billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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ACM Eyes New Nashville Hub — And An End To İts Emotional COVID-19 Initiative



As signs increasingly point to the abatement of the pandemic, the West Coast-based Academy of Country Music spent portions of May solidifying its connection to its future in Nashville.

The ACM announced the addition of three new Music Citybased staff members - vp digital strategy and engagement

Rory Levine, manager of awards and membership Haley Montgomery and executive assistant to the CEO David Sassano-on May 13, strengthening its workforce in Nashville as **CEO Damon Whiteside** prepares to open a Tennessee office on a tobe-determined date. And the Academy's charitable foundation, ACM Lifting Lives, spent the week of May 17 parceling out \$311,000 from its COVID-19 Response Fund to unemployed professionals in the country music business. The majority of

those recipients are waiting for the touring sector to fully get back into gear so they can once again collect paychecks, many of which are funneled through corporate hubs in Music City.

WHITESID

"Some of these tours don't start until August or September, so I think they're probably starting to notify people that they're going to bring them back," says Lifting Lives executive director Lyndsay Cruz. "But I doubt anyone's going on any sort of payroll yet."

The COVID-19 benefits are an extension of an initiative that started last April. The relief fund has thus far paid out

> nearly \$4 million to about 2,200 individuals who needed assistance due to coronavirus-induced economic hardship. Through the end of 2020, nearly two-thirds of the recipients (see pie chart, page 2) were crew members, musicians and concert executives who make their living directly from live shows, most of which were scuttled to avoid spreading a contagious disease that has thus far killed over 585,000 Americans, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



depleting the fund at that time. Through corporate assistance and a first-ever fundraising effort during the CBS telecast of the ACM Awards on April 18, which raised \$40,000, the Academy ₹

The ACM handed out \$3.5 million in two waves during 2020, accumulated \$311,000 for its recent redistribution.



COVID-19 Response Fund Recipients Songwriter Artists Tour support Musicians (Touring and session) 29% ers <1-2% Each **AGE OF RECIPIENTS** Under 25: 4%

25-34: 39%

35-44: 26%

45-54: 17% 55-64: 10%

TOUR SUPPORT

- Band leaders and music directors
- Catering
- Crew and tech, including carpenters. riggers and stagehands
- Drivers
- Festival operations and support
- Merchandise
- Photographers and video teams
- Production and event management
- Security
- Stage managers Tour managers
- Travel agents

3% Each

- Booking and venue support
- Producers

<1-2% Each

- Makeup and stylists
- Management
- Marketing and PR
- Publishing
- Radio

Source: ACM Lifting Lives

Cruz and Nashville-based Lifting Lives manager Taylor Wolf could have felt like Santa Claus over the last year, delivering checks ranging from \$1,000-\$2,000. Instead, regularly examining the industry's collective need devastated them, particularly in those instances when people who have given 40-50 years of their life to the profession suddenly found themselves unable to pay basic bills.

"It was those applications that were making me cry at my desk," recalls Cruz. "We were reviewing applications on Dec. 12, Dec. 13. I mean, we had an online Christmas party, and I was like, 'I can't even get in the spirit.'"

Cruz hopes to raise additional capital (donations can be made here) to yield payouts for more people who are still on a waiting list and to help with postpandemic trauma. For many touring professionals, the road crew is essentially their family. And Cruz noted that some bus drivers hop from tour to tour so frequently that they don't even keep an official residence, sleeping instead at the homes of friends and relatives. For them, the shutdown was even more difficult.

The top three issues unemployed tour workers faced were the lack of income, reduced access to healthcare and profound isolation. Even after they get back to work, COVID-19 has pulled back the curtain on the fragility of their lives, and Cruz expects that many will need mental health assistance to overcome some form of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I think this is going to be an ongoing effort for a while," she says. "Hopefully, our fund will become obsolete, but I still think there is going to be need from the whole year of not working or very little employment. We're still going to be willing to help people.'

The ACM was established in the 1960s to support West Coast artists who felt underserved by the Nashville-based Country Music Association. The ACM Awards became the Academy's primary purpose, though it has increased its charitable efforts and its outreach to Nashville over the last two decades. That outreach has played out primarily through the annual ACM Honors at the Ryman Auditorium and through the ACM's partnership with Nashville-based Vanderbilt University Medical Center to further the study of Williams Syndrome. The ACM heightened the connection with Music City by presenting two awards shows from multiple Nashville venues during the pandemic and in conjunction with the COVID-19 fund.

Whiteside expects that as the Nashville staff grows, the ACM will have more Tennessee employees than California-based personnel, officially shifting its base to Middle Tennessee. The ACM will still act as a bridge between the entertainment sectors in Music City and Los Angeles, but will also face a greater challenge in providing separation from the CMA, where Whiteside previously served as chief marketing officer.

"I never want to give the perception that we're encroaching in any way," he says. "Obviously, we did two years of our show in Nashville and we had never been in Nashville before, and I can see how, on the surface, it can look like we're trying to make a play for Nashville, but that's really not the case. It's really a strategic decision."

An announcement could come as early as this summer. Perhaps the ACM will learn around the same time just how long the COVID-19 fund will be needed. •



American Idol judge Luke Bryan (right) wrapped the 2021 season on May 23 as Chayce Beckham (center) took the title. They're joined by host Ryan Seacrest (left) and judges Katy Perry and Lionel Richie.



Drew Parker visited with WTGE Baton Rouge, La., staff when he opened for Cody Johnson on May 15 at Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales. Parker is flanked by WTGE personality Brittany Rose (left) and music director Abby Leigh.



Niko Moon (center) dropped by WSIX Nashville on May 17 for an inperson visit with personalities Wayne Danielson and Tay Hamilton.



Caitlyn Smith played a May 14 showcase for Southern California programmers at The Holding Company in San Diego. From left: Monument regional promotion director Steve Pleshe, Audacy West Coast regional brand manager Scott Roddy, KFRG Riverside-San Bernardino assistant PD Heather Froglear, Smith and Audacy vp country programming Kevin Callahan.



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

Church Has A 'Hell Of A View' From The Country Airplay Peak; Jackson Adds Another Decade In Top Country Albums Top 10



Eric Church scores his 10th leader on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "Hell of a View" (EMI Nashville) ascends 4-1 on the list dated May 29.

The single, which he wrote with **Jeffrey Steele** and **Davis Naish**, increased by 19% to 31 million audience impressions in the week ending May 23, according to MRC Data.

The song is the second single from Church's triple album, collectively

dubbed *Heart & Soul*. "This is my favorite project of my career," he tells *Billboard*. "I really appreciate radio's support to bring attention to it. I can't wait to see where we go next."

The 24-song *Heart & Soul* was released in three parts. *Heart* arrived at No. 3 on the Top Country Albums chart dated May 1 with 49,000 units, *Soul* started at No. 2 on the May 8 list (53,000), and & released exclusively to the Church Choir fan club, also debuted on the May 8 tally, at No. 12 (11,000).

The project's lead single, "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.

"View" bumps 3-2 on Hot Country Songs, returning to its high point that it first reached on May 8. It collected 8.6 million U.S. streams and sold 12,000 downloads in the week ending May 20.

Church last led Country Airplay as featured on Luke Combs' "Does to Me," for two weeks starting

May 30, 2020. He last reigned as a lead act with "Some of It" on July 27, 2019.

The North Carolina native first ruled Country Airplay with his 10th of 30 career entries, "Drink in My Hand," on the list dated Jan. 28, 2012. He subsequently reigned with "Springsteen," his only multiweek chart-topper as a lead act (two weeks, June 2012); "The Only Way I Know," with Jason Aldean and Luke Bryan (February 2013); "Give Me Back My Hometown" (May 2014); "Talladega" (February 2015); as featured on Keith Urban's "Raise 'Em Up" (May 2015); and with "Record Year" (August 2016), ahead of his three most recent No. 1s.

'GONE' COUNTRY Alan Jackson's first set of new music since 2015, Where Have You Gone (ACR/EMI Nashville/Universal Music Group Nashville), enters Top Country Albums at No. 2, marking his 28th top 10. The LP, released May 14, starts with 32,000 equivalent album units, with 27,000 in album sales. On the all-genre Billboard 200, it bows at No. 9, awarding him his 15th top 10. All of them have entered in that tier.

Jackson solo-wrote 15 of the 21 tracks on the set (which **Keith Stegall** produced). He last released an album of all-new music in 2015, *Angels and Alcohol*, which opened as his 14th and most recent No. 1 on Top Country Albums that August. He made his first of 32 appearances on the chart in March 1990 with *Here in the Real World*; it peaked at No. 4 in April 1991. He has now scored at least one new top 10 in the 1990s, 2000s, 2010s and 2020s.

The Georgia native — who was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2017 — has also notched 26 Hot Country Songs No. 1s.

NEW TOP 10s Chris Young and Kane Brown's

"Famous Friends" (RCA Nashville) surges 11-5 on Hot Country Songs, marking Young's 15th top 10 and Brown's eighth. On Country Airplay, the duet bumps 8-7 (21.9 million, up 7%). It also drew 6.7 million (up 45%) streams and sold 3,000 in the tracking week.

Young logs his first top 10 since "Raised On Country," which peaked at Mo. 10 in August 2019. Brown adds his first since "Cool Again," which hit So. 5 last September.

Plus, **Jordan Davis** "Almost Maybes" (MCA Nashville) pushes 12-9 on Hot Country Songs, becoming his fourth top 10, with 7 million streams (up 31%) and 1,000 sold. On Country Airplay, it holds at its No. 11 high (18.8 million, up 5%). Davis last reached the former chart's top 10 when "Slow Dance in a Parking Lot" waltzed to No. 6. The song became his second No. 1 on the latter list in April 2020. •



billboard EDEE 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.

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ON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

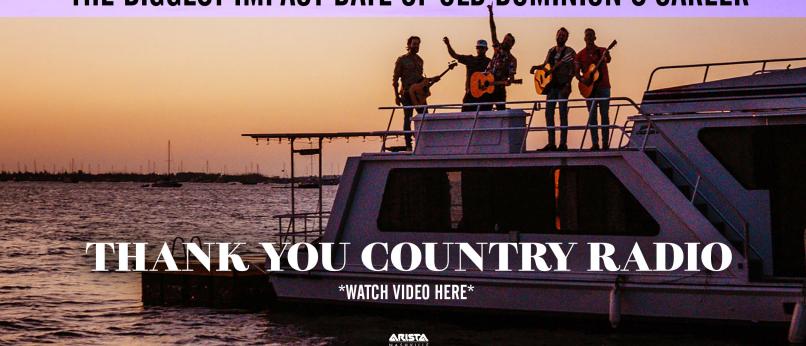
OLD DOMINION I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY

#1 MOST ADDED 133 ADDS

SXM THE HIGHWAY

WQMX	WCKN	KWBL	WRBT	KCYE	WKMK	KMLE	KFRG	KSD
WGNA	WKKT	KYGO	WWYZ	KWNR	KTOM	KNIX	WSLC	WQYK
KBQI	WSOC	WYCD	KKBQ	WBUL	MCCN	WDSY	WBEE	KTGX
WCTO	WUSY	WDRQ	KILT	KSSN	WKDF	WPGB	KSOP	KVOO
WNCY	WUSN	KHEY	WLHK	KKGO	WSIX	WOGI	KUBL	KJUG
WUBL	WGAR	KKIX	WUSJ	WQNU	WJVC	KUPL	KCYY	WMZQ
WKXC	KATC	WKML	WQIK	WAMZ	WNSH	KWJJ	KSON	WIRK
KUZZ	KCCY	KHGE	WBBS	WWQM	WGH	WPOR	KRTY	KFDI
WPOC	WCOS	KUAD	WDAF	WMAD	KTST	WTHT	WCTQ	KZSN
WTGE	WCOL	WCKT	KFKF	WLFP	KXKT	WOKQ	KNUC	WGGY
WZZK	KRYS	WAVW	KBEQ	WKIS	WWKA	WNCB	KKWF	WXCY
KAWO	KSCS	WQHK	WCYQ	WMIL	KHAY	WQDR	KDRK	WGTY
WKLB	KPLX	WBCT	KMDL	KMNB	KPLM	KBUL	KXLY	
WBWL	WHKO	WTQR	WIOV	KEEY	WYCT	KOLC	KTTS	
WYRK	WKRO	WPAW	WITL	WKSJ	WXTU	WKHK	KATM	

THE BIGGEST IMPACT DATE OF OLD DOMINION'S CAREER



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



		WKS		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	4	29	HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville ★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★ Eric Church	31.028	+4.865	7736	667	1
0	3	19	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	30.163	+2.927	7452	833	2
3	1	33	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	26.888	-4.076	6382	-1407	4
4	5	57	NOBODY Curb Dylan Scott	25.537	+2.838	6603	613	3
5	2	53	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud Jake Owen	25.215	-2.401	6196	-794	5
6	7	31	GONE Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	24.789	+2.704	6122	614	6
0	8	25	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	21.949	+1.468	5747	369	7
8	10	28	BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	19.493	+0.817	4710	126	11
9	6	50	THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barrett	19.455	-2.888	4770	-752	10
9	9	35	SETTLING DOWN Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	19.130	+0.115	4872	62	9
0	11	51	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	18.755	+0.964	5168	99	8
1	12	47	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	16.967	+1.469	4678	233	12
B	13	19	MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton	15.008	+0.271	4072	32	13
12	14	35	ONETOO MANY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban Duet With P!nk	14.361	+0.668	4044	153	14
Œ	15	16	GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	13.738	+0.141	3869	94	15
10	16	19	UNDIVIDED McGraw/BMLG/Big Machine Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard	12.509	-0.139	3684	95	16
Ð	17	31	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory Justin Moore	11.972	+1.058	3598	112	17
B	18	6	COUNTRY AGAIN Valory Thomas Rhett	11.562	+0.705	3243	155	19
19	19	22	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	10.901	+0.352	3335	83	18
20	20	25	DRINKIN' BEER.TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	10.409	+1.449	2982	295	21
3	21	7	WAVES Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	9.663	+0.745	2896	74	22
22	NE	w	IWAS ON A BOATTHAT DAY Arista Nashville ** Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience/Most Added ** Old Dominion	8.620	+8.620	1652	1652	29
23	22	35	NEXT GIRL Big Machine Carly Pearce	8.254	+0.330	3174	52	20
2	23	33	MY BOY Wheelhouse Elvie Shane	6.978	+0.380	2554	90	23
25	24	24	SHALLOW Pearl Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood	6.293	+0.660	1837	25	26
20	26	29	YOUTIME Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	6.233	+1.005	2210	147	24
2	25	30	WORSHIP YOU RCA Nashville Kane Brown	6.172	+0.876	2021	218	25
23	27	24	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	5.249	+0.234	1680	137	28
29	28	11	LIKE A LADY BMLG Lady A	4.268	-0.319	1611	60	30
30	29	29	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	4.214	+0.303	1817	102	27

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by 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



THIS	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
<u> </u>	30	35	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU inDent/Mercury Nashville Priscilla Block	4.197	+0.313	1396	53	35
€	31	12	CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris	3.769	+0.285	1521	160	33
€	32	11	KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	3.760	+0.388	1541	116	32
34	34	17	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley	3.268	+0.336	1449	88	34
35	33	26	LADY LIKE Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress	3.090	+0.098	1035	60	39
<u>36</u>	37	31	WHISKEY AND RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	2.923	+0.348	1136	125	37
37	35	44	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY Capitol Nashville Little Big Town	2.919	+0.120	1549	32	31
33	38	18	HOME SWEET Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	2.712	+0.165	1175	113	36
39	36	14	TO BE LOVED BY YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	2.552	-0.213	740	-10	42
40	39	18	TEQUILA LITTLETIME Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	2.286	+0.114	1037	-18	38
49	41	9	IT'S 'CAUSE I AM Big Machine Callista Clark	1.584	+0.073	750	87	41
42	40	5	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River ★★ Breaker ★★ Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney	1.520	-0.008	729	19	43
43	44	31	WAITIN' ON 5 Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chris Janson	1.437	+0.028	720	-86	45
44	42	12	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Big Loud HARDY	1.411	-0.013	806	-21	40
4 5	43	12	THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Matt Stell	1.407	-0.012	721	21	44
4 6	47	3	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring MacKenzie Porter	1.390	+0.158	641	98	47
④	NE	w	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	1.277	+0.863	415	300	53
48	46	5	NOTYET BMLG Brett Young	1.063	-0.243	555	-24	50
49	50	27	IF IT WASN'T FORTRUCKS BMLG Riley Green	1.028	+0.118	578	7	48
50	48	12	GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi	1.026	-0.147	697	53	46
51	49	14	I CAN'T Monument Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion	1.010	-0.034	508	36	51
 ②	52	6	LONG HAUL Warner Music Nashville/WEA lan Munsick	0.874	+0.023	263	2	-
6 €	51	17	NEED A BAR SOMETIMES Show Dog Nashville Clay Walker	0.873	-0.015	572	4	49
54	54	3	I'M NOT FOR EVERYONE EMI Nashville Brothers Osborne	0.772	+0.025	291	6	-
₫	55	8	GOOD DAY (2021) Warner Music Nashville/WMN Brett Eldredge	0.741	+0.024	295	-31	-
50	56	25	WHERE I FIND GOD Big Loud Larry Fleet	0.740	+0.053	355	23	56
5	57	2	HOT BEER Riser House Dillon Carmichael	0.722	+0.079	412	11	54
58	53	5	FILLTHEM BOOTS Big Loud Chris Lane	0.707	-0.086	341	-6	59
69	58	5	OLD SCHOOL'S IN Valory Heath Sanders	0.689	+0.053	344	8	58
60	NE	w	COME IN (BUT DON'T MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE) True To The Song/Mailboat/New Revolution Caroline Jones	0.679	+0.132	185	86	-



OLD DOMINION I Was on a Boat That Day The group sails to its highest Country Airplay debut, with 8.6 million audience impressions in the song's first three days. Released May 21, it received hourly plays on participating iHeartMedia stations that day. It surpasses "No Such Thing As a Broken Heart," which began at No. 31 in March 2017 before topping the chart that September.

GOING FOR ADDS

6/7

CHASE LIKENS Rub A Little Dirt On It On The Green

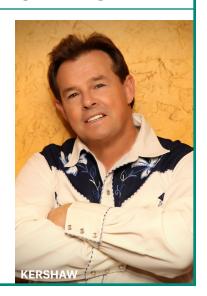
SAMMY KERSHAW Evangeline

White Mustang

6/14

CRAIG CAMPBELL Never Mine

Grindstone Records





GOING FOR ADDS JUNE 7

#1 in Country Sales!

#1 on Shazam Country Chart!

Country Song on Pandora's Top Spins Chart!

#2 on Country Songs Core Genre!

#5 in Country Streams!

Already approaching **PLATINUM** with over **854K** in Consumption!

Over 98 MILLION On-Demand Streams ATD!

6.5 MILLION On-Demand Streams just this week!

10 Stations already on: IHC iHeart Custom, KBEQ, KBQI, KHGE, KWNR, WCKN, WMAD, WNSH, WPAW, WWKA



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



MOST ADDE	D [®]		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS	
I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	98	
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton			
WOULD HAVE LOVED HER RECORDS	Chris Bandi	19	
GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville Lauren Alaina	Duet With Jon Pardi	15	
IT'S 'CAUSE I AM Big Machine	Callista Clark	11	
KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	9	
LIL BIT RECORDS/Columbia Nelly &	Florida Georgia Line	8	
CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Huro	d With Maren Morris	7	
THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Fea	at. MacKenzie Porter	7	
HOME RUN Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	7	

MOST INCREAS	ED AUDIENC	E
111001 1110112/10		
		GAIN
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	(IN MILLIONS)
I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	+8.620
HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville	Eric Church	+4.865
FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Na:	shville Luke Combs	+2.926
NOBODY Curb	Dylan Scott	+2.838
GONE Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	+2.704
SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nas	hville/WMN Cole Swindell	+1.469
FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young + Kane Brown	+1.468
DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow	Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	+1.449
WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory	Justin Moore	+1.058
YOU TIME Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+1.005

MOST INCREASED PLAYS	
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN
I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY Arista Nashville Old Dominion	+1652
FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	+833
HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville Eric Church	+667
GONE Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	+614
NOBODY Curb Dylan Scott	+613
FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	+369
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	+300
DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	+295
SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	+233
WORSHIP YOU RCA Nashville Kane Brown	+218

NEW AND ACTIVE							
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL Audience	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS			
YOU AIN'T PRETTY Quartz Hill	Nate Barnes	0.628	37	2			
MY MASTERPIECE Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	0.625	39	4			
GONE TOO SOON RCA Nashville	Andrew Jannakos	0.610	31	1			
WOULD HAVE LOVED HER RECORDS	Chris Bandi	0.609	54	19			
NO SAD SONGS RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	0.590	26	2			
ABBY Mercury Nashville	Travis Denning	0.498	32	0			

	RECURRENTS	
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory Thomas Rhett	19.689
2	JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek Parmalee x Blanco Brown	19.609
3	LADY BMLG Brett Young	17.187
4	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb Lee Brice	15.459
5	BETTER TOGETHER River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	14.845
6	DOWN TO ONE Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	14.027
7	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	12.387
8	LONG LIVE BMLG Florida Georgia Line	11.054
9	GOOD TIME RCA Nashville Niko Moon	8.699
10	I HOPE Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barrett	8.208





TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 2021

											_
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	18	I HOPE I'M HOLDING YOU (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★ Mark Powell	1837	125	0	14	16	ANYBODY LOVIN' YOU LATELY (Independent) Clay Hollis	1314	24
0	5	19	BETTER BY THE BEER (Independent) Jake Bush	1809	183	12	11	25	I BLEED (Dean Dillon's Wildcatter) Sundance Head	1296	-21
3	3	8	HOLD MY BEER (Lil Buddy Toons) Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1749	38	B	17	13	IF YOU CAN DANCE (Independent) Jon Stork	1150	141
4	4	10	QUEEN FOR A NIGHT (Almost Country) Casey Donahew	1747	61	14	10	29	LET ME BREATHE (Independent) Melissa Brooke	1087	-236
6	8	7	HORSES IN HEAVEN (Deep Frey'd Music) Kylie Frey	1615	262	Œ	20	13	BREAK ANOTHER HEART (Independent) Kaitlyn Kohler	1045	101
6	7	12	FRIENDS (Independent) Curtis Grimes	1612	117	1	19	25	CHAPTER 2 (Independent) Gary Kyle	1009	63
Ð	6	19	MY HOME IS (Independent) Saints Eleven	1548	38	O	18	12	BOURBON WHISKEY (Independent) William Beckmann	1009	18
8	9	11	CAN DOWN (Independent) Mike Ryan	1454	115	18	16	20	COME HOME TO YOU (Independent) Robert Ray	948	-154
9	13	17	ROCK AND ROLL MAN (Independent) Creed Fisher	1444	141	19	22	8	SIGNS (Independent) David Adam Byrnes	932	104
0	12	13	STUCK WITH YOU (10X Music Group) Brodie Lane	1401	90	20	15	17	POCKET FULL OF KISSES (Independent) Bart Crow Band	908	-356

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





Barrett (left) won three honors during *The Billboard Music Awards* that were broadcast on NBC. P!nk — who is currently at No. 14 on the Country Airplay chart with the Urban duet "One Too Many" — was presented the Billboard Icon Award by Jon Bon Jovi.

BARRETT A BMA WINNER

Gabby Barrett took home three trophies from *The Billboard Music Awards* on May 23, representing country music on-camera during the outdoor ceremony at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

She received top country female artist during the NBC telecast and was also rewarded two more honors for her single "I Hope": top country song and the fan-voted top collaboration, recognizing her duet remix with pop artist **Charlie Puth**.

"This is a really big deal," said Barrett in an emotional acceptance speech that found her pushing back tears and, it appeared, almost hyperventilating. "This means so much to me."

Barrett's triple play was equaled by fellow genre artist Morgan Wallen, who received top country album, top country artist and top country male artist. His victories were in categories that, like most of the awards, were based strictly on chart performance.

Wallen, however, was not invited to attend, a consequence of his recent use of a racial slur that triggered frustration and embarrassment across the country music community. Most of the industry is consciously encouraging participation from minority groups, including Black Americans and Hispanics.

The awards arrive as Wallen seems to be publicly reemerging. He gave an impromptuperformance on May 19 at **Kid Rock**'s Nashville bar. The Billboard Music Awards coincided with the one-year anniversary of Wallen's arrest at that same venue for public intoxication and disorderly conduct. The Country Music Association also revealed on May 21 that he would not be eligible for the entertainer or male vocalist honors in the 55th annual CMA Awards, though he can be nominated in other categories — a decision that avoids penalizing his collaborators on eligible song, album and video titles.

In other awards significant to country, **Florida Georgia Line** earned top country duo/group, **Carrie Underwood**'s *My Gift* was named top Christian album, and **Taylor Swift** claimed a pair of overall awards: top female artist and top Billboard 200 artist.

P!nk also performed a medley of her hits as she was recognized as a Billboard Icon. That honor comes as her collaboration with **Keith Urban**, "One Too Many," is No. 14 on Country Airplay.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Universal Music Group Nashville director of media marketing Ailie Birchfield resigned to join New York-based Havas Formula as a director. Her clients will include Dr Pepper, Snapple and Keurig ... Sony Music Nashville partnered with the RCA pop division to work Elle King in country. She is paired with Miranda Lambert on "Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)," which the two debuted at the Academy of Country Music Awards ... Turnberry signed bluegrass/Americana artist Rebekah Speer to a recording contract ... Radio services company Quu hired customer success manager Jackie Bart and technical success manager Joe Marshall. Quu provides visuals and printed messages on screens accompanying broadcasts, particularly on in-car dashboards. It marks a return to radio for Bart, who worked at Arbitron prior to her most recent job, as Informa Markets senior account executive. Marshall is an audio pro who served most recently

in information technology support at Kentucky-based electronics firm Jabil CVG ... Anthony Donatellijoined Heather Froglear as afternoon co-host on four Audacy West Coast stations, RadioInsight.com reported. The duo is heard on KFRG Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif.; KMLE Phoenix; KWJJ Portland, Ore.; and KKWF Seattle. Donatelli was on-air with Froglear previously, but spent the last eight months as KFRG overnight personality and Audacy West Coast region digital coordinator ... LKCM Media combined the morning shows at Texas stations KFWR Jacksboro-Fort Worth and KRVF Corsicana, according to RadioInsight.com, with KFWR host **Heather Anderson** joining KRVF team Keith James and Carey Dean. The move follows the dismissal of Anderson's co-host in March ... **Brothers Osborne** will participate in iHeartMedia's *Can't* Cancel Pride virtual benefit for the LGBTQ+ community on June 4. Elvis Duran and Bebe Rexha co-host the multigenre event, which will include Demi Lovato, Lil Nas X, P!nk and Ricky Martin ... Sharla McCoy Productions presents its annual Fisher House Foundation Memorial Day special, The Gift, during the holiday weekend. Fisher House provides housing for the families of military hospital patients. Stations interested in the two-hour package can reach McCoy here ... Jordan Davis is part of a six-person panel during Country Radio Broadcasters' monthly CRS360 webinar Reunited: The Road & The Radio at 1 p.m. CT on May 26. Go here to register.

'ROUND THE ROW

Nashville-based Jonas Group Entertainment tapped Phil Guerini as CEO. He spent 28 years with Disney, where he was most recently Radio Disney vp music strategy/GM. Reach Guerini here ... Music City entrepreneur Doak Turner joined The Business Side of Music podcast as partnership specialist. Turner is the former co-owner of MusicStartsHere.org. Reach him here ... Warner Chappell Nashville signed a pair of co-publishing deals with separate label-affiliated firms. It teamed with Black River Publishing for a contract with songwriter Josh Kerr ("Love Me Like You Mean It," "My Girl"), and it partnered with Big Loud to sign songwriter Jacob Durrett ("Big, Big Plans," "All on Me") ... Big Machine Music added Sara Davis to its songwriting roster ... Universal Music Publishing Nashville signed Logan Turner of the duo Bexar to a songwriting deal ... Combustion Music added Georgia native Faren Rachels to its publishing stable ... Voting for the 55th annual Country Music Association Awards begins in July. Nominations ballots will be mailed July 6, with voting closing on July 15. Second-round ballots are open Aug. 2-12. The final ballot is open Oct. 1-27 ... Nominees for the Americana Honors & Awards will be unveiled virtually on Facebook Live at 1:30 p.m. CT on May 26 with participation from Keb' Mo', Valerie June, Allison Russell and Old Crow Medicine Show's Ketch Secor ... Drummer Roger Hawkins of the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section died May 20, The New York Times reported. In addition to pop and R&B hits by The Staple Singers, Rod Stewart and Wilson Pickett, Hawkins worked on Willie Nelson's 1974 country hit "Bloody Mary Morning" ... Songwriter Patsy Bruce died May 16, according to The Tennessean. Her credits included Waylon Jennings & Willie Nelson's "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys," Tanya Tucker's "Texas (When I Die)" and several hits by her former husband, Ed Bruce. A memorial is set for 11 a.m. CT on May 25 at Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home in Nashville.



Cameron Jaymes signed a publishing/producer development deal with Sheltered Music and producer Dann Huff, announced May 17. From left: Huff, Jaymes and Sheltered senior vp Darrell Franklin and creative director Jenny Hall.

billboard



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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.

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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	1	30	FOREVER AFTER ALL ** No. 1 (4 Weeks)/Streaming Gainer ** CHIP MAITHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,D.PARKER,R.WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	2	1
9	3	4	30	HELL OF A VIEW J.JOYCE (E.CHURCH,C.BEATHARD,M.CRISWELL) ★★ Airplay Gainer ★★	Eric Church Emi nashville	1	2
3	2	2	48	THE GOOD ONES R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,E.LANDIS,J.MCCORMICK,Z.KALE)	Gabby Barrett Warner Music Nashville/War	9	1
4	4	5	31	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	3	4
5	11	13	15	FAMOUS FRIENDS C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER (C.YOUNG,C.R.BARLOWE,C.CROWDER)	Chris Young + Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	7	5
6	5	3	20	MADE FOR YOU J.MOI (B.DAVIS,J.HYDE,N.A.MEDLEY)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	5	3
0	7	7	32	SETTLING DOWN J.JOYCE (M.LAMBERT,L.DICK,N.HEMBY)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	10	7
8	8	12	26	NOBODY M.ALDERMAN,C.GIBBS,J.E.NORMAN (D.SCOTT,M.ALDERMAN,D.WILSON)	Dylan Scott CURB	4	8
9	12	15	53	ALMOST MAYBES P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS, J.FRASURE, H.LINDSEY)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	11	9
0	9	11	31	GONE D.GARCIA (N.GALYON,B.JOHNSON,N.MOON)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	6	9
0	10	9	26	LIL BIT J.M.SCHMIDT (T.HUBBARD, J.M.SCHMIDT, B.REDFERRIN, C.HAYNES, J.R.)	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line RECORDS/COLUMBIA	-	9
Œ	14	14	36	ONE TOO MANY KURBAN,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
ß	13	17	15	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
•	15	18	16	BLAME IT ON YOU M.KNOX (K.M.ALLISON, J.EDWARDS, T.KENNEDY, M. TYLER, B. WHITE)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	8	14
Œ	16	19	29	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT M.R.CARTER (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,M.L.HOLMAN)	Cole Swindell Warner Music Nashville/WMN	12	15
16	17	22	14	CHASING AFTER YOU AESHUIS,T.REIMER (B.ADDINGTON, J.FLOWERS)	Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris ARISTA NASHVILLE	32	16
Ð	20	20	12	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK (ELLE KING,M.JOHNSON)	Elle King & Miranda Lambert RCA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	16
Œ	22	24	10	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW J.JOYCE (L.WILSON, J.D. SINGLETON, J.NIX)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	19	18
1	19	23	16	MINIMUM WAGE S.HENDRICKS (C.CROWDER,N.GALYON,J.FRASURE)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	13	19
20	21	21	19	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI.J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
3	18	16	5	COUNTRY AGAIN D.HUFF_J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT_Z.CROWELL_A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	18	16
2	24	29	12	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	22
23	28	31	6	WAVES J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (Z.CROWELL,R.J.HURD,R.C.MCGILL) ★★ Digital Gainer ★★	Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville	21	23
24	23	25	18	UNDIVIDED C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,T.MCGRAW,B.GALLIMORE (T.HUBBARD,C.LOOCKE)	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard McGRAW/BMLG/BIG MACHINE	16	23
25	NE	w	1	23 ** Hot Shot Debut **	Chayce Beckham	_	25

COUNTRY SONGWRITERSTM

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



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	# 1 7 WKS	JAY JOYCE
2	JO	EY MOI
3	RO	SS COPPERMAN
4	ZA	CH CROWELL
5	PA	UL DIGIOVANNI
6	DA	VID GARCIA
7	JO	RDAN SCHMIDT
8	CO	REY CROWDER
9	DA	N SMYERS
10	MIC	CHAEL KNOX

billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE	Artist	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK Position
26	27	27	8	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER) WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH JS.STOVER, SORCHETTA (PDIGIOVANNI,R MONTANA,J.S.STOVER)	IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL Justin Moore VALORY	17	25
2	30	28	21	NEXT GIRL S.MCANALLY, JOSBORNE (C.PEARCE, S.MCANALLY, J. OSBORNE)	Carly Pearce	23	27
23	29	35	28	SHALLOW G.BROOKS (S.G.GERMANOTTA,M.D.RONSON,A.ROSSOMANDO,ANDREW WYATT)	Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood	25	28
29	26	26	41	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY LITTLE BIG TOWN (T.BROWN K.FAIRCHILD,S.MCCONNELL,K.SCHLAPMAN,P.SWEET,J.WESTBROOK)	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	37	23
30	32	30	19	SAND IN MY BOOTS JJMOI (A CORLEY M W. HARDY. J OSBORNE)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	5
3	33	34	24	WORSHIP YOU D.HUFF (K.BROWN, A.I.ZQUIERDO, M.J. MCGINN, CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	27	24
32	31	32	11	MY BOY 0.CHARLES (E.SHANE, R.SUTTON, N.COLUMBIA, L.STARR)	Elvie Shane WHEFI HOUSE	24	31
33	36	38	5	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	28	33
34	25	37	6	KNOWING YOU B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (BRETT JAMES,A.JAMES,K.HIGGINS)	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	33	25
35	38	40	8	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,A.GORLEY,C.DUBOIS)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	47	24
36	39	43	5	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	42	36
37	35	36	16	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,LBRICE (LBRICE,B.MONTANA,B.DAVIS)	Lee Brice CURB	30	35
38	34	33	7	MR. PERFECTLY FINE (TAYLOR'S VERSION) (FROM THE VAULT) J.M.ANTONOFF,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	2
39	37	39	14	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU JJOHNSON (P.BLOCK,S.JONES,E.K.KROLL)	Priscilla Block INDENT/MERCURY NASHVILLE	31	37
40	42	47	5	VILLAIN M.L.MORRISEY (LR.WILLIAMSON,M.E.CARPENTER,K.S.CLARK)	Lily Rose BACK BLOCK/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	36
•	40	44	5	LADY LIKE S.ELLIS,I.ANDRESS (I.ANDRESS,S.ELLIS,D.SOUTHERLAND)	Ingrid Andress ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	35	40
42	41	45	4	WHISKEY AND RAIN R.COPPERMAN (J.FRASURE,J.THOMPSON)	Michael Ray Warner music nashville/wea	36	41
43	45	-	3	YOU TIME F.ROGERS,D.WELLS,A.ESHUIS (S.MCCREERY,F.ROGERS,A.ESHUIS)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	26	43
44	44	42	18	865 J.MOI (J.BYRON,B.PENDERGRASS)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	13
45	46	46	17	WARNING J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (E.K.SMITH,A.GORLEY,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	10
46	47	50	10	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDY,A.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)	HARDY BIG LOUD	44	29
47	43	41	14	LOVE STORY (TAYLOR'S VERSION) C.ROWE,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	1
48	48	48	17	DANGEROUS JMOI (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	17
49	NE	W	1	THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE A BOWERS,M.STELL (S.AHNQUIST,N.DONLEY,M.W.HARDY,J.MITCHELL,H.PHELPS)	Matt Stell RECORDS/ARISTA NASHVILLE	45	49
50	RE-EN	NTRY	18	LIVIN' THE DREAM J.MOI (M.WALLEN,B.BURGESS,J.DURRETT,M.W.HARDY)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	19

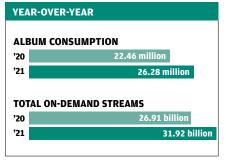
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by MRC Data, sales data as compiled by MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by MRC Data. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT								
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND					
This Week	1,415,000	1,590,908,000	138,605,000					
Last Week	1,391,000	1,562,784,000	140,109,000					
Change	1.7%	1.8%	-1.1%					
This Week Last Year	1,233,000	1,353,363,000	135,623,000					
Change	14.8%	17.6%	2.2%					

YEAR-TO-DATE										
	2020	2021	CHANGE							
Album Consumption	22,461,000	26,276,000	17.0%							
Album Sales	3,302,000	3,420,000	3.6%							
Audio On-Demand	24,041,751,000	29,110,099,000	21.1%							
Video On-Demand	2,869,712,000	2,807,592,000	-2.2%							



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending May 20, 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.



SALES, DATA COMPILED BY MRC

billboard top country ALBUMS

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
0	1	1	19	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		1
9	NE	w	1	ALAN JACKSON WHERE HAVE YOU GONE ACR/EMI NASHVILLE 033473/UMGN		2
3	2	3	80	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
4	4	5	207	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	3	1
5	3	4	6	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578		1
6	6	7	155	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*		1
7	8	8	27	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
8	9	10	316	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
9	14	14	59	SAM HUNT SOUTHSIDE MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN		1
10	12	11	48	GABBY BARRETT GOLDMINE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	•	4
0	15	12	14	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE LIFE ROLLS ON BMLG FG0500A*		3
Ð	16	13	41	LUKE BRYAN BORN HERE LIVE HERE DIE HERE CAPITOL NASHVILLE 031777/UMGN	•	1
Œ	17	15	302	ZAC BROWN BAND GREATEST HITS SO FAR HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG		3
14	5	2	3	THOMAS RHETT COUNTRY AGAIN (SIDE A) VALORY TR5001A/BMLG		2
Ð	RE-EI	NTRY	255	GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	7	1
16	13	9	4	ERIC CHURCH SOUL EMI NASHVILLE 033109*/UMGN		2
Ð	18	16	26	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*		7
Œ	19	19	81	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 597873*/SMN		1
19	39	18	175	EAGLES HOTEL CALIFORNIA ASYLUM/ELEKTRA 103*/RHINO (18.98)		5
20	21	20	259	TIM MCGRAW NUMBER ONE HITS CURB 79205 (13.98)		6
21	10	6	8	CARRIE UNDERWOOD MY SAVIOR CAPITOL NASHVILLE 033355*/UMGN		1
22	22	21	229	BROOKS & DUNN THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	4	2
3	23	22	128	TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)		1
2	25	25	291	BLAKE SHELTON RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 551788/WMN		2
25	24	23	97	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	11

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.

bilboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

SALES COMF				
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				_		
THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
0	1 NEW		1	THE BLACK KEYS EASY EYE SOUND/NONESUCH 653739*/WARNER		1
2	2	1	27	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
3	3	2	262	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
0	4 NEW 1		1	CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG DEJA VU ATLANTIC 7200*/RHINO		4
5	5	3	308	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	3	1
6	7	4	114	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	2
7	9	5	225	SIMON & GARFUNKEL SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY		3
8	8	6	164	KACEY MUSGRAVES GOLDEN HOUR MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN	•	1
9	10	7	267	THE LUMINEERS CLEOPATRA DUALTONE 1738*		1
0	11	8	219	JACK JOHNSON IN BETWEEN DREAMS JACK JOHNSON/BRUSHFIRE / REPUBLIC	2	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, Billiboard Media, LLC and MRC Dat. All rights reserved.

billboard billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY MRC

211	KE.	AM	IING SONGS	וט	GI.	IAL	SONG SALES
THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	THIS	LAST	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
0	1	30	FOREVER AFTER ALL Luke combs	0	NI	EW	23 Chayce Beckham
0	2	14	THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT	0	1	26	LIL BIT NELLY & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
8	5	5	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S SAM HUNT	3	NI	EW	GROW UP IAN FLANIGAN FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON
4	3	11	HELL OF A VIEW Eric Church	4	2	30	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS
6	4	215	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON	6	RE-E	NTRY	I WOULD'VE LOVED YOU JAKE HOOT FEAT. KELLY CLARKSON
6	7	6	LIL BIT Nelly & Florida Georgia Line	6	5	12	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) ELLE KING & MIRANDA LAMBERT
0	10	5	SETTLING DOWN MIRANDA LAMBERT	7	4	30	THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT
8	11	19	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN	8	6	90	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT
9	24	2	ALMOST MAYBES JORDAN DAVIS	9	RE-E	NTRY	WAVES LUKE BRYAN
10	6	38	STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON	10	7	45	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY LITTLE BIG TOWN
0	NE	w	FAMOUS FRIENDS Chris Young + Kane Brown	0	10	11	FAMOUS FRIENDS CHRIS YOUNG + KANE BROWN
Ø	13	45	ONE OF THEM GIRLS LEE BRICE	Œ	9	20	HELL OF A VIEW ERIC CHURCH
®	15	19	GOOD TIME NIKO MOON	13	8	10	CHASING AFTER YOU RYAN HURD WITH MAREN MORRIS
@	16	82	I HOPE Gabby Barrett	Œ	15	38	MY WISH RASCAL FLATTS
15	12	34	BETTER TOGETHER LUKE COMBS	Œ	17	8	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S SAM HUNT
1	14	153	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS	16	11	10	MADE FOR YOU JAKE OWEN
Ø	25	114	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN	Œ	RE-E	NTRY	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
®	17	4	CHASING AFTER YOU RYAN HURD WITH MAREN MORRIS	Œ	19	29	ONE TOO MANY KEITH URBAN DUET WITH P!NK
19	18	9	GLAD YOU EXIST Dan + Shay	19	16	269	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
20	20	2	NOBODY Dylan Scott	20	13	25	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG THOMAS RHETT
21	8	6	MADE FOR YOU JAKE OWEN	21	14	38	STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON
@	19	161	MEANT TO BE Bebe rexha & Florida Georgia Line	æ	NI	EW	MEMORIZE YOU LAINEHARDY
3	22	6	ONE TOO MANY KEITH URBAN DUET WITH P!NK	Œ	NI	EW	BEAUTY IN THE STRUGGLE BRYAN MARTIN
2	RE-E	NTRY	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) Elle King & Miranda Lambert	2	21	4	SETTLIN' DOWN MIRANDA LAMBERT
æ	23	88	HEARTLESS DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN	25	20	45	BETTER TOGETHER LUKE COMBS

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

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	23	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS		1
2	2	2	46	GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION STRETCH GRASS 4050		1
3	4	3	31	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS (56285)		1
•	14	-	7	STRUNG LIKE A HORSE TRANSOCEANIC 100770107005 WHOA!		2
5	3	-	2	LEFTOVER SALMON BRAND NEW GOOD OLD DAYS COMPASS 4775*		3
6	13	7	16	THE DEAD SOUTH SERVED LIVE SIX SHOOTER 144*		2
7	9	4	48	YO-YO MA/STUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS		1
8	NEW 1 GREG GARRISON, GRANT GORDY, ALEX HARGREAVES & JOE K. WALSH BLUEGRASS AND THE ABSTRACT TRUTH GAGOHAVVA SOUNDS			8		
9	6	5	8	VARIOUS ARTISTS INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH BLUEGRASS: SOUTHWESTERN OHIO'S MUSICAL LEGACY SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS 40238		3
0	NEW 1 GREENSKY BLUEGRASS THE LEAP YEAR SESSIONS, VOLUME THREE					10

Bluegrass Albums ranks the most popular bluegrass albums of the week, as compiled by MRC Data, based on album sales. Copyright 2021, Billboard Media, LLC and MRC Data. All rights reserved.

Joe Nichols Scores With The Leadoff Single At A New Label, 'Home Run'

One of the reasons baseball emerged as the national pastime is its value within the family structure.

Playing catch in the backyard, seeing Dad in the stands while stepping into the batter's box at a Little League game or downing a hot dog at a minor-league ballpark are all useful building blocks for parents and their kids. Critics bash the game for its slow pace, but that's actually one of its strengths: There's enough time between every pitch to talk out the nuances taking place on the field or to get to know the person in the next seat better.

"I used to go to ballgames with my dad and my mom," says St. Louis Cardinals fan **Joe Nichols**. "My mom was the one that taught me how to fill out

a score card. She said, 'All right now, a backward K doesn't mean a knockout. It means that's a strikeout. They put a K there.' Those little things, the game allows you that time to appreciate everything within the game. I love that about it."

Appropriately, Nichols' new single is "Home Run," a song that has unfolded just as slowly as the game it references. Written June 13, 2017, it generated initial excitement from Cole Swindell, then made the rounds a bit before former Broken Bow founder Benny Brown passed it along to Nichols, who had left the label. None of the track's three songwriters even knew it had been recorded until they started seeing media reports that it was Nichols' new single, released by Brown's new label, Quartz Hill, on April 19.

"Sometimes it takes four years, but they fall into the right hands," says songwriter **Dallas Davidson** ("One of Them Girls," "What Makes You Country"). Nichols, he adds, "crushed it."

Davidson's personal story was the starting point.

After rising to the upper echelons of Nashville's songwriting business, he felt a need to return to southern Georgia for a time during the last decade and reconnect with his roots. As he discussed it with Ashley Gorley ("Country Again," "Single Saturday Night") and Ross Copperman ("Half of My Hometown," "I Lived It"), Copperman sorted through a series of musical vibes he had built and found a moody one that was perfect for a contemplative story.

"Without Ross Copperman, that song doesn't exist," says Davidson.

The crew began freestyling melodies and words, and when the term "home run" emerged, it captured the theme and brought with it an obvious baseball connotation. They filled out the chorus with a thought about "touching bases" with old friends and "swinging for the fences" on one's old stomping grounds.

"When it gets to 'I need a home run' and all that stuff, it's just [about] the flow," notes Gorley. "I'm really heavy into cadence, and stuff like that happens all at once. That's the money part for me."

They ultimately opened the first verse with another baseball metaphor, "Life's been coming at me like a fastball," then provided a heartland image—"be nice to see some corn growing tall"—that inadvertently echoes "Shoeless" Joe Jackson emerging from the cornstalks in the movie Field of Dreams. Outside of a brief "strikin' out" reference at the end of that stanza, they held back on any more baseball talk.

"We definitely did not want to start going like, 'on the mound' and 'in the dirt' and 'the grass' and all that," says Gorley. "That title had already served its purpose, and the fastball thing, you know? And so the heaviest we went with that was the 'touching bases' because it is cool."

The second verse was entirely free of the game, focused instead on the sights and smells from home, though hardcore baseball fans might compare "that skillet poppin' in the kitchen" to the sound of a speedball snapping into a catcher's mitt.

As the second chorus ends with a return to the hook, "It's time I hit a home run," there's hardly a beat before the song shifts right into the bridge: "I might leave tonight."

"The urgency in that is so cool to me," suggests Copperman. "It's that moment of 'I'm driving back home right now.'"

Copperman produced the demo, giving it a simple electric guitar opening that has the same melancholy tone as the signature riff in the **Red Hot Chili Peppers**" "Under the Bridge."

"That's what I grew up listening to," he says.

Davidson turned in a grainy lead vocal, and once it ended up in Nichols'

hands, he sat with it for a few years while he took time between recording deals. Nichols cared enough about "Home Run" that he recorded a demo of his own, creating a guide that he could take into his next session.

Once Brown got back in business with Quartz Hill, he brought Nichols onto the roster, and "Home Run" was one of two songs he cut in his first session with the label at Blackbird Studios on Aug. 7, 2020. Nichols used the same band that labelmate Nate Barnes employed in two prior sessions ("Home Run" and Barnes' "You Ain't Pretty" were cut the same day) with producers Mickey Jack Cones (Dustin Lynch, Jameson Rodgers) and Derek George (Randy Houser, Chase Bryant).

"We had just cut five songs with the same band on Nate, and then switching gears mentally to get Joe in there, I thought maybe the players would be a little drained, maybe Derek and I from a production standpoint might be a little drained," says Cones. "But it was just so effortless."

They sped the tempo up a hair and dropped the key from F# to E to make best use of Nichols' tone. Some programming and drum effects created a traveling feel, appropriate for a song about going home, and drummer **Jerry Roe** developed a dramatic percussive arc with almost tribal toms taking on a **Phil Collins** shape.

"Jerry landed on the perfect tasteful parts for it," says Cones. "He's **Jerry Reed**'s grandson, so he comes from the musical scene. He knows how to get that where it needs to go without going over the top, and man, he just nailed it. I mean, everybody nailed it."

That includes Nichols, who already knew the song well from doing the prior demo. He made the phrasing more conversational and even sold a few lines he felt he hadn't fully nailed the first time. Nichols was on his way out of town when the final results arrived.

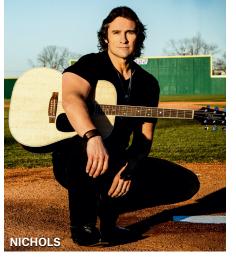
"When I first heard the mixed version, I was pulled up to the airport to leave," he says. "I called them immediately and said, 'Boys, this is a hit. That sounds like a friggin' hit.' And those don't come around very often where you hear it the first time."

Davidson played it for his mother earlier in May at her home at Lake Blackshear in Georgia, and it brought "Home Run" full circle.

"You're actually at home, you've written the song about missing home, and I'm in front of my mother," he says. "'I can't hug my momma through these phone calls'—that lyric punched me in the face. I about started crying. I had to actually get up and walk off."

With or without the baseball metaphors, the rootsy message at the heart of "Home Run" took on even more meaning after COVID-19 created difficult separations for millions of families.

"I think the message is great, but more than anything, the meaning of the song has evolved over the last year-and-a-half," says Nichols. "And that, to me, is God's timing." •



billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

ALMOST MAYBES Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/ Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP/Rox Nation WC Publishing Designee, BMI/ Jelemitry Rhythm House Music, BM/JWarner-lamerlane Publishing Corp. BM/JBR Music, ASCAP (JDavis, J.Frasure, H.Lindsey) 11

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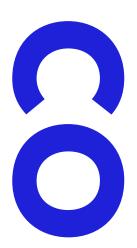
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30 Years Ago Doug Stone Lit Up The Top Of The Chart

In 1991, "In a Different Light" became his first of four Hot Country Songs No. 1s On May 25, 1991, **Doug Stone**'s "In a Different Light" shone at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart, becoming his first leader on the list.

The ballad of love inside and outside the office ("They don't know what I know ... some things just don't show, through tailored tweeds") was penned by **Bucky Jones**, **Dickey Lee** and **Bob McDill**. It was released as the fourth and last single from Stone's self-titled 1990 debut album.

Douglas Jackson Brooks was born on June 19, 1956, in Atlanta.

He changed his name to avoid confusion with **Garth Brooks**. In 1990-95, Stone sent his first 15 Hot Country Songs entries to the top 10, starting with "I'd Be Better Off (In a Pine Box)," which reached No. 4. He returned to No. 1 with "A Jukebox With a Country Song" in February 1992, "Too Busy Being in Love" (February 1993) and "Why Didn't I Think of That" (August 1993).

Now 64, Stone still performs. In 2013, he toured with **Shenandoah** and **Bryan White** as part of the Reliving the 90s Tour. —JIM ASKER

