

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

AUGUST 28, 2026 | PAGE 1 OF 15

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Dolly Parton's Not-So-Secret Source Of Strength Through Vulnerability



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"Dolly?"

Dolly Parton looked up, about 10 feet away, just before the interview picked back up from a break on a Nashville-area soundstage. I was hired to work with her on *Star of the Show: My Life on Stage*, the third in a trilogy of coffee-table books for Random House subsidiary Ten Speed Press.

The project had a specific focus: We were telling her story through her evolution on stage. We were just a few questions away from a tough moment in her career, and as uncomfortable as the topic was, I didn't feel like I would be doing my job if I ignored it.

As she acknowledged in her last public statement on Aug. 21, Parton endured female health issues in the early 1980s, and they raged in the summer of 1982. A doctor warned her against taking the stage at the Indiana State Fair, but she performed anyway, trying to fit the show in before a rainstorm arrived. Her band knew she'd been struggling, but the musicians were unaware of the duress under which she was carrying out the "show must go on" mantra that particular night.

She held up long enough to do her job, but in the hours after the show, she was flown to New York City, where she had surgery and cancelled her public commitments for several months. Parton was as adept as anyone

at turning heartbreak into heroism, and I wanted her to have the opportunity to do that with this moment.

"Dolly, it's your book, so it's up to you."

I said that — or something close to that — as I let her know what was coming. "I think your resilience is one of the things your fans admire about you, and I suspect your story about this could inspire them."

Her response was quick: "Nah, that's a bunch of female problems. Nobody wants to hear about that."

She had, it seemed, made her choice. But about 20 seconds later, she looked up again: "Listen, you ask me whatever you want to ask, and I'll give you an answer."

So I asked, and she went way deeper into it than I had anticipated. She had pushed herself so hard for so long, she recalled, and as she recovered from her operation, she realized that she needed to reclaim control of her health if she was going to be Dolly Parton for years to come. She changed her eating habits, revised her sleeping patterns, and — while she remained a hard-working woman — she became more fiercely

guarded of her time and commitments.

Five years later, when she hosted her ABC variety show in 1987, she'd become a svelte model of health and — thanks in



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great part to her **Kenny Rogers** duet on “Islands in the Stream” — an even greater superstar. It was a level of significance which she owned all the way until her death from cancer on Aug. 25, defying the typical career arc. What goes up, we are told, must come down, but that was never the case for Dolly Parton’s influence.

Parton had rarely, if ever, discussed in great detail how learning from her early-’80s illness led to a personal rebound. That Indiana incident is a great example of why she was able to navigate her life so successfully for so long on a global level.

There were numerous examples of resilience in her life.

- After leaving the **Porter Wagoner** show in 1974, she was in debt for several years but became one of the richest women in show business.

- Her ABC show got poor ratings, in part because she allowed the Hollywood “pros” to dictate the format, but she learned from that experience to be even more demanding about her creative control.

- She shied away from touring in the late-1990s to focus on other ventures and spend more time at home, but when she returned to the road, she became an even bigger concert draw, selling out stadiums internationally, a feat she had never achieved even in her “9 to 5” / “Islands in the Stream” peak period.

The source of her strength and resilience was, most likely, her spiritual life. Her grandfather was a hellfire-and-brimstone preacher, but she grew to see God in more loving terms, and her faith inspired her throughout her career, impacting such inspirational pieces as “The Seeker,” “Light of a Clear Blue Morning” and “He’s Alive.” The latter song, grounded in a story of Christian resilience, led to what was likely her greatest-ever live performance, a raise-the-roof appearance on the Country Music Association Awards in 1989 that featured a surprise choir and a mid-song standing ovation from an audience filled with stars. Parton herself was overtaken by, it seemed, some other force.

“I honestly felt my spirit lifted,” she said. “I felt like I was not even standing on the floor.”

She knew the source of her power, and she set up her life in a way that allowed her to draw upon it. She had a small chapel in her Nashville office. One of her associates showed it to me in December 2024 — it was quiet, respectful, beautiful and as calming as any space I’ve inhabited. When I asked a few months later about her pre-show ritual, Parton said she would “pee and pray” — she would specifically ask that her performance have an impact on her audience, that God would use her to inspire these people as they moved forward in their lives.

She found all sorts of ways to incorporate her faith walk into her music. Nearly every album featured some sort of gospel content, and she rearranged a number of pop and rock songs to reveal a Godly message — or, at least, a Godly sound — that had not been obvious in the original version. That included her takes on **Jackie Wilson**’s “Higher and Higher,” **Collective Soul**’s “Shine” and **Led Zeppelin**’s “Stairway to Heaven.”

I believe — and I use that phrase intentionally — that “Coat of Many Colors” is the greatest song that Dolly Parton ever wrote, because it so deftly encapsulates many, maybe all, of the messages at the heart of her work. It draws upon the story of **Joseph**, a Biblical figure who was sold by his brothers into slavery, only to become an influential figure who helped Egypt grapple with a devastating famine. Joseph’s resilience, refashioned in the song’s central tale about a gift from her mother that her classmates denigrated, became a symbol of Parton’s own ability to overcome devastating hurdles. As she wrote it, she incorporated her faith and her love of family into a three-minute life lesson about beauty, about self-confidence and about keeping the value of money in proper perspective.

One of the hardest tasks for public figures is to keep smiling for the crowd even in those periods when they are struggling internally. “Coat of Many Colors” reflects how she learned to do that as a child. Her approach to her health issues in the early-1980s — and her willingness to share how she bounced back from that period — reflect her ability to do that as an international superstar. That skill is likely a big reason why her death has resonated so deeply with so many. She was able, because of her faith, to explore some of the deepest, darkest feelings in her soul and to share her experience with the world.

She was a strong, strong woman, who loved and led in a manner far beyond what most of us dare to dream. She was the best of us, and her passing, coming in the midst of a dark time in our public discourse, is a reminder to look to the light. ●



The Big 615 host **Storme Warren** emceed an Aug. 22 performance at **Rhythm & Riffs** during the Las Vegas Songwriters Festival. From left: **Rebecca Lynn Howard** (“Forgive”), **Warren**, **Rachel Thibodeau** (“Good Directions”) and **Carolyn Dawn Johnson** (“Single White Female”).



WBEE Rochester, N.Y., music director/morning host **Billy Kidd** (left) caught up with **Stone Country** artist **Spencer Hatcher** at **High Falls** on Aug. 20 when Hatcher performed at the **Kodak Center**.



WUBE Cincinnati director of branding and content **Grover Collins** (left) greeted **Chase Matthew** when the singer performed Aug. 22 at the **Cincinnati Riverbend Music Center**.



Jacob Hackworth visited with broadcasters when he made an Aug. 21 appearance at **PNC Live Studio** in **Portland, Ore.** From left: syndicated **BDub Radio** host **Bryan “BDub” Washington**, **Connoisseur/Portland, Ore.**, operations manager **Ross MacLeod**, **Hackworth**, **KUPL Portland** music director **Jamie Tanchyk** and **EMI/Mercury** manager of **West Coast** promotion **Briarman Whitfield**.

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ON THE CHARTS RUSS PENUELL rpenuell@billboard.com

Country Radio Rallies Around Dolly Parton

Luke Combs' "Be by You" (Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN) adds a second week at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart (dated Sept. 5), earning 32.6 million in audience Aug. 21-27, according to Luminate.

Under almost any other circumstances, that would fill much of On the Charts. But country radio spent much of the week rewriting programming around **Dolly Parton**.

For nearly six decades, Parton moved country radio. In the days after her Aug. 25 death, she did it again. According to Mediabase, her recordings drew 4,690 plays across Country Airplay reporters Aug. 25-27 — up 46,800% over Aug. 18-20 — while 138 panelists (of 145 total) played her music.

In Nashville, iHeartMedia's **WSIX** threw out its play-book and went all-Dolly for 62 songs straight. "After more than 35 years in radio, I'm not sure I've ever seen a reaction like we are experiencing with Dolly's passing," iHeartCountry evp **Rod Phillips** tells *Billboard*.

Stations often went beyond the obvious hits, playing songs from 1967's "Dumb Blonde" to 2023's "Wrecking Ball" featuring **Miley Cyrus**. "9 to 5" led with 799 spins across 135 stations, followed by "Jolene" and "I Will Always Love You."

At Connoisseur's **KUPL** Portland, Ore., music director **Jamie Tanchky** says the station reached for rarely-heard titles including "Two Doors Down" and "Coat of Many Colors," both from the '70s. "Dolly was always bigger than country music," he says. "Her relevance spanned generations."

For many in radio, the loss was personal. Audacy vp of country **Tim Roberts** calls a young fan's backstage meeting that he once arranged with Parton "one of the greatest moments I've ever seen any artist do for someone."

At Cumulus Nashville, **WSM-FM** went "wall-to-wall on Dolly" in afternoons as listeners shared stories of her kindness, says vp of country **Travis Daily**. "It really was incredible to listen to the outpour."

Parton scored 25 Hot Country Songs No. 1s, the most among women, through 2006. But country was just part of the response. Her streams have surged and airplay has risen at multiple formats, SiriusXM launched a tribute channel and **Whitney Houston's** Parton-penned "I Will Always Love You" increased in plays, as well. ●



ROBERTS

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+4.843
LOVING LIFE AGAIN SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+2.135
BEEN BY NOW Mercury/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.566
I KNEW IT, I KNEW YOU Pixar/Walt Disney/Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	+1.552
BOSTON Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	+1.453
RETHINK SOME THINGS Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+1.261
PHONE, KEYS, WALLET Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson & John Mayer	+1.076
JADED YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley	+1.001
ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	+0.870
SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	+0.658

MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	+1393
BEEN BY NOW Mercury/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+696
LOVING LIFE AGAIN SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+548
BOSTON Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	+436
KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	+404
JADED YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley	+327
ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	+308
RETHINK SOME THINGS Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+272
I KNEW IT, I KNEW YOU Pixar/Walt Disney/Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	+271
SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	+240

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	20.148
2	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	19.738
3	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	18.642
4	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	16.588
5	RIDE, RIDE, RIDE RECORDS/MCA Nashville/RECORDS Nashville	George Birge Featuring Luke Bryan	15.473
6	SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	10.951
7	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	9.610
8	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	6.807
9	BRUNETTE Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Republic/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	6.751
10	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	6.656



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 27, 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	20	FLOORBOARD FULL OF ROSES (Ranger Music Group) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	David Lewis	2055	151	11	12	11	WOULDA BEEN IT (River House)	Tyce Delk	1464	103
2	3	16	TAKE IT EASY COWGIRL (Independent)	Aaron Loy	1880	55	12	13	21	YOU AND WHISKEY (Independent)	Chuck Wimer & Brandi Behlen	1347	-1
3	5	14	UNCERTAIN, TX (Lost Highway/Interscope)	Kacey Musgraves feat. Willie Nelson	1783	91	13	14	19	MIDNIGHT BLUES (Independent)	Selestial Alcoser	1309	15
4	4	15	HIGH NOON (Leo33)	Jenna Paulette	1774	54	14	16	16	AIN'T THAT A DRINK (Soundline Management)	Ronnie Bowen	1259	22
5	6	13	HIGHWAY ROBBERY (Leo33)	Jason Scott & The High Heat	1724	41	15	17	21	IT'S YOU (Independent)	Roses and Weeds	1216	0
6	7	19	THAT'S WHAT COWBOYS DO (Lonely River)	Curtis Grimes	1663	47	16	18	12	HOWDY MA'AM (T3R Music Group)	Caleb Sutton	1214	44
7	9	17	GUINEVERE (T3R Music Group)	Sundance Head	1599	28	17	21	12	CHEAT ON YOU (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1137	45
8	10	20	I DON'T DRINK ANYMORE (Independent)	Timothy Howls	1586	41	18	19	17	DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT TEXAS (Independent)	Lane Bricker	1128	-11
9	15	9	FEELIN' GOOD AGAIN (Bossier City/Thirty Tigers)	Turnpike Troubadours w/Sierra Hull	1477	199	19	24	6	FAN OF YOU (Pretty Damn Tough)	Josh Abbott Band	1097	106
10	11	17	THIRD ROW GEORGE STRAIT (Independent)	Frank Ray	1475	65	20	22	13	NEVER REALLY MINE (Republic)	Kaitlin Butts	1065	40

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

billboardCountry 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	22	BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	★★ No. 1 (2 Weeks) ★★ Luke Combs	32.587	-0.261	8302	-117	1
2	5	24	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	★★ Most Increased Audience ★★ Kane Brown	28.554	+4.843	8065	1393	2
3	4	19	BOSTON Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	27.356	+1.453	7299	436	3
4	2	46	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	25.531	-3.889	6757	-1331	4
5	3	18	I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	23.879	-5.422	5865	-1447	7
6	10	12	I KNEW IT, I KNEW YOU Pixar/Walt Disney/Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	22.408	+1.552	6473	271	5
7	9	16	CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	21.938	+0.643	6227	74	6
8	6	26	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	21.189	-1.554	5339	-116	9
9	11	60	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	18.682	+0.347	5354	404	8
10	12	5	BEEN BY NOW Mercury/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.392	+1.566	4911	696	10
11	14	51	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	16.415	+0.870	4484	308	11
12	15	22	COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	15.363	-0.023	4437	35	12
13	16	37	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	13.510	+0.658	3850	240	13
14	21	8	LOVING LIFE AGAIN SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	★★ Airpower ★★ Ella Langley	13.032	+2.135	3453	548	18
15	17	27	GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	12.763	+0.568	3713	89	14
16	19	12	PHONE, KEYS, WALLET Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson & John Mayer	12.258	+1.076	3695	213	15
17	18	14	THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	12.249	+0.253	3605	164	16
18	20	21	SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Dan + Shay	11.553	+0.381	3480	46	17
19	22	10	HANDS UP Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	★★ Airpower ★★ Jelly Roll	9.808	+0.030	2985	13	20
20	23	30	MCARTHUR Mercury/Big Loud	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw	9.313	+0.230	3394	113	19
21	24	32	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	8.648	-0.127	2862	-81	21
22	26	27	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	8.281	+0.615	2571	177	22
23	28	7	RETHINK SOME THINGS Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	7.745	+1.261	2101	272	26
24	25	59	EASY TO LOVE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	7.545	-0.822	2471	-94	24
25	27	36	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greytan James	7.165	+0.564	2522	162	23
26	29	3	JADED YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley	7.098	+1.001	1658	327	29
27	30	35	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	5.967	-0.021	2062	47	27
28	31	29	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	5.906	+0.080	2242	-7	25
29	32	19	MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	4.949	+0.270	1635	65	31
30	33	48	LONG LIVE COUNTRY Triple Tigers	Shane Profitt	4.342	-0.092	1639	-41	30

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

billboard Country Airplay

 AIRPLAY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	35	31	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	4.162	+0.121	1819	-59	28
32	34	27	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	4.016	-0.153	1497	-34	33
33	36	20	MOVE ON American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	3.978	+0.130	1516	74	32
34	37	11	HORSEBACK CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	3.777	+0.448	1468	195	34
35	40	13	EMPTY WORDS Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent	3.329	+0.269	1286	189	35
36	38	15	DRY SPELL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	3.083	-0.232	1179	7	38
37	39	26	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	2.996	-0.149	1218	-51	37
38	42	18	WHATTOOKYOU SO LONG Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville	Jacob Hackworth	2.798	+0.178	1279	44	36
39	44	3	COWGIRL American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	2.371	+0.242	931	55	42
40	46	7	WHO TOLD YOU THAT Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	2.291	+0.296	737	50	49
41	43	16	WANNABE Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Gavin Adcock	2.286	+0.083	924	0	43
42	49	3	ANYTIME SOON Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	2.202	+0.392	990	142	40
43	47	11	I DIDN'T COME HERE TO LEAVE Boss Moves/Black River/Akando	Chris Young	1.913	-0.018	793	21	47
44	45	23	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	1.911	-0.162	1067	-34	39
45	48	14	LAND Hubbard House/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	1.883	-0.037	921	-13	44
46	51	10	GIRL DAD Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Cole Swindell	1.613	+0.117	885	45	46
47	50	17	LOVE IS BLIND WEST TO THE REST/Triple Tigers	Ian Munsick	1.548	-0.048	909	14	45
48	58	4	DAMNED IF I DO Music Soup/Interscope/Lost Highway	Vincent Mason	1.542	+0.345	522	95	59
49	52	23	IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Stoney Creek/Nashville Harbor	Carly Pearce & Riley Green	1.497	+0.043	772	-2	48
50	54	10	STRING BY Mack Geiger/RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Mack Geiger	1.394	+0.121	411	18	-
51	53	21	BACK IN THE BOTTLE Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.366	+0.008	971	-22	41
52	NEW		SOMETHING TO LOSE Sandlot/Atlantic/Atlantic Outpost ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Stella Lefty Featuring Vincent Mason	1.264	+0.469	328	184	-
53	57	15	BETTER THAT WAY Mercury/Big Loud	Charles Wesley Godwin & Luke Combs	1.222	+0.008	711	40	51
54	56	26	KEEPS ME SANE Tyler Nance/Santa Anna/Akando	Tyler Nance	1.152	-0.092	726	5	50
55	55	5	NOTHIN' BETTER TO DO Gatsby/MCA Nashville	Carter Faith & Wyatt Flores	1.142	-0.110	600	-25	55
56	RE-ENTRY		DEAR BIG CITY Curb	Dylan Scott	1.133	+0.185	693	82	52
57	RE-ENTRY		GOD KNEW BETTER Stoney Creek	Parmalee	1.079	+0.159	589	8	57
58	RE-ENTRY		DONE FOR Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	1.052	+0.078	621	39	54
59	60	8	BABY BLUES Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	0.954	-0.129	555	-32	58
60	59	7	YOU'RE IT FOR ME, HONEY True To The Song/Big Machine	Caroline Jones	0.947	-0.155	663	-41	53



Jason Aldean received RIAA Diamond honors for his singles "You Make It Easy" and "Dirt Road Anthem" when he performed Aug. 20 at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. From left: BMG North & South America president of Frontline Recordings Jon Loba, Aldean, Maverick Nashville partner Clarence Spalding, RIAA senior VP of media relations/Gold & Platinum Program Erin Burr and RIAA senior VP of government & industry relations Tom Clees.



Koe Wetzel celebrated backstage with his team when he headlined Aug. 8 at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena. From left: Wetzel, Abide by the Vibe publishing founder Gabe Simon, Floating Leaf Entertainment artist manager Cody Maldonado, songwriter-drummer Carrie K ("Hurts Like You") and RECORDS Nashville executive VP of promotion & commercial strategy Josh Easler.

KEITH NATCHETT

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ISSUE DATE 10/3

AD CLOSE 9/22

MATERIALS DUE 9/24

DIGITAL VERSION DELIVERED 10/9

PRINT ISSUE SHIPPED BY 10/12

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LAURA ESTIBRIDIS

Nashville artist Dee White hosted a "Salute to Sun Records" showcase Aug. 20 at Dee's Country Cocktail Lounge. From left: Americana act Kenny Sharp, Frankie Staton, White and artist-writer Nicole Atkins.

PARTON COMMANDS NATION'S ATTENTION

Dolly Parton's death on Aug. 25 led to a huge outpouring of emotion across the nation.

The reactions represented a mix of grief over the loss and a celebration of 80 years well-lived. Keeping up with all of it is a fool's errand, but here are some of the posthumous Parton-related developments that have already taken place:

- Parton's team detailed 10 projects that will continue to move forward over the next year, including the launch of *DOLLY: A True Original Musical* on Broadway, the grand opening of her SongTeller Hotel, the retail debut of her Cup of Ambition coffee brand and a line of Dolly bedding and home décor.

- Rhonda Vincent and Morgan Myles performed music in honor of Parton on the Grand Ole Opry on Aug. 25. The Opry is dedicating its Aug. 29 edition to Parton, with some of the artists likely to cover her classics. The lineup for that night includes Carly Pearce, Kathy Mattea, Dan Tyminski, Molly Tuttle and T. Graham Brown.

- A plane flew over Nashville Aug. 28 promoting a movement to rename the city's airport after Parton. Official naming policy requires the honoree to be deceased at least two years, though Governor Bill Lee announced his support the same day for the facility to bear her name. The naming policy will be addressed in a Sept. 17 meeting.

- Time magazine revealed that Parton will command the cover of the edition that goes on sale Sept. 18.

- A number of Tennessee radio stations played Parton's "I Will Always Love You" in tandem at 8:00 a.m. on Aug. 27, including WKDF Nashville, WSM-AM Nashville, WIVK Knoxville, WCVQ Clarksville and WGSQ Cookeville.

- President Donald Trump ordered flags be flown at half-mast in her honor for a full week.

- Numerous performers covered Parton's songs in concert, online or on TV, including Chris Stapleton, Jack White, Kesha, John Mayer, Jon Batiste, Orville Peck and Jelly Roll.

liances that do not require participation from the U.S., which birthed the genre. The Canadian Country Music Association has launched the Canada-Australia Country Music Exchange Initiative, with Canadian act Jade Eagleson and Australian Tyla Rodrigues touring and marketing in the partner country.

- Cole Swindell partnered with Free Bird, investing in the Georgia-based spring water company and becoming a brand ambassador.

