

billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Alan Jackson's Final Concert: His Past Label Heads Assess His Driving Principles

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He is notably quiet in person and says little when he takes a stage.

But big speeches aren't what people want from **Alan Jackson**. They want the songs: "Drive (For Daddy Gene)," "Chattahoochee," "Don't Rock the Jukebox," "Remember When," "Small Town Southern Man," "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)." Those titles speak volumes about Jackson as a singer-songwriter, and about the fans he serves.

Jackson, who has a genetic neurological issue, Charcot-Marie-Toot disease, caps his concert career June 27 at Nashville's Nissan Stadium with "Last Call: One More for the Road — The Finale." The show serves as a milestone in the Country Music Hall of Fame member's career and a nostalgic reminder of his substantial body of work. But just as importantly, it highlights his influence. More than 35 years after Jackson reached the national spotlight, the '90s country that he helped define — marked by strong hooks, proud lower- and middle-class stories and an unapologetic use of fiddle and steel guitar — is hot. "Last Call" will feature appearances by a bundle of younger artists who took the baton, including **Riley Green**, **Cody Johnson**, **Lainey Wilson**, **Eric Church**, **Miranda Lambert**, **Lee Ann Womack** and **Luke Combs**, just to name a few.

They're not the only music folks who'll be on hand. The stadium will also welcome the four executives who headed the

labels that oversaw his releases prior to last year: **Tim DuBois**, who signed Jackson to Arista Nashville in 1989; **Joe Galante**, who worked with him from 2000-2010 when a restructuring placed Arista under the RCA Label Group umbrella and, later, under Sony BMG; **Mike Dungan**, who signed him to Capitol Nashville in 2011; and **Cindy Mabe**, who succeeded Dungan at Universal Music Group Nashville (now MCA) from 2023-2025.

They collectively see Jackson — who released a new song, "Still the One," on June 25 — as a key voice for the nation's heartland.

"I call him the **Norman Rockwell** of country music," DuBois says. "He just paints a picture that is so relatable to middle-class America."

Jackson has amassed 26 No. 1 singles on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs among 50 top 10 singles, deftly using everyday language and unpretentious musical construction to create a bond with the genre's listeners. He avoids gimmickry and never overplays the emotional content in his material. Instead, he delivers

his stories with sincerity and respect, using those tales as his primary means of communication. He can acknowledge commitment and economics in the same chorus — as he did when he sang "Livin' on love, buyin' on time" — capture intimacy in the lines of "When Somebody Loves You" and laugh at rejec-



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tion in “She’s Got the Rhythm (And I Got the Blues),” the latter co-written with fellow traditionalist **Randy Travis**.

Jackson connected with men and women at the heart of their humanity, but he had his surface attractions, too.

“I know I sold a ton of music,” DuBois quips, “but I also sold a lot of long legs and long hair.”

A native of Newnan, Ga., Jackson communicated regular-Joe status through a love for the water and a passion for automobiles. He married his high-school sweetheart, **Denise**, and kept cassette recordings of his songs in brown paper grocery bags, writing about his parents, his wife, his good times, his church and his growing pains. Fans saw him as one of their own — and he was. He still is.

But he wasn’t a pushover when it came to the music business. He needed a record company, but wasn’t about to sacrifice his identity to make it. Particularly as a younger man, he was prone to push back when the business people asked him to try marketing moves that didn’t fit his view of his art.

“He wanted it to be about the music,” remembers Dungan, who first worked with Jackson in the early days of his career. “When you’re the head of marketing, as I was at Arista, there are a million opportunities to fight with a man like that.”

And they did. Dungan remembers one brutally loud argument at a Nashville restaurant that turned the heads of other patrons. It wasn’t personal. Jackson simply had a public profile and — like most great artists — a sense of what he was willing to do when his name or likeness was attached. He knew what made his business work, and he didn’t compromise when it didn’t make sense.

“He was always on the lookout for anyone and everyone who was going to try to interfere with his creative process,” Dungan recalls.

Galante knew that side of Jackson, too. A year before Arista came under Galante’s leadership, Jackson registered a top 5 single with “Little Man,” a frank lament about the brute force of big businesses gobbling up market share in small communities. It wasn’t just posturing, but his own artistic success placed him in situations where he had to make choices between the music and the business sides of the music business.

When **WHTZ** New York, Z100, heard Jackson’s 9/11 reflection, “Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning),” the top 40 station was interested in playing it. As a five-minute country ballad, “Where Were You” was a bit of an outlier for a pop station. The company was willing to accept that, but executive VP **Butch Waugh** funneled one request to Galante: Could Jackson remix it with less steel guitar? Galante called the artist with the proposal.

“The silence — it seemed like an eternity, but it was probably three or four seconds,” Galante recalls. “He said to me, ‘I kind of like steel.’ And the next thing I heard was a click. I went into Butch’s office, and he said to me, ‘How did it go?’ I said, ‘Well, as I expected, he’s not going to change the record. And I don’t think he should.’”

