

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## Big Loud Label At Age 5: HiXTAPES, Hits And Hustle



When coronavirus-related safety protocols end, Big Loud partner **Craig Wiseman** has a major task for CEO **Seth England**.

"If we can ever socialize again," jokes Wiseman, "I'm going to walk in a room and go, 'OK, Seth, take me around and introduce me to the people that we've been feeding for the last three or four months that I have no idea who they are.'"

Don't let Wiseman's wise-cracking fool you — he knows who they've hired and what job they handle, but he also knows that the company is riding an unusually positive expansion at a time when much of the U.S. economy is in COVID-19 contraction.

Aug. 1 marked five years since the official formation of Big Loud Records, and in short order, the company has evolved from a small, DIY outfit to one that lists 26 employees on its website, charged with building careers for a growing roster of acts. The label currently boasts 11 artists, including home-grown talents **Morgan Wallen**, **Chris Lane** and **HARDY**, plus established hitmaker **Jake Owen**, RIAA gold-certified teen **Mason Ramsey** and developing singer-songwriters **ERNEST** and **MacKenzie Porter**.

Particularly telling are developments that occurred in July. Leading up to the anniversary, Big Loud announced a new HiXTAPE lifestyle brand, selling T-shirts and other apparel in conjunction with a burgeoning redneck/blue-collar community that coalesced around **HARDY's** *HiXTAPE* collaborations project. That same month, the partners began

drawing a salary for the first time.

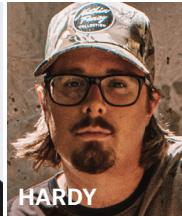
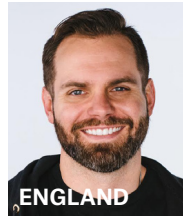
"People want to ask, you know, 'How are you different from other labels?'" says Wiseman. "Well, we're all paying for it out of pocket, as opposed to, 'Let's start a label. First, I'll pay me a \$1 million and then pay my buddies three quarters of \$1 million each.' We didn't really do it like that."

The Big Loud model is a bit backward compared with traditional music business operations. Instead of launching a label first with ancillary divisions surrounding it, Big

Loud established its foundation with Wiseman's publishing firm, which has existed for over a decade. He built strong credentials as a composer ("Live Like You Were Dying," "Hillbilly Bone") on his way to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the company's compatible approach — establish quality music first, then double down on marketing it — paid dividends by magnetizing talent and creating a positive reputation.

"Big Loud cares very much about the song, the caliber of songs that get released on that label," says **HARDY**. "I'm just going to say it: I think they're better than any other label, man. They're not going to let somebody put out a song if it's not right."

Big Loud set that reputation from the outset. The label's first single, Lane's hooky "Fix," reached No. 1 on Country Airplay. Additional chart-toppers followed with Wallen's rebellious "Up Down" (the **HARDY** cowrite features former Big Loud Management client **Florida Georgia Line**), biting "Whiskey



ENGLAND: DELANEY ROYER; HARDY: TANNER GALLAGHER; WISEMAN: AMY ALLMAND PHOTOGRAPHY

taylor swift  
"betty"

On Your Desk Now  
IMPACTING 8/17

folklore  
ALBUM

MCA  
NASHVILLE

republic  
records

Glasses” and melancholy “Chasin’ You,” plus Owen’s nostalgic “I Was Jack (You Were Diane)” and Lane’s inviting “I Don’t Know About You.”

The music, invariably directed by Big Loud partner-producer **Joey Moi** (Florida Georgia Line, **Nickelback**), is the starting place. But it’s the company’s ability to maximize its audio assets through a comparatively small staff that has made it a template for such other publisher/label entities as **Shane McAnally**’s SMACKSongs, **Dallas Davidson**’s Play It Again Music and FGL’s Round Here.

The reputation comes, in part, because even as it grows, Big Loud maintains a DIY mindset.

“In my opinion, good artist managers or artist advisers should be telling artists, ‘When you start to get successful, don’t lose your sense of hustle,’” notes England. “That usually means doing the job of whatever-certain-amount of people with less.”

England embodies that principle. He got Wiseman’s attention when he was an intern — receiving no income and no credit for his work — and he took on the lawn service for the office’s small patch of grass. Wiseman started the publishing company, in part, to watch young writers develop. He’s seeing young artists — and executives — do that in the expanded company.

“Watching Seth reach his potential has been amazing,” says Wiseman. “I mean, he’s [in his] early 30s, he’s running the label, he’s running everything. I got 60-year-old guys [asking] me, ‘Holy crap, where’d you find him?’”

That age is probably an advantage, making England more likely to think outside of the traditional label box. Big Loud partnered with songwriter **Nicolle Galyon** for an all-female imprint, Songs & Daughters, featuring artists **Madison Kozak** and **Hailey Whitters**. A Big Loud Capital wing enabled the company to invest in 19 other firms in a variety of industries. And the *HiXTAPE* effort — led by 2 million Spotify followers for a burgeoning artist’s lifestyle concept — currently pairs HARDY with other acts, including **Keith Urban**, **Devin Dawson** and **Thomas Rhett**. The *HiXTAPE* music is defined as much by what doesn’t work in the collaborative format as by what does.

“You can’t have two guys singing to the same girl; it would just sound weird,” says HARDY. “So it’s definitely party songs and lifestyle: where-you-come-from, small-town, country, kind of anthemic songs.”

It’s likely to expand beyond HARDY before the year is over, creating additional tentacles that will benefit Big Loud and its artists.

“We’d like to continue the music rollout around Christmastime so that the future *HiXTAPES* are not all HARDY songs or HARDY as an artist,” says England. “The next one could be a free-for-all — 12 tracks of anybody around town. We’ll probably use a lot of big artists to help us create songs and anchor a few and invite their other friends.”

That’s why the label has expanded: It has done well by competing at radio, but Big Loud is embracing every possible alley, knowing that successful 21st-century artists emerge through a variety of platforms.

“In the modern environment,” says England, “you’re going to see [that for] A&R-centric record labels, targeted marketing really will probably be the way of the future.” ●



Carrie Underwood was among a bundle of special guests who joined Brad Paisley on his “No I in Beer” video, released July 29.



Caylee Hammack performed during a CMT Next Women of Country livestream event on July 28. Clockwise from upper left: CMT host Cody Alan and senior vp music strategy Leslie Fram, guitarist Lance Herring and Hammack.



Grand Ole Opry members Marty Stuart (left) and Connie Smith were among the guests as retiring WSM-AM Nashville host Eddie Stubbs delivered his final show for the station on July 29.

**ROBERT COUNTS**  
WHAT DO I KNOW  
8/17

ARISTA NASHVILLE

**"WHAT DO I KNOW" ABOUT...**

**STEVE GEOFFERIES (KNIX) HAS A BLUE SIREN IN HIS LIVING ROOM THAT FLASHES WHEN THE ST LOUIS BLUES SCORE A GOAL.**

**DOUG MONTGOMERY (TOWNSQUARE) HAS BEEN PUNCHED BY MILEY CYRUS.**

**CHRISTI BROOKS (KKBQ) HAS SANG WITH VINCE GILL ON-AIR.**

**TIM ROBERTS (WYCD/ENTERCOM) WAS AN EXTRA IN THE MOVIE "BULL DURHAM" WITH KEVIN COSTNER BUT HIS SCENE ORDERING A HOT DOG WAS CUT.**

**“(BROWN) REPRESENTS A NEW AGE DAWNING IN MUSIC CITY” – HITS**

**FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION**

# **KANE BROWN**

**MALE VOCALIST  
OF THE YEAR**

**“AN INDISPENSABLE VOICE IN  
MODERN COUNTRY MUSIC. ...  
MUSIC (THAT) WILL ULTIMATELY  
BRING FOLKS TOGETHER”**

**– BILLBOARD**

**OVER  
6 BILLION  
ON-DEMAND STREAMS**

**MUSICAL EVENT  
OF THE YEAR  
“LAST TIME I SAY SORRY”  
WITH JOHN LEGEND**

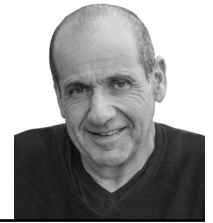
**“...A POWERHOUSE DUO”  
– HITS**

**“JOHN LEGEND AND KANE BROWN  
ARE A MUSICAL FORCE TO BE  
RECKONED WITH”  
– PEOPLE**



ON THE CHARTS JIM ASKER jim.asker@billboard.com

# Janson's Work Is 'Done' With Country Airplay Coronation; Swift, Shelton & Stefani Debut In Hot Country Songs Top 10



**Chris Janson** scores his second No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "Done" (Warner Music Nashville/WAR) ascends 3-1 in its 36th week on the survey dated Aug. 8. The song increased by 9% to 31.7 million audience impressions in the week ending Aug. 2, according to Nielsen Music/MRC Data.

"I'm extremely grateful for this No. 1 song," Janson says of "Done," which he cowrote with **Mitch Oglesby, Jamie Paulin** and **Matt Roy**. "What a huge blessing it's been. All my friends at country radio have always had my back, and that is something for which I am very thankful. 'Done' is my favorite song I've ever written because it's also a true story. Every single part of [it] is true, from the four-plank to the house on the hill. It's all real.

"I'm looking forward to getting back into touring when it's safe to do so and playing this song for my amazing fans," he adds. "A big congratulations also to my co-writers on achieving their first No. 1 song."

"Done" — which was inspired by Janson's wife, **Kelly Lynn** — is the sophomore single from his 2019 album *Real Friends*. Lead single "Good Vibes" became his first Country Airplay No. 1 last October. Janson, who joined the Grand Ole Opry in 2018, made his chart debut in 2010 and scored his first of five top 10s with "Buy Me a Boat," which reached No. 3 in September 2015.



**TAYLOR'S BACK, WITH 'BETTY'** Taylor Swift's "Betty" (Republic/MCA Nashville) debuts at No. 6 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart, which blends airplay, streaming and sales data. The track is from her new album, *Folklore*, which launches at No. 1 on the all-genre *Billboard* 200 with 846,000 equivalent album units, marking Swift's seventh leader.

The single arrives atop Country Streaming Songs with 14.5 million streams in the week ending July 30 and opens at No. 15 on Country Digital Song Sales, having sold 3,000 downloads. It also bows at No. 60 on Country Airplay with 516,000 impressions, and will go for adds at country radio as of Aug. 17.

"Betty" is Swift's 22nd Hot Country Songs top 10, a sum that includes seven No. 1s. It's her first top 10 since "Soon You'll Get Better" (featuring

**The Chicks**) started and peaked at No. 10 last September.

The No. 6 entrance for "Betty" is the highest Hot Country Songs debut since **Luke Combs'** "Beautiful Crazy" began at that position in May 2018 before reigning for 11 weeks starting in March 2019. It's also the highest entry for a woman since **Bebe Rexha** and **Florida Georgia Line's** "Meant to Be" soared in at No. 1 in December 2017 for its first of its record 50 weeks at the summit.

