

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com



Radio's Future Shaped By Tech: What Music Execs Need To Know About Impending Changes

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When **Zach Top** made his debut on airwaves in 2021 with "Sounds Like the Radio," the song took listeners "back [to] '94, you know."

Radio in that era was a different animal — more than 90% of American adults used a clock radio to start their day, and the biggest competitor for in-car listening was the factory-installed CD player.

Today's landscape is less favorable for over-the-air radio. More than 80% of the population now uses a smart phone as the alarm, and over 25% of listeners don't have a single AM/FM radio in their home, according to Michigan-based Jacobs Media's 22nd annual TechSurvey 2026. Additionally, during their commutes, drivers have satellite radio, audiobooks and streaming apps among numerous non-radio options that didn't even exist back in '94.

The TechSurvey, released in an [April 24 webinar](#), suggests that even stations' most ardent fans will soon be tuning in to the radio more on other devices than on AM/FM hardware. Listening to Zach Top — or **Morgan Wallen** or **Ella Langley** or anyone else — is a different experience on those devices than on a traditional radio, and programmers will want to adjust their stations to take advantage of consumers' behavior as they continue to move to those platforms. How will that change broadcasters' approach? "That's kind of the holy-grail question," says Jacobs Media

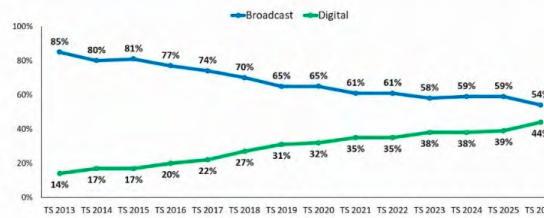
president/founder **Fred Jacobs**.

The TechSurvey, a study drawn from people in station databases, measures the listening habits and opinions of radio's most committed customers across all formats. (The study does not reflect casual listeners) It demonstrates that those super-users still listen to their favorite AM/FM stations 54% of the time on a radio. But 44% of the time, they access those stations through other sources, including mobile phones, PCs or smart speakers such as Alexa. That 10% difference between AM/FM tuners and other options is far smaller than the 71% spread in 2013. Based on the trend line, it's likely that the competing devices will surpass traditional AM/FM listening in just two to three years.

How successfully broadcast executives handle that flip will determine the medium's future and have a large impact on the artists and labels who supply the music stations with a big chunk of their content.

The features of those alternate gadgets — as well as the environment in which they're used — shape the way listeners engage with the medium. During rush hour in the car, where most radio tune-in occurs, preset buttons allow the commuter to switch stations easily. To maximize impact, programmers attempt to keep as many drivers' attention as possible with engaging content to build the largest possible audience during a commute

P1 Station Listening Platform Trend: Broadcast vs. Digital



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% of time spent with P1 station in a typical week via broadcast platforms (an AM/FM radio at home/school/work or in a vehicle) vs. digital platforms (computer, mobile, smart speaker, podcasts, smart TV)
techsurvey 2026

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Russ Penuell



that lasts, on average, less than 30 minutes.

The same customer, listening at work or home, is less likely to change the channel while using the radio as background for other activities. In that setting, programmers generally benefit by providing content that is steadier, more reliable and less obtrusive, attempting to keep the listener’s engagement as long as possible.

Balancing those competing data points — the size of the cumulative audience versus the time spent listening — is the challenge for radio decision-makers, who may need to tweak their approaches as the audience shifts its habits. They could alter the size of playlists, the frequency of an individual title’s repetition, the size of commercial breaks or the amount of disc jockey conversation as the audience moves to different devices. And those decisions come as modern in-car dashboards feature increasingly elaborate infotainment systems that further threaten to deflate listenership in the space where radio has long dominated.

“Listening in the car to a regular AM/FM radio is still the No. 1 way that people listen to their favorite radio stations,” Jacobs says. “But the more that cars become connected, and the more that cars allow you to pair your phone or they have embedded apps on their home screens, the more pressure that puts on radio broadcasters to win the war.”

Radio’s future is further complicated by the audience itself, according to this year’s TechSurvey. The average age of the current P1 listener is 58.4 years (the country format, at an average 57.1 among its most enthusiastic supporters, is only slightly younger than radio as a whole). As recently as 2023, radio’s P1s averaged 55.5 — the listener base increased by three years in that short window. That means stations are not cultivating superfans in younger demos fast enough to replace older fans as they disappear.

It represents an “epic fail,” Jacobs says, noting that broadcasters have been so devoted to the 25-54 demographic that they are neither catering to the dominant older segment of their audience nor cultivating the younger listeners who need to come on board to keep radio thriving.

“We have not spent any energy, time or money on people, really, under the age of 25,” Jacobs laments. “Teens were [formerly] an integral part of radio listening and also radio sales. Those were the people discovering the new music, and those were the people who were genuinely excited about what was going on. Most radio stations haven’t included them in the strategic mix now for decades.”

The extreme demos — consumers under 25 and over 55 — may be key to radio’s future strength, presenting a conundrum since both have different engagement profiles. A sizable chunk of the P1 listeners who are older than the medium’s 58-year average age are retired and thus commuting less, reducing their in-car listening. Since radio is a life-long habit, they’re increasingly tuning in via Alexa, Google Home or their computer, and listening for longer stretches.

The younger demos, whose media habits are shaped primarily by their use of smart phones, are prone to shorter listening occurrences, which would seem to require a different programming approach. Focusing on the older base would create the best short-term Nielsen ratings, though their age necessarily means their numbers will dwindle in the approaching decade. Engaging youth would likely not pay off in a sizable increase in those demos for a number of years, if at all.

“Radio as an industry has not adjusted to the demographic realities,” Jacobs says. “That’s why you begin to start looking at data like this and going, ‘Whoa!’ This thing is becoming a really difficult challenge with each passing year as the audience ages out.”

One surprising source of optimism might come with the development of the smart TV. Still relatively new, the device is used only 2% of the time by radio’s strongest consumers, but it’s particularly popular among Gen Z. It might be a method in which stations are able to groom the youngest part of the audience to become the future core.

Thus, to quote Zach Top, it “sounds like the radio” would benefit from catering to the aging part of its audience, which is likely to engage for longer periods of time as it increasingly stays home, while simultaneously building its younger segment, which could be listening longer if it discovers radio through its use of smart TV.

The rules around media ownership are likely to be relaxed, Jacobs notes, and he suggests that chains that typically operate five or six outlets in a particular market would benefit from having one of its stations devoted to 55+ demos and another focused on 12-24.

“You need to think,” Jacobs says, “about both things at the same time.” ●



BLUE WEIDEMANN

ERNEST performed “Boat Named After You” on the April 29 installment of NBC’s *Today* ahead of the May 1 release of his album *Deep Blue*. With him: co-hosts Sheinelle Jones (left) and Jenna Bush Hater.



KAI GOROWSKY

Dustin Lynch (center) greeted BMG North America executive VP/CFO **Joe Gillen** and his daughter, **Alyssa Gillen**, when he performed April 22 at Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Morrison, Colo.



Kane Brown (left) poses with NFL senior director of global event presentation, music & entertainment **Tim Tubito** at the NFL Draft Entertainment Series in Pittsburgh, where Brown headlined on April 25.



ROBBY STEVENS

Jackson Dean (left) parties with Blue Highway CEO **Jake Basden** during an April 23 event in Nashville celebrating Dean’s new album, *Magnolia Sage*.

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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.

CONTACTS

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

Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

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

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

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

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billboard Country Airplay

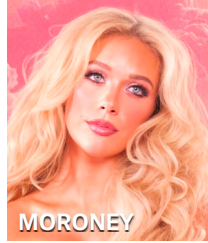
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ON THE CHARTS **RUSS PENUELL** rpenuell@billboard.com

Moroney Notches Fourth Top 10, Langley & Wallen Debut

Megan Moroney earns her fourth top 10 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "Beautiful Things" (Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN) rises 12-10 on the list dated May 9, delivering 17.7 million audience impressions (up 7%) April 24-30, according to Luminate.

Cowritten by Moroney, **Jessi Alexander**, **Jessie Jo Dillon** and **Connie Harrington** and produced by **Kristian Bush**, the track is from *Cloud 9*, her third studio album, released in February. "Beautiful Things" becomes the second single from the No. 1 set to reach the top 10, following "6 Months Later," which rose to No. 2 in January. Moroney first hit the tier with her debut single, "Tennessee Orange" (No. 4, 2023), while "Am I Okay?" followed with a No. 2 peak last summer.



AMBER ASALY

"Beautiful Things" reaches the top 10 in its 27th week, in line with the five-year average for songs to reach the tier dating to May 2021. It joins 20 other songs by solo-billed women to make the top 10 in that span. **Lainey Wilson** leads that group with six in that frame, followed by Moroney's four, **Ella Langley's** three and **Gabby Barrett's** two; **Ashley Cooke**, **Dasha**, **Miranda Lambert**, **Maren Morris**, **Carly Pearce** and **Carrie Underwood** have one each. Overall, women, solo or in collaboration, account for 39 of the 241 top 10s in that stretch (16%).

DEBUTS **Ella Langley** and **Morgan Wallen** arrive with "I Can't Love You Anymore" (SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers), at No. 19 (10.2 million). It marks Langley's highest debut among eight Country Airplay entries and ties for Wallen's third-highest among 37. Langley, who wrote the song with **Austin Goodloe** and **Joybeth Taylor**, debuted it during Wallen's concert in Tuscaloosa, Ala., April 18; it was teased in the closing moments of her "Choosin' Texas" video before the duet's April 24 release.

Meanwhile, **Kacey Musgraves** gets her 11th entry as "Loneliest Girl" (Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway) opens at No. 35 (3.4 million). The track is one of 13 on *Middle of Nowhere*, her sixth studio set, released today (May 1). Plus, singer-songwriter **Jacob Hackworth** debuts with "What Took You So Long" (Goat Island/Mercury Nashville) at No. 60 (720,000). ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+10.142
LONELIEST GIRL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	+3.377
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+2.421
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.779
KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	+1.463
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.397
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+1.326
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+1.274
BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	+1.164
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1.084

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+1993
LONELIEST GIRL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	+825
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+481
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+403
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+373
MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	+359
SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	+312
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+287
COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	+264
GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	+250

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	18.130
2	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	13.407
3	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	12.489
4	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	12.359
5	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	10.509
6	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	10.432
7	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	9.873
8	TIME'S TICKING Blue Highway	Justin Moore	9.856
9	AIN'T A BAD LIFE Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Blue Highway	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jordan Davis	9.522
10	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	8.255



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 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	16	SO GOOD FOR ME (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★	Bubba Westly	1891	184	11	12	24	COWBOY KINDA PARTY (Independent)	Caleb Sutton	1148	37
2	3	13	SELFISH (Independent)	Josh Abbott Band	1669	197	12	17	15	FOUND (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1143	102
3	6	18	WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOU (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1471	92	13	16	8	SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1134	49
4	4	11	PAINTED YOU PRETTY (Independent)	Hudson Westbrook	1457	1	14	19	8	I CAN'T GET OVER YOU (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1129	129
5	5	16	LONG WAY HOME (Independent)	Matt Daniel	1455	19	15	15	16	NEON NEVER LIES (Mirror Ball Records)	Caleb Young	1108	11
6	7	15	HOW MANY SORRYS (Cameron Allbright Music)	Cameron Allbright	1427	73	16	13	29	WHAT KIND OF MAN (Independent)	Sheila Marshall	1091	-16
7	8	13	GOING THROUGH (WHISKEY LIKE WATER) (Independent)	Tilluride	1342	4	17	11	28	MOVING ON (Independent)	Trent Cowie	1069	-119
8	10	15	BLESSING AND A CURSE (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1337	91	18	18	16	BEAUTIFUL YOU (Prophets and Outlaws Music)	Prophets and Outlaws	1062	39
9	9	11	ONE WILD REASON (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1331	-3	19	20	9	LIVE FREE (SEE ME RUNNING) (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1027	74
10	14	12	DANCING WITH MY BABY TONIGHT (Independent)	Trevor Underwood	1168	62	20	22	4	JUNE'S HONKY TONK MOON (CDX)	Sandee June	980	193

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	16	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN ★★ No. 1 (4 Weeks) ★★	Luke Combs	33.291	+0.987	8780	205	1
2	3	28	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	25.709	-1.665	6100	-608	6
3	5	20	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	24.608	+1.326	6662	287	3
4	4	53	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	24.021	+0.236	6676	28	2
5	2	25	DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	23.365	-6.583	6414	-1906	4
6	8	11	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	22.282	+0.528	5859	215	8
7	7	18	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	22.101	+0.131	6345	21	5
8	9	27	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	21.261	+0.544	5890	51	7
9	10	32	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	18.313	+1.274	5001	144	10
10	12	27	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	17.717	+1.164	5079	161	9
11	11	48	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	16.435	-0.294	4905	28	11
12	14	21	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	15.448	+1.042	4465	226	12
13	15	9	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	15.276	+1.779	4340	403	13
14	13	54	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	15.095	-0.436	4023	-225	14
15	17	9	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	12.717	+1.396	3471	203	15
16	16	60	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	12.063	+0.183	3457	-30	16
17	19	7	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN ★★ Airpower ★★	Kane Brown	11.798	+2.421	3415	481	17
18	18	29	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	10.729	+0.446	3355	106	18
19	NEW		I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	10.185	+10.142	2003	1993	26
20	20	13	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	9.052	+0.291	2938	-128	19
21	21	13	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	8.898	+0.245	2861	-104	20
22	24	43	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	8.547	+1.463	2744	228	21
23	23	46	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	8.309	+0.529	2667	66	23
24	22	20	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	8.258	+0.246	2697	90	22
25	25	5	COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	7.304	+0.691	2081	264	24
26	26	34	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	5.925	+0.501	2001	134	27
27	27	15	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	5.332	+0.205	2036	27	25
28	28	10	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	5.265	+0.740	1825	250	29
29	30	4	SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	4.730	+1.036	1795	312	30
30	29	42	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	4.526	+0.046	1932	10	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	31	19	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greylan James	3.879	+0.446	1651	65	31
32	39	5	BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN ★★ Breaker ★★	Luke Combs	3.785	+1.084	960	373	43
33	34	24	STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Alexandra Kay/Wheelhouse	Alexandra Kay	3.655	+0.454	1628	36	32
34	32	31	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	3.498	+0.072	1377	28	35
35	NEW		LONELIEST GIRL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	3.377	+3.377	825	825	49
36	35	10	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	3.377	+0.189	1217	-2	38
37	38	12	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	3.375	+0.391	1418	88	34
38	33	14	GARY Mercury/Big Loud	Stephen Wilson Jr.	3.336	+0.009	1276	-3	36
39	36	28	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	3.250	+0.175	1617	15	33
40	37	9	WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	3.032	+0.021	1200	-18	39
41	42	18	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	2.521	+0.091	1139	-10	40
42	40	14	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	2.486	+0.011	1272	-21	37
43	41	27	THE HELL YOU ARE Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	2.455	-0.017	1113	-30	41
44	44	14	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	2.406	+0.169	950	86	45
45	43	15	MAKE A LIAR Blue Highway	Jackson Dean	2.322	-0.032	1015	-23	42
46	46	10	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	2.038	+0.298	957	75	44
47	53	2	BOSTON Stella Lefty/Atlantic Outpost/Atlantic	Stella Lefty	1.999	+0.837	452	234	-
48	56	2	MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN ★★ Breaker ★★	Megan Moroney	1.964	+1.043	824	359	50
49	49	3	MOVE ON American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	1.924	+0.492	887	196	47
50	47	33	HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Bossier City/Thirty Tigers/Akando	Tumpike Troubadours	1.727	+0.025	548	-9	60
51	45	25	KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	1.669	-0.236	940	-62	46
52	48	13	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	1.624	-0.020	788	7	51
53	51	6	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	1.406	+0.070	838	-29	48
54	52	6	IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Blue Highway/Nashville Harbor	Carly Pearce & Riley Green	1.387	+0.097	674	9	57
55	50	16	HIGHS & LOWS Quartz Hill	Matt Cooper	1.355	+0.015	775	-19	52
56	54	21	DEVIL AIN'T DONE Stoney Creek	Atlas	1.154	+0.084	685	-9	56
57	55	9	KEEPS ME SANE Tyler Nance/Santa Anna/Akando	Tyler Nance	1.044	+0.076	685	51	55
58	57	4	BACK IN THE BOTTLE Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	0.887	-0.009	744	36	53
59	58	11	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor	The Band Perry	0.853	-0.006	689	-15	54
60	NEW		WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	Jacob Hackworth	0.719	+0.315	580	237	59



Wyatt Flores was among the artists on hand for the CAA Stagecoach Brunch on April 25 in Indio, Calif. From left: CAA agent Meredith Jones Long, Flores, and CAA Nashville agent Jacob Lapidus and music marketing executive Ella Fernandez.



Lainey Wilson received a plaque from BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville recognizing RIAA certifications for her *Bell Bottom Country* album and three of its tracks during the April 15 screening of her Netflix documentary *Lainey Wilson: Keepin' Country Cool*. From left: BBR/BMG Nashville BM Peter Strickland, Red Light manager Mandelyn Monchick, Wilson and BMG Americas president of Frontline Recordings Jon Loba.

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.

CONTACTS

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

Southeast Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

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

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

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

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MATERIALS DUE: May 21

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

NATHAN THOMAS

Scotty McCreery received a plaque from Sony Music Canada in Orillia, Ontario, on April 25 recognizing his Canadian No. 1 single with the Hootie + the Blowfish collaboration “Bottle Rockets.” From left: songwriter Bobby Hamrick, McCreery, Sony Music Canada director of radio & artist engagement Warren Copnick and songwriter-producer Frank Rogers.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Riser House hired **Leighanna Martin** as manager of A&R + publishing, working with both the company’s label and its roster of songwriters. She was formerly an Anthem Entertainment creative coordinator ... BMG and Concord announced plans to merge on April 28, moving forward under the BMG moniker. Go [here](#) for the full story ... Big Machine signed singer-songwriter-instrumentalist **Naomi Carman** to a recording deal ... Free Flight/Sony Music Nashville signed self-described “folkternative” artist **Sam Westhoof**, who records under the name **HAFFWAY**. In conjunction with the announcement, the label released “East Coast (fck u la)” — a reimagined version of a 2023 recording — on May 1 ... Audacy added two new members to its board of directors: DAZN USA president **Walker Jacobs** and Soros Fund Management media partnerships & investments executive **Gabriel Brotman** ... **KMLE** Phoenix installed **Gabe Mercer** in mornings alongside **Niko Petrou**, RadioInsight.com reported. Mercer was previously hosting mornings at **KKWF** Seattle and afternoons on **KMLE** ... **Zach Dillon** was tapped for the afternoon shift at **KEEY** Minneapolis, according to RadioInsight.com, filling a vacancy created when **Mike “Muss” Mussman** left in a series of layoffs. Dillon adds the role to his existing duties as assistant PD/morning host at adult alternative sister **KTCZ**.

‘ROUND THE ROW

Messina Touring hired tour director **Kate Lazzari**, who served most recently as AEG Presents director of touring/talent buyer. Reach her [here](#) ... **Neon Union** members **Leo Brooks** and **Andrew Millsaps** announced they were ending the duo on April 24. Go [here](#) for full details ... The Nashville Songwriters Association International announced its board of directors for 2026, including two new members: songwriters **Victoria Banks** (“Saints & Angels,” “Come On Over”) and **Josh Jenkins** (“Buy Dirt,” “Fancy Like”) ... **Avery Anna** was named the Academy of Country Music’s new female artist of the year after an April 26 appearance in Arlington, Texas, while **Tucker Wetmore** received the new male trophy during an April 30 concert in London. The ACM subsequently announced nearly a dozen performers for the organization’s May 17 awards show in Las Vegas, including **Ella Langley**, **Dan + Shay**, **Blake Shelton** and **Carter Faith** ... The Musicians Hall of Fame inducted 12 new members in Nashville on April 28, including **Keith Urban**, **Dolly Parton** and guitarist **Dann Huff** ... The Country Music Association revealed its voting schedule for its various awards programs, including the 60th annual CMA Awards, set for Nov. 18 at Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena. Balloting for that show begins July 6, with the third and final round of voting

closing on Oct. 27. Go [here](#) for the complete schedule ... The International Bluegrass Music Association is accepting nominations for its awards and for performers for its international showcase in Chattanooga during the organization’s October convention. Go [here](#) for more info ... Spirit Music CEO **Frank Rogers** received South Carolina’s order of the palmetto, the state’s highest honor, on April 30 in Columbia ... **Billboard** will host a free Billboard Country Live event June 4-5 at Nashville’s Category 10 during CMA Fest with a range of performers, including headliners **The Red Clay Strays** and **Tucker Wetmore**. Go [here](#) to RSVP ... RFD-TV will begin airing *Opry Live* weekly on Saturdays, starting May 9, and will launch *Circle Sessions* on May 8 ... **Tom Truitt**’s WHO KNEW “The Smartest People in the Room” welcomes Wildflower Entertainment Group founder **Bobbii Jacobs** and FEMco founder **Leslie Fram** in a May 7 edition of the webinar series. Jacobs recently released a book, *Lessons from a Shoebox: The Importance of Faith, Family, and Leaving a Legacy*. Go [here](#) to register for free ... **Rhiannon Giddens** established the Biscuits & Banjos Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to education about the African diaspora’s role in American culture ... **Rascal Flatts** vocalist **Gary LeVox** hosts the BIRDY Celebrity Golf Invitational in Old Hickory, Tenn., on Aug. 11 to raise funds for Folds of Honor ... **Darius Rucker**’s 17th annual Darius and Friends concert for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital returns to Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium on June 1 ... **Bailey Zimmerman** donates \$1 from each ticket sold for his May 1 and 2 concerts at Nashville’s Ascend Amphitheater to local dog charity Wags & Walks ... Among the acts signed up for **Craig Campbell**’s Celebrity Cornhole Challenge & Concert on June 2 in Nashville are **Jerrold Niemann**, **Thompson Square**, **Fillmore**, **Aam Sanders** and **Taylor Holder** ... **Kylie Frey**, **Eric Paslay** and **Louis TheSinger** will participate in the Horses for Mental Health Campaign during the month of May ... Musicians On Call will honor **Reba McEntire** and RIAA chairman/CEO **Mitch Glazier** during a Music Heals Live! event at The Pinnacle in Nashville on May 20, with appearances by **Garth Brooks**, **Trisha Yearwood**, **Martina McBride** and **Vince Gill** ... **Greg Gordon**, 75, of the gospel group **The Imperials**, died April 28. He was also a member of the 1980s Nashville pop act **The Boys Band**, and provided backing vocals on recordings by **John Berry**, **Tanya Tucker** and **Kris Kristofferson**, among others ... Multi-genre songwriter-producer **Cliff Downs**, 72, died on April 24 with cancer. His catalog includes work with **Glen Campbell**, **Gabby Barrett**, **Wynonna** and **B.J. Thomas**. A celebration of life and visitation are slated for 3 p.m. on May 4 at the Brentwood Baptist Church in Tennessee. In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to the Musicians Hall of Fame or PR Ministries. ●



Cody Johnson guested on the April 23 edition of Amazon’s *Country Heat Weekly* in conjunction with his appearance at the Stagecoach Country Music Festival. He’s flanked by hosts **Kelly Sutton** (left) and **Amber Anderson**.

CHART BEAT RUSS PENUELL rpenuell@billboard.com

David Allan Coe's Chart History: His Own Hits And Classics Recorded by Johnny Paycheck And More

The outlaw-era voice made a lasting chart footprint with songs that outlived their peak years.

David Allan Coe's place in country music was never especially tidy. That was part of the point.

Coe, who died April 29 at age 86, built a career that ran alongside the Nashville mainstream without ever settling inside it. He emerged in the 1970s as country's outlaw movement reshaped the format, sharing the independent streak of Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and others, while often pushing further into rougher, more confrontational territory.

His *Billboard* chart history reflects that tension. Coe charted 30 titles on Hot Country Songs from 1974 through 1987. He never reached No. 1 as a recording artist, but earned three top 10s: "Mona Lisa Lost Her Smile," which became his highest-peaking hit, reaching No. 2 in 1984; "The Ride," which hit No. 4 in 1983; and "You Never Even Called Me by My Name," which rose to No. 8 in 1975 and went on to become a lasting singalong staple — part joke, part truth and long a country anthem.

Coe logged 20 entries on *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart during his lifetime. *Castles in the Sand* (1983) and *Once Upon a Rhyme* (1975) were his best showings, each hitting No. 8 and spending a combined 46 weeks on the chart. He most recently made the list with *The Essential David Allan Coe*, in 2005-06.

Coe did top Hot Country Songs as a songwriter, with Johnny Paycheck's "Take This Job and Shove It," written by Coe, a No. 1 in 1977 and ultimately one of country's defining working-class anthems. Other Coe-penned songs include "Would You Lay With Me (In a Field of Stone)," also a No. 1, for Tanya Tucker in 1974, and "Single Father," written with and charted by Kid Rock in 2004.

Coe's career, of course, extended beyond what chart numbers can capture. His *Nothing Sacred* and *Underground Album* recordings, explicit and controversial, complicated his standing then and now. Still, his influence runs through country's harder-edged lanes, especially among artists drawn to the genre's less-polished side.

David Allan Coe did not always fit Nashville's center, but for more than a decade and beyond he became part of its chart story. ●



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

A

ALL MY EXES Iylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBEAT PUBLISHING, BMI/Only Legned 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/Myklos Work Of Art, BMI (Lauren Albina, J.A.Gutch, B.J.Johnson, W.Philips) **26**

B

BACK IN THE BOTTLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/I'm Your Huckleberry Music, BMI (R.Houser) **58**

BEAUTIFUL THINGS Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triples 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) **10**

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. Alley, S.Banks, N.Walsh) **32**

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) **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) **27**

BOSTON 13117 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Grace Enger Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Joel Reeves Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/LMC Is The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Secret Meadow Songs, ASCAP/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Stella Lefty Music, ASCAP (G.Enger, J.K.Hindlin, J.Reeves, N.Kahan, S.Lefty) **47**

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) **3**

C

CHANGE MY MIND Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Fatland 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/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.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.Dick, M.Lambert, J.Taylor) **2**

COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Trailer Parker Twang Lab, BMI/Hometeam 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/Titawhirl Music, BMI/Lucky Three Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/ONE TOOTH PRODUCTIONS, BMI/Super LCS Publishing, BMI (L.Combs, B.Cobb, A.Ratiere) **5**

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

DON'T TELL ON ME Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triples Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irisnonmusic, BMI/Kwsay Publishing, BMI/WritersontheCornPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan, L.Vaughan) **13**

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.Wallen, R.H.Block, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, Charlie Handsome) **15**

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) **30**

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/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) **39**

G

GARY Poems On Junk Mail, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (S.L.Wilson Jr.) **38**

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 (B.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, T.Phillips) **53**

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) **9**

HEAVEN PASSING THROUGH Game Rooster Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (E.Felker) **50**

THE HELL YOU ARE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Twelve Two Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/The Blocks Are Back Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Better Bad Songs, SESAC/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WeisOwl, ASCAP (A.Cooke, S.W.Emmis, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, E.L.Weisband) **43**

HIGHS & LOWS Songs Of North Chapel Music, BMI/Endurance Music Group, BMI/318 Records Publishing, BMI (M.Cooper) **55**

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) **42**

I

I AIN'T COMING BACK Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Beal 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) **14**

I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI (E.Langley, A.Goodloe, J.Taylor) **19**

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.Emmis, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds) **54**

K

KEEPS ME SANE Anthems Of Platinum Grammer, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Copyright Control (C.T.L.Nance, D.Napier, B.McCollough) **57**

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) **22**

KILLED THE MAN Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Riser House Tunes, SESAC/I Barely Even Know Er Music, BMI/International Dog Music, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/LuVeGas Publishing, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI (M.D.Whiteworth, J.D.Conrad, T.Catwright, C.B.Baldwin) **51**

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.McCollum, 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) **37**

LONELIEST GIRL 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 CTM 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.Osbome) **35**

LONG LIVE COUNTRY Shane Proffitt Publishing Designee, BMI/Zipzpmusic, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI (S.Proffitt, M.J.Rogers, L.Rimes) **34**

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**

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/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.Janison, T.Phillips, A.G.Gorley, A.Sheridan) **11**

MEDICINE Universal Songs, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triples 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) **48**

MOVE ON Not Listed (Not Listed) **49**

N

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) **44**

P

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) **36**

PSYCHOLOGICAL Smack Back Music, BMI/Concord Baritone CTI, BMI/Midtown Mistake Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Colton Venner Publishing, BMI (C.Park, G.Tyler, C.Venner) **59**

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) **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 CTM Outlander, SESAC/Michael Tyler Music, SESAC/MT Room, SESAC/Young Guns Tunes, SESAC (Corey Kent, T.Archer, A.Goodloe, M.Tyler) **12**

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/Lyridge Music, ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, D.H.Hodges, J.Robbins) **29**

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) **1**

SOUTH OF SANITY Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Major Bob Productions, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Doan What I Do, BMI/Geysasome Music, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, M.Nester) **24**

STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART Cinq Trax, ASCAP/Lyridge 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) **33**

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) **8**

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 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.J.Box, R.Clay) **40**

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Not Listed (Not Listed) **60**

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.Southernland) **52**

WISH YOU WELL Big Music Machine, BMI/Works By Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbaner 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) **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/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Copyright Control/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (C.Brown, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson, T.Phillips) **17**

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) **41**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webstring Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Drag Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP (P.C.Brust, C.Lucas, M.Dragstrom, J.Thompson) **23**

COUNTRY

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

10 Years Ago 'Confession' Was Good For Florida Georgia Line's Country Soul

The self-reflective single became their eighth No. 1 title on Country Airplay

Florida Georgia Line established its reputation around a party vibe, but with the 2015 release "Confession," the duo embraced a more serious tone featuring a protagonist who takes his truck to the outskirts of town, pops a cold one and considers his life.

It may have been a step away from their original identity, but it clearly connected with the general public. "Confession" climbed to No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart dated May 7, 2016, becoming the eighth of 16 titles to reach the summit on the list, which measures songs'

radio audience.

Written by **Matt Jenkins** ("Buy Dirt," "Halfway to Hell"), **Rodney Clawson** ("American Kids," "Amarillo Sky") and **Ross Copperman** ("Dancin' in the Country," "half of my hometown"), "Confession" required FGL members **Brian Kelley** and **Tyler Hubbard** to roll up their creative sleeves. They sang it more than 75 times for producer **Joey Moi** (**Morgan Wallen**, **Nickelback**) in the process of cutting the final vocal.

"Confession" was the fifth single from the duo's second Republic Nashville album,

Anything Goes, and the fourth from the project to top Country Airplay, following "Dirt," "Sun Daze" and "Sippin' on Fire."

Hubbard and Kelley met as students at Nashville's Belmont University and rode to prominence behind their first single, 2012's "Cruise," which has been certified 14-times platinum by the RIAA. The duo announced it was going on hiatus in February 2022, finishing one last tour together in August 2022 as the two shifted into solo work. They reunited for the first time in March to perform at an event honoring **Jason Aldean**. —TOM ROLAND

Florida Georgia Line's Kelley (left) and Hubbard at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Nov. 20, 2016



WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE <small>Imp/Label</small>	Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	2	25	CONFESSION Republic Nashville	Florida Georgia Line	44.761	+1.792	7940	215	1
2	3	14	SOMEWHERE ON A BEACH Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	43.926	+4.288	7780	652	2
3	5	17	THINK OF YOU RCA Nashville/Republic Nashville	Chris Young Duet With Cassadee Pope	43.178	+4.526	7776	871	3
4	6	23	SNAPBACK RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	39.736	+1.935	7232	421	4
5	1	32	I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	37.960	-8.553	6642	-1555	5
6	8	30	MIND READER Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	36.252	+2.189	6505	466	6