

NSAI Notches Another Epic Nashville Songwriter Awards Show [Recap]



Pictured (L-R, front row): David Israelite (2023 NSAI Advocacy Award recipient), Sonya Isaacs, Steve Bogard (NSAI, Board President), Bobby Braddock (2023 NSAI Kris Kristofferson Lifetime Achievement Award recipient), Nicole Galyon, Emily Shackelton, Ashley Gorley (2023 NSAI Songwriter of the Year recipient), Megan Moroney, Trannie Anderson (NSAI 2023 Song of the Year recipient), Ben Burgess and Jennifer Turnbow (NSAI Chief Operating Officer); (L-R, back row): Jimmy Yeary, Bart Herbison (NSAI, Executive Director), Ben Johnson, Dallas Wilson (NSAI 2023 Song of the Year recipient), Ben Williams, Mark Holman, Hunter Phelps, David Fanning and Paul Jenkins. Photo: Jason Davis

"This is becoming my favorite industry awards show." That statement was shared among throngs of songwriters, publishers and other industry members at last night's (Sept. 26) sixth annual Nashville Songwriter Awards, put on by Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) with presenting partner City National Bank.

And for good reason. The night was full of epic performances, tender speeches and shared congratulations. As it has been since the beginning: it was a love fest.

Throughout the night, the winning songs in the "10 Songs I Wish I'd Written" category were performed, as were tributes to some of the night's esteemed honorees, **Bobby Braddock**, **David Israelite** and **Tim McGraw**.

The show opened with talented vocalists **Jimmy Yeary** and **Sonya Isaacs** singing a medley of "Golden Ring," "The Jet Set" and "D-I-V-O-R-C-E," as one of many musical moments tributing the incomparable Braddock.

Later in the show, **Garth Brooks** appeared to a hooping and hollering house. He was tasked with presenting Braddock with the **Kris Kristofferson** Lifetime Achievement Award, but he wasn't alone. **Tracy Lawrence** soon joined the stage to perform the Braddock-penned classic,

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Joey Harris Promoted To VP Of Publishing At 50 Egg Music

Oliver Anthony Signs With UTA

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"Time Marches On." A highlight of the evening was when **Blake Shelton**, whom Braddock discovered, appeared to perform the iconic "He Stopped Loving Her Today" that Braddock penned alongside **Curly Putman** for **George Jones**. **Toby Keith** got a huge applause when he appeared to sing "I Wanna Talk About Me," on which he sounded as stellar as ever.

When Braddock made his way to the stage, he insisted that the award was an honor to all of the songwriters who had written with him over the years. The songwriter—who has had chart-topping hits in five decades—was incredibly humble, thanking his family, publishers and the Nashville community.

"I love country music. I'm fortunate to play a small part in it," Braddock shared. "Long live country music!"

Lori McKenna was on hand to honor McGraw, who was being presented with the NSAI President's Keystone Award. She played her epic "Humble And Kind" that McGraw sent into the stratosphere. "Tim McGraw always makes me cry," McKenna said.

The President's Keystone Award recognizes significant contributions to the betterment of all songwriters. In a video that played with messages for McGraw, almost all participants spoke about his commitment to cutting the best songs—no matter if he had a hand in writing them. For McGraw, the best song wins.

"You are the songwriters. The corner stone of Music Row," McGraw said to the crowd.

"I listen to hundreds of your songs as I'm trying to record what I'm hearing in my head. I consider it one of the most precious and awesome things I get to do, listening to your demos," he added. "I heard your song and I fell in love with it. Thank you for trusting me with your songs."

Israelite, the Chairman & CEO of the National Music Publishers' Association, was given the NSAI Advocacy Award for his significant service to the songwriting community. Brett Young performed a cover of Israelite's favorite song, "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen. When Israelite got up to speak, he said Young's cover was now his favorite version.

Israelite spoke about the work NMPA and NSAI had done together for the betterment of songwriters. "Songwriting is a collaborative exercise. As you'll see tonight, most great songs are the result of a team effort," he said. "The same is true in my world."

Ashley Gorley was the night's Songwriter of the Year, an award he has taken home a record seven times. He was treated to performances of "God Gave Me A Girl" by Russell Dickerson and "She Had Me At Heads Carolina" by Cole Swindell as an example of two of his hits from the past year.

When Gorley spoke, the chart-topper with over 60 No. 1 hits shared something that he had found himself telling rising songwriters lately.

"I've been in Nashville a long time and this past year was the biggest year I've had," Gorley shared. "To anyone that's out there that is digging in, just be patient, keep being you and do what you do best."

In between in awards, the "10 Songs I Wish I'd Written" were revealed through videos from the creators about the song's writing process. Then, the artist or songwriter(s) behind the song would perform them.

Josiah and the Bonnevilles performed a folky version of Taylor Swift's "Anti-Hero" (Swift, Jack Antonoff); while Megan Moroney thrilled the audience with her breakout hit "Tennessee Orange" (Moroney, David Fanning, Paul Jenkins, Ben Williams).

Read the full event recap [here](#). **MR**



2023 NSAI President's Keystone Award recipient Tim McGraw. Photo: Jason Davis

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My Music Row Story: NSAI's Bart Herbison



Bart Herbison

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.

