

billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Can't We All Get Along? Tiptoeing Around Politics With A Message Of Hope

Country artists have been repeatedly criticized for steering clear of politics, but a number of acts in the genre are now united behind a single patriotic idea: unification.

Republican **Garth Brooks** sang "Amazing Grace" after President **Joe Biden** took the oath of office at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 20, exactly two weeks after domestic terrorists attacked that very building and placed the safety of America's leaders in doubt.

"This is not a political statement," Brooks said during a Jan. 18 press conference announcing his participation in the inauguration. "This is a statement of unity."

That mirrored Biden's oft-stated mission to bring the nation together, a notion that resonates in the recent efforts of several other country figures:

- **Tim McGraw** and **Florida Georgia Line's Tyler Hubbard** look to bridge the chasm between left and right in "Undivided" (No. 25, Country Airplay), which they performed during a Jan. 20 multinetwerk inaugural special, *Celebrating America*.

- Independent artist **Mitch Rossell** recently topped *Billboard's* Country Digital Songs Sales chart with the piano ballad "2020," a prayerful plea for national healing.

- **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** recruited **Rosanne Cash**,

Jason Isbell, **The War and Treaty** and **Steve Earle** for a remake of **Bob Dylan's** "The Times They Are A-Changin'," due Feb. 5 on Bandcamp and Feb. 8 at digital streaming outlets. The 1964 classic addresses civil rights, warning the voices of hate that they will "sink like a stone" if they swim against the tide of inclusion.

- **Rory Feek** released his own version of "The Times They Are A-Changin'" on Jan. 22, accompanied by a video that addresses the power that online messages have to unite or divide in the current cultural conversation.

- **Rodney Atkins** issued a cover of **Anne Murray's** 1983 single "A Little Good News" on Jan. 9. The song tackles war in



HUBBARD (left) and MCGRAW



ROSSELL



BROOKS

the Middle East, economic travails, fires and shootings — all of which remain relevant in 2021.

Though it's easy as a listener to interpret these songs through a political lens, the artists tend to see them as American statements.

"This song wasn't written with the intention of being political, nor was it recorded by Tim and I to be political," says Hubbard of "Undivided." "It's all about unity, it's all about love, and it's bigger than politics."

ROSSSELL: MATT ANDREWS PHOTOGRAPHY; BROOKS: BLUE ROSE INC.

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Tenille TOWNES

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

REIGNING ACM NEW FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



ALBUM OF THE YEAR

The Lemonade Stand

BEST OF 2020

Tennessean. SOUNDS LIKE NASHVILLE TASTE OF COUNTRY

★ 10/10 ★

"THE QUESTION IS, JUST HOW BIG WILL TENILLE TOWNES BE? IF THERE IS ANY JUSTICE, A GLOBAL MEGASTAR. THIS IS VERY, VERY SPECIAL"

— MAVERICK



On the surface, a feel-good topic such as communal harmony ought to be a safe subject, but in a divisive culture exacerbated by social media, even that can be a risk. Brooks' announcement that he would appear at Biden's ceremony drew sharp rebukes from some fans who swore they were no longer part of his tribe. The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's **Jeff Hanna** noted that when Dobro player **Jerry Douglas** conveyed a desire on social media to assist the nation's healing, some of his followers hurled insults at one another over their apparent political affiliations.

"It's toxic," says Hanna of the online community.

It's also a distinct change from the last time that the national news had widespread impact on the country genre. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks 20 years ago, **Lee Greenwood's** 1984 single "God Bless the U.S.A." experienced a resurgence, while a number of new songs captured the mood of a nation that was pulling together, including **Alan Jackson's** "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)," **Brooks & Dunn's** "Only in America," **Toby Keith's** "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)" and **Darryl Worley's** "Have You Forgotten?"

The enemy in 2001 was clearly foreign. In this era, however, the most extreme Americans view the other party as the threat.

"The bigger they can make that divide, the weaker we get as a people," suggests Rossell. "I think we have a lot more common than different, and I just hope we can see it before it's too late."

That sensibility is shared among all the artists in this wave of songs, triggered in great part by an underlying fear that the nation is being ripped apart. The motivation is less about politics than patriotism, two interwoven concepts that have subtle distinctions.

"Politics is the coming together of ideas and the rubbing of ideas to try to find the best way to move forward," observes McGraw. "**Martin Luther King** said, 'Violence will not beat a good idea. The only thing that beats a good idea is a better idea.' And that's what politics is all about to me, is trying to find better ideas to help as many people as you can move forward. Patriotism is, I think, loving your neighbor, which in turn makes your community stronger, which makes your state stronger, which makes your country stronger."

Singing about those neighborly ideals — as McGraw did in "Humble and Kind" or in the Florida Georgia Line collaboration "May We All" — is generally well accepted. But songs that are more obviously political in nature yield much harsher responses from modern country audiences than they did in the past. **Jimmy Dean's** "P.T. 109," a blatant celebration of then-President **John F. Kennedy**, was a bona fide hit in 1962. **Johnny Cash's** "What Is Truth," which supported hippie rebellion and Vietnam War protests, likewise charted in the top five in 1970.

But more recent politically charged moments have faced deeper backlashes. Brooks' "We Shall Be Free" — which embraces interracial and homosexual relationships, climate preservation and religious freedom — was his first single to stall outside the top 10 in 1992. **The Chicks** were essentially banished from mainstream country radio for criticizing President **George W. Bush**



Darius Rucker invited Lady A to join the Grand Ole Opry when the trio taped a performance on Jan. 21 for the Feb. 14 NBC special *Grand Ole Opry: 95 Years of Country Music*. From left: Rucker and Lady A members Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood.



Chris Janson and his "Done" co-writers celebrated the song hitting No. 1 on Country Airplay last summer with a Jan. 20 dinner in Nashville. From left: writers Mitch Oglesby, Matt Roy, Janson and Jamie Paulin.



Quartz Hill recording artist Nate Barnes (center) held a socially distant artist visit with WWKA Orlando, Fla. He's flanked by Cox Media/Orlando director of programming Steve Stewart and WWKA music director/morning host Ashley Morrison.

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in 2003 as he led the country into a war that ultimately grew unpopular in a relatively short period.

“When the *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* album came out in ’72, that was at the height of the Vietnam War,” recalls Hanna. “There was a cultural and generation gap going on, and I thought, ‘Well, this is as divided as I’ll ever see this country.’ For the most part, this country has been unified, but the last couple of decades have gotten pretty polarized. It’s more raw now than it’s ever been. But I’m holding out hope.”



GLEN VROSE

Hope, with its eye toward the future, is a key concept in this wave, and Brooks’ “We Shall Be Free,” co-written with **Stephanie Davis**, illustrates it. It was inspired in part by racially charged riots in Los Angeles in 1992 after four white police officers were acquitted in the beating of **Rodney King**. Though the song’s chart performance was subpar for Brooks in that era,

peaking at No. 12, his core supporters have fiercely embraced it, and it has been used for some high-profile moments, including a 2009 inaugural event for then-President **Barack Obama**.

“That song is more relevant today than it was decades ago,” Brooks said during his Jan. 18 press conference. “‘We Shall Be Free’ talks about injustices. It talks about righting wrongs. It looks like this is something that we’re going to do for the rest of our existence.”

“We Shall Be Free” is also a point of inspiration for next-generation artists who want to address sociopolitical concerns.

“That song helped pave the way for folks like me to even be able to write a song like ‘2020’ and present it to the platform,” says Rossell, who calls the tune “way ahead of its time.”

Rossell wrote “2020” on Dec. 21 with **Phil O’Donnell** and **Dave Turnbull**, weaving political and patriotic colors into an assessment of a year marked by racial tension, an untamed plague and repeated lies about the election: “Let’s take the red, take the blue, wave the white, call a truce/Build a bridge across the line drawn through this country/Before hindsight’s 2020.” Rossell teased a piano/vocal version on TikTok the next day and released it Dec. 29. It topped the Country Digital Song Sales chart dated Jan. 16, and remains at No. 13 on the Jan. 30 list. “2020” has also earned airplay on at least a dozen stations, including **WUSY** Chattanooga and **WIVK** Knoxville, Tenn.; **KCYE** Las Vegas; and **KUPL** Portland, Ore., a notable accomplishment for an indie country artist.

Rossell hopes the patriotic message supersedes party lines.

“The last thing I want this song to be is political because that’s not the heart of it,” he says. “I don’t care who you want in office. I don’t care who you vote for. I don’t care what your beliefs are politically. None of these politicians, no president, no anything dictates how we treat each other.”

That view is common in this wave of music.

“Racism, there’s no place in our society [for that],” says McGraw. “There’s no place for sexual-orientation bias in our society. There’s no place for those things.”

That kind of discrimination, however, has been on the rise since 2016, with prejudice running through violent demonstrations and murders in Charlottesville, Va.; Pittsburgh; El Paso, Texas; Kenosha, Wis.; and the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Fla. It is also part of the story in the 2020 deaths of several Black citizens at the hands of current or former police officers: **George Floyd**, **Ahmaud Arbery**, **Breonna Taylor** and **Rayshard Brooks**.

Empire recording artist **Willie Jones** addressed the issue in the persuasive “American Dream,” released on Martin Luther King Day. “When you’re livin’ as a Black man,” he surmises at the close of the chorus, “it’s a different kinda ’merican dream.”

It works as a companion piece for **Mickey Guyton**’s “Black Like Me,” which is currently nominated for a Grammy.

Some of America’s worst attributes have been heightened by the nation’s inability to get a handle on COVID-19. With high unemployment and forced separation, many people have massive amounts of time on their hands. When they scroll for information on the internet, their search histories trigger algorithms that often take them down increasingly extreme paths. It’s one method that helped the false QAnon conspiracy theory gather momentum, affixing itself to people who were vulnerable to its sometimes outlandish falsehoods. The internet is also part of the way that racist factions of the population have been emboldened, finding one another through dark corridors and coded social posts. In a video for “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” Feek addresses the dangers that the web poses to people seeking the truth.

