

billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Bluebird Cafe Becomes Awards-Show Venue As ACM Adjusts To COVID-19



Live venues across America are hurting after a brutal coronavirus forced them to go dark.

But when **Miranda Lambert** performs "Bluebird" with co-writers **Natalie Hemby** ("Rainbow," "Heartache Medication") and **Luke Dick** ("Burning Man," "Kill a Word") on the Sept. 16 telecast of the 55th annual Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards, the song itself will inject a moment of necessary hope.

"I'll keep a light on in my soul, keep a bluebird in my heart," the chorus promises.

The words will carry a worthy symbolism in the ACM setting, delivered under a lighted neon rainbow at the Bluebird Cafe — yes, they're singing "Bluebird" at the Bluebird — as the venue provides an awards-show setting for the first time in its 38-year history.

"The Bluebird came up 'cause it's the home of songwriters," says ACM CEO **Damon Whiteside**. "It's a good way to kind of salute our songwriters and the stories behind the songs. It's so iconic, and we just thought what a great look to have that small, intimate venue on television for a live network broadcast."

Using the Bluebird is an attempt at turning COVID-19 lemons into TV lemonade. The awards' original April 5 Las Vegas ceremony was scuttled when the coronavirus made it unsafe to travel or to pack an auditorium. CBS identified Sept. 16 as a viable replacement date amid its expected fall season, and the ACM explored numerous non-arena options in multiple cities, ultimately deciding to showcase Nashville with performances

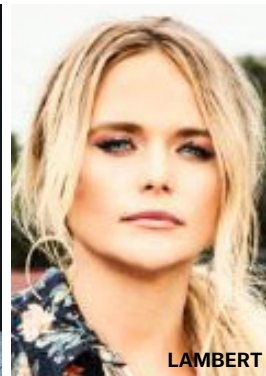
from the Grand Ole Opry House, the Ryman Auditorium and the Bluebird.

The Opry House will serve as the primary location, with **Keith Urban** hosting. The Ryman performances were pre-taped since the downtown hall had already

been booked for the Americana Honors & Awards. (In an odd but appropriate COVID-19 twist, that show is not being held that night because of safety concerns.) Music by Lambert, **Luke Combs**, **Jimmie Allen** and **Tim McGraw** will emanate from the Bluebird, and if any of them should win, executives in the production truck outside the Opry House will quickly switch the live feed to that locale.



WHITESIDE



LAMBERT



WOLLAM NICHOLS

WHITESIDE: JOHN SHEARER; LAMBERT: ELLEN VON UNWERTH

LUKE COMBS
MAX SPINS NOW
1* BB
1* CA/MB
THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO!
WATCH VIDEO HERE

STEREO
RIVERHOUSE
ARTISTS

The opportunity is huge for the Bluebird. It seats only 90 people, but needs at least 65 to break even on any given show. With coronavirus restrictions limiting current patronage to less than half capacity, the site can't make money whether it's open or closed. The ACM Awards will bring in rental revenue and provide interim publicity for the undetermined post-pandemic date when the club can reopen.

"Just to be able to have the Bluebird held in people's hearts and minds, it's really important," says Bluebird GM **Erika Wollam Nichols**. "And it's a reminder to people what an incredible sort of support and piece of our industry the Bluebird is. I'm grateful that the ACM saw us as a significant piece of our music community and brought us into it."

It's being treated like it's valuable, too. Rather than embellish it with extra lights and attractions, ACM Awards executive producer **Richard A. "RAC" Clark** embraced its smallness. The rainbow sign is highlighted, the performances are scaled down, and the columns in the center of the room are incorporated into the production. It's different than Las Vegas' MGM Grand Garden Arena, the awards' longtime home, but that's kind of the point.

"Knowing where we are with COVID, we shouldn't go and do a huge venue that could potentially be empty," says Clark. "It's the first time the ACMs have come to Nashville. So why don't we just embrace Nashville as a postcard?"

None of it is easy, particularly with coronavirus protocols placing severe limitations on personnel and movement. At the Bluebird, Dick Clark Productions (dcp is owned by MRC Entertainment, which is also the parent company of *Billboard*) was able to commandeer all the parking spaces and adjunct businesses in its strip mall location to create a tightly guarded artist compound, with buses serving as the green room and the dressing room. The venue is limited to essential personnel only — no audience — and neighboring shops will be converted to production offices.

The Opry House has its own restrictions. Performances are limited to seven people onstage, thus Lambert's previously announced rendition of "Fooled Around and Fell in Love" with five other singers and at least seven band members was scrapped. The press room has been converted to a virtual Q&A setting. And crew members must treat safeguards as part of the uniform, not dismiss them as infringements on their freedom.

"Working personnel must wear a face mask over their nose and mouth, plus a shield over their face," says Clark. "There's no exceptions to the rule."

Some rules have changed. Instead of sitting in the audience, nominated artists will wait for their names to be called from side stage. And since that means the winner's walk is shorter — and has fewer distractions — Clark saves valuable seconds in programming. That change salvaged enough time that the ACMs were able to squeeze an extra four minutes of music into the rundown.

The California-based ACM brought only necessary staff to Nashville. Those who are able, such as social-media personnel, will handle their awards duties remotely from their West Coast homes. But the crew will not be the focus for viewers. That will still be the music, and some trademark Nashville venues.

"Our city has gone through a tornado, it's gone through the pandemic, all the bars and restaurants and live entertainment shut down," observes Whiteside. "So for us, it's very rewarding to be the first live awards show back on television and to be able to shine a light on Nashville."

No one wants the aftermath to result in negative news about artists coming down with COVID-19, so caution is the operative word.

"Everybody is being super careful in order to be able to accommodate this incredible thing live during the virus," says Wollam Nichols. "I'm really, really impressed with how careful they are being."

The production has forced the ACM and producers to handle a series of surprises, large and small. And one big unknown remains: Will this first Bluebird awards appearance also be the last?

The ACM has the MGM Grand on hold for its April 18, 2021, telecast. But uncertainties surrounding the pandemic mean the academy may have to change venues again. "We're having ongoing discussions with our board and monitoring how things are going," says Whiteside. "We probably won't be able to make a real decision for a while on it."

Whether they return to Nashville and the Bluebird or find themselves back at an arena, Clark is certain that what they have learned through this year's revisions will have long-term consequences for awards productions.

"This will change how we do live televised awards shows," predicts Clark. "There will be something that will come out of this — I don't know what it is quite yet — that will carry into when we go back to regular award shows, whatever it is." ●



Brad Paisley (left) interviewed actor Rainn Wilson while guest-hosting ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* on Sept. 9.



Big & Rich's "Comin' To Your City" returned as the ESPN *College GameDay* theme for the 15th year on Sept. 12. From left: The duo's Big Kenny and guest artist Davie.

JASON DAVIS



Scotty McCreery (right) appeared in a virtual interview with Los Angeles' *KTLA 5 Morning News* anchor Sam Rubin on Sept. 5 in advance of his new single "You Time."



Sara Evans (right) visited with ABC's *Good Morning America* host Robin Roberts to promote her Howard Books autobiography, *Born To Fly*.

LARRY FLEET

WHERE I FIND GOD

"I'M NOT EXAGGERATING WHEN I SAY THIS SONG IS A HIT...IT HAD 100 PERCENT APPROVAL. NO NEGATIVES AT ALL. NOT ONE. WE'VE BEEN PLAYING IT SINCE THAT DAY."

- **DEB TURPIN,**
KSOP/SALT LAKE CITY

"EVERY NOW AND AGAIN AN ARTIST AND SONG COME ALONG THAT MAKE YOU LOOK UP FROM YOUR MASK AND TAKE NOTICE. 'WHERE I FIND GOD' IS ONE OF THOSE SONGS."

- **NATE DEATON,**
KRTY/SAN JOSE

#1 RESEARCH
WXBQ/JOHNSON CITY

"AWESOME SONG THAT CONNECTS WITH LISTENERS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY."

- **BILL HAGY,**
WXBQ/JOHNSON CITY

"WE DID A NEW MUSIC FEATURES WEEK AND OUR AUDIENCE SENT FIVE TIMES THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF TEXTS AND ALMOST ALL GAVE THIS SONG A TOP SCORE OF 5. WE'VE FEATURED THE SONG EVER SINCE."

- **BRENT MICHAELS,**
KUZZ/BAKERSFIELD

IMPACTING
OCTOBER 5TH

BIG LOUD

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

'Rock' Star: HARDY Debuts In Top Five Of Country Albums Chart And Scores First Hot Country Songs Top 10



HARDY's LP *A Rock* (Big Loud) enters *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart (dated Sept. 19) at No. 4.

In its first tracking week (ending Sept. 10), the set earned 18,000 equivalent album units, according to Nielsen Music/MRC Data. On the all-genre *Billboard* 200, it opens at No. 24.

The 12-song set features 10 tracks cowritten by the Philadelphia, Miss., native whose full name is **Michael Wilson Hardy**. It's his second appearance on Top Country Albums, after *Hixtape Vol. 1* started and peaked at No. 35 in September 2019.

Concurrently, the lead single from *A Rock*, "One Beer," featuring **Lauren Alaina** and **Devin Dawson**, jumps 15-10 on the airplay-, streaming- and sales-powered Hot Country Songs chart. On Country Airplay, the song lifts 16-12, up by 10% to 16.3 million audience impressions in the week ending Sept. 13. It also sold 4,000 downloads (up 50%) and climbs 16-7 on Country Digital Song Sales, awarding **HARDY** his first top 10, and drew 6.2 million U.S. streams (up 13%) in the week ending Sept. 10.

"One Beer" is **HARDY's** first Hot Country Songs top 10 as an artist. His first single, "Redneckin'," reached No. 23 in May 2019. As a songwriter for other acts, he has scored hits starting with **Morgan Wallen's** "Up Down" (featuring **Florida Georgia Line**), which peaked at No. 5 on Hot Country Songs in June 2018 and led Country Airplay for a week that month. **HARDY** also copenned **Blake Shelton's** "God's Country," which ruled Hot Country Songs for seven frames beginning in May 2019 and led Country Airplay for two weeks starting in July 2019.

"One Beer" marks **Alaina's** third Hot Country Songs top 10 and her first since her featured turn on **Kane Brown's** "What Ifs," which dominated for five weeks starting in October 2017. That hit followed "Road Less Traveled," which reached No. 8 in April 2017.

Dawson adds his second Hot Country Songs top 10, after "All on Me" rose to No. 6 in March 2018.

'HOMETOWN' NEWS Morgan Wallen's "More Than My Hometown" (Big Loud), which **HARDY** cowrote, rises 13-7 on Hot Country Songs.

On Country Airplay, it pushes 18-17 (13.5 million, up 24%). It also collected 7.7 million streams and sold 3,000 downloads in the tracking week.

The song, which will appear on **Wallen's** forthcoming second LP, marks his sixth Hot Country Songs top 10 (a sum that includes two No. 1s) and his second in the past four weeks. "7 Summers" debuted atop the Aug. 29-dated chart, marking just the fifth start at the summit in the history of the tally, which launched as an all-encompassing genre survey in 1958. On the latest Country Airplay chart, "7 Summers" bumps 37-34 (3.4 million, up 12%).



HARDY

WHERE STELL IS Matt Stell banks his second Country Airplay top 10 as "Everywhere but On" (RECORDS/Arista Nashville) rises 14-10 (17.5 million, up 10%). The song is **Stell's** sophomore Country Airplay entry, after "Prayed for You," which led for two weeks in October 2019 and reached No. 2 on Hot Country Songs.

COMBS TRIPLES UP Luke Combs' "Lovin' on You" (River House/Columbia Nashville) controls Country Airplay for a third week, up by 11% to 35.5 million in audience. The song—**Combs' record-extending ninth straight career-opening No. 1 single**—marks the first hit to lead for three weeks in 2020 on the Sept. 5-dated

ranking. **Combs** also delivered the last song to lead for over two weeks: "Even Though I'm Leaving," which became his seventh No. 1 in November 2019, held the summit for five weeks. ●

LEE BRICE

ONE OF THEM GIRLS

POWERING UP EVERYWHERE!

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RECORDS
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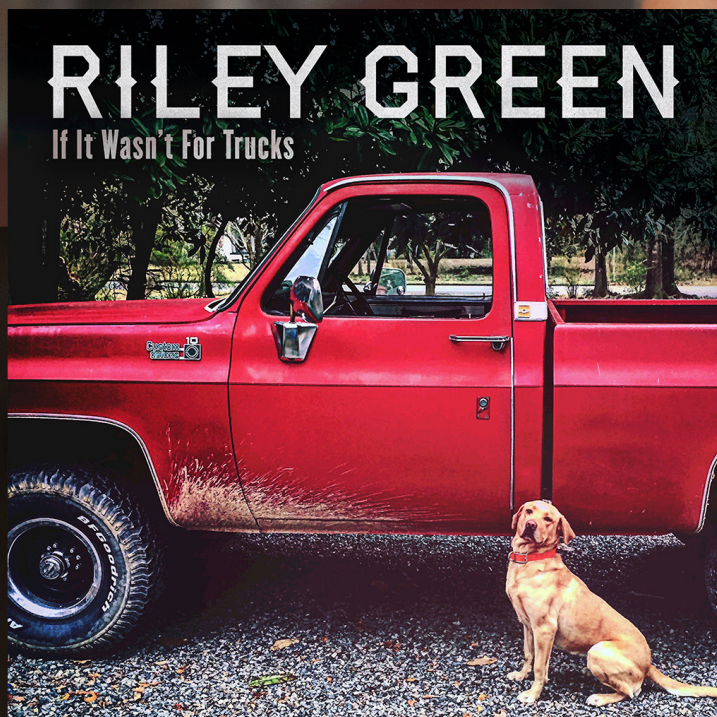


Watch

RILEY GREEN'S

Performance on the
ACM Awards
This Wednesday:

September 16th
8/7c on CBS



New EP
"If It Wasn't For Trucks"

AVAILABLE NOW

BMLG
RECORDS

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	14	LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	★★ No. 1 (3 weeks) ★★	Luke Combs	35.550	+3.637	8058	729	1
2	4	23	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb		Lee Brice	30.934	+3.572	7272	953	2
3	3	21	COOL AGAIN RCA Nashville		Kane Brown	28.932	+1.534	6680	428	3
4	7	23	GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow		Jason Aldean	26.197	+3.211	6248	725	4
5	5	58	DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury		Maddie & Tae	23.297	-1.099	4918	-29	7
6	9	43	SOME GIRLS Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville		Jameson Rodgers	22.479	+2.996	5502	807	5
7	6	25	ONE MARGARITA Row Crop/Capitol Nashville		Luke Bryan	21.724	-1.846	4383	-902	9
8	10	19	I CALLED MAMA McGraw/Big Machine		Tim McGraw	21.193	+1.832	5109	357	6
9	8	29	GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville		Keith Urban	19.041	-2.344	4798	-394	8
10	14	40	EVERYWHERE BUT ON RECORDS/Arista Nashville		Matt Stell	17.484	+1.655	4355	348	10
11	13	8	HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani		17.160	+0.995	4107	448	12
12	16	32	ONE BEER Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lauren Alaina & Devin Dawson		16.257	+1.412	4158	415	11
13	15	63	LONELY IF YOU ARE Dack Janiels/Broken Bow		Chase Rice	16.252	+1.273	4092	313	13
14	2	24	BE A LIGHT Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin & Keith Urban		15.101	-14.398	4045	-3352	14
15	19	28	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers		Russell Dickerson	14.831	+4.085	3706	767	16
16	17	36	PRETTY HEART MCA Nashville		Parker McCollum	14.525	+1.616	3717	365	15
17	18	16	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Republic/Big Loud		Morgan Wallen	13.494	+2.591	3478	653	18
18	20	26	AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY Capitol Nashville		Jon Pardi	12.974	+2.885	3566	565	17
19	21	7	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED Warner Music Nashville/WAR	★★ Airpower ★★	Dan + Shay	11.161	+1.120	2927	189	20
20	22	9	HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA		Kenny Chesney	11.152	+1.450	2812	415	22
21	23	42	BIG, BIG PLANS Big Loud		Chris Lane	10.573	+1.308	2983	242	19
22	24	53	SHE'S MINE MCA Nashville		Kip Moore	9.811	+0.853	2901	188	21
23	26	21	CHAMPAGNE NIGHT BMLG		Lady A	8.906	+0.943	2509	225	23
24	NEW		LONG LIVE BMLG	★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience/Most Added ★★	Florida Georgia Line	8.505	+8.505	1500	1500	32
25	32	3	STARTING OVER Mercury		Chris Stapleton	6.500	+2.553	1591	604	29
26	29	30	MOMMA'S HOUSE Broken Bow		Dustin Lynch	5.471	+1.016	1990	440	24
27	30	12	STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG EMI Nashville		Eric Church	4.987	+0.557	1917	239	25
28	28	22	GOOD TIME RCA Nashville		Niko Moon	4.953	+0.423	1711	311	26
29	33	13	HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU Big Machine		Rascal Flatts	4.807	+1.123	1642	289	27
30	31	6	BEERS AND SUNSHINE Capitol Nashville		Darius Rucker	4.748	+0.608	1511	214	31

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	35	15	HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	4.027	+0.742	1542	216	30
32	34	46	GETTING GOOD 19/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	3.625	+0.166	1610	50	28
33	36	31	SOMEBODY LIKETHAT 19th & Grand	Tenille Arts	3.608	+0.505	1389	98	33
34	37	4	7 SUMMERS Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	3.377	+0.373	853	186	42
35	39	7	BETTY Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift	3.130	+0.285	1018	137	39
36	38	17	ALL NIGHT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	3.003	+0.123	1218	116	35
37	40	15	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	2.996	+0.408	1183	148	36
38	42	21	NOBODY Curb	Dylan Scott	2.577	+0.232	1278	145	34
39	41	22	GABRIELLE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Brett Eldredge	2.475	+0.077	1019	93	38
40	45	24	TO HELL & BACK Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	2.430	+0.464	1042	184	37
41	44	20	LADY BMLG	Brett Young	2.383	+0.312	766	76	45
42	43	13	HARD DAYS Valory	Brantley Gilbert	2.039	-0.113	762	18	46
43	47	17	JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek	Parmalee x Blanco Brown	1.995	+0.060	913	80	40
44	46	14	THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	1.942	-0.007	907	83	41
45	48	13	THE MAN WHO LOVES YOU THE MOST Home Grown/19th & Grand	Zac Brown Band	1.721	+0.055	723	64	47
46	50	11	WE WERE RICH Wheelhouse	Runaway June	1.709	+0.107	816	61	43
47	51	17	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	1.699	+0.125	539	43	50
48	49	11	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	1.624	-0.032	519	42	52
49	52	4	WHAT DO I KNOW Arista Nashville	Robert Counts	1.350	+0.114	527	147	51
50	53	20	THIS IS US RECORDS/Columbia/Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen & Noah Cyrus	1.305	+0.110	776	46	44
51	54	12	EVERY OTHER MEMORY RCA Nashville	Ryan Hurd	1.272	+0.098	367	52	53
52	55	8	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	1.261	+0.355	603	160	48
53	56	2	NEVER BE SORRY RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	1.010	+0.167	341	104	54
54	NEW	1	DEAR RODEO CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	0.805	+0.526	183	112	-
55	58	4	A SONG TO REMEMBER Low Country Sound/Elektra/WEA	A Thousand Horses	0.704	+0.143	257	43	60
56	57	7	ALL OF THE BOYS True To The Song/Mailboat/New Revolution	Caroline Jones	0.549	-0.037	583	16	49
57	59	18	SALTWATER GOSPEL (FINS UP VERSION) Valory	Eli Young Band & Jimmy Buffett	0.496	-0.033	139	21	-
58	NEW		BROKEN UP Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	0.494	+0.081	268	28	57
59	60	3	NEVER HAVE I EVER BMLG	Danielle Bradbery	0.476	-0.045	267	16	58
60	RE-ENTRY		WHERE THAT BEER'S BEEN Mercury	Travis Denning	0.436	+0.018	339	43	55



54

CODY JOHNSON
Dear Rodeo

Cowritten by Johnson, the track is his fifth Country Airplay entry. It arrives at No. 54 with 805,000 audience impressions.

CAMERON POWELL

GOING FOR ADDS

9/21

CAYLEE HAMMACK
Just Friends
Capitol Nashville

ELVIE SHANE
My Boy
Wheelhouse

ERIC BURGETT
Sometimes Late At Night
Bow To Stern

HIGH VALLEY
Grew Up On That
Warner Music Nashville/WEA

MIRANDA LAMBERT
Settling Down
RCA Nashville

9/28

CLAY WALKER
Need A Bar Sometimes
Show Dog Nashville

SHANE OWENS
Everybody Dies But Not
Everybody Lives
Not Listed

10/5

LARRY FLEET
Where I Find God
Big Loud

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
LONG LIVE BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	81
STARTING OVER Mercury	Chris Stapleton	18
WHAT DO I KNOW Arista Nashville	Robert Counts	18
GOOD TIME RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	15
7 SUMMERS Big Loud/Republic	Morgan Wallen	13
HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	12
NEVER BE SORRY RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	10
HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	9
MOMMA'S HOUSE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	8
ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	8

NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
Y'ALLSOME Black River	Pryor & Lee	0.424	26	2
BEERS TO CATCH UP ON Wheelhouse	LOCASH	0.411	16	5
WANT ME BACK Stoney Creek	Lindsay Ell	0.383	28	1
AIN'T BAD FOR A GOOD OL' BOY Curb	Mo Pitney	0.345	19	2
NEED A BAR SOMETIMES Show Dog Nashville	Clay Walker	0.343	0	0
SOMETHING YOU AIN'T EVER HAD Show Dog Nashville	Waterloo Revival	0.341	22	1

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
LONG LIVE BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	+8.505
LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+4.085
LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+3.637
ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	+3.572
GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+3.211
SOME GIRLS Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers	+2.996
AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+2.885
MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.591
STARTING OVER Mercury	Chris Stapleton	+2.553
I CALLED MAMA McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	+1.832

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	CHASIN' YOU Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	19.792
2	I HOPE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	17.545
3	NOBODY BUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Duet With Gwen Stefani	17.362
4	HARD TO FORGET MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	15.964
5	DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	15.444
6	WHY WE DRINK Valory	Justin Moore	12.518
7	ONE NIGHT STANDARDS Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Ashley McBryde	11.235
8	THE BONES Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	10.795
9	DOES TO ME River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs Featuring Eric Church	10.464
10	BLUEBIRD Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	10.234

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
LONG LIVE BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	+1500
ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	+953
SOME GIRLS Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers	+807
LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	+767
LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+729
GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+725
MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+653
STARTING OVER Mercury	Chris Stapleton	+604
AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+565
HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani	+448



FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE: JOHN SHEARER

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 13, 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	2	23	LET ME HOLD YOU TONIGHT (Little Red Truck) ★★1 Week at 1★	Deryl Dodd	1931	120	11	1	23	EVERYDAYERS (Independent)	James Lann	1162	-889
2	3	15	GHOST TOWN (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1871	103	12	15	13	LONESOME, ON'RY AND MEAN (S.O.T.)	Jody Booth and Tracy Byrd	1125	107
3	4	12	WHISPER MY NAME (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1731	59	13	14	20	COUNTRY TO THE BONE (Independent)	Darrin Morris Band	1123	76
4	6	17	POOR (Independent)	William Clark Green	1712	58	14	12	27	JUST FOR THE RECORD (Independent)	Cody Hibbard	1079	-16
5	5	12	MEET IN THE MIDDLE (One Chord Song)	Stoney LaRue & Tanya Tucker	1705	41	15	18	18	HERE I GO AGAIN (Independent)	Clay Hollis	1018	44
6	7	21	LIKE A COWBOY (Independent)	Parker McCollum	1604	76	16	17	21	THE LUCKIER YOU GET (New West)	American Aquarium	1005	15
7	10	14	I'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1503	169	17	19	22	DAMN YOU WHISKEY (Independent)	Scotty Alexander	983	52
8	8	10	HEY COWGIRL (Independent)	Randall King	1469	98	18	23	6	COWBOY'S COWGIRL (King Hall Music)	Chad Cooke Band	980	142
9	11	15	PROJECT (Independent)	Mark Powell	1322	91	19	16	18	AIN'T A TRAIN (Independent)	Cody Jinks	947	-65
10	9	26	NOT GIVE A DAMN (Independent)	Sundance Head	1298	-53	20	24	10	GRAVITY & YOU (Jake Bush Music)	Jake Bush	896	72

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2020, Texas Regional Radio Report



ELVIE SHANE
"MY BOY"

IMPACTING 9/21

THE SONG THAT HAS MOVED SO MANY OF YOU,
WILL DO THE SAME WITH YOUR AUDIENCE BECAUSE
IT'S THEIR LIFE.

**113 MILLION AMERICANS
ARE PART OF A STEP RELATIONSHIP**

50% OF THE 60 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 13
LIVE WITH A BIOLOGICAL PARENT AND THEIR CURRENT PARTNER

NATIONAL STEP-PARENT DAY IS
SEPTEMBER 16TH



BMG MAVERICK





ELVIE SHANE

"MY BOY"

IMPACTING 9/21

"THERE SHOULD BE A **PAYOFF** FOR WRITING AND RECORDING A **BRILLIANT SONG**. WE NEED GREAT SONGS. I HOPE THE FORMAT PAYS ELVIE SHANE OFF WITH **LOTS OF ADDS AND SPINS**."
- GREGG SWEDBERG, KEEY / MINNEAPOLIS

"ELVIE FINDS THE BALANCE BETWEEN **ATTITUDE AND HEART**. EITHER WAY IT'S MUSIC THAT **MAKES YOU FEEL**."
- JUSTIN COLE, WUSY / CHATTANOOGA

"ELVIE IS **AS COUNTRY AS IT GETS** WITH A ROCKING SOUND AND A **TON OF ENERGY**. HE'S GOT A **BIG FUTURE!**" - NICK FOX, WESTWOOD ONE

"BEEN AWHILE SINCE I HAVE BEEN **THIS EXCITED** BY A NEW ARTIST." - JIM DORMAN, KZSN / WICHITA

"THERE'S ALWAYS A SONG THAT YOU **WEREN'T EXPECTING** TO COME ALONG, AND IT DOES AND KNOCKS YOU OFF YOUR BUTT. THIS IS THAT SONG. **SO GOOD, SO WELL DONE**."
- NATE DEATON, KRTY / SAN JOSE

"ELVIE SHANE MADE ME LAUGH AND CRY IN THE FIRST 10 MINUTES OF MEETING HIM. THERE IS **SO MUCH PASSION IN HIS MUSIC!**" - NEWMAN, WRBT / HARRISBURG

"ELVIE IS A **BREATH OF FRESH AIR!** HE IS EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! I WAS HANGING ON **EVERY WORD**." - CHRIS "FISH" SHATEK

"IN A SEA OF SOUND-ALIKE SINGERS, IT'S REFRESHING TO HAVE **A VOICE THAT'S LIKE NONE OTHER OUT THERE**. BETTER YET, ELVIE SHANE HAS **SONGS THAT CONNECT**. WE CAN USE MORE OF THAT COMBINATION ON COUNTRY RADIO." - JIM MURPHY, MUSIC CHOICE

"RIGHT NOW WE COULD ALL USE THE **POSITIVITY AND ORIGINALITY** THAT ELVIE IS BRINGING WITH HIS MUSIC."
- STEVE STEWART, WWKA / ORLANDO

"IT'S GREAT HEARING THIS KIND OF **REALITY-BASED STORY TELLING** WITH A HOOK FROM A GRITTY, WORKING CLASS KID. I'M **EAGER TO WATCH HIM GROW**."
- SCOTT RODDY, KWJJ / PORTLAND

"ELVIE SHANE SAYS THAT 'MY BOY' IS A '**GOD SONG**,' MEANING THAT HE CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR WRITING IT. I BELIEVE THAT **GOD ALSO CHOSE WHO SHOULD DELIVER IT**." - JAY DANIELS, KXLY / SPOKANE

"I **CONNECTED WITH THIS SONG IMMEDIATELY**. HE HAS AN **INSTANTLY CONTAGIOUS** SOUND THAT REALLY STANDS OUT. GREAT WRITING AND HE ROCKS YOUR SOCKS OFF! **SOUTHERN ROCK RETURNS** WITH ELVIE."
- KERRY WOLFE, WMIL / MILWAUKEE

"ELVIE IS A **TERRIFIC ARTIST** WITH THAT '**IT FACTOR**' WE'RE **ALWAYS LOOKING FOR!**"
- TANYA BURKO, WGGY / SCRANTON

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Niko Moon joined a handful of radio personnel in a virtual round table supporting his single "Good Time." Clockwise from upper left: *Rise Up* host John Ritter, *Café Nashville* host Jody Van-Alin, ShannonCountry.com owner Shannon McCombs, *Bob Kingley's Country Top 40 With Fitz* interviewer/writer (and *Billboard* contributor) Deborah Evans-Price and Moon.

ACM UNVEILS EARLY WINNERS

As the Academy of Country Music (ACM) counts down to its 55th annual awards on Sept. 16, the early trophy leader is...

Tenille Townes!?

Indeed, the Canadian-born Columbia Nashville artist has already been announced as a double-winner. She received her new female artist of the year trophy during the *Grand Ole Opry* on Sept. 12, and she claimed a second victory on Sept. 14 as a member of Miranda Lambert's posse on "Fooled Around and Fell in Love," an Elvin Bishop remake that received music event of the year. Lambert and Townes shared that honor with Maren Morris, Ashley McBryde, Elle King and Caylee Hammack, as well as producer Jay Joyce.

The music event announcement was one of three pre-show winners revealed Sept. 14. "Remember You Young" swiped video of the year for artist Thomas Rhett and director TK McKamy, while songwriter of the year went to Hillary Lindsey ("Buy My Own Drinks," "It All Comes Out in the Wash").

Riley Green is also a pre-show champion, receiving his new male artist of the year hardware during the Sept. 12 *Opry* edition.

Those wins come as the West Coast-based ACM unveiled a flurry of performance elements to entice viewers. The three-hour special — to be held in Nashville for the first time — will open with a segment featuring all five entertainer of the year nominees: Rhett, Luke Bryan, Luke Combs, Carrie Underwood and Eric Church. Host Keith Urban gives his first public performance of a new collaboration with P!nk, "One Too Many." And Taylor Swift likewise delivers her first live rendering of "Betty" from the Grand Ole Opry House.

Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani are set to duet, and Trisha Yearwood has also been added to the performance roster. Underwood has likewise been tapped to recognize some of her Opry predecessors with covers of songs by Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, Barbara Mandrell, Reba McEntire, Martina McBride and Loretta Lynn.

The ACM Awards are produced by Dick Clark Productions, owned by MRC Entertainment, which is also the parent company of *Billboard*.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Entercom made a slew of cuts in a major restructuring. Staffers who announced their departures via social media include KFRG Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif., personality Ginny Harman; KMNW Minneapolis-St. Paul personalities Mandy James and Chris "Fish" Shatek; KKWF Seattle music director Alek Halverson; KILT Houston/KWJJ Portland, Ore., personality Erin Austin; WFLP Memphis music director Marty Brooks; and WPAW Greensboro, N.C., personality Tami Rumpfelt. Rumpfelt announced her dismissal in an eight-minute YouTube video titled with a touch of humor. Known on-air as Tami With an I, she listed her post as "Tami With a Bye... for now" ... WKLB Boston promoted Dawn Santolucito to assistant PD from music director while she continues to serve as marketing director. Morning-show producer Jim Clerkin added music director to his job description ... Townsquare/Quincy, Ill.-Hannibal, Mo., hired Carrie Grant as market president/chief revenue officer after eight years as Nexstar/Springfield, Mo., director of digital media/national sales

manager. The Townsquare cluster includes country KICK and classic country WLIQ ... Beasley/Fayetteville, N.C., operations manager Randy Bliss left the company, InsideRadio.com reported, and established RCB Productions. The cluster's stations include country WKML ... Aaron Criswell exited as Cumulus/Shreveport, La., vp/market manager, according to InsideRadio.com. The five-station group includes country KRMD ... Warner Music Nashville announced the signing of Wyoming-bred singer-songwriter Ian Munsick, promising to bring a western sound back to a format previously referred to as "country and western." His first track with the label, "Long Haul," is expected Sept. 18.

'ROUND THE ROW

FBMM promoted Jason Leiss to associate business manager from senior account manager. Leiss handles financial duties for FBMM clients Scotty McCreery, John Hiatt, Sam Hunt and Tenille Townes ... Music Health Alliance hired Jackie Proffit as executive assistant to founder/CEO Tatum Allsep. Proffit was previously St. Jude Children's Research Hospital liaison, radio and music development. Reach her [here](#) ... BMG promoted Los Angeles-based Allegra Willis Knerr to senior vp synch licensing from vp film and TV licensing ... Atrium Museum of the American West president/CEO W. Richard West will retire in June 2021, with UCLA professor Stephen Aron succeeding him. The museum was founded in 1988 by four executives, including Country Music Hall of Fame member Gene Autry ... Warner Chappell and Ashley Gorley's Tape Room Music signed songwriter Taylor Phillips ("Homesick," "Hurricane") to a publishing deal ... Singer-songwriter Jenn Schott reached a joint publishing agreement with Anthem Music and Jeremy Stover's Red Creative Group ... Spirit Music Group acquired the master recordings for the Tim McGraw albums *Two Lanes of Freedom*, *Sundown Heaven Town* and *Damn Country Music* from Big Machine ... Singer-songwriter Ryan Kinder joined the management roster at The Anvil ... Carrie Underwood sideman Chad Jeffers and Compass Real Estate Nashville founder Greg Cooley established the Encore Home Group, a real estate firm specializing in high-profile clients relocating to Middle Tennessee. Reach Jeffers [here](#) and Cooley [here](#) ... The Americana Music Association canceled its Sept. 16 Honors & Awards event at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, citing COVID-19 issues. Updated plans on unveiling the winners will be announced at a later date ... The CMT Music Awards will air Oct. 21, four months after the coronavirus forced their postponement ... The ASCAP Country Music Awards will be revised from their traditional dinner ceremony to a multiday celebration on the performing rights organization's social channels Nov. 9-12 ... Leadership Music joined with three other Tennessee Leadership groups to present an Oct. 20 conversation with author-historian Jon Meacham, *The Power of Hope: History of Leadership Triumphs*. The virtual Q&A will be available to members of all four Leadership organizations, which are working together for the first time ... Songwriter Troy Jones died Sept. 11 at his lakeside home in Fayetteville, Ala. He penned the Billy Currington hits "People Are Crazy" and "Pretty Good at Drinkin' Beer," plus the Kenny Chesney & George Strait release "Shiftwork." Visitation is being held Sept. 15 at Marble City Baptist Church in Sylacauga, Ala., prior to a private family service. ●



Wheelhouse artist Elvie Shane performed several songs, including debut single "My Boy," for media in a Sept. 10 virtual introduction. Clockwise from upper left: BBR Music Group vp publicity Jay Jones, American Songwriter contributor Madeline Crone, Shane and Taste of Country senior editor Billy Dukes.

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

Face masks are a human health asset in the midst of the pandemic, but the same personal protective equipment hurts the health of Mother Earth when it's improperly discarded. **George Strait** has joined several celebrities, including actors **Matthew McConaughey** and **Eva Longoria**, in the Texas Department of Transportation's latest "Don't Mess With Texas" anti-littering campaign. The public service announcements launched on Aug. 31. Check out Strait's voiceover work [here](#).



DAVID MCCLISTER

Johnny Cash was known for the simplicity of his arrangements, but that didn't mean he couldn't be a tad exotic when it was appropriate. "Sunday Morning Coming Down," for example, includes French horns and triangle in its thick production. Now an album is set to reimagine his classic voice within classical instrumentation on *Johnny Cash and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*, due Nov. 13. The package includes revisions of "I Walk the Line," "Ring of Fire" and "Highwayman." Other new sets on the docket include the deluxe version of **Jon Pardi's** *Heartache Medication*, due Oct. 2; **Tanya Tucker's** *Live From the Troubadour*, Oct. 16; and **Josh Abbott Band's** *The Highway Kind*, Nov. 13.

Miranda Lambert has a new pet project. Her nonprofit MuttNation is partnering with the Waggle Foundation to aid music community members who need assistance during the pandemic in paying their pets' medical bills. Apply [here](#). Meanwhile, **Mickey Guyton** will appear on the Academy of Country Music Awards on Sept. 16 to shine a light on pandemic-related hunger. Wells Fargo is donating \$100,000 to the ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Relief Fund to assist.

Kentucky native **Elvie Shane** refused to move to Nashville for years, believing Music Row's commercial climate was an ill fit for his music. During a Sept. 10 virtual meet-and-greet with media, he noted his attitude changed when fellow Kentuckian **Chris Stapleton** performed with **Justin Timberlake** on the Country Music Association Awards in 2015. "I came the next Monday and started cowriting and found out that I was just an idiot," said Shane. "I should have been here the whole time they were asking me to." His first single — "My Boy," an emotional, adoption-themed ballad — was released to country radio via PlayMPE on Sept. 1. ●

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[Americana Music Association Pulls The Plug On Americana Honors & Awards At Ryman Auditorium](#)

[Brain Drain, Bankruptcy & Millions Unemployed: Where Do Concert Workers Go From Here?](#)

[20 Questions With ACM Awards' New Male Artist Of The Year Riley Green](#)

[Sony Music Reaches \\$12.7M Settlement In Challenge To Decades-Old Contracts, Royalty Methods](#)

ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

Sept. 15

- 2019 — *Country Music: A Film by Ken Burns* premieres on PBS. **Kathy Mattea** is the first artist interviewed on camera, followed by such key contributors as **Garth Brooks**, **Merle Haggard**, **Marty Stuart**, **Dolly Parton**, **Rosanne Cash**, **Ketch Secor** and **Rhiannon Giddens**.
- 2014 — EMI releases **Eric Church's** "Talladega" to radio.



RETO STERCHI

Sept. 16

- 2008 — Capitol releases **Darius Rucker's** first country album, *Learn To Live*.
- 1995 — **Tim McGraw** begins a five-week stay atop the *Billboard* country singles chart with "I Like It, I Love It."

Sept. 17

- 2000 — **Willie Nelson** presents Farm Aid XV in Bristow, Va., with a lineup that includes **Neil Young**, **John Mellencamp**, **Alan Jackson** and **Sawyer Brown**. **Tipper Gore**, wife of Vice President **Al Gore**, plays congas with Nelson on "Whiskey River."

Sept. 18

- 2018 — **Dustin Lynch** is inducted as the newest member of the Grand Ole Opry. He performs "Cowboys and Angels" and "Small Town Boy."
- 2017 — **Scotty McCreery** records "This Is It" at the Ocean Way Studios in Nashville.

Sept. 19

- 1980 — The movie *Ordinary People* debuts in theaters. **Judd Hirsch**, in his role as a psychotherapist, sings the hook from **Lynn Anderson's** "Rose Garden" to patient **Timothy Hutton**. The cast includes **Donald Sutherland** and **Mary Tyler Moore**.

Sept. 20

- 1970 — **Mike Reid** plays his first regular season game in the NFL as his Cincinnati Bengals beat the Oakland Raiders, 31-21, at Riverfront Stadium. He goes on to score hits both as a country artist and as a songwriter for **Conway Twitty**, **Ronnie Milsap** and **The Judds**.

Sept. 21

- 1950 — **Johnny Cash** begins training to intercept Soviet Morse code correspondence at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss.

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



RON BLAYLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY

Jerry Lee Lewis was inducted into the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment (MAX) Hall of Fame in Meridian on Sept. 3, with two relatives accepting the honor in his absence. From left: MAX board of directors chair Ann Alexander, sister Linda Gail Lewis and son Jerry Lee Lewis III.

RUSSELL DICKERSON

*love you like
i used to*

19 - 15*

**+4 MILLION
AUDIENCE
IMPRESSIONS**

**#2 AUDIENCE
GAINER**

**+46% SPOTIFY
STREAMS**



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
1	1	1	72	I HOPE R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (Z.KALE,J.M.NITE,G.BARRETT)	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	RC	1
2	5	10	22	ONE OF THEM GIRLS B.GLOVER,K.JACOBBS,L.BRICE (A.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,D.DAVIDSON,L.BRICE)	Lee Brice CURB	2	2
3	3	4	18	LOVIN' ON YOU S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,T.ARCHER,R.M.L.FULCHER,J.MCNAIR)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	1	3
4	4	5	31	GOT WHAT I GOT M.KNOX (M.TYLER,A.PALMER,T.ARCHER)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	4	4
5	2	2	60	DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART J.M.ROBBINS,D.WELLS (M.MARLOW,T.DYE,J.SINGLETON,D.RUTTAN)	Maddie & Tae MERCURY	5	2
6	6	8	21	COOL AGAIN D.HUFF,L.RIMES (K.BROWN,J.HODGES,M.MCGINN,L.RIMES)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	3	6
7	13	14	21	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN J.MOI (M.W.HARDY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME,M.WALLEN)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	17	7
8	11	12	7	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED D.SMYERS (D.SMYERS,S.MOONEY,S.M.DOUGLAS,J.G.EVIGAN)	Dan + Shay WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	19	8
9	8	6	26	ONE MARGARITA J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (M.R.CARTER,M.DRAGSTREM,J.THOMPSON)	Luke Bryan ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	7	2
10	15	16	37	ONE BEER J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDY,H.LINDSEY,J.MITCHELL)	HARDY Featuring Lauren Alaina & Devin Dawson BIG LOUD	12	10
11	16	19	25	SOME GIRLS C.FARREN,M.J.CONES (M.W.HARDY,J.MITCHELL,C.J.SOLAR)	Jameson Rodgers COMBUSTION/RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	6	11
12	7	11	24	BE A LIGHT D.HUFF (THOMAS RHETT,M.DRAGSTREM,J.MILLER,J.THOMPSON)	Thomas Rhett Featuring Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin & Keith Urban VALORY	14	7
13	9	7	4	7 SUMMERS J.MOI (M.WALLEN,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	34	1
14	19	18	7	HAPPY ANYWHERE S.HENDRICKS (R.COPPERMAN,J.OSBORNE,M.JENKINS)	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	11	10
15	18	17	19	PRETTY HEART JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM,R.MONTANA)	Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	16	15
16	20	13	19	I CALLED MAMA T.MCGRAW,B.GALLIMORE (M.GREEN,L.MILLER,J.YEARY)	Tim McGraw MCGRAW/BIG MACHINE	8	13
17	12	9	25	I LOVE MY COUNTRY C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY (K.BROWN,C.CROWDER,R.C.MCGILL,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME,W.WEATHERLY)	Florida Georgia Line BMLG	RC	8
18	10	50	3	STARTING OVER D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,M.HENDERSON)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY	25	10
19	22	22	20	AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY B.BUTLER,R.GORE,J.PARDI (B.KINNEY,J.THOMPSON)	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	18	19
20	24	24	25	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO D.HUFF,C.BROWN,R.DICKERSON (R.DICKERSON,C.BROWN,P.WELLING)	Russell Dickerson TRIPLE TIGERS	15	20
21	21	21	39	LONELY IF YOU ARE C.DESTEFANO,C.RICE (C.RICE,L.RIMES,H.PHELPS)	Chase Rice DACK JANIELS/BROKEN BOW	13	21
22	23	23	24	EVERYWHERE BUT ON A.BOWERS,M.STELL (M.STELL,P.SIKES,L.MILLER)	Matt Stell RECORDS/ARISTA NASHVILLE	10	22
23	25	28	15	GOOD TIME N.MOON,J.MURTY (N.MOON,J.MINTON,A.MOON,J.MURTY,M.TRUSSELL)	Niko Moon RCA NASHVILLE	28	23
24	26	25	28	BIG, BIG PLANS J.MOI (J.DURRETT,C.LANE,E.K.SMITH)	Chris Lane BIG LOUD	21	24
25	27	26	26	SHE'S MINE K.MOORE (K.MOORE,D.COUCH,S.STEPAKOFF)	Kip Moore MCA NASHVILLE	22	25

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

- #1 3 WKS **HARDY**
- ZACH KALE**
- JOSH THOMPSON**
- JON NITE**
- GABBY BARRETT**
- THOMAS ARCHER**
- JOSH OSBORNE**
- ASHLEY GORLEY**
- JAKE MITCHELL**
- MORGAN WALLEN**



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

- #1 19 WKS **JOEY MOI**
- DANN HUFF**
- ROSS COPPERMAN**
- SCOTT MOFFATT**
- DEREK WELLS**
- MICHAEL KNOX**
- ZACH KALE**
- DAN SMYERS**
- SCOTT HENDRICKS**
- JON RANDALL**

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 <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	28	27	22	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 BMLG	23	26
27	30	35	8	HAPPY DOES <small>B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (B.CLAWSON,J.PAULIN,B.BERRYHILL,G.JAMES)</small>	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	20	27
28	31	34	13	HOLE IN THE BOTTLE <small>J.FRASURE,K.BALLERINI (K.BALLERINI,S.JONES,H.LINDSEY,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY)</small>	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	31	28
29	NEW		1	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL <small>J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDY,A.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)</small>	HARDY BIG LOUD	-	29
30	34	31	12	STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG <small>J.JOYCE (D.NAISH,JEFFREY STEELE)</small>	Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE	27	23
31	32	30	17	ALMOST MAYBES <small>P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,J.FRASURE,H.LINDSEY)</small>	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	37	30
32	33	32	12	THE GOOD ONES <small>R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,E.LANDIS,J.MCCORMICK,Z.KALE)</small>	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	44	32
33	35	33	7	BETTY <small>A.DESSNER,J.M.ANTONOFF,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT,W.BOWERY)</small>	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC/MCA NASHVILLE	35	6
34	29	29	18	NO I IN BEER <small>L.WOOTEN,D.HUFF (B.PAISLEY,K.LOVELACE)</small>	Brad Paisley ARISTA NASHVILLE	RC	29
35	36	36	6	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY <small>LITTLE BIG TOWN (T.BROWN,K.FAIRCHILD,S.MCCONNELL,K.SCHLAPMAN,P.SWEET,J.WESTBROOK)</small>	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	52	35
36	37	39	30	JUST THE WAY <small>D.FANNING (M.THOMAS,K.BARD,N.W.SIPE)</small>	Parmalee x Blanco Brown STONEY CREEK	43	31
37	39	37	6	WHO YOU ARE TO ME <small>C.TOMLIN,C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY (C.TOMLIN,C.KELLEY,D.HAYWOOD,H.SCOTT)</small>	Chris Tomlin Featuring Lady A SPARROW/CAPITOL CMG	-	37
38	40	38	5	BEERS AND SUNSHINE <small>R.COPPERMAN (D.RUCKER,R.COPPERMAN,J.T.HARDING,J.OSBORNE)</small>	Darius Rucker CAPITOL NASHVILLE	30	25
39	38	40	19	LADY <small>D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,R.COPPERMAN,J.M.NITE)</small>	Brett Young BMLG	41	22
40	42	43	15	TO HELL & BACK <small>BUSBEE,M.MORRIS (M.MORRIS,J.J.DILLON,L.J.VELTZ)</small>	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	40	40
41	43	44	16	MOMMA'S HOUSE <small>Z.CROWELL (D.SCHNEIDER,M.LOTTEN,R.CLAWSON,J.T.WILSON)</small>	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	26	41
42	47	46	8	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT <small>M.R.CARTER (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,M.HOLMAN)</small>	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	48	42
43	45	41	14	CHEATIN' SONGS <small>D.HUFF,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (J.CARSON,C.DUDDY,M.WYSTRACH,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)</small>	Midland BIG MACHINE	RC	41
44	NEW		1	LONG LIVE <small>C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY (T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY,C.CROWDER,D.A.GARCIA,J.MILLER)</small>	Florida Georgia Line BMLG	24	44
45	48	45	7	TALKIN' TENNESSEE <small>J.MOI (J.HYDE,M.WALLEN,C.WISEMAN)</small>	Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD	-	42
46	NEW		1	HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU <small>D.HUFF (M.BEESON,J.OSBORNE,A.SHAMBLIN)</small>	Rascal Flatts BIG MACHINE	29	46
47	46	47	16	SIX FEET APART <small>C.MATTHEWS,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,B.COBBS,R.SNYDER)</small>	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	RC	10
48			3	GOOD TIMES ROLL <small>A.BOWERS,J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN,Z.KALE,C.HAYNES, JR.)</small>	Jimmie Allen & Nelly STONEY CREEK	-	31
49	49	48	4	ALL NIGHT <small>J.JOYCE (J.OSBORNE,T.J.OSBORNE,A.DEROBERTS)</small>	Brothers Osborne EMI NASHVILLE	36	48
50	NEW		1	TRUCK <small>J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)</small>	HARDY BIG LOUD	-	50

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

	WEEKLY UNIT COUNT		
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND
This Week	1,235,000	1,353,975,000	124,605,000
Last Week	1,215,000	1,340,567,000	125,905,000
Change	1.6%	1.0%	-1.0%
This Week Last Year	1,059,000	1,050,211,000	273,625,000
Change	16.6%	28.9%	-54.5%

	YEAR-TO-DATE		
	2019	2020	CHANGE
Album Consumption	37,806,000	42,633,000	12.8%
Album Sales	6,906,000	5,963,000	-13.7%
Audio On-Demand	37,728,709,000	46,031,825,000	22.0%
Video On-Demand	9,665,338,000	4,291,145,000	-55.6%

YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
'19	37.80 million
'20	42.63 million
TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS	
'19	47.39 billion
'20	50.95 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending September 10, 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



billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

SALES, DATA
COMPILED BY
MRC nielsen

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	3	44	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595887*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	■	1
2	2	2	119	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	■	1
3	3	4	171	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	■	1
4	NEW	1		HARDY BIG LOUD 836*	A ROCK		4
5	4	5	4	KANE BROWN RCA NASHVILLE DIGITAL EX/SMN	MIXTAPE, VOL. 1 (EP)		2
6	6	7	280	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	■	1
7	5	6	5	LUKE BRYAN ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE 031777/UMGN	BORN HERE LIVE HERE DIE HERE		1
8	7	8	12	GABBY BARRETT WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	GOLDMINE		4
9	9	9	23	SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN	SOUTHSIDE		1
10	13	10	266	ZAC BROWN BAND ROAR/SOUTHERN GROUND/ATLANTIC 546369/AG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
11	14	13	39	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 607343/WMN	FULLY LOADED: GOD'S COUNTRY	●	1
12	11	11	79	MAREN MORRIS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 590186*/SMN	GIRL	●	1
13	15	17	61	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		12
14	12	15	42	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 32944*/BBMG			9
15	16	12	15	DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY MAD DECENT DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA	CHAPTER I: SNAKE OIL		6
16	18	18	116	DAN + SHAY WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 570796/WMN	DAN + SHAY	■	1
17	20	21	78	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89048*/LEGACY (25.98)	THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY	■	12
18	19	19	197	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947*/SMN	KANE BROWN	■	1
19	22	20	227	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS	■	6
20	17	16	21	MADDIE & TAE MERCURY 031826*/UMGN	THE WAY IT FEELS		7
21	23	24	228	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	■	1
22	24	23	96	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE /SMN	EXPERIMENT	■	1
23	28	27	221	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN	CALIFORNIA SUNRISE	■	1
24	26	26	185	JOHNNY CASH COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 86290*/LEGACY (24.98/17.98)	THE ESSENTIAL JOHNNY CASH	■	16
25	29	28	255	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 551788/WMN	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS		2

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.

billboard AMERICANA/
FOLK ALBUMS

SALES DATA
COMPILED BY
MRC nielsen

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	2	226	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	■	1
2	4	3	78	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		2
3	5	5	272	HOZIER RUBYWORKS 309996*/COLUMBIA	HOZIER	■	1
4	6	7	128	KACEY MUSGRAVES MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN	GOLDEN HOUR	●	1
5	9	9	189	SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS		3
6	10	10	231	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA	■	1
7	13	13	94	JOHN MELLENCAMP MERCURY 536738*/UME	THE BEST THAT I COULD DO 1978 - 1988	■	5
8	11	11	183	JACK JOHNSON JACK JOHNSON/BRUSHFIRE /REPUBLIC	IN BETWEEN DREAMS	■	5
9	8	4	8	THE CHICKS COLUMBIA 974115*	GASLIGHTER		1
10	7	12	155	JAMES TAYLOR WARNER BROS. 78094*/RHINO (11.98)	GREATEST HITS		4

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.

billboard
COUNTRY
STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE	ARTIST
1	2	46	I HOPE	GABBY BARRETT
2	1	4	7 SUMMERS	MORGAN WALLEN
3	3	14	DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART	MADDIE & TAE
4	14	13	ONE OF THEM GIRLS	LEE BRICE
5	5	36	CHASIN' YOU	MORGAN WALLEN
6	4	179	TENNESSEE WHISKEY	CHRIS STAPLETON
7	7	56	HEARTLESS	DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN
8	6	15	GOT WHAT I GOT	JASON ALDEAN
9	10	82	WHISKEY GLASSES	MORGAN WALLEN
10	9	18	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN	MORGAN WALLEN
11	8	62	THE BONES	MAREN MORRIS
12	12	7	LOVIN' ON YOU	LUKE COMBS
13	11	6	COOL AGAIN	KANE BROWN
14	16	123	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY	LUKE COMBS
15	18	55	ONE MAN BAND	OLD DOMINION
16	17	6	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED	DAN + SHAY
17	25	14	ONE BEER	HARDY FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA & DEVIN DAWSON
18	19	13	I LOVE MY COUNTRY	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
19	20	19	BLUEBIRD	MIRANDA LAMBERT
20	RE-ENTRY		HARD TO FORGET	SAM HUNT
21	21	4	BE A LIGHT	THOMAS RHETT F/R. MCENTIRE, H. SCOTT, C. TOMLIN & K. URBAN
22	13	2	STARTING OVER	CHRIS STAPLETON
23	23	69	BEER NEVER BROKE MY HEART	LUKE COMBS
24	22	5	PRETTY HEART	PARKER MCCOLLUM
25	24	146	MEANT TO BE	BEBE REXHA & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

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.

billboard
COUNTRY
DIGITAL SONG SALES

STREAMING & SALES
DATA COMPILED BY
MRC nielsen

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE	ARTIST
1	2	54	I HOPE	GABBY BARRETT
2	3	20	GOT WHAT I GOT	JASON ALDEAN
3	1	2	STARTING OVER	CHRIS STAPLETON
4	NEW		WHAT DO YOU THINK OF?	LAUREN ALAINA & LUKAS GRAHAM
5	5	19	ONE OF THEM GIRLS	LEE BRICE
6	6	23	ONE MARGARITA	LUKE BRYAN
7	16	7	ONE BEER	HARDY FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA & DEVIN DAWSON
8	10	6	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED	DAN + SHAY
9	8	10	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY	LITTLE BIG TOWN
10	7	7	HAPPY ANYWHERE	BLAKE SHELTON FEAT. GWEN STEFANI
11	9	12	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN	MORGAN WALLEN
12	12	9	LOVIN' ON YOU	LUKE COMBS
13	11	14	DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART	MADDIE & TAE
14	13	4	7 SUMMERS	MORGAN WALLEN
15	14	238	TENNESSEE WHISKEY	CHRIS STAPLETON
16	15	24	BE A LIGHT	THOMAS RHETT F/R. MCENTIRE, H. SCOTT, C. TOMLIN & K. URBAN
17	NEW		NEXT GIRL	CARLY PEARCE
18	17	3	PRETTY HEART	PARKER MCCOLLUM
19	19	2	SOME GIRLS	JAMESON RODGERS
20	RE-ENTRY		HARD TO FORGET	SAM HUNT
21	22	4	ONE NIGHT STANDARDS	ASHLEY MCBRYDE
22	23	39	NOBODY BUT YOU	BLAKE SHELTON DUET WITH GWEN STEFANI
23	18	26	BLUEBIRD	MIRANDA LAMBERT
24	20	32	CHASIN' YOU	MORGAN WALLEN
25	NEW		GOOD TIME	NIKO MOON

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

SALES DATA
COMPILED BY
MRC nielsen

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	3	12	YO-YO MA/STUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS	NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO		1
2	NEW	1		CAHALEN MORRISON CAHALEN MORRISON	WEALTH OF SORROW		2
3	2	1	50	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610063*/CONCORD	HOME		1
4	RE-ENTRY		8	MANDOLIN ORANGE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER: JANUARY 23, 2020 MANDOLIN ORANGE DIGITAL EX			1
5	4	6	10	GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS STRETCH GRASS 4050	40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION		1
6	3	4	48	THE DEAD SOUTH SIX SHOOTER 129*	SUGAR & JOY		1
7	NEW	1		THE PETERSENS THE PETERSENS 1070 WS VS EX	LIVE SESSIONS, VOL. 01		7
8	6	8	31	THE STEELDRIVERS ROUNDER 610080*/CONCORD	BAD FOR YOU		1
9	11	5	21	THE WHITE BUFFALO SNAKEFARM 862780*	ON THE WIDOW'S WALK		1
10	RE-ENTRY		57	STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN SCSEE 0930*	DEEPER ROOTS: WHERE THE BLUEGRASS GROWS		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

LOCASH Plays 'Catch Up,' Relives Glory Days In New Wheelhouse Single

When **LOCASH** had its breakthrough five years ago with "I Love This Life," the duo set a template for its commercial identity: good times, good tempo and a good today.

With "Beers To Catch Up On," LOCASH revises the plan just a hair: good times, good tempo and good memories.

"We're very high energy," notes LOCASH member **Chris Lucas**. "We're very party, we're very positive, and this song kind of has that, but at the same time, showing a softer side of us."

That softer side is expressed in a manner that's appropriate for two friends in a duo. "Beers To Catch Up On" finds two former high school classmates in a rare position to meet up and reminisce about the old days. It's a topic that two guys can effectively sing about, but its theme is not restricted to men, especially in an era when people are socially isolated and missing out on all but their closest current relationships.

"Women drink beer, so this is a girl song, too," says Lucas. "With the time that we're at, it's relatable just about to everybody."

That universal plot found its way into a song because one of the writers lived it in April 2017. **Rhett Akins** ("Dirt on My Boots," "What Happens in a Small Town") played high school football for the Lowndes Vikings in Valdosta, Ga., during the late 1980s, and he remains friends all these years later with teammate **Ron Jones**.

"I was quarterback, he was center, so I know him pretty intimately," says Akins with a laugh.

Jones called for an impromptu hang when he ended up passing through Nashville, and just a few days later, Akins leaned on that story during a writing session with **Jeremy Stover** ("Why We Drink," "I Know Somebody") and **Paul DiGiovanni** ("How Not To," "The Ones That Didn't Make It Back Home") at DiGiovanni's East Nashville residence. Stover, it appears, had the "Beers To Catch Up On" title, and once Akins told them of his recent experience, the song came spilling out, focused on a couple of buddies looking to reminisce about the past without getting stuck in it.

"It's a good thing to go back and revisit some of those things every now and again," reasons Stover. "It kind of keeps you grounded."

The story provides just enough detail — a Ford Bronco, Kenwood speakers, "12-ounce small-town memories" and hangovers — to get a sense that they consider the good old days as time well wasted. The speakers blasted **Hank Williams Jr.** Oddly, considering that Akins usually follows the motto of a **Brooks & Dunn** song he wrote, "Put a Girl in It," there is no female in "Beers."

"If there's not one, it's usually the first thing I notice," says DiGiovanni. "But with this, there's not, and I kind of didn't even really realize it. I think your brain is always wrapping around all these little lines in the verses. There's a lot to grab on to."

Given the topic, however, it's fair to say a female may be lurking in the background, even if she's not mentioned in the lyrics. One or both of the men could be married, and it's likely part of the reason that they don't contemplate going to a bar or trying to pick up women.

"I think in the song, I never actually wound up hanging out with him," says Akins. "We don't know whether we do or not, so that was probably because the wife said no."

As the session wound down, they gave it a bridge that, in combination with a guitar solo and a 15-second note at the end of the LOCASH master, times the song out at 3 minutes, 1 second.

"The song might have been too short," notes Stover. "We might've had those lines from earlier in writing the verses, you know, that we didn't use,

and then obviously with the bridge, you want it to seem natural and roll back into the chorus lyric."

DiGiovanni built tracks for the demo as they wrote "Beers," and Akins sang lead when they wrapped. The version they shopped around Music Row flashed a tinge of Southern rock but without a lot of embellishment.

"The demo had more of like a wide open, stomp/clap in the verse thing," says DiGiovanni. "There were a couple synths in there. It just felt really airy and big and open, and that kind of added to the nostalgia a little bit."

LOCASH was interested in the song soon after its completion, though Lucas says the pair could not convince Reviver to let the duo cut it. **Jon Pardi** asked about it more than once, and after LOCASH left the label, the act recorded its own vocals over the demo's instrumental tracks to show

prospective companies how it would sound with a duo instead of a solo voice.

"We kind of tweaked that harmony up a little bit louder than normal," says LOCASH member **Preston Brust**. "You can feel the two voices a little bit more in the mix than just a soloist with a tiny little harmony note."

BBR Music Group ultimately signed them to Wheelhouse. "This song got us the deal," says Lucas.

LOCASH turned to producer **Corey Crowder** (**Chris Young**, **Florida Georgia Line**) and FGL's **Tyler Hubbard** to oversee the master version under the moniker 770 Productions. Crowder remade the demo and then sent it out to a series of musicians, who overdubbed new parts one at a time.

"I had my buddy **Katlin Owen**, who played guitar on 'One Big Country Song' as well, and he came in and did overdubs [in person], but he's actually the only one that was in-person with me on this," says Crowder. "So we had already started this remote cutting even before all this quarantine happened."

One subtle but important addition came with Hammond B-3 organ, played by **Alex Wright**.

"This song had a Southern rock thing to it," says Crowder. "I could put my finger on the actual melodies of the song, the chord progression, even the way the chorus explodes. B-3 is the perfect instrument to root a song like this, into that [Southern rock] world."

Hubbard played a key role in the vocal sessions, helping give LOCASH the sonic burn that often sets FGL's harmonies apart.

"We use the term 'When it's ringing in your ears,'" says Hubbard. "We were in there helping Chris and Preston sing the parts and discover and explore new harmony parts that maybe they wouldn't have heard prior."

That meant that in addition to the duo's harmonies in the verses, Crowder and Lucas provided extra voices that thickened the sound but were delivered so tightly that it still sounded like just two voices to the casual ear. Meanwhile, they altered an echo effect applied to Akins' delivery on the demo's bridge. Brust sang the primary line, and Lucas repeated it, further establishing their individual voices.

"If you're in a duo, any time you hear something like that, it's an open invitation to do a call-and-respond," says Hubbard. "If one guy is always singing lead and one always singing harmony, it gets repetitive, so any time we see that, you know, that's an easy no-brainer to turn that echo into a call-and-answer situation."

Wheelhouse released "Beers To Catch Up On" to AM/FM country stations via PlayMPE on Aug. 10, providing listeners with a message about friendship that simultaneously applies to the bond at the heart of LOCASH and its sonic template.

"We wanted it to represent who we are," says Brust, "and who we want to be." ●



billboard Hot Country Songs Index

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

7 SUMMERS Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Tempo Investments, GMR/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (M.Wallen, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **13**

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) **19**

ALL NIGHT All The Kings Pens, ASCAP/Trampy McCauley, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songstein Publishing, ASCAP/Songs In The Key Of Claire, ASCAP/Patriot Games Publishing, ASCAP/DTCM Ave, ASCAP (J.Osborne, T.J. Osborne, A.DeRoberts) **49**

ALMOST MAYBES Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Telemity Rhythm House Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BIRB Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (J.Davis, J.Frasure, H.Lindsey) **31**

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 Corn, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Laine Collections, BMI (Thomas Rhett, M.Dragstrem, J.Miller, J.Thompson) **12**

BEERS AND SUNSHINE Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/GrowingMusic Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Detroit Records And Tapes, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (D.Pucker, R.Copperman, J.Harding, J.Osborne) **38**

BETTY TASRM Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/William Bowers Music Publishing, BMI (T.Swift, W.Bowers) **33**

BIG, BIG PLANS Magic Mustang Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Tree Vibe Music, LLC, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI (J.Durrett, C.Lane, E.K.Smith) **24**

C

CHAMPAGNE NIGHT WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Haywoodja Cut That Song, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/RADIOBULLETPublishing, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/EKI Publishing, SESAC/Slight 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 DJL Songs, ASCAP/G23 Publishing, SESAC/Eligible Music dba Songland Television Publishing, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC/Tempo Investments, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Merlajams 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.DeRoberts, T.A.Gemza, S.McAnally, M.R.Merlo, R.B.Tedder, D.Thomson) **26**

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) **43**

COOL AGAIN Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Songs For Owen Music, SESAC/Kobalt Group 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) **6**

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) **5**

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) **22**

G

GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/8 Minutes Twenty Seconds Publishing, BMI/Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, A.Gorley, B.Johnson, H.Phelps) **29**

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/Revinyll House, BMI (G.Barrett, E.Landis, J.McCormick, Z.Kale) **32**

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) **25**

GOOD TIMES ROLL Sony/ATV Lakeview, SESAC/Red Lining Music, SESAC/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Revinyll House, BMI/Jackie Frost Music, Inc., ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (J.Allen, Z.Kale, C.Haynes, Jr.) **48**

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) **4**

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/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP (R.Copperman, J.Osborne, M.Jenkins) **14**

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/Songfortatum 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) **27**

HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Vistaville Music, ASCAP/Steph Jones Who Music, ASCAP/Big Deal Hits, ASCAP/A10 Music, ASCAP/Telemity 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) **28**

HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU Son Of Ron Songs, ASCAP/Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Built On Rock Music, ASCAP (M.Beeson, J.Osborne, A.Shamblin) **46**

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) **16**

I HOPE Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Revinyll 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/Ern 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) **17**

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) **8**

J

JUST THE WAY Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/JM Thomas Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Kevin Bard Music, ASCAP/Margetts Road Music, ASCAP/Nolan W. Sipe Music, ASCAP (M.Thomas, K.Bard, N.W.Sipe) **36**

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) **39**

LOVELY IF YOU ARE Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Dack Janiels 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.Phelps) **21**

LONG LIVE Big Loud Mountain, BMI/T Hubb Publishing, BMI/Pranch Ringle Music, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Crowd Publishing, ASCAP/Georgia Song Vibe, ASCAP/Spirit Two Music Inc., ASCAP/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/Songs Of The Corn, BMI (T.Hubbard, B.Kelley, C.Crowder, D.A.Garcia, J.Miller) **44**

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) **20**

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) **3**

M

MOMMA'S HOUSE Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Two Black Dogs, ASCAP/Ole Music Of Parallel, BMI/Lucky Mic Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/Shirt At Work, BMI/Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (D.Schneider, M.Lotten, R.Clawson, J.T.Wilson) **41**

MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Relative Music Group, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Ern 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) **7**

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.Loveless) **34**

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) **10**

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) **9**

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) **2**

P

PRETTY HEART Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkernac Publishing, BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI (P.McCollum, R.Montana) **15**

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) **25**

SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Relative Music Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Art In The Fodder Music, BMI/Hark Molman Songs, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Ju Jettsu Music, BMI (A.Gorley, M.W.Hardy, M.Holman) **42**

SIX FEET APART Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Tiltawhirr Music, BMI/Teefus Criley's Tunes, BMI/Carnival Music Publishing, BMI/Works Of 50 Egg Music, BMI/Catch Your Dream Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/(SKMP), BMI (L.Combs, B.Cobb, R.Snyder) **47**

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) **11**

STARTING OVER I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Straight Six Music, BMI/Wixen Music Publishing, BMI (C.Stapleton, M.Henderson) **18**

STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG Hillbilly Science And Research Publishing, BMI/Do Write Music, LLC/Jeffrey Steele Music, BMI (D.Naish, Jeffrey Steele) **30**

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) **45**

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) **40**

TRUCK Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/8 Minutes Twenty Seconds Publishing, BMI/Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, B.Johnson, H.Phelps) **50**

W

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/Haywoodja Cut That Song, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/EKI Publishing, SESAC (C.Tomin, C.Kelley, D.Haywood, H.Scott) **37**

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) **35**

COUNTRY

50 Years Ago Ray Price Had 'Good Times' At No. 1

His smooth baritone became one of country music's most distinctive voices

On Sept. 19, 1970, **Ray Price's** "For the Good Times" topped *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart, marking his third of six leaders.

In March 1971, the track was a big winner at the Academy of Country & Western Music Awards, hosted by **Dick Clark**. It claimed single of the year for Price and song of the year for writer **Kris Kristofferson**.

Born in 1926, Price played guitar as a teenager but desired to become a veterinarian. While attending North Texas Agricultural College, he was drafted in 1944 and served as a U.S. Marine during World War II. When he left the armed

forces, he gravitated back to music and moved to Nashville in the early 1950s. Early endeavors included a stint managing **The Drifting Cowboys** after frontman **Hank Williams** died. Price subsequently formed **The Cherokee Cowboys**, whose members included **Roger Miller, Willie Nelson** and **Johnny Paycheck**.

Inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1996, Price recorded his last album, *Beauty Is...: The Final Sessions*, while battling pancreatic cancer. He died in December 2013 at age 87. The set hit No. 22 on Top Country Albums in May 2014. —JIM ASKER

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

This Week	Last Week	Title, Artist, Label, No. & Pub.	Weeks on Chart
1	2	FOR THE GOOD TIMES/ GRAZIN' IN GREENER PASTURES ... 13 Ray Price, Columbia 4-45178 (Buckhorn, BMI/Combine, BMI)	13
2	1	ALL FOR THE LOVE OF SUNSHINE ... 8 Hank Williams Jr. with the Mike Curb Congregation, MGM 14152 (Hastings, BMI)	8
3	12	THERE MUST BE MORE TO LOVE THAN THIS ... 5 Jerry Lee Lewis, Mercury 73099 (DeCapo/Varia/Chimneyville, BMI)	5
4	16	SUNDAY MORNING COMING DOWN ... 3 Johnny Cash, Columbia 4-45211 (Combine, BMI)	3
5	5	HEAVEN EVERYDAY ... 9 Mel Tillis, MGM 14148 (Jack & Bill, ASCAP)	9
6		MEMPHIS ... 7	7



Price, circa 1970.