It’s not like Jackson was acting out of selfishness. Though his songwriting was a hallmark of his career, he recorded a fair number of outside songs, including 18 of his top 10 singles, such as “Little Bitty,” “It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere,” “Gone Country” and “Right on the Money.”

There was a practicality about it — invariably, the songs represented his



Ashley McBryde met up with WJVL Janesville, Wis., PD/afternoon personality Justin Brown when she delivered an Old Settlers Days concert June 19 in Rockton, Ill.



Taylor Swift (left) made a surprise appearance to duet with Lainey Wilson on “Love Story” during Sports Illustrated and Tigt University’s Tigt Ends & Friends Presented by Reese’s on June 23 at The Pinnacle in Nashville.

love of classic country or expressed his viewpoint in a way that he didn’t think he could. The songs he selected and the compromises he refused to make were all a part of a genre that is central to his identity.

“He never lost his roots, and I think he always thought about that,” Galante says. “I mean, he was a shade-tree mechanic, coming from a small town, and still remembered what the struggle was like. I think that resonated in everything he picked, or wrote, and we worked.”

When Jackson left Arista, he called Dungan, who had moved on to Capitol, and suggested working together again. He acknowledged that they had had their share of arguments, but said he always knew that Dungan was giving him an honest assessment. He apologized for the long-ago restaurant squabble, and he laughed it off when Dungan said he wanted to get Jackson back on the radio. Jackson believed programmer had moved on.

“I was very shocked, because if you ever work with artists, you know none of them ever say that,” Dungan notes. “It’s the other side of the coin. It’s like they will not accept that radio won’t play them anymore. Here was a guy, who was very difficult in his early career, being the most grown-up adult in the room.”

The fact is that Jackson had a handle on what worked for him.

“Looking back,” says DuBois, acknowledging his own battles with Jackson, “he was right more times than I was.”

Jackson’s final concert is timely in a way he could not have predicted when he booked it more than a year ago. Back in 1989, Jackson — despite his longing for a recording contract — insisted on meeting DuBois’ boss, **Clive Davis**, before he became the first artist signed to Arista’s unproven Nashville division. Davis died on June 22, just five days prior to Jackson’s stadium show. Similarly, **Larry Shell**, who co-wrote “Murder on Music Row” — the award-winning 1999 release that excoriated the country industry for turning its back on tradition — died June 17. **George Strait**, who recorded “Murder” with Jackson, will participate in the concert.

Jackson’s legacy “matters so much, because the past, present and future of country music all connect together,” says Mabe, whose Joan of Arc Music is set to develop an NBC special out of the concert. “He’s an extension of **Hank Williams**, and what he’ll do for that next generation is they’re going to pick up the extension of Alan Jackson and move it forward. That’s why this concert and everything that comes in this moment is going to be so pivotal. It’s a cultural moment. It’s not just a last concert.”

Mabe’s production, of course, will need to demonstrate that through the music and through the other voices that might appear in it. Jackson, as someone who isn’t prone to talk much publicly, is certainly not one to boast. It’s not necessary.

The most talkative people in a room “tell you everything that they possibly know about anything,” Mabe observes. “The one with all the information is the quiet guy in the corner. That’s Alan Jackson. I’ll be honest, he knows a lot of stuff.” ●



Dolly Parton cut the ribbon at the June 24 opening of Dolly’s Tennessean Travel Stop on Interstate 65 in Cornersville, Tenn. She’s joined by her manager, CTK Management president/CEO Danny Nozell (left), and Travel Stop partner Gregory H. Sachs.

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.

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AD CLOSE: 7/7

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GRAMMY
AWARDS®

billboard Country Airplay

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

'Look'-ing Sharp: Josh Ross Earns First Country Airplay No. 1

Josh Ross achieves his first *Billboard* Country Airplay No. 1 as "Hate How You Look" (The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville) rises a spot in its 40th week on the chart dated July 4. The song drew 32.7 million audience impressions (up 4%) June 19-25, according to Luminate.

Written by **Jessica Farren**, **Chris McKenna**, **Nicholas Sainato** and **Christian Yancey**, the track assumes the lead from **Ella Langley's** "Be Her," which descends to No. 3 after a four-week run at the summit. Ross' sole prior Country Airplay entry, "Single Again," reached No. 2 last summer, in its 68th week.

Ross is the second artist this year to secure a first Country Airplay No. 1, among 12 total leaders (a 16.7% success rate); **Tucker Wetmore's** "Brunette" led in May. Three acts earned career-first leaders in 2025, of 20 No. 1s overall (15%): **Corey Kent** ("This Heart"), **Hootie & the Blowfish** ("Bottle Rockets," with **Scotty McCreery**) and **Chase Matthew** ("Darlin'"). There were nine first-timers in 2024, out of 27 No. 1s (33.3%). Since the start of 2016, 54 artists have notched first No. 1s on the ranking, among 314 total leaders (17.2%).



