# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com

#### June Carter Cash: Why She's Taking Her Place In The Country Hall Of Fame's Unbroken Circle



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Morgan Wallen's 'Problem' Grows In Impact >page 4

Grand Ole Opry Plots Anniversary Lineup >page 8

Country Coda: Garth Brooks' 30-Year-Old 'Woman' >page 11 She lived much of her life in the shadow of other artists, though she did it under the glare of the spotlight.

June Carter Cash is in line for induction this fall into the Country Music Hall of Fame, joining with Kenny Chesney and producer Tony Brown (George Strait, Reba McEntire).

It gives her a plaque alongside a bundle of acts she stood beside in real life. Husband Johnny Cash is, of course, already in the Hall, as is her first husband, 1950s hit-maker Carl Smith. So is The Carter Family: June's mother, Maybelle Carter; uncle A.P. Carter; and first cousin once removed Sara Carter. And Marty Stuart is likewise family, having been married for a time to Cindy Cash, June's stepdaughter — though they agreed not to use the word "step," aiming instead to form bonds as thick as blood.

June was never unhappy that her fame was relative; she took pleasure in playing second fiddle for much of her life, particularly in her marriage to Cash.

"For years working with my dad on the road, she took second seat to him," says **John Carter Cash**, Johnny and June's biological son. "She *chose* to be the accompanying singer for Johnny."

That relationship yielded her most commercially successful creative efforts. She co-wrote "Ring of Fire," which became one of country's most iconic hits after Johnny decided to cover it. And she joined him on "Jackson," a rollicking competition between two spouses struggling with complacency.

But June was so much more than just an attachment to an alpha male: She was a capable songwriter, a relentless comedian, a pillar of strength and a keeper of the country flame. "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," the best-known title from the Carter Family canon, is written out in bold lettering in the Hall of Fame Rotunda, where the 155 current members' bronze plaques are housed. And it will be sung—presuming tradition continues this year—at the close of the Hall induction.

"That song has ancient origins," John Carter noted during the March press conference in which June's election was revealed. "But there's one person who sang that song more than anybody else in her lifetime — or anyone else's lifetime, for that matter — and that was my mother, June Carter.

"She carried the torch for country music history with her through her lifetime. Millions of people knew the Carter Family songs because of my mother, [who was] not willing to stop singing the songs of her family. She was made of respect for our grandmother. She appreciated the music, but she brought it all together with a laugh."

June's legacy isn't steeped in the charts. Like previous inductees Ray Charles, Roy Rogers or Bill Monroe, she had only a handful of country hits, though "Jackson" and "Ring of Fire" are the kind of benchmark recordings her peers would love to have on their resumes. Her other three top 10 singles were all collaborations: the Cash duets "Long-Legged Guitar Pickin' Man" and "If I Were a Carpenter," plus a spoof version of "Baby, It's Cold Outside," cut with Homer & Jethro.

But June—like Charles, Rogers and Monroe—made an impact on the genre that ran much deeper than simple radio spins. She established her uninhibited personality as a live performer on a series of radio stations—particularly influential border station





**XERA** Del Rio, Texas — and was a calming influence on **Hank Williams** and **Elvis Presley** during their early years on the road. In the '60s, she emerged as one of country's female ambassadors right along with **Patsy Cline**, **Loretta Lynn** and **Tammy Wynette**. And, of course, she was a steadying presence when Johnny battled his demons.

"Some skeptics might argue her fame is Johnny-adjacent or that her numbers don't scream 'superstar' like a Hank Williams or **Dolly Parton**," says FEMco founder **Leslie Fram**. "But the Hall isn't just about raw stats—it's about lasting legacy and influence, and June's fingerprints are all over country's evolution from folk roots to modern storytelling."

Fram, during her time as a CMT vice president, had a hand in establishing a June Carter Cash humanitarian award, recognizing her commitment to philanthropy and her nurturing influence on younger stars.

June wasn't simply adhering to old-school roles for women. She was satisfying her own passions as a connector and as a champion of others' talents, and she would eventually scratch her own creative urges, winning Grammy Awards for two solo projects: 1999's *Press On* and 2003's *Wildwood Flower*, released four months after her death.

