

Keith Whitley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Joe Galante To Be Inducted Into Country Music Hall Of Fame



Joe Galante, Jerry Lee Lewis and Keith Whitley (Lorrie Morgan attending on Whitley's behalf) are announced as the Country Music Hall of Fame class of 2022. Photo: John Russell/CMA

Keith Whitley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Joe Galante will be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The inductees were revealed Tuesday morning (May 17) via a virtual press conference by Hall of Famers **Brooks & Dunn**.

Whitley will be posthumously inducted into the Country Music Hall Of Fame in the Modern Era category. Lewis was selected for induction for the Veteran Era category. Renowned Nashville label head Galante will be inducted in the Non-Performer category.

A formal induction ceremony for Galante, Lewis and Whitley will take place at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in the CMA Theater this fall. Since 2007, the Museum's Medallion Ceremony, a reunion of the Hall of Fame membership, has served as the official rite of induction for new members.

[Click here to read the bios of each inductee.](#) **MR**

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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Kyle Sturrock Signs With UMPG Nashville

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Mackenzie Carpenter Signs With The Valory Music Co.

CMA Presents Triple Play Awards, Honors Bob DiPiero

My Music Row Story: Make Wake Artists' Chris Kappy

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DEBUT SINGLE

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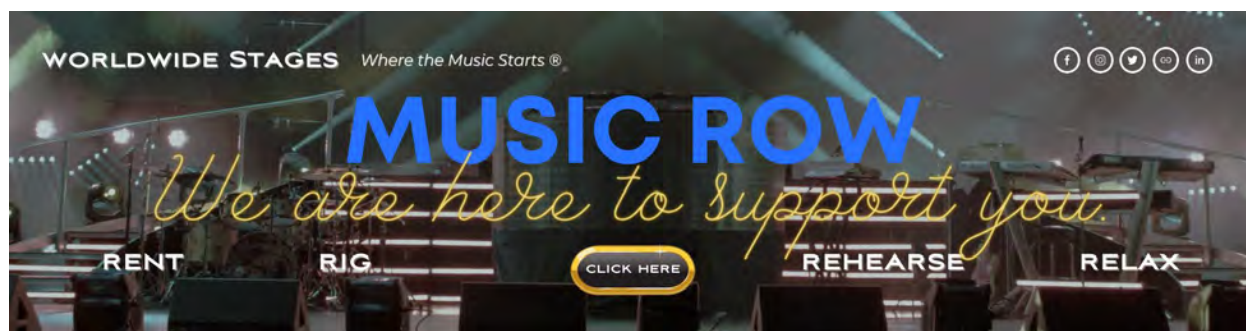
My Music Row Story: Make Wake Artists' Chris Kappy



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 [Worldwide Stages](#).

Chris Kappy is the founder and owner of management company Make Wake Artists, and is in his sixth year as manager for superstar **Luke Combs**. During that time, he has grown the Make Wake roster by adding the talents of **Niko Moon**, **Hailey Whitters**, **Drew Parker**, **Flatland Cavalry**, **Jackie Lee**, **Tyler Dial**, **Red Shahan**, **The Panhandlers** and **Keller Cox**.



MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Stone Mountain, Georgia. I was born in Texas and lived there for two years. We moved to St. Louis and lived there for two years. My dad worked for the airlines. We moved to Georgia when I was five so I grew up in Stone Mountain.

I ended up going to Georgia State University. It was a commuter school then, now it's a traditional campus. That's where my love for music started. I grew up in a household of music. My mom was a big believer in **The Temptations**, the **Four Tops**, **Otis Redding**, and **Gladys Knight**. My dad listened to big band music. As I was coming up, I was listening to pop radio. Z-93 and 96 Rock out of Atlanta were the stations I was listening to.

What got you interested in country music?

I met a girl in college that introduced me to the band **BlackHawk**, and I was like, "What is this magic?" The harmonies were insane. "Goodbye Says It All" was the first song of their's I ever heard. Then I started digging into country music and I really fell in love with bands like **Shenandoah**, **Diamond Rio**, and **Little Texas**. That's the world I got into as I was listening to everything from Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Hootie and The Blowfish, and Sister Hazel. I fell in love with country.

How did you get into the music business?

THE DEBUT SINGLE FROM HER NEW ALBUM



Lainey Wilson

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In 2000 I was working in IT selling web hosting and stuff like that. I was killing it, I was doing very well for myself for my late twenties. A good friend of mine, **Andy Levine**, said, "You should come work for me. We're gonna do this thing called The Rock Boat where we put bands on a cruise ship and go out to sea with their fans. I'll pay you a third of what you're making now, but you'll be in the music business." I was like, "Man, that's a great idea. I should do this." And I did. I quit my job and I went to go work for Andy. That started a 15-year relationship with bands and their fans on a cruise ship in the ocean.

Sister Hazel was the catalyst. They were my college band that I fell in love with. I would travel to go see them play anywhere and everywhere. To this day, I still am very close with all the guys in the band. We're all very good friends and I still love their music. I learned from them how important it was to have the relationship with the fan. Their big hit was "All For You." They had all these unbelievable songs, but they had a relationship with their fans that was beautiful. They cared so much about them and then they created The Rock Boat. From that event, it spawned off to **Kiss, John Mayer, Florida Georgia Line, Paramore** and **311**. So for 15 years, I traveled with rabid fan bases, took 2,500 of their biggest fans on vacation, and essentially gave them a backstage pass for four days in the Caribbean. I thought I had the greatest job in the world.

