

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## Paying It Forward: For-Profit Firms Chase Non-Profit Educational Ideals

Nearly five years after the consequential death of **George Floyd**, one of several minority-supporting initiatives is approaching its anniversary, too.

Equal Access, established by marketing/artist development company mtheory in 2021, typically has two fulltime employees devoted to advancing the careers of under-represented constituencies among artists and managers in Nashville's music community. That represents a hefty investment for an initiative that doesn't generate income for a relatively small firm, but it's become an essential, almost altruistic, piece of mtheory's identity.

"We're a weird company in the music industry in a lot of ways," says CEO **Cameo Carlson**. "You walk in the door of any of our offices, and the first thing you're going to see are our core values printed on the wall. So the piece that maybe isn't altruistic is it does serve our core values."

The company may see itself as "weird," but it's hardly alone in Nashville. Black River, PERK PR, lighting company CLLD and music headhunting operation Turnkey ZRG have all developed programs that provide education series for music professionals at no cost.

"It is very unusual for a for-profit company to do anything for free," notes Turnkey ZRG music & entertainment managing director **Tom Truitt**, "because everyone's always looking at the bottom line."

Philanthropic exercises are a more natural fit for non-profits or trade organizations such as the Country Music Association, the National Music Publishers Association or Country Radio Seminar.

The Nashville area, however, features more than 20 colleges, universities and technical schools, including two — Belmont University and Murfreesboro's Middle Tennessee State University — that offer music business degrees. With that much professorial talent in the industry's midst, it makes sense that the teaching spirit is strong in certain circles. That was the case for CLLD owner **Chris Lisle**, who held a Belmont faculty position

when he decided to launch an intense seminar in 2011 focused on concert vocations, the Touring Career Workshop.

"Seeing the impact that being an adjunct instructor was having on some students, watching those students get it and want to engage the industry — and [seeing] some of them go and thrive — definitely motivated me to kind of lead the next generation," Lisle reflects.

The turnout was higher than he expected that first year, as was the hunger for knowledge and networking opportunities, and the event that he tentatively viewed as a one-off experience was converted to a non-profit, distinctly separate from CLLD. The event has since been renamed ECCO Live as Lisle continues to pay it forward through the non-profit.



LISLE



CARLSON



TRUITT

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“Growing up, there was no classes or school to go learn how to be a touring lighting director,” Lisle says. “I had mentors that took me under their wing and taught me the do’s and don’ts. My career has been guided by a string of people that just mentored [me], and so mentoring has always been important to me.”

The landscape of freebie offerings varies:

- ECCHO Live celebrates its 15th anniversary this year with three part-time staff, still holding the fall workshops, but also providing All Access, a free counseling service that supplies up to four sessions per year. The program is expanding to financial and physical wellness therapy.

- Black River recently presented the first in a series of Sessions on the Deck, a dinner for about 20 new and developing talents who experience a panel discussion at the label’s headquarters featuring several established pros.

- PERK PR’s quarterly panels typically draw 45-75 attendees for a 30-minute panel and post-event networking function at the Ampersand Studios workspace on 16th Avenue.

- The mtheory Equal Access classes guide a handful of enrollees culled from minority demographics — including women, Blacks, Latinos and LGBTQ+ individuals, among others — through a full year of development and professional introductions.

- Turnkey ZRG’s The Smartest People in the Room uses a periodic webinar series to pair two people for a Q&A with Truitt interjecting audience questions from Zoom’s chat function.

The Smartest People series was originally a for-profit, in-person presentation — “Think TED Talks for the music business,” Truitt says — but it went away when the pandemic arrived. Truitt pivoted to a streamed experience and, by attracting 800 viewers for the first episode, realized he could reach a larger audience with less financial risk and fewer logistical challenges. He archives them all on [YouTube](#), and by keeping it free, he is able to run it while investing less than 5% of his work week. Viewers are unlikely to leave disappointed, since their financial investment is merely the cost of an hour of electricity for their device.

“When you take people’s money for something, they expect something grand in return,” Truitt says. “I don’t have the time or the bandwidth to turn The Smartest People in the Room into something grand. It’s very organic.”

PERK PR owner **Trevor Perkins** holds his series in person, mindful of his own early days in Nashville when he found some Music Row gatherings a tad daunting. His goal is to make it an easy space to network while providing a forum for others to share their ideals and business models. The most recent installment focused on the unique branding of Cowboy Cannolis, a mobile dessert bar that is gaining traction in Nashville.

“Empowering others empowers yourself,” Perkins philosophizes. “Creating these panels, I really just wanted to be an asset to help the next generation, and the current generation, to be able to really just flourish in their careers and get quality education on current topics to use in their everyday life.”

He has inserted one of his clients into a panel, providing a tangible benefit to the business, though he’s also careful that the panelists be chosen for their expertise, not for their attachment to PERK.

“I see it as an extension [of my business],” he says. “I feel like the value of helping others that this panel series offers is the same value that I offer within the company.”

