

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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The Growing Farewell Tour Trend: Artists Look To Fare Well In Their Golden Years

A wave of country acts is waving goodbye to touring.

In recent weeks, **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band**, **Doug Stone**, **John Michael Montgomery**, **Ray Stevens** and **Lee Greenwood** have all publicly announced plans to wrap the road portion of their careers. They're hardly alone.

The Oak Ridge Boys started their farewell tour this past fall, though tenor **Joe Bonsall**, suffering from a neuromuscular disorder, was forced to hang it up at the end of December. **Dolly Parton** recently revealed that she had decided not to return to the road since she wrapped her last tour in 2016. Additionally, country/rock band **The Ozark Mountain Daredevils** and the **Eagles**, whose current lineup includes country artist **Vince Gill**, are also concluding their regular concert routines. (Gill will continue to work as a solo act.)

Retirement is a well-earned rite of passage for most people in later life, though there are plenty of musicians — **Willie Nelson** and the late **Tony Bennett** and **B.B. King** are good examples — who maintain a road life until their bodies give out. They find it difficult to stop, spurred by fan adoration, good paychecks and/or the simple joy of performing.

But this new wave of retirees is generally finding it easier to

hang it up after experiencing an extended home life during the pandemic. Once their tours were canceled in 2020, most country artists found themselves anchored for 12 to 24 months. Artists in their prime couldn't wait to get back out, but those on the back end of their careers began to recognize that if they ended their road-warrior phase, it wasn't necessarily the end of the road.

"We got a dose of our real life," Nitty Gritty Dirt Band co-founder **Jeff Hanna** says.

The benefits include the kinds of everyday events that can't be experienced from 1,000 miles away: dinner with a spouse, attending a daughter's graduation or playing with

the grandkids in the backyard. Making music for a living is attractive — none of the retirees wish they'd dug ditches or balanced books instead — but it involves sacrifices, and they discovered the opportunity exists to stop and smell the roses at home.

"We've got enough to retire on, so why not enjoy the rest of my life with my family?" asks Stone, whose 13-year marriage has produced a 7-year-old daughter. "We love going to Disney. I want to go see the redwoods and stuff like that."

That yearning to explore the world is part of the attraction for young musicians, and in the early years, America's topographic



STONE



STERBAN



HANNA

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STERBAN: BRANDON WOOD/INDIE BLING STUDIOS; HANNA: GLEN ROSE

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diversity can help keep a touring job interesting. But heavy concert schedules don't usually allow much time to play tourist. Stone remembers one trip in up-state New York when the bus came within a 10-minute drive of scenic Niagara Falls. They had to bypass it stay on time, and he has never been back.

"I didn't get to see America," he says. "I got to see the back seat of a bus."

The current wave of road retirements is actually a sign that some of Nashville's structural changes have worked. Many of country's previous legends — **Hank Williams**, **Jimmie Rodgers** or 1960s/1970s-era **George Jones** — faced financial problems after spending lavishly during their peak commercial years. Since then, business management companies have sprouted, helping modern acts plan their financial futures. Where many of their predecessors were required to tour until they couldn't stop, modern acts have options.

"Most of them over the decades have gotten smarter in terms of managing their finances," says Action Entertainment Collective booking agent **Travis James**, who represents Montgomery and several other '90s-associated acts. "Are there exceptions to that? Sure. There's always going to be people that piss their money away with divorce or drugs or whatever the case may be. That's in accounting and that's in the NFL — it's in everything. But by and large, the artists that were viable enough to have long careers and a show full of hits, even if they didn't do it right the first half of their career, they figured out how to do it right the second half."

Not that everyone is thrilled about hanging it up. During the COVID-19 break in the concert schedule, The Oaks missed the stage, missed seeing their fans and longed to make music again.

"That's all we do in our lives," bass singer **Richard Sterban** says. "We go out and entertain people and help people with our music. And we were not able to do that, so we didn't necessarily like that feeling."

Still, long rides on a sedentary tour bus and the repetitive motion involved in making music take a toll. Greenwood has titanium knees after several surgeries



Stephen Wilson Jr. (center) headlined Jan. 19 at Nashville's historic Exit/In. He's flanked by Back Blocks Music founder Rakiyah Marshall and Big Loud partner/CEO Seth England.

and had back surgery in 2020. Hanna blew an Achilles tendon in 2019 and now walks for exercise instead of running. And he has experienced some issues with his left hand — "which is kind of the money hand on the guitar," Hanna says. "I have to play a little differently now."

The body sort of makes retirement inevitable for most — "Like [**Jimmie Fadden**] says, 'Do the math,'" Hanna quips — but modern artists' money management makes it easier to take that step.

Greenwood, Stevens and Stone all plan to conclude their regular concert schedules in 2024, while Montgomery expects to wrap in 2025. The Oaks and Nitty Gritty Dirt Band could go on for years, in some cases picking the venues based on sentiment rather than income.

"We would prefer to go back to familiar places, to go back to people that we know," Sterban says. "Basically, we want to perform in front of people that have helped make us who we are today."

But the demand goes up once promoters and fans realize the artist's shows are coming to an end, which also increases the price for many bookings. That's the good news for the agents, though farewell tours are bittersweet for them, as they lose valuable clients.

"When they tell me they can cut back, that doesn't help my financial bottom line," James says. "I can't sit here and tell you that I'm necessarily happy about it, but I sure am proud that I was part of the solution in helping them fulfill their goals professionally."

If they retire early enough, the artists may be preserving themselves, too. Extended travel is physically challenging at any age. They'll very likely miss the stage, but maybe not the wear and tear required to get there.

"I want to be *on* the planet," Stone says, "not *in* it." ●



Average Joes artist Bryan Martin (right) checked in with Audacy West Coast regional vp of country Scott Roddy during a Jan. 20 appearance at the Ponderosa Lounge in Portland, Ore.

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billboard Country Airplay

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

HARDY, Kane Brown Hit Country Airplay Top 10; Nate Smith's 'Fire' Rages On

HARDY banks his fourth top 10 as a recording artist on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart as "Truck Bed" (Big Loud) revs 12-9 on the Feb. 3 list. It increased by 2% to 18.9 million in audience during the Jan. 19-25 tracking week, according to Luminate.

The song is the second single from **HARDY's** *The Mockingbird & The Crow*, which launched at No. 1 on the Top Country Albums chart dated Feb. 4, 2023, marking his first leader. It follows "Wait in the Truck" (featuring **Lainey Wilson**), which hit No. 2 on Country Airplay last April.

Prior to "Wait in the Truck," **HARDY's** "Beers on Me," with **Dierks Bentley** and **BRELAND**, led Country Airplay for one week in April 2022 and "One Beer," featuring **Lauren Alaina** and **Devin Dawson**, ruled for a week in December 2020.

HARDY has co-written 11 Country Airplay No. 1s, including those two chart-toppers. "Truck Bed" is **HARDY's** 14th top 10 as a writer.



RYAN SMITH

BROWN'S 12TH TOP 10 **Kane Brown's** "I Can Feel It" (Zone 4/RCA Nashville) enters the Country Airplay top 10, pushing 11-10 (18.9 million, up 2%). He achieves his 12th top 10, with his latest following five consecutive No. 1s, each of which dominated for one week: "Bury Me in Georgia," which led last September; "Thank God," with wife **Katelyn Brown** (February 2023); "Like I Love Country Music" (August 2022); "One Mississippi" (March 2022); and "Famous Friends," with **Chris Young** (July 2021).

STILL ON 'FIRE' **Nate Smith's** "World on Fire" (RCA Nashville) leads Country Airplay for a seventh total and consecutive week (34.2 million, down 4%). It became his second straight career-opening No. 1 following "Whiskey on You," which dominated for two weeks last February.

"World on Fire" marks the first title to crown Country Airplay for at least seven weeks since **Morgan Wallen's** crossover smash "Last Night" reigned for eight beginning last May. ●

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	+3.936
MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	+2.177
PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	+2.135
THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	+1.820
HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1.631
MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	+1.628
ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG	Chris Janson	+1.259
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+1.165
CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+0.843
DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG	Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	+0.820

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	+878
PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	+651
THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	+641
MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	+593
HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+421
ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG	Chris Janson	+395
MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	+390
TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	+206
DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG	Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	+201
CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	+187

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	THINKIN' BOUT ME Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	22.033
2	LAST NIGHT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	18.430
3	MIND ON YOU RECORDS Nashville	George Birge	18.155
4	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	18.073
5	SAVE ME THE TROUBLE Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	15.387
6	NEED A FAVOR Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	14.497
7	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	13.501
8	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	12.246
9	TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	11.300
10	STARS LIKE CONFETTI Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	11.023



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 25, 2024

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	21	HELL OF A STORM (Independent) ★★ 1 Week at 1 ★★	Cory Morrow	1737	110	11	10	23	SONGS OF THE FAMILY (Little Red Truck)	Deryl Dodd	1169	36
2	5	16	SAME PLACE TWICE (Independent) Chad Cooke Band (Ft. Amanda Kate Ferris)		1597	81	12	12	25	NOTHINS CHANGED (Independent)	Bart Crow Band	1067	-49
3	7	11	OKLAHOMA (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1547	86	13	14	20	SET IT ALL DOWN (Independent)	The Great Divide	1064	61
4	6	12	OUTLAWS AND MUSTANGS (Late August Records)	Cody Jinks	1540	63	14	15	14	THE GREYS BETWEEN (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1014	32
5	3	21	BEEN THERE (Independent)	Case Hardin	1512	-109	15	13	25	LEGEND (Independent)	Mark Powell	980	-103
6	4	17	LOVIN' NOT LEAVIN' (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1414	-134	16	16	11	A BROKEN HEART LIKE THAT (Independent)	Kyle Park	943	61
7	8	23	SITTIN' ON A PORCH (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1405	-35	17	17	19	ASK ME TO DANCE (Independent)	Catie Offerman f/ Hayes Carll	860	39
8	9	14	IF I HAD A BAR (Independent)	Jon Wolfe	1287	63	18	18	11	PROMISE YOU ME (Independent)	Grant Gilbert	858	57
9	1	20	IF I WAS YOUR COWBOY (Independent)	David Adam Byrnes	1238	-473	19	27	19	UNDENIABLE (Independent)	Brandi Behlen	840	209
10	11	23	STICKS AND STONES (Independent) Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real		1180	53	20	19	11	RIGHT AT HOME (Independent)	Jamie Richards	837	49

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
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	33	WORLD ON FIRE Arista Nashville/RCA Nashville	Nate Smith	34.232	-1.410	8182	-548	1
2	3	27	WHITE HORSE Sound/Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	30.590	+3.936	7985	878	2
3	2	35	SAVE ME Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll With Lainey Wilson	25.267	-1.724	6011	-608	5
4	5	38	DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE BMLG	Riley Green Featuring Luke Combs	23.658	+0.820	6519	201	4
5	9	29	PRETTY LITTLE POISON 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	22.846	+2.135	6535	651	3
6	8	24	THE PAINTER CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	22.553	+1.820	5961	641	6
7	7	16	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	22.028	+0.356	5882	50	8
8	10	49	ALL I NEED IS YOU BMLG	Chris Janson	21.157	+1.259	5908	395	7
9	12	37	TRUCK BED Big Loud	HARDY	18.893	+0.449	5124	91	9
10	11	19	I CAN FEEL IT Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown	18.887	+0.291	5023	78	10
11	13	51	23 19/BMG/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	14.277	+0.299	4306	156	11
12	16	17	MAMAW'S HOUSE Valory	Thomas Rhett Featuring Morgan Wallen	14.075	+2.177	3772	593	14
13	14	34	BURN IT DOWN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	13.750	+0.034	3967	114	12
14	15	42	CREEK WILL RISE Valory	Conner Smith	13.103	-0.112	3962	3	13
15	17	13	MAN MADE A BAR Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church	10.906	+1.628	2813	390	19
16	18	23	CAB IN A SOLO Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	9.912	+0.843	3152	187	15
17	20	23	TUCSON TOO LATE MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	9.598	+1.165	2973	206	17
18	19	11	WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	9.173	+0.380	2906	187	18
19	22	52	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Big Machine	Jackson Dean	8.668	+0.504	3094	75	16
20	21	32	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE Big Machine	Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton	8.310	+0.049	2710	64	21
21	23	33	GLORY DAYS Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	7.719	+0.071	2729	-19	20
22	24	20	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	7.295	+0.552	2495	174	22
23	25	11	TAKE HER HOME Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	6.659	+0.325	2193	91	23
24	28	34	OUT OF THAT TRUCK Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	6.150	+0.627	2036	79	24
25	27	6	YOUR PLACE Back Blocks/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke	6.075	+0.353	1716	169	28
26	26	21	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Interscope/Belting Bronco/Warner/MCA Nashville/WAR	Zach Bryan Featuring Kacey Musgraves	5.430	-0.634	1771	-118	26
27	29	9	LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	5.157	+0.234	1447	182	31
28	30	25	I'M NOT PRETTY Megan Moroney/Columbia/Arista Nashville	Megan Moroney	4.942	+0.114	1752	38	27
29	32	18	CAN'T BREAK UP NOW Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion & Megan Moroney	4.787	+0.575	1838	159	25
30	31	27	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	4.428	+0.033	1579	72	30

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-bulletheaded) 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
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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	34	17	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	4.229	+0.646	1335	157	32
32	33	35	LOVE YOU AGAIN Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Chase Matthew	3.980	+0.200	1613	39	29
33	36	17	WE RIDE Average Joes ★★ Breaker ★★	Bryan Martin	3.862	+0.640	1149	162	34
34	35	20	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS RCA Nashville	Chris Young	3.371	+0.035	1022	17	36
35	38	15	COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi & Luke Bryan	2.709	+0.241	959	35	38
36	51	2	HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee & Buddy/Broken Bow/BMG/Stoney Creek ★★ Breaker ★★	Jelly Roll	2.532	+1.631	694	421	43
37	39	19	SPIRITS AND DEMONS Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray Featuring Meghan Patrick	2.524	+0.177	1006	42	37
38	37	29	DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	2.437	-0.045	1277	74	33
39	41	12	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek	Pamalee	2.237	+0.028	945	20	39
40	42	12	RODEO MAN Pearl/Big Machine	Garth Brooks & Ronnie Dunn	2.105	+0.001	1125	64	35
41	40	26	SOMETHING'S GONNA KILL ME Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	2.084	-0.230	821	-22	42
42	43	23	DANCE WITH YOU BMLG	Brett Young	1.796	+0.057	824	13	41
43	45	11	THIS IS MY DIRT Valory	Justin Moore	1.679	+0.269	891	136	40
44	44	12	PICKUP MAN Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Joe Diffie Featuring Post Malone	1.433	+0.119	344	11	55
45	49	7	CHEVROLET Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	1.422	+0.273	577	38	49
46	46	3	SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Leo33 ★★ Breaker ★★	Zach Top	1.402	+0.091	623	120	46
47	50	18	IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler/RCA	Tyler Childers	1.252	+0.172	675	91	44
48	48	13	FIND ANOTHER BAR Voyager/Red Street	Chris Lane	1.249	+0.099	616	40	47
49	47	9	LOVE YOU BACK BMLG	Lady A	1.228	+0.069	659	35	45
50	53	17	BROKENHEARTED Brown Sellers Brown/Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	0.964	+0.110	594	28	48
51	54	13	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	Drew Baldridge	0.822	+0.107	536	68	50
52	52	15	I'M IN LOVE Songs & Daughters/Pegasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	0.766	-0.107	431	6	52
53	55	6	AIN'T ABOUT YOU 19/Wheelhouse	HunterGirl	0.751	+0.059	531	39	51
54	59	3	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville	Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	0.651	+0.079	370	29	54
55	NEW		ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Tim McGraw	0.576	+0.386	305	221	-
56	56	11	LONG LIVE COWGIRLS Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ian Munsick & Cody Johnson	0.573	-0.062	308	3	60
57	57	2	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	0.526	-0.108	389	-35	53
58	58	2	DIRT CHEAP CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	0.507	-0.094	69	-12	-
59	60	4	KING OF COUNTRY MUSIC Red Street	Ryan Larkins	0.484	+0.005	322	22	58
60	RE-ENTRY		MAKE ME WANNA SMOKE Quartz Hill	Runaway June	0.422	-0.020	330	15	56



GEORFF TISCHMAN

Brittney Spencer's team showed up in force when she performed Jan. 18 at the Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, N.Y. From left: Activist Artist Management partner Liz Norris, Elektra president Gregg Nadel, Spencer, Capitol Theatre owner Peter Shapiro and Activist partner Caitlin Stone Jasper.



EMILY APRIL ALLEN

Conner Smith performed current single "Creek Will Rise" during a visit to the Country Music Association office in Nashville on Jan. 23. From left: Valory president George Briner, CMA CEO Sarah Trahern, Smith and Homestead Music founder and managing partner Brad Belanger.

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2024

SPORTS & MUSIC ISSUE

For the first time in Billboard's 130-year history, we'll be publishing our inaugural Sports & Music issue on February 10, 2024!

This first-ever issue will examine and highlight the intersection of the sports and music worlds, including a list of the most influential Power Players that fuel both industries as determined by the Billboard staff.

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ISSUE DATE 2/10 | AD CLOSE 1/30 | MATERIALS DUE 2/1

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

EDY RODE/GETTY IMAGES

A bevy of artists from multiple genres gathered Jan. 24 at the Hutton Hotel in Nashville as the Recording Academy's Nashville chapter hosted a Grammy nominee celebration. From left: Larkin Poe's Rebecca Lovell, Lainey Wilson, Larkin Poe's Megan Lovell, Carly Pearce and Kelsea Ballerini.

LOBA'S ROLE EXPANDS AT BMG

Here's the first change **Jon Loba** intends to make in his new position as BMG's president of Frontline recordings in North America: "Immediately ramping up the A&R team in L.A."

So the Berlin-based music company is hiring? "Yes. Yes!" Loba says by phone from the Detroit airport, near his home city north of Grand Rapids, Mich. "News at 10."

Loba, who has spent the past seven years breaking country superstars such as **Jelly Roll**, **Parmalee**, **Lainey Wilson** and **Blanco Brown** in his role as the company's Nashville president, will remain in Music City but broaden to other genres and U.S. cities.

"BMG wanted to devote more resources to the U.S., and part of that was to focus even further on Frontline, looking at the success we've had in Nashville," says Loba, who plans to travel to L.A. every other week and New York sporadically. "The biggest challenge is keeping everyone patient."

BMG announced the Loba move on Jan. 25 with a concurrent one for **Thomas Scherer**, who moves from running publishing and recordings in Los Angeles and New York to head of global recorded catalog. The move effectively puts Loba in charge of new music and Scherer in charge of classics (while still in charge of publishing). BMG CEO **Thomas Coesfeld** took over the company last July and, Loba says, has veered away from the company's April 2023 announcement that it would combine its frontline and catalog divisions.

—*Steve Knopper*

Go [here](#) for the full story.

RADIO & RECORDS

Bluegrass music's Turnberry label signed trio **Shelton & Williams** to a recording deal... **WKDQ** Evansville, Ind.-Henderson, Ky., moved **Travis Sams** into the morning shift to co-host with **Melissa Brooks**, following the recent departure of **Ryan O'Bryan**. **Buddy Logan** took over Sams' former afternoon shift on an interim basis while the station seeks a permanent replacement... **KHAK** Cedar Rapids, Iowa, brand manager/afternoon personality **Bob James** announced his retirement after 33 years with the station... Top 40 **KBFF** Portland, Ore., content director **Dylan Salisbury** added assistant content director duties at country sister **KUPL**, RadioInk.com reported... Premiere Networks' *After Midnight With Granger Smith* welcomed co-host **Anne Hudson**, according to RadioInsight.com. Hudson will continue to operate as midday host for **KASE** Austin and top 40 sister **KHFI**... **Rissi Palmer** launches her fourth season of Apple Music's *Color Me Country Radio* with a live episode on Jan. 27 featuring **Mon Roiva**, **New Dangerfield** and **Rebecca Porter**... The agenda for Country Radio Seminar's Digital Music Summit on Feb. 28 will include dives into the cycles of **Bailey Zimmerman**'s "Fall in Love" and **Jelly Roll**'s "Son of a Sinner," plus panels on podcasting and artificial intelligence. CRS will include a presentation of the Tom Rivers Humanitarian Award to *The BIG 615* host **Storme Warren** and **WIRK** West Palm Beach, Fla., personality **Tim Leary**.

'ROUND THE ROW

The Academy of Country Music hired executive vp/chief business officer **Gil Beverly**, who spent four years as chief marketing and revenue officer for the Tennessee Titans... Los Angeles-based Pureplay Entertainment established a Nashville office headed by **Hannah Martin Eason** and **Joseph Martin**. The movie/TV/digital production house has a feature film — *Written in the Sand*, starring country artist **J.T. Hodges** — in postproduction with a country music documentary also expected later this year... Gibson Brands plans to open Gibson Garage London in February under the guidance of GM **Etaoin Fagan**, formerly with Harrods... Songwriter **Dean Dillon** ("Tennessee Whiskey," "I've Come To Expect It From You") established a publishing deal with River House Artists and Sony Music Publishing... **Colbie Caillat** joined the roster of songwriters at Downtown Music Publishing... Warner Chappell Nashville and **Karen Fairchild**'s new venture, Lady Fairchild Publishing, signed singer-songwriter **Ashley Ray** ("The Daughters") to a writing deal... Former *CMT Next Women of Country* artist **Camille Parker** signed a deal with Big Al Management... PLA Media added **High Mountain Breezes**, a collection of supporting musicians and songwriters, to its PR roster... **Eric Church** and **Morgan Wallen** acquired the Field & Stream outdoor brand with plans to resurrect the biannual magazine. An affiliated music festival is likely this fall... The video for a new **Jessie G.** collaboration with **Gretchen Wilson**, "Like My Whiskey," debuted in partnership with MusicCred, featuring a corporate tie-in with Ammunition Whiskey. It includes an appearance by **Colbie Caillat**... The Grand Ole Opry will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Belmont University music business program with a "Belmont at the Opry" edition on April 9. The evening will feature alumni **Trisha Yearwood**, **Hailey Whitters** and **Tyler Hubbard**, plus a songwriters round with graduates **Ashley Gorley** ("Truck Bed," "World on Fire"), **Hillary Lindsey** ("Blue Ain't Your Color," "Burn It Down") and **Nicolle Galyon** ("Tequila," "half of my hometown")... CBS presents the two-hour *Dolly Parton's Pet Gala* on Feb. 21, with musical appearances by **Carly Pearce**, **Lainey Wilson**, **Chris Janson** and **K.C. & The Sunshine Band** frontman **Harry Wayne "K.C." Casey**... *Great Performances—George Jones: Still Playin' Possum* debuts on PBS stations on Feb. 23 with covers of the late singer's material by **Jelly Roll**, **Brad Paisley**, **Wynonna** and **Tanya Tucker**, among others. Airdates vary by market... Leadership Bluegrass offers a free virtual workshop, "Everyone Is a Singer: The Voice As an Instrument," at noon ET on Feb. 21. Panelists include singer/voice teacher **Dede Wyland**, **The Sam Bush Band**'s **Stephen Mouglin** and East Tennessee State University director of bluegrass **Dan Boner**. Go [here](#) to sign in when the event launches... WHO KNEW's *The Smartest People in the Room* features **Gloria Gaynor** and author/*Billboard* contributor **Deborah Evans Price** in an online discussion at 2 p.m. ET on Feb. 1. Go [here](#) to register in advance... **BRELAND** hosts his third annual BRELAND & Friends benefit concert on March 26 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium with **Chase Rice**, **Josh Groban**, **Walker Hayes** and **The War and Treaty**, among others. Proceeds assist Nashville's Oasis Center for at-risk youth. ●



Songwriter **Dean Dillon** ("Tennessee Whiskey," "The Chair") (center) signed a publishing deal with River House Artists and Sony Music Publishing. At his side: River House vp/GM **Zebb Luster** and River House founder **Lynn Oliver-Cline**.



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

billboard

billboard Country Airplay Index

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

23 (Chayce Beckham Publishing Designee, BMI (C. Beckham) **11**

A

AIN'T ABOUT YOU BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/19 Tunes, ASCAP/Huntergrimmusic, BMI (T.H.Wolkowski) **53**

ALL I NEED IS YOU Anthem Red Vinyl Music, BMI/Buckkilla Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Murphy The Wolf Music, BMI/Mandy's Favorite Songs, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Mitchell Marlow Music, ASCAP/KJM Music Publishing, ASCAP/Five Miles West Songs, BMI (C.Janson, B.Clawson, A.G.Gorley, Mitch Oglesby) **8**

B

BACK THEN RIGHT NOW T Tree Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Works by Range Music Partners, BMI/Warbranger Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/4Ever Songs, ASCAP (T.R.Hubbard, J.J.Dillon, G.Warburton, D.A.Garcia) **22**

BOYS BACK HOME Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs of PIA Entertainment, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs From The Rose Hotel, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC (D.Marlowe, S.Ennis, J.A.Fox) **54**

BREAKIN' IN BOOTS Endurance Alpha, ASCAP/124 Records, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/BRRCOFFEE, BMI/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Situation Songs, SESAC/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Lil Sebastian Music, BMI/Young Guns Publishing, LLC, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (M.Stell, N.Cyphert, J.A.Fox, B.M.Stennis) **57**

BROKENHEARTED Ritten By Rhetto, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/All Night Linda Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Detroit Records And Tapes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (R.Akins, M.Green, J.Harding) **50**

BURN IT DOWN Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Parkernac Publishing, BMI/Concord Sounds, ASCAP/410 Music, ASCAP/Concord Copyrights, BMI/BMCMDB Songs, BMI/Creative Pulse Music, BMI/Songs From The Sendero Music, BMI (P.M.Collum, H.Lindsey, L.McKenna, L.Rose) **15**

C

CAB IN A SOLO Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Dagum Music, BMI/Songs of Spirit II Nashville, ASCAP/Fluid Tunes, ASCAP/Beats By Baby Brent, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP (S.C.McCreery, B.Anderson, F.Rogers) **16**

CAN'T BREAK UP NOW WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP/Razor And Tie Music Publishing, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Tofer The Musical, BMI/Weistride Publishing, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP (M.Ramsey, T.Rosen, T.Brown, E.L.Weisband) **29**

CHEVROLET Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Almo Music Corp., ASCAP (C.McGill, J.L.Alexander, H.Phelps, M.Williams) **45**

COWBOYS AND PLOWBOYS Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ritten By Rhetto, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Southern Boy Songs Worldwide, BMI/Jacob Rice Publishing, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/No Bridge Publishing, ASCAP (R.Akins, J.Rice, C.Taylor) **35**

CREEK WILL RISE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Home Team Harmonies, BMI/South Lick Creek Songs, BMI/Songs Of Miller Crow, BMI/Tunes By Trailerparker, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Family Farm Songs, BMI (C.McGill, C.Smith, C.L.Corte, P.Welling) **14**

D

DANCE WITH YOU Super Big Music, ASCAP/Caliville Publishing, ASCAP/Here Comes The Boom Music, BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/JRM3, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (B.Young, J.T.Minton, J.Robbins) **42**

DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Jett Music, ASCAP (R.Green, R.Montana, J.D.Singleton) **4**

DIRT CHEAP Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Write Or Die Music, BMI/Write The Lightning Publishing, BMI (J.Phillips) **58**

DRINKIN' PROBLEMS Big Music Machine, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Townes Van Hawke Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Larkin Hill Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI (L.Combs, Erik Dylan, R.Fulcher, T.Archer) **38**

F

FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emileon Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick, J.Sherwood) **19**

FIND ANOTHER BAR Big Big Plans Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Phat Raccoon, SESAC/Universal Tunes, SESAC (C.Lane, J.Thompson, J.Ebach) **48**

G

GLORY DAYS Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/GBF Music Global, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Weis Owl, ASCAP/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/M&M College Fund, SESAC (G.Barrett, J.McNair, E.L.Weisband, S.Mosley) **21**

GONNA LOVE YOU Sony CountrySide, BMI/Songs By Slip Joint, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI/33 Creative, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Camp James Music, BMI/Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Major Bob Productions, BMI (M.Thomas, D.Fanning, A.Dean, A.Sheridan) **39**

H

HALFWAY TO HELL Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Influence, BMI/Songs For The Munch Music, BMI/Songs Of Madrun, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jenktown, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (J.B.DeFord, J.Frasure, M.Jenkins, J.J.Dillon) **36**

I

I CAN FEEL IT Concord Sounds, ASCAP/Phil Collins LTD, PRS/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Family Publishing, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Chorus 3 Music Publishing, ASCAP/Goat Island Palms, LLC, BMI/Songs By 10K HRS Publishing, BMI (P.D.Collins, K.Brown, G.Foust, J.Free) **10**

I'M IN LOVE Mr. Canoe Music, BMI/Better Boat Music, BMI/James Edward Allen BMI Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Songs Of Influence, BMI/A Town Called Winner, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Songs With Words That Rhyme With Truck, BMI (C.Bedell, N.Galyon, L.T.Miller) **52**

I'M NOT PRETTY Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP/Tack Mack Tunes, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Redneck Resume Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (M.Moroney, B.Williams, M.E.Carpenter, M.Carpenter) **28**

IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler Songs, BMI/Hares And Haints Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (T.Children, G.A.Seale, Jr.) **47**

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/351 Music, BMI (Z.L.Bryan, K.Musgraves) **26**

K

KING OF COUNTRY MUSIC William Hill Publishing, ASCAP/Curb Songs, ASCAP/Town Of Iwango, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Nashblonde Music, BMI/Ryan Larkins Songs, BMI (R.Larkins, W.Duval, J.R.McCoy) **59**

L

LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlowe Sinclair Songs, SESAC/Hipgnosis Tunes, SESAC/Songs Of Portiered Music, SESAC/Allison Veltz Sensations, SESAC/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Sounds Etc Music, BMI (J.Boyer, A.Veltz-Cruz, M.Williams) **27**

LONG LIVE COWGIRLS Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Crawbaby Music, BMI/Pambilly Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (L.Munsick, A.Gutierrez, P.O'Donnell) **56**

LOVE YOU AGAIN Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Designee, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI (C.Brown, Chase Matthew, T.Phillips) **32**

LOVE YOU BACK Sony Songs LLC, BMI/Young Man Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Weis Owl, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP (J.McNair, L.Rimes, E.L.Weisband) **49**

M

MAKE ME WANNA SMOKE WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Flying Tamarack Music, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Ella Langley Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Yes Yes Yes, BMI (J.D.Sellers, E.Langley, B.Hamrick) **60**

MAMAW'S HOUSE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Cricket On The Line, BMI/Bo Wallace Publishing, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Super Big Music, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP/Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (Thomas Rhett, M.Dragstrom, C.McGill, M.C.Wallen) **12**

MAN MADE A BAR Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Hell Write Songs, BMI/Stellar Way With Words Publishing, BMI (R.H.Black, J.Dozzi, L.Fleet, Brett Tyler) **15**

O

ONE BAD HABIT Smacksters Music, ASCAP/Holy Ship Music, ASCAP/Smackville Music, ASCAP/Ice House Tunes, ASCAP/CTM Outlander Music Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Beliamarla, ASCAP (M.Beeson, A.Eshuis, T.Lane) **55**

OUT OF THAT TRUCK Carrie-Okie Music, BMI/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/4TheKidz Music, ASCAP/Spirit Vault Songs, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/WritersonthehornPublishing, BMI (C.Underwood, D.A.Garcia, L.Vaughan) **24**

OUTSKIRTS Universal Music Works, GMR/Pearl Hunt Music, GMR/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Flow Records & Tapes, ASCAP/Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Round Hill Songs III, ASCAP/Foxwood Entertainment Group Music Division, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP (S.L.Hunt, J.Osborne, J.Flowers, Z.Crowell) **30**

P

THE PAINTER BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Pompano Run Music, BMI/Songs For Ellie May, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Well That Was Awkward Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Nashblonde Music, BMI (K.Higgins, B.Davis, R.Larkins) **6**

PICKUP MAN EMI Full Keel Music, ASCAP/Reservoir Media Music, ASCAP/EMI Longitude Music, BMI/Reservoir 416, BMI (K.K.Phillips, H.Perdew) **44**

PRETTY LITTLE POISON Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/PA Cowboy Music, BMI/Twelve6 Sequoia, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (W.Zeiders, J.Keim, R.Beaver) **5**

R

RODEO MAN LWR, LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Pambilly Music, BMI (R.Dunn, P.O'Donnell) **40**

S

SAVE ME Bailee's Ballads, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Songs Of 78, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (J.B.DeFord, D.R.Stevens) **3**

SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Beattyville Music, BMI/Hipgnosis Beats, BMI/Smells Of Rich Mahogany, BMI (D.Baldrige, J.Yeary, C.Jaymes) **51**

SOMETHING'S GONNA KILL ME Songs Of Combustion Five, BMI/Anthem Publishing, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/WritersonthehornPublishing, BMI (Corey Kent, A.Goodloe, J.Taylor, L.Vaughan) **41**

SOUNDS LIKE THE RADIO Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Little Acie Music, BMI/50 Egg Music, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.Top, C.Chamberlain, W.McCubbin) **46**

SPIRITS AND DEMONS Hipgnosis Tunes, SESAC/Songs Of Portiered Music, SESAC/Allison Veltz Sensations, SESAC/Alexander Palmer Songs, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/MTNoize, SESAC (A.Palmer, A.Veltz-Cruz, M.Tyler) **37**

T

TAKE HER HOME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Biggie Bendable Music, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (H.Phelps, M.W.Hardy, Z.Arend) **23**

THIS IS MY DIRT Double Barrel Ace Music, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Paulwood Music, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Anthem Songs Of Countrywood, ASCAP (J.Moore, P.D.Giovanni, R.Montana, J.S.Stover) **43**

TRUCK BED Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Rednecker Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI (M.W.Hardy, A.G.Gorley, B.J.Johnson, H.Phelps) **9**

TUCSON TOO LATE Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Jordan Davis Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Bent Prop Publishing, ASCAP/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Follow Me Where I Go, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC/Songs Of Madrun, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jenktown, ASCAP (J.Davis, J.Davis, J.Jenkins, M.Jenkins) **17**

W

WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/For The Kids Good, ASCAP/Smackwood Music, SESAC/Kobalt Group Publishing, SESAC/Smack Songs LLC, GMR/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments, GMR (C.Pearce, R.Good, S.McAnally) **20**

WE RIDE Average ZJS Music Publishing, BMI/Vernon DiAngio Brown Jr. Publishing Designee, BMI (B.Martin, V.D.Brown Jr.) **33**

WHERE IT ENDS Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Red Room Special Music, BMI/Hipgnosis Beats, BMI/Holy Hell Music, BMI/London Electric Music, BMI/London Margate Songs, BMI (B.Zimmerman, G.Averill, J.Sparqur) **31**

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sullivan S Guns Music, BMI/Sea Gayle Pub House Publishing, ASCAP/10 & 2 Bullfish Music, ASCAP/Spark Ark Songs, ASCAP (R.Montana, D.Tumbull) **7**

WHITE HORSE WC Music Corp., ASCAP/House Of Sea Gayle Music, ASCAP/Spirit Nashville Two Crescendo, ASCAP/Songs From The Alcove, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Son Of A Miner Songs, ASCAP (C.Stapleton, D.D.Wilson) **2**

WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony CountrySide, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Pedal Down Music, ASCAP/Z7Musicpub, ASCAP (L.Wilson, T.Anderson, P.Sikes) **18**

WORLD ON FIRE Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Corent Music, ASCAP/Master Of My Domain Music, ASCAP/Poppy's Picks, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Rudy Rocks The USA, BMI/Nate Smith Music Publishing Company, ASCAP (N.Smith, A.G.Gorley, T.Phillips, L.Rimes) **1**

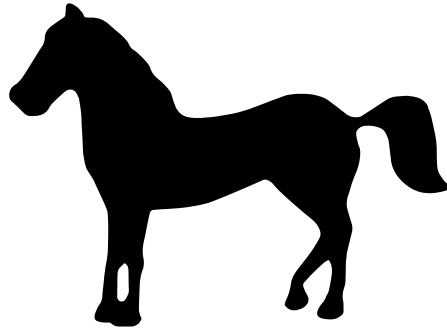
Y

YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS WC Music Corp., ASCAP/EMI Music Publishing Ltd., PRS/Sony Music Publishing UK Ltd., PRS/BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd., PRS/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Telemetry Rhythm House Music, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MVZ Music, BMI/Red Bandana Publishing, BMI/Jones Music America, ASCAP/Songs Of Roc Nation Music, BMI (David Bowie, J.Frasure, A.G.Gorley, J.Thompson) **34**

YOUR PLACE Twelve Two Music, BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/First Cut Is The Deepest Inc, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Big Loud Mountain Tunes, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (A.Cooke, J.T.Minton, M.Trussell) **25**

billboard

The Stone Pony



1974 50 2024

ASBURY PARK ★ NEW JERSEY

2024

THE STONE PONY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Stone Pony is 50! With the support of artists, fans and the city of Asbury Park, The Pony has created a rich history and produced many unforgettable moments as the cradle for rock 'n' roll legends. The venue boasts a loyal and diverse fan base that has been visiting the venue's intimate beachside setting for half a century ... and counting.

The Stone Pony has become a symbol of the value of a musical past and the promise of what continues to be a bright and hopeful future. The 50-year milestone will add to its historical significance, highlighting all involved in this marquee year, with a dedication and commitment to music artistry and its enduring impact.

Billboard will celebrate The Stone Pony's 50th in the March 9 issue. Please join in saluting the venue on this historical milestone.

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ISSUE DATE 3/9 | AD CLOSE 2/27 | MATERIALS DUE 2/29

COUNTRY

15 Years Ago

Alan Jackson Had The Top 'Country' Song

In 2009, the traditionalist banked his 25th of 26 No. 1s on Hot Country Songs

On Jan. 31, 2009, **Alan Jackson's** "Country Boy" jumped to No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. Jackson solely penned the track, which **Keith Stegall** produced.

It was released as the third of five singles from Jackson's album *Good Time*, following fellow Hot Country Songs No. 1s "Small Town Southern Man" and the title track.

With "Country Boy," Jackson rolled up his 25th of 26 Hot Country Songs No. 1s. He most recently reigned as featured on **Zac Brown Band's** "As She's Walking Away" in November 2010. He boasts 51 top 10s, beginning with "Here in the Real World" in 1990.

Born Alan Eugene Jackson on Oct. 17, 1958, in Newnan, Ga., he was the first artist signed to Arista Records' country

division in 1989. He entered the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2017.

In September 2021, Jackson, now 65, revealed that he was diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a degenerative nerve condition, and said it limited his ability to tour. That May, he released his latest album, *Where Have You Gone*, which became his 28th top 10 on Top Country Albums. —JIM ASKER

Jackson in 2009 at a Cracker Barrel in Mount Juliet, Tenn., where he appeared to promote the store's Alan Jackson Collection.

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

TH	W	LA	WE	TH	FR	SAT	SUN	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	IMPRINT & NUMBER / PROMOTION LABEL	WEEKS ON CHART	PEAK POSITION
1	5	6	17	#1 COUNTRY BOY			1 WK	K. STEGALL (A. JACKSON)	Alan Jackson Ⓢ ARISTA NASHVILLE	1	1
2	1	3	19	START A BAND				F. ROGERS (D. DAVIDSON, A. GORLEY, K. LOVELACE)	Brad Paisley Duet With Keith Urban Ⓢ ARISTA NASHVILLE	1	1
3	9	9	24	SHE WOULDN'T BE GONE				S. HENDRICKS (C. BATTEN, J. ADAN)	Blake Shelton Ⓢ WARNER BROS./WRN	3	3
4	4	7	27	DON'T				C. CHAMBERLAIN, B. CURRINGTON (J. BEAVERS, J. SINGLETON)	Billy Currington Ⓢ MERCURY	4	4
5	8	8	18	FEEL THAT FIRE				B. BEAVERS, D. BENTLEY (B. WARREN, B. WARREN, B. BEAVERS, D. BENTLEY)	Dierks Bentley Ⓢ CAPITOL NASHVILLE	5	5
6	10	12	13	GOD LOVE HER					Toby Keith		

FREDERICK BREEDON/GETTY IMAGES FOR CRACKER BARREL