

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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The Listening Room, Once The Sleeping Quarters For Its Owner, Turns 20 In A Big Way

When The Listening Room celebrates its 20th anniversary on March 3 with **HARDY**, **Mitchell Tenpenny** and **Jo Dee Messina**, the party will take place, ironically, away from The Listening Room.

With seating for nearly 2,400, the Ryman Auditorium provides almost 10 times the capacity that The Listening Room can pack in for any single show. Even more importantly, The Listening Room may owe its name to a location, but the interest in the Ryman show — which is purportedly sold out — suggests the brand that owner **Chris Blair** has built is bigger than its home building.

“I get letters from people all over the world,” he says. “People just don’t get to experience this.”

“This” is an attraction that’s practically an only-in-Nashville kind of business. The Listening Room presents two-to-five shows daily, seven days a week, focused almost exclusively on songwriters. From Feb. 20-27, as an example, more than two dozen composers with top 10 credits will take the stage in groups of three or more, including **Ben Williams** (“Tennessee Orange”), **Ben Burgess** (“Whiskey Glasses”), **Brent Anderson** (“Bottle Rockets”) and **Jeff Hyde** (“Springsteen”).

Sprinkled in are a handful of artists, including **Dillon Carmichael**, **Eric Paslay**, **Shane Profitt**, **Lucas Hoge** and **Old Dominion** guitarist **Brad Tursi**.

It works like the Grand Ole Opry, weekly Nashville music revue **Whiskey Jam** or periodic Americana attraction **Music**

City Roots, using a revolving lineup from one of the globe’s most plentiful musical pools. Like the better-known **Bluebird Café**, Blair’s enterprise draws from the songwriter portion of that talent pool that’s used to working in small rooms.

The **Bluebird Café**, established in 1982, is older and better known than The Listening Room, and it remains located in the same strip mall where it was founded, serving fewer than 100 patrons a show. Blair, who played numerous songwriter rounds after he moved to town in 2003 to record for **Lyric Street**, was surprised to discover that the **Bluebird** didn’t really have serious competition in its songwriter/restaurant niche. And as he embedded himself further in Nashville, he quickly realized that few venues showed much respect to the writers who contribute significantly to the city’s creative culture.

“I’m a numbers guy,” Blair says. “I was sitting on the stage



TENPENNY



BLAIR



HARDY

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TENPENNY: ZACH PIGG; BLAIR: HUNTER HART; HARDY: TANNER GALLAGHER

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at multiple places, and going, ‘Okay, I’m up here playing songs. I’m not getting paid to do this.’ And I’d count heads in the audience, and half of them were listening, half of them weren’t. And I’d see how many beers they were drinking, and how many of them had food. And I’m doing the math in my head going, ‘All right, this bar just made \$15,000 tonight while we’re sitting in here, giving them music, and they can’t pay us gas money.’ It just wasn’t right.”

That inequity, Blair says, was the “driving factor” behind The Listening Room. He’d worked as a kid at his father’s four restaurants, so he had a basic understanding of the two industries — food service and music — that he was joining together.

Still, no one — beyond Blair, perhaps — would have thought he could make the business last two decades. The thing was a struggle from the start. The initial operation was a six-nights-a-week attraction in suburban Franklin, a community that boasts plenty of creative residents but is far enough out of town that it couldn’t rely much on tourism. He moved to Cummins Station downtown, where the room seated about 125 patrons. And where Blair ended up sleeping on the floor.

“I lost my house,” he remembers. “I had a house in Sylvan Park, and I had the [option] to pay my mortgage after being late month after month after month, or keep the business. And I believed in The Listening Room. I lost my house to try to keep The Listening Room alive.”

On May 16, 2010, just two weeks after a historic flood soaked the downtown, Blair brought his band back together as songwriters **Bridgette Tatum** (“She’s Country”), **Danny Myrick** (“I Love This Life”) and **Jeffrey Steele** (“Me and my Gang”) helped him raise money



TATUM

for the bar, and for local charity Hands on Nashville. That show didn’t, by itself, get The Listening Room out of the red — Blair was so overcome by the moment that he gave all the proceeds to Hands on Nashville — but the goodwill arguably generated good karma. The venue slowly edged into profitability, it moved a short time later to Second Avenue, and now the stage lives comfortably in the SoBro district.

