

Producer Alex Kline Breaks Ground With Top 15 Hit “Somebody Like That”



Alex Kline made history this week as the first solo female producer to have a Top 15 country radio hit by a female artist, with **Tenille Arts'** “Somebody Like That.”

The single, co-written with Arts for her album, *Love, Heartbreak & Everything in Between*, has reached 65 million streams, further establishing Kline as a game-changing producer and songwriter helping shape the future of country. Before hitting No. 15 on the Mediabase chart, the single debuted at No. 2 of the iTunes Country chart and No. 10 on the iTunes all-genre chart, spent three weeks at No. 1 at Radio Disney Country, went No. 1 on *Billboard's* all-genre Bubbling Under Hot 100 chart, and debuted at No. 97 on *Billboard's* Hot 100 chart. On Spotify, the song peaked at No. 11 on the United States Viral 50 chart as well.

“I like the balance I’ve found between writing, playing, and producing,” said Kline. “There’s a unique synergy in combining multiple creative approaches and how each inspires the other. One of the most exciting things to me right now is finding an artist I love and tapping into what makes them unique and helping to make that shine, whether it be one of my own musical influences like Terri Clark or a new up and coming star like Tenille Arts.”

Kline is an alumna of Berklee College of Music in Boston, where she studied guitar and songwriting. She moved to Nashville in 2008 after graduation to pursue songwriting and in 2010, she met the Arciero sisters

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THIS WEEK’S HEADLINES

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Lady A Invited To Become Members of Grand Ole Opry

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and formed The Lunabelles, an all-women country band. Kline played lead guitar, banjo, dobro, and mandolin, and the group released a Top 40 hit single with “A Place to Shine” as a signed act with Sony Music Nashville.

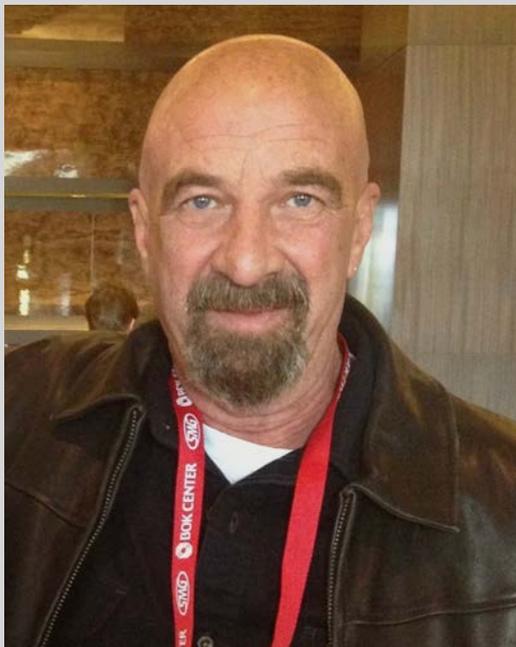
Kline’s production credits include working with Terri Clark, Tara Thompson, Adam Brand, Erin Enderlin, John King, Jordan Rager, Maggie Rose and Jillian Cardarelli, among others. As a writer she’s penned songs for Ronnie Dunn (“Damn Drunk”), Reba McEntire (“The Bar Is Getting Lower”), Mitchell Tenpenny (“I Get the Picture”), Gary Allan (“Slide”), and Meghan Patrick (“Praying Right”), as well songs on albums for Terri Clark (*Raising the Bar*), Cassadee Pope (*Rise and Shine*), Jordan Rager (*Habits and Hearts*), and many more.

Her current projects in development include writing and producing the follow-up to Arts’ *Love, Heartbreak & Everything in Between* album, and producing Stephanie Quayle’s forthcoming album featuring her latest single, “By Heart.” **MR**



Stan Barnett Joins APA Nashville

Veteran agent **Stan Barnett** has joined APA Nashville. **Jim Gosnell**, CEO of APA, announced Barnett’s addition on Jan. 26.



“Stan’s incredible knowledge, expertise and devotion for all things country music only begins to enumerate the many qualities that make him one of the most successful and valued agents in our industry,” says Gosnell. “I’m very excited about the transformation taking place in Nashville and its evolution into a multi-faceted microcosm of the music business, with substantial opportunities for artists to pursue cross-over platforms. The goal at APA Nashville is to continue our full-service representation of that arena, and having an agent like Stan join our talented team is paramount to that agenda as we usher in a new era with a reinforced commitment to excellence.”

Barnett was previously with Creative Artists Agency, where he signed Lady A, Brandy Clark, Joe Nichols, and bluegrass icon Ralph Stanley during his 21-year tenure. He was also instrumental in launching the agency’s Fair & Festival department.

A longtime member of the Country Music Association, The Academy of Country Music, The International Buyers Association and The Nashville Association of Talent Directors, Barnett also serves on the Board of Directors for Stars and Stripes. His achievements have earned him many industry honors, including the NATD Talent Agent of the Year award and two IEBA Talent Agent of the Year awards. **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

- To Be Loved By You**/Parker McCollum/MCA Nashville — 77
- Can't Stop**/Chloe Collins/Collins House Music — 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

- Minimum Wage**/Blake Shelton/Warner Music Nashville — 317
- Undivided**/Tim McGraw and Tyler Hubbard/Big Machine Records — 226
- Give Heaven Some Hell**/HARDY/Big Loud Records — 140
- Lady**/Brett Young/BMLG — 127
- To Be Loved By You**/Parker McCollum/MCA Nashville — 108
- The Good Ones**/Gabby Barrett/Warner Music Nashville — 104
- Gone**/Dierks Bentley/Capitol — 83
- Momma's House**/Dustin Lynch/Broken Bow — 79

