

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

APRIL 10, 2017 | PAGE 1 OF 22

INSIDE

Lauren Alaina's
'Road' Leads To
The Top
>page 4

Florida Georgia Line
Paces Billboard
Country Nominees
>page 10

Chris Stapleton
Silences The Room
>page 11

Makin' Tracks:
Maren Morris' 'I Could
Use A Love Song'
>page 16

Stark Report:
Cumulus' Resilient
Kelly Ford
>page 17

Country Coda:
George Jones'
'White Lightning'
>page 22

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com

Merle, Waylon, Willie, Patsy: Classic Country Takes Center Stage



Just days after the 52nd Academy of Country Music Awards recognized the state of the genre in 2016 and 2017 on national TV, Nashville turned back the clock.

Willie Nelson taped a SiriusXM special on April 4 that mixed in music from his forthcoming album, *God's Problem Child*, along with reminiscences of his wild days as a songwriter and frustrated country artist in the 1960s. **Alan Jackson**, the late **Jerry Reed** and songwriter **Don Schlitz** ("The Gambler," "Forever and Ever, Amen") were announced April 5 as

new members of the Country Music Hall of Fame. An all-star tribute to **Merle Haggard** had the likes of **Keith Richards**, **Sheryl Crow**, **Toby Keith** and **Kenny Chesney** retooling more than 30 titles from the Hag's rich catalog at Bridgestone Arena on the one-year anniversary of his death. The Patsy Cline Museum opened on Third Avenue (on the second floor above the Johnny Cash Museum) on April 7. And CMT premiered a multiartist **Waylon Jennings** tribute on April 7, with **Eric Church**, **Jamey Johnson** and **Kris Kristofferson** among

the celebrants.

Country, once considered a secondary genre, is widely regarded as a mainstream format in the post-**Taylor Swift** era, and it has borrowed heavily from other genres in the process. **Florida Georgia Line** has infused hip-hop sensibilities into its multiplatinum singles, **Jason Aldean** threads hard-rock power chords under his distinctly Southern voice, and **Thomas Rhett** borrows profusely from R&B and blue-eyed soul in his high-profile act. And yet, there's a rabid audience that's still

passionate about past works and the artists who created them — the Cashes, the Waylons and the Hags.

"There are giants in every genre," said **Allman Brothers Band**/**Gov't Mule** veteran **Warren Haynes** on the red carpet at the Haggard event. "Those were the giants in the same way as **Muddy Waters** and **Howlin' Wolf** and **John Coltrane** and **Miles Davis** and **Bob Dylan**. They raised the bar for everybody, and consequently, that music's timeless."

That was evident during the week. Haynes and **ZZ Top**'s

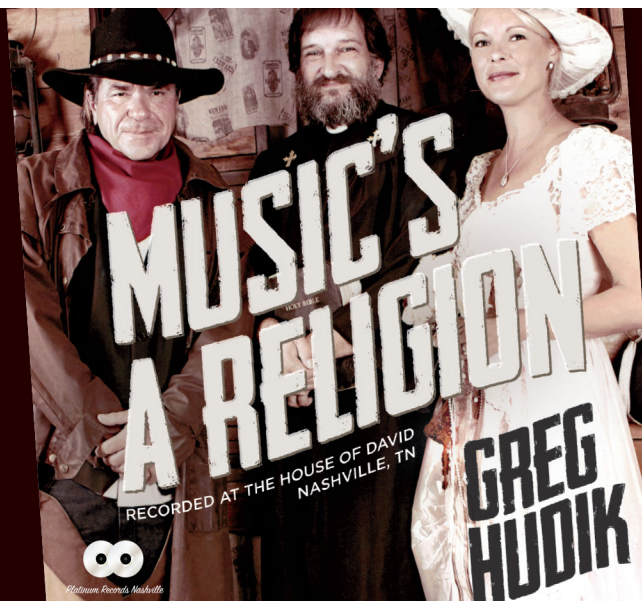


Alan Jackson (right) and songwriter Don Schlitz were announced inductees during an April 5 ceremony.

GREG HUDIK MAMA'S LOVE

A Tribute To All Mothers for Mothers Day

Written In loving memory of my mother
Virginia Hudik "Jeanie"



A Traditional
Country Song

AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO:
STREAM | DOWNLOAD | BURN

GET IT NOW!

A large portion of sales
from this album will
go to Gatlinburg/Pigeon
Forge fire victims who
lost everything.

Billy Gibbons wrangled a blues-tinged arrangement out of Haggard's "Workin' Man Blues," extending its life in the process. The Nelson-penned "Crazy," heard through the speakers at the Cline Museum, comes as elegiac as ever. And Jennings' "I Ain't Living Long Like This," which **Chris Stapleton** delivered with fire in the opening minutes of the CMT special, embodied the unvarnished character of the rural and blue-collar folks who consumed country before it crept into the cities and suburbs.

"It's real," said 2013 inductee **Bobby Bare** of the classic material at the Hall of Fame announcement. "It's great songs, and it was never really a visual thing. All the country music's visual now. If you put on five pounds, you're out of the business."

The music itself has added weight. Productions in the 21st century are often so elaborate that some of the emotional content in the background — programmed piano chords or background voices — are sensed at a subliminal level. Historically, country's instruments were given more separation in the arrangements, more carefully framing the voice and the story at the center of the performance.

Jackson invariably applied those principles during his run of hits, which began in 1990, and that same stripped-down approach was at the core of his writing. He employed common language in exploring difficult subject matter — small-town decay in "Little Man," aging in "Remember When," national grief in "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)" — with clarity and poignancy.

"**Hank Williams** has always been my favorite," said Jackson at the Hall announcement. "He wrote simple, and said so much and [was] poetic at times."

In some ways, country's tradition benefits from modern distribution forms. In the not-so-distant past, there were few classic country stations, and the genre's hits often lost their recognizability faster than at other current formats. When songs disappeared from top 40 or rock radio, for example, they might have resurfaced on the playlists of adult contemporary, oldies or classic rock stations. But there were few classic country outlets, so when a track was removed from current country playlists, it was pretty much lost to the average consumer.

Now, thanks to the proliferation of satellite radio — with SiriusXM's channel Willie's Roadhouse — plus Internet outlets and classic country terrestrial stations, it's easier than ever to discover what **Garth Brooks** would call "the old stuff." And in an age where nearly everyone is confounded at some point by technologies that fail to work on the platform of choice or poor Internet connections, that straight-forward, low-tech sensibility of the classics is suddenly refreshing — even when it's delivered through such modern tech options as YouTube or Pandora.

"It's real music, honest music, created with integrity, created with raw talent," says Blackbird Presents founder **Keith Wortman**, who produced the Haggard and Jennings tributes. "I think it's a reflection of the mood of the country as well. People want authenticity, and that's why you're seeing people like **Chris Stapleton** break through and **Jason Isbell** have this great run and **Sturgill Simpson** have this incredible run. From my perspective, all of this bubbling up is coming out of Nashville."

That musical honesty plays out in the classic artists' public lives, as well. Cash, Cline, Nelson, Williams and **George Jones** were all examples of performers who dealt with profound tragedy and/or personal weakness. By embracing their shortcomings in a public way, they formed a real-world bond with fans, who invariably deal with their own Achilles' heels.

"That's what I love about Cash," says **Bill Miller**, who founded the Cash and Cline museums. "His life was an open book, a book that he purposely opened. Every time he stumbled, every time he fell, he wanted to share that with people so hopefully they could avoid the same pitfalls. He never denied his demons, and I think in his case, people of every sociological and economic background and race and creed embrace that."

One by one, the legends invariably disappear, and a track on Nelson's new album, "Still Not Dead," pokes fun at the numerous times when some Internet source has incorrectly pronounced his passing. Nelson said during his SiriusXM taping that he and collaborator **Buddy Cannon** have written a gospel song that suggests he may continue to beat the Grim Reaper.

"Heaven is closed, hell's overcrowded, so I think I'll just stay right here," he said, quoting its lyrics and drawing a laugh in the process.

But the museums, the tributes and the classic country outlets pretty much guarantee that even when the body is gone, the Nelsons, the Haggards, the Jacksons and the Clines will still be making a connection to future generations.

"It's the substance and the back story," says Miller, "that keep these people alive."



Willie Nelson (center) taped an album premiere for the Willie's Roadhouse channel at SiriusXM on April 4. The special premieres April 28. Nelson is shown with SiriusXM PD Jeremy Tepper (left) and producer Buddy Cannon.



Patsy Cline's Madame Tussauds wax figure was on hand when the Patsy Cline Museum held ribbon-cutting ceremonies in downtown Nashville on April 6. Posing with the statue are museum founders Shannon Miller (left) and Bill Miller.



Big Machine act Midland performed "Drinkin' Problem" when the trio made its Grand Ole Opry debut on April 8. From left: Opry GM Sally Williams; Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta; Midland's Cameron Duddy, Mark Wystrach and Jess Carson; and Opry Entertainment president Steve Buchanan.



Kane Brown and Jason Aldean met up in Las Vegas in advance of their impending summer run as tourmates. From left: Brown, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital senior director of radio and entertainment Teri Watson and Aldean.

CONGRATULATIONS

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE



CELEBRATING THE 5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF

— **CRUISE** —

THE **BIGGEST SELLING** SINGLE

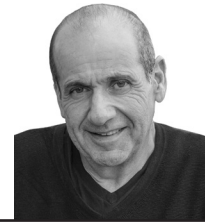
— AND —

THE ONLY **DIAMOND CERTIFIED** SINGLE
IN THE HISTORY OF COUNTRY MUSIC!

FROM YOUR **BMLG** FAMILY
RECORDS

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

Alaina Takes 'Road Less Traveled' To No. 1 On Country Airplay



Lauren Alaina banks her first No. 1 with her sixth entry on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart (dated April 22), as "Road Less Traveled" (19/Interscope/Mercury) ascends 3-1 in its 34th week, increasing 9 percent to 43.8 million audience impressions, according to Nielsen Music. Co-written by Alaina, **Meghan Trainor** and **Jessie Frasure**, the song is the title track from Alaina's second LP, which debuted at No. 3 on Top Country Albums (Feb. 18).

"It feels very weird, almost surreal," Alaina, 22, tells *Billboard* of her new leader. "I have been waiting five years for this. I handed in this song four years ago, so seeing it rise to the top feels so good. My goal was top 20 at first, and when it got into the top 10, I wanted to go all the way. Thanks so much to everyone for sticking with me this long."

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

"It's been amazing and fun to witness this evolution and transformation from a wacky teenager who parlayed her incredible voice and infectious personality into success on a TV talent show to a legit songwriter, artist and star," says Universal Music Group Nashville chairman/CEO **Mike Dungan**.

"I think this is the first really mature song that she's released," says **KKBQ** Houston PD **Johnny Chiang**. "She's worked really hard throughout her career," adds **WBWL** Boston PD **Lance Houston**. "After ["Road"] overcame that difficult Nos. 60-30 region of the chart, it seemed that research kicked in."

Meanwhile, singer-songwriter/pop star Trainor earns her second Country Airplay No. 1 as a writer, following **Rascal Flatts'** "I Like the Sound of That" (April 30, 2016), another co-write with Frasure — who's now up to six leaders on the list as a writer — as well as **Shay Mooney** (of **Dan + Shay**).

ACMs EFFECT **Sam Hunt's** "Body Like a Back Road" (MCA Nashville) tops

Hot Country Songs for a ninth week and becomes the first country hit to reach the *Billboard* Hot 100's top 10 (revving 12-6) since **Florida Georgia Line's** "Cruise" in 2013. It's also the fourth-best-selling song (616,000 since its Feb. 1 release) among all genres, year to date.

Following Hunt's performance of the song on the 52nd annual Academy of Country Music Awards on April 2 (broadcast live on CBS), "Body" hikes 19 percent to 70,000 downloads sold and leads Country Digital Song Sales for a 10th week. It rules Country Streaming Songs for a ninth week, up 4 percent to 13.8 million U.S. streams, while lifting 5-4 on Country Airplay (37.8 million in audience, up 15 percent).

Thomas Rhett and **Maren Morris** joined forces at the ACMs to perform their new single "Craving You" (Valory), which soars 46-5 on Hot Country Songs, marking Rhett's eighth top 10 and Morris' second; she first hit No. 5 with "My Church" in 2016. "Craving" bows at No. 2 on Country Digital Song Sales (54,000).

Lady Antebellum, who performed "You Look Good" (Capitol Nashville) with backing from members of the **UNLV Marching Band**, rockets to its 13th Hot Country Songs top 10 (21-9) and first since 2014, fueled by a 320 percent sales surge to 41,000.

Miranda Lambert, who won female vocalist and album of the year for *The Weight of These Wings* (Vanner/RCA Nashville/Sony Music Nashville), returns to the Top Country Albums summit as the set, which initially bowed

at No. 1 in December, vaults by 663 percent to 31,000 equivalent album units. Lambert sang new single "Tin Man" at the festivities; it re-enters Hot Country Songs at a new No. 15 high.

GOOD 'GOING' **Trace Adkins'** *Something's Going On* (Wheelhouse/Broken Bow Music Group) opens on Top Country Albums at No. 5 (14,000 units), marking his 14th top 10 and highest rank since 2011.

On Country Airplay, **Luke Combs'** debut hit, "Hurricane," (River House/Columbia Nashville) hits the top 10 (11-9; 27.7 million, up 14 percent). ●



ALAINA

ALAINA: GETTY IMAGES

SUBSCRIBE TO

billboard COUNTRY UPDATE

Sign up for FREE delivery every Monday

billboard.com/newsletters

The country music industry's must-have source for news, charts, analysis and features.

- EXCLUSIVE CHARTS including Hot Country Songs, Country Airplay, Top Country Albums, Country Digital Songs...
- Weekly content including Makin' Tracks, On The Charts, The Stark Report, and the weekly feature
- Expert insights and commentary by Tom Roland, Jim Asker and Phyllis Stark

Country Radio!!

Thank you for supporting me, befriending me, and loving me through six years and six singles. I wouldn't be here without you. Thank you for never giving up on me. I definitely took the "Road Less Traveled." I love you guys. We are family.

Thank YOU!!

always, Lauren

Alaina

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	3	34	ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	43.790	+3.723	8274	696	1
2	4	20	ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	42.962	+4.126	7840	537	2
3	2	29	DIRT ON MY BOOTS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	37.925	-2.972	6493	-932	6
4	5	10	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	37.715	+4.906	6997	916	3
5	1	19	FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	37.211	-5.106	6982	-1099	4
6	7	45	HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	35.443	+4.722	6839	711	5
7	6	27	YEAH BOY Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	31.735	+0.698	6335	115	7
8	9	22	BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	28.432	+3.476	4979	396	10
9	11	25	HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	27.637	+3.287	5323	437	9
10	10	38	THE WEEKEND Valory	Brantley Gilbert	26.632	+1.809	5465	284	8
11	12	17	BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	24.462	+1.371	4655	84	12
12	13	18	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	24.441	+2.992	4816	323	11
13	14	28	HOW NOTTO Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	22.101	+1.620	4289	175	13
14	15	38	IF I TOLD YOU Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	18.230	+1.648	3812	73	14
15	16	14	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	15.997	+1.248	3466	323	15
16	17	9	THE FIGHTER Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Featuring Carrie Underwood	15.818	+1.232	3272	245	18
17	21	13	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG	Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys	15.011	+2.940	2883	551	21
18	19	12	YOU LOOK GOOD Capitol Nashville	Lady Antebellum	14.724	+1.434	3201	226	19
19	20	32	MY GIRL Curb	Dylan Scott	14.626	+1.742	3298	270	17
20	18	38	THERE'S A GIRL 19/Republic/Dot	Trent Harmon	14.472	+0.892	3309	26	16
21	22	10	MY OLD MAN Southern Ground/Elektra/WAR	Zac Brown Band	12.738	+0.707	2993	86	20
22	23	8	EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	12.339	+1.528	2732	344	22
23	24	13	FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	11.327	+1.569	2602	282	23
24	25	3	SPEAK TO A GIRL McGraw/Arista Nashville	Tim McGraw & Faith Hill	10.915	+2.257	2323	495	25
25	26	24	SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory	Justin Moore	9.569	+0.922	2546	99	24
26	27	31	LOVE TRIANGLE Warner Bros./WMN	RaeLynn	8.549	+0.773	1971	68	27
27	30	11	DRINKIN' PROBLEM Big Machine	Midland	8.325	+1.245	2062	294	26
28	28	2	CRAVING YOU Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Maren Morris	7.798	+0.424	1498	413	31
29	32	27	FOR HER Big Loud	Chris Lane	6.832	+0.646	1950	143	28
30	31	5	NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	6.724	+0.347	1418	83	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	KASC	Greensboro, N.C.	WBCT	Nashville	WKMI		KSOP
Baton Rouge, La.	KUZZ	Greenville, S.C.	WPAW		KTOM		KUBL
Birmingham, Ala.	WPOC	Harrisburg, Pa.	WTOR		WKDF		KAJA
Boise, Idaho	WYNK	Hartford, Conn.	WESS		WSIX		KCYY
Boston	WDXB	Houston	WSSL		WSM-FM		KSON
Buffalo, N.Y.	WZZK	Huntsville, Ala.	WRBT		WJVC		KRTY
Charleston, S.C.	KAWO	Indianapolis	WYYZ		WRNS		KSTO
Charlotte, N.C.	KIZN	Jacksonville, Fla.	KILT		WNOE		KFGY
Chattanooga, Tenn.	WBWL	Johnson City, Tenn.	KKBO		WNWH		WCTO
Chicago	WKLB	Kansas City	WDRM		WGH		KKWF
Cincinnati	WYRK	Knoxville, Tenn.	WFMS		WUSH		KMPS
Cleveland	WCKN	Lafayette, La.	WLHK		KJKE		KXKS
Colorado Springs, Colo.	WEZL	Lakeland, Fla.	WGNE		KTST		KXLY
Columbia, S.C.	WKKT	Las Vegas	WQIK		KXKT		WRNX
Columbus, Ohio	WSOC	Lexington, Ky.	WXBO		WWKA		KTTG
Corpus Christi, Texas	WUSY	Little Rock, Ark.	KBEO		WXTU		KATM
Dallas	WBGW	Los Angeles	WDAF		KMLE		WBBS
Denver	WUSN	Louisville, Ky.	KFKF		KNIX		WFOK
Des Moines, Iowa	WUBE	Madison, Wis.	WCYO		WDSY		WOYK
	WGAR	McAllen, Texas	WIVK		WOGI		KIJM
	KATC		KMDL		WPGB		KTGX
	WCOS		WPCV		WPOR		KVOO
	WCOS		KCYE		WTTT		KWEN
	KRYS		KWNR		KUPJ		KJUG
	KPLX		WBUL		KWJJ		WMZO
	KSCS		KSSN		WCTK		WIRK
	KWOF		KKGO		WNCB		KFDI
	KYGO		WAMZ		WQDR		KZSN
			WQNU		WKHK		WGGY
			WVQM		KFRG		WXCX
			KTEX		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	33	20	DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury	Billy Currington	6.314	+0.562	1523	95	30
32	34	13	IT AIN'T MY FAULT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	6.137	+1.060	1884	187	29
33	40	14	OUTTA STYLE BIG Label	Aaron Watson	3.947	+1.007	409	66	52
34	35	7	SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	3.925	+0.528	960	37	36
35	36	16	MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN Dot/BMLG ★★ Breaker ★★	Drake White	3.602	+0.268	898	49	39
36	37	21	RING ON EVERY FINGER Reviver	LOCASH	3.512	+0.281	1058	44	33
37	38	24	THE WAY ITALK Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	3.412	+0.366	912	59	38
38	41	8	MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	3.044	+0.304	938	35	37
39	47	4	I COULD USE A LOVE SONG Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	2.919	+0.967	756	234	42
40	39	11	A GIRL LIKE YOU Mercury	Easton Corbin	2.869	-0.084	1017	42	34
41	46	3	ASK ME HOW I KNOW Pearl	Garth Brooks	2.562	+0.580	782	167	40
42	42	19	MISSING Warner Bros./WMN	William Michael Morgan	2.510	+0.046	731	35	43
43	45	5	SMALL TOWN BOY Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	2.450	+0.467	672	78	45
44	48	5	BACK TO GOD Rockin' R/Nash Icon/Valory	Reba McEntire & Lauren Daigle	2.279	+0.333	476	15	51
45	43	20	WITH YOU I AM CoJo	Cody Johnson	2.174	-0.079	157	-10	-
46	44	5	CALIFORNIA BSR/Thirty Tigers/New Revolution	Big & Rich	2.164	+0.133	777	61	41
47	50	4	EVERY LITTLE THING Big Machine	Carly Pearce	1.996	+0.299	478	97	50
48	49	14	WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE Arista Nashville	Seth Ennis	1.954	+0.099	963	-47	35
49	51	8	WHAT IFS Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown Featuring Lauren Alaina	1.685	+0.166	535	12	47
50	54	6	GREATEST LOVE STORY Arista Nashville	LANCO	1.542	+0.394	495	59	49
51	52	9	JUST A PHASE Stoney Creek	Adam Craig	1.458	+0.130	579	48	46
52	53	12	REBOUND Cold River/New Revolution	Drew Baldridge Featuring Emily Weisband	1.270	-0.011	688	-13	44
53	NEW	1	TIN MAN Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	1.164	+1.153	328	323	54
54	55	11	GETTING OVER YOU Broken Bow	Jackie Lee	1.019	-0.040	507	10	48
55	57	5	WATERED DOWN Wheelhouse	Trace Adkins	0.974	+0.015	311	40	57
56	NEW	1	HAPPY PEOPLE Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	0.930	+0.636	299	192	58
57	56	10	KISS ME Almost Country/Thirty Tigers	Casey Donahew	0.860	-0.131	254	25	60
58	58	5	YOU'LL ACCOMP'NY ME Warner Bros./WAR	Frankie Ballard	0.807	-0.077	324	39	56
59	59	8	CLOSE Warner Bros./WEA	Ryan Kinder	0.780	-0.032	326	-15	55
60	NEW	1	OWN IT 300/WAR	Bailey Bryan	0.675	+0.242	333	22	53



56

LITTLE BIG TOWN
Happy People

Penned by **Lori McKenna** and **Hailey Whitters**, "Happy People" is the sophomore single from *The Breaker*, following the Hot Country Songs and Country Airplay No. 1 "Better Man." The new track lifts 49-40 on Hot Country Songs and opens at No. 56 on Country Airplay (930,000 in audience, up 216 percent).

GOING FOR ADDS

4/17

CANAAN SMITH
Like You That Way
Mercury Nashville

DELTA RAE
A Long And Happy Life
Valory

HIGH VALLEY
She's With Me
Atlantic/WEA

JAKE OWEN
Good Company
RCA Nashville

JERROD NIEMANN
God Made A Woman
Curb

KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS
God Loves A Rolling Stone
Plowboy

LUCAS HOGE
Dirty South
Rebel Engine/Star Farm

SARABETH
I Want It That Way
Circle 5

4/24

BRAD PAISLEY
Last Time For Everything
Arista Nashville

ERIC CHESSER
Good Times & Summer Days
BigBig

RUSSELL DICKERSON
Yours
Triple Tiger

5/1

DEREK JOHNSON
Real Cool Kinda Hot
Not Listed

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

MOST ADDED®		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
CRAVING YOU Valory	Thomas Rhett Feat. Maren Morris	40
I COULD USE A LOVE SONG Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	20
ASK ME HOW I KNOW Pearl	Garth Brooks	18
TIN MAN RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	17
DRINKIN' PROBLEM Big Machine	Midland	16
GOD MADE A WOMAN Curb	Jerrod Niemann	16
HAPPY PEOPLE Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	14
SMALL TOWN BOY Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	11
SPEAK TO A GIRL McGraw/Arista Nashville	Tim McGraw & Faith Hill	10
GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG	Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys	9

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+4.906
HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	+4.721
ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+4.126
ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	+3.723
BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	+3.476
HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+3.287
IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	+2.992
GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG	Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys	+2.940
SPEAK TO A GIRL McGraw/Arista Nashville	Tim McGraw & Faith Hill	+2.257
THE WEEKEND Valory	Brantley Gilbert	+1.809

MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	+916
HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	+711
ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	+696
GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG	Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys	+551
ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+537
SPEAK TO A GIRL McGraw/Arista Nashville	Tim McGraw & Faith Hill	+495
HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+437
CRAVING YOU Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Maren Morris	+413
BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	+396
EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	+344

NEW AND ACTIVE				
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
ACT LIKE YOU DON'T Red Bow	Brooke Eden	0.591	24	1
THEY CAN'T SEE Reviver	Michael Tyler	0.567	19	2
PREACHIN' TO THE CHOIR BMLG	A Thousand Horses	0.503	14	3
WHAT I WANNA BE Black River	Jacob Davis	0.484	15	5
YOURS Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	0.457	5	1
ROUND HERE BUZZ EMI Nashville	Eric Church	0.354	4	1

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	THINK A LITTLE LESS Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	25.549
2	A GUY WITH A GIRL Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	22.719
3	BETTER MAN Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	21.414
4	MAY WE ALL BMLG Florida Georgia Line Featuring Tim McGraw		18.596
5	SEEIN' RED Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	18.530
6	WANNA BETHAT SONG Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	17.934
7	SOBER SATURDAY NIGHT RCA Nashville	Chris Young Feat. Vince Gill	14.791
8	TODAY Arista Nashville	Brad Paisley	14.139
9	STAR OF THE SHOW Valory	Thomas Rhett	13.265
10	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	12.807

BILLBOARD COUNTRY BOXSCORE			
Gross Ticket Price(s)	Artist Venue/Date(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter(s)
\$1,243,770 \$152.34, \$76.13	DIXIE CHICKS Qudos Bank Arena, Sydney/March 29	12,383 12,508	CHUGG ENT., ROB POTTS ENT.
\$1,086,993 \$78.75, \$38.75	LUKE BRYAN Madison Square Garden, New York/March 1	14,981 sellout	LIVE NATION
\$1,073,410 \$152.36, \$76.14	DIXIE CHICKS Entertainment Centre, Brisbane, Australia/March 25	9,252 9,686	CHUGG ENT., ROB POTTS ENT.
\$462,271 \$52.31, \$22.42	CHRIS STAPLETON Rogers Arena, Vancouver/March 27	10,514 sellout	LIVE NATION
\$446,307 \$52.51, \$37.51	CHRIS STAPLETON Budweiser Gardens, London, Ontario/March 18	8,879 sellout	LIVE NATION

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).

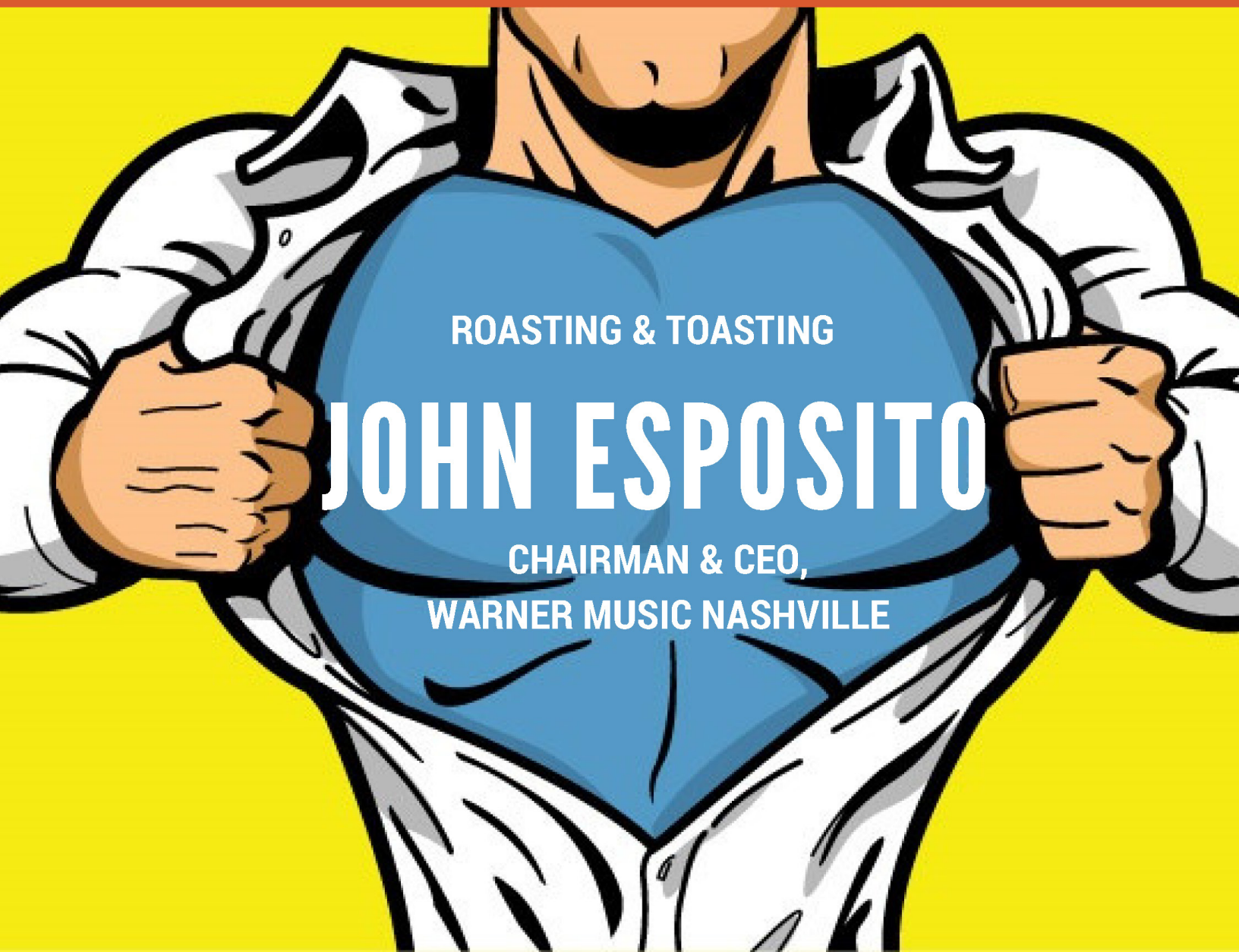


TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 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	4	13	STILL NOT OVER YOU (Independent) ★★1 week at 1★	Jerrett Zoch And The OSR Band	1610	63	11	15	12	AMERICAN KID (PTO Records)	Rich O'Toole	1146	76
2	1	15	FOREVER TODAY (Independent)	Reckless Kelly	1494	-274	12	14	20	BEER PRESSURE (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1106	23
3	6	20	BRIDGE (Independent)	Mark McKinney	1480	55	13	13	27	RATHER HAVE YOU (Independent)	Adrian Johnston	1090	-51
4	3	26	NEW HOMETOWN (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1388	-222	14	2	21	HOMESICK CRAZY (Independent)	Matt Kimbrow	1085	-553
5	8	24	I'M BREAKING IN (Independent)	Junior Gordon	1380	5	15	21	6	CREEK DON'T RISE (Bill Grease Rec)	William Clark Green	1047	103
6	11	11	A LOT OF ROOM TO TALK (Independent)	Jake Worthington	1343	91	16	16	27	COME AS YOU ARE (Independent)	Turnpike Troubadours	1034	-35
7	5	23	LIVE IT WHILE YOU GOT IT (Pretty Damn Tough)	Josh Abbott Band	1247	-221	17	17	16	PEOPLE LIKE ME (Independent)	Dustin Sonnier	1033	4
8	9	21	OUTTA STYLE (BIG Label)	Aaron Watson	1244	-103	18	22	13	DEEP BLUE ME (Independent)	Case Hardin	1012	94
9	7	22	RUNAWAY TRAIN (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1242	-174	19	20	8	WISH YOU WERE HERE (Independent)	Cody Jinks	997	52
10	10	21	TEQUILA EYES (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	1217	-57	20	12	27	HARD LIVIN' ILLENE (Independent)	Randall King f Cleto Cordero	967	-194

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



ROASTING & TOASTING

JOHN ESPOSITO

CHAIRMAN & CEO,
WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE

2017

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

MONDAY,

APRIL 17 DOORS 4:45PM
SHOW 5:30PM

ZANIES 2025 8TH AVE
NASHVILLE, TN



T.J. Martell Foundation

Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research



MUSIC'S PROMISE
FOR A CURE

TICKETS & TABLES

tjmartell.org

(615) 256-2002

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Trace Adkins dropped by *Billboard* in New York for a Facebook Live performance on March 31. From left: BBR Music Group vp marketing JoJamie Hahr, Adkins and *Billboard* vp charts and data development Silvio Pietroluongo.

FGL LEADS BILLBOARD COUNTRY NOMINEES

Florida Georgia Line picked up six nominations to lead all country contenders when finalists were announced April 10 for the Billboard Music Awards.

FGL nabbed a nomination for all-genre top duo/group, in addition to five nominations in country categories. Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley are in the running for top country artist, while *Dig Your Roots* is a contender for top country album. "May We All," featuring Tim McGraw, is up for top country collaboration, and that title joins "H.O.L.Y." to give FGL two of the five nominations for top country song. Both of those songs were winning entries for Florida Georgia Line during the 52nd Academy of Country Music Awards on April 2.

Keith Urban and Kenny Chesney tied for second in the *Billboard* country field with three nominations apiece. Six acts secured two nominations for country product, including McGraw and pop artist Pink, whose contribution to Chesney's "Setting the World On Fire" has her on the list for country song and country collaboration. Luke Bryan, Blake Shelton, Jason Aldean and Chris Stapleton also received a pair of nods.

Additionally, the album *Love Remains*, recorded while Lady Antebellum was on hiatus, led to two nominations in Christian categories for Hillary Scott & The Scott Family.

The *Billboard Music Awards* will air May 21 on ABC. Go [here](#) for the full list of finalists.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Jeff Lyon joined Cumulus/Abilene, Texas, as vp/market manager for the four-station cluster, including country KBCY. The move follows a 21-year run for Lyon at Townsquare/Victoria, Texas, where he was president/chief revenue officer ... Cumulus/Nashville made Lori Tournay Liggett the general service manager for the group's music stations, including country WKDF and WSM-FM. She was already GSM for the cluster's urban WQQK ... Beasley installed Steve Meyers as executive vp digital. He had been serving as director of digital operations since November, when Beasley acquired Greater Media, where he was employed for four years ... iHeartMedia extended the signal of WAVV Vero Beach, Fla., into West Palm Beach via a translator channel at 93.3 ... The 4,000th episode of Geisler Radio's *Today in Country Music History* airs April 12. The two-minute daily title currently broadcasts on 25 stations ... iHeartMedia named Derrick Martin president of its St. Louis region, InsideRadio.com reported, transferring from his role as iHeartMedia/Norfolk, Va., market manager. Country stations in Martin's new territory include Missouri outlets KSD St. Louis and KSWF Springfield, and Iowa signals KDRB Des Moines, KKSJ/KMJM Cedar Rapids and WLLR Davenport ... Casey Carter takes the PD job at WTQR Greensboro, N.C., according to Talkers.com. She leaves WKKT Charlotte, N.C., where she was assistant PD/midday talent.

'ROUND THE ROW

Matt Brum joined Big Machine Label Group as director digital strategy and social media. He was previously Grand Ole Opry social media manager. Reach him [here](#) ... L3 Entertainment promoted Steve Mekler to director of marketing and strategy from digital marketing manager. The management company works with Justin Moore, Dustin Lynch and Jordan Rager. Reach Mekler [here](#) ... Grant Brotan was named studio manager for The Hot Seat, a company that offers audio/video content, including satellite tours and the web series *The Pickup*. Ryan Grubb joined the company as director of radio relations. Brotan was previously an independently contracted PK Pictures studio assistant. Grubb was previously affiliated with Hot Seat sister company Webster Public Relations. Reach Brotan [here](#) and Grubb [here](#) ... Thiel Audio added Nashville-based Elyse McKenna as director of strategic partnerships for the company, including the Aurora Nashville Studio. She was previously Hurd Enterprises senior vp business development. Reach her [here](#) ... Disney Music Group and Universal Music Group Nashville established a new label, Buena Vista. The first signee is the duo CB30, consisting of brothers Christian and Brody Clementi ... SSM Nashville signed The Redhead Express to a recording deal. The group features four sisters: Kendra, LaRae, Meghan and Alisa Walker ... The Country Music Association presented international awards to five recipients: Carrie Underwood, U.K. act The Shires, BBC Radio 2 host Bob Harris, Rob Potts Entertainment Edge CEO Robb Potts and Richard Wootton Publicity founder Richard Wootton ... Reba McEntire will receive the Chairman's Award during the Music Biz 2017 convention in Nashville on May 18. Kelly Clarkson has also been added to a May 16 panel, "Music's Leading Ladies Speak Out," featuring Atlantic Records Group chairman/CEO Julie Greenwald with journalist Ann Powers moderating ... The Country Music Hall of Fame concluded its \$87.5 million capital campaign to fund its recent expansion. In recognition of the effort's leaders, the Hall's boardroom was named after chairmen E.W. "Bud" Wendell and Steve Turner ... The Recording Academy will hold its annual Grammy Block Party on May 2 at Nashville's Cumberland Park ... Ben Speer died April 7, according to *The Tennessean*. Speer was a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame through his participation in The Speer Family and was a background vocalist on several early Elvis Presley hits, including "I Want You, I Need You, I Love You" and "Heartbreak Hotel."



Triple Tigers artist Russell Dickerson gave KBQI Albuquerque, N.M., PD Bev Rainey a lift when he dropped by the market for an April 9 show at the Dirty Bourbon.



Kenny Chesney headlined April 9 as the Tortuga Music Festival drew more than 100,000 to the beach in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., during the course of three days. From left: Huka Entertainment vp talent Dan Merker, Huka CEO Evan Harrison, Chesney, Huka chief production officer Brent Silberstein and Huka chairman/chief experience officer A.J. Niland.

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

The room went silent after just a few bars when “Either Way” came on the speakers during an April 5 listening party at Nashville’s RCA Studio A for **Chris Stapleton’s** *From a Room: Volume 1*. As the first single from the album, “Either Way” is a brave call—a ballad that relies on Stapleton’s gut-wrenching vocals backed solely by acoustic guitar as he portrays a lifeless, apathetic marriage. It’s not the kind of arrangement that typically gets play at terrestrial radio, but few performances pack as much emotional punch. It’s the obvious highlight in a cohesive nine-track project that will be released May 5, the two-year anniversary of his solo debut, *Traveller*. Produced again by **Dave Cobb** (**Zac Brown Band**, **A Thousand Horses**), it will be followed by *From a Room: Volume 2* in late 2017.

With the summer tourist season just weeks away, downtown Nashville can count on the return of several annual events. **Darius Rucker’s** Darius and

Friends benefit moves to the Ryman Auditorium for the first time after seven years at the Wildhorse Saloon, where last year’s show — featuring **Charley Pride** and **Drake White**, among others — raised nearly \$200,000. The June 5 concert is one of the events that lead up to the CMA Music Festival June 8-11. Songwriter **Craig Wiseman** (“Boys ’Round Here,” “Live Like You Were Dying”) will hold his 13th annual Stars for Second Harvest benefit on June 6, building on \$1 million

in funds raised to date. A month later, **Chris Young** and **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** top the bill at “Let Freedom Sing! July 4 in Music City,” an Independence Day celebration topped off by fireworks.

John T. Floore’s Country Store celebrates 75 years as a music venue this year, beginning with shows featuring co-headliners **Robert Earl Keen** and **The Randy Rogers Band** April 14-15. The Helotes, Texas, club counts **Willie Nelson**, **Elvis Presley** and **Dwight Yoakam** as part of its history, and has **Billy Joe Shaver**, **Aaron Lewis** and **Gary Allan** hitting the stage before Memorial Day. Elsewhere in Texas, Americana/Red Dirt act **Joe Ely** was awarded membership in the Texas Institute of Letters on April 8 in El Paso. The honor recognized his prose as an author.

It’s a veritable merch table shipped to your front door. The Grand Ole Opry is introducing the Opry Box, a merchandise subscription that promises quarterly deliveries of products related to country music and the Opry. The initial box, built with an “Opry Friends” theme, features **Brad Paisley** on the cover of *Inside the Circle* magazine, a **Little Jimmy Dickens** mug, a DVD/Blue-ray edition of *American Saturday Night: Live From the Grand Ole Opry* and several other items. A single box is \$40 plus shipping; four seasonal boxes are \$140 plus shipping.

WHITE: ANDY SAPP



ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC



April 10

- 2013 — **Kenny Rogers**, **Bobby Bare** and songwriter-producer **Jack Clement** are announced as the 2013 inductees in the Country Music Hall of Fame.
- 2007 — The former home of **Johnny Cash** and **June Carter** burns to the ground in Hendersonville, Tenn., while workers are restoring it for new owner **Barry Gibb**. Watching helplessly: **Marty Stuart**, **Connie Smith**, **Tommy Cash**, **T.G. Sheppard** and several **Oak Ridge Boys**.

April 11

- 2014 — Big Machine releases “Meanwhile Back at Mama’s,” by **Tim McGraw** featuring **Faith Hill**, to radio.

April 12

- 1992 — After finishing the song on the bus with co-writer **Jim McBride**, **Alan Jackson** plays “Chattahoochee” onstage for the first time in Thibodeaux, La.
- 1989 — Capitol releases **Garth Brooks’** self-titled debut album.

April 13

- 1967 — **Charlie Daniels** moves to Nashville.

April 14

- 2012 — Yagonnakissmeornot, named after a **Thompson Square** hit, wins a horse race at the Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto.
- 1981 — **Hank Williams Jr.** records “A Country Boy Can Survive.”

April 15

- 2016 — **Thomas Rhett** brings in surprise guest **Rhett Akins** during a show at Wild Bill’s in Atlanta. Father and son team up on “That Ain’t My Truck” and “Boys ’Round Here”
- 1977 — A school in Tulsa, Okla., is renamed Roy Clark Elementary

April 16

- 2015 — **Lady Antebellum’s** **Hillary Scott** barely escapes with three other riders when her tour bus catches fire on the way to Dallas for the Academy of Country Music Awards. No one is injured, though all of the band’s stage outfits are destroyed.

Source: RolandNote.com, the Ultimate Country Music Database

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

[Stevie Wonder & Ashley Gorley To Be Honored At ASCAP Expo](#)

[Can Incoming RIAA Head Make U.S. Music Business Great Again?](#)

[Keith Urban Stresses Music Education In Schools At Grammys On The Hill Event](#)

[Facebook Launches Resource To Spot ‘Fake News’](#)

[Nielsen Music’s First-Quarter Numbers: Explosive Growth For Streaming, Not So Much For Vinyl](#)



Blake Shelton and Ryman Hospitality visited Tishomingo, Okla., on April 3 to launch construction of the Ole Red entertainment venue. From left: Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Shelton, Ryman Hospitality chairman/CEO Colin Reed and Tishomingo Mayor Tom Lokey.

**T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

- PRESENT -

NASHVILLE'S

DOWNTOWN DERBY

BED RACE

PUT CANCER TO BED



**5TH AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TN
BRIDGESTONE PLAZA**

**SATURDAY
MAY 6, 2017**

**8AM: TEAM CHECK IN
9AM: PARADE OF BEDS
10AM: RACE BEGINS**



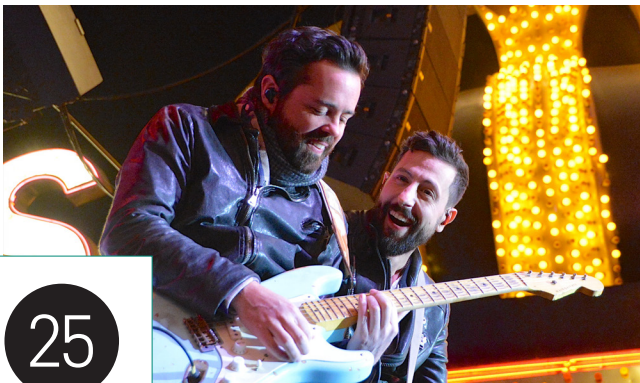
REGISTER YOUR BED TODAY!

bedracenashville.com

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	10	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD <small>Z.CROWELL (S.HUNT,Z.CROWELL,J.OSBORNE,S.MCANALLY)</small>	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE		1
2	10	8	16	THE FIGHTER <small>BUSBEE,K.URBAN (K.URBAN,BUSBEE)</small>	Keith Urban Featuring Carrie Underwood HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE		2
3	2	2	29	DIRT ON MY BOOTS <small>B.BUTLER,J.PARDI (R.AKINS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY)</small>	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	●	2
4	3	3	31	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW <small>D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,T.REEVE,K.SCHLENGER,T.TOMLINSON)</small>	Brett Young BMLG		3
5	46	—	2	 CRAVING YOU <small>J.BUNETTA,D.HUFF,THOMAS RHETT (D.M.BARNES,J.BUNETTA)</small>	Thomas Rhett Featuring Maren Morris VALORY		5
6	7	7	18	ANY OL' BARSTOOL <small>M.KNOX (J.THOMPSON,D.RUTTAN)</small>	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW		6
7	4	4	32	HURRICANE <small>S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,T.PHILLIPS,T.ARCHER)</small>	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		4
8	5	5	19	FAST <small>J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (L.BRYAN,R.CLAWSON,L.LAIRD)</small>	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE		5
9	21	22	12	YOU LOOK GOOD <small>BUSBEE (H.LINDESEY,R.HURD,BUSBEE)</small>	Lady Antebellum CAPITOL NASHVILLE		9
10	9	11	31	HOMETOWN GIRL <small>K.GREENBERG (M.BEESON,D.TASHIAN)</small>	Josh Turner MCA NASHVILLE		9
11	13	14	22	BLACK <small>R.COPPERMAN (D.BENTLEY,R.COPPERMAN,A.GORLEY)</small>	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE		11
12	8	10	32	ROAD LESS TRAVELED <small>BUSBEE (LAUREN ALAINA,J.FRASURE,M.TRAINOR)</small>	Lauren Alaina 19/INTERSCOPE/MERCURY		8
13	6	33	3	SPEAK TO A GIRL <small>B.GALLIMORE,T.MCGRAW,F.HILL (SHY CARTER,D.GIBSON,J.SPARGUR)</small>	Tim McGraw & Faith Hill MCGRAW/ARISTA NASHVILLE		6
14	15	16	16	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME <small>J.MOI (J.KEAR,H.LINDESEY,G.SAMPSON)</small>	Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys BMLG		14
15	RE-ENTRY		2	TIN MAN <small>F.LIDDELL,G.WORF,E.MASSE (M.LAMBERT,J.INGRAM,J.R.STEWART)</small>	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE		15
16	14	15	26	YEAH BOY <small>F.G.WHITEHEAD,J.MASSEY (K.BALLERINI,F.G.WHITEHEAD,K.TIMMER)</small>	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER		14
17	11	6	25	BETTER MAN <small>J.JOYCE (T.SWIFT)</small>	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE		1
18	12	12	32	THE WEEKEND <small>D.HUFF (B.GILBERT,A.DEROBERTS)</small>	Brantley Gilbert VALORY		9
19	16	18	26	HOW NOT TO <small>D.SMYERS,S.HENDRICKS (A.HAMBRICK,P.DIGIOVANNI,K.BARD)</small>	Dan + Shay WARNER BROS./WAR		16
20	26	27	14	FLATLINER <small>M.CARTER (C.SWINDELL,M.BRONLEWE,J.BOYER)</small>	Cole Swindell WARNER BROS./WMN		20
21	18	20	13	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		18
22	17	17	27	A GUY WITH A GIRL <small>S.HENDRICKS (A.GORLEY,B.SIMPSON)</small>	Blake Shelton WARNER BROS./WMN		3
23	20	24	34	IF I TOLD YOU <small>R.COPPERMAN (R.COPPERMAN,J.M.NITE,S.MCANALLY)</small>	Darius Rucker CAPITOL NASHVILLE		20
24	19	23	35	MY GIRL <small>M.ALDERMAN,J.E.NORMAN (D.SCOTT,J.KERR)</small>	Dylan Scott CURB		19
25	32	37	4	NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART <small>S.MCANALLY (M.RAMSEY,T.ROSEN,B.TURSI,J.FRASURE)</small>	Old Dominion RCA NASHVILLE		25



25

OLD DOMINION
No Such Thing As a Broken Heart

Following the band's April 2 performance of its latest single at the 52nd annual ACM Awards, the track hits a new Hot Country Songs peak (32-25), sparked by a 164 percent gain to 15,000 downloads sold.



28

BROTHERS OSBORNE
It Ain't My Fault

T.J. and John Osborne snagged two wins at the ACM Awards, helping "It Ain't My Fault" vault 38-28 on Hot Country Songs. On Country Airplay, the song pushes 34-32 (6.1 million impressions, up 21 percent).

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
26	24	25	13	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT J.DEMARCUS,G.LEVOX,J.D.ROONEY (A.DORFF,J.SINGLETON)	Rascal Flatts BIG MACHINE		24
27	22	26	10	MY OLD MAN D.COBB (Z.BROWN,N.MOON,B.SIMONETTI)	Zac Brown Band SOUTHERN GROUND/ELEKTRA/WAR		10
28	38	39	11	IT AIN'T MY FAULT J.JOYCE (J.OSBORNE,T.J.OSBORNE,L.T.MILLER)	Brothers Osborne EMI NASHVILLE		28
29	28	30	8	EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG S.HENDRICKS (A.MAYO,C.LINDSEY,B.WARREN,B.WARREN)	Blake Shelton WARNER BROS./JWIN		28
30	RE-ENTRY		4	BACK TO GOD R.MCENTIRE,D.SISEMORE (D.DAVIDSON,R.HOUSER)	Reba McEntire & Lauren Daigle ROCKIN' R/NASH ICON/VALORY		25
31	29	28	32	THERE'S A GIRL J.ROBBINS (T.HARMON,J.ROBBINS,L.VELTZ)	Trent Harmon 19/REPUBLIC/DOT		28
32	33	35	12	SOMEBODY ELSE WILL S.BORCHETTA,J.S.STOVER (K.ARCHER,A.HAMBRICK,T.OTTOH)	Justin Moore VALORY		32
33	31	34	7	SMALL TOWN BOY Z.CROWELL (R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP,K.FISHMAN)	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW		19
34	34	31	5	DRINKIN' PROBLEM S.MCANALLY,D.HUFF,J.OSBORNE (J.CARSON,C.DUDDY,M.WYSTRACH,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Midland BIG MACHINE		31
35	30	29	20	FOR HER J.MOI (M.DRAGSTREM,K.ARCHER,S.BUXTON)	Chris Lane BIG LOUD		23
36	44	50	3	I COULD USE A LOVE SONG BUSBEE,M.MORRIS (M.MORRIS,J.ROBBINS,L.VELTZ)	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		36
37	37	38	6	SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT R.COPPERMAN,B.ELDRIDGE (B.ELDRIDGE,T.DOUGLAS)	Brett Eldredge ATLANTIC/WMIN		30
38	35	32	21	WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS F.LIDDELL,G.WORFE,E.MASSE (M.LAMBERT)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE		25
39	36	40	18	WHAT IFS D.HUFF (K.BROWN,M.MCGINN,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown Featuring Lauren Alaina ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE		36
40	49	-	4	HAPPY PEOPLE J.JOYCE (L.MCKENNA,H.WHITTERS)	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE		40
41	39	41	11	DO I MAKE YOU WANNA D.HUFF (A.GORLEY,Z.CROWELL,M.JENKINS,J.FLOWERS)	Billy Currington MERCURY		39
42	40	43	7	MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU K.MOORE,D.GARCIA (K.MOORE,S.L.OLSEN,J.MILLER,D.A.GARCIA)	Kip Moore MCA NASHVILLE		40
43	42	44	7	THE WAY I TALK J.MOI (J.L.ALEXANDER,B.HAYSLIP,C.MCGILL)	Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD		42
44	43	45	7	MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN R.COPPERMAN,J.S.STOVER (D.WHITE,M.CRISWELL,S.MINOR)	Drake White DOT/BMLG		43
45	41	42	6	GREATEST LOVE STORY J.JOYCE (B.LANCASTER)	LANCO ARISTA NASHVILLE		38
46	45	46	4	RING ON EVERY FINGER L.RIMES (THOMAS RHETT,J.KEAR,J.FRASURE)	LOCASH REVIVER		45
47	47	48	3	A GIRL LIKE YOU A.GORLEY,W.KIRBY (A.GORLEY,J.FRASURE,R.AKINS)	Easton Corbin MERCURY		47
48	48	49	6	WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE C.CROWDER (S.ENNIS,B.DALY,D.H.HODGES)	Seth Ennis ARISTA NASHVILLE		48
49	NEW		1	CALIFORNIA B.KENNY,J.D.RICH (J.D.RICH,R.CLAWSON,V.MCGEHEE) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Big & Rich BSR/THIRTY TIGERS/NEW REVOLUTION		49
50	50	-	8	WITH YOU I AM T.W.WILLMON (D.C.LEE,C.D.JOHNSON,T.W.WILLMON)	Cody Johnson COJO		46

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

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

YEAR-TO-DATE

Year-Over-Year Album Sales	
ALBUM SALES	
'16	6.2 million
'17	5.3 million
DIGITAL TRACKS SALES	
'16	25.4 million
'17	19.5 million

Weekly Unit Sales			
	ALBUMS	DIGITAL ALBUMS*	DIGITAL TRACKS
This Week	436,000	165,000	1,773,000
Last Week	357,000	132,000	1,337,000
Change	22.1%	25.0%	32.6%
This Week Last Year	506,000	188,000	2,423,000
Change	-13.8%	-12.2%	-26.8%

Overall Unit Sales			
	2015	2017	CHANGE
Albums	6,155,000	5,306,000	-13.8%
Digital Tracks	25,391,000	19,533,000	-23.1%
Sales by Album Format			
	2015	2017	CHANGE
Physical	4,033,000	3,579,000	-11.3%
Digital	2,123,000	1,727,000	-18.7%

For week ending April 6, 2017. Figures are rounded. Compiled from a national sample of retail store and rack sales reports collected and provided by Nielsen Music.



*Digital album sales are also counted within album sales.

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

billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

SALES, DATA
COMPILED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	WEEKS ON CHART	PEAK POS.
1	35	26	20	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 532305*/SMN	THE WEIGHT OF THESE WINGS		1
2	2	1	48	KEITH URBAN HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE 023591*/UMGN (025848 AMS & WSEX)	RIPCORD		1
3	3	2	101	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	2	1
4	4	4	32	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE BMLG 0300*	DIG YOUR ROOTS		1
5	NEW		1	TRACE ADKINS WHEELHOUSE 70153/BBMG	SOMETHING'S GOING ON		5
6	14	17	44	MAREN MORRIS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 516885*/SMN	HERO		1
7	19	14	9	REBA MCENTIRE ROCKIN' R/NASH ICON RM0400A/BMLG	SING IT NOW: SONGS OF FAITH & HOPE		1
8	8	10	87	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 022813/UMGN	KILL THE LIGHTS		1
9	6	7	112	SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 021502/UMGN	MONTEVALLO	2	1
10	11	8	80	THOMAS RHETT VALORY RT0200A/BMLG	TANGLED UP		2
11	5	5	8	BRETT YOUNG BMLG BY0100A*	BRETT YOUNG		2
12	9	3	6	LITTLE BIG TOWN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 026223/UMGN	THE BREAKER		1
13	7	9	42	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN	CALIFORNIA SUNRISE		1
14	13	15	30	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW 2227/BBMG	THEY DON'T KNOW		1
15	15	19	45	DIERKS BENTLEY CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024745*/UMGN	BLACK		1
16	12	12	46	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 555352/WMN	IF I'M HONEST		1
17	10	6	10	BRANTLEY GILBERT VALORY B60300/BMLG	THE DEVIL DONT SLEEP		1
18	24	24	99	KELSEA BALLERINI BLACK RIVER 2015	THE FIRST TIME		4
19	44	41	55	BROTHERS OSBORNE EMI NASHVILLE 022364*/UMGN	PAWN SHOP		3
20	21	22	48	COLE SWINDELL WARNER BROS. 554671/WMN	YOU SHOULD BE HERE		2
21	16	25	18	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947/SMN	KANE BROWN		1
22	25	20	121	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 018733/UMGN	CRASH MY PARTY	2	1
23	17	18	75	ERIC CHURCH EMI NASHVILLE 024200*/UMGN	MR. MISUNDERSTOOD		2
24	20	16	76	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 551788/WMN	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS		2
25	18	11	4	JOSH TURNER MCA NASHVILLE 022366/UMGN	DEEP SOUTH		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
COMPILED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	WEEKS ON CHART	PEAK POS.
1	NEW		1	SOUNDTRACK HBO DIGITAL EX/ABKCO	BIG LITTLE LIES: MUSIC FROM THE HBO LIMITED SERIES		1
2	1	1	47	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	2	1
3	NEW		1	BOB DYLAN COLUMBIA 541349*	TRIPPLICATE		3
4	NEW		1	AIMEE MANN SUPEREGO 041* (042)	MENTAL ILLNESS		4
5	2	5	52	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA		1
6	NEW		1	RODNEY CROWELL NEW WEST 6354* (5131)	CLOSE TIES		6
7	NEW		1	THE MAVERICKS MONO MUNDO 002*/THIRTY TIGERS	BRAND NEW DAY		7
8	4	6	88	ED SHEERAN ELEKTRA 530433*/AG		+	2
9	6	10	93	HOZIER RUBYWORKS 30996*/COLUMBIA	HOZIER		1
10	8	8	8	RAG'N'BONE MAN BEST LAID PLANS 539854*/COLUMBIA	HUMAN		4

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by Nielsen Music, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2017, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

billboard COUNTRY
STREAMING SONGS

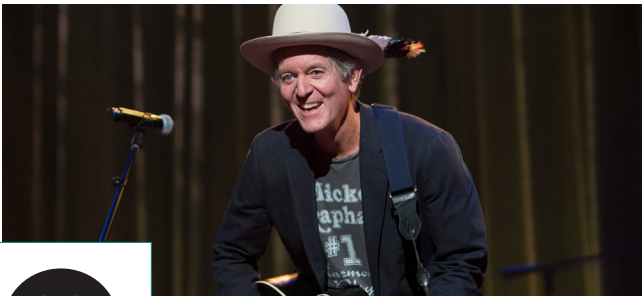
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	WEEKS ON CHART	PEAK POS.
1	1	9	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD SAM HUNT		1
2	2	11	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BRETT YOUNG		1
3	4	18	DIRT ON MY BOOTS JON PARDI		1
4	5	80	DIE A HAPPY MAN THOMAS RHETT		1
5	6	49	H.O.L.Y. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE		1
6	3	12	HURRICANE LUKE COMBS		1
7	7	29	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN		1
8	12	6	THE FIGHTER KEITH URBAN FEAT. CARRIE UNDERWOOD		1
9	8	75	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON		1
10	10	12	THE WEEKEND BRANTLEY GILBERT		1
11	9	32	MAY WE ALL FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. TIM MCGRAW		1
12	14	6	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. BACKSTREET BOYS		1
13	11	9	ANY O' BARSTOOL JASON ALDEAN		1
14	13	4	HOMETOWN GIRL JOSH TURNER		1
15	16	12	BLACK DIERKS BENTLEY		1
16	15	23	BETTER MAN LITTLE BIG TOWN		1
17	17	88	BREAK UP IN A SMALL TOWN SAM HUNT		1
18	NEW		CRAVING YOU THOMAS RHETT FEAT. MAREN MORRIS		1
19	18	135	PLAY IT AGAIN LUKE BRYAN		1
20	20	5	FAST LUKE BRYAN		1
21	21	119	TAKE YOUR TIME SAM HUNT		1
22	25	36	MIDDLE OF A MEMORY COLESWINDELL		1
23	24	3	HOW NOT TO DAN + SHAY		1
24	RE-ENTRY		HOUSE PARTY SAM HUNT		1
25	23	122	BOTTOMS UP BRANTLEY GILBERT		1

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by Nielsen Music. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/charts. Copyright 2017, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

billboard COUNTRY
DIGITAL SONG SALES

STREAMING & SALES
DATA COMPILED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	WEEKS ON CHART	PEAK POS.
1	1	10	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD SAM HUNT		1
2	NEW		CRAVING YOU THOMAS RHETT FEAT. MAREN MORRIS		1
3	5	14	THE FIGHTER KEITH URBAN FEAT. CARRIE UNDERWOOD		1
4	RE-ENTRY		TIN MAN MIRANDA LAMBERT		1
5	13	11	YOU LOOK GOOD LADY ANTEBELLUM		1
6	2	2	SPEAK TO A GIRL TIM MCGRAW & FAITH HILL		1
7	3	27	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BRETT YOUNG		1
8	8	9	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. BACKSTREET BOYS		1
9	9	38	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN		1
10	4	28	DIRT ON MY BOOTS JON PARDI		1
11	RE-ENTRY		BACK TO GOD REBA MCENTIRE & LAUREN DAIGLE		1
12	6	19	HURRICANE LUKE COMBS		1
13	7	25	BETTER MAN LITTLE BIG TOWN		1
14	NEW		IT AIN'T MY FAULT BROTHERS OSBORNE		1
15	12	11	FAST LUKE BRYAN		1
16	17	15	BLACK DIERKS BENTLEY		1
17	24	3	NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART OLD DOMINION		1
18	RE-ENTRY		FLATLINER COLE SWINDELL FEAT. DIERKS BENTLEY		1
19	18	12	ANY O' BARSTOOL JASON ALDEAN		1
20	RE-ENTRY		PLAY IT AGAIN LUKE BRYAN		1
21	RE-ENTRY		MAKE YOU MISS ME SAM HUNT		1
22	RE-ENTRY		GIRL CRUSH LITTLE BIG TOWN		1
23	RE-ENTRY		HAPPY PEOPLE LITTLE BIG TOWN		1
24	NEW		I COULD USE A LOVE SONG MAREN MORRIS		1
25	RE-ENTRY		YEAH BOY KELSEA BALLERINI		1



28

RODNEY CROWELL

Close Ties

The new LP from the veteran singer-songwriter-producer includes features from **Sheryl Crow** and **Rosanne Cash**. Crowell's 15th entry on Top Country Albums arrives at No. 28, earning 6,000 equivalent albums. It also debuts at No. 6 on Americana/Folk Albums.

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

Maren Morris' Resilient Turn On 'I Could Use A Love Song'

It's a winner that was born at Losers, and that's not just the tequila talking.

Maren Morris' third single — “I Could Use a Love Song,” which Columbia Nashville released to radio via PlayMPE on March 13 — is both discouraged and hopeful, a song that finds a woman trying to shift her half-empty glass to half full. It's a complex rumination about an emotional crossroad where one chooses between despair and resilience.

“It's just about trying to remain optimistic [regarding] a very complicated subject,” says Morris, “when you're single and you want to be cynical and fight-through that, trying to hold the belief that love is not this foreign, cheesy concept.”

Cynicism was in the air when Morris rolled into the Music Row office of songwriter **Jimmy Robbins** (“Think a Little Less,” “Lights Come On”) in the fall of 2015 for an appointment with co-writer **Laura Veltz** (“Drunk Last Night”). All three were exhausted, and Veltz got delayed when she was pulled over for a traffic violation on the way.

“It wasn't even like a fun one,” she says. “I wish it was like a speeding ticket. My registration was out of date or something like that, and the guy was kind of a turkey, and I was in a crummy mood pretty much upon arrival. Luckily, everyone was kind of on my page.”

The mood was not conducive to writing, and it spurred a question: Would it be horribly inappropriate to just chuck writing for a bit and get midday drinks at Losers Bar & Grill? Tequila won out, and they walked across the street.

At the time, Morris was in the final stages of assembling her debut album, *Hero*, and in the course of conversation, her co-writers asked what she might need to bring the project to a close. Her response was simple: “I could use a love song.”

They all recognized that the phrase was a viable title, and with the bar music blaring in the background, they focused on the lyrical arc of the song, logging key lines and phrases on their smartphones. The story starts, naturally, in a bar, with the protagonist recognizing that the idea of meeting someone new at a club doesn't hold the same sense of possibility as it once did. It progresses through several other scenarios that have lost their sense of romantic promise. That's where the “I Could Use a Love Song” title came in — the right ballad was the perfect reminder for the character that a stable relationship still might be in the cards.

“We didn't want the person in the story, who was obviously Maren, to have given up on love,” says Robbins. “What's funny is knowing her now, because this was pre-**Ryan [Hurd]**. She doesn't need a love song now.” (Morris' boyfriend Hurd released his own debut EP on April 7.)

Once they headed back toward Robbins' office and got away from the club's background music, the sonics of “I Could Use a Love Song” became clear. “We were singing the melody by the time we were walking back,” says Veltz. “The song kind of wanted to be written.”

Robbins found a simple instrumental hook on acoustic guitar, and Morris began shaping the chorus' melody, hitting a subtly unique note at the height of the melody in that section's opening line.

“The chorus melody, it was one of the first things Maren sang, and it just killed me,” says Robbins. “She goes to a note that I wouldn't have thought to go to. It's like a half step higher than what you would expect.”

The tune took yet another turn at the bridge, ping-ponging melodically as

the singer clings more desperately to hope than at any other point in the song: “Give me a sign or a rhyme or a reason / Just something that I can believe in.”

“I love that melody, and I love those words, and I love the fact that it's asking someone rather than just telling a story,” says Veltz. “It's asking God or the universe, ‘Tell me it's real so I don't run out of hope here.’ I love that bridge. It's one of my favorite things to be a part of.”

Within an hour of returning to the office, they were finished writing “I Could Use a Love Song,” thanks in part to the liquid encouragement from Losers.

“I had never written a song having a little buzz before,” says Morris. “I had always been sober writing, but you know, having that little tequila just got rid of our filters, and it allowed us to be straight from the heart, which is hard to do.”

Morris gave a buzzed rendition for the demo and pulled together appropriately biting harmonies, and the three headed off to Big Yellow Dog Music for a party to celebrate Morris' first EP.

The demo was such a well-developed road map that Morris' producer, **busbee (Lady Antebellum, Keith Urban)**, needed to make only nuanced alterations in the final recording. “I felt like it could be more haunting,” he recalls.

Busbee used Morris' tipsy vocals from the demo as the starting point, playing the bass and building programming around it. Then he sent the tracks to drummer **Aaron Sterling** and guitarist **Derek Wells**, who added some melancholy textures.

“It sounds really easy, but this was actually a tricky one to get right,” says busbee.

Morris, in fact, reigned him in even further when he started sending her versions of the finished product.

“The first mix he sent back to me was close to what it is now, but it was feeling a little too positive-sounding,” she says. “What I loved about Jimmy's work tape is how simple it was. It was really vulnerable and heartbreaking, and I didn't want it to become a really soaring anthem-type song.”

Busbee says that Morris recorded a new lead part and thick harmonies with relative ease. But the song has a huge range, and finding the sweet spot between its technical and emotional aspects was something of a challenge for her.

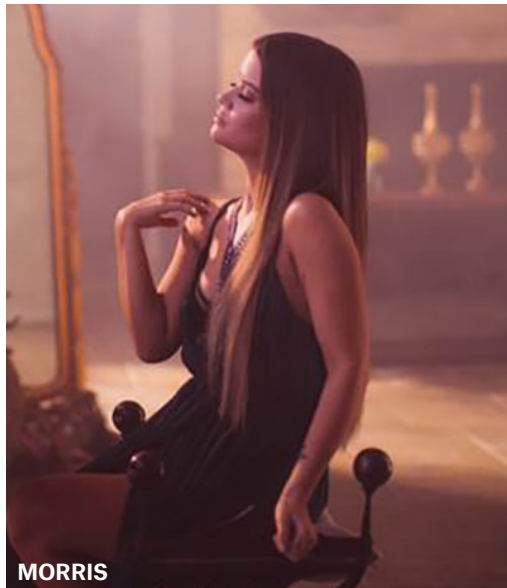
“It's a really hard song to sing,” notes Morris. “It's so low in the verses, and then it gets really high in the chorus. To retain that pain and vulnerability, but then also have hope that comes at the very end, I had to get into a certain head space where I could try to replicate the head space I was in the day that we wrote it.”

“I Could Use a Love Song” emerged as an audience favorite once *Hero* was released in June 2016, with crowds singing along to its resilient, hopeful lyrics. That made it an easy choice for a single, and it provided a new texture to Morris' public persona.

“Over time, it's become one of my favorites to sing, because it's just a really vulnerable side that people haven't seen of me,” she says.

It moves to No. 36 in its third week on Hot Country Songs and No. 39 in its fourth week on Country Airplay, quietly underscoring why songwriters devote so much attention to romance as a topic in the first place.

“A really good love song is that reminder that it's not unattainable to fall in love again and it's not cliché, or it's not going to be like the last time,” says Morris. “Sometimes you just have to hear a good love song to remind you it's still a possibility.” ●



MORRIS

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

Praise The Lord (And Pass The Bourbon): Post-Accident, Kelly Ford Feels Lucky To Be Alive



Although she's still reeling from a car accident that nearly claimed her life and the lives of her radio co-workers earlier this year, **Kelly Ford** is back on the air, as feisty and funny as ever, but with a new perspective on life, work and the people she considers family. And now, she has a big honor to look forward to. Ford, who co-hosts Cumulus Media's nationally syndicated *Ty, Kelly & Chuck Morning Show*, will be recognized with a prestigious Gracie Award by the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation at a June ceremony in Beverly Hills.

It's an honor she cherishes. As the mother of a teenage daughter (coincidentally also named **Gracie**), Ford has been an advocate for women in broadcasting throughout her career, which included stints at **KYGO** Denver and **WNSH** New York before her move to Nashville in January 2016.

The Kentucky native, who calls bourbon her "spirit animal," is glad to now be close to home. She has settled into her job and is focusing on raising her daughter (she also has one son in college and another planning to attend law school in the fall), as well as a pen full of chickens she has given country music names like Hennifer Nettles, Loretta Hen and Chick Wick (the latter named for her morning-show partner, country singer **Chuck Wicks**). Reba Cluckentire, sadly, fell prey to a bobcat.

At a time when the industry is starting to lose its top tier of female talent like **WMIL** Milwaukee's **Karen Dalessandro**, who retired March 9, and **WYCD** Detroit's **Linda Lee**, who died March 31, Ford has emerged as one of the most high-profile women in country radio: *Ty, Kelly & Chuck* is heard on 50-plus stations.

But the industry nearly lost her, too. While driving to New Orleans on Feb. 27 to participate in a Mardi Gras event for an affiliate, the car that Ford, Wicks, co-host **Ty Bentli**, and producer **Glenn Johnson** were traveling in hydroplaned during a rainstorm and rolled over twice before landing in a water-filled ditch. The car was pancaked, and all four ended up hospitalized, although only Wicks sustained serious injuries. He's back on the air now, too, while recovering from a fractured skull and cervical vertebrae. Ford, who was in the front passenger seat trying to Snapchat a photo of the rain when the accident happened, sustained a head injury as well as airbag bruises to her face.

The accident was so serious that Ford says she's "truly shocked" that they all lived. "It really was one of those 'holy cow' perspective moments where you go,

'Wow, everything can change in a second.' I can still see the crash in slow motion and hear Ty saying, 'Is everybody OK?'" And while she says the accident has made her want to slow down a little, it also made her feel "appreciated" because of the huge volume of sweet messages she received afterward from people in the industry.

One recent morning, while driving herself to work in the rain, Ford had what she calls "a true post-traumatic stress disorder moment." But she says the accident has fused the team — which has only been working together since last fall — like family, although she jokes, "We could have picked a more effective way to bond." On a more serious note, she says the accident allowed her "to see what people are made of" and says of her team, "They're all good people."

Bentli, who joined the show in September to replace former host **Blair Garner**, has quickly emerged as the "favorite guy" Ford has ever worked with. "I respect him immensely. I respect his work ethic. He knows himself really well. He stays true to who he is, and he works really hard." Similarly, she calls Wicks "an amazing talent" who manages to keep one foot in radio and the other in his career as a country artist, and do both well. His latter career gives the program "a perspective that no other radio show has," she says.

But not every male co-worker has been a winner. Like many women, Ford had to deal with moments of casual sexism in the early part of her career. During contract negotiations in which she asked for a raise, a male boss responded, "Your husband has a good job. You don't really need that." A different manager once wrote in her job performance evaluation that she was "a really good mother."

"Empowering women, especially now, is something I feel really strongly about," says Ford, "It's just not me to be the giggly girl in the background," she says of her on-air persona. "It's really important for me to be a strong role model and to be courageous and not afraid to say things, but also to be thoughtful."

Her advice to young female radio personalities is: "Find people, particularly women, and ask them to root for you. I tell my kids this, too. When you ask someone to root for you, most times they will." And one day — although not any time soon — she plans to tell those future female radio stars, "Come visit me in the old broadcasters home. Bring me Jell-O." ●



"Empowering women, especially now, is something I feel really strongly about." — Ford

billboard Country Indicator

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	PLAYS		AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK
1	3	20	ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	4819	+119	7.581
2	1	35	ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	4649	-247	7.580
3	4	28	YEAH BOY Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	4520	+162	6.932
4	6	10	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	4401	+435	6.643
5	5	45	HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville	Josh Turner	4365	+330	6.972
6	2	19	FAST Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	3796	-939	6.757
7	7	36	THE WEEKEND Valory	Brantley Gilbert	3755	+135	5.849
8	10	31	HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	3669	+297	5.680
9	11	23	BLACK Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	3619	+273	5.626
10	8	15	BAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville	Kenny Chesney	3495	+42	5.189
11	12	14	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG	Brett Young	3100	+261	4.711
12	13	40	IF ITOLD YOU Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	2977	+150	4.601
13	14	12	YOU LOOK GOOD Capitol Nashville	Lady Antebellum	2863	+97	4.221
14	15	28	HOW NOTTO Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	2846	+177	4.465
15	16	9	THE FIGHTER Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Feat. Carrie Underwood	2762	+253	4.047
16	17	14	YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	2651	+187	3.988
17	18	36	THERE'S A GIRL 19/Republic/Dot	Trent Hamon	2408	+140	3.583
18	19	13	GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG	Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys	2347	+149	3.410
19	20	10	MY OLD MAN Southern Ground/Elektra/WAR	Zac Brown Band	2212	+132	3.403
20	21	9	EVERYTIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	2175	+182	3.255
21	27	3	SPEAK TO A GIRL McGraw/Arista Nashville	Tim McGraw & Faith Hill	1924	+526	3.060
22	22	24	SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory	Justin Moore	1909	+91	2.465
23	24	13	FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	1812	+168	2.535
24	25	28	MY GIRL Curb	Dylan Scott	1764	+195	2.519
25	26	13	IT AIN'T MY FAULT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	1526	+119	1.789
26	29	5	NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	1269	+129	1.825
27	33	6	DRINKIN' PROBLEM Big Machine	Midland	1259	+267	1.620
28	28	7	SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	1212	+35	1.568
29	30	20	DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury	Billy Currington	1131	+57	1.424
30	31	29	FOR HER Big Loud	Chris Lane	1091	+53	1.474

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		WUSJ	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	WRWD	Waco, Texas	WACO
	WSTH	Janesville, Wis.	WJVL	Rapid City, S.D.	KOUT	Wausau, Wis.	WDEZ
Cookeville, Tenn.	WGSO	Jonesboro, Ark.	KDXY	Rockford, Ill.	WXXQ	Wheeling, W. Va.	WOVK
Dothan, Ala.	WTVY	Joplin, Mo.	KIXQ	Rocky Mount, N.C.	WDWG	Williamsport, Pa.	WILQ
Duluth, Minn.	KKCB	Kalamazoo, Mich.	WNWN	Saginaw, Mich.	WCEN	Yakima, Wash.	KXDD
Eau Claire, Wis.	WAXX	Kalispell, Mont.	KDBR	St. Cloud, Minn.	KZPK	Youngstown, Ohio	WOXK
Elizabeth City, N.C.	WRSF	Kingmah, Ariz.	KFLG	Salina, Kan.	KYEZ		WWGY
Erie, Pa.	WTWF	Lafayette, Ind.	WKOA	Salisbury, Md.	WKTT	Westwood One	HOT COUNTRY
Eugene, Ore.	KKNU	Laredo, Texas	KRRG	San Angelo, Texas	KGKL	Music Choice	MAINSTREAM COUNTRY
Evansville, Ind.	WKDQ	Lansing, Mich.	WITL	San Luis Obispo, Calif.	KKJG	Sirius XM	TODAY'S COUNTRY
Fargo, N.D.	KBVB	Laurel, Miss.	WBBN				THE HIGHWAY

billboard Country Indicator

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	PLAYS		AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK
31	32	21	OUTTA STYLE BIG Label	Aaron Watson	1076	+67	1.342
32	41	2	CRAVING YOU Valory ★★ Most Increased Plays/Most Added ★★	Thomas Rhett Feat. Maren Morris	1064	+643	1.328
33	34	10	A GIRL LIKE YOU Mercury	Easton Corbin	669	+14	0.824
34	38	3	ASK ME HOW I KNOW Pearl	Garth Brooks	661	+218	0.809
35	35	7	MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	629	+31	0.718
36	37	4	I COULD USE A LOVE SONG Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	589	+111	0.727
37	40	4	HAPPY PEOPLE Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	549	+114	0.699
38	36	20	RING ON EVERY FINGER Reviver	LOCASH	532	-6	0.677
39	42	5	CALIFORNIA B\$R/New Revolution	Big & Rich	495	+74	0.725
40	NEW		TIN MAN RCA Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Miranda Lambert	472	+391	0.599
41	39	20	ME TOO Keith Walker	Keith Walker	446	+10	0.363
42	45	5	SMALL TOWN BOY Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	429	+76	0.539
43	44	19	THE WAY ITALK Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	389	+14	0.395
44	43	17	REBOUND Cold River/New Revolution	Drew Baldridge Feat. Emily Weisband	378	-36	0.339
45	46	11	MISSING Warner Bros./WMN	William Michael Morgan	331	+15	0.590
46	47	11	MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN Dot/BMLG	Drake White	319	+13	0.474
47	48	5	BACK TO GOD Rockin' R/Nash Icon/Valory	Reba McEntire	297	+9	0.334
48	52	2	ROUND HERE BUZZ EMI Nashville	Eric Church	287	+87	0.310
49	49	5	GREATEST LOVE STORY Arista Nashville	LANCO	282	+19	0.214
50	51	9	WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE Arista Nashville	Seth Ennis	262	+33	0.186
51	50	7	JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE COUNTRY Sea Gayle	CJ Solar	250	+15	0.244
52	53	5	ALL THE BEER IN ALABAMA Amerimonte/Grassroots	Shane Owens	198	+15	0.221
53	56	3	PREACHIN' TO THE CHOIR BMLG	A Thousand Horses	178	+22	0.177
54	54	5	FIGURE IT OUT Reznam/Nine North	Sarah Dunn Band	176	+15	0.189
55	55	6	YOU'LL ACCOMP'NY ME Warner Bros./WAR	Frankie Ballard	175	+18	0.187
56	NEW		GOOD COMPANY RCA Nashville	Jake Owen	125	+55	0.209
57	NEW		EVERY LITTLE THING Big Machine	Carly Pearce	125	+30	0.112
58	NEW		WHAT I WANNA BE Black River	Jacob Davis	117	+33	0.130
59	NEW		WHAT IFS Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	117	+24	0.120
60	RE-ENTRY		WHOLE DAMN THING Blaster	Chuck Wicks	106	+27	0.059

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 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) **6**

B

BACK TO GOD ole, BMI/Big Borassa Music, LLC,
BMI/Songs Of Windswept Pacific, BMI/Burn 1 Baby
Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI (D.Davidson,
R.Houser) **30**

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/
N2D Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP (J.T.Harding, A.Mayo,
D.L.Murphy) **21**

BETTER MAN Taylor Swift Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree
Publishing, BMI (T.Swift) **17**

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) **11**

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**

C

CALIFORNIA J Money Music, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud
Crowd, BMI/Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/Victown
Music, BMI (J.D.Rich, R.Clawson, V.McGehee) **49**

CRAVING YOU BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/
Lawnwranglers, ASCAP/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI
(D.M.Barnes, J.Bunetta) **5**

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/
Telemity Productions, BMI/Combustion Engine Music,
ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp.,
ASCAP (R.Akins, J.Frasure, A.Gorley) **3**

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) **41**

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.Duddy,
M.Wystrach, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **34**

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) **29**

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) **8**

THE FIGHTER Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/
Mary Rose Music, BMI/7189 Music Publishing, BMI/BMG
Platinum Songs, BMI (K.Urban, R.busbee) **2**

FLATLINER Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Colden
Railey 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) **20**

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

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) **47**

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)
14

GREATEST LOVE STORY Warner-Tamerlane
Publishing Corp., BMI/Concession 114 Music, BMI/Neon
Cross Music, BMI (B.Lancaster) **45**

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) **22**

H

HAPPY PEOPLE Maps And Records Music, BMI/
Creative Pulse Music, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/
Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Carnival Beats, ASCAP (L.
McKenna, H.Whitters) **40**

HOMETOWN GIRL Dntown DLJ Songs, ASCAP/
Son Of Ron Songs, ASCAP/Diver Dann Music, ASCAP/
International Dog Music, BMI (M.Beeson, D.Tashian) **10**

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) **19**

HURRICANE 50 Egg, BMI/Straight Dimes, BMI/
Big Machine Music, BMI/Intune Publishing, BMI/BMG
Platinum Songs, BMI (L.Combs, T.Phillips, T.Archer) **7**

I

I COULD USE A LOVE SONG International
Dog Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs Jimmy Robbins,
ASCAP/Jammy Rabbins Music, ASCAP/Extraordinary
Alien Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing
Corp., BMI/Oh Denise Publishing, BMI/Big Music Machine,
BMI (M.Morris, J.Robbins, L.Veltz) **36**

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/Calville Publishing, ASCAP/Brown Hound
Publishing, BMI/Kyle Schlienger Productions, ASCAP/Big
Spaces Music, BMI/Bootheel Music, BMI/Big Mosquito
Music, BMI/Amplified Admin., BMI (B.Young, T.Reeve,
K.Schlienger, T.Tomlinson) **4**

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) **28**

M

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) **44**

MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU WB Music Corp.,
ASCAP/Point Break Publishing, ASCAP/Music Of The
Coun, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.,
BMI/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Cornman, BMI/
Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing,
ASCAP/D Soul Music, ASCAP/capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP
(K.Moore, S.L.Olsen, J.Miller, D.A.Garcia) **42**

MY GIRL Curb Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River,
ASCAP (D.Scott, J.Kerr) **24**

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**

N

NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART
Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/
Kobalt Songs Publishing America, Inc., ASCAP/ReHits
Music, Inc., ASCAP/Smacktown Music, ASCAP/Smack
Blue, LLC, SESAC/Unfair Entertainment, ASCAP/Big Deal
Notes, ASCAP/Wooden Ships, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane
Publishing Corp., BMI/Telemetry Productions, BMI/Songs
Of Roc Nation Music, BMI (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, B.Tursi,
J.Frasure) **25**

R

RING ON EVERY FINGER Big Machine Music,
BMI/Big Yellow Dog Music, ASCAP/Major Bob Music, Inc.,
ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Crickets On The
Line, BMI (Thomas Rhett, J.Kear, J.Frasure) **46**

ROAD LESS TRAVELED Warner-Tamerlane
Publishing Corp., BMI/Lylas Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music,
Inc., BMI/Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/MTrain Music,
ASCAP (Lauren Alaina, J.Frasure, M.Trainor) **12**

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) **33**

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.Ottob) **32**

SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Sony/ATV
Countryside, BMI/Paris Not France Music, BMI/Sony/ATV
Tree Publishing, BMI/Tomdougasmusic, BMI (B.Edredge,
T.Douglas) **37**

SPEAK TO A GIRL BMG Rights Management (UK)
Ltd., PRS/You Want How Much Of What Publishing, PRS/
Major 3rd Music Publishing Ltd, PRS/Big Deal Beats,
BMI/Brodsky Spensive Publishing, BMI/Nice Life, BMI
(Shy Carter, D.Gibson, J.Sparqu) **13**

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 Rabbins
Music, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/
Oh Denise Publishing, BMI (T.Harmon, J.Robbins, L.Veltz) **31**

TIN MAN Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog
Publishing, BMI/Beat Up Ford Publishing, BMI/BMG
Platinum Songs, BMI/SWBMBGMI, BMI/Lonesome Vinyl
Music, BMI (M.Lambert, J.Ingram, J.R.Stewart) **15**

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) **43**

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

WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS Sony/ATV Tree
Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Lambert) **38**

WHAT IF'S Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown
Music, BMI/Smacksters Music, ASCAP/Smack Blue, LLC,
SESAC/Kobalt Group Music Publishing, SESAC/WB Music
Corp., ASCAP/Freshy Music, ASCAP/We-Volve Music,
ASCAP (K.Brown, M.McGinn, J.M.Schmidt) **39**

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

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) **48**

Y

YEAH BOY Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/KNB Music,
ASCAP/Songs Of Blue Guitar, BMI (K.Ballerini, F.G.Whitehead,
K.Timmer) **16**

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) **9**

YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Songs Of Universal,
Inc., BMI/Morendorffin Music, BMI/Super Big Music,
ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (A.Dorff, J.Singleton) **26**

COUNTRY

58 Years Ago 'Lightning' Struck For George Jones

In 1959, "White Lightning" became the legend's first No. 1

On April 13, 1959, **George Jones** topped *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart for the first time, as "White Lightning" bolted 3-1 for its first of five weeks at the summit. Jones, then 28, had charted eight prior top 10s on the *Billboard* country charts, starting with his 1955 debut, "Why Baby Why."

"Lightning" was written by DJ-musician **J.P. Richardson**, better known as **The Big Bopper**. He was killed in a plane crash with pop stars **Buddy Holly** and **Ritchie Valens**, as well as pilot **Roger Peterson**, on Feb. 3, 1959, aka "The Day the Music Died."

"Lightning" sparked a run of 13 Hot Country Songs No. 1s for The Possum among his 70 top 10s. In 1992, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Jones—who was born in Saratoga, Texas—passed away in Nashville on April 26, 2013, at 81. He had performed his last concert on April 6 of that year in Knoxville, Tenn. At Jones' funeral on May 2, speakers ranged from former first lady **Laura Bush** to country stars **Kenny Chesney** and **Alan Jackson**, the latter of whom sang Jones' iconic 1980 No. 1, "He Stopped Loving Her Today."
—JIM ASKER

THREE WEEKS	TWO WEEKS AGO	ONE WEEK AGO	THIS WEEK	TITLE	Artist, Company, Record Number	WEEKS ON CHART
7	4	3	1	WHITE LIGHTNING	George Jones, Mercury 71406	6
2	2	1	2	WHEN IT'S SPRINGTIME IN ALASKA	Johnny Horton, Columbia 41308	14
1	1	2	3	DON'T TAKE YOUR GUNS TO TOWN	Johnny Cash, Columbia 41315	13
10	8	5	4	I'M IN LOVE AGAIN	George Morgan, Columbia 41318	9
9	9	8	5	MOMMY FOR A DAY	Kitty Wells, Decca 30804	7
3	3	4	6	WHO SADES?		

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

Jones appeared in the movie *Country Music on Broadway* in 1964.