Helping was at the heart of the Equal Access initiative. In the wake of the George Floyd murder, the industry held a Blackout Tuesday to acknowledge the continued issues around civil rights. The mtheory staff’s brainstorming that day led to the program, which was well-received by Music Row execs who recognized constituencies that are not well represented in country.

They have invested more than \$500,000 in the program, helped release 80 songs and assisted six Grand Ole Opry debuts, though the cultural climate has created hurdles.

“It’s been a very marked change with the political changes in this administration,” Carlson says. “Programs like this that a lot of companies were working on got smaller, or got defunded, or went away entirely. And there are even fewer resources and teams around these artists who need [financing] to self-promote and do all of these things.”

While the executives are devoted to their non-profit campaigns, they still have for-profit companies to keep afloat. In some cases — particularly for Carlson and Lisle — balancing those concerns has been taxing. But the knowledge that they’re making a difference continues to motivate them.

The ECCHO Live workshop and All Access program are “going to be my legacy,” Lisle predicts. “It’s what I want to leave the industry.” ●



Megan Moroney (center) was featured on the season 7 premiere of Amazon Music’s *Country Heat Weekly*, issued Feb. 26. She’s joined by *Country Heat* co-hosts Kelly Sutton (left) and Amber Anderson.



Hudson Westbrook performed March 3 in the WKKT Charlotte Kat Jam at Coyote Joe’s. From left: River House GM/VP of streaming and radio Lance Houston, WKKT Charlotte PD/midday host Ashley Wilson, Westbrook and Warner Records Nashville/WAR director of radio accounts James Marsh.



Songwriter Josh Osborne (“Body Like a Back Road,” “Sand in My Boots”) was interviewed by Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum writer-editor in a Feb. 21 installment of the Museum’s “Poets and Prophets” series.

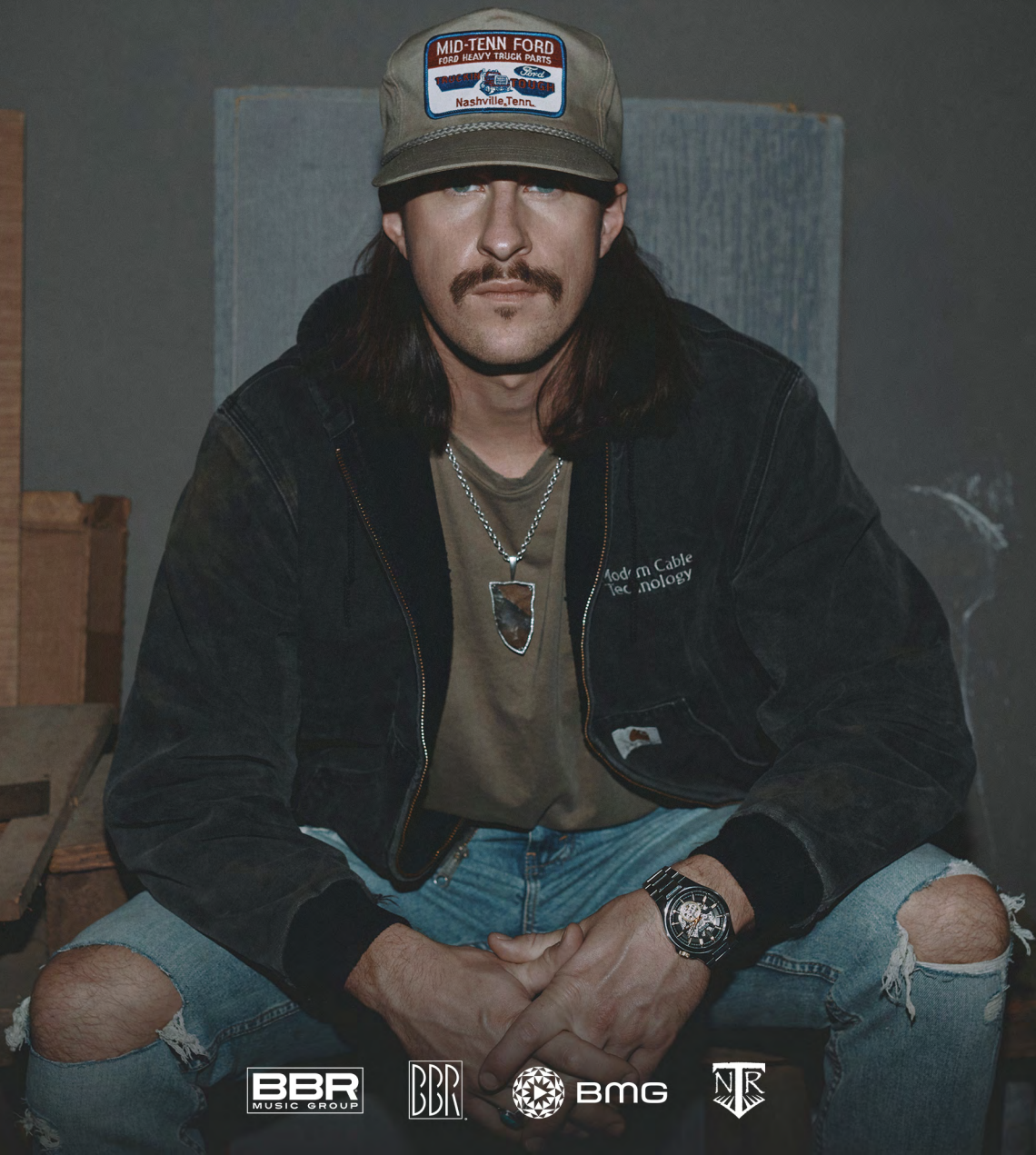


The city of Pittsburg, Texas, declared Koe Wetzels Day on Feb. 28 and presented the singer (center) a key to the city. He’s flanked by city manager Clint Hardeman (left) and Mayor David Abernathy.

# CONGRATULATIONS JOHN MORGAN



2026 CMA  
TRIPLE PLAY AWARD  
HONOREE



BMG



# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY  
MONITORED BY  
**LUMINATE**

ON THE CHARTS **RUSS PENUELL** [rpenuell@billboard.com](mailto:rpenuell@billboard.com)

## Langley's 'Choosin' Texas' Makes History Again

**Ella Langley** adds a second week at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart dated March 14 with "Choosin' Texas" (SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers), which earned 33.8 million in audience (up 2%) Feb. 27-March 5, according to Luminate.

The song has already delivered a string of notable chart moments, becoming the first to simultaneously top Country Airplay, Hot Country Songs and the all-genre Billboard Hot 100 (Feb. 14). It revisited the top of the Hot 100 (March 7) as **Megan Moroney** ruled Top Country Albums with *Cloud 9* — the first time two women who primarily record country music have led those charts in the same week.



CAYLEE ROBILARD

Langley's return to No. 1 on Country Airplay after a three-week absence is also unprecedented. Interrupted No. 1 runs are rare enough ("Choosin' Texas" is just the 20th such leader since the list began in 1990), but none had fallen from the top spot for as many as three weeks before reigning again.

Langley also becomes just the fourth solo woman with no co-billed acts to earn a multiweek Country Airplay No. 1 in the last 10 years. **Maren Morris** led for two weeks with "The Bones" in 2020, while **Gabby Barrett** and **Lainey Wilson** spent three weeks atop the chart with "The Good Ones" (2021) and "Watermelon Moonshine" (2023), respectively.

Multiweek No. 1s by solo women on Country Airplay have been uncommon across the chart's history, as 57 songs by solo women have spent multiple weeks atop the tally, or about one in eight of all multiweek leaders. Those runs have often arrived in waves, from **Faith Hill**, **Shania Twain** and **Jo Dee Messina** in the late '90s to **Carrie Underwood's** mid-2000s dominance and more sporadic examples in recent years.

**DO 'TELL'** **Jason Aldean's** new single, "Don't Tell on Me" (Macon/Broken Bow), launches on Country Airplay at No. 21 (7.7 million audience). The track is his milestone 50th entry and follows "How Far Does a Goodbye Go," which became his 26th No. 1 (Feb. 21). Both introduce his LP *Songs About Us*, due April 24. ●

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+7.674
BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	+1.850
WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	+1.781
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+1.751
TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	+1.597
TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.144
AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	+1.126
DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1.021
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+1.000
GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	+0.950

### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1893
WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	+545
CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+528
TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+407
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+401
TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	+371
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+361
WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	+337
BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	+294
ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzal	+286

### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	HARDY	16.634
2	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	15.006
3	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	14.772
4	COWGIRL Stoney Creek	Parmalee	11.952
5	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	10.822
6	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	10.818
7	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	10.087
8	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	9.780
9	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzal & Jessie Murph	9.375
10	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	8.943



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MARCH 5, 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	20	FLYIN' (Bowen Sounds Thirty Tigers) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Wade Bowen	1947	224	11	19	20	MOVING ON (Independent)	Trent Cowie	1309	305
2	3	19	SOUTHERN KING (CDX)	Sandee June	1704	85	12	13	21	RATHER BE ALONE (Broken Angel)	Love & Chaos	1297	35
3	4	29	I WAS WRONG (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1666	57	13	18	8	SO GOOD FOR ME (Independent)	Bubba Westly	1203	197
4	6	24	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (Bill Grease Rec)	William Clark Green	1662	132	14	14	26	.30-30 (Independent)	Deryl Dodd	1196	-59
5	5	24	PRETTY WOMAN OF MINE (Independent)	Lee Thomas	1593	40	15	15	24	WHITE DRESS DIRECTION (Write On)	Adysen Malek	1175	28
6	8	16	STEADY (Leo33)	Jenna Paulette	1570	41	16	16	8	LONG WAY HOME (Independent)	Matt Daniel	1175	123
7	7	26	TEXAS STRONG (Independent)	Aaron Loy	1491	-38	17	1	22	ROUGH SPOT (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1017	-771
8	9	23	HONKY TONK HEART (Independent)	David Lewis feat. Randall King	1480	46	18	12	10	FORT WORTH (Independent)	Kylie Frey feat. Randall King	997	-279
9	11	8	LIFE STILL HAPPENS (Weathers Legacy Music/Sea Gayle Music)	Josh Weathers	1429	52	19	24	7	HOW MANY SORRYS (Cameron Allbright Music)	Cameron Allbright	985	98
10	10	24	IS THIS THING WORKIN' (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band feat. Parker McCollum	1428	1	20	17	27	HEARTBREAK QUEEN (Fame Records)	Kensie Coppin	977	-33

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](http://www.texasregionalradio.com), or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2026, Texas Regional Radio Report



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	2	20	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers <b>★★ No. 1 (2 Weeks) ★★</b>	Ella Langley	33.769	+0.649	8949	528	1
2	3	35	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Stoney Creek/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	31.640	+0.750	8309	201	2
3	1	22	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	27.325	-6.514	7164	-1993	3
4	5	63	TIME'S TICKING Valory	Justin Moore	24.008	+1.597	6722	371	4
5	6	25	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	22.839	+1.126	6514	252	5
6	7	56	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	21.846	+1.850	5927	294	6
7	8	17	DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	20.734	+1.021	5927	274	7
8	9	45	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	20.431	+1.781	5774	545	8
9	4	25	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	19.442	-3.564	5413	-776	9
10	10	8	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	19.200	+0.882	5078	228	11
11	11	45	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	17.867	+0.598	5300	175	10
12	12	53	ENDS OF THE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Ty Myers	17.163	+0.774	4573	181	12
13	15	12	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	14.409	+1.751	3858	401	15
14	14	19	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	14.238	+1.144	4466	407	13
15	13	46	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	13.464	-0.041	3558	54	17
16	16	10	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	13.306	+0.823	3986	116	14
17	17	40	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	12.384	+0.784	3612	102	16
18	18	19	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	9.828	+0.602	2937	84	20
19	19	52	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	9.271	+0.072	3139	146	18
20	21	13	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN <b>★★ Airpower ★★</b>	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	9.088	+0.847	2950	286	19
21	NEW		DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow <b>★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★</b>	Jason Aldean	7.699	+7.674	1905	1893	27
22	22	30	MAKING GOOD TIME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Old Dominion	7.364	+0.084	2504	80	23
23	23	21	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	7.193	+0.261	2515	89	22
24	24	48	TIL THE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River	Chris Young	7.140	+0.526	2692	107	21
25	26	16	AFTER MIDNIGHT RCA Nashville/SMN	Nate Smith & Tyler Hubbard	5.989	+0.401	1966	99	26
26	25	12	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	5.959	+0.138	1794	145	32
27	27	41	BAGGAGE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	5.923	+0.396	2191	108	25
28	28	5	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	5.881	+0.457	1814	179	30
29	29	24	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	5.768	+1.000	2216	361	24
30	30	38	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	4.877	+0.126	1839	4	28

## COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

### RANKINGS

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

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	32	5	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	4.743	+0.669	1640	207	33
32	31	32	NEVER CALL AGAIN Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Gavin Adcock	4.515	+0.087	1812	22	31
33	33	35	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	4.126	+0.161	1833	64	29
34	34	26	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	3.784	-0.020	1402	-39	34
35	35	7	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	3.623	+0.246	1219	84	36
36	37	11	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greytan James	2.856	+0.314	1065	131	40
37	39	34	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	2.713	+0.414	1337	123	35
38	36	23	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	2.577	+0.029	1145	18	38
39	44	3	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	2.563	+0.909	693	221	50
40	38	6	GARY Mercury/Big Loud	Stephen Wilson Jr.	2.472	+0.169	1000	76	41
41	49	2	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	2.371	+0.950	724	223	49
42	42	16	STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Alexandra Kay/Wheelhouse	Alexandra Kay	2.167	+0.354	1139	65	39
43	40	20	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	2.106	+0.077	1169	-28	37
44	41	19	THE HELL YOU ARE Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	1.994	+0.139	941	64	42
45	43	7	MAKE A LIAR Big Machine <span style="color:red">★★ Breaker ★★</span>	Jackson Dean	1.982	+0.211	882	68	46
46	45	6	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	1.790	+0.155	606	24	55
47	47	4	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	1.692	+0.213	898	70	43
48	46	25	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	Tumpike Troubadours	1.576	+0.015	533	17	59
49	48	16	TRAVELIN' SOLDIER CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	1.550	+0.080	289	-7	-
50	51	10	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	1.510	+0.150	882	109	45
51	52	6	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	1.381	+0.068	883	45	44
52	54	5	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	1.371	+0.222	595	81	56
53	50	17	KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	1.360	-0.009	822	31	47
54	NEW		WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	1.249	+0.719	746	337	48
55	57	2	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	1.194	+0.360	610	117	54
56	55	13	DEVIL AIN'T DONE Stoney Creek	Atlas	1.111	-0.008	655	2	51
57	NEW		DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.951	+0.823	371	337	-
58	56	8	HIGHS & LOWS Quartz Hill	Matt Cooper	0.882	-0.002	651	-5	52
59	60	2	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	0.846	+0.166	218	115	-
60	59	4	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor	The Band Perry	0.833	+0.142	553	73	57



Braxton Keith visited with KKBQ Houston staff when he played the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on Feb. 27. From left: Warner Music Nashville senior VP of radio & streaming Kristen Williams, KKBQ assistant PD/music director/afternoon host Lauren "Lo" Sessions, Keith, Cox Media/Houston director of operations Travis Moon and semi-retired Warner Records Nashville Southwest regional promotion manager Mark Niederhauser.



Priscilla Block guested on Townsquare's Taste of Country Nights on March 2, two days before a headlining appearance at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. With her: MCA director of radio marketing Houston Gaither (left) and Taste host Evan Paul.

# billboard

2026

# WOMEN IN MUSIC

SPECIAL ISSUE



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

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND [tom.roland@billboard.com](mailto:tom.roland@billboard.com)

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority welcomed the family of the late Toby Keith to its March 3 meeting in recognition of the legislature's resolution to name a new turnpike the Toby Keith Expressway. From left: family members Shelley, Tricia and Stelen Covell, and Krystal Keith.

## CUMULUS' SECOND BANKRUPTCY FILING

Radio giant Cumulus Media filed for bankruptcy March 5 to eliminate \$600 million in debt, citing "persistent industry-wide declines" in revenue and listeners moving to digital streaming services like Spotify.

The company, which owns 394 stations in 84 markets across the country, filed the Chapter 11 case as part of a so-called pre-packaged deal with its lenders in return for giving them equity in the reorganized company, according to court documents obtained by *Billboard*.

This marks the second time Cumulus has filed for bankruptcy in the past decade, following a similar effort in 2018. In the court filings, the company said it emerged from that earlier crisis with a strategy for success, but succumbed to "accelerating industry-wide declines in broadcast radio" fueled by growing preference for on-demand streaming services.

"Intensifying competition from digital audio and streaming platforms, a shift toward programmatic and performance-based ad buying, and the continuation of negative secular changes in listener behavior ... have placed sustained industry-wide pressure on advertising demand and core broadcast revenues," Cumulus CFO **Francisco J. Lopez-Balboa** wrote in court filings.

Go [here](#) for the full story.

—*Bill Donahue*

## RADIO & RECORDS®

**KFRG** Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif., personality **Heather Froglear** contributed to an Audacy trifecta March 2 when she figured in three nominations in the Academy of Country Music's annual ACM Radio Awards. Froglear is up for large market air personality of the year and, through the syndicated '90s *Country with Heather*, national weekly on-air personality, while her home platform, KFRG, is a finalist for radio station. **Bryan "B-Dub" Washington** appeared in both national personality categories — national daily and national weekly — and five additional personality/station combos brought double nominations: *Frito & Katy*/KILT Houston and **Rachel Ryan**/KSCS Dallas (major market); **Jesse Tack**, **Anna Marie** and **Jake Thomson**/WUBE Cincinnati (large market); **TJ Sharp**, **Bo Jaxon** and **Hope Breen**/WBEE Rochester, N.Y. and **Brian "B-MO" Montgomery**/WCKK Walnut Grove, Miss. (small market). Winners will be announced in conjunction with the 61st annual awards May 17 in Las Vegas. Go [here](#) for the full list of radio nominees ... Connoisseur/Long Island promoted **Darren DiPrima** to station manager from director of sales, giving him oversight of five stations, including country **WWWF**. A search is underway for his sales replacement. Details on the opening are posted [here](#) ... Compass Media Networks, distributors of *Y'all Access with Kelly Sutton* and *Big D & Bubba*, announced five staff moves in advertising. The company hired VP of advertising sales **Stephanie Dolan**, formerly Crystal Media Networks director of revenue & inventory management. Four additional employees were promoted: **Laura Peyer** rose to senior VP of advertising sales from director, **Anthony Severino** was boosted to VP of sales planning from senior director, **Michael Weiss** was upped to VP of advertising sales from account director, and **Laura Schaefer** added director of advertising sales to her existing

role as manager of sales planning ... JVC Broadcasting launched the syndicated *Country Fresh Radio* featuring **WJVC** Long Island personalities **Murph Dawg** and **Phathead**, RadioInk.com reported. The show also airs on JVC's Florida stations **WXUS** Ocala-Gainesville and **WHWY** Fort Walton Beach, plus **WCTY** Norwich, Conn. ... Adams Radio Group/Fort Wayne, Ind., flipped hip-hop **WJFX-HD2** to a simulcast of country **WBTU**, according to RadioInsight.com ... Morning personalities **Nick Steele** and **Kristen Flowers** parted ways with **KWJJ** Portland, Ore., after six years, RadioInsight.com reported ... Country Radio Broadcasters continue to unveil agenda details for the Country Radio Seminar, March 18-20 in Nashville. **Frank Ray** will deliver the national anthem and **HARDY** will perform the memorial during March 18 ceremonies, and **Ella Langley** joins **Jo Dee Messina** March 19 for "The Conversation," featuring peer artists conversing publicly about their vocations. Workshop Alley, focusing on specific skills for modern radio stations, takes a three-hour block March 20, addressing music scheduling, ad sales and contract negotiations, among other topics ... Artist-writer **Jordan Walker** signed with Red Street in a recording deal announced March 3.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

Academy of Country Music CEO **Damon Whiteside** announced plans to step down June 30. The Academy's board has formed a search committee to identify his successor ... Sony Music Publishing promoted Nashville-based **Michael Riggs** to senior VP of licensing & income tracking from VP ... Conway Entertainment Group hired talent buyer/venue consultant **Sherry May**, who spent the previous 24 years as co-director of the Memphis Botanic Gardens' Live at the Garden concert series. Reach her [here](#) ... The Neal Agency signed artist-writer **Will Terry** for concert booking ... Artist-writer **Mary Kutner** joined the booking roster at WME Nashville ... Singer-songwriter **Ella Gibson** tapped G Major Management for career management ... Concord added Nashville-based writer-producer **Nathan Wallace** to its publishing roster ... Reruns of the classic country TV show *Music City Tonight* returned to the airwaves on The Heartland Network March 2. Hosted by **Charlie Chase** and **Lorianne Crook**, the show is accompanied by the second-season offerings of weekly programs *The Chuck Wicks Show* and *Keith Stegall's High Dollar Hill* ... *Howdy! The Minnie Pearl Story* authors **Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel** and **Dr. Don Cusic** appear at 10:30 a.m. March 7 in the Tennessee State Museum's TN Writers | TN Stories series ... **Tom Truitt's** The Smartest People in the Room will feature Black Box GM **Brian Popowitz** and River House Artists executive VP/artist manager **Zebb Luster** at 1 p.m. CT on March 12. Register for the free webinar [here](#) ... **Reba McEntire** was added to the lineup for the Band as One Nashville Concert for the Cure: Trisha Yearwood & Friends, slated for March 22 at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House, joining **Ashley McBryde**, **Charles Kelley**, **The War & Treaty** and others. Proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen breast cancer organization ... **Laurie Larson**, 60, died March 3 from a recurrence of cancer. An 11-year veteran of the *Crook & Chase* TV show, she transitioned into work at Belmont Village Senior Living, where she organized five Bluebird at the Belmont songwriter shows. She is survived by her wife, songwriter **Karen Staley** ("The Keeper of the Stars," "Let's Go to Vegas"). In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged for Alive Hospice [here](#). ●



**Meghan Patrick** performed current single "Golden Child" for **WUSN** Chicago listeners on Feb. 26. From left: Riser House national director of promotion **Roger Fregoso**, Audacy regional brand manager/**WUSN** Chicago PD **Marci Braun**, **Patrick** and Riser House Midwest senior director of promotion **Nathan Cruise**.

# 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, distributors and artist and label services 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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# 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) **3**

**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 CCI, ASCAP/Five Docks Down Music Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/T Tree Music, BMI (C.Brown, C.Crowder, T.R.Hubbard) **25**

**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., BMI/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 EYES** lylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEAT 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) **34**

**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/Keyp Powers Publishing Designee, BMI/Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI (C.O.Chibweze, J.B.DeRosa, S.C.Cook, J.H.Foote, S.W.Ennis, J.Gray, K.J.Powers, N.Sastry) **2**

**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/Seif 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) **27**

**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) **18**

**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.Alnquist, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **39**

**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.Kenny, A.A.Supples, T.K.Dabbs) **6**

**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) **35**

**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) **13**

**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/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, J.Uber, G.J.Lucas, W.Harren, B.Zimmerman) **23**

**CHOOISIN' 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) **1**

**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.Rathiere) **7**

**DEVIL AIN'T DONE** Atlas 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/Warburger Publishing, BMI (S.Haywood, D.A.Garcia, G.Warburton) **56**

**DON'T TELL ON ME** Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI/Kwsay Publishing, BMI/Writersonthecon Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan, L.Vaughan) **21**

**DON'T WE** Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Waller, R.H.Block, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, Charlie Handsome) **57**

**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/HALPASS, 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) **37**

**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 Chopin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Rocky Creek James, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (B.Pinson, R.Fulcher, J.S.Stover) **11**

**FIREWORKS** Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Music, BMI/Good Boy Gray, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Eclipse One Music, BMI/Y'all Come Back Now, BMI/Taylor Goyette Entertainment, BMI (B.Baber, J.James, T.Goyette) **43**

**G**

**GARY** Poems On Junk Mail, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (S.L.Wilson Jr.) **40**

**GET TO DRINKIN'** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Works By Kinda Country Songs, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Brody James Music, BMI/Akin For Jonas Music, BMI/8 Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/ERN's Cadillac Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Kyle Sturrock Music, ASCAP (Z.J.King, R.Akins, T.Archer, K.A.Fishman, K.Sturrock) **41**

**H**

**HATE HOW YOU LOOK** Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Round Hill Verses Publishing, BMI (N.Sanato, C.McKenna, J.Farren, C.Yancey) **29**

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

**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/WeisWood, 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) **58**

**HOLDIN' IT DOWN** Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Redd 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) **51**

**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) **9**

**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/Redneck Music, BMI (M.C.Wallen, L.B.Bell, M.W.Hardy, A.R.Post, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **15**

**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) **33**

**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/LuVeegas Publishing, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI (M.D.Whitworth, J.D.Conrad, T.Cartwright, C.B.Badwin) **53**

**KILLIN' ME** Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endless Tour Music, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI (M.McCollum, R.Rogers, M.Criswell) **55**

**L**

**LET HIM IN ANYWAY** Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Best Damn Music, BMI (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, C.S.Clark, C.Wallace) **47**

**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) **38**

**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) **45**

**MAKING GOOD TIME** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Twelve Dogwood, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Turs And Chorus, ASCAP/Warner-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.Coppeman, Ross Ellis) **22**

**MCARTHUR** Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Relative Music Group Family, ASCAP/Head Coach Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Old Bandana, BMI (M.W.Hardy, R.C.McGill, J.Rodgers, J.Thompson) **28**

**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) **17**

**N**

**NEVER CALL AGAIN** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Luck Tunes, BMI/World For Colton Venner, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Tea Farm Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI (G.Adoock, J.Taylor, C.Venner, J.Rauton) **32**

**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) **46**

**P**

**PAINTED YOU PRETTY** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Luckaway Music, BMI/Saxet HW Music, BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/FBRI Country Tunes, BMI (H.Westbrook, Lukas Scott, B.Bailey) **59**

**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) **60**

**R**

**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) **31**

**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, SESAC/Young Guns Tunes, SESAC (Corey Kent, T.Archer, A.Goodloe, M.Tyler) **20**

**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) **10**

**SOUTH OF SANITY** Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach T 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) **26**

**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) **42**

**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) **24**

**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.Bunay, R.Montana, J.S.Stover) **4**

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

**TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND** Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Warner-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) **14**

**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/Songs For Knox, BMI (G.J.Egan, M.Dragstrem, R.C.McGill) **36**

**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, G.Galin) **8**

**WHAT IF WE DON'T** Beejo Fetch Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Song Factory, BMI/Mert Music Publishing LLC, BMI/Colton Sounds, BMI/Songs Of Mert Music LLC, BMI (A.McBryde, T.J.Box, R.Clay) **54**

**WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/All Essential Music, ASCAP/Pravin Cowboy Publishing, SESAC/50 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) **52**

**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) **19**

**WORTH YOUR WILD** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Big Hits N Grav, 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) **50**

**WRONG HEARTS** BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webstring Publishing, BMI/Levelend 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**

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REWINDING  
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# 20 Years Ago When Josh Turner Took 'Your Man' To His First No. 1 Country Single

It also marked for the first chart-topper for a songwriter named Chris Stapleton

When **Josh Turner** rumbled into the top spot on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs on March 11, 2006, it marked his first time in the primo chart position.

"Your Man" made use of his range, climbing from a deep part of his South Carolina-bred voice to a slinky frequency in the song's tuneful chorus. The MCA Nashville single similarly climbed from No. 56 on Aug. 6, 2005, to the peak 31 weeks later.

It marked Turner's fourth appearance on the list, outpacing his previous best, 2003's "Long Black Train," which chugged to No.

13. "Your Man" was the title track and first single from Turner's second album, which debuted as his first No. 1 on the Top Country Albums chart dated Feb. 11, 2006.

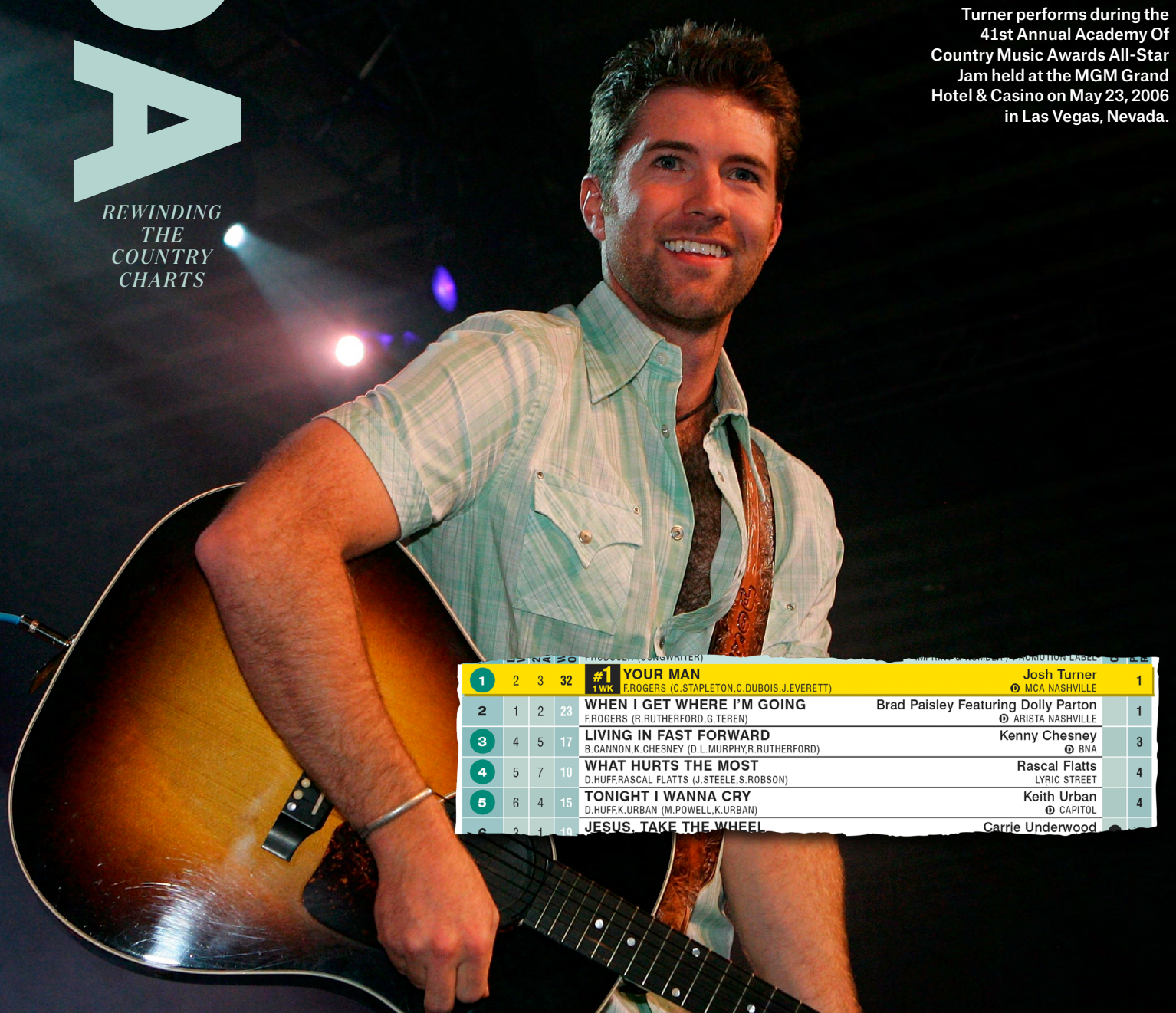
Turner wasn't the lone first-timer involved with "Your Man." **Jace Everett**, later heard on the theme to the HBO series *True Blood*, had never appeared previously in the leading title's songwriter parentheses, nor had one of his co-writers: some guy named **Chris Stapleton**. They shared writing credits with **Chris DuBois**, who had been there before — DuBois co-

wrote two earlier **Brad Paisley** chart-toppers, "We Danced" and "Mud on the Tires," plus **Mark Wills'** 2003 leader "19 Somethin'."

"Your Man" was the first of four No. 1 singles for Turner, including 2006 leader "Would You Go With Me," and 2010's "Why Don't We Just Dance" and "All Over Me."

"Your Man" also assisted a next-generation vocalist, becoming a key song when **Scotty McCreery** won *American Idol* in 2011. —TOM ROLAND

Turner performs during the 41st Annual Academy Of Country Music Awards All-Star Jam held at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino on May 23, 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Rank	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Label	Weeks at No. 1
1	32	<b>YOUR MAN</b> F. ROGERS (C. STAPLETON, C. DUBOIS, J. EVERETT)	MCA NASHVILLE	1
2	23	<b>WHEN I GET WHERE I'M GOING</b> F. ROGERS (R. RUTHERFORD, G. TEREN)	ARISTA NASHVILLE	1
3	17	<b>LIVING IN FAST FORWARD</b> B. CANNON, K. CHESNEY (D.L. MURPHY, R. RUTHERFORD)	BNA	3
4	10	<b>WHAT HURTS THE MOST</b> D. HUFF, RASCAL FLATTS (J. STEELE, S. ROBSON)	LYRIC STREET	4
5	15	<b>TONIGHT I WANNA CRY</b> D. HUFF, K. URBAN (M. POWELL, K. URBAN)	CAPITOL	4
6	10	<b>JESUS, TAKE THE WHEEL</b>	CAPITOL	4