# billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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**BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE** 

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## Randy Travis: An Old Recording Invites A New Examination Of A Classic Country Voice



The tone is rich and reedy, the delivery is steady and understated, and the emotion is convincingly resigned.

The voice of Country Music Hall of Fame member **Randy Travis** was cruelly silenced by a stroke in July 2013, but his trademark, full-bodied sound has resurfaced on a previously unreleased performance. "Fool's Love Affair," a demothat was seemingly lost to the dustbins of history, is expected to receive

wide media attention on July 29 as the business honors the 35th anniversary of his debut single, "On the Other Hand," released in July 1985. Radio heavyweights Cumulus, Townsquare, iHeart Media, Entercom and Sirius XM are expected to play the new song, along with Apple Music and Spotify. A range of media outlets have stories planned, and several acts—including Garth Brooks, Midland and Craig Morgan—will spotlight Travis on social media.

A first listen to the newly unearthed track is jarring. Arriving in an era when country productions are much more layered and complicated, "Fool's Love Affair" is simple, almost regal in its presentation, appropriately reminding the listener of the full depth of

Travis' expressive baritone. It's familiar through a litany of existing classics — including "Forever and Ever, Amen," "Deeper Than the Holler" and, of course, "On the Other Hand" — though hearing Travis in the context of a newly unveiled song brings fresh perspective to his singular voice.

"Thank you to **Charlie Monk**," says Travis' wife, **Mary Travis**, in a Zoom conversation with her husband by her side. He

frequently nods, affirming that she is speaking correctly on his behalf. Monk's "perseverance has been beautiful," she adds.

Monk, a Sirius XM host who is often referred to as the "mayor of Music Row," was a music publisher during much of his career, and he signed Travis to a songwriting deal with his independent publishing company, Monk Family Music, during the early 1980s.

Monk cowrote "Fool's Love Affair" with **Keith Stegall** ("Don't Rock the Jukebox," "We're in This Love Together") and **Milton Brown** ("Every Which Way but Loose," "Bar Room Buddies"), and enlisted Travisto sing on the demo. Travis remembers the song, but has no recollection of the session, which likely occurred in '83 or '84, just months before he signed with Warner Bros. and recorded "On the Other Hand." His recording of "Fool's Love Affair" always stood out to Monk among the other hastily recorded demos.

"When you hear it, it's that authentic Randy Travis singing an authentic country song," says Monk. "Everything about it is exactly what everybody loved about his sound."

Monk periodically played a hissy cassette version of "Fool's Love Affair" on his Sirius XM show through the years, though that copy was unsuitable for recording purposes. When Monk was cleaning his offices in 2019, he found the original multitrack master tape in a box, and Travis' original producer, **Kyle Lehning** (**Dan Seals**, **Bryan White**), agreed to isolate Travis' voice and record new tracks around it. The presentation is eerily similar to the sound they achieved on





"I Told You So" and "Diggin' Up Bones."

"My secret to Randy's voice was that I always made his vocal the loudest thing on the record," says Lehning. "I figured that's why they were going to buy the record. They weren't going to buy it because I had come up with some great electric guitar sound in the background, you know? It was his voice that was the attractive quality and what he was saying."

Travis said it differently in that era. Following a country spike led by the 1980 movie *Urban Cowboy*, the industry lasered in on songs with crossover potential, so much so that *The New York Times* declared in a front-page September 1985 story that traditional country was dead. "On the Other Hand" had not, at that point, gained commercial traction. In fact, it was another song, the midtempo "1982," that broke Travis before a reissue of "On the Other Hand" climbed to No. 1 on the Hot Country Songs chart in 1986.

Subsequently, four of his albums went multiplatinum, defying a belief that artists rooted in classic country would not sell. Travis suddenly became the leader of a New Traditionalist movement that also included the likes of **Dwight Yoakam**, **Keith Whitley** and **Patty Loveless**.

Part of Travis' charm was the decency of the music. "Fool's Love Affair," a ballad about weekly infidelity, contrasts with the bulk of the songs that brought him to an industry peak. "Forever and Ever, Amen," "He Walked on Water," "Three Wooden Crosses" and "Spirit of a Boy, Wisdom of a Man" invariably celebrated love, family and/or faith. Even "On the Other Hand," which finds the singer at the crossroads of temptation, ends with the man staying true to his vows. Travis essentially adapted the sound of traditional country while playing down the cheatin' and drinkin' themes that dominated previous incarnations.

"That's what he enjoyed," says Mary, with Travis nodding in agreement. "The good in life, the right in life, the way things should be, that's Randy's heart. And that's what he sang about, for the most part: good, positive love songs."

Many of the genre's current acts cite 1990s country as a key part of their inspiration, including Chris Young, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean and Justin Moore. And some of those '90s acts — particularly Brooks, Alan Jackson, Clint Black and Ricky Van Shelton — owe at least a partial debt to Travis' demonstration that country could be big business.

"There were a lot of records being sold at that time," recalls Lehning. "And then here comes Garth, and good Lord, you know how he blew up. It was a pretty exciting time through there. Everybody that came in the '90s was standing on the shoulders of that collective success."

"Fool's Love Affair" reminds us, for a moment at least, of how Travis' honest, unassuming voice served as a key catalyst for country's growth.

"One night when we got him on the Grand Ole Opry, I watched him, and I thought, 'You know, if he never gets any farther, this will thrill him to death,' "recalls Monk. "If Randy Travis had never become a star, he'd still be at the Nashville Palace singing country songs. 'Cause that's it. He liked those people that liked that sound."

"Fool's Love Affair" will give the country business, and its fans, a refreshing reminder on July 29.  $\blacksquare$ 



Mitchell Tenpenny (left) appeared on iHeartMedia's *Bobby Bones Show* on July 22 to promote his new single, "Broken Up."



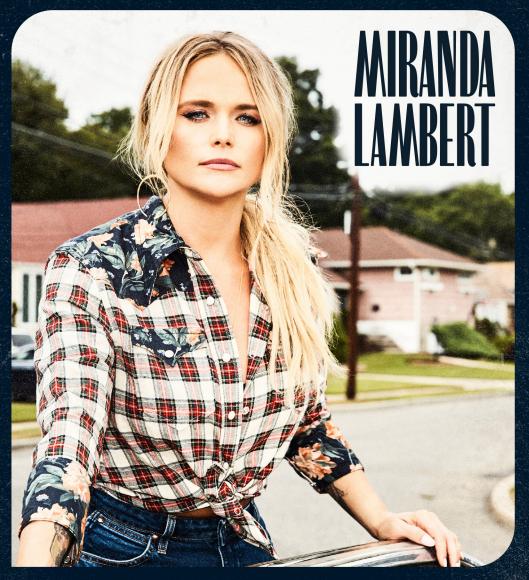
Tim McGraw (left) surprised a handful of nurses from Virtua Marlton Hospital in Evesham Township, N.J., to thank them for their work during the coronavirus pandemic. The July 22 call was captured in the Spotify series *The Drop-In*. Nurses on the call included (clockwise from top row, left) Anthony Flaherty, A.J. Papeika, Jessica Vitarelli and Lydia Leconey.



Maren Morris chatted with Bravo host Andy Cohen during the July 22 edition of *Watch What Happens Live*.









|           | •1  | •3 | 32 | Bluebird              | Miranda Lambert  | Vanner/RCA Nashvi | 32.414                               | 3.212 | 11        | 2   | 7,928 | 681  | 1      | 248   | 146 |     |
|-----------|-----|----|----|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|-----|-----|
|           | W   | LW | WK | TITLE                 | ARTIST           | LABEL             | TW                                   | +/-   | % Chg     | RNK | TW    | +/-  | RNK    | INC   | On  | Add |
|           | RAI | NK |    |                       | BB Issue Date    | 8/1/2020          | AUD IMPRESSIONS (                    |       | GNR PLAYS |     |       | SPIN | Stat   | tions |     |     |
|           |     |    |    | Audience Ranked Chart | Airplay Week Of: | 7/20/20 -         | 7/20/20 - 7/26/20 TW Aud in Millions |       |           |     | AVG   | 14   | 46     |       |     |     |
| 7/26/2020 |     |    |    |                       |                  |                   |                                      |       |           |     |       | Pane | l Size |       |     |     |



MIRANDA LAMBERT Bluebird (RCA)

#1 C/A #1 BB

THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO!





# IBERT: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES, THE CHICKS: ROBIN HARPER

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

## Ruling The Roost: Miranda Lambert's 'Bluebird' Leads Country Airplay; The Chicks' *Gaslighter* Opens At No. 1 On Top Country Albums

**Miranda Lambert** ascends to No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart (dated Aug. 1) as "Bluebird" (Vanner/RCA Nashville) takes a 3-1 flight. The song increased by 11% to 32.4 million audience impressions in the week ending July 26, according to Nielsen Music/MRC Data.

"Bluebird" marks her sixth Country Airplay leader. She last led when she was featured on **Jason Aldean**'s "Drowns the Whiskey" for two weeks starting

in August 2018. Before that, she reigned with her **Keith Urban** duet "We Were Us" for a week in December 2013.

Until the Aug. 1 chart, Lambert last visited the Country Airplay penthouse on her own with "Over You" for a week in May 2012.

"It's really great," she told *Billboard* after hearing of her return to No. 1. "I mean, 2012 feels like a lifetime ago; two months feels like a lifetime ago right now. I feel very proud. I've been putting out singles for like 15 years, and when radio embraces me and really believes in the song, it shows. I'm so thankful that after all these years, I still have a spot."

"Bluebird," which Lambert wrote

with **Luke Dick** and **Natalie Hemby**, is her 32nd Country Airplay entry, a sum that includes 13 top 10s. Her first charted title, "Me and Charlie Talking," hit No. 27 in March 2005. She first reached the top 10 with the No. 7-peaking "Gunpowder and Lead" in August 2008. She initially led with "The House That Built Me" for four frames starting in June 2010, followed by "Heart Like Mine" for a week in May 2011.

Lambert's latest chart-topper is the sophomore single from *Wildcard*, which was her record-tying seventh career-opening No. 1 on the Top Country Albums chart dated Nov. 16, 2019. She shares the mark for the most consecutive out-of-the-gate leaders with **Carrie Underwood**. *Wildcard*'s first single, "It All Comes Out in the Wash," hit No. 14 on Country Airplay last November.

CHICKS LIGHT UP THE CHART The Chicks (formerly Dixie Chicks) score their fifth Top Country Albums No. 1 as *Gaslighter* (Columbia), their first album of new material in 14 years, blasts in with 84,000 equivalent album units (71,000 in album sales) in its first week, ending July 23.

