billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE



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Chris Stapleton, Nashville Figure Prominently As Grammys Aspire To A 'Better Place'

Country music did some heavy lifting during the 64th annual Grammy Awards on April 3, with **Chris Stapleton** loading up on three trophies as the Recording Academy focused on music that matters.

Stapleton took two trophies during the lives treamed premiere ceremony in the afternoon: best country solo performance, for

"You Should Probably Leave," and best country song, for "Cold," an award he shared with three co-writers — producer **Dave Cobb** and band members **J.T. Cure** and **Derek Mixon**. The singer-songwriter pocketed the third Grammy during the prime-time show, taking the stage with Cobb when he won best country album, for *Starting Over*.

The evening coincided with Stapleton's twins' fourth birthday, and the distance between the Grammys' first show in Las Vegas and his Tennessee home clearly weighed on his mind.

"I think a lot about sacrifices because I missed out on some of their birthdays today," Stapleton told the crowd. "Everybody in this

room has made some kind of sacrifice to be up here doing this, and I don't know what it is for everybody, but I know that it hurts sometimes. But hopefully, we're all doing it so that we make the world a better place."

Arriving after two years of a pandemic that forced many people into isolation and more than six weeks of watching horrific developments in a war that the public is experiencing through satellite and cellphone footage, the Grammys were definitely



focused on making the world a better place — even in the country field, where many modern artists tend to veer toward escapism.

Stapleton's two winning songs both find the protagonist trying to work through difficult moments in a relationship. He delivered "Cold" with a biting blues tone during the show at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, matching that sound with me-

> lodic guitar solos and supporting it with an atmospheric string section a la **B.B. King**'s "The Thrill Is Gone."

> **Carrie Underwood** picked up the Grammy for best roots gospel album during the pretelecast with *My Savior*, and **Brothers Osborne** snared their first gramophone-shaped hardware as "Younger Me" earned best country duo/group performance. Arriving 14 months to the day after lead vocalist **T.J. Osborne** came out publicly in a *Time* magazine piece, the honor left him visibly emotional in his preshow acceptance speech, which could also be thought of as a self-acceptance speech.

> "Younger Me," he noted, "was written really in response to me coming out, and I never

thought that I would be able to do music professionally because of my sexuality. I certainly never thought I would be here on this stage, accepting a Grammy after having done something I felt like was going to be life-changing and potentially in a very negative way. Here I am tonight, not only accepting this Grammy Award with my brother, whom I love so much, but I'm here with a man that I love and who loves me back. And I don't know what I did to be so lucky."

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Supportive applause erupted as Osborne closed his speech in a night that generally felt like the Grammys were extending a hand to underdogs. Progressive bluegrass act **Billy Strings** received TV exposure when he provided a truncated portion of "Hide and Seek," matching the genre's typical instrumentation with classic-rock chords. Unassuming **Brandi Carlile** delivered a big-voiced ballad, "Right on Time," in the network's spotlight. Country gospel act **The Isaacs** provided the first live voices of the day, starting a multi-act rendering of **Sly & The Family Stone**'s "Dance to the Music" to launch the pre-telecast. **Jimmie Allen** served as a presenter during the premiere ceremony and performed his new single — "Down Home," a personal account of rising from grief — prompting recognition from premiere host **LeVar Burton**: "I have to tell you it is such a wonderful feeling to see and know that country comes in so many flavors these days."

The war in Ukraine, which finds Eastern Europe holding off a much larger Russian force that has shown a propensity for war crimes and Nazi-like savagery, provided an emotional backdrop for the ceremony. Ukrainian president **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, who appeared via a pre-taped address, contrasted his country's limitations against the freedoms of American musicians.

"Our musicians wear body armor instead of tuxedos," he said. "They sing to the wounded in hospitals, even to those who can't hear them. But the music will break through anyway."

And he called on Americans to assist in the war against Russian disinformation, which has found favor with some influential U.S. politicians and media platforms.

"We are fighting Russia, which brings horrible silence with its bombs," he continued. "Fill the silence with your music. Fill it today. Tell our story. Tell the truth about the war on your social networks and TV. But not silence."

Recording Academy executives echoed that encouragement. Board of trustees chair **Tammy Hurt** asserted that musicians have the ability through their work to reach people in a time of great division.

"We have the opportunity to make the world a better place," she said. "The surreal level of destruction in Ukraine and the madness of this crude reality calls us once again to use music as a beacon of peace and to bring hope to humanity."

Underwood gave the first public performance of her new single, "Ghost Story," in the last half-hour, and Brothers Osborne closed the show with "Dead Man's Curve," a Southern barn burner with dashes of surf guitar and Hammond B-3.

Thus, Nashville got the final word, though the real point was about repeating history around the world. The music of Western culture, after all, received some of the credit for bringing down the Iron Curtain over 30 years ago in the same region where war rages today.

"I encourage you all to believe in the power of music," Academy CEO **Harvey Mason Jr.** told premiere ceremony attendees. "Continue writing the songs that bring people together and keep creating the music that leads us to a better place." •



Kelsea Ballerini received the Yellow Rose of Inspiration Award during the March 28 edition of the all-female Song Suffragettes concert series at Nashville's Listening Room. From left: Song Suffragettes founder Todd Cassetty, Ballerini, songwriter Nicolle Galyon ("Beers on Me," "half of my hometown") and Song Suffragettes event director Maddie Lenhart.



Niko Moon (left) visited with WXTU Philadelphia PD Mark Razz during a March 27 rooftop concert in Nashville during a station getaway to see the Philadelphia Flyers play the Nashville Predators.



Maren Morris participated in Apple Music Country's *The Kelleigh Bannen Show* in a March 28 edition that focused on Morris' new album, *Humble Quest*. She is pictured with Bannen (left).

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a. PARADISE
a. DEATH ROW FEATURING TYLER HUBBARD, RUSSELL DICKERSON
mAMA'S FRONT DOOR
flow Down Summer

MAMA'S FRONT DOOR
Slow down summer
Simple as a song
US someday

13. SOMEBODY LIKE ME

WHERE WE STARTED

THOMAS RHETT + KATY PERRY

Produced by Dann Huff and Jesse Frasure (Tracks 1, 2, 4, 6 - 11, 13 - 15) Produced by Dann Huff and Matt Dragstrem (Track 3) Produced by Dann Huff and Julian Bunetta (Track 5) Produced by Dann Huff, Jesse Frasure and Luke Laird (Track 12)



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

Easy As 1, '23': Sam Hunt Leads Country Airplay; Maren Morris, Reba McEntire Debut In Top Country Albums Top 10



Sam Hunt banks his ninth No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "23" (MCA Nashville) ascends to the summit of the April 9-dated tally.

The lead single from his upcoming third album increased by 9% to 26.6 million audience impressions in the week ending April 3, according to Luminate, formerly MRC Data.

Hunt co-wrote the song with Shane McAnally, Josh Osborne and Chris LaCorte (who produced it).

