

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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One-Night-Only, All-Star Concerts: Thanks To The Opry, They're Part Of Nashville Culture

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If two artists are company and three are a crowd, then some Nashville stages are threatening overpopulation.

On three successive nights, Oct. 27-29, a total of 30 artists, three speakers and a pair of comedians assembled at three multi-artist shows with three different themes. For most cities, even one of those concerts would have been a major event, but in Music City, it's de rigueur; ho-hum; par for the course; been there, done that.

Not to say that other communities can't produce a big, multi-act show — music capitals such as New York, Los Angeles, Austin or Atlanta certainly do it — but Nashville may have a leg up on the phenomenon, particularly for multi-artist concerts.

"If you're in New York, the Friars Club will give you a roast," says **Larry Gatlin**, who participated in two of the three Nashville events. "In Los Angeles, they have the Academy [Awards] and stuff. But I think Nashville is unique."

The parade of large Music City productions started Oct. 27 with *The Music of My Life: An All-Star Tribute to Anne Murray*,

with 14 performers doing one song each at the Grand Ole Opry House while **Murray** applauded from a floor seat. **Collin Raye** led with "Daydream Believer," **Shenandoah** delivered "Could I Have This Dance," Canadian **Michelle Wright** chipped in "Snowbird," and **k.d. lang** mirrored Murray's phrasing while performing "A Love Song" barefoot.

The next night, the Grand Ole Opry stacked six musical acts, including Warner Music Nashville signee **Braxton Keith**, who was surprised with his first gold record; **The Forster Sisters**, whose three songs included a cover of the 1950s girl group song "Mister Sandman"; and **The Nitty Gritty**

Dirt Band, who ended the show with a song that's central to country music history, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken."

On Oct. 29, the annual Concert for Cumberland Heights raised money for a Middle Tennessee rehab center, with Gatlin and Christian artist **Joseph Habedank** kicking things off before **The Warren Brothers** MC'd an eight-person songwriter round that ricocheted between comedic songs and profound material.



GATLIN



EATON



HANNA

EATON: JOHN SHERLOCK; HANNA: JIM MCGUIRE

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The camaraderie across all three nights was notable.

"This is so vibrant — you know, the sense of community," says Dirt Band frontman **Jeff Hanna**, who spent time in Colorado and L.A. prior to moving to Nashville. "If you're in the music business, you're always going to have a competitive edge. Everybody wants to win, but you also root for your pals, and I just love that about this town."

Not many towns could hope to pull off three straight nights of comparable multi-artist shows. They're larger than a traditional two- or three-act concert, but smaller than a weekend music festival.

It's not financially feasible — for the artist or the promoter — to have that many people travel long distances to play just a handful of songs. And few communities have the volume of local musical talent.

Other towns also don't have the Grand Ole Opry. One of the side benefits of the program, which will celebrate 100 years on **WSM-AM** on Nov. 28, is the infrastructure it has created. The Opry is typically booked four or more nights a week. The artists who play it know ahead of time that they're part of a big ensemble with lots of moving pieces — very different from a concert with one headliner and an opening act. And the crew has developed a routine for the quick changes that a barn-dance format requires.

"Everything has its challenges," Opry senior vp/executive producer **Dan Rogers** allows, "but over the course of all those years and this many shows in a year, you begin to figure out the things that work and don't work."

The staff itself has a bigger impact on running a multi-artist show. If The Dirt Band is headlining a date, the group can make adjustments deep into the

set by reading the audience. But it doesn't necessarily know what the crowd is like when it pops out from backstage at the Opry, and since it only does two or three songs in that setting, there's little opportunity to change the dynamic.

"You're sitting around for a couple of hours," Hanna says, "then they go, 'You're on in five minutes,' and you're plugging in these guitars."

Because the artist typically doesn't have an opportunity to make adjustments, it's up to the production team to read the room and keep the pace going.

"I'm a time person," Cumberland Heights development events manager **Lee Ann Eaton** says. "Like, I've jerked Santa [Claus] off the stage because he was taking too long. You know what I mean? 'Your time is over, Santa. Get up!'"

That doesn't mean the artist is unable to influence a show with an adjustment or two. Rogers points to a recent **Jamey Johnson** Opry appearance, when an onstage mention of the late **Vern Gosdin** led him to play three Gosdin songs during his set. Gatlin notes that making the audience laugh can engage a sedate crowd.

"Self-deprecating humor is the secret sauce," he says. "If you can go out there and, very quickly, make a little fun of yourself or pick on yourself a little bit, the audience immediately relaxes and they take you into their heart."

