

billboard Country Update

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APRIL 24, 2026 | PAGE 1 OF 12

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Clint Black Takes Time To Assess, With A Book, An Exhibit And A Sense Of 'Purpose'



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During his years at Katy High School in the Western suburbs of Houston, **Clint Black** placed second in a talent competition for a science fiction-based song he wrote called "The Time Machine."

The song proved modestly prophetic. He would come to prominence behind a debut album titled *Killin' Time*; flip that hook with a later hit, "No Time to Kill"; and eventually release the album *Spend My Time*.

It is now a time for reflection. Black was named a BMI Icon in November, honoring his track record as an elite songwriter. His Harper Influence autobiography — *Clint Black — KILLIN' TIME: My Life and Music*, co-authored with **Craig Shelburne** — is due May 19. And a new Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum exhibit, "Clint Black: The Hard Way On Purpose," uses physical objects to establish an overview of the long-running career he's built on abstract sounds.

"Time, I never took it for granted," Black said after viewing the display April 21, on the eve of its opening. "It was always this precious thing, and I just kept finding ways to write about it."

Indeed, Black, 62, had resigned himself early in life to the idea that the opportunity to look back on six decades of living wasn't in his future, admitting to a "fatalistic view that I had

as a teenager that I wasn't going to live very long."

"That really wasn't something that kept me awake at night," he continued. "It was just this sort of thing where this friend

got run over, that friend [overdosed], this one killed himself, you know, another one OD'd, my grandpa died of cancer, my brother almost went to Vietnam — lucked out, you know, with the draw down. I just figured, 'The likelihood I'll make it to 16 is very low.' I kept moving the goal line out a little further, but it took me several years to just accept it: 'Okay, 25 — I'm gonna keep going, I guess.'"

Keep going he did. Black emerged at the tail end of a late-1980s traditional-country renaissance, riding a sturdy resonance and a melodic gift to an RCA recording deal, becoming a member of the genre's influential Class of 1989, along with **Garth Brooks**, **Alan Jackson** and **Travis Tritt**. He remained consistently on country playlists throughout the '90s behind a steady stream of hits with an identifiable sound.

Or, as Museum CEO **Kyle Young** put it, Black "graduated from the class of '89 and into a class of his own."

Black and his co-writers, particularly band member **Hayden Nicholas**, were skilled at weaving country's time-honored lyrical play into country songs that generally encouraged



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deeper thought to those who cared to dig. “A Better Man,” “Put Yourself in My Shoes,” “We Tell Ourselves” and “Wherever You Go” explored life’s dichotomies and paradoxes with a casual wit and/or melodic bite. “Something That We Do” and “When I Said I Do,” the latter a duet with wife **Lisa Hartman Black**, stripped the fantasy away from relationships to celebrate their glorious fragility and the under-appreciated amount of determination required to make them work.

Black amassed 29 top 10 singles on *Billboard*’s Hot Country Songs, with 13 of them ascending to No. 1. Notably, Black wrote all of them, though his public profile often overshadowed that facet of his artistry.

“His core identity is really as a singer-songwriter,” said Museum writer-editor **Erin Osmon**, who curated “The Hard Way On Purpose.” “Because he was such a star in the ‘90s — and was like a pop star, in a way — I think a lot of folks don’t realize that about him.”

It’s also easy to overlook how much Black has thoughtfully been an architect of his own career. He hasn’t done it alone — former RCA division chief **Joe Galante** and promotion execs **Mike Wilson** and **Dale Turner** got shout-outs from Black along with other key team members during a speech at his party — but Black’s attention to detail is evident in the museum exhibit. It includes a number of his hand-written lyrics, some of which are the original manuscripts, notably with very few crossed-out words. His Lee Oskar harmonicas, named for the musician in funk group **War**, are neatly organized, and a range of guitars demonstrates his affinity for the tools of his trade.

“I left my car on the side of the highway a few times because I couldn’t afford an alternator,” he says in one of the display’s highlighted Black quotes. “But I always paid the payment on my guitar.”

Two laminated cards — one saying “VOICE REST,” another saying “THAT’S NICE” — symbolize his attention to the most important instrument. He is, especially after several throat surgeries, insistent on giving his vocal cords a break and uses the cards to control his interactions.

“I kind of suffered the cash cow thing early on,” he recalled. “I guess they took every offer that came in. We did, at one point, as many as 21 shows in a row without a day off, and the days off were filled with other kinds of work. I realized after a couple of years of that, that I had to get my arms around this animal and find people who would help me do as much as I could without killing me, or my voice.”

It was easy to take Black for granted in the ‘90s — he was always there on country radio — but decades later, as the ‘90s are influential in modern country, Black’s canon is part of the sound that today’s creators value. **ERNEST** was visibly moved when he joined Black on stage during a recent concert at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium, clearly recognizing the significance of his country music predecessor.

And Black, decades past the 16 years he formerly thought were his limit, is processing what he’s been able to accomplish in the time he’s been given. “They didn’t just throw this together,” he said, nodding to the museum’s exhibit. “It’s a trip.” ●



Josh Ross (center) greeted WFMS Indianapolis assistant PD Matt Malone and PD Brooks O’Brian in conjunction with an April 17 appearance at Old National Centre.



MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY IMAGES

Lainey Wilson fielded questions from John Mayer for his *How’s Life* series on the SiriusXM channel *Life with John Mayer*.



KYLE COOPER

Colorado Rockies pitcher Kyle Freeland (left) poses with lefthander Dustin Lynch, who threw out the first pitch before a Major League Baseball game April 22 at Denver’s Coors Field.

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ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

61ST ACM AWARDS PROGRAM

The Academy of Country Music is a leading association for the country music industry that serves as a powerful advocate for country fans, artists and all facets of the business, as well as provides philanthropic aid through charitable partner ACM Lifting Lives. The 61st ACM Awards will be returning to the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on May 17. It will be preceded by ACM Lifting Lives Country On The Green hosted by Riley Green & Friends on May 15 at Topgolf, and the ACM's Next Wave: Country Beach Bash on May 16 at Mandalay Bay Beach!

Put your artist or brand in front of 5,000-plus academy members, voters and music industry professionals in the ACM Awards program guide, produced by *Billboard*. The guide will be distributed at the ACM Awards ceremony, with digital distribution to 50k ACM members across the world!

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY **LUMINATE**

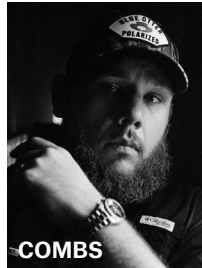
ON THE CHARTS **RUSS PENUELL** rpenuell@billboard.com

Luke Combs Repeats With Nos. 1 & 2 On Country Airplay

Luke Combs makes history on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart for a second time as "Sleepless in a Hotel Room" and "Days Like These" (Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN) rank at Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, on the list dated May 2. The former, in its third week at No. 1, drew 32.3 million audience impressions (up nearly 1%) and the latter, up two places, totaled 29.9 million (up 15%), April 17-23, according to Luminate.

Combs remains the only artist to have placed two titles with no billed collaborators in the top two simultaneously. He achieves the feat for a second time, following his double-up in September 2023, when "Love You Anyway" led and "Fast Car" followed at No. 2.

Only **Morgan Wallen** and **Luke Bryan** have come close. Wallen reached Nos. 1 and 2 via collaborations — "Cowgirls," with **ERNEST**, and "I Had Some Help," with lead artist **Post Malone** — in 2024. Bryan did so in 2014 with his own "Play It Again" and his collaboration with **Florida Georgia Line**, "This Is How We Roll."



ROBBYKLEIN

'LOOK' HERE Ontario, Canada-born and Nashville-based **Josh Ross** earns his second Country Airplay top 10 as "Hate How You Look" (The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville) jumps 15-10 on 17 million audience impressions (up 14%). His first Airplay entry, "Single Again," made the tier in its 60th week before peaking eight weeks later at No. 2. His latest reaches the top 10 in roughly half that time (31 weeks). (His first single, "Trouble," missed Country Airplay but charted on Hot Country Songs in 2023.)

Marci Braun, brand manager of Audacy's **WUSN-FM** Chicago, notes research on "Hate How You Look." "Incredibly solid since the end of February," she tells *Billboard*. "It has consistently ranked in the top 10." Echoes **Rich Davis**, program director of iHeartMedia's **KEEY-FM** Minneapolis, "Josh hasn't missed for us."

LEFTY LANDS **Stella Lefty** claims her first Country Airplay entry as "Boston" (Stella Lefty/Atlantic Outpost/Atlantic) debuts at No. 53 (1.2 million). The start also marks the first appearance on the chart for Atlantic Outpost, which launched last summer with a focus on singer-songwriters. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+3.996
BE HER SAWGOD /Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+2.469
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+2.167
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+2.124
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.675
TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.656
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.650
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+1.573
BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	+1.184
BOSTON Stella Lefty/Atlantic Outpost/Atlantic	Stella Lefty	+1.086

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1123
BE HER SAWGOD /Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+657
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+529
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+516
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+468
TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+384
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+319
MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	+318
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+313
THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	+308

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	19.793
2	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	15.854
3	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	13.185
4	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Blue Highway	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	12.907
5	TIME'S TICKING Blue Highway	Justin Moore	11.955
6	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	11.076
7	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	10.423
8	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	10.199
9	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	9.069
10	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	8.425



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 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	15	LIFE STILL HAPPENS (Weathers *egacy Music/Sea Gayle Music) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Josh Weathers	1860	149	11	11	27	MOVING ON (Independent)	Trent Cowie	1188	27
2	3	15	SO GOOD FOR ME (Independent)	Bubba Westly	1707	136	12	13	23	COWBOY KINDA PARTY (Independent)	Caleb Sutton	1111	21
3	4	12	SELFISH (Independent)	Josh Abbott Band	1472	19	13	15	28	WHAT KIND OF MAN (Independent)	Sheila Marshall	1107	103
4	5	10	PAINTED YOU PRETTY (Independent)	Hudson Westbrook	1456	17	14	17	11	DANCING WITH MY BABY TONIGHT (Independent)	Trevor Underwood	1106	123
5	6	15	LONG WAY HOME (Independent)	Matt Daniel	1436	9	15	14	15	NEON NEVER LIES (Mirror Ball Records)	Caleb Young	1097	15
6	7	17	WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOU (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1379	32	16	16	7	SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1085	86
7	8	14	HOW MANY SORRYS (Cameron Allbright Music)	Cameron Allbright	1354	75	17	20	14	FOUND (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1041	96
8	9	12	GOING THROUGH (WHISKEY LIKE WATER) (Independent)	Tilluride	1338	73	18	18	15	BEAUTIFUL YOU (Prophets and Outlaws Music)	Prophets and Outlaws	1023	46
9	10	10	ONE WILD REASON (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1334	116	19	19	7	I CAN'T GET OVER YOU (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1000	53
10	12	14	BLESSING AND A CURSE (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1246	98	20	21	8	LIVE FREE (SEE ME RUNNING) (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	953	64

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	1	15	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN ★★ No. 1 (3 Weeks) ★★	Luke Combs	32.304	+0.147	8575	123	1
2	4	24	DAYS LIKETHese Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN ★★ Most Increased Audience ★★	Luke Combs	29.948	+3.996	8320	1123	2
3	3	27	CHOOSIN'TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	27.375	+0.342	6708	-13	3
4	5	52	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	23.785	+0.922	6648	308	4
5	6	19	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	23.282	+1.573	6375	313	5
6	2	52	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	22.332	-8.166	6182	-2361	7
7	7	17	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	21.970	+0.383	6324	197	6
8	10	10	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	21.754	+2.469	5644	657	9
9	11	26	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	20.717	+1.656	5839	384	8
10	15	31	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	17.039	+2.124	4857	516	12
11	12	47	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	16.730	+0.452	4877	87	11
12	14	26	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	16.553	+1.184	4918	233	10
13	13	53	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	15.531	-0.013	4248	5	13
14	16	20	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	14.407	+0.695	4239	140	14
15	17	8	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	13.497	+1.650	3937	319	15
16	18	59	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	11.880	+0.906	3487	144	16
17	20	8	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ Airpower ★★	Morgan Wallen	11.321	+1.675	3268	468	17
18	19	28	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	10.283	+0.579	3249	86	18
19	25	6	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	9.377	+2.167	2934	529	21
20	22	12	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville ★★ Airpower ★★	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	8.761	+0.733	3066	287	19
21	21	12	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	8.653	+0.162	2965	110	20
22	24	19	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	8.012	+0.793	2607	291	22
23	23	45	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	7.780	+0.354	2601	151	23
24	26	42	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	7.084	+0.768	2516	161	24
25	27	4	COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	6.612	+0.904	1817	274	28
26	28	33	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	5.424	+0.418	1867	41	27
27	29	14	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	5.127	+0.468	2009	206	25
28	30	9	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	4.525	+0.064	1575	104	32
29	31	41	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	4.481	+0.155	1922	11	26
30	35	3	SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	3.694	+0.505	1483	213	33

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	18	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greylan James	3.433	-0.085	1586	54	31
32	33	30	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	3.426	+0.058	1349	34	34
33	34	13	GARY Mercury/Big Loud	Stephen Wilson Jr.	3.327	+0.030	1279	18	37
34	38	23	STRAIGHT FORTHE HEART Alexandra Kay/Wheelhouse	Alexandra Kay	3.202	+0.338	1592	132	30
35	37	9	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	3.188	+0.270	1219	106	38
36	36	27	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	3.075	+0.086	1602	22	29
37	43	8	WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	3.011	+0.793	1218	270	39
38	39	11	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	2.984	+0.448	1330	169	35
39	40	4	BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	2.701	+0.236	587	104	56
40	42	13	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	2.475	+0.184	1293	55	36
41	44	26	THE HELL YOU ARE Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	2.471	+0.296	1143	79	41
42	46	17	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	2.431	+0.460	1149	128	40
43	41	14	MAKE A LIAR Blue Highway	Jackson Dean	2.354	+0.014	1038	-6	42
44	45	13	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	2.236	+0.124	864	34	46
45	47	24	KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	1.905	-0.021	1002	36	43
46	48	9	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	1.740	-0.054	882	38	44
47	49	32	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	Tumpike Troubadours	1.702	-0.044	557	-15	57
48	50	12	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	1.644	-0.073	781	20	48
49	59	2	MOVE ON American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	1.431	+0.617	691	192	52
50	51	15	HIGHS & LOWS Quartz Hill	Matt Cooper	1.340	+0.077	794	29	47
51	52	5	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	1.335	+0.084	867	106	45
52	58	5	IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Blue Highway/Nashville Harbor	Carly Pearce & Riley Green	1.290	+0.459	665	143	54
53	NEW		BOSTON Stella Lefty/Atlantic Outpost/Atlantic	Stella Lefty	1.162	+1.086	218	202	-
54	54	20	DEVIL AIN'T DONE Stoney Creek	Atlus	1.070	-0.125	694	6	51
55	55	8	KEEPS ME SANE Tyler Nance/Santa Anna/Akando	Tyler Nance	0.968	+0.056	634	14	55
56	NEW		MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	0.921	+0.540	465	318	58
57	56	3	BACK IN THE BOTTLE Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	0.896	+0.039	708	20	49
58	57	10	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor	The Band Perry	0.859	+0.003	704	36	50
59	60	8	REBEL Patoka Sounds/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldridge	0.732	-0.075	680	18	53
60	NEW		DRY SPELL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	0.700	+0.133	300	42	-



Brad Paisley and Kimberly Williams-Paisley raised more than \$300,000 for The Store with their April 19 benefit, Groceries with Dignity & Comedy Without, at Zanies in Nashville. From left: Williams-Paisley, comedians Eland Stribling and Jeff Allen, Paisley and comedian Bo Johnson.



Jacob Hackworth dropped by WFFF Long Island on April 10 as he continues his radio promotion tour. From left: WFFF personality Joe "Brady" Blum, PD/midday host Robby Bridges and music director/afternoon drive talent Kelly Ford; Hackworth; and Mercury Nashville director of Northeast promotion Summer Harlow.

SEAN O'HALLORAN

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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Zach John King (center) headlined as BMI launched its eighth annual Rooftop on the Row series April 21. Tyler White, of Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum*, hosted and performed with Aniston Pate opening.

RESPECTS FOR KEY MUSIC MAKERS

Three creators who were essential in different group formats died in a four-day window, leaving work that influenced both country music and the larger pop fabric.

Two were musicians who contributed to familiar studio recordings, and the other was the oldest member of a musical family that was ubiquitous during the 1970s. Their deaths followed news of the April 16 passing of songwriter **Don Schlitz** ("The Gambler," "On the Other Hand"), who will be celebrated in a public memorial this weekend.

Music's losses include:

- Drummer **Craig Krampf**, 80, was perhaps best known for the trash percussion on **Kim Carnes'** "Bette Davis Eyes." A former Nashville-chapter board member in the Musicians Union, he died April 16, having played on **The Motels'** "Only the Lonely" and **Nick Gilder's** "Hot Child in the City," as well as a handful of **Patty Loveless** country hits, led by "You Can Feel Bad."

- Guitarist **Wayne Moss**, 88, died April 20, after contributing to the works of **Brenda Lee**, **Roy Orbison** and **Dolly Parton**, and playing in the Southern rock band **Barefoot Jerry**. His hit list included **Bob Dylan's** "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35," **Loretta Lynn's** "Blue Kentucky Girl" and **Waylon Jennings'** "Only Daddy That'll Walk the Line."

- **Alan Osmond**, 76, the senior member of **The Osmonds**, died April 20. The group became an early-1970s pop sensation, segueing for a time into country behind "Think About Your Lovin'," a top 20 single in 1983.

- Schlitz's memorial is slated for 2:30 p.m. April 25 at the CMA Theater in the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. A reception follows the service.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Allison Jones was named Big Machine/Nashville Harbor executive VP of A&R, mirroring her role in the previous iteration of the company ... Black River pacted with AKANDO Music, a division of Triple Tigers, for radio promotion. The first release in the relationship will be the next **Chris Young** single, "I Didn't Come Here to Leave," expected in June ... **Miranda Lambert** tapped MCA to release her future music ... Bluegrass quintet **The Country Gentlemen** signed a recording deal with Huckleberry ... **Gator Harrison** announced his departure from iHeartMedia, where he's served as senior VP of programming for more than a decade, in favor of Christian broadcaster K-LOVE, where he'll become Ministry Leadership Team chief media officer beginning May 11 ... Voting started April 24 for this year's Radio Hall of Fame inductees. The 24 finalists include three country contenders: **WXTU** Philadelphia morning host **Andie Summers**, syndicated duo **Big D & Bubba** and former **WHN** New York personality **Lee Arnold**. Go [here](#) for the full list of nominees ... **Jay Shannon** joins Cox Media Group/San Antonio as operations manager May 4, RadioInk.com reported. He was most recently PD for a pair of iHeartMedia/Dallas outlets. Cox/San Antonio properties include country stations **KCYY** and **KKYX** ... **Bill Smith** was named Cumulus/Oxnard-Ventura, Calif., VP/market manager, according to RadioInk.com. The cluster includes country **KHAY**. He was most recently American General/Bakersfield VP/market manager ... **Jerry Mac** left Cumulus/Toledo, Ohio, where he was operations manager, RadioInsight.com reported. His duties included PD for country **WKKO** ... **Cheyenne Davis** ended a six-year run as a **KMLE** Phoenix personality, according to RadioInsight.com ... The Academy of Country Music

is building ACM Radio Prep, providing content related to its May 17 ceremony, hosted by **Shania Twain** at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Radio vet **Becca Walls** oversees the program. Sharla McCoy Productions was tapped for the ACM Radio Remote May 15 - 16. Go [here](#) to sign up for the prep service. Email the ACM [here](#) about other broadcasting options.

'ROUND THE ROW

Management, marketing and strategy firm mtheory promoted **Ed Rivadavia** to executive VP of marketing & operations from senior VP of marketing & digital, and bumped **Kaitlyn Moore** to GM from senior VP of marketing. Reach Rivadavia [here](#) and Moore [here](#) ... Peachtree Entertainment hired senior VP of marketing **Aaron Siuda** and VP of artist relations and development **Andrew Hingley**. Both were most recently with Live Nation — Siuda as senior VP of regional marketing, and Hingley as talent buyer. Hingley has also owned Eddie's Attic in Atlanta for 15 years ... **Alyson Stokes** joined Live Nation as regional communications manager. She spent six years with Ryman Hospitality, where she served as senior manager of brand communications ... Nashville-based **Megan Wise** took over as Breakaway VP of brand partnerships. The former Country Music Association employee was most recently Anotherland Agency VP of new business. Breakaway is a multi-service firm centered around live events and festivals ... Songwriter **Jessi Alexander** ("Ain't No Love in Oklahoma," "Don't Think Jesus") signed a joint-venture publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville and Perfect Game Creative, the latter founded by former Warner Chappell employee **Jessi Vaughn Stevenson** ... Songwriter-producer **Tina Parol** joined the roster at Curb | Word Music Publishing ... Writer-artist **Waylon Hanel** tapped Unplugged Marketing for digital marketing and social media ... The Mechanical Licensing Collective is accepting suggestions for songwriter candidates to fill six seats on its board of directors and two committees. Submit recommendations [here](#) ... **Caylee Hammack** will perform the national anthem for the first night of CMA Fest June 4 at Nashville's Nissan Stadium with **Sara Evans**, **Jo Dee Messina**, **Clay Walker** and **Emily Ann Roberts** among the acts who have been added to the four-day event's stadium lineup ... CBS agreed to a multi-year extension for the Dec. 31 special *New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash*, executive produced by **Robert Deaton** and **Mary Hilliard Harrington** ... The WHO KNEW Smartest People in the Room webinar series welcomes Shore Fire Media president **Rebecca Shapiro** and CoMUSE CEO/co-founder **LJ Antonuccio** for a one-hour discussion on April 30. Register [here](#) for free ... The International Country Music Conference is slated for May 26-30 at Nashville's Belmont University. Go [here](#) for the itinerary ... **Bryan Andrews** is partnering with Human Rights First, donating a portion of ticket sales from his ICE Out of My Country Damn Music protest tour for the agency's immigrant and refugee advocacy ... Independent producer and former **Ronnie McDowell** sideman **Tony Mantor** will devote episodes of his thrice-weekly *Why Not Me?* podcast to emotional wellness in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month during May ... **Shenandoah** was added to the Songs for Squeeks benefit May 4 at The Listening Room in Nashville. The event raises money for photographer/director/videographer **Justin "Squeeks" Mayotte**, currently battling lymphoma. Go [here](#) for details. ●



Kenny Chesney welcomed surprise guest Megan Moroney for an April 18 performance at Flora-Bama in Pensacola, Fla., celebrating the 10-year anniversary of Chesney's No Shoes Radio airing on SiriusXM.



Justin Moore poses with Miss Arkansas contender Riley Strube on April 20 in Little Rock, where Moore raised more than \$700,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with a golf tournament and concert.

KATIE MATHS

ALLISTER ANN

NELSON CHENAULT

billboard

2026

COUNTRY POWER PLAYERS



Billboard's 12th annual Country Power Players issue will celebrate the executives and artists who have propelled country music to another stellar year. This special feature will highlight those who have had the greatest impact in the genre over the past year, spanning recorded music, streaming, radio, publishing, management and live entertainment.

Advertise in *Billboard's* Country Power Players issue to congratulate this year's honorees while reaching key decision-makers who are driving the music business.

BONUS DISTRIBUTION

Billboard Country Power Players Cocktail Party & Awards
June 3 in Nashville.

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ISSUE DATE 5/30 | AD CLOSE 5/19 | MATERIALS DUE 5/21

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

A

ALL MY EXES Iyaz 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.J.Johnson, W.Phillips) **26**

B

BACK IN THE BOTTLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/I'm Your Huckleberry Music, BMI (R.Houser) **57**

BEAUTIFUL THINGS Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tripe Rae Creative Inc, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP (M.Moroney, C.R.Harrington, J.J.Dillon, J.L.Alexander) **12**

BE BY YOU Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Songs By Porchlight, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Highway 75 Publishing, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Wildhawk Publishing, BMI (D.Ailey, S.Banks, N.Walsh) **39**

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/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI/Ross & Rae Music, ASCAP/Relative Rights, ASCAP (E. Langley, S.Ahnquist, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **8**

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) **27**

BOSTON 13117 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Grace Enger Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Joey Reeves Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/LMC Is The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Secret Meadow Songs, ASCAP/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Stella Lifty Music, ASCAP (G.Enger, J.K.Hindlin, J.Reeves, N.Kahan, S.Lefty) **53**

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/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.LaCorte, R.C.McGill, J.L.Miller, B.Pendergrass) **5**

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) **7**

CHEVY SILVERADO Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Spark 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) **18**

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/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (E.Langley, C.L.Dick, M.Lambert, J.Taylor) **3**

COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Trailer Parker Twang Lab, BMI/Hometown Publishing LLC, BMI/Kilometre Music Group B, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP (J.L.Miller, P.Welling, M.Dragstrom) **25**

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.Raltiere) **2**

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/Warbanger Publishing, BMI (S.Haywood, D.A.Garcia, G.Warburton) **54**

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/Writersonthehorn Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan, L.Vaughan) **15**

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/Poggy's Picks, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, R.H.Block, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, Charlie Handsome) **17**

DRY SPELL Recordings Of Cosmic Intent, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Lyric Music Publishing, GMR/CN Songs From 1508, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR/Art of CDM Music Outlander LP, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs For Indy And Owl, ASCAP (K.Musgraves, L.Laird, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **60**

E

EASY TO LOVE Hit Train Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/HALLPASS, ASCAP/Turntable Music Pub, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Rocky Creek James, ASCAP/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/PTNB Publishing, ASCAP (D.Lynch, B.J.Johnson, J.R.Hall, H.Phelps, Z.Crowell) **29**

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) **4**

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) **36**

G

GARY Poems On Junk Mail, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (S.L.Wilson Jr.) **33**

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) **28**

GOOD DAMN Indiana Angel Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (G.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, T.Phillips) **51**

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) **10**

HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Game Rooster Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (E.Felker) **47**

THE HELL YOU ARE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Thrive Two Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/The Blocks Are Back Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Better Bad Songs, SESAC/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WeisOwl, ASCAP (A.Cooke, S.W.Ennis, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, E.L.Weisband) **41**

HIGHS & LOWS Songs Of North Chapel Music, BMI/Endurance Music Group, BMI/318 Records Publishing, BMI (M.Cooper) **50**

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) **40**

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) **13**

IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Turtle Garden Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Mouth Feel Music Publishing, ASCAP (D.Dawson, S.W.Ennis, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds) **52**

K

KEEPS ME SANE Anthems Of Platinum Grammer, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Copyright Control (C.T.L.Nance, D.Napier, B.McCollough) **55**

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) **24**

KILLED THE MAN Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Riser House Tunes, SESAC/I Barely Even Know Er Music, BMI/International Dog Music, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/LuVegas Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI (M.D.Whitworth, J.D.Conrad, T.Cartwright, C.B.Baldwin) **45**

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 (P.M.Collum, R.Rogers, M.Criswell) **46**

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, K.S.Clark, C.Wallace) **38**

LONG LIVE COUNTRY Shane Proffitt Publishing Designee, BMI/Zipzpmusic, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI (S.Proffitt, M.Rogers, L.Rimes) **32**

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**

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) **21**

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) **11**

MEDICINE Universal Tunes, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triple Rae Creative Inc, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP (M.Moroney, C.R.Harrington, J.J.Dillon, J.L.Alexander) **56**

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N

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PAINTED YOU PRETTY Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Saxet HW Music, BMI/Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/FBRL Country Tunes, BMI (H.Westbrook, Lukas Scott, B.Bailey) **35**

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) **58**

R

REBEL Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Adam Sandler, ASCAP/Laguna Madre Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (D.Baldridge, A.Sanders) **59**

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) **20**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Corey Kent Music, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Lighting Street Publishing, BMI/Melodies Of CDM Outlander, SESAC/Michael Tyler Music, SESAC/MT Room, SESAC/Young Guns Tunes, SESAC (Corey Kent, T.Archer, A.Gooloole, M.Tyler) **14**

S

SAY SO Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Eleventh Wave Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/CinQ Trax, ASCAP/Lilyridge Music, ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, D.H.Hodges, J.Robbins) **30**

SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sullivan S 50 Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Hits Of 50 Egg Music, ASCAP/Braven Baker Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, R.Montana, J.D.Singleton) **1**

SOUTH OF SANITY Rio Bravo Music, BMI/M/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) **22**

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) **34**

T

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) **9**

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.Dragstrom, R.C.McGill) **31**

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) **6**

WHAT IF WE DON'T Beejo Fetch Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Song Factory, BMI/Merf Music Publishing LLC, BMI/Colton Sounds, BMI/Songs Of Merf Music LLC, BMI (A.McBryde, T.Box, R.Clay) **37**

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) **48**

WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbanger Publishing, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI (G.Warburton, J.J.Dillon, B.Pendergrass, C.LaCorte) **16**

WOMAN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Family Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poggy's Picks, ASCAP/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Copyright Control/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (K.Brown, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson, T.Phillips) **19**

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) **42**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Weblinger 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.Dragstrom, J.Thompson) **23**

MIDYEAR TOURING REPORT



Join *Billboard* as we take a midyear look at the touring industry's top venues, tours and promoters based on *Billboard*'s exclusive Boxscore charts. Charts will include: Top grossing venues, tours and promoters, top Boxscores, top ticket sales, top tours by genre + comedy.

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

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Midyear Touring Print edition:

ISSUE DATE: May 30

AD SPACE CLOSE: May 19

MATERIALS DUE: May 21

Midyear Touring Digital - Special edition of Bulletin:

ISSUE DATE: May 27

AD SPACE CLOSE: May 19

MATERIALS DUE: May 21

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REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

40 Years Ago

'O, Canada': When Anne Murray's Fellow Countrymen Cemented Her 'Forever' Legacy

The smooth alto vocalist last appeared atop Hot Country Songs in 1986

When Nova Scotia native **Anne Murray** attained the top spot on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs on April 24, 1986, it marked the only time in her career that two noted Canadian producers — both from British Columbia — pitched in on the project.

David Foster (**Kenny Rogers**, **Whitney Houston**) guided just one cut on her 10-track *Something to Talk About* album, created from a melody he co-wrote with **Jim Vallance** (**Tina Turner**, **Glass Tiger**), a frequent **Bryan Adams** co-writer. They mostly had just a topline and chords when

they introduced it to Murray, and she called Nashville songwriter **Randy Goodrum** ("You Needed Me," "A Lesson in Leavin' ") to concoct some lyrics.

The result was "Now and Forever (You & Me)," a midtempo pop-country single loaded with electronic keyboards, spiky guitars and backing vocals from **Mr. Mister** lead singer **Richard Page**.

"Now and Forever" started at No. 58 on the Hot Country Songs chart dated Jan. 25, 1986, progressing to No. 1 in a 14-week run. It marked the last of her 10 trips to the country summit, which began

with her cover of a **George Jones** chart-topper, the re-generated "He Thinks I Still Care," which reached the summit on July 27, 1974.

Overall, Murray amassed 25 top 10 country singles, four top 10s on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and 19 Adult Contemporary top 10s. "Now and Forever" peaked at No. 7 AC.

Now retired from music, Murray was celebrated in an Oct. 27 Nashville tribute that featured **Trisha Yearwood**, **Martina McBride**, **Collin Raye** and **k.d. lang**.

—TOM ROLAND

WEEK	WEEKS ON CHART	PEAK POSITION	WEEKS AT NO. 1	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
1	2	5	14	NOW AND FOREVER (YOU & ME) D.FOSTER (FOSTER, VALLANCE, GOODRUM)	1 week at No. One ANNE MURRAY CAPITOL 5547
2	4	6	13	ONCE IN A BLUE MOON N.LARKIN, E.T.CONLEY (T.BRASFIELD, R.BYRNE)	EARL THOMAS CONLEY RCA 14282
3	5	7	12	FEELIN' THE FEELIN' E.GORDY, JR., J.BOWEN (D.BELLAMY)	THE BELLAMY BROTHERS MCA/CURB 52747/MCA
4	7	10	11	GRANDPA (TELL ME 'BOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS) B.MAHER (J.O'HARA)	◆ THE JUDDS RCA/CURB 14290/RCA
5	6	8	14	I HAD A BEAUTIFUL TIME M.HAGGARD, R.REYNOLDS (M.HAGGARD)	MERLE HAGGARD EPIC 34-05782
6	10	13	18	AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'	HANK WILLIAMS, JR.

Murray performs
June 17, 1986,
in Dallas.