- A Labor Day special, *America's Tailgate* on CBS, is set for Sept. 7. The two-hour presentation will include performances from Nashville by Gabby Barrett, Chase Rice, Sheryl Crow and John Legend.

- The PBS series *The Songwriters* launches its fourth season in September. Among the participants: Sharon Vaughn ("My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys"), Mike Reid ("Stranger in My House"), Rafe VanHoy ("What's Forever For") and Kent Blazy ("If Tomorrow Never Comes").

- The personal and professional archives of late Country Music Hall of Fame member Roy Clark were donated by his widow, Barbara Clark, to The Church Studio, a recording facility and music museum based in Tulsa.

- AEG Presents will open a new 4,000-capacity venue, United Heritage Hall, in Austin, Texas, next spring.

- Scott Borchetta launched Borchetta Spirits & Beverage Co. as a parent firm for five alcohol brands and three physical locations. In conjunction with the move, the Downtown Nashville outlet, Big Machine Brewery & Distillery, rebranded Aug. 26 as The Borchetta Bourbon Experience.

- Luke Bryan will headline a kickoff concert outside the Seattle Seahawks' Lumen Field on Sept. 9 before the NFL team's first game of the 2026 season against the New England Patriots.

- Danielle Bradbery will headline the Jam Fest, a Sept. 19 concert at The Loveless Café, celebrating the Nashville institution's 75th anniversary.

- Tim Montana returns his American Thread clay shoot to Chief's in Nashville on Sept. 28-29 to benefit Special Ops Xcursions.

- The Country Music Association will present the first CMA Foundation Impact Award to Joe Galante during the 10th annual Music Teachers of Excellence ceremony Oct. 7 at The Pinnacle in Nashville. Tucker Wetmore, Marcus King, Sierra Hull and others will perform, with comments delivered by Kix Brooks and Keith Urban as the event recognizes 30 music educators.

- Drake White hosts his third Benefit for the Brain Nov. 16 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. He is also hosting the first Loblobby Fest in Hokes Bluff, Ala., on Oct. 17 to raise money for the cause. The Loblobby lineup include The Marshall Tucker Band, Randy Houser, and Kassi Ashton.

- Veteran Nashville music journalist Vernell Hackett, 77, died Aug. 14 in Chicago of cardiac arrest while en route to a vacation. She vacillated during her career between PR and journalism, working with the likes of Dolly Parton, Jim Ed Brown and Tom T. Hall and serving as editor for *Country News*, *Country Rhythms* and *American Songwriter* magazines. She also authored the 2010 book *Carrie Underwood: A Biography* for Greenwood Biographies. ●



JOHN MONTGOMERY



NATHAN CHAPMAN

'ROUND THE ROW

- The Neal Agency promoted Ryan Beuschel to co-head after three years as GM.

- Joan of Arc Music signed Anna Rae to a management deal. She released "Rum Cinderella" in conjunction with the Aug. 28 announcement.

- British digital media figure Katie Atkin tapped WME to represent her and the country-focused podcast *Girls in Low Places*.

- Universal Music Publishing Group Nashville signed Sons of Habit members Mitchell Douglas and Hagan Edge to a publishing contract.

- Leadership Music named City National Bank's Diane Pearson president. Other officers include president-elect Steve Eggart, Ground Control Business Management; past president Neal Spielberg, Spielberg Entertainment; treasurer Catherine Moore, Farris, Self and Moore; and secretary Jackie Patillo, Gospel Music Association. Go [here](#) for a full account of Leadership's board members.

- Country music has grown enough that international markets are testing al-



Cody Johnson visited with regional radio staff when he performed Aug. 22 in Knoxville, Tenn. From left: WCYQ Knoxville PD/midday personality Matt Cooper, WIVK Knoxville PD Rich Bailey, Johnson, WXBQ Johnson City PD Nikki Thomas and Warner Records Nashville regional manager of radio & streaming Justin Newell.

billboard

2026

TOP LATIN POWER PLAYERS

On Oct. 10, *Billboard* will profile the most influential people in Latin music, from label executives, music publishers and managers to leaders in media and live entertainment.

Join *Billboard* in congratulating this year's Latin Power Players.



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ISSUE DATE 10/10 | AD CLOSE 9/29 | MATERIALS DUE 10/1

Dolly Parton's Biggest *Billboard* Hits

By Jessica Nicholson and Tom Roland



COURTESY COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Dolly Parton, a member of both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, crafted hits for more than six decades, starting with her 1959 debut single, “Puppy Love.” When the country icon died at the age of 80 on Aug. 25, she left behind one of the most substantial, beloved and influential catalogs in music history.

Over the years, her recordings have lit up *Billboard*’s charts in a variety of genres — namely country, naturally, but also bluegrass, Christian, dance and rock/alternative. And, of course, it was the East Tennessee native who brought to life “I Will Always Love You.” Her solo recordings of the standard topped Hot Country Songs in both 1974 and 1982, the latter version appearing in the movie *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. A duet version with **Vince Gill** reached No. 15 in 1995, and **Whitney Houston**’s soaring, soul-stirring version became an enduring pop classic, ruling the *Billboard* Hot 100 for a then-record 14 weeks in 1992-93.

As a recording artist, Parton lobbed tender ballads and jaunty uptempo tracks to the top of the charts, with solo performances as well as enduring collaborations with artists including **Kenny Rogers**, **Billy Ray Cyrus** and — through their acclaimed *Trio* albums — both **Linda Ronstadt** and **Emmylou Harris**. And not to be forgotten, she appeared 21 times on Hot Country Songs in duets with **Porter Wagoner**, who hired her as the “girl singer” — as the role was recognized — on his syndicated TV show and in his touring package from 1967 through 1974.

“She came from poverty to become the most important native of Tennessee,” said Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum CEO **Kyle Young**. “She shared her fortunes for the good of all of us, and shared her soul in every note she sang.”

In 2023, following her induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Parton turned her love of music toward rock classics with her album *Rockstar*, work-

ing with legends including **Paul McCartney**, **Stevie Nicks**, **Peter Dinklage** and **Elton John**.

Rockstar was the most recent of 88 total Parton projects to land on *Billboard*’s Top Country Albums, a run that began in 1967 with the appropriately titled *Hello, I’m Dolly*. Forty-nine of those reached the top 10 on the list, and nine went all the way to the summit, paced by the 1980 release *9 to 5 and Odd Jobs*, which logged 10 weeks at the top. Two other packages, 1977’s *Here You Come Again* and 1978’s *Heartbreaker*, spent nine weeks in the lead.

Meanwhile, she placed a whopping 113 entries on Hot Country Songs, ranging from 1967’s “Dumb Blonde” (which peaked at No. 24) through her featured appearance on **Sabrina Carpenter**’s “Please Please Please” (No. 24 in March 2025). Said **Carpenter**, “We’re little, we’re blonde and we love each other.” Some 55 of those reached the top 10, with 25 of those making it all the way into the pole position.

A number of those singles also reflected her ability to excel beyond her musical foundation. She launched music onto the list from the movies *9 to 5*, *Whorehouse*, *Rhinestone* and *Straight Talk*. Collections related to those pictures also tracked on Top Country Albums, as did her 2018 soundtrack to the movie *Dumplin’*.

Through the decades, Parton always made country music her musical heartbeat and homebase. Here, we count down Parton’s biggest *Billboard* hits on the Hot Country Songs chart.

Dolly Parton's Biggest *Billboard* Hits: Rank, Peak Position/Year

1. **Here You Come Again** No. 1 (5 weeks), 1977
2. **Islands in the Stream** Kenny Rogers duet with Dolly Parton, No. 1 (2 weeks), 1983
3. **Real Love** Dolly Parton duet with Kenny Rogers, No. 1 (1 week), 1985
4. **Yellow Roses** No. 1 (1 week), 1989
5. **Jolene** No. 1 (1 week), 1974
6. **But You Know I Love You** No. 1 (1 week), 1981
7. **Heartbreaker** No. 1 (3 weeks), 1978
8. **You’re the Only One** No. 1 (2 weeks), 1979
9. **Tennessee Homesick Blues** No. 1 (1 week), 1984
10. **It’s All Wrong, But It’s Alright/Two Doors Down** No. 1 (2 weeks), 1978
11. **Think About Love** No. 1 (1 week), 1986
12. **Old Flames Can’t Hold a Candle to You** No. 1 (1 week), 1980
13. **Rockin’ Years** Dolly Parton with Ricky Van Shelton No. 1 (1 week), 1991
14. **I Really Got the Feeling/Baby I’m Burning** No. 1 (1 week), 1979
15. **Starting Over Again** No. 1 (1 week), 1980
16. **Why’d You Come in Here Lookin’ Like That** No. 1 (1 week), 1989
17. **To Know Him Is To Love Him** Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt, Emmylou Harris, No. 1 (1 week), 1987
18. **When I Get Where I’m Going** Brad Paisley feat. Dolly Parton, No. 1 (1 week), 2006
19. **Don’t Call It Love** No. 3, 1985
20. **I Will Always Love You/Do I Ever Cross Your Mind** No. 1 (1 week), 1982
21. **Love Is Like a Butterfly** No. 1 (1 week), 1974
22. **I Will Always Love You** No. 1 (1 week), 1974
23. **Joshua** No. 1 (1 week), 1971
24. **All I Can Do** No. 3, 1976
25. **The Bargain Store** No. 1 (1 week), 1975

Dolly Parton’s Biggest Billboard Hits chart is based on actual performance on the weekly Hot Country Songs chart through Aug. 29, 2026. Songs are ranked based on an inverse point system, with weeks at No. 1 earning the greatest value and weeks at lower ranks earning less. Due to changes in chart methodology over the years, eras are weighted to account for different chart turnover rates over various periods. ●



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West Coast Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

A

ALL MY EXES Iylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBAT 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.Gutth, B.J.Johnson, W/Philips) **11**

ANYTIME SOON Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Triple Play Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, J.Morgan) **42**

B

BABY BLUES Not Listed (A.Cooke, J.Clawson, S.W.Ennis, J.A.Fox, K.Sturrock) **59**

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

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.Ailey, S.Banks, N.Walsh) **1**

BEEN BY NOW Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/C.M.Wallen, R.H.Black, J.Byron, B.Pendergrass, T.Philips, Charlie Handsome) **10**

BETTER THAT WAY Charles Wesley Godwin Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endurance Alligator Quatro, ASCAP/Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Music Garden Studios Publishing, BMI (C.W.Godwin, Scooter Carouse, A.Torrence) **53**

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/Joel Reeves Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/LMC Is The Place For Me Publishing, ASCAP/Secret Meadow Songs, ASCAP/Sony Allegro, ASCAP/Stella Lefty Music, ASCAP (G.Enger, J.K.Hindlin, J.Reeves, N.Kahan, S.Lefty) **3**

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) **7**

CHEVY SILVERADO Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sparks Phone Music, BMI/Gavin J. Lucas Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI (T.Beathard, J.Luber, G.J.Lucas, H.Warren, B.Zimmerman) **4**

COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomli 10 Music, BMI/Trailer Parker, Twang Lab, BMI/Hometeam Publishing LLC, BMI/Kilometre Music Group B, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP (J.L.Miller, P.Welling, M.Dragstrem) **12**

COWGIRL EMPIRE SF, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Esanacy Music Publishing, ASCAP/BABA PUBLISH, ASCAP/Collins Chibueze Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Jared Lincoln Cotter Pub Designee, BMI/Timothy Whitfield Kane Pub Designee, ASCAP/Pipeline Global Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (C.O.Chibueze, S.C.Cook, A.A.Pauli, T.W.Kane, M.R.Stevens, N.Sastry, J.L.Cotter) **39**

D

DAMNED IF I DO Concord Copyrights, BMI/Songs To Hang Your Hat On, BMI/Mississippi Street Light Publishing, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/This Is Chromatic Music, BMI (V.Mason, J.A.Hackworth, L.Hungate) **48**

DEAR BIG CITY Anthem Music Publishing II, SESAC/Brooks Money Songs, SESAC/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Single Life Music, BMI/Pirate89 Publishing, BMI (M.Alderman, N.Kenyon, J.Paulini) **56**

DONE FOR Max McNow 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.McNow, A.Yaron, Mags Duval) **58**

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

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.McGuirages, L.Laird, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **36**

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/PTNB Publishing, ASCAP/PTNB Publishing, ASCAP (D.Lynch, B.J.Johnson, J.R.Hall, H.Phelps, Z.Crowell) **24**

EMPTY WORDS Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Corey Kent 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) **35**

G

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) **15**

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 Aim Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (C.Swindell, M.Tyler, B.M.Stennis) **46**

GOOD KNEW BETTER Concord Copyrights, BMI/Camp James Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/53 Creative, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Jackelob 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) **57**

GOOD DAMN Indiana Angel Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (G.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, T.Philips) **44**

H

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. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI (J.B.DeFord, R.H.Black, J.A.Fox, M.W.Hardy, R.C.McGill) **19**

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.Centers) **31**

HORSEBACK Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Full Draw Publishing, BMI/Little Acre Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Sounds Of Sopernan Music Publishing, ASCAP (R.Montana, W.McCubbin, S.Pikes) **34**

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) **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) **43**

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.Minton, J.Reynolds) **49**

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) **6**

J

JADED Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Yellabush Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Endurance Music Group, BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (E.Langley, R.Wetzel, J.M.Schmidt, E.K.Smith) **26**

K

KEEPS ME SANE Anthems Of Platinum Grammer, ASCAP/Sony Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Copyright Control (C.T.L.Nance, D.Napier, B.McCollough) **54**

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) **9**

KILLIN' ME Parkernac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endless Tour Music, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI (P.McCollum, R.Rogers, M.Criswell) **32**

L

LAND T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Big Bendable Music, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI/HAYLO Music Works, ASCAP/1 Of 6, ASCAP/Endurance Music Group, ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, Z.Aband, G.Egan, C.Smith) **45**

LET HIM IN ANYWAY Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Big Bendable Music, BMI/Best Damn Music, BMI (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, K.S.Clark, C.Wallace) **28**

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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 Haropeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (L.Munsick, R.Tyndell, J.N.Spillman) **47**

LOVING LIFE AGAIN Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Em Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (E.Langley, E.K.Smith, D.Dawson) **14**

M

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 Bandiana, BMI (M.W.Hardy, R.C.McGill, J.Rodgers, J.Thompson) **20**

MEDICINE Universal Tunes, SESAC/Georgiamo, SESAC/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Trip/Rae Creative Inc, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pie Of Dimes Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Publishing, ASCAP (M.Moroney, C.H.Harrington, J.Dillon, J.L.Alexander) **29**

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.Powells, C.O.Chibueze, S.Sanchez, D.R.Stevens, A.Cabrera, J.Torrey) **33**

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) **37**

NOTHIN' BETTER TO DO Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Birds Of Biltmore Songs, BMI/Vincent Mason Publishing, BMI/Smackwood Music, GMR/Art Of CTM Music Outlander LP, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pie Of Dimes Music, BMI/Samuel Tyler Johnson Publishing Designee, BMI (C.F.Jones, V.Mason, S.McAnally, J.J.Dillon, S.T.Johnson) **55**

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) **22**

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/Drown 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.P.Hull) **16**

R

RETHINK SOME THINGS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Show Me Your Titles LLC, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Bent Prop Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Countryside, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Racks And Plaques Publishing, BMI/Hits Songs Of 50 Egg Music, BMI (L.Combs, J.Davis, D.Isbell, R.Isbell) **23**

S

SAY SO Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Eleventh Wave Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Cinq Trax, ASCAP/Lyridge Music, ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, D.H.Hodges, J.Robbins) **18**

SOMETHING TO LOSE Reservoir 416, BMI/Songs Of One Riot Music, BMI/Copyright Control (J.Decious, G.Enger, S.Lefty, C.L.Clark) **52**

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STRING BY Mack Geiger Publishing Designee, APRA (M.Geiger) **50**

T

THINK AS YOU DRUNK Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Flatland Boy Music, BMI/Hits 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/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Florida Cracker Music, BMI (R.Green, J.L.Alexander, Erik Dylan, W.McCubbin, S.Emerick, T.Keith) **17**

W

WANNABE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Good Cock Tunes, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Murphy The Wolf Music, BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jimmy Sad Publishing, BMI/Ernest Music Publishing Designee, BMI (G.Adcock, J.R.Durrett, B.Clawson, E.K.Smith, M.C.Wallen) **41**

WATER AT A WEDDING Relative Red Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Supper Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI (G.Egan, M.Dragstrem, R.C.McGill) **25**

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/Vill Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Finally Got Some Publishing, BMI/Songs By 10K HRS Publishing, BMI/Goat Island Palms, LLC, BMI/Smells Like Good Music, ASCAP/Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP (J.A.Hackworth, D.Ross, J.Free, S.Jones) **38**

WHO TOLD YOU THAT Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/Total Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Rocky Creek James, ASCAP/Tape Room 2.0, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP (J.M.Schmidt, M.Tyler, H.Phelps, A.G.Gorley) **40**

WOMAN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Family Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Copyright Control/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (K.Brown, J.Byron, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson, T.Philips) **2**

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, SESAC/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (R.Dickerson, P.Welling, C.Brown) **27**

Y

YOU'RE IT FOR ME, HONEY Bare Feet Publishing LLC, BMI/RobMadeThis, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Dark Bars Music, BMI/Haus Of Kings, ASCAP (C.D.Jones, R.Gimaldi, L.M.Lamb, B.Ratcliff) **60**

TOP BUSINESS MANAGERS



On Nov. 7, *Billboard* will showcase the most in-demand business managers, whose financial expertise ensures their music industry clients invest (and spend) their money wisely.

Making money in the music industry is hard enough for artists and executives, which is why they turn to an elite few to help with financial profit and investment.

As a result of the rise of AI, branding deals and streaming services, the task of managing artist income has become more complicated than ever, making the role of a music business manager invaluable.

Advertise in this issue and reach an elite group of influencers who guide their clients' financial fortunes and know a thing or two about how to invest their own money.

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CODA

REWINDING
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CHARTS

50 Years Ago

When Ronnie Milsap Took A ‘Stand’ At No. 1

The award-winning record’s signature piano lick generated a legal issue

When **Ronnie Milsap** reached No. 1 on *Billboard*’s Hot Country Songs chart dated Aug. 28, 1976, the public accomplishment hid a private spat.

During the recording session at RCA Studio A, producer **Tom Collins** (**Barbara Mandrell**, **Steve Wariner**) asked pianist **Hargus “Pig” Robbins** to play the kind of lick he might invent for a **George Jones** or **Tammy Wynette** cut in the “(I’m a) Stand by My Woman Man” chorus. The song’s title sounded similar to Wynette’s “Stand by Your Man,” and Robbins created a fill that likewise sounded a bit like

one he played on “Stand by Your Man.” After Milsap’s recording was released, publisher **Al Gallico** allegedly sued Collins for a copyright violation. As a result, deceased “Stand by My Woman Man” songwriter **Kent Robbins** (“Straight Tequila Night,” “Write This Down”) now shares writing credit with Wynette and her producer, **Billy Sherrill** (**Charlie Rich**, **Tanya Tucker**), according to the BMI.com Songview database.

“(I’m a) Stand by My Woman Man” debuted on the chart dated July 10, 1976, reaching the top seven weeks later to be-

come the sixth of Milsap’s 35 career No. 1s. It wasn’t the only honor “Stand by My Woman Man” accrued. Milsap received the Grammy for best country vocal performance by a male in February 1977, and Kent Robbins (no relation to Pig) snagged a Country Music Association nomination for best country song.

One extra bit of trivia: the Aug. 28 date for Milsap’s No. 1 aligns with the date that Wynette wrote and recorded “Stand by Your Man,” Aug. 28, 1968.

—TOM ROLAND

Ronnie Milsap performs in Germany circa October 1976.

			(Writer), Label & Number (Artist, Label) (Publisher, Licensee)
1	2	8	(I’m A) STAND BY MY WOMAN MAN— Ronnie Milsap (K. Robbins), RCA 10724 (Pi-Gem, BMI)
2	1	10	BRING IT ON HOME TO ME—Mickey Gilley (S. Cooke), Playboy 6075 (Kags, BMI)
3	3	13	ONE OF THESE DAYS—Emmylou Harris (E. Montgomery), Reprise 1353 (Warner Bros.) 1353 (Altam, BMI)
★	6	9	YOU RUBBED IT IN ALL WRONG—Billy “Crash” Craddock (J. Adrian) ABC/Dot 17535 (Pick-A-Hit, BMI)
★	7	11	MISTY BLUE—Billie Jo Spears (B. Montgomery), United Artists 813 (Talmont, BMI)
★	8	8	I WONDER IF I SAID

ISSUE DATE
11/7/26



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In November, Billboard will honor the most powerful people in the live entertainment industry at the Billboard Live Music Summit & Awards, which returns to Los Angeles on Nov. 10 as a must-attend event for the decision-makers and thought leaders shaping the future of the touring industry.

The 2026 Touring Power Players will be recognized in the Nov. 7 print issue of Billboard and celebrated at the Live Music Summit, which will include panel discussions and award presentations to the year's most visionary live music leaders.

Advertise in this issue to reach agents, artists, managers, venues, promoters and event producers and to congratulate the 2026 Touring Power Players, as well as the Legend of Live, Touring Artist of the Year and Executive of the Year.

BONUS DISTRIBUTION:

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