

WEEKLY

Winners Announced For 35th Annual Industry-Voted *MusicRow* Awards



MusicRow, Nashville's leading music industry publication, presented its 35th annual *MusicRow* Awards on Tuesday (Sept. 12) via a series of videos on all online *MusicRow* platforms.

City National Bank serves as presenting sponsor for the 35th 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.

"Now in its 35th year, the *MusicRow* Awards are Nashville's longest running music industry trade publication honors and celebrate the achievements of songwriters, artists, producers and more," say Robertson. "With awards selected by insiders in the industry, it's these nods from peers, who know first-hand what it takes to get to that level, that serve as a well-deserved pat on the back and recognition for a job well done."

Country superstar **Morgan Wallen** was named the 2023 *MusicRow* Awards Entertainer of the Year and Male Artist of the Year, a new category this year. In addition to being the first-ever Male Artist of the Year at the *MusicRow* Awards, this is Wallen's first-ever win for Entertainer of the Year (previously called Artist of the Year).

Lainey Wilson continues to stockpile *MusicRow* Awards as she is the 2023 Female Artist of the Year, another newly introduced category. In 2022, she took home both the Breakthrough Artist of the Year and Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year awards, and at the 2021 *MusicRow* Awards, she received her first-ever industry award as the Discovery Artist of the Year.

Genre-fusing, fan favorite **Jelly Roll** scored big at the 2023 *MusicRow* Awards, claiming both Breakthrough Artist of the Year and Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year, the latter of which goes to a Nashville singer-songwriter who wrote or co-wrote their first Top 10 hit.

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Winners Announced For 35th Annual Industry-Voted *MusicRow* Awards

SMACKSongs Promotes Lee Krabel To Sr. VP Of Publishing

Norbert Nix Exits Triple
Tigers, Kevin Herring & Annie
Ortmeier Named CoPresidents

Big Loud Records Expands To Australia & United Kingdom

Luke Bryan Looks Back On His Career & 30 No. 1 Hits

BBR Music Group Promotes Lauren Crawford, Hillary Borden & Hayley Irvine

Music Biz 2024 To Take Place May 13-16

My Music Row Story: Sweet Talk Publicity's Jensen Sussman

DISClaimer Single Reviews

And much more...

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New Album

Bigger Houses



Old Dominion took home the Group/Duo Artist of the Year award, another newly introduced honor. Newcomer **Ashley Cooke** was honored with this year's Discovery Award, which honors a Nashville developing artist who demonstrates significant talent and potential to rise.

Ashley Gorley earned his fourth Male Songwriter of the Year trophy at this year's *MusicRow* Awards, while **Jessi Alexander** earned her first Female Songwriter of the Year honor. **Trannie Anderson** was named the Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year for co-writing her first Top 10 hit, Lainey Wilson's "Heart Like A Truck."

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 **Hardy** and Lainey Wilson's "Wait In The Truck," which was penned by Hardy, **Hunter Phelps**, **Jordan Schmidt** and **Renee Blair**.

Joey Moi was awarded the Producer of the Year honor for the first time. **Big Loud Records** took home Label Group of the Year for the second 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.

All of the 2023 nominees are featured in the *MusicRow* Awards print magazine, which released ahead of the awards and includes exclusive editorial. The annual issue, with Stoney Creek Records' Jelly Roll on its cover, includes a look into the sales, streaming and social media impact that major country music awards shows have on an artist's career, and highlights the upcoming inaugural *People's Choice Country Awards*.

Also in the issue, Lainey Wilson looks back on the past two years after receiving her first industry award—a *MusicRow* Award in 2021. The *MusicRow* Awards print issue also contains an informative roundup of all the awards applicable to the Nashville music industry. *MR*

SMACKSongs Promotes Lee Krabel To Sr. VP Of Publishing

SMACKSongs has promoted **Lee Krabel** to Senior Vice President of Publishing, effective immediately.

Since joining the company in 2016 as Creative Director, Krabel has played a pivotal role in shaping the company's creative direction and fostering an environment where songwriters can thrive over the years.

At SMACK, Krabel runs point on an array of talented songwriters, including Josh Jenkins, Ross Copperman, Scott Stepakoff, Tigirlily Gold, McCoy Moore and Clara Park. In his new role, he will continue to oversee SMACK's entire roster of songwriters, manage the creative staff, book writing sessions, pitch songs, and identify and sign new and promising writers.



Lee Krabel. Photo: Lance Wilson

"This is well deserved! Lee has been a huge part of the success of SMACK for the past 7 years and helped grow the team to what it is today," says SMACK President, **Robert Carlton**. "I'm excited to see what this next chapter has in store. With Lee here, I know our writers will always be in good hands."

Krabel shares, "The writers and staff at SMACK continue to build one of the best independent publishers in the world. I'm very thankful that **Shane** [**McAnally**], **Robin** [**Palmer**] and Robert continue to believe in me to be a part of this great team. It feels like we are just getting started and I can't wait to see where SMACK grows from here." **MR**

WE PROUDLY CONGRATULATE OUR

2023 CMA AWARDS NOMINEES

BROOKS & DUNN
CAMERON DUDDY
(MIDLAND)

(ZAC BROWN BAND)

CARRIE UNDERWOOD

CHARLES KELLEY
(LADY A)

CHARLIE WORSHAM
CHASE MCGILL
CODY JOHNSON
COLE SWINDELL
DALLAS WILSON
DAVID FANNING
DAVID FANNING
DAVID RAY STEVENS
GREYLAN JAMES
HARDY (4X)
JELLY ROLL (5X)

JIMMY DE MARTINI
(ZAC BROWN BAND)

JOEY MOI

KANE BROWN

LITTLE BIG TOWN

LUKE COMBS (4X)

MIRANDA LAMBERT

MORGAN WALLEN (3X)

PARKER MCCOLLUM

PATRICK TOHILL

PAUL JENKINS

RENEE BLAIR

SHAY MOONEY

TAE KERR (MADDIE & TAE)

(DAN & SHAY)

THE WAR AND TREATY
TRANNIE ANDERSON
ZACH BRYAN



My Music Row Story: Sweet Talk Publicity's Jensen Sussman



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.

Jensen Sussman is President of Sweet Talk Publicity, where she has executed prominent national publicity campaigns for many of today's trendsetting artists, music and lifestyle businesses, and more, fueling Sweet Talk's growth into one of the most in-demand boutique PR firms since launching in 2008. Sussman's attention to detail and hands-on approach has contributed to the elevated success of the Sweet Talk Publicity roster, spanning breakout newcomers and multi-Platinum, award-winning artists such as Breland, Gabby Barrett, Florida Georgia Line, LoCash, Dustin Lynch and Trace Adkins.

With over two decades of experience, the Los Angeles native holding a master's degree from UNC Chapel Hill, served as Associate Director for both Warner Music Nashville and Sony Music Nashville, where she led publicity for major artists including **Miranda Lambert**, **Jessica Simpson**, **Brett Eldredge**, **Frankie Ballard** and many others. She fostered her record label career with Equity Music Group (**Little Big Town**), having first worked at Tractenberg & Co. in New York City (Sephora, T. LeClerc, Aesop and The Healing Garden). Recognized by the industry, she's been spotlighted by Billboard Magazine as one of the Publicity "Gatekeepers" in their annual Nashville Power Players issue; listed as a behind-the-scenes star in Variety's Music City Impact Report; named one of MusicRow Magazine's Rising Women on the Row and racked up multi-year nods for Publicist of the Year at the CMA Touring Awards.



MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I actually grew up in Los Angeles, California. I'm a valley girl. My family moved to Nashville when I was 16, after sophomore year of high school. I was that bitter teenager that got plucked out of their entire life.

What were you into as a kid?

I have been a dancer my whole life, from elementary school all the way through college. My degree is actually in dance. I've always loved music because it was always a part of training.

Where did you go to college?

Alex Hall

SIDE EFFECTS OF THE HEART AVAILABLE NOW

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Skidmore in upstate New York. My dream was to move to New York and audition for a company. I wanted to tour the world and then teach dance. When I did move to New York City, I taught for Garden State Ballet in Newark and Morristown. My minor was actually in biology and I was pre-med, so my life plan was to move to New York, live my dance dream and then when I was done dancing, I wanted to be a doctor. I'm very far from a doctor now. [Laughs]

How did you start your career?

I actually graduated college in three years because I was that person that took a bunch of AP classes and summer dance programs. I just wanted to live my life. I was doing the whole starving artist thing, which means I was working a bazillion different jobs. I worked at Urban Outfitters, taught ballet, auditioned and did anything possible to make ends meet. While working at Urban Outfitters, I fell in love with cosmetics.



Jensen Sussman, Chris Lane, Alecia Davis

I had discovered Sephora while living in New York and thought that was the mecca. At Urban, we sold three cosmetic lines: Tony & Tina, Hardy Candy and Urban Decay. I really wanted to get a job working for one of the makeup lines. So when the merchandiser came in from Urban Decay, I asked if they were hiring. He said no, but Tony & Tina were looking to hire someone who worked at the counter at Bloomingdale's. He walked me over to Bloomingdale's and I met the counter manager. He told me I needed to interview at the corporate office, which was this giant loft in SoHo.

To work the counter at Bloomingdale's, you had to do a makeover test. I could do my own makeup being a dancer and doing shows, but I was not trained. That poor girl in the office—I'm pretty sure I put a pound of glitter all over her [during the makeover test]. The international makeup artist—his name was **Eddie Funkhouser**—called me the next day and was like, "We love your vibe. We totally feel like you fit in with the company. We don't want to put you at the counter of Bloomingdale's, but we'll pay you your Urban Outfitters salary and you can be the part-time assistant to our creative director. She's head of PR and product development."

Her name was **Yana Chupenko**. She was a total Russian bombshell. Her hair was always wrapped up in this giant pineapple, she was in a punk band called **Shiny Mama** and she was best friends with **Debbie Harry**. It was so wild. I was this wide-eyed, 21-year-old. She actually taught me PR on the job. Tony & Tina was in *Lucky*, *Vogue* and *Elle*. She taught me how to write a press release and how to make press books for the products.



Kelsea Ballerini, Fletcher Foster, Monica Escobedo (Good Morning America), Jensen Sussman

That's awesome. How did you evolve there?

I was there for about two years. I was dancing less and less because because they ended up making me full-time as a creative assistant. I decided I really loved the PR side and I wanted to go to a PR agency, so I moved to Tractenberg & Co. We represented Sephora, Stila, Philosophy, Nivea and Healing Garden—everything from mass market to luxury. I loved it. I learned so much in the beauty PR world because everything was so detailed. Everything we sent had like a little hang tag, the cute one-liner and the press release. You wrote differently based on the product you were representing. For one you may write flowery language, where another one was cute and kitschy.



How did you get back to Nashville?

9/11 happened and that changed a lot of things. The relationship I was in at the time wasn't great. I had that quarter life crisis moment of, "What are you doing with your life? You're talking about lipstick, but the world is in this crazy place. You were supposed to be a doctor. You're not even dancing anymore."

I ended up leaving New York and moved back to Nashville. I took the GRES to go to grad school. Being a dancer, I've always been really passionate about food and nutrition, so I ended up going to grad school for nutrition at UNC Chapel Hill. I danced the whole time I was there, taught dance and performed. After I took my comps and got my master's, I came home to Nashville for a week of vacation. I



Jensen Sussman onstage with Florida Georgia Line

went to my annual exam at the doctor's office and I was diagnosed with breast cancer.

I had a job lined up after grad school and I was dancing for a company there. I had to quit my job and quit dance. My parents packed me up and moved me back to Nashville. That was August of 2005. Once I was back here, I just dropped off the map for a year and a half and went through treatment.

I'm so sorry. How did you get back on track?

Towards the end of radiation, my parents asked me what I wanted to do. I said, "I have no idea but I don't want to be in a hospital. I do believe eating healthy prevents chronic disease, but I'm not there." My dad said, "You loved PR. You're in Music City. You love music. You should think about music PR." My dad is in the business, so I grew up with it.

While I was still going through chemo and wearing a wig, he took me to a holiday party. I met **Little Big Town** that night. It was right when they released "Boondocks." They were going on tour with **Keith Urban** and **John Mellencamp**. They had a Nashville publicist, **Jenny Bohler**, and they needed a tour publicist.

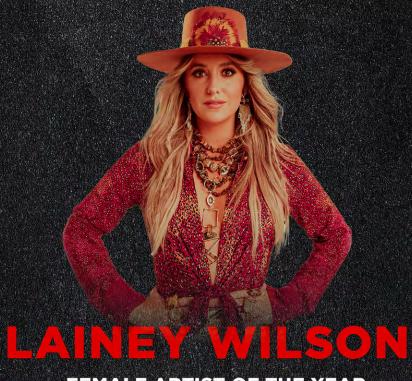
I knew nothing about music PR, but they brought me on. I took my job very seriously. I would sit at my desk with an atlas, see that they were playing in Columbus, Ohio and measure out 50 miles around it. Then I would go to my *Bacon's Media Directory* and look up the outlets and writers. I killed the tour press. [Laughs] Jenny Bohler took me under her wing. She mentored me and introduced me to everyone in Nashville. She really helped me like make that transition. I worked with them for about two and a half years and then I went to Sony Music Nashville.

How long were you there?

Sadly, I think a year. I got hired and then they went through corporate restructuring and laid off like eight people. They pretty much [split] the PR and marketing side in half. At the time, I didn't realize that was a music business rite of passage. I didn't understand how you could be really good at your job and lose it. I look back on that year and it was some of the most amazing, incredible experiences of my career and stuff I'm really proud of.

After that I freelanced for a year or so, and then **Tree Paine** hired me over at Warner. I was at Warner for about a year and a half. While I was at Warner, I was feeling nutrition calling. I felt like I never finished out what I'd studied and what I'd gone to do. I was married at the time and thinking about kids—I was just having a completely different life. This opportunity came open to do marketing at the food bank and I felt like I had to take it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MUSICROW AWARD WINNERS!



FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR



BMG



Jensen Sussman with Morgan Wallen on the set of Saturday Night Live

When I freelanced between Sony and Warner, I was fortunate enough to be introduced to **Craig Wiseman**, so I did the PR for Stars for Second Harvest. That's how I knew everyone at the food bank. I loved that event and I loved the mission, so it just seemed like the right opportunity.

How did you start Sweet Talk?

It was a happy accident. When I was at the food bank, **Seth England** called me and said, "Hey, would you do PR part-time? We have this unknown duo, **Florida Georgia Line**. We're going to release music and we really need a publicist." I said no, because I had a job I liked, but they can be very convincing over there. They asked if I would come in and meet with **Brian Kelley** and **Tyler Hubbard**. I will never forget this meeting. I can tell you what I was wearing and exactly where I sat. I was explaining what a publicist did and I will never

forget BK looking at me and saying, "So, you mean we'll be on *Jimmy Kimmel* someday?" I was like, "Exactly!" For whatever reason, the universe was like, "You need to do this."

So I left the food bank and I said that I would help them out for three months, and in three months, we would reevaluate. That turned into the next decade of my life and career. The next thing I knew, FGL got big and I had to have a staff. It was just amazing. All of a sudden I had a great roster and had built a team, and we're still going. I always feel like when you're open, things come to you—I just needed that push.

What are you most proud of now?

I have a couple proud moments, but after being in business for 11 years, you have clients and staff that come and go, but it's really building and mentoring the staff. My team members are rock stars. Watching them grow and develop, seeing their first GMA booking or their first big feature and knowing that I was able to mentor and train, that's my proudest moment.

Another thing i'm proud of [is Opry Goes Pink.] Because I'm a breast cancer survivor, I went to **Pete Fisher** when he ran the Opry and pitched him this idea that the Opry should "go pink" to benefit breast cancer awareness. At first, it benefited my charity Women Who Rock, but we all went in different directions. Now benefits Komen. It's become a staple at the Opry every year and now it's on year 15. **Carrie Underwood** did the first one. It was the first time they ever changed the barn to another color. To be able to raise awareness and money, and to see that idea continue, is honestly one of the things I'm most proud of.

Who have been some of your mentors?

Definitely Jenny Bohler. My dad, **Charles Sussman**, has been a huge mentor for me because he has really shown me how to balance family and work. He has an amazing roster and he's built an incredible business that he's had for over 40 years, but he never missed a dance recital. He came to every single one of my chemo treatments. My best friend **Carrie Simons Kemper** at Triple 7 PR has been a mentor. She has an incredible company—to be able to call her and bounce ideas off her is amazing.

What's some of the best advice you've ever gotten?

The best advice for me has always been, "Your work speaks for itself. Just stay true to who you are, keep your head down and keep doing the work." **MR**



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Find Me On A Beach/Marie Wise-Hawkins - 71

Hush Little Baby/Ashley Ryan/Spinville Entertainment - 78

Baby I Do/Hurricane Highway/Kick Ass Music - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Thinkin' Bout Me/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 288

Save Me/Jelly Roll (with Lainey Wilson)/Stoney Creek - 214
Back Then Right Now/Tyler Hubbard/EMI Nashville - 137
Stars Like Confetti/Dustin Lynch/Broken Bow Records - 131
The Painter/Cody Johnson/CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville - 104

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Save Me/Jelly Roll (with Lainey Wilson)/Stoney Creek - 14
Back Then Right Now/Tyler Hubbard/EMI Nashville - 10
Thinkin' Bout Me/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 8
Cab In A Solo/Scotty McCreery/Triple Tigers Records - 6

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label-No. of Spins

Bad N' Boozy/Rob Fitzgerald/Riverbend Recordings - 137
Back Then Right Now/Tyler Hubbard/EMI Nashville - 137
I Remember Everything/Zach Bryan feat. Kacey Musgraves/
Warner Records - 130

Young Love & Saturday Nights/Chris Young/RCA - 122 New Money/Julianna Rankin/17th Avenue - 121

NO. 1 SONG



Six weeks after topping the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with "Religiously," *Bailey Zimmerman* brings the song back to the top this week.

Appearing on Zimmerman's full-length debut LP, *Religiously. The Album.*, Zimmerman co-wrote the tune with **Austin Shawn**, **Alex Palmer**, **Frank Romano** and **Marty James**.

In his short career, Zimmerman has already surpassed 2.6 billion global streams to date. HIs career-launching EP, *Leave The Light On*, made history upon release as last year's most-streamed all-genre debut.

"Religiously" currently sits at No. 7 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 2 on the Mediabase chart.



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

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

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

WOOZ Carterville, IL
WAAG Galesburg, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WFMB Springfield, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
KQZQ Pratt, KS
WKDZ Cadiz, KY
WDHR Pikeville, KY
KRRV Alexandria, LA
WKPE Hyannis, MA
KYSM Mankato, MN

WTCM Traverse City, MI KZPK St. Cloud, MN KFAV Warrenton, MO WBBN Laurel, MS WFAY Fayetteville, NC KZZY Devils Lake, ND KYCK Thompson, ND KRVN Lexington, NE KFGE Lincoln, NE KBRX O'Neill, NE KQBA Santa Fe, NM WDNB Monticello, NY KITX Hugo, OK

KWEY Weatherford, OK WCJW Warsaw, NY KWOX Woodward, OK KRKT Albany, OR KRWQ Medford, OR WVNW Lewistown, PA WNBT Mansfield, PA WCFT Selinsgrove, PA KZZI Spearfish, SD WUCZ Carthage, TN WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN KFTX Corpus Christi, TX KYKX Longview, TX

KLLL Lubbock, TX
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI
WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
WCOW Sparta, WI
WDGG Huntington, WV



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
22	5	1	Religiously / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville	1636/47	5	83
17	2	2	Try That In A Small Town / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow	1632/49	1	21
18	1	3	Watermelon Moonshine / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	1612/47	0	0
12	4	4	Everything I Love / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1592/54	1	21
52	6	5	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	1532/55	4	59
26	3	6	Bury Me In Georgia / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1499/41	-6	-93
36	7	7	God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	1355/47	7	87
31	8	8	All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records	1269/51	4	48
24	10	9	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	1249/57	8	95
36	11	10	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	1223/45	12	131
49	9	11	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	1192/38	0	-2
38	12	12	If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	1149/47	7	76
9	13	13	Save Me The Trouble / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1140/50	9	92
8	16	14	White Horse / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1039/52	11	104
18	17	15	Different 'Round Here / Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs) / BMLG	1011/52	10	91
29	14	16	Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville	1002/47	2	21
22	15	17	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	964/44	2	21
4	30	18	Thinkin' Bout Me / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	884/39	48	288
13	18	19	We Don't Fight Anymore / Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton / Big Machine	844/49	2	16
37	20	20	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	830/42	5	42
20	19	21	Blacktop Don't / BoomTown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment	828/46	4	30
15	23	22	World On Fire / Nate Smith / Sony Music Nashville	760/43	10	67
5	26	23	The Painter / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	747/44	16	104
15	22	24	See You Next Summer / Brian Kelley / Big Machine Records	738/41	1	10
27	21	25	Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	731/42	-1	-6
37	25	26	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	687/34	5	33
14	24	27	Glory Days / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	678/41	-2	-12
17	28	28	Truck Bed / HARDY / Big Loud Records	620/37	3	16
16	27	29	Out Of That Truck / Carrie Underwood / Capitol Records	615/35	0	-3
12	31	30	Wine Country / Hannah Ellis / Curb Records	606/43	8	45
13	34	31	Burn It Down / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	583/37	15	78
15	33	32	Should've Known Better / Erin Viancourt / Late August Records	580/36	11	58
13	32	33	Something Real / Dierks Bentley / Capitol Nashville	555/29	1	5
23	36	34	23 / Chayce Beckham / BMG	554/33	13	65
13	48	35	Save Me / Jelly Roll (with Lainey Wilson) / Stoney Creek	504/35	74	214
12	38	36	Mind On You / George Birge / RECORDS	497/30	19	81
9	35	37	Pretty Little Poison / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records	482/32	-2	-8
24	37	38	Dents On A Chevy / Ty Herndon, Terri Clark / Pivotal Records	467/28	4	19
4	43	39	Cab In A Solo / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	439/34	21	75







COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
10	40	40	Drinkin' Problems / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	415/26	4	16
18	39	41	Make You Mine / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Records	412/31	1	6
7	45	42	I'm Not Pretty / Megan Moroney / Arista Nashville/Columbia Records	398/25	29	89
22	44	43	State You Left Me In / Jake Worthington / Big Loud	344/22	3	9
19	47	44	Wings Of A White Dove / Flat River Band / Early Bird Records	333/19	14	42
4	49	45	Tucson Too Late / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	325/23	20	54
11	54	46	Used To Be Me / Joe Hermes / OTM Productions	309/16	28	67
13	56	47	Brokenhearted / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	304/15	30	70
11	51	48	I'm All In / Gien Shelton / Jordash	282/15	9	24
13	50	49	When The Rodeo Is Over (Where Does The Cowboy Go?) / Tanya Tucker/ Fantasy/Concord	273/18	5	13
9	46	50	Something's Gonna Kill Me / Corey Kent / RCA Nashville	267/17	-12	-37
6	55	51	Country Dance / Aaron Goodvin / Warner Music Canada/Sakamoto Music	259/20	8	19
3	69	52	Rich Men North of Richmond / Oliver Anthony	253/12	46	80
29	52	53	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	242/17	-2	-4
12	53	54	Blaze A Trail / Ashley Barron / SSM Nashville	240/19	-2	-5
9	59	55	Cold Shoulder / Cliff Dorsey / Black Sheep Records	234/10	8	18
7	57	56	Outskirts / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	234/17	0	1
7	58	57	Girl, I Know A Guy / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	230/19	1	3
4	62	58	Last Train To Nowhere / Ghost Hounds / Gibson Records	229/19	15	30
17	60	59	Bad Day To Be A Cold Beer / Chase Rice / Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	213/17	0	-1
2	70	60	In Your Love / Tyler Childers / Hickman Holler Records/RCA Records	210/17	22	38
8	63	61	Let's Take A Ride / Six Gun Sally / Six Gun Sally Music	205/15	7	14
5	65	62	Wait Til I'm Gone / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	204/15	10	19
13	67	63	Somebody Else's Whiskey / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	195/14	7	13
5	68	64	Hell of a Life / Kylie Frey / Deep Frey'd Music/EWC	192/14	7	12
8	64	65	Loser / Mike Ryan / Rock & Soul	188/14	0	0
9	66	66	Daddy's Home / Ben Calhoun / General Records	183/14	0	0
2	77	67	Jesus and John Wayne / Alabama feat. The Oak Ridge Boys / Gaither Music Group	179/16	15	24
8	72	68	Smoke On My Mind / Michael David / Michael David LLC	174/10	4	6
9	74	69	I've Just Seen A Face / Val Storey / CDX Records	171/8	3	5
18	75	70	Rest In Peace / Taylor Austin Dye / LMG	170/11	3	5
1	83	71	Find Me On A Beach / Marie Wise-Hawkins	168/9	29	38
8	73	72	Dance With You / Brett Young / BMLG Records	166/12	-1	-1
6	71	73	Crooked Road / Mustangs Of The West / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	166/11	-2	-4
2	79	74	Know That By Now / Randy Rogers Band / Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers	164/12	17	24
2	80	75	Always You / Trey Lewis / River House Artists	161/14	16	22
16	61	76	Seven Year Ache / Aaron Watson / BIG Label Records	161/12	-24	-50
10	76	77	High Lonesome Stranger / CIMARRON 615 / Blue Elan Records/KZZ Music	157/9	-4	-6
1	88	78	Hush Little Baby / Ashley Ryan / Spinville Entertainment	150/10	24	29
6	78	79	June in July / Robby Johnson / Nashville Record Company	147/10	1	1
1	81	80	Baby I Do / Hurricane Highway / Kick Ass Music	140/9	3	4

No. 1 Song

Greatest Spin Increase

Highest Debut



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Norbert Nix Exits Triple Tigers, Kevin Herring & Annie Ortmeier Named Co-Presidents



Kevin Herring, Annie Ortmeier and George Couri. Photo: Robby Klein

Norbert Nix has exited his position as President of Triple Tigers, the label home to Scotty McCreery, Russell Dickerson and Jordan Fletcher.

Triple Tigers' **Kevin Herring** and former UMG exec. Annie Ortmeier have become Co-Presidents of the label, reporting to **George Couri**, Triple Tigers Co-Founder and Triple 8 Management Co-Founder.

"Triple Tigers 2.0 is here," Couri shares. "I look forward to stepping into a more active role, as well as having Kevin and Annie form a dual attack in the worlds of both radio and streaming & digital. Kevin's radio singles batting average here is unmatched in the industry, and Annie comes from leading streaming and digital strategies at the biggest label in the business. With our company intentionally focused on maintaining a very small group of artists who benefit from dedicated attention, there will be tremendous impact on our roster."

Herring took his post at Triple Tigers in 2017, overseeing all radio promotion efforts for the label. He previously served as Sr. VP of Promotion at Warner Music Nashville, and VP of Promotion at Lyric Street Records. "I am very proud and honored to be entrusted with a leadership role at Triple Tigers," he says. "This is an amazing group of people and artists who are dedicated to making world class country music and lifting up the artists, songwriters, format and community."

Ortmeier formerly served as Sr. VP of Streaming Marketing at UMG, where she was responsible for both audio and video streaming marketing strategy for all the label's artists. She joined UMG in 2013. She shares, "I am excited to be joining George, Kevin and the team at Triple Tigers. I have admired Triple Tigers and the incredible success they have had thus far, and am looking forward to being able to build upon that success with Scotty, Russell, Jordan and the team!"

Nix has launched an artist development company, VISCYRL. He announced his signing of Wisconsin-native **Sawyer Utah** in July. *MR*

Big Loud Records Expands To Australia & United Kingdom

Big Loud Records has expanded into new territories, adding offices and label managers in London, U.K. and Brisbane, Australia. This bolsters its already established base in Toronto, Canada.

Industry executives **Cayleigh Shepherd** and **Johnno Keetels** have been tapped as label managers in the U.K. and Australia, respectively. On the Canadian team, Big Loud has elevated **Justin Clark** to Manager, National Promotion/Associate Label Manager for the territory.

"We started in year one with our Canadian office, and it has been a long-term goal of ours to have direct Big Loud representation in both Australia and the U.K.," shares **Seth England**, Big Loud CEO/Partner. "We waited for the best strategic time, but now makes the most sense with how we've grown as a company. We continue to keep an eye on other emerging most



Brianne Deslippe. Photo: Ryan Emberley

grown as a company. We continue to keep an eye on other emerging markets as well."

All three label managers report to two-time CCMA Industry Person of the Year and SVP, Global Marketing & Strategy **Brianne Deslippe**.

Brisbane local Keetels joins Big Loud following stops at Warner Music Australia and most recently a 10-year run at Universal Music Australia in the Media & Editorial department. London-based Shepherd transitions from U.K.-based imprint Snakefarm Records, where she worked as a Marketing Manager for five years after a tenure with its parent company, Spinefarm Records, a subsidiary of Universal U.K. Clark started with Big Loud in 2020, contributing to and leading innovative promotion strategies on the international team and directly supporting Deslippe.

"There is so much growth potential in these markets, I feel like we've just scratched the surface," says Deslippe. "For a long time, I was the only international team member having moved to Nashville from Canada, but I've always been made to feel like a valued member of the core team. I'm excited to pay this sentiment forward and invite some more unique and different voices to the table."

"Getting these international pipes, if you will, set up now, has never been more important or timelier for us," adds England. "This is the next logical step; be ready for the ones to come and stay prepared for the ones we have." **MR**

Luke Bryan Looks Back On His Career & 30 No. 1 Hits



PCindy Mabe/Chair & CEO, UMG Nashville, Luke Bryan, Kerri Edwards/KP Entertainment. Photo: Alan Poizner

Industry members gathered at Brooklyn Bowl earlier this week to celebrate country superstar, **Luke Bryan**.

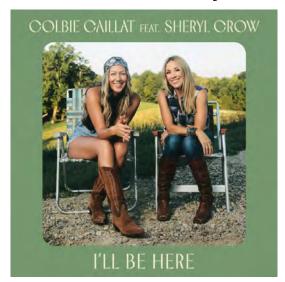
The five-time Entertainer of the Year recently notched the milestone of 30 No. 1 hits. First topping the charts in 2009 with "Do I," Bryan has changed the sound of country music in the last 15 years.

The occasion served as a celebration of Bryan's life and work. So many executives and peers that helped his record-breaking career take shape were in attendance, and Bryan thanked a lot of them by name, telling funny stories about their time together. In short, it was a love fest.

Storme Warren served as the emcee for the event. He let the crowd know that Bryan was in prestigious company as a 30-time chart-topping artist, joining the ranks with such legends as **George Strait**, **Ronnie Milsap**, **Conway Twitty** and **Alabama**.

Click here to read MusicRow's full event recap.

DISClaimer Single Reviews: Colbie Caillat & Sheryl Crow Bring Breezy New Tune



We've got country duets coming out of our ears in this edition of DISClaimer.

Mind you, there is superb solo work from Sam Williams, Tyler Hubbard, Willie Nelson and Lori McKenna. But there's no denying the force generated by Zach Bryan with Kacey Musgraves, Jenni Mudaur and Teddy Thompson and The Bellamy Brothers with K.T. Oslin.

Both of our award winners this week are collaborations, too. The Disc of the Day honor goes to the scintillating, uplifting **Colbie Caillat** and **Sheryl Crow** duet "I'll Be Here." The DISCovery Award goes to the husband-wife team of **Alyssa** and **Wayne Brewer**, whose **George** and **Tammy** recreation must be heard to be believed.

Click here to read Robert K Oermann's weekly single reviews

MORE TOP STORIES

Texas Singer-Songwriter Charlie Robison Dies At 59

Chase Rice & Kaiser Cunningham Glow In The Reception Of 'Bench Seat' Video [Interview]

Carrie Underwood Adds New 2024 Dates To 'Reflection: The Las Vegas Residency'

Brandi Carlile Announces Fifth Annual 'Girls Just Wanna Weekend' Lineup

Amy Grant To Release Vault Project 'Lead Me On Live 1989'

Bluebird Cafe Musical In Development

<u>Dan + Shay Slate 'The Heartbreak On The Map Tour'</u> For 2024

<u>Chase Matthew Announces Headline 'Come Get Your Memory Tour'</u>

<u>Luke Combs' 2024 Stadium Tour Sells Over One</u> Million Tickets In Opening Weekend Grand Ole Opry Honors Johnny Cash's Life & Legacy

Reservoir Acquires Rights To Kerry Kurt Phillips' Catalog [Exclusive]

Kelsea Ballerini Performs At The VMAs, Covers 'TIME100'

Cody Alan Joins SiriusXM's The Highway With New Daily Show

On The Row: Cody Hibbard Is No Stranger To Hard Work

Reservoir Signs Multi-Genre Songwriter Steph Jones

Sawyer Brown Announces 'Get Me To The Stage On Time' Documentary

<u>Drake White Builds 'The Bridge' To New Era On Latest</u> EP

Conner Smith Slates "Creek Will Rise Tour" For Fall & Winter

BBR Music Group Promotes Lauren Crawford, Hillary Borden & Hayley Irvine



Pictured (L-R): Lauren Crawford, Hillary Borden and Hayley Irvine. Photos: Kevin Grace

BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville has elevated **Lauren Crawford** to Director of Marketing, **Hillary Borden** to Sr. Manager of Marketing and **Hayley Irvine** to Manager of Marketing.

Crawford, now head of the department, will lead the label's marketing team and its initiatives as well as continue to manage artist projects such as **Jason Aldean**, **Dustin Lynch** and **Jelly Roll**, while also overseeing the rest of the roster. She joined the label from Capitol Christian Music Group, where she handled projects for artists such as: **Chris Tomlin**, **Cody Carnes**, **Kari Jobe**, **We The Kingdom** and more. Prior to Capitol, she worked

for Nashville's annual Pilgrimage Music Festival, driving its marketing initiatives and overseeing the festival's administration.

Borden joined BBR Music Group as Marketing Manager. In her new role, she will continue to manage artist projects, create marketing plans, streamline advertising initiatives and coordinate with all departments on artist release plans and strategies. Borden came to the label from The **Bobby Bones** Show, where she served as a producer, booking artists for the show and writing the weekend show, Country Top 30.

Irvine joined BBR Music Group as Manager of Recorded Finance. Going above and beyond the scope of her job duties, Irvine's devotion to the label's roster solidified her as the right teammate to transition into this artist-relations role, serving as a needed addition to the marketing team. Upon arriving in Nashville, Irvine came straight to the label after a short stint working in finance at Vaco.

"Each of these women are a force," says **JoJamie Hahr**, EVP, BMG Nashville. "They seamlessly lead artist projects with passion, intensity, organization, and creativity. Lauren is the perfect lead for this highly motivated, well-rounded group with her attention to detail, marketing smarts and strategic thinking. Hillary adds an important dimension to the team with her vast country radio knowledge, and Hayley's finance experience further solidifies the department." **MR**

Music Biz 2024 To Take Place May 13-16

The Music Business Association (Music Biz) has announced that the Music Biz 2024 conference will take place May 13-16 at the JW Marriott Nashville.

The 2023 conference brought together over 2,100 attendees from more than 800 companies across 30 countries to hear expert viewpoints on the latest trends and technology, seek out new business partnerships and celebrate those who are innovating the ways the industry operates.

Registration rates remain the same as 2023 for in-person ticket holders. Music Biz has also open discounted hotel registrations at the JW Marriott Nashville for \$299 per night.

There is a limited number of meeting rooms and suite options for companies looking to host private conversations with their partners or showcases on-site during the conference. Companies interest in booking can contact **Jessicca Garcia**, Music Biz Events Manager, at jessicca.garcia@musicbiz.org.

In 2024, Music Biz will continue to source the educational program from industry professionals, as the association determines the program tracks and conversations most relevant to the industry in the coming months. The Call for Presentations will begin early next month and wrap on Friday, Dec. 8. Full criteria and submission forms for this year's process will be announced soon. For more Music Biz 2024 information, click here. *MR*



TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1		Zachary Lane Bryan	East Side of Sorrow El Dorado Fear And Friday's Fear And Friday's (Poem) Hey Driver Holy Roller I Remember Everything Jake's Piano - Long Island Oklahoman Son Overtime Smaller Acts Spotless Summertime's Close Ticking Tourniquet Tradesman	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan ft. The War And Treaty Zach Bryan ft. Sierra Ferrell Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves Zach Bryan
2	2	Ashley Gorley	All I Need Is You Cowgirls Everything I Love Girl In Mine God Gave Me A Girl Last Night Save Me The Trouble Thinkin' Bout Me Truck Bed World On Fire	Chris Janson Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Parmalee Russell Dickerson Morgan Wallen Dan + Shay Morgan Wallen Hardy Nate Smith
3	3	Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
4	1	Christopher Anthony Lunsford	Ain't Gotta Dollar I Want To Go Home Rich Men North Of Richmond	Oliver Anthony Music Oliver Anthony Music Oliver Anthony Music
5	4	Jordan Schmidt	Bury Me In Georgia Drinkaby Watermelon Moonshine We Got History	Kane Brown Cole Swindell Lainey Wilson Mitchell Tenpenny
6	6	Ryan Vojtesak	Cowgirls Everything I Love Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
7	9	John Byron	Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
8	8	Jason DeFord	Need A Favor Save Me	Jelly Roll Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson
9	7	Chase McGill	But I Got A Beer In My Hand Creek Will Rise God Gave Me A Girl	Luke Bryan Conner Smith Russell Dickerson
10	13	Dan Isbell	Fires Don't Start Themselves Love You Anyway	Darius Rucker Luke Combs
11	11	Josh Thompson	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Stars Like Confetti	Thomas Rhett Dustin Lynch
12	12	Thomas Rhett	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Stars Like Confetti	Thomas Rhett Dustin Lynch
13	16	Luke Combs	Love You Anyway	Luke Combs
14	17	Ray Fulcher	Love You Anyway	Luke Combs
15	10	Julian Bunetta	Angels Don't Always Have Wings If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too)	Thomas Rhett Kelsea Ballerini
16	15	Michael Hardy	Drinkaby See You Next Summer Truck Bed	Cole Swindell Brian Kelley Hardy
17		Kacey Musgraves	I Remember Everything	Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
18	18	Zach Crowell	God Gave Me A Girl Outskirts Stars Like Confetti	Russell Dickerson Sam Hunt Dustin Lynch
19	26	Taylor Phillips	Thinkin' Bout Me World On Fire	Morgan Wallen Nate Smith
20	31	Jacob Kasher	Last Night	Morgan Wallen
21	14	Chayce Beckham	23	Chayce Beckham
22	24	Lainey Wilson	Watermelon Moonshine	Lainey Wilson
23	25	Josh Kear	Watermelon Moonshine	Lainey Wilson
24	22	Dan Wilson	White Horse	Chris Stapleton
25	23	Chris Stapleton	White Horse	Chris Stapleton
26	28	Rob Ragosta	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
27	29	Joe Ragosta	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
28	30	Austin Nivarel	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
29	27	Hunter Phelps	Drinkaby Truck Bed	Cole Swindell Hardy
30	32	Patrick Murphy	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
31	33	Tommy Cecil	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
32	34	Craig Wiseman	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
33	38	Shane McAnally	Good With Me If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too) We Don't Fight Anymore	Walker Hayes Kelsea Ballerini Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton
34	35	Josh Hoge	Bury Me In Georgia	Kane Brown
35	36	Matt McGinn	Bury Me In Georgia	Kane Brown
36	37	Kane Brown	Bury Me In Georgia	Kane Brown
37	48	Bailey Zimmerman	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
38	49	Austin Shawn	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
39	50	Frank Romano	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
40	51	Marty James	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
41	52	Alex Palmer	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
42	39	Kurt Allison	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
43	40	Tully Kennedy	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
44	41	Kelley Lovelace	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
45	42	Neil Thrasher	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
46	43	Geoff Warburton	But I Got A Beer In My Hand	Luke Bryan
47	44	Matt Dragstrem	But I Got A Beer In My Hand	Luke Bryan
48	46	Jaten Dimsdale	Angels Don't Always Have Wings	Thomas Rhett
49	19	John Pierce	Giving Up On That Your Heart Or Mine	Dalton Dover Jon Pardi
50		Jeremy Caleb Fraites	Spotless	Zach Bryan ft. The Lumineers
51		Wesley Schultz	Spotless	Zach Bryan ft. The Lumineers
52	5	Taylor Swift	Enchanted (Taylor's Version) I Can See You (Taylor's Version) (From the Vault)	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift
53	20	Justin Ebach	Your Heart Or Mine	Jon Pardi
54	21	Bart Butler	Your Heart Or Mine	Jon Pardi
55	47	Ernest Keith Smith	Cowgirls Everything I Love	Morgan Wallen (feat. ERNEST) Morgan Wallen
56	65	Travis Wood	Drive You Out Of My Mind Girl In Mine	Kassi Ashton Parmalee
57	45	David Ray Stevens	Save Me	Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson
58	68	Casey Brown	Girl In Mine	Parmalee
59	69	D. Fanning	Girl In Mine	Parmalee
60	70	Matt Thomas	Girl In Mine	Parmalee

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

September 15

Wade Bowen/Lovin' Not Leavin'/Thirty Tigers

EmiSunshine and The Rain/The Boy I Never Loved/Little Blackbird Records

Matt Jordan/Steel Away the Night/ONErpm

Tennessee Holy Water/Choices/Heart Songs Music Group

Leah Turner & Jerrod Niemann/South Of The Border

September 15

Lauren Alaina/Thicc As Thieves/Big Loud Records

Old Dominion/Can't Break Up Now (with Megan Moroney)/Columbia Nashville

Bryan Martin/We Ride/Average Joes Entertainment

Ty Gregory/Easy Loving You/Ole Buster Music

American Blonde/A Man Like You

Album/EP Releases

September 15

Willie Nelson/Bluegrass/Legacy Recordings

Dan + Shay/Bigger Houses/Warner Music Nashville

Brothers Osborne/Brothers Osborne/EMI Records Nashville

Travis Tritt/Country Chapel/Gaither Music Group

Alex Hall/Side Effect Of The Heart/Monument Records

Stephen Wilson Jr./Søn Of Dad/Big Loud Records

Tyler Booth/Keep It Real/Sony Music Nashville

Walker Montgomery/Work To Do/Clear Creek Productions

Voth/Memories Of You

Jim Lauderdale & The Po' Ramblin' Boys/The Long And Lonesome Letting Go

Industry Events

September 19 - 23

AmericanaFest

September 20

Americana Honors & Awards