

billboard Country Update

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APRIL 22, 2024 | PAGE 1 OF 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hot Country Songs
>page 3

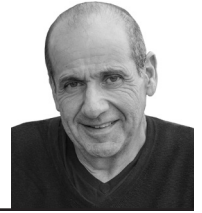
Makin' Tracks:
'Friends'
John Morgan &
Jason Aldean
>page 6

Top Country Albums
>page 8

Click Here For
Friday's *Billboard*
Country Update
And Country
Airplay Chart

ON THE CHARTS

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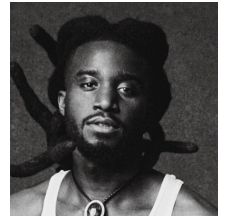


Beyoncé Keeps Firm 'Hold' Of Hot Country Songs Apex

1 BEYONCÉ
"Texas Hold 'Em"
The hit dominates Hot Country Songs for a 10th week. It drew 46.9 million all-format audience impressions and 15.8 million official U.S. streams, and sold 5,000 April 12-18, according to Luminate. On Country Airplay, it ranks at No. 38 (2.9 million, down 3%). Parent set *Cowboy Carter* rules Top Country Albums for a third week.



7 SHABOOZEY
"A Bar Song (Topsy)"
Released April 12, the track hops onto Hot Country Songs at No. 7 led by 10.7 million streams, marking the Virginia native's first entry. With 10,000 sold, it tops Digital Song Sales and Country Digital Song Sales. **Shaboozey** is featured on **Beyoncé's** *Cowboy Carter* tracks "Spaghetti" and "Sweet * Honey * Buckiin'."



10 LAINEY WILSON
"Wildflowers and Wild Horses"
The singer-songwriter earns her seventh consecutive career-opening Hot Country Songs top 10 as the track trots 11-10. It drew 6.1 million streams and sold 2,000. On Country Airplay, the single, which **Wilson** co-wrote, holds at its No. 10 best (18.7 million, up 2%). It's likewise her seventh top 10 on that tally.



34 ERNEST
Nashville, Tennessee
The Music City native — who has penned seven Country Airplay No. 1s among 10 top 10s — posts his second Top Country Albums entry as the 26-song set opens at No. 34. It earned 9,000 equivalent album units in its first week. The set follows his *Flower Shops: The Album*, which opened at its No. 12 peak in March 2022.



BEYONCÉ: MASON POOLE. SHABOOZEY: DANIEL PRAKOPCYK. WILSON: ALYSSE GAFKJEN. ERNEST: DELANEY ROYER.

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

LAINNEY WILSON

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR "HEART LIKE A TRUCK"
MUSIC EVENT OF THE YEAR



2024 GRAMMY AWARD WINNER *COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR*

HEADLINING 2024 COUNTRY'S COOL AGAIN TOUR

2023 GRAMMY AWARD WINNER *BEST COUNTRY ALBUM*

58TH ACM AWARDS WINNER *FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR • ALBUM OF THE YEAR • MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR*