"In 2025, I don't see her as an anachronism because modern feminism emphasizes choice, autonomy and diverse expressions of womanhood," Fram says. "The idea that women must always prioritize individual ambition over relational roles is itself evolving; today, many celebrate 'soft power,' work-life integration and supportive partnerships as valid paths. June's story resonates precisely because it challenges the binary of 'career woman' vs. 'homemaker'—she embodied both, on her terms."

Or, as  $Carlene\ Carter\ quipped\ at\ the\ induction\ announcement:$  "My mama was the shit, y'all."

June has been recognized several times in visual productions since her death. Reese Witherspoon won an Oscar for her portrayal of June in the movie Walk the Line, Jewel played her in the Lifetime TV movie Ring of Fire, the Paramount+documentary June painted an in-depth portrait of her, and she was captured in a one-woman theatrical production that debuted last year in Scotland, June Carter Cash: The Woman, Her Music and Me.

She was a complicated woman who was strong enough to let the world see her vulnerabilities.

"That's the nature of the Cashes," John Carter says. "My father and my mother both were never afraid to say where they'd been [or] what they'd done. It was through grace that they found their sanctuary and their healing.

"They went through struggles. There's different times in their lives that they almost split up, but they got back together. They fell back in love again in a way that they never had before."

June's induction is something of a surprise to many fans: She was so significant that many assumed she was already in the Country Music Hall of Fame. She clearly had supporters in the business, where she made an impact through her unique set of talents, graceful disposition and belief in the power of the genre.

"It feels like a long-overdue recognition," Fram says, "of a trailblazing figure



Cast member Gretchen Wilson celebrated the new CBS series *The Road* during an Oct. 14 premiere event at Ole Red in Nashville. From left: Lucky Horseshoe Productions co-founder Lee Metzger, Wilson, 101 Studios CEO David Glasser and CBS executive vp of alternative programming Mitch Graham.



Carrie Underwood introduced Shinedown as the rock band made its Grand Ole Opry debut on Oct. 10 in Nashville. From left: Shinedown members Zach Myers and Eric Bass, Underwood and band members Brent Smith and Barry Kerch.



Chase Matthew visited Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters when he appeared Oct. 9 at Fort Worth's Dickies Arena with Keith Urban. From left: Warner Music Nashville/WAR director of radio accounts James Marsh, KSCS assistant PD/music director Al Farb, Matthew, KSCS/KPLX PD Mike Preston and American Country Countdown host Ryan Fox.



#### THE DEBUT SINGLE FROM A SOULFUL, UNFORGETTABLE VOICE THAT CUTS DEEP

# DENTIANUS

57 ADDS ON IMPACT

"THE EMOTION AND STORIES IN THE MUSIC REALLY CONNECT. I'M A FAN FOR SURE!" - JEFF KAPUGI, RSVPP IHEART MEDIA

"ATLUS JUST HITS DIFFERENT. AUTHENTIC AND CONNECTING. 'DEVIL AIN'T DONE' IS PERFECTION, AND IT'S GONNA LIVE ON 93Q'S PLAYLIST FOR YEARS."

- TRAVIS MOON, KKBQ/HOUSTON

"EVERY NOW AND THEN DURING ARTIST TOURS, YOU REALIZE SOMETHING SPECIAL IS HAPPENING. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WHEN ATLUS VISITED HOUSTON. 'THE DEVIL AIN'T DONE'—AND ATLUS IS JUST GETTING STARTED."

- BRUCE LOGAN, KILT/HOUSTON

"ATLUS FEELS LIKE THE TYPE OF ARTIST WE'RE GOING TO HAVE MANY HITS FROM—JUST FROM WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR. HIS VULNERABLE LYRICS SPEAK TO HIS LIFE EXPERIENCES AND OPEN THAT DOOR FOR LISTENERS TO CONNECT. I'M ABOARD THE ATLUS TRAIN."

- ASHLEY LAYFIELD, WFUS/TAMPA

"COUNTRY'S NEXT GREAT STORYTELLER."
- SCOTT RODDY, KSON/SAN DIEGO & KWJJ/PORTLAND

"ATLUS WAS THE FIRST ARTIST I MET IN MY OFFICE, AND HIS MUSIC BLEW ME AWAY. PURE TALENT, KILLER SONGS...
I JUST HOPE HE'S STILL DOING THE SEVEN-MINUTE WORKOUT I TOLD HIM ABOUT. THOSE ABS DESERVE A TOUR SOON... LOL."