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

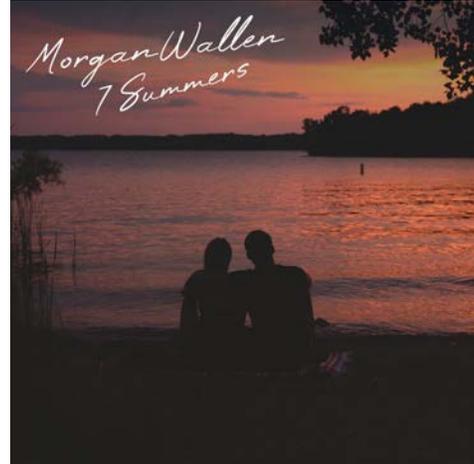
- Give Heaven Some Hell**/HARDY/Big Loud Records — 13
- To Be Loved By You**/Parker McCollum/MCA Nashville — 13
- Minimum Wage**/Blake Shelton/Warner Music Nashville — 11
- Undivided**/Tim McGraw and Tyler Hubbard/Big Machine Records — 9
- It Goes So Fast**/Dwain Messer/N Crowd Music — 6
- Tequila Little Time**/Jon Pardi/Capitol — 6
- Together**/for KING & COUNTRY feat. Hannah Ellis, Jackson Michelson/CurbIWord Entertainment — 5
- Famous Friends**/Chris Young & Kane Brown/RCA Nashville — 4

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

- Pushing Up Daisies**/Lana Gail/Gail Force Entertainment — 158
- New To Neon**/Andrew Hopson/Tower Road Records — 156
- Head Over Wheels**/Joe Hanson — 149
- Colorblind**/Tony Stampley — 146

NO. 1 SONG



Championing [sales and streaming](#) charts, **Morgan Wallen** continues the reign this week on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with his single “7 Summers.” The single appears on his sophomore effort *Dangerous: The Double Album*, which [broke the record](#) for largest streaming week for a country album among other [streaming records](#).

“7 Summers” was written by Wallen, **Josh Osborne**, and **Shane McAnally**, also landing Wallen the top spot on the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart.

Wallen’s chart success marks 84 No. 1 singles for secondary radio promotion team, Jerry Duncan Promotions. “7 Summers” adds to their extensive list of No. 1s including career breakthrough hits for Wallen, Florida Georgia Line, Blake Shelton, and Billy Ray Cyrus among others.



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

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
20	2	1	7 Summers / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records	2012/68	4	75
10	1	2	What's Your Country Song / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1942/60	-6	-123
37	3	3	Lady / Brett Young / BMLG	1897/66	7	127
12	6	4	Gone / Dierks Bentley / Capitol	1753/69	5	83
11	4	5	Hell Of A View / Eric Church / EMI	1748/68	4	62
15	5	6	Better Together / Luke Combs / Columbia	1653/42	-2	-33
48	7	7	Nobody / Dylan Scott / Curb	1570/54	2	31
19	8	8	Settling Down / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	1544/60	3	51
38	9	9	Made For You / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	1520/60	2	32
16	10	10	One Too Many / Keith Urban & P!nk / Capitol	1489/58	1	17
16	11	11	Next Girl / Carly Pearce / Big Machine	1371/60	4	54
29	13	12	The Good Ones / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	1293/53	9	104
21	12	13	Good Time / Niko Moon / RCA Nashville	1249/40	2	29
14	14	14	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	1142/48	3	36
13	17	15	We Didn't Have Much / Justin Moore / Valory	1048/59	6	60
54	15	16	Somebody Like That / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand	1037/43	4	38
32	16	17	Hard Days / Brantley Gilbert / Valory	1022/47	3	29
50	18	18	Momma's House / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow	1013/38	8	79
10	19	19	Blame It On You / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow	983/51	6	52
31	20	20	Wine, Beer, Whiskey / Little Big Town / Capitol	936/43	4	33
13	21	21	Just The Way / Parmalee x Blanco Brown / Stoney Creek Records	880/32	5	38
11	22	22	Memory I Don't Mess With / Lee Brice / Curb	871/51	4	34
3	31	23	Undivided / Tim McGraw and Tyler Hubbard / Big Machine Records	836/55	37	226
29	24	24	Grew Up On That / High Valley / Warner Music Nashville	828/38	2	20
12	23	25	Heaven On Dirt / Teddy Robb / Monument	809/52	0	-4
14	26	26	If It Wasn't For Trucks / Riley Green / BMLG	760/41	6	43
4	29	27	Famous Friends / Chris Young & Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	746/44	10	69
15	28	28	Everybody Dies But Not Everybody Lives / Shane Owens / Amerimonte Records	746/40	9	62
14	27	29	Where I Find God / Larry Fleet / Big Loud Records	694/38	1	9
2	49	30	Minimum Wage / Blake Shelton / Warner Music Nashville	645/42	97	317
16	30	31	Waste Of A Whiskey Drink / Gary Allan / EMI	624/35	2	10
17	32	32	Sometimes Late At Night / Eric Burgett / Bow To Stern Records	600/40	2	9
8	34	33	Ain't Gonna Be Today / Ward Davis / Ward Davis Music/Thirty Tigers	573/45	4	24
6	33	34	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen. / Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line / Broken Bow/Dack Janiels	569/37	-2	-12
12	36	35	Just About Over You / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	525/37	0	2
16	37	36	Sometimes Always Never / Brandon Ratcliff / Monument	509/34	2	11
14	38	37	Comin' Home / The Desert City Ramblers / Crane Kick Records	491/28	1	5
16	39	38	The Mountain / Calamity Jane / Mountain Records	490/31	1	5
24	41	39	We Were Rich / Runaway June / Wheelhouse Records	461/27	2	7
20	35	40	Waitin' On 5 / Chris Janson / Warner Music Nashville	459/25	-13	-66


