

Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow Among Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame 2023 Inductees



Willie Nelson and **Sheryl Crow** are among the 2023 inductees who will join the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame later this year. They will be minted at the 38th annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 3 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Nelson and Crow are joined by **Kate Bush**, **Missy Elliott**, **George Michael**, **Rage Against the Machine** and **The Spinners** in the Performer Category. **DJ Kool Herc** and **Link Wray** will receive the Musical Influence Award, and **Chaka Khan**, **Al Kooper** and **Bernie Taupin** will be honored with the Musical Excellence Award. **Don Cornelius** will take home the Ahmet Ertegun Award.

The inductees were announced via Apple Music 1 livestream during a one-hour special with hosts **Ebro Darden**, **Rebecca Judd**, **Matt Wilkinson**, **Brooke Reese** and **Kelleigh Bannen**, with special guests Crow and Taupin.

“This year’s incredible group of inductees reflects the diverse artists and sounds that define rock & roll,” says **John Sykes**, Chairman of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation. “We are honored that this November’s Induction Ceremony in New York will coincide with two milestones in music culture; the 90th birthday of Willie Nelson and the 50th Anniversary of the birth of hip-hop.”

To be considered for induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, artists are required to have released their first record 25 years prior to induction. Four of seven inductees in the performer category were on the ballot for the first time, including Nelson, Crow, Elliott and Michael. **MR**

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THIS WEEK’S HEADLINES

Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow Among Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame 2023 Inductees

Jon Pardi To Become Grand Ole Opry Member

Sara Knabe Joins Big Loud As SVP Of A&R

Shucked Earns Multiple Tony Nominations

Carrie Underwood To Launch Exclusive SiriusXM Channel

Tape Room Music Promotes Three Team Members

Brendan Rich Launches Rich Mgmt

Levi Hummon Signs With Jonas Group Entertainment

Cam Montgomery Signs With Sony Music Publishing & Relative Music Group

My Music Row Story: ACM’s Damon Whiteside

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My Music Row Story: ACM's Damon Whiteside



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

This edition of "My Music Row Story" is sponsored by



Damon Whiteside joined the Academy of Country Music as CEO in 2020. In his time leading the Academy, he has guided the trade association through the COVID-19 pandemic including the launch of the timely ACM Lifting Lives Covid Response Fund; innovated the future of awards shows and made history when the 57th Academy of Country

Music Awards became the first-ever major awards show to exclusively livestream globally through a pioneering deal with Amazon's Prime Video, kicking off the partnership with a supersized show live from Las Vegas' new football stadium; and ushered in a new chapter for the Academy by relocating the ACM headquarters to Nashville after nearly 60 years in Southern California.

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Serving as Executive Producer for the Academy, Whiteside brought the renowned ACM Honors show back to television with an exclusive FOX partnership, and will oversee the return of The 58th ACM Awards to Prime Video this May, live from the Dallas Cowboys' world headquarters in Frisco, Texas with music's most iconic host pairing, superstars **Dolly Parton** and **Garth Brooks**.

He has also reinforced the Academy's commitment to creating a more inclusive environment for underrepresented groups in country music, from the boardroom to the stage, launched both a two-year professional development curriculum for rising leaders and a guaranteed income program for Black members of the Nashville music community, in partnership with the Black Music Action Coalition (BMAC).

Whiteside previously spent six years at the Country Music Association, where he most recently served as Chief Marketing Officer, and was responsible for the organization's most groundbreaking initiatives across marketing, digital, partnerships and international, highlighted by the award-winning CMA Awards 50th anniversary campaign. Prior to that, he formed Nomad Entertainment Group in Hollywood, where he represented multi-genre music artists, producers and songwriters, and worked for more than 15 years at The Walt Disney Company in marketing, franchise development and partnerships across roles at The Walt Disney Studios, Disney Consumer Products and Disney-ABC Networks Group.

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Blacktop Don't/BoomTown Saints/8 Track Entertainment - 70

Heartache Waiting To Happen/Cutter Elliott/Cutter Elliott Music - 77

Blue Suede Boots/Coffey Anderson/Coffey Global LLC - 78

Trouble/Rachel Stacy/CDX Records - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Last Night/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 205

Love You Anyway/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 200

Next Thing You Know/Jordan Davis/MCA Nashville - 102

Nobody's Nobody/Brothers Osborne/EMI - 85

Beer Needs Drinkin'/Reed Foley/Studios Magnetic - 84

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Last Night/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 7

Love You Anyway/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 6

Religiously/Bailey Zimmerman/Elektra/Warner Music Nashville - 6

Nobody's Nobody/Brothers Osborne/EMI - 6

Blacktop Don't/BoomTown Saints/8 Track Entertainment - 5

Fast Car/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Fast Car/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 111

That's Why/Troy Cartwright - 102

Wings Of A White Dove/Flat River Band/Early Bird Records - 98

Cap Guns And Skinny Horses/The Hammond Brothers/Dynasty - 98

NO. 1 SONG



Morgan Wallen is at the pinnacle of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart once again, marking his 11th No. 1 as an artist with "One Thing At A Time."

Wallen co-wrote the song, which serves as the title track of his most recent album, with **Ashley Gorley**, **Ernest Keith Smith** and **Ryan Vojtesak**. The album has already yielded two other No. 1 hits, "You Proof" and "Thought You Should Know," while "One Thing At A Time" and "Last Night" remain climbing the country radio charts.

Wallen is currently out on the road on his "One Night At A Time World Tour," playing West Palm Beach, Florida (May 5) and Tampa, Florida (May 6) this weekend.



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

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

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

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

WTCM Traverse City, MI
KZPK St. Cloud, MN
KFAV Warrenton, MO
WBBN Laurel, MS
WFAY Fayetteville, NC
KZZY Devils Lake, ND
KYCK Thompson, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
KFGE Lincoln, NE
KBRX O'Neill, NE
KQBA Santa Fe, NM
WDNB Monticello, NY
KITX Hugo, OK

KWEY Weatherford, OK
WCJW Warsaw, NY
KWOX Woodward, OK
KRKT Albany, OR
KRWQ Medford, OR
WVNW Lewistown, PA
WNBT Mansfield, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
KZZI Spearfish, SD
WUCZ Carthage, TN
WCKN Dickson, TN
WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
KFTX Corpus Christi, TX

KYKX Longview, TX
KLLL Lubbock, TX
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI
WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
WCOW Sparta, WI
WDGG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
10	3	1	One Thing At A Time / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records	1532/57	1	10
30	2	2	How It Oughta Be / Shane Profitt / BMLG	1529/55	0	-2
18	1	3	Tennessee Orange / Megan Moroney / Megan Moroney	1526/53	-8	-131
20	4	4	Dancin' In The Country / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	1521/46	2	33
43	6	5	Everything She Ain't / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/S&D/Big Loud	1502/59	4	56
15	7	6	Angels / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1466/62	3	43
35	5	7	Wild As Her / Corey Kent / Combustion Music/RCA Records	1465/43	-1	-9
29	10	8	Your Heart Or Mine / Jon Pardi / Capitol	1437/57	5	62
17	9	9	Memory Lane / Old Dominion / Arista Nashville	1436/48	2	23
9	15	10	Last Night / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1363/49	18	205
12	14	11	Next Thing You Know / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	1348/54	8	102
27	11	12	You, Me, & Whiskey / Justin Moore & Priscilla Block / Valory	1344/59	4	57
38	12	13	You / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1290/43	1	19
14	13	14	Drinkaby / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1257/57	0	2
25	16	15	Hate My Heart / Carrie Underwood / Capitol	1017/43	0	-5
15	18	16	Need A Favor / Jelly Roll / Stoney Creek Records	998/50	9	82
30	19	17	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	959/45	5	49
8	21	18	Standing Room Only / Tim McGraw / Big Machine Records	942/56	7	64
31	17	19	Up There Down Here / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	931/44	1	8
33	20	20	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	915/52	4	35
15	22	21	Looking For You / Chris Young / RCA Nashville	880/49	2	17
23	23	22	Heaven By Then / Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shelton feat. Vince Gill / Valory	821/45	0	3
10	24	23	Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville	818/43	6	47
64	25	24	Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	776/32	2	15
19	26	25	If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	750/42	0	2
3	35	26	Love You Anyway / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	726/41	38	200
18	27	27	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	725/43	3	19
7	29	28	Bury Me In Georgia / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	720/43	13	80
11	31	29	Only Need One / Ned LeDoux / Powder River/Thirty Tigers	631/36	7	44
72	28	30	You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG	607/22	-5	-34
12	30	31	All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records	600/37	-1	-8
5	32	32	Fires Don't Start Themselves / Darius Rucker / Capitol	593/37	7	41
17	37	33	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	586/35	13	66
33	33	34	Country Can / Hannah Ellis / Curb	542/31	0	-2
16	34	35	Going Going / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	538/32	1	5
16	40	36	Missin' You / Cam Allen / Goat Music Group	497/33	6	30
17	46	37	Beer Needs Drinkin' / Reed Foley / Studios Magnetic	495/26	20	84
18	38	38	Jealous Of Myself / Tenille Arts / Dreamcatcher Artists	491/33	1	6
9	39	39	Save The Roses / Lee Brice / Curb	487/28	2	8

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
5	41	40	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	482/38	10	42
3	47	41	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	474/33	22	85
40	36	42	Something In The Orange / Zach Bryan / Belting Bronco/Warner Records	474/26	-10	-51
17	44	43	Marlboros & Avon / McBride & The Ride / TMC Records/InGrooves	450/29	7	30
8	42	44	Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	440/34	3	11
13	43	45	Revival / Shenandoah / 8 Track Entertainment/Fame Records	435/31	3	13
18	45	46	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	396/27	-5	-19
12	48	47	Honky Tonk Roll / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	387/25	0	1
12	50	48	Why God Made Small Towns / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records	386/27	4	16
10	49	49	3 Tequila Floor / Josiah Siska / Black River	385/31	1	3
17	52	50	God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	345/22	12	38
3	55	51	Religiously / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville	337/25	25	67
34	53	52	If He Wanted To He Would / Kylie Morgan / EMI Records Nashville	299/20	-2	-5
9	56	53	The Longer I Live / Aaron Goodvin & Ryan Kinder / Reviver Records/Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada	291/23	9	23
12	61	54	New Old Outlaws / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music	287/16	26	59
15	54	55	Marry That Girl / Easton Corbin / Stone Country Records	283/18	4	11
5	60	56	Dents On A Chevy / Ty Herndon, Terri Clark / Pivotal Records	243/21	7	15
38	57	57	Worth A Shot / Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley / RCA Records/Columbia Nashville	238/16	-4	-10
10	62	58	Let's Take Tonight / Corey Layne / Corey Layne	222/16	0	-1
10	63	59	A Special Place / Danielle Bradbery / Big Machine Records	221/15	0	1
18	58	60	Fast Car / Randy Rogers Band / Thirty Tigers	212/17	-9	-20
4	64	61	5 Leaf Clover / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	200/13	-7	-15
3	69	62	State You Left Me In / Jake Worthington / Big Loud	184/13	20	31
10	67	63	Sunday Chapel / Dave Herrera / Brokerade, Inc	178/10	9	14
13	66	64	I Miss America / Colton James / RedSunset Entertainment	169/12	-1	-1
10	68	65	Not In This Heartbreak / Morgan White / NashTown Entertainment	168/10	4	7
10	70	66	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	150/13	-2	-3
6	74	67	I Ain't Done Singin' Yet / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	149/9	12	16
14	72	68	Just Me / Gillian Smith / Gillian Smith Records	147/10	1	2
4	71	69	Shoot Tequila / Tigirlily Gold / Monument Records	147/11	0	0
1	90	70	Blacktop Don't / BoomTown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment	145/13	77	63
2	75	71	Be Alright / Jimmie Allen / Stoney Creek Records	142/12	9	12
4	77	72	Be The One / Josh Kinney / Birmingham Entertainment	139/11	12	15
6	78	73	Your Hands / Katie Linendoll / Duncan Music Group	127/7	2	3
23	65	74	Excuses / Kolby Cooper / Wheelhouse Records	127/10	-35	-67
4	76	75	Every Town's Got One / Ty Gregory	125/9	0	0
4	82	76	Little Bit Of You / Brooke Moriber / Reviver Records	120/9	7	8
1	81	77	Heartache Waiting To Happen / Cutter Elliott / Cutter Elliott Music	119/7	3	4
1	87	78	Blue Suede Boots / Coffey Anderson / Coffey Global LLC	117/11	26	24
4	84	79	Young Again / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville	117/9	6	7
1	83	80	Trouble / Rachel Stacy / CDX Records	116/7	5	5

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
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MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Southern California. Riverside, California is where I was born and raised. I went to college in Orange County and I commuted from Riverside my first year, so I lived there until I was about 18 or 19 years old.

Were you into music growing up?

I loved music. I was in the choir during elementary school and I played a little bit of piano, but I wasn't a hardcore musician. I just really appreciated music. It has been my passion from the time I was 11 or 12—I just loved everything about music business.

When I was 15, I frequented the local record store in Riverside. I thought it would be the most fun place to work, so I actually applied several times because I was bound and determined to get a job there. I finally got hired as a seasonal employee for Christmas. That was the start for me. From there, I knew my life was going to revolve around music.

How did your career start?

I ended up working at the record store almost all through college. I transferred to other stores in the record store chain. It was called Music Plus back then—it was a west coast record store chain—but then it became Blockbuster Music, so I got to wear the blue polo and khaki pants for a few years when it became Blockbuster Music. [Laughs]

I did a lot in college to follow [my passion for] music. I worked on campus in the concerts division, doing publicity for the concerts on campus, which gave me a taste for booking shows. I also started doing some internships to get my feet wet. I was given the opportunity to intern at the L.A. pop station, KIIS-FM, with **Rick Dees** in the morning. That gave me a taste of the radio world.

I really wanted to be in music, but I was also a big Disney fan. I grew up around Disneyland, and I would go as a kid. My college was really close to Disneyland, so most of my friends worked there. I used to go to Disneyland for free all the time, so I became a big Disney fan. I found an internship opportunity my last semester of college with Disney, working on their movie premieres.

What followed that internship?

With my internship, I had gotten my foot in the door at Disney and I had developed some relationships. When I graduated, they recommended me for another internship for the summer after my graduation. It was a paid internship working in the film division, so I got to actually travel around the midwest and go to movie theaters to represent Disney. That was a really great way to learn about film distribution and marketing. That ended and then I got hired on at Disney studios as a temp in film distribution. That was amazing. I wasn't a permanent employee, but I was getting to work 9 to 5 and be at the studio on the lot. It was so great to be around it all, learn and meet people.

Ultimately, my dream was still music. I wanted to be in music, even though I started to go down to the film path. One day, the absolute perfect thing fell out of the sky for me. The woman that I was working for in film distribution told me about a job opening at the Disney Music Group doing music for all the films.

Tell me about that opportunity.

Pictured (L-R): President of MRC Live & Alternative, Adam Stotsky; Dolly Parton; and the CEO of Academy of Country Music, Damon Whiteside attend the 57th Academy of Country Music Awards. Photo: Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for ACM

I interviewed for it and got the job as a permanent full-time Marketing Coordinator for Walt Disney Records. We did the music for all the Disney movies and worked with all artists that did Disney movies. We did Broadway cast albums and music for television shows and theme parks. It was a dream. I was there for 12 years and moved my way up. When I left Disney Music Group, I was Sr. VP of Marketing, so I started as a Coordinator and moved my way up to there.

What were some of your favorite projects that you worked on during that time?

The one that really stands out to me was the *Tarzan* film. **Phil Collins** wrote the music for it. I'm a huge Phil Collins fan and I got to work really closely with Phil and his team. They actually took that to Broadway and did a Broadway version of it, so I got to work on that as well. That was probably one of the biggest highlights.

We got to do a project with **Yanni**, the new age artist. It was called *Yanni Voices*—it was an amazing project. He had these young, incredible singers that put words to all of his instrumental songs. We did a major world tour and a television special around it.

The other thing I have to highlight is I got to work in the teen scene, because Walt Disney Records started getting into the teen music business when that became a big hit for Disney Channel. So I got to work on things like launching **Hilary Duff's** career as well as **Miley Cyrus'** career with *Hannah Montana*. We helped launch **The Jonas Brothers**, **Selena Gomez**, **Demi Lovato** and all of those teen acts.

When did you transition out of Disney?

I ended up staying at Disney for quite a while. After I left the music group, I ended up I worked as the Head of Marketing for the Disney stores globally. Then I opened my own agency and I was doing marketing and brand consulting, as well as managing some artists with a management partner. I did that for a few years and really learned a lot and enjoyed it, but I was getting burned on L.A. a little bit. It was really tough being independent in that market, and I started to miss being in a team environment. So, I started opening myself up and having conversations with people.

There was a recruiter that was looking for [someone to fill the role of] Head of Marketing and Partnerships for the Country Music Association. They ended up flying me to Nashville for an interview. I knew nothing about Nashville, I had only been here once or twice for quick trips, but I was open to a change. They had me go to the CMA Awards and I was totally blown away by it. Long story short, they made me an offer and I made the move across country. That was in 2014.

You stayed at the CMA for six years, rising to Chief Marketing Officer. What were some of your proudest moments from your time there?

The 50th anniversary of the CMA Awards—I'm really proud of that show. I'm really proud of all the stuff we got to do with **Brad [Paisley]** and **Carrie [Underwood]** over the years as hosts of that show. The "Forever Country" music video that we did that had 50 of the greatest country artists of all time in it was an unbelievable feat. Another highlight was getting to work with **Ken Burns** on launching the *Country Music* documentary film. That was probably one of the highlights of my life, working on that with Ken and his team.

You became CEO of the Academy of Country Music in 2020. Tell me about that transition.

It was totally unexpected. **RAC Clark** was the interim Executive Director at the time and they were on the search for a CEO. A board member at the ACM reached out to me about it. Honestly, I was really happy at CMA. I love **Sarah Trahern**, she's a very dear friend of mine, and I love the team there and was really proud of everything we built.

It was a really tough decision, but I felt like I was ready to spread my wings. When I learned more about what the ACM was looking for, some of the challenges and some of the opportunities there, I got really excited about it. I was excited about how I could bring my experience from working in Los Angeles in the studio world, but also being in Nashville and having had time to get to know the industry and the artists really well. I felt like it could be a great opportunity for me to use all my skills to lead this organization.



Pictured (L-R): Damon Whiteside and Triple Crown Award recipient Miranda Lambert attend the 15th Annual Academy Of Country Music Honors. Photo: Terry Wyatt/Getty Images for ACM

I started in January of 2020 and here I am three years later. I'm happy to say that I recently renewed my deal and I'll be there for another three years, so I'm planning to dig in a little deeper and stay a while.

You started in January of 2020 and had to respond to the pandemic a few months later. On top of that, ACM recently moved its headquarters to Nashville, among a lot of other projects and initiatives. What are your goals moving forward?

It's really about aligning what a trade organization is in today's world. The business model of the industry has changed so much. In terms of our award show, which is what we're most known for, we were able to transition it to the streaming space on Amazon's Prime Video, which makes us the first and only award show to do to that. We've had to really innovate how we produce the show and how we market the show —everything is different being on a streaming platform, but there's a lot of opportunity as a global show.

Looking ahead, it's about continuing to strengthen our partnership with Amazon and finding more ways to grow the show on a global basis. Other goals include bringing more opportunities to our artists, strengthening and bringing more value to our membership.

We are also really focusing in on our DEI efforts. Beyond our DEI task force that's been in existence for a few years, we just launched a Rising Leaders program last year. We're now in the second cohort of that this year. We also just launched an OnRamp program with the Black Music Action Coalition, so that's another big initiative. There's a lot that we can do in that space and to lift up our artists of color.

Who have been some of your mentors?

I've been fortunate to work with so many people. We had a lot of great leadership at Disney over those years. I always really admired **Michael Eisner** when he was at Disney, as well as **Bob Iger**—he was an incredible leader. In Nashville, I've had so many good mentors. Sarah Trahern was a huge mentor to me and still is. **Ed Hardy**, who isn't with us any longer, was the one responsible for bringing me into Nashville when he hired me at the CMA. **Joe Galante** is an incredible mentor of mine. **John Esposito**, **Mike Dungan** and **Scott Borchetta** have all been great. **Ed Warm** was the Chairman of the ACM Board when I was hired. Ed is a huge mentor as well as **Lori Badgett** and **Chuck Aly**.

What is some of the best advice you've ever received?

It's been a rough three years in a lot of ways. COVID was tough, we've had to move our show three times and it has created a lot of chaos and stress. Sometimes it's challenging. **Cindy Mabe** said to me once that the Academy needs to survive. She said, "What you're doing and your efforts are on behalf of country music." That has really stuck with me. When I get into the minutiae of my job, get down about something or feel like something is really challenging, I think about how I'm doing this for country music. It's not just for the Academy—it's for the country music industry, it's for our artists and it's for our membership. That always gives me motivation when I feel like I can't do something. It keeps me going. **MR**

Jon Pardi Invited To Become Member Of The Grand Ole Opry

During his performance at Stagecoach last Friday night (April 28) in Indio, California, **Jon Pardi** was invited to become the newest member of the Grand Ole Opry.

While on stage, Pardi was surprised when his friend and Emmy-winning famed restaurateur **Guy Fieri** directed him and the attention of his thousands of fans to a video where Opry member and Country Music Hall of Famer **Alan Jackson** appeared officially inviting the California native to become a member.

"That mic stand represents the future of country music as well as its incredible history," **Dan Rogers**, Opry Executive Producer, told the crowd after he sat the Opry mic stand down in front of a surprised Pardi. "This night will go down in history, too, both because Jon is the first artist invited to join the Opry on this stage and because he's the first native Californian to get that call. What a great night!"

"I moved to Nashville chasing a dream at 22 years old and now I'm here. I love you guys and I love country music. Thank you, everybody. This is an amazing night. I'll never forget it," said an emotional Pardi from stage before later in the night noting, "I always wondered how this might happen if it was going to. I never imagined anything this great. That was incredible."

"There is no better representation of Northern California than you, man," said Fieri backstage after the moment.

Rogers added backstage, "For nearly a decade now, Jon Pardi has been adding something great to the show every single time he plays the Opry. For me personally, I'll never forget the big sounds he brought to the Opry stage during the pandemic and the way he connected with audiences around the world via our livestream even when he was playing to an empty Opry House. I have no doubt there are good times ahead for all of us with Jon as a future Opry member."



Pictured (L-R): Grand Ole Opry's Dan Rogers, Jon Pardi, Guy Fieri. Photo: Jody Domingue



Pictured: Grand Ole Opry member and Country Music Hall of Famer Alan Jackson invites Jon Pardi to become the newest member of the Opry.

The news of Pardi's invitation comes on the heels of his third consecutive ACM Album of the Year nomination for *Mr. Saturday Night*, both as the artist and producer of the project.

When he is inducted, Pardi will become the first native Californian to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry. An official induction date will be announced soon. **MR**

Sara Knabe Joins Big Loud As SVP Of A&R



Big Loud has hired **Sara Knabe** as SVP of A&R. Effective immediately, Knabe will work in tandem with both the Big Loud Records and Big Loud Publishing A&R teams, leading across.

"This is one of the most exciting announcements we've gotten to make in a while," says Big Loud CEO/Partner, **Seth England**. "Sara was the first person I meaningfully met in Nashville; I got my first internship with her, and she helped me meet [Big Loud Partner] **Craig [Wiseman]**. We've been working with Sara in a freelance capacity for a while now, and have been continuously impressed by her professionalism, her collaborative approach, and her ear for finding outstanding talent. I'm not sure there is any one A&R person in Nashville who has brought me and **Joey [Moi]** more songs over the years. It is fitting and overdue that she joins our team."

"When Seth reached out to me about this role the answer was a Big Loud YES," Knabe shares. "The remarkable history of Big Loud speaks for itself. Joining their cutting-edge creative team and working alongside a roster of this magnitude, in both the Records and Publishing divisions, is a dream scenario."

Knabe joins the Big Loud staff after spending just under a year founding and cultivating her own Cake Maker Music, a music publishing, artist development and A&R consulting company. Prior to founding Cake Maker Music, Knabe spent several years as VP of A&R at BBR Music Group and VP of Creative at BMG Music Publishing. The Belmont graduate's prior stops include Bug Music, Windswept Holdings, LLC and Harlan Howard Songs. **MR**

'Shucked' Earns Multiple Tony Nominations



Shane McAnally, Brandy Clark. Photo: Emilio Madrid

Shucked, the musical written by **Brandy Clark** and **Shane McAnally** and produced by Sandbox Entertainment's **Jason Owen** alongside Broadway producer **Mike Bosner**, has earned nine Tony nominations.

The production is nominated for Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score (Music And/Or Lyrics) Written For The Theatre at the 2023 awards, which will take place June 11, 2023 from the United Palace in Washington Heights, in New York City.

Additionally, *Shucked* actors **Kevin Cahoon** and **Alex Newell** are nominated for Best Performance By An Actor In A Featured Role In A Musical.

Shucked's **Jack O'Brien** is nominated for Best Direction Of A Musical, **Scott Pask** is nominated for Best Scenic Design Of A Musical and **John Shivers** is nominated for Best Sound Design Of A Musical. Finally, **Jason Howland** is nominated for Best Orchestrations for his work on the renowned show.

Shucked is a tale from the heart of the heartlands helmed by prior Tony winners, and features a book written by **Robert Horn** and direction by O'Brien. **MR**

Carrie Underwood To Launch Exclusive SiriusXM Channel



Carrie Underwood will launch an exclusive, year-round SiriusXM channel, *Carrie's Country*, in June.

The station will be curated and presented by Underwood, and will be available to subscribers across North America in their cars or with the SXM App. *Carrie's Country* joins SiriusXM's artist channel lineup which includes **Kenny Chesney's** No Shoes Radio, **The Beatles** Channel, **Drake's** Sound 42 and more.

Underwood is expected to highlight her peers, favorite artists and influences on *Carrie's Country*, with genres ranging from new and classic country, workout hits, gospel and beyond. She will also share stories behind her music, record-breaking career and life on the road.

"I'm thrilled to partner with SiriusXM on my new channel," says Underwood. "I can't wait to welcome listeners into my personal musical universe, sharing my favorite music across all of the genres I love, from classic rock to the latest in country."

"Carrie Underwood is one of country music's biggest and most multi-faceted artists today, and to collaborate with her on her very own SiriusXM channel is truly special," says **Scott Greenstein**, SiriusXM's President and Chief Content Officer. "*Carrie's Country* will give listeners and fans the opportunity to connect with her on a new level, beyond her musical choices and influences, as she curates the channel's programming. We welcome her to the SiriusXM family as we continue to expand our country music offerings to our subscribers." **MR**

Tape Room Music Promotes Three Team Members



Pictured (L-R): Blain Rhodes, Kelly Bolton and Caroline Hodson

Tape Room Music, the award-winning publishing and artist development company founded by hitmaker **Ashley Gorley**, has promoted **Blain Rhodes** to President, **Kelly Bolton** to Senior Vice President, A&R and **Caroline Hodson** to Manager, A&R.

Tape Room's current roster of writers include **Beau Bailey, Casey Brown, Brad Clawson, Zach Crowell, Ben Johnson, Wyatt McCubbin, Hunter Phelps, Taylor Phillips, Jordan Rowe, Savana Santos, Andy Sheridan** and **Will Weatherly**. With plans to grow in 2023, the company has amassed three Grammy nominations, won 15 ASCAP Country Awards and three CMA Song of the Year Nominations.

In 2022, Tape Room celebrated eight weeks of topping the radio charts, with two year-end No. 1 songs. Johnson's "Take My Name" topped the year-end *Billboard* Country Airplay chart, while Phelps and Weatherly's "Thinking 'Bout You" led the Mediabase Year-End Country Airplay chart. Additionally, Tape Room published the 2022 CMA Song of the Year "Buy Dirt," Crowell and Phelps were recipients of the CMA Triple Play Awards in 2022 and Johnson was named a Triple Play recipient this year. Phelps and Gorley are also currently up for the Songwriter of the Year title at this year's ACM Awards.

"I'm so proud of our staff and the growth of Tape Room over the last five years," shares Gorley. "We have celebrated some great achievements, but we are just getting started and I'm excited to keep crushing it!" **MR**

Brendan Rich Launches Rich Mgmt



Brendan Rich has launched his own boutique artist management company Rich Mgmt. Rich will be joined by **Sarah Paravia**, who will serve as a day to day Coordinator for the company.

Based in Nashville, the new company's roster will include Rich's longtime clients **Matt Stell**, **George Birge** and **Chris Bandi**, along with new signing **Darren Kiely**.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Rich attended the University of Mississippi and got his start in the music industry in touring with stops at Buddy Lee Attractions and Paradigm before joining United Talent Agency, where he signed artists including Stell, Bandi, **Jimmie Allen** and **Logan Mize**. Following his time at UTA, Rich realized that his passion included being involved in all facets of an artist's career, which led him to management and five years at Wide

Open Music as a manager. This year, Rich made the decision to step out on his own, launching Rich Mgmt.

"Since my first days in the music business, I've always dreamt of opening my own management company," Rich shares. "Those dreams have now come to fruition as we open our doors to manage world class artists, who we are honored to represent and guide in their careers." **MR**

MORE TOP STORIES

[Diplo Doubles Down With Second Country Collection, Calls For More Nashville Collaborators \[Interview\]](#)

[Miranda Lambert's 'Y'all Eat Yet?' Is A 'New York Times' Best Seller](#)

[Q Prime Joins Forces With Aaron Frank To Form New Division, Q Prime AF](#)

[Singer-Songwriter David Morris Signs With Virgin Music Group](#)

[CMA's Sarah Trahern Honored By JDRE](#)

[Marti Dodson Signs With Kobalt Music](#)

[Graham Barham Signs With Warner Chappell Music & Cornman Music](#)

[Eric Church Forms Outsiders Spirits With Whiskey Jypsi As First Product](#)

[Rachel Brittain Joins The Neal Agency As Commercial & Brand Partnerships Agent](#)

[Reservoir Signs Mary Kutter To First Publishing Deal \[Exclusive\]](#)

[Jen Jacobsen Joins Artist Rights Alliance As Executive Director](#)

[CeCe Winans Named Belmont University's Inaugural Artist-In-Residence](#)

[Blackbird Studio Launches Streaming Platform, Inside Blackbird](#)

[Gibson Brands Appoints Cesar Gueikian As President & Interim CEO](#)

Levi Hummon Signs Management Deal With Jonas Group Entertainment [Exclusive]



Pictured (L-R): JGE's Phil Guerini, Levi Hummon and JGE's Kevin Jonas, Sr. Photo: Carly Butler/Remedy Creative

Singer-songwriter **Levi Hummon** has signed exclusively with Jonas Group Entertainment (JGE) for management. He has also extended his current worldwide publishing deal with Reservoir Media.

The signing follows the country pop fusionist's viral success with songs such as "Good Riddance," "Paying For It (feat. **Walker Hayes**)" and "Stupid." With more than 162 million global streams, he has developed a dedicated fanbase and sold out headlining gigs in addition to opening for **Keith Urban**, **Kelsea Ballerini**, **Lady A**, **Tim McGraw** and more.

Hummon kicked off 2023 by performing "Paying For It" and "RSVP" alongside Hayes and **Cassadee Pope** during his sold-out show at Nashville's 3rd & Lindsley. Last week, he performed the collaboration with Hayes as well as "Good Riddance," among other fan-favorites, in Napa Valley, California at Live In The Vineyard Goes Country.

Kevin Jonas Sr. founded entertainment management, brand development, film and music publishing company Jonas Group Entertainment while managing his sons, **The Jonas Brothers**. The company is helmed by industry and Walt Disney Company veteran **Phil Guerini**. **MR**

Cam Montgomery Signs With Sony Music Publishing & Relative Music Group



Pictured (L-R, back row): Rusty Gaston (SMP Nashville, CEO), Caroline Bouldin (RMG, Creative Director); (L-R, front row): Dennis Matkosky (RMG, Partner), Hardy (RMG, Partner), Cameron Montgomery, Jesse Matkosky (RMG, Partner). Photo: Lily Nelson

Cam Montgomery has signed a global publishing deal with Sony Music Publishing Nashville and Relative Music Group.

Montgomery has made a name for himself as an in-demand hitmaker across a wide range of genres, penning songs for artists including **Kane Brown**, **Morgan Wallen**, **24kGoldn**, **Hardy**, **Winona Oak**, **Nelly**, **Walker Hayes**, **Kira Kosarin**, **Justin Moore** and others.

Some of his recent cuts include Wallen's *Billboard* Hot 100 hit "I Wrote The Book," as well as Hardy's ".30-06" featured on his album *The Mockingbird & The Crow*, which reached No. 4 on the *Billboard* 200 chart.

"The first time I wrote with Cam and he sent me the track I thought to myself, 'Damn, this kid is good.' A couple of years later he moved to L.A. and I was worried I wouldn't get to work with him much anymore," says Hardy. "But by the grace of god, he's back working in Nashville and I am so honored to be able to sign a producer/writer as talented as Cam. He's the nicest guy you'll ever meet and he's willing to work hard. We're excited to watch him grow and can't wait to hear what he turns in. Welcome back to town Cam." **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 Single Than She Was 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 Morgan Wallen
4	4	Zachary Lane Bryan	Dawns Something In The Orange	Zach Bryan feat. Maggie Rogers Zach Bryan
5	6	John Byron	'98 Braves I Deserve A Drink Last Night Single Than She Was Sunrise Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
6	7	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	8	Michael Hardy	Born With A Beer In My Hand Drinkaby Hate My Heart Heaven By Then 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
8	11	Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
9	9	Parker McCollum	Handle On You	Parker McCollum

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
10	10	Monty Criswell	Handle On You	Parker McCollum
11	12	Chase McGill	5 Leaf Clover Ain't That Some Creek Will Rise God Gave Me A Girl Next Thing You Know	Luke Combs Morgan Wallen Conner Smith Russell Dickerson Jordan Davis
12	14	Brett Tyler	Excuses Man Made A Bar Wild As Her	Kolby Cooper Morgan Wallen (Feat. Eric Church) Corey Kent
13	15	Ross Copperman	Dancin' In The Country Gold Worth A Shot	Tyler Hubbard Dierks Bentley Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
14	16	Josh Thompson	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Brown Eyes Baby Dying Man Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) Stars Like Confetti Whiskey Friends	Thomas Rhett Keith Urban Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dustin Lynch Morgan Wallen
15	17	Jordan Schmidt	Bury Me In Georgia Drinkaby Wait In The Truck We Got History	Kane Brown Cole Swindell Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Mitchell Tenpenny
16	23	Tony Lane	Human	Cody Johnson
17	24	Travis Meadows	Human	Cody Johnson
18	5	Luke Combs	5 Leaf Clover Growin' Up and Gettin' Old Love You Anyway	Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs
19	18	Jet Harvey	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
20	19	Jacob Hackworth	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
21	20	Heath Warren	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
22	21	Jessi Alexander	5 Leaf Clover Light On In The Kitchen You, Me, & Whiskey	Luke Combs Ashley McBryde Justin Moore & Priscilla Block
23	29	Hunter Phelps	Drinkaby Wait In The Truck Heaven By Then	Cole Swindell Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill
24	26	Miranda Lambert	Thought You Should Know	Morgan Wallen
25	27	Nicolle Galyon	Thought You Should Know	Morgan Wallen
26	33	Blake Pendergrass	Ain't That Some Dying Man Sunrise Tennessee Numbers	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
27	32	Kelly Archer	Wild As Her	Corey Kent
28	34	David Fanning	Girl In Mine Tennessee Orange	Parmalee Megan Moroney
29	37	Dan Isbell	Fires Don't Start Themselves Love You Anyway	Darius Rucker Luke Combs
30	35	Jacob Kasher	Last Night	Morgan Wallen
31	36	Renee Blair	Wait In The Truck	Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson
32	38	Jon Nite	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
33	39	Keith Urban	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
34	40	Tyler Hubbard	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
35	28	Josh Osborne	Next Thing You Know Worth A Shot	Jordan Davis Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
36	42	Rhett Akins	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
37	43	Scotty McCreery	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
38	44	Lee Thomas Miller	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
39	45	Megan Moroney	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
40	46	Ben Williams	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
41	47	Paul Jenkins	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
42	52	Jordan Reynolds	You	Dan + Shay
43	53	Dave Barnes	You	Dan + Shay
44	54	Dan Smyers	You	Dan + Shay
45	50	Luke Dick	Fearless (The Echo) Gold	Jackson Dean Dierks Bentley
46	48	Jordan Davis	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis
47	49	Greylan James	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis
48	55	Brock Berryhill	You, Me, & Whiskey Heaven By Then	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill
49	13	Ray Fulcher	Love You Anyway	Luke Combs
50	75	John Pierce	Your Heart Or Mine	Jon Pardi
51	76	Justin Ebach	Your Heart Or Mine	Jon Pardi
52	77	Bart Butler	Your Heart Or Mine	Jon Pardi
53	59	Cole Taylor	You, Me, & Whiskey	Dan + Shay
54	58	Josh Miller	'98 Braves Ain't That Some	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
55	66	Travis Wood	'98 Braves Girl In Mine Tennessee Numbers	Morgan Wallen Parmalee Morgan Wallen
56	56	Trent Dabbs	Gold	Dierks Bentley
57	57	Dierks Bentley	Gold	Dierks Bentley
58	60	Jessie Jo Dillon	Memory Lane	Old Dominion
59	61	Brad Tursi	Memory Lane	Old Dominion
60	62	Trevor Rosen	Memory Lane	Old Dominion

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

May 5

Kimberly Perry/*If I Die Young Pt. 2*/Records Nashville/Columbia Records

Stephan Hogan/*You Or The West Coast*/Mavericks Records

Lawson Bates/*Vows*

Lana Scott/*Permanent*

May 8

Chase Rice/*Bad Day To Be A Cold Beer*/Dack Janiels/Broken Bow Records

MaRynn Taylor/*Make You Mine*/Black River Records

Album/EP Releases

May 5

Justin Moore/*Stray Dog*/The Valory Music Co.

Megan Moroney/*Lucky*/Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records

Rodney Crowell/*The Chicago Sessions*/New West Records

Meghan Patrick/*Greatest Show On Dirt*/Riser House Records

May 12

Parker McCollum/*Never Enough*/MCA Nashville

Bailey Zimmerman/*Religiously. The Album.*/Warner Music Nashville/Elektra

Lauren Daigle/*Lauren Daigle*/Atlantic Records/Centricity Music

George Birge/*George Birge: Mind On You*/Records Nashville

Tracy Lawrence/*Live at Billy Bob's Texas*

Jeff Carson/*448*/Encore Music Group

Industry Events

May 11

ACM Awards

May 15 – 18

Music Biz Conference