Still, because the barn-dance format requires a large cast of performers, all of whom have plenty of downtime, there's room for a lax production to go off the rails. Making it smooth for the talent and their teams while maintaining a sense of structure is what makes the show work.

"It requires a lot more organization on the back end," Eaton says. "I'm dealing with eight artists and their dressing rooms and their backstage passes and their parking. But the Ryman makes it easy, too. I mean, they're so good at what they do, I would say I could do my job from my car."

It's that institutional knowledge and experience that makes it possible for Nashville to handle three straight nights of multi-artist packages. The Opry has established an air of normalcy around lineups that would be a major undertaking in most other settings. The production teams know the drill, and the artists see it as part of the heritage in country music.

"This community, as much as any other community, loves to pay respect to the people who paved the way for them — and pay it forward," Rogers says. "So somebody's often going to say 'yes' when you ask, 'Do you want to come tip your hat to an artist who you listened to growing up?' Or 'to come give a boost to [a young] artist who has said you did the same thing for them.'"

In just about any other locale, the production team would be in chaos trying to pull off a live music show with so many moving parts. But in Nashville, three straight nights of heavily populated stages — and backstages — is not such a big deal.

"They're just so calm about it," Eaton says of the Ryman team, "because it is commonplace." ●



Jordan Davis (center) played the WQIK Jacksonville, Fla., Drive for Research on Oct. 27 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine. He's flanked by iHeartMedia executive vp of country programming strategy Rod Phillips (left) and WQIK PD Scott "Froggy" Langley.



Author Don Cusic (right) presented Bill Anderson a copy of his new book, *Howdy! The Minnie Pearl Story*, during the Oct. 18 edition of the Grand Ole Opry. Joining them is actress-writer Hilty Bowen, who penned the Hallmark TV movie *A Grand Ole Opry Christmas*, which will air Nov. 29.



30A Life artist Bradley Gaskin performed Oct. 21 in a showcase for radio programmers at Dune Allen Beach, Fla. With him at the event are WKKT Charlotte, N.C., PD/midday host Ashley Wilson (left) and WNOE New Orleans PD Casey Carter.



Lainey Wilson performed for more than 600 students at Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum on Oct. 28. From left: museum education council chair David Conrad, executive vp of external affairs Lisa Purcell, Wilson, writer-editor Angela Stefano Zimmer and senior director of education and community engagement Katie Palmer.



ROGERS

REBEL

DREW BALDRIDGE



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ON THE CHARTS RUSS PENUELL rpenuell@billboard.com

Riley Green, Ella Langley Notch Second Top 10 Together

Riley Green and featured artist Ella Langley enter the top 10 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart dated Nov. 8 with “Don’t Mind If I Do” (Nashville Harbor). The collaboration climbs 12-10, up 20% to 17.8 million in audience Oct. 24-30, according to Luminate. It’s Green’s seventh visit to the tier and Langley’s third — and their second as a tandem, after Langley’s “You Look Like You Love Me,” featuring Green, led for one week last December.

The duo becomes the first pair of soloists with multiple shared Country Airplay top 10s in five years: In 2020, Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani teamed up for two No. 1s: “Nobody but You,” that May, and “Happy Anywhere,” that December.

Elsewhere, Langley’s current solo chart entry, “Choosin’ Texas,” bounds 59-41 (2.5 million, up 203%).



GREEN: DAVID HIGGS; LANGLEY: CAYLEE ROBBILLARD

MEGAN 2.0 Megan Moroney’s career ascent continues with two tracks that are due on her upcoming third studio album. Ballad “Beautiful Things” (Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville), released Oct. 24, debuts at No. 37 on Country Airplay (3.7 million), marking her highest entrance on her own. Overall, she has started at a No. 23 best with “You Had To Be There,” with Kenny Chesney, in May. Plus, her fellow current single, “6 Months Later,” rises 14-12 (15.9 million, up 20%).

SHABOOZEY ‘NEWS’ Meanwhile, Shaboozey’s “Good News” departs Country Airplay following a standout stretch, including two weeks at No. 1 in September. He has logged 49 total weeks in the top 10, the fourth-most of any artist since his crossover breakout, “A Bar Song (Topsy),” reached the region and became a juggernaut: It holds the all-time record for the most weeks in the top 10 (33), with seven of those at No. 1.

Additionally, the singer-songwriter’s latest single, “Amen” (American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music), with Jelly Roll, surges 37-29 on Country Airplay (5.3 million, up 55%). For an artist who entered as an outlier, Shaboozey has quickly become a fixture. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+3.701
BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+3.568
COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+3.118
DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	+2.981
DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	+2.814
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+2.682
KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	+2.214
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.194
SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+2.192
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	+2.093

MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+843
DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	+688
KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	+565
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+453
BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+417
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+396
COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+378
AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	+313
AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	+286
DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	+276

RECURRENENTS				
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label		Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music		Shaboozey	21.885
2	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory		Thomas Rhett	18.669
3	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Morgan Wallen	16.709
4	BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish			16.424
5	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville		Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	13.635
6	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Morgan Wallen	13.448
7	BAR NONE MCA Nashville		Jordan Davis	12.583
8	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville		Corey Kent	11.217
9	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek		Jelly Roll	10.846
10	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud		Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	10.647

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 30, 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	16	WHEN SHE KISSED ME (Almost Country) ★★1 Week at 1★	Casey Donahew	1594	93	11	11	19	THE OTHERS (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1157	-8
2	4	21	I MISS US (RedPlay Media)	Trevor Underwood	1522	75	12	3	31	ARE YOU A REAL COWBOY (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1126	-332
3	7	11	HIT THE HIGHWAY (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1463	100	13	14	13	GUITAR IN MY HAND (Independent)	Tilluride	1122	22
4	5	28	ADELINE (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1420	-12	14	17	14	DIED AND GONE COUNTRY (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1025	57
5	6	19	LONELY OVER YOU (Warner Music Nashville)	William Beckmann	1405	19	15	15	20	BORN RUNNIN OUTTA TIME (Sony Music Group)	Lukas Nelson	1020	-31
6	10	12	ALWAYS FLOWERS (Independent)	Kylie Frey	1327	76	16	16	18	KEEP ME UP (Independent)	Hayden Haddock	1012	42
7	9	20	BURN (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1319	65	17	20	15	THE OLDER I GET (MORE COUNTRY I'M GETTING TO BE) (Fool Hearted)	Jon Wolfe	953	65
8	8	19	TWO HANDS (Independent)	Pat Green and Corey Kent	1283	-10	18	19	13	I WAS WRONG (Independent)	Mike Ryan	947	55
9	12	21	BAD REPUTATION (River House)	Grant Gilbert and Hudson Westbrook	1192	33	19	21	8	EVEN GIRLS LIKE YOU (Pretty Damn Tough)	Josh Abbott Band	939	62
10	13	13	HOLD HER HORSES (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1179	43	20	22	5	PONTIAC (SO TELL ME MOMMA) (Adub/New Revolution)	Aaron Watson	927	68

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

billboardCountry Airplay

AIRPLAY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	14	BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	★★ No. 1 (2 weeks) ★★ Luke Combs	34.330	+3.568	9015	417	1
2	3	48	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	30.406	+2.814	7866	276	2
3	2	19	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	26.702	-2.475	6315	-1314	3
4	4	31	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	24.388	-0.440	5933	-329	5
5	6	33	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	21.687	+0.727	5046	-526	10
6	7	58	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	21.257	+1.794	6049	255	4
7	10	43	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	20.108	+3.118	5100	378	8
8	9	23	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	19.184	+2.192	5689	232	6
9	8	59	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	18.213	+1.066	4999	60	11
10	12	16	DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	17.841	+2.981	5186	688	7
11	11	34	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	17.389	+1.532	5070	255	9
12	14	17	6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	15.883	+2.682	4337	396	12
13	13	32	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	14.445	+0.885	4245	69	13
14	16	29	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	14.415	+2.093	3890	211	16
15	15	21	GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Leo33	Zach Top	13.780	+1.252	4124	45	14
16	17	23	STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	13.725	+1.585	3935	201	15
17	19	7	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	11.898	+1.367	3251	103	18
18	18	40	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	11.872	+0.832	3598	46	17
19	20	45	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	10.988	+1.343	3055	96	19
20	22	39	I DARE YOU Big Machine	★★ Airpower ★★ Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	8.654	+0.935	2951	109	20
21	24	7	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	8.186	+1.252	2359	286	23
22	23	38	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	7.972	+0.941	2618	27	21
23	25	27	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	7.198	+0.710	2582	75	22
24	26	47	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	7.112	+0.827	2253	66	24
25	27	35	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	6.629	+0.919	1722	132	31
26	29	28	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	6.250	+1.439	1631	211	33
27	38	4	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	5.456	+2.194	1229	453	38
28	31	27	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	5.429	+0.882	1683	188	32
29	37	17	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	5.324	+1.886	1726	313	30
30	32	50	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	5.260	+0.756	2017	162	25

