

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## Artist And Producer: Inside Jackson Dean's Long-Running Partnership With 'Brother' Luke Dick

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With his new album, *Magnolia Sage*, **Jackson Dean** put a different spin on his established gritty persona.

In his first Big Machine album, 2022's *Greenbroke*, he decided to include more than one love song in the midst of the project's swampy sound.

With this latest release on the newly formed Blue Highway label, he is fully embracing a relationship, returning multiple times to amorè as he explores more soul textures in the music on the heels of a January 2026 engagement.

If Dean is thinking differently about interpersonal connection in his material, some of his willingness to take musical chances is strengthened by another key relationship, his ongoing collaboration with producer **Luke Dick (Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town)**. The two creatives met at a 2019 party celebrating "Burning Man," a song Dick co-wrote for **Dierks Bentley** and **Brothers Osborne**, when Dean was a mere 18. It wasn't long before they became a musical team.

"Sometimes you just click with somebody," Dean says in a conference room at BMI Nashville, ahead of a party for his single "Heavens to Betsy." "When I met him, I was like, 'Wow, this is a plethora of knowledge that I have standing right in front of me.' I never really know how to explain, like, what it is between us. He's Sensei, I am student."

That's not a fully accurate description. Dick was indeed at a different stage of life at the time — mid-30s, married with children — but they think of themselves more as musical brothers than as teacher and pupil. Like brothers, they have a fair share of similarities, particularly their mutual passion for exploring new music from a range of origins. On this particular day, they're enamored of progressive Canadian folk group **The Barr Brothers**.

They're mutually obsessive enough to dive down deep rab-



DEAN (left) and DICK

ROBBY STEVENS

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bit holes to find the perfect guitar solo and flexible enough to jump at a last-minute opportunity to land a song in an outside project.

But they have their differences, too. Dean arrived at BMI in a crisp, black suit and speaks slowly, quietly mulling his words as he strives to capture an abstraction. Dick showed up in a bright, striped shirt and loose, comfortable, shitabaki-style pants, and talks more forcefully, finding the right phrases to turn an inanimate concept into something a bit more tangible. That mix of ethereal creativity and concrete reality was evident for Dick when he began exploring Nashville.

“I was 20 years old, and I rebuilt this double-wide trailer in return for engineering experience and a record to be made,” he remembers. “That’s how I got schooled [on the business] to begin with, driving down on the weekends in between jobs because I couldn’t afford a record, you know, raising a kid and figuring it out.”

After their introduction at the “Burning Man” party, Dean and Dick first wrote together in June 2019. There were no figurative fireworks that screamed “We’re going to work together for a while,” but it didn’t suck either. Their tastes seemed compatible, and there was enough promise that they continued to book more co-writing sessions.

“You never know what’s going to happen,” Dick says of that first co-write. “It could be something that just doesn’t move, there’s no chemistry or something like that. But it felt really good the first time. And to me, you’re following the breadcrumb of: Are you compelled to write again? How does he feel in there? Did he want to do it again? And so you follow these little breadcrumbs one step at a time, rather than getting ahead of yourself with creativity and relationship in general.”

Musical relationships are complicated. Every A-level creative comes with a team, and reading the full panorama of personalities can be the difference between a collaborative match and a disconnect. For a producer and artist, the relationship is even more central to the results; it can be the difference between a hit and a dud.

Dean and Dick’s professional circle overlaps significantly — they’re both signed as songwriters to Little Louder Music, owned by **Eric Church** and **Arturo Buenahora Jr.**, who introduced the two.

Their partnership plays out in both the writers room and the recording studio. Dick and Dean co-wrote all but one of the tracks on *Magnolia Sage*, and they work to maximize Dean’s creative freedom and comfort in the studio despite the underlying pressure to accomplish as much as possible from expensive musicians in a pricy room as the clock ticks.

