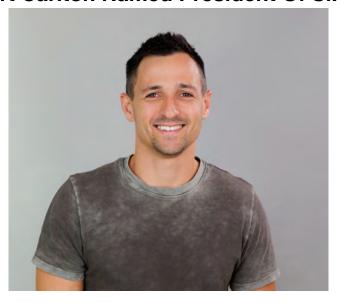
WEEKLY

Robert Carlton Named President Of SMACK



Robert Carlton has been promoted to President and Equity Partner of SMACK. The company's **Michael McAnally Baum** has stepped down from his operational role, but will stay on the ownership team alongside CCO **Robin Palmer** and Founder **Shane McAnally.**

Carlton will continue to manage McAnally while also overseeing SMACK's publishing, digital and management branches. He joined the company in 2014 and rose to Sr. VP of Development in 2016.

"From intern to the presidency, Robert Carlton's steady hand, work ethic and innate instincts have earned him the top office at SMACK," says McAnally Baum. "As a visionary who grew up with the company, he has shown how his passion and dedication will lead the team at SMACK into their next chapter of success."

Carlton adds, "This is an incredible company with the most incredible people, that all started with Shane, Michael and Robin's leadership. When I started here almost 10 years ago, I knew it was a great opportunity, but I never could've dreamed it would be all that it is today."

SMACKSongs, the publishing leg, includes songwriters like the multi-Grammy-Award winning McAnally and CMA Song of the Year winner **Josh Jenkins**, as well as more than 20 staff writers who contributed seven No. 1 songs to the genre in 2022 alone. SMACKManagement includes superstar artist **Walker Hayes**, whose smash hit "Fancy Like" topped every country sales and streaming chart upon release. SMACKTok, the digital leg, offers influencer marketing services and focuses on connecting artists directly with their fans through social media platforms. **MR**

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Robert Carlton Named President Of SMACK

Seaforth Parts Ways With Sony Music Nashville

Jamie Paulin Signs With Anthem Entertainment [Exclusive]

Big Machine Music Extends Publishing Deals With Chart-Topping Songwriters

Bekah Digby Joins SiriusXM/ Pandora

Avery King Opens New PR Firm, King Publicity

Industry Toasts To Carly Pearce's Fourth No. 1 Hit 'What He Didn't Do'

My Music Row Story: CMA's Sarah Trahern

And much more...



RECORD BREAKER FOR MOST WEEKS SPENT AT #1 ON BILLBOARD'S ALL-GENRE EMERGING ARTIST CHART AT 25 WEEKS

CAREER STREAMS

2.8+ MILLION YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS YOUTUBE VIEWS

35+ MILLION WEEKLY ON-DEMAND STREAMS

#1 DEBUT COUNTRY SINGLE WITH "SON OF A SINNER"

"NEED A FAVOR" TOP 5 AT ACTIVE ROCK RADIO & TOP 15 AT COUNTRY RADIO

3X 2023 CMT MUSIC AWARDS WINNER

44 CITY HEADLINING



My Music Row Story: CMA's Sarah Trahern



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.

Sarah Trahern was named CEO of the Country Music Association (CMA) in 2014. With foresight and determination, she has crafted a brand identity for country music and has been at the forefront of some of the industry's most intentional and strategic initiatives. With a new, robust CMA membership structure in place beginning March 2023, Trahern oversees CMA's efforts to act as a critical resource for information, a pipeline for individuals across every aspect of the music business and a community partner committed to fostering collaboration and conversation. She also helms the organization's three acclaimed network television properties, one of the biggest music festivals in the world and serves as President of the CMA Foundation.

Trahern has been instrumental in maintaining and fostering CMA's relationship with its broadcast partner, ABC, the network home of the *CMA Awards, CMA Country Christmas* and *CMA Fest.* Trahern is consistently included on various *Billboard* lists and has been honored by the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, *Nashville Business Journal*. CRB and NMPA.



MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Champaign, Illinois until I was 13. Then we moved to Knoxville. My dad was a university professor, so I grew up around college campuses since I was a little kid.

Were you into music?

Oh yes. My mom was a classical viola player. She played in Champaign and ended up playing with UT's Opera Program when we moved to Knoxville. My dad grew up listening to the Grand Ole Opry under the covers, so I grew up with these very divergent [types of music] but just the love of music throughout.

I actually grew up as part of a public school music education program, playing violin from kindergarten through eighth grade. I learned piano and guitar too. One of the things that was so amazing for me once I came to this job in



AT THE END OF THE DIRT ROAD



NEW EP AVAILABLE NOW

FEATURING
"I'LL LOVE YOU LONGER"
"MIDDLE OF NOWHERE CLASS"
AND "AT THE END OF THE DIRT ROAD"



2014 is that everything we do with the CMA Foundation for music education is a big part of our job. Having been the beneficiary of a public school music education program myself, it felt like my life had really come full circle to something I believed in as a child and now I get to do as my job.

How did you start your career?

I went to college at Georgetown University and studied American political history. I went to college thinking I would be a lawyer or a journalist, and I followed that path into journalism in D.C. I stayed in D.C. covering Congress and campaigns for C-SPAN until 1995. When I was in high school, I picked up the banjo, so while I was going to college in D.C., I would go to a lot of live music shows, particularly at the Birchmere. My first apartment after college was a mile from the Birchmere, so journalism [was] my career and music was my passion.



Sarah Trahern. Photo: Courtesy of Trahern

How did you get to Nashville?

I was looking for a new job. I had interviewed and was one of three finalists to produce *Nightline*, but I didn't get the job. I said to myself, "What do I want my life to look like? Do I wanna stay in D.C.? Do I want to go to New York?" I decided I wanted to be in Nashville, and if it took me three months or three years, that's what I was going to do. About three months later, in 1995, I ended up getting a job at TNN to oversee music specials.

I had a great life in D.C., but I was going to need to move to grow, and getting to do TV specials about my passion was so unbelievable. I shared this story with **Wynonna Judd** when we announced her as an inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame last year, but the day I moved, I got in my car and I played a cassette of Wynonna's with this song, "Is It Over Yet." I must have worn the tape out by playing that song over and over. I was crying and thinking, "Is it over yet? Am I leaving my D.C. life and making a huge mistake by moving to Nashville?" By the time I got an hour away from D.C., I had cried it all out.

Tell me about your time at TNN.

At TNN, I oversaw all the music specials. I had the TNN *Music City News Awards*, that later became the *CMT Awards*. During my time working on that show, we actually moved the awards show from the Opry House to Bridgestone Arena. So when Bridgestone was built, I was the first network executive to do an awards show from there. Many fortuitous opportunities happened during that time. I had a show called *Monday Night Concerts*—hosted by **Ricky Skaggs**—that was a precursor to what CMT did with *Crossroads*, where we might have Wynonna perform with **Michael McDonald** or **Brian Setzer** with **Marty Stuart**. We did that for three seasons over three years.

My very first show at TNN was *The Marty Party* hosted by Marty Stuart. [On one of the episodes,] the three guests were **Alan Jackson**, **Junior Brown** and **Johnny Cash**. I remember being in the control room at TNN and Johnny came up to the microphone and did his, "Hello, I'm Johnny Cash." I remember sitting in the control room and going "Oh my gosh, this is my job! This is what I get paid to do for a living." What is so great is that, to this day, there's still moments when we get to experience that.

What was your next move?

I [was with] TNN until 2001. They closed the network here and moved to New York, but I made the decision not to go with them to New York and to stay here. I went to get my MBA at Vanderbilt during that time and I had my own production company, so I did some work for Scripps Networks in Knoxville and the First Amendment Center. I did the First Amendment Center's entertainment talk show for PBS as well as a lot of projects for CMT during that time. I did



Sarah Trahern and Lainey Wilson during rehearsals for the CMA Summer Jam 2021 at Ascend Amphitheater. Photo: John Shearer

my own thing for two years, which was fine. It was successful and great, but I'm not a sole practitioner. I'm an organizational person. I missed working with people in a collaborative environment.

I went to work for Scripps in 2003, right after I finished my MBA. Scripps had bought a TV shopping network here called the Shop at Home Network. The network's goal was to take shows that are on the Food Network and [send viewers to] Shop at Home to buy the pots and pans [that were used in the Food Network show]. I learned very quickly that TV shopping was not my passion.

I was about to leave without a job at the end of 2004. Then Scripps bought Great American Country (GAC). The timing was fortuitous that I happened to be at Scripps, even though I was unhappy, when they bought the country

network. That's where my experience and passion was. So at the beginning of 2005, I moved over to GAC. I was at GAC until I was offered this job at the end of 2013.

What are some of your proudest accomplishments from your time at GAC?

One of the first things that comes to mind is doing the telethon after the Nashville flood in 2010. We were able to work with all of the networks to basically roadblock across the HGTV, Travel and Food networks and bring in talent from all of those networks. We were able to do the program from the Ryman and we raised somewhere between \$2 and \$2.5 million for the community foundation to help Nashville rebuild.

We also did a show called Country Music at the White House in 2011. **Michelle Obama** was doing a series of concerts in Washington with different genres of music and they were going to do country. The guests were going to be **Charley Pride**, **Brad Paisley** and **Alison Krauss**. Michelle Obama was going to bring music students from around the country to D.C., including kids from W.O. Smith Music School here in Nashville. They were going to get to go to the White House, perform and meet the First Lady and then do something with the artists. My boss at the time, **Ed Hardy**, and I were in a conference room trying to figure out how we could help the W.O. Smith Music School kids get to Washington for this really cool experience. My assistant got me out of the conference room and said, "You've got a call from the White House Social Secretary." They were calling to see if we wanted to send a TV crew for the show. I just riffed and said, "Yeah, we could do that, but is anybody televising the whole thing? We could provide the cameras for everybody, but we could do it live." They said, "That sounds really good. We should do that." I walked back to the conference room and I said to Ed, "Forget just getting the kids to Washington. I think I just committed us to a network special." [Laughs]

Tell me about joining the CMA.

It was around 2011 or 2012 and I was working with an executive coach. She had this exercise with cards that each had skill sets. With the cards, we created a mission statement. I looked at that and said, "I think I should run the CMA or the Country Music Hall of Fame." At the time, the CMA job was open. I reached out to somebody here, but it just didn't really feel like the right time for me, so I didn't go for it, but always had that in my heart.

Ed retired and I ended up running the GAC network for two years, which was a great experience for me from a business standpoint. I really loved that chapter. Then the CMA job became [available] again. It was perfect—it still had a television component, it had a great organizational mission, message and a really good staff. All of those things aligned. I went to the interview. Thankfully they called me and now I'm in my ninth year and [about to take on] my 10th CMA Fest.

How do you explain what you do?

I sit at this point of a spear between a 75-person Board of Directors—folks that are so engaged in the business—and a 61-person staff. [Industry members] don't get paid to be [on the] Board of Directors and [it takes up] a lot of time. My job is to activate the staff on behalf of the vision of the board, all driven towards our mission. We all are driven by making country music stronger.

Who have been some of your mentors along the way?

My very first boss **Brian Lamb**, the former CEO & Founder of C-SPAN, was a great leader. He really brought out the best of everybody on his team. I had a great mentor in a woman named **Judy Girard**, who was actually my boss at Shop at Home. She was one of the first women to run a TV network and worked at Lifetime, Food Network and HGTV. She is a real straight shooter and is still a really good friend of mine.

I had a boss named **Jim Clayton**, who gave me the best piece of advice I've ever gotten. When you brought him a business problem, he'd [ask a series of questions.] Question one is: "Were any small children affected?" Right now, if I'm faced with a business problem, it's usually about politics or money. Right at this very moment, someone's kid is having serious medical issues just a mile away at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, so that puts things in perspective. His second question is: "What's the problem?" Question three is: "What is the solution?" Nine times out of 10, you know what that solution is. Question four is the key one: "Why aren't you doing what you know is right?" What impediments are you trying to overcome? Is it politics or money? Is it what people are going to think about you? What you're really solving is not necessarily the problem, but what's keeping you from doing what you know is right. I think about that a lot.

Next week, CMA Fest will mark its 50th anniversary. What are some of your favorite CMA Fest memories?

There's so many of them. CMA Fest is so fun because it's all about music discovery. There are different experiences at different stages.

During my very first Fest in 2014, I was staying at the Hilton downtown. I write letters to all the artists who do the stadium, because they're giving up a big day to come do our show for free. We also have notes and pictures from the kids that the CMA Foundation benefits and we put those in with my letter to all the stadium headliners. I had these spread out on the table in the hotel room. The hotel had sent up some fruit and wine and the guy delivering it asked where he should put it. I told him to put it on the table.

He looked at some of the letters and said, "What do you know about this Disney Musicals in Schools at TPAC?" I said, "I'm with the CMA and we support Disney Musicals in Schools through our CMA Foundation. Half of the proceeds from this festival we're having right now go to benefit music education. [How] do you know about it?" He said, "My son played Simba in the eighth grade last year and it changed his life."

I will always think about that down to the very last CMA Fest I do. This city comes together, the industry and the artists show up and our staff works their tails off for months on end to get there. Then there's all these downstream beneficiaries that are not just the fans. The fans are certainly a big part of why we do what we do, but [it's also about the kids] who have guitars, trombones and vocal classes that may never end up in our business, but they have the gift of self-expression through music.

What are you excited about for this year's CMA Fest?

One of the surprises is we've been working on a documentary about the 50th anniversary of CMA Fest that will air on Hulu in July. Anybody who has come to Nashville and been a part of Fest has their own stories about it. People on our staff were there when **Garth Brooks** did his 23-hour autograph signing. I did my TNN job interview during Fan Fair, [which is what CMA Fest used to be called], in 1995. People have their moments at CMA Fest and it becomes their history. There's 50,000 people at the stadium, so they have 50,000 different experiences every single year. We have roughly 60 people on our staff and we have 3,000 people working on our behalf to pull off the festival. Everyone has their own experiences at CMA Fest. I'm proud that we get to be a part of everybody's experience. **MR**

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COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Out Of That Truck/Carrie Underwood/Capitol Records - 58

Wind Up/Josh Mirenda/Average Joes - 71

Could Really Use a Friend/Rebecca Moreland/Kino Mas

Entertainment - 72

Giving Up On That/Dalton Dover/Mercury Records - 75

Home Is Where The Heart Is/Lucie Tiger/2120 Music - 76

That's Why/Troy Cartwright - 77

Seven Year Ache/Aaron Watson/BIG Label Records - 78

Hold Whatcha Got/Perley Curtis featuring Rhonda Vincent - 79

Live While You Got The Chance/Luke Kelly/General Records - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Try That In A Small Town/Jason Aldean/Broken Bow - 295

Fast Car/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 206

Love You Anyway/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia

Nashville - 185

Need A Favor/Jelly Roll/Stoney Creek Records - 156

But I Got A Beer In My Hand/Luke Bryan/Capitol Nashville - 154

Most Added

song/artist/label-No. of Adds

Try That In A Small Town/Jason Aldean/Broken Bow - 19

Different 'Round Here/Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs)/BMLG - 10

On The Boat Again/Jake Owen/Big Loud Records - 9

Fast Car/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 7

See You Next Summer/Brian Kelley/Big Machine Records - 7

On Deck-Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label-No. of Spins

Honey!/Rayne Johnson/Mountain Road Records - 92

My Favorite/Glen Templeton/Coastal Cowboy Entertainment - 90

Mind On You/George Birge/RECORDS - 89

Glass Half Empty/Chris Clark/Tribe 615 - 87

Ain't Buyin' It/XOLEX/XOLEX Music - 86

NO. 1 SONG



Jon Pardi tops the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart this week with "Your Heart Or Mine."

The tune was written by **Bart Butler**, **Justin Ebach** and **John Pierce**, and appears on Pardi's *Mr. Saturday Night* album. The project was nominated for the ACM Album of the Year this year.

In April, Pardi was surprised with an invitation to join the Grand Ole Opry while performing at Stagecoach. When he's inducted, he will become the first native Californian to become a member of the Opry.



Each songwriter and artist earning No. 1 credit on the *MusicRow* Chart receives a *MusicRow* Challenge Coin. Click <u>here</u> to view a full list of recipients.

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

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

KKMV Rupert, ID WOOZ Carterville, 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 +/-
33	2	1	Your Heart Or Mine / Jon Pardi / Capitol	1675/59	4	67
47	5	2	Everything She Ain't / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/S&D/Big Loud	1616/59	5	70
16	1	3	Next Thing You Know / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	1604/50	-4	-65
19	6	4	Angels / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1565/61	5	73
21	7	5	Memory Lane / Old Dominion / Arista Nashville	1496/48	2	23
7	10	6	Love You Anyway / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	1463/54	14	185
18	8	7	Drinkaby / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1419/58	3	46
19	11	8	Need A Favor / Jelly Roll / Stoney Creek Records	1294/50	14	156
42	9	9	You / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1260/39	-6	-74
12	12	10	Standing Room Only / Tim McGraw / Big Machine Records	1170/56	4	49
34	13	11	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	1135/48	3	28
19	14	12	Looking For You / Chris Young / RCA Nashville	1086/55	6	63
11	16	13	Bury Me In Georgia / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1053/51	10	95
4	19	14	Fast Car / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	1045/44	25	206
37	15	15	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	968/53	0	2
14	17	16	Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville	932/50	6	56
27	18	17	Heaven By Then / Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shelton feat. Vince Gill / Valory	850/43	-1	-9
16	20	18	All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records	778/42	1	4
23	21	19	If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	761/37	1	9
22	22	20	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	759/43	3	25
4	31	21	But I Got A Beer In My Hand / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	717/44	27	154
7	27	22	Religiously / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville	715/41	22	129
15	25	23	Only Need One / Ned LeDoux / Powder River/Thirty Tigers	709/35	5	35
9	24	24	Fires Don't Start Themselves / Darius Rucker / Capitol	694/39	3	18
7	23	25	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	685/39	0	2
9	26	26	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	626/40	5	27
21	29	27	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	620/39	7	38
17	34	28	Revival / Shenandoah / 8 Track Entertainment/Fame Records	599/33	15	78
12	37	29	Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	566/37	11	56
13	30	30	Save The Roses / Lee Brice / Curb	562/30	-3	-19
20	32	31	Missin' You / Cam Allen / Goat Music Group	553/33	4	21
37	35	32	Country Can / Hannah Ellis / Curb	517/29	0	0
22	36	33	Jealous Of Myself / Tenille Arts / Dreamcatcher Artists	506/31	-2	-9
22	39	34	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	482/31	3	
14	40	35	3 Teguila Floor / Josiah Siska / Black River	434/30	7	29
2	74	36	Try That In A Small Town / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow	430/31	127	295
3	50	37	Watermelon Moonshine / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	429/29	53	
44	41	38	Something In The Orange / Zach Bryan / Belting Bronco/Warner Records	409/22	4	14
3	51	39	Different 'Round Here / Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs) / BMLG	394/33	49	129
			, ,			



INCHARGE

NASHVILLE'S MUSIC INDUSTRY DECISION MAKERS





COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
21	45	40	God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	387/25	6	23
16	43	41	Honky Tonk Roll / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	381/23	-1	-2
38	47	42	If He Wanted To He Would / Kylie Morgan / EMI Records Nashville	342/23	5	15
5	49	43	Blacktop Don't / BoomTown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment	332/27	17	48
13	46	44	The Longer I Live / Aaron Goodvin & Ryan Kinder / Reviver Records/Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada	329/27	0	1
9	48	45	Dents On A Chevy / Ty Herndon, Terri Clark / Pivotal Records	309/24	8	23
5	53	46	Blue Suede Boots / Coffey Anderson / Coffey Global LLC	242/22	0	-1
2	63	47	Truck Bed / HARDY / Big Loud Records	241/20	44	74
19	52	48	Marry That Girl / Easton Corbin / Stone Country Records	237/15	-3	-8
21	33	49	Marlboros & Avon / McBride & The Ride / TMC Records/InGrooves	231/16	-56	-296
3	60	50	Make You Mine / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Records	229/22	17	33
7	56	51	State You Left Me In / Jake Worthington / Big Loud	223/16	0	0
14	54	52	A Special Place / Danielle Bradbery / Big Machine Records	204/12	-12	-27
14	61	53	Not In This Heartbreak / Morgan White / NashTown Entertainment	202/11	7	14
3	58	54	If I Die Young Pt. 2 / Kimberly Perry / RECORDS Nashville/Columbia Records	199/16	-2	-5
14	59	55	Sunday Chapel / Dave Herrera / Brokerade, Inc	198/12	1	1
5	62	56	Heartache Waiting To Happen / Cutter Elliott / Cutter Elliott Music	193/12	7	12
4	65	57	Wings Of A White Dove / Flat River Band / Early Bird Records	190/17	17	28
1	85	58	Out Of That Truck / Carrie Underwood / Capitol Records	179/13	95	87
8	64	59	Shoot Tequila / Tigirlily Gold / Monument Records	169/13	4	6
10	66	60	I Ain't Done Singin' Yet / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	169/10	4	7
8	70	61	Every Town's Got One / Ty Gregory	160/12	11	16
14	67	62	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	157/15	0	0
3	69	63	Rest In Peace / Taylor Austin Dye / LMG	154/11	4	6
8	75	64	Little Bit Of You / Brooke Moriber / Reviver Records	137/12	1	2
4	71	65	Without You / Thompson Square / Quartz Hill	137/8	-4	-5
5	77	66	Trouble / Rachel Stacy / CDX Records	134/7	8	10
8	73	67	Young Again / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville	132/10	-4	-5
2	76	68	Bad Day To Be A Cold Beer / Chase Rice / Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	124/8	-1	-1
8	72	69	Be The One / Josh Kinney / Birmingham Entertainment	124/10	-12	-17
22	68	70	Fast Car / Randy Rogers Band / Thirty Tigers	122/8	-21	-32
1	83	71	Wind Up / Josh Mirenda / Average Joes	117/10	22	21
1	92	72	Could Really Use a Friend / Rebecca Moreland / Kino Mas Entertainment	113/10	40	32
2	80	73	Why Didn't I Call You / Andrew Salgado / Synapse Publishing & Entertainment, LLC	112/9	11	11
3	78	74	Tonight's On You / Nathan Merovich / Nathan Merovich	103/8	-2	-2
1	84	75	Giving Up On That / Dalton Dover / Mercury Records	102/8	10	9
1	95	76	Home Is Where The Heart Is / Lucie Tiger / 2120 Music	101/7	36	27
1	81	77	That's Why / Troy Cartwright	101/8	1	1
1	91	78	Seven Year Ache / Aaron Watson / BIG Label Records	97/10	20	16
1	82	79	Hold Whatcha Got / Perley Curtis featuring Rhonda Vincent	97/6	-1	-1
1	97	80	Live While You Got The Chance / Luke Kelly / General Records	96/7	35	25

No. 1 Song

Greatest Spin Increase

Highest Debut

ROW FAX

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LIST WITH US!

Seaforth Parts Ways With Sony Music Nashville



In a recent social media post, Australian-born country duo **Seaforth** revealed that they have parted ways with Sony Music Nashville.

"As of today, we have amicably parted ways with Sony Nashville and are officially a full independent artist," the post says. "Sony was great to us, supported us when times were tough, and we owe a lot to them for what we have achieved thus far.

"Over time, it honestly just became a very emotional challenge for us to persevere through certain things behind the scenes," Seaforth writes. "Although it ultimately took us a while to get here, anyone who knows us knows that this is the best decision for all parties involved, Sony included."

Seaforth's **Tom Jordan** and **Mitch Thompson** were childhood friends in Australia, and moved to Nashville to pursue their careers in 2017. The country-pop duo signed their record deal with Sony Music Nashville in 2018, and had success with songs such as "Breakups," "Good Beer" with **Jordan Davis** and "Anything She Says" with **Mitchell Tenpenny.**

Seaforth's first independent release, a song called "Get The Girl," is due out June 16. The duo says they will release a new song every six weeks from then. **MR**

Jamie Paulin Signs With Anthem Entertainment [Exclusive]



Pictured (L-R): Gracie Glass (Anthem Creative Coordinator), Jamie Paulin, Noah Dewey (Anthem VP of Creative), Gilles Godard (Anthem President), Courtney Crist (Anthem Sr. Creative Director), Chandler Thurston (Anthem Creative Director)

Songwriter **Jamie Paulin** has signed a worldwide publishing deal with Anthem Entertainment.

Paulin has penned No. 1 hits for **Chris Janson** ("Done") and **Kenny Chesney** ("Happy Does"), and has had numerous other successful cuts including **Justin Moore**'s hit single "Backwoods" and **Tim McGraw**'s "How I'll Always Be."

Paulin has also had songs recorded by Jordan Davis, Jon Pardi, Kane Brown, Ian Munsick, Shane Proffit, Travis Denning, Scotty McCreery, Jack Ingram and Frank Ray.

"I've tried to sign Jamie for years, but the timing was never right," shares **Noah Dewey**, VP of Creative for Anthem Nashville. "We finally figured it out! I'm elated that he's joining the Anthem family. His infectious personality is only overshadowed by his immense talent as a songwriter. I'm looking forward to continuing to build on Jamie's already successful career!"

"After being friends with Noah Dewey for years and seeing the success he has had working with other writers, when the opportunity presented itself for us to work together, it just seemed like it was meant to be," says Paulin. "I'm looking forward to this new venture and working with Gilles [Godard], Noah, Courtney [Crist], Chandler [Thurston] and all the other folks at Anthem!" MR

Big Machine Music Extends Publishing Deals With Chart-Topping Songwriters



Pictured (L-R): Maddie & Tae, Jessie Jo Dillon and Laura Veltz

Big Machine Music (BMM) has extended its long-term, exclusive co-publishing agreements with chart-topping songwriters **Laura Veltz**, **Jessie Jo Dillon** and **Maddie & Tae.** The company is also celebrating its 11th anniversary.

"We're ecstatic to celebrate 11 years of Big Machine Music with the continuation of our partnerships with Laura Veltz, Jessie Jo Dillon and Maddie & Tae," says BMM's General Manager, **Mike Molinar**. "We feel privileged to enjoy commercially successful and personal relationships with all four of these uniquely gifted songwriting talents. Their trust in us is truly a validation of our long-term vision and approach."

Veltz, Billboard's 2022 Songwriter of the Year, has been with BMM for a decade. Since signing her deal in 2013, she has penned songs for **Demi Lovato**, **Maren Morris**, **Idina Menzel**, **Miranda Lambert**, **Thomas Rhett**, **Kelly Clarkson**, **Monsta X**, **Kane Brown** and more. Veltz has garnered four Grammy nominations, and was included in the Recording Academy's inaugural class of nominees for Songwriter of the Year earlier this year. She took home both the 2020 ACM and CMA Awards for Song of the Year as well as the 2021 BMI Pop Song of the Year, for Morris' chart-topping smash "The Bones."

Dillon first signed to BMM in 2016. She co-wrote **Dan + Shay** and **Justin Bieber**'s global, crossover smash "10,000 Hours" as well as **Cole Swindell**'s Grammy-nominated No. 1 "Break Up in The End," which earned her an ACM Awards Song of the Year nomination and NSAI Song of the Year. She is currently celebrating the rise of several tunes, including **Old Dominion**'s top 10-and-rising single "Memory Lane," **Catie Offerman**'s debut single "I Just Killed A Man" and **Megan Moroney**'s critically-acclaimed "Girl in The Mirror."

Maddie & Tae's **Maddie Font** and **Taylor Kerr** have also been with BMM for a decade. The award-winning duo first topped the charts with their Platinum-certified debut "Girl In A Country Song." They followed that up with top 10 Platinum "Fly" as well as Gold "Friends Don't." Maddie & Tae's triple-Platinum No. 1 smash "Die From A Broken Heart" earned ASCAP Country and Pop Awards in 2022, and solidified them as the first and only female twosome to score multiple No. 1s on the Country Airplay chart. **MR**

Bekah Digby Joins SiriusXM/Pandora

Bekah Digby has joined SiriusXM/Pandora as Associate Director of Talent & Industry Relations – Country & Christian. Digby steps into the role previously held by **Beville Dunkerley**, who stepped away from the position in March.

The California native has worked in the music industry for nine years. She spent two years at Universal Music Group before making her way to Music City. Her previous Nashville career stops include MV2 Entertainment, Capitol Christian Music Group, UMG Nashville and most recently, Big Machine Label Group (BMLG), where she rose to Director of Streaming earlier this year. As Director of Streaming, Digby led streaming efforts for Big Machine Records and worked on campaigns for the imprint's roster of artists including **Tim McGraw**, **Carly Pearce**, **Jackson Dean** and more. *MR*



Avery King Opens New PR Firm, King Publicity



Avery King has formed her own public relations firm: King Publicity.

Prior to starting her own firm, King served as Director of Publicity at Elicity PR. With the company for seven years, King worked with Elicity clients **Easton Corbin, Ben Rector, Carter Faith, Austin Burke** and more.

At her new firm, King will continue to represent clients Faith and Burke, as well as **Aaron Watson** and **Anna Rose.**

"Since I moved to Nashville seven years ago, I've been lucky enough to work with countless incredibly talented people. Along the way, I've made it my mission to encourage many artists to chase their dreams fearlessly, while providing them the best support I can," shares King. "Now, it's my turn to follow my own advice. I can't even express how honored and grateful I am to have such an amazing group of people in my corner cheering me on every step of the way. I look forward to continuing this journey and finding

new ways to better serve my clients and meet their needs."

King has been included on multiple executives-to-watch lists. She spent many years leading the board of SOLID, a local non-profit, where she coordinated efforts to raise over \$400,000 for the organization. King was a driving force behind the group's launch of their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force, a coordinated effort to increase representation in the industry. *MR*

MORE TOP STORIES

Mark Your Calendar—June 2023

<u>Lauren Alaina Unlocks New Chapter On Big Loud</u>
<u>Debut</u>

<u>Dierks Bentley To Host 2023 NHL Awards At</u> Bridgestone Arena

Shane McAnally & Brandy Clark Win The Outstanding Music Trophy At Drama Desk Awards

On The Row: Jenna Paulette Takes Us Back To Her Roots

33 Creative Adds Isaac Harris To Roster

<u>Jenna Harris Promoted To Partner At Ritholz</u> Levy Fields <u>SongwritingWith:Soldiers Is Allowing Veterans To</u> Find Their Voice [Interview]

Ingrid Andress To Open For Stevie Nicks

Randy Travis Inducted Into Louisiana Music Hall Of Fame

Old Dominion Readies Eight-Song Project, 'Memory Lane'

Recording Academy Elects National Officers, Leaders To 2023-2024 Board

Black River Publishing Signs McCall Chapin

Ricochet Signs With Encore Music Group

Industry Toasts To Carly Pearce's Fourth No. 1 Hit 'What He Didn't Do'

Music industry members gathered at Starstruck Entertainment on Music Row Tuesday afternoon (May 30) to celebrate **Carly Pearce**'s fourth career No. 1, "What He Didn't Do."

Pearce co-wrote the tune with **Ashley Gorley** and **Emily Shackelton**. It appears on her lauded studio album, *29: Written In Stone*, which was coproduced by **Josh Osborne** and **Shane McAnally**.

The celebration was thrown by ASCAP, BMI and Big Machine Records. Everyone was glad to see Big Machine label head **Scott Borchetta** in attendance since his serious racing accident. Many shared grateful sentiments about his recovery from the stage.

ASCAP's **Mike Sistad** kicked the party off by recognizing ASCAP's Pearce and Gorley. He spoke about each of them, reminding the crowd that Pearce is a Grammy, CMA and ACM Award-



"What He Didn't Do" collaborators with their MusicRow No. 1 Challenge Coins. Pictured (L-R): MusicRow's Sherod Robertson, Emily Shackelton, Carly Pearce, Ashley Gorley, MusicRow's LB Cantrell. Photo: Alexa Campbell

winning artist; and that Gorley, who has been named ASCAP's Country Songwriter of the Year nine times, recently won his first ACM Songwriter of the Year award and has notched 67 No. 1 songs.

BMI's **MaryAnn Keen** was on hand to support BMI songwriter Shackelton. She pointed out that "What He Didn't Do" was her second No. 1 song, and that her first was Pearce's "Every Little Thing."

"Both songs are unfortunately songs many of us can relate to, as far as breakups go," Keen said. "Fortunately, they make us feel a little more understood. That's the magic of these three."

Round Hill's **Lindsay Will** was the first publisher to speak. She thanked Pearce, the co-writers and the BMLG team. On behalf of Gorley, Round Hill made a donation to My Life Speaks Foundation.

BMG's Chris Oglesby stepped up to the mic to recognize BMG writers Pearce and Shackelton.

"I'm here to help celebrate one of the hardest working individuals I know in the music industry—or in the world. I'm blessed to be able to work with Carly Pearce," Oglesby said.

"We're thrilled to work with Emily as well," he added. "Your lyrics and melodies are unbelievably amazing."

Liz Rose, who also works with Shackelton, spoke about discovering her at BMI's Key West Songwriters Festival. "Emily, I'm so inspired by you always," Rose said.

Jess Busbee, widow of Pearce's former producer **Michael Busbee** and leader of AltaDena, shared some emotional words about her late husband's legacy. "It's so sweet how a legacy lives on," she said.

Big Machine Records General Manager **Clay Hunnicutt** and SVP of Promotion & Digital **Kris Lamb** gave a presentation about Pearce's unmatched work ethic and authentic artistry.



Pictured (L-R, front row): Josh Osborne, Carly Pearce, Scott Borchetta (BMLG), Ashley Gorley and Emily Shackelton; (L-R, back row): Mike Sistad (ASCAP), Clay Hunnicutt (BMLG), Andrew Kautz (BMLG), Mike Rittberg (BMLG), Kris Lamb (BMLG) and MaryAnn Keen (BMI). Photo: Alexa Campbell

"We never take days like this lightly. No. 1s are hard to come by and hard fought," Hunnicutt said. "Thanks to Carly for sharing your story. That's what this song is about." He let the crowd know that "What He Didn't Do" was Borchetta's 250th No. 1 song.

Lamb said, "Promo is very hard—I don't want to give you the illusion that it's not difficult—but it's so much easier with artists like Carly. She's the hardest working artist that I've ever had the opportunity to work with."

Osborne spoke about co-producing Pearce's record. He pointed out how, as a songwriter first, it's hard to hear great songs that you didn't write. He also highlighted the magic of songs written by Shackelton and Pearce, and said that Gorley is a great songwriter and friend.

"What Carly does for country music is important," Osborne said. "I'm so glad she is becoming the dominate force that she is. We need her in the format."

Next it was time to hear from the songwriters. Gorley went first, thanking God, his family, his publishers, ASCAP, BMLG, Osborne and McAnally and his co-writers.

"Like Josh said, Emily and Carly have the magic. They let me crash. It was the first time we all worked together," Gorley shared, adding that the three wrote another upbeat song before writing "What He Didn't Do." He said, "Carly tells you the honest truth. What needed to be written that day got written after we tried [writing something upbeat] for a couple of hours."

Shackelton thanked her family, publishers and Pearce's village. "I'm so grateful to God. The story never goes the way I want it to but he make it better in the end," she said.

Shackelton thanked Pearce for her relationship, piling on the praise for the country star's work ethic. She also gave more insight into Gorley's contribution to the song.

"I learned so much from you that day," she said to Gorley. "The fact that you heard Carly say something off the cuff and were able to say, 'Sit down. We're writing that,' was awesome. It's no wonder you have [so many] No. 1s."

When Pearce stepped up the mic, she added to the creation story of "What He Didn't Do."

"We were packing up, like they said. We had already written a song. Ashley looked at me and said, 'What did he do?' I said, 'What didn't he do?' He said, 'Sit down," Pearce shared. "It's been a powerful thing."

Pearce recognized each member of her team, individually thanking each of them. She summed, "The thing that continues to be a constant in my life is music. I feel very grateful to know that I have a purpose in writing songs that people can connect to." *MR*



Pictured (L-R): Ashley Gorley, Carly Pearce and Emily Skackelton. Standing: Josh Osborne. Photo: Alexa Campbell



TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Ashley Gorley	God Gave Me A Girl All I Need Is You Last Night You Proof Thinkin' Bout Me One Thing At A Time Cowgirls Everything I Love Truck Bed Girl In Mine Whiskey Friends	Russell Dickerson Chris Janson Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Horgan Wallen Hardy Parmalee Morgan Wallen
2	4	Zachary Lane Bryan	Something In The Orange Dawns Sun To Me	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan feat. Maggie Rogers Zach Bryan
3	3	Ryan Vojtesak	Last Night You Proof Thinkin' Bout Me One Thing At A Time Cowgirls Everything I Love Whiskey Friends Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby)	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
4	5	Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
5	2	Morgan Wallen	Wild As Her Brown Eyes Baby You Proof One Thing At A Time I Wrote The Book Everything I Love Whiskey Friends Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) Born With A Beer In My Hand	Corey Kent Keith Urban Morgan Wallen
6	6	John Byron	Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me Sunrise '98 Braves I Deserve A Drink	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
7	8	Chase McGill	God Gave Me A Girl But I Got A Beer In My Hand Creek Will Rise Next Thing You Know Ain't That Some 5 Leaf Clover	Russell Dickerson Luke Bryan Conner Smith Jordan Davis Morgan Wallen Luke Combs
8	7	Ernest Keith Smith	You Proof One Thing At A Time Cowgirls Everything I Love Whiskey Friends Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby)	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
9	9	Tony Lane	Human	Cody Johnson
10	10	Travis Meadows	Human	Cody Johnson
11	14	Luke Combs	Love You Anyway 5 Leaf Clover Growin' Up and Gettin' Old	Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs
12	13	Josh Thompson	Brown Eyes Baby Stars Like Confetti Angels Don't Always Have Wings Dying Man Whiskey Friends Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby)	Keith Urban Dustin Lynch Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
13	15	Jessi Alexander	Light On In The Kitchen You, Me, And Whiskey 5 Leaf Clover	Ashley McBryde Justin Moore & Priscilla Block Luke Combs
14	17	Jet Harvey	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
15	18	Jacob Hackworth	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
16	19	Heath Warren	Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman
17	20	David Fanning	Tennessee Orange Girl In Mine	Megan Moroney Parmalee
18	22	Dan Isbell	Fires Don't Start Themselves Love You Anyway	Darius Rucker Luke Combs
19	35	Jordan Schmidt	We Got History Bury Me In Georgia Drinkaby	Mitchell Tenpenny Kane Brown Cole Swindell
20	25	Rhett Akins	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
21	26	Scotty McCreery	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
22	27	Lee Thomas Miller	It Matters To Her	Scotty McCreery
23	16	Michael Hardy	Heaven By Then I Wrote The Book Truck Bed Drinkaby Born With A Beer In My Hand	Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill Morgan Wallen Hardy Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen
24	24	Jacob Kasher	Last Night	Morgan Wallen
25	28	Ray Fulcher	Love You Anyway	Luke Combs
26	23	Blake Pendergrass	Ain't That Some Sunrise Dying Man	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
27	41	Megan Moroney	Tennessee Orange I'm Not Pretty	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney
28	42	Ben Williams	Tennessee Orange I'm Not Pretty	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney
29	12	Ross Copperman	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
30	29	Jon Nite	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
31	30	Keith Urban	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
32	31	Tyler Hubbard	Dancin' In The Country	Tyler Hubbard
33	34	Brock Berryhill	Heaven By Then You, Me, And Whiskey	Brantley Gilbert & Blake Shleton feat. Vince Gill Justin Moore & Priscilla Block
34	55	Josh Hoge	Thank God Bury Me In Georgia	Kane Brown with Katelyn Brown Kane Brown
35	11	Brett Tyler	Wild As Her Man Made A Bar	Corey Kent Morgan Wallen (Feat. Eric Church)
36	36	Jordan Reynolds	You	Dan + Shay
37	37	Dave Barnes	You	Dan + Shay
38	38	Dan Smyers	You	Dan + Shay
39	46	John Pierce	Giving Up On That Your Heart Or Mine	Dalton Dover Jon Pardi
40	40	Cole Taylor	You, Me, And Whiskey	Justin Moore & Priscilla Block
41	43	Paul Jenkins	Tennessee Orange	Megan Moroney
42	47	Justin Ebach	Your Heart Or Mine	Jon Pardi
43	48	Bart Butler	Your Heart Or Mine	Jon Pardi
44	39	Josh Osborne	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis
45	44	Jordan Davis	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis
46	45	Greylan James	Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis
47	51	Jessie Jo Dillon	Memory Lane	Old Dominion
48	52	Brad Tursi	Memory Lane	Old Dominion
49	53	Trevor Rosen	Memory Lane	Old Dominion



TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
50	54	Matthew Ramsey	Memory Lane	Old Dominion
51	60	Bryan Simpson	Everything She Ain't	Hailey Whitters
52	61	Ryan Tyndell	Everything She Ain't	Hailey Whitters
53	62	Hailey Whitters	Everything She Ain't	Hailey Whitters
54	56	Rob Ragosta	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
55	57	Joe Ragosta	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
56	58	Austin Nivarel	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
57	59	Jason DeFord	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
58	64	Julian Bunetta	Angels Don't Always Have Wings If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too)	Thomas Rhett Kelsea Ballerini
59	66	Thomas Rhett	Stars Like Confetti Angels Don't Always Have Wings	Dustin Lynch Thomas Rhett
60	50	Travis Wood	Drive You Out Of My Mind '98 Braves Girl In Mine	Kassi Ashton Morgan Wallen Parmalee

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

June 2

Lanco/Sound of a Saturday Night/Riser House Records

Jenna DeVries/Self Made Man

Matt Jordan/Anyone But Me/ONErpm

June 5

Nate Smith/World on Fire/Sony Music Nashville

June 9

Ashley Jordan/Angels and Demons/ABlaze Entertainment

Album/EP Releases

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

June 9

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit/Weathervanes/Southeastern Records/Thirty Tigers

Chase Matthew/Come Get Your Memory/Warner Music Nashville

Kimberly Perry/Bloom/Records Nashville/Columbia Records

Lauren Alaina/Unlocked/Big Loud Records

Brooke Eden/Outlaw Love/BBR Music Group

Colby Acuff/Western White Pines/Sony Music Nashville

Mike Kuster/Country So Fresh You Have To Check Your Boots

Industry Events

June 8 - 11

CMA Fest

June 20

BMI Christian Awards