

## The 64th Grammy Awards Postponed Due To COVID Surge



The Recording Academy has postponed The 64th Grammy Awards due to rising concerns surrounding the COVID-19 Omicron variant. The show was originally set to take place on Jan. 31 at Crypto.com Arena (formerly Staples Center) in Los Angeles. Details regarding a rescheduled date have not yet been announced.

“After careful consideration and analysis with city and state officials, health and safety experts, the artist community and our many partners, the Recording Academy and CBS have postponed the 64th Annual GRAMMY Awards Show,” the organization says in its official statement. “The health and safety of those in our music community, the live audience, and the hundreds of people who work tirelessly to produce our show remains our top priority. Given the uncertainty surrounding the Omicron variant, holding the show on January 31st simply contains too many risks. We look forward to celebrating Music’s Biggest Night on a future date, which will be announced soon.”

This postponement marks the second consecutive year that the Grammy Awards have been postponed because of the pandemic. Last year’s show, also originally set for Jan. 31, was rescheduled to take place on March 14 due to a spike in COVID cases in LA.

This year’s Grammy nominations were announced on Nov. 23, with **Chris Stapleton** and **Mickey Guyton** both sporting three nominations each, and **Jimmie Allen** seeing the only all-genre nomination from a country artist. In the Americana space, **Brandi Carlile** earned a whopping five nominations and **Yola** came out with two nods. [For a full list of this year’s nominees, click here.](#) *MR*

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### THIS WEEK’S HEADLINES

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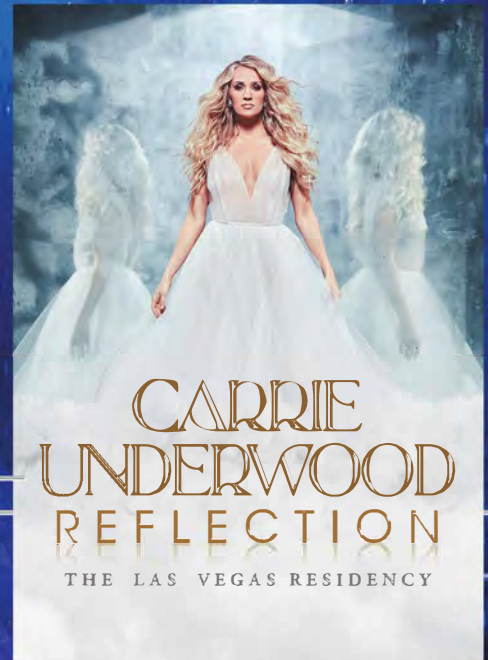
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## Tom T. Hall's Death Revealed As A Suicide



More than four months after his passing, legendary songwriter **Tom T. Hall's** cause of death has been revealed as a suicide.

The Country Music Hall of Fame member "sustained an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound" on Aug. 20, 2021, according to The Williamson County Medical Examiner's report. He was 85.

Country music blog *Saving Country Music* first reported Hall's cause of death on Wednesday (Jan. 5).

Hall, also known as "The Storyteller," is known for crafting enduring country standards such as Jeannie C. Riley's "Harper Valley P.T.A.," Alan Jackson's "Little Bitty" and Bobby Bare's "How I Got to Memphis." He was the author of 12 No. 1 country songs, and was inducted as a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1978.

As a recording artist, he placed more than 50 singles on the country charts in 1967-87. 21 of which became top 10 hits, including "A Week in a Country Jail," "The Year That Clayton Delaney Died," "(Old Dogs, Children and) Watermelon Wine," "I Love," "Country Is," "I Like Beer," and "Faster Horses."

Hall was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008. He was presented with a BMI Icon award three years later.

[Read Hall's full obituary here.](#) *MR*

## Nashville Music Publishing Veteran, Drew Alexander, Dies At 52

**Andrew "Drew" Alexander**, a veteran music publisher and the son of former U.S. Senator and Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander and Leslee "Honey" Alexander, died Friday (Dec. 31) after a short illness. He was 52.

In 1994 Alexander joined Nashville's Curb Records as a receptionist, eventually rising to lead the company's publishing department where he oversaw the division's employees and songwriters. Alexander also directed creative and administrative aspects of the company by setting budgets, signing songwriters, negotiating contracts, placing songs, and acquiring catalogs. He became Vice President of Publishing in 2010. During his tenure, Curb Music Publishing earned 87 ASCAP, BMI and SESAC performance awards.



In 2017, after 23 years with the company, Alexander stepped down from his role at Curb Music Publishing but continued working with the Mike Curb Foundation. He founded his own company, Blair Branch Music, and became an active community volunteer working with numerous Nashville agencies, including Second Harvest Food Bank, Nashville Rescue Mission, Music Health Alliance, and Room at the Inn.

[Read Alexander's full obituary here.](#) *MR*



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

That Old Wind/Danny Kensity/Rad Records — 77

Gave Him A Girl/Brei Carter/Brei Carter — 78

Us/Hannah Ellis/Curb — 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Never Say Never/Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson/Warner Music

Nashville — 236

'Til You Can't/Cody Johnson/CoJo Music/Warner Music

Nashville — 164

Doin' This/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia

Nashville — 153

Soul/Lee Brice/Curb — 139

No Hard Feelings/Old Dominion/RCA Nashville — 111

AA/Walker Hayes/Monument — 103

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Out In The Middle/Zac Brown Band/Warner Music Nashville — 8

Soul/Lee Brice/Curb — 7

Never Say Never/Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson/Warner Music

Nashville — 7

No Hard Feelings/Old Dominion/RCA Nashville — 7

Doin' This/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia

Nashville — 5

'Til You Can't/Cody Johnson/CoJo Music/Warner Music

Nashville — 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

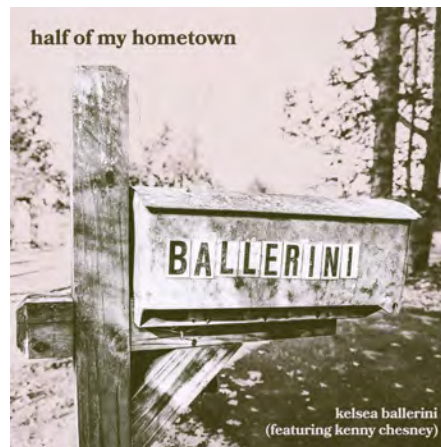
Easy On Me/Adele with Chris Stapleton/Columbia — 152

Albuquerque/Will Reid/Jordash — 151

Take My Name/Parmale/Stoney Creek Records — 149

Drifting/Andrew Farriss/Broken Bow/BMG — 139

NO. 1 SONG



Kelsea Ballerini starts the new year off strong topping the MusicRow CountryBreakout Radio Chart with her single "Half Of My Hometown" featuring Kenny Chesney. Ballerini co-wrote the single with Jimmy Robbins, Ross Copperman, Nicolle Galyon, and Shane McAnally.

Looking back at 2021, Ballerini had an eventful year. "Half Of My Hometown" received two CMA Awards for Musical Event of the Year and Music Video of the Year, marking Ballerini's first CMA award win. In a string of RIAA certifications, "Half Of My Hometown" was certified RIAA Gold, Ballerini's debut album was certified both Gold and Platinum; her sophomore album hit Gold; the singles "Yeah Boy," "Miss Me More," "Homecoming Queen," and "Hole in the Bottle" earned Platinum status; and "Better Luck Next Time" and "The Other Girl" achieved Gold status.

Also in 2021, Ballerini hosted the CMT Music Awards alongside Kane Brown; joined the Jonas Brothers on the "Remember This Tour;" and released her debut poetry collection, Feel Your Way Through.



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
KHBZ Harrison, AR
KQUS Hot Springs, AR
KDXY Jonesboro, AR
KWCK Searcy, AR
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA
WPAP Panama City, FL
WUBB Savannah, GA
KXIA Marshalltown, IA
KIAI Mason City, IA
KBOE Oskaloosa, IA
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID
WOOZ Carterville, IL

WAAG Galesburg, IL
WMCI Mattoon, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WCCI Savanna, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
WKDZ Cadiz, KY
WBKR Owensboro, KY
WDHR Pikeville, KY
KRRV Alexandria, LA
WUUU Covington, LA
WKPE Hyannis, MA
WVMD Cumberland, MD

WTCM Traverse City, MI
KYSM Mankato, MN
KZPK St. Cloud, MN
KWWR Mexico, MO
KFAV Warrenton, MO
WFAY Fayetteville, NC
KZZY Devils Lake, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
KBRX O'Neill, NE
Jersey Shore Country
KQBA Santa Fe, NM
WDNB Monticello, NY
WOLF Syracuse, NY
WCJW Warsaw, NY

WFRY Watertown, NY
KITX Hugo, OK
KWEY Weatherford, OK
KWOX Woodward, OK
KRKT Albany, OR
WVNW Lewistown, PA
WNBT Mansfield, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
WFGC State College, PA
KMOM Aberdeen, SD
KZZI Spearfish, SD
WUCZ Carthage, TN
WDCN Dickson, TN
WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN

KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
KYKX Longview, TX
KYYK Palestine, TX
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI
WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
WCOW Sparta, WI
WTNJ Beckley, WV
WDGG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
36	2	1	Half Of My Hometown / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	1656/52	2	31
14	3	2	Never Wanted To Be That Girl / Carly Pearce and Ashley McBryde / Big Machine/WMN	1635/66	3	44
18	5	3	One Mississippi / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1625/49	4	69
15	4	4	23 / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	1614/60	2	33
12	1	5	Come Back As A Country Boy / Blake Shelton / Warner Music Nashville	1568/58	-6	-109
21	6	6	Beers On Me / Dierks Bentley feat. BRELAND & HARDY / Capitol	1533/64	4	57
20	8	7	Best Thing Since Backroads / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	1502/64	3	48
18	7	8	Wild Hearts / Keith Urban / Capitol	1501/62	2	25
10	12	9	If I Was A Cowboy / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	1322/58	7	81
53	9	10	Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	1280/40	-10	-139
35	11	11	It's Cause I Am / Callista Clark / Big Machine	1272/49	2	30
12	14	12	Up / Luke Bryan / Capitol	1225/61	3	41
7	15	13	Slow Down Summer / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1201/60	9	95
13	18	14	'Til You Can't / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1183/55	16	164
50	13	15	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	1159/46	-6	-70
26	16	16	Old School / Toby Keith / Show Dog Nashville	1066/50	2	18
22	17	17	7500 OBO / Tim McGraw / Big Machine	1063/56	3	30
29	20	18	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) / Elle King & Miranda Lambert / RCA Nashville	952/40	7	63
44	19	19	Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville	943/45	-3	-27
4	28	20	Never Say Never / Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson / Warner Music Nashville	912/51	35	236
17	22	21	New Truck / Dylan Scott / Curb	902/51	3	25
31	21	22	Back Then, Right Now / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand Records	891/49	1	6
43	24	23	Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	776/34	0	0
14	25	24	All It Cost Me Was Everything / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	771/45	4	32
35	26	25	I'm Not For Everyone / Brothers Osborne / EMI Records Nashville	768/40	7	53
34	23	26	Fill Them Boots / Chris Lane / Big Loud Records	758/40	-4	-35
9	29	27	Damn Strait / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	751/44	12	78
15	27	28	Stealing Home / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	712/44	3	20
18	30	29	Steal My Love / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	710/40	7	46
17	32	30	Sunrise Tells The Story / Midland / Big Machine	693/41	10	65
17	31	31	Broke It Down / Brian Callihan / Reviver Records	668/42	4	23
10	34	32	With A Woman You Love / Justin Moore / Valory	629/40	11	61
17	35	33	They Don't Make 'Em Like That No More / Travis Tritt / Big Noise	551/30	4	22
16	37	34	I Know A Girl / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Entertainment	539/37	2	13
5	44	35	Soul / Lee Brice / Curb	522/33	36	139
9	41	36	Let Me Know / Smith & Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville	502/33	14	60
6	39	37	I Bet You Think About Me / Taylor Swift feat. Chris Stapleton / MCA	502/34	0	2
19	38	38	Record High / Randall King / Warner Music Nashville	501/29	-2	-8
15	40	39	Music Man / Shane Owens / AmeriMonte Records	498/34	2	12
3	48	40	Doin' This / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	490/27	45	153