The trio of lead singer **Natalie Maines** and multi-instrumentalists **Emily Strayer** and **Martie Maguire** claims sole ownership of the most No. 1s on the

chart among female duos or groups, passing **The Judds**' total of four.

On the all-genre Billboard 200, Gaslighter bounds in at No. 3, marking The Chicks' fifth top 10. The group produced the 12-song set with Jack Antonoff.

The Chicks previously ruled Top Country Albums with their 1998 debut, Wide Open Spaces (for seven weeks beginning in January 1999); Fly (36 weeks, 1999-2000); Home (19 weeks, 2002-03); and Taking the Long Way (nine weeks, 2006-07). Additionally, 2003's Top of the World Tour Live reached No. 3.

On March 10, 2003, shortly before the United States invaded Iraq, Maines—who, along with her bandmates, is from Texas—told the crowd at a London concert, "We're

ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas." The commentary set off a firestorm of pushback that abruptly interrupted the band's run at the format.

The group has scored six Country Airplay No. 1s among 14 top 10s, all through March 2003. *Gaslighter*'s title-track first single reached No. 36 in March. (It reenters the multimetric Hot Country Songs chart at No. 28 after peaking at No. 20 in March, up 191% to 2.2 million U.S. streams.)

In June, following Black Lives Matter protests, the group officially changed its name to The Chicks. "We felt like 'Dixie' is a word that does hold a lot of negative connotations and harkens back to a time in our country that brought pain to so many people," Maines recently told *Billboard*. "We are relieved to have a new name and shed the 'Dixie' once and for all."





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# billboard Country Airplay

MRC

MIRPLAY MONITORED BY

| THIS       | LAST | WKS<br>ON   | TITLE Impuint/Label  | AUDIENCE (I |        | PLAYS |            |           |
|------------|------|-------------|--|-------------|--------|-------|------------|-----------|
| WEEK       | WEEK | CHART<br>32 | TITLE Imprint/Label Artist  BLUEBIRD Vanner/RCA Nashville ** No. 1 (1 week) ** Miranda Lambert   | 32.414      | +/-    | 7928  | +/-<br>681 | RANK<br>1 |
| 2          | 2    | 18          | ONE MARGARITA Row Crop/Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan  | 29.947      | -1.362 | 6866  | -504       | 3         |
| 8          | 4    | 35          | DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chris Janson   | 29.042      | +1.452 | 6995  | 361        | 2         |
| 4          | 1    | 22          | HARDTO FORGET MCA Nashville Sam Hunt   | 26.705      | -4.768 | 6425  | -1251      | 5         |
| 6          | 6    | 51          | DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury Maddie & Tae   | 26.015      | +1.909 | 6489  | 333        | 4         |
| 6          | 7    | 63          | ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG Wheelhouse LOCASH   | 25.094      | +1.452 | 6172  | 213        | 6         |
| 7          | 5    | 52          | CHASIN'YOU Big Loud Morgan Wallen  | 22.854      | -1.871 | 5168  | -157       | 10        |
| 8          | 8    | 43          | WHY WE DRINK Valory Justin Moore   | 21.958      | +0.629 | 5341  | 127        | 8         |
| 9          | 9    | 17          | BE A LIGHT Valory Thomas Rhett Featuring Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin & Keith Urban                                      | 20.878      | +0.154 | 5395  | 103        | 7         |
| 1          | 10   | 18          | I LOVE MY COUNTRY BMLG Florida Georgia Line  | 20.606      | +0.434 | 5326  | 175        | 9         |
| 11         | 11   | 22          | GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban  | 18.534      | -0.569 | 4905  | -56        | 11        |
| Ð          | 12   | 14          | COOL AGAIN RCA Nashville Kane Brown  | 18.292      | +0.194 | 4409  | 56         | 12        |
| B          | 14   | 7           | LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs  | 15.723      | +1.804 | 3696  | 431        | 15        |
| 12         | 13   | 12          | I CALLED MAMA McGraw/Big Machine Tim McGraw  | 14.693      | +0.343 | 3807  | 80         | 14        |
| Œ          | 15   | 37          | ONE NIGHT STANDARDS Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Ashley McBryde   | 14.173      | +0.551 | 3883  | 23         | 13        |
| 16         | 16   | 36          | SOME GIRLS Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers   | 13.286      | +0.126 | 3649  | 52         | 16        |
| Ð          | 17   | 16          | GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean   | 12.607      | +0.888 | 3356  | 179        | 17        |
| B          | 19   | 16          | ONE OFTHEM GIRLS Curb Lee Brice  | 11.185      | +1.204 | 3334  | 224        | 18        |
| 19         | 18   | 56          | LONELY IF YOU ARE Dack Janiels/Broken Bow Chase Rice   | 10.331      | +0.097 | 3177  | 50         | 19        |
| 20         | NE   | w           | HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN ** Hot Shot Debut/Most Increased Audience/Most Added ** Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani | 9.424       | +9.424 | 1749  | 1749       | 28        |
| <b>3</b>   | 20   | 33          | EVERYWHERE BUT ON RECORDS/Arista Nashville Matt Stell  | 9.419       | +0.359 | 3012  | 74         | 20        |
| <b>22</b>  | 21   | 29          | PRETTY HEART MCA Nashville Parker McCollum   | 8.809       | -0.001 | 2612  | 95         | 21        |
| <b>3</b> 3 | 24   | 25          | ONE BEER Big Loud HARDY Featuring Lauren Alaina & Devin Dawson   | 7.908       | +0.316 | 2371  | 3          | 24        |
| 24         | 23   | 15          | NO I IN BEER Arista Nashville Brad Paisley   | 7.866       | -0.229 | 2373  | -79        | 23        |
| 25         | 22   | 46          | SHE'S MINE MCA Nashville Kip Moore   | 7.710       | -0.468 | 2573  | -71        | 22        |
| 20         | 25   | 19          | AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi  | 5.215       | -0.074 | 1948  | 71         | 25        |
| <b>3</b>   | 26   | 27          | CHEATIN' SONGS Big Machine Midland   | 5.168       | -0.057 | 1925  | 100        | 26        |
| 23         | 28   | 22          | SOME PEOPLE DO RCA Nashville Old Dominion  | 5.072       | +0.516 | 1565  | 68         | 30        |
| 29         | 30   | 9           | MORETHAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud Morgan Wallen  | 5.060       | +0.807 | 1346  | 204        | 31        |
| <u>3</u>   | 27   | 14          | CHAMPAGNE NIGHT BMLG Lady A  | 4.987       | -0.157 | 1787  | 1          | 27        |

#### **COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND**

#### **RANKINGS**

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by Nielsen Music. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audiocopyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2020, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on Nielsen Music's platforms.

#### **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%.

#### TIES

On Country Airplay, if two songs are tied in total audience, the song with the larger increase in audience 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.

#### **HOT SHOT DEBUT**

Awarded to the highest-ranking new entry on Country Airplay.

#### **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 Music) for stations that do not report adds

#### MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

Most Increased Audience on Country Airplay lists the songs with the greatest week-to-week increases in total audience.

#### **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.

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# **billboard** Country Airplay

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| WEEK V     | 29<br>50<br>32 | ON<br>CHART | TITLE Imprint/Label                                     | Artist                    | THIS WEEK  | +/-             | THIS WEEK | +/- | RANK  |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----|-------|
| €          | 50             |             | LOVE VOLLLIKE LUCED TO Triple Tiggers                   |                           | TIIIS WEEK | <del>+</del> /- | THIS WEEK | +/- | DAINE |
|            |                |             | LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers                   | Russell *ickerson         | 4.878      | +0.603          | 1642      | 79  | 29    |
| <b>63</b>  | 22             | 2           | HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA        | Kenny Chesney             | 4.148      | +2.801          | 961       | 658 | 37    |
|            | 32             | 35          | BIG, BIG PLANS Big Loud                                 | Chris Lane                | 3.724      | +0.503          | 1330      | 122 | 32    |
| •          | 31             | 5           | STICKTHAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG EMI Nashville            | Eric Church               | 3.693      | +0.213          | 1207      | 72  | 34    |
| •          | 34             | 23          | MOMMA'S HOUSE Broken Bow                                | Dustin Lynch              | 3.194      | +0.162          | 1254      | 14  | 33    |
| 36         | 33             | 6           | HOWTHEY REMEMBER YOU Big Machine                        | Rascal Flatts             | 3.071      | +0.033          | 935       | -50 | 39    |
| <b>⊕</b>   | 37             | 24          | SOMEBODY LIKETHAT 19th & Grand                          | Tenille Arts              | 2.613      | +0.139          | 1070      | 7   | 35    |
|            | 36             | 15          | GABRIELLE Warner Music Nashville/WMN                    | Brett Eldredge            | 2.424      | -0.082          | 942       | -19 | 38    |
| <b>39</b>  | 38             | 15          | GOODTIME RCA Nashville                                  | Niko Moon                 | 2.373      | +0.052          | 756       | 58  | 42    |
| 40         | 41             | 8           | HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River                          | Kelsea Ballerini          | 2.250      | +0.248          | 824       | 85  | 41    |
| 41         | 40             | 10          | ALL NIGHT EMI Nashville                                 | Brothers Osborne          | 1.994      | -0.134          | 837       | -16 | 40    |
| <b>②</b>   | 43             | 14          | NOBODY Curb   | Dylan Scott               | 1.991      | +0.174          | 1003      | 23  | 36    |
| 43         | 42             | 17          | TO HELL & BACK Columbia Nashville                       | Maren Morris              | 1.736      | -0.155          | 737       | -20 | 43    |
| 44         | 45             | 13          | LADY BMLG   | Brett Young               | 1.671      | +0.016          | 625       | 26  | 48    |
| 45         | 44             | 8           | ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville                             | Jordan Davis              | 1.620      | -0.103          | 653       | 9   | 47    |
| 46         | 48             | 10          | MADE FOR YOU Big Loud                                   | Jake Owen                 | 1.519      | +0.089          | 503       | 0   | 51    |
| 49         | 47             | 6           | HARD DAYS Valory  | Brantley Gilbert          | 1.475      | +0.030          | 603       | -13 | 49    |
| 48         | 46             | 6           | THE MAN WHO LOVES YOU THE MOST Home Grown/19th & Grand  | Zac Brown Band            | 1.465      | -0.094          | 480       | 25  | 52    |
| •          | 49             | 4           | WEWERE RICH Wheelhouse                                  | Runaway June              | 1.380      | -0.035          | 659       | 123 | 46    |
| <b>50</b>  | 51             | 7           | THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR                | Gabby Barrett             | 1.340      | +0.064          | 534       | 31  | 50    |
| <b>6</b>   | 52             | 13          | THIS IS US RECORDS/Columbia/Stoney Creek                | Jimmie Allen & Noah Cyrus | 1.308      | +0.171          | 669       | 2   | 45    |
| •          | 53             | 10          | JUSTTHE WAY Stoney Creek                                | Parmalee x Blanco Brown   | 1.234      | +0.170          | 693       | 20  | 44    |
| <b>3</b> € | 55             | 4           | SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN        | Cole Swindell             | 0.940      | +0.042          | 355       | 22  | 54    |
| -          | 54             | 5           | EVERY OTHER MEMORY RCA Nashville                        | Ryan Hurd                 | 0.862      | -0.097          | 268       | -13 | 57    |
| •          | 56             | 4           | THE STRANGER Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WMN        | Ingrid Andress            | 0.839      | -0.001          | 321       | -5  | 55    |
| 56         | RE-EM          | NTRY        | THESE DAYS Big Loud                                     | MacKenzie Porter          | 0.693      | +0.267          | 220       | 42  | -     |
| 57         | 57             | 6           | WHATCHA DRINKIN 'BOUT Rebel Engine                      | Stephanie Quayle          | 0.581      | -0.066          | 225       | -14 | 60    |
| 53         | NE             | €W          | ALL OFTHE BOYS True To The Song/Mailboat/New Revolution | Caroline Jones            | 0.501      | +0.064          | 380       | 24  | 53    |
| <b></b> ■  | 59             | 2           | WINE, BEER, WHISKEY Capitol Nashville                   | Little Big Town           | 0.461      | +0.005          | 285       | 19  | 56    |
| _          | 60             | 2           | Y'ALLSOME Black River                                   | Pryor & Lee               | 0.450      | +0.003          | 177       | 10  | -     |