"Betty" marks Swift's 36th Country Airplay entry — a total that includes seven No. 1s among 18 top 10s — and her first appearance since her featured turn on **Sugarland's** "Babe," which reached No. 17 in September 2018. Swift last appeared in the top 10 with "Red," which hit No. 7 in December 2013. The following year, she declared her official segue to pop with the release of her album *1989*.

Will country programmers welcome Swift back into the fold? "Taylor is the biggest star in music and transcends formats," KKBQ Houston program director **Johnny Chiang** tells *Billboard*. "We in country are lucky because at Taylor's core, she's a singer-songwriter and her music has meaning. Isn't that what country is all about? 'Betty' fits perfectly."

**'HAPPY' TOGETHER** Blake Shelton and **Gwen Stefani's** "Happy Anywhere" (Warner Music Nashville/WMN) blasts in at No. 10 on Hot Country Songs. Shelton scores his 33rd top 10, and Stefani adds her second. The pair's "Nobody but You" started at No. 9 last December before peaking at No. 2 in May.

"Happy" sold 27,000 downloads and enters Country Digital Song Sales at No. 1, marking Shelton's seventh leader and Stefani's second, after "Nobody." The new release ranks at No. 25 on Country Airplay with 7.4 million in audience and drew 4.9 million U.S. streams in its first full week.

**'AGAIN' IN TOP 10** Kane Brown achieves his sixth Country Airplay top 10 as "Cool Again" (RCA Nashville) rises 12-10 (20 million, up 10%). His previous five proper singles all hit No. 1. ●

RICH FURY/GETTY IMAGES FOR IHEARTMEDIA

**RUSSELL DICKERSON**

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION  
**NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

**3 CONSECUTIVE #1 SINGLES**  
 YOURS - 2X PLATINUM  
 BLUE TACOMA - PLATINUM  
 EVERY LITTLE THING - PLATINUM

**DEBUT ALBUM 'YOURS' PLATINUM**  
 MORE THAN 1.1 BILLION STREAMS

TRIPLE TIGERS RECORDS

**FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION**

**ENTERTAINER**  
OF THE YEAR

**MALE VOCALIST**  
OF THE YEAR

**ALBUM**  
OF THE YEAR  
*WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET*

**SINGLE**  
OF THE YEAR  
*"BEER NEVER BROKE MY HEART"*

**SONG**  
OF THE YEAR  
*"EVEN THOUGH I'M LEAVING"*

**MUSICAL**  
**EVENT**  
OF THE YEAR  
*"DOES TO ME" (FEAT. ERIC CHURCH)*

**LUKE**  
**COMBS**

**OVER 6.4 BILLION STREAMS**

**FIRST ARTIST EVER TO HAVE  
THEIR FIRST TWO STUDIO ALBUMS SPEND  
25 WEEKS OR MORE AT NO. 1  
ON BILLBOARD'S TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS CHART**

**LARGEST STREAMING WEEK EVER  
FOR A COUNTRY ALBUM**

**NO. 1 ALL-GENRE BILLBOARD 200 DEBUT**

**PLATINUM® CERTIFIED**



RIVERHOUSE  
LIVE

THE CMA  
AWARDS  
COLUMBIA  
TRISTAR

# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	3	36	DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	31.706	+2.664	7316	321	2
2	6	64	ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG Wheelhouse	LOCASH	31.510	+6.416	7602	1430	1
3	5	52	DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury	Maddie & Tae	30.185	+4.170	7273	784	3
4	2	19	ONE MARGARITA Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	29.919	-0.028	6673	-193	4
5	4	23	HARD TO FORGET MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	25.666	-1.039	5929	-496	5
6	8	44	WHY WE DRINK Valory	Justin Moore	23.862	+1.904	5842	501	6
7	1	33	BLUEBIRD Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	23.090	-9.325	4791	-3137	10
8	10	19	I LOVE MY COUNTRY BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	22.449	+1.843	5539	213	7
9	9	18	BE A LIGHT Valory Thomas Rhett Featuring Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin & Keith Urban		22.060	+1.182	5470	75	8
10	12	15	COOL AGAIN RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	20.049	+1.756	4690	281	11
11	11	23	GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	18.990	+0.456	4996	91	9
12	13	8	LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	18.189	+2.466	4237	541	12
13	14	13	I CALLED MAMA McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	15.824	+1.131	3921	114	14
14	15	38	ONE NIGHT STANDARDS Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Ashley McBryde	15.263	+1.091	3947	64	13
15	17	17	GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	15.164	+2.557	3908	552	15
16	16	37	SOME GIRLS Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers	14.254	+0.968	3776	127	16
17	18	17	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	13.178	+1.993	3626	292	17
18	19	57	LONELY IF YOU ARE Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	Chase Rice	11.194	+0.863	3243	66	18
19	21	34	EVERYWHERE BUT ON RECORDS/Arista Nashville	Matt Stell	10.996	+1.577	3241	229	19
20	22	30	PRETTY HEART MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	10.015	+1.206	2886	274	20
21	NEW		I SHOULD PROBABLY GOTO BED Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	9.806	+9.806	1815	1815	27
22	23	26	ONE BEER Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lauren Alaina & Devin Dawson	8.521	+0.613	2532	161	22
23	24	16	NO I IN BEER Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	8.383	+0.517	2478	105	23
24	25	47	SHE'S MINE MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	8.125	+0.415	2610	37	21
25	20	2	HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani	7.422	-2.002	1671	-78	29
26	29	10	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	6.138	+1.078	1639	293	30
27	26	20	AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	5.920	+0.706	2060	112	24
28	31	22	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	5.794	+0.916	1849	207	26
29	27	28	CHEATIN' SONGS Big Machine	Midland	5.506	+0.338	1929	4	25
30	30	15	CHAMPAGNE NIGHT BMLG	Lady A	5.491	+0.504	1806	19	28

## COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

### RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by Nielsen Music. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2020, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on Nielsen Music's platforms.

### BULLETS

● Awarded on Country Airplay to titles gaining audience or remaining flat from the previous week. A song will also receive a bullet if its percentage loss in

audience does not exceed the percentage of monitored station downtime for the format. 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%.

### TIES

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

### 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.

### HOT SHOT DEBUT

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

### MOST ADDED

The total number of new adds officially reported to Billboard by each reporting station, or by an automatic-add threshold (seven plays for the first time in a chart tracking week, according to Nielsen Music) for stations that do not report adds.

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

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

### AIRPOWER

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

### BREAKER

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

# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	32	3	HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	5.263	+1.115	1255	294	35
32	28	23	SOME PEOPLE DO RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	4.925	-0.147	1518	-47	31
33	33	36	BIG, BIG PLANS Big Loud	Chris Lane	4.300	+0.575	1396	66	33
34	34	6	STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG EMI Nashville	Eric Church	3.908	+0.215	1244	37	36
35	36	7	HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	3.261	+0.190	1025	90	38
36	RE-ENTRY		NOW YOU KNOW 32 Bridge/EMI Nashville	Jon Langston	3.258	+0.106	1436	54	32
37	35	24	MOMMA'S HOUSE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	3.193	-0.001	1334	80	34
38	39	16	GOOD TIME RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	2.868	+0.495	820	64	43
39	37	25	SOMEBODY LIKE THAT 19th & Grand	Tenille Arts	2.736	+0.123	1108	38	37
40	40	9	HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2.546	+0.296	944	120	40
41	38	16	GABRIELLE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Brett Eldredge	2.321	-0.103	918	-24	41
42	41	11	ALL NIGHT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	2.060	+0.067	865	28	42
43	42	15	NOBODY Curb	Dylan Scott	2.033	+0.042	981	-22	39
44	45	9	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	1.881	+0.261	724	71	46
45	44	14	LADY BMLG	Brett Young	1.797	+0.126	653	28	49
46	43	18	TO HELL & BACK Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	1.784	+0.048	719	-18	47
47	52	11	JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek	Parmalee x Blanco Brown	1.632	+0.398	743	50	44
48	47	7	HARD DAYS Valory	Brantley Gilbert	1.594	+0.118	632	29	50
49	46	11	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	1.585	+0.066	528	25	52
50	49	5	WE WERE RICH Wheelhouse	Runaway June	1.549	+0.169	725	66	45
51	50	8	THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	1.478	+0.138	558	24	51
52	48	7	THE MAN WHO LOVES YOU THE MOST Home Grown/19th & Grand	Zac Brown Band	1.411	-0.054	502	22	53
53	51	14	THIS IS US RECORDS/Columbia/Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen & Noah Cyrus	1.249	-0.059	671	2	48
54	55	5	THE STRANGER Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Ingrid Andress	0.907	+0.067	323	2	56
55	53	5	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	0.880	-0.059	324	-31	55
56	54	6	EVERY OTHER MEMORY RCA Nashville	Ryan Hurd	0.807	-0.055	256	-12	59
57	56	4	THESE DAYS Big Loud	MacKenzie Porter	0.699	+0.006	225	5	-
58	57	7	WHATCHA DRINKIN' BOUT Rebel Engine	Stephanie Quayle	0.671	+0.090	225	0	-
59	58	2	ALL OF THE BOYS True To The Song/Mailboat/New Revolution	Caroline Jones	0.522	+0.021	398	18	54
60	NEW		BETTY Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	0.516	+0.394	134	119	-



21

**DAN + SHAY**  
I Should Probably Go to Bed

Released July 31, the song arrives at No. 21 on Country Airplay with 9.8 million audience impressions in its first three days, helped by hourly plays on participating iHeartMedia stations in its first day. The duo earns its second-highest start, after its **Justin Bieber** collaboration "10,000 Hours" opened at No. 20 last October before leading for two weeks.

## GOING FOR ADDS

**8/10**

**A THOUSAND HORSES**  
A Song To Remember  
Elektra/Warner/WEA

**CAM**  
Classic  
RCA

**DYLAN GERARD**  
Simple Things  
SSM Nashville

**8/17**

**MATT STILLWELL**  
Something We Can Dance To  
Not Listed

**ROBERT COUNTS**  
What Do I Know  
Arista Nashville

**TAYLOR SWIFT**  
Betty  
Republic/MCA Nashville

**8/24**

**LAINIEY WILSON**  
Things A Man Oughta Know  
Broken Bow



**WILSON**

**MAX SPINS NOW FOR 2 WEEK #1!**

# CHRIS JANSON



**"RICH AND  
FULL OF DEPTH,  
IT STANDS AMONG  
JANSON'S BEST..."**

*RollingStone*

**BB #1 / 31.7 MIL AUD**

**CA MB #2 / +279 SPINS**



108 FIRST WEEK STATIONS

KBEQ  
KBQI  
KCCY  
KCYE  
KCY Y  
KDRK  
KEEY  
KFRG  
KHEY  
KHGE  
KILT  
KIZN  
KJUG  
KKBQ  
KKGO  
KKIX  
KKWF  
KMLE  
KMNB  
KNCI  
KNIX  
KNUC  
KPLM  
KRTY  
KRYS  
KSCS  
KSD  
KSON  
KSOP  
KSSN  
KTEX  
KTOM  
KUBL  
KUZZ  
KVOO  
KWBL  
KWEN  
KWJJ  
KWNR  
KXKT  
KXLY  
KYGO  
MCCN  
WAMZ  
WAVW  
WBEE  
WBUL  
WBWL  
WCKN  
WCOL  
WCOS  
WDAF  
WDRM  
WDRQ  
WDSY  
WDXB  
WEBG

WEZL  
WFUS  
WGAR  
WGGY  
WGH  
WGTY  
WHKO  
WIL  
WIRK  
WJVC  
WKDF  
WKIS  
WKKT  
WKLB  
WKMK  
WKML  
WKSJ  
WKXC  
WLFP  
WLHK  
WMZQ  
WNCY  
WNOE  
WNSH  
WOGI  
WPGB  
WPOC  
WPOR  
WQDR  
WQYK  
WRBT  
WRNS  
WSIX  
WSOC  
WSSL  
WTHT  
WTQR  
WUBE  
WUBL  
WUSJ  
WUSN  
WUSY  
WWGR  
WWKA  
WWQM  
WWYZ  
WXC Y  
WXTU  
WYCD  
WYCT  
WYNK



CA/MB #28 | BB #21

"HEAVENLY MIX OF VOCAL HARMONIES AND SWEEPING STRINGS" *Rolling Stone*

"A TECHNICOLOR ROCKER WITH EPIC PERCUSSION AND POWERHOUSE VOCALS...  
THIS IS A SONG YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO EXPERIENCE" *billboard*



CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE BRAND NEW VIDEO

SIRIUSXM  
THE  
HIGHWAY

# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



MOST ADDED®			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS	
I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	97	
HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Feat. Gwen Stefani	31	
HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	21	
MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	17	
HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	10	
LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	6	
WHERE THAT BEER'S BEEN Mercury	Travis Denning	6	
BROKEN UP Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	6	
ONE BEER Big Loud	HARDY Feat. Lauren Alaina & Devin Dawson	5	
AIN'T BAD FOR A GOOD OL' BOY Curb	Mo Pitney	5	

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)	
I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	+9.806	
ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG Wheelhouse	LOCASH	+6.416	
DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury	Maddie & Tae	+4.170	
DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	+2.664	
GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+2.557	
LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+2.466	
ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	+1.993	
WHY WE DRINK Valory	Justin Moore	+1.904	
I LOVE MY COUNTRY BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	+1.843	
COOL AGAIN RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.756	

MOST INCREASED PLAYS			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN	
I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	+1815	
ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG Wheelhouse	LOCASH	+1430	
DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury	Maddie & Tae	+784	
GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+552	
LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+541	
WHY WE DRINK Valory	Justin Moore	+501	
DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	+321	
HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	+294	
MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+293	
ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	+292	

NEW AND ACTIVE				
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
Y'ALLSOME Black River	Pryor & Lee	0.462	15	1
NEVER HAVE I EVER BMLG	Danielle Bradbery	0.446	19	4
HEARTLESS Mad Decent/Columbia	Diplo & Julia Michaels Feat. Morgan Wallen	0.414	5	0
TALK ABOUT GEORGIA Macon Music/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	0.336	1	0
WHERE I FIND GOD Big Loud	Larry Fleet	0.319	3	2
BROKEN UP Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	0.281	12	6

RECURRENTS				
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)	
1	CHASIN' YOU Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	22.555	
2	NOBODY BUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Duet With Gwen Stefani	18.238	
3	I HOPE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	16.172	
4	DOES TO ME River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs Featuring Eric Church	14.383	
5	THE BONES Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	13.363	
6	AFTER A FEW Mercury	Travis Denning	13.261	
7	BEER CAN'T FIX Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jon Pardi	12.868	
8	ONE MAN BAND RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	10.590	
9	EVEN THOUGH I'M LEAVING River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	10.424	
10	HOMEMADE Big Loud	Jake Owen	10.339	



LOCASH: FORD FAIRCHILD. BAGWELL: FORD FAIRCHILD



## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 2, 2020

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	3	11	SPUR OF THE MOMENT (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★	Kylie Frey	1934	234	11	5	25	FAMILY NAME (Independent)	Cross Rags and Young	1266	-355
2	2	20	RADIO COWBOY (Independent)	Jon Stork	1872	88	12	13	11	POOR (Independent)	William Clark Green	1226	104
3	4	16	NEON TOWN (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	1763	72	13	14	20	NOT GIVE A DAMN (Independent)	Sundance Head	1129	63
4	6	12	AIN'T A TRAIN (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1636	97	14	15	22	COUNTRY'S COMING BACK (Independent)	Josh Grider	1112	69
5	1	15	AS SOON AS YOU (Ten X Music Group)	Bri Bagwell	1629	-334	15	18	6	WHISPER MY NAME (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1060	174
6	10	20	FEELS LIKE COUNTRY MUSIC (Independent)	Jon Wolfe	1605	110	16	22	15	LIKE A COWBOY (Independent)	Parker McCollum	972	153
7	9	17	EVERYDAYERS (Independent)	James Lann	1571	68	17	21	6	MEET IN THE MIDDLE (One Chord Song)	Stoney LaRue & Tanya Tucker	971	125
8	8	12	LITTLE BIT (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1562	42	18	17	24	ALWAYS AND FOREVER (Independent)	Cory Morrow	955	64
9	7	17	LET ME HOLD YOU TONIGHT (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1539	12	19	20	21	JUST FOR THE RECORD (Independent)	Cody Hibbard	918	63
10	12	9	GHOST TOWN (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1333	123	20	24	14	COUNTRY TO THE BONE (Independent)	Darrin Morris Band	910	97

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](http://www.texasregionalradio.com), or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2020, Texas Regional Radio Report

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

# MAREN MORRIS



FEMALE  
VOCALIST  
OF THE YEAR

#1 STREAMING FEMALE  
COUNTRY ARTIST

CMA ALBUM OF THE YEAR  
GIRL HAS REMAINED TOP 10  
FOR 28 OUT OF 32 WEEKS  
IN 2020

“MORRIS REPRESENTS A NEW  
GENERATION OF WOMEN IN COUNTRY  
WHO ARE WORKING TO TRANSCEND  
THE BOUNDARIES OF THEIR  
NASHVILLE ROOTS.”

- TIME



SINGLE  
OF THE YEAR

“THE BONES”

2 WEEK NO. 1 SINGLE ON THE  
COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHARTS

FIRST SOLO FEMALE  
MULTI WEEK NO. 1 SINCE 2012  
WITH THE LONGEST POST PEAK RUN ON THE  
COUNTRY AIRCHECK/MEDIABASE CHART



MUSICAL EVENT  
OF THE YEAR

“THE BONES”  
(WITH HOZIER)



SONG

OF THE YEAR

“THE BONES”

19 WEEKS AT NO. 1 ON THE  
BILLBOARD HOT COUNTRY SONGS CHART  
LONGEST-LEADING NO. 1 BY A SOLO FEMALE  
ON THE HOT COUNTRY SONGS CHART  
(SURPASSING TAYLOR SWIFT)



ANALYSIS GARY TRUST & JIM ASKER

# Five Women Have Topped Country Airplay In 2020... What's The Yearly Average Over The Chart's History?

When **Miranda Lambert's** "Bluebird" flew to the top of Billboard's Country Airplay chart dated Aug. 1, it became the fifth leader on the list by a woman so far in 2020.

The subject of women on country radio has been dissected in recent years, with good reason.

For instance, on the Country Airplay chart dated Dec. 8, 2018, the top 20 lacked any female acts for the first time since the survey launched in January 1990.

Plus, in August 2019, **Maren Morris'** "Girl" ruled the list, marking the first time that a solo female had crowned the chart without any accompanying artists in nearly a year and a half, since **Kelsea Ballerini's** "Legends" in February 2018.

Even female duo **Maddie & Tae** skewered the absence of women on the format's airwaves and hit No. 1 in 2014 with "Girl in a Country Song," singing, "We used to get a little respect, now we're lucky if we even get ... to be the girl in a country song."

This year, however, marks an upturn compared with recent history. Let's recap the Country Airplay No. 1s by women so far in 2020:

Feb. 15, **Morris**, "The Bones" (two weeks)

April 25, **Gabby Barrett**, "I Hope"

May 2, **Blake Shelton** duet with **Gwen Stefani**, "Nobody but You" (two weeks)

June 20, **Lee Brice & Carly Pearce**, "I Hope You're Happy Now"

Aug. 1, **Lambert**, "Bluebird"

2020's five leaders beat all of 2019, when just two women reigned: **Morris**, with "Girl," and **Brantley Gilbert** and **Lindsay Ell**, with "What Happens in a Small Town."

In both 2017 and 2018, women earned three Country Airplay No. 1s. The last time before 2020 that women scored at least as many No. 1s was 2016, when five songs took control by the first chart week in August and eight led overall:

Feb. 13, **Luke Bryan** featuring **Karen Fairchild**, "Home Alone Tonight" (two weeks)

March 5, **Ballerini**, "Dibs"

March 26, **Carrie Underwood**, "Heartbeat"

May 14, **Chris Young & Cassadee Pope**, "Think of You"

July 30, **Underwood**, "Church Bells"

Sept. 24, **Ballerini**, "Peter Pan"

Oct. 1, **Dierks Bentley** featuring **Elle King**, "Different for Girls"

Nov. 5, **Kenny Chesney** featuring **P!nk**, "Setting the World on Fire"

Per the graphic below, women (either as soloists and all-female duos or groups in lead or featured roles) earned 21% of all the Country Airplay No. 1s in

2020 through the chart dated Aug. 1. That's the highest share since 2006, when women claimed 23% of all the leaders. (As of the Aug. 8-dated tally, the percentage dips a point to 20%, still on par with 2016 and 2008 for the best share since 2006.)

Meanwhile, 2020's 21% share of chart-toppers for women through Aug. 1 is slightly ahead of the list's 17% average throughout its history. The format hit a 52% high in 1998, the only year that women outpaced men; among the 13 No. 1s by all-female acts in '98, **Dixie Chicks**, **Faith Hill**, **Jo Dee Messina** and **Shania Twain** led with two each. Plus, from 1996-2001, the percentage for women either met or exceeded 23% every year — a run that, not surprisingly, coincided with the chart heydays of those acts, among others.

