast, *Culture at Large*, on Oct. 13, with songwriters **Laura Veltz** ("Speechless," "The Bones") and **Ben Johnson** ("One of Them Girls," "Give Heaven Some Hell") as guests on the inaugural episode. Dowling finished a run as *The Tennessean's* country music reporter on Oct. 3 ... Cobblestone Road Entertainment was formed in Nashville by president **Casey Barile** and managing partner **Laura Turner-Barile**. The company offers concert booking, publishing and recording expertise. Barile originally founded StarFactory Productions in Northern Virginia; Turner-Barile is a former Curb recording artist ... Anthem Music acquired part of the catalog of producer-songwriter **Mark Holman** ("I Ain't Sayin'," "Single Saturday Night") ... The International Entertainment Buyers Association unveiled a branding slogan, "Live Deals Done Here," during its annual conference at the Grand Hyatt Nashville. The IEBA also established scholarships named after three significant live-event figures: former United Talent chief **Jimmy Jay**, late booking agent **Buddy Lee** and late manager **Erv Woolsey** ... **Alan Jackson** announced plans to close his touring career at Nashville's Nissan Stadium with *Last Call: One More for the Road — The Finale* on June 27, 2026. The first 10 guests are **Luke Bryan**, **Eric Church**, **Miranda Lambert**, **Carrie Underwood**, **Luke Combs**, **Riley Green**, **Lee Ann Womack**, **Keith Urban**, **Cody Johnson** and **Jon Pardi** ... Hendersonville, Tenn., will rename a bridge on the Johnny Cash Parkway to honor **The Oak Ridge Boys** on Oct. 21 ... Dr. **Mary Ellen Pethel** and Dr. **Don Cusic** authored the recently published *Howdy! The Minnie Pearl Story*, issued Oct. 3 ... **Jason Aldean**, **Lainey Wilson** and **Bailey Zimmerman** will headline CBS' annual *New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash* on Dec. 31, with appearances by **CeCe Winans** and **The Fisk Jubilee Singers** ... The Heartland Network introduces new programming on Nov. 3. Among more than a dozen individual titles and programming blocs, the content includes *The Chuck Wicks Show*, **Keith Stegall's** *High Dollar Hill* and *Small Town America* with **Cody McCarver** ... **Mitchell Tenpenny** donated over \$117,000 from his 10Penny Fund to the ACM Living Lives Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund in conjunction with his fourth cornhole tournament on Oct. 7 ... The Grand Ole Opry holds a rare Sunday show on Oct. 19 with a portion of the proceeds benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Among the artists on board are **Kelsea Ballerini**, **Kat Luna** and **Ty Herndon** ... At least a dozen acts are expected for *Friends of the Atwoods: A Night of Giving*, a Nov. 18 fundraising concert at Nashville's 3rd & Lindsley for **Tim Atwood**, a longtime Grand Ole Opry pianist, and his wife, **Roxanne**. The lineup includes **John Berry**, **T. Graham Brown** and **Linda Davis**, among others. A GoFundMe has been created for the Atwoods [here](#). ●



CHRIS KLEINMEIER

Parker McCollum (center) renewed his publishing contract with Warner Chappell Music Nashville. With him are WCMN vp of A&R/digital **Jessi Vaughn Stevenson** and WCMN president **Austen Adams**.

billboard



BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Led by Founder, President and CEO Scott Borchetta, the Big Machine Label Group encompasses Big Machine Records, The Valory Music Co., Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment, Big Machine/John Varvatos Records and publishing company Big Machine Music as well as its own digital radio station, Big Machine Radio. BMLG artists include superstars Tim McGraw, Thomas Rhett, Sheryl Crow, Rascal Flatts, Brantley Gilbert, and Lady A; chart-topping acts Justin Moore, Eli Young Band, Brett Young, Midland, Carly Pearce, Riley Green, Aaron Lewis, and Badflower. BMLG artists have received multiple GRAMMY, CMA, ACM, AMA, CMT, Teen Choice, MTV, Billboard, People's Choice and Brit Awards. Big Machine is the first-ever American label to align with terrestrial radio for performance royalty rights for its artists and is an industry leader in fighting for artist, songwriter, publisher and record company rights.

Big Machine Label Group created the Music Has Value Fund to provide assistance to nonprofit organizations that make music, aspire to make music, and access and appreciate music.

