billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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New Program Brings World-Class Blackbird Studios Hardware To Creators' Homes



Blackbird Recording Studios is one of the most in-demand facilities in Nashville, particularly Studio A, with a custom redesigned Neve console.

Booking a session to use that board has never been easier for producers and engineers. Accessing its unique sound is now as simple as opening the laptop.

Blackbird owner John McBride - who co-founded the studios with wife Martina McBride, naming it after a Beatles song - signed an extensive deal with Nashville-based KIT Plugins to develop a line of digital tools that will let audio specialists recreate Blackbird gear on their own computers. It doesn't allow them to acquire the sound of the actual Studio A space — not unless they have access to a site with the same exact dimensions, materials and electronic wiring — but it does provide a way to use Blackbird-level equipment in

a variety of other atmospheres: garages, home studios, live venues or even the beach.

The BB N105 plug-in, which mimics the characteristics of Blackbird's custom Neve 8078 board, was released a day early on June 21 after a high-tech review appeared on a YouTube channel on June 17 and spurred demand. The product is an early installment in a long-term program, which may eventually offer plug-ins that mirror 100 different pieces of Blackbird equipment. It's an unprecedented step in branding the studio,

making the quality of its machines widely available while maintaining the exclusive nature of its rooms.

"Where I think having the plug-in is really cool is you can record in a studio, and then you can go home and go, 'You know, I really wish we did a little more with that vocal on the console,'

> says KIT Plugins CEO/founder Matthew Kleinman. "You don't have to fly back from wherever you're from, bring the whole band back and rerecord it. You can open up the plug-in, and you can make that tweak. It's not replacing Blackbird. It's giving people who have access to Blackbird the ability to take it with them."

> The Neve board is a muchdiscussed piece of equipment. Originally installed in Motown's Los Angeles studios in the late 1970s, it was purchased by Steely Dan's Donald Fagen, who cut the pristine 1982 album The Nightfly -

featuring "I.G.Y. (What a Beautiful World)" (No. 8, Top Adult Contemporary) — through that console.

John McBride acquired the board when Blackbird was founded in 2002, enlisting Aurora Audio president Geoff **Tanner** — a former Neve employee considered the foremost authority on the company's products—to restore and upgrade it. Just one of numerous examples of their commitment to quality during the restoration: McBride used Black Gate capacitors, currently priced from \$60-\$1,450 on eBay, during the rebuild







FOREVER AFTER ALL

#1 BB/BDS - 4 WEEKS #1 CA/MB - 3 WEEKS

THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO

WATCH VIDEO HERE

instead of lesser capacitors, often priced under \$1.

That same console has since supported country recordings by the likes of **Keith Urban**, **Garth Brooks**, **Tim McGraw** and **Dolly Parton**, as well as blues guitarist **Buddy Guy**, rocker **Dave Stewart** and **Queen**, who tracked for the movie *Bohemian Rhapsody* at Studio A.

McBride had long resisted involvement in plug-ins, which make it possible for producers such as **Ross Copperman** or **Dan + Shay**'s **Dan Smyers** to alter or reimagine sounds with a few clicks on a keyboard. The sound quality was previously lower than McBride found suitable, but KIT committed to match the personality of the Blackbird equipment. That included designing the online controls to approximate the look and feel of the real gear, but also to mimic the eccentricities in a particular piece.

Where most computer programs would offer the same sound quality at any volume or frequency across the spectrum, the actual board begins to distort sound at various levels as an engineer turns the knob, and it's those alterations that give a console its character. McBride's ears were essential for KIT in re-creating that real-world dynamic.

"The sound of that Neve is special," says McBride. "I've seen this happen numerous times where someone would bring their tracks in, the engineer set it up, the producer walked in and said, 'What'd you do [to get that sound]?' 'Well, I just ran him through the console.' They have their own color."

The Neve plug-in is selling for \$99.99, with a voucher for a one-year subscription once more Blackbird plug-ins are developed. Eventually, the subscriptions — likely to cost about \$180 annually — will cover a range of plug-ins that emulate the studio's hardware.

Other studios have endorsed individual plug-ins, according to McBride and Kleinman, and some — including Abbey Road — have had software developed that re-created specific audio gear from their facilities.

But the Blackbird/KIT partnership is supposedly the most ambitious such program to date, covering a wider array of its sonic tools. Not only is the deal likely to create a new revenue stream for the studio, which also operates the Blackbird Academy, but it also provides an extra layer of protection.

"God forbid we have a fire or something happens here and that console is destroyed," says McBride. "Now I'm not quite as worried about that because we have what I believe is almost an exact representation of what that console does."

Additionally, the program might be building a future generation of music makers. **Hunter Hayes**, for example, taught himself to write and record quality tracks in his bedroom before moving to Nashville. Had he been able to access Blackbird-quality software, it might have further enhanced the trajectory of his learning curve. And since plug-ins are a digital product, that opportunity extends not only to kids in America, but to developing musicians in Australia, Europe, Asia and Africa.

"You take [progressive bluegrass whiz] **Chris Thile**, these kinds of guys that can play everything," says McBride. "All of a sudden, they just got \$1 million worth of gear for 15 bucks a month. That's pretty great. Let's hope it creates the next Beatles." •



Ryan Kinder and Chris Bandi paid a visit to the WSM-AM Nashville morning show on June 18. From left: Kinder, WSM host Bill Cody, Bandi and WSM personality Charlie Mattos.

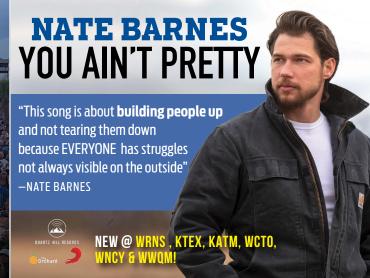


Riser House recording artist Dillon Carmichael performed at the WKDF Nashville Pickin' Party on June 12 at Hop Springs Beer Park in Murfreesboro, Tenn. From left: WKDF PD Paul Williams, Carmichael, Riser House West Coast regional promotion director Sally Allgeier and WKDF personality Tyler Reese.



Columbia Nashville artist Kameron Marlowe (right) met Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes when he performed June 10 at KC Live! in Kansas City, Mo.





