

billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com

Top All-Time Country Songwriters Revealed In New Record Research Book



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Name the top two songwriters in the history of the *Billboard* country charts — go ahead.

Is **Willie Nelson** one of them? Nope.

Dolly Parton? Nope.

Hank Williams? Still nope.

Kris Kristofferson? Not quite.

Two modern songwriters — **Ashley Gorley** (“I Had Some Help,” “I Am Not Okay”) and **Shane McAnally** (“Body Like a Back Road,” “Mama’s Broken Heart”) — ranked No. 1 and No. 2 on Record Research’s first-ever study of the Top Country Songwriters 1944-2025, based on the *Billboard* charts. *Billboard* unveils the top 10 exclusively in this edition (see page 2), while a full list of the top 40 appears in *Joel Whitburn’s Top Country Singles 1944-2025*, due to be published by Record Research June 4. The book arrives concurrently with the launch of the annual CMA Fest in Nashville.

Gorley and McAnally benefit from longevity and volume — both have consistently seen their names in parentheses on the country charts for more than 15 years — but also from their era. The study weights *Billboard*’s Country Airplay charts more heavily than the multi-metric Hot Country Songs, but the latter chart still has allowed more titles to burst into public consciousness for short windows through its inclusion of streaming data. Songs featured on major new albums, or that benefit from some cultural event, tend to make a splash on that list, and McAnally and Gorley have had a

number of those, in addition to hits that emerge through more traditional, longer-term patterns. That trend is indebted to the democratization of music that analysts predicted in the early stages of the industry’s digital age.

“I think this chart actually reflects that,” says Record Research partner **Vinnie Freda**, who played a key role in rejuvenating the company. “Because of the impact of streaming services, there tends to be less of a curation that takes place compared to, say, the 20th century. The consumer has a little bit more of a say.”

Only two of the top 10 all-time writers were also artists from start to finish in their career, a fact that will likely not surprise many Nashville publishers or country music professionals. But it might come as a shock to consumers. (Full disclosure: I’ll be moderating a panel June 6 during CMA Fest built around the full top 40 list with Freda, Gorley and McAnally).



FREDA

The list’s two artist-writers, **Bill Anderson** (No. 4) and **Merle Haggard** (No. 10), developed the kinds of careers that at least two of the other top 10 writers originally targeted. **Bob McDill** (“Gone Country,” “Good Ole Boys Like Me”), who ranked No. 3; and **Rhett Akins** (“Dirt On My Boots,” “Honey Bee”), No. 9; had artist aspirations early on but discovered writing better suited them.

Also in the top 10 are **Harlan Howard** (“I Fall to Pieces,” “Why Not Me”), No. 5; **Billy Sherrill** (“Stand by Your Man,”

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“The Most Beautiful Girl”), No. 6; **Craig Wiseman** (“Live Like You Were Dying,” “Summertime”), No. 7; and **Tom Shapiro** (“You Look Good in My Shirt,” “Wink”), No. 8.

Top Country Singles 1944-2025 is the first title released since Record Research was rejuvenated. The company produced a string of essential chart references — generally recognized as the “Whitburn books” — that presented artist chart histories compiled across many of *Billboard’s* authoritative charts. Programmers, journalists, industry pros and intense music geeks all used them to do their jobs and/or settle scores. But Record Research struggled following Whitburn’s death in 2022, and when the company sent an email to customers in May 2025 saying it needed help, Freda — a Universal Music Group and Warner Music vet who’d been a customer since 1982 — stepped forward with plans to revive it.

As work on the *Country Singles* book began, KCCS Productions president **Nan Kingsley** (who oversees the estate of late broadcaster **Bob Kingsley**, host of *Bob Kingsley’s Top 40*) and Results Global co-head **John Zarling** suggested expanding that product with songwriters’ chart histories. The idea resonated with Freda.

“I’ve always felt that songwriters were [the] unsung heroes of the business,” Freda says. “And generally, country has always respected songwriters more than any other genre.”

Freda picked CMA Fest as the ideal time to publish the new *Country Singles* book. It fit the timeline as the company plotted a release date, and it was also an event that involves many of the genre’s artists and executives, in addition to attracting its most avid fans.

“Perhaps my biggest problem at the company is the demographic of my customers is generally 50 and above,” Freda says. “If you talk to somebody [that] age or older, and you say ‘Joel Whitburn,’ they immediately know what you’re talking about. If you talk to a 30-year-old, they’re like, ‘Who the hell was Joel Whitburn?’ Generally, our audience are certainly anyone in radio, record label people and any other kind of collector or nerd out there. They’re on our customer list.”

But Freda hopes to expand that base, both with books and a reinvigorated online offering. Record Research jumped into a subscription service around the mid-2000s, but it lasted only a year or two.

“They were a bit ahead of their time,” Freda says. “The technology was not yet in a place where it was a very good experience for the consumer.”

Freda plans to reintroduce the digital product in a year or so, with artificial intelligence helping to make the site more fluid. It would include games and trivia that would make it more interactive.

