billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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CMA Fest Returns To Party In Nashville Amid The Pandemic



Once Jimmie Allen and Lindsay Ell fill the morning of June 9 with music at the Riverfront Stage in Nashville, a three-year wait will be over with the return of CMA Fest.

The four-day country music extravaganza, which brings tens of thousands annually to Music City, was - like the rest of the globe - hampered the last two years by a pandemic that

cost over 1 million Americans their lives, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. The festival's six official outdoor stages, an exhibit hall for autograph hounds with two more stages and a bevy of adjunct events surrounding Nashville's active honky-tonk tourist district will quench the



sonic thirst of the genre's most ardent followers. The offerings include sets by such superstars as Luke Combs, Jason Aldean, Kane Brown and Carrie Underwood while also providing exposure to acts fans may be unfamiliar with, including Shy Carter, Hannah Ellis, Reyna Roberts and Kassi Ashton.

"The fact that that's still happening and we're getting to see the fans, we're getting to plot shows, I'm just so grateful for that," Ell says. "I'm going to be right there playing and eager to see my fans."

Visitors who've attended in the past will see some new wrinkles. A platform in the center of Nissan Stadium will offer massive exposure for Lily Rose, Frank Ray, Kat & Alex and Dylan Scott. The main stage is likely to feature more surprise collaborations than before, and fans who want to upgrade can experience special amenities — including air-conditioned restrooms and VIP seating—with the Riverside Retreat package at the Riverfront Stage.

This will also be the first CMA Fest since the opening of 5th + Broadway, a downtown center with a food court, plus a sky deck

> that promises performances from Sawyer Brown, Brett Eldredge and Josh Turner. The building also houses the National Museum of African-American Music, which will offer several screenings of For Love & Country, a documentary about the long-overlooked Black roots in the genre.

Music industry workers will

experience a few necessary changes, too. The nightly stadium press conferences, which gave a bundle of media useful access to most of the artists performing on the big stage, has been elimi $nated for the \, 49th \, gathering, though \, a \, make shift \, press \, pool \, will \,$ allow for some exchange. And more elaborate credentialing will require some executives to organize a series of laminates.

"The main reason that things changed at the stadium was due to COVID-19 protocol," says CMA CEO Sarah Trahern. "I imagine that as we look at the 50th, whether it's a press conference or something else bigger and better to replace it, it will come back for next year. But unlike other festivals or regular shows that are going on around the country, because we are also a network TV show, we have to at the stadium abide by





COVID-19 television protocols, which are stricter."

Dierks Bentley and **Elle King** are in line to host the network special, airing Aug. 3 on ABC.

Meanwhile, the pandemic is not getting significant outward-facing public attention. The festival's FAQ section includes a long list of prohibited items —including firearms, drones, chairs and, for the first time, Confederate flag imagery—but the only mention of COVID-19 is contained in the CMA's "Event Policies" section, in which the visitor assumes a variety of risks, including communicable diseases.

"People are living their lives," Trahern says. "I hope that people will use their own judgment — No. 1, feel comfortable if they want to wear a mask."

Nashville's COVID-19 situation is complicated. The state legislature's Republican super majority, weighted toward less densely populated rural areas, passed a law that prevents Nashville from mandating precautions without state approval. But testing totals are not as accurate as they once were, in part because people who home-test generally do not report results. A Los Angeles music executive recently cut a Music City trip short when two appointments were canceled because of positive tests; at a third appointment, the head of the company announced he had just received a positive result.

"This virus is now endemic, meaning it's going to be here all the time," says Metro Nashville Public Health Department medical director Dr. **Gill Wright**.

Wright, who was hospitalized after contracting COVID-19 in Ecuador last fall, believes the latest surge of omicron variants has subsided in the city, though he's concerned that the mass of visitors might bring in infected people from other states. He plans to attend CMA Fest, but he intends to limit his indoor activities while using judicious flexibility at outdoor events, where he will still keep social distancing front of mind.

"I will probably wear a mask when I am in big crowds moving through to get into the stadium or get out of the stadium, or if I'm going to go get a drink," he says. "I may not wear a mask when I'm sitting outside in the stadium itself."

The coronavirus is not the only sensitive public issue affecting CMA Fest. March for Our Lives will hold a downtown demonstration at 11 a.m. on June 11, beginning just blocks from the festival footprint. Second Avenue, the site of a bombing on Christmas Day 2020, is adjacent to the event's grounds, providing a reminder of the combustible cultural atmosphere. Preparing for the unthinkable, however, is not new for CMA.

"While I'm concerned about security this year, I'm not any more concerned in 2022 than I was in 2017, '18 and '19," says Trahern. "Making sure that our fans and our artists and tourists are safe is the No. 1 thing when I wake up in the morning."

The morning of June 9 launches what's planned as a four-day party that serves as a diversion from the world's troubles and as a reunion between thousands of country fans and their favorite artists, beginning at a stage on the banks of the Cumberland River.

"There's always just such an amazing energy with that stage," Ell says. "It's one of a kind, like the downtown mecca. I'm so excited to be there."



The Beach Boys made their Grand Ole Opry debut on May 27, joining LOCASH on its current single, "Beach Boys." From left: LOCASH's Chris Lucas, Beach Boy Mike Love, LOCASH's Preston Brust and Beach Boy Bruce Johnston.



Cody Johnson (right) visited with a string of broadcast executives when he performed during Kenny Chesney's May 21 concert at Denver's Empower Field at Mile High. Johnson is joined by Warner Music Nashville senior vp of radio Kristen Williams and iHeartMedia/Kentucky-Indiana regional senior vp of programming Michael Jordan.



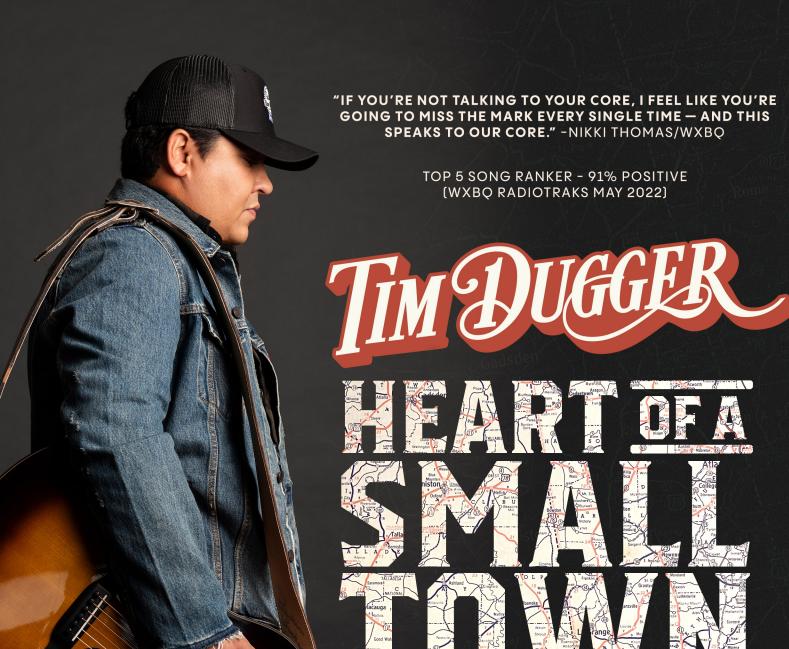
Keith Urban (center) was the guest during the May 30-June 3 episode of United Stations' *Backstage Country*. He's joined by Backstage talent consultant John Shomby (left) and executive producer Adrian Kulp.

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DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS





IMPACTING 6/20



ROBBY STEVENS

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

TikTok Sparks Chart Debuts For Self-Released Singles By Chase McDaniel And Kyle Clark



Propelled by a growing social media presence, singer-songwriter **Chase Mc-Daniel** scores his first *Billboard* chart entry as "Project" blasts in at No. 1 on the Country Digital Song Sales list dated June 11.

Self-released May 27, the track sold 10,400 downloads in its first week (ending June 2), according to Luminate. It concurrently starts at No. 4 on the

all-genre Digital Song Sales chart and No. 46 on the airplay-, streaming- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart.

McDaniel co-wrote "Project" with **Jerry Alan Jacobs**, who produced it.

Sales, as well as 748,000 official U.S. streams in the tracking week, can be traced in part to McDaniel's 150,000 TikTok followers — a sum that has generated over 1 million likes for his clips on the platform. (Activity on TikTok does not currently contribute directly to *Billboard*'s charts.)

McDaniel first teased "Project" by posting snippets of it on both TikTok and Facebook leading up to its official release. "I kind of told my friends that it was now or never," he tells *Billboard*. "My buddies got into the act and really supported me. They created fun little dances and such, and it all helped to create a viral moment. Thankfully, it all paid off as it converted into some decent sales. I've worked really hard, and this achievement is nothing short of amazing."

The Nashville-based McDaniel, who is originally from Campbellsville, Ky., is working on an EP that

he hopes to release this year. He has also been building his fan base by playing shows in and around Nashville.

'HOT' START Its profile likewise swelled in part by TikTok, **Kyle Clark**'s self-released "Hope It's Hot Out" fires up Country Digital Song Sales at No. 10 with 2,100 downloads sold in its opening week. Clark, who makes his maiden appearance on a *Billboard* chart, has accrued over 115,000 TikTok followers.

Chase McDaniel, as previously noted, and Clark continue a string of artists breaking through on *Billboard*'s country charts after building buzz on social media, especially TikTok. On the Country Digital Song Sales survey dated May 21, **Nate Smith**'s debut single, "Whiskey on You" (Arista Nashville/Sony Music Nashville), opened at No. 2 with 13,800 sold. Smith initially released

the song independently before he signed to Arista Nashville (under the Sony Music Nashville banner), which plans to promote the track to country radio.

'DOUBLE' DOMINATION Morgan Wallen's *Dangerous: The Double Album* (Big Loud/Republic) rebounds from No. 2 to lead Top Country Albums for a record-extending 60th week, up 4% to 54,000 equivalent album units.

The 30-song set dethrones **Zach Bryan**'s 34-track effort, *American Heartbreak* (Belting Bronco/Warner Records). Bryan's first Top Country Albums leader dips to No. 2 in its second week (40,000, down 43%).

Meanwhile, current *Dangerous* single "Wasted On You" tops Hot Country Songs for a fourth week. It pushes 4-3 for a new best on Country Airplay, up 12% to 25.4 million in radio reach, and drew 12 million U.S. streams (up 6%) and sold 3,900 downloads (up less than 1%) in the tracking week.

TRIPLE THREAT Jason Aldean's "Trouble With a Heartbreak" (Macon/Broken Bow) crowns Country

Airplay for a third week, up 3% to 27.9 million audience impressions.

Aldean adds his sixth Country Airplay No. 1 that has reigned for at least three weeks, and his second in a row, after "If I Didn't Love You," with Carrie Underwood, ruled for three frames beginning last October.

Of Aldean's 25 Country Airplay leaders, his longest-commanding is "Big Green Tractor," which dominated for four frames starting in September 2009.





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COUNTRY **POWER PLAYERS**

Billboard's ninth annual Country Power Players issue will profile the people who have driven another solid year for the country music industry in sales, streaming and publishing. This special feature will highlight the top executives, artists and changemakers who kept the music playing during challenging times, as well as coverage of the changing face of country music.

Advertise in Billboard's Country Power Players issue to congratulate this year's honorees while reaching key decision-makers who are driving the music business.

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billboard Country Airplay



THIS	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	1	21	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow ** No. 1 (3 Weeks) ** Jason Aldean	27.860	+0.908	7513	186	2
2	3	34	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek Parmalee	27.490	+2.755	7532	503	1
3	4	18	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	25.386	+2.770	7093	672	4
4	6	42	WILD HEARTS Hit Red/Capitol Nashville ★★ Most Increased Audience ★★ Keith Urban	24.515	+4.657	7361	1483	3
5	7	28	AA Monument Walker Hayes	19.814	+0.443	6094	229	5
6	5	36	TILYOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	19.161	-1.706	4663	-837	10
Ø	9	33	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	18.419	+2.295	5268	468	6
8	2	31	SLOW DOWN SUMMER Valory Thomas Rhett	18.035	-7.600	5167	-2164	7
9	8	29	NEVER SAY NEVER Broken Bow/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell / Lainey Wilson	17.500	-1.219	4674	-454	9
10	10	44	7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine Tim McGraw	16.218	+0.571	5122	393	8
0	11	44	BESTTHING SINCE BACKROADS Big Loud Jake Owen	14.395	+0.514	4321	6	11
1	12	22	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN Columbia Nashville Maren Morris	13.676	+0.415	4166	191	12
ß	13	34	IF I WAS A COWBOY Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	13.373	+0.789	4154	303	13
14	14	40	NEWTRUCK Curb Dylan Scott	13.307	+1.301	4112	289	14
15	16	5	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville Kane Brown	12.585	+1.566	3826	517	16
16	15	38	ATTHE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	12.062	+0.793	3837	149	15
Ð	17	16	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	10.546	+1.197	3518	266	17
18	21	14	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine ★★ Airpower ★★ Jackson Dean	8.191	+0.911	2809	276	20
19	20	32	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory Justin Moore	8.135	+0.955	3134	231	18
20	18	21	FLOWER SHOPS Big Loud ERNEST Featuring Morgan Wallen	8.100	+0.336	2771	-52	21
3	19	17	EVERYONE SHE KNOWS Blue Chair/Warner Bros./WEA Kenny Chesney	7.910	+0.512	2848	116	19
22	22	12	GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville Carrie Underwood	6.736	+0.751	2586	364	22
23	24	22	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville Mitchell Tenpenny	6.712	+1.497	2085	391	26
24	23	41	COUNTRY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU Stoney Creek Frank Ray	5.738	+0.469	2378	139	23
25	28	14	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	5.376	+1.086	1958	212	28
26	26	25	NO HARD FEELINGS Arista Nashville Old Dominion	5.098	+0.449	2316	192	24
2	27	23	WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	5.034	+0.562	1818	147	29
28	25	17	PARTY MODE Broken Bow Dustin Lynch	4.996	+0.322	2270	105	25
29	29	17	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barrett	3.816	+0.427	1558	170	31
30	31	32	WILDER DAYS Ladylike/Arista Nashville Morgan Wade	3.433	+0.582	1783	109	30

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by 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	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
<u> </u>	30	27	SOUL Curb Lee Brice	3.419	+0.230	2006	108	27
€	37	3	5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville ** Breaker/Most Added ** Tyler Hubbard	3.028	+1.230	1026	395	38
3 3	33	9	SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	2.708	+0.410	1073	112	37
34	32	18	OUT INTHE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band	2.688	+0.194	1303	57	33
35	36	12	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek Jimmie Allen	2.419	+0.511	1404	82	32
<u>36</u>	34	9	HEARTFIRST Black River Kelsea Ballerini	2.410	+0.232	1208	81	34
37	35	28	YOU DIDN'T BMLG Brett Young	2.046	-0.040	1135	23	36
38	38	16	MY BAR inDent/Mercury Nashville Priscilla Block	1.962	+0.310	1136	111	35
39	39	9	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Chris Stapleton	1.776	+0.125	850	33	40
40	40	21	LEARN FROM IT Valory Conner Smith	1.742	+0.167	970	51	39
41	41	16	WHAT A SONG CAN DO BMLG Lady A	1.365	+0.213	767	68	41
42	43	7	GROWING OLD WITH YOU 1021/RCA Nashville Restless Road	1.329	+0.301	402	50	52
43	44	13	HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	1.247	+0.265	682	97	42
44	42	3	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	1.157	+0.122	587	83	43
45	45	10	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill Joe Nichols	0.995	+0.090	551	39	45
46	47	13	CAN'T DO WITHOUT ME Stoney Creek Chayce Beckham & Lindsay Ell	0.894	+0.010	584	37	44
4	48	28	GIVING YOU UP Columbia Nashville Kameron Marlowe	0.864	+0.017	408	13	50
48	50	18	SON OF A Riser House Dillon Carmichael	0.858	+0.078	509	24	46
49	51	14	LOVETALKING Valory Eli Young Band	0.831	+0.006	327	-4	60
50	52	10	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music Randy Houser	0.791	+0.012	455	35	47
51	49	6	DON'TTHINK JESUS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	0.725	-0.077	182	-12	-
52	53	11	DRINKIN' IT WRONG Arista Nashville Adam Doleac	0.720	+0.004	193	-25	-
53	55	7	HELLYEAH Capitol Nashville Little BigTown	0.679	+0.018	373	-8	55
54	54	5	CATCHING UP WITH AN OL' MEMORY Thirty Tigers/Show Dog Nashville Clay Walker	0.651	-0.013	409	9	49
55	46	2	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	0.601	-0.381	168	-44	-
56	56	16	MISSING ONE River House/Columbia Nashville Jameson Rodgers	0.576	+0.016	381	9	54
5	RE-EI	NTRY	SONGS ABOUTYOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN Brett Eldredge	0.549	+0.191	342	28	59
53	NE	€W	KEYS TO THE COUNTRY Warner Music Nashville/WAR ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★ Chris Janson	0.541	+0.135	310	53	-
59	57	5	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud Hailey Whitters	0.535	-0.002	188	28	-
60	59	6	DATES IN PICKUPTRUCKS Interscope/MCA Nashville Kassi Ashton	0.534	+0.004	406	8	51



GOING FOR ADDS

6/13

ERIC CHURCH
Doing Life With Me

TIFFANY WOYS
I Don't Want You Back
Tiffany Woys

6/20

COLE SWINDELL She Had Me At Heads Carolina

Warner Music Nashville/WMN

MARYNN TAYLOR Every Single Summer Black River

TIM DUGGER Heart Of A Small Town TY HERNDON
Til You Get There

Pivotal

6/27

CARL RAY HOPPER
Country Girl Mine

C C B Nashville

HAILEY WHITTERS Everything She Ain't Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud

NATE SMITH Whiskey On You Arista Nashville

TOBY KEITH Oklahoma Breakdown Show Dog Nashville

MCC/Cur

billboard Country Airplay

LUMINATE

MOST ADDED®						
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS				
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	23				
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	14				
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	8				
TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	6				
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	6				
EASY TONIGHT RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	6				
WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	6				
HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	5				
MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	5				
NO HARD FEELINGS Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	4				

MOST ADDED®						
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS				
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	23				
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	14				
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	8				
TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	6				
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	6				
EASY TONIGHT RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	6				
WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	6				
HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	5				
MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	5				
NO HARD FEELINGS Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	4				

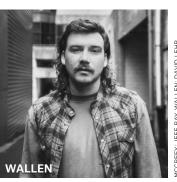
NEW AND	ACTI	VE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL Audience	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
PASS IT ON Arista Nashville	Ryan Hurd	0.482	36	1
HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Co	dy Johnson	0.457	7	3
CRAZY ONE MORETIME (2022) MCA Nashville	Kip Moore	0.446	34	3
MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	0.402	22	5
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER Big Yellow Dog/Atlantic,/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Jessie James Decker	0.401	14	1
DOWNTOWN BABY Monument Ca	itlyn Smith	0.389	40	2
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE						
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)				
WILD HEARTS Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	+4.657				
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.770				
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+2.755				
DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+2.295				
LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+1.567				
TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	+1.497				
NEW TRUCK Curb	Dylan Scott	+1.301				
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1.230				
LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	+1.197				
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1.086				

	RECURRENTS						
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)					
1	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	16.138					
2	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	13.946					
3	23 MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	12.734					
4	SAND IN MY BOOTS Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	12.407					
5	FOREVER AFTER ALL River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	11.073					
6	DRUNK (AND I DON'T WANNA GO HOME) RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King & Miranda Lambert	10.562					
7	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	10.517					
8	BEERS ON ME Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley, BRELAND & HARDY	9.873					
9	BUY DIRT MCA Nashville Jordan Davis Featuring Luke Bryan	9.291					
10	DOIN' THIS River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	8.597					

MOST INCREASI	ED PLAYS	
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
WILD HEARTS Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	+1483
WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+672
LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	+517
TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	+503
DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+468
5 FOOT 9 EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+395
7500 OBO McGraw/Big Machine	Tim McGraw	+393
TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	+391
GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	+364
IF I WAS A COWBOY Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	+303





TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JUNE 5, 2022

THIS	LAST	WKS ON		TW	SPINS	THIC	LACT	WIVE ON			TW	CDUNC
WEEK		CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	SPINS	+/-	THIS WEEK	LAST Week	WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
0	2	21	GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★ Kylie Frey & Bri Bagwell	1814	83	11	12	26	LIKE A HURRICANE (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1209	-68
2	3	14	DANCIN' WITH THE DEVIL (Independent) Josh Ward	1756	50	P	14	18	ANOTHER YOU (Independent)	Drew Fish Band	1208	25
3	4	16	ALL YOU GOT (Independent) William Clark Green	1741	54	13	1	18	AIN'T WORTH THE HEARTACHE (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1179	-645
4	5	15	JOHN WAYNE (Independent) Whiskey Myers	1640	-4	1	15	20	EVEN TEXAS COULDN'T HOLD HER (Independent)	Casey Chesnutt	1165	64
6	6	13	A COWGIRL LIKE YOU (Independent) Jon Wolfe	1609	41	1 5	16	17	WAVE DANCER (Soundly Music)	The Wilder Blue	1151	72
6	10	10	PHONES DON'T WORK (Independent) Wade Bowen	1452	66	16	17	13	TRACTOR TOWN (Independent)	Jake Bush	1103	64
Ø	9	14	THE HIGHWAY KIND (Independent) Josh Abbott Band	1427	31	D	18	16	BEAUTIFUL LOVE SONGS (Independent)	George Navarro	1044	36
8	11	26	CAUSE HE'S A COWBOY (Independent) Matt Castillo	1364	13	18	19	16	LOVE'S GOT A HOLD ON YOU (Independent)	Bart Crow Band	1023	20
9	7	27	DRIVE ME TO DRINKING (Independent) Sundance Head	1299	-236	19	21	18	COME HOME TO YOU (10X Music Group)	Brodie Lane	1013	54
10	13	19	WATERING HOLE (Independent) Kendall Shaffer f/ Jeffery Allen Imler	1275	18	20	8	17	UNWANTED MAN (Independent)	Aaron Watson	1001	-407

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

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Jackson Dean performed current single "Don't Come Lookin'" as he made his Grand Ole Opry debut on May 31. From left: Opry vp/executive producer Dan Rogers, Dean, Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta and Opry Entertainment Group director of artist relations Jordan Pettit.

'LUCILLE' WRITER HAL BYNUM RECALLED

He picked a fine time to leave us.

Songwriter Hal Bynum, 87, whose composition "Lucille" sparked Kenny Rogers' rise as a country artist in 1977, died June 2 following a battle with Alzheimer's and a stroke, according to a press release issued by his widow, Rebecca Bynum.

The plaintive "You picked a fine time to leave me, Lucille" chorus in Bynum's trademark copyright, co-written with **Roger Bowling**, was a 1970s archetype of the country story song, blending a broken home, poverty and a barroom encounter into sad, singalong gold.

Born in Ralls, Texas, Bynum moved to Nashville in 1968. A year later, a reworked version of "Nobody's Fool" — featuring vocals recorded by **Jim Reeves** prior to his death in 1964 — became Bynum's first top 10 single as a songwriter. He also penned the 1978 **Johnny Cash & Waylon Jennings** collaboration "There Ain't No Good Chain Gang" and **Patty Loveless**' 1990 chart-topper "Chains."

The family will hold a private memorial at his home. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested in his name to the $\underline{Urantia\ Fellowship}$.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Warner Music Nashville officially promoted Ben Kline and Cris Lacy to copresident of the division from executive vp/GM and executive vp of A&R, respectively. The move comes months ahead of a previously cited 2023 promotion. Chairman/CEO John Esposito is still expected to become chairman emeritus next year ... Briarman Whitfield will rise to EMI Nashville manager of West Coast promotion from promotions coordinator on June 14 ... BMLG Records signed Shane Proffitt to a recording deal in partnership with Chris Janson's Harpeth 60 label ... Bluegrass performer David Parmley joined the roster at 615 Hideaway in a multialbum deal ... Casi Joy signed a recording deal with Vere Music and selected Gold Mountain Entertainment's Richard Ellis and Ron Stone as her managers. Her first single under the new arrangement, "Everything's Fine," is due June 17 ... Sunday Supper Music Group added singersongwriter Adam Warner to the label's artist roster ... Jeff Kurkjian will join the WXTU Philadelphia morning show on July 1. He wrapped his last role, in mornings at KCYE Las Vegas, on June 3 ... Isaac "Brooks" Wenzel starts June 20 as KBAY San Jose assistant PD/afternoon host, CountryInsight.com reported. The move follows his recently completed role as **WFMS** Indianapolis music director/afternoon personality. Wenzel arrives three days after San Jose rival KRTY drops its on-air country format, which will be relegated to online streaming ... $\mbox{{\bf KHLT}}$ Wichita, Kan., flipped to classic country on June 1 while moving its previous regional Mexican format to another frequency, according to RadioInsight.com ... Services were held June 6 for veteran Lexington, Ky., personality Karl Shannon, who died June 1, at the Milward-Southland Funeral Home. He retired from full-time duties in 2018, following a 47-year career that included stops at WLXO Lexington; WAKY Louisville, Ky.; WBIR Knoxville, Tenn.; and **WONE** Dayton, Ohio ... Former **KMON** Great Falls, Mt., personality **Skip Walters** died May 29, **KRTV-TV** Great Falls reported. His career started at **KATL** Miles City, Mt., in 1976. He settled in Great Falls in 1979, working at **KEIN** and KMON, where he spent the final 27 years of his career before retiring in 2017.

'ROUND THE ROW

Major Bob vice president **Tina Crawford** announced her departure from the publishing company after eight years to focus on artist management. Reach her here ... AEG Presents COO of festivals Melissa Ormond added Goldenvoice COO to her job description. Goldenvoice operates the high-profile Stagecoach Country Music Festival ... Jeannie Seely tapped B! Noticed PR founder Bev Moser as her new manager and hired Adkins Publicity to handle media ... Songwriter Jessi Alexander ("Never Say Never," "Don't Think Jesus") extended her publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville ... Endurance Music Group welcomed singer-songwriter Jake Rose to its publishing roster ... Leadership Music accepted 46 industry members for its class of 2023, which begins in October. Among the participants are Sam Forbert, CAA; Ben Hall, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum; John Clore, Curb Records; and Kelly Striewski, Country Music Association. Go here for the full list ... The Academy of Country Music announced 10 new special award recipients, set to be recognized during the ACM Honors on Aug. 24. ACM triple crown award winner Miranda Lambert leads the group. Go here for the full list ... The Mechanical Licensing Collective partnered with Nashville Music Equality for a one-day summit, "For the Culture: Empowering Black Music Creators to Achieve Beyond Reach," on June 21. Go here to register ... Gibson Garage is celebrating its one-year anniversary in Nashville with a series of performances June 6-12 at the shop, located at 209 10th Ave. S. Among the performers: Darius Rucker, Elvie Shane and Callista Clark. Go here for the full schedule ... Sony Music Nashville will feature about 20 performances, appearances and artist-focused parties at ACME Feed & Seed, in the heart of the CMA Fest footprint, during the festival June 9-12. Participants include Niko Moon, Seaforth and Kat & Alex. Go here for the complete schedule ... Carrie Underwood is holding a live Amazon Music event from Nashville's Historic Bell Tower on June 9, a day before the release of her new album, Denim & Rhinestones ... BMI launches its annual Rooftop on the Row live series on June 21 with five monthly performances through Oct. 18. Among the participants: ERNEST, BRELAND and Tenille Arts ... Big Machine Music is celebrating one decade since its 2012 launch. The current roster features 20 songwriters, including Laura Veltz ("What a Song Can Do"), Brett Young, Maddie & Tae and Eric Paslay ("Wild Hearts") ... Circle Network will launch a 12-episode series — Austin City Limits: Country, hosted by Rodney Crowell — on June 8, blending vintage performances by the likes of Johnny Cash, George Jones and Reba McEntire with previously unaired interview material ... Girls Write Nashville, a nonprofit that encourages teen expression through music, will receive a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts ... Deborah McCrary of the Nashville vocal group The McCrary Sisters died June 1. The Americana staples also contributed to albums by Carrie Underwood, Sheryl Crow and Maren Morris, who featured the McCrarys in her first top 10 single, "My Church."



Miranda Lambert (left) joined Elle King and producer-songwriter Martin Johnson as BMI hosted a No. 1 party on May 25 for "Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)."

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
0	1	2	41	WASTED ON YOU ★★ No. 1 (4 Weeks) ★★ J.MOI.J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	3	1
2	2	1	3	YOU PROOF J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN,A.GORLEY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
3	6	8	31	TAKE MY NAME D.FANNING (M.THOMAS, A.GORLEY, D.FANNING, B. JOHNSON)	Parmalee STONEY CREEK	2	3
4	7	4	28	AA W.HAYES,J.THIBODEAU,S.M.CANALLY (W.HAYES,S.M.CANALLY,L.LAIRD)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	5	3
5	4	5	20	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK M.KNOX (B.BEAVERS,K.M.ALLISON,T.KENNEDY,J.MORGAN)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	1	4
6	5	3	37	'TIL YOU CAN'T T.W.WILLMON (B.M.STENNIS,M.ROGERS)	Cody Johnson COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	6	1
7	3	12	6	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	3
8	8	10	15	DAMN STRAIT F.ROGERS,D.WELLS,A.ESHUIS (J.A.COLLINS,T.TOMLINSON)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	7	8
9	10	16	16	FALL IN LOVE A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,G.LUCAS)	Bailey Zimmerman HURRICANE BAILEY/ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	9
10	11	13	30	SLOW DOWN SUMMER D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,S.M.DOUGLAS,J.FRASURE,A.GORLEY)	Thomas Rhett VALORY	8	9
0	12	20	4	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC D.HUFF (K.BROWN,M.J.MCGINN,T.PHILLIPS,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown RCA NASHVILLE	15	11
12	9	6	4	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW J.MOI (M.WALLEN,N.GALYON,M.LAMBERT)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
13	13	15	32	IF I WAS A COWBOY JON RANDALL, LDICK (M. LAMBERT, J. FRASURE)	Miranda Lambert VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE	13	8
12	14	14	22	FLOWER SHOPS J.MOI (E.K.SMITH,B.D/BURGESS,M.L.HOLMAN)	ERNEST Featuring Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD	20	14
15	16	18	20	SHE LIKES IT J.KERR,J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON,J.SCOTT,J.KERR)	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott TRIPLE TIGERS	33	15
16	24	25	11	GHOST STORY ** Streaming Gainer ** D.GARCIA,C.UNDERWOOD (D.A.GARCIA, J. KEAR, H. LINDSEY, H. WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW)	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	22	16
1	25	35	5	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA ∠.CROWELL (A.GORLEY,C.SWINDELL,J.FRASURE,M.D. SANDERS,THOMAS RHETT,T.NICHOLS)	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	17
18	15	19	21	CIRCLES AROUND THIS TOWN G.KURSTIN (M.MORRIS,R.J.HURD,JULIA MICHAELS,J.ROBBINS)	Maren Morris COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	12	9
19	21	24	33	WILD HEARTS M.FURR,K.URBAN (K.URBAN,E.PASLAY,B.F.TURSI,J.WAYNE) ★★ Airplay Gainer ★★	Keith Urban HIT RED/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	4	19
20	18	22	15	LAST NIGHT LONELY J.PARDI,B.BUTLER,R.GORE (J.BELL,J.FOX,D.MARLOWE)	Jon Pardi Capitol nashville	17	18
a	19	23	24	7500 OBO B.GALLIMORE,T.MCGRAW (M.J.MCGINN,J.SCHOTT,N.SPICER)	Tim McGraw McGRAW/BIG MACHINE	10	19
22	17	21	4	WHISKEY ON YOU LRIMES (N.SMITH,LRIMES,R.SUTTON)	Nate Smith ARISTA NASHVILLE	-	14
23	33	_	2	5 FOOT 9 T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD,J.JOHNSTON,C.MCGILL)	Tyler Hubbard EMI NASHVILLE	32	23
24	34	26	6	TOMORROW ME LCOMBS, CHIP MATTHEWS, J.D. SINGLETON (L.COMBS, D.DILLON, R.FULCHER)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	13
25	20	17	7	DON'T THINK JESUS J.MOI (J.L.ALEXANDER,M.LHOLMAN,C.MCGILL)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	51	1

COUNTRY SONGWRITERSTM

1	# 1 5 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
2	МО	RGAN WALLEN
3	ER	NEST
4	AS	HLEY GORLEY
5	СН	ARLIE HANDSOME
6	JE	SSE FRASURE
7	MIF	RANDA LAMBERT
8	BE	N MERRITT STENNIS
9	MA	TT ROGERS
10	SH	ANE MCANALLY



1	# 1 70 WKS	JOEY MOI
2	DA	VID FANNING
3	RY	AN HADLOCK
4	DA	NN HUFF
5	MIC	CHAEL KNOX
6	TR	ENT WILLMON
7	AU	STIN RAKESH SHAWN
8	JA	COB DURRETT
9	ZA	CH CROWELL
10	SH	ANE MCANALLY

COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

billboard Hot Country Songs

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK Position
26	22	37	14	NARCISSIST D.FANNING (A.ANNA,D.FANNING,B.WILLIAMS,A.SHERIDAN)	Avery Anna WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	22
3	27	30	16	NEW TRUCK M.ALDERMAN,C.GIBBS,J.E.NORMAN (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,B.JOHNSON,A.GORLEY)	Dylan Scott CURB	14	27
28	32	32	22	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBB,C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	39	27
29	26	29	28	BEST THING SINCE BACKROADS J.MOI (B.JOHNSON,J.MINTON,H.PHELPS,G.WARBURTON)	Jake Owen BIG LOUD	11	26
30	38	41	15	SOUL B.GLOVER,K.JACOBS,LBRICE (K.KADISH,T.FERRARI)	Lee Brice CURB	31	30
31	23	28	12	WILD AS HER C.FARREN (M.WALLEN, BRETT TYLER, K.ARCHER)	Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS	-	23
32	29	31	25	PICK ME UP R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,J.M.NITE,R.COPPERMAN)	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	29	25
33	NE	w	1	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,M.DRAGSTREM,R.J.HURD) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	55	33
34	35	38	23	AT THE END OF A BAR C. DESTEFANO,C.YOUNG,C. DESTEFANO,M.TENPENNY)	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny RCA NASHVILLE	16	33
35	37	36	36	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	27	31
36	30	34	9	SON OF A SINNER ERNEST K,I.TOSHINSKY (J.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	25	30
37	31	33	44	TRUTH ABOUT YOU J.M.SCHMIDT,M.TENPENNY, M.ALDERMAN, T.ARCHER)	Mitchell Tenpenny RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	23	27
38	43	39	8	HEARTFIRST J.BUNETTA,S.MCANALLY (K.BALLERINI,K.FAIRCHILD,A.VANDERHEYM)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	36	25
39	45	44	11	NO HARD FEELINGS S.M.CANALLY,OLD DOMINION (M.RAMSEY,T. ROSEN,W.SELLERS,G.SPRUNG,B.F.TURSI,S.M.CANALLY)	Old Dominion ARISTA NASHVILLE	26	39
40	40	45	11	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE,P.DIGIOVANNI,C.MCGILL,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	19	40
4	41	40	18	WILDER DAYS S.VADEN,PEBERSOLD (M.WADE,S.VADEN)	Morgan Wade LADYLIKE/ARISTA NASHVILLE	30	36
42	44	43	11	DEAR ALCOHOL LEX NOUR (D.NWOSU JR.)	Dax LIVING LEGEND/RECORDS/COLUMBIA	-	28
43	46	46	12	GROWING OLD WITH YOU J.KEIM (C.KELLEY,J.MINTON,J.REYNOLDS)	Restless Road 1021/RCA NASHVILLE	42	42
4	RE-EI	NTRY	4	EVERYONE SHE KNOWS R.COPPERMAN,K.CHESNEY (R.COPPERMAN,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER BROS./WEA	21	44
45	36	47	14	FROM AUSTIN R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	28
46	NE	W	1	PROJECT J.JACOBS (P.C.MCDANIEL, J.A.JACOBS)	Chase McDaniel CHASE MCDANIEL	-	46
4	PRAISE THE LORD J.BUNETTA,K.FISHMAN,J.DURRETT (D.BRELAND,J.R.DURRETT,K.FISHMAN,R.H.BLOCK,THOMAS RHETT,M.W.I		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	
48	NEW 1 DON'T COME LOOKIN' LDICK (J.DEAN,L.DICK)			Jackson Dean BIG MACHINE	18	48	
49	RE-EI	NTRY	6	PARTY MODE Z.CROWELL (J.FLOWERS,R.BEAVER,R.ALEXANDER,J.KEIM,M.MCGINN)	Dustin Lynch Broken Bow	28	30
50	28	_	2	HEAVY EYES ESPEAR (Z.LBRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	28

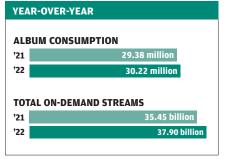
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, sales data as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Descending titles below No.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

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT								
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND					
This Week	1,538,000	1,835,368,000	131,899,000					
Last Week	1,516,000	1,794,407,000	130,674,000					
Change	1.5%	2.3%	0.9%					
This Week Last Year	1,407,000	1,587,486,000	136,958,000					
Change	9.3%	15.6%	-3.7%					

YEAR-TO-DA	TE		
	2021	2022	CHANGE
Album Consumption	29,381,000	30,222,000	2.9%
Album Sales	3,942,000	2,969,000	-24.7%
Audio On-Demand	32,384,349,000	35,096,059,000	8.4%
Video On-Demand	3,067,574,000	2,806,020,000	-8.5%



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending June 2, 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.



STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

billboard top country albums

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
0	2	1	73	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
2	1	_	2	ZACH BRYAN AMERICAN HEARTBREAK BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER		1
3	3	2	134	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
4	4	4	261	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	3	1
6	5	3	209	MORGAN WALLEN IF I KNOW ME BIG LOUD 783*	2	1
6	7	7	370	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
0	8	6	81	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
8	6	5	29	TAYLOR SWIFT RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 034504*		1
9	9	8	19	WALKER HAYES COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM MONUMENT 98353		2
1	10	10	280	GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	7	1
0	12	11	347	ZAC BROWN BAND GREATEST HITS SO FAR HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG		3
Œ	15	16	8	COLE SWINDELL STEREOTYPE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN		6
13	11	9	5	MIRANDA LAMBERT PALOMINO VANNER/RCA NASHVILLE 96572*/SMN		2
12	14	14	313	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98) NUMBER ONE HITS		6
Œ	21	20	182	TOBY KEITH 35 BIGGEST HITS SHOW DOG-UNIVERSAL 010334/UME (19.98)		1
16	16	15	151	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	9
Ð	20	21	192	ELVIS PRESLEY ELV1S: 30 #1 HITS RCA 68079*/LEGACY (19.98/12.98)	6	1
Œ	22	19	80	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*	•	7
19	13	13	34	CODY JOHNSON HUMAN: THE DOUBLE ALBUM COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 666969*/WMN		3
20	19	17	283	BROOKS & DUNN THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852/LEGACY (18.98/12.98)	4	2
3	23	18	88	HARDY A ROCK BIG LOUD 836*		4
22	17	12	6	JASON ALDEAN GEORGIA MACON/BROKEN BOW/BMG 538743982/BBMG		2
23	18	23	102	GABBY BARRETT GOLDMINE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 629930/WMN		4
24	25	33	7	PARMALEE FOR YOU STONEY CREEK/BMG DIGITAL EX/BBMG		24
25	27	25	305	JON PARDI CALIFORNIA SUNRISE CAPITOL NASHVILLE 024744*/UMGN		1

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country 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.

billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

REAMING & SALES TA COMPILED BY
LUMINATE

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	_	2	ZACH BRYAN AMERICAN HEARTBREAK BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER		1
2	2	3	316	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
3	3	2	81	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
4	5	4	168	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	•	2
5	6	6	362	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	3	1
6	7	7	321	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738* CLEOPATRA		1
7	4	1	3	THE BLACK KEYS EASY EYE SOUND/NONESUCH 667104*/WARNER DROPOUT BOOGIE		1
8	9	9	278	SIMON & GARFUNKEL SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS COLUMBIA 31350/LEGACY		3
9	NEW 1 WILCO CRUEL COUNTR			9		
1	14	14	176	JOHN MELLENCAMP THE BEST THAT I COULD DO 1978 - 1988 MERCURY 536738*/UME	3	4

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.

billboard billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

311	VE.	Αľ	11110 301103	יוט	GII	AL	SONG SALES
THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	3	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN	0	N	EW	PROJECT CHASE MCDANIEL
2	2	6	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN	2	3	3	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
3	3	72	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN	3	4	28	AA WALKER HAYES
4	4	6	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN	4	5	23	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
6	6	268	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON	6	23	6	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL
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billboard Bluegrass Albums

SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL		PEAK POS.
0	2	4	28	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS RAISE THE ROOF ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD		1
2	1	1	13	DOLLY PARTON RUN, ROSE, RUN BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*		1
3	3 3 30		36	BILLY STRINGS RENEWAL ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD		1
4	NEW		NEW 1 AUTHENTIC UNLIMITED AUTHENTIC UNLIMITED BILLY BLUE 0032			4
5	NE	1 AUTHENTIC UNLIMITED GOSPEL SESSIONS, VOL. 1 BILLY BLUE 0033			5	
6	RE-E	NTRY	6	CHOSEN ROAD APPALACHIAN HYMNS SONG GARDEN 4508		4
7	5	6	41	STURGILL SIMPSON THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS		1
8	4 2 9		9	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY CROOKED TREE NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER		2
9	6 5 6 OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW PAINT THIS TOWN			1		
10	7	7	77	TO STURGILL SIMPSON CUTTIN' GRASS, VOL. 2: THE COWBOY ARMS SESSIONS HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 44155*/THIRTY TIGERS		1

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

Matt Stell's 'Man Made' Respects A Woman's Touch, And The Writers' Turn Of A Phrase

"Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes."

Jim Carrey's line from the 2003 movie Bruce Almighty is a humorous take on a female's ability to handle the egos, fish tales and dad jokes that are often part and parcel of their husbands' public presentations. But the eye rolls are less important than the roll of the dice those women take when they make a commitment to stand by their man. And any guy worth his salt is aware of their role in his life.

Thus, Matt Stell's sense of his own familial inheritance fits his new single, "Man Made."

"I come from a long line of badass women," he says.

And they likely instilled an appreciation for dad jokes -wordplay, as they're called by country music songwriters — which is part of the reason Stell ends up infusing so much believability into the song and its turn-of-phrase hook: "Behind any guy doing anything right is a woman's work at hand/If a man made anything it's 'cause a woman made that man."

"A lot of what makes country music great is the lyric turn - you know, when the lyrics do something interesting," Stell says. "I think the title of this song definitely does that. You think it's one thing, and you hear it, and it's another. That's my favorite way for a lyric to work. And then it's got a melody that I just want to sing a million times."

A woman's work is definitely at hand in the creation of "Man Made," which had its genesis in the Nashville-area kitchen of songwriter Brett Sheroky on Nov. 12, 2018. For co-writer lan Christian, the inspiration was a composite of several influential females, but for Sheroky, it

was entirely an appreciation for his wife, Christi, whom he met when they both studied speech therapy at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She convinced him to move to Nashville so he could pursue writing, and they waited a difficult 11 years of him working by day and writing at night before he finally got a publishing deal.

"I wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for her," reasons Sheroky. "I wouldn't have kept doing it and kept trying if it wasn't for her. So that hook, the idea of the song, she is the epitome."

Christian suggested the "Man Made" title, and Sheroky had a similar idea, so he had already thought a bit about the creative journey they were about to take.

"I didn't have anything other than the fact that not everything's man made, and I kind of knew I wanted it to be more of like a praise for women," Christian recalls. "Then Brett took that - I remember him saying, 'Why are you holding that idea?' - and he just ran with that and really was able to land that hook."

Sheroky also devised the underlying acoustic guitar part: a lilting, rhythmic thread with a faint Jack Johnson vibe that includes an almost jazzy ninth chord, a rarity in country.

Knowing where it was headed, they dug in at the top of the first verse, compiling a laundry list of significant inventions by men who presumably required a woman's support to change the world. The bulk of those creations fall between 1850 and 1920: skyscrapers, the record player, the radio, the airplane, the light bulb. They Googled those objects' histories, too, to make sure that men had created them.

The chorus very specifically gave a nod to Mama. And when they tackled verse two, they purposely abandoned the list approach, settling on just two items inspired by women - the wheel, "so he could drive a girl around," and the "Mona Lisa," which got its own bouncy turn of a phrase with a clever internal rhyme: "And you can't convince me that **da Vinci** would be as famous as he is ..."

"I love ending a line on a two-syllable word and then having to rhyme both syllables with that word because that just doesn't get done as much," says Sheroky. "But three-syllable words and nailing 'da Vinci/convince me,' I kind of

get a little bit of a smile every time we say that. It's like working a little extra hard for something, but it pays off."

They recorded a demo built around Sheroky's acoustic guitar, with a few additional instruments overdubbed later, though they kept the end results intentionally spare.

"When you have one part that just does so much alone, that doesn't step on anything else, you really don't have to do much more to sell the song," Christian says.

Sheroky, though, felt the song needed one more thing. He fought for a bridge that would personalize "Man Made" just a bit, departing from the song's third-

> person viewpoint to a first-person message directed at the woman who inspires the singer. They finished "Man Made" in February 2019.

> "I'm so glad they wrote a bridge because that bridge does kind of turn the focus on to a love interest, which I think is pretty powerful," assesses Stell.

> Granger Smith was first to cover "Man Made," releasing his version in November 2020. Sea Gayle senior creative director of A&R Kim Wiggins subsequently pitched a handful of Sheroky's songs to producer Ash Bowers (Jimmie Allen, George Birge), and he nabbed "Man Made" for Stell, who had just visited Paris for the first time several months earlier and seen da Vinci's "Mona Lisa." They were unaware of Smith's recording at first, but since it wasn't a single, they didn't care that it had been previously cut.

> Bowers and Stell both thought they should follow the demo's uncluttered motif.

"The two things I wanted to keep in the production was that acoustic guitar and then just making sure the song could be the song," Bowers says. "The demo was so good, it made my job so easy."

They recorded it on Feb. 7 at the Black River Studios in Nashville, with several guitarists providing light, shimmering parts that darted in and out without calling much attention to themselves. The bulk of that was accomplished at the session, though **Ilya Toshinsky** took a little extra time at a later date to fully re-create the demo's acoustic guitar.

'It's a fairly complex timing kind of thing that is repetitious," says Bowers. "It's not a lead lick, but it's like a rhythmic signature lick for the song. It's more picking than strumming. It's not just hitting a couple of notes. It's just getting in that groove and perfecting that for three and a half minutes."

Songwriter Clint Lagerberg ("Blue Ain't Your Color," "Here Comes Goodbye") engineered Stell's final vocal session for "Man Made," which required some warmups before he could go seriously after it.

"We started recording at about 9 a.m.," Stell recalls, "so it took me several times of singing the song through until it was even worth hitting the Record button. In that chorus, there's a part where I don't have the highest voice, so I had to go up and get it a little bit. Once we kind of got warmed up, it didn't take all that many passes, but it did take a while to get all that morning rust off."

The video features numerous real-life pairings of men with the women who made them, including Sheroky and Christi, who appear (ironically) during the bridge that he fought to create.

Meanwhile, RECORDS Nashville released "Man Made" to country radio stations on April 29. It appeared on the Most Added and New & Active charts associated with the Country Airplay chart dated June 5, operating with a counterintuitive sort of promise.

when you hear them and command attention," says Stell. "But sometimes, you can be understated and it's even more powerful when the song kind of speaks for itself."

No eye rolls required. •

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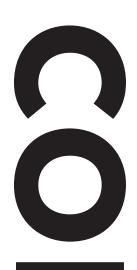
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35 Years Ago

Randy Travis Got A Resounding 'Amen'

In 1987, the baritone crooner hit No. 1 with what would become one of his signature songs

On June 13, 1987, **Randy Travis'** "Forever and Ever, Amen" hit No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart.

Penned by **Paul Overstreet** and **Don Schlitz**, and produced by **Kyle Lehning**, the song was released as the lead single from Travis' second LP, *Always and Forever*. The album crowned Top Country Albums for 43 weeks — the most for any title at the time; it now boasts

the fourth-most frames at No. 1 in the chart's 58-year history.

Always and Forever produced three other No. 1 singles: "I Won't Need You Anymore (Always and Forever)," "Too Gone Too Long" and "I Told You So."

"Amen" marked Travis' third of 16 Hot Country Songs leaders. He has tallied 30 top 10s, the most recent being an update of "I Told You So," with Carrie Underwood, which the pair performed on *American Idol* in 2009. It hit No. 2 on Hot Country Songs and No. 9 on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100, becoming his first top 10.

Now 63, the Marshville, N.C.-born Travis suffered a stroke in 2013. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in October 2016.

-JIM ASKER

