

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com

Operation Song Fights To Repair The Minds Of American Veterans



When a group of songwriters performs “The Last Monday in May” during a Salute the Troops edition of the Grand Ole Opry on May 23, the song will provide a miniature history lesson. Told by the ghosts of soldiers, it touches on at least six American conflicts, from the Civil War to the War in Iraq.

But behind that song is an ongoing program in which veterans mine their own personal histories to grapple with battle memories that continue to haunt them, keeping them emotionally trapped as they maneuver through civilian life. Songwriter **Bob Regan** (“Thinkin’ About You,” “Your Everything”) founded Operation Song five years ago after several tours with a group of songwriters who played for American troops on duty overseas. Regan, who earned a psychology degree that he says he has never used professionally, saw the connection music was making with the enlistees and guessed that the opportunity to create songs about their expe-

periences might help some vets rationalize the irrational.

“Songwriters are armchair therapists,” reasons Regan. “We sit in a room and tell each other our trials and tribulations and joys and woes, and then we try to make them make sense in



Operation Song co-founder Regan (left) will perform with veterans Sells (center) and Wagner at the start of the 2017 Memorial Day Parade in front of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.



TYLER FARR

I Should Go To Church Sometime

AIRPLAY NOW!

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a song.”

He seems to have hit on something. Operation Song now conducts six on-going weekly programs in four Tennessee cities — Nashville, Murfreesboro, Clarksville and Chattanooga — and another batch of songwriting retreats widens the sphere of influence to Fort Benning, Ga., and Pensacola, Fla.

The idea is simple. Enrollees commit to an eight-10 week course that functions a bit like group therapy. They learn some fundamentals about songwriting and talk about their wartime experiences in a group. Before the course concludes, they work with a professional songwriter to compose a title that expresses their own individual story.

Many participants are reticent to speak much during the first few weeks, but by the end, they’re often expressing details from their service that they’ve never shared before.

“Something happens when somebody is telling you a story and you can go, ‘Hey, wait a minute, how does this sound?’” says Regan. “You play it back to them with chords. It’s very disarming, and it opens people up.”

Regan, who is officially retired, is extremely dedicated. He runs the program for free and hints that he spends more than 50 hours a week on it, conducting sessions with veterans and finding songwriters willing to share their skill set. Songwriters **Don Goodman** (“Ol’ Red,” “Angels Among Us”) and **Steve Dean** (“Watching You,” “Southern Star”) are core contributors, overseeing a weekly group at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. In all, roughly 50 songwriters have been paid to participate, including **Charlie Black** (“A Little Good News,” “Right on the Money”), **Kerry Kurt Phillips** (“Down on the Farm,” “I Don’t Need This Rockin’ Chair”), **Wil Nance** (“She’s Everything,” “Round About Way”) and contemporary Christian composer **Regie Hamm**.

“I tell the writers in this role, they’re about two-thirds therapist,” says Regan. “When it comes to being the one-third songwriter, you’ve got to be good, and you’ve got to work fast.”

Operation Song combats an issue that’s growing in the national consciousness. Twenty former servicemen and women commit suicide every day, according to a study of [2014 data by the Veterans Administration](#). That rate is nearly one-third higher than in 2001. The VA also indicates that [as many as 20 percent](#) of veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder in a given year.

“Everybody who has been in an IED [improvised explosive device] blast or around repeated ordinance firings — one huge concussion or medium concussions — there’s been a tremendous amount of brain injuries,” says Regan. “So combine PTSD with traumatic brain injury, and your emotions and your experiences get scrambled. I have no clinical evidence, but this is what it seems like to me: You might be agitated, and you don’t know where to put the pieces. You have the puzzle piece, but the puzzle is just jumbled up.”

That’s where writing songs about their experiences and emotions can make a difference.

“The first phase of writing a song with somebody is just getting the puzzle pieces thrown out onto the table,” says Regan. “They may not be able to see what the picture is, but songwriters make a living looking at a story and finding a thread that runs through it.”

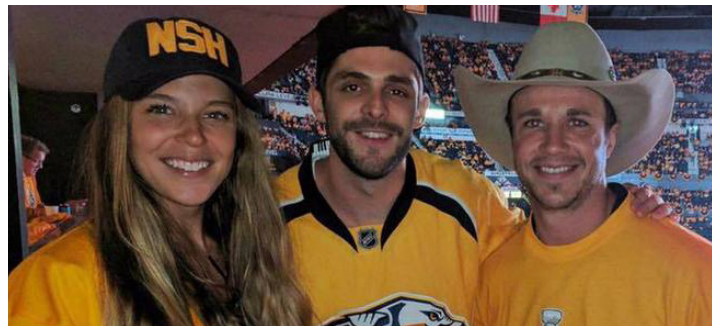
Therapists refer many of the participants, and for some veterans, the program works better than visits with a psychologist. One graduate quoted on the [Operation Song website](#) called it “therapy on steroids.” Another said, “Songwriting has done more for me in two months than the shrink did in two years.”

That happens, theorizes Regan, because music links a person’s intellect and emotions.

“Music has resolution to it,” he says. “It creates a resolution in that little three-and-a-half minutes, instead of rattling around in somebody’s head in random outbursts. Now it kind of lives out in a little story.”

Regan will perform two songs from the program on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Memorial Day with Operation Song alumni **Ian Wagner** and **Jimmy Ray Sells**. Meanwhile, Regan is hoping to find a publisher or administration company willing to help out. Though earning money is not the point of the exercise, the songs are treated as commercial ventures, and the veterans get paid royalties when appropriate (“The Last Monday in May” has made about \$150). The checks may be small, but if the veterans frame them, they can serve as a makeshift diploma for their work in the class. It’s a visible sign that they’ve been able to make a change in their inner lives.

“It’s mostly made me grateful,” says Regan of Operation Song. “There’s some people walking around with horrible memories and guilt and every emotion you can imagine, and they’re really struggling with them sometimes 50 or 60 years later.”



Thomas Rhett joined Professional Bull Riders competitor Cody Nance at the Nashville Predators’ May 18 NHL playoff game against the Anaheim Ducks at the Bridgestone Arena. From left: Rhett’s wife, Lauren Akins; Rhett; and Nance.



Songwriter Liz Rose (“Girl Crush”) celebrated the release of an album, *Swimming Alone*, with a BMI-sponsored party on May 17 at The Country in Nashville. From left: songwriter Lori McKenna (“Humble and Kind”), Rose, Little Big Town’s Karen Fairchild and songwriter Hillary Lindsey (“God, Your Mama, and Me”).



New EMI recording artist Brandon Lay opened for Scotty McCreery during a May 17 show for KRTY San Jose at the Rodeo Club. From left: KRTY GM Nate Deaton, Lay and KRTY vp sales Tina Ferguson.



Walker McGuire paid a visit to WPOC Baltimore as the Wheelhouse duo continues its introductory radio-promotion tour. From left are duo member Jordan Walker, WPOC music director Jeff St. Pierre, iHeartMedia/Baltimore senior vp of programming Jeff Wyatt and duo member Johnny McGuire.

**CONGRATS LUKE!
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DEBUT MULTI-WEEK**



#1

SMASH

THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO!

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

Zac Brown Band At 'Home' At No. 1; Sam Hunt, Luke Combs Still Reign



Welcome Home (Southern Ground/Elektra/Atlantic Group), the fifth full-length album from **Zac Brown Band**, bows at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart (dated June 3), marking the group's fourth leader on the list. It starts with 146,000 equivalent album units, with 139,000 in pure sales, in its opening week (ending May 18), according to Nielsen Music.

On the all-genre *Billboard* 200, *Welcome Home* enters at No. 2, marking the band's fifth top 10 on the survey.

All four of ZBB's Top Country Albums No. 1s have launched at the summit. The group's last studio effort, *Jekyll + Hyde*, bowed at No. 1 with 228,000 units (214,000 in pure sales) on the chart dated May 16, 2015. *Uncaged* arrived atop the July 28, 2012-dated list with 234,000 sold, and *You Get What You Give* opened at No. 1 on Oct. 9, 2010, with 153,000 sold.

The group's breakthrough album, *The Foundation*, started at No. 3 on the Top Country Albums chart dated Dec. 6, 2008, with 44,000 sold. It rose to its No. 2 peak on the March 28, 2009-dated survey.

The 10-song *Welcome Home*, produced by **Dave Cobb**, marks a sonic return to the band's more organic, acoustic-based sound established on *The Foundation*. The new set's lead single, "My Old Man" (written by Brown, **Niko Moon** and **Ben Simonetti**), rises 22-17 on Hot Country Songs, marking its first week in the top 20 since it ranked at its No. 10 high on Feb. 25 following its first week of activity. The song bullets at its No. 18 peak on Country Airplay, up 2 percent to 15.8 million in audience.

On May 12, ZBB kicked off its 2017 *Welcome Home* Tour in Atlanta, where the band is based.

'**BACK' AT ONE** **Sam Hunt**, who performed his latest single, "Body Like a Back Road" (MCA Nashville/Universal Music Group Nashville), on the live ABC broadcast of the *Billboard* Music Awards on May 21, extends the track's domination on the Hot Country Songs chart (which blends airplay, streaming

and sales data) to a 15th week.

The song, from Hunt's upcoming sophomore full-length album (whose release date has not yet been announced), increases 9 percent to 16.7 million U.S. streams and likewise tops Country Streaming Songs for a 15th week. It rules Country Digital Song Sales for a 16th frame, declining 2 percent to 47,000 downloads sold. (It ranks at No. 3 on Country Airplay, down 3 percent to 42.4 million in audience, after three weeks at No. 1.)

"Back Road" is now the sixth-longest-reigning No. 1 in the Hot Country Songs chart's 58-year history. **Florida Georgia Line's** "Cruise" set the record with 24 weeks on top in 2012 and 2013. Hunt's hit passes three 14-week No. 1s: **Jim Reeves'** "He'll Have to Go" (1960), **Hank Locklin's** "Please Help Me, I'm Falling" (1960) and **Jason Aldean's** "Burnin' It Down" (2014).



ZAC BROWN BAND

'**HURRICANE' STILL AT FULL STRENGTH** **Luke Combs'** "Hurricane" (River House/Columbia Nashville) tops Country Airplay for a second week, decreasing 4 percent to 45.8 million in audience. Still, the song is the first rookie release to reign for multiple weeks since **Florida Georgia Line's** "Cruise" (three weeks, beginning on the chart dated Dec. 15, 2012). The last solo male to lead the list for more than one week with a first entry? **Darius Rucker**, whose "Don't Think I Don't Think About It" dominated for two

weeks starting Oct. 4, 2008.

On Hot Country Songs, "Hurricane" ranks at its No. 3 peak for a fifth consecutive week.

RASCAL FLATTS UPS AIRPLAY TALLY **Rascal Flatts** rolls up its 31st Country Airplay top 10, as "Yours If You Want It" (Big Machine) increases 8 percent to 24 million audience impressions and pushes 12-10. Out of groups that contain three members or more, the trio pads its lead for the most top 10s since the chart began in 1990; **Alabama** follows with 24. Among all acts, **George Strait** leads with 61 Country Airplay top 10s. ●

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- 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

BRETT YOUNG

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PLATINUM

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RECORDS

CMT MUSIC AWARD NOMINEE

CMT
MUSIC
AWARDS

*2017 BREAKTHROUGH VIDEO
OF THE YEAR*

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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 | 31 | HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville | ★★ No. 1 (2 weeks) ★★ | Luke Combs | 45.845 | -1.777 | 8212 | -217 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 24 | IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG | | Brett Young | 44.542 | +1.281 | 8001 | 319 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 16 | BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville | | Sam Hunt | 42.383 | -1.321 | 7349 | -57 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 28 | BLACK Capitol Nashville | | Dierks Bentley | 41.365 | +2.170 | 7415 | 368 | 3 |
| 5 | 6 | 44 | IF I TOLD YOU Capitol Nashville | | Darius Rucker | 34.716 | +2.370 | 6196 | 356 | 5 |
| 6 | 8 | 34 | HOW NOTTO Warner Bros./WAR | | Dan + Shay | 31.615 | +1.205 | 6052 | 242 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 19 | GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG | Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys | | 28.565 | +0.961 | 5187 | 376 | 8 |
| 8 | 7 | 44 | THE WEEKEND Valory | | Brantley Gilbert | 28.373 | -2.152 | 5650 | -577 | 7 |
| 9 | 10 | 14 | EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN | | Blake Shelton | 26.642 | +1.214 | 4712 | 258 | 9 |
| 10 | 12 | 20 | YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine | | Rascal Flatts | 24.024 | +1.861 | 4386 | 223 | 11 |
| 11 | 13 | 38 | MY GIRL Curb | | Dylan Scott | 23.986 | +2.131 | 4475 | 275 | 10 |
| 12 | 11 | 15 | THE FIGHTER Hit Red/Capitol Nashville | Keith Urban Featuring Carrie Underwood | | 23.671 | -0.340 | 4318 | -11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 8 | CRAVING YOU Valory | Thomas Rhett Featuring Maren Morris | | 22.632 | +1.227 | 3898 | 203 | 16 |
| 14 | 15 | 18 | YOU LOOK GOOD Capitol Nashville | | Lady Antebellum | 21.812 | +1.441 | 4170 | 138 | 13 |
| 15 | 17 | 17 | DRINKIN' PROBLEM Big Machine | | Midland | 20.108 | +1.037 | 4049 | 263 | 14 |
| 16 | 16 | 19 | FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN | | Cole Swindell | 19.902 | +0.362 | 4008 | -3 | 15 |
| 17 | 19 | 30 | SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory | | Justin Moore | 17.076 | +1.688 | 3645 | 173 | 17 |
| 18 | 18 | 16 | MY OLD MAN Southern Ground/Elektra/WAR | | Zac Brown Band | 15.781 | +0.253 | 3318 | 11 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 9 | SPEAK TO A GIRL McGraw/Arista Nashville | Tim McGraw & Faith Hill | | 14.212 | +0.144 | 2981 | -35 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 11 | NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART RCA Nashville | ★★ Airpower ★★ | Old Dominion | 13.005 | +1.293 | 2651 | 170 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 26 | DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury | | Billy Currington | 11.811 | +2.163 | 2518 | 324 | 22 |
| 22 | 24 | 19 | IT AIN'T MY FAULT EMI Nashville | | Brothers Osborne | 9.819 | +0.807 | 2596 | 119 | 21 |
| 23 | 23 | 33 | FOR HER Big Loud | | Chris Lane | 9.713 | +0.327 | 2282 | 0 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 14 | MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU MCA Nashville | | Kip Moore | 7.117 | +0.774 | 1890 | 168 | 24 |
| 25 | 38 | 10 | EVERY LITTLE THING Big Machine | ★★ Most Increased Audience/ Most Added ★★ | Carly Pearce | 6.341 | +2.676 | 1412 | 497 | 28 |
| 26 | 26 | 22 | MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN Dot/BMLG | | Drake White | 6.267 | +0.781 | 1382 | 54 | 30 |
| 27 | 27 | 13 | SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN | | Brett Eldredge | 6.237 | +0.899 | 1629 | 72 | 25 |
| 28 | 28 | 11 | SMALL TOWN BOY Broken Bow | | Dustin Lynch | 5.635 | +0.640 | 1538 | 231 | 26 |
| 29 | 29 | 10 | I COULD USE A LOVE SONG Columbia Nashville | | Maren Morris | 5.477 | +0.599 | 1284 | 18 | 32 |
| 30 | 33 | 4 | HEARTACHE ON THE DANCE FLOOR Capitol Nashville | ★★ Breaker ★★ | Jon Pardi | 5.248 | +0.874 | 1161 | 215 | 33 |

BILLBOARD COUNTRY AIRPLAY PANEL – 149 STATIONS

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|---------------------|------|----------------------|--------|--------------------|------|
| Albany, N.Y. | WGNA | Detroit | WDRO | Memphis | WGKX | Rochester, N.Y. | WBEE |
| Albuquerque, N.M. | KBOI | El Paso, Texas | WYCD | Miami | WLFP | Sacramento, Calif. | KBEB |
| Allentown, Pa. | KRST | Ft. Myers, Fla. | KHEY | Milwaukee | WKIS | | KNCI |
| Atlanta | WCTO | | WCKT | Minneapolis | WMIL | | KNTY |
| Augusta, Ga. | WKHX | Ft. Wayne, Ind. | WWGR | Mobile, Ala. | KEYE | St. Louis | KSD |
| Austin, Texas | WUBL | Fresno, Calif. | WQHK | Monmouth/Ocean, N.J. | KMNB | Salt Lake City | WIL |
| Bakersfield, Calif. | WKXC | Grand Rapids, Mich. | KSXS | Monterey, Calif. | WKSJ | | KEGA |
| Baltimore | KASE | Greensboro, N.C. | WOGK | Nashville | WKMY | | KSOP |
| Baton Rouge, La. | KUZZ | Greenville, S.C. | WBCT | | KTOM | San Antonio, Texas | KUBL |
| Birmingham, Ala. | WPOC | Harrisburg, Pa. | WTOR | | WKDF | | KAJA |
| Boise, Idaho | WYNK | Hartford, Conn. | WSSL | | WSIX | | KCYY |
| Boston | WDXB | Houston | WRBT | Nassau, N.Y. | WSM-FM | San Diego | KSON |
| Buffalo, N.Y. | WZZK | Huntsville, Ala. | WVYZ | New Bern, N.C. | WJVC | San Jose, Calif. | KRTY |
| Charleston, S.C. | KIZN | Indianapolis | KILT | New Orleans | WRNS | Santa Rosa, Calif. | KRTO |
| Charlotte, N.C. | WBIW | Jacksonville, Fla. | KKBO | Norfolk, Va. | WNOE | Seattle | KSGO |
| Chattanooga, Tenn. | WKLK | Johnson City, Tenn. | WDRM | Oklahoma City, Okla. | WNSH | Shreveport, La. | KFTG |
| Chicago | WYRK | Kansas City | WFMS | Omaha, Neb. | WGH | Spokane, Wash. | WCTO |
| Cincinnati | WCKN | | WLHK | Orlando, Fla. | WUSH | Springfield, Mo. | KKWF |
| Cleveland | WEZL | | WGNE | Philadelphia | KJKE | Syracuse, N.Y. | KMPS |
| Colorado Springs, Colo. | WKAT | | WQIK | Pittsburgh | KTST | Tampa, Fla. | KXKS |
| Columbia, S.C. | WSOC | | WXBO | | KXKT | Tucson, Ariz. | KXLY |
| Columbus, Ohio | WUSY | | KBEO | | KXKA | Tulsa, Okla. | WRNX |
| Corpus Christi, Texas | WVBC | | WDAF | | WVKA | | KTTG |
| Dallas | WUSN | | KFKF | | WXTU | | KATM |
| Denver | WUBE | | WCYO | | KMLE | | WBBS |
| Des Moines, Iowa | WGAR | | WVIV | | KNIX | | WFUS |
| | KATC | | KMDL | | WDSY | | WOYK |
| | WCOS | | WPCV | | WOGI | | KIIM |
| | KRYS | | KCYE | | WPGI | | KTGX |
| | KPLX | | KWNR | | WPOR | | KVOO |
| | KSCS | | WUBL | | WTLT | | KWGN |
| | KWOF | | KSSN | | WTLT | | KJUG |
| | KYGO | | KKGO | | KWJJ | | WMZO |
| | | | KSSN | | WCTK | | WIRK |
| | | | KWAM | | WNCB | | KFDI |
| | | | WONU | | WQDR | | KZSN |
| | | | WVWQ | | 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 | 31 | 27 | RING ON EVERY FINGER Reviver | LOCASH | 4.882 | +0.316 | 1456 | 165 | 27 |
| 32 | 35 | 9 | ASK ME HOW I KNOW Pearl | Garth Brooks | 4.653 | +0.518 | 1390 | 156 | 29 |
| 33 | 32 | 30 | THE WAY ITALK Big Loud | Morgan Wallen | 4.451 | -0.082 | 1116 | 8 | 35 |
| 34 | 43 | 4 | THEY DON'T KNOW Macon/Broken Bow | Jason Aldean | 4.389 | +1.372 | 1006 | 302 | 37 |
| 35 | 37 | 6 | ROUND HERE BUZZ EMI Nashville | Eric Church | 4.242 | +0.545 | 1126 | 129 | 34 |
| 36 | 36 | 20 | OUTTA STYLE BIG Label | Aaron Watson | 4.010 | +0.073 | 621 | 51 | 47 |
| 37 | 34 | 17 | A GIRL LIKE YOU Mercury | Easton Corbin | 3.978 | -0.213 | 1325 | -66 | 31 |
| 38 | 41 | 5 | LAST TIME FOR EVERYTHING Arista Nashville | Brad Paisley | 3.535 | +0.361 | 873 | 95 | 40 |
| 39 | 40 | 3 | EITHER WAY Mercury | Chris Stapleton | 3.432 | +0.246 | 709 | 69 | 43 |
| 40 | 42 | 14 | WHAT IFS Zone 4/RCA Nashville | Kane Brown Featuring Lauren Alaina | 3.306 | +0.246 | 886 | 23 | 39 |
| 41 | 39 | 7 | TIN MAN Vanner/RCA Nashville | Miranda Lambert | 3.290 | +0.017 | 755 | 4 | 42 |
| 42 | 44 | 20 | WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE Arista Nashville | Seth Ennis | 3.014 | +0.007 | 1097 | -11 | 36 |
| 43 | 45 | 11 | CALIFORNIA BSR/Thirty Tigers/New Revolution | Big & Rich | 2.865 | -0.118 | 1002 | -14 | 38 |
| 44 | 46 | 15 | JUST A PHASE Stoney Creek | Adam Craig | 2.736 | -0.110 | 847 | 26 | 41 |
| 45 | 48 | 3 | SHE'S WITH ME Atlantic/WEA | High Valley | 2.725 | +0.103 | 545 | 49 | 50 |
| 46 | 47 | 7 | HAPPY PEOPLE Capitol Nashville | Little Big Town | 2.564 | -0.142 | 681 | 13 | 45 |
| 47 | 50 | 3 | TILTOMORROW Wheelhouse | Walker McGuire | 2.557 | +0.379 | 640 | 105 | 46 |
| 48 | 52 | 12 | GREATEST LOVE STORY Arista Nashville | LANCO | 2.337 | +0.280 | 687 | 56 | 44 |
| 49 | 49 | 6 | LOVE AGAIN Nash Next/Valory | Todd O'Neill | 2.208 | -0.031 | 477 | -25 | 52 |
| 50 | 51 | 5 | GOOD COMPANY RCA Nashville | Jake Owen | 2.165 | +0.090 | 577 | 22 | 48 |
| 51 | 53 | 4 | YOURS Triple Tigers | Russell Dickerson | 1.555 | +0.170 | 453 | 38 | 54 |
| 52 | NEW | | FIX A DRINK Warner Bros./WAR | Chris Janson | 1.343 | +0.862 | 262 | 155 | - |
| 53 | 56 | 3 | ACT LIKE YOU DON'T Red Bow | Brooke Eden | 1.286 | +0.119 | 546 | 48 | 49 |
| 54 | 57 | 7 | THEY CAN'T SEE Reviver | Michael Tyler | 1.190 | +0.053 | 316 | 20 | 59 |
| 55 | 59 | 2 | LOSING SLEEP RCA Nashville | Chris Young | 1.127 | +0.177 | 226 | 91 | - |
| 56 | 55 | 17 | GETTING OVER YOU Broken Bow | Jackie Lee | 1.125 | -0.087 | 529 | -19 | 51 |
| 57 | 60 | 2 | SUNDAY MORNING Stoney Creek | Parmalee | 1.026 | +0.092 | 350 | 20 | 56 |
| 58 | 54 | 18 | REBOUND Cold River/New Revolution | Drew Baldridge Featuring Emily Weisband | 0.965 | -0.325 | 476 | -172 | 53 |
| 59 | NEW | | 11:59 (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME) Atlantic/WMLG | The Railers | 0.921 | +0.225 | 252 | 38 | - |
| 60 | 58 | 2 | PREACHIN' TO THE CHOIR BMLG | A Thousand Horses | 0.910 | -0.093 | 323 | -16 | 58 |



52

CHRIS JANSON
Fix a Drink

Janson co-wrote the first single from his upcoming sophomore full-length with **Chris DuBois** and **Ashley Gorley**. His seventh Country Airplay entry arrives at No. 52 with 1.3 million audience impressions (up 179 percent).

GOING FOR ADDS

5/29

BUBBA T'S HONKY TONK REVIVAL
Drink All Day
Amerimonte

CHRIS YOUNG
Losing Sleep
RCA Nashville

GARY ALLAN
Mess Me Up
EMI Nashville

LINDSAY ELL
Waiting On You
Stoney Creek

MICKS
Chasing Forever
Nine North

6/5

JOE SCHMIDT
Over Time
Jerry Duncan

6/12

ALEXANDRA DEMETREE
Outta My Head
SSM Nashville

CURTIS BRALY
Song You Can Drink A Beer To
Go Time

GRANGER SMITH
Happens Like That
Wheelhouse

RYAN HURD
Love In A Bar
RCA Nashville



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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

| MOST ADDED® | | |
|---|-----------------|------|
| TITLE Imprint/Label | Artist | ADDS |
| EVERY LITTLE THING Big Machine | Carly Pearce | 27 |
| THEY DON'T KNOW Macon/Broken Bow | Jason Aldean | 22 |
| SMALL TOWN BOY Broken Bow | Dustin Lynch | 16 |
| EITHER WAY Mercury | Chris Stapleton | 12 |
| HEARTACHE ON THE DANCE FLOOR Capitol Nashville | Jon Pardi | 12 |
| FIX A DRINK Warner Bros./WAR | Chris Janson | 12 |
| ROUND HERE BUZZ EMI Nashville | Eric Church | 10 |
| LOSING SLEEP RCA Nashville | Chris Young | 8 |
| I SHOULD GO TO CHURCH SOMETIME Columbia Nashville | Tyler Farr | 8 |
| MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU MCA Nashville | Kip Moore | 7 |

| MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| TITLE Imprint/Label | Artist | GAIN (IN MILLIONS) |
| EVERY LITTLE THING Big Machine | Carly Pearce | +2.676 |
| IF I TOLD YOU Capitol Nashville | Darius Rucker | +2.370 |
| BLACK Capitol Nashville | Dierks Bentley | +2.170 |
| DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury | Billy Currington | +2.163 |
| MY GIRL Curb | Dylan Scott | +2.131 |
| YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine | Rascal Flatts | +1.861 |
| SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory | Justin Moore | +1.688 |
| YOU LOOK GOOD Capitol Nashville | Lady Antebellum | +1.441 |
| THEY DON'T KNOW Macon/Broken Bow | Jason Aldean | +1.372 |
| NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART RCA Nashville | Old Dominion | +1.293 |

| MOST INCREASED PLAYS | | |
|--|------------------|------|
| TITLE Imprint/Label | Artist | GAIN |
| EVERY LITTLE THING Big Machine | Carly Pearce | +497 |
| GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys | | +376 |
| BLACK Capitol Nashville | Dierks Bentley | +368 |
| IF I TOLD YOU Capitol Nashville | Darius Rucker | +356 |
| DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury | Billy Currington | +324 |
| IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG | Brett Young | +319 |
| THEY DON'T KNOW Macon/Broken Bow | Jason Aldean | +302 |
| MY GIRL Curb | Dylan Scott | +275 |
| DRINKIN' PROBLEM Big Machine | Midland | +263 |
| EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN | Blake Shelton | +258 |

| NEW AND ACTIVE | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| TITLE Imprint/Label | Artist | TOTAL AUDIENCE | TOTAL STATIONS | ADDS |
| ALL ON ME Atlantic/WEA | Devin Dawson | 0.795 | 23 | 2 |
| A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE Valory | Delta Rae | 0.605 | 16 | 0 |
| I SHOULD GOTO CHURCH SOMETIME Columbia Nashville | Tyler Farr | 0.351 | 11 | 8 |
| HOPIN' YOU WERE LOOKIN' Big Machine | Rascal Flatts | 0.343 | 0 | 0 |
| ALL ABOUT YOU MCA Nashville | Josh Turner | 0.316 | 7 | 4 |
| HANDSTALK Big Machine | Rascal Flatts | 0.311 | 0 | 0 |

| RECURRENTS | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| THIS WEEK | TITLE Imprint/Label | Artist | TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS) |
| 1 | DIRT ON MY BOOTS Capitol Nashville | Jon Pardi | 25.991 |
| 2 | HOMETOWN GIRL MCA Nashville | Josh Turner | 23.998 |
| 3 | YEAH BOY Black River | Kelsea Ballerini | 23.992 |
| 4 | ANY OL' BARSTOOL Macon/Broken Bow | Jason Aldean | 21.238 |
| 5 | A GUY WITH A GIRL Warner Bros./WMN | Blake Shelton | 17.758 |
| 6 | FAST Capitol Nashville | Luke Bryan | 16.491 |
| 7 | MAY WE ALL BMLG Florida Georgia Line Feat. Tim McGraw | | 14.210 |
| 8 | THINK A LITTLE LESS Atlantic/WEA | Michael Ray | 13.705 |
| 9 | ROAD LESS TRAVELED 19/Interscope/Mercury | Lauren Alaina | 13.188 |
| 10 | SEEIN' RED Broken Bow | Dustin Lynch | 12.831 |

| BILLBOARD COUNTRY BOXSCORE | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gross Ticket Price(s) | Artist Venue/Date(s) | Attendance Capacity | Promoter(s) |
| \$1,623,862 \$190, \$34.50 | LUKE BRYAN Bridgestone Arena, Nashville/May 5-6 | 30,272 two sellouts | LIVE NATION |
| \$1,369,500 \$400, \$25 | IHEARTRADIO COUNTRY FESTIVAL Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas/May 6 | 12,430 14,989 | IHEARTMEDIA + ENTERTAINMENT |
| \$1,220,499 \$119.50, \$69.50 | TIM MCGRAW & FAITH HILL KFC Yum! Center, Louisville, Ky./April 28 | 14,653 sellout | MESSINA TOURING GROUP/AEG PRESENTS |
| \$1,199,824 \$89, \$23 | ERIC CHURCH Scotttrade Center, St. Louis/May 13 | 18,250 sellout | MESSINA TOURING GROUP/AEG PRESENTS |
| \$1,170,004 \$119.50, \$69.50 | TIM MCGRAW & FAITH HILL Philips Arena, Atlanta/April 23 | 13,033 sellout | MESSINA TOURING GROUP/AEG PRESENTS |

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 MAY 21, 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 | 11 | CREEK DON'T RISE (Bill Grease Rec) **2 weeks at 1** | William Clark Green | 1752 | 19 | 11 | 10 | 21 | PEOPLE LIKE ME (Independent) | Dustin Sonnier | 1291 | 26 |
| 2 | 2 | 13 | WISH YOU WERE HERE (Independent) | Cody Jinks | 1667 | 56 | 12 | 12 | 12 | WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY (Independent) | Jamie Richards | 1275 | 66 |
| 3 | 5 | 16 | SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN (Independent) | Drew Fish Band | 1558 | 145 | 13 | 3 | 17 | AMERICAN KID (PTO Records) | Rich O'Toole | 1253 | -264 |
| 4 | 4 | 11 | DON'T FORGET WHERE YOU COME FROM (Independent) | Kyle Park | 1550 | 126 | 14 | 17 | 9 | RIGHT ABOUT NOW (Independent) | Curtis Grimes | 1162 | 106 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | WILD AS YOU (Independent) | Cody Johnson | 1476 | 176 | 15 | 19 | 10 | STONE (Independent) | Whiskey Myers | 1139 | 109 |
| 6 | 9 | 16 | A LIFE WHERE WE WORK OUT (Independent) | Flatland Cavalry | 1460 | 162 | 16 | 23 | 6 | CHANGE MY MIND (Independent) | Josh Ward | 1012 | 74 |
| 7 | 6 | 18 | DEEP BLUE ME (Independent) | Case Hardin | 1422 | 56 | 17 | 22 | 7 | TOO BAD (Independent) | Kylie Frey f/Randy Rogers | 997 | 59 |
| 8 | 7 | 25 | BEER PRESSURE (Independent) | Bri Bagwell | 1368 | 41 | 18 | 24 | 11 | SHE'LL HAVE YOU BACK (Little Red Truck) | Deryl Dodd w/Roger Creager | 993 | 85 |
| 9 | 11 | 13 | HELLO WORLD (Texas Like That) | Zane Williams | 1303 | 57 | 19 | 14 | 16 | A LOT OF ROOM TO TALK (Independent) | Jake Worthington | 983 | -195 |
| 10 | 15 | 11 | SECOND HAND SMOKE (Deep Creek Records) | Sam Riggs | 1303 | 131 | 20 | 25 | 14 | HEART BROKE (Big Valley) | Pat Waters | 961 | 59 |

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 817-283-7984. Copyright 2017, Texas Regional Radio Report

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES

The Peach Pickers — songwriters Rhett Akins (“Dirt on My Boots”), Dallas Davidson (“Huntin’, Fishin’ and Lovin’ Every Day”) and Ben Hayslip (“Star of the Show”) — welcomed Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal as they held their fourth benefit for the Georgia Music Foundation on May 16 at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium. Bearing peaches, from left: Hayslip, Deal, first lady Sandra Deal, Davidson and Akins.

TODAY THE U.S., TOMORROW THE WORLD

The country music industry has touted through the years that the genre is moving beyond American borders, but new data lends credibility to claims that country’s foreign growth is currently through the roof.

The number of country concerts booked during the 2016-17 concert season grew 55 percent over the previous year, and that year saw a spike of 88 percent over 2014-15, Country Music Association chief marketing officer **Damon Whiteside** said during a series of globally-focused country panels May 17 at the Music Biz conference in Nashville. In fact, country has seen double-digit growth in international bookings in each of the last six years, with the volume of shows increasing at least 30 percent in four of those calendar frames.

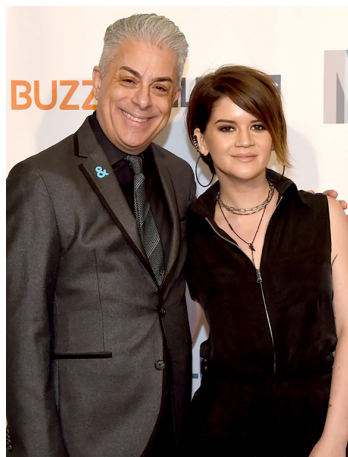
In total, global bookings increased nearly 10-fold at William Morris Endeavor, talent agent **Akiko Rogers** said, in a scant five years. During 2011, four WME country artists played a total of 24 dates outside the U.S.; in 2016, 35 country artists played 227 international shows.

The CMA, which represents the country music industry as a whole, has been central to the increase. In recent years, the organization has booked songwriter showcases in Europe and the U.K. and initiated a Country2Country Festival that draws sell-out crowds in London. Artists such as **Brooks & Dunn**, **Brad Paisley** and **Alan Jackson** booked their first tours of the U.K. or Australia around 2010-2011, and the success of some of those tours was noticed by emerging artists, who committed to growing their overseas brand early.

Thomas Rhett, featured in a video package, indicated the commitment of **Taylor Swift** and **Lady Antebellum** to foreign markets was influential, “particularly for artists like me.” He used C2C as a launching pad to explore the U.K., returned several months later, and now carves global dates into his schedule routinely.

It’s expensive to tour overseas. Thus, multiple panelists suggested artists take the financial risk early in their careers, playing solo or small-band acoustic shows to keep costs down and returning yearly to keep their image alive, much as they would in the U.S.

With CMA specials now telecast in 40 countries outside the U.S., the Internet making it possible to expose the music cheaply and the *Nashville* TV series creating an additional impression, foreign consumers are increasingly aware of — and open to — country. In fact, a CMA study of six



RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES

Maren Morris joined Music Biz president James Donio as she received the breakthrough artist award on May 18 during the Music Biz conference in Nashville.

markets released in 2016 showed that the number of country listeners topped one-third in each of those territories: Canada, the U.K., Ireland, Germany, Scandinavia and Australia.

The amount of time and money required, however, means working overseas isn’t for everybody.

The commitment, said Rhett’s manager, G Major founder **Virginia Davis**, “has to come from the artist.”

MOVERS & SHAKERS

More than six years after he signed off at **WSIX-FM** Nashville, Country Radio Hall of Fame member **Gerry House** will be back on the air May 26 at sister **W252CM**, branded as the Big Legend 98.3. The station is touting his return at 7 a.m. that day, accompanied by longtime sidekick **Mike Bohan**. House will not be live; his voice will provide audio branding, and the station will air what iHeartMedia/Nashville senior vp of programming **Gator Harrison** calls “classic *House Foundation* moments” ... *The Tony & Kris Show*, syndicated by United Stations, is nearing its conclusion. The two had been on-air together for 25 years. **Kris Rochester** addressed the partnership’s end in his blog [here](#) ... Edison Research hired **Dr. Nino Japardize** as vp public affairs research. The Washington, D.C.-based executive was formerly Ipsos North American vp public affairs. Reach her [here](#) ... **KIXT** Waco, Texas, flipped from country to classic rock, *The Waco Tribune-Herald* reported ... **WDQN-AM** Du Quoin, Ill., signed off the air May 12, according to *The Du Quoin Evening Call* ... CBS Radio/Philadelphia hired **Jim Brown** as sales manager for talk **WPHT** and local traffic ad sales for the cluster, including country **WXTU**, InsideRadio.com reported. He was previously general sales manager for adult hits **WBEN** Philadelphia ... Country Radio Broadcasters will present the Artist Career Achievement Award to **Martina McBride** and the President’s Award to Universal Music Group Nashville chairman/CEO **Mike Dungan** during the Country Radio Hall of Fame Dinner on June 21. For individual tickets to the event, reach CRB marketing manager **Ashley Silver** [here](#) ... Former **WBKR** Owensboro, Ky., operations manager/morning host **Moon Mullins** died May 16. A 2009 inductee in the Country Radio Hall of Fame, he served for a time as Journal Broadcasting group country PD. Among the individual stations he programmed during his career were **KFDI** Wichita, Kan.; **WINN** Louisville, Ky.; **WDAF** Kansas City; and **WHN** New York.

‘ROUND THE ROW

Australian singer-songwriter **Morgan Evans** signed a recording deal on May 11 with Warner Music Nashville. He’s managed by Fitzgerald Hartley in Nashville and Rob Potts Entertainment Edge in Sydney. Evans’ first American album is being produced by **Chris DeStefano** (**Chase Rice**, **Brett Eldredge**) ... **Casey James** engaged Spielberg/Dries Management to guide his career as he shifts from country to his blues roots ... **Mark Wills** signed with Kinkead Entertainment to handle concert bookings ... Singer-songwriter **Jillian Cardarelli** enlisted Suretone Entertainment for management and William Morris Endeavor for booking ... Twelve-year-old **EmiSunshine** signed with **Steven Pritchard**’s Pro Tour Events for management and booking, with ProMO Image and Music City Media onboard for PR ... The Academy of Country Music revealed nominees for nine industry awards, including nightclub, festival and promoter of the year. Go [here](#) for the full list ... The Country Music Association will open nominations for the 51st annual CMA Awards on July 10-20. The second ballot goes to members Aug. 14-24, with the final vote set for Oct. 2-24 ... *Larry’s Country Diner*, carried on cable by **RFD-TV**, added new affiliates in Baton Rouge, La.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Huntsville, Ala.; Little Rock, Ark.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Springfield, Mo.



Morgan Evans (left) celebrated with Warner Music Nashville chairman/CEO John Esposito as he signed a recording deal with the label on May 11.

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

Blake Shelton walked off with the top country artist honor during the May 21 ABC telecast of the *Billboard Music Awards*, where Florida Georgia Line collected top country song for “H.O.L.Y.,” which it performed as an acoustic piano piece with three-part harmony in collaboration with John Legend. Sam Hunt also performed his current hit “Body Like a Back Road.” Off-camera, Chris Stapleton’s *Traveller* earned top country album, and Kenny Chesney picked up two trophies: top country tour and country collaboration, for “Setting the World On Fire,” featuring P!nk.



SHELTON

The Country Music Association introduced Ascend Amphitheater to the footprint for the CMA Music Festival in 2016, and this year, Cracker Barrel sponsors three nights of free themed shows at the venue. Big & Rich headline a “Bring the Party” lineup on June 8, Sara Evans leads an all-female roster on June 9, and Warner Music Nashville partners with SiriusXM for a June 10 show topped by Dan + Shay and Hunter Hayes. The HGTV Lodge includes intimate performances by Keith Urban, Brett Young and Maren Morris, among others. The Fan Fair X indoor venue includes a pet adoption program from Miranda Lambert’s MuttNation Foundation, a Brad Paisley interview about hosting the CMA Awards, and autograph sessions with Jana Kramer, Jon Pardi and Kellie Pickler. The Country Music Hall of Fame’s programming includes events with Pardi, Randy Travis and the Oak Ridge Boys. And late additions to the City of Hope Celebrity Softball Game include Craig Morgan, The Swon Brothers and Maggie Rose.

George Strait was named Texas’ State Musician by the legislature in Austin on May 18, but he’s not the only act getting civic recognition. John Conlee received a plaque from the Georgia Sheriffs’ Association on May 14 for his support of law enforcement, and Carrie Underwood was named a 2017 inductee in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. That ceremony takes place Nov. 16 in Oklahoma City.

Darius Rucker and Steven Tyler are among the performers at the Starkey Hearing Foundation’s 17th annual So the World May Hear Awards Gala in St. Paul, Minn., on July 16. Honorees at this year’s event, which typically raises multiple millions, include Ben Affleck, Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta and BMLG senior vp creative Sandi Spika Borchetta.

ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

May 22

- 2011 — Donald Trump pronounces John Rich the winner of the NBC series *The Celebrity Apprentice*. Rich won \$1.3 million during the season for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Among the TV audience is Trace Adkins.
- 2002 — Alabama announces during the Academy of Country Music Awards that it intends to retire after a 2003 farewell tour.



ALABAMA

ALABAMA: ALAN MESSER

May 23

- 1977 — The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band appears in Moscow, the final concert in a 24-show tour presented by the American State Department. In addition to Dirt Band songs, the set list includes “The Battle of New Orleans” and the Cajun classic “Diggy Diggy Lo.”

May 24

- 2016 — Little Big Town, Alison Krauss, Jennifer Nettles, CeeLo Green and Joe Walsh make guest appearances on the season finale of NBC’s *The Voice*, featuring celebrity coach Blake Shelton. Country singer Adam Wakefield finishes as runner-up.
- 2006 — Toby Keith and songwriter Scotty Emerick begin a USO tour that takes them to Germany, Iraq and Africa.

May 25

- 2005 — Carrie Underwood wins Fox-TV’s *American Idol*. She sings the Martina McBride hit “Independence Day” and performs “Bless the Broken Road” with Rascal Flatts at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

May 26

- 2012 — Jason Aldean’s “Fly Over States” climbs to No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart.
- 1992 — Alan Jackson records “Mercury Blues.”

May 27

- 2014 — MCA releases the Sam Hunt single “Leave the Night On” to radio.
- 2007 — Josh Turner sings the national anthem and “Always On My Mind” during the National Memorial Day Concert on the West Lawn of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

May 28

- 2013 — Aaron Lewis makes his Grand Ole Opry debut.

Source: *RolandNote.com*, the Ultimate Country Music Database



New Columbia act Levon visited WAMZ Louisville, Ky., in the midst of its first radio promotion tour. From left: group member Ryan Holladay, Columbia Midwest regional promotion director Bo Martinovich, group member Michael David Hall, iHeartMedia/Kentucky-Indiana director of country programming Jay Cruze and group member Jake Singleton.

Top Headlines from billboard.com

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[19 Dead, 50 Injured After Ariana Grande Concert at Manchester Arena](#)

[Cher Sounds Off On Trump’s ‘Cheating’ And Why She’s ‘Not A Fan’ Of Her Six Decades Of Hits](#)

[The MP3 Is Officially Dead: License Terminated By Developer](#)

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 | 16 | 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 | 37 | IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW <small>D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,T.REEVE,K.SCHILENGER,T.TOMLINSON)</small> | Brett Young BMLG | ● | 2 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 38 | HURRICANE <small>S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,T.PHILLIPS,T.ARCHER)</small> | Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE | ● | 3 |
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 40 | IF I TOLD YOU <small>R.COPPERMAN (R.COPPERMAN,J.M.NITE,S.MCANALLY)</small> | Darius Rucker CAPITOL NASHVILLE | | 4 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 28 | BLACK <small>R.COPPERMAN (D.BENTLEY,R.COPPERMAN,A.GORLEY)</small> | Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE | ● | 4 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 22 | THE FIGHTER <small>BUSBEE,K.URBAN (K.URBAN,BUSBEE)</small> | Keith Urban Featuring Carrie Underwood HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE | | 2 |
| 7 | 8 | 11 | 22 | GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME <small>J.MOI (J.KEAR,H.LINDSEY,G.SAMPSON)</small> | Florida Georgia Line Featuring Backstreet Boys BMLG | | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 35 | DIRT ON MY BOOTS <small>B.BUTLER,J.PARDI (R.AKINS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY)</small> | Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE | ● | 2 |
| 9 | 10 | 10 | 38 | THE WEEKEND <small>D.HUFF (B.GILBERT,A.DEROBERTS)</small> | Brantley Gilbert VALORY | | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 14 | 8 | CRAVING YOU <small>J.BUNETTA,D.HUFF,JOE LONDON,THOMAS RHETT (D.M.BARNES,J.BUNETTA)</small> | Thomas Rhett Featuring Maren Morris VALORY | | 5 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 32 | HOW NOT TO <small>D.SMYERS,S.HENDRICKS (A.HAMBRICK,P.DIGIOVANNI,K.BARD)</small> | Dan + Shay WARNER BROS./WAR | | 11 |
| 12 | 15 | 15 | 41 | MY GIRL <small>M.ALDERMAN,J.E.NORMAN (D.SCOTT,J.KERR)</small> | Dylan Scott CURB | | 12 |
| 13 | 13 | 18 | 14 | EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT SONG <small>S.HENDRICKS (A.MAYO,C.LINDSEY,B.WARREN,B.D.WARREN)</small> | Blake Shelton WARNER BROS./WMN | | 13 |
| 14 | 18 | 16 | 18 | YOU LOOK GOOD <small>BUSBEE (H.LINDSEY,R.HURD,BUSBEE)</small> | Lady Antebellum CAPITOL NASHVILLE | | 9 |
| 15 | 19 | 19 | 11 | DRINKIN' PROBLEM <small>S.MCANALLY,D.HUFF,J.OSBORNE (J.CARSON,C.DUDDY,M.WYSTRACH,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)</small> | Midland BIG MACHINE | | 15 |
| 16 | 16 | 17 | 20 | FLATLINER <small>M.CARTER (C.SWINDELL,M.BRONLEEWEE,J.BOYER)</small> | Cole Swindell WARNER BROS./WMN | | 16 |
| 17 | 22 | 23 | 16 | MY OLD MAN <small>D.COBB (Z.BROWN,N.MOON,B.SIMONETTI)</small> | Zac Brown Band SOUTHERN GROUND/ELEKTRA/WAR | | 10 |
| 18 | 14 | 12 | 24 | ANY OL' BARSTOOL <small>M.KNOX (J.THOMPSON,D.RUTTAN)</small> | Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW | | 5 |
| 19 | NEW | | 1 | GHOST IN THIS HOUSE <small>B.APPLEBERRY (H.PRESTWOOD)</small> | Lauren Duski REPUBLIC | | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 20 | 19 | YOURS IF YOU WANT IT <small>J.DEMARCUS,G.LEVOX,J.D.ROONEY (A.DORFF,J.SINGLETON)</small> | Rascal Flatts BIG MACHINE | | 20 |
| 21 | 23 | 22 | 9 | 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 |
| 22 | 32 | 31 | 24 | WHAT IFS <small>D.HUFF (K.BROWN,M.MCGINN,J.M.SCHMIDT)</small> | Kane Brown Featuring Lauren Alaina ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE | | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 10 | NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART <small>S.MCANALLY (M.RAMSEY,T.ROSEN,B.TURSI,J.FRASURE)</small> | Old Dominion RCA NASHVILLE | | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | SOMEBODY ELSE WILL <small>S.BORCHETTA,J.S.STOVER (K.ARCHER,A.HAMBRICK,T.OTTOH)</small> | Justin Moore VALORY | | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 13 | SMALL TOWN BOY <small>Z.CROWELL (R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP,K.FISHMAN)</small> | Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW | | 19 |



14

LADY ANTEBELLUM
You Look Good

Ahead of the June 9 arrival of *Heart Break*, the set's first single romps 18-14 on Hot Country Songs. After the May 14 release of its official video, it climbs 16-10 on Country Digital Song Sales, up 6 percent to 11,000 downloads sold.



22

KANE BROWN
Featuring
LAUREN ALAINA
What Ifs

The track jumps 32-22 to a Hot Country Songs peak following the May 14 release of its video, shot on the California coast. It flies 18-8 on Country Streaming Songs (4.6 million U.S. streams, up 35 percent) and debuts at No. 11 on Country Digital Song Sales (11,000 downloads sold, up 95 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 | NEW | | 1 | LOSING SLEEP <small>C.CROWDER,C.YOUNG (C.YOUNG,J.HOGE,C. DESTEFANO)</small> | Chris Young RCA NASHVILLE | | 26 |
| 27 | 17 | - | 2 | EITHER WAY <small>D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,TIM JAMES,K.MARVEL)</small> | Chris Stapleton MERCURY | | 17 |
| 28 | 30 | 30 | 17 | IT AIN'T MY FAULT <small>J.JOYCE (J. OSBORNE,T.J. OSBORNE,L.T.MILLER)</small> | Brothers Osborne EMI NASHVILLE | | 28 |
| 29 | 27 | 29 | 8 | TIN MAN <small>F.LIDDELL,G.WORF,E.MASSE (M.LAMBERT,J.INGRAM,J.R.STEWART)</small> | Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE | | 15 |
| 30 | 29 | 28 | 26 | FOR HER <small>J.MOI (M.DRAGSTREM,K.ARCHER,S.BUXTON)</small> | Chris Lane BIG LOUD | | 23 |
| 31 | 20 | 35 | 5 | BROKEN HALOS <small>D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,M.HENDERSON)</small> | Chris Stapleton MERCURY | | 13 |
| 32 | 34 | 36 | 17 | DO I MAKE YOU WANNA <small>D.HUFF (A.GORLEY,Z.CROWELL,M.JENKINS,J.FLOWERS)</small> | Billy Currington MERCURY | | 32 |
| 33 | 33 | 33 | 12 | SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT <small>R. COPPERMAN,B.ELDRIDGE (B.ELDRIDGE,T.DOUGLAS)</small> | Brett Eldredge ATLANTIC/WMN | | 30 |
| 34 | 28 | 34 | 9 | I COULD USE A LOVE SONG <small>BUSBEE,M.MORRIS (M.MORRIS,J.ROBBINS,L.VELTZ)</small> | Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE | | 28 |
| 35 | 36 | 38 | 13 | MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU <small>K.MOORE,D.GARCIA (K.MOORE,S.L.OLSEN,J.MILLER,D.A.GARCIA)</small> | Kip Moore MCA NASHVILLE | | 35 |
| 36 | 38 | 40 | 13 | MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN <small>R. COPPERMAN,J.S.STOVER (D.WHITE,M.CRISWELL,S.MINOR)</small> | Drake White DOT/BMLG | | 36 |
| 37 | 35 | 24 | 19 | 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 | | 17 |
| 38 | 42 | 41 | 13 | THE WAY I TALK <small>J.MOI (J.L.ALEXANDER,B.HAYSLIP,C.MCGILL)</small> | Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD | | 38 |
| 39 | RE-ENTRY | | 5 | EVERY LITTLE THING <small>BUSBEE (C.PEARCE,BUSBEE,E.SHACKELTON)</small> | Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE | | 39 |
| 40 | 44 | 43 | 6 | ROUND HERE BUZZ <small>J.JOYCE (E.CHURCH,J.HYDE,L.DICK)</small> | Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE | | 40 |
| 41 | NEW | | 1 | THE LONG WAY <small>R. COPPERMAN,B.ELDRIDGE (B.ELDRIDGE,M.ROGERS)</small> | Brett Eldredge ATLANTIC/WMN | | 41 |
| 42 | 47 | - | 2 | HEARTACHE ON THE DANCE FLOOR <small>B.BUTLER,J.PARDI (J.PARDI,B.BUTLER,B.LONG)</small> | Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE | | 42 |
| 43 | 45 | 46 | 10 | RING ON EVERY FINGER <small>L.RIMES (THOMAS RHETT,J.KEAR,J.FRASURE)</small> | LOCASH REVIVER | | 42 |
| 44 | 39 | - | 2 | ROOTS <small>D.COBB (Z.BROWN,N.MOON,B.SIMONETTI,C.BOWLES)</small> | Zac Brown Band SOUTHERN GROUND/ELEKTRA/WAR | | 39 |
| 45 | NEW | | 1 | THEY DON'T KNOW <small>M.KNOX (J.BOYER,J.MIRENDA,K.ALLISON)</small> | Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW | | 45 |
| 46 | 41 | - | 2 | I WAS WRONG <small>D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,C.WISEMAN)</small> | Chris Stapleton MERCURY | | 41 |
| 47 | 50 | 45 | 5 | LAST TIME FOR EVERYTHING <small>L.WOOTEN,B.PAISLEY (B.PAISLEY,S.AHNQUIST,B.ANDERSON,C.DUBOIS,M.RYAN)</small> | Brad Paisley ARISTA NASHVILLE | | 42 |
| 48 | 48 | 47 | 10 | HAPPY PEOPLE <small>J.JOYCE (L.MCKENNA,H.WHITTERS)</small> | Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE | | 40 |
| 49 | NEW | | 1 | HEART BREAK <small>BUSBEE (D.HAYWOOD,C.KELLEY,H.SCOTT,J.FRASURE,N.GALYON)</small> | Lady Antebellum CAPITOL NASHVILLE | | 49 |
| 50 | RE-ENTRY | | 8 | A GIRL LIKE YOU <small>A.GORLEY,W.KIRBY (A.GORLEY,J.FRASURE,R.AKINS)</small> | Easton Corbin MERCURY | | 43 |

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 | 9.0 million |
| '17 | 7.8 million |
| DIGITAL TRACKS SALES | |
| '16 | 36.4 million |
| '17 | 27.9 million |

| Weekly Unit Sales | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| | ALBUMS | DIGITAL ALBUMS* | DIGITAL TRACKS |
| This Week | 543,000 | 181,000 | 1,397,000 |
| Last Week | 554,000 | 245,000 | 1,392,000 |
| Change | -2.0% | -26.1% | 0.4% |
| This Week Last Year | 463,000 | 152,000 | 1,932,000 |
| Change | 17.3% | 19.1% | -27.7% |

| Overall Unit Sales | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | CHANGE |
| Albums | 9,047,000 | 7,846,000 | -13.3% |
| Digital Tracks | 36,427,000 | 27,856,000 | -23.5% |
| Sales by Album Format | | | |
| | 2016 | 2017 | CHANGE |
| Physical | 5,946,000 | 4,908,000 | -17.5% |
| Digital | 3,101,000 | 2,396,000 | -22.7% |

For week ending May 18, 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 | CERT. | PEAK POS. |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|---|---------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | NEW | 1 | 1 | ZAC BROWN BAND SOUTHERN GROUND/ELEKTRA 559611/AG | WELCOME HOME | | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 026379*/UMGN | FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 1 | | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 107 | CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 019405*/UMGN | TRAVELLER | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 54 | KEITH URBAN HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE 023591*/UMGN (025848 AMS & WSEX) | RIPCORD | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | 4 | 5 | 14 | BRETT YOUNG BMLG B0100A* | BRETT YOUNG | | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 6 | 38 | FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE BMLG 0300* | DIG YOUR ROOTS | | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 7 | 118 | SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 021502/UMGN | MONTEVALLO | 2 | 1 |
| 8 | 15 | 15 | 95 | ZAC BROWN BAND ROAR/SOUTHERN GROUND/ATLANTIC 546369/AG | GREATEST HITS SO FAR... | | 3 |
| 9 | 10 | 8 | 86 | THOMAS RHETT VALORY RT0200A/BMLG | TANGLED UP | 1 | 2 |
| 10 | 9 | 10 | 26 | MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 532305*/SMN | THE WEIGHT OF THESE WINGS | | 1 |
| 11 | 6 | 1 | 3 | WILLIE NELSON LEGACY 541573* | GOD'S PROBLEM CHILD | | 1 |
| 12 | 23 | 19 | 24 | KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947/SMN | KANE BROWN | | 1 |
| 13 | 14 | 12 | 36 | JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW 2227/BBMG | THEY DON'T KNOW | | 1 |
| 14 | 12 | 11 | 48 | JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN | CALIFORNIA SUNRISE | | 1 |
| 15 | 13 | 13 | 16 | BRANTLEY GILBERT VALORY B60300/BMLG | THE DEVIL DONT SLEEP | | 1 |
| 16 | 18 | 16 | 93 | LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 022813/UMGN | KILL THE LIGHTS | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | 20 | 30 | 82 | BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 551788/WMN | RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS | | 2 |
| 18 | 16 | 20 | 52 | BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 555352/WMN | IF I'M HONEST | 1 | 1 |
| 19 | 19 | 17 | 51 | DIERKS BENTLEY CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024745*/UMGN | BLACK | 1 | 1 |
| 20 | 11 | 21 | 50 | MAREN MORRIS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 516885*/SMN | HERO | | 1 |
| 21 | 21 | 18 | 105 | KELSEA BALLERINI BLACK RIVER 2015 | THE FIRST TIME | 4 | 4 |
| 22 | 24 | 23 | 81 | ERIC CHURCH EMI NASHVILLE 024200*/UMGN | MR. MISUNDERSTOOD | 2 | 2 |
| 23 | 25 | 22 | 54 | COLE SWINDELL WARNER BROS. 554671/WMN | YOU SHOULD BE HERE | 2 | 2 |
| 24 | 27 | 26 | 127 | LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 018733/UMGN | CRASH MY PARTY | 2 | 1 |
| 25 | 26 | 24 | 120 | FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE REPUBLIC NASHVILLE 017773/BMLG | HERE'S TO THE GOOD TIMES | 2 | 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 | CERT. | PEAK POS. |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE /UMGN | FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 1 | | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 53 | CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN | TRAVELLER | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | JOHN MAYER COLUMBIA 541659* | THE SEARCH FOR EVERYTHING | | 1 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 58 | THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738* | CLEOPATRA | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 8 | 14 | RAG'N'BONE MAN BEST LAID PLANS 539854*/COLUMBIA | HUMAN | | 4 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | MAC DEMARCO CAPTURED TRACKS 260* | THIS OLD DOG | | 3 |
| 7 | 8 | 7 | 40 | LORD HURON IAMSOUND 066* | STRANGE TRAILS | | 1 |
| 8 | 10 | 9 | 17 | SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY | SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS | | 8 |
| 9 | 12 | 10 | 99 | HOZIER RUBYWORKS 309966*/COLUMBIA | HOZIER | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | 13 | 11 | 94 | ED SHEERAN ELEKTRA 530433*/AG | | 2 | 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 | 15 | BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD SAM HUNT |
| 2 | 2 | 17 | IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BRETT YOUNG |
| 3 | 3 | 18 | HURRICANE LUKE COMBS |
| 4 | 6 | 86 | DIE A HAPPY MAN THOMAS RHETT |
| 5 | 4 | 55 | H.O.L.Y. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE |
| 6 | 7 | 81 | TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON |
| 7 | 5 | 24 | DIRT ON MY BOOTS JON PARDI |
| 8 | 18 | 2 | WHAT IFS KANE BROWN FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA |
| 9 | 9 | 35 | BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN |
| 10 | 8 | 18 | THE WEEKEND BRANTLEY GILBERT |
| 11 | 12 | 12 | THE FIGHTER KEITH URBAN FEAT. CARRIE UNDERWOOD |
| 12 | 11 | 18 | BLACK DIERKS BENTLEY |
| 13 | 13 | 12 | GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. BACKSTREET BOYS |
| 14 | 15 | 38 | MAY WE ALL FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. TIM MCGRAW |
| 15 | 10 | 10 | HOMETOWN GIRL JOSH TURNER |
| 16 | 14 | 7 | CRAVING YOU THOMAS RHETT FEAT. MAREN MORRIS |
| 17 | 17 | 7 | MY GIRL DYLAN SCOTT |
| 18 | 19 | 4 | SMALL TOWN BOY DUSTIN LYNCH |
| 19 | 21 | 94 | BREAK UP IN A SMALL TOWN SAM HUNT |
| 20 | 16 | 15 | ANY OL' BARSTOOL JASON ALDEAN |
| 21 | 24 | 9 | HOW NOT TO DAN + SHAY |
| 22 | 25 | 141 | PLAY IT AGAIN LUKE BRYAN |
| 23 | 22 | 77 | HOUSE PARTY SAM HUNT |
| 24 | NEW | | IF I TOLD YOU DARIUS RUCKER |
| 25 | RE-ENTRY | | FLATLINER COLE SWINDELL |

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 |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 16 | BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD SAM HUNT |
| 2 | NEW | | GHOST IN THIS HOUSE LAUREN DUSKI |
| 3 | 2 | 33 | IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BRETT YOUNG |
| 4 | 4 | 25 | HURRICANE LUKE COMBS |
| 5 | 5 | 20 | THE FIGHTER KEITH URBAN FEAT. CARRIE UNDERWOOD |
| 6 | 7 | 21 | IF I TOLD YOU DARIUS RUCKER |
| 7 | NEW | | LOSING SLEEP CHRIS YOUNG |
| 8 | 8 | 7 | CRAVING YOU THOMAS RHETT FEAT. MAREN MORRIS |
| 9 | 9 | 15 | GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FEAT. BACKSTREET BOYS |
| 10 | 16 | 17 | YOU LOOK GOOD LADY ANTEBELLUM |
| 11 | NEW | | WHAT IFS KANE BROWN FEATURING LAUREN ALAINA |
| 12 | 14 | 5 | BROKEN HALOS CHRIS STAPLETON |
| 13 | 19 | 5 | DRINKIN' PROBLEM MIDLAND |
| 14 | NEW | | THE LONG WAY BRETT ELDEREGE |
| 15 | 13 | 34 | DIRT ON MY BOOTS JON PARDI |
| 16 | RE-ENTRY | | SPEAK TO A GIRL TIM MCGRAW & FAITH HILL |
| 17 | 15 | 74 | TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON |
| 18 | 3 | 2 | EITHER WAY CHRIS STAPLETON |
| 19 | 17 | 8 | TIN MAN MIRANDA LAMBERT |
| 20 | 21 | 10 | FLATLINER COLE SWINDELL FEAT. DIERKS BENTLEY |
| 21 | 25 | 12 | SMALL TOWN BOY DUSTIN LYNCH |
| 22 | 23 | 44 | BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN |
| 23 | RE-ENTRY | | NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART OLD DOMINION |
| 24 | 22 | 18 | MY GIRL DYLAN SCOTT |
| 25 | RE-ENTRY | | BLACK DIERKS BENTLEY |



For her semifinals performance on NBC's *The Voice* (May 15), the Michigan native chose this 1990 No. 5 Hot Country Songs hit by **Shenandoah** (later covered by **Allison Krauss**). **Duski's** version launches at No. 2 on Country Digital Song Sales (37,000 sold) and No. 19 on Hot Country Songs.

2

LAUREN DUSKI
Ghost in This House

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

Jason Aldean Uses Small-Town Farming Theme To Make Hay In 'They Don't Know'

Willie Nelson created Farm Aid to bring attention to America's agricultural workers. **Jason Aldean** seems to sing about them every day on the radio.

"Fly Over States," "Amarillo Sky," "Hicktown," "Big Green Tractor" and the **Luke Bryan/Eric Church** collaboration "The Only Way I Know" all incorporated one or more elements of rural lifestyle. Aldean has touched on the theme a little more infrequently on his last two albums, though "They Don't Know" — the title track from his current project, just released as that album's fourth single — brings him back to the farm.

"When I was a kid, my mom worked for the Farmer's Home Administration," says Aldean. "I was around that stuff a lot growing up and realized how hard those guys had it, you know. It's just hard to make a dollar growing crops, so it was just something that I always had a lot of respect for. Those are some of the hardest-working people in the country, and they don't get a lot of attention for the things they do."

Growing up on the outskirts of Macon, Ga., Aldean's mom frequently took him to his cousin's house in the country to pick peas and other vegetables, and she froze them for later use, helping the family cut expenses. The business executives in his song "Fly Over States" may not have understood what all the fields and small towns in the heartland stand for, but the bulk of Aldean's audience does.

"Seventy-five percent of the country are very familiar with those places," suggests his guitarist, **Kurt Allison**. "So it seems odd that people wouldn't have songs that deal with that. I'm glad that Jason stepped up to it."

Allison and two fellow songwriters — **Jaron Boyer** and **Josh Mirenda**, who were among the co-writers on **Dierks Bentley's** "Somewhere on a Beach" — helped add to Aldean's farmland canon with "They Don't Know," taking a slightly different tack than "Fly Over States." Instead of telling the story from the out-of-towners' viewpoint, "They Don't Know" takes the small-town dwellers' perspective, setting the song in a two-lane "slow-down town," where travelers are frustrated at dropping from 55 miles per hour to 25, never really giving much thought to the real lives of the people they're passing by.

The writers knew the topic. Allison detassled corn and walked beans (slang for weeding fields by hand) while growing up in Des Moines, Iowa; Boyer grew up in small-town Ardsmore, Okla., surrounded by cattle ranches; and Mirenda, who hails from suburban Hendersonville, Tenn., spent plenty of time at a tobacco farm where his step-sister's family lives.

"I was just writing one for them and for all the people out there that kind of get taken for granted," says Mirenda.

"They Don't Know" didn't start down on the farm. Instead, it began in a simple groove that Allison had whipped up for their co-writing session in June 2015 at Peermusic in Nashville. Peer vp **Michael Knox**, who produces Aldean, told the writers he could use some songs with a classic-rock edge for Aldean's next project. Allison's groove fit that mold, and they started building the song out, the "slow-down town" helping them find the subject. The 25-mph sign led to images of tractors, fields and barbed wire. It was only after they had written the first verse and about half the chorus that Mirenda served up the title. Just weeks before, he and Boyer had taken a trip to Destin, Fla. — the same trip where they came up with the lyrical idea for "Somewhere on a Beach" — and when they turned off Interstate 65 near Georgiana, Ala., Mirenda had spied a small-town guy working his turf in isolation.

"We're in the middle of nowhere, and I saw this guy off to the right, plowing a field," recalls Mirenda. "It was hotter than hell, and he was out there just sweating and grinding away on his piece of land. I don't know who this guy is, but he looked like he was busting ass out there."

It was a short jump from "I don't know" to "they don't know," and that farm-hand outlook helped seal the lyrical piece of the puzzle. Knowing they were writing for Aldean, they were able to stretch a bit with the melody, pushing the chorus into both a higher range and a higher intensity than the verses.

"Jason can sing," says Boyer, "so we're not scared to go a little high in the chorus."

Boyer played most of the instruments on the demo, with Mirenda singing and Allison playing guitar. But when the first draft was finished, Boyer felt the original guitar track no longer matched "They Don't Know" or its content.

"I just felt like it wasn't right and it needed that big intro," says Boyer. "So Kurt came back, and I think Kurt did [new guitar parts] at his house."

They tested it on Knox before playing it for Aldean, who was an easy sell.

"One of the things that I've always been drawn to is a song that kind of sucks you in with the verse and gets you listening, and then pounds you over the head with the chorus," he says. "When that chorus kicks in, it's just really kind of takes off like a freight train."

Allison was a bit self-conscious about it when they started cutting "They Don't Know" at Treasure Isle in Nashville. Knowing that it was his song, the band piled on.

"We definitely gave him a hard time in the studio," says Knox. "Everybody's cutting up, like, 'I changed this lick, Kurt. Do I get 10 percent?'"

All kidding aside, "They Don't Know" was the kind of song Aldean and crew know well.

"This was probably one of the easiest things we cut on the whole record," says Knox. "[Drummer] **Rich Redmond's** standing up spinning his sticks. It's just that kind of thing where you're like, 'OK, bread and butter.' Sometimes you forget what your bread and butter is until you play it."

Though it's Allison's song, **Adam Shoenfeld** gets the guitar solo. Aldean remembers knocking the vocals out "pretty quick," and it was teed up as the lead single from the album until "Lights Come On" appeared late in the production cycle. Broken Bow released it to radio via PlayMPE as the fourth single on April 18, aligning an upbeat title with the march toward summer, and it's currently at No. 34 after four weeks on Country Airplay. They played it live for the first time on April 27, debuting it as a show-opener for the They Don't Know Tour in Toledo, Ohio. Its position in the set enhances Allison's onstage experience.

"We're kind of in the background behind a video montage, and it builds and builds and builds, and then we kick off on the downbeat of the song," he says. "The lights come on, it's mayhem, people are excited to see Jason, and it's been goosebumps every night so far."

In the meantime, Aldean is happy to keep singing the praises of that small-town farmer, even if the subject isn't particularly fashionable in more trendy circles.

"People in the big city go to the grocery store," he says with a laugh. "I guess they assume that all those vegetables and stuff they eat just magically appears in the produce department. But no, there's a guy busting his ass out growing all that stuff." ●

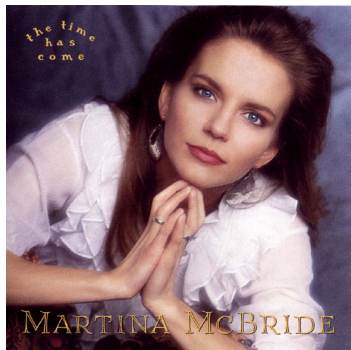


THE STARK REPORT PHYLLIS STARK phyllis.stark@billboard.com

Martina McBride Reflects On Her First 25 Years In The Industry



Twenty-five years ago this month, a young singer from Kansas released her first RCA album, *The Time Has Come*. While none of the set's three singles cracked



the top 20 on the Hot Country Songs chart, the project helped land **Martina McBride** the opening spot on the **Garth Brooks** tour that year and set her up for the massive success to come that began with her follow-up album, *The Way That I Am*. Since then, she has notched 14 gold, nine platinum, three double-platinum and two-triple platinum sales certifications and has won five Country Music Association Awards, four of them for female vocalist of the year. On June 21, McBride will be honored with the Artist Career Achievement Award from trade group

Country Radio Broadcasters. Here, she reflects on her first quarter-century in the business.

Looking back on the past 25 years, what are you most proud of having accomplished?

Having some songs that made a difference to people, songs that people could kind of take ownership of and attach themselves to, songs that made them feel something or made them feel like they're not alone. That's really the reason why I'm still here.

Was choosing powerful songs innate or something you learned how to do?

There's always this instinct with me with songs. [It either] moved me or it didn't. There was really no grand plan to find those kinds of songs. I never set out looking for a song like "Independence Day" or "A Broken Wing"; they just came to me. There's [been] some times, when looking back, I've wondered if recording so many of those songs was a good thing to do, because even though they resonated with people, you want to have a well-balanced [set].

Looking out and seeing the faces of your fans singing those songs back to you in concert probably erased any doubts.

Yeah. After the fact it's never as scary as before.

You came out at a time when there were so many wonderful, strong female artists on the radio. Did you ever think we would live through Tomatogate, and why did you take such a vocal stand against it at the time on social media?

That interview that I read with that consultant made me mad. I just thought it was so unfair and so arrogant. I'm not a radio consultant, but I do have pretty regular contact with a lot of country music fans, and just the fact that you can

make a blanket statement that women don't want to hear other women on the radio just seemed asinine to me. So late one night [after] I read that, I [decided to] ask some people on my Facebook if that's how they feel, because if it is how they feel, I'm really out of touch. And if it isn't how they feel, then I want to know that, too ... It was shocking to hear somebody say that and speak for so many people that obviously did not feel that way, so it just felt like the right time to ... get the conversation started.

Many artists have endured vocal problems in their career. Has that ever affected you? If so, how did you work through it?

I never really had any physical issues as far as polyps or anything like that that would require voice rest or surgery, but the voice does change as you get older. I went through a bout of bronchitis about five years ago. I went ahead and sang and toured and [grew] into some bad habits that I'm now working with someone to unravel. There are little things that can build up if you don't pay attention. It's a muscle, so as [I] get older, I find that I have to sing every day. I used to just sing onstage or just sing around the house or car. It's like an athlete, so it's really important to keep [it] in shape.

Interesting to hear that a world-class vocalist like you needs a vocal coach.

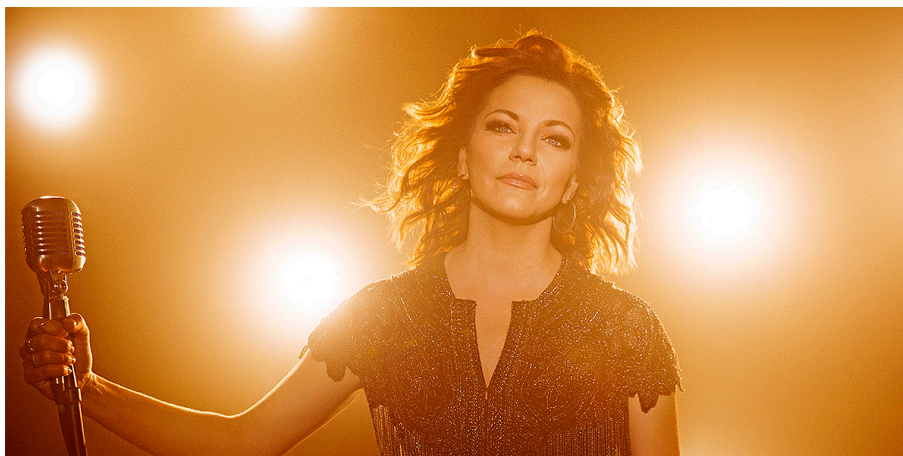
There's a stigma to it nobody wants to talk about. I'm not comparing myself to **Michael Jordan**, but he had a great natural ability but still needed a coach. I always used to feel like it was a bad thing, like it meant that you didn't know what you were doing, but that's not really it all. I wish I had had training when I was younger. I didn't have any. All I did was open my mouth, and whatever came out came out. I think that if I had had some training when I was younger it would have benefitted me.

What's next from you on your current deal with Nash Icon Records?

We're recording a new Christmas album. I actually go out to Los Angeles on May 25 and 26 to record that. I'm making kind of a big band, swing kind of Christmas album, kind of classic-sounding [with] legendary arranger **Patrick Williams**.

Your charity Team Music Is Love supports so many great projects and causes. How do you choose them?

We do a lot of stuff in the towns in which we tour. We look at the need in the community, and usually 99 percent of the time it's hunger, so we work with a lot of food banks. We've also worked in women's shelters, and we started a music program in Guatemala for young girls they've rescued off the street. We also raise money for breast cancer research grants. What I love about it is that it's not focused on one thing, [although it is focused] a little bit heavily on causes that benefit women and children. It started out as a very grass-roots thing called Team Martina, and then just last year I thought it needed a better name, so we changed the name to Team Music Is Love. It's just a really inclusive thing that connects people through music. ●



billboard Country Indicator

| THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | WKS ON CHART | TITLE Imprint/Label | Artist | PLAYS | | AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS) |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|---|---|-----------|------|------------------------|
| | | | | | THIS WEEK | +/- | THIS WEEK |
| 1 | 1 | 20 | IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BMLG | ★★ No. 1 (2 weeks) ★★ Brett Young | 4836 | -18 | 7.834 |
| 2 | 2 | 29 | BLACK Capitol Nashville | Dierks Bentley | 4770 | +125 | 7.517 |
| 3 | 6 | 46 | IF ITOLD YOU Capitol Nashville | ★★ Most Increased Plays ★★ Darius Rucker | 4361 | +332 | 6.877 |
| 4 | 3 | 37 | HURRICANE River House/Columbia Nashville | Luke Combs | 4110 | -369 | 7.137 |
| 5 | 7 | 34 | HOW NOTTO Warner Bros./WAR | Dan + Shay | 4007 | +100 | 6.266 |
| 6 | 9 | 19 | GOD, YOUR MAMA, AND ME BMLG | Florida Georgia Line Feat. Backstreet Boys | 3857 | +329 | 6.101 |
| 7 | 8 | 15 | THE FIGHTER Hit Red/Capitol Nashville | Keith Urban Feat. Carrie Underwood | 3799 | +148 | 5.950 |
| 8 | 5 | 42 | THEWEEKEND Valory | Brantley Gilbert | 3494 | -551 | 5.770 |
| 9 | 11 | 15 | EVERYTIME I HEARTHAT SONG Warner Bros./WMN | Blake Shelton | 3476 | +140 | 5.429 |
| 10 | 12 | 20 | YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Big Machine | Rascal Flatts | 3245 | +12 | 5.097 |
| 11 | 13 | 18 | YOU LOOK GOOD Capitol Nashville | Lady Antebellum | 3219 | +31 | 5.004 |
| 12 | 15 | 8 | CRAVING YOU Valory | Thomas Rhett Feat. Maren Morris | 3045 | +231 | 4.656 |
| 13 | 14 | 19 | FLATLINER Warner Bros./WMN | Cole Swindell | 2959 | +61 | 4.457 |
| 14 | 16 | 12 | DRINKIN' PROBLEM Big Machine | Midland | 2816 | +122 | 4.139 |
| 15 | 19 | 34 | MY GIRL Curb | Dylan Scott | 2667 | +176 | 3.885 |
| 16 | 18 | 30 | SOMEBODY ELSE WILL Valory | Justin Moore | 2621 | +116 | 3.848 |
| 17 | 17 | 16 | MY OLD MAN Southern Ground/Elektra/WAR | Zac Brown Band | 2477 | -73 | 4.050 |
| 18 | 20 | 9 | SPEAK TO A GIRL McGraw/Arista Nashville | Tim McGraw & Faith Hill | 2462 | -11 | 3.556 |
| 19 | 22 | 11 | NO SUCH THING AS A BROKEN HEART RCA Nashville | Old Dominion | 2223 | +167 | 3.245 |
| 20 | 21 | 19 | IT AIN'T MY FAULT EMI Nashville | Brothers Osborne | 2208 | +104 | 3.078 |
| 21 | 23 | 26 | DO I MAKE YOU WANNA Mercury | Billy Currington | 1926 | +115 | 2.703 |
| 22 | 24 | 13 | SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Atlantic/WMN | Brett Eldredge | 1709 | +115 | 2.384 |
| 23 | 25 | 35 | FOR HER Big Loud | Chris Lane | 1680 | +93 | 2.475 |
| 24 | 26 | 13 | MORE GIRLS LIKE YOU MCA Nashville | Kip Moore | 1540 | +185 | 1.950 |
| 25 | 27 | 27 | OUTTA STYLE BIG Label | Aaron Watson | 1260 | +28 | 1.675 |
| 26 | 29 | 10 | I COULD USE A LOVE SONG Columbia Nashville | Maren Morris | 1177 | +56 | 1.595 |
| 27 | 30 | 7 | TIN MAN Vanner/RCA Nashville | Miranda Lambert | 1154 | +47 | 1.523 |
| 28 | 36 | 11 | SMALL TOWN BOY Broken Bow | ★★ Most Added ★★ Dustin Lynch | 1080 | +231 | 1.352 |
| 29 | 34 | 16 | A GIRL LIKE YOU Mercury | Easton Corbin | 1063 | +164 | 1.341 |
| 30 | 31 | 9 | ASK ME HOW I KNOW Pearl | Garth Brooks | 1029 | +22 | 1.371 |

BILLBOARD COUNTRY INDICATOR PANEL — 106 STATIONS

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Abilene, Texas | KEAN | Fayetteville, N.C. | WKML | Lebanon, N.H. | WXXK | Santa Barbara, Calif. | KRAZ |
| Alexandria, La. | KRRV | Flagstaff, Ariz. | KAFF | Lincoln, Neb. | KFGE | Santa Maria, Calif. | KSNI |
| Amarillo, Texas | KGNC | Flint, Mich. | WFBE | Longview, Texas | KYKX | Sheboygan, Wis. | WBFM |
| Asheville, N.C. | WKFS | 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. | WBYT |
| 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. | KTTS |
| 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. | 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 | 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 | | WWGJ |
| 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 | 6 | LAST TIME FOR EVERYTHING Arista Nashville | Brad Paisley | 1004 | +61 | 1.512 |
| 32 | 38 | 5 | HEARTACHE ON THE DANCE FLOOR Capitol Nashville | Jon Pardi | 945 | +203 | 1.163 |
| 33 | 35 | 8 | ROUND HERE BUZZ EMI Nashville | Eric Church | 941 | +52 | 1.288 |
| 34 | 33 | 10 | HAPPY PEOPLE Capitol Nashville | Little Big Town | 902 | 0 | 1.142 |
| 35 | 37 | 26 | RING ON EVERY FINGER Reviver | LOCASH | 900 | +78 | 1.144 |
| 36 | 39 | 5 | THEY DON'T KNOW Macon/Broken Bow | Jason Aldean | 849 | +206 | 1.225 |
| 37 | 41 | 17 | MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD AGAIN Dot/BMLG | Drake White | 729 | +106 | 0.977 |
| 38 | 42 | 3 | EITHER WAY Mercury | Chris Stapleton | 704 | +184 | 1.034 |
| 39 | 40 | 11 | CALIFORNIA B\$R/New Revolution | Big & Rich | 664 | +32 | 0.836 |
| 40 | 43 | 25 | THE WAY I TALK Big Loud | Morgan Wallen | 504 | +2 | 0.548 |
| 41 | 49 | 7 | EVERY LITTLE THING Big Machine | Carly Pearce | 454 | +139 | 0.556 |
| 42 | 44 | 7 | GOOD COMPANY RCA Nashville | Jake Owen | 437 | +29 | 0.544 |
| 43 | 45 | 6 | WILD AS YOU CoJo | Cody Johnson | 361 | +31 | 0.411 |
| 44 | 47 | 13 | JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE COUNTRY Sea Gayle | CJ Solar | 324 | +6 | 0.328 |
| 45 | 48 | 15 | WOKE UP IN NASHVILLE Arista Nashville | Seth Ennis | 320 | +4 | 0.278 |
| 46 | 50 | 9 | PREACHIN' TO THE CHOIR BMLG | A Thousand Horses | 314 | +8 | 0.309 |
| 47 | 46 | 17 | MISSING Warner Bros./WMN | William Michael Morgan | 314 | -5 | 0.584 |
| 48 | 51 | 7 | WHAT IFS Zone 4/RCA Nashville | Kane Brown Feat. Lauren Alaina | 309 | +12 | 0.354 |
| 49 | 54 | 11 | ALL THE BEER IN ALABAMA Amerimonte/Grassroots | Shane Owens | 273 | +13 | 0.286 |
| 50 | 52 | 5 | LOVE AGAIN Nash Next/Valory | Todd O'Neill | 259 | -11 | 0.289 |
| 51 | 55 | 11 | FIGURE IT OUT Reznam/Nine North | Sarah Dunn Band | 252 | +5 | 0.297 |
| 52 | 53 | 11 | GREATEST LOVE STORY Arista Nashville | LANCO | 238 | -24 | 0.309 |
| 53 | 56 | 5 | GOD MADE A WOMAN Curb | Jerrold Niemann | 237 | +15 | 0.184 |
| 54 | 57 | 7 | WHAT I WANNA BE Black River | Jacob Davis | 228 | +11 | 0.219 |
| 55 | 58 | 4 | LIKE YOU THAT WAY Mercury | Canaan Smith | 226 | +19 | 0.239 |
| 56 | 59 | 6 | THIS SIDE OF YOU MRG | Rick Monroe | 184 | +15 | 0.185 |
| 57 | NEW | | ALL ABOUT YOU MCA Nashville | Josh Turner | 177 | +62 | 0.164 |
| 58 | NEW | | FIX A DRINK Warner Bros./WAR | Chris Janson | 155 | +46 | 0.192 |
| 59 | 60 | 2 | THAT'S WHAT'S WORKING RIGHT NOW Mucho Love/New Revolution | Trent Tomlinson | 149 | +8 | 0.144 |
| 60 | NEW | | THE LITTLE THINGS Dream Walkin' | Smith & Wesley | 144 | +6 | 0.141 |

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) 18

B

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) 37

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) 5

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

BROKEN HALOS WB Music Corp., ASCAP/House Of
Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l./
Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Straight Six Music, BMI (C.
Stapleton, M.Henderson) 31

C

CRAVING YOU BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/
LawnWranglers, ASCAP/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI
(D.M.Barnes, J.Bunetta) 10

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) 8

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) 32

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) 15

E

EITHER WAY WB Music Corp., ASCAP/New Sea
Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l./Spirit
Two Nashville, ASCAP/Music Of Windswept, ASCAP/3
Ring Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Songs
Of Windswept Pacific, BMI/Songs Of Thorch, BMI (C.
Stapleton, Tim James, K.Marvel) 27

EVERY LITTLE THING BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/
For The Kids Platinum, BMI/7189 Music Publishing,
BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/Songs Of Endurance, BMI/
Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Pearce, bus-
bee, E.Shackelton) 39

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.D.Warren) 13

F

THE FIGHTER Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/
Mary Rose Music, BMI/7189 Music Publishing, BMI/BMG
Platinum Songs, BMI (K.Urban, busbee) 6

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) 16

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) 30

G

GHOST IN THIS HOUSE Universal Music -
Careers, BMI/Universal Music MGB NA, LLC, BMI (H.
Prestwood) 19

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) 7

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) 48

HEARTACHE ON THE DANCE FLOOR
Golden Vault Music, BMI/Rancho Fiesta Music, BMI/Bill
Butler Music, BMI/Blongsongs, SESAC/Wordspring Music,
LLC, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC (J.Pardi, B.Butler,
B.Long) 42

HEART BREAK WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Haywoodja
Cut That Song, ASCAP/The Best I Could Do Publishing,
ASCAP/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/EKT Publishing,
SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs
Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House
Music, BMI/A Girl Named Charlie, BMI (D.Haywood, C.Kelley,
H.Scott, J.Frasure, N.Galton) 49

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) 11

HURRICANE 50 Egg, BMI/Straight Dimes, BMI/
Big Machine Music, BMI/Intune Publishing, BMI/BMG
Platinum Songs, BMI (L.Combs, T.Phillips, T.Archer) 3

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) 34

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) 4

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) 2

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

I WAS WRONG WB Music Corp., ASCAP/New Sea
Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l./Spirit
Two Nashville, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs Big Loud Shirt,
ASCAP/Big Loud Shirt Industries, ASCAP/Red Toe Rocker,
ASCAP (C.Stapleton, C.Wiseman) 46

L

LAST TIME FOR EVERYTHING New House
Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Songs For Margo, ASCAP (B.
Paisley, S.Ahquist, B.Anderson, C.DuBois, M.Ryan) 47

THE LONG WAY Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Paris
Not France Music, BMI/Ole Canalco Publishing, ASCAP (B.
Eldredge, M.Rogers) 41

LOSING SLEEP EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/
Goodbye Pants Music, BMI/EMI Foray Music, SESAC/Write
2 Be Free Music, SESAC/Words And Trouble, BMI (C.Young,
J.Hoge, C.DeStefano) 26

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) 36

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 Publishing,
ASCAP/D Soul Music, ASCAP/Capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP
(K.Moore, S.L.Olsen, J.Miller, D.A.Garcia) 35

MY GIRL Curb Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River,
ASCAP (D.Scott, J.Kerr) 12

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) 17

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) 23

R

RING ON EVERY FINGER Big Machine Music,
BMI/Big Yellow Dog Music, ASCAP/Major Bob Music, Inc.,
ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The
Line, BMI (Thomas Rhett, J.Kear, J.Frasure) 43

ROOTS Day For The Dead Publishing, SESAC/Reach
Music Tunes, SESAC/Siva Moon Publishing, SESAC/W.B.M.
Music Corp., SESAC/Simonetti Music Publishing, SESAC/
Kobalt Group Music Publishing, SESAC/Poppsolotamus
Music, SESAC (Z.Brown, N.Moon, B.Simonetti, C.Bowles) 44

ROUND HERE BUZZ Sony/ATV Tree Publishing,
BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Little Lounder
Songs, BMI/Mammaw's Fried Okra Music, BMI/Emileon
Songs, BMI (E.Church, J.Hyde, L.Dick) 40

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) 25

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) 24

SOMETHIN' I'M GOOD AT Sony/ATV
Countryside, BMI/Paris Not France Music, BMI/Sony/ATV
Tree Publishing, BMI/Tomdouglasmusic, BMI (B.Eldredge,
T.Douglas) 33

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.Spargur) 21

T

THEY DON'T KNOW Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/
Jaron Boyer Music, SESAC/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Music
Of The Corn, ASCAP/This Is Magic Mustang Music, ASCAP
(J.Boyer, J.Miranda, K.Allison) 45

TIN MAN Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog
Publishing, BMI/Beat Up Ford Publishing, BMI/BMG
Platinum Songs, BMI/SWMBMGMI, BMI/Lonesome
Vinyl Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI (M.Lambert,
J.Ingram, J.R.Stewart) 29

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) 38

THE WEEKEND Warner-Tamerlane Publishing
Corp., BMI/Indiana Angel Music, BMI/BMG Gold
Songs, ASCAP/Lanercost Publishing, ASCAP (B.Gilbert,
A.DeRobertis) 9

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) 22

Y

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) 14

YOURS IF YOU WANT IT Songs Of Universal,
Inc., BMI/Morendorffin Music, BMI/Super Big Music,
ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (A.Dorff, J.Singleton) 20

C

25 Years Ago Sawyer Brown Scored 'Some' Comeback

In 1992, the group notched the second of its three Hot Country Songs leaders

On May 23, 1992, **Sawyer Brown's** raucous "Some Girls Do" climbed 2-1 on Hot Country Songs, notching the band its second No. 1 and first in seven years. "Girls," written by lead singer **Mark Miller**, was released from the group's eighth studio album, *The Dirt Road*.

Sawyer Brown (which was named after a Nashville street) formed in Apopka, Fla., in 1981 and won the \$100,000 grand prize on the **Ed McMahon**-hosted TV talent show *Star Search* in 1983. The act topped Hot Country Songs with its second entry, "Step That Step," in 1985 and added

four more top 10s in the '80s. "Girls" contributed to a run of eight consecutive top 10s from 1991-1994, which yielded a more adult sound in ballads like "The Walk" and "All These Years," plus the band's third and most recent leader, the rousing "Thank God for You," in 1993. The group boasts 19 total top 10s on the chart and eight on Top Country Albums.

Sawyer Brown still tours regularly. Miller has also segued to contemporary Christian music, having discovered and produced format cornerstone **Casting Crowns**.

—JIM ASKER

DA

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| ① | 2 | 6 | 12 | SOME GIRLS DO R. SCRUGGS, M. MILLER (M. MILLER) | ★ ★ ★ No. 1 ★ ★ ★ 1 week at No. 1 | ◆ SAWYER BROWN CURB ALBUM CUT |
| ② | 8 | 11 | 13 | EVERY SECOND J. FULLER, J. HOBBS (W. PERRY, G. SMITH) | | COLLIN RAYE (V) EPIC 74242 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 14 | NEON MOON S. HENDRICKS, D. COOK (R. DUNN) | | BROOKS & DUNN (V) ARISTA 1-2409 |
| ④ | 6 | 9 | 12 | NOTHING SHORT OF DYING G. BROWN (T. TRITT) | | TRAVIS TRITT (V) WARNER BROS. 18984 |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 13 | OLD FLAMES HAVE NEW NAMES M. WRIGHT (B. BRADDOCK, R. VAN HOY) | | MARK CHESNUTT (V) MCA 54334 |



REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

Sawyer Brown, circa 1987.

PHOTOFEST