“I don’t think humans are created to be isolated,” says Hubbard. “I think we’re created for community. And I think idle hands also are the devil’s playground at times. Boredom can sometimes lead to unhealthy habits, whatever that may look like.”

Based on the rhetoric, it often looks like division, finger-pointing and name-calling. The drama leads to provocative headlines, but it doesn’t necessarily provide the unity that we claim we want.

“I think it’s healthy for us to have political diversity until it jumps the fence into hatred and bigotry,” says Hanna. “Everybody’s got a tag: libtard, communist, socialist; that stuff. When we start using clichés about the other side, that’s where it gets really screwed up.”

In the end, country artists are hoping the future looks different from 2020, and they seem to see the shift from **Donald Trump**’s coarse, divisive rhetoric to Biden’s more inclusive messaging as a good time to weigh in on our commonalities. The current calls for unity — at the inaugural podium and in country songs — are a step toward healing. But for it to work, both sides of the aisle need to participate, and on a continuing basis. Since country artists have generally been off the road for most of the last 11 months, a lot of them have had time to contemplate that very thing.

“There’s going to be a lot of siblings of [“Undivided”],” predicts Hubbard, “and there probably already are cousins and aunts and uncles and everything else. We’ve all lived through this time in history, and we use real-life experiences to inspire our writing. And we all desire to see this world come together.” ●

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GROUP OF THE YEAR

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

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- SHANE MCANALLY

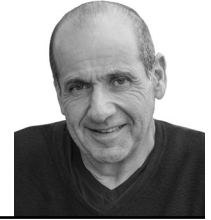
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‘SOME PEOPLE DO’ MUSIC VIDEO**



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

Barrett's 'I Hope' Is Third-Longest-Leading No. 1 In Hot Country Songs History



Gabby Barrett's "I Hope" (Warner Music Nashville/WAR) tops *Billboard's* airplay-, sales- and streaming-based Hot Country Songs chart for a 25th week (on the survey dated Jan. 30), pushing in front of **Florida Georgia Line's** "Cruise" for sole possession of the third-longest reign since the chart launched as an all-encompassing genre ranking in October 1958. "Cruise," FGL's debut single, dominated for 24 frames in 2012-13.

FGL maintains the record for the longest Hot Country Songs command, as "Meant to Be," with **Bebe Rexha**, ruled for a record 50 weeks in 2017-18. **Sam Hunt's** "Body Like a Back Road" ranks second with 34 weeks in 2017.

"Hope" holds in the penthouse with 52 million in all-format airplay audience in the tracking week ending Jan. 24, according to MRC Data. It also attracted 8.4 million U.S. streams and 3,000 sold in the week ending Jan. 21.

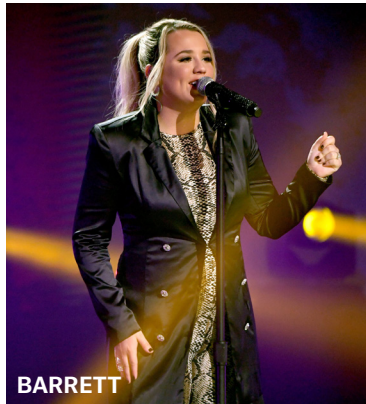
The four titles above topped the Country Airplay chart and padded their Hot Country Songs dominations thanks in part to pop crossover airplay, with "I Hope" benefiting beyond the country radio format from its remix with **Charlie Puth**.

Meanwhile, Barrett's sophomore single, "The Good Ones," pushes 21-18 on Country Airplay (11.1 million, up 13%). On Hot Country Songs, it jumps 31-25, having totaled 4.8 million streams (up 5%) and 4,000 sold (up 6%).

TWO IS 'BETTER' THAN ONE **Luke Combs'** record-extending 10th consecutive career-opening Country Airplay No. 1 (encompassing his properly promoted singles), "Better Together" (River House/Columbia Nashville), leads for a second week, up 14% to 33.1 million impressions.

The song commands an audience lead of 8.9 million over **Kenny Chesney's** "Happy Does" (Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WAR), which rises 4-2 with a 6% gain to 24.2 million. That marks the second-biggest weekly points disparity between the Nos. 1 and 2 titles since Country Airplay launched in January 1990.

The biggest variance occurred on the chart dated Aug. 19, 2017, when **Billy Currington's** "Do I Make You Wanna" sported 47.5 million and **Cole Swindell's** "Flatliner" ranked at No. 2 with 38 million, making for a difference of 9.5 million.



NEW TOP 10s **Parmalee** and **Blanco Brown's** "Just the Way" (Stoney Creek) climbs 12-8 (20.2 million, up 17%) on the Country Airplay.

Parmalee adds its fourth top 10 and first since "Already Callin' You Mine" hit No. 10 in December 2015. The band scored its lone leader with "Carolina" in December 2013. Brown banks his first Country Airplay top 10 in his second appearance, after "The Git Up" peaked at No. 44 in August 2019. His breakthrough hit, aided by a viral dance challenge, ruled Hot Country Songs for 12 weeks.

Plus, **Thomas Rhett** scores his 18th Country Airplay top 10, a sum that includes 15 No. 1s, as "What's Your Country Song" (Valory) bumps 11-9 (19.9 million, up 15%). He last reached the region with "Be a Light," featuring **Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin** and **Keith Urban** (No. 2, September 2020).

'UNDIVIDED' ATTENTION **Tim McGraw** and **Tyler Hubbard's** "Undivided" (McGraw/Big Machine) enters Hot Country Songs at No. 23. Released Jan. 13, the song sold 19,000 in its first full tracking week (ending Jan. 21) and climbs 4-1 on Country Digital Song Sales, marking McGraw's fifth No. 1 and Hubbard's first. The song is the latter's first chart entry outside of duo **Florida Georgia Line** (with **Brian Kelley**), which has netted 10 No. 1s on the sales survey. The track also drew 1.9 million streams and 5.9 million audience impressions in the tracking week.

McGraw and Hubbard performed the song on the **Tom Hanks**-hosted special *Celebrating America*, which aired Jan. 20 across ABC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC and NBC to commemorate the inauguration of President **Joe Biden** and Vice President **Kamala Harris**. ●

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FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

2020 ACM FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR
NO. 1 CURRENT STREAMING
FEMALE COUNTRY ARTIST
BILLBOARD'S 2020
TOP COUNTRY ARTIST - FEMALE

SINGLE & SONG OF THE YEAR

“THE BONES”

GRAMMY NOMINATED FOR BEST COUNTRY SONG
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BILLBOARD HOT COUNTRY SONGS CHART
2 WEEK NO. 1 SINGLE
ON THE COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHARTS
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VIDEO

OF THE YEAR

“BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT”

“[“BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT”]
ASKS US ALL TO LOOK AT OUR ACTIONS
IN THESE DAYS OF INJUSTICE
AND MAKE SURE THEY ARE ACTIONS
YOU’LL BE PROUD OF.”

- *NPR ALL SONGS CONSIDERED*

“HER WILLINGNESS TO STATE
THE OBVIOUS IS, IN THIS SPOILED MOMENT,
A FORM OF BRAVERY...”

- *THE NEW YORK TIMES*



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"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*

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MATT STELL

**NEW MALE ARTIST
OF THE YEAR**

"EVERYWHERE BUT ON"

**SINGLE & SONG
OF THE YEAR**

**VIDEO
OF THE YEAR**



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billboard Country Airplay



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	17	BETTER TOGETHER River House/Columbia Nashville	★ ★ No. 1 (2 weeks) / Most Increased Audience ★ ★ Luke Combs	33.146	+4.067	7946	963	1
2	4	28	HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	24.195	+1.296	6202	300	2
3	8	34	HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	22.155	+1.357	5854	213	3
4	3	47	LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	22.100	-0.874	4742	-81	10
5	7	25	BEERS AND SUNSHINE Capitol Nashville	Darius Rucker	21.923	+0.772	5609	146	4
6	9	15	DOWN TO ONE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	21.029	+1.889	5177	550	7
7	10	41	GOOD TIME RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	20.561	+1.317	5360	270	5
8	12	36	JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek	Parmalee x Blanco Brown	20.195	+2.875	5320	633	6
9	11	11	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory	Thomas Rhett	19.948	+2.612	4785	525	9
10	2	26	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	19.408	-9.566	4690	-2633	11
11	13	22	STARTING OVER Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	17.955	+0.712	4794	339	8
12	14	20	LONG LIVE BMLG	Florida Georgia Line	16.134	+0.511	4035	110	13
13	15	49	MOMMA'S HOUSE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	14.306	+0.009	4057	119	12
14	18	39	LADY BMLG	Brett Young	13.287	+1.369	3433	220	16
15	16	32	HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU Big Machine	Rascal Flatts	12.878	+0.155	3714	131	14
16	17	23	7 SUMMERS Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	12.166	-0.091	3186	98	18
17	20	50	SOMEBODY LIKE THAT 19th & Grand	Tenille Arts	11.186	+1.051	3285	149	17
18	21	33	THE GOOD ONES Warner Music Nashville/WAR	★★ Airpower ★ ★ Gabby Barrett	11.095	+1.283	3539	249	15
19	22	40	NOBODY Curb	★★ Airpower ★ ★ Dylan Scott	10.201	+0.425	2974	93	19
20	23	34	ALMOST MAYBES MCA Nashville	★★ Airpower ★ ★ Jordan Davis	8.991	+0.041	2936	32	20
21	25	36	MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	8.076	+1.554	2373	347	22
22	24	12	HELL OF A VIEW EMI Nashville	Eric Church	7.778	+0.896	2522	185	21
23	29	16	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	5.978	+0.360	2087	143	24
24	28	18	ONE TOO MANY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban Duet With P!nk	5.890	+0.321	2041	24	26
25	19	2	UNDIVIDED McGraw/BMLG/Big Machine	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard	5.856	-4.290	1724	-354	28
26	30	18	SETTLING DOWN Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	5.714	+0.300	1976	205	27
27	27	14	GONE Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	5.632	-0.090	2056	-16	25
28	26	36	ALL NIGHT EMI Nashville	Brothers Osborne	5.598	-0.139	2207	14	23
29	35	2	MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	★★ Most Added ★ ★ Blake Shelton	4.678	+1.685	1170	572	36
30	31	11	BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	4.443	+0.308	1355	94	31