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
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	30	19	WEAK Valory	Preston Cooper	5.154	+0.386	1811	91	28
32	34	16	A SONG TO SING Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	4.797	+0.782	1852	160	26
33	28	29	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Stoney Creek/Lyric Ridge	Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	4.675	-0.242	1574	-4	34
34	35	22	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	4.176	+0.283	1814	27	27
35	33	30	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	3.970	-0.328	1763	-83	29
36	36	34	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	3.811	+0.274	1496	11	35
37	NEW		BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut/ Most Increased Audience ★★	Megan Moroney	3.701	+3.701	843	843	46
38	39	20	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	3.073	-0.033	1153	-15	39
39	41	23	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	2.807	+0.311	1119	101	40
40	40	23	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2.579	+0.077	1337	15	36
41	59	2	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia	Ella Langley	2.540	+1.702	428	332	-
42	42	12	MAKING GOOD TIME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	2.358	+0.046	1010	28	42
43	43	14	NEVER CALL AGAIN Thrivin Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Gavin Adcock	2.239	+0.224	1007	0	43
44	NEW		KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	2.214	+2.214	565	565	58
45	44	17	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	2.070	+0.107	1056	36	41
46	45	24	PAPER UMBRELLAS McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw Featuring Parker McCollum	1.932	+0.171	1294	-77	37
47	48	6	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	1.823	+0.358	819	64	48
48	46	21	DRINK WITH YOU Nashville Harbor	Brett Young	1.725	+0.069	895	4	45
49	47	24	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Chase McDaniel/Big Machine	Chase McDaniel	1.644	+0.045	827	22	47
50	53	8	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	1.592	+0.438	660	61	56
51	50	3	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Bailey Zimmerman	1.558	+0.244	739	8	53
52	52	11	SEVENTEEN Columbia Nashville	Kameron Marlowe	1.415	+0.134	714	-2	55
53	51	5	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	1.384	+0.089	790	15	50
54	NEW		TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	1.370	+0.722	562	216	59
55	49	16	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	1.337	-0.103	758	-51	51
56	56	7	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	Tumpike Troubadours	1.286	+0.226	384	11	-
57	54	14	I WISH YOU WOULD Valory	Mackenzie Carpenter Featuring Midland	1.260	+0.113	800	-8	49
58	57	13	NO TELLIN' True To The Song/Nashville Harbor	Caroline Jones	1.194	+0.304	925	56	44
59	55	9	WE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Cole Swindell	1.148	+0.062	747	-44	52
60	60	2	FIREWORKS Curb ★★ Breaker ★★	Kelsey Hart	0.981	+0.230	714	96	54



Preston Cooper sang "Weak" and "Headed Home" during his Oct. 24 Grand Ole Opry debut. Backstage, from left: The Valory Music Co. president George Briner, Cooper, Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta and BMLG executive vp of creative Sandi Spika Borchetta.



Carrie Underwood received a plaque on Oct. 29 recognizing her as the RIAA's highest-certified female country artist in history. From left: Underwood and MCA president/CEO Mike Harris, executive vp/GM Katie McCartney and executive vp/head of A&R Stephanie Wright.

TRISTAN WALL

CHRIS HOLLO

NASHVILLE'S SIXTH ANNUAL
HOMETOWN TO HOMETOWN
★ ★ **EVENT** ★ ★

NOVEMBER 11, 2025 ★ 5:30 CT
CITY WINERY NASHVILLE

609 LAFAYETTE STREET

HONORING
CAMEO CARLSON,
LEE ANN WOMACK,
— AND —
OLD DOMINION



HOSTED BY
DASHA
— AND —
LESLIE FRAM

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY
LEE ANN WOMACK,
MICKEY GUYTON,
— AND —
OLD DOMINION

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TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE
THE BENEFITS OF
MUSIC EDUCATION



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

Hudson Westbrook performed "Pretty Privilege" for Academy of Country Music staff during an Oct. 16 visit to the organization's Nashville headquarters. He's shown with the ACM industry relations and awards team (from left): project manager Helena Capps, head Haley Montgomery and manager Kyle Goudreau.

