

## Taylor Swift's *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* Will Not Be Submitted For Grammy, CMA Award Consideration



**Taylor Swift** will not be submitting *Fearless (Taylor's Version)*, the re-recorded version of her 2008 studio album that released earlier this year, for Grammy or CMA Awards consideration.

"After careful consideration, Taylor Swift will not be submitting *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* in any category at this year's upcoming Grammy and CMA Awards," says a statement provided to *MusicRow* from a Republic Records spokesperson. "*Fearless* has already won four Grammys including album of the year, as well as the CMA Award for album of the year in 2009/2010 and remains the most awarded country album of all time."

The statement goes on to share that Swift's ninth studio album, *Evermore*, released in December of 2020, will be submitted to the Grammys for consideration in all eligible categories.

*Evermore* arrived only five months after the surprise release of *Folklore*, Swift's groundbreaking eighth studio album. Debuting at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200, *Evermore* marked her eighth consecutive No. 1 debut. After its return to No. 1 in June for a fourth nonconsecutive week, the early 2020 Christmas present gave Swift the third-most weeks at No. 1 behind The Beatles and Elvis Presley.

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### THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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The Grammy-winning songstress went to work remaking *Fearless* after **Scoter Braun**'s infamous purchase of her former label, Big Machine Label Group, in 2019. The acquisition included the rights to her first six albums: *Taylor Swift*, *Fearless*, *Sparks Fly*, *Red*, *1989*, and *Reputation*.

Since the initial purchase, Swift has begun an extensive re-recording project of those six albums. As previously announced, Swift has shared that the next album fans can expect is *Red (Taylor's Version)*, which is set to release on Nov. 19. **MR**

## NSAI Sets Nashville Songwriter Awards For September

The Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) will hold its annual Nashville Songwriter Awards on Sept. 14, 2021. The 4th annual awards, presented by City National Bank, will be held as a private event at the Country Music Hall of Fame's CMA Theater.

The event will include performances honoring the Song, Songwriter, and Songwriter-Artist of the Year, the Songwriter and Songwriter-Artist of the Decade (2010-2019), as well as the '10 Songs I Wish I'd Written,' awards, given to the top voted songs chosen by fellow professional songwriters as exceptional songs they wish they had penned.

This year Sony Music Publishing Chairman & CEO **Jon Platt** will be honored with NSAI's President's Keystone Award, given in recognition of significant contributions to the betterment of all songwriters.

"Our deepest thanks go to Sony Music Publishing Chairman/CEO Jon Platt for enabling the half million-dollar donation that allowed NSAI to create the non-profit, tax-exempt WRITER Foundation. The Foundation quickly and efficiently got critically-needed grant funds into the hands of American songwriters and composers," says NSAI President **Steve Bogard**. "Jon stepped up to help at the height of the financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Live performances were shut down and royalty checks were impacted. The \$1,000 grants NSAI was able to distribute through Sony's generosity helped songwriters who really needed it pay their bills."

"We are so pleased to be back in person this year after presenting an entirely virtual awards event last year," says NSAI Chief Operating Officer **Jennifer Turnbow**. "The more intimate setting will provide an opportunity for industry colleagues to gather and celebrate together, many for the first time in over a year. This year's show promises to be memorable in many ways and it is our privilege to be able to partner with City National Bank again to celebrate songwriters in such a grand way."

"Congratulations to all of this year's Nashville Songwriter Award winners, and thank you for making our lives better by creating such wonderful songs," adds **Diane Pearson** and **Lori Badgett**, heads of Entertainment Banking for City National Bank in Nashville, in a joint statement. "City National has a long history of supporting songwriters and the creative community. We are thrilled to celebrate this year's winners with NSAI in person once again after everything the industry has been through over the past year and a half." City National is a leading entertainment industry bank that provides personalized financial services to more than 80% of the country music industry in Nashville.

Official 2021 Nashville Songwriter Awards Sponsors: Presenting Sponsor City National Bank, Academy of Country Music, Jack Daniel's, Loeb & Loeb, Nashville Convention and Visitors Corp, Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), SoundExchange, Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. **MR**



## Big Loud Records Ups 5, Adds 2 To Promotion Team



Pictured (clockwise): Stacy Blythe, Kelley Brock, Sarah Headley, Ali Matkosky, Aubrey Wilson, Tyler Waugh, Delaney Rogers

Big Loud Records is beefing up its promotion department with a round of advances and new hires.

Industry leader **Stacy Blythe** has been elevated to SVP, Promotion from her previous VP Promotion post. Awarded the top honor for SVP-VP/National Promotion at the 2021 CRS/Country Aircheck Awards, Blythe has been integral to Big Loud Records' success, which has seen the label earn 11 U.S. No 1 songs with Gold, Platinum, and multi-Platinum certifications, plus more than 14 billion global streams to date—all in less than six years.

Blythe will be joined in her step-up by **Ali Matkosky**, who rises into the VP Promotion role from National Director Promotion. Longtime promotion member **Tyler Waugh** climbs to National Director Promotion, having spent the last few years as the Director Southeast Promotion.

Further, **Sarah Headley** progresses to Director Southeast Promotion from her former role as Promotion Coordinator; and **Delaney Rogers** shifts her duties as Executive Assistant from Big Loud Partner/CEO **Seth England** over to Blythe.

Additionally, **Kelley Brock** has been added to the label in the role of Promotion Coordinator. She was previously an on-air radio personality at WKDF Nashville and WUSY Chattanooga. With WUSY, she won a 2018 CMA Broadcast Award for Personality of the Year (Medium Market) with the Ken, Kelley, and Daniel show. **Aubrey Wilson** joins as Data & Analytics Coordinator. **MR**

## Dylan Schneider Signs With BBR Music Group



Rising country music artist **Dylan Schneider** has signed with BBR Music Group.

An Indiana native, Schneider started performing and writing songs at the age of 14, after meeting Brett Eldredge and singing with him on-stage during a concert. He started posting covers of country songs on YouTube which earned him a devoted online following. Since then, the 21 year-old has toured with Florida Georgia Line, Granger Smith and Chris Lane, and has accumulated over 1 million social media followers and upwards of 186 million on-demand streams. He also co-wrote Dustin Lynch's most recent hit song "Momma's House."

"I'm so excited to be signing with BBR Music Group," says Schneider. "I've admired their entire staff and the incredible artists on their roster for a long time. I can't thank my fans, my family, and my team enough for their continued support of me and my career. I'm looking forward to releasing a lot of new music very soon and look forward to reaching a whole new audience."

Schneider also revealed plans to release his first bit of new music in over two years with his new single, "Lost in a Small Town," which will be available everywhere July 30. He co-wrote the track with **Gabe Foust**, **James McNair**, and **Mark Holman**, who also produced the song. More new music is to be announced in the coming weeks.

Schneider is managed by **Joey Russ** and **Martha Earls** at 1021 Entertainment and booked by **Braeden Rountree** at WME. **MR**

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

## CHART ACTION

### New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

- Buy Dirt**/Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan/MCA Nashville — 57
- Grow Up**/Ian Flanigan feat. Blake Shelton/Reviver Records — 76
- Fancy Like**/Walker Hayes/Monument — 78
- Walking In Your Wonderful Light**/Rhonda Towns/Dawn Records — 80

### Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

- Cold As You**/Luke Combs/Columbia/River House Artists — 251
- Heart On Fire**/Eric Church/EMI Records Nashville — 172
- Same Boat**/Zac Brown Band/Home Grown Music/Warner Music Nashville — 159
- I Was On A Boat That Day**/Old Dominion/Arista Nashville — 155
- Buy Dirt**/Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan/MCA Nashville — 154
- That's What Cowboys Do**/Garth Brooks/Pearl Records — 149

### Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

- Cold As You**/Luke Combs/Columbia/River House Artists — 15
- Heart On Fire**/Eric Church/EMI Records Nashville — 12
- 7500 OBO**/Tim McGraw/Big Machine — 12
- Buy Dirt**/Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan/MCA Nashville — 10
- That's What Cowboys Do**/Garth Brooks/Pearl Records — 10
- Fancy Like**/Walker Hayes/Monument — 9

### On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

- Am I The Only One**/Aaron Lewis/Valory — 178
- American Made**/Dakota Poorman/Ten Inch Vinyl Entertainment, LLC — 167
- Feel Good Again**/RT Johnson/CCB Nashville — 163
- Get To Work Whiskey**/Ward Davis/Ward Davis/Thirty Tigers Records — 161
- Talk Of The Town**/South 62/Graphite Sound — 157

## NO. 1 SONG



“Tequila Little Time” by **Jon Pardi** earns the top spot this week on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart. This marks his ninth *MusicRow* No. 1 including Thomas Rhett’s two week single, “Beer Can’t Fix” which featured Pardi.

Pardi co-wrote “Tequila Little Time” with **Rhett Akins** and **Luke Laird** and it appears on his album *Heartache Medication*.

It was recently announced that Pardi will headline Saturday night’s concert at [The Big Machine Music City Grand Prix](#) which takes place on Aug. 7.



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

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
28	3	1	<b>Tequila Little Time / Jon Pardi / Capitol</b>	1705/65	7	111
9	5	2	<b>I Was On A Boat That Day / Old Dominion / Arista Nashville</b>	1678/57	10	155
23	2	3	<b>Things A Man Oughta Know / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow</b>	1641/52	0	5
21	4	4	<b>Knowing You / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville</b>	1621/58	5	70
32	6	5	<b>Cold Beer Calling My Name / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/ Columbia Nashville</b>	1522/58	3	45
47	7	6	<b>Single Saturday Night / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville</b>	1461/40	4	57
31	1	7	<b>Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen. / Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line / Broken Bow/Dack Janiels</b>	1326/39	-20	-323
28	9	8	<b>My Boy / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records</b>	1314/48	4	53
24	10	9	<b>Glad You Exist / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville/WAR</b>	1303/36	5	60
28	11	10	<b>Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records</b>	1249/57	4	52
37	12	11	<b>Just About Over You / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville</b>	1239/57	4	52
10	15	12	<b>You Should Probably Leave / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville</b>	1178/58	11	112
25	16	13	<b>Freedom Was A Highway / Jimmie Allen &amp; Brad Paisley / Stoney Creek Records</b>	1159/47	9	93
14	13	14	<b>Half Of My Hometown / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment</b>	1145/55	5	50
17	18	15	<b>Chasing After You / Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris / Arista Nashville</b>	1105/48	10	103
36	20	16	<b>You Time / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records</b>	1104/42	14	132
26	19	17	<b>To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville</b>	1049/52	7	68
39	17	18	<b>If It Wasn't For Trucks / Riley Green / BMLG</b>	1041/46	2	21
22	21	19	<b>Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville</b>	961/50	3	29
6	24	20	<b>Same Boat / Zac Brown Band / Home Grown Music/Warner Music Nashville</b>	924/52	21	159
13	28	21	<b>It's Cause I Am / Callista Clark / Big Machine</b>	870/49	19	138
20	22	22	<b>Under It With You Tonight / Smith &amp; Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville</b>	865/45	4	36
16	26	23	<b>Might As Well Be Me / Dew Pendleton / HippieRedneckGospeLove/GrassRoots</b>	817/47	9	70
18	23	24	<b>My Masterpiece / Darius Rucker / Capitol</b>	809/40	1	7
17	27	25	<b>Then A Girl Walks In / Shenandoah &amp; Blake Shelton / Foundry Records</b>	798/43	7	54
3	37	26	<b>Cold As You / Luke Combs / Columbia/River House Artists</b>	789/49	47	251
21	25	27	<b>I Can't / Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion / Monument Records</b>	788/43	3	26
11	30	28	<b>Tip Jar / Jackson Michelson / Curb</b>	749/42	6	45
13	29	29	<b>Not Yet / Brett Young / BMLG</b>	738/40	5	33
12	33	30	<b>Fill Them Boots / Chris Lane / Big Loud Records</b>	726/43	9	60
13	31	31	<b>I'm Not For Everyone / Brothers Osborne / EMI Records Nashville</b>	725/41	4	26
17	32	32	<b>ABBY / Travis Denning / Mercury Nashville</b>	689/35	0	1
6	35	33	<b>Never Mine / Craig Campbell / Grindstone Records</b>	661/44	18	100
5	34	34	<b>The Worst Country Song Of All Time / Brantley Gilbert feat. Toby Keith and HARDY / Valory</b>	631/44	11	60
11	36	35	<b>Thinking 'Bout You / Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter / Broken Bow</b>	604/35	9	52
3	46	36	<b>Heart On Fire / Eric Church / EMI Records Nashville</b>	576/41	43	172
18	38	37	<b>Treasure / Mary Heather Hickman / Rolling River Records</b>	535/32	2	10
4	39	38	<b>Old School / Toby Keith / Show Dog Nashville</b>	528/37	9	42
31	43	39	<b>Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville</b>	525/31	20	87

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
9	40	40	Back Then, Right Now / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand Records	522/38	7	36
7	44	41	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) / Elle King & Miranda Lambert / RCA Nashville	481/26	15	61
16	41	42	Villain / Lily Rose / Big Loud Records	473/26	4	18
12	42	43	Woman You Got / Maddie & Tae / Mercury	471/32	4	18
21	45	44	Gotta Go Rodeo / Darlinghurst / Helium	443/22	6	26
11	47	45	Pretend He's You / Ashley Barron / SSM Nashville	431/34	12	46
2	63	46	That's What Cowboys Do / Garth Brooks / Pearl Records	394/32	61	149
8	50	47	Local Honey / Mo Pitney / Curb	387/25	11	37
6	53	48	Fine / Mira Goto / ArtistMax	379/26	15	49
7	49	49	Get Lost / Lucas Hoge / Forge Entertainment Group	367/26	3	11
13	54	50	Found My Home / Lucie Tiger / 2120 Music	352/21	8	25
21	52	51	Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	348/22	1	2
13	56	52	Hot Beer / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	342/22	8	24
13	55	53	That Ain't Me No More / Matt Stell / RECORDS/Arista Nashville	317/22	-1	-4
10	57	54	Something Good To Miss / Juna N Joey / River Run Records	311/23	9	26
3	60	55	How Far Can It Go? / Hailey Whitters feat. Trisha Yearwood / Big Loud/S&D/Pigasus	306/24	20	52
7	61	56	Dirt / Elise Harper / Skyfall Music	305/21	21	53
1	85	57	Buy Dirt / Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan / MCA Nashville	303/21	103	154
8	58	58	Princess / Dallas Remington / RoadWarrior Records	296/24	10	28
24	14	59	Okfuskee Whiskey / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	273/14	-74	-794
13	59	60	Got Me This Far / Donny Lee / Donny Lee Music	270/21	4	11
12	62	61	Is It Me And You / Lisa Brokop / Amersong	250/18	0	-1
3	66	62	Better Than You're Used To / Tyler Rich / Valory	236/19	5	11
9	68	63	Growing Up Too Fast / Jon Wayne Hatfield / Soundstage Music	235/16	5	11
9	67	64	Old School / Lance Wade Thomas / Shady Grove Records	234/14	4	10
5	64	65	You'll Always Be My Baby / Alan Jackson / EMI Records Nashville	231/16	-4	-9
5	69	66	American Summer / Kylie Trout / Kylie Trout Music	230/19	4	8
5	70	67	Evangeline / Sammy Kershaw / White Mustang Records	225/16	3	7
3	73	68	Hand Me Downs / Janelle Arthur feat. Dolly Parton / Farm Road Records	221/15	8	16
3	76	69	Rub A Little Dirt On It / Chase Likens / On The Green	218/16	14	27
6	72	70	Summer Song / Chris Kroeze /	217/16	5	10
9	51	71	Good Life / Kip Moore / MCA Nashville	214/12	-38	-132
4	74	72	Make It To Memphis / Shelley Lynch / Lynch Records	203/11	0	1
5	75	73	Lil Bit / Nelly & Florida Georgia Line / RECORDS/Columbia	201/14	1	1
17	65	74	Lady Like / Ingrid Andress / Warner Music Nashville	201/13	-13	-30
6	77	75	If You Could Call It That / Jeannie Seely / Curb	198/11	5	9
1	84	76	Grow Up / Ian Flanigan feat. Blake Shelton / Reviver Records	197/19	29	44
2	78	77	Hillbilly Shake / AC Thomas / Birmingham Entertainment	194/19	5	9
1	112	78	Fancy Like / Walker Hayes / Monument	188/12	127	118
9	79	79	Okay, Momma? / Connor Jameson / 615Nash Records	180/13	3	5
1	81	80	Walking In Your Wonderful Light / Rhonda Towns / Dawn Records	179/11	13	20

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## Dan + Shay Have *Good Things* In Store For August

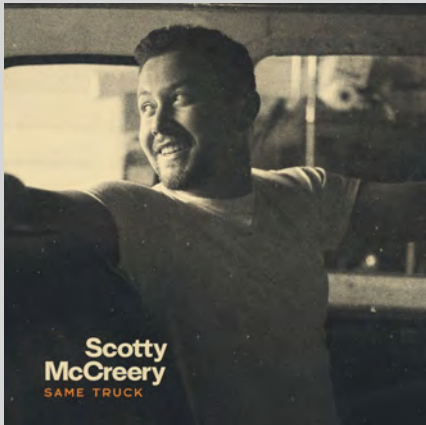
Warner Music Nashville's **Dan + Shay** have announced that they will drop their brand new album, *Good Things*, on Aug. 13. Ahead of its release, the duo have shared the title track with fans, available everywhere now.

Three years after their self-titled album that catapulted the duo into new career heights, the highly anticipated LP features 12 tracks with production helmed by the duo's **Dan Smyers**. The recently released title track, "Good Things," provides a glimpse into what fans can expect from the upcoming collection of music. The pair have also released the track's accompanying music video, directed by frequent collaborator **Patrick Tracy**.

*Good Things* is already showing some impressive success with the album's first single, the multi-week No.1 "10,000 Hours" featuring **Justin Bieber**, already being certified 4x Platinum. The track had the biggest first-week streaming total in country history, and was the fastest country song to reach one million U.S. track equivalents in 2019. The worldwide smash spent 21 weeks at No.1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart and landed the duo their third Grammy for Best Country Duo/Group Performance. The success has continued with the Platinum-certified "I Should Probably Go To Bed," which became their fifth consecutive and eighth career No.1. Their current single, "Glad You Exist," recently became RIAA Gold-certified and has accumulated 800,000 track equivalents so far. **MR**



## Scotty McCreery Shares Details Of New Album, *Same Truck*



**Scotty McCreery** will release his upcoming album, *Same Truck*, on Sept. 17 via Triple Tigers. Produced by **Frank Rogers, Derek Wells** and **Aaron Eshuis**, the project includes his current Top 15 single, "You Time," and the recently released track, "Why You Gotta Be Like That."

Intense fan demand following last week's release of "Why You Gotta Be Like That" caused pre-sale information to leak at several key retailers. To meet the demand, McCreery and his label decided to announce the album early as a thank you to the fans for fervently supporting his music through the years.

"It's gratifying to learn that my fans are so excited about my upcoming new album that they sought out pre-order information before it was ready to be announced...and got it," shared the North Carolina native.

"Thanks to Triple Tigers and the retailers for coming together quickly so we could make this official album announcement. I can't wait to share this music with everyone."

*Same Truck* features 12 songs, 10 of which were co-written by McCreery. Coming three years after his last album, *Seasons Change*, the forthcoming project is a reflection of where the *American Idol* alum is now in life as a man married to the love of his life who is also celebrating his 10th year as an entertainer.

"My last album was about me as a young man getting ready to get married. *Same Truck* is me three years later, taking a moment to acknowledge where I am now as a 27-year-old, happily married man, sharing both what I've learned and where I want to go," McCreery explains. **MR**



## Chris DeStefano Renews With Sony Music Publishing Nashville



Sony Music Publishing Nashville has renewed its worldwide deal with Grammy award-winning country singer-songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist **Chris DeStefano**.

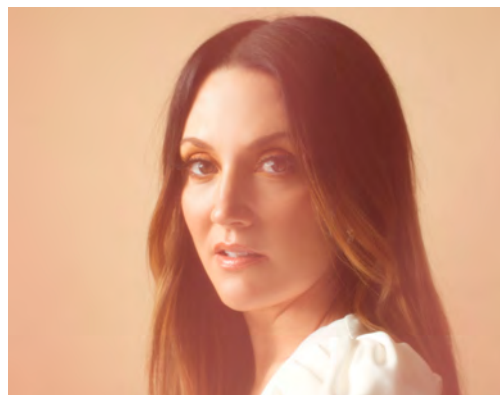
DeStefano is a three-time CMA Triple Play winner, penning No. 1 country hits including “Kick The Dust Up” and “That’s My Kind of Night” by Luke Bryan; Carrie Underwood’s “Smoke Break,” “Good Girl,” “Little Toy Guns” her Grammy-winning single “Something in the Water,” and “Somethin’ Bad” with Miranda Lambert. Other notable hits co-written by DeStefano include “Don’t Ya” by Brett Eldredge; “Just Getting’ Started” by Jason Aldean; “Losing Sleep” by Chris Young; “Why You Wanna” by Jana Kramer; “Hey Girl” by Billy Currington; and “Nothin’ Like You” by Dan + Shay.

The renewal continues DeStefano’s long-standing relationship with the company, which began in 2008 when he signed with EMI Music Publishing.

Sony Music Publishing Nashville EVP, Creative **Josh Van Valkenburg** says, “Simply put, Chris DeStefano is special. As a songwriter, producer, performer, philanthropist, and songwriting advocate, there are few people in the Nashville creative community that have had as significant of an impact as Chris. We are honored to remain as his publishing family, and we are proud to celebrate his past, present and future success alongside him.”

“I’m very excited to be continuing my partnership with the amazing team at Sony Music Publishing. I’m grateful for their fervent support, love for songs, and I look forward to future successes together,” adds DeStefano. **MR**

## Natalie Hemby Announces Fantasy Records Label Debut Album



2x Grammy award-winner and revered songwriter **Natalie Hemby** will deliver her Fantasy Records debut album, *Pins and Needles*, on Oct. 8. The title track, co-written by Hemby with **Brothers Osborne**, is available everywhere now.

“Pins and Needles’ was the first song I ever wrote with Brothers Osborne,” says Hemby. “I have always loved this song, and I have always loved them. They almost put it on their record. Years after, I asked them if I could have it. They said yes, so I decided to record it and make it the title track. It’s one of my favorites.”

As the writer of eight No. 1 singles, Hemby uses the upcoming album to explore a full range of her musical gifts, spanning influences from Tom Petty to Sheryl Crow and the early ‘90s rock and roots she was raised on. Across the 11-track collection, Hemby delivers unconventional lyrics along with turn of phrase, ear-worm anthems along with heart-rending ballads and everything in between.

“*Pins and Needles* is the record I never got the chance to make and I always wanted to,” she adds. “It’s the late 90’s sound, which is the sound of my young adult life.”

The album also features co-writes with fellow artists **Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris, Aaron Raitiere** and more, as well as songwriting heavy-hitters like **Daniel Tashian, Barry Dean**, and others. **MR**

## Niko Moon's *Good Time* Slated For August Release

**Niko Moon** is set to release his debut album, *Good Time*, on Aug. 27. He also released a new song from the project, "Small Town State Of Mind," that he co-wrote with **Anna Moon** and **Joshua Murty**.

Produced by Moon alongside longtime collaborator and friend Murty, *Good Time* features the No. 1, Platinum-certified title track, as well as Moon's latest single, "No Sad Songs." The album evokes an old school country feel along with influences from Michael Franti, John Prine, The Eagles, and Outkast, and includes tracks penned by Moon with writers **Blake Bollinger**, **Steven Lee Olsen**, and more. The project also includes Moon's take on the Darrell Scott-penned Travis Tritt classic "It's A Great Day To Be Alive."



"My debut album *Good Time* is almost here!" shares Moon. "I've poured my heart and soul into making this record and I can't wait for y'all to hear it! The album is *Good Time* vibes front to back so put it on, grab a cold one, and turn it up to 10!"

Moon is gearing up to play the new tracks when he hits the road for his opening stint on Lady A's What A Song Can Do Tour starting July 29 in Uncasville, Connecticut. **MR**

## Sony Music Publishing Unveils Songwriters Forward Initiative



Chairman/CEO of Sony Music Publishing (SMP) **Jon Platt** announced on July 20 that the company has launched Songwriters Forward.

Under Songwriters Forward, SMP is introducing the Legacy Unrecouped Balance Program to qualifying Sony songwriters. With this new program, SMP will no longer apply existing unrecouped balances to earnings for eligible songwriters signed prior to the year 2000 who have not received advances since. This applies retroactively to January 1, 2021.

"With historic policy changes across our business, we are taking important steps toward creating a more equitable, transparent music industry for songwriters and all creators. On behalf of our teams around the world, it is our privilege to represent you as we begin this next chapter with Songwriters Forward," writes Platt in an internal letter to Sony Music Publishing songwriters obtained by *MusicRow*.

This new initiative is designed to expand Sony's support of careers at every stage and compliments the recently announced Artist Forward initiative, which similarly finds Sony Music Entertainment longer applying existing unrecouped balances to earnings generated on or after Jan. 1, 2021 for eligible artists who signed to SME prior to the year 2000 and have not received an advance since then.

Qualifying songwriters for the Legacy Unrecouped Balance Program will be notified separately in the coming weeks. **MR**

## DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Trace Adkins, Tyler Farr, MaRynn Taylor



Country artists are celebrating summertime this week.

Jeff Bates, Adam Doleac, Kylie Trout, Walker Hayes, Sam Williams and, especially Tebey with Una Healy all have open-air, sunshiney tunes. So does our DisCOVERY Award winner, MaRynn Taylor.

For that matter, toss in the dynamite, life-affirming Trace Adkins performance. It's not about summer, but it will sure make you feel warm inside. It earns this edition's Disc of the Day prize.

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

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### MORE TOP STORIES

[IBMA Reveals 2021 Bluegrass Music Award Nominees, Hall Of Fame Inductees](#)

[ACM Party For A Cause 2021 Set To Make Nashville Debut](#)

[Glen Campbell's Final Troubadour Set Commemorated In New Live Album](#)

[King Calaway Reemerges With Upcoming 'Midnight' EP, Album Release Show](#)

[Music-Video Mainstay Martin Kahan Passes](#)

[The Core Entertainment, Universal Music Canada Launch Joint Venture, Sign Steven Lee Olsen](#)

[Wide Open Music Publishing Adds Two Songwriters, One Staff Member](#)

[Brandi Carlile Announces Upcoming Album 'In These Silent Days'](#)

[Lily Rose Inks With WME \[Exclusive\]](#)

[Warner Chappell Production Music Reveals Sweeping Rebrand](#)

[Plans For New Lefty Frizzell Biopic Unveiled](#)

[Ashland Craft Shows Her Wandering Soul On Debut Album, 'Travelin' Kind'](#)

[Weekly Register: Walker Hayes Spends Another 'Fancy Like' Week On Top](#)

[Maurisa Pasick, Gwen Foster Join Brown Sellers Brown Management Staff](#)

[Blake Shelton, Little Big Town, Toby Keith, More Set For 2021 iHeartCountry Festival](#)

[BMI Ups Two In Distribution, Publisher Relations & Administration Services Department](#)

[Jason Aldean Earns 25th Career No. 1 With 'Blame It On You'](#)

[Dan + Shay To Celebrate Album Release With Centennial Park Concert](#)

[Bill Anderson Celebrates 60th Anniversary As Opry Member, Honored With "Bill Anderson Day"](#)

[Carolyn Snell Joins Brandi Carlile's Team At Red Light Management](#)

## Bobby Karl Works The Room: Ian Munsick Plays His First-Ever Nashville Concert



### Chapter 645

Good things come to those who wait.

That's how the saying goes, but for Wyoming singer-songwriter **Ian Munsick**, it's a life lesson. He was signed to his Nashville major-label deal mid-pandemic, and his *Coyote Cry* CD has been ready forever. But his first concert in Music City did not occur until Tuesday evening (July 20). That's a long wait.

"To say this is a long time coming is an understatement," said **Cris Lacy** when she introduced him to a V.I.P. crowd backstage. "There's a lot of things that have happened that we need to catch up on. Most people here have never seen Ian live, including people at this label. So this is special."

"You guys are about to become part of history tonight," promised **James Marsh** when he introduced Ian onstage, "the first time this artist has ever played Nashville."

The Warner Music newcomer did not disappoint. He came out howling and never let up. Ian Munsick is a tenor vocalist, which is always an uphill battle at country radio. But he already has 80 million global streams of his music. So there.

The venue was the spacious indoor/outdoor partyland Ole Smoky Distillery. Guests imbibed Ole Smoky Moonshine and Yee Haw beer to swill down Prince's hot chicken, served with white bread & pickles (natch), veggie salad and coleslaw.

But everyone seemed much more focused on schmoozing than snacking, or paying attention to music, for that matter. Working the room were **John Zarling, Jon Freeman, Regina Stuve, Ron Stuve, Scott Gunter, Dwight Wiles, Lance Roberts, Dave Pacula, Shane Tarleton, Gary Kraen** (did you know he was from Wyoming?), **Erv Woolsey, Todd Cassetty, Charlie Cook, Rachel Whitney, Sally Seitz, Wes Vause, Jody Williams, Katherine Richardson, Caroline Rudolph** and **Victoria Chaitoff**.

It turned out to be a long night. We got there at 5:30 PM. The headliner was preceded by feisty femme country rockers **Meghan Patrick** ("My First Car Was a Pickup Truck") and **Ashland Craft** ("Good Ole Girls"). Ian Munsick finally took the stage at 8 PM, peppering the crowd with "Long Haul," "Solo," "Humble" and more.

We are told that he is at the forefront of "a musical movement," presumably bringing something "western" to country. I don't know about that. But he did do well. **MR**

# TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	2	<b>Ashley Gorley</b>	Country Again Give Heaven Some Hell Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night You Should Probably Leave	Thomas Rhett HARDY Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Chris Stapleton
2	1	<b>Corey Crowder</b>	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Famous Friends Minimum Wage	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line Chris Young + Kane Brown Blake Shelton
3	4	<b>Nicolle Galyon</b>	Gone Half Of My Hometown I Quit Drinking Minimum Wage	Dierks Bentley Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Kelsea Ballerini, LANY Blake Shelton
4	5	<b>Hunter Phelps</b>	Cold Beer Calling My Name Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Give Heaven Some Hell That Ain't Me No More The Worst Country Song Of All Time Thinking 'Bout You	Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line HARDY Matt Stell Brantley Gilbert, HARDY, Toby Keith Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
5	3	<b>Jesse Frasure</b>	Almost Maybes Minimum Wage Whiskey And Rain	Jordan Davis Blake Shelton Michael Ray
6	6	<b>Zach Crowell</b>	Country Again Waves	Thomas Rhett Luke Bryan
7	7	<b>Michael Hardy</b>	Give Heaven Some Hell Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night That Ain't Me No More The Worst Country Song Of All Time	HARDY Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Matt Stell Brantley Gilbert, HARDY, Toby Keith
8	27	<b>Josh Osborne</b>	I Was On A Boat That Day Next Girl Sand In My Boots	Old Dominion Carly Pearce Morgan Wallen
9	9	<b>Jonathan Singleton</b>	Cold as You Same Boat Things A Man Oughta Know	Luke Combs Zac Brown Band Lainey Wilson
10	10	<b>Martin Johnson</b>	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) Like A Lady	Elle King and Miranda Lambert Lady A
11	11	<b>Shane McAnally</b>	Half Of My Hometown I Was On A Boat That Day Next Girl	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Old Dominion Carly Pearce
12	8	<b>Ben Johnson</b>	Give Heaven Some Hell Gone	HARDY Dierks Bentley
13	13	<b>Luke Combs</b>	Cold as You Forever After All	Luke Combs Luke Combs
14	12	<b>Drew Parker</b>	Forever After All	Luke Combs
15	14	<b>Robert Williford</b>	Forever After All	Luke Combs
16	18	<b>J. Flowers</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
17	19	<b>Brinley Addington</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
18	16	<b>Cary Barlowe</b>	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
19	17	<b>Chris Young</b>	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
20	29	<b>Randy Montana</b>	Cold as You If It Wasn't For Trucks We Didn't Have Much	Luke Combs Riley Green Justin Moore
21	22	<b>Mark Holman</b>	Single Saturday Night	Cole Swindell
22	20	<b>Niko Moon</b>	Gone	Dierks Bentley

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
23	28	Paul DiGiovanni	Getting Over Him We Didn't Have Much	Lauren Alaina with Jon Pardi Justin Moore
24	23	Luke Dick	I'm Not For Everyone Settling Down	Brothers Osborne Miranda Lambert
25	24	Natalie Hemby	I'm Not For Everyone Settling Down	Brothers Osborne Miranda Lambert
26	25	Josh Thompson	Wasted On You Whiskey And Rain	Morgan Wallen Michael Ray
27	26	Miranda Lambert	Settling Down	Miranda Lambert
28	30	Elle King	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
29	31	Lainey Wilson	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
30	32	Jason Nix	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
31	33	Jeremy Stover	We Didn't Have Much	Justin Moore
32	34	Thomas Rhett	Country Again	Thomas Rhett
33	35	Ryan Hurd	Waves	Luke Bryan
34	36	Chase McGill	Waves	Luke Bryan
35		Chase Matthew	County Line	Chase Matthew
36	37	C. Dodds	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line
37	38	Chase Rice	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line
38	39	Rhett Akins	Tequila Little Time To Be Loved By You	Jon Pardi Parker McCollum
39		Toby Keith	Happy Birthday America	Toby Keith
40	41	A. Eshuis	You Time	Scotty McCreery
41	42	Frank Rogers	You Time	Scotty McCreery
42	43	Scotty McCreery	You Time	Scotty McCreery
43	40	Carly Pearce	Next Girl	Carly Pearce
44	44	John Edwards	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
45	45	Brian White	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
46	46	Kurt Allison	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
47	47	Tully Kennedy	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
48	48	Michael Tyler	Blame It On You	Jason Aldean
49	49	Brian Davis	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
50	50	Lee Brice	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
51	51	Billy Montana	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
52	57	Jordan Reynolds	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
53	58	Tayla Parx	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
54	59	Ryan Lewis	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
55	60	Dan Smyers	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
56	61	Shay Mooney	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
57	52	Chris Stapleton	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
58	53	Chris DuBois	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
59	54	Kat Higgins	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
60	55	Adam James	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney

## CALENDAR

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### Singles

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#### July 23

**Dylan Scott**/*New Truck*/Curb Records

**Cristina Vane**/*Nowhere Sounds Lovely*/Red Parlor Records

#### July 29

**Garth Brooks**/*That's What Cowboys Do*/Pearl Records

**Aaron Lewis**/*Am I The Only One*/Valory

**Dave McElroy**/*Vibin'*/Free Flow

**Faith Schueler**/*Getting Over You*/Gulko

### Albums

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#### July 23

**Rodney Crowell**/*Triage*/RC1 Records

**Glen Campbell**/*Live From The Troubadour*/Surfdog Records/Big Machine Records

**Drake Milligan**/*Drake Milligan*/BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek Records

#### July 30

**Needtobreathe**/*Into The Mystery*/Elektra Records

**Yola**/*Stand For Myself*/Easy Eye Sound

**Parker McCollum**/*Gold Chain Cowboy*/MCA Nashville

**Clay Walker**/*Texas To Tennessee*/Show Dog Nashville

**Parmalee**/*For You*/Stoney Creek Records/BBR Music Group

**The Wolfe Brothers**/*Kids on Cassette*/BBR Music Group/BMG

**Jim Lauderdale**/*Hope*/Yep Roc Records

**Tayls**/*Have You Ever? (I've Always)*

### Industry Events

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#### July 23

**Gary Allan: RUTHLESS – Live From Nashville (Live at 7 p.m. CT on Gary's YouTube/Facebook)**

#### August 19

**33rd Annual *MusicRow* Awards (virtual)**

#### August 25

**14th Annual ACM Honors**