

Luke Bryan Wins Top Honor; Carrie Underwood, Alan Jackson Shine At ACM Awards



Alan Jackson. Photo: Jason Kempin/Getty Images for ACM

The Academy of Country Music Awards returned to Nashville Sunday night (April 18) with **Keith Urban** and **Mickey Guyton** serving as hosts while performances and award presentations commenced at three iconic country music venues—the Grand Ole Opry House, the Ryman Auditorium, and the Bluebird Cafe.

Luke Bryan won the night's top honor, Entertainer of the Year. **Maren Morris**, **Thomas Rhett**, **Chris Stapleton**, **Old Dominion**, **Dan + Shay**, and **Carly Pearce** and **Lee Brice** were also among the televised winners.

The show kicked off at the Grand Ole Opry House with **Miranda Lambert** and **Elle King** performing their lively new duet, "Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)," clothed in leather jackets with colorful fringe.

Urban and Guyton welcomed viewers, and pointed out that healthcare workers from Vanderbilt Health were in attendance, socially distanced in the seats.

Chris Young and Video of the Year winner **Kane Brown** started things off at the Ryman Auditorium with a performance of their duet, "Famous Friends." Over at the Bluebird Cafe, Lambert joined Stapleton on his tear-jerking song about his lost dog, "Maggie."

In his first appearance since his car accident, **Blanco Brown** was on hand to present the first award of the night. Group of the Year was awarded to Old Dominion, their fourth time winning the honor.

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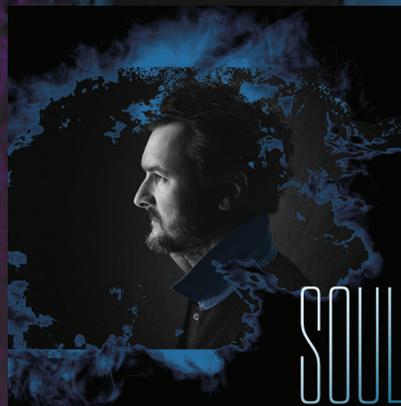
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Morris and **Ryan Hurd** came together for a romantic performance of their duet, “Chasing You,” before **Lady A** lit up Nashville’s Bridge Building stage with their snazzy “Like A Lady.” New Female Artist of the Year **Gabby Barrett** performed an intimate version of “The Good Ones” from the Bluebird Cafe.

Darius Rucker presented Song of the Year to “The Bones” songwriters: Morris, **Jimmy Robbins** and **Laura Veltz**. “Song of the year is something that I’ve dreamt of for so long,” an emotional Morris said when accepting the award.



Thomas Rhett. Photo: Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for ACM

Dierks Bentley performed from The Station Inn, honoring late venue owner **JT Gray** by singing U2’s “Pride (In The Name of Love).” **The War and Treaty** and **Larkin Poe** joined Bentley for the bluegrass-tinged anthem.

Carrie Underwood did a breathtaking medley of gospel songs from her new *My Savior* album, starting with an a cappella rendition of “Amazing Grace,” before being joined by gospel great **CeCe Winans** and a choir for “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and “The Old Rugged Cross.” Underwood finished her performance with a stunning finale—“How Great Thou Art.”

Another country superstar, **Eric Church**, followed Underwood with “Bunch of Nothing” from his brand new album *Heart*.

Dan + Shay did an acoustic version of their “Glad You Exist” at the Bluebird. **Luke Combs** performed “Forever After All” with a socially distanced orchestra. Lambert, the most awarded artist in ACM history, performed “In His Arms” with **Jon Randall** and **Jack Ingram**. The tune is on their upcoming album, *The Marfa Tapes*.

New Male Artist of the Year **Jimmie Allen** sang his and **Brad Paisley**’s duet “Freedom Was A Highway.” Paisley—who was supposed to be out of town—surprised Allen by joining him on stage just in time for his verse at the Bluebird Cafe.

Martina McBride presented the Single of the Year award to a thrilled **Carly Pearce** and **Lee Brice** for “I Hope You’re Happy Now,” which also took home Music Event of the Year before the April 18th broadcast. McBride noted that for the first time in ACM history, all nominees for the Single of the Year category were songs performed by a woman.



Carly Pearce. Photo: Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for ACM

Kenny Chesney performed his heartbreaker, “Knowing You,” from the Grand Ole Opry. **Ashley McBryde** performed her thrilling “Martha Divine” from the Nashville Bride Building stage.

Alan Jackson took the Ryman stage next, performing a mashup of his “Drive (For Daddy Gene)” and new tune from his upcoming album, called “You’ll Always Be My Baby.” Photos of his family lit up the stage behind him. The latter tune was written for his daughters’ weddings.

Blake Shelton performed his breakout hit “Austin,” which is celebrating its 20th birthday. He then launched in to his newest single, “Minimum Wage.”

Dolly Parton introduced the ever-charming **Leslie Jordan** via video message. Jordan—who introduced himself as “portable wagoner”—presented Duo of the Year to **Dan + Shay**. The grateful duo accepted their award from the Bluebird Cafe.

Next, Pearce and Brice took the stage to perform their Single of the Year and Music Event of the Year winner, “I Hope You’re Happy Now.” Guyton gave a soulful performance of “Hold On,” and co-host Urban performed a

A portrait of Elvie Shane, a man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a denim jacket over a white t-shirt. He is looking directly at the camera.

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WANT Y'ALL TO GET TO
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THE SMOOTHEST
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WHY I AM THE WAY I AM.
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ABOUT MY LIFE."

- ELVIE SHANE

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Lee Brice, Carly Pearce. Photo: Kevin Mazur/Getty

rocking song “Tumbleweed” from his newest album, *The Speed of Now Part 1*.

Ingrid Andress presented Male Artist of the Year to Rhett, marking his third win in the category, and eighth win overall. Rhett also performed his brand new song “Country Again” and followed up with the premiere of “What’s Your Country Song.”

East Tennessee natives **Kelsea Ballerini** and Chesney shined on “Half of My Hometown.”

Clay Walker presented Album of the Year to Stapleton for *Starting Over*. Stapleton accepted the award from the Bluebird Cafe. Then,

Amy Grant presented Female Artist of the Year to Morris.

Three-fourths of **Little Big Town** performed their raucous “Wine, Beer, Whiskey” from the streets of downtown Nashville. **Phillip Sweet**, who was at home due to a diagnosis with COVID, introduced the band via video.

The final award, Entertainer of the Year, was presented by the hosts to Bryan, his third time winning the award and his tenth ACM win overall. The *American Idol* judge accepted it via live stream video from Los Angeles. Bryan thanked the Capitol Nashville team, his manager **Kerri Edwards**, his crew, his family, and country music fans. “Oh my God! Y’all got me. What an honor,” Bryan said. “I miss being on the road. It’s what makes me an entertainer. We’ll be back out there doing what we love soon.”

Brothers Osborne performed their new song “I’m Not For Everyone,” and then closed the show with “Dead Man’s Curve.” **MR**

Connie Bradley Celebration Of Life Set For May 12

A Celebration of Life has been announced for pioneering music industry leader **Connie Bradley**.

The celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 12th at 2:00 p.m. at Cedar Creek Church By The Lake in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee located at 3581 Benders Ferry Road. (Click here for map.)

[Those wishing to attend the celebration of life are requested to RSVP here.](#)

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of these charities in memory of Connie Bradley: Ascension Saint Thomas Foundation for support of the NICU Fund, Nashville Humane Association, Pet Community Center, Shriners Hospitals for Children, or another charity of your choice.

Inquiries about the celebration of life can be sent to celebrateCDB@gmail.com for more information.

Bradley, who spent more than three decades with ASCAP, passed away on Wednesday, March 24 in Ft. Myers, Florida. She joined ASCAP in 1976, and rose to Senior Vice President and Nashville Head. Under her leadership, ASCAP signed and supported the careers of Kenny Chesney, Dierks Bentley, Garth Brooks, Rodney Crowell, Billy Currington, Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire, Brad Paisley, Kellie Pickler, Rascal Flatts, John Rich, George Strait, Trisha Yearwood and Chris Young, among many. She led the ASCAP Nashville office until 2010, when she stepped back to take the role of strategic advisor.



On The Cover: Bobby Bones Graces *MusicRow* Magazine's 2021 *InCharge* Issue

Esteemed radio and television personality **Bobby Bones** graces the cover of *MusicRow* Magazine's 2021 *InCharge* issue.

This annual guide highlights some of the most influential music industry executives in the Nashville entertainment community. This year's edition includes 382 profiles which are accompanied by contact information, career biographies, and detailed board and organizational membership affiliations.

The guide also includes a company appendix, record label staff appendix, and a professional categories appendix which lists executives by their areas of expertise, including label, talent agency, management, music publishing, legal, finance, performing rights organizations and more.

As host of the No. 1 country morning show, *The Bobby Bones Show*, Bones recently garnered his second CMA Award for National Broadcast Personality of the Year and fourth ACM Award for National On-Air Personality of the Year. He is the host of his own podcast, *BobbyCast*, which has been downloaded nearly 20 million times. Bones is the official in-house mentor on ABC's *American Idol* and is set to star and serve as executive producer in a new travel TV show titled *Breaking Bobby Bones*, coming to National Geographic on May 31. Additionally, Bones won season 27 of ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* and serves as host and executive producer of *Opry*, a weekly TV program airing highlights from the Grand Ole Opry stage on Circle Network. He is a two-time *New York Times* No. 1 best-selling author and has recently become the youngest-ever inductee into the prestigious National Radio Hall of Fame.

"The last 12 months have seen the COVID-19 pandemic harshly impact the lives and livelihoods of our Nashville music industry while completely stifling the live entertainment segment," says *MusicRow* Publisher/Owner **Sherod Robertson**. "There has perhaps been no other time in our history when our industry's leadership and talent have been more important in helping us navigate back to the success achieved prior to this deadly disease. The challenges have been enormous, but the talent in this issue is undeniable and provides assurance that our industry will continue to rise back up, and soar to even greater heights."

In this issue of *InCharge*, *MusicRow* Magazine also celebrates the 40th anniversary of the publication by creating a beautifully woven timeline of *MusicRow's* history. From the publications' creation in April of 1981 as a one-page directory to the multi-format media presence that it holds in 2021, the timeline highlights *MusicRow's* milestone moments throughout its 40 years.

Single copies of *MusicRow's* 2021 *InCharge* issue are available for purchase at musicrow.com for \$110, and are included with yearly *MusicRow* subscribed memberships. **Please note that issues of *MusicRow* Magazine's *InCharge* issue can only be purchased online as the *MusicRow* building is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19.**



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Half Of My Hometown/Kelsea Ballerini/Black River

Entertainment — 78

Quittin' You/Frankie Justin/SMG Records — 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Country Again/Thomas Rhett/Valory — 318

Waves/Luke Bryan/Capitol — 283

Forever After All/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia

Nashville — 212

Chasing After You/Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris/Arista

Nashville — 150

Things A Man Oughta Know/Lainey Wilson/Broken Bow — 135

We Didn't Have Much/Justin Moore/Valory — 110

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Country Again/Thomas Rhett/Valory — 21

Waves/Luke Bryan/Capitol — 15

Half Of My Hometown/Kelsea Ballerini/Black River

Entertainment — 10

Chasing After You/Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris/Arista

Nashville — 9

Woman You Got/Maddie & Tae/Mercury — 6

Hot Beer/Dillon Carmichael/Riser House Records — 5

Old School/Lance Wade Thomas/Shady Grove Records — 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Found My Home/Lucie Tiger/2120 Music — 141

It's Cause I Am/Callista Clark/Big Machine — 138

That Ain't Me No More/Matt Stell/RECORDS/Arista

Nashville — 136

Nothing's Better/Filmore/Curb — 130

How You Make Me Feel/Jeff Bates/Skydancer

Entertainment — 126

NO. 1 SONG



"Forever After All" by **Luke Combs** is this week's No. 1 single on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart. The single was penned by Combs, **Drew Parker**, and **Robert Williford**. It appears on Combs' deluxe album, *What You See Ain't Always What You Get*.

Combs teamed with bluegrass star **Billy Strings** for his latest release called "The Great Divide." Combs shares, "Something that I've always wanted to do is write and put out a bluegrass album. This is a song that was supposed to be a part of that project. It's not a lead single or a lead-in to that project yet, because that is not done. But it felt like the right time to put this song out. When we wrote it, there were a lot of crazy things going on in the world. There's still a lot of crazy things going on in the world. And I just felt like I had some stuff to say. It's not meant to be political. It's not meant to try and tell you what to think or tell you how to believe. That's not my job. It's just a guy kinda saying the way he was feeling when he wrote it."



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

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

WHMA Anniston, AL
 WXFL Florence, AL
 KQUS Hot Springs, AR
 KDXY Jonesboro, AR
 KWCK Searcy, AR
 KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA
 WPAP Panama City, FL
 WUBB Savannah, GA
 KXIA Marshalltown, IA
 KIAI Mason City, IA
 KBOE Oskaloosa, IA
 KTHK Idaho Falls, ID
 WOOZ Cartersville, IL
 WAAG Galesburg, IL

WMCI Mattoon, IL
 WYOT Rochelle, IL
 WRTB Rockford, IL
 WCCI Savanna, IL
 WIFE Connerville, IN
 KAIR Atchison, KS
 WKDZ Cadiz, KY
 WBKR Owensboro, KY
 WDHR Pikeville, KY
 KRRV Alexandria, LA
 WUUU Covington, LA
 WKPE Hyannis, MA
 WVMD Cumberland, MD
 WTCM Traverse City, MI

KYSM Mankato, MN
 KZPK St. Cloud, MN
 KWWR Mexico, MO
 KFAV Warrenton, MO
 KZZY Devils Lake, ND
 KRVN Lexington, NE
 Jersey Shore Country
 KQBA Santa Fe, NM
 WDNB Monticello, NY
 WOLF Syracuse, NY
 WCJW Warsaw, NY
 WFRY Watertown, NY
 KWHW Altus, OK
 KITX Hugo, OK

KWEY Weatherford, OK
 KWOX Woodward, OK
 KRKT Albany, OR
 WNBT Mansfield, PA
 WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
 WFGE State College, PA
 WMIR Myrtle Beach, SC
 KMOM Aberdeen, SD
 WUCZ Carthage, TN
 WDKN Dickson, TN
 WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
 KAYD Beaumont, TX
 KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
 KYKX Longview, TX

KMRK Odessa, TX
 KYYK Palestine, TX
 KXOX Sweetwater, TX
 WAKG Danville, VA
 WAXX Altoona, WI
 WJVL Janesville, WI
 WGLR Platteville, WI
 WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
 WCOW Sparta, WI
 WTNJ Beckley, WV
 WDDG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
9	2	1	Forever After All / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	1894/59	13	212
28	3	2	Next Girl / Carly Pearce / Big Machine	1724/64	3	51
16	5	3	Famous Friends / Chris Young & Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1672/58	5	81
22	4	4	Blame It On You / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow	1641/56	2	33
25	8	5	We Didn't Have Much / Justin Moore / Valory	1610/65	7	110
60	7	6	Nobody / Dylan Scott / Curb	1537/48	2	32
26	1	7	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	1516/41	-17	-318
66	9	8	Somebody Like That / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand	1433/42	1	8
50	10	9	Made For You / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	1344/34	-1	-11
11	12	10	Glad You Exist / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville/WAR	1244/50	3	42
23	13	11	Memory I Don't Mess With / Lee Brice / Curb	1237/58	8	91
15	14	12	Tequila Little Time / Jon Pardi / Capitol	1106/53	5	48
34	16	13	Single Saturday Night / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1035/43	5	46
43	15	14	Wine, Beer, Whiskey / Little Big Town / Capitol	1005/44	2	18
26	17	15	If It Wasn't For Trucks / Riley Green / BMLG	998/46	6	55
6	24	16	Like A Lady / Lady A / BMLG	978/54	11	98
8	22	17	Knowing You / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	978/51	10	92
10	28	18	Things A Man Oughta Know / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow	965/49	16	135
18	21	19	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen. / Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line / Broken Bow/Dack Janiels	960/51	8	70
24	18	20	Just About Over You / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	943/45	1	9
15	25	21	My Boy / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records	915/48	7	56
15	23	22	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	895/47	2	19
19	27	23	Cold Beer Calling My Name / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	878/49	6	49
26	26	24	Where I Find God / Larry Fleet / Big Loud Records	855/41	0	0
44	11	25	Hard Days / Brantley Gilbert / Valory	821/38	-32	-385
24	20	26	Heaven On Dirt / Teddy Robb / Monument	770/40	-13	-117
13	30	27	To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	708/41	4	30
10	31	28	Lonely Drum / Aaron Goodvin / Reviver Records/Warner Music Canada	706/42	4	24
2	48	29	Waves / Luke Bryan / Capitol	674/47	72	283
9	32	30	Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville	660/39	7	46
11	33	31	Okfuskee Whiskey / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	657/45	7	45
2	52	32	Country Again / Thomas Rhett / Valory	633/44	101	318
12	34	33	Freedom Was A Highway / Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley / Stoney Creek Records	565/32	1	6
20	36	34	Heartland / Hailey Whitters / Big Loud Records/S&D	546/30	2	9
16	35	35	You're Gonna Love Me / Tim Dugger / Curb	544/32	-3	-17
23	37	36	You Time / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	533/32	3	14
16	38	37	Chain Breaker / Zach Williams / Provident Label Group	529/35	6	30
8	40	38	I Can't / Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion / Monument Records	516/36	10	47
5	42	39	My Masterpiece / Darius Rucker / Capitol	488/33	17	70

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
27	39	40	I Can Tell By The Way You Dance / Josh Turner / MCA Nashville	486/27	1	3
14	41	41	Right Place Now / Hudson Valley / Hudson Valley	469/24	3	15
4	45	42	ABBY / Travis Denning / Mercury Nashville	468/33	19	75
9	43	43	Gettin' Her Over You / Bobby Wills / Willing	452/29	9	38
11	46	44	What The Whiskey's For / Tom Sexton / Lots To Do Music	440/32	13	50
12	47	45	Shallow / Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood / Pearl Records	428/25	14	54
7	44	46	Under It With You Tonight / Smith & Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville	426/28	9	35
11	49	47	Together / for KING & COUNTRY feat. Hannah Ellis, Jackson Michelson / Curb Word Entertainment	407/28	16	57
4	51	48	Then A Girl Walks In / Shenandoah & Blake Shelton / Foundry Records	405/31	19	66
4	67	49	Chasing After You / Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris / Arista Nashville	387/26	63	150
21	50	50	Worship You / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	379/20	4	13
13	54	51	Can't Stop / Chloe Collins / Collins House Music	326/20	11	32
3	56	52	Might As Well Be Me / Dew Pendleton / HippieRedneckGospeLove/GrassRoots	323/31	15	42
8	59	53	It's All Yours / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	318/22	15	41
5	58	54	God Save The World / Jeff Carson feat. Lisa Brokop / MCC/Curb	304/18	9	26
12	55	55	Head Over Wheels / Joe Hanson /	294/17	5	15
5	60	56	Treasure / Mary Heather Hickman / Rolling River Records	293/25	12	31
7	61	57	Good Day / Brett Eldredge / Warner Music Nashville	285/20	16	39
14	57	58	I Do Thing / Kylie Frey / Deep Frey'd Music Group	282/22	0	1
18	53	59	Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	279/16	-1	-2
6	66	60	Homesick / Veronika / Whattaguy Music	266/23	12	28
8	64	61	Same Dirt Road / Eric Lee / Blue Hill Records	266/21	12	28
8	62	62	Gotta Go Rodeo / Darlinghurst / Helium	256/20	5	12
8	65	63	Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	253/17	14	32
12	63	64	He Looks Good On Her / Michael McCall / MDM Entertainment	247/14	6	15
3	69	65	Villain / Lily Rose / Big Loud Records	246/20	24	48
4	68	66	Lady Like / Ingrid Andress / Warner Music Nashville	222/15	2	5
3	72	67	Lonely Girl / Danny Kensey / Rad Records	209/15	8	16
4	70	68	Old School's In / Heath Sanders / Valory	206/14	10	18
3	73	69	It Goes So Fast / Dwain Messer / N Crowd Music	205/13	10	18
3	77	70	If I Wanted Your Opinion / Michaela Anne / Yep Roc Records	199/14	20	33
5	71	71	Camp Jackson / Michael B. Whit /	193/13	5	9
7	75	72	Let It Flow / Dave McElroy / Greg Stevens Promotions/Tatum Town LLC	190/10	7	12
3	76	73	Why Can't It Be Tonight / Mercy Shine / CCB Nashville	188/13	13	21
21	29	74	Anybody Else / Mira Goto / ArtistMax/Copperline	177/10	-77	-583
2	80	75	Anybody But Me / Hannah Belle / Cherry Picker Music South/Freedom Entertainment	173/14	12	19
2	78	76	Show Off / Queeva / CMD Music	173/17	6	10
2	79	77	You Weren't Made For Me / Royal South / Circle S Records	167/11	7	11
1	103	78	Half Of My Hometown / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	157/16	124	87
29	84	79	Waitin' On 5 / Chris Janson / Warner Music Nashville	142/7	10	13
1	83	80	Quittin' You / Frankie Justin / SMG Records	142/11	8	11

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Andrew Jannakos Signs With Spirit Music Nashville



Pictured (L-R, back row): Kara Jackson, Spirit Music Nashville; Matt Cottingham, Ritholz Levy Fields LLP; Frank Rogers, SMN; Mike Fiorentino, SMN; Derek Wells, SMN; Andrew Cohen, Cohencidence Projects; Anthony Stone, Cohencidence Projects; (front row): Andrew Jannakos

Andrew Jannakos has signed a worldwide publishing deal with Spirit Music Nashville.

The Sony Music Nashville artist first made waves with the release of his breakout single “Gone Too Soon” in September. Upon its release, he debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard’s* Emerging Artist Chart, and the track debuted at No. 12 on *Billboard’s* Hot Country Songs chart and within the Hot 100. “Gone Too Soon” is currently impacting country radio nationwide and has amassed over 50 million on-demand streams to date.

“We are beyond excited to welcome Andrew to the Spirit Music family,” says Chief Executive Officer, Spirit Music Nashville, **Frank Rogers**. “We were fans from the very first note. He is a world class singer, songwriter and cook....according to him (I’m still waiting for that dinner invite, AJ). We are thrilled to partner with Andrew, his management team and Sony Music to bring his music to the world!”

“You know, it’s pretty amazing that my job is to make music now,” says Jannakos. “I never thought I would have got this opportunity before, but here we are. And I can’t ever express my gratitude and thankfulness for my family over at Spirit Music Group—they have believed in me since the moment they heard my music and to me that’s everything. They have pushed me already to be the best songwriter I can be, and continue to every day. I’m so excited to be a part of the Spirit family and I can’t wait for y’all to hear the music we write!” **MR**

Micah Wilshire Signs With Peermusic Nashville



Peermusic’s Matt Michiels, Kendell Lettow, Michael Knox, Micah Wilshire. Photo: Annelise Loughead

Micah Wilshire has signed an exclusive global publishing deal with Peermusic Nashville. Through the deal, Peermusic will represent Wilshire’s publishing and master recordings for future works as well as select back catalog masters.

Most recently, Wilshire has co-written multiple songs on Tim Montana’s new album *Long Shots* (Music Knox Records/BBR Music Group), including the lead single “Get Em Up,” “River Kids,” “Do It Fast,” “Don’t Wait Up On Me,” “Doing Everything Right,” “Be A Cowboy,” “Long Shots,” and “Bar Band.” Wilshire has also written extensively for TV and movies, and his music has been featured on *Riverdale*, *Legacies*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, *The Black List*, *Yellowstone* (under his band Mississippi Twilight), *Million Little Things*, *Vampire Diaries*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *Dexter*, *American Idol*, the Olympics and many more.

“I’ve been a big fan of Micah’s for some time, it’s going to be exciting to work with him and watch his songwriting and production talents shoot to the next level,” says Senior Vice President, Peermusic Nashville **Michael Knox**.

“I couldn’t be more excited to join the Peermusic camp. It’s inspiring to be in the company of such great writers, and I’m really looking forward to building something awesome with Kathy [Spanberger], Knox and the entire team,” says Wilshire. **MR**

UMG Nashville & Interscope Partnering For Kacey Musgraves Album

UMG Nashville and Interscope Records have announced a unique partnership under which the two labels will jointly release the forthcoming new album by multi-Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter **Kacey Musgraves**. Under the new partnership agreement, both labels will collaborate together on marketing, radio promotion and international marketing for Musgraves' upcoming release, which is set for later this year.



"I have never worked with anyone whose cultural reach is so vast," says UMG Nashville CEO & Chairman, **Mike Dungan**. "This artist and her music have thrived in so many diverse environments. Kacey, the music, and the career deserve the broadest base of experience and expertise. We have discussed some type of cross label partnership for her music for a couple of years now and this is the perfect fit. We're excited to partner with our friends at Interscope on the next chapter of Kacey Musgraves."

"Kacey's music has never had boundaries," adds UMG Nashville President, **Cindy Mabe**. "Her clever songwriting, adept storytelling, vulnerable and real emotional delivery, and her overall 'take me or leave me' spirit have translated through genre, time, space and culture. She simply connects. As we begin to set up her new music, it made sense to once again push the boundaries to reach more fans around the world as we continue to serve the fans who have been here from the beginning."

"Kacey is one of the most powerful storytellers in music today, a true albums artist who creates potent song collections that are timeless," says Interscope Geffen A&M Chairman & CEO **John Janick**. "We are truly delighted to have her as part of our Interscope Records family and look forward to working alongside the UMG Nashville team and her manager **Jason Owen** to deliver this important project to audiences around the world."

Musgraves' 2018 album *Golden Hour* earned her third No. 1 debut on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart and distinguished her as the third artist ever to take home Album of the Year at the Grammy Awards, CMA Awards, and ACM Awards. **MR**

Brad Paisley To Headline Music City's July 4th Celebration



Brad Paisley will headline the return of Nashville's giant July 4th celebration on Lower Broadway this year following its cancellation in 2020 due to the pandemic. The Let Freedom Sing! event, presented by Dr Pepper, will feature the largest fireworks show in Nashville history with the pyrotechnics synchronized to a live performance by the Nashville Symphony. Paisley was previously scheduled to headline in 2020, and agreed to perform this year instead.

The free, family-friendly event has regularly drawn more than 200,000 and as many as 343,000 in 2019, and 250,000 in 2018. This will be the 18th annual celebration produced by the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp and the 37th in the city. The concert stage will be located at First and Broadway, and the Nashville Symphony will perform at Ascend Amphitheater at the conclusion of the multi-genre concert. Additional acts will be announced in the coming weeks. **MR**

Thomas Rhett To Launch The Center Point Road Tour In August

Thomas Rhett announced he'll kick off his headlining Center Point Road Tour later this year on August 13 with back-to-back nights in Orange Beach, Alabama. Special guests **Cole Swindell** and **Gabby Barrett** will join him when he returns to the road this summer.

Previously purchased tickets will be honored accordingly for the rescheduled dates, while tickets for newly-announced dates go on sale to the public Friday, April 23.

"I can't even put into words what getting back out on the road means to me, my band and crew," Rhett shared. "We've dreamt about this moment for a long time and I feel more rejuvenated and excited than ever to get back out there as safely as possible to connect in-person over live music again, especially with so much new material to share. There's no feeling in the world like it—see y'all out there!"

Rhett is gearing up for the release of his upcoming fifth studio double album *Country Again: Side A* out April 30 via The Valory Music Co. The lead single from the project, "What's Your Country Song," became his 17th career No. 1, and his 11th consecutive chart-topper—the longest active streak in the format.

[Click here to view the 2021 The Center Point Road Tour Dates.](#)



Chris Stapleton Announces New All-American Road Show Dates



Chris Stapleton is bringing his All-American Road Show back this summer with newly-confirmed stops at Detroit's DTE Energy Music Theatre, Atlanta's Cellairis Amphitheatre at Lakewood, and Houston's Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion among many others. The announcement comes fresh on the heels of his win for Album of the Year at Sunday night's 56th ACM Awards for his acclaimed new album, *Starting Over*.

Stapleton will be joined by several special guests throughout the run including **Wille Nelson and Family, Margo Price, Mavis Staples, Dwight Yoakam, Yola, Sheryl Crow, Caylee Hammack, The Highwomen, Jamey Johnson, Elle King, The Dirty Knobs with**

Mike Campbell, Nikki Lane, The Marcus King Band, and Kendell Marvel.

Additional tour highlights include headlining shows at Washington State's Gorge Amphitheatre, Nashville's Bridgestone Arena, New York's Madison Square Garden and A Concert for Kentucky—a special performance to be held at University of Kentucky's Kroger Field on April 23, 2022. Tickets for the newly confirmed shows will go on-sale on three separate dates: April 30, May 7 and June 11, all at 10 a.m. local time. Citi is the official presale credit card of Chris Stapleton's All-American Road Show tour and Citi cardmembers will have access to purchase presale tickets through Citi Entertainment.

[Click here to view the All-American Road Show Tour Dates.](#)

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Charlie Worsham, Keith Urban, Hailey Whitters



Charlie Worsham. Photo: Jason Mvers

Vets and babies coexist in today's roundup of new country tunes.

The Oaks, Lisa Brokop and Keith Burns all have sounds that stand alongside Sarah Jane Nelson, Forrest Finn and our DisCoverry Award winner, Zach Bryan.

In a hard-charging contest among Hailey Whitters with Jordan Davis, Keith Urban with Breland, Brokop and Filmore, the multi-talented Charlie Worsham wins the Disc of the Day with his "Fist Through This Town."

[Click here to read Robert K. Oermann's reviews of Charlie Worsham, Hailey Whitters, Keith Urban, Zach Bryan, The Oak Ridge Boys, and more.](#)

MORE TOP STORIES

[Now Open: Submissions For MusicRow's 2021 Annual Artist Roster Issue](#)

[Willie Nelson Set As Keynote Speaker For Luck Presents Cannabis Convention](#)

[CRS Announces 'Talk Data To Me Too' As April Edition Of CRS360](#)

[Nashville Hip-Hop Artists To Showcase April 30, Sponsored By BMI & BMG](#)

[117 Entertainment Reveals Plans To Rebrand, Adds Two](#)

[Gilda's Club Sets Third Annual Songwriter's Night](#)

[NMAAM To Honor Musical Pioneers With 2021 Rhapsody & Rhythm Awards](#)

[MTSU Inducts Two Into College Of Media And Entertainment Wall Of Fame](#)

[Tin Roof's Bob Franklin Talks The Spirit Of The 'Live Music Joint' \[Interview\]](#)

[A2IM Announces Keynote Speakers For Indie Week 2021](#)

[Mechanical Licensing Collective Completes First Royalty Distribution](#)

[ACM Awards Ratings Slip, But Still Top Sunday Night's Programming](#)

[Big Yellow Dog Music Promotes Three In Sync Department](#)

[Weekly Register: Taylor Swift Dominates Country Streaming Chart This Week With Top Five Spots](#)

[Billboard, Rolling Stone Parent Company P-MRC Becomes Partner/Stakeholder In SXSW](#)

[Jimi Jamm Receives Randy Jones Memorial Award](#)

Wasserman Music Acquires Paradigm's Live Music Roster



Wasserman Music has launched following the completion of the acquisition of Paradigm Talent Agency's North American live music representation business. The announcement was made by **Casey Wasserman**, chairman and CEO of Wasserman.

Wasserman Music and its marquee roster of artists joins the Wasserman team. The intersection of sports, entertainment, lifestyle marketing, culture, and music comprises the foundation of Wasserman's business and has fueled its success for close to 20 years. Some of the artists on Wasserman Music's roster include **Kenny Chesney, Coldplay, Billie Eilish, Imagine Dragons, The Lumineers, Dave Matthews Band, Janelle Monáe, Kacey Musgraves, Old Dominion, Phish, Ed Sheeran, Lorde, Sturgill Simpson, Black Pumas, Brandi Carlile, Tyler Childers, Kaytranada, Normani, Run the Jewels, Tash Sultana, Diplo, DJ Snake, Flume, Jack Harlow, ODESZA, and Skrillex.**

Structurally, Wasserman Music will be operated as a unit of the larger Wasserman organization and will be led by Casey Wasserman, his existing executive management team, and a seasoned group of executive agents. **Marty Diamond, Jonathan Levine, Jackie Nalpant, Sam Hunt, Corrie Martin, Lee Anderson, and Matt Rodriguez** will focus on executive oversight of the business on a day-to-day basis. **Tom Windish, Joe Rosenberg, and Lori Feldman** will round out the team to provide business development, operational, and marketing support, as well as expertise and connectivity in operating and integrating all branded entertainment. The business will open with a strong balance sheet, more than 130 employees, and plans to expand assertively as the live entertainment business rebounds in 2021 and 2022.

"I have worked side-by-side with this remarkable group of people to build a blueprint for success and I am continually impressed with their tenacity and care for both their clients and the business. But most important is our shared commitment to cultivating a culture of forward progress so this new business appropriately reflects the artists and fans we serve," says Wasserman. "This is a dynamic opportunity to create new collaborations between the family of brands and talent that Wasserman currently represents in a meaningful and impactful way, and I am excited to get started."

Wasserman Music has made a commitment to build a more inclusive business and as a starting point, has forged a partnership with the national advocacy organization Color Of Change. The agency is one of the inaugural industry leaders who signed onto the organization's #ChangeMusic Roadmap, an initiative that challenges leaders in music to move the industry beyond conversation and intention and towards actionable racial justice. Additionally, Wasserman Music will have broad access to the tools, solutions, and social change strategies advocated by Wasserman's Inclusion Council and its women-focused unit, The Collective, as they work to embody a more inclusive business. **MR**

On The Row: Raleigh Keegan Uses Rich Musicianship To Tell Unconventional Story

Raleigh Keegan was born in the Columbus State Penitentiary while his birth mother was serving for drug charges. She gave him up for adoption, so Keegan was able to grow up in a loving household.

“She made the incredibly brave decision to give me up for adoption. I was adopted a couple of days after I was born and grew up about 15 minutes north of the river in Cincinnati. I have amazing parents. They got me and my brother involved in everything,” Keegan said in a recent virtual visit with *MusicRow*.

His passion for music was encouraged as a child, and he now plays five instruments—but piano is his weapon of choice.

“When I was in kindergarten I would [play] my kindergarten teacher’s piano. He told my parents that I was playing things that a kindergartener shouldn’t know how to play. So my parents, being the parents they are, found a free piano in Michigan. So we drove seven and a half hours to Michigan and brought an upright piano back in a minivan,” Keegan said. “It was out of tune when we first got it and it could never be tuned, so I learned how to play on an out-of-tune piano and it’s really funny because on all my records, there are out of tune pianos because I like the sound of them.”

Keegan also excelled in jazz trombone in his high school band, but quit in college to play football. “I decided to play football so the girls would like me,” he quipped.

After college Keegan became a personal trainer. While in that job, he heard his first impactful taste of country music, which altered the course of his life.

“I listened to a Zac Brown Band record, they did it for me,” Keegan said. “I grew up on James Taylor, Billy Joel, and the Eagles; people like that. Country music wasn’t in my life until I heard Zac Brown Band. They got me obsessed with country music. On my lunch breaks, I would write songs.”

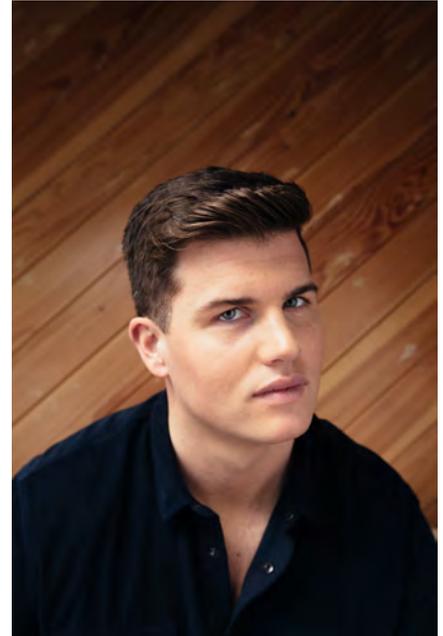
Keegan kept writing and started releasing his songs to a growing social media following. “I really caught the bug then, I was smitten. I had to do this thing, to the point where my wife and I, we sold our house to pay for my first record in Nashville. That was a crazy experience because I had to figure out how to pay our bills with only music.”

Keegan started booking gigs for himself until he and his wife could move to Nashville. He eventually met Grammy award-winning producer **Ryan Gore** (Old Dominion, Jon Pardi), and has since released “Way Back,” “Another Good Day,” and “Long Line of Lovers,” which have contributed to the 7 million streams across his catalog.

Keegan’s “Long Line of Lovers” is inspired by stories about his ancestry, which he learned from his biological mother when he reconnected with her.

“She told me the story about why she was in prison. She told me about her family and that it runs in the family a little bit because her dad was a bank robber,” Keegan said. “He was part of America’s top 10 most wanted people. So I understood for the first time why I so loved to break the rules, not like robbing banks, but in general. I’m a risk taker or rule breaker.

“Part of my story is I don’t completely fall in line with them, because of my wife. She’s just a big part of my story and how I didn’t end up another person on a long line of lovers who love the wrong thing.” **MR**



TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Jesse Frasure	Almost Maybes Minimum Wage What's Your Country Song Whiskey And Rain	Jordan Davis Blake Shelton Thomas Rhett Michael Ray
2	2	Corey Crowder	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Famous Friends Long Live Minimum Wage	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line Chris Young + Kane Brown Florida Georgia Line Blake Shelton
3	3	Josh Osborne	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's How They Remember You Next Girl Sand In My Boots	Sam Hunt Rascal Flatts Carly Pearce Morgan Wallen
4	9	Taylor Swift	Love Story Mr. Perfectly Fine You All Over Me	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift Taylor Swift
5	4	Tyler Hubbard	Lil Bit Long Live Undivided	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line Florida Georgia Line Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
6	6	Chris Stapleton	Starting Over You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton Chris Stapleton
7	7	Mike Henderson	Starting Over	Chris Stapleton
8	5	Ashley Gorley	Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night Warning What's Your Country Song You Should Probably Leave	Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen Thomas Rhett Chris Stapleton
9	8	Luke Combs	Better Together Forever After All	Luke Combs Luke Combs
10	10	Nicolle Galyon	Gone Minimum Wage	Dierks Bentley Blake Shelton
11	11	Ernest Keith Smith	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Dangerous Somebody's Problem Warning Wasted On You	Sam Hunt Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
12	12	Jon Nite	Lady	Brett Young
13	13	Ross Copperman	Lady	Brett Young
14	14	Brett Young	Lady	Brett Young
15	16	Michael Hardy	Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night Still Goin Down	Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen
16	22	Neil Medley	Made For You	Jake Owen
17	23	Benjy Davis	Made For You	Jake Owen
18	24	Joey Hyde	Made For You	Jake Owen
19	18	Allison Veltz Cruz	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
20	19	Tenille Arts	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
21	20	Alex Kline	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
22	32	Drew Parker	Forever After All	Luke Combs
23	33	Robert Williford	Forever After All	Luke Combs
24	21	Randy Montana	Better Together We Didn't Have Much	Luke Combs Justin Moore
25	17	Chris Loocke	Undivided	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
26	25	Rodney Clawson	Momma's House Somebody's Problem	Dustin Lynch Morgan Wallen
27	29	Eric Church	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
28	30	Monty Criswell	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
29	31	C. Beathard	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
30	34	Gabby Barrett	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
31	35	Zachary Kale	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
32	36	Emily Landis	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
33	37	J. McCormick	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
34	44	Luke Dick	Settling Down	Miranda Lambert
35	45	Miranda Lambert	Settling Down	Miranda Lambert
36	46	Natalie Hemby	Settling Down	Miranda Lambert
37	66	Zach Crowell	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Waves	Sam Hunt Luke Bryan
38	42	Hillary Lindsey	Almost Maybes	Jordan Davis
39	43	Jordan Davis	Almost Maybes	Jordan Davis
40	38	Rhett Akins	Beers To Catch Up On Tequila Little Time To Be Loved By You What's Your Country Song	LOCASH Jon Pardi Parker McCollum Thomas Rhett
41	39	Dallas Wilson	Nobody	Dylan Scott
42	40	Dylan Scott	Nobody	Dylan Scott
43	41	Matt Alderman	Nobody	Dylan Scott
44	48	Justin Wilson	Momma's House	Dustin Lynch
45	49	Michael Lotten	Momma's House	Dustin Lynch
46	50	Dylan Schneider	Momma's House	Dustin Lynch
47	52	Allen Shamblin	How They Remember You	Rascal Flatts
48	53	M. Beeson	How They Remember You	Rascal Flatts
49	15	Niko Moon	Gone	Dierks Bentley
50	51	Ben Johnson	Gone	Dierks Bentley
51	60	Cary Barlowe	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
52	61	Chris Young	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
53	54	Ryan Vojtesak	Still Goin Down Warning Wasted On You Worship You	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown
54	55	Thomas Rhett	What's Your Country Song	Thomas Rhett
55	56	Parker Welling	What's Your Country Song	Thomas Rhett
56	62	Mark Holman	Single Saturday Night	Cole Swindell
57	57	Josh Miller	Long Live	Florida Georgia Line
58	58	David Garcia	Long Live	Florida Georgia Line
59	59	Brian Kelley	Long Live	Florida Georgia Line
60	63	Morgan Wallen	Dangerous Somebody's Problem Still Goin Down Wasted On You	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen

CALENDAR

Singles

April 23

Jordan Rowe/More Me/River House Artists

Rich O'Toole/17 Wild Horses/Buffalo Roam Records/Average Joes Ent.

Erin Kinsey/Drunk Too

April 26

Brothers Osborne/I'm Not For Everyone/EMI Records Nashville

Lucas Hoge/Get Lost/Forge

Mo Pitney/Local Honey/Curb

Lisa Brokop/Is It Me And You/Amersong

April 27

Jake Gill/Good Time – Live From Loving's Moon/Probability Records

Marshall Potts/Free and Easy/MC1 Nashville/Brandy Records Canada

Albums

April 23

Eric Church/*Soul*/EMI Music Nashville

Justin Moore/*Straight Outta The Country*/The Valory Music Co

Jameson Rodgers/*In It For The Money EP*/Columbia Nashville/River House Artists

Tracy Lawrence/*Hindsight 2020 Volume 1: Stairway to Heaven Highway to Hell*

Elvie Shane/*County Roads EP*/BBR Music Group/Wheelhouse Records

Lathan Warlick/*My Way EP*/RECORDS Nashville/Columbia Records

April 30

Thomas Rhett/*Country Again: Side A*/The Valory Music Co.

Ronnie Milsap/*A Better Word for Love*/Black River

Priscilla Block/*Priscilla Block EP*/Mercury Nashville

Jackson Dean/*Jackson Dean*/Big Machine Records

Strong Armed Robbers/*Room 18*/Fish Fisher Productions

Industry Events

April 27

AIMP Nashville Awards

May 5-9

25th Annual Key West Songwriters Festival