

## **MusicRow Announces 33rd Annual MusicRow Awards Dates For 2021**



Now in its 33rd year, the 2021 *MusicRow Awards*, presented by City National Bank, will take place virtually on all *MusicRow* platforms on **Tuesday, Aug. 10**.

The virtual event will feature award presentations for category winners. Winners of these categories will be determined by the votes of subscribed members of *MusicRow*.

Nominees for the *MusicRow Awards* will be revealed **Tuesday, July 6** and supported by *MusicRow's* annual "Nominator" publication.

Voting will begin **Wednesday, July 7** and run through **Friday, July 16** for all *MusicRow* subscribed members. [To become a subscribed member and become eligible to vote, sign up here.](#)

### **There are 11 member-voted categories:**

1. Producer of the Year
2. Label of the Year
3. Talent Agency of the Year
4. Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year
5. Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year
6. Male Songwriter of the Year
7. Female Songwriter of the Year
8. Song of the Year
9. Robert K. Oermann Discovery Artist of the Year
10. Breakthrough Artist of the Year
11. Artist of the Year

Top 10 Album All-Star Musicians Awards for Bass, Drums, Engineer, Fiddle, Guitar, Keyboards, Steel, and Vocals will also be announced on Tuesday, Aug. 10, recognizing the studio players who performed on the most albums reaching the Top 10 of *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart during the eligibility period. **MR**

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### **THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES**

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Terry Hemmings To Be Inducted Into Alumni Hall Of Fame

Faren Rachels Signs With Combustion Music

Big Machine Music Signs Sara Davis

*Billboard* Music Awards Winners

FGL Announce Tour

CMA Ballot Schedule

DISCLAIMER Singles Reviews

And much more...

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## Nominees Revealed For 2021 Americana Honors & Awards



The nominees for the 20th annual Americana Honors & Awards were announced on May 26 at the National Museum of African American Music in downtown Nashville.

**Keb' Mo'** and **Old Crow Medicine Show's Ketch Secor** served as hosts for the nomination ceremony. Attendees and livestream viewers were also treated to performances by **Allison Russell**, **Valerie June**, and the hosts.

"We're delighted to see our incredible membership recognize such an array of talent," said **Jed Hilly**, Executive Director of the Americana Music Association. "Every one of these musicians is a trailblazer in their own right, and I'm thrilled to see that these nominees and their works have resonated so deeply within our community."

**Brandi Carlile**, **Kathleen Edwards**, **Jason Isbell**, **Margo Price** and **Billy Strings** are up for Artist of the Year at the Americana Honors & Awards.

Among the nominees for Album of the Year are **Sturgill Simpson's *Cuttin' Grass Vol. 1 (Butcher Shoppe Sessions)***, **Steve Earle & The Dukes' *J.T.***, **Valerie June's *The Moon And Stars: Prescriptions For Dreamers***, **Jason Isbell And The 400 Unit's *Reunions***, and **Sarah Jarosz's *World On The Ground***.

**Charley Crockett**, **Amythyst Kiah**, **Joy Oladokun**, **Allison Russell**, and **Waxahatchee** are nominees for Emerging Artist of the Year. The nominees for Duo/Group of the Year include **Black Pumas**, **The Highwomen**, **Our Native Daughters**, **The War And Treaty**, and **Gillian Welch & David Rawlings**.

The Song of the Year nominees are "Black Myself" by **Amythyst Kiah** (written by Kiah), "Call Me A Fool" by **Valerie June ft. Caral Thomas** (written by June), "Dreamsicle" by **Jason Isbell And The 400 Unit** (written by Isbell), "I Remember Everything" by **John Prine** (written by Prine & **Pat McLaughlin**), and "Long Violent History" by **Tyler Childers** (written by Childers).

Instrumentalist of the Year nominees went to **Megan Coleman**, **Robbie Crowell**, **Ray Jacildo**, **Philip Towns**, and **Kristin Weber**.

The Americana Awards will take place at the Ryman Auditorium on Sept. 22, as part of the Americana Fest. **MR**

## Jon Nite Renews With Sony Music Publishing Nashville



Sony Music Publishing Nashville announced it has renewed its worldwide deal with Grammy-nominated, CMA, and ACM award-winning hitmaker **Jon Nite**. This agreement extends Nite's longstanding relationship with the company which began in 2009.

"Jon is a true craftsman of the highest order. Throughout his years of success as one of Nashville's top songwriters, he has never sacrificed his integrity or work ethic, and he continues to create masterful music that will be appreciated for generations. We are honored to remain Jon's publisher and look forward to celebrating many more career milestones with him in the coming years," shares **Josh Van Valkenburg**, SVP Creative, Sony Music Publishing Nashville.

Nite is credited for an array of country music hits including "Lady" by Brett Young, "Break Up in the End" by Cole Swindell, "Strip it Down" by Luke Bryan, "Living" by Dierks Bentley, "We Were Us" by Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert, "Beachin'" by Jake Owen, "Think a Little Less" by Michael Ray, "Boy" by Lee Brice, and many more.

Over the last year, Nite earned incredible success with his work on Gabby Barrett's multi-genre, award-winning break-up anthem "I Hope," which was co-written by fellow SMP songwriters Barrett and Zach Kale.

"I'm so thankful to be a part of the Sony Music Publishing family. I've been lucky enough to have these friends for the last decade help me take these songs and turn them into a living, breathing American dream," says Nite. "Josh V, Dane, Tom, Rusty, all the way to Jon Platt have believed in what I'm fighting to create every day, and it has resulted in hits that are heard in places I can't even pronounce. I hope to keep the bar high and help my team see the success they deserve." **MR**

## Black River Publishing, Warner Chappell Music Sign Josh Kerr



**Josh Kerr** has signed a worldwide publishing deal with Black River Publishing and Warner Chappell Music Nashville.

Kerr co-wrote for King & Country's multi-week No. 1 "God Only Knows," which won the Grammy for Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song and landed Song of the Year at the Dove Awards. Some of Kerr's other No. 1 hits include the RIAA Platinum-certified "My Girl" by Dylan Scott, and Kelsea Ballerini's RIAA Platinum-certified "Love Me Like You Mean It" and "Dibs."

The New York native also co-produced Keith Urban's 2018 *Graffiti U*, which landed a CMA nod for Album of the Year and featured the Top 20 hit "Never Comin Down," which Kerr co-wrote. He has worked with a variety of artists including Ben Rector, Camila Cabello, Danielle Bradbery, Devin Dawson, Dolly Parton, Hannah Kerr, Ingrid Michaelson, Jake Scott, Jordan Davis, Kenny Chesney, Little Big Town, Maddie & Tae, and more.

A solo artist in his own right, Kerr also released *12/12*, his follow-up album to *How Do You Remember Me* (2019) earlier this month. **MR**

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

## CHART ACTION

### New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

- I Was On A Boat That Day**/Old Dominion/Arista Nashville — 48
- Back Then, Right Now**/Tenille Arts/19th & Grand Records — 62
- Growing Up Too Fast**/Jon Wayne Hatfield/Soundstage Music — 77
- Good Life**/Kip Moore/MCA Nashville — 79
- Old School**/Lance Wade Thomas/Shady Grove Records — 80

### Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

- I Was On A Boat That Day**/Old Dominion/Arista Nashville — 346
- Back Then, Right Now**/Tenille Arts/19th & Grand Records — 214
- Waves**/Luke Bryan/Capitol — 155
- Princess**/Dallas Remington/RoadWarrior Records — 150
- You Should Probably Leave**/Chris Stapleton/Mercury Nashville — 119
- Country Again**/Thomas Rhett/Valory — 117
- Memory I Don't Mess With**/Lee Brice/Curb — 94

### Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

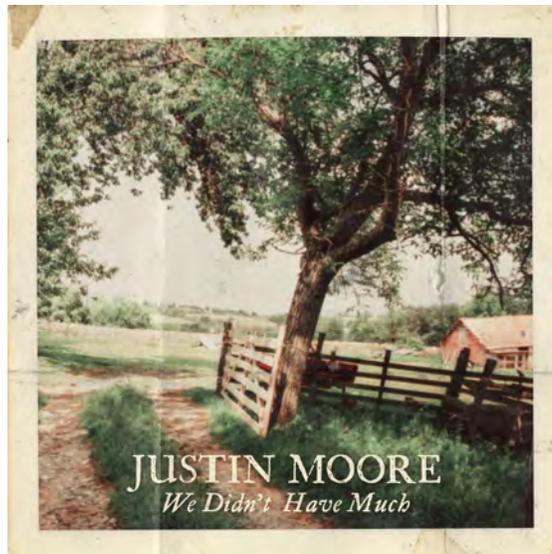
- I Was On A Boat That Day**/Old Dominion/Arista Nashville — 26
- Back Then, Right Now**/Tenille Arts/19th & Grand Records — 19
- Princess**/Dallas Remington/RoadWarrior Records — 14
- American Summer**/Kylie Trout — 9
- You Should Probably Leave**/Chris Stapleton/Mercury Nashville — 7
- You'll Always Be My Baby**/Alan Jackson/EMI Records Nashville — 6

### On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

- Local Honey**/Mo Pitney/Curb — 150
- Princess**/Dallas Remington/RoadWarrior Records — 150
- If You Could Call It That**/Jeannie Seely/Curb — 145
- Lone Stars**/John PayCheck/HorseBite Entertainment — 144

## NO. 1 SONG



“We Didn't Have Much” by **Justin Moore** is this week's No. 1 on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart. The single was written by **Paul DiGiovanni, Randy Montana, and Jeremy Stover**. It appears on his sixth studio album, *Straight Outta The Country* released in April via The Valory Music Co.

This month, Moore was awarded Pandora's Billionaire Plaque to commemorate 3 billion streams on the platform.

As a torch-bearer for traditional country music, Moore spoke to *MusicRow* recently about the new project, his collaborators, and the last 14 years of music. [Click here](#) to read the full interview.



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	WMCI Mattoon, IL	KYSM Mankato, MN	KWEY Weatherford, OK	KMRK Odessa, TX
WXFL Florence, AL	WYOT Rochelle, IL	KZPK St. Cloud, MN	KWOX Woodward, OK	KYYK Palestine, TX
KQUS Hot Springs, AR	WRTB Rockford, IL	KWWR Mexico, MO	KRKT Albany, OR	KXOX Sweetwater, TX
KDXY Jonesboro, AR	WCCI Savanna, IL	KFAV Warrenton, MO	WNBT Mansfield, PA	WAKG Danville, VA
KWCK Searcy, AR	WIFE Connerville, IN	KZZY Devils Lake, ND	WCFT Selinsgrove, PA	WAXX Altoona, WI
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA	KAIR Atchison, KS	KRVN Lexington, NE	WFGE State College, PA	WJVL Janesville, WI
WPAP Panama City, FL	WKDZ Cadiz, KY	Jersey Shore Country	WMIR Myrtle Beach, SC	WGLR Platteville, WI
WUBB Savannah, GA	WBKR Owensboro, KY	KQBA Santa Fe, NM	KMOM Aberdeen, SD	WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
KXIA Marshalltown, IA	WDHR Pikeville, KY	WDNB Monticello, NY	WUCZ Carthage, TN	WCOW Sparta, WI
KIAI Mason City, IA	KRRV Alexandria, LA	WOLF Syracuse, NY	WDKN Dickson, TN	WTNJ Beckley, WV
KBOE Oskaloosa, IA	WUUU Covington, LA	WCJW Warsaw, NY	WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN	WDGG Huntington, WV
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID	WKPE Hyannis, MA	WFRY Watertown, NY	KAYD Beaumont, TX	
WOOZ Cartersville, IL	WVMD Cumberland, MD	KWHW Altus, OK	KFTX Corpus Christi, TX	
WAAG Galesburg, IL	WTCM Traverse City, MI	KITX Hugo, OK	KYKX Longview, TX	

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
30	2	1	<b>We Didn't Have Much / Justin Moore / Valory</b>	1866/65	2	40
7	3	2	<b>Country Again / Thomas Rhett / Valory</b>	1761/63	7	117
7	5	3	<b>Waves / Luke Bryan / Capitol</b>	1617/64	11	155
27	1	4	<b>Blame It On You / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow</b>	1574/46	-16	-295
15	6	5	<b>Things A Man Oughta Know / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow</b>	1505/54	4	59
16	4	6	<b>Glad You Exist / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville/WAR</b>	1498/52	2	29
28	9	7	<b>Memory I Don't Mess With / Lee Brice / Curb</b>	1484/62	7	94
11	11	8	<b>Like A Lady / Lady A / BMLG</b>	1357/62	4	47
20	10	9	<b>Tequila Little Time / Jon Pardi / Capitol</b>	1343/62	1	17
65	8	10	<b>Nobody / Dylan Scott / Curb</b>	1338/38	-4	-53
13	12	11	<b>Knowing You / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville</b>	1244/56	4	47
23	13	12	<b>Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen. / Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line / Broken Bow/Dack Janiels</b>	1241/53	6	67
39	14	13	<b>Single Saturday Night / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville</b>	1171/43	1	14
20	16	14	<b>My Boy / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records</b>	1134/51	7	72
29	15	15	<b>Just About Over You / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville</b>	1119/52	3	29
20	17	16	<b>Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records</b>	1073/52	2	22
31	18	17	<b>If It Wasn't For Trucks / Riley Green / BMLG</b>	1056/46	3	27
24	20	18	<b>Cold Beer Calling My Name / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/ Columbia Nashville</b>	1022/53	7	68
16	21	19	<b>Okfuskee Whiskey / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records</b>	875/49	4	35
18	22	20	<b>To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville</b>	805/49	2	15
14	24	21	<b>Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville</b>	764/41	3	20
15	23	22	<b>Lonely Drum / Aaron Goodvin / Reviver Records/Warner Music Canada</b>	760/43	0	-3
28	29	23	<b>You Time / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records</b>	721/36	13	82
9	28	24	<b>Chasing After You / Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris / Arista Nashville</b>	705/41	9	57
6	26	25	<b>Half Of My Hometown / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment</b>	696/42	5	35
10	25	26	<b>My Masterpiece / Darius Rucker / Capitol</b>	696/36	5	30
13	27	27	<b>I Can't / Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion / Monument Records</b>	669/41	3	19
17	30	28	<b>Freedom Was A Highway / Jimmie Allen &amp; Brad Paisley / Stoney Creek Records</b>	666/35	4	28
12	32	29	<b>Under It With You Tonight / Smith &amp; Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville</b>	643/36	5	33
9	31	30	<b>Then A Girl Walks In / Shenandoah &amp; Blake Shelton / Foundry Records</b>	632/40	0	2
9	34	31	<b>ABBY / Travis Denning / Mercury Nashville</b>	628/38	6	38
14	33	32	<b>Gettin' Her Over You / Bobby Wills / Willing</b>	599/35	1	8
17	38	33	<b>Shallow / Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood / Pearl Records</b>	578/30	14	69
19	35	34	<b>Right Place Now / Hudson Valley / Hudson Valley</b>	539/26	2	8
8	36	35	<b>Might As Well Be Me / Dew Pendleton / HippieRedneckGospeLove/GrassRoots</b>	529/39	2	11
26	37	36	<b>Worship You / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville</b>	504/27	-1	-6
5	41	37	<b>I'm Not For Everyone / Brothers Osborne / EMI Records Nashville</b>	475/32	14	59
5	39	38	<b>Not Yet / Brett Young / BMLG</b>	466/35	5	24
10	40	39	<b>Treasure / Mary Heather Hickman / Rolling River Records</b>	443/28	4	16



**IMPACTING NOW!**

Jennifer Blair Promotions  
Doc Gonzales

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
13	42	40	<b>It's All Yours / Dave Wilbert</b> / Wilbilly Records	429/25	12	46
4	49	41	<b>Fill Them Boots / Chris Lane</b> / Big Loud Records	396/34	16	54
7	46	42	<b>Show Off / Queeva</b> / CMD Music	368/27	5	18
13	43	43	<b>Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson</b> / Triple Tigers Records	366/21	2	6
11	47	44	<b>Homesick / Veronika</b> / Whattaguy Music	364/27	4	14
3	50	45	<b>Tip Jar / Jackson Michelson</b> / Curb	361/30	12	40
19	48	46	<b>I Do Thing / Kylie Frey</b> / Deep Frey'd Music Group	357/22	3	10
2	63	47	<b>You Should Probably Leave / Chris Stapleton</b> / Mercury Nashville	350/25	52	119
1	0	48	<b>I Was On A Boat That Day / Old Dominion</b> / Arista Nashville	346/26	0	346
8	54	49	<b>Villain / Lily Rose</b> / Big Loud Records	338/23	10	31
13	52	50	<b>Gotta Go Rodeo / Darlinghurst</b> / Helium	328/21	6	18
9	51	51	<b>Old School's In / Heath Sanders</b> / Valory	317/21	2	5
13	56	52	<b>Same Dirt Road / Eric Lee</b> / Blue Hill Records	308/23	2	6
3	65	53	<b>Thinking 'Bout You / Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter</b> / Broken Bow	298/24	32	72
5	57	54	<b>It's Cause I Am / Callista Clark</b> / Big Machine	290/23	5	14
17	55	55	<b>Head Over Wheels / Joe Hanson</b> /	289/17	-5	-15
23	53	56	<b>Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray</b> / Warner Music Nashville	285/17	-8	-24
4	59	57	<b>Woman You Got / Maddie &amp; Tae</b> / Mercury	278/22	5	13
5	58	58	<b>That Ain't Me No More / Matt Stell</b> / RECORDS/Arista Nashville	270/20	-2	-6
10	44	59	<b>God Save The World / Jeff Carson feat. Lisa Brokop</b> / MCC/Curb	270/14	-24	-87
8	60	60	<b>Lonely Girl / Danny Kensity</b> / Rad Records	254/16	-1	-2
8	61	61	<b>It Goes So Fast / Dwain Messer</b> / N Crowd Music	239/14	-4	-11
1	156	62	<b>Back Then, Right Now / Tenille Arts</b> / 19th & Grand Records	237/22	127	214
7	64	63	<b>Anybody But Me / Hannah Belle</b> / Cherry Picker Music South/Freedom Entertainment	235/15	3	6
10	67	64	<b>Camp Jackson / Michael B. Whit</b> /	229/13	10	20
8	66	65	<b>Why Can't It Be Tonight / Mercy Shine</b> / CCB Nashville	226/13	8	16
9	68	66	<b>Lady Like / Ingrid Andress</b> / Warner Music Nashville	221/15	7	14
5	69	67	<b>Found My Home / Lucie Tiger</b> / 2120 Music	210/17	2	5
5	72	68	<b>Got Me This Far / Donny Lee</b> / Donny Lee Music	198/16	9	17
4	71	69	<b>Is It Me And You / Lisa Brokop</b> / Amersong	196/16	2	4
3	78	70	<b>Pretend He's You / Ashley Barron</b> / SSM Nashville	190/18	17	27
6	70	71	<b>Quittin' You / Frankie Justin</b> / SMG Records	189/12	-3	-5
5	73	72	<b>Hot Beer / Dillon Carmichael</b> / Riser House Records	187/14	6	11
4	76	73	<b>Moonlight / Kevin McCoy Band</b> / Honky Tonk Hottie	179/12	8	13
12	62	74	<b>Good Day / Brett Eldredge</b> / Warner Music Nashville	176/12	-24	-57
3	74	75	<b>Don't Get Better Than That / Tim Thurman</b> / Tim Thurman Band	173/13	1	2
7	75	76	<b>You Weren't Made For Me / Royal South</b> / Circle S Records	170/11	0	0
1	92	77	<b>Growing Up Too Fast / Jon Wayne Hatfield</b> / Soundstage Music	169/14	47	54
2	82	78	<b>Something Good To Miss / Juna N Joey</b> / River Run Records	163/16	15	21
1	86	79	<b>Good Life / Kip Moore</b> / MCA Nashville	161/13	27	34
1	81	80	<b>Old School / Lance Wade Thomas</b> / Shady Grove Records	159/12	10	15

No. 1 Song
  Greatest Spin Increase
  Highest Debut



# CHASE LIKENS

## RUB A LITTLE DIRT ON IT

### IMPACTING 6/7



PRODUCED BY KEVIN BEAMISH FOR  
 ON THE GREEN PRODUCTIONS  
 JERRY DUNCAN PROMOTIONS

## Garth Brooks Honored At 43rd Annual Kennedy Center Honors



Pictured (L-R, back row): Joan Baez, Garth Brooks; (L-R, front row) Debbie Allen, Dick Van Dyke, Midori

**Garth Brooks** was celebrated at the 43rd annual Kennedy Center Honors over the weekend in a series of events in the nation's capital. Fellow Kennedy Center Honorees along with Brooks included actress-dancer-choreographer **Debbie Allen**, folk singer and activist **Joan Baez**, violin virtuoso **Midori**, and beloved acting icon **Dick Van Dyke**.

After being delayed a year due to COVID-19, the group's Washington, D.C. itinerary included a Thursday meeting with the President and First Lady, a Thursday evening event featuring the National Symphony Orchestra, Friday's Medallion Ceremony in the Kennedy Center's Opera House which was hosted by prior recipient **Gloria Estefan**, and a Saturday performance event on an outdoor plaza at the cultural center for the arts.

Brooks was elated at receiving the honor. "Just getting to be among this level of 'character'...I feel very lucky," he noted at the Medallion

Ceremony Friday evening. "An award is only as good as the names that are on it," he explained. "When you walk in that door...and you see the list of names...and then you sit in this group...and get to be a part of this...for the first time in my life, I don't mind being the weak link in the chain. I'm in the chain – that's it." **MR**

## Provident CEO/President Terry Hemmings To Be Inducted Into Alumni Hall Of Fame

President and CEO of Provident Entertainment **Terry Hemmings** will be a 2020-2021 inductee into the University of Kentucky's Gatton College Alumni Hall of Fame.

This prestigious award honors successful alumni of the Gatton College of Business and Economics and its predecessors, the College of Business and Economics and the College of Commerce.

"What a tremendous honor to be inducted into the Business School's Hall of Fame," Hemmings shares. "Thinking back on my years at the University of Kentucky, there are so many wonderful memories and many friends I am still in close touch with. That experience, along with the exceptional teaching I received, provided many tools that I still use every day of my professional career. I am so grateful to be included in the Hall of Fame alongside the other distinguished alumni and a few friends who have received this honor in past years."



Hemmings runs Provident Entertainment, a Sony Music Entertainment company under the umbrella of Sony Music Nashville, which includes Provident Label Group, RCA Inspiration, Essential Worship, Essential Music Publishing, Provident Films, and Essential Sound. Based in Franklin, Tennessee, Provident Entertainment is home to Casting Crowns, Zach Williams, Kirk Franklin, Koryn Hawthorne, Travis Greene, Matt Maher, Marvin Sapp, Matthew West, Elevation Worship, and more Christian artists.

Hemmings currently serves as Secretary and Treasurer on the Recording Academy's Board of Trustees. He sits on their Executive Committee, Membership Committee, and Planning/Governance Committee, and also serves as Chair of the Audit/Finance Committee. As a Leadership Music alum, he serves on boards of the RIAA, Gospel Music Association, and The Gospel Music Trust Fund. **MR**

## Faren Rachels Signs With Combustion Music



**Faren Rachels** has signed an exclusive publishing deal with Combustion Music.

Originally from Sparta, Georgia, Rachels grew up inspired by the sounds of Trisha Yearwood, Martina McBride, Faith Hill, and Lee Ann Womack. She sang in church for years while growing up and performed cover gigs with a band she put together while attending The University of Georgia in Athens. Rachels eventually made the move to Nashville in 2012 to pursue her dreams, and has had cuts with Lainey Wilson, Chrissy Metz, Ashland Craft, and more.

"Faren is the first writer that Blake brought in since his short time here, and I was immediately blown away. The honesty in Faren's writing and the passion she has for country music, not to mention her name, made it impossible not to jump in. Can't wait to see what we do next together," says Combustion President **Chris Farren**.

"Never thought I'd be working with another Farren but here we are, ha! Since my first meeting with Blake & Falcon at Combustion, it just felt like home," says Rachels. "I'm so grateful for their belief in me as a songwriter and excited to be joining such a well-respected and forward-thinking company." **MR**

## Big Machine Music Signs Sara Davis To Exclusive Songwriting Agreement



Big Machine Music has announced the addition of **Sara Davis** to its writer roster.

Davis moved to Nashville from Arizona five years ago at the age of 14 to develop her craft in the burgeoning pop community as a topline songwriter. Her frequent collaborators include Atlantic Records artist GAYLE, Track 45's KK and Ben Johnson, and Marisa Maino. Most recently she collaborated with Altadena's Riley Roth on "Stranger."

Davis joins BMM's acclaimed roster, which includes Brett Young, Brandy Clark, Laura Veltz, Jessie Jo Dillon, Eric Paslay, Ryan Hurd and more.

"The only thing more infectious than Sara's enthusiasm and energy is her talent," says BMM General Manager **Mike Molinar**. "Her timing in joining Big Machine Music is perfect as our activity naturally extends our creative footprint into other markets."

Davis shares, "I couldn't be more excited to join the Big Machine Music family! Since meeting Mike, Alex Heddle and the whole team, they've been my biggest champions and empowered me at every step. I'm so grateful and can't wait to continue working with them!" **MR**

## Gabby Barrett, Morgan Wallen Both Win 3 At Billboard Music Awards

Sunday (May 23) **Nick Jonas** hosted the 2021 *Billboard Music Awards* airing live on NBC from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California.

Amidst an array of performances and special honors, country breakout artist **Gabby Barrett** walked away last night with three awards including Top Country Female Artist, Top Collaboration for the remix of her hit single “I Hope” with **Charlie Puth**, and Top Country Song with her 2019 debut single, “I Hope.” Barrett was nominated for a whopping nine categories this year including Top Country Artist, Top New Artist, Top Country Album, and Top Radio Song, to name a few.



Despite being barred from the event due to the incident in which **Morgan Wallen** was filmed using the N-word outside his Nashville home, Wallen won three awards out of his six nominations, including Top Country Artist, Top Country Male Artist, and Top Country Album for *Dangerous: The Double Album*. Because the *Billboard Music Award* winners are determined by performance on the *Billboard* charts, and are not chosen by a voting committee or membership organization, Wallen was able to receive nominations.

**Florida Georgia Line** won the award for Top Country Duo/Group, and **Carrie Underwood** walked away with Top Christian Album for *My Gift*. **Taylor Swift** was awarded Top Artist and Top Female Artist of the night, while **Pop Smoke** took home Top New Artist, and **The Weeknd** won Top Male Artist.

Although there weren't any country performances on the broadcast, **Kelsea Ballerini** helped close out the show by announcing the **Jonas Brothers** who were the final performance of the night. Ballerini will be hitting the road with the trio this summer on the Remember This tour. **MR**

## Florida Georgia Line To Hit The Road On I Love My Country Tour



Global superstars **Florida Georgia Line** are returning to the road this fall with the I Love My Country Tour 2021, presented by Old Camp and sponsored by T-Mobile.

Kicking off the much-anticipated tour at Cellairis Amphitheatre at Lakewood in Atlanta on Sep. 24, FGL has invited **Russell Dickerson** as direct support, plus **Lauren Alaina** and **Redferrin** as openers on all dates. The 29-stop trek will wrap Nov. 20 at Climate Pledge Arena in Seattle, Washington.

“Touring is back, y’all! This is the longest we’ve gone without being on the road, and we’ve been counting down the days until we can finally say – we’re going on tour! Thank you to our fans for all of your support with our new music over the past year, we truly can’t wait to bring these tunes to the stage,” shares FGL’s **Tyler Hubbard** and **Brian Kelley**. “We’re excited to see your faces, feel the energy, and bring some good vibes to your city this fall. Let’s make some new memories!”

[Click here to view the I Love My Country Tour dates.](#)

## The CMA Announces 2021 Awards Ballot Schedule

The Country Music Association has announced its ballot schedule for the 55th Annual CMA Awards, which will take place this November.

The eligibility period for the awards is **July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021**. All voting for the CMA Awards will be conducted online.

The Nomination Ballot and instructions will be emailed **Tuesday, July 6** to CMA members in good standing who are eligible to vote. Voting for the Nomination Ballot closes **Thursday, July 15**(4:00 p.m. CT).

The Second Ballot will be emailed to CMA members **Monday, Aug. 2**, and voting will close on **Thursday, Aug. 12**(6:00 p.m. CT). The final nominees in each of the 12 categories will be announced later this summer.

Winners of The 55th Annual CMA Awards will be determined in a Final Round of voting by eligible voting CMA members. The third and Final Ballot will be emailed to CMA members **Friday, Oct. 1**. Voting for the CMA Awards Final Ballot ends **Wednesday, Oct. 27** (6:00 p.m. CT). All balloting is officiated by the professional services firm Deloitte.

To vote in all three rounds of The 55th Annual CMA Awards, prospective CMA members must apply for membership by **Tuesday, June 1**.

The CMA Board of Directors also voted to amend Morgan Wallen's 2021 CMA Awards eligibility.

Wallen, who came under fire in February when a video surfaced of him using the N-word outside of his Nashville home, was disqualified from the 2021 Academy of Country Music Awards.

The CMA Board of Directors amended Wallen's 2021 CMA Awards eligibility, making him eligible in categories that honor artistic works (Single, Song, Album, Musical Event, and Music Video of the Year categories), so as not to limit opportunity for other credited collaborators. He will not be eligible for nomination in the individual artist categories (Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year categories), however.

After a period of social media silence, Wallen has begun to post again and was even spotted performing at Kid Rock's bar on Broadway Avenue in Nashville recently. **MR**



## DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Old Dominion, Marty Stuart, Frank Ray



Sometimes your head has to overrule your heart.

My favorite tracks this week are by Hall of Fame members—Marty Stuart’s “Skip a Rope,” The Oaks’ “Swing Down Chariot” and Michael McDonald & Willie Nelson’s “Dreams of the San Joaquin.” I’d crown any one of them my Disc of the Day. But bowing to radio reality, I have to give the prize to Old Dominion and its outstanding song of summer.

There are a number of new faces in the column this week. I am most interested in Frank Ray, who earns the DisCOVERY Award.

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

### MORE TOP STORIES

[Jordan Davis To Embark On 17-City ‘Buy Dirt’ Tour In September](#)

[Matthew West, MercyMe, Tauren Wells, More Among K-Love Fan Awards Performers](#)

[Dierks Bentley’s Seven Peaks Festival Returns To Colorado In September](#)

[Jason Earley Inks Publishing Deal With Black River Entertainment](#)

[Thomas Rhett, Carrie Underwood, Luke Bryan, More Added To CMT Music Awards Performers](#)

[Nashville Music Equality To Celebrate 1 Year Anniversary With Special Panel](#)

[Doubling Down: Luke Bryan, Carrie Underwood Add More Vegas Dates](#)

[Songwriting Great Dewayne Blackwell Passes](#)

[Faster Horses Festival Returning With Jason Aldean, Luke Combs, Thomas Rhett, More](#)

[Veteran Songwriter Glenn Douglas Tubb Passes](#)

[Billy Ray Cyrus Signs With United Talent Agency](#)

[AIMP Partners With EnterGain On New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative](#)

[Double Down Music Makes First Signings With Blake Bollinger, Clara Calaway](#)

[FirstBank Amphitheater Slates Lady A, Jonas Brothers, More In Inaugural Lineup](#)

[Breakout Artist Breland Announces Tour This Fall](#)

[Date Announced For 34th Annual Music Row Ladies Golf Tournament](#)

[Music Industry Trailblazer Lou Robin Dies At 90](#)

[Eric Church Earns 10th Career No. 1 With ‘Hell Of A View’](#)

[The Recording Academy Announces More Updated Rules For Grammy Awards](#)

## Chase Rice: 'I'm Finally Not Chasing Anything. I'm Just Being Me' [Interview]

Country singer-songwriter **Chase Rice** delivered the final installment of his three part, 15-track project, *The Album*, today (May 28) through Broken Bow Records.

With more than 2 million albums sold and over 1.7 billion total streams to date, Rice has established himself as a powerful force in Nashville and beyond over the past eight years. Since *The Album*, Part 1's release in January of 2020, the "Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen." singer will finally bring the project to a close with the addition of the album's last four tracks.

Rice recently spoke with *MusicRow* about the new full-length album, how he grew in the last year, and future plans for his music.

### **MusicRow: What has the last year been like for you?**

It's been interesting. I've taken a lot of time off. I didn't travel a lot last year and had a good group of friends that all hung out together at my farm or their house... I've been able to live life for the first time in eight years, so that's really how *The Album*, Part 3 came together and that's how I'm moving towards the next record which is going to be really special.

### **What gave you the idea to do a graduated release and put out the album in parts?**

I wanted each song to have its time. I wanted to release less music, but more often. That's why I was going to do Part 1 through 4, but Part 4 got derailed because of COVID.

I had this group of songs that were older songs that didn't have a place yet. "Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen." was on its own. "If I Didn't Have You" was three or four years old, but I always wanted to put it out. "The Nights" was one I knew I wanted to finish up what was Part 4—or now, Part 3—with, and "Bedroom" was written during the middle of COVID. I took all of these songs from different places and thought this was a perfect way to end the album.

### **What was the songwriting process like for this album?**

Completely different [than what I'm used to]. The beginning of Part 1 and 2 was showing up at 11:00 a.m., writing with people, and being done by 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 when people have to go get their kids. That was the traditional way of writing songs for me for the last eight years. However, Part 3 came along and completely said 'no' to all of that.

"The Nights" was the only song that was written in a normal way, but it's two or three years old and I knew the day I wrote that song that I wanted that in the final piece. "If I Didn't Have You" was written in Oklahoma at a hunting camp. "Bedroom" was a Zoom write—one of the only Zoom writes I've ever done. Then "Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen." was written on the back of my tour bus on the last day of tour in 2019. This group of songs are a special group because they were all written differently—they all didn't have a place. Bringing them together on Part 3 to finalize the album was perfect.





### How has COVID changed the way you approach songwriting?

I'm going to take a lot of what I learned last year and apply it, like to stop doing the 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. thing. I'm probably not going to do that very much anymore. I'm going to do writing retreats with no schedules. Let's go fish. Let's figure it out and talk about songs. If we don't get a song that day, who cares? Most of the time when you have that mindset, your creativity finally gets to the front as opposed to your schedule.

That's what I'm going to take moving forward for the back half of my next record. I'm going to take a lot of the negatives from last year and turn them into positives.

### What songs/performances are you most looking forward to sharing with fans?

I'm excited to see how people respond to "Forever To Go" because that one's been somewhat of an underground hit all of a sudden. I've also never gotten to play "American Nights" live, which is awful because it was supposed to be the opener of the whole show.

I played "Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen." at the Ryman a couple of weeks ago and it was mind blowing! Everybody stood up and came to the front—I don't know if that was allowed or not— but we didn't care. It was a special moment and I haven't seen a reaction like that since "Ready Set Roll," to be honest. Even "Eyes On You" didn't get a reaction like that live. I feel like finally have a party song that's going to become a hit for the first time since "Ready Set Roll," which I think is going to be one of the coolest moments during shows.

### What do you hope fans walk away with from this project?

I hope they see that I'm finally not chasing anything. I moved to Nashville in 2010 when I had just learned to play guitar and write songs. I was clueless from "Ready Set Roll" and "Gonna Wanna Tonight" through "Eyes On You," and I'll be really honest about that. I think "Eyes On You" was really the beginning of my career, so I hope they can see now that I'm not chasing anything. I'm not trying to be anybody else, and I'm just being me.

I hope they can finally grasp through this record who I am a little bit more and I hope they hold onto that because what's coming next is who I really am. I finally got to really live for a year because I wasn't touring. I lived an entire year which allowed me to piece The Album, Part 3 together, and that's also going to allow me to piece my next record together. **MR**

# TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	<b>Ashley Gorley</b>	What's Your Country Song Single Saturday Night Country Again Sand In My Boots You Should Probably Leave Warning Give Heaven Some Hell	Thomas Rhett Cole Swindell Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen HARDY
2	2	<b>Jesse Frasure</b>	What's Your Country Song Almost Maybes Minimum Wage Whiskey And Rain	Thomas Rhett Jordan Davis Blake Shelton Michael Ray
3	3	<b>Corey Crowder</b>	Famous Friends Minimum Wage Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen	Chris Young + Kane Brown Blake Shelton Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line
4	4	<b>Zach Crowell</b>	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Country Again Waves	Sam Hunt Thomas Rhett Luke Bryan
5	6	<b>Nicolle Galyon</b>	Gone Minimum Wage Half Of My Hometown	Dierks Bentley Blake Shelton Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney
6	5	<b>Josh Osborne</b>	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Next Girl Sand In My Boots	Sam Hunt Carly Pearce Morgan Wallen
7	8	<b>Tyler Hubbard</b>	Lil Bit Undivided	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
8	10	<b>Michael Hardy</b>	That Ain't Me No More Single Saturday Night Sand In My Boots Give Heaven Some Hell	Matt Stell Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen HARDY
9	7	<b>Luke Combs</b>	Forever After All	Luke Combs
10	15	<b>Drew Parker</b>	Forever After All	Luke Combs
11	16	<b>Robert Williford</b>	Forever After All	Luke Combs
12	22	<b>Ben Johnson</b>	Gone Give Heaven Some Hell	Dierks Bentley HARDY
13	12	<b>Neil Medley</b>	Made For You	Jake Owen
14	13	<b>Benjy Davis</b>	Made For You	Jake Owen
15	14	<b>Joey Hyde</b>	Made For You	Jake Owen
16	17	<b>Eric Church</b>	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
17	18	<b>Monty Criswell</b>	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
18	19	<b>C. Beathard</b>	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
19	20	<b>Chris Loocke</b>	Undivided	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
20	9	<b>Thomas Rhett</b>	What's Your Country Song Country Again	Thomas Rhett Thomas Rhett
21	34	<b>Hunter Phelps</b>	That Ain't Me No More Thinking 'Bout You Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Cold Beer Calling My Name Give Heaven Some Hell	Matt Stell Dustin Lynch feat. Lauren Alaina Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs HARDY
22	21	<b>Ernest Keith Smith</b>	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Wasted On You Warning Dangerous	Sam Hunt Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
23	28	<b>Dallas Wilson</b>	Nobody	Dylan Scott
24	29	<b>Dylan Scott</b>	Nobody	Dylan Scott
25	30	<b>Matt Alderman</b>	Nobody	Dylan Scott

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
26	24	<b>Luke Dick</b>	Settling Down	Miranda Lambert
27	25	<b>Miranda Lambert</b>	Settling Down	Miranda Lambert
28	26	<b>Natalie Hemby</b>	Settling Down	Miranda Lambert
29	31	<b>Niko Moon</b>	Gone	Dierks Bentley
30	32	<b>Cary Barlowe</b>	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
31	33	<b>Chris Young</b>	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
32	43	<b>J. Flowers</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
33	44	<b>Brinley Addington</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
34	35	<b>Hillary Lindsey</b>	Almost Maybes	Jordan Davis
35	36	<b>Jordan Davis</b>	Almost Maybes	Jordan Davis
36	27	<b>Taylor Swift</b>	Mr. Perfectly Fine Love Story	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift
37	42	<b>Mark Holman</b>	Single Saturday Night	Cole Swindell
38	37	<b>Gabby Barrett</b>	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
39	38	<b>Zachary Kale</b>	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
40	39	<b>Emily Landis</b>	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
41	40	<b>J. McCormick</b>	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
42	23	<b>Rhett Akins</b>	To Be Loved By You Beers To Catch Up On Tequila Little Time What's Your Country Song	Parker McCollum LOCASH Jon Pardi Thomas Rhett
43	45	<b>Paul DiGiovanni</b>	Getting Over Him Beers To Catch Up On We Didn't Have Much	Lauren Alaina with Jon Pardi LOCASH Justin Moore
44	47	<b>Jeremy Stover</b>	Beers To Catch Up On We Didn't Have Much	LOCASH Justin Moore
45	52	<b>Shane McAnally</b>	Next Girl Half Of My Hometown	Carly Pearce Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney
46	49	<b>Jonathan Singleton</b>	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
47	50	<b>Lainey Wilson</b>	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
48	51	<b>Jason Nix</b>	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
49	53	<b>Ryan Vojtesak</b>	Wasted On You Worship You Warning	Morgan Wallen Kane Brown Morgan Wallen
50	48	<b>Martin Johnson</b>	Like A Lady Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Lady A Elle King and Miranda Lambert
51	11	<b>Randy Montana</b>	If It Wasn't For Trucks We Didn't Have Much	Riley Green Justin Moore
52	61	<b>Josh Thompson</b>	Wasted On You Whiskey And Rain	Morgan Wallen Michael Ray
53	54	<b>Chris LaCorte</b>	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's	Sam Hunt
54	55	<b>Sam Hunt</b>	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's	Sam Hunt
55	58	<b>Ryan Hurd</b>	Waves	Luke Bryan
56	59	<b>Chase McGill</b>	Waves	Luke Bryan
57	57	<b>Carly Pearce</b>	Next Girl	Carly Pearce
58	60	<b>Elle King</b>	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
59	67	<b>John Edwards</b>	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
60	68	<b>Brian White</b>	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean

## CALENDAR

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### Singles

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#### May 28

**Colt Ford**/*When Country Comes Back*/Average Joes Entertainment

**Jeremy McComb**/*Under Glass*/Average Joes Entertainment

**Devon Beck**/*Mirrors*/Sincerely Music Group

**Sarah Faith**/*Before You, Vol. 2*

**Grant Maloy Smith**/*The Coal Comes Up*/Suburban Cowboy Records

#### May 31

**Kalsey Kulyk**/*All I Need Is You*/Big Machine Label Group

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### Albums

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#### May 28

**Chase Rice**/*The Album*/Broken Bow Records

**Southerland**/*Boot Up*/River House Artists/Sony Music Nashville

**Blackberry Smoke**/*You Hear Georgia*/Thirty Tigers

**Spencer Crandall**/*Lost In The Wild EP*

**Rhonda Vincent**/*Music Is What I See*/Rounder Records

#### June 4

**The Grand Ole Opry**/*Unbroken I Empty Room, Full Circle*

**Brett Young**/*Weekends Look A Little Different These Days*/BMLG Records

**Riley Clemmons**/*Godsend*/Capitol CMG

**Walker Hayes**/*Country Stuff*/Monument Records

**Andrew Jannakos**/*Gone Too Soon*/RCA Nashville

**Mark Collie**/*Book Of My Blues*/BFD/Audium Nashville/Orchard

**Bailey Callahan**/*The A & B Sides*

**Nate Barnes**/*You Ain't Pretty (EP)*/Quartz Hill Records

**Jacob Armitage**/*Through The Night (EP)*

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### Industry Events

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#### June 7 – 9

**AIMP Global Music Publishing Summit**

#### June 9

**CMT Music Awards**