

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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A Re-Energized Lauren Alaina Becomes A 'Road' Warrior For Women



Lauren Alaina's 2011 debut album was titled *Wildflower*, but you could argue that her sophomore project is when she really blossomed.

The Road Less Traveled, due Jan. 27 via Interscope/Mercury Nashville, is a revealing, 12-song collection that has Alaina exploring body-image issues, a broken family life, co-dependency and the emotional rigors of a road job that separates her from her loved ones.

Twenty-nine months removed from vocal surgery, she delivers the material with a force and conviction that's arguably advanced for her age.

"I was 16 [when *Wildflower* was released], and now I'm 22, and I've spent the last six years figuring out who I am and what I want to say to people," she reflects. "I feel like this album is so much more a representation of who I am, and I think it's important to be honest. It's been a long time. If people haven't kept up with me, they haven't seen me since I was 16, and I wanted them to know exactly who I am and where I've been. If they don't know, now they will."

Alaina, of course, was introduced nationally during the 2011 season of Fox's *American Idol*, where she finished as runner-up to **Scotty McCreery**. The first album was rush-released to ride the momentum of her TV exposure, but she co-wrote only one of the songs, and none of them emerged as a bona fide hit.

As she started working on the second album, pieces of her world began to crumble in 2013. Her parents divorced, her father entered alcohol rehab, and Alaina came to grips with her own eating disorder. The 2014 vocal surgery was something of a wake-up call — she could no longer take her powerful gift for granted.

Her father's willingness to battle his own demons helped her confront her own. "When my dad first went into rehab, that was the first time I even acknowledged the fact that he had an alcohol problem because he kept the issue a secret," she says. "When he made that step, it was so brave of him, and it changed my life forever because it made me want to be brave and accept who I am and where I come from."

Enter songwriter/producer **busbee (Keith Urban, Maren Morris)**. They met for the first time at a songwriting appointment, just as she was beginning to open up. She shared all her fears and issues, and waited for the blowback.

"He pretty much took me under his arm, gave me a big hug and said, 'We're going to write about it,'" she recalls. "I cried the whole writing session."

"Doin' Fine," the song they crafted, details some of her family's issues and puts them in an optimistic framework. It's the opening track on *The Road Less Traveled*, setting a tone for the rest of album, all of which she co-wrote.

"I like soulful music, and I like great singers," says busbee.



ALAINA

CLOSE

RYAN KINDER

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“That’s part of what was really amazing about working with Lauren, is that she’s both of those things and a very, very talented singer and artist.”

While Morris’ album made it to the marketplace first, Alaina’s was the first full country album that busbee produced.

“Now that he’s worked with all these other people, their albums sound nothing like mine, which is so important,” she says. “It means he really did understand what I wanted to do.”

Much of the process occurred even as the much-maligned bro-country era was in full swing, limiting the radio opportunities for female artists. Alaina soldiered on with her project, enlisting at least one woman to co-write all but one of the album’s tracks.

“That really happened by accident,” she says. “The songs that seemed most authentic were with other women, and I have a lot of women that I tend to write with over and over again that really understand me. And I think it’s super important — a woman’s perspective is needed in everyone’s life, whether you’re a woman or a man.”

The title track from *The Road Less Traveled* was shipped to radio on June 27, and it has changed the world’s perspective of her a bit. Currently at No. 17 on Country Airplay, it marks her first single to reach the top 20. Alaina is suddenly looking like a hit artist. Her own perspective, meanwhile, is one of gratitude.

“This is my sixth single, and most people don’t get six singles if the first five don’t work,” she acknowledges. “So I’m freaking out. Everything happens when it’s supposed to.”

Plenty is happening in 2017. Alaina is in the final stages of work on a movie, also titled *The Road Less Traveled*. The cast includes **Charlene Tilton** (*Dallas*) and **Donny Boaz** (the *Dallas* remake), while the soundtrack features five songs from Alaina’s new album. **Eric Gunderson** of **Love & Theft** is scoring the picture, though no release date has been set.

“I’ve never acted, but I’m an entertainer,” says Alaina. “So I kind of used what I know from being onstage. I’ve done a thousand and two interviews and I’ve been on camera a million times, so I’m not uncomfortable on camera, but it was interesting for me to be someone else. I was like, ‘Oh, I don’t have to worry about me for a couple of weeks? I get to be someone else? Perfect.’”

Also in the cards is a slot on **Martina McBride**’s upcoming tour dates in February and March in association with CMT’s Next Women of Country. It’s an appropriate pairing — Alaina covered McBride’s “Anyway” during her run on *American Idol*, and now that she has found her own voice, Alaina is tackling meaty, difficult subject matter. Those kinds of songs helped define McBride, whom Alaina views as a role model.

“**Shania Twain** and **Martina McBride** and all these wonderful women were saying that it’s awesome to be a woman, and it’s awesome to be a confident woman,” reflects Alaina. “Obviously, I could never compare myself to them, and I want to be my own thing, but I think that message is what I want to say as an artist. I tried to make an album full of that.”

Consider it done. *The Road Less Traveled* seems to be an important step on a journey Alaina is beginning to understand, and is better equipped to control.



Reviver duo LoCash connected with WWKA Orlando, Fla., when it played the area on Jan. 6. From left: LoCash’s Chris Lucas, WWKA PD Drew Bland and LoCash’s Preston Brust.



Representatives from Jack Daniel’s attended the final rehearsal for Eric Church’s *Holdin’ My Own* Tour and gifted the singer a personalized bar and whiskey barrel. From left: Jack Daniel’s “Barrel Man” Kevin Sanders, Church and Jack Daniel’s national sponsorship director David Stang.



Aaron Watson paid a visit to KILT Houston while in town to help announce the lineup for the 2017 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which features him as a headliner for the first time. From left: CBS Radio/Houston vp programming Bruce Logan, Watson and KILT assistant PD/music director Chris Huff.

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KEITH
URBAN

blue ain't your color

Multi-week #1!

My Dad always said try to
work with people who you'd
have dinner with when
there's no work to discuss.
Thank you to ALL my
friends at country radio.
Let's do dinner!

- Keith

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RIPCORD for "Best Country Album"

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Shelton Scores 23rd Airplay No. 1; Stapleton's *Traveller* Logs Six-Month Lead



Blake Shelton rolls up his 23rd No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart (dated Jan. 28), as "A Guy With a Girl" (Warner Bros./Warner Music Nashville) jumps 3-1, increasing 7 percent to 45.5 million audience impressions in the week ending Jan. 15, according to Nielsen Music.

"Guy," written by **Ashley Gorley** and **Bryan Simpson**, is the third single from Shelton's *If I'm Honest* LP, following the Country Airplay No. 1 "Come Here to Forget" (June 11, 2016) and the No. 7-peaking "She's Got a Way With Words" (Sept. 10). The latter stopped Shelton's run of 17 consecutive No. 1s (counting only officially promoted, nonseasonal singles), which began with 2010's "Hillbilly Bone" (featuring **Trace Adkins**), although it stands as the longest streak of leaders in the chart's 27-year history.

Shelton ranks in fifth place among acts with the most Country Airplay No. 1s, following **Tim McGraw** (29), **Kenny Chesney** (27) and **Alan Jackson** and **George Strait** (26 each).

A VERY GOOD (HALF) YEAR **Chris Stapleton's** *Traveller* (Mercury/Universal Music Group Nashville) has now spent a total of six months atop *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart. The LP increases 11 percent to 12,000 sold in the week ending Jan. 12 and leads the list for a 26th (nonconsecutive) week. To date, *Traveller* has sold 1.8 million copies since its release.

The set from Stapleton, *Billboard's* Top Country Artist of 2016, marks the longest rule since **Lady Antebellum's** *Need You Now* dominated for 31 weeks in 2010-11. Among solo males, *Traveller* logs the longest run at No. 1 since 1994, when **Tim McGraw's** *Not a Moment Too Soon* dominated for 29 frames. Among all artists, **Shania Twain** boasts the longest command of Top Country Albums (dating to the chart's January 1964 launch), as her *Come On Over* spent 50 weeks at No. 1, starting with its Nov. 22, 1997, debut.

Traveller arrived at No. 2 on May 23, 2015, but didn't hit No. 1 for sixth months

(on the Nov. 21 chart). Its first week on top was fueled by Stapleton's Nov. 4, 2015, spotlight at the 49th Annual Country Music Association Awards when he won for male vocalist, new artist and album of the year (for *Traveller*), and **Justin Timberlake** joined him for a rousing performance of the *Traveller* title cut, "Tennessee Whiskey," and Timberlake's "Drink You Away."

The CMAs also sparked Stapleton's first Hot Country Songs No. 1, as "Tennessee Whiskey" re-entered the Nov. 21 list at the top (marking the first No. 1 re-entry on the survey). Meanwhile, on the current Hot Country Songs chart (dated Jan. 28), "Whiskey" shows its resilience as it re-enters at No. 9. It storms 21-2 on Country Digital Song Sales (up 208 percent to 26,000 downloads sold) and lifts 5-3 on Country Streaming Songs (up 41 percent to 3.4 million U.S. streams).

The latest resurgence of "Whiskey" stems from Texan **Kris Jones**, whose daughter sweetly caught him on video as he sang the tune while rolling down the highway. The country carpool karaoke, posted Jan. 2, has raked in 13 million global YouTube views.

As for the original "Whiskey" singer, Stapleton is reportedly finishing his second studio album for Mercury Nashville, with **Dave Cobb**, who produced *Traveller*, returning in the role.

SHELTON




A GUY WITH A GILL **Chris Young's** "Sober Saturday Night," featuring **Vince Gill** (RCA Nashville), ascends to the Country Airplay top 10 (12-10), gaining 5 percent to 27.3 million audience impressions.

With "Sober," which Young wrote with **Brett** and **Brad Warren**, Young banks his 12th top 10 and seventh straight, since "I Can Take It From There," which peaked at No. 4 in April 2013. Gill earns his milestone 25th Country Airplay top 10 and first since **Brooks & Dunn's** "Burning Bridges," featuring **Sheryl Crow** and Gill (No. 4, 2006). Gill last reached the upper tier as a lead artist with "Feels Like Love" (No. 6, 2000). ●

SHELTON: GETTY IMAGES

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billboard Country Airplay

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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	3	16	A GUY WITH A GIRL Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	45.506	+2.849	8146	590	2
2	2	21	DIRTY LAUNDRY 19/Arista Nashville	Carrie Underwood	45.454	+2.159	8346	528	1
3	1	22	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	40.684	-6.337	7288	-991	3
4	7	16	STAR OF THE SHOW Valory	Thomas Rhett	37.622	+2.661	6979	627	4
5	4	35	WANNA BETHAT SONG Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	34.575	-6.444	5513	-776	8
6	8	30	SEEN' RED Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	33.749	+2.523	6393	614	5
7	5	24	MAY WE ALL BMLG	Florida Georgia Line Featuring Tim McGraw	31.823	-3.756	5237	-285	10
8	10	13	BETTER MAN Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	30.520	+2.899	5623	790	7
9	11	46	IF THE BOOT FITS Wheelhouse	Granger Smith	27.538	+0.032	5630	194	6
10	12	32	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT RCA Nashville	Chris Young Featuring Vince Gill	27.259	+1.311	5255	468	9
11	14	15	TODAY Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	23.890	+0.877	4523	198	12
12	15	21	KILL A WORD EMI Nashville	Eric Church Featuring Rhiannon Giddens	23.615	+0.595	4475	104	13
13	13	30	80S MERCEDES Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	23.325	-0.402	4728	23	11
14	16	39	THINK A LITTLE LESS Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	22.312	+2.317	4354	430	14
15	17	17	DIRT ON MY BOOTS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	21.023	+1.525	4268	404	15
16	18	7	FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	20.918	+2.500	3838	489	17
17	20	22	ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	18.682	+0.502	3850	93	16
18	19	38	PARACHUTE Mercury	Chris Stapleton	17.151	-1.178	3567	-25	18
19	21	26	THE WEEKEND Valory	Brantley Gilbert	16.300	+0.732	3513	167	19
20	22	14	BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE Pearl	Garth Brooks	13.891	-0.033	3096	77	20
21	24	15	YEAH BOY Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	13.238	+0.084	2713	-70	23
22	26	8	ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	12.842	+2.002	2623	427	24
23	23	47	MAKE YOU MINE Atlantic/WEA	High Valley	12.529	-0.668	2858	11	22
24	25	33	HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	11.464	+0.419	2896	278	21
25	27	26	THERE'S A GIRL 19/Republic/Dot	Trent Harmon	9.866	+0.335	2437	184	26
26	28	37	HOLDIN' HER Warner Bros./WAR	Chris Janson	9.715	+0.086	2527	10	25
27	37	5	BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	9.030	+3.723	1760	784	30
28	29	10	BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	8.609	-0.040	1961	182	28
29	30	40	OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN Red Bow	Craig Campbell	7.328	-0.356	1936	-15	29
30	32	26	IF IT TOLD YOU Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	7.109	+0.500	2019	170	27

BILLBOARD COUNTRY AIRPLAY PANEL – 151 STATIONS

Albany, N.Y.	WGNA	Detroit	WYCD	Memphis	WGKX	Rochester, N.Y.	WBEE
Albuquerque, N.M.	KBOI	El Paso, Texas	KHEY	Miami	WLFP	Sacramento, Calif.	KBEB
Allentown, Pa.	KRST	Ft. Myers, Fla.	WCKT	Milwaukee	WKIS	St. Louis	KNCI
Atlanta	WCTO	Ft. Wayne, Ind.	WWGR	Minneapolis	WMIL		KNTY
Augusta, Ga.	WKHX	Fresno, Calif.	WQHK	Mobile, Ala.	WKEY	Salt Lake City	KSD
Austin, Texas	WUBL	Gainesville, Fla.	KSKS	Monmouth/Ocean, N.J.	KMNB		WIL
Bakersfield, Calif.	WKXC	Grand Rapids, Mich.	WOGK	Monterey, Calif.	WKSJ		KEGA
Baltimore	KUSE	Greensboro, N.C.	WBCT	Nashville	WKMI		KSOP
Baton Rouge, La.	KUZZ	Greenville, S.C.	WPAW	Nassau, N.Y.	KTOM		KUBL
Birmingham, Ala.	WPOC	Harrisburg, Pa.	WTOR	New Bern, N.C.	WKDF	San Antonio, Texas	KAJA
Boise, Idaho	WYNK	Hartford, Conn.	WESS	New Orleans	WSIX	San Diego	KCYY
Boston	WDXB	Houston	WSSS	Norfolk, Va.	WSM-FM	San Jose, Calif.	KSON
Buffalo, N.Y.	WZZK	Huntsville, Ala.	WRBT	Oklahoma City, Okla.	WJVC	Shreveport, La.	KRTY
Charleston, S.C.	KAWO	Indianapolis	WVYZ	Omaha, Neb.	WRNS	Spokane, Wash.	KXLY
Charlotte, N.C.	KIZN	Jacksonville, Fla.	KILT	Orlando, Fla.	WNOE	Springfield, Mass.	WRNX
Chattanooga, Tenn.	WBWL	Johnson City, Tenn.	KKBO	Philadelphia	WNSH	Springfield, Mo.	KFTG
Chicago	WKLB	Kansas City	WDRM	Phoenix	WGH	Syracuse, N.Y.	WCTO
Cincinnati	WYRK	Knoxville, Tenn.	WFMS	Pittsburgh	WUSH	Tampa, Fla.	KKWF
Cleveland	WZL	Lafayette, La.	WLHK	Portland, Maine	KJKE	Tucson, Ariz.	KMPS
Colorado Springs, Colo.	WKKT	Lakeland, Fla.	WGNE	Portland, Ore.	KTST	Tulsa, Okla.	KXKS
Columbia, S.C.	WSOC	Las Vegas	WQIK	Providence, R.I.	KXKT	Visalia, Calif.	KXLY
Columbus, Ohio	WJUS	Lexington, Ky.	WXBO	Raleigh, N.C.	WWKA	Washington, D.C.	WRNX
Corpus Christi, Texas	WBG	Little Rock, Ark.	KBEO	Richmond, Va.	WXTU	West Palm Beach, Fla.	KTTG
Dallas	WUSN	Los Angeles	WDAF	Riverside, Calif.	KMLE	Wichita, Kan.	KATM
Denver	WUBE	Louisville, Ky.	KFKF	Roanoke, Va.	KNIX		WBBS
Des Moines, Iowa	WGAR	Madison, Wis.	WCYO		KNYS		WOYK
	KATC	McAllen, Texas	WVIV		WDSY		WFGJ
	WCOS		KMDL		WOGI		KJIM
	WCQZ		WPCV		WPGI		KTXG
	KRYS		KQYE		WPOR		KVOO
	KPLX		KWNR		WTH		KWEN
	KSCS		WBUL		WUP		KJUG
	KWOF		KBSS		KWJJ		WMZO
	KYGO		KKGO		WCTK		WIRK
			WAMZ		WNCB		KFDI
			WQNU		WDR		KZSN
			WVQM		WKHK		WGGY
			KTEX		KFRG		WXCX
					WSLC		WGTY



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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	33	9	WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	6.542	+0.100	1477	96	33
32	34	16	HOW NOTTO Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	6.229	+0.041	1498	34	32
33	36	33	LIPSTICK Wheelhouse	Runaway June	5.642	+0.149	1714	75	31
34	35	23	LOVE TRIANGLE Warner Bros./WMN	RaeLynn	5.323	-0.635	1264	-16	34
35	41	12	SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory	Justin Moore	3.548	+0.223	985	33	37
36	39	36	ROOTS Stoney Creek	Parmalee	3.386	-0.182	1246	19	35
37	38	20	DAMN DRUNK Nash Icon/Big Machine	Ronnie Dunn With Kix Brooks	3.274	-0.447	588	-86	46
38	42	13	HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	3.140	+0.111	772	53	41
39	48	6	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	2.912	+0.676	656	265	42
40	44	9	RING ON EVERY FINGER Reviver	LoCash	2.834	-0.045	644	22	44
41	40	13	IF HE AIN'T GONNA LOVE YOU RCA Nashville	Jake Owen	2.788	-0.590	862	-31	39
42	43	20	MY GIRL Curb	Dylan Scott	2.768	-0.281	1077	39	36
43	31	2	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	2.629	-4.157	544	-418	48
44	49	15	FOR HER Big Loud	Chris Lane	2.370	+0.201	832	-29	40
45	46	21	ROOM TO BREATHE Red Bow	Chase Bryant	2.200	-0.122	897	-46	38
46	50	21	EVERYBODY WE KNOW DOES Dack Janiels/Columbia Nashville	Chase Rice	2.096	+0.014	512	-4	49
47	47	8	DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury	Billy Currington	2.005	-0.221	655	9	43
48	NEW		FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Cole Swindell	1.882	+1.452	346	270	57
49	53	12	THE WAY IT TALK Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	1.790	+0.069	509	24	50
50	54	7	MISSING Warner Bros./WMN	William Michael Morgan	1.728	+0.063	433	15	53
51	NEW		GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys	Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys	1.607	+1.577	220	206	-
52	45	11	YESTERDAY'S SONG Atlantic/WMN	Hunter Hayes	1.595	-0.760	546	-47	47
53	51	18	UNDONE Red Bow	Joe Nichols	1.500	-0.308	394	-7	55
54	52	8	WITH YOU I AM CoJo	Cody Johnson	1.438	-0.341	165	-14	-
55	60	2	OUTTA STYLE BIG Label	Aaron Watson	1.432	+0.340	121	16	-
56	55	11	OUR TOWN Columbia Nashville	Tyler Farr	1.215	-0.206	592	-24	45
57	NEW		IT AIN'T MY FAULT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	1.122	+0.736	226	104	-
58	57	3	BURN THE BED Sony Music Nashville	Candi Carpenter	1.097	-0.043	347	35	56
59	59	2	WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE Arista Nashville	Seth Ennis	1.065	-0.036	477	50	52
60	56	4	MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN Dot	Drake White	1.012	-0.188	399	26	54



48

COLE SWINDELL
Flatliner

Co-written by Swindell, the third single from his *You Should Be Here* LP follows the title cut and "Middle of a Memory," both Country Airplay No. 1s. "Flatliner" debuts at No. 48 on the chart, up 338 percent to 1.9 million audience impressions.

GOING FOR ADDS

1/23

COLE SWINDELL
Flatliner
Warner Bros./WMN

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. BACKSTREET BOYS
God, Your Mama, And Me
BMLG

KRISTIAN BUSH
Sing Along
Wheelhouse

MADDIE WILSON
Love Like Yours
Jerry Duncan/Music For Good

MATT GARY
Back
West End/inZune

MICHAEL TYLER
They Can't See
Reviver

PRESLEY & TAYLOR
This Phone
Spin Doctors

SHANE OWENS
All The Beer In Alabama
Amerimonte/Grassroots

1/30

BAILEY BRYAN
Own It
300/WAR

CAROLINE JONES
Tough Guys
True To The Song/Faction/inZune Nashville

CJ SOLAR
Just Another Day In The Country
Sea Gayle

MARTY HEDDIN
Game Changer
Nightlife/Star Farm

SADDLE BROWN
I Didn't Go Country!
Saddle Brown

2/6

ADAM CRAIG
Just A Phase
Stoney Creek

SMITH & WESLEY
The Little Things
Garage Door

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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MOST ADDED®			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS	
BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	39	
YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	22	
FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	17	
ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	13	
BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	13	
WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	12	
IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	12	
GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys		9	
HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	8	
FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	6	

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)	
BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	+3.723	
BETTER MAN Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	+2.899	
A GUY WITH A GIRL Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	+2.849	
STAR OF THE SHOW Valory	Thomas Rhett	+2.661	
SEEIN' RED Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	+2.523	
FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+2.500	
THINK A LITTLE LESS Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	+2.317	
DIRTY LAUNDRY 19/Arista Nashville	Carrie Underwood	+2.152	
ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+2.002	
GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys		+1.577	

MOST INCREASED PLAYS			
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN	
BETTER MAN Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	+790	
BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	+784	
STAR OF THE SHOW Valory	Thomas Rhett	+627	
SEEIN' RED Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	+614	
A GUY WITH A GIRL Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	+590	
DIRTY LAUNDRY 19/Arista Nashville	Carrie Underwood	+526	
FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+489	
SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT RCA Nashville	Chris Young Featuring Vince Gill	+468	
THINK A LITTLE LESS Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	+430	
ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+427	

NEW AND ACTIVE				
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
GETTING OVER YOU Broken Bow	Jackie Lee	0.689	24	2
HEY HEARTBREAK Big Machine	Jennifer Nettles	0.499	14	2
WORTH THE WAIT Stoney Creek	Lindsay Ell	0.460	0	0
CLOSE Warner Bros./WEA	Ryan Kinder	0.449	20	3
TILL IT'S OVER RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	0.400	1	0
DRINKIN' PROBLEM Big Machine	Midland	0.247	5	0

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	SONG FOR ANOTHER TIME RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	24.161
2	HOW I'LL ALWAYS BE McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	21.137
3	IT DON'T HURT LIKE IT USED TO Mercury	Billy Currington	19.063
4	SLEEP WITHOUT YOU BMLG	Brett Young	18.924
5	MIDDLE OF A MEMORY Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	18.473
6	A LITTLE MORE SUMMERTIME Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	14.783
7	MOVE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	14.490
8	SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney Feat. P!nk	14.396
9	SOMEWHERE ON A BEACH Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	12.718
10	I KNOW SOMEBODY Reviver	LoCash	12.674

BILLBOARD COUNTRY BOXSCORE			
Gross Ticket Price(s)	Artist Venue/Date(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter(s)
\$657,921 \$80, \$25	VOLUNTEER JAM Bridgestone Arena, Nashville/Nov. 30	17,007 sellout	OUTBACK CONCERTS
\$216,232 \$55, \$25	CHRIS YOUNG Wicomico Civic Center, Salisbury, Md./Nov. 18	4,045 5,857	AEG LIVE
\$210,355 \$55, \$25	CHRIS YOUNG i wireless Center, Moline, Ill./Dec. 9	5,149 sellout	AEG LIVE
\$193,505 \$125, \$39.50	ALAN JACKSON EagleBank Arena, Fairfax, Va./Oct. 28	4,080 6,412	OUTBACK CONCERTS
\$161,019 \$125, \$39.50	GARY ALLAN The Joint, Hard Rock Hotel, Las Vegas/Dec. 9-10	3,296 4,384	AEG LIVE

Reported worldwide boxscore figures for Country artists. Boxscore figures should be submitted to Bob Allen by phone (615-891-1976), fax (615-891-2054) or email (bob.allen@billboard.com).



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 15, 2017

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	15	TEXAS FOREVER (Independent) ★★ 1 week at 1 ★★	Kevin Fowler	1794	161	11	7	20	KISS ME (Almost Country)	Casey Donahew Band	1078	-317
2	1	15	BROKEN HEART (Independent)	Josh Ward	1668	32	12	19	9	HOMESICK CRAZY (Independent)	Matt Kimbrow	1052	125
3	3	19	FROM WHERE I'M STANDING (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1576	38	13	8	26	BRINGIN' COUNTRY BACK (Independent)	Zane Williams	1036	-346
4	5	17	OLD FASHIONED (Bill Grease)	William Clark Green	1574	155	14	16	14	NEW HOMETOWN (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1026	15
5	4	19	SECOND HAND SMOKE (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1566	127	15	18	22	FIND ANOTHER BABY (Independent)	Kaleb McIntire	992	47
6	6	9	OUTTA STYLE (BIG)	Aaron Watson	1559	140	16	21	15	JULY (Independent)	Dalton Domino	962	75
7	9	9	TEQUILA EYES (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	1442	93	17	25	15	COME AS YOU ARE (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	953	122
8	11	11	LIVE IT WHILE YOU GOT IT (Pretty Damn Tough)	Josh Abbott Band	1347	125	18	22	22	SHADOW OF A BROKEN HEART (Red Dirt Legend)	Brandon Jenkins	917	40
9	10	23	THE RIDE (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1345	68	19	12	20	HIGH ON A COUNTRY SONG (Independent)	Sam Riggs	914	-254
10	14	11	13 YEARS (Independent)	Sundance Head	1275	180	20	23	10	RUNAWAY TRAIN (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	893	53

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 817-283-7984. Copyright 2017, Texas Regional Radio Report

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



GREG NEWTON

Little Big Town surprised students from the Wadsworth High School Choir of Ohio by joining them in a Music In Our Schools workshop at Walt Disney World, a workshop made possible by several donors, including Disney and the Country Music Association. From left are group members Jimi Westbrook and Karen Fairchild, Mickey Mouse, and group members Kimberly Schlapman and Phillip Sweet.

BOOM! NEW KEITH URBAN VENTURE

Keith Urban is joining forces with two key members of Nashville's creative community and Kobalt music services to launch a new publishing company, *Billboard Country Update* has learned exclusively.

The venture, Boom, unites Urban with songwriter-producer **Ross Copperman (Brett Eldredge, Dierks Bentley)** and Universal Music Group Nashville (UMG) vp A&R **Joe Fisher**. Kobalt will fund and administer the company, providing creative support.

"We're honored to be partnering with our friends at Kobalt," Urban, Fisher and Copperman said in a joint statement. "They're leaders in the industry with a dedicated focus on technology that makes them one of the best administrative companies in the world. Their creative team is extraordinary, and we're looking forward to only great things in the future."

The three Boom principals have previously been affiliated with one another. Urban's recording contract with Capitol linked him with Fisher when UMG and EMI merged earlier in the decade, and they previously formed a separate publishing firm. Copperman co-wrote the first two singles from Urban's current album *Fuse*: "John Cougar, John Deere, John 3:16" and "Break on Me."

"When artists, writers and industry professionals of this caliber come together to form their own venture and choose to partner with Kobalt, it is truly an honor," said Kobalt president **Richard Sanders**. "It speaks volumes to the trust people have in the company."

Already signed to the Boom roster are songwriters **Jordan Minton, Cali Rodi and Logan Turner**. The Boom announcement comes weeks after Kobalt purchased the back catalog of **Dierks Bentley**.

"We're beyond excited," said Kobalt Nashville GM **Jesse Willoughby** of the Boom deal. "I speak for everyone on the team with great enthusiasm as we help to grow this new venture."

MOVERS & SHAKERS

John St. John joined Midwest Communications/Duluth, Minn., as operations manager, giving him oversight of nine stations, including country outlets **KTCO** and **KDKE**. He was most recently the programmer for two of Westwood One's Colorado-based formats ... Midwest's **KGPZ** Hibbing, Minn., adopted Envision's Duke FM format ... Cumulus/York-Lancaster-Reading, Pa., promoted **Matt Raback** to vp/market manager from vp sales, InsideRadio.com reported. The six-station cluster includes country **WIOV** ... **WKO**A Lafayette, La., added **Dave Malone** to the morning show, joining **Annie James**, according to InsideRadio.com. He was previously **KATI** Columbia, Mo., PD/morning host ... **WEBG** Chicago morning personalities **Mason & Remy** — aka **Mason Schreder** and **Zach "Remy" Hoesly** — have discontinued their afternoon shift at **KSD** St. Louis after handling both roles for two years, Talkers.com reported.

The lead story in the Jan. 9 edition of the *Billboard Country Update* drew an incorrect conclusion about the decline of 2016 album sales based upon a numerical error in a previous story about 2015 sales. A corrected version of the *Update* is available [here](#)

KSD PD/music director **Dusty Panhorst** takes over their vacated slot ... E.W. Scripps/Milwaukee hired **Dan Schenek** as digital content director for the two-station group, including country **WKTI**, according to Talkers.com. He relocates from Los Angeles, where he served as digital producer for NBC's *Access Hollywood* ... Amazon director of digital music **Ryan Redington** will be a keynote speaker on Feb. 24 during the Country Radio Seminar. The 2017 conference will include an Edison Research presentation about "The Mobilization of Country Radio," exploring challenges and opportunities that the growing importance of the smartphone presents to the format.

'ROUND THE ROW

Show Dog Nashville parted ways with five employees at the outset of an announced restructure. Reach former GM **George Nunes** [here](#), East Coast promotion director **Jean Williams** [here](#), Southeast promotion director **Chris Waters** [here](#), West Coast promotion director **Dave Dame** [here](#) and promotion coordinator **Katie Kettelhut** [here](#) ... Dot promoted **Michelle Tigard Kammerer** to national director of radio promotion from Northeast/Midwest director of promotion and marketing. Reach her [here](#) ... Cold River hired **John Ettinger** as senior vp radio promotion and artist development. He was previously CEO for the Talent Associates. Filling his old position is **Ryan Barnstead**, who was promoted to senior vp operations from vp promotion and artist development. Reach Ettinger [here](#) and Barnstead [here](#) ... **Chuck Swaney** joined Red Light Management as head of country promotion after an eight-month tenure as Curb senior director of country promotion and creative projects ... Curb promoted **Courtney Childress** to vp human resources from director ... **Aaron Chesling** was boosted to Exegan Music Group vp A&R and will continue to hold a similar title at subsidiary Silverado Records ... Rights management firm ole purchased indie publisher Red Vinyl Music, becoming the new publisher for **Chris Janson** and **Mark Irwin** ("Lookin' for That Girl," "Neon Light") ... **Bobby Bare** signed a recording contract with Hypermedia Nashville. A new album is expected in May. The label added vp marketing, **Jacy Dawn Valeras**, who founded Platinum Circle Media ... Wendy Pearl Public Relations inked its first client, MV2 Entertainment, whose songwriting roster includes artists **Nora Collins**, **David Fanning** and **Terry McBride** ... Source Nashville's new board officers include president **Christy Walker-Watkins**, of AristoMedia Group; vp **Mandy Gallagher**, City National Bank; treasurer **Melinda Drennan**, Drennan & Associates; and secretary **Susan Woelker**, GW Entertainment. Go [here](#) for the full list of board members ... Production manager **Randy "Baja" Fletcher (Keith Urban, Brooks & Dunn)** will receive the inaugural CMA Touring Lifetime Achievement Award during the Country Music Association's CMA Touring Awards (formerly the SRO Awards) on Jan. 23 at Marathon Music Works in Nashville. **Kristian Bush** will host the event ... The 52nd annual Academy of Country Music Awards will be held at Las Vegas' T-Mobile Arena for the first time on April 2, with CBS telecasting ... **George Strait** and **Brad Paisley** will take part in the T.J. Martell Foundation's Nashville Honors Gala on Feb. 27 at the Omni Nashville Hotel. Honorees include Olympian **Scott Hamilton**, Creative Artists Agency Nashville co-head **Rod Essig** and Messina Touring Group CEO **Louis Messina** ... Singer-songwriter **Greg Trooper** died Jan. 15, according to *The Tennessean*. He had songs recorded by **Vince Gill** and **Robert Earl Keen**, among others ... Drummer **Hayward Bishop** died Jan. 4 in Nashville. A contributor to **Alabama's** album *The Closer You Get*, Bishop also played on such hits as **Billy "Crash" Craddock's** "Rub It In," **Barbara Mandrell's** "(If Loving You Is Wrong) I Don't Want to Be Right" and **Ronnie Milsap's** "Daydreams About Night Things" ... The funeral for guitarist **Tommy Allsup** will be held Jan. 18 in Owasso, Okla. A former band member for **Buddy Holly**, **Bob Wills** and **Asleep at the Wheel**, Allsup died Jan. 11. He played on numerous country hits, including **Charlie Rich's** "The Most Beautiful Girl," **Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler"** and **Johnny Paycheck's "Take This Job and Shove It."**



Garth Brooks (right) was one of the surprise guests when Bobby Bones hosted a benefit for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on Jan. 9 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium.

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

Jason Aldean, Little Big Town and Old Dominion are among the attractions for the fourth annual iHeart-Country Festival, slated for May 6 at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin. The bill fills out with **Dierks Bentley**, **Brantley Gilbert**, **Kelsea Ballerini**, **Lady Antebellum**, **Jake Owen**, **Rascal Flatts**, **Darius Rucker** and **Bobby Bones & The Raging Idiots**. The concert will be available live on the iHeart app and via the chain's country outlets, which total more than 145 stations. The concert led to an NBC TV special in 2015. In 2016, it aired on DirecTV and U-verse.



The imprint of 1990s hitmakers **Little Texas** can be found in two cities this week. The band will perform Jan. 18 at Nashville's 3rd & Lindsley at a benefit for the Hank Cochran Pen Fund, aiding songwriters with cancer. Joining them at that event are **Deborah Allen**, **Jimmy Fortune** and songwriters **Wynn Varble** ("Waitin' On a Woman"), **Marla Cannon-Goodman** ("Rock On") and **Dylan Altman** ("Barefoot Blue Jean Night"). Former Little Texas member **Tim Rushlow** will take part in inaugural events in Washington, D.C., as a member of **The Frontmen of Country Music**, also featuring **Lonestar** lead singer **Richie McDonald** and **Restless Heart** vocalist **Larry Stewart**. The late-breaking list of country inaugural participants also includes **Toby Keith**, **Lee Greenwood**, **Darryl Worley**, **Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers Band**.

The leading ladies of 9 to 5 ride again on Jan. 29 when **Dolly Parton** and **Jane Fonda** present the 53rd SAG Life Achievement Award to **Lily Tomlin** during the Screen Actors Guild Awards. The event will air on TNT and TBS. Elsewhere on the tube, look for **Chris Lane** singing current single "For Her" during ABC's *The Bachelor* on Jan. 23. Count on **Jennifer Nettles** and **The Cadillac Three** for installments of the American Public Television series *Front and Center*, launching its seventh season in January. And the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame introduces a weekly TV show, *The Songwriters*, on Jan. 28 on Nashville Public Television's **WNPT2**. Among those profiled in the first season are **Bill Anderson**, **Ray Stevens** and **Tom Douglas** ("The House That Built Me," "Livin' the Dream").

Jason Aldean, **Loretta Lynn**, **Shania Twain** and **Tim McGraw** and **Faith Hill** will be the subjects of Country Music Hall of Fame exhibits in 2017. They're not the only accolades of note on the calendar. Texas Medal of Arts Awards will be presented Feb. 21-22 in Austin, with **Kenny Rogers** and **Kris Kristofferson** among the 14 honorees. Additionally, the Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame will induct its inaugural members on Jan. 27: **Merle Haggard**, **Buck Owens**, **Bonnie Owens**, singer-songwriter **Red Simpson** and steel guitarist **Billy Mize**.

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ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

Jan. 17

- 2012 — **Jake Owen** has metal plates and pins installed during surgery for a broken collarbone.
- 1998 — **Tim McGraw** begins a six-week residency at No. 1 on the *Billboard* country chart with "Just to See You Smile."

Jan. 18

- 2014 — **Jerrod Niemann** joins **The Oak Ridge Boys** on "Elvira" during a benefit concert for the Make-a-Wish Foundation at the Omni Nashville Hotel. **Journey** keyboard player **Jonathan Cain** also takes part in the event, which raises \$200,000.
- 2009 — **Garth Brooks** sings "We Shall Be Free" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during an inaugural event for president-elect **Barack Obama** in Washington, D.C.



Jan. 19

- 2016 — Capitol releases the **Dierks Bentley** single "Somewhere on a Beach" to radio.
- 1957 — **Johnny Cash** makes his first network TV appearance, on CBS' *The Jackie Gleason Show*, where he sings "I Walk the Line." Also appearing on the broadcast: **Johnny Horton** and **Marty Robbins**.

Jan. 20

- 2002 — **Hank Williams Jr.** performs "America Will Survive," a rewrite of his 1982 hit "A Country Boy Can Survive," during halftime at Pittsburgh's Heinz Field when the Steelers host the Baltimore Ravens in an NFL playoff game. The Steelers win, 27-10.
- 1993 — **Martina McBride** records "Independence Day."

Jan. 21

- 1995 — Following a concert in Montgomery, Ala., **Alan Jackson** visits **Hank Williams'** grave, joining several fans to sing "I Saw the Light" and "Your Cheatin' Heart." He arrives right at 12 a.m., recalling his own song "Midnight in Montgomery."

Jan. 22

- 2013 — Stoney Creek releases the **Randy Houser** album *How Country Feels*.
- 2007 — **Carrie Underwood** writes "Last Name" with **Hillary Lindsey** and **Luke Laird**.

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



Brett Young celebrated the success of his first top five single, "Sleep Without You," on Jan. 11, in advance of the Feb. 10 release of his self-titled debut album. From left: "Sleep" co-writer Justin Ebach, Young and co-writer Kelly Archer.

billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY **nielsen MUSIC**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	CERTIFIED	PEAK POSITION
1	1	1	23	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR <small>D. HUFF, K. URBAN (S. L. OLSEN, H. LINDSEY, C. LAGERBERG)</small>	Keith Urban <small>HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE</small>		1
2	3	5	13	BETTER MAN <small>J. JOYCE (T. SWIFT)</small>	Little Big Town <small>CAPITOL NASHVILLE</small>		2
3	5	4	20	DIRTY LAUNDRY <small>J. JOYCE (Z. CROWELL, A. GORLEY, H. LINDSEY)</small>	Carrie Underwood <small>19/ARISTA NASHVILLE</small>		3
4	2	2	26	MAY WE ALL <small>J. MOI (R. CLAWSON, J. MOORE)</small>	Florida Georgia Line Featuring Tim McGraw <small>BMLG</small>		2
5	6	7	15	A GUY WITH A GIRL <small>S. HENDRICKS (A. GORLEY, B. SIMPSON)</small>	Blake Shelton <small>WARNER BROS./WMN</small>		5
6	7	6	15	STAR OF THE SHOW <small>JOE LONDON, J. BUNETTA, THOMAS RHETT (THOMAS RHETT, R. AKINS, B. HAYSLIP)</small>	Thomas Rhett <small>VALORY</small>		6
7	4	3	34	WANNA BE THAT SONG <small>R. COPPERMAN, B. ELDREDGE (B. ELDREDGE, R. COPPERMAN, SCOOTER CARUSOE)</small>	Brett Eldredge <small>ATLANTIC/WMN</small>		3
8	8	8	17	DIRT ON MY BOOTS <small>B. BUTLER, J. PARDI (R. AKINS, J. FRASURE, A. GORLEY)</small>	Jon Pardi <small>CAPITOL NASHVILLE</small>		8
9	RE-ENTRY		22	TENNESSEE WHISKEY <small>D. COBB, C. STAPLETON (D. DILLON, LINDA HARGROVE)</small>	Chris Stapleton <small>MERCURY</small>	■	1
10	10	12	29	SEEBIN' RED <small>M. J. CONES (T. KENNEDY, K. ALLISON, S. BOGARD, J. SEVER)</small>	Dustin Lynch <small>BROKEN BOW</small>		10
11	12	16	32	80S MERCEDES <small>BUSBEE, M. MORRIS (M. MORRIS, BUSBEE)</small>	Maren Morris <small>COLUMBIA NASHVILLE</small>		11
12	14	14	40	PARACHUTE <small>D. COBB, C. STAPLETON (C. STAPLETON, J. BEAVERS)</small>	Chris Stapleton <small>MERCURY</small>	●	12
13	15	13	18	KILL A WORD <small>J. JOYCE (E. CHURCH, J. HYDE, L. DICK)</small>	Eric Church Featuring Rhiannon Giddens <small>EMI NASHVILLE</small>		13
14	16	15	16	THINK A LITTLE LESS <small>S. HENDRICKS (J. M. NITE, THOMAS RHETT, BARY DEAN, J. ROBBINS)</small>	Michael Ray <small>ATLANTIC/WEA</small>		14
15	17	18	31	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT <small>C. CROWDER, C. YOUNG (C. YOUNG, B. WARREN, B. WARREN)</small>	Chris Young Featuring Vince Gill <small>RCA NASHVILLE</small>		15
16	NEW		1	DRINKIN' TOO MUCH <small>NOT LISTED (NOT LISTED)</small>	Sam Hunt <small>MCA NASHVILLE</small>		16
17	13	11	25	SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE <small>B. CANNON, K. CHESNEY (R. COPPERMAN, M. JENKINS, J. OSBORNE)</small>	Kenny Chesney Featuring P!nk <small>BLUE CHAIR/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE</small>		1
18	18	17	25	THE WEEKEND <small>D. HUFF (B. GILBERT, A. DEROBERTS)</small>	Brantley Gilbert <small>VALORY</small>		17
19	20	22	15	TODAY <small>L. WOOTEN (B. PAISLEY, C. DUBOIS, A. GORLEY)</small>	Brad Paisley <small>ARISTA NASHVILLE</small>		12
20	19	20	26	IF THE BOOT FITS <small>G. SMITH, F. ROGERS (J. M. SCHMIDT, A. ALBERT, M. TENPENNY)</small>	Granger Smith <small>WHEELHOUSE</small>		17
21	21	23	20	ROAD LESS TRAVELED <small>BUSBEE (LAUREN ALAINA, J. FRASURE, M. TRAINOR)</small>	Lauren Alaina <small>19/INTERSCOPE/MERCURY</small>		21
22	26	26	7	FAST <small>J. STEVENS, J. STEVENS (L. BRYAN, R. CLAWSON, L. LAIRD)</small>	Luke Bryan <small>CAPITOL NASHVILLE</small>		22
23	23	24	14	YEAH BOY <small>F. G. WHITEHEAD, J. MASSEY (K. BALLERINI, F. G. WHITEHEAD, K. TIMMER)</small>	Kelsea Ballerini <small>BLACK RIVER</small>		23
24	25	25	10	BLACK <small>R. COPPERMAN (D. BENTLEY, R. COPPERMAN, A. GORLEY)</small>	Dierks Bentley <small>CAPITOL NASHVILLE</small>		24
25	27	29	6	ANY OL' BARSTOOL <small>M. KNOX (J. THOMPSON, D. RUTTAN)</small>	Jason Aldean <small>MACON/BROKEN BOW</small>		25



16

SAM HUNT
Drinkin' Too Much

With self-referential lyrics that find him singing apologetically to his now-fiancee, **Hannah Lee Fowler**, the track marks **Hunt's** highest Hot Country Songs debut (No. 16). It enters Country Digital Song Sales at No. 3 (26,000 sold) and Streaming Songs at No. 19 (1.5 million U.S. streams).



19

BRAD PAISLEY
Today

From *Love and War* (March 3), the ballad, penned by **Paisley, Chris Dubois** and **Ashley Gorley**, lifts 20-19 on Hot Country Songs. It skips 14-11 on Country Airplay (23.9 million, up 4 percent) and increases by 10 percent to 842,000 U.S. streams.

billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY
nielsen MUSIC

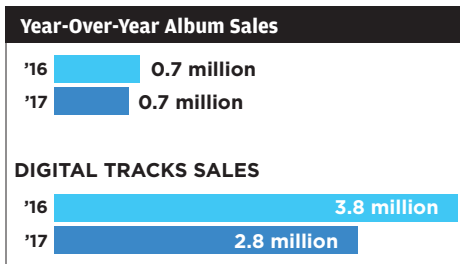
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	CERTIFIED	PEAK POSITION
26	24	21	29	MAKE YOU MINE S.MOSLEY (B.REMPEL,S.MOSLEY,B.STENNIS)	High Valley ATLANTIC/WEA		21
27	28	27	19	HOMETOWN GIRL K.GREENBERG (M.BEESON,D.TASHIAN)	Josh Turner MCA NASHVILLE		27
28	29	28	20	HURRICANE S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,T.PHILLIPS,T.ARCHER)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		28
29	NEW		1	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT NOT LISTED (NOT LISTED)	Rascal Flatts BIG MACHINE		29
30	30	32	20	THERE'S A GIRL J.ROBBINS (T.HARMON,J.ROBBINS,L.VELTZ)	Trent Harmon 19/PUBLIC/DOT		30
31	32	35	22	IF I TOLD YOU R.COPPERMAN (R.COPPERMAN,J.M.NITE,S.MCANALLY)	Darius Rucker CAPITOL NASHVILLE		25
32	31	30	21	LOVE TRIANGLE N.GALYON,J.ROBBINS (N.GALYON,J.ROBBINS,RAE LYNN)	RaeLynn WARNER BROS./WMN		30
33	33	33	20	HOLDIN' HER B.GALLIMORE (C.JANSON,J.OTTO)	Chris Janson WARNER BROS./WAR		33
34	34	37	14	BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE M.A.MILLER (K.BLAZY,S.DORFF,V.SHAW,K.WILLIAMS,G.BROOKS)	Garth Brooks PEARL		34
35	37	34	23	MY GIRL M.ALDERMAN,J.E.NORMAN (D.SCOTT,J.KERR)	Dylan Scott CURB		30
36	36	36	9	WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS F.LIDDELL,G.WORF,E.MASSE (M.LAMBERT)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE		36
37	38	38	14	HOW NOT TO D.SMYERS,S.HENDRICKS (A.HAMBRICK,P.DIGIOVANNI,K.BARD)	Dan + Shay WARNER BROS./WAR		37
38	39	39	16	OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN M.J.CONES (C.CAMPBELL,D.TURNBULL)	Craig Campbell RED BOW		38
39	NEW		1	BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (J.T.HARDING,A.MAYO,D.L.MURPHY)	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		39
40	35	31	17	FOREVER COUNTRY S.MCANALLY (D.PARTON,J.DENVER,T.DANOFF,W.DANOFF,W.NELSON,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Artists Of Then, Now & Forever CMA/MCA NASHVILLE		1
41	41	41	8	FOR HER J.MOI (M.DRAGSTREM,K.ARCHER,S.BUXTON)	Chris Lane BIG LOUD		41
42	40	40	19	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,T.REEVE,K.SCHLENGER,T.TOMLINSON)	Brett Young BMLG		39
43	RE-ENTRY		4	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME J.MOI (J.KEAR,H.LINDSEY,G.SAMPSON)	Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys BMLG		28
44	46	48	11	WHISKEY AND YOU D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,L.T.MILLER)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY		35
45	44	49	3	LIPSTICK M.J.CONES (J.WAYNE,N.COOKE,H.MULHOLLAND,C.HOBBY,E.HOFFMAN,R.L.HOWARD)	Runaway June WHEELHOUSE		44
46	43	45	6	WHAT IFS D.HUFF (K.BROWN,M.MCGINLEY,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE		37
47	NEW		1	TRIED TO TELL YA NOT LISTED (NOT LISTED)	Brantley Gilbert VALORY		47
48	42	44	8	DAMN DRUNK J.DEMARCUS (L.HENGBER,A.KLINE,B.STENNIS)	Ronnie Dunn With Kix Brooks NASH ICON/BIG MACHINE		42
49	47	46	8	EVERYBODY WE KNOW DOES C.DESTEFANO (J.BUSSEY,T.DENNING)	Chase Rice DACK JANIELS/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		26
50	50	-	5	WITH YOU I AM T.W.WILLMON (D.C.LEE,C.D.JOHNSON,T.W.WILLMON)	Cody Johnson COJO		46

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

YEAR-TO-DATE



Weekly Unit Sales

	ALBUMS	DIGITAL ALBUMS*	DIGITAL TRACKS
This Week	289,000	96,000	1,334,000
Last Week	374,000	129,000	1,484,000
Change	-22.7%	-25.6%	-10.1%
This Week Last Year	339,000	122,000	1,742,000
Change	-14.7%	-21.3%	-23.4%

Overall Unit Sales

	2016	2017	CHANGE
Albums	744,000	663,000	-10.9%
Digital Tracks	3,777,000	2,818,000	-25.4%

Sales by Album Format

	2016	2017	CHANGE
Physical	465,000	193,000	-58.5%
Digital	279,000	225,000	-19.4%

For week ending Jan. 12, 2017. Figures are rounded. Compiled from a national sample of retail store and rack sales reports collected and provided by Nielsen Music.



*Digital album sales are also counted within album sales.

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
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MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	Title	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	3	89	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	2	1
2	3	5	36	KEITH URBAN HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE 023591*/UMGN	RIPCORD		1
3	2	2	8	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 532305*/SMN	THE WEIGHT OF THESE WINGS		1
4	7	7	6	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947/SMN	KANE BROWN		1
5	5	6	18	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW 2227/BBMG	THEY DON'T KNOW		1
6	9	9	20	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE BMLG 0300*	DIG YOUR ROOTS		1
7	11	8	7	GARTH BROOKS PEARL 0015	GUNSLINGER	■	4
8	12	16	68	THOMAS RHETT VALORY RT0200A/BMLG	TANGLED UP	■	2
9	13	10	11	KENNY CHESNEY BLUE CHAIR/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 518037/SMN	COSMIC HALLELUJAH		1
10	6	20	32	MAREN MORRIS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 516885*/SMN	HERO		1
11	4	12	34	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 555352/WMN	IF I'M HONEST	●	1
12	15	28	30	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN	CALIFORNIA SUNRISE		1
13	10	13	64	CARRIE UNDERWOOD 19/ARISTA NASHVILLE 510539*/SMN	STORYTELLER	■	1
14	16	19	63	ERIC CHURCH EMI NASHVILLE 024200*/UMGN	MR. MISUNDERSTOOD	●	2
15	21	14	8	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 025678/WME/UMGN	STRAIT OUT OF THE BOX: PART 2		3
16	14	17	75	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 022813/UMGN	KILL THE LIGHTS	■	1
17	17	26	87	KELSEA BALLERINI BLACK RIVER 2015	THE FIRST TIME	●	4
18	20	18	10	VARIOUS ARTISTS SONY MUSIC/UNIVERSAL 025806/UME	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COUNTRY #1'S		5
19	19	33	36	STURGILL SIMPSON ATLANTIC 551380*/AG	A SAILOR'S GUIDE TO EARTH		1
20	24	32	48	JOEY + RORY FARMHOUSE/GAITHER 49134*/CAPITOL CMG	HYMNS	●	1
21	26	36	17	AARON LEWIS DOT 025343*/BMLG	SINNER		1
22	8	25	36	COLE SWINDELL WARNER BROS. 554671/WMN	YOU SHOULD BE HERE		2
23	28	31	24	HILLARY SCOTT & THE SCOTT FAMILY HST/EMI NASHVILLE 025056/UMGN	LOVE REMAINS		2
24	25	35	64	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 551788/WMN	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS		2
25	22	27	33	DIERKS BENTLEY CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024745*/UMGN	BLACK		1

The week's most popular country albums, ranked by sales data as compiled by Nielsen Music. Albums are defined as current if they are less than 18 months old or older than 18 months but still residing in the Billboard 200's top 100. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/charts. Copyright 2017, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

billboard AMERICANA/
FOLK ALBUMS

SALES DATA
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	Title	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	35	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	2	1
2	2	2	40	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA		1
3	3	3	12	LEONARD COHEN COLUMBIA 536507*	YOU WANT IT DARKER		1
4	5	8	31	KALEO ELEKTRA/ATLANTIC 555202*/AG	A / B		3
5	4	4	15	BON IVER JAGJAGUWAR 300*	22, A MILLION		1
6	9	6	5	NEIL YOUNG REPRISE 558314*/WARNER BROS.	PEACE TRAIL		3
7	6	7	38	STURGILL SIMPSON ATLANTIC 551380*/AG	A SAILOR'S GUIDE TO EARTH		1
8	7	9	73	NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATS STAX 37215*/CONCORD	NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATS		1
9	16	23	15	JOHN PRINE OH BOY 044*	FOR BETTER, OR WORSE		5
10	13	13	15	VAN MORRISON EXILE 703574*/CAROLINE	KEEP ME SINGING		2

The week's most popular Americana/Folk Albums, ranked by sales data as compiled by Nielsen Music. Albums are defined as current if they are less than 18 months old or older than 18 months but still residing in the Billboard 200's top 100. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/charts. Copyright 2017, 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	1	17	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN
2	2	37	H.O.L.Y. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
3	5	63	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
4	3	68	DIE A HAPPY MAN THOMAS RHETT
5	4	20	MAY WE ALL FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. TIM MCGRAW
6	7	11	BETTER MAN LITTLE BIG TOWN
7	9	6	DIRT ON MY BOOTS JON PARDI
8	6	24	MIDDLE OF A MEMORY COLE SWINDELL
9	10	16	WANNA BE THAT SONG BRETT ELDRIDGE
10	11	76	BREAK UP IN A SMALL TOWN SAM HUNT
11	8	41	HUNTIN', FISHIN' & LOVIN' EVERY DAY LUKE BRYAN
12	13	107	TAKE YOUR TIME SAM HUNT
13	14	14	PARACHUTE CHRIS STAPLETON
14	17	9	DIRTY LAUNDRY CARRIE UNDERWOOD
15	12	44	HUMBLE AND KIND TIM MCGRAW
16	15	26	DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS DIERKS BENTLEY FEAT. ELLE KING
17	18	11	SONG FOR ANOTHER TIME OLD DOMINION
18	20	123	PLAY IT AGAIN LUKE BRYAN
19	NEW		DRINKIN' TOO MUCH SAM HUNT
20	25	15	SLEEP WITHOUT YOU BRETT YOUNG
21	RE-ENTRY		STAR OF THE SHOW THOMAS RHETT
22	23	88	WAGON WHEEL DARIUS RUCKER
23	24	66	HOUSE PARTY SAM HUNT
24	21	29	RECORD YEAR ERIC CHURCH
25	22	31	PETER PAN KELSEA BALLERINI

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 2017, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

billboard
COUNTRY
DIGITAL SONG SALES

STREAMING & SALES
DATA COMPILED BY
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	26	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN
2	21	57	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
3	NEW		DRINKIN' TOO MUCH SAM HUNT
4	2	13	BETTER MAN LITTLE BIG TOWN
5	3	16	DIRT ON MY BOOTS JON PARDI
6	4	26	MAY WE ALL FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. TIM MCGRAW
7	7	31	SLEEP WITHOUT YOU BRETT YOUNG
8	NEW		YOURS IF YOU WANT IT RASCAL FLATTS
9	8	4	THINK A LITTLE LESS MICHAEL RAY
10	12	15	STAR OF THE SHOW THOMAS RHETT
11	9	13	A GUY WITH A GIRL BLAKE SHELTON
12	17	16	THE WEEKEND BRANTLEY GILBERT
13	13	19	DIRTY LAUNDRY CARRIE UNDERWOOD
14	11	18	PICTURE KID ROCK FEAT. SHERYL CROW
15	6	36	H.O.L.Y. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
16	10	32	WANNA BE THAT SONG BRETT ELDRIDGE
17	18	32	PARACHUTE CHRIS STAPLETON
18	15	24	SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE KENNY CHESNEY FEAT. P!NK
19	24	17	MAKE YOU MINE HIGH VALLEY
20	23	15	SEEN' RED DUSTIN LYNCH
21	RE-ENTRY		BLACK DIERKS BENTLEY
22	25	14	KILL A WORD ERIC CHURCH FEAT. RHIANNON GIDDENS
23	NEW		TRIED TO TELL YA BRANTLEY GILBERT
24	RE-ENTRY		ROAD LESS TRAVELED LAUREN ALAINA
25	16	51	HUMBLE AND KIND TIM MCGRAW



8

RASCAL FLATTS
Yours If You Want It

From the trio's upcoming album, and written by Jonathan Singleton and Andrew Dorff (who died Dec. 19), "Yours" arrives on Country Digital Song Sales at No. 8 with 12,000 sold. On Hot Country Songs, it starts at No. 29, marking Rascal Flatts' highest bow since 2009 ("Here Comes Goodbye").

MAKIN' TRACKS TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com

Drake White Brings Homegrown Passion To 'Makin' Me Look Good Again'

Behind every great man is a great woman.

The idea isn't new, but it's rarely expressed with as much passion as **Drake White** applies in his new single, "Makin' Me Look Good Again." White sings it like he means it, and he does: It's a song about his wife, **Alex**, whom he married a couple years after writing "Good Again."

"She makes me look good, she makes me feel good, she makes everything OK when the road gets tough and kind of bruises me up," says White.

"The song is so believable because it is him," adds co-writer **Shane Minor** ("Chillin' It," "Beautiful Mess"). "When you see those two together, you know he loves his wife. When he looks at her, he's just like a kid."

Alex wouldn't exist without White's father-in-law, and neither would the song. When the couple was still dating, he told White that his daughter "makes you look good." White agreed.

"My wife is a nurturer," he says. "She brings so much joy to everybody she meets, and sometimes she kind of breaks her back to help other people out and make people feel welcome and make people feel good. That's why people love her, and that's ultimately why she's perfect for me."

That was in his mind when White strolled into the Sony/ATV office on Nashville's Music Row on Oct. 3, 2012, for a writing appointment organized by Sony/ATV vp creative **Tom Luteran**. The building was being remodeled, and no writers rooms were available. So Minor and co-writer **Monty Criswell** ("I Saw God Today," "Like Jesus Does") were assigned the first-floor conference room, which just happens to have a piano in it.

"It's a big room, it's got all that glass, so it's got a lot of natural, built-in reverb that's going on," says Criswell, who played the keyboard that day. "It sounded really, really good, playing on the piano and him singing, and just filling that room up with that song."

White had been cooking before the appointment, and he showed up smelling like barbecue. The piano would flavor the creative part of his day.

"I love **Ray Charles**, and I wanted to write a soul ballad, if you will," says White. "I loved the way his records sounded, and that piano kind of pulled that soulfulness out of me."

They discussed the "Makin' Me Look Good Again" hook, and knowing where they were headed, Criswell played a chord or two, setting a gospel-shrouded tone as White started in on the opening lines, half-spoken in the moment: "Worn and haggard, weathered and torn."

The words came fast and furious, with all three writers adding to a picture of a man coming home from work, beat up from earning a paycheck to support the woman he loves. The images worked for a musician such as White, returning from a long road trip, but a construction worker or a waiter could easily insert themselves into the scenario, too.

"It works across the board," says Minor. "It even works for the guy coming in from a high-rise office in a suit and tie."

Criswell directed the chordal movement, which in turn shaped the melody. And it took a subtly unusual twist in the back half of the verses, as Criswell injected a three-major chord into the progression, moving the fifth note of the scale up a half-step and creating an extra amount of tension as the chord slipped out of the song's key signature.

"Sometimes it only takes one little chord to make an event in a song or to make something shine or shimmer or have some gloss to it," notes Criswell. "It's a three — not a three-minor — and that's a blues-ish kind of chord. But

if you treat it correctly in that chord progression, it's that one little event that kind of sets the tone and timbre of the song."

A bridge emphasized the contrast between both parties in the relationship — "Leather and lace/Denim and pearls" — and gave White a high note to lead into a guitar solo. They added a third verse that was merely half the length of the opening stanza, with the woman slipping her hands underneath his shirt.

"I just thought it was so important that she eventually gets her hands on him," says Criswell. "I thought that was a good place for the song to land, for there to be some physical contact."

They made a fuzzy piano/vocal work tape in the big conference room, then did a more formal demo at Benchmark Sound, where White's grainy scratch vocal oozed that Charles influence and piano rolls enhanced the gospel texture. Guitarist **Rob McNelley** also created a solo that provided a road map for **Danny Rader's** performance on the eventual master.

Similar to the demo, White's recorded performance went down as a scratch vocal with the band at Ocean Way, a former house of worship that still has stained-glass windows in the primary tracking room. That provided some visual context as the musicians embraced the song's gospel vibe.

"Being in that church like that, maybe it was easier for the guys to go there," says co-producer **Ross Copperman** (**Dierks Bentley**, **Brett Eldredge**). "It was a very fast session. Everyone knew what to do. I just threw the stank, slap and reverb on everything and it sounded amazing, like Muscle Shoals."

They left White's vocal in a raw state — he pops the "p" when he sings "pull me back in" on the

third verse — confidently showcasing the authenticity of the performance.

"That, in the long term for Drake, is a big feather in his hat, his ability to show his spirit through the music," says co-producer **Jeremy Stover** (**Justin Moore**, **Eli Young Band**). "I think that's going to give him longevity."

White's notably animated in concert — shaking a leg or clutching at air as he interprets the storyline — and the hot mic at Ocean Way didn't affect his physicality.

"He still doesn't stand still," says Stover. "He's still moving, but luckily, it's on a rug or on carpet when he's doing it, so it doesn't become a big issue."

Rader and keyboard player **Michael Rojas** layered on extra parts before the session was over. Otherwise, **Carolyn Dawn Johnson's** background vocals were pretty much the extent of the overdubs.

"We could have literally mixed through the board from the studio that day and sent it off," says Copperman. "It was just so good."

White's inaugural Dot single, "Livin' the Dream," became his first top 15 on Country Airplay. Meanwhile, fans were already responding to the live performances of "Makin' Me Look Good Again." A 2015 performance at a **WSOC** Charlotte, N.C., event has yielded nearly 600,000 views on YouTube — good numbers for a local performance by a still-developing artist — in part because his passion is so palpable. "Look Good" was shipped to radio via Play MPE on Nov. 14 and is currently No. 60 in its fourth week on Country Airplay. None of it changes the meaning for White.

"I really am not chasing hits here," he insists. "I would love to have a string of hits — and I believe we will — but this is a song that I wrote for somebody that's the best woman in the world. The crowd and the fans really chose this song to be a single. I love music that gets discovered like that. Let them do it. Let the people decide." ●



WHITE

THE STARK REPORT PHYLLIS STARK phyllis.stark@billboard.com

It's A Social-Media World, Journalists And Publicists Just Live In It



President-elect **Donald Trump** is already shaking things up in Washington, D.C., by eschewing more traditional forms of communicating his message, preferring instead to speak directly through Twitter to his 19 million-plus followers. As a result, the political press frequently finds itself in the still-unfamiliar position of reporting on those tweets rather than breaking the news first.

While that may take some getting used to for the White House Correspondents Association, the entertainment media has long since come to a truce with chasing social-media-generated stories. In fact, the job of entertainment journalist has changed significantly in recent times. News about music, tours, engagements, pregnancies and the like that has historically been announced via press release, in a carefully arranged exclusive in a consumer publication like *People* or sussed out through good old-fashioned reporting more often now comes directly from the artists themselves via their social-media channels.

While some members of the media welcome that development, particularly because it often provides them with the candid photos and behind-the-scenes glimpses into stars' personal lives their readers love, they say it comes with an emotional price. To stay up to date, journalists and bloggers must constantly monitor Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat and even Pinterest and YouTube as artists break news via posts, live streams and their own weekly video series. It isn't easy to keep up with it all when the job entails covering hundreds of acts, and there's usually no way to know when or how news will arrive.

Since the holidays alone, news has broken on social media about engagements for country stars **Kelsea Ballerini**, **Kacey Musgraves** and up-and-comers **William Michael Morgan** and **Jennifer Wayne**. On Jan. 13, **Little Big Town's Kimberly Schlapman** surprised her Instagram followers with news that she and her husband had adopted a baby girl. **Ashley Monroe**, **Mo Pitney** and **Dan + Shay's Shay Mooney** announced baby-related news just since Christmas on Instagram. And **Love & Theft's Stephen Barker Liles** revealed the gender of the baby he and his wife are expecting via a video posted to YouTube and the band's social-media sites.

Among the many other social-media posts that became stories in the last month were **Carrie Underwood** sharing news about her dog's paralysis from a herniated disk and **Brett Eldredge** posting a photo of a snake he discovered in a toilet while on vacation. **Sam Hunt**, meanwhile, bypassed his label and went straight to SoundCloud on Jan. 1 to release his new song, "Drinkin' Too Much."

"At this point, I basically see my iPhone as an extension of my right hand," says **Hunter Kelly**, senior correspondent for Cox Media Group's *Rare Country*. "I'm on it from morning to night checking socials, keeping on top of what everybody's sharing." Kelly says that's part of a decided shift in his job "from living and dying by my email inbox to living on social-media accounts, monitoring what everyone's doing throughout the day."

"You need to be on top of the news 24/7," says **Lisa Konicki**, editor in chief of Cumulus' *Nash Country Weekly*. "You never know when an artist is going to tweet or Facebook information you can turn into a story. It's extremely time consuming." She adds, "News can come on Christmas — [like] Kelsea Ballerini and Kacey Musgraves announcing their engagements — or a late Friday night after work ... You just never know."

Most writers have mastered tricks for staying on top of the barrage of news. "The list and alerts features offered by social-media platforms are your friends when it comes to keeping up with the big artists," says Kelly. "That's espe-

cially true, given the shift to algorithmic feeds on Instagram and Twitter in the past year."

Konicki is also a fan of news alerts. "I don't think there is any surefire way to keep up with all the content," she says. "I would just recommend setting up accounts on all social-media platforms and follow every country music artist that uses those platforms. Set notifications to be alerted when certain news comes in, and just keep checking your feed during your waking hours."

"Setting up alerts and regularly checking various artist accounts is the only way to keep up," agrees **Billy Dukes**, senior editor at Townsquare Media's *Taste of Country*. "It's as much a part of our day-to-day as scanning headlines and sorting through emails from publicists. Of course we miss some, as we're not going to sit through every Facebook Live video in hopes of a nugget we can use. Alas, we can't be first on everything."

Jon Freeman, staff editor for *Rolling Stone Country*, has had to adopt a new mind-set to keep social media from burying him. "Rather than work myself into an early grave, I try to keep some things in mind," he explains.

"The incorporation of social media is now a key part of an artist's marketing strategy, so it isn't always imperative — or interesting — for me to copy and repeat every little development. It's fair to question if something is actually newsworthy."

Despite the headaches, writers say there are real positives to this modern method of finding stories. "I've always lived in this social-media world and relied on an artist's Twitter and Instagram pages for content," says Dukes. "I tend to prefer it, as it's first-person news and often comes with a more interesting photo I can use. Also, there's no filler or confusing verbiage

like you find in so many press releases."

"Today, every announcement and life event is captured in photos and videos on artists' social-media accounts," says Kelly. "It's great, enriching content for stories that would otherwise be pretty dry. Country fans love getting a view of artists' mundane, everyday life moments. I see those posts as the seed to spark creative story ideas, and those posts are also a godsend when preparing for interviews and video shoots."

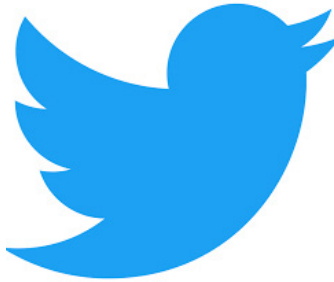
Konicki says the rise of social media as news-breaker means "content is handed to you ... Feeding content to a website is a beast, so you are in constant need of information for stories. It doesn't stop. Social media has pretty much allowed this news to be placed right at our fingertips, allowing us that content to build the story. We are no longer totally dependent on being sent the information from publicists. We literally get it right from the artists themselves. There's no better source."

Artists obviously see the positives too. In a 2016 interview with *Billboard Country Update*, **Garth Brooks** joked that he gets his "butt chewed out" by his publicists when he announces news directly to fans via his weekly Facebook Live series, but explained that he loves doing things that way because he can see and hear fans' immediate reaction.

Because of that mind-set among artists, it's not just writers who have to keep up with social media. Publicity pros are affected too. **Kristie Sheppard Sloan**, co-owner of Nashville PR firm the Greenroom (and one of Brooks' publicists), says, "I would guess there isn't a publicist in town who hasn't had to jump into action because of a premature tweet from an excited artist or signed up for a Snapchat account just to keep up with breaking news." ●



snapchat



billboard Country Indicator

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	PLAYS		AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK
1	2	16	A GUY WITH A GIRL Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	4664	+89	7.981
2	4	16	STAR OF THE SHOW Valory	Thomas Rhett	4546	+341	7.809
3	1	21	DIRTY LAUNDRY 19/Arista Nashville	Carrie Underwood	4512	-150	8.077
4	6	13	BETTER MAN Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	4194	+521	7.089
5	10	33	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT RCA Nashville	Chris Young Feat. Vince Gill	3823	+373	6.462
6	9	27	SEEIN' RED Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	3820	+289	6.371
7	7	46	IF THE BOOT FITS Wheelhouse	Granger Smith	3767	+97	6.256
8	8	21	KILL A WORD EMI Nashville	Eric Church Feat. Rhiannon Giddens	3661	+80	6.076
9	12	15	TODAY Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	3473	+230	5.824
10	11	30	80S MERCEDES Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	3381	+14	5.502
11	13	18	DIRT ON MY BOOTS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	3074	+193	4.895
12	16	24	THINK A LITTLE LESS Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	2934	+348	5.066
13	14	23	ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	2839	+81	4.415
14	15	38	PARACHUTE Mercury	Chris Stapleton	2686	-8	4.219
15	18	7	FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	2643	+409	4.433
16	17	14	BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE Pearl	Garth Brooks	2541	+66	3.997
17	19	24	THE WEEKEND Valory	Brantley Gilbert	2309	+97	3.360
18	20	16	YEAH BOY Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2274	+106	3.500
19	21	33	HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	2069	+132	3.310
20	25	8	ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	2018	+389	3.313
21	22	11	BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	1985	+153	2.981
22	23	42	MAKE YOU MINE Atlantic/WEA	High Valley	1843	+108	2.947
23	24	9	WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	1664	0	2.548
24	26	34	HOLDIN' HER Warner Bros./WAR	Chris Janson	1560	-1	2.634
25	29	3	BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	1405	+418	2.323
26	28	24	THERE'S A GIRL 19/Republic/Dot	Trent Hamon	1391	+200	1.944
27	27	28	IF ITOLD YOU Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	1382	+100	1.943
28	30	16	HOW NOTTO Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	961	+78	1.264
29	31	19	HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	856	+40	1.344
30	32	27	LIPSTICK Wheelhouse	Runaway June	843	+36	1.216

BILLBOARD COUNTRY INDICATOR PANEL — 106 STATIONS

Abilene, Texas	KEAN	Fayetteville, N.C.	WKML	Lebanon, N.H.	WXXK	Santa Barbara, Calif.	KRAZ
Alexandria, La.	KRRV	Flagstaff, Ariz.	KAFF	Lincoln, Neb.	KFGE	Santa Maria, Calif.	KSNL
Amarillo, Texas	KGNC	Flint, Mich.	WFBE	Longview, Texas	KYKX	Sheboygan, Wis.	WBFM
Asheville, N.C.	WKSF	Florence, Ala.	WXFL	Lubbock, Texas	KLLL	Savannah, Ga.	WJCL
Atlantic City, N.J.	WPUR	Florence, S.C.	WEGX	Lufkin, Texas	KYKS		WUBB
Beaumont, Texas	KYKR	Ft. Collins, Colo.	KUAD	Mason City, Iowa	KIAI	Shreveport, La.	KXKS
Beckley, W. Va.	WJLS	Ft. Smith, Ark.	KTCS	Medford, Ore.	KRWQ	Sioux City, Iowa	KSUX
Biloxi, Miss.	WZKX	Frederick, Md.	WFRE	Meridian, Miss.	WOKK	South Bend, Ind.	WBVT
Bloomington, Ill.	WIBL	Fredericksburg, Va.	WFLS	Montgomery, Ala.	WLWI	Springfield, Ill.	WFMB
Bluefield, W. Va.	WHKX	Green Bay, Wis.	WNCY	Morgantown, W. Va.	WKKW	Springfield, Mo.	KTTT
Burlington, Vt.	WOKO	Hagerstown, Md.	WAYZ	Muskegon, Mich.	WMUS	Terre Haute, Ind.	WTHI
Cape Girardeau, Mo.	KEZS	Hot Springs, Ark.	KQUS	New London, Conn.	WCTY	Topeka, Kan.	WIBW
Charleston, W. Va.	WKWS	Huntington, Ky.	WDGG	Odessa, Texas	KHKX	Traverse City, Mich.	WTCM
	WQBE	Huntington, W. Va.	WTCR	Palm Springs, Calif.	KPLM	Tupelo, Miss.	WWZD
College Station, Texas	KAGG	Idaho Falls, Idaho	KTHK	Pensacola, Fla.	WXBM	Utica, N.Y.	WFRG
Columbia, Mo.	KCLR	Jackson, Miss.	WMSI	Peoria, Ill.	WXCL	Victor Valley, CA.	KATJ
Columbus, Ga.	WKCN		WUSJ	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	WRWD	Waco, Texas	WACO
	WSTH	Janesville, Wis.	WJVL	Rapid City, S.D.	KOUT	Wausau, Wis.	WDEZ
Cookeville, Tenn.	WGSO	Jonesboro, Ark.	KDXY	Rockford, Ill.	WXXQ	Wheeling, W. Va.	WOVK
Dothan, Ala.	WTVY	Joplin, Mo.	KIXQ	Rocky Mount, N.C.	WDWG	Williamsport, Pa.	WILQ
Duluth, Minn.	KKCB	Kalamazoo, Mich.	WNWN	Saginaw, Mich.	WCEN	Yakima, Wash.	KXDD
Eau Claire, Wis.	WAXX	Kalispell, Mont.	KDBR	St. Cloud, Minn.	KZPK	Youngstown, Ohio	WOXK
Elizabeth City, N.C.	WRSF	Kingmah, Ariz.	KFLG	Salina, Kan.	KYEZ		WWGY
Erie, Pa.	WTWF	Lafayette, Ind.	WKOA	Salisbury, Md.	WKTT	Westwood One	HOT COUNTRY
Eugene, Ore.	KKNU	Laredo, Texas	KRRG	San Angelo, Texas	KGKL	Music Choice	MAINSTREAM COUNTRY
Evansville, Ind.	WKDQ	Lansing, Mich.	WITL	San Luis Obispo, Calif.	KKJG	Sirius XM	TODAY'S COUNTRY
Fargo, N.D.	KBVB	Laurel, Miss.	WBBN				THE HIGHWAY

billboard Country Indicator

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	PLAYS		AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK
31	33	39	OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN Red Bow	Craig Campbell	789	+49	1.287
32	35	12	SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory	Justin Moore	776	+115	1.205
33	34	8	DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury	Billy Currington	768	+56	1.083
34	36	13	IF HE AIN'T GONNA LOVE YOU RCA Nashville	Jake Owen	607	-25	0.954
35	37	9	OUTTA STYLE BIG Label	Aaron Watson	587	+27	0.787
36	50	2	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine ★★ Most Added ★★	Rascal Flatts	555	+297	0.838
37	38	17	FOR HER Big Loud	Chris Lane	524	+18	0.690
38	43	8	RING ON EVERY FINGER Reviver	LoCash	477	+71	0.661
39	42	21	LOVE TRIANGLE Warner Bros./WMN	RaeLynn	455	+39	0.607
40	41	16	MY GIRL Curb	Dylan Scott	453	+22	0.463
41	40	22	DAMN DRUNK Nash Icon	Ronnie Dunn With Kix Brooks	442	-45	0.611
42	45	18	LOAD IT UP Lila	Alex Smith	382	+11	0.494
43	49	10	PUT A LABEL ON IT BMLG	Ryan Follese	358	+33	0.393
44	46	15	OUR TOWN Columbia Nashville	Tyler Farr	347	-15	0.517
45	48	13	I'M NOT THE DEVIL Cody Jinks/Thirty Tigers	Cody Jinks	345	+10	0.377
46	53	2	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	332	+102	0.561
47	NEW		GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys	328	+260	0.449
48	39	28	WITH YOU I AM CoJo	Cody Johnson	307	-188	0.468
49	NEW		FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	262	+226	0.548
50	51	10	ROOM TO BREATHE Red Bow	Chase Bryant	260	+17	0.292
51	52	8	METOO Keith Walker	Keith Walker	246	+7	0.301
52	54	5	REBOUND Cold River/New Revolution	Drew Baldridge Feat. Emily Weisband	237	+18	0.271
53	56	7	THE WAY IT TALK Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	236	+27	0.295
54	55	21	ROOTS Stoney Creek	Parmalee	233	+23	0.322
55	NEW		IT AIN'T MY FAULT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	223	+110	0.357
56	57	4	YOU'VE GOT THAT SOMETHIN' Terra Bella/DAX	Terra Bella	222	+13	0.266
57	58	3	DRINKING WITH DOLLY Rebel Engine/Star Farm	Stephanie Quayle	209	+9	0.246
58	47	18	GOOD AT TONIGHT MCA Nashville	David Nail Feat. Brothers Osborne	206	-140	0.278
59	60	2	THIS TOWN Steel	Tyler Steel	180	+10	0.208
60	RE-ENTRY		EVERYBODY WE KNOW DOES Dack Janiels/Columbia Nashville	Chase Rice	173	+18	0.121

CHARTS LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 151 stations by Nielsen BDS. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Arbitron Inc. copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2017, Arbitron Inc.) Country Indicator is tabulated using reported playlists and Nielsen BDS-monitored airplay at 106 stations, ranked by total plays.

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%. Bullets are awarded on Country Indicator to titles gaining plays or remaining flat from the previous week.

TIES

On Country Airplay, if two songs are tied in total audience, the song with the larger increase in audience is placed first. On Country Indicator, if two songs are tied in total plays, the song with the larger increase in plays 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. On Country Indicator, descending, non-bulleted titles below No. 10 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks or if they post a third consecutive week of decline in plays after 10 weeks.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

Awarded to the highest-ranking new entry on Country Airplay and Country Indicator, respectively.

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 BDS) for stations that do not report adds.

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE/PLAYS

Most Increased Audience on Country Airplay and Most Increased Plays on Country Indicator list the songs with the greatest week-to-week increases in total audience or plays, respectively.

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 Index

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

80S MERCEDES International Dog Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/7189 Music Publishing, BMI (*M.Morris, busbee*) **15**

A

ANY OL' BARSTOOL Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Laine Collections, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Doc And Maggie Music, SOCAN/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP (*J.Thompson, D.Ruttan*) **22**

B

BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE I Want To Hold Your Hands, BMI/Dorffmeister Music, BMI/Victoria Shaw Songs, SESAC/All My Soul Music, SESAC/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/No Fences Music, ASCAP (*K.Blazy, S.Dorff, V.Shaw, K.Williams, G.Brooks*) **20**

BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Songs Of SMP, ASCAP/Mighty Seven Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Queen Of Dot Dot Dot, BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/NZD Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP (*J.T.Harding, A.Mayo, D.L.Murphy*) **27**

BETTER MAN Taylor Swift Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI (*T.Swift*) **8**

BLACK Big White Tracks, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (*D.Bentley, R.Coppeman, A.Gorley*) **28**

BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Hillarod/Rathbone Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l./Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP (*S.L.Olsen, H.Lindsey, C.Lagerberg*) **3**

BURN THE BED Not Listed/CTK Publishing, BMI/Songs Of DRV, BMI/Sawyer House Publishing, ASCAP/Alden Witt Publishing, SESAC (*C.Carpenter, J.Sawyer, A.Witt*) **58**

D

DAMN DRUNK Starstruck Writers Group, ASCAP/Giving Out Wings Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Starstruck, SESAC/Vision Board Songs, SESAC/Airplanes For Stars Music, SESAC/The Stennis Mightier Music, BMI/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (*L.Hengber, A.Kline, B.Stennis*) **37**

DIRT ON MY BOOTS EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Brooks County Boy Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Telemity Productions, BMI/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (*R.Akins, J.Frasure, A.Gorley*) **15**

DIRTY LAUNDRY Atlas Music Publishing, ASCAP/External Combustion Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Southside Independent Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Hillarod/Rathbone Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (*Z.Crowell, A.Gorley, H.Lindsey*) **2**

DO I MAKE YOU WANNA External Combustion Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Southside Independent Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Atlas Music Publishing, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (*A.Gorley, Z.Crowell, M.Jenkins, J.Flowers*) **47**

E

EVERYBODY WE KNOW DOES Universal Tunes, SESAC/Buzzcutt Music, SESAC/I'm About To Go Red On Ya Music, BMI/Ole, BMI (*J.Bussey, T.Denning*) **46**

F

FAST Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Peanut Mill Songs, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Big Loud Proud Crowd, BMI/Farm Town Songs, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Creative Nation Music, BMI (*L.Bryan, R.Cawson, L.Laird*) **16**

FLATLINER Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Colden Rainey Music, BMI/Forest For The Trees Music, SESAC/So Essential Tunes, SESAC/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Jaron Boyer Music, SESAC (*C.Swindell, M.Bronleewe, J.Boyer*) **48**

FOR HER Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Stars And Stripes And Maple Leaf Music, BMI/Bux Tone Music, BMI (*M.Dragstrem, K.Archer, S.Buxton*) **44**

G

GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/Champagne Whiskey Publishing, BMI/Hillarod/Rathbone Music, ASCAP/BMG Firefly, ASCAP/Dash8 Music, ASCAP (*J.Kear, H.Lindsey, G.Sampson*) **51**

A GUY WITH A GIRL Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/Spirit Of Nashville One, BMI/Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l. (*A.Gorley, B.Simpson*) **1**

H

HOLDIN' HER Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Eldorotto Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (*C.Janson, J.Otto*) **26**

HOMETOWN GIRL Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP/Son Of Ron Songs, ASCAP/Diver Dann Music, ASCAP/International Dog Music, BMI (*M.Beason, D.Tashian*) **24**

HOW NOT TO Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Red Like The Sunset Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulwood Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Kevin Bard Music, ASCAP (*A.Hambrick, P.DiGiovanni, K.Bard*) **32**

HURRICANE 50 Egg, BMI/Straight Dimes, BMI/Big Machine Music, BMI/Intune Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI (*L.Combs, T.Phillips, T.Archer*) **38**

I

IF HE AIN'T GONNA LOVE YOU Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Creative Nation Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Smack Ink, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP (*L.Laird, S.McAnally, C.Stapleton*) **41**

IF I TOLD YOU EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Jon Mark Nite Music, ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR (*R.Coppeman, J.M.Nite, S.McAnally*) **30**

IF THE BOOT FITS Tree Vibez Music, LLC, BMI/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/We-Volve Music, ASCAP/Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI (*J.M.Schmidt, A.Albert, M.Terpeny*) **9**

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW Super Big Music, ASCAP/Calville Publishing, ASCAP/Brown Hound Publishing, BMI/Kyle Schlienger Productions, ASCAP/Big Spaces Music, BMI/Boothel Music, BMI/Big Mosquito Music, BMI/Amplified Admin., BMI (*B.Young, T.Reeve, K.Schlienger, T.Tomlinson*) **39**

IT AIN'T MY FAULT WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Trampy McCauley, ASCAP/All The Kings Pens, ASCAP/Songstein Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Country And Western Music, BMI (*J. Osborne, T.J. Osborne, L.T.Miller*) **57**

K

KILL A WORD Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Mammaw's Fried Okra Music, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI (*E.Church, J.Hyde, L.Dick*) **12**

L

LIPSTICK Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Duchess Music, BMI/Songwriters of Platinum Pen Publishing, BMI/Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Thunder Cookie, SESAC/Hatchoo Music, SESAC/Music Of Platinum Pen, SESAC/Hannah Mulholland Publishing, BMI/Hyper Hobby Music, SESAC/Tri Star Sports and Entertainment Group, SESAC/Fabulicious Music, SESAC/Do Write Music, LLC, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Music From Riding Songs, BMI/Songs Of Colton Entertainment, BMI (*J.Wayne, N.Cooke, H.Mulholland, C.Hobby, E.Hoffman, R.L.Howard*) **33**

LOVE TRIANGLE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/A Girl Named Charlie, BMI/Round Hill Songs Jimmy Robbins, ASCAP/Extraordinary Alien Publishing, ASCAP/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Prescription Songs, LLC, ASCAP/I Take The Bull By The Horns, ASCAP (*N.Galyon, J.Robbins, Raelynn*) **34**

M

MAKE YOU MINE Centricity Music Publishing, ASCAP/Bluenort Records, SOCAN/CentricSongs, SESAC/2 Hour Songs, SESAC/Pickin Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kickingbird, BMI (*B.Rempel, S.Mosley, B.Stennis*) **25**

MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Reverend Jack Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Dixey Bar Music, BMI/Code Six Charles Music, BMI (*D.White, M.Criswell, S.Moray*) **60**

MAY WE ALL Round Hill Works, BMI/Farm Town Songs, BMI/Big Loud Proud Crowd, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Team Destiny, ASCAP (*R.Clawson, J.Moore*) **7**

MISSING EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Good The Bad The Ugly Publishing, BMI (*R.Akins, M.Green*) **50**

MY GIRL Curb Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River, ASCAP (*D.Scott, J.Ker*) **42**

O

OUR TOWN Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Crazy Girl Music, BMI/Eighty Nine 89 Music, BMI/Songs From The Rose Hotel, ASCAP (*L.Rose, N.Chapman, S.Ennis*) **56**

OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Full Of Bulls Music, ASCAP/Ole Ole, ASCAP/Skabetti Bowl Of Songs, SESAC (*C.Campbell, D.Turnbull*) **29**

OUTTA STYLE Tunes From HTK, BMI (*A.Watson*) **55**

P

PARACHUTE WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Ken Tucky Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Dontcallmebrett Music, BMI (*C.Stapleton, J.Beavers*) **18**

R

RING ON EVERY FINGER Big Machine Music, BMI/Big Yellow Dog Music, ASCAP/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI (*Thomas Rhett, J.Kear, J.Frasure*) **40**

ROAD LESS TRAVELED Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Lylas Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/MTrain Music, ASCAP (*Lauren Alaina, J.Frasure, M.Trainor*) **17**

ROOM TO BREATHE BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/SWMBMG, BMI/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/Funky Friar Music, ASCAP (*C.Bryant, A.Gorley, D.George*) **45**

ROOTS Big Deal Beats, BMI/The Stennis Mightier Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Young Guns Publishing, LLC, BMI/Parallel Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/The Wizard of Ahhs, ASCAP/Songs Of Parallel Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Publishing America, Inc., ASCAP (*J.Mullins, B.Stennis, W.B.Bollinger*) **36**

S

SEENIN' RED Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/This Is Magic Mustang Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Casa Del Amour Music, SESAC/Little Champion Music, ASCAP/Leighalu Music, ASCAP (*T.Kennedy, K.Allison, S.Bogard, J.Seaver*) **6**

SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Familove Songs, BMI/Goodbye Pants Music, BMI/Sagequinnjude Music, BMI (*C.Young, B.Warren, B.Warren*) **10**

SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Stars And Stripes And Maple Leaf Music, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Red Like The Sunset Music, ASCAP/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/Songs For Elle, BMI (*K.Archer, A.Hambrick, T.Otto*) **35**

STAR OF THE SHOW EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Brooks County Boy Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (*Thomas Rhett, R.Akins, B.Hayslip*) **4**

T

THERE'S A GIRL Big Music Machine, BMI/19 Music Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Trent Harmon Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Songs Jimmy Robbins, ASCAP/Extraordinary Alien Publishing, ASCAP/Jammy Robbins Music, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Oh Denise Publishing, BMI (*T.Harmon, J.Robbins, L.Veltz*) **25**

THINK A LITTLE LESS EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Jon Mark Nite Music, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Creative Nation Music, BMI/Country Paper, BMI/Pulse Nation, BMI/Extraordinary Alien Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP (*J.M.Nite, Thomas Rhett, Bary Dean, J.Robbins*) **14**

TODAY New Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Songs Of Southside Independent Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Music Of Windswept, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (*B.Paisley, C.DuBois, A.Gorley*) **11**

U

UNDONE ReHits Music, Inc., ASCAP/MeGusta Music, ASCAP/Smack Ink, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI (*T.Rosen, J.Osborne, R.Coppeman*) **53**

W

WANNA BE THAT SONG Sony/ATV Country, BMI/Paris Not France Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI/Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Abbott's Creek Music, ASCAP (*B.Eldredge, R.Coppeman, Scooter Carusoe*) **5**

THE WAY I TALK WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Damn Country Music, ASCAP/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/Pinetucky Road Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Round Room Records, ASCAP (*J.L.Alexander, B.Hayslip, C.M.Gill*) **49**

THE WEEKEND Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Indiana Angel Music, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Lanercost Publishing, ASCAP (*B.Gilbert, A.DeRobertis*) **19**

WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI (*M.Lambert*) **31**

WITH YOU I AM Mood Merchant Music, BMI/4 Cow Ranch Songs, BMI/Cojo Country Publishing, ASCAP/ASCAMP, ASCAP/Barns And No Bull Music, ASCAP (*D.C.Lee, C.D.Johnson, T.W.Wilmon*) **54**

WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Charged Kitsune Music, ASCAP/Songs From The Rose Hotel, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Skull Town Sounds, BMI/Weddings Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (*S.Ennis, B.Daly, D.H.Hodges*) **59**

Y

YEAH BOY Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/KNB Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Blue Guitar, BMI (*K.Ballerini, F.G.Whitehead, K.Timmer*) **21**

YESTERDAY'S SONG Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ogden Avenue Publishing, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Pulse Nation, BMI/Be Barry Quiet, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Martin Music, Inc., ASCAP (*H.Hayes, Bary Dean, M.Johnson*) **52**

YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Not Listed (Not Listed) **43**

billboard Hot Country Songs Index

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

80S MERCEDES International Dog Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/7189 Music Publishing, BMI (M.Morris, busbee) **11**

A

ANY OL' BARSTOOL Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Lane Collections, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Doc And Maggie Music, SOCAN/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP (J.Thompson, D.Ruttan) **25**

B

BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE I Want To Hold Your Songs, BMI/Dorffmeister Music, BMI/Victoria Shaw Songs, SESAC/All My Soul Music, SESAC/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/No Fences Music, ASCAP (K.Blazy, S.Dorff, V.Shaw, K.Williams, G.Brooks) **34**

BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Songs Of SMP, ASCAP/Mighty Seven Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Queen Of Dot Dot Dot, BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/NZD Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP (J.T.Harding, A.Mayo, D.L.Murphy) **39**

BETTER MAN Taylor Swift Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI (T.Swift) **2**

BLACK Big White Tracks, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (D.Bentley, R.Copperman, A.Gorley) **24**

BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/HillarodyRathbone Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l./Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP (S.L.Olsen, H.Lindsey, C.Lagerberg) **1**

D

DAMN DRUNK Starstruck Writers Group, ASCAP/Giving Out Wings Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Starstruck, SESAC/Vision Board Songs, SESAC/Airplanes For Stars Music, SESAC/The Stennis Mightier Music, BMI/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (L.Hengber, A.Kline, B.Stennis) **48**

DIRT ON MY BOOTS EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Brooks County Boy Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Telemetry Productions, BMI/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (R.Akins, J.Frasure, A.Gorley) **8**

DIRTY LAUNDRY Atlas Music Publishing, ASCAP/External Combustion Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Southside Independent Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/HillarodyRathbone Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (Z.Crowell, A.Gorley, H.Lindsey) **3**

DRINKIN' TOO MUCH Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Sam Hunt Publishing, ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR/Highly Combustible Music, ASCAP/I Love Pizza Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Southside Independent Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Atlas Music Publishing, ASCAP/Stuart Hine Trust, PRS/Capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP (S.Hunt, S.McAnally, Z.Crowell, S.K.Hine) **16**

E

EVERYBODY WE KNOW DOES Universal Tunes, SESAC/Buzzcut Music, SESAC/I'm About To Go RED On Ya Music, BMI/ole, BMI (J.Bussey, T.Denning) **49**

F

FAST Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Peanut Mill Songs, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Big Loud Proud Crowd, BMI/Farm Town Songs, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Creative Nation Music, BMI (L.Bryan, R.Clawson, L.Laira) **22**

FOREVER COUNTRY Velvet Apple Music, BMI/Reservior Media Music, ASCAP/BMG Ruby Songs, ASCAP/Full Nelson Music Inc., BMI (D.Parton, J.Denver, T.Danoff, W.Danoff, W.Nelson, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **40**

FOR HER Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Stars And Stripes And Maple Leaf Music, BMI/Bux Tone Music, BMI (M.Dragstrem, K.Archer, S.Buxton) **41**

G

GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/Champagne Whiskey Publishing, BMI/HillarodyRathbone Music, ASCAP/BMG Firefly, ASCAP/Dash8 Music, ASCAP (J.Kear, H.Lindsey, G.Sampson) **43**

A GUY WITH A GIRL Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/Spirit Of Nashville One, BMI/Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l. (A.Gorley, B.Simpson) **5**

H

HOLDIN' HER Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Eldorotto Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Janson, J.Otto) **33**

HOMETOWN GIRL Downtown DJ Songs, ASCAP/Son Of Ron Songs, ASCAP/Diver Dann Music, ASCAP/International Dog Music, BMI (M.Beeson, D.Jashian) **27**

HOW NOT TO Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Red Like The Sunset Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulywood Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Kevin Bard Music, ASCAP (A.Hambrick, P.Digiovanni, K.Bard) **37**

HURRICANE 50 Egg, BMI/Straight Dimes, BMI/Big Machine Music, BMI/Intune Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI (L.Combs, T.Phillips, T.Archer) **28**

I

IF I TOLD YOU EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Jon Mark Nite Music, ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR (R.Copperman, J.M.Nite, S.McAnally) **31**

IF THE BOOT FITS Tree Vibe Music, LLC, BMI/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/We-Volve Music, ASCAP/Downtown DJ Songs, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI (J.M.Schmidt, A.Albert, M.Tenpenny) **20**

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Brown Hound Publishing, BMI/Kyle Schlienger Productions, ASCAP/Big Spaces Music, BMI/Boothheel Music, BMI/Big Mosquito Music, BMI/Amplified Admin., BMI (B.Young, T.Reeve, K.Schlienger, T.Tomlinson) **42**

K

KILL A WORD Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Mamma's Fried Okra Music, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI (E.Church, J.Hyde, L.Dick) **13**

L

LIPSTICK Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Duchess Music, BMI/Songwriters of Platinum Pen Publishing, BMI/Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Thunder Cookie, SESAC/Hatchoo Music, SESAC/Music Of Platinum Pen, SESAC/Hannah Mulholland Publishing, BMI/Hyper Hobby Music, SESAC/Tri Star Sports and Entertainment Group, SESAC/Fabulous Music, SESAC/Do Write Music, LLC, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Music From Riding Songs, BMI/Songs Of Colton Entertainment, BMI (J.Wayne, N.Cooke, H.Mulholland, C.Hobby, E.Hoffman, R.L.Howard) **45**

LOVE TRIANGLE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/A Girl Named Charlie, BMI/Round Hill Songs Jimmy Robbins, ASCAP/Extraordinary Alien Publishing, ASCAP/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Prescription Songs, LLC, ASCAP/I Take The Bull By The Horns, ASCAP (N.Galyon, J.Robbins, Raelynn) **32**

M

MAKE YOU MINE Centricity Music Publishing, ASCAP/Bluenort Records, SOCAN/CentricSongs, SESAC/2 Hour Songs, SESAC/Pickin Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kickingbird, BMI (B.Rempel, S.Mosley, B.Stennis) **26**

MAY WE ALL Round Hill Works, BMI/Farm Town Songs, BMI/Big Loud Proud Crowd, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Team Destiny, ASCAP (R.Clawson, J.Moore) **4**

MY GIRL Curb Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River, ASCAP (D.Scott, J.Kerr) **35**

O

OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Full Of Bulls Music, ASCAP/Ole Ole, ASCAP/Skabetti Bowl Of Songs, SESAC (C.Campbell, D.Turnbull) **38**

P

PARACHUTE WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Ken Tucky Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Dontcallmebrett Music, BMI (C.Stapleton, J.Beavers) **12**

R

ROAD LESS TRAVELED Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Lylas Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/MTrain Music, ASCAP (Lauren Alaina, J.Frasure, M.Trainor) **21**

S

SEENIN' RED Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/This Is Magic Mustang Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Casa Del Amour Music, SESAC/Little Champion Music, ASCAP/Leighalu Music, ASCAP (T.Kennedy, K.Allison, S.Bogard, J.Seaver) **10**

SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI/Highly Combustible Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Jenkalek Tunes, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Atlas Music Publishing, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Publishing America, Inc., ASCAP (R.Copperman, M.Jenkins, J.Osborne) **17**

SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Famlove Songs, BMI/Goodbye Pants Music, BMI/Sagequinnjude Music, BMI (C.Young, B.Warren, B.Warren) **15**

STAR OF THE SHOW EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Brooks County Boy Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, R.Akins, B.Hayslip) **6**

T

TENNESSEE WHISKEY Universal Songs Of PolyGram Int., Inc., BMI/EMI Algee, BMI (D.Dillon, Linda Hargrove) **9**

THERE'S A GIRL Big Music Machine, BMI/19 Music Publishing Worldwide, BMI/Trent Harmon Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Songs Jimmy Robbins, ASCAP/Extraordinary Alien Publishing, ASCAP/Jammy Robbins Music, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Oh Denise Publishing, BMI (T.Harmon, J.Robbins, L.Veltz) **30**

THINK A LITTLE LESS EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Jon Mark Nite Music, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Creative Nation Music, BMI/Country Paper, BMI/Pulse Nation, BMI/Extraordinary Alien Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP (J.M.Nite, Thomas Rhett, Bary Dean, J.Robbins) **14**

TODAY New Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Songs Of Southside Independent Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Music Of Windswept, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (B.Paisley, C.DuBois, A.Gorley) **19**

TRIED TO TELL YA Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Indiana Angel Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Brooks County Boy Music, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Pinetucky Road Publishing, ASCAP/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP (B.Gilbert, R.Akins, B.Hayslip) **47**

W

WANNA BE THAT SONG Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Paris Not France Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI/Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Abbott's Creek Music, ASCAP (B.Eldredge, R.Copperman, Scooter Carusoe) **7**

THE WEEKEND Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Indiana Angel Music, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Lanercost Publishing, ASCAP (B.Gilbert, A.DeRoberts) **18**

WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI (M.Lambert) **36**

WHAT IF'S Not Listed (K.Brown, M.McGinley, J.M.Schmidt) **46**

WHISKEY AND YOU WB Music Corp., ASCAP/New Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/New Songs Of Sea Gayle, BMI/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP (C.Stapleton, L.T.Miller) **44**

WITH YOU I AM Mood Merchant Music, BMI/4 Cow Ranch Songs, BMI/Cojo Country Publishing, ASCAP/ASCAMP, ASCAP/Barns And No Bull Music, ASCAP (D.C.Lee, C.D.Johnson, T.Willmon) **50**

Y

YEAH BOY Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/KNB Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Blue Guitar, BMI (K.Ballerini, F.G.Whitehead, K.Timmer) **23**

YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Morendorffin Music, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (A.Dorff, J.Singleton) **29**

COUNTRY

54 Years Ago A Man Named Jed Moved To No. 1

Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs led with the theme to *The Beverly Hillbillies*

On Jan. 19, 1963, **Lester Flatt** and **Earl Scruggs** motored 4-1 on Hot Country Songs for a three-week reign with “The Ballad of Jed Clampett.” The banjo-driven track served as the theme for that TV season’s top-rated series, CBS’ *The Beverly Hillbillies*, which helped fuel its popularity. The show’s creator, **Paul Henning**, penned the song, and **Jerry Scoggins** originally sang it for the series. When the single was released, Flatt sung lead.

The Beverly Hillbillies, the beloved sitcom about a rural family that moved to Beverly Hills after striking oil on its

land, starred **Buddy Ebsen** as Clampett and aired from 1962-1971. It also inspired a 1993 film with **Jim Varney** in the lead role (and Ebsen in a cameo).

Renowned musicians Flatt and Scruggs — who were featured in several episodes of *The Beverly Hillbillies* — rolled up 19 Hot Country Songs appearances and are also revered for their legendary bluegrass band, **The Foggy Mountain Boys**.

Flatt passed away in 1979 at age 64, and Scruggs died in 2012 at 88. They were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame together in 1985. —JIM ASKER

This Week	Last Week	By special survey for week ending 1/12		Weeks on Chart
		Title, Artist, Label & No.		
1	4	BALLAD OF JED CLAMPETT Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, Columbia 42606	7	7
2	1	DON'T LET ME CROSS OVER Carl Butler, Columbia 42593	7	7
3	2	RUBY ANN Marty Robbins, Columbia 42614	7	7
4	8	I'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE Hank Snow, RCA Victor 8072	19	19
5	6	A GIRL I USED TO KNOW George Jones & the Jones Boys, United Artists 500	16	16

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

Flatt (bottom) and Scruggs posed for a portrait circa 1970.



Donna Douglas, Irene Ryan, Max Baer Jr. and Buddy Ebsen (clockwise from top left) in a publicity still from *The Beverly Hillbillies*, circa 1965.

FLATT & SCRUGGS: MICHAEL LOCUS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES: SILVER SCREEN COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES