

billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Elle King Symbolizes Country's Increasing Ability, And Willingness, To Experiment

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With the Jan. 27 release of **Elle King's** *Come Get Your Wife*, the expansiveness of modern country is firmly on display.

The album melds a banjo-toting female artist who emerged in rock and adult alternative genres with a country format that is increasingly testing its boundaries. The project mixes a range of sounds and influences — Southern rock, blues, bluegrass, classic soul and folk/pop — in a manner that's impressively cohesive, built around King's gritty vocal and spacious, funky approach to the banjo.

Come Get Your Wife comes at a time when country artists are pushing the genre's borders in multiple directions, taking risks but maintaining enough of its identity that the outlier material still holds a connection to country's core.

Chris Young's current "Looking for You" utilizes a pitch-shifted version of an **Emily Weisband** vocal to create an otherworldly sonic hook. **Jordan Davis'** "What My World Spins Around" incorporates a tremolo electric guitar effect that mirrors **The Smiths'** 1984 new wave piece "How Soon Is Now?" **Jelly Roll's** "Need a Favor" and the **HARDY** collaboration with **Lainey Wilson**, "wait in the truck," rely on haunting gospel choirs to bring home their drama. And **Walker Hayes'** "Y'all Life" features a washed-out drum sound while employing loose gang vocals to carry the lead melody.

The developments aren't exactly new, but the volume of outside sounds and techniques at work in country reflects changing attitudes among artists and fans, as well as a wider array of available tools and easier access to music through streaming platforms.




King, in fact, felt more freedom to combine her multiple influences while making a country album than in her previous recordings. That represents a major change from the past, when artists have at times complained that the format is too stifling.

"I realized that I could pull from each of [my influences] and make this sound, which is country music to me," King says. "This album doesn't sound that far off from anything that I would have [previously] made, but I felt like because I could have this, I don't know, shell to put on it, I could bring in what I wanted from each place and each feeling."

The cooperative marketing effort for *Come Get Your Wife*, involving Sony offices in New York and Nashville, is representative of a friendlier cross-genre atmosphere. Warner/Chappell and Big Machine similarly cross-pollinate between Nashville and Los Angeles, and Music City songwriters are increasingly meshing with composers from other industry centers.

"Nashville is lending to L.A., and L.A. is lending right back to Nashville," notes **Laura Veltz**, a Nashvillian currently

KING: MATTHEW BERNATO. YOUNG: JEFF JOHNSON. VELTZ: JULES BATES.



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nominated in the Grammys' new songwriter of the year category, recognizing her work with country artists **Maren Morris** and **Ingrid Andress**, as well as pop singer **Demi Lovato**.

Technology plays a major role in the development, as the rise of the internet changed the way music is both created and consumed. On the production side, musicians and producers have far more sounds available through a wider selection of sound-shaping pedals and computer plug-ins, particularly compared with previous eras, when studio pros were expected to churn out four songs in a three-hour session, usually applying the same instruments to each of the tracks.

"**Harold Bradley** might play guitar on one song and turn around and play a banjo on the next one," says **Bill Anderson**. "So they did change instruments a little bit and sometimes played two instruments on the same song. But all the things they have available to them now, we didn't have that. I don't know if we'd have used it or not."

On the consumer end of the equation, the ability to identify, locate and sample music online is extraordinarily fast, matched up against the pre-internet age, when less music was available and the music fans heard beyond the radio was mostly proportionate to their willingness to purchase albums.

Now consumers can speed through genres and catalogs, cross-reference studio work against live recordings and find artists and sounds that would have been obscure to their grandparents. Like the artists themselves, fans are thus more willing to hear **Queen** or **Beach Boys** influences in country, as happens in some **Dan + Shay** recordings.

"We're very fortunate, I feel like, to live and breathe in a time in music where we aren't so segregated and isolated," says **Joel Smallbone** of contemporary Christian act **For King + Country**, appropriately nominated in the Grammys for a collaboration with **Hillary Scott** of the country trio **Lady A**.

One reason that country is arguably able to maintain its identity now that the walls are falling down is that many of its artists — such as Young, **Tyler Hubbard** or **Thomas Rhett** — retain their Southern accents no matter what non-country sonics surround them.

"Chris is a great example," says **Chris DeStefano**, co-writer and co-producer of "Looking for You." He has a very country voice. I think **Morgan Wallen** is another amazing example. He's got the cheat code for country music. He could sing anything, you can put a [hip-hop] 808 beat under him; it still sounds country."

King's new album puts the trend in focus most clearly with two songs that appear back-to-back on the project: "Try Jesus" weaves a church organ and thick gospel choir into an otherwise-country production, while "Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)," her Grammy-nominated duet with **Miranda Lambert**, leans heavily on the interplay between tribal drums and an unusual two-note bass guitar riff. Country's increasing openness was perfectly timed for her appearance in the format.

"I've noticed a difference in wider-open sliding doors even since 2016, 2017, when I first met **Dierks [Bentley]**," she says. "I feel like country makes room for good music, a good song. I don't want anyone to kick me out." ●



Clay Walker performed Jan. 20, the opening night of the WIL St. Louis Hot Country Nights concert series at Ballpark Village. From left: Show Dog Nashville director of promotion and streaming Blake Nixon, Hubbard/St. Louis operations manager Tommy Mattern, Walker and WIL music director Marty Brooks.



Tenille Arts discussed her current single, "Jealous of Myself," during a Jan. 10 radio promotion stop with KYGO Denver PD Brian Michel.



Tyler Braden (right) visited with KXLY Spokane, Wash., music director Sean Widmer when he performed Jan. 19 at Northern Quest Resort in suburban Airway Heights.

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DEBUT SOLO ALBUM
OUT NOW



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
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LUMINATE

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

Nate Smith Hoists 'Whiskey' To No. 1 On Country Airplay Chart

Nate Smith banks his first No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart (dated Feb. 4) with his freshman entry, "Whiskey on You" (Arista Nashville). The song increased by 10% to 31.2 million impressions in the week ending Jan. 26, according to Luminate.

Smith — who co-wrote "Whiskey" with **Lindsay Rimes** and **Russell Sutton** — is from Paradise, Calif. He scored early success on social media prior to signing with Sony Music Nashville's Arista roster in November 2021. He boasts 1.4 million TikTok followers.



JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

"When I released 'Whiskey,' I wasn't sure what would happen ... I just knew I loved it," Smith tells *Billboard*. "First, my fans were super encouraging on social media and then country radio welcomed the song with open arms, and for that, I couldn't be more grateful. Meanwhile, my dad is just glad I have a job! A huge thank-you to country radio, my fans, my team and everyone who has lifted this song up."

"Whiskey" marks the second initial Country Airplay entry to reign already in 2023, after **Jelly Roll's** "Son of a Sinner" (Jan. 14). In 2022, only **Bailey Zimmerman** reached the penthouse with his debut charted title, when "Fall in Love" led in December.

On the streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs list (dated Jan. 28), "Whiskey" ranks at No. 12, bolstered by 5.7 million U.S. streams.

KEEPS ON 'TRUCK-IN' **Lainey Wilson** notches her third straight career-opening Country Airplay top 10 as "Heart Like a Truck" (Broken Bow) rides 11-10 (19.6 million, up 11%). She co-penned the track with **Trannie Anderson** and **Dallas Wilson**. Her debut hit, "Things a Man Oughta Know," led Country Airplay for one week in September 2021, followed by "Never Say Never," with **Cole Swindell**, a two-week No. 1 last April-May.

Concurrently, **HARDY's** "wait in the truck" (Broken Bow/Big Loud), featuring Wilson, rises 12-11 (19.6 million, up 10%).

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	+2.785
GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+2.539
ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+2.185
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+1.871
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	+1.713
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	+1.685
WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	+1.606
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+1.422
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+1.247
YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	+1.226

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	+688
ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+589
GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+587
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	+474
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+472
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	+439
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	+364
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+363
WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	+309
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+290

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	17.964
2	HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	17.197
3	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	17.125
4	5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	14.912
5	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	14.870
6	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	13.274
7	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	11.127
8	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	10.219
9	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	10.079
10	MY KINDA PARTY Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	10.374



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 22, 2023

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	2	DON'T IT MAKE YOU WANNA DANCE (Independent) **1 Week at 1**	Josh Abbott/Flatland Cavalry	1791	125	11	13	2	JACKSON (Independent)	Kaitlin Butts	1328	51
2	3	2	ANDERSON COUNTY (King Hall Music)	Chad Cooke Band	1749	176	12	16	2	GOOD SIDE (Independent)	The Great Divide	1214	52
3	4	2	STARTS IN A BAR (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1735	177	13	14	2	NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS AFTER MIDNIGHT (Independent)	Scotty Alexander	1203	-68
4	5	2	DIE RUNNIN' (Independent)	Mike Ryan	1679	147	14	15	2	PICKET FENCES (Independent)	The Wilder Blue	1189	-14
5	6	2	LONELY GIRL (Independent)	Cody Canada & The Departed	1614	154	15	17	2	MOUNTAIN SONG (Independent)	Flatland Cavalry	1176	152
6	7	2	THREE PEOPLE (ME, JIM BEAM AND YOU) (Independent)	Sundance Head	1458	80	16	20	2	DAMN THIS HEART OF MINE (Independent)	William Beckmann	1157	175
7	9	2	BEERS WE AIN'T DRANK YET (Fool Hearted)	Jon Wolfe	1455	95	17	18	2	FAST CAR (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	1097	87
8	12	2	MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN (Independent)	Case Hardin	1415	96	18	22	2	FRIDAY BEERS (Independent)	Drew Fish Band	1046	96
9	11	2	COWGIRL (Independent)	Jake Bush	1407	67	19	21	2	KEEP UP WITH A COWGIRL (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	1016	60
10	10	2	BAD MEDICINE (Independent)	Whiskey Myers	1371	13	20	19	2	BREAKIN' IN THESE BOOTS (Independent)	Holly Tucker	995	-6

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 2023, Texas Regional Radio Report

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	3	33	WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	31.247	+2.786	7788	688	1
2	2	21	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	29.656	+0.761	7439	290	2
3	1	36	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	28.919	-2.118	6994	-538	3
4	4	33	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	25.521	-0.728	5390	-372	8
5	5	34	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	25.429	+0.610	5699	209	6
6	7	13	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	25.131	+1.422	6540	472	4
7	8	15	GOING, GOING, GONE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	23.726	+2.539	5828	587	5
8	6	51	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	20.741	-4.022	5259	-1393	10
9	10	28	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	20.062	+0.471	5398	70	7
10	11	37	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	19.605	+1.871	5336	364	9
11	12	23	WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	18.214	+1.685	4856	474	12
12	13	32	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	18.145	+1.713	5034	439	11
13	15	16	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	16.769	+2.185	4393	589	13
14	14	25	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	16.516	+0.856	4262	167	14
15	16	62	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	15.485	+1.226	4173	229	15
16	17	27	GOLD Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	13.867	+0.876	3683	169	17
17	18	26	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	12.928	+1.606	3699	309	16
18	21	29	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	9.791	+0.914	2865	217	20
19	19	24	NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	9.634	+0.611	2872	89	19
20	22	34	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	9.341	+0.480	2979	200	18
21	20	32	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	9.315	+0.353	2810	128	21
22	23	21	HOW IT OUGHTA BE Harpeth 60/BMLG	Shane Profitt	6.893	+0.073	2511	112	22
23	24	28	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	6.144	+0.505	2056	101	25
24	25	44	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	6.133	+0.704	2273	110	23
25	26	20	IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	5.900	+1.247	2262	363	24
26	28	13	HATE MY HEART Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	4.383	+0.475	1516	124	30
27	27	30	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Belting Bronco/WAR	Zach Bryan	4.214	+0.214	1513	84	32
28	30	22	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek	Parmalee	4.057	+0.447	1626	237	28
29	29	27	Y'ALL LIFE Monument	Walker Hayes	4.025	+0.274	1785	196	26
30	31	9	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	3.888	+0.504	1367	178	35

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2023, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed in Luminate's online platform.

TIES

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

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%.

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. Plus, songs that ascend to a peak between Nos. 1 and 5 will remain on the chart for one additional week even if dropping below No. 10.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

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

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 MONITORED BY **LUMINATE**

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	33	44	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	3.744	+0.559	1693	135	27
32	32	39	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	3.632	+0.321	1424	64	34
33	38	4	MEMORY LANE Arista Nashville	Old Dominion	3.592	+0.913	983	240	38
34	34	52	SON OF A Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	3.399	+0.316	1612	66	29
35	35	28	DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville	Eric Church	3.218	+0.249	1515	185	31
36	37	10	TENNESSEE ORANGE Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville	Megan Moroney	3.128	+0.415	1050	221	36
37	36	17	YOUR HEART OR MINE Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	2.983	+0.237	993	121	37
38	39	32	MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	2.731	+0.082	1451	105	33
39	43	12	YOU, ME, & WHISKEY Valory ★★ Breaker ★★	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block	2.121	+0.387	841	136	41
40	40	17	SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek	Drake Milligan	1.987	+0.035	707	43	43
41	41	19	EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse	Kolby Cooper	1.977	+0.040	946	59	39
42	42	19	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	1.863	-0.000	932	17	40
43	44	8	WE GOT HISTORY Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	1.662	+0.141	570	68	46
44	45	12	HEAVEN BYTHEN Valory Brantley Gilbert And Blake Shelton Featuring Vince Gill	1.598	+0.103	683	66	44	
45	46	22	WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley	1.514	+0.183	709	96	42
46	47	2	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	1.446	+0.228	456	102	50
47	48	2	LOOKING FOR YOU RCA Nashville	Chris Young	1.401	+0.367	449	49	51
48	51	4	IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOING DOWNTOO) Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	1.202	+0.281	598	84	45
49	50	11	IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD EMI Nashville	Kylie Morgan	1.138	+0.134	536	81	47
50	49	4	UP THERE DOWN HERE Big Loud	Jake Owen	1.011	-0.003	442	38	52
51	RE-ENTRY		ONE THING AT A TIME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	0.970	+0.366	256	96	-
52	52	8	TAKE IT SLOW Valory	Conner Smith	0.878	-0.002	510	4	48
53	57	2	GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	0.859	+0.118	439	13	53
54	55	9	OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN Show Dog Nashville	Toby Keith	0.842	-0.008	491	-12	49
55	58	3	FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH Bad Realm/Atlantic	BRELAND	0.827	+0.105	369	34	56
56	NEW		STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Dustin Lynch	0.724	+0.147	227	79	-
57	RE-ENTRY		MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	0.702	+0.059	382	-5	55
58	53	14	OVER FOR YOU Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Morgan Evans	0.701	-0.166	322	-9	57
59	56	7	HOW YOU MAKE A MAN Broken Bow	Craig Morgan	0.685	-0.060	285	-46	59
60	NEW		COUNTRY CAN Curb	Hannah Ellis	0.606	+0.066	400	45	54



Jackson Dean performed current single "Fearless (The Echo)" during a Jan. 19 concert at Nashville's Basement East. From left: Big Machine Records senior vp of promotion and digital Kris Lamb and GM Clay Hunnicutt, Dean and Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta and executive VP of A&R Allison Jones.



Tigirlily Gold performed new music during a Jan. 25 tour stop at Nashville's Electric Jane. From left: Roundhouse Entertainment co-founder Greg McCarn, Tigirlily Gold members Kendra Slaubaugh and Krista Slaubaugh, Monument co-president Shane McAnally and Monument GM Katie McCartney.

GETTY IMAGES



Special Issue
ON SALE
FEB. 25, 2023

WOMEN IN MUSIC

On February 25th, *Billboard* will publish its highly anticipated Women in Music special issue, featuring top women in the music industry who are creating excitement and making their mark across labels, publishing and touring.

Coinciding with the issue, *Billboard's* Women in Music awards ceremony will be held March 1st. This event will bring together music's most prominent female artists and the industry's top female business executives to recognize and celebrate their achievements.

Take this opportunity to congratulate the most powerful and talented women in music and wish them continued success.

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ON SALE: 2/25 | **AD CLOSE** 2/14 | **MATERIALS DUE** 2/16

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NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Riser House artist **Jordana Bryant** appeared on the WSM-AM Nashville morning show on Jan. 25, chatting with morning hosts **Bill Cody** (left) and **Charlie Mattos**.

NEW LOOK FOR THE OLE OPRY

Over two decades since its last major visual overhaul, the Grand Ole Opry will unveil a new set design during the Feb. 4 show.

The current barn backdrop is already a sleeker version of the rural imagery that historically supported the Opry cast. Tying into its origins as a “barn dance” in 1925, the Opry added farm scenery and structures into its staging as the production advanced. In conjunction with the 75th anniversary in 2000, the backdrop became more symbolic than literal, incorporating a spotlight theme within the framework of a barn.

Opry management has provided no direct hints thus far about the updated look, but GM **Dan Rogers** has been attentive to the show’s history even as the Opry prepares for its second century. The 100th anniversary arrives in November 2025.

In a tip of the straw hat to contemporary marketing, the new set piece — part of a \$4 million upgrade that addresses audio/visual technology and improvements to the Opry House — will be unveiled in person, as well as on TV during the Feb. 4 edition of *Opry Live* on the Circle Network and through social media.

RADIO & RECORDS®

BMG promoted **JoJamie Hahr** to executive vp of recorded music/Nashville from BBR Music Group senior vp. Reach her [here](#) ... Big Machine Label Group senior vp of communications **Jake Basden** announced plans to leave his position in the coming weeks after a dozen years with the company. Future plans are forthcoming ... **Renee McClure** joined indie Bow to Stern as vp of A&R/operations, departing her previous role as GrassRoots Promotion vp of promotion. Reach her [here](#) ... GrassRoots upped **R.J. Jordan** to director of promotion from vp of artist management and development. Reach him [here](#) ... **Nickel Creek** signed with Thirty Tigers to issue *Celebrants*, the band’s first album in nine years, on March 24 ... RECORDS Nashville added the **James Barker Band** to the artist roster, releasing its first single for the label, “Meet Your Mama,” Jan. 27 ... Singer-songwriter **Kelsey Hart** agreed to a recording contract with Curb. The first release, “6-Pack Gone,” is due Jan. 27 ... Yep Roc welcomed **Jobi Riccio** to the label. She released her first track for the company, “For Me It’s You,” on Jan. 26 ... **Peter Tanz** was named board chair at Midwest Communications, succeeding founder **Duke Wright**, who died Dec. 21. Tanz had been Midwest/Green Bay, Wis., senior vp/market manager ... **WPCV** Lakeland-Winter Haven, Fla., hired morning co-host/producer **Chris Rhoden**, who returns to radio in the market after working in 2022 as an account executive for Austin-based Atmosphere TV. Reach Rhoden [here](#) ... **Spencer Bynes** transfers to iHeartRadio/Atlanta, effective Feb. 1, to serve as market president, RadioInk.com reported. He was previously Texas region area president. The Atlanta cluster includes country **WUBL** ... **A.J. Mansour** was promoted to iHeartMedia/Minneapolis vp of digital sales, according to RadioInk.com. He was formerly regional director of digital enterprises ... Country Radio Broadcasters will recognize **Tracy Lawrence** as the artist humanitarian award recipient and **KUZZ** Bakersfield, Calif., PD **Brent Michaels** as the Tom Rivers humanitarian award winner on March 15 during the Country Radio Seminar in Nashville.

'ROUND THE ROW

Vector Management named **Jason Murray** president as the Black Box Music CEO merged his company with Vector. The first client signing in the arrangement is **Charley Crockett** ... Hill Entertainment Group hired client coordinator **Palmer Heath**. She previously was an influencer for the Hamilton Brand ... Triple 8 Management welcomed artist manager **Aaron Sawyer** and associate manager **Hannah Boren**. The former Red Light execs bring a handful of artists to Triple 8, including **Sean** and **Sara Watkins** ... **Dave Felipe** joined 117 Entertainment as director of publicity. A former publicist for the **Nashville Symphony**, Felipe was most recently public relations manager for the Mechanical Licensing Collective. Reach him [here](#) ... Penske Media Eldridge, a joint venture between PMC and Eldridge, acquired dick clark productions. PMC is the parent company of *Billboard* ... **Aaron Watson** signed a management deal with Roundhouse Entertainment ... Sincerely Music Group added **Brady Lee** to the company’s management roster; a new single, “Strangers in a Photograph,” is due Feb. 3 ... Singer-songwriter **Abbey Cone** agreed to a joint publishing contract with Warner Chappell Nashville and Truth or Dare Publishing ... Songwriter **Corey Crowder** (“Famous Friends,” “Minimum Wage”) signed a co-publishing deal with Concord Music, which also acquired a stake in the majority of his catalog ... **Clara Park** reached a publishing agreement with SMACKSongs ... **MacKenzie Porter** pacted with CAA for concert booking. She’ll be represented by **Bennett Beckner** and **Jeff Krones** ... **The Red Clay Strays** picked up a booking deal with WME, with **Jay Williams**, **Aaron Tannenbaum**, **Alex Collignon** and **Kanan Vitolo** tabbed to represent the band ... Musically Fed will work with the Recording Academy to repurpose food from multiple Grammy events, including the awards and the MusiCares Persons of the Year gala, in Los Angeles during February ... **Little Big Town**, **LeAnn Rimes**, **Brandi Carlile** and **Lady A** are among the talent slated for *A Grammy Salute to The Beach Boys*, shooting in Los Angeles on Feb. 8 for a CBS special later in 2023 ... The GLAAD Media Awards nominated **Brooke Eden** for outstanding breakthrough artist ... **Larry Gatlin** began teaching an eight-week songwriting master class on Jan. 23 at the University of Texas Permian Basin, in Odessa ... **Willie Nelson** will be honored with a two-night birthday celebration April 29-30 at Los Angeles’ Hollywood Bowl as he turns 90. The lineup includes **Kacey Musgraves**, **Lyle Lovett**, **Sturgill Simpson**, **Rosanne Cash** and **Charley Crockett** ... **Chris Stapleton** will sing the national anthem before the Super Bowl on Feb. 12 ... **Emily Portman** will portray **Loretta Lynn** in *Always Loretta*, a tribute show that will debut in Nashville at the Troubadour Theater on March 21. She’ll be backed by Lynn’s band, **The Coalminers** ... Former Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum executive **Peter Cooper** will be recognized in a celebration of life at the museum’s CMA Theater at 7 p.m. Feb. 24. 🍷



Mercury Nashville artist **Dalton Dover** met up with **WOKQ** Portsmouth, N.H., brand manager **Ginny Brophey** when he performed for listeners on Jan. 19.



Tyler Hubbard (right) performed live for a SiriusXM studio audience, appearing with host **Storme Warren**. The program will re-air five times Jan. 28-29.

billboard



SXSW 2023

This issue features cover stories on the stars headlining Billboard's stage at SXSW and a preview of other festival highlights.

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

Old Dominion's 'Memory Lane' Moves An Old Idea Into New Territory

"Let's take a trip down memory lane."

Few expressions are more cliché. Different usages of "memory lane" or "memory's lane" began showing up in the late 1800s, and the phrase has become a common way to think of nostalgia.

Old Dominion's new single, which Arista Nashville released to country radio via PlayMPE on Jan. 4, puts a fresh coat of paint on that time-worn "Memory Lane" idea. It exists because three band members — lead singer **Matthew Ramsey** and guitarists **Brad Tursi** and **Trevor Rosen** — were open to it when **Jessie Jo Dillon** ("Break Up in the End," "10,000 Hours") brought it up during a Jan. 24, 2022, appointment at Tursi's house.

"Whenever you're in a room full of very successful songwriters and someone throws out something that's so cliché, there's a reason, and they may not even know it," Ramsey says. "You definitely pay attention to it because, of course, it's cliché. But why is that sticking out right now? So it makes us kind of all sit down and go, 'All right, forget the cliché. Why is this title here in this room with us?'"

Tursi actually started the creative chain before his co-writers arrived that day, building a short rhythmic track around an acoustic guitar and kick drum.

"After you write a million songs on the guitar, it starts to become hard to think of a different rhythm," says Tursi. "I knew those guys — and girl — were coming to my house, and I tried to pull up a little drum program that has a different rhythm than you would play on a guitar. I just kind of found that little groove, that acoustic part in the intro. It was two chords and the loop, and that's what I played them when they got there."

It sounds vaguely similar in spirit to the rolling guitar in "Gentle on My Mind," a song **John Hartford** wrote based on the traveling plot of the 1965 movie *Dr. Zhivago*. Dillon thought "Memory Lane," logged in a page of titles on her phone, was an appropriate match.

"He had this beat that was real fast and kind of pulsing," she says. "I wouldn't really think to do that idea that way naturally, but it gave the song so much energy, and I think it feels driving, kind of like you're driving down memory lane."

Dillon originally generated the title during her own battle with nostalgia. She was getting over a relationship with another songwriter, and she still missed him significantly.

"When I hear that song, I picture exactly where it was — the house and the place, for me," she recalls. "I think the guys had their own versions of that as well in their minds when we were writing it."

One of the guys — likely Rosen — came up with the opening line, "If I could buy a house on Memory Lane," and Ramsey chimed in with quick rhymes: "I'd put my money down, and I'd sign my name." They envisioned a corner lot, but never identified the cross street. (It's tempting to think it's Lonely Street, which would put Memory Lane in the same neighborhood as Heartbreak Hotel.)

Since that "Memory Lane" title appears in the opening line, it made sense to repeat it in the first line of every successive verse. But that also posed a problem when they reached the chorus; it wouldn't make sense to repeat the

title at the end of the chorus and the beginning of the next verse. So they didn't include the title in the song's key stanza.

"It would have been corny to try to somehow wrap the chorus back up into that line," explains Rosen. "It allows the chorus to just give the images, and it's such a release when it falls back into that line [in the next verse]. There's no need to say it in the chorus."

In fact, they held out the tension at the end of the chorus, creating an extra

line over an unresolved chord, while a fantasy from the past — "We'd never let go, and we'd never be over" — plays out in the story. Emphasizing that tension, staying locked in the memory, reminded Rosen of the movie *Inception*.

"It's a really trippy sci-fi movie where they figure out how to go into other people's dreams," he says. "But sometimes when they're in a dream, they don't know [it]. It felt like being in that movie, where if I could just live in this [dream], I wouldn't care if I came back to reality."

Since the chorus is designed to circle back to the verse, they couldn't end "Memory Lane" with the chorus. So they concluded by repeating the first

verse and changing the lyrics in the back half of that section to "We'd never fade, never fade, never fade..."

Old Dominion, including bassist **Geoff Sprung** and drummer **Whit Sellers**, recorded "Memory Lane" with producer **Shane McAnally (Sam Hunt, Midland)** at Shrimpsboat Sound Studio in Key West, Fla., a facility with an appropriately nostalgic atmosphere.

"It's this little, unassuming cinder block building that no one knows what's going on on the inside or pays any attention to, but it's **Jimmy Buffett's** studio," says Ramsey. "You walk in there, and it's like a time capsule of his career. There's Jimmy Buffett memorabilia and all these old Polaroids everywhere. It's like stepping back in time, and it's a very creative little vortex."

Instead of following the band's typical recording process, in which it plays as much of the track as possible together, "Memory Lane" was built piece by piece over programmed percussion. Sellers replaced most of the synthetic rhythms with real drums after everyone else did their parts, a reversal of the typical order.

Ramsey was challenged by the lead vocal's phrasing — "It's really tough to find a place to take your breath and keep going," he says — and Tursi developed a guitar solo that feels as much like a journey as the rest of the track.

"What happens with me is one of those times when we're running it down, I'll just take a solo and then spend another 15 minutes trying to beat it," Tursi says. "And then everyone goes, 'The first one is the best one.' I'm never satisfied with anything."

When Old Dominion played it as a full band for the first time on Jan. 19 in Evansville, Ind., Tursi extended the performance with an adventurous 90-second closing solo after the "never fades" lyric ended. Meanwhile, "Memory Lane" travels to No. 33 on the Country Airplay chart dated Feb. 4.

"It just felt like it was strong and artistic and commercial, and it had the right balance of everything," Tursi says.

And it brings a fresh attitude to a very familiar phrase from the past. ●



billboard Country Airplay Index

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

B

BROWN EYES BABY WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Music Of The Corn, ASCAP/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Music, SOCAN/Quivira Road Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI (W.Bundy, R.Clawson, J.Thompson, M.Wallen) **18**

C

CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb Songs, ASCAP/Curb Congregation Songs, SESAC/Good Vibes, Good Times Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/EpacEntertainmentFam, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI (D.Scott, M.Alderman, J.Melton, D.Wilson) **42**

COUNTRY CAN Mike Curb Music, BMI/Her Futurer Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Tunes By Trailerparker, BMI/EMPIRE Strikes First, BMI/EE Posse Publishing, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Studio Apartment Studio, ASCAP (H.Ellis, P.Welling, N.Wayne, J.P.Massey) **60**

D

DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/MAROMA Music, BMI (T.R.Hubbard, R.Copperman, J.M.Nite, K.Urbain) **30**

DOING LIFE WITH ME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Jeffrey Steele Music, BMI (E.Church, C.Beathard, Jeffrey Steele) **35**

E

EVERYTHING SHE Ain'T WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Pegasus, ASCAP/Cockeyed Hat Music, BMI/Harolds Purple Heart Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (M.Witters, B.Simpson, R.Yndell) **32**

EXCUSES Songs Of Combustion Five, ASCAP/Megusta Music, ASCAP/Hell Write Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/940 Songs, BMI (K.Cooper, Brett Tyler, J.Walker) **41**

F

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH Pen Point Guard Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Round Hill Works, BMI/Mustaine Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Hold On Can I Get A Number I Music, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Jimmy Sad Publishing, BMI/Long And Curly Entertainment, BMI (D.G.Breiland, R.H.Block, J.R.Durrett, G.James) **55**

G

GIRL IN MINE 33 Creative, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Sony Countryside, BMI/M.Thomas Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Track & Feels Publishing, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., ASCAP/Tape Room Publishing, SESAC (D.Fanning, M.Thomas, A.G.Gorley, T.Wood, C.Brown) **28**

GOD GAVE ME A GIRL Big Hits N Gravy, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Foxwood Entertainment Group Music Division, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP (R.Dickerson, A.G.Gorley, C.McGill, C.Crowell) **33**

GOING, GOING, GONE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Boatload Lyrics, BMI/Keen Chophin Publishing, BMI/Hit B's Songs, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI (L.Combs, R.Fulcher, J.McNair) **7**

GOLD EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Emilion Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/DudeTunes, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (R.Copperman, C.L.Dick, A.G.Gorley, D.Bentley) **16**

GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/YesYesYall, BMI/Mason Gannon Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Revelry Music, BMI (D.Cohen, B.Hamrick, N.Mason) **24**

H

HANDLE ON YOU Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/ParkerMac Publishing, BMI/Spirit Nashville One Crescendo, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Trust And Chomé Music, BMI (P.McCollum, M.Criswell) **14**

HATE MY HEART Carrie-Okie Music, BMI/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP (C.Underwood, D.A.Garcia, M.W.Hardy, H.Lindsey) **26**

HEART LIKE A TRUCK Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Riser House, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI (L.Wilson, D.Wilson, T.Anderson) **10**

HEAVEN BY THEN Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Indiana Angel Music, BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/Wake And Jake Music, BMI/Big Digger Songs, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (G.Gilbert, B.Berryhill, M.W.Hardy, J.Mitchell, R.Montana, H.Phelps, T.Phillips) **44**

HOW IT OUGHTA BE Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Old Tom Music Publishing, BMI/Tennessee Backwoods Music, BMI/Fraser Made Music, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/KM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP (S.Prontt, D.Frasier, Mitch Oglesby) **22**

HOW YOU MAKE A MAN Torches And Pitchforks Music, BMI/Dandy Lines Music, BMI/Shore Hits Music, BMI/Big Write Play, BMI/Hipnosis Beats, BMI/Angrly Mob Music, ASCAP/DAG Demolition Music Publishing, ASCAP (M.Conner, S.Black, M.Walton) **59**

HUMAN BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Heytone Music, ASCAP/She And I, LLC, BMI/Songs Of Mighty Isis Music, BMI/It's Killer Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (T.Lane, T.Meadows) **20**

I

IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD Songs Of Smack Blue, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Bad Angel Entertainment, BMI/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI (K.Morgan, Z.Holup, B.J.Johnson) **49**

IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOING DOWN TOO) Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Music Of Big Family, BMI/Dragon Bunny Music, BMI/Smackwood Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR (K.Ballerini, J.C.Bunetta, S.McAnally) **48**

IT MATTERS TO HER Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs With Words That Rhyme With Truck, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Brocephus Music, BMI (S.C.McCreery, L.T.Miller, R.Akins) **25**

L

LOOKING FOR YOU Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sir Reginald The Fifth, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Monsters Hate Puppies Publishing, ASCAP/Young Man Publishing, BMI/WersDwi, ASCAP (C.Young, C.DeStefano, J.McNair, E.Weisband) **47**

M

MAN MADE Melodies Of Sea Gayle Music, SESAC/Brett Sherokey Publishing, SESAC/Still Working For The Woman, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (B.Sheroky, I.Christian) **38**

MEMORY LANE WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Twelve Dogwood, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Iurs And chorus, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, B.F.Tursi, J.J.Dillon) **33**

MIND ON YOU Whiskey Side, ASCAP/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlow Sinclair Songs, SESAC/MTNoise, SESAC/Average 7's Music Publishing, BMI (G.Birge, J.Boyer, M.Tyler, Colt Ford) **57**

N

NEED A FAVOR Austin Nivarel Publishing, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Rob Ragosta Publishing Designee, BMI/Balle'e's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI (A.A.Nivarel, J.Ragosta, R.Ragosta, J.B.DeFord) **46**

NO BODY Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Ertie Bird Expressions, ASCAP/Ford Drives A Chevy, BMI/kiagai Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Short At Work, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP (C.Tompkins, J.Kear, R.Clawson) **19**

NOTE TO SELF EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Little Britches Music, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sea Gayle Iavern Hoes Music, BMI/Songs Of Ole L Paso, BMI (R.Houser, R.Copperman, C.Beathard, B.Pinson) **31**

O

OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN Hosstone Music, ASCAP (M.Hosty) **54**

ONE THING AT A TIME Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, Company, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (M.Wallen, A.G.Gorley, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **51**

OVER FOR YOU Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/LiveMadLove, ASCAP/SongsME, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Tim Sommers Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (G.Warburton, M.E.Love, M.Evans, T.Sommers) **58**

P

PICK ME UP Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Cuts Like A Nite Music, SESAC (G.Barrett, J.M.Nite, R.Copperman) **8**

R

ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Songs In The Key Of Black, BMI/Ivill Music, BMI/Vacant Heart Publishing, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Speakers Go Boom Music, SOCAN/Goat Island Bay Music, BMI (H.Warren, J.Hackworth, J.Harvey) **13**

S

SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Be A Light Publishing, BMI/Colden Rainey Music, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Roc Nation WC Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP (A.G.Gorley, C.Swindell, J.Frasure, M.D.Sanders, Thomas Rhett, T.Nichols) **5**

SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **27**

SON OF A RISER House Tunes, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC/Pambilly Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI (D.Carmichael, P.O'Donnell, C.Beathard) **34**

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Sony Countryside, BMI/Marzia Music, BMI/DESTON SONG SLAYER, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Staleish Music, BMI/Music Of Big Deal, BMI/Highland House Of Hits, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI (D.Milligan, B.Beavers, T.A.McBride) **40**

STARS LIKE CONFETTI Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI/Music Of MAM, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/cricket On The Lip, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP/Kyler's Kinda Night, ASCAP/Miller Crow Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP (J.Thompson, Thomas Rhett, Z.Crowell) **56**

T

TAKE IT SLOW Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Songs Of Miller Crow, BMI/Hometowners Music, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI/Mark Trussell Music, ASCAP/Future Heartbeat Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (C.Smith, R.J.Hurd, M.Trussell) **52**

TENNESSEE ORANGE Georgiamq Music, SESAC/Reservoir 416, BMI/55 Creative, BMI/Bone Bone Creative, BMI/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (M.Moroney, D.Fanning, P.Jenkins, B.Williams) **36**

THANK GOD Feels Like Friday Music, SESAC/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Kyle Fishman Music, BMI/Play It Again Entertainment, BMI/Goat Island Music, LLC, BMI/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/chorus 2 Music, SESAC/Blunts And Bonfires Music, SESAC/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Jaded Muffins Music, BMI/Dead Aim Music, BMI (C.D.Stalneck, K.A.Fishman, J.Free, J.Hoge, J.Mullins) **2**

THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Triple Play Music, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Double Down Music, BMI/High Noon Yellow Stars Music, BMI/Makena Cove Music, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Irishsonmusic, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Zona Blue Music, BMI (J.Morgan, J.Edwards, T.Kennedy, K.M.Allison) **9**

THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/A Boy Named Ford, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Pink Dog Publishing, BMI (M.Wallen, N.Galyon, M.Lambert) **6**

U

UP THERE DOWN HERE Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/NATIVE CREATIVE MUSIC, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI (Z.Dyer, S.Overstreet, T.Wood) **50**

W

WAIT IN THE TRUCK Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Humerus Publishing Global, BMI/Round Hill Verses Publishing, BMI/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP (M.W.Hardy, H.Phelps, J.M.Schmidt, R.Blair) **11**

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Between The Pines, LLC, ASCAP/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hand Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Miller Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackbone Music, ASCAP (S.L.Hunt, C.La.Corte, S.McAnally, J.Osborne) **21**

WE GOT HISTORY Sony Countryside, BMI/Riser Ten Music, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Tacklebox Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Black Jeans Music, BMI/Neon Cross Music, BMI/Sony Accent, ASCAP/The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP/Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP (M.Tenpeny, A.Alibert, D.Dawson, J.M.Schmidt) **43**

WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Songs Of Yellow Room Music, BMI/Eor The Kids Platinum, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Bedfeather Publishing, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP (C.Pearce, A.G.Gorley, E.M.Shackleton) **12**

WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Matt Drag Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/The Buffalo Catalogue, BMI (J.Davis, M.Dragstern, R.J.Huro) **3**

WHISKEY ON YOU Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Greent Music, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Kcala 1 Tunes, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Droptime Music, BMI (M.Smith, L.Rimes, R.Sutton) **1**

WILD AS HER Combustion Music, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing I, BMI/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Red Creative, BMI/downtown BMP Songs, BMI/Big Loud Brett Songs, BMI/Round Hill Compositions, BMI/Sonotogroceries Music, BMI (M.Wallen, Brett Tyler, K.Archer) **17**

WORTH A SHOT Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Smackwood Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackbone Music, ASCAP (S.McAnally, R.Copperman, J.Osborne) **45**

Y

Y'ALL LIFE Songs Of Smack, BMI/Spark In Your Pocket, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Universal Music - MGB Songs, ASCAP/D2 Pro Publishing, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC (W.Hayes, P.Good, J.Jenkins, C.Haynes, Jr., J.Epperson) **29**

YOU BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Beats And Banjos, ASCAP/Buckeye26, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Irvymusic, ASCAP/Lawriwranglers, ASCAP (D.Smeyers, J.M.Barnes, J.Reynolds) **23**

YOU DIDN'T Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/RMS, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/EMI Foray Music, SESAC/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP (B.Young, A.G.Gorley, J.M.Nite, J.Robbins) **15**

YOU, ME, & WHISKEY WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Don't Be A Gypsy, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Anthem Cal Minjng Songs, BMI/Randolph County Music, BMI/Taylor Made By The Red White And Blue, BMI (J.L.Alexander, B.Berryhill, C.Taylor) **39**

YOU PROOF Big Loud Mountain, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Warner-Jamlerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (M.Wallen, A.G.Gorley, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **4**

YOUR HEART OR MINE Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Honkytonkaholic Music Publishing, BMI/Universal Tunes, SESAC/Plat Racon, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Brumby Cooper Otis Music, ASCAP (B.Butler, J.Ebach, J.Pierce) **37**

CODDIE

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

10 Years Ago Randy Houser Notched His Inaugural 'Country' No. 1

In 2013, the Mississippi-born singer-songwriter earned his first of three Country Airplay leaders

On Feb. 2, 2013, **Randy Houser's** "How Country Feels" topped *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart, marking his first of three No. 1s among six top 10s.

Vicky McGehee, Wendell Mobley and **Neil Thrasher** wrote the song, which **Derek George** produced. It was released as the first single from Houser's same-named set, which arrived and peaked at No. 3 on Top Country Albums.

Born Dec. 18, 1975, in Jackson, Miss., Houser first tasted chart success as a co-writer of **Trace Adkins'** "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk," which hit No. 2 in February 2006.

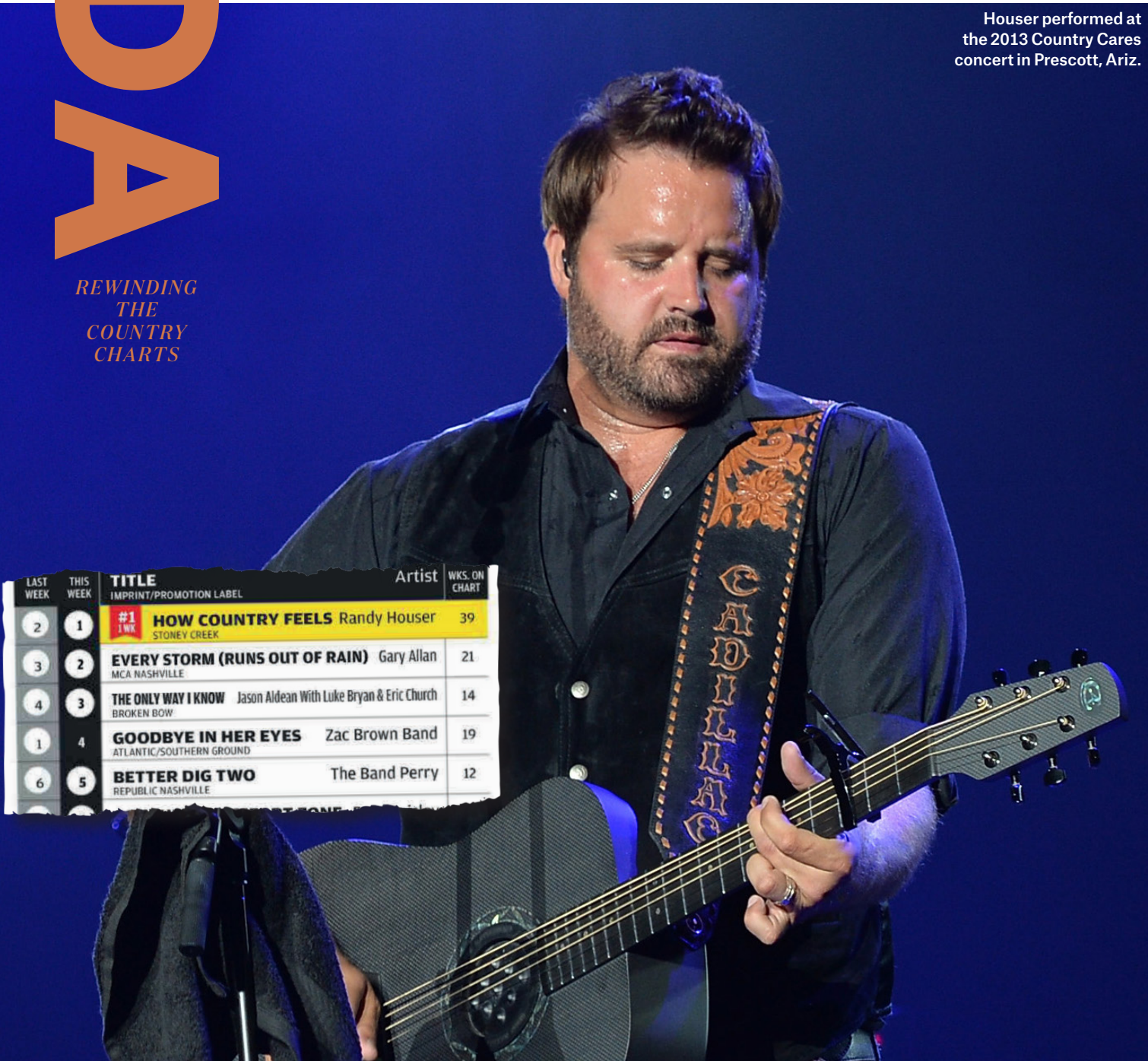
Following "Country," Houser

ruled Country Airplay with "Runnin' Outta Moonlight," for two weeks in August 2013, and "We Went" (one, March 2016).

"It's been quite amazing how country radio and the fans have accepted me and allowed me to come into their lives and homes," Houser told *Billboard* in 2014. "I'm very lucky."

Now 47 and based in Nashville, Houser released his sixth studio album, *Note to Self*, in November. He co-authored all 10 tracks on the set. The title-track lead single ranks at No. 31 on the latest, Feb. 4-dated Country Airplay chart. —JIM ASKER

Houser performed at the 2013 Country Cares concert in Prescott, Ariz.



LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	TITLE IMPRINT/PROMOTION LABEL	Artist	WKS. ON CHART
2	1	#1 HOW COUNTRY FEELS STONEY CREEK	Randy Houser	39
3	2	EVERY STORM (RUNS OUT OF RAIN) MCA NASHVILLE	Gary Allan	21
4	3	THE ONLY WAY I KNOW BROKEN BOW	Jason Aldean With Luke Bryan & Eric Church	14
1	4	GOODBYE IN HER EYES ATLANTIC/SOUTHERN GROUND	Zac Brown Band	19
6	5	BETTER DIG TWO REPUBLIC NASHVILLE	The Band Perry	12