“I’ll get on the mic and just do what I do,” Dean notes. “You know, I heard somebody talk about **Robert Plant** one time, how he was one of the most interesting singers, because where you think he would go up, he’d go down and do something different, and where you think he’d go down, he’d do something sideways.”

Dick’s role in that scenario is essential. He’s established a familiar core of session players who provide continuity. That gives Dean a greater sense of safety, knowing he can take chances in the performance that he might not in another environment.

Dick is “creating the space for an expression that someone doesn’t know that they need,” he says, comparing his duty in that part of the collaboration to Dean’s role. “It’s the way that things fit together. There’s the ring, and then there’s the jewel.”

Seven years since they started their journey together, the artist and producer have developed a connection that feeds their individual creative needs while building Dean’s wider relationship with a growing audience. They’ve learned how the cycle of their collaboration works — making an album can be an exhaustive process, and once it’s completed, they typically need time to generate ideas for the next one.

“You gotta let the tank fill back up,” Dean asserts.

Even as he promotes *Magnolia Sage*, the fuel for the next go-round is already evident. Dick saw Dean perform recently for the first time in months, and he was already sensing that Dean had developed some new creative vocal and guitar threads that are worth exploring. Dean can’t identify what that new thing is yet, but it’s in the context of their brotherhood that Dick typically brings an undefined abstraction to a clearer form. They’ll continue indefinitely on that path until one of them needs a break.

“In my purest form, I really do want people to find ways to expand themselves,” Dick says. “If that’s with me, great, and if it’s not, that’s great, too. I don’t take things personally when it comes to this. I am personal about the music. I don’t take change personally.” ●



BLUE WEIDENMANN

**ERNEST** (center) performed at the Main Stage on Duval Stage May 2 during BMI’s 30th annual Key West Songwriters Festival. With him: BMI Nashville assistant VP of creative **Mason Hunter** (left) and BMI Nashville VP of creative **Clay Bradley**.



SAM SIMPKINS

**Belmont University** broke ground May 7 on a new Music Row building at 15 Music Circle South for the **Mike Curb College of Entertainment & Music Business** in Nashville. From left: Mike Curb Foundation director **Linda Curb**, Curb | Word chairman **Mike Curb** and Belmont Curb College dean **Brittany Schaffer**.



**Kacey Musgraves** (left) was the guest on the April 30 edition of the Apple Music Country program *The Kelleigh Bannen Show*.

# Coleman Jennings

"Jennings brings admiration for timeless country sounds"

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# billboard Country Airplay

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

## Luke Combs' 'Sleepless' Stays Up At No. 1 For Fifth Week

**Luke Combs** earns a fifth week at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart with "Sleepless in a Hotel Room" (Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN). It leads the list dated May 16 with 34.5 million impressions, up 4%, May 1-7, according to Luminate.

The command ties Combs' third-longest, matching 2023's "Fast Car," 2021's "Better Together" and 2019's "Even Though I'm Leaving." Only his "Beautiful Crazy" (seven weeks, 2019) and "Forever After All" (six, 2021) have spent more time on top.

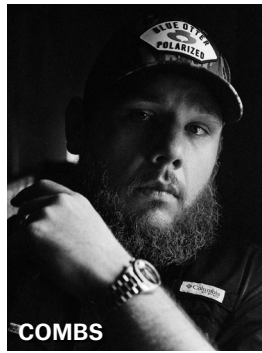
With six No. 1s that have led for at least five weeks, Combs matches **Kenny Chesney** and **Toby Keith** for the second-most. **Tim McGraw** leads with seven; **Morgan Wallen** is in fifth place with four.

Dating to Country Airplay's 1990 inception, just 6% of No. 1s have led for five weeks or more. The longer runs thin out quickly as only 3% have ruled for six weeks or longer, with 1% reaching seven or more. **Nate Smith** and **Wallen** share the longest reigns, with 10 weeks each for Smith's 2023 hit "World on Fire" and Wallen's 2022 smash "You Proof."

No. 1 runs of five weeks or more have tended to arrive in waves rather than evenly across the chart's history. The biggest concentration came from the late 1990s through the mid-2000s, with the '00s alone producing exactly half the songs that have led for five weeks or more (31 of 62). After a relatively sparse 2010s, the '20s have brought a renewed run of such No. 1s (14).

'ROCKY MOUNTAIN' HIGH **Corey Kent** and **Koe Wetzel's** "Rocky Mountain Low" (Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN) rises two places to No. 10 on Country Airplay (16.6 million, up 7%). It's Kent's third trip to the tier and Wetzel's second.

Kent last reached the top 10 a year ago this week with his eventual one-week No. 1 "This Heart." Wetzel previously did so with his **Jessie Murph** collaboration "High Road," a five-week leader in 2024-25. ●



COMBS

ROBBY KLEIN

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+2.869
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+2.254
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+2.171
THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	+1.992
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.794
CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+1.590
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+1.554
BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	+1.344
SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1.258
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+1.162

### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+662
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+619
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+462
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+456
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+414
TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+401
BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	+357
CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+348
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+344
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville	Jacob Hackworth	+308

### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	18.305
2	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	14.454
3	DAYS LIKE THESE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	13.659
4	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	11.747
5	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	11.039
6	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb	Dylan Scott	9.809
7	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	9.596
8	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	8.837
9	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	8.203
10	HOW FAR DOES A GOODBYE GO Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	8.135



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 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	14	SELFISH (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★	Josh Abbott Band	1804	135	11	13	9	SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1242	108
2	4	12	PAINTED YOU PRETTY (Independent)	Hudson Westbrook	1610	153	12	11	25	COWBOY KINDA PARTY (Independent)	Caleb Sutton	1231	83
3	3	19	WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOU (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1594	123	13	10	13	DANCING WITH MY BABY TONIGHT (Independent)	Trevor Underwood	1215	47
4	5	17	LONG WAY HOME (Independent)	Matt Daniel	1584	129	14	19	10	LIVE FREE (SEE ME RUNNING) (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1179	152
5	6	16	HOW MANY SORRYS (Cameron Allbright Music)	Cameron Allbright	1565	138	15	15	17	NEON NEVER LIES (Mirror Ball Records)	Caleb Young	1111	3
6	9	12	ONE WILD REASON (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1449	118	16	20	5	JUNE'S HONKY TONK MOON (CDX)	Sandee June	1100	120
7	7	14	GOING THROUGH (WHISKEY LIKE WATER) (Independent)	Tilluride	1423	81	17	18	17	BEAUTIFUL YOU (Prophets and Outlaws Music)	Prophets and Outlaws	1094	32
8	8	16	BLESSING AND A CURSE (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1395	58	18	22	6	REASONS TO CALL (Get Joe)	Billie Jo	994	96
9	12	16	FOUND (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1253	110	19	16	30	WHAT KIND OF MAN (Independent)	Sheila Marshall	974	-117
10	14	9	I CAN'T GET OVER YOU (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1251	122	20	25	6	STUBBORN AND REMAINS (Independent)	William Clark Green	949	185

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit [www.texasregionalradio.com](http://www.texasregionalradio.com), or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2026, Texas Regional Radio Report

# 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	17	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN <b>★★ No. 1 (5 Weeks) ★★</b>	Luke Combs	34.549	+1.258	9044	264	1
2	2	29	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	26.772	+1.063	6109	9	7
3	3	21	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	26.162	+1.554	7019	357	2
4	4	54	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	26.014	+1.992	6914	238	3
5	6	12	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	24.536	+2.254	6321	462	5
6	7	19	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	23.691	+1.590	6693	348	4
7	8	28	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	22.201	+0.940	6291	401	6
8	9	33	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville <b>★★ Most Increased Audience ★★</b>	Josh Ross	21.183	+2.869	5663	662	8
9	10	28	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	18.693	+0.976	5196	117	9
10	12	22	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	16.593	+1.145	4578	113	12
11	11	49	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	16.391	-0.045	4886	-19	10
12	13	10	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	16.242	+0.966	4684	344	11
13	14	55	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	15.565	+0.469	4107	84	13
14	15	10	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	14.511	+1.794	3927	456	14
15	17	8	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	12.960	+1.162	3687	272	15
16	16	61	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	12.508	+0.445	3519	62	17
17	18	30	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	11.590	+0.862	3559	204	16
18	20	14	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	9.770	+0.718	3091	153	18
19	19	2	I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	9.329	-0.856	2417	414	23
20	22	44	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow <b>★★ Airpower ★★</b>	John Morgan	9.160	+0.613	2879	135	19
21	21	14	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	9.034	+0.136	2866	5	20
22	24	21	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	8.754	+0.496	2767	70	21
23	23	47	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	8.333	+0.024	2705	38	22
24	25	6	COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	8.298	+0.994	2375	294	24
25	27	16	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	6.677	+1.344	2286	250	25
26	26	35	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	6.179	+0.253	2148	147	26
27	32	6	BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	5.955	+2.171	1579	619	32
28	28	11	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	5.675	+0.409	1958	133	27
29	30	43	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	4.732	+0.206	1907	-25	28
30	29	5	SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	4.670	-0.060	1746	-49	30

## COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

### RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2026, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed in Luminate's online platform.

### TIES

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

### BULLETS

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

### RECURRENTS

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

### HOT SHOT DEBUT

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

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

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

### AIRPOWER

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

### BREAKER

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

# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY  
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	31	20	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greylan James	4.265	+0.386	1756	105	29
32	34	32	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	3.822	+0.324	1435	58	36
33	36	11	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	3.775	+0.399	1307	90	37
34	33	25	STRAIGHT FORTHE HEART Alexandra Kay/Wheelhouse	Alexandra Kay	3.525	-0.130	1660	32	31
35	37	13	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	3.502	+0.126	1466	48	34
36	38	15	GARY Mercury/Big Loud	Stephen Wilson Jr.	3.279	-0.057	1281	5	38
37	39	29	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	3.145	-0.105	1517	-100	33
38	40	10	WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	3.099	+0.066	1208	8	40
39	42	15	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	3.063	+0.577	1444	172	35
40	41	19	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	2.962	+0.441	1262	123	39
41	44	15	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	2.564	+0.158	1004	54	43
42	47	3	BOSTON Stella Lefty/Atlantic Outpost/Atlantic <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Stella Lefty	2.479	+0.481	639	187	55
43	45	16	MAKE A LIAR Blue Highway	Jackson Dean	2.400	+0.078	1022	7	42
44	43	28	THE HELL YOU ARE Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	2.383	-0.072	1095	-18	41
45	49	4	MOVE ON American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music <b>★★ Breaker ★★</b>	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	2.241	+0.317	974	87	45
46	48	3	MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	2.104	+0.139	787	-37	50
47	46	11	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	2.102	+0.065	960	3	46
48	52	14	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	1.757	+0.133	790	2	49
49	51	26	KILLED THE MAN Curb	Lee Brice	1.716	+0.047	987	47	44
50	53	7	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	1.469	+0.064	871	33	48
51	55	17	HIGHS & LOWS Quartz Hill	Matt Cooper	1.413	+0.058	769	-6	52
52	60	2	WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville	Jacob Hackworth	1.231	+0.512	888	308	47
53	35	2	LONELIEST GIRL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	1.185	-2.192	391	-434	60
54	54	7	IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Blue Highway/Nashville Harbor	Carly Pearce & Riley Green	1.158	-0.229	621	-53	57
55	57	10	KEEPS ME SANE Tyler Nance/Santa Anna/Akando	Tyler Nance	1.078	+0.033	658	-27	54
56	58	5	BACK IN THE BOTTLE Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	0.968	+0.081	772	28	51
57	59	12	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor	The Band Perry	0.869	+0.016	741	52	53
58	NEW		LOVE IS BLIND WEST TO THE REST/Triple Tigers <b>★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★</b>	Ian Munsick	0.748	+0.046	515	36	58
59	RE-ENTRY		REBEL Patoka Sounds/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldridge	0.701	-0.015	625	-26	56
60	NEW		STRING BY Mack Geiger/RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Mack Geiger	0.629	+0.029	149	-3	-



Brad Paisley (left) and Kimberly Williams-Paisley are profiled May 8 by *NBC Nightly News* anchor Tom Llamas in the program's "Great Americans" series.



Stone Country artist Ben Gallaher made his national TV debut May 6 on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, syndicated by NBCUniversal. From left at the taping: BSB Management artist manager Jason Deere, Gallaher, Quartz Hill Music Group director of DSPs Marie Wapelhorst and Quartz Hill Music Group VP of publicity Natalie Kilgore.

# 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

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

Skip Ewing (center) guested on an episode of *Honky Tonkin' with Big D & Bubba* that aired May 1-3. He's flanked by Derek "Big D" Haskins (left) and Sean "Bubba" Powell.

## SHELIA SHIPLEY BIDDY HONORED AT BMI

Music Health Alliance (MHA) COO **Shelia Shipley Biddy** was recognized May 5 in an event celebrating her 50-year history in the music industry at BMI Nashville.

A load of music figures was present, including **Steve Wariner**, **Gary Allan**, **Danni Leigh**, Big Machine Label Group president/CEO **Scott Borchetta**, MHA founder **Tatum Allsep** and Lytle Management Group owner **John Lytle**. **Marty Stuart**, **Vince Gill**, **Sylvia**, Country Music Association CEO **Sarah Trahern**, **The Oak Ridge Boys**, **Trisha Yearwood**, **Rosanne Cash** and producer **Trent Willmon** were among those sending video congratulations.

Shipley Biddy was cited for heading MCA's award-winning promotion department during the 1980s and '90s, for ascending to head of Decca Records and for her mentorship qualities, fomented in part through her attention to detail.

"They joke at MHA and other places that I'm so organized that I laminate my thoughts," she quipped.

Special attention was paid to her late-career shift to MHA, where she spent more than 12 years. The non-profit has saved music professionals more than \$175 million in healthcare resources, according to Allsep.

"While you were a bad ass," Wariner said, "you also had a heart."

## RADIO & RECORDS®

Quartz Hill Music Group hired **Bill Macky** as senior VP of promotion & marketing. Macky moves into the role following a 13-year run as Black River VP of promotion ... After introducing the act to broadcasters at the Country Radio Seminar in March, Big Machine announced on May 8 the signing of **Backbeat Troubadours**, a duo consisting of **Mark Collie** and **Billy Bob Thornton**. The label released the Troubadours' first recording — "True American Racer (500 Miles)," featuring **Slash** — the same day. It's featured in a new documentary about race driver **Bobby Rahal** ... MCA announced the signing of **Kenny Whitmore** on May 8, the same day the label issued his first music in the deal, "One Foot in the Grave." It appears on an EP, *Fool in a King Size Bed*, due June 12 ... **The War and Treaty** signed with Atlantic Outpost. The duo's first album for the company, *The Story of Michael and Tanya*, will be released June 19 ... **WXTU** Philadelphia PD/midday host **Mark "Razz" Radziewicz** plans to retire following his May 22 shift. He marked his 20th anniversary with the Beasley Media cluster in March ... **KKWF** Seattle installed a new morning show featuring **Ellen Taylor** and **Aaron Crawford**. Taylor's hiring marks a return to Audacy, where she worked before leaving in 2018 for a reporter role in market at **KCPQ-TV**. She also hosted a podcast and worked as Straight Arrow News lead social media strategist before coming back to radio. Crawford is a touring artist who already hosts the station's Sunday night show *Cascade Country*. **Captain Ron Koons** remains as executive producer for *Ellen & Aaron* ... Music Choice director of country programming **Jim Murphy** will serve as a guest announcer on the Grand Ole Opry's May 23 installment ... Max Media/Norfolk, Va., promoted **Jerry Hoyt** to **WGH** assistant PD/midday host from his previous role

as production director/part-time host across the cluster, RadioInsight.com reported. He replaces previous midday host **Barry McKay**, who was moved to PD/afternoon host at sister yacht-rock station **WTWV** ... The Academy of Country Music enlisted **Dan + Shay** to host *Countdown to the ACM Awards*, a two-hour special available for airing from May 11-17. Reach **Becca Walls** [here](#) for more info ... Skyview Networks' *Country Top 40 with Fitz* is airing a Mother's Day weekend special May 9-10, *I Got It From my Mama*.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

Industry veteran **Donna Hughes** established Hughes Media, a firm focused on designing and distributing content for artists across multiple media platforms, plus media training. Hughes was most recently Borman Entertainment VP of touring and communications. Reach her [here](#) ... Business management pro **Joan Vance** launched Vance & Co Advisory, a financial firm targeted to individuals and small businesses. She was formerly a Wiles + Taylor account manager. Reach her [here](#) ... Veteran publicist **Scott Sexton** formed Sexton Entertainment Group with an inaugural client list of 15 artists, including **Moe Bandy**, **John Berry**, **T.G. Sheppard** and **Lacy J. Dalton**. Sexton spent the past eight years at 2911 Media, where he was VP of publicity. Reach him [here](#) ... **Riley Green** renewed his publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville ... **The Mavericks** have tapped **James Otto** and **Emily West** to handle lead vocals as the band undertakes its first tour since the death of frontman **Raul Malo**. The Music Lives On Tour comprises 29 dates, kicking off with a two-night stand July 17-18 at Knucklehead's in Kansas City, Mo. ... The Academy of Country Music handed out two of its trophies May 7, 10 days ahead of the official awards ceremony in Las Vegas. **Stephen Wilson Jr.**'s "Cuckoo" video, co-directed with **Tim Cofield**, won visual media of the year, and **Jessie Jo Dillon** ("Wish You Well," "Am I Okay?") earned her third consecutive songwriter of the year honor ... The new Kane Brown's On Broadway bar is set to open May 22 at 312 Broadway in Nashville with military charity **Folds of Honor** partnered for the first weekend ... **DEK of Hearts**, a Nashville-based trio that came to national awareness as a top 3 finalist on *The Voice* in 2025, makes its Grand Ole Opry debut May 29 ... **Carrie Underwood** established HiNote, a female-focused energy and nutrition drink mix ... The Mechanical Licensing Collective launched a free online course, "Music Registration 101: Registering Your Music," that guides creators in establishing rights for their works. Go [here](#) for details ... **Stephen Wilson Jr.** and **Jo Dee Messina** are among a half-dozen artists scheduled to perform at the annual Grammy Block Party May 12 at 6th & Peabody in Nashville. **MŌRIAH** will host ... More than 30 instructors from 12 states will be recognized in the Country Music Association's annual Music Teachers of Excellence event Oct. 7 at The Pinnacle in Nashville. Go [here](#) for a list of honorees ... StageWater, founded by Nashville music veterans **Chris Thacker**, **Jay Ballinger** and **Zach Belcher**, has been named the official canned water for CMA Fest June 4-7. Some 15% of the product's profits is earmarked for music-related charities ... **Miranda Lambert**'s MuttNation Foundation joined with the Doris Day Animal Foundation to grant more than \$230,000 to 63 eligible shelters in Southern California. ●



Songwriter-producer **Frank Rogers** (**Scotty McCreery**, **Darius Rucker**) (left) received South Carolina's highest honor, the Order of the Palmetto, from Governor **Henry McMaster** on April 30 in Columbia.

# 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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**MATERIALS DUE:** May 21

# billboard Country Airplay Index

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

## A

**ALL MY EXES** lylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBEAT 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.Gut, B.J.Johnson, W.Phillips) **26**

## B

**BACK IN THE BOTTLE** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/I'm Your Huckleberry Music, BMI (R.Houser) **56**

**BEAUTIFUL THINGS** Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Giorgianno, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Trip/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) **9**

**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.Waish) **27**

**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.Anquist, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **5**

**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) **25**

**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) **42**

**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/Jornil 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) **3**

## 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) **6**

**CHEVY SILVERADO** Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sparko Phone Music, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI (T.Beathard, I.Juber, G.J.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman) **17**

**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) **2**

**COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT** Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jornil 10 Music, BMI/Trailer Parker Twang Lab, BMI/Homestead Publishing LLC, BMI/Kilometer Music Group, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP (J.L.Miller, P.Welling, M.Dragstrom) **24**

## D

**DON'T TELL ON ME** Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Trip Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI/Kwasy Publishing, BMI/Writersonthecorn Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan, L.Vaughan) **12**

**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/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, R.H.Black, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, Charlie Handsome) **14**

## 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) **37**

## G

**GARY** Poems On Junk Mail, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (S.L.Wilson Jr) **36**

**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) **50**

## 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) **8**

**THE HELL YOU ARE** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/12/20 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.Emms, J.A.Fox, R.C.McGill, E.L.Weisband) **44**

**HIGHS & LOWS** Songs Of North Chapel Music, BMI/Endurance Music Group, BMI/318 Records Publishing, BMI (M.Cooper) **51**

**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 Beatum 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) **39**

## 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/Postv 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**

**I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANOTHER** 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.Emms, 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) **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) **20**

**KILLED THE MAN** Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Riser House Tunes, SESAC/I Barely Even Know Er Music, BMI/International Dog Music, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/LuVegas Publishing, BMI/Sony CountrySide, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI (M.D.Whitworth, J.D.Conrad, T.Carwright, C.B.Baldwin) **49**

**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) **47**

## 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.Abern, K.S.Clark, C.Wallace) **35**

**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 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.S Osborne) **53**

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

**LOVE IS BLIND** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crawbaby Music, BMI/Little Loud Songs, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harroth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (L.Musick, R.Tyndell, J.N.Spillman) **58**

## 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/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Firebird Country Tunes, BMI/Oakdale Market Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP (C.Janson, T.Phillips, A.G.Gorley, A.Sheridan) **11**

**MEDICINE** Universal Tunes, SESAC/Giorgianno, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Trip/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) **46**

**MOVE ON** Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Cabrera Music, BMI/EMPIRE Strikes First, BMI/Nearis Publishing, SESAC/EMPIRE San Francisco, SESAC/Kreshendo, ASCAP/Songs Of 78, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Beet Stars Publishing, ASCAP/Torrey Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (T.M.Kane, K.J.Powers, C.O.Chibueze, S.Sanchez, D.R.Stevens, A.Cabrera, J.Torrey) **45**

## 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) **41**

## 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) **33**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL** Smack Back Music, BMI/Concord Baritone CC, BMI/Midtown Mistake Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Colton Venner Publishing, BMI (C.Park, G.Tyler, C.Venner) **57**

## R

**REBEL** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Adam Sandler, ASCAP/Laguna Madre Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (D.Baldrige, 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) **18**

**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.Goodloe, M.Tyler) **10**

## 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/Livridge Music, ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP (D.Smryers, 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 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/Don What I Do, BMI/Getysosmo Music, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, M.Nesler) **22**

**STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART** Cinq Trax, ASCAP/Livridge Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP/Karley Scott Collins Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Susan Perb Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Mod Junkie, BMI (J.Robbins, K.S.Collins, Sasha Alex Sloan) **34**

**STRING BY** Mack Geiger Publishing Designee, APRA (M.Geiger) **60**

## 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) **7**

## W

**WATER AT A WEDDING** Relative Red Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI (G.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) **38**

**WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG** Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Vill Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/I Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/Songs By 10K HRS Publishing, BMI/Goat Island Palms, LLC, BMI/Smells Like Good Music, ASCAP/Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP (J.A.Hackworth, D.Ross, J.Free, S.Jones) **52**

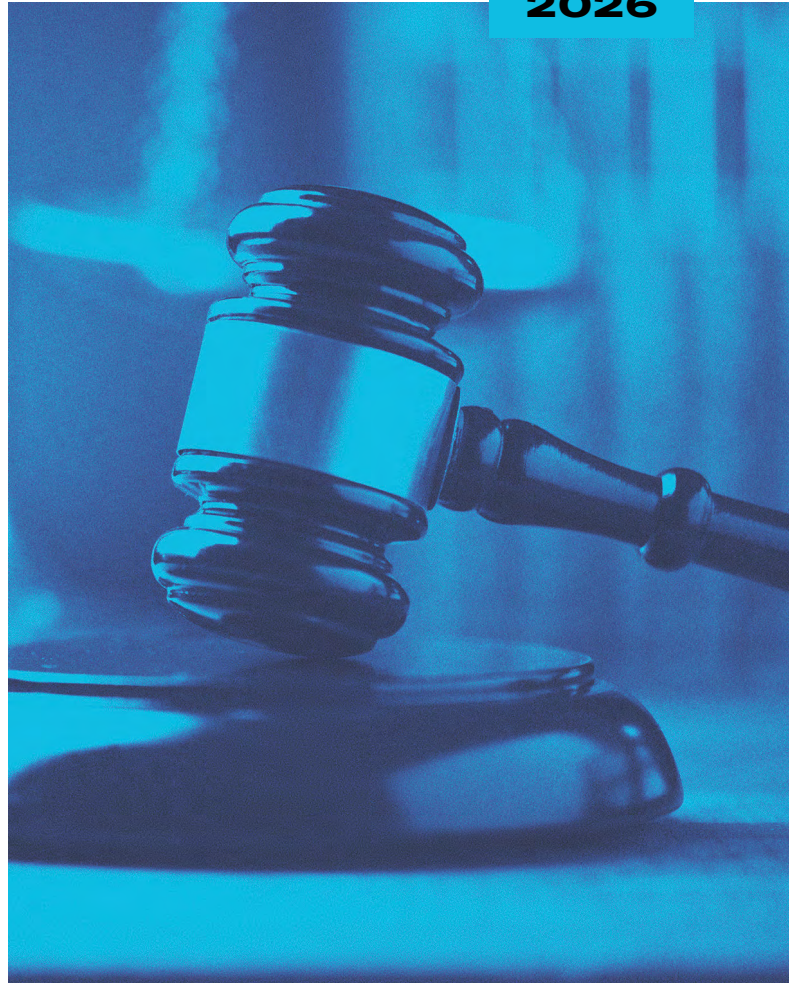
**WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/All Essential Music, ASCAP/Prayin' Cowboy Publishing, SESAC/So Essential Tunes, SESAC/Songs By That Dog Will Hunt, BMI/Capitol CMG Paragon, BMI/Sugar Rain Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (B.M.Lake, J.Sooter, H.Bentley, D.Southerland) **48**

**WISH YOU WELL** Big Music Machine, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbaner 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/Poppy'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) **15**

**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) **40**

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



# TOP MUSIC LAWYERS

Behind every artist, songwriter and music producer is a trusted group of advisers who provide guidance, advice and negotiate deals. *Billboard's* 10th annual Top Music Lawyers list will recognize the biggest names and most prominent legal minds in the world of music law. They are the deal-makers behind the major contracts and lawsuits in the music industry.

This feature will also include a round-up of premier law schools attended by the notable alumni on the Top Music Lawyers list.

Join us in congratulating the 2026 most powerful music lawyers. Advertise to present your law firm to *Billboard's* influential subscribers, which include A-list artists, artist managers, business managers and label, publishing and touring executives.

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