2022

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
11	42	41	<b>Bye Mom / Chris Janson / Warner Music Nashville</b>	479/27	15	64
14	46	42	<b>At the End Of A Bar / Chris Young feat. Mitchell Tenpenny / RCA Nashville</b>	443/31	21	77
14	47	43	<b>Honky - Tonk / Josiah Siska / Black River Entertainment</b>	381/29	6	22
5	49	44	<b>You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG</b>	374/29	13	42
13	45	45	<b>Shuffle / Laci Kaye Booth / BMLG</b>	373/31	0	0
2	67	46	<b>AA / Walker Hayes / Monument</b>	328/23	46	103
6	53	47	<b>Quicksand / American Blonde /</b>	327/28	5	17
7	57	48	<b>Baby Don't / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records</b>	323/28	18	49
8	52	49	<b>New Wings / Alyssa Bonagura / ABON MUSIC</b>	323/23	4	11
12	54	50	<b>It's Gettin' There / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records</b>	321/24	4	13
16	55	51	<b>Who Cares / Filmore / Curb</b>	317/19	3	9
2	70	52	<b>No Hard Feelings / Old Dominion / RCA Nashville</b>	309/25	56	111
17	56	53	<b>Wilder Days / Morgan Wade / Ladylike Records</b>	306/22	-1	-2
7	58	54	<b>Hypocrite / Ruthie Collins / MCC/Curb</b>	289/23	6	17
7	59	55	<b>If I Were Rock &amp; Roll / Chase Rice / Dack Janiels/Broken Bow</b>	280/23	12	31
9	66	56	<b>Think About Me / Maggie Baugh /</b>	260/18	15	34
9	69	57	<b>The Best Night / Tom Sexton / Lots To Do Music</b>	256/17	24	49
8	61	58	<b>I Don't Live There Anymore / Andrew Marshall / Serenity Records</b>	256/16	4	11
11	63	59	<b>Heart First / Jennifer Belle / JGSII Records</b>	252/18	5	12
10	64	60	<b>Hard Time / Cash Creek and Larry Stewart / CCB Nashville</b>	251/14	5	11
7	65	61	<b>Ain't Doing Something Right / After Midtown / The Core/10th St.</b>	249/18	7	17
4	68	62	<b>Hand Me Downs / Janelle Arthur feat. Dolly Parton / Black Sheep Records</b>	227/16	7	14
19	43	63	<b>These Boots Were Made To Dance / Timothy Baker &amp; Clayton Smalley / YN Records</b>	220/11	-45	-177
5	74	64	<b>Somebody Else's / Chloe Collins / Collins House Music</b>	213/20	19	34
2	73	65	<b>Country'd Look Good On You / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records</b>	200/14	10	19
6	71	66	<b>Barely Breathing / Jeremy Studdard / Owen Entertainment Group</b>	200/16	3	6
23	33	67	<b>Grow Up / Ian Flanigan feat. Blake Shelton / Reviver Records</b>	200/11	-65	-378
21	50	68	<b>Please Don't Let Me / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville</b>	198/14	-40	-133
17	62	69	<b>Version Of Me / Emily Rose / Growing Rose Recording Co.</b>	197/13	-20	-48
4	72	70	<b>Better Life / Jason Byrd feat. George Jones / MayCourt Records</b>	195/14	5	9
3	76	71	<b>Dyin' For A Livin' / Muscadine Bloodline / Stancaster Music, LLC</b>	192/17	13	22
2	78	72	<b>When Love Comes Around / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers</b>	188/16	11	19
2	83	73	<b>Hangin' / Donny Lee / Donny Lee Music</b>	181/16	15	24
5	77	74	<b>Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House</b>	179/15	5	9
3	79	75	<b>Raining Hallelujah / Shannon LaBrie / Moraine Music Group</b>	174/16	4	7
5	85	76	<b>Learn From It / Conner Smith / Valory</b>	171/14	10	15
1	82	77	<b>That Old Wind / Danny Kensy / Rad Records</b>	171/8	6	9
1	81	78	<b>Gave Him A Girl / Brei Carter / Brei Carter</b>	167/15	2	4
7	75	79	<b>Chaser / Frankie Justin / SMG Records</b>	160/12	-6	-11
1	88	80	<b>Us / Hannah Ellis / Curb</b>	159/12	13	18

No. 1 Song
Greatest Spin Increase
Highest Debut

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## Round Hill Music Acquires Niko Moon's Publishing Rights



Round Hill Music has announced the acquisition of hit country songwriter **Niko Moon's** publishing rights, via its Round Hill Music Royalty Fund Limited.

The deal encompasses 29 compositions written for artists, including the Zac Brown Band. The agreement also includes the administration of a significant share of Moon's music publishing rights.

As a songwriter, Moon has penned hits such as the Zac Brown Band's "Homegrown," "Keep Me in Mind," and "Loving You Easy," as well as Rascal Flatts' "Back To Life" and Bentley's "Gone." He was named Songwriter of the Year at the 2021 SESAC Nashville Awards.

In 2021, the RCA Nashville recording artist achieved his first No. 1 hit as an artist with his 2x-Platinum debut single "Good Time"—which is not included in the Round Hill deal.

**Josh Gruss**, Founder and CEO of Round Hill Music, says of the deal, "Niko is a much sought after songwriter and an acclaimed performer in his own right. His unique gift and authentic love of music marks him out an elite talent among his peers."

Moon adds, "I am so happy to be doing this deal with Round Hill. I wanted these songs to go to an organization that values the music as much as I do, and Round Hill is definitely that place." **MR**

## Industry Veteran Mark Brown Exits Round Hill



Long-time Music Row executive **Mark Brown** has stepped down from his position as Sr. VP and General Manager of Round Hill's Nashville operation. He was with the company for eight years.

During his tenure at Round Hill, the publishing company experienced rapid growth and success, including over 60 No. 1 songs, 70 BMI and ASCAP awards, 20 CMA Triple Play Awards, CMA and ACM Song of the Year honors, and two BMI Pop Song of the Year awards.

"It's been a great run and I'm very proud of all that we've accomplished," says Brown. "It has been an honor to work with so many of the best songwriters of our time, and the great RHM team, both in Nashville and around the world. This is the right time to step away as Round Hill enters its next phase.

"I'd like to thank **Josh Gruss** for the great opportunity he gave me. I'd also like to thank **Richard Rowe** and **Neil Gillis** for their guidance and support," he adds.

Prior to joining Round Hill, Brown spent time in A&R positions at Capitol and Sony/BMG, as well as publishing positions at Universal, Warner Chappell, Lorimar, and Silverline Goldline Music.

Although he is unsure what he will do next, he will take the next few months working on miscellaneous projects.

**MR**

## CMA Announces Board Of Directors For 2022

The Country Music Association has announced its new Board of Directors for both CMA and the CMA Foundation.

**Jim Beavers** (Chairman), **Charlie Morgan** (President), **Virginia Bunetta** (President Elect) and **Kella Farris** (Secretary/Treasurer) are the 2022 CMA Board Officers.

New CMA Board members for 2022 include **Lindsay Bertelli** (REACH, LLC), **Jamie Cheek** (Flood, Bumstead, McCready, & McCarthy), **Warren Copnick** (Sony Music Canada), **R.J. Curtis** (Country Radio Broadcasters), **Jenee Fleenor** (Musician), **Sina Hall** (Semmel Concerts Entertainment), **Chris Kappy** (Make Wake Artists), **David Kells** (Bridgestone Arena/Nashville Predators), **TJ Osborne** (Brothers Osborne), **Shannon Sanders** (BMI), **Brittany Schaffer** (Spotify), and **Candice Watkins** (Big Loud Records).

[Click here for a full list of the 2022 CMA Board of Directors.](#)

As for the CMA Foundation Board of Directors, new members include Jim Beavers (Big Yellow Dog Music), **Stephen Parker** (gener8tor), **Jay Williams** (WME), **Ashley McBryde** (Artist), and **Tyne Parrish** (The GreenRoom).

These new members join existing board members **Eric Jimenez** (Aldine Independent School District), **Jennie Smythe** (Girillia Marketing), **Joe Galante** (Galante Entertainment Organization), **Mendell Grinter** (Nonprofit Executive), **Karen Fairchild** (Little Big Town), **Ron Samuels** (Vice Chairman, Pinnacle Financial Partners), **Chris Young** (Artist), and **Mike Dungan** (Universal Music Group Nashville). The 2022 CMA Foundation Chair is Jennie Smythe and Vice Chair is Mendell Grinter. **MR**

## Industry Veteran Judi Turner Announces Retirement



Leadership Music's Communications and Events Manager **Judi Turner** has announced her retirement.

Turner says, "In a dream career, I have been especially blessed to work with four industry icons: Jo Walker-Meador, Irving Waugh, Bill Gaither and Bill Carter, as well as such legendary and enduring performers as Rodney Crowell, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Shenandoah, among others. It has been an incredible 40 year journey, and it truly is the people, especially 25 years of Leadership Music alumni, who have made it so memorable. I plan to stay involved with

Leadership Music, Second Harvest Food Bank and the Teacher's Pet project at JE Moss Elementary School."

Turner began her career in Atlanta working in the re-election campaign for former Georgia Governor Carl Sanders. Turner subsequently entered the music industry as Jo Walker-Meador's administrative assistant at CMA before being upped to Director of Public Information.

Turner then spent time at Network Ink Public Relations before forming her own PR company, Turner & Company, in 1992, working with Rodney Crowell, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Shenandoah, Lonestar, Lisa Stewart, Collin Raye, Kenny Chesney, Brad Paisley, The CMA Awards, and RCA Records. She joined the staff of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum as a writer from 2006-2011.

Turner is a 1996 graduate of Leadership Music and joined the staff in 2012 as Manager of Communications and Events.

She was inducted into SOURCE's Hall of Fame for Women Behind the Music Business in 2019. **MR**



## Dolly Parton Kicks Off 2022 With 47 New Global Sales Certifications



**Dolly Parton** continues to make waves around the world with her music as she was recently presented with 47 new global sales certifications. The new honors come from sales originating in the U.S., United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Sweden.

“I’ve often said that my songs are like my children, and I expect them to support me later in my life. Well, it looks like they are doing just that!” proclaims Parton. “I am so humbled to have been surprised with this incredible collection of certifications from around the world. I owe a big thank you to my fans, old and new, who continue to be there for me year after year. This is a wonderful way to kick off 2022!”

“I’m so proud to represent the hottest entertainer in the business,” adds **Danny Nozell**, Parton’s longtime manager. “These international awards solidify the fact that Dolly is a global superstar icon that still keeps growing every year. Just when you thought her assets couldn’t get any bigger, she proves us wrong again!”

Parton was awarded a plaque from the RIAA in 2014 for over 100 million units sold worldwide, and her streaming has propelled her catalog to new heights as well. In 2021, she marked three billion career streams. **MR**

## Jon Platt To Keynote Music Biz 2022 In Nashville



Sony Music Publishing Chairman & CEO, **Jon Platt**, will participate in a keynote conversation at the Music Business Association’s Music Biz 2022 conference, to be held May 9 – 12, 2022 at the JW Marriott Nashville.

Platt has spent his 25-year career working with accomplished songwriters, including Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Drake, Pharrell Williams and Rihanna. He has greatly influenced the dominance of hip-hop music by elevating how R&B/hip-hop artists are respected and compensated as songwriters.

Additionally, Platt’s songwriter-first, universally inclusive leadership style has helped to set the standard on how songwriters are paid, as Sony Music Publishing was the first company to expedite foreign royalty payments.

“Of the many seismic shifts our industry has seen in the last two years, one thing that stands out is the rising profile of the publishing sector, particularly with regard to the streaming economy,” says Music Biz President, **Portia Sabin**. “Through his tireless work supporting both legendary and new songwriters, Jon is perfectly positioned to discuss these changes, and I’m honored to chat with him about this and more at our May event.”

Platt is expected to cover the music publishing space and how he has influenced its evolution throughout his career at the Music Biz event. **MR**

## DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Lady A Starts 2022 With A 'Flawless Single'



We start the New Year off right here at DISCLAIMER.

Vying for our first 2022 Disc of the Day winner are the Zac Brown Band, Brett Eldredge, Conner Smith and our winner, Lady A, with their anthemic album title tune "What a Song Can Do."

We have four notable collaborations today. They include Ernest with Morgan Wallen, Leigh Nash with Tanya Tucker, and Robert Plant with Alison Krauss. The fourth one gives us our DISCOVERY Award winner, Chayce Beckham, who is collaborating with Lindsay Ell.

[Read Robert K. Oermann's weekly single reviews column here.](#)

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### MORE TOP STORIES

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## Alexandra Kay: 'The Time For Independent Artists Is Now' [Interview]

Over the past few years, TikTok has been a vital piece of the rise and discovery of many independent artists. Bolstered by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and many people being forced to quarantine during much of 2020, many artists on TikTok have found their own pockets of success on the app. Some have even signed deals with major labels, agents, publishers, and more.

One of these independent TikTok artists who have seemingly found their groove is country artist **Alexandra Kay**.

In just a short amount of time Kay has earned 8 million career streams, more than 2 million TikTok followers, and over a million followers across her other social platforms.

Along the way, she has also charted a handful of singles on iTunes, made TV appearances on NBC's *The Voice*, and secured a starring role in the Netflix Original Series *Westside*.

Most recently Kay landed an opening spot on **Tim McGraw's** spring amphitheater tour and a 3-show run with **Tracy Lawrence** and **Clay Walker** in March.

The Illinois native, who auditioned for *American Idol* in 2011, spent much of her adolescence writing poems. What began as a coping mechanism for becoming a teenager, starting a new school, her first love, her first heartbreak, and everything in between, soon grew into hearing melodies in her head and eventually bloomed into writing songs.

"It was definitely a coping mechanism. It wasn't something that I ever thought would be a career for me. That's for sure," Kay shares with *MusicRow*. "When I was younger, I entered into some young authors contests. My short stories were climbing in these contests and winning awards, and that's when my parents were like, 'She has a gift for writing.'"

She continues, "You don't know you can sing until someone tells you you can sing, and it's got to be somebody that's not your mom or grandma. When my friends started to tell me that I had a good voice, I started to cultivate that and wonder if I really was a good singer. I started to practice and I would lay on my bed on my stomach and sing the whole Taylor Swift record from top to bottom... That's when I decided I was gonna do everything that I could to be able to do this for life because I loved it so much."

Kay's road to TikTok started pre-pandemic where she posted a few videos that didn't garner much attention. However, once she began sharing her original songs on the platform, the pieces began to fall into place.

The singer shared her stories behind the songs, as well as her journey of landing a major record deal that didn't pan out due to creative differences on what songs to release. Deciding to take her songs straight to the fans themselves, Kay shared them on TikTok and quickly earned her first No. 1 song on iTunes thanks to the platform's endless audience.

"[TikTok] passes the middleman. If you're thinking about it in a business sense, you're taking your product directly to the consumer. In the world of music, we didn't have that opportunity prior to this," she explains. "You're getting to do it





in a way that can captivate somebody's attention in a very short amount of time, but then leave them wanting more and make them want to consume it again.

"[Through TikTok] artists have the opportunity to tease things. They get to test things with their fans first. It puts us in control," she continues. "You get to take something that you've created and, without having to put a whole bunch of money into it, you get to just say, 'What do you think about this?'" The fans, who are the people consuming the music anyways, [can tell you exactly what they think]. That's absolutely incredible."

On top of all of the other successes she saw in 2021, Kay also embarked on the "In Real Life Tour" alongside fellow TikTok artists **Cooper Alan** and **Thomas Mac**.

Split into three legs, the first portion of the run started in 200 capacity rooms, which quickly sold out at nearly every stop. With the second leg, the trio went up to 400 capacity venues, and for the

third they upped the ante to 800-1000 capacity rooms.

"We were all in label talks at the time because we all had songs that were doing really well. However, we all separately decided, for our own reasons, that we weren't gonna sign right now and that we were gonna stay independent," Kay offers. "We started talking about touring because one of the big questions in the industry—and in those meetings—is that you have this following on social media, but are they going to buy tickets? Are they going to come out to see you play?"

"We decided to eliminate that question and go figure it out," Kay shares. "We didn't know if there were going to be successful moments. We invested a lot of money and a lot of time into it, and we had a lot riding on it. To be able to come out on the other side of [the successful tour] was really wonderful."

As an artist who has been on both sides of the spectrum—having had a major label deal and now being independent—Kay isn't naive to the benefits a label can bring, be it financial, networking, or reach. However, she believes that the advantage of being able to make her own decisions regarding her music, touring, and career outweighs the disadvantages.

"The time for independent artists is now and I think it's because of social media platforms like TikTok," Kay sums, adding that her advice for indie artists is to do as much as they can on their own, and then build out a team.

Stepping into 2022, Kay has an impressive list of goals, including charting her upcoming full-length album on Billboard, re-releasing her most popular single "How Do We Go" with an undisclosed duet partner, collaborations, and more.

"This year was a dream. That's really the only way that I can describe it. I've gotten to accomplish so many things that I could have only dreamed possible," Kay expresses gratefully. "Moving into 2022, I want to become a better writer, a better person, and a better performer. This year I've been given so many opportunities to grow, so I want to be able to look back in 2022 and realize how much I've grown as a human." **MR**

# TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	<b>Ashley Gorley</b>	New Truck You Should Probably Leave Sand In My Boots Beers On Me Give Heaven Some Hell Slow Down Summer Steal My Love Take My Name	Dylan Scott Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland HARDY Thomas Rhett Dan + Shay Parmalee
2	3	<b>Jesse Frasure</b>	Whiskey And Rain One Mississippi Slow Down Summer If I Was A Cowboy	Michael Ray Kane Brown Thomas Rhett Miranda Lambert
3	2	<b>Taylor Swift</b>	All Too Well I Bet You Think About Me Nothing New Red The Very First Night Better Man	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift ft. Chris Stapleton Taylor Swift feat. Phoebe Bridgers Taylor Swift Taylor Swift Taylor Swift
4	4	<b>Michael Hardy</b>	New Truck Sand In My Boots Come Back As A Country Boy Beers On Me Give Heaven Some Hell	Dylan Scott Morgan Wallen Blake Shelton Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland HARDY
5	5	<b>Rhett Akins</b>	Tequila Little Time To Be Loved By You Slow Down Summer	Jon Pardi Parker McCollum Thomas Rhett
6	6	<b>Eric Church</b>	Heart On Fire	Eric Church
7	7	<b>Josh Thompson</b>	Whiskey And Rain Come Back As A Country Boy	Michael Ray Blake Shelton
8	10	<b>Shane McAnally</b>	Half Of My Hometown Never Wanted To Be That Girl 23 AA	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde Sam Hunt Walker Hayes
9	8	<b>Matt Rogers</b>	'Til You Can't Freedom Was A Highway	Cody Johnson Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley
10	9	<b>Jonathan Singleton</b>	Cold as You Same Boat	Luke Combs Zac Brown Band
11	11	<b>Hunter Phelps</b>	New Truck Thinking 'Bout You Give Heaven Some Hell Best Thing Since Backroads	Dylan Scott Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter HARDY Jake Owen
12	12	<b>Josh Osborne</b>	Sand In My Boots 23	Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
13	17	<b>Luke Laird</b>	Tequila Little Time AA	Jon Pardi Walker Hayes
14	13	<b>Josh Jenkins</b>	Fancy Like Buy Dirt	Walker Hayes Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
15	16	<b>Parker McCollum</b>	To Be Loved By You	Parker McCollum
16	14	<b>Martin Johnson</b>	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
17	15	<b>Elle King</b>	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
18	19	<b>Andy Albert</b>	Thinking 'Bout You Steal My Love	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter Dan + Shay
19	18	<b>Luke Combs</b>	Cold as You Doin' This	Luke Combs Luke Combs
20	22	<b>Chris Stapleton</b>	You Should Probably Leave Cold	Chris Stapleton Chris Stapleton

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
21	23	<b>Chris DuBois</b>	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
22	27	<b>Ben Stennis</b>	'Til You Can't	Cody Johnson
23	29	<b>Walker Hayes</b>	Fancy Like U Gurl AA	Walker Hayes Walker Hayes Walker Hayes
24	20	<b>Ben Simonetti</b>	Same Boat	Zac Brown Band
25	21	<b>Zac Brown</b>	Same Boat	Zac Brown Band
26	28	<b>Jon Pardi</b>	Tequila Little Time	Jon Pardi
27	30	<b>Jimmie Allen</b>	Freedom Was A Highway	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley
28	31	<b>Ash Bowers</b>	Freedom Was A Highway	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley
29	35	<b>Ben Johnson</b>	New Truck Give Heaven Some Hell Take My Name Best Thing Since Backroads	Dylan Scott HARDY Parmalee Jake Owen
30	32	<b>Liz Rose</b>	All Too Well	Taylor Swift
31	33	<b>Will Weatherly</b>	Thinking 'Bout You	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
32	34	<b>Dustin Lynch</b>	Thinking 'Bout You	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
33	36	<b>Kurt Allison</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
34	37	<b>Tully Kennedy</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
35	38	<b>Lydia Vaughan</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
36	39	<b>John Morgan</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
37	45	<b>Nicolle Galyon</b>	Pick Out A Christmas Tree Half Of My Hometown	Dan + Shay Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney
38	46	<b>Ross Copperman</b>	Half Of My Hometown Beers On Me	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland
39	40	<b>Emily Kroll</b>	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
40	41	<b>Sarah Jones</b>	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
41	42	<b>Priscilla Block</b>	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
42	43	<b>Randy Montana</b>	Cold as You	Luke Combs
43	44	<b>S. Minor</b>	Cold as You	Luke Combs
44	47	<b>Jordan Davis</b>	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
45	48	<b>Jacob Davis</b>	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
46	49	<b>Matt Jenkins</b>	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
47	50	<b>Lori McKenna</b>	I Bet You Think About Me	Taylor Swift ft. Chris Stapleton
48	51	<b>J. Flowers</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
49	52	<b>Brinley Addington</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
50	53	<b>Ernest Keith Smith</b>	Fill Them Boots One Mississippi	Chris Lane Kane Brown
51	56	<b>Miranda Lambert</b>	If I Was A Cowboy	Miranda Lambert
52	62	<b>Jordan M. Schmidt</b>	Come Back As A Country Boy	Blake Shelton
53	54	<b>Kane Brown</b>	One Mississippi	Kane Brown
54	55	<b>Levon Gray</b>	One Mississippi	Kane Brown
55	60	<b>Carly Pearce</b>	Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde
56	61	<b>Ashley McBryde</b>	Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde
57	57	<b>Charles Kelley</b>	Home Sweet	Russell Dickerson
58	58	<b>Casey Brown</b>	Home Sweet	Russell Dickerson
59	59	<b>Russell Dickerson</b>	Home Sweet	Russell Dickerson
60	63	<b>Dan Smyers</b>	Pick Out A Christmas Tree Steal My Love	Dan + Shay Dan + Shay

## CALENDAR

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### Single/Track Releases

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#### January 7

**Maren Morris**/*Circles Around This Town*/Sony

#### January 10

**Ruthie Collins**/*Hypocrite/Sidewalk/Curb*

#### January 14

**Josh Mirenda**/*Til The Neon's Gone*/Average Joes Entertainment

**Kirstie Kraus**/*Something New/Yes You Can*/Kraus House of Entertainment

**Ashlyn Marie**/*Blind Horse Blues*

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### Album/EP Releases

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#### January 14

**Conner Smith**/*Didn't Go Too Far*/The Valory Music Co.

**Jacob Bryant**/*Bar Stool Preacher*/Thirty Tigers/American Roots Records

**Casting Crowns**/*Healer*/Provident

#### January 21

**Keb' Mo'**/*Good To Be*/Rounder Records

**Walker Hayes**/*Country Stuff The Album*/Monument Records

**Texas Hill**/*Heaven Down Here*

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### Industry Events

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#### January 14 – 17

**30A Songwriters Festival**

#### February 23 – 25

**Country Radio Seminar**