

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

APRIL 23, 2018 | PAGE 1 OF 21

INSIDE

Aldean, FGL, Bebe Rule Country Charts
>page 4

Steve Markland Upped At Downtown
>page 11

CMA Fest Grows: Cole, Paisley, Stapleton
>page 12

Live Notes: From Stadiums To Skyscrapers
>page 12

Makin' Tracks: Miranda Lambert Ignites 'Flame'
>page 16

Country Coda: Sammy Kershaw's 'Beautiful' Memory
>page 21

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

Tom.Roland@billboard.com

Inside *The Voice*: A Casting Assistant Gives A Peek Behind The Curtain



When raspy rock vocalist **Chloe Kohanski** walked off as the winner of NBC's *The Voice* in December 2017, **Blake Shelton** was obviously stoked: She was the sixth champion from Team Blake in the competition's first 13 seasons.

Almost as excited was Nashville Underground Artist Management founder **Shawn Carnes**, a former gospel singer who has become one of numerous talent pipelines for *The Voice*. An independently contracted, Nashville-based casting assistant since season 11, Carnes connected Kohanski with the show's producers when they were filling out the final contestant slots at the launch of season 13. She's one of many entrants associated with Music City—including former winners **Cassadee Pope**, **Danielle Bradbery**, **Craig Wayne Boyd** and **Sundance Head**—who have created a strong bond between *The Voice* and the country music capital.

"It just gives our city so much exposure," says Carnes. "Even if they aren't from here, if they moved to Nashville from wherever, it definitely helps our city and lets everybody know that there's so much talent coming out of the city that's not just country."

Like its predecessor and competitor, *American Idol*, *The Voice* has given hope to many artists looking to start or boost their careers. Pope, Bradbery and **RaeLynn** all earned hits after a run

on *The Voice*. Boyd rode massive single sales of "Baby's Got a Smile on Her Face" to a No. 1 debut on the Hot Country Songs chart (which measures sales, airplay and streaming) after his December 2014 victory. **Gwen Sebastian** joined Shelton on the 2014 hit "My Eyes" and now is a background singer in **Miranda Lambert's** band. **Morgan Wallen**—who was based in Knoxville, Tenn., when he competed—had a short run on the show that gave him enough confidence to move to Nashville, where he cut the current **Florida Georgia Line** collaboration "Up Down." And shortly after she bowed out of the competition, **Nicolle Galyon** found success as a country songwriter with such titles as Lambert's "Automatic," **Keith Urban's** "Female" and **Dan + Shay's** "Tequila."

Part of the show's appeal is the drama. Much like the Stanley Cup playoffs or the NCAA basketball tournament, *The Voice* has only one eventual winner, so the contestants battle against tremendous odds, with most of them destined to fall short of victory.

But the process of even making it on to the show is complicated. The producers hold formal public auditions for each season that includes a back-end process that lets them fill in holes or create more of a balance in the contestant pool. It's in that manner that Carnes assists, able to help the producers identify quality Nashville talent. They go through multiple



CARNES

CARNES: LORI B. GARNER

LUKE COMBS
ONE NUMBER AWAY
APRIL SHOWERS... BRING MAY POWERS!

BB 15* - 9*	CA/MB 14* - 9*
+1,835 SPINS / +8.6 MILLION AUDIENCE	+2,054 SPINS / +5,058 POINTS

RIVERHOUSE ARTISTS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE

auditions – the same as the contestants who enter through public cattle calls – but they might get fast-tracked to Los Angeles if they represent an age group or genre that might be lacking in a particular season. Thus, those entrants need to be prepared to abandon everything else to spend a month or so in Los Angeles during the early part of production.

“If the producers like you, you can expect to be on a plane in less than two weeks,” says Carnes.

NBC makes a big financial commitment. All the contestants are flown to Los Angeles and compensated during a month or so of production, and some of them may never even compete. The judges, says Carnes, filled up their teams so quickly for season 14 that roughly 25 people never got to step on the stage for the blind audition.

“They get a good little salary,” says Carnes. “All their expenses are paid, plus on top of that they shoot all their back stories. [NBC spends] a ton of money, and they don’t even use most of it. There’s a limited few that make it on the show.”

Talent is important, but it’s not the only factor involved in qualifying.

“They do an intense psychological [preparation with] them,” says Carnes, noting that the pressure of the show practically mandates it. “It is kind of mind-blowing if you do make it on to the show to [sing] in front of millions of people.”

And then there’s the matter of the contract. NBC has people available to understand the ins and outs of the deal, but Carnes saw one instance in which a fast-tracked contestant had a short window to go through it at the end of the first round of auditions in Los Angeles.

“They flew home on that Thursday, got home Thursday night, had to have that contract back to them by Saturday afternoon,” he says. “They’re not going to be able to negotiate anything, [and] it’s a thick contract.”

One of the criticisms of talent shows is how few genuine stars they produce. There are plenty of factors for that – the marketplace is already overpopulated with artists, the competitions sometimes produce people with ample musical talent but little charisma, and many of them are simply unprepared for the rigorous demands of an artistic career.

To mitigate that latter point, Carnes has started managing and/or consulting some of the acts he funnels to *The Voice*, emphasizing the importance of having an infrastructure and product on hand even before their season starts. The goal, he says, is to have some bookings and recordings ready to go – whether they win or not – and keep momentum going once their weekly TV exposure disappears.

“When they put all the artists through the process, they do a great job developing them and coaching them and getting them primed and ready to be on that stage,” says Carnes. “What they don’t do is teach them anything about starting their own business. They’re not ever taught how to utilize that platform once they get off the show.”

The lesson, in Carnes’ view, is to be as prepared on the front end as possible. TV producers invariably move on to another season or another show. An artist only has one career, so when a huge marketing opportunity comes along, it’s imperative to be ready to handle it on their own as the spotlight moves on.

“Each artist needs to be ready,” he says, “and I think it’s up to them.”



Ashley McBryde visited KUPL Portland, Ore. From left: KUPL music director Danny Dwyer, McBryde, KUPL PD Mojoe Roberts and W.A.R. West Coast manager of regional radio and streaming Raffaella Braun.



Walker Hayes performed an acoustic version of his new single, “Craig,” during an April 17 appearance on Cumulus’ *Ty, Kelly and Chuck*. From left: Ty Bentli, Hayes, Kelly Ford and Chuck Wicks.



Amerimonte/1608 artist Shane Owens (center) stopped in at WTQR Greensboro-Winston-Salem, N.C., on April 10 to promote his current single, “Lie.” He’s pictured with WTQR PD Casey Carter (left) and promotions director Chappy.

RODNEY ATKINS

CAUGHT UP
IN THE COUNTRY

FEATURING
THE FISK JUBILEE SINGERS

CURB
RECORDS

IMPACTING NOW!

32 FIRST WEEK STATIONS

KILT • WKLK • KNIX • KEYE
 KYGO • WQYK • WJVC • KUPL
 WSOC • WPGB • KSOP • KCYE
 KBEQ • KRTY • WMIL • WSIX
 WUSH • WIRK • WQNU • WSSL
 KVOO • WKLI • KHGE • WXCX
 WOGK • KXLY • KJUG • WKXC
 WXBQ • WSLC • WKML • KPLM

Catch their performance on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* **TONIGHT**

BROTHERS OSBORNE

PORT SAINT JOE
AVAILABLE **NOW**

featuring their latest hit
"SHOOT ME STRAIGHT"

BB/BDS 37*
CA/MB 35*

EMI
RECORDS
NASHVILLE

WINNERS OF THE 2018 **ACM** DUO AND VIDEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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

Aldean's *Rearview Town* Arrives Atop Billboard 200; Rexha & FGL Crown Country Airplay; Underwood Has Top-Selling Song



Jason Aldean's eighth studio full-length, *Rearview Town* (Macon/Broken Bow/BMG/Broken Bow Music Group), launches atop the all-genre Billboard 200 and Top Country Albums charts (dated April 28) with 183,000 equivalent album units in the week ending April 19, according to Nielsen Music. Of that amount, 162,000 were traditional album sales.

Produced by **Michael Knox**, *Rearview Town* is the first country LP to top the Billboard 200 in 2018. It nets the largest week for a country studio album in units and sales since **Chris Stapleton's** *From A Room: Volume 1*, which bowed with 219,000 units (202,000 in album sales) on May 27, 2017.

For Aldean, who won the entertainer of the year trophy at the 53rd annual Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards on April 15, *Town* marks his fourth Billboard 200 No. 1. It's his sixth leader on Top Country Albums and fifth album to debut at No. 1, following *They Don't Know*, which opened atop the list dated Oct. 1, 2016, with 131,000 copies sold; *Old Boots, New Dirt* (Oct. 25, 2014, 278,000); *Night Train* (Nov. 3, 2012, 409,000); and *Relentless* (June 16, 2007, 982,000, marking Aldean's biggest sales week). His other Top Country Albums No. 1, *My Kinda Party*, debuted at No. 2 on Nov. 20, 2010 (with 193,000 sold) and hit No. 1 on Feb. 19, 2011.

REXHA, FGL LEAD COUNTRY AIRPLAY Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line's "Meant to Be" (Warner Bros./Big Machine Label Group) ascends 2-1 on Country Airplay in its 22nd frame, increasing 3 percent to 41.3 million audience impressions. FGL banks its 12th Country Airplay No. 1 among 14 top 10s. "Meant" is the first leader for core pop artist Rexha.

On *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart (which blends streaming, airplay and sales data), "Meant" tallies its 21st week in the penthouse, trailing only **Sam Hunt's** "Body Like a Back Road" (34 weeks at No. 1 in 2017) and FGL's debut, "Cruise" (24 weeks, 2012-13).

"Meant," which is being dually promoted to both country and pop radio, tops the all-genre Radio Songs chart for a third week (1.42 million impressions, up 4 percent) and leads the Adult Pop Songs airplay survey for a second week.

A 'PRETTY' STREAK Carrie Underwood's "Cry Pretty" (Capitol Nashville),

which she performed live for the first time on the ACM Awards, soars 20-5 on Hot Country Songs. Released April 11, the track jumps 4-1 on Country Digital Songs Sales with 54,000 sold in its first full week of tracking (April 13-19, up from 21,000), becoming Underwood's sixth No. 1 on the survey and first since 2015's "Smoke Break."

"Pretty" concurrently becomes Underwood's first No. 1 on the all-genre Digital Song Sales survey, where it's the first country leader since **Jason Aldean's** "Burnin' It Down," which topped the Aug. 9, 2014-dated tally. It's the first song by a woman to rule the list since **Taylor Swift's** "Begin Again" (Oct. 13, 2012).

"Pretty" additionally boasts 3.8 million U.S. streams (up from 782,000).

Underwood notches her 27th total and consecutive Hot Country Songs top 10, encompassing all of her country singles promoted to the format and excluding holiday fare. She began her run with her first country single, "Jesus, Take the Wheel," which in 2006 became the first of her 14 No. 1s.

Underwood extends the longest streak of top 10 promoted singles from a career's start on Hot Country Songs. **Tracy Lawrence** ranks second with 19 from 1992-97.

SWIFT RETURNS The latest single from the newly reunited **Sugarland** (**Jennifer Nettles** and **Kristian Bush**), "Babe" (Big Machine), featuring **Taylor Swift**, debuts at No. 27 on Country Airplay with 8.1 million impressions. On Hot Country Songs, it starts at No. 48.

The track is from Sugarland's June 8 LP *Bigger*, the duo's first album since 2010.

Swift scores her first top 40 Country Airplay hit since December 2013, when "Red" reached No. 7. Before shifting to pop, she banked seven Country Airplay No. 1s among 18 top 10s.

HITTING THE BIG 3-0 **Blake Shelton** scores his 30th Hot Country Songs top 10, as "I Lived It" (Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville) darts 14-10. After he performed the song on the ACM Awards, it hikes by 226 percent to 19,000 sold, 6 percent to 3.7 million U.S. streams and 3 percent to 24.6 million in radio audience, despite its 9-11 dip on Country Airplay. ●



AVAILABLE
FREE
TO CURRENT
BILLBOARD
SUBSCRIBERS

billboard.com/iPad

ACCESS THE BEST IN MUSIC.

A DIGITAL VERSION OF EVERY ISSUE, FEATURING:
COVER STORIES · SPECIAL REPORTS · REVIEWS · INTERVIEWS
EVENT COVERAGE & MORE

GETTY IMAGES

Sugarland

BABE

FEAT. TAYLOR SWIFT

#1 MOST ADDED
93 FIRST WEEK STATIONS
INCLUDING SIRIUSXM / THE HIGHWAY

#1 ITUNES COUNTRY ★ #2 ITUNES ALL GENRE

PLAYLISTED ON: SPOTIFY'S HOT COUNTRY ★ SPOTIFY'S NEXT FROM NASHVILLE
APPLE MUSIC'S BEST OF THE WEEK ★ PANDORA'S NEW COUNTRY NOW

FEATURED AS: AMAZON ALEXA'S SONG OF THE DAY
SHAZAM'S SONG OF THE DAY ★ TUNEIN'S COUNTRY ROAD SONG OF THE DAY



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	2	22	MEANT TO BE Warner Bros./BMLG	★★ No. 1 (1 week) ★★ Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line	41.255	+1.084	7829	211	1
2	3	13	YOU MAKE IT EASY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	41.157	+2.448	7814	373	2
3	6	35	THE LONG WAY Atlantic/WWMN	Brett Eldredge	39.975	+4.473	7756	749	3
4	5	25	HEAVEN Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	38.304	+1.948	7269	329	4
5	4	18	MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	35.552	-3.107	6451	-627	5
6	1	44	SINGLES YOU UP MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	32.038	-10.363	6078	-2137	6
7	8	37	FORTHE FIRST TIME Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	29.844	+2.076	5948	292	7
8	7	51	SHE'S WITH ME Atlantic/WEA	High Valley	28.043	-2.435	5747	-338	8
9	11	18	ONE NUMBER AWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	24.746	+2.383	5268	574	9
10	10	14	WOMAN, AMEN Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	24.683	+1.801	4612	253	11
11	9	15	I LIVED IT Warner Bros./WWMN	Blake Shelton	24.586	+0.640	4796	174	10
12	12	24	EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT Blue Chair/Reviver	David Lee Murphy & Kenny Chesney	22.861	+0.950	4544	75	12
13	13	23	UP DOWN BMLG/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Florida Georgia Line	19.354	+1.654	4087	285	13
14	14	8	I WAS JACK (YOU WERE DIANE) Big Loud	Jake Owen	18.683	+2.428	3862	433	14
15	18	3	GET ALONG Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney	16.530	+4.763	3124	968	16
16	15	40	ONESTHAT LIKE ME Valory	Brantley Gilbert	15.268	-0.214	3625	-20	15
17	16	28	TAKE BACK HOME GIRL Big Loud	Chris Lane Featuring Tori Kelly	12.770	+0.245	3055	181	18
18	17	24	KISS SOMEBODY Warner Bros./WEA	Morgan Evans	12.493	+0.722	2931	42	19
19	19	39	GET TO YOU Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	12.255	+0.773	3061	118	17
20	23	5	COMING HOME Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Featuring Julia Michaels	11.236	+1.917	2413	494	23
21	22	15	TEQUILA Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	10.995	+1.475	2488	318	21
22	21	20	CRIMINAL Stoney Creek	Lindsay Ell	10.279	+0.417	2742	85	20
23	24	27	SHE AIN'T IN IT Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	9.538	+0.426	2407	7	24
24	26	34	HOOKED Curb	Dylan Scott	9.144	+0.471	2342	68	25
25	25	30	HEART BREAK Capitol Nashville	Lady Antebellum	9.066	+0.098	2425	74	22
26	20	2	CRY PRETTY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	8.772	-1.960	1729	110	31
27	NEW		BABE Big Machine	★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience/Most Added ★★ Sugarland Feat. Taylor Swift	8.128	+8.128	1133	1133	36
28	28	29	KINDA DON'T CARE Valory	Justin Moore	7.224	+0.340	2123	98	26
29	29	34	THREE CHORDS & THE TRUTH Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	Chase Rice	7.117	+0.283	2093	26	27
30	31	11	MERCY BMLG	Brett Young	6.679	+1.089	1764	314	30

BILLBOARD COUNTRY AIRPLAY PANEL – 148 STATIONS

Akron, OH	WOMX	El Paso, Texas	KHEY	Miami	WKIS	Rochester, N.Y.	WBEE
Albany, N.Y.	WQNA	Ft. Myers, Fla.	WCKT	Milwaukee	WMIL	Sacramento, Calif.	KBEB
Albuquerque, N.M.	KBQI		WWGR	Minneapolis	KEYE		KNCI
Allentown, Pa.	KRST	Et. Wayne, Ind.	WQHK	Mobile, Ala.	KMNB	St. Louis	KNTY
Atlanta	WCTO	Fresno, Calif.	KSJK	Monmouth/Ocean, N.J.	WKSJ		KSD
Augusta, Ga.	WKHX	Gainesville, Fla.	WOGK	Monterey, Calif.	WKMK	Salt Lake City	WII
Austin, Texas	WUBL	Grand Rapids, Mich.	WBCR	Nashville	KTOM		KSOP
Bakersfield, Calif.	WXXC	Greensboro, N.C.	WTOR		WKDF		KUBI
Baltimore	KASE	Greenville, S.C.	WSSL	Nassau, N.Y.	WSIX	San Antonio, Texas	KAJA
Baton Rouge, La.	KUZZ	Harrisburg, Pa.	WRBT	New Bern, N.C.	WJVC		KCY
Birmingham, Ala.	WPOC	Hartford, Conn.	WWYZ	New Orleans	WRNS	San Diego	KSON
Boise, Idaho	WYNK	Houston	KILT	New York	WNOE	San Jose, Calif.	KRTY
Boston	WDXB	Huntsville, Ala.	KKBO	Norfolk, Va.	WNHS	Sarasota, Fla.	WCTO
Buffalo, N.Y.	WZZK	Indianapolis	WFMS	Oklahoma City, Okla.	WGH	Seattle	KKWF
Charleston, S.C.	KAWO	Jacksonville, Fla.	WLHK	Omaha, Neb.	WJSH	Spokane, Wash.	KXLY
Charlotte, N.C.	KIZN	Johnson City, Tenn.	WGNE	Orlando, Fla.	KTST	Springfield, Mass.	WRNX
Chicago	WBWL	Kansas City	WQIK	Oxnard-Ventura, CA	KXKT	Stockton, Calif.	KATM
Cincinnati	WKLB		WXBO	Philadelphia	WVKA	Syracuse, N.Y.	WBBS
Cleveland	WYRK	Lexington, Ky.	KBEO	Phoenix	KHAY	Tampa, Fla.	WFUS
Colorado Springs, Colo.	WEZL	Little Rock, Ark.	WDAF	Pittsburgh	WXTU	Tucson, Ariz.	WYOY
Columbia, S.C.	WKKT	Los Angeles	KFKF	Portland, Maine	KMLE	Tulsa, Okla.	KJIM
Columbus, Ohio	WSOC	Louisville, Ky.	WCOY	Portland, Ore.	KNIX	West Palm Beach, Fla.	KVVO
Corpus Christi, Texas	WYBY	Madison, Wis.	WVIV	Providence, R.I.	WDSY	Wichita, Kan.	KWEN
Dallas	WEBG	McAllan, Texas	KMDL	Raleigh, N.C.	WOGI	Wilkes Barre, Pa.	KJUG
Dayton, Ohio	WUBS	Memphis	WPCV	Richmond, Va.	WPGB	Wilmington, D.C.	WMZO
Denver	WGAR		KCWE	Riverside, Calif.	WPOR	York, Pa.	WIRK
Des Moines, Iowa	KATC		KWNR	Roanoke, Va.	WTHT		KFDI
Detroit	WCOY		WBUL		KUPL		KZSN
	WCRS		KSSN		KWJ		WGGY
	KRYS		KKGO		WCTK		WXXY
	KPLX		WAMZ		WNCB		WGTY
	KSCS		WONU		WQDR		
	WHKO		WWQM		KBUL		
	KYGO		WMAD		KOLC		
	KHKI		KTEX		WKHK		
	WDRO		WGKX		KFRG		
	WYCD		WLFP		WSLC		

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	27	38	DOIN' FINE 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina*	6.610	-0.314	1917	-25	28
32	30	9	BREAK UP IN THE END Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	6.449	+0.117	1780	13	29
33	32	20	DRUNK GIRL Warner Bros./WAR	Chris Janson	5.863	+0.371	1584	16	32
34	33	15	A LITTLE DIVE BAR IN DAHLONEGA Atlantic/WAR	Ashley McBryde	4.492	+0.075	1309	105	34
35	59	2	LIFE CHANGES Valory ★★ Breaker ★★	Thomas Rhett	4.231	+3.593	927	759	38
36	35	19	HIDE THE WINE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	3.920	+0.247	1396	59	33
37	36	15	SHOOT ME STRAIGHT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	3.812	+0.159	1239	58	35
38	39	5	HOTEL KEY RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	3.090	+0.438	728	160	46
39	38	10	RICH Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	3.002	+0.191	778	48	42
40	40	12	BORN TO LOVE YOU Arista Nashville	LANCO	2.954	+0.388	870	146	40
41	37	20	LAST SHOT MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	2.911	+0.074	986	45	37
42	42	8	I HATE LOVE SONGS Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	2.763	+0.366	759	87	44
43	44	8	HANGIN' ON RCA Nashville	Chris Young	2.662	+0.540	768	82	43
44	45	6	YOU GOT 'EM ALL Big Machine	Trent Harmon	2.513	+0.648	878	100	39
45	50	4	DRUNK ME Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	2.253	+0.990	737	223	45
46	43	16	I GOT THIS Curb	Jerrod Niemann	2.239	-0.006	552	-9	49
47	41	10	BEST SHOT Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	2.087	-0.374	823	44	41
48	47	13	DON'T GET BETTER THAN THAT Reviver	LOCASH	1.826	+0.025	595	17	48
49	46	9	WORTH IT BMLG	Danielle Bradbery	1.609	-0.233	480	-3	50
50	49	8	BLUE TACOMA Triple Tigers ★★ Breaker ★★	Russell Dickerson	1.571	+0.064	603	18	47
51	51	2	BURN OUT Big Machine	Midland	1.160	+0.242	355	87	53
52	53	7	RUN WILD HORSES BIG Label	Aaron Watson	1.082	+0.249	354	45	54
53	NEW		MILLIONAIRE Mercury	Chris Stapleton	1.008	+0.632	210	122	-
54	52	12	AMERICAN ROCK 'N ROLL Top Dog/BMG/Broken Bow	Kid Rock	0.989	+0.123	439	-14	51
55	55	3	THE DIFFERENCE Valory	Tyler Rich	0.854	+0.072	337	54	55
56	56	10	CHILLS Universal Music Canada	James Barker Band	0.853	+0.125	334	47	56
57	57	10	REASONS Big Loud	Jillian Jacqueline	0.783	+0.078	323	21	57
58	60	3	SELFISH Rebel Engine	Stephanie Quayle	0.781	+0.164	263	7	-
59	RE-ENTRY		CAUGHT UP IN THE COUNTRY Curb Rodney Atkins Featuring The Fisk Jubilee Singers		0.715	+0.147	134	46	-
60	54	2	SEE YOU TRY Red Bow	Craig Campbell	0.648	-0.155	356	76	52



9

LUKE COMBS
One Number Away

Combs' third hit lifts into the Country Airplay top 10 (11-9), increasing 11 percent to 24.7 million audience impressions. It follows "Hurricane" and "When It Rains It Pours," which ruled for two weeks apiece.

GOING FOR ADDS

4/30

DAVISSON BROTHERS BAND
Po' Boyz
Dreamlined/Star Farm Nashville

DEVIN DAWSON
Asking For A Friend
Atlantic/WEA

MARK BRAY
I Just Need A Drink
BarFrog

MIRANDA LAMBERT
Keeper Of The Flame
RCA Nashville

SHANE OWENS
Lie
1608/Amerimonte

5/7

FRANK VIEIRA
Fill It Up
Frank Vieira

GRANGER SMITH
You're In It
Wheelhouse

KELSEY LAMB
Little By Little
Marco

SCOTTY MCCREERY
This Is It
Triple Tigers

5/14

ALEXANDRA DEMETREE
Coastin'
SSM Nashville

CONGRATULATIONS

Meant To Be

BEBE REXHA FEAT.
FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

#1 BILLBOARD &
COUNTRY AIRCHECK

billboard Hot Country Songs
#1 FOR 21 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS!



Photo Credit: Getty Images/Courtesy of the Academy of Country Music

THANK YOU TO ALL THE BELIEVERS!



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

MOST ADDED®		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
BABE Big Machine/UMG Nashville	Sugarland Feat. Taylor Swift	58
CRY PRETTY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	38
LIFE CHANGES Valory	Thomas Rhett	37
DRUNK ME Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	17
BORN TO LOVE YOU Arista Nashville	LANCO	16
HOTEL KEY RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	16
MERCY BMLG	Brett Young	14
SEE YOU TRY Red Bow	Craig Campbell	14
GET ALONG Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney	13
BEST SHOT Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	12

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
BABE Big Machine	Sugarland Featuring Taylor Swift	+8.128
GET ALONG Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney	+4.763
THE LONG WAY Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	+4.473
LIFE CHANGES Valory	Thomas Rhett	+3.593
YOU MAKE IT EASY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+2.448
I WAS JACK (YOU WERE DIANE) Big Loud	Jake Owen	+2.428
ONE NUMBER AWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+2.383
FOR THE FIRST TIME Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	+2.076
HEAVEN Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.948
COMING HOME Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Featuring Julia Michaels	+1.917

MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
BABE Big Machine	Sugarland Featuring Taylor Swift	+1133
GET ALONG Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney	+968
LIFE CHANGES Valory	Thomas Rhett	+759
THE LONG WAY Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	+749
ONE NUMBER AWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+574
COMING HOME Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Featuring Julia Michaels	+494
I WAS JACK (YOU WERE DIANE) Big Loud	Jake Owen	+433
YOU MAKE IT EASY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+373
HEAVEN Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+329
TEQUILA Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	+318

NEW AND ACTIVE				
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
YOUNG FOREVER EMI Nashville	Eric Paslay	0.640	30	2
DAVID ASHLEY PARKER FROM POWDER SPRINGS Mercury	Travis Denning	0.541	32	5
KEEPER OF THE FLAME RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	0.483	3	3
ALMOST OVER YOU Epic	Jessie James Decker Feat. Randy Houser	0.236	1	0
DIRT TO DUST Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	0.163	0	0
GIRL LIKE YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	0.163	0	0

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	MARRY ME Valory	Thomas Rhett	18.563
2	SMALL TOWN BOY Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	18.391
3	BROKEN HALOS Mercury	Chris Stapleton	17.972
4	FIVE MORE MINUTES Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	16.730
5	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	16.387
6	UNFORGETTABLE Valory	Thomas Rhett	14.305
7	WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	14.273
8	GREATEST LOVE STORY Arista Nashville	LANCO	14.069
9	LIKE I LOVED YOU BMLG	Brett Young	13.866
10	WRITTEN IN THE SAND RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	13.782

BILLBOARD COUNTRY BOXSCORE			
Gross Ticket Price(s)	Artist Venue/Date(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter(s)
\$146,995 \$30, \$25	LUKE COMBS Salem (Va.) Civic Center/March 1	5,651 sellout	FPC LIVE
\$132,487 \$49.75, \$26.75	JUSTIN MOORE Blue Cross Arena, Rochester, N.Y./Feb. 24	3,478 3,974	POLICE PRODUCTIONS
\$110,869 \$56.75, \$26.75	COLE SWINDELL Swiftel Center, Brookings, S.D./Feb. 22	2,510 5,257	LIVE NATION
\$102,051 \$121.50, \$41.50	DWIGHT YOAKAM Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet, Ill./March 29	1,626 1,865	VENUWORKS
\$79,470 \$45	GARY ALLAN Express Live!, Columbus, Ohio/Feb. 23	1,766 2,100	PROMOWEST PRODUCTIONS

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




TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 22, 2018

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	14	WHAT COWBOYS DO (Almost Country) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Casey Donahew Band	1864	68	11	12	12	DRUNK ENOUGH (Independent)	Robert Ray	1287	101
2	3	14	RUN WILD HORSES (BIG Label)	Aaron Watson	1679	23	12	11	14	TEXAS RAIN (Independent)	Case Hardin	1279	44
3	6	18	DRINKIN' BOUT YOU (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd w/ Matt Hillier	1600	145	13	9	26	LOOK WHO'S HURTING NOW (Independent)	Clay Hollis	1269	-16
4	1	17	EVERYTHING TO LOSE (Independent)	Sundance Head	1590	-265	14	17	7	AIN'T NOBODY HOTTER (Independent)	Kyle Park	1148	126
5	5	25	MISTAKES (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1523	64	15	14	26	RAIN (Independent)	Aaron Copeland	1135	11
6	7	14	GIRL DOWN IN TEXAS (Independent)	Josh Abbott Band	1453	4	16	16	9	FLOOD (Independent)	Drew Fish Band	1118	88
7	8	12	THE REWRITE (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1421	61	17	20	5	ALL ABOUT LOVINÍ (Independent)	Josh Ward	1076	171
8	4	14	SO LONG 6TH STREET (Bowen Sounds)	Wade Bowen	1403	-108	18	18	7	TUGGIN' ON MY HEARTSTRINGS (Independent)	Randall King Band	1019	87
9	10	14	MOMENT IN THE SUN (No Big Deal)	Reckless Kelly	1385	115	19	15	31	WHAT I DO (Independent)	Mark Powell	981	-124
10	13	10	SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO (Thirty Tigers)	Turnpike Troubadours	1322	148	20	21	6	I'M NOT DRINKIN' (Independent)	Jamie Richards	932	69

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 2018, Texas Regional Radio Report

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

A photograph of Jason Aldean wearing a straw hat and a plaid shirt, playing an acoustic guitar. The background is dark and moody.

JASON ALDEAN

REARVIEW
TOWN

#1 BILLBOARD ALL-GENRE TOP 200 ALBUM
FOURTH CONSECUTIVE CHART TOPPING ALBUM
BIGGEST COUNTRY DEBUT OF 2018



BMG

NEW ALBUM AVAILABLE NOW

"YOU MAKE IT EASY" POWER UP NOW

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Broken Bow artist Jason Aldean and his label partners had reason to celebrate when *Rearview Town* debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and Top Country Albums charts dated April 28. From left are BBR Music Group executive vp Jon Loba, Aldean and BMG US president repertoire & marketing Zach Katz.

MARKLAND MOVING UP AT DOWNTOWN

When Downtown Music Publishing signed veteran songwriter John Prine to its roster, it raised an enviable dilemma for the head of the Nashville office:



How do you critique material submitted by a songwriting icon?

"I don't," says Downtown Nashville senior vp A&R Steve Markland. "I would never. I've learned from every John Prine song that I hear. It's like going to school. John's not bringing me his songs to critique, either. I'm just honored to be on the receiving end of hearing a new project that he has ready to go."

Prine's latest, *The Tree of Forgiveness*, debuts at No. 2 on the Top Country Albums chart dated April 28 after moving 54,000 equivalent units, establishing his best-ever country albums chart position. It's timed

perfectly, arriving as Markland has been promoted, *Billboard Country Update* has learned exclusively. He adds senior stripes to his previous vp title.

The upgrade comes four years after Markland opened the company's Music City division in February 2014. Prine is the latest addition to a stellar Americana presence: The Downtown roster already includes Jason Isbell and Sturgill Simpson. But the Nashville wing has explored other areas, too. Four of its first signees—including veteran writers Kelly Archer ("Sleep Without You") and Marc Beeson ("Hometown Girl")—recently re-signed with Downtown, and the company has cultivated new talent, too, including Big Loud artist Jillian Jacqueline and Andy Albert ("If the Boot Fits").

Additionally, Downtown has developed deals with Nashville indie publishers Big Yellow Dog and Major Bob since starting the division. Markland has also established a Songwriters Without Borders initiative, creating performance and co-writing opportunities for his writers in other countries and/or with figures from pop and hip-hop genres, including Cheryl Cole, Naughty Boy and Flo Rida.

Markland's promotion doesn't change his job duties, but it sends a signal about Downtown's development plans in Nashville.

"What comes along with it," he says, "is the challenge to bring the office to the next level."

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Country Radio Broadcasters executive director Bill Mayne will step down in May 2019, ending nine years in the position. The board of directors has established a search committee to find his successor. Interested parties can apply [here](#). The 50th annual Country Radio Seminar is set for Feb. 13-15,

2019 ... Travis Daily started April 20 as the Beasley/Tampa (Fla.) operations manager and WQYK PD. He spent the previous 17 years at iHeartMedia/Tampa and Sarasota, where he was senior vp programming ... Justin Nesci joins iHeartMedia as executive vp advanced audio and data revenue. He was the principal for J/T/N Advisors, a digital-media consultancy ... Cox Enterprises hired vp compliance Sharon Zealey. She was most recently Carestream Dental lead counsel ... Westwood One will provide content across multiple platforms from the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas with Radio Row remotes on May 19 and backstage coverage from the May 20 show ... Individual tickets and tables are available for the Country Radio Hall of Fame induction dinner and awards on June 20 in Nashville. Go [here](#) for info.

'ROUND THE ROW

Roar founding partner Will Ward left the company to establish a new Los Angeles-based management, production and investment firm, Fourward. Other leading Fourward executives include film and TV production head Jon Levin, a former CAA agent; head of corporate Trent Blakett, the former Roar/Asia-Pacific managing director; and head of ventures Peter Sung, previously Roar corporate managing director. A total of 14 Roar staffers will move to Fourward. Among Roar's music clients is Zac Brown Band ... Danny Bess joined Warner Music Nashville as vp finance. He held the same position with Universal Music Group Nashville ... Sony/ATV Nashville added four new members to its creative department: creative director Dane Schmidt, creative manager Katie Kerkhove, creative coordinator Stephen Denninger and A&R assistant Laura Castillo. Schmidt was previously Tree Vibe creative director, Kerkhove was a CAM Creative A&R consultant, Denninger was a Universal Music Publishing Group Nashville catalog manager, and Castillo steps up from a Sony/ATV internship ... Aaron Chesling was promoted to Silverado president from vp A&R as the label adds a Silverado Texas imprint. Texas-based musician Will Yates is acting as consultant. Joe Diffie is the best-known member of the Silverado roster ... Brad Paisley renewed his affiliation with Arista Nashville, his recording home for two decades ... Singer-songwriter Dustin Collins signed a label-services deal with Average Joes ... Bluegrass act Borrowed Tyme joined the roster at South Carolina-based Bonfire Recording with a self-titled album due July 6 ... Emerging artist Ry Bradley enlisted PLA Media for PR ... Meghan Linsey reached a management deal with Los Angeles-based Mount Music Group, founded by David Mount ... Kelsea Ballerini signed with Sandbox Management, ending her association with Iconic Entertainment. Ballerini will also perform during the Music Biz conference awards breakfast on May 16 ... Songwriter Shane McAnally ("Marry Me," "I Hate Love Songs") joins artists and activists on a May 17 Music Biz panel, "Power of Queer Storytelling in Song," led by GLAAD president/CEO Sarah Kate Ellis. The conference is full of metadata panels booked for May 15. Go [here](#) for details ... Johnny Cash Museum owner Bill Miller purchased the Federal Reserve Building in Nashville, marking the fifth downtown structure among his holdings ... Syndicated country TV show *Nashville Insider* added WTVF NC5+ Nashville as an affiliate ... Songwriter-guitarist-producer Randy Scruggs died April 17 after a short illness. He co-wrote Deana Carter's "We Danced Anyway" and Billy Joe Royal's "Love Has No Right," produced hits by Earl Thomas Conley and Sawyer Brown, and played on hits by Miranda Lambert, George Strait, Vince Gill and Waylon Jennings. Scruggs won five Country Music Association awards, including three as musician of the year. ●



Carrie Underwood dropped by SiriusXM's Nashville studios on April 19 to chat with Storme Warren on *The Highway*.

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

Cracker Barrel returns as a sponsor of free nightly concerts at Nashville's Ascend Amphitheater June 7-9 during the Country Music Association's CMA Music Festival. The opening night features BBR Music Group acts, including



BRICE: RYAN SMITH

Chase Bryant, Chase Rice, Craig Campbell and Granger Smith. Red Light Management will stock the next evening's bill with **Lee Brice, Clare Dunn, Tyler Farr, Maddie & Tae and Drake White.** The finale features Warner Music Nashville, including **Cole Swindell, Morgan Evans and Cale Dodds.** The leadup to the festival is growing, too. **Kimberly Williams-Paisley** and **Blair Garner** will host Dance Party to End Alz on June 3, with **Brad Paisley, Lindsay Ell, Chris Young and Charles Esten** playing '80s music at the Wildhorse Saloon.

And **Marty Stuart's** Late Night Jam returns to the Ryman Auditorium June 6 with **Chris Stapleton** and **John Prine** leading the charge.

Jason Aldean and **Kid Rock** were announced as support for **Lynyrd Skynyrd's** final hometown concert on Sept. 2 at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Fla. The same month, **Cam** headlines Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium for the first time, joined by opener **Lucie Silvas.** One more unique live note belongs to 14-year-old **Tegan Marie,** who performed "Keep It Lit" from the observation deck of New York's Empire State Building. Others, including **Brantley Gilbert** and **Martina McBride,** have played on that platform before, but Tegan's performance was recorded and released, debuting via Radio Disney on April 18.

Thomas Nelson imprint W Publishing will publish a **Rory Feek** book, *Once Upon a Farm: Lessons on Growing Love, Life, and Hope on a New Frontier* on June 19. It appears to document his transition from grieving the loss of wife and singing partner **Joey Martin Feek** to moving forward as a single father to 4-year-old daughter **Indiana.**

Carrie Underwood's Capitol debut, *Cry Pretty,* dominated new-project talk in the last week after the label announced a Sept. 14 street date, but plenty of other new albums and EPs were set for release, including **Parmalee's** six-song *Party Pack* EP, which Stoney Creek released April 20. Also on the way are **Terra Bella's** *There's a Country Song,* May 1 (self-released), **The Wild Feathers' Greetings From the Neon Frontier,** June 29 (Reprise), **Krystal Keith's Boulder** EP, July 13 (Show Dog Nashville), **Carolina Story's Lay Your Head Down,** July 13 (Black River Americana) and **Amanda Shires' To the Sunset,** Aug. 3 (Silver Knife/Thirty Tigers). ●

ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

April 24

- 2008 — **Toby Keith** has a performance at a base in Kandahar, Afghanistan, interrupted by mortar fire as he plays for 2,500 troops on his sixth USO tour.
- 2001 — Curb releases **Tim McGraw's** album *Set This Circus Down.*



KEITH

April 25

- 1998 — **Garth Brooks** sings "Callin' Baton Rouge" at the LSU Purple & Gold spring football game in Louisiana.
- 1978 — **Willie Nelson** performs for **Jimmy Carter** at the White House in Washington, D.C.

April 26

- 2013 — **George Jones** dies at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville.

April 27

- 2015 — Warner Bros. releases **Chris Janson's** "Buy Me a Boat" to radio.
- 2010 — **Shania Twain** mentors the final six contestants on Fox-TV's *American Idol,* including **Casey James.** The episode's set list includes "You've Got a Way," "Any Man of Mine," "No One Needs to Know" and "You're Still the One."

April 28

- 2017 — **Luke Combs** nabs a gold single from the RIAA for "Hurricane."
- 1992 — **George Strait** records "Heartland" at Nashville's Sound Stage.

April 29

- 2016 — **Sam Hunt** welcomes surprise guests **Snoop Dogg, G-Eazy** and **Bebe Rexha** for his performance of "House Party" during the Stagecoach Country Music Festival at the Empire Polo Field in Indio, Calif.

April 30

- 1988 — **Rodney Crowell** and **Rosanne Cash** meet at No. 1 on the *Billboard* country singles chart with "It's Such a Small World."

Source: RolandNote.com, the Ultimate Country Music Database

Top Headlines from **billboard.com**

Click on headlines below for more details

[Apple Plans For Nashville Expansion As Jay Liepiz Moves To Music City](#)

[Kelly Clarkson To Host The 2018 Billboard Music Awards](#)

[Billboard Music Awards 2018 Nominations: See The Full List](#)

[How This Startup Is Finding Millions In Unclaimed YouTube Revenue For Artists And Labels](#)

[Elton John Biopic 'Rocketman' Picked Up By Paramount](#)



Mitchell Tenpenny visited Cumulus' campus in Nashville to promote his Riser House/Columbia release "Drunk Me" on *Nash Nights Live.* From left: NNL co-host Elaina Smith, NASH PD John Shomby, Tenpenny and NNL co-host Shawn Parr.

billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA
COMPILED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	1	1	21	MEANT TO BE WILSHIRE (B. REXHA, T. HUBBARD, J. MILLER, D. A. GARCIA) ★★ No. 1 (21 weeks)/Airplay Gainer ★★	Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line WARNER BROS./BMLG	1	1
2	2	2	28	HEAVEN D. HUFF (S. CARTER, M. MCGINN, L. RIMES)	Kane Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	4	2
3	3	3	12	YOU MAKE IT EASY M. KNOX (T. HUBBARD, B. KELLEY, M. WALLEN, J. M. SCHMIDT)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	2	2
4	6	5	17	MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD J. STEVENS, J. STEVENS (D. FRASIER, E. M. HILL, J. KEAR)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	5	4
5	20	—	2	CRY PRETTY D. GARCIA, C. UNDERWOOD (C. UNDERWOOD, H. LINDSEY, L. MCKENNA, L. ROSE) ★★ Digital & Streaming Gainer ★★	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	26	5
6	5	4	30	MARRY ME D. HUFF, J. FRASURE, THOMAS RHETT (THOMAS RHETT, J. FRASURE, A. GORLEY, S. MCANALLY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	RC	2
7	9	9	14	TEQUILA D. SMYERS, S. HENDRICKS (D. SMYERS, J. REYNOLDS, N. GALYON)	Dan + Shay WARNER BROS./WAR	21	7
8	4	6	40	SINGLES YOU UP P. DIGIOVANNI (J. DAVIS, S. D. JONES, J. EBACH)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	6	4
9	7	8	35	THE LONG WAY R. COPPERMAN, B. ELDRIDGE (B. ELDRIDGE, M. ROGERS)	Brett Eldredge ATLANTIC/WMIN	3	7
10	14	12	13	I LIVED IT S. HENDRICKS (A. GORLEY, B. HAYSLIP, R. AKINS, R. COPPERMAN)	Blake Shelton WARNER BROS./WMIN	11	10
11	8	10	16	ONE NUMBER AWAY S. MITCHELL, JACKIE BOYZ (L. COMBS, S. A. BATTEY, S. MITCHELL, R. WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	9	8
12	11	37	3	GET ALONG B. CANNON, K. CHESNEY (R. COPPERMAN, S. MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE)	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER BROS./WEA	15	11
13	10	7	53	BROKEN HALOS D. COBB, C. STAPLETON (C. STAPLETON, M. HENDERSON)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY	RC	5
14	16	16	13	WOMAN, AMEN R. COPPERMAN (R. COPPERMAN, J. KEAR, D. BENTLEY)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	10	14
15	15	14	26	FOR THE FIRST TIME R. COPPERMAN (D. RUCKER, D. GEORGE, SCOOTER CARUSOE)	Darius Rucker CAPITOL NASHVILLE	7	14
16	13	13	27	UP DOWN J. MOI (B. CLAWSON, M. HARDY, C. J. SOLAR)	Morgan Wallen Featuring Florida Georgia Line BMLG/BIG LOUD	13	13
17	18	17	21	EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT K. CHESNEY, B. CANNON (D. L. MURPHY, C. STEVENS, J. YEARY)	David Lee Murphy & Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/REVIVER	12	17
18	17	15	29	TAKE BACK HOME GIRL J. MOI (D. A. GARCIA, H. LINDSEY, J. MILLER)	Chris Lane Featuring Tori Kelly BIG LOUD	17	15
19	19	19	14	MERCY D. HUFF (B. YOUNG, S. MCCONNELL)	Brett Young BMLG	30	19
20	26	26	5	COMING HOME J. R. ROTEM, K. URBAN (K. URBAN, J. R. ROTEM, J. MICHAELS, M. HAGGARD, N. GALYON)	Keith Urban Featuring Julia Michaels CAPITOL NASHVILLE	20	20
21	21	20	8	I WAS JACK (YOU WERE DIANE) J. MOI (T. CECIL, J. MELLENCAMP, D. RAY, J. STEVENS, C. WISEMAN)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	14	20
22	29	29	19	HEART BREAK BUSBEE (D. HAYWOOD, C. KELLEY, H. SCOTT, J. FRASURE, N. GALYON)	Lady Antebellum CAPITOL NASHVILLE	25	22
23	22	21	8	BREAK UP IN THE END M. CARTER (J. M. NITE, C. MCGILL, J. J. DILLON)	Cole Swindell WARNER BROS./WMIN	32	13
24	24	23	20	SHE AIN'T IN IT B. BUTLER, J. PARDI (C. DANIELS, W. VARBLE)	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	23	23
25	23	22	30	GET TO YOU S. HENDRICKS (A. STOKLASA, P. DOVGALYUK)	Michael Ray ATLANTIC/WEA	19	22



14

DIERKS BENTLEY
Woman, Amen

Bentley's co-written first single from his upcoming LP, *The Mountain* (due June 8), hops 16-14 on Hot Country Songs. After he performed it at the Academy of Country Music Awards (April 15), it surges by 193 percent to 14,000 sold. On Country Airplay, it holds at No. 10 (24.7 million, up 8 percent).



22

LADY ANTEBELLUM
Heart Break

The title track from *Lady A's* latest set hurdles to a new high on Hot Country Songs (29-22). After the trio performed the song on the ACM Awards, it rockets by 1,102 percent to 12,000 sold and gains by 15 percent to 2.3 million U.S. streams.

billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY
nielsen MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	25	24	10	KISS SOMEBODY C. DESTEFANO (M.EVANS,C. DESTEFANO,J.OSBORNE)	Morgan Evans WARNER BROS./WEA	18	24
27	27	25	25	HOOKED M.ALDERMAN,C.GIBBS,J.E.NORMAN (L.RIMES,S.ENNIS,M.EVANS)	Dylan Scott CURB	24	25
28	40	39	5	I HATE LOVE SONGS F.G.WHITEHEAD,J.MASSEY (K.BALLERINI,T.ROSEN,S.MCANALLY)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	42	28
29	NEW		1	DROWNS THE WHISKEY M.KNOX (J.THOMPSON,J.MIDDLETON,B.KINNEY) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Jason Aldean Featuring Miranda Lambert MACON/BROKEN BOW	-	29
30	30	28	15	DRUNK GIRL S.HENDRICKS (C.JANSON,SCOOTER CARUSOE,T.DOUGLAS)	Chris Janson WARNER BROS./WAR	33	28
31	28	27	18	I'D BE JEALOUS TOO R. COPPERMAN (D.LYNCH,R.COPPERMAN,J.M.NITE)	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	RC	27
32	31	31	14	CRIMINAL K.BUSH (L.ELL,C.STEVENS,F.WILHELM)	Lindsay Ell STONEY CREEK	22	31
33	42	46	4	RICH BUSBEE,M.MORRIS (M.MORRIS,J.J.DILLON,L.VELTZ)	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	39	33
34	34	34	12	DOIN' FINE BUSBEE (LAUREN ALAINA,E.SHACKELTON,BUSBEE)	Lauren Alaina 19/INTERSCOPE/MERCURY	31	34
35	44	45	5	REARVIEW TOWN M.KNOX (N.THRASHER,B.PINSON,K.LOVELACE)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	-	24
36	33	33	13	KINDA DON'T CARE S.BORCHETTA,J.S.STOVER (R.AKINS,R.COPPERMAN,B.HAYSLIP)	Justin Moore VALORY	28	33
37	35	30	9	A LITTLE DIVE BAR IN DAHLONEGA J.JOYCE (A.MCBRYDE,N.HAYFORD,J.RICE)	Ashley McBryde ATLANTIC/WAR	34	30
38	36	35	18	THREE CHORDS & THE TRUTH R. COPPERMAN (C.RICE,R.COPPERMAN,J.M.NITE)	Chase Rice DACK JANIELS/BROKEN BOW	29	35
39	41	43	8	HANGIN' ON C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER (C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER,J.HOGE)	Chris Young RCA NASHVILLE	43	35
40	37	38	13	BORN TO LOVE YOU J.JOYCE (B.LANCASTER,R.COPPERMAN,A.GORLEY,J.OSBORNE)	LANCO ARISTA NASHVILLE	40	37
41	39	44	12	SHOOT ME STRAIGHT J.JOYCE (J.OSBORNE,T.J.OSBORNE,L.T.MILLER)	Brothers Osborne EMI NASHVILLE	37	35
42	RE-ENTRY		6	LIFE CHANGES D.HUFF,J.FRASURE,THOMAS RHETT (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	35	25
43	NEW		1	DIANE J.BHASKER,T.JOHNSON (C.OCHS,T.JOHNSON,J.BHASKER)	Cam ARISTA NASHVILLE	RC	43
44	38	41	8	HIDE THE WINE BUSBEE (A.GORLEY,L.LAIRD,H.LINDSEY)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	36	38
45	32	-	2	I'LL WAIT FOR YOU M.KNOX (J.HANSON,N.THRASHER,N.BROPHY,M.DELANEY)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	-	32
46	NEW		1	GIRL LIKE YOU M.KNOX (M.TYLER,J.BOYER,J.MIRENDA)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	-	46
47	RE-ENTRY		3	LEAVE RIGHT NOW J.BUNETTA,THOMAS RHETT (THOMAS RHETT,J.BUNETTA,E.DREWETT,J.H.RYAN)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	-	38
48	NEW		1	BABE K.BUSH,J.NETTLES,J.RAYMOND (T.SWIFT,P.T.MONAHAN)	Sugarland Featuring Taylor Swift BIG MACHINE	27	48
49	NEW		1	SOMEBODY'S BEEN DRINKIN' M.CARTER (B.ANDERSON,L.HUTTON,H.PHELPS)	Cole Swindell WARNER BROS./WMN	-	49
50	NEW		1	DIRT TO DUST M.KNOX (J.BOYER,M.TYLER,B.M.STENNIS)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	-	50

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	
'17	6.0 million
'18	4.8 million
DIGITAL TRACKS SALES	
'17	22.3 million
'18	15.5 million

For week ending April 19, 2018. Figures are rounded. Compiled from a national sample of retail store and rack sales reports collected and provided by Nielsen Music.



Weekly Unit Sales			
	ALBUMS	DIGITAL ALBUMS*	DIGITAL TRACKS
This Week	509,000	147,000	1,215,000
Last Week	314,000	93,000	981,000
Change	62.1%	58.1%	23.9%
This Week Last Year	336,000	106,000	1,468,000
Change	51.5%	38.7%	-17.2%

*Digital album sales are also counted within album sales.

Overall Unit Sales			
	2017	2018	CHANGE
Albums	6,005,000	4,838,000	-19.4%
Digital Tracks	22,347,000	15,483,000	-30.7%
Sales by Album Format			
	2017	2018	CHANGE
Physical	4,073,000	3,444,000	-15.4%
Digital	1,932,000	1,395,000	-27.8%

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	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 538375642*/BBMG (538375730)	REARVIEW TOWN		1
2	NEW		1	JOHN PRINE OH BOY 13327* (35143)	THE TREE OF FORGIVENESS		2
3	1	2	72	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947*/SMN	KANE BROWN	■	1
4	6	4	32	THOMAS RHETT VALORY TR0300A/BMLG	LIFE CHANGES	●	1
5	5	3	155	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	2	1
6	11	8	50	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 026379*/UMGN	FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 1	●	1
7	8	6	19	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 027589*/UMGN	WHAT MAKES YOU COUNTRY		1
8	7	5	46	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	●	1
9	2	1	3	KACEY MUSGRAVES MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN	GOLDEN HOUR		1
10	10	10	62	BRETT YOUNG BMLG BY0100A*	BRETT YOUNG	●	2
11	12	11	96	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN	CALIFORNIA SUNRISE	●	1
12	16	14	20	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 027408*/UMGN	FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 2		1
13	29	22	24	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 564386/WMN	TEXOMA SHORE		1
14	4	-	2	VARIOUS ARTISTS HST GLOBAL/MCA NASHVILLE 028066*/UMGN	RESTORATION: REIMAGINING THE SONGS OF ELTON JOHN AND BERNIE TAUPIN		4
15	14	12	166	SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 021502/UMGN	MONTEVALLO	3	1
16	15	13	86	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE BMLG 0300*	DIG YOUR ROOTS	■	1
17	22	25	34	OLD DOMINION RCA NASHVILLE 542939*/SMN	HAPPY ENDINGS		1
18	28	31	95	MAREN MORRIS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 516885*/SMN	HERO	●	1
19	24	20	102	KEITH URBAN HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE 023591*/UMGN (025848 AMS & WSEX)	RIPCORD	■	1
20	RE-ENTRY		72	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 532305*/SMN	THE WEIGHT OF THESE WINGS	■	1
21	13	9	5	SCOTTY MCCREERY TRIPLE TIGERS 581804*/RED	SEASONS CHANGE		1
22	18	18	134	THOMAS RHETT VALORY RT0200A/BMLG	TANGLED UP	■	2
23	20	17	143	ZAC BROWN BAND ROAR/SOUTHERN GROUND/ATLANTIC 546369/AG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
24	23	15	40	ALAN JACKSON ARC/EMI NASHVILLE 025857/UMGN	PRECIOUS MEMORIES COLLECTION		4
25	21	21	130	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 551788/WMN	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS		2

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by Nielsen Music, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2018, 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	21	MEANT TO BE BEBE REXHA & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
2	2	24	HEAVEN KANE BROWN
3	4	8	TEQUILA DAN + SHAY
4	3	18	MARRY ME THOMAS RHETT
5	7	12	YOU MAKE IT EASY JASON ALDEAN
6	5	54	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
7	6	50	WHAT IFS KANE BROWN FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA
8	8	63	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD SAM HUNT
9	10	10	SINGLES YOU UP JORDAN DAVIS
10	14	52	SMALL TOWN BOY DUSTIN LYNCH
11	11	79	IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BRETT YOUNG
12	12	40	WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS LUKE COMBS
13	13	79	HURRICANE LUKE COMBS
14	23	8	MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD LUKE BRYAN
15	17	58	BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR KEITH URBAN
16	15	6	ONE NUMBER AWAY LUKE COMBS
17	16	4	MERCY BRETT YOUNG
18	18	55	DIE A HAPPY MAN THOMAS RHETT
19	21	52	H.O.L.Y. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
20	9	16	ALL ON ME DEVIN DAWSON
21	19	4	TAKE BACK HOME GIRL CHRIS LANE FEAT. TORI KELLY
22	20	15	FIVE MORE MINUTES SCOTTY MCCREERY
23	24	16	WRITTEN IN THE SAND OLD DOMINION
24	25	3	UP DOWN MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
25	22	14	BROKEN HALOS CHRIS STAPLETON

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 2018, 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	4	2	CRY PRETTY CARRIE UNDERWOOD
2	1	21	MEANT TO BE BEBE REXHA & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
3	6	15	MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD LUKE BRYAN
4	2	2	GET ALONG KENNY CHESNEY
5	5	22	HEAVEN KANE BROWN
6	22	49	WHAT IFS KANE BROWN FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA
7	3	12	YOU MAKE IT EASY JASON ALDEAN
8	20	7	I LIVED IT BLAKE SHELTON
9	15	13	TEQUILA DAN + SHAY
10	14	34	BROKEN HALOS CHRIS STAPLETON
11	9	27	MARRY ME THOMAS RHETT
12	24	7	WOMAN, AMEN DIERKS BENTLEY
13	RE-ENTRY		COMING HOME KEITH URBAN FEAT. JULIA MICHAELS
14	NEW		DROWNS THE WHISKEY JASON ALDEAN FEAT. MIRANDA LAMBERT
15	NEW		HEART BREAK LADY ANTEBELLUM
16	8	14	SINGLES YOU UP JORDAN DAVIS
17	13	18	UP DOWN MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
18	18	120	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
19	11	13	ONE NUMBER AWAY LUKE COMBS
20	RE-ENTRY		I HATE LOVE SONGS KELSEA BALLERINI
21	RE-ENTRY		TIN MAN MIRANDA LAMBERT
22	RE-ENTRY		IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW BRETT YOUNG
23	RE-ENTRY		DRINKIN' PROBLEM MIDLAND
24	10	11	EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT DAVID LEE MURPHY & KENNY CHESNEY
25	16	6	MERCY BRETT YOUNG

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	NEW		1	JOHN PRINE OH BOY 13327* (35143)	THE TREE OF FORGIVENESS		1
2	3	2	101	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	2	1
3	5	3	50	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 026379*/UMGN	FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 1	●	1
4	1	1	3	KACEY MUSGRAVES MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN	GOLDEN HOUR		1
5	6	4	20	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 027408*/UMGN	FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 2		1
6	8	15	50	ZACH WILLIAMS ESSENTIAL 11053/PLG	CHAIN BREAKER		4
7	7	8	106	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA	●	1
8	10	10	64	SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS		4
9	11	12	147	HOZIER RUBYWORKS 309996*/COLUMBIA	HOZIER	2	1
10	9	9	142	ED SHEERAN ELEKTRA 530433*/AG		+	2

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 2018, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.



6

KANE BROWN
Featuring
LAUREN ALAINA
What Ifs

The duet flies 22-6 on Country Digital Song Sales, up 284 percent to 20,000, after **Brown** and **Alaina's** performance on the ACM Awards April 15, when Alaina won best new female vocalist. The track topped Hot Country Songs for five weeks beginning in October and Country Airplay dated Oct. 28.

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

Miranda Lambert Finds A 'Keeper' With Transgenerational 'Flame'

When **Miranda Lambert** sang "Keeper of the Flame" during CBS' telecast of the 53rd annual Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards on April 15, the camera went in tight on her acoustic guitar, zooming in on an inscription from **Loretta Lynn**.

It was a fitting image for a song that recognizes the previous generations that blazed the trail for country's current creative crop.

"I probably couldn't have put out 'Gunpowder & Lead' if she didn't write 'The Pill,'" suggests Lambert. "It's just this whole cycle of kicking the door open and holding it open for the people to come behind you."

While "Keeper" pays homage to country's forerunners, it's Lambert's own lyrical history that laid the groundwork for the just-released single and its combustive visuals.

"She's written so many fiery songs, like 'Kerosene,' 'Gunpowder & Lead,' all this stuff," notes co-writer **Natalie Hemby** ("You Look Like I Need a Drink," "Pontoon").

"In some sense, too, we were also talking about how she has been such a role model for a lot of younger artists and that sort of thing. Miranda has been working for years. She's been a road dog for the last 13, 14 years. You get burned out on doing anything in life—it's not that she's burned out, it's just that she's trying to keep that fire always going. That's kind of where it all came from."

Hemby mentioned the title to Lambert in early 2015 before they ever went in to write it, and the idea grew a bit when Lambert sat out on her self-described "magic porch" at her house during a storm. Fireflies glowed in between the drops, and Lambert was struck by their ability to hold their light in the middle of a downpour. She texted the phrase "Fireflies in the rain" to Hemby, who wrote her back: "We have to write 'Keeper of the Flame' now."

They discussed it during a writing session with **Liz Rose** ("Girl Crush," "You Belong With Me"), but Hemby was insistent they save it for another day to give her time to find the right melody. Rose was a tad nervous about that prospect.

"I thought, 'Well, so much for me. I won't get to come back,'" she remembers. "But they were so fantastic. When they were ready to write it, they called and said, 'Let's get together and work on it.'"

They trotted back out to the magic porch for a late-night write with Hemby playing electric guitar. She had come up with a purposely simple chord progression and an understated melody, and they used that to relate a story about recognizing your purpose and passing knowledge from ancestors to future generations.

"That night was kind of spiritual in a way," says Hemby. "There was sort of a heaviness in the room, but also like a hopefulness. That's why I brought an electric guitar and amps. It had more of like a U2-ish, Coldplay-ish sound rather than just straight-up country on an acoustic guitar."

Lambert was, at the time, just starting to write for what would become a very personal double-album, *The Weight of These Wings*, chronicling the emotional journey of a divorce and her recovery. Her co-writers knew she was in a funk, though they didn't know why, and "Keeper of the Flame" was a song that helped her find her footing.

"When you go through something really hard, you find moments to laugh, you find moments to be alone and cry, you find moments to go wild," says Lambert. "There's all these phases that happen, but 'Keeper of the Flame' was that 'firefly in the rain' moment for me, like 'I've still got my fire.' You

know, 'I'm not great, but I'm not broken.'"

One of the song's most unique phrases came during that final writing session, with the singer setting up the "fireflies" reference by pledging to keep the faith "for those little pilot lights waiting to ignite." It sounds on the surface like a reference to cell phones at a concert, but it's really a recognition of young, undeveloped artists finding inspiration in the live experience. Just as Lambert was inspired in her teens by attending a **George Strait** stadium show,

she's aware that on any given night, a future female vocalist of the year could be occupying a seat her in her audience.

"Miranda is such a champion for young songwriters and artists," says Rose. "She supports them in schools, and she supports them on the road. And we all do that. You know, Natalie's the first one to go, 'Have you heard this new songwriter? You need to write with her.' And I do the same thing. So it was really perfect that the three of us could write that song. Because we do take care of the little pilot lights."

It was one of the first songs Lambert tackled when she started recording *Weight* at producer-engineer **Eric Masse**'s East Nashville studio, The Casino. The fire was missing in that version, and they scrapped it, only to come back near the end of the sessions for the project and try it again. On that second go-around, the musicians found a pulsing, heartland-rock feel for it that fit the mood of the album but also

set the right tone for the message.

"It could get a little bit self-indulgent if the music got too big," says co-producer **Frank Liddell** (**David Nail**, **Eli Young Band**), who oversaw the project with Masse and bass player **Glenn Worf**. "I think the subtleness of the words kind of pokes through."

Lambert's steel player, **Spencer Cullum**, created a high note that sounds almost like a female voice, while backing vocalist **Madi Diaz** added a mix of harmonies and counter-melodies behind Lambert's lead. Guitarist **Luke Reynolds** chipped in a compact riff that builds a trancelike vibe.

"Luke is so good at finding melodies, like extracting something from a song," says Liddell. "It's things that, when you hear them on the record, they're obvious. But before you ever hear the record, you would never come up with it."

With its easy melody and ascendant attitude, "Keeper" was the most obviously commercial song on *Weight*, though Lambert held it back as a single, allowing the message in the album to unfold loosely in the sequence of those radio releases. And she had second thoughts about "Keeper" as a single because of her vocal performance. She wavers in the first verse, hesitant and unsure in her delivery, though she fully owns the story by the end of the song.

"I started to live with it, and I was like, 'No, it's exactly what it needs to be,'" she says. "It's exactly what the lyric's talking about. That [first verse] was a moment where I was just a flicker, but then I can be a full-on bonfire in a minute."

Vanner/RCA Nashville released "Keeper" to radio via PlayMPE on April 16, the day after her ACM performance, which pushed Lynn's signature through the camera to some next-generation talent watching at home. But Lambert hopes the message behind "Keeper" reaches non-musicians, too.

"It's about anybody doing anything that's big, that takes a risk and is willing to take chances and stand for what they are," she says. "It's not [just] about musicians or artists or writers. It's about everybody." ●



billboard Country Indicator

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	PLAYS		AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK
1	1	13	YOU MAKE IT EASY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	5084	+13	7.946
2	2	21	MEANT TO BE Warner Bros/BMLG	Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line	4787	+27	7.265
3	5	21	HEAVEN Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	4454	+237	6.683
4	4	38	FOR THE FIRST TIME Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	4340	+50	6.649
5	9	16	ONE NUMBER AWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	3990	+331	6.040
6	7	14	I LIVED IT Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	3968	+94	6.258
7	6	35	THE LONG WAY Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	3859	-260	6.327
8	10	14	WOMAN, AMEN Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	3781	+181	5.661
9	11	24	EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT Blue Chair/Reviver	David Lee Murphy & Kenny Chesney	3727	+147	5.667
10	3	43	SINGLES YOU UP MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	3468	-1179	5.907
11	14	22	UP DOWN Big Loud/BMLG	Morgan Wallen Feat. Florida Georgia Line	3206	+124	4.741
12	13	42	THE ONES THAT LIKE ME Valory	Brantley Gilbert	3087	-70	4.606
13	15	8	I WAS JACK (YOU WERE DIANE) Big Loud	Jake Owen	2952	+222	4.307
14	12	38	SHE'S WITH ME Atlantic/WEA	High Valley	2803	-649	4.702
15	16	27	SHE AIN'T IN IT Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	2568	-23	3.657
16	17	31	HEART BREAK Capitol Nashville	Lady Antebellum	2282	+91	3.110
17	24	3	GET ALONG Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney	2205	+549	3.507
18	18	13	KISS SOMEBODY Warner Bros./WEA	Morgan Evans	2158	+98	3.253
19	23	5	COMING HOME Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Feat. Julia Michaels	2123	+287	2.827
20	19	27	TAKE BACK HOME GIRL Big Loud	Chris Lane Feat. Tori Kelly	2111	+84	2.769
21	20	36	GET TO YOU Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	2024	+57	2.925
22	22	33	KINDA DON'T CARE Valory	Justin Moore	1959	+102	2.861
23	21	17	CRIMINAL Stoney Creek	Lindsay Ell	1875	+2	2.541
24	25	9	BREAK UP IN THE END Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	1683	+32	2.291
25	27	14	TEQUILA Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	1596	+153	1.975
26	26	48	DOIN' FINE 19/Interscope/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	1539	+3	1.761
27	33	2	CRY PRETTY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	1512	+553	2.333
28	28	26	HOOKED Curb	Dylan Scott	1492	+57	1.965
29	29	9	MERCY BMLG	Brett Young	1412	+157	1.711
30	31	15	SHOOT ME STRAIGHT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	1186	+103	1.279

BILLBOARD COUNTRY INDICATOR PANEL — 106 STATIONS

Abilene, Texas	KEAN	Fayetteville, N.C.	WKML	Lebanon, N.H.	WXXX	Santa Barbara, Calif.	KRAZ
Alexandria, La.	KRRV	Flagstaff, Ariz.	KAFF	Lincoln, Neb.	KFGE	Santa Maria, Calif.	KSNL
Amarillo, Texas	KGNC	Flint, Mich.	WFBE	Longview, Texas	KYKX	Sheboygan, Wis.	WBFM
Asheville, N.C.	WKSF	Florence, Ala.	WXFL	Lubbock, Texas	KLLL	Savannah, Ga.	WJCL
Atlantic City, N.J.	WPUR	Florence, S.C.	WEGX	Lufkin, Texas	KYKS		WUBB
Beaumont, Texas	KYKR	Ft. Collins, Colo.	KUAD	Mason City, Iowa	KIAI	Shreveport, La.	KXKS
Beckley, W. Va.	WJLS	Ft. Smith, Ark.	KTCS	Medford, Ore.	KRWQ	Sioux City, Iowa	KSUX
Biloxi, Miss.	WZKX	Frederick, Md.	WFRE	Meridian, Miss.	WOKK	South Bend, Ind.	WBVT
Bloomington, Ill.	WIBL	Fredericksburg, Va.	WFLS	Montgomery, Ala.	WLWI	Springfield, Ill.	WFMB
Bluefield, W. Va.	WHKX	Green Bay, Wis.	WNCY	Morgantown, W. Va.	WKKW	Springfield, Mo.	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		WUJ	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	WRWD	Waco, Texas	WACO
	WSTH	Janesville, Wis.	WJVL	Rapid City, S.D.	KOUT	Wausau, Wis.	WDEZ
Cookeville, Tenn.	WGSO	Jonesboro, Ark.	KDXY	Rockford, Ill.	WXXQ	Wheeling, W. Va.	WOVK
Dothan, Ala.	WTVY	Joplin, Mo.	KIXQ	Rocky Mount, N.C.	WDWG	Williamsport, Pa.	WILQ
Duluth, Minn.	KKCB	Kalamazoo, Mich.	WNWN	Saginaw, Mich.	WCEN	Yakima, Wash.	KXDD
Eau Claire, Wis.	WAXX	Kalispell, Mont.	KDBR	St. Cloud, Minn.	KZPK	Youngstown, Ohio	WOXK
Elizabeth City, N.C.	WRSF	Kingmah, Ariz.	KFLG	Salina, Kan.	KYEZ		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	30	19	DRUNK GIRL Warner Bros./WAR	Chris Janson	1181	-27	1.496
32	35	11	A LITTLE DIVE BAR IN DAHLONEGA Atlantic/WAR	Ashley McBryde	1025	+122	1.367
33	32	25	SELFISH Rebel Engine	Stephanie Quayle	967	+1	1.162
34	34	23	THREE CHORDS & THE TRUTH Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	Chase Rice	943	-6	1.112
35	37	10	RUN WILD HORSES BIG Label	Aaron Watson	909	+50	1.132
36	36	20	HIDE THE WINE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	825	-48	0.954
37	39	7	I HATE LOVE SONGS Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	727	+51	0.863
38	38	10	RICH Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	691	0	0.827
39	41	14	LAST SHOT MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	678	+55	0.792
40	40	20	AIRPLANE Sea Gayle	CJ Solar	644	+12	0.868
41	52	2	LIFE CHANGES Valory	Thomas Rhett	620	+302	0.842
42	43	9	HANGIN' ON RCA Nashville	Chris Young	549	+9	0.737
43	45	3	HOTEL KEY RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	516	+115	0.677
44	49	6	WORTH IT BMLG	Danielle Bradbery	362	+33	0.367
45	48	8	CANNONBALL Captain & Bear	Cash Campbell	356	+22	0.361
46	46	14	BOOTS OFF MV2	Terry McBride	353	-35	0.374
47	47	6	YOUNG FOREVER EMI Nashville	Eric Paslay	350	+2	0.443
48	50	5	POWER OF GARTH Forge	Lucas Hoge	349	+25	0.473
49	53	9	BORN TO LOVE YOU Arista Nashville	LANCO	329	+27	0.486
50	51	11	DON'T GET BETTER THAN THAT Reviver	LOCASH	327	+5	0.597
51	NEW		BABE Big Machine/UMG Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Sugarland Feat. Taylor Swift	304	+304	0.620
52	44	20	DIANE Arista Nashville	Cam	302	-126	0.481
53	56	4	BEST SHOT Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	244	+49	0.281
54	54	4	DAVID ASHLEY PARKER FROM POWDER SPRINGS Mercury	Travis Denning	231	+17	0.279
55	55	6	GAME CHANGER Nightlife	Marty Heddin	230	+23	0.319
56	58	3	THE OLDER I GET ACR/EMI Nashville	Alan Jackson	215	+39	0.234
57	RE-ENTRY		YOU GOT 'EM ALL Big Machine	Trent Hamon	213	+49	0.204
58	NEW		DRUNK ME Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	202	+86	0.248
59	NEW		ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE Southern Halo	Southern Halo	189	+33	0.230
60	57	8	REASONS Big Loud	Jillian Jacqueline	184	+4	0.259

CHARTS LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by Nielsen BDS. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Arbitron Inc. copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2018, 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**

B

BABE Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Taylor Swift Music, BMI/Monoman Music, ASCAP (T.Swift, P.T.Monahan) **48**

BORN TO LOVE YOU Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Concession 114 Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Plain Jane Songs, BMI/Rezolant Music, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP (B.Lancaster, R.Copperman, A.Gorley, J.Osborne) **40**

BREAK UP IN THE END EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Nite Writer Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Plum Nelly, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (J.M.Nite, C.McGill, J.J.Dillon) **23**

BROKEN HALOS WB Music Corp., ASCAP/House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Cataloge Holdings, S.A.R.L./Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Straight Six Music, BMI (C.Stapleton, M.Henderson) **13**

C

COMING HOME Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Mary Rose Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI/Jonathan Rotem Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Thanks For The Songs Richard, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/A Girl Named Charlie, BMI (K.Urban, J.R.Rotem, J.Michaels, M.Haggard, N.Galyon) **20**

CRIMINAL Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/Lindsay Eli Music, BMI/Moody Producer Music, BMI/Capitol CMG Paragon, BMI/Floater Music, BMI/Meaux Mercy, BMI (L.Eli, C.Stevens, F.Wilhelm) **32**

CRY PRETTY Carrie-Okie Music, BMI/BIRB Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Maps And Records Music, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Crazy Girl Music, BMI (C.Underwood, H.Lindsey, L.McKenna, L.Rose) **5**

D

DIANE Sony/ATV Ballad, BMI/One Year Yesterday Publishing, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Way Above Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI (C.Ochs, T.Johnson, J.Basker) **43**

DIRT TO DUST Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Jaron Boyer Music, SESAC/MTNoise, SESAC/The Stennis Mightier Music, BMI/Songs Of Koppelman, ASCAP/Dead Aim Music, BMI (J.Boyer, M.Tyler, B.M.Stennis) **50**

DOIN' FINE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Lylas Music, BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/Jam Writers Group, BMI/Hello I Love You Music, BMI (Lauren Alaina, E.Shackelton, busbee) **34**

DROWNS THE WHISKEY Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Lane Collections, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Red Bandana, BMI/Tom Tom Leis Music, BMI (J.Thompson, J.Middleton, B.Kinney) **29**

DRUNK GIRL ole Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Abbotts Creek Music Two, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Tomdouglassmusic, BMI (C.Janson, Scooter Carusoe, T.Douglas) **30**

E

EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/N2D Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Meaux Mercy, BMI/Moody Producer Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/Great Day At This Music, BMI/Beattyville Music, BMI (D.L.Murphy, C.Stevens, J.Yeary) **17**

F

FOR THE FIRST TIME Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/GrowingMusic, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Funky Friar Music, ASCAP/Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Abbotts Creek Music Two, ASCAP (D.Rucker, D.George, Scooter Carusoe) **15**

G

GET ALONG EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Plain Jane Songs, BMI/Smack Hits, GMR/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (R.Copperman, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **12**

GET TO YOU Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/ole Green Vinyl Music, ASCAP (A.Stoklasa, P.Dovgalyuk) **25**

GIRL LIKE YOU Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/MTNoise, SESAC/Jaron Boyer Music, SESAC/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (M.Tyler, J.Boyer, J.Miranda) **46**

H

HANGIN' ON EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Goodbye Pants Music, BMI/Songs From The Rose Hotel, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/EMI Foray Music, SESAC/Write 2 Be Free Music, SESAC (C.Young, C.Crowder, J.Hoge) **39**

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.Galyon) **22**

HEAVEN BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/You Want How Much Of What Publishing, PRS/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Kobalt Group Music Publishing, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI/Koala T Tunes, BMI (S.Carter, M.McGinn, L.Rimes) **2**

HIDE THE WINE WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/Universal Music Works, GMR/We Are Creative Nation, GMR/Jake & Mack Music, GMR/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Story Music Publishing, GMR (A.Gorley, L.Laird, H.Lindsey) **44**

HOOKEE WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs From The Rose Hotel, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Koala T Tunes, BMI/SongsbyME, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (L.Rimes, S.Ennis, M.Evans) **27**

I

I'D BE JEALOUS TOO Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Plane Jane Songs, BMI/Rezolant Music, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP (D.Lynch, R.Copperman, J.M.Nite) **31**

I HATE LOVE SONGS Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/KNB Music, ASCAP/ReHits Music, Inc., ASCAP/Smacktown Music, ASCAP/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Smack Hits, GMR/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR (K.Ballerini, T.Rosen, S.McAnally) **28**

I LIVED IT Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/Pinetucky Road Publishing, ASCAP/Ritten by Rhettro, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Plain Jane Songs, BMI/Rezolant Music, BMI (A.Gorley, B.Hayslip, R.Akins, R.Copperman) **10**

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Miss Marvelle Music, BMI/Songs Of Peer, BMI/Team Thrash, ASCAP/Songs Of Sanchez, BMI/Two Lane Collections, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Hanson, N.Thrasher, N.Brophy, M.Delaney) **45**

I WAS JACK (YOU WERE DIANE) Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Songs Of XO, BMI/We In Good Company, BMI/EMI Full Keel Music, ASCAP/David Ray Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Sawyer Cash Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Red Toe Rocker, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP (T.Cecil, J.Mellencamp, D.Ray, J.Stevens, C.Wise) **21**

K

KINDA DON'T CARE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Songs By Red Room, BMI/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Rezolant Music, BMI (R.Akins, R.Copperman, B.Hayslip) **36**

KISS SOMEBODY Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Morgan Evans Publishing Designee, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/CDS Words And Music, ASCAP/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (M.Evans, C.DeStefano, J.Osborne) **26**

L

LEAVE RIGHT NOW EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Music Of Big Family, BMI/Warner/Chappell Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/Bob Erotik Music, BMI/The Family Songbook, BMI/Music Of Big Deal, BMI (Thomas Rhett, J.Bunetta, E.Drewett, J.H.Ryan) **47**

LIFE CHANGES EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten by Rhettro, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, R.Akins, J.Frasure, A.Gorley) **42**

A LITTLE DIVE BAR IN DAHLONEGA Songs Of Song Factory, BMI/Veranda Music, SESAC/Little Falcor Music, BMI (A.McBryde, N.Hayford, J.Rice) **37**

THE LONG WAY Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Paris Not France Music, BMI/ole Canalco Publishing, ASCAP (B.Eldredge, M.Rogers) **9**

M

MARRY ME EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Telemetry Productions, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR (Thomas Rhett, J.Frasure, A.Gorley, S.McAnally) **6**

MEANT TO BE BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Kiss Me If You Can Music, BMI/T Hub Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of The Corn, BMI/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, ASCAP/D Soul Music, ASCAP/Capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP (B.Revha, T.Hubbard, J.Miller, D.A.Garcia) **1**

MERCY Super Big Music, ASCAP/Calville Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Beluga Music, BMI (B.Young, S.McConnell) **19**

MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD SB 21 Music Publishing, BMI/Purdy Beard Music, BMI/Songs Of Amylase Music, BMI/Five Hills Music, BMI/Do Write Music, LLC/Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/Champagne Whiskey Publishing, ASCAP/Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP (D.Frasier, E.M.Hill, J.Kear) **4**

O

ONE NUMBER AWAY Works For RHA Music, BMI/Mall B. Publishing, ASCAP/Razor & Tie Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/The Bicycle Music Company, ASCAP/Tunes Of R And T Direct, SESAC/Self Shreveid Music, SESAC/Rowdy Rob Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (L.Combs, S.A.Battey, S.Mitchell, R.Willford) **11**

R

REARVIEW TOWN Songs Of Peer Ltd., ASCAP/Team Thrash, ASCAP/Songs Of Peer, BMI/New Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/Not A Track Guy Music, BMI/New House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (N.Thrasher, B.Pinson, K.Loveale) **35**

RICH International Dog Music, BMI/Nettwerk One B Music, BMI/Unlimited, BMI/Revelry Music, BMI/Jay Gatsby Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Oh Denise Publishing, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI (M.Morris, J.J.Dillon, L.Veltz) **33**

S

SHE AIN'T IN IT Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/Spirit Cataloge Holdings, S.A.R.L./Spirit Of Nashville One, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/Mater Pie Music, BMI (C.Daniels, W.Varble) **24**

SHOOT ME STRAIGHT Trampy McCauley, ASCAP/All The Kings Pens, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/The Country And Western Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.Osborne, T.J.Osborne, L.T.Miller) **41**

SINGLES YOU UP Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Word Music, LLC, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Wordspring Music, LLC, SESAC/Memory Days, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC (J.Davis, S.D.Jones, J.Ebach) **8**

SOMEBODY'S BEEN DRINKIN' New House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Vestal Boy Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (B.Anderson, L.Hutton, H.Phelps) **49**

T

TAKE BACK HOME GIRL Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, ASCAP/D Soul Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/BIRB Music, ASCAP/Rezonant Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Songs Of The Corn, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/Capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP (D.A.Garcia, H.Lindsey, J.Miller) **18**

TEQUILA WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/Buckeye26, ASCAP/Jreynmusic, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/A Girl Named Charlie, BMI (D.Smeyers, J.Reynolds, N.Galyon) **7**

THREE CHORDS & THE TRUTH Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Dack Janiel's Publishing, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Rio Bravo Music, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP (C.Rice, R.Copperman, J.M.Nite) **38**

U

UP DOWN Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Murphy The Wolf Music, BMI/Five Miles West Songs, BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Watsky Music, LLC, BMI/Harding Road Music, BMI/Year Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP (B.Clawson, M.Hardy, C.J.Solar) **16**

W

WOMAN, AMEN EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Plain Jane Songs, BMI/Rezolant Music, BMI/Year Of The Dog Music, ASCAP/Champagne Whiskey Publishing, ASCAP/Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP/DudeTunes, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (R.Copperman, J.Kear, D.Bentley) **14**

Y

YOU MAKE IT EASY Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/T Hub Publishing, BMI/Pranch Ringle Music, BMI/We-Volve Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Freshy Music, ASCAP (T.Hubbard, B.Kelley, M.Wallen, J.M.Schmidt) **3**

CODD A

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

25 Years Ago Sammy Kershaw Made 'Beautiful' Music & Hit No. 1

"She Don't Know She's Beautiful" became his lone Hot Country Songs leader in 1993

On April 24, 1993, **Sammy Kershaw's** "She Don't Know She's Beautiful" crowned Hot Country Songs. Penned by **Paul Harrison** and **Bob McDill**, the song was the lead single from Kershaw's second major-label LP, *Haunted Heart*, which yielded three additional top 10s: the title-track second single (No. 9), "Queen of My Double Wide Trailer" (No. 7) and "I Can't Reach Her Anymore" (No. 3).

Kershaw rolled up 30 appearances on the chart between 1991-2006, notching 11 top 10s starting with his debut hit, the No. 3-peaking "Cadillac Style." Although "Beautiful" is his lone

leader, three songs reached No. 2: "National Working Woman's Holiday," "Third Rate Romance" (both in 1994) and "Love of My Life" (1998).

In 2001, Kershaw wed **Lorrie Morgan**; they split in 2007. He has also ventured into politics, running as a Republican candidate for lieutenant governor of his native Louisiana in 2007 and 2010, coming up short each time.

Now 60, Kershaw still tours regularly. He most recently charted with *Do You Know Me?: A Tribute to George Jones*, which debuted and peaked at No. 37 on Top Country Albums in 2014. —JIM ASKER



W	U.S.	27	W	PRO	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
1	3	8	11	11	*** No. 1 *** SHE DON'T KNOW SHE'S BEAUTIFUL (B. CANNON, N. WILSON, B. MCDILL, P. HARRISON)	◆ SAMMY KERSHAW (C) 1993 MERCURY 864-854
2	1	1	10	10	THE HEART WON'T LIE (F. BROWN, B. MCENTIRE, K. GARNES, D. T. WEISS)	◆ REBA MCENTIRE & VINCE GILL (C) MCA 84-999
3	2	2	14	14	NOBODY WINS (S. FISHELL, R. FOSTER, R. FOSTER, K. RICHEY)	◆ RADNEY FOSTER (C) MCA ARISTA 1-2012
4	5	9	10	10	ALIBIS (S. STRAND, R. BOHREBAUGH)	◆ TRACY LAWRENCE (C) MCA AT&T MUSIC 87-172
5	4	5	12	12	HARD WORKIN' MAN (D. COOK, S. HENDRICKS, R. DUNN)	◆ BROOKS & DUNN (C) ARISTA 1-2813
					TONIGHT I REMEMBER THE WALL	◆ BLANCK & JACOBS

Kershaw
in Universal City,
Calif., in May 1993.