RED LIGHT
MANAGEMENT

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	1	1	10	TEXAS HOLD 'EM <small>B.KNOWLES CARTER,KILLAH B,N.FERRARO,RAPHAEL SAADIQ (B.G.KNOWLES CARTER,E.L.BOLAND,M.BULOW,B.V.BATES,N.FERRARO,RAPHAEL SAADIQ)</small>	Beyonce PARKWOOD/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	38	1
2	2	4	34	I REMEMBER EVERYTHING <small>Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN,K.MUSGRAVES)</small>	Zach Bryan Featuring Kacey Musgraves INTERSCOPE/BELTING BRONCO/WARNER/MCA NASHVILLE/WAR	RC	1
3	5	18	7	AUSTIN <small>T.HEIDELMAN (A.D.NOVTNY,K.T.HEIDELMAN,A.WENDLER,C.R.ARNSPIGER)</small>	Dasha VERSION III/WARNER	36	3
4	6	13	26	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE <small>CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (R.MONTANA,D.TURNBULL)</small>	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	RC	4
5	3	8	35	MAN MADE A BAR <small>J.MOI (R.H.BLOCK,J.DOZZI,L.FLEET,BRETT TYLER)</small>	Morgan Wallen Featuring Eric Church MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	2	3
6	NEW		1	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) <small>S.COOK,N.SASTRY (C.O.CHIBUEZE,S.C.COOK,R.SASTRY,J.JONES,J.KENT,M.WILLIAMS)</small>	Shaboozey AMERICAN DOGWOOD/EMPIRE	-	6
7	8	-	23	WHERE IT ENDS <small>A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,G.AVERILL,J.SPARGUR)</small>	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	8	7
8	9	19	28	WILD ONES <small>JEFF GITTY (J.MURPH,F.FERRARO,J.GITELMAN,G.HEIN,J.B.DEFORD)</small>	Jessie Murph & Jelly Roll COLUMBIA	-	8
9	4	2	3	II MOST WANTED <small>B.KNOWLES CARTER,S.EVERETT,M.POLLACK,M.CYRUS (B.G.KNOWLES CARTER,M.CYRUS,M.R.POLLACK,R.B.TEDDER)</small>	Beyonce & Miley Cyrus PARKWOOD/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	2
10	11	21	22	WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES <small>J.JOYCE (L.WILSON,T.ANDERSON,P.SIKES)</small>	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	10	10
11	13	-	29	COWGIRLS <small>J.MOI,J.DURRETT (R.H.BLOCK,A.G.GORLEY,J.MADDOCKS,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME)</small>	Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	43	11
12	18	27	15	BACK THEN RIGHT NOW <small>J.M.SCHMIDT,T.HUBBARD (T.R.HUBBARD,J.J.DILLON,G.WARBURTON,D.A.GARCIA)</small>	Tyler Hubbard HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE	3	12
13	23	36	10	BULLETPROOF <small>L.RIMES (A.G.GORLEY,B.JOHNSON,H.PHELPS)</small>	Nate Smith RCA NASHVILLE	18	13
14	14	26	27	OUTSKIRTS <small>Z.CROWELL,C.LACORTE,S.HUNT (S.L.HUNT,J.OSBORNE,J.FLOWERS,Z.CROWELL)</small>	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	1	14
15	22	24	3	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU <small>C.LACORTE (T.ARCHER,T.PWETMORE,C.LACORTE)</small>	Tucker Wetmore BACK BLOCKS	-	15
16	15	28	21	TUCSON TOO LATE <small>P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,J.DAVIS,J.JENKINS,M.JENKINS)</small>	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	4	15
17	16	29	8	WINE INTO WHISKEY <small>J.EBACH (T.P.WETMORE,J.A.HACKWORTH,J.A.EBACH)</small>	Tucker Wetmore BACK BLOCKS	-	16
18	17	31	15	HALFWAY TO HELL <small>Z.CROWELL,J.FRASURE (J.B.DEFORD,J.FRASURE,M.JENKINS,J.J.DILLON)</small>	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BROKEN BOW/BMG/STONEY CREEK	11	17
19	10	3	3	JOLENE <small>B.KNOWLES CARTER,JACK RO (D.PARTON)</small>	Beyonce PARKWOOD/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	3
20	19	25	12	SPIN YOU AROUND (1/24) <small>J.MOI,M.WALLEN,B.SUTTON,P.TRUST (M.C.WALLEN,S.SANCHEZ AYON,P.TRUST)</small>	Morgan Wallen HONEYHOLE/MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	5
21	34	47	22	I THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU <small>C.STAPLETON,D.COBB (C.STAPLETON)</small>	Chris Stapleton SOUND/MERCURY NASHVILLE	52	21
22	26	34	24	DIRT CHEAP <small>T.W.WILLMON (J.PHILLIPS)</small>	Cody Johnson COJO/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	23	22
23	24	30	39	WE RIDE <small>N.GIBBENS (B.MARTIN,V.D.BROWN JR.)</small>	Bryan Martin AVERAGE JOES	16	23
24	12	5	3	LEVII'S JEANS <small>B.KNOWLES CARTER,TERIUS NASH (B.G.KNOWLES CARTER,A.R.POST,TERIUS NASH,N.G.RODGERS, JR.,S.C.CARTER)</small>	Beyonce & Post Malone PARKWOOD/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	5
25	32	33	10	TAKE HER HOME <small>B.CANNON,K.CHESENEY (H.PHELPS,M.W.HARDY,Z.ABEND)</small>	Kenny Chesney BLUE CHAIR/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	9	19

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	#1 62 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
2		BEYONCE
3		KACEY MUSGRAVES
4		DOLLY PARTON
TIE 5		DAVE TURNBULL
TIE 5		RANDY MONTANA
7		CHRIS STAPLETON
8		JOSH PHILLIPS
9		DYLAN GOSSETT
10		ASHLEY GORLEY