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International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

20 CIGARETTES Concord Tunes, SESAC/Gard Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (C.LaCorte, C.McGill, J.Miller, B.Pendergrass) **59**

3,2,1 Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Native Notes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.Miller, S.Overstreet, J.Reynolds) **14**

6 MONTHS LATER Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiano, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Burrito Lovers Music, ASCAP/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MESSY INTERNATIONAL Music, BMI/Shannigans Publishing, SESAC/Eclipse Three Music, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC (M.Moroney, B.Williams, D.Mescon, R.Hatch) **19**

A

AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED

Warner-Tamela 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.Bonetta, J.Byron, J.Free, J.K.Hindlin) **9**

AIN'T A BAD LIFE Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain Tunes, ASCAP/Mark Trussell, P.D. Designee, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, M.Trussell) **32**

ALL MY EXES Iylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBEAT Publishing, BMI/Only Legends Music, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Hoops Don't Lie Publishing, BMI/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI (Lauren Alaina, J.A.Gutch, B.C.Johnson, W.Philips) **56**

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/SZ Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kevin Powers Publishing Designee, BMI/Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI (C.O.Chibueze, J.B.DeFord, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.W.Ennis, J.Gray, K.J.Powers, N.Sastry) **49**

B

BACK IN THE SADDLE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Show Me Your Titles LLC, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Hits Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Braven Baker Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, D.Isbell, J.D.Singleton) **5**

BAGGAGE Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/The Piano Room, ASCAP/W.C. Music Corp., SESAC/Nadeezzy Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC (K.Ballerini, J.J.Dillon, K.Fairchild, L.Hinsley, A.Vanderheyne) **42**

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/Kwasy Publishing, BMI/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI (B.J.Johnson, H.Phelps, L.Vaughan) **2**

BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES)

Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Max McIlwain Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI/Fugitive Songs Publishing, BMI (M.McIlwain, J.Kerney, A.A.Suppella, T.K.Dabbs) **27**

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/Hog On The Buss, SESAC/Spirit Nashville Two, SESAC/Songs Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI/Woah, ASCAP/Monica's Reliance To Lob, ASCAP/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP (S.C.McCreary, B.Anderson, D.George, J.Busse, F.Rogers, C.Riswell, B.Hamrick, D.Rucker, M.Bryant, D.Felder, J.Sonfeld) **6**

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.McDaniel, J.M.Nite, L.Rimes) **50**

C

COWGIRL Tileyard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sentric Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/NewMania Music North, SOCAN/VaughnCo Music Publishing Inc., SOCAN/Cooking Vinyl Publishing Ltd., PRS/Thomas Frank Ridley Horsley Publishing Designee, PRS/8936 Music, BMI/Parmalee Music Publishing, BMI/Matt Thomas Music Publishing, BMI (J.D.Lewis, D.Fanning, P.D.Newman, R.Jay, T.F.R.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **11**

D

DARLIN' Hunter Huff Publishing Designee, BMI/Ciaran Wilkie Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Verse 2, BMI/Droptime Music, BMI/Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Kobalt Music Services Ltd., PRS (Chase Matthew, A.Maxwell, H.Huff, C.Wilkie, Jake Angel) **4**

DON'T MIND IF I DO Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) **18**

DRINK WITH YOU Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Road, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Off The Record, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (B.Young, J.Frasure, T.Lucca, E.L.Wessand) **46**

E

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

ENDS OF THE EARTH Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **29**

F

THE FALL Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Keep Choppin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (B.Pinson, R.Fulcher, J.S.Stover) **36**

FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/FBRI Country Tunes, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing Company, BMI/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Coerent Music, ASCAP/Nate Smith Music Publishing Company, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Designee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, B.Bailey, C.Brown, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, N.Smith) **21**

G

GOLDEN CHILD Anthem Entertainment B, SOCAN/Iron Songbird Publishing B, BMI/Jackoby Songs II, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/World For Aaron Espinoza Concord Alto CCI, ASCAP (M.Patrick, J.Hyde, A.Esnuis) **28**

GOOD NEWS Kreshendo, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/SZ 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/Pace Place Songs, BMI (C.O.Chibueze, N.Sastry, S.C.Cook, J.Torrey, M.R.Pollack, ROMANS) **7**

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

HAPPEN TO ME Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Gard Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Sony Tunes, ASCAP (R.Dickerson, C.LaCorte, J.J.Dillon, C.McGill, R.hazard) **8**

HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/Music By Elevation Worship Publishing, BMI/Be Essential Songs, BMI/Also Also Industries, BMI/Bailee's Ballads, BMI (B.M.Lake, S.Furtick, B.Hastings, C.J.Brown, J.B.DeFord) **33**

