# **billboard** Country Update

#### BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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**BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE** 



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# Country Music And Baseball: The Natural Link Between Two All-American Traditions

When Major League Baseball's finest batters digin at home plate during the annual All-Star Game on July 13, they'll be looking to bang out a hit.

It's a goal that ballplayers share with country singers — what artist doesn't want a hit single? — but it's merely the starting point in country music's deep commonality with the nation's pastime. Both entertainment forms originated in America, maintain a

strong connection with the heartland, are well-suited for beer and have their stars performing in front of thousands at the top of their game.

Baseball and country have additional reinforcement this year. St. Louis Cardinals fan **Joe Nichols** is working a single titled "Home Run," **Old Dominion** will launch a Live at the Ballpark tour of minor-league facilities on July 17, and a bundle of country acts — including **Kane Brown**, **Eric Church** and **Darius Rucker** — are among the music in-

dustry advisors for an ownership group hoping to bring Major League Baseball to Music City.

"The entertainer's mindset isn't too far from an athlete," says Florida Georgia Line's Brian Kelley, who pitched for the Belmont Bruins during his college years. "There's a lot of hurdles. There's a lot of no's along the way. There's a lot of hard work, a lot of hours, a lot of blood, sweat and tears put into your craft. And so I think there's a lot of respect between entertainers and athletes." Plenty of country figures have notable roots in ball-diamond dirt, led by the late **Charley Pride**, a former Negro League player who pitched in the mid-1950s against future Baseball Hall of Fame members **Hank Aaron**, **Ernie Banks** and **Willie Mays**. **Roy Acuff** became a Grand Ole Opry icon only after four bouts with sunstroke derailed his baseball aspirations. The Cardinals signed **Jim Reeves**, but a leg injury cut his career short. **Bill Anderson** played first base on an Avondale High ball club that



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won the Class A state championship in Georgia. **Brett Young** hit .444 his senior year in high school, then blew out his arm on the mound.

"I think I topped out at 95 [mph], but pitched at like 91," he recalls. "Then my freshman year in college, I hit 97 and then the next thing I knew, I had elbow surgery."

That concentrated focus on one body part to do their job is another aspect that country singers share with baseball's pitchers. Vocal surgery is as much a risk for a frontman on a series

of one-nighters as Tommy John surgery is for a strikeout artist. But their goals with that effort are different. A successful singer

creates unity in an audience, inspiring the crowd to sing along together on the chorus. The pitcher's job is to send the batter back to the bench, maybe even humiliate his opponent.

"I was a pitcher, and I [liked] the rock/paper/scissors element of baseball and that I get to embarrass you in front of whoever you invited to come see you play," says Big Loud artist **ERNEST**, an all-state player with Nashville's Lipscomb High School in 2011.



He had a won/loss record of 11-2 that year and was on the mound when the team won the AA state championship.

"I could embarrass you in front of scouts. I liked the competitive nature of pitching, of the mind game, even to the point where I would [tip off] the batter —I would do the glove motion for a curve ball and throw a curve ball, and he still couldn't hit it. It was just demeaning. I loved it. I loved to talk shit and back it up."

Though he talks tough, ERNEST harbors a soft spot for the game, illustrated in his latest track, "American Rust," released June 4. It opens with the image of a classic playground backstop, then references Chevrolet, Coca-Cola, John Deere, grandma and — in a tip of the hat to country music — **Deana Carter**'s "Strawberry Wine."

"My dad was born in 1951, and in our backyard, there used to be a backstop," notes ERNEST. "We bought the house my grandfather built, and when [my grandfather] bought this house, he bought an extra lot in the backyard and built the backstop back there where my dad and all of his friends would play baseball growing up. The backstop is not there anymore, but that's kind of a head nod to that backstop in 'American Rust.' "

The landscaping is part of the charm in baseball. The green of the grass, the symmetry of the bases and the ritual of chalking the batters box lend an orderliness to the event. The smell of hot dogs and popcorn, the crack of the bat and the sound of an umpire belting, "Stee-rike three," are all classic Americana enhancements, which makes the Old Dominion ballpark tour an ideal match.

"I like the pace of it, I like the sound of it — I don't even care about who's playing," the band's **Matthew Ramsey** says of baseball. "The tone of the announcer's voice and the murmured white noise of the crowd — it's like a meditation app. If it's just on [TV], it's relaxing to me. It means there's nothing super pressing happening, but at the same time, it can be one of the most tense games ever when it gets down to October. Then you start watching, and you see just how nerve-wracking every pitch is."

That's one of the deceptive parts of the game. Critics deride baseball for being too slow, but the moments between each pitch allow the players and the managers to reevaluate every next subtle move. Once the pitch gets delivered, every fielder needs to be on the balls of his feet, and the batter has a split second to decide whether to swing. Like a concert, there's a lot of waiting around before the actual entertainment plays out, and the participants have to be ready for unpredictable changes to the plan in an instant.

"Think about a pitch coming 100 miles an hour," says Young. "What they're able to do on that field is mind-blowing to me. So I'm in love with baseball, always will be."

Reacting in the moment — whether it's to a stolen-base attempt on the ballfield or to a broken drumstick on the concert stage — is typically the result of developing a natural skill through long, arduous hours of practice.

"You're hitting a hundred balls a day, trying to just hope that that one time you can act [on the play] in one of the games this weekend in the tournament," says songwriter **Ashley Gorley**, a co-writer of Nichols' "Home Run." The dedication "really is a good correlation, I think, because to be successful [in music],



Tim McGraw was a surprise guest during Alabama's July 3 concert at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. From left: *Shawn Parr's Across the Country* host Shawn Parr, opening act Martina McBride, McGraw and Faith Hill.



Walker County hung with WDAF Kansas City operations manager/GM Mike Kennedy during a radio promotion tour visit at KC Live! With him are duo members Sophie Walker (left) and Ivy Walker.



Chris Janson (right) met up with WCOL Columbus, Ohio, PD Dan Zuko when he played at Flannagan's on July 4.



"Seaforth finds themselves enjoying being smack in the middle of a blossoming career that has captured the attention of even the most discriminating critics"





# AARON LEWIS

# GOING FOR ADDS MONDAY 7/26

IN JUST ONE WEEK... OVER 4 MILLION ON-DEMAND STREAMS #2 DIGITAL SALES CHART (ALL GENRE) & OVER 58,000 SOLD #1 on Billboard's hot country songs chart #14 on Billboard hot 100





you're writing hundreds and listening to hundreds of songs, and trying to find the one that connects. And a little bit of magic has to happen."

That connection with the fan is part of it. The applause means something at the end of the song, but so do the cheers for a grand slam or for a diving catch in the outfield.

"I still remember walking into [Omaha's] Rosenblatt [Stadium] for opening ceremony," says Adam Doleac, who hit a double and a single in his only at-bats for Southern Mississippi during the 2009 College World Series. "I remember it like it was yesterday. That feeling of 30,000 people screaming at you is not something you forget very easily, you know? And that's kind of the same thing that I'm riding right now, walking out onstage. It's that same kind of feeling. I'm just chasing it with a guitar instead of a bat."

Both jobs require creativity and dedication for success, and the guys who stand on the mound get comfortable with taking a leadership role under a spotlight.

"You're the controller of the tempo and the pace as a pitcher," says Kelley. "You're setting, you're throwing it, and when you get the ball back, you can walk around, fix your hat, do your thing, whatever you want to do."

Doleac wrote the theme for the 2019 College World Series, "Key to the City," and it returned in that role this year. But it is not his only connection to the diamond in 2021. He also played softball on Monday nights with the Recoupables, a Nashville team that took its name from the industry term for expenses that record companies charge against an artist's royalties.

The Recoupables were No. 1 in the standings, whether or not the individual players took that slot in the charts, with HARDY, Jordan Davis, Chris Lane, Jameson Rodgers and Jimmie Allen also on the championship squad.

It carried on a sort of Music City tradition — artists such as Vince Gill, Carrie Underwood, Terri Clark, Clay Walker, Barbara Mandrell and Phil Vassar have participated in charity softball games through the years. And the studio musicians who were nicknamed the A-Team in the late 1950s and 1960s used to play in a beer league after doing back-to-back sessions during the day. A profane Patsy Cline was known to show up and cheer them on when she was in town.

The sounds fans usually hear from country artists at the ballpark, though, are typically the music itself.

"I can't count how many country music songs I hear watching the Braves game," says songwriter Dallas Davidson, who co-wrote Nichols' "Home Run." "Either the Braves guy or an opposing team, their walkup song is 'Boys' Round Here.'

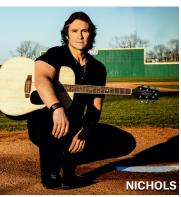
John Denver's "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" has been a seventh-inning Baltimore Orioles tradition for most of the last 50 years. Alabama's "The Cheap Seats," Kenny Rogers' "The Greatest" and Trace Adkins' "Swing, Batter, Swing" dropped the game into three-minute country songs that receive various levels of ballpark play. And plenty of country stars - including Luke Bryan, Sara Evans, Josh Turner and LeAnn Rimes – have delivered the national anthem or "God Bless America" during the All-Star Game.