- J LOVE, KBAY/SAN JOSE

# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

ON THE CHARTS RUSS PENUELL

rpenuell@billboard.com

#### Morgan Wallen Notches Fifth No. 1 From I'm The Problem

Morgan Wallen delivers his 19th career No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "I Got Better" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) rises two spots to top

the Oct. 25-dated survey, up 13% to 32.7 million audience impressions Oct. 10-16, according to Luminate.

Boosting the profile of "I Got Better" is its official video that premiered Oct. 1. The Joey Moi-produced single—which features seven cowriters that include Wallen, ERNEST, HARDY and Blake Pendergrass—becomes the fifth No. 1 from Wallen's album I'm the Problem, which arrived in May. If he lands one more chart-topper from the set, he will match the six from his 2023 LP, One Thing at a Time, which remains tied for the one-album record (discounting deluxe editions) with Luke Bryan's 2015 project, Kill the Lights.



I'm the Problem has led Billboard's Top Country Albums chart for its first 21 weeks, followed at Nos. 2 and 3, respectively, on the Oct. 18-dated ranking by One Thing at a Time and Wallen's 2021 release, Dangerous: The Double Album. Together, the three projects form one of the most formidable runs in modern country music history, combining for 205 weeks at No. 1 (with Dangerous logging a record 97 frames at the summit).

Before ruling Country Airplay, "I Got Better" completed a full-format sweep, hitting No. 1 on the Oct. 18 Hot Country Songs chart thanks to 13.2 million official U.S. streams, 31 million in radio audience and 1,000 sold. The win gave I'm the Problem four leaders on the list, equaling the output of One Thing at a Time.

**ABOVE THE CHIMNEY TOPS Lainey Wilson** breaks into the Country Airplay top 10 (12-10) with "Somewhere Over Laredo" (Broken Bow), which rises 9% to 16 million in audience. The song, which <u>interpolates</u> "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from the iconic 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, is her ninth top 10. It's from the September deluxe edition of her 2024 album, *Whirlwind*. **●** 

#### **MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE**

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)
I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	+3.858
DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chase Matthew	+1.623
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville Megan Moroney	+1.292
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud HARDY	+1.290
SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	+1.261
AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	+1.261
WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	+1.208
STAY COUNTRY OR DIETRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse Blake Shelton	+1.179
HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	+1.146
BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	+1.075

#### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN		
I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan	n Wallen	+935		
DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chase N	latthew	+476		
BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville Luke	Combs	+440		
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	+411		
SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow Lainey	Wilson	+405		
AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett Featuring Jord	lan Davis	+356		
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville Megan I	Moroney	+293		
STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse Blake	Shelton	+293		
DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley				
AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music Shaboozey &	Jelly Roll	+275		

#### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett	19.709
2	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	16.708
3	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	13.428
4	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville Corey Kent	12.089
5	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	11.624
6	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek  Jelly Roll	10.024
7	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	9.575
8	HANDS OF TIME BigEC/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville Eric Church	8.998
9	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group LOCASH	8.753
10	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey	8.188

