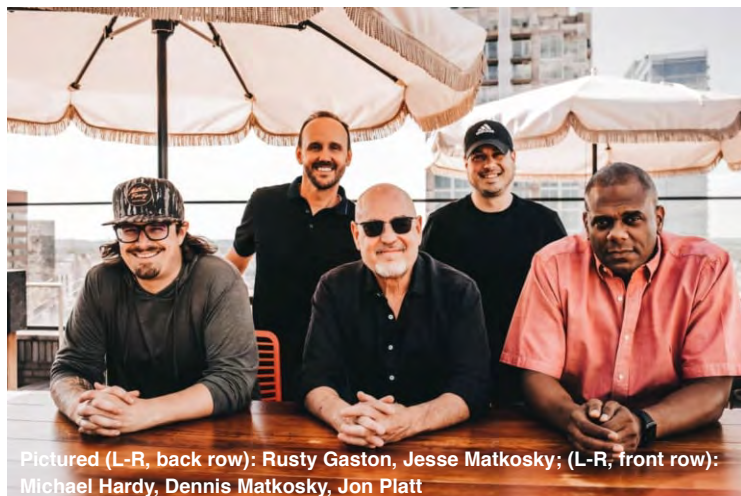


Sony Music Publishing Signs Global Deal With Relative Music Group



Pictured (L-R, back row): Rusty Gaston, Jesse Matkosky; (L-R, front row): Michael Hardy, Dennis Matkosky, Jon Platt

Sony Music Publishing Nashville has signed a global publishing agreement with publishing and artist development company Relative Music Group.

Founded in 2017 by father/son duo **Dennis** and **Jesse Matkosky**, Relative Music Group has quickly found success with its first signed act, **Michael Hardy**, who recently became a Partner at the company.

Hardy has become one of Music Row's most in-demand songwriters, with hits including his own No. 1 single "One Beer" featuring Lauren Alaina and Devin Dawson, as well as Blake Shelton's "God's Country," Morgan Wallen's "Up Down," Cole Swindell's current top 5 hit "Single Saturday Night," and many more. As an artist, the ACM New Male Artist of the Year nominee released his acclaimed debut album *A Rock* in 2020.

"Relative Music Group has done an incredible job of championing songwriters with an independent spirit that embodies everything that makes Music Row special. We're thrilled to partner with Dennis, Jesse and Michael as we work together to elevate their company and vision to new heights," says Sony Music Publishing Nashville CEO **Rusty Gaston**.

Founders of Relative Music Group, Dennis and Jesse Matkosky, add, "We are so excited to be working with Rusty and the entire Sony Music Publishing family. It is clear they believe in our vision for the future of Relative Music Group and will be the perfect partners to help us get there."

Hardy says, "It's a dream come true to become partners with such great people. I'm excited to be working with the Sony team as well as my family,

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Sony Music Publishing Inks With Relative Music Group

Taylor Swift Announces Second Re-Recorded Album

Carly Pearce Invited To Join The Grand Ole Opry

Luke Bryan Reveals Upcoming Docuseries

CMHOF To Open New Martina McBride Exhibit

Hillary Lindsey's Hang Your Hat Music Signs Two

Academy Of Country Music Promotes Four

Joe Clemmons Signs With UMPG Nashville

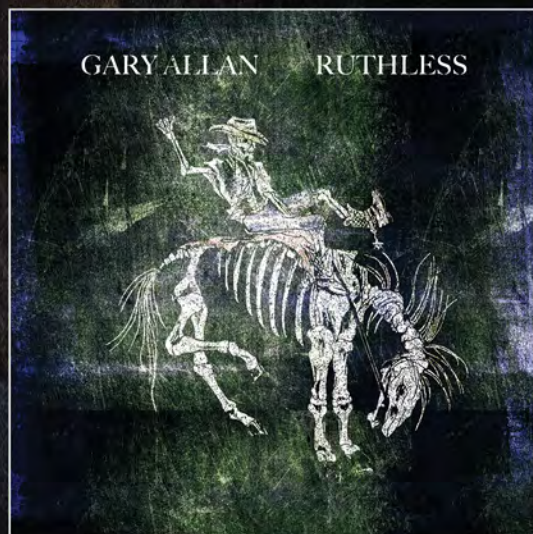
Joybeth Taylor Inks With Kane Brown's Verse 2 Music

Jenna Paulette Signs With Sea Gayle Music

DISClaimer Singles Reviews

And much more...

GARY ALLAN RUTHLESS



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Dennis Matkosky and Jesse Matkosky. I feel like this is just the beginning for us and I can't wait to see what the future holds with Relative Music"

Relative Music Group is also home to **Bailey Bryan**, who has recently had success with her new single "Play W/ Me," which earned viral TikTok traction and has accumulated over 2 million views. In addition to creative development, the company specializes in a wide range of services for its songwriters, including synch. The company has secured over 350 synch placements throughout film and television, including promotions for Apple, Coke, the hit series Game Of Thrones, and many more. **MR**

Taylor Swift Announces Second Re-Recorded Album Will Be 'Red (Taylor's Version)'

Taylor Swift announced that the next phase of her re-release project will be *Red (Taylor's Version)*. The newest album will be available everywhere on Nov. 19.

"In the land of heartbreak, moments of strength, independence, and devil-may-care rebellion are intricately woven together with grief, paralyzing vulnerability and hopelessness. Imagining your future might always take you on a detour back to the past. And this is all to say, that the next album I'll be releasing is my version of *Red*," she announced via social media.

Red, Swift's Grammy-nominated and award-winning album, was originally released in 2012 and included a plethora of hit singles for the artist, including "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," "I Knew You Were Trouble," "22," "Everything Has Changed" with **Ed Sheeran**, the album's title track "Red," and fan-favorite "All Too Well." After its release in October of 2012, the project spent seven weeks at the top of the *Billboard* 200, making Swift the first female artist—and the second act since the Beatles—to have three consecutive albums each spend at least six weeks at No. 1. *Red*, Swift's fourth studio album, was also certified 7x Platinum.



With such an impressive list of accolades associated with the original album, Swift will be taking on quite a feat as she reimagines the effort. This will be the second re-release Swift will deliver, after having released *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* in April. *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* featured re-recorded versions of all 19 tracks from the 2008 edition of *Fearless*, in addition to Swift's 2010 single "Today Was a Fairytale," and six additional songs not included on the original album. The re-recorded version of *Fearless* reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200 chart, and became the first re-recorded album to ever do so.

"Like trying on pieces of a new life, I went into the studio and experimented with different sounds and collaborators," Swift writes of *Red (Taylor's Version)*. "And I'm not sure if it was pouring my thoughts into this album, hearing thousands of your voices sing the lyrics back to me in passionate solidarity, or if it was simply time, but something was healed along the way."

Swift also told fans that *Red (Taylor's Version)* will include 30 tracks, all of which were meant to go on the original project. **MR**

A portrait of country music artist Jimmie Allen. He is wearing a tan cowboy hat with a brown band, a red bandana, and a black leather jacket over a dark t-shirt. He is looking down and to the left, with his right hand near his chin. The background is dark and moody.

**JIMMIE
ALLEN**

2021 ACM NEW MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

NEW ALBUM

BETTIE JAMES
GOLD EDITION

OUT NOW

NEWLY FEATURED ARTISTS INCLUDE

BABYFACE, BRELAND, KEITH URBAN, LANCO, LATHAN WARLICK, LINDSAY ELL,
LITTLE BIG TOWN, LOCASH, MONICA, NEON UNION, PITBULL, teamwork. AND VIKINA

“THIS IS REALLY A PROJECT THAT SAYS, ‘HEY, I AM A COUNTRY STAR,
I COMPLETELY BELONG HERE, I AM A MASTER OF THIS FORM.’” – **NPR**

“JIMMIE ALLEN HAS RECRUITED A HIGH-POWER GUEST LIST.” – **ROLLING STONE COUNTRY**

“A POWERFUL STATEMENT.” – **BILLBOARD**



Carly Pearce Invited To Join The Grand Ole Opry



Carly Pearce has been invited to be the latest Grand Ole Opry Member by the iconic Opry Member **Dolly Parton**. The invite happened off the Opry stage late last week, and the public announcement was held until Pearce's Opry appearance on June 22 so she could experience the moment on the hallowed stage.

It was a full circle moment for the CMA and double ACM Award winner, who cut her teeth as a performer at Dollywood when she was a teenager. When the invitation was extended as seen in the video, Pearce thought she was taping a promotion for the theme park. This is the first time Parton has asked someone to become a member of country's longest running institution.

After the invitation video played for the packed Opry House, the crowd stood in applause as Carly expressed, "Truly this is the most precious place and the most precious family I could ever be a part of. I've experienced so many wonderful things in my career so far, but this takes the cake!"

"When one of ours has a special moment, it's an honor to be part of that," Parton said. "Carly is a real songwriter and bright heart – and I loved getting to ask her to do something so very special."

For Pearce, who has played the Grand Ole Opry 85 times, it was a moment she will never forget.

"[The Opry has] been the greatest love of my life since I was a young girl listening with my grandparents. All of the greatest writers, legends and pioneers have been on that stage, and I feel them in my bones anytime I walk in the stage door... To actually be asked to join the Opry family, there are no words," Pearce said.

"Carly Pearce and the Opry have enjoyed a most special relationship since even before she made her Opry debut," said Opry Executive Producer **Dan Rogers**. "We've loved every minute of watching her star grow over the past few years and are thankful she reveres the Opry after more than 80 appearances even more than she did on her first night with us. Every night she plays the Opry, I try to make my way back to her to thank her for taking the time to visit us. Every single time she replies, 'It's my favorite place to be.' Here's to the Opry being Carly's favorite place to be for the rest of what will no doubt be a long, successful career."

Pearce will be officially inducted on Tuesday, Aug. 3. **MR**



Luke Bryan Lets Viewers Read His 'Dirt Road Diary' In Upcoming Docuseries



A new five-part docuseries takes a deep dive into country superstar **Luke Bryan**'s life and career in the IMDb TV original *Luke Bryan: My Dirt Road Diary*. The series follows Bryan as he experiences the ups, downs, triumphs, and tragedies of his successful career. A trailer is out now that previews the new series, which will premier Friday, Aug. 6, exclusively on IMDb TV, Amazon's premium free streaming service.

Through original home videos, interviews, and incredibly personal footage, viewers will get a backstage pass experience into the life of the superstar. "This series underscores Luke Bryan's unique and inspiring ability to handle every personal tragedy with grace and every professional success with humility, inspiring audiences to do the same," says **Lauren Anderson** and **Ryan Pirozzi**, co-heads of content and programming at IMDb TV. "We are honored that IMDb TV is the home for this moving, never-before-seen look at Bryan's world

"The devotion and support of my fans are the reason I have made it this far in my career," says Bryan. "Life can be tough, and the past 15 months have been very difficult for everyone. I hope in sharing this raw look into my life that it may be an encouragement to others. Through the heartaches, triumphs can come." **MR**

Country Music Hall Of Fame And Museum To Open New Martina McBride Exhibit



Martina McBride's three-decade career will be highlighted in a new Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum exhibit, *Martina McBride: The Power of Her Voice*, opening July 30 through Aug. 7, 2022.

The exhibit encompasses the singer's journey from her formative years performing in her family's band as a child to becoming an award-winning country artist with an enduring career. Known for hits including "Independence Day" and "A Broken Wing," the Kansas native released her major label debut in 1992 and had her first top ten on the *Billboard* country chart in 1993 with "My Baby Loves Me." Inspired by forerunners such as Linda Ronstadt, Reba McEntire, and Connie Smith, McBride helped further modernize the image of female artists in country music, choosing material that often highlighted women's strengths.

McBride's second album, *The Way That I Am* crossed the million-seller plateau in May 1995 and began a streak of Platinum albums stretching into the 2000's. She won four CMA Female Vocalist of the Year awards, three consecutively (1999, 2002-2004), and three consecutive ACM Top Female Vocalist honors from 2001–2003, and in November of 1995, she became a member of the Grand Ole Opry. After years of crossover pop success, McBride returned to her roots in traditional country with her 2005 album, *Timeless*, and albums that followed from 2007 to 2016 reached the Top Five on the country album chart. In 2015, she became a lead voice in combatting the dwindling airplay given to female country artists, and the Academy of Country Music presented her with the Clifftone Icon Award in 2019 for her contributions to country music. **MR**



DYNAMITE

Kate Russell

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Hillary Lindsey's Hang Your Hat Music Signs Two



Pictured (L-R): Jen Hubbard, A&R Director, Concord Music Publishing; Jake Gear, GM, Hang Your Hat Music; Ben Chapman; Hillary Lindsey, Founder, Hang Your Hat Music; Brad Kennard, SVP A&R, Concord Music Publishing



Pictured (L-R): Jen Hubbard, A&R Director, Concord Music Publishing; Jake Gear, GM, Hang Your Hat Music; Meg Mc Ree; Hillary Lindsey, Founder, Hang Your Hat Music; Brad Kennard, SVP A&R, Concord Music Publishing

Hang Your Hat Music, a creative joint venture with Concord Music Publishing founded by two-time ACM Songwriter of the Year **Hillary Lindsey**, has signed two Nashville-based songwriters and artists, **Ben Chapman** and **Meg McRee**, to worldwide publishing deals.

"When we were talking about forming Hang Your Hat Music, Jake played me some of Ben's music they were working on and I was instantly drawn in and intrigued," says Lindsey. "I love real people, and real people are hard to find but without even meeting Ben, I was in because he's so authentic with who he is as a person as well as with his artistry. When we finally did speak on the phone during quarantine, I fell in love with him even more. Then after getting to write with Ben, I knew my gut was right—damn what a talent! The second time we wrote together, Ben pulled in Meg, and within an hour of writing with her, I was all in as well. Meg is so smart with her lyrics, thoughtful with the way she writes, can sing her face off and I knew she was the real deal too. I'm so excited for them to be a part of the Hang Your Hat family—and to see how this next chapter unfolds for them."

Originally from LaFayette, Georgia, Chapman started playing in bars at the age of 17, where he piqued the interest of a few seasoned Nashville songwriters. His music is heavily inspired by the smooth groove and hard-hitting sounds of the '70s, pulling inspirations from bands like the Allman Brothers, Little Feat, and Hank Williams, Jr. and songwriting legends Guy Clark and Roger Miller.

"I feel so fortunate to be working with a team that encourages me to find my own sound and write songs that are authentic to me," says Chapman. "From the short time I've worked with Hang Your Hat and Concord it already feels like family."

Chapman and McRee are both working on their debut albums, which are scheduled to be released later this year. Chapman is working alongside Hang Your Hat Music GM, **Jake Gear**, who serves as lead producer on the album.

Hailing from Sugar Hill, Georgia, McRee began her music journey at the age of five, learning to play classical violin and also teaching herself guitar. She attended Vanderbilt University, where she discovered her pull towards music, and pursued multiple internships on Music Row in Nashville. McRee stays true to the tradition of country music, creating fresh sounds and lyrics, all while honoring her southern beliefs.

"Hang Your Hat and Concord felt like the perfect home for me from the start," says McRee. "I'm thrilled and honored to get to work with the best publishers and songwriters in the industry so early in my career." **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

The Worst Country Song Of All Time/Brantley Gilbert feat. Toby Keith and HARDY/Valory — 58

You'll Always Be My Baby/Alan Jackson/EMI Records
Nashville — 71

Lil Bit/Nelly & Florida Georgia Line/RECORDS/Columbia — 75

American Summer/Kylie Trout/Kylie Trout Music — 77

Evangeline/Sammy Kershaw/White Mustang Records — 78

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

The Worst Country Song Of All Time/Brantley Gilbert feat. Toby Keith and HARDY/Valory — 250

Same Boat/Zac Brown Band/Home Grown Music/Warner Music
Nashville — 209

Hillbilly Shake/AC Thomas/Birmingham Entertainment — 120

You Should Probably Leave/Chris Stapleton/Mercury
Nashville — 101

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

The Worst Country Song Of All Time/Brantley Gilbert feat. Toby Keith and HARDY/Valory — 22

Same Boat/Zac Brown Band/Home Grown Music/Warner Music
Nashville — 15

Hillbilly Shake/AC Thomas/Birmingham Entertainment — 13

How Far Can It Go?/Hailey Whitters feat. Trisha Yearwood/Big Loud/S&D/Pegasus — 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Better Than You're Used To/Tyler Rich/Valory — 161

Make It To Memphis/Shelley Lynch/Lynch Records — 151

Bring Me Back That Feeling/Shine/Manustix Music — 146

NO. 1 SONG



Luke Bryan's "Waves" occupies the No. 1 position for a second week on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart. In April, the single swept that charts as the most added and highest debut for its impact week debuting at No. 35 on the *MusicRow* Chart.

"Waves" was written by **Zach Crowell**, **Ryan Hurd**, and **Chase McGill**. The song also appears on the deluxe version of Bryan's album [Born Here Live Here Die Here](#).

A new docuseries examines Bryan's life as he experiences the ups, downs, triumphs, and tragedies of his successful career. *Luke Bryan: My Dirt Road Diary* will premiere on Aug. 6 via IMDb TV, Amazon's premium free streaming service. [Click here to watch a preview](#).



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 Connersville, 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 +/-
11	1	1	Waves / Luke Bryan / Capitol	1696/59	-8	-152
19	3	2	Things A Man Oughta Know / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow	1681/55	2	29
32	4	3	Memory I Don't Mess With / Lee Brice / Curb	1662/63	4	60
15	6	4	Like A Lady / Lady A / BMLG	1543/62	5	76
27	8	5	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen. / Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line / Broken Bow/Dack Janiels	1480/53	5	65
20	5	6	Glad You Exist / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville/WAR	1475/47	-7	-105
24	7	7	Tequila Little Time / Jon Pardi / Capitol	1461/63	3	43
17	9	8	Knowing You / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	1434/59	2	28
43	10	9	Single Saturday Night / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1356/42	6	81
28	11	10	Cold Beer Calling My Name / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	1312/57	3	43
24	13	11	My Boy / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records	1209/49	0	5
33	12	12	Just About Over You / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	1209/56	-1	-11
5	15	13	I Was On A Boat That Day / Old Dominion / Arista Nashville	1192/51	8	92
24	14	14	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	1134/55	2	19
35	16	15	If It Wasn't For Trucks / Riley Green / BMLG	1018/46	-1	-9
20	17	16	Okfuskee Whiskey / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	972/51	2	23
10	18	17	Half Of My Hometown / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	969/49	5	43
22	19	18	To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	882/49	5	40
32	21	19	You Time / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	871/42	4	32
13	22	20	Chasing After You / Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris / Arista Nashville	862/46	7	56
18	23	21	Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville	813/44	3	20
21	24	22	Freedom Was A Highway / Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley / Stoney Creek Records	800/40	1	10
16	25	23	Under It With You Tonight / Smith & Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville	747/40	1	11
6	31	24	You Should Probably Leave / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	739/45	16	101
14	26	25	My Masterpiece / Darius Rucker / Capitol	736/37	1	10
13	28	26	ABBY / Travis Denning / Mercury Nashville	720/38	4	25
17	27	27	I Can't / Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion / Monument Records	709/42	1	9
13	29	28	Then A Girl Walks In / Shenandoah & Blake Shelton / Foundry Records	699/41	1	5
18	33	29	Gettin' Her Over You / Bobby Wills / Willing	653/35	6	38
12	32	30	Might As Well Be Me / Dew Pendleton / HippieRedneckGospeLove/GrassRoots	651/43	4	24
21	30	31	Shallow / Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood / Pearl Records	635/31	-2	-13
9	35	32	I'm Not For Everyone / Brothers Osborne / EMI Records Nashville	615/36	9	51
9	34	33	Not Yet / Brett Young / BMLG	600/38	5	31
8	36	34	Fill Them Boots / Chris Lane / Big Loud Records	552/40	10	49
7	37	35	Tip Jar / Jackson Michelson / Curb	533/36	8	41
9	41	36	It's Cause I Am / Callista Clark / Big Machine	514/36	17	75
2	56	37	Same Boat / Zac Brown Band / Home Grown Music/Warner Music Nashville	488/33	75	209
17	40	38	It's All Yours / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	488/26	7	33
14	39	39	Treasure / Mary Heather Hickman / Rolling River Records	482/30	6	26

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
30	38	40	Worship You / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	458/23	-5	-25
5	42	41	Back Then, Right Now / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand Records	445/35	11	43
11	43	42	Show Off / Queeva / CMD Music	430/26	8	33
7	45	43	Thinking 'Bout You / Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter / Broken Bow	406/29	5	19
17	47	44	Gotta Go Rodeo / Darlinghurst / Helium	394/22	7	25
17	44	45	Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	394/23	0	-1
15	46	46	Homesick / Veronika / Whattaguy Music	387/26	0	0
12	48	47	Villain / Lily Rose / Big Loud Records	375/24	2	9
17	50	48	Same Dirt Road / Eric Lee / Blue Hill Records	368/24	11	35
8	49	49	Woman You Got / Maddie & Tae / Mercury	368/26	10	32
13	51	50	Old School's In / Heath Sanders / Valory	345/23	4	13
2	59	51	Never Mine / Craig Campbell / Grindstone Records	344/29	26	72
27	52	52	Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	320/22	-2	-5
7	53	53	Pretend He's You / Ashley Barron / SSM Nashville	304/26	4	12
12	58	54	Lonely Girl / Danny Kensy / Rad Records	302/17	11	29
9	54	55	That Ain't Me No More / Matt Stell / RECORDS/Arista Nashville	291/21	1	4
5	64	56	Good Life / Kip Moore / MCA Nashville	288/19	21	49
3	60	57	Get Lost / Lucas Hoge / Forge Entertainment Group	286/21	11	28
1	159	58	The Worst Country Song Of All Time / Brantley Gilbert feat. Toby Keith and HARDY / Valory	270/23	127	250
9	62	59	Hot Beer / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	264/16	5	13
4	63	60	Local Honey / Mo Pitney / Curb	259/19	7	16
9	61	61	Found My Home / Lucie Tiger / 2120 Music	259/18	0	1
3	68	62	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) / Elle King & Miranda Lambert / RCA Nashville	258/18	22	47
13	57	63	Lady Like / Ingrid Andress / Warner Music Nashville	251/17	-9	-24
8	66	64	Moonlight / Kevin McCoy Band / Honky Tonk Hippie	248/13	16	34
6	65	65	Something Good To Miss / Juna N Joey / River Run Records	226/20	4	8
9	67	66	Got Me This Far / Donny Lee / Donny Lee Music	221/17	4	8
4	71	67	Princess / Dallas Remington / RoadWarrior Records	209/20	9	17
8	70	68	Is It Me And You / Lisa Brokop / Amersong	208/16	1	2
5	69	69	Growing Up Too Fast / Jon Wayne Hatfield / Soundstage Music	208/15	0	0
3	73	70	Dirt / Elise Harper / Skyfall Music	205/17	10	18
1	85	71	You'll Always Be My Baby / Alan Jackson / EMI Records Nashville	199/15	50	66
2	75	72	Summer Song / Chris Kroeze /	191/15	12	21
5	74	73	Old School / Lance Wade Thomas / Shady Grove Records	190/12	3	6
7	72	74	Don't Get Better Than That / Tim Thurman / Tim Thurman Band	190/13	1	1
1	84	75	Lil Bit / Nelly & Florida Georgia Line / RECORDS/Columbia	186/13	39	52
2	80	76	Fine / Mira Goto / ArtistMax	180/17	18	27
1	82	77	American Summer / Kylie Trout / Kylie Trout Music	178/15	20	30
1	87	78	Evangeline / Sammy Kershaw / White Mustang Records	171/14	32	41
5	77	79	Okay, Momma? / Connor Jameson / 615Nash Records	169/11	6	9
5	76	80	I'll Get You Back Again / The Ashley Sisters / GKM Records	166/12	0	0

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Academy Of Country Music Promotes Four



Pictured (clockwise): Brandon Campbell, Bridget Cirone, Jen Heaton, Libby Gardner

The Academy of Country Music announced several promotions within three departments.

Jen Heaton will assume the role of Vice President, Strategic Partnerships; **Brandon Campbell** has been promoted to Director, Creative & Content; **Bridget Cirone** will assume the role of Manager, Marketing; and **Libby Gardner** has been promoted to Manager, Creative & Content.

[Read more about their promotions here.](#)

“The Academy is so thrilled to recognize the promotions of Jen, Brandon, Bridget and Libby,” says CEO of the Academy, **Damon Whiteside**. “All of these individuals have continued to showcase their hard work, perseverance and knowledge in their areas of expertise, helping to make this past year one of ACM’s most groundbreaking years ever. I look forward to seeing them continue to grow in their careers and enhance our organization for years to come.” **MR**

Joe Clemmons Inks Publishing Deal With UMPG Nashville

Universal Music Publishing Nashville has signed **Joe Clemmons** to an exclusive, worldwide publishing agreement. The songwriter has had cuts with Gabby Barrett, Hardy, Brian Kelley, Ryan Hurd, Kameron Marlowe, Catie O’Hara, and Josh Abbott Band.

The east Texas native moved to Nashville in 2008, where he developed his passion for guitar and songwriting while attending Belmont University. He spent several years on the road as a touring musician with artists Hurd, Hardy, Maren Morris, Steve Moakler, and more, before choosing to focus solely on songwriting in 2017. Clemmons co-wrote “Rose Needs A Jack” on Barrett’s highly acclaimed debut album as well as Hurd’s “Wish For The World,” which earned the writers a 2020 AIMP Nashville Awards Publisher’s Pick nomination.



“A true song crafter and exceptional player, Joe is one of the most exciting talents for his generation of songwriters. We are beyond excited to be representing him at UMPG,” says Senior Director A&R, UMPG Nashville **Missy Roberts**.

“I have always been such a fan of the UMPG Nashville team. They consistently succeed at developing songwriters and taking them to the next level,” shares Clemmons. “After meeting with Missy and **Terry Wakefield**, I felt like I found a place where I could really thrive as a songwriter. I have such respect for them and all they have accomplished, and it’s an honor to join the Universal Music Family.” **MR**

Joybeth Taylor Inks With Kane Brown's Verse 2 Music



Pictured (Back Row, L-R): President, Verse 2 Kent Earls, Mya Hansen, Manager of Creative, A&R-Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Rusty Gaston, CEO Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Scott Safford Safford Motley PLC. (Front Row, L-R): Kane Brown and Verse 2's Joybeth Taylor

Joybeth Taylor has signed with Verse 2 Music, the Sony Music Publishing joint venture helmed by **Kane Brown** and publishing veteran **Kent Earls**.

An Alabama native who began writing songs at the age of seven, Taylor moved to Nashville after to pursue her passion for songwriting. She has independently penned more than 200 songs per year, and made her debut as an artist in 2019 with her EP / *See Memories*.

"After listening to just a few of her songs, we knew Joybeth was destined for greatness and will add immense value to our roster," says Earls, president, Verse 2 Music. "We can't wait for the world to hear many of her incredible songs. It is an honor to be her first publisher. Welcome to the family, JB!"

"I have prayed for this for years," shares Taylor. "To be able to work with a team like Sony and Verse 2 surpasses everything I prayed for. I'm so grateful to have found a home and family that truly believe in what I do. This is just the beginning!" **MR**

Jenna Paulette Signs Publishing Deal With Sea Gayle Music



Pictured (Top Row, L-R): Brandon Gregg, JD Groover, and Kim Wiggins (Sea Gayle); (Middle Row, L-R): Helena Capps (Wildrose Projects); Emily Witters (Sea Gayle); MaryAnn Keen (BMI); (Bottom Row, L-R): Marc Driskill (Sea Gayle); Jenna Paulette; Chris DuBois (Sea Gayle)

Jenna Paulette has signed a global publishing deal with Sea Gayle Music. Her new single, "Country In The Girl," will be released this Friday, June 25, via her independent label, Grit Brand Entertainment. The upcoming track was penned with fellow Sea Gayle writers **Jeb Gipson** and **Smith Ahnquist**, and has already achieved viral success prior to its official release, with a preview of the chorus racking up over 2.5 million views.

Born and raised in Dallas, Paulette is a staple of the Song Suffragettes, the weekly female singer-songwriter showcase at Nashville's Listening Room Café. Her songs have appeared on Apple Music's "Breaking Country" playlist, Google Play's "Country's New Crop" playlist, and Radio Disney. Paulette was named one of CMT's Discovery Artists, and has also toured with Mason Ramsey, Clay Walker, and Joe Nichols, among others.

"Viacom/CMT's **Leslie Fram** first introduced me to **Marc Driskill** at Sea Gayle Music," shares Paulette. "After that initial meeting, Sea Gayle felt like the right place for me. From the writers to each member of their team, including the wonderful **Emily Witters**, I truly feel I now have so many champions. It's such a collaborative environment, and I am honored to belong on their roster of writers." **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: The Isaacs, Nathaniel Rateliff, Yola, Valerie June



The Isaacs

The Fourth of July is almost upon us, and Disclaimer has the song for the holiday.

Our Disc of the Day winner is “The American Face” by The Isaacs. Previously noted for their work in Southern-gospel and bluegrass settings, the family band steps out with a solid country-rocker that will make you feel patriotic no matter what your political leanings.

It is just one of the many pleasures to be found in this week’s overview of current Americana sounds. Your ears will thank you when you lend them to John Hiatt, Nathaniel Rateliff, Yola, Valerie June and several others gathered here.

The DisCOVERY Award goes to singer-songwriter Grant Maloy Smith.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Unreleased Johnny Cash Live Album ‘At The Carousel Ballroom’ To Come In September](#)

[Music Row Veteran Larry Sheridan Passes](#)

[Live In The Vineyard Goes Country Returns To Napa, Zac Brown Band To Headline](#)

[Kelsea Ballerini Seeks Out New Creative Venture With Poetry Collection ‘Feel Your Way Through’](#)

[Drew Green Signs With WME \[Exclusive\]](#)

[Trisha Yearwood Celebrates 30-Year Career With ‘Every Girl: Deluxe’](#)

[Veteran Reporter Jim Bessman Passes](#)

[Granger Smith To Launch Online Radio Station, Yee Yee Radio](#)

[Hannah Dasher Cooks Up ‘The Half Record,’ Out July 9](#)

[Recording Academy Restructures Leadership, Names Co-Presidents](#)

[Chase Rice Gives Acoustic Treatment To ‘The Album,’ Available Now](#)

[Jake Owen To Host One-Night-Only Concert Benefitting The CMA Foundation](#)

[SoundExchange Distributes Over \\$940 Million In Performance Royalties During 2020](#)

[Cracker Barrel Launches Care It Forward With Shane McAnally, CeCe Winans, Jennifer Nettles](#)

[Lanco Announces Honky Tonk Hippies Tour, New 5-Song EP](#)

Acclaimed Nashville Songwriter Ross Copperman Finds Artist Voice Again [Interview]

With 30 No. 1 country songs to his credit, **Ross Copperman** is a well-known name on Music Row. He's been a part of massive country hits with Kenny Chesney, Dierks Bentley, Keith Urban, Darius Rucker and more. He's earned numerous songwriter awards, including two CMA Triple Play Awards and an ACM Songwriter of the Year win. Additionally, Copperman's production work has garnered him several Grammy nominations.

While his work in the country space has no doubt kept him busy, Copperman's musical story started in 2006 as an artist signed to the UK-based Photogenic Records—where Natasha Bedingfield was signed at the time. While he had success with pop-rock songs “As I Choke” and “All She Wrote,” Copperman felt the pull to something different.



“I did a lot of touring and making records—I did my time in the UK and I got burned out on being an artist when I was younger. I didn’t know what I was doing,” Copperman tells *MusicRow*.

With a need for a new direction, Copperman returned home to the United States and headed to Music City. “I knew that I was a songwriter first and I knew that Nashville was the Mecca of songwriting. I also knew that the way I wrote songs was in a very Nashville-style way of writing songs. So I came here and was embraced by the community immediately. I found people that loved songwriting as much as I did. I fell in love with it like everyone else that comes here and falls in love with it.”

Now, with nearly 20 years of success as a hit songwriter under his belt, Copperman is returning to the artist spotlight.

“That desire was always there. It never went away, I just buried it for a long time,” Copperman says. “The pandemic happened and I was like, ‘If I’m going to do it, this would be the time to do it.’ It gave me the time to be able to focus on it, and I found a team that believed in me and my music. That was a huge part of it, finding people that actually believed in what I was doing.”

Copperman signed with Photo Finish Records, and in May released his first EP in years, *Somewhere There’s a Light On*. The five-track project features piano-driven pop songs, with lyrical concepts that nod to Copperman’s country repertoire.

“I started writing these songs years ago, I’ve really always been writing these songs. I had the session with **Ed Sheeran** and we wrote ‘Electricity’ and ‘Therapy’ in the same day. I fell in love with those two songs, I was secretly hoping nobody would cut them. A year and a half passed and I played them for every artist in town because I was so excited,” Copperman says. “It just didn’t fit in country music. I finally asked Ed for his blessing to put them out myself and he was so gracious and supportive. That was a huge turning point for me.”

The title track for the project is an ethereal pop ballad with a fascinating bass drop, and finds Copperman singing the comforting message: “Take your time, feed your soul, if you ever find yourself alone, and you need a place that feels like home, somewhere there’s a light on.”



“The message behind that song is everything I stand for as an artist, reminding people that there’s good out there and no matter how hard your day is, somebody else is experiencing the same thing somewhere. Somewhere there’s a light on for you”

“**Alex Mendoza**, who co-produced this record with me, really helped me find my sound. My having produced so many albums, I felt like I needed that outside voice to help guide me. I wanted to be the artist in this scenario, I didn’t want to be producing myself,” Copperman says of the project’s unique sound. “Alex brought perspective and was able to see it from 30,000 feet, whereas when you are the artist and you’re making music, it’s hard to see it from a different perspective. He brought a young energy to it, which really suited the songs. And he just brought perspective for me to be like, ‘Let’s do a drop here after this chorus.’ That’s my dream, to do songs with drops—I know how to make a country drop, but I don’t know how to do a legit pop drop.”

While Copperman admits he is a songwriter first, he’s excited to return to his own artistry.

“My dream is to ultimately play theaters, to get to that point where I can do theaters. I’m going to continue to just put out songs, I have more lined up to come this year,” Copperman sums. “I just want to continue to grow it and to give it all I have with a new sense of grounding.” **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Corey Crowder	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Famous Friends Minimum Wage	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line Chris Young + Kane Brown Blake Shelton
2	2	Jesse Frasure	Almost Maybes Minimum Wage Whiskey And Rain	Jordan Davis Blake Shelton Michael Ray
3	3	Ashley Gorley	Country Again Give Heaven Some Hell Single Saturday Night Warning You Should Probably Leave	Thomas Rhett HARDY Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen Chris Stapleton
4	4	Nicolle Galyon	Gone Half Of My Hometown Minimum Wage	Dierks Bentley Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Blake Shelton
5	5	Zach Crowell	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Country Again Waves	Sam Hunt Thomas Rhett Luke Bryan
6	6	Josh Osborne	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's I Was On A Boat That Day Next Girl	Sam Hunt Old Dominion Carly Pearce
7	7	Tyler Hubbard	Lil Bit Undivided	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
8	8	Hunter Phelps	Cold Beer Calling My Name Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Give Heaven Some Hell That Ain't Me No More Thinking 'Bout You	Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line HARDY Matt Stell Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
9	9	Ben Johnson	Give Heaven Some Hell Gone	HARDY Dierks Bentley
10	13	Michael Hardy	Give Heaven Some Hell Single Saturday Night That Ain't Me No More	HARDY Cole Swindell Matt Stell
11	11	Drew Parker	Forever After All While You're Gone	Luke Combs Drew Parker
12	10	Luke Combs	Forever After All	Luke Combs
13	12	Robert Williford	Forever After All	Luke Combs
14	14	Niko Moon	Gone No Sad Songs	Dierks Bentley Niko Moon
15	16	Cary Barlowe	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
16	17	Chris Young	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
17	36	Jonathan Singleton	Same Boat Things A Man Oughta Know	Zac Brown Band Lainey Wilson
18	22	Shane McAnally	Half Of My Hometown I Was On A Boat That Day Next Girl	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Old Dominion Carly Pearce
19	15	Jordan Davis	Almost Maybes Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
20	23	Luke Dick	I'm Not For Everyone Settling Down	Brothers Osborne Miranda Lambert
21	24	Natalie Hemby	I'm Not For Everyone Settling Down	Brothers Osborne Miranda Lambert
22	18	Chris Loocke	Undivided	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
23	25	Miranda Lambert	Settling Down	Miranda Lambert
24	26	Hillary Lindsey	Almost Maybes	Jordan Davis

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
25	30	Mark Holman	Single Saturday Night	Cole Swindell
26	28	J. Flowers	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
27	29	Brinley Addington	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
28	27	Ernest Keith Smith	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Warning Wasted On You	Sam Hunt Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
29	32	Paul DiGiovanni	Getting Over Him We Didn't Have Much	Lauren Alaina with Jon Pardi Justin Moore
30	31	Martin Johnson	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) Like A Lady	Elle King and Miranda Lambert Lady A
31	34	Randy Montana	If It Wasn't For Trucks We Didn't Have Much	Riley Green Justin Moore
32	37	Lainey Wilson	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
33	38	Jason Nix	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
34	35	Josh Thompson	Wasted On You Whiskey And Rain	Morgan Wallen Michael Ray
35	33	Thomas Rhett	Country Again	Thomas Rhett
36	39	Jeremy Stover	We Didn't Have Much	Justin Moore
37	41	Ryan Hurd	Waves	Luke Bryan
38	42	Chase McGill	Waves	Luke Bryan
39	40	Ryan Vojtesak	Warning Wasted On You Worship You	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown
40	46	Elle King	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
41	43	Carly Pearce	Next Girl	Carly Pearce
42	44	C. Dodds	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line
43	45	Chase Rice	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line
44	49	John Edwards	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
45	50	Brian White	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
46	51	Kurt Allison	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
47	52	Tully Kennedy	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
48	53	Michael Tyler	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
49	47	Chris LaCorte	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's	Sam Hunt
50	48	Sam Hunt	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's	Sam Hunt
51	57	Jordan Reynolds	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
52	58	Tayla Parx	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
53	59	Ryan Lewis	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
54	60	Dan Smyers	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
55	61	Shay Mooney	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
56	62	A. Eshuis	You Time	Scotty McCreery
57	63	Frank Rogers	You Time	Scotty McCreery
58	64	Scotty McCreery	You Time	Scotty McCreery
59	65	Cleo Tighe	One Too Many	Keith Urban & P!nk
60	66	James Norton	One Too Many	Keith Urban & P!nk

CALENDAR

Singles

June 25

Toby Keith/*Old School/Show Dog* Nashville

Tenille Townes/*Girl Who Didn't Care*/Columbia Nashville/RCA Records

Bo Daddy Harris/*One Horse Town/Southern Man* Records

Stephanie Ryann/*Gravel/Sincerely* Music Group

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

June 28

Gabby Barrett/*Footprints On The Moon*/Warner Music Nashville

Ian Flanigan feat. Blake Shelton/*Grow Up*/Reviver Records

J.D. Shelburne/*Hometown In My Headlights*/J.D. Shelburne

Emily Rose/*Version Of Me*/Growing Rose

Rebel Hearts/*Leavin' You – Lovin' You*

Albums

June 25

Brian Kelley/*Sunshine State Of Mind*/Warner Music Nashville / Nashville South Records, Inc.

Jennifer Nettles/*Always Like New*/Concord Records

Jimmie Allen/*Bettie James Gold Edition*/BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek Records

Ellie Holcomb/*Canyon*/Capitol Christian Music Group

Gary Allan/*Ruthless*/EMI Records Nashville

Robyn Ottolini/*The But I'm Not Always Sad Either EP*/Warner Music Nashville

Home Free/*Land Of The Free*/Home Free Records

Lakeview/*Small Town Famous EP*/Photo Finish Records

Ben Gallaher/*Every Small Town*/Quartz Hill Records

Vincent Neil Emerson/*Vincent Neil Emerson*/La Honda Records/Thirty Tigers

Meghan Patrick/*Heart On My Glass*/Riser House Records

Grant Maloy Smith/*Appalachia: American Stories*/Suburban Cowboy Records

Texas Hill/*Stabal Session*

Industry Events

August 19

33rd Annual *MusicRow* Awards (virtual)

August 25

14th Annual ACM Honors