

billboard Country Update

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OCTOBER 9, 2026 | PAGE 1 OF 13

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com



'Songwriter Soup': Laura Veltz's Insider Podcast About Stability In An Unstable Gig

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

John Morgan's 'Kid' Matures
>page 4

Parton's Butterflies, '9 To 5' Still Working
>page 8

Country Coda: Hank Williams Jr.'s 'Business' Plan
>page 13

Songwriter **Laura Veltz** ("The Bones," "Speechless") grew up in a family band that didn't make much money.

Thus, when her passion for songwriting was about to generate a big paycheck, she suddenly realized she didn't know what to do with it.

"I had a hit song and, basically, a panic attack at the same time," remembers the five-time Grammy nominee.

Fortunately, her publisher — Big Machine Music GM **Mike Molinar** — put her in touch with Music Row Wealth Management advisor **Tracy Hackney**, who gave her a three-step path to follow as the money started coming in. She followed that simple plan obsessively, and roughly 18 months later, she was in good enough shape to become a client.

Veltz and Hackney ultimately established a podcast, *Songwriter Soup*, that focuses on the business of songwriting. In tandem with its fifth season — which launched Oct. 5 with guest **Joybeth Taylor** ("Choosin' Texas," "Empty Words") — their side enterprise is now a 501(c)(3) organization, allowing them to dive into the content without getting bogged down over growing a business.

"As a songwriter and as a financial planner, Laura and I both

have wanted to give it away," Hackney says. "That's the mission. It's like, how do we scale what I do, the knowledge I have when it comes to working with creative people and money matters? And what she does — how does she share that and just literally give it away?"

Given that they're working for free, they've been able to attract an impressive series of Nashville creatives willing to share their professional stories, their experiences with the money side of songwriting and their emotional battles with a job they love that can end in a heartbeat without a warning.

Taylor, in her episode, delves into the commitment she made by tying her creative future to **Ella Langley** when neither of them was commercially successful, and into her Zen-like attitudes about hits and misses. In a previous

episode, guest **Ashley McBryde** loosely recounted the career moves she made as an artist and songwriter, highlighting the financial aspects and work conditions that drove her decisions at each point as she transitioned from a creative with a day job into a fulltime music-maker.

Soup guests have also included **Lori McKenna** ("Humble and Kind"), **Luke Laird** ("Head Over Boots," **Luke Dick** ("Burning



SOKOLNICKI, VELTZ and HACKNEY

NEW ALBUM APPALACHIAN FUNK TREE OUT OCTOBER 9

PRODUCED BY SHOOTER JENNINGS

LEVI FOSTER
APPALACHIAN FUNK TREE



Man”), **Jimmy Robbins** (“half of my hometown”) and **Andy Albert** (“Some-where Over Laredo”).

The guests are pros who’ve mostly succeeded in a business full of misconceptions, many of them a direct result of the mystery around how music is made. To master their craft, they frequently spend little time thinking about money. While their focus on the next hook or improving their guitar skills may pay off in the writing room, it doesn’t do much for organizing their pocket-books. Hackney, in fact, estimates that only one in 10 songwriters is good at handling the financial part of their career.

“Most songwriters feel so lucky to be doing this job that they’ll sign anything,” Veltz says. “They’ll partner with anyone, they’ll do anything just to get to do this in any legitimate way, just to be in the room where it happens. And unfortunately, the love of that not only puts us in compromising situations as businesses, but it also allows us to be the victim of a lot of predatory behavior in the music industry.”

Hackney was a musician before he went into personal finance, touring as an electric dulcimer player in 1990s alt-rock band **Bare Jr.** That background was essential to his wealth management career, as well as to *Songwriter Soup*. When he made the shift into finance, his first employer, Northwestern Mutual, was able to tell him how many leads, meetings, lunches and phone calls would be required to net 10 clients in an average month. The reliability was shockingly different from life in the music business.

“It was a recipe,” he says. “That does not exist for the music industry. No matter what line — whether it’s songwriter, artist, journalist, record label executive — like, there is no [defined] path.”

Songwriter Soup grew from a book that Hackney and Veltz co-wrote, but they recognized they would likely reach more people if it became a podcast. They enlisted creatives that they knew for a series of interviews, but didn’t know fully how to shape them into a final product. Hackney brought in Apple Music Radio producer **Kevin Sokolnicki**, who took it to the next level and became a co-host. The format is loose — usually driven by Veltz’s songwriting-insider questions — with Hackney steering some of the conversation in a way that clarifies the topics for non-songwriters who might be listening. Sokolnicki speaks rarely, but he typically provides some sort of big-picture observation that ties the episode together.

The guests know in advance that *Songwriter Soup* isn’t intended to promote new product. It’s there to educate the next generation of music creatives, who get firsthand insights about the unique emotional and financial paths they’re chasing. And since no one’s asking them for money, they can feel safe that they’re not getting ripped off. But in addition to having an effect on aspirational songwriters, it’s influenced some of Veltz’s peers.

“I get messages all the time,” she says, “that are like, ‘I didn’t sign that deal because of this episode’ or ‘I tried this back in the ‘80s and it never connected, and for some reason I feel better now 40 years later.’”

“That means something to me. I love writing songs, but this is a very close second in terms of fulfillment.”



Lainey Wilson (center) guested on the Oct. 8 edition of Amazon Music’s *Country Heat Weekly*. With her: co-hosts Kelly Sutton (left) and Amber Anderson.



SiriusXM personality Ania Hamnar (left) hosted Ella Langley’s Oct. 6 performance at The Grizzly Rose in Denver for the satcaster’s Small Stage Series.



Maddox Batson (left) received the YouTube gold creator award on Sept. 29 from YouTube global head of music Lyor Cohen after reaching 1 million subscribers on his channel.

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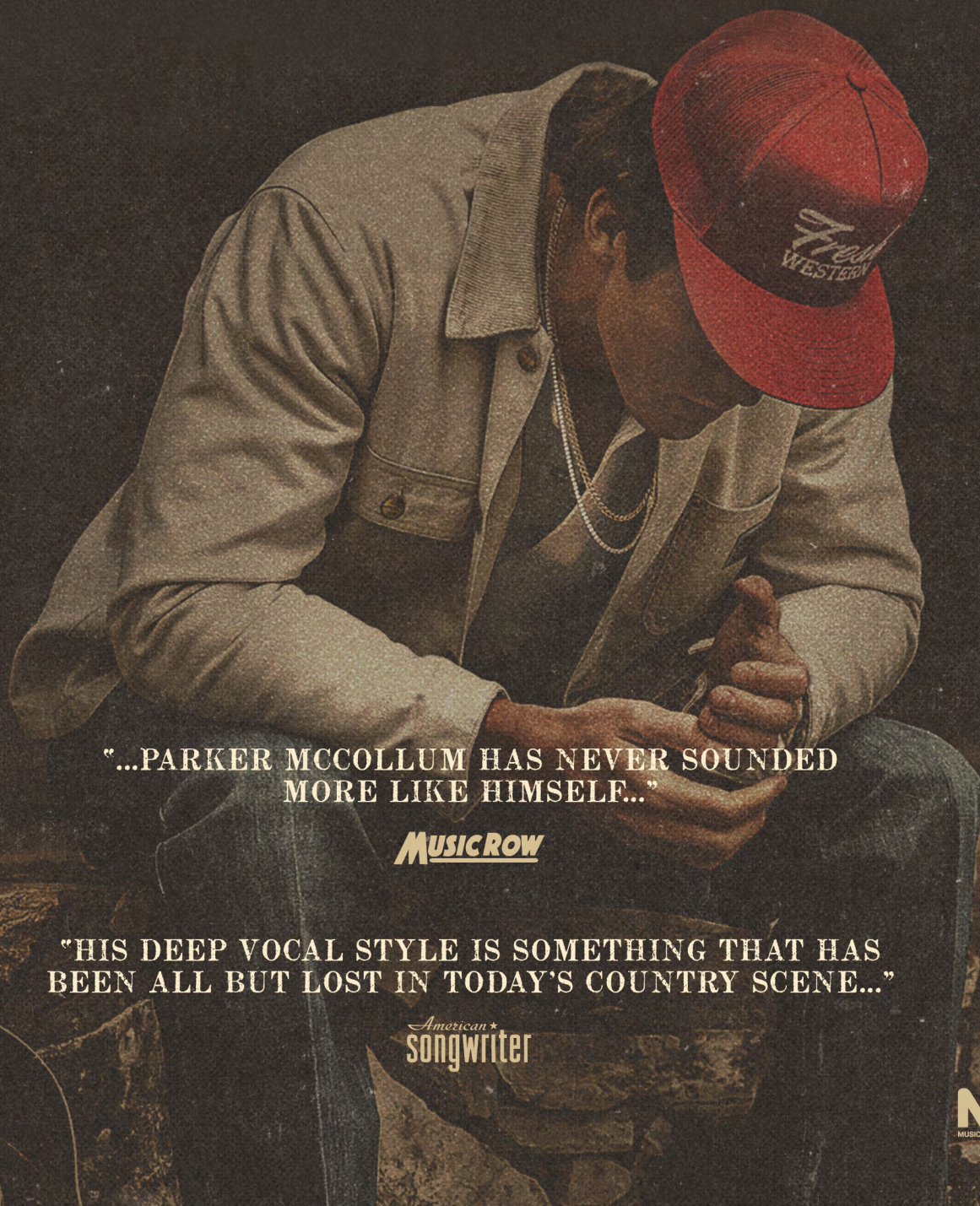
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Tom Roland and Russ Penuell



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

PARKER MCCOLLUM

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
PARKER MCCOLLUM



"...PARKER MCCOLLUM HAS NEVER SOUNDED
MORE LIKE HIMSELF..."

MUSICROW

"HIS DEEP VOCAL STYLE IS SOMETHING THAT HAS
BEEN ALL BUT LOST IN TODAY'S COUNTRY SCENE..."

American
songwriter

MCA
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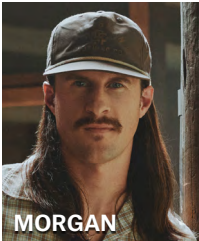
John Morgan Earns His First Country Airplay No. 1

John Morgan’s “Kid Myself” (Night Train/Broken Bow) becomes his first No. 1 on *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart, as it rises two spots in its 66th week to lead the list dated Oct. 17. It drew 31.3 million audience impressions, up 12%, Oct. 2-8, according to Luminate.

Written by Morgan, Tyler Hubbard and Jordan Schmidt, the song is Morgan’s second Country Airplay entry, following “Friends Like That” (featuring Jason Aldean), which hit No. 2 in April 2025. The 66-week climb to No. 1 for “Kid Myself” is the second-longest in the chart’s 36-year history, after Justin Moore’s aptly-titled “Time’s Ticking” (67 weeks, 2025-26).

The runs reflect a broader shift in the format. No. 1s reached the top in an average 12 weeks in the 1990s, compared with 19 in the 2000s, 24 in the ‘10s and 32 so far in the ‘20s. The longest trips to No. 1 have stretched as well, from highs of 27 weeks in the ‘90s to 41 in the ‘00s, 51 in the ‘10s and 67 this decade.

Morgan, raised in Sylva, N.C., grew up playing bluegrass festivals with his family before establishing himself in Nashville as a songwriter. He has cowritten eight Country Airplay entries recorded by Aldean, including the No. 1s “If I Didn’t Love You” (with Carrie Underwood) and “Trouble with a Heartbreak.” Morgan’s debut album, *Carolina Blue*, arrived last year.



MATTHEW BERINATO

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)	
SNAKESKIN BOOTS Vanner/MCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert & Ella Langley	+4.369	
KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	+3.318	
GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	+2.359	
RETHINK SOME THINGS Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+2.191	
LOVING LIFE AGAIN SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+2.121	
SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Dan + Shay	+1.606	
ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	+1.590	
ANYTIME SOON Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.538	
JADED YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley	+1.363	
COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	+1.337	

MOST INCREASED PLAYS			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN	
SNAKESKIN BOOTS Vanner/MCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert & Ella Langley	+1189	
KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	+1138	
GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	+647	
SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Dan + Shay	+595	
JADED YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley	+573	
LOVING LIFE AGAIN SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	+529	
ANYTIME SOON Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+430	
RETHINK SOME THINGS Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	+395	
ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	+380	
PHONE, KEYS, WALLET Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson & John Mayer	+361	

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	CHOOSIN' TEXAS SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	18.824
2	HATE HOW YOU LOOK The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	17.874
3	DON'T TELL ON ME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	17.364
4	CHEVY SILVERADO Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Bailey Zimmerman	17.233
5	DON'T WE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	15.659
6	BE HER SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	10.923
7	I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen	10.029
8	BOOTS OFF Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville	Jon Pardi	9.627
9	WOMAN Zone 4/RCA Nashville/SMN	Kane Brown	8.726
10	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	Thomas Rhett	8.319

BIGGER 'THINGS' Luke Combs earns his 28th Country Airplay top 10 as “Rethink Some Things” rises 11-10 (19.2 million, up 13%). His former four-week No. 1, “Be by You,” his 21st leader, remains in the top tier at No. 7. He boasts the most top 10s among all acts dating to his first week in the region in April 2017.

‘BOOTS’ ON Miranda Lambert and Ella Langley’s “Snakeskin Boots” debuts at No. 31 on Country Airplay (4.4 million in first-week reach). Lambert co-wrote the track—which opens her new album, *Crisco*—“with Langley in mind.” “Snakeskin” cowriters include Jesse Frasure, Natalie Hemby and Brendan McLoughlin—Lambert’s husband, who earns his first *Billboard* chart credit. ●



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 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	15	FEELIN' GOOD AGAIN (Bossier City Thirty Tigers) ★★1 Week at 1 ★★	Turnpike Troubadours w/Sierra Hull	1919	64	11	15	7	GOOD OL' GIRLS (Independent)	Sandee June	1315	88
2	3	23	GUINEVERE (T3R Music Group)	Sundance Head	1842	47	12	13	16	HONEYSUCKLE (Big Loud Texas/Mercury Records)	Dylan Gossett	1296	62
3	4	26	I DON'T DRINK ANYMORE (Independent)	Timothy Howls	1803	89	13	14	18	WHAT DO YOU PRAY FOR (Erskine Entertainment)	Sheila Marshall	1201	-27
4	5	17	WOULDA BEEN IT (River House)	Tyce Delk	1790	124	14	16	15	DAY DRINKIN' (Independent)	AJ Vallejo	1200	49
5	6	23	THIRD ROW GEORGE STRAIT (Independent)	Frank Ray	1617	31	15	17	10	IT WON'T MATTER ANYWAY (Independent)	Case Hardin	1177	34
6	7	10	DOWN FOR THE RIDE (Independent)	Tristan Roberson	1597	89	16	18	20	CITY COWGIRL (Independent)	Lani Butler	1162	74
7	8	18	HOWDY MA'AM (T3R Music Group)	Caleb Sutton	1513	30	17	19	10	KNOW IT ALL (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1089	107
8	9	12	FAN OF YOU (Pretty Damn Tough)	Josh Abbott Band	1483	37	18	21	8	MUST HAVE HAD A GOOD TIME (Independent)	Tilluride	1021	100
9	11	10	GOOD TIME (Independent)	William Clark Green	1390	102	19	10	22	AIN'T THAT A DRINK (Soundline Management)	Ronnie Bowen	1002	-374
10	12	18	CHEAT ON YOU (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1353	69	20	20	15	BRACE FOR IMPACT (Independent)	Ghosts of Hill County	986	62

