## **billboard** Country Update

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 | PAGE 1 OF 19



"Nate Barnes is the real deal, this song is a HIT"

- Tim Roberts VP Programming/ Country Format Captain/Audacy

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"Ben's music is SO relatable it is a great sound for our format."

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#### BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE



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### Man Of Steel: Paul Franklin Makes A Difference, Even If He's Overlooked

FRANKLIN

When the Country Music Association unveiled its ballot for the organization's 55th annual awards on Sept. 9, steel guitarist **Paul Franklin** picked up the 30th nomination of his career.

A whopping 29 of those nods – including this year's – were for musician of the year, which means he has been a candidate

in more than half of the CMA's competitions. All that attention hasn't done much for his trophy case, though. Franklin has yet to take home a CMA Award, and he's somewhat resigned to that outcome.

"I gave up on winning," he says candidly.

But there's no malice or self-pity in his response. At age 67, he's still a first-call studio musician, playing on such recent hits as **Thomas Rhett**'s "Country Again," **Kane Brown**'s "Homesick," **Brett Young**'s "Catch" and **Justin Moore**'s "Why We Drink." When Franklin listens to country radio, he rarely goes an hour without hearing himself, and that confirmation of his daily successes in the studio trenches outstrips the once-a-year status as an also-ran.

"Everybody that gets nominated wants to win, of course," he says. "But I can't believe at my age that I'm still being nominated. That's flattering."

Franklin's absence from the winner's circle may have something to do with the instrument itself. Pedal steel guitar requires a musician to use both hands and both feet—the classic image of a pedal-pusher is a guy hunched over the box, wavering a bar over the fretboard with his left hand, picking strings with his right while both feet rock subtly across four tone and volume controls. The steel guitarist can't really move around onstage, and is thus easily overlooked.

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"The instrument's too hard to play to be visual," notes Franklin. "If you're visual, then typically you're not playing much." In fact, a steel guitarist has never won the CMA's musician

> of the year honor. And only this year, with the announcement that **Pete Drake** is bound for the Country Music Hall of Fame, is a steel player finally going to be enshrined in country's most hallowed institution. The longtime omission is not lost on Franklin.

> "If you set a steel guitar up amid a bunch of ordinary music fans, they look at that and they say, 'Country music. That's that country instrument' — if they don't know what to call it, they ID it with country music," he says. "That's why it always struck me [that] country music has not really acknowledged the instrument as much. The producers and artists all do, but as far as these [awards] things go, it's not typical."

Appropriately, neither is Franklin's backstory.

A native of Detroit, he started playing steel guitar in 1962 after being inspired by a major country crossover hit recorded that December, **Skeeter Davis**' "The End of the World." The steel guitarist, not so ironically, was Drake. By the end of the decade, steel had quietly found prominence with folk and pop artists — **Poco; Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young;** and **Bob Dylan**, who loaded up "Lay Lady Lay" with steel guitar, supplied by Drake. Franklin's father was an auto worker, a proud union man,

and when he recognized his son's expertise, he figured the best



way to help the kid get work was to have him join the union. That was fortuitous — as interest in the steel picked up, Franklin was the only player listed on the instrument with the Detroit chapter of the American Federation of Musicians. Thus, he got work while he was still in high school, where the kids derisively called him "Hee Haw." Franklin figured prominently in a 1970 track by **Parliament**, "Little Ole Country Boy"; got hired by **Marvin Gaye**'s musical director, **McKinley Jackson**; and picked up work with producer **Dennis Coffey**, best known as the artist on a 1971 pop instrumental, "Scorpio." Coffey hired Franklin to play on four tracks by an unsigned band named **Gallery**, which ultimately included a top five 1972 single, "Nice to Be With You."

Franklin moved to Nashville that year, but didn't tell anyone he had played on a pophit—he didn't think it would help him get work. Drake, however, provided Franklin some studio gigs and encouraged him to tout his highlights. He began playing road dates for **Barbara Mandrell**, **Dottie West**, **Jerry Reed** and **Mel Tillis**, and appeared on his first country hit with **George Strait**'s 1985 single "The Chair." The Bakersfield influence Franklin brought to **Rodney Crowell**'s "Above and Beyond," a No. 1 1989 single, cemented his reputation: He won his first musician of the year nomination and has never looked back.

Franklin practically owned both the traditional and pop sides of country steel playing. He participated, for example, on Strait's gentle "I Just Want to Dance With You" and **Shania Twain**'s then-edgy "That Don't Impress Me Much" in the same year, 1998. His credits would stretch from **Alan Jackson** and **Mark Chesnutt** to **Barbra Streisand**, **Dire Straits** and **Megadeth**.

Some of that flexibility comes from his ability to "read the room," a trait he says was heavily encouraged by... well, Drake.

"It's a really quick assessment of the room — 'Which way are we going today?' "he says. "You can't just assume, even though it may sound like a traditional song, that you can play traditional parts on it. If the artist is trying to be experimental, you're going to have to go somewhere else."

Ultimately, Franklin still loves his instrument, playing weekly Mondaynight dates with the western swing act **The Time Jumpers** and, of late, touring with **Chris Stapleton**, where the change of pace from the usual Nashville studio circuit is a good refresher.

"It's like therapy for me," says Franklin.

He survived the mid-2010s, when producers limited instrumental solos and fills and wanted more atmospheric sounds. Franklin graciously made that work, even though it forced steel even farther into the shadows. But of late, that's changing as the support instruments regain some prominence in many country mixes. Whether Franklin ever pulls off a CMA win or not, he's influencing the next generation, much the way that Drake influenced him. And they are likely to push a lot of boundaries, even if they don't move much.

"The instrument has always been sparse, [unlike] piano or guitars where, you know, everybody owns one in their house or something," says Franklin. "I don't think the steel guitar will ever get there, but there's a lot of young people coming along and they really want to play the instrument. They don't want to just be ethereal."



The Mavericks received the Americana trailblazer award during the Americana Honors & Awards on Sept. 25 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. From left: group members Jerry Dale McFadden, Raul Malo, Paul Deakin and Eddie Perez.



Tenille Arts spent a little face time with KNIX Phoenix assistant PD Reid Spivey during a Sept. 16 tour stop.



American Blonde visited KUAD Fort Collins-Windsor, Colo., in conjunction with a Sept. 16 appearance at the Boot Grill in Loveland. From left: KUAD personality A.J. Battalio, group members Tink Morris and Nata Morris, and KUAD personality Shelby "Maxx" Cohen.

## ARISTA NASHVILLE INTRODUCES MORGAN WADE

WILDER DAYS IMPACTING THIS MONDAY 10/4







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

### Scotty McCreery Earns Fourth Country Airplay No. 1: 'You Time' 'Is A Great Way To Celebrate 10 Years Of Making Music'



**Scotty McCreery** notches his fourth total and consecutive No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "You Time" (Triple Tigers) ascends to the top of the list dated Oct. 2. In the week ending Sept. 26, the song increased by 8% to 27.7 million audience impressions, according to MRC Data.

"I wrote this song with **Frank** [**Rogers**] and **Aaron** [**Eshuis**] in 2019, but it still feels brand new," McCreery tells *Billboard*. "Now that I'm back on the road,

it's been fun to see the audience get excited and dance when we play 'You Time.' It gets a great reaction from the crowd every night. I appreciate country radio for playing and supporting the song, my label and management. Most of all, my gratitude is to the fans who are always there for me. Having 'You Time' hit No. 1 is a great way to celebrate 10 years of making music."

McCreery, who won American Idolin 2011, first appeared on Country Airplay that June with "I Love You This Big," which eventually peaked at No. 15. "You Time" is his 12th entry.

The artist first led Country Airplay for a week in March 2018 with "Five More Minutes." He followed with "This Is It" (two weeks, February 2019) and "In Between" (one week, June 2020). He has notched all four of his leaders on Triple Tigers, where he signed in 2017.

Meanwhile, "You Time" enters the top 10 of the airplay-, sales- and streaming-based Hot Country Songs chart (13-8) with 3.6 million U.S. streams (up 17%) and 1,300 sold (up 17%), in addition to its airplay, in the week ending Sept. 23. It's McCreery's fourth top 10 on the tally.