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 Audio-copyrighted 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.

billboard Country Airplay



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	34	8	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young + Kane Brown	4.405	+0.983	1168	274	37
32	33	32	HARD DAYS Valory	Brantley Gilbert	3.861	+0.343	1536	38	29
33	32	14	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory	Justin Moore	3.744	+0.069	1197	77	34
34	36	18	NEXT GIRL Big Machine	Carly Pearce	2.976	+0.255	1497	84	30
35	37	30	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	2.770	+0.258	1211	59	32
36	38	20	DEAR RODEO CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson & Reba McEntire	2.649	+0.216	445	18	55
37	41	18	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU inDent/Mercury Nashville	Priscilla Block	2.357	+0.136	724	11	43
38	39	27	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	2.304	-0.148	1199	-24	33
39	40	30	WE WERE RICH Wheelhouse	Runaway June	2.225	-0.167	1176	-2	35
40	43	13	WORSHIP YOU RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	2.162	+0.206	915	55	40
41	42	21	NEVER BE SORRY RCA Nashville	Old Dominion	1.996	-0.015	879	-25	41
42	45	16	MY BOY Wheelhouse	Elvie Shane	1.905	+0.068	917	62	39
43	46	12	YOUCOME Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	1.749	+0.147	967	61	38
44	44	8	DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow	Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	1.738	-0.134	781	0	42
45	50	7	SHALLOW Pearl	Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood	1.344	+0.049	513	23	50
46	47	23	WHAT DO I KNOW Arista Nashville	Robert Counts	1.338	-0.015	689	28	44
47	49	7	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	1.318	+0.015	474	30	53
48	51	12	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb	Lee Brice	1.316	+0.064	649	21	45
49	48	19	WAITIN' ON 5 Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	1.289	-0.050	617	44	46
50	53	19	BEERS TO CATCH UP ON Wheelhouse	LOCASH	1.086	+0.115	591	35	48
51	55	9	LADY LIKE Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress	1.018	+0.207	483	42	52
52	52	14	WHISKEY AND RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	0.969	-0.010	542	36	49
53	57	5	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	0.882	+0.145	429	16	56
54	54	8	HEAVEN ON DIRT Monument	Teddy Robb	0.870	-0.059	612	-2	47
55	NEW		TEQUILA LITTLE TIME Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	0.848	+0.385	223	127	-
56	56	11	IF IT WASN'T FOR TRUCKS BMLG	Riley Green	0.791	+0.025	454	37	54
57	NEW		HOME SWEET Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	0.753	+0.282	356	121	58
58	58	9	WANT ME BACK Stoney Creek	Lindsay Ell	0.690	+0.109	403	19	57
59	59	3	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	0.626	+0.047	203	22	-
60	NEW		NO BODY, NO CRIME Republic/MCA Nashville	Taylor Swift Featuring HAIM	0.615	+0.279	173	41	-



55

JON PARDI
Tequila Little Time

The song arrives at No. 55 on Country Airplay with 848,000 impressions. It follows Pardi's seventh top 10, "Ain't Always a Cowboy," which hit No. 3 in December.


GOING FOR ADDS

2/1

ERIC LEE
Same Dirt Road
Blue Hill

2/15

FILMORE
Nothing's Better
Curb



2/8

JIMMIE ALLEN & BRAD PAISLEY
Freedom Was A Highway
Stoney Creek

2/8

GRANGER SMITH
Hate You Like I Love You
Wheelhouse

KAMERON MARLOWE
Sober As A Drunk
Columbia Nashville

TERRY WYATT/GETTY IMAGES FOR CMA

billboard Country Airplay



MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	42
WAITIN' ON 5 Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	15
HOME SWEET Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	15
FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young & Kane Brown	14
UNDIVIDED McGraw/BMLG/Big Machine	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard	12
SETTLING DOWN Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	8
TEQUILA LITTLE TIME Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	8
MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	7
WORSHIP YOU RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	6
BLAME IT ON YOU Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	5

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
BETTER TOGETHER River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+4.067
JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek	Pamalee x Blanco Brown	+2.875
WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory	Thomas Rhett	+2.612
DOWN TO ONE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+1.889
MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	+1.685
MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	+1.554
LADY BMLG	Brett Young	+1.369
SOLE IN THE BOTTLE Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	+1.357
GOOD TIME RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	+1.317
HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	+1.296

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
BETTER TOGETHER River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+963
JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek	Pamalee x Blanco Brown	+633
MINIMUM WAGE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	+572
DOWN TO ONE Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	+550
WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory	Thomas Rhett	+525
MADE FOR YOU Big Loud	Jake Owen	+347
STARTING OVER Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	+339
HAPPY DOES Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	+300
FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young + Kane Brown	+274
GOOD TIME RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	+270

NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
NEED A BAR SOMETIMES Show Dog Nashville	Clay Walker	0.539	26	1
BROKEN UP Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	0.466	56	1
MARTHA DIVINE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Ashley McBryde	0.404	23	3
FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley	0.373	1	1
WOULD HAVE LOVED HER RECORDS	Chris Bandi	0.325	24	5
DIRT WE WERE RAISED ON Macon Music/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	0.268	1	0

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb	Lee Brice	21.108
2	BIG, BIG PLANS Big Loud	Chris Lane	19.005
3	HAPPY ANYWHERE Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani	18.928
4	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	17.740
5	CHAMPAGNE NIGHT BMLG	Lady A	15.167
6	I HOPE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	12.629
7	LOVIN' ON YOU River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	12.161
8	CHASIN' YOU Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	10.993
9	SOME GIRLS Combustion/River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers	10.147
10	GOT WHAT I GOT Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	9.901



COMBS: ZACK MASSEY



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 24, 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 +/-
1	3	20	WANT TO WITH YOU (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Jamie Richards	2053	175	11	14	15	OLD SCHOOL (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	1334	142
2	2	14	DRINKING MONEY (Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers)	Randy Rogers Band	1899	-28	12	18	11	OUTSIDE LOOKIN IN (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1240	190
3	4	21	ANOTHER TOWN (Independent)	Jon Stork	1852	213	13	5	16	IDO THING (Independent)	Kylie Frey	1213	-407
4	6	11	SILVERADO SATURDAY NIGHT (BIG Label)	Aaron Watson	1685	86	14	19	14	HONKY TONK IN HEAVEN (Independent)	Kin Faux	1191	164
5	7	13	DEVIL'S RED HOT SAUCE (Independent)	James Lann	1625	118	15	15	23	ONE DAY (Independent)	Triston Marez	1144	4
6	8	15	FOOL'S LOVE AFFAIR (117 Music)	Randy Travis	1526	19	16	16	19	DEAR RODEO (COJO/Warner's Nashville)	Cody Johnson	1041	-71
7	11	9	CALLIN' ALL HEARTS (Independent)	Terry McBride	1504	101	17	9	29	THE LUCKIEST (Independent)	Josh Abbott Band	1039	-371
8	1	15	STILLA LITTLE COUNTRY LEFT (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1422	-629	18	13	18	HEART TO STEAL TONIGHT (Independent)	Jon Wolfe	941	-298
9	12	22	MISSIN' YOU, MISSISSIPPI (Independent)	Dustin Sonnier	1402	131	19	17	19	BAD GUY (Almost Country)	Casey Donahew	929	-123
10	10	22	RHYTHM OF YOU (Independent)	Holly Tucker	1385	-19	20	23	11	I WILL (Independent)	Darrin Morris Band	920	87

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

JIMMIE ALLEN

CURRENT SINGLE

“FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY”

WITH BRAD PAISLEY

“BEST SHOT” & “MAKE ME WANT TO”

BACK-TO-BACK #1 SINGLES & PLATINUM CERTIFICATIONS
OVER 1/2 BILLION COMBINED STREAMS

513M

TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS

2M TOTAL SHAZAMS IN THE US

31K DURING DICK CLARK'S NEW YEAR'S ROCKIN' EVE PERFORMANCE

THREE ITUNES TOP 15
ALL GENRE SONGS FROM
SOPHOMORE EP *BETTIE JAMES*

NATIONAL PRESS APPEARANCES



HOST OF APPLE MUSIC'S WILDCARD RADIO, GRAMMY'S 20TH ANNUAL NASHVILLE BLOCK PARTY, CMA STAY CATION, THE ACM AWARDS RADIO WINNER RECEPTION

GUEST CO-HOST ON NBC'S TODAY, E'S DAILY POP & LIVE FROM E!, CMA FOUNDATION ARTIST AMBASSADOR

BETTIE JAMES “BEST ALBUMS OF 2020” LISTS
BILLBOARD, ROLLING STONE & SOUNDS LIKE NASHVILLE

CHILDREN'S BOOK “MY VOICE IS A TRUMPET”
AVAILABLE JULY 13, 2021

“A PROMISING EP”
- NEW YORK TIMES

“COUNTRY SINGER JIMMIE ALLEN CONTINUES TO RISE”
- AP

“MUSIC THAT TESTIFIES TO HIS FULL SPECTRUM OF CREATIVE ABILITIES”
- MUSIC ROW

“AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF [ALLEN'S] ARRIVAL”
- NPR

“A POWERFUL STATEMENT FROM A DEVELOPING VOICE”
- BILLBOARD

“A HUGE STEP FOR COUNTRY”
- NPR



NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



New act Restless Road introduced itself to the Academy of Country Music in a virtual office visit. Clockwise from top left: band members Zach Beeken, Garrett Nichols and Colton Pack, and ACM marketing assistant Dayna Poskanzer; vp artist and industry relations, board administration and governance Tommy Moore; and CEO Damon Whiteside.