COUNTRY MUSIC'S HELPING HAND

With Thanksgiving approaching, multiple country acts are giving back with current benefits and fundraising efforts. **Brad Paisley**, **Clay Walker**, **Phil Vassar** and **Randy Rogers** are among the figures assisting a variety of causes. Here's an overview of this round of good deeds in country music:

- The Randy Rogers Family Foundation presented \$50,000 to the Rock Haus Foundation in New Braunfels, Texas, following its Oct. 5 Pickleball Jam.
- Hop on a Cure's Oct. 18 benefit, run by **Zac Brown Band's John Driskell Hopkins** in Atlanta, raised nearly \$750,000 for ALS research. Among the performers: **Kristian Bush**, **Cyndi Thomson** and **Eric Paslay**.
- Music Health Alliance raised \$130,000 with its fourth annual Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda event, headlined by **Luke Bryan** on Oct. 22. Sharing the stage were songwriters **Matt Dragstrom** ("Be a Light"), **Chase McGill** ("Break Up in the End") and **Jeff Stevens** ("Carrying Your Love With Me").
- Walker's annual Band Against MS Gala returns to Texas with a Nov. 22 event at the Thompson Hotel in Houston.
- **Shawn Parr** will MC the first Songwriter Night 4 the Kids, a fundraiser presented Nov. 25 by Christmas 4 Kids and Hendersonville Hometown Jam at the Bluegrass Yacht & Country Club in Hendersonville, Tenn. Participating writers include Vassar, **Chuck Cannon** ("American Soldier"), **Josh Mirenda** ("Somewhere on a Beach") and **Jeffrey Steele** ("What Hurts the Most").
- Paisley is on the bill for A Concert for Altadena, a Jan. 7, 2026, benefit at the Pasadena Civic Center for people affected by the Los Angeles wildfires. **Dawes** is quarterbacking the show, which will include **Aloe Blacc**, **Stephen Stills** and **Jackson Browne**.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Newly formed By Design struck a global partnership with BMG, providing distribution, label services and other benefits through the company's Archetype Music ... Writer-artist **Kaitlin Butts** signed with Republic. Her first product in the new arrangement is a cover of **Jimmy Eat World's** "The Middle," released Oct. 31 ahead of her *Yeekaw Sessions* EP, due Nov. 14 ... **Jim Richmond** takes over as Bonneville/Sacramento (Calif.) senior vp/market manager, RadioInk.com reported. The four-station cluster includes country **KNCI**. Richmond spent the last five years as Bonneville/Seattle director of sales ... Audacy promoted **Andrea Burtcher** to Nashville operations manager from director of country promotions and experiences, according to RadioInsight.com. The job includes management of the Music City studio and production of the syndicated *Katie & Company* ... **KYGO** Denver promoted afternoon host **Shawn Patrick** to PD from assistant PD, RadioInsight.com reported. **Michael "Big Mic" Buhrman** fills Patrick's assistant role, in addition to taking on the assistant PD duties for adult contemporary sister **KOSI**. Buhrman continues as executive producer of the morning show and as night host for **KYGO** and **KNCI** Sacramento, Calif. ... Country Radio Broadcasters partnered with the Radio Vendor Alliance to offer an additional day of programming ahead of the Country Radio Seminar on March 17, 2026, at the Omni Hotel Nashville. "The Radio Station of the Future: CRS Pre-Show

Seminars" will feature a series of sessions about aspects of operating a station. The official seminar runs March 18-20 ... CRS's current CRS360 webinar installment, "Audio Avengers: Radio's Super Power — Air Talent," went live on [YouTube](#) on Oct. 29.

'ROUND THE ROW

North Chapel Music, the publishing company formed by Quartz Hill Music Group founder **Benny Brown**, promoted **Wendy Buckner** to senior creative director, three months after the company's launch. **Joe Dan Cornett** joins North Chapel, filling Buckner's former creative director position. He was most recently Billy Blue Music director of publishing as part of an 11-year run with Billy Blue's parent, Daywind Music. Reach Cornett [here](#) and Buckner [here](#) ... Publishing veteran **Jessi Vaughn Stevenson** founded her own company, Perfect Game Creative, in a partnership with Warner Chappell Nashville, where she was previously vp of A&R/digital ... Get After It Media opened offices and studios in Nashville's Marathon Village with Mayor **Freddie O'Connell** marking the company's first week in town by proclaiming Oct. 29 Get After It Media Day. The firm's platforms include the country-centric Heartland Network ... Artist-writer **Randy Rogers** launched Austin-based Dreamer Management with president/CEO **Elic Goicoechea**, the former Ascend Music Group CEO. The initial roster features six developing acts, including **Ashton Naylor** and **Travis Roberts** ... Showtime/MTV/Paramount senior director of communications **Ali Marszalkowski**, whose duties included work with CMT, wrapped her affiliation with the company on Oct. 31 ... Songwriter **Dave Barnes** ("God Gave Me You," "Craving You") signed a publishing contract with Capitol Christian Music Group ... Canada-based artist-writer **Peter Daniel Newman** signed a songwriting deal with Sony Music Publishing and Showbiz-Ro Music, the latter owned by **Liz Morin** and former recording artist **Ronna Reeves** ... Nashville band **Tailgate Revival** signed for representation with NVRDUL Management ... Former *The Voice* contestant **Jacquie Roar** tapped Kinkead Entertainment for concert booking ... Singer-songwriter **Abbie Callahan** joined the WME roster ... The Academy of Country Music named **Cris Lacy** chair of the ACM board. Some 34 members were elected or appointed to the board, including **Katie Dean**, **Leo33**, **Jackie Jones**, **RIAA**; and **Erika Wollam Nichols**, *The Bluebird Cafe*. Go [here](#) for the full list ... **Fletcher Foster** was selected chair for the ACM's foundation, ACM Lifting Lives. New Lifting Lives board members include **Greg Hill**, **Tracy Lawrence**, **Adi Sharma**, **Darin Murphy**, **Storme Warren**, **Shelley Grayson** and **Blain Rhodes** ... The Women's Music Business Association is accepting member applications [here](#) through Nov. 7 ... **Ashley McBryde** will host Opry NextStage Live at Nashville's Category 10 on Dec. 3, featuring **Kashus Culpepper**, **Chayce Beckham**, **Tigirlily Gold**, **Kaitlin Butts**, **Dasha** and **Avery Anna** ... As the Grand Ole Opry marches toward its 100th anniversary on Nov. 28, *CBS Saturday Morning* will feature "Women of the Opry" in a Nov. 1 segment. Participants include Opry members **Mandy Barnett**, **Kathy Mattea**, **Terri Clark**, **Ashley McBryde**, **Carly Pearce** and **Trisha Yearwood**, member-elect **Suzy Bogguss** and Opry NextStage alum **Madeline Edwards** ... **Randy Travis'** More Life Tour, featuring vocalist **James Duprè**, will be presented with the Nashville Symphony on Nov. 15 at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. ●



Gavin Adcock received a plaque from Warner Music Canada honoring a platinum single and five gold tracks when he played History in Toronto on Oct. 26. From left: Adcock and WMC director of communications Dave Stelling, senior marketing manager Ken Boyer and director of national radio promotion and media relations Lisa Grossi.

JAY RODGERS

billboard



2025

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

billboardCountryAirplay Index

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

20 CIGARETTES Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil To Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (C.LaCorte, R.C.McGill, J.L.Miller, B.Pendergrass) **27**

3,2,1 Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil To Music, BMI/Native Notes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/SugarPlum Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (J.L.Miller, S.Overstreet, J.Reynolds) **11**

6 MONTHS LATER Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Burrito Lovers Music, ASCAP/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MESSY INTERNATIONAL Music, BMI/Shannanigans Publishing, SESAC/Eclipse Three Music, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC (M.Moroney, B.Williams, D.Mescon, R.Hatch) **12**

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AMEN Poorchoice Music Publishing, BMI/Songs Into Poems, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, 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/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI (C.O.Chibweze, J.B.DeFord, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.W.Ernis, J.Gray, K.J.Powers, N.Sastry) **29**

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BAGGAGE Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/The Piano Room, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC (K.Ballem, J.J.Dillon, K.Fairchild, L.Hindsey, A.Vanderheyem) **40**

BEAUTIFUL THINGS Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triples Rae Creative Inc, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP (M.Moroney, C.R.Harrington, J.J.Dillon, J.L.Alexander) **37**

BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Mac McDown Music, BMI/Ganver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI/Fugitive Songs Publishing, BMI (M.McDown, J.Kenny, A.A.Suppella, T.K.Dabbs) **22**

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) **49**

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CHEVY SILVERADO Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sparko Phone Music, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI (T.Beathard, J.Uber, G.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman) **51**

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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-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kobalt Music Services Ltd., PRS (Chase Matthew, A.Maxwell, H.Huff, C.Wilkie, Jake Angel) **2**

DON'T MIND IF I DO Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) **10**

DRINK WITH YOU Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Road, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Off The Record, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (B.Young, J.V.Frasure, L.Lucca, E.L.Weisband) **48**

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EASY TO LOVE Hit Train Music, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/HALLPASS, ASCAP/Turntable Music Pub, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Rocky Creek James, ASCAP/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/PTNB Publishing, ASCAP (D.Lynch, B.J.Johnson, J.R.Hall, H.Phelps, Z.Crowell) **55**