"You Time" is the lead single from the singer-songwriter's new studio set, *Same Truck*, which rolls in at No. 10 on Top Country Albums. It starts as his seventh top 10, opening with 10,000 equivalent album units (including 6,000 in album sales). The set follows *Seasons Change*, which opened atop the survey in March 2018 as his third No. 1.



**29 IS NO. 9** Also on Top Country Albums, **Carly Pearce** achieves her third top 10 as 29 (Big Machine/Big Machine Label Group) reenters at No. 9 with 11,000 equivalent album units (up 446%), following the Sept. 17 release of its 15-track 29: Written in Stone expanded edition. The original, seven-song collection spent one week on the chart at No. 18 in March (7,000 units).

"Next Girl," the LP's lead single, peaked at Nos. 15 and 23 on Country Air-

play and Hot Country Songs, respectively. New single "Never Wanted to Be That Girl," with **Ashley McBryde**, ranks at No. 39 on the former chart (2.1 million) and debuts at No. 34 on the latter.

**FLIGHT OF 'FANCY' Walker Hayes**' "Fancy Like" (Monument) leads Hot Country Songs for an 11th week while holding at its No. 5 high on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100.

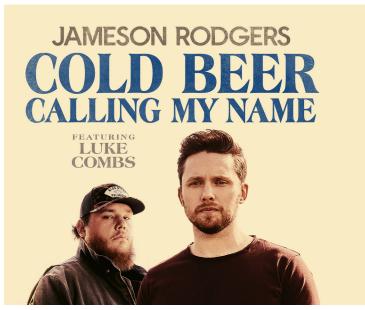
In the week ending Sept. 23, the viral hit drew 19.8 million streams and sold 26,200 downloads as it leads Country Streaming Songs for a 12th week and Country Digital Song Sales for a 13th frame.

On Country Airplay, "Fancy" becomes Hayes' second top 10 (13-9; 18.9 million, up 34%). In January 2018, his "You Broke Up With Me" hit No. 10.

With programmers having the option of a remix featuring **Kesha** (released Sept. 10), a

"Fancy" vaults 30-16 on the all-genre Radio Songs chart (31.7 million, up 45%). The song, which is also benefiting from its synch in an Applebee's commercial that premiered Aug. 23, concurrently climbs 23-17 on Adult Pop Airplay and 24-20 on Pop Airplay, and debuts at No. 28 on Adult Contemporary.

WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME... "Chasing After You" by the husband-andwife pairing of **Ryan Hurd** and **Maren Morris** (Arista Nashville) rises 11-10 on Country Airplay (17.2 million, up 7%). It's Hurd's first top 10, among four appearances, and Morris' seventh. ●





**104 MILLION+ STREAMS RTD** 

RIVER DOUSE



### DAMN STRAIT IMPACTING 10/18

## THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO!

## 4th DAMN STRAIT #1 IN A ROW

## YOU TIME



## **billboard** Country Airplay



					_			
THIS	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I			PLAYS	
WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	2	47	YOUTIME     Triple Tigers     ★★ No. 1 (1 Week) ★★     Scotty McCreery	27.744	+2.055	7162	475	1
0	3	42	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	27.210	+2.226	6916	379	2
3	5	47	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	24.656	+1.759	6397	466	3
4	7	10	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	22.178	+2.263	5854	674	4
5	4	25	WAVES Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	21.847	-2.011	5319	-327	6
6	6	43	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	21.431	-0.869	4793	-178	9
7	1	40	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	19.835	-9.348	4659	-2908	10
8	9	51	MY BOY Wheelhouse Elvie Shane	19.085	+0.799	5634	312	5
9	13	12	FANCY LIKE Monument         ** Most Increased Audience **         Walker Hayes	18.869	+4.801	5044	1246	7
10	11	30	CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris	17.155	+1.153	4917	530	8
0	10	19	IWAS ON A BOATTHAT DAY Arista Nashville Old Dominion	16.062	+0.111	4334	69	11
Ð	12	12	COLD AS YOU River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	15.795	+1.051	4049	220	13
B	17	16	SAME BOAT Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band	15.130	+2.040	3927	427	15
14	14	29	KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	15.086	+1.540	4288	212	12
15	15	29	LIKE A LADY BMLG Lady A	14.087	+0.824	3974	135	14
16	16	36	TEQUILA LITTLETIME Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	13.017	-0.120	3822	23	16
Ð	18	35	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley	12.035	+0.392	3599	66	17
18	19	49	WHISKEY AND RAIN Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	12.030	+0.777	3368	160	18
19	20	21	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow ** Airpower ** Dustin Lynch Featuring MacKenzie Porter	11.532	+1.678	3125	387	19
20	21	53	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU inDent/Mercury Nashville ** Airpower ** Priscilla Block	9.937	+0.184	3025	72	20
2	22	19	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	9.050	+1.026	2801	279	21
2	23	13	SAND IN MY BOOTS Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	8.010	+0.560	2352	228	28
23	24	6	ONE MISSISSIPPI RCA Nashville Kane Brown	7.812	+0.677	2431	259	25
24	28	11	BUY DIRT MCA Nashville Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan	7.380	+0.526	2445	152	24
25	26	23	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney	7.341	+0.309	2486	183	23
26	25	32	TO BE LOVED BY YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	7.301	+0.215	2375	109	26
2	27	36	HOME SWEET Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	7.258	+0.337	2362	0	27
23	29	27	IT'S 'CAUSE I AM Big Machine Callista Clark	7.009	+0.149	2534	43	22
29	30	11	HEART ON FIRE EMI Nashville Eric Church	5.313	+0.708	1913	191	29
30	31	18	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	5.132	+0.556	1589	208	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 Audiocopyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2021, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on MRC Data's platforms.

#### **BULLETS**

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

#### TIES

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

#### RECURRENTS

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

#### **HOT SHOT DEBUT**

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

#### **MOST ADDED**

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

#### **MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE**

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

#### AIRPOWER

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

#### BREAKER

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

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## **billboard** Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