### **GOING FOR ADDS**

8/3

MARTINA MCBRIDE Girls Like Me

Not Listed

8/10

DYLAN GERARD Simple Things SSM Nashville



## **UPCOMING SPECIAL FEATURES**



Billboard's 6th annual Country Power Players issue will profile the people who have driven another solid year for the country music industry, generating billions in sales, streaming, and touring.

This special feature will include a photo portfolio featuring the top artists, songwriters, musicians, executives, and coverage on the most talked about topics in country music.

ISSUE DATE: 8/15 AD CLOSE: 8/5 MATERIALS DUE: 8/6



Billboard will publish its annual GRAMMY® Contenders special issue, showcasing the music and artists that made an impact during the eligibility period for the 63rd GRAMMY Awards®.

This special issue will highlight the artists, producers and other creative professionals whose work is in contention this year, including for Record Of The Year, Album Of The Year, Song Of The Year, and Best New Artist.

ISSUE DATE: 9/19
AD CLOSE: 9/9
MATERIALS DUE: 9/10

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# billboard Country Airplay

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| MOST ADDED®                                      |                            |      |  |  |  |  |
|--|----------------------------|------|--|--|--|--|
| TITLE Imprint/Label                              | Artist                     | ADDS |  |  |  |  |
| HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake  | Shelton Feat. Gwen Stefani | 97   |  |  |  |  |
| HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA | Kenny Chesney              | 32   |  |  |  |  |
| WE WERE RICH Wheelhouse                          | Runaway June               | 16   |  |  |  |  |
| CHEATIN' SONGS Big Machine                       | Midland                    | 11   |  |  |  |  |
| WANT ME BACK Stoney Creek                        | Lindsay Ell                | 8    |  |  |  |  |
| SOME PEOPLE DO RCA Nashville                     | Old Dominion               | 7    |  |  |  |  |
| HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River                   | Kelsea Ballerini           | 7    |  |  |  |  |
| WHERE THAT BEER'S BEEN Mercury                   | Travis Denning             | 7    |  |  |  |  |
| NEVER HAVE I EVER BMLG                           | Danielle Bradbery          | 7    |  |  |  |  |
| AIN'T BAD FOR A GOOD OL' BOY Curb                | Mo Pitnev                  | 7    |  |  |  |  |

| NEW AND ACTIVE              |                   |                   |                   |      |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------|--|--|--|--|
| TITLE Imprint/Label         | Artist            | TOTAL<br>Audience | TOTAL<br>STATIONS | ADDS |  |  |  |  |
| MAN ENOUGH NOW RECORDS      | Chris Bandi       | 0.402             | 20                | 1    |  |  |  |  |
| WANT ME BACK Stoney Creek   | Lindsay Ell       | 0.400             | 22                | 8    |  |  |  |  |
| NEVER HAVE I EVER BMLG      | Danielle Bradbery | 0.383             | 15                | 7    |  |  |  |  |
| WHISPER MY NAME BIG Label   | Aaron Watson      | 0.363             | 0                 | 0    |  |  |  |  |
| LIKE A COWBOY MCA Nashville | Parker McCollum   | 0.239             | 1                 | 0    |  |  |  |  |
| WHERE I FIND GOD Big Loud   | Larry Fleet       | 0.238             | 1                 | 0    |  |  |  |  |
|                             |                   |                   |                   |      |  |  |  |  |

| MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE  |               |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | GAIN          |  |  |  |  |  |
| TITLE Imprint/Label Artist   | (IN MIILIONS) |  |  |  |  |  |
| HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani | +9.424        |  |  |  |  |  |
| BLUEBIRD Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert                                  | +3.212        |  |  |  |  |  |
| HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney                 | +2.801        |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury Maddie & Tae                                   | +1.909        |  |  |  |  |  |
| LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs                        | +1.804        |  |  |  |  |  |
| ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG Wheelhouse LOCASH   | +1.452        |  |  |  |  |  |
| DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chris Janson                                   | +1.452        |  |  |  |  |  |
| ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb Lee Brice   | +1.204        |  |  |  |  |  |
| GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean                                   | +0.888        |  |  |  |  |  |
| MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud Morgan Wallen                                   | +0.807        |  |  |  |  |  |

|              | RECURRENTS                                |                                      |                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| THIS<br>WEEK | TITLE Imprint/Label                       | Artist                               | TOTAL AUD.<br>(IN MILLIONS) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1            | NOBODY BUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN | Blake Shelton Duet With Gwen Stefani | 18.012                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2            | I HOPE Warner Music Nashville/WAR         | Gabby Barrett                        | 16.180                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3            | DOES TO ME River House/Columbia Nashville | Luke Combs Featuring Eric Church     | 14.966                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4            | THE BONES Columbia Nashville              | Maren Morris                         | 13.121                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5            | BEER CAN'T FIX Valory Thom                | as Rhett Featuring Jon Pardi         | 13.053                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6            | AFTER A FEW Mercury                       | Travis Denning                       | 13.009                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7            | HOMEMADE Big Loud                         | Jake Owen                            | 9.850                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8            | HERE AND NOW Blue Chair/Warner Mus        | sic Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney      | 9.790                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9            | ONE MAN BAND RCA Nashville                | Old Dominion                         | 9.762                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10           | WHISKEY GLASSES Big Loud                  | Morgan Wallen                        | 9.275                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| MOST INCREASED PLAYS   |       |  |  |  |  |
|--|-------|--|--|--|--|
| TITLE Imprint/Label Artist   | GAIN  |  |  |  |  |
| HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani | +1749 |  |  |  |  |
| BLUEBIRD Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert                                  | +681  |  |  |  |  |
| HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney                 | +658  |  |  |  |  |
| LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs                        | +431  |  |  |  |  |
| DONE Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chris Janson                                   | +361  |  |  |  |  |
| DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART Mercury Maddie & Tae                                   | +333  |  |  |  |  |
| ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb Lee Brice   | +224  |  |  |  |  |
| ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG Wheelhouse LOCASH   | +213  |  |  |  |  |
| MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Big Loud Morgan Wallen                                   | +204  |  |  |  |  |
| GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean                                   | +179  |  |  |  |  |



HRIS POAGE



## **TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT**

WEEK ENDING JULY 26, 2020

|              |    |                 |   | _           |              |              | _            | _               |   |         | _                 |
|--------------|----|-----------------|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---|---------|-------------------|
| THIS<br>WEEK |    | WKS ON<br>CHART | TITLE (Label) ARTIST  | TW<br>Spins | SPINS<br>+/- | THIS<br>WEEK | LAST<br>Week | WKS ON<br>Chart | TITLE (Label) ARTIS                               |         | / SPINS<br>IS +/- |
| 0            | 2  | 14              | AS SOON AS YOU (Ten X Music Group) ★★1 Week at 1 ★★ Bri Bagwell | 1963        | 138          | 11           | 1            | 23              | BURY MY BONES (Independent) Whiskey M             | ers 13  | 3 -453            |
| 0            | 4  | 19              | RADIO COWBOY (Independent) Jon Stork                            | 1784        | 27           | <b>®</b>     | 15           | 8               | GHOST TOWN (Independent) Mike                     | yan 12  | 161               |
| 8            | 6  | 10              | SPUR OF THE MOMENT (Independent) Kylie Frey                     | 1700        | 160          | ß            | 18           | 10              | POOR (Independent) William Clark G                |         | 2 182             |
| 4            | 5  | 15              | NEON TOWN (Independent) David Adam Byrnes                       | 1691        | 33           | 1            | 16           | 19              | NOT GIVE A DAMN (Independent) Sundance            |         | 38                |
| 5            | 3  | 24              | FAMILY NAME (Independent) Cross Rags and Young                  | 1621        | -178         | <b>1</b>     | 17           | 21              | COUNTRY'S COMING BACK (Independent) Josh G        | der 104 | 13 53             |
| 6            | 10 | 11              | AIN'T A TRAIN (Independent) Cody Jinks                          | 1539        | 101          | 16           | 14           | 28              | THROUGH THE JUKEBOX (Independent) Donice Mo       | ace 89  | 6 -194            |
| Ð            | 7  | 16              | LET ME HOLD YOU TONIGHT (Little Red Truck) Deryl Dodd           | 1527        | 12           | <b>O</b>     | 20           | 23              | ALWAYS AND FOREVER (Independent) Cory Mo          | ow 89   | 1 4               |
| 8            | 12 | 11              | LITTLE BIT (Independent) Curtis Grimes                          | 1520        | 181          | 13           | 32           | 5               | WHISPER MY NAME (Independent) Aaron Wa            | son 88  | 6 198             |
| 9            | 11 | 16              | EVERYDAYERS (Independent) James Lann                            | 1503        | 121          | 19           | 9            | 21              | YOU, ME AND A BOTTLE (Independent) Randy Rogers I | and 88  | 4 -572            |
| 0            | 8  | 19              | FEELS LIKE COUNTRY MUSIC (Independent) Jon Wolfe                | 1495        | 36           | 20           | 24           | 20              | JUST FOR THE RECORD (Independent) Cody Hib        | ard 85  | 5 43              |



Our mission of delivering the healing power of music is more important than ever

Join us to support patients and caregivers in hospitals

#### NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND





Niko Moon (right) performed "Paradise to Me" after a July 20 visit with WJZY-TV Charlotte, N.C., host Jason Harper on *Good Day Charlotte*.

#### PAISLEY, WARINER LEAD ALL-STAR BAND

TV's COVID-19 news is generally a bummer, but a crack group of socially distanced musicians — including **Brad Paisley**, **Steve Wariner** and **Journey**'s **Jonathan Cain** — have turned the coronavirus into a source of inspiration.

"Quarantine," a cross-genre instrumental piece, unites nearly two dozen musicians for a fundraising video under the banner **The Quarantine All-Stars**.

Written and produced by Luke Bryan keyboardist Scotty Wilbanks, the effort touches on rock, jazz, soul and country, incorporating players from the road bands of such acts as Thomas Rhett, Jon Pardi, Justin Timberlake and The Rolling Stones. Additionally, the seven-piece horn section boasts saxophonists Jeff Coffin (Dave Matthews Band), Mark Douthit (Michael McDonald) and Greg Vail (Luis Miguel); trumpeters Dan Falcone (Lady Gaga), Lee Thornburg (Tower of Power) and Keith Smith (TobyMac); and trombonist Roy Agee (Lauren Daigle).

Wilbanks penned the song on March 29, roughly two weeks after the pandemic required most Americans to self-isolate, and it was assembled using audio and video recording tools in a ream of bedrooms, converted garages and studios.

The video was released July 24 with options for viewers to contribute to the MusiCares COVID-19 Relief Fund, which was established to assist musicians struggling through the crisis.

Go here to see the video and donate.

#### RADIO & RECORDS®

Black River added two new marketing executives: creative manager Taylor Kelly and production engineer Spencer Clarke. Kelly was previously a Red Light creative director, while Clarke served as a freelance engineer. Reach Kelly here and Clarke here ... Warner Music Nashville signed Bexar to a recording deal and released the duo's debut single, "Again," on July 24. Consisting of vocalist-guitarists Chris Ryan and Logan Turner, the act provides fans with a grizzly assignment, since the "X" in the band name is silent, leading to a "bear" pronunciation ... Collin Raye tapped BFD/Audium Nashville to distribute his next album, due later this year ... Bluegrass band Seth Mulder & Midnight Run agreed to a recording deal with the Billy Blue label ... United Stations will launch a new five-hour daily show, Backstage Country, the week of Sept. 14 with an initial affiliate list that features Beasley's seven country stations, including WXTU Philadelphia, WKLB Boston and KCYE Las Vegas. A different artist will host the show each week, with Tim McGraw on board for the first five episodes ... WSM-AM Nashville host Eddie Stubbs is retiring from the role, effective July 29. He has been affiliated with the station and its signature program, The Grand Ole Opry, since April 1995, just weeks after he arrived in Music City as a member of Kitty Wells' band ... Adams Radio/Salisbury-Ocean City, Md., promoted Johnette Cochran to vp/GM from director of sales. The cluster's signals include country WUSX ... Keith Urban, Thomas Rhett and Kane Brown are among the acts from multiple genres set for the 10th annual iHeartRadio Music Festival, which will be held on the company's properties Sept. 18-19. The performances will be taped in Los Angeles and Nashville for a two-part TV special airing Sept. 27-28 on the CW ... WKBQ Memphis hired **Rob Grayson** as PD/afternoon personality, InsideRadio.com reported. Concurrently, on-air host Chris Jay moves to mornings from afternoons.







MCC/Curb artist Jackson Michelson performed a pair of songs during a July 21 Zoom visit with *Billboard* Nashville staff. Clockwise from top left: Curb | Word vp marketing John Clore and director of publicity Jessie Lowe, Michelson, *Billboard* country chart manager Jim Asker, *Billboard Country Update* editor Tom Roland and MCC/Curb director of promotion Todd Thomas.

Grayson will continue to work mornings at NPR's **WKNO**... Entercom/Chicago hired **Sara McMurray** as vp/director of sales, according to InsideRadio.com. She was previously Hubbard/Chicago general sales manager. Entercom's Windy City holdings include country **WUSN**... **Mike Shamus** was promoted to Neuhoff/Lafayette, Ind., vp/GM from operations manager, RadioInk.com reported. The station group includes country **WKOA**.

#### **'ROUND THE ROW**

BMG Music Nashville promoted **Chris Oglesby** to senior vp creative from vice president ... Big Loud Management hired **Drew Magid**, who will serve as day-to-day manager for Warner R&B artist **Bren Joy**. Magid was most recently **Florida Georgia Line**'s tour manager ... **The Cadillac Three**'s **Jaren Johnston** renewed his co-publishing arrangement with Sony/ATV Nashville ... **Brandi Carlile** and songwriter-musicians **Tim** and **Phil Hanseroth** signed a songwriting deal with Universal Music Group Publishing Nashville ... The estate of **Roger Miller** enlisted Morris Higham Management to oversee his legacy ... Former Rounder artist **Alecia Nugen**t tapped So Much Moore for PR ... The Academy of Country Music established ACM: The Hub, an online platform for artist content and information. •







Tenille Townes (right) performed "When I Meet My Maker" during a Zoom-enabled appearance on July 21 on NBC's *Today* with hosts Al Roker and Sheinelle Jones.

#### **NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND**

#### **MUSIC NOTES**

With the coronavirus already forcing the cancellation of at least two games and putting the future of the 2020 baseball season in doubt, **Charley Pride** and **Willie Nelson** at least snuck into MLB's launch of an abbreviated schedule on July 23. Nelson's "Always on My Mind" was used in a Bank of America commercial that ran during some telecasts, and Pride, who has a stake in the Texas Rangers ownership team, delivered the national anthem from empty stands at Globe Life Park, where Texas shut out the visiting Colorado Rockies, 1-0. **RaeLynn** also got a sporting chance, remotely singing the anthem prior to the NASCAR Cup Series Super Start Batteries 400, won by **Denny Hamlin** at the Kansas Speedway.

Brothers Osborne set Oct. 9 as the release date for their third album, Skeletons, which also represents the duo's third full set with producer Jay Joyce (Eric Church, Miranda Lambert). It's just one of a bundle of newly announced album releases. Also in the mix: Eric Paslay's Nice Guy, due Aug. 14; The Gatlin Brothers' We Say Merry Christmas and Steve Gatlin's Love Can Carry, Aug. 14; The



Mavericks' En Español, Aug. 21; HARDY's A Rock, Sept. 4; and The Steep Canyon Rangers' Arm in Arm, Oct. 16. Additionally, Skip Ewing's masterful Wyoming, which was originally slated for August, has been pushed to Sept. 25.

**Tenille Townes** topped the list when the Canadian Country Music Association unveiled its finalists on July 22. She picked up six nods, including entertainer and female vocalist of the year, plus a songwriter of the year nomination for "Jersey on the Wall (I'm Just Asking)." **Dean Brody** and **Brett Kissel** appear five times each on the ballot, which leads to the Sept. 27 awards presentation. Go here for the full list of nominees.

The 1980s are back, thanks to a couple of newer country acts. Caylee Hammack enlisted Alan Jackson for a steel-tipped rendition of Don Williams' 1981 single "Lord, I Hope This Day Is Good," which includes prayerful COVID-19 images in the lyric video, visible <a href="here">here</a>. Trea Landon covered another Williams — Hank Williams Jr. — with a spacious version of the 1980 release "Old Habits." Check it out <a href="here">here</a>. •

## Top Headlines from billboard.com

Click on headlines below for more details

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<u>The First Song Sales Survey Debuted</u>

<u>Copyright Lawyer Richard Busch On His Battle With</u> <u>Spotify & Why The 'Blurred Lines' Ruling Still Irks Him</u>

> Congress Introduces Another Bill To Save Independent Music Venues

With Touring Halted, Midyear Boxscore Charts
Provide A Snapshot Of An Industry In Crisis

<u>Billboard and Hollywood Reporter</u> <u>Parent Company To Rebrand As MRC</u>

#### ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

#### July 28

- 2018 Luke Bryan becomes the first country artist to headline a concert at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, launching his set with "Country Girl (Shake It for Me)" and closing with "That's My Kind of Night." The bill also features Sam Hunt, Jon Pardi, Morgan Wallen and Carly Pearce.
- 1992 **Joe Diffie** records "John Deere Green."



#### July 29

- 2015 **The Eagles** perform at CenturyLink Center in Bossier City, La. It marks the final concert for founding member **Glenn Frey**, who dies six months later. His final song with the band is "Desperado."
- 2010 Big Machine announces **Rascal Flatts** has signed with the label during a press conference at Nashville's Pinnacle Building.

#### July 30

- 2011 **Jason Aldean**'s "Dirt Road Anthem" hits No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart.
- 1990 **Randy Travis** receives a quadruple-platinum award from the RIAA for his album *Always and Forever*.

#### July 31

• 1970 — Columbia releases **Johnny Cash**'s "Sunday Morning Coming Down."

#### Aug. 1

- 2000 Faith Hill and Brad Paisley take six nominations apiece to lead all competitors for the Country Music Association Awards, announced in Nashville. Dixie Chicks and Lee Ann Womack nab five each.
- 1995 Martina McBride sings the national anthem at Denver's Coors Field, where baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers defeat the Colorado Rockies, 9-6.

#### Aug. 2

• 1988 — RCA/Curb releases The Judds' Greatest Hits.

#### Aug. 3

• 1976 — Charlie Daniels appears at a fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter in Washington, D.C.

Source: <u>RolandNote.com</u>, the Ultimate Country Music Database



Brantley Gilbert (right) accepted a Pandora plaque for 3.5 billion streams during a virtual appearance on SiriusXM's *Music Row Happy Hour*, hosted by Buzz Brainard.

# **billboard** Hot Country Songs

STREAMING DAT COMPILED BY

nielsen



|              |              | TIMO                |                 |   |   | COUNTRY                    |                  |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| THIS<br>WEEK | LAST<br>WEEK | TWO<br>WEEKS<br>AGO | WKS ON<br>Chart | TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)   | Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL                        | COUNTRY<br>AIRPLAY<br>RANK | PEAK<br>Position |
| 0            | 1            | 3                   | 65              | I HOPE R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (Z.KALE,J.M.NITE,G.BARRETT)  ★★ NO. 1 (2 weeks)/Digital Gainer ★★                             | Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR                | RC                         | 1                |
| 2            | 2            | 2                   | 19              | ONE MARGARITA  J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (M.R.CARTER,M.DRAGSTREM,J.THOMPSON)  | Luke Bryan<br>ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE                | 2                          | 2                |
| 3            | 5            | 5                   | 34              | BLUEBIRD  J.JOYCE (M.LAMBERT,L.DICK,N.HEMBY)  ** Airplay Gainer **  | Miranda Lambert<br>VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE                 | 1                          | 3                |
| 4            | 3            | 1                   | 73              | THE BONES G.KURSTIN (M.MORRIS,J.M.ROBBINS,L.J.VELTZ)  | Maren Morris<br>COLUMBIA NASHVILLE                      | RC                         | 1                |
| 5            | 4            | 4                   | 24              | HARD TO FORGET  Z.CROWELL,LLAIRD (S.L.HUNT,A.GORLEY,L.LAIRD,S.M.CANALLY,J.OSBORNE,A.GRISHAM,M.J.SHURTZ,R.HULL)          | Sam Hunt<br>MCA NASHVILLE                               | 4                          | 3                |
| 6            | 7            | 7                   | 53              | DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART  J.M.ROBBINS,D.WELLS (M.MARLOW,T.DYE,J.SINGLETON,D.RUTTAN)  ★★ Streaming Gainer ★★              | Maddie & Tae MERCURY                                    | 5                          | 6                |
| 7            | 6            | 6                   | 49              | CHASIN' YOU J.MOI (J.MOORE,M.WALLEN,C.WISEMAN)  | Morgan Wallen<br>BIG LOUD                               | 7                          | 2                |
| 8            | 8            | 15                  | 32              | ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG 770 PRODUCTIONS (J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY)   | LOCASH<br>WHEELHOUSE                                    | 6                          | 8                |
| 9            | 10           | 9                   | 24              | GOT WHAT I GOT M.KNOX (M.TYLER,A.PALMER,T.ARCHER)   | Jason Aldean<br>MACON/BROKEN BOW                        | 17                         | 9                |
| 0            | 9            | 8                   | 18              | I LOVE MY COUNTRY C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY (K.BROWN,C.CROWDER,R.C.MCGILL,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME,W.WEATHERLY)    | Florida Georgia Line<br>BMLG                            | 10                         | 8                |
| 0            | 11           | 12                  | 22              | DONE C.JANSON,T.CECIL (C.JANSON,M.OGLESBY,J.PAULIN,M.ROY)   | Chris Janson<br>WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR              | 3                          | 11               |
| Œ            | 12           | 11                  | 17              | BE A LIGHT  D.HUFF (THOMAS RHETT, M.DRAGSTREM, J.MILLER, J.THOMPSON)  Thomas Rhett Featuring Reba McEntire, Hillary Sci | ott, Chris Tomlin & Keith Urban<br>VALORY               | 9                          | 11               |
| ß            | 13           | 14                  | 21              | GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME K.URBAN,D.MCCARROLL (C.AUGUST,M.CARTER,SHY CARTER,J.T.SLATER)                                   | Keith Urban<br>HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE                | 11                         | 13               |
| •            | 16           | 18                  | 15              | ONE OF THEM GIRLS B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,L.BRICE (A.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,D.DAVIDSON,L.BRICE)                                     | Lee Brice<br>CURB                                       | 18                         | 14               |
| Œ            | 14           | 17                  | 25              | WHY WE DRINK  J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE,C.BEATHARD,D.L.MURPHY,J.S.STOVER)   | <b>Justin Moore</b><br>VALORY                           | 8                          | 14               |
| 16           | 18           | 21                  | 11              | LOVIN' ON YOU<br>S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,T.ARCHER,R.M.L.FULCHER,J.MCNAIR)  | Luke Combs<br>RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE            | 13                         | 16               |
| <b>T</b>     | 15           | 16                  | 14              | COOL AGAIN D.HUFF (K.BROWN,J.HODGES,M.MCGINN,L.RIMES)   | Kane Brown<br>RCA NASHVILLE                             | 12                         | 12               |
| ß            | 17           | 19                  | 14              | MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN J.MOI (M.W.HARDY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME,M.WALLEN)   | Morgan Wallen<br>BIG LOUD                               | 29                         | 12               |
| 19           | 21           | 22                  | 30              | ONE BEER J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDY,H.LINDSEY,J.MITCHELL)   | Lauren Alaina & Devin Dawson<br>BIG LOUD                | 23                         | 19               |
| 20           | 19           | 20                  | 30              | ONE NIGHT STANDARDS  J.JOYCE (A.MCBRYDE,S.MCANALLY,N.HAYFORD)  A  | Ashley McBryde<br>TLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR    | 15                         | 19               |
| 3            | 22           | 23                  | 12              | PRETTY HEART JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM,R.MONTANA)   | Parker McCollum<br>MCA NASHVILLE                        | 22                         | 21               |
| 22           | 23           | 25                  | 12              | I CALLED MAMA T.MCGRAW,B.GALLIMORE (M.GREEN,L.MILLER,J.YEARY)   | Tim McGraw<br>McGraw/BIG MACHINE                        | 14                         | 22               |
| 23           | 25           | 26                  | 18              | SOME GIRLS C.FARREN,M.J.CONES (M.W.HARDY,J.MITCHELL,C.J. SOLAR) COMBUS  | Jameson Rodgers<br>STION/RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE | 16                         | 23               |
| 24           | 24           | _                   | 32              | LONELY IF YOU ARE C. DESTEFANO, C.RICE (C.RICE, L.RIMES, H.PHELPS)  | Chase Rice<br>DACK JANIELS/BROKEN BOW                   | 19                         | 23               |
| 25           | 20           | 10                  | 22              | HERE AND NOW B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (C.WISEMAN,D.L.MURPHY,D.A.GARCIA) BI  | Kenny Chesney .ue Chair/warner music nashville/wea      | RC                         | 7                |

#### **COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™ JOSH THOMPSON** 2 **HARDY ASHLEY GORLEY ZACH KALE** 5 **MATT DRAGSTREM JON NITE GABBY BARRETT** 8 **SHANE MCANALLY** 9 **MORGAN WALLEN** 10 **CRAIG WISEMAN**



| CO | COUNTRY PRODUCERS™ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1  | #1 JAY JOYCE       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2  | JOEY MOI           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | DANN HUFF          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | GREG KURSTIN       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | ROSS COPPERMAN     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | ZACH KALE          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | 770 PRODUCTIONS    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | DEREK WELLS        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | ZACH CROWELL       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | MICHAEL KNOX       |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# **billboard** Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY



nielsen

| THIS       | LAST  | TW0<br>WEEKS | WKS ON | TITLE   | Artist                                    | COUNTRY<br>AIRPLAY | PEAK     |
|------------|-------|--------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|----------|
| WEEK       | WEEK  | AGO          | CHART  | PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)  EVERYWHERE BUT ON  | MPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL  Matt Stell      | RANK               | POSITION |
| 23         | 26    | 28           | 17     | A.BOWERS,M.STELL (M.STELL,P.SIKES,L.MILLER)  AIN'T ALWAYS THE COWBOY  | RECORDS/ARISTA NASHVILLE  Jon Pardi       | 21                 | 26       |
| 2          | 27    | 27           | 13     | B.BUTLER,R.GORE,J.PARDI (B.KINNEY,J.THOMPSON)   | CAPITOL NASHVILLE                         | 26                 | 27       |
| 28         | RE-Ef | NTRY         | 10     | GASLIGHTER J.M.ANTONOFF,THE CHICKS (M.MAGUIRE,E.STRAYER,N.MAINES,J.M.ANTONOFF)  | The Chicks<br>COLUMBIA/IN2UNE             | RC                 | 20       |
| 29         | 29    | 29           | 19     | SHE'S MINE<br>K.MOORE (K.MOORE,D.COUCH,S.STEPAKOFF)   | Kip Moore<br>MCA NASHVILLE                | 25                 | 29       |
| 30         | 28    | 31           | 18     | LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO D.HUFF,C.BROWN,R.DICKRESON (R.DICKERSON,C.BROWN,P.WELLING)  | Russell Dickerson<br>TRIPLE TIGERS        | 31                 | 28       |
| 31         | 30    | 30           | 8      | GOOD TIME N.MOON,J.MURTY (N.MOON,J.MINTON,A.MOON,J.MURTY,M.TRUSSELL)  | Niko Moon<br>RCA NASHVILLE                | 39                 | 30       |
| 32         | 34    | 34           | 15     | CHAMPAGNE NIGHT S.M.CANALLY,A.DEROBERTS (D.HAYWOOD,C.KELLEY,H.SCOTT,P.CONROY,E.R.DEAN,A.DEROBERTS,T.A.GEMZA,S.M.CANALLY,M.R.MERLO,R.B.TEDDER,D.THOMSON) | Lady A<br>BMLG                            | 30                 | 27       |
| 33         | NE    | W            | 1      | SLEEP AT NIGHT  ★★ Hot Shot Debut★★  T.GEIGER,J.M.ANTONOFF,THE CHICKS (M.MAGUIRE,E.STRAYER,N.MAINES,T.GEIGER,J.D.TRANTER)                               | The Chicks<br>COLUMBIA/IN2UNE             | -                  | 33       |
| 34         | 33    | 32           | 10     | ALMOST MAYBES P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS, J.FRASURE, H.LINDSEY)  | Jordan Davis<br>MCA NASHVILLE             | 45                 | 32       |
| 35         | 48    | 47           | 5      | THE GOOD ONES R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,E.LANDIS,J.MCCORMICK,Z.KALE) WA   | Gabby Barrett<br>RNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR | 50                 | 34       |
| 36         | 36    | 41           | 18     | THE OTHER GIRL R.COPPERMAN,S.MCANALLY,K.BALLERINI (K.BALLERINI,S.MCANALLY,R.COPPERMAN,A.FRANGIPANE)   | sea Ballerini x Halsey<br>BLACK RIVER     | RC                 | 19       |
| <b>(3)</b> | 42    | 37           | 5      | STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG J.JOYCE (D.NAISH, JEFFREY STEELE)   | Eric Church<br>EMI NASHVILLE              | 34                 | 23       |
| 38         | 35    | 35           | 12     | LADY D.HUFF (B.YOUNG, R.COPPERMAN, J. M. NITE)  | Brett Young<br>BMLG                       | 44                 | 22       |
| 39         | 46    | 33           | 6      | HOLE IN THE BOTTLE  J.FRASURE,K.BALLERINI (K.BALLERINI, S. JONES, H. LINDSEY, J. FRASURE, A. GORLEY)  | Kelsea Ballerini<br>BLACK RIVER           | 40                 | 33       |
| 40         | 40    | 36           | 24     | GETTING GOOD D.GARCIA (E.L.WEISBAND)  | Lauren Alaina<br>19/MERCURY               | RC                 | 33       |
| 41         | 38    | 39           | 11     | NO I IN BEER LWOOTEN,D.HUFF (B.PAISLEY,K.LOVELACE)  | Brad Paisley ARISTA NASHVILLE             | 24                 | 38       |
| 42         | 43    | 38           | 18     | SOME PEOPLE DO S.MCANALLY (M.RAMSEY, J.FRASURE, S.MCANALLY, THOMAS RHETT)   | Old Dominion<br>RCA NASHVILLE             | 28                 | 38       |
| 43         | 41    | 40           | 12     | SIX FEET APART C.MATTHEWS,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,B.COBB,R.SNYDER) RIVER   | Luke Combs<br>HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE    | RC                 | 10       |
| 44         | 39    | 43           | 23     | JUST THE WAY D.FANNING (M.THOMAS,K.BARD,N.W.SIPE)   | nalee x Blanco Brown<br>STONEY CREEK      | 52                 | 31       |
| 45         | 45    | _            | 2      | WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER<br>6.BR00KS (S.DAVIS)   | Garth Brooks PEARL                        | -                  | 45       |
| 46         | 44    | 44           | 11     | MOMMA'S HOUSE Z.CROWELL (D.SCHNEIDER,M.LOTTEN,R.CLAWSON,J.T.WILSON)   | Dustin Lynch<br>BROKEN BOW                | 35                 | 44       |
| 47         | RE-E  | NTRY         | 2      | MARCH MARCH J.M.ANTONOFF,THE CHICKS (M.MAGUIRE,E.STRAYER,N.MAINES,J.M.ANTONOFF,R.GOLAN,L.KIRKPATRICK,D.D.WILSON)  | The Chicks<br>COLUMBIA/IN2UNE             | -                  | 32       |
| 48         | 49    | 46           | 8      | CHEATIN' SONGS D.HUFF,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (J.CARSON,C.DUDDY,M.WYSTRACH,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)   | Midland<br>BIG MACHINE                    | 27                 | 45       |
| 49         | 37    | _            | 6      | GABRIELLE D.TASHIAN,I-FITCHUK (B.ELDREDGE,I-FITCHUK,D.TASHIAN) WAF  | Brett Eldredge<br>NER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN | 38                 | 29       |
| 50         | 31    | _            | 2      | GOOD TIMES ROLL ABOWERS,J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN,Z.KALE,C.HAYNES, JR.)  | Jimmie Allen & Nelly<br>STONEY CREEK      | -                  | 31       |

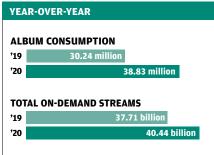
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Nielsen Music, sales data as compiled by Nielsen Music and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Nielsen Music. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

## **COUNTRY MARKET WATCH**

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

| WEEKLY UNIT COUNT   |                   |                    |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                     | ALBUM CONSUMPTION | AUDIO<br>ON-DEMAND | VIDEO<br>ON-DEMAND |  |  |  |  |  |
| This Week           | 1,290,000         | 1,361,170,000      | 118,207,000        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Last Week           | 1,233,000         | 1,342,143,000      | 130,106,000        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change              | 4.6%              | 1.4%               | -9.1%              |  |  |  |  |  |
| This Week Last Year | 1,069,000         | 1,115,426,000      | 281,443,000        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change              | 20.7%             | 22.0%              | -58.0%             |  |  |  |  |  |

| YEAR-TO-DATE         |                |                |        |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                      | 2019           | 2020           | CHANGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Album<br>Consumption | 30,245,000     | 33,835,000     | 11.9%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Album Sales          | 5,657,000      | 4,820,000      | -14.8% |  |  |  |  |  |
| Audio On-Demand      | 29,961,855,000 | 36,408,240,000 | 21.5%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Video On-Demand      | 7,748,307,000  | 4,037,232,000  | -47.9% |  |  |  |  |  |



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending July 23, 2020. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Album consumption units — also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA — consists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equal one consumption unit, and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/or 3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit. Nielsen Music/MRC Data has reprocessed year-to-date figures to account for a change in methodology, resulting in a restatement in streaming data from a provider, which has resulted in a shift in some previously provided in the consumption of th





SALES, DATA COMPILED BY

nielsen

## billboard top country ALBUMS

| THIS | LAST<br>WEEK | 2 WEEKS<br>AGO | WEEKS<br>ON CHT | ARTIST TITLE   | CERT | PEAK<br>POS. |  |  |
|------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--|------|--------------|--|--|
| 0    | NE           | w              | 1               | THE CHICKS GASLIGHTER COLUMBIA 974115*   |      | 1            |  |  |
| 2    | 1            | 1              | 37              | LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN                 |      |              |  |  |
| 3    | 2            | 2              | 112             | MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*  | •    | 2            |  |  |
| 4    | 3            | 3              | 164             | LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN                           | 3    | 1            |  |  |
| 5    | 4            | 4              | 16              | SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN  |      | 1            |  |  |
| 6    | 6            | 6              | 273             | CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY 019405*/UMGN   | 4    | 1            |  |  |
| Ø    | 7            | 9              | 5               | GABBY BARRETT WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN  |      | 4            |  |  |
| 8    | 8            | 8              | 72              | MAREN MORRIS COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 590186*/SMN  | •    | 1            |  |  |
| 9    | 10           | 7              | 259             | ZAC BROWN BAND GREATEST HITS SO FAR ROAR/SOUTHERN GROUND/ATLANTIC 546369/AG                        |      | 3            |  |  |
| 10   | 9            | 11             | 8               | DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY CHAPTER I: SNAKE OIL MAD DECENT DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA                   |      | 6            |  |  |
| 11   | 11           | 10             | 32              | BLAKE SHELTON FULLY LOADED: GOD'S COUNTRY WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 607343/WMN                        | •    | 1            |  |  |
| Ð    | 13           | 13             | 38              | MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 597873*/SMN   |      | 1            |  |  |
| 13   | 12           | 15             | 109             | DAN + SHAY WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 570796/WMN   |      | 1            |  |  |
| 14   | 14           | 16             | 35              | JASON ALDEAN 9 MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 32944*/BBMG  |      | 1            |  |  |
| 15   | 15           | 18             | 89              | KANE BROWN EXPERIMENT ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE /SMN  |      | 1            |  |  |
| 10   | 18           | 20             | 54              | TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS   |      | 16           |  |  |
| 17   | 16           | 19             | 190             | KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947*/SMN  | 2    | 1            |  |  |
| Œ    | 22           | 29             | 14              | MADDIE & TAE THE WAY IT FEELS MERCURY 031826*/UMGN   |      | 7            |  |  |
| 19   | 19           | 14             | 39              | OLD DOMINION RCA NASHVILLE 589183*/SMN   |      | 1            |  |  |
| 20   | 20           | 22             | 71              | ELVIS PRESLEY THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89048*/LEGACY (25.98) |      | 12           |  |  |
| 21   | 21           | 21             | 220             | TIM MCGRAW NUMBER ONE HITS CURB 79205 (13.98)  |      | 6            |  |  |
| 22   | 23           | 23             | 221             | GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)                                     | 7    | 1            |  |  |
| 23   | 24           | 28             | 248             | BLAKE SHELTON RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 551788/WMN                               |      | 2            |  |  |
| 24   | 25           | 25             | 60              | THOMAS RHETT CENTER POINT ROAD VALORY TRO400A*/BMLG  | •    | 1            |  |  |
| 25   | RE-EI        | NTRY           | 58              | ALAN JACKSON PRECIOUS MEMORIES COLLECTION ARC/EMI NASHVILLE 025887*/UMGN                           |      | 4            |  |  |

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 2020, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights SALES DATA

## billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

| MRC  | nielsen |
|------|---------|
| DATA | MUSIC   |

| THIS     | LAST<br>WEEK | 2 WEEKS<br>AGO | WEEKS<br>ON CHT                        | ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL                                     | CERT. | PEAK<br>POS. |
|----------|--------------|----------------|--|--|-------|--------------|
| 1 NEW 1  |              | 1              | THE CHICKS GASLIGHTER COLUMBIA 974115* |  | 1     |              |
| 2        | 1            | 2              | 219                                    | CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN                               | 4     | 1            |
| 3        | 6            | 3              | 5                                      | BOB DYLAN ROUGH AND ROWDY WAYS COLUMBIA 978098*  |       | 1            |
| •        | 3            | 4              | 71                                     | TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS                             |       | 3            |
| <b>©</b> | 4            | 8              | 265                                    | HOZIER RUBYWORKS 309996*/COLUMBIA  |       | 1            |
| 6        | 5            | 6              | 121                                    | KACEY MUSGRAVES GOLDEN HOUR MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN                                 | •     | 1            |
| 7        | 7            | 7              | 182                                    | SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS            |       | 3            |
| 8        | 9            | 10             | 224                                    | THE LUMINEERS CLEOPATRA DUALTONE 1738*   |       | 1            |
| 9        | 10           | 9              | 176                                    | JACK JOHNSON IN BETWEEN DREAMS JACK JOHNSON/BRUSHFIRE/REPUBLIC (13.98)                 | 2     | 5            |
| 10       | 11           | 5              | 87                                     | JOHN MELLENCAMP THE BEST THAT I COULD DO 1978 - 1988 MERCURY 536738*/UME (11.98/17.98) | 3     | 5            |

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 2020, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