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	#1 21 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
2		JOEY MOI
3		BEYONCE
4		AUSTIN SHAWN
5		TRAVIS HEIDELMAN
6		CHRIS LACORTE
7		JEFF GITTY
8		JAY JOYCE
9		LINDSAY RIMES
10		KRISTIAN BUSH

The weekly Country Songwriters and Country Producers charts are based on total points accrued by a songwriter and producer, respectively, for each attributed song that appears on the Hot Country Songs chart. As with Billboard's yearly recaps, multiple writers or producers split points for each song equally (and the dividing of points will lead to occasional ties on rankings).

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	27	32	28	COAL D.GOSSETT (D.L.GOSSETT)	Dylan Gossett DYLAN GOSSETT/BIG LOUD TEXAS/MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	19
27	35	37	20	WONDERING WHY THE RED CLAY STRAYS (A.G.NIX,B.L.COLEMAN,D.COUCH)	The Red Clay Strays RED CLAY STRAYS/THIRTY TIGERS	-	18
28	28	35	14	CAB IN A SOLO F.ROGERS,D.WELLS,A.ESHUIS (S.C.MCCREERY,B.ANDERSON,F.ROGERS)	Scotty McCreery TRIPLE TIGERS	5	28
29	30	38	35	WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE S.MCANALLY,J.OSBORNE,C.PEARCE (C.PEARCE,P.GOOD,S.MCANALLY)	Carly Pearce Featuring Chris Stapleton BIG MACHINE	15	19
30	37	39	6	SMOKE & A LIGHT J.ECKERD (J.T.YOUNG)	Ole 60 GREY AREA/RED DOOR	-	22
31	38	40	15	YOUR PLACE J.ROBBINS (A.COOKIE,J.T.MINTON,M.TRUSSELL)	Ashley Cooke BACK BLOCKS/BIG LOUD	12	31
32	39	41	8	HOLY SMOKES A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,B.M.STENNIS,L.HUNGATE,M.TYLER)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	13
33	20	12	3	TYRANT H.AMELIN,D.A. GOT THAT DOPE (B.G.KNOWLES CARTER,C.OCHS,TERIUS NASH,D.A. GOT THAT DOPE,D.REDENCZKI,E.C.CHIKWENDU)	Beyonce & Dolly Parton PARKWOOD/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	12
34	42	49	14	LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY M.KNOX (J.BOYER,A.VELTZ-CRUZ,M.WILSHIRE)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	14	34
35	21	6	3	BLACKBIIRD B.KNOWLES CARTER,P.MCCARTNEY (P.MCCARTNEY,J.W.LENNON)	Beyonce,Tanner Adell, Brittney Spencer,Tiera Kennedy & Reyna Roberts PARKWOOD/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	6
36	44	44	13	NO CALLER ID K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,J.L.ALEXANDER,C.R.HARRINGTON,J.J.DILLON)	Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	13
37	45	45	18	FEARLESS (THE ECHO) L.DICK (J.DEAN,C.L.DICK,J.S.SHERWOOD)	Jackson Dean BIG MACHINE	13	34
38	NEW	1	1	WORST WAY NOT LISTED (NOT LISTED)	Riley Green NASHVILLE HARBOR	-	38
39	NEW	1	1	DEVIL YOU KNOW S.MARTINEZ (G.B.BARHAM,Z.DYER,J.HALL,S.MARTINEZ)	Tyler Braden WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	-	39
40	25	10	9	16 CARRIAGES B.KNOWLES CARTER,D.HAMELIN,INK (B.G.KNOWLES CARTER,D.HAMELIN,A.BOGGS,RAPHAEL SAADIQ)	Beyonce PARKWOOD/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	9
41	50	-	3	YOUNG LOVE & SATURDAY NIGHTS C.CROWDER,C.DESTEFANO,A.MCANALLY,C.YOUNG (DAVID BOWIE,J.FRASURE,A.G.GORLEY,J.THOMPSON)	Chris Young RCA NASHVILLE	17	38
42	49	43	33	I'M NOT PRETTY K.BUSH (M.MORONEY,B.WILLIAMS,M.E.CARPENTER,M.CARPENTER)	Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY/COLUMBIA/ARISTA NASHVILLE	20	32
43	48	-	25	LOVE YOU AGAIN A.R.SHAWN,C.BROWN (C.BROWN,CHASE MATTHEW,T.PHILLIPS)	Chase Matthew CHASE MATTHEW/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	22	42
44	RE-ENTRY	2	2	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE J.A.FOX (D.SCOTT,L.ROBINSON,R.ROWTON,R.GATLIN)	Dylan Scott CURB	-	42
45	40	-	2	LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (R.AKINS,B.HAYSLIP,J.T.MINTON,J.RICE)	Luke Bryan ROW CROP/CAPITOL NASHVILLE	42	40
46	NEW	1	1	HANGIN' ON J.MOI (E.K.SMITH,G.W.BLOCK,J.R.DURRETT,R.RUTHERFORD,R.TENPENNY)	ERNEST & Morgan Wallen BIG LOUD	-	46
47	RE-ENTRY	37	37	IN YOUR LOVE T.CHILDERS,THE FOOD STAMPS (T.CHILDERS,G.A.SEALE, JR.)	Tyler Childers HICKMAN HOLLER/RCA	47	7
48	31	15	3	RIVERDANCE B.KNOWLES CARTER,TERIUS NASH (B.G.KNOWLES CARTER,TERIUS NASH,R.A.KEEN,M.SPEARS)	Beyonce PARKWOOD/COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	-	15
49	RE-ENTRY	6	6	CHEVROLET Z.CROWELL,B.PHILLIPS (C.MCGILL,J.L.ALEXANDER,H.PHELPS,M.WILLIAMS)	Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll BROKEN BOW	24	45
50	RE-ENTRY	6	6	NINE BALL Z.L.BRYAN (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	15

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

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT				YEAR-TO-DATE			YEAR-OVER-YEAR		
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND	2023	2024	CHANGE			
This Week	1,951,000	2,371,880,000	120,929,000	Album Consumption	25,891,000	27,811,000	7.4%	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
Last Week	1,916,000	2,321,696,000	118,780,000	Album Sales	2,245,000	2,023,000	-9.9%	'23	25.89 million
Change	1.8%	2.2%	1.8%	Audio On-Demand	30,721,140,000	35,593,441,000	15.9%	'24	27.81 million
This Week Last Year	1,790,000	2,160,711,000	138,474,000	Video On-Demand	2,208,485,000	1,895,706,000	-14.2%	TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS	
Change	9.0%	9.8%	-12.7%					'23	32.93 billion
								'24	35.49 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending April 18, 2024. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Album consumption units — also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA — consists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equal one consumption unit; and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/or 3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit.

For inquiries about any Luminate, please contact Howard Lin at hlin@luminatedata.com



THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO AND PARTNERS!

#1
MOST ADDED

64 FIRST WEEK ADDS



JOHN MORGAN
FRIENDS LIKE THAT

FEAT. JASON ALDEAN

MCCN/MUSIC CHOICE

KUPL/PORTLAND, OR

WTQR/GREENSBORO

KDRK/SPOKANE

KBAY/SAN FRANCISCO

KCYC/SAN ANTONIO

WIRK/WEST PALM

KXLY/SPOKANE

KILT/HOUSTON

KSOP/SALT LAKE CITY

WLFM/MEMPHIS

WWQM/MADISON

KKBQ/HOUSTON

KNCI/SACRAMENTO

WKMK/MONMOUTH

WPOR/PORTLAND

WUBL/ATLANTA

KASE/AUSTIN

WKHK/RICHMOND

WKRO/DAYTONA BEACH

WBWL/BOSTON

WWKA/ORLANDO

WWYZ/HARTFORD

WUSY/CHATTANOOGA

WKLB/BOSTON

WPGP/PITTSBURGH

WQNU/LOUISVILLE

WRNS/GREENVILLE, NC

WKIS/MIAMI

KCYE/LAS VEGAS

WSSL/GREENVILLE, SC

KXBG/FT. COLLINS

KNIX/PHOENIX

KBEQ/KANSAS CITY

WZZK/BIRMINGHAM

KFDI/WICHITA

WYCD/DETROIT

WGAR/CLEVELAND

KHGE/FRESNO

KZSN/WICHITA

WFUS/TAMPA

WNCB/RALEIGH

WKLI/ALBANY

KJUG/VISALIA

KWBL/DENVER

WQDR/RALEIGH

WCYQ/KNOXVILLE

WGTY/YORK

KYGO/DENVER

WSIX/NASHVILLE

WTGE/BATON ROUGE

WXBQ/JOHNSON CITY

WJVC/NASSAU

WGH/NORFOLK

WCKN/CHARLESTON

WQHK/FT. WAYNE

WKKT/CHARLOTTE

WGNE/JACKSONVILLE

WOGK/GAINESVILLE

WUSJ/JACKSON

WSOC/CHARLOTTE

WQIK/JACKSONVILLE

KCCY/COLORADO SPRINGS

KTTS/SPRINGFIELD

BREAKOUT COUNTRY



NEW COUNTRY



COUNTRY RISERS



COUNTRY'S NEW CROP



BREAKTHROUGH COUNTRY



THE BIG 615



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

John Morgan Calls On Jason Aldean For Radio Single 'Friends Like That'



Alone in his house, surrounded by friends.

That's the contradictory state presented in **John Morgan's** first radio single, a collaboration with **Jason Aldean** titled "Friends Like That." The singers are pals at a professional level, for sure, since Morgan wrote three of Aldean's recent hits and is signed to Aldean's record label, Night Train, affiliated with BBR Music Group.

But the buddies in "Friends Like That" are a little more figurative: vices and voices telling the protagonist he's better off alone than to be weighed down by the woman who just walked out on him. Broken hearts aren't typically pleasurable, although the breezy melody and pulsing guitars on "Friends Like That" make loneliness sound attractive.

"That was kind of the point," Morgan says, "to make light of a heavy subject."

Mission accomplished, with a little help from some friends.

Morgan wrote "Friends Like That" during September 2020 — the height of the pandemic — at Cornman Music in Nashville, where songwriter **Will Bundy** ("Half of Me," "Brown Eyes Baby") maintains an office. They were joined by **Lydia Vaughan** ("If I Didn't Love You," "Out of That Truck") and **Brent Anderson** ("Cab in a Solo," "Lonely Tonight"), ostensibly a group of writers who've been interacting with one another in different combinations for several years.

The day started — as it did for so many Americans in that window of time — fairly directionless. No one had any ideas they were passionate about, so they chatted, pattered and brainstormed a bit until something caught their attention. That something was a mysterious-sounding guitar riff that seemed like it was leading somewhere. It was ideal for an intro, and interesting enough that Vaughan insisted they make it part of the melody later in the song. It became the basis for the pre-chorus, setting up the sound of the chorus, which they attacked before they even knew where they were going.

"A lot of times, the pre-chorus is just a transitional piece to get from A to B," says Anderson. "Having, to the best of my knowledge, started this song with that part is probably the reason that it stands out."

His co-writers are convinced that Anderson spit out the "Friends Like That" title, though none of them know how they got there. It was apparent, however, that they were writing a breakup song, with the singer listening to his friends' advice about pulling himself together and moving on. The song's conversations, though, took place in front of a fire at home. The friends were music (**Willie Nelson** and **Waylon Jennings**) and alcohol (Jack Daniel's), and staying home with them spoke volumes.

"When something like that happens to you, a lot of people write about the bar," Morgan says. But having the character stay home "was more real to me because when I get pissed off or whenever something happens, I just don't want to talk to anybody."

Buoyed by "Willie," "Jack" and "Waylon," the singer addresses his ex in absentia with a dismissive payoff at the end of the chorus: "Who needs you when I got friends like that?"

As self-sufficient as the guy tries to sound at that point, he evinced a brooding outlook when the writers started filling in the blank spaces in the first verse. They established the setting with much of that opening stanza — it's after sundown, with the ex's keys on the table. When they reached that transitional pre-chorus, the lyrics refocused on his "friends," changing the feel from lonely

atmosphere to party central.

In verse two, the singer recalled the couple's better days, reiterated that he no longer needed her, and — when the pre-chorus returned — boasted that he's "got buds to get me through it." It may take several listens to realize that while "buds" is shorthand for "buddies," it might also simply be "buds."

"It rides a nice line to me where it's not like completely hidden," Bundy says of the weed reference. "It's sort of camouflaged in a cool way."

The bridge gets ultra cheery, with a call-and-answer component while the vices actually start talking to the protagonist, "telling me I don't need you no more."

"It's a great singalong moment," notes Vaughan. "I just thought it was really catchy. I don't know that it necessarily revealed anything new about the story that wasn't already there, but we all just liked it."

Aldean and two of his band members, bassist **Tully Kennedy** and guitarist **Kurt Allison**, produced "Friends Like That" at Nashville's Sound Emporium with Kennedy's adventuresome bass and **Mike Johnson's** haunting steel adding some sonic burn to the track. Morgan played the opening riff and the guitar solo, but he was particularly impressed with the crew. He referenced a driving rhythm element on **Tom Petty's** "Running Down a Dream" when they reached the bridge, and guitarist **Rob McNelly** locked on to it right away.

"Seeing how pro those guys are is pretty unbelievable," Morgan says.

Bundy produced Morgan's final vocal session at Ocean Way. Morgan didn't need much direction — the song had been written to fit his voice — but he definitely paid attention when Bundy gave him notes.

"It's sort of like getting to drive a Mercedes when you record John's vocal," Bundy observes. "The great thing about John is we're also such good buddies that I can criticize him and be tough on him, and he takes that and runs with it. You know he's going to improve on it."

Morgan's solo version of "Friends Like That" became his most played song, racking up 23 million streams on Spotify following its Sept. 30, 2022, release. Aldean thought they should take it to radio. He also suggested that maybe he should add his voice to it, providing a little extra promotional incentive for programmers to play it.

Originally, Aldean wanted to just sing the second verse. Ultimately, Morgan persuaded him to do more, including the call-and-answer part on the bridge and a background vamp in the closing moments. Aldean also makes subtle melodic changes, adding a blue note here or there that creates a little extra grit.

"That's what's so badass about him," says Anderson. "He's done that since the beginning."

Night Train and Broken Bow released the Morgan/Aldean remix to country radio via PlayMPE on April 8 and set April 22 as its official impact date.

"The song itself being called 'Friends Like That,' how fun is it now that it's two friends singing on it together," Vaughan says.

In the end, "Friends Like That" will sink or swim on the lead voices, the breezy outlaw references and the self-deception that's hiding just beneath the surface of the song's relentless pulse. The freshly rejected guy in the song is a character everybody knows.

"There's some bitterness in there, but also some sarcasm," Morgan says. "Also, you know, [he's] lying through his teeth." ●





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STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

Table with 7 columns: THIS WEEK, LAST WEEK, 2 WEEKS AGO, WEEKS ON CHART, ARTIST, TITLE, CERT., PEAK POS. Lists top 25 country albums including Beyoncé's 'Cowboy Carter' and Morgan Wallen's 'Dangerous: The Double Album'.

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums).

billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

Table with 6 columns: THIS WEEK, LAST WEEK, WKS ON CHART, TITLE, ARTIST. Lists top 25 country streaming songs, including 'I Remember Everything' by Zach Bryan.

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by Luminate.

billboard COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

Table with 6 columns: THIS WEEK, LAST WEEK, WKS ON CHART, TITLE, ARTIST. Lists top 25 country digital song sales, including 'A Bar Song (Tipsy)' by Shaboozey.



WETMORE

ANNA SCHAEFER

billboard AMERICANA/FOLK ALBUMS

Table with 7 columns: THIS WEEK, LAST WEEK, 2 WEEKS AGO, WEEKS ON CHART, ARTIST, TITLE, CERT., PEAK POS. Lists top 10 Americana/Folk albums, including Beyoncé's 'Cowboy Carter'.

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums).

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

Table with 7 columns: THIS WEEK, LAST WEEK, 2 WEEKS AGO, WEEKS ON CHART, ARTIST, TITLE, CERT., PEAK POS. Lists top 10 bluegrass albums, including Marty Stuart's 'Altitude'.

Bluegrass Albums ranks the most popular bluegrass albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, based on album sales.

SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

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billboard Hot Country Songs Index

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

16 CARRIAGES Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Oakland 13 Music, ASCAP/David Hamelin Publishing, SOCAN/Sony Ballad, BMI/Ugmo Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP (B.G.Knowles Carter, D.Hamelin, A.Boggs, Raphael Saadiq) **40**

A
AUSTIN ROSCAMP PUBLISHING, ASCAP/Travis Heidelman Music, BMI/Dash, BMI/Adam Wendler Publishing Designee, GEMA (A.D.Novotny, K.T.Heidelman, A.Wendler, C.R.Arnspiger) **3**

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) **12**

A BAR SONG (TIPSY) WC Music Corp., ASCAP/S2 Songs LLC, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Range Media Partners LLC, ASCAP/EMI April Music, Inc., ASCAP/Hood Hop Music, ASCAP/Tarpo Music Publishing, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP (C.O.Chibweze, S.C.Cook, N.Sastry, J.Jones, J.Kent, M.Williams) **6**

BLACKBIIRD MPL Communications Inc, ASCAP/Northern Songs Ltd., PRS (P.McCartney, J.W.Lennon) **35**

BULLETPROOF Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Ben There Wrote That Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Artist 101 Publishing Group, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Hits, BMI/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP (A.G.Gorley, B.Johnson, H.Phelps) **13**

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) **28**

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) **49**

COAL Dylan Gossett Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI (D.Gossett) **26**

COWGIRLS Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Michael Scott Paper Company Publishing Company, ASCAP/James Maddocks Publishing Designee, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Ern Dog Music, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI (R.H.Block, A.G.Gorley, J.Maddocks, E.K.Smith, Charlie Handsome) **11**

D
DEVIL YOU KNOW ZDyer Publishing, BMI/Silly Sweater Publishing, ASCAP/Group Projects Writers, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/WritersonthecornPublishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Turntable Music, LLC, ASCAP/HALLPASS, ASCAP (G.Barham, Z.Dyer, J.Hall, S.Martinez) **39**

DIRT CHEAP Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Write Or Die Music, BMI/Write The Lightning Publishing, BMI (J.Phillips) **22**

F
FEARLESS (THE ECHO) Little Louder Songs, BMI/Emleron Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (J.Dean, C.L.Dick, J.S.Sherwood) **37**

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 Madfun, 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) **18**

HANGIN' ON Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Ernest Money Publishing Designee, BMI/Jimmy Sad Publishing, BMI/ERN's Cadillac Music, BMI/High Dime LLC, BMI (E.K.Smith, G.W.Block, J.R.Durrett, R.Rutherford, R.Tenpenney) **46**

HOLY SMOKES Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Fart Creations, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/This Is Chromatic Music, BMI/MT ROOM, SEASAC/Melodies Of CTM Outlander, SESAC/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Lil Sebastian Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI (A.R.Shawn, B.Zimmerman, B.M.Stennis, L.Hungate, M.Tyler) **32**

I
II MOST WANTED Oakland 13 Music, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/MCEO Publishing, BMI/Sony Songs LLC, BMI/What Key Do You Want It In Music, BMI/Songs With A Pure Tone, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Ryan Tedder Publishing Designee, GMR (B.G.Knowles Carter, M.Cyrus, M.R.Pollack, R.B.Tedder) **9**

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) **42**

IN YOUR LOVE Hickman Holler Songs, BMI/Hares And Haints Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (T.Childers, 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) **2**

I THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU I Wrote These Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP (C.Stapleton) **21**

J
JOLENE Velvet Apple Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI (D.Parton) **19**

L
LET YOUR BOYS BE COUNTRY Peertunes, Ltd., SESAC/Marlowe Sinclair Songs, SESAC/Hipgnosis Tunes, SESAC/Songs Of Porterfield Music, SESAC/Allison Veltz Sensations, SESAC/Peermusic III, Ltd., BMI/Sounds Epic Music, BMI (J.Boyer, A.Veltz-Cruz, M.Wilshire) **34**

LEVI'S JEANS Oakland 13 Music, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Posty Publishing, GMR/Universal Music Works, GMR/Star Maker 2082 Publishing, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/XLC Music, Inc., BMI/Hipgnosis Hits, ASCAP/Carter Boys Music, ASCAP (B.G.Knowles Carter, A.R.Post, Terius Nash, N.G.Rodgers, Jr., S.C.Carter) **24**

LOVE YOU AGAIN Hits From The Tape Room, BMI/TDP Publishing, BMI/Tape Room Tunes, SESAC/Track & Feels Publishing Desingee, SESAC/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/The Big One, BMI (C.Brown, Chase Matthew, T.Phillips) **43**

LOVE YOU, MISS YOU, MEAN IT Little Brocephus Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Songs By Slip, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Turtle Garden Publishing, BMI/Southern Boy Songs Worldwide, BMI/Jacob Rice Publishing, BMI (R.Akins, B.Hayslip, J.T.Minton, J.Rice) **45**

M
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.Block, J.Dozzi, L.Fleet, Brett Tyler) **5**

N
NINE BALL Zach Lane Bryan Publishing Designee, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI (Z.L.Bryan) **50**

NO CALLER ID Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/Georgiamo Music, SESAC/Where I Started Music Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Connie Harrington Publishing Designee, BMI/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI (M.Moroney, J.L.Alexander, C.R.Harrington, J.J.Dillon) **36**

O
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) **14**

R
RIIVERDANCE Oakland 13 Music, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Star Maker 2082 Publishing, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/Warner Chappell Music LTD., PRS/Mark Spears Publishing Designee, PRS (B.G.Knowles Carter, Terius Nash, R.A.Keen, M.Spears) **48**

S
SMOKE & A LIGHT Jacob Ty Young Publishing Designee, BMI (J.T.Young) **30**
SPIN YOU AROUND (1/24) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI/Nears Publishing, SESAC/Zerogee Music, SESAC/Billy Ray Publishing, SESAC (M.C.Wallen, S.Sanchez Ayon, P.Trust) **20**

T
TAKE HER HOME Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/Bigger Bendable Music, BMI/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Relative Red Music, BMI (H.Phelps, M.W.Hardy, Z.Aband) **25**

TEXAS HOLD 'EM Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Oakland 13 Music, ASCAP/Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Arts & Craft Music, SOCAN/Galleryac Music, SOCAN/ThelldestMusicGroup, ASCAP/Hyvetown Music Inc., SOCAN/Heart And Art Music, SOCAN/Ugmo Music, ASCAP/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP (B.G.Knowles Carter, E.L.Boland, M.Bulow, B.V.Bates, N.Ferraro, Raphael Saadiq) **1**

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 Madfun, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Jenktown, ASCAP (J.Davis, J.Davis, J.Jenkins, M.Jenkins) **16**

TYRANT Oakland 13 Music, ASCAP/Sony Tunes, ASCAP/Camaron Ochs Publishing Designee, BMI/Sony Ballad, BMI/Star Maker 2082 Publishing, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Dominick Redenczki Publishing Designee, BMI/David's Art LLC Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/David's Art, ASCAP/Idara Publishing, ASCAP (B.G.Knowles Carter, C.Ochs, Terius Nash, d.a. got that dope, D.Redenczki, E.C.Chikwendu) **33**

W
WE DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP/For The Kids Gold, 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, P.Good, S.McAnally) **29**

WE RIDE Average ZJS Music Publishing, BMI/Vernon Diangelo Brown Jr. Publishing Designee, BMI (B.Martin, V.D.Brown Jr.) **23**

WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb Songs, ASCAP/Logan Robinson Publishing Designee, NS/Ricky Rowton Publishing Designee, NS/Robbie Gatlin Publishing Designee, NS (D.Scott, L.Robinson, R.Rowton, R.Gatlin) **44**

WHERE IT ENDS Bailey Zimmerman Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Gold Room Special Music, BMI/Hipgnosis Beats, BMI/Holy Hell Music, BMI/London Electric Music, BMI/London Margate Songs, BMI (B.Zimmerman, G.Averill, J.Spargus) **7**

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) **4**

WILDFLOWERS AND WILD HORSES Louisiana Lady, ASCAP/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Sony Countryside, BMI/Songs Of Wild Cat Well Music, BMI/Pedal Down Music, ASCAP/27Musicpub, ASCAP (L.Wilson, T.Anderson, S.Sikes) **10**

WILD ONES Jessie Murph Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Straight From The Art Music, BMI/Bye Felicia's Music, BMI/BMG Platinum Songs US, BMI/Jeff Gitty Music, BMI/Songs By Gregory Hein, BMI/Wide Eyed Global, BMI/These Are Pulse Songs, BMI/Concord Copyrights, BMI/Jason Deford Publishing Designee, BMI (J.Murph, F.Ferraro, J.Gitelman, G.Hein, J.B.DeFord) **8**

WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back Block Music, BMI/Combustion Music, BMI/Hang Your Hat Hits, SESAC/Beats Building Fences, BMI/Concord Tunes, SESAC/Card Tables Music, SESAC (T.Archer, T.P.Wetmore, C.LaCorte) **15**

WINE INTO WHISKEY Goat Island Bay Music, BMI/T Vill Music, BMI/Speakers Go Boom Songs, BMI/Songs Of Back Block Publishing, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Justin Ebach Publishing Designee, SESAC (T.P.Wetmore, J.A.Hackworth, J.A.Ebach) **17**

WONDERING WHY Lawd Hamercy Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Music By Bodacious Publishing, BMI/Copyright Control (A.G.Nix, B.L.Coleman, D.Couch) **27**

WORST WAY Not Listed (Not Listed) **38**

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/MV2 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) **41**

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) **31**



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