

# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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## John Mayer Is In The Blood Of Country's Creative Community



The circle remains unbroken, but it still makes room for squares. Country music is forever incorporating outside influences into the genre, and of late, there's likely no outsider who's more present in the idiom's creative inner circle than **John Mayer**.

It's not as if a fan would randomly turn on a country radio station and believe that Music Row's body of work is a wonderland of Mayer knockoffs. But nearly two decades after the 2001 release of his debut album, *Room for Squares*, Mayer's melodic sensibility, his affinity for ever-changing styles, his lyrical twists and even some of his former sidemen have provided a template for a bundle of country's singer-songwriters.

"Half of the writes I go into, you know, we reference him," notes **Adam Hambrick**. "It's like, 'Man, that guitar thing you just played was kind of John Mayer-y — give me a little more of that.' That's just kind of what happens."

It's all part of the cycle in the ever-present tug of war between traditional country music and pop influence. The genre tends to imitate outside sources roughly 15 years after artists or trends reach their commercial peaks. It's why such pioneering rock-era acts as **Chuck Berry** and **The Big Bopper** were covered regularly in the late '60s and early '70s, why such mid-'70s arena-rock acts as **KISS** and **Queen** influenced the '90s stage presentation of **Garth Brooks**, why **Guns N' Roses** medleys found their way into **Jason Aldean** shows around 2005-2007 and why hip-hop phrasing became a significant

part of country songwriting in the last decade.

"It's like that generation who heard **The Beatles** or **Bruce Springsteen**," says new Sony Music Nashville artist **Joey Hendricks**, whose July 24 signing announcement acknowledged his creative debt to Mayer. "It's just the modern version of that generational thing. Somebody created

*Continuum*, and of course that's going to influence a lot of people."

The most visible signs are in mentions and collaborations. Mayer made perhaps his first connection to the genre in a 2004 *CMT Crossroads* episode with fellow singer-songwriter-guitarist **Brad Paisley**. Mayer later cut

"Half of My Heart" with then-country-based artist **Taylor Swift** for his 2009 album *Battle Studies*, swapped songs and guitar licks with **Keith Urban** in a 2010 installment of *CMT Crossroads*, covered **Dwight Yoakam**'s "Ain't That Lonely Yet" during a Country Music Hall of Fame benefit concert and brought out **Chris Stapleton** during a 2019 Nashville concert to play a song they had written the previous day. Along the way, **Luke Combs**' "One Number Away" gave Mayer a lyrical shoutout in 2017.

Additionally, several of Mayer's former collaborators have become significant contributors to the current Nashville sound. Multi-instrumentalist **Clay Cook** — who cowrote Mayer's first pop hit, 2002's "No Such Thing" — became a member of **Zac Brown Band**. Drummer **Nir Z** and bassist **Dave LaBruyere**, two of the musicians on "No Such Thing," have subsequently played on hits by **Tyler Farr**, **Blake Shelton**, **Josh Turner** and



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**Dan + Shay.** And drummer **Aaron Sterling**, who has played on three Mayer albums in the last decade, has provided studio assistance to hits by **Maren Morris, Dierks Bentley** and **Runaway June.**

“When you take up more of a 10,000-foot view of John Mayer, you realize that every faction of him has influenced all creators in some way, especially in Nashville,” says **Brothers Osborne** guitarist **John Osborne.** “In Nashville, we’re very musician-centric. We love the musician. And he is one of the best guitar players that has ever lived and continues to evolve and continues to push himself. He inspires all of us.”

That evolutionary aspect of Mayer’s career is particularly appreciated. From pop singer-songwriter to blue-eyed soul act to blues guitarist to **Grateful Dead** collaborator, he has repeatedly let different facets of his creative character shine while maintaining his central identity. Even supporters who were disappointed by such changes have often grown along with him.

“That’s the true artist side of it, you know — being able to grow with them,” observes **Jordan Davis.** “Like *Room for Squares* was such a big album for me that when you start seeing him dip into the trio and start doing kind of more of a bluesy rock thing and not as much lyric-driven, more guitar-heavy [music], I was just like, ‘Man, I really hope he goes back to that.’ But now, I’ve come to love even the trio. That growth is great.”

Mayer provided a more specific level of influence on **Lindsay Ell**’s debut LP, *The Project.* She cites *Continuum* as her favorite album, so producer **Kristian Bush** challenged her to rerecord that release in its entirety. In the process, she discovered an appreciation for the space and minimalism in Mayer’s work.

“It wasn’t until I really re-created my favorite record that I actually realized what was on it,” she says. “There doesn’t need to be a lot going on, but everything going on means a lot. It’s like a **B.B. King** solo: There’s not too many notes, but the notes that are there mean a lot.”

One emotional note that rings through much of Mayer’s material is sensitivity. That hasn’t always been easy for country’s male artists to reveal, though the current crop is better at showing vulnerability. Some of that may be a direct result of watching Mayer wear his heart on his sleeve.

“To the point right before cringiness, you know what I mean?” says **Devin Dawson** rhetorically. “It’s not cringey, it’s profound, but one level more of self-deprecation would become cringey. He walks that line really well.”

Ultimately, Mayer’s entrance into country’s circle may not be apparent to the average listener. But that ends up being a tribute to his own creative efforts. In a 2009 *VH1 Storytellers* installment, he acknowledged the artists who came before him: “It’s my failure to sound like my heroes that allowed me to sound like myself.”

And that’s why Mayer, as much as any other act from outside of country, is making such a significant impact. He was the freshest singer-songwriter who emerged in pop at a time when many of today’s nontraditional country acts were first finding their musical legs.

“We’re trying to be like John Mayer, but we never will,” confesses Dawson. “We fail, and that’s what allows us to sound like ourselves.” ●



Vince Gill (left) joined Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell on the Aug. 1 edition of WSM-AM Nashville’s *Grand Ole Opry*, closing their performance with a group rendition of “Leaving Louisiana in the Broad Daylight.”



Curb recording artist Tim Dugger played a handful of songs, including current single “You’re Gonna Love Me,” during an Aug. 4 virtual office visit with *Billboard* Nashville staff. From left: *Billboard Country Update* editor Tom Roland, Curb | Word vp marketing John Clore, Dugger and *Billboard* contributor Deborah Evans.



Jimmie Allen signed a joint-venture publishing deal with Sony/ATV and TwentySeven Music. From left: New York-based Sony/ATV senior vp A&R/head of research and analytics Jacob Fain, producer Ash Bowers, Allen and TwentySeven founder Barry Weiss.

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*taylor swift*  
"betty"

from the  
multi-week  
#1 album  
*folklore*

52\* BB

6.8 million streams TW

add date: 8/17

*couldn't wait for add date:*

KKBQ	Houston	KMNB	Minneapolis	KWEN	Tulsa
WUBL	Atlanta	KSON	San Diego	WCKN	Charleston
WXTU	Philadelphia	WDSY	Pittsburgh	KCCY	Colorado Springs
WYCD	Detroit	WOGI	Pittsburgh	WPOR	Portland
KEYY	Minneapolis	KSOP	Salt Lake City	KZSN	Wichita
 <b>iHeart</b> RADIO		WCOL	Columbus	<b>SiriusXM</b>	The Highway
		WSIX	Nashville		

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

# Morgan Wallen's 'If I Know Me' Completes Record Run To No. 1 On Top Country Albums; TikTok Sparks Bow For Priscilla Block



**Morgan Wallen's** debut LP, *If I Know Me* (Big Loud), wraps a record rise to No. 1 on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart dated Aug. 15.

The set lifts 3-1 in its 114th week on the survey, up 1% to 22,000 equivalent album units in the week ending Aug. 6, according to Nielsen Music/MRC Data. It debuted on the May 12, 2018, list and has earned 1.4 million units to date.

*If I Know Me's* trek blasts past the prior longest trip to the Top Country Albums penthouse, which launched in January 1964: **Hunter Hayes'** 2011 self-titled LP crossed the finish line in its 89th chart week (July 6, 2013).

The set is Wallen's second Top Country Albums entry, following his eponymous EP that spent a week on the chart at No. 45 in March 2018.

Four of *If I Know Me's* singles were promoted to radio. "The Way I Talk" hit No. 30 on Country Airplay and No. 35 on the airplay-, streaming- and sales-based Hot Country Songs survey in 2017. "Up Down" (featuring **Florida Georgia Line**) became Wallen's first leader on the former chart and reached No. 5 on the latter in 2018. "Whiskey Glasses" paced Country Airplay for three weeks and Hot Country Songs for two frames in 2019, and "Chasin' You" led Country Airplay and reached No. 2 on Hot Country Songs in May.

*If I Know Me*, which has ranked in the top five of Top Country Albums for six consecutive months, has benefitted from its singles' enduring airplay. "Chasin' You" drew 23.1 million in audience in the tracking week, "Whiskey Glasses" garnered 9.2 million, and "Up Down" collected 1.2 million.

Meanwhile, "More Than My Hometown," the first track from Wallen's upcoming sophomore album, pushes 20-17 on Hot Country Songs and 26-25 (6.9 million audience impressions, up 15%) on Country Airplay.

**BLOCK ROCKS TIKTOK** **Priscilla Block's** debut chart entry, "Just About Over You," independently released Aug. 5 on InDent, flies onto Country Digital Song

Sales at No. 4 with 7,000 downloads sold in the week ending Aug. 6. On Hot Country Songs, it enters at No. 50. The singer-songwriter posted clips of the ballad leading up to its release on video-sharing platform TikTok, where she boasts nearly 400,000 followers. On its release day, attention included syndicated radio personality **Bobby Bones** inviting Block via Twitter to be a guest on his show.

