

Oak Ridge Boy Joe Bonsall Officially Retires From Touring



Joe Bonsall. Photo: Brandon Wood / Indie Bling Studio

Joe Bonsall, tenor singer for **The Oak Ridge Boys** for the past 50 years, has officially announced he is retiring from touring.

Bonsall shared this message with Oak Ridge Boys fans: "Many of you know I have been battling a slow onset (over four years now) of a neuromuscular disorder. I am now at a point where walking is impossible, so I have basically retired from the road. It has just gotten too difficult. It has been a great 50 years, and I am thankful to all The Oak Ridge Boys, band, crew, and staff for the constant love and support shown to me through it all. I will never forget, and for those of you who have been constantly holding me up in prayer, I thank you and ask for you to keep on praying. There is a young man named **Ben James** singing for me out there, and he needs your love and encouragement ... his sound is different than mine, but he brings a ton of talent to the table! The Oak Ridge Boys will finish the 'Farewell Tour' without me, but rest assured, I am good with all of it! God's Got It!!!"

During a Dec. 30 concert in Greenville, Mississippi, fellow Oaks **Duane Allen**, **William Lee Golden** and **Richard Sterban** introduced James to an enthusiastic audience at Harlow's Casino Resort.

The Oak Ridge Boys are planning a full touring calendar for their "American Made: Farewell Tour" beginning Jan. 20. They anticipate returning to the studio with **Dave Cobb** in late January, their fifth pairing with the super-producer. **MR**

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Oak Ridge Boy Joe Bonsall Retires From Touring

MusicRow's Top 100 Songwriters Of 2023

John Michael Montgomery To Retire From The Road

George Birge Achieves First Chart-Topper With 'Mind On You'

Red Street Publishing Signs Brian White

Jessie Jo Dillon Looks Back On 2023: 'I Did My Job As A Songwriter' [Interview]

New June Carter Cash Documentary Set To Air On Paramount +

Gospel Music Association To Open Nashville-Based Dove Center In 2025

DISClaimer Single Reviews

And much more...

MusicRow's Top 100 Songwriters Of 2023

Since 2018, *MusicRow* has published a weekly Top Songwriter Chart that ranks the week's top 60 songwriters based on song activity according to airplay, digital download track sales and streams.

Using proprietary software, the points earned by each song are evenly split among the song's co-writers, echoing how the publishing business works in Music City with respect to revenues and ownership, while displaying the overall success of active songs for each songwriter. This way, the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart reflects the most active and successful songwriters in Nashville one week at a time.

Zach Bryan earned the most points on the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart throughout 2023, putting him at the top of the year-end list.

After breaking through in a big way in 2022 with his Warner Records debut album *American Heartbreak*, which remained in the upper echelons of the charts throughout 2023, Bryan continued to release a lot of new music this year. *American Heartbreak*, his self-titled project and his *Boys Of Faith* EP included primarily solo-writes, allowing Bryan to collect all of the points those songs earned.

Songs that kept Bryan dominating the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart include "Something in the Orange," "Oklahoma Smokeshow," "Burn, Burn, Burn," "Sun To Me," "Dawns," "I Remember Everything," "Hey Driver," "East Side of Sorrow," "Tourniquet," "Sarah's Place," "Deep Satin" and more. All but three are solo writes.

Ashley Gorley comes in at No. 2 on *MusicRow*'s Top 100 Songwriters of 2023 list. A fixture on the country charts, Gorley added many more hits to his songbook this past year, including "Gold" (Dierks Bentley), "Girl In Mine" (Parmalee), "Truck Bed" (Hardy), "God Gave Me A Girl" (Russell Dickerson), "All I Need Is You" (Chris Janson), "World On Fire" (Nate Smith), "Save Me The Trouble" (Dan + Shay) and more.



Ashley Gorley. Photo: Katie Kauss



Zach Bryan. Photo: Trevor Pavlik

Gorley also nabbed 12 cuts on Morgan Wallen's *One Thing At A Time* album, which has broken consumption records since its release in early 2023. He was named the 2023 ACM Songwriter of the Year, took home ASCAP's Country Music Songwriter of the Year award for the tenth time and was awarded Songwriter of the Year across all genres for Variety's annual Hitmakers event.

At No. 3 on *MusicRow*'s Top 100 Songwriters of 2023 list is **Ryan Vojtesak**, who was another major player on Wallen's *One Thing At A Time*. Vojtesak, also known as Charlie Handsome, co-wrote "Last Night," "Everything I Love," "One Thing At A Time," "Hope That's True," "Whiskey Friends," "You Proof," "Neon Star," "Thinkin' Bout Me," "Single Than She Was," "Me To Me," "180 (Lifestyle)," "Had It," "Cowgirls" and "Good Girl Gone Missin'."

Morgan Wallen himself placed at No. 4 on the year-end list. In addition to his *One Thing At A Time* album soaring through 2023, his 2021 *Dangerous: The Double Album* continued to be a major success. Wallen also sold out stadiums across the world all year on his “One Night At A Time World Tour.”

Tracy Chapman rounds out the top five songwriters of 2023, again exemplifying the power of a solo write. Chapman’s 1988 anthem “Fast Car” was given a second chapter to its story when **Luke Combs** (No. 13 on the list) recorded it for his *Gettin’ Old* album.

Combs’s version was a No. 1 hit on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs and Country Airplay charts in 2023, and won Chapman the CMA Award for Song of the Year, making her the first Black woman to win the award.

Chapman is also the highest ranking female on the list. As the annual data continues to be male dominated, 14 additional female songwriters can be found in the top 100 this year—which is made up of 116 songwriters due to tied scores. This is tied with last year’s 15 female songwriters included in the list and is down from 2021’s group of 20 within the top 100.

[Click here to see MusicRow’s Top Songwriters of 2023.](#) **MR**

John Michael Montgomery To Retire From The Road In 2025

’90s country staple **John Michael Montgomery** will retire from touring by the end of 2025.

Montgomery’s illustrious career spans more than 30 years, and encompasses 16 million album sold as well as 36 radio singles and seven No. 1 hits. His enduring classics include “I Swear,” “I Love the Way You Love Me,” “Be My Baby Tonight,” “I Can Love You Like That,” “Sold (The Grundy County Auction Incident)” and more.

The country star shared the news with his fans via social media on New Year’s Day (Jan. 1).

“I’ll never forget the first time I stepped foot on a tour bus for my first show back in 1992, with my first single ‘Life’s A Dance’ just coming out on radio. It was so surreal to me. And of course like any new artist would, I worried about how long it would last and hoped it would not be a ‘flash in the pan’ career,” Montgomery shares. “So every album, every song and every year of being able to do what I love for so many years, and for the fans who have supported me and my music, I’ve cherished those moments very deeply. So, a BIG thank you to them all!”

Montgomery confirmed that his road life will dwindle to a close, but he may still perform here and there. He is set to start a farewell tour in 2024, with some dates already announced.

The artist says, “I’m not saying I’m never gonna step on stage and perform again, I still love that feeling of entertaining and the crowd cheering and singing along with my songs as much as that first show over thirty years ago, and it all started when my parents got me on stage when I was a kid. So I’m sure there will be some situations where I just need to do a show here and there because I’ll miss that too much. But I just feel the time has come to say goodbye to the road life.” **MR**



John Michael Montgomery. Photo: Carrie Wilson/CMW Photography

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Love You Back/Lady A/BMLG Records - 65

New Neon/Cliff Dorsey/Black Sheep Records - 73

Jack and Diet Coke/Redferrin/Duncan Music Group/WMN - 78

One Bad Habit/Tim McGraw/Big Machine Records - 79

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Where The Wild Things Are/Luke Combs/River House Artists/
Columbia Nashville - 181

Wildflowers and Wild Horses/Lainey Wilson/Broken Bow
Records - 151

One Bad Habit/Tim McGraw/Big Machine Records - 143

Your Place/Ashley Cooke/Big Loud Records - 137

Let Your Boys Be Country/Jason Aldean/Macon Music/Broken
Bow - 136

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

One Bad Habit/Tim McGraw/Big Machine Records - 11

Your Place/Ashley Cooke/Big Loud Records - 10

Wildflowers and Wild Horses/Lainey Wilson/Broken Bow
Records - 6

Love You Back/Lady A/BMLG Records - 6

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Go Find Less/Kayla McKinney/Twisted Trail Records - 128

Easy Loving You/Ty Gregory/Ole Buster Music - 126

Drunk On You/Rob Fitzgerald/Riverbend Recordings - 126

Ready To Go/Lefroy/Stallion Records - 126

You Don't Know Me/Dianña/Billieegee Productions - 126

NO. 1 SONG



After just 10 weeks on the chart, **Luke Combs'** "Where The Wild Things Are" is the No. 1 song on the first *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart of 2024.

Written by **Randy Montana** and **Dave Turnbull**, the track appears on Combs' *Gettin' Old*. The country hitmaker performed it on the CMA Awards in November, where he also took home Single of the Year for his version of "Fast Car."

Combs will return to the road this year with his "Growin' Up and Gettin' Old" U.S. stadium tour, which sold over a million tickets in the first weekend on-sale, with 16 of the 25 dates also selling out immediately.

"Where The Wild Things Are" currently sits at No. 8 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 9 on the Mediabase chart.



Each songwriter and artist earning No. 1 credit on the *MusicRow* Chart receives a *MusicRow* Challenge Coin. Click [here](#) to view a full list of recipients.

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

WHMA Anniston, AL
WXFL Florence, AL
KQUS Hot Springs, AR
KDXY Jonesboro, AR
KBOD Mountain Home, AR
KWCK Searcy, AR
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA
WCTY Norwich, CT
WPPL Blue Ridge, GA
WUBB Savannah, GA
KXIA Marshalltown, IA
KIAI Mason City, IA
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID
KKMV Rupert, ID

WOOZ Carterville, IL
WALS Peru, IL
WAAG Galesburg, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WFMB Springfield, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
KQZQ Pratt, KS
WKDZ Cadiz, KY
WDHR Pikeville, KY
KRRV Alexandria, LA
KQKI Morgan City, LA
WKPE Hyannis, MA

KYSM Mankato, MN
WTCM Traverse City, MI
KZPK St. Cloud, MN
KFAV Warrenton, MO
WBBN Laurel, MS
WFAY Fayetteville, NC
KZZY Devils Lake, ND
KYCK Thompson, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
KFGE Lincoln, NE
KBRX O'Neill, NE
KQBA Santa Fe, NM
WDNB Monticello, NY
KITX Hugo, OK

KPNC Ponca City, OK
KWEY Weatherford, OK
WCJW Warsaw, NY
KWOX Woodward, OK
KRKT Albany, OR
KRWQ Medford, OR
WVNW Lewistown, PA
WNB T Mansfield, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
KZZI Spearfish, SD
WUCZ Carthage, TN
WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
KYKX Longview, TX

KLLL Lubbock, TX
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI
WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
WJMQ Shawano, WI
WCOW Sparta, WI
WDGG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
10	2	1	Where The Wild Things Are / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	1839/59	11	181
22	1	2	White Horse / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1771/53	1	16
13	4	3	I Can Feel It / Kane Brown / Zone 4/RCA Nashville	1637/57	5	74
38	3	4	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	1624/57	-1	-21
19	5	5	The Painter / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1591/54	2	34
23	6	6	Pretty Little Poison / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records	1539/56	5	72
26	7	7	Mind On You / George Birge / RECORDS	1465/42	0	2
18	8	8	Cab In A Solo / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	1447/54	4	53
27	9	9	Burn It Down / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	1427/56	8	103
11	10	10	Mamaw's House / Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen / Valory	1348/60	6	78
37	11	11	23 / Chayce Beckham / BMG	1220/44	5	55
27	12	12	We Don't Fight Anymore / Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton / Big Machine	1208/56	7	81
51	13	13	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	1032/46	3	28
18	16	14	Tucson Too Late / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	1004/51	11	98
6	18	15	Take Her Home / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	1003/55	15	134
6	22	16	Wildflowers and Wild Horses / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	988/54	18	151
7	15	17	Rodeo Man / Garth Brooks and Ronnie Dunn / Big Machine Records	948/55	3	30
6	24	18	Man Made A Bar / Morgan Wallen feat. Eric Church / Big Loud	918/54	14	114
31	20	19	Truck Bed / HARDY / Big Loud Records	895/41	4	33
26	14	20	Wine Country / Hannah Ellis / Curb Records	889/50	-4	-33
28	21	21	Glory Days / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	871/44	3	28
14	23	22	Back Then Right Now / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	854/46	5	43
21	19	23	I'm Not Pretty / Megan Moroney / Arista Nashville/Columbia Records	852/46	-1	-11
10	27	24	Cowboys and Plowboys / Jon Pardi and Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	821/48	7	56
10	26	25	Under this Ole Hat / Sawyer Brown / Curb Records	814/53	4	28
5	33	26	Let Your Boys Be Country / Jason Aldean / Macon Music/Broken Bow	709/42	24	136
36	28	27	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	704/34	-8	-59
14	29	28	I Remember Everything / Zach Bryan feat. Kacey Musgraves / Warner Records	671/39	-1	-5
11	31	29	Two Dozen Roses / Shenandoah & Luke Combs / 8 Track Entertainment/ADA	627/46	4	22
19	32	30	Wait Til I'm Gone / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	581/32	1	7
11	39	31	Where It Ends / Bailey Zimmerman / Warner Music Nashville	572/36	18	86
5	38	32	This Is My Dirt / Justin Moore / Valory	571/42	17	82
12	35	33	Can't Break Up Now / Old Dominion with Megan Moroney / Columbia Nashville	568/41	9	45
8	36	34	Outlaws and Mustangs / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	554/42	8	42
30	34	35	Out Of That Truck / Carrie Underwood / Capitol Records	547/29	-2	-11
14	37	36	Young Love & Saturday Nights / Chris Young / RCA	511/31	4	18
11	41	37	I'm In Love / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/Big Loud Records/S&D	447/32	7	29
24	40	38	Drinkin' Problems / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	447/29	3	12
21	42	39	Outskirts / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	401/26	8	28

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
16	45	40	Always You / Trey Lewis / River House Artists	375/27	7	26
12	44	41	Vertigo / Morgan Myles / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	374/24	6	21
11	43	42	A Man Like You / American Blonde / American Blonde Music	370/29	5	17
16	46	43	Jesus and John Wayne / Alabama feat. The Oak Ridge Boys / Gaither Music Group	366/23	7	23
2	60	44	Your Place / Ashley Cooke / Big Loud Records	346/27	66	137
9	48	45	Tractors And Trucks / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	331/23	2	7
43	47	46	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	320/23	-4	-12
12	49	47	Thicc As Thieves / Lauren Alaina / Big Loud Records	316/22	3	10
8	50	48	Drink About That / Ken Domash / Thunder Mountain Records	315/25	4	12
23	51	49	Something's Gonna Kill Me / Corey Kent / RCA Nashville	301/20	-1	-2
5	53	50	Love You Again / Chase Matthew / Warner Music Nashville	299/22	12	31
12	52	51	You Or The Whiskey / Sydney Hansen / Sydney Hansen Music	293/18	2	6
2	63	52	Chevrolet / Dustin Lynch feat. Jelly Roll / Broken Bow Records	289/19	44	88
13	55	53	Rough Around The Edges / Exile / Clearwater Records	249/15	2	6
9	57	54	Get Me Now / Matt VanFossen	245/16	7	15
13	56	55	He Don't Mind / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music	243/16	6	13
9	58	56	Lovin' Not Leavin' / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	231/15	7	15
8	59	57	Extra / Katie Linendoll	224/12	6	12
18	54	58	Last Train To Nowhere / Ghost Hounds / Gibson Records	217/16	-19	-51
6	65	59	Before You / Glen Shelton / Jordash	203/13	5	10
4	61	60	Pickup Man / HIXTAPE ft. Post Malone/Joe Diffie / Big Loud Records/Mercury	202/16	-2	-4
10	64	61	Spirits and Demons / Michael Ray ft. Meghan Patrick / Warner Music Nashville	196/14	0	0
9	69	62	Certified / Laura Bryna	194/18	13	23
6	82	63	He Himself & Him / Annie Vander / VanderFire Records	185/8	31	44
4	66	64	Amazin' What Just The Right 3 Minutes Can Do / Larry, Steve and Rudy The Gatlin Brothers / CDX Records/Sony Orchard	182/11	3	5
1	99	65	Love You Back / Lady A / BMLG Records	180/13	107	93
5	76	66	Back At The Bar / Landon Parker / Bad Ass Records	180/12	15	24
7	67	67	Front Porch Swing / Luke Kelly / General Records	179/12	2	3
2	73	68	Small Town Famous / Bowman / Reviver/Nine North	178/13	11	18
2	72	69	God Bless the Radio / Flat River Band / Early Bird Records	169/12	4	6
3	79	70	Be The Whiskey / Julia Cole / Smokeshow Music	166/13	13	19
27	68	71	Something Real / Dierks Bentley / Capitol Nashville	166/9	-6	-10
16	78	72	In Your Love / Tyler Childers / Hickman Holler Records/RCA Records	163/12	9	13
1	81	73	New Neon / Cliff Dorsey / Black Sheep Records	160/10	10	15
22	70	74	Dance With You / Brett Young / BMLG Records	160/12	-6	-10
27	62	75	Brokenhearted / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	158/8	-23	-46
5	75	76	True Story / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	154/9	-3	-4
6	80	77	Love Is Real / Shelley Lynch / CDX Records	151/8	3	4
1	83	78	Jack and Diet Coke / Redferrin / Duncan Music Group/WMN	147/15	11	15
1	0	79	One Bad Habit / Tim McGraw / Big Machine Records	143/11	0	143
20	30	80	Country Dance / Aaron Goodvin / Warner Music Canada/Sakamoto Music	140/10	-78	-488

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George Birge Achieves First Chart-Topper With 'Mind On You'



Rising country artist **George Birge**'s single "Mind on You" has become his first No. 1 on the Mediabase country chart. It has also debuted on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart at No. 88. To celebrate, a new remix version of the song featuring **charlieonnafriday** and **Kidd G** is out now.

Birge reacted on socials to the news saying "My FIRST NUMBER ONE on the LAST day of the year... Y'all I have dreamed of this day my entire life and there were at least a hundred sleepless nights where I thought it might never come true. Y'all never quit on me and believed in me even when I didn't and today we have the NUMBER ONE SONG IN AMERICA..."

Birge's "Mind on You" is RECORDS Nashville's third No. 1. Birge is also one of five artists who will be featured on the upcoming CRS 2024's New Faces of Country Music Show.

"We are so thrilled for George Birge and this major accomplishment," says **Josh Easler**, Executive Vice President of Promotion & Commercial Strategy at RECORDS Nashville. "His years of hard work and honing his craft have paid off with his first number one single. I'm proud of George, and am proud of the RECORDS team as well for their incredible efforts." **MR**

Red Street Publishing Signs Brian White



Pictured (L-R): Mike Craft, Don Koch, Madison Policastri, Kelly Rich, Brian White, Alex Valentine and Jay DeMarcus

Red Street Publishing has added seasoned hitmaker **Brian White** to its roster.

White has more than 400 cuts to date, including 16 No. 1s. His credits include **Michael English**'s "Holding Out Hope To You" and **The Martins**' "The Promise," both of which took home a Dove Award for Song of the Year, as well as **Rodney Atkins**' "Watching You," which was named SESAC Country Song of the Year, and **Jason Aldean**'s chart-topper "Blame It On You."

White's work has been recorded by other Christian artists such as **We Are Messengers**, **Ben Fuller**, **Consumed By Fire**, **Danny Gokey**, **Kutless**, **7eventh Time Down**, **Avalon**, **Point of Grace**, **Mandisa**, **4Him**, **Larnelle Harris**, **Karyn Williams** and **Selah**, among others. He has also scored more cuts in the country and pop markets with **Rascal Flatts**, **Trace Adkins**, **Gary Allan**, **The Swon Brothers**, **Steve Holy**, **Earl Scruggs**, **Terri Clark**, **Kix Brooks** and **BlackHawk**.

Additionally, White worked as a touring artist with the band **Brian White And Justice** for 15 years.

"I'm beyond grateful to be a part of the Red Street family," shares White. "They have put together an amazing team and I'm excited about the opportunity to work together with them. I have a lot of musical history with both **Jay [DeMarcus]** and **Don [Koch]** and I'm looking forward to adding to our story!" **MR**

Jessie Jo Dillon Looks Back On 2023: 'I Did My Job As A Songwriter' [Interview]



Jessie Jo Dillon. Photo: Noah Needleman

When Grammy nominations [were revealed](#) a few months ago, Nashville had an impressive showing. In the Songwriter of the Year category, an all-genre award introduced at the 65th Grammy Awards in 2022, Music City was represented by two stellar songwriters: **Shane McAnally** and **Jessie Jo Dillon**.

Jessie Jo, who had been nominated for the Grammy's Best Country Song award three times prior, says she was shocked by the nomination—but she shouldn't be. In 2023 she co-penned **Old Dominion's** No. 1 hit "Memory Lane," **Jelly Roll's** anthem "Halfway To Hell," **Catie O'Ferman's** debut single "I Just Killed A Man" and **Megan Moroney's** critically-acclaimed "Girl in the Mirror," plus tunes released by **Hardy**, **Brandy Clark**, **Lori McKenna**, **Nate Smith**, **Jake Owen** and more. She also celebrated her co-written 2021 smash "10,000 Hours" by **Dan + Shay** and **Justin Bieber** crossing the [one billion stream mark](#) on Spotify, among other career wins.

Her past year of success is the culmination of many years of hard work. The daughter of Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame (NaSHOF) and Country Music Hall of Fame member **Dean Dillon**, Jessie Jo has been toiling away at making her own mark in the genre since 2010. She notched her first No. 1 hit in 2018 with **Cole Swindell's** "Break Up in the End," which also earned her an ACM Awards Song of the Year nomination and the NSAI Song of the Year award. Thus began a chain reaction of wins for the songwriter, with 2023 being her banner year.

Jessie Jo says that when she was looking forward to 2023, she was ready to put her head down and grind.

"I remember feeling like I was going to work harder than I've ever worked. I made a conscious decision to do that—to really throw myself into writing as much as possible with whoever and whenever. I do feel like I did that this year," she tells *MusicRow*.

At the beginning of the year, Old Dominion's "Memory Lane," which Jessie Jo wrote with the band's chief songwriters **Matthew Ramsey**, **Trevor Rosen** and **Brad Tursi**, began its journey.

"I've known those guys for so long. I met them through Shane McAnally and Brandy Clark when I was younger. We've always written together, but I'm pretty sure it was the first time we had written just the three of them and me.

"They say 'Memory Lane' was my title—I don't remember that, but I guess I'll take their word for it," she quips. "At the time, I was going through a breakup and I remember delving into all of that. It's cool now, the life that it's had, because it took something sad and made something beautiful. I love seeing all the videos of it live and how much fans seem to love it."

While the moody, wistful "Memory Lane" climbed the charts, a song Jessie Jo wrote with Jelly Roll, **Matt Jenkins** and **Jesse Frasure**, "Halfway To Hell," began to pick up steam with fans after Jelly's *Whitsitt Chapel* album released.

"Man, I love that song. I love Jelly Roll. I feel like I'm his number one fan," Jessie Jo says. "That song is about owning both the [bad] and good parts of you. It's a very honest song and he is an honest artist. It was really cool to get to explore all that with him."

Jelly Roll's label Stoney Creek Records announced a few days ago that "Halfway To Hell" would be his next single. "I'm just so over the moon for him and look forward to seeing what the song brings for him in the new year," Jessie Jo shares.

Another track that earned a big reaction last year was Megan Moroney's "Girl in the Mirror," a reflective song about losing yourself in a bad relationship. It served as a deeper moment on the artist's breakout album *Lucky*, and has become a fan favorite.

"That was the first day Megan and I met. We bonded so much over the subject matter of the song. It was a cool experience—two women meeting for the first time and just being vulnerable," Jessie Jo says. "I'm such a fan of her and her artistry."

Other songs that helped Jessie Jo earn her Songwriter of the Year nomination were "Neon Cowgirl" (Dan + Shay), "Screen" (Hardy), "I Just Killed A Man" (Catie O'Ferman), "The Town In Your Heart" (Lori McKenna) and "Buried" and "Up Above The Clouds" (Brandy Clark).

"I'm proud of all of those songs. It is crazy to hear them all read down because they're great songs," Jessie Jo shares. "I feel proud and I feel like I did my job as a songwriter to try to help these artists tell their story."

On the day the nominations came out, Jessie Jo had a rare day off.

"It was so nuts. A couple people texted me 30 minutes before [so I could watch], and then I couldn't get my internet to work and I missed the songwriter announcement," she says with a laugh. "All of a sudden my phone was like 'ding ding, ding, ding.' **Kelsea Ballerini** FaceTimed me and was crying. I was like, 'Oh my God, did you guys get album?' She said, 'You just got songwriter!'"

After hearing the news, Jessie Jo hurried over to Kelsea's house to celebrate with her friends. By the time she got there, Kelsea and **Alysa Vanderheyem** were celebrating their nod for Best Country Album (*Rolling Up the Welcome Mat*) and Jessie Jo had received another nomination for Best Country Song ("Buried").

"We had the best day. We had mimosas and called **Lainey [Wilson]**, FaceTimed Jelly and called Brandy. It was just a cool day for the whole crew," she says. "[Sharing it with my friends] felt like the best part of it. So many people that I love got nominations I feel like they deserved."

When asked about being nominated alongside Shane McAnally, Jessie Jo shares that she feels honored to be in a category with someone she admires so much.

"He is one of the best songwriters I've ever known. He is so unique and he taught me so much. I met him when I was like 22 or 23. and he was one of the first people to ever really believe in me and bring me into writes," she says. "He'll be in the Hall of Fame one day for sure."

Jessie Jo, Shane and all of the deserving nominees will head to to Los Angeles' Crypto.com Arena on Sunday, Feb. 4 for the 66th annual awards. **MR**

New June Carter Cash Documentary Set To Air On Paramount +



A new documentary titled *June*, which focuses on the life and career of **June Carter Cash**, is set to premiere Jan. 16 exclusively on Paramount+.

As a five-time Grammy-winning singer-songwriter, comedian, musician, actor and author, Carter Cash opened for **Elvis**, appeared onscreen with **Robert Duvall** and **Jane Seymour** and co-wrote one of the most recognizable country songs of all time, "Ring of Fire." Perhaps at times overshadowed by her iconic husband **Johnny Cash**, the film lets her talent take center stage.

Featuring rare and never-before-seen archival material revealing the extraordinary life's work of Carter Cash and her career, paired alongside one-of-a-kind interviews with the woman herself, the film also includes sit-down moments with her family, admirers and friends, including **Dolly Parton**, **Reese Witherspoon** and **Willie Nelson**, among others.

June is produced by Sandbox Productions, Sony Music Vision and Maxine Productions (a part of Sony Pictures Television). The documentary made its world premiere at the DOC NYC Festival on Nov. 12. **MR**

Gospel Music Association To Open Nashville-Based Dove Center In 2025



Downtown Nashville will become home to another hall of fame and music museum in 2025. The Gospel Music Association has announced their plans to open the Dove Center and Gospel Music Museum on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Commerce Street.

In a Christmas video, the GMA revealed that the center will include the Dove Awards Theatre, exhibits that highlight the history of the gospel music industry, a Hall of Fame area for the Gospel Music Hall of Fame's members and more.

"Developed to preserve the legacy of our historic past, support the impact of today's artists and plant seeds for the future, we believe the Dove Center will be a beacon of light for the kingdom of God," said Gospel Music Association President/Executive Director **Jackie Patillo** in the video.

Founded in 1964, the Gospel Music Association serves a diverse community of creatives and professionals within the Christian and Gospel music industry. Since 1969, the association has hosted the annual Dove Awards, a night to honor a diverse range in sound and musical stylings in Gospel, pop, hip-hop and more. During last year's awards at Lipscomb Allen Arena in Nashville, **Brandon Lake** took home the trophy for Artist of the Year.

The association also hosts many events and programs throughout the year to celebrate their message, including GMA Christmas and Sound Mind Initiative. **MR**

DISClaimer Single Reviews: Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors' New Tune Is 'Deeply Affecting'



Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors

Happy New Year from DISClaimer.

I can think of no better way to begin 2024 than with an overview of what's current in the land of Americana music. Plenty, as it turns out.

Many of the biggest stars of the genre have offerings—Jason Isbell, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, Jimmy Buffett, Sheryl Crow. But the Disc of the Day goes to a guy who's been in the trenches for years, but never received their level of fame. It's "Way Back When," a marvelous outing from Drew Holcomb and his band The Neighbors. It's bound to warm your spirits on a winter day.

The DISCcovery Award goes to MAJOR. He'll be spending part of this winter in Music City collaborating with

our songwriters for the tracks on a new album. If the rest of his music is as fine as his excellent single, I offer a hearty welcome.

[Click here to read Robert K Oermann's single reviews.](#)

Barry Neil Shrum & Dennis Disney Launch New Music Row Law Firm

Industry veterans **Barry Neil Shrum** and **Dennis Disney** have joined forces to form the new Music Row law firm, Shrum Disney & Associates, providing both transactional and litigation services.

Located at 54 Music Square East, the boutique firm practices in the areas of entertainment, intellectual property, business/commercial law, endorsements, licensing, new ventures and start-ups.

"Collectively, we represent some of the most amazing talent—creators and business leaders—in music and entertainment," says Shrum, Founder & CEO. "Whether they are seen frequently on national television, topping radio or consumption charts, touring a hundred plus shows a year to standing-room-only crowds, launching and growing influential businesses or just starting out in the entertainment or music industries, we provide personalized legal services uniquely tailored to each client."

Additionally, Shrum Disney & Associates has tapped **Doug Smith, Jr.** as Director of Paralegal Services. Smith's duties include overseeing all paralegal, law clerk and administration services. **MR**



Pictured (L-R): Dennis Disney, Barry Shrum and Doug Smith. Photo: Callie Disney

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Zachary Lane Bryan	East Side of Sorrow El Dorado Hey Driver I Remember Everything Sarah's Place Spotless Tourniquet	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan ft. The War And Treaty Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves Zach Bryan feat. Noah Kahan Zach Bryan ft. The Lumineers Zach Bryan
2	2	Ashley Gorley	All I Need Is You Everything I Love Last Night Save Me The Trouble Thinkin' Bout Me This Town's Been Too Good To Us Truck Bed World On Fire Young Love & Saturday Nights	Chris Janson Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dan + Shay Morgan Wallen Dylan Scott Hardy Nate Smith Chris Young
3	3	Jason DeFord	Need A Favor Save Me Wild Ones	Jelly Roll Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson Jessie Murph feat. Jelly Roll
4	4	Randy Montana	Different 'Round Here Where the Wild Things Are	Riley Green ft. Luke Combs Luke Combs
5	5	Chayce Beckham	23	Chayce Beckham
6	6	Taylor Phillips	Love You Again Thinkin' Bout Me This Town's Been Too Good To Us World On Fire	Chase Matthew Morgan Wallen Dylan Scott Nate Smith
7	7	Ryan Vojtesak	Everything I Love Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dylan Scott
8	11	Chase McGill	But I Got A Beer In My Hand Creek Will Rise Mamaw's House	Luke Bryan Conner Smith Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen
9	9	David Ray Stevens	Save Me	Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson
10	10	Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
11	8	Chris Stapleton	Think I'm In Love With You White Horse	Chris Stapleton Chris Stapleton
12	12	Dan Wilson	White Horse	Chris Stapleton
13	14	John Byron	Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dylan Scott
14	15	Dave Turnbull	Where the Wild Things Are	Luke Combs
15	16	Matt Dragstrem	But I Got A Beer In My Hand Mamaw's House	Luke Bryan Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen
16	13	Kacey Musgraves	I Remember Everything	Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves
17	19	Geoff Warburton	Back Then Right Now But I Got A Beer In My Hand	Tyler Hubbard Luke Bryan
18	17	Michael Hardy	See You Next Summer Take Her Home Truck Bed	Brian Kelley Kenny Chesney Hardy
19	18	Christopher Anthony Lunsford	Rich Men North Of Richmond	Oliver Anthony Music
20	20	Warren Zeiders	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
21	21	Ryan Beaver	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
22	22	Jared Keim	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
23	23	Morgan Wallen	Everything I Love Mamaw's House	Morgan Wallen Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen
24	25	Ryan Larkins	The Painter	Cody Johnson
25	26	Kat Higgins	The Painter	Cody Johnson
26	27	Benjy Davis	The Painter	Cody Johnson
27	30	Hillary Lindsey	Burn It Down See You Next Summer	Parker McCollum Brian Kelley
28	24	Hunter Phelps	Take Her Home Truck Bed	Kenny Chesney Hardy
29	28	Riley Green	Different 'Round Here	Riley Green ft. Luke Combs
30	29	Jonathan Singleton	Different 'Round Here	Riley Green ft. Luke Combs
31	35	Lindsay Rimes	World On Fire	Nate Smith
32	36	Nate Smith	World On Fire	Nate Smith
33	38	Dylan Gossett	Coal	Dylan Gossett
34	37	Michael Tyler	Mind On You Spirits and Demons	George Birge Michael Ray with Meghan Patrick
35	42	Jaron Boyer	Let Your Boys Be Country Mind On You	Jason Aldean George Birge
36	40	George Birge	Mind On You	George Birge
37	41	Colt Ford	Mind On You	George Birge
38	39	David Garcia	Back Then Right Now Out Of That Truck See You Next Summer	Tyler Hubbard Carrie Underwood Brian Kelley
39	44	Shane McAnally	We Don't Fight Anymore	Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton
40	45	Pete Good	We Don't Fight Anymore	Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton
41	46	Carly Pearce	We Don't Fight Anymore	Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton
42	43	Ben Johnson	Truck Bed	Hardy
43	47	Liz Rose	Burn It Down	Parker McCollum
44	48	Parker McCollum	Burn It Down	Parker McCollum
45	49	Lori McKenna	Burn It Down	Parker McCollum
46	54	Jordan Minton	Dance With You Save Me The Trouble	Brett Young Dan + Shay
47	50	Jaxson Free	I Can Feel It	Kane Brown
48	51	Gabe Foust	I Can Feel It	Kane Brown
49	52	Phil Collins	I Can Feel It	Kane Brown
50	53	Kane Brown	I Can Feel It	Kane Brown
51	58	Jordan Schmidt	We Got History	Mitchell Tenpenny
52	59	Devin Dawson	We Got History	Mitchell Tenpenny
53	60	Andrew Albert	We Got History	Mitchell Tenpenny
54	61	Mitchell Tenpenny	We Got History	Mitchell Tenpenny
55	55	Jordan Reynolds	Save Me The Trouble	Dan + Shay
56	56	Dan Smyers	Save Me The Trouble	Dan + Shay
57	57	Shay Mooney	Save Me The Trouble	Dan + Shay
58	62	Mitch Oglesby	All I Need Is You	Chris Janson
59	63	Brad Clawson	All I Need Is You	Chris Janson
60	64	Chris Janson	All I Need Is You	Chris Janson

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

January 5

Shaylen/*Been There Before*

January 8

Julianna Rankin/*Devil Had Blue Eyes/17th Avenue*

January 10

Mike Kuster/*Back To Feagaville*

January 11

David Malloy/*I Play Gimme Shelter*

Album/EP Releases

January 12

Hannah Ellis/*That Girl*/Curb Records

Ian Yates/*Battleands Vol. 2*/Core Music

Kyle Park/*All Nighters*

January 19

Brittney Spencer/*My Stupid Life*/Elektra

Colby T. Helms/*Tales of Misfortune*/Photo Finish Records

Niko Moon/*Better Days*

Industry Events

February 4

66th Annual Grammy Awards

February 28 – March 1

CRS