billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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The Marfa Tapes Bring Jon Randall Back From Behind The Scenes To The Microphone



When Miranda Lambert, Jon Randall and Jack Ingram conclude their stripped-down version of "Tin Man" on the forthcoming album The Marfa Tapes (May 7, Sony Music

Nashville), the quiet desert air eventually gives way to giggles and then to a debate over whether or not the performance was good enough.

"My string was buzzin'," protests Lambert. "My capo was crooked."

"That was your brain buzzin'," counters Ingram.

"That sounded great," Randall assures them.

One of the stumbling blocks among creatives is the uncertainty of the work. A gravedigger knows he has done the job when a box fits six feet underground. An accountant can clock out when the books are balanced. But in entertainment, every rule is breakable, and every standard is subject to the whims of the audience.

It feeds an unending sense of vulnerability among the creative class, and that's one of the reasons the Academy of Country Music named "Tin Man" - penned by the three Marfa artists — song of the year in 2019: It exposes the ultra-fragile nature of the human heart.

It's also one of the reasons that many of Nashville's musical creators turn frequently to Randall. His soothing, reedy voice conveys a level of comfort and makes it easy to embrace the heartache and turmoil that inform his material, whether he's working as an artist, a songwriter, a musician or a producer.

> "I grew up a bluegrass kid, so at 6 years old, I'm singing every lyric to 'Little Sadie,' where he kills his lover and throws her in the river," says Randall. "You know, they sound happy, but they're all dark songs. So I've always been drawn to those darker melodies and the darker lyrics. 'Whiskey Lullaby' [which Randall co-wrote with Bill Anderson] is a great example of that in my mind. All that internal, artistic stuff that I dig around in, it can be pretty dark."

> Ironically, as America crosses its fingers about emerging from a year of COVID-19 bleakness, Randall's fortunes look rather bright. He produced the current Parker McCollum single, "To Be Loved by You" (No. 46, Country Airplay); directed a forthcoming Chase

Bryant album, *Upbringing*, that finds the singer-songwriter in commanding voice after a 2018 suicide attempt; is in the middle of production on Lambert's and Dierks Bentley's next solo 9 projects; released his own EP, Neon Texas, on April 2; and has a full album arriving this summer. And there's a spare track, "Keep On Moving," that exudes the Random McNally wandering spirit



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of a creative soul following his own compass, even if it leads to a lonely place.

"When I am in a dark spot or depressed, whatever we call that, I really want to be left alone," explains Randall. "Before I was married and had kids and all that, it was not uncommon for me to just disappear, and no one had any idea where I was for a couple of days. I wasn't in a hotel room getting all drunk and weird. I'd just get in the car and disappear."

That sense is deep in *The Marfa Tapes*, recorded by Randall, Ingram and Lambert with producer-engineer **Brandon Bell (Zac Brown Band, Steep Canyon Rangers)** in remote Marfa, Texas, midway between El Paso and Del Rio. It was in that isolated getaway that the trio penned "Tin Man" during a shadowy valley in Lambert's life, and the 15-track collection — cut with atmospheric wind gusts and border patrol aircraft authenticating its mostly outdoor locale — conveys a sense of weighty experience. When the guitars stop and the silence overtakes them, the artistic uncertainties flare up again in some of the post-performance chatter.

"I loved keeping a lot of that stuff in there just because that's how we are with each other," says Randall. "[We're] letting everybody kind of see just how our groove is and how our friendship rides musically, and [that] our friendship and our music go together."

Randall's national introduction came through his membership in **Emmylou Harris**' former band, **The Nash Ramblers**, a stellar ensemble that included mandolinist **Sam Bush** and bassist **Roy Huskey Jr**. A 1992 appearance at the then-dilapidated Ryman Auditorium inspired the building's renovation. Harris, whose career has been marked by sharp artistic turns and unpredictable choices, encouraged Randall's individuality.

"I learned to be very open-minded musically," he says of his time in The Nash Ramblers. "She gave me a great piece of advice: 'You just have to make your music the way you make your music and let it live or die. It'll find where it's supposed to go. And if it doesn't, at least you did it on your terms.'"

Randall admits he didn't always follow that advice, but the looming wave of releases — solo work, the *Marfa* trio and his productions — show his adaptability to a range of song styles and collaborators. He operates as a leader on his own material, a friend in his collaborations and an advisor in his production efforts, which occasionally feature background contributions from his wife, singer-songwriter **Jessi Alexander** ("1Drive Your Truck," "Drink on It").

Now that it appears that pandemic isolation may be heading to a close, Randall's associates are all itching to hit the road, and the breadth of his recent creative efforts are coming in a wave as they start launching music to support their live dates. For Randall, his projects provide an overriding sense that he is now following Harris' model, making music that reflects his personal journey through the emotional tumbleweeds of an uncertain occupation.

"Getting to put music out on my own again after kind of helping a lot of other people do it, it's been really good," he says. "I feel like I've been given the go-ahead by the universe and by my great artist friends. I mean, all of these people I'm working with are fans of my music, and they're like, 'Man, you've got to put that out.' It feels good to have that permission."



Blake Shelton (left) welcomed guest mega mentor Snoop Dogg during the April 19 telecast of NBC's *The Voice*.



Big Machine Music GM Mike Molinar (left) was inducted into the Middle Tennessee State University College of Media and Entertainment Wall of Fame by MTSU department of recording industry chair John Merchant during an April 14 event at the institution's Chris Young Café.



Brandi Carlile appeared on the April 20 edition of NBC's Late Night With Seth Meyers in support of her autobiography, Broken Horses.

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#1 MOST ADDED WITH 60 ADDS

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THANK YOU TO ALL THE BELIEVERS!



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

Eric Church's Heart Opens On Top Country Albums; Gabby Barrett's 'Good' Run **Continues Atop Airplay Chart**



Eric Church nabs his ninth top 10 on Billboard's Top Country Albums chart as Heart (EMI Nashville/Universal Music Group Nashville) bounds in at No. 3 on the survey dated May 1.

In its first week (ending April 22), the set earned 49,000 equivalent album

units (40,000 from album sales), according to MRC Data, making it the top-selling title across all genres. It arrives as Church's third No. 1 on Top Album Sales. On the all-genre, multimetric Billboard 200, Heart starts at No. 5, marking his sixth top 10.

Heart is one of Church's three new albums that are collectively dubbed Heart & Soul. Released April 16, Heart's nine songs include "Bunch of Nothing," which he performed April 18 on the 2021 Academy of Country Music Awards that aired live on CBS.

A six-song album titled & was released April 20 only to members of Church's Church Choir fan club, while the nine-track Soul, which was released April 23, will debut on the May 8-dated Billboard charts. Church had a hand in writing 22 of the 24 songs on the **Jay Joyce**-produced *Heart & Soul*.

The project's lead track, "Stick That in Your Country Song," reached No. 22 on Country Airplay and No. 23 on the airplay-, sales- and streaming-based Hot

Country Songs chart in July 2020. Second single "Hell of a View" hops 9-3 on Hot Country Songs (8.4 million U.S. streams, up 35%; 2,000 sold, up 31%). On Country Airplay, it ranks at No. 9 with a 3% gain to 18.4 million impressions.

Heart & Soul follows Church's Desperate Man. It launched as his third No. 1 on Top Country Albums in October 2018.

THREE IN THE TOP FIVE As Eric Church's Heart debuts at No. 5 on the Billboard 200, it joins **Taylor Swift**'s Fearless (Taylor's Version) (Republic) at No. 2 and Morgan Wallen's Dangerous: The Double Album (Big Loud/Republic) at No. 3. It's the first time a trio of country albums has appeared in the all-genre chart's top five in over five years. (Country albums are defined as those that have charted on Top Country Albums.)

On the Nov. 28, 2015-dated Billboard 200, Chris Stapleton's Traveller ranked at No. 1, followed by Church's Mr. Misunderstood at No. 2 and Tim McGraw's Damn Country Music at No. 5. That week, the 2015 Country Music Association Awards (held Nov. 4) were still influencing the chart after Stapleton

> performed with Justin Timberlake and won three awards. Church also performed that night.

> STILL GOING 'GOOD' Gabby Barrett's "The Good Ones" (Warner Music Nashville/WAR) rules Country Airplay for a third week (27.6 million impressions). It marks the first three-week leader by a woman since March 2011, when Jason Aldean and Kelly Clarkson's "Don't You Wanna Stay" led for three frames. The last time that an unaccompanied woman dominated for three weeks or more before Barrett was when Miranda Lambert's "The House That Built Me" reigned for four frames starting in June 2010.

TOP 10 NEWS Sam Hunt banks his ninth Hot Country Songs top 10 as "Breaking Up in the 90's" (MCA Nashville) jumps 13-6, up by 38% to 7.1 million streams. On Country Airplay, it pushes 7-5 for

a new high, up by 10% to 21.1 million impressions.

Dan + Shay net their 11th Hot Country Songs top 10 as "Glad You Exist" jumps 18-10, having surged by 48% to 6,000 sold and 8% to 5.7 million streams. On Country Airplay, it pushes 23-21 (8.6 million). The duo performed the song on the Academy of Country Music Awards on April 18 and won for duo of the year.

Rascal Flatts earns its 32nd Country Airplay top 10 as "How They Remember You" (Big Machine) lifts 11-10 (18 million, up 8%). It's the group's first trip to the tier since 2017, when "Yours If You Want It" became the trio's 14th leader that August. Rascal Flatts extends its record for the most top 10s among groups of three or more members dating to the list's January 1990 inception.



FEATURING
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"WE DIDN'T
HAVE MUCH"

→TOP 25 ← AND CLIMBING!

SIN MODES -SINTH MODES -STATE -CHARLES -CHARLES

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



THIS	LAST	WKS ON			AUDIENCE (I			PLAYS	
WEEK	WEEK	CHART 46	TITLE Imprint/Label THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR ** No. 1 (3 Weeks) **	Artist Gabby Barrett	THIS WEEK 27.603	+/- -1.785	7131	+/- -568	RANK 3
	2	46		Jake Owen	27.283	+1.643	7339	437	
0	5	63	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud		25.707	+3.963	7339	1007	2
3	3		SOMEBODY LIKE THAT 19th & Grand ** Most Increased Audience **	Tenille Arts					4
4	3 7	24	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory	Thomas Rhett	22.913	-0.614	5831	-218	·
6	4	29 52	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nashville LADY BMLG	Sam Hunt	21.126	+1.841	5805	522 -396	5 9
7	6	49		Brett Young e x Blanco Brown	20.712	-1.095	4851 4798	-396	10
	-								
8	9	53	NOBODY Curb	Dylan Scott	18.531	+1.162	5182	411	7
9	8	25	HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville	Eric Church	18.405	+0.492	5114	111	8
0	11	45	HOWTHEY REMEMBER YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	17.978	+1.349	5262	494	6
0	12	15	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	17.502	+2.143	4528	473	11
Ø	13	47	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	14.975	+0.458	4485	190	12
B	15	27	GONE Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	14.210	+0.548	3981	114	13
1	14	31	<u> </u>	Miranda Lambert	14.028	+0.297	3932	127	15
⊕	17	21		ing + Kane Brown	13.844	+1.486	3940	307	14
16	18	24	BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	13.106	+0.742	3645	100	16
Ð	21	15	MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	12.001	+0.499	3526	66	19
B	19	31		an Duet With P!nk	11.474	-0.058	3590	24	17
19	20	15	· · · •	v & Tyler Hubbard	11.383	-0.120	3389	5	20
20	22	43	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN ★★ Airpower ★★	Cole Swindell	10.836	+0.800	3547	148	18
3	23	12	GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	8.603	+0.016	2864	4	21
22	24	27	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory	Justin Moore	8.445	+0.896	2796	288	22
3	25	18	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	7.639	+0.509	2667	180	23
2	26	2	COUNTRY AGAIN Valory	Thomas Rhett	6.330	-0.187	1669	247	28
25	27	31	NEXT GIRL Big Machine	Carly Pearce	6.268	+0.609	2606	79	24
20	28	21	<u> </u>	g Florida Georgia Line	5.464	+0.474	1901	115	26
Ø	31	3	WAVES Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	5.136	+1.955	1708	602	27
23	29	29	MY BOY Wheelhouse	Elvie Shane	4.809	+0.606	2083	244	25
29	30	26	WORSHIP YOU RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	4.074	+0.112	1512	92	30
30	32	20	SHALLOW Pearl Garth Brooks &	& Trisha Yearwood	3.423	+0.264	1325	-23	33

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 MRC Data. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audiocopyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2021, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on MRC Data'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 MRC Data) 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

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



тніс	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
<u> </u>	35	25	YOUTIME Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	3.128	+0.277	1548	77	29
€	36	7	LIKE A LADY BMLG Lady A	2.988	+0.172	1158	90	35
33	34	20	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	2.937	-0.161	1177	72	34
34	33	40	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY Capitol Nashville Little Big Town	2.906	-0.240	1447	-40	31
3 ₽	37	31	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU inDent/Mercury Nashville Priscilla Block	2.849	+0.218	1140	17	36
36	38	25	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	2.715	+0.133	1353	3	32
3	NE	w	NOTYET BMLG ★★ Hot Shot Debut/ Breaker/ Most Added ★★ Brett Young	2.434	+2.434	628	628	47
3 3	44	8	CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris	2.353	+0.636	1023	163	39
39	39	7	KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	2.318	+0.030	1057	74	37
40	41	22	LADY LIKE Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress	2.223	+0.289	809	50	43
49	NEW	1	FILLTHEM BOOTS Big Loud Chris Lane	2.148	+2.148	444	444	54
1	42	13	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley	2.127	+0.179	1051	105	38
43	40	14	HOME SWEET Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	1.926	-0.035	903	18	42
44	45	14	TEQUILA LITTLETIME Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	1.832	+0.119	905	27	41
45	43	27	WHISKEY AND RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	1.643	-0.251	928	15	40
46	46	10	TO BE LOVED BY YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	1.590	-0.020	531	-17	52
4	51	8	THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville Matt Stell	1.422	+0.264	560	75	49
48	47	27	WAITIN' ON 5 Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chris Janson	1.370	-0.014	772	-29	44
49	NE	w	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney	1.294	+0.822	532	355	51
50	48	8	GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi	1.294	+0.004	587	28	48
5	50	32	BEERS TO CATCH UP ON Wheelhouse LOCASH	1.278	+0.064	742	-12	45
 3 2	53	8	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Big Loud HARDY	1.100	+0.264	736	171	46
53	49	5	IT'S 'CAUSE I AM Big Machine Callista Clark	1.072	-0.149	362	-35	56
54	52	10	I CAN'T Monument Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion	1.067	+0.107	433	50	55
₫	54	23	IF IT WASN'T FORTRUCKS BMLG Riley Green	0.794	-0.025	535	29	50
56	58	2	LONG HAUL Warner Music Nashville/WEA lan Munsick	0.727	+0.081	219	11	-
57	56	21	WHERE I FIND GOD Big Loud Larry Fleet	0.686	-0.095	353	-53	57
5 8	59	13	NEED A BAR SOMETIMES Show Dog Nashville Clay Walker	0.618	+0.039	513	-2	53
59	55	4	GOOD DAY (2021) Warner Music Nashville/WMN Brett Eldredge	0.568	-0.136	305	-37	59
60	RE-EI	NTRY	MARTHA DIVINE Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Ashley McBryde	0.565	+0.168	303	13	-



TENILLE ARTS Somebody Like That Arts' debut Country Airplay entry — which she co-penned with producer Alex Kline and Allison Veltz Cruz, marking the first top 10 entirely written and produced by women — climbs 5-3 for a new high. It gained by 18% to 25.7 million audience impressions in the tracking week.

GOING FOR ADDS

5/3

DUSTIN LYNCH FEAT. MACKENZIE PORTER Thinking 'Bout You

Broken Bow

JUNA N JOEY Something Good To Miss River Run

SOUTH 62

Talk Of The Town

Graphite Sound

5/10

CAROLINE JONES Come In (But Don't Make Yourself Comfortable) JOE NICHOLS Home Run

Quartz Hill

TIFFANY WOYS FEAT. JORDAN FLETCHER I Don't

Tiffany Woys

5/17

MORGAN WADE Wilder Days

Ladylike/Thirty Tigers



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

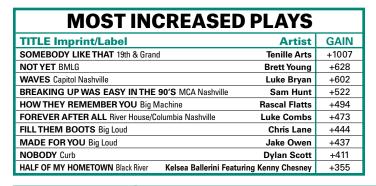


MOST ADDED®							
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	ADDS						
NOT YET BMLG Brett Young	40						
COUNTRY AGAIN Valory Thomas Rhett	36						
FILL THEM BOOTS Big Loud Chris Lane	35						
HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerini	27						
WAVES Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	22						
GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Big Loud HARDY	18						
CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris	12						
THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville Matt Stell	6						
JUST ABOUT OVER YOU InDent/Mercury Priscilla Block	5						
KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/Wea Kenny Chesney	5						

NEW AND ACTIVE								
TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS						
0.476	28	1						
0.472	28	1						
0.414	1	0						
0.354	22	2						
0.293	5	2						
0.246	8	4						
	0.476 0.472 0.414 0.354 0.293	TOTAL AUDIENCE STATIONS 0.476 28 0.472 28 0.414 1 0.354 22 0.293 5						

MOST INCREASED AUDIE	ENC	E
TITLE Imprint/Label A	\rtict	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)
	lle Arts	+3.963
FILL THEM BOOTS Big Loud Chri	is Lane	+2.148
FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke (Combs	+2.143
WAVES Capitol Nashville Luke	Bryan	+1.955
BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nashville San	n Hunt	+1.841
MADE FOR YOU Big Loud Jake	Owen	+1.643
FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane	Brown	+1.486
HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU Big Machine Rascal	l Flatts	+1.349
NOBODY Curb Dylar	1 Scott	+1.162
WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory Justin	Moore	+0.896

	RECURRENTS									
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)							
1	DOWN TO ONE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	16.465							
2	BETTER TOGETHER River House/Columbia Nashvi	lle Luke Combs	16.169							
3	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	15.525							
4	LONG LIVE BMLG FI	orida Georgia Line	13.555							
5	MOMMA'S HOUSE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	13.507							
6	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	13.140							
7	GOOD TIME RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	9.182							
8	STARTING OVER Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	8.387							
9	I HOPE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	8.179							
10	BEERS AND SUNSHINE Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	7.962							







YOUNG: SETH KUPERSI

Regional Radio Report

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 2021

THE	LAST	WIVE ON		TIM	enine	THE	LACT	WIVE ON		7111	CDING
THIS WEEK		WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST Week	WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
0	2	23	A COWBOY CAN (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★ Josh Ward	1757	194	0	19	4	HOLD MY BEER (Lil Buddy Toons) Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1283	248
0	4	13	POCKET FULL OF KISSES (Independent) Bart Crow Band	1611	90	1	13	21	I BLEED (Dean Dillon's Wildcatter) Sundance Head	1182	21
8	3	26	RECKLESS (Independent) Cross Rags and Young	1593	35	ß	17	25	LET ME BREATHE (Independent) Melissa Brooke	1181	69
4	5	21	WINE WON'T WORK (Independent) Ariel Hutchins	1542	24	1	15	13	ROCK AND ROLL MAN (Independent) Creed Fisher	1164	37
6	7	14	I HOPE I'M HOLDING YOU (Independent) Mark Powell	1539	24	(18	9	STUCK WITH YOU (10X Music Group) Brodie Lane	1155	58
6	9	15	BETTER BY THE BEER (Independent) Jake Bush	1535	82	16	8	15	SETTLE ME DOWN (Independent) Josh Abbott Band	1155	-346
7	6	23	FULL-TIME FOOL (Independent) The Stateline Band	1507	-10	17	16	16	COME HOME TO YOU (Independent) Robert Ray	1112	-14
8	12	6	QUEEN FOR A NIGHT (Almost Country) Casey Donahew	1403	194	B	22	7	CAN DOWN (Independent) Mike Ryan	1077	159
9	10	15	MY HOME IS (Independent) Saints Eleven	1330	74	1	21	12	ANYBODY LOVIN' YOU LATELY (Independent) Clay Hollis	1053	127
0	14	8	FRIENDS (Independent) Curtis Grimes	1316	157	20	20	22	PLAIN O' TEXAS (Independent) Kaleb McIntire	967	16







24 brand new songs from the three album collection

AVAILABLE NOW



NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Faith Hill joined a large number of public figures from entertainment, sports and politics for the April 18 COVID-19 vaccination special, Roll Up Your Sleeves, on NBC. Clockwise from top left: Hill, Michelle Obama, Ken Jeong and Matthew McConaughey.

COUNTRY ON THE ROAD AGAIN

With concert professionals desperately needing to return to work, the live business is optimistically rolling out more tours and events, with the latest bundle of bookings stretching from May into the Christmas season.

The dates also run the gamut from standard tour packages to festivals and an Independence Day attraction. Here's a rundown of recent live announcements:

- The lineup for the annual Pilgrimage Music Festival in Franklin, Tenn., which is booked for Sept. 25-26, will be announced April 28. Previous participants in the multigenre event have included **Chris Stapleton**, **Willie Nelson** and **Keith Urban**.
- Dierks Bentley booked a five-day High Times & Hangovers club tour in the Southeast from May 11-15 with opening act Cody Canada & The Departed.
- ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons will be the subject of a May 16 tribute concert at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House, with a charitable donation opportunity in the mix. Country acts joining the celebration include Ronnie Milsap, Eric Church, Brad Paisley and Travis Tritt.
- After the pandemic scuttled last year's live show, Paisley presages the fireworks at Nashville's Fourth of July celebration on Broadway.
- Dylan Scott took Morgan Wallen's slot on Luke Bryan's Proud To Be Right Here Tour, now launching July 8 in Syracuse, N.Y., after a one-year delay. Two previously announced support acts, Caylee Hammack and Runaway June, split the opening duties.

RADIO & RECORDS®

BBR Music Group promoted Jay Jones to senior vp publicity from VP. Reach him here ... Triple Tigers elevated Hope Garrison to manager of marketing and promotion from promotions coordinator ... Universal Music Group Nashville will partner with Interscope to release the next Kacey Musgraves album, due later this year. Her last project - Golden Hour, which won Grammys for album of the year and best country album in 2019 — was released via MCA Nashville ... Bluegrass artist **Darren Beachley** signed a two-album recording deal with Turnberry after a four-year stint as a member of Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver ... Big Machine Label Group announced a campaign with CreatiVets to release new music on the 20th of every month in honor of the 20 veterans who commit suicide on a daily basis. "They Call Me Doc," featuring Vince Gill, Aaron Lewis and Dan Tyminski, was issued April 20, following three previous tracks that enlisted Craig Campbell, Blackjack Billy and Chris Ferrera ... KWEN Tulsa, Okla., named afternoon host Jenny Law its assistant director of branding and programming, RadioInk.com reported ... Lance Tidwell joined SummitMedia/Birmingham, Ala., as PD for country WZZK and adult contemporary WPYA, according to RadioInk.com. He was previously Cumulus/Detroit director of programming ... WWQM Madison, Wis., afternoon personality Kristi Kelly added music director stripes, RadioInsight.com reported ... Norsan Media purchased classic country WYKB Jacksonville, Fla.,

from NIA Broadcasting for \$1 million, according to RadioInsight.com. Norsan, which is dominated by Spanish-language holdings, will assume command of operations on May 1 ... Country Radio Broadcasters (CRB) unveiled 15 members of the agenda committee for the 2022 Country Radio Seminar (CRS), including Texas A&M associate professor Billy McKim, WGAR Cleveland PD Carletta Blake and Big Loud national director of promotion Ali Matkosky. Go here for the full list ... CRB will host "Talk Data To Me Too," a follow-up to a recent Country Radio Seminar panel, for the April edition of its CRS360 webinar series at 1 p.m. CT on April 28. Go here to sign up ... Thomas Rhett's Country Again: Side A will be the subject of an iHeartCountry album release event on May 3, taking place live on iHeartMedia's mainstream country stations, CWTV.com and The CW app.

'ROUND THE ROW

Three former members of APA Nashville announced a new booking agency, Reliant Talent, on April 26. Principals Steve Lassiter, Matt McGuire and Heath Bambour count a number of country-charting acts — including Travis Tritt, Phil Vassar, Sister Hazel and Love and Theft — among the inaugural 75 artists on its multigenre roster. Former Paradigm/Los Angeles employee Chris Burke joins the Reliant agent lineup, along with five additional ex-APA staffers: New York-based Frank Hansen and Nashville-based Chris Gaulke, Jeff Howard, Chris Looney and Frank Wing ... Big Machine Music hired Tim Hunze as vp publishing. He was most recently Anthem Nashville senior director of creative. Reach Hunze here ... SESAC senior director of strategic marketing and publicity Edie Emery will leave her full-time post at the end of April with an eye toward increased family time. Reach her here ... Two staff members joined 117 Entertainment: publicity manager Jentry Davis, who was recently a Bradford Group office manager, and label and content manager Cassie Wells, ex-morning host at WYCZ Nashville. Reach Davis here and Wells here ... Singer-songwriter Andrew Jannakos signed a publishing deal with Spirit Music Nashville ... Concord announced the acquisition of Downtown Music's 145,000-song publishing catalog on April 26. Among the Nashville songwriters with copyrights in the deal are Jesse Frasure, Kelly Archer and the late John Prine ... Wasserman purchased Paradigm's North American live-music business. The Wasserman roster includes Kenny Chesney, Old Dominion and Brandi Carlile ... Americana duo Mandolin Orange changed its name to Watchhouse ... The Shady Ladies of Music Row podcast, hosted by former Music Row executives Evelyn Shriver and Susan Nadler, revealed Lorrie Morgan, manager Clint Higham and late ASCAP executive Connie Bradley among its season two guests ... Country Music Association CEO Sarah Trahern will speak during the Vanderbilt University business class commencement in Nashville on May 16 ... Finalists for the Billboard Music Awards will be announced April 28-29. Nominees in three categories will be unveiled during the April 28 editions of NBC's Today, E!'s Daily Pop and Access Hollywood, and the remaining contenders — including the country finalists - will be revealed at 10 a.m. CT on April 29 on the Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages for the Billboard Music Awards, E! News, Billboard and NBC. The awards air live May 23 on NBC.



Jameson Rodgers (left) appeared April 15 on the syndicated iHeartMedia program *The Bobby* Bones Show.



Ryan Hurd celebrated with an unidentified beverage on April 21 as he received an RIAA-certified platinum plaque for his single "To a T."

DUSTIN LYNCH FEAT. MACKENZIE PORTER

HINKING BOUT YOU

ADD DATE: 5/3 OVER 65 MILLION **ON-DEMAND STREAMS**

EARLY EARLY ADDS!
KEEY/MINNEAPOLIS, WPAW/GREENSBORO, NC & WOGK/GAINESVILLE

#1 TOP THUMBED PANDORA NEW COUNTRY FOR 6 WEEKS IN A ROW!

"SONG IS A SMASH!" - TIM CONLON, WKIS/MIAMI

"DUSTIN LYNCH IS A PROVEN HIT MAKER IN OUR FORMAT, AND THIS IS WHAT HE DOES BEST. AND **VOICE!" - BRENT MICHAELS, KUZZ/BAKERSFIELD CA**





DEBUT EP AVAILABLE NOW

FEATURING THE BREAKTHROUGH HIT "MY BOY" AND TITLE TRACK "COUNTY ROADS"

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN

BIG CITY OR SMALL TOWN ... WE ALL LOVE COUNTY ROADS!



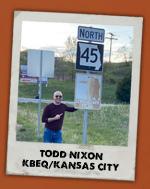




























billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK Position
1	1	2	44	THE GOOD ONES R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,E.IANDIS,J.MCCORMICK,Z.KALE) ★★ No. 1 (3 Weeks) ★★	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	1	1
9	5	4	26	FOREVER AFTER ALL CHIP MAITHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L:COMBS (L:COMBS,D.PARKER,R:WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs River House/Columbia Nashville	11	1
3	9	10	26	HELL OF A VIEW J.JOYCE (ECHURCH,C.BEATHARD,M.CRISWELL) ★★ Streaming Gainer ★★	Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE	9	3
4	4	11	16	MADE FOR YOU J.MOI (B.DAVIS,J.HYDE,N.A.MEDLEY)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	2	4
5	3	1	35	STARTING OVER D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,M.HENDERSON)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	RC	1
6	13	12	27	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S Z.CROWELL (S.L.HUNT,C.LA CORTE,Z.CROWELL,E.K.SMITH,J.OSBORNE)	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	5	6
0	10	9	30	SOMEBODY LIKE THAT AKLINE (TARTS, AKLINE, AM. CRUZ) ** Airplay Gainer **	Tenille Arts 19TH & GRAND	3	7
8	7	3	24	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY,PWELLING)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	4	1
9	8	5	46	BETTER TOGETHER S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,D.ISBELL,R.MONTANA)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	RC	1
0	18	17	11	GLAD YOU EXIST D.SMYERS (D.SMYERS, J. REYNOLDS, T.M. PARKS, S. MOONEY, R. L. TAYLOR)	Dan + Shay WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	21	10
0	17	13	28	SETTLING DOWN J.JOYCE (M.LAMBERT,L.DICK,N. HEMBY)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	14	11
Œ	25	18	32	ONE TOO MANY K.URBAN,PHD,CUTFATHER (D.H.DAVIDSEN,P.WALLEVIK,M.H.HANSEN, J.NORTON, C.TIGHE)	Keith Urban Duet With P!nk HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	18	12
ß	21	19	11	FAMOUS FRIENDS C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER (C.YOUNG,C.R.BARLOWE,C.CROWDER)	Chris Young + Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	15	13
12	27	23	27	GONE D.GARCIA (N.GALYON,B.JOHNSON,N.MOON)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	13	14
15	19	15	49	ALMOST MAYBES P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS, J.FRASURE, H.LINDSEY)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	12	15
10	33	28	8	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK (ELLE KING,M.JOHNSON)	Elle King & Miranda Lambert RCA	-	16
Ð	22	21	22	NOBODY M.ALDERMAN,C.GIBBS,J.E.NORMAN (D.SCOTT,M.ALDERMAN,D.WILSON)	Dylan Scott CURB	8	17
ß	23	22	22	LIL BIT J.M.SCHMIDT (T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT,B.REDFERRIN,C.HAYNES, JR.)	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line RECORDS/COLUMBIA	-	18
19	2	20	3	MR. PERFECTLY FINE (TAYLOR'S VERSION) (FROM THE VAULT) J.M.ANTONOFF,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	2
20	44	32	10	CHASING AFTER YOU A.ESHUIS,T.REIMER (B.ADDINGTON, J.FLOWERS)	Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris ARISTA NASHVILLE	38	20
21	26	16	15	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI.J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
2	31	25	25	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT M.R.CARTER (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,M.L.HOLMAN)	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	20	22
23	32	26	12	BLAME IT ON YOU M.KNOX (K.M.ALLISON, J.EDWARDS, T.KENNEDY, M.TYLER, B.WHITE)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	16	23
24	48	33	37	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY LITTLE BIG TOWN (T.BROWN,K.FAIRCHILD,S.MCCONNELL,K.SCHLAPMAN,P.SWEET,J.WESTBROOK)	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	34	23
25	37	31	12	MINIMUM WAGE S.HENDRICKS (C.CROWDER,N.GALYON,J.FRASURE)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	17	25

COUNTRY SONGWRITERSTM

1	# 1 6 WKS	TAYLOR SWIFT
2	AS	HLEY GORLEY
3	LU	KE COMBS
4	JO	SH OSBORNE
5	СН	RIS STAPLETON
6	JE	SSE FRASURE
7	MI	KE HENDERSON
8	CO	REY CROWDER
9	ER	IC CHURCH
10	NIC	COLLE GALYON



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 JAY JOYCE
2	JOEY MOI
3	DANN HUFF
4	TAYLOR SWIFT
5	ZACH CROWELL
6	ALEX KLINE
7	SCOTT MOFFATT
8	ROSS COPPERMAN
9	ZACH KALE
10	DAN SMYERS

billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA



LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
35 27 32 HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU D.HUFF (M.BEESON, J. OSBORNE, A. SHAMBLIN)			Rascal Flatts BIG MACHINE	10	24	
39	29	14	UNDIVIDED C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,T.MCGRAW,B.GALLIMORE (T.HUBBARD,C.LOOCKE)	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard McGraw/BMLG/BIG MACHINE	19	23
38	24	15	SAND IN MY BOOTS J.MOI (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,J.OSBORNE)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	5
NE	w	1	COUNTRY AGAIN D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,Z.CROWELL,A.GORLEY) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Thomas Rhett VALORY	24	29
6	40	10	LOVE STORY (TAYLOR'S VERSION) C.ROWE,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC		1
46	35	6	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW J.JOYCE (LWILSON, J.D. SINGLETON, J.NIX)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	23	31
RE-EN	ITRY	17	NEXT GIRL S.M.CANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,S.M.CANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	25	31
47	36	8	DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. C.CROWDER,C.RICE,T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY (C.RICE,C.CROWDER,H.PHELPS,C.DODDS)	Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line DACK JANIELS/BMLG/BROKEN BOW	26	33
RE-EN	ITRY	24	SHALLOW G.BROOKS (S.G.GERMANOTTA, M.D.RONSON, A.ROSSOMANDO, ANDREW WYATT)	Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood PEARL	30	30
RE-EN	ITRY	20	WORSHIP YOU D.HUFF (K.BROWN,A.IZQUIERDO,M.J.MCGINN,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	29	24
50	42	7	MY BOY O.CHARLES (E.SHANE,R.SUTTON,N.COLUMBIA,L.STARR)	Elvie Shane WHEELHOUSE		36
15 30 4 YOU ALL OVER ME (TAYLOR'S VERSION) (FROM THE VAULT) A DESSNER,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT,SCOOTER CARUSOE)			Taylor Swift Featuring Maren Morris REPUBLIC	-	6	
RE-EN	ITRY	2	KNOWING YOU B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (BRETT JAMES,A.JAMES,K.HIGGINS)	Kenny Chesney Blue Chair/Warner music Nashville/Wea	39	38
36	-	2	WAVES J.STEVENS, J.STEVENS (Z.CROWELL.R.J.HURD,R.C.MCGILL)	Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville	27	36
RE-EN	ITRY	4	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (P.DIGIOVANNI,R.MONTANA,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	22	40
RE-EN	ITRY	12	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,LBRICE (LBRICE,B.MONTANA,B.DAVIS)	Lee Brice CURB	36	38
NE	w	1	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN K.BALLERINI, S.MCANALLY, R.COPPERMAN, J.ROBBINS, N.GALYON)	Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney BLACK RIVER	49	42
12	_	2	FOREVER & ALWAYS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) C.ROWE,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	12
NE	w	1	BUNCH OF NOTHING JJOYCE (E.CHURCH, J.HYDE)	Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE	-	44
RE-EN	ITRY	14	865 J.MOI (J.BYRON,B.PENDERGRASS)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	13
16	_	2	YOU BELONG WITH ME (TAYLOR'S VERSION) C.ROWE,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT,LROSE)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	16
RE-EN	ITRY	1	LADY LIKE S.ELLIS, I.ANDRESS (I.ANDRESS, S.ELLIS, D.SOUTHERLAND)	Ingrid Andress Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/Wea	40	47
RE-EN	ITRY	10	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU JJOHNSON (PBLOCK,S.JONES,E.K.KROLL)	Priscilla Block INDENT/MERCURY NASHVILLE	35	40
RE-EN	ITRY	4	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE D.COBB,C.STAPLETON,C.STAPLETON,A.GORLEY,C.DUBOIS)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	-	24
14	_	2	FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) CROWE,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT,LROSE,H.LINDSEY)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	14
	35 39 38 NE 6 46 RE-EN 50 15 RE-EN 12 NE RE-EN R	LAST WEEKS MEEK AGO 35 27 39 29 38 24 NEW 6 40 46 35 RE-ENTRY 47 36 RE-ENTRY 50 42 15 30 RE-ENTRY RE-ENTRY 12 - NEW RE-ENTRY 16 - RE-ENTRY RE-ENTRY RE-ENTRY	LAST WEEKS WKS ON WEEK AGO CHART 35 27 32 39 29 14 38 24 15 NEW 1 6 40 10 46 35 6 RE-ENTRY 17 47 36 8 RE-ENTRY 20 50 42 7 15 30 4 RE-ENTRY 2 36 - 2 RE-ENTRY 12 NEW 1 12 - 2 NEW 1 RE-ENTRY 14 16 - 2 RE-ENTRY 14 16 - 2 RE-ENTRY 10 RE-ENTRY 10 RE-ENTRY 10	LAST WEEKS WES ON TITLE	Artist	The state State

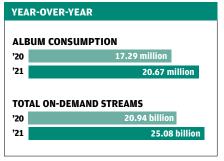
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by MRC Data, sales data as compiled by MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by MRC Data. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT									
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND						
This Week	1,419,000	1,515,188,000	147,013,000						
Last Week	1,608,000	1,609,744,000	150,184,000						
Change	-11.8%	-5.9%	-2.1%						
This Week Last Year	1,144,000	1,260,367,000	142,518,000						
Change	24.0%	20.2%	3.2%						

YEAR-TO-DA	TE		
	2020	2021	CHANGE
Album Consumption	17,295,000	20,669,000	19.5%
Album Sales	2,446,000	2,719,000	11.2%
Audio On-Demand	18,630,679,000	22,847,167,000	22.6%
Video On-Demand	2,308,450,000	2,236,451,000	-3.1%



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending April 22, 2021. 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.



GABBY BARRETT



THE GOOD ONES

3 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS AT #1

RANKED #1 IMPRESSIONS THIS WEEK AT CA/MB

FIRST SOLO FEMALE TO:

- Top the Billboard Country Airplay chart for three straight weeks in over a decade
- Debut with back-to-back #1s on the Billboard Country Airplay chart since 2016
- Take her first two singles to No 1 on Billboard Hot Country Songs since 2012

SALES, DATA COMPILED BY MRC

billboard top country albums

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT	PEAK POS.
1	1	_	2	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578		1
2	2	1	15	MORGAN WALLEN DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC		1
8	NEW 1		1	ERIC CHURCH HEART EMI NASHVILLE 033106*/UMGN		3
4	3	3	76	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
6	6	2	4	CARRIE UNDERWOOD MY SAVIOR CAPITOL NASHVILLE 033355/UMGN		1
6	5	4	203	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	3	1
Ø	7	7	23	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
8	8	6	151	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*		1
9	9	8	312	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
10	10	10	44	GABBY BARRETT GOLDMINE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	•	4
11	4	27	37	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 031777/UMGN BORN HERE LIVE HERE DIE HERE	•	1
Ð	12	12	55	SAM HUNT SOUTHSIDE MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN		1
13	11	9	10	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE LIFE ROLLS ON BMLG FG0500A*		3
1	14	13	22	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*		7
15	13	11	298	ZAC BROWN BAND GREATEST HITS SO FAR HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG		3
10	15	14	171	EAGLES HOTEL CALIFORNIA ASYLUM/ELEKTRA 103*/RHINO (18.98)		5
17	17	15	107	ELVIS PRESLEY THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89048*/LEGACY (25.98)		11
Œ	25	28	77	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 597873*/SMN		1
1	RE-EI	NTRY	253	GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	7	1
20	21	23	229	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947*/SMN	2	1
3	22	25	36	KANE BROWN RCA NASHVILLE 398449 WS EX/SMN MIXTAPE, VOL. 1 (EP)		2
22	18	20	124	TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)		1
3	27	22	287	BLAKE SHELTON RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 551788/WMN		2
24	20	19	255	TIM MCGRAW NUMBER ONE HITS CURB 79205 (13.98)		6
25	29	36	148	DAN + SHAY WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 570796/WMN		1

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2021, Billboard Media, LLC and MRC Data. All rights reserved.

billboard AMERICANA/

			_	TOLK ALDOMS		
THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
O	1	2	23	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
Ø	2	3	258	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
3	3	4	304	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	3	1
4	4	6	110	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	2
5	6	7	221	SIMON & GARFUNKEL SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY		3
6	5	8	160	KACEY MUSGRAVES GOLDEN HOUR MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN	•	1
Ø	7	9	263	THE LUMINEERS CLEOPATRA DUALTONE 1738*		1
8	8	12	215	JACK JOHNSON IN BETWEEN DREAMS JACK JOHNSON/BRUSHFIRE/REPUBLIC	2	5
9	12	13	187	JAMES TAYLOR GREATEST HITS WARNER 78094*/RHINO (11.98)		4
10	9	10	125	JOHN MELLENCAMP THE BEST THAT I COULD DO 1978 - 1988 MERCURY 536738*/UME	3	5

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2021, Billboard Media, LtC. and MRC Data. All rights reserved.

billboard billboard

COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS ATITE CARS TITLE CHEEK WEEK WEEK WEEK WEEK THIS 4 34 STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON THE GOOD ONES O 0 1 26 FOREVER AFTER ALL DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) 0 0 7 26 ELLE KING & MIRANDA LAMBERT THE GOOD ONES WINE, BEER, WHISKEY 3 25 41 3 5 10 HELL OF A VIEW CHASING AFTER YOU 4 7 4 20 TENNESSEE WHISKEY STRAWBERRY WINE 6 0 4 9 211 CHRIS STAPLETON DEANA CARTER MR. PERFECTLY FINE (TAYLOR'S VERSION) (FROM THE VAULT FOREVER AFTER ALL 3 6 6 1 14 26 LUKE COMBS **BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S** I HOPE 7 2 86 Ø NEW GABBY BARRETT WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN **GLAD YOU EXIST** 13 15 8 8 10 DAN + SHAY BETTER TOGETHER I HOPE YOU DANCE 9 15 30 9 5 10 LUKE COMBS LEE ANN WOMACK MADE FOR YOU MAGGIE'S SONG 10 0 NEW CHRIS STAPLETON 1 22 78 IHOPE COPPERHEAD ROAD a 9 GABBY BARRETT STEVE EARLE 19 15 GOOD TIME HALF OF MY HOMETOWN ø ø KELSEA BALLERINI FEAT. KENNY CHESNEY 149 BEAUTIFUL CRAZY WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG ® SOMEBODY LIKE THAT KNOWING YOU 1 1 TENILLE ARTS ONE OF THEM GIRLS STARTING OVER ø ø 18 34 LEE BRICE CHRIS STAPLETON 10,000 HOURS DAN + SHAY & JUSTIN BIEBER **GLAD YOU EXIST** Œ 6 DAN + SHAY LIL BIT FAMOUS FRIENDS Ø Ø NELLY & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE CHRIS YOUNG + KANE BROWN JUST THE WAY
PARMALEE X BLANCO BROWN FOREVER AND EVER, AMEN 18 18 8 7 HEARTI ESS LIL BIT NELLY & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE ø ø 16 22 DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLE SAND IN MY BOOTS **SPEECHLESS** 20 20 12 82

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by MRC Data. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/charts. Copyright 2021, Billboard Media, LLC and MRC Data. All rights reserved.

21 11 4

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24 17 78

25

NEW

RE-ENTRY

YOUR MAN

ALAN JACKSON

IT AIN'T MY FAULT

BROTHERS OSBORNI

TFOUIL A

I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY NOW

CARLY PEARCE & LEE BRICE YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY BABY (WRITTEN FOR DAUGHTERS' WEDDINGS)

SALES DATA COMPILED BY MRC

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

MEANT TO BE

THE BONES

ONF TOO MANY

KEITH URBAN DUET WITH P!NK SETTLING DOWN

BEBE REXHA & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG

4 RE-ENTR'

22

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2

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SALES DATA COMPILED BY

RE-ENTR'

NEW

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	19	STURGILL SIMPSON "CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS" HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS ()		1
0	2	3	42	GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION STRETCH GRASS 4050 ()		1
3	3	2	27	STURGILL SIMPSON "CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS" HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS (56285)		1
4			1	ANNIE MOSES BAND TALES FROM MY GRANDPA'S PULPIT GAITHER 49473/CAPITOL CMG ()		4
5	NEW 1		1	VARIOUS ARTISTS APRIL IN YOUR EYES: A TRIBUTE TO THE SONGS OF JOHN LILLY JOHN F. LILLY 002* BC EX/DIAMOND RANCH ()		5
6	RE-ENTRY 23		23	CHOSEN ROAD SONG GARDEN 1255 () APPALACHIAN WORSHIP: DELUXE EDITION		3
7	5	5	12	THE DEAD SOUTH SERVED LIVE SIX SHOOTER 144* ()		2
8	4	4	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH BLUEGRASS: SOUTHWESTERN OHIO'S MUSICAL LEGACY SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS 40238 ()		3
9	7	6	44	YO-YO MA/STUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS ()		1
1	NE	w	1	GREENSKY BLUEGRASS BIG BLUE Z00 DIGITAL EX () "THE LEAP YEAR SESSIONS, VOLUME TWO"		10

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STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY MRC



"SWEET MID-TEMPO TOE-TAPPER THAT FOLLOWS TWO CONSECUTIVE #1s"

billboard



Dillon Carmichael's 'Hot Beer': A 12-Ounce Can Of Sarcastic, Commercial Potential

Dillon Carmichael has an early bead on the grossest line in a potential 2021 hit. In the final chorus of "Hot Beer," he tells his ex he thinks so little of dating her that he would rather "take a big swig of Uncle Bubba's old dip spit." She is very clearly no longer welcome.

"That's the line that really got me on this song," says Carmichael. "I'll tell you what: If you've ever taken a big swig of, of, uh — of that — you ain't going to forget it."

That wacky tobacky reference is the most disgusting put-down in "Hot Beer," though it's hardly the only one. The singer would rather build a fire in the pouring rain, go hunting with an empty gun or work a Saturday just for fun than take the woman back. It works much like Terri Clark's 1994 debut, "Better Things To Do," providing a laundry list of negative excuses in a royal kiss-off.

Appropriately, Carmichael's performance comes amid grinding guitars, snappy fiddle licks and burning steel swells as the singer snarls with the country swagger of Trace Adkins and Eddie Montgomery, Carmichael's uncle. If it sounds a bit like a salute to '90s country, then Carmichael

"I'm a '90s kid," he says. "I grew up in the '90s, so that's kind of what I know, what I love. Any time there's a tip of the hat to that kind of thing, I'm all in."

Four songwriters were all in on it when "Hot Beer" got brewed on Jan. 30, 2020. Ashley Gorley ("What's Your Country Song," "Dirt on My Boots") hosted a semi-regular two-day camp with

HARDY ("God's Country," "One Beer"), Hunter Phelps ("I Don't Know About You," "Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen.") and Ben Johnson ("One of Them Girls"). The same foursome authored HARDY's "Give Heaven Some Hell" during a previous installment of their informal camp.

"When the four of us get together to write, we always write three songs every single time, and the third one is always cranked out in 30 minutes because it's the end of the day and we have to do something," says HARDY. "Hot Beer," he adds, "was that song. It was the most fun. We were laughing the whole time, like, 'This is so silly, but it's awesome at the same time.'

HARDY presented the original title, "One Hot Beer," with a more serious sort of storyline, though no one remembers what it was. Phelps saw it as a more sarcastic dismissal of an ex — "I'd rather drink a hot beer" — and that pretty much set the creative wheels into motion with a vintage, three-chord sound.

"I was holding a guitar 'cause we had just finished writing this other song, and I was leaning back in the couch and started playing the riffs and the chord progression," recalls Johnson. "Everybody just started throwing out lines."

Most of the insults were stuffed into the chorus with a redneck twist: Fishing gear, boating and hunting were all part of the put-down parade. And once they had established that the man was in no way dating this woman again, the verses pretty much needed to justify the snark. And they did.

"She wrecked his truck and cheated and lied," says Gorley. "So then it's like, 'All right, we can totally trash this person.' And so you tell her you might as well stay out on the porch because this ain't going to be a long breakup. And then you just say the chorus to her, which is really, really funny."

That chorus has a focused, anthemic quality that hangs mostly in the higher sections of the song's range. In classic style, the writers assigned the verses a more subdued attitude and a freer melodic contour.

"I love those verses with the kind of traditional country melody, the verses

that get really low," notes Phelps. "Like George Jones, he would do that in the verses and dip really low. I love doing those in the verses and then the chorus, using a shinier melody and get up there in the register a little bit."

The second verse underscores the futility of trying again, telling the ex that her odds of restarting the relationship are "about the same as a tractor flyin'." It's the "When pigs fly" axiom with a farmer twist.

"I was like, 'What's heavier and even more impossible to take flight than a

pig?'" recalls HARDY. "Tractor was just the first thing that came to mind."

The bridge took the hot beer to the next level, too. They essentially shaped a run-on sentence, loading up a steady flow of adjectives that described a rank, "skunked," abandoned beer can rolling around in the trunk.

And, of course, the "dip spit" image made its way into the final chorus, thanks to HARDY, who brought it up as a joke. "Hot Beer" was already preposterous enough, so what the heck? They tested a few different names - Cousin Eddie or Cousin Earl (the latter was too similar to The Chicks' "Goodbye Earl")—then settled on Uncle Bubba. Grotesque as it was, it survived.

"I was on the fence about the dip spit line," admits Johnson. "But we all started laughing so hard. We were like, 'OK, we have to keep that.'

Johnson developed the demo within 24 hours, pairing programmed verses with '90s-tinged choruses. HARDY sang the vocal, only hinting at the "dip spit" line.

"It's like, 'If I was the character, I couldn't get the word out because it was so disgusting," he says.

A day after they finished it, producer Scott Hendricks was already considering "Hot Beer" for Blake Shelton, though that match obviously didn't happen. A few other acts gave it a look, but when **Jon Pardi** told Tape Room GM Blain Rhodes he was producing Carmichael and needed solid country material, they served up "Hot Beer." Pardi and Riser House president Jennifer Johnson texted the song to Carmichael on June 20, when he was in Kentucky for tour manager Eric Flores' wedding, and Carmichael was sold on first listen.

They cut "Hot Beer" at Nashville's Blackbird Studios with a mostly live band (appropriately masked for COVID-19 precautions), nailing the '90s energy and developing an opening riff for the song. They brought in a few extra players for overdubs, including fiddler Jenee Fleenor ("She's the go-to," says Pardi), and Pardi drilled Carmichael when they held the final vocal session at the studios of co-producer/engineer Ryan Gore (Randall King, Kacey Musgraves).

'Dillon is a great singer," says Pardi. He "needed someone to push him that he trusts.'

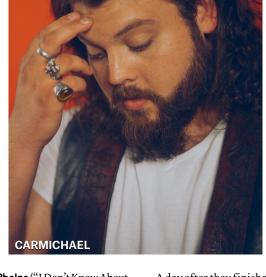
That included making Carmichael exercise to generate more vocal force. "Between the verse and the chorus, I dropped and did a plank just because, believe it or not, it really strengthens the core, and it really does help," he says.

Riser House released "Hot Beer" to country radio via PlayMPE on March 30, giving Carmichael his most commercial offering to date.

"This sounds like a hit, for real," says Gorley. "I do think radio could use some more really country, lighthearted stuff. Songs like [Brad Paisley's] 'I'm Gonna Miss Her' are just kind of missing right now."

Carmichael is ready to work it, dip spit and all.

Carmichael is ready to work it, dip spit and all.
"I'm going to be living that hot-beer life for a while now," he says. "When we release a single, you live it, like getting into character for a movie. I'ma you release a single, you live it, like getting into character for a movie. I'ma be chugging some hot beers onstage. And I love it." •



billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) **Chart Position**

Α

ALMOST MAYBES Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/ Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP/Roc Nation WC Publishing Designee, BMI/ Telemitry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BIRB Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (JDavis, J.Frasure, H.Lindsey) 12

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20 Years Ago 'Nothing' Was Bigger Than Brooks & Dunn

In 2001, the duo scored the longest-leading of its 20 Hot Country Songs No. 1s

On April 28, 2001, **Brooks & Dunn**'s "Ain't Nothing 'Bout You" began a six-week reign on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart. Its domination stands as the longest of their 20 No. 1s, logged in 1991-2005—the most among duos in the survey's history.

Penned by **Tom Shapiro** and **Rivers Rutherford**, the song was released as the first single from *Steers & Stripes*, one of Brooks & Dunn's seven No. 1s on Top Country Albums that they tallied in 1994-2019.

Brooks & Dunn hung up their boots after their 2010 Last Rodeo

Tour but reunited in 2015, coheadlining a residency with **Reba McEntire** at Las Vegas' Caesar's
Palace. In 2019, the act was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, the same year that it released *Reboot*, featuring 12 hits rerecorded as duets with other artists, including "Nothing" with **Brett Young**.

Brooks, now 65, and Dunn, 67, plan to resume touring later this year. The former continues hosting American Country Countdown, for which he won national on-air personality of the year at the 2021 Academy of Country Music Awards on April 18.