CMA EXPANDS COVID-19 SUPPORT

The Country Music Association has announced five new nonprofit recipients for its Music Industry COVID Support initiative, including funds for organizations providing free musical instruments and health advocacy, plus a gratis grocery store founded by one of Nashville's biggest stars.

MICS was launched in early 2020 at the dawn of the COVID-19 crisis with a \$3 million commitment by the CMA, the country music trade organization responsible for the annual CMA Awards. The program brings food, health and career services to music business members struggling during the economic downturn that resulted from the coronavirus, particularly in the concert sector. The campaign also raises awareness of specific nonprofits offering assistance.

The agency's new partners include Music Health Alliance, which offers free healthcare advocacy; Musically Fed, a food provider for music professionals in need; Notes for Notes, a nonprofit dedicated to providing youth with free access to music instruments and lessons; Porter's Call, which counsels and supports full-time artists; and The Store, a free grocery store co-founded by Brad Paisley and Kimberly Williams-Paisley in partnership with the singer's alma mater, Nashville's Belmont University.

Industry members who could benefit from the services are encouraged to visit CMAMics.com.

RADIO & RECORDS®

The bluegrass label Turnberry hired director of artist relations and development Daniel Routh. He has been employed as manager for Turnberry act Nu-Blu ... Big Loud teamed with Republic and Back Blocks Music to sign emerging artist Lily Rose to a recording deal ... Singer-songwriter Madeline Merlo joined the artist roster at BBR Music Group. Lady A recorded Merlo's song "Champagne Night" following her appearance as a contestant on the April 13 edition of NBC's songwriting competition *Songland* ... Alpha Media announced Jan. 24 that it had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The chain, which includes 28 country stations, will continue to operate with no expected on-air disruptions while it reorganizes ... "Big Rick" Daniels started Jan. 20 as WKKG Bloomington, Ind., PD/morning host after several months at nearby WYGB Franklin, Ind. ... Emmis/Indianapolis promotes Taja Graham to radio market president from vp sales, effective March 1. She replaces Bob Richards, who has other career options under consideration. The cluster includes country WLHK ... Westwood One and Cumulus revamped their top-level sales structure, RadioInsight.com reported. Ron Russo takes over as Westwood One president of sales, upped from executive vp sales Northeast. Rafe D'Amico is promoted to Cumulus senior vp/president of national sales from senior vp national sales East Coast. Westwood One executive vp sales Midwest Brandon Berman adds the Northeast to his territory, while executive vp sales West/Southwest Kim Bryant adds the Southeast to her turf ... Adult contemporary WGXI Plymouth, Wis., flipped to classic country, according to RadioInsight.com ... Dolly Parton's America won best music podcast during the third annual iHeartRadio Podcast

Awards on Jan. 21 ... Country Music Association CEO Sarah Trahern will receive Country Radio Broadcasters' President's Award on Feb. 16 during the virtual Country Radio Seminar. Mickey Guyton has been tapped to deliver the national anthem. Jimmie Allen is likewise on board for a Feb. 17 panel, "Blind Date With Your Audience," that will toss programmers' questions to country listeners. Questions for those listeners can be submitted [here](#).

'ROUND THE ROW

Quinton Digital promoted a pair of two-year employees to new positions: Senior director of digital and creative strategy Kelsey Brown rises from director, while senior account director Maria Abdelnour is upped from account manager ... Songwriter Melissa Peirce ("A Guy Walks Into a Bar," "Red Light") signed a joint publishing agreement with Sheltered Music and Patrick Joseph Music ... Songwriter Mark Irwin ("Highway Don't Care," "Neon Light") joined the roster at Sprockets Music ... Curb | Word Music Publishing extended its affiliation with songwriter Billy Montana ("Hard To Love," "Night Shift") ... Singer-songwriter Matt Wynn reached a publishing and management deal with Given Entertainment ... Two members of the music and concert business joined the Tennessee Latin American Chamber of Commerce board: Marushka Media president Jackie Marushka and Tennessee Performing Arts Center director of corporate relations and philanthropic gifts Diana Pelham ... The Association of Independent Music Publishers welcomes National Music Publishers' Association president/CEO David Israelite for a Jan. 28 webinar at 4:30 p.m. CT that will address the latest legislative developments in the publishing sector. Go [here](#) to register ... Change the Conversation will host a Zoom panel about the coronavirus pandemic's effects on artists at noon CT on Jan. 27 with Kalie Shorr and Brittney Spencer. Go [here](#) to register ... James White, who owned Austin honky-tonk the Broken Spoke, died Jan. 24. Acts that have played the club include Willie Nelson, Marty Stuart and Garth Brooks ... Jimmie Rodgers died Jan. 18 in Palm Desert, Calif., from kidney disease after testing positive for COVID-19, the Associated Press reported. Rodgers, who shared his name with a Country Music Hall of Fame member, landed five titles in the top 20 of both the country and pop charts in the 1950s, including "Honeycomb" and "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine." He suffered a traumatic head injury after a mysterious 1967 encounter with police in Los Angeles, but was ultimately able to return to the stage ... Randy Parton died from cancer in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., according to WVLT-TV Knoxville, Tenn. He landed five titles on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs during the 1980s while signed with RCA. He also toured for several years as a member of sister Dolly Parton's backing band and provided harmony vocals on her No. 1 1980 single "Old Flames Can't Hold a Candle To You." ●



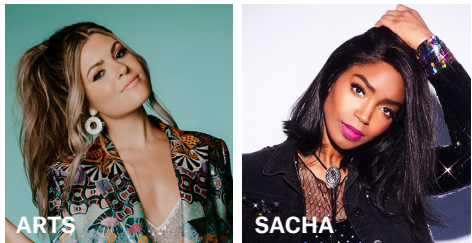
Singer-songwriter Peyton Porter signed her first publishing deal with Jody Williams Songs and Warner Chappell Music Nashville. From left: WCMN A&R director Spencer Noble, JWS creative director Nina Jenkins, Porter, JWS founder Jody Williams and WCMN president/CEO Ben Vaughn.

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND

MUSIC NOTES

If you expected albums titled *Heart* and *Soul* to arrive around Valentine’s Day, well, that sounds a little too syrupy, and obvious, for **Eric Church**. Drawing from a 28-day writing and recording frenzy in North Carolina, the Chief will release *Heart* on April 16 and *Soul* on April 23, with a third, vinyl-only disc — cleverly titled *♣* — coming exclusively for members of the Church Choir on April 20. Other new albums and EPs on the docket include **Lucas Hoge**’s *Sunday Sessions* and **Adam Sanders**’ *Live!* — both released on Jan. 22 — plus an expanded edition of *Johnny Cash — Forever Words*, Feb. 5; **Lainey Wilson**’s *Sayin’ What I’m Thinkin’*, Feb. 19; **Morgan Wade**’s *Reckless*, March 19; **The Brother Brothers**’s *Calla Lily*, April 16; and **Rory Feek**’s *Gentle Man*, June 18.

Ten artists were revealed as members of the 2021 class of Next Women of Country during the Jan. 23 edition of *CMT Hot 20 Countdown*. Underscoring a commitment to artists of color, the group features four Black acts:



ARTS: RACHEL DEEB

Brittney Spencer, **Reyna Roberts**, **Sacha** and vocal trio **Chapel Hart**. One of the acts, **Tenille Arts**, is currently enjoying her first top 20 on Country Airplay. They’re joined by **Ashland Craft**, **Hannah Dasher**, **Harper Grae**, **MacKenzie Porter** and **Priscilla Block**. At least 10 former Next Women participants helped celebrate the new class, including **Maren Morris**, **Cassadee Pope**, **Carly Pearce** and **Tanya Tucker**.

Florida Georgia Line may be movie-bound. Director **Andy Fickman** (*Kevin Can Wait*, *Race To Witch Mountain*) has been enlisted to develop a film version of *May We All*, a live stage musical already in the works. The project focuses on the American heartland, with a raft of country songs associated with **Kacey Musgraves**, **Miranda Lambert**, **Patsy Cline**, **Dolly Parton** and **Kenny Chesney**, among others — not to mention **Tim McGraw**, who collaborated with FGL on the hit “May We All.” The stage production is expected later this year; no target date has been announced for the film.

Mickey Guyton was named artist and female vocalist of the year, while her personal release “Black Like Me” took single in *The Nashville Scene*’s Country Music Critics’ Poll. Other top-ranked entries include: **Ashley McBryde**’s *Never Will*, album; **Bobby Bare**’s *Sings Shel Silverstein Plus*, reissue; **Chris Stapleton**, male vocalist; **Jason Isbell**, songwriter; **The Chicks**, duo and group; and **Ingrid Andress**, new act. Go [here](#) for the complete results. ●

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[C2C: Country To Country Festival Canceled For Second Year Due To COVID-19](#)

[Philadelphia International Records Marks 50th Anniversary With Yearlong Celebration](#)

[Phil Spector’s Catalog: How Much Are Those Iconic Songs Worth?](#)

ON THIS DATE IN COUNTRY MUSIC

Jan. 26

- 2001 — **Reba McEntire** takes over as Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun* at Broadway’s Marquis Theatre.
- 1991 — **Willie Nelson**’s assets go on the auction block to meet his \$16 million debt to the IRS. No bids are entered.



ROBBY KLEIN

Jan. 27

- 2016 — **Kane Brown** announces on Twitter that he has signed with RCA.
- 1998 — Monument releases **The Chicks**’ first major-label album, *Wide Open Spaces*.

