bilboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Morgan Wallen, Taylor Swift Play Key Roles In Country's 2023 Boom, According To Luminate



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Nate Smith's 'Fire' Still Burning >page 4

Takin' Care Of Business Moves >page 8

Country Coda: The 'Heart' Of The Judds >page 12 It wasn't just one thing at a time for **Morgan Wallen** or for **Taylor Swift** in 2023.

Wallen owned the two most-consumed country albums of the year, plus five of the 10 most streamed country songs, according to data compiled by Luminate. Swift, meanwhile, racked up three of the four best-selling country albums as the genre made

 $huge\,advances\,in\,the\,mark etplace.$

Country scored 113.1 billion on-demand audio and video streams, 22.2% more than in the previous year. That surpassed the musicindustry's overall expansion, which hit 14.6%. Country's total equivalent album units swelled 21.8% to 92.2 million, significantly greater growth than the industry's overall 12.5% advance. Additionally, country album sales climbed 16.4%, with 8.2 million units sold. That's an uptick of 1.1 million purchases, and it's more than triple the rate

of the music industry in general, which gained a modest 5.2% increase over 2022.

Wallen posted the leading country album by total equivalent album units for the third straight year as *One Thing at a Time* registered 5.4 million units. That figure also made it the most-consumed title in any genre. *Dangerous: The Double Album* landed at No. 2 on the list at 2.2 million units. *Dangerous* led the year-end country albums lists each of the previous two years,

amassing 3.2 million units in 2021 and 2.4 million units in 2022. Wallen also lobbed a third album onto this year's country list, with his 2019 debut, *If I Know Me*, collecting 856,000 total equivalents to sneak in at No. 10.

Wallen's "Last Night" logged 1.1 billion on-demand streams, becoming the first country song to reach the bil-

lion mark in on-demand streams on a Luminate year-end chart. Elsewhere among the 10 most streamed country songs, Wallen checked in with "You Proof," No. 4, 550.3 million streams; "Thinkin' Bout Me," No. 5, 534.2 million streams; "Wasted On You," No. 6, 487.5 million streams; and "Thought You Should Know," No. 8, 426 million streams.

Swift, the biggest pop star on the planet, returned to the country albums year-end sales lists, thanks to her rerecordings of previous country projects. Speak Now (Taylor's

Version) topped the country chart with 908,000 units sold; Red [Taylor's Version] moved 309,000 units, finishing No. 3; and Fear-less (Taylor's Version) landed at No. 4, with 257,000 albums sold.

The only area where country slipped was in track sales. The genre sold 17.7 million, a 5.5% drop-off from 2022. But country's slide was still smaller than the total industry, which fell 11.9% to 133.9 million downloads. Jason Aldean's "Try That in a Small Town" garnered 497,000 sales to rank No. 1



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DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS

CLICK HERE FOR FREE DELIVERY among country track sales. Lining up behind it were Oliver Anthony Music's "Rich Men North of Richmond," 358,000 downloads; Wallen's "Last Night," 302,000 sales; and Luke Combs' "Fast Car," 251,000 sales.

Following are the top 10 entries for four country consumption lists that Luminate compiled for 2023. Additional reporting by Keith Caulfield.

Top Country Albums Of 2023 By Total Equivalent Album Units

1. Morgan Wallen, One Thing at a Time	5.4 million
2. Morgan Wallen, Dangerous: The Double Album	2.2 million
3. Taylor Swift, Speak Now (Taylor's Version)	1.8 million
4. Zach Bryan, American Heartbreak	1.6 million
5. Luke Combs, Gettin' Old	1.2 million
6. Taylor Swift, Red (Taylor's Version)	1.2 million
7. Zach Bryan, Zach Bryan	1.2 million
8. Bailey Zimmerman, Religiously. The Album.	1.1 million
9. Luke Combs, This One's for You	884,000
10. Morgan Wallen, If I Know Me	856,000

Most Streamed Country Songs Of 2023 (Total On-Demand Streams, Audio & Video Combined, Including User-Generated Content)

1.	Morgan Wallen, "Last Night"	1.1 billion
2.	Zach Bryan, "Something in the Orange"	707.5 million
3.	Luke Combs, "Fast Car"	561.5 million
4.	Morgan Wallen, "You Proof"	550.3 million
	Morgan Wallen, "Thinkin' Bout Me"	534.2 million
	Morgan Wallen, "Wasted On You"	487.5 million
7.	Bailey Zimmerman, "Rock and a Hard Place"	472.7 million
8.	Morgan Wallen, "Thought You Should Know"	426 million
9.	Zach Bryan feat. Kacey Musgraves, "I Remember Everything'	374.4 million
10.	Chris Stapleton, "Tennessee Whiskey"	263.8 million

Top-Selling Country Albums Of 2023

2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Taylor Swift, Speak Now (Taylor's Version) Morgan Wallen, One Thing at a Time Taylor Swift, Red (Taylor's Version) Taylor Swift, Fearless (Taylor's Version) Dolly Parton, Rockstar Jelly Roll, Whitsitt Chapel Chris Stapleton, Higher Zach Bryan, American Heartbreak	908,000 326,000 309,000 257,000 210,000 168,000 125,000
7. 8. 9.	Chris Stapleton, Higher	125,000

Top-Selling Country Digital Songs Of 2023

1.	Jason Aldean, "Try That in a Small Town"	497,000
2.	Oliver Anthony Music, "Rich Men North of Richmond"	358,000
3.	Morgan Wallen, "Last Night"	302,000
4.	Luke Combs, "Fast Car"	251,000
5.	Jelly Roll, "Need a Favor"	181,000
6.	Jelly Roll and Lainey Wilson, "Save Me"	119,000
	Lainey Wilson, "Heart Like a Truck"	111,000
8.	Morgan Wallen, "Thinkin' Bout Me"	108,000
	Zach Bryan, "Something in the Orange"	107,000
10.	Jelly Roll, "Son of a Sinner"	105,000

Equivalent album units — for album titles and chart rankings cited below (but not industry volume numbers) - comprise traditional album sales, track-equivalent albums and streaming-equivalent albums. Each unit equals one album sale, or 10 individual tracks sold from an album, or 3,750 adsupported on-demand official audio and video streams generated by songs from an album, or 1,250 paid/subscription on-demand official audio and video streams generated by songs from an album. Album titles and album chart rankings by equivalent album units do not include user-generated content streams, but UGC streams are included in Luminate's industry volume numbers. (UGC streams are not factored into any of Billboard's weekly charts.)

 $For the sake of clarity, equivalent album units do not include \ listening to \ music on \ broadcast \ radio$ $or digital \ radio \ broadcasts. \ All \ numbers \ cited \ in this story \ are \ rounded, and \ for the \ United \ States \ only.$ Programmed streams are not included in any of the data in this story.

Luminate (formerly MRC Data, Nielsen Music and SoundScan) began tracking music sales in 1991. Luminate's music tracking data powers Billboard's chart rankings



Lainey Wilson and Elle King played key roles in the Dec. 31 CBS telecast of New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash. From left: executive producer Robert Deaton, Wilson, King and executive producer Mary Hilliard Harrington.



Maren Morris discussed Fleetwood Mac, postpartum depression and American Idol with Sirius XM host Howard Stern when she guested Dec. 13 on The Howard Stern Show.



Wade Hayes (right) shot a music video for the title track of his Old Country Still Rocks album with director Justin Mayotte on Dec. 19 at the Music City Bar & Grill in Nashville.



The Marshall Tucker Band received a plaque recognizing 1 billion streams on Pandora during a Dec. 9 Grand Ole Opry appearance. From left: UTA Nashville talent agent Alec Vidmar, Marshall Tucker lead vocalist Doug Gray and Absolute Publicity president Don Murry Grubbs.

a short film be coming the CRO Wout now

CURRENT SINGLE



TOP 15 AT COUNTRY RADIO



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

+338

+325

+315

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

Nate Smith's 'Fire' Spreads To Five Weeks Atop Country Airplay Chart

Nate Smith's "World on Fire" (Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville) dominates *Billboard*'s Country Airplay survey (dated Jan. 20) for a fifth consecutive and total week. In the Jan. 5-11 tracking week, it advanced by 6% to 35.9 million audience impressions, according to Luminate.

Smith co-authored the song with Ashley Gorley, Taylor Phillips and Lindsay Rimes, the lattermost of whom solely produced it.

The single is the second straight careeropening Country Airplay leader for Smith, who first ruled with "Whiskey on You" for two weeks last February. Both are on the deluxe edition of his debut self-titled LP. The set arrived at its No. 6 high on Top Country Albums in May 2023 and has earned 683,000 equivalent album units to date.

Smith, who hails from Paradise, Calif., scored early success on social media prior to signing to Sony Music Nashville's Arista

roster in November 2021. He boasts 1.6 million TikTok followers.

When "World on Fire" first ruled Country Airplay, Smith <u>told Billboard</u>, "If you would've told me in 2018 that right now I'd be celebrating not my first but my second No. 1 at country radio, I wouldn't have believed it."

SITTING 'PRETTY' Warren Zeiders' freshman Country Airplay entry, "Pretty Little Poison" (717/Warner/WEA), adds a third straight week at its No. 10 high. The first top 10 for the 24-year-old Zeiders, who hails from Hershey, Penn., increased by 7% to 19 million in reach in the tracking week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY The Jan. 20-dated Country Airplay chart marks the 34th anniversary of the survey, which became *Billboard*'s first radio ranking based on electronically monitored data in the Jan. 20, 1990, issue. Clint Black's "Nobody's Home" became its first of 932 No. 1s to date. ●



MOST INCREASED	AUDIENC	, C
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)
THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	+2.132
WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	+1.881

MOCT INCDEACED AUDIENCE

81 TRUCK BED Big Loud +1.642 HARDY MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen +1.403 WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs +1.401PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA Warren Zeiders +1.235 +0.908 GLORY DAYS Warner Music Nashville/WAR **Gabby Barrett DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE** BMLG Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs +0.899 **ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG** Chris Janson +0.840 WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton +0.817

MOST INCREASED PLAYS **TITLE Imprint/Label GAIN** WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs +754 WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville **Nate Smith** +704 THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson +515 WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville **Chris Stapleton** +494 PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA Warren Zeiders +475 Jackson Dean FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine +388 TRUCK BED Big Loud **HARDY** +346

Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen

Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs

Jordan Davis

RECURRENTS					
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)			
1	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	19.521			
2	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	18.773			
3	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	16.130			
4	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard	14.177			
5	STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow Dustin Lynch	13.924			
6	CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb Dylan Scott	13.229			
7	TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	12.106			
8	NEXTTHING YOU KNOW MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	11.882			
9	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	11.666			
10	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	10.646			



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory

DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG

TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 11, 2024

THIS Week	LAST WEEK	WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW Spins	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK		WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	15	LOVIN' NOT LEAVIN' (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1 ★★ Wade Bowen	1729	-73	11	14	21	STICKS AND STONES (Independent) Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real	1087	-118
2	3	18	IF I WAS YOUR COWBOY (Independent) David Adam Byrnes	1659	-127	12	15	21	SONGS OF THE FAMILY (Little Red Truck) Deryl Dodd	1070	-132
3	5	19	BEEN THERE (Independent) Case Hardin	1566	-45	13	11	21	CHIPPING MILL (Independent) Turnpike Troubadours	1035	-248
4	6	19	HELL OF A STORM (Independent) Cory Morrow	1539	-23	14	10	24	HONKY TONK HONEY (Independent) Kin Faux	1028	-271
6	8	14	SAME PLACE TWICE (Independent) Chad Cooke Band (Ft. Amanda Kate Ferris)	1401	18	15	19	23	LEGEND (Independent) Mark Powell	974	-126
6	9	10	OUTLAWS AND MUSTANGS (Late August Records) Cody Jinks	1359	41	16	21	18	SET IT ALL DOWN (Independent) The Great Divide	937	-23
7	7	21	SITTIN' ON A PORCH (Independent) Jesse Raub Jr.	1355	-89	17	20	12	THE GREYS BETWEEN (Independent) Shane Smith & The Saints	927	-89
8	17	9	OKLAHOMA (Independent) Casey Donahew	1282	93	18	1	27	BARS AND CHURCHES (Independent) Sundance Head	877	-992
9	13	12	IF I HAD A BAR (Independent) Jon Wolfe	1202	-27	19	4	28	GENTLEMEN START YOUR WEEKENDS (Independent) James Robert Webb	874	-834
10	12	23	NOTHINS CHANGED (Independent) Bart Crow Band	1148	-105	20	24	17	ASK ME TO DANCE (Independent) Catie Offerman f/ Hayes Carll	803	-89

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 2024, Texas Regional Radio Report

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

THIS	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)			
THIS	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	1	31	WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville ★★ No. 1 (5 Weeks) ★★ Nate Smith	35.924	+1.881	8702	704	1
2	4	33	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	27.805	-1.086	6741	-98	2
3	2	26	SAVE METHETROUBLE Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	27.606	-2.401	6667	-1222	3
4	3	59	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville George Birge	25.393	-4.507	6309	-1221	5
5	6	25	WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	24.278	+0.817	6539	494	4
6	5	36	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	23.682	-1.425	5291	-218	10
7	7	36	DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	21.405	+0.899	5895	325	6
8	8	14	WHERETHE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	20.692	+1.401	5499	754	7
9	9	47	ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG Chris Janson	19.116	+0.840	5343	273	9
10	10	27	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA Warren Zeiders	18.985	+1.235	5347	475	8
0	12	22	THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN ★★ Most Increased Audience ★★ Cody Johnson	18.851	+2.133	4702	515	13
Ø	11	17	I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown	18.075	+0.505	4757	252	11
13	13	35	TRUCK BED Big Loud HARDY	17.114	+1.642	4726	346	12
14	14	49	23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse Chayce Beckham	13.128	+0.462	3926	240	15
15	15	32	BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	12.852	+0.499	3642	196	16
16	16	40	CREEK WILL RISE Valory Conner Smith	12.798	+0.675	3996	308	14
①	17	15	MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	9.747	+1.403	2713	338	19
18	20	21	CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	8.100	+0.657	2766	206	18
19	19	50	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine Jackson Dean	8.094	+0.450	2980	388	17
20	21	11	MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	8.027	+0.707	2137	310	26
3	22	30	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	7.896	+0.619	2510	215	21
22	23	21	TUCSONTOO LATE MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	7.843	+0.641	2491	315	22
23	18	9	WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	7.705	+0.020	2429	215	23
24	24	31	GLORY DAYS Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barrett	7.200	+0.908	2586	268	20
25	26	18	BACKTHEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard	6.016	+0.532	2187	222	25
26	25	40	NOBODY'S NOBODY EMI Nashville Brothers Osborne	5.972	+0.022	2299	123	24
2	27	9	TAKE HER HOME Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Kenny Chesney	5.739	+0.297	1894	131	28
28	28	19	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Interscope/Belting Bronco/Warner/MCA Nashville/WAR Zach Bryan Featuring Kacey Musgraves	5.510	+0.166	1671	43	30
29	29	32	OUT OFTHATTRUCK Capitol Nashville Carrie Underwood	5.492	+0.261	1932	136	27
30	31	4	YOUR PLACE Back Blocks/Big Loud ★★ Breaker ★★ Ashley Cooke	5.360	+0.758	1413	251	34

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 © 2024, 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.

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

THIS	LAST	WKS ON	A TODIETOSE		N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	30	23	I'M NOT PRETTY Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville Megan Moroney	4.693	-0.184	1700	40	29
32	35	7	LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	4.640	+0.650	1189	172	36
33	32	16	CAN'T BREAK UP NOW Columbia Nashville Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	4.305	+0.210	1614	194	32
34	33	33	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Chase Matthew	4.052	+0.049	1646	86	31
35	34	25	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	4.007	+0.014	1514	23	33
<u>36</u>	36	18	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville Chris Young	3.221	-0.081	950	46	40
3	37	15	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	3.124	+0.116	1053	61	37
33	41	15	WE RIDE Average Joes Bryan Martin	3.009	+0.484	945	131	41
39	39	27	DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Riser House Dillon Carmichael	2.665	-0.092	1221	64	35
40	40	24	SOMETHING'S GONNA KILL ME Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville Corey Kent	2.475	-0.186	848	-20	44
4	42	13	COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi & Luke Bryan	2.377	-0.072	851	2	43
42	43	10	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek Parmalee	2.189	+0.042	878	22	42
43	45	10	RODEO MAN Pearl/Big Machine Garth Brooks & Ronnie Dunn	2.151	+0.159	1025	105	38
44	44	17	SPIRITS AND DEMONS Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray Featuring Meghan Patrick	2.086	-0.010	985	49	39
45	46	21	DANCE WITH YOU BMLG Brett Young	1.633	-0.123	773	-24	45
46	47	10	PICKUP MAN Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Joe Diffie Featuring Post Malone	1.353	+0.141	386	56	55
4 7	48	9	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory Justin Moore	1.171	+0.018	661	23	46
48	52	5	CHEVROLET Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	1.091	+0.196	509	48	51
49	51	11	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street Chris Lane	1.088	+0.096	565	47	50
50	49	7	LOVE YOU BACK BMLG Lady A	1.041	+0.023	600	20	47
5	54	15	BROKENHEARTED Brown Sellers Brown/Quartz Hill Joe Nichols	0.977	+0.147	579	86	48
52	50	16	IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler/RCA Tyler Childers	0.957	-0.051	575	61	49
53	53	13	I'M IN LOVE Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud Hailey Whitters	0.883	+0.052	431	22	54
54	56	11	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge Drew Baldridge	0.797	+0.012	493	8	52
55	55	9	LONG LIVE COWGIRLS Warner Music Nashville/WEA lan Munsick & Cody Johnson	0.746	-0.052	310	41	59
56	NE	w	SOUNDS LIKETHE RADIO Leo33 ** Hot Shot Debut ** Zach Top	0.715	+0.714	275	271	-
5	59	2	KING OF COUNTRY MUSIC Red Street Ryan Larkins	0.604	+0.074	319	36	58
58	57	4	AIN'T ABOUT YOU 19/Wheelhouse HunterGirl	0.550	-0.089	440	-8	53
59	NE	w	AMY'S BACK IN AUSTIN FOUR17 Eli Young Band & George Birge	0.546	+0.546	126	126	-
60	NE	w	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	0.475	+0.007	265	52	-



Valory artist Kidd G made his Grand Ole Opry debut on Jan. 5. From left: Big Machine Label Group executive vp of A&R Allison Jones, Hard 8 Working Group partner Mike Bachta, Kidd G, UTA Nashville cohead Matthew Morgan and Valory project manager Athena Puharic.



Tigirlily Gold performed Dec. 19 as Musicians on Call launched a monthly concert series at Nashville's TriStar Centennial Medical Center. From left: MOC president/CEO Pete Griffin, Centennial CEO Tom Ozburn, Tigirlily Gold members Kendra Slaubaugh and Krista Slaubaugh, and MOC board member Dr. Todd Rubin.



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CELEBRATING THE POWER PLAYERS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

The 2024 BILLBOARD POWER 100 will celebrate the executives who are creating excitement and making a difference in the global music industry. Featured will be those who have had the greatest impact in recorded music, live entertainment, touring, publishing and other industry verticals who have had great success in the past year.

Take this opportunity to congratulate the 2024 *Billboard* Power 100 honorees. Your ad will reach an influential and affluent audience of decision-makers in the global music industry.

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NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com



Stone Country artist Annie Bosko performed Jan. 1 at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif., where she met with several Golden State broadcasters. From left: KPLM Palm Springs morning personality Mary Lockrem, Bosko, KJUG Visalia PD Vicki Pepper and KFRG Riverside-San Bernardino brand manager Heather Froglear.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Chris Fabiani joined new label Leo33 as vp of promotion and marketing. He arrives from Warner Music Nashville, where he was national promotion director ... Singer-songwriter Laci Kaye Booth signed a recording deal with Geffen. She also secured management with Red Light and concert booking with WME ... Singer-songwriter Graham Barham signed a joint recording deal with Sony Music Nashville and Disruptor ... Indie Get Joe Entertainment signed Billie Jo Jones to a recording and publishing agreement. Her first album for the label is due in the spring ... Bluegrass label Pinecastle signed Red Camel Collective to the roster ... Audacy filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in an attempt to cut its debt load by 80%, from \$1.9 billion to \$350 million ... Matt Malone joined Deb Honeycutt and Kevin Freeman on Jan. 2 as a co-host of the WFMS Indianapolis morning show. Malone was previously working the afternoon shift ... Cumulus/Atlanta welcomed Justin Schaflander as vp of sales. He spent the previous two years as Good Karma Brands/Los Angeles director of sales ... Carrie Underwood launched a second Sirius XM channel with Carr-Dio by Carrie's Country, a workout platform available on the company's app ... Following its sale to Signal Hill Media Partners, WCAB Rutherfordton, N.C., was flipped from oldies to classic country on Jan. 1, The Rutherfordton Digital Courier reported ... Cumulus/Des Moines, Iowa, welcomed Seth Pitkin as the market president, according to RadioInk.com. The cluster includes country KXNO-HD2. Pitkin was formerly vp of sales for vehicle sales company Dealer X ... Townsquare/Rochester, Minn., brought Shannon Knoepke back to radio to serve as market president, RadioInk.com reported. The 10-station cluster includes country outlets KWWK and KFIL. It marks a return to radio for Knoepke, who spent two years with Minneapolis-based Media Bridge as senior vp of marketing and client relations ... Nancy Ryan will reunite with Newman as the morning team for WFVY Lebanon, Pa., beginning Jan. 15, according to RadioInsight.com. The two previously worked the morning shift in tandem at WRBT Harrisburg, Pa. Ryan spent 24 years with the station prior to a layoff in December 2020. Newman most recently worked the afternoon daypart at WPIG Olean, N.Y.... Monica Wittkopp was promoted to iHeart Media/Madison, Wis., market president from vp of sales, RadioInsight.com reported. The market's properties include country WMAD... Joe Hoppel Sr., 89, died Dec. 26, according to The Hampton Roads Virginian-Pilot. He spent 49 years as a personality with local WCMS ... The Country Radio Seminar's research presentation for 2024 will focus on radio personalities and their role across multiple platforms. The data will be unveiled Feb. 29 during the three-day event in Nashville.

'ROUND THE ROW

Sports and entertainment management company The Familie hired **Royce Risser** to serve as head of Nashville/executive vp of country as the firm establishes Music City as its new headquarters. Risser was previously Universal Music Group Nashville executive vp of promotion. Additionally, The Familie announced **Chase Berlin** has joined the team as an artist manager, after working for The AMG in a similar role ... Endurance Music Group promoted **Lauren Funk** to vp of publishing from senior creative director ... Music veteran **Bob Reeves** established a multiservice management firm, Excelsior Music, with singer-song writer

Orlando Mendez signed as his initial client. Reeves was most recently Riser House senior vp of promotion ... Gibson Brands named Luke Ericson as its COO after seven months in the position on an interim basis ... Nashville Presents promoted Jenny Reid to vp of ticketing from director. Reach her here ... Roger Christian was appointed head of marketing and promotion for the Ameripolitan Music Awards, prepping its 10th annual ceremony on Feb. 18 in Austin. He previously owned Roger Christian Entertainment Group. The Ameripolitans were established by Texas artist Dale Watson to bring attention to multiple genres outside of mainstream country ... Songwriter Shane Stevens ("Fancy Like," "American Honey") signed a publishing deal with Spirit Music Nashville ... Red Street Publishing added songwriter Brian White ("Watching You," "Blame It on You") to its roster ... Sea Gayle inked a publishing agreement with newcomer Wolf Mahler ... Warner Chappell Nashville renewed its publishing deal with Josh Phillips and signed singer-song writer Joey Green to a joint venture with Space Colonel Publishing ... Virginia native Chase McDaniel signed a copublishing deal with Hillary Lindsey's Hang Your Hat Music and Concord Music Publishing ... Joe Bonsall retired from touring with The Oak Ridge Boys as he grapples with a neuromuscular disease. Replacement Ben James took over the group's tenor role during a Dec. 30 concert in Greenville, Miss. ... John Michael **Montgomery** announced on Jan. 1 his plans to retire from the road at the end of a 2025 tour ... The Recording Academy will recognize the late **Tammy Wynette** with a lifetime achievement award on Feb. 3 in Los Angeles, on the eve of the Grammy Awards. Among others receiving Special Merit Awards are Gladys Knight, the late Donna Summer, producer Peter Asher (Linda Ronstadt, James Taylor) and attorney Joel Katz ... The Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame inducts seven new members on Feb. 17 in Muskogee. The class includes Bryan White, Ricochet, former Roy Clark sideman Shelby Eicher and songwriter Verlon Thompson ("You Say You Will," "Cross My Broken Heart") ... The $A cade my \, of \, Country \, Music \, is \, accepting \, submissions \, for \, its \, 59 th \, annual \, awards$ through Jan. 26 ... CMT and mtheory are accepting applications for the Equal Access program, now in its third year of supporting underrepresented artists and executives. Go here to apply through Jan. 26 ... The second People's Choice Country Awards will air Sept. 26 on NBC and Peacock ... Luke Combs, Morgan Wallen and Taylor Swift received five nominations apiece when finalists were announced Jan. 11 for the People's Choice Awards. Lainey Wilson and Zach Bryan were double-nominees. The ceremony is slated for Feb. 18 in Santa Monica, Calif. ... Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and several legislators introduced the Ensuring Likeness Voice and Image Act, making it the first state in the nation to codify personal rights in a manner that discourages unethical use of artificial intelligence ... Old Dominion will open a Nashville bar, Odie's, at 1919 Division St. later this year ... Craig Campbell begins renovating his second Grindstone Cowboy coffee shop Jan. 12 in Shelbyville, Tenn. The original opened in nearby Eagleville in 2022... Wynonna, Tyler Childers and Ben Folds headline the second annual Hello From the Hills benefit concert on Jan. 20 at City Winery Nashville, hosted by Kathy Mattea ... Laura Lynch, who predated Natalie Maines in The Chicks, died in a head-on car crash in Texas on Dec. 22 ... Artistwriter Larry Collins died Jan. 5 in Santa Clarita, Calif., The New York Times reported. Along with sister Lorrie Collins, he was one-half of a popular West Coast duo, The Collins Kids, during the 1950s. He also authored Tanya Tucker's "Delta Dawn" and the David Frizzell & Shelly West single "You're the Reason God Made Oklahoma." •

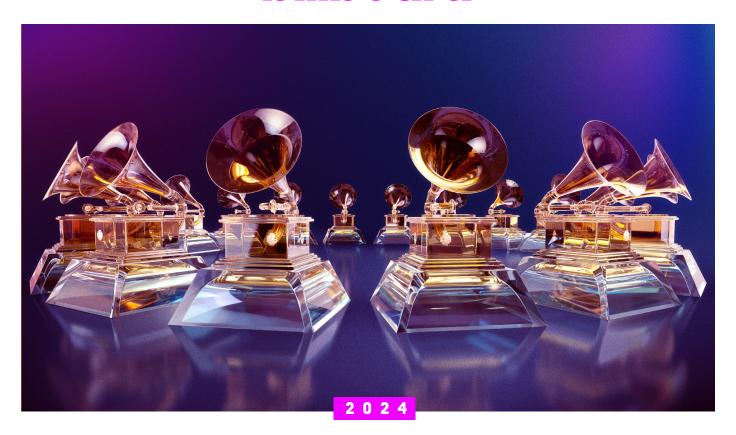






Megan Moroney, Jon Pardi (center) and Jake Owen performed Jan. 7 during AT&T Playoff Playlist Live!, a free concert at Houston's Shell Energy Stadium on the eve of the College Football Playoff National Championship.

billboard



66TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS® PROGRAM BOOK

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WOMEN IN MUSIC

On March 2nd, *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 6th. 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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International: Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

ON SALE: 3/2 | AD CLOSE 2/20 | MATERIALS DUE 2/22





35 Years Ago The Judds' 'Heart' Beat A Path To No. 1

In 1989, they scored their 12th of 14 Hot Country Songs leaders On Jan. 14, 1989, **The Judds**' "Change of Heart" ascended to No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart. It became the 12th of 14 leaders on the list for the iconic duo of **Naomi Judd** and daughter **Wynonna**.

Naomi wrote the song, which **Brent Maher** produced. It was released from The Judds' 1988 *Greatest Hits* collection, the last of their four No. 1s on Top Country Albums.

From "Mama He's Crazy," the pair's first Hot Country Songs No. 1 in August 1984, through "Cry Myself To Sleep" in January 1987, The Judds snapped off eight straight leaders. Their 14 No. 1s rank first among female duos and second among all two-somes only to **Brooks & Dunn** (20).

In 1990, Naomi was diagnosed with hepatitis, forcing her retirement from touring the next year. In 1992, Wynonna released her first solo single, "She Is His Only Need," the first of her four No. 1 hits. Naomi died April 30, 2022, at age 76 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, one day before The Judds were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