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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
15	40	41	Bad Guy / Casey Donahew / Almost Country Records	457/25	-1	-6
9	43	42	Anybody Else / Mira Goto / ArtistMax/Copperline	446/27	5	23
3	45	43	Tequila Little Time / Jon Pardi / Capitol	439/36	19	69
7	44	44	Cold Beer Calling My Name / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/ Columbia Nashville	431/29	4	18
11	42	45	You Time / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	392/29	-8	-35
9	46	46	Meghan / Brecken Miles / Rhyme Partners	372/26	4	14
11	48	47	Calling All The Angels / Brooke Lee / Brooke Lee Music	357/17	7	24
8	50	48	Heartland / Hailey Whitters / Big Loud Records/S&D	354/24	9	29
3	71	49	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	351/30	66	140
22	47	50	Single Saturday Night / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	344/25	1	3
9	51	51	God Save The World / Jeff Carson / MC1 Nashville	330/20	2	5
6	52	52	Extra / Kylie Trout / Kylie Trout Music	323/24	1	2
15	55	53	I Can Tell By The Way You Dance / Josh Turner / MCA Nashville	308/20	2	5
9	54	54	Worship You / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	308/20	1	3
10	56	55	Ghost Town Nation / Travis Tritt / Big Noise	302/17	3	8
7	60	56	River Bent / Caleb Kelley / River Bend Entertainment	296/21	6	17
7	57	57	Just Like You / Paige King Johnson / PCG Artist Development	295/26	2	7
6	53	58	Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	295/20	-6	-18
3	69	59	My Boy / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records	278/23	28	60
4	62	60	Chain Breaker / Zach Williams / Provident Label Group	269/24	10	24
11	58	61	Same Ole / Chris Kroeze /	266/18	-7	-21
4	63	62	Just Friends / Caylee Hammack / Capitol	242/18	0	0
4	72	63	Invent A T-Shirt / Jenny Tolman / Old Sol Records	241/15	19	38
4	68	64	What Would Dolly Do? / Tori Martin / LuckySky Music	241/17	9	20
7	66	65	Radio Back / Danny Kensity / Rad Records	237/13	4	10
18	61	66	Never Be Sorry / Old Dominion / RCA Nashville	231/13	-11	-28
4	67	67	Love Like Crazy / TJ Ashley / Music Train Records	228/16	1	2
4	70	68	You're Gonna Love Me / Tim Dugger / Curb	226/17	5	10
21	25	69	Wash My Truck / Bobby Wills / MDM Recordings	226/11	-69	-513
18	59	70	Dear Rodeo / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Bros.	223/14	-22	-62
4	73	71	Freedom And Wings / Heather Smith /	213/12	5	11
5	74	72	Time Changes / Stephanie Nash /	194/15	2	4
2	79	73	Right Place Now / Hudson Valley / Hudson Valley	187/17	15	24
11	65	74	Martha Devine / Ashley McBryde / Atlantic Records/WMN/WAR	183/15	-20	-46
2	77	75	No Body, No Crime / Taylor Swift feat. Haim / MCA Nashville	181/14	2	4
3	76	76	Kickstart / Owen Howell / Kojax Entertainment	176/14	-4	-7
1	112	77	To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	175/19	127	108
12	75	78	Beers To Catch Up On / LOCASH / Wheelhouse Records	167/10	-12	-22
2	78	79	I Do Thing / Kylie Frey / Deep Frey'd Music Group	165/13	0	0
1	83	80	Can't Stop / Chloe Collins / Collins House Music	163/15	9	13

No. 1 Song
Greatest Spin Increase
Highest Debut

2021 TOURING ISSUE

PLUS: NEXT BIG THING ARTISTS & N.B.T. INDUSTRY DIRECTORY



Priscilla Block Inks Worldwide Publishing Deal With Warner Chappell Music



Pictured (L-R): Ben Vaughn, Priscilla Block, Ryan Beuschel

Breakout singer-songwriter **Priscilla Block** has inked a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music Nashville.

Block first gained recognition last year on TikTok thanks to her catchy original songs like the humorous “PMS” and the body-positivity anthem “Thick Thighs.” Her “Just About Over You” reached the top spot on the iTunes all-genre song chart within 12 hours of release, and is currently climbing country radio’s Top 40.

In September, Block signed to UMG’s Mercury Nashville, and has since been named a 2021 Artist to Watch by Pandora and Sounds Like Nashville, a *Billboard* All-Genre Chartbreaker, part of CMT’s Next Women of Country Class of 2021, and landed a spot on *MusicRow*’s coveted Next Big Thing Artists list.

Ben Vaughn, President/CEO, Warner Chappell Music Nashville said, “What struck me and **Ryan [Beuschel, VP, A&R]** when we met Priscilla was her perseverance and her unapologetic and honest take on songwriting. She’s an original artist with a point of view and a legion of loyal fans already behind her. Watch out world.”

Block added, “Ever since I was a little girl I dreamed of making it to Music Row. I feel so fortunate that today, that dream becomes my reality. In 2020 my life was flipped upside down in the best ways possible, and I am incredibly blessed to bring on 2021 with the support of Warner Chappell. One of my biggest passions is songwriting, and my goal as a songwriter is to write songs that hit people in different ways. I only do that by keeping it real, whether it is writing about some dude that broke my heart, or every diet I have failed. I am beyond thankful for Ben, Ryan, and the Warner Chappell family for bringing that little girl that dreamed of making it as a songwriter one day to Music Row!” **MR**

Lalo Guzman Signs With SMACKSongs



Lalo Guzman has signed a worldwide publishing deal with SMACKSongs.

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area in California, Guzman moved to Nashville in 2013 and has been writing and producing for acts like Waterloo Revival and Spencer Crandall.

“We are beyond excited to bring Lalo’s passion, talent, and positive energy into the building at SMACK,” said **Lee Krabel**, SMACK’s Senior Creative Director. “We have long been fans of his since **Sam Sarno** introduced us to his music a couple years ago. We are looking forward to getting to work and can’t wait to see where his career goes!”

“I’m honored to be a part of such an awesome team here at SMACK,” said Guzman. “I’m so thankful for the opportunity to be here and be surrounded by such positive and encouraging people. I can’t wait to build with this team and am excited to see what we can accomplish.”

MR

CMT Reveals Next Women Of Country Class Of 2021



Pictured (L-R, top row): Ashland Craft, Brittney Spencer, Chapel Hart, Hannah Dasher, Harper Grae; (L-R, bottom row): MacKenzie Porter, Priscilla Block, Reyna Roberts, Sacha, Tenille Arts

CMT has named ten rising artists to its prestigious Next Women of Country (NWOC) franchise, marking the first-ever linear reveal in program history.

The CMT Next Women of Country Class of 2021 includes:

Ashland Craft
 Brittney Spencer
 Chapel Hart
 Hannah Dasher
 Harper Grae
 MacKenzie Porter
 Priscilla Block
 Reyna Roberts
 Sacha
 Tenille Arts

The news was shared during a dedicated three-hour special on CMT Hot 20 Countdown, which saw NWOC alum **Ashley McBryde** (2018), **Carly Pearce** (2016), **Cassadee Pope** (2014), **Lauren Alaina** (2014), **Lindsay Ell** (2014), **Maggie Rose** (2017), **Maren Morris** (2016), **Mickey Guyton** (2015), **Tanya Tucker** (2020-21 tour) and **Tenille Townes** (2019) welcoming the new class.

“We’re thrilled to welcome the newest class of CMT’s Next Women of Country,” said **Leslie Fram**, Senior Vice President, Music & Talent, CMT. “These artists represent the best of fresh new talent and the diversity of styles that country music has to offer. We look forward to providing this group more exposure than ever before, particularly within the ViacomCBS family on Pluto TV, as

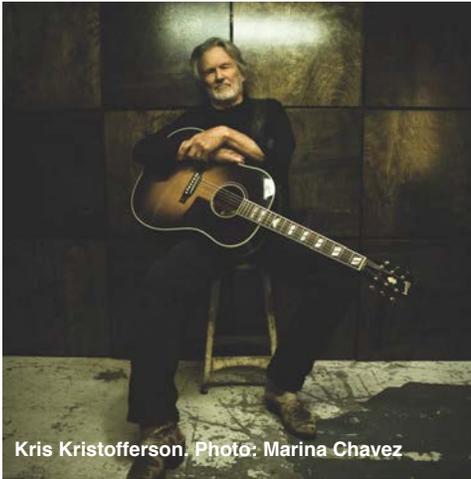
well as providing them with essential resources to help them build their musical careers.”

Over the next year, the new NWOC class will receive cross-brand support for their music and videos across CMT and CMT Music channels, CMT Radio (220+ channels), CMT Hot 20 Countdown, CMT.com and CMT social channels, in addition to cross-promotional opportunities for ViacomCBS’ MTV Entertainment Group.

New this year, the women will be featured in music video rotation in the newly permanent CMT Equal Play channel on Pluto TV, which offers country music 24/7 with an equal male/female playlist.

In addition, CMT will offer its new NWOC inductees access to independent media training, photography consultations and artist advocacy opportunities designed to assist them in supporting charitable causes and social issues. These resources will be provided by Nashville-based communications firm, The Change Agent-cy. **MR**

Morris Higham Management Signs Kris Kristofferson Estate



Kris Kristofferson. Photo: Marina Chavez

Morris Higham Management (MHM) has signed the estate of **Kris Kristofferson** for management representation.

The legendary songwriter and actor officially retired in 2020, leaving his son **John Kristofferson** to lead the family's businesses. Longtime Kristofferson friend and colleague **Tamara Saviano** remains as public relations director. They will work alongside MHM to spearhead special projects going forward, and will continue to manage the Kristofferson indie record label KK Records.

"Kristofferson is the artist that every artist strives to be," says MHM President and

Partner **Clint Higham**. "He is an artist's artist. If Mount Rushmore had a place for songwriters, Kris would be on it."

"It's been amazing to dig in to my dad's catalog and history with this seasoned group of professionals. MHM and Tamara are experts on everything from old Nashville to the up and comers, and I can't imagine a better partnership to bring the full depth of his songwriting to a new generation. The name has always been synonymous with songwriting as an art, and we're excited to reintroduce his work to new and old fans alike," John Kristofferson says. "We have many exciting projects in the works and I look forward to getting them out into the world."

Kristofferson has achieved remarkable success as a country songwriter since the 1970s, including writing the classics "Me And Bobby McGee," "Help Me Make It Through the Night," "Sunday Morning Coming Down," and "For The Good Times."

His renown as a songwriter and performer led to a flourishing career in film, including winning a Golden Globe in 1977 for Best Actor in *A Star Is Born*.

Kristofferson is a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, and winner of the prestigious Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame. He is a recipient of the BMI Icon Award and GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kristofferson will celebrate his 85th birthday on June 22, 2021 with several special projects.

The estate joins MHM clients Kenny Chesney, Johnny Dailey, Brantley Gilbert, Ryan Griffin, Joey Hendricks, Brandon Lay, Barbara Mandrell, Louise Mandrell, the Roger Miller estate, Old Dominion, Carly Pearce, Michael Ray, Chase Wright, and Walker County. **MR**

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[30A Songwriters Festival Virtual Lineup To Include Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit, Brandi Carlile, More](#)

[Lainey Wilson Readies Studio Album, 'Sayin' What I'm Thinkin'](#)

Big Loud Records, Back Blocks Music, Republic Records Partner To Sign Lily Rose

Big Loud Records, Back Blocks Music and Republic Records have signed emerging artist **Lily Rose** to a joint-venture record deal.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Rose has been pursuing a career in music for more than thirteen years. For the past eight years, she has been routing her own tours throughout the Southeast, while also selling out shows in major markets like Atlanta, New York and Nashville.

On Dec. 1, 2020, Rose posted a clip of “Villain,” a song she wrote with **Mackenzie Carpenter** and **Kyle Clark** (produced by **Matt Morrissey**) about a break-up she believed ended cordially, only to find out she’d been painted as the “bad guy” through social media. The song connected significantly with fans, leading Rose to independently release “Villain” on Dec. 15. The single immediately topped the iTunes all-genre chart. Since its release, “Villain” has amassed over 7 million on-demand streams, 78K in consumption and more than 300K monthly listeners on Spotify.

“To say I’m excited and humbled to be a part of the Big Loud/Republic family is an understatement. You move to Nashville to sign deals like this, make music videos like these, and write the best songs possible,” says Rose. “Hell, we’re just getting started.”

“The country music business is on fire right now, and artists are breaking independently faster than ever before. Big Loud couldn’t be more excited to work with Lily Rose, who’s emerging from this pack of newcomers. Her voice becomes familiar after just one listen, and to pair that with her catalog of amazing unreleased songs, we believe she’s an artist who will be around for years to come. Lily is a voice that country music has needed for some time, and ‘Villain’ is just the reactive hit to get her started. Welcome to the Big Loud family, Lily,” shares Big Loud Partners (**Seth England**, **Joey Moi**, and **Craig Wiseman**).

“I couldn’t be more thankful to be a part of the partnership between Big Loud and Republic



Pictured (L-R, back row): Jeff Tanner (VP of Business Affairs, Big Loud), Matt Cottingham, (Ritholz Levy Fields LLP), Stacy Blythe (VP of Promotion, Big Loud), Rakiyah Marshall (CEO, Back Blocks Music), Lily Rose, Seth England (Partner/CEO, Big Loud), Candice Watkins (VP of Marketing, Big Loud), Joey Moi (Partner, Big Loud); (L-R, front row): Paul Logan (VP of Sync & Visual Strategy, Big Loud), Daira Eamon, Patch Culbertson (VP of A&R, Big Loud), Austen Adams (COO, Big Loud). Photo: Chris Hornbuckle

Records and continue to work alongside Lily Rose. Lily is an artist with a unique voice and bright career that will shift the country genre. She is building an amazing team around her to start the journey and tell her story,” says **Rakiyah Marshall**, Back Blocks Music.

“We’ve had the good fortune of working with Seth England and the Big Loud team for many years. This alliance continues to grow with the extraordinary new signing of Lily Rose and represents the latest evolution of our partnership, all on the heels of the historic Morgan Wallen release. Furthermore, as we prepare to launch the global campaign for Lily in the forthcoming months, we’re thrilled to work with Republic alumnus Rakiyah Marshall and her dynamic new company Back Blocks Music,” says **Monte Lipman**, Founder and CEO Republic Records. **MR**

Spirit Music Group Strikes Multi-Faceted Deal With Grammy Winner Joy Williams



Spirit Music Group and Spirit Music Nashville announced they have entered into a multi-faceted agreement with four-time Grammy award-winning artist and songwriter **Joy Williams**.

The deal includes the acquisition of compositions from her various song catalogs, including her Grammy-winning work as part of the duo The Civil Wars, as well as several masters that she controls. In addition, Spirit will administer Williams' most recent solo album *Front Porch*, as well as her compositions going forward.

"Joy Williams and her music are a treasure," said **Frank Rogers**, CEO, Spirit Music Nashville. "Spirit Music is honored to represent her catalog and is excited to help her continue to create, record and share great music with the world."

"It's rare to acquire a catalog that includes both the composition and master recordings of someone like Joy Williams, who is an award-winning songwriter and artist in multiple genres. We are proud to be the stewards of such a unique and beloved catalog as hers," said **Joe Borrino**, COO, Spirit Music Group.

"I am thrilled to dive in head-first with the Spirit team. I think my best songs are ahead of me, and I'm looking forward to walking down the path of the craft with this crazy (wonderful) group of supportive souls," said Williams. **MR**

Lady A Invited To Become Members of Grand Ole Opry



Lady A has been invited to join the Grand Ole Opry. The award-winning group was surprised during a performance taping for the upcoming two-hour NBC special, *Grand Ole Opry: 95 Years of Country Music*, airing Feb. 14 at 9 p.m. ET/PT.

Opry member **Darius Rucker** extended the invitation to **Hillary Scott, Charles Kelley** and **Dave Haywood** on the Opry stage on Jan. 21 and announced their membership is effective immediately. The invitation and the group's first performance as an Opry member will be shared with fans and viewers during the television special. Lady A made their Opry debut on Nov. 2, 2007.

"This is the best surprise we could ever ask for," Hillary Scott said. "I've been coming here since I was a little girl so to say we are honored is an understatement. We are so truly grateful to officially be a part of this amazing family."

"What can you say about three friends of yours who together have become one of the biggest groups in country music history? Well, how about this? This trio are multi-Platinum superstars, seven-time Grammy Award winners and seven-time CMA Award winners too. And I feel so honored to stand here in the Opry House and hope they accept the invitation I am thrilled to be offering them tonight. So, what do you say, Lady A? Would you like to become members of the Opry?" said Rucker when introducing the group.

MR

SOLID Announces New Board For 2021



Pictured (L-R, top row): Avery King, Victoria Chaitoff, Luke Pierce, Sean Fallon, Rachel Guttman, Ryan Cunningham; (L-R, middle row): Ritz McCain, Skyler Clark-Hamel, Nina Schollnick, Chris Fairbank, Darcie Van Etten, Brianna Holko; (L-R, bottom row): Paul Ermlich, Jenn DiChiara, Jenna Smith, Mollie Jones, Tatiana Angulo, Brian O’Neil

The Society of Leaders in Development (SOLID) has elected a new Board for the organization’s 24th year. The 2021 Executive Board includes President **Avery King** (Elicity Public Relations), Vice President **Victoria Chaitoff** (Warner Music Nashville), Treasurer **Luke Pierce** (WORKS Entertainment), and Secretary **Sean Fallon** (Indian Moon).

The SOLID Alumni Board also announced the re-election of its incumbent president, **Brian O’Neil** (Constellation Management). Board members include **Johnny Cloherty** (Songfluencer), **Claire Rex** (Triple 8 Management), **Amy Kadish** (Wiatr & Associates), and **Erin Pettit** (FBMM).

“I’m extremely proud of how both our 2020 board and the members of our newly elected 2021 board worked tirelessly during our industry’s most unprecedented year,” said 2021 President Avery King. “Throughout the past year, SOLID was able to launch a major new philanthropic initiative, SOLID Shares, and create a diversity and inclusion task force that not only impacts our membership, but also the Nashville community as a whole. This board has big shoes to fill, but I truly believe that this group of dedicated and innovative individuals are up to the challenge of creating an incredible experience, whether virtual or in-person, for all of our membership.”

[All SOLID Committee Chairs for 2021 listed here.](#)

NSAI Elects Kelly Archer, Corey Crowder, Jessie Jo Dillon, Sharon Vaughn as Board Members

Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) has elected songwriters **Kelly Archer**, **Corey Crowder**, **Jessie Jo Dillon** and **Sharon Vaughn** as new members of its Board of Directors, the association announced on Jan. 25.

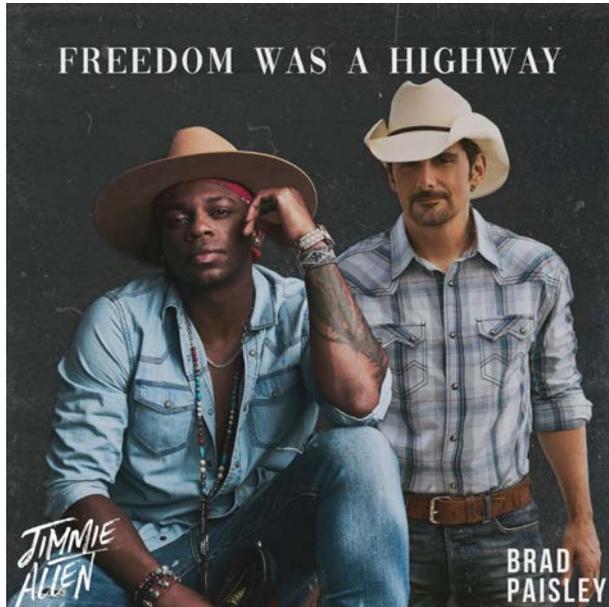
The hitmakers join a roster of highly acclaimed board members, including **Sarah Buxton**, **Nicolle Galyon**, **Tim Nichols**, **Josh Osborne**, **Rivers Rutherford**, **Laura Veltz** and **Troy Verges**, who were re-elected to two-year terms. Several others were re-appointed to one-year terms: **Roger Brown** and **Lee Thomas Miller** as “Legislative Co-Chairs,” **Rhett Akins** and **Caitlyn Smith** in the “Artist Writer” board positions, and **Brett James** in the “Industry Liaison” position.

Steve Bogard, **Jeff Cohen**, **Chris DeStefano**, **J.T. Harding**, **Byron Hill**, **Josh Kear**, **Jon Nite**, **Liz Rose**, **Emily Shackelton**, **Jenn Schott** and **Jimmy Yeary** are also on the board. Their terms expire in 2022.



“NSAI is continuing its tradition of electing a board of professional songwriters representing American music creators across generation, genre, and gender,” says Bogard, NSAI Board President. “Their input will be invaluable in our continuing progress in advocating for and achieving fairness for American songwriters.” **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Parker McCollum, Lauren Weintraub, Jimmie Allen, Brad Paisley, More



The theme for this edition of Disclaimer is evidently breakups.

The busted hearts belong to **Seaforth** and **Lauren Weintraub**, the latter of whom wins the Discovery Award. On the other hand, **Filmore** and **Hunter Hayes** are positively rejoicing in the freedom that they've found, post-breakup.

Poor **Parker McCollum** can't even get his relationship off the ground, but he sure sounds great trying. **Jake Hoot & Kelly Clarkson** are just plain pissed-off about the whole thing, and they sound great, too.

But the Disc of the Day prize goes to **Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley**, who have nothing whatsoever to do with heartbreak. For that matter, neither does the duo **Bexar**, who is the runner-up.

[Read Robert K. Oermann's reviews of Jimmie Allen, Brad Paisley, Lauren Weintraub, Bexar, Parker McCollum, and more, here.](#)

MORE TOP STORIES

[Organizations Partner For Music Biz Mental Health Fund](#)

[Anthem Entertainment Signs Songwriter Jimmy Thow](#)

[Skip Ewing Signs With The Kinhead Entertainment Agency](#)

[Kix Brooks And John Oates Join Music City Grand Prix's Advisory Board](#)

[Live Event Industry To President Biden: 'We Are Here To Help'](#)

[Matt Signore Appointed Board President At Porter's Call](#)

[Sourav Nayak Joins Soundstripe As VP of Finance](#)

[Chris Janson Celebrates Fourth Career No. 1, "Done"](#)

[Mark Irwin Inks With Sprockets Music Publishers](#)

[Weekly Register: Morgan Wallen Continues Chart Reign](#)

[WMBA Welcomes New Members, Launches 2021 Season](#)

[Sheltered Music Publishing, Patrick Joseph Music Sign Melissa Peirce](#)

[James White, Owner of Austin's Broken Spoke Honky Tonk, Dies](#)

[CMA Funds Additional Nonprofits In Continuing Commitment To Pandemic Support](#)

Off The Record: Is It Time To Cut The Net?

I can't imagine living without safety nets.

One of the traits I often envy in other entrepreneurs is the ability to throw all the chips on the table without a safety net.

While I would love to be more like that, unless I have an idea that's a proven concept or doesn't require a big financial or time investment, I have a tendency to gingerly approach the path and slowly increase my wager as I see positive results. While that has worked for me, there's something really admirable about people who go all in, risking everything, with a "do-or-die" mentality.

I've seen that philosophy produce both skyrocketing and unimaginable successes, as well as nosediving falls. But I believe despite the fears and bruises, the rewards are often sweeter.

Safety nets have a very important role in navigating one's career path. They allow you to step out on the edge, take some chances, with the comfort of knowing you won't lose it all if it goes south. But something I've realized lately is that while a net can save your ass from falling and hitting the ground, sometimes it can actually be causing more harm than good, despite your best intentions.

Do you have a safety net in your life that is keeping you from flying?

We've probably all learned many lessons about having safety nets during this pandemic. When I first started out in my career, I recall the goal of having an emergency fund of 4-6 weeks to cover personal expenses was pretty standard practice. Looking back, it seems rather inadequate as a standard measure, even for back then. These days, financial gurus such as Suze Orman often tout a minimum eight-month emergency fund claiming it can take that long to find a new job. While she may not have ever mentioned it being needed in a pandemic, the logic is the same and during these past 10 months, many have had to deplete their emergency funds.

But not all safety nets are financial.

I actually started my career as a safety net of sorts. When I decided to major in accounting with plans on becoming a C.P.A., I wanted something that would be a safe bet in finding employment. Deep down, I always



wanted to own my own business, but I have a natural aversion to risk. Before I started college, I knew every company in existence needed accountants. Those seemed like pretty good odds to me.

I figured I could always learn other aspects of a business through experience so getting my C.P.A. was the safety net I wanted. Fast forward 15 years later, my employer at the time, Arista Records, merged with another label, and I received the proverbial pink slip. I was shocked to find out that afterwards, my phone didn't continuously ring with new career opportunities. I expected my safety net to save me, but it didn't. I enjoyed working in many aspects of finance and I was good at it. I'm grateful for the experience and how my career path led me to where I am today, but that net didn't keep me from getting bruised. It didn't keep me from having a few really lean years. It didn't give me security. And in the end, I realized it wasn't a net after all.

[Read more of this week's Off The Record here.](#)

Off The Record is a new weekly column in 2021 from MusicRow Owner and Publisher, Sherod Robertson. After 10 years heading the publication, he shares some of the nuggets of wisdom he's acquired throughout the years that have helped him in his journey. The views and opinions expressed here are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of MusicRow Magazine nor its team members.

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	4	Morgan Wallen	Wasted On You More Than My Hometown 7 Summers Somebody's Problem Still Goin Down Dangerous Neon Eyes Livin' The Dream Only Thing That's Gone Wonderin' Bout The Wind Beer Don't Country A\$\$ Shit Somethin' Country	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen feat. Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
2	1	Josh Osborne	How They Remember You Next Girl Never Be Sorry 7 Summers Sand In My Boots Happy Anywhere Beers And Sunshine Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's	Rascal Flatts Carly Pearce Old Dominion Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani Darius Rucker Sam Hunt
3	8	Ernest Keith Smith	Wasted On You More Than My Hometown Somebody's Problem Warning Dangerous Wonderin' Bout The Wind Me On Whiskey Blame It On Me Somethin' Country Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
4	11	Ashley Gorley	Single Saturday Night We Were Rich Sand In My Boots Warning Hole In The Bottle What's Your Country Song Blame It On Me	Cole Swindell Runaway June Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kelsea Ballerini Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen
5	2	Ross Copperman	We Were Rich Happy Anywhere Beers And Sunshine Lady	Runaway June Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani Darius Rucker Brett Young
6	20	Michael Hardy	Single Saturday Night What Do I Know More Than My Hometown Sand In My Boots Still Goin Down Livin' The Dream Beer Don't Somethin' Country	Cole Swindell Robert Counts Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
7	22	Ryan Vojtesak	Worship You Wasted On You More Than My Hometown Warning Still Goin Down Blame It On Me	Kane Brown Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
8	5	Jesse Frasure	Minimum Wage Hole In The Bottle What's Your Country Song Almost Maybes	Blake Shelton Kelsea Ballerini Thomas Rhett Jordan Davis
9	6	Luke Combs	Better Together Forever After All	Luke Combs Luke Combs
10	9	Mike Henderson	Starting Over	Chris Stapleton

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
11	10	Chris Stapleton	Starting Over	Chris Stapleton
12	3	Randy Montana	We Didn't Have Much Pretty Heart Better Together	Justin Moore Parker McCollum Luke Combs
13	7	Shane McAnally	Next Girl Never Be Sorry Champagne Night 7 Summers	Carly Pearce Old Dominion Lady Antebellum Morgan Wallen
14		Jason Isbell	Cover Me Up	Morgan Wallen
15	18	Niko Moon	Good Time More Surprised Than Me Gone	Niko Moon Morgan Wallen Dierks Bentley
16	145	Ben Burgess	Neon Eyes More Surprised Than Me Livin' The Dream Outlaw	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen feat. Ben Burgess
17	-	Josh Thompson	Wasted On You Whiskey'd My Way Your Bartender Only Thing That's Gone Rednecks, Red Letters, Red Dirt Quittin' Time	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen feat. Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
18	14	Dan Isbell	Better Together	Luke Combs
19	12	Jon Nite	I Hope Lady	Gabby Barrett Brett Young
20	17	Parker Welling	Love You Like I Used To What's Your Country Song	Russell Dickerson Thomas Rhett
21	15	Gabby Barrett	I Hope The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett Gabby Barrett
22	16	Zachary Kale	I Hope The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett Gabby Barrett
23	26	Dallas Davidson	Down To One Silverado For Sale Whatcha Think Of Country Now	Luke Bryan Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
24	45	Tyler Hubbard	Undivided Long Live	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard Florida Georgia Line
25	27	Rodney Clawson	Somebody's Problem Momma's House Me On Whiskey	Morgan Wallen Dustin Lynch Morgan Wallen
26	13	Hillary Lindsey	Hole In The Bottle Almost Maybes	Kelsea Ballerini Jordan Davis
27	19	Matt Jenkins	Happy Anywhere	Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani
28	38	Corey Crowder	Famous Friends Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Minimum Wage Long Live	Chris Young + Kane Brown Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line Blake Shelton Florida Georgia Line
29	74	Thomas Rhett	What's Your Country Song Whiskey'd My Way Your Bartender	Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
30	23	Brock Berryhill	Hard Days Happy Does	Brantley Gilbert Kenny Chesney
31	31	Jason Evigan	I Should Probably Go To Bed	Dan + Shay
32	32	Sean Douglas	I Should Probably Go To Bed	Dan + Shay
33	33	Dan Smyers	I Should Probably Go To Bed	Dan + Shay
34	34	Shay Mooney	I Should Probably Go To Bed	Dan + Shay
35	24	Kyle Fishman	Down To One Whatcha Think Of Country Now	Luke Bryan Morgan Wallen
36	25	Justin Ebach	Down To One	Luke Bryan
37	126	Mark Holman	Single Saturday Night Neon Eyes Me On Whiskey Whatcha Think Of Country Now	Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
38	28	Kevin Bard	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
39	29	N.W. Sipe	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown
40	30	Matt Thomas	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown
41	–	Matt Dragstrem	Whiskey'd My Way Your Bartender Only Thing That's Gone Rednecks, Red Letters, Red Dirt	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen feat. Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen
42	73	Rhett Akins	What's Your Country Song Your Bartender	Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen
43	39	Greylan James	Happy Does	Kenny Chesney
44	40	Brad Clawson	Happy Does	Kenny Chesney
45	41	Jamie Paulin	Happy Does	Kenny Chesney
46	–	Blake Pendergrass	865	Morgan Wallen
47	–	John Byron	865	Morgan Wallen
48	77	Josh Miller	Long Live Whiskey'd My Way	Florida Georgia Line Morgan Wallen
49	21	Jacob Durrett	Somebody's Problem Livin' The Dream	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
50	42	John Thomas Harding	Beers And Sunshine	Darius Rucker
51	43	Darius Rucker	Beers And Sunshine	Darius Rucker
52	53	Nicolle Galyon	We Were Rich Minimum Wage Gone	Runaway June Blake Shelton Dierks Bentley
53	58	Josh Murty	Good Time	Niko Moon
54	59	Anna Moon	Good Time	Niko Moon
55	60	Jordan Minton	Good Time	Niko Moon
56	61	Mark Trussell	Good Time	Niko Moon
57	–	Chris Loocke	Undivided	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
58	51	Eric Church	Hell Of A View Quittin' Time	Eric Church Morgan Wallen
59	56	Steph Jones	Hole In The Bottle	Kelsea Ballerini
60	57	Kelsea Ballerini	Hole In The Bottle	Kelsea Ballerini

CALENDAR

Singles

January 29

for **KING & COUNTRY**/Amen (Reborn) [feat. Lecrae + The WRLDFMS Tony Williams]

February 1

Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley/Freedom Was A Highway/Stoney Creek Records

Eric Lee/Same Dirt Road/Blue Hill Records

February 4

Jeff Bates/How You Make Me Feel

Albums

February 5

Aaron Lee Tasjan/*Tasjan! Tasjan! Tasjan!*/New West Records

February 12

Florida Georgia Line/*Life Rolls On*/BMLG Records

Kip Moore/*Wild World Deluxe*/UMG

Loretta Lynn/*Coal Miner's Daughter* (Re-issue celebrating 50th anniversary)/MCA Nashville/UMe

Pentatonix/*The Lucky Ones*/RCA Records

Johnny Lee/*Everything's Gonna' Be Alright*/BFD/Audium Nashville

February 19

Lainey Wilson/*Sayin' What I'm Thinkin'*/BBR Music Group/Broken Bow Records

John Driskell Hopkins/*Lonesome High*

Industry Events

January 29 – 31

30A Songwriters Festival (Virtual)

February 17-19

Country Radio Seminar (Virtual)

February 17

MusicRow's CountryBreakout Awards (Virtual)