billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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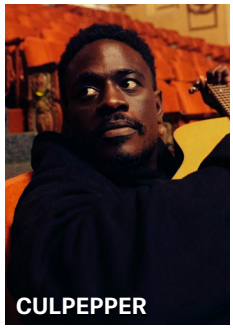
What's New? 16 Acts Prepping Their Inaugural Album Or EP During The First Half Of 2026

Country music's near future is in good hands, gauging by the sonic diversity of the new artists launching milestone first projects during the first six months of 2026.

The genre is in no way a monolith, and the acts releasing their debut albums or EPs through June 30 cover a gamut of styles and subgenres, from traditional-sounding **Braxton Keith** and **Lakelin Lemmings** to bluesy **Kashus Culpepper** to rough-and-rowdy duo **The Kruse Brothers**.


KEITH


LEMMINGS


CULPEPPER

Several – including Keith, **Redferrin** and **Graham Barham** – have already racked up RIAA gold certifications, and two more, **Atlus** and **Greylan James**, have current singles occupying slots on *Billboard's* Country Airplay.

Artists on this list are primarily plotting their first album or EP for a formal label between January and June, though at least one is self-releasing its debut LP.

Here's an overview of the newbies in launch mode during the first half of 2026:

• **Atlus** (Stoney Creek) – The Colorado native's *Secondhand Smoke* EP addresses numerous dark topics, employing an emotionalism that feels real, but not necessarily scary. His "Devil Ain't Done" is No. 58 on Country Airplay. His first major-label album arrives this spring.

• **Graham Barham** (Disruptor/Sony Music Nashville) – The "Stay Country or Die Tryin'" songwriter grew up playing baseball at Tim McGraw Park in Louisiana; now he grafts **Wallen**-like phrasing over hip-hop flavored programming. That approach turned his "Whiskey Whiskey" into RIAA-certified gold.

• **Kashus Culpepper** (Big Loud) – First album *Act I* arrives Jan. 23, matching the Alabaman's earthy rasp with raw country/Americana production, shaded by folk, blues and gospel. The Navy veteran's project reflects the casualness of the studio, a converted riverside mansion.

• **The Droptines** (Big Loud Texas) – With **Jon Randall** taking the production reins, the Austin-based quintet preps its first label-affiliated album, wrangling a large sound from minimal arrangements that draw from heartland rock and a string of one-nighters in beer-soaked barrooms.

• **Thomas Edwards** (Warner Nashville) – The Kingsport, Tenn., native documented his college football history in "Runnin' Through That T," an appreciative piece that fits between homey "I See You" and goofy "Drunk Enough." His past in-

KEITH: BENJAMIN HUMPHREY. LEMMINGS: KRISTIN BARLOWE CULPEPPER: CEDRICK JONES.A



cludes church music, cello and bluegrass.

• **Spencer Hatcher** (Stone Country) – He's endured a broken pelvis and his mother's murder, but fuels the heartache into forward motion, an appropriate determination from a traditionalist whose arrangements recall **George Strait** or **Aaron Tippin**. First album is due second quarter.

• **Greylan James** (Nashville Harbor) – His "Water at a Wedding," already a hit at SiriusXM, highlights James' guy-next-door tone and smart writing. He's now packaged it with "before" and "after" songs that expand the storytelling. Look for a spring debut album.

• **Coleman Jennings** (Big Loud Texas/Mercury) – *Ride On* – Jennings' first EP with a formal label, issued Jan. 9 – captures the unassuming, Austin-based troubadour's old-school underpinnings and trembling vibrato, solidifying his easy-going, modern folk sound after teaming with noted producer **Dave Cobb**.

• **Braxton Keith** (Warner Nashville) – His 2024 *Blue* EP yielded an RIAA-certified gold single, "Cozy," highlighting Keith's twangy tone and evocative vocal scoops. He blends a little **Tracy Lawrence**, a little Strait and a little blues, with a full album expected.

• **The Kruse Brothers** (Kruse Brothers Music) – Phoenix duo **Chandler** and **Miles Kruse** flash energetic, rock-'em, sock-'em country, full of grinding power and earned bravado. Their first rowdy album, *Heartbreak and Honky-Tonk*, arrives Jan. 23. Longneck salutes are sure to follow.

• **Alex Lambert** (Big Loud Texas) – He offers a gorgeous mix of sweet soul and relaxed country that, at times, evokes **Willie Nelson** or **Ray LaMontagne**. After two self-released packages, Lambert makes his debut with a full-fledged label later this spring.

• **Lakelin Lemmings** (Stone Country) – Her West Tennessee roots are evident in her Southern phrasing, delivered with **Faith Hill** and **Deborah Allen** tonality. Her dad, **Phillip Lemmings**, is a veteran country road guitarist. Lakelin's *Get Around Boy* EP arrives Feb. 6.

• **Madden Metcalf** (Wexler/MCA Nashville) – The swamp images in Metcalf's "IDWK" video fit – his family owns a shrimp restaurant on Florida's Gulf Coast, where he's gone gator-hunting. Produced by fellow artist **Freddy Wexler**, Metcalf owns an easy-access voice. EP to follow.

• **McCoy Moore** (Sony Music Nashville) – Encouraged by **Luke Combs**, Moore moved to Nashville at age 19, where he's developed a flair for subtly commercial melodies, encased in traditional environs. He tours with **HARDY** in 2026 ahead of his debut album.

• **Redferrin** (Round Here/Warner Nashville) – With several EPs and two gold singles in his pocket, Redferrin's drawling melodicism veers from modern mainstream to old-school folky-tonk. Signed to **Florida Georgia Line's** Round Here since 2019, he launches his first album this year.

