

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com



How Country Songwriters Are Combatting — And Adopting — Artificial Intelligence

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When tracks by fictional artists **Breaking Rust** and **Cain Walker** earned top 10 status on *Billboard*'s Country Digital Song Sales in November through the use of artificial intelligence, Nashville's music community wrung its figurative hands, fearful what the future will bring now that the AI genie has permanently escaped the bottle.

The technology wasn't a surprise — some country songwriters have been Suno wrestling for the better part of a year — but the way in which it was employed in those public recordings was disturbing. It broke informal rules that

professional music makers have employed in their own work and raised important questions about the future of music creation.

"We're in a really weird time," **Priscilla Block** noted on the red carpet at the Country Music Association Awards. "We're all just trying to figure it out."

Suno is the AI music tool most often deployed in Nashville, used primarily to speed the process of production, to serve as a sounding board or to spur new ideas for creatives who find themselves stuck. The evolving perspective on Music Row held that AI productions were appropriate tools to build the demos that show a song's creative potential. Under that code, Suno music wasn't meant for retail consumption.

"If you use it as a tool, it's one thing," **Brantley Gilbert** sug-

gested. "If you use it as a whole vehicle, it's another."

That hasn't stopped the average consumer from using Suno in that way. The company claims that every two weeks, its users — primarily males, aged 25-34 — churn out as much new music as currently exists on Spotify. Much of it, however, is uninspired.

"Anything that AI has ever spit out, to me, is usually just super formulaic," **Tyler Rich** observed. "But there might be a word — like, one word in the verse — that I [keep], that flips your brain somewhere else. I have no problem with that. I think it's a great tool, but I

can't imagine AI writing a song that's going to get played on the radio."

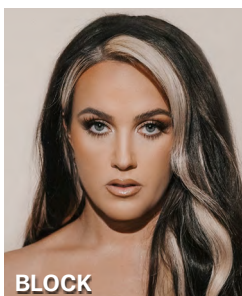
Rich recalled one of his first experiences with Suno, when he was one of three cowriters meeting one another for the first time. As a get-acquainted exercise, they threw some of their collective influences into an AI pot to see what it might create, then used that sound as a starting point for the song they wrote that day.

That, gauging by the guidelines followed by writer-producer **David Fanning** ("Tennessee Orange," "Gonna Love You"), would seem to be fair use. It provided a reference point, not an entire song.

"From the writers' room to a demo, I think it's cool, what you can do with it," Fanning said on the BMI Country Awards red



GILBERT



BLOCK



RICH

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carpet. “After that, I’m out on AI.”

While the average Suno consumer is under age 35, the country creators sampling the tool span a wider demographic range. **Adam Wheeler**, who started his songwriting career over two decades ago and has recent recordings by **Megan Moroney** and **Zach John King**, used Suno for the first time this fall to create the supporting music for a demo of a song he had written. An artist placed the song on hold, so the AI arrangement was at least strong enough to frame the actual material in a favorable light.

Suno isn’t an automatic success. Writers frequently run their songs through the platform three times or more before they get a version they like, and even that version will likely need some adjustments.

“I use Suno when I’m by myself and I just want to hear something,” songwriter **Dallas Davidson** (“Play It Again,” “Tonight Looks Good on You”) said. “I use it for the production, but then you still got to go tweak it.”

And even then, the results are likely missing an element that’s hard to quantify. “[Suno’s] got no soul in it,” Davidson said.

The technology raises obvious fears. As it develops, Suno could draw from the existing body of recorded music to develop new songs and put a dent in the income of real people who devote their professional lives to music. Even more immediately, the embrace of the technology by Nashville songwriters and producers could harm the development of aspiring musicians. Playing on demos is a traditional path into studio work, and the rise of automated forms could limit those recording opportunities.

“They’re kind of the soul of Nashville,” **HunterGirl** said. “What they bring to a song is just so valuable.”