Jan. 28

- 2018 — **Chris Stapleton** wins three trophies during the 60th Grammy Awards at New York’s Madison Square Garden: best country album, for *From A Room: Volume 1*; best country song, “Broken Halos”; and best country solo performance, “Either Way.”
- 1995 — **Alan Jackson**’s “Gone Country” occupies the top spot on the *Billboard* country singles chart.

Jan. 29

- 2019 — **Miranda Lambert** writes “Bluebird” with songwriters **Luke Dick** and **Natalie Hemby** at Dick’s studio in Tennessee.

Jan. 30

- 2011 — **Dierks Bentley** begins several days of recording at Echo Mountain Studios in Asheville, N.C. The sessions are livestreamed without sound online. The dates yield his hit “Am I the Only One.”
- 1961 — Decca releases **Patsy Cline**’s “I Fall To Pieces.”

Jan. 31

- 2006 — The **Johnny Cash** biopic *Walk the Line* receives five Oscar nominations, with **Joaquin Phoenix** and **Reese Witherspoon** up for best actor and actress. **Dolly Parton**’s “Travellin’ Thru,” from *Transamerica*, is nominated for best original song.

Feb. 1

- 2000 — **Luke Combs** performs “Lovin’ on You” and “Beer Never Broke My Heart” as the musical guest on NBC’s *Saturday Night Live*.

Source: [RolandNote.com](#), the Ultimate Country Music Database



Empire recording artist Willie Jones interviewed with Kelleigh Bannen for the Jan. 22 edition of the Apple Music Country show *Today’s Country Radio With Kelleigh Bannen*.



RUSSELL DICKERSON

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION:

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

LOVE YOU LIKE I USED TO

- 177 Million Streams
- 4th Consecutive #1
- 15 Weeks Inside Top 5
- RIAA Certified Gold

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

SOUTHERN SYMPHONY

AN ALBUM EXPERIENCE

A never been done exclusive track-by-track album preview through one, captivating, comprehensive video.

SCOTTY MCCREERY

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

•SINGLE OF THE YEAR•

IN BETWEEN

#1 COUNTRY AIRPLAY
178 MILLION STREAMS
RIAA CERTIFIED GOLD

•MALE VOCALIST•

YOU TIME

39*

CONVERT NOW!



CAM

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION:

•FEMALE VOCALIST•

•MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR•
TILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT

•ALBUM OF THE YEAR•

THE OTHERSIDE

YEAR-END BEST ALBUM PICKS FOR:

Rolling Stone **npr**
People **STEREOGUM**



billboard Hot Country Songs

SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	2	1	91	I HOPE R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (Z.KALE,J.M.NITE,G.BARRETT) ★★ No. 1 (25 Weeks) ★★	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	RC	1
2	5	2	33	BETTER TOGETHER S.MOFFATT (L.COMBS,D.ISBELL,R.MONTANA) ★★ Airplay Gainer ★★	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	1	2
3	1	—	2	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
4	4	12	23	7 SUMMERS J.MOI (M.WALLEN,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	16	1
5	3	3	40	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN J.MOI (M.W.HARDY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME,M.WALLEN)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	2
6	9	5	22	STARTING OVER D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,M.HENDERSON)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	11	4
7	6	20	9	SOMEBODY'S PROBLEM J.MOI (M.WALLEN,R.CLAWSON,J.DURRETT,E.K.SMITH)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	3
8	7	4	26	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED D.SMYERS (D.SMYERS,S.MOONEY,S.M.DOUGLAS,J.G.EVIGAN)	Dan + Shay WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	10	4
9	8	—	2	SAND IN MY BOOTS J.MOI (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,J.OSBORNE)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	8
10	11	10	34	GOOD TIME N.MOON,J.MURTY (N.MOON,J.MINTON,A.MOON,J.MURTY,M.TRUSSELL)	Niko Moon RCA NASHVILLE	7	10
11	14	9	32	HOLE IN THE BOTTLE J.FRASURE,K.BALLERINI (K.BALLERINI,S.JONES,H.LINDSEY,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	3	9
12	21	15	27	HAPPY DOES B.CANNON,K.CHESENY (B.CLAWSON,J.PAULIN,B.BERRYHILL,G.JAMES)	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	2	12
13	23	14	11	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY,P.WELLING)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	9	13
14	24	13	24	BEERS AND SUNSHINE R.COPPERMAN (D.RUCKER,R.COPPERMAN,J.T.HARDING,J.OSBORNE) ★★ Digital Gainer ★★	Darius Rucker CAPITOL NASHVILLE	5	13
15	20	11	13	FOREVER AFTER ALL CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,D.PARKER,R.WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	59	1
16	12	26	9	STILL GOIN DOWN J.MOI (M.WALLEN,M.W.HARDY,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	8
17	26	16	14	DOWN TO ONE J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (K.FISHMAN,D.DAVIDSON,J.EBACH)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	6	16
18	15	—	24	COVER ME UP J.MOI,D.COHEN (M.J.ISBELL)	Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD	-	15
19	10	—	2	WARNING J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (E.K.SMITH,A.GORLEY,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	10
20	16	6	26	HAPPY ANYWHERE S.HENDRICKS (R.COPPERMAN,J.OSBORNE,M.JENKINS)	Blake Shelton Featuring Gwen Stefani WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	RC	3
21	30	17	49	JUST THE WAY D.FANNING (M.THOMAS,K.BARD,N.W.SIPE)	Parmalee x Blanco Brown STONEY CREEK	8	17
22	13	—	2	865 J.MOI (J.BYRON,B.PENDERGRASS)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	13
23	NEW	—	1	UNDIVIDED C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,T.MCGRAW,B.GALLIMORE (T.HUBBARD,C.LOOCKE) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard MCGRAW/BMLG/BIG MACHINE	25	23
24	25	19	20	LONG LIVE C.CROWDER,T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY (T.HUBBARD,B.KELLEY,C.CROWDER,D.A.GARCIA,J.MILLER)	Florida Georgia Line BMLG	12	19
25	31	18	31	THE GOOD ONES R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,E.LANDIS,J.MCCORMICK,Z.KALE)	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	18	18

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	#1 6 WKS	MORGAN WALLEN
2		ERNEST KEITH SMITH
3		JOSH OSBORNE
4		CHARLIE HANDSOME
5		HARDY
6		ASHLEY GORLEY
7		LUKE COMBS
8		JON NITE
TIE 9		GABBY BARRETT
TIE 9		ZACH KALE



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 38 WKS	JOEY MOI
2		ROSS COPPERMAN
3		SCOTT MOFFATT
4		DANN HUFF
5		ZACH KALE
6		DAN SMYERS
7		SCOTT HENDRICKS
8		ZACH CROWELL
9		JESSE FRASURE
10		JAY JOYCE

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

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
26	37	21	35	MOMMA'S HOUSE Z.CROWELL (D.SCHNEIDER,M.LOTTEN,R.CLAWSON,J.T.WILSON)	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	13	21
27	40	25	38	LADY D.HUFF (B.YOUNG,R.COPPERMAN,J.M.NITE)	Brett Young BMLG	14	22
28	44	27	17	SOMEBODY LIKE THAT A.KLINE (T.ARTS,A.KLINE,A.M.CRUIZ)	Tenille Arts 19TH & GRAND	17	27
29	36	22	19	ONE TOO MANY K.URBAN,PHD,CUTFATHER (D.H.DAVIDSEN,P.WALLEVIK,M.H.HANSEN,J.NORTON,C.TIGHE)	Keith Urban Duet With Pink HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	24	13
30	35	23	13	HELL OF A VIEW J.JOYCE (E.CHURCH,C.BEATHARD,M.CRISWELL)	Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE	22	23
31	17	-	2	DANGEROUS J.MOI (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	17
32	18	-	2	NEON EYES J.MOI (M.WALLEN,M.L.HOLMAN,B.BURGESS)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	18
33	19	-	2	MORE SURPRISED THAN ME J.MOI (N.MOON,B.BURGESS,L.T.MILLER)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	19
34	22	40	9	LIVIN' THE DREAM J.MOI (M.WALLEN,B.BURGESS,J.DURRETT,M.W.HARDY)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	19
35	43	24	36	ALMOST MAYBES P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,J.FRASURE,H.LINDSEY)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	20	24
36	28	-	2	YOUR BARTENDER J.MOI,M.DRAGSTREM (M.DRAGSTREM,R.AKINS,THOMAS RHETT,J.THOMPSON)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	28
37	27	-	2	WHISKEY'D MY WAY J.MOI (M.DRAGSTREM,J.MILLER,THOMAS RHETT,J.THOMPSON)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	27
38	29	-	2	OUTLAW J.MOI (B.BURGESS,P.DAVIS,J.KERR,J.REYNOLDS)	Morgan Wallen Featuring Ben Burgess REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	29
39	33	-	2	WONDERIN' BOUT THE WIND J.MOI (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	33
40	34	-	2	SILVERADO FOR SALE J.MOI (D.DAVIDSON,M.GREEN,B.HAYSLIP)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	34
41	32	-	2	ONLY THING THAT'S GONE J.MOI (M.WALLEN,R.C.MCGILL,M.DRAGSTREM,J.THOMPSON)	Morgan Wallen Featuring Chris Stapleton REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	32
42	NEW	-	1	MINIMUM WAGE S.HENDRICKS (C.CROWDER,N.GALYON,J.FRASURE)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	29	42
43	RE-ENTRY	-	15	SETTLING DOWN J.JOYCE (M.LAMBERT,L.DICK,N. HEMBY)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	26	32
44	49	30	14	GONE D.GARCIA (N.GALYON,B.JOHNSON,N.MOON)	Dierks Bentley CAPITOL NASHVILLE	27	30
45	50	32	14	BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S Z.CROWELL (S.L.HUNT,C.LA.CORTE,Z.CROWELL,E.K.SMITH,J.OSBORNE)	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	23	32
46	RE-ENTRY	-	19	HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU D.HUFF (M.BEESON,J.OSBORNE,A.SHAMBLIN)	Rascal Flatts BIG MACHINE	15	31
47	RE-ENTRY	-	24	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY LITTLE BIG TOWN (T.BROWN,K.FAIRCHILD,S.MCCONNELL,K.SCHLAPMAN,P.SWEET,J.WESTBROOK)	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	38	23
48	38	-	2	ME ON WHISKEY J.MOI (R.CLAWSON,M.L.HOLMAN,E.K.SMITH)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	38
49	RE-ENTRY	-	9	LIL BIT J.M.SCHMIDT (T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT,B.REDFERRIN,C.HAYNES, JR.)	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line RECORDS/COLUMBIA	-	28
50	RE-ENTRY	-	12	SHALLOW G.BROOKS (S.G.GERMANOTTA,M.D.RONSON,A.ROSSOMANDO,ANDREW WYATT)	Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood PEARL	45	35