• **2 Lane Summer** (Quartz Hill) – Illinois boy **Joe Hanson** and Mississippi native **Chris Ray** employ razor-sharp harmonies in a pop-country package brimming with reassurance. The next destination in 2 Lane's journey is a debut album, due in the second quarter.



Craig Campbell (center) dropped by PickleJar Up All Night supporting his current single, "Missing You," in a Dec. 12 chat with co-hosts Scott Gaines and Katie Cook.



Luke Bryan presented a CMA media achievement award to former CMT VP of music and talent Donna Duncan Dec. 16 at the KP Entertainment offices in Nashville.



Margo Price (left) performed Dec. 9 for inmates at the West Tennessee State Penitentiary in Henning, where she was joined by Tennessee Innocence Project spokesperson Joyce Watkins.

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



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JANUARY 24, 2026

billboard POWER 100

CELEBRATING THE POWER PLAYERS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

The 2026 **BILLBOARD POWER 100** will celebrate the executives who are creating excitement and making a difference in the global music industry. Featured will be those who have had the greatest impact in recorded music, live entertainment, touring, publishing, and other industry verticals within the past year.

Take this opportunity to congratulate the 2026 Billboard Power 100 honorees. Your ad will reach an influential and affluent audience of decision-makers in the global music industry.

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ISSUE DATE 1/24 | **AD CLOSE** 1/13 | **MATERIALS DUE** 1/15

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY LUMINATE

ON THE CHARTS RUSS PENUELL rpenuell@billboard.com

Blake Shelton Notches 30th Country Airplay Leader

Blake Shelton secures his milestone 30th No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "Stay Country or Die Tryin' " (Ten Point/Wheelhouse) lifts two spots on the ranking dated Jan. 17. The single delivered 29.5 million audience impressions (up 13%) during the Jan. 2-8 tracking week, according to Luminate.



COURTESY WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE

Written by **Beau Bailey, Graham Barham, Sam Ellis** and **Drew Parker**, the track marks another collaboration with longtime producer **Scott Hendricks**. Shelton last reached the summit as featured on **Post Malone**'s "Pour Me a Drink" for three weeks in October 2024. Before that, his "Happy Anywhere" and "Nobody but You," both with **Gwen Stefani**, ruled in 2020. He earns his first leader as the sole billed artist on a song since "God's Country" in 2019. Shelton first topped the chart, for five weeks, in 2001 with his debut single, "Austin," which remains his longest-held No. 1.

With 30 Country Airplay leaders, Shelton moves solely into second place on the chart's all-time leaderboard, trailing only **Kenny Chesney**'s 33 since the ranking launched in 1990. **Tim McGraw** places third with 29 No. 1s, while **Luke Bryan, Alan Jackson** and **George Strait** each claim 26. **Jason Aldean** has notched 25, **Keith Urban** and **Thomas Rhett**, 21 each, and **Brooks & Dunn, Toby Keith** and **Brad Paisley**, 20 apiece. **Garth Brooks, Luke Combs** and **Morgan Wallen** follow with 19 each, ahead of **Dierks Bentley**'s 18 and **Florida Georgia Line** and **Carrie Underwood**'s 16 each.

TOP 10 'AGAIN' **Hudson Westbrook**'s "House Again" (River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR) returns to the Country Airplay top 10 (11-10; 19.6 million, up 6%). Over the holidays, Westbrook became the fifth and final act of 2025 to reach top 10 for the first time, joining **Hootie & the Blowfish** ("Bottle Rockets," with **Scotty McCreery**), **John Morgan** ("Friends Like That," featuring **Jason Aldean**), **Josh Ross** ("Single Again") and **Zach Top** ("I Never Lie"). In 2024, 16 acts logged their first top 10s on the chart.

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse	**Blake Shelton**	+3.394
CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	**Ella Langley**	+1.927
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	+1.361
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	**HARDY**	+1.285
HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	**Jason Aldean**	+1.169
AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	**Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis**	+1.134
DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	**Luke Combs**	+1.118
HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	**Hudson Westbrook**	+1.084
AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	**Shaboozey & Jelly Roll**	+1.056
IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	**George Birge**	+0.901

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse	**Blake Shelton**	+1152
CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	**Ella Langley**	+425
HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	**Jason Aldean**	+390
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	+376
HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	**Hudson Westbrook**	+356
ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	**Ty Myers**	+310
6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	**Megan Moroney**	+299
FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	**HARDY**	+293
IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville	**George Birge**	+277
AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	**Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis**	+276

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	**DARLIN'** Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	**Chase Matthew**	19.399
2	**I GOT BETTER** Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	19.101
3	**AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED** Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	**Thomas Rhett**	18.973
4	**HAPPEN TO ME** Triple Tigers	**Russell Dickerson**	16.050
5	**GOOD NEWS** American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	**Shaboozey**	14.987
6	**HEART OF STONE** Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	**Jelly Roll**	14.558
7	**JUST IN CASE** Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	14.127
8	**HIGH ROAD** YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	**Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph**	11.920
9	**I'M THE PROBLEM** Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	11.482
10	**LIAR** Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	**Jelly Roll**	10.216

