

Legendary Loretta Lynn Passes



Loretta Lynn. Photo: Les Leverett

Revered music icon **Loretta Lynn** died on Tuesday (Oct. 4) at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. She was 90.

A statement from Lynn's family reads: "Our precious mom, Loretta Lynn, passed away peacefully this morning, October 4th, in her sleep at home at her beloved ranch in Hurricane Mills."

Known to millions as "The Coal Miner's Daughter," the iconic singer-songwriter rose from mountain poverty to become a member of The Country Music Hall of Fame. Her feisty songs made her a feminist heroine. The film based on her autobiography, *Coal Miner's Daughter*, took her story around the world and won an Academy Award.

Among her enduring compositions are such country evergreens as "Don't Come Home A-Drinkin'," "Fist City," "You Ain't Woman Enough" and "You're Lookin' at Country," as well as her signature song, "Coal Miner's Daughter."

She also immortalized songs by others, such as "One's On the Way," "Blue Kentucky Girl," "The Pill" and "Love Is the Foundation." In addition, Lynn had strings of hits as the duet partner of her fellow Hall of Fame members, Ernest Tubb (1914-1984) and Conway Twitty (1933-1993).

Loretta Lynn has released more than 60 albums, written more than 160 songs, had 16 No. 1's and 50 top-10 hits, been awarded six Gold Records and charted 82 titles. She has sold a reported 45 million units.

[To read Lynn's full obituary, click here.](#) **MR**

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FEATURING THE NEW SINGLE "LET ME GO"

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WINNERS BAR (WHISKEY JAM)

THURS 10/20 - INDIANAPOLIS, IN
THE VOGUE

WED 11/12 - JEFFERSONVILLE, IN
THE JEFFERSON

NASHVILLE HITS THE ROOF TOUR DATES AT TIN ROOF VENUES:

FRI 11/18 - ORLANDO, FL

SAT 11/19 - DELRAY BEACH, FL

WED 12/7 - ST. LOUIS, MO

THURS 12/8 - COLUMBIA, SC

FRI 12/9 - RALEIGH, NC

SAT 12/10 - MYRTLE, SC

THURS 12/15 - FAYETTEVILLE, AR

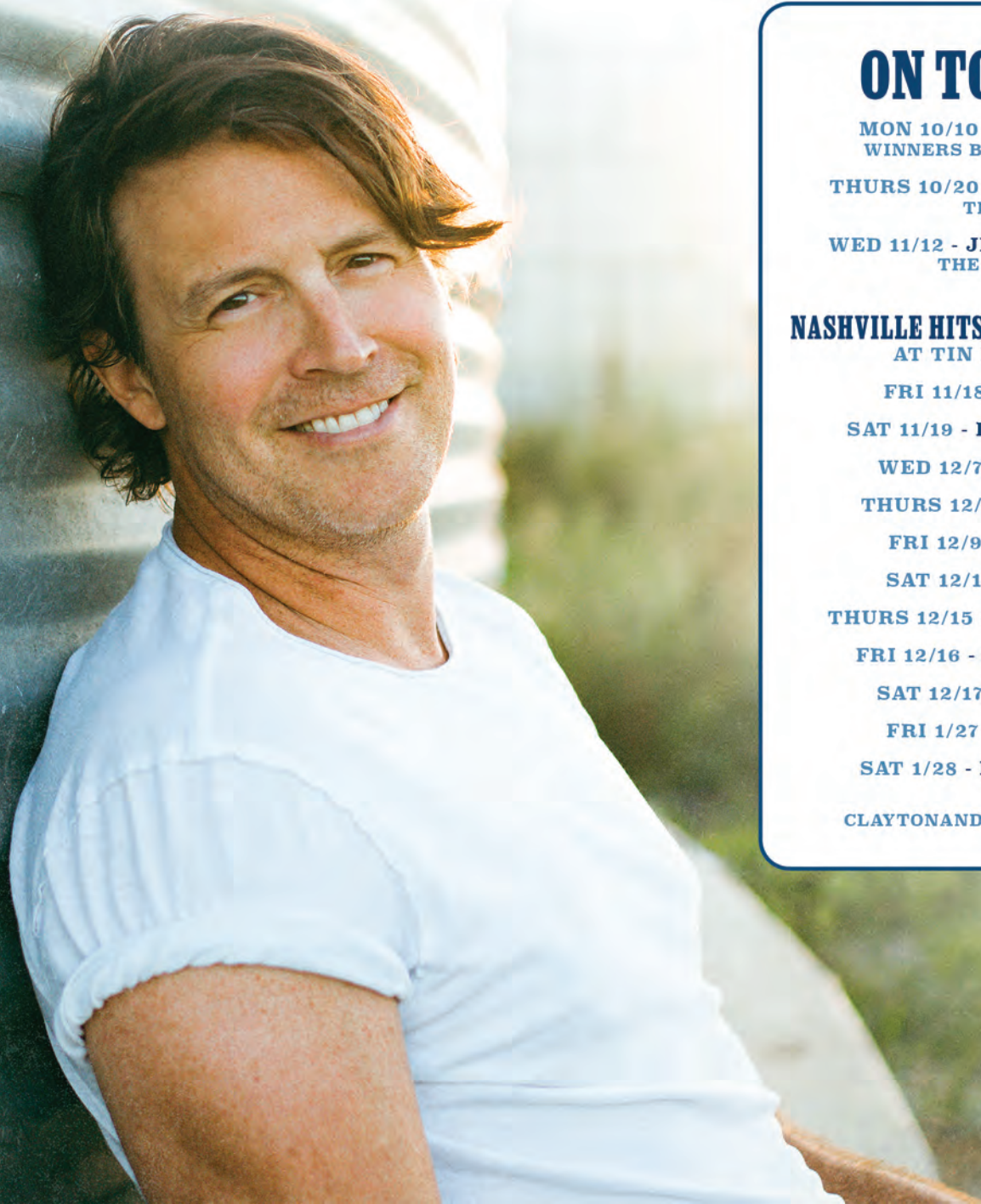
FRI 12/16 - KANSAS CITY, MO

SAT 12/17 - ST. LOUIS, MO

FRI 1/27 - MEMPHIS, TN

SAT 1/28 - BIRMINGHAM, AL

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My Music Row Story: UMPG Nashville's Missy Roberts



The "My Music Row Story" weekly column features notable members of the Nashville music industry selected by the MusicRow editorial team. These individuals serve in key roles that help advance and promote the success of our industry. This column spotlights the invaluable people that keep the wheels rolling and the music playing.

