

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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CRS: Older Medium Battles New Challengers



It's a legacy product that's under attack from a gaggle of upstarts. Radio's place in the entertainment landscape provided a central topic for many of the educational panels at the 48th annual Country Radio Seminar in Nashville Feb. 22-24, and its dilemma was underscored by two of the artists programmed for keynote question-and-answer sessions. **Garth Brooks** and **Toby Keith**, both of whom scored their first hit singles more than two decades ago, are likewise established acts who find newer, fresher performers angling for the space they've long occupied on playlists and in concert halls.

"Getting the deal," Brooks told a younger artist at the close of his session, "isn't one-thousandth as hard as keeping the deal."

The battle between radio and new tech was repeatedly hammered on during the seminar. Since the introduction of the iPhone 10 years ago, the smartphone has become a ubiquitous device, similar in size — as Edison Research president **Larry Rosin** pointed out during a panel on "The Mobilization of Country Radio" — to the once-dominant transistor radio. In its short decade, the smartphone has become so culturally ingrained

that 78 percent of respondents in a study indicated they use their devices in the restroom, and 41 percent said they would force themselves to stick a hand in and retrieve that phone if it fell into a nasty Porta-Potty.

The phone is "the first thing you reach for in the morning, and it's the last thing you look at at night," noted Webster vp strategy and marketing **Tom Webster**.

Amazon Music director of digital music **Ryan Redington** delivered an entire panel that demonstrated how **Jeff Bezos'** company is using its multifunctional Echo to become a bigger piece of consumers' lives. With the voice-activated product, the owner can

check the calendar, contact Uber for a ride and listen to music. That latter function is particularly important. The goal, said Redington, is "to bring streaming into the home." In contrast to other competing services, country is Amazon Music's No. 1 format, and the firm reinforced that position by luring Brooks onto the team, becoming the first company he allowed to stream his hefty catalog.

Amazon is making that play at a time when radio has disappeared from many homes. In "Capturing the Millennial Ear,"



LAST WEEK		THIS WEEK	ARTIST	CERTIFICATION	IMPRINT/DISTRIBUTING LABEL	Title	WKS. ON CHART
		1	#1 LW ALISON KRAUSS		CAPITOL	Windy City	1
4		2	GG GARTH BROOKS		PEARL	The Ultimate Collection	11
5		3	BRANTLEY GILBERT		VALORY/BMLG	The Devil Dont Sleep	4
3		4	KEITH URBAN	HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE/UMGN		Ripcord	42
		NEW 5	JESSIE JAMES DECKER		EPIC	Gold (EP)	1
1		6	PEBA MCENTIRE	WCKIN' R/NASH ICON/BMLG		Sing It Now: Songs Of Faith & Hope	3
			STAPLETON			Traveller	95
			FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE		BMLG	Die Your...	

BROOKS, KEITH: GETTY IMAGES

seven female country fans were the subject of a live focus group. Only one has a clock radio in her bedroom, and only two of the seven have a radio of any kind in their house. Radio annoyed them due to too much repetition, personalities who are too talkative (“Isn’t that what podcasts are for?” asked one participant) and the dearth of country from previous decades, which one respondent perceived as “genuine” and “less edited.”

Adding salt to the wounds, Amazon’s foray into the home not only erodes a place where country radio was once a significant presence, it actually turns country radio’s successful strategies against itself.

“What’s playing on the radio influences what we play back to consumers,” conceded Redington.

Radio is still king in the automobile, but the medium is being squeezed out there, too. The millennials cited terrestrial broadcasts among their in-car listening habits — but even there, radio competes with their own music and streaming services. Radio’s status on the road could be drastically changed by another technological newcomer: the driverless car, which was the subject of its own panel.

Volvo is introducing its first auto-drive vehicles in Europe within weeks, while Nissan goes to market in 2020 and Ford in 2021. Within eight years, half of all cars are expected to have hands-free capabilities, according to an auto-tech professional, Pratt & Miller Engineering director of automotive business development **Chris Andrews**.

A demonstration video that outlined the features and the ways the driver shifts between auto-drive and human-drive modes frequently showed the occupant doing paperwork behind the wheel.

“I hope I’m not doing more work in my car,” quipped Sun Broadcast Group CEO **Jason Bailey**.

But the development already hints at changes in commuters’ behaviors. Bailey suggested consumers will be interested in radio that has more interactive capabilities, presumably using digital means for the listener to respond to the station. But since drivers will no longer be required to watch the road during their entire trip, it opens up the car to platforms that require greater engagement, including TV and — on long trips — movies.

Millennials, who will be in the prime of their lives as driverless technology takes hold, are already less passionate about radio as a medium. Music on YouTube is more popular among 14- to 24-year-olds than terrestrial audio, according to data cited by NuVoodoo Media, and there’s less emotional incentive for them to tune in. While 61 percent of respondents aged 30-34 say a fear of missing out (FOMO) factors into their listening habits, only 34 percent of the 14-17 age group feel any FOMO in regard to AM/FM radio.

Radio remains an important medium — and that’s particularly true in country, where 78 percent of smartphone users still listen to FM radio daily, according to Edison.

As a result, artists and record companies continued to woo programmers during the convention. Such established acts as **Keith Urban**, **Jason Aldean** and **Zac Brown Band** (the latter appearing on the Grand Ole Opry, a **WSM-AM** Nashville legacy program) were among the performers at various functions, while such newcomers as **Midland**, **Jacob Davis** and **Drew Baldridge** performed for gatekeepers in an attempt to get played on country radio.

Those artists are, like the audience itself, also using other digital realms to connect. And stations were encouraged to do the same, particularly in mobile formats. Building a dedicated app is one obvious method that has been previously attempted, though Edison demonstrated that most new apps are quickly discarded as consumers focus on existing apps in limited mobile screen space. The key, Rosin demonstrated, is to find ways to work with established apps and digital mediums — in addition to that heritage signal — to stay in the consumers’ portfolio.

Keynote artists Brooks and Keith showed some of the attitude that they carry into their similar fights, declining to make wholesale changes to their product, even though they might find new ways to make impressions. Keith, bolstered by 41 top 10 singles on Hot Country Songs, is content to continue making music that feels like an authentic personal expression.

“If it works, it works,” he said. “And if it don’t, I really don’t care.”

Brooks, meanwhile, is increasingly using the new mediums, including Amazon Music and Facebook Live, to cultivate his audience. Like country radio, he has competition nipping at his heels, and Brooks seems intent on servicing the nostalgia he brings to his longtime fans while creating a new experience for the younger part of the audience.

“The future is whatever you paint it to be,” he said, “and the future’s based on the past.”



Justin Moore and friends toasted the success of “You Look Like I Need a Drink” with a No. 1 party in Nashville. From left: songwriters Natalie Hemby, Matt Dragstrem and Rodney Clawson, and Moore.



Arista recording artist Seth Ennis (left) ended up on hold with *Ty, Kelly & Chuck* morning show host Chuck Wicks when he performed at a happy hour reception on Feb. 23 at Cumulus’ Nash campus in Nashville.



The Nashville Songwriters Association International presented its Stephen Foster Award to Brown-Forman senior sales and marketing executive John A. Hardaway (center) during a Feb. 21 party at NSAI headquarters. He is flanked by NSAI executive director Bart Herbison (left) and NSAI president/songwriter Lee Thomas Miller.



Dot recording artist Drake White surprised passengers on a Southwest flight from Dallas to Nashville by performing at 35,000 feet in a promotion involving the airline and Live in the Vineyard. From left are Southwest community engagement specialist Tena Griffith, White, Live In The Vineyard co-founder Bobbii Jacobs and Southwest spokesperson Alyssa Eliassen.

CONGRATS

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
5 ACM NOMINATIONS!

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

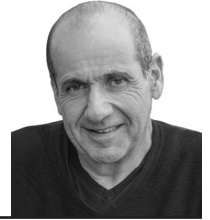
ALBUM OF THE YEAR

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

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

Alison Krauss' 'Windy City' Storms Charts; Lauren Alaina Earns First Airplay Top 10



Windy City (Capitol), Alison Krauss' first solo album of new material since 1999, bounds in atop *Billboard's* Top Country Albums and Bluegrass Albums charts (dated March 11). It earns 38,000 equivalent albums (36,000 in pure sales) in its launch week, ending Feb. 23, according to Nielsen Music. (The latter list is purely sales-based.)

The Buddy Cannon-produced *Windy City* marks Krauss' second No. 1 and 10th top 10 on Top Country Albums. She first led with prior entry *Paper Airplane*, with Union Station, which flew in atop the survey dated April 30, 2011 (83,000 sold). She has charted all 10 top 10s on the list consecutively since 1995.

Windy City is Krauss' first solo album of new material since *Forget About It*, which debuted and peaked at No. 3 on the Top Country Albums chart dated Aug. 21, 1999. In between, her solo best-of package *A Hundred Miles or More: A Collection* debuted and peaked at No. 3 on the April 21, 2007, tally.

Over on Bluegrass Albums, the new LP is Krauss' fourth consecutive (and total) No. 1, following three with Union Station: *Paper Airplane* (28 weeks at No. 1), *Lonely Runs Both Ways* (55 weeks on top, beginning in 2004) and *Live* (a record 101 weeks at No. 1 starting in 2002).

On the all-genre *Billboard* 200, *Windy City* blows in at No. 5, marking Krauss' fourth top 10 (all charted consecutively since 2007). The set also starts at No. 2 on Americana/Folk Albums.

All of *Windy City's* songs were previously recorded by other artists, including "Gentle on My Mind" (John Hartford), "River in the Rain" (Roger Miller) and "I Never Cared for You" (Willie Nelson).

NEW TOP 10s On Hot Country Songs, paced for a third week by Sam Hunt's "Body Like a Back Road" (MCA Nashville), Jason Aldean achieves his 26th top 10, as "Any Ol' Barstool" (Macon/Broken Bow) rolls 15-8. The track holds at its No. 10 high on Country Airplay (26.2 million, up 3 percent).

Meanwhile, as Little Big Town's "Better Man," penned by Taylor Swift, leads Country Airplay for a second week (41.4 million impressions, up 3 percent), Lauren Alaina banks her first top 10 in her sixth appearance on the chart, as "Road Less Traveled" (19/Interscope/Mercury) lifts 11-9 (26.8

million, up 9 percent). The song, which Alaina wrote with Meghan Trainor and Jessie Frasure, is the title track from her second LP, which debuted at No. 3 on Top Country Albums (Feb. 18).

Alaina, who finished as the runner-up to Scotty McCreery on the 2011 season of *American Idol*, previously peaked at a No. 28 high on Country Airplay with "Georgia Peaches" (2012), her second charted single. She notched two other top 40-charting songs: her 2011 debut, "Like My Mother Does" (No. 36), and 2012's "Eighteen Inches" (No. 34).

What made the difference for "Road" to reach the Country Airplay top 10? "The vocal comes from the heart, and the production uniquely matches the message," radio consultant Joel Raab tells *Billboard*. "Lauren sings so well, and it's just a great message."