"23" is Hunt's fourth consecutive Country Airplay No. 1, following "Breaking Up Was Easy in the 90's" (May 2021), "Hard To Forget" (July 2020), and "Kinfolks" (February 2020). He opened his career with three straight chart-toppers: "Leave the Night On" (November 2014), "Take Your Time" (May 2015) and "House Party" (September 2015). "Break Up in a Small Town" hit No. 2 in February 2016 (marking his lone top 10 to not reach No. 1), followed by "Make You Miss Me," which became his fourth leader in September 2016.

Hunt then led Country Airplay with his crossover smash "Body Like a Back Road," which dominated for three weeks in May 2017; it's his sole No. 1 to reign for multiple weeks. The track also paced *Billboard*'s airplay-, streaming- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart for 34 frames beginning that February.

"23" concurrently returns to the Hot Country Songs

top 10 and its No. 10 best ranking. It drew 3.2 million U.S. streams (up 5%) and sold 1,100 downloads (up 4%) in the week ending March 31.

Meanwhile, **Ingrid Andress'** "Wishful Drinking" (Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA), with Hunt, bumps 39-36 for a new Country Airplay high (1.8 million, up 20%). It climbs 35-31 on Hot Country Songs, also fueled by 3.4 million streams.

'QUEST' BEGINS Maren Morris' third LP, *Humble Quest* (Columbia Nashville/ Sony Music Nashville), bounds onto Top Country Albums at No. 2 with 22,000 equivalent album units earned. She co-wrote all 11 tracks on the set, which **Greg Kurstin** produced. Morris adds her third Top Country Albums top 10, following the No. 1s *Girl*, which arrived at the apex in March 2019, and *Hero*, which opened atop the chart in June 2016. She made her debut on the ranking with her self-titled EP, which hit No. 22 in April 2016.

The new album's lead single, "Circles Around This Town," holds at its No. 18 high on Country Airplay (9.4 million, up 8%). On Hot Country Songs, it pushes

14-11 after it entered at its No. 9 best in January, becoming Morris' ninth top 10.

REBA RETURNS Reba McEntire achieves her 28th Top Country Albums top 10 as the icon's new faith-based LP, *My Chains Are Gone: Hymns and Gospel Favorites* (Rockin' R/MCA Nashville/Universal Music Group Nashville), bows at No. 9 with 13,000 units.

The set simultaneously starts at No. 2 on Top Christian Albums, becoming McEntire's second top 10, after *Sing It Now: Songs of Faith & Hope* began on top in February 2017. (In between, her triple-album *Revived Remixed Revisited* debuted at its No. 12 Top Country Albums peak last October.)

Notably, McEntire posts her first Top Country Albums top 10 of the 2020s. Her first overall, *Whoever's in New England*, hit No. 1 in May 1986, becoming her first of 13 leaders. Her top 10 totals by decade: 1980s, seven.

1990s, 10. 2000s, five. 2010s, five. 2020s, one.

McEntire boasts the third-most top 10s among women on the chart, after **Dolly Parton** (47) and **Loretta Lynn** (42). **Willie Nelson** leads all acts with 53 since the list launched in January 1964.

ACE OF 'HEARTS' Keith Urban posts his 44th Country Airplay top 10 as "Wild Hearts" (Capitol Nashville) rises 11-10 (13.7 million, up 4%). His run of top 10s on the chart (21 of which have hit No. 1) began with his sophomore entry, "Your Everything," which reached No. 4 in 2000. He has logged the fifth-most such hits since the chart premiered in January 1990, after George Strait (61), Kenny Chesney (60), Tim McGraw (58) and Alan Jackson (51).

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КССҮ	KMLE	KSOP	WCKN	WIL	WKML	WPAW	WRBT	WWGR	WXTU
KCYE	KMNB	KTTS	WCOL	WJVC	WKRO	WPOR	WSOC	WWKA	WZZK
KEEY	KPLM	KWJJ	WCYQ	WКНК	WKSJ	WQHK	WSSL	WWQM	Music Choice

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

			2	•				
THIS	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	2	30	23 MCA Nashville ** No. 1 (1 Week/ Most Increased Audience) ** Sam Hunt	26.605	+2.128	7548	477	1
2	1	27	'TILYOU CAN'T Co.Jo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	23.945	-2.408	7005	-802	2
3	3	45	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	23.491	+1.017	6987	275	3
4	4	36	BEERS ON ME Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley, Breland & HARDY	22.715	+0.478	6732	150	4
6	5	20	NEVER SAY NEVER Broken Bow/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson	19.370	+1.233	5913	519	5
6	6	48	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring MacKenzie Porter	17.443	-0.432	4860	-70	9
0	9	20	DOIN' THIS River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	17.371	+0.465	5383	242	7
8	8	38	HEART ON FIRE EMI Nashville Eric Church	17.091	+0.128	5402	1	6
9	10	29	NEVER WANTED TO BE THAT GIRL Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/Big Machine/WMN Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde	16.658	+0.388	5347	103	8
10	11	33	WILD HEARTS Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban	13.666	+0.515	4390	89	10
0	12	22	SLOW DOWN SUMMER Valory Thomas Rhett	13.630	+0.661	4123	131	12
Ð	13	27	COME BACK AS A COUNTRY BOY Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton	13.485	+0.956	4209	198	11
3	14	57	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Big Loud HARDY	12.409	+0.220	4014	67	13
1	15	19	AA Monument Walker Hayes	11.739	+1.054	3734	252	14
6	17	35	7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine Tim McGraw	9.989	+0.908	3541	237	15
16	19	12	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	9.804	+1.249	3297	260	19
Ð	16	25	IF I WAS A COWBOY Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	9.497	+0.062	3353	59	16
18	18	13	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN Columbia Nashville Maren Morris	9.442	+0.662	3331	304	17
19	20	35	BESTTHING SINCE BACKROADS Big Loud Jake Owen	8.784	+0.470	3319	78	18
20	24	9	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud ** Most Added ** Morgan Wallen	8.369	+1.958	2478	557	24
2	21	24	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	7.542	+0.186	2886	93	20
2	22	12	FLOWER SHOPS Big Loud ERNEST Featuring Morgan Wallen	7.251	+0.027	2660	76	23
23	23	26	UP Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	7.023	-0.044	2702	-56	21
24	25	25	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek Parmalee	6.677	+1.298	2673	470	22
25	26	29	AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville Chris Young & Mitchell Tenpenny	4.143	+0.413	1988	161	25
26	28	31	NEWTRUCK Curb Dylan Scott	3.941	+0.569	1907	78	26
27	27	32	COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU Stoney Creek Frank Ray	3.797	+0.298	1803	82	27
28	30	7	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	3.287	+0.321	1385	205	29
29	31	23	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory Justin Moore	3.254	+0.330	1592	135	28
30	29	8	EVERYONE SHE KNOWS Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA Kenny Chesney	3.110	+0.106	1249	60	32
						i i i		

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 Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio- copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2022, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on Luminate, formerly 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 Luminate, formerly MRC Data) for stations that do not report adds.