**NOT 'DONE' YET** **Chris Janson's** "Done" (Warner Music Nashville/WAR) rises 12-8 on Hot Country Songs to become his fourth top 10. It leads Country Airplay for a second week, up 12% to 35.3 million impressions, as Janson earns his first multiweek leader among two No. 1s; his "Good Vibes" ruled for a week last October. "Done" also drew 4.9 million U.S. streams (up 30%) and sold 3,000 (up less than 1%) in the tracking week.



WALLEN

**PILLOW TALK** **Dan + Shay's** "I Should Probably Go to Bed" (Warner Music Nashville/WAR) soars 50-9 on Hot Country Songs following its first full tracking week. The duo's ninth top 10 bounds with 13,000 sold and 8.5 million streams as it opens atop Country Digital Song Sales, marking the act's fourth leader. On Country Airplay, it ranks at No. 30 with 5.8 million in audience.

**TOP 10 TRIUMPHS** **Luke Combs** rolls up his ninth total and consecutive Country Airplay top 10 as "Lovin' on You" (River House/Columbia Nashville) bumps 12-9 (20.1 million, up 15%). His record run

of eight consecutive career-opening No. 1 singles was most recently extended when "Does to Me" (featuring **Eric Church**) led for two weeks starting in May.

Plus, **Keith Urban** notches his 42nd top 10 with an 11-10 ascent for "God Whispered Your Name" (Hit Red/Capitol Nashville). The track, up 3% to 19.3 million in audience, ties him with **Toby Keith** for the fifth-most in the chart's 30-year history. **George Strait** leads with 61, followed by **Kenny Chesney** and **Tim McGraw** (57 each), and **Alan Jackson** (51). ●

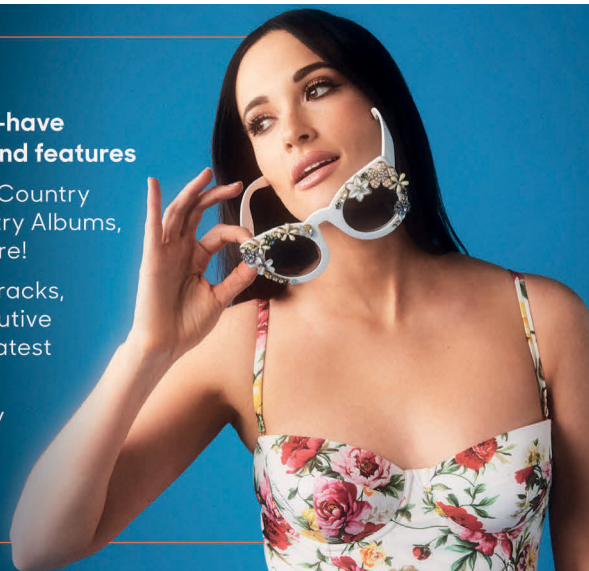
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# DAN + SHAY



***I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED***

HIGHEST CAREER CHART DEBUT

**#1**  
FIRST  
WEEK  
NUMBERS

AMONG THIS WEEK'S MEDIABASE TOP 50

**IN CONSUMPTION  
IN SALES  
IN STREAMS (7.5M+)  
IN CPS**

**125 STATIONS  
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# billboard Country Airplay



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	37	DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	35.345	+3.865	7973	768	1
2	3	53	DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury	Maddie & Tae	32.892	+2.957	7620	460	2
3	4	20	ONE MARGARITA Row Crop/Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	29.321	-0.705	6519	-168	3
4	6	45	WHY WE DRINK Valory	Justin Moore	26.469	+2.838	6154	422	4
5	5	24	HARD TO FORGET MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	24.672	-1.103	5219	-729	7
6	8	20	I LOVE MY COUNTRY BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	23.973	+1.858	5673	274	6
7	9	19	BEA LIGHT Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin & Keith Urban	23.477	+1.758	5695	359	5
8	10	16	COOL AGAIN RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	21.157	+1.267	4902	301	8
9	12	9	LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	20.582	+2.695	4723	615	10
10	11	24	GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	19.288	+0.550	4856	-27	9
11	2	65	ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG Wheelhouse	LOCASH	18.452	-12.815	3799	-3674	16
12	13	14	I CALLED MAMA McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	16.291	+0.663	3911	83	13
13	14	39	ONE NIGHT STANDARDS Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Ashley McBryde	16.093	+1.018	4001	142	12
14	15	18	GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	15.885	+0.955	4094	285	11
15	17	18	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	15.172	+2.188	3860	316	14
16	16	38	SOME GIRLS Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers	14.932	+0.848	3808	110	15
17	18	58	LONELY IF YOU ARE Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	Chase Rice	11.775	+0.676	3242	63	18
18	19	35	EVERYWHERE BUT ON RECORDS/Arista Nashville	Matt Stell	11.688	+0.825	3322	150	17
19	20	31	PRETTY HEART MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	10.730	+0.864	2893	69	19
20	25	3	HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani	10.309	+2.935	2347	703	23
21	22	27	ONE BEER Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lauren Alaina & Devin Dawson	9.501	+1.167	2734	281	20
22	23	17	NO I IN BEER Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	8.510	+0.268	2494	85	22
23	24	48	SHE'S MINE MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	8.322	+0.355	2530	-7	21
24	NEW		BEERS AND SUNSHINE Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	7.296	+7.296	1300	1300	33
25	26	11	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	6.938	+0.910	1896	302	27
26	27	21	AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	6.639	+0.856	2150	136	24
27	31	4	HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	6.102	+0.934	1454	230	30
28	28	23	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	6.075	+0.484	2074	296	25
29	30	16	CHAMPAGNE NIGHT BMLG	Lady A	5.959	+0.586	1945	189	26
30	21	2	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	5.791	-3.978	1411	-396	32

## 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	33	37	BIG, BIG PLANS Big Loud	Chris Lane	5.724	+1.547	1757	409	29
32	29	29	CHEATIN' SONGS Big Machine	Midland	5.365	+0.001	1882	12	28
33	RE-ENTRY		GETTING GOOD 19/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	3.654	+0.860	1434	111	31
34	34	7	STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG EMI Nashville	Eric Church	3.645	-0.059	1297	130	34
35	37	25	MOMMA'S HOUSE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	3.350	+0.339	1256	6	35
36	35	8	HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	3.205	+0.054	1116	139	36
37	38	17	GOOD TIME RCA Nashville <span style="color: red;">★★ Breaker ★★</span>	Niko Moon	3.127	+0.331	968	185	39
38	39	26	SOMEBODY LIKE THAT 19th & Grand	Tenille Arts	2.725	+0.068	1087	18	37
39	40	10	HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2.645	+0.192	894	-4	40
40	41	17	GABRIELLE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Brett Eldredge	2.310	+0.123	872	12	41
41	43	16	NOBODY Curb	Dylan Scott	2.110	+0.204	1004	79	38
42	42	12	ALL NIGHT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	2.043	+0.078	828	-1	42
43	44	10	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	1.858	+0.047	703	16	44
44	45	15	LADY BMLG	Brett Young	1.778	+0.019	641	34	47
45	47	12	JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek	Parmalee x Blanco Brown	1.735	+0.170	724	16	43
46	46	19	TO HELL & BACK Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	1.629	-0.086	670	-8	46
47	50	6	WE WERE RICH Wheelhouse	Runaway June	1.614	+0.110	673	-15	45
48	48	8	HARD DAYS Valory	Brantley Gilbert	1.577	+0.045	597	-3	49
49	51	9	THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	1.406	+0.014	560	40	50
50	52	8	THE MAN WHO LOVES YOU THE MOST Home Grown/19th & Grand	Zac Brown Band	1.371	+0.041	544	72	51
51	49	12	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	1.339	-0.200	447	-49	52
52	60	2	BETTY Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	1.274	+0.760	227	94	59
53	53	15	THIS IS US RECORDS/Columbia/Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen & Noah Cyrus	1.150	-0.014	609	-7	48
54	55	6	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	0.981	+0.146	325	23	55
55	56	7	EVERY OTHER MEMORY RCA Nashville	Ryan Hurd	0.895	+0.125	257	20	57
56	54	6	THE STRANGER Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Ingrid Andress	0.815	-0.026	283	0	56
57	57	5	THESE DAYS Big Loud	MacKenzie Porter	0.734	+0.087	206	13	-
58	58	8	WHATCHA DRINKIN' BOUT Rebel Engine	Stephanie Quayle	0.570	-0.069	209	6	-
59	RE-ENTRY		WINE, BEER, WHISKEY Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	0.525	+0.134	329	42	54
60	59	3	ALL OF THE BOYS True To The Song/Mailboat/New Revolution	Caroline Jones	0.513	+0.021	391	14	53



24

**DARIUS RUCKER**  
Beers and Sunshine

Released Aug. 6 and helped by hourly plays on participating iHeartMedia stations that day, the song enters Country Airplay at No. 24 with 7.3 million impressions. **Rucker** notches his highest debut, surpassing "True Believers" (No. 26, 2012).

## GOING FOR ADDS

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

**LAINIE WILSON**  
Things A Man Oughta Know

Broken Bow

8/31

**THREE DAYS DIRTY**  
Bumper Crop

Copper 1



COUNTS

**THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO FOR**

# CHRIS JANSON'S

**FIRST MULTI-WEEK #1!**

*Done*



# billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



### MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
BEERS AND SUNSHINE Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	74
HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	15
I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	15
HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Feat. Gwen Stefani	13
HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	10
BIG, BIG PLANS Big Loud	Chris Lane	7
GOOD TIME RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	7
BETTY Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	7
LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	5
MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	5

### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
BEERS AND SUNSHINE Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	+7.296
DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	+3.865
DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury	Maddie & Tae	+2.957
HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani	+2.935
WHY WE DRINK Valory	Justin Moore	+2.838
LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+2.695
ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	+2.188
I LOVE MY COUNTRY BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	+1.858
BE A LIGHT Valory	Thomas Rhett Feat. Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin & Keith Urban	+1.758
BIG, BIG PLANS Big Loud	Chris Lane	+1.547

### MOST INCREASED PLAYS

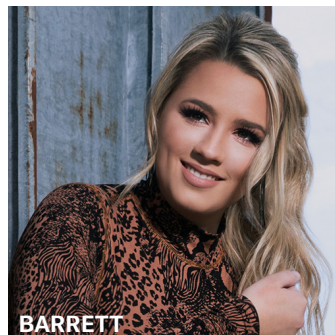
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
BEERS AND SUNSHINE Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	+1300
DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	+768
HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani	+703
LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+615
DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury	Maddie & Tae	+460
WHY WE DRINK Valory	Justin Moore	+422
BIG, BIG PLANS Big Loud	Chris Lane	+409
BE A LIGHT Valory	Thomas Rhett Feat. Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin & Keith Urban	+359
ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	+316
MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+302

### NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
WHERE THAT BEER'S BEEN Mercury	Travis Denning	0.452	22	2
BORN HERE, LIVE HERE, DIE HERE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	0.400	1	1
NEVER HAVE I EVER BMLG	Danielle Bradbery	0.378	18	2
TALK ABOUT GEORGIA Macon Music/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	0.376	1	0
BROKEN UP Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	0.347	14	4
MAN ENOUGH NOW RECORDS	Chris Bandi	0.258	22	1

### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	CHASIN' YOU Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	23.120
2	BLUEBIRD Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	19.659
3	NOBODY BUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Duet With Gwen Stefani	18.971
4	I HOPE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	15.026
5	DOESTO ME River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs Featuring Eric Church	14.763
6	THE BONES Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	13.514
7	AFTER A FEW Mercury	Travis Denning	13.454
8	BEER CAN'T FIX Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Jon Pardi	12.264
9	ONE MAN BAND RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	10.892
10	EVEN THOUGH I'M LEAVING River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	10.089



BARRETT: ROBBY KLEIN; JANSON: CONNOR DWYER

## TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 9, 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	17	NEON TOWN (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★	David Adam Byrnes	1914	151	11	15	7	WHISPER MY NAME (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1190	130
2	2	21	RADIO COWBOY (Independent)	Jon Stork	1888	16	12	13	21	NOT GIVE A DAMN (Independent)	Sundance Head	1184	55
3	4	13	AIN'T A TRAIN (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1823	187	13	14	23	COUNTRY'S COMING BACK (Independent)	Josh Grider	1131	19
4	6	21	FEELS LIKE COUNTRY MUSIC (Independent)	Jon Wolfe	1716	111	14	17	7	MEET IN THE MIDDLE (One Chord Song)	Stoney LaRue & Tanya Tucker	1126	155
5	8	13	LITTLE BIT (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1710	148	15	16	16	LIKE A COWBOY (Independent)	Parker McCollum	1116	144
6	7	18	EVERYDAYERS (Independent)	James Lann	1682	111	16	5	16	AS SOON AS YOU (Ten X Music Group)	Bri Bagwell	1087	-542
7	9	18	LET ME HOLD YOU TONIGHT (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1605	66	17	19	22	JUST FOR THE RECORD (Independent)	Cody Hibbard	1003	85
8	10	10	GHOST TOWN (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1465	132	18	25	9	I'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	955	162
9	1	12	SPUR OF THE MOMENT (Independent)	Kylie Frey	1462	-472	19	20	15	COUNTRY TO THE BONE (Independent)	Darrin Morris Band	945	35
10	12	12	POOR (Independent)	William Clark Green	1351	125	20	27	5	HEY COWGIRL (Independent)	Randall King	888	116

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

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

## WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT....

ANDREA BURTSCHER (KMLE) CAN'T ORDER  
PIZZA OVER THE PHONE

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

DOUG MONTGOMERY (TOWNSQUARE) HAS BEEN  
PUNCHED BY MILEY CYRUS

CHRISTI BROOKS (KKBQ) SUNG 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

MICHAEL LEVINE (KKGO) SPEAKS JAPANESE

JIM MURPHY (MUSIC CHOICE) IS FROM SALEM, MA

NATE DEATON (KRTY) HAS HAD FOUR HOLE  
IN ONES - FIRST ONE IN 2004 AND MOST  
RECENTLY IN 2020

JOHN DIMICK (CUMULUS) RECENTLY MANHANDLED TWO  
SNAKES AND HAD A RUN-IN WITH A BEAR AND A  
200 LB GARBAGE CAN

JOHN O'CONNELL (WKIS) ONCE GOT ON  
THE PRICE IS RIGHT AND WON

## NASHVILLE &amp; NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Zac Brown (right) chatted with Apple Music podcast host Zane Lowe as Brown participated in Apple's *At Home With* series.

## COUNTRY ACTS PREPPING LIVE SHOWS

Five months after the concert business shut down amid the threat of COVID-19, artists are tiptoeing back to live venues, experimenting with new solutions to scratch their itch to play.

Are there risks involved? Uh, yeah. But musicians and organizers alike are doing what they can to reactivate familiar stages, from Nashville's Ryman Auditorium to Fort Worth's Billy Bob's Texas.

Tickets went on sale Aug. 10 for a hybrid experience that allows a select number of fans to attend a six-week Live at the Ryman series of shows beginning Aug. 14, with more viewers able to livestream the event. **Cam, Scotty McCreery, Brett Young, Chris Janson** and **Old Crow Medicine Show** represent country in the series.

Song Suffragettes started a similar one-month in-person/livestream presentation with an Aug. 3 **Lindsay Ell** concert at The Listening Room that celebrated the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. **Maddie & Tae, Ashley McBryde** and **Runaway June** also signed up for the series.

Although Billy Bob's typically accommodates up to 6,000 attendees, it's capping shows at 1,200 guests, beginning with an Aug. 14 **Bellamy Brothers** performance. Future bookings — including **Casey Donahew, Josh Abbott Band** and **Tracy Byrd** — may employ lower maximums.

**The Cadillac Three** has enlisted The Basement for a slate of Country Fuzz concerts in August and September. All the shows are ticketed livestream events, with proceeds benefiting Second Harvest Food Bank. The concerts use autonomous cameras, and the venue will undergo a thorough cleaning before each show. **A Thousand Horses, Tenille Arts, The Wild Feathers** and **Caleb Lee Hutchinson** are among the participants.

Additionally, the Lynchburg Music Fest, set for Oct. 2-4 in Tennessee, will operate with a host of safety guidelines. Only two acts have been announced thus far: **Josh Turner**, who headlines Oct. 2, and **Kip Moore**, who tops the bill on Oct. 4.

## RADIO &amp; RECORDS®

Riser House hired East Coast regional promotion director **Jeff Davis** and West Coast director **Roger Fregoso**, effective Aug. 17. Davis' most recent stint was Big Label Records director of promotions. Fregoso shifts from West Coast regional at 19th & Grand, which is expected to announce his successor soon. Reach Davis [here](#) and Fregoso [here](#) ... **Clay Walker** signed a recording deal with **Toby Keith's Show Dog Nashville** ... Entercom/Chattanooga, Tenn., promoted **Emily Ward** to general sales manager from an existing role as local sales manager and digital sales manager. The five-station cluster includes country **WUSY** ... **KFGY** Santa Rosa, Calif., picked up the syndicated **CMT After MidNite With Cody Alan** for overnights beginning Aug. 10 ... **Tias Schuster** was named iHeartMedia/Rochester-Syracuse-Binghamton, N.Y., senior vp programming, InsideRadio.com reported. He transfers from a similar post at iHeartMedia/Norfolk, Va. Country stations in his new jurisdiction include **WNBL** Rochester, **WBBS** Syracuse and **WBBI** Binghamton ... The Nebraska Rural Radio Association/Lexington, Neb., promoted **Amy Biehl-Owens** to

market manager from director of sales, according to InsideRadio.com. She oversees three stations, including country **KRVN-FM** and classic country **KAMI** ... **Jim Bryant** is leaving Hubbard Radio's 2060 Digital, where he served as president, RadioInk.com reported. **Steve Goldstein** ascends to the position from GM. Bryant spent 27 years with Hubbard ... JAM Media Solutions hired COO **Steve Borneman**, according to Talkers.com. The company's lone country signal is **WCMS** Kill Devil Hills, N.C. Borneman was previously Pamal Broadcasting COO ... Former **WIL** St. Louis personalities **Bud Ford** and **Jerry Broadway** signed with SuiteRadio to syndicate a morning show, beginning Sept. 7, Talkers.com reported ... Former iHeartMedia/Biloxi, Miss., market manager **Reggie Bates** died Aug. 8 of COVID-19, according to **WLOX-TV** Biloxi. The iHeart cluster includes country **WKNN**. Bates will be inducted into the Mississippi Songwriters Hall of Fame on Sept. 17; he was a board member for the Hall's structural parent, the Mississippi Songwriters Alliance ... Former **WWVA** Wheeling, W.Va., PD **Tom Miller** died Aug. 2 at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. He was a former host for WWVA's *Jamboree USA*. Go [here](#) for a full obituary.

## 'ROUND THE ROW

Danny Wimmer Presents hired president of live events **Joe Litvag**, who recently held a similar position at Blackbird Presents. Wimmer's annual events include Louisville, Ky.'s Hometown Rising country festival ... **Lorie Liebig** joined Lucky Bird Media as a publicist. She previously held a PR job with Baby Robot Media ... Nashville-based Soundstripe promoted **Tia Watkins** to director of customer support from manager ... The Songwriter Agency, a booking firm that represents composers, was relaunched by co-founders **Paul Compton** and **Randy Harrell**. The initial roster includes **Lonestar** vocalist **Richie McDonald**, former **Little Texas** member **Tim Rushlow**, Latin composer **Elsten Torres** and country writers **Don Schlitz** ("The Gambler") and **Thom Shepherd** ("Redneck Yacht Club"). Reach Harrell [here](#) ... Sony/ATV and TwentySeven Music signed **Jimmie Allen** to a publishing contract ... Pump House recording artist **Nick Norman** agreed to a songwriting deal with Forward Music and **Lee Brice's** Cock Crows Publishing ... Songwriter **Drew Parker** ("Homemade") renewed his River House publishing contract ... Recording artist **Brandon Collins** joined the PLA Media roster ... Launch Tennessee enlisted **Garth Brooks** for a "36 Questions" conversation during the entrepreneurial 36|86 Festival, a digital event scheduled for Aug. 17-28 ... **Jeannie Seely** will be the subject of a *Change the Conversation* Zoom webinar at 5 p.m. CT on Aug. 18. ●



Singer-songwriter **Tim Montana** (right) signed with BBR's Music Knox imprint, headed by producer **Michael Knox** (Jason Aldean, Montgomery Gentry).

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

**Willie Nelson's** "On the Road Again" was a key part of the Country Music Association's 2016 multi-artist single "Forever Country." Now it's a vehicle for a multi-artist Academy of Country Music promotion that features the 10 nominees for the ACM's new female and new male artist trophies. Due



NELSON

Aug. 13 via Warner Music Nashville, the single features female singers **Ingrid Andress, Gabby Barrett, Caylee Hammack, Tenille Townes** and **Lindsay Ell**, plus male vocalists **Cody Johnson, Morgan Wallen, Riley Green, Jordan Davis** and **Russell Dickerson**. Proceeds aid the ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund. The 55th annual ACM Awards will air Sept. 16 on CBS.

**Kane Brown** is whisking a seven-track EP, *Mixtape Vol. 1*, into the marketplace on Aug. 14, featuring current single "Cool Again," socially relevant "Worldwide Beautiful" and the **John Legend**

collaboration "Last Time I Say Sorry." Other projects on the way include **Rumer's** *Nashville Tears*, Aug. 14; **The Dillards' Old Road New Again**, Aug. 21; **Mandy Barnett's** *Nashville Songbook*, Aug. 21; **Dallas Smith's** *Timeless*, Aug. 28; **Keith Urban's** *The Speed of Now*, Sept. 18; **Joe Stamm's** *The Good & the Crooked (The High & the Horny)*, Sept. 25; and **Elvis Presley's** multidisc *From Elvis in Nashville*, which compiles tracks from 1970, Nov. 20.

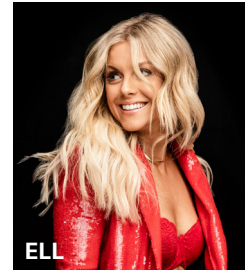
**Travis Tritt's** "It's a Great Day to Be Alive" has often provided a little optimism, and it definitely created worthy uplift when the crew from the International Space Station uploaded a version of the song with images that apply to their no-gravity conditions. Expedition 63 commander **Chris Cassidy** lip-synced amid a floating spoon of soup and "howling at the moon" perspectives. See the full video [here](#).

Eight years after he was inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame, producer **Tony Brown (George Strait, Reba McEntire)** will receive an additional lifetime achievement award from the organization, alongside **Roberta Flack**. The honor was to originally be presented in 2020, though COVID-19 precautions have pushed the ceremony to 2021. Among country's other previously inducted members of the Hall are **Randy Travis, Ronnie Milsap, Earl Scruggs, Kellie Pickler** and **Eric Church**. ●

ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

Aug. 11

- 2017 — Stoney Creek releases **Lindsay Ell's** debut album, *The Project*.
- 2018 — Strangely, oddly true: **Taylor Swift** is voted by fans as a new member of the International Bowling Hall of Fame.



ELL

ROBBY KLEIN

Aug. 12

- 2019 — Columbia releases the **Maren Morris** single "The Bones" to radio.
- 2013 — North Charleston, S.C., renames a portion of Coliseum Drive as Darius Rucker Boulevard. **Rucker** is on hand for the event.

Aug. 13

- 1980 — **Willie Nelson** performs the national anthem for the Democratic National Convention at New York's Madison Square Garden as **Jimmy Carter** is nominated for president. A political cartoon later responds, "Hey, that was just great, Mr. Nelson. Really super. Say, what song was that, anyway?"

Aug. 14

- 1995 — **Shania Twain** receives her first double-platinum album from the RIAA, for *The Woman in Me*.

Aug. 15

- 2015 — **Sam Hunt** spends the first of six weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart with "House Party."

Aug. 16

- 1990 — First-time nominee **Garth Brooks** leads the way in nominations for the Country Music Association Awards as a finalist in five categories. **Clint Black, Alan Jackson, The Kentucky Headhunters** and **Kathy Mattea** each receive four nominations.
- 1965 — **Charley Pride** has his first recording session in Nashville.

Aug. 17

- 2012 — **Florida Georgia Line** performs "Cruise" in its Grand Ole Opry debut.
- 2005 — When **Brad Paisley** plays the West Virginia State Fair in Lewisburg, fans are surprised with an unannounced guest appearance: West Virginia native **Little Jimmy Dickens** wears a lamp shade onstage while Paisley performs "Alcohol."

Source: [RolandNote.com](#), the Ultimate Country Music Database

Top Headlines from billboard.com

Click on headlines below for more details

**Dan + Shay, Darius Rucker & More Set For iHeartMedia's 'Why I'm Voting' Campaign**

**Paid Streaming Grows As Consumers Head Indoors (Again): Five Key Insights From Nielsen Music/MRC Data's COVID-19 Report**

**How Struggling Indie Venues Are Lobbying Local Governments For Support — And Getting Some**

**Live Nation Says 86% Of Fans Declined A Refund. Here's What That Number Really Tells Us**

**Recording Academy & A2IM Applaud New Senate Bill That Bars Radio Conglomerates From PPP Funds**



Songwriting University awarded developing composer **Colin Matchack** (center) a \$10,000 grand prize on July 31. Flanking Matchack are Songwriting U co-founder **Michael Blanton** (left) and guest judge **Tony Brown**.



# 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 NOW

# billboard Hot Country Songs



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	1	1	67	<b>I HOPE</b> R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (Z.KALE,J.M.NITE,G.BARRETT) <b>★★ No. 1 (4 weeks) ★★</b>	<b>Gabby Barrett</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	RC	1
2	3	6	55	<b>DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART</b> J.M.ROBBINS,D.WELLS (M.MARLOW,T.DYE,J.SINGLETON,D.RUTTAN)	<b>Maddie &amp; Tae</b> MERCURY	2	2
3	2	2	21	<b>ONE MARGARITA</b> J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (M.R.CARTER,M.DRAGSTREM,J.THOMPSON)	<b>Luke Bryan</b> ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	3	2
4	4	4	75	<b>THE BONES</b> G.KURSTIN (M.MORRIS,J.M.ROBBINS,L.J.VELTZ)	<b>Maren Morris</b> COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	RC	1
5	5	5	26	<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	8	7	51	<b>CHASIN' YOU</b> J.MOI (J.MOORE,M.WALLEN,C.WISEMAN)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> BIG LOUD	RC	2
7	7	3	36	<b>BLUEBIRD</b> J.JOYCE (M.LAMBERT,L.DICK,N.HEMBY)	<b>Miranda Lambert</b> VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	RC	3
8	12	11	24	<b>DONE</b> C.JANSON,T.CECIL (C.JANSON,M.OGLESBY,J.PAULIN,M.ROY) <b>★★ Airplay Gainer ★★</b>	<b>Chris Janson</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	1	8
9	50	-	2	<b>I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED</b> D.SMYERS (D.SMYERS,S.MOONEY,S.M.DOUGLAS,J.G.EVIGAN) <b>★★ Digital &amp; Streaming Gainer ★★</b>	<b>Dan + Shay</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	30	9
10	11	9	26	<b>GOT WHAT I GOT</b> M.KNOX (M.TYLER,A.PALMER,T.ARCHER)	<b>Jason Aldean</b> MACON/BROKEN BOW	14	9
11	13	10	20	<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	6	8
12	16	15	27	<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	4	12
13	14	16	13	<b>LOVIN' ON YOU</b> S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,T.ARCHER,R.M.L.FULCHER,J.MCNAIR)	<b>Luke Combs</b> RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	9	13
14	17	14	17	<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	15	14
15	15	12	19	<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>	<b>Valory</b>	7	11
16	18	17	16	<b>COOL AGAIN</b> D.HUFF (K.BROWN,J.HODGES,M.MCGINN,L.RIMES)	<b>Kane Brown</b> RCA NASHVILLE	8	12
17	20	18	16	<b>MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN</b> J.MOI (M.W.HARDY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME,M.WALLEN)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> BIG LOUD	25	12
18	19	13	23	<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	10	13
19	21	20	32	<b>ONE NIGHT STANDARDS</b> J.JOYCE (A.MCBRYDE,S.MCANALLY,N.HAYFORD)	<b>Ashley McBryde</b> ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	13	19
20	10	-	2	<b>HAPPY ANYWHERE</b> S.HENDRICKS (R.COPPERMAN,J.OSBORNE,M.JENKINS)	<b>Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	20	10
21	22	19	32	<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	21	19
22	6	-	2	<b>BETTY</b> A.DESSNER,J.M.ANTONOFF,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT,W.BOWERY)	<b>Taylor Swift</b> REPUBLIC/MCA NASHVILLE	52	6
23	23	21	14	<b>PRETTY HEART</b> JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM,R.MONTANA)	<b>Parker McCollum</b> MCA NASHVILLE	19	21
24	24	22	14	<b>I CALLED MAMA</b> T.MCGRAW,B.GALLIMORE (M.GREEN,L.MILLER,J.YEARY)	<b>Tim McGraw</b> MCGRAW/BIG MACHINE	12	22
25	25	23	20	<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 7 WKS	<b>JOSH THOMPSON</b>
2		<b>MATT DRAGSTREM</b>
3		<b>JON NITE</b>
4		<b>MORGAN WALLEN</b>
TIE	5	<b>GABBY BARRETT</b>
TIE	5	<b>ZACH KALE</b>
7		<b>HARDY</b>
8		<b>THOMAS ARCHER</b>
TIE	9	<b>LAURA VELTZ</b>
TIE	9	<b>MAREN MORRIS</b>



NITE

### COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 15 WKS	<b>JOEY MOI</b>
2		<b>DANN HUFF</b>
3		<b>JAY JOYCE</b>
4		<b>GREG KURSTIN</b>
5		<b>ROSS COPPERMAN</b>
6		<b>DAN SMYERS</b>
7		<b>ZACH KALE</b>
8		<b>DEREK WELLS</b>
9		<b>MICHAEL KNOX</b>
10		<b>SCOTT MOFFATT</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).

# billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	26	24	34	<b>LONELY IF YOU ARE</b> C. DESTEFANO, C. RICE (C. RICE, L. RIMES, H. PHELPS)	<b>Chase Rice</b> DACK JANIELS/BROKEN BOW	17	23
27	27	26	19	<b>EVERYWHERE BUT ON</b> A. BOWERS, M. STELL (M. STELL, P. SIKES, L. MILLER)	<b>Matt Stell</b> RECORDS/ARISTA NASHVILLE	18	26
28	28	27	15	<b>AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY</b> B. BUTLER, R. GORE, J. PARDI (B. KINNEY, J. THOMPSON)	<b>Jon Pardi</b> CAPITOL NASHVILLE	26	27
29	30	29	21	<b>SHE'S MINE</b> K. MOORE (K. MOORE, D. COUCH, S. STEPACOFF)	<b>Kip Moore</b> MCA NASHVILLE	23	29
30	35	41	13	<b>NO I IN BEER</b> L. WOOTEN, D. HUFF (B. PAISLEY, K. LOVELACE)	<b>Brad Paisley</b> ARISTA NASHVILLE	22	30
31	31	31	10	<b>GOOD TIME</b> N. MOON, J. MURTY (N. MOON, J. MINTON, A. MOON, J. MURTY, M. TRUSSELL)	<b>Niko Moon</b> RCA NASHVILLE	37	30
32	29	30	20	<b>LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO</b> D. HUFF, C. BROWN, R. DICKERSON (R. DICKERSON, C. BROWN, P. WELING)	<b>Russell Dickerson</b> TRIPLE TIGERS	28	28
33	32	32	17	<b>CHAMPAGNE NIGHT</b> 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)	<b>Lady A</b> BMLG	29	27
34	34	35	7	<b>THE GOOD ONES</b> R. COPPERMAN, Z. KALE (G. BARRETT, E. LANDIS, J. MCCORMICK, Z. KALE)	<b>Gabby Barrett</b> WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	49	34
35	33	34	12	<b>ALMOST MAYBES</b> P. DIGIOVANNI (J. DAVIS, J. FRASURE, H. LINDSEY)	<b>Jordan Davis</b> MCA NASHVILLE	43	32
36	39	39	8	<b>HOLE IN THE BOTTLE</b> J. FRASURE, K. BALLERINI (K. BALLERINI, S. JONES, H. LINDSEY, J. FRASURE, A. GORLEY)	<b>Kelsea Ballerini</b> BLACK RIVER	39	33
37	37	40	26	<b>GETTING GOOD</b> D. GARCIA (E. L. WEISBAND)	<b>Lauren Alaina</b> 19/MERCURY	33	33
38	NEW		1	<b>WINE, BEER, WHISKEY</b> ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★ LITTLE BIG TOWN (T. BROWN, K. FAIRCHILD, S. MCCONNELL, K. SCHLAPMAN, P. SWEET, J. WESTBROOK)	<b>Little Big Town</b> CAPITOL NASHVILLE	59	38
39	36	36	20	<b>THE OTHER GIRL</b> R. COPPERMAN, S. MCANALLY, K. BALLERINI (K. BALLERINI, S. MCANALLY, R. COPPERMAN, A. FRANGIPANE)	<b>Kelsea Ballerini x Halsey</b> BLACK RIVER	RC	19
40	38	38	14	<b>LADY</b> D. HUFF (B. YOUNG, R. COPPERMAN, J. M. NITE)	<b>Brett Young</b> BMLG	44	22
41	NEW		1	<b>WHO YOU ARE TO ME</b> C. TOMLIN, C. CROWDER, T. HUBBARD, B. KELLEY (C. TOMLIN, C. KELLEY, D. HAYWOOD, H. SCOTT)	<b>Chris Tomlin Featuring Lady A</b> SPARROW/CAPITOL CMG	-	41
42	40	37	7	<b>STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG</b> J. JOYCE (D. NAISH, J. JEFFREY STEELE)	<b>Eric Church</b> EMI NASHVILLE	34	23
43	49	-	3	<b>HAPPY DOES</b> B. CANNON, K. CHESNEY (B. CLAWSON, J. PAULIN, B. BERRYHILL, G. JAMES)	<b>Kenny Chesney</b> BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	27	43
44	47	-	2	<b>TALKIN' TENNESSEE</b> J. MOI (J. HYDE, M. WALLEN, C. WISEMAN)	<b>Morgan Wallen</b> BIG LOUD	-	44
45	48	-	10	<b>TO HELL &amp; BACK</b> BUSBEE, M. MORRIS (M. MORRIS, J. J. DILLON, L. J. VELTZ)	<b>Maren Morris</b> COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	46	44
46	NEW		1	<b>YOU AND ISLANDS</b> B. SIMONETTI, M. MANGANO, Z. BROWN (Z. BROWN, B. SIMONETTI, A. JAMES)	<b>Zac Brown Band</b> HOME GROWN	-	46
47	42	44	25	<b>JUST THE WAY</b> D. FANNING (M. THOMAS, K. BARD, N. W. SIPE)	<b>Parmalee x Blanco Brown</b> STONE CREEK	45	31
48	46	48	10	<b>CHEATIN' SONGS</b> D. HUFF, S. MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE (J. CARSON, C. DUDDY, M. WYSTRACH, S. MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE)	<b>Midland</b> BIG MACHINE	32	45
49	43	45	4	<b>WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER</b> G. BROOKS (S. DAVIS)	<b>Garth Brooks</b> PEARL	-	43
50	NEW		1	<b>JUST ABOUT OVER YOU</b> J. JOHNSON (P. BLOCK, S. JONES, E. K. KROLL)	<b>Priscilla Block</b> INDENT	-	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	1,237,000	1,354,214,000	119,626,000
Last Week	1,218,000	1,336,858,000	118,593,000
Change	1.6%	1.3%	0.9%
This Week Last Year	1,096,000	1,115,095,000	277,390,000
Change	12.9%	21.4%	-56.9%

	YEAR-TO-DATE		
	2019	2020	CHANGE
Album Consumption	32,451,000	36,399,000	12.2%
Album Sales	6,012,000	5,130,000	-14.7%
Audio On-Demand	32,231,439,000	39,222,353,000	21.7%
Video On-Demand	8,305,559,000	4,297,054,000	-48.3%

YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
<b>ALBUM CONSUMPTION</b>	
'19	32.45 million
'20	36.39 million
<b>TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS</b>	
'19	40.53 billion
'20	43.51 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending August 6, 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)



MORGAN  
WALLEN

BIG LOUD 

# #1 COUNTRY ALBUM

1.4M equivalents

2 BILLION streams

4 platinum singles

3 #1 radio singles

114th wk on the  
BB country album chart





SALES, DATA COMPILED BY **MRC nielsen**  
**billboard** TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	3	3	114	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	●	1
2	2	2	39	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET		1
3	4	4	166	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	■	1
4	5	5	18	SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN	SOUTHSIDE		1
5	1	1	3	THE CHICKS COLUMBIA 974115*	GASLIGHTER		1
6	NEW		1	CHRIS TOMLIN SPARROW DIGITAL EX/CAPITOL CMG	CHRIS TOMLIN & FRIENDS		6
7	6	6	275	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	■	1
8	7	7	7	GABBY BARRETT WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	GOLDMINE		4
9	10	8	74	MAREN MORRIS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 590186*/SMN	GIRL	●	1
10	9	9	261	ZAC BROWN BAND ROAR/SOUTHERN GROUND/ATLANTIC 546369/AG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
11	8	11	34	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 607343/WMN	FULLY LOADED: GOD'S COUNTRY	●	1
12	16	16	56	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		12
13	15	13	111	DAN + SHAY WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 570796/WMN	DAN + SHAY	■	1
14	11	10	10	DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY MAD DECENT DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA	CHAPTER I: SNAKE OIL		6
15	14	14	37	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 32944*/BBMG		9	1
16	12	12	40	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 597873*/SMN	WILDCARD		1
17	18	15	91	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE/SMN	EXPERIMENT	■	1
18	19	17	192	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947*/SMN	KANE BROWN	■	1
19	17	18	16	MADDIE & TAE MERCURY 031826*/UMGN	THE WAY IT FEELS		7
20	13	34	244	TAYLOR SWIFT BIG MACHINE 310400A*/BMLG (18.98)	RED	■	1
21	21	20	73	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89040*/LEGACY (25.98)	THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY	■	12
22	23	21	222	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS	■	6
23	24	22	223	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	■	1
24	22	19	41	OLD DOMINION RCA NASHVILLE 589183*/SMN	OLD DOMINION		1
25	20	50	231	TAYLOR SWIFT BIG MACHINE 0200*/BMLG (18.98)	FEARLESS		1

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). Copyright 2020, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

SALES DATA COMPILED BY **MRC nielsen**  
**billboard** AMERICANA/FOLK ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	3	THE CHICKS COLUMBIA 974115*	GASLIGHTER		1
2	2	2	221	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	■	1
3	3	4	73	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		3
4	4	5	267	HOZIER RUBYWORKS 309996*/COLUMBIA	HOZIER	■	1
5	5	6	123	KACEY MUSGRAVES MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN	GOLDEN HOUR	●	1
6	6	7	184	SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS		3
7	8	8	226	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA	■	1
8	9	9	178	JACK JOHNSON JACK JOHNSON/BUSHNIRE/REPUBLIC (13.98)	IN BETWEEN DREAMS	■	5
9	10	3	7	BOB DYLAN COLUMBIA 978098*	ROUGH AND ROWDY WAYS		1
10	11	10	89	JOHN MELLENCAMP MERCURY 536738*/UME (11.98/17.98)	THE BEST THAT I COULD DO 1978 - 1988	■	5

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). Copyright 2020, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

SALES, DATA COMPILED BY **MRC nielsen**  
**billboard** COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	2	41	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT		1
2	NEW		I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED DAN + SHAY		1
3	5	14	BLUEBIRD MIRANDA LAMBERT		1
4	4	9	DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART MADDIE & TAE		1
5	6	12	ONE MARGARITA LUKE BRYAN		1
6	8	31	CHASIN' YOU MORGAN WALLEN		1
7	7	51	HEARTLESS DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN		1
8	9	57	THE BONES MAREN MORRIS		1
9	3	18	HARD TO FORGET SAM HUNT		1
10	10	174	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON		1
11	1	2	BETTY TAYLOR SWIFT		1
12	11	77	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN		1
13	12	10	GOT WHAT I GOT JASON ALDEAN		1
14	13	13	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN MORGAN WALLEN		1
15	14	118	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS		1
16	15	50	ONE MAN BAND OLD DOMINION		1
17	18	8	ONE OF THEM GIRLS LEE BRICE		1
18	17	8	I LOVE MY COUNTRY FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE		1
19	19	141	MEANT TO BE BEBE REXHA & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE		1
20	16	4	ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG LOCASH		1
21	20	65	BEER NEVER BROKE MY HEART LUKE COMBS		1
22	21	10	ONE BEER HARDY FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA & DEVIN DAWSON		1
23	22	2	LOVIN' ON YOU LUKE COMBS		1
24	NEW		DONE CHRIS JANSON		1
25	25	44	10,000 HOURS DAN + SHAY & JUSTIN BIEBER		1

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. Copyright 2020, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

SALES DATA COMPILED BY **MRC nielsen**  
**billboard** BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	2	3	7	YO-YO MA/STUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS	NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO		1
2	1	2	45	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610063*/CONCORD	HOME		1
3	5	1	5	GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS STRETCH GRASS 4050	40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION		1
4	6	5	43	THE DEAD SOUTH SIX SHOOTER 129*	SUGAR & JOY		1
5	7	10	10	CHOSEN ROAD SONG GARDEN 1255	APPALACHIAN WORSHIP: DELUXE EDITION		5
6	3	14	10	JAKE BLOUNT JAKE BLOUNT 0097*/FREE DIRT	SPIDER TALES		2
7	8	7	26	THE STEELDRIVERS ROUNDER 610080*/CONCORD	BAD FOR YOU		1
8	10	9	16	THE WHITE BUFFALO SNAKEFARM 862780*	ON THE WIDOW'S WALK		1
9	RE-ENTRY		23	STEEP CANYON RANGERS YEP ROC 2667*	NORTH CAROLINA SONGBOOK		1
10	14	11	43	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 98*/OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW	LIVE AT THE RYMAN		1

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)

# Mitchell Tenpenny's 'Broken Up': A 30-Minute Rush Job With Long-Term Potential

When **Michelle Obama** revealed in a podcast that she is experiencing “low-grade depression,” the move brought a level of comfort to plenty of citizens who could identify with the sentiment.

**Mitchell Tenpenny** looks to benefit from a similar relatability with “Broken Up,” a song that finds its protagonist unable to turn a corner on his own mistake. The guy is broken up about a breakup, though the single has just enough hooky elements to make his version of a low-grade depression sound enticing.

“I think everyone’s a little broken up right now amid what’s going on,” says Tenpenny. “Maybe this is going to have a little value for somebody. I don’t know, but that’s the goal.”

The original goal wasn’t quite so lofty when he cowrote the song in 2019. Back then, over a dozen members of the Nashville music community surprised songwriter **Andy Albert** (“If the Boot Fits,” “Good Girl”) with a bachelor party at Jeff Ruby’s Steakhouse, and a handful of them — Tenpenny, **Devin Dawson**, **Kyle Fishman** (“Small Town Boy”) and **ERNEST** — met up at Play It Again Music to hang before they hijacked Albert’s evening. During a tight half-hour window, the foursome launched into a quick, spur-of-the-moment writing session, dashing off a song with no extra time available to quibble about any of the details.

“Sometimes we overwrite songs or we try to make everything so perfect,” says Tenpenny. “This was almost like, for lack of better terms, when you’re taking a multiple-choice test and you always go with your first answer. That type of thing. Every line, we would say it once, and that’s it.”

Fishman built a percussive track around some lonely chords, and Tenpenny freestyled a few lines at the top: “Usually I’m put together/Most the time I’m fine.”

In short order, they found themselves prepping for the bachelor party by writing about the ashes of a broken relationship.

“I had this idea pop into my head. It wasn’t like it was in my hook book or anything,” remembers Dawson. The hook was short and bittersweet — “Still broken up” — and that was good enough for the moment.

“Again, we just didn’t have time to think,” says Dawson. “Everyone was like, ‘All right, cool. Let’s go with it.’”

In fact, they were, as the phrase goes, “all about it” — literally, they weaved a series of “about it” phrases into both the pre-chorus and, particularly, the chorus: “I’m still broken up about it/I’ve had it up to here, had enough about it/Maybe I will open up about it/But only if I drink until I’m drunk about it.”

“It was like playing tennis,” says ERNEST. “People were just throwing out ideas and hittin’ them back.”

Placing “about it” at the end of so many lines worked in the same way a **Rush** song might use multisyllabic words — “government” and “discontent,” or “alienation” and “fascination” — to set up a rhyme scheme.

“Normally that would drive me nuts to rhyme the same word, but the song felt like that’s what it needed to be, and again, it was just not overthinking,” says Tenpenny. “And then it didn’t feel wrong when we were singing it back.”

“**Eminem** was a big influence on us,” adds ERNEST, “and not everything has to rhyme identically.”

The guy comes clean in the second verse, introducing karma into the picture. The concept has been used before in country — Dawson points to

**Jo Dee Messina**’s remake of the **Dottie West** hit “A Lesson in Leavin’”; **Waylon Jennings** titled an album *What Goes Around Comes Around* — though it’s tough to find a country hit outside of **Willie Nelson**’s “Little Old Fashioned Karma” (No. 10, 1983) that uses the Eastern term outright.

“I find out more about karma all the time,” jokes ERNEST. “Some would call it ‘universal punishment.’”

Tenpenny delivered a quick lead vocal for the demo and joined Fishman to stack background harmonies, which received a light vocoder treatment. The guys headed off for a night of partying at Jeff Ruby’s, but when they revisited “Broken Up” a few days later, they discovered their half-hour rush job was pretty good.

“None of us knew that we did anything that day,” says Tenpenny. “We were just killing time.”

Producer **Jordan M. Schmidt** slated a tracking session for “Broken Up” at his recording studio, stocking the band with drummer **Miles McPherson**, bassist **Tony Lucido**, guitarist **Tyler Chiarelli**, keyboardist **Alex Wright**, steel guitarist **Justin Schipper** and multi-instrumentalist **Todd Lombardo**, whose banjo part became a key introductory element. He emulates the protagonist’s emotional fog, gradually rolling into full volume as the piece takes off.

Meanwhile, Schmidt treated Tenpenny’s lead vocal with plenty of reverb, creating a swirling, unsettling undercurrent.

“We wanted that kind of ’80s feel to it, and so I definitely [gave it] some treatment, and we did a lot of background vocals that weren’t in the demo, layering and harmonizing and that kind of stuff,” says Schmidt.

Adding to the ’80s vibe, Chiarelli played a rich-sounding, complex guitar solo that became a sort of post-script to the performance.

“I grew up obsessed with all those ’80s records, especially all of **Michael Jackson**’s stuff,” says Tenpenny. “He always had those little signature guitar parts that you ended up air-guitaring every time you hear it, and I kind of wanted one of those things. I could see people air-guitaring it in the car when they’re listening, and I liked the whole vision of that.”

Schmidt initially planned to have the final seconds of the song fade out, though he wound up closing with an abrupt, a cappella repeat of the “Still broken up” hook, a stack of voices akin to **Mr. Mister**’s totally ’80s “Kyrie.”

“That was kind of a happy accident,” he says. “I just did a bad edit or something. I was cutting other stuff out, and I heard that and I was like, ‘Oh, that’s kind of a cool way to end this song.’ It’s this big wall of vocal and then just off.”

In the ultimate happy accident, Riser House/Columbia Nashville released “Broken Up” — a song that was originally penned to fill 30 spare minutes — to country radio via PlayMPE on July 6. It appeared on both the Most Added and New & Active lists that accompanied the Country Airplay chart dated Aug. 8. And as Americans grapple with low-grade depression, “Broken Up” subtly provides a light toward the end of the tunnel, capturing a guy with his own self-induced melancholy, but wrapping it in a sonic package that has enough catchy positivity to provide some uplift.

“That’s the goal every time,” says Tenpenny. “A lot of people right now are dealing with this stuff. They’re being forced in their homes with their significant others like they never have before. I wrote this song before all that, but it kind of works with what’s going on right here.” ●



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ON SALE  
**SEP 19**

**2020**

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RECORDING ACADEMY<sup>®</sup>  
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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021**



# billboard Hot Country Songs Index

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

**A**

**AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY** Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Whiskey Tub Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Laine Collections, BMI (B.Kinney, J.Thompson) **28**

**ALMOST MAYBES** Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BIRB Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (J.Davis, J.Frasure, H.Lindsey) **35**

**B**

**BE A LIGHT** EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Matt Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/Songs Of The Corb, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Laine Collections, BMI (Thomas Rhett, M.Dragstrem, J.Miller, J.Thompson) **15**

**BETTY** TASM Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/William Bowers Music Publishing, BMI (T.Swift, W.Bowers) **22**

**BLUEBIRD** Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Wrucke For You Publishing, BMI (M.Lambert, L.Dick, N.Hemby) **7**

**THE BONES** International Dog Music, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Jammy Robbins Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs Jimmy Robbins, ASCAP/Extraordinary Alien Publishing, ASCAP/Oh Denise Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Heroes And Halos Music, BMI (M.Morris, J.M.Robbins, L.J.Veltz) **4**

**C**

**CHAMPAGNE NIGHT** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Haywoodia Cut That Song, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETPublishing, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/EKT Publishing, SESAC/Silaight Music Publishing, SOCAN/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dat Damn Dean Music, BMI/Songs In The Key Of Claire, ASCAP/Patriot Games Publishing, ASCAP/Downtown DJ Songs, ASCAP/G23 Publishing, SESAC/Eligible Music dba Songland Television Publishing, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC/Tempo Investments, GMR/Smackwork Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/MerloJams Publishing, ASCAP/Deluge Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Write Me A Song Publishing, GMR/Downtown Global Two, GMR (D.Haywood, C.Kelley, H.Scott, P.Conroy, E.R.Dean, A.DeRobertis, T.A.Gemza, S.McAnally, M.R.Merlo, R.B.Tedder, D.Thomson) **33**

**CHASIN' YOU** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Team Destiny, ASCAP/JMZL Music, ASCAP/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Red Toe Rocker, ASCAP (J.Moore, M.Wallen, C.Wiseman) **6**

**CHEATIN' SONGS** WC Music Corp., ASCAP/TipTop Music, ASCAP/Tropical Cowboy Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kitt Cass Publishing Corporation, BMI/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Tempo Investments, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR (J. Carson, C.Duddy, M.Wystrach, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **48**

**COOL AGAIN** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Songs For Owen Music, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing, SESAC/McGintIntellectual Property, SESAC/True Blue Works, SESAC/RP Music, SESAC/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Koala T Tunes, BMI (K.Brown, J.Hodges, M.McGinn, L.Rimes) **16**

**D**

**DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART** Super Big Music, ASCAP/Seven Red Brides Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Jehovah Nissi Music, BMI/Jett Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/Doc And Maggie Music, SOCAN/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (M.Marlow, T.Dye, J.Singleton, D.Ruttan) **2**

**DONE** ole Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songsfortatum Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Rounding Third Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP/KJM Music Publishing, ASCAP (C.Janson, M.Oglesby, J.Paulin, M.Roy) **8**

**E**

**EVERYWHERE BUT ON** Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Pedal Down Music, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Presley Jake Music, SESAC (M.Stell, P.Sikes, L.Miller) **27**

**G**

**GETTING GOOD** Weistribe Publishing, ASCAP/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (E.L.Weisband) **37**

**GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME** BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Gold Leaf Pages, ASCAP/Micah Carter Publishing Designee, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/You Want How Much Of What Publishing, BMI/Worldwide EMG Music B, BMI/Bro 2 Bro Publishing, BMI (C.August, M.Carter, Shy Carter, J.T.Slater) **18**

**THE GOOD ONES** GBF Music Global, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/BMG Blue, BMI/Fox Landis Lyrics, BMI/Songs Of Jim McCormick, BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Revinly House, BMI (G.Barrett, E.Landis, J.McCormick, Z.Kale) **34**

**GOOD TIME** W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Niko Moon Publishing, SESAC/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Anna Moon Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Joshua Murty Publishing, ASCAP/Mark Trussell Music, ASCAP/Future Heartbeat Publishing, ASCAP (N.Moon, J.Minton, A.Moon, J.Murty, M.Trussell) **31**

**GOT WHAT I GOT** Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/MTNoize, SESAC/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Alexander Palmer Songs, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Hits Like Hurricane, BMI (M.Tyler, A.Palmer, T.Archer) **10**

**H**

**HAPPY ANYWHERE** EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Endurance Romeo Charlie, BMI/Highly Combustible Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/One77 Songs, ASCAP/Combustion Five, ASCAP (R.Copperman, J.Osborne, M.Jenkins) **20**

**HAPPY DOES** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Murphy The Wolf Music, BMI/Five Miles West Songs, BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songsfortatum Publishing, BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI (B.Clawson, J.Paulin, B.Berryhill, G.James) **43**

**HARD TO FORGET** Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Between the Pines, LLC, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Story Music Publishing, GMR/We Are Creative Nation, GMR/Suzanne James Songs, GMR/Unichappell Music, Inc., BMI/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments, GMR/Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Smackwork Music, ASCAP/Jamie Music Publishing Co., BMI (L.Hunt, A.Gorley, L.Laird, S.McAnally, J.Osborne, A.Grisham, M.J.Shurtz, R.Hull) **5**

**HOLE IN THE BOTTLE** Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Vistaville Music, ASCAP/Steph Jones Who Music, ASCAP/Big Deal Hits, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP (K.Ballerini, S.Jones, H.Lindsey, J.Frasure, A.Gorley) **36**

**I**

**I CALLED MAMA** All Night Linda Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC/Still Working For All Inc., SESAC/Sonic Style Music, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC/Cedar Church Music, BMI (M.Green, L.Miller, J.Yeary) **24**

**I HOPE** Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Revinly House, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Nite Writer Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI (Z.Kale, J.M.Nite, G.Barrett) **1**

**I LOVE MY COUNTRY** Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Plum Nelly, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Big Tree Vibe Music, BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Crowd Publishing, ASCAP/Georgia Song Vibe, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Track House Worldwide Entertainment, BMI (K.Brown, C.Crowder, R.C.McGill, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, W.Weatherly) **11**

**I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED** Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Eastman Pond Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Bad Robot Music, BMI (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, S.M.Douglas, J.G.Evigan) **9**

**J**

**JUST ABOUT OVER YOU** Scilla's Song Shop Publishing, BMI/91 Dogs Publishing, BMI/Emily Kroll Music, ASCAP (P.Black, S.Jones, E.K.Kroll) **50**

**JUST THE WAY** Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/IM Thomas Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Kevin Bard Music, ASCAP/Margetts Road Music, ASCAP/Nolan W. Sipe Music, ASACP (M.Thomas, K.Bard, N.W.Sipe) **47**

**L**

**LADY** Super Big Music, ASCAP/Calville Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Nite Writer Music, ASCAP (B.Young, R.Copperman, J.M.Nite) **40**

**LONELY IF YOU ARE** Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Dack Daniels Publishing, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Koala T Tunes, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (C.Rice, L.Rimes, H.Pheas) **26**

**LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO** BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Kailey's Dream, BMI/Blue Corolla Oklahoma, SESAC/Feel Your Creative Pulse Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Home Team Music, BMI/Tunes Of TrailerParker, BMI (R.Dickerson, C.Brown, P.Welling) **32**

**LOVIN' ON YOU** Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Larkin Hill Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Stay Creative Music, BMI/Works Of RHA, BMI (L.Combs, T.Archer, R.M.L.Fulcher, J.McNair) **13**

**M**

**MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN** Relative Music Group, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI (M.W.Hardy, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, M.Wallen) **17**

**N**

**NO I IN BEER** New House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Own My Own Music Publishing, ASCAP (B.Paisley, K.Lovelace) **30**