THIS         LAST WKS CHART         WKS CHART           3         34         3           32         32         12           33         30         34         3           32         32         12         33         30           33         36         6         6         35         39         9           35         37         8         30         30         33         30           39         35         2         40         40         32         31         30         39         35         2         40         40         32         41         30         39         35         2         40         40         32         41         30         32         41         30         32         41         30         32         41         43         8         42         7         32         44         16         44         16         44         45         21         45         21         45         17         45         17         45         17         48         17         45         51         5         55         55         55         55         55         51	TTTLE Imprint/LabelArtist23 MCA NashvilleSam Hunt23 MCA NashvilleSam Hunt24 THAT'S WHAT COWBOYS DO PearlGarth Brooks25 GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Big LoudHARDY26 WILD HEARTS Hit Red/Capitol NashvilleKeith Urban27 BEERS ON ME Capitol NashvilleDierks Bentley, Breland & HARDY28 BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS Big LoudJake Owen29 THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista NashvilleMatt Stell20 GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury NashvilleLauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi21 NEVER WANTEDTO BETHAT GIRL Atlantic/Wamer Music Nashville/Big Machine/WMN ** Most Added ** Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde21 CAN'T MonumentCaitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion22 STEAL MY LOVE Warner Music Nashville/WARDan + Shay	THIS WEEK           4.074           3.919           3.599           3.222           2.536           2.443           2.356           2.261           2.126           2.069	N MILLIONS) +/- +0.995 +0.149 +0.444 +0.431 +0.335 +0.079 +0.113 +0.264 -0.738	THIS WEEK           1181           1326           1682           1038           913           1157           1308           1125	PLAYS           +/-           332           69           99           159           77           149           97	RANK           35           32           30           39           41           36
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39       9         35       37       8         37       38       30         39       35       2         40       40       32         40       40       32         41       40       32         40       40       32         41       43       8         42       7       43         45       21       7         45       44       16         45       44       16         45       47       17         45       48       17         48       17       48       17         45       51       51       51	BEERS ON ME Capitol Nashville       Dierks Bentley, Breland & HARDY         BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS Big Loud       Jake Owen         THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville       Matt Stell         GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville       Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi         NEVER WANTEDTO BETHAT GIRL Atlantic/Wamer Music Nashville/Big Machine/WMN ** Most Added ** Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde         I CAN'T Monument       Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion         7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine       Tim McGraw         STEAL MY LOVE Warner Music Nashville/WAR       Dan + Shay	2.536 2.443 2.356 2.261 2.126 2.069	+0.335 +0.079 +0.113 +0.264	913 1157 1308	77 149	41 36
37       8         37       38       30         39       35       2         40       40       32         40       40       32         40       40       32         40       40       32         40       40       32         41       43       8         42       7       42         43       44       16         44       45       21         45       44       16         45       44       16         45       21       17         45       45       17         45       52       17         48       17         45       51       51	BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS Big Loud       Jake Owen         THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville       Matt Stell         GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville       Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardii         NEVER WANTED TO BETHAT GIRL Atlantic/Wamer Music Nashville/Big Machine/WMN ** Most Added ** Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde         I CAN'T Monument       Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion         7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine       Tim McGraw         STEAL MY LOVE Warner Music Nashville/WAR       Dan + Shay	2.443 2.356 2.261 2.126 2.069	+0.079 +0.113 +0.264	1157 1308	149	36
57       38       30         (3)       41       30         39       35       2         40       40       32         (4)       40       32         (4)       40       32         (4)       40       32         (4)       40       32         (4)       40       32         (4)       43       8         (2)       42       7         (3)       44       16         (4)       45       21         (5)       46       14         (5)       52       17         (5)       48       17         (5)       51       51	THAT AIN'T ME NO MORE RECORDS/Arista Nashville       Matt Stell         GETTING OVER HIM 19/Mercury Nashville       Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi         NEVER WANTED TO BETHAT GIRL Atlantic,Wamer Music Nashville/Big Machine/WMN ** Most Added ** Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde         I CAN'T Monument       Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion         7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine       Tim McGraw         STEAL MY LOVE       Warner Music Nashville/WAR	2.356 2.261 2.126 2.069	+0.113 +0.264	1308		
39       35       2         40       40       32         40       40       32         41       40       32         41       40       32         41       40       32         41       43       8         42       7       42         45       21       45         45       46       14         45       47       17         45       52       17         48       17         45       51       5	GETTING OVER HIM       19/Mercury Nashville       Lauren Alaina Duet With Jon Pardi         NEVER WANTED TO BETHAT GIRL       Atlantic/Wamer Music Nashville/Big Machine/WMN ** Most Added ** Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde         I CAN'T Monument       Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion         7500 OBO       McGraw/Big Machine       Tim McGraw         STEAL MY LOVE       Warner Music Nashville/WAR       Dan + Shay	2.261 2.126 2.069	+0.264		97	
39       35       2         40       40       32         40       40       32         41       43       8         42       7       3         42       42       7         43       44       16         45       21         45       46       14         46       47       17         45       52       17         48       17         49       48       17         49       51       5	NEVER WANTED TO BETHAT GIRL Atlantic/Warrer Music Nashville/Big Machine/WMN ** Most Added ** Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde         I CAN'T Monument       Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion         7500 OB0       McGraw/Big Machine       Tim McGraw         STEAL MY LOVE       Warrer Music Nashville/WAR       Dan + Shay	2.126 2.069		4405		33
40       40       32         41       43       8         42       7         43       42       7         43       44       16         45       21         45       46       14         45       52       17         45       52       17         48       17         49       48       17         45       51       51	I CAN'T Monument     Caitlyn Smith Featuring Old Dominion       7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine     Tim McGraw       STEAL MY LOVE Warner Music Nashville/WAR     Dan + Shay	2.069	-0.738	1195	52	34
43       8         42       7         42       7         44       16         45       21         45       44         45       14         45       17         52       17         48       17         51       51	7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine     Tim McGraw       STEAL MY LOVE Warner Music Nashville/WAR     Dan + Shay			654	90	47
42         7           3         44         16           45         21           45         46         14           46         14           5         46         17           5         52         17           48         17           5         48         17           5         51         5	STEAL MY LOVE Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay		-0.052	1094	-7	37
(3)         44         16           (4)         45         21           (5)         46         14           (5)         47         17           (7)         52         17           (8)         48         17           (9)         51         5		1.997	+0.163	793	81	44
45         21           13         46         14           15         47         17           17         52         17           13         48         17           15         51         51		1.910	+0.004	796	47	43
46         14           1         47         17           1         52         17           1         48         17           1         51         55	MY MASTERPIECE Capitol Nashville Darius Rucker	1.743	-0.014	953	162	40
46         47         17           47         52         17           48         48         17           49         51         5	I'M NOT FOR EVERYONE EMI Nashville Brothers Osborne	1.628	+0.065	905	48	42
47         52         17           43         48         17           49         51         5	OLD SCHOOL         Show Dog Nashville         Toby Keith	1.545	+0.049	1080	43	38
48         17           49         51         5	BACK THEN, RIGHT NOW 19th & Grand Tenille Arts	1.247	-0.008	780	26	46
<b>4</b> 9 51 5	YOU AIN'T PRETTY Quartz Hill Nate Barnes	1.236	+0.159	791	60	45
	WHILE YOU'RE GONE         Warner Music Nashville/WMN         Drew Parker	1.227	+0.012	452	43	55
50 49 23	COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU Stoney Creek Frank Ray	1.160	+0.014	614	45	48
	FILL THEM BOOTS Big Loud Chris Lane	1.128	-0.002	567	12	50
<b>51</b> 55 2	AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville Chris Young & Mitchell Tenpenny	0.947	+0.141	371	102	56
52 50 9	FOOTPRINTS ON THE MOON         Warner Music Nashville/WAR         Gabby Barrett	0.896	-0.229	460	-11	53
<b>53</b> 53 4	NEWTRUCK Curb Dylan Scott	0.800	-0.106	508	21	52
54 56 9	COME IN (BUT DON'T MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE) True To The Song/Mailboat/New Revolution Caroline Jones	0.762	-0.032	604	21	49
<b>5</b> 5 60 3	AM ITHE ONLY ONE Valory Aaron Lewis	0.753	+0.149	223	39	60
56 59 8	TILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT         RCA/Triple Tigers         Cam	0.731	+0.051	544	-11	51
57 58 8	ABBY Mercury Nashville Travis Denning	0.718	+0.036	456	17	54
53 NEW	SUNRISE TELLS THE STORY Big Machine <b>** Hot Shot Debut **</b> Midland	0.514	+0.036	321	32	57
59 NEW		0.484	+0.155	64	18	-
60 NEW	'TIL YOU CAN'T         Colo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN         Cody Johnson	0.451	+0.085	199	44	-



#### **GOING FOR ADDS**

10/4 CHLOE COLLINS

Somebody Else's Chloe Collins FLAT RIVER BAND FEAT. THE GATLIN BROTHERS I Just Wish You Were Someone I Love Flat River Band

MORGAN WADE Wilder Days Arista Nashville

MUSCADINE BLOODLINE Dyin' For A Livin' Stancaster PARMALEE Take My Name Stoney Creek

#### 10/11

AMERICAN BLONDE Quicksand Southern Halo

BRIE CARTER Gave Him A Girl Brie Carter

JEREMY STUDDARD Barely Breathing

Barely Breathin Owens

#### 10/18

CODY JOHNSON Til You Can't CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN

NORTH TO NASHVILLE Whisperin' Game Changer

PAIGE KING JOHNSON Baby Don't PCG Artist Development

## **billboard** Country Airplay

#### **MOST ADDED**®

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	ADDS
NEVER WANTED TO BE THAT GIRL Big Machine Records /Warner Music Nashville Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde	32
23 MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	20
WILD HEARTS Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban	17
DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	14
AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	13
MY MASTERPIECE Capitol Nashville Darius Rucker	11
SAND IN MY BOOTS Big Loud/Republic Morgan Wallen	10
HEART ON FIRE EMI Nashville Eric Church	7
SHUFFLE 19 Recordings/BMLG Laci Kaye Booth	7
TO BE LOVED BY YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	6