HATE HOW YOU LOOK Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Round Hill Verses Publishing, BMI (N.Sainato, C.McKenna, J.Farren, C.Yancey) **55**

HEART OF STONE Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Foxwood Entertainment Group Music Division, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/God Made Most Played Most Paid Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (J.B.DeFord, Z.Crowell, B.Pendergrass, Sny Carter) **1**

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 Luckaway Music, BMI/Sony Home Music, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Dean, B.Davis, D.Williams) **10**

HOUSE AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Luckaway Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southern Kid Music, ASCAP/Saxet HW Music, BMI (H.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Ailey) **16**

HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triples Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **25**

I

I AIN'T COMING BACK Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Bell Ear Publishing, ASCAP/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Works, GMR/Posty Publishing, GMR/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneckner Music, BMI (M.C.Wallen, L.B.Bell, M.W.Hardy, A.R.Post, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **37**

I DARE YOU Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/80xteen Music, ASCAP (N.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.Whitmore, J.K) **26**

I GOT BETTER Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippines 47 Songs, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, M.W.Hardy, C.McGill, B.Pendergrass, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, J.S.Reeves) **3**

IT WON'T BE LONG Big Machine, ASCAP/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (G.Birge, J.A.Fox, C.McGill, T.Anderson) **20**

I WISH YOU WOULD Tack Mack Tunes, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Concord Arch Songs, ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain Tunes, ASCAP/Boom Town Publishing, ASCAP/concord copyrights, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/Ionkins Family Vacation, ASCAP (M.Carpenter, J.Hutcherson, J.Moore, C.Tompkins) **54**

K

KID MYSELF Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Total Schmidt Songs, ASCAP (J.Morgan, T.R.Hubbard, J.M.Schmidt) **47**

L

LONG LIVE COUNTRY Shane Proffitt Publishing Designee, BMI/Matt Rogers Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI (S.Proffitt, M.Rogers, L.Rimes) **53**

M

MAKING GOOD TIME WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/revor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Twelvev Dogwood, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Smackshot Music, BMI/Katie In Paris, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Smith Of CT Publishing, BMI/Music Of Blackheart, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, B.F.Tursi, R.Copperman, Ross Ellis) **44**

ME & A BEER Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Firebird Country Tunes, BMI/Dakdale Market Publishing, BMI (C.Janson, R.Copperman, Ross Ellis) **39**

N

NEVER CALL AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Luck Tunes, BMI/Morid For Color Voner, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Iea Farm Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI (G.Adcock, J.Taylor, C.Yenner, J.Rauton) **45**

NO TELLIN' Caroline Jones Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Dark Bars Music, BMI/Smack Back Music, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI (C.D.Jones, L.McLamb, C.Park) **57**

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.Milligan) **48**

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/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Down Boogie Music, BMI (M.Tenpenny, P.D.Giovanni, D.Southerland, D.Wilson) **41**

SEVENTEEN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Idiot Circle Publishing LLC, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI/Sony Pop Music Publishing, GMR/Eldridge Publishing Co., GMR/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI (K.Marlone, T.Beathard, A.Goodloe, J.Taylor, B.Springsteen) **51**

SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Sony Countryside, BMI/Story Farmer, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Down Boogie Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Jackbox Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Feist Catalog, Inc., ASCAP (L.Wilson, T.Anderson, D.Wilson, A.Albert, E.Y.Harburg, H.Arien) **12**

A SONG TO SING Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/W.C. Music Corp., SESAC/NayverPuddinPie Publishing, SESAC/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI (M.Lambert, C.Stapleton, J.Frasure, J.Fleenor) **34**

STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Chimney Pot Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Madfun, ASCAP/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/FBRI Country Tunes, BMI (D.Parker, G.Barham, S.Ellis, B.Bailey) **22**

STRAIGHT LINE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/MARIONA Music, BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Twelvev Dogwood, ASCAP/Haw Records & Tapes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sir Greg Wells Songs, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (K.Urban, C.McGill, J.Flowers, G.Wells) **24**

T

TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Slip, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI (B.Hayslip, S.Mosley, J.Walker) **38**

TIME'S TICKING Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Tunes From The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (J.Moore, W.L.Bunay, R.Montana, J.Stover) **23**

U

USE ME 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) **60**

W

WEAK WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Ohiofrick Music, ASCAP/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC/Smokev Miller Music, SESAC/Sonic Style Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/742 Sage Songs, BMI/4WarrensMusic, BMI (C.Cooper, L.Miller, B.Warren, B.D.Warren) **31**

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

WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb Songs, ASCAP/Logan Robinson Publishing Designee, NS/Ricky Rowton Publishing Designee, NS/Robbie Gatlin Publishing Designee, NS (D.Scott, L.Robinson, R.Rowton, R.Gatlin) **30**

WHAT KINDA MAN Parkmarac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/WRUCKENROLLMUSIC, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI (P.McCollum, J.N.Spillman, N.Hemby) **13**

WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works By Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbaner Publishing, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G.Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) **40**

WOULD IF I COULD Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **35**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webstring Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Supery Big Music, ASCAP/Drage Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP (P.C.Brust, C.Lucas, M.Dragstrem, J.Thompson) **43**

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ISSUE DATE 11/15 | AD CLOSE 11/4 | MATERIALS DUE 11/6

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50 Years Ago

When Eagles' Takeoff Began Their Only Top 10 Country Flight

In 1975, their lionized harmonies enhanced "Lyn' Eyes"

Country music has employed loads of **Eagles** influence over the decades, but the band lobbed just one single into the genre's top 10: "Lyn' Eyes," which debuted at No. 100 on the Hot Country Songs list dated Oct. 11, 1975.

Pop music had already enjoyed three years of Eagles hits at the time. The harmony-rich Southern California band became the most commercially successful example of a country/rock scene that included **Poco** and **Rick Nelson's Stone Canyon Band**.

Drummer **Don Henley** and guitarist **Glenn Frey**, who emerged as the primary Eagles writers, penned "Lyn' Eyes" in the Hollywood Hills while future film director **Cameron Crowe** observed for a story he would write in *Rolling Stone*. The song

took root at West Hollywood restaurant Dan Tana's, where they noticed an attractive young woman who was attached to an older, apparently rich, gentleman. She looked unhappy; someone in the entourage cracked that she wasn't even trying to hide her "lyin' eyes."

Henley and Frey fashioned eight, four-line verses over a descending acoustic guitar progression and recorded it with the rest of the band — bassist **Randy Meisner**, multi-instrumentalist **Bernie Leadon** and guitarist **Don Felder** — for the album *One of These Nights*. The 6-minute LP cut, produced by **Bill Szymczyk** (**Bob Seger**, **B.B. King**), was pared to 4 minutes for the 7-inch single, which rose to No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 and peaked at No. 8 in its ninth week on the country chart, dated

Dec. 6, 1975.

The following February, "Lyn' Eyes" appeared on *Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975*. The RIAA has certified that compilation for 38 million units, making it the most-consumed album in U.S. history. "Lyn' Eyes" also earned a slot on 1980's trend-setting *Urban Cowboy* album and appeared on the B side of that soundtrack's biggest hit, **Johnny Lee's** "Lookin' for Love." **Diamond Rio** covered it on the multiplatinum 1994 tribute album *Common Thread: The Songs of the Eagles*.

Henley is the only original Eagle remaining in the band, which will appear at Sphere in Las Vegas Oct. 10-11. Leadon's first album in more than 20 years, *Too Late To Be Cool*, is due Oct. 10.

—TOM ROLAND

The Eagles in 1975, from left: Leadon, Frey, Henley, Meisner and Felder.



95	NEW ENTRY	I'D RATHER BE PICKED UP HERE (Than Be Put Down At Home)—Jeris Ross (G. Morgan, ABC/Dot 17573 (Pi-Gem, BMI))
96	99	2
		I'VE BEEN AROUND ENOUGH TO KNOW—Joel Sonniar (B. McDill, D. Lee, Mercury 73702 (Phonogram) (Hall/Clement, BMI))
97	94	3
		ANYBODY OUT THERE WANNA BE A DADDY—Kitty Wells (C. Putman, D. Kirby, Capricorn 0240 (Warner Bros.) (Tree, BMI))
98	NEW ENTRY	OUR MARRIAGE WAS A FAILURE—Johnny Russell (J. Russell, B. McDill, RCA 10403 (Hall/Clement, BMI))
99	NEW ENTRY	THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN—Lois Johnson (B. McDill, D. Lee) 20th Century 2242 (Jack, BMI)
100	NEW ENTRY	LYIN' EYES—Eagles (D. Henley, G. Frey, Asylum 45279 (Benchmark/Kicking Bear, ASCAP))