**O**

**ONE BEER** Relative Music Group, BMI/BIRB Music, ASCAP/New Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/West Pass Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, H.Lindsey, J.Mitchell) **21**

**ONE MARGARITA** Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/243 Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Matt Drag Music, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Laine Collections, BMI (M.R.Carter, M.Dragstrem, J.Thompson) **3**

**ONE NIGHT STANDARDS** Canned Biscuit Songs, BMI/Smack Hits, GMR/Tempo Investments, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR/1 Love RHA, SESAC/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (A.McByrde, S.McAnally, N.Hayford) **19**

**ONE OF THEM GIRLS** Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Natalia's Music Money, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Love Cannons Publishing, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (A.Gorley, B.Johnson, D.Davidson, L.Brice) **14**

**THE OTHER GIRL** Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Tempo Investments, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Endurance Romeo Charlie, BMI/Smack Of Ham Songs, BMI/17Black Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (K.Ballerini, S.McAnally, R.Copperman, A.Frangipane) **39**

**P**

**PRETTY HEART** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkernac Publishing, BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI (P.McCollum, R.Montana) **23**

**S**

**SHE'S MINE** Music Of Stage Three, BMI/Songs Of Corman, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Songs From The Couch, BMI/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (K.Moore, D.Couch, S.Stepakoff) **29**

**SOME GIRLS** Harding Road Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Watsky Music, LLC, BMI/New Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/West Pass Music, BMI/New House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, J.Mitchell, C.J.Solar) **25**

**STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG** Hillbilly Science And Research Publishing, BMI/Do Write Music, LLC/Jeffrey Steele Music, BMI (D.Naish, Jeffrey Steele) **42**

**T**

**TALKIN' TENNESSEE** Mammaw's Fried Okra Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Red Toe Rocker, ASCAP (J.Hyde, M.Wallen, C.Wiseman) **44**

**TO HELL & BACK** International Dog Music, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Jay Gatsby Music, BMI/Revelry Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Oh Denise Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI (M.Morris, J.J.Dillon, L.J.Veltz) **45**

**W**

**WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER** Recluse Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI (S.Davis) **49**

**WHO YOU ARE TO ME** Capitol CMG Paragon, BMI/S.D.G. Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETPublishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Haywoodia Cut That Song, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/EKT Publishing, SESAC (C.Tomin, C.Kelley, D.Haywood, H.Scott) **41**

**WHY WE DRINK** Big Music Machine, BMI/Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/N2D Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Carol Vincent And Associates, LLC, ASCAP/Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Real Big Red Tunes, ASCAP (J.J.Moore, C.Beathard, D.L.Murphy, J.S.Stover) **12**

**WINE, BEER, WHISKEY** Razor And Tie Music Publishing, BMI/Tofer The Musical, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Silent Desert Music, BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI (T.Brown, K.Fairchild, S.McConnell, K.Schlapman, P.Sweet, J.Westbrook) **38**

**Y**

**YOU AND ISLANDS** Weimerhound Music, SESAC/Dave For The Dead Publishing, SESAC/Reach Music Tunes, SESAC/Simonetti Music Publishing, SESAC/Kobalt Group Music Publishing, SESAC/Something To Be Proud Of Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (Z.Brown, B.Simonetti, A.James) **46**

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REWINDING  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CHARTS

54 Years Ago  
**David Houston Hit No. 1  
With ‘Almost Persuaded’**

In 1966, the classic topped Hot Country Songs for nine weeks

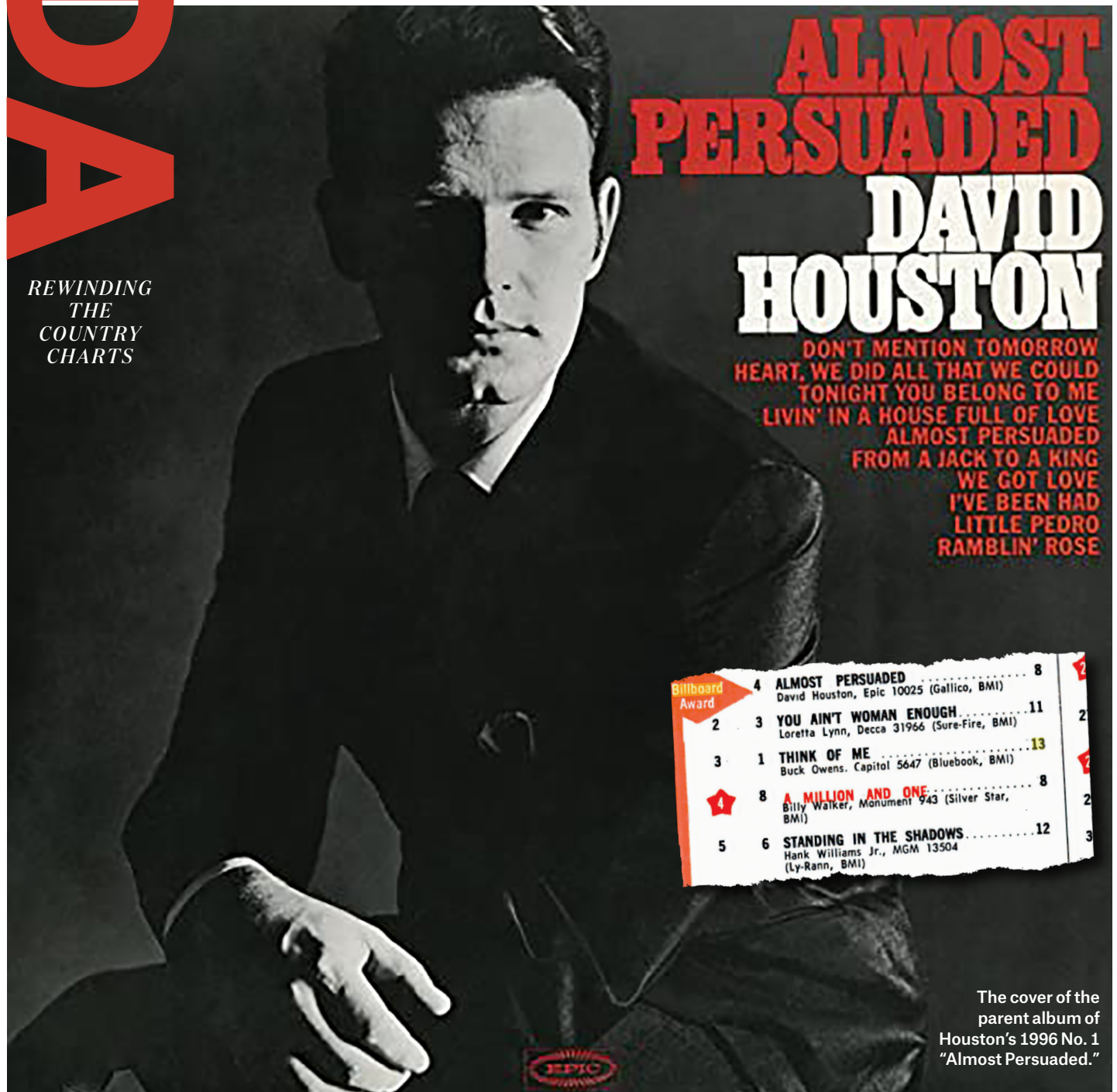
On Aug. 13, 1966, **David Houston**’s “Almost Persuaded” began a nine-week command of *Billboard*’s Hot Country Songs chart. No song would subsequently reign for that long for over 46 years until **Taylor Swift**’s “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together” arrived in 2012.

“Persuaded” was recorded at Columbia Recording Studios on Music Row and

produced by **Billy Sherrill**, who cowrote it with **Glenn Sutton**. Famed session player **Hargus “Pig” Robbins** contributed the signature piano riff. The tale of fidelity topping temptation won three Grammy Awards in 1967: best country and western recording; best country and western vocal performance, male (both for Houston); and best country and western song (for Sherrill and Sutton).

“Persuaded” became Houston’s first of seven Hot Country Songs No. 1s among 24 top 10s that he tallied in 1963-74. The ballad also reached No. 24 on the all-genre *Billboard* Hot 100, marking his sole top 40 hit on that chart.

Houston, who joined the Grand Ole Opry in 1972, died on Nov. 30, 1993, from a brain aneurysm in Bossier City, La. He was 57. —JIM ASKER



**ALMOST  
PERSUADED**  
**DAVID  
HOUSTON**  
DON'T MENTION TOMORROW  
HEART, WE DID ALL THAT WE COULD  
TONIGHT YOU BELONG TO ME  
LIVIN' IN A HOUSE FULL OF LOVE  
ALMOST PERSUADED  
FROM A JACK TO A KING  
WE GOT LOVE  
I'VE BEEN HAD  
LITTLE PEDRO  
RAMBLIN' ROSE

Billboard Award	Rank	Song	Label	Chart Position
4	1	ALMOST PERSUADED	David Houston, Epic 10025 (Gallico, BMI)	8
2	3	YOU AIN'T WOMAN ENOUGH	Loretta Lynn, Decca 31966 (Sure-Fire, BMI)	11
3	1	THINK OF ME	Buck Owens, Capitol 5647 (Bluebook, BMI)	13
4	8	A MILLION AND ONE	Billy Walker, Monument 943 (Silver Star, BMI)	8
5	6	STANDING IN THE SHADOWS	Hank Williams Jr., MGM 13504 (Ly-Rann, BMI)	12

The cover of the parent album of Houston’s 1966 No. 1 “Almost Persuaded.”