WKLB Boston program director Mike Brophy concurs. "The Road Less Traveled" is just a better song," he says. "The vocals are strong and passionate, and the lyrics are compelling and relatable. It was a slow builder for us but has kicked in nicely. While Lauren has had previous releases, to many listeners, in their minds, this is her first."



KRAUSS

'GOLD' RECORD *Gold* (Epic), the third EP from Jessie James Decker, matches her highest arrival on Top Country Albums as the five-song set starts at No. 5 with 15,000 equivalent album units (12,000 in pure sales, marking her best sales week). Her 2012 debut EP, *Comin' Home*, also debuted (and peaked) at No. 5 (11,000 sold), while her second, 2015's *This Christmas*, launched and peaked at No. 16 (6,000). ●

KRAUSS: GETTY IMAGES

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- Expert insights and commentary by Tom Roland, Jim Asker and Phyllis Stark

CARRIE UNDERWOOD

**MOST...
PLAYED
STREAMED
DOWNLOADED
& TOP TOURING
... FEMALE COUNTRY
ARTIST OF 2016**



**NOMINEE
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR**

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	19	BETTER MAN Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	41.427	+1.342	7867	189	1
2	2	38	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT RCA Nashville	Chris Young Featuring Vince Gill	39.441	+1.579	7456	237	2
3	3	45	THINK A LITTLE LESS Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	38.246	+1.211	7189	215	4
4	4	21	TODAY Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	37.757	+2.133	7257	333	3
5	5	23	DIRT ON MY BOOTS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	37.383	+2.963	7145	552	5
6	7	22	A GUY WITH A GIRL Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	30.111	-1.551	5034	-123	9
7	9	13	FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	28.545	+1.755	5555	561	7
8	8	27	KILL A WORD EMI Nashville	Eric Church Featuring Rhiannon Giddens	28.231	+1.176	5776	259	6
9	11	28	ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	26.822	+2.306	5388	327	8
10	10	14	ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	26.228	+0.856	4839	89	10
11	13	21	YEAH BOY Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	21.112	+2.192	4110	268	12
12	12	32	THE WEEKEND Valory	Brantley Gilbert	19.935	+0.461	4242	78	11
13	15	39	HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	19.066	+1.902	4065	271	13
14	14	11	BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	18.666	+1.419	3903	268	14
15	18	4	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	17.130	+3.119	3039	496	18
16	16	20	BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE Pearl	Garth Brooks	16.495	+1.015	3594	255	15
17	19	16	BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	14.814	+1.967	3262	311	16
18	17	53	MAKE YOU MINE Atlantic/WEA	High Valley	14.524	-0.027	3217	-25	17
19	20	19	HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	13.344	+2.180	2745	477	20
20	22	43	HOLDIN' HER Warner Bros./WAR	Chris Janson	11.544	+1.207	2909	80	19
21	21	32	THERE'S A GIRL 19/Republic/Dot	Trent Harmon	11.523	+0.543	2735	136	21
22	23	22	HOW NOTTO Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	10.912	+1.006	2610	219	22
23	24	32	IF I TOLD YOU Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	9.476	+1.201	2587	197	23
24	25	8	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	8.854	+0.556	2082	130	26
25	26	46	OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN Red Bow	Craig Campbell	8.389	-0.053	2345	58	24
26	27	6	YOU LOOK GOOD Capitol Nashville	Lady Antebellum	8.053	+0.130	1844	59	28
27	28	15	WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	7.714	+0.062	1953	105	27
28	33	3	THE FIGHTER Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Featuring Carrie Underwood	7.107	+1.523	1288	303	35
29	30	39	LIPSTICK Wheelhouse	Runaway June	7.088	+0.412	2201	242	25
30	31	4	MY OLD MAN Southern Ground/Elektra/WAR	Zac Brown Band	6.615	+0.600	1452	207	32

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.	KEYE	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.	WPAP	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	WSSL	Norfolk, Va.	WSM-FM	San Jose, Calif.	KSON
Buffalo, N.Y.	WZZK	Huntsville, Ala.	WRBT	Oklahoma City, Okla.	WJVC	Seattle	KRTY
Charleston, S.C.	KAWO	Indianapolis	WWTZ	Omaha, Neb.	WRNS	Shreveport, La.	KXLY
Charlotte, N.C.	KIZN	Jacksonville, Fla.	KILT	Orlando, Fla.	WNOE	Spokane, Wash.	KXLY
Chattanooga, Tenn.	WBWL	Johnson City, Tenn.	KKBO	Philadelphia	WNSH	Springfield, Mass.	WRNX
Chicago	WKLB	Kansas City	WDRM	Phoenix	WGH	Springfield, Mo.	KFTG
Cincinnati	WYRK	Knoxville, Tenn.	WFMS	Pittsburgh	WUSH	Stockton, Calif.	WCTO
Cleveland	WCKN	Lafayette, La.	WLHK	Portland, Maine	KJKE	Syracuse, N.Y.	KKWF
Colorado Springs, Colo.	WEZL	Lakeland, Fla.	WGNE	Portland, Ore.	KTST	Tampa, Fla.	KMPS
Columbia, S.C.	WKKT	Las Vegas	WQIK	Providence, R.I.	KXKT	Tucson, Ariz.	KXKS
Columbus, Ohio	WSOC	Lexington, Ky.	WXBO	Raleigh, N.C.	KXKT	Tulsa, Okla.	KXLY
Corpus Christi, Texas	WUSY	Little Rock, Ark.	KBEO	Richmond, Va.	WWKA		WRNX
Dallas	WBEG	Los Angeles	WDAF	Riverside, Calif.	WXTU		KTTG
Denver	WUSN	Louisville, Ky.	KFKF	Roanoke, Va.	KMLE		KATM
Des Moines, Iowa	WUBE	Madison, Wis.	WCYO		KNIX		WBBS
	WGAR	McAllen, Texas	WVIV		WDSY		WFOS
	KATC		KMDL		WOGI		WOYK
	WCOS		WPCV		WPGI		KIJM
	WCOS		KQYZ		WPGB		KTGX
	KRYS		KWNR		WPOR		KVOO
	KPLX		WBUL		WPTT		KJUG
	KSCS		KBUN		WUPD		KJUG
	KWOF		KSSN		KWJJ		WMZO
	KYGO		KKGO		WCTK		WIRK
			WAMZ		WNCB		KFDI
			WQNU		WQDR		KZSN
			WVQM		WKHK		WGGY
			KTEX		KFRG		WXCY
					WSLC		WGTY

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	29	12	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	6.579	+0.374	1636	142	29
32	NEW		SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Most Increased Audience/Most Added ★★	Brett Eldredge	6.232	+6.232	886	886	40
33	32	7	FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	6.166	+0.233	1373	83	33
34	34	7	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys		5.707	+0.598	1163	135	38
35	35	26	MY GIRL Curb	Dylan Scott	5.094	+0.494	1519	105	30
36	36	18	SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory	Justin Moore	4.968	+0.540	1486	84	31
37	37	42	ROOTS Stoney Creek	Parmalee	3.738	-0.060	1311	-62	34
38	38	19	IF HE AIN'T GONNA LOVE YOU RCA Nashville	Jake Owen	3.723	+0.024	1205	-6	37
39	39	21	FOR HER Big Loud	Chris Lane	3.639	+0.302	1232	52	36
40	48	2	EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	2.923	+1.198	715	254	43
41	40	7	IT AIN'T MY FAULT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	2.911	-0.343	1029	-16	39
42	41	14	DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury	Billy Currington	2.836	+0.314	793	35	41
43	42	15	RING ON EVERY FINGER Reviver	LOCASH	2.532	+0.011	784	53	42
44	43	18	THE WAY IT TALK Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	2.130	+0.114	619	28	45
45	44	17	YESTERDAY'S SONG Atlantic/WMN	Hunter Hayes	1.699	-0.221	597	-17	47
46	47	10	MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN Dot	Drake White	1.537	-0.157	566	-6	48
47	51	8	OUTTA STYLE BIG Label	Aaron Watson	1.468	+0.302	173	47	-
48	50	10	MOMMA AND JESUS Dot	Tucker Beathard	1.446	+0.073	612	12	46
49	49	13	MISSING Warner Bros./WMN	William Michael Morgan	1.421	+0.080	433	-6	51
50	45	5	A GIRL LIKE YOU Mercury	Easton Corbin	1.347	-0.019	495	-10	50
51	53	8	WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE Arista Nashville	Seth Ennis	1.324	+0.199	686	12	44
52	56	2	MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	1.273	+0.471	394	123	52
53	52	5	DRINKIN' PROBLEM Big Machine	Midland	1.096	+0.472	206	48	58
54	54	6	REBOUND Cold River/New Revolution Drew Baldrige Featuring Emily Weisband		0.874	-0.030	542	-3	49
55	55	4	KISS ME Almost Country/Thirty Tigers	Casey Donahew	0.869	+0.010	182	12	60
56	46	14	WITH YOU I AM CoJo	Cody Johnson	0.827	-0.075	71	-5	-
57	57	5	GETTING OVER YOU Broken Bow	Jackie Lee	0.817	-0.001	366	-23	53
58	60	2	WHAT IFS Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown Featuring Lauren Alaina		0.769	+0.185	312	31	54
59	58	3	JUST A PHASE Stoney Creek	Adam Craig	0.696	-0.026	289	6	56
60	59	2	CLOSE Warner Bros./WEA	Ryan Kinder	0.573	-0.027	309	-9	55



32

BRETT ELDREDGE
Somethin' I'm Good At

The lead single from **Eldredge's** upcoming album arrives at No. 32 on Country Airplay (6.2 million audience impressions), his highest entrance among his 12 chart appearances. 2015 leader "Lose My Mind" marked his previous highest bow (No. 34).

GETTY IMAGES

GOING FOR ADDS

3/6
AUBRIE SELLERS
Liar Liar
Atlantic/WEA

BIG & RICH
California
New Revolution/B\$R

LANCO
Greatest Love Story
Arista Nashville

MACY MARTIN
Broke Down
GTR

RICK MONROE
This Side Of You
MRG

SARAH DUNN BAND
Figure It Out
Reznam/Nine North

THE SWON BROTHERS
Don't Call Me
TSB

3/13
TRACE ADKINS
Watered Down
Wheelhouse

3/20
CARLY PEARCE
Every Little Thing
Dot

CHRIS "OZ" FERRARA
No Mercy
Rock Ridge

CONGRATULATIONS KEITH URBAN ON YOUR SEVEN ACM NOMINATIONS!



ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

ALBUM OF THE YEAR - ARTIST & PRODUCER

"Ripcord"

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR - ARTIST & PRODUCER
SONG OF THE YEAR

"Blue Ain't Your Color"

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

MOST ADDED®		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	52
EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	17
WHOLE DAMN THING Blaster	Chuck Wicks	17
BACK TO GOD Rockin' R/Nash Icon/Valory	Reba McEntire	16
THE FIGHTER Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Feat. Carrie Underwood	12
MY OLD MAN Southern Ground/Elektra/WAR	Zac Brown Band	10
IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	8
WHAT IFS Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	8
MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	8
GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys		7

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	+6.232
BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+3.119
DIRT ON MY BOOTS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+2.963
ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	+2.306
YEAH BOY Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	+2.192
HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+2.180
TODAY Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	+2.133
BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	+1.967
HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	+1.902
FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+1.755

MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	+886
FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+561
DIRT ON MY BOOTS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+552
BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+496
HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+477
TODAY Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	+333
ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	+327
BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	+311
THE FIGHTER Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Feat. Carrie Underwood	+303
HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	+271

NEW AND ACTIVE				
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
GREATEST LOVE STORY Arista Nashville	LANCO	0.459	6	1
EVERYWHERE Curb	Mo Pitney	0.360	14	1
EVERY LITTLE THING Dot	Carly Pearce	0.297	3	1
TOUGH GUYS True To The Song/Faction/in2une Nashville	Caroline Jones	0.279	8	1
WAITIN ON YOU Not Listed	Lindsay Ell	0.275	0	0
SING ALONG Wheelhouse	Kristian Bush	0.261	16	2

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	SEEIN' RED Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	26.784
2	STAR OF THE SHOW Valory	Thomas Rhett	23.919
3	MAY WE ALL BMLG Florida Georgia Line Feat. Tim McGraw		21.124
4	WANNA BE THAT SONG Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	20.127
5	DIRTY LAUNDRY 19/Arista Nashville	Carrie Underwood	14.751
6	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	14.171
7	SLEEP WITHOUT YOU BMLG	Brett Young	13.596
8	IT DON'T HURT LIKE IT USED TO Mercury	Billy Currington	13.436
9	IF THE BOOT FITS Wheelhouse	Granger Smith	12.605
10	SONG FOR ANOTHER TIME RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	12.509

BILLBOARD COUNTRY BOXSCORE			
Gross Ticket Price(s)	Artist Venue/Date(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter(s)
\$1,044,361 \$89, \$27	ERIC CHURCH Sprint Center, Kansas City, Mo./Jan. 31	17,076 sellout	MESSINA TOURING GROUP/AEG LIVE
\$1,018,761 \$89.50, \$28.50	ERIC CHURCH TD Garden, Boston/Jan. 28	16,697 sellout	MESSINA TOURING GROUP/AEG LIVE
\$1,017,290 \$89.50, \$25.50	ERIC CHURCH Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y./Jan. 27	16,705 sellout	MESSINA TOURING GROUP/AEG LIVE
\$986,291 \$89, \$27	ERIC CHURCH Target Center, Minneapolis/Jan. 20	18,344 sellout	MESSINA TOURING GROUP/AEG LIVE
\$969,385 \$89, \$25	ERIC CHURCH American Airlines Center, Dallas/Feb. 3	18,002 sellout	MESSINA TOURING GROUP/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 FEBRUARY 26, 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	1	15	OUTTA STYLE (BIG) ★★ 4 weeks at 1 ★★	Aaron Watson	1840	-182	11	12	14	BRIDGE (Independent)	Mark McKinney	1163	18
2	2	15	TEQUILA EYES (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	1816	20	12	11	21	HARD LIVIN' ILLENE (Independent)	Randall King feat. Cleto Cordero	1155	-5
3	3	17	LIVE IT WHILE YOU GOT IT (Pretty Damn Tough)	Josh Abbott Band	1691	41	13	13	28	SHADOW OF A BROKEN HEART (Red Dirt Legend)	Brandon Jenkins	1125	0
4	4	17	13 YEARS (Independent)	Sundance Head	1625	60	14	18	7	STILL NOT OVER YOU (Independent)	Jerrett Zoch and The OSR Band	1073	139
5	5	20	NEW HOMETOWN (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1580	18	15	9	25	FROM WHERE I'M STANDING (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1051	-216
6	6	15	HOMESICK CRAZY (Independent)	Matt Kimbrow	1464	53	16	17	18	I'M BREAKING IN (Independent)	Junior Gordon	1034	59
7	8	9	FOREVER TODAY (Independent)	Reckless Kelly	1379	111	17	15	26	SHOULD'VE BEEN MINE (Independent)	TJ Broscoff	1032	12
8	7	21	JULY (Independent)	Dalton Domino	1328	21	18	16	21	TEXAS FOREVER (Independent)	Kevin Fowler	847	-167
9	10	21	COME AS YOU ARE (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	1208	1	19	21	21	RATHER HAVE YOU (Independent)	Adrian Johnston	830	-1
10	14	16	RUNAWAY TRAIN (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1169	52	20	22	10	PEOPLE LIKE ME (Independent)	Dustin Sonnier	821	-5

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

BRETT YOUNG

"IN CASE YOU
DIDN'T KNOW"

#31 AND
CLIMBING!

+142 SPINS / 6 MILLION WEEKLY
AUDIENCE IMPRESSIONS
(BILLBOARD)

BRETT HAS TOURED
WITH
BRAD PAISLEY
IN THE PAST YEAR

ON TOUR IN 2017
WITH
LUKE BRYAN,
LADY ANTEBELLUM,
THOMAS RHETT,
LEE BRICE &
JUSTIN MOORE

"HONESTY AND LYRICAL
CREATIVITY ARE
BRETT YOUNG'S
BIGGEST STRENGTHS"
- TASTE OF COUNTRY



BMLG
RECORDS



NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
N O M I N E E

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Donna Fargo, Johnny Lee and John Michael Montgomery were among the first-time attendees as Webster Public Relations and the Country Music Association co-hosted the third annual Legendary Lunch in Nashville with more than 40 artists on hand. From left: WPR owner Kirt Webster, Fargo, Lee, CMA CEO Sarah Trahern and Montgomery.

DOUBLE DOSE OF RADIO WINNERS

KKBQ Houston, WYCD Detroit and WUBE Cincinnati impacted two country radio awards announcements on the same day, Feb. 22, as the Country Radio Hall of Fame and the Academy of Country Music used the Country Radio Seminar as a backdrop to unveil their 2017 winners.

Tim Closson, who programmed WUBE for 15 years, was one of seven inductees named to the Hall of Fame, an honor that occurred just hours after the station won the ACM's large-market station of the year trophy for the first time.

WYCD personality Linda Lee learned of her Hall induction on the heels of snagging the ACM's major-market on-air personality honor with co-host Rob Stone. Lee actually shared honors with two professional partners that day: Hall of Fame entry Joe Wade Formicola, who recently spent five years as a Westwood One format host, was teamed with Lee on-air for two years at WYCD in the mid-1990s.

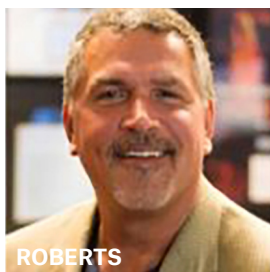
KKBQ took the ACM's major-market station title, and its call letters also figured into the résumé of new Hall of Famer Jim Mantel, who worked at three Texas stations in his early years prior to an eight-year morning residency at WGAR Cleveland.

The Hall of Fame's induction dinner is set for June 21 in Nashville with honors also going to KUZZ Bakersfield, Calif., fixture Mel Owens and to former CBS Radio/Tampa senior vp Charlie Ochs, who left retirement to serve as station manager for financial talk outlet WFHS-AM. The Hall will also enshrine the KUAD Fort Collins, Colo., morning team: Brian Gary, Todd Harding and Susan Moore.

ACM radio winners will collect their trophies in the days leading up to the Academy's April 2 awards telecast from Las Vegas on CBS. Other winning stations include medium-market victor WIVK Knoxville, Tenn., and small-market champ KKNU Eugene, Ore. Additional on-air personality hardware goes to Lon Helton, Country Countdown USA (national); George Lindsey, Monica Lunsford and "Cowboy Dave" Bayless, KILT Houston (major market); Mike Wheless, Marty Young and Janie Carothers, WQDR Raleigh-Durham, N.C. (large market); Steve Lundy and Gina Melton, KXKT Omaha, Neb. (medium market); and Scotty Cox and Cara Denis, KCLR Columbia, Mo. (small market).

MOVERS & SHAKERS

CBS Radio promoted Tim Roberts to vp country programming for the chain, which includes such brands as WKIS Miami, WXTU Philadelphia and WUSN Chicago. He will remain CBS/Detroit vp music programming, where



ROBERTS

his oversight includes country WYCD ... Cox Media/Atlanta promoted Jaleigh Long to director of sales from general sales manager. The five-station cluster includes country WNGC ... Binnie Media/Rockland, Maine, flipped WBYA to country, The Rockland Courier-Gazette reported. The station's previous format, classic hits, moved to WBQX at 106.9 FM, replacing a classical format. Mark White remains GM, with Stan Bennett serving as programming and operations manager ... Pete Norden joined iHeartMedia/Tampa, Fla., as vp sales, according to InsideRadio.com, with influence on country WFUS. He was previously iHeartMedia/Sarasota, Fla., market president ... Blaine Jackson transferred to iHeartMedia/Augusta, Ga., as PD for country WLUB and WLUB-HD2, according to Talkers.com. She had been PD for country WIHB Macon, Ga. ... Kathy Byerly rose to Neuhoff/Decatur, Ill., director of sales from general sales manager, Talkers.com reported. The five-station group includes country WDZQ.

'ROUND THE ROW

Big Machine Label Group promoted two Nashville-based executives. Jimmy Chapin rose to director of international for senior manager. Jessica Myers was given a newly created position, senior director of rights management and business affairs, after serving as director of rights management and licensing. Reach Chapin here and Myers here ... Warner/Chappell Nashville extended its co-publishing agreement with THiS Music, founded by Rusty Gaston with songwriters Tim Nichols ("Live Like You Were Dying") and Connie Harrington ("I Drive Your Truck"). The THiS songwriter stable



MYERS

includes Jessi Alexander ("Mine Would Be You"), Marv Green ("Shotgun Rider") and J.T. Harding ("Different for Girls"), among others ... The Plowboy label's Need More Artist Management signed former Mercury artist Eric Heatherly as its first act. He performs as a one-man show, Goats of Kudzu, and as the leader of rockabilly trio Eric Heatherly & The Continental Kings ... Singer-songwriter-fiddler Maggie Baugh signed a recording deal with Cold River ... The Nashville Film Festival unveiled the 25-person music committee for 2017. Participants include Anastasia Brown, Format Entertainment; Jake Basden, Big Machine Label Group; Evyn Mustoe, ASCAP; Shannan Hatch, SESAC; and Ali Harnell, AEG TMG. Go here for the full list of committee members ... Saxophonist Don Markham died Feb. 27, The Bakersfield Californian reported. A member of Merle Haggard's band, The Strangers, for nearly 40 years, he played on such Haggard titles as "It's All in the Movies," "Cherokee Maiden" and "I Think I'll Just Stay Here and Drink."



Indie artist Tyler Steel (left) dropped by WMIL Milwaukee to perform for the staff, including iHeartMedia/Milwaukee operations manager Kerry Wolfe.



Curb singer/songwriter Mo Pitney (left) talked new music with Ty, Kelly & Chuck host Ty Bentli during a Feb. 23 visit to Cumulus' Nash campus in Nashville.

FEEL

12 #1
SINGLES

SOLD OUT
DIG YOUR ROOTS
2016 + 2017 TOUR

FIRST COUNTRY ACT
TO EARN THE
DIAMOND AWARD
CRUISE = 10+ MILLION SOLD

H.O.L.Y.
18 WEEK #1

FOR YOUR
ACM CONSIDERATION

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR – “MAY WE ALL” FEAT. TIM MCGRAW
ALBUM OF THE YEAR – “DIG YOUR ROOTS”
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR – “H.O.L.Y.”
VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

BIG LOUD
MOUNTAIN MGMT

A close-up portrait of Chris Lane, a man with dark, wavy hair and a beard, wearing a light blue patterned button-down shirt. The background is a light gray gradient.

CHRIS LANE

DEBUT #1 GOLD SINGLE *FIX*
FROM A DEBUT ARTIST

155+ MILLION TOTAL STREAMS

ON FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE'S
DIG YOUR ROOTS TOUR

VOTE NOW
ACM NEW MALE VOCALIST
OF THE YEAR

Picture This: Country Radio Seminar

With Keith Urban, Maren Morris and Crystal Gayle among the myriad artists that made appearances, the 48th annual Country Radio Seminar (Feb. 22-24) was hopping at the Omni Nashville Hotel. Music, professional education and networking were the order of the day, with numerous attendees getting hearing tests for free. The next edition is set for Feb. 5-7, 2018. Here are a few images from CRS 2017:



Granger Smith takes on the importance of social media during a Feb. 24 panel.



Zac Brown (left) joins Country Radio Broadcasters executive director Bill Mayne as he collects the annual Artist Humanitarian Award on the convention's opening day.



National anthem singer Trisha Yearwood and keynote speaker Scott Hamilton share a moment during the opening ceremonies.



Albright & O'Malley & Brenner partner Becky Brenner speaks during a Feb. 23 panel on finding one's full potential.



A bundle of songwriters performed for attendees during Bob Kingsley's Acoustic Alley on Feb. 23. From left: songwriters Rhett Akins ("Star of the Show") and Cole Taylor ("Home Alone Tonight"), Kingsley and songwriters Heather Morgan ("Lose My Mind") and busbee ("H.O.L.Y.").



Midwest Communications corporate country brand strategist Tom Baldrica moderates a Feb. 24 panel on small-market stations that do big things.



LoCash and Cam celebrated as they performed on the Grand Ole Opry from CRS on Feb. 22. From left: LoCash's Preston Brust, Cam and LoCash's Chris Lucas.



Emmis/Indianapolis vp programming Bob Richards poses a question during a Feb. 24 panel on "Dicing the Data."

GARTH BROOKS

BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE

**TOP 10 BOUND
CONVERT NOW!**

PEARL
RECORDS

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

Merle Haggard will be the subject of a massive tribute concert on April 6 that coincides with the 80th anniversary of his birth and the one-year anniversary of his death. **Willie Nelson, Kenny Chesney, Miranda Lambert** and **Dierks Bentley** lead the country participants for *Sing Me Back Home: The Music of Merle Haggard—An All-Star Celebration* at Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena. But like the Hag, who once made the cover of the jazz magazine *Downbeat*, the event transcends genre with participation from rock figures **John Mellencamp, Warren Haynes** and **Lynyrd Skynyrd**; Americana talents **Lucinda Williams** and **The Avett Brothers**; and bluegrass vocalist **Alison Krauss**. The initial lineup covers 19 artists, with more additions expected. The concert will be filmed for later use, likely as a TV special, video release and/or an event CD.



Florida Georgia Line is focusing on amphitheaters for its summer Smooth Tour that launches June 2 in Austin. The bulk of the 39 dates will encompass outdoor venues, including Cleveland’s Blossom Center; San Bernardino, Calif.’s Glen Helen Amphitheater; and Alpharetta, Ga.’s Verizon Amphitheater, where the schedule winds down Oct. 20-21. **Nelly** and **Chris Lane** will open the dates, and **Backstreet Boys** — who collaborated on the current FGL single, “God, Your Mama, and Me” — have hinted they may cross paths with the duo in 2017, too.

Little Big Town’s first-ever Ryman Auditorium residency grew a little bigger during the weekend as the band booked the historic downtown Nashville venue for July 30, bringing its 2017 Ryman commitment to 10 shows. Little Big Town launched the format Feb. 24-25 with concerts that demonstrated the unpredictability of the act’s forecasting for the dates. **Sam Hunt** and **Chris Stapleton** made unannounced appearances for the first show, which coincided with the release of LBT’s new album, *The Breaker*, while R&B vocalist **Andra Day** stopped in for the second night. Remaining dates include May 19-20, July 28-30, Sept. 15-16 and Nov. 27.

Average Joes co-owner **Colt Ford** set May 5 for the release of his sixth album, *Love Hope Faith*, where he’ll run up against **Chris Stapleton**, who also picked that date to deliver his sophomore album. It arrives exactly two years after the release of *Traveller*. Ford’s guests include **Brad Paisley**, brothers **Charles** and **Josh Kelley**, **Tyler Farr** and **Granger Smith**, among others. Former **McBride & The Ride** frontman **Terry McBride** issued his first solo EP, *Hotels & Highways*, on Feb. 24. And **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** released a 21-track greatest-hits album, *Fishin’ in the Dark*, the same day.

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[Keith Richards, David Byrne, Pete Townshend, Michael Stipe Among Artists Embroiled In Wolfgang’s Vault Lawsuit](#)

ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC



- Feb. 27**
- 2013 — **Dierks Bentley** records “Drunk on a Plane” with a band that includes **Charlie Worsham** at the Ocean Way Studios in Nashville.
- Feb. 28**
- 2015 — **Jason Aldean** launches his first overseas tour at the Spektrum Arena in Oslo.
 - 2007 — **Toby Keith** earns the humanitarian award during the Country Radio Seminar at the Nashville Convention Center.
- March 1**
- 2014 — **Cole Swindell** reaches No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart for the first time with his debut single, “Chillin’ It.”
 - 2011 — **Reba McEntire, Jean Shepard** and songwriter **Bobby Braddock** are announced as the 2011 inductees in the Country Music Hall of Fame.
- March 2**
- 2016 — Black River releases **Kelsea Ballerini**’s “Peter Pan” to radio.
 - 1987 — Warner Bros. releases the *Trio* album by **Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt** and **Emmylou Harris**.
- March 3**
- 2002 — **George Strait** plays the final Houston Livestock & Rodeo Show concert held at Houston’s Astrodome, with more than 68,000 in attendance. He dedicates “Love Without End, Amen” to **George** and **Barbara Bush**, who are part of the crowd.
 - 1990 — **Alan Jackson** sings “Here in the Real World” as he makes his Grand Ole Opry debut, introduced by **Jimmy C. Newman**.
- March 4**
- 2000 — **Garth Brooks** catches a flyball in left field for the final out of a New York Mets spring training game, sealing a 7-3 win against the Los Angeles Dodgers.
- March 5**
- 2009 — **Taylor Swift** makes her TV acting debut: Her character is stabbed in the heart with scissors on CBS’ *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.

Source: RolandNote.com, the Ultimate Country Music Database



Scotty McCreery met with staff from KHCM Honolulu when he gave his first-ever performance in Hawaii at the Blaisdell Center on Feb. 21. He’s shown with (from left) Salem Media/Honolulu GM Dita Holifield, Salem/Honolulu digital director Amber Dukehart and KHCM promotions director Tia Spence.

MIKE CHILDERS

“STRONGER AND STRONGER WITH EVERY RELEASE...”

— *BILLBOARD*

2017 ACM NOMINATIONS

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

BLACK

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

“DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS” FEATURING ELLE KING

DIERKS BENTLEY



© 2017 Capitol Records Nashville

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	4	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD <small>Z.CROWELL (S.HUNT,Z.CROWELL,J.OSBORNE,S.MCANALLY)</small>	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE		1
2	2	2	19	BETTER MAN <small>J.JOYCE (T.SWIFT)</small>	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE		1
3	3	3	23	DIRT ON MY BOOTS <small>B.BUTLER,J.PARDI (R.AKINS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY)</small>	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE		3
4	7	7	22	THINK A LITTLE LESS <small>S.HENDRICKS (J.M.NITE,THOMAS RHETT,BARY DEAN,J.ROBBINS)</small>	Michael Ray ATLANTIC/WEA		4
5	4	9	37	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT <small>C.CROWDER,C.YOUNG (C.YOUNG,B.WARREN,B.WARREN)</small>	Chris Young Featuring Vince Gill RCA NASHVILLE		4
6	6	4	29	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR <small>D.HUFF,K.URBAN (S.L.OLSEN,H.LINDSEY,C.LAGERBERG)</small>	Keith Urban HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE		1
7	10	11	21	TODAY <small>L.WOOTEN (B.PAISLEY,C.DUBOIS,A.GORLEY)</small>	Brad Paisley ARISTA NASHVILLE		7
8	15	14	12	ANY OL' BARSTOOL <small>M.KNOX (J.THOMPSON,D.RUTTAN)</small>	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW		8
9	13	12	24	KILL A WORD <small>J.JOYCE (E.CHURCH,J.HYDE,L.DICK)</small>	Eric Church Featuring Rhiannon Giddens EMI NASHVILLE		9
10	8	6	21	STAR OF THE SHOW <small>JOE LONDON,J.BUNETTA,THOMAS RHETT (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP)</small>	Thomas Rhett VALORY		4
11	12	13	13	FAST <small>J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (L.BRYAN,R.CLAWSON,L.LAIRD)</small>	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE		11
12	11	8	21	A GUY WITH A GIRL <small>S.HENDRICKS (A.GORLEY,B.SIMPSON)</small>	Blake Shelton WARNER BROS./WMN		3
13	19	22	26	HURRICANE <small>S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,T.PHILLIPS,T.ARCHER)</small>	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		13
14	5	46	10	THE FIGHTER <small>BUSBEE,K.URBAN (K.URBAN,BUSBEE)</small>	Keith Urban Featuring Carrie Underwood HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE		5
15	16	15	26	ROAD LESS TRAVELED <small>BUSBEE (LAUREN ALAINA,J.FRASURE,M.TRAINOR)</small>	Lauren Alaina 19/INTERSCOPE/MERCURY		12
16	14	17	25	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW <small>D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,T.REEVE,K.SCHLENGER,T.TOMLINSON)</small>	Brett Young BMLG		14
17	17	18	16	BLACK <small>R.COPPERMAN (D.BENTLEY,R.COPPERMAN,A.GORLEY)</small>	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE		17
18	18	19	20	YEAH BOY <small>F.G.WHITEHEAD,J.MASSEY (K.BALLERINI,F.G.WHITEHEAD,K.TIMMER)</small>	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER		18
19	NEW		1	SMALL TOWN BOY <small>Z.CROWELL (R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP,K.FISHMAN)</small>	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW		19
20	20	21	25	HOMETOWN GIRL <small>K.GREENBERG (M.BEESON,D.TASHIAN)</small>	Josh Turner MCA NASHVILLE		20
21	34	36	10	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME <small>J.MOI (J.KEAR,H.LINDSEY,G.SAMPSON)</small>	Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys BMLG		21
22	23	25	7	BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD <small>B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (J.T.HARDING,A.MAYO,D.L.MURPHY)</small>	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		22
23	21	20	26	DIRTY LAUNDRY <small>J.JOYCE (Z.CROWELL,A.GORLEY,H.LINDSEY)</small>	Carrie Underwood 19/ARISTA NASHVILLE		3
24	27	27	20	HOW NOT TO <small>D.SMYERS,S.HENDRICKS (A.HAMBRICK,P.DIGIOVANNI,K.BARD)</small>	Dan + Shay WARNER BROS./WAR		24
25	26	24	35	MAKE YOU MINE <small>S.MOSLEY (B.REMPEL,S.MOSLEY,B.STENNIS)</small>	High Valley ATLANTIC/WEA		21



19

DUSTIN LYNCH
Small Town Boy

The song follows "Seein' Red," which topped Country Airplay (Feb. 25) and climbed to No. 5 on Hot Country Songs, as the second single from his forthcoming third studio album. It bounds onto Hot Country Songs at No. 19, fueled by a career-high No. 2 start on Country Digital Song Sales (32,000 sold).



26

CHRIS JANSON
Holdin' Her

In its 26th week on Hot Country Songs, the love song lifts 29-26, buoyed by a 23 percent increase to 7,000 downloads sold, thanks in part to a 69-cent sale tag in the iTunes Store. On Country Airplay, it enters the top 20 (22-20; 11.5 million, up 12 percent).



JON PARDI

ACM NEW MALE VOCALIST NOMINEE

“Head Over Boots”

#1 most played Billboard Country Song of 2016

#1 most shazamed country song

“Dirt On My Boots”

Top 5 and Climbing • RIAA Certified Gold

“California Sunrise is a triumph of gritty, honky-tonkin’, old-school country with a healthy dose of ballsy guitar rock” — Hits Magazine



2017 ACM NOMINEE
NEW FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

LAUREN ALAINA

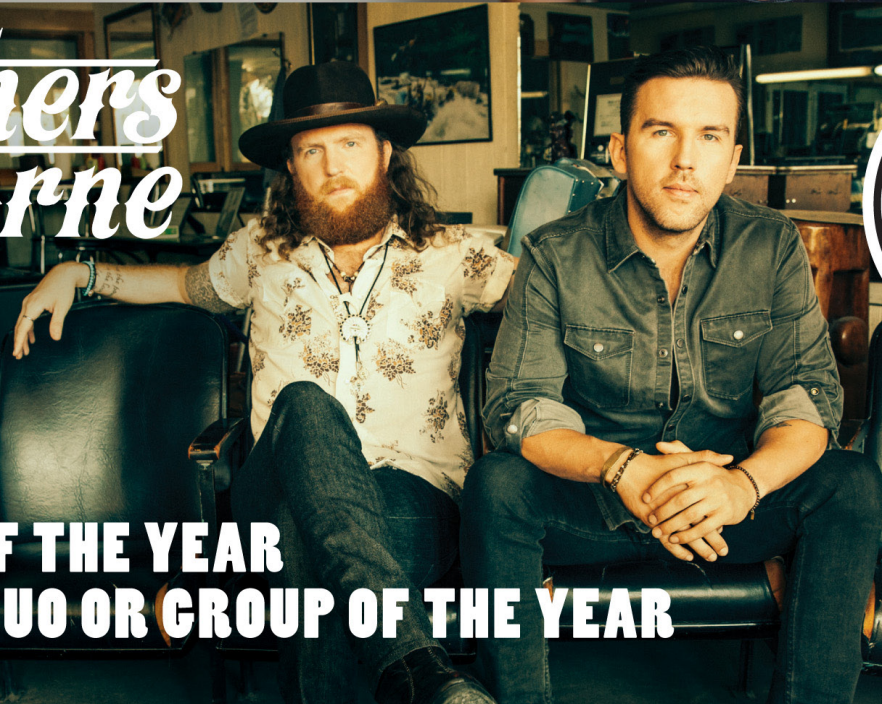
There’s a reason Lauren Alaina manages to stay top of mind...and that’s her powerhouse, honey-toned vocals that meld timeless twang with a modern sass.”

– Rolling Stone



19 © 2017 19 Recordings, Inc.

Brothers Osborne



A **DUO** of nominations for the **DUO** everyone is talking about

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR
NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR



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	29	26	26	HOLDIN' HER B.GALLIMORE (C.JANSON,J.OTTO)	Chris Janson WARNER BROS./WAR		26
27	24	10	4	MY OLD MAN D.COBB (Z.BROWN,N.MOON,B.SIMONETTI)	Zac Brown Band SOUTHERN GROUND/ELEKTRA/WAR		10
28	28	28	6	YOU LOOK GOOD BUSBEE (H.LINDSEY,R.HURD,BUSBEE)	Lady Antebellum CAPITOL NASHVILLE		22
29	30	29	28	IF I TOLD YOU R.COPPERMAN (R.COPPERMAN,J.M.NITE,S.MCANALLY)	Darius Rucker CAPITOL NASHVILLE		25
30	31	34	29	MY GIRL M.ALDERMAN,J.E.NORMAN (D.SCOTT,J.KERR)	Dylan Scott CURB		30
31	32	31	20	BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE M.A.MILLER (K.BLAZY,S.DORFF,V.SHAW,K.WILLIAMS,G.BROOKS)	Garth Brooks PEARL		31
32	33	33	26	THERE'S A GIRL J.ROBBINS (T.HARMON,J.ROBBINS,L.VELTZ)	Trent Harmon 19/REPUBLIC/DOT		29
33	25	32	15	WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS F.LIDDELL,G.WORF,E.MASSE (M.LAMBERT)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE		25
34	35	35	7	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT J.DEMARCUS,G.LEVOX,J.D.ROONEY (A.DORFF,J.SINGLETON)	Rascal Flatts BIG MACHINE		29
35	36	30	14	FOR HER J.MOI (M.DRAGSTREM,K.ARCHER,S.BUXTON)	Chris Lane BIG LOUD		23
36	38	38	22	OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN M.J.CONES (C.CAMPBELL,D.TURNBULL)	Craig Campbell RED BOW		36
37	40	41	8	FLATLINER M.CARTER (C.SWINDELL,M.BRONLEEWE,J.BOYER)	Cole Swindell WARNER BROS./WMN		36
38	42	43	9	LIPSTICK M.J.CONES (J.WAYNE,N.COOKE,H.MULHOLLAND,C.HOBBYE,HOFFMAN,R.L.HOWARD)	Runaway June WHEELHOUSE		38
39	43	45	6	SOMEBODY ELSE WILL S.BORCHETTA,J.S.STOVER (K.ARCHER,A.HAMBRICK,T.OTTOH)	Justin Moore VALORY		39
40	NEW		1	WHEN SOMEONE STOPS LOVING YOU J.JOYCE (H.LINDSEY,C.MCGILL,L.MCKENNA)	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE		40
41	44	48	5	IT AIN'T MY FAULT J.JOYCE (J.OSBORNE,T.J.OSBORNE,L.T.MILLER)	Brothers Osborne EMI NASHVILLE		41
42	45	42	12	WHAT IFS D.HUFF (K.BROWN,M.MCGINN,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown Featuring Lauren Alaina ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE		37
43	46	-	2	EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG S.HENDRICKS (A.MAYO,C.LINDSEY,B.WARREN,B.WARREN)	Blake Shelton WARNER BROS./WMN		43
44	48	49	5	DO I MAKE YOU WANNA D.HUFF (A.GORLEY,Z.CROWELL,M.JENKINS,J.FLOWERS)	Billy Currington MERCURY		44
45	49	-	3	IF HE AIN'T GONNA LOVE YOU S.MCANALLY,L.LAIRD,R.COPPERMAN (L.LAIRD,S.MCANALLY,C.STAPLETON)	Jake Owen RCA NASHVILLE		45
46	50	50	6	ROOTS NV (J.MULLINS,B.STENNIS,W.B.BOLLINGER)	Parnalee STONEY CREEK		45
47	RE-ENTRY		2	YESTERDAY'S SONG D.HUFF,H.HAYES (H.HAYES,BARY DEAN,M.JOHNSON)	Hunter Hayes ATLANTIC/WMN		43
48	RE-ENTRY		1	MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN R.COPPERMAN,J.S.STOVER (D.WHITE,M.CRISWELL,S.MINOR)	Drake White DOT		48
49	RE-ENTRY		2	THE WAY I TALK J.MOI (J.L.ALEXANDER,B.HAYSLIP,C.MCGILL)	Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD		48
50	37	-	2	ONCE BUSBEE,M.MORRIS (M.MORRIS,BUSBEE)	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		37

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

Year-Over-Year Album Sales	
'16	3.4 million
'17	2.9 million
DIGITAL TRACKS SALES	
'16	14.1 million
'17	11.0 million

Weekly Unit Sales			
	ALBUMS	DIGITAL ALBUMS*	DIGITAL TRACKS
This Week	434,000	131,000	1,421,000
Last Week	441,000	142,000	1,502,000
Change	-1.6%	-7.7%	-5.4%
This Week Last Year	472,000	148,000	1,734,000
Change	-8.1%	-11.5%	-18.1%

Overall Unit Sales			
	2015	2017	CHANGE
Albums	3,377,000	2,872,000	-15.0%
Digital Tracks	14,109,000	10,970,000	-22.2%
Sales by Album Format			
	2015	2017	CHANGE
Physical	2,174,000	1,936,000	-10.9%
Digital	1,202,000	936,000	-22.1%

For week ending Feb. 23, 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

SALES, DATA
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billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	Title	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	NEW	1	1	ALISON KRAUSS CAPITOL 025392*	WINDY CITY		1
2	4	5	11	GARTH BROOKS PEARL 6001 TGEX	THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION		1
3	5	2	4	BRANTLEY GILBERT VALORY B60300/BMLG	THE DEVIL DONT SLEEP		1
4	3	4	42	KEITH URBAN HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE 023591*/UMGN	RIPCORD		1
5	NEW	1	1	JESSIE JAMES DECKER EPIC DIGITAL EX	GOLD (EP)		5
6	1	1	3	REBA MCENTIRE ROCKIN' R/NASH ICON RM0400A/BMLG	SING IT NOW: SONGS OF FAITH & HOPE		1
7	7	3	95	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	2	1
8	12	7	26	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE BMLG 0300*	DIG YOUR ROOTS		1
9	2	-	2	BRETT YOUNG BMLG BY0100A*	BRETT YOUNG		2
10	10	6	74	THOMAS RHETT VALORY RT0200A/BMLG	TANGLED UP	■	2
11	6	11	38	MAREN MORRIS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 516885*/SMN	HERO		1
12	13	8	106	SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 021502/UMGN	MONTEVALLO	2	1
13	9	10	24	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW 2227/BBMG	THEY DON'T KNOW		1
14	14	9	81	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 022813/UMGN	KILL THE LIGHTS	■	1
15	16	12	36	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN	CALIFORNIA SUNRISE		1
16	11	14	93	KELSEA BALLERINI BLACK RIVER 2015	THE FIRST TIME	●	4
17	17	16	39	DIERKS BENTLEY CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024745*/UMGN	BLACK		1
18	8	34	42	STURGILL SIMPSON ATLANTIC 551380*/AG	A SAILOR'S GUIDE TO EARTH		1
19	15	13	14	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 532305*/SMN	THE WEIGHT OF THESE WINGS		1
20	18	15	40	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 555352/WMMN	IF I'M HONEST	●	1
21	39	17	69	ERIC CHURCH EMI NASHVILLE 024200*/UMGN	MR. MISUNDERSTOOD	●	2
22	21	19	70	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 551788/WMMN	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS		2
23	24	18	83	ZAC BROWN BAND ROAR/SOUTHERN GROUND/ATLANTIC 546369/AG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
24	29	25	108	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE REPUBLIC NASHVILLE 017733/BMLG	HERE'S TO THE GOOD TIMES	2	1
25	25	21	12	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947/SMN	KANE BROWN		1

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by Nielsen Music, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 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	NEW	1	1	RYAN ADAMS PAX.AM 025677*/BLUE NOTE	PRISONER		1
2	NEW	1	1	ALISON KRAUSS CAPITOL 025392*	WINDY CITY		2
3	1	1	41	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	2	1
4	3	2	46	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA	●	1
5	NEW	1	1	SON VOLT TRANSMIT SOUND 88539*/THIRTY TIGERS	NOTES OF BLUE		5
6	2	13	44	STURGILL SIMPSON ATLANTIC 551380*/AG	A SAILOR'S GUIDE TO EARTH		1
7	6	7	82	ED SHEERAN ELEKTRA 530433*/AG		2	1
8	5	3	37	KALEO ELEKTRA/ATLANTIC 555202*/AG	A / B		3
9	7	5	87	HOZIER RUBYWORKS 309996*/COLUMBIA	HOZIER	■	1
10	8	6	97	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1608*	THE LUMINEERS	■	1

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by Nielsen Music, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 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	3	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD SAM HUNT
2	2	74	DIE A HAPPY MAN THOMAS RHETT
3	5	12	DIRT ON MY BOOTS JON PARDI
4	4	43	H.O.L.Y. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
5	3	23	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN
6	9	6	HURRICANE LUKE COMBS
7	6	17	BETTER MAN LITTLE BIG TOWN
8	7	69	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
9	8	5	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BRETT YOUNG
10	10	26	MAY WE ALL FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. TIM MCGRAW
11	11	9	STAR OF THE SHOW THOMAS RHETT
12	12	6	THE WEEKEND BRANTLEY GILBERT
13	13	6	BLACK DIERKS BENTLEY
14	14	30	MIDDLE OF A MEMORY COLE SWINDELL
15	15	82	BREAK UP IN A SMALL TOWN SAM HUNT
16	16	129	PLAY IT AGAIN LUKE BRYAN
17	21	3	ANY OL' BARSTOOL JASON ALDEAN
18	17	22	WANNA BE THAT SONG BRETT ELDREDGE
19	22	40	MAKE YOU MISS ME SAM HUNT
20	18	113	TAKE YOUR TIME SAM HUNT
21	19	5	KILL A WORD ERIC CHURCH FEAT. RHIANNON GIDDENS
22	NEW	1	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT CHRIS YOUNG FEAT. VINCE GILL
23	23	117	BOTTOMS UP BRANTLEY GILBERT
24	24	31	DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS DIERKS BENTLEY FEAT. ELLE KING
25	25	70	HOUSE PARTY SAM HUNT (MCA Nashville)

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	4	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD SAM HUNT
2	NEW	1	SMALL TOWN BOY DUSTIN LYNCH
3	2	8	THE FIGHTER KEITH URBAN FEAT. CARRIE UNDERWOOD
4	3	19	BETTER MAN LITTLE BIG TOWN
5	6	22	DIRT ON MY BOOTS JON PARDI
6	RE-ENTRY	1	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. BACKSTREET BOYS
7	5	21	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BRETT YOUNG
8	8	34	PETER PAN KELSEA BALLERINI
9	7	32	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN
10	11	10	THINK A LITTLE LESS MICHAEL RAY
11	10	88	GIRL CRUSH LITTLE BIG TOWN
12	21	13	HURRICANE LUKE COMBS
13	NEW	1	WHEN SOMEONE STOPS LOVING YOU LITTLE BIG TOWN
14	9	7	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT CHRIS YOUNG FEAT. VINCE GILL
15	12	3	MY OLD MAN ZAC BROWN BAND
16	24	6	ANY OL' BARSTOOL JASON ALDEAN
17	15	9	BLACK DIERKS BENTLEY
18	23	22	THE WEEKEND BRANTLEY GILBERT
19	25	5	YOU LOOK GOOD LADY ANTEBELLUM
20	4	44	MY CHURCH MAREN MORRIS
21	RE-ENTRY	1	MAY WE ALL FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. TIM MCGRAW
22	17	21	STAR OF THE SHOW THOMAS RHETT
23	22	63	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
24	16	5	FAST LUKE BRYAN
25	19	21	SEEN' RED DUSTIN LYNCH

6

LUKE COMBS
Hurricane

The Asheville, N.C., native's format debut lifts 9-6 on Country Streaming Songs (4.7 million U.S. streams, up 15 percent), helping it surge 19-13 on Hot Country Songs. On Country Airplay, it pushes 20-19, gaining 20 percent to 13.3 million in audience.

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

Dan + Shay 'Pray' For *Shack* Track And Previous Single To Coexist At Country Radio

"It feels like we're trying too hard to be dramatic."

When producer **Scott Hendricks** (**Blake Shelton**, **Michael Ray**) voiced second thoughts about the nuances in a **Dan + Shay** recording session on Nov. 30, 2016, the feedback was ironic. Hendricks and co-producer **Dan Smyers**, of Dan + Shay, were trying to get the right arrangement for "When I Pray for You." They were targeting the soundtrack for a movie — *The Shack*, in theaters March 3 — so some drama was appropriate.

They'd already found ways to heighten the emotional arc while the *Billboard Country Update* was observing from the control room in the back studio at Nashville's Sound Stage. Keyboard player **Charlie Judge** concocted a syncopated signature lick for the intro, drummer **Nir Z** found moments for anticipatory cymbal swells, and the entire ensemble had figured out how to maximize the suspense in a diminished chord two-thirds into the chorus. But when they tried to insert two extra beats before the final chorus, mimicking a trick **Goo Goo Dolls** used in "Iris," Hendricks felt they had crossed a line.

"We're trying too hard," he protested a second time.

Dan + Shay and their supporting cast would strike a balance before it was all over, but it was important not to overload "When I Pray for You" with emotional tricks, since the song had drama built into it from the beginning. Lead singer **Shay Mooney** and his fiancée, **Hannah Billingsley**, were expecting their first child when it was written last fall, and they had months ahead of them to guess, wait and wonder how their lives would soon be altered.

"Shay having a kid, he has all these thoughts and emotions and different titles and concepts and ideas floating around," says Smyers.

A schedule change brought one of those ideas into focus when the aforementioned Ray had to cancel a songwriting session at the Word Entertainment office of songwriter **Justin Ebach** ("Sleep Without You"). Dan + Shay claimed the opening with Ebach and **Jon Nite** ("Noise," "Strip It Down"), both of whom have young children of their own. So when Mooney's unborn child came up in conversation, there was plenty of empathy in the room for a scenario in which the father-to-be often feels like an outsider.

"You can't have morning sickness for your wife, you can't get swollen feet for your wife, you can't be uncomfortable for her," says Ebach. "The only thing you can do is provide for those needs — get her water, help her with laundry and physical things like that. As far as doing anything for the baby, you're a little helpless, but I think that's where the prayer thing comes in. That's one of the few things you actually can do as a dad."

Their discussion in the writing room led to "When I Pray for You," a father's attempt at bonding, with the concept laid out in the opening lines: "I talk to God about you/And I ain't even met you yet." Entering unknown territory without an instruction manual, the first-time father typically ponders people he knows who've gone down the same path, and that usually leads to reflections about his own parents. The writers brought that into focus with an extra, two-line pre-chorus at the end of the first verse, as Mooney sings, "I want to be the dad that my dad was."

"We all have dads that are pretty pivotal in our lives," says Ebach. "Looking back now that you're a little older, you're like, 'My parents had no clue what they were doing, but they did all right.'"

That section led straight to a rangy chorus that soars higher than Nashville songwriters would create in typical situations. But having Mooney available to sing it widened the possibilities.

"I write with artists all the time, and you don't get to write melodies like 'When I Pray for You' too often," says Ebach. "If you write a melody like that,

you've [only] got about two places to go with that pitch."

They wrote two verses and a chorus that day and put together a simple demo, repeating lyrics from the first verse as a placeholder for what would become the bridge. In the next week or two, Dan + Shay were coincidentally invited to view *The Shack* in Los Angeles and record something for consideration on the soundtrack. Smyers captured key scenes from the picture on his smartphone, convinced that they could shape "When I Pray for You" for the film's story.

"I was trying to take notes of overlapping themes [between] the song and what was happening in the movie," says Smyers. "There were a lot of phrases that were like a lyric that we already had. It was kind of too good to be true."

The faith-based picture provided the key to the unfinished bridge. They ultimately used it to recast the last chorus, allowing the advice the father was giving to his child to become advice that God was giving to Dad.

"It's this moment of receiving the wisdom versus giving the wisdom," says Smyers.

Once the bridge got finished, they had to act quickly to get considered for the Atlantic soundtrack, so Judge, Nir Z, bass player **Jimmie Lee Sloas** and guitarists **Derek Wells** and **Bryan Sutton** convened to record the track. All the parts ultimately lead to that diminished chord in the chorus as Mooney sings "get down on your knees." Held for two beats, it sets up the hook as the song's resolution.

"That chord is like the '90s-country move," says Smyers. "So many songs in '90s country — especially a lot of the ballads — did that. It creates a great moment of tension and release."

Mastering was the final step, and as that process unfolded, Hendricks found a different dramatic move for the spot where they had toyed with the "Iris"-like extra beats. With Smyers' approval, he sliced the first three words — "I pray you" — off the start of the final chorus. It gave the song melodic space and emphasized that God was now giving advice to Dad as he moves into this new phase of his life.

"That's the dramatic pause that we were trying to figure out in the studio," says Hendricks. "Taking those three notes off makes all the difference in the world."

"When I Pray for You" made the soundtrack, creating a great personal twist for Nite.

"It blew my mind," he says. "I was given *The Shack* paperback by my dad a few years ago and read it through in one up-all-night reading session. The underlying themes of the book, and now the movie, were the themes underneath our song."

Ten days after Mooney's son, **Asher James Mooney**, arrived, Warner Music Nashville issued "Pray" as a single on Feb. 3, even though the duo's midtempo "How Not To" was still ascending. The label decided to treat it similarly to **Rascal Flatts'** 2006 scenario, when the parental ballad "My Wish" and a track from *Cars*, "Life Is a Highway," both reached the top 20, with "My Wish" ultimately climbing to No. 1. "How Not To" is currently at No. 24 on Hot Country Songs and No. 22 on Country Airplay. "When I Pray for You" is making inroads at Christian radio as the label simultaneously works it to streaming partners and country broadcasters.

"We're trying to get 'How Not To' to the top of the charts," says Smyers. "It's not the conventional method of what happens on country radio, but if we can figure out a way to have two songs on the charts, however the timing of that works, that's the ultimate goal: to expose our music to as many people as possible."

Will it work? Dan + Shay hope the drama leads to one big happy ending. ●



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

iHeartMedia Execs Sykes, Poleman Outline The Company's 'Ecosystem,' Embrace Disruption



With a corporate culture that values near 'round-the-clock dedication, iHeartMedia president of entertainment enterprises **John Sykes** jokes that a company "rule" is, "If you don't come in on Saturday, don't bother coming in on Sunday." But for both Sykes and the company's national programming group president, **Tom Poleman**, that joke is more true than not. Says Poleman, "You're never going to have a moment where you're not on the clock [at iHeart], but we all signed up for that because we love what we do." That dedication recently earned the men, along with top boss **Bob Pittman**, a spot on *Billboard's* 2017 Power 100 list.

With more than 850 radio stations, seven annual live events that air as network TV specials (including the iHeart Country Festival), and the January launch of two new digital subscription services, iHeart Radio Plus and All Access, there is plenty to keep iHeart staffers that busy. Says Poleman, who is heavily involved with the company's music discovery and emerging artist initiatives, including the Artist Integration and On the Verge programs, "I look at the iHeart platform as the ultimate music playground. And not only do I get to play on it, but everybody in the music industry gets to play on it."

Why did the company want to be in the subscription service space?

Sykes There are some great subscription services that are out there already that are really built on someone's record collection. What makes iHeart Radio All Access different is we're built on expanding the radio listening experience. The beauty of our service is that if you're listening to a song on iHeart Radio and you don't know who it is, you can push a button and that song goes right to your playlist. You no longer have to find out who it is, write the name down and go type in a name and build your subscription base. When I was watching this service being developed here, it was one of the "oh wow" moments of my life in music.

What does it say about the health of radio itself that companies like yours are entering so many other areas besides over-the-air broadcasting?

Sykes We can use that core [radio] business as a turbine to drive us into television, digital and now subscription because there's no better way to sell something or create awareness than radio. So we use it ourselves to create and drive awareness on our new products internally. This classic, traditional medium has provided the leverage and the power for us to launch modern new businesses that are keeping us relevant to the culture ... From the outside, [iHeart] may be perceived as a radio company that's been around for years, but it feels like we're in Silicon Valley here.

What are some of the professional accomplishments at iHeart you are most proud of?

Sykes In the last six years, we went from becoming just a pure radio company to becoming a real bona fide media player. We now have seven network television shows that are all leveraged off of iHeart Radio. They're all created from iHeart Radio events and driven by and promoted by iHeart Radio stations across the country. I don't think any [other] platform has that much music representation on network television.



SYKES

Tom, you have one of the top programming gigs in the country. What are some of the key components of your job?

Poleman What I try to do is help all those local programmers and those local stations be as competitive as they can be with all the resources that a company like iHeart can provide. That's a huge part of it. Also under my umbrella is artist relations, so a big part of my job is helping artists, managers and labels navigate the iHeart Radio music development ecosystem. We have so many different tools that people can use because we have such massive reach ... As the artist wins, so do the radio stations, because they are such a big part of our product. That's a lot of fun, being able to [harness] the creativity of artists, managers, labels and the creativity of our program directors. [That] is where that magic really starts to happen.



POLEMAN

What keeps you up at night?

Poleman I live in fear that the brand that I'm working with or the tools that I have control over somehow will skip a beat if I'm not always on my game. You're always worried that somebody's going to take on one of your radio stations or an event isn't going to come off the way you wanted it to. I think that's why our events are as good as they are and our stations are as good as they are, because the company is full of people that are always worried, and they assume that things are going to go wrong, so they address that before they can go wrong.

What one thing do you think can derail the music industry?

Sykes The most powerful lesson that the industry learned was when it put its head in the sand back in the late '90s when the digital platform started. It could have transformed seamlessly like television has today from soft goods to digital distribution, and they buried their heads in the sand. It took a decade to recover. I think we should learn a lesson from that, that as confusing and as scary as it can be, we all have to embrace disruption ... We have got to continue to embrace the things that confuse us, scare us, that take us into unknown territory. Those are the ideas that are going to help us stay competitive. ●

billboard Country Indicator

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	PLAYS		AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK
1	2	39	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT RCA Nashville	Chris Young Feat. Vince Gill	4769	+74	7.475
2	4	24	DIRT ON MY BOOTS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	4715	+360	7.358
3	3	21	TODAY Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	4711	+95	7.395
4	1	19	BETTER MAN Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	4543	-195	7.464
5	5	30	THINK A LITTLE LESS Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	4475	+280	7.025
6	6	27	KILL A WORD EMI Nashville	Eric Church Feat. Rhiannon Giddens	4138	+153	6.399
7	7	29	ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	4135	+306	6.297
8	9	13	FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	4093	+344	6.300
9	10	14	ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	3394	+135	5.170
10	11	22	YEAH BOY Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	3202	+200	4.916
11	13	39	HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	3085	+238	4.751
12	12	9	BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	3034	+174	4.552
13	14	30	THE WEEKEND Valory	Brantley Gilbert	2889	+120	4.391
14	15	17	BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	2787	+89	4.039
15	16	20	BABY, LET'S LAY DOWN AND DANCE Pearl	Garth Brooks	2366	-12	3.443
16	17	48	MAKE YOU MINE Atlantic/WEA	High Valley	2152	+69	3.535
17	18	40	HOLDIN' HER Warner Bros./WAR	Chris Janson	2144	+75	3.380
18	20	6	YOU LOOK GOOD Capitol Nashville	Lady Antebellum	2141	+133	2.939
19	24	4	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	1997	+431	3.001
20	21	34	IF ITOLD YOU Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	1987	+128	2.739
21	19	15	WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	1974	-43	2.800
22	26	25	HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	1884	+414	2.609
23	22	30	THERE'S A GIRL 19/Republic/Dot	Trent Harmon	1862	+104	2.391
24	23	8	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	1737	+146	2.345
25	25	22	HOW NOTTO Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	1649	+116	2.189
26	27	7	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG	Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys	1484	+95	2.116
27	28	4	MY OLD MAN Southern Ground/Elektra/WAR	Zac Brown Band	1281	+121	2.089
28	34	3	THE FIGHTER Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Feat. Carrie Underwood	1248	+280	1.797
29	29	33	LIPSTICK Wheelhouse	Runaway June	1137	+40	1.555
30	35	8	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	1130	+167	1.481

BILLBOARD COUNTRY INDICATOR PANEL — 106 STATIONS

Abilene, Texas	KEAN	Fayetteville, N.C.	WKML	Lebanon, N.H.	WXXX	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		WUJ	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	WRWD	Waco, Texas	WACO
	WSTH	Janesville, Wis.	WJVL	Rapid City, S.D.	KOUT	Wausau, Wis.	WDEZ
Cookeville, Tenn.	WGSQ	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	Youngstown, Ohio	WOXK
Eau Claire, Wis.	WAXX	Kalispell, Mont.	KDBR	St. Cloud, Minn.	KZPK	Westwood One	HOT COUNTRY
Elizabeth City, N.C.	WRSF	Kingmah, Ariz.	KFLG	Salina, Kan.	KYEZ	MAINSTREAM COUNTRY	
Erie, Pa.	WTWF	Lafayette, Ind.	WKOA	Salisbury, Md.	WKTT	MUSIC CHOICE	TODAY'S COUNTRY
Eugene, Ore.	KKNU	Laredo, Texas	KRRG	San Angelo, Texas	KGKL	Sirius XM	THE HIGHWAY
Evansville, Ind.	WKDQ	Lansing, Mich.	WITL	San Luis Obispo, Calif.	KKJG		
Fargo, N.D.	KBVB	Laurel, Miss.	WBBN				
	WSTH						

billboard Country Indicator

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	PLAYS		AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK
31	31	7	FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	1103	+38	1.589
32	30	45	OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN Red Bow	Craig Campbell	1096	+17	1.561
33	32	18	SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory	Justin Moore	1088	+40	1.428
34	33	7	IT AIN'T MY FAULT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	1028	+31	1.083
35	36	14	DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury	Billy Currington	905	+8	1.006
36	38	15	OUTTA STYLE BIG Label	Aaron Watson	876	+36	1.064
37	39	3	EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	868	+195	1.298
38	37	19	IF HE AIN'T GONNA LOVE YOU RCA Nashville	Jake Owen	838	-30	0.919
39	40	23	FOR HER Big Loud	Chris Lane	673	+32	0.802
40	41	14	RING ON EVERY FINGER Reviver	LoCash	510	-8	0.642
41	42	22	MY GIRL Curb	Dylan Scott	509	+6	0.458
42	45	14	METOO Keith Walker	Keith Walker	352	+18	0.377
43	44	13	THE WAY ITALK Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	339	+1	0.349
44	43	11	REBOUND Cold River/New Revolution	Drew Baldridge Feat. Emily Weisband	336	-21	0.318
45	47	4	A GIRL LIKE YOU Mercury	Easton Corbin	333	+43	0.459
46	46	27	ROOTS Stoney Creek	Parmalee	299	-34	0.463
47	48	5	MISSING Warner Bros./WMN	William Michael Morgan	298	+19	0.664
48	49	9	DRINKING WITH DOLLY Rebel Engine/Star Farm	Stephanie Quayle	261	-3	0.281
49	50	6	BOOM BOOM Rebel Engine	Lucas Hoge	238	+15	0.253
50	NEW		MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	237	+124	0.252
51	52	10	YOU'VE GOT THAT SOMETHIN' Terra Bella/DAX	Terra Bella	230	+8	0.219
52	53	6	TEQUILA EYES Randy Rogers Band/Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers	Randy Rogers Band	219	+13	0.198
53	NEW		SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	216	+216	0.429
54	51	8	THISTOWN Steel	Tyler Steel	215	-8	0.199
55	55	5	MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN Dot	Drake White	210	+28	0.259
56	54	3	STONED TO DEATH Purectt Pitch	James Dupre	195	0	0.218
57	57	4	YESTERDAY'S SONG Atlantic/WMN	Hunter Hayes	171	+15	0.267
58	NEW		JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE COUNTRY Sea Gayle	CJ Solar	164	+18	0.163
59	59	3	MOMMA AND JESUS Dot	Tucker Beathard	159	+7	0.134
60	60	3	WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE Arista Nashville	Seth Ennis	155	+7	0.173

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**

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) **10**

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) **16**

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.Harding, A.Mayo, D.L.Murphy) **14**

BETTER MAN Taylor Swift Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI (T.Swift) **1**

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) **17**

BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Sam Hunt Publishing, ASCAP/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/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Publishing America, Inc., ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR (S.Hunt, Z.Crowell, J.Osborne, S.McAnally) **15**

C

CLOSE W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Inexorable Music, SESAC/Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Real Big Red Tunes, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/EMI Music Publishing Australia Pty Ltd., APRA (R.Kinder, J.S.Stover, L.Rimes) **60**

D

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) **5**

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) **42**

DRINKIN' PROBLEM WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Jess Carson Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Vaqueros Galacticos Publishing, BMI/Tropical Cowboy Publishing, ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/Kobalt Songs Publishing America, Inc., ASCAP/Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/One Little Indian Creek Music, ASCAP (J.Carson, C.Cuddy, M.Wystrach, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **53**

E

EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Queen Of Dot Dot Dot, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Chris Lindsey Songs, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Sagequinnjude Music, BMI/Famlove Songs, BMI (A.Mayo, C.Lindsey, B.Warren, B.Warren) **40**

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.Laird) **7**

THE FIGHTER Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Mary Rose Music, BMI/789 Music Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI (K.Urban, busbee) **28**

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) **33**

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) **39**

G

GETTING OVER YOU Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Clemmer Time Music, BMI/Chill N Hustle, BMI/Wixen Music Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/New House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP (J.Lee, P.DjGiovanni, B.Anderson) **57**

A GIRL LIKE YOU Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Telemetry Productions, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI (A.Gorley, J.Frasure, R.Akins) **50**

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) **34**

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) **6**

H

HOLDIN' HER Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Eldorotto Music Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Janson, J.Otto) **20**

HOMETOWN GIRL Downtown DJJ Songs, ASCAP/Son Of Ron Songs, ASCAP/Diver Dann Music, ASCAP/International Dog Music, BMI (M.Beeson, D.Tashian) **13**

HOW NOT TO Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Red Like The Sunset Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paullywood Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Kevin Bard Music, ASCAP (A.Hambrick, P.DjGiovanni, K.Bard) **22**

HURRICANE 50 Egg, BMI/Straight Dimes, BMI/Big Machine Music, BMI/Intune Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI (L.Combs, T.Phillips, T.Archer) **19**

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) **38**

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) **23**

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW Super Big Music, ASCAP/Galville 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) **31**

IT AIN'T MY FAULT WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Trampy McCauley, ASCAP/All The Kings Pans, ASCAP/Songstein Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Country And Western Music, BMI (J.Osborne, T.J.Osborne, L.T.Miller) **41**

J

JUST A PHASE Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/EMI Music Publishing Australia Pty Ltd., APRA/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Dontcallmebrebbt Music, BMI (A.Craig, L.Rimes, J.Beavers) **59**

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) **8**

KISS ME Almost Country Publishig, ASCAP (C.Donahew) **55**

L

LIPSTICK Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Duchesse 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) **29**

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) **18**

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.Minor) **46**

MISSING EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Good The Bad The Ugly Publishing, BMI (R.Akins, M.Green) **49**

MOMMA AND JESUS Big Music Machine, BMI/Fayde 49 Music, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Doc And Maggie Music, SOCAN/Get A Load Of This Music, ASCAP/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (T.Beathard, D.Ruttan, J.Singleton) **48**

MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Point Break Publishing, ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Corman, BMI/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ., ASCAP/D Soul Music, ASCAP/Capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP (K.Moore, S.Olsen, J.Miller, D.A.Garcia) **52**

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

MY OLD MAN Day For The Dead Publishing, SESAC/Simonetti Music Publishing, SESAC/Siva Moon Publishing, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC (Z.Brown, N.Moon, B.Simonetti) **30**

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) **25**

OUTTA STYLE Tunes From HTK, BMI (A.Watson) **47**

R

REBOUND Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Goes Something Like THIS Music, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/DrumBum Music, ASCAP (D.Baldrige, E.Weisband, S.Simonton) **54**

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) **43**

ROAD LESS TRAVELED Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Lyfas Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/MTrain Music, ASCAP (Lauren Alaina, J.Frasure, M.Trainor) **9**

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 Ahts, ASCAP/Songs Of Parallel Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Publishing America, Inc., ASCAP (J.Mullins, B.Stennis, W.B.Bollinger) **37**

S

SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Famlove Songs, BMI/Goodbye Pants Music, BMI/Sagequinnjude Music, BMI (C.Young, B.Warren, B.Warren) **2**

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) **36**

SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Paris Not France Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Tomdouglassmusic, BMI (B.Eldredge, T.Douglas) **32**

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) **21**

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) **3**

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) **4**

W

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.Hayship, C.McGill) **44**

THE WEEKEND Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Indiana Angel Music, BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Lanercost Publishing, ASCAP (B.Gilbert, A.DeRoberts) **12**

WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Lambert) **27**

WHAT IFS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Smacksters Music, ASCAP/Smack Blue, LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Publishing America, Inc., ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Freshy Music, ASCAP/We-Volve Music, ASCAP (K.Brown, M.McGinn, J.M.Schmidt) **58**

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) **56**

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) **51**

Y

YEAH BOY Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/KNB Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Blue Guitar, BMI (K.Ballerini, F.G.Whitehead, K.Timmer) **11**

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) **45**

YOU LOOK GOOD HillarodyRathbone Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Lake Allegan Pub Club, ASCAP/789 Music Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI (H.Lindsey, R.Hurd, busbee) **26**

YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Morendorffin Music, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (A.Dorff, J.Singleton) **24**

billboard Hot Country Songs Index

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

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) **8**

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) **31**

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) **22**

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) **17**

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) **6**

BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD Universal
Music Corp., ASCAP/Sam Hunt Publishing, ASCAP/
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/
Anderson Fork In The Road Music, ASCAP/Smackville
Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Publishing America, Inc.,
ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR
(S.Hunt, Z.Crowell, J.Osborne, S.McAnally) **1**

D

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) **3**

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) **23**

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) **44**

E

EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG
Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Queen
Of Dot Dot Dot, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/
Chris Lindsey Songs, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music
Inc., BMI/Sagequinnjude Music, BMI/Famlove Songs,
BMI (A.Mayo, C.Lindsey, B.Warren, B.Warren) **43**

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.Laird) **11**

THE FIGHTER Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/
Mary Rose Music, BMI/7189 Music Publishing, BMI/BMG
Platinum Songs, BMI (K.Urban, busbee) **14**

FLATLINER Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Colden
Raine 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) **37**

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) **35**

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)
21

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) **12**

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.Beeson,
D.Tashian) **20**

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) **24**

HURRICANE 50 Egg, BMI/Straight Dimes, BMI/
Big Machine Music, BMI/Intune Publishing, BMI/BMG
Platinum Songs, BMI (L.Combs, T.Phillips, T.Archer) **13**

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) **45**

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) **29**

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/Boothel Music, BMI/Big
Mosquito Music, BMI/Amplified Admin., BMI (B.Young,
T.Reeve, K.Schlienger, T.Tomlinson) **16**

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) **41**

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) **9**

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) **38**

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.Minor) **48**

MY GIRL Curb Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River,
ASCAP (D.Scott, J.Kerr) **30**

MY OLD MAN Day For The Dead Publishing,
SESAC/Simonetti Music Publishing, SESAC/Siva Moon
Publishing, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC (Z.Brown,
N.Moon, B.Simonetti) **27**

O

ONCE International Dog Music, BMI/BMG Platinum
Songs, BMI (M.Morris, busbee) **50**

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) **36**

R

ROAD LESS TRAVELED Warner-Tamerlane
Publishing Corp., BMI/Lyfas Music, BMI/Rio Bravo
Music, Inc., BMI/Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/MTrain
Music, ASCAP (Lauren Alaina, J.Frasure, M.Trainor) **15**

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) **46**

S

SMALL TOWN BOY EMI Blackwood Music Inc.,
BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/WB
Music Corp., ASCAP/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/
Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Round Hill Works,
BMI (R.Akins, B.Hayslip, K.Fishman) **19**

SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT EMI Blackwood
Music Inc., BMI/Famlove Songs, BMI/Goodbye Pants
Music, BMI/Sagequinnjude Music, BMI (C.Young,
B.Warren, B.Warren) **5**

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) **39**

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) **10**

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) **32**

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) **4**

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) **7**

W

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.McGill) **49**

WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Sony/ATV
Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.
Lambert) **33**

WHAT IFS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane
Brown Music, BMI/Smacksters Music, ASCAP/Smack
Blue, LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Publishing America,
Inc., ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Freshy Music,
ASCAP/We-Volve Music, ASCAP (K.Brown, M.McGinn,
J.M.Schmidt) **42**

WHEN SOMEONE STOPS LOVING YOU
HillarodyRathbone Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold
Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Plum
Nelly, BMI/Maps And Records Music, BMI/Creative
Pulse Music, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI (H.
Lindsey, C.McGill, L.McKenna) **40**

Y

YEAH BOY Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/KNB
Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Blue Guitar, BMI (K.Ballerini,
F.G.Whitehead, K.Timmer) **18**

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) **47**

YOU LOOK GOOD HillarodyRathbone Music,
ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp.,
ASCAP/Lake Allegan Pub Club, ASCAP/7189 Music
Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI (H.Lindsey,
R.Hurd, busbee) **28**

YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Songs Of
Universal, Inc., BMI/Morendorffin Music, BMI/
Super Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (A.Dorff,
J.Singleton) **34**

C

18 Years Ago Sara Evans Went 'Far' — To No. 1

In 1999, the singer scored her first of five leaders on Hot Country Songs

On March 6, 1999, **Sara Evans** topped *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart for the first time, as her ballad "No Place That Far" bounded 5-1. "Place"—which Evans co-wrote and features background vocals from **Vince Gill**—marked her fifth Hot Country Songs entry (none of which had previously charted higher than No. 44) and her second from her same-titled sophomore album.

To date, Evans has rolled up five leaders on Hot Country Songs, with "A Little Bit Stronger" her most recent in 2011, and two on Top Country Albums. Her duet with reality TV

star **Todd Chrisley**, "Infinite Love," became her 20th, and most recent, top 40 Hot Country Songs entry (No. 39) in 2016.

Evans, 46, married her second husband, former University of Alabama quarterback **Jay Barker**, in 2008. They live near Birmingham, Ala., with their blended family of seven children (three from Evans' first marriage to politician **Craig Schelske**, whom she divorced in 2007). After 19 years, Evans split from RCA in early 2016. She's now signed to Sugar Hill Records and is currently touring. —JIM ASKER

DA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS



	W	TH	FR	SA	SU	PRODDER (SONGWRITER)	IMPORT & NUMBER PROMOTION LABEL	
1	5	6	23	No. 1 1 week at No. 1			◆ SARA EVANS (C) (D) (V) RCA 65584	1
2	1	1	16	I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING M. WRIGHT (D. WARREN)			MARK CHESNUTT (C) (D) (V) DECCA 72078/MCA NASHVILLE	1
3	2	2	19	UNBELIEVABLE M. D. CLUTE, DIAMOND RIO (A. ANDERSON, J. STEELE)			◆ DIAMOND RIO (V) ARISTA NASHVILLE 13138	2
4	7	7	13	YOU WERE MINE P. WORLEY, B. CHANCEY (E. ERWIN, M. SEIDEL)			◆ DIXIE CHICKS MONUMENT ALBUM CUT	4
5	4	5	22	HOLD ON TO ME C. PETOCZ, J. M. MONTGOMERY (B. DALY, W. RAMBEAUX)			◆ JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY (C) (D) (V) ATLANTIC 84197	4

Evans at Chicago's Rosemont Theater in March 2001.