

River House Artists Enters Co-Venture With Warner Music Nashville, Elektra Music Group

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Pictured (L-R): Lynn Oliver-Cline (River House Artists), Cris Lacy (Warner Music Nashville), Zebb Luster (River House Artists). Photo: Mick Bodie

THIS WEEK’S HEADLINES

River House Artists Enters Co-Venture With Warner Music Nashville, Elektra Music Group

Ernest Tubb Record Shop To Close

Dolly Parton Bows Out Of Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame Race

Kane Brown Leads CMT Music Awards Nominations

Nominees Announced For Seventh Annual AIMP Awards

Mike Whelan Joins Round Hill As Sr. VP / General Manager

Noah Gordon Launches 8 Track Entertainment

SixForty1 Builds Team: Signs With Morris Higham, WME

Landon Parker Inks With EM.Co & CAA

DISCLAIMER Singles Reviews

And much more...

River House Artists (RHA), an independent label, publishing and artist development hub, has announced a partnership with Warner Music Nashville (WMG) and Elektra Music Group (EMG). The joint venture is designed to capitalize on each company’s like-minded approach to artist development.

“I am beyond thrilled to finally announce this new venture. The executive and creative teams at Warner Music Nashville and Elektra Music Group are challenging the marketplace and we are a perfect fit to help keep pushing those boundaries. I have been very fortunate to have amazing partners on my journey to here, but this is home,” shares **Lynn Oliver-Cline**, founder of River House Artists. “I can’t thank **[John Esposito], Cris Lacy, Ben Kline, Gregg Nadel** and **Patrick Sabatini** enough for believing in what we are continuing to build. They treat everyone with the utmost respect. It truly feels like family.”

River House Artists was founded in 2016 by Oliver-Cline with country superstar **Luke Combs** as its flagship artist. Since its inception, RHA has established itself as a leading force for developing artists and boasts a roster consisting of **Jameson Rodgers, Billy Strings, Stephen Wilson Jr., Ray Fulcher, Drew Parker, Georgia Webster, Jordan Rowe, Kasey Tyndall, Southerland, Grant Gilbert** and more.

“Our partnership is the culmination of years of shared history, mutual admiration and respect. RHA’s track record of finding and nurturing integrous giants in our format speaks for itself. When we talk about artists who make long term impact and shift culture in the country space and beyond, we’re talking about icons that found their first champion in Lynn Oliver-Cline,” shares Lacy, EVP A&R of Warner Music Nashville. **MR**

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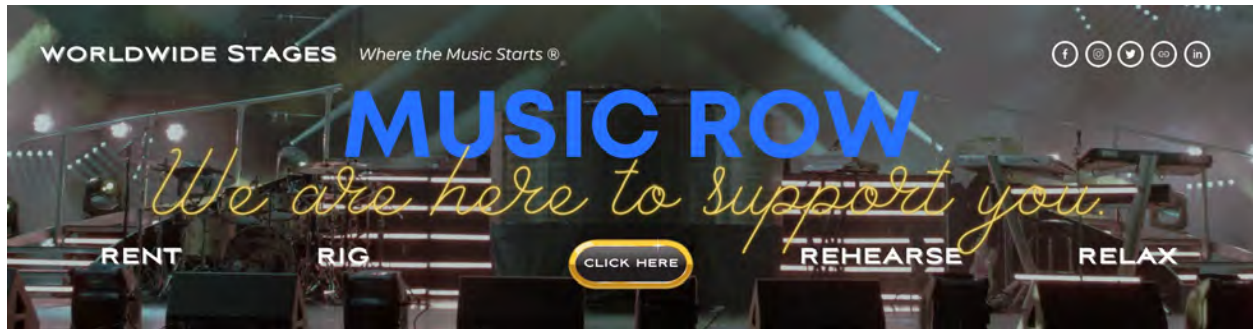
My Music Row Story: UMPG's Troy Tomlinson



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.

This edition of "My Music Row Story" is sponsored by [Worldwide Stages](#).

A 37-year publishing veteran, **Troy Tomlinson** is in charge of day-to-day operations for Universal Music Publishing Nashville. Among his current writer/artist hitmakers are **Taylor Swift, Kenny Chesney, Keith Urban, Maren Morris, Luke Combs, Shania Twain, Chris Young, Brandi Carlile, Brad Tursi (Old Dominion), Scotty McCreery, Sam Hunt, Ingrid Andress and Caitlyn Smith.**



Notable hit songwriters at UMPG include **Chase McGill, Paul DiGiovanni, Justin Ebach, Lee Miller, Sam Ellis, Derrick Southerland, Ray Fulcher, Jacob Davis, Shane Minor, Bart Butler, Jamie Paulin, Troy Verges, John Pierce, Greylan James, and Dave Cobb**, among many others.

Prior to UMPG, Tomlinson served as President and CEO of Sony Music Publishing Nashville from 2002 until 2019. Before that, he served as EVP of Acuff Rose Music Publishing from 1988 until 2002.

MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up up 40 miles north of here on the Kentucky line in a little town called Portland, Tennessee. I grew up on a beef cattle farm. My brother and I roamed the 80 acres that we had and had a really great childhood that made us grow up to be curious. There was just so much to explore on that farm and it really did expand this notion of curiosity for me. That's been something that I cherish now as an adult looking back on it because we really don't meet a lot of people in our creative business who don't have a sense of curiosity, because that's what spurs creativity.

Did you always want to work in the music business?

When I graduated high school, I went straight to work at a plastic injection mold company, in a mentorship program. I was burned really badly on both my hands. I had second and third degree burns on both hands from this accident that happened with 700 degree molted plastic.

At the same time, I was volunteering for a civic organization called the JCs, or the junior chamber of commerce. We did about a dozen events each year to raise money for one event a year, which was to take underprivileged children



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in our area Christmas shopping and to throw a big Christmas party for them. I became president of the JCs when I was 19 or 20.

At my induction as president, there was a guy there that I had only met a couple of times named **Cliff Williamson**. So fast forward a few months, I'm laying in a burn unit here in Nashville with skin grafts on my hands, and Cliff called me. He said, "Hey man, have you ever thought about changing careers?" I was thinking, "As a matter of fact, I'm thinking about it right now!" (laughs)

Cliff hired me as a tape copy boy and as a beginner song plugger to teach me the art of song plugging at a company called Multimedia, which was a New York firm that owned TV shows like *The Phil Donahue Show*, **Sally Jessy Raphael's** show, and some early talk shows. They also owned Channel 17 here in town and a magazine called *Music City News*. Cliff just thrust me into this world that I could have never really imagined being a part of.



After getting your start at Multimedia, where did you go next?

When Multimedia was prepared to sell off pieces of the company, they began to do layoffs. I got laid off after a little over two years.

One of my writers was a writer named **Don King**. Don had built a new studio and started a little side publishing company. He and his father, **Don Sr.**, asked me to come and work for them to help build up a roster. I stayed there for a couple of years. Then **Rick Hall**—the Muscle Shoals mogul, producer and publisher—had an opening for someone to run his Nashville office. He hired me to do that.

I was only there about a year and I learned so much. I learned what standards were. Rick Hall taught me the difference in hit songs and standards in American culture. That catalog that he owned, Rick Hall Music and FAME, it's a patch quilt made of America's music standards.



Troy with Reba McEntire.

Then you went to work for Jerry Bradley at Acuff Rose.

All those years prior that I had been in the business, Acuff Rose and Tree Music Publishing were, to me, the preeminent country catalogs. **Jerry Bradley** was running Acuff Rose, and they were reinvigorating the sleeping giant [that the company had been]. It had drifted when Mr. **Fred Rose** became ill. So Jerry Bradley hired me and pushed me out in front of our parent company, Gaylord Entertainment and Mr. **Bud Wendell**, every time he could. If Jerry couldn't be at a meeting, he pushed this little 24-26 year-old to go sit in for him in these corporate meetings and make presentations. That's the mentoring that he did, he pushed me to the front of the stage, metaphorically.

I worked for Acuff Rose from '88 to 2002, and moved up the ladder in that company to my final position, being Executive VP of the company and Jerry as the President. Then we were bought by Sony, and **Donna [Hilley]** allowed me to come over and bring a half dozen of my employees with me to Sony.

You had many successful years at Sony Music Publishing, and then left in 2019 to become Chairman/CEO Of UMPG Nashville.

We become an aggregate of all of life's experiences, the good ones and the



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March 18, 2022

The MusicRow Weekly

bad ones. That period working for Jerry, and then that period working for **Martin [Bandier]**, former CEO/Chairman of Sony/ATV] were the largest aggregation of knowledge about publishing for me.

Marty was retiring and changes within Sony were occurring. At the same time, **Jody Gerson**, who I had worked with for a number of years at Sony and always respected and admired so much, we had breakfast together in LA at some function we were both attending. At breakfast she proposed that we find a way to work together. She was very convincing and ultimately, I made what, in one respect, was a difficult decision because myself, my staff and most people on Music Row thought that Sony/ATV is where I would spend the rest of my career.

In that regard, it took some thinking to process why I should do it. The reason I ultimately did it was I knew Jody was another one of those people that would mentor me, support me and grow me in that sphere of influence that a publisher has. I also watched the culture she had built at Universal Music Publishing since she got there and was blown away. She's a culture-centric leader, it's very top of mind with her.

That was a little over two and a half years ago now. Of course two years of that has been eaten up by COVID, but we've not only nixed a beating, but we have grown remarkably in every measurement over COVID. That's a testimony to the employees here and the support that Jody has given us.

Looking back, what are some of the first few songs you remember having success with?

The first No. 1 that I pitched was the **Alabama** song called "If I Had You." **Barry Beckett**, a dear friend who's gone now, cut one album with Alabama. I'd known the boys from Alabama since I was a teenager through a variety of interesting ways. But my first pitch appointment at Acuff Rose when I got hired was with Beckett. I wanted to impress Mr. Bradley that I could get Barry Beckett in the room.

He was producing 15 acts at the time. So Beckett came down at the end of the day. He was tired and was notorious for falling asleep during pitching appointments, which was beautiful. You'd cough really loud or turn the volume up real quick [to wake him up]. (laughs) The last song on the tape was the **Danny Mayo** and **Kerry Chater** song, "If I Had You." It was just a work tape. When it finished, Beckett said, "**Randy** will love that, I'll love cutting it, and we'll have a hit together." Within six months, we had a No. 1 record.



Kenny Chesney and Troy accept a BMI Award.



Taylor Swift and Troy accept a BMI Award.

Interestingly enough, as I told you, "If I Had You" was the last song out of 10 that I played Barry that day and it was the only one he loved. Fast forward a few months or a year, I'm in our new building at Acuff Rose, playing for **Jerry Fuller** and **John Hobbs** who were producing **Collin Raye**. The first song I played them was "Love, Me." We had a No. 1 on it. I played them three or four more and every time they'd pass on one, they would say, "We gotta cut that first song." So after four songs, I could see where the meeting was going, and I said, "Do y'all just want to stop listening and go to lunch?" They said, "Yeah!" (laughs). We didn't listen to another song. I'll never forget that. That was a wonderful experience.

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

- Note To Self**/Randy Houser/Magnolia Music Group — 73
- Every Single Summer**/MaRynn Taylor/Black River Records — 76
- While The Sun Still Shines (The Fishing Song)**/Walter Finley/Chair 55 — 79

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

- Wasted On You**/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud Records/Republic — 177
- Never Say Never**/Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson/Warner Music Nashville — 145
- Note To Self**/Randy Houser/Magnolia Music Group — 126
- Last Night Lonely**/Jon Pardi/Capitol — 126
- AA**/Walker Hayes/Monument — 104
- Every Single Summer**/MaRynn Taylor/Black River Records — 102

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

- Wasted On You**/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud Records/Republic — 13
- Every Single Summer**/MaRynn Taylor/Black River Records — 12
- Note To Self**/Randy Houser/Magnolia Music Group — 8
- Down Home**/Jimmie Allen/Stoney Creek Records — 5
- Heart Of A Small Town**/Tim Dugger/Curb Records — 5
- Body First**/Laura Bryna/LTD Entertainment LLC — 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

- Don't Come Lookin'**/Jackson Dean/Big Machine — 131
- Can't Do Without Me**/Chayce Beckham & Lindsay Ell/Wheelhouse Records /Stoney Creek Records Country — 111
- Honky Tonk Boots**/Sammy Kershaw/White Mustang Records — 108
- Dates In Pickup Trucks**/Kassi Ashton/MCA Nashville — 105
- Catching Up With An Ol' Memory**/Clay Walker/Show Dog Nashville — 104

NO. 1 SONG



Cole Swindell and Lainey Wilson are No. 1 this week on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Chart for their “Never Say Never.” Swindell co-wrote the single with Jessi Alexander and Chase McGill and it will appear on his album, *Stereotype*, coming out in April.

Swindell and Wilson sat down with *MusicRow* to discuss the song. “I don’t know anyone who hasn’t been in this situation at some point in time,” Wilson says. “I was telling Cole the other day, it’s like that piece of chocolate cake that you know you shouldn’t have but you take it anyway. We’ve all been there, so we can all relate even if you’ve never been in a relationship in your life.” She continues, “It’s hard sometimes to have a rocking song that’s also passionate, and I think this song does that. It makes you feel all the things. It makes you wanna say ‘Hell yeah!’ and it makes you want to kiss somebody.”



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
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 Cartersville, IL
WAAG Galesburg, IL

WMCI Mattoon, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WCCI Savanna, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
KQZQ Pratt, 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
KYCK Thompson, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
KBRX O’Neill, NE
Jersey Shore Country
KQBA Santa Fe, NM
WQNB 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
WCKN Dickson, TN

WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
KYKX Longview, TX
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI
WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, 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 +/-
14	2	1	Never Say Never / Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson / Warner Music Nashville	1868/60	8	145
17	4	2	Slow Down Summer / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1706/61	1	24
22	5	3	Up / Luke Bryan / Capitol	1655/61	1	18
13	1	4	Doin' This / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	1655/55	-7	-116
23	3	5	'Til You Can't / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1641/43	-3	-52
20	6	6	If I Was A Cowboy / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	1493/54	-2	-31
9	7	7	Trouble With A Heartbreak / Jason Aldean / Macon Music/Broken Bow	1485/62	4	57
10	8	8	Circles Around This Town / Maren Morris / Columbia Nashville	1434/60	4	54
19	10	9	Damn Strait / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	1422/61	4	53
32	9	10	7500 OBO / Tim McGraw / Big Machine	1364/58	-1	-9
12	13	11	AA / Walker Hayes / Monument	1274/52	9	104
9	14	12	Flower Shops / ERNEST feat. Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records	1219/62	6	64
39	11	13	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) / Elle King & Miranda Lambert / RCA Nashville	1217/40	-1	-9
27	12	14	New Truck / Dylan Scott / Curb	1196/54	1	17
20	15	15	With A Woman You Love / Justin Moore / Valory	1075/56	4	44
60	16	16	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	1029/37	1	15
7	19	17	Everyone She Knows / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	989/54	8	73
15	17	18	Soul / Lee Brice / Curb	977/52	3	26
41	22	19	Back Then, Right Now / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand Records	845/47	6	48
19	23	20	Let Me Know / Smith & Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville	835/43	9	72
36	18	21	Old School / Toby Keith / Show Dog Nashville	830/36	-10	-91
12	25	22	No Hard Feelings / Old Dominion / RCA Nashville	788/46	5	40
27	20	23	Sunrise Tells The Story / Midland / Big Machine	774/41	-7	-55
24	26	24	At the End Of A Bar / Chris Young feat. Mitchell Tenpenny / RCA Nashville	767/44	10	70
4	28	25	Last Night Lonely / Jon Pardi / Capitol	727/47	21	126
28	24	26	Steal My Love / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	705/35	-7	-51
15	27	27	You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG	701/41	6	41
17	29	28	Baby Don't / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records	663/42	10	62
53	21	29	Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	658/24	-19	-152
5	33	30	Party Mode / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow	634/44	9	54
3	37	31	Wasted On You / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records/Republic	626/47	39	177
10	30	32	What A Song Can Do / Lady A / BMLG	625/36	5	30
16	32	33	Quicksand / American Blonde /	617/40	6	33
10	34	34	Out In The Middle / Zac Brown Band / Warner Music Nashville	600/37	3	20
17	35	35	Hypocrite / Ruthie Collins / MCC/Curb	593/40	3	19
27	31	36	They Don't Make 'Em Like That No More / Travis Tritt / Big Noise	588/28	-1	-5
10	36	37	Take My Name / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	570/38	18	88
6	38	38	Love Talking / Eli Young Band / Valory	472/34	14	58
13	41	39	Dyin' For A Livin' / Muscadine Bloodline / Stancaster Music, LLC	393/23	8	28
15	43	40	Somebody Else's / Chloe Collins / Collins House Music	380/23	10	36

MUSICROW

**2022
COUNTRY RADIO
& STREAMING
ISSUE**



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
4	46	41	Like A Hurricane / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	379/33	18	57
6	44	42	My Bar / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	361/26	8	27
12	42	43	When Love Comes Around / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers	357/22	3	12
5	53	44	Everybody Talks To God / Aaron Lewis / Valory	355/28	24	69
7	45	45	Whatever It Takes / High Valley / Cage Free	348/27	5	15
17	40	46	If I Were Rock & Roll / Chase Rice / Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	341/22	-9	-33
15	48	47	Learn From It / Conner Smith / Valory	327/24	7	20
5	54	48	Where I Learned To Live / Ward Davis / Ward Davis Music/Thirty Tigers	319/25	13	36
16	49	49	I Bet You Think About Me / Taylor Swift feat. Chris Stapleton / MCA	318/21	5	14
12	50	50	Country'd Look Good On You / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	307/20	2	6
15	58	51	Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House	303/20	16	41
5	52	52	Crazy One More Time / Kip Moore / MCA Nashville	294/23	1	3
7	51	53	Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	289/19	-1	-4
9	55	54	Small Town Spotlights / Jacob Johnson / AJG Music Group/Bow To Stern Records	288/25	2	6
21	47	55	Bye Mom / Chris Janson / Warner Music Nashville	284/20	-9	-29
17	56	56	Ain't Doing Something Right / After Midtown / The Core/10th St.	283/19	1	2
3	57	57	Pick Me Up / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	273/21	1	4
11	61	58	Us / Hannah Ellis / Curb	247/19	7	16
12	60	59	Hangin' / Donny Lee / Donny Lee Music	239/18	1	3
4	63	60	Wishful Drinking / Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt / Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville	231/16	7	16
4	67	61	I Wish You Were Someone I Love / Flat River Band feat. The Gatlin Brothers / Early Bird	229/18	12	24
9	62	62	About Love / Tiffany Woys / Tiffany Woys	229/15	6	13
5	66	63	County Roads / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records	222/16	8	17
6	65	64	Country Girls Are Crazy / Shelley Lynch / Lynch Records	215/15	3	7
4	69	65	Lucky / Tori Martin / LuckySky Music	214/20	13	25
7	68	66	Whisperin' / North To Nashville / Game Changer Records	208/14	3	6
11	70	67	That Old Wind / Danny Kensity / Rad Records	205/12	8	16
2	74	68	I'm Still Here / South 62 / Graphite Sound	180/15	8	13
27	64	69	Wilder Days / Morgan Wade / Ladylike Records	178/16	-17	-36
13	72	70	Raining Hallelujah / Shannon LaBrie / Moraine Music Group	175/15	-1	-1
2	75	71	Thank You For Breaking My Heart / Ryan Trotti / red 39 Entertainment	168/13	3	5
2	71	72	Baptist Parking Lot / Mary Heather Hickman / Moro Bay Music	167/18	-5	-9
1	145	73	Note To Self / Randy Houser / Magnolia Music Group	154/12	127	126
4	73	74	Hella Country / Dave Herrera / Brokerade, Inc.	154/9	-8	-14
2	76	75	Slo Mo / Denny Strickland / Red Star Productions	152/11	-1	-2
1	125	76	Every Single Summer / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Records	150/16	127	102
2	77	77	This Town Made Us / Brooke Moriber / Reviver Records	150/15	4	6
2	79	78	Tonight's Like That / Tom Sexton / Lot's To Do Music	136/15	-3	-4
1	82	79	While The Sun Still Shines (The Fishing Song) / Walter Finley / Chair 55	133/9	14	16
2	78	80	Watch This Guitar Come Alive / Jerry Edmundson / SAMP Records	133/11	-6	-9

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ROW FAX



Troy (middle) with his wife Sylvia, and son Joshua, who is also in the business as Director of Creative in Nashville's BMI office.

What are some of the best qualities about our industry?

We are truly a community. We're not strung out miles apart like Los Angeles is forced to be. We run into one another and spend time with one another at the ball field, concerts, restaurants and clubs. We have a sense of community. LA, New York and Atlanta all have their own sense of community, but there's no question that this is pretty unique.

Earlier this week I was in a label meeting with three other heads of Nashville publishing companies, and we're all in there together talking, conversing, asking questions and sharing together. That's a little more iffy in other places. Obviously we all compete with each other in a certain sense, because you're trying to get the cut or have the hit, but in another sense, we truly are friends. That's what sets this community apart.

One of the most satisfying things about the Music Row community is raising a child around all these gifted songwriters who are such characters and then having that child grow up and want to work in that same culture, both with some of those same writers but also with their own generation of creators. Seeing my son **Joshua**, find his place in this community as songwriter representative at BMI has been particularly gratifying.

What does it take to be a successful person in business and in life?

There is a quote from *To Kill A Mockingbird* that I try to live by. It's when Atticus is sitting with Scout, his young daughter who's really torn up inside because she sees the divisiveness in their community over this false accusation of rape by a Black man. She sees this miniature culture war that's happening all because of this lie that's told. She's obviously trying make sense of it and, I'm paraphrasing, but Atticus says that great line: *"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."* I would say that, one of the ways that one might measure success that seems more important to me than a lot of other ways we can measure it, is what Atticus was describing: empathy. Putting yourself in another person's shoes to the best that you can.

I really believe with all of my soul that you will look back on your career and call it successful if you have loved the people that you work with, if you've poured yourself into it, and if you have tried your best, even in difficult times, to show them empathy. Even when we disagree, even when it's hard to show empathy toward people, I believe that would be the premier expression of success for me. If I'm doing that, I can feel successful. And if people see me doing that, they might consider me successful.

The string of No. 1s or the string of awards from organizations, all the pictures that we take with ourselves and with artists, all that's wonderful—that's part of our culture and who we are. It's all important and a joyful experience. But if we gain all that and we sacrifice loving one another and showing empathy to one another, all that other stuff is just a breeze that blows by for a second and is gone. That would be my underlying definition of success. **MR**

Ernest Tubb Record Shop To Close



Downtown Nashville gem, the **Ernest Tubb** Record Shop, will close this spring. According to a statement from Honky Tonk Circus, ETRS, and **David McCormick** Company, both the building and the business will be sold.

“Our goal has always been to protect, promote and preserve the great history of the record shop and building,” the entities write in a joint statement. “That desire remains as strong today as ever. However, due to changes in circumstances out of our control, it’s now clear the best way forward is to sell the business and the real estate.”

The Ernest Tubb Record Shop has existed in its current location on lower Broadway since 1951, after country star Ernest Tubb originally opened the shop on Commerce Street in 1947. Since its inception, not only has the Ernest Tubb Record Shop served as a music shop for Nashville natives and tourists, it has also been a performance spot for numerous special performances. The store was the site of The Midnight Jamboree, where country stars would perform immediately after their Grand Ole Opry show.

The statement regarding its sale continues, “Preserving the history and tradition of country music remains at the forefront of everything we do. We remain committed to preservation work and look forward to new projects that will allow us to continue to protect and nurture the invaluable history and tradition of country music.” **MR**

Dolly Parton Bows Out Of Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame Race



Dolly Parton announced on Monday (March 14) via social media that she is bowing out as a nominee for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Class of 2022.

Parton was announced as a nominee earlier this year alongside **Pat Benatar**, **Eminem**, **Carly Simon**, **Lionel Richie**, and more. According to her post, she does not feel that she has “earned that right” to be inducted.

“I hope that the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame will understand and be willing to consider me again—if I’m ever worthy,” Parton writes. She goes on to say that this opportunity has inspired her to release a rock & roll album in the future.

“I wish all of the nominees good luck and thank you again for the compliment. Rock on!” Parton says.

Voting for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees ends April 29. The class of 2022 will be announced in May.

MR

Kane Brown Leads Nominations For 2022 CMT Music Awards

The nominees for the 2022 CMT Music Awards have been unveiled. Each winner is selected by fans, with voting now open at vote.cmt.com.

Kane Brown leads this year's nominees with four nods, including Video of the Year, Male Video of the Year and two entries for CMT Performance of the Year. Artists with three nominations this year include female powerhouses **Kelsea Ballerini** and **Mickey Guyton**, plus **Breland** and **Cody Johnson** as first-time nominees.

The first round of nominations for the Video of the Year award includes 12 acts, including **Carrie Underwood**, who continues to reign as the most awarded artist in CMT history with 23 wins. She is nominated twice this year for her collaboration with **Jason Aldean**. Also facing off for the night's biggest award are **Brandi Carlile**, Cody Johnson, **Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson**, **Kacey Musgraves**, Kane Brown, Kelsea Ballerini feat. **Kenny Chesney**, **Luke Combs**, **Maren Morris**, **Miranda Lambert**, and **Taylor Swift** feat. **Chris Stapleton**.

The CMT Digital-First Performance of the Year category has been added to this year's show, recognizing artist performances created for CMT Digital throughout the year, with **Brittney Spencer**, **Carly Pearce**, Cody Johnson, **Jon Pardi**, **Josh Turner** and Lainey Wilson competing for the inaugural award.

[Click here to view the full list of nominees.](#)

Hosted by Ballerini and **Anthony Mackie**, the show will broadcast live from Nashville on Monday, April 11 from 7-10 p.m. CT. This year's show marks the inaugural broadcast of the awards on CBS, which will be available to stream live and on demand on Paramount+.

Performers, presenters and additional details about the 2022 CMT Music Awards will be announced in the coming weeks. **MR**

Nominees Announced For Seventh Annual AIMP Awards

The Nashville Chapter of the Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP) has announced the nominees for its seventh annual AIMP Awards, which will take place on April 19 from 4 – 6 p.m. CT at The Listening Room Café.

The awards event will open to nominees only, in person, but will be available for livestream at no cost to local members. Access to the livestream will be available for purchase for \$6.00 to non-members and AIMP members in chapters outside of the Nashville community.

This year's categories consist of Rising Songwriter of the Year, Rising Artist-Writer of the Year, Artist-Writer of the Year, Song Champion of the Year, Publisher's Pick of the Year, Song of the Year, Songwriter of the Year and Publisher of the Year.

The most nominated independent publisher this year is **SMACKSongs**, who takes home nine nominations. **Big Machine Music** follows with six, and **Round Hill Music** and **Curb I Word Music Publishing** both have four. **Michael Hardy**, who was just named ACM Songwriter of the Year, leads as most nominated individual with four nominations.

[Click here to view the full list of nominees.](#)

Voting for all AIMP Nashville Chapter members will begin today (March 15) and ballots will close at 5 p.m. CT on March 21. **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Randy Houser Makes Powerful Return



It seems that we salute our music-industry veterans today.

Deborah Allen, Sammy Kershaw and The Beach Boys are here with new sounds. So is Randy Houser, whose comeback wins our Disc of the Day prize.

Texas is well represented, with Ray Wylie Hubbard, Parker McCollum (singing Strait), Charley Crockett and Miranda Lambert all checking in with worthy new projects. That is also the home state of our DISCOVERY Award winner, Catie Offerman.

Happy listening.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Nashville Writers Celebrate Huge Pop Hit, 'abcdefu'](#)

[A Look Inside The New 320,000+ Square Foot Production Campus, Worldwide Stages](#)

[Tyler Dial Rounds Out Team, Releases First Taste Of New Music](#)

[Mary Allen Joins UTA's Nashville Team](#)

[Amazon Music Announces Documentary Following A New Generation Of Black Country Artists](#)

[Sam Grow & Deluge Music Form Growhouse Publishing, Sign Danny Orton As Flagship Writer](#)

[BBR Music Group Hires Marissa Messer, John Carroll & Hillary Borden](#)

[Morgan Wallen Enlists Ronnie Dunn, Jimmie Allen, More For Night One Of Nashville Run](#)

[CMA Fest 2022 To Return Live & In-Person This June](#)

[Jack White Charges Major Labels To Build Their Own Pressing Plants Amid Supply Chain Issues](#)

[Singer-Songwriter Brad Martin Dies At 48](#)

[Music Health Alliance To Host 1st Annual 'Coulda Shoulda Woulda' Benefit](#)

[Brothers Osborne, Brandi Carlile Among First Round Of Grammy Performers](#)

[Hit Country Songwriter Bruce Burch Dies](#)

Mike Whelan Joins Round Hill As Sr. VP / General Manager [Exclusive]



Music publishing veteran **Mike Whelan** has joined Round Hill Music as Sr. VP / General Manager. The news follows publishing executive **Mark Brown**'s exit from the same role.

Whelan brings with him 35 years of publishing experience, including stints with Polygram Music, Acuff-Rose Publishing, Sony/ATV Publishing and Ole Music. He most recently served as Sr. Creative Director at MV2 Entertainment.

Whelan has worked with writers **Bob McDill, Dean Dillon, Tony Martin, Skip Ewing, Casey Beathard, Jordan Davis, Adam Hambrick** and more. As a plugger he has had over 85 BMI and ASCAP award-winning songs—40 of which have topped the charts.

Now at Round Hill, Whelan will work alongside **Bob Squance**, Sr. Director A&R, and **Lindsay Will**, Manager of A&R. The company's roster includes a diverse group of writers, including hitmaker **Jimmy Robbins**.

"Round Hill has been here for 10 years. We've come a long way in a short time. I want to help Round Hill grow and continue the success that they've already had," Whelan tells *MusicRow*. "Get ready for Round Hill 2.0. We've got some incredible plans and some great things coming in the future." **MR**

Producer Noah Gordon Launches 8 Track Entertainment



Grammy award-winning engineer and producer **Noah Gordon** has launched 8 Track Entertainment, a multi-faceted publishing, production and live touring events company. The new venture will also unveil details about a new country label in the coming weeks.

Led by Gordon, initial hirings include **Jeff Goodwin** as Vice President/Marketing and Partnerships; **Bill Harbin** as Vice President/Corporate Partnerships; and **Claire Cook-Taylor** as Vice President/Public Relations/Media.

"It's truly an exciting time to be in Entertainment... feels like the Wild West! 8 Track isn't traditional... we're bringing decades of experience in Corporate Relationships & Partnerships and marrying that to a completely independent music, media, marketing, touring and content driven company," shares Gordon, President of 8 Track Entertainment. "8 Track is rooted in the nostalgia of Muscle Shoals, but we know how to do business in 2022."

The recently launched publishing division, 8 Track Publishing, has already celebrated the company's first No. 1 *Billboard* Hot Country Song with **Aaron Lewis**' "Am I The Only One," co-written by 8 Track songwriter, **Ira Dean**. Dean also penned five songs and co-produced Lewis' No. 1 album *Frayed at Both Ends*, which topped iTunes Country Album chart in January 2022. **MR**

SixForty1 Builds Team: Signs With Morris Higham, WME, More [Exclusive]



Pictured (L-R): Aaron Keiser (Morris Higham Management), Eric Gallimore (Amped Entertainment), Rob Filhart (Toby & Molly Music), Aaron Tannenbaum (WME)

SixForty1 has signed with Morris Higham Management and WME's **Aaron Tannenbaum** for representation.

The pop-country duo comprised of **Austin Gee** and **Brooks Hoffman** have also individually inked respective publishing deals with Amped Entertainment and Toby & Molly Music.

Formed while attending Murray State University in Kentucky, the duo discovered they had immediate songwriting chemistry. After moving to Nashville in 2018, they soon gained attention from some of Nashville's power players, including **Aaron Keiser** at Morris Higham Management and Tannenbaum.

The announcement on their new team follows SixForty1's 2021 EP release, *Started Right Here*, which moved the duo's streaming numbers into the multi-millions. SixForty1 has toured with Brantley Gilbert, Eli Young Band, Michael Ray, Walker Hayes, Niko Moon and Dustin Lynch, and are currently on the road with Tyler Rich on the "Two Thousand (more) Miles Tour." **MR**

Landon Parker Inks With EM.Co & CAA, Shares Plans For New Music

Management firm EM.Co has inked a deal with country singer-songwriter **Landon Parker**. He joins **Tim McGraw**, Bad Ass Records, and more on the company's roster.

Parker signed to Free Dive, McGraw's publishing company in partnership with TriScore Music, in 2021. He continues to build his team with EM.Co and representation from CAA's **Rod Essig**.

The North Carolina native has plans to release two new songs he co-wrote this Friday (March 18). "Good Beer Drinkin,'" penned with **Cody Gregg**, and "Caught Me at a Good Time," written alongside **Blake Chancey** and **Josh Hoge**, were both produced by Chancey.



Pictured (L-R, bottom row): Rachael Jordan (EM.Co), James Stewart (EM.Co), Landon Parker, Scott Siman (EM.Co), Beka Bishop (EM.Co); (L-R, top row): Juli Griffith (TriScore), Kelly Clague (EM.Co), Brian Kaplan (EM.Co), Rod Essig (CAA), Blake Chancey (TriScore / Producer), Jack Purcell (EM.Co)

Later this year, Parker is expected to release an EP via Bad Ass Records, featuring his writing credit on every track with Chancey at the production helm. **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Ashley Gorley	You Didn't Sand In My Boots Beers On Me You Should Probably Leave Slow Down Summer Give Heaven Some Hell Take My Name Steal My Love New Truck	Brett Young Morgan Wallen Dierks Bentley feat. Breland, Hardy Chris Stapleton Thomas Rhett HARDY Parmalee Dan + Shay Dylan Scott
2	2	Shane McAnally	No Hard Feelings Everyone She Knows AA Half Of My Hometown 23 Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Old Dominion Kenny Chesney Walker Hayes Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Sam Hunt Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde
3	3	Michael Hardy	Sand In My Boots Beers On Me Come Back As A Country Boy Give Heaven Some Hell New Truck	Morgan Wallen Dierks Bentley feat. Breland, Hardy Blake Shelton HARDY Dylan Scott
4	4	Eric Church	Heart On Fire	Eric Church
5	5	Jesse Frasure	One Mississippi If I Was A Cowboy Slow Down Summer	Kane Brown Miranda Lambert Thomas Rhett
6	6	Josh Osborne	Everyone She Knows Sand In My Boots 23	Kenny Chesney Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
7	7	Rhett Akins	To Be Loved By You Slow Down Summer	Parker McCollum Thomas Rhett
8	8	Hunter Phelps	Thinking 'Bout You Give Heaven Some Hell Best Thing Since Backroads New Truck	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter HARDY Jake Owen Dylan Scott
9	9	Ben Johnson	Beers On Me Give Heaven Some Hell Take My Name Best Thing Since Backroads New Truck	Dierks Bentley feat. Breland, Hardy HARDY Parmalee Jake Owen Dylan Scott
10	10	Ernest Keith Smith	One Mississippi Flower Shops Wasted On You	Kane Brown Ernest ft. Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
11	11	Matt Rogers	Til You Can't	Cody Johnson
12	12	Ben Stennis	Til You Can't	Cody Johnson
13	13	Parker McCollum	To Be Loved By You	Parker McCollum
14	14	Elle King	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
15	15	Martin Johnson	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
16	16	Ross Copperman	Everyone She Knows Beers On Me Half Of My Hometown Pick Me Up	Kenny Chesney Dierks Bentley feat. Breland, Hardy Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Gabby Barrett
17	17	Walker Hayes	Fancy Like AA U Gurl	Walker Hayes Walker Hayes Walker Hayes
18	21	Jimmy Robbins	You Didn't Half Of My Hometown Circles Around This Town	Brett Young Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Maren Morris
19	23	Miranda Lambert	If I Was A Cowboy	Miranda Lambert
20	22	Andy Albert	Thinking 'Bout You Steal My Love	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter Dan + Shay

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
21	26	Josh Thompson	Wasted On You Come Back As A Country Boy	Morgan Wallen Blake Shelton
22	24	Chase McGill	With A Woman You Love Never Say Never	Justin Moore Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson
23	30	Luke Combs	Out In The Middle Doin' This	Zac Brown Band Luke Combs
24	25	Russell Dickerson	Home Sweet She Likes It	Russell Dickerson Russell Dickerson Feat. Jake Scott
25	27	Jessi Alexander	Sunrise Tells The Story Never Say Never	Midland Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson
26	28	Drew Parker	Doin' This	Luke Combs
27	29	Robert Williford	Doin' This	Luke Combs
28	31	Nicolle Galyon	Beers On Me Half Of My Hometown	Dierks Bentley feat. Breland, Hardy Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney
29	33	Cole Swindell	Never Say Never	Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson
30	36	Josh Jenkins	Buy Dirt Fancy Like	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan Walker Hayes
31	32	Taylor Swift	All Too Well I Bet You Think About Me	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift ft. Chris Stapleton
32	37	Ashley McBryde	Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde
33	38	Carly Pearce	Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde
34		Zachary Lane Bryan	From Austin	Zach Bryan
35	18	John Morgan	If I Didn't Love You Trouble With A Heartbreak	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood Jason Aldean
36	19	Kurt Allison	If I Didn't Love You Trouble With A Heartbreak	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood Jason Aldean
37	20	Tully Kennedy	If I Didn't Love You Trouble With A Heartbreak	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood Jason Aldean
38	43	Charles Kelley	Home Sweet	Russell Dickerson
39	44	Casey Brown	Home Sweet	Russell Dickerson
40	39	Dustin Lynch	Thinking 'Bout You	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
41	40	Will Weatherly	Thinking 'Bout You	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
42	34	Kane Brown	One Mississippi	Kane Brown
43	35	Levon Gray	One Mississippi	Kane Brown
44	41	Luke Laird	AA	Walker Hayes
45	48	J. Collins	Damn Strait	Scotty McCreery
46	49	Trent Tomlinson	Damn Strait	Scotty McCreery
47	45	Jordan M. Schmidt	Come Back As A Country Boy	Blake Shelton
48	46	Chris LaCorte	23	Sam Hunt
49	47	Sam Hunt	23	Sam Hunt
50	52	Taylor Phillips	Country'd Look Good On You Up	Frank Ray Luke Bryan
51	50	Mark Holman	Flower Shops	Ernest ft. Morgan Wallen
52	51	Ben Burgess	Flower Shops	Ernest ft. Morgan Wallen
53	53	Kelsea Ballerini	Half Of My Hometown	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney
54	56	Matt McGinn	Party Mode 7500 OBO	Dustin Lynch Tim McGraw
55	54	Chris Stapleton	You Should Probably Leave Cold	Chris Stapleton Chris Stapleton
56	57	Ryan Hurd	Circles Around This Town	Maren Morris
57	58	Maren Morris	Circles Around This Town	Maren Morris
58	59	Julia Michaels	Circles Around This Town	Maren Morris
59	62	Mitchell Tenpenny	At The End Of A Bar Truth About You	Chris Young & Mitchell Tenpenny Mitchell Tenpenny
60	67	Jeremy Bussey	Up	Luke Bryan

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

March 18

Jessica Willis Fisher/*Brand New Day*

Brady Lee feat. Gracie Carol/*On The Line*/Sincerely Music Group

March 21

Ray Fulcher/*Anything Like You Dance*/Black River Records

Jared Blake/*Orange Keychain*/Nashville Cartel

Alex Miller/*Through With You*/Billy Jam Records

Album/EP Releases

March 18

Randall King/*Shot Glass*/Warner Music Nashville

Ray Wylie Hubbard/*Co-Starring Too*/Big Machine Records

Hailey Whitters/*Raised*/Pegasus Records/Songs & Daughters/Big Loud Records

Donovan Woods/*Big Hurt Boy EP*/End Times Music

Deborah Allen/*The Art of Dreaming*/BFD/Audium Nashville

March 25

Reba McEntire/*My Chains Are Gone*/MCA Nashville

Maren Morris/*Humble Quest*/Columbia Nashville

Kristian Bush/*52 – ATL X BNA*/Big Machine Records

Erin Kinsey/*40 East*/Records Nashville

Walker Montgomery/*Rust*/Play It Again Entertainment

Industry Events

March 29 – April 2

Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival

April 3

Grammy Awards

April 11

CMT Music Awards