

Matraca Berg To Be Honored At 2023 BMI Country Awards



Groundbreaking songwriter **Matraca Berg** will be honored with the BMI Icon Award during the 71st annual BMI Country Awards. The annual, invitation-only event will be held at BMI's Nashville office on Nov. 7. BMI's President and CEO, **Mike O' Neill** will host the event with Nashville's VP of Creative, **Clay Bradley**.

The Country Songwriter of the Year, Country Song of the Year and Country Publisher of the Year will also be honored during the awards, as will the top songwriters and music publishers behind this past year's 50 most-performed songs in country music.

The BMI Icon Award is given to exceptional songwriters in recognition of their unique and indelible influence on music makers over many generations. In receiving this award, Berg joins an impressive list of country legends including Toby Keith, Loretta Lynn, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Kris Kristofferson, Dean Dillon and Hank Williams, Jr., as well as multi-genre creatives Stevie Nicks, Little Richard, Carole King, Patti LaBelle, Brian Wilson, James Brown, Janet Jackson, Bo Diddley, Holland-Dozier-Holland, Peter Gabriel, Al Green, Van Morrison, Sting, Bryan Ferry, Carlos Santana, Los Lobos and more.

"Matraca Berg's exceptional songwriting talent has woven the threads of emotion and storytelling into musical tapestries that transcend generations," says Bradley. "We are honored to present her with this year's BMI Icon Award in recognition of her ability to capture the essence of life's joys, trials and tribulations with lyrical depth and emotional resonance."

Berg's career has spanned nearly four decades. The Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee scored her first No. 1 hit at age 18 with 1983's "Faking Love." She scored her first Grammy nomination at 22 and became the first woman to have five No. 1 hits in a single calendar year.

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

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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Thomas Rhett Brings Bridgestone Arena Together For A Fun Night Of Music

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Shane Tarleton Exits Warner Music Nashville



After 13 years with Warner Music Nashville, **Shane Tarleton** is leaving the label.

Tarleton has spent the last two years serving as Executive Vice President, Artist Development.

"I would like to thank the incredible team for all of their passion, creativity and dedication over the years. To the artists who inspire all of us with their amazing talent and art, a special 'thank you' to you and your teams for instilling trust in me," he shares. "I look forward to announcing my next adventure in early 2024."

Tarleton can be reached at ShaneTarleton@gmail.com. **MR**

Anthem Entertainment Makes Leadership Changes, Promotes Nashville's Noah Dewey



Anthem Entertainment has made several senior leadership changes across its music publishing and recorded music divisions, including in its Nashville office.

At the helm of Anthem Entertainment is **Jason Klein**, who is now the company's permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Prior to becoming CEO, Klein held the role of Senior Vice President, Legal & Business Affairs and General Manager for Anthem's Canadian operations. He was appointed to the interim CEO position in January.

Sal Fazzari has been appointed permanent Chief Financial Officer (CFO), also following his interim appointment to the role earlier this year. Fazzari was formerly Vice-President Finance and held previous senior roles in Acquisitions and Royalty Administration.

In Music City, **Gilles Godard** will continue to serve as President of Anthem's Nashville-based music publishing operation. **Noah Dewey** has been promoted to a new role as VP, Creative. **Courtney Crist** will continue as Senior Director, Creative.

"I have had the privilege to be part of this company for the last 16 years and couldn't be more excited about the new executive team and the entire Anthem organization," says Godard. "Anthem is a world class music publisher with very talented people, and we have a real opportunity to grow it to the next level with Jason as our new CEO. I am proud to be part of this new leadership team!"

Other leadership shifts include **Tom Leighton**, who has been promoted to VP, Licensing, where he will continue to lead the company's digital licensing activity and will now oversee sync and general licensing. **Joanne Kelsey** will also continue her role as VP, Royalties & Administration.

In the Anthem Records division, **Andy Hawke** has been promoted to General Manager and **Andy Curran** re-joins the team as Senior A&R Consultant. In Anthem's legal division, **Adrian Battiston** has been promoted to VP, Legal & Business Affairs; **Amanda Dworetzky** has been promoted to Senior Director, Legal & Business Affairs and **Jennifer Correia** was also recently appointed as Senior Director, Legal & Canadian Operations.

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

A photograph of Hailey Whitters performing on stage. She is smiling, wearing a white floral dress with a large bow at the waist, and playing an acoustic guitar. A microphone is positioned in front of her. The background is dark.

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SHE HAS MORE THAN
EARNED THIS MOMENT."**

- AMERICAN SONGWRITER

Hailey Whitters

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Darius Rucker Details The Creation Of 'Carolyn's Boy' [Interview]