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MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
HANDS UP Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+5.594
DEAR BIG CITY Curb	Dylan Scott	+2.700
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.980
I KNEW IT, I KNEW YOU Pixar/Walt Disney/Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	+1.666
CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	+1.577
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+1.300
BOSTON Stella Lefty/Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	+1.236
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+1.152
BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1.098
BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	+1.018

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
GIRL DAD Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Cole Swindell	+1598
HANDS UP Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1264
DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+507
I KNEW IT, I KNEW YOU Pixar/Walt Disney/Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	+461
CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	+425
HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	+404
CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	+364
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	+324
THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	+299
BOSTON Stella Lefty/Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	+277

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	20.656
2	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	20.103
3	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	13.389
4	CHANGE MY MIND Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	13.178
5	TURN THIS TRUCK AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	11.583
6	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	10.929
7	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	10.893
8	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	9.965
9	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	8.454
10	DARLIN' Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	8.313

KEEPIN' ON TRUCKIN' **Bailey Zimmerman** lands his seventh Country Airplay top 10 as "Chevy Silverado" (Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN) revs 11-9 (17.8 million, up 5%) in its 37th week. It follows "Backup Plan," which rose to No. 2 last September.

Zimmerman has reached the top 10 in 25 weeks on average across his trips to the tier, making "Chevy Silverado" one of his longer climbs. Only "Holy Smokes," which took 44 weeks, needed more time, while "Backup Plan" marked his fastest ascent, 11 weeks.

TOP DEBUTS **Cole Swindell's** "Girl Dad" (Warner Records Nashville/WAR) opens at No. 26 on Country Airplay (5.8 million). Plus, **Jelly Roll's** "Hands Up" (Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek) enters at No. 28 (5.6 million). The acts boast eight and nine career No. 1s, respectively. ●



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JUNE 25, 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	SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE (Independent) ★★ 1 Weeks at 1 ★★	Jamie Richards	2061	182	11	11	24	BEAUTIFUL YOU (Prophets and Outlaws Music)	Prophets and Outlaws	1396	63
2	3	17	LIVE FREE (SEE ME RUNNING) (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1862	193	12	15	9	DOWN BY THE RIVER (Independent)	Seth Candan	1315	134
3	4	21	GOING THROUGH (WHISKEY LIKE WATER) (Independent)	Tilluride	1811	175	13	16	11	FLOORBOARD FULL OF ROSES (Ranger Music Group)	David Lewis	1238	111
4	5	12	JUNE'S HONKY TONK MOON (CDX)	Sandee June	1699	113	14	12	20	DANCING WITH MY BABY TONIGHT (Independent)	Trevor Underwood	1236	-66
5	6	13	REASONS TO CALL (Get Joe)	Billie Jo	1695	141	15	17	11	I DON'T DRINK ANYMORE (Independent)	Timothy Howls	1191	94
6	7	23	BLESSING AND A CURSE (RedPlay Media)	Guy Vincent	1654	145	16	18	19	IF YOU KNOW YOU KNOW (Synapse)	Derryl Perry	1120	33
7	8	13	STUBBORN AND REMAINS (Independent)	William Clark Green	1639	135	17	24	7	TAKE IT EASY COWGIRL (Independent)	Aaron Loy	1108	150
8	9	13	HARD TO WRITE A LOVE SONG (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1545	83	18	21	10	ON AGAIN TONIGHT (Pickup Man Records)	Case Hardin	1107	78
9	10	7	RAIN (Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers)	Wade Bowen	1444	88	19	22	10	THAT'S WHAT COWBOYS DO (Lonely River)	Curtis Grimes	1055	87
10	13	13	WHISKEY AFTER WOMEN (Write On)	Adysen Malek	1418	117	20	25	6	HIGH NOON (Leo33)	Jenna Paulette	1029	75

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

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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	40	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★ Josh Ross	32.748	+1.300	8501	404	1
2	3	17	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	30.345	+0.665	7977	108	2
3	1	19	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	28.876	-5.358	6979	-1947	4
4	4	17	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	28.611	+1.980	7757	507	3
5	5	9	I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	22.718	+1.152	6485	324	5
6	7	13	BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	20.814	+1.098	5584	266	8
7	8	35	BEAUTIFUL THINGS Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	20.263	+1.018	5898	162	6
8	9	29	ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent & Koe Wetzel	19.670	+0.586	5847	239	7
9	11	37	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	17.790	+0.808	5215	425	9
10	10	15	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	17.105	-0.173	4952	-58	10
11	12	3	I KNEW IT, I KNEW YOU Pixar/Walt Disney/Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	16.431	+1.665	4275	461	11
12	14	7	CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	14.516	+1.577	4190	364	12
13	13	21	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	12.943	-0.052	3988	87	13
14	15	51	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	12.577	+0.419	3679	123	14
15	16	10	BOSTON Stella Lefty/Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	11.254	+1.236	3138	277	16
16	18	13	COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	10.300	+0.673	3134	92	17
17	17	21	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	9.728	-0.151	3222	33	15
18	19	28	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	9.358	+0.372	2657	-24	22
19	20	18	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	9.026	+0.094	2835	54	18
20	21	42	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	★★ Airpower ★★ Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	8.669	+0.356	2715	102	20
21	22	23	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	8.132	-0.149	2672	-35	21
22	24	12	SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	7.987	-0.041	2752	81	19
23	26	3	PHONE, KEYS, WALLET Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson & John Mayer	6.725	+0.528	2098	200	23
24	27	5	THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	6.717	+0.538	1843	299	26
25	28	50	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	6.499	+0.381	2038	-35	25
26	NEW		GIRL DAD Warner Records Nashville/WAR	★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★ Cole Swindell	5.849	+5.841	1601	1598	30
27	29	27	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greytan James	5.618	-0.039	2082	4	24
28	NEW		HANDS UP Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	★★ Breaker ★★ Jelly Roll	5.594	+5.594	1264	1264	35
29	30	18	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	4.231	+0.201	1486	53	32
30	31	20	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	4.153	+0.123	1709	78	27

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-bulletheaded) audience decline, regardless of total chart weeks. Plus, songs that ascend to a peak between Nos. 1 and 5 will remain on the chart for one additional week even if dropping below No. 10.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

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

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

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

AIRPOWER

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

BREAKER

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

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	32	26	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	4.142	+0.124	1522	24	31
32	33	39	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	4.038	+0.125	1617	35	28
33	34	22	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	3.610	+0.018	1607	-19	29
34	35	17	WHAT IF WE DON'T Warner Music Nashville/WRN	Ashley McBryde	3.328	-0.039	1356	61	34
35	38	22	GARY Mercury/Big Loud	Stephen Wilson Jr.	3.105	+0.094	1410	45	33
36	36	18	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	3.013	-0.179	1242	-33	36
37	40	11	MOVE ON American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	2.943	+0.008	1204	11	37
38	39	10	MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	2.873	-0.105	988	-34	40
39	37	6	DRY SPELL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	2.851	-0.170	886	-6	42
40	NEW		DEAR BIG CITY Curb	Dylan Scott	2.700	+2.700	644	644	51
41	25	2	HORSEBACK CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	2.472	-4.953	803	-903	45
42	41	23	MAKE A LIAR Blue Highway	Jackson Dean	2.259	-0.241	1083	-36	39
43	43	9	WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville	Jacob Hackworth	1.853	-0.033	1117	57	38
44	45	21	WHEN A COWBOY PRAYS Brandon Lake/Essential/SMN	Brandon Lake X Cody Johnson	1.725	+0.006	736	69	47
45	47	14	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	1.634	+0.214	932	58	41
46	44	5	LAND Hubbard House/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	1.624	-0.107	761	-29	46
47	46	7	WANNABE Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Gavin Adcock	1.590	+0.043	721	51	49
48	50	17	KEEPS ME SANE Tyler Nance/Santa Anna/Akando	Tyler Nance	1.209	+0.020	726	-21	48
49	52	4	EMPTY WORDS Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent	1.129	+0.038	384	65	59
50	53	19	PSYCHOLOGICAL Nashville Harbor	The Band Perry	1.108	+0.122	826	38	44
51	49	12	BACK IN THE BOTTLE Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.101	-0.150	871	-25	43
52	58	6	BETTER THAT WAY Mercury/Big Loud	Charles Wesley Godwin & Luke Combs	1.086	+0.233	529	59	53
53	57	5	GOD KNEW BETTER Stoney Creek	Parmalee	0.967	+0.093	550	15	52
54	51	14	IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Blue Highway/Stoney Creek/Nashville Harbor	Carly Pearce & Riley Green	0.949	-0.153	522	-23	54
55	55	8	LOVE IS BLIND WEST TO THE REST/Triple Tigers	Ian Munsick	0.934	+0.009	672	13	50
56	60	2	I DIDN'T COME HERE TO LEAVE Boss Moves/Black River/Akando	Chris Young	0.828	+0.237	387	144	58
57	54	2	SEARCHLIGHT Atlantic	Shinedown	0.797	-0.175	411	6	56
58	56	4	HURTS LIKE YOU YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel	0.738	-0.180	352	-46	60
59	59	6	STRING BY Mack Geiger/RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Mack Geiger	0.686	-0.034	226	0	-
60	NEW		DONE FOR Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	0.615	+0.088	425	87	55

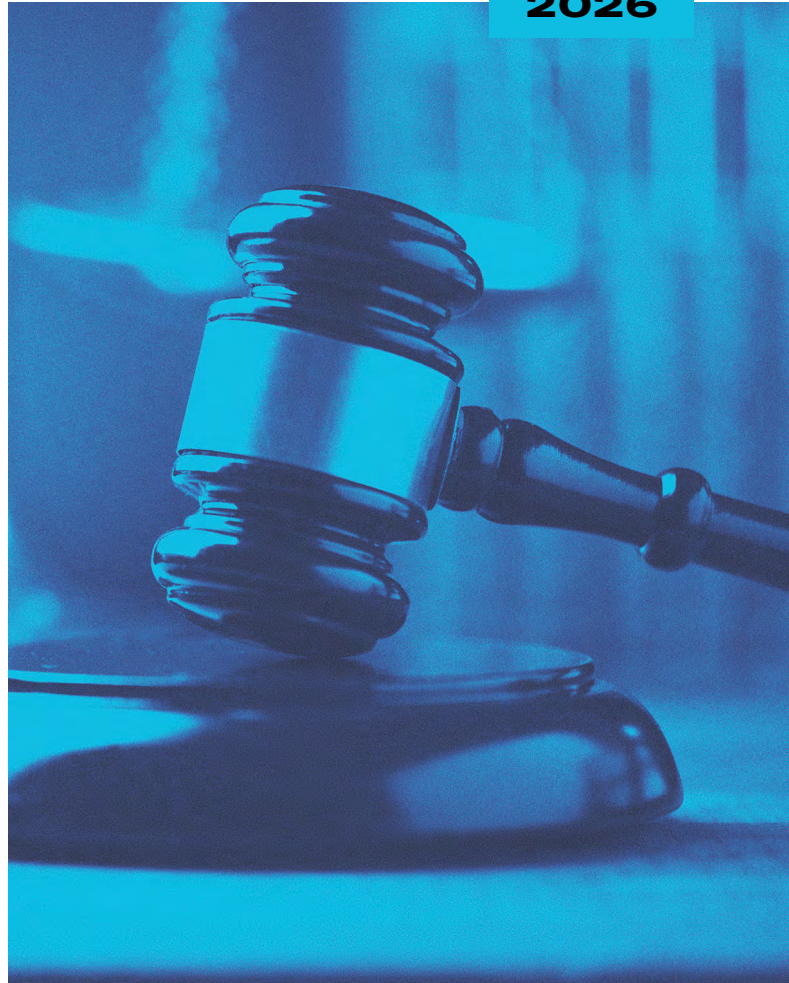


American Idol's season 24 champion, Hannah Harper, signed with WME for representation in an agreement announced June 23. From left: WME agent Alex Sera, Harper, WME agent Morgan Kenney and WME brand partnerships agent Carlile Willett.



Ian Munsick held a listening party on June 17 at The Estelle in Nashville for his album *The Mountain Goat*, due Aug. 21. From left: Triple Tigers co-president Annie Ortmeier, Not a Public Figure Management owner Caroline Munsick, Ian Munsick, Triple Tigers co-president Kevin Herring and Triple Tigers VP of marketing Laura Hosteley.

RYAN CAMP



TOP MUSIC LAWYERS

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

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

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

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ROBBY KLEIN / GETTY IMAGES



Marcus King (left) partied with Riley Green (center), co-host of the ABC special *CMA Fest Presented by SoFi*, and comedian Matt Rife during the Country Music Association's recent festival in Nashville. The special aired June 25.

RADIO & RECORDS®

LEO33 hired **Shane Tarleton** as co-head of the label, a position he'll share with **Katie Dean**. Tarleton was previously Morris Higham Management head of marketing ... Sony Music Nashville signed Pennsylvania-born **Max Alan** to a recording deal, releasing his first music in the agreement, "Love When We Were Young," on June 19 ... **Shabozey**'s American Dogwood label added artist-writer **Angel White** and released his first track for the company, "Lonestar Girl" ... **Ryan Hurd** tapped Combustion Masters to release his new recordings ... Country-Christian artist **Kirbi** agreed to a recording contract with Curb | Word, following her national introduction as a contestant on NBC's *The Voice* ... **Riley Downing**, of Americana act **The Deslondes**, signed with Oh Boy and released "Landfill Poetry," the title track from an album due Aug. 28 ... Melody Place added artist-writer **Pia Toscano** to the roster. A single, "Redirected," will be released July 10 ... River House Artists established River House Radio in conjunction with its 10th anniversary. The station is available on the iHeartRadio app ... Cumulus promoted **Jay Davis** to regional VP, adding oversight of Colorado Springs, Colo., to his existing duties as Cumulus/Oklahoma City VP/market manager. The Colorado Springs cluster features six stations, including country **KATC** ... Cumulus/Boise, Idaho, hired VP/market manager **Mike Fabian**, formerly Townsquare/Sierra Vista, Ariz., chief revenue officer/market president. The five-station Boise cluster includes country **KIZN**. Fabian's old three-station group includes country **KWCD** ... **Bill Fox** takes over as Cumulus/Toledo-Monroe, Ohio, operations manager, a role that also makes him PD for country **WKKO**. He arrives following an on-air run at **WSIG** Harrisonburg, Va. ... Dozens of on-air jobs and programming positions were eliminated in a bloodbath at iHeartMedia. Nearly 20 country-formatted casualties were identified by RadioInsight.com, including **WPOC** Baltimore personality **Bob Delmont**, **WDXB** Birmingham morning host **Spencer Graves** and 33-year **WIKX** Fort Myers-Port Charlotte, Fla., morning talent **Todd Matthews**. Most of the departing employees worked on multiple stations, and many of them worked on-air in more than one market. Go [here](#) for a more detailed account ... **Greg "Fletch" Fletcher** returned to **WVVR** Clarksville, Tenn., ClarksvilleNow.com reported, to handle mornings with his wife, **Ruthanna**. He spent roughly 20 years with the station prior to a stint with **WSM-AM** Nashville ... **WUBL** Atlanta hired PD **Ashley Layfield** and afternoon drive host **Corey Calhoun**, according to RadioInk.com. Layfield was previously **WFUS** Tampa director of programming and brand strategy, while Calhoun arrives from **WMZQ** Washington, D.C., where he was music director/morning co-host ... **Brandon "Shotgun Jackson" Young** joined **KSCH** Sulphur Springs, Texas, RadioInsight.com reported. He was previously **KWFI/KWFO** Pocatello, Idaho, afternoon personality ... **Jonathan Knight** wrapped a 10-year run at **KXIA** Marshalltown, Iowa, on June 12, according to RadioInsight.com ... Country Radio Broadcasters released the latest installment in its CRS360 webinar series, "Country Coalition: Family Reunion or Family Feud?" The episode is viewable [here](#).

'ROUND THE ROW

Spirit Music welcomes two Nashville-based executives to its team: VP of business and legal affairs **Elizabeth Lombardi** and senior director of digital marketing

Taylor Perez. Lombardi was most recently a CAA business affairs executive, and Perez arrives from Big Machine Label Group, where she was manager of digital marketing ... Greenhouse Management hired tour director **Matt Schneider**, who has worked as tour manager in the past for several of the company's clients, including **Travis Denning**, **Jameson Rodgers** and **ERNEST**. Reach Schneider [here](#) ... Gibson president/CEO **Cesar Gueikian** is transitioning into an advisory role on the company's board of directors, effective July 31. **Anne Rohosy** will fill his post on an interim basis, stepping up from her existing position as chief commercial officer ... Entersong Entertainment, owned by songwriter **Rob Hatch** ("I Don't Dance," "If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away") and **Mike Every**, developed an agreement with the Heartland Network to develop programming for the platform. Entersong is best known for producing the Las Vegas Songwriters Festival ... Music Industry Community (MIC) introduced a website and app that folds numerous music business-related tools into a single location. Go [here](#) for more info ... **David Nail** signed with **Zach Farnum**'s 117 Entertainment for management and public relations, tapped New Frontier Touring VP **Peter Loomis** for representation and joined the songwriting staff at **Frank Liddell**'s Carnival Music ... **Ana Cristina Cash** selected **Rebecca Warfield** for management ... Artist-writer **Lilly Moss** engaged **LOCASH**'s Music City Power Company for marketing with the June 19 release of her single "Death of Me" ... Songwriter **Cary Barlowe** ("American Honey," "Famous Friends") signed a publishing contract with Warner Chappell Nashville and Cornman Music ... Former *American Idol* contestant **Lauren Mascitti** reached a publishing agreement with North Chapel Music ... **Nick Boyd** snagged a joint-venture publishing deal with ERN's Cadillac Music and **Jordan Schmidt** ("God's Country," "wait in the truck") via Big Loud Publishing ... Artist-writer **Eli Winders** joined the songwriting roster at Big Loud Publishing ... Liz Rose Music welcomed artist-writer **Kyle Schuesler** to its publishing roster ... Songwriter **Jake Hess** signed a publishing deal with Prescription Songs, 7 Hills Music and songwriter-producer **David "Messy" Mescon (Stella Lefty, Dalton Davis)** ... Dream 3 Publishing and Kobalt extended its publishing contract with writer-producer **Jon Stark** ... The Academy of Country Music revealed winners of several special awards in the Aug. 19 ACM Honors, including **Eric Church**, ACM Lifting Lives award; and **Kacey Musgraves**, ACM spirit award. Go [here](#) for the full details ... The 62nd annual ACM Awards are set for May 16, 2027, at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas ... Songwriters **Jim Beavers** ("Red Solo Cup," "Drink a Beer") and **Shane McAnally** ("Body Like a Back Road," "Mama's Broken Heart") will be inducted into the Texas Songwriters Hall of Fame on Feb. 20, 2027, in Austin ... **Riley Green** and songwriter **Blake Pendergrass** ("Ain't a Bad Life," "I Got Better") will take home songwriter-artist and artist of the year, respectively, at the Nashville Songwriter Awards Sept. 22 ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum opens a new exhibit, "Kenny Chesney: Living in Fast Forward," July 23 ... Next year's Stagecoach Country Music Festival is slated for April 23-25, 2027, in Indio, Calif. ... Motorcoach driver **Mike Maki**, 76, died June 15 at his home in Columbia, Tenn. He worked with **Loretta Lynn**, **Crystal Gayle** and **Black River**. A celebration of life is set for 11 a.m. July 18 at Knocker's Pizza in St. Germain, Wis. ●



RICK WURRAY

Bill Anderson (left) was among the attendees June 20 celebrating the opening of a Steve Warinere art exhibit, "The Flip Side: Paintings by Steve Warinere," at the Monthaven Arts & Cultural Center in Tennessee.



