

**RIAA & Garth Brooks Honor Charley Pride Posthumously With Lifetime Achievement Award**



Dion Pride accepts the RIAA Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of his father, Charley Pride, from Garth Brooks at the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville, Tennessee on Oct. 25, 2021. Photo: Blue Rose Inc.

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Monday night (Oct. 25), members of the music industry gathered at the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) in Nashville to honor the late country music trailblazer **Charley Pride** with the RIAA Lifetime Achievement Award. The honor was posthumously presented by **Garth Brooks**, another country music giant, in his own right.

Pride, who spent over 50 years as a recording artist, enjoyed one of the most successful years in country music and became the first Black superstar within the format.

Throughout his career, Pride sold millions of records worldwide with his expansive repertoire of hits, earning three Grammy awards. He was the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year in 1971 and the Top Male Vocalist of 1971 and 1972. Pride also received the Crossroads of American Music Award At the 2019 Grammy Museum Mississippi Gala in November of 2019, and the Country Music Association's Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award one year later in November 2020 before his death on Dec. 12.

**Jackie Jones**, VP of Artist & Industry Relations at RIAA, kicked off the night to welcome the intimate crowd, as well as introduce the President & CEO of NMAAM, **H. Beecher Hicks, III**.



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“When this museum was conceived, it was really for moments just like this,” Hicks explained. “[It was created] to honor incredible artists just like Charley Pride, to bridge generations, and connect people and communities. The NMAAM provides a platform for discussions like these and a place for anyone—from a local songwriter to a towering global superstar—to reflect on the music and the artists that have shaped our lives, our culture, and our nation.”

RIAA Chairman & CEO **Mitch Glazier** took the stage to share his thanks to the Pride family, the museum, and to Brooks, who Glazier explained came up with the idea for the night’s festivities to celebrate Pride, his friend of 25 years.

Joining Brooks for an enlightening Q&A was a fellow, celebrated music trailblazer, **Alice Randall**. Now a professor in Vanderbilt University’s Department of African-American and Diaspora Studies, Randall was one of the first Black women to co-write a country hit (“XXX’s And OOO’s” recorded by Trisha Yearwood) and has gone on to co-write more than twenty other recorded songs. She has published extensively on Black artists in country music and teaches courses on The Country Lyric in American Culture and Black Country.

Together, Brooks and Randall took time to discuss the legacy of Charley Pride in country music and in American music at large, the influence that Pride had on Brooks’ music, Pride’s last recording with Brooks, and more.

Pride’s first single, “The Snakes Crawl At Night,” was released in 1966, and his first No. 1 came three years later with “All I Have To Offer You Is Me.” When asked about his favorite Pride single, Brooks was unable to name just one, listing off hits like “Is Anybody Goin’ To San Antone” and “Mountain of Love,” breaking out his guitar to sing a snippet of each.

“I hear Charley Pride in Garth Brooks music so much... His influence on me was probably greater than I thought,” Brooks shared. “He was a big influence on my mom too. Her favorite song was ‘Kiss An Angel Good Morning,’” to which he also gave a preview of.

As Brooks was first coming onto the music scene in 1989 with “Much Too Young (To Feel This Damn Old),” Pride was closing on his first quarter of a century in country music. Pride’s influence on Brooks was undeniable as Brooks said he couldn’t remember the radio without Pride on it, becoming an integral part of his childhood.

“When you talk about influences and what his music means to people, for me it’s that he never seemed like he doubted himself when he stepped up to the mic, so therefore he sold it to me, my mom, and to a lot of other people. The RIAA number of records he sold would prove that,” Brooks said with a laugh. “That was something you learned as a kid before you got into the business, like ‘Son, if you’re gonna do this, don’t leave any of you out. Let’s bring everything you’ve got.’ That’s what [Charley] specialized in,” Brooks explained.

“[Charley Pride] was a freak of nature. He was gifted beyond belief and was so humble about his gifts,” he added. “It’s easy to stay humble in this business when you know that if Charley Pride had sang ‘If Tomorrow Never Comes,’ it would’ve been a bigger song... It’s really sweet to get to hang around guys that cheered you on and actually wanted you to do better than them. [Charley] sincerely wanted you to do better than he did.”

[Click here to read more from the event honoring Charley Pride.](#)



Garth Brooks. Photo: Diana King

## Waylon Jennings Estate Inks Management Deal With WME



WME's Legends group, a management company focused on estate, legacy artist and brand management, has partnered with the estate of Country Music Hall of Fame member **Waylon Jennings**.

The late country icon's wife, CMA and Grammy winning artist and songwriter **Jessi Colter**, and their son, artist and producer **Shooter Jennings**, will work with WME Legends to manage Waylon's name, image, likeness and intellectual property rights and assets.

"WME Legends is proud to be working with Jessi Colter, Shooter Jennings and the Waylon Jennings estate. Waylon is considered the most important force in country's outlaw movement—not only creatively but also for the business standard he set for other artists to strive for in their musical freedom," says **Phil Sandhaus**, head of WME Legends.

Waylon Jennings is one of the founding pioneers of the outlaw movement in country music.

His albums released in the '70s are some of his most renowned work, including *Lonesome, On'ry and Mean* and *Honky Tonk Heroes*. In 1976, Waylon released *Wanted! The Outlaws* which included songs by himself, his wife Jessi Colter, **Willie Nelson**, and **Tompall Glaser**. It became the first album in country music history to be certified Platinum.

Waylon was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2001, and died in February of 2002. **MR**

## Sony Music Publishing To Administer Gregg Allman Catalog



Sony Music Publishing has announced it has signed a global agreement with the estate of the legendary singer-songwriter **Gregg Allman** to administer its catalog of songs. The deal encompasses many of Allman's compositions from his time as a member of the **Allman Brothers Band**, as well as songs written throughout his enduring solo career.

Widely regarded as one of the most iconic rock and roll songwriters, Allman blended elements from blues, jazz, rock and country into his sound.

Sony Music Publishing President & Global Chief Marketing Officer, **Brian Monaco** says, "Gregg Allman is without a doubt one of the greatest rock and roll songwriters of all time. On behalf of all of us at Sony Music Publishing, we are honored to partner with his estate to support his incredible catalog, and we look forward to creating new opportunities for his songs."

His five-decade career earned him numerous accolades including the Allman Brothers Band's 1995 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 at The 54th Annual Grammy Awards; several Grammy nominations; and more. The iconic singer-songwriter died in 2017 due to complications from liver cancer.

**Michael Lehman**, Allman's longtime manager and friend, adds, "I am very pleased to begin this partnership with Brian Monaco and the Sony Music Publishing team to build upon Gregg Allman's legacy. I look forward to bringing his music to new generations of fans and inspiring audiences around the world." **MR**

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

## CHART ACTION

### New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

*song/artist/label—Chart Position*

- Damn Strait**/Scotty McCreery/Triple Tigers Records — 74
- Let Me Know**/Smith & Wesley/Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville — 75
- The Best Night**/Tom Sexton/Lots To Do Music — 76
- Chaser**/Frankie Justin/SMG Records — 77
- Think About Me**/Maggie Baugh — 80

### Greatest Spin Increase

*song/artist/label—Spin Increase*

- If I Was A Cowboy**/Miranda Lambert/Vanner Records/RCA Records — 243
- Come Back As A Country Boy**/Blake Shelton/Warner Music Nashville — 154
- Up**/Luke Bryan/Capitol — 120
- Thinking 'Bout You**/Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter/Broken Bow — 109
- Sand In My Boots**/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud Records — 91

### Most Added

*song/artist/label—No. of Adds*

- If I Was A Cowboy**/Miranda Lambert/Vanner Records/RCA Records — 13
- Hangin'**/Donny Lee/Donny Lee Music — 8
- Damn Strait**/Scotty McCreery/Triple Tigers Records — 7
- Up**/Luke Bryan/Capitol — 5

### On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

*song/artist/label—No. of Spins*

- Midnight Goodbye**/Lucie Tiger/2120 Music — 159
- New Wings**/Alyssa Bonagura/ABON MUSIC — 158
- I Don't Live There Anymore**/Andrew Marshall/Serenity Records — 152
- Ain't Doing Something Right**/After Midtown/The Core/10th St. — 145
- Somebody Else's**/Chloe Collins /Collins House Music — 139

## NO. 1 SONG



**Jordan Davis** earns his fifth CountryBreakout Challenge Coin this week for his single, “Buy Dirt,” featuring Luke Bryan. This week, the single was certified Gold by the RIAA and it received a nomination for Musical Event of the Year for the upcoming 55th Annual CMA Awards, marking the first CMA nomination in Davis’ career.

“Buy Dirt” is the title track to Davis’ latest EP released in May of this year. The single was co-written by Davis, Jacob Davis, Josh Jenkins, and Matt Jenkins.

Davis is currently on his [Buy Dirt Tour](#) through December with support from MacKenzie Porter and Seaforth.



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

## MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

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

# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
15	2	1	<b>Buy Dirt / Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan / MCA Nashville</b>	1903/68	5	90
17	3	2	<b>Heart On Fire / Eric Church / EMI Records Nashville</b>	1743/67	1	15
17	1	3	<b>Cold As You / Luke Combs / Columbia/River House Artists</b>	1727/50	-6	-103
10	5	4	<b>Sand In My Boots / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud Records</b>	1628/64	6	91
25	9	5	<b>Thinking 'Bout You / Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter / Broken Bow</b>	1524/52	8	109
14	6	6	<b>If I Didn't Love You / Jason Aldean &amp; Carrie Underwood / Broken Bow/Macon Music/Capitol</b>	1513/39	-1	-16
31	7	7	<b>Chasing After You / Ryan Hurd w/ Maren Morris / Arista Nashville</b>	1496/44	-2	-26
35	8	8	<b>Knowing You / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville</b>	1455/44	-1	-18
10	12	9	<b>One Mississippi / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville</b>	1410/54	7	89
40	10	10	<b>To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville</b>	1403/60	1	12
28	11	11	<b>Half Of My Hometown / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment</b>	1388/57	0	2
27	13	12	<b>It's Cause I Am / Callista Clark / Big Machine</b>	1351/56	2	30
42	14	13	<b>Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records</b>	1281/57	2	28
45	15	14	<b>Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville</b>	1278/46	3	42
12	16	15	<b>Best Thing Since Backroads / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records</b>	1232/64	5	55
10	17	16	<b>Wild Hearts / Keith Urban / Capitol</b>	1162/59	2	22
7	21	17	<b>23 / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville</b>	1056/55	8	82
20	20	18	<b>Never Mine / Craig Campbell / Grindstone Records</b>	1029/54	4	35
36	19	19	<b>Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville</b>	1001/50	-2	-19
6	22	20	<b>Never Wanted To Be That Girl / Carly Pearce and Ashley McBryde / Big Machine/WMN</b>	972/62	5	45
4	26	21	<b>Come Back As A Country Boy / Blake Shelton / Warner Music Nashville</b>	963/54	19	154
13	23	22	<b>Beers On Me / Dierks Bentley feat. BRELAND &amp; HARDY / Capitol</b>	946/52	6	55
18	24	23	<b>Old School / Toby Keith / Show Dog Nashville</b>	895/51	4	34
27	25	24	<b>I'm Not For Everyone / Brothers Osborne / EMI Records Nashville</b>	831/44	0	-4
14	28	25	<b>7500 OBO / Tim McGraw / Big Machine</b>	796/45	4	30
23	29	26	<b>Back Then, Right Now / Tenille Arts / 19th &amp; Grand Records</b>	795/48	4	29
26	27	27	<b>Fill Them Boots / Chris Lane / Big Loud Records</b>	771/43	-4	-29
35	31	28	<b>I Can't / Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion / Monument Records</b>	756/44	4	27
32	30	29	<b>My Masterpiece / Darius Rucker / Capitol</b>	742/38	-2	-17
4	36	30	<b>Up / Luke Bryan / Capitol</b>	720/43	20	120
35	32	31	<b>Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records</b>	717/36	2	14
14	35	32	<b>Get To Work Whiskey / Ward Davis / Ward Davis/Thirty Tigers Records</b>	683/46	8	49
21	34	33	<b>Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) / Elle King &amp; Miranda Lambert / RCA Nashville</b>	624/36	-3	-16
22	37	34	<b>Local Honey / Mo Pitney / Curb</b>	609/30	2	12
2	54	35	<b>If I Was A Cowboy / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records</b>	593/41	69	243
17	38	36	<b>How Far Can It Go? / Hailey Whitters feat. Trisha Yearwood / Big Loud/S&amp;D/Pigasus</b>	557/32	-2	-9
9	39	37	<b>New Truck / Dylan Scott / Curb</b>	556/37	9	44
10	40	38	<b>Steal My Love / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville</b>	538/35	9	43
15	41	39	<b>Grow Up / Ian Flanigan feat. Blake Shelton / Reviver Records</b>	524/34	8	38
9	43	40	<b>Sunrise Tells The Story / Midland / Big Machine</b>	477/33	3	14



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
22	42	41	<b>Princess / Dallas Remington / RoadWarrior Records</b>	464/29	-4	-19
14	44	42	<b>Am I The Only One / Aaron Lewis / Valory</b>	460/25	5	23
7	46	43	<b>Stealing Home / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records</b>	451/33	18	69
6	50	44	<b>All It Cost Me Was Everything / Cody Jinks / Late August Records</b>	402/37	9	33
9	53	45	<b>Broke It Down / Brian Callihan / Reviver Records</b>	396/29	12	41
9	49	46	<b>They Don't Make 'Em Like That No More / Travis Tritt / Big Noise</b>	383/24	3	11
11	52	47	<b>Record High / Randall King / Warner Music Nashville</b>	378/28	5	19
17	47	48	<b>Rub A Little Dirt On It / Chase Likens / On The Green</b>	377/20	1	2
16	48	49	<b>Hillbilly Shake / AC Thomas / Birmingham Entertainment</b>	375/26	0	0
8	56	50	<b>I Know A Girl / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Entertainment</b>	348/27	4	14
5	63	51	<b>'Til You Can't / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville</b>	347/21	19	56
12	57	52	<b>Hometown In My Headlights / JD Shelburne / JD Shelburne Music LLC</b>	344/20	6	18
15	59	53	<b>Walking In Your Wonderful Light / Rhonda Towns / Dawn Records</b>	337/17	10	30
9	55	54	<b>Wilder Days / Morgan Wade / Ladylike Records</b>	336/23	-1	-2
11	58	55	<b>These Boots Were Made To Dance / Timothy Baker &amp; Clayton Smalley / YN Records</b>	327/24	3	10
7	61	56	<b>Music Man / Shane Owens / AmeriMonte Records</b>	319/25	9	25
6	62	57	<b>At the End Of A Bar / Chris Young feat. Mitchell Tenpenny / RCA Nashville</b>	309/21	5	16
19	60	58	<b>Evangeline / Sammy Kershaw / White Mustang Records</b>	295/19	-2	-7
3	69	59	<b>Bye Mom / Chris Janson / Warner Music Nashville</b>	294/22	13	34
6	64	60	<b>Honky - Tonk / Josiah Siska / Black River Entertainment</b>	284/24	2	6
8	66	61	<b>Hit Me Up / Josh Kinney / Birmingham Entertainment</b>	281/22	6	16
13	68	62	<b>Please Don't Let Me / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville</b>	266/22	1	2
10	65	63	<b>The American Face / The Isaacs / House of Isaacs</b>	259/18	-3	-9
8	70	64	<b>Who Cares / Filmore / Curb</b>	258/16	1	2
2	79	65	<b>With A Woman You Love / Justin Moore / Valory</b>	254/20	37	68
5	73	66	<b>Shuffle / Laci Kaye Booth / BMLG</b>	252/24	9	20
17	67	67	<b>Better Than You're Used To / Tyler Rich / Valory</b>	251/18	-5	-14
27	51	68	<b>That Ain't Me No More / Matt Stell / RECORDS/Arista Nashville</b>	249/18	-33	-120
7	72	69	<b>Blue Collar / Kevin McCoy Band / Honky Tonk Hippie</b>	246/14	4	9
9	71	70	<b>Version Of Me / Emily Rose / Growing Rose Recording Co.</b>	233/15	-3	-7
4	74	71	<b>It's Gettin' There / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records</b>	221/19	6	13
5	76	72	<b>The Way Whitley Done It / Adam Whitehead / 32South</b>	214/14	5	10
3	80	73	<b>Heart First / Jennifer Belle / JGSII Records</b>	213/16	15	27
1	91	74	<b>Damn Strait / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records</b>	205/19	56	74
1	81	75	<b>Let Me Know / Smith &amp; Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville</b>	195/20	9	16
1	82	76	<b>The Best Night / Tom Sexton / Lots To Do Music</b>	194/18	9	16
1	85	77	<b>Chaser / Frankie Justin / SMG Records</b>	181/13	10	16
2	84	78	<b>Hard Time / Cash Creek and Larry Stewart / CCB Nashville</b>	180/13	3	6
1	83	79	<b>Think About Me / Maggie Baugh /</b>	176/13	0	0
7	75	80	<b>Hey Dad / Matt Stillwell / 723 Entertainment</b>	161/11	-22	-46

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## Winners Announced For 52nd Annual Dove Awards



The 52nd Annual GMA Dove Awards were held on Tuesday night (Oct. 19) in Nashville before airing Friday night (Oct. 22) on TBN.

**CeCe Winans** and **Jason Ingram** led the night with four awards. Winans took home Gospel Artist of the Year and Ingram won Songwriter of the Year (Non-Artist). **For King & Country** notched three awards, including the coveted Artist of the Year. **Chris Brown** of **Elevation Worship** and **Steven Furtick** also won three awards each, including Song of the Year for “The Blessing.” **Maverick City Music** also claimed New Artist of the Year and Contemporary Artist of the Year went to **We The Kingdom**. **Carrie Underwood** won Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year for her collaboration with Winans, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

The music community reunited after last year’s virtual ceremony with live performances from **Lauren Daigle**, co-host **Natalie Grant**, and a closing rendition of Worship Recorded Song of the Year, “Graves Into Gardens” by Elevation Worship. A handful of special collaborations also took the stage, including **KB** with **Matt Redman**, **Jonathan McReynolds** with **Mali Music**, and **Dante Bowe** with **Kelontae Gavin**.

Chairman of the GMA Board **Roy Morgan** presented **Jackie Patillo** with the first-time Dove Award for Distinguished Leadership. Morgan also announced the new Dove will be an annual award and will be named The Jackie Patillo Leadership Award in the years to come.

“I am speechless. And so honored and so grateful. This is a calling y’all. This is a mission. This is not a job. Even though some days are hard. But, I love you. And I’m grateful,” shared Patillo. “I believe in unity in Christ. I believe we can celebrate our diversity in ways that will show the world that they’ll know we are Christians by our love. I believe in the power of God through the Word and through the message in your songs. So thank you. I’m so grateful and I’m awestruck over this.”

### **Partial List of 2021 Dove Award Winners:**

**Artist of the Year:** For King & Country

**New Artist of the Year:** Maverick City Music

**Contemporary Christian Artist of the Year:** We The Kingdom

**Song of the Year:** “The Blessing”

**Worship Recorded Song of the Year:** “Graves Into Gardens” – Elevation Worship ft. Brandon Lake

**Songwriter of the Year (Artist):** Brandon Lake

**Southern Gospel Artist of the Year:** Ernie Haase & Signature Sound

**Gospel Artist of the Year:** CeCe Winans

**Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” – Carrie Underwood ft. Cece Winans

**Inspirational Film of the Year:** *A Week Away*

**Rap/Hip-Hop Album of the Year:** *His Glory Alone* – KB

**Southern Gospel Album of the Year:** *Change Is Coming* – Joseph Habedank

## Big Loud Records Adds *The Voice* Alum Jake Worthington To Roster

Big Loud Records has added rising country artist **Jake Worthington** to its roster.

Hailing from Texas, Worthington first came on the scene as a finalist on Season 6 of NBC's *The Voice* in 2014, and now joins the Big Loud roster that includes Morgan Wallen, Jake Owen, Chris Lane, Hardy, and more.

With over eight million on-demand streams and more than 230,000 social media followers to his credit, Worthington is also signed to Big Loud for publishing and management.



Jake Worthington. Photo: Chris Hornbuckle

"We're excited to welcome Jake Worthington to the Big Loud Records family," Partner/CEO **Seth England** says. "He's been putting in the work to build his own authentic brand of country music, and we're looking forward to teaming up to get his sound on the map."

"One more piece to the Jake Worthington puzzle has been put down, but it's not finished," Manager **Troy "Tracker" Johnson** shares. "Big Loud Records can't wait to assist Jake in making what will be the honky-tonk album this city has been waiting for."

"Country music is all I've known for a long while," Worthington adds. "It's been my friend, helped me grow and granted me experience and opportunity. I'm honored to work alongside Big Loud Records and am grateful to have a team who wants me to just do what I do—country music. It's a different feeling knowing that everyone around me believes the music I make has its place in country music. A guy couldn't ask for more." **MR**

## Lee Starr Signs With Sony Music Publishing & KP Entertainment



Pictured (L-R): Rusty Gaston, Kerri Edwards, Lee Starr, Aubrey Schwartz, Scott Safford

Rising singer-songwriter and producer **Lee Starr** has signed a worldwide publishing agreement with Sony Music Publishing Nashville and KP Entertainment.

Starr co-wrote Shane's debut single, "My Boy," which reached No. 1 on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart. In the same week, "My Boy" reached the No. 4 spot on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs with 6.6 million U.S. streams.

"I couldn't be more excited for Lee and the team at KP Entertainment," says Sony Music Publishing Nashville CEO **Rusty Gaston**. "Lee's songs are full of heart, and his work ethic is second to none. His potential is endless and I'm looking forward to all that is to come."

"When our Creative Director **Aubrey Schwartz** played some demos of Lee earlier this year, I knew he was someone we had to represent," adds **Kerri Edwards**, Founder, KP Entertainment. "His approach to songwriting and producing is inspiring, along with his drive to work toward those next level goals. Lee is such a great addition to our roster, and I look forward to building this with him." **MR**

## CRB IV Proceedings: NSAI's Bart Herbison On What You Need To Know [Interview]



Copyright Royalty Board (CRB IV), or the Phonorecords IV proceedings, is currently underway to determine the new statutory streaming royalty rate paid to songwriters between the years of 2023 and 2027.

On Oct. 14, National Music Publishers Association (NMPA) President & CEO **David Israelite** made a social media post claiming that a number of digital service providers, including Amazon, Spotify, Apple, Pandora and Google, were proposing the “lowest royalty rates in history.”

The filings aren't public yet, but according to Israelite, “not only do they propose rolling back rates and terms to erase all gains over the last 15 years, but they actually are proposing a structure worse than at any point in the history of interactive streaming.”

Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) Executive Director **Bart Herbison** recently spoke with *MusicRow* to explain what's going on at the CRB IV proceedings, what NSAI and NMPA are fighting for, and how songwriters and the publishing community should respond.

First, Herbison reminds us how the streaming services pay songwriters today. Currently, songwriters receive the greater of a per subscriber payment, a percent of revenue, or a percent of the total content revenue.

At the CRB IV trial, NSAI and NMPA are asking for a fourth revenue stream: a per stream payment. “We're asking for substantial increases,” Herbison tells *MusicRow*. “We are seeking the greater of:

- On the percent of revenue model, we want 20%.
- Total content cost: 40%.
- Per subscriber: \$1.50 per month.
- And per stream: \$0.0015 per stream.”

He explains that while the streaming services claim they are still agreeing to the headline rate of 10.5%, they want to make changes on what is applicable revenue to split.

“Spotify wants massive carve outs that could lead to zero revenue per subscriber on the music side. They redefine bundles in such a way it can allow for a zero rate for music. And Spotify eliminates the safety net of total content costs for songwriters.

“Apple wants 30% of their revenue to be sheltered from defined revenue because of their App Store fees, another 10% to be sheltered for distributor fees, and additional uncapped revenues to be sheltered for miscellaneous fees. That would cut the effective rate significantly,” Herbison says, adding that Apple wants to eliminate the total content cost safety net, expand the family and student discounts, and make the free trial period longer.

All of the other proposals from streaming services are similar in that they aim to change the portion of revenue applicable to the headline rate and to diminish the value of total content. “They also ask that family and student discount plans be redefined or removed from the platforms,” he adds. “We're asking for a new way to get paid, they're asking for us to take significant decreases on what we already got paid by changing the definitions and terms.

“The devil is in the details here. They are going to claim that they don't dispute the headline rate of 10.5%, but they just gut the definition of revenue to where it's essentially tragic.”

NSAI chose and helped brief five songwriters who will testify at CRB IV, which include Autumn Rowe, NSAI President Steve Bogard, Jamie Floyd, Jimmy Yeary, and Angela Hunte. “We tried to represent different genres, ethnicities,

geographical regions, and different eras of music, because those correlate with different concerns that American songwriters have,” Herbison says.

The songwriters will testify sometime in April 2022.

“Pat the back of these five songwriters who are testifying, they have given lots of time already, and this is a scary thing, to get up and testify against streaming services,” he says. “This is David versus Goliath, again.

“It’s BS, and you can quote on me on that, for the streaming corporations to say they care about songwriters, to put out articles that say we need to sit down and have a friendly discussion,” he adds. “How can you have a friendly discussion when some of their proposals take us back more than 15 years ago when we were already dying?”

Ironically, the CRB III trial that raised rates from from 10.5 percent of revenue to 15.1 percent of revenue is still under an appeal by some of the streaming services. Herbison is skeptical that the appeal of CRB III will be resolved before anyone testifies for CRB IV.

## ACM Announces Submission & Voting Timeline, Category Changes For 2022 Awards

The Academy of Country Music has announced the official dates for submissions and ballots for *The 57th Academy of Country Music Awards* coming in 2022.

Submissions for *The 57th Academy of Country Music Awards* are now open. The Academy will accept entries through Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021 at 5 p.m. CT. To submit, [click here](#).

Additionally, the ACM Board of Directors approved changes to the Academy’s Studio Recording Awards’ Guitar Player of the Year category, now splitting it into two awards—individually recognizing Acoustic Guitar Player of the Year and Electric Guitar Player of the Year.

The previously awarded Steel Guitar Player of the Year will now be considered within the existing Specialty Instrument(s) Player of the Year Award category.

In the Radio Awards, the National On-Air Personality of the Year category has also been split to now recognize both a National Weekly On-Air Personality of the Year and a National Daily Personality of the Year.

The Academy of Country Music has also updated the voting security protocols for their Awards, implementing a double-authentication process through a mobile number, rather than through an email address.

### Key dates are as follows:

Submissions Period Opens: Oct. 25, 2021

Submissions Period Closes: Nov. 30, 2021

First Round Voting Main Awards: Jan. 3, 2022 – January 10, 2022

First Round Voting Radio Awards: Jan. 3, 2022 – January 17, 2022

Second Round Voting Main Awards: Jan. 24, 2022 – January 31, 2022

Final Round Voting Radio Awards: Jan. 24, 2022 – February 7, 2022

Final Round Voting Main Awards: Feb. 21, 2022 – February 28, 2022

## Old Crow Medicine Show Signs With ATO Records, Partners With Sally Williams & Red Light Management



Pictured (L-R): Morgan Jahnig, Mason Via, Ketch Secor, Jerry Pentecost, Cory Younts, Mike Harris. Photo: Kit Wood

**Old Crow Medicine Show** has signed with ATO Records; the label that released their 2012 album *Carry Me Back* and their 2014 breakthrough *Remedy*, which won a Grammy for Best Folk Album in 2015. The band joins Black Pumas, Brittany Howard, My Morning Jacket, and more at ATO Records.

Old Crow Medicine Show's **Ketch Secor** says, "We are very happy to be coming home to the ATO family. Their passion for music shows in everything they release and we're just so excited to relaunch our partnership and recommit ourselves to making great records together."

**Jon Salter**, President of ATO Records, adds, "OCMS is one of the great and important American bands. They have always challenged themselves creatively and this new project is testament to that. We're so thrilled and proud to welcome the band back with open arms to the ATO family and we are committed to continue to build their legacy."

The Nashville-based band has also partnered with Red Light Management and **Sally Williams** for management. "Old Crow has influenced countless artists and built a devoted following over the years due to their energetic live shows and relatable music," shares **Coran Capshaw**, founder of Red Light Management. "Red Light is proud to be partnering with Sally Williams to continue the growth of this great band." **MR**

## Hipgnosis Songs Group Signs Co-Publishing Deal With Emily Kroll



Pictured (L-R): TD Ruth, Emily Kroll, Emily Boardman, Pete Robinson

Songwriter **Emily Kroll** has signed a worldwide co-publishing deal with Hipgnosis Songs Group.

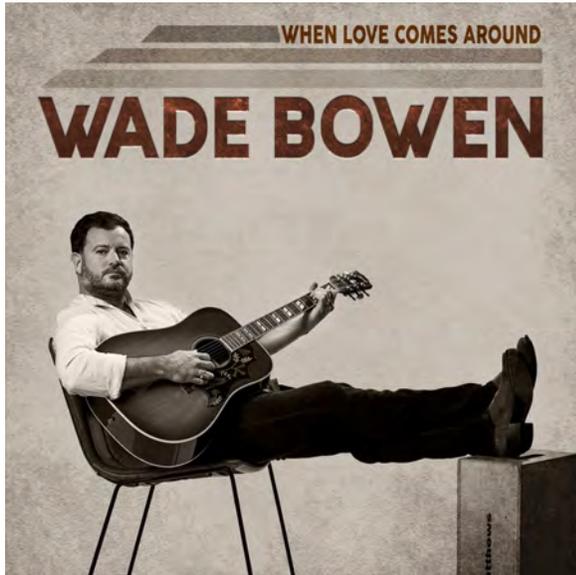
Kroll went to Belmont University and graduated with a degree in social work. She eventually decided to leave social work and pursue her passion for songwriting. Kroll began working at The Listening Room Cafe, where she became good friends with future UMG Nashville artist, Priscilla Block.

Kroll is a co-writer on Block's viral hit and currently charting single, "Just About Over You," and is participating in ASCAP's GPS program for new songwriters.

"We are honored to have Emily join our roster. She is a brilliant young writer, and her career is just getting started," says Hipgnosis Nashville GM, **Pete Robinson**.

"I am so excited to introduce the Nashville music community to Emily," adds Creative Manager, **Emily Boardman**. "She has an amazing work ethic and a knack for lyrics that make her a great addition to the Hipgnosis roster." **MR**

## DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Wade Bowen, George Strait, Muscadine Bloodline



Music City's major labels yield to feisty, independent artists this week.

Despite the presence of strong singles by **George Strait**, **Jon Langston**, **Maddie & Tae**, **Kassi Ashton** and **The Cadillac Three**, the Lone Star State's perennially popular **Wade Bowen** nails down the Disc of the Day award.

Also coming from indie left field is our DISCOVERY Award winner, the duo **Muscadine Bloodline**.

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

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### MORE TOP STORIES

[Chris Stapleton, Gabby Barrett, Morgan Wallen, More Earn Multiple AMA Nominations](#)

[Payton Smith Extends Publishing Agreement With Eclipse Music Group](#)

[Garth Brooks Announces Opry House Show Following Ryman Sell-Outs](#)

[Ryman Hospitality Properties Announces Plans To Acquire Block 21 In Austin, Texas](#)

[Song Suffragettes Hold 3rd Annual Summit With Special Guest Naomi Judd](#)

[Gabby Barrett Shares Plans For 'Goldmine \(Deluxe\)' Coming In November](#)

[Jessica Rosenworcel Nominated As First Female Chair Of The FCC](#)

[Patrick Droney Inks With Mick Management, Plays Hometown Show In Nashville](#)

[Country Star Rose Lee Maphis Dies At Age 98](#)

[Brittney Spencer Slates "In A Perfect World Tour" Kicking Off In December](#)

[Carrie Underwood, Jason Aldean, Chris Stapleton, More Added To CMA Awards Lineup](#)

[Brandi Carlile's 'Right On Time' Shifted To Pop Category For 64th Annual Grammy Awards](#)

[Red Creative Group Signs Matt Koziol To Label, Artist Development Deal](#)

[Locash Taps Into Childhood Memories On 'Woods & Water'](#)

[Maddie & Tae To Headline 2022 "CMT Next Women Of Country Tour"](#)

[Bluegrass Superstar Sonny Osborne Dies](#)

## Music Row Power Couple, Beth & Luke Laird, Celebrate 10 Years Of Creative Nation [Interview]

When **Luke Laird**, a young songwriter with a new publishing deal, met his future wife **Beth** at the receptionist counter at BMG Nashville in 2005, it was the start of a long and beautiful partnership.

It was Beth's first real music industry job out of college, and she was worried that a relationship with a songwriter would be unprofessional. Lucky for them, she soon moved to Windswept to be a song-plugger before landing at BMI, where she would remain for the next five years. The two then began dating and were married a few years later in 2010. They now have two children, **Jake** (8) and **Mack** (5), and a successful 10-year old publishing company, Creative Nation.

"It's been exciting because from the very beginning, with him having no cuts yet and me literally being at my first day on the job, we've gotten to grow in the music business together. We've been through the highs and lows together, that's really been fun," Beth says.

The two say they never dreamed of starting a publishing company together. The idea came about at a meeting with the couple's business manager, when Luke was nearing the end of a publishing deal.

Once the wheels were turning, Beth and Luke were able to take their experiences as a songwriter and a music publishing professional and design a company that they would want to work at. "The main thing that we knew we really wanted that we weren't really feeling at that time in the music business was a publishing company that was really creative and really writers first. [We wanted to build a company] where you felt like the writers were the bosses of their careers and the publishers came alongside them to help fulfill their dreams and to help them along their path," Beth says.

Luke adds, "When I first signed a publishing deal, and I think this is probably a similar story for a lot of writers at that time and years before, writers were looked at as 'we are hiring you to do a job,' but really that's not how those contracts work. In reality, the publisher works for the writer. You can have ideas and plans for a writer, but you're in a partnership. That's one thing I want our writers to know is we, as a publisher, work for you. So what are your goals?"

Goal-setting is a paramount part of the business ethic at Creative Nation, which now boasts a roster that includes lauded songwriters **Lori McKenna** and **Barry Dean**, as well as country hitmaker **Casey Brown**, artist-songwriters **Steve Moakler** and **Kassi Ashton**, and more.

When new writers come in, the staff at Creative Nation help them make a goal sheet for themselves, which becomes a big part of the plan for success for each writer. Any one writer's goals can range from having a No. 1 country hit, getting nominated for a song of the year award, or getting a cut from a specific artist. "If what we're doing does not serve your goals, then we shouldn't be doing it," Beth says. "That is the basis of where to start. It lets them be the CEO of their career and their business, and it feels more like we are helping manage their business, but we're not in control telling them what to do."



Luke and Beth Laird. Photo: Spencer Combs



Beth and Luke Laird in 2010. Photo: Courtesy Beth Laird



Pictured (L-R): Jody Williams, Luke Laird, Del Bryant, Beth Laird, Clay Bradley at the 59th Annual BMI Country Awards in 2011. Photo: Jason Kempin for BMI / Courtesy of Beth Laird

In addition to putting writer’s goals first, Creative Nation also makes the family-owned aspect of their business part of the company culture.

Luke says, “We are so involved with our families. A lot of times the music business almost feels like two separate things, but we like to have things like a Creative Nation pool day where everyone can bring their kids. We hope that our staff and writers feel that we value more than just what they can do for our business.”

Their writer and staff-friendly environment has proved fruitful for Creative Nation. Since getting started in 2011, the company has worked with some of country music’s biggest performers, including **Kacey Musgraves**, **Luke Bryan**, **Thomas Rhett**, and **Eric Church**, and has released more than 20 No. 1 songs and 60 radio singles, including **Sam Hunt**’s “Hard to Forget” and **Harry Styles**’ “Watermelon Sugar.”

Beth says there are two moments from the beginning of Creative Nation when she felt most validated. The first being when she went to her first pitch meeting as Creative Nation and pitched “Pontoon,” which became a blockbuster hit for **Little Big Town**. The second is when they received their first BMI publisher award, presented to them from Beth’s former BMI boss, **Jody Williams**.

“At BMI, I was the one that had handed up the awards to Jody to hand out to publishers, so when I got to go up and Jody handed me one, it was like ‘You’re a real publisher. You’re getting an award on stage,’” Beth says. “Even now it makes me feel emotional because it made me feel like a real publisher.”

Moments like those, and the many more that have followed as Creative Nation has become a flourishing indie publisher, have made the risk of going out on their own worth it for the husband and wife team.

As for the next 10 years, the Lairds are most concerned with maintaining the creative, relational, and positive environment they’ve established at Creative Nation.

“One of my ultimate goals sounds generic, but it’s to love what I do and to love who I’m working with. I actually really value every Monday morning when I wake up; I get excited to come to work,” Beth shares. “I’m never bored. I’m always excited about the next songwriter. I’m always excited about the song that’s going to come in today or getting to strategize with my team. My goal is to always make sure I keep that spark and that we are constantly surrounded by good people who are creative.” **MR**

# TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	<b>Ashley Gorley</b>	You Should Probably Leave Sand In My Boots Give Heaven Some Hell Steal My Love Beers On Me	Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen HARDY Dan + Shay Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland
2	4	<b>Jesse Frasure</b>	If I Was A Cowboy One Mississippi Whiskey And Rain	Miranda Lambert Kane Brown Michael Ray
3	2	<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
4	3	<b>Michael Hardy</b>	That Ain't Me No More Sand In My Boots Give Heaven Some Hell Come Back As A Country Boy Beers On Me	Matt Stell Morgan Wallen HARDY Blake Shelton Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland
5	10	<b>Rhett Akins</b>	Tequila Little Time To Be Loved By You	Jon Pardi Parker McCollum
6	5	<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
7	8	<b>Jonathan Singleton</b>	Cold as You Same Boat	Luke Combs Zac Brown Band
8	6	<b>J. Flowers</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
9	7	<b>Brinley Addington</b>	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
10	9	<b>Josh Thompson</b>	Whiskey And Rain Come Back As A Country Boy	Michael Ray Blake Shelton
11	11	<b>Shane McAnally</b>	I Was On A Boat That Day Half Of My Hometown 23 Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Old Dominion Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Sam Hunt Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde
12	13	<b>Martin Johnson</b>	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) Like A Lady	Elle King and Miranda Lambert Lady A
13	12	<b>Josh Jenkins</b>	Fancy Like Buy Dirt	Walker Hayes Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
14	15	<b>Eric Church</b>	Heart On Fire	Eric Church
15	41	<b>Matt Rogers</b>	Freedom Was A Highway 'Til You Can't	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley Cody Johnson
16	14	<b>Luke Combs</b>	Forever After All Cold as You	Luke Combs Luke Combs
17	19	<b>Elle King</b>	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
18	16	<b>Brian Davis</b>	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
19	17	<b>Lee Brice</b>	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
20	18	<b>Billy Montana</b>	Memory I Don't Mess With	Lee Brice
21	31	<b>Andy Albert</b>	Thinking 'Bout You Steal My Love	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter Dan + Shay
22	43	<b>Parker McCollum</b>	To Be Loved By You	Parker McCollum
23	28	<b>Ben Simonetti</b>	Same Boat	Zac Brown Band
24	29	<b>Zac Brown</b>	Same Boat	Zac Brown Band
25	23	<b>Brett Tyler</b>	Old School Cold Beer Calling My Name	Toby Keith Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
26	24	<b>Jameson Rodgers</b>	While You're Gone Cold Beer Calling My Name	Drew Parker Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs
27	25	<b>Kat Higgins</b>	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
28	26	<b>Adam James</b>	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
29	27	<b>Brett James</b>	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
30	39	<b>Chris Stapleton</b>	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
31	40	<b>Chris DuBois</b>	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
32	32	<b>Kurt Allison</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
33	33	<b>Tully Kennedy</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
34	34	<b>Lydia Vaughan</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
35	35	<b>John Morgan</b>	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
36	36	<b>Walker Hayes</b>	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
37	37	<b>Shane Stevens</b>	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
38	38	<b>Cameron Bartolini</b>	Fancy Like	Walker Hayes
39	44	<b>Ernest Keith Smith</b>	Fill Them Boots Memory One Mississippi	Chris Lane Kane Brown & Blackbear Kane Brown
40	45	<b>Lee Starr</b>	My Boy	Elvie Shane
41	46	<b>Russell Sutton</b>	My Boy	Elvie Shane
42	47	<b>Nick Columbia</b>	My Boy	Elvie Shane
43	48	<b>Elvie Shane</b>	My Boy	Elvie Shane
44	30	<b>Kane Brown</b>	Memory One Mississippi	Kane Brown & Blackbear Kane Brown
45	42	<b>Alysa Vanderheym</b>	Cold Beer Calling My Name	Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs
46	49	<b>Jon Pardi</b>	Tequila Little Time	Jon Pardi
47	50	<b>Luke Laird</b>	Tequila Little Time	Jon Pardi
48	51	<b>Jimmie Allen</b>	Freedom Was A Highway	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley
49	52	<b>Ash Bowers</b>	Freedom Was A Highway	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley
50	53	<b>Randy Montana</b>	Cold as You	Luke Combs
51	54	<b>S. Minor</b>	Cold as You	Luke Combs
52	59	<b>Will Weatherly</b>	Thinking 'Bout You	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
53	60	<b>Dustin Lynch</b>	Thinking 'Bout You	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
54	61	<b>Emily Kroll</b>	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
55	62	<b>Sarah Jones</b>	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
56	63	<b>Priscilla Block</b>	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
57	56	<b>Jordan Davis</b>	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
58	57	<b>Jacob Davis</b>	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
59	58	<b>Matt Jenkins</b>	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
60	66	<b>Ross Copperman</b>	My Masterpiece Half Of My Hometown Beers On Me	Darius Rucker Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland

## CALENDAR

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### Single/Track Releases

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#### October 29

**Love & The Outcome**/Christmas Lights/Curb I Word Entertainment

**Stars Go Dim feat. Hannah Ellis**/Home/Curb I Word Entertainment

**Sarah Reeves feat. Clark Beckham**/Winter Wonderland/Curb I Word Entertainment

**Nick Connors**/Fatal Fantasy/Penumbra Records

**Nick Connors**/Inside on the Outside/Penumbra Records

**Claudia Hoyser**/wicked

#### November 1

**Dillon Carmichael**/Son Of A/Riser House

**Tiffany Woys**/About Love

**Jahayla Overton**/Fix Me/JDO Recordings

**Jerry Edmundson**/Watch This Guitar Come Alive/SAMP Records

### Album/EP Releases

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#### October 29

**Mitchell Tenpenny**/*Naughty List*/Riser House/Columbia Nashville

**Morgan Evans**/*Country and the Coast Side A*/Warner Music Nashville

**Elvie Shane**/*Backslider*/Wheelhouse Records

**Drew Green**/*Dirt Boy Vol. 2*/Sony Music Entertainment

**Shy Carter**/*The Rest Of Us* EP/Warner Music Nashville

#### November 5

**Deana Carter**/*Did I Shave My Legs For This? 25th Anniversary Edition*/Capitol Nashville/UMe

**LoCash**/*Woods & Water*/BBR Music Group/BMG's Wheelhouse Records

**Chase Wright**/*Intertwined*

**Stars Go Dim**/*The First Noel*/Curb I Word Entertainment

**Tim Kelly**/*Ride Through The Rain*

### Industry Events

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#### November 1

**Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala**

#### November 3

**10th Annual Touring Career Workshop**