It's a pressure-filled moment, notes Nichols, remembering that he caught flak

in 2014 after doing an acoustic version of "God Bless America" during the seventh inning after Idina Menzel blew out the anthem. Cardinals legends Bob Gibson and Lou Brock "looked at me like, 'Oh boy, we don't want to be in your shoes right now -top that," he says.

Social media was, not surprisingly, unkind.

"There's some tweets like 'God will now refuse to bless America for three days' - and some of these tweets are funny, by the way; you can't get mad at them," says Nichols.



AVID

"But the girls on The View, they were really nice to me. Whoopie [Goldberg] said, 'Nah, I think he sang it like a country singer sings it, wasn't nothing wrong.' I hope everybody feels that way."

For a number of years, Garth Brooks put himself through razzing at spring training, playing with the San Diego Padres, New York Mets, Pittsburgh Pirates and Kansas City Royals. One executive "recommended Shania Twain over Brooks," zinged Baseball America reporter Peter Gammons in 1999.

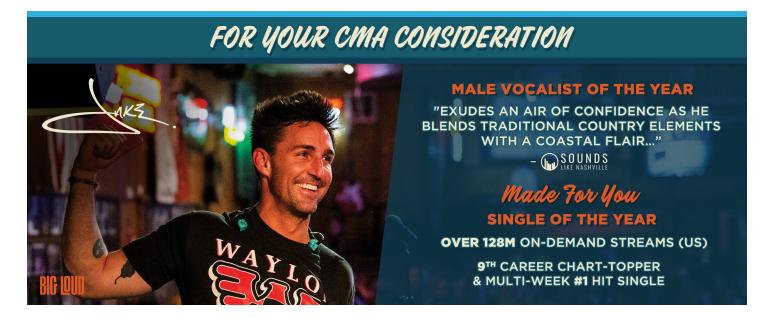
But other artists have been involved at the ownership level. Gene Autry controlled the Los Angeles Angels from their 1960 inception until 1995. Pride was part of the investment team when the Texas Rangers changed hands in 2010, Glen Campbell had a minority stake in the Arizona Diamondbacks, Roy Clark bought into the AA Tulsa Drillers in 1977, and the aptly named Nashville Sounds counted Conway Twitty, Larry Gatlin, Jerry Reed, Cal Smith and The Oak Ridge Boys' Richard Sterban among their owners during several stretches following their 1978 founding.

This year, owning a Major League team has become a realistic possibility for Music City, which – if it should be rewarded a franchise – is angling to call the club the Nashville Stars, honoring the name of a former Negro League team. There is no timeline on the plan, which requires the existing owners' approval, but it's the best bet the city has had.

"There's a lot of moving pieces, but there's a couple of teams that are looking to relocate, and there's a couple of cities that are looking for a team," says ERNEST. "If you're looking at the rate of which Nashville's been growing and continuing to grow, I think Nashville makes a good case to have a pro-ball team."

The DNA in the city's best-known industry makes it a natural fit, too.

"My mom always tells this story about how she knew that I wanted to be in entertainment in some way," says Old Dominion's Ramsey, whose natural position was second base. "Because when I was playing baseball as a kid, just a little kid, they asked me what my favorite part about it was. And I said, 'When I run across home plate and everyone yells, 'Yay!' " O



# FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION CHRISYOUR CMA CONSIDERATION "CHRISS (WITH KANE BROWN)"

# MUSICAL EVENT SINGLE MUSIC VIDEO SONG MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR



NO. 1 AT BB/BDS RADIO CHARTS

COLLABORATIVE VIDEO OF THE YEAR 2021 CMT AWARDS

12<sup>TH</sup> NO. 1 SINGLE

**OVER 92 MILLION** STREAMS



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

# Aaron Lewis Debuts At Number 'One' On Hot Country Songs; Chris Young, Kane Brown Get Friendly Atop Country Airplay



**Aaron Lewis**, founding member and lead vocalist of hard-rock band **Staind**, blasts in atop *Billboard*'s airplay-, sales- and streaming-based Hot Country Songs chart (dated July 17) with "Am I the Only One" (Valory).

His first leader on the list is the ninth song to debut atop the tally (which began as a multimetric genre ranking in 1958 and segued to its current methodology in 2012). It's the third of 2021, following **Morgan Wallen**'s "Wasted on You" in January and **Taylor Swift**'s "Love Story (Taylor's Version)" in February.

Released July 2, "One," which Lewis co-wrote with **Ira Dean** and **Jeffrey Steele**, arrives with 59,300 sold in its first week, ending July 8, according to MRC Data. It opens atop Country Digital Song Sales and at No. 2 on the allgenre Digital Song Sales ranking. On the former, it marks the biggest week

since the Feb. 10, 2018, chart, when **Jason Aldean**'s "You Make It Easy" soared in with 76,900 sold.

"One" also drew 4 million U.S. streams in the tracking week. Valory will be promoting the song to country radio beginning July 26.

Lewis adds his fourth Hot Country Songs appearance, after hitting a prior No. 39 high with "Endless Summer" in 2012. He has achieved two No. 1s on Top Country Albums. His first foray into the genre, the EP *Town Line*, arrived atop the tally in March 2011, and *Sinner* started at the apex in October 2016.

Staind formed in Springfield, Mass., and has notched three No. 1s on the all-genre Billboard 200, along with four leaders on the Mainstream Rock Airplay chart. The group hit a No. 5 best on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100 with "It's Been Awhile" in 2001.

"One," which includes lyrics such as "Am I the only one

who quits singing along every time they play a **Springsteen** song / Watchin' the threads of Old Glory come undone, I'm not the only one," has built buzz in part via Fox News, SiriusXM's Patriot Radio and social media platform Telegram.

**BEST 'FRIENDS' Chris Young** and **Kane Brown**'s "Famous Friends" (RCA Nashville) ascends 2-1 in its 32nd week on Country Airplay, up 2% to 32.8 million impressions in the week ending July 11. The song, which Young co-penned with



**Cary Barlowe** and **Corey Crowder**, is the title track from Young's Aug. 6 album. Young claims his 10th Country Airplay leader and first since "Losing Sleep" in February 2018. He first reigned with "Voices" in February 2011.

Brown adds his sixth leader, having last dominated with "Homesick" in March 2020. He first led with "What Ifs," featuring **Lauren Alaina**, in October 2017.

**'FANCY' FIRST IN STREAMS Walker Hayes**' viral hit "Fancy Like" (Monument) crowns Country Streaming Songs, flying from No. 5 to become his first leader. It surged by 65% to 12.1 million streams and sold 21,900 in the tracking week. On Country Airplay, it debuts at No. 53 with 886,000

impressions.

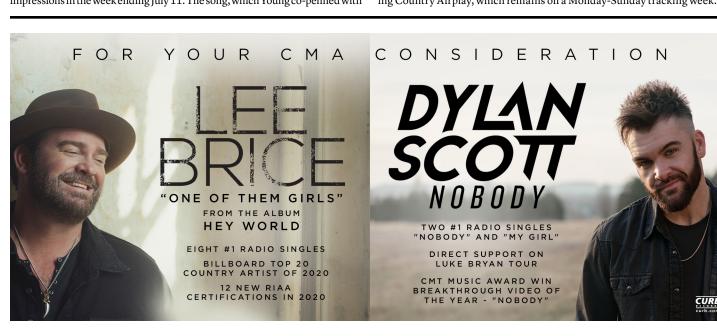
"Fancy" pushes 4-3 on Hot Country Songs, sparking another new career-best rank for Hayes. It continues to gain traction on TikTok, where he boasts over 900,000 followers, thanks partly to more clips posted in the tracking week of him dancing to the song with his children.

**NEW TOP 10s Justin Moore** scores his 12th Country Airplay top 10 as "We Didn't Have Much" (Valory) rises 11-9 (18.7 million, up 13%). Plus, **Luke Bryan** banks his 32nd Country Airplay top 10 as "Waves" (Capitol Nashville) crashes the region with a 15-10 swell (18.3 million, up 26%).

**HOUSEKEEPING** As of the July 17-dated Hot Country Songs and Billboard Hot 100 charts, the airplay tracking week for the tallies, as well as for all genre-based *Bill*-

board airplay-, sales- and streaming-based hybrid "Hot"-named surveys, shifts to a Friday-through-Thursday measurement cycle (from Monday-Sunday). The change aligns the monitored radio week for the charts with the Friday-Thursday period utilized for sales and streaming, with the July 17 chart week reflecting data tracked July 2-8 for all metrics.

This change does not affect format-specific radio format charts, including Country Airplay, which remains on a Monday-Sunday tracking week. ●



# THE FOLLOW-UP TO 11 CONSECUTIVE #1'S...

LUKE COMBS

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6

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3

# **COLD AS YOU**



# **IMPACTING MONDAY 7/19**

RIVER DOUSE

# **billboard** Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

				-				
THIS WEEK	LAST	WKS ON					PLAYS	
	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	2	32	FAMOUS FRIENDS       RCA Nashville       ★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★ ★       Chris Young + Kane Brown	32.815	+0.514	8261	112	1
2	1	26	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	31.822	-0.688	7141	-248	4
8	3	54	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	30.737	+2.073	7561	321	2
4	4	35	BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	29.453	+2.181	7371	429	3
6	7	32	DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow ** Most Increased Audience ** Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	25.590	+4.148	6451	983	5
6	6	38	GONE Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	23.317	-2.268	5361	-722	8
Ø	9	23	GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	21.743	+1.675	5395	539	7
8	8	42	SETTLING DOWN Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	20.980	+0.230	5623	26	6
9	11	38	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory Justin Moore	18.683	+2.092	4801	318	9
0	15	14	WAVES Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	18.325	+3.806	4555	672	12
Ð	13	13	COUNTRY AGAIN Valory Thomas Rhett	17.185	+2.113	4560	463	11
Ð	10	26	MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton	16.940	+0.176	4577	112	10
ß	14	29	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	+1.690	4366	206	13	
Ð	12	42	ONE TOO MANY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban Duet With P!nk	15.780	+0.503	4304	162	14
15	5	58	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	14.564	-11.632	3309	-3441	20
16	16	36	YOU TIME Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	13.378	+2.129	3801	446	15
Ð	17	8	IWAS ON A BOATTHAT DAY Arista Nashville Old Dominion	12.591	+1.790	3437	412	19
18	20	31	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	11.260	+1.039	3445	356	18
Ð	18	40	MY BOY Wheelhouse Elvie Shane	11.156	+0.894	3696	232	16
20	19	42	NEXT GIRL Big Machine Carly Pearce	10.452	+0.241	3490	68	17
2	21	36	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	10.161	+1.911	3113	364	21
2	23	24	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley	7.270	+1.221	2415	319	23
23	22	18	LIKE A LADY BMLG Lady A	7.200	+1.228	2390	263	24
2	25	19	CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris	6.561	+1.260	2373	160	25
25	24	18	KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	6.492	+0.498	2420	94	22
26	26	42	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU inDent/Mercury Nashville Priscilla Block	5.753	+1.114	1968	378	27
Ð	27	38	WHISKEY AND RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	5.675	+1.283	1998	288	26
28	28	25	TEQUILA LITTLETIME Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	4.632	+0.735	1802	236	28
2	31	16	IT'S 'CAUSE I AM Big Machine Callista Clark	4.214	+0.721	1526	160	30
30	29	8	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	4.053	+0.424	1364	228	33

# **COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND**

#### RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by MRC Data. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audiocopyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2021, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on MRC Data's platforms.

#### **BULLETS**

• Awarded on Country Airplay to titles gaining audience or remaining flat from the previous week. A song will also receive a bullet if its percentage loss in audience does not exceed the percentage of monitored station downtime for the format. Titles that decline in audience but increase in detections will also receive a bullet if the total audience erosion for the week does not exceed 3%.

#### TIES

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

#### RECURRENTS

On Country Airplay, descending titles below No. 10 in either audience or detections are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks, provided that they are not still gaining enough audience points to bullet or if they rank below No. 10 and post a third consecutive week of (non-bulleted) audience decline, regardless of total chart weeks.

#### **HOT SHOT DEBUT**

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

#### **MOST ADDED**

The total number of new adds officially reported to Billboard by each reporting station, or by an automatic-add threshold (seven plays for the first time in a chart tracking week, according to MRC Data) for stations that do not report adds.

#### **MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE**

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

#### AIRPOWER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles ranking inside top 20 in plays and audience rankings for the first time, with increases in both plays and audience.

#### BREAKER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles achieving airplay (at least one detection) at 60% of reporting stations for the first time.

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# **billboard** Country Airplay



					-	1		
THIS	LAST	WKS ON			N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
WEEK 3	WEEK 30	CHART 5	TITLE Imprint/Label         Artist           SAME BOAT         Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WA*         Zac Brown Band	THIS WEEK 4.031	+/- +0.481	THIS WEEK 1373	+/- 169	RANK 32
8	32	10	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring MacKenzie Porter	3.846	+0.401	1411	169	31
3	33	25	HOME SWEET Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	3.692	+0.538	1565	120	29
34	34	12	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney	3.333	+0.524	1355	135	34
35	36	21	TO BE LOVED BY YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	3.260	+0.464	1202	111	35
36	37	7	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	2.913	+0.224	721	76	43
37	35	33	LADY LIKE Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress	2.676	-0.138	1034	53	37
33	38	19	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Big Loud HARDY	2.223	+0.369	1090	82	36
39	40	19	THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville Matt Stell	1.809	+0.266	898	56	38
<b>D</b>	39	4	THE WORST COUNTRY SONG OF ALL TIME Valory Brantley Gilbert Featuring Toby Keith & HARDY	1.782	-0.024	614	22	45
6	44	34	IF IT WASN'T FORTRUCKS BMLG Riley Green	1.579	+0.412	733	63	41
❹	41	19	GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi	1.537	+0.173	862	33	39
<b>4</b> 3	43	32	WHERE I FIND GOD Big Loud Larry Fleet	1.452	+0.143	484	23	50
4	42	12	NOTYET BMLG Brett Young	1.418	+0.132	762	60	40
45	47	3	LIL BIT RECORDS/Columbia/BMLG Nelly & Florida Georgia Line	1.331	+0.315	482	52	52
46	45	21	I CAN'T Monument Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion	1.181	+0.077	732	42	42
Ð	56	2	SAND IN MY BOOTS Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	1.116	+0.417	291	102	-
<b>4</b> 8	NI	EW	THAT'S WHAT COWBOYS DO Pearl       ** Hot Shot Debut **       Garth Brooks	1.061	+0.600	305	184	-
49	46	10	I'M NOT FOR EVERYONE EMI Nashville Brothers Osborne	1.018	-0.008	643	21	44
50	NI	EW	COLD AS YOU River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	0.933	+0.783	211	178	-
61	49	7	NO SAD SONGS RCA Nashville Niko Moon	0.917	+0.032	503	34	48
62	48	12	FILL THEM BOOTS Big Loud Chris Lane	0.910	-0.016	431	12	54
<b>5</b> 3	NI	EW	FANCY LIKE         Monument         Walker Hayes	0.886	+0.440	274	138	-
54	57	6	BACK THEN, RIGHT NOW 19th & Grand Tenille Arts	0.814	+0.194	323	15	60
<b>5</b> 5	53	8	HOT BEER Riser House Dillon Carmichael	0.780	+0.082	492	38	49
56	54	6	YOU AIN'T PRETTY Quartz Hill Nate Barnes	0.763	+0.030	484	19	51
57	51	5	MY MASTERPIECE Capitol Nashville Darius Rucker	0.756	-0.009	523	3	47
58	50	6	WHILE YOU'RE GONE         Warner Music Nashville/WMN         Drew Parker	0.744	-0.118	222	8	-
<b>5</b> 9	55	7	WOULD HAVE LOVED HER         RECORDS         Chris Bandi	0.714	+0.011	595	5	46
60	52	3	OLD SCHOOL Show Dog Nashville Toby Keith	0.699	-0.076	413	86	56



# **GOING FOR ADDS**

7/19

AARON GOODVIN Lonely Drum (2021) Reviver/Warner Music Canada

JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN Buy Dirt MCA Nashville

LUKE COMBS Cold As You River House/Columbia Nashville

PRESLEY & TAYLOR 22 Red Flags White Mustang

SHINE Stand Up manustixmusio

MAZUR/BBMA2020/GETTY

KEVIN

SHY CARTER FEAT. COLE SWINDELL & DAVID LEE MURPHY Beer With My Friends Warner/WAR

THE WESTERN COUNTRY BAND It's Time To Smile recordJet

7/26 AARON LEWIS Am I The Only One Valory

# 8/2

ISAACS The American Face House Of Isaacs

MAGGIE BAUGH Think About Me Maggie Baugh

RANDALL KING Record High Warner Music Nashville

WALKER HAYES Fancy Like Monument

# ILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT 1.2M STREAMS TW +61% 31M STREAMS TO DATE +30% SHAZAMS

# **billboard** Country Airplay



JULY 12, 2021 | PAGE 11 OF 24

## **MOST ADDED®**

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	ADDS
TILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT RCA/Triple Tigers Cam	15
THAT'S WHAT COWBOYS DO Pearl Garth Brooks	15
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	13
THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring MacKenzie Porter	11
OLD SCHOOL Show Dog Nashville Toby Keith	11
JUST ABOUT OVER YOU InDent/Mercury Priscilla Block	10
HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerini	9
THE WORST COUNTRY SONG OF ALL TIME Valory Brantley Gilbert Featuring Hardy & Toby Keith	8
COLD AS YOU River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	8
FANCY LIKE Monument Walker Hayes	7

# **MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE**

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)
DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow	Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	+4.148
WAVES Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+3.806
BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+2.181
YOU TIME Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+2.128
COUNTRY AGAIN Valory	Thomas Rhett	+2.113
WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory	Justin Moore	+2.092
SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nas	hville/WMN Cole Swindell	+2.073
MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb	Lee Brice	+1.911
I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	+1.791
THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bov	v Lainey Wilson	+1.690

## **MOST INCREASED PLAYS**

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow	Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	+983
WAVES Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+672
GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	+539
COUNTRY AGAIN Valory	Thomas Rhett	+463
YOU TIME Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+446
BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+429
I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	+412
JUST ABOUT OVER YOU inDent/Mercury Nash	ville Priscilla Block	+378
MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb	Lee Brice	+364
COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	+356

# **NEW AND ACTIVE**

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL Stations	ADDS
TILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT RCA/Triple Tigers Cam	0.617	41	15
WOMAN YOU GOT Mercury Nashville Maddie & Tae	0.535	40	4
OLD SCHOOL'S IN Valory Heath Sanders	0.527	38	0
FOOTPRINTS ON THE MOON Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barret	0.416	15	4
VILLAIN Back Block/Rep/Big Loud Lily Rose	0.412	22	0
HOME RUN Quartz Hill Joe Nichols	0.335	24	1

# RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	total aud. (in millions)
1	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	16.046
2	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory	Thomas Rhett	15.312
3	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nasi	nville Sam Hunt	14.742
4	JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek Parmalee	x Blanco Brown	14.073
5	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	13.858
6	LADY BMLG	Brett Young	13.854
7	THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	11.570
8	DOWN TO ONE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	11.549
9	BETTER TOGETHER River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	11.091
10	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers Ru	ussell Dickerson	9.598





Reflected Reflected Reflected

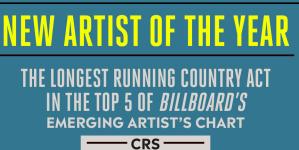
# **TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT**

WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 2021

		1000.000.000.0									
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	2	17	CAN DOWN (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1 ★★ Mike Ryan	2009	185	0	15	13	FEELS A LOT LIKE THIS (Independent) Corey Kent	1183	51
0	3	22	ANYBODY LOVIN' YOU LATELY (Independent) Clay Hollis	1900	131	Ð	16	14	WRAP YOU UP IN LOVE (Independent) Darrin Morris Band	1173	48
3	5	10	BOOTS (BIG Label) Aaron Watson	1728	77	ß	17	9	RODEO GIRL (Independent) Micky&The Motorcars	1158	96
4	4	19	STUCK WITH YOU (10X Music Group) Brodie Lane	1663	-6	14	14	19	HONKY TONK ON (Independent) Hayden Haddock	1129	-14
6	6	19	BREAK ANOTHER HEART (Independent) Kaitlyn Kohler	1510	38	Ð	20	6	SHOWING OFF (Independent) Sundance Head & Ariel Hutchins	1116	101
6	1	14	HOLD MY BEER (Lil Buddy Toons) Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	1508	-573	1	18	13	THINGS I SHOULDN'T HAVE (Independent) Jesse Raub Jr.	1052	5
7	7	19	IF YOU CAN DANCE (Independent) Jon Stork	1395	-36	Ð	21	13	ROLLIN STONE (Rouxbie Music) Kendall Shaffer	1042	62
8	9	14	SIGNS (Independent) David Adam Byrnes	1382	10	ß	19	15	WHERE THE NEON LIES (Independent) Triston Marez f/ Ronnie Dunn	1034	4
9	10	18	BOURBON WHISKEY (Independent) William Beckmann	1300	7	19	11	16	QUEEN FOR A NIGHT (Almost Country) Casey Donahew	1021	-234
0	13	14	PLAINVIEW (Independent) Kin Faux	1199	38	20	8	18	FRIENDS (Independent) Curtis Grimes	1000	-382

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

# MATT STELL





OVER 450 MILLION on-demand audio & video streams on all tracks to date

# "EVERYWHERE BUT ON"

SINGLE OF THE YEAR Song of the year

**RIAA GOLD CERTIFIED** 

NO. 1 ON THE BILLBOARD & MEDIABASE COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHARTS

"THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE" MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR



"A ROCKER AND A SCHOLAR, A POET AND A PARTIER, A SONGWRITER AND A SINNER – IT ALL PLAYS INTO WHO THE RISING COUNTRY MUSIC STAR IS AT HIS CORE." – AMERICAN SONGWRITER



Niko Moon

# GOOD TIME"



# SONG OF THE YEAR

RIAA PLATINUM® CERTIFIED

**OVER 280 MILLION STREAMS** 

"GOOD TIME' HAS SPRUNG HIM INTO PLAYLISTS, LIVING ROOMS, AND HEARTS WORLDWIDE." - RADIO.COM

# **SINGLE OF THE YEAR**

NM

NO. 1 ON BILLBOARD & MEDIABASE COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHARTS

## ONLY DEBUT SINGLE SIMULTANEOUSLY NO. 1

ON THE BILLBOARD AIRPLAY & HOT COUNTRY SONGS CHARTS SINCE 2014

# "GOOD TIME" FT. SHAGGY MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

"A SNAPPY REMAKE COURTESY OF SHAGGY WHO JOINS MOON ON A REIMAGINING THAT TRANSPORTS THE SONG FROM ANYWHERE, USA TO A CARIBBEAN ISLAND." - **Dillocard** 

#### NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Monument recording artist Alex Hall made his Grand Ole Opry debut on July 6. From left: Opry Entertainment Group director of artist relations and programming strategy Jordan Petit, Monument GM Katie McCartney, Hall, Red Light Management executive Autumn House-Tallant and Opry vp/executive producer Dan Rogers.

#### **CMA SUMMER JAM SET FOR ABC**

The pandemic may have scuttled the CMA Music Festival for a second year, but the Country Music Association has found a new way to provide ABC a three-hour special.

The organization will stage a two-night all-star CMA Summer Jam at Nashville's Ascend Amphitheater July 27-28, with highlights from the concerts forming the backbone for the currently undated special.

The July 27 lineup offers Carrie Underwood, Luke Bryan, Blake Shelton, Gwen Stefani, Dwight Yoakam, Cole Swindell, Mickey Guyton, Carly Pearce and Lainey Wilson.

Taking the stage the following night are Miranda Lambert, Luke Combs, Florida Georgia Line, Thomas Rhett, Dierks Bentley, Gabby Barrett, Jon Pardi, Brothers Osborne and Jimmie Allen.

Additional performances will be filmed at separate Downtown Nashville locations, with announcements about those events still to come.

ABC has presented a CMA Fest special annually since 2004, pulling much of the footage from four nights of concerts at Nashville's Nissan Stadium. But the pandemic forced cancellations of the festival in 2020 and again in 2021.

A year ago, producers dug into the vaults to present *CMA Best of Fest*, featuring past performances at the event by the likes of **Jason Aldean**, **Brad Paisley**, **Keith Urban** and **Garth Brooks**.

The amphitheater provides the opportunity to gather new footage, presumably including current hits. The site has been used in recent years as an adjunct venue to showcase music to fans who were unable to secure tickets to the sold-out stadium shows.

Brooks is currently slated to play the stadium on July 31.

Since the amphitheater shows are outdoors, they are less likely to be impacted by the current rise in COVID-19 infections. Some 42.5% of Tennesseans have had at least one dose of a vaccine, according to the Tennessee Department of Health. Nationally, 67.7% of adults 18-plus have received a dose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

#### **RADIO & RECORDS®**

Luke Jensen joined Monument as vp promotion. He spent the last five years as an Arista Nashville regional promotion manager ... Cody Jinks announced a formal expansion of his Late August label on July 12. True Grit Management founder Arthur Penhallow Jr. and Mavin Management Specialists owner Malia Barrett lead the enterprise, which will offer Jinks' entire catalog as well as future releases. The move also enables the label to release music by other acts at a later date. Jinks issued his last two studio albums, the 2019 projects *After the Fire* and *The Wanting*, on Late August ... WPOC Baltimore host Laurie De Young is a finalist for the Radio Hall of Fame as an active local/regional personality. Go here for the full nominations list ... Cumulus promoted both Dave Milner and Bob Walker to president of operations

from executive vp ... **Steve Fehder** signed up as SummitMedia/Louisville (Ky.) president, with oversight of four stations, including country **WQNU**. Fehder was GM for adult contemporary **WVEZ** during a previous stint in the market. He returns to Louisville after serving as Kensington Digital Media/ Nashville market manager ... **WGH** Newport News-Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Va., added **Annaliese Lemieux-Kaplan** to its morning show, RadioInk.com reported. She was previously adult contemporary **WQMZ** Charlottesville, Va., music director/morning co-host ... **WPGB** Pittsburgh PD/afternoon host J.D. **Greene** parted ways with the station, according to RadioInsight.com ... Country Radio Broadcasters is offering the first part of a two-part CRS360 webinar on returning to the workplace as COVID-19 conditions shift. Go <u>here</u> to sign up for the session on July 15 at 1 p.m. CT.

### **'ROUND THE ROW**

Willie Nelson's Luck Presents hired vp partnerships Chris Parham. The production company's primary event is the annual Luck Reunion. Parham leaves a strategic marketing position at Vector Management ... Music Choice promoted Jim Murphy to senior manager of programming from head of country programming, which remains part of his duties ... Anthem Entertainment acquired a portion of the publishing catalog at Chris Farren's Combustion Music, including songs penned by Ashley Gorley, Zach Crowell and Jerry Flowers. Anthem will administer the active Combustion roster going forward, including Matt Jenkins, Jameson Rodgers and Matthew West ... Singer-songwriter Wade Bowen signed a publishing agreement with Warner Chappell Nashville ... Keith Urban is back as presenting sponsor of the Music Row Ladies Golf Tournament for a fifth straight year. The event, which benefits United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee, will take place Sept. 13 ... Parker McCollum was tabbed as the Opry NextStage artist for July, coordinating exposure across multiple platforms affiliated with the Grand Ole Opry ... Discover Sooner presents a Priceless Answers from Publishers Zoom event at 5 p.m. CT on July 15 with Warner Chappell Nashville director of A&R Will Overton and BMG Nashville senior director of creative Katie Kerkhover. Go here to register ... Bill Anderson, T.G. Sheppard, Jeannie Seely and The Oak Ridge Boys are among the acts that will take part in Coming Home: Rebuilding the Bilbrey's, a livestream benefit for Larry's Country Diner host Keith Bilbrey, whose house was destroyed in a June 23 fire. The event takes place at CountryRoadTV.com at 7:30 p.m. CT on July 15 ... The 2022 CMT Awards take place April 3 on CBS ... Fiddler Byron Berline died July 10 in Oklahoma, The Oklahoman reported. The owner of Guthrie's Double Stop Fiddle Shop in Guthrie, Okla., he worked with Bill Monroe, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, The Dillards and Elton John, and participated in the Emmylou Harris hits "If I Could Win Your Love" and "One of These Days." Berline joined the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 1999 ... Larry Sheridan will be honored with a celebration of life from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. CT on Aug. 10 at Nashville's 3rd & Lindsley. Sheridan, who died June 19, was an owner of Ultimate Event Nashville, Music Row Realty and Best Built Songs.



Brad Paisley (right) welcomes comedian J.B. Smoove for an underwater sound experiment on Brad Paisley's Shark Country on July 13 during the Discovery Channel's Shark Week programming.

# WALKER HAYES FANCY LIKE

**10.8 MILLION** 

**STREAMS TW** 

22 EARLY ADDS | ADD DATE 8/2



# CAITLYN SMITH

# FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

> ON THE ROAD WITH: GEORGE STRAIT OLD DOMINION LITTLE BIG TOWN

I CAN'T (FEATURING) OLD DOMINION

# 41 CA/MB # 46 BB STREAMS THIS WEEK: 792,327



# **billboard** Hot Country Songs



				-			
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS Ago	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY Airplay Rank	PEAK Position
0	NE	w	1	AM I THE ONLY ONE ** No. 1 (1 Week)/ Hot Shot Debut **	Aaron Lewis VALORY	-	1
2	1	1	37	FOREVER AFTER ALL CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D.SINGLETON, L.COMBS (L.COMBS, D.PARKER, R. WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	2	1
3	4	10	4	FANCY LIKE ** Streaming Gainer **	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	53	3
4	2	2	22	FAMOUS FRIENDS C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER (C.YOUNG,C.R.BARLOWE,C.CROWDER)	Chris Young + Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	1	2
5	3	3	33	LIL BIT J.M.SCHMIDT (T.HUBBARD, J.M.SCHMIDT, B.REDFERRIN, C.HAYNES, JR.)	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line RECORDS/COLUMBIA/BMLG	45	3
6	10	9	36	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT ** Digital Gainer **	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	3	6
Ø	5	5	23	BLAME IT ON YOU M.KNOX (K.M.ALLISON,J.EDWARDS,T.KENNEDY,M.TYLER,B.WHITE)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	4	5
8	11	8	22	GLAD YOU EXIST D.SMYERS (D.SMYERS,J.REYNOLDS,T.M.PARKS,S.MOONEY,R.L.TAYLOR)	Dan + Shay WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	7	8
9	8	13	19	DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. ** Airplay Gainer ** C.CROWDER,C.RICE,C.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY (C.RICE,C.CROWDER,H.PHELPS,C.DODDS)	Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line DACK JANIELS/BMLG/BROKEN BOW	5	8
10	6	4	38	GONE D.GARCIA (N.GALYON,B.JOHNSON,N.MOON)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	6	2
0	12	11	17	HINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Lainey Wilson 0YCE (LWILSON,J.D.SINGLETON,J.NIX) BROKEN BOW		13	11
12	9	6	39	IN STALLING DOWN Miranda Lambert JOYCE (M.LAMBERT,LDICK, N.HEMBY) VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE		8	6
₿	15	18	21	CHASING AFTER YOU Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris LESHUIS, TREIMER (B.ADDINGTON, J.FLOWERS) ARISTA NASHVILLE		24	13
❹	14	16	19	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK (ELLE KING,M.JOHNSON)	Elle King & Miranda Lambert RCA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	36	14
15	13	12	43	ONE TOO MANY K.URBAN,PHD,CUTFATHER (D.H.DAVIDSEN,P.WALLEVIK,M.H.HANSEN,J.NORTON,C.TIGHE)	Keith Urban Duet With P!nk HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	14	12
ſ	18	17	12	COUNTRY AGAIN D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,Z.CROWELL,A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	11	16
Ð	20	20	13	WAVES J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (Z.CROWELL,R.J.HURD,R.C.MCGILL)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	10	17
B	19	19	15	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (P.DIGIOVANNI,R.MONTANA,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	9	18
19	16	15	23	MINIMUM WAGE S.HENDRICKS (C.CROWDER,N.GALYON,J.FRASURE)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	12	12
20	22	21	18	MY BOY 0.CHARLES (E.SHANE,R.SUTTON,N.COLUMBIA,L.STARR)	Elvie Shane WHEELHOUSE	19	20
2)	21	24	15	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,A.GORLEY,C.DUBOIS)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	30	21
2	26	26	7	I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY S.MCANALLY,OLD DOMINION (M.RAMSEY,T. ROSEN,W.SELLERS,G.SPRUNG,B.F.TURSI,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Old Dominion ARISTA NASHVILLE	17	22
23	24	25	12	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	18	23
24	23	22	26	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
25	25	23	28	NEXT GIRL S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	20	23

# **COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™**

	1	<b>#1</b> 12 WKS	ASHLEY GORLEY					
	2	CO	REY CROWDER					
	3	NIC	NICOLLE GALYON					
	4	HA	HARDY					
	5	HU	NTER PHELPS					
TIE	6	AA	RON LEWIS					
TIE	6	IRA	DEAN					
TIE	6	JEI	FFREY "STEELE" LEVASSEUR					
TIE	9	DR	EW PARKER					
TIE	9	LUI	KE COMBS					
TIE	9	RO	B WILLIFORD					
		-						



# **COUNTRY PRODUCERS<sup>TM</sup>**

1	
2	JORDAN SCHMIDT
3	MICHAEL CARTER
4	MICHAEL KNOX
5	DANN HUFF
6	DAN SMYERS
7	SHANE MCANALLY
8	COREY CROWDER
9	DAVID GARCIA
10	AARON LEWIS
10	IRA DEAN

The weekly Country Songwriters and Country Producers charts are based on total points accrued by a songwriter and producer, respectively, for each attributed song that appears on the Hot Country Songs chart. As with Billboard's yearly recaps, multiple writers or producers split points for each song equally (and the dividing of points will lead to occasional ties on rankings).

# **billboard** Hot Country Songs

STREA	, AIRPLAY & MING DATA ILED BY
	MRC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS Ago	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist Imprint / promotion label	COUNTRY Airplay Rank	PEAK Position		
20	28	28	13	KNOWING YOU B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (BRETT JAMES,A.JAMES,K.HIGGINS)	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	25	25		
27	27	27	23	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH         Lee Brice           B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,LBRICE (LBRICE,B.MONTANA,B.DAVIS)         CURB					
23	29	29	10	YOU TIME Scotty McCreery FROGERS, D. WELLS, A. ESHUIS (S.C. MCCREERY, FROGERS, A. ESHUIS) TRIPLE TIGERS					
29	NE	w	1	COUNTY LINE CHASE MATTHEW,B.MANLEY,A.SHAWN (CHASE MATTHEW)	Chase Matthew HOLLER BOY	-	29		
30	RE-E	NTRY	21	SAND IN MY BOOTS J.MOI (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,J.OSBORNE)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	47	5		
3)	NE	w	1	HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA T.KEITH,K.GREENBERG (T.KEITH)	Toby Keith SHOW DOG NASHVILLE	-	31		
32	RE-E	NTRY	3	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Z.CROWELL (D.LYNCH,A.ALBERT,H.PHELPS,W.WEATHERLY)	Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter BROKEN BOW	32	29		
3	32	34	11	WHISKEY AND RAIN R.COPPERMAN (J.FRASURE,J.THOMPSON)	Michael Ray WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	27	32		
34	39	38	7	BUY DIRT P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS, J.DAVIS, M.JENKINS, J.JENKINS)	Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan MCA NASHVILLE	-	34		
35	33	36	5	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley ABOWERSJALLEN (JALLEN, ABOWERS, M. ROGERS) STONEY CREEK					
36	36	32	12	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN K.BALLERINI,R.COPPERMAN,J.ROBBINS (K.BALLERINI,S.MCANALLY,R.COPPERMAN,J.ROBBINS,N.GALYON) KEIsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney BLACK RIVER					
37	31	40	5	LIKE A LADY D.HUFF (H.SCOTT,D.M.BARNES,M.BUZZ,M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK) BMLG					
33	34	33	21	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU Priscilla Block J.JOHNSON (P.BLOCK,S.JONES,E.K.KROLL) INDENT/MERCURY NASHVILLE		26	33		
39	30	-	2	RIDE THE LIGHTNING (717 TAPES) Warren Zeiders W.Zeiders (W.Zeiders,E.PASLAY,R.CROSBY) WARREN ZEIDERS		-	30		
40	NE	w	1	IF IT WASN'T FOR TRUCKS D.HUFF (R.GREEN,ERIK DYLAN,R.MONTANA)	Riley Green BMLG	41	40		
4)	41	47	4	SAME BOAT Z.BROWN,B.SIMONETTI (B.SIMONETTI,Z.BROWN,J.D.SINGLETON)	Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	31	34		
42	35	37	16	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDY,A.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)	HARDY BIG LOUD	38	29		
43	43	42	6	TEQUILA LITTLE TIME B.BUTLER,R.GORE,J.PARDI (J.PARDI,R.AKINS,L.LAIRD)	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	28	42		
•	42	39	12	LADY LIKE S.ELLIS, I.ANDRESS (I.ANDRESS, S.ELLIS, D.SOUTHERLAND)	Ingrid Andress ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	37	39		
45	40	41	6	HOME SWEET C.BROWN,D.HUFF,R.DICKRESON (R.DICKERSON,C.BROWN,C.KELLEY)	Russell Dickerson TRIPLE TIGERS	33	40		
46	44	46	3	TO BE LOVED BY YOU JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM,R.AKINS)	Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	35	44		
47	38	35	4	I QUIT DRINKING J.ROBBINS,N.CONRAD (K.BALLERINI,N.GALYON,P.J.KLEIN)	Kelsea Ballerini & LANY BLACK RIVER	-	30		
48	37	-	2	TEENAGE DREAM B.DYMOND (G.HORNE,B.DYMOND)	Kidd G Kidd G	-	37		
49	45	43	5	NOT YET D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,K.ARCHER,J.EBACH)	Brett Young BMLG	44	35		
50	46	48	12	VILLAIN M.L.MORRISEY (LR.WILLIAMSON, M.E.CARPENTER, K.S.CLARK)	Lily Rose BACK BLOCK/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	36		
		i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i							

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 O	COUNT		YEAR-TO-DA	TE		YEAR-OVER-YEAR		
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND		2020	2021	CHANGE	ALBUM CONSUMPTION
This Week	1,473,000	1,630,589,000	138,077,000	Album Consumption	31,405,000	36,189,000	15.2%	'20 31.41 million
Last Week	1,398,000	1,556,290,000	131,931,000	Album Sales	4.456.000	4,543,000	2.0%	'21 36.19 million
Change	5.4%	<b>4.8</b> %	4.7%			.,		TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS
This Week Last Year	1,282,000	1,399,221,000	136,510,000	Audio On-Demand	33,807,905,000	40,238,460,000	19.0%	'20 37.62 billion
Change	14.9%	16.5%	1.1%	Video On-Demand	3,808,791,000	3,758,439,000	-1.3%	'21 44 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending July 8, 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;

For inquiries about any MRC Data, please contact Josh Bennett at 615-807-1338 or jbennett@mrcentertainment.com



bi		b	50	TO TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS		
WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK
1	1	1	26	IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL  MORGAN WALLEN DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC		1
2	2	2	87	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
3	3	3	214	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	3	1
4	4	4	162	MORGAN WALLEN         IF I KNOW ME           BIG LOUD 783*		1
6	19	20	135	TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)		1
6	6	6	323	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
0	9	9	309	ZAC BROWN BAND GREATEST HITS SO FAR HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG		3
8	5	8	21	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE LIFE ROLLS ON BMLG FG0500A*		3
9	7	7	34	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
0	14	26	3	WALKER HAYES COUNTRY STUFF (EP) MONUMENT DIGITAL EX		10
0	RE-EI	NTRY	257	GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	7	1
Ð	11	11	48	LUKE BRYAN BORN HERE LIVE HERE DIE HERE CAPITOL NASHVILLE 031777/UMGN	•	1
ß	12	12	55	GABBY BARRETT GOLDMINE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN	•	4
14	10	5	13	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578		1
15	13	13	66	SAM HUNT SOUTHSIDE MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN		1
16	16	14	85	JASON ALDEAN 9 MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 32944*/BBMG		1
Ð	17	15	182	EAGLES HOTEL CALIFORNIA ASYLUM/ELEKTRA 103*/RHINO (18.98)		5
B	NE	w	1	RILEY GREEN BEHIND THE BAR BMLG DIGITAL EX		18
₽	22	21	266	TIM MCGRAW NUMBER ONE HITS CURB 79205 (13.98)		6
20	24	27	236	BROOKS & DUNN THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	4	2
21	15	23	104	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	11
2	26	25	298	BLAKE SHELTON RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 551788/WMN		2
æ	27	22	213	JOHNNY CASH THE ESSENTIAL JOHNNY CASH COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 86290*/LEGACY (24.98/17.98)	3	16
24	18	18	33	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*		7
25	33	32	40	RASCAL FLATTS TWENTY YEARS OF RASCAL FLATTS: THE GREATEST HITS LYRIC STREET/BIG MACHINE RF0650A*/BMLG		9

SALES, DATA COMPILED BY

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пор соонку яношть тапкь the most popular country aloums or the week, as compiled by MRC Data, be on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2021, Billboard Media, LLC and MRC Data. All rights reserved. SALES DATA COMPILED BY

bi		b	C	AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS	COMPI	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK
0	1	1	269	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
2	2	2	34	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
3	4	3	121	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	2
4	11	9	136	JOHN MELLENCAMP MERCURY 536738*/UME THE BEST THAT I COULD DO 1978 - 1988	3	4
6	NE	w	1	JONI MITCHELL THE REPRISE ALBUMS (1968-1971) REPRISE 653984*/RHINO		5
6	5	4	315	HOZIER HOZIER HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	3	1
Ø	9	8	232	SIMON & GARFUNKEL SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY		3
8	8	7	274	THE LUMINEERS CLEOPATRA DUALTONE 1738*		1
9	19	16	64	JIMMY BUFFETT SONGS YOU KNOW BY HEART: JIMMY BUFFETT'S GREATEST HIT(S) MCA/GEFFEN 5633*/UME (11.9)	7	4
10	7	6	171	KACEY MUSGRAVES GOLDEN HOUR MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN		1

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

bi		b	oard	b		b	bard Streaming & SALE
СС	<b>U</b>	NT	RY IING SONGS	CC	)UI	NT	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
0	5	2	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES	0	NE	w	AM I THE ONLY ONE AARON LEWIS
0	1	13	LIL BIT Nelly & Florida Georgia Line	2	1	4	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES
3	2	37	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS	3	NE	w	HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA TOBY KEITH
4	3	222	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON	4	2	33	LIL BIT Nelly & Florida Georgia Line
6	4	8	FAMOUS FRIENDS CHRIS YOUNG + KANE BROWN	6	23	21	GOD BLESS THE USA LEE GREENWOOD
6	13	16	GLAD YOU EXIST Dan + Shay	6	9	37	THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT
0	8	5	BLAME IT ON YOU JASON ALDEAN	0	RE-EI	NTRY	FISHIN' IN THE DARK NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND
8	6	11	CHASING AFTER YOU RYAN HURD WITH MAREN MORRIS	8	RE-EI	NTRY	COURTESY OF THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE (THE ANGRY AMERICAN) Toby Keith
9	NE	w	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT COLE SWINDELL	9	16	7	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT COLE SWINDELL
0	10	2	DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Chase Rice Feat. Florida georgia line	0	NEW		COUNTY LINE CHASE MATTHEW
0	11	8	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) Elle king & Miranda Lambert	0	RE-ENTRY		AMERICAN SOLDIER TOBY KEITH
Ø	22	3	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW LAINEY WILSON	12	5 19		DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) Elle king & Miranda Lambert
B	12	26	GOOD TIME NIKO MOON	B	RE-E	NTRY	GLAD YOU EXIST Dan + Shay
Ø	18	121	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN	Ø	RE-EI	NTRY	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT
Ð	16	45	STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON	Ð	RE-EI	NTRY	MR. RED WHITE AND BLUE COFFEY ANDERSON
œ	15	26	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN	đ	NE	W	WHERE THE STARS AND STRIPES AND THE EAGLE FLY AARON TIPPIN
Ð	RE-EI	NTRY	CHICKEN FRIED ZAC BROWN BAND	Ð	RE-EI	NTRY	MARGARITAVILLE JIMMY BUFFETT
₿	17	160	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS	18	6	7	I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY OLD DOMINION
19	9	21	THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT	19	7	37	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS
20	20	89	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT	20	RE-EI	NTRY	MEMORIZE YOU Laine hardy
4	24	3	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON	21	8	18	FAMOUS FRIENDS CHRIS YOUNG + KANE BROWN
2	21	168	MEANT TO BE Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line	2	RE-EI	NTRY	FOREVER AND EVER, AMEN RANDY TRAVIS
3	RE-EI	NTRY	WAGON WHEEL DARIUS RUCKER	23	3	2	RIDE THE LIGHTNING (717 TAPES) WARREN ZEIDERS
2	RE-EI	NTRY	ONE OF THEM GIRLS LEE BRICE	24	RE-E	NTRY	KNOWING YOU Kenny Chesney
Ð	RE-EI	NTRY	COURTESY OF THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE (THE ANGRY AMERICAN) Toby Keith	25	10	276	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON

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

# billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.		
1	1	1	53	GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION STRETCH GRASS 4050		1		
0	2	2	30	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS		1		
3	3	3	38	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS		1		
4	4	4	7	JOHN HIATT WITH THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND LEFTOVER FEELINGS NEW WEST 6514*		1		
5	9	5	5	CHRIS THILE LAYSONGS NONESUCH 654086*/WARNER				
6	11	9	55	YO-YO MA/STUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS				
7	7	-	3	GRAHAM SHARP TRUER PICTURE YEP ROC		7		
8	NEW 1 NICKEL CREEK LIVE FROM THE FOX THEATER, OAKLAND, CA: MAY 19TH, 2				8			
9	6	_	2	TIM O'BRIEN HE WALKED ON HOWDY SKIES 2021		6		
10	5	-	2	DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER ROUNDTABLE BILLY BLUE 2375		5		

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.

# FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION **JAMESON RODGERS**

# NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

"COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME" (FEAT. LUKE COMBS)

> MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR MUSIC VIDEO

OF THE YEAR SONG OF THE YEAR

"SOME GIRLS" SINGLE OF THE YEAR

#1 Debut Single At Country Radio



New Artist Nominee



"One of today's best new artists" - Music Row

2021 ARTIST TO WATCH - THE BOOT AND MUSICROW

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

ELLEKING

# **MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR**

(AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) WITH MIRANDA LAMBERT

# **MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR**

No.



DEBUTED AT NO. 1 ON *Billboards'* Country Digital song sales chart

> "THIS MAY END UP BEING A TOP 10 POP Song, Country Song, And Rock Song of 2021" - Stereogum



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

#### JULY 12, 2021 | PAGE 21 OF 24

# Gabby Barrett Uses A 'Moon' Shot **To Propel Her Immediate Future**

The span of Gabby Barrett's third Warner Music Nashville single is remarkably universal.

Its title, "Footprints on the Moon," addresses big-picture accomplishment, obliquely reminding the listener that Neil Armstrong touched down on the dusty lunar surface 52 years ago with his much-heralded "one small step."

From space, the property in Pennsylvania where Barrett took her first stabs at her future career looks like a mere speck. The "Footprints" chorus references

that time, recalling the overwhelming hurdles she imagined "standing there, staring at the mirror in the room." Before the chorus is over, the singer reminds herself that that distant moon was once unreachable and that the girl in the looking glass "can do anything, anything you want to."

"I wish that I kind of had a song like this to listen to at the time when I was going through that stage," says Barrett, recognizing "Footprints" as a song addressed to both her former self and her current fans.

Humans didn't make it to the moon in a day, and Barrett didn't arrive on a national stage overnight either. But every day, every step forward, along the way was crucial as she battled the negative internal voices that are part of everyone's existence.

"It's like a whole flashback for me," says Barrett. "When you finally just find yourself at this low point of feeling like you want to give up, or you've been putting a lot into it and you're just reflecting on yourself in the mirror, you've got to look at yourself, give yourself a pep talk, like,

'No, you are able to do this, and you need to keep going and persevering.' Of course, that's something that I did when I was younger."

"Footprints" is, appropriately, an example of perseverance. Songwriter Jon Nite ("Break Up in the End," "Living") brought up the title periodically during co-writing sessions for at least a year - more likely two or three - but it never quite connected with everyone in the room.

"It's such an odd concept, but I think that every country boy who was sitting in the truck looking up and staring up at the stars and seeing the moon at night – I mean, it's crazy to think that some human in 1969 walked on the moon," he says. "If we can do that with the limited technology we had back in the '60s and no microprocessors, I feel like we can kind of do anything."

Nite did have one believer in "Footprints": Zach Kale ("I Hope," "The Good Ones"), who asked to be part of the writing team whenever Nite found another willing participant. When Barrett bit on the idea during a writing session at Kale's East Nashville home in February 2020, the conditions were perfect. Nite thought it was a song that might take six or seven full writing sessions to complete, and Barrett has such a strong work ethic they knew they had found a third writing partner who would stick with it.

'That's a group that doesn't mind digging for the best idea at all," says Kale. Nite had only the title and a couple of other lines from the chorus, and finishing that anthemic section was the first priority. They focused in on the personal level at the opening part of that stanza-the negative feedback from the outside world and the inner demons - before zooming out on that "footprints on the moon" hook.

Backing up to the beginning of the song, they started at Mount Everest -another hill that few are able to climb - and spelled out the pessimistic messages that hold people down: "It's impossible," "You're too young,' "You're too old." That negativity provided the tension in the song, which the "Footprints" chorus ultimately overcomes, but they tabled it for a few

When they reconvened, verse two became a personal reflection of Barrett's work ethic - "You're gonna wanna stay home, don't stay" - and the bridge encouraged the listener to push through the fear of losing.

weeks to give it extra time to marinate. "We didn't need to rush it," says Barrett.

"John Maxwell is a leadership guru, and he wrote a book called Sometimes You Win, Sometimes You Learn," says Kale. "That's probably where that bridge

> kind of came from because that's the way I live my life. Some days, you're going to win; some days, you're going to be just close enough and you're going to want to give up. But just hold on."

> At the end of that second session, Barrett sang a lead vocal for Kale's demo that was so strong it became the final performance on the master version of "Footprints."

> "I can't leave with it sounding like a rough vocal," she says. "It has to sound pretty well executed for my mind to be able to leave the room."

> The pandemic was just beginning to rear its head as "Footprints" came into existence. For the master, Kale remotely piled musicians on top of his original work, including drummer Nir Z, keyboardist Alex Wright and banjoist-guitarist Jonny Fung. Kale gave the track an ominous texture that intentionally sounded similar to "I Hope."

> "I was a graphic designer, and we had a branding identity business for a long time," he reasons. "So there's something to me about - especially a new artist - [creating] a brand for them to have.

I wanted when that project came on for you to, without them even singing, know who this is for sure."

Before it was over, Kale reached out to Los Angeles-based singer Rozes, whose layered harmony parts provide additional atmospherics. And Barrett tapped husband Cade Foehner for a guttural, compact guitar solo that ends with flash and flurry.

The last piece of the puzzle was working on Cade's solo, which absolutely blew my mind," says co-producer Ross Copperman (Dierks Bentley, Brett Eldredge). "He is such a great guitar player."

"If I'm being very candid, I was like, 'I don't really know if it needs that,'" recalls Kale. "And now I don't know if I would hear it without it."

Because the moon has no atmosphere, the footprints Armstrong left in 1969 will reportedly remain there - perhaps as long as the moon exists - unless they are disturbed by an asteroid or space junk. But the creative footprints Barrett is leaving don't have to last as long; the message is meant for her fans today.

'That's fantastic to think about only right now, accomplish it just for the sake of saying that you did," says Nite. "Whether they remember you or not, it doesn't matter, you know. It's kind of like all the people who've climbed Everest. Who knows that you've climbed Everest? You do. There's a lot of people who have climbed it at this point, but you know you did it, and deep down inside you, you can look in the mirror and say, 'I somehow did the hardest thing in my life.' Pretty awesome."

Warner released "Footprints" to country radio via PlayMPE on June 14, and it appears for a second straight week on the New & Active chart.

Barrett sees it as the completion of a trilogy. Her first single, "I Hope," mined her past; "The Good Ones" celebrates her current life through her relationship with Foehner; and "Footprints" is about creating her own future.

"Chasing after journeys is very, very important for me to talk about," she says, "and to push to whoever wants to listen." O

BARRETT



# **billboard** Country Airplay Index

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

# ALMOST MAYBES Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/ Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Anthern Entertainment, ASCAP/Roc Nation WC Publishing Designee, BMI/ Telemitry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Warner-Jamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BIRB Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (JDavis, J.Frasure, H.Lindsey) 15

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- BACK THEN, RIGHT NOW National Dog Music, SESA(/Songs Of Downtown, SESA(/Sony Music Publishing Ganada, SOCAN/Mackenzie Porter Music, SOCAN/Tunes by TrailerParker, BMI/Songs Of Home Team Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ovem Music Inc., BMI/Royal T Music, BMI (P:Welling, MPorter, T.Arts, D.Pittenger) 54
- BLAME IT ON YOU Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/ BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Zona Blue Music, BMI/Lee 45 Music Publishing, BMI/Irishsonmusic, BMI/BMC Platinum Songs U.B. BMI/Pertunes, Itd., SESA/UMINoize, SESAC/ SB2T Music Publishing, SESAC/BW Tunes, SESAC (K.M.Allison, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, M.Tyler, BWhite) **4**

С

- CHASING AFTER YOU Songs Of Mojo Two, ASCAP/Addington Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/ Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Highly Compusitible Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Cet UT Seek On, ASCAP (B. Addington, J.Flowers) 24
- COLD AS YOU Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/ Bootleg Lyrics, BMI/Cowboy Revival Music, BMI/No Man Can Eat 50 Eggs Music, BMI/Warner-Tamertape Publishing Corp., BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI/Spirit Iwo Nashville, ASCAP/Prestige Countrywide, ASCAP (L Combs, S.Minor, R.Montana, J.D.Singleton) 50
- COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME Highly Compusition Music, ASCAPKAbalt Songs Music Compusition Wusic, ASCAPKAbalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/One/7 Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/ Warner-Tametane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songtorceries Music, BMI/Extremely Combustible Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music, Inc., SEAC (JRoogers, H2Phelps, Brett Tyler, AVanderheym) 18
- COUNTRY AGAIN EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/ Warner-lamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Spirit, Iwo Nashville, ASCAP/Miller Crow Music, ASCAP/Kuers Kinda Night, ASCAP/Cound Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb S College Fund, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, Zorweil A Gorden) T II, ASCAP/Calepis con Z.Crowell, A.Gorley) **11**
- DRINKIN' BEER, TALKIN' GOD, AMEN. Sony Countryside, BMI/Dack Janiels Publishing, BMI/ Georgia Song Vibez, ASCAP/Big (rowd Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Rontrypical Music, ASCAP/ Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Cale Dodds Publishing, ASCAP (C.Rice, C.Crowder, H.Phelps, C.Dodds) 5

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- DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) Elle King Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Real Johnson Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (Elle King, MJohnson) 36
- FAMOUS FRIENDS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/ They've Gone To Plaid Publishing, BMI/W C.M. Music Corp., SEAA('Noc Nation US Music, SEAA(Bennett's Dad's Songs, SESA('Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC(WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Georaia Song Vibez, ASCAP/Big Crowd Publishing, ASCAP (Croung, C.R.Barlowe, C.Crowder) 1
- FANCY LIKE Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Smack Blue, LLC, SESAC/Kobalt Group Music Publishing, SESAC/Holv Graffith Music, BMI/Music Of MAM, BMI/Purplebeatz, BMI/Cameron Bartolini Music, ASCAP (W.Hayes, J.Jenkins, S.Stevens, C.Bartolini) **53**
- FILL THEM BOOTS Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Big Big Plans Publishing, BMI/Songs Of The Corn, BMI/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/Warner-TarnerJane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/ Mark Trussell Music, ASCAP/Future Heartbeat Publishing, ASCAP/W Wusic Corp., ASCAP (*cLane, JMiller, E.K.Smith,* MTrussell) 52
- FOREVER AFTER ALL Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/ Works For RHA Music, BMI/Rowdy Rob Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Oak Tree Swing Publishing, BMI (L. Combs, Drarker, R.Willirod) 2
- FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Sony Lakeview, SESA/CEndurance Juliet, SESA/Sony Countryside, BM/ Big Spaces Music, BM/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Nepasongs, ASCAP (Jalien, ABOwers, MRogers) 22

GETTING OVER HIM Lylas Music, BMI/Warner-Tamertane Publishing Corp., BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAPPAulywood Music, ASCAPWC Music Corp., ASCAP/Weistripe Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (Lauren Alaina, PDiGiovanni, ELWeisband) 42

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- GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Sonv Tree Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/8 Minutes Wendry Seconds Publishing, BMI/ Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/Montypical Music, ASCAP/Big Blue Aution Music, ASCAP/Who Wantis To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Wr Music Corp., ASCAP (MWHardy, AGorley, BJohnson, H.Phelps) 38
- GLAD YOU EXIST Monet Music, BMI/Warner-Tameriane Publishing Corp., BMI/Spokane Boy Music, BMI/Ireynmusic, ASCAP/Buckeycz6, ASCAP/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Beats And Banjos, ASCAP (D.Smyers, J.Reynolds, T.M.Parks, S.Mooney, R.LTaylor) 7
- GONE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/A Boy Named Ford, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 10 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/His Form The Tape Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SEAA/ONKo Moon Publishing, SESAC (NGalyon, BJohnson, NMoon) 6

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HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Sony Accent, ASCAP/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/ ASCAP/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GM2/ Smackstreet Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/EM Blackwood Music, Inc., BM/I/Irs, In The Skv With Diamonds, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/IRM3, ASCAP/ Muse Magic, ASCAP/A Boy Named Ford, BMI/Warner-Tameriane Publishing Coro., BMI (K.Ballerini, S.McAnaliy, R.Copperman, J.Robbins, N.Galyon) 34

HOME SWEET BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/ Music That Is Russelled, BMI/Blue Corolla Oklahoma, SESAC/Feel Your Creative Pulse Music, SESAC/The Best Could Do Publishing, SACHAPWC Music Corp., ASCAP (R. Dickerson, C.Brown, C.Kelley) 33

HOT BEER Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/ Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Ben There Wrote (Inat Publishing, BMI/Artist IOI Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/ WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP, MC Music Corp., ASCAP (MW.Hardy, A Gorley, B.Johnson, H.Phelps) 55

I CAN'T Songs Of The Corn. BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Noodlehead Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/For The Kids Platinum, BMI/ Legitimate Efforts Music, BMI/BMG Silver Songs, SESAC (CSmith, B.West, S.Wilson Jr.) 46

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- I'M NOT FOR EVERYONE, Trampy McCauley, ASCAP/AII The Kings Pens, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songstein Publishing, ASCAP/Little Louder Songs, BM/JErnikeon Songs, BM/JSongs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BM/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BM/Wrucke For You Publishing, BMI (JOSborne, I.J. Osborne, LDick, N.Hemby) 49
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# 40 Years Ago Alabama Went 'Right' To No. 1

In 1981, ballad "Feels So Right" became the group's fourth of 33 Hot Country Songs leaders On July 18, 1981, **Alabama**'s "Feels So Right" started a twoweek reign on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart. The ballad was penned by the group's frontman, **Randy Owen**.

Formed near Fort Payne, Ala., in the early 1970s, Alabama was initially billed as **Wildcountry** and included cousins Owen, **Jeff Cook** and **Teddy Gentry**. They recruited drummer **Mark Herndon** in 1979.

"Feels So Right" was released as the title-track second single from Alabama's first No. 1 on Top Country Albums, where it dominated for 28 weeks. It yielded two other No. 1 hits: "Old Flame" and "Love in the First Degree."

Starting with "Tennessee River" in 1980 through its featured turn on **Brad Paisley**'s "Old Alabama" in 2011, Alabama has achieved 33 Hot Country Songs No. 1s, the most of any duo/group. The act also boasts 11 Top Country Albums leaders.

Alabama, which was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2005, kicked off its 50th Anniversary Tour on July 2 with two concerts at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena, the first full-capacity shows at the venue since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. –JIMASKER