Blair fortunately doesn’t sleep on the floor at his workplace anymore. He has around 100 employees, and one of them is a full-timer devoted strictly to booking the ever-changing cast of performers.

It’s an eight-block straight shot from the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, so on most nights, tourists make up about 85% of the audience.

On occasion, Blair has sent a congratulatory text to an artist after a big awards win, only to have the act flip it on him in the response. The Listening Room, back in the day, paid them enough that they made their rent at a key moment as they pursued their dream. It’s a scenario that Blair, distanced from the days when he slept on his business’ concrete floor, understands.

“I hope,” Blair says, “we’ve got another 20 in us.” ●



Tucker Wetmore held court at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pa., when he headlined Feb. 14. From left: iHeartMedia/Central Pa VP of programming Mike Miller, Wetmore, WGTY York operations manager Scott Donato and MCA Nashville VP of promotion & strategy David Friedman.



Priscilla Block (left) greeted KZSN Hutchinson, Kan., PD Michelle Buckles when she performed Feb. 12 at the Cotillion Ballroom in Wichita.



Songwriter Jeffrey Steele (“What Hurts the Most,” “Raise ‘em Up”) (left) guested Feb. 16 during a taping for Marcus K. Dowling’s *Culture at Large* podcast at Nashville’s Anzie Blue.

IAM JOHN JO

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Russ Penuell



billboard

2026

SXSW 2026



This issue features cover stories on the stars headlining *Billboard's* The Stage at SXSW and a preview of other festival highlights.

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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ON THE CHARTS **RUSS PENUELL** rpenuell@billboard.com

'20 Cigarettes' Becomes Wallen's 20th Country Airplay No. 1

Morgan Wallen earns his 20th Country Airplay No. 1 as, aptly enough, "20 Cigarettes" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) — in its 20th week — rises two spots to the top of the list dated Feb. 28. The song drew 32.7 million audience impressions (up 12%) Feb. 13-19, according to Luminate.

Produced by **Joey Moi** and written by **Chris Laccorte, Chase McGill, Josh Miller** and **Blake Pendergrass**, the track is the sixth Country Airplay leader from Wallen's 2025 LP *I'm the Problem*, following "I Got Better," "Just in Case," the title track, "Love Somebody" and "Lies Lies Lies." He also logged six leaders from 2023's *One Thing at a Time* — and becomes the first artist to achieve the feat twice.

All six Country Airplay No. 1s from *I'm the Problem* have reached the summit in 20 or fewer weeks, well below the 31-week average among all leaders on the list since he first reigned with "Up Down" (featuring **Florida Georgia Line**) in June 2018. In that span, he boasts the fastest coronation — seven weeks for **Post Malone's** "I Had Some Help," on which he's featured, in 2024 — plus two of three next quickest: "I'm the Problem" and 2023's "Last Night" (11 weeks each, a speed also matched by **Luke Combs'** "Fast Car" that year).



WALLEN

SPIDEY SMITH

'FALL' RISES **Cody Johnson** earns his sixth Country Airplay top 10 as "The Fall" (CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN) climbs 11-10 (16.6 million, up 6%). He last reached the tier with **Carrie Underwood** on "I'm Gonna Love You," which hit No. 3 last March. He has logged two No. 1s: 2022's "'Til You Can't" (newly atop Hot Christian Songs as covered by **Kid Rock**) and 2024's "The Painter."

'BE'-GINNING **Ella Langley** bows at No. 46 on Country Airplay with "Be Her" (SAW GOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers), from her sophomore album, *Dandelion*, due April 10. The song follows her third No. 1, and first on her own, "Choosin' Texas," which holds at No. 2 (32.4 million, up 4%). Read more about the latter's growing, and crossover, radio rise. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+3.440
SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+3.381
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+2.152
TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	+1.909
CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+1.888
ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	+1.779
I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	+1.660
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+1.474
AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	+1.472
DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1.387

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1039
20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+953
I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	+711
TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	+658
CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+534
THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	+471
RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	+422
DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+412
MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	+366
WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	+354

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	17.695
2	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	15.443
3	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	15.373
4	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	13.192
5	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	12.024
6	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	11.816
7	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	10.866
8	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	10.317
9	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	9.463
10	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	9.342



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 19, 2026

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	8	FORT WORTH (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Kylie Frey feat. Randall King	1859	126	11	12	21	HONKY TONK HEART (Independent)	David Lewis feat. Randall King	1358	59
2	3	18	FLYIN' (Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers)	Wade Bowen	1731	72	12	16	6	LIFE STILL HAPPENS (Weathers Legacy Music/Sea Gayle Music)	Josh Weathers	1300	173
3	4	20	ROUGH SPOT (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1667	54	13	14	19	RATHER BE ALONE (Broken Angel)	Love & Chaos	1216	-16
4	5	17	SOUTHERN KING (CDX)	Sandee June	1616	23	14	10	29	THE OLDER I GET (MORE COUNTRY I'M GETTING TO BE) (Fool Hearted)	Jon Wolfe	1180	-176
5	6	27	I WAS WRONG (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1602	28	15	15	24	.30-30 (Independent)	Deryl Dodd	1160	30
6	7	22	PRETTY WOMAN OF MINE (Independent)	Lee Thomas	1532	15	16	17	22	WHITE DRESS DIRECTION (Write On)	Adysen Malek	1112	13
7	8	22	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (Bill Grease Rec)	William Clark Green	1516	25	17	18	25	HEARTBREAK QUEEN (Fame Records)	Kensie Coppin	967	2
8	9	24	TEXAS STRONG (Independent)	Aaron Loy	1445	26	18	20	18	MOVING ON (Independent)	Trent Cowie	934	45
9	11	14	STEADY (Leo33)	Jenna Paulette	1431	78	19	1	21	TURQUOISE AND SILVER (Get Joe)	Billie Jo Jones	925	-880
10	13	22	IS THIS THING WORKIN' (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band feat. Parker McCollum	1404	154	20	29	6	SO GOOD FOR ME (Independent)	Bubba Westly	923	149

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
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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	3	20	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ No. 1 (1 Week)/ Most Increased Audience ★★	Morgan Wallen	32.701	+3.440	8851	953	1
2	2	18	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	32.374	+1.246	8472	300	2
3	4	33	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	29.780	+1.472	7872	301	3
4	1	23	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	28.051	-3.173	7531	-1119	4
5	5	23	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	21.442	+1.004	6119	299	5
6	7	61	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	21.297	+1.909	5995	658	6
7	8	54	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	19.448	+1.054	5362	250	8
8	9	15	DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	19.025	+1.387	5474	412	7
9	10	43	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	18.265	+1.303	5125	354	9
10	11	43	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	16.644	+1.010	5055	471	10
11	13	6	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	16.540	+3.381	4459	1039	12
12	12	51	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	15.625	+1.283	4105	258	13
13	15	55	I DARE YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	14.184	+1.660	4697	711	11
14	14	44	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	13.403	+0.813	3496	126	16
15	16	17	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	11.916	+1.210	3608	209	14
16	18	8	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	11.149	+1.888	3567	534	15
17	20	10	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville ★★ Airpower ★★	Tucker Wetmore	11.108	+2.152	3000	340	18
18	17	38	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	10.921	+1.322	3226	186	17
19	19	32	A SONG TO SING Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	9.014	-0.102	2823	-120	20
20	21	50	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville ★★ Airpower ★★	Vincent Mason	8.827	+0.745	2963	232	19
21	22	17	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	8.351	+1.068	2668	180	21
22	24	11	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	7.974	+1.779	2595	313	22
23	23	28	MAKING GOOD TIME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Old Dominion	7.265	+0.267	2397	90	24
24	25	19	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	6.382	+0.581	2277	226	25
25	26	46	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	6.249	+0.469	2511	165	23
26	27	39	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	5.566	+0.409	2043	-48	26
27	29	10	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	5.472	+0.577	1561	154	32
28	28	14	AFTER MIDNIGHT RCA Nashville/SMN	Nate Smith & Tyler Hubbard	5.219	+0.214	1657	125	28
29	31	3	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	5.079	+0.993	1445	366	33
30	30	36	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	4.673	+0.260	1774	56	27

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 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.