## Regignal Radio Report

#### TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 16, 2025

	-10723	(DANGESSANDER	(CHIO) /								
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 +/-
0	2	17	WEATHERMAN (River House) ★★1 Week at 1 ★★ Hudson Westbrook	1604	77	0	12	19	BAD REPUTATION (River House) Grant Gilbert and Hudson Westbrook	1148	3
0	3	17	SWEET (Independent) Bubba Westly	1590	77	<b>®</b>	17	10	ALWAYS FLOWERS (Independent) Kylie Frey	1096	60
3	6	14	WHEN SHE KISSED ME (Almost Country) Casey Donahew	1477	120	®	14	18	BORN RUNNIN OUTTA TIME (Sony Music Group) Lukas Nelson	1094	9
4	5	26	ADELINE (Independent) Shane Smith & The Saints	1394	1	•	18	17	THE OTHERS (Late August Records) Cody Jinks	1049	67
5	4	29	ARE YOU A REAL COWBOY (Independent) Amanda Kate Ferris	1353	-58	15	13	20	WATCH ME GO (Mirror Ball Records) Caleb Young	1038	-96
6	7	19	I MISS US (RedPlay Media) Trevor Underwood	1334	-2	10	19	11	HOLD HER HORSES (Independent) Jesse Raub Jr.	1033	56
0	8	17	LONELY OVER YOU (Warner Music Nashville) William Beckmann	1328	-3	17	15	19	UNINVITED GUEST (Independent) Casey Chesnutt	1014	-67
8	9	17	TWO HANDS (Independent) Pat Green and Corey Kent	1280	-20	13	20	11	GUITAR IN MY HAND (Independent) Tilluride	984	27
9	11	9	HIT THE HIGHWAY (Independent) Bri Bagwell	1246	96	19	22	12	DIED AND GONE COUNTRY (Independent) Curtis Grimes	957	75
10	10	18	BURN (RedPlay Media) Guy Vincent	1215	-23	20	21	16	KEEP ME UP (Independent) Hayden Haddock	955	35

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 MONITORED BY

		WKS		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)	PLAYS		
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	3	17	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ No. 1 (1 Week)/Most Increased Audience ★★ Morgan Wallen	32.679	+3.858	8918	935	1
2	1	29	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	26.460	-3.777	6744	-1405	5
3	4	46	<b>DARLIN'</b> Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR <b>Chase Matthew</b>	26.212	+1.623	7466	476	2
4	5	12	BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	24.957	+1.075	7350	440	3
5	2	30	BAR NONE MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	24.427	-4.845	6810	-1614	4
6	7	38	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey	22.676	-0.576	5467	-308	7
7	8	31	HAPPENTO ME Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	20.373	-1.248	5564	-283	6
8	6	23	BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	18.242	-5.463	5218	-1324	9
9	10	56	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine Jackson Dean	17.671	+0.514	5334	193	8
1	12	21	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	15.954	+1.261	5207	405	10
<b>①</b>	13	57	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	15.804	+1.207	4778	175	11
Ø	11	41	COWGIRL Stoney Creek Parmalee	15.522	+0.559	4303	125	13
ß	14	32	<b>3,2,1</b> Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville <b>Tucker Wetmore</b>	14.340	+0.722	4512	119	12
1	16	30	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Hudson Westbrook	12.919	+0.116	3981	195	15
Œ	18	14	DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	12.685	+1.007	3979	280	16
<b>1</b>	17	19	GOODTIMES & TAN LINES Leo33 Zach Top	12.007	+0.005	4060	149	14
Ð	19	15	6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville Megan Moroney	11.733	+1.292	3531	293	17
<b>⊕</b>	21	27	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ** Airpower ** HARDY	10.754	+1.290	3416	411	18
<b>1</b>	20	38	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville George Birge	10.331	+0.676	3403	113	19
20	22	21	STAY COUNTRY OR DIETRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse ** Airpower ** Blake Shelton	10.008	+1.179	3270	293	20
<b>3</b>	25	5	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	9.387	+1.146	2893	253	23
22	23	43	TIME'S TICKING Valory Justin Moore	9.304	+0.550	2907	133	22
23	24	40	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville Keith Urban	8.931	+0.221	3033	2	21
2	26	37	I DARE YOU Big Machine Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	7.174	+0.257	2742	111	24
25	27	36	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music Max McNown	6.534	+0.533	2410	208	26
20	30	25	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb Dylan Scott	6.037	+0.837	2508	231	25
<b>3</b>	28	45	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House Meghan Patrick	5.989	+0.474	2106	43	27
23	32	5	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	5.892	+1.261	1768	356	31
29	29	33	ENDS OFTHE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Ty Myers	5.477	-0.005	1536	48	34
30	31	17	WEAK Valory Preston Cooper	4.893	+0.172	1795	137	29

#### **COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND**

#### **RANKINGS**

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

#### TIES

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

#### **BULLETS**

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

#### **RECURRENTS**

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

#### **HOT SHOT DEBUT**

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

#### **MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE**

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

#### **AIRPOWER**

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

#### **BREAKER**

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

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# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

THIS WEEK	LAST	WKS ON	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	AUDIENCE (I		PLAYS  THIS WEEK +/- RANK			
<b>G</b>	33	CHART 27	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Stoney Creek/Lyric Ridge Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	4.842	+/- +0.529	1503	+/- 107	35	
32	34	14	A SONGTO SING Vanner/Republic/Big Loud Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	4.227	+0.010	1771	67	30	
33	35	48	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ERNEST	4.211	+0.004	1826	56	28	
<u>3</u>	36	25	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	4.182	+0.019	1401	17	37	
<b>3</b> 5	37	26	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	3.995	+0.227	1221	90	40	
30	38	28	TILTHE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River Chris Young	3.842	+0.267	1712	48	32	
37	39	20	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60 Chris Janson	3.602	+0.092	1613	8	33	
<b>33</b>	40	32	WISHYOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville Vincent Mason	3.221	+0.111	1460	8	36	
39	49	15	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	2.704	+1.050	1101	275	41	
40	41	21	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville Mitchell Tenpenny	2.627	+0.019	1095	-37	42	
49	42	21	BAGGAGE Black River Kelsea Ballerini	2.471	+0.152	1308	75	39	
<b>②</b>	43	18	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group LOCASH	2.391	+0.227	1052	31	43	
<b>43</b>	44	10	MAKING GOOD TIME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville Old Dominion	2.216	+0.092	1008	84	45	
4	59	2	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	1.901	+1.015	372	257	-	
<b>4</b> 5	47	15	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow John Morgan	1.893	+0.216	1040	59	44	
<b>4</b> 6	45	12	NEVER CALL AGAIN Thrivin Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Gavin Adcock	1.891	+0.006	1000	41	46	
<b>4</b>	48	22	PAPER UMBRELLAS McGraw/Big Machine Tim McGraw Featuring Parker McCollum	1.865	+0.194	1368	65	38	
48	46	19	DRINK WITH YOU Nashville Harbor Brett Young	1.650	-0.081	910	-9	47	
49	55	4	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Josh Ross	1.613	+0.402	760	66	52	
50	50	22	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Chase McDaniel/Big Machine Chase McDaniel	1.609	+0.033	823	9	49	
<u> </u>	52	14	EASYTO LOVE Broken Bow Dustin Lynch	1.337	+0.021	793	-5	50	
€	51	9	SEVENTEEN Columbia Nashville Kameron Marlowe	1.285	-0.032	698	7	55	
53	53	3	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers Shane Profitt	1.152	-0.088	729	-15	53	
<u>54</u>	56	6	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	1.133	+0.052	601	-7	57	
55	54	12	I WISH YOU WOULD Valory Mackenzie Carpenter Featuring Midland	1.125	-0.112	785	11	51	
50		EW	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WMN ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★ Bailey Zimmerman	1.044	+0.509	514	253	60	
<b>9</b>	57	11	NO TELLIN' True To The Song/Nashville Harbor Caroline Jones	0.925	+0.002	885	17	48	
<u>53</u>		NTRY	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando Tumpike Troubadours	0.921	+0.047	344	-12	-	
<u>69</u>	58	7	WE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON Warner Music Nashville/WAR Cole Swindell	0.910	+0.010	708	33	54	
60	60	16	USE ME Leo33 Zach Top	0.887	+0.006	61	-4	-	



Parker McCollum caught up with two members of the WUSN Chicago morning team when he performed Oct. 4 in Tinley Park, Ill. From left: WUSN personality Austin Huff, McCollum, MCA Nashville director of Midwest promotion Donna Passuntino and WUSN morning-show producer Kyle Minamow.



Nashville-based music journalist Marcus K. Dowling (center) launched his *Culture at Large* podcast on Oct. 13, with two songwriters as his inaugural guests: Laura Veltz ("The Bones," "Speechless") and Ben Johnson ("Give Heaven Some Hell," "One of Them Girls").

## 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.

#### **CONTACTS**

East Coast/Midwest Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com
Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com
Los Angeles Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com
Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com
Touring & West Coast Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com
International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

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



Ella Langley and Kameron Marlowe received an RIAA-certified gold single for "Strangers" during Langley's Oct. 14 multi-artist benefit concert for the nonprofit Pawsitive Rescue Division at The Listening Room in Nashville. From left: Painted Rock Management artist manager Megan Hinde, Langley, Marlowe and Red Light manager Kaitlin Madewell.