Conversely, in three distinct years, women totaled just 6% of all Country Airplay chart rulers: 2003, 2014 and 2019. Thus, 2020's jump marks a stark year-over-year upswing.

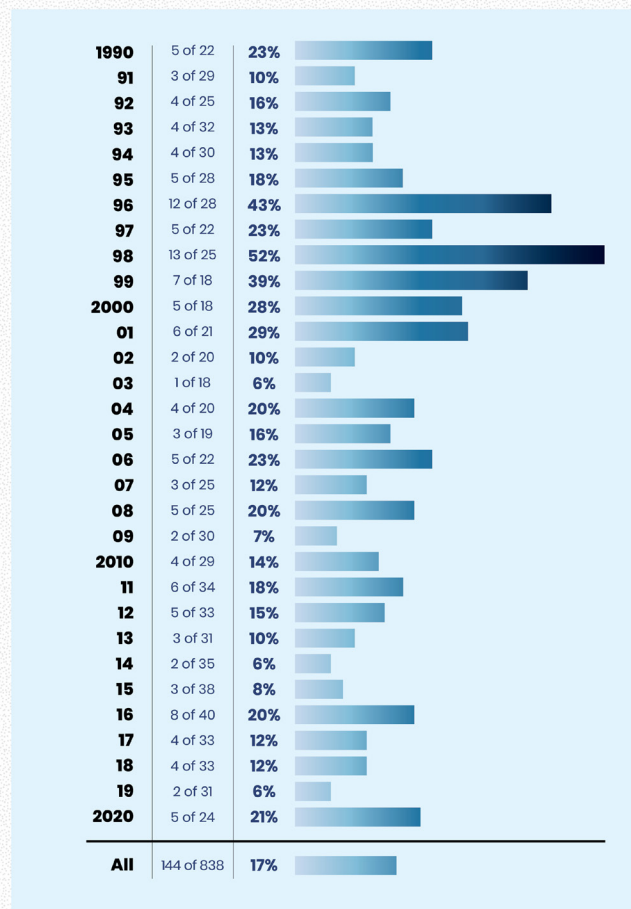
Meanwhile, the current haul of No. 1s for women in 2020 follows a notable recent high on the airplay-, streaming- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart: On the April 18 and 25 tallies, female acts populated the top three (Morris, Barrett and Stefani) for two consecutive weeks for the first time since 2000.

"It's changing. I don't think it's as gloomy as it once was," Morris' manager, **Janet Weir**, told *Billboard* earlier this year. She attributed some of the shift to country radio paying more attention to streaming numbers. "Country has been slower to adapt to streaming than other formats, but streaming has forced

[country] radio to look at the top songs and pay attention. That could be partially why there are more females [succeeding on Country Airplay], because their songs are reacting." ●

## NO. 1s BY WOMEN ON billboard COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART

(SOLO & ALL-FEMALE DUOS/GROUPS)



DATA FROM JAN. 1, 1990, THROUGH AUG. 1, 2020

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

# Old Dominion

**ALBUM**

OF THE YEAR  
**OLD DOMINION**  
LARGEST STREAMING ALBUM DEBUT  
BY A COUNTRY BAND IN 2019

**VOCAL GROUP**

OF THE YEAR  
OVER 2.4 BILLION  
ON-DEMAND  
STREAMS

**“ONE MAN BAND”**

**SINGLE / SONG / VIDEO**

OF THE YEAR  
TOP 50 ALL-GENRE STREAMED SONGS OF 2020

RIAA PLATINUM®  
CERTIFIED

MORE THAN 400 MILLION  
ON-DEMAND STREAMS

8TH CONSECUTIVE NO. 1  
AT COUNTRY RADIO

NO. 1 STREAMED COUNTRY SONG OF 2019 BY A GROUP

**“...AS THEIR CAREER CONTINUES, THEY SEEM TO ONLY  
GET BETTER AND BETTER” - FORBES**



**“2019 HAS TRULY BEEN OLD DOMINION’S YEAR” - BRITISH GQ**



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION



# MIRANDA LAMBERT

“...the most riveting country star of her generation.” – *NPR*

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR | FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

## “BLUEBIRD”

“If ever there were a pitch-perfect country song for this moment, it’s Lambert’s ‘Bluebird.’” – *Rolling Stone*

SONG OF THE YEAR | SINGLE OF THE YEAR | MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

#1 COUNTRY RADIO HIT  
OVER 165 MILLION  
ON-DEMAND STREAMS

#3 BILLBOARD HOT  
COUNTRY SONGS CHART

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

## WILDCARD

THE BIGGEST FEMALE  
COUNTRY ALBUM DEBUT  
OF 2019 & 2020 (YTD)

#1 COUNTRY ALBUM DEBUT

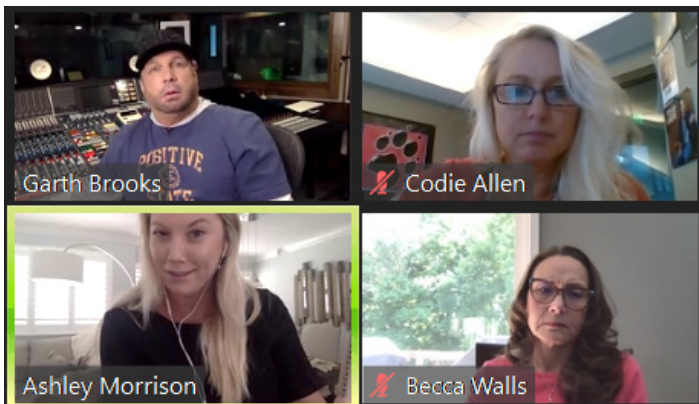
MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

“FOOLED AROUND AND FELL IN LOVE”

(FEAT. MAREN MORRIS, ELLE KING, ASHLEY MCBRYDE,  
TENILLE TOWNES & CAYLEE HAMMACK)



## NASHVILLE &amp; NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Joining Brooks in the July 29 virtual press conference where he asked Country Music Association voters to not consider him for entertainer of the year were (clockwise from upper right) WDAF Kansas City personality Codie Allen, Sun Broadcast Group Nashville correspondent Becca Walls and WWKA Orlando, Fla., music director/morning host Ashley Morrison.

## GARTH BROOKS CREATES VOTING ISSUE

Some Country Music Association voters have a new factor to consider as they mark ballots for the organization's 54th annual awards: Do they vote according to their gut or according to **Garth Brooks**?

Brooks used a July 29 Zoom press conference to ask CMA voters not to include his name among the entertainer of the year nominees, preferring after seven victories to bow out and permit other country acts the opportunity to claim the top prize. The media event took place two days before the start of the second round of balloting, which will close Aug. 10.

Last year, Brooks was stung by criticism from fans who thought that **Carrie Underwood** should have won. A particularly pointed tweet suggested that he simply step aside. He did that in 1996 when he left the American Music Award for favorite artist on the podium, insisting backstage that the honor should have gone to **Hootie & The Blowfish**.

Brooks approached the CMA in 2019 about perhaps being named entertainer emeritus, allowing him to step down from consideration, though that plan conflicted with CMA rules. **Waylon Jennings** and **Willie Nelson** similarly asked in 1977 to be removed from the ballot, but the CMA maintained it could not void the choice of its members.

Thus, Brooks asked that members pick other artists for entertainer. For many voters, the decision will be easy: They will select him, or not select him, based on the merits rather than his wishes. But for others, the request creates a conflict: Does his onstage performance or his offstage perspective weigh more heavily?

Ultimately, the issue may cast an unintentional shadow on 2020's CMAs. If Brooks is a finalist, the membership thought more of his show than his suggestion. If he isn't, some energy will be expended in a debate about who may have snuck onto the ballot in his place.

## RADIO & RECORDS®

Sony Music Nashville promoted **Lauren Thomas** to vp national promotion from director ... Big Machine Label Group promoted **Heather Luke** to GM for its rock label, Big Machine/John Varvatos, from senior vp/head of promotion. Reach her [here](#) ... Indie label AHP added **Nellen Dryden** to its artist roster ... *CMT After MidNite With Cody Alan* airs overnight on the American Forces Network beginning Aug. 4. AFN reaches 400,000 U.S. military personnel and their families at bases around the globe ... **WSM-AM** Nashville added **Megan Alexander** to its morning team and named **Jeff Hoag** to replace newly retired evening personality **Eddie Stubbs**. Alexander adds the radio post to her role as an *Inside Edition* correspondent. Hoag steps into his daypart after serving as Stubbs' fill-in ... **Joe Nichols** launched a new monthly show, *Joe's Place*, on SiriusXM's Y2Kountry channel on Aug. 1 ... **KEEY** Minneapolis-St. Paul director of promotions **Levi Jessen** was named a programming operating specialist for the chain's national programming group, InsideRadio.com reported ... **WWQM** Madison, Wis., PD **Fletcher Keyes** parted ways with the

company, according to InsideRadio.com ... **Dan Manella** joined Stephens Media Group/Kennewick-Pasco, Wash., as GM, RadioInk.com reported. The cluster's signals include country **KIOK**. He was previously a Cherry Creek senior vp based in Montana ... Former **WBAP** Fort Worth, Texas, personality **Bill Mack** died July 31 from COVID-19, *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported. Hailed as the Midnight Cowboy in an overnight show that was particularly popular among truck drivers, Mack doubled as a songwriter, landing hits with **LeAnn Rimes**' "Blue" and **George Strait**'s "Drinking Champagne" ... Recently retired Beasley Media Group vp corporate sales **Bob McCurdy** died July 29 at his home in Connecticut. He spent over 40 years in radio, including a stint as Katz Radio president ... **WAKG** Danville, Va., music director/afternoon host **Alan Rowe** died July 23 following a bout with cancer. He spent over 25 years on-air at the station. A memorial is planned for Aug. 13.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

Management firm The AMG hired two new staff members: marketing strategy specialist **Diana Garcia** and creative director **David Colon**. Garcia, a marketing vet, will continue to operate House of Darlings, a charitable fashion brand she founded in 2015. Colon founded video content firm Motion Poet Productions. Reach Garcia [here](#) and Colon [here](#). The AMG also added pop/R&B singer **Grey Zeigler** to the artist roster ... The Mechanical Licensing Collective welcomed three employees to the Nashville-based firm: head of finance **Monique Benjamin**, head of public relations **Natalie Kilgore** and head of rights management **Maurice Russell**. Benjamin was most recently Warner Music Nashville senior vp finance, Kilgore is a former label publicist who arrives after a stint as Bradford Group account director, and Russell leaves his post as Media Rights Management CEO/founder ... Eclipse Music Group added publishing GM **Penny Gattis**, who spent the previous four years as Round Hill senior director of A&R. Eclipse's seven writers include singer-songwriter **Payton Smith**, **Ronnie Bowman** ("Nobody to Blame") and **Jim McCormick** ("You Don't Know Her Like I Do") ... PLA Media hired publicity and social media assistant **Anna Proctor**. She is currently based in Jacksonville as she completes studies for a bachelor's degree in communications at the University of North Florida. PLA also added singer-songwriter **Tony Stampley** to its roster ... Sony/ATV Nashville renewed its publishing deal with **Jon Pardi** and signed songwriter **Jordan Walker** ("When It Rains It Pours"), formerly with the duo **Walker McGuire** ... Singer-songwriter **Jillian Jacqueline** agreed to a publishing contract with Kobalt ... Nashville-based songwriter-producer **Dave Villa** entered a co-publishing arrangement with Warner Chappell Nashville, Lewis Park Music and Edgehill Music ... **Ashley McBryde** and **SMACKSongs** were double winners during the fifth annual Association of Independent Music Publishers Nashville Awards on July 30 as "One Night Standards" swiped the AIMP Nashville Publisher's Pick. McBryde, who cowrote that song, also snagged artist-writer of the year, while "Standards" co-publisher **SMACKSongs** won publisher of the year. Go [here](#) for the full winners list ... The Country Music Association held its annual CMA EDU Leadership Summit remotely for the first time, with 51 students from 13 schools participating July 27-28 ... WHO KNEW continues its webinar series with Next Draft blogger **Dave Pell** and Middle Tennessee State University College of Media & Entertainment dean **Beverly Keel** on Aug. 4, and with Music Business Association president **Portia Sabin** and mtheory president **Cameo Carlson** on Aug. 6. Go [here](#) for more info ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum has extended its coronavirus-related closure through Aug. 31 ... Services were held July 30 for **John Denny**, who died July 21. He held numerous positions in the music business, including a gig with Cedarwood Music Publishing and a run as owner of his own studio, Denny's Den. Go [here](#) for a complete obit. ●



**Charley Pride** — who sang the national anthem on July 24 for the Texas Rangers' first regular season game in their new ballpark, Arlington's Globe Life Field — received technical assistance from Rangers event services coordinator **Madison LeRoy**.

# BRAD PAISLEY

**REDEFINING ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

**“NO OTHER ARTIST HAS TRIED TO BE AS INNOVATIVE AS BRAD PAISLEY IN 2020” – BRENT MICHAELS (PD-KUZZ)**

**ENTERTAINED MILLIONS ONLINE AND IN PERSON**

**SOLD OUT** - FIRST-EVER LIVE NATION U.S. DRIVE-IN CONCERT SERIES  
LIVE STREAMED NASHVILLE'S DRIVE-IN CONCERT FROM NISSAN STADIUM

ENGAGING ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCES ON SOCIALS

FIRST FULL BAND FULL PRODUCTION LIVE STREAM

CRASHED **VIRTUAL PARTIES WORLDWIDE** FOR  
ESSENTIAL WORKERS, BIRTHDAYS, OFFICE MEETINGS, TEACHERS, NURSES, AND MORE

**ABC'S BRAD PAISLEY THINKS HE'S SPECIAL** (18M+ VIEWERS)

**NUMEROUS TV APPEARANCES**

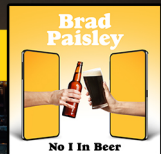


AND MORE

**“No I In Beer”**

QUICKLY BECAME A QUARANTINE ANTHEM &  
INCLUDED OVER **225 FANS** FROM **39 COUNTRIES** IN  
SOCIALLY-DISTANCED APPROVED MUSIC VIDEO

**CLICK TO WATCH**



**FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION**





FOR YOUR **CMA** CONSIDERATION

# MATT STELL

## NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

“...NASHVILLE BREAKTHROUGH ENTERTAINER...  
WITH A CAREER POISED TO SKYROCKET”  
- *AMERICAN SONGWRITER*

“STELL HAS QUICKLY BECOME ONE OF  
COUNTRY MUSIC’S HOTTEST NEW ARTISTS”  
- *COUNTRY NOW*

“**EVERYWHERE BUT ON**”  
2ND TOP 20 SINGLE AT  
COUNTRY RADIO AND CLIMBING

## SONG OF THE YEAR

RIAA PLATINUM® CERTIFIED

## “**PRAYED FOR YOU**”

“PRAYED FOR YOU” IS THE KIND  
[OF MESSAGE] THAT RESONATES WITH PEOPLE  
ON A DEEP LEVEL, PROVING STELL’S GIFT FOR  
POIGNANT SONGWRITING”  
- *TASTE OF COUNTRY*

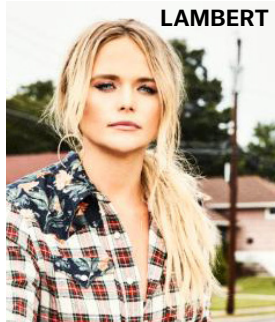
2-WEEK NO. 1 COUNTRY RADIO SINGLE

OVER 205 MILLION  
ON DEMAND  
AUDIO + VIDEO STREAMS

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

Everything old is new again. In the early days of broadcasting, such radio dramas as *The Shadow* and *The Lone Ranger* allowed listeners to hear a story and develop supporting images in their own mind. Podcasts present a similar opportunity, and several Nashville figures — **Miranda Lambert**, **Lindsay Ell**, iHeartMedia host **Bobby Bones** and songwriter **Nicolle Galyon** (“Tequila,” “Automatic”) — will be featured in *Make It Up As We Go*, a scripted podcast about Music City’s songwriting culture. Created by Audio Up founder/CEO **Jared Gutstadt** and actor-songwriter **Scarlett Burke**, the title will debut through iHeartPodcast Networks on Oct. 1.



LAMBERT

The show must go on, so the Volunteer Jam — already delayed by COVID-19 to Feb. 22, 2020 — will still take place, even though the late **Charlie Daniels** is no longer with us. **Alabama**, **Old Crow Medicine Show**, **Junior Brown**, **Ricky Skaggs** and **CeCe Winans** have joined the lineup for a salute to Daniels at Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena. It could go on a while: The event already had 23 acts signed up, including **Big & Rich**, **Gretchen Wilson**, **Travis Denning**, **Mickey Gilley**, **Johnny Lee**, **Charley Pride** and **Chris Janson**.

When **Kenny Chesney** inched into the music business with his first album in 1993, vinyl was already on the wane. Thus, a turntable version of his new album, *Here and Now*, will become his first release in that format when it hits stores on Aug. 21. It’s one of numerous newly announced titles, including: **Jerry Salley**’s *Bridges and Backroads*, released July 31; **Ashley Ray**’s *Pauline*, Aug. 14; **Moe Bandy**’s *A Love Like That*, Aug. 28; **Lauren Alaina**’s *Getting Over Him* EP, Sept. 4; **Reba McEntire**’s reissued *Rumor Has It*, Sept. 11; **Elizabeth Cook**’s *Aftermath*, Sept. 11; **Roy Clark**’s *Greatest Hits*, Sept. 18; **Terri Clark**’s *It’s Christmas... Cheers!*, Sept. 25; and **Suzi Ragsdale**’s *Ghost Town*, Oct. 9.

**Darius Rucker**, who moved his annual Darius & Friends concert to online viewing, performed from the Grand Ole Opry House stage on July 30 with guests **Clint Black** and **Tracy Lawrence**. The event, livestreamed via LiveX-Live, raised over \$255,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and it included Rucker’s debut performance of his forthcoming single, “Beers and Sunshine.” He also teamed with Lawrence on “Time Marches On” and brought in Black for a trio finale on “Wagon Wheel.” Rucker will share the same stage with **Luke Bryan** for the Opry’s Aug. 15 edition. ●

**Top Headlines from billboard.com**  
Click on headlines below for more details

**It’s Official: Music Videos Are Coming To Facebook**

**Oh, Snap: Snapchat Owner Lands Music Licensing Deals To Bring Songs To Posts**

**Is Spotify Pandemic-Proof? Analysis Plus 8 Burning Questions From The Streamer’s Q2 Earnings**

**New Congressional Bill Seeks To Encourage Music Creation Through Tax Code Change**

**American Idol Auditions Are Coming Virtually To Your State**

ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

Aug. 4

- 2007 — **Taylor Swift**’s self-titled debut climbs to No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top Country Albums chart, a position she occupies a total of 24 weeks over the next year.
- 2000 — *Coyote Ugly* debuts in movie theaters, with **LeAnn Rimes** making an appearance. She also contributes four songs to the soundtrack.



SWIFT

Aug. 5

- 2019 — Mayor **David Briley** declares Dolly Parton Day in the city of Nashville.
- 2010 — **Charley Pride** is part of an 18-person investor group headed by **Nolan Ryan** that buys the Texas Rangers baseball team for \$593 million at auction in Fort Worth.

Aug. 6

- 1990 — Capitol releases **Garth Brooks**’ “Friends in Low Places.”

Aug. 7

- 2015 — Capitol releases **Luke Bryan**’s album *Kill the Lights*.
- 1970 — The Armadillo World Headquarters opens in Austin, becoming an unofficial launching pad for the outlaw movement and a developmental home for **Willie Nelson**.

Aug. 8

- 2018 — **Ingrid Andress** writes “More Hearts Than Mine” with **Sam Ellis** and **Derrick Southerland** at Universal Music Publishing in Nashville.
- 1995 — **Shania Twain** takes a step forward in her career as “Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?” becomes her first RIAA-certified gold single.

Aug. 9

- 1960 — **Johnny Horton** records “North to Alaska,” the only song he tackles during a two-hour session at the Bradley Film & Recording Studio in Nashville. It proves to be the final recording of his life.

Aug. 10

- 2005 — **Faith Hill** sings all 14 songs from her album *Fireflies* — including her current single, “Mississippi Girl” — at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium. The performance is filmed for an NBC special, *Faith Hill: Fireflies*, slated for November.

Source: *RolandNote.com*, the Ultimate Country Music Database



Darius Rucker (center) turned his 10th annual Darius & Friends benefit for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital into a virtual event on July 30, closing with guests **Clint Black** (left) and **Tracy Lawrence** on a version of “Wagon Wheel.”

# MORGAN WALLEN

## ON-DEMAND STREAMS (US)

ARTIST ON-DEMAND STREAMS:	OVER 2.2 BILLION
WHISKEY GLASSES:	592 MILLION
CHASIN' YOU:	288 MILLION
HEARTLESS:	373 MILLION
THIS BAR:	57 MILLION
MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN:	74 MILLION
COVER ME UP:	135 MILLION
IF I KNOW ME (ALBUM):	1.8 BILLION

## RADIO

3 CONSECUTIVE #1 RADIO SINGLES ON BOTH BILLBOARD COUNTRY AIRPLAY AND COUNTRY AIRCHECK/MEDIABASE CHARTS

"AN AUTHENTICITY  
FANS CAN FEEL"

**People**

"THIS MAN IS A STAR"

**MUSICROW**

## FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR · MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR  
ALBUM OF THE YEAR | IF I KNOW ME · SONG OF THE YEAR | "CHASIN' YOU"  
SINGLE OF THE YEAR | "CHASIN' YOU"

**BIG LOUD**

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION  
MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

*Jake Owen*

# HOMEMADE

SONG OF THE YEAR  
VIDEO OF THE YEAR



[CLICK TO LISTEN/WATCH](#)

THE AMAZING MUSIC VIDEO FOR HOMEMADE  
BASED ON THE TRUE LOVE STORY OF JAKE'S  
GRANDPARENTS. CLICK HERE TO WATCH JAKE  
BRING HIS GRANDPARENTS' STORY TO LIFE IN THIS  
TOUCHING VIDEO.

**OVER 103 MILLION  
ON-DEMAND STREAMS IN THE US  
8TH CAREER #1 HIT RADIO SINGLE  
CHARTED #5 ON BILLBOARD  
HOT COUNTRY SONGS**

**BIG LOUD**

*AKS*

# billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	1	1	66	<b>I HOPE</b> R. COPPERMAN, Z. KALE (Z. KALE, J. M. NITE, G. BARRETT) <b>★★ No. 1 (3 weeks) ★★</b>	<b>Gabby Barrett</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	RC	1
2	2	2	20	<b>ONE MARGARITA</b> J. STEVENS, J. STEVENS (M. R. CARTER, M. DRAGSTREM, J. THOMPSON)	<b>Luke Bryan</b> ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	4	2
3	6	7	54	<b>DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART</b> <b>★★ Digital Gainer ★★</b> J. M. ROBBINS, D. WELLS (M. MARLOW, T. DYE, J. SINGLETON, D. RUTTAN)	<b>Maddie &amp; Tae</b> MERCURY	3	3
4	4	3	74	<b>THE BONES</b> G. KURSTIN (M. MORRIS, J. M. ROBBINS, L. J. VELTZ)	<b>Maren Morris</b> COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	RC	1
5	5	4	25	<b>HARD TO FORGET</b> Z. CROWELL, L. LAIRD (S. L. HUNT, A. GORLEY, L. LAIRD, S. MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE, A. GRISHAM, M. J. SHURTZ, R. HULL)	<b>Sam Hunt</b> MCA NASHVILLE	5	3
6	NEW	1	1	<b>BETTY</b> <b>★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★</b> A. DESSNER, J. M. ANTONOFF, T. SWIFT (T. SWIFT, W. BOWERY)	<b>Taylor Swift</b> REPUBLIC/MCA NASHVILLE	60	6
7	3	5	35	<b>BLUEBIRD</b> J. JOYCE (M. LAMBERT, L. DICK, N. HEMBY)	<b>Miranda Lambert</b> VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	7	3
8	7	6	50	<b>CHASIN' YOU</b> J. MOI (J. MOORE, M. WALLEN, C. WISEMAN)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> BIG LOUD	RC	2
9	8	8	33	<b>ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG</b> <b>★★ Airplay Gainer ★★</b> 770 PRODUCTIONS (J. FRASURE, A. GORLEY, M. W. HARDY)	<b>LOCASH</b> WHEELHOUSE	2	8
10	NEW	1	1	<b>HAPPY ANYWHERE</b> S. HENDRICKS (R. COPPERMAN, J. OSBORNE, M. JENKINS)	<b>Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMIN	25	10
11	9	10	25	<b>GOT WHAT I GOT</b> M. KNOX (M. TYLER, A. PALMER, T. ARCHER)	<b>Jason Aldean</b> MACON/BROKEN BOW	15	9
12	11	11	23	<b>DONE</b> C. JANSON, T. CECIL (C. JANSON, M. OGLESBY, J. PAULIN, M. ROY)	<b>Chris Janson</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	1	11
13	10	9	19	<b>I LOVE MY COUNTRY</b> C. CROWDER, T. HUBBARD, B. KELLEY (K. BROWN, C. CROWDER, R. C. MCGILL, E. K. SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME, W. WEATHERLY)	<b>Florida Georgia Line</b> BMLG	8	8
14	16	18	12	<b>LOVIN' ON YOU</b> <b>★★ Streaming Gainer ★★</b> S. MOFFATT (L. COMBS, T. ARCHER, R. M. L. FULCHER, J. MCNAIR)	<b>Luke Combs</b> RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	12	14
15	12	12	18	<b>BE A LIGHT</b> D. HUFF (THOMAS RHETT, M. DRAGSTREM, J. MILLER, J. THOMPSON)	<b>Thomas Rhett Featuring Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin &amp; Keith Urban</b> VALORY	9	11
16	15	14	26	<b>WHY WE DRINK</b> J. S. STOVER, S. BORCHETTA (J. MOORE, C. BEATHARD, D. L. MURPHY, J. S. STOVER)	<b>Justin Moore</b> VALORY	6	14
17	14	16	16	<b>ONE OF THEM GIRLS</b> B. GLOVER, K. JACOBS, L. BRICE (A. GORLEY, B. JOHNSON, D. DAVIDSON, L. BRICE)	<b>Lee Brice</b> CURB	17	14
18	17	15	15	<b>COOL AGAIN</b> D. HUFF (K. BROWN, J. HODGES, M. MCGINN, L. RIMES)	<b>Kane Brown</b> RCA NASHVILLE	10	12
19	13	13	22	<b>GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME</b> K. URBAN, D. MCCARROLL (C. AUGUST, M. CARTER, SHY CARTER, J. T. SLATER)	<b>Keith Urban</b> HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	11	13
20	18	17	15	<b>MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN</b> J. MOI (M. W. HARDY, E. K. SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME, M. WALLEN)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> BIG LOUD	26	12
21	20	19	31	<b>ONE NIGHT STANDARDS</b> J. JOYCE (A. MCBRYDE, S. MCANALLY, N. HAYFORD)	<b>Ashley McBryde</b> ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	14	19
22	19	21	31	<b>ONE BEER</b> J. MOI, D. WELLS (M. W. HARDY, H. LINDSEY, J. MITCHELL)	<b>HARDY Featuring Lauren Alaina &amp; Devin Dawson</b> BIG LOUD	22	19
23	21	22	13	<b>PRETTY HEART</b> JON RANDALL (P. MCCOLLUM, R. MONTANA)	<b>Parker McCollum</b> MCA NASHVILLE	20	21
24	22	23	13	<b>I CALLED MAMA</b> T. MCGRAW, B. GALLIMORE (M. GREEN, L. MILLER, J. YEARY)	<b>Tim McGraw</b> MCGRAW/BIG MACHINE	13	22
25	23	25	19	<b>SOME GIRLS</b> C. FARREN, M. J. CONES (M. W. HARDY, J. MITCHELL, C. J. SOLAR)	<b>Jameson Rodgers</b> COMBUSTION/RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	16	23

### COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	#1 2 WKS	<b>HARDY</b>
2		<b>JOSH THOMPSON</b>
3		<b>ASHLEY GORLEY</b>
4		<b>MATT DRAGSTREM</b>
5		<b>JON NITE</b>
TIE	6	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT</b>
TIE	6	<b>WILLIAM BOWERY</b>
TIE	8	<b>GABBY BARRETT</b>
TIE	8	<b>ZACH KALE</b>
10		<b>MORGAN WALLEN</b>



### COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 14 WKS	<b>JOEY MOI</b>
2		<b>JAY JOYCE</b>
3		<b>DANN HUFF</b>
4		<b>GREG KURSTIN</b>
5		<b>770 PRODUCTIONS</b>
6		<b>ROSS COPPERMAN</b>
7		<b>SCOTT HENDRICKS</b>
8		<b>DEREK WELLS</b>
9		<b>ZACH KALE</b>
10		<b>MICHAEL KNOX</b>

The weekly Country Songwriters and Country Producers charts are based on total points accrued by a songwriter and producer, respectively, for each attributed song that appears on the Hot Country Songs chart. As with Billboard's yearly recaps, multiple writers or producers split points for each song equally (and the dividing of points will lead to occasional ties on rankings).

# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

## JASON ALDEAN

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

9

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

## BLANCO BROWN

"THE GIT UP" SINGLE OF THE YEAR

"THE GIT UP" MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

## LINDSAY ELL

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

## KING CALAWAY

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

## RUNAWAY JUNE

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

## LOCASH

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

## ZAC BROWN BAND

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

## JIMMIE ALLEN

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

JIMMIE ALLEN & NOAH CYRUS

"THIS IS US" MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

## PARMALEE

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

## PARMALEE x BLANCO BROWN

"JUST THE WAY" MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR



“His music never fails to feel genuinely part of country music’s rich and storied tradition.” – *Dallas Observer*



# JASON ALDEAN

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

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**Entertainer of the Year**  
**Male Vocalist of the Year**  
**Album of the Year ‘9’**

# billboard Hot Country Songs

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	24	24	33	LOVELY IF YOU ARE <small>C. DESTEFANO, C. RICE (C. RICE, L. RIMES, H. PHELPS)</small>	Chase Rice <small>DACK JANIELS/BROKEN BOW</small>	18	23
27	26	26	18	EVERYWHERE BUT ON <small>A. BOWERS, M. STELL (M. STELL, P. SIKES, L. MILLER)</small>	Matt Stell <small>RECORDS/ARISTA NASHVILLE</small>	19	26
28	27	27	14	AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY <small>B. BUTLER, R. GORE, J. PARDI (B. KINNEY, J. THOMPSON)</small>	Jon Pardi <small>CAPITOL NASHVILLE</small>	27	27
29	30	28	19	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO <small>D. HUFF, C. BROWN, R. DICKERSON (R. DICKERSON, C. BROWN, P. WELLING)</small>	Russell Dickerson <small>TRIPLE TIGERS</small>	28	28
30	29	29	20	SHE'S MINE <small>K. MOORE (K. MOORE, D. COUCH, S. STEPAKOFF)</small>	Kip Moore <small>MCA NASHVILLE</small>	24	29
31	31	30	9	GOOD TIME <small>N. MOON, J. MURTY (N. MOON, J. MINTON, A. MOON, J. MURTY, M. TRUSSELL)</small>	Niko Moon <small>RCA NASHVILLE</small>	38	30
32	32	34	16	CHAMPAGNE NIGHT <small>S. MCANALLY, A. DEROBERTS (D. HAYWOOD, C. KELLEY, H. SCOTT, P. CONROY, E. R. DEAN, A. DEROBERTS, T. A. GEMZA, S. MCANALLY, M. R. MERLO, R. B. TEDDER, D. THOMSON)</small>	Lady A <small>BMLG</small>	30	27
33	34	33	11	ALMOST MAYBES <small>P. DIGIOVANNI (J. DAVIS, J. FRASURE, H. LINDSEY)</small>	Jordan Davis <small>MCA NASHVILLE</small>	44	32
34	35	48	6	THE GOOD ONES <small>R. COPPERMAN, Z. KALE (G. BARRETT, E. LANDIS, J. MCCORMICK, Z. KALE)</small>	Gabby Barrett <small>WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR</small>	51	34
35	41	38	12	NO I IN BEER <small>L. WOOTEN, D. HUFF (B. PAISLEY, K. LOVELACE)</small>	Brad Paisley <small>ARISTA NASHVILLE</small>	23	35
36	36	36	19	THE OTHER GIRL <small>R. COPPERMAN, S. MCANALLY, K. BALLERINI (K. BALLERINI, S. MCANALLY, R. COPPERMAN, A. FRANGIPANE)</small>	Kelsea Ballerini x Halsey <small>BLACK RIVER</small>	RC	19
37	40	40	25	GETTING GOOD <small>D. GARCIA (E. L. WEISBAND)</small>	Lauren Alaina <small>19/MERCURY</small>	RC	33
38	38	35	13	LADY <small>D. HUFF (B. YOUNG, R. COPPERMAN, J. M. NITE)</small>	Brett Young <small>BMLG</small>	45	22
39	39	46	7	HOLE IN THE BOTTLE <small>J. FRASURE, K. BALLERINI (K. BALLERINI, S. JONES, H. LINDSEY, J. FRASURE, A. GORLEY)</small>	Kelsea Ballerini <small>BLACK RIVER</small>	40	33
40	37	42	6	STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG <small>J. JOYCE (D. NAISH, JEFFREY STEELE)</small>	Eric Church <small>EMI NASHVILLE</small>	34	23
41	42	43	19	SOME PEOPLE DO <small>S. MCANALLY (M. RAMSEY, J. FRASURE, S. MCANALLY, THOMAS RHETT)</small>	Old Dominion <small>RCA NASHVILLE</small>	32	38
42	44	39	24	JUST THE WAY <small>D. FANNING (M. THOMAS, K. BARD, N. W. SIPE)</small>	Parmalee x Blanco Brown <small>STONE CREEK</small>	47	31
43	45	45	3	WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER <small>G. BROOKS (S. DAVIS)</small>	Garth Brooks <small>PEARL</small>	-	43
44	43	41	13	SIX FEET APART <small>C. MATTHEWS, L. COMBS (L. COMBS, B. COBB, R. SNYDER)</small>	Luke Combs <small>RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE</small>	RC	10
45	46	44	12	MOMMA'S HOUSE <small>Z. CROWELL (D. SCHNEIDER, M. LOTTEN, R. CLAWSON, J. T. WILSON)</small>	Dustin Lynch <small>BROKEN BOW</small>	37	44
46	48	49	9	CHEATIN' SONGS <small>D. HUFF, S. MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE (J. CARSON, C. DUDDY, M. WYSTRACH, S. MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE)</small>	Midland <small>BIG MACHINE</small>	29	45
47	NEW		1	TALKIN' TENNESSEE <small>J. MOI (J. HYDE, M. WALLEN, C. WISEMAN)</small>	Morgan Wallen <small>BIG LOUD</small>	-	47
48	RE-ENTRY		9	TO HELL & BACK <small>BUSBEE, M. MORRIS (M. MORRIS, J. J. DILLON, L. J. VELTZ)</small>	Maren Morris <small>COLUMBIA NASHVILLE</small>	46	44
49	RE-ENTRY		2	HAPPY DOES <small>B. CANNON, K. CHESNEY (B. CLAWSON, J. PAULIN, B. BERRYHILL, G. JAMES)</small>	Kenny Chesney <small>BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA</small>	31	47
50	NEW		1	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED <small>D. SMYERS (D. SMYERS, S. MOONEY, S. M. DOUGLAS, J. G. EVIGAN)</small>	Dan + Shay <small>WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR</small>	21	50

The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Nielsen Music, sales data as compiled by Nielsen Music and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Nielsen Music. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

## COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

	WEEKLY UNIT COUNT		
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND
This Week	1,218,000	1,336,858,000	118,593,000
Last Week	1,290,000	1,361,170,000	118,207,000
Change	-5.6%	-1.8%	0.3%
This Week Last Year	1,076,000	1,114,090,000	280,530,000
Change	13.2%	20.0%	-57.7%

	YEAR-TO-DATE		
	2019	2020	CHANGE
Album Consumption	31,333,000	35,054,000	11.9%
Album Sales	5,826,000	4,972,000	-14.7%
Audio On-Demand	31,089,421,000	37,746,486,000	21.4%
Video On-Demand	8,024,768,000	4,154,505,000	-48.2%

YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
<b>ALBUM CONSUMPTION</b>	
'19	31.33 million
'20	35.05 million
<b>TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS</b>	
'19	39.11 billion
'20	41.90 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending July 30, 2020. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Album consumption units — also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA — consists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equal one consumption unit; and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/or 3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit. Nielsen Music/MRC Data has reprocessed year-to-date figures to account for a change in methodology, resulting in a restatement in streaming data from a provider, which has resulted in a shift in some previously reported data, most notably for video streams.

For inquiries about any Nielsen Music data, please contact Josh Bennett at 615-807-1338 or [josh.bennett@nielsen.com](mailto:josh.bennett@nielsen.com)







FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION  
**MICKEY GUYTON**  
**NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

**“To Be Young, Gifted, Black & Female: Mickey Guyton’s Country Truth” – Pollstar**

**“Is country music finally ready for Mickey Guyton?” – Los Angeles Times**

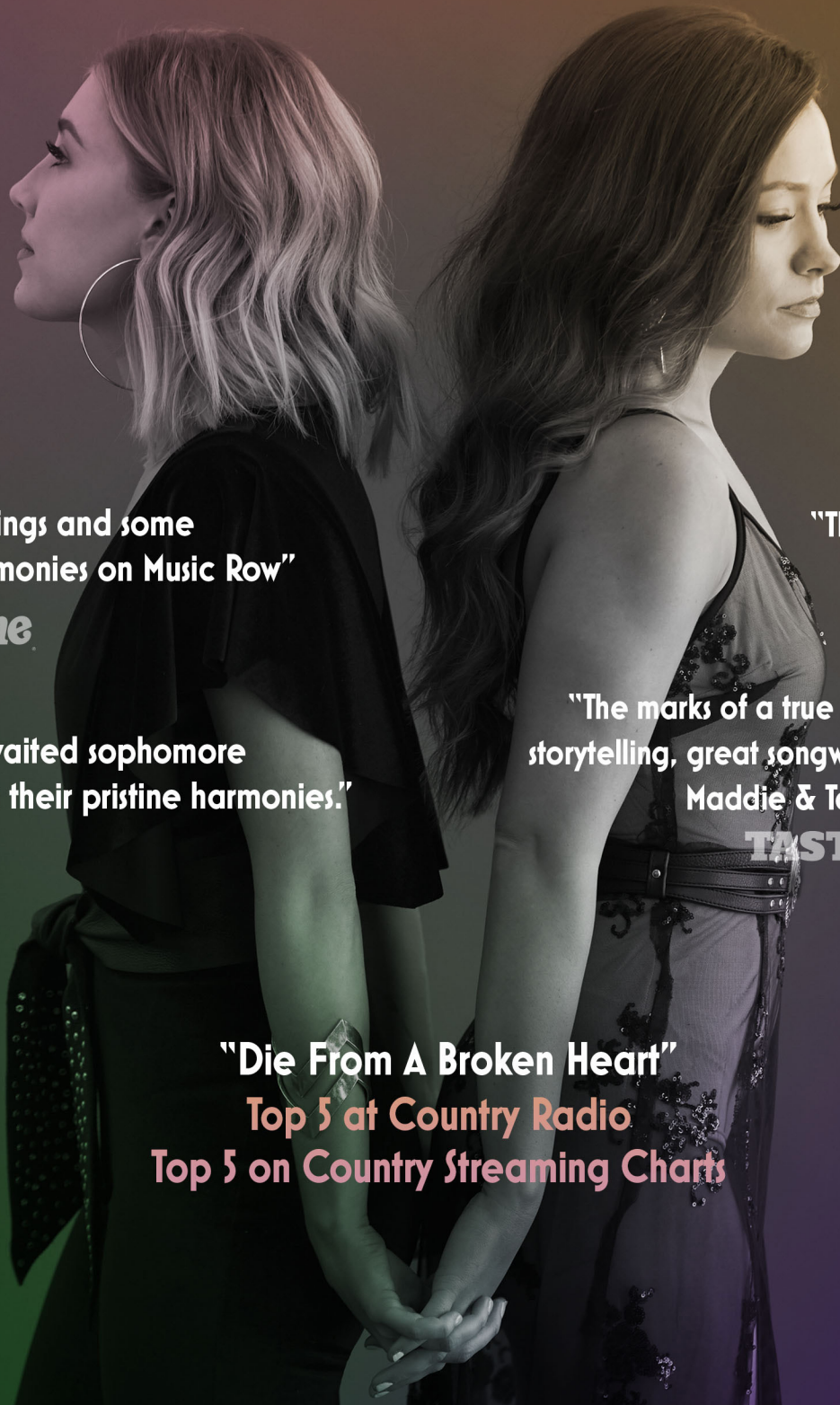
**“a remarkable singer and writer who deserves to be a full-on superstar.” – NPR**



Moir Borman Entertainment

# MADDIE & TAE

FOR YOUR CMA AWARD CONSIDERATION  
VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR  
SONG OF THE YEAR – "DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART"



"Stellar vocal pairings and some of the tightest harmonies on Music Row"

*Rolling Stone*

"The duo's long awaited sophomore album is filled with their pristine harmonies."

**SOUNDS**  
LIKE NASHVILLE

"Their finest moment yet"

*Esquire*

"The marks of a true country artist are great storytelling, great songwriting and killer vocals. Maddie & Tae are a triple threat."

**TASTE OF COUNTRY**

"Die From A Broken Heart"  
Top 5 at Country Radio  
Top 5 on Country Streaming Charts

billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

Table with 7 columns: This Week, Last Week, 2 Weeks Ago, Weeks on Chart, Artist, Title, Cert., Peak Pos. Lists top country albums including 'Gaslighter' by The Chicks and 'Fully Loaded: God's Country' by Blake Shelton.

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by Nielsen Music, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums).

billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

Table with 7 columns: This Week, Last Week, Weeks on Chart, Title, Artist. Lists top streaming country songs including 'Betty' by Taylor Swift and 'I Hope' by Gabby Barrett.

