

## Winners Announced For 34th Annual Industry-Voted *MusicRow* Awards



*MusicRow*, Nashville's leading music industry publication, presented its 34th annual *MusicRow* Awards on Tuesday (Aug. 30) via a series of videos on all online *MusicRow* platforms.

### City National Bank serves as presenting sponsor for the 34th Annual *MusicRow* Awards.

*MusicRow* Publisher/Owner **Sherod Robertson** and respected television host, entertainment journalist, writer and producer, **Alecia Davis**, served once again as "hosts" on each winner's video.

"Even in a world where one's worth is sometimes calculated as the number of likes, follows, or views you receive, those metrics will never replace the feeling and value of receiving accolades from your peers—the ones that support you, love you, and know that you are the very best. And that's exactly what the *MusicRow* Awards represent," shares Robertson. "Now in its 34th year, the *MusicRow* Awards are Nashville's longest running music industry trade publication honors and celebrate the achievements of songwriters, artists, producers, and more."

Country hitmaker **Luke Combs** was named the 2022 *MusicRow* Awards Artist of the Year. He has taken home the trophy for the category every year since its inception in 2019.

After winning the Discovery Award last year, **Lainey Wilson** takes home both the Breakthrough Artist of the Year award and the Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year award, which honors a Nashville songwriter and recording artist who for the first time wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song during the eligibility period. Wilson qualified for the honor with her first hit, "Things A Man Oughta Know."

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### THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Winners Announced For 34th Annual *MusicRow* Awards

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Riser House Entertainment Promotes Brandon Perdue

Laura Wright Alexander Joins Young Guns Publishing

Greg Frey Tapped To Spearhead Cumulus Media's New Music Partnerships Division

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And much more...

**MacKenzie Porter** claimed this year's Discovery Artist of the Year Award, which honors a Nashville developing artist who demonstrates significant talent and potential to rise.

*MusicRow's* Song of the Year category is awarded to honor Nashville writers and publishers on the craft of songwriting, not necessarily sales or chart performance. This year's winner was **Cody Johnson's** "'Til You Can't," which was penned by **Ben Stennis** and **Matt Rogers**.

Speaking of songwriting, **Josh Jenkins** took home *MusicRow's* Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year. He co-wrote his first two top 10 hits during the eligibility period, including Jordan Davis and Luke Bryan's "Buy Dirt" and Walker Hayes' blockbuster hit "Fancy Like."

For the third consecutive year, **Ashley Gorley** was awarded the Male Songwriter of the Year honor, which recognizes a Nashville songwriter based on data from *MusicRow's* Top Songwriter Chart. Meanwhile, **Nicolle Galyon** notched her first Female Songwriter of the Year award.

**Shane McAnally** was awarded the Producer of the Year honor for the first time. **Big Loud Records** took home Label Group of the Year for the first time, while **WME** nabbed another Talent Agency of the Year award.

The virtual celebration also included a presentation of the Top 10 Album All-Star Awards, recognizing session musicians achieving the most marks on albums that charted in the top 10 of *Billboard's* albums sales chart during the eligibility period. [See full winner list here.](#) **MR**

## Landmark Agreement For Phonorecords IV Proceeding Announced

On Wednesday afternoon (Aug. 31), the National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA), the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) and the Digital Media Association (DiMA) announced a landmark agreement for the Phonorecords IV Proceeding, resulting in higher mechanical rates for songwriters.

The agreement set the mechanical streaming rates in the U.S. for the years 2023-2027. The headline royalty rate will be set at 15.35%, which will be phased in over the five-year term. Now that the Mechanical Licensing Collective is fully operational, it will help deliver commission-free royalty payments, as set forth by the Music Modernization Act (MMA).

According to the NMPA, the deal also includes a number of changes to other components of the rate, including increases to the per-subscriber minimums and the "Total Content Costs (TCC)" calculations which reflect the rates that services pay to record labels.

In addition to NMPA and NSAI, this agreement was supported by DiMA member companies, Amazon, Apple, Google, Pandora, and Spotify.

Of the news, NMPA President & CEO **David Israelite** says, "This historic settlement is the result of songwriters making their voices heard. Instead of going to trial and continuing years of conflict, we instead move forward in collaboration with the highest rates ever, guaranteed. We thank the digital services for coming to the table and treating creators as business partners. Critically, since this is a percentage rate, we know that as streaming continues to grow exponentially, we will see unprecedented value of songs."

NSAI Executive Director **Bart Herbison** adds, "This collaborative process will lead to increased songwriter compensation from digital streaming companies and locks in our historic 43.8% increase from the previous CRB proceeding. Along with the upward rate momentum there are also new structures to help ensure minimum payments." **MR**

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

## CHART ACTION

### New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

**Beer With My Friends**/Kenny Chesney feat. Old Dominion/Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville — 62

**If He Wanted To He Would**/Kylie Morgan/EMI Records Nashville — 69

**Like She's Not Yours**/Charles J & The Conquistadors & The Bellamy Brothers/MetaMundo Music — 74

**How You Make A Man**/Craig Morgan/Broken Bow — 76

**Lake Days**/Cam Allen/Goat Music Group — 78

**wait in the truck**/HARDY feat. Lainey Wilson/Big Loud Records — 80

### Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

**Beer With My Friends**/Kenny Chesney feat. Old Dominion/Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville — 219

**No Body**/Blake Shelton/Warner Music Nashville — 183

**Fall In Love**/Bailey Zimmerman/Hurricane Bailey — 178

**You Proof**/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud Records — 169

### Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

**Beer With My Friends**/Kenny Chesney feat. Old Dominion/Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville — 17

**wait in the truck**/HARDY feat. Lainey Wilson/Big Loud Records — 11

**No Body**/Blake Shelton/Warner Music Nashville — 9

**Gold**/Dierks Bentley/Capitol — 6

**Burn It Down**/Lucie Tiger/2120 Music — 6

### On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

**Can't Have Mine**/Dylan Scott/Curb — 101

**Turn The Night On**/Kaleb Austin/Salty Mountain Music — 101

**\$ (Money)**/Chris Kroeze — 100

**Rock And A Hard Place**/Bailey Zimmerman/Elektra/Warner Music Nashville — 99

## NO. 1 SONG



In an unprecedented feat, **Luke Combs** make a triumphant return the top of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart marking four weeks at No. 1 for “The Kind Of Love We Make.” Combs wrote the single with **Dan Isbell**, **Reid Isbell**, and **Jamie Davis** and it appears on his latest album *Growin’ Up*.