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

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

AIRPOWER

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

BREAKER

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

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

THIS	LAST	WKS ON			AUDIENCE (I			PLAYS	
NEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
3)	44	5	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	2.865	+1.817	949	465	37
32	32	8	PARTY MODE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	2.656	-0.021	1108	73	33
33	33	3	GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	2.524	+0.340	911	207	38
34	36	18	SOUL Curb	Lee Brice	2.011	+0.310	1326	-10	30
35	34	44	BACK THEN, RIGHT NOW 19th & Grand	Tenille Arts	1.811	-0.117	1316	-19	31
36	39	14	WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	1.781	+0.301	723	82	42
37	37	13	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	1.701	+0.025	675	53	44
38	55	5	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	1.673	+1.088	472	322	49
39	40	23	WILDER DAYS Ladylike/Arista Nashville	Morgan Wade	1.632	+0.164	1100	107	34
40	41	8	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	1.600	+0.270	659	58	46
41	38	16	NO HARD FEELINGS Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	1.582	-0.017	1025	44	35
2	42	9	OUT INTHE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	1.508	+0.241	954	157	36
1 3	43	26	SUNRISE TELLS THE STORY Big Machine	Midland	1.208	+0.061	767	25	41
14	46	27	BYE MOM Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Chris Janson	1.089	+0.058	810	37	39
45	45	19	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	0.989	-0.051	655	6	47
46	47	7	MY BAR inDent/Mercury Nashville	Priscilla Block	0.989	+0.065	798	145	40
Ð	48	3	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek ** Breaker **	Jimmie Allen	0.942	+0.093	666	69	45
18	50	12	LEARN FROM IT Valory ** Breaker **	Conner Smith	0.783	+0.085	718	141	43
19	52	4	HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	0.777	+0.108	429	14	51
50	51	7	WHAT A SONG CAN DO BMLG	Lady A	0.772	+0.080	488	35	48
5)	54	5	LOVE TALKING Valory	Eli Young Band	0.733	+0.097	320	46	56
32	49	9	SON OF A Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	0.721	-0.006	436	2	50
3 3	56	7	MISSING ONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Jameson Rodgers	0.624	+0.077	380	9	54
54	59	2	PASS IT ON Arista Nashville	Ryan Hurd	0.614	+0.239	315	54	58
55	53	19	GIVING YOU UP Columbia Nashville	Kameron Marlowe	0.585	-0.066	402	4	52
56	57	2	DRINKIN' IT WRONG Arista Nashville	Adam Doleac	0.532	+0.050	190	39	-
D	58	4	CAN'T DO WITHOUT ME Stoney Creek	Chayce Beckham & Lindsay Ell	0.447	+0.021	387	-24	53
58	N	EW	DATES IN PICKUP TRUCKS Interscope/MCA Nashville ** Ho	t Shot Debut ★★ Kassi Ashton	0.410	+0.060	296	35	59
59	N	EW	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	0.389	+0.031	316	13	57
60	RE-E	NTRY	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	0.369	+0.049	216	25	



JIMMIE ALLEN Down Home The single — inspired by his father, **Big Jim** Allen, who died in September 2019 — lifts 48-47 in its third week on Country Airplay, up 11% to 942,000 impressions.

GOING FOR ADDS

4/11

AMY SCRUGGS What If It All Goes Right Amy Scruggs

JOE & MARTINA Good In A Small Town

WOODS World's On Fire

4/18

CHASE LIKENS When It Rains ON THE GREEN

CHRISTIAN YEAGER Anita In A Haystack Lamon ISAACS Humpty Dumpty Heart House Of Isaacs

JELLY ROLL Son Of A Sinner Bailee And Buddy/BMG-RED/Stoney Creek

MIKE & THE MOONPIES Paycheck To Paycheck Prairie Rose

4/25

CHARLES J. & THE CONQUISTADORS & BELLAMY BROTHERS Like She's Not Yours Metamundo

DARIN JONES & THE LAST MAN STANDING Lake Life Paradise Darin Jones & The Last Man Standing

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	26
SON OF A SINNER Bailee And Buddy/BMG-RED/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	17
MY BAR InDent/Mercury Nashville	Priscilla Block	15
GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	14
OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	14
LEARN FROM IT Valory	Conner Smith	14
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	12
WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory	Justin Moore	10
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	8
DOWNTOWN BABY Monument	Caitlyn Smith	7

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)
23 MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	+2.128
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	+1.958
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine Jackson Dean	+1.817
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek Parmalee	+1.298
TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	+1.249
NEVER SAY NEVER Broken Bow/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson	+1.233
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	+1.088
AA Monument Walker Hayes	+1.054
DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	+1.017
COME BACK AS A COUNTRY BOY Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton	+0.956

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	+557
NEVER SAY NEVER Broken Bow/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson	+519
23 MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	+477
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek Parmalee	+470
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine Jackson Dean	+465
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	+322
CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN Columbia Nashville Maren Morris	+304
DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	+275
TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	+260
AA Monument Walker Hayes	+252

NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	total Audience	TOTAL Stations	ADDS
COUNTY ROADS Wheelhouse	Elvie Shane	0.275	36	0
SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	n & Jake Scott	0.272	5	4
SALT, LIME & TEQUILA Red Street	Ryan Griffin	0.269	12	4
GROWING OLD WITH YOU 1021/RCA Nashville	Restless Road	0.226	8	5
JUST DRIVE RECORDS Nashville	Erin Kinsey	0.195	19	2
WHISKEY SOUR RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	0.194	1	0

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	SAND IN MY BOOTS Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	16.384
2	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	15.199
3	HALF OF MY HOMETOWN Black River Kelsea Ballerini Featuring Kenny Chesney	13.435
4	BUY DIRT MCA Nashville Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan	13.157
5	FANCY LIKE Monument Walker Hayes	12.226
6	TO BE LOVED BY YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	12.015
7	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	11.450
8	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	9.245
9	ONE MISSISSIPPI RCA Nashville Kane Brown	9.218
10	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	8.853





RATIO REPORT

TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING APRIL 3, 2022

	1000	no sector	Nettesser /								
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	24	TOO MUCH TEXAS (Independent) ** 1 Week at 1 ** David Adam Byrnes	2028	209	0	14	11	I JUST WANT YOU (King Hall Music) Chad Cooke Band	1246	166
2	4	19	WHAT'S YOUR DRINKING SONG? (Independent) Kyle Park	1883	206	Ð	12	17	LIKE A HURRICANE (Independent) Cody Jinks	1174	40
3	3	20	THE MAN IN THE NEON MOON (Independent) Jamie Richards	1865	156	13	11	26	DANCEHALL DEVIL (Independent) The Stateline Band	1157	-121
4	6	20	WILD HORSES (Independent) Kin Faux f/ Terry McBride	1717	141	14	18	8	UNWANTED MAN (Independent) Aaron Watson	1120	123
6	5	12	GETTIN' BY (Independent) Flatland Cavalry	1643	65	15	16	20	WIND IT DOWN (Independent) Hayden Haddock	1029	-34
6	1	17	BUILT DIFFERENT (Almost Country) Casey Donahew	1636	-278	16	19	18	DRIVE ME TO DRINKING (Independent) Sundance Head	991	24
0	7	12	IF YOU WANT IT THAT MUCH (Independent) Cody Canada & The Departed	1537	43	17	17	19	YOURS TRULY (Independent) Shaker Hymns	987	-44
8	9	12	WHEN YOU ROLL THAT WAY (Independent) Case Hardin	1507	186	18	15	26	I WISH HE'D BEEN DRINKIN' WHISKEY (Independent) Brandi Behlen	979	-96
9	8	20	REMEMBER YOU (Independent) Kaitlyn Kohler	1370	41	19	10	26	THE COWBOY HE WILL BE (Independent) Ariel Hutchins	966	-329
10	13	12	GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN (Independent) Kylie Frey & Bri Bagwell	1282	174	20	21	15	LIFE OF A WORKIN' MAN (Dirt Rock Empire) Creed Fisher	929	47

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 2022, Texas Regional Radio Report

SAM HUNT "23" **#1**



THANK YOU, COUNTRY RADIO!



NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Clay Walker met up with WBUL Lexington, Ky., staff when he played the Lexington Opera House on March 23. From left: iHeart/Kentucky-Indiana regional senior vp of programming Michael Jordan, Walker, WBUL assistant PD Billy Pritchett and iHeart/Kentucky-Indiana director of country programming Ashley Wilson.

CMT REVEALS VIDEO FINALISTS

Had the omicron variant not intervened, CBS would have aired the Grammy Awards eight weeks ago, and the network's April 3 special would have been the CMT Music Awards.

Instead, the CMTs are still unveiling new developments a week away from the show's April 11 airdate. The video of the year nominees were narrowed to six titles from the original 12 on April 4, with the final list featuring three collaborative titles: Jason Aldean and Carrie Underwood's "If I Didn't Love You," Kelsea Ballerini and Kenny Chesney's "half of my hometown" and Cole Swindell and Lainey Wilson's "Never Say Never."

Three solo videos are also finalists: **Kane Brown**'s "One Mississippi," **Luke Combs**' "Forever After All" and **Cody Johnson**'s "'Til You Can't."

Underwood, who gave her first live performance of "Ghost Story" at the Grammys, was added to the performance rundown, along with **Old Dominion** and **Mickey Guyton**, who will perform with **Black Pumas**. The evening also includes the first live performance by **The Judds** on an awards show in 20 years.

Beyond nationally televised trophies, **Aaron Watson**, **Bri Bagwell** and **Josh Ward** each won twice during the 12th annual Texas Regional Radio Music Awards March 27-28. Watson took entertainer of the year and album, for *American Soul*; Bagwell claimed female vocalist and single, for "Heroes"; and Ward earned male vocalist and song, for "A Cowboy Can."

Go here for the full TRRMA winners list.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Arista Nashville hired vp of promotion Chris Schuler following a seven-year run at Universal Music Group Nashville, with the last three years spent as vp of promotion and radio marketing. Reach him here ... Big Loud welcomed senior director of digital H. Read Davis, who shifts from Spotify, where he was social media manager ... Black River promoted Hope Buser to associate director of accounting from manager. Reach her here ... Big Machine Label Group signed rock band The Struts ... Audacy promoted Mark Anderson to regional vp and Chris Michaels to regional brand manager, overseeing five country stations in the Eastern United States. The move keys a shuffling of responsibilities for two of the chain's three existing regional country teams. Anderson has been Audacy/Pittsburgh vp of programming since 2017, acting as brand manager for country WDSY. Michaels has been Audacy/Memphis operations manager since 2011, overseeing three stations, including country WLFP. Also, KMLE Phoenix brand manager Drew Bland added similar duties at KKWF Seattle, where he worked from 2017-2020 ... WXTU Philadelphia afternoon host Nicole Michalik signed a multivear renewal with the station ... Cumulus/Boise, Idaho, tabbed Nancy Wirth as director of sales for the six-station cluster, including country KIZN. She arrives from the Dove, an Oregon-based Christian media group, where she operated as senior partnership and marketing director ... A private equity consortium led by Evergreen Coast Capital and Brookfield Business Partners acquired Nielsen for \$16 billion. The company's divisions include Nielsen Audio, the leading radio ratings firm ... Cox Media Group/ Houston hired Travis Moon as director of operations, RadioInk.com reported. He spent the last five years as KUBL Salt Lake City PD ... Yaya Martinez joined iHeartMedia/Tucson, Ariz., according to RadioInsight.com. She'll hold shifts

on two different stations, including the evening daypart at country **KHUD**. Her most recent on-air gig was at top 40 **KHHM** Sacramento, Calif. ... NuVoodoo's follow-up webinar featuring additional information from its Country Radio Seminar research presentation is available <u>here</u>.

'ROUND THE ROW

Messina Touring Group promoted Rachel Powers to vp from director of marketing. Reach her here ... PickleJar hired Kelly Ford as vp of programming for the entertainment payments app. She was previously morning host at WNSH New York ... Loeb & Loeb Nashville hired William "Willie" Jones as associate attorney. He was previously Universal Music Group Nashville director of business and legal affairs. Reach him here ... Singer-songwriter Conner Smith reached a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville, Thomas Rhett's Home Team and Zach Crowell's Miller Crow Music ... Sophia Scott agreed to a joint publishing contract with Warner Chappell Nashville and Ross Golan's Unknown Music ... Jason Cross signed as the inaugural artist for development/management company Southern Signal Nashville. The firm's team includes CEO Bruce Johnson-Castille, COO Rob Harvell, executive director of branding and entertainment Ben Goodvich and executive director of artist relations Chase Butler ... In March, the Country Music Association presented four international awards: Australian promoter Michael Chugg received the inaugural Rob Potts international live music advancement award, Absolute Radio Country/U.K. personality Baylen Leonard took the $international \ country \ broadcaster \ award, Absolute \ Radio \ Country \ PD \ \textbf{Ricky}$ Marshall was honored with the Wesley Rose international media achievement award, and U.K. act The Shires claimed the Jeff Walker global country artist award ... Shy Carter will make his Grand Ole Opry debut on April 16; Erin Kinsey follows suit April 23 ... CoverGirl recognized Kelsea Ballerini as a brand ambassador on March 29, with a cosmetics collection expected this spring ... Songwriters Steve Dorff ("Heartland," "Through the Years") and Bobby Tomberlin ("One More Day," "A Good Day To Run") will appear in the WHO KNEW "Smartest People in the Room" webinar series on April 7 at 1 p.m. CT. Register for the event here ... Career memorabilia belonging to late production manager Stephen Gudis will be donated to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and MTSU's Center for Popular Music. The materials include contracts, photos, tour logistics and backstage passes for the likes of Waylon Jennings, Alabama and The Charlie Daniels Band. Gudis, who died in January 2020, will be celebrated April 8 at the Hall of Fame ... Bluegrass mandolinist Roland White died April 1 following a heart attack, BluegrassToday.com reported. A 2017 inductee in the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame, he played with a multitude of significant acts, including Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt, The Kentucky Colonels and The Nashville Bluegrass Band ... Bill Fries, better known by his recording handle C.W. McCall, died April 1. His music career grew from an advertising job in Omaha, Neb., when he voiced a campaign for a Midwestern bread. His million-selling 1975 recitation "Convoy" led a wave of CB radio-themed releases and topped both the Billboard country and pop charts. McCall also reached No. 2 on the country list with the 1977 ballad "Roses for Mama." O



Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum executive senior director of editorial and interpretation Michael Gray (right) interviewed Rodney Crowell for a digital installment in its "Poets and Prophets" series that will premiere online on May 10.



44.4M MILLION WORLD WIDE STREAMS TO DATE 5.2 MILLION WORLD WIDE STREAMS THIS WEEK #2 NEW AND ACTIVE ON BILLBOARD CHART GOING FOR IMMEDIATE AIRPLAY!

Junes

JAKE SCOTT

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

				—			
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS Ago	WKS ON Chart	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist	COUNTRY Airplay Rank	PEAK Position
1	1	1	28	'TIL YOU CAN'T ★★ No. 1 (6 Weeks) ★★ T.W.WILLMON (B.M.STENNIS,M.ROGERS)	Cody Johnson COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	2	1
2	2	6	21	DOIN' THIS LCOMBS,CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON (LCOMBS,D.PARKER,R.WILLIFORD)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	7	2
3	3	2	45	BUY DIRT P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS, J.DAVIS, M.JENKINS, J.JENKINS)	Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan MCA NASHVILLE	RC	1
4	5	8	19	NEVER SAY NEVER Z.CROWELL (J.L.ALEXANDER,C.SWINDELL,C.MCGILL)	Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	5	4
5	4	3	42	FANCY LIKE W.HAYES,J.THIBODEAU,S.MCANALLY (W.HAYES,J.JENKINS,S.STEVENS,C.BARTOLINI)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	RC	1
6	6	9	19	AA W.HAYES,J.THIBODEAU,S.MCANALLY (W.HAYES,S.MCANALLY,LLAIRD)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	14	6
0	8	10	57	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) M.JOHNSON,B.PADDOCK (ELLE KING,M.JOHNSON)	Elle King & Miranda Lambert RCA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	3	7
8	9	5	35	BEERS ON ME R.COPPERMAN, D.BENTLEY (D.BENTLEY, D.BRELAND, R.COPPERMAN, L.DICK, A.GORLEY, M.W.HARDY, N.GALYON, N.MOON, B.JOHNSON)	Dierks Bentley, Breland & HARDY CAPITOL NASHVILLE	4	5
9	10	13	32	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	20	1
0	12	11	29	23 ** Airplay Gainer ** C.LA CORTE (S.L.HUNT,C.LA CORTE,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	1	10
0	14	15	12	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN G.KURSTIN (M.MORRIS,R.J.HURD,JULIA MICHAELS,J.ROBBINS)	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	18	9
Ð	11	12	21	SLOW DOWN SUMMER D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,S.M.DOUGLAS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	11	11
ß	13	14	30	HEART ON FIRE J.JOYCE (ECHURCH)	Eric Church EMI NASHVILLE	8	12
1	17	16	23	IF I WAS A COWBOY JON RANDALL,LDICK (M.LAMBERT,J.FRASURE)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	17	14
15	16	18	28	NEVER WANTED TO BE THAT GIRL S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,S.MCANALLY,A.MCBRYDE) ATLANTIC	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde C/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/BIG MACHINE/WMN	9	15
16	15	17	13	FLOWER SHOPS J.MOI (E.K.SMITH,B.D/BURGESS,M.LHOLMAN)	ERNEST Featuring Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD	22	15
Ð	19	19	54	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL J.MOI,D.WELLS (M.W.HARDYA.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)	HARDY BIG LOUD	13	17
18	22	22	11	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK M.KNOX (B.BEAVERS,K.M.ALLISON,T.KENNEDY,J.MORGAN)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	16	18
19	20	20	26	COME BACK AS A COUNTRY BOY S.HENDRICKS (M.W.HARDY,J.THOMPSON,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	12	19
20	21	29	11	SHE LIKES IT J.KERR,J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON,J.SCOTT,J.KERR)	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott TRIPLE TIGERS	-	20
2	23	23	22	TAKE MY NAME D.FANNING (M.THOMAS,A.GORLEY,D.FANNING,B.JOHNSON)	Parmalee STONEY CREEK	24	21
22	25	21	4	PRAISE THE LORD J.BUNETTA,K.FISHMAN,J.DURRETT (D.BRELAND,J.R.DURRETT,K.FISHMAN,R.H.BLOCK,THOMAS RHETT,M.W.HARDY,J.J.DILLON,D.A.GARCIA)	Breland Featuring Thomas Rhett BAD REALM/ATLANTIC	-	21
23	27	26	6	DAMN STRAIT F.ROGERS,D.WELLS,A.ESHUIS (J.A.COLLINS,T.TOMLINSON)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	21	23
24	24	32	4	LEAVE YOU ALONE M.GRIFFITH,D.HUFF (K.BROWN,J.MINTON,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	-	24
25	28	24	20	ALL TOO WELL (TAYLOR'S VERSION) C.ROWE,T.SWIFT,J.M.ANTONOFF (T.SWIFT,LROSE)	Taylor Swift REPUBLIC	-	1

COUNTRY SONGWRITERSTM

	1	# 1 4 wks	SHANE MCANALLY
	2	ER	IC CHURCH
TIE	3	BE	N MERRITT STENNIS
TIE	3	MA	TT ROGERS
	5	AS	HLEY GORLEY
	6	WA	LKER HAYES
	7	HA	RDY
	8	ZA	CH BRYAN
	9	JO	SH JENKINS
	10	JE	SSE FRASURE



COUNTRY PRODUCERSTM

	1	#1 61 WKS	JOEY MOI
	2	TR	ENT WILLMON
	3	GR	EG KURSTIN
	4	PA	UL DIGIOVANNI
	5	ZA	CH CROWELL
	6	SH	ANE MCANALLY
	7	СН	RIS LA CORTE
	8	DA	VID FANNING
	9	JA	Y JOYCE
FIE	10	JOI	E THIBODEAU
FIE	10	WA	LKER HAYES

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

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA Compiled by LUMINATE

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	24	WILD HEARTS MFURK, KURBAN (KURBAN, E PASLAY, B.F.TURSI, J. WAYNE)	HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	10	26
27	26	34	7	FALL IN LOVE A.R. SHAWN (A.R. SHAWN, B. ZIMMERMAN, G. LUCAS)	Bailey Zimmerman HURRICANE BAILEY	-	26
23	31	30	15	7500 OBO B.GALLIMORE,T.MCGRAW (M.J.MCGINN,J.SCHOTT,N.SPICER)	Tim McGraw MCGRAW/BIG MACHINE	15	28
29	34	33	19	BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS J.MOI (B.JOHNSON,J.MINTON,H.PHELPS,G.WARBURTON)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	19	29
30	33	27	35	TRUTH ABOUT YOU J.M.SCHMIDT,M.TENPENNY (M.TENPENNY,M.ALDERMAN, T.ARCHER)	Mitchell Tenpenny RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	37	27
3)	35	35	27	WISHFUL DRINKING I.ANDRESS,J.M.SCHMIDT (I.ANDRESS,J.P.STARKER SAXE,J.PRICE,D.BROWN,R.WILLIAMSON)	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	36	31
32	NE	W	1	NERVOUS ** Hot Shot Debut ** G.KURSTIN (M.MORRIS,N.HEMBY,J.ROBBINS)	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	32
33	49	39	5	NARCISSIST ** Streaming Gainer **	Avery Anna WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	33
34	32	31	3	WILD AS HER C.FARREN (M.WALLEN,BRETT TYLER,K.ARCHER)	Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS	-	31
35	18	_	2	GHOST STORY D.GARCIA,C.UNDERWOOD (D.A.GARCIA, J.KEAR, H. LINDSEY, H. WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW)	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	33	18
36	37	41	6	LAST NIGHT LONELY J.PARDI,B.BUTLER,R.GORE (J.BELL,J.FOX,D.MARLOWE)	Jon Pardi Capitol Nashville	28	36
37	39	37	5	FROM AUSTIN R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan Belting Bronco/Warner	-	28
38	36	36	16	UP J.STEVENS, J.STEVENS (J.BUSSEY, T.PHILLIPS, B.PINSON)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	23	33
39	30	25 16 PICK ME UP R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G. BARRETT,J.M.NITE,R.COPPERMAN)			Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	40	25
40	NE	w	1	HIGHWAY BOYS E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan Belting Bronco/Warner	-	40
4	NE	W	1	ROLEX® ON A REDNECK B.BERRYHILL,B.GILBERT (B.GILBERT,B.BERRYHILL,M.W.HARDY,R.MONTANA,T.PHILLIPS)	Brantley Gilbert Featuring Jason Aldean VALORY	-	41
42	40	38	7	NEW TRUCK M.ALDERMAN, C. GIBBS, J.E. NORMAN (M.W. HARDY, H. PHELPS, B. JOHNSON, A. GORLEY)	Dylan Scott CURB	26	38
43	43	43	13	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBB.C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	-	43
44	41	-	2	DEAR ALCOHOL NOT LISTED (NOT LISTED)	Dax LIVING LEGEND	-	41
45	38	40	20	I BET YOU THINK ABOUT ME (TAYLOR'S VERSION) (FROM THE VAULT) A.dessner,T.swift (T.swift,L.MCKENNA)	Taylor Swift Featuring Chris Stapleton REPUBLIC/MCA NASHVILLE	RC	3
46	44	42	9	WILDER DAYS S.VADEN,PEBERSOLD (M.WADE,S.VADEN)	Morgan Wade LADYLIKE/ARISTA NASHVILLE	39	36
4 7	45	46	14	AT THE END OF A BAR C. DESTEFANO,C.YOUNG (C.YOUNG,C. DESTEFANO,M.TENPENNY)	Chris Young & Mitchell Tenpenny RCA NASHVILLE	25	33
48	46	44	19	COLD D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (C.STAPLETON,D.COBB,D.MIXON,J.T.CURE)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	-	31
49	42	-	3	GROWING OLD WITH YOU J.KEIM (C.KELLEY, J.MINTON, J.REYNOLDS)	Restless Road 1021/RCA NASHVILLE	-	42
50	47	45	8	WHISKEY SOUR I.TOSHINSKY,K.BROWN (A.CRAIG,J.FREE,J.HOGE)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	-	28

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

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT O	COUNT			YEAR-TO-DA	TE		YEAR-OVER-YEAR		
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND		2021	2022	CHANGE	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
This Week	1,369,000	1,598,047,000	132,453,000	Album Consumption	16,378,000	16,713,000	2.0%	'21 16.38 million	
Last Week	1,354,000	1,590,982,000	128,234,000	Album Sales	2,076,000	1,688,000	-18.7%	'22 16.71 million	
Change	1.1%	0.4%	3.3%					TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS	
This Week Last Year	1,317,000	1,499,364,000	150,394,000	Audio On-Demand	18,226,748,000	19,344,694,000	6.1%	'21 20.00 billion	
Change	3.9%	6.6%	-11.9%	Video On-Demand	1,777,756,000	1,619,605,000	-8.9%	'22 20.96 billion	

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending March 31, 2022. 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 Luminate, formerly MRC Data, please contact Howard Lin at Hlin@luminate.xyz

POWERED BY MUSIC BUSINESS ASSOCIATION R



2022

MUSIC BIZ 2022

In its 64th year, The Music Business Association will host its annual Music Biz conference May 9th to May 12th in Nashville, Tennessee.

Founded in 1958, the non-profit organization creates the rooms in which the important conversations that shape the future of our industry take place. Gathering more than 2,000 industry executives for four days of keynote presentations, panels, meetings, and networking, Music Biz unites the global music business to discuss the future of the music business and foster relationships that will shape the industry for years to come.

Advertise in this issue of *Billboard* to reach a well-connected group of music professionals - from musicians to executives.

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COVER DATE 4/23 | ISSUE CLOSE 4/13 | MATERIALS DUE 4/14



