

Patty Loveless, Tanya Tucker, Bob McDill To Be Inducted Into Country Music Hall Of Fame



The Country Music Association announced that **Bob McDill**, **Patty Loveless** and **Tanya Tucker** will join the Country Music Hall of Fame.

McDill will be inducted in the Songwriter category, which is awarded every third year in rotation with Recording and/or Touring Musician and Non-Performer categories. Loveless will be inducted in the Modern Era Artist category and Tucker will be inducted in the Veterans Era Artist category.

"I am thrilled and honored to be included," says McDill.

"I'm still trying to believe that I'm going to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame," says Loveless. "I just feel so incredibly privileged to be invited into this incredible family. Having my name included in the museum's Rotunda with so many legendary artists, musicians, songwriters and industry icons is such an honor!"

"I'm more than proud to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame," says Tucker. "It was wonderful to have all three of my kids beside me when I got the news. The only way it could've been any better is if my parents Beau and Juanita Tucker could have been there too. They are the reason and the root of all my success in music. And the fans – they are everything! When I walk in that Hall they will all be with me."

A formal induction ceremony for McDill, Loveless and Tucker will take place at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in the CMA Theater this fall.

[Click here to read more about each inductee.](#) **MR**

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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My Music Row Story: Activist Artists Management's Matt Maher



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



As a Founding Partner at Activist, **Matt Maher** oversees the careers of **The Lumineers**, **Bobby Weir**, **Young The Giant**, **Dwight Yoakam**, **Brittney Spencer**, **Michael Franti & Spearhead**, **Empire of the Sun** and **Felicity**, as well as **Dead & Company** alongside **Irving Azoff** and **Steve Moir**. Maher helped

The Lumineers grow into a stadium act, and they were the most played artist at Triple A radio in 2022. Among his other achievements are Yoakam earning the BMI President's Award and induction into the Nashville Songwriters' Hall of Fame. Prior to Activist, Maher was a partner at Roar Management where he spent a decade overseeing the skyrocketing career of **Zac Brown Band**.

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MusicRow: Where did you grow up? What was your childhood like?

I grew up in Old Tappan, New Jersey—in the far northeast corner of the state, about 15 miles from New York City. It was an amazing place to grow up. Even though we were so close to one of the biggest cities in the world, my town was about two and a half miles wide. It had 4,000 people and no stoplights. There were three farms in the town when I was a kid, and almost everybody walked or rode their bikes to school. It was pretty idyllic—very small town vibe back then.

When did you become interested in music?

I was surrounded by music since I was really young. My father sang all the time, he had a beautiful voice. He would sing and whistle joyfully every morning while he was getting ready for work and listening to the standards on his favorite AM radio station: **Frank Sinatra**, **Bing Crosby**, **Rosemary Clooney** and more. I was also the youngest of 5 kids and had the benefit of my older siblings' record collections with all different genres like country, rock, etc. I started playing guitar when I was a kid, but not very well. When I was about 12 years old, my best friend and I charged the neighborhood kids a quarter to see us play about two and a half songs in my backyard. I strummed an out-of-tune, cheap classical guitar and he played the trumpet—a great combo!

In college, I started writing songs and playing fraternity parties with a buddy of mine. After college, we moved to Nashville, made and sold our own CDs, and toured the country as an acoustic duo that eventually morphed into an

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indie rock band along with another friend from college. **Leslie Fram**—of CMT—was the PD at 99X in Atlanta at the time, and she put one of our songs in heavy rotation. We ended up signing a record deal with Capitol Records in LA and an EMI publishing deal. That was in the mid-to-late '90s. We never actually put out an album on Capitol, but we spent a lot of the label's money and learned a ton.

How did you get into the music business?

When I signed to Capitol, I was also working at Calypso Cafe on Thompson Lane along with a bunch of other Nashville musicians. My girlfriend at the time, who is now my wife, wisely suggested that I take a job working for a young lawyer who had just started an entertainment practice in Nashville. She said I needed a fallback plan. Truly, it was one of the most fortunate things to ever happen to me, as that's how I started working with my current business partner, **Bernie Cahill**. It was his law practice and it grew quickly over the next three years. Bernie essentially taught me how to read and mark up contracts, and how to be a paralegal. I learned so much about the actual business of music. Most importantly, I discovered that I really loved helping other creatives with their careers—which was super fulfilling. So, we talked about getting into management. Bernie started a management company with our current partner, **Greg Suess**, and a couple of other guys in LA, and I was the very first employee. I went from artist to manager overnight, and eventually, I became a partner.



Pictured (L-R): Matt Maher, Simone Felice, The Lumineers' Jeremiah Fraites, David Baron, The Lumineers' Wesley Schultz, Anna Kolander, Bernie Cahill

You eventually started managing the Zac Brown Band. Tell me about that.

It was amazing. Great artist, great band. When we started working with Zac and the band, they were playing for door deals in clubs and in a few short years, we helped **Zac Brown Band** go from clubs to stadiums. What an incredible journey!

What is one of your favorite memories from that time?

Zac and the band were playing a special Veterans Day broadcast for HBO. They were asked to play "Fortunate Son" with **Dave Grohl** and **Bruce Springsteen**. I'll never forget, after the band and Dave had sound-checked, we were all standing on the stage just talking. Then Springsteen, who was and is my hero from growing up in New Jersey, glided up onto the stage with some serious purpose, his guitar strapped on and ready to go. He went straight over to Zac and Dave and wham! He just dug in on his telecaster. No words, just boom—right into the song. The band followed Springsteen's lead and kicked into gear with Zac, Dave and Bruce standing in a triangle in the center of the stage all jamming on their guitars with big smiles on their faces. [Us managers] quickly tried to step aside because the music was just happening! It was such a moment, feeling the power and joy of these sick artists playing together for the first time.

How did Activist come about?

Prior to starting Activist, we were already managing the **Grateful Dead** and **Michael Franti**, who are such amazing activists—it's just in their DNA. When we felt it was time to make a change from our business at that time, we really wanted to create a culture and a company that incorporated that same purpose of social responsibility, and Activist Artists Management was born. As we all know, music can be such a powerful force for good and a unique catalyst for change. Frankly, just calling ourselves "Activist" has helped to create more opportunities for our clients to give back and I think helped to spark additional ideas or actions for our clients to do good through their art. It has to be the right fit and it's always up to the client to decide what feels right, but we try to bring them the possibility. For instance, we aim to eliminate more greenhouse gas pollution than we create, and we've turned that knowledge into action for hundreds of tour dates for our clients. And, we're happy to share what we've learned in this regard with anyone else in the industry, we're open source with this information.

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Fires Don't Start Themselves/Darius Rucker/Capitol - 59
Dents On A Chevy/Ty Herndon, Terri Clark/Pivotal Records - 67
Creek Will Rise/Conner Smith/Valory - 69

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Fires Don't Start Themselves/Darius Rucker/Capitol - 213
Last Night/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 202
One Thing At A Time/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud Records - 154
Dancin' In The Country/Tyler Hubbard/EMI Nashville - 132
Tennessee Orange/Megan Moroney/Arista Nashville/Columbia Records - 119

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Fires Don't Start Themselves/Darius Rucker/Capitol - 15
Creek Will Rise/Conner Smith/Valory - 11
Last Night/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 7
Bury Me In Georgia/Kane Brown/RCA Nashville - 6
3 Tequila Floor/Josiah Siska/Black River - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Be The One/Josh Kinney/Birmingham Entertainment - 94
Every Town's Got One/Ty Gregory - 94
That's Why/Troy Cartwright - 91
Be Alright/Jimmie Allen/Stoney Creek Records - 90
Shoot Tequila/Tigirlily Gold/Monument Records - 86

NO. 1 SONG



Tyler Hubbard's "Dancin' In The Country" jumps two positions to the pinnacle of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart.

The tune was co-written by Hubbard with **Keith Urban**, **Jon Nite** and **Ross Copperman**. It appears on his debut self-titled album, which was released on EMI Records Nashville earlier this year. "Dancin' In The Country" marks Hubbard's second solo single to reach No. 1 on the *MusicRow* chart.

Hubbard spoke to *MusicRow* last year about the journey to becoming a solo artist after his massive success as part of **Florida Georgia Line**. [Click here to read his interview.](#)



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	KKMV Rupert, ID	WTCM Traverse City, MI	KITX Hugo, OK	WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
WXFL Florence, AL	WOOZ Carterville, IL	KYSM Mankato, MN	KWEY Weatherford, OK	KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
KQUS Hot Springs, AR	WAAG Galesburg, IL	KZPK St. Cloud, MN	KWOX Woodward, OK	KYKX Longview, TX
KDXY Jonesboro, AR	WMCI Mattoon, IL	KFAV Warrenton, MO	KRKT Albany, OR	KLLL Lubbock, TX
KBOD Mountain Home, AR	WYOT Rochelle, IL	WBBN Laurel, MS	KRWQ Medford, OR	KXOX Sweetwater, TX
KWCK Searcy, AR	WRTB Rockford, IL	WFAY Fayetteville, NC	WVNW Lewistown, PA	WAKG Danville, VA
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA	WIFE Connersville, IN	KZZY Devils Lake, ND	WNBT Mansfield, PA	WAXX Altoona, WI
WCTY Norwich, CT	KAIR Atchison, KS	KYCK Thompson, ND	WCFT Selinsgrove, PA	WJVL Janesville, WI
WUBB Savannah, GA	KQZQ Pratt, KS	KRVN Lexington, NE	KMOM Aberdeen, SD	WGLR Platteville, WI
KXIA Marshalltown, IA	WKDZ Cadiz, KY	KFGE Lincoln, NE	KZZI Spearfish, SD	WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
KIAI Mason City, IA	WDHR Pikeville, KY	KQBA Santa Fe, NM	WUCZ Carthage, TN	WCOW Sparta, WI
KBOE Oskaloosa, IA	KRRV Alexandria, LA	WDNB Monticello, NY	WDKN Dickson, TN	WDGG Huntington, WV
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID	WKPE Hyannis, MA	WCJW Warsaw, NY	KBRX O'Neill, NE	

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
16	3	1	Dancin' In The Country / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	1715/59	8	132
31	2	2	Wild As Her / Corey Kent / Combustion Music/RCA Records	1533/46	-9	-159
28	1	3	It Matters To Her / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	1522/52	-13	-227
45	6	4	Human / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1509/53	6	87
26	5	5	How It Oughta Be / Shane Profitt / BMLG	1493/56	3	38
13	7	6	Memory Lane / Old Dominion / Arista Nashville	1449/59	7	92
37	4	7	Brown Eyes Baby / Keith Urban / Capitol	1437/55	-6	-91
14	10	8	Tennessee Orange / Megan Moroney / Megan Moroney	1383/58	9	119
39	8	9	Everything She Ain't / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/S&D/Big Loud	1366/59	1	20
6	12	10	One Thing At A Time / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records	1299/58	13	154
39	9	11	Water Under The Bridge / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	1228/46	-3	-38
34	11	12	You / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1216/44	6	65
11	15	13	Angels / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1212/60	10	107
25	13	14	Your Heart Or Mine / Jon Pardi / Capitol	1174/55	4	48
10	16	15	Drinkaby / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1115/56	3	32
23	17	16	You, Me, & Whiskey / Justin Moore & Priscilla Block / Valory	1097/55	9	89
21	14	17	Hate My Heart / Carrie Underwood / Capitol	1083/46	-3	-29
27	18	18	Up There Down Here / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	911/46	-2	-16
29	19	19	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	899/52	5	46
19	20	20	Heaven By Then / Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shelton feat. Vince Gill / Valory	863/46	4	37
26	22	21	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	825/40	3	25
8	25	22	Next Thing You Know / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	812/43	15	106
68	21	23	You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG	795/29	-2	-18
11	24	24	Need A Favor / Jelly Roll / Stoney Creek Records	771/43	7	52
4	26	25	Standing Room Only / Tim McGraw / Big Machine Records	768/47	9	64
60	23	26	Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	730/33	-1	-11
11	28	27	Looking For You / Chris Young / RCA Nashville	718/45	8	53
5	34	28	Last Night / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	668/32	43	202
36	27	29	Something In The Orange / Zach Bryan / Belting Bronco/Warner Records	645/34	-4	-30
15	30	30	If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	642/38	7	44
14	29	31	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	611/42	-3	-20
6	32	32	Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville	572/38	17	83
7	35	33	Only Need One / Ned LeDoux / Powder River/Thirty Tigers	515/34	12	56
8	39	34	All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records	496/31	19	80
29	31	35	Country Can / Hannah Ellis / Curb	494/29	0	2
12	36	36	Going Going / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	477/31	4	18
14	33	37	Jealous Of Myself / Tenille Arts / Dreamcatcher Artists	473/34	1	4
13	38	38	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	436/29	-1	-4
25	37	39	Sounds Like Something I'd Do / Drake Milligan / Stoney Creek Records	436/28	-4	-19

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
14	41	40	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	428/26	3	14
13	40	41	Marlboros & Avon / McBride & The Ride / TMC Records/InGrooves	419/29	1	3
30	42	42	If He Wanted To He Would / Kylie Morgan / EMI Records Nashville	401/26	-2	-8
5	43	43	Save The Roses / Lee Brice / Curb	393/27	6	23
12	44	44	Missin' You / Cam Allen / Goat Music Group	373/27	5	19
6	49	45	3 Tequila Floor / Josiah Siska / Black River	358/30	22	65
13	45	46	Beer Needs Drinkin' / Reed Foley / Studios Magnetic	353/26	0	0
9	46	47	Revival / Shenandoah / 8 Track Entertainment/Fame Records	348/26	2	7
4	48	48	Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	346/27	12	38
14	47	49	Fast Car / Randy Rogers Band / Thirty Tigers	341/27	7	21
8	51	50	Honky Tonk Roll / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	340/22	17	49
3	61	51	Bury Me In Georgia / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	308/22	59	114
8	52	52	Why God Made Small Towns / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records	308/24	13	36
34	50	53	Worth A Shot / Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley / RCA Records/Columbia Nashville	276/18	-5	-16
11	55	54	Marry That Girl / Easton Corbin / Stone Country Records	260/18	5	12
14	56	55	Back Road / Chase Mitchell / CHYP	246/17	0	-1
13	63	56	God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	235/16	28	52
19	58	57	Excuses / Kolby Cooper / Wheelhouse Records	234/17	-1	-2
5	57	58	The Longer I Live / Aaron Goodvin & Ryan Kinder / Reviver Records/Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada	233/20	-2	-4
1	0	59	Fires Don't Start Themselves / Darius Rucker / Capitol	213/15	0	213
8	60	60	New Old Outlaws / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music	207/15	4	8
68	59	61	Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House	195/15	-13	-29
6	62	62	Let's Take Tonight / Corey Layne / Corey Layne	189/15	1	1
6	66	63	Mattress On The Floor / Mo Pitney / Curb Records	173/13	15	23
6	65	64	A Special Place / Danielle Bradbery / Big Machine Records	171/13	13	19
6	68	65	Not In This Heartbreak / Morgan White / NashTown Entertainment	154/9	7	10
9	67	66	I Miss America / Colton James / RedSunset Entertainment	152/10	2	3
1	82	67	Dents On A Chevy / Ty Herndon, Terri Clark / Pivotal Records	141/11	68	57
10	70	68	Just Me / Gillian Smith / Gillian Smith Records	139/10	10	13
1	98	69	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	136/16	127	92
3	72	70	Shelter / Rusty Steel / Tower Music Group	127/8	2	3
6	71	71	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	126/10	0	0
6	73	72	Sunday Chapel / Dave Herrera / Brokerade, Inc	124/9	5	6
2	75	73	Your Hands / Katie Linendoll / Duncan Music Group	122/7	17	18
2	77	74	Somebody Else's Whiskey / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	118/8	17	17
2	76	75	Little Bit Of You / Brooke Moriber / Reviver Records	114/9	12	12
17	64	76	When God Made The South / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	111/9	-39	-71
16	69	77	Hour on the Hour / Mike and the Moonpies / Prairie Rose Records	110/8	-15	-20
2	80	78	I Ain't Done Singin' Yet / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	107/7	15	14
2	79	79	Young Again / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville	104/9	8	8
3	78	80	If Country Was A Town / Rob Fitzgerald / Riverbend Recordings	104/6	4	4

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Pictured (L-R): Matt Maher, Brittney Spencer, Caitlin Stone Jasper

What is your favorite part about working with artists at Activist?

There are so many favorite parts. I'm so proud to represent our clients who create amazing art and are true leaders in this world. I'm fortunate to have extraordinary business partners, and incredible partners throughout the industry. As I get older, I really treasure seeing our younger employees grow personally and professionally. I have a lot to be thankful for. I could go on and on, but for instance, I watched **The Lumineers** sell out Wrigley for the first time this year, **Dwight Yoakam** gives me musical history lessons on a regular basis, **Bobby Weir** texts me about guitar pedals, and I'm watching **Brittney Spencer** quietly and bravely knock down walls day after day. I'm pretty lucky

Who have been some of your mentors?

I don't have one primary mentor. I've had a lot of people along the way, including my business partner, Bernie Cahill. He taught me a lot about business, and I taught him about the creative. I consider all of my partners at Activist to be mentors in one way or another. Everyone has their own skills and areas where they excel. Bernie and Greg Suess, who are my Activist co-founders and then our partners, as well as **Liz Norris**, **Kris Tanner** and **Caitlin Stone**—I seek their counsel and learn from each of them all the time. We help each other to be better.

I'd probably say that my father was one of my biggest mentors. I didn't actually learn this story until after he passed away, but it's now one of my favorites that speaks to his character. When I was playing little league baseball, my dad was my coach. And every year, there was a draft where all the coaches would get together and select their teams. Apparently, at the draft, my father would declare, "just give me everybody that you guys don't want." So my team was filled with all the misfit kids, the kids who were labeled "hyper," who got into fights, who got into trouble or desperately wanted attention. Looking back, we were definitely the Bad News Bears, but we made the playoffs! Remembering how competitive some of the other parent-coaches were, it still makes me proud to know that my dad quietly made that choice.

What's the best advice you've ever received?

Early on in my management career, I asked my brother-in-law for his best piece of business advice. He was the CEO of Ritz Camera at the time. He said to me, "Opportunity is around you every day. Most people just don't open their eyes—look around." I was in the car on the way to the office, and after I hung up, I stopped at Starbucks. Starbucks had launched their music compilations, so I looked at the CD at the counter and decided to buy one. At the time, we were managing **The Bees**, a band that was fronted by **Daniel Tashian** before he became a producer. I found the name of somebody at Starbucks on the back of the package, tracked them down and got a Bees song added to a Starbucks compilation. Such a great lesson that I still follow to this day.

What does success mean to you?

Success is trust—knowing that I've earned the trust of the people in my life. Success is the trust that your family puts in you that you're going to provide and be there for them. Success is the trust afforded by the incredible artists that give us the opportunity to share in their careers, and the trust that your partners and your team have in you. My partners at Activist are amazing, our team is amazing, and we get to work with A-plus agents, business managers, labels, publishers, publicists and touring crews. If you work hard and earn the trust of the people around you, the business will come. You also have to trust yourself that you are up for the job. That feels like a pretty good way to measure success. **MR**

Cindy Mabe Officially Begins Reign As Chair & CEO Of UMG Nashville



On April 1, **Cindy Mabe** officially started her role as Chair & CEO of Universal Music Group Nashville. She steps into the position **Mike Dungan** held for more than a decade until he retired at the end of March.

On her first day as Chair & CEO, Mabe sent a memo to her UMG Nashville team, outlining her vision for the future of the company. In the memo obtained by *MusicRow*, Mabe laid out four of her goals: continuing to sign outstanding country music artists, dramatically expanding partnerships with independent labels and entrepreneurs, broadening UMG Nashville's scope to include film and TV and collaborating closely with label colleagues around the world. Mabe's full memo is below.

She is one of Music Row's most esteemed executives. Mabe became Nashville's highest-ranking woman label executive in 2014 when she was appointed as UMG Nashville President, and she makes history again by becoming the first woman to serve as Chair & CEO of a Nashville-based major label group.

[Click here to read Mabe's memo to UMG Nashville.](#) **MR**

Warner Music Nashville Taps Anna Pittman As VP, Artist Development



Warner Music Nashville has announced the hiring of **Anna Pittman**, who joins as VP, Artist Development. Beginning April 3, Pittman reports to EVP, Artist Development **Shane Tarleton**.

Pittman is a graduate of Belmont University's Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business. She started her career at Q Prime Management in New York, where she worked for more than 13 years.

"I'm thrilled to be joining the incredible Warner Music Nashville team," shares Pittman. "Every single person in this building shares a commitment to authentic storytelling and I'm honored to have the opportunity to work alongside each of them as champions for our diverse and extremely talented artist roster."

Tarleton shares, "Along with her extensive experience, Anna brings passion and excellence to our already brilliant Artist Development team!" **MR**

Royce Risser, Brian Wright & Stephanie Wright Exit UMG Nashville



Royce Risser, Brian Wright and Stephanie Wright

Royce Risser, Brian Wright and Stephanie Wright have exited UMG Nashville, *MusicRow* has confirmed.

Risser most recently served as Exec. VP of Promotion, overseeing all promotion efforts in the UMG Nashville four-imprint structure consisting of Capitol Records Nashville, EMI Records Nashville, MCA Nashville and Mercury Nashville. He first joined the company in 1992 with MCA Nashville.

Brian Wright joined the label group more than 22 years ago, and most recently held the title of Exec. VP of A&R. He oversaw A&R initiatives for Capitol Records Nashville, EMI Records Nashville, Mercury Nashville and MCA Nashville.

Stephanie Wright held the position of Sr. VP of A&R. With the company for 20 years, she was an integral part of UMG Nashville's A&R department, aiding initiatives for all four imprints.

The news comes days after **Cindy Mabe** officially started her role as Chair & CEO of UMG Nashville.
MR

Show Dog Nashville Disbands Promotion Department



Show Dog Nashville, the label home to **Toby Keith, Clay Walker, Krystal Keith** and **Kimberly Kelly**, has disbanded their promotion staff, *MusicRow* has confirmed. The news was first shared by *Country Aircheck* on Friday (March 31).

The eliminated promotion team members include: SVP, Promotion **Rick Moxley**; VP, Promotion **Teddi Bonadies**; Dir., Southwest Regional Promotion **Greg Sax**; Dir., Promotion & Streaming **Blake Nixon**; Dir., Midwest-Northeast Regional Promotion **JC Coffey**; Dir., West Coast Promotion **Pat Surnegie**; and Assistant **Laurie Gore**.

Show Dog was launched in 2005 by Toby Keith and manager **T.K. Kimbrell**. The company remains a stand-alone label distributed by Thirty Tigers. **MR**

Rachel Fontenot & Katie Dean Announce New Independent Label, Leo33



Pictured (L-R): Daniel Lee, Natalie Osborne, Katie Dean and Rachel Fontenot. Photo: Robby Klein

Industry veterans **Rachel Fontenot** and **Katie Dean** have announced the launch of Leo33, an independent record label based in Nashville.

With Fontenot (Marketing and Operations) co-leading with Dean (Promotion and Artist Development), the label's initial core team also includes **Daniel Lee** (A&R) and **Natalie Osborne** (A&R).

The company is named after the constellation, and embodies characteristics of the lion and lioness: courage, confidence and cooperation and nods to the iconic LP's RPM, a music enthusiast's nostalgic yet contemporary format for experiencing music. The company aims to position creativity front-and-center at every stage of the experience as a Leo33 artist, from the initial deal through music creation, marketing, streaming, promotion and distribution.

"As the industry evolves, so does the role of the label," says Dean.

"We're trying to build a model for the future—an entrepreneurial approach that combines the resources of a major with the agility and focus of an independent."

"The members of this team have experienced so many different facets of this industry—each has a unique perspective and passion," notes Fontenot, highlighting that the core team's backgrounds include decades at major record labels and publishing companies.

Dean most recently spent nearly 18 years at Universal Music Group, the last seven at the helm of the MCA Nashville imprint. She has had a hand in the careers of artists including **Sam Hunt, George Strait, Kacey Musgraves, Vince Gill, Jordan Davis, Parker McCollum, Chris Stapleton, Keith Urban** and more. Prior to UMG, Dean spent time at the Country Music Association, Disney's Lyric Street Records, Music.com, AristoMedia and Mediabase.

Fontenot began her career with BMG Nashville—later Sony Music Nashville— where she held several roles within the company including production, sales, artist development and international. She eventually serving as Director of Marketing & Artist Development at Sony. Fontenot launched her own artist consulting firm in 2017, with a focus on marketing strategy and artist development. She most recently served as VP of Marketing & Artist Development at UMG Nashville. Throughout her career Fontenot has been involved in major projects by artists including **Carrie Underwood, Kenny Chesney, Sara Evans, Martina McBride, Maren Morris, Eric Church, Vince Gill, Reba McEntire, Jon Pardi** and more.

Lee has served as Creative Director for independent publisher Ten Ten Music Group, as VP of Creative for global music entity BMG, in A&R at Warner Records LA and as President of Altadena, an independent label and publishing venture he founded with late hit songwriter and producer **Busbee**. Lee was instrumental in the career of **Carly Pearce**, while also working closely with multi-award winning songwriter **Hillary Lindsey** and Busbee as he became an in-demand producer for artists such as Morris, **Keith Urban** and **Gwen Stefani**.

Osborne, formerly of Downtown Music Publishing, served as Senior Creative Director after beginning as their first intern and quickly working her way up, playing a crucial role in building the company's office, culture and team. Under her guidance, Downtown signed successful and emerging songwriters such as **Madi Diaz, Alex Hall, Fancy Hagood, Sarah Buxton, Lucie Silvas, The Brummies** and **Yola**. She also worked with influential songwriters such as **Kendell Marvel, Kelly Archer, Marc Beeson** and **Big Al Anderson**. *MR*

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Tanya Tucker 'Exudes Enduring Charisma'



Superstars and baby acts mix and mingle in today's Disclaimer.

Clocking in with star power are Darius Rucker, Cole Swindell, Jimmie Allen and Chris Janson. Outshining them all is country queen Tanya Tucker, who has the Disc of the Day.

Two newcomers are sharing the DisCOVERY Award. First, lend your ears to Curb's American Idol alumnus Harper Grace and her superbly produced debut single. And for something completely different, check out the airy, wafting, folkie, Afro-pop delight of Peter One. Both are well worth your attention.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[AIMP Honors The Spirit Of Independent Publishing At Annual Nashville Awards](#)

[Shane McAnally, Brandy Clark-Penned Musical 'Shucked' Opens On Broadway](#)

[Warner Chappell Inks Global Publishing Deal With Austin Shawn](#)

[Tenille Arts Inks With Tonight We Make History Publishing](#)

[Nathan Wilson Signs With Round Hill Music](#)

[Matt Schuster Signs With Universal Music Publishing Group](#)

[ONErpm Signs William Michael Morgan](#)

[The Other Nashville Society Names Inaugural 'TONS NEXT' Class Of Artists](#)

[Heartland To Return With New Album](#)

[Kane Brown Illuminates Bridgestone During 'Drunk Or Dreaming Tour'](#)

[Weekly Register: Luke Combs Earns Top Country Album Debut](#)

[Lainey Wilson Brings Her 'Heart Like A Truck' To No. 1 On Country Radio](#)

['Breland & Friends' Oasis Center Benefit Features Bevy Of Stars](#)

[Becca Walls Exits Big Machine Label Group](#)

[Brent Mason To Be Featured In CMHOF's Nashville Cats Series](#)

[Nashville Creators To Gather For 'A Night Of Joy' Honoring The Covenant School](#)

[Song Suffragettes Honor Natalie Hemby During 9th Anniversary Celebration](#)

[BMI Celebrates Gospel Music Trailblazers](#)

Tiffany Kerns Earns Sr. VP Stripes At CMA, Among Three Other Promotions



Pictured (clockwise): Michael Farris, Tiffany Kerns, Catharine McNelly and Ben Balch

The Country Music Association has announced the promotions of four staff members, including **Tiffany Kerns**, who has risen to Senior Vice President of Industry Relations & Philanthropy.

Additionally, **Catharine McNelly** has been elevated to Vice President of Communications, **Ben Balch** rises to Senior Director of Accounting & Financial Planning and **Michael Farris** has been promoted to Senior Director of Business Strategy & Insights.

“Tiffany, Catharine, Ben and Michael are all key strategic and forward-thinking leaders across a variety of teams at CMA,” says **Sarah Trahern**, CMA CEO. “They each display unwavering commitment to CMA’s mission while continuing to innovate and create solutions-based strategies in their respective fields.”

Kerns joined CMA in 2013 after spending time at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In her new role, she will continue overseeing the strategic direction and management of CMA Membership including operations, programming, events and the organization’s newly launched membership structure. Kerns will also continue shepherding Board of Directors activity and key CMA pipeline programs including CMA’s Women’s Leadership Academy, CMA’s collegiate programs (including CMA EDU and CMA’s Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship). Furthermore, she will continue leading CMA’s community building and outreach efforts, ensuring the development of key partners that elevate CMA’s message and drive support of the country music industry overall.

In addition to her executive role with Membership and Industry Relations, Kerns leads CMA’s philanthropic arm, the CMA Foundation, as Executive Director and reports to Trahern.

With her promotion, McNelly takes on a greater strategic role with communications and talent relations efforts across all of CMA’s events, programs and initiatives. She joined CMA in 2017 and oversees PR and media activity for CMA membership and organizational initiatives, as well as CMA television properties—the CMA Awards, CMA Fest and CMA Country Christmas—corporate/executive profiles and talent outreach. In addition to these efforts, McNelly also leads communication planning and media support for the CMA Foundation. McNelly reports to Senior Vice President, Marketing, Content & Communications Strategy, **Kelly Striewski**.

Balch, who joined CMA in 2013, will continue to oversee reporting and financial standing for both CMA and the CMA Foundation in his new role as Senior Director, Accounting & Financial Planning. Balch also manages the annual budget process and periodic forecasts, as well as coordination of the annual audit team with outside auditors. He performs the monthly General Ledger closing processes, reviewing and reconciling as well as the monthly closing processes for Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable. Balch reports to Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration, **Amy Smartt**.

In his elevated position, Farris will further lead the Ticketing, Data Architecture and Insights teams. Responsible for ticket offerings, pricing, platform partners, sales strategies, ticket operations and the development of premium offerings, he serves as the lead ticketing strategist for all of CMA’s events. He will also continue to lead the creation and buildout of CMA’s data warehouse and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform as well as develop strategies for data sources, reporting and resources that support the growth and health of the country music industry worldwide. Farris reports to Vice President, Business Strategy & Operations, **Emily Evans. MR**

Kimberly Perry Inks Solo Deal With Records Nashville; Publishing Deal With Warner Chappell & Songs & Daughters

Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, and **The Band Perry** co-founder, **Kimberly Perry**, has signed a solo deal with Records Nashville/Columbia Records.

Perry co-founded The Band Perry with her brothers, achieving success with the Platinum-certified albums *The Band Perry* (2010) and Gold-selling *Pioneer* (2013), which catapulted to No. 2 on the *Billboard* 200 and No. 1 on the Top Country Albums Chart.

The group served up massive anthems such as the 7x-platinum Hot 100 hit “If I Die Young,” double-Platinum “Better Dig Two,” Platinum “You Lie,” “All Your Life” and “Done,” and Gold “Postcard From Paris” and “Don’t Let Me Be Lonely.” In 2015, they won a Grammy for Best Country Duo/Group Performance for “Gentle On My Mind.”

“We’re so excited at Records Nashville to welcome Kimberly Perry as a solo artist with her return to country music,” says Records Founder and C.E.O. **Barry Weiss**.

“From the moment I met the team at Records, their appreciation for my journey and my vision for the future as a solo artist has been overwhelming,” shares Perry. “Everything came together so organically, and it felt right from the very start. I have wanted to live in Nashville since I was eight-years-old, but I only recently got to officially plant roots here. Being in this town of amazing, creative people for the past year brought me full circle to my original passions – country music and sharing meaningful stories. I am so lucky to have found such a wonderful and welcoming community here, and I feel equally lucky to have found the perfect partner in Records to get my new music out to the fans.”

Days after announcing her record deal, Perry announced she had also signed a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music and Songs & Daughters Publishing.

Perry shares, “Since officially moving to Nashville in late 2021, Warner Chappell and Songs & Daughters have been instrumental in reconnecting me with so many of the amazing songwriters here in town. I have had such a wonderful time writing with old and new friends alike. **Ben [Vaughn]** and **Nicolle [Galyon]** have been such great collaborators and supporters, so I’m beyond thrilled to officially partner with them on this exciting next chapter of my career.”

As a songwriter, Perry’s crossover No. 1 single “If I Die Young,” from The Band Perry’s self-titled debut album, created a global audience for the trio in 2010. The song is currently certified seven-time Platinum and has amassed over 200 million video views.

Galyon, Owner of Songs & Daughters Publishing, shares, “I have been a huge fan of Kimberly’s from afar throughout her whole career, but our paths didn’t cross until a few years ago. It’s compelling for me to work with a like-minded businesswoman and creatively fulfilling to dive into the writing process with such a veteran songwriter and artist. Her accomplishments speak for themselves and yet her story is truly just getting started.”

“There’s something about Kimberly’s musical depth and lyrical wordplay that have always stood out to me. Everyone at Warner Chappell is excited to represent her in this next part of her journey. I can’t wait for the world to hear what she’s been writing,” adds Vaughn, President & CEO, Warner Chappell Music Nashville. **MR**



TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	2	Ashley Gorley	180 (Lifestyle) All I Need Is You Cowgirls Everything I Love Girl In Mine God Gave Me A Girl Gold Last Night Me + All Your Reasons One Thing At A Time Tennessee Fan Thinkin' Bout Me What He Didn't Do Whiskey Friends You Didn't You Proof	Morgan Wallen Chris Janson Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Parmalee Russell Dickerson Dierks Bentley Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Carly Pearce Morgan Wallen Brett Young Morgan Wallen
2	1	Morgan Wallen	Born With A Beer In My Hand Brown Eyes Baby Everything I Love Hope That's True I Wrote The Book Me + All Your Reasons Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) One Thing At A Time Tennessee Fan Thought You Should Know Whiskey Friends Wild As Her You Proof	Morgan Wallen Keith Urban Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Corey Kent Morgan Wallen
3	3	Ryan Vojtesak	180 (Lifestyle) Cowgirls Everything I Love Hope That's True Last Night Me + All Your Reasons Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) One Thing At A Time Single Than She Was Thinkin' Bout Me Whiskey Friends You Proof	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
4	4	Zachary Lane Bryan	Dawns Something In The Orange	Zach Bryan feat. Maggie Rogers Zach Bryan
5	6	Ernest Keith Smith	180 (Lifestyle) Cowgirls Everything I Love Hope That's True Me + All Your Reasons Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) One Thing At A Time Whiskey Friends You Proof	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
6	5	John Byron	'98 Braves I Deserve A Drink In The Bible Last Night Single Than She Was Sunrise Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (Feat. HARDY) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
7	9	Luke Combs	5 Leaf Clover Going, Going, Gone Love You Anyway	Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
8	7	Michael Hardy	Born With A Beer In My Hand Drinkaby Hate My Heart I Wrote The Book Tennessee Fan Wait In The Truck Heaven By Then	Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Carrie Underwood Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill
9	10	Ray Fulcher	Going, Going, Gone Love You Anyway	Luke Combs Luke Combs
10	13	Brett Tyler	Excuses Man Made A Bar Wild As Her	Kolby Cooper Morgan Wallen (Feat. Eric Church) Corey Kent
11	11	Parker McCollum	Handle On You	Parker McCollum
12	12	Monty Criswell	Handle On You	Parker McCollum
13	34	Chase McGill	5 Leaf Clover Ain't That Some God Gave Me A Girl Next Thing You Know	Luke Combs Morgan Wallen Russell Dickerson Jordan Davis
14	14	Josh Thompson	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Brown Eyes Baby Dying Man Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) Stars Like Confetti Whiskey Friends	Thomas Rhett Keith Urban Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dustin Lynch Morgan Wallen
15	8	Blake Pendergrass	180 (Lifestyle) Ain't That Some Dying Man Sunrise Tennessee Numbers	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
16	16	James McNair	Going, Going, Gone Looking For You	Luke Combs Chris Young
17	22	Dallas Wilson	Can't Have Mine Heart Like A Truck	Dylan Scott Lainey Wilson
18	19	Jet Harvey	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
19	20	Jacob Hackworth	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
20	21	Heath Warren	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
21	17	Miranda Lambert	Thought You Should Know	Morgan Wallen
22	18	Nicolle Galyon	Thought You Should Know	Morgan Wallen
23	23	Ross Copperman	Dancin' In The Country Gold Worth A Shot	Tyler Hubbard Dierks Bentley Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
24	30	Jon Nite	Dancin' In The Country You Didn't	Tyler Hubbard Brett Young
25	27	Carly Pearce	What He Didn't Do	Carly Pearce
26	28	E. Shackelton	What He Didn't Do	Carly Pearce
27	24	Trannie Anderson	Heart Like A Truck	Lainey Wilson
28	25	Lainey Wilson	Heart Like A Truck	Lainey Wilson
29	26	Jordan M. Schmidt	Drinkaby Wait In The Truck We Got History	Cole Swindell Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Mitchell Tenpenny
30	36	T. Lane	Human	Cody Johnson
31	37	Travis Meadows	Human	Cody Johnson
32	29	Hunter Phelps	Drinkaby Wait In The Truck Heaven By Then	Cole Swindell Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill
33	33	Josh Osborne	Next Thing You Know Water Under The Bridge Worth A Shot	Jordan Davis Sam Hunt Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
34	32	Kelly Archer	Wild As Her	Corey Kent

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
35	117	Jessi Alexander	5 Leaf Clover Light On In The Kitchen You, Me, & Whiskey	Luke Combs Ashley McBryde Justin Moore & Priscilla Block
36	15	Jared Mullins	Devil Don't Know F150-50 Keith Whitley Thank God	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown with Katelyn Brown
37	45	D. Fanning	Girl In Mine Tennessee Orange	Parmalee Megan Moroney
38	38	Renee Blair	Wait In The Truck	Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson
39	39	Jacob Kasher	Last Night	Morgan Wallen
40	31	Travis Wood	'98 Braves Girl In Mine Tennessee Numbers	Morgan Wallen Parmalee Morgan Wallen
41	35	Josh Miller	'98 Braves Ain't That Some	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
42	40	Chris LaCorte	Ain't That Some Water Under The Bridge	Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
43	54	Shane McAnally	If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too) Water Under The Bridge Worth A Shot	Kelsea Ballerini Sam Hunt Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
44	48	Brett Young	You Didn't	Brett Young
45	49	Jimmy Robbins	You Didn't	Brett Young
46	67	Keith Urban	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
47	68	Tyler Hubbard	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
48	46	Rocky Block	180 (Lifestyle) Cowgirls Man Made A Bar	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen (Feat. Eric Church)
49	51	Megan Moroney	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
50	52	Ben Williams	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
51	53	Paul Jenkins	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
52	47	Ben Johnson	Dying Man If He Wanted To He Would In The Bible Single Than She Was	Morgan Wallen Kylie Morgan Morgan Wallen (Feat. HARDY) Morgan Wallen
53	66	Luke Dick	Fearless (The Echo) Gold	Jackson Dean Dierks Bentley
54	55	Jordan Reynolds	You	Dan + Shay
55	56	Dave Barnes	You	Dan + Shay
56	57	Dan Smyers	You	Dan + Shay
57	63	Rhett Akins	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
58	64	Scotty McCreery	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
59	65	Lee Thomas Miller	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
60	58	Taylor Phillips	Thinkin' Bout Me Heaven By Then	Morgan Wallen Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

April 7

Mike Kuster/*Front Porch Swing*

Sam Grow/*Red Lights*/Average Joes Entertainment

April 10

Rebecca Moreland/*Could Really Use A Friend*/Kino Mas Entertainment

Jimmie Allen/*Be Alright (15 Edition)*/Stoney Creek Records

Album/EP Releases

April 7

Ruston Kelly/*The Weakness*/Rounder Records

Ian Munsick/*White Buffalo*/Warner Music Nashville

Jake Worthington/*Jake Worthington*/Big Loud

April 14

Caitlyn Smith/*High & Low*/Monument Records

Donice Morace/*This Life I Love*/Bad Jeu Jeu CDX Records

Leah Marie Mason/*Honeydew & Hennessy*

Jackson Dean/*Live At The Ryman*/Big Machine Records

Industry Events

May 11

ACM Awards

May 15 – 18

Music Biz Conference