

billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Billboard Power Players Event Sets The Stage For CMA Fest



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ella Langley Doubles Down
>page 4

CMA Fest Ends An Era
>page 8

Country Coda: Kenny Chesney 'Twice' Blessed
>page 12

On the eve of the fan-centered CMA Fest, *Billboard* put the focus on country's movers and shakers with a June 3 Country Power Players party that saw five artists and executives honored with awards that recognized both a new generation of talent and the predecessors who set the table for them.

Tucker Wetmore received the rising star award during the event at Category 10 in Nashville. **Red Clay Strays** took the groundbreaker award, **Riley Green** earned the hitmaker award, and The Neal Agency founder **Austin Neal** collected executive of the year. **Miranda Lambert** received the icon award.

The hand-me-down nature of the format, which sees the music evolve as new classes of artists and business people emerge, was most evident in Neal's emotional acceptance of his honor. His father, retired WME partner **Kevin Neal**, handed off the executive trophy to Austin, acknowledging that Kevin's own father, the late **Bob Neal**, was **Elvis Presley's** first manager.

As a third-generation construct, The Neal Agency started as a boutique agency, but with a roster that includes Green, **Morgan Wallen**, **HARDY** and **Ella Langley**, Kevin noted, "it's no longer a boutique agency."

Green received his hitmaker hardware from **Clint Black**, a key figure from a previous generation who Green cites as one of his strongest influences. Like Black, Green writes the bulk

of his own material while remaining firmly rooted on the traditional end of country's spectrum. Appropriate to tradition, he paid a nod to his grandparents at the podium.

HARDY hailed Wetmore as a hard-working man reaping the benefits of his dedication, and comedian **Matt Rife** introduced Red Clay Strays' mix of country, rock and blues as "a timeless sound that sends us back to music's golden age at a time when the world sometimes feels like it's lost its soul."

Red Clay frontman **Brandon Coleman** paraphrased another comedian, **Eddie Murphy**, while embracing their improbable rise: "It's not a row boat, it's a sailboat. We're not looking at a destination and just being like, 'I'm going to go there and I'm going to achieve this.' We're just in a sailboat going where the wind takes us, just trying to be honest and authentic along the way."

Songwriter **Tom Douglas** ("The House That Built Me") celebrated Lambert as an artist who's "rugged enough

to weather whatever this town brings and generous enough to let the young ones stand on her shoulders."

Lambert confirmed her desire to share her knowledge. "I'm trying to lift up the next generation," she said, "because country music is my life. It's what I've dedicated my entire adulthood to."

Go [here](#) for the Country Power Players list. ●



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CMA Fest Pushes Boundaries

Twenty-five years after the Country Music Association moved its annual CMA Fest from the Tennessee Fairgrounds to downtown Nashville, this year's edition opened June 4, bringing with it the end of an era.

The 2001 festival, then known as Fan Fair, moved its nightly shows into a stadium for the first time, more than quadrupling the capacity to 70,000 fans. Nissan Stadium — or, as it was originally known, Adelphia Coliseum — is hosting the nighttime concerts for the last time this year, with **Jason Aldean**, **Ella Langley** and a reunited **Florida Georgia Line** among the opening-night performers.

The 2027 CMA Fest, already scheduled for June 10-13, will make use of a sleek, new stadium being built next door to the current structure on what used to be part of the venue's parking lot.

It's not the only change evident in the 25 years. Nashville's downtown footprint has exploded, particularly with the introduction of artist-affiliated bars, including **Luke Combs'** Category 10, **Lainey Wilson's** Bell Bottoms Up and **Garth Brooks'** Friends in Low Places.

The music is different, too — more open in its exchange with other formats. Country has always borrowed from elsewhere, but the music that's influencing the genre is increasingly bold.

Stephen Wilson Jr. led off a set at the Chevy Riverfront Stage with the swampy, blues- and rock-based "Cuckoo," a sound enhanced by his grunge-tipped resonance. **Graham Barham**, wearing a "Club Country" T-shirt, incorporated hip-hop phrasing while his drummer similarly employed hip-hop percussion style, reinforcing the vocal lines instead of merely playing fills between the phrases. Barham's presence on the Chevy Vibes Stage was also edgy. After noticing some kids with their parents in the front rows, Barham encouraged them to ignore haters who might attack them for going against the grain, professed his Christian faith, then announced he'd sing about blacking out.

Bryan Andrews embraced a hard-rock sound and angry, progressive messaging, working as country's version of **Rage Against the Machine** at the Good Molecules Reverb Stage. His performance started with "Are We Great Yet," proclaiming he "ain't lickin' no boots, don't worship no man." And he played "How do you Not See?" — the "Not See" is an intentional play on an authoritarian German party — hours before its midnight release. Andrews also defied the genre's tendency to avoid politics, bringing Tennessee state representative **Justin Pearson** on stage amid the legislature's controversial gerrymander.

Stella Lefty attracted a huge crowd for her low-key, pop-like melodies and hip-swinging persona on the Reverb Stage, **Gretchen Wilson** and **Melissa Etheridge** broke into an unrehearsed cover of **Janis Joplin's** "Mercedes Benz" at the CMA Close Up Stage, and **ERNEST** used an unusual-but-cool choice of **Ray Charles'** "America, the Beautiful" as walk-on music at the Riverfront.

CMA Fest continues through June 7. ●



ELIZABETH COX PHOTOGRAPHY

Keith Urban (center) headlined the opening night of the Gulf Coast Jam May 28 in Panama City Beach, Fla. He's flanked by Gulf Coast Jam executive producer **Randy Lovelady** (left) and COO **Mark Sheldon**.



Tucker Wetmore checked in with **WQMX** Akron, Ohio, PD/morning co-host **Sarah Kay** when he opened for **HARDY** on May 28 at the Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls.



JASON KEMPIN / GETTY IMAGES

HARDY (left) hung with former NFL player **Golden Tate** on June 1 during the Folds of Honor Rock 'N Jock Celebrity Softball game at Nashville's First Horizon Park.

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Russ Penuell



Think As You Drunk Riley Green



#29 Billboard Country Airplay
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AIRPLAY
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ON THE CHARTS **RUSS PENUELL** rpenuell@billboard.com

‘Ella-bration’: Langley Leads, Notches New Top 10

Ella Langley earns her second multiweek No. 1 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart as “Be Her” (SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers) holds the lead for a second week on the ranking dated June 13. It drew 31.9 million audience impressions (up 7%) May 22-28, according to Luminate.

“Be Her” follows “Choosin’ Texas,” Langley’s only other multiweek leader, which ruled for three nonconsecutive weeks in February and March and rebounds a rank to No. 5 (24.1 million).

Langley’s momentum extends beyond those two songs. Her **Morgan Wallen** collaboration, “I Can’t Love You Anymore,” rises three spots to No. 10 on Country Airplay (18.1 million, up 12%)—making her the first woman ever to place three titles inside the top 10 simultaneously. Just Wallen has done so otherwise, for a week in 2023. The track becomes Langley’s sixth top 10 and Wallen’s 24th.

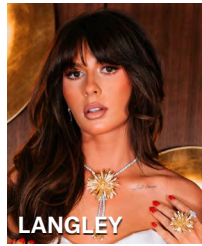
Radio is making room for all three songs, and Radio One Houston director of operations **Travis Moon**, who handles day-to-day programming for country **KKBQ**, says there’s good reason. “I’ve not seen ‘love’ scores like this on a female artist since **Shania Twain**, so this is generational stuff,” he tells *Billboard*. “She has been a real gift to our format, and I think it’s transformational for all of us. She’s so freaking huge.”

Both “Be Her” and “Choosin’ Texas” remain in power rotation. “Between research and the fact that four of the top five streaming country songs in Houston are hers, there’s an expectation from my core audience to be playing her a lot,” Moon adds. “It’s an Ella-bration in Houston!”

Burn potential? Not a problem, says Adams Radio **WBTU** Fort Wayne, Ind., program director **Randy Alomar**. “I’m not worried,” he tells *Billboard*. “‘Choosin’ Texas’ is the biggest song of the year so far and ‘Be Her’ is an amazing follow-up.”

DEBUTS **Corey Kent**’s “Empty Words” (Sony Music Nashville/SMN) enters Country Airplay at No. 51 (1.2 million). Kent and **Koe Wetzel**’s “Rocky Mountain Low” holds at No. 12 (17.6 million, up 6%), after reaching No. 10.

Plus, **The Red Clay Strays**’ “Demons in Your Choir” (HBYCO/RCA) starts at No. 59 (490,100). The act previously made Country Airplay with “I Wonder Why” (No. 58, 2024). ●



LANGLEY

CAYLEE ROBILLOARD

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+5.130
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+4.157
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+2.597
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.543
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+2.067
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+1.889
BOSTON Stella Lefty/Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	+1.886
CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	+1.843
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+1.831
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+1.354

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+1196
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1042
DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+747
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+643
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+587
BOSTON Stella Lefty/Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	+497
CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	+468
BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+396
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+394
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+379

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	18.001
2	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	15.144
3	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	13.481
4	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	11.630
5	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60	Chris Janson	10.329
6	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	10.326
7	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	9.996
8	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WVRN	Cody Johnson	9.721
9	20 CIGARETTES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	8.710
10	HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	7.732