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

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	3	66	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	31.256	+3.319	8423	1138	1
2	2	11	BEEN BY NOW Mercury/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	29.906	+0.701	7800	153	2
3	4	14	LOVING LIFE AGAIN SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	Ella Langley	28.280	+2.121	7580	529	3
4	5	25	BOSTON Sandlot/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	24.308	-1.645	6030	-484	6
5	7	57	ALL MY EXES Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	24.184	+1.590	6638	380	4
6	10	33	GETTO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	21.629	+2.359	5952	647	7
7	6	28	BE BY YOU Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	21.583	-2.593	5111	-577	10
8	9	27	SAY SO Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Dan + Shay	20.922	+1.606	6034	595	5
9	8	28	COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan	20.861	+1.337	5937	277	8
10	11	13	RETHINK SOME THINGS Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	19.248	+2.191	5264	395	9
11	1	22	CARRY ON Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	17.952	-12.398	4315	-4118	14
12	12	20	THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	16.366	+0.355	4717	136	12
13	13	9	JADED YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley	16.288	+1.363	4367	573	13
14	14	18	PHONE, KEYS, WALLET Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson & John Mayer	15.843	+1.003	4754	361	11
15	15	43	SOUTH OF SANITY Leo33	Zach Top	14.216	-0.132	3999	6	15
16	16	16	HANDS UP Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	13.430	+0.527	3964	213	16
17	17	33	PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	12.730	+0.233	3820	141	17
18	20	41	WORTH YOUR WILD Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	10.966	+1.150	3238	211	18
19	19	42	WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	Greytan James	10.368	-0.064	3181	-44	19
20	21	25	MEDICINE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	9.981	+0.479	3085	173	20
21	22	9	ANYTIME SOON Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	9.788	+1.538	2928	430	21
22	24	19	EMPTY WORDS Combustion/RCA Nashville/SMN	Corey Kent	8.290	+1.314	2548	323	23
23	23	35	LET HIM IN ANYWAY Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	7.372	+0.216	2685	21	22
24	26	17	HORSEBACK CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	6.301	+0.277	2264	165	24
25	25	37	HOLDIN' IT DOWN Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	5.909	-0.120	2212	-27	25
26	27	26	MOVE ON American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	5.648	+0.139	2155	29	26
27	29	9	COWGIRL American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	4.874	+0.629	1786	135	27
28	32	6	BET ON THAT Enchntmnt/Warner/WAR	Blake Whiten	4.613	+0.939	1532	182	30
29	28	33	KILLIN' ME MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	4.598	+0.061	1697	46	28
30	30	13	WHO TOLD YOU THAT Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/Mercury Nashville	Tucker Wetmore	4.586	+0.524	1531	127	31

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.

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billboard Country Airplay

 AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	NEW		SNAKESKIN BOOTS Vanner/MCA Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience ★★	Miranda Lambert & Ella Langley	4.375	+4.369	1193	1189	40
32	31	32	NEVER COMIN' BACK Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	3.965	+0.272	1633	110	29
33	41	3	REMEMBER ME THAT WAY Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	3.712	+1.311	1056	264	42
34	34	22	WANNABE Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Gavin Adcock	3.628	-0.018	1325	2	34
35	35	17	I DIDN'T COME HERE TO LEAVE Boss Moves/Black River/Akando	Chris Young	3.559	+0.268	1296	68	35
36	33	24	WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville	Jacob Hackworth	3.469	-0.204	1479	-3	32
37	40	7	SOMETHING TO LOSE Sandlot/Atlantic Outpost/Lost Highway	Stella Lefty With Vincent Mason	3.349	+0.633	1032	238	44
38	36	21	DRY SPELL Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	Kacey Musgraves	3.209	-0.046	1228	51	38
39	38	29	IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Stoney Creek/Nashville Harbor	Carly Pearce & Riley Green	3.027	+0.096	1272	73	36
40	39	29	GOOD DAMN Wheelhouse	Brantley Gilbert	3.004	+0.110	1442	54	33
41	37	20	LAND Hubbard House/Mercury Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	2.828	-0.151	1230	2	37
42	42	16	STRING BY Mack Geiger/RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	Mack Geiger	2.501	+0.188	737	89	50
43	43	16	GIRL DAD Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Cole Swindell	2.185	+0.079	1084	27	41
44	45	27	BACK IN THE BOTTLE Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.894	-0.001	1227	1	39
45	46	23	LOVE IS BLIND WEST TO THE REST/Triple Tigers	Ian Munsick	1.867	+0.070	1044	19	43
46	44	10	DAMNED IF I DO Music Soup/Interscope/Lost Highway	Vincent Mason	1.845	-0.110	506	-117	58
47	52	21	BETTER THAT WAY Mercury/Big Loud	Charles Wesley Godwin & Luke Combs	1.688	+0.216	889	78	47
48	49	3	FINDERS KEEPERS Row Crop/MCA Nashville	Luke Bryan & Luke Combs	1.630	+0.077	505	57	59
49	55	12	DONE FOR Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	Max McNown	1.581	+0.441	807	101	48
50	47	14	DEAR BIG CITY Curb	Dylan Scott	1.558	-0.081	945	-56	46
51	50	4	TAKE ME BACK (LEAVE ME THERE) CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	1.553	+0.064	294	50	-
52	48	14	BABY BLUES Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	1.545	-0.036	950	-11	45
53	51	11	NOTHIN' BETTER TO DO Gatsby/MCA Nashville	Carter Faith & Wyatt Flores	1.447	-0.038	709	-24	52
54	54	3	LAST THING YOU NEED Take-Two Interactive Software/Atlantic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	1.391	+0.189	231	40	-
55	53	6	SAY LA V Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	1.331	+0.111	730	54	51
56	57	5	HOWDY Big Machine	Cole Goodwin	1.260	+0.244	783	69	49
57	59	2	MESS MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	1.173	+0.328	602	171	54
58	58	5	TALKIN BOUT Galaxy Label Group	LOCASH	1.118	+0.217	653	46	53
59	NEW		DRINK THINGS THROUGH The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	0.936	+0.563	341	240	-
60	60	2	AIN'T MY PROBLEM Riser House	Mitchell Tenpenny	0.860	+0.306	427	189	-



Stella Lefty celebrated her No. 1 single "Boston" during an Oct. 2 party at The Bluebird Café with presentations by performing rights organizations ASCAP and BMI. From left: "Boston" co-writers Jacob "JKash" Hindlin, Lefty, Grace Enger and Joe Reeves.



Miranda Lambert celebrated the Oct. 2 release of her *Crisco* album with her team when she held the first show at new Nashville venue The Truth on Oct. 1. From left: ShopKeeper Management founder Marion Kraft, MCA president/CEO Mike Harris, Lambert, MCA executive VP/GM Katie McCartney and Lambert co-manager Crystal Dishmon.

ED RODE

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DUO OF THE YEAR

BROTHERS OSBORNE

"THAT RARE BREED OF NASHVILLE COUNTRY ARTISTS WHO AREN'T
AFRAID TO VEER OFF-SCRIPT."

RollingStone



NEW ALBUM
AVAILABLE 10/23



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

Lauren Alaina (center) performed “Never Been in Love” during an Oct. 7 appearance on the syndicated *Live with Kelly & Mark*. She’s flanked by show co-hosts Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos.

PARTON RECALLED IN NASHVILLE EVENTS

Butterflies and “9 to 5” are still working for **Dolly Parton**, weeks after her death.

Both elements played significant roles in the last week at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Parton’s SongTeller Hotel on Oct. 6 and the Country Music Association’s CMA Teachers of Excellence event on Oct. 7.

A blast of butterfly-shaped confetti was accompanied by a blast of “9 to 5” at the ribbon-cutting, which preceded an opportunity for media to explore parts of the hotel and Dolly’s Life of Many Colors Museum. Butterflies appear throughout the building, incorporated into the lobby’s lighting structure, the pavement at the entrance to the museum, the wall décor on the third floor and even in an Imagination Library exhibit where book-like objects hang from the ceiling, carved in the shaped of the winged creatures that were part of Parton’s branding.

A video that Parton recorded before her Aug. 25 death extended a greeting to the 30 music instructors who were celebrated at the Teachers of Excellence dinner the next night at The Pinnacle. **Zac Brown** also performed his song “Butterfly” with Parton’s recorded harmonies fluttering in the background.

The program featured a variety of music, including several performances from country, or country-adjacent, figures. **Marcus King** joined New Orleans’ **Preservation Hall Band** in a fierce blues rendition of “I Ain’t Got Nobody,” **Sierra Hull** delivered the inspirational “Beautifully Out of Place,” and **Tucker Wetmore** banged the piano and kicked his piano bench off a one-foot riser in a **Jerry Lee Lewis**-inspired take on “Great Balls of Fire.”

Parton’s “9 to 5” was the first song that played as the night’s formal agenda drew to a close.

‘ROUND THE ROW

• The Country Music Association announced **Michelle Kirk** was upped to CMA Foundation executive director from senior director among five total staff promotions. **Sydney Hickey** climbed to director of lifecycle marketing from senior manager of email marketing, **Reuben Schwartz** was bumped to director of business intelligence from senior manager, **Ansley Carlson** was boosted to brand partnerships account executive from project manager, and **Katie Karl** was promoted to senior manager of ticketing from manager. Reach Kirk [here](#), Hickey [here](#), Schwartz [here](#), Carlson [here](#) and Karl [here](#).

• Reliant Talent hired corporate agent **Michelle Romeo**, a former co-owner of Romeo Entertainment Group. Reach her [here](#).

• Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum writer-editor-curator **Michael McCall** will retire at the end of 2026 after 20 years with the organization. He curated more than 20 exhibits, including the recent “Dolly Parton: Journey of a Seeker” and “Western Edge: The Roots and Reverberations of Los Angeles Country Rock.”

• Auburn University named music veteran **Jennifer Bohler** professor of practice after helping the school develop a music business minor within its music department. Among numerous positions, she was **Reba McEntire**’s personal publicist for nearly two decades. She currently handles media for the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. Reach Bohler [here](#).

• **Ashley Cooke** signed The Familie to handle management.

• Warner Chappell Nashville and Perfect Game Creative signed songwriter **Lee Thomas Miller** (“In Color,” “It Ain’t My Fault”) to a publishing contract.

• Nashville-based The Ward Organization announced plans to acquire CaseWorx, a woodworking and cabinetry firm based in Hudson, N.C. With the deal, Ward will relocate its coach conversation operations in Hudson and rebrand as Encore Conversion Group.

• Austin-based Floating Leaf Entertainment founder **Jeb Hurt** merged the firm with Red Light, bringing with it a stable of artists that includes **Koe Wetzel** and **Kolby Cooper**.

• Songwriter **Jeffrey Steele** (“What Hurts the Most,” “My Town”) will receive the BMI Icon award Nov. 17 when the performing rights agency holds its 74th annual BMI Country Awards at its Music Row location.

• The International Entertainment Buyers Association (IEBA) held a ribbon-cutting Oct. 4 for its IEBA Hall of Fame exhibit in the Grand Foyer of the Grand Hyatt Nashville. The Hall was established in 2010 and honors numerous concert-industry figures, including **Buddy Lee**, **Harry “Hap” Peebles**, **Louis Messina** and **Barbara “Mother” Hubbard**.

• **Jack Schneider**, who plays guitar in **Vince Gill**’s touring band, announced the acquisition of Cinderella Studios in Madison, Tenn., on Oct. 7. The facility was established in 1961 by now-deceased guitarist **Wayne Moss**, and hosted sessions for **Ricky Skaggs**, **Charlie McCoy**, **The Steve Miller Band** and **Linda Ronstadt**.

• **Johnny Cash** will be celebrated Oct. 13 in Downtown Nashville as an expansion of the Johnny Cash Museum is unveiled. Tennessee Governor **Bill Lee** proclaimed Johnny Cash Museum Day in connection with the event, and Nashville will rename the block of Third Avenue South that runs by the museum as Johnny Cash Way.

• St. Martin’s Press published *Taylor Swift: The Debut Years* on Oct. 6. The book is authored by former *Washington Post* reporter **Emily Yahra**.

• University Press of Mississippi publishes *Country Bob: Dylan and Country Music* by Nashville music historian **Don Cusic** on Oct. 15. Cusic will discuss **Dylan**’s ties to the genre and to Music City in a Nov. 7 Q&A at the Musicians Hall of Fame.

• Performances from **Miranda Lambert**’s Oct. 1 concert at The Truth in Nashville will be interspersed with interview material for an Amazon Music film, *Songline*, due Nov. 20. It’s accompanied by a *Songline* album, arriving Nov. 13.

• Longtime **Elton John** collaborator **Bernie Taupin** makes his Grand Ole Opry debut Nov. 7.

• **Rissi Palmer**, **Abbey Cone** and **Corrina** will perform in the second installment of “FEMcountry at Parton’s Live” Oct. 20 at the newly-opened Song-Teller Hotel.

• **Reba McEntire** memorabilia will be sold to the highest bidder when Julien’s Auctions holds a live event, “The Reba Collection,” on Oct. 23 at the Musicians Hall of Fame in Nashville. Items up for sale include stage wear, watches, awards and signed merchandise. Proceeds are earmarked for the singer’s charitable foundation, The Reba McEntire Fund. Go [here](#) to see what’s up for grabs. ●



Melody Place artist Braden Hull (center) worked with WKKT Charlotte morning personality Graham Bunn and PD Ashley Wilson on Sept. 18 to develop content promoting an Oct. 24 appearance at the annual BBQ Festival in his hometown, Lexington, N.C.



MESSINA TOURING

25TH ANNIVERSARY

**PLEASE JOIN BILLBOARD IN CELEBRATING
MESSINA TOURING ON 25 YEARS OF SUCCESS!**

Founded in 2002 by legendary promoter Louis Messina, Messina Touring has grown into one of the world's premier concert promotion companies. Built on an artist-first philosophy and a commitment to long-term partnerships, the company has spent more than two decades producing record-breaking tours and unforgettable live experiences for many of the biggest names in music, including Taylor Swift, George Strait, Ed Sheeran, Phoebe Bridgers, Kenny Chesney, Eric Church, Blake Shelton, Zac Brown Band, Old Dominion, The Lumineers and Ty Myers.

Under the leadership of President Mike Dugan and Nashville President Haley McCollister, Messina Touring continues to shape the future of live entertainment by empowering artists, strengthening fan connections and setting new standards across the touring industry.

BONUS DISTRIBUTION

Billboard Live Music Summit, 11/10/26
West Hollywood

CONTACTS

Touring & Midwest Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

East Coast Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast Alex Parry | alex@stellasales.solutions

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

West Coast Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

A

AIN'T MY PROBLEM Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Spin That Publishing, ASCAP/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Beats Building Fences, BMI (M.Tenpenny, C. DeStefano, A.Albert, T.Archer) **60**

ALL MY EXES Lylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBEAT PUBLISHING, BMI/Only Legends Music, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Hoops Don't Lie Publishing, BMI/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI (Lauren Alaina, J.A.Gutch, B.Johnson, W.Phillips) **5**

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) **21**

B

BABY BLUES Not Listed (A.Cooke, J.Clawson, S.W.Ennis, J.A.Fox, K.Sturrock) **52**

BACK IN THE BOTTLE Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/I'm Your Huckleberry Music, BMI (R.Houser) **44**

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) **7**

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/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.C.Wallen, R.H.Block, J.Byron, B.Pendergrass, T.Phillips, Charlie Handsome) **2**

BET ON THAT Blake Whiten Publishing Designee, BMI/Gold Room Special Music, BMI/Hipgnosis Beats, BMI/Hotsecks Songs, BMI/Songs On The Range, BMI/Where It Begins, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/London Margate Songs, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (B.Whiten, G.Averill, Hoskins, J.M.Spargur) **28**

BETTER THAT WAY Charles Wesley Godwin Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endurance Alligator Quatro, ASCAP/Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Music Garden Studios Publishing, BMI (C.W.Godwin, Scooter Carusoe, A.Torrence) **47**

BOSTON 13117 Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Grace Enger Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Joe 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) **4**

C

CARRY ON Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Combustion Five, ASCAP/Damn Country Music Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (R.C.McGill, M.Jenkins, J.L.Alexander) **11**

COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jomil 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) **9**

COWGIRL EMPIRE SF, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Works By Range Music Partners, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Essancy Music Publishing, ASCAP/BABAPUBLISHER, 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.Pauti, T.W.Kane, M.R.Stevens, N.Sastry, J.L.Cotter) **27**

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) **46**

DEAR BIG CITY Anthem Music Publishing II, SESAC/Brooks Money Songs, SESAC/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Single Life Songs, BMI/Pirate89 Publishing, BMI (M.Alderman, N.Kenyon, J.Paulin) **50**

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) **49**

DRINK THINGS THROUGH Not Listed (Not Listed) **59**

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) **38**

E

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) **22**

F

FINDERS KEEPERS Tape Room Music Round Two, BMI/FBRL Country Tunes, BMI/Myron Bailey Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs By The Bell, BMI/Worktape Tunes, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Chimney Pot Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Madfun, ASCAP (B.Bailey, J.Bell, S.Ellis) **48**

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) **6**

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) **43**

GOOD DAMN Indiana Angel Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI (B.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, T.Phillips) **40**

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.Block, J.A.Fox, M.W.Hardy, R.C.McGill) **16**

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.Centers) **25**

MATT LEDDO



Ashley Cooke revealed she has joined the artist roster at The Familie on Oct. 5. She's flanked by two members of the management team: The Familie executive VP of country music/managing partner Royce Risser (left) and CEO/founder Steve Astephen.



Songwriter Lee Thomas Miller ("In Color," "I'm Still a Guy") agreed to a publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville (WCN) and Perfect Game Creative, announced Oct. 5. From left, back row: Safford Motley attorney Scott Safford, WCN A&R manager Bethany Mako and senior VP/GM Phil May. Front row: Perfect Game founder Jessi Vaughn Stevenson, Miller and WCN president Austen Adams.

GRACE HARTRICK

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

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 Soperman Music Publishing, ASCAP (R.Montana, W.McCubbin, P.Sikes) **24**

HOWDY Justin Dukes Publishing Designee, NS/Davis Loose Publishing Designee, NS/Needs More Fiddle Music, BMI/Ethan Phillips Publishing Designee, NS/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (J.Dukes, D.Loose, C.Peters, E.Phillips) **56**

I

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.Schmidt) **35**

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.Evans, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds) **39**

J

JADED Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI/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/Demo Jail Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (E.Langley, R.Wetzel, J.M.Schmidt, E.K.Smith) **13**

K

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) **1**

KILLIN' ME Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Endless Tour Music, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid II, BMI/Heavy Lefty Music, BMI (P.McCollum, R.Rogers, M.Criswell) **29**

L

LAND T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI/HAYLO Music Works, ASCAP/1 Of 6, ASCAP/Endurance Music Group, ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, Z.Aband, G.J.Egan, C.Smith) **41**

LAST THING YOU NEED Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Honey Hole Publishing, BMI/John Byron Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Rarre Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI (B.Pendergrass, R.C.McGill, J.Byron, M.C.Wallen, Charlie Handsome) **54**

LET HIM IN ANYWAY Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Best Damn Music, BMI (M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband, K.S.Clark, C.Wallace) **23**

LOVE IS BLIND Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crawbaby Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Munsick, R.Tyndell, J.N.Spillman) **45**

LOVING LIFE AGAIN Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI/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) **3**

M

MEDICINE Universal Tunes, SESAC/Georgiamo, 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) **20**

MESS Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Bent Prop Publishing, ASCAP/Rome Soundtrack, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/1508 Creative Nation Songs, BMI/Trash Man Songs, SOCAN (J.Davis, J.Davis, P.DiGiovanni, T.P.Wood) **57**

MOVE ON Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Cabrera Music, BMI/EMPIRE Strikes First, BMI/Nearis Publishing, SESAC/EMPIRE San Francisco, SESAC/Kreshendo, ASCAP/Songs Of 78, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Beat Stars Publishing, ASCAP/Torrey Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (T.W.Kane, K.J.Powers, C.O.Chibueze, S.Sanchez, D.R.Stevens, A.Cabrera, J.Torrey) **26**

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) **32**

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/Samuel Tyler Johnson Publishing Designee, BMI (C.J.Fones, V.Mason, S.McAnally, J.J.Dillon, S.T.Johnson) **53**

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) **17**

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.P.Hull) **14**

R

REMEMBER ME THAT WAY Smackworld Music, GMR/Art Of CTM Music Outlander LP, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Red Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Deemer Camp Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Spirit Nashville One, BMI (S.McAnally, Z.Aband, M.W.Hardy) **33**

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/Hit Songs Of 50 Egg Music, BMI (L.Combs, J.Davis, D.Isbell, R.Isbell) **10**

S

SAY LA V Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/DanielW25 Songs, BMI/N Chapel Songs, ASCAP/Endurance Music Group, ASCAP/Triple5Songs, ASCAP/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Sonic Notes, BMI/Two Islands Music, BMI (B.D.Warren, J.D.Sellers, L.Miller) **55**

SAY SO Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Eleventh Wave Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Cing Trax, ASCAP/Lilrydridge Music, ASCAP/Cascade Road Songs, ASCAP (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, D.H.Hodges, J.Robbins) **8**

SNAKESKIN BOOTS Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI/Songs Of Influence, BMI/WRUCKENROLLMUSIC, BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Brendan James Publishing, BMI (M.Lambert, J.V.Frasure, N.Hemby, B.J.McLoughlin) **31**



Thomas Rhett (center) announced the formation of a label, Fifty-One/Forty-Nine, in partnership with Blue Highway on Oct. 6. He's joined by Blue Highway CEO Jake Basden and G Major Mgmt founder Virginia Bunetta.

SOMETHING TO LOSE Reservoir 416, BMI/Songs Of One Riot Music, BMI/Copyright Control (J.Decious, G.Enger, S.Lefty, C.L.Dick) **37**

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/Doin What I Do, BMI/Getysome Music, BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, M.Nesler) **15**

STRING BY Mack Geiger Publishing Designee, APRA (M.Geiger) **42**

T

TAKE ME BACK (LEAVE ME THERE) Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Red White And Sony Blue Songs, BMI/Songs In The Key Of Eh, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Lu Vegas Publishing, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/Smack Attack Music, SESAC/Sienna Dawn Songs, SESAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC (K.Archer, T.Cartwright, P.Good) **51**

TALKIN BOUT Edgehill Music Publishing LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Anthem, BMI/Single Life Songs, BMI/Combuster Bluth, SESAC/1 LIKE BIG CUTS PUBLISHING, SESAC (P.C.Brust, C.Lucas, N.Kenyon, W.B.Bollinger) **58**

THINK AS YOU DRUNK Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Flatland Boy Music, BMI/Hit Songs Of 50 Egg Music, BMI/Duckman Publishing, BMI/Little Acre Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Florida Cracker Music, BMI (R.Green, J.L.Alexander, Erik Dylan, W.McCubbin, S.Emerick, T.Keith) **12**

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 Money Publishing Designee, BMI (G.Adcock, J.R.Durrett, B.Clawson, E.K.Smith, M.C.Wallen) **34**

WATER AT A WEDDING Relative Red Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/M Drag Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Philippians 4:7 Songs, BMI/Songs For Knox, BMI (G.J.Egan, M.Dragstrem, R.C.McGill) **19**

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/T Vill Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/I Finally Got Some 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) **36**

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) **30**

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) **18**

DAVID HIGGS

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.

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CONTACTS

East Coast Joe Maimone | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Southeast Alex Parry | alex@stellasales.solutions

Latin Marcia Olival | marciaolival29@gmail.com

Midwest/Touring Cynthia Mellow | cmellow615@gmail.com

International Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@billboard.com

West Coast Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

COUNTRY

40 Years Ago

When Hank Williams Jr. And Partners Launched Their 'Business' Venture

Willie Nelson, Reba McEntire, a rocker and a preacher put a new spin on a family heirloom

Hank Williams Jr. built his brand by creating his own family tradition.

Intent on separating his artistic reputation from his legendary father, **Hank Williams Sr.**, Bocephus infused Southern rock and blues into his version of country, even when remaking his daddy's songs, such as "Honky Tonkin" and "Kaw-Liga." But Junior took a new tack when he recorded "Mind Your Own Business," a title that Hank Sr. originally took top five in 1949. Bocephus' new version debuted at No. 42 on the Hot Country Songs chart dated Oct. 11, 1986, but it had one

significant difference from his previous Hank covers.

When Hank Jr. first recorded "Mind Your Own Business" with co-producers **Jim Ed Norman (Mickey Gilley, Anne Murray)** and **Barry Beckett (Kenny Chesney, Lorrie Morgan)**, he was unimpressed with the results—he'd amped up his daddy's songs as a solo artist before, and "Business" was just more of the same. Norman suggested turning it into an event record, and Bocephus came up with four singular options: **Willie Nelson, Reba McEntire, Tom Petty** and prosperity-

gospel preacher **Reverend Ike.**

"Business" boomed during the fourth quarter of '86; Hank Jr. and his associates arrived at No. 1 in their 11th charted week, topping out on the list dated Dec. 27, 1986.

Even younger listeners who didn't know Hank Sr.'s canon felt some familiarity in "Mind Your Own Business": When Hank Sr. wrote "Business," he recycled the melody from his own song "Move It On Over." **George Thorogood & the Destroyers** had earned a major rock single in 1978 by covering "Move It." —TOM ROLAND

Hank Williams Jr. performs April 18, 1986, at Selland Arena in Fresno, Calif.

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

41	29	12	10	J. BOWEN/R. MCENTIRE (P. MCANULTY, B. DIPIERO, G. HOUSE)	MCA 52648
HOT SHOT DEBUT					
42	NEW	1		MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS H. WILLIAMS, JR./B. BECKETT/J. E. NORMAN (H. WILLIAMS, JR.)	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. WARNER/CJRB 7-28561/WARNER BROS.
43	33	19	17	TEN FEET AWAY B. MEVIS (T. SEALS, B. SHERRILL, M. D. BARNES)	KEITH WHITLEY RCA 14363
POWER PICK/AIRPLAY					
44	67	—	1	LOVE'S GONNA GET YOU SOMEDAY R. SKAGGS (C. CHAMBERS)	RICKY SKAGGS EPIC 34-06327
45	49	55	5	WALK THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS A. REYNOLDS (T. P. O'BRIEN)	KATHY MATTEA MERCURY 884 978-7/POLYGRAM
46	31	11	18	GOT MY HEART SET ON YOU J. CONLEE	JOHN CONLEE COLUMBIA