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	32	30	NEVER CALL AGAIN Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WARN	Gavin Adcock	4.223	+0.334	1643	10	29
32	35	22	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	4.034	+0.946	1633	291	30
33	33	24	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	3.649	+0.373	1413	111	34
34	37	3	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	3.642	+1.317	1172	422	36
35	34	33	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	3.605	+0.507	1605	256	31
36	36	5	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	2.788	+0.184	982	50	40
37	38	21	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	2.263	+0.098	1092	48	38
38	39	9	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greytan James	2.232	+0.353	859	70	43
39	41	32	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	2.004	+0.190	1139	104	37
40	40	18	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	1.970	+0.132	1209	75	35
41	45	14	STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Alexandra Kay/Wheelhouse	Alexandra Kay	1.839	+0.161	1041	33	39
42	42	40	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Chase McDaniel/Big Machine	Chase McDaniel	1.744	-0.059	920	-73	41
43	44	5	MAKE A LIAR Big Machine	Jackson Dean	1.720	-0.016	775	28	47
44	46	17	THE HELL YOU ARE Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	1.720	+0.077	857	71	44
45	47	4	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	1.668	+0.193	505	40	56
46	NEW		BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Ella Langley	1.477	+1.474	379	378	-
47	55	4	GARY Mercury/Big Loud ★★ Breaker ★★	Stephen Wilson Jr.	1.460	+0.436	759	92	48
48	48	23	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	Tumpike Troubadours	1.455	+0.009	471	-11	57
49	49	15	KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	1.326	-0.052	786	10	46
50	50	14	TRAVELIN' SOLDIER CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WARN	Cody Johnson	1.324	-0.018	297	13	-
51	56	2	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	1.287	+0.337	681	219	50
52	53	8	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	1.223	+0.125	752	15	49
53	51	4	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	1.222	+0.066	822	48	45
54	52	13	DREAM COME TRUE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	1.188	+0.061	899	-43	42
55	43	2	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor ★★ Breaker ★★	The Band Perry	1.118	-0.630	514	35	54
56	54	11	DEVIL AIN'T DONE Stoney Creek	Atlas	1.085	+0.031	636	-25	52
57	57	6	HIGHS & LOWS Quartz Hill	Matt Cooper	0.910	-0.003	639	-6	51
58	NEW		THORNS Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	0.851	+0.851	75	75	-
59	59	3	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	0.844	+0.194	395	107	60
60	58	5	REBEL Patoka Sounds/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldrige	0.680	-0.038	545	-20	53



Artist-writer Jonny Capeci signed a publishing deal, announced Feb. 17, with Sony Music Publishing Nashville (SMPN) and Verse 2 Music, co-owned by Kane Brown and Verse 2 partner Kent Earls. From left: Brown, Earls, SMPN CEO Rusty Gaston, Neon Coast manager Nikki Boon and Capeci.



Clint Black wrapped a three-night stand at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium on Feb. 14. From left: Ryman senior events manager Chrissey Hall, UTA Nashville agent Cass Scripps, Black, Collective Artist Management managing partner/CEO Brinson Strickland and UTA Nashville agent Brian Hill.

RILEY MAYS

Global Power Players

On March 7, *Billboard* will publish its annual Global Power Players Issue. This issue will profile leaders in the music industry from the United States and international who are executives at record labels, music publishers, talent agencies and in live entertainment to recognize their achievements.

Advertise and congratulate this year's Global Power Players to reach an influential audience of decision-makers worldwide.

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LARRY MCCORMACK

Riley Green celebrated his No. 1 Country Airplay singles “Worst Way” and “Don’t Mind if I Do” during a Feb. 11 party at BMI Nashville. From left: BMI Nashville associate creative director Jackson Kiger, executive creative director Shannon Sanders and assistant VP of creative Leslie Roberts; Green; and BMI Nashville VP of creative Clay Bradley.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Following **Scott Borchetta**’s departure from Hybe America’s Big Machine Label Group (BMLG), the company announced a rebranding as Blue Highway Records on Feb. 17 and installed **Jake Basden** as CEO. The appointment marks a return to the company, where Basden previously served as senior VP of communications. He was most recently Sandbox Management president. The Valory label is folded into Blue Highway, with eight artists officially named to the roster: **Thomas Rhett**, **Brett Young**, **Midland**, **Justin Moore**, **Carly Pearce**, **Preston Cooper**, **Jackson Dean** and **Mae Estes** ... Artist-writer **Jeff Daugherty** signed a recording deal with Huckleberry. “Booth Shot Abraham,” the first music planned for release under the agreement, is expected in March ... Compass Media Networks promoted **Sydney Sperling** to director of affiliate sales from associate director. Among its country offerings are *Big D & Bubba*, *Country Countdown USA with Lon Helton* and *The Original Country Gold with Rowdy Yates* ... **Larry Mac** was promoted to Lotus Communications/Tucson, Ariz., director of operations & programming, RadioInsight.com reported. With the move, he adds oversight for two stations to his portfolio, making him responsible for the entire seven-station cluster, which includes classic country **KLPX-HD3** ... **Keith Urban** added his name to the Country Radio Seminar itinerary with the announcement of “The Power of Music and a Mission,” a Q&A moderated by iHeartCountry brand coordinator **Gator Harrison** on March 19. The agenda also expanded with the Y’all Means All Breakfast on March 18, under the theme “Expanding the Audience,” and **Jelly Roll** was named the 2026 recipient of the seminar’s artist humanitarian of the year award.

‘ROUND THE ROW

Australian-based Ticketek Entertainment Group established a new Nashville office with **Brad Turcotte** in place as TEG Live senior VP of country. The team includes head of country music touring **Alex Kelsey**, head of country music strategy **Clay Doughty** and global director of music strategy **Vanessa Picken**. Kelsey was most recently Melbourne-based Mushroom Group GM. Doughty and Picken transition from Sydney-based Sony/Australia-New Zealand, where Doughty served as director of marketing and Picken was chair/CEO ... Business management firm Farris, Self & Moore announced the promotions of five employees in tandem with the launch of a newly redesigned website. **Hannah Haggerty** and **Gator Pizer** rose to business manager from associate manager, **Amanda Mitchell** stepped to business manager from