				DATA	MING 8 COMPIL	ED BY
D			DC			
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK Pos.
1	1	1	64	MORGAN WALLEN DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC	2	1
0	NE	w	1	MAREN MORRIS HUMBLE QUEST COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 996571*/SMN		2
3	2	3	125	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
4	3	2	20	TAYLOR SWIFT RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 034504*		1
5	4	4	252	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	3	1
6	5	5	200	MORGAN WALLEN IF I KNOW ME BIG LOUD 783* IF	2	1
7	6	7	361	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
8	7	6	10	WALKER HAYES COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM MONUMENT 98353		2
9	NE	w	1	REBA MCENTIRE MY CHAINS ARE GONE: HYMNS & GOSPEL FAVORITES ROCKIN' R/MCA NASHVILLE 034892/UMGN		9
10	8	8	72	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
11	9	9	25	CODY JOHNSON HUMAN: THE DOUBLE ALBUM COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 666969*/WMN		3
Ð	14	_	338	ZAC BROWN BAND GREATEST HITS SO FAR HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG		3
B	11	13	142	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	9
14	10	15	271	GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	7	1
15	13	14	304	TIM MCGRAW NUMBER ONE HITS CURB 79205 (13.98)		6
16	16	16	274	BROOKS & DUNN THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	4	2
17	15	17	45	JORDAN DAVIS BUY DIRT (EP) MCA NASHVILLE DIGITAL EX/UMGN (033776)		11
18	17	19	183	ELVIS PRESLEY ELV1S: 30 #1 HITS RCA 68079*/LEGACY (19.98/12.98)	6	1
19	18	20	71	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*	•	7
20	20	18	51	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578*		1
21	12	10	93	GABBY BARRETT GOLDMINE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629330/WMN	•	4
22	21	22	173	TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)		1
23	22	25	281	CARRIE UNDERWOOD GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1 19/ARISTA NASHVILLE 500876*/LEGACY		1
24	19	21	79	HARDY A ROCK BIG LOUD 836*		4
25	23	23	189	TAYLOR SWIFT SPEAK NOW BIG MACHINE TS0300A/BMLG (18.98)	6	1

Top country Albums ranks the most popular country albums or the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

bi		6	DC		COMPI	& SALES LED BY
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	307	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
2	2	2	72	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
3	3	4	159	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS		2
4	4	5	353	HOZIER HOZIER HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	3	1
6	NEW 1		1	BON IVER BON IVER JAGJAGUWAR 135* (14.98)		5
6	5	6	312	THE LUMINEERS CLEOPATRA DUALTONE 1738*		1
0	22	3	4	DOLLY PARTON RUN, ROSE, RUN BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*		1
8	6	7	269	SIMON & GARFUNKEL SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY		3
9	7	8	363	THE LUMINEERS THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1608*	3	1
10	12	13	17	ZACH BRYAN ELISABETH BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER		10

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

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CC)UI	NT	Dard RY IING SONGS	(CC	U	NT	RY SONG SALES
				ľ				JONO JALLJ
THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST		THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	259	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON		0	NE	w	ROLEX [®] ON A REDNECK Brantley Gilbert Feat. Jason Aldean
0	3	23	'TIL YOU CAN'T Cody Johnson		2	3	19	AA WALKER HAYES
3	2	34	BUY DIRT Jordan Davis Feat. Luke Bryan		3	2	26	'TIL YOU CAN'T Cody Johnson
4	4	63	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN		4	4	42	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES
6	7	10	AA WALKER HAYES		5	5	34	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
6	6	17	DOIN' THIS LUKE COMBS		6	7	44	BUY DIRT Jordan Davis Feat. Luke Bryan
7	5	40	FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES		7	6	55	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) Elle king & Miranda Lambert
8	14	12	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN MAREN MORRIS		8	10	21	DOIN' THIS Luke combs
9	8	41	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON		9	8	11	FLOWER SHOPS ERNEST FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN
0	9	158	WHISKEY GLASSES Morgan Wallen		10	RE-ENTRY		SOMEHOW YOU DO REBA
0	13	9	NEVER SAY NEVER COLE SWINDELL/LAINEY WILSON		11	12	314	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
Ð	10	48	CHASING AFTER YOU RYAN HURD WITH MAREN MORRIS		12	13	14	NEVER SAY NEVER Cole Swindell/Lainey Wilson
B	12	39	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN		B	18	14	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
0	15	74	FOREVER AFTER ALL LUKE COMBS		14	11	35	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU JASON ALDEAN & CARRIE UNDERWOOD
đ	17	5	SLOW DOWN SUMMER Thomas Rhett		15	9	41	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
6	16	194	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS		16	15	20	NEVER WANTED TO BE THAT GIRL CARLY PEARCE & ASHLEY MCBRYDE
17	11	36	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU JASON ALDEAN & CARRIE UNDERWOOD		17	20	5	DAMN STRAIT SCOTTY MCCREERY
18	19	2	SHE LIKES IT Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott		18	14	2	DEAR ALCOHOL DAX
19	RE-EI	NTRY	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Dustin lynch feat. Lauren alaina or mackenzie porter		19	17	11	TO BE LOVED BY YOU PARKER MCCOLLUM
20	23	6	IF I WAS A COWBOY Miranda Lambert		20	22	11	IF I WAS A COWBOY MIRANDA LAMBERT
2	20	44	LIL BIT Nelly & Florida Georgia Line		2	RE-EI	VTRY	23 SAM HUNT
22	18	5	FLOWER SHOPS ERNEST FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN		22	21	9	GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL Hardy
23	25	3	PRAISE THE LORD BRELAND FEAT. THOMAS RHETT		23	25	5	BEERS ON ME DIERKS BENTLEY, BRELAND & HARDY
24	22	28	COVER ME UP MORGAN WALLEN		24	23	21	U GURL WALKERHAYES
25	24	98	HEARTLESS DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN		25	1	2	GHOST STORY CARRIE UNDERWOOD

I he week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports colled and provided by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/ charts. Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

SALES DATA COMPILED BY **billboard** BLUEGRASS ALBUMS LUMINATE WEEKS ON CHT LAST WEEK WEEK THIS PEAK POS. CERT ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL TITLE DOLLY PARTON RUN, ROSE, RUN 0 1 1 4 1 BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001* **ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS** RAISE THE ROOF 1 2 2 2 19 ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD STURGILL SIMPSON THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA 1 3 3 3 32 HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS **BILLY STRINGS** RENEWAL 4 4 5 27 1 ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD **CHOSEN ROAD** APPALACHIAN HYMNS 6 RE-ENTRY 2 4 SONG GARDEN 4508 STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS 6 7 7 1 68 HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 1: THE BUTCHER SHOPPE SESSIONS 6 1 0 6 76 HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 58784*/THIRTY TIGERS (56285) THE PO' RAMBLIN' BOYS NEVER SLOW DOWN 8 NEW 8 1 SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS 40249* PUNCH BROTHERS NONESUCH 671077*/WARNER HELL ON CHURCH STREET 9 5 _ 11 1 JOHN HIATT WITH THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND NEW WEST 6514* LEFTOVER FEELINGS 10 RE-ENTRY 40 1

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

Kassi Ashton Threads Small-Town Tropes Over Big-City Chords In 'Dates In Pickup Trucks'

How the heck did Erykah Badu end up on a country single?

OK, so the neo-soul "On & On" singer hasn't really reemerged in a surprise context, but Kassi Ashton's first radio single, "Dates in Pickup Trucks," bears some resemblance to Badu. Chalk it up to Ashton's slinky, behind-the-beat phrasing; the recording's syncopated drum programming; and her demand at the end of the opening verse - "You know just right where my phone is/Call

it"-which unintentionally recalls Badu's dismissive command, "You better ca-all Tyrone."

Ashton was raised on country music in California, Mo., a rural community southwest of Columbia. But she was not genre-exclusive.

"I naturally sing behind the beat just based off what I grew up listening to," Ashton says. "Because not only did we play classic country in my house, but we also played soul music. Really, I classify it as power females -- like if a female sounded like she would smack the shit out of you. That's what we were listening to."

"Dates in Pickup Trucks" is a much gentler storyline than that history might imply, a plot inspired by Ashton's grandparents, Carl and Juanita Meisenheimer. Juanita, giggling gleefully, had told Ashton in a phone call that she had packed a dinner and gone on a romantically nostalgic ride with Carl, driving down the back roads of central Missouri in their truck. It was a cheap night out in a town with few entertainment options, and it was an experience that Ashton knew firsthand.

But she also knew "Dates in Pickup Trucks" needed some out-of-the-tailgate thinking, so she saved the title until a writing appointment with **Luke Laird** ("AA," "Tequila Little Time") and David Garcia ("Meant To Be," "Drinking Alone") at Garcia's studio in Nashville's Berry Hill neighborhood.

'I had the title, and I knew that they would be the people to write it with that didn't make it sound like 'My tractor is green, and my cow

goes moo,'" she says with a laugh. "I knew that they would be the people who could make it sound fresh."

She also expected they would resist that title, though they did their best to hide their doubts when she floated it.

"For the last five years, anytime somebody says, 'Pickup truck,' in a co-write, everybody kind of just rolls their eyes," says Laird. "But the way that she did it, I was like, 'This sounds great. I don't care.' We just started talking about where she grew up, and I mean, it's very similar to how I grew up in Pennsylvania."

They fitted her idea to a counterintuitive musical foundation. Garcia had a hip-hop-leaning percussion track, and Laird used a 1963 nylon-string Martin guitar to fashion a progression full of major-seventh and minor-seventh harmonics, essentially pairing the small-town tale with big-city chords.

"If you break it down, it sounds more jazz to me," Ashton says. "It ain't just G-A-D, G-A-D."

In fact, it defies music-theory standards by never settling into the root chord of the key signature. The progression dances around that tonic, but in skipping past it, creates a tension that never fully resolves.

"I'm a huge **Babyface** fan," says Laird. "It just feels like it could fit that world." They took a fairly classic approach, building conversational verses that emphasized the boredom and lack of opportunity in a one-stoplight town.

ASHTON

They created contrast with a more optimistic, singalong chorus that embraced small forms of good-time escapism, including a "little sumpin', sumpin' in a Sonic cup," yet another instance of "Pickup Trucks" putting a fresh spin on an otherwise cliché image.

"It's a true thing. That's what she did," Laird says. "Actually, my wife [Creative Nation co-founder/CEO Beth Laird], my understanding is she used to do

> that, too, down in Winchester, Tenn. - pour a little somethin', somethin' in a Sonic cup.' So if you pull into a Sonic on a Friday night and the kids are in there, [they're] not just drinking strawberry limeades."

> Meanwhile, that "You know just right where my phone is/Call it" line helped Ashton achieve a tip she picked from watching Cardi B judge a talent competition.

> 'Someone was rapping, [and] she goes, 'Where are your quotables?' " remembers Ashton. "She's like, 'Girls want quotables for Instagram captions.' And Iwas like, 'Ooooooh, shit.' You have to think like that.'

> Garcia oversaw the foundational music as they worked up the demo that day, mostly applying programmed elements around Laird's original nylon-string guitar.

> 'One thing David did that I just absolutely loved is the bassline in this song," Laird says. "It's not just the typical 808 bass that a lot of songs have now. It's like a synth bass, like something that could have been on a Michael Jackson record."

> Before it was finished, all three writers chipped in a harmony-rich "all ri-ight, all ri-ight" background hook that remained on the final recording, along with some of Garcia's programming and the nylon-string guitar. They sent the tracks to other Nashville musicians who added parts on their own, including Derek Wells' electric guitar solo and additional Bryan Sutton acoustic material.

Ashton also requested steel guitar to provide an atmospheric sonic blanket and offset the track's R&B tendencies.

Ashton sangit on tour opening for Maren Morris in 2019 and Jordan Davis in 2020, and it very clearly stood out in the set. "My DMs would fill up every night, [asking], 'What's the "pickup truck" song?' " she recalls.

Originally, Interscope/MCA Nashville planned to issue her first radio single in early 2020, but with COVID-19 complicating her ability to support it in person, the label tabled plans for a single until "Pickup Trucks" was finally released to country radio via PlayMPE on Feb. 4. Universal Music Group president/CEO Mike Dungan asked Laird if there were any changes he thought they could make to help it win over programmers, and they remixed it without the guitar solo.

"So far on [my] radio tour, when I tell them the song is two minutes and 45 seconds long, they're exuberant," says Ashton. "And I like how it kind of rolls through because you don't get a break to think. It stops playing, and you go, 'Oh, I have to play that again.'

Ashton reinstates the guitar solo when she plays it live, and she keeps that

whole Badu-ish, behind-the-beat phrasing, too, posing a challenge to the band. Sum a challenge to the band. My guitar player knows: Keep the rhythm exact. Be as stubborn with the tempo as possible," she says. "You hold strong and let me just dance." O

billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

23. Universal Music Corn., ASCAP/Between the Pines, LLC, ASCAP/Concord Junes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/ Smackwood Music, GMR/Itempo Investments-Smack HIJS, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sonv Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP (SL.Hunt, CLa Corte, S.McAnally, JOsborne) 1

7500.0B0 Smackworks Music, SESAC/Smack Blue LLC, SESAC/Kobalt Group Music Publishing, SESAC/Red Like The Sunset Music, ASCAP/Spicer And Everyling Nicer, ASCAP/Anthem Entertainment, ASCAP (M.J.McGinn, J.Schott, N.Spicer) B

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30 Years Ago Wynonna Went Solo, And To No. 1

In 1992, she scored her first solo Hot Country Songs leader, following 14 of them as half of The Judds On April 11, 1992, **Wynonna**'s "She Is His Only Need" topped *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart.

Written by **Dave Loggins**, the ballad introduced Judd's self-titled first solo LP, which debuted at No. 1 on Top Country Albums. It was her first of four leading sets.

The album produced two more Hot Country Songs No. 1s: "ISaw the Light," for three weeks in July 1992, and "No One Else on Earth," for four starting that October. No female artist has since sent three initial entries to the chart's summit. "Need" followed 14 No. 1s that Wynonna posted with her mother, **Naomi**, as **The Judds** in 1984-89. As a soloist, Wynonna — who was born May 30, 1964, in Ashland, Ky. — has tallied four No. 1s among 11 top 10s on Hot Country Songs. (She notched the chart-topper "To Be Loved by You" in April 1996.)

In October 2020, Wynonna released the EP *Recollections*. Last August, it was announced that The Judds will be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Meanwhile, CMT announced April 1 that the duo will perform at the 2022 CMT Music Awards on April 11. —JIM ASKER

