

UMG Nashville Names Chelsea Blythe Exec. VP Of A&R



Universal Music Group Nashville has named **Chelsea Blythe** as its Executive Vice President of A&R.

Blythe began her career as an A&R intern at Interscope Records before becoming the department coordinator where she worked on award-winning artists including **Kendrick Lamar**, **Schoolboy Q**, **Rae Sremmurd** and **Mike Will Made-It**. Moving to Columbia Records in 2016, Blythe climbed to Vice President of A&R, signed **Symba** as her first artist, played a role in signing **Baby Keem** to the label and developed multi-Platinum-selling artists **Polo G** and **The Kid LAROI**.

"I'm so excited to bring Chelsea to UMG Nashville as EVP A&R," says UMGN Chair & CEO **Cindy Mabe**. "Her bold leadership, dynamic spirit, and passion for the music and artists will align perfectly with the culture we are building. Her love for country music brought her to Nashville and her dynamic presence and impeccable instincts will help lead our artist development strategy and innovate the future of country music."

"I'm very excited to begin this chapter of my career with UMGN," says Blythe. "I have immense respect and passion for country music, and I am honored that Cindy has recognized my enthusiasm with this opportunity. I am inspired by her unwavering leadership and look forward to implementing my experience in this role while building with the country community." **MR**

SIGN UP HERE (FREE!)

[If you were forwarded this newsletter and would like to receive it, sign up here.](#)

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

UMG Nashville Names Chelsea Blythe Exec. VP Of A&R

CRB Issues Initial Determination For Phonorecords III Appeal

Concord Music Publishing Promotes Jen Hubbard

Blake Shelton Launches Lucky Horseshoe Productions

Warner Chappell Music Signs Josh Ross

Riser House Records Signs Lanco

Adam Hambrick Signs With Sheltered Music

DeFord Bailey Avenue Unveiled In Nashville

Spencer Crandall Inks With Warner Chappell & Stem

DISClaimer Single Reviews

And much more...



BAPTIZED

ELVIE SHANE
OUT NOW

CLICK TO LISTEN

358M+ GLOBAL OVERALL STREAMS

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS



NOMINATED FOR BEST NEW COUNTRY ARTIST

ROUGHSTOCK

"ONES TO WATCH"



CLASS OF 2021



CLASS OF 2021

RollingStone

"BEST MUSIC OF 2021: STAFF PICKS"

billboard

"THE 10 BEST COUNTRY ALBUMS OF 2021: STAFF PICKS"

RollingStone

"THE 10 BEST COUNTRY ALBUMS OF 2021"

ROUGHSTOCK

"THE 10 BEST COUNTRY ALBUMS OF 2021"

BBR

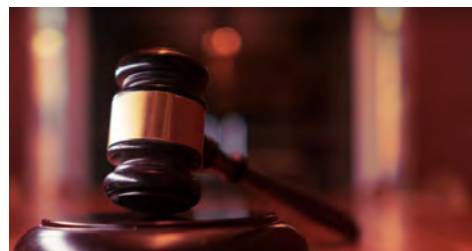
WIREIMAGE.COM

BMG

CRB Issues Initial Determination For Phonorecords III Appeal

The Copyright Royalty Board has issued its initial determination in the remand/appeal of Phonorecords III, which upheld the 15.1% headline rate increase that was determined in 2018.

Now, a 15-day window opens for rehearing motions. Then the U.S. Copyright Office also must undertake a legal review for error, which they have up to 60 days to complete.



Following those steps, a determination will be published, starting a clock of at most 6 months for DSPs to make retroactive adjustments/arrearage payments, meaning the arrearage payments would come early next year.

National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA) President & CEO **David Israelite** says, "We are pleased the court finally has confirmed the result of Phono 3, a case which was decided in 2018. This initial remand decision upholds the 15.1% headline rate increase we fought for, however the length of time we have waited for this decision proves the Copyright Royalty Board system is woefully flawed. Now songwriters have some certainty about their rates, and we will ensure they receive the hundreds of millions of dollars that digital streaming companies owe them during this adjustment period."

Of the initial determination, Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) Executive Director **Bart Herbison** shares, "The testimonies of the three songwriter witnesses in this trial were powerful, convincing and illustrated the difficulty of songwriters earning a living in the streaming era—as well as the importance and value of the composition in the commercial music process. Steve Bogard, Liz Rose and Lee Miller, all NSAI board members, were moving and informative and played a huge role in the historic increase."

Herbison adds, "The process is long and difficult requiring time and preparation. We are thankful to these songwriters and to the NMPA." **MR**

Concord Music Publishing Promotes Jen Hubbard To Director, Sync A&R



Concord Music Publishing has appointed **Jen Hubbard** to the newly formed role of Director, Sync A&R.