#### OPRY PREPS FOR ANNIVERSARY SHOW

With six weeks to go before the 100th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry, more than 20 members of the **WSM-AM** Nashville show are on tap to perform during two shows on Nov. 28.

Vince Gill, Bill Anderson, Ricky Skaggs, Scotty McCreery and Connie Smith are among the initial acts announced as the Opry marks a full century since fiddler Uncle Jimmy Thompson gave the inaugural performance in 1925.

The Opry has since presented over 15,000 broadcasts from numerous venues, most notably the Ryman Auditorium and the Grand Ole Opry House, its primary location since 1974.

Other performers announced so far include Marty Stuart, The Gatlin Brothers, T. Graham Brown, Charlie McCoy and Riders in the Sky.

#### RADIO & RECORDS®

Nashville Harbor made a trio of staff changes, including two new hires. Bridget Hermann joined the company as senior director of promotion and marketing, arriving after a run as Red Street director of regional promotion. Christing Hunt was also welcomed as label coordinator following several internships with the likes of the Country Music Association and Make Wake Artists. Additionally, Dexter Bensman was shifted to Nashville Harbor head of digital marketing from Big Machine Label Group senior director ... Cincinnatibased duo The Montvales signed a recording contract with independent Free Dirt ... WYCD Detroit revised its on-air lineup as Rob Stone and Holly Hutton swapped shifts with Sean "Coop" Tabler on Oct. 14. Stone and Hutton, who are syndicated nationally as The Rob and Holly Show, take over afternoon drive, while Tabler mans the evening slot ... Sirius XM personality Dallas Wayne announced that a cancer diagnosis will force him to miss time on the Willie's Roadhouse and Outlaw Country channels while he undergoes a stem cell transplant ... Gregg Swedberg is shifting to a strategic adviser role after 34 years with iHeartMedia/Minneapolis, RadioInk.com reported. He served as the cluster's senior vp of programming and country KEEY PD. Top 40 KDWB PD Rich Davis takes over Swedberg's local programming duties ... Nicole Taylor and Matthew Wood, hosts of the syndicated Taste of Country Mornings, are ending their run after 19 months, according to RadioInk.com. It might mark the end of the program, which currently airs on 17 stations ... **KBEQ** Kansas City music director/morning co-host **Kyle Matthews** is leaving the station after eight months, RadioInsight.com reported. Matthews is relocating in St. Louis ... Brody Smith, executive producer of Audacy's syndicated Katie & Company, is no longer with the chain following a restructuring, according to RadioInsight.com... Country Radio Broadcasters is accepting applications for the 2026 Rusty Walker Scholarship Program, which provides free registration for the Country Radio Seminar along with hotel and airfare. Apply here through Nov. 12. The conference will take place in Nashville March 18-20, 2026.