#### **MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE**

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)
FANCY LIKE Monument Walker Hayes	+4.801
IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	+2.263
COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	+2.226
YOU TIME Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	+2.054
SAME BOAT Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band	+2.040
MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	+1.759
THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	+1.678
KNOWING YOU Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	+1.540
CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris	+1.153
COLD AS YOU River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	+1.051

#### **MOST INCREASED PLAYS**

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN		
FANCY LIKE Monument Walker Hayes	+1246		
IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	+674		
CHASING AFTER YOU Arista Nashville Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris			
YOU TIME Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	+475		
MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Curb Lee Brice	+466		
SAME BOAT Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band			
THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	+387		
COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers Featuring Luke Combs	+379		
23 MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	+332		
MY BOY Wheelhouse Elvie Shane	+312		

### NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE	STATIONS	ADDS
BETTER THAN YOU'RE USED TO Valor	/ Tyler Rich	0.381	28	0
HOME RUN Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	0.378	32	1
BYE MOM Warner/WAR	Chris Janson	0.343	3	2
SHUFFLE 19 Recordings/BMLG	Laci Kaye Booth	0.278	13	7
GIVING YOU UP RCA Nashville	Kameron Marlowe	0.259	0	0
TIP JAR MCC/Curb	Jackson Michelson	0.242	10	0

#### RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	18.158
2	DRINKIN' BEER. TALKIN' GOD. AMEN. Dack Janiels/BMLG/Broken Bow Chase Rice Featuring Florida Georgia Line	17.355
3	SINGLE SATURDAY NIGHT Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	17.246
4	COUNTRY AGAIN Valory Thomas Rhett	13.999
5	GLAD YOU EXIST Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	13.928
6	JUST THE WAY Stoney Creek Parmalee x Blanco Brown	12.958
7	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH Valory Justin Moore	12.275
8	GONE Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	10.096
9	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Curb Lee Brice	10.043
10	WHAT'S YOUR COUNTRY SONG Valory Thomas Rhett	9.591





# THIS LAST WEEK WEEK CHART TITLE (Label)

### **TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT**

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

											_
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW Spins	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW Spins	SPINS +/-
0	2	21	REWIND (Independent)     ★ ★ 1 Week at 1 ★ ★     Kyle Park	1813	109	0	15	10	NOAH BUILT A BOAT (Curtis Grimes Music) Curtis Grimes	1144	177
2	3	14	SENORITA SKY (King Hall Music) Chad Cooke Band	1764	91	12	11	20	LOST INSIDE THE GROOVE (No Big Deal) Reckless Kelly	1111	-6
3	4	23	ONE BEER AT A TIME (Smith) Drew Fish Band	1625	25	13	6	26	PLAINVIEW (Independent) Kin Faux	1064	-426
4	5	13	REAL DAMN GOOD (Pretty Damn Tough) Josh Abbott Band	1573	57	14	19	8	RHINESTONED (Lil Buddy Toons) Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen	999	99
6	7	10	TEQUILA SUNDOWN (Fool Hearted) Jon Wolfe	1473	42	15	1	25	ROLLIN STONE (Rouxbie Music) Kendall Shaffer	994	-854
6	8	28	LITTLE BIT OF LOVE (Independent) Prophets and Outlaws ft/ Pat Green	1346	82	16	18	14	YOU LOOK LIKE I COULD USE A DRINK (Independent) Mark Powell	963	51
0	9	11	RECORD HIGH (Warner Music Nashville) Randall King	1312	76	Ū	26	4	ALL IT COST ME WAS EVERYTHING (Independent) Cody Jinks	956	227
8	10	11	ALCOHOL ABUSE (Independent) Case Hardin	1251	132	18	17	13	INTO OUTLAW (Little Red Truck) Deryl Dodd	934	18
9	12	9	HEROES (Independent) Bri Bagwell	1204	136	19	20	16	HEAVEN'S JUKEBOX (Sony Dist) Jaden Hamilton	909	13
10	13	11	LIKE YOU DO (Independent) George Navarro	1147	89	20	16	21	RODEO GIRL (Thirty Tigers) Micky & The Motorcars	879	-41

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

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

### REMEMBER HER NAME

The power of *Remember Her Name* lies in her [Guyton's] knack for transforming her own profound testimony into aspirational universality

**RollingStone** 

Though it tackles some deeply scarred subject matter, *Remember Her Name* is, at heart, a fundamentally optimistic album **Ehe New Hork Eimes** 

AVAILABLE NOW

#### NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Kane Brown (right) welcomed Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes onstage during a performance of "Famous Friends" on Sept. 16 at the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City.

#### REMEMBERING BOB MOORE

Bassist Bob Moore, who provided the foundation for hundreds of country hits as a member of Nashville's A-Team of studio musicians, died Sept. 22, leaving an incalculable -- if under appreciated -- mark on Music City's legacy.

Following his initial session in 1948, Moore became one of the most prolific players in the city until he injured his hand in a mid-1980s motorcycle accident, contributing to such classic recordings as Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler," Tammy Wynette's "Stand by Your Man," Merle Haggard's "Ramblin' Fever" and Loretta Lynn's "Coal Miner's Daughter."

During the 1960s, when the Nashville Sound required crossover potential for many of the era's singles, Moore worked in tandem with drummer Buddy Harman and guitarist Harold Bradley to create a rhythmic core through precise teamwork. Bradley frequently played tic-tac bass, sliding a piece of paper underneath the strings of a baritone guitar and doubling the part that Moore played, creating a clicking sound for the bass part that's evident in Patsy Cline's "Crazy."

Moore, Bradley and Harman were among 13 players inducted as members of the A-Team when the Musicians Hall of Fame recognized its inaugural class in 2007.

A Nashville native, Moore tended a shoeshine stand near the Ryman Auditorium at age 9, befriending Ernest Tubb bassist Jack Drake, who introduced him around backstage during the Grand Ole Opry. Moore estimated during a 2007 installment of the Country Music Hall of Fame's Nashville Cats series that he had played on over 17,000 tracks, including such significant works as Roy Orbison's "Only the Lonely," Marty Robbins' "El Paso," George Strait's "Let's Fall to Pieces Together" and Elvis Presley's "Little Sister."

Moore was the first-call bassist for Decca when Hall of Fame member Owen Bradley ran the Nashville division, where Moore backed Cline on virtually all of her sessions. She frequently showed up at the A-Team's softball games, supporting with profanity-laden cheers and free beer. She also purchased Moore's house at 3024 Hillhurst Drive, though she sold it in 1962, just 10 months before her death.

That the A-Team was able to fit softball into its schedule is remarkable. Many of the musicians worked four three-hour sessions a day and were away from home so much that they felt like strangers in their own houses.

"I would imagine it's the same thing today: Do it all or don't do any of it," Moore told The Tennessean of his workaholic sessions in 1998. "You're either in or you're out."

Moore's legacy is deep as a foundational part of the A-Team. With the forthcoming induction of steel guitarist Pete Drake, six of its 13 members will have bronze plaques in the Country Music Hall of Fame. Whether or not Moore ever resides there, his contributions to American music are undeniable, exemplified by his presence on two holiday landmarks that get dusted off every December: Bobby Helms' "Jingle Bell Rock" and Brenda Lee's "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

"We had no idea," Moore told The Tennessean, "we was makin' history."

