

Venues, Festival Organizers & Promoters Announce Revised COVID-19 Protocols Due To Virus Surge



Last week Nashville venues the 5 Spot and City Winery were among the first independent Nashville venues to announce new COVID-19 entry protocols. These new protocols, which have begun to pop up widely around the country, require patrons to provide either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test obtained within 48-72 hours of entering the venue or event.

On Aug. 10, a wave of new venues and event organizers banded together through the movement #Keep615Live, announcing similar requirements that are set to go into effect over the next week. Among the growing list of independent venues that have adopted these new COVID protocols are Exit/In, 3rd & Lindsley, the Basement, the Basement East, the End, the East Room, and the Cannery Complex—the Cannery Ballroom, Mercy Lounge, and the High Watt.

“We love music. We believe in science. Please get vaccinated. Yes, it’s a personal choice, just like holding the door for someone behind you, saying thank you, picking up after your dog, tipping your bartender, and being a decent person who cares about others,” Exit/In shared with patrons on their website. “To enter our establishments, you are required to provide proof that you are fully vaccinated, or proof of a negative COVID-19 test that was administered by or under the supervision of a healthcare provider within 48 hours of the date on which you are attending a show at Exit/In.

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THIS WEEK’S HEADLINES

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NSAI Shifts 2021 Nashville Songwriter Awards To Digital Format

Reyna Roberts Signs With Eclipse Music Group

Levon Gray Signs With Kane Brown’s Verse 2 Music

DISCLAIMER Singles Reviews

And much more...

TRAVIS DENNING

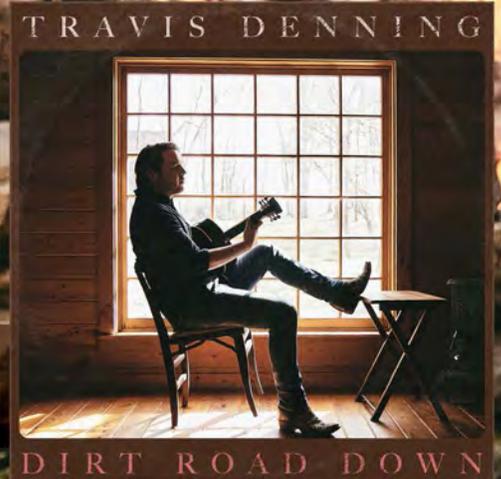
Dirt Road Down

EP

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SINGLE, "ABBY"

"Denning's everyman
worldview that evokes
his small-town, big-hearted
upbringing and a sound
that is a wide tent—fun,
modern country with
rock-guitar licks"
- ROLLING STONE

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Other venues took to social media to share the news to fans, including the Basement and Basement East saying, “The health and safety of fans, artists and staff are paramount to The Basement & The Basement East anytime but especially during the COVID-19 pandemic... We will continually assess the information and recommendations provided by the CDC and update our policy as needed.”

Over the last week, other events and entertainment companies have made similar announcements, including Tennessee’s three-day outdoor music and arts Bonnaroo festival.



Bonnaroo will be enforcing a vaccine requirement ahead of this year’s festival, running Thursday, Sept. 2 through Sunday, Sept.

5. In order to attend the 2021 festival, patrons must present a full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result obtained within 72 hours of entering the property.

“Bonnaroo strongly encourages vaccination. The last day to receive the second shot of Moderna or Pfizer, or a single dose of Johnson and Johnson is Thursday, Aug. 19,” festival organizers shared on its website. “Bonnaroo requests that unvaccinated individuals wear a mask at all times while on The Farm.”

Upon arriving on the Bonnaroo farm, patrons will be required to receive a Health Check Wristband at any campground medical tent. These wristbands will allow entry into the festival for the entire duration of the event.

For attendees for forgot to receive a test, lost their vaccination card, or are outside of the 72-hour window, COVID-19 Rapid Anti-gen tests will be available at all Plaza Medical Tents for \$40. If you test positive, a second complimentary test will be given for confirmation.

For anyone who tests positive upon arriving at the Bonnaroo farm, they will be notified of their test status, have their festival wristband removed, and will be provided with a pre-printed card with instructions on how to request a refund for their ticket. Additionally, any patrons who test positive before the festival or who are still in the 14-day isolation window will be eligible for a full ticket refund.

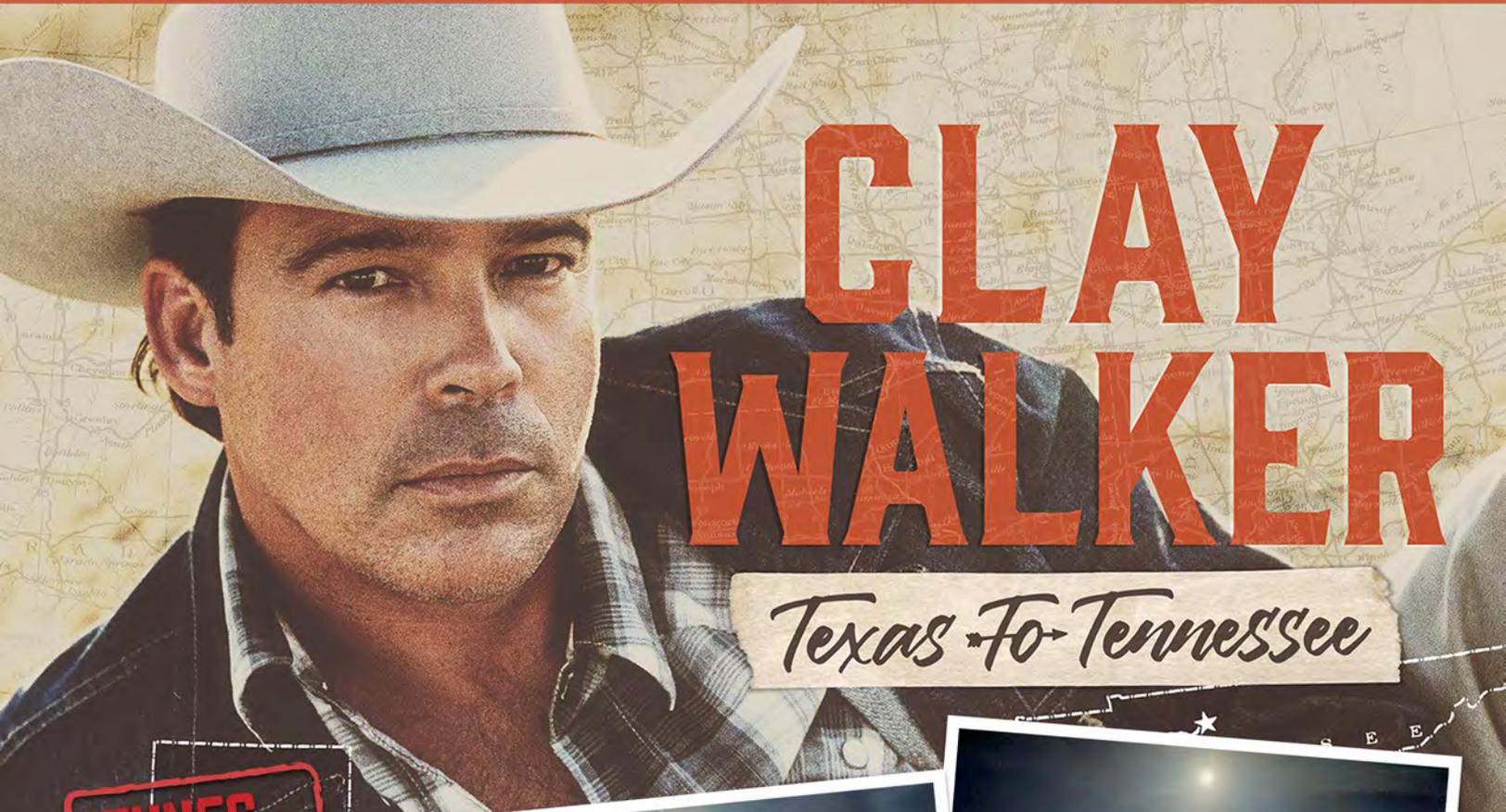
Bonnaroo will also require masks in any indoor spaces regardless of vaccination states, including the General Store, Plaza Barns, and all enclosed activations.

Additionally, Live Nation announced that they have developed best practices that will allow artists the option to require their concertgoers and staff to be fully vaccinated or show a negative test result for entry at their U.S. shows. This is not a requirement and will be completely determined by the artist.

AEG followed, announcing that they will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry into its owned and operated clubs, theatres, and festivals. AEG's vaccination policy, limited only as required by law, will go into effect nationwide by Oct. 1, 2021 to allow time for any eligible unvaccinated ticket holders and staff to reach fully vaccinated status should they choose to do so. Leading up to Oct. 1, AEG Presents will be requiring either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours of the show date.

Country festival Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam, which was slated to take place next month, rescheduled to 2022 due to the surge, while the Summerfest festival announced their changed entry requirements as well. **MR**

DIG COUNTRY MUSIC?



CLAY WALKER

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10 Top Shelf *Country* Tracks
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Morgan Wade Signs With Arista Nashville



Pictured (L-R, front row): Randy Goodman, Sony Music Nashville Chairman & CEO; Morgan Wade; Mary Sparr, Hillpeople Artist Management. (L-R, back row): Liz Cost, SMN VP, Marketing; Caryl Atwood, SMN SVP, Sales and Streaming; Jennifer Way, SMN SVP, Marketing; Taylor Lindsey, SMN SVP, A&R; Steve Hodges, SMN EVP Promotion and Artist Development; Sadler Vaden, producer. Photo: Alan Poizner

Morgan Wade has signed with Arista Nashville. Wade's debut single, "Wilder Days," will be released this fall.

Wade released her debut album *Reckless* in early 2021 to critical acclaim. The 26-year-old kept her songs and her voice hidden in her younger years, taking to the stage naturally at age 19, and then choosing sobriety soon after in her early twenties. Working alongside **Paul Ebersold** and **Sadler Vaden**, the trio shaped songs Wade has written over the years and developed new tracks to create her debut.

"There always a bit of reserve when going to a major label from an independent one – there's worry that your creativity will be stripped away. I don't feel that at all with Sony," says Wade. "If anything, I'm more inspired than ever. Sony and Arista see my vision and want to work hard with me to share that vision. I feel at home."

Following opening stints with Ashley McBryde and American Aquarium, Wade will join Lucero for the band's fall tour and will appear at major festivals including Rock the South, Pilgrimage, and more.

Wade is represented by Hillpeople Artist Management and WME. She signed with UMPG Nashville earlier this year. **MR**

Lily Rose Signs Publishing Deal With UMPG, Back Blocks Publishing



Pictured (L-R): Cyndi Forman (SVP, A&R, UMPG Nashville), Lily Rose, Rakiyah Marshall (Founder/CEO, Back Blocks Music). Photo: Roxy King

Universal Music Publishing Nashville and Back Blocks Music have announced that Big Loud Records / Back Blocks Music and Republic Records recording artist **Lily Rose** has signed an exclusive, worldwide publishing agreement.

Rose's debut single, "Villain," entered the iTunes all-genre and country charts at No. 1. She recently released her latest single, "Know My Way Around," and will join Chris Lane's Fill Them Boots tour this fall. The singer-songwriter is managed by **Rakiyah Marshall** (Back Blocks Music) and **Daniel Miller** (Fusion Music Management).

"Lily knows exactly who she is as an artist. Her work ethic and her passion for songwriting was evident to our team the first time we met with her. We are excited for the opportunity to represent her music in partnership with Rakiyah," shares **Cyndi Forman**, SVP A&R, UMPG Nashville.

"As a songwriter, you are always seeking a publisher that will act as your biggest champion through the highs and the lows," says Rose. "I couldn't imagine a better duo of champions for me than Cyndi and Rakiyah. I truly couldn't be in better hands for my songwriting career!"

"I couldn't be more proud that Lily chose Back Blocks to be her publishing home alongside Cyndi and the team at UMPG," adds Marshall. "Lily and her artistry continue to push the envelope and I am thrilled to be a part of the songs she crafts in the years to come." **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Best Thing Since Backroads/Jake Owen/Big Loud

Records — 61

22 Red Flags/Presley & Taylor/White Mustang Records — 77

Hometown In My Headlights/JD Shelburne/JD Shelburne

Music LLC — 79

You and Sunscreen/Runnin' Shine/Great Heights

Recording — 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Best Thing Since Backroads/Jake Owen/Big Loud

Records — 279

If I Didn't Love You/Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood/Broken

Bow/Macon Music/Capitol — 269

Beers On Me/Dierks Bentley feat. BRELAND & HARDY/

Capitol — 144

Fancy Like/Walker Hayes/Monument — 133

These Boots Were Made To Dance/Timothy Baker & Clayton

Smalley/YN Records — 131

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Best Thing Since Backroads/Jake Owen/Big Loud

Records — 22

These Boots Were Made To Dance/Timothy Baker & Clayton

Smalley/YN Records — 13

Beers On Me/Dierks Bentley feat. BRELAND & HARDY/

Capitol — 9

Fancy Like/Walker Hayes/Monument— 8

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Record High/Randall King/Warner Music Nashville — 171

I Made A Wish/Carl Ray Hopper/CCB Nashville — 164

I Don't/Tiffany Woys feat. Jordan Fletcher — 159

Wilder Days/Morgan Wade/Ladylike Records — 154

Hit Me Up/Josh Kinney/Birmingham Entertainment — 152

NO. 1 SONG



Lainey Wilson earns her first *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart No. 1 this week with “Things A Man Oughta Know.” In addition to being nominated for *MusicRow*’s [Discovery Artist of the Year](#), Wilson was also named the featured artist for August for [Opry NextStage](#).

“Things A Man Oughta Know” appears on Wilson’s latest album, *Sayin’ What I’m Thinkin’* and was co-written by Wilson, **Jonathan Singleton**, and **Jason Nix**. Wilson sat down with *MusicRow* to discuss the making of her album. [Read the exclusive interview here](#).

Wilson will join Jason Aldean on his [Back in the Saddle Tour](#) kicking off this month.



Each songwriter and artist earning No. 1 credit on the *MusicRow* Chart receives a *MusicRow* Challenge Coin. [Click here](#) to view a full list of recipients.

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

WHMA Anniston, AL
 WXFL Florence, AL
 KQUS Hot Springs, AR
 KDXY Jonesboro, AR
 KWCK Searcy, AR
 KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA
 WPAP Panama City, FL
 WUBB Savannah, GA
 KXIA Marshalltown, IA
 KIAI Mason City, IA
 KBOE Oskaloosa, IA
 KTHK Idaho Falls, ID
 WOOZ Cartersville, IL
 WAAG Galesburg, IL

WMCI Mattoon, IL
 WYOT Rochelle, IL
 WRTB Rockford, IL
 WCCI Savanna, IL
 WIFE Connerville, IN
 KAIR Atchison, KS
 WKDZ Cadiz, KY
 WBKR Owensboro, KY
 WDHR Pikeville, KY
 KRRV Alexandria, LA
 WUUU Covington, LA
 WKPE Hyannis, MA
 WVMD Cumberland, MD
 WTCM Traverse City, MI

KYSM Mankato, MN
 KZPK St. Cloud, MN
 KWWR Mexico, MO
 KFAV Warrenton, MO
 KZZY Devils Lake, ND
 KRVN Lexington, NE
 KBRX O’Neill, NE
 Jersey Shore Country
 KQBA Santa Fe, NM
 WDNB Monticello, NY
 WOLF Syracuse, NY
 WCJW Warsaw, NY
 WFRY Watertown, NY
 KWHW Altus, OK

KITX Hugo, OK
 KWEY Weatherford, OK
 KWOX Woodward, OK
 KRKT Albany, OR
 WVNW Lewistown, PA
 WNBT Mansfield, PA
 WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
 WFGE State College, PA
 WMIR Myrtle Beach, SC
 KMOM Aberdeen, SD
 WUCZ Carthage, TN
 WDKN Dickson, TN
 WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
 KFTX Corpus Christi, TX

KYKX Longview, TX
 KYYK Palestine, TX
 KXOX Sweetwater, TX
 WAKG Danville, VA
 WAXX Altoona, WI
 WJVL Janesville, WI
 WGLR Platteville, WI
 WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
 WCOW Sparta, WI
 WTNJ Beckley, WV
 WDDG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
26	2	1	Things A Man Oughta Know / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow	1831/54	4	74
24	4	2	Knowing You / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	1500/51	-2	-29
35	1	3	Cold Beer Calling My Name / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/ Columbia Nashville	1486/46	-19	-350
40	6	4	Just About Over You / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	1437/59	3	42
13	8	5	You Should Probably Leave / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1408/63	7	98
31	5	6	My Boy / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records	1394/48	0	-2
6	11	7	Cold As You / Luke Combs / Columbia/River House Artists	1356/58	10	122
28	12	8	Freedom Was A Highway / Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley / Stoney Creek Records	1296/49	5	66
27	7	9	Glad You Exist / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville/WAR	1280/33	-4	-49
31	9	10	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	1274/59	1	17
20	13	11	Chasing After You / Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris / Arista Nashville	1256/50	7	77
17	10	12	Half Of My Hometown / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	1256/57	1	17
9	15	13	Same Boat / Zac Brown Band / Home Grown Music/Warner Music Nashville	1217/58	10	107
16	18	14	It's Cause I Am / Callista Clark / Big Machine	1151/54	9	97
42	16	15	If It Wasn't For Trucks / Riley Green / BMLG	1069/48	0	1
29	19	16	To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	1050/55	2	24
39	17	17	You Time / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	1046/36	-2	-20
6	23	18	Heart On Fire / Eric Church / EMI Records Nashville	1035/55	14	128
25	20	19	Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville	1001/51	2	21
3	31	20	If I Didn't Love You / Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood / Broken Bow/Macon Music/Capitol	977/50	38	269
23	21	21	Under It With You Tonight / Smith & Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville	931/44	2	15
21	24	22	My Masterpiece / Darius Rucker / Capitol	857/40	2	18
14	25	23	Tip Jar / Jackson Michelson / Curb	848/47	2	19
15	26	24	Fill Them Boots / Chris Lane / Big Loud Records	830/45	5	37
16	28	25	I'm Not For Everyone / Brothers Osborne / EMI Records Nashville	797/44	2	16
34	34	26	Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	780/42	19	123
16	30	27	Not Yet / Brett Young / BMLG	765/40	4	31
14	32	28	Thinking 'Bout You / Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter / Broken Bow	763/43	9	65
9	29	29	Never Mine / Craig Campbell / Grindstone Records	760/46	0	1
24	27	30	I Can't / Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion / Monument Records	755/43	-5	-36
4	37	31	Buy Dirt / Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan / MCA Nashville	728/43	17	105
20	33	32	ABBY / Travis Denning / Mercury Nashville	701/35	1	8
8	36	33	The Worst Country Song Of All Time / Brantley Gilbert feat. Toby Keith and HARDY / Valory	698/43	8	53
12	39	34	Back Then, Right Now / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand Records	611/41	7	38
7	38	35	Old School / Toby Keith / Show Dog Nashville	592/37	1	7
5	41	36	That's What Cowboys Do / Garth Brooks / Pearl Records	584/37	6	35
10	40	37	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) / Elle King & Miranda Lambert / RCA Nashville	584/30	3	16
4	49	38	Fancy Like / Walker Hayes / Monument	525/30	34	133
14	45	39	Pretend He's You / Ashley Barron / SSM Nashville	522/38	12	55
19	42	40	Villain / Lily Rose / Big Loud Records	504/26	2	11

CHECK OUT THE NEW ULTIMATE SUMMER PARTY SONG!

FRIDAY NIGHT

“Sunset Sinners ‘Friday Night’ has been our #1 requested party anthem song for the summer” - Mike Walker KBRX Radio - O’Neill, NE

Written by Randy Montana (Luke Combs “Beer Never Broke My Heart”) & Blake Chaffin (Brantley Gilbert, Rodney Atkins, Logan Mize).



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
24	44	41	Gotta Go Rodeo / Darlinghurst / Helium	494/23	4	21
9	46	42	Fine / Mira Goto / ArtistMax	478/29	7	30
15	43	43	Woman You Got / Maddie & Tae / Mercury	463/32	-3	-13
11	47	44	Local Honey / Mo Pitney / Curb	445/26	3	15
24	50	45	Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	410/26	6	23
10	48	46	Get Lost / Lucas Hoge / Forge Entertainment Group	406/27	0	-1
2	70	47	Beers On Me / Dierks Bentley feat. BRELAND & HARDY / Capitol	378/29	62	144
6	51	48	How Far Can It Go? / Hailey Whitters feat. Trisha Yearwood / Big Loud/S&D/Pigasus	373/29	3	11
10	53	49	Dirt / Elise Harper / Skyfall Music	363/22	2	8
13	52	50	Something Good To Miss / Juna N Joey / River Run Records	352/25	-1	-5
11	56	51	Princess / Dallas Remington / RoadWarrior Records	351/26	7	22
16	55	52	That Ain't Me No More / Matt Stell / RECORDS/Arista Nashville	349/22	0	0
3	68	53	7500 OBO / Tim McGraw / Big Machine	327/24	37	88
8	57	54	American Summer / Kylie Trout / Kylie Trout Music	326/22	3	11
3	59	55	Am I The Only One / Aaron Lewis / Valory	325/22	12	34
16	58	56	Got Me This Far / Donny Lee / Donny Lee Music	318/23	7	22
16	54	57	Hot Beer / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	317/23	-10	-37
4	61	58	Grow Up / Ian Flanigan feat. Blake Shelton / Reviver Records	308/28	8	22
15	60	59	Is It Me And You / Lisa Brokop / Amersong	292/20	2	5
6	64	60	Rub A Little Dirt On It / Chase Likens / On The Green	290/20	14	36
1	0	61	Best Thing Since Backroads / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	279/22	0	279
8	63	62	You'll Always Be My Baby / Alan Jackson / EMI Records Nashville	278/20	4	11
6	62	63	Better Than You're Used To / Tyler Rich / Valory	277/22	3	9
3	69	64	Get To Work Whiskey / Ward Davis / Ward Davis/Thirty Tigers Records	266/23	13	30
12	65	65	Old School / Lance Wade Thomas / Shady Grove Records	260/16	3	7
12	66	66	Growing Up Too Fast / Jon Wayne Hatfield / Soundstage Music	259/18	5	12
9	71	67	Summer Song / Chris Kroeze /	236/17	2	4
8	67	68	Evangeline / Sammy Kershaw / White Mustang Records	233/17	-5	-11
7	74	69	Make It To Memphis / Shelley Lynch / Lynch Records	230/13	6	12
4	73	70	Walking In Your Wonderful Light / Rhonda Towns / Dawn Records	227/14	4	8
5	72	71	Hillbilly Shake / AC Thomas / Birmingham Entertainment	226/21	1	3
3	76	72	Talk Of The Town / South 62 / Graphite Sound	223/18	10	21
20	22	73	Then A Girl Walks In / Shenandoah & Blake Shelton / Foundry Records	219/14	-76	-691
8	75	74	Lil Bit / Nelly & Florida Georgia Line / RECORDS/Columbia	209/14	0	-1
2	77	75	Feel Good Again / RT Johnson / CCB Nashville	208/19	12	22
2	78	76	American Made / Dakota Poorman / Ten Inch Vinyl Entertainment, LLC	202/17	11	20
1	81	77	22 Red Flags / Presley & Taylor / White Mustang Records	179/15	15	23
2	80	78	Please Don't Let Me / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville	178/17	10	16
1	87	79	Hometown In My Headlights / JD Shelburne / JD Shelburne Music LLC	176/13	27	37
1	85	80	You and Sunscreen / Runnin' Shine / Great Heights Recording	174/14	18	26

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Dolly Parton & Author James Patterson Coauthor A Novel, Parton To Release Coinciding Album

Beloved entertainment icon **Dolly Parton** and bestselling author **James Patterson** will publish a novel they wrote together, it was announced today (Aug. 11) by publisher Little, Brown and Company.

Set in Nashville, the novel titled *Run, Rose, Run* is about a young woman who moves to Music City to chase her music-making dreams. Fleeing from her past and fueled by a brutal secret, the protagonist is reaching out to control her future.

The first novel Parton has ever written, *Run, Rose, Run* will be published on March 7, 2022. Parton will simultaneously release an album of the same name, consisting of twelve original songs she was inspired by the book to write, record, and produce. The lyrics to the songs are found in the novel.

Parton says, "I cannot be more excited about the release of my very first novel *Run Rose Run* with the great James Patterson. I also have a new album to go along with the book. All new songs were written based on the characters and situations in the book. I hope you enjoy the book and the songs as much as we've enjoyed putting it all together!"

The album, coproduced by **Richard Dennison** and **Tom Rutledge**, will likewise be released in March 2022 on her own Butterfly Records in partnership with another record label that has yet to be determined. **MR**



The Isaacs To Become Newest Grand Ole Opry Members



The Dove Award-winning gospel group **The Isaacs** were surprised on stage at the Grand Ole Opry Tuesday night (Aug. 10) by Opry member **Ricky Skaggs** with an invitation to officially become Opry members. The group will formally be inducted into the Opry family on Tuesday, Sept. 14.

Isaacs members **Becky, Ben, Lily, and Sonya** were marking the release of their new album *The American Face* when Skaggs approached them on stage with framed artwork of the album. Reading an inscription in the framed material, Skaggs said, "Presented to the Isaacs on August 10, 2021 to Commemorate the Release of the New Album *The American Face* and to Celebrate Your Invitation to Become Official Members

of the Grand Ole Opry." Then he followed with, "Do you say yes?"

"The Isaacs are musical treasures. They are family," says Opry Vice President and Executive Producer **Dan Rogers**. "I think, 'man, is our audience lucky tonight' every single time they take our stage. We're honored they love the Opry like they do, and I am excited about the prospect of them delivering their powerful songs from the Opry circle for years to come." **MR**

Academy Of Country Music, ACM Lifting Lives Announce 2021-2022 Officers



The Academy of Country Music and ACM Lifting Lives have announced their newly-elected officers for the 2021-2022 term.

Stepping into these roles are Chair **Lori Badgett** (City National Bank), Vice-Chair **Chuck Aly** (*Country Aircheck*), Vice-President **Ebie McFarland** (Essential Broadcast Media), Treasurer **Carmen Romano** (FBMM), Sergeant-at-Arms **Gayle Holcomb** (WME), Parliamentarian **Paul Moore** (PGM Connections) and Secretary **Tommy Moore** (Academy of Country Music).

Stepping into these roles for ACM Lifting Lives are, Chair **Troy Vollhoffer** (Premier Global Production), Vice-Chair **Lorie Lytle** (Fridrich & Clark Realty), Vice-President **Daniel Miller** (Fusion Music), Treasurer **Duane Clark** (FBMM) and Secretary **Taylor Wolf** (ACM Lifting Lives).

“After the year the music industry has gone through, we have been so proud of what the Academy and ACM Lifting Lives staff, boards, artists, partners and our community have been able to accomplish. It was incredible to have a front-seat view of the dedication to bringing live music to the forefront both virtually and through our television screens as well as aid to those in need during an ever-changing time,” says past ACM Chair **Ed Warm** and past ACM Lifting Lives Chair **Paul Barnabee**. “We look forward to the great future that is in store for both historic organizations and we’re so proud to have ACM and ACM Lifting Lives Boards in the hands of Lori Badgett and Troy Vollhoffer respectively.”
MR

NSAI To Shift 2021 Nashville Songwriter Awards To Digital Format



Due to growing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) has announced that the 2021 Nashville Songwriter Awards will be shifted to a virtual format, forgoing the previously announced in-person private event.

The 4th annual awards, presented by City National Bank, will continue to take place Sept. 14, 2021.

The Nashville Songwriter Awards honors 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.

Information regarding how to watch the awards will be announced in the coming weeks. **MR**

Reyna Roberts Signs With Eclipse Music Group



Pictured (L-R): Kurt Locher (Founder, Eclipse Music Group), Denise Stevens (Partner, Loeb & Loeb), Ryan McMahan (Co-founder, Oath Management), Reyna Roberts, Larry Pareigis (Co-founder, Oath Management), Penny Gattis (General Manager, Eclipse Music Publishing), Samuel Roberts, Jamie Bruno (Creative Manager, Eclipse Music Publishing)

Rising country artist **Reyna Roberts** has signed an exclusive worldwide publishing deal with Eclipse Music Group.

Roberts was born in Alaska into a military family, and grew up in Alabama and California. She moved to Nashville in March 2020 and shortly after released her single “Stompin Grounds,” which was featured during Monday Night Football. She was named as part of the 2021 class of CMT’s Next Women of Country and recently joined Jamey Johnson as a special guest on his summer tour and made her festival debut at Watershed Festival.

“We are thrilled to welcome Reyna to the Eclipse Music family,” says **Penny Gattis**, head of Eclipse’ Publishing division. “It’s been amazing to watch Reyna’s artistic vision come to life through her songwriting, powerhouse vocals and electric live performances. She’s the definition of an entertainer and her dedication to her artistry is inspiring. We are honored to be her publishing home.”

“I am incredibly grateful that Eclipse has welcomed me into their family,” says Roberts. “We share the same vision and dream. Kurt, Penny, and Jamie understand me as an artist and writer. I’m looking forward to us winning together!” **MR**

Levon Gray Signs With Kane Brown’s Verse 2 Music

Singer-songwriter **Levon Gray** has signed with Verse 2 Music, a Sony Music Publishing joint venture helmed by multi-Platinum entertainer **Kane Brown** and publishing veteran **Kent Earls**.

Gray co-wrote Brown’s new upcoming single, “One Mississippi,” that Brown teased on social media earlier this week.

Gray caught Brown’s attention when he uploaded a video of a song he wrote to social media, tagging Brown and a few other artists. Brown messaged Gray and invited him to co-write in Nashville, telling him if the song was good that he would cut it and perhaps talk about signing him to Verse 2 Music. The opportunity was a much needed positive moment for Gray, who lost his mother recently to COVID.

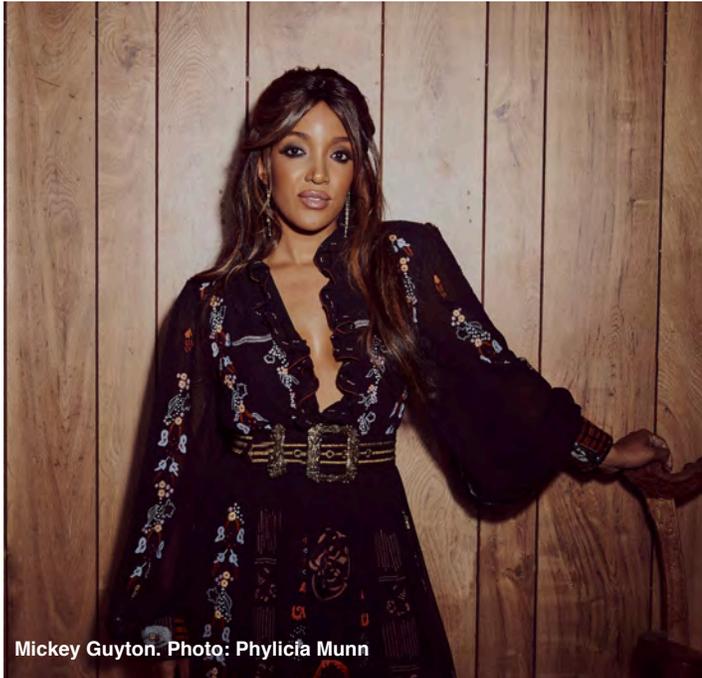
“He came up to Nashville. I sat back and was in A&R to make sure he knew what he was doing, and he wrote [‘One Mississippi’]. It just means the world to me,” Brown says. “I’m so pumped for him, and to see what this does for him in the future.”

“I just love making music that can make memories,” says Gray. “The guys at Verse 2 are on the same page, so I’m just grateful to God and them.” **MR**



Pictured (L-R): Verse 2’s Kent Earls, Kane Brown, Levon Gray, Sony Music Publishing’s Rusty Gaston

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Mickey Guyton, Carly Pearce, Lauren Alaina



Mickey Guyton. Photo: Phylcia Munn

Today's contenders in DisClaimer are equally divided between males and females.

Despite strong efforts by Scotty McCreery, Tim McGraw, Travis Tritt and the all-star team of Dierks Bentley, Breland and HARDY, the gals have the edge. Lauren Alaina, Lily Rose and the team of Carly Pearce and Patty Loveless have must-hear performances this week. So does Mickey Guyton, who takes home the Disc of the Day prize.

It's a listening session that was packed with headliners, so we have no DisCOVERY Award to give.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Nominees Announced For 52nd Annual GMA Dove Awards](#)

[Kasey Tyndall Signs With River House Artists, Sony Music Publishing](#)

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[50th Anniversary of Elvis Presley's Final Nashville Sessions Celebrated With New Collection](#)

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['80s Country Chart Topper Razy Bailey Passes](#)

[Details Revealed For Late Country Music & Radio Icon Bob Kingsley's Career-Spanning Book](#)

[Chase Rice Earns Third Career No. 1 With 'Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen.'](#)

[In Pictures: The Oak Ridge Boys, More Play Grand Ole Opry Show At Music City Grand Prix](#)

[CRS To Launch New Heads Of State Series With Top Music Executives In 2022](#)

[Boy Named Banjo Announce New 'Circles' EP](#)

['The Girls Are Back In Town' As Chapel Hart Announces Upcoming Sophomore Album](#)

Travis Denning Shows Off His Many Sides With 'Dirt Road Down' [Interview]

Mercury Nashville Recording artist **Travis Denning** recently released his sophomore project *Dirt Road Down*, which provides a well rounded spectrum of Denning's personality.

With a long song ("Dirt Road Down"), a bar-burner ("Call It Country"), a wise look at life ("I Went Fishin"), and a tongue-in-cheek ditty Denning is becoming known for ("ABBY"), the ever-charming artist shows off his songwriting chops on the six-song set.

Denning recently spoke with *MusicRow* about his *Dirt Road Down* project.



MusicRow: You wrote over 100 songs during the pandemic. Other than your current single, "ABBY," are the rest of these songs from that period of time?

"Jack And Coke" is an older song. The other four were all pandemic songs.

How did you pick four out of 100 for this project?

I still don't really know to be honest with you. It's tough when you're looking at an EP and you have all these songs that you want to put on there, but for me, it was more about balance. I knew I wanted a show-opener and I wanted a slammin' song. I also love nostalgic love and heartbreak songs, so that was "Dirt Road Down," I always try to have a song like that on an EP. And I wanted to put something really personal in there and that was "I Went Fishin'." So it was more about a checklist of songs that fill these slots in my head for the whole thing.

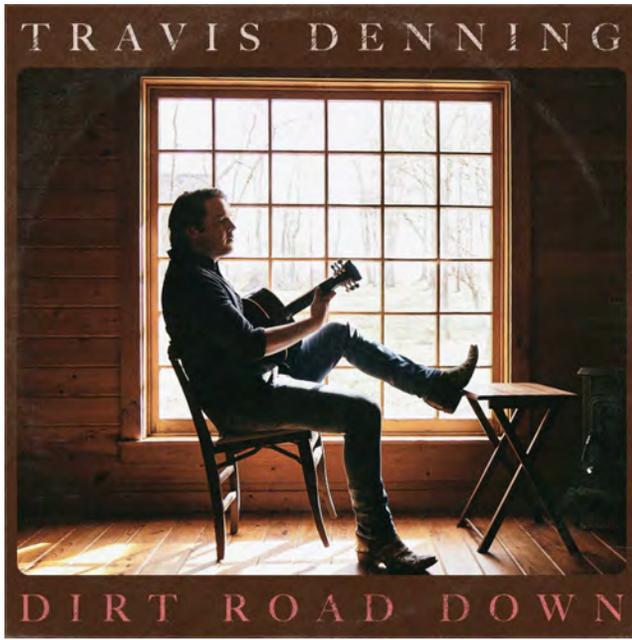
"ABBY" is currently climbing at country radio. Do you ever notice people in the audience the moment they get that "Abby" is "any body but you?"

Oh yeah. The the first time we ever played it was in Tulsa, Oklahoma with Riley Green. It wasn't even out yet—it wasn't going to be out for another couple of months but I was like, "Here's a new song. Just pay attention to it and you'll get it." You see some people get it immediately when I say "any body but you," but there's some others [that don't get it that quickly]. I remember that show just looking at the band and going, "This might be something right here." Luckily now most people have gotten it, but every now and then I have some people tweet me and say, "Oh my God, I just got this." I'm like, "Well it's only been out for two years, but it's all good."

"Call It Country" is a jam, and so wordy. Tell me about writing that one with Jessi Alexander and Chris Stevens.

Jessi is one of my best buds in town, especially in the songwriting community. I just walked in there and said, "I don't want to write anything slower than 120 BPM. I want to write a bar burner." She immediately was like, "Thank God. I'm so down for that." Me, her and Chris Stevens actually ran to the gas station and bought beer because we had to have beer for that song. I just wanted it to be very rhythmic, that was the thing. I had the guitar lick right off the bat. I wanted it to be very staccato and very bouncy. So for the melody, I was like "We're gonna put a lot of words in this bad boy," and treated the melody more like a rhythm or a pattern or a drum. It adds a layer to that song.

You wrote "Grew Up With A Truck" by yourself.



I partnered with Charles Schwab to debut their giveaway for their PGA tour stop. They called me and asked, "Can you write a truck song?" I was like, "Yeah, I probably can. I think I've written about 9,000 of them." I just sat down and took that as an opportunity to write it myself. I had a lot of time to write it and it was really cool to be in that process of picking at it for a week versus going, "Hey, I'll meet you at 11 o'clock at this office and we're going to write this song." Being able to do it like my idols and heroes, like Neil Young, Gregg Allman and Steve Earl, I got to spend some time and really put every little piece that I can remember from growing up into that song. I'm gonna try to do that more often because I felt like I got a little better at writing.

"I Went Fishin'" was written a few days after you got the news about the Sam Hunt tour that you were supposed to be on was canceled.

It just sucked. It was the realization that COVID wasn't going anywhere and that we weren't going to be on the road anytime soon. It was just an overall bummer. I had the title

in my phone prior to that because I really fell back in love with fishing when the pandemic hit. I fished a little bit growing up. And truthfully, it's up there with playing guitar and being a songwriter for me. It's just something I really love to do. It gives me a lot of joy and happiness.

But even with the headspace I was in after the Sam tour was canceled, I realized I had the opportunity to go out on the boat and do things. I was like, "You know, this sucks and this pandemic is not going anywhere, but I don't think about it when I'm out there. I just think about trying to catch a damn fish." It seems so simple, but just that moment of peace, turning the world off, that's when it all really clicked for me and I realized that for a lot of people, that is what fishing is for. I thought about the times in my life that felt like wouldn't get better during first heartbreaks and losing the dog I'd had my whole life. I wrote that with Thomas Archer and James McNair, it literally just fell out of us. We all sat there and went, "I think this could be something special." **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Ashley Gorley	Beers On Me Country Again Give Heaven Some Hell Good Things Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night You Should Probably Leave	Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland Thomas Rhett HARDY Dan + Shay Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Chris Stapleton
2	2	Corey Crowder	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Famous Friends Minimum Wage	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line Chris Young + Kane Brown Blake Shelton
3	3	Hunter Phelps	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
4	4	Zach Crowell	Country Again Waves	Thomas Rhett Luke Bryan
5	5	Michael Hardy	Beers On Me Give Heaven Some Hell Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night That Ain't Me No More The Worst Country Song Of All Time	Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland HARDY Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Matt Stell Brantley Gilbert, HARDY, Toby Keith
6	6	Jonathan Singleton	Cold as You Same Boat Things A Man Oughta Know	Luke Combs Zac Brown Band Lainey Wilson
7	7	Luke Combs	Cold as You Forever After All	Luke Combs Luke Combs
8	9	Randy Montana	Cold as You If It Wasn't For Trucks We Didn't Have Much	Luke Combs Riley Green Justin Moore
9	8	Josh Osborne	I Was On A Boat That Day Next Girl Sand In My Boots	Old Dominion Carly Pearce Morgan Wallen
10	11	Shane McAnally	Half Of My Hometown I Was On A Boat That Day Next Girl	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Old Dominion Carly Pearce
11	12	J. Flowers	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
12	13	Brinley Addington	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
13	10	Martin Johnson	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) Like A Lady	Elle King and Miranda Lambert Lady A
14	14	Mark Holman	Single Saturday Night	Cole Swindell
15	15	Drew Parker	Forever After All	Luke Combs
16	16	Robert Williford	Forever After All	Luke Combs
17	17	Cary Barlowe	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
18	18	Chris Young	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
19	19	Jesse Frasure	Minimum Wage Whiskey And Rain	Blake Shelton Michael Ray
20	30	Rhett Akins	Tequila Little Time To Be Loved By You	Jon Pardi Parker McCollum
21	22	Paul DiGiovanni	Getting Over Him We Didn't Have Much	Lauren Alaina with Jon Pardi Justin Moore
22	27	Ryan Hurd	Waves	Luke Bryan
23	28	Chase McGill	Waves	Luke Bryan

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
24	31	Thomas Rhett	Country Again	Thomas Rhett
25	25	Lainey Wilson	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
26	26	Jason Nix	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
27	34	Josh Jenkins	Buy Dirt Fancy Like	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan Walker Hayes
28	29	Jeremy Stover	We Didn't Have Much	Justin Moore
29	24	Elle King	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
30	32	Kurt Allison	Blame It On You If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
31	33	Tully Kennedy	Blame It On You If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
32	36	C. Dodds	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line
33	37	Chase Rice	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line
34	38	A. Eshuis	You Time	Scotty McCreery
35	39	Frank Rogers	You Time	Scotty McCreery
36	40	Scotty McCreery	You Time	Scotty McCreery
37	41	Brian Davis	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
38	42	Lee Brice	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
39	43	Billy Montana	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
40	44	Josh Thompson	Whiskey And Rain	Michael Ray
41	45	Carly Pearce	Next Girl	Carly Pearce
42	35	Dan Smyers	Glad You Exist Good Things	Dan + Shay Dan + Shay
43	51	Kat Higgins	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
44	52	Adam James	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
45	53	Brett James	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
46	47	Jordan Reynolds	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
47	48	Tayla Parx	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
48	49	Ryan Lewis	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
49	50	Shay Mooney	Glad You Exist	Dan + Shay
50	118	Lydia Vaughan	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
51	119	John Morgan	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
52	74	Jameson Rodgers	Cold Beer Calling My Name	Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs
53	75	Alysa Vanderheyem	Cold Beer Calling My Name	Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs
54	76	Brett Tyler	Cold Beer Calling My Name	Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs
55	57	Chris Stapleton	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
56	58	Chris DuBois	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
57	59	Walker Hayes	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
58	60	Shane Stevens	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
59	61	Cameron Bartolini	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
60	46	Nicolle Galyon	Half Of My Hometown I Quit Drinking Minimum Wage	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Kelsea Ballerini, LANY Blake Shelton

CALENDAR

Singles

August 13

Wester Country Duo/*Redneck RollaCoaster*/Go Long Entertainment

Faith Schueler/*Bless Your Heart*

Sean Caramore/*Later On, I'll Know*

August 16

Alan Jackson/*You'll Always Be My Baby*/ACR/EMI Nashville

Mitchell Tenpenny/*Truth About You*/Riser House/Columbia

Marynn Taylor/*I Know A Girl*/Black River

Kidd G/*Summer In A Small Town*/Valory

August 17

Bernadette Kathryn/*I Just Wanna Dance*/MC1

Albums

August 13

Dan + Shay/*Good Things*/Warner Music Nashville

Trisha Yearwood/*Every Girl: Deluxe*/Gwendolyn Records

Kalie Shorr/*I Got Here By Accident*/TMWRK Records

Clare Dunn/*In This Kind of Light EP*/Big Yellow Dog Music

August 20

Wanda Jackson/*Encore*/Big Machine Records/Blackheart Records

Maggie Rose/*Have A Seat*/Starstruck Records

Connie Smith/*The Cry of The Heart*/Fat Possum Records

Sam Williams/*Glasshouse Children*/Mercury Nashville

Anderson East/*Maybe We Never Die*/Elektra/Low Country Sound

James McMurtry/*The Horses and The Hounds*/New West Records

Manny Blue/*Devil*

Industry Events

August 19

33rd Annual *MusicRow* Awards (virtual)

August 25

14th Annual ACM Honors