billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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ABC's 'Celebration' Of Dolly Parton And Her 'Eternal' Contributions

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When **Dolly Parton** decided against having a memorial at her death, it meant the world had to find other ways to remember her.

Dolly Parton Day on Sept. 25, in honor of "9 to 5"; a parade of artists covering her songs in concert; and an expected run on Parton costumes for Halloween all accomplish that, as did ABC's Oct. 21 special, *CMA Presents I Will Always Love You: A Celebration of Dolly Parton*.



COURTESY LIFE OF MANY COLORS MUSEUM

With her trademark butterfly imagery weaved into the set and graphics, it provided viewers — and her fellow artists — an opportunity to embrace Parton in all her glory: a music superstar, but also one of country music's best global ambassadors, a singular vocal stylist, a vivid songcrafter, a multi-faceted entertainer, a limitless dreamer — and, for many, a moral compass.

"Somewhere along the way, Dolly became more than a singer or a songwriter or an entertainer," **Reba McEntire** said. "She became hope. She became possibility — to the little girl growing up with nothing, who dared to dream about something bigger; to the person who felt different and wondered if there was a place in this world for them; to the dreamer who was told their dreams were too big. She made people believe there was room for them. She just made you feel welcome. She made you feel seen."

A cavalcade of artists, including McEntire, **Vince Gill**, **Ella Langley**, **Brad Paisley**, **Carly Pearce**, **Kristin Chenoweth**, **Carrie Underwood**, **Lady A**, **Darius Rucker** and more joined forces to honor the life, career and philanthropic impact Parton's career has had. The 14-song set list provided a nifty overview of the breadth of her musical influences, veering from mountain music to her key country efforts to her crossover material and to the spiritual themes that invariably informed her work.

"This was a celebration of an undeniable force of nature," Gill said. "Her ability to bring people together from all walks of life is so needed these days."

Beyond the evening's performers and presenters, video tributes poured in from **Oprah Winfrey**, **Julia Roberts**, **Sabrina Carpenter**, **Goldie Hawn** and **U2**'s **Bono**, who recalled hearing her performance of "Torn," a track that appears on the band's *Carnaval de Luz*, due Nov. 13. It proved to be the final recording of her career.

"When I heard her vocal, I was speechless, which is rare for an Irishman," Bono said. "It was like she was singing herself to somewhere else. She once told me when our schedules didn't align, 'Unfortunately, Bono, I have more love than time.' More love than time — isn't that what eternal means? That's Dolly."

— *Jessica Nicholson contributed to this story.*

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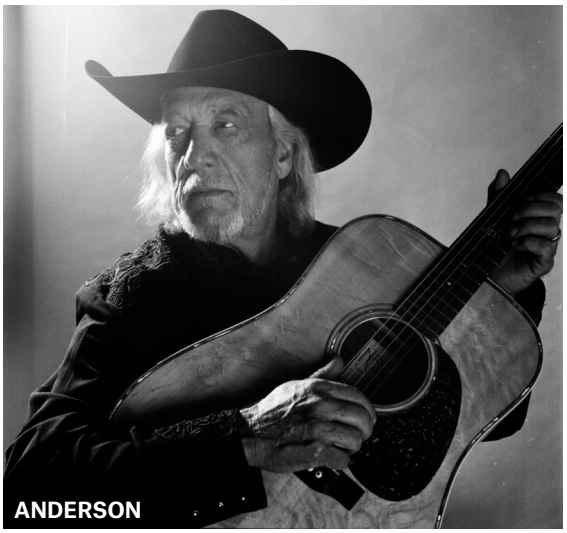
TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com

Remembering Hall Of Famer John Anderson, Who 'Walked My Path The Way I Wanted'

After the Country Music Hall of Fame inducted three new members on Oct. 18, **John Anderson** made his way to the Rotunda, the circular room where gold plaques honor the 161 figures who have been enshrined.

A 2024 inductee, Anderson, 71, hobnobbed with many of the Hall's living members, including **The Oak Ridge Boys**, **Ricky Skaggs**, **Tanya Tucker**, **Connie Smith**, **Randy Travis** and new additions **Tim McGraw** and **Paul Overstreet**. They conversed among plaques that recognized late Hall of Famers **George Jones**, **Hank Williams**, **Merle Haggard** and **Dolly Parton**.

Three days later, Anderson died in his sleep, shocking the industry—particularly those who had enjoyed his company in what proved to be his final public event.


ANDERSON

"There is too much for me to say about John Anderson in just a statement," posted **Blake Shelton** on X after seeing his former tour mate at the Hall's medallion ceremony. "I am sick and I am stunned. But I am a very lucky man. I got the opportunity to find out that my hero wasn't just the guy I hoped he'd be. He was so much more than that. John was my friend."

A native of Apopka, Fla., Anderson relocated to Nashville in 1972, uncertain what exactly awaited him.

"I was just wanting to play and sing pretty much at any level that I could," he told *Billboard* in 2024. "Thankfully, I was blessed that one little job led to another one, and most of the time it was kind of a little upgrade."

An early job saw him nailing shingles onto the roof of the Grand Ole Opry House ahead of that iconic building's 1974 opening. Blessed with a unique, back-of-the-throat tonality and blue-collar drawl, he rode his identifiable sound to a recording deal with Warner Bros. Records and went about constructing a lofty career.

His chart history began in December 1977 with "I've Got a Feelin' (Somebody's Been Stealin')," which peaked at No. 62. After several more modest entries, "1959" became his first top 10 in February 1981, reaching No. 7. He followed with "I'm Just an Old Chunk of Coal (But I'm Gonna Be a Diamond Someday)," a **Billy Joe Shaver** composition that reached No. 4 that year, marking his first top five hit.

Anderson's first No. 1 led that December: "Wild and Blue," which launched an especially successful chart run. "Swingin'," which he co-wrote with **Lionel Delmore**, followed in March 1983. The playful hit also crossed over to the Billboard Hot 100, where it reached No. 43, and earned the Country Music Association's single of the year trophy, the same year he claimed the Horizon Award. "Black Sheep" became Anderson's third Hot Country Songs No. 1 that December.

Anderson's chart success continued through the 1980s, though his next No. 1 would come nearly nine years after "Black Sheep." In March 1992, "Straight Tequila Night" returned him to the top of Hot Country Songs, sparking another high-profile chapter in his career.

The comeback proved more than a one-song revival. "When It Comes to You," written by **Mark Knopfler**, reached No. 3 that July, followed by Anderson's self-written "Seminole Wind," which peaked at No. 2 that October and became one of his signatures. "Money in the Bank" cashed in as his fifth No. 1 in July 1993.

Anderson maintained a strong country radio presence through the mid-1990s, adding top five hits in "I've Got It Made," "I Wish I Could Have Been There" and "Bend It Until It Breaks." His final Hot Country Songs entry came in October 2006, "If Her Lovin' Don't Kill Me."

Anderson battled health issues in recent years, beginning in 2003 when he suffered a heart attack. In 2017, he cancelled a tour when he suffered a mysterious illness, which was ultimately diagnosed as a combination of medical issues, including a benign brain tumor. He doggedly pushed through the pain.

"Through [much] of 2017 and all the way up until May of 2018, I had spent most of my time in the hospital and had been very, very ill," he told *Billboard* in 2020. "I had almost 100% hearing loss. I did OK being sick, but when I lost my hearing and couldn't play and sing, that really almost put an end to me. I just started praying and praying harder than I've ever prayed in my life, and you know what? My hearing started coming back."

During one procedure, he says he almost died on the operating room table. Anderson, however, was a hard man to stop.

Upon his return, he toured at a purposely leisurely pace, doing enough shows to feed his lust for the stage but not so many that he missed the bulk of his family's life in Smithville, Tenn. During the peak of the pandemic, he released an album of new material, *Years*, produced by **The Black Keys' Dan Auerbach** and **David Ferguson** (**Johnny Cash**, **Sturgill Simpson**).

"I wouldn't trade with anybody," Anderson reflected in 2024. "I kind of walked my path the way I wanted to walk it. And if I decided to get off the main road and walk through the woods a while, I did that, too."

— *Lars Brandle and Russ Penuell contributed to this story.*

John Anderson's Biggest *Billboard* Hits:

RANK	TITLE	PEAK	WKS AT NO. 1	PEAK DATE
1	BLACK SHEEP	1	1	12/17/83
2	SWINGIN'	1	1	3/26/83
3	MONEY IN THE BANK	1	1	7/10/93
4	WILD AND BLUE	1	2	12/25/82
5	STRAIGHT TEQUILA NIGHT	1	1	3/14/92
6	I'M JUST AN OLD CHUNK OF COAL	4		5/30/81
7	I'VE GOT IT MADE	3		3/19/94
8	SEMINOLE WIND	2		10/31/92
9	WHEN IT COMES TO YOU	3		7/25/92
10	SHE SURE GOT AWAY WITH MY HEART	3		11/10/84
11	WOULD YOU CATCH A FALLING STAR	6		7/10/82
12	BEND IT UNTIL IT BREAKS	3		2/25/95
13	I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN THERE	4		7/23/94
14	1959	7		2/14/81
15	GOIN' DOWN HILL	5		9/3/83
16	I JUST CAME HOME TO COUNT THE MEMORIES	7		2/13/82
17	LET GO OF THE STONE	7		2/13/93
18	CHICKEN TRUCK/I LOVE YOU A THOUSAND WAYS	8		10/17/81
19	HONKY TONK CROWD	10		11/15/86
20	LET SOMEBODY ELSE DRIVE	10		3/24/84
21	DOWN IN TENNESSEE	12		2/15/86
22	I FELL IN THE WATER	13		11/13/93
23	SHE JUST STARTED LIKING CHEATING SONGS	13		5/10/80
24	YOUR LYING BLUE EYES	15		1/12/80
25	IT'S ALL OVER NOW	15		7/13/85

John Anderson's Biggest Billboard *Hits chart is based on performance on* Billboard*'s weekly Hot Country Songs chart through the Oct. 24, 2026, ranking. 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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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY LUMINATE

ON THE CHARTS RUSS PENUELL rpenuell@billboard.com

No. 1 'Again'! Ella Langley Makes More History

Ella Langley earns her sixth No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "Loving Life Again" (SAWOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers) rises a spot on the Oct. 31-dated list, delivering 32.4 million audience impressions Oct. 16-22 (up 7%), according to Luminate.



CAYLEE ROBILLARD

Among women, or acts with a female vocalist, Langley has gone from one No. 1 to six the fastest in the chart's 36-year history. She logged 99 weeks from her first trip to the top, with "You Look Like You Love Me," with **Riley Green**, in December 2024, to her latest. The previous fastest was **Lady A** (125 weeks); the quickest solo woman, **Carrie Underwood**, did so over 127 weeks. Among all acts, only **Jelly Roll** (96) and **Alan Jackson** (94) have raced to six more quickly than Langley.

The march up Country Airplay for "Loving Life Again" also adds another accomplishment. Upon reaching No. 1, Langley's *Dandelion* generates a fourth leader, joining "Choosin' Texas," "Be Her" and the **Morgan Wallen** duet "I Can't Love You Anymore" — making it just the third album by a woman, or an act with a female singer, to send four titles to the summit.

The others are **Shania Twain**'s *The Woman in Me* (1995-96) and Carrie Underwood's *Carnival Ride* (2007-08). Langley moves ahead of the three-apiece hauls from Underwood's *Some Hearts* and *Play On*, Twain's *Come On Over,* and sets by **Lady A**, **Sugarland**, **The Chicks**, **Jo Dee Messina**, **Deana Carter**, **Kelsea Ballerini** and **Wynonna**.

Dandelion has spent 21 weeks atop Top Country Albums since its April debut, the most among women since the chart adopted a multimetric methodology nearly a decade ago (on the Feb. 11, 2017, survey). It ranks sixth overall in that span, with Wallen's *Dangerous: The Double Album* boasting an all-time record 97 weeks at No. 1.

DON'T 'FORGET' Elsewhere, **Jackson Dean** places his fifth Country Airplay entry as "Blacktop Blues" (Blue Highway) opens at No. 59 (883,000 audience). Plus, singer-songwriter **McCoy Moore** earns his first *Billboard* chart appearance as "Forget We Ever Met" (Sony Music Nashville/SMN) launches at No. 60 (835,000).

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
JADED YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	**Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley**	+3.681
BEEN BY NOW Mercury/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	+2.544
COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville/MCA	**Luke Bryan**	+2.472
LOVING LIFE AGAIN SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	**Ella Langley**	+2.004
RETHINK SOME THINGS Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	**Luke Combs**	+1.749
EMPTY WORDS Combustion/RCA Nashville/SMN	**Corey Kent**	+1.501
ANYTIME SOON Macon/Broken Bow	**Jason Aldean**	+1.384
PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	**Hudson Westbrook**	+1.322
HANDS UP Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	**Jelly Roll**	+1.122
GET TO DRINKIN' Sony Music Nashville/SMN	**Zach John King**	+1.098

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
JADED YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	**Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley**	+1065
BEEN BY NOW Mercury/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	+833
COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT Row Crop/MCA Nashville/MCA	**Luke Bryan**	+640
LOVING LIFE AGAIN SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	**Ella Langley**	+425
EMPTY WORDS Combustion/RCA Nashville/SMN	**Corey Kent**	+370
RETHINK SOME THINGS Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	**Luke Combs**	+355
HANDS UP Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	**Jelly Roll**	+345
PAINTED YOU PRETTY River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	**Hudson Westbrook**	+326
WATER AT A WEDDING Nashville Harbor	**Greylan James**	+276
THINK AS YOU DRUNK Nashville Harbor	**Riley Green**	+226

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	**BE BY YOU** Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	**Luke Combs**	20.537
2	**CHOOSIN' TEXAS** SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	**Ella Langley**	16.976
3	**DON'T TELL ON ME** Macon/Broken Bow	**Jason Aldean**	16.349
4	**HATE HOW YOU LOOK** The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	**Josh Ross**	16.077
5	**CHEVY SILVERADO** Atlantic/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	**Bailey Zimmerman**	13.757
6	**DON'T WE** Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	13.034
7	**BE HER** SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers	**Ella Langley**	9.026
8	**I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE** SAWGOD/Columbia/Big Loud/Triple Tigers	**Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen**	8.570
9	**AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED** Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory	**Thomas Rhett**	7.941
10	**SLEEPLESS IN A HOTEL ROOM** Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	**Luke Combs**	7.554

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCOTBER 22, 2026

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/–
1	2	28	**I DON'T DRINK ANYMORE** (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	**Timothy Howls**	1983	129
2	4	19	**WOULDA BEEN IT** (River House)	**Tyce Delk**	1844	47
3	3	12	**DOWN FOR THE RIDE** (Independent)	**Tristan Roberson**	1812	12
4	6	14	**FAN OF YOU** (Pretty Damn Tough)	**Josh Abbott Band**	1725	161
5	5	25	**THIRD ROW GEORGE STRAIT** (Independent)	**Frank Ray**	1617	-18
6	8	12	**GOOD TIME** (Independent)	**William Clark Green**	1581	60
7	7	20	**HOWDY MA'AM** (T3R Music Group)	**Caleb Sutton**	1530	-6
8	10	20	**CHEAT ON YOU** (Independent)	**Amanda Kate Ferris**	1509	145
9	9	9	**GOOD OL' GIRLS** (Independent)	**Sandee June**	1491	79
10	11	18	**HONEYSUCKLE** (Big Loud Texas/Mercury Records)	**Dylan Gossett**	1373	28
11	12	12	**IT WON'T MATTER ANYWAY** (Independent)	**Case Hardin**	1264	-3
12	13	20	**WHAT DO YOU PRAY FOR** (Erskine Entertainment)	**Sheila Marshall**	1246	17
13	14	17	**DAY DRINKIN** (Independent)	**AJ Vallejo**	1233	17
14	17	12	**KNOW IT ALL** (Independent)	**Cody Jinks**	1195	75
15	20	6	**THIS TIME** (Jaydon Grissom Music)	**Jaydon Grissom**	1190	166
16	18	10	**MUST HAVE HAD A GOOD TIME** (Independent)	**Tilluride**	1190	100
17	16	22	**CITY COWGIRL** (Independent)	**Lani Butler**	1166	2
18	19	17	**BRACE FOR IMPACT** (Independent)	**Ghosts of Hill County**	1041	13
19	21	12	**QUIT** (LuckySky Music)	**Tori Martin**	979	38
20	28	4	**VIP IN THIS B.A.R.** (Independent)	**Jamie Richards**	978	197

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

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) THIS WEEK	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) +/–	PLAYS THIS WEEK	PLAYS +/–	RANK
1	2	16	**LOVING LIFE AGAIN** SAWGOD/Columbia/Triple Tigers ★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★	Ella Langley	32.398	+2.004	8368	425	2
2	3	13	**BEEN BY NOW** Mercury/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	32.151	+2.544	8586	833	1
3	8	30	**COUNTRY AND SHE KNOWS IT** Row Crop/MCA Nashville/MCA	Luke Bryan	24.215	+2.472	6720	640	3
4	1	59	**ALL MY EXES** Mercury/Big Loud	Lauren Alaina Featuring Chase Matthew	24.194	-6.786	6393	-2022	6
5	5	35	**GET TO DRINKIN'** Sony Music Nashville/SMN	Zach John King	23.957	+1.098	6608	215	4
6	6	29	**SAY SO** Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Dan + Shay	22.747	+0.441	6431	94	5
7	10	15	**RETHINK SOME THINGS** Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Luke Combs	22.421	+1.749	6020	355	8
8	11	11	**JADED** YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville ★★ Most Increased Audience ★★	Koe Wetzel & Ella Langley	22.197	+3.681	6067	1065	7
9	4	68	**KID MYSELF** Night Train/Broken Bow	John Morgan	21.383	-5.768	5219	-1740	9
10	7	27	**BOSTON** Sandlot/Atlantic Outpost	Stella Lefty	20.894	-1.395	5137	-327	10
11	12	22	**THINK AS YOU DRUNK** Nashville Harbor	Riley Green	16.932	+0.574	4966	226	11
12	13	20	**PHONE, KEYS, WALLET** Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson & John Mayer	15.647	-0.412	4774	-41	12
13	15	18	**HANDS UP** Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	15.242	+1.122	4338	345	14
14	16	35	**PAINTED YOU PRETTY** River House/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Hudson Westbrook	14.444	+1.322	4368	326	13
15	14	45	**SOUTH OF SANITY** Leo33	Zach Top	14.247	-0.314	4032	-52	15
16	17	43	**WORTH YOUR WILD** Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	12.410	+0.928	3507	169	17
17	19	11	**ANYTIME SOON** Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	12.280	+1.384	3479	222	18
18	21	21	**EMPTY WORDS** Combustion/RCA Nashville/SMN ★★ Airpower ★★	Corey Kent	11.758	+1.501	3307	370	20
19	18	44	**WATER AT A WEDDING** Nashville Harbor	Greylan James	11.544	+0.512	3509	276	16
20	20	27	**MEDICINE** Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville/SMN	Megan Moroney	11.328	+0.467	3397	47	19
21	22	37	**LET HIM IN ANYWAY** Ten Point/Wheelhouse	Blake Shelton	8.840	+0.681	3048	167	21
22	23	19	**HORSEBACK** CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	Cody Johnson	8.004	+0.962	2590	141	22
23	25	28	**MOVE ON** American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Kevin Powers & Shaboozey	6.910	+0.878	2430	200	23
24	24	39	**HOLDIN' IT DOWN** Chase Matthew/Warner Records Nashville/WAR	Chase Matthew	6.866	+0.784	2428	172	24
25	26	11	**COWGIRL** American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music	Shaboozey	6.466	+0.892	2180	152	25
26	27	8	**BET ON THAT** Enchntmnt/Warner/WAR	Blake Whiten	5.943	+0.633	1870	152	28
27	30	15	**WHO TOLD YOU THAT** Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/Mercury/MCA	Tucker Wetmore	5.677	+0.783	1917	143	27
28	28	5	**REMEMBER ME THAT WAY** Warner/HEY NOW	Kenny Chesney	5.613	+0.490	1522	173	34
29	29	34	**NEVER COMIN' BACK** Lost Highway	Flatland Cavalry	5.355	+0.444	1940	73	26
30	32	9	**SOMETHING TO LOSE** Sandlot/Atlantic Outpost/Lost Highway	Stella Lefty With Vincent Mason	5.040	+0.569	1511	225	35

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) THIS WEEK	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) +/–	PLAYS THIS WEEK	PLAYS +/–	PLAYS RANK
31	31	35	**KILLIN' ME** MCA Nashville/MCA	**Parker McCollum**	**4.848**	+0.236	1732	68	29
32	33	19	**I DIDN'T COME HERE TO LEAVE** Boss Moves/Black River/Akando	**Chris Young**	**4.644**	+0.318	1724	102	30
33	35	24	**WANNABE** Thrivin Here/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	**Gavin Adcock**	**4.167**	+0.306	1538	143	33
34	34	26	**WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG** Goat Island Sound/Mercury Nashville/MCA	**Jacob Hackworth**	**3.621**	-0.301	1562	-42	32
35	36	31	**IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY** Stoney Creek/Nashville Harbor	**Carly Pearce & Riley Green**	**3.618**	+0.184	1461	110	36
36	37	31	**GOOD DAMN** Wheelhouse	**Brantley Gilbert**	**3.508**	+0.186	1564	6	31
37	38	23	**DRY SPELL** Kacey Musgraves/Lost Highway	**Kacey Musgraves**	**3.025**	-0.074	1207	49	38
38	39	22	**LAND** Hubbard House/Mercury Nashville/MCA	**Tyler Hubbard**	**2.739**	-0.215	1184	-54	39
39	40	18	**GIRL DAD** Warner Records Nashville/WAR	**Cole Swindell**	**2.673**	+0.139	1121	-4	40
40	41	18	**STRING BY** Mack Geiger/RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	**Mack Geiger**	**2.534**	+0.121	846	33	47
41	49	5	**FINDERS KEEPERS** Row Crop/MCA Nashville/MCA	**Luke Bryan & Luke Combs**	**2.312**	+0.632	737	183	51
42	42	25	**LOVE IS BLIND** WEST TO THE REST/Triple Tigers	**Ian Munsick**	**2.212**	+0.017	1111	25	41
43	43	6	**TAKE ME BACK (LEAVE ME THERE)** CoJo/Warner Records Nashville/WRN	**Cody Johnson**	**2.204**	+0.290	429	64	-
44	44	29	**BACK IN THE BOTTLE** Magnolia Music	**Randy Houser**	**2.055**	+0.148	1281	-11	37
45	47	16	**BABY BLUES** Back Blocks/Mercury/Big Loud	**Ashley Cooke**	**1.878**	+0.121	1085	48	42
46	48	16	**DEAR BIG CITY** Curb	**Dylan Scott**	**1.782**	+0.099	1031	32	43
47	53	4	**MESS** MCA Nashville/MCA	**Jordan Davis**	**1.769**	+0.282	820	42	48
48	46	14	**DONE FOR** Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music	**Max McNown**	**1.746**	-0.022	859	9	44
49	52	13	**NOTHIN' BETTER TO DO** Gatsby/MCA Nashville/MCA	**Carter Faith & Wyatt Flores**	**1.660**	+0.152	809	29	49
50	51	23	**BETTER THAT WAY** Mercury/Big Loud	**Charles Wesley Godwin & Luke Combs**	**1.596**	+0.085	854	13	45
51	58	3	**SNAKESKIN BOOTS** Vanner/MCA	**Miranda Lambert & Ella Langley**	**1.583**	+0.554	670	226	52
52	50	5	**LAST THING YOU NEED** Take-Two Interactive Software/Atlantic/Big Loud	**Morgan Wallen**	**1.569**	-0.005	304	3	-
53	55	3	**DRINK THINGS THROUGH** The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville/MCA	**Josh Ross**	**1.483**	+0.215	606	64	56
54	59	4	**AIN'T MY PROBLEM** Riser House	**Mitchell Tenpenny**	**1.394**	+0.375	639	101	54
55	54	8	**SAY LA V** Quartz Hill	**Joe Nichols**	**1.385**	+0.033	795	33	50
56	57	7	**TALKIN BOUT** Galaxy Label Group	**LOCASH**	**1.303**	+0.185	666	2	53
57	60	2	**FUN** Warner Records Nashville/Harpeth 60 ★★ Breaker ★★	**Chris Janson Featuring David Lee Murphy**	**1.205**	+0.211	544	184	57
58	56	7	**HOWDY** Big Machine	**Cole Goodwin**	**1.143**	-0.018	853	28	46
59	NEW		**BLACKTOP BLUES** Blue Highway ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	**Jackson Dean**	**0.883**	+0.237	477	81	60
60	NEW		**FORGET WE EVER MET** Sony Music Nashville/SMN	**McCoy Moore**	**0.835**	+0.031	613	65	55



RANDALL POWERS

Curb | Word chairman Mike Curb received the inaugural Joel Whitburn chart champion award from Record Research CEO Vinnie Freda on Oct. 21 at the Curb | Word Nashville headquarters. From left: Freda's wife Karin Freda, Vinnie Freda, Curb and Mike Curb Foundation director Linda Curb.



COURTESY WOODY GUTHRIE CENTER

Independent country artist Bryan Andrews performed five songs, including Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land," when Bette Midler received the Woody Guthrie Prize Oct. 16 at Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa, Okla.

HONOR THY MUSIC®

The 31st Medallion Ceremony

Produced and Presented by
THE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

We congratulate Tim McGraw, Paul Overstreet, and the Stanley Brothers, and express our deepest gratitude to the many people who gave their time and talent to produce this very special 2026 Medallion Ceremony.


Ralph Stanley II, Lisa Stanley Marshall, and Jeanie Stanley Allinder for the Stanley Brothers


Paul Overstreet


Tim McGraw


Ricky Skaggs and Vince Gill


Dean Dillon


Lady A

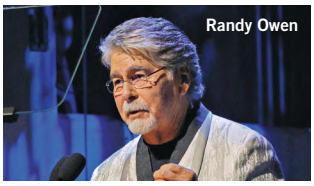

First Ladies of Bluegrass


Billy Strings


Lainey Wilson


Tanya Tucker


Parker McCollum


Randy Owen


Jamey Johnson


Patty Loveless


Blake Shelton

Photos by: Jason Kempin and Terry Wyatt / Getty Images for the Country Music Hall of Fame, Mary Caroline Russell, and Amiee Stubbs

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MEDALLION ALL-STAR BAND

Biff Watson, Bandleader and Acoustic Guitar
Mark Beckett, Drums
Jen Gunderman, Keyboards
Tania Hancheroff, Vocals
Alison Prestwood, Bass
Deanie Richardson, Fiddle and Mandolin
Scotty Sanders, Steel Guitar
Jeff White, Guitar and Vocals
Charlie Worsham, Lead Guitar

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



The Band Perry's Kimberly Perry (left) won $37,000 for The Dollywood Foundation during an Oct. 16 guest appearance on ABC's *Celebrity Wheel of Fortune*. She competed against fellow artists Lisa Loeb (center) and Ally Brooke.

BILLY STRINGS TOPS BLUEGRASS AWARDS

Billy Strings continued his torrid run in the world of bluegrass, claiming his fifth entertainer of the year trophy in the last six years during the International Bluegrass Music Association's 37th annual IBMA Bluegrass Music Awards Oct. 22 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Strings first won the IBMA's biggest yearly honor in 2021 and has reclaimed it at every ceremony since, except the 2024 presentation, when **The Del McCoury Band** swiped the award. Strings also shared the music video of the year trophy with guitarist **Bryan Sutton** for the animated, five-minute clip "The Devil Went Down to Deep Gap," a reworking of **The Charlie Daniels Band**'s "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" that replaces the story of fictitious fiddler Johnny with real-life acoustic guitar legend **Doc Watson**. Strings portrays Watson in the video, with McCoury voicing the devil, who plays heavy metal guitar in the midst of the acoustic-based track.

East Nash Grass earned a pair of awards — instrumental group of the year and album of the year, for *All God's Children* — and song of the year went to **Trey Hensley** for "Can't Outrun the Blues," co-written with **Bobby Starnes**.

Sierra Hull claimed her eighth mandolin player of the year honor in a whirlwind of activity. She co-hosted the ceremony with **Sam Bush**, one night after appearing on the ABC TV special *CMA Presents I Will Always Love You: A Celebration of Dolly Parton* in Nashville, where she offered that evening's penultimate performance, a duet with **Brad Paisley** on "When I Get Where I'm Going."

Parton also came up a winner at the bluegrass confab, posthumously receiving collaborative recording of the year with **The Grascals** for "Broken Angels."

The IBMA Awards were part of the World of Bluegrass event, a combination of showcases and a business conference held Oct. 20-24.

Four figures were added to the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame during the awards: instrumentalist **Byron Berline**, Sugar Hill Records co-founder **Barry Poss** and two groups, **The Nashville Bluegrass Band** and **The Lost & Found**.

Go here for more info.

'ROUND THE ROW

• The Dolly Parton Estate installed the late singer's niece, **Danielle Parton**, as brand ambassador, a position intended to further the late singer's legacy. Danielle is a commercial pilot, a military veteran, the founder of the Shine Girl moonshine distillery and a woman working through her own breast cancer journey. She is expected to use her personal stories of determination and resilience to build upon the values inherent in **Dolly**'s tale.

• Songwriter-producer **Jared Conrad** signed a joint venture publishing deal with Sony Music Publishing Nashville and TAYCAN Entertainment, founded by producer **Scott Hendricks** (**Blake Shelton**, **Dan + Shay**) and former Combustion Music senior creative director **Blake Duncan**.

• Warner Chappell Nashville added artist-writer **Elizabeth Nichols** to its roster.

• Texas-based country singer **Dustin de la Garza** enlisted independent Evergreen Artist Group as his booking agency.

• Tulsa established a Jim Halsey Way street sign at the corner of North Main Street and West Easton Street on Oct. 15, recognizing a music industry businessman who played a key role in the careers of **The Oak Ridge Boys**, **Roy Clark**, **Hank Thompson** and **Tammy Wynette**, among others.

• Thirty Tigers co-founder/president **David Macias** authored a new book, *Circulation: How Culture Moves in the Age of Algorithm*, due Jan. 14 via Whitefox Publishing.

• Songwriter **Jimmy Yeary** ("I Drive Your Truck," "Everything's Gonna be Alright") signed with Forefront Books to publish his 288-page book *The Connection Key: How Your Story Can Turn Relationships into Opportunity, Loyalty, and Success* on Jan. 19.

• An all-star lineup of artists — including **Emmylou Harris**, **Grace Potter**, **Margo Price** and **Elvis Costello** — will gather Nov. 11 at The Troubadour in Los Angeles for "A Song for Gram," a tribute concert recognizing the late **Gram Parsons** three days before his induction in the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame. Also appearing are **Jim Lauderdale**, **Jesse Welles** and **The Black Crowes**, with proceeds benefiting Friendly House L.A. and Backline.

• **HARDY**, **Little Big Town** and **The Red Clay Strays** are the first artists announced to appear on the CBS special *New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash*, scheduled for Dec. 31.

• ECCHO Live revealed the topics for its 15th annual free concert-industry workshop, slated for Nov. 10 at Soundcheck at Rock Nashville. Operating under the theme "Evolve," the schedule features 14 panels with more than three dozen speakers who have worked with the likes of **Keith Urban** and **Jason Aldean**. Go here for details.

• **Lauren Alaina**, **Rhett Akins** and **Mae Estes** are among the acts who joined the lineup for Backstage Access Presents: Music City, a Nashville version of the Taste of Napa wine-and-music event. The gathering takes place Nov. 15-18 with the Opry Trust Fund designated as its charitable partner.

• **Lonestar** keyboardist **Dean Sams** revised his *Country Roads USA* show as *Country Roads Christmas* with an 11-member cast celebrating the likes of **Hank Williams**, **Johnny Cash**, **Patsy Cline** and **Alabama** in a holiday production and dinner Nov. 5 — Dec. 19 at the CabaRay showroom in Nashville.

• The Randy Rogers Family Foundation raised $50,000 for the New Braunfels Humane Society with its second annual Pickleball Jam on Oct. 11.

• Services for Nashville entertainment journalist **Jimmy Carter**, who died Oct. 13, have been set for Nov. 5 at the St. Henry Church in Nashville. Go here for details.



MAX STERNLICHT

Kelsea Ballerini launched the Kelsea Ballerini Musicians On Call program Oct. 20 at the Dolly Parton Children's Hospital. With her: Musicians On Call president/CEO Pete Griffin (left) and Parton Children's Hospital chief development & public affairs officer Adam Cook.

billboard

2026

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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West Coast Aki Kaneko | moishekaneko@gmail.com

ISSUE DATE 11/7 | **AD CLOSE** 10/27 | **MATERIALS DUE** 10/29

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)* **54**

ALL MY EXES Lylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/PASSTHEBEAT PUBLISHING, BMI/Only Legneds Music, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/Hoops Don't Lie Publishing, BMI/Modern Arts Songs, BMI/Music By Work Of Art, BMI *(Lauren Alaina, J.A.Gutch, B.J.Johnson, W.Phillips)* **4**

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)* **17**

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BABY BLUES Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Kyle Sturrock Music, ASCAP/Copyright Control *(A.Cooke, J.Clawson, S.W.Ennis, J.A.Fox, K.Sturrock)* **45**

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

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)* **26**

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)* **50**

BLACKTOP BLUES Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs By The Bell, BMI/Worktape Tunes, BMI *(J.Dean, T.Beathard, J.Bell, C.L.Dick)* **59**

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.S.Reeves, N.Kahan, S.Lefty)* **10**

C

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)* **3**

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)* **25**

D

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)* **46**

DONE FOR Max McNown 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.McNown, A.Yaron, Mags Duval)* **48**

DRINK THINGS THROUGH Sad Boy Sad Songs, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Anaesthetic Publishing, SOCAN/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Lawrence Principato Publishing Designee, BMI/Kinetics & One Love, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP *(M.A.Collins, Chad Kroeger, L.M.Principato, J.Dussolliet)* **53**

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)* **37**

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/Matt Roy Publishing, BMI/Hipgnosis Songs Group, BMI *(Corey Kent, A.Goodloe, M.Roy, J.Taylor, L.Vaughan)* **18**

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)* **41**

FORGET WE EVER MET Smack Back Music, BMI/CTM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Relative Rights, ASCAP/Ross & Rae Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Wild Willy Music, ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP *(M.Moore, S.Ahnquist, W.L.Bundy)* **60**

FUN Songs Of Peer, BMI/Murphy Boys Music, ASCAP/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Full Denim Publishing, BMI/Whiskey Bonz Music, BMI/Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI *(C.Janson, D.L.Murphy, J.C.Murphy, Mitch Oglesby, M.W.Wilkes)* **57**

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)* **5**

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)* **39**

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/Rednecker Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI *(B.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, T.Phillips)* **36**

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)* **13**

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/Droptime Music, BMI *(Chase Matthew, E.Escue, A.Maxwell, Presley Aaron, E.C.Mayo, J.Centers)* **24**

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)* **22**

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)* **58**

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.Fishman)* **32**

IF I DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA STAY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crazy Baby Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Turtle Garden Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Mouth Feel Music Publishing, ASCAP *(D.Dawson, S.W.Ennis, J.T.Minton, J.Reynolds)* **35**



CHRIS HOLLO

Vince Gill celebrated 35 years as a Grand Ole Opry member with a bundle of guests during the Oct. 17 edition of the WSM-AM Nashville show. From left: Charlie Worsham; musicians Jack Schneider, Carmella Ramsey and Jedd Hughes; Patty Loveless; Ricky Skaggs; Gill; Amy Grant; vocalist Jenny Gill Van Valkenburg; Keb' Mo'; and musicians John Meador and Jeff White.

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

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)* **8**

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)* **9**

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)* **31**

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.Abend, G.J.Egan, C.Smith)* **38**

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)* **52**

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.Abend, K.S.Clark, C.Wallace)* **21**

LOVE IS BLIND Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crawbaby Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Abundantiam Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI *(I.Munsick, R.Tyndell, J.N.Spillman)* **42**

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)* **1**

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)* **47**

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 Publising, 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)* **23**

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)* **29**

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.F.Jones, V.Mason, S.McAnally, J.J.Dillon, S.T.Johnson)* **49**

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)* **14**

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)* **12**

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.Abend, M.W.Hardy)* **28**

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)* **7**

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**

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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)* **16**



Sony Music Nashville (SMN) and Red Light Management executives showed up in force when Kameron Marlowe opened for Ella Langley during her two-night stand Oct. 13-14 at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles. From left: SMN VP of digital marketing Fred Rubenstein, SMN streaming coordinator Nathan Thomas, SMN VP of A&R Margaret Tomlin, SMN chair/CEO Taylor Lindsey, Marlowe, SMN president/COO Ken Robold, Red Light manager Kaitlin Madewell, SMN head of media Meg Kehoe and SMN director of digital sales Alaina Vehec.

billboard LIVE MUSIC SUMMIT

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On November 7, *Billboard* will publish its highly anticipated **Touring Power issue**, featuring the top executives driving the live entertainment industry.

Coinciding with the issue is the annual Live Music Summit, November 10 at the 1 Hotel West Hollywood.
This event brings together top executives, artists, and innovators from across the live entertainment industry for panels, networking opportunities, a special awards ceremony, and an exclusive pre-party on November 9.

Take this opportunity to reach agents, artists, managers, venues, promoters and event producers, and congratulate this year's Touring Power Players, Artist honorees and Touring Power Executive of the Year.

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CODA

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

30 Years Ago

When Clint Black's 'Like The Rain' Stormed The Top Of Hot Country Songs

Inspired by his wife, the single tied a personal mark for his fastest trip to No. 1

When **Clint Black** reigned atop *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs list dated Oct. 26, 1996, "Like the Rain" became one of his best chart performers.

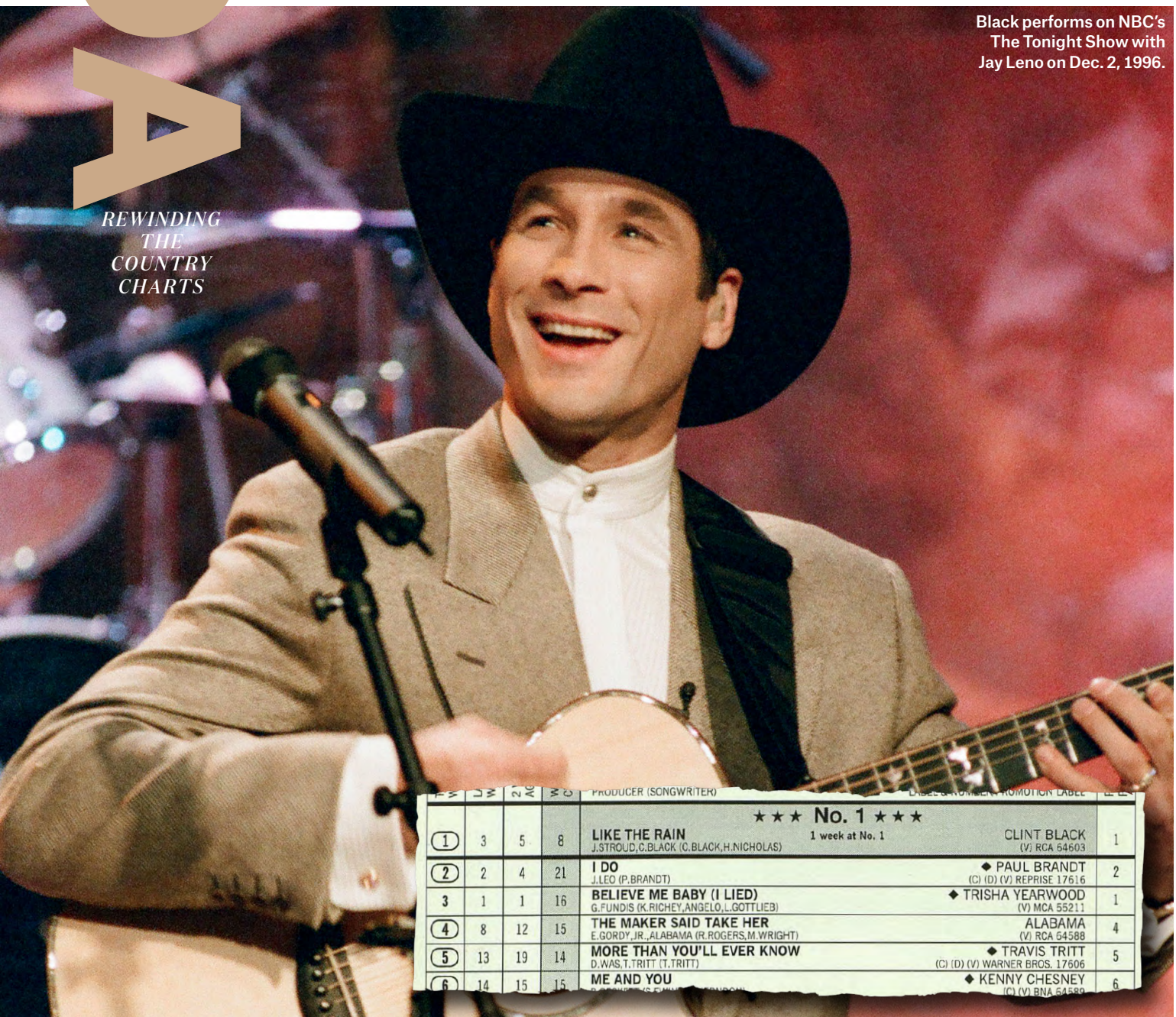
Coming seven years after his first No. 1, "Better Man," "Rain" stayed for three weeks, tying it with 1990 leader "Nobody's Home" and 1995's "Summer's Comin'" as his longest residencies at the summit. It marked the 10th of his 13 No. 1s while serving as the lead single for *The Greatest Hits*, a 16-track collection that debuted at No. 2 on the Top Country Albums ranking dated Oct. 12, 1996.

Black co-wrote "Rain" with his longtime band member, songwriter-guitarist **Hayden Nicholas** ("Killin' Time," "We Tell Ourselves"), while exploring one of the ways in which he differed from his wife, actress **Lisa Hartman Black** (*Knots Landing*, *Tabitha*). During her time in Los Angeles, she missed the change of seasons and got excited when the clouds burst. Clint wasn't a fan of precipitation, but was able to craft a song that treats a downpour as something positive, making it a metaphor for love's ability to use stormy periods as a source of growth.

"Like the Rain" debuted on the chart dated Sept. 7, 1996, rising to the top in a scant eight weeks. It tied 1991's "Loving Blind" for Clint's fastest ride to No. 1.

Hand-written lyrics to "Rain" are among the artifacts on display in the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's exhibit "Clint Black: The Hard Way on Purpose." Launched in April, the presentation remains open through August 2027.

—TOM ROLAND



Black performs on NBC's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on Dec. 2, 1996.

MARGARET NORTON/NBCUNIVERSAL VIA GETTY IMAGES