#### billboard billboard COUNTRY

COUNTRY

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

nielsen

| ST       | RE.          | A٨              | IING SONGS   | D    | IC   | ЭIT          | ΆL              | . SONG SALES  |
|----------|--------------|-----------------|--|------|------|--------------|-----------------|---|
| THIS     | LAST<br>WEEK | WKS ON<br>CHART | TITLE<br>ARTIST  | THIS | WEEK | LAST<br>WEEK | WKS ON<br>CHART | TITLE<br>ARTIST   |
| 0        | 1            | 39              | I HOPE<br>GABBY BARRETT                                    |      | D    | 3            | 47              | I HOPE<br>GABBY BARRETT   |
| 0        | 2            | 16              | HARD TO FORGET<br>SAM HUNT                                 | :    | 2    | 1            | 16              | ONE MARGARITA<br>LUKE BRYAN   |
| 3        | 7            | 12              | BLUEBIRD<br>MIRANDA LAMBERT                                | ;    | 3    | 4            | 13              | GOT WHAT I GOT<br>JASON ALDEAN  |
| 4        | 3            | 10              | ONE MARGARITA<br>LUKE BRYAN                                | 7    | 4    | 5            | 20              | HARD TO FORGET<br>SAM HUNT  |
| 9        | 8            | 7               | DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART<br>MADDIE & TAE                    | (    | 3    | 6            | 19              | BLUEBIRD<br>MIRANDA LAMBERT   |
| 6        | 6            | 49              | HEARTLESS DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN |      | 3    | NE           | w               | SUPERMAN<br>KEITH URBAN   |
| 7        | 4            | 55              | THE BONES MAREN MORRIS                                     | •    | Ð    | 10           | 3               | WINE, BEER, WHISKEY<br>LITTLE BIG TOWN  |
| 8        | 5            | 29              | CHASIN' YOU<br>MORGAN WALLEN                               | •    | 3    | NE           | w               | SLEEP AT NIGHT<br>THE CHICKS  |
| 9        | 9            | 172             | TENNESSEE WHISKEY<br>CHRIS STAPLETON                       | •    | 9    | 9            | 12              | ONE OF THEM GIRLS<br>Lee Brice  |
| 0        | 10           | 75              | WHISKEY GLASSES<br>MORGAN WALLEN                           | 1    | 10   | 2            | 2               | GOOD TIMES ROLL<br>JIMMIE ALLEN & NELLY   |
| 0        | 12           | 8               | GOT WHAT I GOT<br>JASON ALDEAN                             | 1    | 11   | 7            | 25              | CHASIN' YOU<br>MORGAN WALLEN  |
| Ø        | 13           | 116             | BEAUTIFUL CRAZY<br>LUKE COMBS                              | 1    | 12   | 11           | 7               | DIE FROM A BROKEN HEART<br>MADDIE & TAE   |
| 13       | 11           | 11              | MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN MORGAN WALLEN                        | (    | Ð    | 13           | 5               | STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG ERIC CHURCH                                     |
| Ø        | 14           | 48              | ONE MAN BAND<br>OLD DOMINION                               | 1    | 14   | 14           | 32              | NOBODY BUT YOU<br>BLAKE SHELTON DUET WITH GWEN STEFANI                          |
| Œ        | 15           | 2               | ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG<br>Locash                             | 1    | 15   | 12           | 17              | <b>BE A LIGHT</b><br>Thomas Rhett f/R. Mcentire, H. Scott, C. Tomlin & K. Urban |
| <b>©</b> | 16           | 6               | I LOVE MY COUNTRY<br>FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE                  | 1    | 16   | 18           | 5               | MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN<br>MORGAN WALLEN  |
| Ø        | 17           | 139             | MEANT TO BE<br>Bebe rexha & Florida Georgia Line           | (    | Đ    | 23           | 14              | GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME<br>KEITH URBAN  |
| ®        | 18           | 6               | ONE OF THEM GIRLS<br>LEE BRICE                             | 1    | 18   | 16           | 49              | THE BONES MAREN MORRIS  |
| ø        | 19           | 8               | ONE BEER<br>Hardy feat. Lauren Alaina & Devin Dawson       | 1    | 19   | 19           | 231             | TENNESSEE WHISKEY<br>CHRIS STAPLETON  |
| 20       | 20           | 63              | BEER NEVER BROKE MY HEART<br>LUKE COMBS                    | 2    | 20   | 17           | 9               | WHY WE DRINK<br>JUSTIN MOORE  |
| 3        | 21           | 24              | I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY NOW CARLY PEARCE & LEE BRICE           | 2    | 21   | 15           | 8               | MY TRUCK<br>BRELAND   |
| 2        | 22           | 42              | 10,000 HOURS<br>Dan+shay&Justin Bieber                     | e    | Ð    | 21           | 2               | DONE<br>CHRIS JANSON  |
| Ø        | 24           | 116             | TEQUILA<br>DAN+SHAY  | e    | ₿    | RE-EI        | VTRY            | LOVIN' ON YOU<br>LUKE COMBS   |
| 2        | 23           | 6               | MY TRUCK<br>Breland  | 2    | 24   | 25           | 60              | GOD'S COUNTRY<br>BLAKE SHELTON  |
|          |              |                 | UE AVEN  |      |      |              |                 | COVER ME UP   |

25 RE-ENTRY COVER ME UP MORGAN WALLEN 25 136 HEAVEN KANE BROWN 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 2020, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

#### SALES DATA

## billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

|     | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| MRC | nielsen                               |
|     |                                       |

| THIS     | LAST<br>WEEK | 2 WEEKS<br>AGO | WEEKS<br>ON CHT | ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL   | CERT. | PEAK<br>POS. |
|----------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--|-------|--------------|
| 0        | 4            | 9              | 3               | GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION STRETCH GRASS 4050  |       | 1            |
| 0        | 2            | 3              | 43              | BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610063*/CONCORD  |       | 1            |
| 3        | 1            | 2              | 5               | YO-YO MA/STUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS |       | 1            |
| 4        | 8            | _              | 53              | STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN DEEPER ROOTS: WHERE THE BLUEGRASS GROWS SCSEE 0930*  |       | 1            |
| <b>(</b> | 10           | 7              | 41              | THE DEAD SOUTH SUGAR & JOY SIX SHOOTER 129*  |       | 1            |
| 6        | 5            | 8              | 77              | MANDOLIN ORANGE TIDES OF A TEARDROP YEP ROC 2638*  |       | 1            |
| 7        | 6            | 5              | 24              | THE STEELDRIVERS BAD FOR YOU ROUNDER 610080*/CONCORD   |       | 1            |
| 8        | 3            | 1              | 3               | MANDOLIN ORANGE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER: JANUARY 23, 2020 MANDOLIN ORANGE DIGITAL EX                      |       | 1            |
| 9        | 7            | 6              | 14              | THE WHITE BUFFALO ON THE WIDOW'S WALK SNAKEFARM 862780*  |       | 1            |
| 0        | RE-EI        | NTRY           | 8               | CHOSEN ROAD SONG GARDEN 1255 APPALACHIAN WORSHIP: DELUXE EDITION   |       | 5            |

Bluegrass Albums ranks the most popular bluegrass albums of the week, as compiled by Nielsen Music, based on album sales. Copyright 2020, Prometheus Global Media, LLC and Nielsen Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

## A Thousand Horses Corral A Potential Hit With 'A Song To Remember'

Uncertainty sucks.

And we've faced a lot of it: how to behave in the face of a deadly virus, whom to believe when the federal government can't be trusted, how to make music when you can't organize in a single room.

A Thousand Horses was, like much of America, lost a bit when the coronavirus forced widespread shutdowns in March. Ultimately, the band decided the best way to address the uncertainty in that moment was simple: Do something.

"Everyone was just like, 'What's going on right now?' "remembers guitarist **Zach Brown**. "Then you kind of go, 'OK, this sounds like this is here to stay. So let's pick things up and figure out how to get back to

being productive."

And for the Horses, that meant figuring out how to record when studios are closed. Beginning March 27, the band assembled parts one track at a time by communicating with producer **Dave Cobb** (**Chris Stapleton**, **The Highwomen**) through a combination of FaceTime and laptop recording programs to capture "A Song to Remember," a catchy, melodic effort with a surprising amount of energy.

"It's an uptempo heartbreak song, which is, you know, a hard kind of thing to do," says lead singer **Michael Hobby**. "Most heartbreak songs are ballady, and ours isn't. That was

something that we were always wanting to be conscious of."

"A Song to Remember" is, appropriately, a song of uncertainty. It features a protagonist who recognizes his relationship is officially over as he watches the taillights on his ex's vehicle head off into the night. The wound is fresh following their breakup in a bar, a humiliatingly public location to end a romance.

A THOUSAND HORS

"It's probably really common, too," muses songwriter **Brad Warren** ("Every Time I Hear That Song," "Sober Saturday Night").

Sorting through the empty uncertainty of a fresh uncoupling was the whole point of the day when Hobby wheeled into the Starstruck Studios parking lot for a songwriting session on Feb. 17, 2017. He met Brad and **Brett Warren** ("Highway Don't Care," "Red Solo Cup") at the office of songwriter-producer **Chris Stevens** ("Everything's Gonna Be Alright," "Where That Beer's Been") with an intent to write about the numbing aftermath of a split.

"We've all been there," says Hobby. "You kind of look back on that time in your life when you were going through that—you know, I like to call it 'heartbreak purgatory'— and kind of analyze the relationship, as you do when you are fresh out of one."

They launched into a short chord progression that starts with a bitter two-minor chord that slips eventually into a more cheery tonic chord.

"We wanted to have some emotional weight, and I think, honestly, the twominor chord is what helps bring that," says Stevens.

The protagonist spends almost the entire song perched on a barstool, though the lyrics suggest enough movement—smoking cigarettes, taking a shortcut to the jukebox, the woman's memory running through his mind—to create a sense of activity.

"One of the great things about country music is how much action can happen in a five-foot radius," quips Brad. "Whether it's a dive bar or a trailer, boy, you can get a lot done."

The group accomplished that while keeping just enough uncertainty in the lyrics that it requires multiple listens to fully understand some of the details. The breakup is laid out in the first verse, though never stated outright. And the reference to the barstool is the only direct indication that the singer is in a club.

"Our old publisher, Craig Wiseman, used to always tell us, 'Don't tell me

how I feel. Paint a picture, and I'll decide how I feel,'" notes Brett. "That was one of the greatest things we learned [during] the years when we were writing at Big Loud Shirt."

Stevens produced the bones of a demo before the appointment was over with Hobby belting out a passionate vocal — so convincing that that same performance would become the basis for the final recording. No doubt that the power of that vocal helped sell the song to the rest of the band when Hobby played the demo for his mates on the bus outside a now-forgotten concert venue.

"I just remember personally digging that song right off the bat," says Brown. "That was one on first listen that we always loved, and as we were picking songs for the new album, that was definitely one that kept rearing its head."

The Horses, in fact, worked up their own demo version, though Hobby's cowriters were unaware of it. And their uncertainty—especially as the Horses drifted a bit between label deals—made them anxious about the song's fate.

"I thought it was a smash the day we wrote it," says Brett. "It kind of went away, and I even pitched it to a bunch of artists because I thought it was a hit."

"A Song to Remember" finally got its moment when the band began its remote

recording sessions, building the instrumental parts around Hobby's emotional vocal. Working virtually with Cobb required a learning curve, and the uncertainty of then-new precautions against the coronavirus created some awkwardness for guitarist **Bill Satcher** and his neighbor, bassist **Graham DeLoach**, as they worked through their contributions in Satcher's kitchen.

"In the beginning, we were like, 'All right, I'm going to walk over to your house, we're going to discuss the flow, how it's going to be, we're going to keep our social distance,' " says DeLoach. "So I walk next door to Bill's and we kind of hashed through all the parts, and then he's like, 'All right, you have to get out of my house.'"

"It was pretty funny," continues Satcher. "I was like, 'Do I Lysol the chair now that he's left?' I didn't know what to do, this whole quarantine protocol was so new. We recorded at my kitchen table, and I was like, 'No, you got to sit on the far end. I'll sit on this end.' We didn't really know, you know — trying to be cautious."

Stevens supplied the drums and percussion programming, helping the production reach a peak during the bridge, pulverizing the toms in tandem with each syllable in the stanza's final line: "Running in and out of my head."

"It's almost like he's hitting his head against the counter of the bar," says Stevens.

Ultimately, A Thousand Horses created a sonic journey that helps to disguise the five-foot radius in the center of "A Song to Remember."

"The music — and the bass parts specifically — there is a lot of forward momentum to the song," observes Satcher. "I guess musically and lyrically it matches up."

Cobb's Low Country Sound, in conjunction with Elektra and Warner Music Nashville, released "A Song to Remember" to country radio via PlayMPE on July 20. In the process, it hints at a shift from a Southern rock-inspired brand of country to a heartland rock-branded version.

"This is a look into the future of A Thousand Horses," says DeLoach. "So much time has passed from the last album that we made with Big Machine. We've grown a lot over the years, and I think this song shows that growth because everything that you do, you want to be better."

# billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

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**GETTING GOOD** Weistribe Publishing, ASCAP/ Thankful For This Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/ Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (*ELlWeisband*) **40** 

GOD WHISPERED YOUR NAME BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Gold Leaf Pages, ASCAP/Micah Carter Publishing Designee, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs BMI/You Want How Much Of What Publishing, BMI/ Worldwide EMG Music B., BMI/Bro 2 Bro Publishing, BMI (C.August, M.Carter, Shy Carter, J.T.Slater) 13

THE GOOD ONES GBF Music Global, BMI/Sony/ ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/ BMG Blue, BMI/Fox Landis Lyrics, BMI/Songs Of Jirm McCormick, BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Revinyl House, BMI (G.Barrett, E.Landis, J.McCormick, Z.Kale) 35

GOOD TIME W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Niko Moon Publishing, SESAC/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/ Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/ Anna Moon Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/ Joshua Murty Publishing, ASCAP/Mark Trussell Music, ASCAP/Future Heartbeat Publishing, ASCAP (N.Moon, J.Minton, A.Moon, J.Murty, M.Trussell) 31

GOOD TIMES ROLL Sony/ATV Lakeview, SESAC/ Red Lining Music, SESAC/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/ Revinyl House, BMI/Jackie Frost Music, Inc., ASCAP/ Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (J.Allen, Z.Kale, C.Haynes, Jr.) 50

GOT WHAT I GOT Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/ MTNoize, SESAC/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Alexander Palmer Songs, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Hits Like Hurricane, BMI (MTJ/Mer, A.Palmer, T.Archer) 9

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HARD TO FORGET Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Retween the Pines, LLC, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Sony(AIV Story Music Publishing, GMR/We Are Creative Nation, GMR/Suzanne James Songs, GMR/Unichappell Music, Inc., BMI/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments, GMR/Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Jamie Music Publishing Co., BMI (SL.Hunt, A.Gorley, LLaird, S.M.CAnally, J.Osborne, A.Grisham, M.J.Shurtz, R.Hull) 5

HERE AND NOW Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/ Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Red Toe Rocker, ASCAP/ Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/N2D Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/ATheKidz Music, ASCAP (CWiseman, D.L.Murphy, D.A.Garcia) 25

HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/ Vistaville Music, ASCAP/Steph Jones Who Music, ASCAP/ Big Deal Hits, ASCAP/AID Music, ASCAP/Telemitry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP (K.Ballerini, S.Jones, H.Lindsey, J.Frasure, A.Gorley) 39 I CALLED MAMA All Night Linda Music, BMI/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC/Still Working For All Inc., SESAC/Sonic Style Music, SESAC/ BMG Cicada, SESAC/Cedar Church Music, BMI (M.Green, LMiller, JYeary) 22

I HOPE Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Revinyl House, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/ Nite Writer Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI (Z/kaje, JMMite, G.Barrett) 1

I LOVE MY COUNTRY Songs of Universal, Inc., BMI/Kane Brown Music, BMI/Plum Nelly, BMI/ Big Ioud Mountain, BMI/Big Tree Vibez Music, BMI/En Dog Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Crowd Publishing, ASCAP/Georgia Song Vibez, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Track House Worldwide Entertainment, BMI (K.Brown, C.Crowder, R.C.M.Gill, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, WWeatherly 10

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JUST THE WAY Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/JM Thomas Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Kevin Bard Music, ASCAP/Margetts Road Music, ASCAP/Nolan W. Sipe Music, ASACP (M.Thomas, K.Bard, N.W.Sipe) 44

LADY Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Nite Writer Music, ASCAP (B/Young, RCopperman, J.M.Nite) 38

LONELY IF YOU ARE Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Dack Janiels Publishing, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Koala T Tunes, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/ Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (C.Rice, L.Rimes, H.Phelos) 24

LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Kailey's Dream, BMI/Blue Corolla Oklahoma, SESAC/Feel Your Creative Pulse Music, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Home Team Music, BMI/Tunes Of TrailerParker, BMI (R. Dickerson, CBrown, PWelling) 30

LOVIN' ON YOU Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI/Larkin Hill Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Stay Creative Music, BMI/Works Of RHA, BMI (LCombs, T.Archer, R.M.L.Fulcher, J.McNair) 16

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MARCH MARCH Woolly Puddin' Music, BMI/ Scrapin' Toast Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI/ Ducky Donath Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back In Dijibouti Music, BMI/Buckley Tenenbaum Publishing, BMI/BMG Monarch, ASCAP/ Songs Of Big Deal, ASCAP/Sugar Lake Music, ASCAP (M. Maguire, EStrayer, N.Maines, J.M.Antonoff, R.Golan, I.Kirkpatrick, D.D.Wilson) 47

MOMMA'S HOUSE Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Two Black Dogs, ASCAP/ole Music of Parallel, BMI/Lucky Mic Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/Shirt At Work, BMI/Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/ BMG Cicada, SESAC (D.Schneider, M.Lotten, R.Clawson, J.T.Wilson) 46

MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Relative Music Group, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Em Dog Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI (MW.Hardy, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, M.Wallen) 18

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NO I IN BEER New House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Own My Own Music Publishing, ASCAP (*B.Paisley, K.Lovelace*) **41** 

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ONE BEER Relative Music Group, BMI/BIRB Music, ASCAP/New Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/West Pass Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (MW.Hardy, H.Lindsey, J.Mitchell) 19 ONE BIG COUNTRY SONG Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Telemitry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Relative Music Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Frasure, A.Gorley, M.W.Hardy) 8

ONE MARGARITA Sony/ATV (ross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/243 Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Matt Drag Music, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Laine Collections, BMI (M.R.Carter, M.Dragstrem, J.Thompson) 2

ONE NIGHT STANDARDS canned Biscuit Songs, BMI/Smack Hits, GMR/Tempo Investments, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR/I Love RHA, SESAC/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Smack Blue, LtC, SESAC/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (AMCBryde, SMcAnally, N.Hayford) 20

ONE OF THEM GIRLS Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Natalia's Music Money, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Love Cannons Publishing, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (A.Gorley, B.Johnson, D.Davidson, L.Brice) 14

THE OTHER GIRL Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/ Tempo Investments, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Endurance Romeo Charlie, BMI/Smack Of Ham Songs, BMI/17Black Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (K.Ballerini, S.McAnally, R.Copperman, A.Frangipane) 36

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PRETTY HEART Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkermac Publishing, BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI (*P.McCollum, R.Montana*) **21** 

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SHE'S MINE Music Of Stage Three, BMI/Songs Of Corman, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Songs From The Couch, BMI/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (KMoore, D.Couch, S.Stepakoff) 29

SIX FEET APART Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/ Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Tiltawhirl Music, BMI/Teefus Criley's Tunes, BMI/Carnival Music Publishing, BMI/Works Of 50 Egg Music, BMI/Catch Your Dream Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/(SKMP), BMI (L.Combs, B.Cobb, R.Snyder) 43

SLEEP AT NIGHT Woolly Puddin' Music, BMI/ Scrapin' Toast Music, ASCAP/Big Deal Beats, BMI/ Gerty Tunes, BMI/TG Worldwide Publishing, BMI/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Justin's School For Girls, BMI (M.Maguire, E.Strayer, N.Maines, T.Geiger, J.D.Tranfer) 33

SOME GIRLS Harding Road Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Watsky Music, LLC, BMI/New Writers Of Sea Gayle Music, BMI/ West Pass Music, BMI/New House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP (MW.Hardy, J.Mitchell, C.J. Solar) 23

SOME PEOPLE DO Smackville Music, ASCAP/ Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Telemitry Rhythm House Music, BM/ Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BM/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BM/Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BM/Cricket On The Line, BM/Tempo Investments, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (M.Ramsey, J.Frasure, S.McAnally, Thomas Rhett) 42

STICK THAT IN YOUR COUNTRY SONG Hillbilly Science And Research Publishing, BMI/Do Write Music, LLC/Jeffrey Steele Music, BMI (D.Naish, Jeffrey Steele) 37

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WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER Recluse Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI (S.Davis) 45

WHY WE DRINK Big Music Machine, BMI/Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Old Desperados, LLC, ASCAP/NZD Publishing Company, Inc., ASCAP/Carol Vincent And Associates, LLC., ASCAP/Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Real Big Red Tunes, ASCAP (J.Moore, C.Beathard, D.L.Murphy, J.S.Stover) 15



35 Years Ago

## Alabama Spent A '40 Hour Week' At No. 1

The iconic track pays homage to America's blue-collar workers

On Aug. 3, 1985, **Alabama**'s "40 Hour Week (For a Livin')" clocked in at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart.

Written by **Dave Loggins**, **Don Schlitz** and **Lisa Silver**, the track is a tribute to workers "with a spirit you can't replace with no machine." It was released as the second of three No. 1 singles from Alabama's LP 40 Hour Week.

The anthem became the group's 17th of 33 Hot Country Songs No. 1s, the most

among non-soloists. It contributed to the group's record streak of 21 straight properly promoted singles that led the list in 1980-87.

Formed near Fort Payne, Ala., in 1969, the band was initially billed as Wild Country and featured cousins Randy Owen, Teddy Gentry and Jeff Cook. The act changed its name to Alabama in 1977, then added drummer Mark Herndon in 1979. Herndon departed

in 2004, and Alabama has functioned as a trio since.

Alabama was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2005 and most recently led Hot Country Songs as a featured guest on **Brad Paisley**'s No. 1 "Old Alabama" in 2011. In 2015, the group released its first LP of new music since 2001, *Southern Drawl*, which launched at No. 2 on Top Country Albums.

-JIM ASKER