CHASE RICE



FRESH OFF THE RELEASE OF THE ALBUM, CHASE RICE IS SHARING ACOUSTIC VERSIONS OF THE 15-SONG PROJECT!

FEATURING HIS TOP 10 HITS "LONELY IF YOU ARE" AND "DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN." (FEAT. FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE)

AVAILABLE TONIGHT

BBR IR BMG

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

Dan + Shay Back In Top 10; Walker Hayes Dances To New No. 1; Brantley Gilbert Gives His 'Worst'



Dan + Shay, the duo of Dan Smyers and Shay Mooney, add their ninth top 10 on Billboard's Country Airplay chart as "Glad You Exist" (Warner Music Nashville/WAR) climbs from No. 11 to No. 9 on the list dated June 26. The song increased by 13% to 17.9 million audience impressions in the week ending June 20, according to MRC Data.

Smyers and Mooney co-penned the song with Ryan Lewis, Tayla Parx and Jordan Reynolds. It's the third single from the pair's forthcoming fourth studio album, following "I Should Probably Go To Bed," which peaked at No. 2 on Country Airplay and No. 4 on the airplay-, salesand streaming-based Hot Country Songs chart in January. Lead single "10,000 Hours," with Justin

beginning in October 2019 and Country Airplay for two frames starting the following January. Each of Dan + Shay's first seven Country Airplay top 10s have hit No. 1, starting with "Nothin' Like

You" in December 2015.

Bieber, dominated Hot Country Songs for 21 weeks

On Hot Country Songs, "Glad" returns to the top 10 and its high point (11-10). It drew 6.5 million U.S. streams and sold 1,400 in the week ending June 17.

COMBS CLAIMS NO. 1 AGAIN Luke Combs' "Forever After All" (River House/Columbia Nashville) dominates Hot Country Songs for an eighth week

and Country Airplay for a fourth frame with 36 million impressions. It drew 13.3 million streams and sold 5,200 in the tracking week.

The song is Combs' sixth of his 11 Country Airplay No. 1s to lead for four weeks or more. Tim McGraw has charted a record eight No. 1s that have reigned for at least four weeks each, followed by Kenny Chesney and Toby Keith with seven each, while George Strait boasts six.

'FANCY' MOVES Walker Hayes' "Fancy Like" (Monument) rockets onto Country Digital Song Sales at No. 1 with 10,300 sold, up 943%, in the week ending June 17. He earns his first leader with his third entry, after "You Broke Up With Me" (No. 4, January 2018) and "90's Country" (No. 22, September 2018). On Hot Country Songs, "Fancy" arrives at No. 37.

The new track, which Hayes cowrote, is from his EP Country Stuff, released June 4. The song has gained traction on TikTok, where Hayes boasts over 350,000 followers, after he posted multiple clips dancing to the song with

> his kids, including one with his 15-year-old daughter, Lela, that has been viewed more than 6.7 mil-

COUNTRY COMEDY Brantley Gilbert's new tongue-in-cheek single, "The Worst Country Song of All Time," featuring HARDY and Toby Keith (Valory), debuts at No. 32 on Country Airplay with 3.2 million audience impressions in its first three



WALLEN'S AIRPLAY GAINS As Morgan Wallen's Dangerous: The Double Album (Big Loud/Republic) dominates Top Country Albums for a 20th week, with 50,000 equivalent album units (even week over

week), his airplay is rising after he was essentially banned in February after TMZ posted a video in which he used the N-word.

At the beginning of May, Wallen's number of weekly spins across the nearly 150 stations that report to *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart was in the low 1,000s. Plays lifted from 1,100 in the week of May 7-13 to 1,500 the week of May 14-20, then to 2,900 for the week of June 4-10, a gain of 164% over the $\frac{7}{3}$ same period a month earlier — although he's still far from the 10,000-plus seekly spins that he was receiving prior to TMZ's reporting. Read *Billboard*'s full breakdown of Wallen's airplay resurgence here.



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DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS



CAITLYN SMITH OLD DOMINION I CAN'T

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY



		_						
THIS	LAST	WKS ON	TITLE Imminest chal	AUDIENCE (I			PLAYS	
WEEK 1	WEEK 1	CHART 23	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville ** No. 1 (4 Weeks) ** Luke Combs	35.989	+/- -0.641	THIS WEEK 8575	+/- -36	RANK 1
9	2	35	GONE Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	32.916	+1.424	8126	328	2
8	3	29	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	29.834	+1.895	7451	260	3
4	5	51	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	25.935	+2.633	6652	519	4
6	4	32	BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	24.892	+1.399	6037	344	5
6	7	55	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	22.115	+0.957	5855	27	6
Ø	6	39	SETTLING DOWN Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	21.853	+0.306	5774	0	7
8	10	29	DRINKIN' BEER.TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	18.146	+1.817	4648	269	8
9	11	20	GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	17.869	+2.102	4640	330	9
0	9	23	MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton	17.098	+0.372	4527	259	10
0	13	35	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory Justin Moore	15.302	+0.287	4220	97	11
Ø	12	39	ONETOO MANY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban Duet With P!nk	15.287	+0.260	4146	-123	12
B	14	26	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	14.641	+0.933	4096	130	13
1	15	10	COUNTRY AGAIN Valory Thomas Rhett	14.448	+0.895	3927	147	14
Œ	17	11	WAVES Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	12.433	+0.663	3558	129	16
16	16	23	UNDIVIDED McGraw/BMLG/Big Machine Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard	12.233	-0.396	3606	-102	15
Ð	19	33	YOUTIME Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	9.720	+0.790	2939	194	19
18	18	39	NEXT GIRL Big Machine Carly Pearce	9.327	-0.167	3271	-20	17
19	20	37	MY BOY Wheelhouse Elvie Shane	9.252	+0.589	3171	195	18
20	21	5	IWAS ON A BOATTHAT DAY Arista Nashville Old Dominion	8.700	+0.825	2468	167	21
3	22	28	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	8.579	+0.933	2521	155	20
22	23	28	SHALLOW Pearl Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood	7.392	-0.050	2246	84	23
23	24	34	WORSHIP YOU RCA Nashville Kane Brown	6.597	-0.638	2155	-97	25
2	26	33	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	6.513	+0.406	2299	102	22
25	27	15	LIKE A LADY BMLG Lady A	6.088	+0.679	2168	154	24
20	28	15	KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	4.939	+0.174	1949	-17	26
②	29	21	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley	4.892	+0.364	1761	56	28
28	30	39	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU inDent/Mercury Nashville Priscilla Block	4.718	+0.192	1545	56	29
29	31	16	CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris	4.288	-0.094	1848	-32	27
30	32	35	WHISKEY AND RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	3.924	+0.002	1488	38	30

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 (II	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
9	33	22	TEQUILA LITTLETIME Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	3.364	+0.324	1344	58	31
32	NE	w	THE WORST COUNTRY SONG OF ALL TIME Valory ** Hot Shot Debut/Breaker/Most Increased Audience/Most Added ** Brantley Gilbert Feat. Toby Keith & HARDY	3.170	+3.164	670	669	44
33	35	13	IT'S 'CAUSE I AM Big Machine Callista Clark	2.949	+0.224	1182	12	33
34	36	22	HOME SWEET Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	2.822	+0.103	1342	34	32
35	37	18	TO BE LOVED BY YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	2.654	+0.158	919	37	37
36	25	2	SAME BOAT Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band	2.639	-4.237	764	-522	42
37	38	7	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring MacKenzie Porter	2.608	+0.382	938	65	36
38	34	30	LADY LIKE Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress	2.454	-0.349	992	-63	35
39	39	5	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	2.430	+0.230	874	58	39
40	41	9	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney	2.153	+0.367	1011	106	34
49	40	16	THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville Matt Stell	1.885	+0.025	846	68	40
2	43	4	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	1.841	+0.405	450	200	52
43	42	16	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Big Loud HARDY	1.528	-0.087	901	-1	38
44	44	9	NOTYET BMLG Brett Young	1.237	+0.033	714	-14	43
45	45	16	GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi	1.217	+0.064	773	43	41
46	48	31	IF IT WASN'T FORTRUCKS BMLG Riley Green	1.109	+0.101	649	39	46
49	46	18	I CAN'T Monument Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion	1.104	+0.074	661	24	45
48	47	7	I'M NOT FOR EVERYONE EMI Nashville Brothers Osborne	0.981	-0.037	537	-9	49
49	50	3	WHILE YOU'RE GONE Warner Music Nashville/WMN Drew Parker	0.947	+0.053	199	-6	-
50	49	4	NO SAD SONGS RCA Nashville Niko Moon	0.891	-0.010	452	23	51
5	51	9	FILLTHEM BOOTS Big Loud Chris Lane	0.843	+0.020	402	4	56
€	52	4	WOULD HAVE LOVED HER RECORDS Chris Bandi	0.806	-0.012	589	12	47
5 3	57	3	BACK THEN, RIGHT NOW 19th & Grand Tenille Arts	0.798	+0.087	322	13	60
54	53	21	NEED A BAR SOMETIMES Show Dog Nashville Clay Walker	0.768	-0.029	573	-2	48
⊕	RE-EI	NTRY	HOT BEER Riser House Dillon Carmichael	0.766	+0.134	471	31	50
56	56	29	WHERE I FIND GOD Big Loud Larry Fleet	0.760	+0.024	372	18	58
3	RE-EI	NTRY	OLD SCHOOL'S IN Valory Heath Sanders	0.737	+0.131	404	22	55
5 8	59	2	ABBY Mercury Nashville Travis Denning	0.736	+0.072	393	18	57
59	55	5	COME IN (BUT DON'T MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE) True To The Song/Mailboat/New Revolution Caroline Jones	0.698	-0.085	278	15	-
60	RE-EI	NTRY	GONETOO SOON Andrew Jannakos/RCA Nashville Andrew Jannakos	0.686	+0.093	344	20	59
•			GOIL TOO GOOM AIRING ON MAINING AIRING ON MAINING	0.000	10.000	344	20	



GOING FOR ADDS

6/28

EMILY ROSE Version Of Me

Growing Rose

GABBY BARRETT Footprints On The Moon Warner/WAR

J.D. SHELBURNE Hometown In My Headlights J.D. Shelburne

7/5

GRACE MORRISON Daughter Grace Morrison

JOSH KINNEY Hit Me Up Birmingham



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

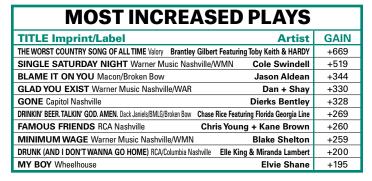


MOST ADDED®							
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	ADDS						
THE WORST COUNTRY SONG OF ALL TIME Valory Brantley Gilbert Featuring Hardy & Toby Keith	58						
SAME BOAT Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band	32						
DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	10						
HOME SWEET Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	8						
TEQUILA LITTLETIME Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	8						
LIL BIT RECORDS/Columbia Nelly & Florida Georgia Line	7						
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	6						
SHALLOW Pearl Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood	5						
WHISKEY AND RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	5						
YOU TIME Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	4						

NEW AND ACTIVE							
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL Audience	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS				
LIL BIT RECORDS/Columbia Nelly & Florida Georgia Line	0.639	24	7				
MY MASTERPIECE Capitol Nashville Darius Rucker	0.638	42	1				
TILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT RCA/Triple Tigers Cam	0.574	26	1				
GOOD LIFE MCA Nashville Kip Moore	0.536	19	0				
WASTED ON YOU Big Loud/Republic Morgan Wallen	0.381	2	0				
WOMAN YOU GOT Mercury Nashville Maddie & Tae	0.381	34	1				

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE							
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)						
THE WORST COUNTRY SONG OF ALL TIME Valory Brantley Gilbert Featuring Toby Keith & HARDY	+3.164						
SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	+2.633						
GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	+2.102						
FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	+1.895						
DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	+1.817						
GONE Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	+1.424						
BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	+1.399						
ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	+0.958						
THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	+0.933						
COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	+0.933						

	RECURRENTS									
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)							
1	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nas	hville Sam Hunt	18.463							
2	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	17.927							
3	JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek Parmalee	x Blanco Brown	17.351							
4	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory	Thomas Rhett	16.632							
5	LADY BMLG	Brett Young	15.364							
6	NOBODY Curb	Dylan Scott	15.250							
7	THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	14.253							
8	ONE OFTHEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	13.511							
9	BETTER TOGETHER River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	12.510							
10	DOWN TO ONE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	11.972							







ILBERT: JEFF NELSO

Regional Radio Report

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 2021

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
0	3	16	FRIENDS (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1 ★★ Curtis Grimes	2003	105	O	12	16	BOURBON WHISKEY (Independent) William Beckmann	1267	35
0	2	12	HOLD MY BEER (Lil Buddy Toons) Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1994	82	®	11	12	SIGNS (Independent) David Adam Byrnes	1264	30
8	5	15	CAN DOWN (Independent) Mike Ryan	1692	44	ß	13	17	HONKY TONK ON (Independent) Hayden Haddock	1146	42
4	6	20	ANYBODY LOVIN' YOU LATELY (Independent) Clay Hollis	1663	18	1	14	12	PLAINVIEW (Independent) Kin Faux	1096	86
6	7	17	STUCK WITH YOU (10X Music Group) Brodie Lane	1639	7	1	16	13	WHERE THE NEON LIES (Independent) Triston Marez f/ Ronnie Dunn	1064	80
6	1	14	QUEEN FOR A NIGHT (Almost Country) Casey Donahew	1632	-366	1	17	11	FEELS A LOT LIKE THIS (Independent) Corey Kent	1039	81
Ð	9	17	BREAK ANOTHER HEART (Independent) Kaitlyn Kohler	1437	107	O	15	29	CHAPTER 2 (Independent) Gary Kyle	1010	24
8	8	17	IF YOU CAN DANCE (Independent) Jon Stork	1425	8	⊕	18	12	WRAP YOU UP IN LOVE (Independent) Darrin Morris Band	1007	82
9	4	11	HORSES IN HEAVEN (Deep Frey'd Music) Kylie Frey	1425	-279	19	27	7	RODEO GIRL (Independent) Micky & The Motorcars	929	163
1	10	8	BOOTS (BIG Label) Aaron Watson	1340	92	20	23	10	DON'T WANT TO GO HOME (Independent) Teague Brothers Band	926	54

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Thomas Rhett (left) and his father, singer-songwriter Rhett Akins, performed together at the Grand Ole Opry for the first time on June 12.

MARKS LAUNCHES POST-SPOTIFY FIRM

Months after he ended a run as Spotify USA global head of country programming, **John Marks** has established a new consulting firm, JohnMarks.me, to assist artists and their associated teams as they develop streaming strategies.

Marks' five-year tenure at Spotify built atop his previous history as Sirius XM head of country programming and a lengthy programming background at radio stations in San Diego; Salt Lake City; Little Rock, Ark.; Beaumont, Texas; and Cincinnati.

That experience provides him an insider's perspective that mirrors the skills of the country industry at large: The collective business has established familiarity with promoting to the needs of broadcasters for decades, but it now focuses frequently on a newer streaming platform with its own set of data that's influenced by a different array of consumer uses and built-in functions. The language and the needs of the platform don't always overlap with the best practices at terrestrial radio.

"Even though there is no rhyme or reason to a lot of it, I've been able to look at the data on a lot of music, and I have what I feel is a reasonable approach to what is more likely to stream than others," says Marks.

Marks' knowledge base includes insights on release strategies, social media and some A&R decisions.

Reach him here.

RADIO & RECORDS®

BBR Music Group signed a recording deal with singer-songwriter Kolby Cooper and assigned the native Texan to the Wheelhouse label. His first release under the agreement is "Excuses," due June 25 ... Townsquare/Southwest Michigan added market president/chief revenue officer Mary Fork. She segues from Comcast/Effective, where she served as Clarkston, Mich.-based local sales manager. Her new role places her in charge of Townsquare properties in the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek markets, including Kalamazoo Country.com... Dave Anthony starts July 6 as Community Broadcasters/Orangeburg, S.C., operations manager, RadioInk.com reported. Anthony will have oversight of four stations, including country WGFG, but will also assist in music programming for Community stations in two additional South Carolina markets, including country outlet WWKT Florence-Sumter ... Services were held for KSJB Jamestown, N.D., personality Norman "Ole Olson" Kidd on June 17 at Concordia Lutheran Church following his death on June 14 from a heart attack he suffered while driving. He spent 50 years on-air in the region ... Services are slated for June 22 for Radio Mankato sales manager Chris Painter at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minn., The Mankato Free Press reported. Painter died June 14 at home. His work included representation for country stations KATO and KRRW ... Sam Hunt, Florida Georgia Line, Gabby Barrett and Russell Dickerson will be featured during the annual iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas on Sept. 17-18. Hosted by Ryan Seacrest, the multigenre event will yield a two-night CW concert special, airing Oct. 2-3.

'ROUND THE ROW

Sixteen-year industry veteran Kasey Cleckler founded Cape + Anchor, a consulting firm that provides career coaching for executives and organizations. The company is a transition for Cleckler, who worked as an independent project/ business manager after her start as an FBMM account manager. Reach her here ... Vince Gill tapped Jody Williams Songs for publishing/writer management. The company will oversee his calendar and promotion, while Gill retains independent ownership of his publishing ... Kane Brown's Verse 2 Music signed



Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame member Rivers Rutherford ("Ain't Nothing 'Bout You," "Real Good Man") and singer-songwriter Joybeth Taylor. Verse 2 is a joint venture with Sony Music Publishing, run by Verse 2 partner Kent Earls ... Songwriter Kyle Fishman ("Down to One," "Small Town Boy") extended his publishing agreement with Play It Again Publishing ... Songwriterproducer Dylan Guthro signed a publishing contract with Red Creative Group and Anthem Entertainment. Guthro co-wrote and produced the **Noah** Schnacky/Jimmie Allen collaboration "Don't You Wanna Know" ... Sea Gayle Music added Jenna Paulette to its songwriting stable ... Paul Jankowski's Nashville branding and management firm, One Bullet Entertainment, expanded into influencer management by signing New York-based TikTok figure Sophia La Corte ... Latin country artist Stokoff joined the publicity roster at PLA Media ... The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is holding a job fair in the facility's Ford Theater from 10 a.m.-2 p.m on June 30. Go here for details ... The Country Music Association extended its broadcasting relationship with ABC through 2026. The deal covers the CMA Awards and other specials, including CMA Fest and CMA Country Christmas ... The CMA has developed a series of online seminars for professional and personal development for its members, occurring intermittently through Nov. 17. Among the topics are hiring for job retention, implicit bias and mental health on the road. Go here for more info ... Caitlyn Smith was named the newest artist ambassador for the CMA Foundation ... The Academy of Country Music will hold its 14th annual ACM Honors at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium on Aug. 25. Among the recipients are Cliffie Stone Icon Award winners Joe Galante and Rascal Flatts, Gary Haber Lifting Lives Award honorees



Scotty McCreery (left) teamed with pro golfer Braden Thornberry June 10-12 during the BMW Charity Pro-Am in Greenville, S.C.

Lady A and Ross Copperman, and Gene Weed Milestone Award conferee Luke Combs. Go here for more info ... The ACM's Cameo Goes Country campaign for the ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund added LANCO, Dylan Scott, Cassadee Pope and Easton Corbin among a new round of talent offering personalized fan interactions for charity through June 30. Go here for current offerings ... The Americana Music Association established an advisory committee to address inclusivity issues. Among the participants are Brandi Carlile; Shannon Sanders, BMI; and David Macias, Thirty Tigers ... The Mechanical Licensing Collective is hosting a membership webinar for selfadministered songwriters who have not joined the MLC at 11 a.m. on June 22. Go here to register. •

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	34	FOREVER AFTER ALL the Matthews, J.D. SINGLETON, LCOMBS (LCOMBS, D. PARKER, R. WILLIFORD) **TOREVER AFTER ALL ** No. 1 (8 Weeks) **	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	1	1
2	2	4	19	FAMOUS FRIENDS C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER (C.YOUNG,C.R.BARLOWE,C.CROWDER)	Chris Young + Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	3	2
3	3	2	35	GONE D.GARCIA (N.GALYON,B.JOHNSON,N.MOON)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	2	2
4	4	10	30	LIL BIT J.M.SCHMIDT (T.HUBBARD, J.M.SCHMIDT, B.REDFERRIN, C.HAYNES, JR.) ** Digital Gainer ** J.M.SCHMIDT (T.HUBBARD, J.M.SCHMIDT, B.REDFERRIN, C.HAYNES, JR.)	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line RECORDS/COLUMBIA/BMLG	-	4
5	5	12	20	BLAME IT ON YOU M.KNOX (K.M.ALLISON,J.EDWARDS,T.KENNEDY,M.TYLER,B.WHITE)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	5	5
6	7	6	36	SETTLING DOWN J.JOYCE (M.LAMBERT,L.DICK,N.HEMBY)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	7	6
7	8	3	52	THE GOOD ONES R.COPPERMAN, Z.KALE (G.BARRETT, E.LANDIS, J.MCCORMICK, Z.KALE)	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	RC	1
8	9	9	57	ALMOST MAYBES PDIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,J.FRASURE,H.LINDSEY) ** Streaming Gainer **	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	6	8
9	6	8	30	NOBODY M.ALDERMAN,C.GIBBS,J.E.NORMAN (D.SCOTT,M.ALDERMAN,D.WILSON)	Dylan Scott CURB	RC	5
0	11	13	19	GLAD YOU EXIST D.SMYERS (D.SMYERS.J.REYNOLDS.T.M.PARKS.S.MOONEY.R.L.TAYLOR)	Dan + Shay Warner Music Nashville/War	9	10
0	12	15	33	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT M.R.CARTER (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,M.L.HOLMAN) ** Airplay Gainer **	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	4	11
Œ	14	16	40	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	12	12
13	13	11	24	MADE FOR YOU J.MOI (B.DAVIS.J.HYDE.N.A.MEDLEY)	Jake Owen	RC	3
12	15	14	20	MINIMUM WAGE S.HENDRICKS (C.CROWDER N.GALYON, J.FRASURE)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	10	12
Œ	16	17	16	DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. C. CROWDER.C. RIGE T. HUBBARD. B. KELLEY (C. RIGE.C. CROWDER.H. PHELPS. C. DODDS)	Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line DACK JANIELS/BMLG/BROKEN BOW	8	15
16	18	21	14	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW J.JOYCE (L.WILSON, J.D. SINGLETON, J.N.IX)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	13	16
Ð	20	20	16	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK (ELLE KING,M.JOHNSON)	Elle King & Miranda Lambert RCA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	42	16
ß	19	19	9	COUNTRY AGAIN D.HUFFJ.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,Z.CROWELL,A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	14	16
19	17	18	18	CHASING AFTER YOU A.ESHUIS,TREIMER (B.ADDINGTON,J.FLOWERS)	Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris ARISTA NASHVILLE	29	16
20	21	25	12	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (P.DIGIOVANNI,R.MONTANA,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	11	20
3	23	24	10	WAVES J.STEVENS (Z.CROWELL,R.J.HURD,R.C.MCGILL)	Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville	15	21
2	22	22	23	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
23	27	26	25	NEXT GIRL S.MCANALLYJ.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE.S.MCANALLYJ.OSBORNE)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	18	23
24	29	27	15	MY BOY O.CHARLES (E.SHANE,R.SUTTON,N.COLUMBIA,L.STARR)	Elvie Shane WHEELHOUSE	19	24
25	25	23	22	UNDIVIDED C.CROWDER, THUBBARD, T.MCGRAW, B. GALLIMORE (T. HUBBARD, C. LOOCKE)	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard McGraw/BMLG/BIG MACHINE	16	23

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

	1	# 1 1 WK	NICOLLE GALYON
	2	CO	REY CROWDER
	3	AS	HLEY GORLEY
	4	JE	SSE FRASURE
TIE	5	DR	EW PARKER
TIE	5	LU	KE COMBS
TIE	5	RO	B WILLIFORD
	8	TY	LER HUBBARD
	9	BE	N JOHNSON
TIE	10	CA	RY RYAN BARLOWE
TIE	10	СН	RIS YOUNG



1	# 1 11 WKS	JAY JOYCE					
2	DA	NN HUFF					
3	DA	DAVID GARCIA					
4	PA	UL DIGIOVANNI					
5	JO	EY MOI					
6	JO	RDAN SCHMIDT					
7	MIC	MICHAEL KNOX					
8	CO	COREY CROWDER					
9	DA	N SMYERS					

MICHAEL CARTER

10

COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

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
20	31	30	9	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME C.FARREN, J.D. MITCHELL (J.RODGERS, H. PHELPS, BRETT TYLER, A. VANDERHEYM) ARSHVILLE RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE		21	26
2	28	28	32	SHALLOW G.BROOKS (S.G.GERMANOTTA, M.D.RONSON, A.ROSSOMANDO, ANDREW WYATT)	Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood PEARL	22	27
28	26	33	12	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE D.COBB.C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON, A.GORLEY, C.DUBOIS)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	39	24
29	30	31	28	WORSHIP YOU D.HUFF (K.BROWN,A.IZQUIERDO,M.J.MCGINN,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	23	24
30	NE	w	1	I QUIT DRINKING JROBBINS,N.CONRAD (K.BALLERINI,N.GALYON,P.J.KLEIN) ** Hot Shot Debut **	Kelsea Ballerini & LANY BLACK RIVER	-	30
3	32	35	4	I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY S.M.CANALLY, OLD DOMINION (M.RAMSEY, T. ROSEN, W. SELLERS, G. SPRUNG, B. F. TURSI, S. M.CANALLY, J. OSBORNE)	Old Dominion ARISTA NASHVILLE	20	31
32	33	34	20	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,LBRICE (LBRICE,B.MONTANA,B.DAVIS)	Lee Brice CURB	24	32
33	34	32	10	KNOWING YOU B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (BRETT JAMES,A.JAMES,K.HIGGINS)	Kenny Chesney Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/Wea	26	25
34	NE	w	1	SAME BOAT Z.BROWN, B.SIMONETTI, Z.BROWN, J.D.SINGLETON)	Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	36	34
35	37	37	7	YOU TIME FROGERS,D.WELLS,A.ESHUIS (S.C.MCCREERY,FROGERS,A.ESHUIS)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	17	35
36	36	36	9	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	36
37	NE	JEW 4 FANCY LIKE Walker Haye		Walker Hayes MONUMENT	-	37	
33	38	38	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU Priscilla Block		Priscilla Block INDENT/MERCURY NASHVILLE	28	37
39	39	40	8	WHISKEY AND RAIN R.COPPERMAN (J.FRASURE,J.THOMPSON)	Michael Ray WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	30	39
40	41	46	13	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDY,A.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)	HARDY BIG LOUD	43	29
4	42	39	4	BUY DIRT PDIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,J.DAVIS,M.JENKINS,J.JENKINS)	Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan MCA NASHVILLE	-	36
42	NE	W	1	'TIL YOU CAN'T T.W.WILLMON (B.M.STENNIS,M.ROGERS)	Cody Johnson COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	42
43	40	42	9	LADY LIKE S.ELLIS,I.ANDRESS (I.ANDRESS,S.ELLIS,D.SOUTHERLAND)	Ingrid Andress Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/Wea	38	40
44	35	_	2	NOT YET D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,K.ARCHER,J.EBACH)	Brett Young BMLG	44	35
4 5	45	50	3	HOME SWEET C.BROWN,D.HUFF,R.DICKRESON (R.DICKERSON,C.BROWN,C.KELLEY)	Russell Dickerson TRIPLE TIGERS	34	45
46	46	48	3	TEQUILA LITTLE TIME B.BUTLER,R.GORE,J.PARDI (J.PARDI,R.AKINS,L.LAIRD)	Jon Pardi Capitol Nashville	31	46
•	50	_	2	LIKE A LADY D.HUFF (H.SCOTT,D.M.BARNES,M.BUZZ,M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK)	Lady A BMLG	25	47
43	49	_	2	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY ABOWERS,J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN,A.BOWERS,M.ROGERS)	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley STONEY CREEK	27	48
49	43	43	11	MR. PERFECTLY FINE (TAYLOR'S VERSION) (FROM THE VAULT) J.M.ANTONOFF,T.SWIFT (T.SWIFT)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	2
50	44	41	9	VILLAIN M.L.MORRISEY (L.R.WILLIAMSON,M.E.CARPENTER,K.S.CLARK)	Lily Rose BACK BLOCK/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	36

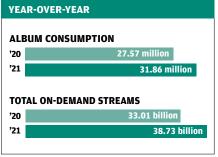
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by MRC Data, sales data as compiled by MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by MRC Data. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT									
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND						
This Week	1,397,000	1,552,500,000	129,878,000						
Last Week	1,369,000	1,551,400,000	131,931,000						
Change	2.0%	0.1%	-1.6%						
This Week Last Year	1,263,000	1,392,072,000	129,905,000						
Change	10.6%	11.5%	0.0%						

YEAR-TO-DA	TE		
	2020	2021	CHANGE
Album Consumption	27,572,000	31,861,000	15.6%
Album Sales	3,981,000	4,070,000	2.2%
Audio On-Demand	29,613,378,000	35,390,473,000	19.5%
Video On-Demand	3,399,018,000	3,346,147,000	-1.6%



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending June 17, 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 equival one consumption unit. and consumption unit. 250 paid and/07.3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand strack equal one consumption unit.



SALES, DATA COMPILED BY MRC

SALES DATA COMPILED BY

billboard top COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	23	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		1
9	2	2	84	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
3	3	3	211	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	3	1
4	4	4	159	MORGAN WALLEN IF I KNOW ME BIG LOUD 783*		1
6	5	8	31	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
6	6	6	320	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
7	8	10	18	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE LIFE ROLLS ON BMLG FG0500A*		3
8	7	7	10	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578		1
9	10	11	306	ZAC BROWN BAND HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG GREATEST HITS SO FAR		3
10	11	14	45	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 031777/UMGN BORN HERE LIVE HERE DIE HERE	•	1
11	12	13	63	SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN		1
Ð	14	12	52	GABBY BARRETT GOLDMINE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	•	4
13	16	16	30	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*		7
14	15	25	82	JASON ALDEAN 9 MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 32944*/BBMG		1
15	17	15	7	THOMAS RHETT COUNTRY AGAIN (SIDE A) VALORY TR5001A/BMLG		2
16	13	9	4	BLAKE SHELTON BODY LANGUAGE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 659053/WMN		3
17	20	19	131	GEORGE STRAIT STRAIT OUT OF THE BOX MCA NASHVILLE 111263/UMGN (39.98/49.98)	8	9
18	19	20	85	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 597873*/SMN		1
19	21	17	132	TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)		1
20	22	22	263	TIM MCGRAW NUMBER ONE HITS CURB 79205 (13.98)		6
3	26	23	4	JORDAN DAVIS MCA NASHVILLE DIGITAL EX/UMGN (033776) BUY DIRT (EP)		11
2	25	27	101	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTYTIGERS	•	11
23	23	24	233	BROOKS & DUNN THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	4	2
24	24	26	295	BLAKE SHELTON RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 551788/WMN		2
25	27	28	210	JOHNNY CASH COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 86290*/LEGACY (24.98/17.98)	3	16

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

billboard AMERICANA/

_				TOLK ALBUMS		
THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
0	1	3	31	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
0	2	2	266	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
3	4	5	118	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	2
4	3	6	312	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	3	1
5	6	9	168	KACEY MUSGRAVES GOLDEN HOUR MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN		1
6	7	4	5	THE BLACK KEYS EASY EYE SOUND/NONESUCH 653739*/WARNER		1
0	20	16	23	BLACK PUMAS BLACK PUMAS ATO 0500*		4
8	NE	w	1	JONI MITCHELL ARCHIVES - VOLUME 1: THE EARLY YEARS (1963-1967): HIGHLIGHTS RHINO 645871* RSD EX JUNE 2021		8
9	8	8	229	SIMON & GARFUNKEL SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY		3
0	NE	w	1	LUKAS NELSON & PROMISE OF THE REAL A FEW STARS APART FANTASY 01241*/CONCORD		10

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

1	<u> </u>	`_	~1.	11110 301103	ν.	v.		JOING SALLS
1 34 LILE BIT WALKER HAYES	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART		THIS	LAST	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
2 10 NELLY & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE 3 3 219 TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON 4 5 NOBODY 4 5 NOBODY 5 18 THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT 5 6 5 FAMOUS FRIENDS CHRIS YOUNG + KANE BROWN 6 5 5 74 16 BLEKING & MIRANDA LAMBERT 7 2 BLAME IT ON YOU JASON A LOEAN 8 13 GLAD YOU EXIST DAN + SHAY 9 11 4 GONE DIERNS BENTLEY 10 9 23 WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN 10 12 9 SETTLING DOWN MIRANDA LAMBERT 11 1 273 TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS YOUNG A BOAT THAT DAY OLD OMNON ONE OF THEM GIRLS 12 1 4 9 ONE OF THEM GIRLS 13 42 STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON 15 10 8 CHASING AFTER YOU FRAN HORD WITH MAREN MORRIS 16 15 23 GOOD TIME NIKO MOON 17 157 BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS 18 11 8 WHISKEY GLASSES 19 18 11 HOPE GABBY BARRETT 20 19 BERAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S GABBY BARRETT 21 17 34 GOOD TIME NIKO MOON 22 23 38 BETTER TOGETHER 23 16 15 MEANT TO BE 24 24 165 MEANT TO BE 25 24 165 MEANT TO BE 26 24 165 MEANT TO BE 27 17 56 MEANT TO BE 28 24 165 MEANT TO BE 28 24 165 MEANT TO BE	0	1	34		0	N	EW	
3 219 CHRIS STAPLETON 3 3 3 4 LUKE COMBS 4 5 NOBDDY DYLAN SCOTT 4 6 15 FAMOUS FRIENDS 5 18 THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT 5 4 16 DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME 6 5 FAMOUS FRIENDS 5 4 16 DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME 7 2 BLAME IT ON YOU 7 NEW SAME BOAT 8 13 GLAD YOU EXIST DAN'S SHAY 9 14 GONE DIEKS BENTLEY	0	2	10		0	1	30	
1	3	3	219		3	3	34	
5	4	4	5		4	6	15	
6 5 CHRIS YOUNG + KANE BROWN	6	5	18		5	4	16	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) ELLE KING & MIRANDA LAMBERT
A	6	6	5		6	5	34	
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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	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	2	50	GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION STRETCH GRASS 4050		1
0	4	3	27	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS		1
8	5	4	35	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS (56285)		1
4	3	1	4	JOHN HIATT WITH THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND LEFTOVER FEELINGS NEW WEST 6514*		1
5	2	_	2	CHRIS THILE LAYSONGS NONESUCH 654086*/WARNER		2
6	NE	w	1	NEFESH MOUNTAIN SONG FOR THE SPARROWS EDEN SKY		6
Ø	6	5	3	RHONDA VINCENT MUSIC IS WHAT I SEE UPPER MANAGMENT		5
8	7	7	52	YO-YO MA/STUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS		1
9	RE-EI	RE-ENTRY 19 THE DEAD SOUTH SIX SHOOTER 144*			2	
0	RE-EI	RE-ENTRY 11 VARIOUS ARTISTS INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH BLUEGRASS: SOUTHWESTERN OHIO'S MUSICAL LEGACY SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS 40238			3	

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Elle King Enlists Former Tour Mate Miranda Lambert For A 'Drunk' Celebration

If people party till they drop to **Elle King**'s "Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)," it's understandable.

The **Miranda Lambert** collaboration is packed with random images from a night on the town, starting with cocktails and making friends with strangers, then progressing to an absurdity: getting a tattoo in the bathroom stall while a line forms outside.

King and Lambert partied together in a studio while cutting the vocals for

"Drunk," capping a friendship that started during the 2019 Road Side Bars and Pink Guitars tour.

"She's so much fun," says King of Lambert. "She's such a real person, such a Texas girl, and I just really love being around her. She still makes me nervous a little bit because I want her to like me so much. I couldn't believe that she said yes to doing the song."

Released to country radio by RCA/Columbia Nashville via PlayMPE on May 26, the single might sound fresh to listeners' ears, but "Drunk" history actually goes back six or seven years, prior to King's first experience in country, as a 2016 duet partner on **Dierks Bentley**'s "Different for Girls." She was living in Los Angeles at the time and had a blowup with a boyfriend, a confrontation that bore odd fruit when she arrived in West Hollywood the next afternoon, banjo in hand, for a writing appoint-

ment with pop/rock singer-songwriter Martin Johnson (Boys Like Girls, The Night Game).

"We're at Westlake D, kind of a legendary studio, one o'clock start," recalls Johnson. "She shows up at like 2:30 carrying a 40 in a brown paper bag with cutoffs, talking in an Australian accent — and I know she's from [Ohio] — and I'm like, 'OK, this is going to be an interesting session.' She sits down, picks out her banjo and starts freestyling a bluegrass song about how she got too hammered last night to come home. And so her boyfriend was pissed off, dumped her at 2 a.m. when she came home, but it's cool 'cause he's a pussy that wears flip-flops, so she had to get a room at The Standard — all this is in a freestyle song, and I go, 'Oh my God, this girl is going to be a massive star.'"

They launched into the "Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)" chorus, an anthemic singalong propelled by her racing banjo. Oddly, they picked a very different sound — a tribal, **Bo Diddley**-like beat — to create a much darker-sounding verse. Despite their stark asymmetry, the two sections fit together well at a musical level.

"The whole thing that's guiding the song is like super out of tune and a little bit gangly," says Johnson. "All of a sudden, you get to the hook, and it's like four on the floor and I'm at the hootenanny. You want to make it feel classic, but at the same time you want to make it feel like it's never been done before."

They left with a great-sounding demo, and with King believing strongly that she had a perfect song for her 2015 debut album, *Love Stuff*.

"I always thought that we were sitting on a gold mine because that chorus was so crazy and so big," she reasons.

But her team, including RCA CEO **Peter Edge**, convinced her to leave it off the album, and "Drunk" mostly stewed until spring 2019. Johnson asked her at that time if she would sing on a track by The Night Game, "Companion," and when they met up, she suggested that it might be a good idea to readdress

"Drunk." They retained the same melody, and nothing changed in the chorus. But they recast the lyrics in the verses, which always felt out of step with the song's general attitude.

"It was more of a relationship song," she recalls. "We changed it to like, 'This is my experience. This is my party anthem. I'm going to feel this in the morning 'cause I'm going hard tonight.' It's interesting how such a small shift in narrative can change the whole story and life of a song in such a big way."



Some of the original recordings from the writing session at Westlake — including the tribal drums and about 40% of King's vocal — were kept as Johnson began producing the final version.

"She was super hung over that day," he says of that first go-round, "and her voice was breaking up in a way where it was true to the song."

Three musicians who work with him in The Night Game — bassist Sean Hurley, drummer Rob Humphreys and percussionist/co-producer Brandon Paddock — fattened the track, overdubbing one musician at a time. King, meanwhile, texted Lambert, asking her if she would be interested in collaborating on "Drunk." Lambert was so perfect, King thought, that if she said no, King would just do it alone.

"I was immediately in," says Lambert. "It is such a fun party anthem

and so different from my solo music that there was no way I could say no."

Johnson and Paddock met the singers at Jungle City in New York's Chelsea section for a vocal session, bringing bottles of Tito's Handmade Vodka to assist in creating the right attitude for "Drunk."

"Elle gets in the booth with Miranda, and they're both going back and forth on the song on the same mic, like it's the 1950s," says Johnson. "They both got Tito's in their hand, and I can hear the authenticity."

The alcohol — ingested long before King became pregnant ("No cancel culture," warns Johnson) — might well have helped with confidence levels.

"The only psychological part for me was breathing correctly to hit those high notes," says Lambert. "I jokingly told my manager that I felt like I had to get a running start in the studio to hit them!"

"At the end of the day, it's an extremely hard song to sing," confirms King. "Miranda looked at me like, 'You are crazy, girl. This is so high.' But she did great. And there's clips and there's footage on my Instagram and stuff of us laughing and having so much fun singing it. Miranda is just an absolute joy."

Johnson, fiancée **Naomi Cahours** and her sister, **Amy**, added some backing vocals, and "Drunk" ended up a perfect song to coincide with Americans' emergence from COVID-19 hibernation. It's No. 42 on the Country Airplay chart dated June 26, seemingly arriving at just the right moment.

"I'm glad that we never put the song out when I was 24," says King. "I'm glad that we never just threw it on a record. I'm glad that we took the time to write it because now we have this song, this party anthem, let-your-hair-down [thing] that is so unbelievably perfect for the summer as all of these mask mandates are being lifted and people are able to start living their lives again. Let people sing at the top of their freaking lungs about getting drunk and forgetting their troubles and having a great time. There's nothing wrong with that."

billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

ABBY Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BM/Jenktown, ASCAP/ Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/ Combustion Fuse, ASCAP/MeGusta Music, ASCAP (AGorley, J.S.Stover, M.Jenkins) 58

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10 Years Ago Blake Shelton's 'Honey Bee' Created A Buzz

In 2011, he earned his ninth of 14 Hot Country Songs leaders On June 25, 2011, **Blake Shelton**'s "Honey Bee" notched its first of two weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart.

The track—which Rhett Akins and Ben Hayslip cowrote — was released as the lead single from Shelton's sixth studio album, *Red River Blue*, which launched at No. 1 on Top Country Albums, where he boasts seven leaders, and the allgenre Billboard 200, where he has banked two.

"Honey Bee" became Shelton's ninth of 14 Hot Country Songs No. 1s. On Country Airplay, he has tallied 28 chart-toppers. His current single, "Minimum Wage," ranks at No. 10 on the latter and No. 14 on the former.

Now 44, the Oklahoma native will return to the road on the Friends and Heroes Tour, which kicks off Aug. 18 in Omaha, Neb., with supporting acts Trace Adkins, Tracy Byrd, Lindsay Ell and Martina McBride. The busy Shelton and fiancée Gwen Stefani have announced a summer wedding, while he is set to return for his 21st season as a coach on NBC's The Voice—which encompasses the show's entire run—this fall.

-JIM ASKER