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	1,252,000	1,386,310,000	131,410,000
Last Week	1,360,000	1,418,742,000	128,444,000
Change	-7.9%	-2.3%	2.3%
This Week Last Year	1,014,000	1,056,198,000	145,946,000
Change	23.5%	31.3%	-10.0%

	YEAR-TO-DATE		
	2019	2021	CHANGE
Album Consumption	3,064,000	3,716,000	21.3%
Album Sales	479,000	550,000	14.8%
Audio On-Demand	3,239,405,000	4,019,116,000	24.1%
Video On-Demand	446,446,000	376,838,000	-15.6%

YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
'20	30.64 million
'21	37.16 million
TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS	
'20	36.85 billion
'21	43.95 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending January 21, 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



SALES, DATA
COMPILED BY
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billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	—	2	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 0331807/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM		1
2	2	1	63	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	■	1
3	6	3	190	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	■	1
4	5	4	138	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	■	1
5	4	2	10	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
6	7	5	299	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	■	1
7	9	6	31	GABBY BARRETT WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629330/WMN	GOLDMINE		4
8	8	7	9	LEE BRICE CURB 79537*	HEY WORLD		7
9	10	8	23	KANE BROWN RCA NASHVILLE DIGITAL EX/SMN	MIXTAPE, VOL. 1 (EP)		2
10	3	—	2	BARRY GIBB BARRY GIBB & FRIENDS: GREENFIELDS: THE GIBB BROTHERS SONGBOOK, VOL. I CAPITOL 032878*			3
11	12	—	245	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	■	1
12	11	25	33	DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY MAD DECENT DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA	CHAPTER I: SNAKE OIL		6
13	13	9	42	SAM HUNT MCA NASHVILLE 031776*/UMGN	SOUTHSIDE		1
14	14	10	158	EAGLES ASYLUM/ELEKTRA 103*/RHINO (18.98)	HOTEL CALIFORNIA		5
15	RE-ENTRY	96	96	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89048*/LEGACY (25.98)	THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY	■	11
16	16	14	61	JASON ALDEAN MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 32944*/BBMG		9	1
17	17	18	285	ZAC BROWN BAND HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
18	18	12	80	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY	●	12
19	19	16	58	BLAKE SHELTON WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 607343*/WMN	FULLY LOADED: GOD'S COUNTRY	●	1
20	22	20	216	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 530947*/SMN	KANE BROWN	■	1
21	21	19	64	MIRANDA LAMBERT VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 597873*/SMN	WILDCARD		1
22	23	13	24	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 031777/UMGN	BORN HERE LIVE HERE DIE HERE		1
23	24	24	34	KELSEA BALLERINI BLACK RIVER 2020*	KELSEA		2
24	15	21	16	RASCAL FLATTS LYRIC STREET/BIG MACHINE RF0650A*/BMLG	TWENTY YEARS OF RASCAL FLATTS: THE GREATEST HITS		9
25	27	26	242	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS	■	6

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

SALES DATA
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billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	2	1	10	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
2	3	2	245	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	■	1
3	NEW	1	1	JEFF TWEEDY DBPM 18461*	LOVE IS THE KING		3
4	1	—	2	BARRY GIBB BARRY GIBB & FRIENDS: GREENFIELDS: THE GIBB BROTHERS SONGBOOK, VOL. I CAPITOL 032878*			1
5	4	3	291	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	■	1
6	5	4	97	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY	●	2
7	RE-ENTRY	2	2	BLACK PUMAS ATO 0500*	BLACK PUMAS		4
8	6	5	250	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA	■	1
9	8	8	208	SIMON & GARFUNKEL COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS		3
10	7	6	11	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS (56285)	CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS		1

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

billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	2	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
2	3	23	7 SUMMERS MORGAN WALLEN
3	2	9	SOMEBODY'S PROBLEM MORGAN WALLEN
4	4	2	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
5	5	37	MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN MORGAN WALLEN
6	10	17	BETTER TOGETHER LUKE COMBS
7	6	2	WARNING MORGAN WALLEN
8	8	6	STILL GOIN DOWN MORGAN WALLEN
9	7	2	865 MORGAN WALLEN
10	16	13	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS
11	9	7	COVER ME UP MORGAN WALLEN
12	15	65	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT
13	17	21	STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON
14	11	72	HEARTLESS DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN
15	18	21	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED DAN + SHAY
16	24	198	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
17	RE-ENTRY		GOOD TIME NIKO MOON
18	RE-ENTRY		GOT WHAT I GOT JASON ALDEAN
19	RE-ENTRY		WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN
20	RE-ENTRY		HOLE IN THE BOTTLE KELSEA BALLERINI
21	12	2	NEON EYES MORGAN WALLEN
22	RE-ENTRY		ONE OF THEM GIRLS LEE BRICE
23	14	2	DANGEROUS MORGAN WALLEN
24	13	2	MORE SURPRISED THAN ME MORGAN WALLEN
25	23		PRETTY HEART PARKER MCCOLLUM

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.

STREAMING & SALES
DATA COMPILED BY
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billboard COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	4	2	UNDIVIDED TIM MCGRAW & TYLER HUBBARD
2	1	2	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
3	NEW		SOUND OF THE SOUTH KALEB AUSTIN
4	3	2	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
5	5	30	BETTER TOGETHER LUKE COMBS
6	NEW		MINIMUM WAGE BLAKE SHELTON
7	6	21	STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON
8	7	13	THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT
9	RE-ENTRY		MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN MORGAN WALLEN
10	8	73	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT
11	RE-ENTRY		7 SUMMERS MORGAN WALLEN
12	10	17	GOOD TIME NIKO MOON
13	2	4	2020 MITCH ROSSELL
14	NEW		RIGHT GIRL WRONG TIME TYRA MADISON
15	9	13	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS
16	12	253	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
17	15	10	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG THOMAS RHETT
18	11	10	LIL BIT NELLY & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
19	20	29	WINE, BEER, WHISKEY LITTLE BIG TOWN
20	RE-ENTRY		SOMEBODY'S PROBLEM MORGAN WALLEN
21	17	15	ONE TOO MANY KEITH URBAN DUET WITH PINK
22	25	21	I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED DAN + SHAY
23	22	6	HOLE IN THE BOTTLE KELSEA BALLERINI
24	24	7	HELL OF A VIEW ERIC CHURCH
25	RE-ENTRY		DOWN TO ONE LUKE BRYAN

SALES DATA
COMPILED BY
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billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	14	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS (56285)	CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS		1
2	2	3	29	GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS STRETCH GRASS 4050	40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION		1
3	4	4	69	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610063*/CONCORD	HOME		1
4	3	2	6	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN DIGITAL EX/THIRTY TIGERS	CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS		2
5	5	5	31	YO-YO MA/STUART DUNCAN/EDGAR MEYER/CHRIS THILE SOUND POSTINGS/SONY CLASSICAL 973855*/SONY MASTERWORKS	NOT OUR FIRST GOAT RODEO		1
6	8	9	67	THE DEAD SOUTH SIX SHOOTER 129*	SUGAR & JOY		1
7	NEW	1	1	LIZZY PLOTKIN & NATALIE SPEARS LIZZY PLOTKIN & NATALIE SPEARS 1074 BC EX	JUST OVER THE RIDGE (EP)		7
8	7	6	66	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 98*/OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW	LIVE AT THE RYMAN		1
9	RE-ENTRY	12	12	WU FEI & ABIGAIL WASHBURN SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS 40236*	WU FEI & ABIGAIL WASHBURN		1
10	RE-ENTRY	15	15	TRAMPLED BY TURTLES BANJODAD 001*/THIRTY TIGERS (VINYL)	SIGOURNEY FEVER (EP)		2

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.

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

Jimmie Allen Finds 'Freedom' In The Past With An Assist From Brad Paisley

When **Jimmie Allen** assembled his current seven-cut EP, *Bettie James*, he called on a bundle of peers — including **Darius Rucker**, **Nelly**, **Tim McGraw** and **Charley Pride** — to bring multiple sonic shades to his sound.

And when **Brad Paisley** joined in as a guest on “Freedom Was a Highway,” Allen also got to live out the role of another fellow artist who was otherwise absent from the lineup.

“I always wanted to be like a darker-complected **Keith Urban**, but I don't play the guitar that well,” deadpans Allen. “And I'm a little taller.”

“Freedom” is indeed a little Urban-esque: It includes a bold guitar solo from Paisley and a key noodling banjo riff while celebrating the unfettered excitement of youth a la Urban's “Wasted Time.” But “Freedom” is also a little bit **Jackson Browne**, with mentions of wheels and pavement symbolizing the same late-teens period referenced in “Running on Empty.” “Freedom Was a Highway” has a yearning, driving power that would easily fit the soundtrack of a 1980s coming-of-age movie, and Allen rightfully takes that assessment as a compliment.

“Oh yeah,” he says. “That's myvibe.”

Allen found “Freedom” in 2018 when he got a last-minute invitation to join songwriter-producer **Ash Bowers** (“Prayed for You”) and songwriter **Matt Rogers** (“We Went,” “The Long Way”) at the Wide Open publishing office, then housed at the historic RCA building on Nashville's Music Row. Bowers and Rogers already had some music going on acoustic guitars, playing block chords while tapping a four-on-the-floor backbeat with their boots. In a rarity, they built a progression that starts on a five chord, begging from the outset for a resolution that's never fully granted.

“We don't really use the one chord a lot,” says Rogers. “It's like five, six, four the whole song, which is really cool because the entire time, it just kind of hangs. Like, it adds to the tension. You're kind of always waiting for the release of it, and it doesn't happen.”

They had parts of the first verse and the chorus by the time Allen arrived, and though none of them is sure how the “Freedom Was a Highway” title appeared, it fit the ever-rolling excitement in the non-resolving progression. In turn, the story fit the mood by covering a period of life near the end of high school when the world is filled with transition and possibility.

“It's that little window — from [age] 18 to 22 or 17 to 23, whatever it is — where a lot of life happens in a car or in a truck,” says Rogers. “You're driving with friends, hooking up with a girl or driving across country. There's just so much life that happens.”

For Allen, the idea took him back figuratively to his high school in Lewes, Del., nine miles from the Delaware Bay. The locale had its temptations, and partaking of them was part of the experience of that period.

“I started just thinking about when life was simple and the hardest decision you had to make was what kind of cereal you wanted to eat,” says Allen. “Love wasn't a fairy tale or an actor or an actress you're in love with on television. It's literally the girl next door you had a crush on, 'cause growing up, I had a crush on my next-door neighbor ... Junior, senior year, we'd leave during lunch and go to the beach, go to Arby's, hang out, make it back to school on

time 80% of the time — OK, 70% of the time.”

Allen streamlined the first verse, convincing his co-writers that they could get to the chorus faster, scrapping plans for a pre-chorus and replacing it with a single back-to-the-future sort of line: “I wish I could go back to those days.” As a result, the song was short enough as they neared the end to provide space for a bridge. That section recognizes the 17-year-old is “wrapped up in now,” living perhaps more successfully than he will when he enters full adulthood.

“You take on all these gigs, and it's so hard often to just stop and enjoy the moment, and just enjoy the ride while you're in it,” notes Bowers. “I tell my kids that: ‘All right, let's not worry about the next thing right now. Just think about right now and enjoy this moment that we have.’”

The power of “Freedom” became apparent when they recorded a full-band demo weeks later with Rogers singing lead while Allen was on the road. It set the '80s-rock tone for the master session, held in 2019 at Nashville's Sound Stage. **Ilya Toshinsky** developed a noodling banjo lick that became a signature, similar in function to **Kyle Cook**'s opening riff on **Matchbox Twenty**'s “Unwell.” (“Jimmy loves big guitars, and he's a huge Matchbox Twenty fan and **OneRepublic** fan,” says Bowers.) Drummer **Evan Hutchings** gave “Freedom” a big, spacious backbeat.

Months later, Allen was invited to Paisley's house to hang out and sing with McGraw and Rucker. The night was inspirational.

“We're all singing together, but it kind of felt like an out-of-body experience,” recalls Allen. “These are three guys I grew up listening to. They pay more money in taxes than I make in a year.”

That experience convinced Allen to turn his next project into a series of collaborations. And he envisioned Paisley as the perfect foil for “Freedom Was a Highway.” Paisley cut his vocal part and a soaring guitar solo at his home studio after the coronavirus pandemic broke out, singing an invigorating, ultra-high note at the start of that solo break.

“It was a home run,” assesses Bowers. “He really, really did an amazing job.”

Stoney Creek considered a ballad for the next single, though Allen was insistent that the energy of “Freedom” was a good change-up after two previous ballads. Additionally, its uplift is likely to resonate in the coming weeks and months when vaccines allow people to live a little more freely than has been required during the pandemic.

Allen announced “Freedom” as a single when he performed it on ABC's *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve* from Times Square. The label released it to radio via PlayMPE on Jan. 12, and it goes for adds at terrestrial radio stations on Feb. 1.

Friends have told Allen it's a “windows-down kind of song,” and to be sure, its forward-leaning, never-resolving nature provides an enormous surface energy. But that message about living for the moment — mirroring one of Urban's favorite topics — makes “Freedom” a country-rocker with a deeper value for anyone who cares to take the song to heart.

“Most of the time,” surmises Allen, “if you're just present and just show up consistently, things will happen for you.”

In that scenario, living with the uncertainty of now can indeed provide resolution. ●



ALLEN



PAISLEY

billboard Hot Country Songs Index

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

7 SUMMERS Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (M.Wallen, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **4**

865 Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Blake Pendergrass Publishing Designee, BMI (J.Byron, B.Pendergrass) **22**

A

ALMOST MAYBES Ole Red Cape Songs, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP/Roc Nation WC Publishing Designee, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BIRB Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP (J.Davis, J.Frasure, H.Lindsey) **35**

B

BEERS AND SUNSHINE Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/GrowingMusic Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Detroit Records And Tapes, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (D.Rucker, R.Copperman, J.T.Harding, J.Osborne) **14**

BETTER TOGETHER Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Straight Dimes Publishing, BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sullivan 5 Guns Music, BMI (L.Combs, D.Sibell, R.Montana) **2**

BREAKING UP WAS EASY IN THE 90'S Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Between the Pines, LLC, ASCAP/BIPOD, ASCAP/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Miller Crow Music, ASCAP/Kyler's Kinda Night, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Tree Vibe Music, LLC, BMI/Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (S.L.Hunt, C.La Corte, Z.Crowell, E.K.Smith, J.Osborne) **45**

C

COVER ME UP Fame Publishing Company LLC, BMI/Songs Of Emchant, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (M.J.Isbell) **18**

D

DANGEROUS Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI (M.Wallen, E.K.Smith) **31**

DOWN TO ONE Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Kyle Fishman Music, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Natalia's Music Money, BMI/Memory Days, SESAC/Curb WordSpring Music, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (K.Fishman, D.Davidson, J.Ebach) **17**

F

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/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Oak Tree Swing Publishing, BMI (L.Combs, D.Parker, R.Williford) **15**

G

GONE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/A Boy Named Ford, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Niko Moon Publishing, SESAC (N.Galyon, B.Johnson, N.Moon) **44**

THE GOOD ONES GBF Music Global, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/BMG Blue, BMI/Fox Landis Lyrics, BMI/Songs Of Jim McCormick, BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/Revinyl House, BMI (G.Barrett, E.Landis, J.McCormick, Z.Kale) **25**

GOOD TIME W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Niko Moon Publishing, SESAC/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Anna Moon Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Joshua Murty Publishing, ASCAP/Mark Trussell Music, ASCAP/Future Heartbeat Publishing, ASCAP (N.Moon, J.Minton, A.Moon, J.Murty, M.Trussell) **10**

H

HAPPY ANYWHERE EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Endurance Romeo Charlie, BMI/Highly Combustible Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/One77 Songs, ASCAP/Combustion Five, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (R.Copperman, J.Osborne, M.Jenkins) **20**

HAPPY DOES Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Murphy The Wolf Music, BMI/Five Miles West Songs, BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songfortatum Publishing, BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number 1 Music, BMI (B.Clawson, J.Paulin, B.Berryhill, G.James) **12**

HELL OF A VIEW Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Spirit Of Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI (E.Church, C.Beathard, M.Criswell) **30**

HOLE IN THE BOTTLE Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Vistaville Music, ASCAP/Steph Jones Who Music, ASCAP/Big Deal Hits, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Roc Nation WC Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP (K.Ballerini, S.Jones, H.Lindsey, J.Frasure, A.Gorley) **11**

HOW THEY REMEMBER YOU Son Of Ron Songs, ASCAP/Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Smack Songs LLC, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Built On Rock Music, ASCAP (M.Beason, J.Osborne, A.Shamblin) **46**

I

I HOPE Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Revinyl House, BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Nite Writer Music, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI (Z.Kale, J.M.Nite, G.Barrett) **1**

I SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO BED Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Shay Mooney Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Eastman Pond Publishing, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Bad Robot Music, BMI (D.Smyers, S.Mooney, S.M.Douglas, J.G.Evigan) **8**

J

JUST THE WAY Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI/JM Thomas Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Tunes LLC, ASCAP/Kevin Bard Music, ASCAP/Margetts Road Music, ASCAP/Nolan W. Sipe Music, ASCAP (M.Thomas, K.Bard, N.W.Sipe) **21**

L

LADY Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Nite Writer Music, ASCAP (B.Young, R.Copperman, J.M.Nite) **27**

LIL BIT Big Loud Mountain, BMI/T Hubb Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/The Money Tree Vibe, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (T.Hubbard, J.M.Schmidt, B.Redferin, C.Haynes, Jr.) **49**

LIVIN' THE DREAM Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/This Songs For You Pops, BMI (M.Wallen, B.Burgess, J.Durrett, M.W.Hardy) **34**

LONG LIVE Big Loud Mountain, BMI/T Hubb Publishing, BMI/Pranch Ringle Music, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Big Crowd Publishing, ASCAP/Georgia Song Vibe, ASCAP/Spirit Two Music Inc., ASCAP/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/Songs Of The Corn, BMI (T.Hubbard, B.Kelley, C.Crowder, D.A.Garcia, J.Miller) **24**

M

ME ON WHISKEY Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/Shirt At Work, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Ju Jettis Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Art In The Fodder Music, BMI/Hark Molman Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI (R.Clawson, M.L.Holman, E.K.Smith) **48**

MINIMUM WAGE A Boy Named Ford, BMI/Big Crowd Publishing, ASCAP/Georgia Song Vibe, ASCAP/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (C.Crowder, N.Galyon, J.Frasure) **42**

MOMMA'S HOUSE Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Two Black Dogs, ASCAP/Ole Music Of Parallel, BMI/Lucky Mic Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/Shirt At Work, BMI/Legends Of Magic Mustang Music, SESAC/BMG Cicada, SESAC (D.Schneider, M.Lottin, R.Clawson, J.T.Wilson) **26**

MORE SURPRISED THAN ME W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Niko Moon Publishing, SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bump Into Genius Music, BMI/Mr. Buck Lucky, BMI/The Country And Western Music, BMI (N.Moon, B.Burgess, L.T.Miller) **33**

MORE THAN MY HOMETOWN Relative Music Group, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Sony/ATV Countryside, BMI (M.W.Hardy, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome, M.Wallen) **5**

N

NEON EYES Big Loud Mountain, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Ju Jettis Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Art In The Fodder Music, BMI/Hark Molman Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Bump Into Genius Music, BMI (M.Wallen, M.L.Holman, B.Burgess) **32**

O

ONE TOO MANY Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/James Norton Publishing Designee, ASCAP (D.H.Davidson, P.Walleik, M.H.Hansen, J.Norton, C.Tighe) **29**

ONLY THING THAT'S GONE Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Matt Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI (M.Wallen, R.C.McGill, M.Dragstrem, J.Thompson) **41**

OUTLAW Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/This Songs For You Pops, BMI/Patrick Davis Music, BMI/Tunes Of Black River, BMI/BNA Bangers, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Ireynmusic, ASCAP/Buckeye26, ASCAP (B.Burgess, P.Davis, J.Kerr, J.Reynolds) **38**

S

SAND IN MY BOOTS Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Relative Music Group, BMI/Sony/ATV Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (A.Gorley, M.W.Hardy, J.Osborne) **9**

SETTLING DOWN Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Wrucke For You Publishing, BMI (M.Lambert, L.Dick, N.Hemby) **43**

SHALLOW Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI/Warner-Barham Music LLC, BMI/SG Songs Worldwide, BMI/Warner-Olive Music LLC, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Concord Publishing, BMI/Zeig Publishing, BMI/Stephaniesays Music, ASCAP/Downtown DJL Songs, ASCAP/White Bull Music Group, BMI/Downtown DMP Songs, BMI (S.G.Germanotta, M.D.Ronson, A.Rossomando, Andrew Wyatt) **50**

SILVERADO FOR SALE Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Natalia's Music Money, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/All Night Linda Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Pinetucky Road Publishing, ASCAP (D.Davidson, M.Green, B.Haylip) **40**

SOMEBODY LIKE THAT Oven Music Inc., BMI/Ziggys Z Music, SESAC/Tunes Of Big Deal Music, SESAC/Songs Of Porterfield Music, SESAC (T.Arts, A.Kline, A.M.Cruz) **28**

SOMEBODY'S PROBLEM Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/Shirt At Work, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI (M.Wallen, R.Clawson, J.Durrett, E.K.Smith) **7**

STARTING OVER I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Straight Six Music, BMI/Wixen Music Publishing, BMI (C.Stapleton, M.Henderson) **6**

STILL GOIN DOWN Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI (M.Wallen, M.W.Hardy, Charlie Handsome) **16**

U

UNDIVIDED T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Straight Outta Georgia Songs, SESAC/Tree Vibe Z Music, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC (T.Hubbard, C.Looche) **23**

W

WARNING Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Tree Vibe Music, LLC, BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI (E.K.Smith, A.Gorley, Charlie Handsome) **19**

WASTED ON YOU Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI/Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI (M.Wallen, E.K.Smith, J.Thompson, Charlie Handsome) **3**

WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhettro, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI/Tunes by TrailerParker, BMI/Songs Of Home Team Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP (Thomas Rhett, R.Akins, J.Frasure, A.Gorley, P.Welling) **13**

WHISKEY'D MY WAY Matt Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of The Corn, BMI/Jack 10 Publishing, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Two Laine Collections, BMI (M.Dragstrem, J.Miller, Thomas Rhett, J.Thompson) **37**

WINE, BEER, WHISKEY Razor And Tie Music Publishing, BMI/Tofer The Musical, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Silent Desert Music, BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI (T.Brown, K.Fairchild, S.McConnell, K.Schlapman, P.Sweet, J.Westbrook) **47**

WONDERIN' BOUT THE WIND Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI (M.Wallen, E.K.Smith) **39**

Y

YOUR BARTENDER Matt Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhettro, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MV2 Music, BMI (M.Dragstrem, R.Akins, Thomas Rhett, J.Thompson) **36**

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REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

10 Years Ago Kenny Chesney Went 'Somewhere' Good: No. 1

In 2011, the track became his 19th Hot Country Songs leader

On Jan. 29, 2011, **Kenny Chesney's** "Somewhere With You" began a three-week reign on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart, marking his 19th of 23 leaders to date.

Penning by **J.T. Harding** and **Shane McAnally**, the track was re-released as the second single from Chesney's LP *Hemingway's Whiskey*, which debuted as his 10th of 17 No. 1s

on Top Country Albums. It launched as his sixth of nine No. 1s on the all-genre *Billboard* 200 and produced five singles, including two other Hot Country Songs leaders: "The Boys of Fall" and "Live a Little."

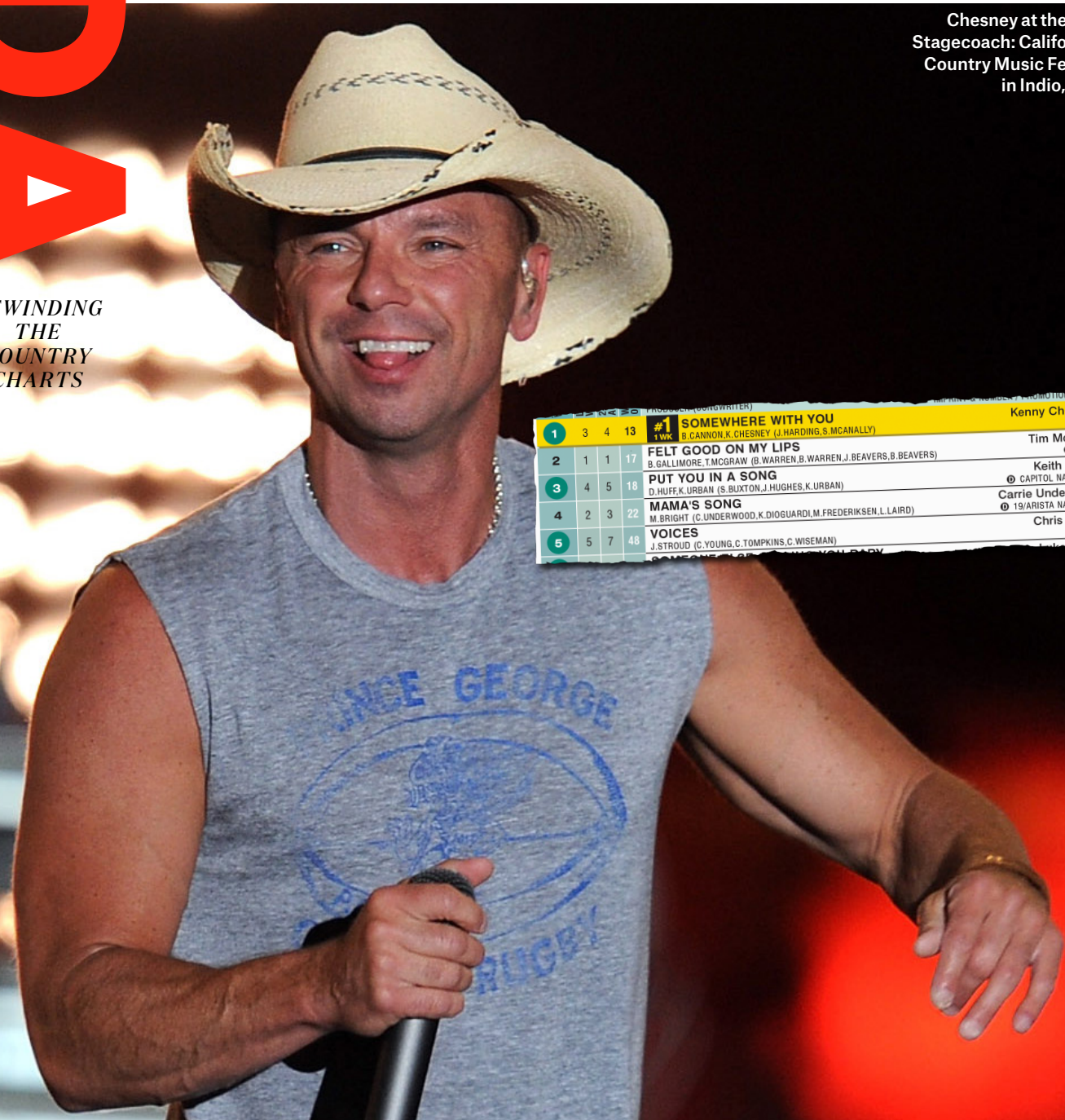
The Knoxville, Tenn.-born Chesney, 52, also boasts a record 31 No. 1s on the Country Airplay chart. (His latest single, "Happy Does,"

bullets at its No. 2 high on the latest list.) In addition to his singing, he also logs airtime offering insights on his SiriusXM channel, No Shoes Radio.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chesney postponed his 2020 Chillaxification Tour, which was set to begin last April in Arlington, Texas. It's currently scheduled to resume May 1 in Tampa, Fla.

—JIM ASKER

Chesney at the 2011 Stagecoach: California's Country Music Festival in Indio, Calif.



Rank	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Label
1	3	Kenny Chesney	BNA
2	1	Tim McGraw	Curb
3	4	Keith Urban	Capitol Nashville
4	2	Carrie Underwood	19/Arista Nashville
5	5	Chris Young	RCA