As Vice President, A&R for Universal Music Publishing Group Nashville, **Missy Roberts** represents a catalog of writers that include **Brandi Carlile, Ingrid Andress, Caitlyn Smith, Paul DiGiovanni, Justin Ebach, Jamie Paulin, Derrick Southerland, Shane Minor** and more. After an internship in marketing at Sony Records, Roberts was hired by the A&R department as assistant to industry vet **Tracy Gershon**.

She launched her publishing career at Island Bound Music. From there, she moved to Disney Music Publishing where she helped start the Nashville office. Since then, Roberts has held posts at Stage Three Music and EMI Music Publishing, before joining UMPG Nashville in 2012. She was promoted to her current position at UMPG in 2021.

Roberts has been a part of numerous cuts and No. 1 hits throughout her career, including "The Climb" (**Miley Cyrus**), "The Truth" (**Jason Aldean**), 2014 ASCAP Song Of The Year "It Goes Like This" (**Thomas Rhett**) and 2020 CMA Song Of The Year Nominee and MusicRow Song Of The Year award winner "More Hearts Than Mine" (Ingrid Andress).

Roberts will be honored as part of the current class of MusicRow's Rising Women on the Row on Oct. 20. For more details about the class and the event, [click here](#).



MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a little town called Downs, Illinois, which is right outside of Bloomington. 500 people, corn and beans. I hated it as a kid but I'm very thankful for it now. It was a really great way to grow up.

Were you musical?

I was not musical, but always very drawn to music. My uncle on my mom's side, who I'm still really close with, did lighting and sound in the '80s for all the big arena rock bands like **Rush, Damn Yankees** and **Bad Company**. I was very drawn to and connected to him. If he was on tour within three to four hours driving distance of where I grew up, my mom would take me and drop me off with him at the venue and I would run around with him all day. I became so fascinated by what is it about songs that get a person to connect to an artist or get a crowd to react.

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Your Heart Or Mine/Jon Pardi/Capitol — 73

I Can't Love You Anymore/Maren Morris/Columbia

Nashville — 75

Sounds Like Something I'd Do/Drake Milligan/Stoney Creek

Records — 77

Back/Jacob Johnson/AJG Music Group/Bow To Stern

Records — 78

Found It In You/Tiera Kennedy/Valory — 79

Take It Slow/Conner Smith/Valory — 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Thank God/Kane Brown with Katelyn Brown/RCA

Nashville — 175

Your Heart Or Mine/Jon Pardi/Capitol — 88

It Matters To Her/Scotty McCreery/Triple Tigers Records — 81

What My World Spins Around/Jordan Davis/MCA

Nashville — 78

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

All Hat, No Cattle/Sweet Tea Trio/Top Dog Records — 7

Thank God/Kane Brown with Katelyn Brown/RCA Nashville — 7

Your Heart Or Mine/Jon Pardi/Capitol — 6

It Matters To Her/Scotty McCreery/Triple Tigers Records — 5

How It Oughta Be/Shane Profitt/BMLG — 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

\$ (Money)/Chris Kroeze — 109

You Are My Rock/Andrew Farriss/Broken Bow/BMG — 107

Between George Strait and George Jones/Corey Layne/

Mountaintop Music — 105

Rock And A Hard Place/Bailey Zimmerman/Elektra/Warner Music

Nashville — 105

NO. 1 SONG



Thomas Rhett and **Riley Green** hold the No. 1 position on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart this week. Despite a loss of -44 spins, "Half Of Me" still hold a +30 spin lead over Luke Bryan's "Country On."

Rhett wrote the single with **Rhett Akins**, **William Bundy** and **Josh Thompson**. Rhett is ranked No. 12 on the Top Songwriter Chart with Thompson following at No. 12. Bundy ranks No. 34 and Rhett Akins No. 42.

Rhett is currently on his headlining "[Bring The Bar To You Tour](#)" with Parker McCollum and Conner Smith through October. The tour was also extended to include [10 Canadian dates](#) which will take place in February 2023. Jordan Davis and Kameron Marlowe will serve as support on the Canadian leg.



Each songwriter and artist earning No. 1 credit on the *MusicRow* Chart receives a *MusicRow* Challenge Coin. Click [here](#) to view a full list of recipients.

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

WHMA Anniston, AL
WXFL Florence, AL
KQUS Hot Springs, AR
KDXY Jonesboro, AR
KBOD Mountain Home, AR
KWCK Searcy, AR
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA
WPAP Panama City, FL
WUBB Savannah, GA
KXIA Marshalltown, IA
KIAI Mason City, IA
KBOE Oskaloosa, IA
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID

KKMV Rupert, ID
WOOZ Cartersville, IL
WAAG Galesburg, IL
WMCI Mattoon, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WCCI Savanna, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
KQZQ Pratt, KS
WKDZ Cadiz, KY
WBKR Owensboro, KY
WDHR Pikeville, KY

KRRV Alexandria, LA
WKPE Hyannis, MA
WTCM Traverse City, MI
KYSM Mankato, MN
KZPK St. Cloud, MN
KFAV Warrenton, MO
WFAY Fayetteville, NC
KZZY Devils Lake, ND
KYCK Thompson, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
Jersey Shore Country
KQBA Santa Fe, NM
WDNB Monticello, NY