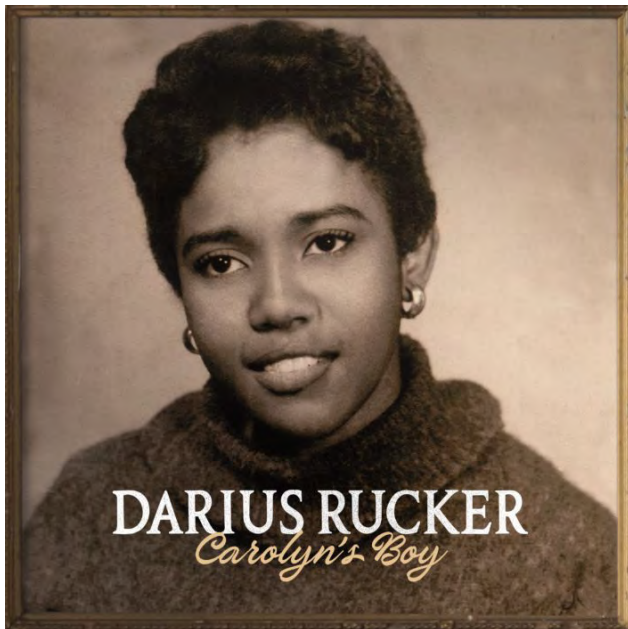


Photo: Courtesy of UMG Nashville

Award-winning artist **Darius Rucker** has been bringing people together with his warm, comforting sound and lowcountry spirit for decades now. His music career first took off as the lead singer and rhythm guitarist for the multi-Platinum band **Hootie & the Blowfish**. In addition to playing with the group, Rucker has garnered success as an individual country act with 10 No. 1 hits and multiple No. 1 albums. Yesterday (Oct. 4), the Grand Ole Opry member was inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame, and tomorrow (Oct. 6), he unveils his first solo record in six years, *Carolyn's Boy*.

In addition to his Music City Walk of Fame induction, the singer-songwriter gave fans a taste of the highly-anticipated release yesterday at Analog at the Hutton Hotel in Nashville, where he was recorded as part of the "Recorded Live at Analog" series supported by Heaven's Door and debuting on PBS early next year.

Named in honor of Rucker's mother **Carolyn**, the album exhibits his homey vocal stylings with a beautiful blend of feel-good, fun tunes and deeper, moving numbers that remind

us that we can always connect to one another in some way and make it through the hard times. He co-wrote 11 of the 14 tracks, and recently shared some stories behind the collection with *MusicRow*.

Rucker notes that he had always thought about paying homage to his mother with a project, and recalls the moment he came up with the title.

"It was the first day of recording, and I just wasn't in a good place mentally. I sat down after a take and said to myself, 'At the end of the day, I'm just my mama's boy,' and after thinking about it more, I decided I was going to name the record Carolyn's Boy."

The Charleston native knew he wanted to make a living in the world of music as a child. Growing up, his mother was extremely supportive of his passion and introduced him to genres including gospel and R&B. That influence can be detected in tracks such as "Ol' Church Hymn (feat. **Chapel Hart**)" as well as his decision to cover **Rihanna's** "Lift Me Up" from the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* soundtrack.

Rucker cut "Ol' Church Hymn" almost immediately after writing it alongside **Greytan James**, **Ben Hayslip** and **Josh Miller**. After recording his own vocals on the song, he came across something special that he felt would enhance it immensely. "I was on Twitter and came across these three women singing country music, and they sounded amazing, absolutely amazing. [In that moment], I said 'I'm going to get these girls to sing on ['Ol' Church Hymn].'"

Rucker then messaged the ladies on Instagram and collaboration began. Those three women turned out to be trio Chapel Hart, who would go on to earn the coveted "golden buzzer" on the talent competition show *America's Got Talent*. "They really took [the track] to different level. Their vocals are so great, and I love that song so much," he expresses.

After hearing Rihanna's stunning work on "Lift Me Up," Rucker was inspired to cover the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* song and include it on *Carolyn's Boy*. When it comes to the current trend of established artists covering songs outside of their genre, Rucker is all for it.

"People have been covering great songs forever, and when it happens in a big way, it's awesome to see," he states.

The artist continues to echo encouragement and unity with tunes "In This Together," "Have A Good Time" and chart-topping single "Same Beer Different Problem."

"There's so much division within our country, and we all have to live together. So, I hope people find songs on this record that resonate with them and help them get through the hard times. I want that on every record"

Written by Rucker, **Monty Criswell**, **Derek George** and **Bobby Hamrick**, "Have A Good Time" was also released as a single along with outside cuts "Fires Don't Start Themselves" and "Southern Comfort." The artist says he knew he had to cut "Fires Don't Start Themselves" as soon as he heard it due to it's '90s country energy, and describes his love for the feel, speed and story "Southern Comfort." The album also features "Sara," which Rucker concocted with fellow renowned entertainer **Ed Sheeran**, **Joel Crouse** and **Kyle Rife**. He recalls witnessing Sheeran's early days as an artist. Over the years, the two have developed a friendship, and had been wanting to collaborate for quite sometime. Rucker shares that he spontaneously flew to England one day to write with Sheeran.

"Ed asked me who my first love was, and I told him it was my fifth grade girlfriend Sara. He then asked me a million questions about that [time in my life]. In the end, he wanted to write a song about her, so we did," he reminisces.

Creating Carolyn's Boy has given the hitmaker a new sense of appreciation for the art of music.

"One thing that really came out of [this record] for me was a better love for what I do. We went through the pandemic and all the hardships of the past few years, and writing through all that stuff made me want to write and perform more. It further solidified how much I love what I do."

He continues to feed that desire to perform and connect as he readies his personally-curated Riverfront Revival Music Festival for this weekend (Oct. 7-8), following the album's release. Rucker will also wrap the stateside leg of his "Starting Fires Tour" at Nashville's Ascend Amphitheater on Oct. 14, and make his way back across the pond and to Ireland for a few international dates in 2024. **MR**

Hardy Cancels Upcoming Shows After Hospitalization For Anxiety

Hardy announced the cancellation of upcoming shows via a statement released on Instagram yesterday (Oct. 3). The five-time ACM Award-winner canceled his stops in Simpsonville, South Carolina (Oct. 5) and Brandon, Mississippi (Oct. 7) as part of "The Mockingbird And The Crow Tour." The Big Loud artist was also set to headline the Georgia Rodeo in Athens, Georgia on Oct. 6, which he has rescheduled.

Citing "serious anxiety" heightened in the wake of his [tour bus crash](#) from last fall, Hardy shared that he has suffered panic attacks that have landed him in the hospital.