How did you end up in management?

I was living in Huntington Beach, California when I got a phone call from a buddy of mine named **Bradley Jordan**. Bradley calls me and says, "You've always wanted be a manager your whole life. That's all you've ever talked about and you're not doing it. You're in your early forties. If you don't do this, you're going to regret it." I was like, "Man, you're right." You have to have a friend like that to be able to tell you that. I packed everything up, broke my lease and moved to Athens, Georgia in November of 2014.

Bradley was [promoting] a **Sam Hunt** show at the Georgia Theater. This is when Sam was just blowing up. He put the show up for sale on Oct. 31 and it sold out in four minutes. He had me that day as the runner for that show, so I'm driving Brad and Sam all over town. I saw the kind of relationship they had and I was like, "I can do this." I didn't know what a point was on an album, I had no idea what a publishing deal was, but I remembered [a conversation I had] on a cruise with **Brandi Carlile**. Brandi and I had become very good friends and I remember talking to her asking, "Do you think I could do this?" She goes, "Kappy, I don't even know what points are. I don't care. You can do this." That's what I needed to hear.

[A little while later], I get a phone call and it's Bradley. He said, "I found your guy. His name is **Luke Combs**."

What was your first meeting with Luke like?

[We organized a show for Luke.] He shows up with



Pictured (L-R): Kappy, Luke Combs, Niko Moon



Pictured (L-R): Kappy, Drew Parker

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Telling On My Heart/Casey Donahew/Almost Country Entertainment — 58

Caught Up On My Drinkin'/Smith & Wesley/Dream Walkin' Records/BFD/Audium — 66

High Heels/Paul Cauthen/Velvet Rose Records/Thirty Tigers — 69

Human/Cody Johnson/CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville — 72

Orange Keychain/Jared Blake/Nashville Cartel — 78

Shades/Dave Herrera/Brokeade, Inc. — 79

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Like I Love Country Music/Kane Brown/RCA Nashville — 363

Take My Name/Parmalee/Stoney Creek Records — 126

Last Night Lonely/Jon Pardi/Capitol — 125

Telling On My Heart/Casey Donahew/Almost Country Entertainment — 95

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Like I Love Country Music/Kane Brown/RCA Nashville — 14

Telling On My Heart/Casey Donahew/Almost Country Entertainment — 9

Amen/Jacob Bryant/American Roots Records — 7

Keys To The Country/Chris Janson/Warner Music Nashville — 6

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Amen/Jacob Bryant/American Roots Records — 110

Keepin' It Real/Matt Farris with Trailer Choir/Laminate Entertainment — 110

Humpty Dumpty Heart/The Isaacs/House of Isaacs — 107

Unwanted Man/Aaron Watson/Adub Records — 101

When I Cry/Miku Martineau/Whattaguy Music — 96

NO. 1 SONG



ERNEST earns his first No. 1 as an artist this week with “Flower Shops” featuring **Morgan Wallen**. He has achieved six previous No. 1s as a songwriter starting in 2020 with FGL’s “Blessings” and most recently “Wasted On You” by Morgan Wallen which went No. 1 in April.

ERNEST cowrote “Flower Shops” with Ben Burgess and Mark Holman. It is also the title track to his debut album which came out in March.

In addition to several festival appearances this summer, ERNEST will serve as opening support on select dates of Morgan Wallen’s “Dangerour Tour.” [Click for more tour information.](#)



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 Connersville, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
KQZQ Pratt, 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
KFAV Warrenton, MO
WFAY Fayetteville, NC
KZZY Devils Lake, ND
KYCK Thompson, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
Jersey Shore Country
KQBA Santa Fe, NM
WDNB Monticello, NY
WCJW Warsaw, NY
WFRY Watertown, NY
KITX Hugo, OK

KWEY Weatherford, OK
KWOX Woodward, OK
KRKT Albany, OR
WVNW Lewistown, PA
WNBT Mansfield, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
WFGE State College, PA
KMOM Aberdeen, SD
KZZI Spearfish, SD
WUCZ Carthage, TN
WCKN Dickson, TN
WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
KYKX Longview, 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

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MAY 20, 2022

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
18	2	1	Flower Shops / ERNEST feat. Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records	1681/63	2	28
13	5	2	Last Night Lonely / Jon Pardi / Capitol	1657/65	8	125
36	4	3	New Truck / Dylan Scott / Curb	1637/60	6	86
16	3	4	Everyone She Knows / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	1630/61	4	63
29	6	5	With A Woman You Love / Justin Moore / Valory	1538/62	3	52
19	8	6	Take My Name / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	1519/52	9	126
28	1	7	Damn Strait / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	1504/49	-13	-234
21	7	8	AA / Walker Hayes / Monument	1461/42	0	-6
9	11	9	Ghost Story / Carrie Underwood / Capitol	1351/59	7	90
24	10	10	Soul / Lee Brice / Curb	1316/57	2	25
33	12	11	At the End Of A Bar / Chris Young feat. Mitchell Tenpenny / RCA Nashville	1301/54	5	57
29	13	12	If I Was A Cowboy / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	1254/42	1	11
14	15	13	Party Mode / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow	1164/56	8	82
21	14	14	No Hard Feelings / Old Dominion / RCA Nashville	1149/54	4	44
19	16	15	What A Song Can Do / Lady A / BMLG	993/49	4	42
9	17	16	Don't Come Lookin' / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	989/52	8	69
13	20	17	Like A Hurricane / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	898/52	8	67
6	21	18	Heartfirst / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	890/48	7	62
24	22	19	You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG	829/46	1	12
2	41	20	Like I Love Country Music / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	779/44	87	363
9	23	21	Down Home / Jimmie Allen / Stoney Creek Records	768/44	3	21
19	24	22	Out In The Middle / Zac Brown Band / Warner Music Nashville	756/39	1	9
15	26	23	My Bar / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	751/45	4	31
8	25	24	Joy Of My Life / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	741/43	3	19
10	27	25	Note To Self / Randy Houser / Magnolia Music Group	716/44	6	41
12	28	26	Pick Me Up / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	709/43	7	47
21	30	27	Country'd Look Good On You / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	702/40	12	76
14	29	28	Where I Learned To Live / Ward Davis / Ward Davis Music/Thirty Tigers	667/41	3	20
15	31	29	Love Talking / Eli Young Band / Valory	644/35	3	19
5	33	30	Son Of A Sinner / Jelly Roll / Broken Bow	618/37	9	53
16	32	31	Whatever It Takes / High Valley / Cage Free	615/37	5	31
26	19	32	Hypocrite / Ruthie Collins / MCC/Curb	577/35	-35	-307
24	34	33	Learn From It / Conner Smith / Valory	564/35	6	30
16	36	34	Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	492/29	7	32
5	40	35	Hell Yeah / Little Big Town / Capitol	486/33	11	48
8	38	36	Heart Of A Small Town / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	480/28	5	22
24	35	37	Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House	477/29	3	15
13	37	38	Wishful Drinking / Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt / Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville	465/29	1	6
6	43	39	All I Can Think About Lately / CJ Solar / Raining Bacon	458/35	13	51
14	39	40	Everybody Talks To God / Aaron Lewis / Valory	447/25	0	2

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
14	42	41	Crazy One More Time / Kip Moore / MCA Nashville	402/29	-2	-10
18	46	42	Small Town Spotlights / Jacob Johnson / AJG Music Group/Bow To Stern Records	384/24	7	25
9	44	43	Anything Like You Dance / Ray Fulcher / Black River Entertainment	384/30	1	2
13	47	44	Lucky / Tori Martin / LuckySky Music	366/27	3	10
7	48	45	Prettiest Girl / Brian Callihan / Reviver Records	360/25	7	24
20	45	46	Us / Hannah Ellis / Curb	360/23	-5	-20
7	50	47	Holy Water / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	338/23	7	21
10	49	48	Every Single Summer / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Records	337/26	2	5
4	53	49	Songs About You / Brett Eldredge / Warner Music Nashville	319/23	20	53
36	51	50	Wilder Days / Morgan Wade / Ladylike Records	317/21	17	47
5	54	51	Truth About You / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House/Columbia	297/23	16	42
11	52	52	Thank You For Breaking My Heart / Ryan Trotti / red 39 Entertainment	276/17	3	9
6	55	53	When It Rains / Chase Likens / On The Green Productions	258/19	2	5
4	57	54	Lovesick Drifting Cowboy / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	255/20	12	27
4	62	55	Shining Through My Window / Flat River Band / Early Bird Records	242/22	37	65
9	58	56	Honky Tonk Boots / Sammy Kershaw / White Mustang Records	222/13	4	9
11	59	57	Baptist Parking Lot / Mary Heather Hickman / Moro Bay Music	211/18	0	0
1	86	58	Telling On My Heart / Casey Donahew / Almost Country Entertainment	200/18	90	95
4	68	59	Through With You / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	190/16	22	34
7	61	60	Til Your Heart Breaks / Juna N Joey / River Run Records	189/17	3	6
3	69	61	She Likes It / Russell Dickerson feat. Jake Scott / Triple Tigers Records	184/15	31	44
7	65	62	Body First / Laura Bryna / LTD Entertainment LLC	178/15	7	11
7	63	63	Broken Neon Hearts / Ronnie Dunn / LWR, LLC	176/11	-1	-1
7	67	64	Ghost Train / Tennessee Outlaw Country / Six Gun Records	159/11	1	1
7	71	65	Dates In Pickup Trucks / Kassi Ashton / MCA Nashville	156/15	13	18
1	85	66	Caught Up On My Drinkin' / Smith & Wesley / Dream Walkin' Records/BFD/Audium	154/12	40	44
14	64	67	County Roads / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records	154/13	-13	-22
3	72	68	World's On Fire / The Woods / Big Shadow Glen Records	148/12	10	13
1	82	69	High Heels / Paul Cauthen / Velvet Rose Records/Thirty Tigers	145/12	28	32
2	75	70	Beach Boys / LOCASH feat. Mike Love & Bruce Johnston / Wheelhouse Records	142/11	13	16
2	79	71	Gave It Back Broken / Callista Clark / Big Machine	141/14	18	21
1	90	72	Human / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	140/12	41	41
5	73	73	Renaissance Lady / Katie Linendoll /	136/9	5	7
2	76	74	The Wind / Ashley Barron / SSM Nashville	135/13	7	9
4	77	75	Good In A Small Town / Joe & Martina / Costa Gold Records	133/12	6	7
8	74	76	Catching Up With An Ol' Memory / Clay Walker / Show Dog Nashville	133/8	3	4
6	70	77	Gentle Man / Frankie Justin / SMG Records	133/10	-4	-6
1	89	78	Orange Keychain / Jared Blake / Nashville Cartel	131/10	30	30
1	83	79	Shades / Dave Herrera / Brokeade, Inc.	130/12	15	17
2	78	80	The Two Of Us Meet / Lily Grace /	126/12	1	1

No. 1 Song
Greatest Spin Increase
Highest Debut

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the band in the van. They unload and start loading in and I meet Luke. He's a nice guy. They're starting to soundcheck and I'm like, "This guy can flat out sing!" I got to experience that moment that you have when you see Luke for the first time. The charisma and the passion that he had was there without even being in show mode. The show was awesome. I was like, "This is the guy. I want to manage this guy. I've got to get him another show to show him that I have some yank."

[After another show,] I told him, "I'd like to manage you." He goes, "What do you know about management?" I said, "Not a lot, but I got you this show. I've been around a lot of managers. I know that I can work just as hard as they can. I can be just as passionate as they can. Nobody will out-care me or out-appreciate what you bring to the table and we'll do this together."

He said, "Let me go talk to three managers in Nashville." So he came to talk to three managers here in Nashville and all of them said he was a songwriter. He calls me up and says, "Hey, I met with all three managers." I said, "What'd they say?" He goes, "You tell me what you want then I'll tell you what they want." I was like, "I want you to stand on stage every night and sing your songs, just like you do, and connect with the crowd. I'll handle everything else." He goes, "You're my manager."

I moved here Sept. 6 of 2016 and we got started.

What was it like when you guys got to Nashville?

Early on I asked Luke what one of his goals were. He's like, "Man, I drive this piece of crap Dodge Neon. I need a safe car. I don't know if the brakes are going to work, it doesn't have AC, and I have to drive this to writes and I hate it because people see me in this and this isn't indicative of who I am." I was like, "Alright, I won't take any commission from you until we can buy you a new car—however long that takes." I wasn't rich. I had a small amount in savings and thought things would get going pretty quickly.

So we started and we had no money coming in. We had just enough money to pay the bills and if we didn't have enough, I would pull money out of my savings to put gas in the van and stuff like that. Soon I am destitute. I have less than \$50 to my name. Every night I'm taking the merch bin to the green room and taking all the food and water and stuff that's left behind and putting it in there so I have something to eat. No one ever knew. Every penny that came in that was left over went into a Maxwell House coffee can that sat on top of Luke's refrigerator. We would just stack cash in there. We were doing that and I was bleeding my account dry trying to figure it out. I sold stuff and did whatever I could to just make it work. I was driving our Sprinter van everywhere because I [had to sell] my car. I was going to meetings in this giant Sprinter and people were just laughing at me, but I couldn't let Luke know that.



Pictured: Kappy and Luke Combs embrace after Combs wins the CMA Entertainer of the Year



Pictured (L-R): Hailey Whitters, Kappy

We saved enough money. We had \$15,000 and we bought a 2013 Ford Fusion for him. That next weekend we did a show. We had \$500 left over and Luke goes, "I got my car now. Take commission." It was \$75 bucks and I felt like I was Mark Cuban. The very next day we got a phone call that somebody had pulled out of an ATV park show and they were desperate to get somebody, so we got a \$10,000 offer. Three days later we got an offer to play a private for a guy whose daughter was graduating high school. He offered us an obscene amount of money. Instantly we made all this money and I was like, "We're gonna make it."



Now Luke is one of the biggest stars in our format, and you've added more artists and team members to your management company. Did you ever see yourself building out Make Wake to what it is now?

Absolutely not. I had no idea that it was going to turn into this. As I sit around my office and see the **Niko Moon** plaques, and I see the shows for **Hailey Whitters**, **Flatland Cavalry** and **Drew Parker**... I never thought I'd come to town and create a management company that would have 10 artists on the roster and 17 full-time employees. That was never a part of the plan. I have the weight of the careers of our artists on my shoulders and the weight of the employees that I have to take care of for them and their families. I never thought that I would ever have to worry about that stuff.

It doesn't scare me, it's just a lot to deal with. I'm lucky I have fantastic people out there that I can call on. I'm the first person to say if I don't know something. I have great people that I can pick up the phone and call. I talk to either **Kerri Edwards**, **John Peets**, **Clarence Spalding**, or **Marion Kraft** once a week.

What's something people might not know about you?

I lost 200 pounds. That's something people might not know about. I ended up having gastric bypass surgery. I didn't have good control of my weight, it was an unhealthy relationship. I knew that I needed to get control of it.

I remember being in the hospital after getting it done and being so depressed. I was thinking, "I can't believe I just had to do this. You were such a loser. You couldn't get this done." Then I thought, "No, this is not how you need to be thinking. You just didn't have a handle on it. You didn't have control. You needed to get control and you got control." I'll see people now who haven't seen me in forever and they'll be like, "Woah, I didn't even recognize you." I talk about it because I want people to know that there shouldn't be a stigma around it.

If someone was to ask you what your definition of success was, what would you say?

Being able to shop at Whole Foods without looking at prices. (Laughs)

When you sit with an artist and you're like, "What are your dreams? What are your passions? What are your goals?," and you can accomplish those. Some of them are extremely realistic, some of them are over the moon, but if you're able to do that, that's success. Seeing an artist on stage, seeing their fans sing their songs back to them—they're so elated and they come off the stage and they're like, "They were singing my songs!" That's it, man. There's nothing better than that. **MR**

Danielle Bradbery Inks Multi-Year Agreement With Big Machine Label Group



Danielle Bradbery has signed a multi-year extension of her recording agreement with Big Machine Label Group.

Bradbery first partnered with Big Machine in 2013 following her win on Season 4 of NBC's *The Voice* when she was just 16. She has spent the past decade growing as an artist, defining her sound and finding her voice with hits such as "Worth It," "Potential" and the Gold-certified "Sway."

"Danielle's talent has been unmatched since day one," notes BMLG Chairman and CEO **Scott Borchetta**. "The Big Machine team and I have had the privilege of watching Danielle blossom into who she is today, growing from a teenager with a dream to an artist with a great sense of self and musical vision. We are incredibly proud to continue supporting her and her music."

"Scott and the Big Machine team have been there since the very beginning of my career, watching me grow up and find who I am, not only an artist, but as a person too," adds Bradbery. "I'm thankful to continue our partnership and can't wait for what's to come." **MR**

Kyle Sturrock Signs With Universal Music Publishing Nashville



Pictured (L-R): Roxy King (UMPG Nashville) & Kyle Sturrock.

Kyle Sturrock has signed an exclusive, global publishing agreement with Universal Music Publishing Nashville.

A Dallas, Texas native, Sturrock left his finance job and moved to Nashville to pursue a career as a professional songwriter. His frequent collaborators include **Chris Young, Matt Roy, Johnny Clawson, Trey Lewis, Patrick Murphy,** and **Ashley Cooke.**

"Kyle's keen ability to craft a lyric is something we don't come across often," notes **Roxy King**, Director, A&R at UMPG Nashville. "After playing for the entire UMPG Nashville team, we knew we were dealing with someone special. I can't wait to see what this journey has in store for him and am honored to be a part of it."

Sturrock adds, "I couldn't be more excited to start this next chapter working with Roxy and the rest of the Universal team. Being able to surround myself with some of the best in the business for my first deal is a dream come true, and I knew when I first walked into the building that it was where I wanted to be. I can't wait to get to work and take the next step in my career." **MR**

Winners Announced For 57th Annual ACM Industry & Studio Recording Awards



Pictured: Charlie Worsham with his first ACM Award on stage during Friday's Grand Ole Opry. Photo: Chris Hollo

The Academy of Country Music announced the Industry and Studio Recording Award winners from the 57th ACM Awards at the Grand Ole Opry House on Friday night (May 13).

During **Charlie Worsham's** performance, he was interrupted by a special announcement that surprised the guitarist-singer-songwriter with news that he won his first-ever ACM Award for ACM Acoustic Guitar Player of the Year. Dierks Bentley sent a video message to Worsham congratulating him on his win, and Worsham gave a tearful speech to the packed Opry crowd while giving heartfelt praise to the other nominees in his category.

Other winner highlights include Basement East receiving their first-ever ACM Award for ACM Club of the Year following the venue's destruction during the March 2020 Nashville tornadoes and

subsequent rebuild. The Ryman, which is celebrating its 130th anniversary, received its 7th lifetime ACM Award.

Pedal steel guitar player **Paul Franklin** received his 17th career ACM Award, and first win for Specialty Instrument(s) Player of the Year. Promoter **Brian O'Connell** and producer **Dann Huff** each received their 10th career ACM Award. In addition to Worsham and Basement East, other first-time ACM Award recipients include Chicago's Windy City Smokeout Festival, San Antonio Rodeo, audio engineer **Jim Cooley**, drummer **Evan Hutchings**, and piano/keyboard player **David Dorn**.

All Industry Award, Studio Recording Award, and soon-to-be-announced Special Award recipients will be celebrated during the 15th Academy of Country Music Honors ceremony on Aug. 24 at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

Industry Award Winners:

Casino Of The Year – Theater: Choctaw Casino & Resort – Durant, Ok

Casino Of The Year – Arena: Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Ct

Festival Of The Year: Windy City Smokeout Festival – Chicago, Il

Fair/Rodeo Of The Year: San Antonio Rodeo – San Antonio, Tx

Club Of The Year: Basement East – Nashville, Tn

Theater Of The Year: Ryman Auditorium – Nashville, Tn

Outdoor Venue Of The Year: Red Rocks Amphitheatre – Morrison, Co

Arena Of The Year: Bridgestone Arena – Nashville, Tn

Don Romeo Talent Buyer Of The Year: Todd Boltin – Variety Attractions

Promoter Of The Year: Brian O'connell – Live Nation

Studio Recording Award Winners:

Bass Player Of The Year: Jimmie Lee Sloas

Drummer Of The Year: Evan Hutchings

Acoustic Guitar Player Of The Year: Charlie Worsham

Electric Guitar Player Of The Year: Tom Bukovac

Piano/Keyboards Player Of The Year: David Dorn

Specialty Instrument(S) Player Of The Year: Paul Franklin

Audio Engineer Of The Year: Jim Cooley

Producer Of The Year: Dann Huff

DISClaimer Single Reviews: RaeLynn Delivers 'Best Single Of Her Career'



Tempo rules today in DISClaimer.

It sounds like the country acts are gearing up for summertime by issuing sunny toe tappers. Check out the energy in the new tracks by Kylie Morgan, Nate Smith, Kassi Ashton and our joint Disc of the Day winners, Chris Janson and RaeLynn.

The DISCcovery Award goes to a dude billed as CWBY. That's "cowboy" without vowels. I usually dislike hip-hop flavored country, largely because one reason that I'm a country fan is that I love to hear people singing and playing real instruments. Records with men yelling at me just don't appeal. But this in spite of his undeniable influences, this guy does sing, and sing well.

[Read Robert K. Oermann's weekly single reviews column here.](#)

MORE TOP STORIES

[A Look Into A History-Making No. 1 With Carly Pearce & Alexa Campbell \[Interview\]](#)

[Brandi Carlile, Yola, Allison Russell Among Americana Awards Nominees](#)

[Bobby Karl Works The Room: Opry Spotlight Shines On Jamey Johnson, Ricky Skaggs](#)

['The Judds: The Final Tour' To Carry On As Star-Studded Tribute With Faith Hill, Trisha Yearwood, More](#)

[The Cadillac Three Rings In Last Call At Nashville's Mercy Lounge](#)

[In Pictures: BMI Represents At 25th Annual Key West Songwriters Festival](#)

[Chad Kudelka Joins Creative Artists Agency](#)

[Industry Gushes Over Jimmie Allen At Double No. 1 Party](#)

[Bobby Karl Works The Room: Grammy Party Showcases Nashville Diversity](#)

[Zachary Manno Signs With Reservoir Through Protégé Campaign Led By Breland](#)

[Dolly Parton To Star In Special Holiday Film On NBC Later This Year](#)

[SOLID Raises \\$28,000 At Annual Music Row Madness Fundraiser At Topgolf](#)

[Luke Combs Scores Lucky No. 13th Chart-Topper With 'Doin' This'](#)

[Bobby Bones Receives Honorary Doctorate From University Of Arkansas](#)

Carrie Underwood To Embark On 'Denim & Rhinestones Tour' This Fall



Carrie Underwood has announced she'll return to the road this fall on her new "Denim & Rhinestones Tour," kicking off in October. She will be joined on the tour by special guest **Jimmie Allen**.

The new 43-city arena tour launches Oct. 15 in Greenville, South Carolina, and includes stops at New York's Madison Square Garden, LA's Crypto.com Arena, Rupp Arena in Lexington, Austin's Moody Center, and more. She'll also play a show at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena on March 1, 2023.

"I'm thrilled to be hitting the road again with the 'Denim & Rhinestones Tour,'" says Underwood. "I'm having such an amazing time with my Las Vegas residency and look forward to continuing that next year after the tour. I'm excited to bring the new music of *Denim & Rhinestones* to life on tour, as well as put new spins on familiar favorites. We've been working hard already preparing an amazing show, and I can't wait to see everyone on the road!"

Underwood will release her upcoming album, *Denim & Rhinestones*, on June 10. The lead single from the new album, "Ghost Story," is currently climbing the charts and has garnered over 30 million global streams.

[See dates here.](#) **MR**

Mackenzie Carpenter Signs With The Valory Music Co.



Pictured (L-R): Big Machine Label Group Chairman, CEO and Founder Scott Borchetta, Mackenzie Carpenter, Valory's George Briner

Mackenzie Carpenter has signed with The Valory Music Co. Her new single "Can't Nobody" will be available on all streaming platforms this Friday (May 20).

The 22-year-old Georgia native attended Belmont University, and while there immersed herself in the Nashville songwriting community, which led to her co-writing **Lily Rose's** breakthrough "Villain." On the road Carpenter has opened for **Parker McCollum, Craig Campbell, Ryan Hurd**, and fellow The Valory Music Co. labelmate **Conner Smith**, among others.

"In today's world," Big Machine Label Group Chairman, CEO and Founder **Scott Borchetta** says, "it is extremely rare to find a voice—as a songwriter or a vocalist—that is truly unique. Not only is Mackenzie both a completely original writer, capturing the experience of being a young woman from an authentic place, her voice is immediately recognizable. But even more uncommon is the mystery around her: where everyone is everything on social media, Mackenzie was a mystery who required actual seeking out. We are so proud to welcome her into the BMLG family."

"I've always been all about the music and writing," Carpenter adds. "My dad told me if I was going to do this, I needed to write the songs before anything else could happen. So, I've been really focused on that, on trying to be the most true I could be to who I am... Scott, **Allison [Jones]**, **George [Briner]** and the team at BMLG really got to know me, so they understand my vision. Partnering with them is more than a dream come true."

MR

CMA Presents Triple Play Awards, Honors Bob DiPiero



Pictured (L-R top row): Corey Crowder, Randy Montana, CMA CEO Sarah Trahern, Ashley Gorley, host Jim Beavers, Brock Berryhill, Jonathan Singleton (L-R bottom row:) Hunter Phelps, Ross Copperman, Ernest Keith Smith, Hillary Lindsey, CMA Songwriter Advocate Award recipient Bob DiPiero, Zach Crowell and Jesse Frasure. Photo: Hunter Berry/CMA

The Country Music Association hosted its 12th CMA Triple Play Awards on Thursday (May 12) at Nashville's Marathon Music Works. The industry ceremony marked the event's official return following a two-year postponement due to the pandemic. In addition to honoring 19 CMA Triple Play Award recipients, CMA also awarded **Bob DiPiero**, Founder of Being Bob Music, with the inaugural CMA Songwriter Advocate Award.

The CMA Triple Play Award is presented to songwriters who pen three No. 1 songs within a 12-month period. Honored last night for this achievement were **Brock Berryhill, Luke Combs, Ross Copperman, Corey Crowder, Zach Crowell, Jesse Frasure, Ray Fulcher, Ashley Gorley, Michael Hardy, Hillary Lindsey, Shane McAnally, Randy Montana, Josh Osborne, Hunter Phelps, Thomas Rhett, Jonathan Singleton, Ernest Keith Smith, Josh Thompson and Morgan Wallen.**

The ceremony was hosted by CMA Board Chairman and composer, **Jim Beavers**. Throughout the evening, the Triple Play Award honorees were surprised by special guest presenters, all with a meaningful relationship to the songwriters. Special guest presenters included **Brantley Gilbert** for Berryhill, **Randy Goodman** for Combs, **Josh Van Valkenburg** for Copperman, **Tyler Hubbard** for Crowder, **Madeline Merlo** for Crowell, **Stevie Frasure** for Frasure, **Dierks Bentley** for Gorley, **Kelsea Ballerini** and Lindsey's daughter **Bennett** for Hillary Lindsey, father **Billy Montana** for Randy Montana, **Bart Herbison** for Osborne, Gorley for Phelps, Combs for Singleton, **Brad and Brett Warren** for Smith, and **Mark Wright** for Thompson.

Triple Play Award honorees who could not be in attendance, including Fulcher, Hardy, McAnally, Thomas Rhett and Wallen, shared video acceptances.

DiPiero was presented the new CMA Songwriter Advocate Award, which was created to recognize an individual who has dedicated their life to supporting and advancing the art of songwriting and careers of songwriters. Throughout the evening, as an ode to DiPiero's long list of memorable hit singles, he was surprised with performances by good friends **Neal McCoy**, who performed the classic "Wink!," Marty Raybon and **Mike McGuire** of **Shenandoah** performing "The Church on Cumberland Road," and **Jeffrey Steele** performing "Gone." **MR**



Bob DiPiero pictured with Neal McCoy who performed "Wink!" in his honor. Photo: Hunter Berry/CMA

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Shane McAnally	23 Everyone She Knows AA Never Wanted To Be That Girl No Hard Feelings	Sam Hunt Kenny Chesney Walker Hayes Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde Old Dominion
2	2	Ashley Gorley	Give Heaven Some Hell Holy Water New Truck She Had Me At Heads Carolina Slow Down Summer Take My Name You Didn't	HARDY Michael Ray Dylan Scott Cole Swindell Thomas Rhett Parmalee Brett Young
3	3	Ben Johnson	Best Thing Since Backroads Give Heaven Some Hell Holy Water New Truck Take My Name	Jake Owen HARDY Michael Ray Dylan Scott Parmalee
4	6	Ernest Keith Smith	Flower Shops Son Of A Sinner Wasted On You	Ernest ft. Morgan Wallen Jelly Roll Morgan Wallen
5	7	Jesse Frasure	If I Was A Cowboy She Had Me At Heads Carolina Slow Down Summer	Miranda Lambert Cole Swindell Thomas Rhett
6	5	Chase McGill	Don't Think Jesus Never Say Never With A Woman You Love	Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson Justin Moore
7	4	Zachary Lane Bryan	From Austin Something In The Orange	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan
8	8	Matt Rogers	Til You Can't	Cody Johnson
9	9	Ben Stennis	Til You Can't	Cody Johnson
10	12	Hunter Phelps	Best Thing Since Backroads Give Heaven Some Hell Holy Water New Truck	Jake Owen HARDY Michael Ray Dylan Scott
11	10	Luke Combs	Doin' This Out In The Middle Tomorrow Me	Luke Combs Zac Brown Band Luke Combs
12	11	Jessi Alexander	Don't Think Jesus Never Say Never	Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson
13	14	Walker Hayes	AA Fancy Like	Walker Hayes Walker Hayes
14	16	Miranda Lambert	If I Was A Cowboy	Miranda Lambert
15	20	J. Collins	Damn Strait	Scotty McCreery
16	21	Trent Tomlinson	Damn Strait	Scotty McCreery
17	13	Michael Hardy	Give Heaven Some Hell Holy Water New Truck Praise The Lord	HARDY Michael Ray Dylan Scott Brelan ft. Thomas Rhett
18	15	Mark Holman	Don't Think Jesus Flower Shops	Morgan Wallen Ernest ft. Morgan Wallen
19	30	Matt McGinn	7500 OBO Like I Love Country Music Party Mode	Tim McGraw Kane Brown Dustin Lynch
20	22	Cole Swindell	Never Say Never She Had Me At Heads Carolina	Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson Cole Swindell
21	18	Drew Parker	Doin' This	Doin' This

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
22	19	Robert Williford	Doin' This	Luke Combs
23	24	Luke Laird	AA	Walker Hayes
24	56	John Fogerty	Joy Of My Life	Chris Stapleton
25	25	Ashley McBryde	Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde
26	26	Carly Pearce	Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde
27	27	Mitchell Tenpenny	Truth About You At The End Of A Bar	Mitchell Tenpenny Chris Young & Mitchell Tenpenny
28	28	Morgan Wallen	Wasted On You Wild As Her	Morgan Wallen Corey Kent
29	35	D. Fanning	Narcissist Take My Name	Avery Anna Parmalee
30	23	Ross Copperman	Everyone She Knows Pick Me Up	Kenny Chesney Gabby Barrett
31	36	John Morgan	Trouble With A Heartbreak	Jason Aldean
32	37	Kurt Allison	Trouble With A Heartbreak	Jason Aldean
33	38	Tully Kennedy	Trouble With A Heartbreak	Jason Aldean
34	39	Brett Beavers	Trouble With A Heartbreak	Jason Aldean
35	33	Josh Thompson	Wasted On You	Morgan Wallen
36	34	Ryan Vojtesak	Wasted On You	Morgan Wallen
37	44	Brad Tursi	No Hard Feelings Wild Hearts	Old Dominion Keith Urban
38	29	Jordan Minton	Best Thing Since Backroads Growing Old With You Leave You Alone	Jake Owen Restless Road Kane Brown
39	42	Jennifer Schott	7500 OBO	Tim McGraw
40	43	Nathan Spicer	7500 OBO	Tim McGraw
41	45	Josh Osborne	23 Everyone She Knows	Sam Hunt Kenny Chesney
42	40	Ben Burgess	Flower Shops	Ernest ft. Morgan Wallen
43	41	Josh Jenkins	Buy Dirt Fancy Like	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan Walker Hayes
44	50	Matt Thomas	Take My Name	Parmalee
45	46	Jimmy Robbins	Circles Around This Town You Didn't	Maren Morris Brett Young
46	49	David Garcia	Ghost Story Praise The Lord	Carrie Underwood Breland ft. Thomas Rhett
47	47	Thomas Rhett	Praise The Lord She Had Me At Heads Carolina Slow Down Summer	Breland ft. Thomas Rhett Cole Swindell Thomas Rhett
48	48	Ryan Hurd	What A Song Can Do Circles Around This Town	Lady A Maren Morris
49	57	Dylan Marlowe	Last Night Lonely	Jon Pardi
50	58	Joe Fox	Last Night Lonely	Jon Pardi
51	59	Jimi Bell	Last Night Lonely	Jon Pardi
52	51	Maren Morris	Circles Around This Town	Maren Morris
53	52	Julia Michaels	Circles Around This Town	Maren Morris
54	53	Jennifer Wayne	Wild Hearts	Keith Urban
55	54	Keith Urban	Wild Hearts	Keith Urban
56	55	Eric Paslay	Wild Hearts	Keith Urban
57	62	Hillary Lindsey	Ghost Story	Carrie Underwood
58	63	Josh Kear	Ghost Story	Carrie Underwood
59	65	Jon Nite	Pick Me Up You Didn't	Gabby Barrett Brett Young
60	60	Rhett Akins	Slow Down Summer	Thomas Rhett

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

May 20

Tyler Hubbard/5 Foot 9/EMI Records Nashville

Lainey Wilson/Heart Like A Truck/BBR Music Group/Broken Bow Records

Steve Moakler/Make A Little Room

Sarah Darling/Get to Me/Be Darling Records

Stephanie Ryann/Regulars + Drop Ins

Liddy Clark/Austin/Crimson Rose Records

Amy Jack/Stay Breezy Baby

May 23

Matt Stell/Man Made/RECORDS Nashville

Niko Moon/Easy Tonight/RCA Nashville

Lainey Wilson/Heart Like A Truck/Broken Bow

Kyndon Oakes/Better/KO Records

Richie Furay/Somebody Like You/96K Productions/BMG

Album/EP Releases

May 20

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band/*Dirt Goes Dylan*

Zach Bryan/*American Heartbreak*/Warner Records

High Valley/*Way Back*

May 27

Steve Earle & The Dukes/*Jerry Jeff*/New West Records

Kirstie Kraus/*Yes You Can*/Kraus House of Entertainment

Industry Events

May 29

2022 K-Love Fan Awards

June 3

2022 K-Love Fan Awards Broadcast on TBN

June 9 - 12

CMA Fest