Other offerings on the horizon include a new iteration of the *Hot Country Albums* book, which hasn’t been updated since 2007, and a producer section that will highlight the chart histories and rankings of the figures behind the glass. The songwriter and producer information, if all goes to plan, will also be featured in other genres as Record Research celebrates the music lists that reflect the culture.

“Charts are not a replacement for what’s the best song out there,” Freda says. “The greatest song of all-time isn’t the song that went to No. 1 on the chart necessarily, but what I think chart positions represent are memories. A song that spends 10 weeks on a chart tends to be more in the collective memory of our society than a song that spent one week at 34.

“As human beings, we are nothing more than a collection of memories, and so that’s why it’s just fun to read the charts.” ●



JOSH ULMER

GORLEY



Gavin Adcock and Redferrin performed May 20 during a WKKT Charlotte Fast Cars & Guitars event at The Fillmore Charlotte. From left: Warner Records Nashville/WAR director of radio accounts James Marsh, Redferrin, WKKT PD/midday host Ashley Wilson and Adcock.



Clint Black discussed his new book, *Killin’ Time: My Life and Music*, with TV/radio personality Lorianne Crook May 23 in a Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum event in Nashville.



HunterGirl received a birthday cake from Craig Morgan five days early when they performed on the Grand Ole Opry May 19.

WARREN VEREB



Independent artist Belles signed with WME for representation. She’s flanked by WME Nashville co-head Jay Williams (left) and WME partner Lance Roberts.

CORBIN SCHMIDT

Top Country Songwriters 1944-2025

Artist	Hits	Top 40s	Top 10s	#1s	Wks #1	Points
1. Ashley Gorley	182	148	101	63	140	17,712
2. Shane McAnally	127	92	43	28	42	10059
3. Bob McDill	153	102	53	23	25	9794
4. Bill Anderson	136	100	62	13	49	9746
5. Harlan Howard	150	108	50	12	23	9689
6. Billy Sherrill	125	94	66	24	49	9265
7. Craig Wiseman	111	67	35	20	45	8119
8. Tom Shapiro	108	72	50	15	30	8005
9. Rhett Akins	92	67	43	27	43	7883
10. Merle Haggard	103	65	55	27	44	7619

RILEY GREEN

"CHANGE MY MIND"

6.5 MILLION TW / 224 MILLION LTD STREAMS

MAX SPINS 5/29-6/6

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY **LUMINATE**

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

'Be Her' Becomes Langley's Latest, And Fastest-Flying, No. 1

Ella Langley earns her fourth No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "Be Her" (SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers) rises a spot — in its 15th week, completing her fastest flight to the top — on the survey dated June 6. It gained by 3% to 29.8 million audience impressions May 15-21, according to Luminate.

"Be Her" follows Langley's "Choosin' Texas," which led for three weeks in February-March, and two **Riley Green** collaborations: "Don't Mind If I Do" (one week, December 2025) and "You Look Like You Love Me" (one, December 2024).

The new coronation is fast by nearly every measure, especially among women. About 37% of all No. 1s dating to the chart's 1990 inception have led in 15 weeks or fewer. Solo-billed women account for just 6% of that group, paced by **Shania Twain's** "Love Gets Me Every Time," which rocketed to the top in six weeks in 1997.

Narrow the lens to the last decade (since June 2016) and Langley stands alone. "Be Her" marks the fastest trip to No. 1 by a solo-billed woman in that span, surpassing the 16-week climbs of "Choosin' Texas" and **Carrie Underwood's** "Church Bells" in July 2016. Among all acts in that stretch, **Post Malone** and **Morgan Wallen** hold the speed record with "I Had Some Help," which arrived at No. 1 in seven weeks during 2024.

Meanwhile, "Choosin' Texas" remains in the Country Airplay top 10, at No. 6, while "I Can't Love You Anymore" (SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers), with Wallen, surges 15-13 (16.2 million, up 19%). The latter reaches that rank in just its fifth week, becoming only the 13th song in the last decade to sprint that high that quickly. Just one other features a woman: **Kenny Chesney** and **PINK's** "Setting the World on Fire," which needed just four weeks to reach that terrain in 2016.

'PROBLEM' PERSISTS Elsewhere on Country Airplay, Wallen joins the top 10 with "Don't We" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud) (11-9; 19.5 million, up 8%). The song is his 23rd top 10 and the seventh from his album *I'm the Problem*. ●



CAYLEE ROBILLARD

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+4.182
TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+4.090
LAND Hubbard House/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+3.836
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+2.634
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1.848
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.505
CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	+1.317
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.172
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+0.946
BOSTON Stella Lefty/Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	+0.914

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1054
LAND Hubbard House/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1054
THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+1028
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+654
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+642
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+575
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+468
ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	+410
CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	+352
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+338

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	14.323
2	AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	13.772
3	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	11.621
4	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	11.613
5	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville	Vincent Mason	10.771
6	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	10.152
7	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	9.508
8	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	9.387
9	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	8.189
10	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	7.552