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by Nielsen Music. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.biz/charts.

billboard COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

Table with 7 columns: This Week, Last Week, Weeks on Chart, Title, Artist. Lists top digital country song sales including 'Happy Anywhere' by Blake Shelton and 'I Hope' by Gabby Barrett.

billboard AMERICANA/FOLK ALBUMS

Table with 7 columns: This Week, Last Week, 2 Weeks Ago, Weeks on Chart, Artist, Title, Cert., Peak Pos. Lists top Americana/folk albums including 'Gaslighter' by The Chicks and 'Life on the Flip Side' by Jimmy Buffett.

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by Nielsen Music, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums).

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

Table with 7 columns: This Week, Last Week, 2 Weeks Ago, Weeks on Chart, Artist, Title, Cert., Peak Pos. Lists top bluegrass albums including 'Home' by Billy Strings and 'Spider Tales' by Jake Blount.

Bluegrass Albums ranks the most popular bluegrass albums of the week, as compiled by Nielsen Music, based on album sales. Copyright 2020, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

MAKIN' TRACKS TOM ROLAND [tom.roland@billboard.com](mailto:tom.roland@billboard.com)

# Danielle Bradbery Displays New Artistic Maturity In 'Never Have I Ever'

When **LeAnn Rimes** came to national attention at age 13, she embarked on a wildly successful streak, selling millions of albums loaded with songs featuring adult viewpoints, even though she was too young to vote.

Rimes arguably found her adult voice at age 22 with *This Woman*, an album produced by **Dann Huff** (**Keith Urban**, **Brantley Gilbert**) that lobbed three singles into country radio's top five, a level she has not attained since.

With "Never Have I Ever," **Danielle Bradbery** looks to flip the script on that precedent. She similarly entered the national spotlight as a teen, winning NBC's *The Voice* at age 16 in 2013. Her run over the next few years was nothing like Rimes' — Bradbery's debut single, "The Heart of Dixie" (No. 12, Country Airplay), is her only top 30 hit so far — though similar to Rimes, she has found her adult voice at age 24 with the Huff-produced "Never Have I Ever." But Bradbery's best commercial period is perhaps ahead of her, ready to occur now that her music matches her life experience.

"A couple of years ago," she concedes, "if I were to try and write a song like this, I don't think it would be just right."

Bradbery was ready for a change when she penned "Never Have I Ever" on June 26, 2018, with songwriter **Laura Veltz** ("Speechless," "The Bones") at the home studio of former **Evanescence** keyboardist **David Hodges** ("Because of You," "Miss Me More"). Veltz arrived first and gave Hodges, who had not worked with Bradbery before, a little insight.

"Laura was just saying she was kind of moving in a new direction, trying new things out," recalls Hodges, "so [we didn't] feel obliged to make it on acoustic guitar, didn't feel obliged for it to be anything at all."

Bradbery had gone through a difficult breakup, and when she arrived, they talked about the negative impact it had had on her life. It evolved into a discussion of what a positive relationship might look like, and Bradbery grew animated about the possibilities. Her hopes were a song in the making, and Veltz had a title, "Never Have I Ever," that they thought could be adapted to convey the eye-opening kind of love Bradbery desired.

"Obviously, 'Never Have I Ever' is this sexual game that you play with your friends when you're drinking and you're admitting things, but this was like taking that and turning it on its head and saying, 'Never have I ever felt this way,'" explains Veltz. "I thought that was a pretty dope direction 'cause I love titles that have sort of a misleading energy to them. You think it's going one way, and it's going to go the other."

Unbound by guitar, Hodges used piano to create a musical base that featured just as many minor chords as major triads.

"Producer-writers, I think, are often looking for a way to build a foundation that's just weirder than what you would normally hear, but not so weird that it confines your options for melodies," says Hodges. "I grew up listening to **Sting** a lot, and I think he is the master of using weird time signatures and weird chord progressions and making the melodies on top of it feel natural."

They accomplished that in the second line of the verse by creating a bittersweet melodic arc that employed an ascendant, Asiatic pentatonic scale. It's a particularly enticing passage, though it appears only three times in the entire song, teasing the listener in the process.

"That's the magic math problem for songwriters," observes Veltz. "Where do you hit it and quit it? It's that internal clock: What is too much, what is too little, and then what's that little sweet spot in the middle?"

Similarly, the title only appears once in the chorus, at the very end. But it does get teased at the start of each verse: "Never have I ever been in love," "Never have I ever felt my heart" and "Never have I ever lost my mind."

"If it's not going to be the thing you first hear and last hear in a chorus, then you're going to have to make sure it's repeated enough times so it's obvious what the title is," explains Veltz.

While most of the song uses ascending melodies and linear passages, they applied a cascading motif to the bridge, ending it with one additional reference to the title. Hodges girded that section with synthesizer arpeggios akin to **Eurythmics'** "Sweet Dreams" or **Yaz** for the demo, which leaned R&B.

Roughly a year later, a photo on Instagram caught Bradbery's eye, and she contacted the guy who was in the picture. When she asked him if he had ever been to Nashville, his response was ironic: "Never have I ever." It was the start of a relationship that matched all the positives she had hoped for when they wrote the song he unknowingly quoted.

"I'm basically singing to y'all exactly what I felt meeting my boyfriend for the first time," she says.

As a result, Bradbery had some experience with the emotion of "Never Have I Ever" when Huff convened a tracking session at the Castle in suburban Franklin, Tenn. Before it started, he received a call from Big Machine Label Group (BMLG) president/CEO **Scott Borchetta**, who had met with Bradbery for breakfast that morning and sensed that she



BRADBERY

had advanced as an artist.

"That's not a normal thing for him to call me before sessions," recalls Huff. "He said, 'I'm really going after [this song],' which is exciting to hear, to put that kind of premium on what you're doing."

Huff assembled a group of musicians to reinterpret the demo with more traditional instruments in a way that was more suitable for country, and Bradbery engaged with the players more comfortably than she had in previous sessions.

At a later date, Bradbery spent a couple days on vocals at Huff's home studio, where they heightened the bridge on "Never Have I Ever." Huff coaxed her to find a soaring note that dramatized the production, showed off her tone and used the title to provide a smooth transition to the song's conclusion. Her performance matched the song's message in a way that felt like a new plateau.

"When you're singing about love or heartbreak, until you've really experienced that, how do you emotionally connect the dots?" asks Huff rhetorically. "I've definitely heard that transition. And you can see it when she talks to you: She's an adult."

BMLG Records released "Never Have I Ever" to country radio via PlayMPE on June 16, and it's listed as New & Active (see page 7). It represents Bradbery at her most vulnerable and most accomplished thus far, a more convincing version of the singer at age 24 than the teen model.

"I was a baby," she says, comparing the two eras. "I am getting the hang of things now." ●



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#8 BILLBOARD HOT COUNTRY SONGS YEAR-END CHART - 2019

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ABC NEWS RADIO







# CAM

## CLASSIC

“Indescribably zesty. This fizzes like just-opened champagne. Her bright vocal is matched by a bubbling, shuffling beat that is just deliriously fun.”

- ROBERT OERMANN/MusicRow

# IMPACTING MONDAY 8/10





FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

10 COUNTRY ARTISTS TO WATCH IN 2020

Paste

PLAYLISTED ON



TODAY'S COUNTRY SPEAKIN' EASY



NEW BOOTS INDIGO



FRESH FOLK & AMERICANA BRUSHLAND



NEW COUNTRY NOW BACKROADS

ARTIST TO WATCH 2020

amazon music

"CAITLYN SMITH SHINES BRIGHT ON SECOND ALBUM *SUPERNOVA*"

American Songwriter  
the craft of music

FEATURED IN



Chicago Tribune



LADYGUNN



Esquire

REIMAGINED EP & SHORT FILM

APPLE MUSIC

# CAITLYN SMITH

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

# TEDDY ROBB

HEAVEN ON DIRT

TOP 5 MOST ADDED



"THIS SONG SPEAKS TO A GENUINE PLACE IN EVERYONE'S HEARTS ABOUT HOME. NO MATTER WHERE YOU'RE FROM, IN YOUR HEART, IT WAS HEAVEN ON DIRT."

CARLETTA BLAKE | WGAR, CLEVELAND

MONUMENT

# COUNTRY

## 40 Years Ago Mickey Gilley Made His 'Stand' At No. 1

In 1980, his cover of the Ben E. King classic topped Hot Country Songs

On Aug. 9, 1980, **Mickey Gilley's** "Stand by Me" hit No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. **Ben E. King**, who penned the song with the famed songwriting team of **Jerry Leiber** and **Mike Stoller**, originally sent his version to No. 4 on the all-genre *Billboard* Hot 100 in June 1961. Released from the soundtrack to the 1980 country music-themed movie *Urban Cowboy*, starring **John Travolta**, "Stand by Me" became the ninth of Gilley's 17 Hot Country Songs No. 1s among 34 top 10s that he posted in 1974-86.

Gilley, now 84, had a brief part as himself in the film. His name-

sake nightclub in Pasadena, Texas — with its famed mechanical bull — helped inspire the movie, which sparked a nationwide craze of bull riding and line dancing. Gilley learned his honky-tonk style of piano playing while growing up with his cousins **Jerry Lee Lewis** and **Jimmy Swaggart**.

On Jan. 3, 2018, Gilley suffered minor injuries when he and his son **Michael** were involved in an auto accident. Afterward, the singer recorded public service announcements for the Tennessee Highway Safety Office promoting seat belt use.

—JIM ASKER

Gilley in Chicago in 1980.

REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS

Rank	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Peak	Last	Weeks at Peak
★ 2	11	<b>STAND BY ME</b> —Mickey Gilley (J. Leiber, M. Stoller, B.E. King), Asylum 46640 (Rightsong/Trio/ADT, BMI)	★ 35	46	2
★ 3	11	<b>TENNESSEE RIVER</b> —Alabama (R. Owens), RCA 12018 (Buzzerb, BMI)	36	36	8
★ 5	8	<b>DRIVIN' MY LIFE AWAY</b> —Eddie Rabbitt (E. Rabbitt, D. Malloy, E. Stevens), Elektra 46656 (DebDave/Briarpatch, BMI)	★ 37	42	6
★ 6	8	<b>COWBOYS AND CLOWNS/MISERY LOVES COMPANY</b> —Ronnie Milsap (S. Dorff, G. Harju, L. Herbstritt, S. Garrett, J. Reed), RCA 12006 (Lowery, BMI)	★ 38	43	7
5	1	<b>DANCIN' COWBOYS</b> —Bellamy Brothers (D. Bellamy), Warner/Curb 49241 (Famous/Bellamy Bros., ASCAP)	39	39	7
10	7	<b>... (partially obscured)</b>	★ 40	45	6