WCJW Warsaw, NY
WFRY Watertown, NY
KITX Hugo, OK
KWEY Weatherford, OK
KWOX Woodward, OK
KRKT Albany, OR
WVNW Lewistown, PA
WNB T Mansfield, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
WFGE 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
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI
WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
WCOW Sparta, WI
WDGG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
18	1	1	Half Of Me / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1861/60	-2	-44
14	2	2	Country On / Luke Bryan / Capitol	1831/60	3	55
18	5	3	Fall In Love / Bailey Zimmerman / Hurricane Bailey	1524/53	3	44
33	4	4	Wishful Drinking / Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt / Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville	1497/45	1	15
25	9	5	Son Of A Sinner / Jelly Roll / Broken Bow	1304/45	3	43
20	7	6	She Had Me At Heads Carolina / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1290/36	-10	-138
13	11	7	That's What Tequila Does / Jason Aldean / Macon Music/Broken Bow	1275/55	5	55
32	8	8	Pick Me Up / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	1260/51	0	-1
29	12	9	Down Home / Jimmie Allen / Stoney Creek Records	1212/47	2	26
26	10	10	Heartfirst / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	1158/52	-7	-92
10	13	11	Gold / Dierks Bentley / Capitol	1151/56	4	45
28	14	12	Joy Of My Life / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1089/52	0	3
28	15	13	Heart Of A Small Town / Tim Dugger / Curb Records	1084/49	3	30
18	18	14	What My World Spins Around / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	1075/50	8	78
7	17	15	No Body / Blake Shelton / Warner Music Nashville	1074/52	5	47
39	20	16	Out In The Middle / Zac Brown Band / Warner Music Nashville	1014/42	5	47
13	19	17	Brown Eyes Baby / Keith Urban / Capitol	1007/52	2	18
35	16	18	My Bar / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	947/44	-8	-86
44	21	19	Soul / Lee Brice / Curb	928/38	5	46
20	25	20	Heart Like A Truck / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow	902/51	7	59
44	23	21	You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG	897/40	3	27
26	22	22	All I Can Think About Lately / CJ Solar / Raining Bacon	884/44	1	13
30	24	23	Note To Self / Randy Houser / Magnolia Music Group	853/44	-1	-11
12	28	24	Whiskey On You / Nate Smith / Sony Music Nashville	810/42	7	55
15	26	25	Water Under The Bridge / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	810/48	2	13
17	27	26	Doing Life With Me / Eric Church / EMI Records Nashville	804/42	1	11
18	29	27	What He Didn't Do / Carly Pearce / Big Machine	798/46	9	63
6	30	28	wait in the truck / HARDY feat. Lainey Wilson / Big Loud Records	791/46	8	58
6	32	29	Beer With My Friends / Kenny Chesney feat. Old Dominion / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	749/41	10	65
23	31	30	She Likes It / Russell Dickerson feat. Jake Scott / Triple Tigers Records	733/39	4	27
8	33	31	Handle On You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	693/39	9	60
10	34	32	Loud & Heavy / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	636/40	7	41
4	41	33	Thank God / Kane Brown with Katelyn Brown / RCA Nashville	630/39	38	175
14	35	34	Strange / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	616/34	4	26
18	37	35	Boy Like Me / Aaron Goodvin / Reviver Records	613/38	6	36
15	36	36	Everything She Ain't / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/S&D/Big Loud	607/40	3	19
14	38	37	Longneck Way To Go / Midland feat. Jon Pardi / Big Machine Records	566/37	-1	-8
19	39	38	You Go Good / Shane Owens / AmeriMonte Records	514/30	10	46
21	40	39	Human / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	486/32	5	24
13	42	40	Famous Enough / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records	470/34	10	44



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Learn More

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
11	43	41	Til You Get There / Ty Herndon / Pivotal Records	412/31	-3	-12
9	45	42	Y'all Life / Walker Hayes / Monument Records	385/27	12	41
27	46	43	Holy Water / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	339/23	2	6
36	44	44	Good Day For Living / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	336/22	-5	-19
17	48	45	Never Til Now / Ashley Cooke & Brett Young / Big Loud/BMLG Records	334/22	5	16
4	59	46	It Matters To Her / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	324/24	33	81
12	50	47	Open Road / Ned LeDoux / Powder River/Thirty Tigers	323/24	9	27
24	52	48	Songs About You / Brett Eldredge / Warner Music Nashville	279/18	1	3
10	51	49	You / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	278/21	-2	-7
16	57	50	Come On Down / Josiah Siska / Black River Records	274/22	10	25
9	55	51	One Drink In / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	273/19	8	21
9	58	52	Everything Has Your Memory / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	264/18	8	20
3	64	53	Up There Down Here / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	256/20	20	42
2	67	54	All Hat, No Cattle / Sweet Tea Trio / Top Dog Records	254/25	35	66
5	56	55	Can't Have Mine / Dylan Scott / Curb	254/19	2	4
15	61	56	Long Live Cowgirls / Ian Munsick with Cody Johnson / Warner Music Nashville	237/19	1	3
4	65	57	Ain't A Woman Like A River / Flat River Band / Early Bird Records	236/20	13	28
2	68	58	Girl In Mine / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	235/18	30	54
7	63	59	I Don't Want You Back / Tiffany Woys / Tiffany Woys	228/17	4	9
2	78	60	How It Oughta Be / Shane Profitt / BMLG	209/18	44	64
6	70	61	Lake Days / Cam Allen / Goat Music Group	196/17	14	24
7	66	62	Wild As Her / Corey Kent / Combustion Masters	193/15	2	4
5	73	63	Country Can / Hannah Ellis / Curb	192/15	22	35
12	62	64	Something In The Orange / Zach Bryan / Belting Bronco/Warner Records	190/10	-14	-30
8	69	65	Project / Chase McDaniel /	178/13	1	2
41	54	66	Country'd Look Good On You / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	175/10	-32	-82
6	71	67	How You Make A Man / Craig Morgan / Broken Bow	172/11	3	5
2	77	68	Me On You / Muscadine Bloodline / Stancaster Music, LLC	168/17	14	21
9	74	69	Man Made / Matt Stell / RECORDS	164/11	4	7
6	75	70	If He Wanted To He Would / Kylie Morgan / EMI Records Nashville	163/13	4	7
44	72	71	Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House	152/9	-4	-7
16	76	72	Sounds Good To Me / Jason Byrd / MayCourt Records	151/11	1	2
1	117	73	Your Heart Or Mine / Jon Pardi / Capitol	140/11	127	88
10	81	74	Worth A Shot / Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley / RCA Records/Columbia Nashville	136/11	6	8
1	84	75	I Can't Love You Anymore / Maren Morris / Columbia Nashville	135/13	14	17
5	80	76	Another Round of You / Donny Lee / Donny Lee Music	127/9	-2	-2
1	88	77	Sounds Like Something I'd Do / Drake Milligan / Stoney Creek Records	119/8	17	17
1	90	78	Back / Jacob Johnson / AJG Music Group/Bow To Stern Records	118/10	16	16
1	83	79	Found It In You / Tiera Kennedy / Valory	115/9	-3	-4
1	85	80	Take It Slow / Conner Smith / Valory	114/11	-2	-2