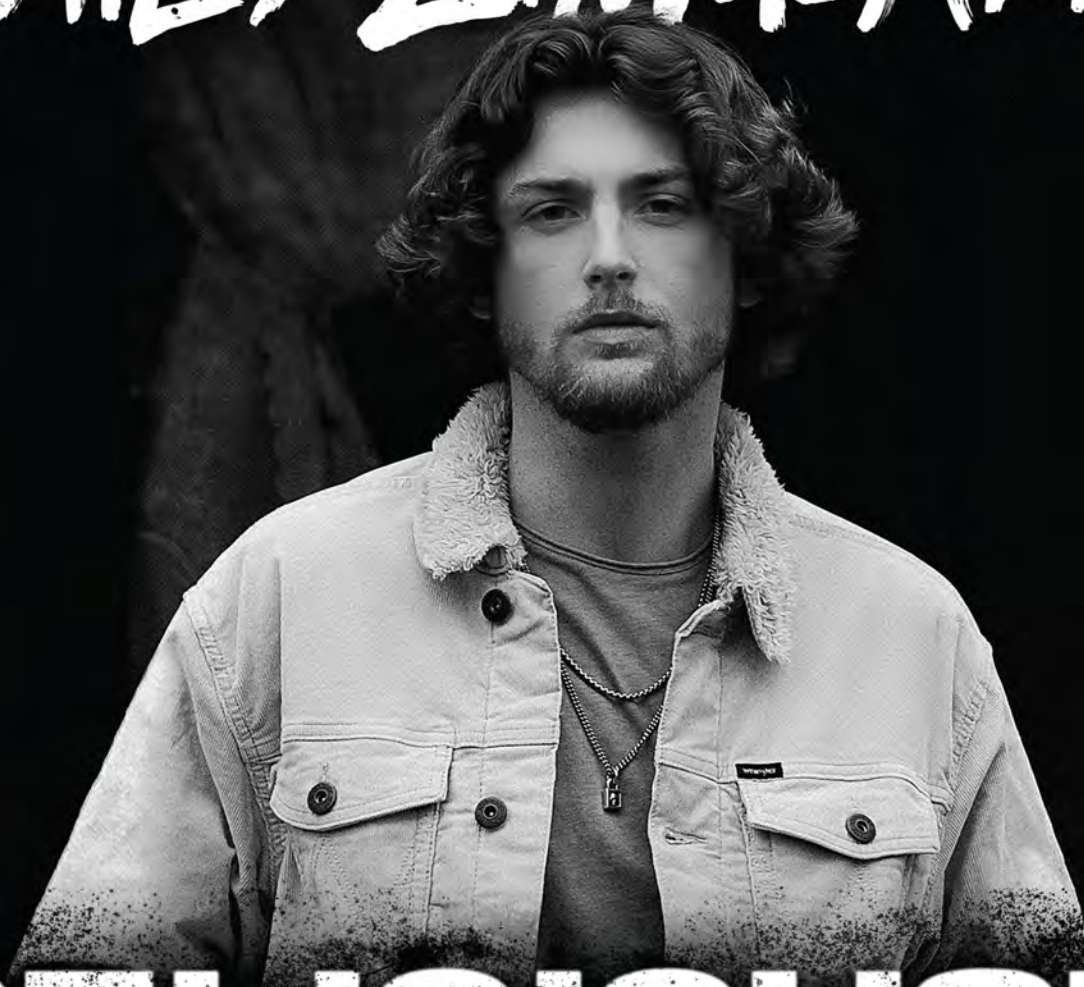
Hubbard joined Concord in 2018 and most recently served as Director of A&R out of the Nashville office. She will continue to work with artists, producers and writers including **Ruelle, Madi Diaz, Paige Blue, Jung Youth, Lucas Arens, Fleurie, Jeff Bowman, Tofer Brown, Jeremy Lutito, Aaron Chafin** and more. Hubbard was instrumental in signing indie-pop artist **Charli Adams** and has served as the lead contact in the Nashville office for writers, artists and producers outside of the country market.

In her new role, Hubbard will be responsible for the development and management of Concord's U.S. songwriter roster for the purpose of sync activity, bridging the gap between the A&R and Sync teams. She will support Concord's overall strategy to streamline sync-forward initiatives and provide more opportunities for writers across film, television, ads, gaming and more.

Hubbard reports to **Brad Kennard**, SVP of A&R with support from **Kourtney Kirkpatrick**, VP of Publishing Sync and **Brooke Primont**, EVP of Global Sync. **MR**

**HIGHEST EVER FIRST WEEK ALBUM
STREAMS FOR A DEBUT COUNTRY ALBUM**

BAILEY ZIMMERMAN



RELIGIOUSLY

THE ALBUM

**BIGGEST FIRST WEEK STREAMING
DEBUT FOR A NEW ARTIST,
ALL-GENRE SINCE 2021**

**FEATURING THE CURRENT SINGLE "RELIGIOUSLY"
(60M+ GLOBAL STREAMS TO DATE)
AND THE **DOUBLE PLATINUM** SINGLES
"ROCK AND A HARD PLACE" AND "FALL IN LOVE"**

Blake Shelton & Lee Metzger Launch Lucky Horseshoe Productions



Blake Shelton and acclaimed showrunner **Lee Metzger** have launched their new production company, Lucky Horseshoe Productions.

This announcement follows Shelton's departure from NBC's *The Voice*, after serving as a coach for 23 seasons. Shelton and Metzger, who executive produced the singing competition show's first 13 seasons, met on set of *The Voice* and have since developed a successful business relationship.

Shelton has 28 No. 1 country radio singles and has received numerous awards, including six ACMs, three AMAs, ten CMAs, 11 CMTs, six People's Choice Awards and more. Metzger previously worked as Executive Producer on HBO Max's *Legendary* in addition to writing, directing and producing the podcast adaptation of Stephen King's short story *Strawberry Spring*, which he is currently adapting as a feature film.

Their last collaboration, hit competition series *Barmageddon*, was recently nominated for a Critics' Choice Award and just wrapped its second season.

Lucky Horseshoe Productions now marks a new chapter in Shelton and Metzger's partnership. Represented by Verve, the company plans to produce captivating, genre-spanning content across various platforms using the founders' expertise and strength as a driving force. **MR**

Warner Chappell Music Signs Josh Ross



Pictured (L-R): The Core's Kevin "Chief" Zaruk, Tracy Martin, Simon Tikhman, Josh Ross, Warner Chappell's Bryce Sherlow, The Core's Kenzie Woodson and Warner Chappell's Ben Vaughn

Warner Chappell Music has signed singer-songwriter **Josh Ross** to a global publishing deal.

Managed by **Simon Tikhman** and **Chief Zaruk** at The Core Entertainment, Ross signed with Universal Music Canada/UMG Nashville earlier this year. He was named one of Spotify's Hot Country Artists To Watch for 2023 and has recently been on tour supporting industry heavyweights such as **Bailey Zimmerman**, **Nickelback**, **Lee Brice**, **Chase Rice** and **Brantley Gilbert**.

Ross's songs regularly land in *Billboard's* Canadian Hot 100 chart, and in 2022 his debut single, "First Taste Of Gone," climbed to No. 5 on *Billboard's* Canada Country chart. Later that year he followed up with another chart-topping single, "On A Different Night," which reached No. 4 on the Canada Country chart. Also in 2022, Ross was a top three finalist in SiriusXM's Top of the Country contest, and was nominated for Rising Star at the Canadian Country Music Awards (CCMA).

He will make his Grand Ole Opry debut in July. **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Truck Bed/HARDY/Big Loud Records - 63

Try That In A Small Town/Jason Aldean/Broken Bow - 74

Bad Day To Be A Cold Beer/Chase Rice/Dack Janiels/Broken Bow - 76

Why Didn't I Call You/Andrew Salgado/Synapse Publishing & Entertainment - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Fast Car/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 240

But I Got A Beer In My Hand/Luke Bryan/Capitol Nashville - 140

Try That In A Small Town/Jason Aldean/Broken Bow - 135

Love You Anyway/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 130

Different 'Round Here/Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs)/BMLG - 119

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Different 'Round Here/Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs)/BMLG - 12

Try That In A Small Town/Jason Aldean/Broken Bow - 12

Fast Car/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 11

Watermelon Moonshine/Lainey Wilson/Broken Bow Records - 10

But I Got A Beer In My Hand/Luke Bryan/Capitol Nashville - 7

Out Of That Truck/Carrie Underwood/Capitol Records - 7

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Hold Whatcha Got/Perley Curtis featuring Rhonda Vincent - 98

Wind Up/Josh Mirenda/Average Joes - 96

Giving Up On That/Dalton Dover/Mercury Records - 93

Out Of That Truck/Carrie Underwood/Capitol Records - 92

Somebody Else's Whiskey/Frank Ray/Stoney Creek Records - 92

NO. 1 SONG



Jordan Davis returns to the top of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with "Next Thing You Know."

Co-written with **Greytan James**, **Chase McGill** and **Josh Osborne**, the tune appears on Davis' *Bluebird Days* album, which also includes his multi-week No. 1 "What My World Spins Around" and award-winning collaboration with Luke Bryan, "Buy Dirt."

Davis will hit the road on his "Damn Good Time Tour" starting in August and running through October, bringing with him a myriad of openers, including Avery Anna, Gabby Barrett, Danielle Bradberry, Flatland Calvary, Greytan James, Dylan Marlowe, Kameron Marlowe, Mike Ryan, Connor Smith, and Georgia Webster.



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
KDXV 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
WDKN 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 +/- |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 15 | 3 | 1 | Next Thing You Know / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville | 1669/54 | 4 | 66 |
| 32 | 4 | 2 | Your Heart Or Mine / Jon Pardi / Capitol | 1608/57 | 2 | 24 |
| 23 | 2 | 3 | Dancin' In The Country / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville | 1604/43 | -1 | -13 |
| 12 | 1 | 4 | Last Night / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic | 1549/46 | -8 | -142 |
| 46 | 5 | 5 | Everything She Ain't / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/S&D/Big Loud | 1546/59 | 2 | 33 |
| 18 | 7 | 6 | Angels / Thomas Rhett / Valory | 1492/61 | 3 | 40 |
| 20 | 6 | 7 | Memory Lane / Old Dominion / Arista Nashville | 1473/48 | -1 | -9 |
| 17 | 8 | 8 | Drinkaby / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville | 1373/58 | 4 | 57 |
| 41 | 9 | 9 | You / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville | 1334/42 | 2 | 29 |
| 6 | 12 | 10 | Love You Anyway / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville | 1278/52 | 11 | 130 |
| 18 | 14 | 11 | Need A Favor / Jelly Roll / Stoney Creek Records | 1138/50 | 5 | 55 |
| 11 | 13 | 12 | Standing Room Only / Tim McGraw / Big Machine Records | 1121/55 | 3 | 29 |
| 33 | 15 | 13 | Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records | 1107/47 | 3 | 32 |
| 18 | 17 | 14 | Looking For You / Chris Young / RCA Nashville | 1023/53 | 2 | 23 |
| 36 | 18 | 15 | Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb | 966/53 | 3 | 24 |
| 10 | 19 | 16 | Bury Me In Georgia / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville | 958/50 | 6 | 55 |
| 13 | 20 | 17 | Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville | 876/48 | -2 | -15 |
| 26 | 21 | 18 | Heaven By Then / Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shelton feat. Vince Gill / Valory | 859/43 | 1 | 5 |
| 3 | 30 | 19 | Fast Car / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville | 839/37 | 40 | 240 |
| 15 | 24 | 20 | All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records | 774/40 | 6 | 45 |
| 22 | 22 | 21 | If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment | 752/39 | -2 | -17 |
| 21 | 23 | 22 | Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine | 734/43 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 | 29 | 23 | Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI | 683/39 | 12 | 71 |
| 8 | 27 | 24 | Fires Don't Start Themselves / Darius Rucker / Capitol | 676/40 | 4 | 25 |
| 14 | 26 | 25 | Only Need One / Ned LeDoux / Powder River/Thirty Tigers | 674/34 | 3 | 17 |
| 8 | 32 | 26 | Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory | 599/40 | 3 | 16 |
| 6 | 34 | 27 | Religiously / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville | 586/37 | 14 | 74 |
| 28 | 16 | 28 | Hate My Heart / Carrie Underwood / Capitol | 585/25 | -43 | -434 |
| 20 | 31 | 29 | Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records | 582/35 | -3 | -16 |
| 12 | 36 | 30 | Save The Roses / Lee Brice / Curb | 581/31 | 13 | 69 |
| 3 | 43 | 31 | But I Got A Beer In My Hand / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville | 563/38 | 33 | 140 |
| 19 | 33 | 32 | Missin' You / Cam Allen / Goat Music Group | 532/33 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | 38 | 33 | Marlboros & Avon / McBride & The Ride / TMC Records/InGrooves | 527/29 | 15 | 67 |
| 16 | 40 | 34 | Revival / Shenandoah / 8 Track Entertainment/Fame Records | 521/32 | 16 | 72 |
| 36 | 37 | 35 | Country Can / Hannah Ellis / Curb | 517/29 | 2 | 11 |
| 21 | 35 | 36 | Jealous Of Myself / Tenille Arts / Dreamcatcher Artists | 515/32 | 1 | 3 |
| 11 | 39 | 37 | Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records | 510/36 | 12 | 53 |
| 67 | 25 | 38 | Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records | 502/24 | -28 | -199 |
| 21 | 41 | 39 | We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records | 470/29 | 8 | 36 |

MUSICROW

2023 INCHARGE

NASHVILLE'S MUSIC INDUSTRY DECISION MAKERS

NEW ISSUE AVAILABLE NOW | BECOME A MEMBER TO RECEIVE YOUR COPY



| Weeks On Chart | Last Week | This Week | Song / Artist / Label | Spins / Reports | % Spin Power | Spins +/- |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 13 | 44 | 40 | 3 Tequila Floor / Josiah Siska / Black River | 405/29 | -1 | -5 |
| 43 | 42 | 41 | Something In The Orange / Zach Bryan / Belting Bronco/Warner Records | 395/22 | -7 | -30 |
| 15 | 45 | 42 | Why God Made Small Towns / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records | 392/26 | 1 | 2 |
| 15 | 46 | 43 | Honky Tonk Roll / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds | 383/23 | -1 | -4 |
| 13 | 50 | 44 | Let's Take Tonight / Corey Layne / Corey Layne | 372/17 | 25 | 75 |
| 20 | 47 | 45 | God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records | 364/24 | -1 | -5 |
| 12 | 48 | 46 | The Longer I Live / Aaron Goodvin & Ryan Kinder / Reviver Records/Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada | 328/27 | 4 | 14 |
| 37 | 49 | 47 | If He Wanted To He Would / Kylie Morgan / EMI Records Nashville | 327/22 | 9 | 27 |
| 8 | 51 | 48 | Dents On A Chevy / Ty Herndon, Terri Clark / Pivotal Records | 286/23 | 6 | 16 |
| 4 | 53 | 49 | Blacktop Don't / BoomTown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment | 284/24 | 17 | 42 |
| 2 | 61 | 50 | Watermelon Moonshine / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records | 281/25 | 62 | 108 |
| 2 | 69 | 51 | Different 'Round Here / Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs) / BMLG | 265/23 | 82 | 119 |
| 18 | 52 | 52 | Marry That Girl / Easton Corbin / Stone Country Records | 245/16 | -5 | -13 |
| 4 | 56 | 53 | Blue Suede Boots / Coffey Anderson / Coffey Global LLC | 243/22 | 16 | 34 |
| 13 | 55 | 54 | A Special Place / Danielle Bradbery / Big Machine Records | 231/14 | 10 | 21 |
| 19 | 28 | 55 | Going Going / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records | 231/14 | -63 | -395 |
| 6 | 54 | 56 | State You Left Me In / Jake Worthington / Big Loud | 223/16 | 6 | 12 |
| 16 | 59 | 57 | I Miss America / Colton James / RedSunset Entertainment | 222/12 | 27 | 47 |
| 2 | 67 | 58 | If I Die Young Pt. 2 / Kimberly Perry / RECORDS Nashville/Columbia Records | 204/16 | 35 | 53 |
| 13 | 57 | 59 | Sunday Chapel / Dave Herrera / Brokerade, Inc | 197/12 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 66 | 60 | Make You Mine / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Records | 196/18 | 26 | 40 |
| 13 | 58 | 61 | Not In This Heartbreak / Morgan White / NashTown Entertainment | 188/11 | 5 | 9 |
| 4 | 65 | 62 | Heartache Waiting To Happen / Cutter Elliott / Cutter Elliott Music | 181/11 | 15 | 23 |
| 1 | 82 | 63 | Truck Bed / HARDY / Big Loud Records | 167/14 | 69 | 68 |
| 7 | 63 | 64 | Shoot Tequila / Tigirlily Gold / Monument Records | 163/13 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 68 | 65 | Wings Of A White Dove / Flat River Band / Early Bird Records | 162/15 | 7 | 11 |
| 9 | 64 | 66 | I Ain't Done Singin' Yet / Jon Brennan / CDX Records | 162/10 | 1 | 1 |
| 13 | 62 | 67 | We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment | 157/15 | -7 | -11 |
| 21 | 60 | 68 | Fast Car / Randy Rogers Band / Thirty Tigers | 154/10 | -11 | -20 |
| 2 | 77 | 69 | Rest In Peace / Taylor Austin Dye / LMG | 148/10 | 24 | 29 |
| 7 | 70 | 70 | Every Town's Got One / Ty Gregory | 144/10 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 75 | 71 | Without You / Thompson Square / Quartz Hill | 142/9 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 71 | 72 | Be The One / Josh Kinney / Birmingham Entertainment | 141/11 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 73 | 73 | Young Again / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville | 137/10 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 74 | Try That In A Small Town / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow | 135/12 | 0 | 135 |
| 7 | 74 | 75 | Little Bit Of You / Brooke Moriber / Reviver Records | 135/11 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 92 | 76 | Bad Day To Be A Cold Beer / Chase Rice / Dack Janiels/Broken Bow | 125/8 | 60 | 47 |
| 4 | 76 | 77 | Trouble / Rachel Stacy / CDX Records | 124/7 | 2 | 2 |
| 2 | 80 | 78 | Tonight's On You / Nathan Merovich / Nathan Merovich | 105/8 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 81 | 79 | Your Hands / Katie Linendoll / Duncan Music Group | 103/6 | 3 | 3 |
| 1 | 85 | 80 | Why Didn't I Call You / Andrew Salgado / Synapse Publishing & Entertainment, LLC | 101/8 | 5 | 5 |

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut

ROW FAX

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

LOOKING FOR SONGS
FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT?

LIST WITH US!

Riser House Records Signs Lanco



Pictured (L-R, back row): Eleanor Kohl, Bryan Coleman, Alex Seif, Jennifer Johnson, Megan Schultz, Lauren Spahn and Brandon Perdue; (L-R, front row): Jared Hampton, Tripp Howell, Brandon Lancaster and Chandler Baldwin. Photo: Shannon Bradley

Lanco, the band behind the multi-Platinum, two-week No. 1 “Greatest Love Story,” has signed with Riser House Records.

The Nashville-based group came to prominence in 2017 with the hit off their No. 1 debut album *Hallelujah Nights*. Following the success of the project, Lanco won the ACM Award for New Vocal Duo or Group and has since been nominated for CMT, CMA, AMA and iHeart Radio Awards.

The news of Lanco’s new record deal begins a new era for the band, whose forthcoming single, “Sound of a Saturday Night,” is set for release on June 2.

“We spent the past couple of years writing with each other and some of our favorite songwriters, getting back in the studio with **Jay Joyce** and pushing ourselves harder than we ever have to make music that represents who we are today,” says Lanco. “Riser House shares our vision for the future and we couldn’t be more thankful for an incredible team that will help us introduce this new chapter of Lanco to the world. We back.”

“We are so thrilled to work with Lanco,” says Riser House Entertainment President & Co-Founder **Jennifer Johnson**. “They are a great group of humans with a vast fanbase. **Brandon Lancaster** has a clear vision and path for their brand and sound. Their music is uniquely compelling and we are excited to take them to the next level.” **MR**

Adam Hambrick Signs With Sheltered Music



Pictured (L-R): Sheltered Music’s Darrell Franklin, Adam Hambrick and Sheltered Music’s Freeman Wizer

Singer-songwriter **Adam Hambrick** has signed a publishing deal with Sheltered Music.

Hambrick penned **Dan + Shay**’s “How Not To” and **Justin Moore**’s “Somebody Else Will,” both of which went to No. 1, as well as his own top 40 track “Rockin’ All Night.” His songs have also been recorded by **Miranda Lambert**, **Walker Hayes**, **Maddie & Tae**, **Eli Young Band** and more.

He is currently prepping his next project featuring the single “Built For A Small Town,” that was independently Friday, May 26. Hambrick wrote the genre-bending single, featuring longtime friend **Logan Mize**, alongside **Kelly Archer** and **Dylan Guthro**, with Guthro producing.

“I’ve been a fan of Adam, both as an artist and songwriter since I first became aware of him,” says **Darrell Franklin**, Sr. VP of Sheltered Music Nashville. “Whether he is in the room creating for another artist, or he is digging into his own soul as an artist, he brings such a powerful skillset of both music and lyric. I’m honored to have the chance to represent Adam in this next chapter and he is going to be such a crucial piece of our growing roster at Sheltered.”

“I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing people since starting my career, and I am thrilled to now be working with the team at Sheltered,” shares Hambrick. “They are true song people who have such a great reputation with the music creators of Nashville. I’m grateful for their support and partnership as we begin building the next phase of my career together.” **MR**

DeFord Bailey Avenue Unveiled In Nashville



The city of Nashville renamed Horton Avenue to **DeFord Bailey Avenue**, to honor “harmonica wizard” DeFord Bailey, one of the original stars of the Grand Ole Opry and its first African American performer.

The new street name was officially unveiled on May 20 in a public ceremony, immediately followed by a free outdoor concert. The dedication and celebration was held at the north end of the William Edmondson Homesite Park, which borders on Horton Avenue, and featured country and R&B performances by two of Bailey’s grandsons, **Carlos DeFord Bailey** and **Herchel Bailey**, along with guest artist **Smokin’ Otis**.

DeFord Bailey was one of the most popular performers on WSM’s Grand Ole Opry radio program from its early days in 1926 until 1941, when he was abruptly dismissed by WSM management. Bailey was born in 1899 in rural Smith County, eventually moving to Nashville, where he lived in the Edgehill neighborhood until his death in 1982. In 2005, Bailey was posthumously inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Invited speakers and special guests at the event included members of the Bailey family, the Mayor’s office, Metro Council sponsors, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, National Museum of African American Music, and the Grand Ole Opry.

DeFord Bailey biographer **David C. Morton** also attended. The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum recently reissued the long-out-of-print biography *DeFord Bailey: A Black Star in Early Country Music*, written by Morton with **Charles K. Wolfe**. **MR**

River House Artists Adds Three To Team



Pictured (L-R): Liz Scherff, Taylor Aretz and Sydney Riley

River House Artists (RHA) has added three new team members to their Nashville-based office.

Taylor Aretz has joined RHA as Artist Development Specialist, a newly created role responsible for overseeing marketing efforts for the label’s roster. She joins after six years at Warner Music Nashville, most recently serving as a Manager of Artist Development where she worked on marketing efforts for artists such as **Chris Janson**, **Randall King**, **Austin Snell** and others. Aretz also worked cross-functionally across all departments to further seamless release campaigns for her group of artists.

Liz Scherff has joined RHA as a Digital Coordinator, reporting to Director of Marketing/Digital Strategy **Kristin Watson Byrne**. Scherff comes to RHA from Black River Entertainment, where she was a Promotions Coordinator in their in-house radio department and worked on music for **Kelsea Ballerini**, **Ray Fulcher**, **MaRynn Taylor** and more.

Finally, **Sydney Riley** has joined RHA as a Creative Services Coordinator and reports to Manager of Creative Services **Taylor Brink**. Riley is a recent graduate of MTSU’s Music Business program and interned at River House her senior year, focusing on the Digital and Marketing departments.

“We are so thrilled to add Taylor, Liz and Sydney to our team,” says **Zebb Luster**, GM of River House Artists. “We feel so fortunate to have Taylor’s experience and expertise in-house. Liz comes into her new role with great enthusiasm for our roster and fan engagement, and Sydney was an invaluable intern. We look forward to seeing the ways in which we all grow together.” **MR**

Spencer Crandall Inks With Warner Chappell & Stem



Pictured (L-R): Hudson Hill Management's Jeff Cherry, Warner Chappell's Sara Latimer and Christina Wiltshire, Spencer Crandall, Stem's Alison Junker and Jeff Tobias, Lewis Brisbois' Matt Cottingham, Warner Chappell's Ben Vaughn. Photo: Nina Long

Rising country artist **Spencer Crandall** has added to his team, signing with Warner Chappell Music for publishing and Stem for distribution and label services.

Crandall has earned more than 300 million global streams since breaking onto the scene in 2016 with tunes such as "Made," "My Person" and "Girls Like You."

His most recent project, *Western*, has already notched over 60 million streams since its October 2022 release.

"The partnerships with Warner Chappell and Stem make so much sense for us right now. These teams are made up of some of the hardest working people in country music," says Crandall. "I really respect how

these teams grow artists, especially independently, and I couldn't be more excited to do this next chapter with them."

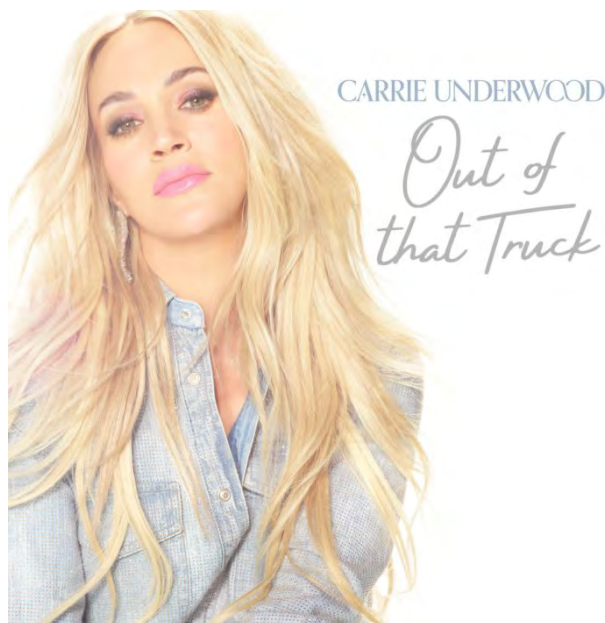
"I've never met an artist as business-focused, goal-oriented and driven as Spencer," shares **Christina Wiltshire**, Sr. Director, A&R at Warner Chappell. "His fan club is called the Stadium Gang because he won't stop until he's playing stadiums. I want to help him get there."

Crandall's alignment with Stem follows the company's recent expansion into Nashville. Stem provides a financial platform for artists to run their own businesses. With its innovative technology, artists can track, divide, disperse and even donate revenue to various recipients, designating percentages and simplified splits in real-time.

"Stem is incredibly thrilled to be working with Spencer Crandall, a wildly talented artist who has proved himself to be a powerhouse in the independent space," shares Stem's **Jeff Tobias** and **Alison Junker**. "We look forward to supporting Spencer in this exciting new chapter of music!"

Crandall recently joined forces with another country riser, **Shaylen**, to release a new track, "To Be Continued... feat. Shaylen." He also just wrapped his 36-stop "Western Tour" and will perform at CMA Fest on June 11. **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Carrie Underwood 'Rocks Out On This Defiant Stomper'



It's an all-female country roundup in this edition of DISCLAIMER.

Tanya Tucker, Brandy Clark and Joydyn Shellhart have the best songs. There are memories of Tina Turner and Olivia Newton John lingering in the air. Hannah Dasher, Harper Grace and Morgan Wade sound like stars in training.

If there's a downside to all of this, it's that this stack of releases is way ballad heavy. The two ear catching tempo tunes belong to Runaway June and to Carrie Underwood, who wins the Disc of the Day award.

To our list of DisCOVERY winners, add the name of the HuneyFire duo. They have all the spark needed to start a fire.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Leslie Fram, Mickey Guyton, Trisha Yearwood To Be Honored At 'Hometown to Hometown' Event](#)

[Bailey Zimmerman Shatters Global Amazon Music Record \[Exclusive\]](#)

[Jake Owen's Latest Album 'Loose Cannon' To Fire Off June 23](#)

[Big Machine Label Group Partners With Hard 8 Working Group For New Label Venture](#)

[Jay Allen Signs With ONErpm Nashville](#)

[Dailey & Vincent Sign With Morris Higham Management](#)

[Colbie Caillat Makes Solo Grand Ole Opry Debut](#)

[Morgan Wallen Continues To Shatter All-Genre Records With 'One Thing At A Time'](#)

[NMPA To Honor Brandi Carlile, Ashley Gorley At Annual Meeting In June](#)

[Spotify House Returns To 2023 CMA Fest With Star-Studded Lineup](#)

[Tyler Hubbard Earns Second Solo No. 1, Celebrates At Surprise Nashville Show](#)

[Paul Cauthen Signs Publishing Deal With Reservoir & One Riot](#)

[Casey Childers To Lead ONErpm U.S. Digital Strategy Team](#)

[Texas Music Journalist John Lomax IV Passes](#)

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

| This Week | Last Week | Songwriter's Name | Song(s) | Artist |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 1 | Ashley Gorley | You Proof Everything I Love Thinkin' Bout Me Whiskey Friends Cowgirls Me + All Your Reasons Truck Bed World On Fire Last Night Gold One Thing At A Time Girl In Mine God Gave Me A Girl All I Need Is You | Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Hardy Nate Smith Morgan Wallen Dierks Bentley Morgan Wallen Parmalee Russell Dickerson Chris Janson |
| 2 | 2 | Morgan Wallen | You Proof I Wrote The Book Everything I Love Born With A Beer In My Hand Whiskey Friends Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) Me + All Your Reasons Wild As Her One Thing At A Time Brown Eyes Baby | Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Corey Kent Morgan Wallen Keith Urban |
| 3 | 3 | Ryan Vojtesak | You Proof Everything I Love Thinkin' Bout Me Whiskey Friends Cowgirls Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) Me + All Your Reasons Last Night One Thing At A Time | Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen |
| 4 | 4 | Zachary Lane Bryan | Dawns Sun To Me Something In The Orange | Zach Bryan feat. Maggie Rogers Zach Bryan Zach Bryan |
| 5 | 5 | Tracy Chapman | Fast Car | Luke Combs |
| 6 | 6 | John Byron | Thinkin' Bout Me '98 Braves Sunrise I Deserve A Drink Last Night | Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen |
| 7 | 7 | Ernest Keith Smith | You Proof Everything I Love Whiskey Friends Cowgirls Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) Me + All Your Reasons One Thing At A Time | Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen |
| 8 | 10 | Chase McGill | Ain't That Some 5 Leaf Clover Next Thing You Know God Gave Me A Girl But I Got A Beer In My Hand Creek Will Rise | Morgan Wallen Luke Combs Jordan Davis Russell Dickerson Luke Bryan Conner Smith |
| 9 | 11 | Tony Lane | Human | Cody Johnson |
| 10 | 12 | Travis Meadows | Human | Cody Johnson |
| 11 | 16 | Brett Tyler | Man Made A Bar Wild As Her | Morgan Wallen (Feat. Eric Church) Corey Kent |
| 12 | 14 | Ross Copperman | Dancin' In The Country Gold Worth A Shot | Tyler Hubbard Dierks Bentley Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley |

| This Week | Last Week | Songwriter's Name | Song(s) | Artist |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 13 | 13 | Josh Thompson | Whiskey Friends Dying Man Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) Brown Eyes Baby Angels Don't Always Have Wings Stars Like Confetti | Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Keith Urban Thomas Rhett Dustin Lynch |
| 14 | 15 | Luke Combs | 5 Leaf Clover Growin' Up and Gettin' Old Love You Anyway | Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs |
| 15 | 17 | Jessi Alexander | 5 Leaf Clover You, Me, And Whiskey Light On In The Kitchen | Luke Combs Justin Moore & Priscilla Block Ashley McBryde |
| 16 | 23 | Michael Hardy | I Wrote The Book Born With A Beer In My Hand Truck Bed Hate My Heart Drinkaby Heaven By Then | Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Hardy Carrie Underwood Cole Swindell Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill |
| 17 | 18 | Jet Harvey | Rock and A Hard Place | Bailey Zimmerman |
| 18 | 19 | Jacob Hackworth | Rock and A Hard Place | Bailey Zimmerman |
| 19 | 20 | Heath Warren | Rock and A Hard Place | Bailey Zimmerman |
| 20 | 21 | David Fanning | Tennessee Orange Girl In Mine | Megan Moroney Parmalee |
| 21 | 22 | Kelly Archer | Wild As Her | Corey Kent |
| 22 | 24 | Dan Isbell | Love You Anyway Fires Don't Start Themselves | Luke Combs Darius Rucker |
| 23 | 26 | Blake Pendergrass | Ain't That Some Sunrise Dying Man | Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen |
| 24 | 25 | Jacob Kasher | Last Night | Morgan Wallen |
| 25 | 27 | Rhett Akins | It Matters To Her | Scotty McCreery |
| 26 | 28 | Scotty McCreery | It Matters To Her | Scotty McCreery |
| 27 | 29 | Lee Thomas Miller | It Matters To Her | Scotty McCreery |
| 28 | 30 | Ray Fulcher | Love You Anyway | Luke Combs |
| 29 | 31 | Jon Nite | Dancin' In The Country | Tyler Hubbard |
| 30 | 32 | Keith Urban | Dancin' In The Country | Tyler Hubbard |
| 31 | 33 | Tyler Hubbard | Dancin' In The Country | Tyler Hubbard |
| 32 | 8 | Parker McCollum | Handle On You | Parker McCollum |
| 33 | 9 | Monty Criswell | Handle On You | Parker McCollum |
| 34 | 38 | Brock Berryhill | You, Me, And Whiskey Heaven By Then | Justin Moore & Priscilla Block Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill |
| 35 | 40 | Jordan Schmidt | Drinkaby Bury Me In Georgia We Got History | Cole Swindell Kane Brown Mitchell Tenpenny |
| 36 | 35 | Jordan Reynolds | You | Dan + Shay |
| 37 | 36 | Dave Barnes | You | Dan + Shay |
| 38 | 37 | Dan Smyers | You | Dan + Shay |
| 39 | 34 | Josh Osborne | Next Thing You Know Worth A Shot | Jordan Davis Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley |
| 40 | 48 | Cole Taylor | You, Me, And Whiskey | Justin Moore & Priscilla Block |
| 41 | 41 | Megan Moroney | Tennessee Orange | Megan Moroney |
| 42 | 42 | Ben Williams | Tennessee Orange | Megan Moroney |
| 43 | 43 | Paul Jenkins | Tennessee Orange | Megan Moroney |
| 44 | 44 | Jordan Davis | Next Thing You Know | Jordan Davis |
| 45 | 45 | Greylan James | Next Thing You Know | Jordan Davis |
| 46 | 39 | John Pierce | Your Heart Or Mine | Jon Pardi |
| 47 | 46 | Justin Ebach | Your Heart Or Mine | Jon Pardi |

| This Week | Last Week | Songwriter's Name | Song(s) | Artist |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 48 | 47 | Bart Butler | Your Heart Or Mine | Jon Pardi |
| 49 | 58 | Sam Barber | Straight And Narrow | Sam Barber |
| 50 | 60 | Travis Wood | '98 Braves Girl In Mine | Morgan Wallen Parmalee |
| 51 | 54 | Jessie Jo Dillon | Memory Lane | Old Dominion |
| 52 | 55 | Brad Tursi | Memory Lane | Old Dominion |
| 53 | 56 | Trevor Rosen | Memory Lane | Old Dominion |
| 54 | 57 | Matthew Ramsey | Memory Lane | Old Dominion |
| 55 | 59 | Josh Hoge | Thank God Bury Me In Georgia | Kane Brown with Katelyn Brown Kane Brown |
| 56 | 50 | Rob Ragosta | Need A Favor | Jelly Roll |
| 57 | 51 | Joe Ragosta | Need A Favor | Jelly Roll |
| 58 | 52 | Austin Nivarel | Need A Favor | Jelly Roll |
| 59 | 53 | Jason DeFord | Need A Favor | Jelly Roll |
| 60 | 70 | Bryan Simpson | Everything She Ain't | Hailey Whitters |

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

May 26

Megan Barker/*Cowboys*

Jillian Cardarelli/*Could've Been Boy*/JC Music

May 29

Alex Miller/*Girl, I Know A Guy*/Billy Jam Records

Album/EP Releases

May 26

Jacob Jones/*Son of a Military Man*

June 2

Tanya Tucker/*Sweet Western Sound*/Fantasy Records

Kenny Rogers/*Life Is Like A Song*/UMe

Lonestar/*Ten to 1*

Jelly Roll/*Whitsitt Chapel*/Stoney Creek Records

Drew Parker/*At The End Of The Dirt Road*/Warner Music Nashville

Corey Kent/*Blacktop*/RCA Nashville/Sony Music Nashville

Ben Folds/*What Matters Most*/New West Records

Industry Events

June 8 – 11

CMA Fest

June 20

BMI Christian Awards