junior manager, **Lauren Frick** was upped to client manager from client assistant, and **Zach D’Onofrio** was boosted to royalty assistant from client assistant ... Instrument company KHS America promoted **Bailey Aldrich** to senior marketing and event specialist from marketing coordinator and lifted **Ryan Rehnborg** to creative & marketing communications manager from team lead ... Get After It Media promoted **Emily Bronze** to senior VP/GM from VP ... ASCAP announced Feb. 20 its plans to relocate its Nashville offices in the Wedgewood Houston neighborhood in the fall following a stay of more than three decades on Music Row. The move will place the performing rights organization in the vicinity of Apple Music, Live Nation and the Academy of Country Music ... Musical Instrument Reclamation Company (MIRC) opened Feb. 20 at 2101 8th Avenue South in Nashville, providing a physical location for musicians looking for guitars in the secondary market ... Young Guns Publishing signed songwriter **Jaron Boyer** (“Mind on You,” “Somewhere on a Beach”) to a publishing deal ... Texas-bred artist **Colby Lee Swift** signed a publishing agreement with BMG and tapped WME for booking ... Big Loud Publishing added **Matt McCartney** and newcomer **Max Martin** to its songwriting roster ... SoundBreak, a music-centric artificial intelligence platform that touts a fully licensed platform, launched with more than a half-dozen artists — including **The Cadillac Three’s Jaren Johnston** — granting licenses to the organization, co-founded by **Better Than Ezra** frontman **Kevin Griffin** ... **Kane Brown** announced plans to open a new, four-story Nashville bar, Kane Brown’s On Broadway, in partnership with the Elia Group ... **Luke Combs** and Opry Entertainment Group plan to open a third Category 10 venue at CityWalk at Universal Orlando Resort in 2027 ... **Jerry Bridges**, who spent 23 years playing bass and guitar for **Waylon Jennings**, received a bronze star on the Alabama Music Hall of Fame’s Walk of Fame. Among his credits: “I Ain’t Living Long Like This,” “Theme from *The Dukes of Hazzard* (Good Ol’ Boys)” and “Rose in Paradise” ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum’s annual “American Currents: State of the Music” exhibit is set to open March 18 with artifacts representing **Ella Langley**, **Megan Moroney** and **Stephen Wilson Jr.**, among others ... **Jelly Roll**’s induction into the Grand Ole Opry is slated for March 10 ... PERK PR and Music Row’s Ampersand Studios will host a “From Idea to Identity” panel on Feb. 23 featuring PERK founder **Trevor Perkins**, Cowboy Cannolis founders **CJ Roberts** and **Hayley Stonehouse** and photographer-videographer **Matthew Simmons** ... Songwriter **Brett Jones** died Feb. 16 following a bout with brain cancer. Among his successes were **Jason Aldean**’s “Crazy Town,” **Lee Ann Womack**’s “A Little Past Little Rock” and **Justin Moore**’s “If Heaven Wasn’t So Far Away” ... A celebration of life for **Bill Ivey** is slated for 2 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum’s CMA Theater. Ivey, 81, died Nov. 7. He served as the Museum’s CEO from 1971-1997, spent four years as chair of the National Endowment for the Arts and co-founded Leadership Music. ●



JASNA BOUDARD

Radney Foster and **Kelly Willis** recorded “The One They Call,” which Foster wrote with Army veteran **Matthew Chapman** and his wife, **Debbi Chapman**, through SongwritingWith:Soldiers. The song was released on Feb. 13.

DANCE POWER PLAYERS



On March 7, *Billboard* will reveal a list of the most influential dance/electronic music executives and their most significant recent accomplishments.

Advertise and congratulate these power players to align your company with this lucrative market segment that fuels popular culture.

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

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) **1**

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 CCL, ASCAP/Five Docks Down Music Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/T Tree Music, BMI (C.Brown, C.Crowder, T.R.Hubbard) **28**

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/Poggy'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) **5**

ALL MY EXES Ilyas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBAT PUBLISHING, BMI/Only Legends Music, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Hoops Don't Lie Publishing, BMI/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI (Lauren Alaina, J.A.Gutch, B.C.Johnson, W.Phillips) **33**

AMEN Poorchoice Music Publishing, BMI/Songs Into Poems, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/Jordan Gray Publishing Designee, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/Essency Music Publishing, ASCAP/S2 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kevin Powers Publishing Designee, BMI/Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI (C.O.Chibueze, J.B.DeFoor, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.W.Ennis, J.Gray, K.J.Powers, N.Sastry) **3**

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.Vanderheyem) **26**

BEAUTIFUL THINGS Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triple Red 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) **21**

BE HER Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sea Gayle Distillery Music, ASCAP/Endurance Music Group, BMI/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI (E.Langley, S.Ahnquist, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **46**

BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Songs From The Penalty Box, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Max McNowin Music, BMI/Carver Music Publishing, ASCAP/Tunes Of King Pen, BMI/Ready Set Publishing, BMI/Fugitive Songs Publishing, BMI (M.McNowin, J.Kenney, A.A.Suppelsa, T.K.Dabbs) **7**

BOOTS OFF Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Crawford Mercer Music, GMR/Songs Of CN, GMR (J.Pardi, W.McCubbin, L.Laird) **36**

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) **17**

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, M.Nite, L.Rimes) **42**

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) **16**

CHEVY SILVERADO Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sparks 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, J.Luber, G.J.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman) **24**

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) **2**

D

DAYS LIKE THESE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Titawhirl 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) **8**

DEVIL AIN'T DONE Atlas Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/SpiritVault Songs II, ASCAP/AEVer Songz, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warburger Publishing, BMI (S.Haywood, D.A.Garcia, G.Warburton) **56**

DREAM COME TRUE BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Redeather 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) **54**

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/PINB Publishing, ASCAP (D.Lynch, B.J.Johnson, J.R.Hall, H.Phelps, Z.Crowell) **39**

ENDS OF THE EARTH Ty Myers Publishing Designee, BMI (T.Myers) **12**

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) **10**

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) **40**

G

GARY Poems On Junk Mail, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (S.L.Wilson Jr.) **47**

H

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) **32**

HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Game Rooster Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (E.Felker) **48**

THE HELL YOU ARE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/12/26 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) **44**

HIGHS & LOWS Songs Of North Chapel Music, BMI/Endurance Music Group, BMI/318 Records Publishing, BMI (M.Cooper) **57**

HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Reed Up Publishing, BMI/Aaron Presley Beachum Publishing Designee, BMI/Evan Christian Mayo Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (Chase Matthew, E.Escue, A.Maxwell, Presley Aaron, E.C.Mayo, J.Center) **53**

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) **4**

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 Groups, 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) **14**

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.) **33**

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) **35**

KILLED THE MAN Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Riser House Tunes, SESAC/1 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) **49**

L

LET HIM IN ANYWAY Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Big Bendable Music, BMI/Best Damn Music, BMI (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, K.S.Clark, C.Wallace) **51**

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) **37**

M

MAKE A LIAR Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick, R.Montana) **43**

MAKING GOOD TIME WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/12ve66 Dogwood, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Smackshot Music, BMI/Katie In Paris, BMI/Music Of CIM 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) **23**

MCARTHUR Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Relative Music Group Family, ASCAP/Head Coach Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippines 4:7 Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Old Bandana, BMI (M.W.Hardy, R.C.McGill, J.Rodgers, J.Thompson) **29**

ME & A BEER Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poggy'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) **18**

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) **31**

NEVER COMIN' BACK ONE TOOTH PRODUCTIONS, BMI/Invoked Lamb Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Lyric Music Publishing, GMR/CN Songs From 1508, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, GMR (C.Cordero, L.Laird, A.Retiere) **45**

P

PSYCHOLOGICAL Smack Back Music, BMI/Concord Baritone CCL, BMI/Midtown Mistake Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Colton Venner Publishing, BMI (C.Park, G.Tyler, C.Venner) **55**

R

REBEL Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Adam Sandler, ASCAP/Laguna Madre Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (D.Baldridge, A.Sanders) **60**

RIDE, RIDE, RIDE Big Music Machine, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/T Tree Music, BMI (G.C.Birge, T.R.Hubbard, C.Brown, P.Welling) **34**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Coxy Kent Music, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Lighting Street Publishing, BMI/Melodies Of CIM Outlander, SESAC/Michael Tyler Music, SESAC/MT ROOM, SESAC/Young Guns Tunes, SESAC (Corey Kent, T.Archer, A.Goodloe, M.Tyler) **22**

S

SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Hits Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Braven Baker Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, R.Montana, J.D.Singleton) **11**

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.Fleener) **19**

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/Doan What I Do, BMI/Getyasome Music, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, M.Nesler) **27**

STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Cinq Trax, ASCAP/Livridge 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) **41**

T

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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) **25**

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.Bunday, R.Montana, J.S.Stover) **6**

TRAVELIN' SOLDIER Bruce Robinson Music, BMI/Titawhirl Music, BMI (B.Robson) **50**

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) **15**

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/Philippines 4:7 Songs, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI (G.J.Egan, M.Dragstrem, R.C.McGill) **38**

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) **9**

WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/All Essential Music, ASCAP/Prayin' Cowboy Publishing, SESAC/So Essential Tunes, SESAC/Songs By That Dog Will Hunt, BMI/Capitol CMG Paragon, BMI/Sugar Rain Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (B.M.Lake, J.Sooter, H.Bentley, D.Southerland) **59**

WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warburger 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) **20**

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 Designee, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (R.Dickerson, P.Welling, C.Brown) **52**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Websinger 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) **30**

billboard

2026

WOMEN IN MUSIC

SPECIAL ISSUE



FEATURING

ERYKAH BADU

Doechii

Tyla

Megan Moroney

Gracie Abrams

aespa

GloRilla

Meghan Trainor

Ángela Aguilar

Muni Long

Jennie

+

EXECUTIVES OF

THE YEAR

WOMEN AGENTS

TAKE THE LEAD

On April 18, *Billboard* will publish its highly anticipated Women in Music special issue, featuring top women in the music business who are making their mark across top industry sectors.

Coinciding with this issue will be the Women in Music awards ceremony on April 29 at Hollywood Palladium. The event will bring together music's most prominent women artists and the industry's top women business executives to recognize and celebrate their achievements.

Take this opportunity to congratulate the most powerful and talented women in music and wish them continued success.

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ISSUE DATE 4/18 | AD CLOSE 4/7 | MATERIALS DUE 4/9

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REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

25 Years Ago 'O Brother,' That Rootsy Soundtrack Was A Surprising No. 1

The Grammy-winning album featured Ralph Stanley, Alison Krauss and The Soggy Bottom Boys

It was projected as a curiosity for a small audience of roots-music aficionados, but the soundtrack to *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* surprised music executives, rising to No. 1 on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums list dated Feb. 24, 2001, in the first of 35 non-consecutive weeks at the summit.

Set in Depression-era Mississippi, the picture used 19 tracks grounded in bluegrass, traditional country, blues

and spirituals. Sixteen were produced by **T Bone Burnett** (**The Wallflowers**, **Counting Crows**), including cuts by **Alison Krauss**, **Ralph Stanley**, **The Whites**, **John Hartford** and **The Soggy Bottom Boys**, a fictitious trio led by **Dan Tyminski**, who provided the singing voice of **George Clooney**.

In addition to its run on Top Country Albums, *O Brother* led for two weeks

on the all-genre *Billboard* 200 and was certified eight-times platinum by the RIAA. The soundtrack was successful on the awards circuit, too, taking trophies from the Country Music Association, the Academy of Country Music, the International Bluegrass Music Association and the Grammy Awards, where it earned the all-genre album of the year.

—TOM ROLAND

GEORGE CLOONEY JOHN TURTURRO TIM BLAKE NELSON with JOHN GOODMAN

MUSIC FROM A FILM BY JOEL COEN & ETHAN COEN

O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?

	W	T	R	F	S	S	IMPRINT & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL (SUGGESTED LIST PRICE OR EQUIVALENT FOR CASSETTE/CD)	W
NO. 1/GREATEST GAINER								
1	2	3	10	SOUNDTRACK ● MERCURY 170069 (11.98/18.98) 1 week at No. 1			O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?	1
2	1	—	2	LEANN RIMES CURB 77979 (11.98/17.98)			I NEED YOU	1
3	3	1	28	SOUNDTRACK ▲ CURB 78703 (11.98/17.98)			COYOTE UGLY	1
4	4	2	12	TIM MCGRAW ▲* CURB 77978 (12.98/18.98)			GREATEST HITS	1
HOT SHOT DEBUT								
5	NEW	▶	1	DIAMOND RIO ARISTA NASHVILLE 67999/RLG (11.98/17.98)			ONE MORE DAY	5



INDIE POWER PLAYERS

On May 9, *Billboard* will publish its annual Indie Power Players list. This special feature in advance of Indie Week (June 8-11) and the 16th annual Libera Awards will profile leading executives at top independent record labels, music publishers and distribution companies. Positioning themselves as the driving force behind the success of the independent music industry, these executives contribute to both the indie sector and the world of music at large.

Take this opportunity to advertise and congratulate this year's 2026 Indie Power Players.

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