No. 1 Song

Greatest Spin Increase

Highest Debut


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ROW FAX

Did you know you wanted to be in the music business from then on?

I did. I have said since I was a kid that I was going to do music business, but I ended up getting really active in sports. That really took over, especially from junior high into high school. I toured the country playing softball and ended up getting a scholarship for it. So I thought that was my path for a while, though I was still very drawn to music. I was the kid in school that everybody came to for new music. If I wasn't practicing softball, I was in front of a radio just taking in music and making mixtapes.

How did that shift from softball back to music business?

I had gotten a scholarship to play softball and was majoring in sports psychology. A year into it, my family went down to Florida where my uncle was for Christmas break. He was running The Wildhorse Saloon that was at Disney. The whole Christmas break, I hung out with him at the Wildhorse. I was hanging out with the bands and just back in in that world. I thought, "What am I doing? This is what I've always said I was going to do from the time I can remember talking." But who would be crazy enough to tear up a scholarship and this whole plan that you've established? Who would be crazy enough to give all that up and walk away? Two days before I was supposed to go back to school, I sat down with my parents and said, "I'm not going back. I quit." That was not easy. I think they thought I was having a midlife crisis. [Laughs]

I gave up the scholarship. I went to Southern Illinois University, and worked two full-time jobs and a part-time job. Southern Illinois, at the time, had a music business program, but it was half of a true music degree and half of a business degree. It wasn't really music business. I ended up going to one of my professors and said, "This isn't really music business. There's a whole side of the industry where people don't play instruments and they don't do recitals. That's what I'm looking to get into." I ended up creating my own curriculum of marketing and music business. They gave me a professor as a point person and before every semester, I would go and present to them what classes I thought I should take and why.



Photo: Courtesy of Missy Roberts

How did that lead you to Nashville?

Stan Marczewski, who is at Broken Bow now, was a year ahead of me at SIU. He had just gotten a job at a management company and had stayed in touch with the recording engineering professor. Stan called in one day and said, "I'd love to help somebody from SIU. Do you have a student that would be interested in internship?" The next day the professor told me, so I cold called Stan and we talked on the phone. I came down for my spring break that year and spent time helping him at the management company. My classes ended on Thursday, so I'd drive the three hour drive from SIU to Nashville. I'd help out at Mission Management on Fridays, I'd go out and meet people on Saturday, and then I'd drive back to SIU on Sunday nights and go back to being regular college student for four days.



Photo: Courtesy of Missy Roberts

The summer going into my senior year, he helped me get an internship at Sony in marketing. About a month into that, my supervisor in marketing had been begging me all day to come see this band that she was friends with. She was trying to get **Tracy Gershon**, one of the heads of A&R, to come out and see them. I'd been out with the interns the night before and all day I was like, "I can't do anything else. I'm so tired." At the last minute, I changed my mind.

Tracy came with us and when we were driving to the show, Tracy said, "I don't know I'm going to do. My assistant just told me she's quitting. She gave me two days notice." I made it a point to make a connection with her that night. As soon as she got in the office the next morning, my little intern desk phone started ringing and it was her. I went and sat down in her office and she said, "I sent an email out this morning asking the staff if there's an intern that I should hire since I'm in such a pinch for somebody. There's only one name that came back from everybody in the building and it was yours. Do you want a job?" Two days later, I was working for Tracy Gershon in A&R.

When did you decide you wanted to be in publishing?

Tracy was so, so great. My desk was outside of her office and she would leave her door open, so as publishers came in and met with her, I got to sit outside of her office and just take all of that in. I remember one day sitting outside of her office going, "Wait a minute. So these publishers come in here with songs that they love and they play them for her and tell her why she should love them? Because I was that kid in high school. Everybody piled in my car on Friday nights. It was me with my mixtape and a captive audience going, "Here's why you need to like this song. Check out this artist; this is why they're great."

When Sony merged with RCA, Tracy left and went to Warner Bros. and couldn't take me with her. That's when I got into publishing and I've been in it ever since.

What was your path from that point?

I went to a really small publishing company here in town for about a year called Island Bound Music. The only writer that they had at the time was **Steven Dale Jones**. They closed that down and turned it into day-to-day management, so I was back in the management thing where I first interned and just not where I was supposed to be. I found out that Disney Music Publishing was starting an office in Nashville. **Philip White**, who was a really good friend of Steven Dale Jones, was in our office one day writing with Steven. He was like, "You should call Disney and see if there's a position open."

I helped start the Nashville office from scratch [with **Lisa Ramsay**]. Disney had never had a Nashville publishing company before, so there was no design of how it works. We had this blank slate. Lisa was really great about trusting me to figure it out. That accelerated my learning way more than it would have if I were to stay where I was.

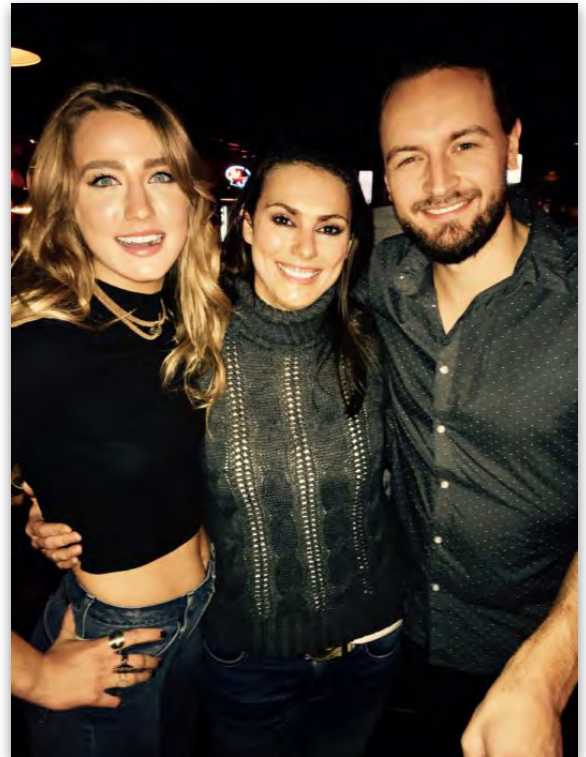


Photo: Courtesy of Missy Roberts

Next I went to a company called Stage Three. It was me and **Tim Hunze**. I was there for five years and had a really great run. BMG bought us and then **Ben Vaughn** called me. He had just started running EMI. I went to EMI and got to work very closely with Ben and learned a lot in that process. That was a pretty scary, big change. All my publishing experience to that point was indie, small publishing companies where you're really close with your writers. You see them every day and you talk to them every day because you've got the time to. That's the foundation of how I learned publishing and getting thrown into a major for the first time is a major learning curve.

What got you to UMPG?

I was at EMI for two years and we sold to Sony. When we merged with Sony, there we now had like 180 writers. In my head I was going, "This just isn't for me. This isn't how I learned publishing." I was looking to make a move back to the indie world.

Then **Kent Earls** called me. He had just taken over UMPG Nashville. When I met with Kent, I realized how different Universal is. We operate so differently from the other majors. It really is about time and intention—it's an indie mindset for a global company with global access. I've been here for 10 years now. **Troy Tomlinson** has been an incredible addition because he is an amazing leader, but he's kept all the great things about it and just made better some of the things that needed to change. It's been the perfect blend.



Photo: Courtesy of Missy Roberts

When do you feel most fulfilled in what you do?

When I feel like there's been an impact made, whether I've had an opportunity to make an impact on a songwriter or an artist, or if somebody's made an impact on me. That's truly what fulfills me. At this, this point in my career, I have been very blessed that I've pitched or facilitated number ones and some songs of the year and helped artists get record deals. But the whole thing is for me, did that help somebody? Did that make their life better? Did that help a dream of theirs come true? That's what motivates me. That's what moves me.

You will be honored at *MusicRow's* Rising Women on the Row breakfast on Oct. 20. What are you most proud of when you look back on your career so far?

I'm most proud that 18 out of my 19 years in town have been with what, to me, is the foundation, root and lifeline of this business: the songwriter. Getting to work with them every day is something that I'm really proud of. **MR**

Sony Music Publishing Announces One New Hire, One Promotion In Creative Department



Aubrey Rupe & Synnovea Halsel

Sony Music Publishing Nashville has announced an addition and promotion within its creative team. **Aubrey Rupe** has joined the team as Senior Director, Creative, and **Synnovea Halsel** has been promoted to Manager, Creative.

"We are incredibly lucky to welcome Aubrey to the team and for Synnovea to take on this new role," notes **Josh Van Valkenburg**, EVP Creative, Sony Music Publishing Nashville. "Aubrey is highly respected within the Music Row community as a champion of great songs and a rainmaker for songwriters. Synnovea's rapid ascent among the next generation of publishing creatives has been exciting to see, and this is just the beginning. I look forward to working alongside Aubrey and Synnovea as we continue to deliver exceptional service to all SMP Nashville's songwriters."

In her new role, Rupe is responsible for advancing the company's A&R initiatives, signing and working closely with talent, and delivering opportunities for collaboration and creative development across SMP Nashville's roster. Previously, she spent nine years at Young Guns Publishing, where she served as VP, Creative and worked alongside writers Ben Stennis, Jared Mullins and singer-songwriter Jackie Lee.

Halsel, who joined the company in 2021, has recently signed top emerging talent, including breakthrough singer-songwriter Madeleine Edwards, while also working closely with songwriters including Jaren Johnston, Zach Kale, and Ella Langley. **MR**

Toby Keith To Receive BMI Icon Award At Upcoming 2022 BMI Country Awards



BMI will celebrate **Toby Keith** at the 70th annual BMI Country Awards by presenting him with the BMI Icon Award.

Held at BMI's Nashville office on Nov. 8, the ceremony will be hosted by BMI President and CEO **Mike O'Neill** and BMI Vice President, Creative, Nashville **Clay Bradley**. During the evening, BMI will also crown the Country Songwriter, Song and Publisher of the Year, as well as salute the writers and publishers of the 50 most-performed songs of the year from BMI's country catalog.

In 2021, Keith was bestowed the National Medal of Arts, inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, and honored with the ACM's Merle Haggard Spirit Award. He has received the BMI Country Songwriter of the Year award three times, and his hit single "As Good As I Once Was" was awarded BMI's Country Song of the Year in 2006.

Keith also achieved quite the songwriting feat as he wrote a No. 1 hit every year for 20 straight years, among them being "How Do You Like Me Now?!", "Courtesy of the Red, White, & Blue (The Angry American)," "I Love This Bar," "Beer For My Horses" and "As Good As I Once Was." In 2018, he celebrated the 25th anniversary of his debut No. 1 single "Should've Been A Cowboy" with the re-release of his debut album.

Throughout his career, Keith has sold more than 40 million albums and has had 32 singles hit No. 1. As a songwriter, he's notched 26 No. 1s, 11 of which he wrote on his own. Altogether, he has garnered more than 10 billion streams and 100 million radio spins.

More details regarding the upcoming 2022 BMI Country Awards will be announced in the coming weeks. **MR**

Lainey Wilson To Be Honored As Breakout Artist Of The Year At 2022 CMT Artists Of The Year



Lainey Wilson. Photo: Alysse Gaffkenon

Lainey Wilson will be honored as Breakout Artist of the Year at the upcoming 2022 CMT Artists Of The Year, premiering Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. CT on CMT.

Wilson has a growing string of No. 1s, including the Platinum-certified "Things A Man Oughta Know" and "Never Say Never" with Cole Swindell. Her two latest singles, "Heart Like a Truck" and "wait in the truck" with Hardy, both continue to climb the charts as she readies to drop her new album, *Bell Bottom Country*, on Oct. 28.

This year, she has garnered three wins at 2022 ACM Awards and is the leading nominee at November's CMA Awards, where she notches six nods. Wilson will also play upcoming dates with Luke Combs, and this fall will make her acting debut on the series *Yellowstone*.

Broadcasting from Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center, the evening will salute **Carly Pearce, Cody Johnson, Kane Brown, Luke Combs** and **Walker Hayes** with special performances, guests and congratulatory moments. **Alan Jackson** will be named Artist of a Lifetime.

Additional honorees, performers and presenters for the 90-minute special will be announced soon. **MR**

SESAC Promotes Rose Cook To SVP Of Operations



SESAC Music Group announced the promotion of **Rose Cook** to SVP of Operations.

In her new role, the Nashville-based Cook will report to SESAC Music Group's Chief Operations Officer **Malcolm Hawker**, and work with the team across the entire portfolio of SESAC companies to drive efficiencies and growth opportunities.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to expand Rose's operations role out to the SESAC Music Group portfolio," shares Hawker. "She will continue to drive value for our affiliates, songwriters, publishers and licensing partners by ensuring we are operating at the highest level across all of the SESAC Music Group companies."

Cook, who was recently named a member of the Leadership Music Class of 2023, was formerly the SVP of Licensing Operations at SESAC. She has been responsible for the operations of the licensing organization, and has restructured and rebuilt digital processes and systems, implemented cross-training programs, and streamlined workflows which have led to improved licensing efficiency and growth.

Prior to joining SESAC in 2017, Cook worked in the financial services industry, spending time at Citigroup, Oppenheimer and most recently Goldman Sachs. **MR**

Sony Music Nashville Ups Nicole Marinake To VP, Partnership Marketing & New Ventures



Nicole Marinake. Photo: Matthew Berinato

Sony Music Nashville has announced the promotion of **Nicole Marinake** to Vice President, Partnership Marketing and New Ventures. She previously held the role of Senior Director, Partnership Marketing since 2017.

In her new role, Marinake will work closely with SMN's regional Promotion and Artist Development team to expand both the label and its artist footprint in the branding space, specifically on a regional level. Reporting to Senior Vice President, Marketing, **Jennifer Way**, Marinake will explore and bring in new opportunities for the label group in the areas of new technology, innovation, gaming and web3.

She will also continue to oversee all national brand partnership efforts, as well as continue to build the Sony Music Nashville Live brand which launched in 2018 for a SXSW activation with Budweiser, marking the first country music takeover the festival has ever had.

Prior to joining SMN, Marinake spent time at The Madison Square Garden Company where she forged innovative partnerships in the live music space with blue chip brands like Anheuser-Busch, JP Morgan Chase and more. **MR**

Kelsea Ballerini Masters Vulnerable Songwriting On *Subject To Change* [Interview]



Kelsea Ballerini. Photo: Daniel Prakopcyk

For her fourth studio album, multi-Platinum singer-songwriter **Kelsea Ballerini** found herself reflecting on a season of change in her life.

Her third studio album, *Kelsea*, was released March 20, 2020, just as the world began to feel the thundering start of the pandemic, which put a damper on the project's release. Though the record performed well, debuting at No. 2 and 12 on the Top Country Albums and *Billboard* 200 charts, respectively, and spawning four official singles, such as "Hole in the Bottle" and "Half of My Hometown," Ballerini was open about her disappointment in the timing of the release.

With the pandemic raging on through 2020 and 2021, Ballerini did what a lot of creatives did: took some time to herself, reflected on her life, and wrote songs. She emerged with 15 new songs and a sharp creative vision for her fourth studio album, *Subject To Change*.

To read *MusicRow*'s full interview with Ballerini, [click here](#). **MR**

MORE TOP STORIES

[Music Row Pays Tribute To Loretta Lynn](#)

[Bobby Karl Works The Room: California Country-Rock Storms Country Music Hall Of Fame](#)

[Jon Pardi Closes 'Ain't Always The Cowboy Tour' With Special Nashville Night](#)

[Nashville's Music Industry Gathers To Honor Jordan Davis Two Times Over](#)

[Ashley McBryde To Join The Grand Ole Opry Family](#)

[Zach Williams Takes Fans Down 'A Hundred Highways' With New Album \[Interview\]](#)

[Billy Strings, Bela Fleck Win Big At 2022 IBMA Awards](#)

[LeAnn Rimes To Receive ASCAP Golden Note Award](#)

[Grand Ole Opry To Honor Loretta Lynn During Its 97th Birthday Week Shows](#)

[Kate Willingham Rises To Manager & Director Of Digital At Activist Artists Management](#)

[Musicians Hall Of Fame Founder Joe Chambers Passes](#)

[Brooke Mansfield Joins Riser House As Sr. Director Of Digital Strategy](#)

[Kelly Prince Named Director Of Event Sales & Services At Cannery Hall](#)

[Adam Doleac Inks With UTA](#)

[Singer-Songwriter Mackenzie Carpenter Signs With WME](#)

[Georgia Price Joins Smack Management Team](#)

On The Cover: *MusicRow*'s Publisher Print Issue Features Maddie & Tae On Cover



MusicRow Magazine has released its 2022 Publisher Issue print edition. Mercury Nashville's **Maddie & Tae** are featured on its cover.

Maddie & Tae first broke out in 2013 with their brilliant counter to bro-country, the Platinum-selling smash, "Girl In A Country Song," which skyrocketed to the top of the charts and established them as only the third female duo in 70 years to top the Country Airplay charts. They took home Group/Duo Video of the Year ("Woman You Got") at the 2022 CMT Music Awards, and were nominated a seventh time for Vocal Duo of the Year at the 55th CMA Awards. They have earned trophies from the Radio Disney Music Awards and CMA Awards, along with ACM, *Billboard* and CMT Award nominations. Maddie & Tae have received widespread praise from *Associated Press*, *Billboard*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *NPR*, *The Tennessean*, *The Washington Post*, *Glamour* and others. The duo has toured with country music's hottest stars including Carrie Underwood, Dierks Bentley, Brad Paisley, and Brett Young. They are currently headlining the "CMT Next Women of Country Tour Presents: All Song No Static Tour in 2022," hitting major markets coast-to-coast.

The award-winning duo channel their unbreakable bond, honest songwriting and "some of the tightest harmonies on Music Row" (*Rolling Stone*) into their new collection of songs *Through The Madness Vol. 2*. Together as

longtime friends and music collaborators, **Maddie Font** and **Taylor Kerr** co-wrote each of the project's tracks, as well as all 8 songs on *Through The Madness Vol. 1*, including their most recent single, "Woman You Got," plus fan-favorite song "Strangers." The pair drew praise for their No. 1 debuting *The Way It Feels* album, including the Double Platinum-certified No. 1 hit, "Die From A Broken Heart." With "Die From A Broken Heart" topping the country airplay charts, Maddie & Tae became the first and only female twosome with multiple No. 1s.

Inside, *MusicRow*'s annual Publisher Issue includes the 2022 Publisher Directory, listing Nashville's top publishing companies, as well as organizations and services available for songwriters.

"Not unlike Leonardo da Vinci creating the Mona Lisa, our own Nashville tunesmiths create masterworks of art. Our annual Publisher print edition is dedicated to this segment of our industry: the masterful songwriters who write the stories, and the publishers and team members who stand with them," says *MusicRow* Magazine Owner/Publisher **Sherod Robertson** of the issue.

For the 2022 Publisher Issue, *MusicRow* brings back its State of the Union roundtable, this time featuring UMPG's **Cyndi Forman**, Sony Music Publishing's **Josh Van Valkenburg**, Endurance Music's **Michael Martin**, Warner

Chappell's **Jessi Vaughn Stevenson**, and Tape Room Music's **Kelly Bolton**. Elsewhere, *MusicRow* taps veteran attorney **Jess L. Rosen** to explain the recent uptick in catalog sales.

Also featured in this issue is an opinion piece from **Ben Vaughn** on cutting outside songs, a glimpse into Prescription Songs' multi-genre success, and a look back at Nashville's history of No. 1 parties. Additionally, this issue also offers conversations with NSAI's **Bart Herbison** and Reel Muzik Werks' **Teri Nelson Carpenter**.

MusicRow's 2022 Publisher Issue also highlights the work and careers of some of Nashville's most in-demand songwriters, including Sony Music Publishing's **Elle King**, 50 Egg Music/UMPG's **Shane Minor**, Big Loud's **Jamie Moore**, BMG's **Emily Landis**, Boom Music Group/Warner Chappell's **Chris Tompkins** and SMACK's **Josh Jenkins**.

Single copies of *MusicRow*'s 2022 Publisher Issue are available for purchase at musicrow.com for \$45, and are included with yearly *MusicRow* [subscriptions](#). **MR**

Influence Media Acquires Blake Shelton's Catalog, Creates Joint Venture For Artist-Driven Profit Share

Influence Media Partners has invested in country superstar **Blake Shelton**'s master recordings catalog, which includes all of his commercial releases from 2001 to 2019. The two parties also created a joint venture, partnering to amplify his works and entitling Shelton to participate in a share of the profit generated. Warner Music Group will continue to lead distribution for the catalog, which has sold more than 10 million albums worldwide.

From his debut through 2019, the Grammy nominated entertainer accumulated 27 No. 1 singles on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart, including "Boys 'Round Here," "Honeybee," "Nobody But You" (with **Gwen Stefani**), "God's Country" and his 2001 smash hit "Austin." Shelton's discography through the agreement period consists of 11 studio LP's, including a Christmas album, and two EP's. His catalog also spans three compilation albums: *Fully Loaded: God's Country* (2019), *Reloaded: 20 #1 Hits* (2015), and *Loaded: The Best of Blake Shelton* (2010).

"I can't believe it's been 20 years since my first album and single. Sometimes I still feel like the kid from Oklahoma I was back then! While a lot has changed during that time, my passion for music hasn't," Shelton explains. "I'm excited to be working with **Lylette [Pizarro]**, **Rene [McLean]** and the team at Influence Media on so much of my catalog and to introduce my songs to the next generation of country fans."

"Blake is one of the most important artists, not only in our genre, but also in the wider world of music and television. We are excited about the opportunity to introduce Blake's music to more fans, and we look forward to our partnership with Influence," Warner Music Nashville Co-President **Ben Kline** adds.

Shelton was represented by **Mitch Tenzer** and **David Byrne** of Ziffren Brittenham, LLP. Influence Media Partners were represented by **Lisa Alter**, **Katie Baron** and **Jaclyn Felber** of Alter, Kendrick & Baron, LLP. **MR**



Pictured (L-R): Narvel Blackstock, Rene McLean, Lylette Pizarro, Blake Shelton, Lynn Hazan, John Esposito, and Ben Kline

