

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Thanks, Australia: U.S. Country Music Feels Growing Impact Of Another Country

When **Dylan Scott**'s single "Hooked" peaked at No. 2 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart dated Sept. 22, its top five achievement masked another success bubbling down under the title in the credits.

Two of its three songwriters, Warner Music Nashville artist **Morgan Evans** and **LOCASH** producer **Lindsay Rimes** ("Heaven"), are native Australians. Together with the ongoing success of **Keith Urban** and Evans' own growth as an artist, the development puts a face on a quiet evolution in Nashville: the rising tide of Aussie influence.

It would be a mistake to call it a full-fledged wave, but the uptick is evident. In the last four years, the number of Australians working actively in the Nashville music business has mushroomed from 30 to 110, according to APRA-AMCOS Nashville member relations representative **Mark Moffatt**, with about 15 more visiting monthly to work in Music City for multiweek stays. Established Australian songwriters **Phil Barton** ("A Woman Like You") and **Kylie Sackley** ("Nothin' 'Bout Love Makes Sense," "Sunshine and Summertime") are entrenched members of the Tennessee capital's music community, and songwriter-guitarist **Jedd Hughes** ("Put You in a Song") has played a key role in such recordings as **Little Big Town**'s "Pontoon," **Dierks Bentley**'s

"Drunk on a Plane" and **Lee Brice**'s "Hard to Love."

Guitarist **Tommy Emmanuel** continues to occupy his own niche as a world-class guitarist, **Kasey Chambers** is a widely acclaimed Americana contributor, and the Sydney-bred duo **Seaforth** — **Mitch Thompson** and **Tom Jordan** — is already

signed to Sony Music Nashville after moving stateside in October 2017.

"I find that in Nashville, Americans like Australians," says Rimes, whose wife, songwriter-producer **Danielle Blakey** (**LOCASH**, **Jimmie Allen**), pushed for the couple to move to town. "They love the accent and stuff, but you do have to have the talent and work ethic to make it."

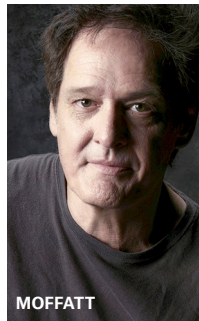
Prior to Urban, the only Australian success story in country was **Olivia Newton-John**, a pop artist who crossed over to the format and created unintended controversy in Nashville. Thus, Urban's sustained 19-year history as an American hitmaker has certainly inspired the current generation of Australian musicians.

"He had those footsteps sort of already marked in the sand of how it is possible," says Evans, whose first U.S. album, *Things That We Drink To*, was released Oct. 12.

But it's still not easy. Sydney is over 9,000 miles away from Nashville — flights last more than 20 hours — and immigration



EVANS



MOFFATT



URBAN

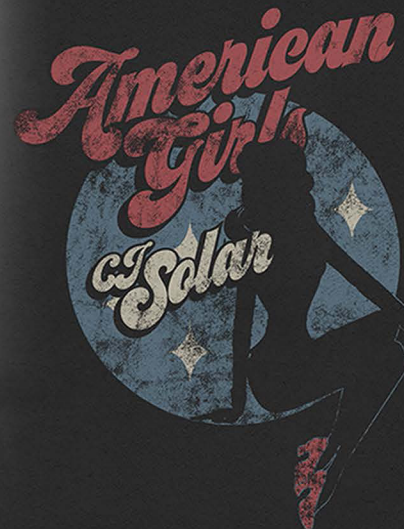
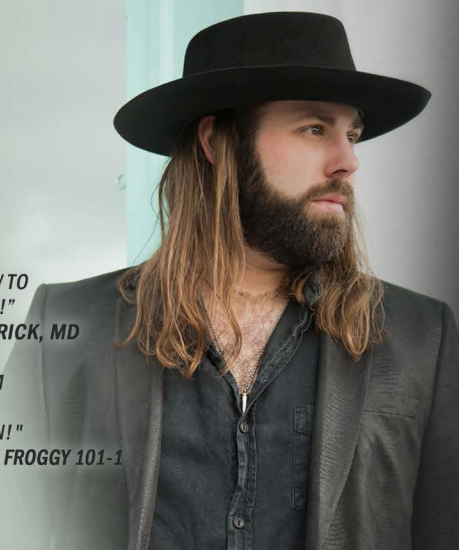
CJ SOLAR

"ANOTHER HIT FROM CJ SOLAR! THIS DUDE KNOWS HOW TO WRITE GREAT COUNTRY MUSIC! GIVE THIS SONG A SHOT!"
- BRIAN MO, PROGRAM DIRECTOR - WFRE/FREDERICK, MD

"LOVE THIS SONG! WE PLAYED IT ON OUR SINK OR SWIM FEATURE AND 100% OF THE VOTES WERE SWIMS, THAT ALMOST NEVER HAPPENS. THE LISTENERS HAVE SPOKEN!"
- CHRIS PROSPERO, WFGE/STATE COLLEGE, PA - BIG FROGGY 101.1



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laws prevent Australian visitors from earning an income until they find an employer willing to file a petition for a work visa. Thus, blue-collar Aussies visiting the United States are limited by their bank accounts.

“The cost for people getting here and staying here for a while is generally pretty prohibitive because they can’t work,” says Ten Ten Music Group owner **Barry Coburn**, a New Zealander who moved stateside from Australia in 1984. “So they’ve got to find a way to survive for a work visa. Easier said than done, especially in these times.”

It’s part of the reason why so few Australians have made it in America through the years. **Jamie O’Neal**, who was born in Sydney but spent a big chunk of her youth in the States, snagged three top five singles after signing her first recording deal in 1998. **Sherrie Austin** peaked at No. 18 on Hot Country Songs in 2003 with “Streets of Heaven.”

Several executives have found their place in Music City in addition to Coburn. Among them was arranger **Bill Walker**, noted for his work with **Johnny Cash**, **Eddy Arnold** and a host of TV productions. His son, the late **Jeff Walker**, founded AristoMedia in 1980 and was a key figure with both the Country Radio Seminar and Country Music Association.

Part of Jeff Walker’s mission was to expand country music overseas, though the perception of country in Australia was saddled with infrastructure problems. The continent has few country stations, and most are in smaller markets. One of Australia’s heritage festivals, in Tamworth, is dominated by “bush balladeers,” a sort of Down Under equivalent to singing cowboys.

“Mainstream media were heavily influenced by that stereotype,” says Moffatt.

A major breakthrough came in 2004 when Foxtel Networks established the Country Music Channel, an equivalent to CMT. It provided a focal point for the genre in markets that lacked a country radio station, and its annual CMC Rocks event, launched in 2008, gave American acts a country-centric festival to play. Artists such as **Alan Jackson**, **Taylor Swift** and **Sugarland** became more frequent visitors and brought the genre’s image up to date.

“Success needs no explanation,” says Moffatt. “It has changed the media perception of contemporary country, so there’s a lot more attention to that. People can see that it’s a pretty appealing genre, and it’s not all about the bush [balladeers].”

The Australian government, meanwhile, has been aggressive in connecting its creative talent to other countries. A professional development grant of at least \$15,000 allows musicians to visit and network with the U.S. music business, though most Australians working in Nashville have not benefited from the program. The government also subsidizes Songhub conferences that allow them to co-write with songwriters from other nations. Evans and Rimes co-wrote “Hooked” with **Seth Ennis** at a four-day Nashville Songhub in 2016; Evans met his producer, **Chris DeStefano** (**Chase Rice**, **Brett Eldredge**), at a Sydney edition.

Still, what benefits Australians most is simply moving to Music City, once they’re able to navigate the immigration obstacle course and commit to living there full time. After arriving, they need to expect a lengthy adjustment period as they immerse themselves in a different culture. U.S. healthcare is more expensive and more difficult to obtain than Australia’s, which uses a single-payer system. Guns are illegal in Australia, so immigrants are not likely to bond with an American songwriter over hunting. And the varying styles of the English language create some awkward moments in the writing room.

“When I first got here, there would be certain rhymes I’d throw out and they’d look at me like I was crazy,” recalls Rimes. “It’s like the word ‘better’: Here it’s [pronounced] ‘better’; in Australia, it’s like ‘bettah.’ It sounds kind of silly, but there are little things that make a big difference when you’re in the room. If you’re not part of the language, there’s a communication breakdown.”

One place that Nashvillians are unlikely to experience differences from Australians is in work ethic. Touring by van is as much a staple Down Under as it is stateside, and country artists there tend to do it for the art rather than the money.

“Touring down there is the same geographically as it is here, but you don’t have a venue every 300 miles,” says Coburn. “Sometimes you have to drive bigger distances to get to less people.”

Thus, Australians who love country music enough to move halfway across the world are bound to be hooked on America once they get through the adjustment period.

“I love that you can travel from one end to the other and feel like you’re in a completely different part of the world,” says Evans. “But there are country music fans everywhere.”



DAWSON: TYLER CONRAD

Devin Dawson made his Bluebird Café debut on Oct. 9, playing for an audience that included pop singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran. From left are the four performers on the bill: singer-songwriter David Hodges (“See You Again”), Sheeran collaborator Amy Wadge (“Thinking Out Loud”), Dawson and Jillian Jacqueline.



Walker Hayes performed at New York’s Mercury Lounge on Oct. 9 as he works a new single, “90’s Country.” From left: NYCOUNTRY Swag founder/operator Stephanie Wagner, Monument co-president Shane McAnally, Hayes and WNSH New York personality Katie Neal.



John Rich (left) and Craig Morgan were among the Nashville-based artists on hand when President Donald Trump signed the Music Modernization Act on Oct. 11.



Dolly Parton guested on Cumulus’ *Ty, Kelly and Chuck* on Oct. 11 to promote her upcoming Netflix project *Dumplin’*. From left: Ty Bentli, Parton, Kelly Ford and Chuck Wicks.

SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE CONGRATULATES

KANE BROWN



WINNER

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST - COUNTRY

FAVORITE ALBUM - COUNTRY

FAVORITE SONG - COUNTRY

MOST AWARD WINS IN ONE NIGHT FOR
A FIRST TIME NOMINEE IN THE COUNTRY CATEGORY



NEW ALBUM
EXPERIMENT
AVAILABLE 11.9



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

Eric Church's *Desperate Man* Dominates Top Country Albums; Florida Georgia Line Makes It Look 'Simple' Crowning Country Airplay



Eric Church's sixth studio LP, *Desperate Man* (EMI Nashville/Universal Music Group Nashville), bows atop *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart (dated Oct. 20), earning 116,000 equivalent album units, with 103,000 of that sum in traditional album sales, in the week ending Oct. 11, according to Nielsen Music.

On the all-genre *Billboard* 200, the album enters at No. 5, marking Church's fifth top 10, with each having started in the upper tier.

The **Jay Joyce**-produced set, with all 11 tracks written by Church either in part (eight) or solo (three), marks his third Top Country Albums leader, among eight top 10s, and his third to bow in the penthouse.

Desperate Man is Church's first studio LP since *Mr. Misunderstood*, which launched at No. 3 on Top Country Albums on Nov. 21, 2015, with 76,000 units and peaked at No. 2 the following week (having been released on Nov. 4 without advance promotion, just hours before the airing of the 2015 Country Music Awards, so it debuted with under two full days of availability).

In November 2016, Church released the EP *Mr. Misunderstood: On the Rocks, Live and (Mostly) Unplugged*, which debuted and peaked at No. 4 on Top Country Albums.

Church's additional Top Country Albums leaders are 2014's *The Outsiders*, which launched atop the list with 288,000 sold, and 2011's *Chief*, which began with 145,000. Church logged his first appearance with *Sinners Like Me*, which started and peaked at No. 7 in August 2006.

Meanwhile, the title-track lead single from *Desperate Man* flies 18-8 on the airplay/streaming/sales-based Hot Country Songs chart, marking Church's 15th top 10. On Country Airplay, it holds at No. 14 (17.5 million audience impressions, down less than 1 percent, in the week ending Oct. 14).

'SIMPLE' MATH Florida Georgia Line earns its 14th Country Airplay No. 1 as the duo's "Simple" (Big Machine Label Group) rises 3-1, up 4 percent to

37.9 million in audience.

The twosome's 14 No. 1s tie **Rascal Flatts'** total (passing **Zac Brown Band's** 13) for the second-most among duos and groups in the chart's 28-year history, after **Brooks & Dunn's** 20. Among all acts, **Kenny Chesney** leads with 30 No. 1s.

Meanwhile, FGL's "Meant to Be" (Warner Bros./BMLG) with **Bebe Rexha**, which led the April 28 Country Airplay chart, rules Hot Country Songs for a record-extending 46th week. It tops Country Streaming Songs for a record-stretching 42nd frame, with 12.1 million U.S. streams (up 4 percent).

With "Simple" atop Country Airplay and "Meant" leading Hot Country Songs, it marks just the third set of songs with which an act has ruled the charts simultaneously since Hot Country Songs transitioned to a multimetric methodology in October 2012. Not surprisingly, FGL has been involved each time. On June 21, 2014, **Luke Bryan** paced both surveys as "Play It Again" led Country Airplay while FGL's "This Is How We Roll" (featuring Bryan) topped Hot Country Songs. Before that, for two weeks in May 2013, FGL's "Cruise" crowned Hot Country Songs while "Get Your Shine On" sparkled atop Country Airplay.



CHURCH

NEW TOP 10S Dan + Shay earn their sixth Hot Country Songs top 10 as "Speechless" (Warner Bros./WAR) rises 11-9. It steps 21-20 on Country Airplay, up 8 percent to 13.7 million, while also boasting 7 million U.S. streams (up 1 percent).

Plus, **Jimmie Allen** banks his first Country Airplay top 10 as his debut single, "Best Shot," bumps 11-10 (24 million, up 15 percent). The Stoney Creek label returns to the top 10 for the first time since **Randy Houser's** "We Went" went to No. 1 in March 2016; the label lands its lucky 13th top 10 overall, dating to its first, **Thompson Square's** No. 1 "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not," in April 2011. Along with Allen's first top 10, Houser's five and Thompson Square's four, **Parmalee** has tallied three top 10s for the label. ●

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COLE SWINDELL

break up in the end

OVER 97 MILLION STREAMS TO DATE

APPROACHING RIAA PLATINUM CERTIFICATION

CATCH COLE ON THE **REASON TO DRINK ANOTHER TOUR**
WITH DUSTIN LYNCH AND LAUREN ALAINA

MAX SPINS FOR #1 NOW!



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	3	20	SIMPLE BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	37.946	+1.631	7402	225	1
2	4	15	SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME River House/Columbia Nashville	★★ Most Increased Audience ★★ Luke Combs	37.499	+3.572	7129	558	2
3	1	33	BLUE TACOMA Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	37.419	-6.621	6791	-1339	3
4	5	34	BREAK UP IN THE END Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	33.703	+1.887	6608	384	4
5	6	33	HANGIN' ON RCA Nashville	Chris Young	32.466	+2.604	6022	403	5
6	2	30	HOTEL KEY RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	32.019	-5.675	5943	-960	6
7	8	44	DRUNK GIRL Warner Bros./WAR	Chris Janson	26.165	+0.192	5493	25	7
8	9	35	RICH Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	26.158	+1.493	5344	318	8
9	10	19	LOSE IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	24.547	+1.846	4878	435	9
10	11	35	BEST SHOT Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	23.953	+3.179	4815	470	10
11	13	29	DRUNK ME Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	21.321	+1.825	4251	363	12
12	12	17	ALL DAY LONG Pearl	Garth Brooks	20.309	-0.145	4341	78	11
13	15	44	HIDE THE WINE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	17.815	+0.411	4248	174	13
14	14	14	DESPERATE MAN EMI Nashville	Eric Church	17.527	-0.017	3760	1	14
15	16	42	LAST SHOT MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	16.428	+0.211	3569	60	15
16	17	13	TURNIN' ME ON Warner Bros./WMN	Blake Shelton	16.102	+0.332	3292	95	18
17	18	26	BABE Big Machine	Sugarland Featuring Taylor Swift	15.032	-0.464	3439	5	16
18	19	37	BORNT TO LOVE YOU Arista Nashville	LANCO	14.921	-0.320	3411	-35	17
19	20	15	BURNING MAN Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley Featuring Brothers Osborne	14.511	+1.124	3072	142	19
20	21	10	SPEECHLESS Warner Bros./WAR	★★ Airpower ★★ Dan + Shay	13.746	+1.071	2770	227	20
21	22	27	BURN OUT Big Machine	Midland	11.169	+0.926	2676	278	21
22	24	26	MILLIONAIRE Mercury	Chris Stapleton	9.659	+0.529	2328	123	23
23	26	24	GOOD GIRL Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	9.597	+0.870	2245	251	24
24	25	21	TAKE IT FROM ME MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	9.171	+0.468	2404	110	22
25	27	14	THERE WAS THIS GIRL BMLG	Riley Green	8.337	+0.352	2211	90	25
26	32	8	SIXTEEN Valory	★★ Breaker ★★ Thomas Rhett	6.942	+1.831	1444	506	28
27	23	2	NEON CHURCH McGraw/Columbia Nashville	★★ Most Added ★★ Tim McGraw	6.821	-2.663	1297	-149	31
28	28	20	THIS IS IT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	6.757	+0.445	1888	161	26
29	29	5	GIRL LIKE YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	6.192	+0.290	1172	109	33
30	30	10	DOWN TO THE HONKY TONK Big Loud	Jake Owen	5.823	+0.481	1659	28	27

BILLBOARD COUNTRY AIRPLAY PANEL – 150 STATIONS

Akron, OH	WQMX	Detroit	WDRO	Memphis	WGKX	Richmond, Va.	KOLC
Albany, N.Y.	WGNA		WYCD		WLFP	Riverside, Calif.	WKHK
Albuquerque, N.M.	KBOI	El Paso, Texas	KHEY	Miami	WKIS		KFRG
	KRST	Ft. Myers, Fla.	WCKT	Milwaukee, WI.	WKTI	Roanoke, Va.	WSLC
Allentown, Pa.	WCTO		WWGR		WMIL	Rochester, N.Y.	WBEE
Atlanta	WKHX	Ft. Wayne, Ind.	WQHK	Minneapolis	KEEY	Sacramento, Calif.	KBEB
	WUBL	Fresno, Calif.	KSKS		KMNB		KNTY
Augusta, Ga.	WXXC	Gamesville, Fla.	WOGK	Mobile, Ala.	WKSJ		WIL
Austin, Texas	KASE	Grand Rapids, Mich.	WBCT	Monterey/Ocean, N.J.	WKMJ	St. Louis	KSD
Bakersfield, Calif.	KUZZ	Greensboro, N.C.	WTQR	Monterey, Calif.	KTOM		WJL
Baltimore	WPOC	Greenville, S.C.	WSSL	Nashville	WKDF	Salt Lake City	KSOP
Baton Rouge, La.	WYNK	Harrisburg, Pa.	WRBT		WSIX		KUBL
Birmingham, Ala.	WDXB	Hartford, Conn.	WVYZ	Nassau, N.Y.	WJVC	San Antonio, Texas	KAJA
	WZZK	Houston	KILT	New Bern, N.C.	WRNS		KCYA
Boise, Idaho	KAWO		KKBO	New Orleans	WNOR	San Diego	KSON
	KIZN	Huntsville, Ala.	WDRM	Norfolk, Va.	WNSH	San Jose, Calif.	KRTY
Boston	WBWL	Indianapolis	WFMS		WGH	Sarasota, Fla.	WCTQ
	WKLB	Jacksonville, Fla.	WLHK	Oklahoma City, Okla.	WUSH	Seattle	KKWF
Buffalo, N.Y.	WYRK		WGNE		KJKE		KMPS
Charleston, S.C.	WEZL	Johnson City, Tenn.	WQIK	Omaha, Neb.	KTST	Spokane, Wash.	KXLY
Charlotte, N.C.	WKKT	Kansas City	WXBO	Orlando, Fla.	KXKT	Springfield, Mass.	WRNX
	WSOC		KBEB	Oxnard-Ventura, CA	WWKA	Stockton, Calif.	KATM
Chattanooga, Tenn.	WUSY		WDAF	Philadelphia	WFLA	Syracuse, N.Y.	WBFS
Chicago	WLSG		KFKF	Phoenix	WXTU	Tampa, Fla.	WFUS
	WUSN	Knoxville, Tenn.	WCYO		KMLE		WOYK
Cincinnati	WUBE		WVIV		KNIX	Tucson, Ariz.	KLIM
Cleveland	WGAR	Lafayette, La.	KMDL	Pittsburgh	WDSY	Tulsa, Okla.	KVOO
Colorado Springs, Colo.	KATC	Lakeland, Fla.	WPCV		WOGI		KWEN
	KCCY	Las Vegas	KCYE		WPGB	Visalia, Calif.	KJUG
Columbia, S.C.	WCOS	Lexington, Ky.	KWNR	Portland, Maine	WPRR	Washington, D.C.	WMZO
Columbus, Ohio	WCOL	Little Rock, Ark.	WBUL		WTHH	West Palm Beach, Fla.	WTKR
Corpus Christi, Texas	KRYS	Los Angeles	KSSN	Portland, Ore.	KUPL	Wichita, Kan.	KFDI
Dallas	KPLX	Louisville, Ky.	KKGO		KWJJ		KZSN
	KSCS		WAMZ	Providence, R.I.	WCTK	Wijkes Barre, Pa.	WGGY
Dayton, Ohio	WHKO	Madison, Wis.	WONU	Raleigh, N.C.	WNCB	Wilmington, Del.	WXCY
Denver	KYGO	McAllen, Texas	WWQM		WQDR	York, Pa.	WGTY
Des Moines, Iowa	KHKI		WMAD	Reno, Nevada	KBUL		
			KTEX				

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AIRPLAY
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MUSIC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	31	13	ONE THAT GOT AWAY Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	5.331	+0.066	1344	26	30
32	33	8	BETTER BOAT Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney Featuring Mindy Smith	5.149	+0.132	1233	1	32
33	34	10	ON MY WAY TO YOU CoJo/WMN	Cody Johnson	4.916	+0.176	847	16	42
34	35	5	LOVE WINS Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	4.647	+0.255	1004	80	39
35	37	8	NEVER COMIN DOWN Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	4.485	+0.290	1011	20	38
36	36	12	NIGHT SHIFT Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	4.481	+0.207	1096	34	35
37	38	28	THE DIFFERENCE Valory	Tyler Rich	4.213	+0.310	1440	47	29
38	41	4	HERE TONIGHT BMLG	Brett Young	3.827	+0.477	725	53	46
39	40	18	LOVE AIN'T Valory	Eli Young Band	3.771	+0.237	912	96	40
40	39	23	DAVID ASHLEY PARKER FROM POWDER SPRINGS Mercury	Travis Denning	3.744	+0.174	1138	28	34
41	42	15	LOVE SOMEONE Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	3.110	+0.074	822	21	43
42	44	27	CAUGHT UP IN THE COUNTRY Curb	Rodney Atkins Featuring The Fisk Jubilee Singers	2.905	+0.291	1032	85	37
43	43	21	YOU'RE IN IT Wheelhouse	Granger Smith	2.740	-0.002	1043	45	36
44	46	10	GOODBYE SUMMER Valory/BMLG	Danielle Bradbery With Thomas Rhett	2.386	+0.101	877	51	41
45	47	9	EYES ON YOU Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	Chase Rice	2.249	+0.118	744	53	45
46	45	13	WHAT WHISKEY DOES Stoney Creek	Randy Houser Featuring Hillary Lindsey	2.129	-0.177	787	8	44
47	51	3	BACK TO LIFE Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	2.103	+0.461	478	135	52
48	NEW		MAKE IT SWEET RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	2.079	+2.079	286	286	-
49	48	17	FRIENDS DON'T Mercury	Maddie & Tae	2.032	+0.022	642	26	49
50	49	11	YADA YADA YADA EMI Nashville	Brandon Lay	1.771	-0.051	691	11	47
51	50	7	WHISKEY GLASSES Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	1.609	-0.082	575	30	51
52	53	4	BRING IT ON OVER Mercury	Billy Currington	1.565	+0.077	420	11	54
53	52	16	DROP EVERYTHING Arista Nashville	Carlton Anderson	1.439	-0.078	643	-7	48
54	55	8	FLOATIN' Sturgeon General	Uncle Kracker	1.327	-0.053	326	-5	58
55	54	6	FEELS LIKE A PARTY Wheelhouse	LOCASH	1.296	-0.188	641	53	50
56	56	6	RUMOR Curb	Lee Brice	1.293	+0.078	430	-2	53
57	58	7	HOW DOES IT SOUND Dylan Schneider/Placer	Dylan Schneider	1.228	+0.109	385	-23	57
58	57	9	DAMAGE RCA Nashville	Rachel Wammack	1.186	+0.034	289	31	-
59	59	7	I WON'T BE SORRY Blue Chair/Reviver	David Lee Murphy	1.140	+0.051	419	21	55
60	NEW		90'S COUNTRY Monument/Arista Nashville	Walker Hayes	0.950	+0.080	184	20	-

OLD DOMINION: GETTY IMAGES; MOORE: AT&T AUDIENCE NETWORK



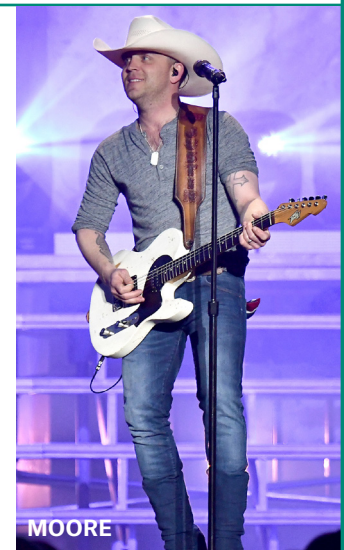
48

OLD DOMINION
Make It Sweet

The track previews **Old Dominion's** forthcoming third studio album and is the band's ninth Country Airplay entry, arriving at No. 48 with 2.1 million audience impressions. On Hot Country Songs, it starts at No. 43.

GOING FOR ADDS

- 10/29**
JUSTIN MOORE
The Ones That Didn't Make It Back Home
Valory
- LUCAS HOGE**
Hey Christmas
Forge
- MICHAEL TYLER**
Remember These Words
Reviver
- PISTOL ANNIES**
Got My Name Changed Back
RCA Nashville



MOORE

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
nielsen
MUSIC

MOST ADDED®		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
NEON CHURCH McGraw/Columbia Nashville	Tim McGraw	35
SIXTEEN Valory	Thomas Rhett	30
MAKE IT SWEET RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	13
GIRL LIKE YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	12
THIS IS IT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	8
BACK TO LIFE Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	8
BETTER BOAT Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney Feat. Mindy Smith	7
LOVE WINS Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	7
FEELS LIKE A PARTY Wheelhouse	LOCASH	7
GOOD GIRL Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	5

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+3.572
BEST SHOT Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	+3.179
HANGIN' ON RCA Nashville	Chris Young	+2.604
MAKE IT SWEET RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	+2.079
BREAK UP IN THE END Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	+1.887
LOSE IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.846
SIXTEEN Valory	Thomas Rhett	+1.831
DRUNK ME Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	+1.825
SIMPLE BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	+1.631
RICH Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	+1.493

MOST INCREASED PLAYS		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+558
SIXTEEN Valory	Thomas Rhett	+506
BEST SHOT Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	+470
LOSE IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+435
HANGIN' ON RCA Nashville	Chris Young	+403
BREAK UP IN THE END Warner Bros./WMN	Cole Swindell	+384
DRUNK ME Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	+363
RICH Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	+318
BURN OUT Big Machine	Midland	+278
GOOD GIRL Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	+251

NEW AND ACTIVE				
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
DAY DRUNK Warner Bros./WEA	Morgan Evans	0.684	20	5
I DON'T REMEMBER ME (BEFORE YOU) EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	0.642	9	4
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU Big Loud	Chris Lane	0.622	8	4
WHAT MAKES YOU COUNTRY Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	0.467	2	0
LADIES IN THE '90S 19/Mercury	Lauren Alaina	0.409	2	1
CALL YOUR MAMA Arista Nashville	Seth Ennis	0.322	8	1

RECURRENTS			
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	SUNRISE, SUNBURN, SUNSET Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	25.366
2	TEQUILA Warner Bros./WAR	Dan + Shay	22.978
3	HEAVEN Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	21.001
4	ONE NUMBER AWAY River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	20.848
5	DROWNSTHEWHISKEY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean Feat. Miranda Lambert	19.442
6	GET ALONG Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA	Kenny Chesney	19.248
7	LIFE CHANGES Valory	Thomas Rhett	15.828
8	HOOKED Curb	Dylan Scott	15.803
9	YOU MAKE IT EASY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	15.186
10	SMALL TOWN BOY Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	13.297

BILLBOARD COUNTRY BOXSCORE			
Gross Ticket Price(s)	Artist Venue/Date(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter(s)
\$3,759,849 \$249.75, \$49.75	LUKE BRYAN Sports Authority Field at Mile High, Denver, Colo./Aug. 4	51,756 60,328	LIVE NATION
\$3,654,968 \$249.75, \$49.75	LUKE BRYAN Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles/July 28	44,939 44,939	LIVE NATION
\$3,217,012 \$249.50, \$49.75	LUKE BRYAN Wrigley Field, Chicago/Sept. 1	40,013 40,013	LIVE NATION
\$2,921,581 \$249.50, \$49.75	LUKE BRYAN Target Field, Minneapolis/July 21	36,078 36,385	LIVE NATION
\$2,235,151 \$249.75, \$49.75	LUKE BRYAN Busch Stadium, St. Louis/Aug. 25	36,255 38,051	LIVE NATION

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



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 14, 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	THE NIGHT IS OURS (JAB) ★★1 Week at 1★★	Josh Abbott Band	1849	177	11	4	19	BEACH PLEASE (Independent)	Kevin Fowler	1268	-175
2	5	21	KEEP IT COUNTRY (Independent)	Mark Powell	1513	77	12	19	9	ON MY WAY TO YOU (CoJo Music)	Cody Johnson	1233	188
3	6	13	DEATH, DYIN' & DEVILED EGGS (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1482	115	13	15	14	MY SOUTH (Independent)	Natalie Rose	1195	50
4	7	12	FRIDAY'S COMING (Independent)	Pat Green	1391	46	14	20	8	MIRROR, MIRROR (Independent)	Randall King	1192	166
5	10	11	DAMN GOOD GOODBYE (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1386	129	15	11	22	CAN'T LET A GOOD THING GET AWAY (Independent)	Clay Hollis	1183	-69
6	1	14	TWO STEPPIN' AT A TIME (Independent)	Robert Ray	1364	-371	16	18	9	IF YOU WERE A COWBOY (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1139	76
7	3	14	WHISKEY AND PRIDE (CM Music)	Cory Morrow	1352	-276	17	14	18	MUST BE THE WHISKEY (Rounder Rec)	Cody Jinks	1122	-80
8	9	13	SITTIN' HERE (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr. w/Cody Johnson	1296	27	18	17	17	A TORNADO WARNING (Thirty Tigers)	Turnpike Troubadours	1121	43
9	8	19	THAT GOT THE GIRL (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1296	1	19	13	26	FALLING TOO FAST (Independent)	Jason Cassidy / Heather Little	1115	-129
10	12	18	LIFE IS... (Independent)	Cameron Nelson	1283	34	20	16	14	YOU'RE IN IT (Independent)	Granger Smith	1098	-4

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

You Asked...THEY DELIVERED!

WATERLOO REVIVAL

W★NDER W★MAN

**Top 5
Most
Added!**

**ALREADY
TWO
MILLION
EARLY
STREAMS!**

A One-Listen Groove You Can Hear *AND* Feel!

Written By: George Birge, Cody Cooper, Marv Green and Ryan Tyndell

Produced By: Jason Massey

Executive Producer: Arturo Buenahora, Jr.

IMPACTING NOW!

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE LYRIC VIDEO



NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



LANCO met backstage with KNIX Phoenix assistant PD/music director Lois Lewis when the band played the city on Sept. 29. From left: bandmembers Chandler Baldwin, Tripp Howell and Eric Steedly; Lewis; and bandmembers Brandon Lancaster and Jared Hampton.

WUSY CHATTANOOGA SNAGS TWO CMAS

WUSY Chattanooga, Tenn., swept the medium market category when the Country Music Association revealed its 2018 CMA Broadcast Awards winners on Oct. 15.

The signal claimed medium market radio station of the year, while its morning team—Ken Hicks, Kelley Bradshaw and Daniel Wyatt—collected medium market broadcast personality of the year.

Jason Aldean called the winners to deliver the news a month prior to the 52nd annual CMA Awards, where they'll be recognized during the ABC telecast on Nov. 14.

Other radio station of the year winners include KKQB Houston-Galveston (major market), WUBE Cincinnati (large market) and KTTS Springfield, Mo. (small market).

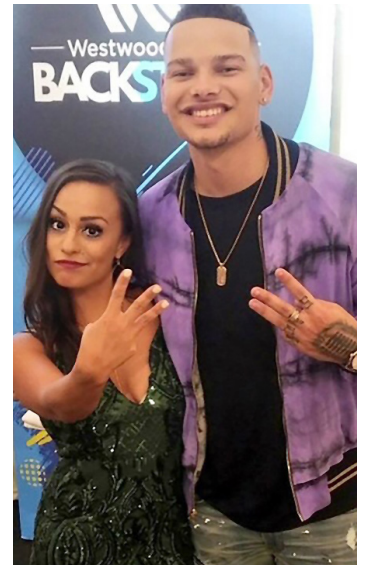
Additional broadcast personality of the year honorees include Lon Helton, Westwood One's Country Countdown USA (national); Bud Ford, Jerry Broadway, Kelly Rebal, Gregory Paul "Captain Mac Douglas" Ford, Tom Wall and Becca Walls, WIL St. Louis (major market); Jim Denny, Deborah Honeycutt and Kevin Freeman, WFMS Indianapolis (large market); and Steve Waters and Jessica Cash, WFLS Fredericksburg, Va. (small market).

RADIO & RECORDS

Show Dog Nashville hired Ron Bradley as director of West Coast promotion, based in San Diego. He most recently held the same title with EMI Nashville. Reach Bradley here... Greg Millard took over as iHeartMedia executive vp event and experiential partnerships. He leaves his role as Turner Broadcasting vp partnerships and branded programming... Pacific Media Group purchased a cluster of stations on the Hawaiian island of Kauai from KONG Radio Group. The acquisitions include country KUAI-AM... Kix Brooks hosts a two-hour Veterans Day special, A Salute to Our Military Veterans, for Westwood One. The syndicated show is available for airing Nov. 10-12... Mandy James and Paul Thomas were added to the KMNB Minneapolis-St. Paul morning show, InsideRadio.com reported, joining incumbent Mike Dubs. James previously was a morning personality at top 40 WZOK Rockford, Ill. It's a return to the airwaves for Thomas, who had been working as an Entercom/Minneapolis account executive... June Knight accepted a morning-drive position with WKIS Miami, where she teams on-air with assistant PD/music director Tim Conlon, according to Talkers.com. Knight moves cross-state for the job after doing middays for WQYK Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla. ... Cherry Creek/Wenatchee, Wash., hired Michael Cross as operations manager, Talkers.com reported. He starts Nov. 5 at the cluster, which includes country KYSN. Cross previously held the OM title at NRG Media/Waterloo, Iowa... Fort Walton Beach, Fla., resident Jessie Ritter won Cumulus' fourth annual NASH Next competition in Nashville on Oct. 11. Her winning package includes a recording deal with the Big Machine Music Group-affiliated Nash Next label... Nominations for the 2019 Country Radio Hall of Fame inductees are due Oct. 29 here.

'ROUND THE ROW

Rob Beckham left his post as one of five WME Nashville co-heads... Nashville booking agent David Kiswiney established High Performance Entertainment and signed Exile, Ricochet and Gunnar & The Grizzly Boys among his initial clients. Kiswiney previously was senior executive vp at Buddy Lee Attractions, which folded in September. Reach him here... Singer-songwriter Dan Smalley signed a recording deal with Big Machine... Warner/Chappell Nashville added songwriter Robyn Collins and songwriter-producer Johnny Simmen to its roster... Sabin Sharpe signed with Kore PR in advance of the 2019 release of his debut album... Songwriter-guitarist Steve Cropper ("In the Midnight Hour," "Dock of the Day") will be recognized as a BMI Icon during the BMI Country Awards in Nashville on Nov. 13... Hunter Hayes joins songwriter Craig Wiseman ("Live Like You Were Dying," "Came Here to Forget") as mentors for the grand prize winner in the 19th annual Nashville Songwriters Association International song contest. Deadline for entry is Oct. 31 here... Country Music Association CEO Sarah Trahern was one of six female leaders recognized by YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee at its 27th Academy for Women of Achievement celebration on Oct. 11... The CMA promised to match all contributions to the Music Health Alliance's Heal the Music Day up to \$100,000. Among those who have pledged a portion of their Oct. 19 earnings to the cause are Red Light Management, Average Joes Entertainment and Warner/Chappell... Singer-songwriter Carol Hall died Oct. 11 at her home in New York following a battle with dementia. Most closely associated with Broadway, she is best known for penning the music and lyrics for The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. Dolly Parton's version of Hall's "Hard Candy Christmas," from the Whorehouse movie soundtrack, became a country holiday staple.



Kane Brown chatted with Cumulus' NASH Nights Live co-host Elaina Smith backstage after winning three trophies at the American Music Awards on Oct. 9.



Seth Ennis (right) and KWBL Denver assistant PD/music director/afternoon host Bryan "B-Dub" Washington during a Sept. 24 station visit.



Anita Cochran (right) visited with ABC's Good Morning America host Robin Roberts when she performed new single "Fight Like a Girl" on Oct. 5, the morning after breaking two ribs when she fell on a New York sidewalk.

COCHRAN: PAULA LOBO



LUKE COMBS

**CONGRATULATIONS
LUKE!**

2018 CMA Award Nominee – Male Vocalist of the Year & New Artist of the Year

RIAA Platinum-Certified Album This One's For You

14 Weeks at #1 Top Country Albums (most weeks of any country album since 2015)

Most Streamed Country Album of 2018

AEG
PRESENTS

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

Following her Oct. 5 performance of her anti-cancer anthem, “Fight Like a Girl,” on ABC’s *Good Morning America*, **Anita Cochran** received an invitation to continue the fight with the NFL. The Arizona Cardinals are employing her to sing “The Star-Spangled Banner” before their Oct. 18 game against the Denver Broncos and having her perform “Fight” during their “Crucial Catch” halftime show that focuses on breast-cancer awareness. Cochran’s not alone doing anthem chores. **Clay Walker** sang the national anthem on Oct. 14 in Nashville before the Baltimore Ravens shut out the Tennessee Titans, 21-0, and **Carlton Anderson** did the honors at Houston’s NRG Stadium the same day, as his Texans defeated the Bills, 20-13. Additionally, the **Zac Brown Band** will perform the anthem on Oct. 24 when the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks host the Dallas Mavericks at State Farm Arena.

Downtown Nashville provided the setting for a handful of notable live moments during the past week. **Roger McGuinn** and **Chris Hillman** performed “You Ain’t Going Nowhere” twice with **Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives** when the Sweetheart of the Rodeo 50th Anniversary Tour reached the Ryman Auditorium on Oct. 8. The audience included **Jeff Hanna** (who backed McGuinn and Hillman when they recorded “You Ain’t Going Nowhere” with **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** for a 1989 single), **Connie Smith**, mandolinist **Roland White** and steel guitarist **Lloyd Green**, who played on the original *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* album. **Brett Young** headlined the Ryman for the first time on Oct. 10, with new MCA act **Adam Hambrick** opening. And ’80s hitmaker **Ronnie McDowell** snuck into Tootsie’s Orchid Lounge over the weekend and did a set with Baltimore Orioles owner **Steve Geppi**.

Mitchell Tenpenny’s debut album, *All My Secrets*, will be released by Riser House/Columbia Nashville on Dec. 14. **Kip Moore** also has a seven-song EP, *Room to Spare: The Acoustic Sessions*, due Nov. 16 on MCA Nashville. Moore’s project includes musical support by **Charlie Worsham**, who co-wrote two titles.

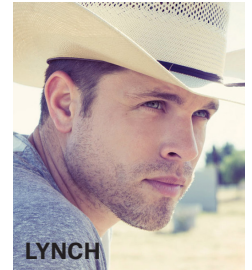
Taylor Swift is not the only artist trying to push voters to the polls. WME Nashville will stage a 10 a.m. mini-concert on Oct. 20 at Ascend Amphitheater with **Sheryl Crow**, **Jason Isbell**, **Amanda Shires**, **Lucie Silvas** and others. The event will be followed by a half-mile march to the Howard Office Building, one of Nashville’s key election precincts, to encourage early voting.



ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

Oct. 16

- 2012 — **Darius Rucker** performs “Don’t Think I Don’t Think About It” as he is inducted into the Grand Ole Opry.



Oct. 17

- 2014 — **Dustin Lynch** is hit in the face with a full beer can hurled by an audience member in Niceville, Fla., during the closing seconds of “Friends in Low Places.” Lynch declines to press charges.
- 2006 — **Tim McGraw** receives a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. His honor is located at 6901 Hollywood Blvd., in front of the Virgin Records store.

Oct. 18

- 2008 — “Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven,” by **Kenny Chesney** with **The Wailers**, goes to the top of *Billboard*’s country singles chart.
- 1968 — **Glen Campbell** wins two honors, entertainer of the year and male vocalist of the year, during the second Country Music Association Awards at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium. NBC tapes the show for the first time for a November telecast.

Oct. 19

- 2015 — Atlantic releases **Brett Eldredge**’s “Drunk on Your Love” to radio.

Oct. 20

- 1998 — **Trisha Yearwood** sings the national anthem before Game 3 of the World Series in San Diego. The New York Yankees beat the Padres, 5-4.
- 1993 — Oklahoma City officially posts a sign near the airport recognizing the city as the “Home of **Vince Gill**.”

Oct. 21

- 2016 — **Jordan Davis** records “Singles You Up” at Sound Stage in Nashville.

Oct. 22

- 2017 — **Alan Jackson**, the late **Jerry Reed** and songwriter **Don Schlitz** (“The Gambler”) are inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.
- 2013 — **Slate Creek** releases Brandy Clark’s debut album, *12 Stories*.

Source: RolandNote.com, the Ultimate Country Music Database

Top Headlines from billboard.com

Click on the headlines below for more details

‘Truly A Historic Moment’: Music Business Reacts To Music Modernization Act Becoming Law

Apple Music Becomes Official Music Player For Genius, Will Incorporate Lyrics In Its Service

Luke Bryan’s What Makes You Country Tour Has Now Earned More Than \$65 Million

‘A Conscious Uncoupling’: What’s Next After The MSG-Azoff Split?

Grammy Preview: Inside The Complex (And Controversial) Best New Artist Selection Process



Cole Swindell spent time with the staff at WDXB Birmingham, Ala., when he launched his Reason to Drink... Another Tour in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Oct. 4. From left: Warner Music Nashville chairman/CEO John Esposito, WDXB PD Tom Hanrahan and personality “Dollar” Bill Lawson, Swindell and KP Entertainment president Kerri Edwards.

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

S I M P L E

#1 BILLBOARD
#1 CA/MEDIABASE

OVER 1 MILLION IN TOTAL CONSUMPTION

WINNERS OF THE AMA
FAVORITE DUO/GROUP - COUNTRY

THANK YOU TO ALL THE BELIEVERS!

CMA NOMINATIONS

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

MEANT TO BE W/ BEBE REXHA

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

MEANT TO BE W/ BEBE REXHA

BMLG
RECORDS

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	46	MEANT TO BE WILSHIRE (B.REXHA,T.HUBBARD,J.MILLER,D.A.GARCIA)	Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line WARNER BROS./BMLG	RC	1
2	3	2	20	SIMPLE J.MOI (T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY,M.HARDY,M.HOLMAN)	Florida Georgia Line BMLG	1	2
3	2	3	39	TEQUILA D.SMYERS,S.HENDRICKS (D.SMYERS,J.REYNOLDS,N.GALYON)	Dan + Shay WARNER BROS./WAR	RC	2
4	4	4	17	SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,R.SNYDER,C.WILSON)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	2	4
5	5	7	20	BLUE TACOMA C.BROWN (R.DICKERSON,C.BROWN,P.WELLING)	Russell Dickerson TRIPLE TIGERS	3	5
6	8	10	19	LOSE IT D.HUFF (K.BROWN,C.MCGILL,W.WEATHERLY)	Kane Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	9	6
7	9	9	33	BREAK UP IN THE END M.R.CARTER (J.M.NITE,C.MCGILL,J.J.DILLON)	Cole Swindell WARNER BROS./WMN	4	7
8	18	18	14	DESPERATE MAN J.JOYCE (E.CHURCH,R.W.HUBBARD)	Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE	14	8
9	11	12	21	SPEECHLESS D.SMYERS,S.HENDRICKS (D.SMYERS,S.MOONEY,J.REYNOLDS,L.VELTZ)	Dan + Shay WARNER BROS./WAR	20	9
10	7	6	25	HOTEL KEY S.MCANALLY (M.RAMSEY,T.ROSEN,J.OSBORNE)	Old Dominion RCA NASHVILLE	6	5
11	10	11	11	DRUNK ME J.M.SCHMIDT,M.TENPENNY (M.TENPENNY,J.M.SCHMIDT,J.WILSON)	Mitchell Tenpenny RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	11	10
12	13	17	22	BEST SHOT A.BOWERS (J.ALLEN,J.LONDON,J.P.WILLIAMS)	Jimmie Allen STONEY CREEK	10	12
13	14	16	33	HANGIN' ON C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER (C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER,J.HOGE)	Chris Young RCA NASHVILLE	5	13
14	15	15	40	DRUNK GIRL S.HENDRICKS (C.JANSON,SCOOTER CARUSOE,T.DOUGLAS)	Chris Janson WARNER BROS./WAR	7	14
15	12	8	21	SUNRISE, SUNBURN, SUNSET J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (Z.CROWELL,R.HURD,C.MCGILL)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	RC	4
16	17	19	29	RICH BUSBEE,M.MORRIS (M.MORRIS,J.J.DILLON,L.VELTZ)	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	8	16
17	16	14	24	DROWNS THE WHISKEY M.KNOX (J.THOMPSON,J.MIDDLETON,B.KINNEY)	Jason Aldean Featuring Miranda Lambert MACON/BROKEN BOW	RC	3
18	20	22	16	BURNING MAN R.COPPERMAN,J.R.STEWART (L.DICK,B.PINSON)	Dierks Bentley Featuring Brothers Osborne CAPITOL NASHVILLE	19	18
19	19	21	38	BORN TO LOVE YOU J.JOYCE (B.LANCASTER,R.COPPERMAN,A.GORLEY,J.OSBORNE)	LANCO ARISTA NASHVILLE	18	19
20	23	24	26	BABE K.BUSH,J.NETTLES,J.RAYMOND (T.SWIFT,P.T.MONAHAN)	Sugarland Featuring Taylor Swift BIG MACHINE	17	8
21	22	23	33	HIDE THE WINE BUSBEE (A.GORLEY,L.LAIRD,H.LINDSEY)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	13	21
22	21	20	23	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,W.B.DURRETTE,R.WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	6
23	24	25	16	ALL DAY LONG G.BROOKS (M.ROSSELL,B.KENNEDY,T.G.BROOKS)	Garth Brooks PEARL	12	23
24	25	28	18	LAST SHOT K.MOORE (K.MOORE,D.COUCH,D.L.MURPHY)	Kip Moore MCA NASHVILLE	15	24
25	26	27	8	TURNIN' ME ON S.HENDRICKS (B.SHELTON,J.L.ALEXANDER,J.OSBORNE)	Blake Shelton WARNER BROS./WMN	16	25



4

LUKE COMBS
She Got the Best of Me

"Best" holds at its No. 4 Hot Country Songs high. It jumps by 11 percent to 37.5 million in radio audience and pushes 4-2 on Country Airplay, where **Combs** is seeking his fourth No. 1 in as many appearances.



14

CHRIS JANSON
Drunk Girl

Co-written by **Janson**, the ballad climbs 15-14 on Hot Country Songs. It lifts by 1 percent to 26.2 million and ascends 8-7 on Country Airplay.

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	27	29	38	MILLIONAIRE D. COBB, C. STAPLETON (K. WELCH)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY	22	26
27	28	30	15	GOOD GIRL Z. CROWELL (D. LYNCH, J. EBACH, A. ALBERT)	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	23	27
28	29	32	14	TAKE IT FROM ME P. DIGIOVANNI (J. DAVIS, J. DAVIS, J. GANTT)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	24	28
29	30	31	17	BURN OUT D. HUFF, S. MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE (J. CARSON, C. DUDDY, M. WYSTRACH, S. MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE)	Midland BIG MACHINE	21	29
30	32	33	9	DOWN TO THE HONKYTONK J. MOI (R. CLAWSON, L. LAIRD, S. MCANALLY)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	30	30
31	NEW		1	NEON CHURCH B. GALLIMORE, T. MCGRAW (B. GOLDSMITH, R. E. LIPSEY, B. M. STENNIS) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Tim McGraw MCGRAW/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	27	31
32	33	35	12	THIS IS IT F. ROGERS, D. WELLS, A. ESHUIS (S. MCCREERY, F. ROGERS, A. ESHUIS)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	28	32
33	36	37	5	GIRL LIKE YOU M. KNOX (M. TYLER, J. BOYER, J. MIRENDA)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	29	33
34	37	36	7	THERE WAS THIS GIRL D. HUFF (R. GREEN, ERIK DYLAN)	Riley Green BMLG	25	34
35	34	34	6	LOVE WINS D. GARCIA, C. UNDERWOOD (C. UNDERWOOD, D. A. GARCIA, BRETT JAMES)	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	34	26
36	38	39	8	NIGHT SHIFT B. BUTLER, J. PARDI (T. BROWN, P. LARUE, B. MONTANA)	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	36	36
37	RE-ENTRY		9	SIXTEEN D. HUFF, J. FRASURE, THOMAS RHETT (THOMAS RHETT, S. M. DOUGLAS, JOE LONDON)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	26	24
38	35	26	5	HOMESICK D. HUFF (K. BROWN, B. BERRYHILL, M. J. MCGINN, T. PHILLIPS)	Kane Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	-	24
39	39	41	9	ON MY WAY TO YOU T. W. WILLMON (BRETT JAMES, T. LANE)	Cody Johnson COJO/WMN	33	25
40	RE-ENTRY		2	HEART LIKE A WHEEL J. JOYCE (E. CHURCH)	Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE	-	35
41	43	46	4	BETTER BOAT B. CANNON, K. CHESNEY (L. ROSE, T. MEADOWS)	Kenny Chesney Featuring Mindy Smith BLUE CHAIR/WARNER BROS./WEA	32	41
42	40	40	4	HERE TONIGHT D. HUFF (B. YOUNG, B. CAVER, J. EBACH, C. KELLEY)	Brett Young BMLG	38	32
43	NEW		1	MAKE IT SWEET S. MCANALLY (M. RAMSEY, T. ROSEN, W. SELLERS, G. SPRUNG, B. TURSI, S. MCANALLY)	Old Dominion RCA NASHVILLE	48	43
44	44	44	13	THE DIFFERENCE J. RAYMOND, L. RIMES (R. AKINS, B. BURGESS, D. DAWSON, J. DURRETT)	Tyler Rich VALORY	37	44
45	41	42	19	MUST'VE NEVER MET YOU S. MOFFATT (L. COMBS, J. SINGLETON, R. WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	14
46	RE-ENTRY		13	DAVID ASHLEY PARKER FROM POWDER SPRINGS J. S. STOVER (T. DENNING, J. R. STEWART, J. L. ALEXANDER)	Travis Denning MERCURY	40	37
47	47	47	8	EYES ON YOU C. DESTEFANO (C. RICE, C. DESTEFANO, A. GORLEY)	Chase Rice DACK JANIELS/BROKEN BOW	45	42
48	49	49	3	ONE THAT GOT AWAY S. HENDRICKS (J. FRASURE, T. ROSEN, M. RAMSEY, J. OSBORNE)	Michael Ray ATLANTIC/WEA	31	48
49	45	48	5	RUMOR L. BRICE, J. STONE, K. JACOBS, D. FRIZSELL (L. BRICE, K. JACOBS, A. GORLEY)	Lee Brice CURB	-	44
50	46	45	19	HOUSTON, WE GOT A PROBLEM S. MOFFATT (L. COMBS, R. MONTANA, J. SINGLETON)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	22

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	15.4 million
'18	12.2 million
DIGITAL TRACKS SALES	
'17	53.8 million
'18	39.0 million

For week ending Oct. 11, 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	325,000	98,000	687,000
Last Week	228,000	61,000	708,000
Change	42.5%	60.7%	-3.0%
This Week Last Year	342,000	99,000	1,069,000
Change	-5.0%	-1.0%	-35.7%

*Digital album sales are also counted within album sales.

Overall Unit Sales			
	2017	2018	CHANGE
Albums	15,445,000	12,185,000	-21.1%
Digital Tracks	53,797,000	39,023,000	-27.5%
Sales by Album Format			
	2017	2018	CHANGE
Physical	10,311,000	8,649,000	-16.1%
Digital	5,134,000	3,546,000	-30.9%

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

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

DAN + SHAY

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

OVER 2 BILLION AUDIENCE IMPRESSIONS IN 2018 SO FAR

OVER 1 BILLION CAREER STREAMS

#1 BILLBOARD COUNTRY ALBUM

FOUR #1 SINGLES AT COUNTRY RADIO



“TEQUILA”

SINGLE, SONG, + MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

THE NO. 1 MOST STREAMED COUNTRY SONG RELEASED IN 2018

OVER 2 MILLION TRACK EQUIVALENTS SOLD

OVER 270 MILLION ON-DEMAND STREAMS TO DATE

WINNER OF THE 2018 CMT DUO VIDEO OF THE YEAR AWARD WITH
NEARLY 50 MILLION VIEWS ON THE CINEMATIC MUSIC VIDEO

THE BREAKOUT STORY OF THE YEAR

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	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	NEW		1	ERIC CHURCH EMI NASHVILLE 026733*/UMGN	DESPERATE MAN		1
2	1	2	71	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	■	1
3	2	1	4	CARRIE UNDERWOOD CAPITOL NASHVILLE 028557*/UMGN	CRY PRETTY		1
4	3	5	16	DAN + SHAY WARNER BROS. 570796/WMN	DAN + SHAY		1
5	5	4	180	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	■	1
6	4	3	97	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947*/SMN	KANE BROWN	■	1
7	6	6	26	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 538375642*/BBMG (538375730)	REARVIEW TOWN	●	1
8	7	7	57	THOMAS RHETT VALORY TR0300A/BMLG	LIFE CHANGES	■	1
9	10	9	87	BRETT YOUNG BMLG BY0100A*	BRETT YOUNG	■	2
10	13	10	121	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN	CALIFORNIA SUNRISE	●	1
11	12	11	168	ZAC BROWN BAND ROAR/SOUTHERN GROUND/ATLANTIC 546369/AG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
12	14	14	75	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY 026379*/UMGN	FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 1	■	1
13	15	12	191	SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 021502/UMGN	MONTEVALLO	■	1
14	19	22	155	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER BROS. 551788/WMN	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS		2
15	21	19	159	THOMAS RHETT VALORY RT0200A/BMLG	TANGLED UP	■	2
16	22	18	59	OLD DOMINION RCA NASHVILLE 542939*/SMN	HAPPY ENDINGS		1
17	11	8	8	COLE SWINDELL WARNER BROS. 572705/WMN	ALL OF IT		1
18	18	15	44	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 027589*/UMGN	WHAT MAKES YOU COUNTRY		1
19	17	13	11	KENNY CHESNEY BLUE CHAIR/WARNER BROS. 571532/WMN	SONGS FOR THE SAINTS		1
20	24	20	166	CARRIE UNDERWOOD 19/ARISTA NASHVILLE 500876/SMN	GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1	■	1
21	25	24	147	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS	■	6
22	23	21	7	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE BMLG DIGITAL EX	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE (EP)		10
23	27	27	149	TAYLOR SWIFT BIG MACHINE 310400A*/BMLG (18.98)	RED	■	1
24	26	25	189	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE REPUBLIC NASHVILLE 017733/BMLG	HERE'S TO THE GOOD TIMES	■	1
25	RE-ENTRY		154	ERIC CHURCH EMI NASHVILLE 94266*/UMGN (16.98)	CHIEF	■	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 2018, 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	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	NEW		1	GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV SUITCASE TOWN/DUALTONE 1883*	EVENING MACHINES		1
2	1	1	126	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	■	1
3	NEW		1	MATT NATHANSON ACROBAT/CRUSH MUSIC 003*/AWAL-KOBALT	SINGS HIS SAD HEART		3
4	NEW		1	CAT POWER DOMINO 435*	WANDERER		4
5	3	3	75	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 026379*/UMGN	FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 1	■	1
6	4	4	172	HOZIER RUBYWORKS 309996*/COLUMBIA	HOZIER	■	1
7	6	6	131	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA	■	1
8	5	5	89	SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS		3
9	10	7	45	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 027408*/UMGN	FROM A ROOM: VOLUME 2	●	1
10	8	8	167	ED SHEERAN ELEKTRA 530433*/AG		+	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 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	46	MEANT TO BE BEBE REXHA & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
2	2	49	HEAVEN KANE BROWN
3	4	79	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
4	3	33	TEQUILA DAN + SHAY
5	5	12	SPEECHLESS DAN + SHAY
6	7	18	LOSE IT KANE BROWN
7	8	23	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
8	6	19	SIMPLE FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
9	9	75	WHAT IFS KANE BROWN FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA
10	14	104	HURRICANE LUKE COMBS
11	12	9	DRUNK ME MITCHELL TENPENNY
12	10	37	YOU MAKE IT EASY JASON ALDEAN
13	11	9	SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME LUKE COMBS
14	13	88	BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD SAM HUNT
15	16	43	MARRY ME THOMAS RHETT
16	NEW		DESPERATE MAN ERIC CHURCH
17	18	80	DIE A HAPPY MAN THOMAS RHETT
18	15	29	MERCY BRETT YOUNG
19	17	31	ONE NUMBER AWAY LUKE COMBS
20	20	77	SMALL TOWN BOY DUSTIN LYNCH
21	19	10	BREAK UP IN THE END COLE SWINDELL
22	21	3	BEST SHOT JIMMIE ALLEN
23	25	2	BLUE TACOMA RUSSELL DICKERSON
24	22	65	WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS LUKE COMBS
25	RE-ENTRY		TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROAD JOHN DENVER

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	2	16	SPEECHLESS DAN + SHAY
2	4	10	SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME LUKE COMBS
3	3	19	SIMPLE FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
4	6	12	DRUNK ME MITCHELL TENPENNY
5	NEW		NEON CHURCH TIM MCGRAW
6	8	17	LOSE IT KANE BROWN
7	7	38	TEQUILA DAN + SHAY
8	9	144	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
9	12	46	MEANT TO BE BEBE REXHA & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
10	NEW		MAKE IT SWEET OLD DOMINION
11	14	7	DOWN TO THE HONKYTONK JAKE OWEN
12	10	23	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
13	NEW		LADIES IN THE '90S LAUREN ALAINA
14	17	47	HEAVEN KANE BROWN
15	16	3	BEST SHOT JIMMIE ALLEN
16	18	9	BURNING MAN DIERKS BENTLEY FEAT. BROTHERS OSBORNE
17	RE-ENTRY		BABE SUGARLAND FEAT. TAYLOR SWIFT
18	15	22	DROWNS THE WHISKEY JASON ALDEAN FEAT. MIRANDA LAMBERT
19	19	10	DRUNK GIRL CHRIS JANSON
20	RE-ENTRY		MILLIONAIRE CHRIS STAPLETON
21	NEW		RICH MAREN MORRIS
22	20	31	MERCY BRETT YOUNG
23	21	3	BLUE TACOMA RUSSELL DICKERSON
24	RE-ENTRY		YOU MAKE IT EASY JASON ALDEAN
25	NEW		THOUGHT ABOUT YOU TIM MCGRAW



5

TIM MCGRAW
Neon Church

McGraw's first solo track in over two years, and the first single from his next album, due in 2019, bounds onto Country Digital Song Sales at No. 5 (6,000 sold), marking his 15th top 10. On Hot Country Songs, it's the highest debut at No. 31.

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

Carrie Underwood's 'Love Wins' Is A Message For The Ages, And For Today

During the summer, **Carrie Underwood** rummaged through her iTunes collection and stumbled across the **Elvis Presley** chestnut "In the Ghetto."

The **Mac Davis** composition — penned in the late 1960s, when the Vietnam War, racial division and gang-related crime reached maximum levels — examines a mother's heavy toll as she loses a son in a cycle of poverty and inner-city violence. Underwood heard "In the Ghetto" this time in a way that she had never experienced it before.

"I'd always known the song, but I guess I'd never, especially as a parent, listened to the words," she says. "I was bawling."

Only since that time has Underwood realized she had written her own "In the Ghetto." Her new single, "Love Wins," opens with a tragic shooting, screaming sirens and the horrific crying of a mother forced to bury her child. It is, she reckons at the end of that first verse, "just another story on the evening news." But the news — now delivered around-the-clock on cable — is almost always negative, and the weight is, for many, too much to bear. "Love Wins" was made to counter that trend.

"Somewhere, somebody described it as a nonpolitical song about politics," she says. "I was like, 'OK, there you go.' We weren't saying anything to make people think one certain way, or tell anybody that they're right or tell anybody that they're wrong. It was more about, this is just what's happening right now. And there's a lot of negativity in the world."

So much so, that if any specific event triggered "Love Wins," neither Underwood nor co-writers **Brett James** ("I Hold On," "Something in the Water") and **David Garcia** ("Meant to Be," "Take Back Home Girl") recall it.

"We literally had no issue, no overarching thing in mind," says Garcia. "It was a part of our discussion. It always feels like whether it's a natural disaster happening in some part of the world from a hurricane to whatever, we're always confronted as people with being in a situation where we have a choice. We've got to remember that we're all the same. We've got to love on each other and help each other through it."

The genesis for that concept wasn't the news per se but a track that Garcia wrote the same morning as the writing session, which took place at Underwood's cabin in middle Tennessee. It was one of two or three "vibes" that he presented, and there was something about its scope that appealed to Underwood and James.

"It was fresh," she remembers. "It was kind of like, 'This feels grand. This music feels hopeful and big, and it needs some sort of inspiring, motivational title to go with it.'"

James had one. "Love Wins" is a condensed version of a title on James' bookshelf at home — *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*, by spiritually motivated author **Rob Bell** — and its treatment of love as one player in a competition was appropriate for Garcia's vibe.

"There's always signs all over town," says James. "I've seen them in front yards — 'In my house, this, this, this and love wins.' Somehow that was bouncing around my head really heavy that morning, and it sounded like a victorious song. After I threw out the title to Carrie, we kind of jumped on it."

They faced the same issue that Davis had encountered with "In the Ghetto," and that songwriters **Charlie Black**, **Rory Bourke** and **Tommy Rocco** tackled in "A Little Good News," an **Anne Murray** hit that won the Country Music

Association's single of the year in 1984. If "Love Wins" was about humanity's never-ending chain of tragedy, it had to resonate beyond the headlines of any given day.

"Ten, 20 years from now, you still want your music to be relevant," says Underwood. "You don't want to box yourself in to one specific thing that's going on in the world. Politics and presidents have been around for a very long time, as well as tragedies. We don't feel like those are going to be going anywhere anytime soon, unfortunately."

Thus, the death in the first verse is followed by a reminder in the second of politics' divisiveness. A single prechorus — "I hold on to hope and I won't let go" — helped climb the ladder from a lower register to a soaring melody in the chorus and turn a corner from darkness to light as Underwood's voice rings out, "I believe you and me are sisters and brothers." They started three of the chorus' lines with that "I believe" phrase, in part to drill home the seriousness of keeping the faith. But the gloomy contrasts were also essential to the effectiveness of that message.

"It would've been super easy to be like, 'Kumbaya. Let's hold hands, everybody,'" says Underwood. "We wanted to make it kind of weighty, timely, and to say real things that are happening in the world."

Verse three looked forward to a moment when "the struggle, this madness" would disappear, then returned to that uplifting chorus. But as they progressed, the idea that "love wins" raised a basic question: What is love? They addressed it with a bridge.

"You did have to answer that question," says Garcia. "'Love' is an action word, so it does require an action, and that was a key point to the song."

Garcia and Underwood co-produced the track, recording at **Zac Brown's** Southern Ground Studio with drummer **Chris McHugh** guiding the arc of the storyline from its ominous synth-pad opening to its angelic, string-section final note.

"We wanted to make sure it still had a modern kind of approach to it, and part of that is obviously having the rhythm track kind of in the forefront," says Garcia. "Then we wanted to make sure Carrie was front and center, and then we took the approach of saying, 'Hey, what are the most important things that add to the emotion of this song to get the point across?'"

Four string players and a six-person gospel choir — including Underwood, James and Christian artist **Dave Barnes** — did the trick.

Underwood's final vocal sounded effortless, though it took some preproduction planning to get it there. "That one was hard," she says, "because I'm like, 'Where do I breathe in most of this song?'"

Capitol Nashville released "Love Wins" to country radio through PlayMPE on Sept. 11, a date that might seem appropriate for a song about the battle between good and evil, though it was not intentional.

"I'm not that calculated," Underwood says with a laugh.

"Love Wins" launched at No. 30 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart on Sept. 15 and No. 34 on Country Airplay on Sept. 22. It is now at Nos. 35 and 34, respectively, though the chart positions are almost secondary to the results they hope to achieve.

"You want it to be a big hit," says James, "but way more than that, you want it to make a little positive mark in the universe."

That mark is a specific one.

"You want to leave people feeling like there is [something] better out there," adds Underwood. "And we can get there. We can get to better." ●



billboard Country Indicator

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	PLAYS		AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)	
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	
1	3	15	SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME River House/Columbia Nashville	★★ No. 1 (1 week) ★★	Luke Combs	5014	+191	7.739
2	4	34	BREAK UP IN THE END Warner Bros./WMN		Cole Swindell	4820	+99	7.539
3	5	34	HANGIN' ON RCA Nashville		Chris Young	4725	+276	7.185
4	1	20	SIMPLE BMLG		Florida Georgia Line	4567	-478	7.266
5	7	18	LOSE IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville		Kane Brown	4228	+314	6.163
6	8	35	RICH Columbia Nashville		Maren Morris	4150	+262	6.408
7	2	25	BLUE TACOMA Triple Tigers		Russell Dickerson	4098	-824	6.667
8	9	44	DRUNK GIRL Warner Bros./WAR		Chris Janson	3876	+55	5.916
9	11	17	ALL DAY LONG Pearl		Garth Brooks	3437	+48	4.902
10	14	29	BEST SHOT Stoney Creek		Jimmie Allen	3340	+286	5.138
11	13	26	DRUNK ME Riser House/Columbia Nashville		Mitchell Tenpenny	3289	+212	4.871
12	10	14	DESPERATE MAN EMI Nashville		Eric Church	3170	-225	4.779
13	15	39	LAST SHOT MCA Nashville		Kip Moore	3115	+227	4.377
14	16	12	TURNIN' ME ON Warner Bros./WMN		Blake Shelton	3020	+185	4.368
15	18	15	BURNING MAN Capitol Nashville		Dierks Bentley Feat. Brothers Osborne	2895	+175	3.943
16	17	34	BORN TO LOVE YOU Arista Nashville		LANCO	2742	-51	3.941
17	24	9	SPEECHLESS Warner Bros./WAR		Dan + Shay	2162	+413	3.086
18	21	25	BURN OUT Big Machine		Midland	2118	+164	2.706
19	22	21	TAKE IT FROM ME MCA Nashville		Jordan Davis	2115	+189	2.669
20	20	10	DOWN TO THE HONKYTONK Big Loud		Jake Owen	2090	+135	2.583
21	23	25	MILLIONAIRE Mercury		Chris Stapleton	1946	+60	2.523
22	28	23	GOOD GIRL Broken Bow		Dustin Lynch	1708	+285	2.227
23	25	8	BETTER BOAT Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA		Kenny Chesney Feat. Mindy Smith	1567	+17	2.142
24	26	8	NEVER COMIN DOWN Hit Red/Capitol Nashville		Keith Urban	1526	-21	2.214
25	27	10	THERE WAS THIS GIRL BMLG		Riley Green	1523	+61	1.754
26	29	5	GIRL LIKE YOU Macon/Broken Bow		Jason Aldean	1522	+392	2.009
27	35	4	SIXTEEN Valory		Thomas Rhett	1221	+417	1.869
28	40	2	NEON CHURCH McGraw/Columbia Nashville	★★ Most Increased Plays/Most Added ★★	Tim McGraw	1211	+636	1.880
29	30	5	LOVE WINS Capitol Nashville		Carrie Underwood	1145	+29	1.388
30	32	11	NIGHT SHIFT Capitol Nashville		Jon Pardi	1009	+74	1.116

BILLBOARD COUNTRY INDICATOR PANEL — 109 STATIONS

Abilene, Texas	KEAN	Fargo, N.D.	KBVB	Laurel, Miss.	WBBN	San Luis Obispo, Calif.	KKJG
Alexandria, La.	KRRV		WSTH	Lebanon, N.H.	WXXX	Santa Barbara, Calif.	KRAZ
Amarillo, Texas	KGNC	Fayetteville, N.C.	WKML	Lincoln, Neb.	KFGE	Santa Maria, Calif.	KSNJ
Asheville, N.C.	WKSF	Flagstaff, Ariz.	KAFF	Longview, Texas	KYKX	Sheboygan, Wis.	WBFM
Atlantic City, N.J.	WPUR	Flint, Mich.	WFBE	Lubbock, Texas	KLLL	Savannah, Ga.	WJCL
Beaumont, Texas	KYKR	Florence, Ala.	WXFL	Lufkin, Texas	KYKS		WUBB
Beckley, W. Va.	WJLS	Florence, S.C.	WEGX	Marshalltown, Iowa	KXIA	Shreveport, La.	KXKS
Biloxi, Miss.	WZKX	Ft. Collins, Colo.	KUAD	Mason City, Iowa	KIAI	Sioux City, Iowa	KSUX
Bloomington, Ill.	WIBL	Ft. Smith, Ark.	KTCS	Medford, Ore.	KRWQ	South Bend, Ind.	WBYT
Bluefield, W. Va.	WHKX	Frederick, Md.	WFRE	Meridian, Miss.	WOKK	Springfield, Ill.	WFMB
Burlington, Vt.	WOKO	Fredericksburg, Va.	WFLS	Milwaukee, WI.	WKTI	Springfield, Mo.	KTTS
Cape Girardeau, Mo.	KEZS	Green Bay, Wis.	WNCY	Montgomery, Ala.	WLWI	Terre Haute, Ind.	WTHI
Charleston, W. Va.	WKWS	Hagerstown, Md.	WAYZ	Morgantown, W. Va.	WKKW	Topeka, Kan.	WIBW
	WQBE	Hot Springs, Ark.	KQUS	Muskegon, Mich.	WMUS	Traverse City, Mich.	WTCM
College Station, Texas	KAGG	Huntington, Ky.	WDGG	New London, Conn.	WCTY	Tupelo, Miss.	WWZD
Colorado Springs.	KCCY	Huntington, W. Va.	WTCT	Odessa, Texas	KHKX	Utica, N.Y.	WFRG
Columbia, Mo.	KCLR	Idaho Falls, Idaho	KTHK	Palm Springs, Calif.	KPLM	Victor Valley, CA.	KATJ
Columbus, Ga.	WKCW	Jackson, Miss.	WMSI	Pensacola, Fla.	WXBM	Waco, Texas	WACO
	WSTH		WUSJ	Peoria, Ill.	WXCL	Wausau, Wis.	WDEZ
Cookeville, Tenn.	WGSQ	Janesville, Wis.	WJVL	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	WRWD	Wheeling, W. Va.	WOVK
Dothan, Ala.	WTVY	Jonesboro, Ark.	KDXY	Rapid City, S.D.	KOUT	Williamsport, Pa.	WILQ
Duluth, Minn.	KKCB	Joplin, Mo.	KIXQ	Rockford, Ill.	WXXQ	Yakima, Wash.	KXDD
Eau Claire, Wis.	WAXX	Kalamazoo, Mich.	WNWN	Rocky Mount, N.C.	WDWG	Youngstown, Ohio	WQXX
Elizabeth City, N.C.	WRSF	Kalispell, Mont.	KDBR	Saginaw, Mich.	WCEN		WWGY
Erie, Pa.	WTWF	Kingmah, Ariz.	KFLG	St. Cloud, Minn.	KZPK	Westwood One	HOT COUNTRY
Eugene, Ore.	KKNU	Lafayette, Ind.	WKOA	Salina, Kan.	KYEZ	Music Choice	MAINSTREAM COUNTRY
Evansville, Ind.	WKDQ	Laredo, Texas	KRRG	Salisbury, Md.	WKTT	Sirius XM	TODAY'S COUNTRY
		Lansing, Mich.	WITL	San Angelo, Texas	KGKL		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	34	13	THIS IS IT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	1003	+175	1.157
32	31	29	DAVID ASHLEY PARKER FROM POWDER SPRINGS Mercury	Travis Denning	977	+12	0.945
33	33	7	ON MY WAY TO YOU CoJo/WMN	Cody Johnson	921	+49	1.147
34	36	8	ONE THAT GOT AWAY Atlantic/WEA	Michael Ray	723	+14	0.831
35	37	17	THE DIFFERENCE Valory	Tyler Rich	713	+14	0.804
36	38	10	GOODBYE SUMMER Valory/BMLG	Danielle Bradbery w/ Thomas Rhett	707	+15	0.738
37	39	14	THAT GOT THE GIRL Almost Country/Thirty Tigers	Casey Donahew	620	+31	0.733
38	41	11	WHAT WHISKEY DOES Stoney Creek	Randy Houser Feat. Hillary Lindsey	569	+26	0.733
39	46	4	BRING IT ON OVER Mercury	Billy Currington	543	+57	0.693
40	43	10	LOVE AIN'T Valory	Eli Young Band	543	+20	0.638
41	42	14	YADA YADA YADA EMI Nashville	Brandon Lay	540	+13	0.394
42	44	24	CAUGHT UP IN THE COUNTRY Curb	Rodney Atkins Feat. The Fisk Jubilee Singers	521	+6	0.623
43	53	3	BACK TO LIFE Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	512	+182	0.635
44	47	19	FRIENDS DON'T Mercury	Maddie & Tae	479	+14	0.423
45	45	12	LOVE SOMEONE Atlantic/WMN	Brett Eldredge	470	-25	0.503
46	48	9	AMERICAN GIRLS Sea Gayle	CJ Solar	462	+37	0.517
47	50	3	HERE TONIGHT BMLG	Brett Young	437	+42	0.367
48	49	14	MAKE HIM WAIT Black River	Abby Anderson	398	-4	0.292
49	51	13	YOU'RE IN IT Wheelhouse	Granger Smith	351	-25	0.303
50	52	15	COASTIN' SSM Nashville	Alexandra Demetree	348	-8	0.419
51	54	5	WHISKEY GLASSES Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	326	+37	0.329
52	55	12	A DAY WITHOUT One Country/Nine North	Abi	314	+33	0.323
53	56	7	MORE MCA Nashville	Clare Dunn	274	+5	0.247
54	NEW		MUST BE THE WHISKEY Rounder/Concord	Cody Jinks	262	+31	0.260
						★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	
55	57	3	THE IN BETWEEN Captain & Bear	Cash Campbell	251	+15	0.260
56	59	6	MAYBE Plateau	Sam Austin	245	+10	0.266
57	58	4	FEELS LIKE A PARTY Wheelhouse	LOCASH	237	+1	0.329
58	NEW		PO' BOYZ Dreamlined/Star Farm Nashville	Davisson Brothers Band	235	+26	0.311
59	NEW		DROP EVERYTHING Arista Nashville	Carlton Anderson	226	+6	0.420
60	NEW		EYES ON YOU Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	Chase Rice	221	+10	0.207

CHARTS LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 150 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 109 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

ALL DAY LONG ReZemblance Music, BMI/Songs Of Reehits, BMI/Roy Rivers Publishing, BMI/Cowboy Hat Trick, ASCAP/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/No Fences Music, ASCAP (M.Rossell, B.Kennedy, T.G.Brooks) **23**

B

BABE Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Taylor Swift Music, BMI/Monoman Music, ASCAP (T.Swift, P.T.Monahan) **20**

BEAUTIFUL CRAZY Big Machine Music, BMI/Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/Works Of RHA Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Rowdy Rob Music, BMI (L.Combs, W.B.Durrette, R.Williford) **22**

BEST SHOT Red Lining Music, SESAC/Amplified Hour Songs, SESAC/Castle Bound Music, Inc., SESAC/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Blonde Leading Blind, BMI (J.Allen, J.London, J.P.Williams) **12**

BETTER BOAT Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Liz Rose Music, LLC, BMI/It's Killer Music, BMI/She And I, LLC, BMI/Songs Of Mighty Isis Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (L.Rose, T.Meadows) **41**

BLUE TACOMA BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/Provident Music Group, ASCAP/Hillbilly Science And Research Publishing, SESAC/Trailerlily Music, SESAC/Stephen Harris, BMI/Tyler Barksdale, BMI (R.Dickerson, C.Brown, P.Welling) **5**

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) **19**

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) **7**

BURNING MAN Emileon Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/New Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/Not A Track Guy Music, BMI (L.Dick, B.Pinson) **18**

BURN OUT WB Music Corp., ASCAP/TipTop Music, ASCAP/Tropical Cowboy Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kitt Cass Publishing Corporation, BMI/Smack Hits, GMR/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR/Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/One Little Indian Creek Music, ASCAP (J.Carson, C.Duddy, M.Wystrach, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **29**

D

DAVID ASHLEY PARKER FROM POWDER SPRINGS I'm About To Go RED On Ya Music, BMI/Travis Denning Music, BMI/ole, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs, BMI/SWMBMG, BMI/Lonesome Vinyl Music, BMI/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Damn Country Music, ASCAP (T.Denning, J.R.Stewart, J.L.Alexander) **46**

DESPERATE MAN Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Snake Farm Publishing, SESAC/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC (E.Church, R.W.Hubbard) **8**

THE DIFFERENCE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten by Rhetto, BMI/Mr. Buck Lucky, BMI/Bump Into Genius Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI (R.Akins, B.Burgess, D.Dawson, J.Durrett) **44**

DOWN TO THE HONKYTONK Round Hill Works, BMI/Big Loud Proud Crowd, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Shirt At Work, BMI/Sony/ATV Story Music Publishing, GMR/We Are Creative Nation, GMR/Smack Hits, GMR/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR (R.Clawson, L.Laird, S.McAnally) **30**

DROWNS THE WHISKEY Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Laine 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) **17**

DRUNK GIRL ole Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Scrambler Music, ASCAP/Abbotts Creek Music Two, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Tomdouglass Music, BMI (C.Janson, Scooter Carusoe, T.Douglas) **14**

DRUNK ME Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Freshy Music, ASCAP/We-Volve Music, ASCAP/Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC (M.Tenpenny, J.M.Schmidt, J.Wilson) **11**

E

EYES ON YOU Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Dack Janiel's Publishing, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/CDS Words And Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP (C.Rice, C.DeStefano, A.Gorley) **47**

G

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.Mirenda) **33**

GOOD GIRL Magic Mustang Music Inc., BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Wordspring Music, LLC, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Memory Days, SESAC/Buzz Light Beer Music, ASCAP/Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP (D.Lynch, J.Ebach, A.Albert) **27**

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) **13**

HEART LIKE A WHEEL Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI (E.Church) **40**

HERE TONIGHT Super Big Music, ASCAP/Calville Publishing, ASCAP/Songs Of Black River, ASCAP/Wordspring Music, LLC, SESAC/Memory Days, SESAC/W.B.M. Music Corp., SESAC/The Best I Could Do Publishing, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (B.Young, B.Caver, J.Ebach, C.Kelley) **42**

HIDE THE WINE WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/We Are Creative Nation, GMR/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Story Music Publishing, GMR (A.Gorley, L.Laird, H.Lindsey) **21**

HOMESICK Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Kobalt Group Music Publishing, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/TDP Publishing, BMI (K.Brown, B.Berryhill, M.J.McGinn, T.Phillips) **38**

HOTEL KEY Smackville Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Carrot Seed Songs, ASCAP/ReHits Music, Inc., ASCAP/MeGusta Music, ASCAP/Unfair Entertainment, ASCAP/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, J.Osborne) **10**

HOUSTON, WE GOT A PROBLEM Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/Sullivan S Guns, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (L.Combs, R.Montana, J.Singleton) **50**

L

LAST SHOT WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Point Break Publishing, ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Songs From The Couch, BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/NZD Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Carol Vincent And Associates, LLC, ASCAP (K.Moore, D.Couch, D.L.Murphy) **24**

LOSE IT Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Plum Nelly, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Track House ENT, BMI (K.Brown, C.McGill, W.Weatherly) **6**

LOVE WINS Carrie-Okie Music, BMI/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, ASCAP/D Soul Music, ASCAP/Capitol CMG Genesis, ASCAP/Songs Of Brett, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (C.Underwood, D.A.Garcia, Brett James) **35**

M

MAKE IT SWEET Carrot Seed Songs, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Rezsongs, ASCAP/ReHits Music, Inc., ASCAP/Smacktown Music, ASCAP/Smack Blue, LLC, ASCAP/Unfair Entertainment, ASCAP/MeGusta Music, ASCAP/Tiny Handstand, ASCAP/Sharkules Music, ASCAP/We're Really Doin' It Publishing, ASCAP/Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, W.Sellers, G.Sprung, B.Tursi, S.McAnally) **43**

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.Rexha, T.Hubbard, J.Miller, D.A.Garcia) **1**

MILLIONAIRE Universal Tunes, SESAC/Spur 66 Music, SESAC (K.Welch) **26**

MUST'VE NEVER MET YOU Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP/Works Of RHA Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (L.Combs, J.Singleton, R.Williford) **45**

N

NEON CHURCH BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Big Deal, ASCAP/Go For The Goldsmith, ASCAP/Big Deal Beats, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Dead Aim Music, BMI/The Stennis Mightier Music, BMI/Young Guns Publishing, LLC, BMI (B.Goldsmith, R.E.Lipsey, B.M.Stennis) **31**

NIGHT SHIFT Maxx Music, BMI/Let The Road Pave Itself, BMI/Razor And Tie Music Publishing, BMI/Mike Curb Music, BMI/Rain Town Music, BMI (T.Brown, P.LaRue, B.Montana) **36**

O

ONE THAT GOT AWAY Downtown DMP Songs, BMI/Telemetry Productions, BMI/ReHits Music, Inc., ASCAP/Smacktown Music, ASCAP/Carrot Seed Songs, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, BMI/Smackville Music, ASCAP (J.Frasure, T.Rosen, M.Ramsey, J.Osborne) **48**

ON MY WAY TO YOU WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs Of Brett, ASCAP/Atlas Music Publishing, ASCAP/External Combustion Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Heytone Music, ASCAP (Brett James, T.Lane) **39**

R

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) **16**

RUMOR Mike Curb Music, BMI/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Jacobson, ASCAP/Sadie's Favorite Songs, ASCAP/Combustion Engine Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP (L.Brice, K.Jacobs, A.Gorley) **49**

S

SHE GOT THE BEST OF ME Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/Little Extra Songs, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/No Cats Round Here Music, ASCAP/Heart Scarred Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Super LCS Publishing, BMI (L.Combs, R.Snyder, C.Wilson) **4**

SIMPLE Hub Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Pranch Ringle Music, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/BMG Bumblebee, BMI/Rygo Music, BMI/Art In The Fodder Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (T.Hubbard, B.Kelley, M.Hardy, M.Holman) **2**

SIXTEEN EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Sony/ATV Ballad, BMI/Eastman Pond Publishing, BMI/Big Deal Beats, BMI/Brodsky Spensive Publishing, BMI/Nice Life, BMI (Thomas Rhett, S.M.Douglas, Joe London) **37**

SPEECHLESS Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Buckeye26, ASCAP/Jreynmusic, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Never Veltz So Good Publishing, BMI (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, J.Reynolds, L.Veltz) **9**

SUNRISE, SUNBURN, SUNSET Highly Combustible Music, ASCAP/Songs Of Southside Independent Music Publishing, LLC, ASCAP/Atlas Music Publishing, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/I Love Pizza Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Plum Nelly, BMI (Z.Crowell, R.Hurd, C.McGill) **15**

T

TAKE IT FROM ME Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/ReHits Music, Inc., ASCAP/MeGusta Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Red Bandana, BMI (J.Davis, J.Davis, J.Gantt) **28**

TEQUILA WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/Buckeye26, ASCAP/Jreynmusic, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/A Girl Named Charlie, BMI (D.Smyers, J.Reynolds, N.Galton) **3**

THERE WAS THIS GIRL Riley Green Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Tawnes Van Hwke Publishing, BMI (R.Green, Erik Dylan) **34**

THIS IS IT Dagum Music, BMI/Austintatious Tunes, BMI/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Ice House Tunes, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (S.McCreery, F.Rogers, A.Eshuis) **32**

TURNIN' ME ON Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/Damn Country Music, ASCAP/WB Music Corp., ASCAP/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP (B.Shelton, J.L.Alexander, J.Osborne) **25**

CODA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

25 Years Ago Clay Walker Led On His First Try

"What's It to You" topped
Hot Country Songs in 1993

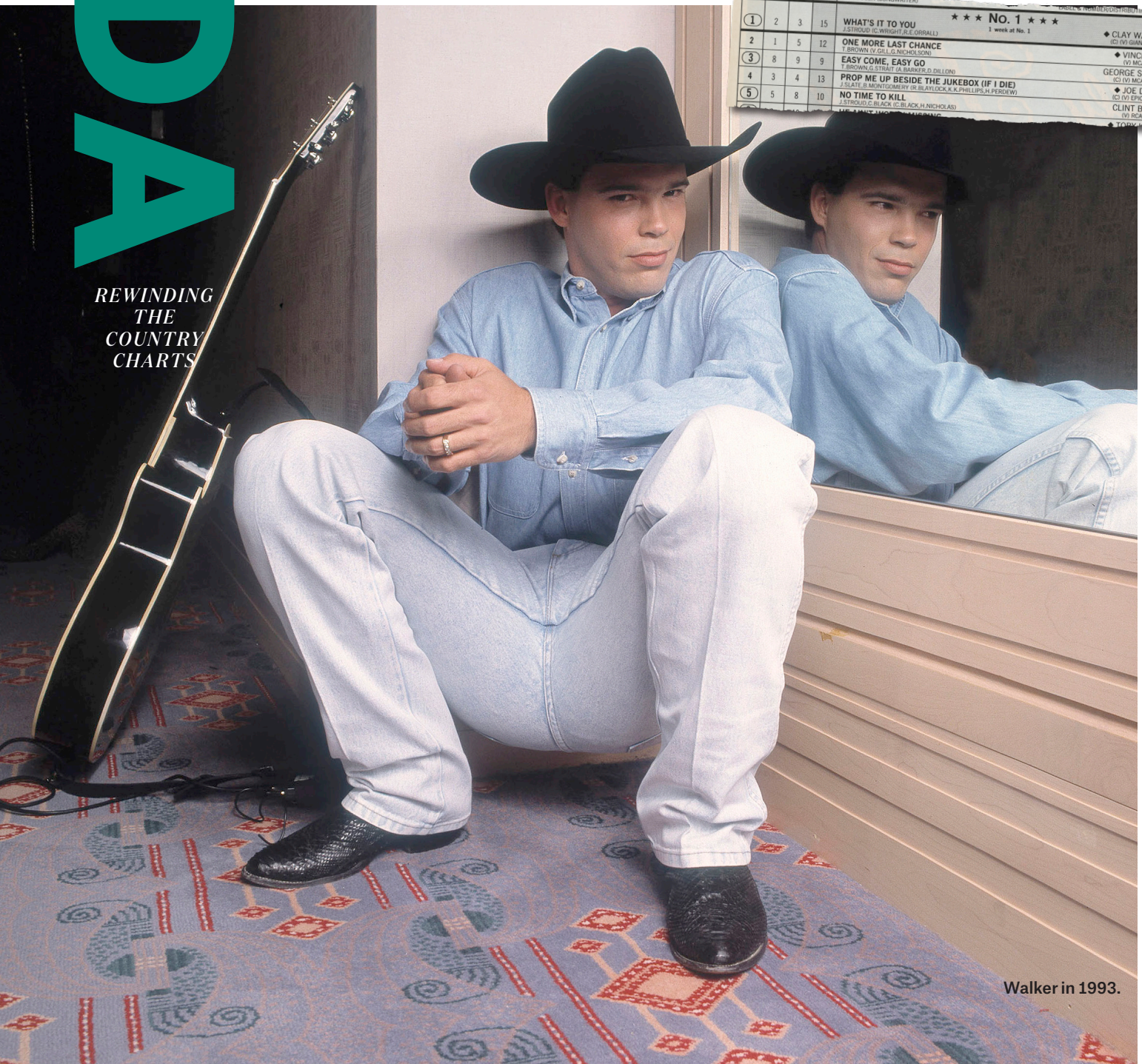
On Oct. 16, 1993, **Clay Walker** scored his first No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart with "What's It to You." Written by **Robert Ellis Orrall** and **Curtis Wright**, the track was released as the first single from Walker's self-titled debut album, which spun off two more leaders: "Live Until I Die" and "Dreaming With My Eyes Open."

Walker was competing in local talent competitions by age 15, then honed his chops on the Texas honkytonk circuit. After he was discovered by record producer/executive **James Stroud**, Walker signed to Giant Records (then a subsidiary

of Warner Music Group) in 1992. The artist has gone on to bank 38 appearances on Hot Country Songs, including six No. 1s among 17 top 10s, most recently reaching the top tier with the No. 4-peaking "She Won't Be Lonely Long" in 2010.

Now 49, Walker, who still performs regularly, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1996. He has been an advocate and avid fundraiser to help eradicate the disease ever since. According to Walker's website, his foundation, **Band Against MS**, has raised over \$2 million to support the cause.

—JIM ASKER



HOT COUNTRY SONGS					PRODUCER (SONWRITER)	WEEKS ON CHART	PEAK POSITION	LAST WEEK	WEEKS TO NO. 1	WEEKS AT NO. 1	WEEKS AT NO. 1	WEEKS AT NO. 1
1	2	3	15	15	WHAT'S IT TO YOU J. STROUD (C. WRIGHT, R. ORRALL)	15	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	5	12	12	ONE MORE LAST CHANCE T. BROWN (V. GILL, G. NICHOLSON)	12	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	8	9	9	9	EASY COME, EASY GO J. BROWN (G. STRAIT, D. BARNETT, D. HILLIARD)	9	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	3	4	13	13	PROP ME UP BESIDE THE JUKEBOX (IF I DIE) J. SLATE, B. MONTGOMERY (B. BLAVLOCK, K. PHILLIPS, A. PERDUE)	13	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	8	10	10	NO TIME TO KILL J. STRAUD (C. BLACK, C. BLACK, H. NICHOLAS)	10	5	5	5	5	5	5

Walker in 1993.