billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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Country Coda: Rosanne Cash's 'Seven Year Ache' Turns 40 >page 18 **BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE**

It likely won't have the shelf life of Throwback Thursdays or

Taco Tuesdays, but "full-capacity Friday night" had an oddly

Tom.Roland@billboard.com

Grand Ole Opry Moves Toward The Old Normal As U.S. Reemerges From COVID-19

In ideal Opry fashion, the lineup reflected a variety of styles and eras. **Lorrie Morgan** opened with her chart-topping 1990 single "Five Minutes," and the rest of the talent parade fea-

tured current hitmaker Michael Ray,
Western vocal quartet Riders in the
Sky, comedian Aaron Weber, Nashville actor Charles Esten and newcomer Brittney Spencer, who sang
a new song, "Sober & Skinny," for the
first time in public.

Spencer's appearance was a personal milestone, for she made her Opry debut. While she felt its significance (she conceded that her breathing was more pronounced during "Sober" as she fought off a case of nerves), she was still present enough to recognize a positivity across the audience.

"It felt like relief," she said. "It's this crazy time for a lot of people. This is their first time hearing live music in 14 or 15 months. I feel like you can just hear everyone taking a big sigh and [having] a sense of belonging."

While most live events were canceled or postponed across the United States once the virus

broke out in March 2020, the Opry kept going, in great part because it is a radio show at heart and was able to exist without

Grand Ole Opry announcer Bill Cody uncorked the phrase as the WSM-AM Nashville show had every ticket in the 4,400-seat Opry House available for the first time since March 10, 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic forced live entertainment off the stage. Some 2,400 tickets were sold, according to Opry vp/executive producer **Dan** Rogers, as the reboot coincided with an unexpected bonus: Barely 24 hours before the show's start, the city of Nashville dropped face-mask mandates. The Opry matched the metropolicy-signs indicated masks

special ring to it on May 14.

"It just felt liberating," The Oak Ridge Boys' Joe Bonsall said after the group closed the two-hour show with "Elvira." "It felt like maybe, just maybe, we are really on our way here.

were welcome, but not required — and at least 90% of ticket-buyers

dropped the fabric.

Maybe we are emerging. I mean, it was just awesome. I knew it would be, but it was even more awesome than I thought it would be. I almost cried out there. I didn't, but I almost did."



ON TOUR WITH LUKE BRYAN
JULY 22 - OCTOBER 16

NOBODY
POWER UP NOW!
MAX SPINS NOW - 5/30

RIS HOLLO

an audience. Parts of the program also air on the Circle Network, and Opry management made major adjustments to keep it on the air, with a minimal lineup of artists performing to a vacant house. It was livestreamed beginning March 14, 2020, a move that Rogers now believes will lead to greater support at an international level.

Opry executives followed city guidelines closely, opening Opry House seating to 500 socially distanced patrons in October and gradually adding more tickets as Nashville loosened policies.

The Oaks appeared two or three times when no fans were present—the last visit, Bonsall indicated, felt "really weird"—but even after scattered seating was introduced, the atmosphere was unavoidably unusual.

"You look up in the balcony, and there's all these people looking down in masks," he quipped. "It kind of looked like the gallery on *Grey's Anatomy*, looking down at a brain transplant."

Still, after 14 months of caution, the abrupt return to more normal conditions was as much an oddity as the beginning stages of the pandemic.

"There was a backstage tour today, and it was the first time in well more than a year that I looked out and saw people in a group together without masks on," noted Rogers. "It was just as strange as it looked in March of 2020 to see all these people walking around with masks on. I had the opposite experience today when I walked out and thought, 'Oh my God: faces.'"

The backstage area, more than any part of the rebooted Opry experience, remains abnormal. Historically, the volume of acts — combined with their entourages, family members and personal guests, as well as other industry visitors — creates a mild party atmosphere that spills out to the side stages, where fans can see hangers-on. Those areas were barren on May 14, and the typically crowded back hallways were likewise spacious and easily navigated. That will probably remain the case for several months as the Opry respects the most cautious members of the community.

"My goal is to bring the area backstage to normal, where it feels congenial and Opry-like, if you will, but to really over the next few weeks still try to limit the number of people," said Rogers. "That's just so those who are back here can feel a little more comfortable. Maybe you don't have your mask on when you're walking through the family room and maybe you can go get your free popcorn from the green room again."

Full-capacity Fridays, as well as full-capacity Saturdays and Tuesdays, are returning at an ideal time as the Opry looks forward to several significant milestones. Launched on Nov. 28, 1925, the show celebrated its 95th anniversary during the lockdown. Its 5,000th Saturday concert is set for Oct. 30, and its 100th birthday is less than five years away.

After coping successfully with a lethal, invisible threat, management has a refreshed attitude about any upcoming challenges.

"It's not as if I had a lack of confidence before this," observed Rogers. "But I thought, 'If this team can get through this'—and I knew we would be able to—'we'll have so much more confidence, and things will seem so much easier to take on.'"



Chris Janson performed for socially distanced listeners at a WIRK West Palm Beach, Fla., Secret Sessions lunch on May 7. From left: WIRK personalities Chelsea Taylor and Tim Leary, Janson, Hubbard/West Palm Beach operations manager Bruce Logan and WIRK assistant PD/music director Nick Rivers.



Maddie & Tae, featuring Tae Kerr (left) and Maddie Font, performed with songwriter Jimmy Robbins as Save the Music and Songfarm.com recognized Robbins and Brandy Clark as champions of the year on May 11.



BBR Music Group announced the signing of bilingual artist Frank Ray to a recording deal on May 7. From left: White Knuckle Productions CEO Oscar Chavira, Ray, BMG Nashville president Jon Loba and BBR Music Group vp A&R Sara Knabe.



ALAN JAGKSON WHERE HAVE YOU GONE

"Jackson returns this week with Where Have You Gone, a new studio album where the plain-spoken wordsmith sings about fatherly love, once-in-a-lifetime loss and the barn-burnin' honky-tonk music that remains near his heart."

- USA TODAY

"Every bit as affecting, Where Have You Gone is the quiet superstar's rebuke to those who would forget the roots of where this music comes from."

- HITS

"... Where Have You Gone, a sprawling 21-track compilation that finds the Country Music Hall of Fame member reflecting on the state of his beloved genre, paying tribute to his late mother, and, in some songs, simply having a honky-tonking good time."

- ROLLING STONE

NEW ALBUM AVAILABLE NOW

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

Sam Hunt's '90's' Leads In The '20s, Becoming His Eighth Country Airplay No. 1; New Top 10s For Dylan Scott, Jason Aldean



Sam Hunt banks his eighth leader on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "Breaking Up Was Easy in the 90's" (MCA Nashville) climbs 2-1 on the list dated May 22. In the tracking week ending May 16, it increased by 18% to 30.1 million audience impressions, according to MRC Data.

On Hot Country Songs, which blends airplay, sales and streaming data, the track rises 5-4. The song—co-written by Hunt, **Zach Crowell, Chris LaCorte**, **Josh Osborne** and **Ernest K. Smith**—also drew 7.5 million U.S. streams (up

6%) and sold 1,800 downloads (up 7%) in the week ending May 13.

"Breaking Up" is Hunt's third consecutive Country Airplay leader, after "Hard to Forget" reigned for a week last July and "Kinfolks" dominated for a frame in February 2020. The triumphant trio is from his second full-length, Southside, which bowed at No. 1 on Top Country Albums in April 2020.

Hunt first topped Country Airplay with his debut hit, "Leave the Night On," for a week in November 2014 and added three more one-week No. 1s from his debut LP, Montevallo: "Take Your Time" (May 2015), "House Party" (September 2015) and "Make You Miss Me" (September 2016). He then led the chart with his crossover smash "Body Like a Back Road" (also included on Southside) for three weeks in May 2017. The track dominated Hot Country Songs for 34 weeks starting that February.

"Break Up" is the first song whose title calls out

the '90s to hit No. 1 on Country Airplay, which itself launched that decade, in January 1990. Two other such entries have dented the chart: Lauren Alaina's "Ladies in the '90s" (No. 40 peak, April 2019) and Walker Hayes' "90's Country" (No. 52, December 2018).

NEW TOP 10s Dylan Scott scores his third Hot Country Songs top 10 as "Nobody" (Curb Nashville) lifts 12-8. It pushes 7-5 on Country Airplay, up by 8%

to 22.7 million impressions, and jumped by 28% to 5.5 million streams and sold 1,000 downloads in the tracking week.

"Nobody" follows Scott's "Hooked," which peaked at No. 6 on Hot Country Songs and reached No. 2 on Country Airplay in September 2018. He first hit the top 10 on the former chart with "My Girl," which peaked at No. 3 in August 2017 after leading the latter list for a week that July.

Plus, Jason Aldean's "Blame It on You" (Macon/Broken Bow) pushes

11-10 on Country Airplay, up by 11% to 18.7 million impressions, marking his 33rd top 10. It follows "Got What I Got," which became his 22nd No. 1 last October. Aldean, who first hit the top 10 with "Hicktown" in 2005, is the 12th artist with at least 33 such hits on the tally. **George Strait** leads with 61.

'TAPES' ON ALBUM CHARTS The Marfa Tapes (Vanner/RCA Nashville/Sony Music Nashville), by Jack Ingram, Miranda Lambert and Jon Randall, enters Top Country Albums at No. 7 with 14,000 equivalent album units (10,000 in album sales). The set, recorded in Marfa, Texas, also arrives at No. 1 on Americana/Folk Albums.

Lambert notches her eighth top 10 on Top Country Albums. Her previous seven entries, which are all solo sets, debuted at No. 1, a career-opening run second only to **Carrie Underwood**'s nine straight leaders in as many appearances.

Ingram adds his second top 10, after This Is It

opened and peaked at No. 4 in 2007, while Randall makes his first visit. As an artist, Randall's single "Cold Coffee Morning" dented Country Airplay in 1999. He has since produced three No. 1s on the chart: Dierks Bentley's "Am I the Only One" (2011) and "Living" (2019), and Parker McCollum's "Pretty Heart" last December.

On Americana/Folk Albums, Lambert and Randall chart their first entries, while Ingram earns his second, after Midnight Motel hit No. 9 in 2016.

















FROM CHARTED TO TOP 40 IN JUST 4 WEEKS!

36* BREAKER @ BB/BDS 39* CA/MB

UMG'S 2ND HIGHEST ADD TO COLLECTION TRACK AT 28%

TESTING POWER IN DALLAS

NEW THIS WEEK:
WUSN/CHICAGO,
WLHK/INDIANAPOLIS,
KSON/SAN DIEGO,
WBCT/GRAND RAPIDS,
WDRM/HUNTSVILLE,
WCTQ/SARASOTA

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS) +/-	THIS WEEK	PLAYS +/-	RANK
0	2	32	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nashville ** No. 1 (1 week)/ Most Increased Audience ** Sam Hunt	30.964	+4.752	7789	735	1
2	1	52	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud Jake Owen	27.616	-2.523	6990	-1055	3
3	4	18	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	27.236	+4.170	6619	719	4
4	5	28	HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville Eric Church	26.164	+3.478	7069	676	2
6	7	56	NOBODY Curb Dylan Scott	22.699	+1.748	5990	71	5
6	3	49	THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barrett	22.343	-1.266	5522	-493	6
Ø	8	30	GONE Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	22.085	+3.744	5508	502	7
8	9	24	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	20.481	+2.900	5378	412	8
9	10	34	SETTLING DOWN Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	19.015	+1.922	4810	232	10
Θ	11	27	BLAME IT ONYOU Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	18.676	+1.902	4584	134	11
0	12	50	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	17.791	+1.729	5069	141	9
Ð	13	46	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	15.497	+1.712	4445	205	12
ß	14	18	MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton	14.737	+1.373	4040	109	13
12	15	34	ONETOO MANY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban Duet With P!nk	13.694	+0.921	3891	76	14
Œ	17	15	GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	13.597	+2.045	3775	161	15
10	16	18	UNDIVIDED McGraw/BMLG/Big Machine Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard	12.647	+0.913	3589	-26	16
Ð	18	30	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory Justin Moore	10.914	+1.084	3486	138	17
B	20	5	COUNTRY AGAIN Valory ★★ Airpower ★★ Thomas Rhett	10.857	+1.762	3088	369	20
19	19	21	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	10.549	+1.216	3252	197	18
20	24	24	DRINKIN' BEER.TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	8.959	+1.457	2687	239	22
3	22	6	WAVES Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	8.917	+1.320	2822	283	21
22	23	34	NEXT GIRL Big Machine Carly Pearce	7.924	+0.418	3122	117	19
23	25	32	MY BOY Wheelhouse Elvie Shane	6.598	+0.216	2464	-61	23
2	26	23	SHALLOW Pearl Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood	5.633	+0.918	1812	137	25
25	27	29	WORSHIP YOU RCA Nashville Kane Brown	5.296	+0.627	1803	13	26
23	29	28	YOUTIME Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	5.228	+0.794	2063	84	24
3	28	23	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	5.015	+0.521	1543	137	29
23	30	10	LIKE A LADY BMLG Lady A	4.587	+0.599	1551	84	28
29	31	28	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	3.912	+0.287	1715	49	27
30	32	34	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU inDent/Mercury Nashville Priscilla Block	3.884	+0.553	1343	21	34

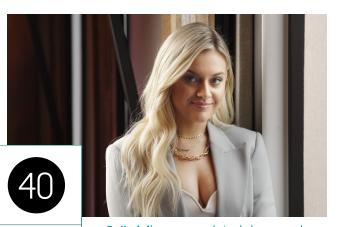


billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



		WKS		AUDIENCE (II	N MULLONG)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
3	35	11	CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd **th Maren Morris	3.484	+0.690	1361	132	32
€	33	10	KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	3.372	+0.355	1425	97	31
33	34	25	LADY LIKE Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress	2.992	+0.199	975	121	38
34	37	16	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley	2.932	+0.398	1361	91	33
35	36	43	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY Capitol Nashville Little Big Town	2.799	+0.030	1517	-47	30
36	39	13	TO BE LOVED BY YOU MCA Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Parker McCollum	2.764	+0.546	750	16	42
37	41	30	WHISKEY AND RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	2.575	+0.572	1011	6	37
33	38	17	HOME SWEET Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	2.548	+0.114	1062	-5	35
39	40	17	TEQUILA LITTLETIME Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	2.172	+0.119	1055	36	36
40	46	4	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney	1.527	+0.267	710	55	43
49	45	8	IT'S 'CAUSE I AM Big Machine ★★ Most Added ★★ Callista Clark	1.511	+0.221	663	80	45
42	47	11	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Big Loud HARDY	1.424	+0.248	827	51	39
43	42	11	THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville Matt Stell	1.419	-0.041	700	20	44
4	44	30	WAITIN' ON 5 Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chris Janson	1.409	+0.040	806	5	40
45	48	35	BEERS TO CATCH UP ON Wheelhouse LOCASH	1.311	+0.143	778	5	41
46	50	4	NOTYET BMLG Brett Young	1.306	+0.130	579	68	47
47	43	2	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring MacKenzie Porter	1.232	-0.151	543	-2	50
48	49	11	GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi	1.173	+0.038	644	38	46
49	51	13	I CAN'T Monument Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion	1.045	-0.066	472	32	51
50	52	26	IF IT WASN'T FORTRUCKS BMLG Riley Green	0.910	-0.023	571	0	48
6	54	16	NEED A BAR SOMETIMES Show Dog Nashville Clay Walker	0.888	+0.169	568	8	49
₽	55	5	LONG HAUL Warner Music Nashville/WEA lan Munsick	0.851	+0.184	261	35	-
53	53	4	FILLTHEM BOOTS Big Loud Chris Lane	0.793	+0.071	347	-1	55
54	57	2	I'M NOT FOR EVERYONE EMI Nashville Brothers Osborne	0.748	+0.152	285	27	-
55	59	7	GOOD DAY (2021) Warner Music Nashville/WMN Brett Eldredge	0.718	+0.155	326	22	60
56	56	24	WHERE I FIND GOD Big Loud Larry Fleet	0.688	+0.081	332	13	59
5	NE	W	HOT BEER Riser House ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★ Dillon Carmichael	0.643	+0.152	401	72	52
5 3	58	4	OLD SCHOOL'S IN Valory Heath Sanders	0.636	+0.040	336	4	57
59	NE	:W	MY MASTERPIECE Capitol Nashville Darius Rucker	0.610	+0.100	349	33	54
60	NE	EW .	GONETOO SOON Andrew Jannakos/RCA Nashville Andrew Jannakos	0.572	+0.174	300	30	-



KELSEA BALLERINI FEAT. KENNY CHESNEY Half of My Hometown

Ballerini's co-penned single becomes her 10th top 40 Country Airplay hit, hopping 46-40 with a 21% gain to 1.5 million impressions. It follows "Hole in the Bottle," which reached No. 2 in February.

GOING FOR ADDS

5/24

DALLAS REMINGTON Princess

RoadWarrior

DREW PARKER While You're Gone Warner Music Nashville

TENILLE ARTS Back Then, Right Now 19th & Grand





billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



MOST ADDED®					
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS			
IT'S 'CAUSE I AM Big Machine	Callista Clark	15			
KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/Wea	Kenny Chesney	13			
FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek Jimmie A	Allen & Brad Paisley	11			
THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Fea	t. MacKenzie Porter	11			
GOOD LIFE MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	10			
HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	8			
NOT YET BMLG	Brett Young	7			
THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	6			
MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb	Lee Brice	6			
COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson I	Rodgers Feat, Luke Combs	5			

11 5 CAUSE I AIVI BIG IVIACHINE CAINSTA CIAN	(15				
KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/Wea Kenny Chesner	/ 13				
FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisle	/ 11				
THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Feat. MacKenzie Porte	r 11				
GOOD LIFE MCA Nashville Kip Moore	e 10				
HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerin	i 8				
NOT YET BMLG Brett Young	7				
THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	ո 6				
MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	e 6				
COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Feat. Luke Comb	s 5				
MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE					
	CAIN				

MIOST INCREASED AUDIENCE							
		GAIN					
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	(IN MILLIONS)					
BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA N	ashville Sam Hunt	+4.752					
FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashv	ville Luke Combs	+4.170					
GONE Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	+3.744					
HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville	Eric Church	+3.478					
FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young + Kane Brown	+2.900					
GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	+2.045					
SETTLING DOWN Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	+1.922					
BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+1.902					
COUNTRY AGAIN Valory	Thomas Rhett	+1.762					
NOBODY Curb	Dylan Scott	+1.748					

MOST INCREASED PLAYS	
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN
BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	+735
FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	+719
HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville Eric Church	+676
GONE Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	+502
FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	+412
COUNTRY AGAIN Valory Thomas Rhett	+369
WAVES Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	+283
DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	+239
SETTLING DOWN Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	+232
SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	+205

NEW AND ACTIVE						
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS			
VILLAIN Back Block/Republic/Big Loud Lily Rose	0.556	20	0			
COME IN (BUT DON'T MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE) Mailboat Caroline Jones	0.546	5	3			
ABBY Mercury Nashville Travis Denning	0.477	32	3			
NO SAD SONGS RCA Nashville Niko Moon	0.427	24	5			
DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA Elle King & Miranda Lambert	0.419	3	0			
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	0.414	5	2			

	RECURRENTS							
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)					
1	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory	Thomas Rhett	20.716					
2	JUSTTHE WAY Stoney Creek Parmalee	x Blanco Brown	19.010					
3	LADY BMLG	Brett Young	18.641					
4	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	16.248					
5	DOWN TO ONE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	15.605					
6	BETTER TOGETHER River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	14.115					
7	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers Re	ussell Dickerson	13.124					
8	LONG LIVE BMLG Fig	orida Georgia Line	12.085					
9	GOOD TIME RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	9.933					
10	THE BONES Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	8.273					





TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT WEEK ENDING MAY 16, 2021

THIS WEEK		WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK		WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
0	2	24	WINE WON'T WORK (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★ Ariel Hutchins	1826	100	0	10	24	I BLEED (Dean Dillon's Wildcatter) Sundance Head	1317	19
0	3	17	I HOPE I'M HOLDING YOU (Independent) Mark Powell	1712	1	®	14	12	STUCK WITH YOU (10X Music Group) Brodie Lane	1311	83
8	4	7	HOLD MY BEER (Lil Buddy Toons) Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1711	79	ß	12	16	ROCK AND ROLL MAN (Independent) Creed Fisher	1303	52
4	5	9	QUEEN FOR A NIGHT (Almost Country) Casey Donahew	1686	68	1	13	15	ANYBODY LOVIN' YOU LATELY (Independent) Clay Hollis	1290	61
6	6	18	BETTER BY THE BEER (Independent) Jake Bush	1626	9	15	1	16	POCKET FULL OF KISSES (Independent) Bart Crow Band	1264	-511
6	8	18	MY HOME IS (Independent) Saints Eleven	1510	84	16	16	19	COME HOME TO YOU (Independent) Robert Ray	1102	-55
Ø	7	11	FRIENDS (Independent) Curtis Grimes	1495	56	Ð	19	12	IF YOU CAN DANCE (Independent) Jon Stork	1009	80
8	15	6	HORSES IN HEAVEN (Deep Frey'd Music) Kylie Frey	1353	130	B	22	11	BOURBON WHISKEY (Independent) William Beckmann	991	123
9	11	10	CAN DOWN (Independent) Mike Ryan	1339	45	1	20	24	CHAPTER 2 (Independent) Gary Kyle	946	49
10	9	28	LET ME BREATHE (Independent) Melissa Brooke	1323	-13	20	23	12	BREAK ANOTHER HEART (Independent) Kaitlyn Kohler	944	108

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2021, Texas Regional Radio Report



NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Reservoir announced that singer-songwriter Levi Hummon signed a publishing contract with the firm on May 7. From left: Milom Horsnell partner David Crow, Reservoir Nashville executive vp creative John Ozier, Hummon and F2 Entertainment president/CEO Fletcher Foster.

NEW TICKETS IN THE CONCERT PIPELINE

As a gas crisis begins to ease in the Southeast, a new supply-chain issue reared its head on Facebook.

Fusion Music managing partner **Daniel Miller (Cassadee Pope, Riley Green)** reported a "massive shortage of country concert tickets" on May 12. Miller didn't hold back; he encouraged "stocking up" on passes to weather the "unpredictable season ahead" as the concert industry reboots in the aftermath of the COVID-19 shutdown.

Miller's words were obviously sarcastic, but they underscored the excitement of artists and executives in the live business to see fans' faces and generate sales again.

After 14 months of scarcity, in-person concerts and events are revving up in a big way, with Jason Aldean, Carrie Underwood and Alan Jackson among the acts adding their names to a concert marketplace bulging with package tours, benefits and even extended residencies.

Newly announced concert appearances include:

- Ashley McBryde rolls out the This Town Talks Tour on June 12 in Roanoke, Va., with over three dozen shows on the docket through January 2022. Four different acts are filling the opening slot on a rotating basis: Morgan Wade, Adam Hambrick, Priscilla Block and Ray Fulcher.
- The Birthplace of Country Music Museum is holding a three-part Road to Bristol Rhythm series that offers concerts for 100 people at an outdoor stage at the Sessions Hotel on State Street in Virginia, walking distance from the site of historic recordings by Jimmie Rodgers and The Carter Family. The shows will include Wade, June 19; Jim Lauderdale, July 17; and Amythyst Kiah, Aug. 7.
- Jackson is going home to Newnan, Ga., on June 26 for a benefit at the Coweta County Fairgrounds on the three-month anniversary of an EF4 tornado that destroyed 70 homes and damaged a total of 1,700 buildings.
- · Aldean's aptly titled Back in the Saddle Tour launches Aug. 5 in Virginia Beach, Va. Amphitheaters dominate the schedule that's currently booked through Oct. 30 in Tampa, Fla. Opening are **HARDY** and **Lainey Wilson**.
- Garth Brooks will play the Nebraska Cornhuskers' house, Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, on Aug. 14. It marks the first concert at the football venue since Willie Nelson's Farm Aid III in 1987.
- Dan + Shay reboot The (Arena) Tour on Sept. 9 in Greenville, S.C., with openers The Band CAMINO and Ingrid Andress. Interrupted by COVID-19 after the first three dates were completed in March 2020, the updated itinerary includes additional shows in San Diego and Los Angeles.
- Underwood opens Reflection: The Las Vegas Residency on Dec. 1, with six shows booked during the month at Resorts World Las Vegas. She is the first country performer announced for the new 3,500-room hotel, which opens June 24.
- **Luke Bryan** also booked a six-concert residency at Resorts World's 5,000-seat theater. His run begins Feb. 11, 2022.

RADIO & RECORDS®

The Canadian-bred James Barker Band signed a recording contract with Villa 40/Sony Music Nashville and released its first track under the agreement, "Over All Over Again," on May 14 ... Singer-songwriter Joy Oladokun agreed to a recording deal with Amigo Records, Verve Forecast and Republic. A collaboration with Maren Morris, "Bigger Man," was released May 14 ... New

Lost City added duo Whelan Stone to the roster. Joe Whelan, who is signed as a songwriter to the label's parent company, MV2 Entertainment, formed the act with fellow writer Andrew Stone, a former wide receiver with the Iowa Hawkeyes football team ... Geoff Emery concluded his final morning shift with KUZZ Bakersfield, Calif., on May 14, preparing for a new opportunity elsewhere in the market. Emery joined the staff in 2001, when Buck Owens still owned the station ... Media analytics firm TroyResearch hired Fletcher Keyes as director of development, RadioInk.com reported. Keyes previously spent nine years at WWQM Madison, Wis., where he was PD/morning host ... SummitMedia promoted **Tom Scott** to vp engineering from chief engineer, according to RadioInk.com ... Gene Sandbloom was appointed KUPL Portland, Ore., content director, RadioInsight.com reported. He continues to serve as operations manager/content director for alternative rock sister KINK ... Sirius XM replaced its Prime Country channel with Alan Jackson Radio for one week, beginning May 17, in conjunction with the May 14 release of Jackson's album Where Have You Gone ... Bobby Bones will host the iHeartCountry Album Release Party With Blake Shelton live on May 20, a day before Shelton's Body Language is issued ... The June 9 CMT Music Awards will be simulcast by over 120 iHeartCountry stations.

'ROUND THE ROW

The Academy of Country Music hired three new Nashville-based staffers: vp digital strategy and engagement Rory Levine, manager of awards and membership Haley Montgomery and executive assistant to the CEO David Sassano. Levine was previously *The Atlantic* audience engagement director. Montgomery transitions from Grand Ole Opry manager of artist and label strategy. Sassano was Warner Music Group director of operations and administration. Reach Levine here, Montgomery here and Sassano here ... Harvey Mason Jr. will become the Recording Academy's official president/CEO on June 1 after holding the position on an unpaid, interim basis since January 2020 ... BRELAND signed his first publishing deal with Reservoir ... Songwriter-producer Cameron Jaymes ("It's 'Cause I Am") reached a publishing/production development deal with Sheltered Music and producer Dann Huff (Thomas Rhett, Kane Brown) ... The Mechanical Licensing Collective scheduled a webinar for self-administered songwriters at 11 a.m. CT on May 18. Go here to register ... Country Queer.com will hold crowdfunding online concerts on June 1 here and June 2 here. Participants include Mary Gauthier, Aaron Lee Tasjan, Jaimee Harris and Jaime Wyatt ... Change the Conversation and MediaRow are launching a quarterly spotlight series on June 3 highlighting three women. The first installment features Jillette Johnson, Harper Grae and Reyna Roberts. Go here to register.



Singer-songwriter Kimberly Kelly signed a recording deal with Toby Keith's label, Show Dog Nashville.

billboard



2021

COUNTRY POWER PLAYERS

Billboard's eighth 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 publishing. This special feature will highlight the top executives, artists and changemakers who kept the music playing during an incredibly challenging year, as well as coverage of the changing face of country music.

Advertise in *Billboard's* Country Power Players issue to congratulate this year's honorees while reaching key decision-makers who are driving the music business.

CONTACTS

Joe Maimone

201.301.5933 | joe.maimone@billboard.com

Lee Ann Photoglo

615.376.7931 | laphotoglo@gmail.com

Cynthia Mellow

615.352,0265 | cmellow.billboard@gmail.com

Marcia Olival

786.586.4901 | marciaolival29@gmail.com

Ryan O'Donnell

+447843437176 | rodonnell@pmc.com

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
0	1	3	29	FOREVER AFTER ALL thip matthews, J.D. Singleton, L. combs, D. Parker, R. Williford)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	3	1
2	2	1	47	THE GOOD ONES R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,E.LANDIS,J.MCCORMICK,Z.KALE)	Gabby Barrett Warner Music Nashville/War	6	1
3	4	2	29	HELL OF A VIEW J.JOYCE (E.CHURCH,C.BEATHARD,M.CRISWELL)	Eric Church Emi nashville	4	2
4	5	5	30	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S Z.CROWELL (S.L.HUNT,C.LA CORTE,Z.CROWELL,E.K.SMITH,J.OSBORNE) ** Airplay Gainer **	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	1	4
5	3	4	19	MADE FOR YOU J.MOI (B.DAVIS,J.HYDE,N.A.MEDLEY)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	2	3
6	6	6	27	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY,P.WELLING)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	RC	1
0	7	8	31	SETTLING DOWN J.JOYCE (M.LAMBERT,L.DICK,N.HEMBY)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	9	7
8	12	13	25	NOBODY M.ALDERMAN,C.GIBBS,J.E.NORMAN (D.SCOTT,M.ALDERMAN,D.WILSON)	Dylan Scott CURB	5	8
9	11	12	30	GONE D. BARCIA (N.GALYON, B.JOHNSON, N.MOON)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	7	9
0	9	11	25	LIL BIT J.M.SCHMIDT (T.HUBBARD, J.M.SCHMIDT, B.REDFERRIN, C.HAYNES, J.R.)	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line RECORDS/COLUMBIA	-	9
0	13	14	14	FAMOUS FRIENDS C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER (C.YOUNG,C.R.BARLOWE,C.CROWDER)	Chris Young + Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	8	11
œ	15	16	52	ALMOST MAYBES P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,J.FRASURE,H.LINDSEY)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	11	12
ß	17	17	14	GLAD YOU EXIST D.SMYERS (D.SMYERS,J.REYNOLDS,T.M.PARKS,S.MOONEY,R.L.TAYLOR)	Dan + Shay WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	15	10
1	14	15	35	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	14	12
1	18	21	15	BLAME IT ON YOU M.KNOX (K.M.ALLISON,J.EDWARDS,T.KENNEDY,M.TYLER,B.WHITE)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	10	15
10	19	23	28	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT M.R.CARTER (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,M.L.HOLMAN)	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	12	16
Ð	22	20	13	CHASING AFTER YOU A.ESHUIS,T.REIMER (B.ADDINGTON,J.FLOWERS)	Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris ARISTA NASHVILLE	31	17
18	16	28	4	COUNTRY AGAIN D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,Z.CROWELL,A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	18	16
®	23	24	15	MINIMUM WAGE S.HENDRICKS (C.CROWDER, N.GALYON, J.FRASURE)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	13	19
20	20	19	11	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK (ELLE KING,M.JOHNSON)	Elle King & Miranda Lambert RCA	-	16
21	21	22	18	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
2	24	30	9	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW J.JOYCE (L.WILSON, J.D. SINGLETON, J. NIX)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	19	22
23	25	27	17	UNDIVIDED C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,T.MCGRAW,B.GALLIMORE (T.HUBBARD,C.LOOCKE)	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard McGRAW/BMLG/BIG MACHINE	16	23
2	29	32	11	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	20	24
25	37	40	5	KNOWING YOU B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (BRETT JAMES,A.JAMES,K.HIGGINS) ** Streaming & Digital Gainer **	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	32	25

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

	1	# 1 9 WKS	ASHLEY GORLEY
	2	LU	KE COMBS
	3	JE:	SSE FRASURE
	4	ZA	CH CROWELL
	5	CO	REY CROWDER
	6	TA	YLOR SWIFT
	7	ER	NEST KEITH SMITH
	8	JO	SH OSBORNE
	9	NIC	COLLE GALYON
TIE	10	DR	EW PARKER
TIE	10	RO	B WILLIFORD



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	# 1 6 WKS	JAY JOYCE
2	JO	EY MOI
3	ZA	CH CROWELL
4	DA	NN HUFF
5	RO	SS COPPERMAN
6	DA	VID GARCIA
7	JO	RDAN SCHMIDT
8	SC	OTT MOFFATT
9	JE	SSE FRASURE
10	PA	UL DIGIOVANNI

billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK Position
26	26	29	40	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY LITTLE BIG TOWN (T.BROWN,K.FAIRCHILD,S.MCCONNELL,K.SCHLAPMAN,P.SWEET,J.WESTBROOK)	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	35	23
27	27	25	7	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (P.DIGIOVANNI,R.MONTANA,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	17	25
28	31	37	5	WAVES J.STEVENS, J. STEVENS (Z. CROWELL, R. J. HURD, R. C. MCGILL)	Luke Bryan Capitol nashville	21	28
29	35	35	27	SHALLOW G.BROOKS (S.G.GERMANOTTA,M.D.RONSON,A.ROSSOMANDO,ANDREW WYATT)	Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood PEARL	24	29
30	28	33	20	NEXT GIRL S.M.CANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,S.M.CANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	22	28
3	32	34	10	MY BOY O.CHARLES (E.SHANE,R.SUTTON,N.COLUMBIA,L.STARR)	Elvie Shane WHEELHOUSE	23	31
32	30	31	18	SAND IN MY BOOTS J.MOI (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,J.OSBORNE)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	5
33	34	36	23	WORSHIP YOU D.HUFF (K.BROWN),A.IZQUIERDO,M.J.M.CGINN,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	25	24
34	33	26	6	MR. PERFECTLY FINE (TAYLOR'S VERSION) (FROM THE VAULT) J.M.ANTONOFF, I.S.WIFT (T.S.WIFT)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	2
35	36	39	15	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,LBRICE (LBRICE,B.MONTANA,B.DAVIS)	Lee Brice	29	35
36	38	43	4	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME C.FARREN,J.D.MITCHELL (J.RODGERS,H.PHELPS,BRETT TYLER,A.VANDERHEYM)	Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	27	36
37	39	41	13	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU JJOHNSON (P.BLOCK,S.JONES,E.K.KROLL)	Priscilla Block INDENT/MERCURY NASHVILLE	30	37
33	40	46	7	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,A.GORLEY,C.DUBOIS)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	-	24
39	43	42	4	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN K.BALLERINI,R.COPPERMAN,J.ROBBINS (K.BALLERINI,S.MCANALLY,R.COPPERMAN,J.ROBBINS,N.GALYON)	Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney BLACK RIVER	40	39
40	44	47	4	LADY LIKE S.ELLIS, I.ANDRESS (I.ANDRESS, S.ELLIS, D.SOUTHERLAND)	Ingrid Andress Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/Wea	33	40
49	45	49	3	WHISKEY AND RAIN R.COPPERMAN (J.FRASURE,J.THOMPSON)	Michael Ray Warner Music Nashville/Wea	37	41
②	47	_	4	VILLAIN M.L.MORRISEY (L.R.WILLIAMSON,M.E.CARPENTER,K.S.CLARK)	Lily Rose BACK BLOCK/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	36
43	41	38	13	LOVE STORY (TAYLOR'S VERSION) C.ROWE,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	1
44	42	44	17	865 J.MOI (J.BYRON,B.PENDERGRASS)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	13
45	RE-E	NTRY	2	YOU TIME FROGERS, D. WELLS, A. ESHUIS (S. MCCREERY, FROGERS, A. ESHUIS)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	26	45
46	46	48	16	WARNING J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (E.K.SMITH, A. GORLEY, CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	10
47	50	_	9	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDYA.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)	HARDY BIG LOUD	42	29
48	48	50	16	DANGEROUS J.MOI (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	17
49	RE-E	NTRY	7	DICKED DOWN IN DALLAS A.MAXWELL,G.SAXMAN (B.M.GAFFORD,M.C.MCKINNEY,A.J.TROSCLAIR)	Trey Lewis TREY LEWIS	-	12
50	49	_	5	GONE TOO SOON J.AFABLE (J.AFABLE,A.JANNAKOS,J.BRICKER)	Andrew Jannakos Andrew Jannakos/RCA NASHVILLE	60	12

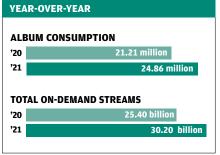
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by MRC Data, sales data as compiled by MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by MRC Data. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT								
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND					
This Week	1,391,000	1,562,784,000	140,109,000					
Last Week	1,345,000	1,521,067,000	143,881,000					
Change	3.4%	2.7%	-2.6%					
This Week Last Year	1,217,000	1,315,605,000	135,688,000					
Change	14.3%	18.8%	3.3%					

YEAR-TO-DA	TE		
	2020	2021	CHANGE
Album Consumption	21,211,000	24,861,000	17.2%
Album Sales	3,149,000	3,253,000	3.3%
Audio On-Demand	22,668,236,000	27,518,735,000	21.4%
Video On-Demand	2,732,488,000	2,668,968,000	-2.3%



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending May 13, 2021. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Allbum consumption units — also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA — conscists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equival one consumption unit. and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/07-3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand stream equival one consumption unit.



SALES, DATA COMPILED BY MRC

billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	18	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		1
2	3	4	79	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
3	4	3	5	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578		1
4	5	6	206	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	3	1
5	2	_	2	THOMAS RHETT COUNTRY AGAIN (SIDE A) VALORY TR5001A/BMLG		2
6	7	8	154	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*		1
Ø	NE	w	1	JACK INGRAM, MIRANDA LAMBERT & JON RANDALL THE MARFA TAPES VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 987018*/SMN (VINYL)		7
8	8	7	26	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
9	10	9	315	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
10	6	5	7	CARRIE UNDERWOOD MY SAVIOR CAPITOL NASHVILLE 033355*/UMGN		1
0	RE-EI	NTRY	15	KENNY CHESNEY BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 631374*/WMN		1
Ð	11	11	47	GABBY BARRETT GOLDMINE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	•	4
13	9	2	3	ERIC CHURCH SOUL EMI NASHVILLE 033109*/UMGN		2
•	14	15	58	SAM HUNT SOUTHSIDE MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN		1
15	12	14	13	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE LIFE ROLLS ON BMLG FG0500A*		3
16	13	13	40	LUKE BRYAN BORN HERE LIVE HERE DIE HERE CAPITOL NASHVILLE 031777/UMGN	•	1
(15	17	301	ZAC BROWN BAND GREATEST HITS SO FAR HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG		3
Œ	16	18	25	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*		7
Ð	19	20	80	MIRANDA LAMBERT WILDCARD VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 597873*/SMN		1
20	17	_	128	GEORGE STRAIT STRAIT OUT OF THE BOX MCA NASHVILLE 111263/UMGN (39.98/49.98)	8	9
21	20	21	258	TIM MCGRAW NUMBER ONE HITS CURB 79205 (13.98)		6
22	21	22	228	BROOKS & DUNN THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	4	2
23	22	26	127	TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)		1
24	23	28	96	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	11
25	25	25	290	BLAKE SHELTON RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 551788/WMN		2

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. SALES DATA COMPILED BY

billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

			_	OF I OFK APPOIND		
THIS	LAST	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
0	NE	w	1	JACK INGRAM, MIRANDA LAMBERT & JON RANDALL THE MARFA TAPES VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 987018*/SMN (VINYL)		1
2	1	1	26	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
3	2	2	261	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
•	4 NEW		1	DODIE BUILD A PROBLEM DODDLEODDLE 001*		4
5	3	4	307	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	3	1
6	NEW		1	VAN MORRISON LATEST RECORD PROJECT, VOLUME 1 EXILE 66267*/BMG		6
7	4	5	113	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	2
8	6	7	163	KACEY MUSGRAVES GOLDEN HOUR MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN	•	1
9	5	6	224	SIMON & GARFUNKEL SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY		3
10	7	8	266	THE LUMINEERS CLEOPATRA DUALTONE 1738*		1

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, LLC and MRC Data. All rights reserved.

billboard billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY MRC

<u> </u>	_	ייר	11140 301403	 <i>_</i>	<u> </u>	7	JOING JALLS
THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
0	1	29	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS	1	2	25	LIL BIT NELLY & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
9	2	13	THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT	2	1	29	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS
8	3	10	HELL OF A VIEW Eric Church	8	NE	w	MAMA'S BOY RYAN GRIFFIN
0	4	214	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON	4	4	29	THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT
6	7	4	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S SAM HUNT	5	3	11	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) ELLE KING & MIRANDA LAMBERT
6	5	37	STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON	6	17	89	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT
Ø	6	5	LIL BIT Nelly & Florida Georgia Line	7	6	44	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY LITTLE BIG TOWN
8	8	5	MADE FOR YOU JAKE OWEN	8	7	9	CHASING AFTER YOU RYAN HURD WITH MAREN MORRIS
9	14	10	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG THOMAS RHETT	9	10	19	HELL OF A VIEW Eric Church
0	12	4	SETTLING DOWN Miranda Lambert	10	8	10	FAMOUS FRIENDS CHRIS YOUNG + KANE BROWN
0	9	18	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN	11	11	9	MADE FOR YOU JAKE OWEN
Ø	10	33	BETTER TOGETHER LUKE COMBS	Ø	RE-EI	NTRY	MEANT TO BE Bebe rexha & Florida Georgia Line
®	15	44	ONE OF THEM GIRLS LEE BRICE	B	RE-EI	NTRY	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG THOMAS RHETT
@	11	152	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS	14	12	37	STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON
Œ	16	18	GOOD TIME NIKO MOON	®	RE-EI	NTRY	MY WISH RASCAL FLATTS
©	13	81	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT	16	13	268	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
Ø	19	3	CHASING AFTER YOU RYAN HURD WITH MAREN MORRIS	17	18	7	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S SAM HUNT
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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.

SALES DATA COMPILED BY MRC

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

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THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL				
1	1 1 22 STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS							
2	2 2 45 GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION STRETCH GRASS 4050					1		
3	NEW		NEW		1	LEFTOVER SALMON BRAND NEW GOOD OLD DAYS COMPASS 4775*		3
4	3 30 STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS (56285)					1		
6	NEW		1	JOE MULLINS & THE RADIO RAMBLERS SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE BLUE BILLY BLUE		5		
6	5 5		7	VARIOUS ARTISTS INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH BLUEGRASS: SOUTHWESTERN OHIO'S MUSICAL LEGACY SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS 40238		3		
Ø	9 8 3 THE KODY NORRIS SHOW ALL SUITED UP			7				
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9	4 6 47 YO-YO MAJSTUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS					1		
0	6	4	4	ANNIE MOSES BAND GAITHER 49473/CAPITOL CMG TALES FROM MY GRANDPA'S PULPIT		4		

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

Drew Parker's 'BP PBR' Song Is A-OK; BTW, Its Chart Future Is TBD

For the record, **Drew Parker**'s inaugural Warner Music Nashville (WMN) single is titled "While You're Gone."

But many people don't know it by its official name. Instead, thanks to a little acronym in the chorus, a big chunk of the audience calls it the "BP PBR song"—a twist of syllabic fate.

"We had to shorten it because we couldn't say 'British Petroleum Pabst Blue Ribbon,' " says Parker, pointing to a key line in the chorus.

It's a songwriter thing, a way to compress 10 wonky syllables into five more conversational ones. And it particularly works in a texting culture where shortcuts such as BTW, OMG, LOL and FOMO are increasingly standard IDs.

It also ends up drawing listeners in, especially those compelled to search online for clues to abbreviations outside their experience. Most country fans know the PBR acronym represents a beer, but some — particularly those west of the Mississippi River — may scratch their heads a bit before recognizing BP is a brand of gasoline.

"I grew up in Mississippi, and there are BPs everywhere, and then Drew's from Georgia, the same way," says co-writer Jameson Rodgers. "I don't know if it's a regional thing. I haven't really looked into it, but it just grabs people's attention. Even if they don't know what that means, they're going to hit up Drew and ask him."

Neither Parker nor Rodgers were signed as artists when they co-wrote "While You're Gone" in 2018, though the two are now friendly rivals: As Parker launches his first Country Airplay

chart attack, Rodgers is working a **Luke Combs** collaboration, "Cold Beer Calling My Name," as a follow-up to his No. 1 "Some Girls." They also had no plan about who might record "While You're Gone," though it didn't require a whole lot of discussion, either.

PARKER

"Usually when you write songs with other artists, it's pretty evident at the end of it which one it fits more," says Parker.

While the two traveled in the same circles, they didn't know each other well and had never written together prior to that appointment. Rodgers wanted to make sure they had something to work with, so the night before, he messed a bit with his guitar, searching for inspiration. He came up with a basic midtempo chord progression and mumbled a few phrases, and that "While You're Gone" title just popped out. It implied some sort of separation, and that was perfect for Rodgers' topical preferences.

"I like writing songs where the girl leaves the guy," he says. "I don't know why – I guess I have the experience."

When Parker and Rodgers met up at a small building in back of a Music Row publishing company, the early discussion referenced **Trace Adkins**' first single, "Every Light in the House," in which a man publicly displays his continued affection for a woman who's unlikely to return. The guy is sweet, or delusional, but the song works either way.

"In the '90s, they wrote songs that were sad, but they had a slight comical element to them, and I kind of missed that for a while," says Parker.

They positioned the guy in the "BP PBR" song on a tailgate by the lake, downing a beer while he contemplates a girlfriend who disappeared two or three weeks prior. He hints at uncertainty at the close of the first verse—"I can't tell if the joke's on you, girl/Or if the joke's on me"—then hits an optimistic chorus, pledging to wait for her return.

The second verse focuses more on her abstract situation: the dream she's

likely pursuing, her unknown locale and the prospect that her adventure might sour and bring her back home.

The bridge — usually a climactic moment in a song — essentially takes the wind out of the protagonist's sails. He vacillates in that section between an image of her racing back home and the idea that she really is gone. The bridge's conclusion is an audible shrug: "Baby, it's hard to tell."

"It's been massive from the end of the first chorus all the way up to that mo-

ment, and then it just kind of breathes again," says Rodgers. "I think he's realized that he might be delusional."

Along the way, they fashioned that "BP PBR" line, pretty much by mistake. The Pabst reference presented a way to say "beer" without saying "beer," and they found themselves needing to fill a couple of syllables leading into it. They each contributed one of the acronyms, though neither writer is certain who said what. Either way, the fact that "BP" confuses some listeners is a plus.

"I always loved listening to songs where I hear something and I go, 'Man, I need to go look up and see what they're talking about,' says Parker. "A BP, to me, is very common, and a PBR is very common, but as it goes by in a song—BP PBR—you're like, 'What kind of word is he spelling?' I love that part of it because it creates conversation for the song."

They recorded a guitar/vocal work tape at the end of the writing session but never bothered to demo it before Parker cut "While You're Gone" with producer **Phil O'Donnell (Craig**

Morgan, **Mo Pitney**) at Nashville's Sound Stage. Parker had already developed an idea for the intro that created a little haziness for the listener, hiding where the first beat of the measure falls.

"We were playing and recording to a click [track], so everybody knew where it was," recalls O'Donnell. "It ebbed and weaved in and out, and I think that was kind of the little tricky part about it. It was almost like they were throwing the ball around the room, but everybody knew when it was coming to their place."

Heightening the song's uncertainty, guitarist **Sol Philcox** added a startand-stop effect that tips its aural hat to mystery and intrigue.

"I remember Drew saying, 'I need that helicopter sound,' " explains O'Donnell. "We called it a Telecopter because he played a Telecaster with a tremolo on it. I feel like it's very much a lot of the hook."

In the end, the production repeatedly builds drama by delaying its most powerful musical elements. The full band doesn't kick in until drummer **Jerry Roe** slams his kit at the start of verse two. A guitar solo dwells mostly on long notes until a quick flourish just before Parker launches into the bridge, and there's one more surprise guitar flurry at the finale.

"Drew was very adamant about that thing not getting too big, too quick," says O'Donnell. "He held everybody back."

River House released "While You're Gone" independently, and SiriusXM tagged it a Highway Find in October 2020. WMN announced his signing on Feb. 3, then officially released the BP PBR song to terrestrial radio via PlayMPE on April 28, with a May 24 add date. It has tripped up listeners who have trouble IDing the "BP" part, but the actual letters are also an amusing stumbling block—BP PBR? PB BPR?—when listeners sing along. That hasn't been a problem for Parker, at least not yet.

"If I do sing this after having too many BP PBRs," he allows, "it's a very, sery great chance that that'll get confused."

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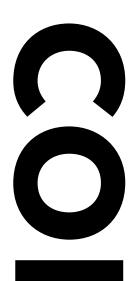
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40 Years Ago Rosanne Cash's 'Seven' Was No. 1

The crossover hit marked her first of 11 Hot Country Songs leaders

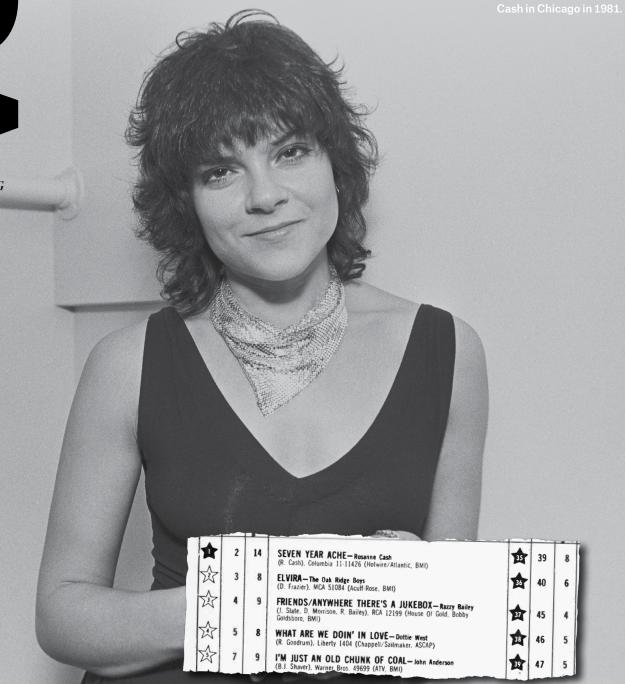
On May 23, 1981, Rosanne Cash's "Seven Year Ache" became her first No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs

Written by Cash and produced by her then-husband, Rodney Crowell, the song was released from her samenamed LP, which likewise became her first No. 1 on Top Country Albums. The song also crossed over to No. 6 on Adult

Contemporary and No. 22 on the allgenre Billboard Hot 100.

Cash, born on May 24, 1955, in Memphis, is the daughter of country legend Johnny Cash and Vivian Liberto, his first wife. She has logged 11 Hot Country Songs No. 1s, as well as two on Top Country Albums. The singer-songwriter was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2015. In 2018, her LP She Remembers Everything reached No. 5 on Americana/Folk Albums and No. 16 on Top Country Albums.

"Women my age still have a lot to say," she told Billboard in 2018. "That urgency and longing and righteous indignation and passion don't go away. They don't fade with time unless you let them." -JIM ASKER



REWINDING THE COUNTRY

CHARTS