This week, Combs was honored as Artist of the Year at the 34th annual *MusicRow* Awards. [Click here to see the full list of winners.](#)

The official music video for “The Kind Of Love We Make” has racked in over 11 million views on YouTube. [Click here to watch the video.](#)



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  
KBOD Mountain Home, 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

KKMV Rupert, ID  
WOOZ Cartersville, IL  
WAAG Galesburg, IL  
WMCI Mattoon, IL  
WYOT Rochelle, IL  
WRTB Rockford, IL  
WCCI Savanna, IL  
WIFE Connersville, IN  
KAIR Atchison, KS  
KQZQ Pratt, KS  
WKDZ Cadiz, KY  
WBKR Owensboro, KY  
WDHR Pikeville, KY

WKPE Hyannis, MA  
WTCM Traverse City, MI  
KYSM Mankato, MN  
KZPK St. Cloud, MN  
KFAV Warrenton, MO  
WFAY Fayetteville, NC  
KZZY Devils Lake, ND  
KYCK Thompson, ND  
KRVN Lexington, NE  
Jersey Shore Country  
KQBA Santa Fe, NM  
WDNB Monticello, NY  
WCJW Warsaw, NY

WFRY Watertown, NY  
KITX Hugo, OK  
KWEY Weatherford, OK  
KWXX Woodward, OK  
KRKT Albany, OR  
WVNW Lewistown, PA  
WNBT Mansfield, PA  
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA  
WFGE State College, PA  
KMOM Aberdeen, SD  
KZZI Spearfish, SD  
WUCZ Carthage, TN  
WDKN Dickson, TN

KFTX Corpus Christi, TX  
KYKX Longview, TX  
KXOX Sweetwater, TX  
WAKG Danville, VA  
WAXX Altoona, WI  
WJVL Janesville, WI  
WGLR Platteville, WI  
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI  
WCOW Sparta, WI  
WDGG Huntington, WV

## COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
11	2	1	<b>The Kind Of Love We Make / Luke Combs</b> / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	1715/49	2	37
9	4	2	<b>You Proof / Morgan Wallen</b> / Big Loud Records	1702/57	11	169
13	5	3	<b>Half Of Me / Thomas Rhett</b> / Valory	1613/61	6	90
15	1	4	<b>5 Foot 9 / Tyler Hubbard</b> / EMI Records Nashville	1612/52	-6	-101
15	3	5	<b>She Had Me At Heads Carolina / Cole Swindell</b> / Warner Music Nashville	1610/46	-3	-46
9	6	6	<b>Country On / Luke Bryan</b> / Capitol	1544/58	6	91
20	7	7	<b>Truth About You / Mitchell Tenpenny</b> / Riser House/Columbia	1472/46	8	106
36	8	8	<b>No Hard Feelings / Old Dominion</b> / RCA Nashville	1351/51	0	-5
28	13	9	<b>Wishful Drinking / Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt</b> / Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville	1272/43	11	128
21	10	10	<b>Heartfirst / Kelsea Ballerini</b> / Black River Entertainment	1266/56	2	20
39	9	11	<b>Soul / Lee Brice</b> / Curb	1231/49	-4	-52
27	12	12	<b>Pick Me Up / Gabby Barrett</b> / Warner Music Nashville	1176/55	3	29
20	14	13	<b>Son Of A Sinner / Jelly Roll</b> / Broken Bow	1156/47	3	34
23	15	14	<b>Joy Of My Life / Chris Stapleton</b> / Mercury Nashville	1058/51	-1	-13
8	21	15	<b>That's What Tequila Does / Jason Aldean</b> / Macon Music/Broken Bow	1017/53	12	109
30	16	16	<b>My Bar / Priscilla Block</b> / Mercury Nashville	983/47	1	11
34	17	17	<b>Out In The Middle / Zac Brown Band</b> / Warner Music Nashville	982/45	4	38
13	24	18	<b>Fall In Love / Bailey Zimmerman</b> / Hurricane Bailey	971/49	22	178
8	19	19	<b>Brown Eyes Baby / Keith Urban</b> / Capitol	971/53	5	44
24	20	20	<b>Down Home / Jimmie Allen</b> / Stoney Creek Records	943/43	2	20
23	22	21	<b>Heart Of A Small Town / Tim Dugger</b> / Curb Records	928/48	3	28
25	18	22	<b>Note To Self / Randy Houser</b> / Magnolia Music Group	918/46	-2	-22
21	23	23	<b>All I Can Think About Lately / CJ Solar</b> / Raining Bacon	828/46	1	11
39	26	24	<b>You Didn't / Brett Young</b> / BMLG	781/38	6	46
12	25	25	<b>Doing Life With Me / Eric Church</b> / EMI Records Nashville	761/40	3	23
16	27	26	<b>Telling On My Heart / Casey Donahew</b> / Almost Country Entertainment	759/46	4	29
5	30	27	<b>Gold / Dierks Bentley</b> / Capitol	743/50	9	60
10	29	28	<b>Water Under The Bridge / Sam Hunt</b> / MCA Nashville	727/44	6	39
13	28	29	<b>What My World Spins Around / Jordan Davis</b> / MCA Nashville	722/44	0	-1
19	31	30	<b>Lovesick Drifting Cowboy / James Robert Webb</b> / Bison Creek Records	667/39	3	17
13	32	31	<b>What He Didn't Do / Carly Pearce</b> / Big Machine	632/40	3	16
18	35	32	<b>She Likes It / Russell Dickerson feat. Jake Scott</b> / Triple Tigers Records	610/33	11	59
20	34	33	<b>Hell Yeah / Little Big Town</b> / Capitol	609/32	5	29
15	33	34	<b>Heart Like A Truck / Lainey Wilson</b> / Broken Bow	605/38	2	11
16	36	35	<b>Caught Up On My Drinkin' / Smith &amp; Wesley</b> / Dream Walkin' Records/BFD/Audium	565/37	4	23
13	39	36	<b>Boy Like Me / Aaron Goodvin</b> / Reviver Records	529/37	10	47
2	49	37	<b>No Body / Blake Shelton</b> / Warner Music Nashville	527/37	53	183
25	37	38	<b>Every Single Summer / MaRynn Taylor</b> / Black River Records	525/32	-1	-5
15	40	39	<b>Amen / Jacob Bryant</b> / American Roots Records	497/31	6	26
16	38	40	<b>Human / Cody Johnson</b> / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	494/33	-2	-10