Assuming the quality of AI recordings advances as quickly as AI images have, it could become near impossible to distinguish between live musicians and artificial sound within just a year, making it even more tempting for creators to increase their use of faux voices and instruments. That would certainly impact the economics for Nashville’s creative talent. Still, musicians have fended off mechanized music before—the drum machine, for example, was considered a threat to real drummers when it was developed in the 1980s, but many drummers simply adapted new skills and treated programmed sounds as an extension of their art.

“I’ve been doing this long enough—we didn’t have streaming, we didn’t have social media when I started,” said **Dustin Lynch**. “We didn’t have drum tracks to write to. We didn’t have any of the editing software we have and we’ve weathered it just fine.”

Creators are hoping for some mix of legal protection and industry self-regulation, not only for the benefit of music pros, but also for the general public, which arguably has a right to know when the music it’s ingesting is artificial.

“At the end of the day,” **Hunter Hayes** said, “we’re making the music for other people. To me, if we’re talking about protecting anything, it’s the integrity of the thing that we’re making because of the people that we’re making it for. We owe them a human conversation, so I want to make sure that that stays at the heart of it.” ●



Tucker Wetmore (center) headlined the **KNIX Phoenix Hometown Holiday** at the **Celebrity Theatre** on **Dec. 1**. With him are **KNIX PD/afternoon talent Reid Spivey** and **music director/midday host Lois Lewis**.



Trisha Yearwood was effusive in her praise of **Nashville Symphony** conductor **Enrico Lopez-Yañez**, pictured here **Dec. 3** at the **Schermerhorn Symphony Center**, the first venue she visited on her **Christmastime With Trisha Yearwood Tour**.



HARDY and **Lauren Alaina** perform during the **Dec. 2 American Cancer Society Country vs. Cancer** benefit at **The Pinnacle** in **Nashville**, where more than **\$350,000** was raised.

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Parmalee Rides To Fifth Country Airplay No. 1 With ‘Cowgirl’

Parmalee earns its fifth No. 1 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart as “Cowgirl” (Stoney Creek) rises three spots to the top of the list dated Dec. 13, up 6% to 27.2 million audience impressions Nov. 28–Dec. 4, according to Luminate. The song lifts to the summit in its 48th week.

“Cowgirl” is the lead single from the four-man band’s eighth studio set, *Fell in Love With a Cowgirl*, released in April. Each band member — **Barry Knox**, **Josh McSwain**, **Matt Thomas** and **Scott Thomas** — shares co-writer credit on the song with five others, including longtime collaborator **David Fanning**, who also co-produced it.

By count of Country Airplay No. 1s dating to the band’s debut on the chart dated July 21, 2012, Parmalee ties **Lady A** for the third-most leaders among groups (of more than two members). Only **Old Dominion** (seven) and **Zac Brown Band** (six) have delivered more No. 1s among such acts in that time frame. **Eli Young Band** (three), **The Band Perry**, **Little Big Town** and **Rascal Flatts** (two each) follow in that stretch.

Parmalee links consecutive Country Airplay No. 1s for a second time, with “Cowgirl” the follow-up to “Gonna Love You,” which topped the Dec. 7, 2024, chart. The band previously ruled with back-to-back singles thanks to “Just the Way,” with **Blanco Brown**, for one week in March 2021 and “Take My Name” for two frames in June 2022. The group first led with “Carolina” for one week in December 2013. That song became Parmalee’s second entry, after “Musta Had a Good Time,” which reached No. 38 in October 2012. All 11 of the quartet’s chart entries have hit the top 40, with eight reaching the top 10. 🎧



MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+5.905
CHOOSIN’ TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+2.335
WHAT HE’LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	+1.531
COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+1.466
AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	+1.348
STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN’ Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	+1.331
DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+1.267
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	+1.261
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.206
THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	+1.052

MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+1597
CHOOSIN’ TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+467
DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+383
AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	+378
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+306
WHAT HE’LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	+305
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	+303
THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	+264
NOSE ON THE GRINDSTONE Hickman Holler/RCA	Tyler Childers	+264
TIME’S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	+261

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	19.392
2	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	18.361
3	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	18.150
4	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	18.121
5	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	17.928
6	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	14.906
7	I’M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	12.674
8	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	12.276
9	BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	11.204
10	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	10.471

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 4, 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	18	HOLD HER HORSES (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Jesse Raub Jr.	1800	131	11	12	15	TEXAS STRONG (Independent)	Aaron Loy	1200	42
2	3	24	LONELY OVER YOU (Warner Music Nashville)	William Beckmann	1707	60	12	15	12	TURQUOISE AND SILVER (Get Joe)	Billie Jo Jones	1192	77
3	4	24	TWO HANDS (Independent)	Pat Green and Corey Kent	1498	27	13	14	9	FLYIN’ (Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers)	Wade Bowen	1188	65
4	5	18	GUITAR IN MY HAND (Independent)	Tilluride	1487	56	14	11	25	BORN RUNNIN OUTTA TIME (Sony Music Group)	Lukas Nelson	1184	4
5	6	26	BAD REPUTATION (River House)	Grant Gilbert and Hudson Westbrook	1476	64	15	18	13	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (Bill Grease Rec)	William Clark Green	1142	84
6	7	10	PONTIAC (SO TELL ME MOMMA) (Adub/New Revolution)	Aaron Watson	1387	55	16	17	13	PRETTY WOMAN OF MINE (Independent)	Lee Thomas	1138	53
7	8	13	EVEN GIRLS LIKE YOU (Pretty Damn Tough)	Josh Abbott Band	1384	77	17	16	20	THE OLDER I GET (MORE COUNTRY I’M GETTING TO BE) (Fool Hearted)	Jon Wolfe	1134	23
8	10	19	DIED AND GONE COUNTRY (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1277	34	18	20	11	ROUGH SPOT (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1085	129
9	9	23	KEEP ME UP (Independent)	Hayden Haddock	1253	4	19	22	8	SOUTHERN KING (CDX)	Sandee June	1013	77
10	13	18	I WAS WRONG (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1216	74	20	19	13	IS THIS THING WORKIN’ (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band feat. Parker McCollum	989	28

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

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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	4	48	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	27.205	+1.466	6880	234	3
2	7	39	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	26.844	+5.905	7621	1597	1
3	5	21	DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	25.999	+0.595	7141	16	2
4	3	53	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	23.889	-2.408	5720	-912	6
5	6	34	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	23.397	+1.261	5892	213	4
6	8	22	6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	20.174	+0.960	5787	303	5
7	9	28	STAY COUNTRY OR DIETRIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	20.058	+1.331	5467	199	7
8	1	28	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	19.619	-8.425	4931	-2800	9
9	2	64	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	18.637	-9.261	5202	-2298	8
10	10	45	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	16.964	+0.640	4881	255	11
11	11	37	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	16.758	+0.434	4917	144	10
12	12	26	GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Leo33	Zach Top	15.552	+0.739	4584	202	12
13	13	12	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	15.092	+0.768	4390	157	13
14	14	9	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	14.036	+1.206	3763	306	15
15	15	50	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	13.204	+0.750	3783	261	14
16	19	7	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	12.781	+2.335	3259	467	18
17	16	12	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	12.464	+0.776	3490	152	16
18	17	22	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	12.057	+1.348	3110	378	20
19	18	43	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	10.780	+0.326	3403	108	17
20	20	44	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	10.161	+0.134	3089	-56	21
21	22	32	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	10.088	+1.531	3259	305	19
22	21	33	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	9.171	+0.498	2282	211	25
23	24	32	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	8.794	+1.052	2577	264	23
24	23	52	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House	Meghan Patrick	8.196	+0.403	2643	165	22
25	25	40	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	7.909	+0.458	2297	167	24
26	30	4	DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	6.323	+1.267	1876	383	31
27	26	34	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Stoney Creek/Lyric Ridge	Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	6.227	-0.089	1856	-1	32
28	27	55	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	5.837	+0.094	2103	-65	27
29	28	21	A SONG TO SING Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	5.823	+0.349	2197	70	26
30	29	24	WEAK Valory	Preston Cooper	5.523	+0.184	1952	19	28

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

billboard Country Airplay

 AIRPLAY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	31	27	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	4.983	+0.177	1951	-27	29
32	32	39	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	4.835	+0.367	1661	70	33
33	33	35	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	4.101	-0.220	1913	-74	30
34	34	17	MAKING GOOD TIME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	3.675	+0.359	1305	0	36
35	39	3	AFTER MIDNIGHT RCA Nashville	Nate Smith & Tyler Hubbard	3.529	+0.665	802	127	51
36	36	25	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	3.260	+0.143	1319	77	35
37	35	6	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	3.248	-0.019	1139	52	38
38	40	6	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	3.136	+0.334	1152	61	37
39	37	28	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	3.031	+0.017	1436	24	34
40	38	28	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	3.025	+0.121	1128	19	41
41	41	19	NEVER CALL AGAIN Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Gavin Adcock	2.792	+0.154	1138	-7	40
42	42	22	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	2.412	+0.081	1138	13	39
43	43	13	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	2.085	-0.005	819	42	49
44	45	11	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	2.041	+0.162	867	22	47
45	44	26	DRINK WITH YOU Nashville Harbor	Brett Young	1.990	-0.014	966	-2	43
46	46	8	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	1.987	+0.184	936	1	44
47	47	29	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Chase McDaniel/Big Machine	Chase McDaniel	1.755	+0.122	865	-12	48
48	49	10	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	1.574	+0.136	814	-20	50
49	48	3	TRAVELIN' SOLDIER CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	1.573	+0.054	261	37	-
50	50	6	THE HELL YOU ARE Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	1.543	+0.118	671	1	55
51	51	21	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	1.465	+0.088	870	18	46
52	53	12	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	Tumpike Troubadours	1.326	-0.018	415	11	-
53	54	18	NO TELLIN' True To The Song/Nashville Harbor	Caroline Jones	1.240	-0.071	1067	15	42
54	52	7	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	1.222	-0.123	893	-5	45
55	55	13	WE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Cole Swindell	1.186	-0.055	742	-15	53
56	58	3	STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Alexandra Kay/Wheelhouse	Alexandra Kay	1.145	+0.093	552	20	58
57	57	4	KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	1.130	+0.053	530	23	59
58	59	16	SEVENTEEN Columbia Nashville	Kameron Marlowe	1.093	+0.101	606	12	57
59	56	19	I WISH YOU WOULD Valory	Mackenzie Carpenter Featuring Midland	1.084	-0.003	715	-32	54
60	NEW		NOSE ON THE GRINDSTONE Hickman Holler/RCA ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker ★★	Tyler Childers	0.908	+0.395	794	264	52



A Dec. 1 Ashley Cooke & Friends benefit raised \$13,000 for ACM Lifting Lives at The Listening Room in Nashville. From left: Lifting Lives executive director Taylor Wolf, songwriter Kyle Sturrock, Cooke, Vincent Mason, McCoy Moore and Lifting Lives assistant Brooke Boyd.



Drew Baldridge (left) and Mickey Guyton performed "Joy to the World" on the Hallmark float during the Nov. 28 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

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East Coast/Midwest Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

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

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

R&B/Hip-Hop/Los Angeles Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

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CHRIS HOLLO

Grand Ole Opry host Charlie Matto (left) looked on as Larry Gatlin addressed the audience during the first Opry Country Christmas installment of 2025 on Nov. 30 in Nashville.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Dreamcatcher signed a deal with ONErpm to release **Tenille Arts'** next album, expected in 2026. The first new music since the agreement went into effect is "Don't Ruin Flowers," which was issued Dec. 5 ... **WNCY** Green Bay, Wis., morning host **Randy "Shotgun" Shannon** added brand manager to his duties, replacing **Dan Stone**, who retired after 34 years with parent Midwest Communications. Shannon has held an on-air role with the station since 2012 after rejoining the outlet, which he programmed in his first stint. Reach him [here](#) ... **KUAD** Fort Collins, Colo., morning co-host **Tanner Chambers** has parted ways with the station, RadioInk.com reported ... Saga/Harrisonburg, Va., hired **Tom Nankival** as GM for the nine-signal cluster, including country **WSIG**, according to RadioInk.com. It marks a return to the market for Nankival, who was most recently Mid-West Family Broadcasting/South Bend, Ind.-Southwest Michigan vp of sales ... **Mike McGuinness** will start Jan. 1, 2026, as iHeartMedia CFO, RadioInsight.com reported. The move is a promotion from his current role as executive vp/deputy CFO/head of investor relations ... **PickleJar Up All Night** announced Local Radio Networks has added the show on 80 outlet that carry the LRN 24/7 music format. The program relaunched in August from **WNNW** Nashville with co-hosts **Katie Cook** and **Scott Gaines** ... Premiere's *After MidNite With Granger Smith* will offer a four-hour holiday extra, *A Smith Family Christmas Special*, available for airing from Dec. 7-Jan. 4 ... Country Radio Seminar has instituted a series of discounted prices: a \$199 student rate, a \$299 unemployed professional rate, a \$349 day pass and a \$450 industry organization rate for members of the Women's Music Business Association, the Independent Broadcasters Association and the Society of Leaders in Development. CRS is scheduled for March 18-20 at the Omni Nashville Hotel.

'ROUND THE ROW

Music Row veteran **Jody Williams** formed Little Guitar Management as he takes over as personal manager for **Vince Gill**, succeeding **Larry Fitzgerald**, who managed the Country Music Hall of Fame member for more than 40 years. Fitzgerald will serve as a consultant to Williams while transitioning into retirement. Williams will continue as CEO of the company he founded, Jody Williams Songs. Reach him [here](#) for management concerns and [here](#) for publishing business ... Three executives left Venture Music to establish Industry Plant, a marketing agency that officially launched Dec. 3, led by founder/head of marketing **Dustin Boyer**, partner/head of operations **Bobby Dirienzo** and partner/creative director **Olivia Pierce**. During their time with Venture Music, Boyer was partner/vp of marketing, Dirienzo served as account manager, and Pierce was social media coordinator. Industry Plant's initial client list includes Warner Records Nashville, Red Street, Thirty Tigers and Quartz Hill Music Group ... Sony Music Publishing promoted Nashville-based **Jeff Smarr** to senior vp of global copyright from vp ... Nashville-based Luma Business Management promoted **Mallori Kirschenschlager** to partner from business manager. Reach her [here](#) ... The AristoMedia Group promoted **Taylor Dickens** to AristoPR senior publicist from publicist, and the company hired AristoPR publicity coordinator **Liza Anderson** and AristoDigital digital marketing coordinator **Amanda Anderson**. Liza was formerly *MusicRow* magazine project manager, and Amanda returns to the music business after a stint as Nashville Rescue Mission marketing and communications coordinator. Reach Dickens [here](#), Liza [here](#) and Amanda [here](#) ... **Sammy Arriaga** and **John PayCheck** tapped the Kirby Organization

for booking representation. **Michael Kelley** is the responsible agent for both artists ... Classic country artist **Josiah Siska** signed with Walk Off Entertainment for management ... **Madison Kozak** entered a co-publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville and The Core Entertainment ... Electric Feel Publishing and TurnTable Music signed artist-writer **Jeff Garrison** to a songwriting contract ... **Craig Campbell** opened his second Grindstone Cowboy coffee bar and live-music venue in Shelbyville, Tenn. The original location was founded in nearby Eagleville in 2022 ... The Academy of Country Music announced its 61st annual awards will return to the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on May 17, 2026, after three years in Frisco, Texas. Amazon's Prime Video will carry the ceremony once more ... The Country Music Association is holding its final round of balloting for the 20th annual CMA Touring Awards through Dec. 16, with **Keith Urban** returning as host of the ceremony on Jan. 27. Crew members listed as part of **Morgan Wallen's** team drew nine nominations, while **Lainey Wilson's** crew was cited directly eight times and **Chris Stapleton's** name appears next to seven nominees. Go [here](#) for the complete story ... Urban is also set to host the CMA Songwriters Series at C2C London on March 12 at indigo at the O2. The lineup includes **Ashley Cooke**, **Kristian Bush**, **Aaron Raitiere** and **Meg McRee** ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum opened a **Taylor Swift** pop-up exhibit featuring artifacts associated with her album *The Life of a Showgirl*. The display will remain open through Jan. 9. The exhibit comes on the heels of the museum earning national accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums for the fourth time. Only 3% of museums receive that designation, which is reviewed every 10 years ... **Chase Rice** is featured in Boot Barn's marketing campaign supporting the Cody James Black 1978 Collection of Western wear ... **The SteelDrivers**, **Charlie McCoy** and **The McCrary Sisters** participate in the 26th annual Nashville Unlimited Christmas Concert for Room in the Inn on Dec. 9 at Chris Church Cathedral ... Guitars signed by the likes of **Wynonna Judd**, **Zach Top**, **Riley Green** and **Jamey Johnson** are up for grabs at [Guitars4aCause.com](#) with proceeds earmarked for charities associated with law enforcement officers and their families ... **Dustin Lynch** raised over \$32,000 for local charities with his annual concert at Tullahoma High School in Tennessee on Dec. 2 ... **Chandler Walters** will hold his first Walters Western Christmas on Dec. 11 at Barstool Nashville to benefit the USO and The Independence Fund ... **Ashley McBryde** established a charity, Ashley McBryde's Light on Fund, named for her single "Light on in the Kitchen" ... Songwriter **Nicolle Galyon** ("Tequila") holds her second Hits from the Heartland fundraiser in Hutchinson, Kan., on Jan. 17, with fellow writers **Rodney Clawson** ("American Kids"), **Jimmy Robbins** ("The Bones") and **Chris Tompkins** ("Before He Cheats"). **Morgan Huelsman**, of iHeartMedia's *Bobby Bones Show*, will host ... Guitarist **Steve Cropper**, 84, died Dec. 3 in Nashville. Best known for his work at Memphis' Stax Records on cuts by **Sam & Dave**, **Eddie Floyd** and **Booker T & the M.G.'s**, he also played on **Wynonna's** country hit "Rock Bottom" and had two classics that he co-wrote become successful country singles in the 1980s: **Waylon Jennings & Willie Nelson's** "Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay" and **Razzy Bailey's** "In the Midnight Hour." ●



Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum writer-editor Jon Freeman interviewed bassist Alison Prestwood, who has worked on hits by Blake Shelton and LOCASH, on Nov. 22 for the museum's Nashville Cats series.



LEON DEBRONCE

Angie K (right) celebrated on Nov. 21, the day she was named artist of the year during the Origins Impact Awards, with fellow country artist Elsie in Nashville.

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/Barre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Back Black Publishing, BMI (C.LaCorte, R.C.McGill, J.L.Miller, B.Pendergrass) **14**

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.L.Miller, S.Overstreet, J.Reynolds) **2**

6 MONTHS LATER Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Giorgioanni, 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.Meson, R.Hatch) **6**

A

AFTER MIDNIGHT W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Designee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vibez From Tree Vibez Music, ASCAP/Concord Alto C1, ASCAP/Five Dicks Down Music Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/T Tree Music, BMI (C.Brown, C.Crowder, T.R.Hubbard) **35**

AIN'T A BAD LIFE Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Barre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Black Publishing, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain Tunes, ASCAP/Mark Trussell Pub Designee, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, M.Trussell) **17**

ALL MY EYES lylas 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 Albina, J.A.Gutch, B.C.Johnson, W.Phillips) **43**

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/Baile's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, BMI/Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI (C.O.Chibuzue, J.B.DeFord, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.W.Ennis, J.Gray, K.J.Powers, N.Sastry) **18**

B

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.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC (K.Ballerini, J.J.Dillon, K.Fairchild, H.Lindsey, A.Vanderhey) **39**

BEAUTIFUL THINGS Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Giorgioanni, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Trip/Re 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/Max McNow Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI/Fugitive Songs Publishing, BMI (M.McNow, J.Kennedy, A.A.Supples, T.K.Dabbs) **19**

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) **47**

C

CHEVY SILVERADO Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, BMI/Sparko Phone Music, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI (T.Beathard, J.Juber, G.J.Lucas, B.Zimmerman) **46**

CHOOSIN' TEXAS Langley Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Luke Dick Publishing Designee, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI (E.Langley, C.L.Dick, M.Lambert, J.Taylor) **16**

COWGIRL Tileyard Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sentric Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/NewManiac 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/Mattman R.Jay, T.F.R.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **1**

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**

DAYS LIKE THESE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Tiltawhirl Music, BMI/Lucky Tree Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/ONE TOOTH PRODUCTIONS, BMI/Super LCS Publishing, BMI (L.Combs, B.Cobb, A.Raltiere) **26**

DON'T MIND IF I DO Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI (R.Green) **3**

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 (C.Young, J.V.Frasure, T.Lucca, E.Weisband) **45**

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/PTNB Publishing, ASCAP (D.Lynch, B.J.Johnson, J.R.Hall, H.Phelps, Z.Crowell) **51**

ENDS OF THE EARTH Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **25**

F

THE FALL Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Music, 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) **23**

FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Biggie 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, 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.Aband, B.Bailey, C.Brown, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, N.Smith) **5**

FIREWORKS Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Music, BMI/Good Boy Gravy, BMI/Sony Countrywide, BMI/Edlidge One Music, BMI/Y'all Come Back Now, BMI/Taylor Goyette Entertainment, BMI (B.Baber, J.James, T.Goyette) **54**

G

GOLDEN CHILD Anthem Entertainment B, SOCAN/Iron Songbird Publishing B, BMI/Jackoby Songs II, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Sweet Baby RuRu Songs, BMI/World For Aaron Esthuis Concord Alto C1, ASCAP (M.Patrick, J.Hyde, A.Eshuis) **24**

GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Major Bob Productions, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Don't Worry 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) **12**

H

HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/Music By Elevation Worship Publishing, BMI/Be Essential Songs, BMI/Also Also Industries, BMI/Baile's Ballads, BMI (B.M.Lake, S.Furtick, B.Hastings, C.J.Brown, J.B.DeFord) **27**

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) **44**

HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Game Rooster Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI (E.Felker) **52**

THE HELL YOU ARE Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Thelma Two Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/The Blocks Are Back Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Better Bad Songs, SESAC/Philippines 4-7 Songs, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WeisOwl, ASCAP (A.Cooke, S.W.Ennis, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, E.L.Weisband) **50**

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) **11**

HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Trip/Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **13**

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/Redneck Music, BMI (M.C.Wallen, L.B.Bell, M.W.Hardy, A.R.Post, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **22**

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

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 Countrywide, BMI (G.C.Birge, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, T.Anderson) **10**

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/Tompkins Family Vacation, ASCAP/ISO8 creative Nation Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.E.Carpenter, J.Hutcherson, J.Moore, C.Tompkins) **59**

K

KID MYSELF Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Total Schmidt Songs, ASCAP (J.Morgan, T.R.Hubbard, J.M.Schmidt) **42**

KILLED THE MAN Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Riser House Tunes, SESAC/I Barely Even Know Er Music, BMI/International Dog Music, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/LuVegas Publishing, BMI/Sony Countrywide, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI (M.D.Whitworth, J.D.Conrad, T.Cartwright, C.B.Baldwin) **57**

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) **48**

M

MAKING GOOD TIME WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Twelve 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/South Of CT Publishing, BMI/Music Of Blackheart, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP (M.T.Ramsey, T.J.Rosen, B.F.Tursi, R.Copperman, Ross Ellis) **34**

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/Oakdale Market Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP (C.Janson, T.Phillips, A.G.Gorley, A.Sheridan) **31**

N

NEVER CALL AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Luck Tunes, BMI/World For Colton Venner, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Tea Farm Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI (G.Adoock, J.Taylor, C.Venner, J.Rauton) **41**

NOSE ON THE GRINDSTONE Hickman Holler Songs, BMI (T.Children) **60**

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) **53**

S

SAME MOON Sony Countrywide, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Pauitywood Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Chapter Blue, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Drown Boogie Music, BMI (M.Tenpenry, P.D.Giovanni, D.Southerland, D.Wilson) **40**

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, J.Taylor, B.Springsteen) **58**

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

A SONG TO SING Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/NaynerPuddinPie Publishing, SESAC/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI (M.Lambert, C.Stapleton, J.V.Frasure, J.Fleenor) **29**

STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/WritersontheconPublishing, 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.Bartam, S.Ellis, B.Bailey) **7**

STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Cinq Trax, ASCAP/Livvyridge Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/Karley Scott Collins Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Susan Perb Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Mod Junkie, BMI (J.Robbins, K.S.Collins, Sasha Alex Sloan) **56**

T

TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Silo, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI (B.Hapsilo, S.Mosley, J.Walker) **33**

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.Lundy, R.Montana, S.S.Stover) **15**

TRAVELIN' SOLDIER Bruce Robinson Music, BMI/Titawhirl Music, BMI (B.Robson) **49**

TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/WV2 Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Sony Countrywide, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Jake Mitchell Publishing Designee, BMI (J.Davis, D.Dawson, J.Mitchell, J.Thompson) **38**

W

WEAK W Music Corp., ASCAP/Ohiofrick Music, ASCAP/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC/Smokely Music, SESAC/Sonic Style Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamela Publishing Corp., BMI/742 Sage Songs, BMI/4WarrensMusic, BMI (P.Cooper, L.Miller, B.Warren, B.D.Warren) **30**

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) **55**

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) **21**

WHAT KINDA MAN Parkmarc 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) **9**

WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbranger Publishing, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Barre Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G.Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) **32**

WOULD IF I COULD Sony Acuff Rose Music, BMI (D.Dillon, S.Ewing) **28**

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) **36**

CODA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

30 Years Ago

Vince Gill Award-Winner
Climbed To Its Chart ‘High’

In 1995, Gill’s classic was supported by Patty Loveless and Ricky Skaggs

When **Vince Gill** delivered the welcoming speech at the Country Music Hall of Fame induction of producer **Tony Brown** on Oct. 19, he noted he would not have recorded “Go Rest High on That Mountain” without Brown’s urging.

“The rest,” Gill concluded, “is kind of pretty sweet history.”

“Go Rest High” was born of personal

grief. Gill started it following the 1989 death of **Keith Whitley** and finished it after the 1993 death of half-brother **Bob Coen**.

With Brown’s encouragement, the cut featured backing vocals by **Ricky Skaggs** and **Patty Loveless**. As a 4-minute ballad with a funereal theme, it was an unorthodox choice for a single, but it still climbed to No. 14 on *Billboard*’s Hot

Country Songs list dated Dec. 9, 1995.

The song’s value has far surpassed its chart peak: It won a Grammy Award and a Country Music Association Award for song of the year. Gill has since performed it at the funerals for at least 10 fellow Grand Ole Opry members, including **Roy Clark**, **Ralph Stanley** and **George Jones**.

—TOM ROLAND

Gill onstage at the 1995 Summerfest in Milwaukee.

				C. HOWARD (C.M. SPRIGGS, G. HEYDE)	(C) (D) (V) MCG CURB 76970	
13	13	18	9	CAN'T BE REALLY GONE J. STROUD, B. GALLIMORE (G. BURR)	◆ TIM MCGRAW (C) (D) (V) CURB 76971	13
14	15	19	15	GO REST HIGH ON THAT MOUNTAIN T. BROWN (V. GILL)	◆ VINCE GILL (V) MCA 55098	14
15	17	17	14	LOVE LESSONS T. BROWN (J. KILGORE, T. HEWITT, M. POWELL, S. MAJORS)	◆ TRACY BYRD (C) (V) MCA 55102	15
16	21	25	12	BORN IN THE DARK J. STROUD, D. STONE (C. HINESLEY)	DOUG STONE (V) COLUMBIA 78039	16
17	20	40	5	IT MATTERS TO ME J. STROUD, D. STONE (C. HINESLEY)	◆ FAITH HILL (V) MCA 55103	17