

Hardy, Lainey Wilson Lead ACM Nominations



The nominees for the 58th Academy of Country Music Awards were revealed Thursday (April 13).

Hardy leads the pack of nominees with seven nominations, including for Song of the Year and for a newly specialized category, Artist-Songwriter of the Year. He shares three of his nominations with fellow artist and collaborator **Lainey Wilson** for their song "Wait In The Truck."

Wilson follows Hardy with six nods, with inclusion in the Female Artist of the Year category. She is nominated for in more categories than any other artist.

Kane Brown, **Luke Combs**, **Miranda Lambert** and **Cole Swindell** each rack up five nominations a piece. Lambert, the most-awarded artist in ACM history, receives her record-breaking 17th Female Artist of the Year nomination, surpassing **Reba McEntire's** 16.

Notably, at least one woman is nominated in every eligible main awards category this year, and for the second time in ACM history, three albums released by all-female acts have been nominated for Album of the Year in the same year, with *Ashley McBryde Presents: Lindeville* by **Ashley McBryde**, *Bell Bottom Country* by Wilson, and *Palomino* by Lambert each receiving nominations.

Combs and **Chris Stapleton** are two of the seven nominees for the newly-expanded Entertainer of the Year. A win for either artist in this category will also clinch the coveted Triple Crown Award, which consists of an Entertainer of the Year win, plus wins in an act's respective New Artist (Male, Female, or Duo or Group) and Artist (Male, Female, Duo or Group) categories.

[Click here to see the full list of nominees.](#) **MR**

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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Joe & Linda Chambers
Headed To Music City Walk
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WinSongs Music Signs Jason
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Ian Munsick Brings 'The
West To The Rest,' With Wife
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Side [Interview]

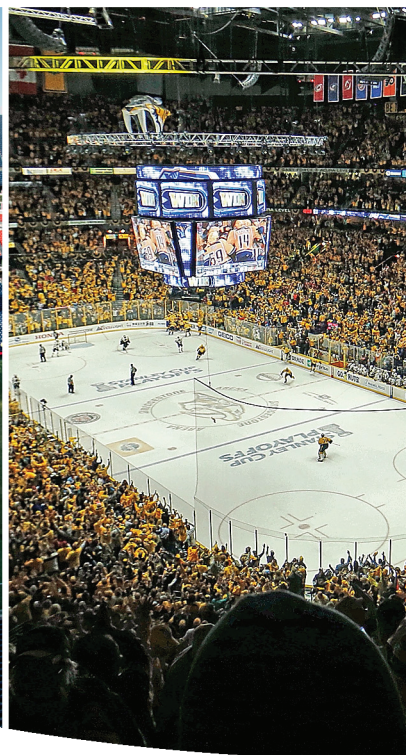
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Shannon Sanders

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My Music Row Story: BMI's Shannon Sanders

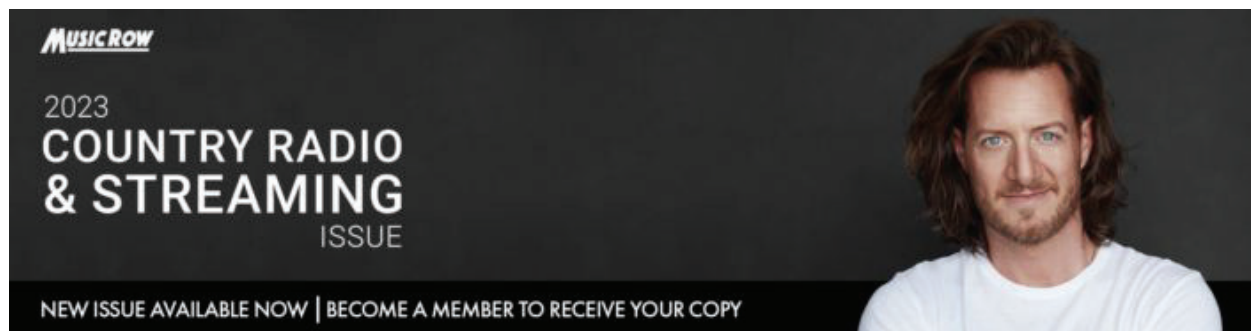


The "My Music Row Story" weekly column features notable members of the Nashville music industry selected by the MusicRow editorial team. These individuals serve in key roles that help advance and promote the success of our industry. This column spotlights the invaluable people that keep the wheels rolling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

Shannon Sanders is Exec. Dir., Creative at BMI, based in the company's Nashville office. Along with the Creative team, Sanders is responsible for signing and nurturing new talent to develop BMI's diverse community of songwriters and publishers across various genres. He supports BMI songwriters through both creative and administrative services. Sanders works closely with **Clay Bradley**, who oversees the Nashville team, on a wide range of industry

and community events designed to benefit songwriters including the monthly showcase series, "BMI Presents at the Bluebird." **Jelly Roll**, **K. Michelle**, **Allison Russell** and **The War and Treaty** are just a few of the affiliates he champions at BMI.

Sanders is also a Grammy-winning producer and songwriter. He has collaborated with **John Legend**, **India.Arie**, **Chris Stapleton**, **Nicki Minaj**, **KALEO**, **The Fisk Jubilee Singers** and many more. An involved community member, Sanders is President of Nashville Music Equality and a board member of Recording Academy Nashville Chapter, the Nashville Ballet, CMA and ACM. He is also an ACM Diversity Task Force Chair.



MusicRow: You're a rarity as a Nashville native. Tell me about your upbringing.

I was raised by my grandparents. My grandfather was a pastor. My grandmother was a nurse and she sang. I initially started to play music for my grandmother at church. I also played trumpet in school. I was encouraged to be creative and to explore that side of myself. In hindsight, I see brilliance in that from my grandparents' perspective. It kept me out of trouble and kept me involved.

Besides your grandparents, were there any others that encouraged your creativity when you were young?

Teachers. I went to Hillsboro High School. I was always encouraged to go to the next level and to do the next more challenging thing. I definitely had support from teachers and older musicians at church. I grew up in environment of encouragement.

What were your dreams then?

My dreams were to just be as good as I could be. My business aspirations came later, my early dreams were initially more performance based. You have success in areas and then you evolve over time, but initially it was really just about being the best I could possibly be from a performance standpoint.

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

5 Leaf Clover/ Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 62

Shoot Tequila/Tigirlily Gold/Monument Records - 75

Every Town's Got One/Ty Gregory - 77

Be The One/Josh Kinney/Birmingham Entertainment - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Fires Don't Start Themselves/Darius Rucker/Capitol - 164

Next Thing You Know/Jordan Davis/MCA Nashville - 148

Bury Me In Georgia/Kane Brown/RCA Nashville - 145

5 Leaf Clover/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 119

Creek Will Rise/Conner Smith/Valory - 106

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Fires Don't Start Themselves/Darius Rucker/Capitol - 10

Bury Me In Georgia/Kane Brown/RCA Nashville - 9

Creek Will Rise/Conner Smith/Valory - 7

5 Leaf Clover/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 7

Next Thing You Know/Jordan Davis/MCA Nashville - 7

Nobody's Nobody/Brothers Osborne/EMI - 7

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

That's Why/Troy Cartwright - 97

Trouble/Rachel Stacy/CDX Records - 93

State You Left Me In/Jake Worthington/Big Loud - 91

Be Alright/Jimmie Allen/Stoney Creek Records - 83

Smoke With An Old Flame/Danny Kensy/Rad Records - 78

NO. 1 SONG



Old Dominion jumps five slots to the No. 1 spot on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with "Memory Lane."

The track was written by Old Dominion's **Matthew Ramsey**, **Trevor Rosen** and **Brad Tursi** alongside Grammy-nominated songwriter **Jessie Jo Dillon**. It was part of a four-song project of the same name the band released in January.

Old Dominion received an ACM nomination for Group of the Year earlier this week, making this the eighth consecutive year the group has been nominated in the category. The group has taken home the title every year for the last five years.



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

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

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

KKMV Rupert, ID
WOOZ Cartersville, IL
WAAG Galesburg, IL
WMCI Mattoon, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
KQZQ Pratt, KS
WKDZ Cadiz, KY
WDHR Pikeville, KY
KRRV Alexandria, LA
WKPE Hyannis, MA

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

KITX Hugo, OK
KWEY Weatherford, OK
KWOX Woodward, OK
KRKT Albany, OR
KRWQ Medford, OR
WVNW Lewistown, PA
WNBT Mansfield, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
KMOM Aberdeen, SD
KZZI Spearfish, SD
WUCZ Carthage, TN
WDKN Dickson, TN

KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
KYKX Longview, TX
KLLL Lubbock, TX
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI
WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
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	6	1	Memory Lane / Old Dominion / Arista Nashville	1548/59	7	99
46	4	2	Human / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1537/53	2	28
17	1	3	Dancin' In The Country / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	1529/52	-11	-186
32	2	4	Wild As Her / Corey Kent / Combustion Music/RCA Records	1513/45	-1	-20
27	5	5	How It Oughta Be / Shane Profitt / BMLG	1481/56	-1	-12
15	8	6	Tennessee Orange / Megan Moroney / Megan Moroney	1419/58	3	36
40	9	7	Everything She Ain't / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/S&D/Big Loud	1395/58	2	29
7	10	8	One Thing At A Time / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records	1370/59	5	71
12	13	9	Angels / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1282/60	6	70
26	14	10	Your Heart Or Mine / Jon Pardi / Capitol	1246/56	6	72
35	12	11	You / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1228/44	1	12
40	11	12	Water Under The Bridge / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	1211/44	-1	-17
11	15	13	Drinkaby / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1163/55	4	48
24	16	14	You, Me, & Whiskey / Justin Moore & Priscilla Block / Valory	1148/57	5	51
22	17	15	Hate My Heart / Carrie Underwood / Capitol	1036/44	-4	-47
9	22	16	Next Thing You Know / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	960/50	18	148
30	19	17	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	924/52	3	25
28	18	18	Up There Down Here / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	924/46	1	13
20	20	19	Heaven By Then / Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shelton feat. Vince Gill / Valory	857/44	-1	-6
27	21	20	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	850/41	3	25
12	24	21	Need A Favor / Jelly Roll / Stoney Creek Records	842/46	9	71
5	25	22	Standing Room Only / Tim McGraw / Big Machine Records	800/50	4	32
61	26	23	Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	767/33	5	37
6	28	24	Last Night / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	763/34	14	95
12	27	25	Looking For You / Chris Young / RCA Nashville	736/45	3	18
69	23	26	You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG	728/27	-8	-67
16	30	27	If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	673/40	5	31
7	32	28	Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville	634/39	11	62
15	31	29	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	633/42	4	22
37	29	30	Something In The Orange / Zach Bryan / Belting Bronco/Warner Records	581/30	-10	-64
9	34	31	All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records	564/34	14	68
8	33	32	Only Need One / Ned LeDoux / Powder River/Thirty Tigers	540/34	5	25
13	36	33	Going Going / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	495/31	4	18
30	35	34	Country Can / Hannah Ellis / Curb	493/29	0	-1
15	37	35	Jealous Of Myself / Tenille Arts / Dreamcatcher Artists	460/34	-3	-13
4	51	36	Bury Me In Georgia / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	453/31	47	145
14	38	37	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	441/29	1	5
15	40	38	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	431/27	1	3
26	39	39	Jealous Of Myself / Tenille Arts / Dreamcatcher Artists	431/27	-1	-5
14	41	40	Marlboros & Avon / McBride & The Ride / TMC Records/InGrooves	429/29	2	10

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2023
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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
6	43	41	Save The Roses / Lee Brice / Curb	421/26	7	28
13	44	42	Missin' You / Cam Allen / Goat Music Group	383/28	3	10
2	59	43	Fires Don't Start Themselves / Darius Rucker / Capitol	377/25	77	164
7	45	44	3 Tequila Floor / Josiah Siska / Black River	377/30	5	19
5	48	45	Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	376/29	9	30
10	47	46	Revival / Shenandoah / 8 Track Entertainment/Fame Records	376/28	8	28
31	42	47	If He Wanted To He Would / Kylie Morgan / EMI Records Nashville	375/23	-6	-26
9	50	48	Honky Tonk Roll / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	370/23	9	30
14	46	49	Beer Needs Drinkin' / Reed Foley / Studios Magnetic	364/26	3	11
15	49	50	Fast Car / Randy Rogers Band / Thirty Tigers	325/27	-5	-16
9	52	51	Why God Made Small Towns / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records	320/25	4	12
15	55	52	Back Road / Chase Mitchell / CHYP	307/17	25	61
35	53	53	Honky Tonk Roll / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	275/18	0	-1
14	56	54	God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	272/19	16	37
12	54	55	Marry That Girl / Easton Corbin / Stone Country Records	265/18	2	5
6	58	56	The Longer I Live / Aaron Goodvin & Ryan Kinder / Reviver Records/Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada	251/20	8	18
2	69	57	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	242/23	78	106
20	57	58	Excuses / Kolby Cooper / Wheelhouse Records	223/16	-5	-11
9	60	59	New Old Outlaws / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music	219/16	6	12
7	63	60	Mattress On The Floor / Mo Pitney / Curb Records	202/15	17	29
7	62	61	Let's Take Tonight / Corey Layne / Corey Layne	193/15	2	4
1	90	62	5 Leaf Clover / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	188/12	127	119
2	67	63	Dents On A Chevy / Ty Herndon, Terri Clark / Pivotal Records	183/16	30	42
7	64	64	A Special Place / Danielle Bradbery / Big Machine Records	174/13	2	3
10	66	65	I Miss America / Colton James / RedSunset Entertainment	161/11	6	9
69	61	66	Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House	158/11	-19	-37
7	65	67	Not In This Heartbreak / Morgan White / NashTown Entertainment	152/9	-1	-2
11	68	68	Just Me / Gillian Smith / Gillian Smith Records	143/10	3	4
3	74	69	Somebody Else's Whiskey / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	139/9	18	21
7	71	70	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	135/11	7	9
3	78	71	I Ain't Done Singin' Yet / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	130/8	21	23
4	70	72	Shelter / Rusty Steel / Tower Music Group	128/8	1	1
7	72	73	Sunday Chapel / Dave Herrera / Brokerade, Inc	126/9	2	2
3	73	74	Your Hands / Katie Linendoll / Duncan Music Group	123/7	1	1
1	85	75	Shoot Tequila / Tigirlily Gold / Monument Records	122/9	42	36
3	75	76	Little Bit Of You / Brooke Moriber / Reviver Records	112/9	-2	-2
1	82	77	Every Town's Got One / Ty Gregory	110/9	17	16
3	79	78	Young Again / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville	106/9	2	2
4	80	79	If Country Was A Town / Rob Fitzgerald / Riverbend Recordings	104/6	0	0
1	81	80	Be The One / Josh Kinney / Birmingham Entertainment	103/7	10	9

 No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut

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When did you start making your own music?

I just always have. Creating for me was never about the regurgitation of music. I never played in cover bands and it was never about learning other people's music. The closest thing I got to that was learning songs in church. My friends were musical, so we made up songs. We would get together, write songs and perform. By the time we were in high school, we were opening for some pretty major acts that would come to Nashville. So it was always about creating for me.

I was about 15 or 16 when [my friends and I] first started putting out records as **Technik**. At the time, Hillsboro was the only high school town with a studio. I started taking studio [classes] in ninth grade. So I was doing that, playing in church, an all-state trumpet player, programming drum machines, writing songs and beat boxing with my friends.

After high school, you went to Tennessee State University. Tell me about that time.

Going to TSU was strictly a musical decision. The band was so phenomenal—they just won a GRAMMY in February and they were just as phenomenal [when I went there]. I loved the legacy of the band TSU. I loved what it represented. It was important to me, just to be a part of that organization. I learned so much at TSU. That's where I exponentially grew musically, not only from having great instruction from professors, but I really learned a lot from other students.

How did you start working with artists outside of your own creative circle in Nashville?

I made my own record. That wound up becoming an incredible business card. That's when the phone started ringing and there was a lot more opportunity.

One of the most pivotal moments was when I started to work with **India.Arie**. The world hadn't heard of her yet. She was familiar with my music and she was actually signed out of Nashville, so we started to create. Her voice was so phenomenal, her platform and what she was all about was just so refreshing. She was speaking of songs of self worth, self love and songs that spoke to healing of humanity. [Working with her] just made me want to pour everything that I had in her, so that's what I did. It really paid off, being able to be with her for so long and support her mission. And a lot of things came from that—I got to work with a lot of other folks. It was pivotal in helping me realize that you can make music that meant something. You can have mainstream success with music with a message. That's what was so impactful.

I got my first GRAMMY nomination with her and then we came back the next year and won R&B Album of the Year, so that was my first win.

You won your most recent GRAMMY in 2021 with the Fisk Jubilee Singers's Celebrating Fisk! (The 150th Anniversary Album). What was that like?

So satisfying. It was the first HBCU to win a GRAMMY—and now TSU has, too. It was especially satisfying that it was accomplished right before **Dr. Kwame** passed.

The first GRAMMYS were exciting, especially doing the kind of music I was doing in Nashville at the time. It just started a lot of conversations and put in me in a lot of rooms. It really started a whole new trajectory for me, which is how I got into leadership in these organizations. [Having success] led to me being the voice and being invited to tables. Everybody needs to be represented at these tables, so everybody's heard. I'm just really conscious of the voice I represent and that's it. I'm not trying to be anything more than I am, but I definitely find myself being invited to tables where people are interested in having diverse perspectives.





Picture (L-R): Boo Mitchell, Al Green, Shannon Sanders.
Photo: Lyndsey McFail

You joined BMI's Nashville Creative team in 2020. Tell me about going from strictly a creator to an executive.

It was interesting because I got to know a lot of folks in our creative community as a creator, so now as an executive, it just gives me an opportunity to create opportunity. I can create the kinds of opportunities that I was looking for as a creator with **Clay [Bradley]** and BMI's support. That's the beauty of now.

I'm in a season of service. I'm excited that now I'm able to be a magnet of that energy. People are interested in these conversations and interested in evolution. I don't like to say change a lot—change means to become something different—to evolve is to become a better version of what already is.

You are one of the highest ranking Black executives in the history of the Nashville music business. From your seat now, what advice would you give young executives who look up to you?

I would say be yourself. I always default to authenticity. You don't want to be anywhere where you are required to compromise who you are. That's what's awesome about my role at BMI. I'm not required to be something other than who I am. They know I'm creative. They know I'm Black. They know I'm from here. They know I have a heart for community and creators. At the end of the day, it's just about being you.

The studio doesn't look like [the Nashville music business]. It's like the locker room in sports—there's no racism in the locker room. We're trying to win this game together, we're on the same team. That's what it's like in the studio. We're trying to make the business look more like the creative rooms. The studios already look like that.

What is the most fulfilling part about what you do?

Creating opportunities for creators and resolving administrative issues for them, which can be the most frustrating thing in the world. Just being able to answer questions and being able to bring about an understanding about what we do. Helping them understand something or to fix something ultimately means putting more money in creative people's pockets. At our core, that's what we do. To be able to help people feed their families via their creativity is the most fulfilling thing. **MR**

Granger Smith Announces Summer 2023 Tour Will Be His Last

In a video posted to his social media accounts on Tuesday (April 11), **Granger Smith** announced that this summer's tour will be his last. He shared that he is pursuing ministry, with intentions to serve his local church under the teaching, council and leadership of his pastor and elders while he continues work on a Master's degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"This summer will be my last tour. I am so encouraged and hopeful and excited and joyful about the next chapter, but to a large extent, I have no idea what it will look like," he shared. "I just want to glorify God the best way that I can. I want to learn and grow and serve my local church and allow my pastors to equip and affirm those next steps. Lord willing, I want to be used to help people find their purpose."

Smith shared that his final tour will be a celebration of his musical career thus far, and that fans can expect to hear older hits. His "Like A River" farewell tour begins April 13 and will run through Aug. 26, with more shows to be added in the coming weeks. Tour dates and tickets can be found at grangersmith.com. **MR**

Luke Combs & Opry Entertainment Group To Team On Downtown Nashville Entertainment Venue



Luke Combs has teamed with Opry Entertainment Group on a new, massive multi-level entertainment complex in downtown Nashville at 120 Second Avenue North, the home of longtime downtown staple the Wildhorse Saloon.

The new venue is expected to debut in the summer of 2024, but the company plans to operate the venue as the Wildhorse Saloon throughout the planned refurbishment period. Inspired by Combs' 8x Platinum debut No. 1 hit, "Hurricane," the venue will be the largest and most versatile entertainment complex in the downtown entertainment district. The 69,000-square-foot complex with an indoor/outdoor capacity of nearly 3,200 will be customized to reflect Combs' passions for music, songwriting, whiskey and sports.

Features include a 1,500-person capacity concert area for ticketed events as well as a proposed 9,000-square-foot rooftop with unobstructed views of the Cumberland River and Nissan Stadium. The venue's music program will feature multiple live music experiences that include the existing main stage and dance floor with line dancing. In addition to daily live music from the best up-and-coming talent in Nashville, the venue plans to host a full calendar of ticketed concerts and events.

"I got my start in town playing on this stage and to have the opportunity to work with Opry Entertainment to transform it into my own bar is a dream come true," shares Combs. "I can't wait for my fans to see what we're up to. **MR**

Lauren Watkins Signs With Big Loud, Songs & Daughters



Pictured (L-R): Songs & Daughter's Nicole Galyon, Lauren Watkins and Big Loud's Seth England. Photo: Chris Hornbuckle

Singer-songwriter **Lauren Watkins** has signed with Big Loud Records and Songs & Daughters. Watkins will release a two-song teaser this Friday, April 14 with her first-ever singles, "Shirley Temple" and "Camel Blues."

Raised in South Nashville with three sisters, Watkins grew up on classic country and Southern rock, heavily influenced by Sheryl Crow, Miranda Lambert, Alan Jackson, Kenny Rogers, George Jones, Eric Church, Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Chicks and more. She spent her college years at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) playing acoustic sets at hole-in-the-wall dives and piecing together a lyrical style all her own, filled with hard-edged, no-frills truth telling.

"Country music has been one of the biggest parts of my life for as long as I can remember," says Watkins. "And all this time I've had this vision and dream in my head of what it would look and sound like when I finally got to make music of my own. Songs & Daughters and Big Loud have given me the space and the time to actually do it. These songs were always gonna exist because they're just my life in melodies. Having a label that believes in them and believes in how these songs can reach people is the biggest dream come true. I'm grateful they're giving us – me and my songs – a chance."

Produced by **Joey Moi**, Watkins' self-penned, seven-song preview, *Introducing Lauren Watkins*, is set for release April 21. **MR**

Eric Church, Butch Spyridon, Joe & Linda Chambers Headed To Music City Walk Of Fame



The Music City Walk of Fame has announced its newest slate of inductees who will receive the 98th, 99th and 100th stars on the Music City Walk of Fame. The honorees are **Eric Church**; **Joe and Linda Chambers**, Co-Founders of the Musicians Hall of Fame & Museum; and **Butch Spyridon**, who after 32 years is retiring from the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp. Joe Chambers passed away on Sept. 28, 2022, and will be inducted posthumously.

The induction ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 4 at 11 a.m. at Music City Walk of Fame Park. Members of the public are invited to view the ceremony.

"This class of inductees represents what makes Music City special with country artist Eric Church who is at a highpoint of his career with his music and new Lower Broadway venue, along with the Chambers, who have made it their life's work to recognize the hard work of Nashville's musicians through the Musicians Hall of Fame & Museum," says **Kevin Lavender**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp and Executive Vice President at 5/3 Bank. "Butch is the architect of the Music City brand that has made Nashville a top global destination. He has championed many major initiatives to showcase the Music City story, including the Walk of Fame attraction. His impact on the Nashville community is undeniable." **MR**

WinSongs Music Signs Jason Duke



Pictured (L-R, back row): Chip Petree (Ritholz Levy Fields, LLP), Duane Hobson (ASCAP) and Jason Turner (Keller Turner Andrews & Ghanem, PLLC); (L-R, front row): Erin Kidd (WinSongs), Jason Duke and Chris DeStefano (WinSongs)

WinSongs Music Publishing has signed chart-topping songwriter **Jason Duke** to an exclusive publishing deal.

Originally from Hendersonville, Tennessee, Duke is best known for co-writing the No. 1 hit "Dibs" with **Kelsea Ballerini**, along with many other notable cuts for artists including **Keith Urban** ("That Could Still Be Us"), **Chris Bandi** ("Man Enough Now"), **Ryan Griffin**, **RaeLynn**, **LoCash**, **Meghan Patrick**, **Hannah Ellis** and others.

"I am so excited to open a new songwriting chapter with **Erin [Kidd]**, **Chris [DeStefano]**, and the rest of the WinSongs family! I can't think of a better home of which to continue to grow and chase the dream! Also, big thanks to every guiding hand along the way over the years that helped me get to here," says Duke.

"The Winsongs Team is so excited to welcome the immensely talented Jason Duke to our family," says DeStefano, WinSongs Music Founder & Owner. "Jason has already established himself with cuts and hits with some of the top names in the business and we are looking forward to growing that momentum."

"Jason's genuine character and glowing writing reputation precedes him. Not to mention the quality of work and intentionality he brings to each session is a dream. We're teeing up for major future success together!" adds Kidd, WinSongs Creative Director. **MR**

New Kenny Rogers Album Of Unreleased Tracks, *Life Is Like A Song*, Due In June

A new **Kenny Rogers** album filled with previously unreleased gems and rare tracks, *Life Is Like A Song*, will be released June 2 via UMe.

Curated and executive produced by the late Country Music Hall of Famer's widow, **Wanda Rogers**, the collection features eight never-before-heard recordings from 2008-2011, including interpretations of **Eric Clapton**'s "Wonderful Tonight" and **Lionel Richie**'s "Goodbye," as well as a duet with **Dolly Parton**, "Tell Me That You Love Me." A digital deluxe edition includes two bonus tracks—a cover of the **Etta James** standard, "At Last," and the **Buddy Hyatt**-penned original, "Say Hello to Heaven."

Beginning today, fans can stream two selections from the album, including opener "Love Is A Drug" a hard-driving, country rock anthem co-written by Rogers' longtime musical partner and former **New Christy Minstrels** bandmate, **Kim Carnes**, and the Motown classic, "I Wish It Would Rain," originally made a hit by **The Temptations**.

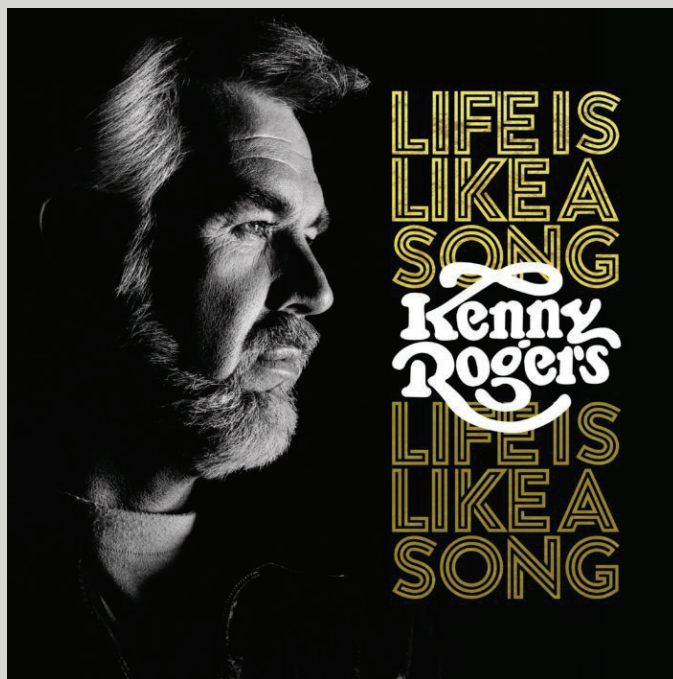
Also on the album is "Catchin' Grasshoppers," a personal ode to Rogers' twin sons with Wanda Rogers, **Justin** and **Jordan**, that finds Rogers reveling in the quiet, precious memories made with his young children, now aged 18. In a similar vein, "Straight Into Love," a duet with **Jamie O'Neal**, speaks to cherishing time together with the one you love.

The Parton collab, "Tell Me That You Love Me," originally appeared on a 2009 compilation helmed by veteran producer and record exec **Tony Brown**. Long out-of-print, a never-before-released, remixed version of the rarity will now be available on digital platforms and vinyl for the very first time, as well as on CD for the first time in this form.

Those sessions with Brown also spawned Rogers' rendition of "Goodbye," written by good friend and frequent collaborator, Lionel Richie. The song has long been a fan favorite after first appearing on the same 2009 anthology, and a touching lyric video for the song was played at Rogers' memorial in 2022.

"Am I Too Late," written by **Larry Keith** and **Jim Hurt**, is one of Rogers' self-proclaimed favorite songs of all time. Originally cut for Rogers' 1977 hit album, *Daytime Friends*, the song is reimagined here as a duet with vocalist Kim Keyes.

"I think the record is fabulous, and it is going to make Kenny so proud," shares Wanda Rogers. "These songs are such a beautiful reminder of his love 'for the feelings a song can make' for a person. He would often say that he wanted his songs to be 'what every man wants to say, and every woman wants to hear.' I think there are a lot of those moments on this album. This is a very special record to me and our family because it really tells the story of our life together, and I feel his fans will also relate to it in a big way because it walks the listener through the seasons of life that we all experience in one way or another. There is joy, there is love, there is family, there is uncertainty, there is pain, there is faith... it's emotional and real. This is the kind of music Kenny loved to make." **MR**



DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Brothers Osborne Give 'A Message Of Inclusion For Both Sinners & Saints'



What a dandy day—so many favorite artists all in one playlist.

I've been smiling throughout this listening sessions as I sample the latest from Rodney Crowell, Ashley McBryde, Marty Stuart and our Disc of the Day winners, Brothers Osborne.

The icing on the cake was the presence of several of my new faves—Jordyn Shellhart, Tyler Booth, Ian Munsick and Alex Hall.

Offering his disc debut is Jake Ybarra, who earns a DisCOVERY Award.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Reba Talks New Book With Garth Brooks On Upcoming 'TalkShopLive' Event](#)

[Pet Community Center Opens New Vet Clinic In Honor Of Phran Galante](#)

[Meghan Patrick Announces New EP During Grand Ole Opry Debut](#)

[Hilltop Studios Celebrates 60 Years \[Interview\]](#)

[Chase Rice Brings 'I Hate Cowboys & All Dogs Go To Hell' To Sold-Out Ryman Auditorium](#)

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[Michael Ray Readies New EP, 'Dive Bars & Broken Hearts'](#)

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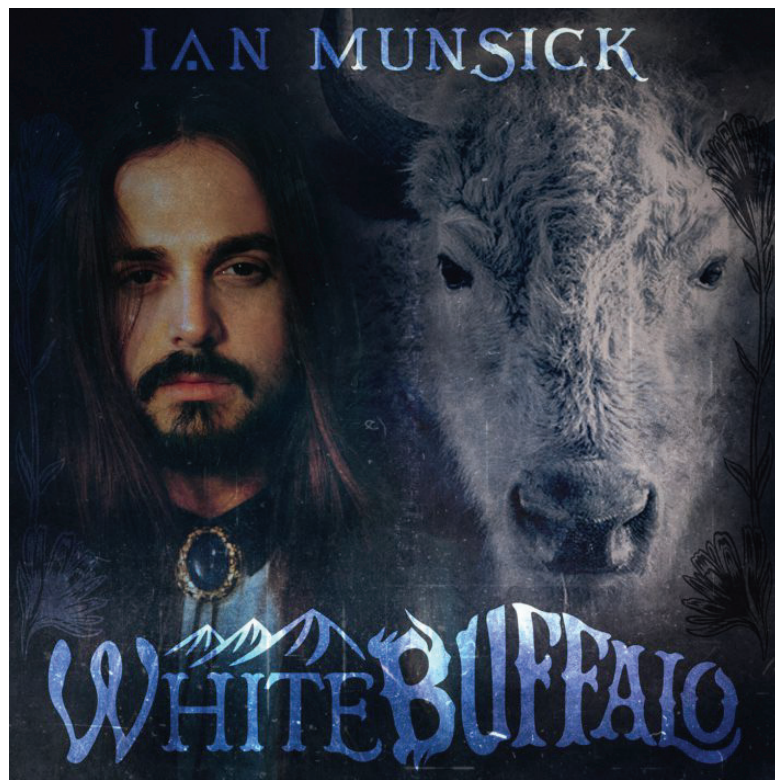
[Bailey Zimmerman Continues To Top Charts & Break Records](#)

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[Opry NextStage Class Of 2023 Unveiled, Live Concert Set For May](#)

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Ian Munsick Brings ‘The West To The Rest,’ With Wife & Manager Caroline At His Side [Interview]



With his sophomore album *White Buffalo*, out today (April 7), **Ian Munsick** dives 18 tracks deeper into his mission of bringing western country music to the forefront.

The journey began with *Coyote Cry*, a 10-track effort Ian wrote, recorded and produced that earned him a recording contract with Warner Music Nashville. The project was very unique, with his mountain-high voice singing about western imagery and values.

On *White Buffalo*, the Wyoming native leans in to the lane that he has created for himself. He brings things down to the basics on track “Horses & Weed,” hunts down healing on “White Buffalo” and paints a vibrant picture of gypsy love on “River Run.” The visuals, with the prairie animals and western-wear, are almost as intriguing as the music.

Ian enlisted label-mate **Cody Johnson** for the duet “Long Live Cowgirls” on *White Buffalo*. The track has already garnered nearly 100 million global streams, topped SiriusXM The Highway’s

Hot 30 Countdown and recently became Ian’s first career RIAA Gold-certified single.

In the years since Ian hit the scene, after first arriving in town as a student at Belmont University, he has had a secret weapon: his manager and now wife, **Caroline Munsick**.

Caroline was also a student at Belmont while Ian was there, but the two only had one class together and rarely spoke. She started her management career by hanging around the midtown bars that attract music business professionals. After striking up a relationship with **George Strait**-manager **Erv Woolsey**, Caroline began to see a path forward into her own management career.

She started her Not A Public Figure management company—and clothing brand—and eventually helped to convince her former classmate Ian to go all in on his unique artistry.

“She knew that I had potential as an artist. For me, being an artist was the only way that I could write, perform and produce my music—and I love to do all of those three things,” Ian says.

Ian and Caroline’s relationship was strictly business for a while, until they couldn’t resist their romantic chemistry anymore. In early 2020, the two welcomed son **Crawford** and married later that year in scenic Montana. Ian’s “Me Against The Mountain” music video served as the couple’s wedding video.

“We didn’t tell anybody [that we were together] until I announced I was pregnant,” Caroline says. “We were so worried people weren’t going to take us seriously.”

“As soon as we announced that we were pregnant and let people know we were together, that’s when we signed with UTA, Ian signed his publishing deal and his record deal. All the stars started aligning. I really think us having Crawford was a reason for all of that,” she shares. “It was more tough at the beginning, just breaking stereotypes people had without knowing us.”

Now, two albums in, the Munsicks have found their place as a talented artist-manager duo pushing the western boundary of country music further towards the rockies. With *White Buffalo*, Ian draws on his life as a father and a husband frequently.

“Dig,” a standout track on the project, shares a message of pursuit of a partner. Written with Dave Villa and Jessi Alexander, the lyrics claim, “I ain’t afraid of a little dirt. Girl, your love’s a gift, and I ain’t afraid to dig.”

Another highlight is “More Than Me,” a song Ian wrote with **Carlton Anderson, Casey Beathard** and **Phil O’Donnell**. The song talks about the couple’s focus on their faith first and each other second, with Ian singing, “I don’t mind second place. Ain’t that amazing grace? She loves me faithfully ’cause she loves Him more than me.”

On the **Adam James** and **Ben Simonetti** co-write “Little Man,” Ian uses his son Crawford as a muse. He sings, “Know you’re gonna grow up in a hurry. I’ll soak it in while I can. You’ve got a way of making big world worries seem so little, man.”

“I became a dad in 2020. I became a husband in 2020. Those life-changing moments are all in this album. They are a huge inspiration for my writing. Caroline and Crawford are in all of these songs,” he says, “It’s just more blatant in some than others.”

Like on *Coyote Cry*, Ian channels his playful, rhythmic side on *White Buffalo*, as well. On “Cowshit in the Morning,” he bemoans a love that turned sour when she turned her nose up at Ian’s way of living. On “Barn Burner,” he catches a lover cheating and it doesn’t end well, with Ian singing, “Ain’t saying I did, ain’t saying I didn’t, but I’m glad it’s ashes now. She threw a pitchfork through my heart, then her barn burned down.”

From the life lived between *Coyote Cry* and *White Buffalo*, and the platform Ian and Caroline have grown, there’s no doubt that his mission to bring “the west to the rest” will continue to be a fruitful one.

White Buffalo is available everywhere now. **MR**



TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
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
2	1	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 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 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	7	Luke Combs	5 Leaf Clover Going, Going, Gone Growin' Up and Gettin' Old Joe Love You Anyway You Found Yours Hannah Ford Road	Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs
6	5	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
7	6	John Byron	'98 Braves I Deserve A Drink Last Night Single Than She Was Sunrise Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
8	8	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	9	Ray Fulcher	Going, Going, Gone Love You Anyway	Luke Combs Luke Combs
10	11	Parker McCollum	Handle On You	Parker McCollum
11	12	Monty Criswell	Handle On You	Parker McCollum
12	13	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
13	10	Brett Tyler	Excuses Man Made A Bar Wild As Her	Kolby Cooper Morgan Wallen (Feat. Eric Church) Corey Kent
14		Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
15	16	James McNair	Going, Going, Gone Looking For You You Found Yours	Luke Combs Chris Young Luke Combs
16	23	Ross Copperman	Dancin' In The Country Gold Worth A Shot	Tyler Hubbard Dierks Bentley Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
17	17	Dallas Wilson	Can't Have Mine Heart Like A Truck	Dylan Scott Lainey Wilson
18	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
19	18	Jet Harvey	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
20	19	Jacob Hackworth	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
21	20	Heath Warren	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
22	15	Blake Pendergrass	180 (Lifestyle) Ain't That Some Dying Man Sunrise Tennessee Numbers	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
23	21	Miranda Lambert	Thought You Should Know	Morgan Wallen
24	22	Nicolle Galyon	Thought You Should Know	Morgan Wallen
25	30	T. Lane	Human	Cody Johnson
26	31	Travis Meadows	Human	Cody Johnson
27	27	Trannie Anderson	Heart Like A Truck	Lainey Wilson
28	28	Lainey Wilson	Heart Like A Truck	Lainey Wilson
29	29	Jordan M. Schmidt	Drinkaby Wait In The Truck We Got History	Cole Swindell Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Mitchell Tenpenny
30	35	Jessi Alexander	5 Leaf Clover Light On In The Kitchen You, Me, & Whiskey	Luke Combs Ashley McBryde Justin Moore & Priscilla Block
31	32	Hunter Phelps	Drinkaby Wait In The Truck Heaven By Then	Cole Swindell Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill
32	33	Josh Osborne	Next Thing You Know Water Under The Bridge Worth A Shot	Jordan Davis Sam Hunt Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
33	34	Kelly Archer	Wild As Her	Corey Kent

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
34	37	D. Fanning	Girl In Mine Tennessee Orange	Parmalee Megan Moroney
35	38	Renee Blair	Wait In The Truck	Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson
36	39	Jacob Kasher	Last Night	Morgan Wallen
37	68	Dan Isbell	Love You Anyway You Found Yours	Luke Combs Luke Combs
38	42	Chris LaCorte	Ain't That Some Water Under The Bridge	Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
39	40	Travis Wood	'98 Braves Girl In Mine Tennessee Numbers	Morgan Wallen Parmalee Morgan Wallen
40	24	Jon Nite	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
41	41	Josh Miller	'98 Braves Ain't That Some	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
42	46	Keith Urban	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
43	47	Tyler Hubbard	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
44	57	Rhett Akins	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
45	58	Scotty McCreery	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
46	59	Lee Thomas Miller	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
47	43	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
48	36	Jared Mullins	Devil Don't Know Keith Whitley Thank God	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown with Katelyn Brown
49	53	Luke Dick	Fearless (The Echo) Gold	Jackson Dean Dierks Bentley
50	49	Megan Moroney	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
51	50	Ben Williams	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
52	51	Paul Jenkins	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
53	25	Carly Pearce	What He Didn't Do	Carly Pearce
54	26	E. Shackelton	What He Didn't Do	Carly Pearce
55	48	Rocky Block	180 (Lifestyle) Cowgirls Man Made A Bar	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen (Feat. Eric Church)
56	54	Jordan Reynolds	You	Dan + Shay
57	55	Dave Barnes	You	Dan + Shay
58	56	Dan Smyers	You	Dan + Shay
59	61	Jordan Davis	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis
60	62	Greylan James	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

April 14

Mary-Heather Hickman/Small Town Saturday Night
Colt Ford/Must Be The Country/Average Joes Entertainment
Waylon Hanel/New Old Outlaws Rewind
Joe Noto/Daytona/AMG Records
Adam Mac & Jenna DeVries/Chapel
Meghan Patrick/Greatest Show On Dirt/Riser House Records

April 17

XOLEX/Ain't Buyin' It/XOLEX Music

Album/EP Releases

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

April 21

Brantley Gilbert/*So Help Me God (Deluxe Edition)*/The Valory Music Co.
Tenille Townes/*Train Track Worktapes*/Columbia Nashville/Big Yellow Dog Music
Jordana Bryant/*Jordana Bryant* EP
Morgan Evans/*Life Upside Down*/Warner Music Nashville
Southerland/*Southerland*

Industry Events

May 11

ACM Awards

May 15 – 18

Music Biz Conference