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FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/FBRL Country Tunes, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/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/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI (M.W.Hardy, Z.A.Bend, B.Bailey, C.Brown, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, N.Smith) **14**

FIREWORKS Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Publishing Designee, BMI/Good Boy Gravy, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Eclipse One Music, BMI/Y'all Come Back Now, BMI/Taylor Goyette Entertainment, BMI (B.Baber, J.James, T.Goyette) **60**

G

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H

HAPPEN TO ME Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Warner-Tamereane 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 LLC, ASCAP (R.Dickerson, C.LaCorte, J.J.Dillon, R.C.McGill, R.Hazard) **5**

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.W.Hastings, C.J.Brown, J.B.DeFord) **33**

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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-Tamereane 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) **4**

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HOUSE AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southern Kid Music, ASCAP/Saxet HW Music, BMI (H.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Ailey) **13**

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) **17**

I

I AIN'T COMING BACK Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamereane 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) **26**

I DARE YOU Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/BSixteen Music, ASCAP (N.J.Jonas, Tommy James, S.Mooney, D.Whitmore, Jr.) **20**

I GOT BETTER Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philopians 4:7 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/Joel Reeves Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI (M.C.Wallen, M.W.Hardy, R.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-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (G.C.Birge, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, T.Anderson) **18**

I WISH YOU WOULD Mack Tack Tunes, BMI/Warner-Tamereane 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/Tompkins Family Vacation, ASCAP/1508 Creative Nation Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.E.Carpenter, J.Hutcherson, J.Moore, C.Tompkins) **57**

K

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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) **55**

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NEVER CALL AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Luck Tunes, BMI/World For Colton Venner, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Tea Farm Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI (G.Adcock, J.Taylor, C.Venner, J.Rauton) **43**

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S

SAME MOON Sony Countryside, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paullywood Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Chapter Blue, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Dtown Boogie Music, BMI (M.Tenpeny, P.D.Giovanni, D.Southerland, D.Wilson) **39**

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.Marlowe, T.Beathard, A.Goodloe, B.Springsteen) **52**

SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Sony Countryside, BMI/Story Farmer, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Dtown Boogie Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Feist Catalog, Inc., ASCAP (L.Wilson, T.Anderson, D.Wilson, A.Aibert, E.Y.Harburg, H.Arlen) **8**

A SONG TO SING Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/NaynerPuddinPie Publishing, SESAC/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI (M.Lambert, C.Stapleton, J.V.Frasure, J.Fleener) **32**

STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Warner-Tamereane Publishing Corp., BMI/WritersontheCormPublishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Chimney Pot Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Madfun, ASCAP/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/FBRL Country Tunes, BMI (D.Parker, G.Barham, S.Ellis, B.Bailey) **16**

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WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warabanger 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) **36**

WOULD IF I COULD Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **30**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webstring Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Drag Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP (P.C.Brust, C.Lucas, M.Dragstrem, J.Thompson) **38**

billboard



TOP BUSINESS MANAGERS

On Nov. 15, *Billboard* will showcase the most in-demand 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.

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

COUNTRY

DATA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

40 Years Ago

Steve Wariner's 'Fools' Paradise

In 1985, the singer-guitarist notched his second No. 1

Damn, that sounds like a quaint problem in 2025.

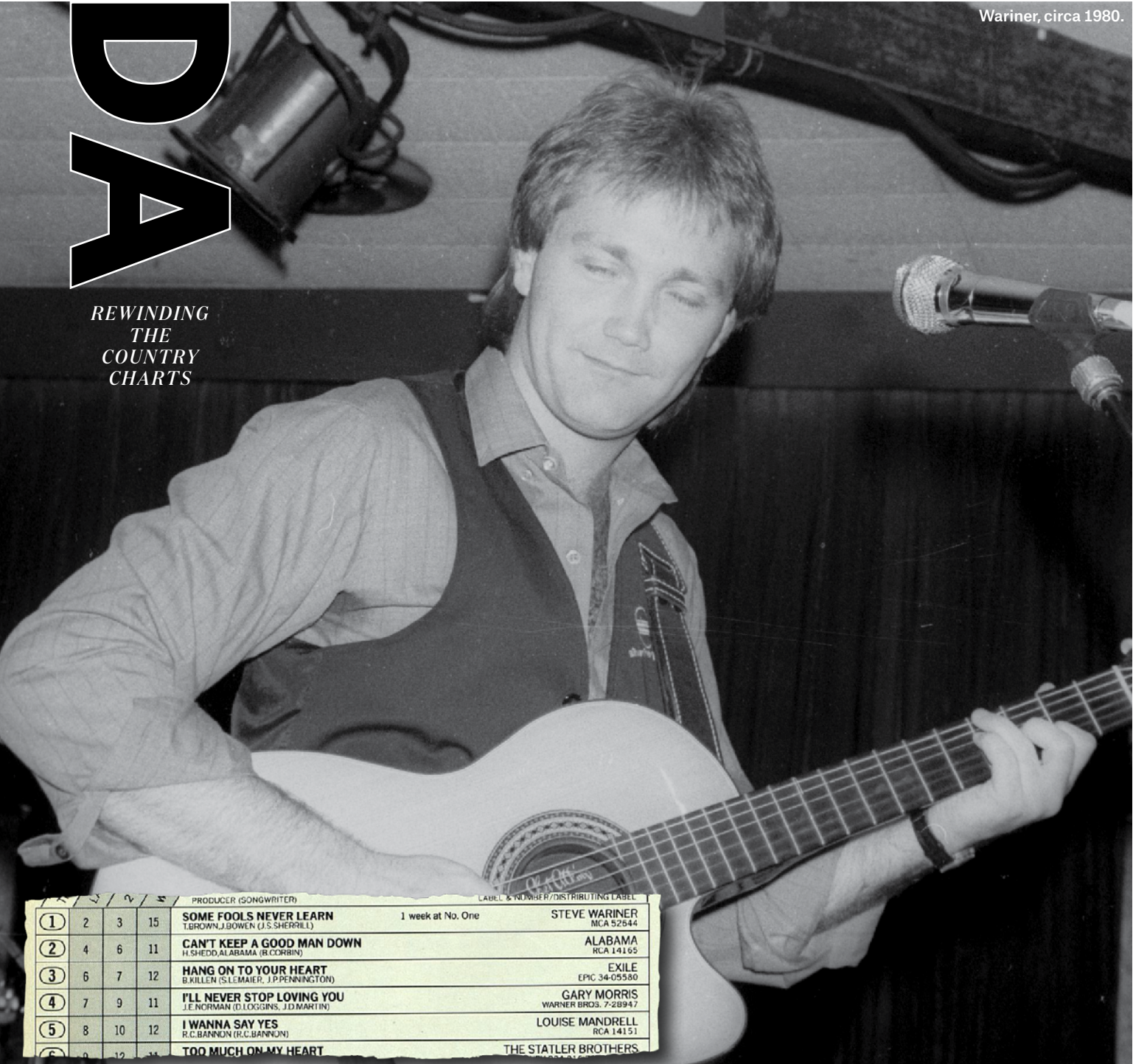
On Nov. 2, 1985, multit talented **Steve Wariner** secured the second of 10 No. 1 singles with “Some Fools Never Learn,” a song that tested his nice-guy image.

Wariner originally considered the song, penned by **John Scott Sherrill** (“Would You Go With Me,” “Wild and Blue”), for

his 1983 RCA album, *Midnight Fire*. But Wariner and producer **Tony Brown** (**Vince Gill**, **George Strait**) — who co-produced with **Jimmy Bowen** (**Reba McEntire**, **Mel Tillis**) — feared that the word “damn” in the second verse would offend part of his audience, so they passed. However, when it came time for his follow-up — 1985’s *One Good Night Deserves Another*, his first

MCA album — they moved forward with the song. As it turned out, “Fools” was gold, rising 2-1 in its 15th week on *Billboard*’s Hot Country Singles chart. It marked the eighth of 32 top 10 titles for Wariner.

Brown was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame on Oct. 19. Wariner joined the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in October 2022. —TOM ROLAND



Wariner, circa 1980.

				PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	1 week at No. One	LABEL & YEAR / DISTRIBUTING LABEL
①	2	3	15	SOME FOOLS NEVER LEARN T. BROWN, J. BOWEN (J. S. SHERRILL)		STEVE WARINER MCA 52544
②	4	6	11	CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN H. SHEDD, ALABAMA (B. CORBIN)		ALABAMA RCA 14165
③	6	7	12	HANG ON TO YOUR HEART B. KILLER (S. LEMAIER, J. P. PENNINGTON)		EXILE EPIC 34-05580
④	7	9	11	I'LL NEVER STOP LOVING YOU J. E. NORMAN (D. LOGGINS, J. D. MARTIN)		GARY MORRIS WARNER BROS. 7-28947
⑤	8	10	12	I WANNA SAY YES R. C. BANNON (R. C. BANNON)		LOUISE MANDRELL RCA 14151
⑥	9	12	14	TOO MUCH ON MY HEART		THE STATLER BROTHERS