

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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11 Minutes Documentary Explores The Tragedy, And Aftermath, Of Route 91 Massacre

It was just 11 minutes. Roughly the length of three country singles. But that window of time changed a lot of lives and ended 58.

It has now been five years, but the 11-minute span of a mass shooting at Las Vegas' Route 91 Harvest festival on Oct. 1, 2017, continues to reverberate. SiriusXM host **Storme Warren**, who

was the MC at the concert, maintains a "text message relationship" with a trauma therapist who works with the Navy SEALs. **Jason Aldean** and **Dee Jay Silver**, who were among the artists who performed that day, admit to bouts of survivor's guilt. And hundreds of people move through their lives with scars from the attack, such as concertgoer **Natalie Grumet**, whose visibly resealed left jaw is a daily reminder that the paramedics doubted she would make it after her teeth were blown out.

"They said that it looked like a grenade had gone off from the inside of my mouth," she recalls in the film. "You could see the gums and teeth and bones and chin sticking out, and I'm trying to not pass out, keep it together."

Paramount+ will premiere a four-part documentary, *11 Minutes*, on Sept. 27, recounting the horror of that surprisingly short torrent of bullets, the bravery of Las Vegas police who thought they might die — but attempted to bring down the killer anyway — and the long-tail aftermath, including both unimaginable loss and survivors' unexpected new friendships.

"People were genuinely involved in taking care of other people, and to a degree that I couldn't fathom," Warren says. "The friendships that were made that night are undeniable. And they were made for a reason."

The documentary is not easy to watch. A surprising amount of live footage from

the night — gathered from the Las Vegas police, local CBS affiliate **KLAS-TV** and ticket-holders' cellphones — captures the popping sounds and the confusion and the blood and the bodies strewn across the bowl in great detail. And it reveals that Aldean's bassist, **Tully Kennedy**, likely owes his life to the instrument that provides his paycheck.

"Had he not been wearing that bass, the bullet would have hit him in the gut for sure," Aldean says on camera.



ALDEAN



WARREN



SILVER

ALDEAN: RIAN HIGBEE; WARREN: JON-PAUL BRUNO; SILVER: ASPEN LUZIER

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Executive producer **Susan Zirinsky** has seen terror before. She worked on a 9/11 documentary and covered the 1982 war in the Falkland Islands and the 1991 Gulf War. Despite the destruction levied in those kinds of events, the worst behavior by a minority of people can bring out the best in the majority, and she felt it was important for *11 Minutes* to include that along with the gut-wrenching parts of the story.

“We’re at a point in our society where people talk about division and divisiveness,” she says. “There were 20,000 people at that concert, and it was all about saving people to the right and to the left. It didn’t matter who you were, what religion you were, what political party you were, what color you were. It was stripping men and women down to their basic humanity.”

Concerts tend to unite people, but it doesn’t work that way for everyone. In one of the most difficult storylines of *11 Minutes*, concertgoer **Jonathan Smith** — a Black man who was raised in Los Angeles’ South Central neighborhood — reveals that a fellow attendee confronted him at the start of the festival, saying: “I didn’t know your kind liked this music.” So it stung when **Big & Rich** led the crowd in a round of “God Bless America.”

“There was a little irony in it, considering it’s this uplifting, patriotic song,” Smith says on-screen, “and I just had somebody tell me I didn’t belong here.”

Smith successfully escaped the venue when the shooting began, but — despite being dissed — he went back in the bowl to help lift others over a wall to safety. He was shot in the neck.

In the end, he survives and is recognized at a reunion by some of his fellow attendees as a hero. But his tale ties in two major issues in country music: Decision-makers in the genre are attempting to make country more inclusive, and the business is facing significantly greater security costs, along with fears of a repeat disaster, because of Las Vegas.

The movie doesn’t offer any solutions — “This is not an advocacy film,” Zirinsky notes — but it’s hard not to recognize that the financial, emotional and human costs are borne mostly by the majority. Bump stocks were banned, and a recent Congressional act placed some incremental limits on gun access.

“I thought that things were going to change. I honestly did,” says **Jennifer Simms**, a Sunrise Hospital nurse who helped treat Smith’s wounds, during the film’s final minutes. “You wonder how many victims there have to be in order for laws to be changed.”

In addition to the 58 who died in Las Vegas, 869 were wounded. *11 Minutes* painstakingly devotes six minutes of the end credits to a list of the American cities that have suffered mass shootings in the last five years — including El Paso and Uvalde, Texas; Highland Park, Ill.; and Nashville — and naming every victim.

“That was the hardest part for me,” Warren says. “I wasn’t expecting it. And when I saw that scroll, I’m just like, ‘Oh, God, it’s still going?’”

While elected officials haven’t found a solution, *11 Minutes* is a reminder that many ordinary Americans rise to the occasion when called. Heroism, in fact, is only revealed under the most dire circumstances.

“Tragedy does bring out extraordinary things in people,” says Zirinsky. “You never know how you’re going to react.” ●



Carrie Underwood served as host for *United Stations’ Backstage Country* during the week of Sept. 19. She’s flanked by Backstage talent consultant John Shomby (left) and executive producer Adrian Kulp.



BRELAND dropped by WIRK West Palm Beach, Fla., on Sept. 12 during a series of visits to local radio. From left: WIRK assistant PD/music director Nick Rivers, BRELAND, WIRK operations manager/PD Bruce Logan and Warner Music Nashville regional manager of radio and streaming Justin Newell.



Wheelhouse recording artist Madeline Merlo, a key vocalist on Cole Swindell’s “She Had Me at Heads Carolina,” signed a management contract with Homestead Music. From left: Homestead creative director Brad Hersh and managing partner Chelsey Block, Merlo and Homestead founder/managing partner Brad Belanger.

MICHAEL JAMES

MOST ADDED
 THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO!

Hannah Gillis
COUNTRY CAN

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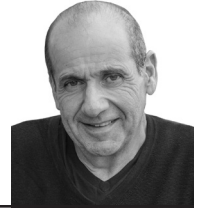
— **THE BALTIMORE SUN**

“the duo continue to offer a sharply-written female perspective”

— **TASTE OF COUNTRY**

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

Dean Finds His First Country Airplay Top 10 With 'Lookin' '; Wetzel Raises 'Hell' With New Top Country Albums High



Jackson Dean becomes the first artist to score a top 10 with an inaugural entry as a solo act on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart in 2022. On the Oct. 1 list, his debut single, "Don't Come Lookin'" (Big Machine) rises No. 11-10 with a 3% gain to 15.4 million in airplay audience in the week ending Sept. 25, according to Luminate.

Dean co-wrote "Lookin'" with **Luke Dick**. It's the freshman single from Dean's debut studio album, *Greenbroke*, released in March, which Dick also produced.

The 21-year-old Dean, from Odenton, Md., gained early traction when "Lookin'" was featured in the seventh episode (airing Dec. 12, 2021) of the fourth season of Paramount's *Yellowstone*.

"Lookin'" is the second launch Country Airplay entry to reach the upper tier in 2022. It follows **BRELAND's** first, "Beers On Me," with **Dierks Bentley** and **HARDY**; it led the list dated April 23.

The last artist not teamed with another act to achieve a top 10 with a rookie entry was **Elvie Shane**, whose "My Boy" topped the tally last October.

On the streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart, "Lookin'" lifts 16-14 for a new high. It drew 4 million official streams and sold 1,000 downloads in the United States in the Sept. 16-22 tracking week.

'PROOF' OF A TREND Thanks to **Morgan Wallen's** "You Proof" (Mercury/Big Loud/Republic) and **Luke Combs' "The Kind of Love We Make"** (River House/Columbia Nashville), two top 10 Hot Country Songs hits concurrently appear in the all-genre *Billboard* Hot 100's top 10 (at Nos. 6 and 8, respectively). The former holds at its best rank; the latter is new to the region, up from No. 14.

The tracks are at Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, on Hot Country Songs. "Proof" adds a sixth week on top, while "Kind" has led for four frames.

The songs combine for the fourth such double-up in just over two years — after none had occurred in over two decades, since May 13, 2000, when **Faith Hill's** "Breathe" and **Lonestar's** "Amazed" earned the honor. Prior to the latest

pairing, **Taylor Swift's** "All Too Well (Taylor's Version)" and **Walker Hayes' "Fancy Like"** shared top 10 space on the Nov. 27, 2021, Hot 100. Before that, **Gabby Barrett's** "I Hope" (featuring **Charlie Puth**) teamed with both Combs' "Forever After All" (Nov. 7, 2020) and Wallen's "7 Summers" (Aug. 29, 2020).

Notably, unlike the four previous instances, Wallen's and Combs' latest hits reached the Hot 100's top 10 without the assistance of pop/adult radio promotion. "All Too Well," "Fancy Like" and "I Hope," as well as "Breathe" and "Amazed," all drew multi-format airplay support. "Proof" and "Kind" achieve their twofer thanks to their streaming and country radio strength: They rank at Nos. 5 and 7, respectively, on the Streaming Songs chart and Nos. 3 and 2, respectively, on Country Airplay.



'HELL' YES **Koe Wetzel's** *Hell Paso* (Columbia) bounds onto Top Country Albums at No. 3 with 25,000 equivalent album units earned — a new career best for the singer-songwriter in both rank and weekly units.

The Pittsburg, Texas, native adds his third top 10 on the list in as many visits. *Sellout* opened at its No. 10 high in December 2020 (11,000 units), and *Harold Saul High* started at its No. 10 peak in July 2019 (10,000).

The new LP also begins at No. 2 on Americana/Folk Albums and Top Rock & Alternative Albums.

It's Wetzel's first top 10 among two charted titles on the former and his first entry on the latter.

HERE COMES 'SUN' **Little Big Town** logs its seventh Top Country Albums top 10 as *Mr. Sun* (Capitol Nashville) enters at No. 10 (14,000 units). The set follows *Nightfall*, which opened in February 2020 as the quartet's fourth No. 1. The group scored its first top 10 with *A Place To Land*, which began at its No. 10 best in November 2007. ●

—Additional reporting by *Billboard* senior director of charts Gary Trust.

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	16	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	30.135	+1.088	7807	182	1
2	2	15	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	28.703	-0.274	7698	85	2
3	3	15	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	28.276	+1.354	7540	484	3
4	5	19	5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	21.152	+0.699	5751	200	4
5	6	39	WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	20.188	+0.152	5748	-8	5
6	4	38	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	20.066	-2.554	5282	-859	6
7	7	50	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	18.855	-0.750	4509	-175	10
8	9	28	GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	16.841	+0.447	5111	192	7
9	10	17	HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	16.444	+1.331	4544	340	9
10	11	30	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	15.384	+0.506	4761	85	8
11	12	13	COUNTRY ON Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	13.026	+0.723	3832	126	12
12	13	15	FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	13.012	+1.641	3984	395	11
13	14	30	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	11.041	+1.119	3704	356	13
14	15	33	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	10.817	+0.887	3457	203	14
15	18	28	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	9.515	+1.438	3316	353	15
16	16	34	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	9.217	+0.346	3076	33	16
17	20	10	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	8.559	+0.922	2647	270	19
18	17	33	PARTY MODE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	8.252	-0.094	3010	32	17
19	19	25	SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	7.987	+0.318	2559	7	21
20	21	18	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	7.819	+0.753	2805	296	18
21	22	43	SOUL Curb	Lee Brice	6.548	+0.235	2640	7	20
22	23	15	WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	6.215	+0.751	2226	190	23
23	24	25	HEARTFIRST Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	5.748	+0.445	2375	66	22
24	25	44	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	4.478	+0.328	1982	64	24
25	27	9	GOLD Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	4.206	+0.413	1407	123	30
26	26	32	MY BAR inDent/Mercury Nashville	Priscilla Block	4.047	+0.120	1906	85	25
27	35	3	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	4.017	+1.315	1144	334	35
28	29	6	NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	3.820	+0.228	1453	158	29
29	32	19	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	3.634	+0.376	1777	220	26
30	31	25	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	3.561	+0.196	1595	80	28

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.

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	28	14	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	3.558	-0.256	1605	-36	27
32	30	5	WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	3.499	+0.267	1165	124	34
33	33	29	HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	2.873	+0.018	1231	12	32
34	37	14	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	2.841	+0.306	1350	90	31
35	34	16	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	2.799	+0.083	1025	10	37
36	38	8	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	2.667	+0.422	855	57	42
37	36	5	BEER WITH MY FRIENDS Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney & Old Dominion	2.588	+0.041	851	90	43
38	40	11	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	2.379	+0.247	1058	73	36
39	39	7	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	2.263	+0.021	955	91	40
40	41	26	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	2.142	+0.092	1200	42	33
41	42	10	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	1.973	+0.103	887	5	41
42	43	9	Y'ALL LIFE Monument	Walker Hayes	1.858	+0.046	975	18	38
43	44	26	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.481	-0.210	967	-80	39
44	51	4	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek	Parmalee	1.310	+0.356	577	79	47
45	46	20	SONGS ABOUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Brett Eldredge	1.255	+0.066	543	19	48
46	48	10	DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville	Eric Church	1.238	+0.182	628	93	46
47	45	34	SON OF A Riser House ★★ Breaker ★★	Dillon Carmichael	1.228	+0.007	764	19	44
48	47	21	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	1.178	+0.112	449	27	50
49	52	14	MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★	Matt Stell	0.959	+0.054	635	33	45
50	49	12	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Belting Bronco/Warner	Zach Bryan	0.936	-0.116	263	-4	60
51	60	2	IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	0.833	+0.297	382	173	55
52	56	4	WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley	0.770	+0.083	403	29	52
53	54	7	NEVERTIL NOW Back Blocks/BMLG/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke + Brett Young	0.765	-0.061	461	-17	49
54	53	8	STRANGE Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	0.756	-0.119	420	37	51
55	58	3	HOW IT OUGHTA BE BMLG	Shane Profitt	0.734	+0.172	262	135	-
56	55	17	SALT, LIME & TEQUILA Red Street	Ryan Griffin	0.667	-0.060	401	11	53
57	NEW		I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE Columbia Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Maren Morris	0.628	+0.427	156	73	-
58	NEW		CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	0.624	+0.150	387	93	54
59	NEW		EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse	Kolby Cooper	0.570	+0.312	371	141	56
60	59	2	LONGNECK WAY TO GO Big Machine	Midland Featuring Jon Pardi	0.512	-0.003	295	9	58



57

MAREN MORRIS
I Can't Love You Anymore

Morris' latest enters Country Airplay at No. 57 with 628,000 impressions. The song, which she co-wrote, is the sophomore single from her LP *Humble Quest*. "Circles Around This Town" became her eighth top 10; it reached No. 9 in July.

GOING FOR ADDS

10/3
CARSON BEYER
Outdated
Carson Beyer

10/17
GEORGE BIRGE
Mind On You
RECORDS Nashville

MIKE & THE MOONPIES
Hour On The Hour
Prairie Rose



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	21
OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN Show Dog Nashville	Toby Keith	14
HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	13
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	12
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	11
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	11
DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville	Eric Church	9
EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse	Kolby Cooper	9
JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	8
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	7

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+1.641
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	+1.438
YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.354
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+1.331
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+1.315
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1.119
SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	+1.088
THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+0.922
PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	+0.887
WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+0.753

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+484
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+395
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+356
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	+353
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+340
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+334
WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+296
THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	+270
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+220
PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	+203

NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek	Drake Milligan	0.378	16	7
MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	0.365	3	1
COUNTRY IN MY SOUL Quartz Hill	Thompson Square	0.348	37	0
LOUD AND HEAVY Late August	Cody Jinks	0.330	7	0
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH Bad Realm/Atlantic	BRELAND	0.325	0	0
HOW YOU MAKE A MAN Broken Bow	Craig Morgan	0.285	22	3

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory	Justin Moore	15.801
2	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	15.690
3	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	15.503
4	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	13.792
5	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	13.672
6	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	11.672
7	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	11.127
8	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	9.530
9	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young + Kane Brown	7.440
10	NEW TRUCK Curb	Dylan Scott	6.784



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	16	HONKY TONK HIGHWAY (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★★	Case Hardin	1884	212	11	14	13	HURT YOU (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1159	80
2	3	11	MILES DON'T MATTER (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1772	172	12	15	18	BLOOD (Independent)	Jon Stork	1149	80
3	4	18	LIKE CONWAY TWITTY (Independent)	James Lann	1677	176	13	12	23	TELLING ON MY HEART (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1127	-28
4	5	11	FREE MAN (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1519	103	14	13	23	ALL I NEEDED (Independent)	American Aquarium	1095	-55
5	7	8	NOTHING BUT LOVE SONGS (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	1475	245	15	22	10	LOOSE LOUD & CRAZY (Independent)	Jamie Richards	1078	109
6	6	10	EVERYTHING HAS YOUR MEMORY (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1401	116	16	18	16	WILDFLOWER (Independent)	Love & Chaos f/ Willy Braun	1069	22
7	16	7	STUCK (Independent)	Ariel Hutchins	1247	179	17	19	19	DAMN SANDWICH (Independent)	Jordan Rainer	1056	10
8	17	9	IF IT DON'T HAVE A HONKY TONK (Independent)	Pat Green	1223	157	18	26	15	I'M NOT CRYING (Independent)	Kaitlyn Kohler	988	128
9	11	19	HARDER STUFF (Independent)	Adam Hood	1184	18	19	24	9	HALF TO DEATH (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	987	82
10	8	25	THAT WAY (Cielo Azul Ent)	Sarah Hobbs	1160	-68	20	25	8	EASY AS HELLO (Aunt Daddy/Thirty Tigers)	Sunny Sweeney	986	88

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



George Birge (center) met up with WKHK Richmond, Va., PD/music director/afternoon host Garret Doll when he appeared Sept. 16 at Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Va. With them is RECORDS Nashville promotion manager Chele Fassig.

MUSICIAN EDENTON REMEMBED

Guitarist **Ray Edenton**, a key member of the studio musicians who were known as The A-Team, died Sept. 21, according to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

A West Virginia native, he had regular on-air jobs as a musician at several radio stations in the 1940s prior to his 1952 move to Nashville. His guitar was doubled with **Don Everly** to provide the signature intros in **The Everly Brothers'** "Bye Bye Love" and "Wake Up Little Susie."

Edenton participated in hundreds of hits, mostly playing rhythm. His credits include **Bobby Bare's** "500 Miles Away From Home," **Charlie Rich's** "Behind Closed Doors," **Connie Smith's** "Once a Day," **George Jones'** "The Grand Tour," **Kenny Rogers'** "The Gambler," **Marty Robbins'** "Singing the Blues" and **Waylon Jennings'** "Only Daddy That'll Walk the Line."

'ROUND THE ROW

Artist manager **Craig Dunn** has founded his own firm, One Spark Entertainment, bringing **Sara Evans** and **Everette** along as his inaugural clients. Dunn was previously a Collective Artist Management vp ... Booking agent **Jimmy Dasher** joined the Action Entertainment Collaborative, founded by **Nick Meinema** and **Greg Baker**. Dasher arrives from Countdown Talent, which he founded. The AEC roster includes **Trace Adkins**, **The Mavericks** and **High Valley**, among others. Reach Dasher [here](#) ... PLA Media promoted **Mark Logsdon** to vp from executive director ... The Recording Academy promoted **Maureen Droney** to vp of the Producers & Engineers wing from executive director and upped **Chantel Sausedo** to vp of artist relations from managing director ... Sony Music Publishing signed singer-songwriter **Jamie Davis** ("The Kind of Love We Make") to a songwriting deal ... Singer-songwriter **Matt Roy** reached a co-publishing agreement with Big Machine Music ... Indie artist **Cooper Alan** pactured with Make Wake Artists for management and WME for concert booking. He'll be worked jointly by **Jarrod Holley** and **Chris Kappy** at Make Wake. His responsible agent at WME is **Morgan Kenney** ... New artist **Charly Reynolds** reached a booking agreement with Wasserman Music ... "Buy Dirt" won song of the year for composers **Jordan Davis**, **Jacob Davis**, **Josh Jenkins** and **Matt Jenkins** during the Nashville Songwriter Awards on Sept. 20 at the Ryman Auditorium. **Ashley Gorley** ("She Had Me at Heads Carolina," "You Should Probably Leave") was named songwriter of the year and songwriter of the decade, while **Taylor Swift** nabbed songwriter-artist of the decade. **Garth Brooks** also received the Kris Kristofferson lifetime achievement award. Go [here](#) for the full story ... **Carly Pearce**, **Cody Johnson**, **Luke Combs**, **Kane Brown** and **Walker Hayes** will be recognized during *CMT Artists of the Year* on Oct. 14 at Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center ... **Kane Brown** will receive the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's champion of youth award on Oct. 13 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles ... BMG Books will publish *Sixteen Tons: The Merle Travis Story* on Nov. 22. The project features unpublished autobiographical material penned by **Travis**, who was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1977, plus a separate biography written by **Deke Dickerson** ... Rockology Auctions will accept bids for memorabilia associated with **Elvis Presley**, **Faron Young**, **Minnie Pearl** and background

vocalist **Millie Kirkham** beginning in November, with proceeds benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Go [here](#) for more info ... The 11th annual Touring Career Workshop is slated for Nov. 1 at the Soundcheck Annex in Nashville. Production designers **Chris Lisle** and **Erik Parker** founded the free event. Go [here](#) to register ... **Clayton Anderson** won first place in the country segment of the Unsigned Only Music Competition with his composition "Let Me Go." Australian **James Johnston** placed second with "Raised Like That." Judges included **LOCASH**, freelance journalist **Alison Bonaguro** and Gold-voice talent buyer **Angelo Stefano** ... **Vince Gill**, **Rodney Crowell**, **Keith Urban** and **Chris and Morgane Stapleton** are among the music figures who have committed to Music Health Alliance's fifth annual Heal the Music Day on Oct. 21. Donations made to MHA from Oct. 1-21 will be matched up to \$25,000. Go [here](#) for more info ... The Joseph Family Foundation will hold the second annual Kiss Breast Cancer Goodbye benefit in Nashville, raising money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. **LOCASH**, **Runaway June**, **Cooper Alan** and **Victoria Shaw** will perform Oct. 23 at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Shania Twain inked a recording deal with Republic Nashville and released a new single, "Waking Up Dreaming," on Sept. 23 ... **John Shomby's** company, Country Radio's Coach, entered a strategic alignment with Studio2Bee Entertainment, sharing services and staff while maintaining their separate brands ... UTA signed iHeartMedia personality **Bobby Bones** for representation in all areas of his multifaceted career ... **Mike "Moose" Smith** returned to Max Media/Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Va., as operations manager, RadioInk.com reported. Smith had left radio in recent years, but was formerly vp/GM of the cluster for Max Media, where he has 20 years of experience ... **Cory Edmondson** joined KFGF Lincoln, Neb., as assistant PD/music director/midday host, according to RadioInk.com. He was previously **KFLS** Klamath Falls, Ore., afternoon personality ... **Kristy Beebe** was promoted to iHeartMedia Kentucky/Carolina area president from Indianapolis market president, RadioInsight.com reported. The newly formed area covers three Kentucky markets and four in South Carolina. Country stations in her purview include Kentucky outlets **WBUL** Lexington, **WAMZ** Louisville and **WSEK** Somerset, plus South Carolina signals **WEZL** Charleston, **WCOS** Columbia, **WEGX** Florence and **WGTR** Myrtle Beach ... **KKBQ** Houston assistant PD/afternoon host **Caitlin Johnson** has parted ways with the station, according to RadioInsight.com ... The CW has set Oct. 7-8 for its two-night TV special featuring highlights from the iHeartRadio Music Festival, held in Las Vegas Sept. 23-24. Country performers who took the T-Mobile Arena stage included **Luke Combs**, **Maren Morris** and **Morgan Wallen**. Additionally, **Chase Rice**, **Carly Pearce** and **Ryan Hurd** played the outdoor daytime stage, with Hurd joining Morris in the arena on "I Can't Love You Anymore" ... Luminate will partner with Mediabase to facilitate airplay data collection beginning in December. As a result, the *Billboard* airplay charts will no longer be fueled by BDS, which provided the foundational data since 1990. *Billboard* will retain oversight in selecting the radio stations that contribute to its charts and will apply its own methodology. Go [here](#) for the full story. ●