#### 'ROUND THE ROW

Warner Chappell Nashville promoted **Christina Wiltshire** to vp of A&R from director ... Sony Music Publishing will provide administrative services to Sea Gayle in a partnership that includes the Domain Capital Group, a financial firm that has an ownership stake in the independent publishing company ... Bassist Reid Perry announced his departure from The Band Perry on Oct. 13. The group re-signed with Nashville Harbor in July. Lead singer Kimberly Perry is the only original member of the trio remaining in the group, which includes her husband, Johnny Costello ... Nashville-based band Brother Maven signed with NVRDUL Management, owned by CEO Carri Hyde ... Clint Black will receive the BMI Icon Award during the performing rights organization's 73rd annual Country Awards on Nov. 18 in Nashville. Previously honored Icons include Kris Kristofferson, Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Toby Keith and Bill Anderson ... In an unprecedented move, Kathy Mattea followed her Oct. 11 induction as a Grand Ole Opry member by extending an invitation to Suzy Bogguss to join the cast. The scenario played out as Bogguss, Terri Clark and Trisha Yearwood sang harmonies on Mattea's performance of "Eighteen Wheels and a Dozen Roses" ... The Academy of Country Music has opened its annual membership window, accepting applications for new memberships and renewing existing ones through Dec. 1. Go here for details ... Amazon Music Live will launch its fourth season on Oct. 23 after Thursday Night Football, with Shaboozey tapped to perform during the first of four new episodes ... John McEuen celebrates his 80th birthday with a Dec. 19 concert at Nashville's Harken Hall. He'll be backed by The Circle Band — featuring John Cowan, Mike Bub, Becky Buller and Justin David — with guest appearances by John Carter Cash and Ana Cristina Cash ... Independent artist Emily Rose worked with Postpartum Care USA to raise awareness of postnatal health issues in her newly released video, "Don't Talk About It" ... Tractor Supply Company partnered with Cody Johnson for its Life Out Here Emerging Artist Program, providing a number of professional opportunities for the winner of a music contest that runs through Dec. 1. Go here for details ... Meghan Patrick holds her third annual benefit concert for YWCA domestic violence survivor programs in Tennessee on Oct. 27 at the Nashville Palace. Among the guest artists are Kasey Tyndall, Alana Springsteen, Caylee Hammack, Madeline Edwards and Thelma & James ... Songwriters Natalie Hemby ("Pontoon," "Automatic") and Brian White ("Watching You," "Blame It on You"), plus Christian artist Joseph Habedank, were added to the lineup of performers at the Oct. 29 Concert for Cumberland Heights at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, hosted by The Warren Brothers ... Trace Adkins will host Salute to Service 2025: A Veterans Day Celebration, premiering Nov. 10 on PBS platforms ... Amy Grant will flip the switch when the Grand Ole Opry goes pink during the Oct. 25 show to support the fight against breast cancer ... Pam Tillis holds Raise the Woof, a benefit for Animal Rescue Corps, on Nov. 2 at The Stage in Nashville. •



Craig Campbell (left) performed Oct. 7 at the Carolina Classic Fair in Greensboro, N.C., in a WPAWaffiliated event. He's pictured with Audacy senior vp of programming/ regional vp Justin Cole.



Alexandra Kay met with WYRK Buffalo, N.Y., morning co-host Rob Banks when she appeared at the Town Ballroom on Oct. 8.

## billboard



# TOP BUSINESS MANAGERS

On Nov. 15, *Billboard* will showcase the most indemand business managers, whose financial expertise ensures their music industry clients invest (and spend) their money wisely.

Making money in the music industry is hard enough for artists and executives, which is why they turn to an elite few to help with financial profit and investment.

As a result of the rise of branding deals and streaming services, the task of managing artist income has become more complicated than ever, making the role of a music business manager invaluable.

Advertise in this issue and reach an elite group of influencers who guide their clients' financial fortunes and know a thing or two about how to invest their own money.

#### **CONTACTS**

East Coast/Midwest Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com
Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com
Los Angeles Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com
Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com
Touring & West Coast Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com
International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

# billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

- 20 CIGARETTES Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESACHang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Songs Of University, Inc., BM/Family Farm Songs, BM/Concord Copyrights, BM/ Jomil 10 Music, BM/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BM/ Warner-Tamerdane Publishing Corp, BM/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (CLaCorte, C.McGill, JMiller, B.Pendergrass)
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#### 30 Years Ago

# When Garth Brooks Waltzed 'Every Woman' To No. 1

In 1995, the singer used country radio to rev up his "Horses"

On Oct. 6, 1995, **Garth Brooks** ran a fullpage ad in *USA Today* with an unusual message: "You can't see it. You can't buy it. But you can hear it. New Garth Brooks music — only on country radio."

Brooks' new album, Fresh Horses, would not be released until Nov. 21, but the first single from that project, "She's Every Woman," could indeed be heard on

country stations as it burned through the competition. It moved 6-4 on Billboard's Hot Country Singles & Tracks chart dated Oct. 7, and on Oct. 21 — in just its seventh week on the list — it ascended to No. 1, becoming his 14th chart-topping release

Co-written with **Victoria Shaw** ("The River," "I Love the Way You Love Me")

and produced by Allen Reynolds (Crystal Gayle, Kathy Mattea), "Every Woman" is unusual—its title appears only once in the lyrics, at the end of verse one.

The title was also referenced in another single that reached No. 1 on the Country Airplay chart dated April 11, 2020: Jordan Davis' "Slow Dance in a Parking Lot."

-TOM ROLAND