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MAY 28, 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	19	HOW MANY SORRIES (Cameron Allbright/Music) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Cameron Allbright	1880	116	11	12	13	LIVE FREE (SEE ME RUNNING) (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1347	76
2	3	15	ONE WILD REASON (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1751	89	12	14	9	REASONS TO CALL (Get.Joe)	Billie Jo	1339	104
3	4	20	LONG WAY HOME (Independent)	Matt Daniel	1713	62	13	13	20	NEON NEVER LIES (Mirror Ball Records)	Caleb Young	1308	48
4	5	17	GOING THROUGH (WHISKEY LIKE WATER) (Independent)	Tilluride	1561	30	14	16	9	STUBBORN AND REMAINS (Independent)	William Clark Green	1241	58
5	6	12	I CAN'T GET OVER YOU (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1551	60	15	15	20	BEAUTIFUL YOU (Prophets and Outlaws Music)	Prophets and Outlaws	1240	42
6	8	12	SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1457	62	16	17	9	HARD TO WRITE A LOVE SONG (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1212	78
7	7	19	BLESSING AND A CURSE (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1438	24	17	19	9	WHISKEY AFTER WOMEN (Write On)	Adysen Malek	1083	91
8	9	16	DANCING WITH MY BABY TONIGHT (Independent)	Trevor Underwood	1378	25	18	1	22	WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOU (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	996	-962
9	11	8	JUNE'S HONKY TONK MOON (CDX)	Sandee June	1361	67	19	20	15	IF YOU KNOW YOU KNOW (Synopsis)	Derryl Perry	965	48
10	10	19	FOUND (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1352	6	20	21	7	I DON'T DRINK ANYMORE (Independent)	Timothy Howls	943	55

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	2	15	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers ★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★	Ella Langley	29.843	+0.946	7813	468	2
2	7	31	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	29.039	+4.090	8025	1054	1
3	4	36	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	26.357	+0.642	6781	132	4
4	1	24	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	26.223	-4.529	6688	-1555	5
5	6	22	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	25.681	+0.050	7169	98	3
6	3	32	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	24.667	-1.170	5348	-272	10
7	5	20	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	23.121	-2.524	5652	-385	7
8	9	13	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	20.828	+1.172	5760	338	6
9	11	13	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	19.491	+1.505	5526	654	8
10	10	31	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	18.052	-0.530	5453	-47	9
11	13	52	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	16.559	+0.711	5242	410	11
12	12	25	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	16.549	-0.433	4777	46	12
13	15	5	I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	16.165	+2.634	4257	642	13
14	14	11	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	13.883	+0.019	4013	-23	15
15	16	33	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	13.628	+0.524	4144	57	14
16	19	9	BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN ★★ Airpower ★★	Luke Combs	12.059	+1.848	3126	575	17
17	18	17	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	11.074	+0.563	3368	56	16
18	20	47	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	9.657	+0.204	2995	145	18
19	23	9	COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville ★★ Airpower ★★	Luke Bryan	8.899	+0.049	2772	246	20
20	21	17	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	8.683	-0.630	2834	-182	19
21	24	50	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	8.609	+0.128	2757	63	21
22	22	24	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	8.596	-0.462	2576	-170	22
23	25	19	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	7.456	+0.268	2443	58	23
24	28	3	CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	7.362	+1.317	2321	352	24
25	26	38	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	7.319	+0.232	2296	16	25
26	27	14	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	7.028	+0.278	2294	64	26
27	29	8	SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	5.852	-0.146	2068	-82	27
28	30	46	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	5.329	+0.413	1941	-5	28
29	32	6	BOSTON Stella Lefty/Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	5.013	+0.914	1434	247	33
30	31	23	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greytan James	4.583	-0.021	1822	4	29