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Zachary Lane Bryan	Something In The Orange Oklahoma Smokeshow Burn, Burn, Burn	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan
2	2	Ashley Gorley	Take My Name You Didn't Holy Water Gold Girl In Mine You Proof She Had Me At Heads Carolina What He Didn't Do	Parmalee Brett Young Michael Ray Dierks Bentley Parmalee Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Carly Pearce
3	4	Morgan Wallen	Brown Eyes Baby You Proof Wasted On You Wild As Her Thought You Should Know	Keith Urban Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Corey Kent Morgan Wallen
4	3	Ernest Keith Smith	You Proof Wasted On You Son Of A Sinner	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Jelly Roll
5	6	Bailey Zimmerman	Fall In Love Rock and A Hard Place Where It Ends Never Leave	Bailey Zimmerman Bailey Zimmerman Bailey Zimmerman Bailey Zimmerman
6	7	Luke Dick	Gold Don't Come Lookin'	Dierks Bentley Jackson Dean
7	8	Jackson Dean	Don't Come Lookin'	Jackson Dean
8	11	John Fogerty	Joy Of My Life	Chris Stapleton
9	12	Tyler Hubbard	5 Foot 9 Hell Yeah	Tyler Hubbard Little Big Town
10	9	Luke Combs	The Kind of Love We Make Out In The Middle	Luke Combs Zac Brown Band
11	10	Ryan Vojtesak	You Proof Wasted On You	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
12	13	Thomas Rhett	She Had Me At Heads Carolina Half Of Me	Cole Swindell Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green
13	15	Josh Kear	Ghost Story No Body	Carrie Underwood Blake Shelton
14	14	Josh Thompson	Brown Eyes Baby Wasted On You Half Of Me	Keith Urban Morgan Wallen Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green
15	5	Chase McGill	5 Foot 9 Next Thing You Know	Tyler Hubbard Jordan Davis
16	20	Ross Copperman	Note To Self Gold Pick Me Up	Randy Houser Dierks Bentley Gabby Barrett
17	16	Jaren Johnston	5 Foot 9	Tyler Hubbard
18	25	Gavin Lucas	Fall In Love Never Leave	Bailey Zimmerman Bailey Zimmerman
19	26	Austin Shawn	Fall In Love Never Leave	Bailey Zimmerman Bailey Zimmerman
20	27	Jon Nite	You Didn't Pick Me Up	Brett Young Gabby Barrett
21	23	Tony Ferrari	Soul	Lee Brice
22	24	Kevin Kadish	Soul	Lee Brice
23	21	Jason DeFord	Son Of A Sinner	Jelly Roll

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
24	22	David Ray Stevens	Son Of A Sinner	Jelly Roll
25	31	David Garcia	Ghost Story	Carrie Underwood
26	32	Hillary Lindsey	Ghost Story	Carrie Underwood
27	33	Jordan Davis	What My World Spins Around Next Thing You Know	Jordan Davis Jordan Davis
28	28	Dan Isbell	The Kind of Love We Make	Luke Combs
29	29	Reid Isbell	The Kind of Love We Make	Luke Combs
30	30	Jamie Davis	The Kind of Love We Make	Luke Combs
31	37	Lindsay Rimes	Whiskey On You	Nate Smith
32	38	Nate Smith	Whiskey On You	Nate Smith
33	39	Russell Sutton	Whiskey On You	Nate Smith
34	42	Will Bundy	Brown Eyes Baby Half Of Me	Keith Urban Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green
35	40	Ryan Hurd	What My World Spins Around	Jordan Davis
36	41	Matt Dragstrem	What My World Spins Around	Jordan Davis
37	34	Russell Dickerson	She Likes It	Russell Dickerson Feat. Jake Scott
38	35	Jake Scott	She Likes It	Russell Dickerson Feat. Jake Scott
39	36	Josh Kerr	She Likes It	Russell Dickerson Feat. Jake Scott
40	44	Gabby Barrett	Pick Me Up	Gabby Barrett
41	43	Jordan M. Schmidt	Wait In The Truck Like I Love Country Music	Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson Kane Brown
42	48	Rhett Akins	Half Of Me	Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green
43	69	D. Fanning	Take My Name Girl In Mine Tennessee Orange	Parmalee Parmalee Megan Moroney
44	50	Styles Haury	Country On	Luke Combs
45	51	D. Frasier	Country On	Luke Combs
46	52	Mitch Oglesby	Country On	Luke Combs
47	53	Mark Nesler	Country On	Luke Combs
48	59	Hunter Phelps	Holy Water Wait In The Truck	Michael Ray Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson
49	60	Michael Hardy	Holy Water Wait In The Truck	Michael Ray Hardy feat. Lainey Wilson
50	54	Rykeyz	Wishful Drinking	Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt
51	55	Lucky Daye	Wishful Drinking	Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt
52	56	Jonny Price	Wishful Drinking	Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt
53	57	JP Saxe	Wishful Drinking	Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt
54	58	Ingrid Andress	Wishful Drinking	Ingrid Andress with Sam Hunt
55	49	Matt McGinn	Like I Love Country Music Party Mode	Kane Brown Dustin Lynch
56	61	Jesse Frasure	She Had Me At Heads Carolina	Cole Swindell
57	62	Cole Swindell	She Had Me At Heads Carolina	Cole Swindell
58	63	Mark D. Sanders	She Had Me At Heads Carolina	Cole Swindell
59	64	Tim Nichols	She Had Me At Heads Carolina	Cole Swindell
60	17	Matt Alderman	Truth About You Can't Have Mine	Mitchell Tenpenny Dylan Scott

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

October 7

Alex Miller/*When God Made The South*/Billy Jam Records

Jordan James/*Bigger Small Town*/AMG Records/The Orchard

Jeff Garrison/*Good People*/Penumbra Records

Jeff Garrison/*Morphine Lips*/Penumbra Records

Zac Hart/*Body Language*

October 14

Derek Austin/*Make Me Hate You*/Mailbox Money Records

Clay Hollis/*Missin' You Missin' Me*

Album/EP Releases

October 7

Avery Anna/*Mood Swings*/Warner Nashville

Everette/*Kings of the Dairy Queen Parking Lot: Side B*/BBR

Caleb Caudle/*Forsythia*/Soundly Music

October 14

Bailey Zimmerman/*Leave The Light On*/Warner Nashville/Elektra

Callista Clark/*Real To Me: The Way I Feel*/Big Machine Records

Sam Williams/*Glasshouse Children: Tilted Crown*/Mercury Nashville

Pillbox Patti/*Florida*/Monument Records

Kylie Morgan/*Songs To Say I Do*/EMI

Industry Events

October 9 – 11

IEBA

October 14

CMT Artists of the Year

October 20

MusicRow's Rising Women on the Row

October 30

Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala