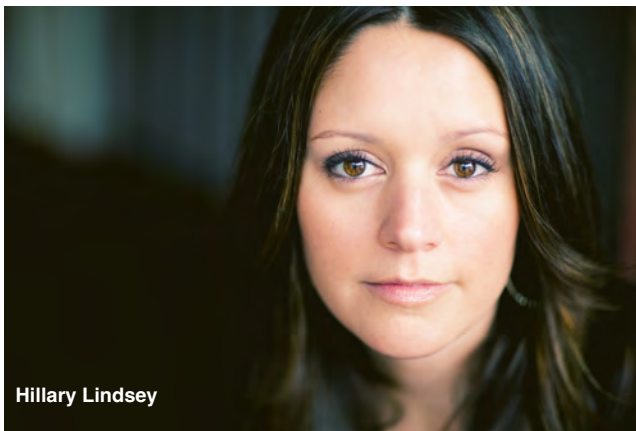


Hillary Lindsey Headed To Songwriters Hall Of Fame



Hillary Lindsey

Nashville songwriting icon **Hillary Lindsey** will be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame (SHOF) alongside **Timothy Mosley (Timbaland)**; **Dean Pitchford**; **Bill Berry**, **Peter Buck**, **Mike Mills** and **Michael Stipe (R.E.M.)** and **Donald Fagen** and **Walter Becker (Steely Dan)**.

SHOF Chairman **Nile Rodgers** says, "I've said it before, but the music industry does not exist without songwriters delivering great songs first. Without them there is no recorded music, no concert business, no merch . . . nothing, it all starts with the song and the songwriter. We are therefore very proud that we are continually recognizing some of the culturally most important songwriters of all time and that the 2024 slate represents not just iconic songs but also diversity and unity across genres, ethnicity and gender, songwriters who have enriched our lives and literally enriched music and the lives of billions of listeners all over the world."

Lindsey is behind some of the biggest hits of the modern era of country music, including Carrie Underwood's "Jesus Take The Wheel," Little Big Town's "Girl Crush," Keith Urban's "Blue Ain't Your Color" as well as "Always Remember Us This Way" and "Million Reasons" from Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga's *A Star Is Born*. She is also a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame (NaSHOF).

Among Timbaland's hits are "SexyBack," "Get Ur Freak On," and "The Way I Are." Pitchford is behind "Footloose," and "Let's Hear It For The Boy." Some of R.E.M.'s hits include "Losing My Religion," and "The One I Love." Steely Dan counts "Reelin' in the Years," and "Kid Charlemagne" among their hits.

The Songwriters Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 13 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. **MR**

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Hillary Lindsey Headed To Songwriters Hall Of Fame

Chase McDaniel Signs With Big Machine Records

Brittney Spencer Inks Publishing Deal With Warner Chappell Music

Hit Songwriter, Red Street Records Executive Don Koch Passes

John Bradley Joins Electric Feel Entertainment As Country A&R

CAA Elevates Jenna Powell

Nathan Barlowe Renews Deal With Spirit Music Nashville

My Music Row Story: C.A.M.P. 615's Shanna Strassberg

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews

And much more...

My Music Row Story: C.A.M.P. 615's Shanna Strassberg



Shanna Strassberg

The "My Music Row Story" weekly column features notable members of the Nashville music industry selected by the MusicRow editorial team. These individuals serve in key roles that help advance and promote the success of our industry. This column spotlights the invaluable people that keep the wheels rolling and the music playing.

Emmy-winning television and music industry executive **Shanna Strassberg** has worked in television production for 15 years and successfully booked guests on a multitude of shows, music specials and red carpets.

Formerly the VP of Music & Talent at CMT, she recently became VP of Development & Strategy at C.A.M.P. 615, the production company formed by award-winning producer and director **Robert Deaton** alongside Red Light Management's **Mary Hilliard Harrington** and **Coran Capshaw**.



MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Los Angeles, California.

What were you into as a kid?

I was always into music. From as early as I can remember, I loved listening to music and singing. My mom is a beautiful singer and she used to play a 1957 Martin guitar around the house—lots of old folk songs, **Woody Guthrie**, **Joan Baez** and an assortment of others. We would all sit around and sing. I remember watching **The Jackson Five** on television and thinking I can do that! [Laughs]

Did you know then that you wanted to work in music at that point or was it just a passion?

I'm not sure I knew that it was a business per se. It was just what brought me joy. The way that translated into my life next was joining chorus and choir, and doing exciting things through school programs with music.

After high school, I went to college at San Francisco State University, which had a really strong theater program. My major was lyric theater—it was a combination of music and theater. So I was in plays, I was singing, taking theory classes and doing musical concerts. That then translated into singing in the hallways with a group of theater friends. We started singing at parties and writing songs, and that led us to singing on street corners. People would show up to listen

to us. We were **The Flips**. It was a magical time where I learned that doing something that you love with a passion that doesn't feel like work can actually lead to professional work.

What happened next?

Certain people started hearing us sing and we started playing in clubs. That led to a record deal and a manager. We started gigging all over California and made a record. It was then that I started to realize all that went into the career of being a musician —that it wasn't just singing or performing, there was management and booking; there was money attached and contracts. It took a village to make people's dreams come true.

We did a lot of performing and then had the classic crash and burn where the manager and the band wanted two different things. He broke up with us and sued us. We kept trying to put the band back together. It was really heartbreaking, actually. I was still waiting tables and living in San Francisco, and had decided to go to Europe for three months and figure out what I was going to do with my life. My brother was going to Vanderbilt and my first nephew had been born, so I decided I would give Nashville, Tennessee a try for about six months. Many years later, I'm still here.

What did you do when you got here?

I waited tables, which is a wonderful way, as it turns out, to meet musicians and people in the industry. I was singing with friends at the Bluebird at the same time I was developing relationships with people at record labels because the restaurant I worked at was really popular with the music industry. Long story short, I got sick of waiting tables and asked my newfound friends at Asylum Records if they had any work for me. I became the receptionist there and started singing background vocals for some of the acts at Fan Fair. At Asylum Records, I met so many people sitting at the front desk. That created an incredible foundation for me as part of the music industry in Nashville. I met and worked with people who I'm still friends with today. I really started to understand the roles of radio promotion, A&R, press and marketing, and I had a front row seat to all that.

I also started going out on the road on the weekends with **Lila McCann**. Ultimately, I left that job [at Asylum] after four years and went on the road with **Chalee Tennison**. I was the background singer, the tour manager, the manager and assistant. That really continued my education of what goes into a career. I started learning more about television because I was going with her to every engagement she had and every interview, whether it be radio, television or print.

What was next?

Chalee lost her deal in 2004, so I started picking up odd jobs in the industry. I had met television people at a network called GAC, and they asked me to come on board and help them book their autograph booth for Fan Fair Music Fest. They had one talent booker for all of the shows on the network, and they left, so they asked me to come on board as the booker. I said, "I know nothing about booking talent, but sure!" They gave me a desk, a phone and handwritten records of every artist that had been on the network from the woman who preceded me. I [had to book] a daily show, specials and all sorts of things, and somehow I managed to become the talent booker. I was still singing on the weekends with an act that was on Warner at the time, but I fell in love with television. It was so much fun. I dug in and created new relationships with publicists and marketing people at the record labels. We were so scrappy. We didn't have enough staff, so everyone pitched in to do everything.



George Strait & Shanna Strassberg



Ryan Gore, Shanna Strassberg, Dolly Parton and Shane McAnally

Do you remember one of the first things you booked there?

I remember **Blake Shelton**'s song "Some Beach" was coming out, and some of the folks from his label came in and decorated our entire set like a beach. We had umbrellas, beach balls and maybe some sand. That stands out to me as one of the first times where I was able to really partner with the label and come up with some ideas. As a talent person, you have to get what you need for the television show, but also make sure that the artist and their team are getting what they need as well. I always say my job as a waitress was very similar to that of a talent booker: the chef is the producer and the customer is the artist and their team. I became skilled at being a liaison between the expectations of two different groups.

What happened next?

Within a year of being there, Scripps Network purchased GAC and **Sarah Trahern** came in to run the network. As legend would have it, she was bringing in a lot of people with years of television experience and was going to get rid of me, but she didn't because I guess she saw something in me. Then it really was like going to

school. I would sit with the lighting people, I'd sit with the hosts, I would watch tapings, sit in on the producer meetings, talk to the audio people and sit in with the editor. It was like I was being paid to go to television school and I absolutely loved it.

One of the most pivotal moments that I had with Sarah that set me up for success was when GAC became media partners with the ACMs, and we aired the live red carpet show before the award show. I was the talent booker, talent manager and/or talent producer for the red carpet—I don't even know what my title was, but I was in charge of making sure that we had an opener and a closer for this live show and hours of artists interviews in between. We had two or three stages with hosts. I had never done live TV in my life and Sarah put me in charge of that. It was complete and utter insanity—live television is so exciting, so terrifying and nonstop. Sarah was in my ear from the TV truck, and we developed this incredible shorthand, which was all new to me. When the show was over, I was absolutely spent. It was a huge success. I said to her, "What on earth made you think I could do that? Why did you choose me?" She said, "I just knew you could do it." I did not know I could do it, but I handled it—not alone, with incredible guidance from Sarah and an amazing talent team. That set me on a path of realizing I could do hard things.

What a great story! What was next?

Fast forward 10 years or so, GAC merged more closely with HGTV and the whole Scripps team. A whole slew of us lost our jobs. I went out on my own and decided to be a freelance talent booker, talent producer and media coach. I was lucky enough to have a couple of job offers that I turned down to bet on myself. My first client was GAC. [Laughs]

They brought me back within days as their freelance talent booker. It turned out to be really wonderful that I was able to continue working with them. That launched me into a wonderful eight-year career of running my own business, and continued my journey of saying yes to things I didn't know how to do. I grew tremendously becoming a booker for all sorts of specials and live events. Then **Leslie Fram** came to me and asked me to join the team at CMT, which was amazing. I was there for four years. We learned how to do television during COVID, with not one person on the team or crew being in the same room. That was an education in and of itself.

You **recently joined** C.A.M.P. 615, the production company formed by **Robert Deaton, Mary Hilliard Harrington and Coran Capshaw**. Tell me about that.

Mary and I had drinks as friends, and she was telling me about the production company. I thought that it was really interesting. I had never worked with Robert, but obviously knew about him and all the incredible work he had done, and I was obviously a big friend and fan of Mary's. One thing led to another and we just started talking about what if it became real. As I joined the team, they were in the middle of their third year of producing, along with the city, this five and a half hour [New Year's Eve special](#) on CBS, so I came on board as the talent producer for that.

Our goals for the year and for the company as a whole are to develop new ideas for film and television, to work with burgeoning creatives in this town, to find the people with great ideas and to come up with our own great ideas. There's so many incredible stories coming out of Nashville, not only music related, but lifestyle related. There are so many things that fit the sensibility of our artists and the audience that follows country music. With the access we have to artists, managers and labels, we're hoping to bring all of those people together and find out what stories are available and what stories we want to tell.

I have friends and colleagues with incredible ideas, and now I feel like I'm able to help shine a light on a lot of gifted creative people under the tutelage of Mary and Robert. I have things to learn from them, but we also operate as partners. They've given me autonomy to seek out projects to bring to the team, and it just feels like all things are possible.



Shanna Strassberg & Blake Shelton

What is a moment that your kid self would think is cool?

If I was a kid now, I would think it was really cool that, as far as I know, I was the first person to book **Taylor Swift** on national television.

Because of my mother's great taste in music, I grew up knowing who **Kris Kristofferson** was and singing his songs, so when I got to book him and sit in on that interview...I think if I had known as a little girl that somehow I was going to be connected to him and to that moment later in life, it would have seemed impossible.

What advice would you give somebody that's starting out and wants to do what you do?

Don't let fear stop you. Be open to learning from unexpected people that you may cross paths with. Say yes to things that you don't know how to do as long as you're surrounded with people who know how to help you. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Understand the importance of communicating with people. Don't try to do everything on your own. Don't be afraid to learn from others who are smarter than you and own your mistakes. Be kind—that doesn't mean that you're not tough.

Who have been some of your mentors?

Sarah Trahern has definitely been a mentor. She gave me my first opportunity. I've been so fortunate to work with so many incredible people. It would be impossible to mention everyone that has had an impact on me, because it's not just creators and artistic people that I consider mentors, although I absolutely do have many of those. But it's label heads, publicists, friends of mine and my family who make the choice to live their lives in a way that I find inspiring and admirable. I try to pick up everything I can from anywhere I can. **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

- Devil Had Blue Eyes/Julianna Rankin/17th Avenue - 72
- Same Bar, Different Town/Ryan Jewel/Ryan Jewel Music - 73
- Sea of Heartbreak/Mustangs of the West/KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records - 74
- Easy Loving You/Ty Gregory/Ole Buster Music - 75
- Drunk On You/Rob Fitzgerald/Riverbend Recordings - 76
- Boys Back Home/Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott/Columbia Nashville - 78
- Ready To Go/Lefroy/Stallion Records - 79
- Cancel/Randy Houser/Magnolia - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

- Pretty Little Poison/Warren Zeiders/Warner Records - 179
- Man Made A Bar/Morgan Wallen feat. Eric Church/Big Loud - 172
- Where It Ends/Bailey Zimmerman/Warner Music Nashville - 144
- Wildflowers and Wild Horses/Lainey Wilson/Broken Bow Records - 127
- One Bad Habit/Tim McGraw/Big Machine Records - 127

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

- Your Place/Ashley Cooke/Big Loud Records - 9
- Where It Ends/Bailey Zimmerman/Warner Music Nashville - 8
- Halfway To Hell/Jelly Roll/Broken Bow - 7
- Overthinking/Amy Sheppard/Empire of Song - 6
- Love You Again/Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

- You Don't Know Me/Dianña/Billieegee Productions - 131
- Beat You There/Will Dempsey - 129
- Wheels/Bucky Covington/BareFootin Inc. - 126
- Overthinking/Amy Sheppard/Empire of Song - 124
- Sounds Like The Radio/Zach Top/Leo33 - 119

NO. 1 SONG



Luke Combs is at No. 1 again on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart for the third consecutive week with “Where The Wild Things Are.”

Written by **Randy Montana** and **Dave Turnbull**, the song appears on Combs’ *Gettin’ Old* album.

Next month, Combs will compete for Best Country Solo Performance at the 66th annual Grammy Awards for his version of **Tracy Chapman**’s song “Fast Car.” In April, he will return to the road with his “Growin’ Up and Gettin’ Old” U.S. stadium tour, which sold over a million tickets in the first weekend on-sale.

“Where The Wild Things Are” currently sits at No. 8 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 5 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	WOOZ Cartersville, IL	KYSM Mankato, MN	KPNC Ponca City, OK	KLLL Lubbock, TX
WXFL Florence, AL	WALS Peru, IL	WTCM Traverse City, MI	KWEY Weatherford, OK	KXOX Sweetwater, TX
KQUS Hot Springs, AR	WAAG Galesburg, IL	KZPK St. Cloud, MN	WCJW Warsaw, NY	WAKG Danville, VA
KDXY Jonesboro, AR	WYOT Rochelle, IL	KFAV Warrenton, MO	KWOX Woodward, OK	WAXX Altoona, WI
KBOD Mountain Home, AR	WRTB Rockford, IL	WBBN Laurel, MS	KRKT Albany, OR	WJVL Janesville, WI
KWCK Searcy, AR	WFMB Springfield, IL	WFAY Fayetteville, NC	KRWQ Medford, OR	WGLR Platteville, WI
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA	WIFE Connerville, IN	KZZY Devils Lake, ND	WVNW Lewistown, PA	WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
WCTY Norwich, CT	KAIR Atchison, KS	KYCK Thompson, ND	WNBT Mansfield, PA	WJMQ Shawano, WI
WPPL Blue Ridge, GA	KQZQ Pratt, KS	KRVN Lexington, NE	WCFT Selinsgrove, PA	WCOW Sparta, WI
WUBB Savannah, GA	WKDZ Cadiz, KY	KFGE Lincoln, NE	KZZI Spearfish, SD	WDGG Huntington, WV
KXIA Marshalltown, IA	WDHR Pikeville, KY	KBRX O’Neill, NE	WUCZ Carthage, TN	
KIAI Mason City, IA	KRRV Alexandria, LA	KQBA Santa Fe, NM	WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN	
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID	KQKI Morgan City, LA	WDNB Monticello, NY	KFTX Corpus Christi, TX	
KKMV Rupert, ID	WKPE Hyannis, MA	KITX Hugo, OK	KYKX Longview, TX	

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
12	1	1	Where The Wild Things Are / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	2017/56	7	124
15	2	2	I Can Feel It / Kane Brown / Zone 4/RCA Nashville	1891/58	6	105
25	5	3	Pretty Little Poison / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records	1839/58	11	179
24	3	4	White Horse / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1822/51	3	49
21	4	5	The Painter / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1779/53	6	95
40	6	6	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	1682/58	2	40
13	8	7	Mamaw's House / Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen / Valory	1617/64	7	110
20	9	8	Cab In A Solo / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	1567/59	6	87
29	7	9	Burn It Down / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	1534/56	1	19
8	14	10	Man Made A Bar / Morgan Wallen feat. Eric Church / Big Loud	1322/61	15	172
29	11	11	We Don't Fight Anymore / Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton / Big Machine	1311/59	6	78
8	13	12	Wildflowers and Wild Horses / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	1297/58	11	127
39	10	13	23 / Chayce Beckham / BMG	1283/43	3	41
8	15	14	Take Her Home / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	1193/56	7	75
53	16	15	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	1187/49	7	75
20	17	16	Tucson Too Late / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	1111/55	3	34
33	18	17	Truck Bed / HARDY / Big Loud Records	1057/45	1	14
30	21	18	Glory Days / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	973/46	6	57
12	23	19	Cowboys and Plowboys / Jon Pardi and Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	963/50	9	83
16	19	20	Back Then Right Now / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	954/47	0	-2
9	20	21	Rodeo Man / Garth Brooks and Ronnie Dunn / Big Machine Records	923/52	-1	-13
7	26	22	Let Your Boys Be Country / Jason Aldean / Macon Music/Broken Bow	862/50	6	45
28	22	23	Wine Country / Hannah Ellis / Curb Records	860/47	-3	-24
12	25	24	Under this Ole Hat / Sawyer Brown / Curb Records	849/53	2	15
23	24	25	I'm Not Pretty / Megan Moroney / Arista Nashville/Columbia Records	844/47	1	7
14	28	26	Can't Break Up Now / Old Dominion with Megan Moroney / Columbia Nashville	836/50	18	127
7	27	27	This Is My Dirt / Justin Moore / Valory	755/50	6	41
16	30	28	I Remember Everything / Zach Bryan feat. Kacey Musgraves / Warner Records	739/42	8	52
13	34	29	Where It Ends / Bailey Zimmerman / Warner Music Nashville	738/45	24	144
13	31	30	Two Dozen Roses / Shenandoah & Luke Combs / 8 Track Entertainment/ADA	716/47	6	41
38	29	31	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	655/32	-7	-47
10	33	32	Outlaws and Mustangs / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	633/45	4	27
4	37	33	Your Place / Ashley Cooke / Big Loud Records	610/45	23	114
32	32	34	Out Of That Truck / Carrie Underwood / Capitol Records	598/30	-1	-8
16	36	35	Young Love & Saturday Nights / Chris Young / RCA	535/33	2	12
26	38	36	Drinkin' Problems / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	516/33	4	22
13	39	37	I'm In Love / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/Big Loud Records/S&D	515/36	9	43
3	48	38	One Bad Habit / Tim McGraw / Big Machine Records	458/29	38	127
23	40	39	Outskirts / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	455/29	-2	-9

2024
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 ISSUE

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
14	41	40	Vertigo / Morgan Myles / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	423/29	6	25
13	43	41	A Man Like You / American Blonde / American Blonde Music	392/30	2	9
18	42	42	Always You / Trey Lewis / River House Artists	387/30	-1	-3
7	49	43	Love You Again / Chase Matthew / Warner Music Nashville	377/28	18	58
4	46	44	Chevrolet / Dustin Lynch feat. Jelly Roll / Broken Bow Records	367/30	10	34
11	44	45	Tractors And Trucks / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	359/25	3	12
10	47	46	Drink About That / Ken Domash / Thunder Mountain Records	340/26	2	7
2	55	47	Halfway To Hell / Jelly Roll / Broken Bow	320/24	26	67
25	52	48	Something's Gonna Kill Me / Corey Kent / RCA Nashville	310/21	3	9
14	50	49	You Or The Whiskey / Sydney Hansen / Sydney Hansen Music	310/18	-1	-2
45	51	50	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	294/21	-5	-15
15	56	51	Rough Around The Edges / Exile / Clearwater Records	278/16	10	26
4	67	52	God Bless the Radio / Flat River Band / Early Bird Records	246/15	30	57
3	57	53	Love You Back / Lady A / BMLG Records	241/19	4	9
8	60	54	Before You / Glen Shelton / Jordash	235/15	7	15
10	61	55	Extra / Katie Linendoll	228/13	4	8
11	58	56	Lovin' Not Leavin' / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	227/15	0	0
6	66	57	Amazin' What Just The Right 3 Minutes Can Do / Larry, Steve and Rudy The Gatlin Brothers / CDX Records/Sony Orchard	208/13	9	17
24	70	58	Dance With You / Brett Young / BMLG Records	201/15	12	22
3	72	59	New Neon / Cliff Dorsey / Black Sheep Records	200/15	16	28
12	64	60	Spirits and Demons / Michael Ray ft. Meghan Patrick / Warner Music Nashville	198/14	-1	-2
6	62	61	Pickup Man / HIXTAPE ft. Post Malone/Joe Diffie / Big Loud Records/Mercury	198/17	-5	-11
11	65	62	Certified / Laura Bryna	197/18	1	1
3	68	63	Jack and Diet Coke / Redferrin / Duncan Music Group/WMN	192/18	4	8
8	73	64	Love Is Real / Shelley Lynch / CDX Records	186/9	9	15
5	74	65	Be The Whiskey / Julia Cole / Smokeshow Music	184/15	8	13
4	71	66	Small Town Famous / Bowman / Reviver/Nine North	184/14	3	5
9	69	67	Front Porch Swing / Luke Kelly / General Records	183/12	1	1
2	79	68	Gonna Love You / Parmalee / Stoney Creek	181/13	18	27
2	77	69	Puttin' Up Hay / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	174/14	7	12
18	76	70	In Your Love / Tyler Childers / Hickman Holler Records/RCA Records	174/12	7	11
7	75	71	True Story / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	166/10	1	1
1	84	72	Devil Had Blue Eyes / Julianna Rankin / 17th Avenue	163/14	20	27
1	81	73	Same Bar, Different Town / Ryan Jewel / Ryan Jewel Music	163/14	14	20
1	89	74	Sea of Heartbreak / Mustangs of the West / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	156/13	27	33
1	87	75	Easy Loving You / Ty Gregory / Ole Buster Music	155/11	22	28
1	85	76	Drunk On You / Rob Fitzgerald / Riverbend Recordings	155/11	17	22
28	83	77	Brokenhearted / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	155/8	9	13
1	86	78	Boys Back Home / Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott / Columbia Nashville	142/10	8	10
1	82	79	Ready To Go / Lefroy / Stallion Records	139/8	-3	-4
1	90	80	Cancel / Randy Houser / Magnolia	133/9	12	14

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Chase McDaniel Signs With Big Machine Records



Pictured (L-R, front row): Big Machine Label Group's Allison Jones, Chase McDaniel and Big Machine Label Group's Scott Borchetta; (L-R, back row): Big Machine Records' Kris Lamb, Big Machine Label Group's Carly Strickland, WME's Kevin Neal, Big Machine Label Group's Mike Rittberg, Big Machine Label Group's Meghan Joyce, Big Machine Records' Clay Hunnicutt and Big Machine Label Group's Darielle Schroeder. Photo: Sean Sorensen

Singer-songwriter **Chase McDaniel** has signed with Big Machine Records.

Raised in Greensburg, Kentucky by his grandparents, McDaniel has overcome all of the obstacles life has thrown at him and chased his dream relentlessly. His song "Project" landed the No. 1 spot on the *Billboard* Digital Sales and iTunes Country charts, and he plans to release *Blame It All On Country Music*, his first collection with Big Machine Records, on Jan. 26.

"Chase is not only talented and smart but is truly someone who makes his own luck. He has a determination that inspires our entire team to dig even deeper," shares **Scott Borchetta**, CEO & Chairman, Big Machine Label Group. "He has a clear vision, and we can't wait help make that vision a reality."

"Scott and the team over at Big Machine Records have understood what fuels me and my dreams from the first meeting. It just clicked," says McDaniel. "I can't express how grateful and excited I am to work with them, learn from them and grow this thing together." **MR**

Brittney Spencer Inks Publishing Deal With Warner Chappell Music



Center Photo (L-R): Matt Cottingham, Alexa Morris (WCM), Spencer Nohe (WCM), Anna Kolander (Activist), Matt Maher (Activist), Ben Vaughn (WCM), Caitlin Stone Jasper (Activist), Brittney Spencer. Photo: Gina Di Maio

Rising singer-songwriter **Brittney Spencer** has signed a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music.

"Signing my first publishing deal in my 10th year of living in Nashville has to be the biggest cliché and I wear it like a badge of honor.. haha! As an artist, building out the publishing piece of my career with thoughtful, innovative, and capable partners feels both vital and creatively igniting. Warner Chappell has already played such a hand in projects that I'm really proud to have made and been a part of, which makes me all the happier to officially partner together in this next chapter of my musical journey," shares Spencer.

Spencer has already accumulated millions of streams with her single "Sober & Skinny," which the singer released independently in 2021, and is set to release her debut album *My Stupid Life* on Jan. 19 via Elektra.

Of the deal, **Ben Vaughn**, President and CEO, Warner Chappell Music Nashville, says "Brittney is the type of person who, when you first meet her, leaves a lasting impression. And then, when you hear her voice and experience the insightful way she writes songs—wow! We're very proud that she has placed her trust in our team and look forward to supporting her on her journey." **MR**

Hit Songwriter, Red Street Records Executive Don Koch Passes



Don Koch

Music industry veteran **Don Koch**, who most recently served as EVP of Publishing/A&R, co-founder, producer and songwriter for Red Street Records, passed away on January 15.

Koch was born in San Jose, Costa Rica to missionary parents and lived around South America and the U.S. throughout his childhood. He moved to Nashville in 1980 to attend Belmont and pursue a career in sound engineering. He began dabbling in songwriting during this time as well, and eventually signed his first publishing deal with Benson Record Company in 1986.

Throughout his career, Koch won six GMA Dove Awards including Song Of The Year (1994, "In Christ Alone"), Inspirational Recorded Song Of The Year (1993 and 2006, "In Christ Alone;" 1999, "Adonai") and Inspirational Album Of The Year (1994's *The Season Of Love* by 4Him; 1993's *Generation To Generation* by Benson Family of Artists). Koch racked up 38 No. 1s as a songwriter, and some of his best-known hits include "In Christ Alone," "Mercy Said No," "Adonai," "Mercy Came Running," "Jesus Saves" and "Land of Mercy." Koch also became a successful publisher and producer, working with artists such as 4Him, Newsong, Avalon, Charles Billingsley, Al Denson, Dallas Holm and Matthew Ward, among others.

Koch helped Jay DeMarcus launch Red Street Records in 2018. The relationship between the two goes back to the beginning of DeMarcus' music career.

DeMarcus posted a tribute to his friend upon news of his passing. He shared, "Don Koch and I started the Red Street Records journey together in 2018. It seemed so fitting that we had come full circle since he was the one who ultimately brought me to Nashville and got Neal Coomer and I our first record deal with Benson Records. I owe this man a lot, and I learned so much from him as a songwriter—he was a wonderful mentor, and friend."

Memorial services for Koch have not yet been announced. Friends are encouraged to send photos, memories or thoughts about Koch to thedonkochlegacy@gmail.com to share with the family. **MR**

John Bradley Joins Electric Feel Entertainment As Country A&R



John Bradley

John Bradley has joined management company Electric Feel Entertainment as Country A&R.

The Nashville native's career has been fueled by a passion for music, a rich family legacy and an array of experiences. Following in the footsteps of his established predecessors **Owen, Jerry and Clay Bradley**, he continues to elevate the Bradley legacy. He previously served as Eclipse Music Group's Creative Director, and has secured cuts with artists including **Morgan Wallen, Chris Stapleton, George Strait, Kenny Chesney, Jake Owen** and more.

As Electric Feel expands into the Music City market, John will play a key role in discovering and nurturing the next wave of musical talent. The company is home to artists, producers and songwriters that include **Post Malone, Louis Bell, Billy Walsh, Omer Fedi, Starboy, Feli Ferano** and more.

"We are thrilled to welcome John Bradley to the Electric Feel team. His deep roots in the industry, coupled with his diverse skill set, make him an invaluable addition to our A&R team. We look forward to the innovative contributions and successes we know he will bring to our company," says **Austin Rosen**, CEO, Electric Feel Entertainment. **MR**

CAA Elevates Jenna Powell



Jenna Powell. Photo: Molly Peach

Creative Artists Agency (CAA) has promoted several employees across its offices and departments, including **Jenna Powell** in Nashville. She has been elevated to Executive in Corporate Communications.

After graduating from Pepperdine University with a degree in Public Relations, Powell joined CAA in 2018 as an Assistant to Chief Communications Officer **Michael Mand**. She was named Coordinator in 2019, before being promoted to Communications Manager in 2020.

In her new role, Powell will continue to focus on building out communications initiatives and media relations for CAA's Music Touring, Digital Media, Theatre and Gaming divisions.

Additional promotions include **Sebastian Brogan, Olivia Brooks, Kaitlin Gascoyne, Ross Lee** and **Jeff Lynds**. **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Megan Moroney Tries To Move On In New Single



Megan Moroney. Photo: David McClister

Is country music making a comeback in '24?

After years of rock-em, sock-em pop Nashville sounds being marketed as “country,” we suddenly have a host of new tunes that are more like the meat-and-potatoes nourishment that made us fall in love with the genre in the first place. To wit, I refer to the new tracks by Catie Offerman, the Bellamys with Gene Watson, Scotty McCreery, Ashley Cooke, Kenny Chesney, and our outstanding DISCOVERY Award winner, Zach Top.

The Disc of the Day goes to country’s new “it” girl Megan Moroney.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Reba To Perform National Anthem At Super Bowl LVIII](#)

[2024 iHeartRadio Music Awards Features Many Nashville Nominees](#)

[Ray Stevens Announces Final Run Of Performances At CabaRay Showroom](#)

[Restless Road Brings The Party To Brooklyn Bowl](#)

[CMHOF To Unveil Latest ‘American Currents: State Of The Music’ Installment](#)

[The MLC Issues Notices Of Intent To Audit Digital Service Providers](#)

[Louisiana Cajun Music Legend Jo-El Sonnier Dies Following Show](#)

[AIMP Nashville Awards To Take Place In March](#)

[Nitty Gritty Dirt Band Plots ‘All The Good Times: The Farewell Tour’](#)

[Big Loud Launches Severance Records & Signs Flagship Act](#)

[Sixpence None The Richer To Re-Release Album On Curb Records, Signs Management Deal](#)

[Deluge Music Launches Two New Labels](#)

[Tyler Braden To Hit The Road On ‘Real Friends Tour’ In March](#)

[Luke Bryan, Hardy & Old Dominion To Headline Watershed Festival 2024](#)

Nathan Barlowe Renews Deal With Spirit Music Nashville/ Fluid Music Revolution



Pictured (L-R, back row/standing): Matthew Beckett (Milom Crow Kelley Beckett Shehan PLC), Leisl Eschbach, (Milom Crow Kelley Beckett Shehan PLC), Gray Schubert (Spirit Music Nashville), Nathan Barlowe, Brian Bradford (Spirit Music Nashville), Kennedy Murphy (Spirit Music Nashville) and Andy Hodges (Spirit Music Nashville); (L-R, front row): Kara Jackson (Spirit Music Nashville), AJ Burton (Spirit Music Nashville/Fluid Music Revolution), Frank Rogers (Spirit Music Group/Chief Executive Officer, Spirit Music Nashville) and Mike Fiorentino (Spirit Music Nashville).

Singer-songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist **Nathan Barlowe** has renewed his publishing deal with Spirit Music Nashville/Fluid Music Revolution.

“I am so happy that I have the opportunity to continue working with Spirit and Fluid. It’s an amazing company with amazing people. I feel like the best is still ahead of us,” shares Barlowe.

Barlowe’s credits include songs by **Taylor Swift, Steven Tyler, Keith Urban, Ayrton Jones, Newsboys** and more. With his catalog, he has earned three top 10 *Billboard* dance singles, a Grammy nomination and a top five *Billboard* Mainstream Rock single. Barlowe’s work has also been heard on multiple film and TV shows. Additionally, he the lead guitarist in Urban’s band, and won the 2017 CMA Award for Touring Musician of the Year. Barlowe is also the inventor of The Phantom, an electronic sampling machine played like a keyboard, as well as the frontman of pop-rock band Luna Halo.

AJ Burton, Vice President, Spirit Music Nashville/ Fluid Music Revolution says, “It’s truly an honor when a songwriter wants to continue their partnership and everyone at Spirit Fluid are fired up to keep our ‘Rock Star Nate’ in the fold. Lots of exciting things in the works for Nathan.” *MR*

Zach John King Signs Publishing Deal With Boom Music Group



Pictured (L-R): Emma Kiefer (Boom Music Group), Shaina Botwin (Boom Music Group), Zach John King, Joe Fisher (Boom Music Group), Matt Reed (Hyphen Media Group), Rachel Guttman (Taylor Guttman, PLLC)

Rising singer-songwriter **Zach John King** has signed a publishing deal with Boom Music Group.

“I’m incredibly grateful to be a part of such a powerhouse team,” says King. “I don’t take this opportunity lightly and am so stoked to start working. I can’t wait to learn and grow in this new family of incredible writers, people and professionals. Here’s to the future!”

“I was so impressed by Zach’s work ethic and attitude from our first meeting,” shares Boom’s Vice President **Shaina Botwin**. “Once I heard the music he was writing, I knew we had to work together. I’m incredibly excited to welcome Zach into the Boom family and can’t wait for everyone to hear what he’s been working on!” *MR*

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

January 19

Matt Jordan/*The Greatest Story* (feat. Kayley Bishop)/ONErpm

January 21

Cody Jinks/*Outlaws and Mustangs*/Late August Records/*The Orchard*

January 22

Jelly Roll/*Halfway To Hell*/Stoney Creek Records

Tim McGraw/*One Bad Habit*/Big Machine Records

Tigirlily Gold/*I Tried A Ring On*/Monument Records

Corey Layne/*Hard To Kill*/Corey Layne Music

Mike Ryan/*Way It Goes*

Album/EP Releases

January 19

Brittney Spencer/*My Stupid Life*/Elektra

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

Niko Moon/*Better Days*

Chase Bryant/*Summerville*

January 26

Conner Smith/*Smoky Mountains*/The Valory Music Co.

Randall King/*Into The Neon*/Warner Music Nashville

Josh Abbott Band/*Somewhere Down The Road*/Pretty Damn Tough

Charles Esten/*Love Ain't Pretty*

Becca Bowen/*County Line*

Industry Events

February 4

66th Annual Grammy Awards

February 28 – March 1

CRS

March 8 – 10

C2C Festival