

## Alan Jackson Reveals Hereditary Degenerative Nerve Condition



**Alan Jackson** revealed he has a degenerative nerve condition known as Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) Disorder which impacts his ability to tour and perform.

The condition, which is inherited, was passed down from Jackson's father and grandmother. The country artist has been living with CMT since being diagnosed over a decade ago.

The condition causes abnormalities in the nerves that supply the feet, legs, hands, and arms, thereby affecting his motor and sensory nerves. Though relatively rare, the disorder is progressive and there is no known cure.

"I've been reluctant to talk about this publicly and to my fans, but I have this neuropathy—a neurological disease that's genetic that I inherited from my daddy," Jackson shared with **Jenna Bush Hager** on NBC's *Today*. "There's no cure for it, but it's been affecting me for years. And it's getting more and more obvious. It's not going to kill me—it's not deadly. I know I'm stumbling around onstage, and now I'm having a little trouble balancing even in front of a microphone." He continued, "I'm just very uncomfortable. I was starting to get so self-conscious up there... so if anybody's curious why I don't walk right, that's why. I just wanted the fans and the public to know. I don't want 'em to think I'm drunk onstage because I'm having problems with mobility and balance."

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### THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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For Jackson, CMT often manifests in muscle weakness, discomfort and pain, especially when standing for lengthy periods to entertain crowds from a concert stage. Though he's been living with his diagnosis for ten years, the Country Music Hall of Famer has continued to tour annually.

"I never wanted to do the retirement tour like people do and then take a year off and then come back," he explained. "I don't know how much I'll continue to tour. I'm not saying I won't be able to tour. I'll try to do as much as I can. I don't want people to be sad for me; it's just part of life. I've had a wonderful, beautiful life. I've been so blessed. It's just good to put it out there in the open. In some ways, it's a relief."

Jackson, who released another chart-topping album, *Where Have You Gone*, earlier this year, will be onstage next week in Nashville as he plays a hometown show at Bridgestone Arena. The show was postponed from its original 2020 date due to the pandemic. **MR**

## CMT To Honor Randy Travis With Artist Of A Lifetime Award

CMT will honor country music legend **Randy Travis** with the Artist of a Lifetime award presented by The Ram Truck Brand at this year's CMT Artists of the Year event. Travis will join previous Lifetime honorees including **Reba McEntire** (2019), **Loretta Lynn** (2018), **Shania Twain** (2016), **Kenny Rogers** (2015) and **Merle Haggard** (2014).

"To think you receive a Lifetime Achievement award for sharing your heart with the world through music is really beyond words of gratitude. CMT has been so good to me throughout my career and I'm happy they believe I gave something in return. I'm blessed and most thankful," shared Travis in a statement.



Travis is one of the biggest multi-genre record sellers of all time and an inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame class of 2016. His honors include seven Grammy Awards, 11 Academy of Country Music awards, 10 American Music Awards, two People's Choice awards, eight Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association and five Country Music Association honors. In addition, three of his performances earned CMA Song of the Year honors: "On the Other Hand" (1986), "Forever and Ever Amen" (1987) and "Three Wooden Crosses" (2002). To date, he has 23 No. 1 singles, 31 Top-10 hits and more than 40 appearances in feature films and television shows to his credit.

Since his near fatal stroke in 2013, with the help of his wife **Mary** and rigorous physical therapy, Randy continues to make improvements in his speaking, walking, and singing. With the help of author **Ken Abraham**, he released his critically-acclaimed memoir in 2019, *Forever and Ever, Amen*. Randy recently released the remastering of his historic debut album *Storms Of Life (35th Anniversary Deluxe Edition)*.

"It is a privilege to announce Randy Travis as the recipient of this year's CMT Artist of a Lifetime award. His historic career encompassing multiple genres illuminates his extraordinary talent, determination, and lasting influence on country music and beyond," says Senior Vice President, Music & Talent, CMT, **Leslie Fram**. "Randy's unmistakable, traditional country sound has shaped multiple generations and we're honored to celebrate this deserved lifetime honor with him."

CMT Artists of the Year will also honor the previously announced 2021 honorees **Chris Stapleton**, **Gabby Barrett**, **Kane Brown**, **Kelsea Ballerini** and **Luke Combs** alongside recently-announced Breakthrough Artist of the Year **Mickey Guyton**. The 90-minute special will air live from Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center on Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 8:00 p.m. central on CMT. **MR**

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

## CHART ACTION

### New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

'Til You Can't/Cody Johnson/CoJo Music/Warner Music  
Nashville — 70

Shuffle/Laci Kaye Booth/BMLG — 77

The Way Whitley Done It/Adam Whitehead/32South — 79

Freedom/Houston Bernard/HBB — 80

### Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Fancy Like/Walker Hayes/Monument — 189

Never Wanted To Be That Girl/Carly Pearce and Ashley  
McBryde/Big Machine/WMN — 171

Buy Dirt/Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan/MCA Nashville — 138

Sand In My Boots/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud Records — 137

23/Sam Hunt/MCA Nashville — 123

One Mississippi/Kane Brown/RCA Nashville — 122

### Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Never Wanted To Be That Girl/Carly Pearce and Ashley  
McBryde/Big Machine/WMN — 17

23/Sam Hunt/MCA Nashville — 7

'Til You Can't/Cody Johnson/CoJo Music/Warner Music  
Nashville — 6

Wild Hearts/Keith Urban/Capitol — 5

Shuffle/Laci Kaye Booth/BMLG — 5

All It Cost Me Was Everything/Cody Jinks/Late August  
Records — 5

### On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Heart First/Jennifer Belle/JGSII Records — 163

Hard Time/Cash Creek and Larry Stewart/CCB Nashville — 159

Truth About A Lie/Jamie Trent/Restless Kardigan Music — 159

Think About Me/Maggie Baugh — 156

It's Gettin' There/Dave Wilbert/Wilbilly Records — 152

## NO. 1 SONG



“Chasing After You” by **Ryan Hurd** and **Maren Morris** climbs to the top of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart this week. While this is Hurd’s first No. 1 as an artist, he earned 6 previous challenge coins as a writer with his first in 2014 for the Swon Brothers’ single “Later On.”

“Chasing After You” was written by **Brinley Addington** and **Jerry Flowers** and is nominated for Musical Event Of The Year and Music Video Of The Year at the [55th Annual CMA Awards](#). Morris also earned a nomination for Female Vocalist of the Year.

Hurd’s latest album, *Pelago*, drops on Oct. 15 which features “Chasing After You” and previous single “To A T.”



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  
KHBZ Harrison, AR  
KQUS Hot Springs, AR  
KDXY Jonesboro, AR  
KWCK Searcy, AR  
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA  
WPAP Panama City, FL  
WUBB Savannah, GA  
KXIA Marshalltown, IA  
KIAI Mason City, IA  
KBOE Oskaloosa, IA  
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID  
WOOZ Carterville, IL

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

WTCM Traverse City, MI  
KYSM Mankato, MN  
KZPK St. Cloud, MN  
KWWR Mexico, MO  
KFAV Warrenton, MO  
WFAY Fayetteville, NC  
KZZY Devils Lake, ND  
KRVN Lexington, NE  
KBRX O’Neill, NE  
Jersey Shore Country  
KQBA Santa Fe, NM  
WDNB Monticello, NY  
WOLF Syracuse, NY  
WCJW Warsaw, NY

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

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

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
27	2	1	<b>Chasing After You</b> / Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris / Arista Nashville	1756/53	7	114
10	1	2	<b>If I Didn't Love You</b> / Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood / Broken Bow/Macon Music/Capitol	1673/47	-2	-26
16	4	3	<b>Same Boat</b> / Zac Brown Band / Home Grown Music/Warner Music Nashville	1639/60	4	58
13	5	4	<b>Cold As You</b> / Luke Combs / Columbia/River House Artists	1582/51	2	36
11	8	5	<b>Buy Dirt</b> / Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan / MCA Nashville	1561/65	10	138
11	11	6	<b>Fancy Like</b> / Walker Hayes / Monument	1556/51	14	189
42	3	7	<b>Cold Beer Calling My Name</b> / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/ Columbia Nashville	1548/40	-3	-52
13	7	8	<b>Heart On Fire</b> / Eric Church / EMI Records Nashville	1535/67	3	45
31	12	9	<b>Knowing You</b> / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	1383/44	2	32
35	10	10	<b>Freedom Was A Highway</b> / Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley / Stoney Creek Records	1371/51	0	-5
24	9	11	<b>Half Of My Hometown</b> / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	1324/57	-6	-89
23	15	12	<b>It's Cause I Am</b> / Callista Clark / Big Machine	1297/57	3	34
6	18	13	<b>Sand In My Boots</b> / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records	1281/62	12	137
38	14	14	<b>Give Heaven Some Hell</b> / HARDY / Big Loud Records	1261/57	-2	-22
36	16	15	<b>To Be Loved By You</b> / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	1229/57	0	5
21	22	16	<b>Thinking 'Bout You</b> / Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter / Broken Bow	1147/50	5	56
41	20	17	<b>Whiskey And Rain</b> / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	1116/47	2	21
32	19	18	<b>Getting Over Him</b> / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville	1116/54	1	16
46	17	19	<b>You Time</b> / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	1114/34	-7	-81
21	21	20	<b>Tip Jar</b> / Jackson Michelson / Curb	1088/50	0	-5
6	25	21	<b>One Mississippi</b> / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	995/50	14	122
8	24	22	<b>Best Thing Since Backroads</b> / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	995/58	9	78
16	23	23	<b>Never Mine</b> / Craig Campbell / Grindstone Records	975/53	2	23
6	28	24	<b>Wild Hearts</b> / Keith Urban / Capitol	934/55	14	118
28	26	25	<b>My Masterpiece</b> / Darius Rucker / Capitol	856/40	2	17
22	27	26	<b>Fill Them Boots</b> / Chris Lane / Big Loud Records	842/44	2	18
23	29	27	<b>I'm Not For Everyone</b> / Brothers Osborne / EMI Records Nashville	814/44	1	10
12	30	28	<b>That's What Cowboys Do</b> / Garth Brooks / Pearl Records	804/44	4	31
14	32	29	<b>Old School</b> / Toby Keith / Show Dog Nashville	796/44	7	53
31	31	30	<b>I Can't</b> / Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion / Monument Records	756/44	-1	-6
19	34	31	<b>Back Then, Right Now</b> / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand Records	730/43	3	21
10	35	32	<b>7500 OBO</b> / Tim McGraw / Big Machine	729/43	5	37
9	36	33	<b>Beers On Me</b> / Dierks Bentley feat. BRELAND & HARDY / Capitol	703/44	4	25
17	33	34	<b>Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)</b> / Elle King & Miranda Lambert / RCA Nashville	677/39	-7	-54
31	38	35	<b>Home Sweet</b> / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	667/36	6	39
16	37	36	<b>Fine</b> / Mira Goto / ArtistMax	654/34	1	9
3	42	37	<b>23</b> / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	618/45	25	123
10	39	38	<b>Get To Work Whiskey</b> / Ward Davis / Ward Davis/Thirty Tigers Records	582/44	9	49
18	40	39	<b>Local Honey</b> / Mo Pitney / Curb	555/29	6	29
13	41	40	<b>How Far Can It Go?</b> / Hailey Whitters feat. Trisha Yearwood / Big Loud/S&D/Pigasus	541/33	4	22

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
2	51	41	<b>Never Wanted To Be That Girl</b> / Carly Pearce and Ashley McBryde / Big Machine/WMN	511/44	50	171
6	46	42	<b>Steal My Love</b> / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	474/32	16	64
18	43	43	<b>Princess</b> / Dallas Remington / RoadWarrior Records	472/31	1	4
11	45	44	<b>Grow Up</b> / Ian Flanigan feat. Blake Shelton / Reviver Records	458/31	11	45
10	44	45	<b>Am I The Only One</b> / Aaron Lewis / Valory	423/24	0	-1
5	47	46	<b>New Truck</b> / Dylan Scott / Curb	422/31	6	25
5	49	47	<b>Sunrise Tells The Story</b> / Midland / Big Machine	419/27	19	68
13	50	48	<b>Rub A Little Dirt On It</b> / Chase Likens / On The Green	355/21	2	8
5	52	49	<b>They Don't Make 'Em Like That No More</b> / Travis Tritt / Big Noise	347/23	3	9
23	55	50	<b>That Ain't Me No More</b> / Matt Stell / RECORDS/Arista Nashville	327/21	8	23
12	54	51	<b>Hillbilly Shake</b> / AC Thomas / Birmingham Entertainment	326/25	4	14
7	56	52	<b>Record High</b> / Randall King / Warner Music Nashville	321/25	6	18
11	57	53	<b>Walking In Your Wonderful Light</b> / Rhonda Towns / Dawn Records	299/17	-1	-4
7	58	54	<b>These Boots Were Made To Dance</b> / Timothy Baker & Clayton Smalley / YN Records	298/23	1	4
5	63	55	<b>Wilder Days</b> / Morgan Wade / Ladylike Records	294/20	11	30
13	59	56	<b>Better Than You're Used To</b> / Tyler Rich / Valory	279/21	-1	-3
15	61	57	<b>Evangeline</b> / Sammy Kershaw / White Mustang Records	277/20	2	6
8	60	58	<b>Hometown In My Headlights</b> / JD Shelburne / JD Shelburne Music LLC	277/18	2	5
5	64	59	<b>Broke It Down</b> / Brian Callihan / Reviver Records	269/21	11	27
4	68	60	<b>I Know A Girl</b> / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Entertainment	261/24	17	38
9	62	61	<b>Feel Good Again</b> / RT Johnson / CCB Nashville	261/20	-2	-5
2	71	62	<b>All It Cost Me Was Everything</b> / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	254/25	15	34
9	65	63	<b>Please Don't Let Me</b> / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville	251/21	4	9
6	67	64	<b>The American Face</b> / The Isaacs / House of Isaacs	247/19	4	10
3	76	65	<b>Music Man</b> / Shane Owens / AmeriMonte Records	245/23	27	52
4	66	66	<b>Hit Me Up</b> / Josh Kinney / Birmingham Entertainment	241/21	0	1
3	72	67	<b>Stealing Home</b> / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	238/22	11	24
9	69	68	<b>American Made</b> / Dakota Poorman / Ten Inch Vinyl Entertainment, LLC	229/16	3	7
4	73	69	<b>Who Cares</b> / Filmore / Curb	227/15	11	23
1	84	70	<b>'Til You Can't</b> / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	219/13	40	63
5	74	71	<b>Version Of Me</b> / Emily Rose / Growing Rose Recording Co.	215/15	5	11
17	48	72	<b>Get Lost</b> / Lucas Hoge / Forge Entertainment Group	214/14	-42	-155
2	75	73	<b>Honky - Tonk</b> / Josiah Siska / Black River Entertainment	209/21	6	12
2	77	74	<b>At the End Of A Bar</b> / Chris Young feat. Mitchell Tenpenny / RCA Nashville	197/16	5	10
3	80	75	<b>Hey Dad</b> / Matt Stillwell / 723 Entertainment	188/13	12	20
3	78	76	<b>Blue Collar</b> / Kevin McCoy Band / Honky Tonk Hippie	187/13	3	6
1	95	77	<b>Shuffle</b> / Laci Kaye Booth / BMLG	173/17	52	59
3	79	78	<b>Long Gone</b> / The Posse Band feat. Doug Supernaw /	173/13	-2	-3
1	90	79	<b>The Way Whitley Done It</b> / Adam Whitehead / 32South	170/13	25	34
1	81	80	<b>Freedom</b> / Houston Bernard / HBB	170/12	4	6

No. 1 Song
  Greatest Spin Increase
  Highest Debut

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## Wasserman Music Adds Shannon Casey As SVP, Fairs & Festivals



Veteran agent **Shannon Casey** has joined Wasserman Music as SVP, Fairs and Festivals, effective Oct. 1. She will be based in the agency's Nashville office.

Casey spent more than two decades at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) in Nashville, and has represented many of the top live entertainers in the music business. A Belmont University graduate, Casey has been a volunteer and concert committee member at Thistle Farms and Thistle Stop Cafe, served on the board of the Nashville Film Festival, and coordinated the CAA Foundation's philanthropic efforts with Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) and The PENCIL Foundation. She is a member of the Recording Academy, the Academy of Country Music and The Country Music Association.

"The addition of Shannon to Wasserman Music brings irreplaceable experience and expertise in a rapidly evolving economy in fairs and festivals," says Senior Vice President **Lenore Kinder**. "She has cultivated decades of meaningful relationships with her buyers, and I have no doubt they're just as eager to get back to business with her as we are!"

"I am delighted to join the Wasserman Music team," shares Casey. "I look forward to working with some of the most passionate and respected agents in the business. I can't wait to reconnect with all the Fair and Festival talent buyers, with whom it has been my pleasure to work over the years, and I'm excited about creating new touring opportunities for a dynamic roster of talented artists." **MR**

## River House Artists & Sony Music Publishing Sign Neil Medley



Pictured (L-R): Kayla Adkins, Zebb Luster, Neil Medley, Lynn Oliver-Cline, Rusty Gaston. (Not Pictured: Scott Safford)

River House Artists, in partnership with Sony Music Publishing, has signed country songwriter **Neil Medley** to a worldwide publishing agreement.

Medley achieved his first No. 1 song with Jake Owen's "Made For You," and earned success with Lindsay Ell's single "I Don't Love You," which was the No. 1 most added song on country radio the week of its release and reached the Top 10 on *Billboard's* Canada Country airplay chart. Medley was also nominated for *MusicRow's* Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year this year.

"Our family at River House couldn't be more excited to have Neil join the team. His happy personality is infectious, and his love for songwriting has helped him to maintain success throughout his career. We are thankful he has trusted us to help him continue to grow as a writer and we look forward to landing many more hits together," says **Zebb Luster**, vice president/general manager of River House Artists.

Medley adds, "River House Artists is one of the most respected publishing and artist development companies in Nashville. Their track record, combined with Sony's horsepower and industry-wide reach, is an ideal situation for any writer. I am so excited to be a part of such a special roster and I'm confident we are going to do some great things together." **MR**

## Jason Aldean Unveils Plans For Double Album, *Macon, Georgia*



Multi-Platinum entertainer **Jason Aldean** is rolling out his upcoming double album *Macon, Georgia* in waves, with over two dozen songs set for release by next April.

On Nov. 12, fans will have access to 10 new tracks, including his Top 5 single “If I Didn’t Love You” with **Carrie Underwood**, plus five live tracks from *Macon*, the first installment in the artist’s 10th studio album.

*Macon* was produced with longtime producer **Michael Knox**, and includes stadium rockers, barstool ballads, and more. Within the double album’s 30 tracks are 20 new songs and at least one live hit from each of his previous albums from shows in Nashville, L.A., Vegas, Dallas, and St. Louis.

“Where you were raised has such a big influence on who you become and for me it’s no different... especially from a music standpoint,” Aldean said. “My little hometown of Macon was

heavily instrumental in my musical background. Growing up in an environment that was a crossroads between country music, southern rock, blues and R&B, it was just natural to blend different sounds in my on way.”

Over the last 16 years, the three-time ACM Entertainer of the Year has racked up 25 No. 1s, 15 billion streams, and sold more than 20 million albums. Seven of Aldean’s previous studio albums have been certified Platinum or more. **MR**

## Mandy Barnett Invited To Become Newest Opry Member

**Mandy Barnett** received the ultimate birthday present this week (Sept. 28), when she was invited to become an official member of the Grand Ole Opry.

Barnett, who has appeared on the Opry more than 500 times over the course of nearly 30 years, will be formally inducted into the Opry family later this fall. She is also slated to appear in four Opry Country Christmas shows debuting this coming holiday season at the Opry House.

Opry member **Connie Smith** joined Barnett on stage to lead the Opry audience in singing “Happy Birthday,” before reading a birthday card which included Barnett’s invitation. “You’ve felt like family since we first met, and on this, your special day, we’re honored to invite you to become an official member of the Grand Ole Opry!” Smith read.

Barnett replied, “This is the happiest day of my life! I came here back in the 80’s and met so many of the greats that came before me like Roy Acuff, Minnie Pearl, Jean Shepard, Billy Walker- and you Connie. I made my Opry debut in 1994 and I’ve had so many supporters who have rooted for me and been nice to me all these years.”

Barnett has built a reputation for her devotion to classic country, R&B, and popular standards. A Tennessee Music Pathways historical marker in Barnett’s Tennessee hometown honors her contributions in making Tennessee the “Soundtrack of America.” **MR**



## Jackie Jones Talks Joining RIAA, Stepping Into An Advocacy Role [Interview]



**Jackie Jones** is the Vice President, Artist and Industry Relations for the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), serving as RIAA's chief representative in Nashville.

At RIAA, Jones works to help elevate country artists and songwriters in the industry while translating copyright reform, trade negotiations, and creative industry policymaking for local audiences. She brings together artists, management, labels, venues, creator advocacy groups, tech platforms and distribution services when possible to work towards common goals.

Jones recently spoke with *MusicRow* about her role and what she hopes to accomplish in the Nashville music business.

***MusicRow:* Where did you grow up? How did you get into the music business?**

I grew up in Memphis. I've always loved music, but definitely grew up in a music city. I was super interested in television, but I always wanted to produce [the VH1 show] *Behind The Music*. That was my dream job. When I went to college I was studying TV and film, but I always came back to the music side of things. I ended up transferring to MTSU and getting an internship at CMT. At CMT I was a producer and a writer for a long time, and then the talent team shifted gears and approached me to

ask [if I wanted to join them.] I climbed up the ranks there and ended up doing all the live events and talent producing.

**You joined RIAA in 2019. How did that happen?**

I had never really thought about being a part of the advocacy side of things, but the more I got to know **Mitch [Glazier, Chairman & CEO]** and **Michele [Ballantyne, COO]**, I became more enamored with what they were doing. Mitch's overall was really appealing to me. He is very adamant that all of the advocacy groups work together to push a common goal. We all represent different parts of the industry, but we know that if we go to legislators together, we're going to get a lot more done than trying to do it ourselves. And I found that [ethic] very much like the Nashville music industry.

We all want to lift each other up. I really loved the approach and loved that that was his goal. I told him that Nashville already works like that in a lot of ways and that I thought RIAA needed to be here. I said 'You need to have somebody here,' and I did not mean me in any way, but then he was like, 'Yeah, we do. We want you to come work for us!' It took me a minute because I was totally dedicated to television and totally a creative. I thought about it for a long time. I just loved the mission, I loved the environment, and it really feels good to be doing something to help us move forward and to take care of our musicians, songwriters, artists, labels, and everyone else.

**What's a day in the life look like for you?**

In the beginning it was more about looking ahead at what needs we have as an industry as a whole, working to build relationships with different advocacy groups, and working to build more relationships with all the artists management teams and everybody to educate them on what RIAA does. One of the primary goals that I have in my job is to show legislators why music is important. I had been doing that more through events and conversations with artists and industry leaders for for Congress and Senate. And then COVID hit and events went away. We pivoted quickly to

working hard to get those in the music industry protected under all of the COVID packages. Then that became the big goal.

I've also pivoted to virtual events. This week I did a panel with **JoJo** and **Miles Adcox** talking about mental health and why that's important. We're going to share that with the Mondo.NYC music industry conference to try to get it out to as many people as possible. And then we will also share that with our audience of the D.C. world to show that this is a real issue that the music industry is paying attention to, and that we care about mental health and want to make it a priority.

### In 2019 you produced the inaugural RIAA Honors. Tell me about that.

That is one of those moments where we're trying to show what music is and why it's important to D.C. audiences. It's pretty fascinating how far an artist visit will go in those rooms; it's the currency that we have. Whether it's legislators talking to a songwriter and hearing about the creative process or talking to an artist that they love, or even just hearing how a record is made, it's so interesting to them and brings us a lot of opportunities. If we do something cool and interesting with them like that, they then will listen to us on our issues more and we'll have a bigger place in their brain to remember us by. The inaugural RIAA Honors was honoring **Miranda Lambert** for her support of women throughout her career.

Then we honored **Lanre Gaba**, who is at Atlantic in A&R and has been responsible for helping many careers. We had a conversation with Lanre about, how do you find an artist? What does a label do? Why are they important to the artists' profession and their long-term career? Then we also honored a couple of legislators who helped us pass the Music Modernization Act. So it was a great full circle moment where these people got in a room with some really interesting, cool people and they got to see a little bit of what we do. That's the point of these things, so that then they listen to all of our people when we say we need something!

### RIAA is probably most known by its lauded Gold and Platinum plaque program. What goes on behind the scenes in presenting those?

It's interesting because when I came in, I only knew that RIAA did plaques. When I started talking to Michele and Mitch, I had no idea they were an advocacy group or lobbied for our rights or protected content. I just knew about the plaques. And so many people do, which is part of why I'm here: to help people understand more. But the Gold and Platinum program is an awesome program because it helps us to celebrate the sales and the consumption of the music that's being made. Usually what happens is labels are tracking their progress and how much they're being listened to on various digital platforms, hard sales, vinyl sales and everything else.

When they get to the 500,000 units, which is broken down in different ways, that is a Gold. A million units is Platinum. That counts for singles and albums, but 500,000 units for a single is different than 500,000 units for an album, especially when you get into the digital. What happens is the labels will apply for that certification, it will go through an auditing system and then they will get approved from us saying, 'Yes, you have hit this milestone.' They then have our seal on their plaque and we're able to promote and share that, and sometimes be a part of the presentation.

[Click here to read more of Jones' chat with MusicRow.](#)



Pictured (L-R): Cindy Mabe (President, UMG), Ann Edelblute (Owner, The HQ), Royce Risser (EVP of Promotions, UMG), Carrie Underwood, Mike Dungan (Chairman & CEO, UMG), David Garcia (Underwood's Co-Producer), Brian Wright (EVP of A&R, UMG), Jackie Jones (Vice President, Artist & Industry Relations, RIAA). Photo: Country Radio Seminar 2020/ Kayla Schoen

## Mercy Lounge, The High Watt, Cannery Ballroom To Leave Cannery Row



Nashville's Mercy Lounge is ending its nearly 20 year residency on Cannery Row, it was announced today (Sept. 30).

MusicRow has also confirmed that all three of the Cannery venues—Mercy Lounge, The High Watt, and Cannery Ballroom—will not be renewing their leases with the current business owner. At the end of May 2022, Mercy Lounge's lease within the complex will have ended, though management has expressed plans of relocating the beloved venue to a new location that has yet to be determined.

More information about relocating and other future plans for all three venues has not yet been announced.

Mercy Lounge shared the news on social media, saying: "The Mercy Lounge complex will end its near 20 year run on Cannery Row at the end of May 2022. Our lease is ending and we will be relocating the venues to a new location, TBD. We hope to be back better than ever. Let's make these last 8 months on Cannery Row the best ever!"

First opening its doors in January of 2003, Mercy Lounge has a standing room capacity of right at 500 people. During its nearly two-decades long tenure in downtown Nashville, the independently-owned venue has hosted hundreds of acts from a variety of genres, especially those outside of country music. **MR**

## Avenue Beat Announces Break-Up With *The Debut Farewell Album*



**Avenue Beat's Sami Bearden, Savana Santos and Sam Backoff** came onto the Nashville music scene with clever, relatable songs and a fresh sound. With wry songs like "Delight" and "Be A Bro," and relatable anthems "Ruin That For Me" and "Broke," Avenue Beat charmed their way into the hearts of fans and industry members alike.

After signing with Big Machine Label Group's Valory Music Co. and Tape Room Records, they released their self-titled, debut EP, which showed off their wit and interesting vocal harmonies. Their song "F2020" became a viral hit and the soundtrack for a year filled with anxiety, cultural hostility, and pain from the the COVID-19 pandemic.

To mark the pop trio's end, Avenue Beat has announced a 12-track project, *The Debut Farewell Album*, will release Oct. 15 via Big Machine Records. The album cover, which serves as a perfect representation of the clever, self-aware 20-somethings, only features Santos and Backoff, not Bearden.

"There's no real drama," offers lead singer/producer Santos. "Sami decided this life wasn't for her. She didn't like what it was, and it was time for her to stop. So it was time for this to stop. We didn't really see it coming, but we wanted to support our friend."

"And we're so glad we got to finish the journey with these songs," Bearden explains. "It's all here, and it tracks us from 'F2020' to the very end. It's hard when you know it's time to go, because I'm leaving two people I really love. But I also know this is not where I need to be. **MR**

## DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: John Mellencamp, Bruce Springsteen, Willie Nelson



Pictured (L-R): Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp. Photo: Taryn Weitzman

There's more than a touch of Americana influence in today's country edition of Disclaimer.

Frankly, it's what is needed to keep the country format from becoming completely boring. Charley Crockett, Rodney Crowell, Willie Nelson and son Lukas Nelson all did their part to spice up this listening session.

So did the titanic John Mellencamp and Bruce Springsteen, who easily earned the Disc of the Day award.

Jessie James Decker stages her debut in the column this week and wins the DisDiscovery Award. A TV personality, fashionista, NFL wife and social media influencer, she seems like a real go-getter.

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

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### MORE TOP STORIES

[Morgan Evans Talks New EP, His Full Band & "Love Is Real" \[Interview\]](#)

[Dolly Parton To Headline Inaugural Kiss Breast Cancer Goodbye Benefit](#)

[Radio News: BMLG Records, Monument Records, Show Dog](#)

[Yola Named Opry NextStage Artist for October](#)

[22nd Annual NSAI Song Contest Submissions Open Oct. 1](#)

[Reliant Talent Launches Jazz Division Headed By Agency Vet Fred Hansen](#)

[Austin Goodloe Inks Publishing Deal With Combustion Music](#)

[In Pictures: Pilgrimage Festival Celebrates Return To Franklin After Two Years](#)

[Dolly Receives New Tennessee Music Pathways Marker In Sevierville](#)

["Sad Movies" Pop Star Sue Thompson Dies At Age 96](#)

[Trisha Yearwood Releases Fourth Cookbook 'Trisha's Kitchen'](#)

[Thirty Tigers, American Root Records Partner With Jacob Bryant For Upcoming Album](#)

[Zac Brown Contracts COVID, Postpones Upcoming Stops On "The Comeback Tour"](#)

[Scotty McCreery Earns Fourth Consecutive No. 1 With "You Time"](#)

[Jordan Dozzi Inks With Big Loud For First Publishing Deal](#)

[Bobby Karl Works The Room: Jim Irsay's Exhibition Of Iconic American Artifacts](#)

## Jameson Rodgers Offers Hook After Hook On Debut Album, *Bet You're From A Small Town* [Interview]

In just a year, River House Artists/Columbia Nashville artist **Jameson Rodgers** has had his debut single “Some Girls” hit No. 1, embarked on his first headlining tour, released an EP (*In It for the Money*), sent another single to the Top 5 (“Cold Beer Calling My Name”), and, most recently, released his debut album *Bet You're From a Small Town*.



He was named *MusicRow's* Discovery Artist of the Year in 2020, and was nominated for the publication's Breakthrough Artist of the Year just a year later in August.

When asked about the past year, Rodgers grins and quietly admits it's been a crazy time. “The last two or three years have been an absolute whirlwind. They call it a 10 year town, I've been here 11, so I hit it right on the head,” he says.

His debut album, *Bet You're From a Small Town*, features fifteen songs produced by **Chris Farren** and **Jake Mitchell**. Rodgers, who co-wrote 14 of the album's 15 tracks, really shows off his knack for writing a modern country hook on several songs throughout the project.

In addition to his Platinum-certified, No. 1 debut single “Some Girls,” and his current Top 5 hit “Cold Beer Calling My Name,” which features **Luke Combs**, Rodgers' penmanship shines on the other 13 songs on *Bet You're From a Small Town*.

This is most evident on “You Won't,” a song co-written with **Smith Ahnquist**, **Will Bundy** and **Lynn Hutton** that lists all the things that come back around like old songs, bird dogs, football season and Jesus, but that his lost love won't.

Another great song on *Bet You're From a Small Town* is “Missing One,” which starts with Rodgers singing about missing an Eagles record from his collection and wraps up in the chorus with him missing a girl. Rodgers wrote it with Phelps and Ahnquist, who appear a lot on the record.

“This is probably the oldest song on the record,” Rodgers says. “We were sitting in the writing room that day. Smith had done a demo session and the engineer had sent him some songs back. He was going through them and he said, ‘Oh, I'm missing one.’ When he said that Hunter perked up and said, ‘We're writing that today,’ but it took us four months to finish it for some reason. Most of them fall out in an hour or two, but we had to work for that one.”

The track “Merle Haggard” not only pays homage to one of Rodgers' heroes, but features the singer tapping into Haggard's mastery of heartache tunes. Rodgers sings, “*You're the leaving in the story, you were good but no good for me / Mama tried to warn me you'd break my heart in two, Merle Haggard woulda wrote songs about you.*”

Another tear-jerker is “Good Dogs,” a heart-wrenching tribute that captures the misery of losing a dog.

“That song was born on a writing retreat. I wrote it with Hunter Phelps, **Brent Anderson** and Jake Mitchell. Hunter had just gotten a dog and came in with that title,” Rodgers says. “It was one of those where we had to keep walking out of the room to go cry in private thinking about dogs. It's hard to write those songs, dogs are family members that don't get to stick around as long as they should.”

On top of more gems on the project, like “Girls That Smoke,” “Bars Back Home” and the title track “Bet You're from a Small Town,” Rodgers' shows off the shine of his 11-year journey on his debut album.

“They say you have your whole life to write album one,” Rodgers says. “I've taken advantage of that.” **MR**

# TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	<b>Ashley Gorley</b>	Country Again You Should Probably Leave Sand In My Boots Give Heaven Some Hell Steal My Love Beers On Me	Thomas Rhett Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen HARDY Dan + Shay Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland
2	2	<b>Jonathan Singleton</b>	Things A Man Oughta Know Cold as You Same Boat South On Ya	Lainey Wilson Luke Combs Zac Brown Band Luke Combs
3	3	<b>Zach Crowell</b>	Country Again Waves	Thomas Rhett Luke Bryan
4	4	<b>Hunter Phelps</b>	That Ain't Me No More Best Thing Since Backroads Cold Beer Calling My Name Thinking 'Bout You Give Heaven Some Hell	Matt Stell Jake Owen Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter HARDY
5	7	<b>J. Flowers</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
6	8	<b>Brinley Addington</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
7	6	<b>Jesse Frasure</b>	Whiskey And Rain One Mississippi	Michael Ray Kane Brown
8	5	<b>Rhett Akins</b>	Tequila Little Time To Be Loved By You	Jon Pardi Parker McCollum
9	13	<b>Josh Osborne</b>	My Masterpiece I Was On A Boat That Day Sand In My Boots 23	Darius Rucker Old Dominion Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
10	11	<b>Martin Johnson</b>	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) Like A Lady	Elle King and Miranda Lambert Lady A
11	12	<b>Josh Jenkins</b>	Fancy Like Buy Dirt	Walker Hayes Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
12	9	<b>Luke Combs</b>	Forever After All Cold as You South On Ya	Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs
13	31	<b>Shane McAnally</b>	Never Wanted To Be That Girl I Was On A Boat That Day 23 Half Of My Hometown	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde Old Dominion Sam Hunt Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney
14	16	<b>Lainey Wilson</b>	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
15	17	<b>Jason Nix</b>	Things A Man Oughta Know	Lainey Wilson
16	14	<b>Ryan Hurd</b>	Old School Waves	Toby Keith Luke Bryan
17	19	<b>Michael Hardy</b>	That Ain't Me No More Sand In My Boots Give Heaven Some Hell Beers On Me	Matt Stell Morgan Wallen HARDY Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland
18	21	<b>Josh Thompson</b>	Whiskey And Rain	Michael Ray
19	15	<b>Chase McGill</b>	Waves	Luke Bryan
20	18	<b>Thomas Rhett</b>	Country Again	Thomas Rhett
21	24	<b>A. Eshuis</b>	You Time	Scotty McCreery
22	25	<b>Frank Rogers</b>	You Time	Scotty McCreery
23	26	<b>Scotty McCreery</b>	You Time	Scotty McCreery
24	20	<b>Randy Montana</b>	Cold as You We Didn't Have Much	Luke Combs Justin Moore

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
25	10	<b>Corey Crowder</b>	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
26	22	<b>Chris Young</b>	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
27	23	<b>Cary Barlowe</b>	Famous Friends	Chris Young + Kane Brown
28	30	<b>Elle King</b>	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
29	27	<b>Brian Davis</b>	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
30	28	<b>Lee Brice</b>	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
31	29	<b>Billy Montana</b>	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
32	130	<b>Ian Fitchuk</b>	Justified Simple Times Breadwinner Star-Crossed Good Wife Cherry Blossom	Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves
33	131	<b>Kacey Musgraves</b>	Justified Simple Times Breadwinner Star-Crossed Good Wife Cherry Blossom	Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves
34	32	<b>Brett Tyler</b>	Old School Cold Beer Calling My Name	Toby Keith Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs
35	40	<b>Jameson Rodgers</b>	While You're Gone Cold Beer Calling My Name	Drew Parker Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs
36	33	<b>Kurt Allison</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
37	34	<b>Tully Kennedy</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
38	35	<b>Lydia Vaughan</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
39	36	<b>John Morgan</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
40	41	<b>Alysa Vanderheym</b>	Cold Beer Calling My Name	Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs
41	37	<b>Kat Higgins</b>	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
42	38	<b>Adam James</b>	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
43	39	<b>Brett James</b>	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
44	43	<b>Walker Hayes</b>	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
45	44	<b>Shane Stevens</b>	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
46	45	<b>Cameron Bartolini</b>	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
47	42	<b>Parker McCollum</b>	To Be Loved By You	Parker McCollum
48	54	<b>Eric Church</b>	Heart On Fire	Eric Church
49	48	<b>Ben Simonetti</b>	Same Boat	Zac Brown Band
50	49	<b>Zac Brown</b>	Same Boat	Zac Brown Band
51	52	<b>Chris Stapleton</b>	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
52	53	<b>Chris DuBois</b>	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
53	47	<b>Ernest Keith Smith</b>	Fill Them Boots Memory One Mississippi	Chris Lane Kane Brown & Blackbear Kane Brown
54	55	<b>Kane Brown</b>	Memory One Mississippi	Kane Brown & Blackbear Kane Brown
55	50	<b>Jon Pardi</b>	Tequila Little Time	Jon Pardi
56	51	<b>Luke Laird</b>	Tequila Little Time	Jon Pardi
57	61	<b>Lee Starr</b>	My Boy	Elvie Shane
58	62	<b>Russell Sutton</b>	My Boy	Elvie Shane
59	63	<b>Nick Columbia</b>	My Boy	Elvie Shane
60	64	<b>Elvie Shane</b>	My Boy	Elvie Shane

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**CALENDAR**

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**Singles**

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**October 1**

**Blake Shelton**/Come Back As A Country Boy/Warner Music Nashville  
**Hannah Ellis**/Us/Curb I Word Records  
**Walker County**/Liar/Warner Music Nashville  
**Brandon Lay**/Back Home/EMI Records Nashville  
**Johnny Dailey**/24/Johnny Dailey Music  
**EmiSunshine**/After You're Gone/Little Blackbird Records  
**Cort Carpenter**/Me and the Moon/Triple C Records  
**Devon Beck**/Say To You/Sincerely Music Group  
**Caroline Kasay feat. Zach Adkins**/Beautiful City/Sincerely Music Group  
**Bobby McClendon**/Did It To Myself

**October 4**

**Dolly Parton (w/Cordle, Jackson, Salley & Walker)**/In The Sweet By and By/Billy Blue Records  
**Morgan Wade**/Wilder Days/Arista  
**Muscadine Bloodline**/Dyin' For A Livin'/Stancaster  
**Flat River Band feat. The Gatlin Brothers**/I Just Wish You Were Someone I Love/Flat River Band  
**Chloe Collins**/Somebody Else's/Chloe Collins

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**Albums**

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**October 1**

**Brandi Carlile**/In These Silent Days/Low Country Sound/Elektra Records  
**Asleep At The Wheel**/Half A Hundred Years/Home Records/Thirty Tigers  
**Lily Rose**/Stronger Than I Am/Big Loud Records/Back Blocks Music/Republic Records  
**Logan Mize**/Welcome To Prairieville/Big Yellow Dog Music

**October 6**

**Rayne Johnson**/Love Drunk Or Lonely/Mountain Road Records/Verge Records

**October 8**

**Various Artists**/Broken Hearts and Dirty Windows: Songs of John Prine, Vol. 2/Oh Boy Records  
**Old Dominion**/Time, Tequila & Therapy/Sony Music Nashville  
**Natalie Hemby**/Pins and Needles/Fantasy Records  
**John King**/Always Gonna Be You/Starstruck Records

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**Industry Events**

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**October 3-5**

**IEBA Conference**