

Hardy, Lainey Wilson Dominate ACM Nominees, Voting Ends April 24



The final round of voting for the 58th Academy of Country Music Awards is open now until April 24. Winners will be revealed at the awards ceremony in Frisco, Texas on Thursday, May 11.

Hardy and **Lainey Wilson** led the nominations this year. Hardy was nominated for seven awards, including 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 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. The only other time three all-female acts had albums nominated for Album of the Year in the same year was in 1999 with **Faith Hill**, **Jo Dee Messina** and **The Chicks** all receiving nominations.

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Hardy, Lainey Wilson Dominate ACM Nominees, Voting Ends April 24

UMG Nashville Elevates Lori Christian & Rob Femia

BBR Music Group's Rick Shedd & Renee Leymon Retiring

Leslie DiPiero Named President Of Jonas Group Publishing

Jay Jones Exits BBR Music Group

Red Light Management Ups Allison Laughter To VP

BBR Promotes Shelley Hargis To VP

FBMM Promotes Dorian Yoanidis To CFO, COO

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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.

Kane receives his first ever nominations for Entertainer of the Year and Male Artist of the Year. Brown and **Katelyn Brown** receive three nominations together for their song "Thank God" in the Single, Music Event, and Visual Media of the Year categories. This marks Katelyn's first nominations, and with an additional two solo nominations this year brings Kane's total nominations to 14.

Swindell receives first-time nominations in three categories including Single of the Year, Visual Media of the Year, and Music Event of the Year, in which he shares a nomination with his collaborator and fellow artist Jo Dee Messina who receives her first nomination in 22 years.

Morgan Wallen receives four nods including his first nomination for Entertainer of the Year, bringing his career total to nine. Last year he took home ACM Album of the Year.

Cody Johnson receives three nominations this year, making this the most ACM Award nominations he has ever received and making him the most-nominated Texas-born male artist this year.

Brothers Osborne's nomination for Duo of the Year marks their 16th ACM nomination and their ninth year in a row being nominated for ACM Duo of the Year, an award they have brought home three times, including last year. **John Osborne** of Brothers Osborne receives his first solo nomination as a producer for producing McBryde's album *Ashley McBryde Presents: Lindeville*.

The War And Treaty receive their first nomination for Duo of the Year, making them the first Black duo to receive a nomination in the category.

Old Dominion receives a nomination for Group of the Year, 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.


Little Big Town receives their 17th nomination for Group of the Year, which leaves them one nomination short of the all-time record of 18 nominations for Group of the Year held by **Alabama**. The group has been nominated in the category every year since 2005, with the exception of 2011.

Hosted by global superstars **Dolly Parton** and **Garth Brooks**, the 58th ACM Awards will stream live exclusively for a global audience across over 240 territories on Prime Video on Thursday, May 11 at 8 p.m. ET/7 p.m. CT/5 p.m. PT from the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco, Texas.

[Click here to see the full list of nominees for the 58th annual ACM Awards.](#) **MR**



Pictured: Lainey Wilson accepts the Song of the Year award for "Things a Man Oughta Know" onstage during the 2022 ACM Awards. Photo: Kevin Winter/Getty Images for ACM

A full-page portrait of country music artist Jason Aldean. He is wearing a black cowboy hat, a black leather jacket over a black t-shirt, and multiple gold chains including a large cross pendant. He has a goatee and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a bright, hazy outdoor setting.

JASON ALDEAN

FOR YOUR
ACM CONSIDERATION

Entertainer of the Year

ACM Triple Crown Winner
and Artist of the Decade

27 Career #1 Hits

Over 20 BILLION
Global Streams

Over 20 Million Albums Sold

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Love You Anyway/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 48

Nobody's Nobody/Brothers Osborne/EMI - 58

Religiously/Bailey Zimmerman/Elektra/Warner Music Nashville - 65

State You Left Me In/Jake Worthington/Big Loud - 79

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Love You Anyway/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 307

Last Night/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 259

Nobody's Nobody/Brothers Osborne/EMI - 172

Next Thing You Know/Jordan Davis/MCA Nashville - 153

Religiously/Bailey Zimmerman/Elektra/Warner Music Nashville - 143

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Love You Anyway/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 17

Religiously/Bailey Zimmerman/Elektra/Warner Music Nashville - 12

Nobody's Nobody/Brothers Osborne/EMI - 10

Creek Will Rise/Conner Smith/Valory - 8

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Be Alright/Jimmie Allen/Stoney Creek Records - 98

Cap Guns And Skinny Horses/The Hammond Brothers/Dynasty - 95

Trouble/Rachel Stacy/CDX Records - 95

Heartache Waiting To Happen/Cutter Elliott/Cutter Elliott Music - 85

NO. 1 SONG



Cody Johnson tops the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart this week with "Human." The touching song was written by **Tony Lane** and **Travis Meadows**.

Johnson recently received three nominations for the upcoming 58th Academy of Country Music Awards, making this the most ACM nominations he has ever received and the most-nominated Texas-born male artist this year.

"Human" is Johnson's third *MusicRow* No. 1, following "'Til You Can't" and "On My Way To You."



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 Cartersville, 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	

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

Lainey Wilson

— THE MOST NOMINATED FEMALE ARTIST —



FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

ALBUM OF THE YEAR *BELL BOTTOM COUNTRY*

SINGLE OF THE YEAR "HEART LIKE A TRUCK"

SONG OF THE YEAR "WAIT IN THE TRUCK" (WITH HARDY)

VISUAL MEDIA OF THE YEAR "WAIT IN THE TRUCK" (WITH HARDY)

MUSIC EVENT OF THE YEAR "WAIT IN THE TRUCK" (WITH HARDY)



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
47	2	1	Human / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1535/51	0	-2
16	6	2	Tennessee Orange / Megan Moroney / Megan Moroney	1530/59	8	111
18	3	3	Dancin' In The Country / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	1527/48	0	-2
33	4	4	Wild As Her / Corey Kent / Combustion Music/RCA Records	1484/44	-2	-29
28	5	5	How It Oughta Be / Shane Profitt / BMLG	1481/56	0	0
8	8	6	One Thing At A Time / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records	1474/58	8	104
41	7	7	Everything She Ain't / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/S&D/Big Loud	1468/59	5	73
15	1	8	Memory Lane / Old Dominion / Arista Nashville	1444/53	-7	-104
13	9	9	Angels / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1367/62	7	85
27	10	10	Your Heart Or Mine / Jon Pardi / Capitol	1302/57	4	56
36	11	11	You / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1281/44	4	53
12	13	12	Drinkaby / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1223/56	5	60
25	14	13	You, Me, & Whiskey / Justin Moore & Priscilla Block / Valory	1221/59	6	73
10	16	14	Next Thing You Know / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	1113/51	16	153
7	24	15	Last Night / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1022/41	34	259
23	15	16	Hate My Heart / Carrie Underwood / Capitol	1013/43	-2	-23
29	18	17	Up There Down Here / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	916/46	-1	-8
13	21	18	Need A Favor / Jelly Roll / Stoney Creek Records	898/48	7	56
28	20	19	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	889/42	5	39
31	17	20	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	886/52	-4	-38
6	22	21	Standing Room Only / Tim McGraw / Big Machine Records	846/53	6	46
13	25	22	Looking For You / Chris Young / RCA Nashville	832/48	13	96
21	19	23	Heaven By Then / Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shelton feat. Vince Gill / Valory	832/45	-3	-25
62	23	24	Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	808/33	5	41
17	27	25	If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	725/41	8	52
8	28	26	Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville	710/42	12	76
16	29	27	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	671/42	6	38
70	26	28	You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG	638/24	-12	-90
10	31	29	All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records	584/36	4	20
38	30	30	Something In The Orange / Zach Bryan / Belting Bronco/Warner Records	570/31	-2	-11
5	36	31	Bury Me In Georgia / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	566/38	25	113
9	32	32	Only Need One / Ned LeDoux / Powder River/Thirty Tigers	564/36	4	24
14	33	33	Going Going / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	525/31	6	30
31	34	34	Country Can / Hannah Ellis / Curb	508/29	3	15
16	35	35	Jealous Of Myself / Tenille Arts / Dreamcatcher Artists	498/34	8	38
3	43	36	Fires Don't Start Themselves / Darius Rucker / Capitol	490/32	30	113
15	37	37	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	484/29	10	43
16	38	38	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	445/28	3	14
7	41	39	Save The Roses / Lee Brice / Curb	444/27	5	23
15	40	40	Marlboros & Avon / McBride & The Ride / TMC Records/InGrooves	431/29	0	2

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"There's the wit of Kacey's wordplay, the eye-rolling sass of Miranda, the twang of Reba and the no-frills storytelling of Ashley McBryde. All those influences and many more have been combined into one enormous force of country music that has the potential to be even bigger than them all."

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"There's an effortlessly smoky quality to Watkins' voice, with a style of direct-yet-poetic songwriting reminiscent of Kacey Musgraves or Miranda Lambert."

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
14	42	41	Missin' You / Cam Allen / Goat Music Group	428/28	12	45
27	39	42	Sounds Like Something I'd Do / Drake Milligan / Stoney Creek Records	421/26	-2	-10
6	45	43	Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	402/32	7	26
10	48	44	Honky Tonk Roll / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	388/25	5	18
11	46	45	Revival / Shenandoah / 8 Track Entertainment/Fame Records	387/28	3	11
8	44	46	3 Tequila Floor / Josiah Siska / Black River	381/30	1	4
15	49	47	Beer Needs Drinkin' / Reed Foley / Studios Magnetic	379/27	4	15
1	95	48	Love You Anyway / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	369/20	127	307
10	51	49	Why God Made Small Towns / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records	344/26	8	24
3	57	50	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	342/31	41	100
32	47	51	If He Wanted To He Would / Kylie Morgan / EMI Records Nashville	321/21	-14	-54
15	54	52	God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	304/19	12	32
13	55	53	Marry That Girl / Easton Corbin / Stone Country Records	274/18	3	9
2	62	54	5 Leaf Clover / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	261/16	39	73
16	50	55	Fast Car / Randy Rogers Band / Thirty Tigers	256/24	-21	-69
7	56	56	The Longer I Live / Aaron Goodvin & Ryan Kinder / Reviver Records/Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada	253/20	1	2
36	53	57	Honky Tonk Roll / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	242/16	-12	-33
1	90	58	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	239/17	127	172
8	60	59	Mattress On The Floor / Mo Pitney / Curb Records	229/17	13	27
10	59	60	New Old Outlaws / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music	224/16	2	5
8	61	61	Let's Take Tonight / Corey Layne / Corey Layne	221/16	15	28
21	58	62	Excuses / Kolby Cooper / Wheelhouse Records	218/16	-2	-5
3	63	63	Dents On A Chevy / Ty Herndon, Terri Clark / Pivotal Records	206/19	13	23
8	64	64	A Special Place / Danielle Bradbery / Big Machine Records	203/15	17	29
1	111	65	Religiously / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville	189/15	127	143
11	65	66	I Miss America / Colton James / RedSunset Entertainment	161/11	0	0
8	67	67	Not In This Heartbreak / Morgan White / NashTown Entertainment	156/10	3	4
8	73	68	Sunday Chapel / Dave Herrera / Brokerade, Inc	154/9	22	28
12	68	69	Just Me / Gillian Smith / Gillian Smith Records	146/10	2	3
8	70	70	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	136/11	1	1
4	69	71	Somebody Else's Whiskey / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	135/9	-3	-4
70	66	72	Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House	135/8	-15	-23
2	75	73	Shoot Tequila / Tigirlily Gold / Monument Records	131/10	7	9
4	71	74	I Ain't Done Singin' Yet / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	131/8	1	1
5	72	75	Shelter / Rusty Steel / Tower Music Group	129/8	1	1
4	74	76	Your Hands / Katie Linendoll / Duncan Music Group	120/7	-2	-3
5	79	77	If Country Was A Town / Rob Fitzgerald / Riverbend Recordings	119/6	14	15
2	80	78	Be The One / Josh Kinney / Birmingham Entertainment	116/9	13	13
1	83	79	State You Left Me In / Jake Worthington / Big Loud	110/8	21	19
2	77	80	Every Town's Got One / Ty Gregory	110/9	0	0

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MOST PLAYED SONG OF 2022
6 WEEK #1
OVER 465 MILLION GLOBAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS



BMG

Becoming Espo: The Story Of Industry Vet John Esposito [Interview]



Pictured (L-R, back row): Chris Janson, Ashley McBryde; (L-R, front row): Dan Smyers, Espo, Shay Mooney

Upon the announcement this week of Espo's retirement, MusicRow celebrates his legacy by revisiting his journey to becoming one of the most revered label heads in Nashville's music industry history. The below profile on former Warner Music Nashville Chairman & CEO John Esposito was originally published in MusicRow's 2022 Country Radio & Streaming Issue.

If you've been to a music industry event in which Warner Music Nashville Chairman & CEO **John "Espo" Esposito** speaks, chances are you haven't forgotten him.

The Pennsylvania native stands tall, and dons glasses with dark, circular frames. He speaks with a slight accent, he's hilariously witty, and is

known for his colorful vernacular. In other words, he swears like a sailor.

Since he arrived in Music City to head up Warner Music Nashville (WMN) in 2009, he's become unequivocally beloved by artists and industry folk alike. So much so that the powerful label head is affectionately called Espo by all.

John Esposito didn't set out to be a high-ranking music executive when he started his career.

He majored in journalism at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, but his passion for music occupied a lot of his time.

"I had no inkling to become a music executive or even make a living in music," Espo says of his college days. "I was in two bands. I wrote the music editorial for the college paper, I was a disc jockey, and I booked the concerts and coffee houses at the college. Something should have clicked in my head at that point that that was my calling, but I only did it because I'm nutty passionate about music."

After graduating and spending a few years drumming for a band in Pittsburgh, Espo found himself looking for a job in Washington, D.C. On his way to an interview at a radio station, he saw a help wanted sign at a record store called the Harmony Hut.

"So I became a clerk at a record store for damn near minimum wage. To my good fortune, the second day I was at the store, the regional manager came in and said, 'What the hell are you doing here? You wanna become the assistant manager of one of my stores and I'll train you how to be in the record store business?' And that was how my life took off."

Esposito rose through the ranks at Harmony Hut, continuously getting promoted to bigger stores. "The one thing I remember very specifically is I got free albums and free tickets, and that resonated with me, which I would circle back to years later."

Soon Espo was recruited to work at Macy's as a buyer. Years later, one of Espo's suppliers, Mitsubishi, asked him to come work for them as head of sales for the east coast of their operation.

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

HAILEY WHITTERS

NEW FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

“Whitters has proven herself
a stellar songwriter and
artist in equal measure...”

billboard

“Hailey Whitters’ blood,
sweat, and tears have paid
off - she has more than
earned this moment.”

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songwriter
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“As both a writer and a singer,
Whitters has rapidly proven to
be one of the most interesting
voices of country music.”

npr

“...one of the most appealing
country singers and
songwriters working today.”

THE NEW YORKER

BIG LOUD S&D

"I was making a really good living at Mitsubishi, but I was seven years in and was bored shitless. I said to my now ex-wife, 'I have to get into the music business. That's my calling. I keep spending all my disposable income on instruments, CDs and concert tickets.'"

Following his passion, Espo called up one of his big customers, The Wiz, to see if they could introduce him to music business executives. They, in turn, asked Espo to run their record department. Espo took the job with hopes that he would make connections at a major label. "Within two years I luckily had three different companies pursuing me. Again, no freaking plan."

By 1994, Espo had his foot in the door of the music business, landing a job at Polygram where he would advance through high-ranking positions before leaving to become the founding general manager and executive vice president at The Island Def Jam Music Group in 1997.

In 2002 he was named president of WEA, Corp., the sales and marketing arm of the Warner Music Group, where he would spend the next seven years. But while Espo was building his career up north, his guiding light of passion caught an interest in Nashville.

"When I was running The Wiz, some people from Sony knew I was a **Mary Chapin Carpenter** fanatic and asked me if I wanted to go to the CMAs and see her perform. It was 1993, and that was my first trip to Nashville.

"I had no preconceived notions [about Nashville], but I had no idea I was going to enjoy that show so much," Espo says. "That night I just fell in love with Nashville. I haven't missed a CMA Awards since 1993, until the pandemic."

In 2009, Espo was able to follow his love for Music City when he was tapped to become the first president and CEO of Warner Music Nashville.

"I said yes in a heartbeat. I came down here in September of 2009 and never looked back. I had no idea if I'd be successful as a country record label head, but I knew I was going to give it my all and that I was lucky to get that opportunity."

At the time, Warner's country music label in Nashville was struggling, with record sales declining. **Blake Shelton** had been at the label for eight years, and had seen modest success with five No. 1 records, but wasn't hitting his maximum potential.

"I looked at the roster and the crew that was operating the company and I thought Blake was my greatest opportunity. I thought, I have to help this team make a statement by putting all our eggs in the Blake Shelton basket."

It worked. Shelton, who is still a WMN artist, boasts 28 No. 1 hits and multiple Gold and Platinum certifications. Over the past two decades he has accumulated more than 8.5 billion global on-demand streams, 13 million career album U.S. sales, and award wins approaching the hundreds.

"I had to convince people that we could win. If we could start winning with Blake, we could win."



Pictured: A young Espo sits at his drum set.

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

BROOKS & DUNN



DUO OF THE YEAR

"Brooks & Dunn's ability to swing from heartfelt & insightful, to boot-stomping, bridged their way to decads of relevance"

USA TODAY



Pictured (L-R): Espo, Scott Hendricks, Shay Mooney, Blake Shelton, Max Lousada, Gwen Stefani, Dan Smyers and Ashley McBryde attend the 2020 Warner Music Group pre-Grammy party in Hollywood, California. Photo: Lester Cohen/Getty Images for Warner Music

With Shelton on his way to country superstardom, a refined label staff, and success with several key signings such as **Brett Eldredge**, **Hunter Hayes**, and **Cole Swindell**, Espo and his WMN team were in the game.

“Suddenly it felt like a lot of weight was off my shoulders. Everybody at the label was becoming prouder and prouder to be part of a team that was starting to get consideration,” Espo says. “I believe that success begets success. Momentum is so hard to create. When you have it, that’s when you hunker down and work even harder.”

While rebuilding the country label, Espo threw himself into the Nashville music business community, joining the CMA and ACM boards, Leadership Music, NARAS, the Mayor’s Music Council, and more.

“I wanted people to know that there may be people who work as hard as me, but there

ain’t gonna be anybody who works harder than me. And I wanted them to know I was committed to being part of this community. I didn’t want anybody to think this was one step on my next path. This was it for me.”

In 2016, Espo celebrated a promotion to chairman and CEO of WMN, and Shelton broke a record for the label with 17 consecutive No. 1 songs on the Billboard Country Airplay chart. In 2018, Espo signed another country hitmaker, **Kenny Chesney**, who celebrated his 34th No. 1 in January.

“One of the good things I observed from New York before coming here is that, if they do it right, a country artist can have a much longer career than most other genres. But they have to be willing to work as hard after years of success as they did when they started. With Blake and Kenny, when we’re about to launch a project, they’re getting on airplanes and flying to visit radio and streaming companies. They display the same hunger they had when they were first trying to break.”

WMN has seen incredible success in recent years with **Dan + Shay**, who have garnered nine billion global career streams to date, 42 total RIAA certifications and achieved nine No. 1 singles at country radio.

Dan + Shay’s massive commercial appeal has been, in part, due to their embracing global opportunities—something that WMN is privy to.

“We were the first Nashville-based label to put a full-time international team in place,” Espo says.

With fans around the world taking more and more interest in country music, especially country music with pop sensibilities, Dan + Shay were able to harness this global opportunity.

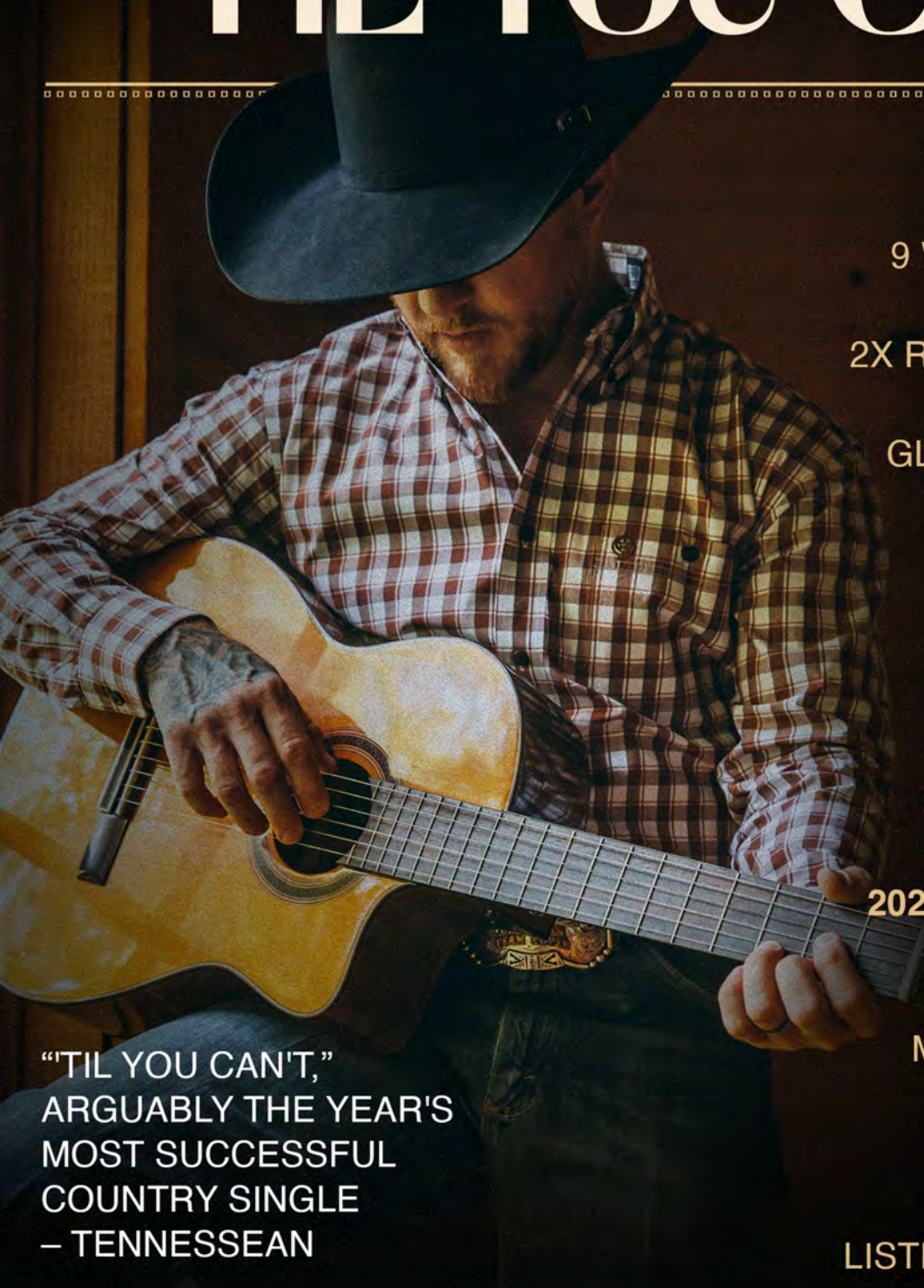
“If an artist is willing to work—knowing that it’s a grind in the beginning just like the beginning part of their career was—and if they are willing to get on airplanes and go play small clubs [overseas] while at the same time they’re playing arenas in the U.S., they have an opportunity to open up markets. And Dan+ Shay were 100% on board, as was their management team, who understands that opportunity as well. They are the poster children with 9 billion global streams. They’ve topped the charts everywhere.”

In 2019 WMN signed another monumental artist, **Gabby Barrett**. Her now 5x-Platinum debut single “I Hope” was the most-streamed country song of 2020 and reigned atop the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart for a record-breaking

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

CODY JOHNSON

'TIL YOU CAN'T



MULTI-WEEK #1 SINGLE
(2X US & 5X CANADA)

9 WEEK #1 BILLBOARD HOT
COUNTRY SONGS

2X RIAA PLATINUM CERTIFIED

OVER A HALF BILLION
GLOBAL STREAMS TO DATE

AWARD WINS INCLUDE:

2023 GRAMMY AWARDS
BEST COUNTRY SONG

2023 CMT PERFORMANCE
OF THE YEAR

2022 CMA AWARDS SINGLE &
VIDEO OF THE YEAR

2022 CMT AWARDS
MALE VIDEO OF THE YEAR

2022 MUSICROW
SONG OF THE YEAR

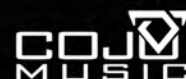
2022 IHEART MOST
LISTENED TO COUNTRY SONG

"'TIL YOU CAN'T,"
ARGUABLY THE YEAR'S
MOST SUCCESSFUL
COUNTRY SINGLE
— TENNESSEAN

SINGLE OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR
VISUAL MEDIA OF THE YEAR



WARNER
MUSIC
NASHVILLE



27 weeks. Her follow up, “The Good Ones,” also achieved Platinum certification and spent three weeks at No. 1.

“It was an incredibly competitive deal,” Espo says of signing Barrett, who at the time was beginning to make waves with “I Hope” after leaving American Idol. “Every label wanted to sign her.

“I remember people interviewing me pre-pandemic, probably in 2019. We were having success with Gabby and **Ingrid [Andress]**. They hadn’t chart topped yet, although they were on their way. We were also getting traction with **Ashley [McBryde]**. And all the questions were about, ‘Did you purposely sign women? Are you crazy for signing women when it’s so tough to break women?’

“Then when we started having success, the questions turned into ‘Is radio making it easier?’ And my answer is, they never make it easy. You’re signing artists. I’m not looking at them as a female artist, a male artist, or a six foot tall artist. Our job is to sign geniuses and we just happen to be lucky that we signed those three.”

In his more than a decade at WMN, some of Espo’s proudest moments are signing his first new artist, Eldredge; Blake Shelton winning CMA’s Entertainer of the Year in 2012; Dan + Shay releasing “Tequila” to massive appeal; welcoming Chesney and **Zac Brown Band** to the label family, and having **Cody Johnson** put his faith in WMN, resulting in his massive consumption growth. Just to name a few.

He’s also pretty stoked for WMN’s building remodel on Music Row.

“We wanted to be the major that put a stake in the ground and said, ‘We’re going to be on Music Row,’” Espo says. “[The renovated office building] is going to be so much more artist friendly, so much more inviting to people, and it will still allow us the charm of Music Row.”

When looking back on Espo’s career so far, and looking forward to the future, one thing is clear: he is led by a desperate passion for music.

“I had no plan other than just keep being successful at what you do so that they’ll keep paying me so I can keep getting tickets,” Espo shares. “[My former boss] **Lyor Cohen** had a big impact on my life. One of his expressions that I use all the time is: I’ve worked my entire life for an all access backstage pass. That’s the only thing I work for.”

So, how did Espo get his nickname?

“With John being the most common male name on the planet earth, I just decided that being Espo would be easier. When somebody yelled John in a room, a hundred heads would turn. When they say Espo, I’m likely the only Espo in the damn room.”

And with that, Espo has continued to turn heads in every damn room he’s entered during his career. His wit, tenacity, and most of all, passion, have set him apart in his nearly 15 years on Music Row. **MR**



Pictured (L-R): Brett Eldredge and Espo celebrate Glow, Eldredge’s 2016 Christmas album.

"SHE'S GOT A LITTLE RASP TO HER VOICE
AND A **HEART-ON-HER-SLEEVE STYLE**."

- **BILLBOARD**

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

M
MEGAN MORONEY

NEW FEMALE ARTIST
OF THE YEAR

"TENNESSEE ORANGE"

TOP 15

AT COUNTRY RADIO
AND CLIMBING

OVER
200
MILLION
CAREER STREAMS
TO DATE



Spotify

2023 **HOT COUNTRY**
ARTIST TO WATCH

pandora

2023 **COUNTRY**
ARTIST TO WATCH

amazon music

2023 **BREAKTHROUGH**
ARTIST TO WATCH



((SiriusXm))

2023
FUTURE FIVE



NEXT WOMEN OF
COUNTRY 2023

AND MORE...



UMG Nashville Elevates Lori Christian & Rob Femia



UMG Nashville has promoted **Lori Christian** and **Rob Femia** to executive positions. Christian will now serve as Executive Vice President of Marketing and Femia has been named Executive Vice President of Business & Legal Affairs for the label group consisting of Capitol Records Nashville, EMI Records Nashville, Mercury Nashville and MCA Nashville.

“Lori’s understanding of storytelling and weaving our artists narratives into framing their stories has been a critical element of UMG Nashville’s success,” says **Cindy Mabe**, UMG Nashville Chair & CEO. “Artist development is such a defining feature that separates our artists, especially in a world where everyone is looking for immediate gratification. Having Lori in this leadership role to help drive the key tenants of artist development across all of UMG Nashville is going to change our artist growth strategy. I am so excited to see how Lori leads and guides a new era in artist marketing across UMG Nashville.”

Mabe adds, “It’s an honor to expand Rob’s leadership abilities beyond his vast business and legal knowledge. Rob has had a front seat in dealmaking for a while but as we expand the new goals of UMG Nashville, Rob is helping to write and build the next era of country music business. With the industry changing so rapidly, Rob is an essential partner to our future as Universal Music Group Nashville and his alignment and guidance of our staff and artists is critical to our success. It’s an honor to watch Rob shine and lead our company and I am thrilled to have him join our executive team.” **MR**

BBR Music Group’s Rick Shedd & Renee Leymon Retiring



BBR Music Group has announced the retirement of **Rick Shedd**, who served as the label group’s General Manager for more than 20 years, and **Renee Leymon**, who has been with the label group for almost a decade and rose to her most recent post of VP/Radio Syndication & Group Strategy in 2016.

“After an entire career making my living within the music business, it is time to step back to pursue some personal goals like traveling and reconnecting with friends,” says Shedd. “I am eternally grateful to have had a career that combined so many fun experiences and the opportunity to make lifelong friendships with people that I met along the way. So grateful to those who were supportive and loyal to me on this journey.”

“Rick has been with BBR from nearly the beginning and has played an important role in our growth and success all along the way,” says **Jon Loba**, President of BMG Nashville. “His steady hand and demeanor were the perfect balance for a scrappy, upstart independent. He’s also been an amazing friend to me and the entire staff. We will miss having him in the office greatly, but so happy he gets to enjoy a well-deserved retirement.”

“It feels good going out riding on the wings of being the No. 1 airplay label in country music for 2022,” says Leymon. “I’ve been blessed way more than I deserve and am thankful for every second of my music business life. I would consider it my biggest professional accomplishment to leave a trail of successors that I might have influenced and that they are better for it. Most of all, thank you to the people that got me here and enabled me to realize a dream beyond my imagination...you know who you are.” **MR**

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

MORGAN WADE

MW

NEW FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

"IMAGINE KRIS
KRISTOFFERSON AS
A GEN Z WOMAN."
- *HITS*



CMT
AND
AMERICANA
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION
AWARDS
NOMINEE



FEATURED IN

billboard RollingStone The New York Times FADER TIME VULTURE
BrooklynVEGAN The Boston Globe American songwriter STEREOGUM THE SCENE

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: 'Major New Talent' Megan Moroney Releases Another Smash



I love gender parity.

After all, we're each half of the population. So in this stack of sounds, we have six featuring female voices and six that are males.

Do you need to ask which half has the better music?

Completely pinning my ears back was Lauren Watkins, who easily wins the DisCOVERY Award.

The Disc of the Day belongs to ACM New Female Artist nominee Megan Moroney. And it isn't even a single.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Kane Brown & Co-Writers Toast To Another Chart-Topper, 'Like I Love Country Music'](#)

[Luke Combs Sets The Bar For Shows This Summer After Two-Night Stint At Nissan Stadium](#)

[Ben Simonetti Signs With 50 Egg Music](#)

[Jordan Davis Celebrates Recent Chart-Topper 'What My World Spins Around'](#)

[Brad Paisley To Headline Nashville's July 4th Celebration](#)

[36th Annual Music Row Ladies Golf Tournament Set For August](#)

[Ingrid Andress Commemorates Hits With First No. 1 Party](#)

[Country Music Hall Of Fame & Museum Welcomes Two New Staffers](#)

[Morgan Wallen Joins Ryl Tea As Brand Ambassador & Investor](#)

[Music Row Sings Praises For Mitchell Tenpenny's 'Truth About You' At No. 1 Party](#)

[Paramount+ To Unveil 'Wynonna Judd: Between Hell & Hallelujah' On April 26](#)

[Lady A Launches 'Request Line Tour' With Two Sold-Out Ryman Shows](#)

[CMT & Mtheory Reveal New Members Of Equal Access Program](#)

[Warner Chappell Music & Twelve 6 Entertainment Sign Emma Klein](#)

[BMI Taps Elice Cuff-Campbell As Senior Director Of Media Relations, Nashville](#)

[Romeo Entertainment Group Announces Leadership Team Promotions & Addition](#)

*kelsea
ballerini*
...*EMERGES*

Saturday Night Live Debut

The New York Times Profile

Sold-Out HEARTFIRST Tour ♡

Kenny Chesney's I Go Back Tour

★ *CMT Music Awards Host*

COVERGIRL



FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

- 1. Female Artist of the Year !*
- 2. Visual Media of the Year ♡ "HEARTFIRST"*

Leslie DiPiero Named President Of Jonas Group Publishing



After joining the Nashville creative community in 2020, full service entertainment company Jonas Group Entertainment (JGE) has announced the appointment of Music Row veteran **Leslie DiPiero** as President of Jonas Group Publishing.

In her new role, DiPiero will sign and develop songwriters and producers, while nurturing the current writers and catalog. Reporting to JGE CEO **Phil Guerini**, DiPiero and the team plan to expand their overall Nashville footprint with catalog acquisitions, recordings and sync opportunities.

Current JGP songwriters include **Franklin Jonas**, who recently released his debut single, "Cocaine," and **Terri Jo Box** whose recent cuts include "Hillbilly Hippie" (Lainey Wilson) and "God Bless The Boy" (Cody Johnson).

"Working with Phil Guerini and **Kevin Jonas Sr.** is an honor and privilege for me," says DiPiero. "These two individuals have a longstanding friendship based on honesty and integrity. What brought us together is a shared passion and inspired direction towards helping creators reach their goals and dreams."

DiPiero will launch this new chapter of her career on May 31, while simultaneously exiting her position at Tree Vibe Music, where she led the building of a powerhouse publishing company. In her six years as General Manager, Tree Vibe Music produced more than 500 cuts, of which 23 reached No. 1. **MR**

Jay Jones Exits BBR Music Group



Jay Jones has exited his role as BBR Music Group's SVP, Publicity, MusicRow has confirmed.

Jones joined the label group in 2017, following its acquisition by BMG, and previously served as Director of Media for the Country Music Association.

He was named SVP, Publicity in 2021 and led strategizing and national publicity campaigns for the BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville imprints Broken Bow Records, Stoney Creek Records and Wheelhouse Records and their rosters including Jason Aldean, Dustin Lynch, Jelly Roll, Craig Morgan, Blanco Brown, Tyler Farr, Chase Rice, LoCash, Jimmie Allen, Parmalee, Everette, Brooke Eden, Lainey Wilson, King Calaway, Track45, Elvie Shane, Tim Montana, Madeline Merlo, Jordan Harvey, Kolby Cooper, Chayce Beckham and Dee Jay Silver as well as BMG Nashville Publishing.

No plans have been announced for the position as of now. **MR**

Red Light Management Ups Allison Laughter To VP Of Marketing, Digital & Streaming



Allison Laughter has been promoted to VP of Marketing, Digital & Streaming at Red Light Management Nashville. Laughter previously helmed the Digital Marketing & Streaming department and will now direct efforts for Marketing as well.

Prior to joining Red Light Management in 2013, Laughter worked in digital marketing and publicity for Capitol Records Nashville and Universal Music Group Nashville.

In addition, **Madison Jelks** and **Chad Meholic** rise to the position of Director of Digital Strategy & Partnerships and Director of Audience Development & Growth, respectively. **MR**

BBR Ups Shelley Hargis To VP Of Radio Syndication & Group Strategy

BBR Music Group has announced the promotion of **Shelley Hargis** to VP of Radio Syndication & Group Strategy.

Previously serving as the VP of Promotion for Broken Bow Records, Hargis will now be responsible for handling all nationally syndicated campaigns and group strategy and promotion for BBR Music Group's entire artist roster. She will continue to report to SVP of Promotion, **Carson James**.

Hargis has been with the label group for over two decades. She began her tenure with BBR Music Group as a Southwest Regional of Promotion in 2002, before rising to National Director in 2005. Three years later, she helped to establish the label's Stoney Creek imprint and later its Red Bow imprint. In 2018, Hargis rose to her most recent post of VP, Promotion for Broken Bow Records, scoring a prolific amount of No. 1 songs and propelling forward the catalogs of Jason Aldean, Dustin Lynch, Lainey Wilson and more.

Throughout her career, Hargis has racked up numerous accolades including a nomination for Country Radio Seminar's VP of the Year and being named to Country Aircheck/Mediabase's Power 31. Most recently, she played an integral role in Broken Bow Records being named the No. 1 Air-Play Label of the Year by Country Aircheck/Mediabase.

"I'm so excited to have Shelley in this role," says James. "Her relentless pursuit of airplay is matched only by her relentless desire to serve our clients' needs. She continuously looks for creative ways to elevate not only our business, but our partners in radio as well!" **MR**



FBMM Promotes Dorian Yoanidis To CFO, COO



Entertainment business management firm Flood, Bumstead, McCready and McCarthy Inc. (FBMM) has promoted **Dorian Yoanidis** from Vice President of Operations to both Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the company.

Yoanidis holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting from Penn State University. He has been a CPA since 1994, and has more than 30 years of experience as a music industry finance and operations leader. In his new positions, he will work with every department at FBMM to ensure employees continue to provide the highest-quality service to clients and is responsible for every aspect of FBMM's business operations, from finance to IT and everything in between.

"I have worked closely with Dorian since he joined FBMM and have witnessed firsthand his dedication to our clients, staff and the future of the company," says **Duane Clark**, FBMM Owner & Business Manager. "He is the embodiment of a servant leader and has made a tremendous impact for our FBMM family and, in doing so, for our clients. His expertise allows our business managers to focus on their clients, and I have full confidence in Dorian as he continues to guide our operations in this new role." **MR**

WME Acquires Red 11 Music



WME has announced the acquisition of Nashville-based music agency Red 11 Music. As part of the transaction, Red 11 Music and their Founder & CEO **Jon Folk** will officially join WME as Partner. Red 11 agents, staff and clients will now operate under WME.

In just over a decade, Red 11 Music has grown a renowned roster of clients in the Americana genre, including **Turnpike Troubadours, Shooter Jennings, Muscadine Bloodline, Jason Boland & The Stragglers, Giovannie & The Hired Guns** and many others.

"We have long-admired Jon and the business he has built with Red 11. Jon and his team have a proven track record of success, and we look forward to working with them to grow the Americana genre even further," says WME's Nashville office Co-Heads **Becky Gardenhire, Joey Lee and Jay Williams**. "We are excited to welcome Red 11's clients to WME and connect them to our portfolio of industry best assets and capabilities."

"We're thrilled to be joining WME and the incredible resources and expertise they bring to the table," shares Folk. "Our clients can expect even greater levels of service and opportunity in this exciting new chapter."

Five current Red 11 employees will be joining Folk in the transition to WME, including agent **Geoff Turner**, coordinators **Josh Green, Dan Kuklinski** and **Jeremy Upton**, and agent assistant **Lindsey Wines**. **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	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	2	Ashley Gorley	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 Whiskey Friends You Proof	Chris Janson Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Parmalee Russell Dickerson Dierks Bentley Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
3	3	Ryan Vojtesak	Cowgirls Everything I Love Hope That's True Last Night Me + All Your Reasons Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) One Thing At A Time Thinkin' Bout Me Whiskey Friends You Proof	Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) 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	5	Luke Combs	5 Leaf Clover Going, Going, Gone Growin' Up and Gettin' Old Love You Anyway	Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs
6	6	Ernest Keith Smith	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 (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
7	7	John Byron	'98 Braves I Deserve A Drink Last Night Sunrise Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
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

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
9	10	Parker McCollum	Handle On You	Parker McCollum
10	11	Monty Criswell	Handle On You	Parker McCollum
11	12	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
12	14	Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
13	9	Ray Fulcher	Going, Going, Gone Love You Anyway	Luke Combs Luke Combs
14	13	Brett Tyler	Excuses Man Made A Bar Wild As Her	Kolby Cooper Morgan Wallen (Feat. Eric Church) Corey Kent
15	17	Dallas Wilson	Can't Have Mine Heart Like A Truck	Dylan Scott Lainey Wilson
16	18	Josh Thompson	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Brown Eyes Baby Dying Man Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) Whiskey Friends Stars Like Confetti	Thomas Rhett Keith Urban Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dustin Lynch
17	16	Ross Copperman	Dancin' In The Country Gold Worth A Shot	Tyler Hubbard Dierks Bentley Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
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	29	Jordan M. Schmidt	Bury Me In Georgia Drinkaby Wait In The Truck We Got History	Kane Brown Cole Swindell Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Mitchell Tenpenny
22	15	James McNair	Going, Going, Gone Looking For You	Luke Combs Chris Young
23	25	T. Lane	Human	Cody Johnson
24	26	Travis Meadows	Human	Cody Johnson
25	30	Jessi Alexander	5 Leaf Clover Light On In The Kitchen You, Me, & Whiskey	Luke Combs Ashley McBryde Justin Moore & Priscilla Block
26	23	Miranda Lambert	Thought You Should Know	Morgan Wallen
27	24	Nicolle Galyon	Thought You Should Know	Morgan Wallen
28	27	Trannie Anderson	Heart Like A Truck	Lainey Wilson
29	28	Lainey Wilson	Heart Like A Truck	Lainey Wilson
30	32	Josh Osborne	Next Thing You Know Water Under The Bridge Worth A Shot	Jordan Davis Sam Hunt Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
31	22	Blake Pendergrass	Ain't That Some Dying Man Sunrise Tennessee Numbers	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
32	31	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	Kelly Archer	Wild As Her	Corey Kent
34	34	D. Fanning	Girl In Mine Tennessee Orange	Parmalee Megan Moroney
35	37	Dan Isbell	Fires Don't Start Themselves Love You Anyway	Darius Rucker Luke Combs
36	35	Renee Blair	Wait In The Truck	Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson
37	36	Jacob Kasher	Last Night	Morgan Wallen

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
38	38	Chris LaCorte	Ain't That Some Water Under The Bridge	Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
39	44	Rhett Akins	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
40	45	Scotty McCreery	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
41	46	Lee Thomas Miller	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
42	40	Jon Nite	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
43	42	Keith Urban	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
44	43	Tyler Hubbard	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
45	47	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
46	50	Megan Moroney	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
47	51	Ben Williams	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
48	52	Paul Jenkins	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
49	49	Luke Dick	Fearless (The Echo) Gold	Jackson Dean Dierks Bentley
50	59	Jordan Davis	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis
51	60	Greylan James	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis
52	39	Travis Wood	'98 Braves Girl In Mine Tennessee Numbers	Morgan Wallen Parmalee Morgan Wallen
53	41	Josh Miller	'98 Braves Ain't That Some	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
54	56	Jordan Reynolds	You	Dan + Shay
55	57	Dave Barnes	You	Dan + Shay
56	58	Dan Smyers	You	Dan + Shay
57	61	Trent Dabbs	Gold	Dierks Bentley
58	62	Dierks Bentley	Gold	Dierks Bentley
59	48	Jared Mullins	Devil Don't Know Keith Whitley Thank God	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown with Katelyn Brown
60	63	Jessie Jo Dillon	Memory Lane	Old Dominion

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

April 21

BoomTown Saints/*Black Top Don't*/8 Track Entertainment

Dan Tyminski/*Hey Brother*/8 Track Entertainment

Marie Wise-Hawkins/*Somewhere In Mexico*

April 28

Austin Tolliver/*Yeah*/Average Joes Entertainment

Album/EP Releases

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*

April 28

Cole Swindell/*Stereotype Broken*/Warner Music Nashville

Kip Moore/*Damn Love*/MCA Nashville

Travis Tritt/*Proud of the Country*/Copperhill Records

Joy Oladokun/*Proof of Life*/Amigo Records/Verve Forecast/Republic Records

Alyssa Micaela/*The Hard Way*/Queue Records

Brett Kissel/*East Album*/Big Star Recordings Inc/ONErpm

Griffen Palmer/*Unlearn*/Big Loud Records

Brandon Davis/*Jesus and Jesse James*/Big Yellow Dog Music

Liddy Clark/*Made Me Deluxe Album*

Nate Smith/*Nate Smith (Deluxe)*/Sony Music Nashville

Industry Events

May 11

ACM Awards

May 15 – 18

Music Biz Conference