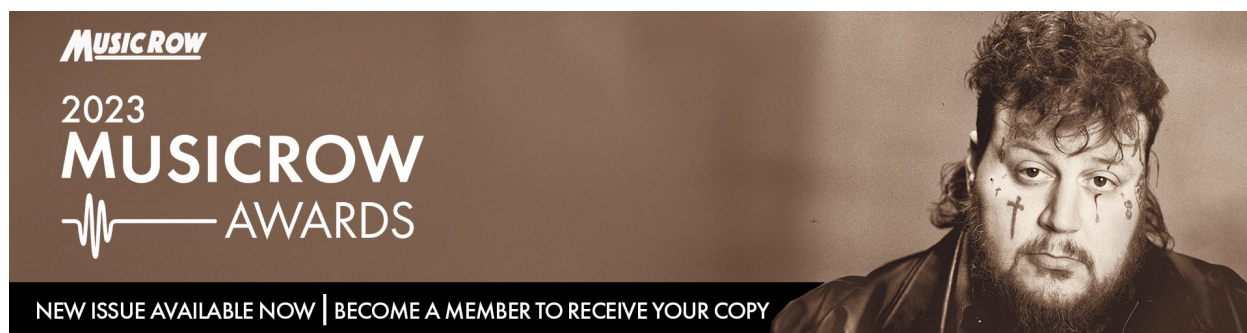
Bart Herbison is Executive Director of the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI), the world's largest not-for-profit songwriters trade organization with 7,000 annual members and over 100 chapters.

Since joining NSAI in 1997, Herbison has led the organization to legislative accomplishments, including adoption of the Music Modernization Act in 2018, a 43.5 percent increase in digital mechanical streaming royalties through the Copyright Royalty Board in 2018, the landmark Songwriters Capital Gains Tax Equity Act in 2006, creation of the first Group Copyright Infringement—Social Network Insurance and the acquisition of the famed Bluebird Cafe.

Herbison's honors include the NMPA Industry Legacy Award, the IP Champion's Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Center, the Individual Award in Support of Songwriters and Publishers from the Los Angeles Chapter of AIMP and the Arnold Broido Award from the Music Publishers Association.

Prior to joining NSAI, Herbison worked as a reporter and spent 14 years in radio and as a correspondent for The Nashville Banner newspaper before joining the administration of former Tennessee Governor Ned McWherter as Deputy Director of Communications in 1987. He joined the staff of U.S. Rep. Bob Clement (D-Nashville) in 1988 where he served as the Tennessee Congressman's Press Secretary, Campaign Manager and Chief Tennessee Administrative Officer until coming to Music City.

Herbison and NSAI continued their legacy of celebrating songwriters at the sixth annual Nashville Songwriter Awards this week.



MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Cottage Grove, Tennessee. Population 250. It's a suburb of Paris, Tennessee, where I was born.

Were you into music?

My whole family was musical except me. My grandmother played piano at Cottage Grove Methodist Church. My two brothers and I all played trumpet—I sucked and they were amazing.

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Where it all started for me was when I was somewhere between four and five. My late Uncle **Billy Pullen** called me in one day and said, "Listen to this!" He played, "That's When Your Heartaches Begin" by **Elvis**. I was never the same.

A fun, unknown fact about me is I'm such an Elvis disciple, I've got his logo, TCB, with a lightning bolt tattooed down my left shoulder. I win a lot of "who loves Elvis the most" arguments with that. But it really did change me—I knew even then I would do something in music.

Wow. How did you pursue that?

My father and brother ran this company until my father passed—my brother still runs it—JB Herbison and Sons Painting and Sandblasting. They specialized in high stuff back then, like church steeples, bridges and grain tanks. That sandblasting was nasty business. I probably weighed 100 pounds and so did the bags of sand I would carry up the ladder. I started with him when I was 13. It was never my thing.

One day my father and I got into it. It was hard for me and my dad to work together. I loved him, but that wasn't a good recipe. A kid at my local high school had gotten a job at the radio station, WTPR (We Treat People Right.) My hair was way longer than yours and it was matted full of sand and paint. I walked into that radio station and I said, "I want a job." And they gave me one.

Tell me about working there.

I was 16 when I started. People say this is an exaggeration, but it's not. There were some weeks I worked 100 hours. I had an afternoon shift every day. The school would let me off if some of the other DJs couldn't make it, so I was constantly on the air. The AM station was a pop/Americana kind of thing and the FM station was country, but on the weekends at 10 o'clock, we turned to acid/AOR rock, which was my favorite.

We did a lot of live stuff. I hosted sports talk shows—all kinds of stuff. As I got older in the '80s, I became a news director for that station and some other stations that came along. I went back and forth between some stations in that town. I also worked as a stringer for the Tennessee Radio Network and I was the west Tennessee correspondent for the Nashville Banner.

What was next?

In 1986, my state representative **Ned Ray McWherter** was running for Governor. The reason I have this job and everything else I had from that moment was because of two individuals: one was my middle school 4-H leader, **Mary Kate Ridgeway**, who got me into public speaking. The other was her husband, who was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives, **L. Don Ridgeway**. He became the House Majority Leader. He was my promoter, often probably to the detriment of his own career. I was wearing the fatigue jacket and was the hippie protesting everything. He insisted that McWherter hire me.

Did he? How did you get that job?

It started off with Ridgeway. McWherter didn't like Ridgeway's commercial that an ad agency did in Nashville. **Byron Gallimore**—who was from the next little town over in Puryear, Tennessee—had a band and a little studio. One weekend without McWherter's knowledge, we went [into the studio to make a new commercial]. Byron did a soundtrack and the jingle and I did the voice work and wrote a commercial called "He Knows The Way, The Tennessee Way." I stayed up all night and drove Byron and Ridgeway crazy—we did 85 takes of that commercial. You couldn't tell a difference in the first and last, but I could. They played it for Ned a couple days later and he flipped over it.

We were doing a live news event on a campaign stop when Ned called and said, "Barto," which is what he called me, "I'm going to be the next Governor of Tennessee." He had been the speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives for 14 years, so I said, "I believe so too, speaker." He then said, "I want you to come work for me in the press office." We ended that broadcast and he asked me again. We didn't talk about it after that. That was probably in June. He was elected in November and went into office in January.

I was on the air when he called me again. He said, "Can you be up here today?" I said, "I'll be up there the day after tomorrow." They had a really sweet little celebration for me in my hometown. I went to Nashville and at the tender age of 29, I became the Deputy Director of Communications for the state of Tennessee. Way over my head, frankly, but Ned liked me. My grandpa was his mailman. He was from a little town called Palmersville. My grandfather carried his mail in a horse and buggy, so he liked me. We spoke the same language.

What was your next move?

Soon after taking that job, I got a couple of promotions. I became the guy that traveled with him all over the state of Tennessee. I was there about two years when then U.S. Congressman **Bob Clement**—who represented the fifth district, Nashville—came in and needed some help on a press matter. I went out with him that day and a day or two later, he offered me a job. I said I would take it on one condition: I wanted to do the music issues. He said, "We've got somebody else doing that." Through a weird series of events, a few weeks later that came open. He called me back and I took the job. I took a job in Washington D.C. and had never been there. I remember the night I landed, I was at a payphone calling my then-girlfriend and somebody tried to rob me at knife point. Rent there was three to four times what it was in Nashville, but I persevered. I stayed there 10 years.

Tell me about that job.

My very first two or three weeks there, NSAI made an appointment with me. The two individuals that came in were the late great songwriter **Peter McCann** and the then-publisher **Kevin Lamb** that ran Peer Music. It must've been the worst meeting in history for them because all I kept saying was, "Y'all do what?"

Back in my radio days, there was a huge popular local band known **Tennessee River Crooks** or **T.R. Crooks**. They were a southern rock band in their heyday. Their leader and main songwriter was my best friend to this day, **Jimmy Stewart**. Jimmy went to Nashville before I did and got signed. A couple of his songs people would know were "Brotherly Love" and "A Little Less Talk And A Lot More Action." While we all read the liner notes, I always was a lyric guy. I loved the music too, but I cared about who wrote the songs. Visiting Jimmy [after he became] a professional songwriter is the second reason why I have this job, besides the Ridgeways. I wanted to work for songwriters from the time I was about 17 or 18 years old.

After Peter and Kevin left that appointment, I said a prayer that day. "Lord, let that be my next and my final job." 26 years ago that came true. It just was ordained for me. This job requires legislative knowledge, intricacies of politics, fundraising and communications. I felt like 10 years after I was born, when they created NSAI in 1967, somebody had me in mind.



That's amazing. What were your goals when you joined NSAI?

We were in terrible financial trouble. Starting with the three performing rights societies, I tried to let them know who I was first. I had to sell myself, the vision of NSAI was going to be and why they needed an independent songwriter organization like us. By the end of the year, we turned the finances around and they've been in good shape ever since. That was the first challenge.

That organization had been there for 30 years and we were doing a lot of things like programs, services, camps and cruises that didn't make any sense, but a lot of board members had personally inherited some of them. So I had to get rid of a lot of those.

Then we had to get ready for advocacy. We needed a bill—we needed to pass a piece of legislation. So I'm sitting in a room one day about to have a legislative committee and a songwriter named **Billy Kirsch** walks in—he wrote “Holes In The Floor Of Heaven”—and he was talking to another songwriter named **Beckie Foster**. He said, “I just sold a catalog. I wish I could get the same tax breaks publishers get.” So I start looking into it and it's another wacky story that goes back to 1951 and involves **Groucho Marx, Salvador Dali, Ira Gershwin and Dwight Eisenhower**. They took capital gains treatment away from songwriters, as well as from some other intellectual professions.

That was our first bill. We went to the Hill with it in '98 into '99 to tweak it. Our contention was songwriters had already paid income tax, FICA, Medicare and Social Security on those income-producing songs and it was double taxation. Congress agreed and seven and a half years later in '06, we passed the Songwriters Capital Gains Tax Equity Act. It took effect January 1 of 2007 and I think it had a big part to do with the values and the explosion of catalog sales that you see today, because there's much more incentive for songwriters to sell them. That put us on the map. We became a force and we've grown as a force in D.C. and in regulatory bodies and courts ever since then.

What's the best part of your job?

The more fun two things is a tie. It's meeting with the up-and-coming songwriters here and our other chapters around the country. I love that enthusiasm and glowing nature. Just about every songwriter started with a meeting with us at NSAI. It's that and this series I do for the Gannett newspaper chain and The Tennessean called “Story Behind the Song.” I also love working with our staff, starting with **Jennifer Turnbow**. I get all the credit, but I would say over the past few years, she's done more to lift this organization than I have. So has **Erika Wollam Nichols** at the Bluebird Cafe.

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

It was really from the Governor's Director of Communications, **Ken Renner**. I was overwhelmed when I was going to D.C. and he said, “Bart, read everything you can read.” I would get up every morning and read seven publications: *The Tennessean*, *Washington Post*, *Roll Call*, *The Hill* and several other political things. He said, “They're all going to be more experienced than you, but trust your instincts.” Every time I haven't, I've regretted it. That's probably the best advice I ever had. My father would say, “Your word is your bond.” I always keep my word.

Erika gave me a piece of advice when we were trying to resurrect the funding structure of NSAI in 1997. There were some people that wanted to come fund us, and it would've been easy to do, but it would have potentially compromised our mission. **Wayland Holyfield**, the President of NSAI who hired me, always said this to me, but Erika said it that day and I still use it: “Read your mission statement.” Sometimes when Jennifer and I are torn or lost, we read that mission statement and it becomes crystal clear. It's not always the answer I want, but it's never wrong.

What are a few “pinch me” moments you can recall?

Getting to meet the songwriters I grew up loving and admiring. In particular, the late **Mac Davis**. You don't always want to meet your heroes, but Mac and I became fast friends. Some days I would sit there and go, “Oh my God, he wrote ‘In The Ghetto!’”

[Another thing that comes to mind is] our 50th anniversary event that we did at the Ryman in 2017. Jennifer is responsible for it. We performed 25 or 30 songs, but we celebrated the rest with videos. **Kris Kristofferson** performed, **Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood**, everyone. My single favorite music moment since I took this job was reuniting **Shelly West** and **David Frizzell** for “You're The Reason God Made Oklahoma.” That was my favorite moment in all these years.

Jimmy Stewart and **Tim Nichols** wrote “Brotherly Love.” When I started coming to town, Tim was the first writer I met. They regularly played rounds with **Craig Wiseman, Tony Arata, Bernie Nelson** and **Scott Miller**. They introduced me to the songwriter community. I hung with them. They accepted me as one of my own. There are great stories to tell—some I will never tell. [Laughs] That's where I learned the pulse beat, the fabric, the desires, the successes and the fears of professional songwriters. **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

I Can Feel It/Kane Brown/Zone 4/RCA Nashville - 67

Rough Around The Edges/Exile/Clearwater Records - 79

Good With Me/Walker Hayes/Monument Records/RCA Records - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Stars Like Confetti/Dustin Lynch/Broken Bow Records - 196

God Gave Me A Girl/Russell Dickerson/Triple Tigers Records - 196

I Can Feel It/Kane Brown/Zone 4/RCA Nashville - 191

Thinkin' Bout Me/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 173

Different 'Round Here/Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs)/BMLG - 171

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

I Can Feel It/Kane Brown/Zone 4/RCA Nashville - 15

Can't Break Up Now/Old Dominion with Megan Moroney/
Columbia Nashville - 8

I Remember Everything/Zach Bryan feat. Kacey Musgraves/
Warner Records - 7

Back Then Right Now/Tyler Hubbard/EMI Nashville - 7

23/Chayce Beckham/BMG - 6

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Everywhere I Go/Kaitlyn Kohler/Kohler Music Group LLC - 128

Can't Break Up Now/Old Dominion with Megan Moroney/
Columbia Nashville - 126

Thicc As Thieves/Lauren Alaina/Big Loud Records - 119

Vertigo/Morgan Myles/KZZ Music/Blue Èlan Records - 118

Come On Home/Cutter Elliott/TCM Records - 107

NO. 1 SONG



Dylan Scott tops the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart this week with "Can't Have Mine," jumping from No. 4 to No. 1.

Scott co-wrote the tune with **Matt Alderman**, **Josh Melton** and **Dallas Wilson**. The romantic ballad written for Scott's wife is the second single from his latest LP, *Livin' My Best Life*.

With career streams exceeding 2 billion, Scott recently earned a nomination for ACM's New Male Artist of the Year. He will hit the road this fall for his headlining "This Town's Been Too Good To Us Tour," named after his latest release, which pays homage to his hometown of Bastrop, Louisiana.

"Can't Have Mine" currently sits at No. 15 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 10 on the Mediabase chart.



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
WCTY Norwich, CT
WUBB Savannah, GA
KXIA Marshalltown, IA
KIAI Mason City, IA
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID
KKMV Rupert, ID

WOOZ Carterville, IL
WALS Peru, 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
KPNC Ponca City, 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
WJMQ Shawano, 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 +/-
54	4	1	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	1755/58	7	114
19	5	2	Try That In A Small Town / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow	1716/50	6	102
20	2	3	Watermelon Moonshine / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	1685/47	2	26
38	6	4	God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	1680/52	13	196
14	1	5	Everything I Love / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1620/50	-6	-106
38	7	6	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	1565/49	14	196
24	3	7	Religiously / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville	1499/40	-9	-154
33	8	8	All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records	1482/54	9	119
11	10	9	Save Me The Trouble / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1444/55	11	140
26	9	10	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	1384/60	3	42
20	14	11	Different 'Round Here / Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs) / BMLG	1287/57	15	171
10	13	12	White Horse / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1256/57	7	86
40	11	13	If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	1246/50	3	36
6	16	14	Thinkin' Bout Me / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1208/45	17	173
51	12	15	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	1196/37	2	25
31	15	16	Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville	1075/49	3	30
24	17	17	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	1048/49	4	42
17	22	18	World On Fire / Nate Smith / Sony Music Nashville	946/48	13	111
39	20	19	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	910/46	5	46
7	21	20	The Painter / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	902/52	5	41
22	18	21	Blacktop Don't / BoomTown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment	896/47	3	29
15	19	22	We Don't Fight Anymore / Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton / Big Machine	880/51	2	15
15	26	23	Save Me / Jelly Roll (with Lainey Wilson) / Stoney Creek	822/49	19	131
14	27	24	Mind On You / George Birge / RECORDS	818/38	20	134
17	23	25	See You Next Summer / Brian Kelley / Big Machine Records	815/44	5	41
39	25	26	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	791/36	9	63
29	24	27	Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	764/43	0	1
15	31	28	Burn It Down / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	748/45	16	105
25	33	29	23 / Chayce Beckham / BMG	745/41	20	126
14	28	30	Wine Country / Hannah Ellis / Curb Records	714/45	5	35
19	32	31	Truck Bed / HARDY / Big Loud Records	661/40	6	36
6	36	32	Cab In A Solo / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	656/42	28	145
11	35	33	Pretty Little Poison / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records	656/40	18	98
18	29	34	Out Of That Truck / Carrie Underwood / Capitol Records	652/36	0	-3
16	30	35	Glory Days / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	621/40	-5	-30
15	34	36	Something Real / Dierks Bentley / Capitol Nashville	538/29	-4	-23
20	37	37	Make You Mine / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Records	533/31	18	82
9	38	38	I'm Not Pretty / Megan Moroney / Arista Nashville/Columbia Records	517/33	17	74
26	39	39	Dents On A Chevy / Ty Herndon, Terri Clark / Pivotal Records	496/28	12	55

MUSICROW

2023
MUSICROW
AWARDS



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
2	44	40	Back Then Right Now / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	456/33	36	120
12	40	41	Drinkin' Problems / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	424/26	7	28
6	42	42	Tucson Too Late / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	401/29	12	44
24	43	43	State You Left Me In / Jake Worthington / Big Loud	371/24	5	18
15	45	44	Brokenhearted / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	341/18	7	21
2	55	45	I Remember Everything / Zach Bryan feat. Kacey Musgraves / Warner Records	321/25	41	94
8	47	46	Country Dance / Aaron Goodvin / Warner Music Canada/Sakamoto Music	315/24	12	33
11	49	47	Something's Gonna Kill Me / Corey Kent / RCA Nashville	293/17	13	34
10	52	48	Loser / Mike Ryan / Rock & Soul	277/17	15	37
15	46	49	When The Rodeo Is Over (Where Does The Cowboy Go?) / Tanya Tucker/ Fantasy/Concord	276/18	-6	-17
6	50	50	Last Train To Nowhere / Ghost Hounds / Gibson Records	270/21	8	19
9	54	51	Girl, I Know A Guy / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	258/20	13	29
7	57	52	Wait Til I'm Gone / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	244/17	9	21
10	60	53	Let's Take A Ride / Six Gun Sally / Six Gun Sally Music	243/16	14	29
14	48	54	Blaze A Trail / Ashley Barron / SSM Nashville	242/17	-8	-21
4	58	55	In Your Love / Tyler Childers / Hickman Holler Records/RCA Records	237/19	7	15
9	51	56	Outskirts / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	237/17	-2	-4
2	67	57	New Money / Julianna Rankin / 17th Avenue	231/19	29	52
5	56	58	Rich Men North of Richmond / Oliver Anthony	227/13	1	3
2	77	59	Young Love & Saturday Nights / Chris Young / RCA	222/13	53	77
31	59	60	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	216/15	-1	-3
12	62	61	High Lonesome Stranger / CIMARRON 615 / Blue Elan Records/KZZ Music	213/10	8	15
15	63	62	Somebody Else's Whiskey / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	204/14	3	6
4	65	63	Jesus and John Wayne / Alabama feat. The Oak Ridge Boys / Gaither Music Group	202/17	4	8
4	71	64	Know That By Now / Randy Rogers Band / Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers	201/14	16	28
7	61	65	Hell of a Life / Kylie Frey / Deep Frey'd Music/EWC	200/15	-2	-5
11	64	66	Daddy's Home / Ben Calhoun / General Records	196/15	0	0
1	0	67	I Can Feel It / Kane Brown / Zone 4/RCA Nashville	191/15	0	191
4	68	68	Always You / Trey Lewis / River House Artists	186/16	4	7
8	73	69	Crooked Road / Mustangs Of The West / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	181/12	6	11
10	72	70	Dance With You / Brett Young / BMLG Records	173/13	0	0
3	69	71	Find Me On A Beach / Marie Wise-Hawkins	173/9	-1	-2
20	66	72	Rest In Peace / Taylor Austin Dye / LMG	167/10	-11	-20
3	74	73	Hush Little Baby / Ashley Ryan / Spinville Entertainment	162/12	1	2
3	78	74	Baby I Do / Hurricane Highway / Kick Ass Music	159/10	10	15
2	76	75	Bad N' Boozy / Rob Fitzgerald / Riverbend Recordings	157/8	4	6
8	75	76	June in July / Robby Johnson / Nashville Record Company	156/10	-1	-1
12	81	77	Giving Up On That / Dalton Dover / Mercury Records	153/12	15	20
2	79	78	Falling Too / Jet Jurgensmeyer / Simba Entertainment	152/12	8	11
1	86	79	Rough Around The Edges / Exile / Clearwater Records	146/8	28	32
1	84	80	Good With Me / Walker Hayes / Monument Records/RCA Records	142/11	15	18

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut

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Big Machine Music Promotes Michelle Attardi To Sr. Dir., Publishing



Michelle Attardi

Big Machine Music has elevated **Michelle Attardi** to Senior Director, Publishing, effective immediately.

Since joining BMM seven years ago, Attardi has been part of the core creative team representing roster of songwriters and its catalog that has grown to over 14,000 songs and more than 50 No. 1's across the top 40, country and rock radio charts. Attardi was integral in the signing of **Daniel Ross**, **Matt Roy**, **Troy Cartwright** and **Geoff Warburton**. She has also secured cuts with **Jon Pardi**, **Lady A**, **Jason Aldean**, **Jake Owen** and **Mitchell Tenpenny**, among others.

"Michelle has great ears and a passion for her songwriters. I'm happy to see her take this hard-earned next step in her career at Big Machine Music," shares BMM's President **Mike Molinar** of the promotion.

Named to MusicRow Magazine's esteemed Next Big Thing industry directory in 2020 and 2023, the Berklee College of Music graduate is currently on the board of Wags and Walks Nashville.

"I'm deeply honored and thankful to be part of Big Machine Music," shares Attardi. "I have the privilege of working with incredible talent and I'm excited to continue fostering these exceptional songwriters and artists. I'm grateful for the support and mentorship of **Scott Borchetta** and Mike Molinar and look forward to contributing to the continued success of our publishing roster."

Congratulate Attardi at michelle.attardi@bigmachinemusic.com. **MR**

Joey Harris Promoted To VP Of Publishing At 50 Egg Music



Joey Harris

50 Egg Music has promoted **Joey Harris** to VP of Publishing.

In his new role, effective immediately, Harris will continue to cultivate talent, bring in new collaborations, as well as oversee the entire publishing roster alongside **Tali Canterbury**.

Harris has served as 50 Egg's Sr. Creative Director since the company's inception. 50 Egg Music is a full-service artist development and publishing company co-owned by hit songwriter **Jonathan Singleton**, multi-Platinum selling recording artist **Luke Combs** and publishing/A&R executive Canterbury.

"Since the beginning, Harris has been a crucial part of the culture and community that is 50 Egg Music. His wisdom, attitude, and know-how are cherished at our company, and I couldn't think of a better way to acknowledge that than this promotion," says Canterbury, Co-owner/President, 50 Egg Music.

"I'm very thankful and absolutely blessed to have been an early addition to this 50 Egg family" says Harris. "Having the opportunity to assist this wildly talented roster of artists and writers work toward their goals has been nothing short of amazing. In this new capacity, I'm very excited to continue that mission and run this race to the finish."

Congratulate Harris at joey@50eggmusic.com. **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: The Late Jimmy Buffett 'Encourages Optimism & Hope'



It's wall-to-wall country stars in this edition of DISCLAIMER.

For your listening pleasure, we present **Dan + Shay, Darius Rucker, Lady A, Charlie Worsham and Kip Moore, Kane Brown, Lauren Alaina and Cody Johnson**. And the biggest star of them all gets the Disc of the Day award. It's **Jimmy Buffett** singing the most touching and uplifting song of his career. Released posthumously, it demonstrates that this troubadour was making powerful music right up until the end of his life.

Our DISCOVERY Award goes to **Matt Schuster**, whose sound is the one of the most innovative I've heard these days.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Country Music Gets A New Awards Show: A Look At The 'People's Choice Country Awards'](#)

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[Chris Stapleton Confirms 2024 U.K. & Ireland Arena Tour](#)

[Dean Dillon Honored With Tennessee Music Pathways Marker](#)

[Craig Morgan Enlists Luke Combs, Jelly Roll, Lainey Wilson, More For New EP](#)

[Two More Willie Nelson Catalog Classics Get The Vinyl Treatment](#)

Oliver Anthony Signs With UTA



Oliver Anthony

Breakout artist **Oliver Anthony** has signed with UTA for exclusive worldwide representation in all areas.

One of music's most explosive stories this year, Anthony's record-setting run began in August with the online release of his chart-climbing tune, "Rich Men North Of Richmond," which made him the first artist in history to debut at No. 1 on the Billboard charts without having made a previous chart appearance.

"We're honored to represent such an authentic artist, and excited to put together a global strategy to bring Oliver Anthony and his music to the people," shares **Jeffrey Hasson**, UTA Co-Head of

Nashville, and **Curt Motley**, Music Agent.

Earlier this week, Anthony sold out his Sept. 28 show at the 9,500-seat Smokies Stadium in Kodak, Tennessee, in just minutes.

"We appreciate the demands of the fans we have here," Anthony shared of the sell-out. "It is important that we accommodate them in a spring show. We want everyone to get a chance to hear us play. We are honored that we have such a great fan base in East Tennessee, and we feel very driven to have everyone get a chance to come hear us that wants to." **MR**

Josh Thompson Extends Publishing Deal With MV2 Entertainment

Josh Thompson has extended his exclusive publishing deal with MV2 Entertainment.

Arriving in Music City in 2005, Thompson is a two-time CMA Triple Play recipient and Billboard top 10 country writer. He has penned multiple No.1s, achieved three top 10 hits and collaborated with numerous artists including **Jordan Davis**, **Luke Combs** and more. Thompson's list of hits includes "Any Ol' Barstool" by **Jason Aldean**, "I'll Name The Dogs" by **Blake Shelton**, "One Margarita" by **Luke Bryan**, "Wasted On You" by **Morgan Wallen**, "Stars Like Confetti" by **Dustin Lynch**, which is currently in the top 10 on the charts, and "Angels (Don't Always Have Wings)" by **Thomas Rhett**, which [recently went No. 1](#), among others.



Pictured (L-R): MV2 Entertainment's Tony Harrell, Josh Thompson, MV2 Entertainment's Ben Strain and Nicole Sherrill. Photo: Lindsey Parrish

"Josh Thompson's songwriting is a force to be reckoned with," expresses **Tony Harrell**, General Manager, MV2 Entertainment. "His ability to capture raw emotion and translate it into captivating melodies is truly exceptional. We're excited to continue this musical journey together and look forward to the incredible music that lies ahead."

"Josh's presence is a testament to the power of authenticity in art," says **Ben Strain**, Senior Creative Director, MV2 Entertainment. "His lyrics don't just narrate stories; they paint the human experience with depth that goes beyond notes and chords."

"The journey with MV2 has been a new source of inspiration not only for the songwriting but the importance of enjoying the people you're surrounded by," shares Thompson. "I genuinely look forward to continuing this partnership." **MR**

Creative Nation Signs Songwriter/Producer Ben West



Creative Nation has signed songwriter/producer **Ben West** to an exclusive worldwide publishing and producer management deal.

A Detroit-area native, West began his career working on Los Angeles-based sync projects for major networks like ABC, Disney and others before scoring a 2x Platinum, Top 10 Billboard hit with **P!nk**'s "Try" in 2012. Written alongside beloved songwriter/producer Busbee, "Try" pointed West towards Nashville.

West has co-written songs such as **Lori McKenna**'s "The Tunnel," **Brett Eldredge**'s "Songs About You," **Parker McCollum**'s "Heart Like Mine," **Blake Shelton**'s "Neon Time," **Carly Pearce**'s "Show Me Around" and **Kelly Clarkson**'s "I Dare You." His most recent production credits include the entirety of emerging country artist **Stephen Wilson Jr.**'s *Son of Dad* album, as well as **Patrick Droney**'s *Subtitles for Feelings*, and tracks by Pearce, **Hailey Whitters**, **Ashley Monroe**, **Monsta X** and more.

"Creative Nation has been a fan of Ben West as a songwriter and producer for a long time but we never had the chance to meet. Lori McKenna loves writing with him and encouraged me to reach out. Once we connected, I instantly knew he would fit our culture because he is an exceptional talent and human and our whole team wanted to work with him. We are so excited about building his momentum together," shares Co-Founder and CEO, **Beth Laird**.

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of what Beth and Luke have built at Creative Nation. Getting to know their exceptional team has been an absolute delight, and their ability to accommodate arrangements like mine is truly unique. I am deeply appreciative of their faith in me, as well as their vision and support for both the writing and production aspects of my work. I couldn't be more excited to join this talented roster!" West says. **MR**

Zandi Holup Inks With Big Loud Records



Zandi Holup has signed a label deal with Big Loud Records.

Holup's first single, "Gas Station Flowers," arrives Oct. 6, and was produced by **Al Torrence**, producer and guitarist in **Charles Wesley Godwin**'s backing band, The Allegheny High, who also played on the recording.

A Pennsylvania native, Holup began writing songs when she was 12. She spent time in the Northeast and on the west coast before relocating to Nashville six years ago to pursue her musical dreams. Inspired by the folk singer-songwriter movement of the 1960s, her true-to-life lyrics and affinity for melancholy are no surprise, citing trailblazers **Joan Baez**, **Bob Dylan**, **Joni Mitchell** and **Dolly Parton** as her musical heroes.

"After no more than 10 seconds into hearing Zandi sing for the first time, I knew in my bones that I had to find a way to support, champion and collaborate with her," shares **Nate Yetton**, Big Loud VP of A&R. "We are so thrilled that she's chosen to entrust her prolific artistry and treasure trove of repertoire to us here at Big Loud."

"Finding and developing great talent is critical to the Big Loud way," says **Seth England**, Big Loud CEO/ Partner. "Zandi has a truly unique voice and sharp pen. We're honored and excited to invest in her development and help bring her songs and her perspective to the world."

"I feel blessed to be working with a record label that doesn't try to intervene with my creation but gives me the tools to create my art in a larger way," shares Holup. "From the beginning, Big Loud has seen me for who I am, my vision and never asked for me to change, but to keep going while they support me." **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Zachary Lane Bryan	East Side of Sorrow El Dorado Fear And Friday's 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 ft. The War And Treaty Zach Bryan ft. Sierra Ferrell Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan ft. The Lumineers Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan
2	2	Ashley Gorley	All I Need Is You 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 Parmalee Russell Dickerson Morgan Wallen Dan + Shay Morgan Wallen Hardy Nate Smith
3	3	Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
4	4	Jordan Schmidt	Bury Me In Georgia Watermelon Moonshine We Got History	Kane Brown Lainey Wilson Mitchell Tenpenny
5	5	Ryan Vojtesak	Everything I Love Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
6	6	Christopher Anthony Lunsford	Rich Men North Of Richmond	Oliver Anthony Music
7	8	Jason DeFord	Need A Favor Save Me	Jelly Roll Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson
8	7	John Byron	Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
9	16	Chris Stapleton	Think I'm In Love With You White Horse	Chris Stapleton Chris Stapleton
10	11	Josh Thompson	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Stars Like Confetti	Thomas Rhett Dustin Lynch
11	12	Thomas Rhett	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Stars Like Confetti	Thomas Rhett Dustin Lynch
12	10	Chase McGill	But I Got A Beer In My Hand Creek Will Rise God Gave Me A Girl	Luke Bryan Conner Smith Russell Dickerson
13	13	Zach Crowell	God Gave Me A Girl Outskirts Stars Like Confetti	Russell Dickerson Sam Hunt Dustin Lynch
14	14	Julian Bunetta	Angels Don't Always Have Wings If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too)	Thomas Rhett Kelsea Ballerini
15	20	Chayce Beckham	23	Chayce Beckham
16	15	Dan Wilson	White Horse	Chris Stapleton
17	17	Lainey Wilson	Watermelon Moonshine	Lainey Wilson
18	18	Josh Kear	Watermelon Moonshine	Lainey Wilson
19	37	David Ray Stevens	Save Me	Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson
20	19	Taylor Phillips	Thinkin' Bout Me World On Fire	Morgan Wallen Nate Smith

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
21	21	Kacey Musgraves	I Remember Everything	Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves
22	48	Geoff Warburton	Back Then Right Now But I Got A Beer In My Hand	Tyler Hubbard Luke Bryan
23	22	Jacob Kasher	Last Night	Morgan Wallen
24	23	Rob Ragosta	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
25	24	Joe Ragosta	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
26	25	Austin Nivarel	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
27	26	Josh Hoge	Bury Me In Georgia	Kane Brown
28	27	Matt McGinn	Bury Me In Georgia	Kane Brown
29	28	Kane Brown	Bury Me In Georgia	Kane Brown
30	32	Kurt Allison	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
31	33	Tully Kennedy	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
32	34	Kelley Lovelace	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
33	35	Neil Thrasher	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
34	46	Jaten Dimsdale	Angels Don't Always Have Wings	Thomas Rhett
35	29	Patrick Murphy	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
36	30	Tommy Cecil	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
37	31	Craig Wiseman	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
38	38	Bailey Zimmerman	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
39	39	Austin Shawn	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
40	40	Frank Romano	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
41	41	Marty James	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
42	42	Alex Palmer	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
43	49	Matt Dragstrem	But I Got A Beer In My Hand	Luke Bryan
44	61	Geno Seale	In Your Love	Tyler Childers
45	62	Tyler Childers	In Your Love	Tyler Childers
46	36	Michael Hardy	See You Next Summer Truck Bed	Brian Kelley Hardy
47	43	Shane McAnally	If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too) We Don't Fight Anymore	Kelsea Ballerini Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton
48	65	Russell Dickerson	God Gave Me A Girl	Russell Dickerson
49	56	Warren Zeiders	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
50	57	Ryan Beaver	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
51	58	Jared Keim	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
52	73	David Garcia	Back Then Right Now Out Of That Truck See You Next Summer	Tyler Hubbard Carrie Underwood Brian Kelley
53	53	Travis Wood	Drive You Out Of My Mind Girl In Mine	Kassi Ashton Parmalee
54	44	Luke Combs	Drinkin' Problems Love You Anyway	Dillon Carmichael Luke Combs
55	45	Ray Fulcher	Drinkin' Problems Love You Anyway	Dillon Carmichael Luke Combs
56	47	Dan Isbell	Love You Anyway	Luke Combs
57	60	Taylor Swift	Enchanted (Taylor's Version) I Can See You (Taylor's Version) (From the Vault)	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift
58	64	Casey Brown	Girl In Mine	Parmalee
59	67	D. Fanning	Girl In Mine	Parmalee
60	68	Matt Thomas	Girl In Mine	Parmalee

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

September 29

Chris Ryan/Scared To Go To Church (feat. Jelly Roll)/Warner Music Nashville

Sam Grow/Had It For A While/Average Joes Entertainment

Greylan James/Young Man/Big Machine Label Group

Jordana Bryant/18/Riser House Entertainment

Johnny Day/Bad Day With You

Jonathan Hutcherson/Go South

Album/EP Releases

September 29

Thomas Rhett/*20 Number Ones*/The Valory Music Co.

Jason Isbell/*Southeastern 10th Anniversary Edition*/Southeastern Records/Thirty Tigers

Boy Named Banjo/*Dusk*/Mercury Nashville

Ernest/*Ernest & The Fellas Unplugged*/Big Loud Records

Tony Jackson/*I've Got Songs To Sing*/Bob Frank Distribution (BFD)/Audium Nashville

Sleep Nation/*And Then There Were 2*/Heart Songs Music Group

Drew Haley/*Don't Mess With Mama*/Heart Songs Music Group

Charlotte Morris/*Wild Child*

Jade Eagleson/*Do It Anyway*

Industry Events

September 26 – 30

IBMA World of Bluegrass