Track45 lead singer **K.K. Johnson** (right) joined a range of talents from multiple genres Sept. 12-16 as Warner Chappell Nashville hosted a songwriting camp in Music City. With her, from left: **Tim "One Love" Sommers**, **Jeremy "Kinetics" Dussolliet** and **Sam DeRosa**.

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
1	1	1	19	YOU PROOF J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN,A.G.GORLEY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME) ★★ No. 1 (6 Weeks)/ Airplay Gainer ★★	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	3	1
2	2	2	14	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,J.DAVIS,D.ISBELL,R.ISBELL)	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	2	1
3	3	3	57	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	1
4	4	4	21	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Z.CROWELL (A.G.GORLEY,C.SWINDELL,J.FRASURE,M.D.SANDERS,THOMAS RHETT,T.NICHOLS)	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	1	3
5	7	7	22	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	50	3
6	6	5	18	5 FOOT 9 T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD,J.JOHNSTON,C.MCGILL)	Tyler Hubbard HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE	4	5
7	5	-	2	THANK GOD D.HUFF (C.D.STALNECKER,K.FISHMAN,J.FREE,J.HOGE,J.MULLINS)	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	27	5
8	11	10	32	FALL IN LOVE A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,G.J.LUCAS)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	12	6
9	10	8	15	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,H.WARREN,J.HACKWORTH,J.HARVEY)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	2
10	9	9	25	SON OF A SINNER ERNEST K,I.TOSHINSKY (J.B.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	13	9
11	15	16	20	WHISKEY ON YOU L.RIMES (N.SMITH,L.RIMES,R.SUTTON) ★★ Streaming Gainer ★★	Nate Smith ARISTA NASHVILLE	22	11
12	13	14	52	WISHFUL DRINKING I.ANDRESS,J.M.SCHMIDT (I.ANDRESS,J.P.STARKER SAXE,J.PRICE,D.D.BROWN,R.WILLIAMSON)	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	5	11
13	16	22	17	DON'T COME LOOKIN' L.DICK (J.DEAN,C.L.DICK)	Jackson Dean BIG MACHINE	10	13
14	17	20	17	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,M.DRAGSTREM,R.J.HURD)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	20	14
15	19	21	9	HALF OF ME D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,W.BUNDY,J.THOMPSON)	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green VALORY/BMLG	9	15
16	18	17	36	SHE LIKES IT J.KERR,J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON,J.SCOTT,J.KERR)	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott TRIPLE TIGERS	19	13
17	21	18	27	GHOST STORY D.GARCIA,C.UNDERWOOD (D.A.GARCIA,J.KEAR,H.LINDSEY,H.WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW)	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	8	12
18	25	29	4	WAIT IN THE TRUCK J.MOI,HARDY (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,J.M.SCHMIDT,R.BLAIR)	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW/BIG LOUD	32	18
19	14	13	20	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC D.HUFF (K.BROWN,M.J.MCGINN,T.PHILLIPS,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	RC	3
20	22	25	12	COUNTRY ON J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (D.FRASIER,S.HAURY,M.NESLER,MITCH OGLESBY)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	11	19
21	30	15	41	PICK ME UP R.COPPERMAN,Z.KALE (G.BARRETT,J.M.NITE,R.COPPERMAN)	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	14	15
22	33	41	13	HELL YEAH LITTLE BIG TOWN (J.WESTBROOK,P.SWEET,C.CROWDER,T.R.HUBBARD) ★★ Sales Gainer ★★	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	RC	22
23	27	27	28	WILD AS HER C.FARREN (M.WALLEN,BRETT TYLER,K.ARCHER)	Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NASHVILLE	36	15
24	24	24	20	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW J.MOI (M.WALLEN,N.GALYON,M.LAMBERT)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
25	23	19	5	WHERE IT ENDS A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,G.AVERILL,J.SPARGUR)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	7

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

- #1** 15 WKS **ZACH BRYAN**
- MORGAN WALLEN**
- ERNEST**
- CHARLIE HANDSOME**
- ASHLEY GORLEY**
- BAILEY ZIMMERMAN**
- LUKE COMBS**
- TYLER HUBBARD**
- JOSH THOMPSON**
- CHASE MCGILL**



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

- #1** 3 WKS **AUSTIN SHAWN**
- JOEY MOI**
- DANN HUFF**
- ZACH CROWELL**
- RYAN HADLOCK**
- TAYLOR KIMBALL**
- JORDAN SCHMIDT**
- CHARLIE HANDSOME**
- JACOB DURRETT**
- PAUL DIGIOVANNI**

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	28	23	31	SOUL B.GLOVER,K.JACOBBS,L.BRICE (K.KADISH,T.FERRARI)	Lee Brice CURB	21	23
27	29	26	8	OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	24
28	NEW		1	CABO T.KIMBALL (R.WETZEL,A.RAITERE,N.HAYFORD) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Koe Wetzel YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA	-	28
29	38	-	2	TENNESSEE ORANGE K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,B.WILLIAMS,P.JENKINS,D.FANNING)	Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY	-	29
30	32	36	4	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T J.GEAR,H.WHITTERS (H.WHITTERS,B.SIMPSON,R.TYNDELL)	Hailey Whitters SONGS & DAUGHTERS/PIGASUS/BIG LOUD	48	30
31	36	32	16	DOWN HOME A.BOWERS,J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN,R.BALL,C.BEDELL,T.HOWELL)	Jimmie Allen STONEY CREEK	15	31
32	31	-	2	FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH S.SUMSER,S.SMALL,J.DURRETT (D.BRELAND,R.H.BLOCK,J.R.DURRETT,G.JAMES)	BRELAND BAD REALM/ATLANTIC	-	31
33	35	30	38	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBBS,C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	30	27
34	45	38	4	CREEPS T.KIMBALL (R.WETZEL,A.BAYLIS,E.MCKEEVER)	Koe Wetzel YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA	-	28
35	34	33	17	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE,A.G.GORLEY,E.M.SHACKELTON)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	34	29
36	NEW		1	NEVER LEAVE A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,C.SLIGH,G.J.LUCAS,M.KUTTER)	Bailey Zimmernan ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	36
37	37	34	11	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Z.BROWN,B.SIMONETTI (B.SIMONETTI,Z.BROWN,L.COMBS,J.D.SINGLETON)	Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	16	32
38	39	31	24	HEARTFIRST J.BUNETTA,S.MCANALLY (K.BALLERINI,K.FAIRCHILD,A.VANDERHEYM)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	23	25
39	26	-	2	BURN, BURN, BURN Z.L.BRYAN,E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	26
40	40	39	6	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES M.KNOX (J.MORGAN,J.EDWARDS,T.KENNEDY,K.M.ALLISON)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	17	39
41	42	40	22	PARTY MODE Z.CROWELL (J.FLOWERS,R.BEAVER,R.ALEXANDER,J.KEIM,M.MCGINN)	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	18	30
42	48	48	5	HEART LIKE A TRUCK J.JOYCE (L.WILSON,D.WILSON,T.ANDERSON)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	29	42
43	47	46	3	NEXT THING YOU KNOW P.DIGIOVANNI (G.JAMES,J.OSBORNE,C.MCGILL,J.DAVIS)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	-	43
44	43	43	10	Y'ALL LIFE J.THIBODEAU,W.HAYES (W.HAYES,P.GOOD,J.JENKINS,C.HAYNES, JR.,J.EPPERSON)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	42	32
45	NEW		1	MONEY SPENT T.KIMBALL (R.WETZEL,A.BAYLIS,M.D.WHITWORTH)	Koe Wetzel YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA	-	45
46	RE-ENTRY		2	NO BODY S.HENDRICKS (C.TOMPKINS,J.KEAR,R.CLAWSOON)	Blake Shelton WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	28	34
47	50	50	10	CAN'T HAVE MINE M.ALDERMAN (D.SCOTT,M.ALDERMAN,J.MELTON,D.WILSON)	Dylan Scott CURB	58	35
48	46	42	6	HANDLE ON YOU JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM,M.CRISWELL)	Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	39	42
49	44	37	5	DUTTON RANCH FREESTYLE B.MANLEY (D.MORRIS,B.MANLEY)	David Morris DREAMTOWN, USA/GREY AREA	-	37
50	49	49	5	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE C.LA CORTE,S.MCANALLY,S.HUNT (S.L.HUNT,C.LA CORTE,S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE)	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	31	49

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				YEAR-TO-DATE			YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND	2021	2022	CHANGE		
This Week	1,504,000	1,783,351,000	131,654,000				ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
Last Week	1,482,000	1,741,871,000	130,554,000	Album Consumption	51,410,000	54,393,000	5.8%	'21 51.41 million
Change	1.5%	2.4%	0.8%	Album Sales	6,395,000	4,985,000	-22.0%	'22 54.39 million
This Week Last Year	1,319,000	1,507,308,000	129,962,000	Audio On-Demand	57,187,505,000	63,602,474,000	11.2%	TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS
Change	14.0%	18.3%	1.3%	Video On-Demand	5,145,732,000	4,841,432,000	-5.9%	'21 62.33 billion
								'22 68.44 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending September 22, 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 **LUMINATE**

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	89	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
2	3	2	18	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
3	NEW	1		KOE WETZEL YELLABUSH DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA	HELL PASO		3
4	2	-	2	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 996216/SMN	DIFFERENT MAN		2
5	4	3	13	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 997801/SMN	GROWIN' UP		1
6	5	6	277	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	3	1
7	7	8	150	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	2	1
8	6	7	225	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	2	1
9	9	9	45	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 034504*	RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
10	NEW	1		LITTLE BIG TOWN CAPITOL NASHVILLE 035985*/UMGN	MR. SUN		10
11	8	-	113	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89040*/LEGACY (25.98)	THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY		8
12	10	10	386	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
13	11	11	97	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
14	NEW	1		MITCHELL TENPENNY RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 874659/SMN	THIS IS THE HEAVY		14
15	12	14	167	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		9
16	14	13	24	COLE SWINDELL WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN	STEREOTYPE		6
17	25	12	296	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	7	1
18	13	5	3	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 036110/UMGN	MR. SATURDAY NIGHT		5
19	17	17	76	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 033578*	FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
20	16	19	10	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		7
21	18	16	35	WALKER HAYES MONUMENT 98353*	COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM		2
22	19	18	96	LEE BRICE CURB 79537*	HEY WORLD		7
23	23	20	363	ZAC BROWN BAND HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
24	24	22	329	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS		6
25	15	-	2	BRELAND BAD REALM/ATLANTIC 631719/AG	CROSS COUNTRY		15

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.

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard AMERICANA/
FOLK ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	18	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
2	NEW	1		KOE WETZEL YELLABUSH DIGITAL EX/COLUMBIA	HELL PASO		2
3	NEW	1		MARCUS MUMFORD CAPITOL 036477*	(SELF-TITLED)		3
4	2	2	332	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
5	3	3	97	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
6	4	4	184	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		2
7	6	6	378	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	3	1
8	5	5	10	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		2
9	8	7	337	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA		1
10	9	9	42	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	ELISABETH		7

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.

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard COUNTRY
STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	19	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
2	2	22	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
3	3	14	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS
4	5	88	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
5	6	15	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
6	4	2	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN
7	8	17	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL
8	7	13	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD
9	9	22	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
10	16	15	WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH
11	10	284	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
12	11	183	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN
13	12	8	LAST NIGHT LONELY JON PARDI
14	13	66	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
15	17	20	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN
16	19	219	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
17	15	5	WHERE IT ENDS BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
18	NEW		HELL YEAH LITTLE BIG TOWN
19	22	64	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
20	21	59	BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN
21	24	74	CHASIN' YOU MORGAN WALLEN
22	25	14	WILD AS HER COREY KENT
23	20	4	OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW ZACH BRYAN
24	RE-ENTRY		FANCY LIKE WALKER HAYES
25	RE-ENTRY		HEARTLESS DIPLO PRESENTS THOMAS WESLEY FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected 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 **LUMINATE**

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	44	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD	RAISE THE ROOF		1
2	2	3	52	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD	RENEWAL		1
3	3	4	57	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA		1
4	4	2	29	DOLLY PARTON BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*	RUN, ROSE, RUN		1
5	7	8	25	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER	CROOKED TREE		2
6	8	10	30	VARIOUS ARTISTS CURB/BILLY BLUE 2334 CB EX	COUNTRY FAITH BLUEGRASS		6
7	6	5	21	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW ATO 0602*	PAINT THIS TOWN		1
8	RE-ENTRY		2	FRANK SOLIVAN & DIRTY KITCHEN COMPASS 4801	HOLD ON		6
9	NEW	1		THE ALEX LEACH BAND MOUNTAIN HOME 2201/CROSSROADS	ALL THE WAY		9
10	5	9	44	BELA FLECK RENEW RECORDS 538689220/BMG	MY BLUEGRASS HEART		1

Bluegrass Albums ranks the most popular bluegrass albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on album sales. Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

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

Curb Artist Hannah Ellis Finds An Anthem In 'Country Can'

Historically, country songwriting has modeled itself after Tin Pan Alley, the New York district where composers would knock out Broadway songs daily and land them with artists by performing them in person around an upright piano.

Nashville has had a similar, factory-like approach to the vocation, with staff writers clustered in converted two-story houses up and down Music Row, looking for magic in their guitars.

Of course, a lot has changed — Music Row is overrun with apartment buildings, the town's writers increasingly create with laptops at home studios, and music companies have turned more often to out-of-town retreats that encourage concentrated effort.

One of those retreats a year ago yielded **Hannah Ellis'** "Country Can," a Curb single built from a quartet of composers on Oct. 11, 2021, the first day in a short getaway to 30A in the Florida Panhandle.

"It was honestly such a perfect grouping of people to write this song," Ellis recalls. "Everyone brought something different and unique to the song that helps make it what it is."

The lineup was a little different than originally intended. A couple of invitees had to cancel at the last minute, so they put out a call to **Parker Welling** ("What's Your Country Song," "Blue Tacoma"), who had been on a retreat with **Thomas Rhett**. Booking flights to Panama City was an issue at the time, but Rhett and his wife, **Lauren Akins**, were heading there, so Welling rode down with them to meet Ellis; her husband, singer-songwriter **Nick Wayne**; **Matt Alderman** ("Truth About You," "Nothing To Do Town"); and songwriter/producer **Jason Massey** (**Kelsea Ballerini**, **Ryan Griffin**).

While the other three started in on a 9 a.m. writing session, Welling and Wayne borrowed Alderman's truck to run errands. Wayne remembers taking sand flea spray to the Akins' house, and Welling recalls picking up a portable cornhole set at her place. During the ride, they went over a one-sheet the Curb A&R team had put together that summarized some of Ellis' favorite songs and artists, her attitudes and a reminder that they could use something "anthemic." Wayne and Welling brainstormed potential titles and got locked into an exercise where they looked for words and phrases that use the word "country." When they began chasing alliterations, Wayne spitballed "Country Can."

"While Hannah was finishing up her other write, we got back to the house and sat on the back porch with a guitar and just started to really dive into what 'Country Can' could be," recalls Wayne. "Parker is just such a brilliant writer and such a fast, simple writer, it really didn't take long at all to get the framework put together."

One way they accomplished that was by asking questions.

"We referenced that song 'Nothing But the Blood of Jesus,' and the device that the writers used, like, 'What can do this? Nothing but the blood of Jesus,'" Welling notes. "That feels like a good way to get into that idea."

Ellis was on board with "Country Can" when the previous session was done, and they invited Massey to sit in as well, over glasses of rosé.

"We kept going back and forth with all of the different things that we felt like country music was capable of," Ellis says. "I came up with the line of 'red dirt to West Coast sand' because I wanted to represent that this is a song for everyone, no matter where you're from."

Once they got to the chorus, they sewed up that anthemic feel, repeating the title twice at the beginning of the stanza and returning to it at the end

while connecting the genre to its classic means of exposure: "Nothing turns my radio to gold like country can."

Welling was challenged during the session by a text conversation with a good friend whose father was hospitalized with COVID-19. He died while they were working on "Country Can," creating an odd contrast between musical celebration and mortal tragedy.

"It was a really safe place for me," says Welling. "In the middle of this song, which is not an emotional song, I'm crying on the couch. But also, in a weird way, I think it kind of added a little bit of heart to this song that could have been just super light. I think it gave it this intangible thing. I feel like sometimes the energy of the room makes its way into the song even if it's not something that happens lyrically or musically."

The two verses prior to the first chorus addressed how country can live up a barroom, then how it can enhance community. Verse three explored its role in relationships, and the bridge visited how it helps to put down roots, rolling back into the next section by using the words "country can" as both the last lyrics of the bridge and the first words of the final chorus.

Before they finished, they rejiggered the chorus melody, which was originally in the same general frequency as the verses.

"It was a little low, but when [Hannah] started pushing it up, it was like a country standard, like 'My Church,' where you do the cowboy chords, you know. It's just the one, four and five," Wayne says. "I don't even think there's a minor chord in that song."

Massey laid down a spare musical track and captured a vocal from Ellis to work with, then built a more elaborate demo back in Nashville. Curb

executives were uniformly enthusiastic, and Ellis cut the master at Blackbird Studios with acoustic guitarist **Ilya Toshinskiy**, electric guitarist **Derek Wells**, drummer **Evan Hutchings**, bassist **Jimmie Lee Sloas**, keyboardist **Alex Wright** and steel guitarist **Justin Schipper**.

Massey kept some of the programmed percussion from the demo, allowing the performance to build when Hutchings enters with a more powerful sound. The drums in the first verse, though, weren't drawn from any percussion sample — they're actually a group of horses walking; he chopped up the clippity-clop of their hooves to fit the sonic profile of a drum beat.

"Probably no one can tell what it is but me," allows Massey, "but it makes me happy."

He also chopped key notes in Schipper's performance to create a stuttered steel effect, repeated just often enough to become a secondary hook.

Ellis delivered a clear, forceful final vocal, and they endeavored to add gang vocal harmonies to the last chorus late in the process. Ellis was touring heavily and couldn't get back to Nashville, so Massey asked her and her touring guitarist, **Kevin Monahan**, to cut a series of harmony vocals on the road. They captured the parts on March 17 in Rutland, Vermont, where she was opening for **Carly Pearce**, on an iPhone. The recording had a lower sonic quality than they could have gotten in the studio, but it worked as a background-party effect.

"If it was a more prominent gang vocal thing, it might have been an issue," Massey says. "I think it served its purpose on the phone."

Curb released "Country Can" to radio via PlayMPE on Aug. 12. It succeeds in its anthemic ambitions, the hook is memorable, and few titles can be repositioned in a sentence quite as well as "Country Can."

"It's such a fun little pun to use all the time," Ellis says. "Everyone does it." ●



C

25 Years Ago Diamond Rio Felt The 'Love' At No. 1

In 1997, the group earned its longest-leading chart-topper on Hot Country Songs

On Sept. 27, 1997, **Diamond Rio's** "How Your Love Makes Me Feel" began a three-week domination on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart—the longest of the group's five leaders on the list.

Written by **Max T. Barnes** and **Trey Bruce**, the song was one of two new tracks on Diamond Rio's *Greatest Hits* album. Second single "Imagine That" reached No. 4 on the chart.

In April 1990, Diamond Rio (formerly known as **The Grizzly River Boys**), then **The Tennessee River Boys**) signed with Arista Records Nashville. The sextet comprised

lead singer **Marty Roe**, **Gene Johnson**, **Jimmy Olander**, **Brian Prout**, **Dan Truman** and **Dana Williams**.

In 1991-2003, Diamond Rio logged 19 Hot Country Songs top 10s, a run that began with the historic "Meet in the Middle"—the first debut single by a group to rule the tally.

Diamond Rio, which is currently on tour, recently incurred its first lineup change in 33 years when **Micah Schweinsberg** replaced Prout, who retired. The band will make its next stop on Sept. 30 in Crockett, Texas. —JIM ASKER

DA

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

Diamond Rio in 1994.
Back row, from left:
Johnson, Prout, Williams
and Truman. Front row:
Olander (left) and Roe.

W	U	W	W	PROVIDER (SONGWRITER)	LABEL & NUMBER/PROMOTION LABEL	W	U
★★★ No. 1 ★★★							
①	4	6	17	HOW YOUR LOVE MAKES ME FEEL M.D. CLUTE, DIAMOND RIO (M.T. BARNES, T. BRUCE)	◆ DIAMOND RIO ARISTA NASHVILLE ALBUM CUT	1	1
②	5	7	17	WHAT THE HEART WANTS J. HOBBS, E. SEAY, P. WORLEY (M. DULANEY)	COLLIN RAYE EPIC ALBUM CUT	2	2
③	1	3	12	THERE GOES K. STEGALL (A. JACKSON)	ALAN JACKSON (V) ARISTA NASHVILLE 13070	1	1
④	2	4	16	HOW WAS I TO KNOW C. PETOCZ (B. DALY, W. RAMBEAUX)	◆ JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY ATLANTIC ALBUM CUT	2	2
⑤	8	10	15	THE FOOL M. WRIGHT (M. CANNON, C. STEFL, G. ELLSWORTH)	◆ LEE ANN WOMACK (V) DECCA 72009	5	5
⑥	9	9	18	THE SHAKE	◆ NEAL MCCOY	6	6