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JUNE 4, 2026

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	16	ONE WILD REASON (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Jesse Raub Jr.	1891	140	11	12	10	REASONS TO CALL (Get Joe)	Billie Jo	1397	58
2	3	21	LONG WAY HOME (Independent)	Matt Daniel	1816	103	12	8	17	DANCING WITH MY BABY TONIGHT (Independent)	Trevor Underwood	1394	16
3	5	13	I CAN'T GET OVER YOU (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1615	64	13	13	21	NEON NEVER LIES (Mirror Ball Records)	Caleb Young	1378	70
4	4	18	GOING THROUGH (WHISKEY LIKE WATER) (Independent)	Tilluride	1594	33	14	16	10	HARD TO WRITE A LOVE SONG (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1279	67
5	11	14	LIVE FREE (SEE ME RUNNING) (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1520	173	15	15	21	BEAUTIFUL YOU (Prophets and Outlaws Music)	Prophets and Outlaws	1219	-21
6	6	13	SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1504	47	16	17	10	WHISKEY AFTER WOMEN (Write On)	Adysen Malek	1121	38
7	7	20	BLESSING AND A CURSE (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1468	30	17	21	6	DOWN BY THE RIVER (Independent)	Seth Candan	1029	106
8	9	9	JUNE'S HONKY TONK MOON (CDX)	Sandee June	1447	86	18	19	16	IF YOU KNOW YOU KNOW (Synapse)	Derryl Perry	1002	37
9	14	10	STUBBORN AND REMAINS (Independent)	William Clark Green	1420	179	19	26	4	RAIN (Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers)	Wade Bowen	997	156
10	10	20	FOUND (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1414	62	20	20	8	I DON'T DRINK ANYMORE (Independent)	Timothy Howls	980	37

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

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	16	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers ★★ No. 1 (2 Weeks) ★★	Ella Langley	31.910	+2.067	8209	396	2
2	5	23	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor ★★ Most Increased Audience ★★	Riley Green	30.811	+5.130	8365	1196	1
3	3	37	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	28.188	+1.831	7175	394	3
4	2	32	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	24.743	-4.296	6686	-1339	4
5	6	33	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	24.065	-0.602	5248	-100	9
6	8	14	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	23.425	+2.597	6507	747	5
7	9	14	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	22.034	+2.543	6113	587	6
8	7	21	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	21.695	-1.426	5518	-134	8
9	10	32	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	19.361	+1.309	5605	152	7
10	13	6	I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	18.054	+1.889	4900	643	11
11	12	26	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	17.624	+1.075	5155	378	10
12	16	10	BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	16.216	+4.157	4168	1042	14
13	14	12	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	15.237	+1.354	4392	379	13
14	15	34	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	14.540	+0.912	4424	280	12
15	17	18	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	11.848	+0.774	3433	65	15
16	18	48	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	10.731	+1.075	3105	110	16
17	19	10	COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	9.380	+0.481	2910	138	18
18	22	25	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	9.347	+0.751	2681	105	21
19	20	18	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud ★★ Airpower ★★	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	9.260	+0.577	2911	77	17
20	24	4	CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW ★★ Airpower ★★	Kenny Chesney	9.204	+1.843	2789	468	20
21	21	51	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	9.115	+0.506	2796	39	19
22	23	20	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	7.853	+0.397	2569	126	22
23	26	15	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	7.692	+0.664	2447	153	23
24	25	39	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	7.391	+0.073	2235	-61	25
25	27	9	SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	7.097	+1.245	2308	240	24
26	29	7	BOSTON Stella Lefty/Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	6.899	+1.886	1931	497	28
27	28	47	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	5.616	+0.287	2060	119	26
28	30	24	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greytan James	4.888	+0.305	1947	125	27
29	31	2	THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	4.138	-0.045	945	-83	43
30	35	15	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	3.888	+0.452	1449	141	34

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	33	17	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	3.831	+0.122	1550	57	31
32	38	23	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	3.651	+0.553	1301	61	36
33	34	36	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	3.626	+0.133	1516	69	32
34	40	19	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	3.545	+0.657	1582	151	29
35	36	14	WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	3.451	+0.139	1332	80	35
36	39	19	GARY Mercury/Big Loud	Stephen Wilson Jr.	3.350	+0.294	1453	87	33
37	37	33	FIREWORKS Curb	Kelsey Hart	3.321	+0.107	1574	-24	30
38	41	8	MOVE ON American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	2.855	+0.008	1179	34	37
39	42	7	MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	2.809	+0.206	980	51	42
40	45	15	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	2.625	+0.363	1154	131	38
41	43	19	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	2.602	+0.010	1051	3	41
42	44	20	MAKE A LIAR Blue Highway	Jackson Dean	2.587	+0.262	1082	79	39
43	55	3	DRY SPELL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	2.178	+1.174	592	252	54
44	46	6	WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville	Jacob Hackworth	1.798	+0.093	1053	56	40
45	48	11	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	1.665	+0.249	883	39	44
46	49	18	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	1.592	+0.262	703	4	48
47	32	2	LAND Hubbard House/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	1.466	-2.374	629	-427	50
48	53	4	WANNABE Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Gavin Adcock	1.449	+0.338	622	107	51
49	47	21	HIGHS & LOWS Quartz Hill	Matt Cooper	1.373	-0.075	733	-53	47
50	50	14	KEEPS ME SANE Tyler Nance/Santa Anna/Akando	Tyler Nance	1.179	-0.056	691	-39	49
51	NEW		EMPTY WORDS Sony Music Nashville/SMN ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Corey Kent	1.155	+0.617	216	102	-
52	51	11	IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Blue Highway/Nashville Harbor	Carly Pearce & Riley Green	1.155	-0.007	622	4	52
53	54	9	BACK IN THE BOTTLE Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.142	+0.034	846	44	45
54	56	16	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor	The Band Perry	0.994	+0.056	802	31	46
55	58	5	LOVE IS BLIND WEST TO THE REST/Triple Tigers	Ian Munsick	0.802	+0.116	614	58	53
56	60	2	GOD KNEW BETTER Stoney Creek	Parmalee	0.799	+0.193	518	38	55
57	57	3	BETTER THAT WAY Mercury/Big Loud	Charles Wesley Godwin & Luke Combs	0.726	-0.015	432	33	56
58	RE-ENTRY		STRING BY Mack Geiger/RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Mack Geiger	0.681	+0.076	184	-1	-
59	NEW		DEMONS IN YOUR CHOIR HBYCO/RCA	The Red Clay Strays	0.491	-0.022	321	-3	58
60	NEW		HURTS LIKE YOU YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel	0.473	+0.178	237	78	-



The state of Tennessee observed Randy Travis Day on June 2 on the 40th anniversary of the release of his debut album, *Storms of Life*, and recognized the former site of the Morningstar Sound Studio in Hendersonville, where he recorded it, with a Tennessee Music Pathways marker. Behind Travis are (from left) *Storms* producer Kyle Lehning, Paul Overstreet and Morningstar co-founder Tony Gottlieb.



Cody Johnson greeted several broadcasters during a May 30 tour stop at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill. From left: WUSN Chicago morning-show producer Kyle Millnamow; Audacy regional brand manager/WUSN Chicago PD Marci Braun; Johnson; KTOM Salinas, Calif., PD Sam Diggedy; and Warner Records Nashville regional manager of radio & streaming Justin Newell.

RICK MURRAY

LET'S RAISE A GLASS TO COUNTRY RADIO
AND OUR STREAMING PARTNERS

ATLUS HOLD MY LIQUOR



46 TOTAL ADDS ON IMPACT

KKBQ/HOUSTON
WYCD/DETROIT
KYGO/DENVER
WKKT/CHARLOTTE
WIL/ST. LOUIS
KCYI/SAN ANTONIO
KSOP/SALT LAKE CITY
WWKA/ORLANDO
KNCI/SACRAMENTO
KWNR/LAS VEGAS
WDSY/PITTSBURGH
WPGB/PITTSBURGH

WGAR/CLEVELAND
WFMS/INDIANAPOLIS
WLHK/INDIANAPOLIS
WGNE/JACKSONVILLE, FL
WGH/NORFOLK
WKHK/RICHMOND
WKMK/MONMOUTH-OCEAN
WLFP/MEMPHIS
WBEE/ROCHESTER, NY
WZZK/BIRMINGHAM
WKLI/ALBANY, NY
KSKS/FRESNO

WCYQ/KNOXVILLE
WCKN/CHARLESTON, SC
WTGE/BATON ROUGE
WGGY/WILKES-BARRE, PA
KATM/STOCKTON, CA
WKRO/DAYTONA BEACH, FL
WWQM/MADISON, WI
KDRK/SPOKANE
KXLY/SPOKANE
WPOR/PORTLAND, ME
WTHT/PORTLAND, ME

KSSN/LITTLE ROCK
WRNS/GREENVILLE, NC
WOLF/SYRACUSE
KFDD/WICHITA, KS
KJUG/VISALIA-TULARE, CA
WGTY/YORK, PA
WBTU/FT. WAYNE
WQHK/FT. WAYNE
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NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com

Megan Moroney entertained industry visitors when she launched the Cloud 9 Tour on May 29 at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus, Ohio. From left: WCOL PD Dan Zuko, Columbia Nashville Southeast director of radio marketing & promotion Anna Widmer, Moroney and Columbia Nashville promotion & artist development specialist Christy Garbinski.

LAINIEY WILSON TOPS CMA TOURING

Lainey Wilson and her Whirlwind World Tour crew, which includes 35 women, took home crew of the year June 2 during the Country Music Association's CMA Touring Awards at Nashville venue The Pinnacle.

"I am so proud of my people," Wilson said. "I feel like everywhere we go, they leave a good impression. They treat the janitor just like they treat the CEO and that means a whole lot to me. And thank y'all so much for all the sacrifices y'all made, all the time to run this circus, to pick it up and move it to the next town."

Keith Urban served as host for the fourth consecutive year. Members of Wilson's touring crew took home the lion's share of this year's awards, including backline technician, stage manager, front of house engineer, tour video director, monitor engineer of the year and tour manager of the year.

The ceremony is typically held earlier in the year, but was rescheduled for June after ice storms hit Nashville in January.

Jim Halsey was honored with the CMA lifetime touring achievement award, recognizing six decades as an agent and/or manager representing Hank Thompson, The Oak Ridge Boys, Merle Haggard, Reba McEntire, Roy Clark and Minnie Pearl, among others.

As the evening drew to a close, CMA CEO Sarah Trahern surprised Urban with the CMA founding president's award.

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

By Jessica Nicholson

RADIO & RECORDS®

Ann Sowell joined Quartz Hill Music Group as associate publicist following her graduation from Nashville's David Lipscomb University. Reach her [here](#) ... Black River promoted Grace Watson to VP of commercial partnerships & digital from senior director of streaming & revenue. Reach her [here](#) ... Artist-writer Kinsley signed a recording deal with MCA. Her first music with the label, "Pieces of Me," was released May 29 ... Caleb King agreed to a joint-venture recording contract with RECORDS Nashville and Provident Entertainment. His first project in the deal, "Carpenter Boy," is due June 12 ... Blair Garner was hired for afternoons at KGNC Amarillo, Texas. The former host of several national radio shows, Garner had stepped away from broadcasting to develop a live venue, The Mulehouse, in Columbia, Tenn. ... Greg Milby joined WULF Elizabethtown, Ky., in mornings, *The Grayson* (Ky.) *County News* reported. He previously worked mornings at rival WKMO ... JVC/Panama City, Fla., welcomed general sales manager Stacie Bolster, according to RadioInk.com. She previously held the same title at the market's WMBB-TV ... Josh Wolf joined Audacy/Pittsburgh as brand manager of three stations, including country WDSY, RadioInsight.com reported. He replaces Mark Anderson, who parted ways with the company. Wolff segues from WRRM Cincinnati, where he served as PD/afternoon host ... Jesse Garcia took over as PD for WQHK Fort Wayne, Ind., according to RadioInsight.com. He was already PD/afternoon host at WBYT South Bend ... Kenny Chesney and Lainey Wilson will represent country

at the multi-genre iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas on Sept. 18-19 ... Country Radio Broadcasters made "The Human Connection: Country Radio's Greatest Superpower" available online as part of its CRS360 webinar series. Go [here](#) to watch the presentation, hosted by Research Committee co-chairs Clay Hunnicutt and Justin Chase.

'ROUND THE ROW

International Bluegrass Music Association executive director Ken White resigned from his position. Former executive director Paul Schiminger will take over the role on an interim basis ... Lauren Tingle joined the International Entertainment Buyers Association staff as director of marketing & communications. Skilled on multiple media platforms after 20 years in the business, Tingle was most recently a producer with Apple Music ... Academy of Country Music director of digital marketing Matt Brum-Taylor stepped down from his position. Reach him [here](#) ... Jacksonville State University in Alabama opened the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts on May 27 with a concert featuring Owen, Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Riley Green, Pam Tillis and The Oak Ridge Boys, among others ... Cindy Mabe's Joan of Arc Studio-Works will co-produce its initial TV project, *Alan Jackson: The Last Show*, with EverWonder Studios. The concert takes place June 27; an official date for the NBC special has not been announced ... Willie's Remedy+, a THC-infused drink developed by JuneShine Brands in honor of Willie Nelson, launched a 90-day TV commercial campaign in late May ... The RIAA hailed Garth Brooks as artist of a lifetime, recognizing him as the first artist to receive 10 diamond-certified albums, and the first to tally 200 million in overall certifications ... Artist-writer Patrick Davis had his song "Carolina When I Die," featuring Darius Rucker and Edwin McCain, named an official state song for South Carolina. Davis is the state's current poet laureate ... Abbeville Press will publish *Treasures of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum* on Sept. 29. Edited by museum senior director of editorial Paul Kingsbury, the book's images include the first black suit worn by Johnny Cash, a handwritten draft of Dolly Parton's "Jolene" and the Western shirt worn by Garth Brooks on the cover of the *No Fences* album ... The Academy of Country Music launched *Our Country*, a digital series of covers by country acts. Among the initial six are Craig Campbell's version of Clint Black's "Killin' Time," Jo Dee Messina's take on Aerosmith's "Dream On" and Thelma & James' cover of the *Grease* duet "You're the One That I Want" ... A Zach Top line of ZT jeans made in partnership with Western apparel company Kimes Ranch will be carried in more than 130 Cavender's Boot City locations beginning June 10 ... Stars for Second Harvest, hosted by ERNEST on June 2 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, raised \$445,000 for the charity with the assistance of Ella Langley, HARDY and songwriters Dean Dillon ("Tennessee Whiskey," "Ocean Front Property") and Lee Thomas Miller ("In Color," "I'm Still a Guy"). ●



Darius Rucker and Lauren Alaina sang "Jackson" June 1 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium as his annual Darius and Friends as his annual Darius and Friends benefit raised \$1.1 million for St. Jude Children's Research Center.



MORIAH (left) and Frankie Staton were among the guests when the Country Music Association hosted a Country Forward event May 31 at Nashville's Aura Lounge.

CATHERINE POWELL

LORENZO HUERTA

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 | CLOSSES 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®**.

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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/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.Gutch, B.J.Johnson, W.Phillips) **24**

B

BACK IN THE BOTTLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/I'm Your Huckleberry Music, BMI (R.Houser) **53**

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) **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/Sbanks Publishing, BMI/Wildhawk Publishing, BMI (D. Alley, S.Duck, N.Walsh) **12**

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) **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 Carusoe, 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) **22**

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) **26**

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) **20**

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) **2**

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) **14**

CHOOSIN' TEXAS Langley Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Luke Dick Publishing Designee, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (E.Langley, C.Dick, M.Lambert, J.Taylor) **5**

COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jornli 10 Music, BMI/Trailer Parker Twang Lab, BMI/Hometeam Publishing LLC, BMI/Kilometre Music Group B, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/IM Drag Songs, ASCAP (J.L.Miller, P.Welling, M.Dragstrom) **17**

D

DEMONS IN YOUR CHOIR TTGR Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Music By Bodacious Publishing, BMI/Wanna Be Loved Music, BMI (M. Coleman, B.Coleman, D.Coleman) **59**

DON'T TELL ON ME Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Trip Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI/kwsay Publishing, BMI/Writersonthehorn Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan, L.Vaughan) **6**

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/Barre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, R.H.Black, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, Charlie Handsome) **7**

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) **43**

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) **27**

EMPTY WORDS Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Concord Copyr. Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Lightning Street Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Bada Bing Bada Boom Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Corey Kent, A.Goodloe, M.Roy, J.Taylor, L.Vaughan) **51**

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) **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/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) **23**

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) **56**

GOOD DAMN Indiana Angel Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (B.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, T.Phillips) **45**

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) **49**

HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Reed Up Publishing, BMI/Aaron Presley Beachum Publishing Designee, BMI/Evan Christian Mayo Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (Chase Matthew, E.Escue, A.Maxwell, Presley Aaron, E.C.Mayo, J.Center) **34**

HURTS LIKE YOU Yellabush Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/These Are Songs Of Pulse, ASCAP/Gabe Simon Pub Designee, ASCAP/Smells Like Good Music, ASCAP/Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP (R.Wetzel, A.G.Gorley, G.Simon, Carrie K, S.Jones) **60**

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) **10**

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

K

KEEPS ME SANE Anthems Of Platinum Grammer, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Copyright Control (C.T.L.Nance, D.Napier, B.McCollough) **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) **16**

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, H.Criswell) **40**

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/I Of 6, ASCAP/Endurance Music Group, ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, Z.Aband, G.J.Egan, C.Smith) **47**

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) **31**

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) **33**

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 Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (I.Munsick, R.Tyndell, J.N.Spillman) **55**

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) **42**

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) **19**

MEDICINE Universal Tunes, 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) **39**

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.Chibueze, S.Sanchez, D.R.Stevens, A.Cabrera, J.Torrey) **38**

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) **30**

PSYCHOLOGICAL Smack Back Music, BMI/Concord Baritone CCI, BMI/Midtown Mistake Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Colton Venner Publishing, BMI (C.Park, G.Tyler, C.Venner) **54**

R

RIDE, RIDE, RIDE Big Music Machine, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/T Tree Music, BMI (G.C.Birge, T.R.Hubbard, C.Brown, P.Welling) **15**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Corey Kent Music, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Lighting Street Publishing, BMI/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Michael Tyler Music, SESAC/MT Room, SESAC/Young Guns Tunes, SESAC (Corey Kent, T.Archer, A.Goodloe, M.Tyler) **11**

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/Cing Trax, ASCAP/Lilyridge Music, ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, D.H.Hodges, J.Robbins) **25**

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.Singletary) **8**

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/Getysasome Music, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, M.Nesler) **18**

STRING BY Mack Geiger Publishing Designee, APRA (M.Geiger) **58**

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) **29**

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) **4**

W

WANNABE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Cok 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. Adcock, J.R.Durrett, B.Clawson, E.K.Smith, M.C.Wallen) **48**

WATER AT A WEDDING Relative Red Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, BMI/Philippians Drag Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/ASCAP/IM 4:7 Songs, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI (G.J.Egan, M.Dragstrom, R.C.McGill) **28**

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.Clary) **35**

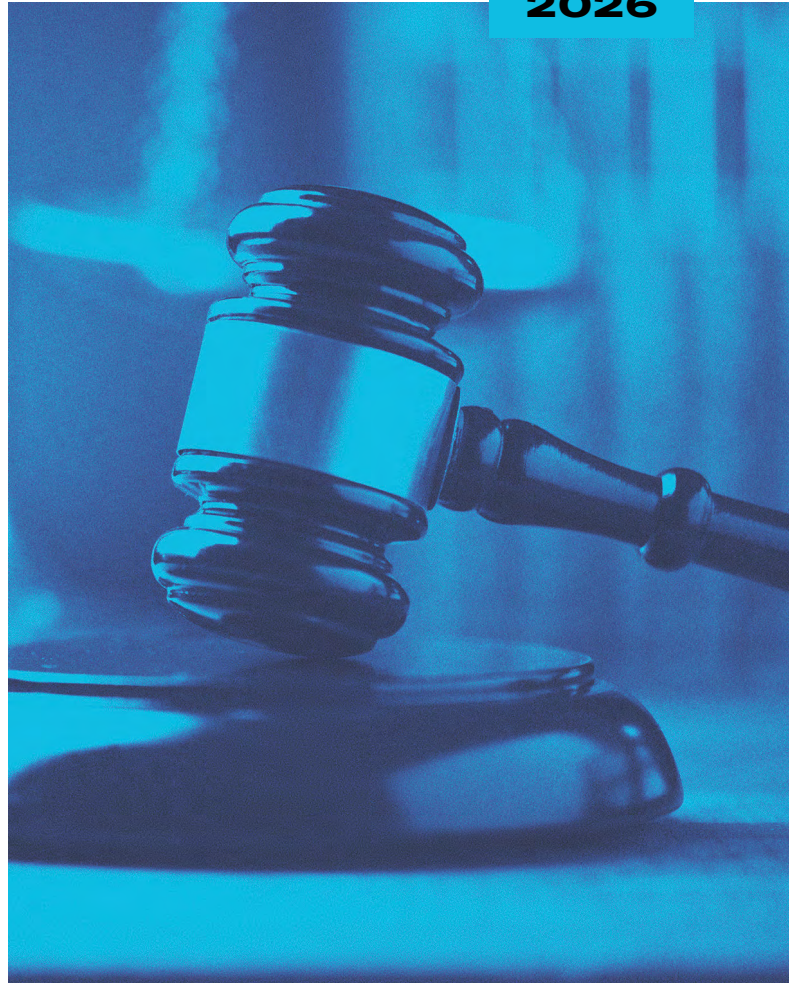
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/T Vill Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/I Finally Got Some Palms, BMI/Songs By 10K HRS Publishing, BMI/Goat Island Palms, LLC, BMI/Smells Like Good Music, ASCAP/Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP (J.A.Hackworth, D.Ross, J.Free, S.Jones) **44**

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) **46**

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) **13**

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) **32**

WRONG HEARTS BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Webstring Publishing, BMI/Levelgen 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.

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

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COUNTRY

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

25 Years Ago

Once Upon A 'Twice,' Kenny Chesney Made A Youthful Run At No. 1

The Country Music Hall of Fame member's single referenced another Hall member's chart-topper

Most people fall in love more than once during their lifetime, but one thing holds true for everyone: Falling for the first time can only happen once.

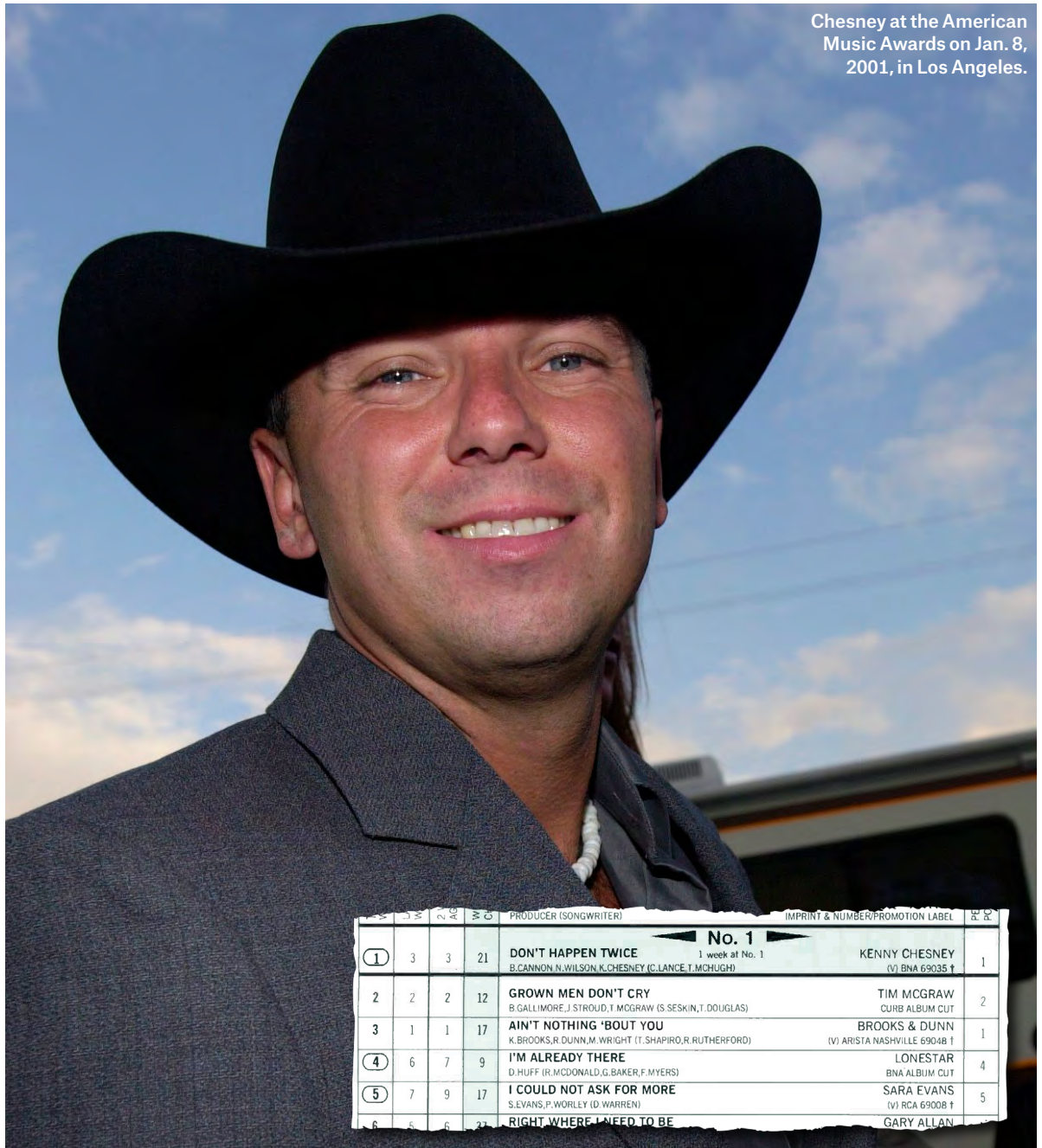
That's the gist of **Kenny Chesney's** "Don't Happen Twice," which took him to No. 1 for the fourth time in his career on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart dated June 9, 2001. Young romance was definitely a thing for Chesney in that part of his career — 1995's "Fall in Love" became his first top 10 single, and his early successes also included "Me and You";

his first No. 1, "She's Got It All"; and six-week chart-topper "How Forever Feels."

Songwriters **Thom McHugh** ("Holdin' Heaven," "Life Goes On") and **Curtis Lance** drew the opening line of the "Don't Happen Twice" chorus — "We sang 'Bobby McGee' on the hood of my car" — from Lance's own romantic memories. They paid homage in the process to **Kris Kristofferson**, whose "Me and Bobby McGee" rose to No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 after it was covered by **Janis Joplin**.

"Don't Happen Twice" followed "I Lost It," which peaked at No. 3 on Hot Country Songs, as the two new singles pulled from Chesney's *Greatest Hits*, which emerged as his first package to lead Top Country Albums on Oct. 14, 2000. Chesney has amassed 23 total No. 1s on Hot Country Songs to date and sent an additional 10 titles to the summit on Country Airplay. He joined the Country Music Hall of Fame last October — that's another thing that just don't happen twice.

—TOM ROLAND



Chesney at the American Music Awards on Jan. 8, 2001, in Los Angeles.

				PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	IMPRINT & NUMBER/PROMOTION LABEL	
1	3	3	21	Don't Happen Twice B. CANNON, N. WILSON, K. CHESNEY (C. LANCE, T. MCHUGH)	No. 1 1 week at No. 1 KENNY CHESNEY (V) BNA 69035 †	1
2	2	2	12	Grown Men Don't Cry B. GALLIMORE, J. STROUD, T. MCGRAW (S. SESKIN, T. DOUGLAS)	TIM MCGRAW CJRB ALBUM CUT	2
3	1	1	17	Ain't Nothing 'Bout You K. BROOKS, R. DUNN, M. WRIGHT (T. SHAPIRO, R. RUTHERFORD)	BROOKS & DUNN (V) ARISTA NASHVILLE 69048 †	1
4	6	7	9	I'm Already There D. HUFF (R. MCDONALD, G. BAKER, F. MYERS)	LONESTAR BNA ALBUM CUT	4
5	7	9	17	I Could Not Ask for More S. EVANS, P. WORLEY (D. WARREN)	SARA EVANS (V) RCA 69008 †	5
6	8	6	21	Right Where I Need to Be	GARY ALLAN	

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.

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