#### RADIO & RECORDS®

PCG Artist Development CEO Bernard Porter expanded the company with the formation of PCG Records, distributed by Sony subsidiary BFD/The Orchard. The label provides a platform for PCG singer-songwriter Paige King Johnson ... Following its acquisition by Blackstone in June, eOne Music is rebranding as MNRK Music Group. Chris Taylor continues as president/CEO. The multigenre firm owns Dualtone, whose roster includes Americana acts The Lumineers, Shovels & Rope, Hayes Carll and Kathleen Edwards ... Cox Media Group laid off a number of radio employees across at least seven markets. RadioInsight.com specified casualties at country stations in two markets: KTHT Houston morning hosts Dan Gallo and Chuck Akers, and KCYY San Antonio night host Chris Cardenas ... KIIK Quad Cities flipped to country from classic hits, QuadCities.com reported. Three in-market Townsquare executives are listed online as personnel for the station, based in DeWitt, Iowa: market president/chief revenue officer Becky Riojas, brand manager Ryan McCredden and local sales manager Jason Vidmar ... Katie Hoyt was promoted to iHeartMedia/Salisbury, Md., market president from senior vp sales, according to RadioInk.com. The six-station cluster includes country WWFG.

#### **'ROUND THE ROW**

The Recording Academy promoted Los Angeles-based Todd Dupler to vp advocacy and public policy from managing director ... Warner Chappell Nashville signed Dustin Lynch to its publishing roster ... Singer-songwriter Alex Smith signed a publishing deal with Edgehill Music ... Singersongwriter Emma-Lee agreed to a joint-venture publishing arrangement with Sony Music Publishing and RareSpark Media Group. The Toronto-born composer's copyrights include Mickey Guyton's "What Are You Gonna Tell Her" ... Australian Jordan Dozzi signed his first publishing contract with Big Loud ... Lia Caton signed with PLA Media for public relations ... Brandi Carlile was named artist of the year during the Americana Honors & Awards on Sept. 22 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. Other winners included Sturgill Simpson's Cuttin' Grass Vol. 1: The Butcher Shoppe Sessions, album of the year; John Prine's "I Remember Everything," song; Black Pumas, duo/group; Charley Crockett, emerging act; and violinist Kristin Weber, instrumentalist ... Lindsay Ell received five nominations in the Canadian Country Music Association Awards on Sept. 22, making her the mostnominated artist on the ballot. The ceremony will take place Nov. 29 in London, Ontario ... Mickey Guyton will be recognized as breakout artist of the year during the CMT Artists of the Year telecast on Oct. 13 ... Nominations for the 64th annual Grammy Awards will be revealed Nov. 23. Trophies will be handed out Jan. 31, 2022 ... Brooks & Dunn headlined the inaugural All for the Hall Dallas benefit on Sept. 23, closing a two-day event that raised over \$630,000 for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Trisha Yearwood played an acoustic show on Sept. 22 ... Fender launched a contest for independent artists that provides 10 hours of studio time, a \$500 mixing credit and a Fender instrument. The judges panel will feature at least eight artists and music executives. Go here to enter ... George Frayne, who came to prominence as the leader of Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen, died Sept. 26, the Albany (N.Y.) Times-Union reported. The band's alt-country sound, created before Americana had a name, reached its commercial peak with a top 10 1972 pop single, "Hot Rod Lincoln." O



Russell Dickerson (center) spoke backstage with iHeartMusic personalities Bobby Bones and Amy Brown on Sept. 17 during the iHeartRadio Music Festival at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.



"YOU TIME" Scotty McCreery

FRANK ROGERS

*"WAVES" Luke Bryan* 

ZACH CROWELL

"COUNTRY AGAIN" Thomas Rhett

Thomas Rhett Lainey Wilson ZACH CROWELL JONATHAN SINGLETON

UP NEXTI LUKE COMBS - "COLD AS YOU " #12<sup>\*</sup> ZAC BROWN BAND - "SAME BOAT" #13<sup>\*</sup> CHRIS STAPLETON - "YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE" #20<sup>\*</sup> FRANK RAY - "COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU" #47<sup>\*</sup>



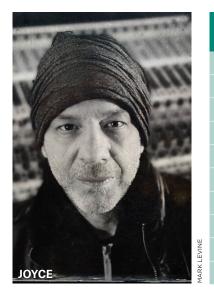
## **billboard** Hot Country Songs

#### SALES, AIRPLAY & STREAMING DATA COMPILED BY

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS Ago	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY Airplay Rank	PEAK Position
0	1	1	15	FANCY LIKE ** No. 1 (11 Weeks)/Airplay Gainer * W.HAYES,J.THIBODEAU,S.MCANALLY (W.HAYES,J.JENKINS,S.STEVENS,C.BARTOLINI)	* Walker Hayes MONUMENT	9	1
2	2	2	9	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU M.KNOX (J.MORGAN,T.KENNEDY,K.M.ALLISON,L.VAUGHAN)	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood MACON/CAPITOL NASHVILLE/BROKEN BOW	4	2
3	6	8	23	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	2	3
4	4	7	32	CHASING AFTER YOU A.ESHUIS,T.REIMER (B.ADDINGTON, J.FLOWERS)	Ryan Hurd With Maren Morris ARISTA NASHVILLE	10	4
5	3	4	28	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW J.JOYCE (LWILSON,J.D.SINGLETON,J.NIX)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	7	3
6	5	6	48	FOREVER AFTER ALL CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D. SINGLETON, L.COMBS (L.COMBS, D. PARKER, R. WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	RC	1
0	13	12	21	YOU TIME FROGERS,D.WELLS,A.ESHUIS (S.C.MCCREERY,EROGERS,A.ESHUIS)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	1	7
8	10	10	33	FAMOUS FRIENDS C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER (C.YOUNG,C.R.BARLOWE,C.CROWDER)	Chris Young + Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	6	2
9	7	5	23	COUNTRY AGAIN D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,Z.CROWELL,A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	RC	5
10	11	9	18	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	11	9
0	12	11	34	MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,LBRICE (LBRICE,B.MONTANA,B.DAVIS)	Lee Brice CURB	3	11
12	8	13	18	BUY DIRT PDIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,J.DAVIS,M.JENKINS,J.JENKINS)	Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan MCA NASHVILLE	24	8
13	9	3	24	WAVES J.STEVENS, J.STEVENS (Z.CROWELL, R. J. HURD, R.C. MCGILL)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	5	2
1	15	18	29	MY BOY 0.CHARLES (E.S.PAYTON,R.SUTTON,N.COLUMBIA,L.STARR)	Elvie Shane WHEELHOUSE	8	14
15	16	14	12	COLD AS YOU CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D. SINGLETON, L. COMBS (L. COMBS, S. MINOR, R. MONTANA, J.D. SINGLETON)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	12	14
16	14	15	30	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK (ELLE KING,M.JOHNSON)	Elle King & Miranda Lambert RCA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	30	11
Ð	17	17	11	MEMORY A.M.GOLDSTEIN, BLACKBEAR (M.T.MUSTO, A.M.GOLDSTEIN, J.KIRKLAND, K.BROWN, E.K.SMITH)	Kane Brown X blackbear RCA NASHVILLE	-	9
13	18	20	14	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Dus Z.CROWELL (D.LYNCH,A.ALBERT,H.PHELPS,W.WEATHERLY)	tin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter BROKEN BOW	19	18
19	19	19	26	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,A.GORLEY,C.DUBOIS)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	21	16
20	21	21	24	KNOWING YOU B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (BRETT JAMES,A.JAMES,K.HIGGINS)	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	14	20
2	24	23	15	SAME BOAT Z.BROWN, B.SIMONETTI (B.SIMONETTI, Z.BROWN, J.D.SINGLETON)	Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	13	21
22	20	16	26	WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (P.DIGIOVANNI,R.MONTANA,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	RC	7
23	26	22	5	ONE MISSISSIPPI D.HUFF (K.BROWN,J.FRASURE,L.GRAY,E.K.SMITH)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	23	16
24	25	27	32	SAND IN MY BOOTS J.MOI (A.GORLEY,M.W.HARDY,J.OSBORNE)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	22	5
25	23	24	22	WHISKEY AND RAIN R.COPPERMAN (J.FRASURE,J.THOMPSON)	Michael Ray Warner Music Nashville/Wea	18	23

#### **COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™**

	1	<b>#1</b> 2 WKS	JOSH JENKINS
	2	AS	HLEY GORLEY
	3	JO	NATHAN SINGLETON
TIE	4	CA	MERON BARTOLINI
TIE	4	SH	ANE STEVENS
TIE	4	WA	LKER HAYES
	7	LU	KE COMBS
TIE	8	BR	INLEY ADDINGTON
TIE	8	JE	RRY FLOWERS
	10	ZA	CH CROWELL



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

	2	SH	ANE MCANALLY					
	3	мі	MICHAEL KNOX					
-	4	JA	Y JOYCE					
TIE	5	JO	E THIBODEAU					
TIE !	5	WA	LKER HAYES					
	7	AA	RON ESHUIS					
	8	PA	UL DIGIOVANNI					
	9	<b>0</b> S	CAR CHARLES					
1	0	RO	SS COPPERMAN					

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 MRC

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS Ago	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY Airplay Rank	PEAK Position
26	29	28	16	LIKE A LADY D.HUFF (H.SCOTT,D.M.BARNES,M.BUZZ,M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK)	Lady A BMLG	15	26
27	27	26	17	TEQUILA LITTLE TIME B.BUTLER,R.GORE,J.PARDI (J.PARDI,R.AKINS,L.LAIRD)	Jon Pardi Capitol Nashville	16	26
28	28	25	16	FREEDOM WAS A HIGHWAY A.BOWERS, J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN, A.BOWERS, M. ROGERS)	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley STONEY CREEK	17	25
29	33	30	23	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN K.BALLERINI,R.COPPERMAN,J.ROBBINS (K.BALLERINI,S.MCANALLY,R.COPPERMAN,J.ROBBINS,N.GALYON)	Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney BLACK RIVER	25	29
30	32	29	32	JUST ABOUT OVER YOU J.JOHNSON (P.BLOCK,S.JONES,E.K.KROLL)	Priscilla Block INDENT/MERCURY NASHVILLE	20	29
3)	43	_	12	DICKED DOWN IN DALLAS A.MAXWELL,G.SAXMAN (B.M.GAFFORD,M.C.MCKINNEY,A.J.TROSCLAIR)	Trey Lewis TREY LEWIS	-	12
32	34	31	14	TO BE LOVED BY YOU JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM,R.AKINS)	Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	26	28
33	22	39	4	JUSTIFIED D.TASHIAN,I.FITCHUK,K.MUSGRAVES (K.MUSGRAVES,I.FITCHUK,I.JUBER,B.J.BURTON)	Kacey Musgraves INTERSCOPE/MCA NASHVILLE	-	22
34	NE	w	1	NEVER WANTED TO BE THAT GIRL S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,S.MCANALLY,A.MCBRYDE) ** Hot Shot Debut **	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/BIG MACHINE/WMN	39	34
35	38	33	11	THAT'S WHAT COWBOYS DO G.BROOKS (J.MARTIN,M.ROSSELL,T.G.BROOKS)	Garth Brooks PEARL	32	33
36	39	32	17	HOME SWEET C.BROWN,D.HUFF,R.DICKRESON (R.DICKERSON,C.BROWN,C.KELLEY)	Russell Dickerson TRIPLE TIGERS	27	32
37	40	35	27	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDY,A.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)	HARDY BIG LOUD	33	29
38	30	_	2	23 C.LA CORTE (S.L.HUNT,C.LA CORTE,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	31	30
39	35	47	10	TRUTH ABOUT YOU J.M.SCHMIDT,M.TENPENNY (M.TENPENNY,M.ALDERMAN,T.ARCHER)	Mitchell Tenpenny RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	33
40	36	-	2	BREADWINNER D.TASHIAN,I.FITCHUK,K.MUSGRAVES (K.MUSGRAVES,I.FITCHUK,I.JUBER,B.J.BURTON)	Kacey Musgraves INTERSCOPE/MCA NASHVILLE	-	36
4)	RE-EI	NTRY	7	IT'S 'CAUSE I AM N.CHAPMAN (C.CLARK,C.JAYMES,L.J.VELTZ)	Callista Clark BIG MACHINE	28	41
42	49	46	11	RIDE THE LIGHTNING (717 TAPES) W.ZEIDERS (W.ZEIDERS,E.PASLAY,R.CROSBY)	Warren Zeiders WARREN ZEIDERS	-	30
43	47	36	6	STEAL MY LOVE D.SMYERS (D.SMYERS,A.ALBERT,A.GORLEY,J.REYNOLDS)	Dan + Shay WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	42	26
4	RE-EI	NTRY	3	HEART ON FIRE J.JOYCE (E.CHURCH)	Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE	29	44
45	48	37	8	BEERS ON ME R.COPPERMAN, D.BENTLEY (D.BENTLEY, D.BRELAND, R.COPPERMAN, L.DICK, A.GORLEY, M.W.HARDY)	Dierks Bentley, Breland & HARDY CAPITOL NASHVILLE	35	36
46	50	41	8	THROW IT BACK S.SUMSER,S.SMALL (D.BRELAND,K.URBAN,S.SUMSER,S.SMALL)	Breland Featuring Keith Urban BAD REALM/ATLANTIC	-	38
47	31	_	2	SIMPLE TIMES D.TASHIAN,I.FITCHUK,K.MUSGRAVES (K.MUSGRAVES,D.TASHIAN,I.FITCHUK)	Kacey Musgraves INTERSCOPE/MCA NASHVILLE	-	31
48	46	42	12	AM I THE ONLY ONE A.LEWIS,I.DEAN (A.LEWIS,I.DEAN,JEFFREY STEELE)	Aaron Lewis VALORY	55	1
49	42	40	5	GOD WE NEED YOU NOW STRUGGLE JENNINGS,SCATTEREDBRAINS (STRUGGLE JENNINGS,C.CURTIS,V.FREITAG,M.HARTNETT,P.KEYS)	Struggle Jennings & Caitlynne Curtis ANGELS & OUTLAWS	-	35
50	45	34	4	SOUTH ON YA LCOMBS,CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON (L.COMBS,D.ISBELL,J.D.SINGLETON)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	25

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	OUNT			YEAR-TO-DA	TE			YEAR-OVER-YEAR
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND		2020	2021	CHANGE	ALBUM CONSUMPTION
This Week	1,319,000	1,507,257,000	129,962,000	Album Consumption	45,091,000	50,997,000	13.1%	'20 45.09 million
Last Week	1,368,000	1,519,553,000	131,060,000	Album Sales	6.259.000	6.075.000	-2.9%	'21 50.10 million
Change	-3.6%	-0.8%	-0.8%			, ,		TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS
This Week Last Year	1,233,000	1,347,226,000	131,435,000	Audio On-Demand	48,749,515,000	57,069,011,000	17.1%	'20 53.93 billion
Change	7.0%	11.9%	-1.1%	Video On-Demand	5,181,962,000	5,117,113,000	-1.3%	'21 62.25 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending September 23, 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 Robin Giesbrecht at 917-930-9441 or rgiesbrecht@mrcentertainment.com



L				al	COMP	, DATA ILED BY MRC
$\mathbf{D}$				TO TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS		
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	2	1	37	MORGAN WALLEN DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC		1
2	1	_	2	KACEY MUSGRAVES STAR-CROSSED INTERSCOPE/MCA NASHVILLE 033560*/IGA/UMGN		1
3	3	2	98	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
4	4	4	14	WALKER HAYES COUNTRY STUFF (EP) MONUMENT DIGITALEX		4
5	5	3	225	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	3	1
6	6	5	173	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*		1
0	7	6	334	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
8	8	8	45	CHRIS STAPETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
9	RE-EI	NTRY	2	CARLY PEARCE 29 BIG MACHINE CYP300A/BMLG 29		9
0	NEW 1		1	SCOTTY MCCREERY SAME TRUCK TRIPLE TIGERS 94245		10
11	9	7	6	VARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 488033/WMN GOOD THINGS	•	2
B	15	13	303	TAYLOR SWIFT RED BIG MACHINE 310400A*/BMLG (18.98)	7	1
ß	13	11	320	ZAC BROWN BAND HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG GREATEST HITS SO FAR		3
6	19	22	247	BROOKS & DUNN THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION ARISTA NASHVILLE 1885/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	4	2
ß	25	24	24	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578		1
16	11	17	18	JORDAN DAVIS BUY DIRT (EP)		11
17	16	15	66	MCA NASHVILLE DIGITAL EX/UMGN (033776) GABBY BARRETT WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629330/WMN GOLDMINE		4
18	10	10	4	VVARIMER MUSIC VASH VILLE 029300/VVMN NELLY RECORDS DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA HEARTLAND		7
19	18	14	44	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CUB8 79537* HEY WORLD		7
20	12	9	59	LUKE BRYAN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 031777/UMGN		1
21	17	12	193	EAGLES HOTEL CALIFORNIA	-	5
22	21	19	140	ASYLUM/ELEKTRA 103*/RHINO (18.98) GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILE 111252/LMCN (29.09/40.99) STRAIT OUT OF THE BOX	8	9
23	NE	W	1	MCA NASHVILLE 111263/UMGN (39.98/49.98)  JAMESON RODGERS BET YOU'RE FROM A SMALL TOWN PUREP HOUPER'COLUMPIA NASHVILLE COTTO (CAN)		23
9	24	23	115	RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 92787/SMN TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY UNKNANUULE PROBATURED TITLETIC		11
25	20	18	277	HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS TIM MCGRAW RUND ADDRC 100 PD		6
				CURB 79205 (13.98) the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by MRC I	) Data, hi	

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of 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

billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS							
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.	
1	1	-	2	KACEY MUSGRAVES STAR-CROSSEI		1	
2	NE	w	1	BOB DYLAN SPRINGTIME IN NEW YORK: THE BOOTLEG SERIES, VOL. 16, 1980-198 COLUMBIA 986580*/LEGACY	ō	2	
3	2	1 280 CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN		4	1		
4	3	2	45	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1	
5	5	4	132	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATOR HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS		2	
6	4	4 3 326		HOZIER HOZIEI RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY HOZIEI	3	1	
7	6	7	182	KACEY MUSGRAVES GOLDEN HOUI MCA NASHVILLE 027921*/UMGN		1	
8	7 6 285 THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*			1			
9	8	5	10	JOHN MAYER SOB ROCK COLUMBIA 989317*		1	
9	NE	w	1	CHARLEY CROCKETT MUSIC CITY US/ SON OF DAVY 10*/THIRTY TIGERS	1	10	

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

CC	JU	NT	<b>bard</b> RY	C	20	U	NΤ	bard RY
ST	RE.	AM	ING SONGS	D	DIC	GIT	'AL	SONG SALES
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	TUIP	WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
0	1	13	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES		1	1	15	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES
2	2	9	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU JASON ALDEAN & CARRIE UNDERWOOD		2	2	9	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU JASON ALDEAN & CARRIE UNDERWOOD
3	3	22	CHASING AFTER YOU Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris		3	4	17	BUY DIRT Jordan Davis Feat. Luke Bryan
4	6	233	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON		4	NE	w	MADE Spencer Crandall
6	7	48	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS		5	3	7	GOD WE NEED YOU NOW Struggle Jennings & Caitlynne Curtis
6	4	24	LIL BIT Nelly & Florida Georgia Line		6	NE	w	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Carly Pearce
7	5	7	BUY DIRT Jordan Davis Feat. Luke Bryan		7	5	44	LIL BIT NELLY & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
8	10	7	COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME JAMESON RODGERS FEAT. LUKE COMBS		8	7	30	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) Elle King & Miranda Lambert
9	8	14	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Lainey Wilson		9	18	3	NEON MOON Brooks & Dunn
0	11	5	I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY OLD DOMINION	•	10	097		MR RED WHITE AND BLUE COFFEY ANDERSON
0	12	10	COUNTRY AGAIN Thomas Rhett		D	25 2		NEVER WANTED TO BE THAT GIRL CARLY PEARCE & ASHLEY MCBRYDE
12	9	11	MEMORY KANE BROWN X BLACKBEAR	ŀ	12	10	27	CHASING AFTER YOU Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
13	13	19	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) Elle King & Miranda Lambert		B	20	9	RIDE THE LIGHTNING (717 TAPES) WARREN ZEIDERS
0	15	132	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN	·	14	11	11	MEMORY Kane Brown X Blackbear
Ð	17	37	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN	·	15	8	12	AM I THE ONLY ONE Aaron Lewis
6	16	32	THE GOOD ONES GABBY BARRETT		16	NE	w	HEY MAMA Britnee Kellogg
Ð	19	171	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS		Ð	17	287	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
ß	18	14	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON	(	18	21	15	THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW Lainey Wilson
19	21	4	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Dustin Lynch feat. Lauren alaina or mackenzie Porter	(	19	16	14	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Chris Stapleton
20	23	19	FAMOUS FRIENDS CHRIS YOUNG + KANE BROWN	e	20	NE	w	TURN THE NIGHT ON Kaleb Austin
2	RE-EI	NTRY	COLD AS YOU LUKE COMBS	(	3)			LIFE IS A HIGHWAY RASCAL FLATTS
2	25	96	I HOPE GABBY BARRETT	:	22	14	18	I WAS ON A BOAT THAT DAY OLD DOMINION
23	RE-EI	NTRY	STARTING OVER CHRIS STAPLETON	e	23	RE-ENTRY		MEMORY I DON'T MESS WITH Lee Brice
2	22	61	ONE OF THEM GIRLS Lee Brice	ę	24	RE-EI	ITRY	ONE MISSISSIPPI Kane Brown
2 The v		176	MEANT TO BE BEBE REXHA & FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE -streamed and top-selling paid down		25	22	7	COLD AS YOU LUKE COMBS

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by MRC Data. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/ charts. Copyright 2021, Billboard Media, LLC and MRC Data. All rights reserved.

SALES DATA COMPILED BY

MRC

### billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	2	2	64	GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION STRETCH GRASS 4050		1
2	1	-	2	BELA FLECK MY BLUEGRASS HEART RENEW RECORDS 538689220/BMG		1
3	NEW 1		1	BALSAM RANGE MOXIE AND METTLE MOUNTAIN HOME 1929		3
4	3	1	5	STURGILL SIMPSON THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS		1
5	4	3	41	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS		1
6	5	5	49	STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS (56285)		1
0	9	7	18	JOHN HIATT WITH THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND LEFTOVER FEELINGS NEW WEST 6514*		1
8	NEW 1		1	SIDELINE UPS, DOWNS AND NO NAME TOWNS MOUNTAIN HOME 1942		8
9	10	6	6	WATCHHOUSE WATCHHOUSE TIPTOE TIGER 002*/THIRTY TIGERS		1
10	11	15	33	STEEP CANYON RANGERS ARM IN ARM YEP ROC 2698*		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

### Chris Young, Mitchell Tenpenny Turn A Regular Night Out Into A Barroom Anthem

Given country music's embrace of alcohol as subject matter, it's only logical that the genre has tended to romanticize the places where it's served.

Joe Diffie's "Honky Tonk Attitude" depicted a club as a setting for sweaty line dancing and electric possibility; David Lee Murphy's "Party Crowd" envisioned the barroom as a place for fighting, laughing and forgetting broken hearts; Randy Travis' "Honky Tonk Moon" cast a rural pool hall as a casual dating locale; and Toby Keith's "I Love This Bar" treated a country club as a redneck version of *Cheers*.

None of them quite took the approach of **Chris Young** and **Mitchell Tenpenny**, whose new collaboration, "At the End of a Bar," practically elevates a saloon to a church.

"What happens at a bar?" asks Young rhetorically. "People go there and they drink, but that's not always what happens."

Although drinking does figure into the song. Young and Tenpenny met up at a hot spot near Nashville's Music Row—likely Loser's or DawgHouse Saloon—in early 2021 and fell into a familiar routine.

"That's really where I met Chris years ago was just at the bar," says Tenpenny. "We became friends, and so we tend to have drinks quite a bit around Midtown or Demonbreun. And we were just doing the normal thing. We were just chatting up, having fun, venting about the industry you know, everything you do."

Not long afterward, on Feb. 15, Nashville was closed down with an ice storm. Three days later, songwriter **Chris DeStefano** ("From the Ground Up," "Something in the Water") still couldn't get his car out of his driveway in suburban

Brentwood, but Young and Tenpenny were mobile, and they popped over to his house midday for a writing appointment.

"I kinda got FOMO, that fear-of-missing-out moment," says Young. "Everybody always talks about songwriting, that you must be present to win it. I would hate if I ever canceled anything and then that was the day we were supposed to write a huge song."

Young's instincts were good, since this day had all the earmarks of a winner. DeStefano started early, launching a track around 8 a.m. that hinged on an understated acoustic guitar riff. When Young and Tenpenny arrived, they rehashed their night out, and one of them rather casually mentioned that they had been perched at the end of the bar.

"I just remember immediately detaching from the conversation because as soon as I heard that phrase, I just started thinking, 'That sounds like a song title right there,' " says DeStefano. "All the images and the scenes and the pictures and the moments that you can have sitting at the end of a bar, it was like, 'Well, we can definitely hang a song on that idea.' "

The work went quickly as they practically transformed a barroom into a sanctuary, viewing it as a place where life's answers can be found, problems can be forgotten and friends can be made.

"Think about everything that starts at the end of the bar," says Tenpenny. "I've been broken up with at the end of a bar. You can make a best friend and never even know their name. We just started throwing that stuff out there, and the song kind of wrote itself pretty easily after that." A key moment came in verse two, as the talk turned to '90s cover bands and the lyric needed a couple of illustrative titles. They referenced **Brooks & Dunn**'s debut and a **Tracy Lawrence** hit, and linked them in a way that made a point: "Become a brand-new man/To 'Time Marches On'/Time marches on."

"We ended up settling on 'Time Marches On' because you say it twice," notes Young, "and then you sort of have that double entendre of, 'Are we just talking about the Tracy Lawrence song? Or are we talking about the actual

story that is in the song?' It's like, time *is* continuing forward."

While the verses maintained the moodiness of the foundational acoustic riff, the chorus moved into a higher range and jacked up the intensity. Tenpenny, in particular, steered it in that direction, figuring that even if the song never got recorded commercially, he would still have a demo he could play with Young performing one of his songs.

"My whole intention was to write a song that Chris would sing the shit out of so I could hear his voice," says Tenpenny. "So I started screaming that chorus — I went for it. I went to the top of my fuckin' range, man, ' cause I wanted it. I figured Chris was singing the song at the end of the day for the demo, so I just went for it. I pulled out every high melody I had, and Chris was going along with it and we were just singing it back and forth all day. It was just super fun to write."

DeStefano played a raft of instruments that day—including banjo, fiddle and several guitars—and when they were ready for the demo, Young

dropped a minor bombshell: His voice was a bit cranky, and he would rather Tenpenny sing the demo and see what ideas he might bring to it. So much for having Young sing one of his songs. But Tenpenny gave it everything he had, and when he finished a forceful lead vocal, he pieced together an elaborate set of harmony vocals, stacking roughly 20 layers to create a gospel-choir effect.

"They're just so tight that it doesn't feel like there's too much," says DeStefano. "Everything sits in its own place just perfectly. What's great about it, too, is Chris kind of requesting [he sing] that, and then Mitchell put his stamp on it."

Young came back to DeStefano's studio a few days later and did a vocal of his own, but he was so impressed with Tenpenny's vocal that they decided to turn it into a duet, using the demo performance. The label identified it as a single, and thousands of fans showed up on July 5 for a video shoot on Lower Broadway. A day later, they captured barroom footage, with Lawrence making a "Time Marches On" cameo. The video debuted on Aug. 6, and RCA Nashville officially released the single to AM/FM radio via PlayMPE on Aug. 23. It debuted at No. 55 on the Country Airplay chart dated Sept. 25, and rises to No. 51 on the Oct. 2 survey, with its future holding plenty of possibilities, just like a night at the end of a bar.

"There's so many different things that happen, and sometimes that is where it all starts," says Young. "Whether it's a good night, a bad night, friends forever or something that's just a moment in time — being able to put all of that into one song, I think, made it feel bigger." ●



## **billboard** Country Airplay Index

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

- 23. Universal Music Corn. ASCAD/Between the Pines. LLC, ASCAP(Concorn Lines, ESAC Card Tables, Music, SESAC, SmackWord Music, GMRN Tendon Investingers, Smack Hus, Birty, Andre Gog Met Rick Music, GMR/ Sonv Accent, By Shanacourg Susc, ASCAP (SL-hun, CLa Core, SMCAnaly, J. Osborne 31
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#### TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

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DMC Cold Songe ASCAD/Exe The Vide Cold ASCAD/

BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/ Redfeather Publishing, ASCAP/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/ Smackwood Music, GMR/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI/Canned Biscuit Songs, BMI (C.Pearce, S.McAnally, A.McBryde) 34

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- THAT'S WHAT COWBOYS DO Hotel Piano Publishing, ASCAP/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/ Rezemblance Music, BMI/Songs Of Reehits, BMI/Roy Rivers Publishing, BMI/No Fences Music, ASCAP (J.Martin, MRossell, TG.Brooks) 35
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- THINKING 'BOUT YOU Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Magic Mustang Music, BMI/Buzz Light Beer Music, ASCAP/Downtown DLJ Songs, ASCAP/ WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/ Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Track House Worldwide Entertainment, BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Chillin Like Villains Music, BMI (DLynch, A.Albert, H.Phelgs, WWeatherky) 18
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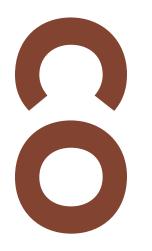
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### *10 Years Ago* Rodney Atkins Took 'A Back Road' To No. 1

In 2011, he scored his most recent of six leaders on Hot Country Songs On Oct. 1, 2011, **Rodney Atkins'** "Take a Back Road" wound its way to No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart, starting a two-week reign.

Penned by **Rhett Akins** and **Luke Laird**, the song was released as the lead single from Atkins' same-named LP, which hit No. 3 on Top Country Albums, becoming his third of three top 10s.

With "Back Road," Knoxville, Tenn., native Atkins earned the most recent of his six Hot Country Songs No. 1s among eight top 10s. In May 2019, Atkins' latest LP,

*Caught Up*, reached No. 28 on

Top Country Albums, while its title-track lead single hit No. 20 on Hot Country Songs. He and his wife, singer-songwriter **Rose Falcon**, released an acoustic version of the album's track "Figure Out You" last year while they selfisolated during the coronavirus pandemic.

Atkins, 52, is set to perform on Oct. 1 at the Blue Ridge Country Festival in Danville, Va. The threeday event also features, Flo Rida, Toby Keith, Dustin Lynch, Justin Moore, Nelly, Jake Owen, Darius Rucker and Chris Young, among others. —JIM ASKER

> Atkins at the 2011 American Giving Awards in Los Angeles.

REWINDING THE COUNTRY CHARTS

	H3	23	2 AG	NO	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	IMPRINT & NUMBER / PROMOTION LABEL	U	E C
	1	2	3	22	#1 TAKE A BACK ROAD T.HEWITT, R.ATKINS (R.AKINS, L.LAIRD)	Rodney Atkins O CURB		1
1	2	3	5	15	MADE IN AMERICA T.KEITH (T.KEITH, B.PINSON, G.S.REEVES)	Toby Keith SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL		2
	3	4	4	20	YOU AND TEQUILA B.CANNON,K.CHESNEY (M.BERG,D.CARTER)	Kenny Chesney Featuring Grace Potter • BNA		3
	4	1	1	26	BAREFOOT BLUE JEAN NIGHT J.MOI,R.CLAWSON (D.ALTMAN,E.PASLAY,T.SAWCHUK)	Jake Owen		1
	5	5	6	13	LONG HOT SUMMER D.HUFF,K.URBAN (R.MARX,K.URBAN)	Keith Urban © CAPITOL NASHVILLE		5
					HERE FOR A GOOD TIME	George Strait		