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 8, 2026

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/–
1	1	29	**BAD REPUTATION** (River House) ★★ 3 Weeks at 1 ★★	**Grant Gilbert and Hudson Westbrook**	1700	0
2	2	21	**GUITAR IN MY HAND** (Independent)	**Tilluride**	1558	0
3	3	16	**EVEN GIRLS LIKE YOU** (Pretty Damn Tough)	**Josh Abbott Band**	1479	0
4	4	13	**PONTIAC (SO TELL ME MOMMA)** (Adub/New Revolution)	**Aaron Watson**	1458	0
5	5	22	**DIED AND GONE COUNTRY** (Independent)	**Curtis Grimes**	1368	0
6	6	21	**I WAS WRONG** (Independent)	**Mike Ryan**	1311	0
7	7	12	**FLYIN'** (Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers)	**Wade Bowen**	1298	0
8	8	15	**TURQUOISE AND SILVER** (Get Joe)	**Billie Jo Jones**	1285	0
9	9	16	**WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE** (Bill Grease Rec)	**William Clark Green**	1213	0
10	10	18	**TEXAS STRONG** (Independent)	**Aaron Loy**	1209	0
11	11	23	**THE OLDER I GET (MORE COUNTRY I'M GETTING TO BE)** (Fool Hearted)	**Jon Wolfe**	1206	0
12	12	26	**KEEP ME UP** (Independent)	**Hayden Haddock**	1203	0
13	13	16	**PRETTY WOMAN OF MINE** (Independent)	**Lee Thomas**	1188	0
14	14	14	**ROUGH SPOT** (Independent)	**Tristan Roberson**	1181	0
15	15	11	**SOUTHERN KING** (CDX)	**Sandee June**	1148	0
16	16	16	**IS THIS THING WORKIN'** (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	**Randy Rogers Band feat. Parker McCollum**	1054	0
17	17	15	**HONKY TONK HEART** (Independent)	**David Lewis feat. Randall King**	979	0
18	18	27	**TWO HANDS** (Independent)	**Pat Green and Corey Kent**	949	0
19	19	21	**BETTER OFF ALONE** (Jaydon Grissom Music)	**Jaydon Grissom**	946	0
20	20	19	**HEARTBREAK QUEEN** (Fame Records)	**Kensie Coppin**	930	0

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 2026, Texas Regional Radio Report

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) THIS WEEK	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) +/–	PLAYS THIS WEEK	PLAYS +/–	RANK
1	3	33	**STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN'** Ten Point/Wheelhouse ★★ No. 1 (1 Week)/ Most Increased Audience ★★	Blake Shelton	29.540	+3.394	8179	1152	1
2	1	53	**COWGIRL** Stoney Creek	Parmalee	29.415	-2.818	7284	-960	3
3	2	39	**FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG** Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	29.376	+1.285	7686	293	2
4	5	12	**CHOOSIN' TEXAS** SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	25.085	+1.927	6334	425	5
5	4	26	**DON'T MIND IF I DO** Nashville Harbor	Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	23.529	-2.094	6120	-547	6
6	6	27	**6 MONTHS LATER** Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	23.461	+0.877	6734	299	4
7	7	17	**HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO** Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	22.434	+1.169	6108	390	7
8	8	50	**IT WON'T BE LONG** RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	21.321	+0.901	5818	277	8
9	10	14	**20 CIGARETTES** Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	20.528	+1.361	5423	376	10
10	11	42	**HOUSE AGAIN** River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	19.648	+1.084	5808	356	9
11	12	27	**AMEN** American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	19.208	+1.056	4658	247	11
12	13	17	**AIN'T A BAD LIFE** Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	16.116	+1.134	4424	276	12
13	14	55	**TIME'S TICKING** Valory	Justin Moore	15.598	+0.769	4334	155	13
14	16	37	**WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE** Curb	Dylan Scott	13.341	+0.677	3788	100	15
15	15	48	**BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES)** Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	13.190	+0.185	4133	168	14
16	18	9	**DAYS LIKE THESE** Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	12.375	+1.118	3377	154	18
17	17	37	**THE FALL** CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	12.350	+0.784	3432	175	17
18	19	49	**I DARE YOU** Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	11.648	+0.639	3726	139	16
19	20	38	**I AIN'T COMING BACK** Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	10.887	+0.575	2667	108	21
20	21	45	**ENDS OF THE EARTH** RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville ★★ Airpower ★★	Ty Myers	10.519	+0.821	3021	310	19
21	22	57	**GOLDEN CHILD** Riser House	Meghan Patrick	8.892	+0.519	2543	18	22
22	23	26	**A SONG TO SING** Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	8.622	+0.762	2807	156	20
23	25	44	**WISH YOU WELL** Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	6.530	+0.412	2189	78	24
24	24	39	**HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH** Brandon Lake/Essential/Stoney Creek/Lyric Ridge	Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	6.332	-0.072	1760	-60	29
25	26	32	**ME & A BEER** Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	6.313	+0.705	2301	216	23
26	28	11	**TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND** MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	5.683	+0.494	2000	187	27
27	27	22	**MAKING GOOD TIME** Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	5.674	+0.401	1999	146	28
28	29	29	**WEAK** Valory	Preston Cooper	5.505	+0.711	2053	78	25
29	31	40	**TIL THE LAST ONE DIES** Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	4.775	+0.279	2033	64	26
30	30	8	**AFTER MIDNIGHT** RCA Nashville	Nate Smith & Tyler Hubbard	4.666	+0.169	1191	36	35

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 © 2026, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed in Luminate's online platform.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) THIS WEEK	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) +/–	PLAYS THIS WEEK	PLAYS +/–	PLAYS RANK
31	32	11	**BEAUTIFUL THINGS** Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	**Megan Moroney**	**4.141**	-0.006	1449	43	32
32	34	30	**WRONG HEARTS** BMG/Galaxy Label Group	**LOCASH**	**4.072**	+0.054	1638	117	31
33	33	24	**NEVER CALL AGAIN** Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	**Gavin Adcock**	**3.729**	-0.295	1397	-29	33
34	35	33	**BAGGAGE** Black River	**Kelsea Ballerini**	**3.585**	+0.218	1664	76	30
35	36	13	**CHEVY SILVERADO** Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	**Bailey Zimmerman**	**3.419**	+0.493	1379	125	34
36	38	5	**ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW** Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	**Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel**	**2.769**	+0.116	1049	79	39
37	39	27	**KID MYSELF** Night Train/Broken Bow	**John Morgan**	**2.753**	+0.154	1178	43	36
38	37	16	**HATE HOW YOU LOOK** The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	**Josh Ross**	**2.649**	-0.010	1141	-1	37
39	40	18	**ALL MY EXES** Mercury/Big Loud	**Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew**	**2.541**	+0.080	918	32	43
40	45	4	**BRUNETTE** Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	**Tucker Wetmore**	**2.391**	+0.631	657	261	53
41	41	31	**DRINK WITH YOU** Nashville Harbor	**Brett Young**	**2.232**	+0.016	1135	24	38
42	42	8	**TRAVELIN' SOLDIER** CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	**Cody Johnson**	**2.030**	-0.119	420	-16	-
43	55	2	**CHANGE MY MIND** Nashville Harbor	**Riley Green**	**1.923**	+0.732	753	235	50
44	48	4	**SOUTH OF SANITY** Leo33	**Zach Top**	**1.887**	+0.420	533	98	57
45	46	15	**LONG LIVE COUNTRY** Triple Tigers	**Shane Profitt**	**1.856**	+0.126	902	55	45
46	44	34	**BURNED DOWN HEAVEN** Chase McDaniel/Big Machine	**Chase McDaniel**	**1.756**	-0.027	916	50	44
47	43	26	**EASY TO LOVE** Broken Bow	**Dustin Lynch**	**1.740**	-0.057	944	42	42
48	47	11	**THE HELL YOU ARE** Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	**Ashley Cooke**	**1.664**	-0.054	794	8	48
49	52	12	**FIREWORKS** Curb	**Kelsey Hart**	**1.428**	+0.044	955	65	41
50	54	9	**KILLED THE MAN** Curb	**Lee Brice**	**1.424**	+0.140	661	49	52
51	51	8	**STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART** Alexandra Kay/Wheelhouse	**Alexandra Kay**	**1.378**	-0.014	706	20	51
52	53	17	**HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH** Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	**Turnpike Troubadours**	**1.362**	+0.052	420	21	-
53	50	18	**WE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON** Warner Records Nashville/WAR	**Cole Swindell**	**1.350**	-0.044	815	-27	47
54	49	23	**NO TELLIN'** True To The Song/Nashville Harbor	**Caroline Jones**	**1.289**	-0.162	1030	24	40
55	56	24	**I WISH YOU WOULD** Valory	**Mackenzie Carpenter Featuring Midland**	**1.135**	-0.009	761	40	49
56	57	7	**DREAM COME TRUE** Big Machine	**Carly Pearce**	**1.110**	+0.060	817	45	46
57	58	5	**DEVIL AIN'T DONE** Stoney Creek	**Atlus**	**1.074**	+0.040	590	8	55
58	NEW		**WORTH YOUR WILD** Triple Tigers ★★ Hot Shot Debut/ Breaker ★★	**Russell Dickerson**	**0.924**	+0.096	617	85	54
59	60	3	**WATER AT A WEDDING** Nashville Harbor	**Greylan James**	**0.850**	-0.037	531	3	59
60	59	20	**SEVENTEEN** Columbia Nashville	**Kameron Marlowe**	**0.767**	-0.159	465	-52	-



Big Machine Music staff writer Laura Veltz received an RIAA-certified platinum single Dec. 12 for her participation in the Koe Wetzel/Jessie Murph collaboration "High Road." From left: Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta, RIAA senior VP of artist and industry relations Jackie Jones, Veltz, Big Machine Music senior VP Alex Heddle and Big Machine Music president Mike Molinar.



Zach John King performed three songs for Academy of Country Music (ACM) staff during a Dec. 18 visit to the organization's Nashville offices. From left: Hyphen Media Group founder Matt Reed, ACM CEO Damon Whiteside, King and ACM industry relations & awards head Haley Montgomery.

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The FINANCE *50*

On January 24, 2026 *Billboard* will publish its inaugural Financial 50 list, breaking out this sector to shine a brighter spotlight on the world's most influential investors, financiers and expert advisers who are shaping music through money. Our list includes Wall Street titans and private wealth funds, globe-trotting investment bankers and the most trusted local lenders, and many risk takers from deep-pocketed private equity firms to the venture investors at the cutting edge. These are the people who operate behind the scenes cutting the checks and providing expert advice for the deals that *Billboard* covers every day.

Advertise in this issue to reach these daring dealmakers looking for their next investments in music - and inquire about sponsoring our Finance 50 event January 27 in Los Angeles.

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ISSUE DATE 1/24 | **AD CLOSE** 1/13 | **MATERIALS DUE** 1/15

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



Kameron Marlowe participated Dec. 10 in the WAMZ Louisville Acoustic Jam at The Palace. With him: WAMZ personality Rachel Elliott (center) and Sony Music Nashville director of radio marketing & promotion.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Big Loud Records institutes co-presidents beginning Feb. 2. **Stacy Blythe** is promoted to the position immediately from executive VP of promotion, while **Jordan Pettit** takes the other co-president slot on Groundhog Day. Pettit is currently Opry Entertainment Group VP of artist & industry relations ... **Jay Cruze** rose to Big Machine Label Group national director of radio strategy from Big Machine Records director of Southeast promotion & marketing ... Lost Highway signed artist-writer **Meels** to a recording deal with an EP, *Across the Raccoon Strait*, due Jan. 30 ... Truly Handmade partners with **Tim Easton's** label, Campfire Propaganda, for the Feb. 20 release of the singer-songwriter's *fIREHORSE* album on Feb. 20... Bluegrass label Huckleberry signed **Brad Kaylor & Mineral Bluff Revue** to a recording deal. The first single in the agreement, "My Last Name," arrives March 13 ... **KUPL** Portland, Ore., launches a new morning show Jan. 20 with **Jeff "JR" Ramsey**, **Jake Byron** and **Mallory Santic**. Ramsey was most recently afternoon host/regional production director for top 40 **WJBQ** Portland, Maine. Byron returns after he was let go in July following Connoisseur's acquisition of the station from Alpha Media. Santic is a social media influencer and former *Love Island* contestant ... **KPNW** Seattle installed **Tanner Chambers** as morning host beginning Jan. 5. He was most recently **KUAD** Fort Collins, Colo., morning co-host. The KPNW gig was previously filled by **Fitz**, who ended his run at the station Dec. 31. He remains host of Skyview Networks' *Country Top 40 with Fitz* ... **Debra Killick** was promoted to Cumulus/Melbourne, Fla., president/market manager at the start of the year, following five years as the cluster's general sales manager. Among the three stations in her portfolio is country **WHKR** ... **Andrea Ayers** rose to VP/market manager for Cumulus/Lexington, Ky., on Jan. 1 from sales manager. The four-station group includes country **WVLK** ... Cumulus/Dallas launched classic country **WBAP-HD2** on Dec. 15, kicking off the 1970s and '80s format with **George Strait's** "Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind." It's the cluster's third country outlet, joining **KPLX** and **KSCS** ... Audacy/Greenville, S.C., launched country **WROQ** on Dec. 19, replacing a classic-rock format that ran for nearly four decades ... Beasley Media Group promoted **John Coury** to VP of treasury from director. He doubles as the company's corporate controller ... **Joe Maumee** starts Jan. 12 as **KNCI** Sacramento morning co-host with **AJ Maguire** aboard in afternoons, RadioInk.com reported. Maumee was most recently on air with crosstown classic rock outlet **KYRV**. Maguire previously hosted mornings at adult contemporary **KSNE** Las Vegas ... **KBAY** San Jose shifted **Danny Miller** to mornings, according to RadioInsight.com. Taking his previous midday role is **Tony Michaels**, familiar to listeners as a weekend voice ... **WFGY** Altoona, Pa., morning co-hosts **Jojo** and **Alyssa "Lily" Sansone** both split from the station in separate decisions since December, RadioInsight.com reported ... Performers for the Country Radio Seminar (CRS) New Faces of Country Music will be **Kelsey Hart**, **Ella Langley**, **Chase Matthew**, **John Morgan**, **Meghan Patrick** and **Josh Ross**. Additionally, songwriters **Rhett Akins** ("Honey Bee"), **Jim Beavers** ("Drink a Beer") and **The Warren Brothers** ("Highway Don't Care") were added to the CRS showcase Bob Kingsley's Acoustic Alley. CRS takes place March 18-20 in Nashville ... **KQKI** Morgan, La., PD **Mac Bruno** received the Steve Ferguson CRS Scholarship from Grass-Roots Promotion, granting him free registration.

'ROUND THE ROW

Back Blocks Music promoted **Elizabeth Cook** to creative director from coordinator, and the company hired two additional employees: director of digital marketing **Megan Clemens**, formerly CSM Management head of digital; and marketing coordinator **Laine Lonero**, a Belmont University graduate who interned for the company in 2024 ... Results Global announced two new hires. **Kelly Ridgway** arrives as global marketing lead/head of the New York office, transitioning from CTK Enterprises VP of global marketing. **Abby Kovacevich** was named manager of marketing & communications. She was formerly a publicist with Triple 7. Reach Ridgway here and Kovacevich here ... **Margo Price** signed a publishing agreement with Warner Chappell Nashville ... Eclipse Music Group acquired a share of songwriter **Emily Shackleton's** catalog, paced by the **Carly Pearce** hit "Every Little Thing" ... **Sammy Arriaga** engaged The Kirby Organization for concert booking ... **Terri Clark** was recognized with the Order of Canada ... Equal Access, an equity initiative developed by mtheory, will provide a year of additional training to two of its previous artist participants in addition to training for all of its previous managers in lieu of naming new beneficiaries in 2026 ... The Nashville Songwriters Association International slated its 34th annual Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival for March 24-28 ... Backstage Access Presents, founded by **Bobbii Jacobs**, announced a cross-genre destination series that uses the company name. The first installment is Backstage Access Presents Napa Valley, scheduled for April 14-16 ... **Neal McCoy** partnered with Allied Flag in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of his Facebook Pledge of Allegiance campaign Jan. 7 ... **Jamey Johnson** and **Megan Moroney** perform an acoustic benefit Jan. 15 at The Fennec in Birmingham, Ala., to support their charitable foundations ... Grand Ole Opry member **Stu Phillips**, 92, died Dec. 25. He was the Opry's oldest living member and had been affiliated with the **WSM-AM** Nashville show since 1967 ... Music journalist **Bob Allen**, 77, died Dec. 10 in Washington, D.C. A former editor with *Country Music* magazine, he wrote or edited a number of books related to the genre, including *George Jones: The Life and Times of a Honky Tonk Legend* and *The Billboard Illustrated Encyclopedia of Country Music*. Go here for a complete obituary ... Songwriter **Jim McBride**, 78, died on Jan. 6. The Huntsville native was a member of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and a 2017 inductee in the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. His hit list included **Alan Jackson's** "Chattahoochee" and "Chasin' That Neon Rainbow," **Waylon Jennings'** "Rose in Paradise" and **Tammy Cochran's** "Angels in Waiting." Go here for the full story ... Longtime BMI VP **Roger Sovine**, 82, died Dec. 23 at Alive Hospice in Nashville. The son of country artist **Red Sovine**, Roger played a quiet role in numerous artists' careers, including **Vince Gill**, **Keith Urban** and **Brooks & Dunn**. He also served on numerous boards, receiving the Nashville Recording Academy's Governors Award in 2000. Go here for the complete story.



TERRY WYATT GETTY IMAGES

Maggie Rose (left) and Chris Isaak participated in *Anzie Blue New Year's Eve* from Nashville, livestreamed on CNN.com with two performance segments televised Dec. 31 on CNN. With them is CNN anchor Lynda Kinkade.

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CHRISTIAN MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

Touring by contemporary Christian music acts is soaring, with some artists seeing attendance rise close to 40% year over year. This special feature will focus on the acts who are spreading their message to a bigger and broader audience and the booking agencies helping facilitate them.

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ISSUE DATE 2/7 | **AD CLOSE** 1/27 | **MATERIALS DUE** 1/29

billboard Country Airplay 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 10 Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI *(C.LaCorte, R.C.McGill, J.L.Miller, B.Pendergrass)* **9**

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)* **6**

A

AFTER MIDNIGHT W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Desingee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vibez From Tree Vibez Music, ASCAP/Concord Alto CC1, ASCAP/Five Docks Down Music Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/T Tree Music, BMI *(C.Brown, C.Crowder, T.R.Hubbard)* **30**

AIN'T A BAD LIFE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain Tunes, ASCAP/Mark Trussell Pub Dessignee, ASCAP *(Thomas Rhett, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, M.Trussell)* **12**

ALL MY EXES Lylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBEAT PUBLISHING, BMI/Only Legneds Music, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Hoops Don't Lie Publishing, BMI/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI *(Lauren Alaina, J.A.Gutch, B.C.Johnson, W.Phillips)* **39**

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/Essancy 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.Chibueze, J.B.DeFord, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.W.Ennis, J.Gray, K.J.Powers, N.Sastry)* **11**

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-Tamerlane 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.Vanderheym)* **34**

BEAUTIFUL THINGS Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triple 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)* **31**

BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Max McNown Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI/Fugitive Songs Publishing, BMI *(M.McNown, J.Kenney, A.A.Suppelsa, T.K.Dabbs)* **15**

BRUNETTE Concord Tunes, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI *(C.LaCorte, R.C.McGill, J.L.Miller, B.Pendergrass)* **40**

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)* **46**

C

CHANGE MY MIND Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Flatland Boy Music, BMI/Hit Songs Of 50 Egg Music, BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI *(R.Green, Erik Dylan, R.Montana)* **43**

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-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI *(T.Beathard, I.Juber, G.J.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman)* **35**

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)* **4**

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/8956 Music, BMI/Parmalee Music Publishing, BMI/Matt Thomas Muisc Publishing, BMI *(J.D.Lewis, D.Fanning, P.D.Newman, R.Jay, T.F.R.Horsley, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas)* **2**

D

DAYS LIKE THESE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Tiltawhirl Music, BMI/Lucky Three Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/ONE TOOTH PRODUCTIONS, BMI/Super LCS Publishing, BMI *(L. Combs, B.Cobb, A.Raitiere)* **16**

DEVIL AIN'T DONE Atlus Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/SpiritVault Songs II, ASCAP/4Ever Songz, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbanger Publishing, BMI *(S.Haywood, D.A.Garcia, G.Warburton)* **57**

DON'T MIND IF I DO Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI *(R.Green)* **5**

DREAM COME TRUE BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Redfeather Publishing, ASCAP/Razor And Tie Music Publishing, BMI/Tofer The Musical, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/This Is Chromatic Music, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/WeisOwl, ASCAP *(C.Pearce, T.Brown, L.Hungate, E.L.Weisband)* **56**

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, T.Lucca, E.L.Weisband)* **41**

E

EASY TO LOVE Hit Train Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/HALLPASS, ASCAP/Turntable Music Pub, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Rocky Creek James, ASCAP/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/PTNB Publishing, ASCAP *(D. Lynch, B.J.Johnson, J.R.Hall, H.Phelps, Z.Crowell)* **47**

ENDS OF THE EARTH Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI *(T.Myers)* **20**

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/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI *(B.Pinson, R.Fulcher, J.S.Stover)* **17**

FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/FBRL Country Tunes, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Coreent Music, ASCAP/Nate Smith Music Publishing Company, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Desingee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI *(M.W.Hardy, Z.Abend, B.Bailey, C.Brown, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, N.Smith)* **3**

FIREWORKS Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Music, 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)* **49**

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 Eshuis Concord Alto CC1, ASCAP *(M. Patrick, J.Hyde, A.Eshuis)* **21**

H

HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/Music By Elevation Worship Publishing, BMI/Be Essential Songs, BMI/Also Also Indsutries, BMI/Bailee's Ballads, BMI *(B.M.Lake, S.Furtick, B.W.Hastings, C.J.Brown, J.B.DeFord)* **24**

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)* **38**

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

THE HELL YOU ARE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Twelve 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/Philippians 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)* **48**

HOUSE AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Party Of 3 Songs, ASCAP/Southend Kid Music, ASCAP/Saxet HW Music, BMI *(H.Westbrook, N.A.Medley, D.Alley)* **10**

HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI *(K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan)* **7**

I

I AIN'T COMING BACK Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bell Ear Publishing, ASCAP/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Works, GMR/Posty Publishing, GMR/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI *(M.C.Wallen, L.B.Bell, M.W.Hardy, A.R.Post, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome)* **19**

I DARE YOU Nick Jonas Publishing, BMI/PWZ Publishing House, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Seven Peaks Music, ASCAP/8Sixteen Music, ASCAP *(N.J.Jonas, Tommy English, S.Mooney, D.Whitmore, Jr.)* **18**

IT WON'T BE LONG Big Machine, ASCAP/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI *(G.C.Birge, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, T.Anderson)* **8**

I WISH YOU WOULD Tack Mack Tunes, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane 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)* **55**

K

KID MYSELF Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Total Schmidt Songs, ASCAP *(J.Morgan, T.R.Hubbard, J.M.Schmidt)* **37**

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 Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI *(M.D.Whitworth, J.D.Conrad, T.Cartwright, C.B.Baldwin)* **50**

L

LONG LIVE COUNTRY Shane Profitt Publishing Designee, BMI/Matt Rogers Publishing Desigee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI *(S.Profitt, M.Rogers, L.Rimes)* **45**

M

MAKING GOOD TIME WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane 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, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP *(M.T.Ramsey, T.J.Rosen, B.F.Tursi, R.Copperman, Ross Ellis)* **27**

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-Tamerlane 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)* **25**

N

NEVER CALL AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Cock Tunes, BMI/World For Colton Venner, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Tea Farm Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI *(G.Adcock, J.Taylor, C.Venner, J.Rauton)* **33**

NO TELLIN' Caroline Jones Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane 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)* **54**

R

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Corey Kent Music, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Lightning Street Publishing, BMI/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Michael Tyler Music, SESAC/MT ROOM, SEASAC/Young Guns Tunes, SESAC *(Corey Kent, T.Archer, A.Goodloe, M.Tyler)* **36**

S

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)* **60**

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-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI *(M.Lambert, C.Stapleton, J.V.Frasure, J.Fleenor)* **22**

SOUTH OF SANITY Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Major Bob Productions, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Doin What I Do, BMI/Getyasome Music, BMI *(Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, M.Nesler)* **44**

STAY COUNTRY OR DIE TRYIN' Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Cowboy Cuts Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/WritersonthecornPublishing, 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)* **1**

STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Cinq Trax, ASCAP/Lilyridge Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/Karley Scott Collins Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Susan Perb Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Mod Junkie, BMI *(J.Robbins, K.S.Collins, Sasha Alex Sloan)* **51**

T

TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Slip, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M & M College Fund, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI *(B.Hayslip, S.Mosley, J.Walker)* **29**

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-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Tunes From The Red White And Blue School, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP *(J. Moore, W.L.Bundy, R.Montana, J.S.Stover)* **13**

TRAVELIN' SOLDIER Bruce Robinson Music, BMI/Tiltawhirl Music, BMI *(B.Robison)* **42**

TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Jake Mitchell Publishing Designee, BMI *(J.Davis, D.Dawson, J.Mitchell, J.Thompson)* **26**

W

WATER AT A WEDDING Relative Red Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI *(G.J.Egan, M.Dragstrem, R.C.McGill)* **59**

WEAK WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Ohiofrick Music, ASCAP/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC/Smokey Miller Music, SESAC/Sonic Style Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/742 Sage Songs, BMI/4WarrensMusic, BMI *(P.Cooper, L.Miller, B.Warren, B.D.Warren)* **28**

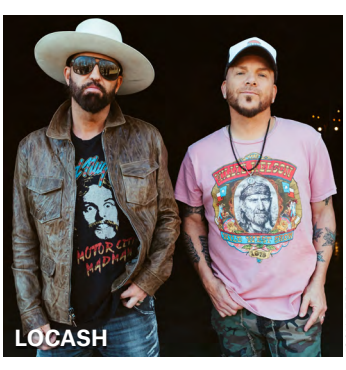
WE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON .8 Publishing, BMI/Young Guns Publishing, LLC, BMI/CTM Publishing, BMI/Combustion Music, BMI *(K.A.Fishman, T.Archer, M.Tyler)* **53**

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)* **14**

WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbanger 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)* **23**

WORTH YOUR WILD Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Home Team Music, BMI/Tunes Of TrailerParker, BMI/Track & Feels Publishing Desingee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC *(R.Dickerson, P.Welling, C.Brown)* **58**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webslinger 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)* **32**



JOSH BEECH

billboard

2026

TOP MUSIC VENUES



Billboard's Top Music Venues list will highlight the top concert venues in multiple geographical or qualitative categories across the United States and international markets, selected by the editors based on Billboard Boxscore data and reporting.

This exclusive list will be featured in the Feb. 7 issue of Billboard.

Place your brand in front of booking agents, artists, managers, concert promoters, producers, venue operators, label heads and touring executives who are driving the live-music business worldwide.

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ISSUE DATE 2/7 | **AD CLOSE** 1/27 | **MATERIALS DUE** 1/29

CODA

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

40 Years Ago

When Springsteen Inspired A Kenny Rogers Hit

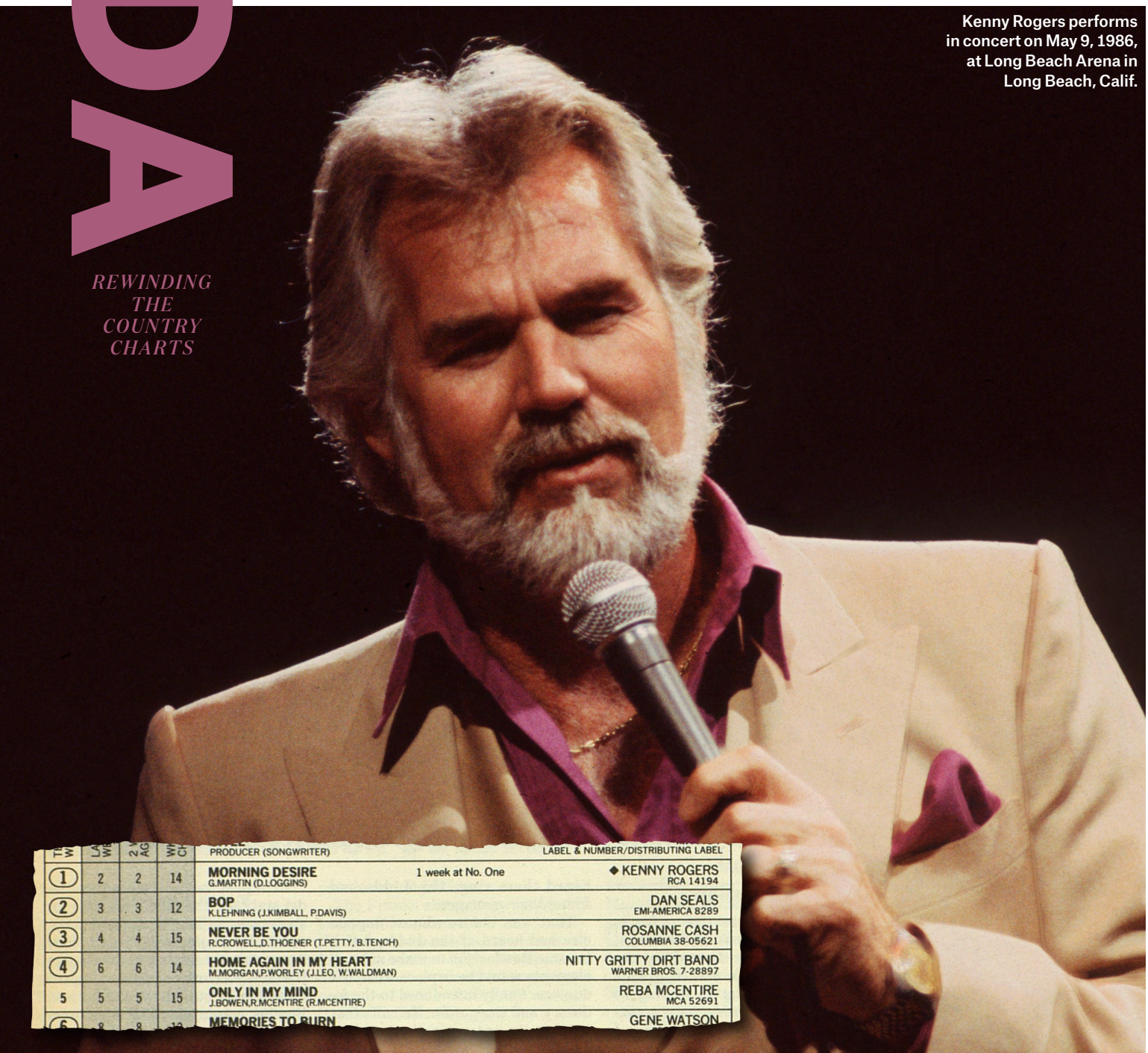
In 1985, a "Morning" exercise returned The Gambler to No. 1

On April 13, 1985, **USA for Africa** began a four-week stay at the top of the Billboard Hot 100 with "We Are the World," a collaboration featuring more than 40 acts, including **Kenny Rogers** and **Bruce Springsteen**.

Nine months later, both artists played a role in another No. 1 single, the country chart-topper "Morning Desire," even though the Boss didn't actually lend a hand.

Rogers was enamored of Springsteen's "I'm on Fire," and he persuaded songwriter **Dave Loggins** ("Please Come to Boston," "She Is His Only Need") to custom write a song that had the same hypnotic effect. Loggins aced the assignment, and "Morning Desire" similarly passed the audition in the marketplace, debuting on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs on Oct. 12, 1985, as the lead single from Rogers' **George Martin**-produced *The Heart of the Matter*. That project ruled on Top Country Albums the final week of the year.

"Desire" achieved Rogers' desired outcome in its 14th week, peaking at No. 1 on Jan. 11, 1986. It marked his 18th run to No. 1 among 21 total. —TOM ROLAND



Kenny Rogers performs in concert on May 9, 1986, at Long Beach Arena in Long Beach, Calif.

GETTY IMAGES/BOB RIHA, JR.

TW	LW	2 WKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)		LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
1	2	2	14	**MORNING DESIRE** G.MARTIN (D.LOGGINS)	1 week at No. One	◆ KENNY ROGERS RCA 14194
2	3	3	12	**BOP** K.LEHNING (J.KIMBALL, P.DAVIS)		DAN SEALS EMI-AMERICA 8289
3	4	4	15	**NEVER BE YOU** R.CROWELL,D.THOENER (T.PETTY, B.TENCH)		ROSANNE CASH COLUMBIA 38-05621
4	6	6	14	**HOME AGAIN IN MY HEART** M.MORGAN,P.WORLEY (J.LEO, W.WALDMAN)		NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND WARNER BROS. 7-28897
5	5	5	15	**ONLY IN MY MIND** J.BOWEN,R.MCENTIRE (R.MCENTIRE)		REBA MCENTIRE MCA 52691
6	8	8	12	**MEMORIES TO BURN**		GENE WATSON