Keith Urban discussed his new album, *Flow State*, with host **Kelleigh Bannen** on the June 18 edition of *Apple Music's The Kelleigh Bannen Show*.

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

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/Walk By Work Of Art, BMI (Lauren Alaina, J.A.Gutch, B.J.Johnson, W.Philips) **20**

B

BACK IN THE BOTTLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/I'm Your Huckleberry Music, BMI (R.Houser) **51**

BEAUTIFUL THINGS Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiano, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Triple Rae Creative Inc, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP (M.Moroney, C.R.Harrington, J.J.Dillon, J.L.Alexander) **7**

BE BY YOU Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Tuckaway Music, BMI/Songs By Porchlight, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Highway 75 Publishing, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Wildhawk Publishing, BMI (D. Alley, S.Banks, N.Walsh) **6**

BE HER Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Sea Gayle Distillery Music, ASCAP/Endurance Music Group, BMI/Deerme Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI/Ross & Rae Music, ASCAP/Relative Rights, ASCAP (E.Langley, S.Ahnquist, J.M.Schmidt, M.W.Hardy) **3**

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 Caruso, A.Torrence) **52**

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) **21**

BOSTON 13117 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Grace Enger Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Joey Reeves Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/LMC Is The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Secret Meadow Songs, ASCAP/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Stella Lefty Music, ASCAP (G.Enger, J.K.Hindlin, J.Reeves, N.Kahan, S.Lefty) **15**

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CARRY ON Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Combustion Five, ASCAP/Darin Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (R.C.McGill, M.Jenkins, J.L.Alexander) **12**

CHEVY SILVERADO Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sparko Phone Music, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI (T.Beathard, J.Juber, G.J.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman) **9**

COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomii 10 Music, BMI/Trailer Parker Twang Lab, BMI/Hometeam Publishing LLC, BMI/Kilometer Music Group B, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP (J.L.Miller, P.Welling, M.Dragstrom) **16**

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DEAR BIG CITY Anthem Music Publishing II, SESAC/Brooks Music Songs, SESAC/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Single Life Songs, BMI/Pirate89 Publishing, BMI (M. Alderman, N.Kenyon, J.Paulin) **40**

DONE FOR Max McInown Music, BMI/Fugitive Songs Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Adam Yaron Music, BMI/Songs With A Pure Tone, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Music Of Big Family, BMI/In Honor Of Alice Publishing, BMI (M.McInown, A.Yaron, Mags Duna) **60**

DON'T TELL ON ME Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI/Kwasay Publishing, BMI/WritersonthehornPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (K.M.Allison, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan, L.Vaughan) **2**

DON'T WE Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, R.H.Block, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.Pendergrass, Charlie Handsome) **4**

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) **39**

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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) **25**

EMPTY WORDS Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Corey Kent Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Lighting 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) **49**

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GARY Poems On Junk Mail, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (S.L.Wilson Jr.) **35**

GET TO DRINKIN' Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Works By Kinda Country Songs, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Brody James Music, BMI/Akin For Jonas Music, BMI/8 Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/ERN's Cadillac Music, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Kyle Sturrock Music, ASCAP (Z.J.King, R.Akins, T.Archer, K.A.Fishman, K.Sturrock) **19**

GIRL DAD Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Colden Rainey Music, BMI/Michael Tyler Music, SESAC/MT Room, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Young Guns Tunes, SESAC/Made A Huge Mistake Music, BMI/Dead Air Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (C.Swindell, M.Tyler, B.M.Stennis) **26**

GOD KNOW 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/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Matt Thomas Music Publishing, BMI (A. Dean, D.Fanning, J.Collazo, A.Albert, M.Thomas, B.Knox, J.McSwain, S.Thomas) **53**

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HANDS UP Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Better Bad Songs, SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/W.C.M. Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Deerme Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI (J.B.DeFord, R.H.Block, J.A.Fox, M.W.Hardy, R.C.McGill) **28**

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) **1**

HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Redd Up Publishing, BMI/Aaron Presley Beachum Publishing Designee, BMI/Evan Christian Mayo Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (Chase Matthew, E.Escue, A.Maxwell, Presley Aaron, E.C.Mayo, J.Center) **33**

HORSEBACK Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Little Acree Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Sounds Of Soperman Music Publishing, ASCAP (R.Montana, W.McCubbin, P.Sikes) **41**

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, Carme K, S.Jones) **58**

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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) **5**

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO LEAVE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sir Reginald The Fifth, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Flint River, BMI/Kyle Fishman Music, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI (C.Young, D.Davidson, K.A.Fishman) **56**

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) **54**

I KNEW IT, I KNEW YOU Wonderland Music Company, Inc., BMI/Pixar Music, BMI/Walt Disney Music Company, ASCAP/Pixar Talking Pictures, ASCAP (T.Swift, J.M.Antonoff) **11**

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KEEPS ME SANE Anthems Of Platinum Grammer, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Copyright Control (C.T.L.Nance, D.Napier, B.McCollough) **48**

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) **14**

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) **36**

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LET HIM IN ANYWAY Deerme 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) **30**

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

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MCARTHUR Deerme 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) **17**

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PHONE, KEYS, WALLET Sony CountrySide, BMI/Story Farmer, BMI/Songs Of One Riot Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Matchless Publishing LLC Pub Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Dtown Boogie Music, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Native Notes Music, BMI/Thomas Hull Publishing Designee, PRS/Universal Music Publishing Ltd. (UK), PRS (L.Wilson, J.Decious, D.Pellarin, D.Wilson, T.Anderson, S.Overstreet, T.E.Phill) **23**

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) **50**

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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) **13**

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SEARCHLIGHT Driven By Music, BMI/Echo Bravo Music LLC, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Know Your Writes, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP (B.Smith, D.R.Bassett, E.Bass) **57**

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

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U N D E R

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On August 1, *Billboard* will publish its annual 40 Under 40 Issue, celebrating the next generation of leaders in the music industry. This issue will profile 40 power players who are making their mark in the business.

These progressive young leaders' innovation and creativity will continue to create excitement in the music industry.

Advertise in this issue to reach the music business' most influential and affluent, from the young disrupters to the seasoned veterans who paved the way.

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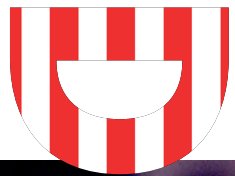
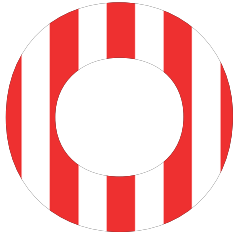
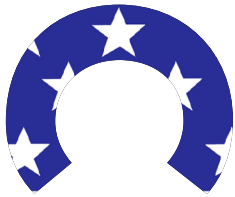
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40 Years Ago Willie Nelson's Patriotic 'Promiseland' Carried The Torch At No. 1

The song played a key role as America celebrated the Statue of Liberty's centennial

"Bring us your tired and weak."

The opening lines of **Willie Nelson's** "Living in the Promiseland," written by **David Lynn Jones**, paraphrase **Emma Lazarus's** words from a plaque in the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, which was undergoing a renaissance when Nelson took "Promiseland" to No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart dated June 28, 1986.

Jones penned most of the song in 15 minutes, inspired by immigrants from Vietnam and Cuba in the 1970s and '80s. He finished it five years later, after

a new publisher discovered the incomplete demo, and bassist **Bee Spears** subsequently passed a copy to Nelson on the golf course.

Nelson has called it "the best patriotic song I ever heard," and he recorded it on Thanksgiving 1985. It debuted on the March 29, 1986, chart and sailed to country's promised land 12 weeks later.

The timing was fortuitous. The Statue of Liberty, dedicated in 1886, had undergone a two-year restoration. The scaffolding came down as the Lady in the Harbor officially reopened during Liberty Week-

end, July 3-6, a week after "Promiseland" peaked. Nelson sang it as a duet with Jones during Farm Aid II on Independence Day in Austin, Texas, and he performed it again during the weekend's closing ceremony, aired as an ABC special from Giants Stadium in New Jersey.

"Promiseland" returned to TV last month when **Chris Stapleton**, the final country artist featured on CBS' *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, sang it on May 6 with support from harmonica player **Mickey Raphael**, who backed Nelson on the original recording. —TOM ROLAND

Nelson at Farm Aid in Austin, Texas, on July 4, 1986.

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

	W	TU	W	TH	FR	SAT	SUN	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	ARTIST	RECORD LABEL/DISTRIBUTOR
1	2	5	14	LIVING IN THE PROMISELAND ★★ NO. 1 ★★ 1 week at No. One				◆ WILLIE NELSON		
								W. NELSON (D.L. JONES)		COLUMBIA 38-05834
2	3	6	13	EVERYTHING THAT GLITTERS (IS NOT GOLD)				DAN SEALS		
								K. LEHNING (D. SEALS, B. MCDILL)		EMI-AMERICA 8311
3	6	10	11	HEARTS AREN'T MADE TO BREAK (THEY'RE MADE TO LOVE)				LEE GREENWOOD		
								J. CRUTCH-FIELD (R. MURRAH, S. DEAN)		MCA 52807
4	4	7	14	READ MY LIPS				MARIE OSMOND		
								P. WORLEY (M. BLATTE, L. GOTTLIEB)		CAPITOL/CURB 5563/CAPITOL
5	5	9	13	OLD FLAME				JUICE NEWTON		
								R. LANDIS (R. NELSEN)		RCA 14295
6				UNTIL I MET YOU				◆ JUDY RODMAN		

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R&B / HIP-HOP POWER ISSUE



R&B/hip-hop dominates every other genre, claiming one-quarter of all music consumption, according to Luminate.

On Aug. 22, *Billboard* will publish its R&B/Hip-Hop Power Players issue showcasing the artists, producers and executives who have made R&B/hip-hop the hottest genre on earth.

Advertise and congratulate the people who are driving this industry and reach an influential audience of decision-makers in music and pop culture.

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ISSUE DATE 8/22 | AD CLOSE 8/11 | MATERIALS DUE 8/13