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	NEW		THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★	Riley Green	4.182	+4.182	1028	1028	42
32	NEW		LAND Hubbard House/Mercury Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	Tyler Hubbard	3.840	+3.836	1056	1054	40
33	34	16	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	3.710	+0.109	1493	-37	31
34	33	35	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	3.493	-0.227	1447	6	32
35	36	14	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	3.435	+0.128	1308	43	36
36	35	13	WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	3.312	-0.045	1252	6	37
37	39	32	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	3.214	+0.128	1598	38	30
38	38	22	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	3.097	-0.039	1240	20	38
39	37	18	GARY Mercury/Big Loud	Stephen Wilson Jr.	3.056	-0.094	1366	45	35
40	40	18	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	2.888	+0.052	1431	14	34
41	41	7	MOVE ON American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	2.847	+0.119	1145	-14	39
42	44	6	MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	2.602	+0.206	929	71	46
43	42	18	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	2.592	-0.061	1048	9	41
44	43	19	MAKE A LIAR Blue Highway	Jackson Dean	2.325	-0.216	1003	-64	44
45	46	14	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	2.262	+0.027	1023	-6	43
46	47	5	WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville	Jacob Hackworth	1.705	+0.052	997	11	45
47	50	20	HIGHS & LOWS Quartz Hill	Matt Cooper	1.448	+0.080	786	46	49
48	49	10	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	1.416	-0.009	844	25	47
49	48	17	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	1.331	-0.120	699	-23	52
50	52	13	KEEPS ME SANE Tyler Nance/Santa Anna/Akando	Tyler Nance	1.235	-0.009	730	43	51
51	54	10	IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Blue Highway/Nashville Harbor	Carly Pearce & Riley Green	1.162	+0.111	618	0	53
52	51	5	LONELIEST GIRL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	1.154	-0.182	529	-14	55
53	53	3	WANNABE Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Gavin Adcock	1.111	+0.047	515	29	56
54	55	8	BACK IN THE BOTTLE Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.108	+0.126	802	8	48
55	RE-ENTRY		DRY SPELL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	1.004	+0.382	340	112	60
56	56	15	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor	The Band Perry	0.939	-0.008	771	25	50
57	60	2	BETTER THAT WAY Mercury/Big Loud	Charles Wesley Godwin & Luke Combs	0.741	+0.097	399	187	59
58	57	4	LOVE IS BLIND WEST TO THE REST/Triple Tigers	Ian Munsick	0.686	-0.116	556	-7	54
59	58	11	REBEL Patoka Sounds/Stoney Creek	Drew Baldridge	0.614	-0.084	434	-121	58
60	NEW		GOD KNEW BETTER Stoney Creek	Parmalee	0.606	+0.032	480	21	57

ADRIENNE ANGELO/Dragonfly



Lainey Wilson celebrated with BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville when the label held a brunch May 17 in Las Vegas ahead of the Academy of Country Music Awards. From left: Red Light manager Mandelyn Monchick, BMG Americas president Jon Loba, Wilson and Audacy VP of programming/country format captain Tim Roberts.

HEATHER DURHAM



Reba McEntire received the Music Heals Golden Ukulele during a Musicians On Call event May 20 at The Pinnacle in Nashville. From left: Vince Gill, Morris Higham Management executive Shane Tarleton, Martina McBride, McEntire and Wynonna.

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**FEATURING THE NEW RADIO SINGLE,
"THE YEARS ARE SHORT"**

**#3 MOST-ADDED ITS FIRST TWO WEEKS
AT COUNTRY RADIO**

CURB
RECORDS

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

Madden Metcalf (center) dropped by KEEY Minneapolis on May 20 as he continues his introductory radio promotion tour. With him: iHeartMedia/Minneapolis senior VP of programming **Rich Davis** (left) and KEEY assistant PD **Pat Knight**.

CMA FEST READY TO ROLL

Excessive humidity returned in the last week to Nashville.

That's right — it's time for the Country Music Association's annual CMA Fest June 4-7, featuring hundreds of artist performances across multiple downtown Nashville venues, including the festival's last stand at the city's current NFL site, Nissan Stadium. A new stadium, under construction nearby, will likely be used for the festival in 2027.

Riley Green and ABC personality **Lara Spencer** are slated to host the event's resulting special, *CMA Fest Presented by SoFi*, June 25 on ABC. **Luke Bryan** is expected to close the final night, and the ABC show *American Idol* — featuring Bryan among its three hosts — will also be on hand for one day, with auditions taking place June 5 at the Music City Center.

After several years of holding nighttime concerts at Ascend Amphitheater, that venue is not part of the evening offering. TV ads have also run in Nashville offering tickets to the stadium shows amid numerous media reports that a large percentage of Americans are downsizing summer vacation plans.

Meanwhile, last-minute announcements and updates brought more clarity to CMA Fest's options, which include a load of free daytime performances. That news includes:

- Final lineups were set for the Rock 'N Jock Celebrity Softball game June 1 at First Horizon Park, benefiting Folds of Honor Tennessee. Among the 32 participants are **Zach Top**, **Parker McCollum**, **Warren Zeiders**, **HARDY**, **Ashley Cooke** and **Gavin Adcock**.

- The Archives Nashville, a storage company that handles musicians' wardrobes, is holding an Artist Closet Sale at Fan Fair X June 4-7, with a portion of the proceeds destined for the CMA Foundation. The inventory includes items worn by **Luke Combs**, **Terri Clark**, **Ella Langley**, **Jason Aldean** and **Megan Moroney**, among others.

- Big Machine plans a pop-up showcase at **Lainey Wilson**'s Bell Bottoms Up from 11 am to 2 pm on June 5. It features five acts, including **The Band Perry**, **Caroline Jones** and **Greyland James**.

- "MCA Presents: Live from Sky Deck" returns with a series of shows June 5-6 at the Skydeck on Broadway. Performers include **Little Big Town**, **Wyatt Flores**, **Dalton Davis**, **Jacob Hackworth** and **Travis Denning**. A fan experience, the **Miranda Lambert** Crisco Disco Brunch, is also plotted for June 6 with food and cocktails.

RADIO & RECORDS®

ONE4 Records, a label established by A&R veteran **Brian Wright** and Red Light Management founder **Coran Capshaw**, aligned with MCA. ONE4 also tabbed **Katherine Godwin** as creative director; she was previously Tape Room Music manager of A&R ... Quartz Hill Music Group publicity manager **Anthony Priwer** has parted ways with the company ... The 3686 label, formed by **Levi Hummon** and **Eric Arjes**, hired four new employees: director of business development **Murray Decock**, label manager **Alexandra Gilbert**, creative director **Frank Door** and social media manager **Chad White**. Decock is a veteran film composer/songwriter, Gilbert is a former Lipscomb University student, Door was most recently a Meta production manager and White studied the music busi-

ness at Nashville's Belmont University ... Sony Music executive VP of business affairs/general counsel **Julie Swidler** announced plans to leave her position at the end of June. During 2015, she played a key role in the transition of upper management in the label's Nashville division ... **Matt Stell** signed a recording agreement with Black River. The deal was announced May 26 ahead of the May 29 release of his first product with the label: the **Ne-Yo** collaboration "Better Angels" ... Artist-writer **Kinsley** joined the roster at MCA. Her first music under the agreement, "Pieces of Me," was released May 29 ... Virginia native **Sela Campbell** signed a recording contract with Leo33, tabbed CAA for booking and joined the songwriting roster at Warner Chappell Nashville. Her debut EP is expected this summer ... The WSOC Charlotte morning team — **Rob Tanner**, **Catherine Lane** and **Chris Allen** — announced plans to retire at the conclusion of its June 19 shift ... Cox Media Group promoted **Lauren Smith** to senior director of digital sales for the parent company after serving as Cox/Athens, Ga., digital media director, a job that included representation for country **WNGC** ... **Margie Tasseff** will retire June 1 from her role as iHeartMedia/Mansfield-Marion, Ohio, market president, *The Richland Source* reported. That role includes oversight of two country stations: **WNCO-FM** Mansfield and **WMRN-FM** Marion ... **WQHK** Fort Wayne, Ind., operations manager/PD **Jimmy Knight** ended a run of more than 15 years with the station, *RadioInsight.com* reported ... **Charles Kelley** launched the first of six episodes of a weekly show, *Y'all Aboard*, May 27 on SiriusXM. **Little Big Town**'s **Jimi Westbrook** and **Phillip Sweet** were the inaugural guests ... Nonprofit Mentoring and Inspiring Women in Radio selected Sioux Falls, S.D., personality **Christine Manika** for a year-long mentorship that includes attendance at the Country Radio Seminar. Manika is **KIKN** brand manager/midday host and classic country **KXRB** morning host.

'ROUND THE ROW

Spirit Music promoted Nashville-based **Frank Rogers** to CEO of the company's overall operations from chief creative officer ... Photography/marketing executive **Chrissy Nix** established an artist development firm, *The Interlude*. Initial clients include **JB Somers**, **Amy Peters** and **Remy Garrison** ... Nashville-based Missing Piece Group publicist **Bobby Crane** concluded his affiliation with the company May 29. Reach him [here](#) as he preps for his next venture ... Songwriter-producer **Jimmy Robbins** ("Say So," "The Bones") signed a publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville ... Mississippi native **Landon Wilks** engaged *The Neal Agency* for booking ... Vincent Torrez Management added Australian **Tyla Rodrigues** to the roster ... Leadership Music unveiled its 48-member class for 2027, including **Raffaella Braun**, *Triple Tigers*; **Erin D.C. Burr**, *RIAA*; and **Melissa Spillman**, *Concord*. Go [here](#) for the full list ... The Country Music Association will livestream the annual CMA Touring Awards at 6:30 p.m. CT on June 2 [here](#) ... "The Flip Side: Paintings by Steve Wariner" will feature 60 pieces of art created by **Wariner** from June 21 to July 26 at the Monthaven Arts & Cultural Center in Tennessee ... **George Strait** and **Lainey Wilson** were added to **Alan Jackson**'s final concert, *Last Call: One More for the Road*, June 27 at Nashville's Nissan Stadium. The sold-out event will be livestreamed at Belmont University's Fisher Center ... **Dolly Parton** opens *Dolly's Tennesseean Travel Stop*, in *Cornersville, Tenn.*, on June 24. ●



Jo Dee Messina established new representation, with CAA taking over booking and mtheory handling her management. From left: CAA music brand partnerships executive **Julie Sturdivant**, CAA music agent **Kylen Sharpe**, Messina and mtheory CEO **Cameo Carlson**.

2026 billboard GRAMMY® FIRST LOOK

On July 18, Billboard will publish a Grammy First Look special showcasing the artists, producers, songwriters and other creative professionals whose music was released during the eligibility period of **August 31, 2025, to August 28, 2026**.

The issue will look at the early contenders for the **69th Annual Grammy Awards®** in the categories of Record Of The Year, Song Of The Year, Album Of The Year and Best New Artist.

ONLINE ENTRY PERIOD:
OPENS 7/7 | CLOSES 8/21

Take advantage of this early opportunity during the eligibility period to showcase accomplished work to members of the music industry as they prepare to submit their entries for **Music's Biggest Night®**.

CONTACTS

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

Southeast: Lee Ann Photoglo | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Los Angeles: Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

Latin: Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

Touring & West Coast: Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

International: Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

ISSUE DATE: 7/18

AD CLOSE: 7/7

MATERIALS DUE: 7/9



GRAMMY
AWARDS®

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/PASSTHEBATE 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 Aaina, J.A.Gutch, B.J.Johnson, W.Philips) **25**

B

BACK IN THE BOTTLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/It's Your Huckleberry Music, BMI (R.Houser) **54**

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

BE BY YOUR 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) **16**

BE HER Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sea Gayle Distillery Music, ASCAP/Endurance Music, 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.Ahquist, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **1**

BETTER THAT WAY Charles Wesley Godwin Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endurance Alligator Quatro, ASCAP/Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Music Garden Studios Publishing, BMI (C.W.Godwin, Scooter Carouse, A.Torrence) **57**

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) **23**

BOSTON 13117 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Grace Enger Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Joee 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) **29**

BRUNETTE Concord Tunes, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rare Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.LaCorte, R.C.McGill, J.L.Miller, B.Pendergrass) **4**

C

CARRY ON Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Combustion Five, ASCAP/Damn Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (R.C.McGill, M.Jenkins, J.L.Alexander) **24**

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) **5**

CHEVY SILVERADO Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Spark Phone Music, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Gail Zimmerman Publishing, BMI (T.Beathard, L.Juber, B.J.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman) **15**

CHOOSES 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) **6**

COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 10 Music, BMI/Trailer Parker Iwang 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) **19**

D

DON'T TELL ON ME Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triples Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI/Kwsay Publishing, BMI/WritersonthehornPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan, L.Vaughan) **8**

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.Block, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, Charlie Handsome) **9**

DRY SPELL Recordings Of Cosmic Intent, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Lyric Music Publishing, GMR/CN Songs From 1508, GMR/Crawford Mercer Music, GMR/Smackworld Music, GMR/Art of 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.Osborne) **55**

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) **28**

F

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) **57**

G

GARY Poems On Junk Mail, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (S.L.Wilson Jr.) **39**

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/ERNY'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) **26**

GOD KNEW BETTER Concord Copyrights, BMI/Camp James Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/8936 Music, BMI/Parmalee Music Publishing, BMI (A.Dean, D.Fanning, J.Collazo, A.Albert, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **60**

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/Redneckr Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (G.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, T.Philips) **48**

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) **3**

HIGHS & LOWS Songs Of North Chapel Music, BMI/Endurance Music Group, BMI/318 Records Publishing, BMI (M.Cooper) **47**

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 Beatchum Publishing Designee, BMI/Evan Christian Maye Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (Chase Matthew, E.Escue, A.Maxwell, Presley Aaron, E.C.Mayo, J.Center) **40**

I

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) **13**

IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Turtle Garden Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Mouth Feel Music Publishing, ASCAP (D.Dawson, S.W.Ennis, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds) **51**

K

KEEPS ME SANE Anthems Of Platinum Grammer, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Copyright Control (C.T.L.Nance, D.Napier, B.McCollough) **50**

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) **18**

KILLIN' ME Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endless Tour Music, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI (P.M.Collum, R.Rogers, M.Criswell) **45**

L

LAND T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI/HAYLO Music Works, ASCAP/1 Of 6, ASCAP/Endurance Music Group, ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, Z.Aband, G.J.Egan, C.Smith) **32**

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) **33**

LOVELY 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.Osborne) **52**

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

LOVE IS BLIND Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crawbaby Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeh Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (I.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) **44**

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) **20**

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.Philips, A.G.Gorley, A.Sheridan) **11**

MEDICINE Universal Tunes, 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) **42**

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/Beat Stars Publishing, ASCAP/Torrey Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (T.W.Kane, K.J.Powers, C.O.Chibweze, S.Sanchez, D.R.Stevens, A.Cabrera, J.Torrey) **41**

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) **43**

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 (W.Westbrook, Lukas Scott, B.Bailey) **35**

PSYCHOLOGICAL Smack Back Music, BMI/Concord Bartone C.T., BMI/Midtown Mistake Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Colton Venner Publishing, BMI (C.Park, G.Tyler, C.Venner) **56**

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) **17**

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/Younger Songs 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/Livridge Music, ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, D.H.Hodges, J.Robbins) **27**

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) **7**

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/Do What I Do, BMI/Getysome Music, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, M.Nesler) **22**

T

THINK AS YOU DRUNK Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Flatland Boy Music, BMI/Hit Songs Of 50 Egg Music, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Little Acre Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP (R.Green, J.L.Alexander, Erik Dylan, W.McCubbin, S.Emerick, T.Keith) **31**

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) **2**

W

WANNABE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Cock Tunes, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Murphy The Wolf Music, BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jimmy Sad Publishing, BMI/Ernest Music Publishing Designee, BMI (G.Adocek, J.R.Durrett, B.Clawson, E.K.Smith, M.Wallace) **53**

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) **30**

WHAT IF WE DON'T Beejo Fetch Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Song Factory, BMI/Merf Music Publishing LLC, BMI/Colton Sounds, BMI/Songs Of Merf Music LLC, BMI (A.McBryde, T.Box, R.Clay) **36**

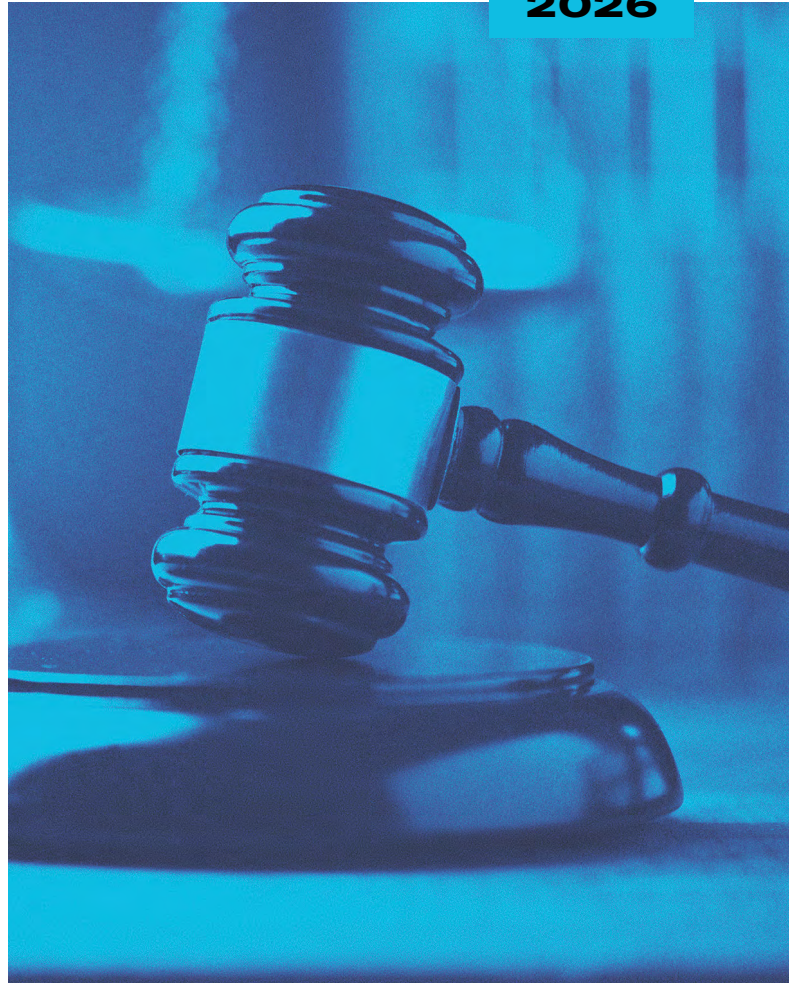
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/V Vill Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/I Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/Songs By 10K HRS Publishing, BMI/Goat Island Palms, LLC, BMI/Smells Like Good Music, ASCAP/Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP (J.A.Hackworth, D.Ross, J.Free, S.Jones) **46**

WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Brandon Lake Music, ASCAP/All Essential Music, ASCAP/Pravin 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) **49**

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.Philips) **14**

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) **38**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Websinger Publishing, BMI/Lovelegend Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Drag Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP (P.C.Brust, C.Lucas, M.Dragstrom, J.Thompson) **21**



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.

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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

COUNTRY

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

5 Years Ago When Eric Church Had A 'Hell Of A View' From The Top Of The Chart

The singer created his rebel 'Soul' entry in a single day in the mountains of North Carolina

Most people visit a restaurant for a meal. For **Eric Church**, it might be the site of a creative endeavor.

In January 2020, he settled in with his band at the Artisinal restaurant on the North Carolina side of the Smoky Mountains for a month of music-making. The goal was simple: write and record a new song each day until he built up enough material for three albums: *Heart*, *🍷* and *Soul*. The latter would include "Hell of a View," which topped *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart dated May 29, 2021.

"Hell" became an exercise after Church and his co-writers got their steps in one morning. **Casey Beathard** ("Homeboy," "Don't Blink") returned from his walk with an idea about a couple living and loving on the edge, and he developed the initial lines with **Monty Criswell** ("Bottle Rockets," "Handle On You"). Church joined in once he got back from a run.

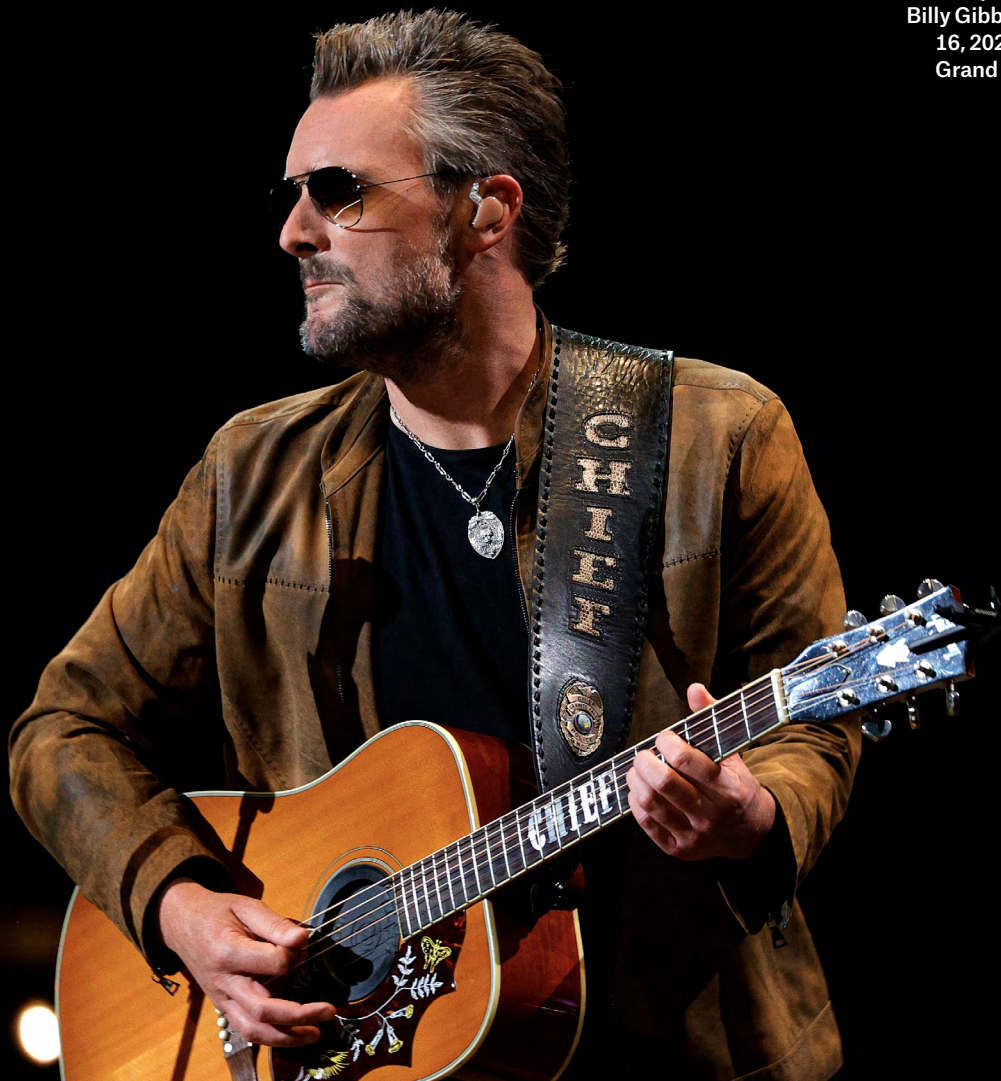
After they finished writing it, they recorded the song that day with drummer **Craig Wright** miked up in the wine cellar. Producer **Jay Joyce** (**Miranda Lam-**

bert, Brothers Osborne) finished "Hell" overnight when Church and the rest of the musicians went to bed.

Released to country radio via PlayMPE on Oct. 20, 2020, it arrived at the top of Country Airplay in its 29th week on the list; it also peaked at No. 2 on the multi-metric Hot Country Songs.

Track 5 on the *Soul* album — issued April 20, 2021, by EMI Nashville — "Hell" was certified gold by the RIAA that June and went double-platinum on July 17, 2023. —TOM ROLAND

Church performs during a Billy Gibbons tribute May 16, 2021, at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House



WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	4	29	HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville	Eric Church	31.028	+4.865	7736	667	1
2	3	19	FOREVERAFTERALL River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	30.163	+2.927	7452	833	2
3	1	33	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	26.888	-4.076	6382	-1407	4
4	5	57	NOBODY Curb	Dylan Scott	25.537	+2.838	6603	613	3
5	2	53	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	25.215	-2.401	6196	-794	5
6	7	31	COME Country	Dierks Bentley	24.799	-2.704	6122	611	6

COLTRANE 100



Photo by Bob Thiele

John Coltrane remains one of the most transformative artists in the history of modern music. A saxophonist, composer, and bandleader of singular vision, he expanded the expressive possibilities of jazz while establishing music as a vehicle for spiritual inquiry and human connection. In 2026, the Coltrane Estate marks the 100th anniversary of the musician's birth with COLTRANE 100, an ambitious, year-long global celebration honoring an artist whose work permanently reshaped the language, ambition, and purpose of music.

COLTRANE 100 will unfold across recorded music, live performance, visual art, and institutional partnerships.

During a concentrated decade of unprecedented creative output, Coltrane released 25 albums as a leader, forging a legacy defined by fearless exploration and emotional depth.

10 of his albums, including live music releases, reached the Billboard 200 Charts. His work has influenced generations of musicians across jazz, rock, hip-hop, classical, and experimental music. Despite the near-mythic devotion his work inspires, Coltrane emphasized discipline, humility, and practice as the foundation of artistic excellence.

Please join Billboard as we celebrate COLTRANE 100.

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