MUSICROW

2022

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AWARDS

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
10	41	41	Everything She Ain't / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/S&D/Big Loud	484/35	5	25
9	42	42	Strange / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	479/32	5	24
9	44	43	Longneck Way To Go / Midland feat. Jon Pardi / Big Machine Records	451/34	3	13
17	46	44	The Wind / Ashley Barron / SSM Nashville	387/29	6	23
19	43	45	Songs About You / Brett Eldredge / Warner Music Nashville	386/25	-14	-63
14	47	46	You Go Good / Shane Owens / AmeriMonte Records	378/28	4	14
5	51	47	Loud & Heavy / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	363/27	14	45
36	45	48	Country'd Look Good On You / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	363/20	-1	-3
31	52	49	Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	349/22	11	34
3	61	50	Handle On You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	348/23	32	84
7	53	51	Whiskey On You / Nate Smith / Sony Music Nashville	346/25	12	37
8	55	52	Famous Enough / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records	340/26	11	34
12	48	53	Never Til Now / Ashley Cooke & Brett Young / Big Loud/BMLG Records	328/24	-5	-16
4	60	54	Y'all Life / Walker Hayes / Monument Records	318/24	18	49
6	57	55	Til You Get There / Ty Herndon / Pivotal Records	303/24	8	22
22	54	56	Holy Water / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	295/19	-4	-13
7	59	57	Open Road / Ned LeDoux / Powder River/Thirty Tigers	275/20	1	3
16	58	58	Shades / Dave Herrera / Brokerade, Inc	267/17	-2	-5
5	62	59	You / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	257/20	0	0
11	63	60	Come On Down / Josiah Siska / Black River Records	230/20	11	22
7	67	61	Something In The Orange / Zach Bryan / Belting Bronco/Warner Records	224/11	27	47
1	0	62	Beer With My Friends / Kenny Chesney feat. Old Dominion / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	219/17	0	219
4	68	63	One Drink In / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	208/15	18	32
10	64	64	Long Live Cowgirls / Ian Munsick with Cody Johnson / Warner Music Nashville	199/16	2	4
2	76	65	Wild As Her / Corey Kent / Combustion Masters	183/12	43	55
4	70	66	Everything Has Your Memory / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	178/15	5	9
39	65	67	Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House	178/10	-3	-6
6	71	68	Worth A Shot / Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley / RCA Records/Columbia Nashville	169/13	5	8
1	86	69	If He Wanted To He Would / Kylie Morgan / EMI Records Nashville	157/11	67	63
11	73	70	Sounds Good To Me / Jason Byrd / MayCourt Records	148/10	9	12
2	74	71	I Don't Want You Back / Tiffany Woys / Tiffany Woys	142/13	9	12
3	72	72	Project / Chase McDaniel /	140/12	1	2
8	69	73	Summer State Of Mind / Lady A / BMLG	130/10	-25	-44
1	88	74	Like She's Not Yours / Charles J & The Conquistadors & The Bellamy Brothers / MetaMundo Music	127/6	41	37
4	75	75	Man Made / Matt Stell / RECORDS	125/9	-3	-4
1	82	76	How You Make A Man / Craig Morgan / Broken Bow	124/9	27	26
2	78	77	Who I Am Who I Ain't / Rusty Steel / Tower Music Group	124/8	7	8
1	81	78	Lake Days / Cam Allen / Goat Music Group	122/9	22	22
12	77	79	Good In A Small Town / Joe & Martina / Costa Gold Records	117/7	-7	-9
1	0	80	wait in the truck / HARDY feat. Lainey Wilson / Big Loud Records	114/11	0	114

 No. 1 Song

 Greatest Spin Increase

 Highest Debut

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## My Music Row Story: Neon Coast's Martha Earls

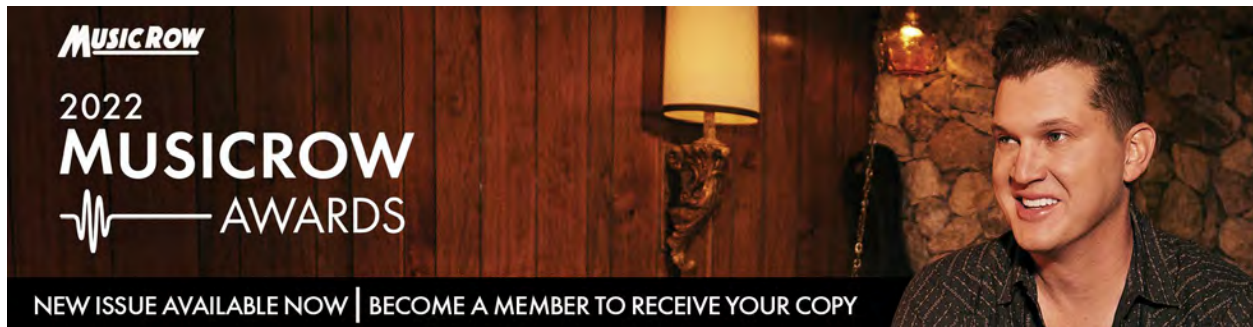


The "My Music Row Story" weekly column features notable members of the Nashville music industry selected by the MusicRow editorial team. These individuals serve in key roles that help advance and promote the success of our industry. This column spotlights the invaluable people that keep the wheels rolling and the music playing.

**Martha Earls** is the owner of management company Neon Coast, and personal manager to Platinum-selling artist **Kane Brown**. Signed to Neon Coast is country band **Restless Road** along with other music and non-music clients. Together with Brown, under the Neon Coast name, she started Sony joint venture record label, 1021 Entertainment, and production company Demasiado.

Demasiado has produced award-winning music videos, awards show performances and television commercials. More recent signings to the management company include **Nightly, Dylan**

**Schneider** and **Feather**. Earls started her management company following a successful run in music publishing. She has been honored multiple times by *Billboard* and the *Nashville Business Journal*.



### **MusicRow: Where did you grow up?**

I was born in Ohio, but grew up in central Pennsylvania. I obviously had no idea about the music industry. I was good at playing the piano and I was good at track and field. I got a really great college scholarship based on my piano playing, so I went to a small music school in New Jersey. That's where I met **Mike Molinar** and how we became friends. He's from El Paso, but he moved up there to go to this music school.

### **What a coincidence. Did you know what you wanted to pursue while in college?**

You had to declare a major and I didn't know what I wanted my major to be. I didn't want to be a teacher and I didn't want to be a performer. I didn't even really like playing the piano that much, I just got this great scholarship. While looking at majors, I found one and was like, "Oh my God, that job only works twice a week and makes a full salary. I'm going to major in church organ!" [Laughs] It was so ridiculous.

Two or three weeks into it, I was miserable, but I toughed it out for a year. The school was really small with only around 350 students, but there was one girl there who was graduating and going to NYU for law school. She said she was going to be an entertainment lawyer. That opened my eyes to the entertainment industry. Over the summer after my freshman year, I started looking online and discovered MTSU and Belmont. I knew I wanted to move out of the northeast, and being from a small town, country music was massive. I came down here to visit and just loved MTSU.

### How did you start your career while at MTSU?

I started interning at Warner Chappell. **Dale Bobo** was there at the time. Him and **Michael Knox** hired me for my internship. **Tim Wipperman** ran the company and he was amazing. I was in the catalog room, which was the last stop writers would make before they went out the side door into the parking lot at Warner Chappell. They would always drop by and hang out. I loved it. I really fell in love with the creatives. That was the start to my music industry career.

I interned that summer of my senior year and then told them I was having such a great time and didn't want to leave. They let me do another internship. They didn't have the budget to pay me but I didn't care. Then the receptionist left and they offered me that job. I was still in school and taking a decent number of classes, but I was like, "Yes, absolutely." In March of my senior year, they promoted me to a full time position in the tape room.

About a year later, they promoted me to a junior song plugger. I found during my time at Warner Chappell that I really liked working with the artists-songwriters even more than the regular songwriters. I really enjoyed taking the meetings with artists rather than going and meeting with other A&R people. For whatever reason, I could really dial into the artists. I got to work with **Jason [Aldean]** early on and **Little Big Town**.

### What was next for you?

Next, I went to BMG publishing. At the time, **Karen Conrad** and **Ron Stuve** were there. That was great because it was different than Warner, where we had like 100 songwriters. At BMG, Ron and Karen ran it more like an independent—they only had about 20 songwriters. And again, I kept [being drawn to] signing artists. We signed **Jake Owen**, **Chuck Wicks**, and a couple other guys.

### Then you started a publishing company with Mike Molinar.

I felt a constant pull to do more. Mike was working for **Cal Turner** at the time. We decided we needed to start a company. I always felt a desire to have my own company and Mike was ready to spread his wings. We went around town and pitched our idea to start a publishing company to everybody. Nobody was really into it. We finally found an investor and he really believed in Mike and I.

He invested in our company and it was very family-oriented. Mike and I signed three or four songwriters. We had some success, we had some big cuts, and we got it going. The investor ended up buying us out, which was great. It gave us the capital to start the 2.0 version of the company, but it was all very bare bones.

When we started building the next version of the publishing company, I started feeling like I wasn't maximizing myself. I always felt like the shoe didn't quite fit. So when Mike and I started the 2.0 version of the company, we decided to sign more artists and producers. We signed an artist named **Greg Bates**, who was at Belmont at the time. **Jimmy Harnen** heard about him and invited him to come to Big Machine. He played at Big Machine and Jimmy signed him. Then I just started handling everything for him.

### So that's how you got into artist management.

I don't even know if she knows, but **Kerri Edwards** is such an important example for female managers in the music industry. At that time, I was thinking, "Kerri started working with **Luke [Bryan]** out of the publishing company. I'm just going to follow that mold until it doesn't work anymore." It came so much more naturally to me to manage an artist's



Pictured (L-R): Martha Earls, Kent Earls, Chuck Wicks, Luke Bryan, Rusty Gaston



Pictured (L-R): Braeden Rountree, Martha Earls, Kane Brown, Liz Kennedy, Randy Goodman

career than this literal decade of publishing experience. That was what got me into management.

Things were going well with the company that Molinar and I started. **Scott Borchetta** didn't have anything like that, so our company became what is now the publishing company that Mike Molinar has. He's done such amazing things with it. I was able to be at Big Machine for a year while we transitioned that company over, and that was amazing. Even though everybody knew I was going to do management full time, I got to learn so much. It was right when **Taylor Swift** was releasing *Red* and making her jump from being a huge country artist to being a global superstar. That's what I got to witness.

Fast forward to now, with what I'm doing with Kane, that experience was such a gift. It was placed in front of me for me to learn anything is possible. Scott had no fences built around anything.

### What did you do after your time at Big Machine?

I knew I wanted to do management full time, but I felt like there was more to learn. I went over to Sandbox and was there for two years. That was a whole different experience. They released **Kacey Musgraves'** *Same Trailer, Different Park* album on a Friday and I started on the next Monday. It was really interesting to watch an artist blow up without having the traditional country radio piece.

At the end of that, I was asked to be a consultant for **Michael Blanton** and his company. In exchange for two hours of consulting a week, he gave me an office. **Jay Frank**, who had his own digital marketing company, called me and asked me to run his independent label. I had never done anything for an independent label before, but he needed somebody to oversee it. That was crazy, too. I learned how to make a music video for \$5,000, how to get vinyl pressed, and all that kind of stuff.

### How did you end up working with Kane?

One day Jay said, "We have this guy that somebody on our staff found online. He's country and we signed him to a management agreement if you want to help out with that." I don't think Jay really knew what he had with Kane at the time. I met Kane and I was like, "Jay, all this other stuff you're working on is nonsense. This is the thing. Kane is the thing." I just jumped in feet first with Kane.

In 2016, it became just me and Kane. We've just been building what we're doing ever since. It's kind of a mixture of the tenacity that Scott had that says we can have great success and do anything, and then also the understanding of you don't have to do things the traditional way. From having created my own publishing company and really struggling, I didn't get defeated by anything.

### Now Kane is a multi-Platinum superstar, but what were those first few years like?

[The first thing we did] was put out an EP called *Chapter One* that had "Used To Love You Sober" on it. **Florida Georgia Line** and **Seth England** could see things early with him, so they put him on tour. He was first of four and got to play for 15 minutes, but it was amazing. We were having trouble at country radio with "Used To Love You Sober," and there was a lot of preconceived notions about who people thought Kane Brown was, because of how he looks. He's biracial, he had tattoos, he had success on social media.

Kane met **Dann Huff**. Dann cut "What Ifs," a song that Kane wrote. "What Ifs" wasn't a single yet, so we put that [*Kane Brown*] album out with no single on the radio, and it still did really great. In 2017, we got a new radio guy at

RCA when **Dennis Reese** came over. He's been Kane's biggest champion at the label. He's such a wonderful guy. He came from the pop world, so he didn't have any boundaries. [With Dennis on board], "What Ifs" became an eight-time Platinum single. It's one of the biggest songs in the history of country music. That got things going and we've just been building on that ever since.

**In the last few years, your company has grown substantially. You and Kane have built a joint venture record label with Sony Music Nashville, as well as a publishing company with Sony Music Publishing.**

We were out in LA for for the "Saturday Nights" video shoot. I was feeling like it was time to start growing. I asked him, "How do you see yourself? Do you see yourself as an artist who tours six months out of the year and then takes six months off and chills with his family? Or do you see yourself like a Florida Georgia Line, who when they're not touring, they're still writing, producing, signing artists, running a publishing company and a clothing store?" He said, "I want to be like that. I don't know how long everything will last."

That was when we decided to expand the company. I saw all these different verticals. I could see a joint venture label, where we sign artists, as well as a publishing side of things. We started a production company and signed other management clients, too. Kane gets a taste of all of it because I want him to feel invested in everything.

**If someone were to ask you how to be successful in this industry, what would you tell them?**

That's a great question. You can measure success so many different ways. I feel like what it is is being comfortable, satisfied and proud of the work that you're doing. Owning your space and acknowledging to yourself that you deserve to be there. **MR**



Pictured (L-R): Kane Brown, Martha Earls

## Tyler Hubbard Signs With UTA As Solo Artist



UTA has signed country music star **Tyler Hubbard** for representation in all areas.

As half of country powerhouse duo **Florida Georgia Line**, he has recently launched his own career as a solo artist. The agency will help him find new opportunities in live touring, brand partnerships, film, television and more.

His debut project, *Dancin' in the Country*, was released earlier this month via EMI Records Nashville. The six-song project debuted with over 10,000 sales plus streaming, making it the second best-selling country EP debut of the year. The project also debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Heatseekers Albums Chart and No. 6 on the Current Country Albums Chart. Hubbard's hit debut single, "5 Foot 9," which has over 110 million global streams and reached No. 10 on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart, is also featured on the debut EP.

Hubbard will join **Keith Urban** on "The Speed of Now World Tour" starting in September. He will also be touring throughout 2023 in support of his debut full-length album, which is expected for release on Jan. 27.

Hubbard is managed by Borman Entertainment. **MR**

## The GreenRoom Parts Ways With Jason Aldean



After representing the multi-Platinum singer for 17 years, The GreenRoom publicity firm has parted ways with **Jason Aldean**, *MusicRow* has confirmed.

In a statement provided to *Billboard*, GreenRoom co-owner **Tyne Parrish** shared, “Music has always been and remains The GreenRoom’s core focus, so we had to make the difficult decision after 17 years to step away from representing Jason.”

“We aren’t the best people for the gig anymore, but will always be big fans of his music—he is one of the greatest live entertainers in country music,” the statement continues.

While Parrish didn’t mention it in her statement, the split comes after a media firestorm ensued following an Instagram post made by Aldean’s wife and social media influencer **Brittany** on Aug. 23. In a reel, Brittany is seen putting on make up with the caption, “I’d really like to thank my parents for not changing my gender when I went through my tomboy phase. I love this girly life.”

A few days later, singer-songwriter **Cassadee Pope** seemingly subtweeted Brittany, saying, “You’d think celebs with beauty brands would see the positives in including LGBTQ+ people in their messaging. But instead here we are, hearing someone compare their ‘tomboy phase’ to someone wanting to transition. Real nice.”

A few hours later, country star **Maren Morris** replied to Pope’s tweet saying, “It’s so easy to, like, not be a scumbag human? Sell your clip-ins and zip it, Insurrection Barbie.”

Since then, other artists have shown support to both sides, and multiple national media outlets have picked up the story.

The Aldeans have been more outspoken about their political beliefs in the last few years, with Brittany even partnering with another influencer and country singer **Chuck Wick**’s wife **Kasi** to launch Brittany and Kasi, a “store for the conservative.” Among the merchandise offered by the boutique are shirts that say “Alexa, change the President” and “Unapologetically Conservative.”

Earlier this week, Brittany and Kasi launched a line inspired by Morris’ “Barbie” tweet, featuring shirts with phrases such as “Don’t Tread On Our Kids” written in Barbie-style font. In her post, Brittany wrote that an undisclosed portion of the proceeds will be going to Operation Light Shine, an organization combating human trafficking and child exploitation.

GreenRoom also represents **Dierks Bentley**, **Thomas Rhett**, **Lady A**, **The War and Treaty**, and others. Aldean’s PR representation going forward is not yet clear. *MR*

## DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Kip Moore Steams Things Up With 'If I Was Your Lover'



As fall approaches, the labels start scrambling to release new country sounds.

Established hit makers Kenny Chesney, Keith Urban and Craig Morgan are joined by a bevy of newcomers this week. Many of them are, hallelujah, women.

Kip Moore tops 'em all with a sexy Disc of the Day.

The DISCOVERY Award goes to Wynn Williams. He sure sounds like a star to me.

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

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### MORE TOP STORIES

[Jay DeMarcus Gives A Glimpse Inside New Red Street Country Label Division \[Interview\]](#)

[Dolly Launches New Pet Apparel & Accessories Line, Doggy Parton](#)

[Habitat for Humanity's 2022 Music Row Build Kicks Off](#)

[Abram Dean Inks With Concord Music Publishing](#)

[CCMA-Nominated Grant Vogel Joins MV2 Entertainment's Publishing Roster](#)

[Lindsay Conlin Promoted To SVP Of Revenue At Exactuals](#)

[Artist Manager Jerry Bentley Passes](#)

[Dierks Bentley Takes Over Nashville's 'Biggest Honky-Tonk'](#)

[Hall Of Fame Songwriter Don Schlitz Joins The Grand Ole Opry Family](#)

['Nashville's Big Bash' Returns To CBS To Ring In The New Year](#)

[Neotraditional Country Artist Wynn Williams Signs With ONErpm](#)

[Jon Pardi Takes Fifth Trip To The Top Of The Charts With 'Last Night Lonely'](#)

[2022 ASCAP Christian Music Awards To Be Held Virtually On September 21](#)

[Jared Scott Signs With SmackSongs](#)

## Giovannie And The Hired Guns Sign With Warner Music Nashville



Pictured (L-R): Jerrod Flusche, Alex Trejo, Giovannie Yanez, Milton Toles, Carlos Villa. Photo: Brass Knuckle Vision

**Giovannie and The Hired Guns** have signed with Warner Music Nashville and will release their anticipated album, *Tejano Punk Boyz*, on Oct. 28.

In the last year, the Texas band has been named one of Amazon Music's 2022 Artists to Watch, and their breakout single, "Ramon Ayala," has garnered 18 million digital streams since independently releasing last summer. Following its No. 1 on the Active Rock Radio Chart, the track claimed the No. 1 slot on the Alternative Radio Chart this week, and has notched five weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Rock & Alternative Airplay Chart. This is the first time since 2006 that an artist's first career-charting radio single reached No. 1 at both Alternative and Active Rock.

Fronted by Mexican-American lead singer and guitarist **Giovannie Yanez**, the group also includes **Carlos Villa** (guitar), **Jerrod Flusche** (guitar), **Alex Trejo** (bass guitar) and **Milton Toles** (drums).

"This partnership is a perfect example of Warner Music Nashville's philosophy to let the music lead. Giovannie and The Hired Guns are pure adrenaline and one of a kind," notes Co-President of Warner Music Nashville, **Cris Lacy**. "Their broad musical reach has inspired an exciting 'first' for us, a collaboration with one of our US rock sister labels and Warner Music Latina to make sure Gio's ascension to superstardom is multilateral." **MR**

## Riser House Entertainment Promotes Brandon Perdue



Riser House Entertainment's **Brandon Perdue** has been promoted to SVP of A&R + Publishing.

Since joining the company four years ago, Perdue has developed hit songwriters **Dallas Wilson** and **Michael Whitworth**. He has been heavily involved in the past few years of **Mitchell Tenpenny's** career, including setting up the session that produced his and **Chris Young's** latest No. 1 hit, "At The End of A Bar." Additionally, Perdue oversaw the production of **Dillon Carmichael's** latest album, *Son of A*.

Riser House's publishing division currently oversees the songwriting careers of Tenpenny, Wilson, Whitworth and Carmichael, and has also recently completed a catalog purchase from The Song Factory, including hits from writers Pardi, **Bart Butler**, **Ashley McBryde**, **Dustin Lynch**, and more. On the records side, the roster includes Tenpenny (in partnership with Sony Nashville), Carmichael and **Meghan Patrick**, along with several label services clients.

"Brandon has proven himself a key leader in our company with his ability to manage artists and songwriters, helping them to achieve great success," says Riser House Entertainment Founder/CEO **Jennifer Johnson**. "Under his helm, Riser House has seen many hits as a young, boutique label and publishing company. As an A&R executive, Brandon has incredible sensibilities and knows how to help artists navigate their sound, fostering them to make artful and commercial records. He's one of the best A&R and Publishing executives in our business, and I'm excited to see where he can take us as we continue to grow both our office and our roster." **MR**

## Laura Wright Alexander Joins Young Guns Publishing



Young Guns Publishing has tapped industry veteran **Laura Wright Alexander** as SVP, Creative. In her new position, she will champion reigning *MusicRow* Song of the Year writer **Ben Stennis**, and chart-topping writer **Jared Mullins**.

Born and raised in Nashville, Alexander spent 12 years at Writer's Den Music, EMI Music Publishing, Big Yellow Dog and Kobalt Music, where she worked with songwriters such as Natalie Hemby, The Warren Brothers, Daniel Tashian, Josh Jenkins and more. She also worked closely with singer-songwriters Maren Morris and Thomas Rhett.

In 2019, she pivoted to join the Adventurous Journeys (AJ) Capital team and helped launch the Graduate Nashville hotel. While there, Alexander was tasked with telling the story of the boutique hotel and establishing the narrative of its creative identity.

When Stennis, whom Alexander had worked with at Kobalt Music, called asking if they might be able to work together again, she began considering a potential return to publishing. She now aims to help further lay the groundwork of Young Gun's roster of songwriters and to continue building their momentum.

"From the moment this creative role became available, Laura was our first call as we knew she would be the perfect fit," shares **Will Hamrick**, CEO of Young Guns. "Over the years, we have discussed working together and I am thrilled to see it come to fruition. Her reputation, relationships and work ethic are second to none. With Laura joining the team, I couldn't be more excited about the direction our company is going in and for what the future holds for the YGP family." **MR**

## Greg Frey Tapped To Spearhead Cumulus Media's New Division



Cumulus Media has tapped VP of Programming Operations **Greg Frey** to lead its new Music Partnerships division.

Frey, a 12-year Cumulus veteran, will serve as VP, Music Partnerships where he will be the company's creative liaison with artists, labels, booking agencies, and promoters. He will report to Chief Content Officer **Brian Philips**, and will be supported by a coalition that includes local and national advertising sales; music format VPs; digital leaders; and programming, promotion, and marketing executives.

In his new position, Frey will front the team which will develop music marketing partnerships for Cumulus's over 300 music stations, Westwood One network franchises, and related social/digital platforms. The team's focus will be on enhancing partnerships, creating value for the music industry, as well as new content and revenue opportunities for Cumulus.

"Greg will advance Cumulus's music industry collaboration with his trademark credibility and tastemaker's integrity," Philips notes. "Greg enjoys the longstanding respect of the industry and from all at Cumulus, and I'm confident we will see success with his leadership right out of the gate." **MR**

# TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	<b>Ashley Gorley</b>	Take My Name You Didn't Holy Water Gold You Proof She Had Me At Heads Carolina What He Didn't Do	Parmalee Brett Young Michael Ray Dierks Bentley Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Carly Pearce
2	2	<b>Ernest Keith Smith</b>	You Proof Wasted On You Son Of A Sinner	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Jelly Roll
3	3	<b>Morgan Wallen</b>	Brown Eyes Baby You Proof Wasted On You Thought You Should Know Wild As Her	Keith Urban Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Corey Kent
4	4	<b>Mitchell Tenpenny</b>	At The End Of A Bar Truth About You	Chris Young & Mitchell Tenpenny Mitchell Tenpenny
5	6	<b>Zachary Lane Bryan</b>	Something In The Orange Oklahoma Smokeshow	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan
6	5	<b>Chase McGill</b>	5 Foot 9 With A Woman You Love Don't Think Jesus	Tyler Hubbard Justin Moore Morgan Wallen
7	7	<b>J. Collins</b>	Damn Strait	Scotty McCreery
8	8	<b>Trent Tomlinson</b>	Damn Strait	Scotty McCreery
9	9	<b>Luke Combs</b>	The Kind of Love We Make Out In The Middle Tomorrow Me	Luke Combs Zac Brown Band Luke Combs
10	10	<b>John Fogerty</b>	Joy Of My Life	Chris Stapleton
11	12	<b>Bailey Zimmerman</b>	Fall In Love Rock and A Hard Place	Bailey Zimmerman Bailey Zimmerman
12	15	<b>Luke Dick</b>	Gold Don't Come Lookin'	Dierks Bentley Jackson Dean
13	13	<b>Ryan Vojtesak</b>	You Proof Wasted On You	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
14	16	<b>Taylor Phillips</b>	Like I Love Country Music Country'd Look Good On You	Kane Brown Frank Ray
15	17	<b>Jackson Dean</b>	Don't Come Lookin'	Jackson Dean
16	14	<b>Matt McGinn</b>	Like I Love Country Music Party Mode	Kane Brown Dustin Lynch
17	46	<b>Josh Kear</b>	No Body Ghost Story	Blake Shelton Carrie Underwood
18	23	<b>Thomas Rhett</b>	She Had Me At Heads Carolina Half Of Me	Cole Swindell Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green
19	18	<b>Dylan Marlowe</b>	Last Night Lonely	Jon Pardi
20	19	<b>Joe Fox</b>	Last Night Lonely	Jon Pardi
21	20	<b>Jimi Bell</b>	Last Night Lonely	Jon Pardi
22	21	<b>Tyler Hubbard</b>	5 Foot 9 Hell Yeah	Tyler Hubbard Little Big Town
23	24	<b>Josh Thompson</b>	Brown Eyes Baby Wasted On You Half Of Me	Keith Urban Morgan Wallen Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green
24	26	<b>Chris Young</b>	At The End Of A Bar	Chris Young & Mitchell Tenpenny
25	27	<b>Chris DeStefano</b>	At The End Of A Bar	Chris Young & Mitchell Tenpenny
26	25	<b>Jaren Johnston</b>	5 Foot 9	Tyler Hubbard

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
27	22	<b>Matt Alderman</b>	Truth About You Can't Have Mine	Mitchell Tenpenny Dylan Scott
28	28	<b>Thomas Archer</b>	Truth About You	Mitchell Tenpenny
29	30	<b>Jason DeFord</b>	Son Of A Sinner Son of the Dirty South	Jelly Roll Brantley Gilbert feat. Jelly Roll
30	29	<b>Ross Copperman</b>	Note To Self Gold Pick Me Up Worth A Shot	Randy Houser Dierks Bentley Gabby Barrett Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
31	33	<b>Jon Nite</b>	You Didn't Pick Me Up	Brett Young Gabby Barrett
32	40	<b>Gavin Lucas</b>	Fall In Love	Bailey Zimmerman
33	41	<b>Austin Shawn</b>	Fall In Love	Bailey Zimmerman
34	36	<b>David Ray Stevens</b>	Son Of A Sinner	Jelly Roll
35	37	<b>Dan Isbell</b>	The Kind of Love We Make	Luke Combs
36	38	<b>Reid Isbell</b>	The Kind of Love We Make	Luke Combs
37	39	<b>Jamie Davis</b>	The Kind of Love We Make	Luke Combs
38	31	<b>Tony Ferrari</b>	Soul	Lee Brice
39	32	<b>Kevin Kadish</b>	Soul	Lee Brice
40	44	<b>David Garcia</b>	Ghost Story	Carrie Underwood
41	45	<b>Hillary Lindsey</b>	Ghost Story	Carrie Underwood
42	34	<b>Jordan M. Schmidt</b>	Like I Love Country Music	Kane Brown
43	35	<b>Kane Brown</b>	Like I Love Country Music	Kane Brown
44	51	<b>Paul DiGiovanni</b>	With A Woman You Love	Justin Moore
45	52	<b>Jeremy Stover</b>	With A Woman You Love	Justin Moore
46	53	<b>Justin Moore</b>	With A Woman You Love	Justin Moore
47	47	<b>Russell Dickerson</b>	She Likes It	Russell Dickerson Feat. Jake Scott
48	48	<b>Jake Scott</b>	She Likes It	Russell Dickerson Feat. Jake Scott
49	49	<b>Josh Kerr</b>	She Likes It	Russell Dickerson Feat. Jake Scott
50	50	<b>Gabby Barrett</b>	Pick Me Up	Gabby Barrett
51	54	<b>Lindsay Rimes</b>	Whiskey On You	Nate Smith
52	55	<b>Nate Smith</b>	Whiskey On You	Nate Smith
53	56	<b>Russell Sutton</b>	Whiskey On You	Nate Smith
54	58	<b>Will Bundy</b>	Brown Eyes Baby Half Of Me	Keith Urban Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green
55	63	<b>Ryan Hurd</b>	What My World Spins Around	Jordan Davis
56	64	<b>Jordan Davis</b>	What My World Spins Around	Jordan Davis
57	65	<b>Matt Dragstrem</b>	What My World Spins Around	Jordan Davis
58	57	<b>Shane McAnally</b>	No Hard Feelings Worth A Shot Water Under The Bridge	Old Dominion Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley Sam Hunt
59	59	<b>Jesse Frasure</b>	She Had Me At Heads Carolina	Cole Swindell
60	60	<b>Cole Swindell</b>	She Had Me At Heads Carolina	Cole Swindell

## CALENDAR

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### Single/Track Releases

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#### September 2

**The McCrary Sisters**/Run On

**Matt Jordan**/The Gamble/MJ Music

#### September 6

**Dianña**/Hands/Slippery Eel

**Corey Layne**/Between George Strait and George Jones/Mountaintop Music

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### Album/EP Releases

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#### September 2

**Jon Pardi**/*Mr. Saturday Night*/Capitol Records Nashville

**Kris Kristofferson**/*Live at Gilley's – Pasadena, TX: September 15, 1981*/New West Records

**Ian Flanigan**/*Strong*

#### September 9

**Kane Brown**/*Different Man*/RCA

**Breland**/*Cross Country*/Bad Realm Records/Atlantic Records/Warner Music Nashville

**Chris Tomlin**/*Always*

**Amy Grant**/*Behind The Eyes (25th Anniversary Expanded Edition)*

**Buck Owens**/*Bakersfield Gold: Top 10 Hits 1959-1974*/Omnivore Recordings

**Charley Crockett**/*The Man From Waco*/Son Of Davy/Thirty Tigers

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### Industry Events

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#### September 1 – 5

**Live On The Green**

#### September 7

**Nightfall at the Hall**

#### September 13 – 17

**AmericanaFest**

#### September 14

**Americana Awards**

#### September 20

**Nashville Songwriter Awards**