"I need a moment to focus on me and to make myself better for my wife, family and you, the fans," shares Hardy.

Refunds for tickets both shows are available for fans. The Georgia Rodeo has been rescheduled for April 12, 2024, and purchased tickets will be valid for the new date.

Hardy aims to return to the road in good health by his show in Jonesboro, Arkansas on Oct. 12. **MR**



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Can't Break Up Now/Old Dominion with Megan Moroney/ Columbia Nashville - 56
Vertigo/Morgan Myles/KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records - 73
Thicc As Thieves/Lauren Alaina/Big Loud Records - 74
Everywhere I Go/Kaitlyn Kohler/Kohler Music Group - 77
Girl With No Last Name/Dianña/Billiegee Productions - 79
You Or The Whiskey/Sydney Hansen/Sydney Hansen Music - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Thinkin' Bout Me/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 238
I Can Feel It/Kane Brown/ Zone 4/RCA Nashville - 230
Save Me/Jelly Roll (with Lainey Wilson)/Stoney Creek - 181
White Horse/Chris Stapleton/Mercury Nashville - 180
Back Then Right Now/Tyler Hubbard/EMI Nashville - 129

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

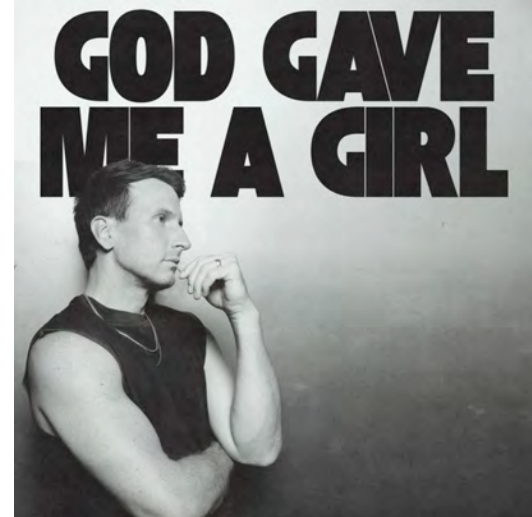
I Can Feel It/Kane Brown/Zone 4/RCA Nashville - 16
Mamaw's House/Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen/Valory - 14
Young Love & Saturday Nights/Chris Young/RCA - 8
Can't Break Up Now/Old Dominion with Megan Moroney/ Columbia Nashville - 7
Where It Ends/Bailey Zimmerman/Warner Music Nashville - 7

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Mamaw's House/Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen/Valory - 125
Where It Ends/Bailey Zimmerman/Warner Music Nashville - 122
Come On Home/Cutter Elliott/TCM Records - 122
A Man Like You/American Blonde/American Blonde Music - 119
Get Me Now/Matt VanFossen - 116

NO. 1 SONG



Russell Dickerson's heartfelt song "God Gave Me A Girl" reaches the pinnacle of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart this week, jumping from No. 4 to No. 1.

With its soul-stirring lyrics and melodic composition, this song written by Dickerson, Zach Crowell, Ashley Gorley, and Chase McGill, has touched the hearts of many listeners and continues to leave a lasting impression.

"God Gave Me A Girl" has the ability to resonate with a wide range of audiences whether you are in a committed relationship or searching for that special someone.

The song currently sits at No. 12 on the Billboard Country Airplay chart and No. 6 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
 KDXV 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 +/-
39	4	1	God Gave Me A Girl / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	1662/51	-1	-18
39	6	2	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	1652/49	6	87
20	2	3	Try That In A Small Town / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow	1650/49	-4	-66
21	3	4	Watermelon Moonshine / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	1585/45	-6	-100
15	5	5	Everything I Love / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1541/48	-5	-79
34	8	6	All I Need Is You / Chris Janson / BMLG/Harpeth 60 Records	1535/54	4	53
12	9	7	Save Me The Trouble / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1523/56	5	79
7	14	8	Thinkin' Bout Me / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1446/48	20	238
11	12	9	White Horse / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1436/58	14	180
27	10	10	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	1418/59	2	34
21	11	11	Different 'Round Here / Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs) / BMLG	1407/57	9	120
41	13	12	If You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too) / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	1324/51	6	78
55	1	13	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	1312/42	-25	-443
32	16	14	Light On In The Kitchen / Ashley McBryde / Warner Music Nashville	1049/47	-2	-26
25	17	15	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	1021/47	-3	-27
52	15	16	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	1010/30	-16	-186
18	18	17	World On Fire / Nate Smith / Sony Music Nashville	1008/49	7	62
16	23	18	Save Me / Jelly Roll (with Lainey Wilson) / Stoney Creek	1003/51	22	181
8	20	19	The Painter / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	973/52	8	71
23	21	20	Blacktop Don't / BoomTown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment	955/48	7	59
15	24	21	Mind On You / George Birge / RECORDS	894/40	9	76
40	19	22	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	872/46	-4	-38
18	25	23	See You Next Summer / Brian Kelley / Big Machine Records	836/44	3	21
16	22	24	We Don't Fight Anymore / Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton / Big Machine	826/49	-6	-54
26	29	25	23 / Chayce Beckham / BMG	819/43	10	74
40	26	26	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	793/37	0	2
16	28	27	Burn It Down / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	783/45	5	35
30	27	28	Buy A Bar / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	771/42	1	7
15	30	29	Wine Country / Hannah Ellis / Curb Records	748/45	5	34
7	32	30	Cab In A Solo / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	709/44	8	53
12	33	31	Pretty Little Poison / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records	709/42	8	53
20	31	32	Truck Bed / HARDY / Big Loud Records	709/42	7	48
19	34	33	Out Of That Truck / Carrie Underwood / Capitol Records	673/36	3	21
17	35	34	Glory Days / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	587/38	-5	-34
3	40	35	Back Then Right Now / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	585/37	28	129
10	38	36	I'm Not Pretty / Megan Moroney / Arista Nashville/Columbia Records	567/36	10	50
16	36	37	Something Real / Dierks Bentley / Capitol Nashville	513/28	-5	-25
13	41	38	Drinkin' Problems / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	434/26	2	10
3	45	39	I Remember Everything / Zach Bryan feat. Kacey Musgraves / Warner Records	433/30	35	112

MUSICROW

2023
MUSICROW
AWARDS



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
7	42	40	Tucson Too Late / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	432/30	8	31
2	67	41	I Can Feel It / Kane Brown / Zone 4/RCA Nashville	421/31	120	230
25	43	42	State You Left Me In / Jake Worthington / Big Loud	358/24	-4	-13
16	44	43	Brokenhearted / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	348/18	2	7
9	46	44	Country Dance / Aaron Goodvin / Warner Music Canada/Sakamoto Music	332/24	5	17
3	59	45	Young Love & Saturday Nights / Chris Young / RCA	322/21	45	100
7	50	46	Last Train To Nowhere / Ghost Hounds / Gibson Records	314/24	16	44
12	47	47	Something's Gonna Kill Me / Corey Kent / RCA Nashville	310/18	6	17
8	52	48	Wait Til I'm Gone / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	288/19	18	44
11	48	49	Loser / Mike Ryan / Rock & Soul	288/17	4	11
11	53	50	Let's Take A Ride / Six Gun Sally / Six Gun Sally Music	276/16	14	33
10	56	51	Outskirts / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	268/18	13	31
3	57	52	New Money / Julianna Rankin / 17th Avenue	264/21	14	33
16	49	53	When The Rodeo Is Over (Where Does The Cowboy Go?) / Tanya Tucker/ Fantasy/Concord	260/16	-6	-16
6	58	54	Rich Men North of Richmond / Oliver Anthony	250/16	10	23
5	55	55	In Your Love / Tyler Childers / Hickman Holler Records/RCA Records	236/19	0	-1
1	83	56	Can't Break Up Now / Old Dominion / Columbia Nashville	223/19	77	97
5	64	57	Know That By Now / Randy Rogers Band / Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers	221/14	10	20
13	61	58	High Lonesome Stranger / CIMARRON 615 / Blue Elan Records/KZZ Music	216/11	1	3
32	60	59	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	212/15	-2	-4
5	68	60	Always You / Trey Lewis / River House Artists	205/19	10	19
5	63	61	Jesus and John Wayne / Alabama feat. The Oak Ridge Boys / Gaither Music Group	204/17	1	2
9	69	62	Crooked Road / Mustangs Of The West / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	203/15	12	22
12	66	63	Daddy's Home / Ben Calhoun / General Records	199/15	2	3
11	70	64	Dance With You / Brett Young / BMLG Records	195/14	13	22
8	65	65	Hell of a Life / Kylie Frey / Deep Frey'd Music/EWC	195/15	-3	-5
10	51	66	Girl, I Know A Guy / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	185/14	-28	-73
4	74	67	Baby I Do / Hurricane Highway / Kick Ass Music	172/11	8	13
4	73	68	Hush Little Baby / Ashley Ryan / Spinville Entertainment	168/14	4	6
13	77	69	Giving Up On That / Dalton Dover / Mercury Records	165/12	8	12
2	79	70	Rough Around The Edges / Exile / Clearwater Records	161/9	10	15
16	62	71	Somebody Else's Whiskey / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	161/12	-21	-43
3	78	72	Falling Too / Jet Jurgensmeyer / Simba Entertainment	160/13	5	8
1	87	73	Vertigo / Morgan Myles / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	159/13	35	41
1	86	74	Thicc As Thieves / Lauren Alaina / Big Loud Records	157/11	32	38
2	80	75	Good With Me / Walker Hayes / Monument Records/RCA Records	157/11	11	15
9	76	76	June in July / Robby Johnson / Nashville Record Company	157/10	1	1
1	82	77	Everywhere I Go / Kaitlyn Kohler / Kohler Music Group LLC	152/9	19	24
2	81	78	He Don't Mind / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music	146/8	5	7
1	99	79	Girl With No Last Name / Diana / Billiegee Productions	131/6	42	39
1	93	80	You Or The Whiskey / Sydney Hansen / Sydney Hansen Music	130/9	21	23

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ASCAP's 45th Annual Christian Music Awards Honors Brandon Lake, Matthew West, More



Pictured (L-R): Mike Sistad; Kele Currier; Paul Williams; Kent Draughon; Matthew West; David Spencer; Casey McGinty; Karrie Dawley; Lindsey O'Halloran; Ryan Grady.
Photo: Larry McCormack for ASCAP

Brandon Lake took home top honors Monday night (Oct. 2) at ASCAP's Christian Music Awards in Nashville, which honors the songwriters and publishers of Christian music's 25 most-performed songs of the past year.

The award marks Lake's first Songwriter of the Year honor. He is a co-writer on five of the most-performed Christian songs of the year, including "Ain't Nobody," "Gratitude," "Honey in the Rock," "Same God" and "This Is Our God." A Grammy Award-winning artist for his work with **Maverick City Music**, Lake leads the upcoming Dove Awards nominations with 11 nominations including Artist of the Year, three Song of the Year nominations and four Worship Recorded Song of the Year nominations. Gospel Music Association President and Executive Director **Jackie Patillo** congratulated Lake as part of a video tribute at the party.

Other big winners of the night included Matthew West, who received the ASCAP Golden Note Award. After personal remarks from film star **Dennis Quaid**, who recently released *Fallen: A Gospel Record for Sinners*, ASCAP Chairman of the Board and President **Paul Williams** presented West with the award, a special honor for songwriters, composers and artists who have achieved extraordinary career milestones. West has notched 30 No. 1 songs as an artist and/or songwriter and has had cuts by **Rascal Flatts**, **Scotty McCreery**, **Casting Crowns**, **Michael W. Smith** and **Amy Grant**, among others. Grant, Smith, **Anne Wilson**, **Casting Crowns** vocalist **Mark Hall**, **A.J. Pruis** and **Tim Tebow** offered recorded messages of congratulations to mark the occasion.

Christian Music Song of the Year honors went to the track "In Jesus Name (God of Possible)," from **David Spencer**, David Spencer Songs and Essential Music Publishing LLC. As a songwriter and producer, Spencer has amassed over a quarter billion streams and has occupied the top spots on the Billboard and iTunes charts across multiple genres. Recorded and released by **Katy Nichole**, "In Jesus Name (God of Possible)" was a No. 1 on Billboard's Hot Christian Songs and Christian Airplay charts. Spencer and **Jamie Rodgers**, Vice President of Essential Music Publishing, accepted the award.

The ASCAP Christian Music Publisher of the Year Award was given to Capitol CMG Publishing for a remarkable 21st consecutive year, with 10 award-winning titles, including "Build a Boat" (performed by **Colton Dixon**), "New Creation" (**Mac Powell**), "Same God" (Elevation Worship feat. **Jonsal Barrientes**), "See Me Through It" (**Brandon Heath**) and "Sunday Sermons" (**Anne Wilson**). Capitol CMG Executive Vice President **Casey McGinty**, VP Administration and Operations **Kent Draughon** and SVP A&R **Karrie Dawley** accepted the award for their team.

A complete list of ASCAP Christian Music Award winners can be found [here](#). **MR**

Country Music Stars Surprise 2023 CMA Broadcast Award Winners

The Country Music Association (CMA) has revealed the recipients of the 2023 CMA Broadcast Awards. Nine-time CMA Award nominee this year, **Lainey Wilson**, and three-time CMA Award nominee this year, **Jordan Davis**, surprised radio stations and broadcast personalities today with one-on-one calls to reveal the news.

The categories are established by market size based on population as ranked by Nielsen. Entries for Broadcast Personality of the Year are judged on aircheck, ratings, community involvement and biographical and impact information. Candidates for Radio Station of the Year are judged on aircheck, ratings, community involvement and leadership and impact information.

This year, any full-time, on-air broadcast personalities and radio stations in the United States and Canada were eligible to submit entries, regardless of CMA membership status. The entries are judged by a panel of distinguished broadcast professionals, representing all market sizes and regions.

CMA Broadcast Awards winners are not eligible to enter the same award category in consecutive years; therefore, those who received trophies in 2022 were not eligible in 2023.

The 57th Annual CMA Awards, hosted by **Luke Bryan** and **Peyton Manning**, will air live from Bridgestone Arena in Nashville on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. CT on ABC.

See below for the full list of 2023 CMA Broadcast Awards winners.

CMA Broadcast Personality of the Year:

Weekly National: Country Countdown USA (Lon Helton) – Compass Media Networks

Daily National: Angie Ward (Angie Ward) – iHeartMedia

Major Market: Hawkeye in the Morning with Hawkeye and Michelle (“Hawkeye” Mark Louis Rybczyk and Michelle Rodriguez) – KSCS, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas

Large Market: The Wayne D Show (“Wayne D” Danielson and Tay Hamilton) – WSIX, Nashville, Tennessee

Medium Market: Mo & StyckMan (Melissa “Mo” Wagner and Greg “StyckMan” Owens) – WUSY, Chattanooga, Tennessee

Small Market: Steve, Ben and Nikki (Steve Stroud, Ben Walker and Nikki Thomas) – WXBQ, Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia

CMA Radio Station of the Year:

Major Market: KEEY – Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota

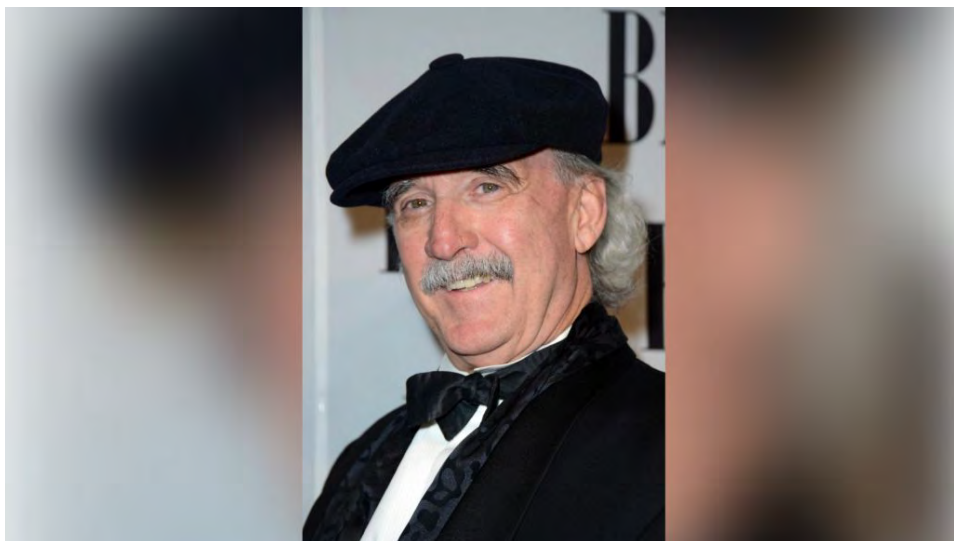
Large Market: WUBE – Cincinnati, Ohio

Medium Market: KUZZ – Bakersfield, California

Small Market: WXBQ – Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia



All Clear Music, Fuji Music Group Acquire Will Jennings' Catalog



All Clear Music and Fuji Music Group has acquired 100% interest of the publishing rights and writer's share of songwriter **Will Jennings'** catalog.

Jennings has penned timelessly beloved songs for an eclectic range of artists such as Steve **Winwood**, **Whitney Houston**, **Roy Orbison**, **B.B. King**, **Celine Dion** and **Tim McGraw**, among others. His iconic hits include "Back in the High Life Again," "While You See a Chance," "Please Remember Me," "Where Are You Christmas," "Somewhere in the Night," "Higher Love," "Up Where We Belong," "Tears In Heaven," "Can't We Go On Together," "People Alone" and "Street Life."

Jennings' biggest hit remains the 1997's Titanic theme "My Heart Will Go On." The song, written by Jennings and composer **James Horner** and sung by Celine Dion, earned numerous Oscars, Grammys and Golden Globes, and became the most-played radio hit in history according to the Songwriter Hall of Fame.

Jennings was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame in New York and The Texas Songwriters Hall of Fame in Austin.

Born in Kilgore Texas, and relocated to Tyler, Texas as a child, Jennings primarily loved the iconic blues songs influenced by **B.B. King**. He recognized that he couldn't make a living writing three-chord songs about the blues, so he studied poetry and earned degrees that landed him a job as an Associate Professor of English and French literature at the University of Wisconsin. Jennings' love of music overwhelmed his desire to teach, and he eventually decided to move to Nashville to write songs. That move caught the attention of music publisher **Lance Freed**.

"We signed Will Jennings to a publishing agreement with Almo/Irving Music publishing around 1974," shares Freed, President of All Clear Music. "His work as a lyricist initially landed him several opportunities to write contemporary pop songs, and he began a collaboration with **Richard Kerr** ('Mandy'). He moved on and wrote songs with notables like **Joe Sample**, Steve Winwood, B.B. King, **James Horner**, **Jimmy Buffet**, Roy Orbison, and **Rodney Crowell**."

"Will's catalog is so diverse and rich, it's a publisher's dream," adds Darrell Franklin, SR VP of Sheltered Music, All Clear Music's Nashville Division. "He excelled in whatever direction his musical muse led him. Whether it was pop, rock, R&B, country, the blues or music for film, he wrote songs that we have all come to know by heart. He was never bound by any specific genre."

Ich Asatsuma, Chairman of Fuji Music Group, adds, "We are very honored to represent one of the world's finest songwriters with Lance Freed's All Clear Music, and we will give his music the very best promotion and all the respect it richly deserves." **MR**

DISClaimer Single Reviews: Toby Keith Gives 'Emotionally Gripping' Performance



This week, DISClaimer feels warm and nostalgic.

On hand are such monumentally gifted old friends as **Toby Keith**, **Brad Paisley**, **Dolly Parton**, **Lacy J. Dalton** and **Marty Stuart**. The youngsters are keeping pace, because we also have **Brittney Spencer**, **Maren Morris**, **Dustin Lynch** and **Joy Oladokun** with **Chris Stapleton** playing at the top of their games.

The Disc of the Day goes to the stardust sprinkled collaboration between **Old Dominion** and **Megan Moroney**.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[ACM LEVel Up Program Opens Applications & Nominations For 2024](#)

[SoundExchange Taps Peter Karafotas To Lead Legislative & Advocacy Efforts](#)

[BFD / Audium Nashville Acquires Rights To Release Louisiana Hayride Series](#)

[Jon Pardi Announces Christmas Album, Special New York Holiday Show](#)

[Music Health Alliance Sets Date For 'Heal The Music Day'](#)

[New Alan L. Mayor Photo Retrospective On Display At The Bobby Hotel](#)

[Brad Paisley Releases 'Son Of The Mountains: The First Four Tracks'](#)

[Amazon Music Kicks Off Country Music Month With New Playlist & Programming](#)

[Headliners Set For 'New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash'](#)

[Flatland Cavalry Partners With Interscope Records For New Album](#)

[Lauren Watkins Plans On 'Introducing: The Heartbreak' This November](#)

[On The Row: Avery Anna Taps Into Her Deepest Emotions For Inspiration](#)

Thomas Rhett Brings Bridgestone Arena Together For A Fun Night Of Music

Thomas Rhett took over Bridgestone Arena on Friday night (Sept. 29) for the first of his two “Home Team Tour 23” shows at the Nashville venue. The multi-Platinum artist serenaded the sold-out crowd with a set of hits, some featured on his 20 Number Ones collection, which dropped earlier that day, as well as a few fun covers, and charmed fans with his wholesome, authentic energy.

When it came time for Rhett to take the stage, the arena went black and royal blue smoke rose from the platform as lights flashed to spotlight each band member. Suddenly, a drum set emerged from underneath the stage accompanied by a figure sporting a bomber jacket and baseball cap. After playing for a few seconds, the drummer got up and turned to face Bridgestone, revealing himself as the man of the hour. Microphone in hand, Rhett kicked off with “Vacation,” which only made Bridgestone go crazier after his exciting entrance.



Hips kept swaying and toes kept tapping as the superstar shed his jacket and performed the track that marked his 13th No. 1, “Look What God Gave Her.” Next, Rhett had anyone with a cold drink in their hand raise it up for “Half Of Me,” which he recorded alongside Riley Green. Fiery lights covered the venue during “Crash and Burn.” Sweet videos of Rhett’s family were shared with both sides of the stage as he moved into “Life Changes,” his 11th career No. 1. Fall leaves fell into a pile on the screen above while he asked Nashville to put their hands up for “Slow Down Summer.”

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

Porchlight Music Signs Singer-Songwriter & Producer Chris Sligh



Porchlight Music has signed award-winning artist and producer **Chris Sligh** to a publishing deal.

Sligh was a top 10 American Idol finalist in 2007, which led to a thriving artist career with a string of Billboard chart hits including “Empty Me,” which received a 2010 Dove Award nomination for Song of the Year as well as the BMI Christian Song of the Year award. In 2009, he scored his first No. 1 with **Rascal Flatts’** “Here Comes Goodbye,” a song that earned them a Grammy nomination for Best Country Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocals the following year.

In 2019, the multi-instrumentalist began writing with country artist **Nate Smith** and has since had 78 cuts, including tunes recorded by Smith, **Bailey Zimmerman** and **Josh Ross**. Last week, Smith’s “Wreckage,” co-written by Sligh, Smith, **Mary Kutter** and **Paul Wrock** was certified Gold by the RIAA.

“Chris is a guy that has had success as an artist coming off the heels of American Idol to having major success as a songwriter and track guy. But in addition to that, he’s someone that we all love being around. He will be a great addition to our offense,” says **Tim Medlin**, Partner/Co-Founder, Porchlight Music. **MR**

Industry Applauds Justin Moore's Four Recent No. 1 Hits



Back Row (L-R): David Lee Murphy, Brock Berryhill, Jessi Alexander, Cole Taylor, Casey Beathard, Paul DiGiovanni. Front Row (L-R): Jeremy Stover, Randy Montana, Priscilla Block, Justin Moore, Chase McGill, Scott Borchetta Photo: Steve Lowry, BMI

It was a packed house in BMI's Nashville office for the celebration of **Justin Moore's** four recent No. 1 singles: "Why We Drink," "We Didn't Have Much," "With A Woman You Love" and "You, Me, And Whiskey" with **Priscilla Block**.

BMI's **Clay Bradley** hosted the event honoring the 10 Nashville songwriters who worked on the tracks. "Why We Drink" was written by Moore, **Casey Beathard**, **David Lee Murphy** and **Jeremy Stover**. "We Didn't Have Much" was written by Stover, **Randy Montana** and **Paul DiGiovanni**. Moore co-wrote "With A Woman You Love" with Stover, DiGiovanni and **Chase McGill**. His recent hit with Block, "You, Me, and Whiskey," was written by **Brock Berryhill**, **Jessi Alexander** and **Cole Taylor**.

Big Machine Music's **Scott Borchetta**, a co-producer with Stover on the four hits, took the stage alongside

the songwriters, looking to be in great health and high spirits following his auto racing accident this spring.

Borchetta remarked, "I'm usually not nervous at these things, but for some reason today, I'm just nervous. Maybe because it's the first time to tell you I'm still standing." That statement was met with thunderous applause.

Industry representatives lauded the writers with heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. ASCAP's **Duane Hobson**, Big Machine Music's **Mike Molinar**, Warner Chappell Music's **Jessi Stevenson**, Universal Music Publishing's **Missy Roberts**, Little Louder Music's **Arturo Buenahora**, Red Creative's **Taylor Lamb**, Anthem Entertainment's **Chandler Thurston**, Studio Bank's **Ron Cox** and The Valory Music Co.'s **George Briner** all spoke in praise of the songwriters, producers, publishers, labels and management teams that made the four chart-toppers happen.

Several congratulations were sent to Block, as "You, Me, And Whiskey" marked her first No. 1 hit.

Studio Bank's Cox spoke to their No. 1 party partnership with BMI, and announced that donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital had been made in each of the writers' names to honor their success.

When Block spoke, she reminisced on her early days in Music City when she worked at the BMI offices, and snuck to Broadway for one of Moore's release shows years before they would meet.

"I've been a fan of Justin for so long and it's just really weird to me that I'm not in a cubicle right now—that I get to come to the cool parties, I get to write songs and that I have written songs with basically everyone here. I feel really thankful. This has been such a journey for me," she said.

Moore closed the program with heartfelt congratulations to Block, and the reminder that celebrating never gets old. He thanked his fellow writers, producers, band, family and fans.

He said, "I've been so blessed to be around so many talented people. All the people on this stage, I look up to. Even if I've never had the chance to meet you yet or tell you that, I promise I do. [I look up to] all of you guys that I've written with and been lucky enough to learn from all these years.

"I sound like a broken record but when you grow up how I did and where I did... This just does not happen to people," Moore said. "At least you think that until it happens to you. It's because of great people who have cared about my career, my success and my family as much or more than myself at times. I'm thankful for all of you." **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Zachary Lane Bryan	Hey Driver Spotless East Side of Sorrow Tourniquet Overtime Summertime's Close Fear And Friday's Ticking El Dorado Holy Roller Smaller Acts Jake's Piano - Long Island Tradesman Oklahoman Son I Remember Everything	Zach Bryan ft. The War And Treaty Zach Bryan ft. The Lumineers Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan ft. Sierra Ferrell Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves
2	2	Ashley Gorley	Girl In Mine Last Night God Gave Me A Girl Thinkin' Bout Me Everything I Love Save Me The Trouble All I Need Is You World On Fire Truck Bed	Parmalee Morgan Wallen Russell Dickerson Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dan + Shay Chris Janson Nate Smith Hardy
3	3	Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
4	5	Ryan Vojtesak	Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me Everything I Love	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
5	6	Christopher Anthony Lunsford	Rich Men North Of Richmond	Oliver Anthony Music
6	7	Jason DeFord	Need A Favor Save Me	Jelly Roll Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson
7	4	Jordan Schmidt	Bury Me In Georgia Watermelon Moonshine We Got History	Kane Brown Lainey Wilson Mitchell Tenpenny
8	8	John Byron	Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
9	12	Chase McGill	God Gave Me A Girl But I Got A Beer In My Hand Creek Will Rise	Russell Dickerson Luke Bryan Conner Smith
10	15	Chayce Beckham	23	Chayce Beckham
11	13	Zach Crowell	God Gave Me A Girl Stars Like Confetti Outskirts	Russell Dickerson Dustin Lynch Sam Hunt
12	10	Josh Thompson	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Stars Like Confetti	Thomas Rhett Dustin Lynch
13	11	Thomas Rhett	Angels Don't Always Have Wings Stars Like Confetti	Thomas Rhett Dustin Lynch
14	9	Chris Stapleton	White Horse	Chris Stapleton
15	16	Dan Wilson	White Horse	Chris Stapleton
16	19	David Ray Stevens	Save Me	Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson
17	20	Taylor Phillips	Thinkin' Bout Me World On Fire Love You Again	Morgan Wallen Nate Smith Chase Matthew
18	21	Kacey Musgraves	I Remember Everything	Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves
19	14	Julian Bunetta	Angels Don't Always Have Wings If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too)	Thomas Rhett Kelsea Ballerini

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
20	17	Lainey Wilson	Watermelon Moonshine	Lainey Wilson
21	18	Josh Kear	Watermelon Moonshine	Lainey Wilson
22	23	Jacob Kasher	Last Night	Morgan Wallen
23	24	Rob Ragosta	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
24	25	Joe Ragosta	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
25	26	Austin Nivarel	Need A Favor	Jelly Roll
26	30	Kurt Allison	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
27	31	Tully Kennedy	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
28	32	Kelley Lovelace	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
29	33	Neil Thrasher	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
30	35	Patrick Murphy	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
31	36	Tommy Cecil	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
32	37	Craig Wiseman	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
33	22	Geoff Warburton	But I Got A Beer In My Hand Back Then Right Now	Luke Bryan Tyler Hubbard
34	43	Matt Dragstrem	But I Got A Beer In My Hand	Luke Bryan
35	46	Michael Hardy	See You Next Summer Truck Bed	Brian Kelley Hardy
36	38	Bailey Zimmerman	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
37	39	Austin Shawn	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
38	40	Frank Romano	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
39	41	Marty James	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
40	42	Alex Palmer	Religiously	Bailey Zimmerman
41	34	Jaten Dimsdale	Angels Don't Always Have Wings	Thomas Rhett
42	47	Shane McAnally	If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too) We Don't Fight Anymore	Kelsea Ballerini Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton
43	53	Travis Wood	Girl In Mine Drive You Out Of My Mind	Parmalee Kassi Ashton
44	49	Warren Zeiders	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
45	50	Ryan Beaver	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
46	51	Jared Keim	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
47	44	Geno Seale	In Your Love	Tyler Childers
48	45	Tyler Childers	In Your Love	Tyler Childers
49	48	Russell Dickerson	God Gave Me A Girl	Russell Dickerson
50	58	Casey Brown	Girl In Mine Love You Again	Parmalee Chase Matthew
51	57	Taylor Swift	I Can See You (Taylor's Version) (From the Vault) Enchanted (Taylor's Version)	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift
52	59	D. Fanning	Girl In Mine	Parmalee
53	60	Matt Thomas	Girl In Mine	Parmalee
54	61	Dallas Wilson	Can't Have Mine	Dylan Scott
55	62	Josh Melton	Can't Have Mine	Dylan Scott
56	63	Dylan Scott	Can't Have Mine	Dylan Scott
57	64	Matt Alderman	Can't Have Mine	Dylan Scott
58	73	Hunter Phelps	Truck Bed	Hardy
59	74	Ben Johnson	Truck Bed	Hardy
60	67	Hillary Lindsey	See You Next Summer Burn It Down	Brian Kelley Parker McCollum

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

October 4

Fancy Hagood/Southern Sound

October 5

Mark Ware/Cat Touch You/MC1 Nashville

October 6

Zandi Holup/Gas Station Flowers/Big Loud Records

Jenna DeVries/Back to Me/Heart Songs Music Group

Lori Rayne/Woo Girls

Jade Holland/Home, Town

Album/EP Releases

October 6

Reba McEntire/*Not That Fancy*/MCA Nashville

Darius Rucker/*Carolyn's Boy*/Capitol Records Nashville

Old Dominion/*Memory Lane*/Columbia Nashville

Amy Grant/*Lead Me On Live 1989*

Drake White/*The Bridge*

John Morgan/*Remember Us?*/BBR/Night Train Records

Natalie Grant/*Seasons*/Curb Records

Colbie Caillat/*Along The Way*/Blue Jean Baby Records

Lanco/*Run, Run, Baby*/Riser House Records

The Steel Woods/*On Your Time*/Woods Music/Thirty Tigers

Colt Ford & Krizz Kaliko/*Hoodbillies*/Average Joes Entertainment

Alex Miller/*Country*/Billy Jam Records

EmiSunshine and The Rain/*Sideshow*/Little Blackbird Records

Harper O'Neill/*Dark Bar Daisy*

Industry Events

October 8 – 10

IEBA (International Entertainment Buyers Association)

October 11

Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala