

The 57th CMA Awards Brings Great Music & Deserved Wins



Lainey Wilson accepts the award for Female Vocalist of the Year at The 57th annual CMA Awards.

Country music stars and industry members assembled at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena Wednesday night (Nov. 8) for the 57th CMA Awards.

Lainey Wilson was the night's biggest winner, receiving her first Entertainer of the Year award along with four more. **Luke Combs**, **Chris Stapleton** and **Jelly Roll** were other top winners from the night.

Jelly Roll opened the show a cappella with "Need A Favor," complete with a gospel choir and a surprise guest appearance from **Wynonna Judd**.

Hosts **Luke Bryan** and **Peyton Manning** officially opened the show with some banter, recognizing some of the night's top nominees. The hosts kept it lighthearted, focusing on self-deprecating humor and soft jokes.

Combs took home the first televised win of the night with "Fast Car" winning Single of the Year.

"First and foremost, I want to thank **Tracy Chapman** for writing one of the best songs of all time," Combs said. "I recorded it because I love this song. It's meant so much to me my entire life. It was my first favorite song that I ever had, from the time I was four years old." Producers **Jonathan Singleton** and **Chip Matthews** joined Combs onstage for the moment.

Following quickly behind were **Bill Anderson** and **Sara Evans** to present Song of the Year. The honor also went to Combs' cover of "Fast Car." Chapman was not in attendance, but sent in an acceptance message.

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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
CMA WINS



"It's truly an honor for my song to be newly recognized after 35 years of its debut," she wrote.

Craig Morgan, who was recognized for recently reenlisting in the military, introduced host Bryan's performance of a medley of hits, including "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day," "One Margarita," "That's My Kind Of Night," "Play It Again" and "Country Girl (Shake It For Me)."

Ashley McBryde, lit from antique lighting fixtures hanging above her head, sang her "Light On In The Kitchen."

Cody Johnson kept the musical bar high with his rising single "The Painter," while a black and white photo of Johnson's wife came to vibrant life as colors filled her picture. When the camera turned on her at the end of the song, she was teary-eyed beaming up at her husband.



Luke Bryan and Peyton Manning host The 57th annual CMA Awards.



Luke Combs performs "Where the Wild Things Are" at The 57th annual CMA Awards.

The next award to be presented was Duo of the Year, and it went to **Brothers Osborne** for the sixth time. The duo shared that they were fans of all of the other duos in the category, and that it shocks them every time they win.

"We are absolutely living out our dream. Thanks for letting us do that," **TJ Osborne** said. "I was a nerd growing up," **John Osborne** added. "I was a nerd growing up. I had a few friends, but not a lot of friends. I spent my whole life learning how to play music and write songs. Y'all make me feel like a cool kid every year. That means more to me than you could ever imagine."

Morgan Wallen was the next to perform. **Eric Church** was his surprise special guest. The two sang "Man Made A Bar" from Wallen's blockbuster *One Thing At A Time* album, which will be Wallen's new single.

Combs took the stage next to perform his exceptional new single, "Where The Wild Things Are." Stapleton kept the energy high with a hair-raising performance of "White Horse."

Jordan Davis was the next to perform his hit "Next Thing You Know" while cell phone lighters lit up the arena.

The next CMA Award went to **Old Dominion** for Vocal Group of the Year. Like Brothers Osborne, it was the group's sixth win in the category.

"This night has been an amazing reminder of the talent pool we have somehow waded into," shared Old Dominion's **Matt Ramsey**. "We got there by surrounding ourselves with the absolute best people."

The night's top nominee Wilson was next up to perform her new single, "Wildflowers and Wild Horses."



Brothers Osborne accept the award for Vocal Duo of the Year at The 57th annual CMA Awards.



Jelly Roll accepts the award for New Artist of the Year at The 57th annual CMA Awards.

Forty." **Zac Brown Band** and **Alan Jackson** picked off where they left off, singing an "adios" to Buffett before transitioning into "Margaritaville."

Old Dominion and **Megan Moroney** performed their new duet, "Can't Break Up Now."

The CMA Award for Album of the Year went to Wilson for *Bell Bottom Country*. She thanked her entire team. "My love for storytelling truly came from being from Baskin—a town of 200 people where there's really not a whole lot to do. You sit around the kitchen table and tell the same old stories you've been hearing for years. The kind of stories that get better every single time you hear them," she said. "That's what we wanted to do with this record."

Stapleton returned to the stage to sing with **Carly Pearce** on "We Don't Fight Anymore."

Martina McBride presented Wilson with Female Vocalist of the Year. "Us girls have been having to blaze trails from the beginning," Wilson said. Thank you for letting me be a part of that."



Hardy, Morgan Wallen and Post Malone perform at The 57th annual CMA Awards.

Dan + Shay sang their butts off on "Save Me The Trouble." **Kelsea Ballerini** followed with an awesome acoustic performance of her tender "Leave Me Again." **The War And Treaty** treated everyone to "That's How Love Is Made."

The next trophy went to Jelly Roll for New Artist of the Year. He took audience members straight to the "Whitsitt Chapel" in his acceptance speech.

"There is something poetic about a 39-year-old man winning New Artist of the Year. I don't know where you're at in your life, or what you're going through, but I want to tell you to keep going, baby," he said.

In a tribute to the late **Jimmy Buffett**, **Kenny Chesney** and **Mac McAnally** embodied his free spirit on "A Pirate Looks at



Old Dominion and Megan Moroney perform "Can't Break Up Now" at The 57th annual CMA Awards.

Wallen and **Hardy** paid tribute to the late **Joe Diffie** with a fun performance of "John Deere Green." Hip-hop sensation **Post Malone** joined the country brothers for "Pickup Man."

Newly-inducted Country Music Hall of Famer **Tanya Tucker** performed her evergreen "Delta Dawn," with support from **Little Big Town**.

Comedian **Nate Bargatze** presented Stapleton with the Male Vocalist of the Year honor. "Every one of these guys in this category deserves this award," Stapleton said. "I've won a couple of these and I'm always shocked when I win one." He dedicated the award to his late collaborators **Mike Henderson** and **Eric Burrows**.



Chris Stapleton accepts the award for Male Vocalist of the Year at The 57th Annual CMA Awards.

When it came time to reveal the night's top honor, Entertainer of the Year, the arena erupted when Wilson's name was called. With the title, she became the first woman in over a decade to clinch the title. Clearly shocked and emotional, Wilson tearfully shared her appreciation and love for country music.

"We've worked our butts off this year and so many years in between," Wilson said. "I've been in this town for 12 and a half years and it finally feels like country music is starting to love me back."

Once all awards had been handed out, Jelly Roll returned to close the show alongside first-time performer and multi-genre powerhouse **K. Michelle**, singing **The Judds'** "Love Can Build A Bridge."

The 57th CMA Awards is available to watch now on Hulu.

Read the full list of winners [here](#). **MR**

Tim Foisset Joins Spotify



Tim Foisset has joined Spotify as Head of Label Partnerships, Nashville. His new role begins today (Nov. 6).

At Spotify, Foisset will manage the label partnerships team in Nashville, which includes **Gemma McInturff**, **Miller Guth** and **Meagan Bennington**.

Foisset joins Spotify after 13 years at Warner Music Nashville, where he most recently served as SVP Commercial Partnerships, working with Warner Music Nashville's partners in streaming, digital retail, physical retail, e-commerce and D2C to drive strategic marketing and revenue. He's guided new release strategies for artists including **Blake Shelton**, **Kenny Chesney**, **Dan + Shay**, **Bailey Zimmerman**, **Ashley McBryde**, **Gabby Barrett**, **Ingrid Andress**, **Cole Swindell**, **Cody Johnson** and more.

Foisset began his career in 1998 at Burly Bear Network in New York City and later joined Fuse Networks as the Manager of Consumer Marketing. He moved to Razor & Tie in 2005 as Director of Digital Marketing, where he managed the label's relationships with digital partners and oversaw online marketing initiatives. Foisset moved to Music City in 2011 to join Warner Music Nashville. **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Rodeo Man/Garth Brooks and Ronnie Dunn/Big Machine Records - 49

Love Is Real/Shelley Lynch/CDX Records - 78

Love With Nowhere To Go/Ryan Whyte Maloney/Belle Chasse Records - 79

Front Porch Swing/Luke Kelly/General Records - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Rodeo Man/Garth Brooks and Ronnie Dunn/Big Machine Records - 293

World On Fire/Nate Smith/Sony Music Nashville - 129

Two Dozen Roses/Shenandoah & Luke Combs/8 Track Entertainment/ADA - 101

I Can Feel It/Kane Brown/Zone 4/RCA Nashville - 94

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Rodeo Man/Garth Brooks and Ronnie Dunn/Big Machine Records - 26

Two Dozen Roses/Shenandoah & Luke Combs/8 Track Entertainment/ADA - 6

Where The Wild Things Are/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia Nashville - 5

Outlaws and Mustangs/Cody Jinks/Late August Records - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

True Story/Jon Brennan/CDX Records - 119

Back At The Bar/Landon Parker/Bad Ass Records - 115

Better With A Buzz/Ryne Brashear/LIR Records - 113

You Made Your Bed/Karly C/Quirky Cowgirl - 111

Cancel/Randy Houser/Magnolia - 110

NO. 1 SONG

CHRIS STAPLETON
WHITE HORSE



After raising the roof with his performance of it on the *57th Annual CMA Awards* this week, **Chris Stapleton** tops the *MusicRow CountryBreakout Radio Chart* with "White Horse."

Co-written by Stapleton and **Dan Wilson**, "White Horse" appears on his new album *Higher*, which released today (Nov. 10). The album also includes previously-released tracks "Think I'm In Love With You" and "It Takes A Woman."

Stapleton, a 16-time CMA Award-winner, took home the trophy for Male Vocalist of the Year for the seventh time this week, breaking his own record for most wins ever in the category.

"White Horse" currently sits at No. 16 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 15 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
KDXY Jonesboro, AR
KBOD Mountain Home, AR
KWCK Searcy, AR
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA
WCTY Norwich, CT
WPPL Blue Ridge, GA
WUBB Savannah, GA
KXIA Marshalltown, IA
KIAI Mason City, IA
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID

KKMV Rupert, ID
WOOZ Cartersville, IL
WALS Peru, IL
WAAG Galesburg, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WFMB Springfield, IL
WIFE Connorsville, 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 +/-
16	2	1	White Horse / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1748/61	5	76
21	1	2	Save Me / Jelly Roll (with Lainey Wilson) / Stoney Creek	1706/52	0	6
26	5	3	Different 'Round Here / Riley Green (feat. Luke Combs) / BMLG	1595/58	2	38
44	4	4	Stars Like Confetti / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	1585/45	-2	-38
32	6	5	Creek Will Rise / Conner Smith / Valory	1533/59	2	24
23	10	6	World On Fire / Nate Smith / Sony Music Nashville	1462/55	10	129
13	9	7	The Painter / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1412/59	5	67
20	11	8	Mind On You / George Birge / RECORDS	1133/42	4	41
31	12	9	23 / Chayce Beckham / BMG	1095/48	0	5
21	14	10	Burn It Down / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	1057/51	7	71
12	15	11	Cab In A Solo / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	1044/51	7	72
7	18	12	I Can Feel It / Kane Brown / Zone 4/RCA Nashville	976/50	11	94
45	16	13	Fearless / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	940/46	1	12
45	17	14	We Got History / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Records	912/37	-1	-6
21	19	15	We Don't Fight Anymore / Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton / Big Machine	900/49	3	28
17	21	16	Pretty Little Poison / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records	896/48	6	51
20	22	17	Wine Country / Hannah Ellis / Curb Records	863/49	3	25
4	27	18	Where The Wild Things Are / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	859/49	18	128
30	20	19	Nobody's Nobody / Brothers Osborne / EMI	846/40	-1	-10
5	26	20	Mamaw's House / Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen / Valory	831/54	12	92
25	23	21	Truck Bed / HARDY / Big Loud Records	790/43	3	21
23	24	22	See You Next Summer / Brian Kelley / Big Machine Records	787/39	4	30
8	25	23	Back Then Right Now / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Nashville	759/44	2	17
15	28	24	I'm Not Pretty / Megan Moroney / Arista Nashville/Columbia Records	737/42	4	25
12	30	25	Tucson Too Late / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	716/43	7	46
22	29	26	Glory Days / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	691/41	3	17
4	33	27	Cowboys and Plowboys / Jon Pardi and Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	613/41	13	71
8	31	28	I Remember Everything / Zach Bryan feat. Kacey Musgraves / Warner Records	589/38	1	7
4	34	29	Under this Ole Hat / Sawyer Brown / Curb Records	562/44	10	53
24	32	30	Out Of That Truck / Carrie Underwood / Capitol Records	546/30	-1	-6
14	35	31	Country Dance / Aaron Goodvin / Warner Music Canada/Sakamoto Music	510/29	3	14
8	37	32	Young Love & Saturday Nights / Chris Young / RCA	481/29	7	32
13	38	33	Wait Til I'm Gone / Donice Morace / Bad Jeu Jeu Records/CDX Records	465/30	7	30
18	36	34	Drinkin' Problems / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	440/28	-2	-9
5	46	35	Two Dozen Roses / Shenandoah & Luke Combs / 8 Track Entertainment/ADA	413/33	32	101
21	39	36	Something Real / Dierks Bentley / Capitol Nashville	409/23	-2	-7
12	40	37	Last Train To Nowhere / Ghost Hounds / Gibson Records	388/27	1	4
8	42	38	New Money / Julianna Rankin / 17th Avenue	376/25	14	46
5	45	39	I'm In Love / Hailey Whitters / Pigasus/Big Loud Records/S&D	360/26	11	36



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
6	41	40	Can't Break Up Now / Old Dominion with Megan Moroney / Columbia Nashville	346/28	4	12
17	44	41	Something's Gonna Kill Me / Corey Kent / RCA Nashville	343/22	5	16
14	47	42	Crooked Road / Mustangs Of The West / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	336/18	8	25
21	43	43	Brokenhearted / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	330/16	1	2
37	49	44	We Ride / Bryan Martin / Average Joes Entertainment	322/24	9	26
15	48	45	Outskirts / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	316/21	4	13
9	52	46	Baby I Do / Hurricane Highway / Kick Ass Music	313/17	12	34
6	53	47	Thicc As Thieves / Lauren Alaina / Big Loud Records	304/21	16	41
10	50	48	Jesus and John Wayne / Alabama feat. The Oak Ridge Boys / Gaither Music Group	294/21	1	4
1	0	49	Rodeo Man / Garth Brooks and Ronnie Dunn / Big Machine Records	293/26	0	293
10	51	50	Always You / Trey Lewis / River House Artists	290/24	0	1
5	54	51	Where It Ends / Bailey Zimmerman / Warner Music Nashville	281/25	9	23
28	13	52	Blacktop Don't / BoomTown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment	273/18	-74	-782
6	55	53	Vertigo / Morgan Myles / KZZ Music/Blue Élan Records	264/22	6	14
9	57	54	Hush Little Baby / Ashley Ryan / Spinville Entertainment	240/19	0	0
6	67	55	Everywhere I Go / Kaitlyn Kohler / Kohler Music Group LLC	233/11	29	52
2	68	56	Outlaws and Mustangs / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	232/22	32	56
10	56	57	In Your Love / Tyler Childers / Hickman Holler Records/RCA Records	232/19	-4	-10
8	63	58	Falling Too / Jet Jurgensmeyer / Simba Entertainment	228/16	11	23
7	60	59	Rough Around The Edges / Exile / Clearwater Records	220/14	1	3
5	61	60	A Man Like You / American Blonde / American Blonde Music	217/19	4	9
6	66	61	You Or The Whiskey / Sydney Hansen / Sydney Hansen Music	216/15	13	24
4	62	62	Spirits and Demons / Michael Ray ft. Meghan Patrick / Warner Music Nashville	213/14	4	8
3	65	63	Tractors And Trucks / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	212/17	8	15
16	58	64	Loser / Mike Ryan / Rock & Soul	189/9	-16	-36
3	69	65	Get Me Now / Matt VanFossen /	183/13	4	7
2	74	66	Drink About That / Ken Domash / Thunder Mountain Records	182/15	17	27
10	59	67	Know That By Now / Randy Rogers Band / Tommy Jackson/Thirty Tigers	181/15	-18	-39
4	72	68	Chipping Mill / Turnpike Troubadours / Bossier City Records	177/17	9	14
7	70	69	He Don't Mind / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music	168/12	2	3
3	73	70	Lovin' Not Leavin' / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds	165/13	5	8
3	71	71	Sittin Here On This Dock / Jeff Michaels /	164/13	1	1
3	78	72	Certified / Laura Bryna /	163/13	21	28
16	75	73	Dance With You / Brett Young / BMLG Records	148/11	-3	-5
2	80	74	He Himself & Him / Annie Vander / VanderFire Records	145/8	12	15
3	77	75	Extra / Katie Linendoll /	139/7	0	0
3	79	76	Come On Home / Cutter Elliott / TCM Records	137/8	1	2
4	88	77	Good With Me / Walker Hayes / Monument Records/RCA Records	131/7	22	24
1	83	78	Love Is Real / Shelley Lynch / CDX Records	124/7	8	9
1	81	79	Love With Nowhere To Go / Ryan Whyte Maloney / Belle Chasse Records	124/7	-2	-2
1	87	80	Front Porch Swing / Luke Kelly / General Records	119/9	9	10

No. 1 Song
Greatest Spin Increase
Highest Debut

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Miranda Lambert & Jon Randall Partner With Big Loud To Launch Big Loud Texas



Pictured (L-R): Joey Moi, Austen Adams, Patch Culbertson, Seth England, Miranda Lambert, Jon Randall, Alena Moran, Candice Watkins, Sara Knabe and Stacy Blythe

Miranda Lambert and **Jon Randall** have partnered with Big Loud Records to launch their own imprint, Big Loud Texas. Lambert and Randall will be directly involved in signing and developing artists on the roster. In addition, Randall will serve as President of A&R for Big Loud Texas while also contributing his expertise as a producer.

“As a teenager chasing my dreams in the honky-tonks of Texas, Nashville seemed so far away,” says Lambert. “Every time I’m back home I get to hear the incredible talent our state produces, and I feel a responsibility to help get more of those Texas voices heard. I’m really excited to team up with my buddy Jon Randall and Big Loud to do just that. Get ready, y’all – we’re bringing even more Texas to town!”

“When I was a kid playing in bands and kicking around Texas, I knew that making music was all I wanted to do for the rest of my life,” shares Randall. “Since then, I’ve gotten to play with so many of my heroes produce legends and friends and travel all over the world... but all

those roads lead right back home. I feel very blessed to share this full circle moment with one of my best pals, Miranda Lambert, and help some other dreamers chase their song around the world.”

Big Loud Texas will serve as a dedicated imprint of Big Loud Records, whose success story began in 2015. **MR**

CAA's Nashville Office To Relocate

Creative Artists Agency (CAA) has signed an agreement to relocate its Nashville office to the Nashville Yards’ mixed-use district, being developed by Southwest Value Partners and AEG.

Occupying nearly 75,000 square feet across two floors, CAA is scheduled to move into its new space in late 2025. The agency will have exterior crown signage as the anchor tenant in the building, which is being developed in a walkable, urban community with multiple retail and restaurant selections and a 4,500-capacity music and event venue.

“Guided by our colleagues in music, CAA opened our first office in Nashville in 1991, immediately making an impact on Music City that continues today,” says **Howard Nuchow**, Co-Head, CAA Sports. “With more than 3,400 employees across 25 countries, CAA’s track record of success and growth in the representation of entertainment and sports talent and brands has solidified our leadership position around the world.

“The move to Nashville Yards demonstrates our commitment to Nashville and the Southeast, while providing our employees, clients and guests an inspiring environment that captures the spirit of Nashville, one of the most significant sports and entertainment destinations in the world,” adds Nuchow. **MR**



BMI Country Awards Toast To 2023 Winners, Honor Matraca Berg With Icon Award



Pictured (L-R): BMI President & CEO, Mike O'Neill, Matraca Berg and BMI Vice President, Creative, Nashville, Clay Bradley. Photo: Erika Goldring/Getty Images for BMI

The last of the PRO awards ceremonies took place Tuesday night (Nov. 7) at BMI's Nashville headquarters on Music Row.

Hosted by BMI's President & CEO **Mike O'Neill** and Nashville's VP of Creative **Clay Bradley**, the 71st annual BMI Country Awards celebrated the top songwriters and music publishers behind this past year's 50 most-performed songs in country music, with special awards being given out to the Country Songwriter, Song and Publisher of the Year. The awards also honored the unparalleled career of BMI Icon Award recipient **Matraca Berg**.

After plenty of schmoozing had been done by the songwriters, artists and industry members in attendance, a dinner of steak, potatoes and sautéed vegetables was served. We were all seated at immaculate tables with beautiful flowers and candlelight, but no one stayed in their seat for long. It was an evening of communion for the hundreds in

attendance.

During the ceremony, BMI saluted the songwriters and publishers of the 50 most-performed country songs of the previous year. Calling up the writers and industry champions behind each hit, audience members cheered them on as they hugged and took photos on stage.

With both of them co-writing four of BMI's most-performed songs, **Luke Combs** and **Morgan Wallen** tied for the coveted BMI Songwriter of the Year award. Combs co-wrote his three consecutive No. 1 singles "Doin' This," "Going, Going, Gone" and "The Kind of Love We Make" as well as **Zac Brown Band's** "Out in the Middle." Wallen co-wrote **Keith Urban's** "Brown Eyes Baby," **Corey Kent's** No. 1 hit "Wild as Her" as well as his record-breaking songs "Thought You Should Know" and "You Proof."

"I moved to town in 2014 and people ask me all the time, 'When did you know that you made it?' The answer is when I could pay my rent and have food in the fridge doing music," Combs said. "To be up here now in a room with people I've looked up to for 15 years is unbelievable."

Wallen shared, "Since the moment I heard 'Old Rugged Cross' at my parents' church when I was about three years old, I knew music was going to part of my life somehow." He added, "[Music] has been there for me through some really dark places. God, music and my family have meant the entire world to me."

In one of the night's most memorable moments, the two country superstars gave acoustic performances of each other's songs, with Combs performing "Thought You Should Know" and Wallen covering "Going, Going, Gone."

Wallen's "You Proof" was named 2023 BMI Country Song of the Year. Written by Wallen, **Ernest** and **Charlie Handsome**, the tune was BMI's most-performed country song of the year. It became the first radio single in country music history to spend 10 weeks at the top spot on *Billboard's* Country Airplay chart.

Warner Chappell was named BMI's 2023 Country Publisher of the Year. The powerhouse published 25 of the 50 most-performed songs of the year.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of the 2023 BMI Country Awards winners. Click [here](#) to read the full event recap. **MR**

ASCAP Tosses Epic Party To Honor Songwriters & Publishers

The 61st annual ASCAP Country Awards on Monday (Nov. 6) was a lavish cocktail supper that crowned **Ashley Gorley** and **Jordan Davis** as its 2023 champs.

Gorley won his 10th Songwriter of the Year honor from the performance rights society. This makes him the most honored country songwriter in the organization's history.

"I want to first, as always, thank God," he said. "Huge thanks to everybody at ASCAP for all they've done and continue to do for me. I've been with ASCAP since I was a student at Belmont....I'm blessed to be a part of this."

The songwriter's **Morgan Wallen** hit "You Proof" was named ASCAP's Country Song of the Year. On video, Gorley was lauded by Wallen, as well as **Ernest, Kelly Lovelace, Parmalee, Dierks Bentley, Chris DeStefano** and **Chris DuBois**.

In contrast to the often awarded Gorley, the organization's 2023 Songwriter/Artist of the Year was Jordan Davis, winning the honor for his first time.

"This is my favorite night of the year," said Davis. "Everybody in this room came through ASCAP. I can't thank you enough." The MCA Records star recalled moving to Music City 12 years ago on a Sunday. The following day, he went to ASCAP and wrote his first Nashville song. "I love being a part of Nashville, Tennessee, and I love being part of country music. I love country music."

Davis co-wrote last year's CMA Song of the Year, "Buy Dirt." This year, his "Next Thing You Know" is nominated as the CMA's Single, Song and Video of the Year. ASCAP also awarded him for his co-written hit "What My World Spins Around." He was saluted on video by **Luke Combs, Josh Jenkins, Cindy Mabe, Dierks Bentley, Matt Jenkins** and his singer-songwriter brother **Jacob Davis**.

ASCAP's Publisher of the Year was Sony Music Publishing. Accepting was Sony's **Rusty Gaston**. "Thank you to ASCAP — you fight for songwriters, and we're so grateful for it," he said. "This is a gift that we get to do every day. Songs have the power to change the world. It's an honor to be doing this together."

At the gala, ASCAP honored the writers and publishers of 50 country hits. They were saluted on silent video screens during the first hour of the soiree.

Presiding at the podium were ASCAP's **Elizabeth Matthews, Mike Sistad** and **Paul Williams**. Matthews congratulated **David Lee Murphy**, and the late **John Jarrard** on their election to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and **Bob McDill** on his elevation into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Sistad gave a shout-out to attendee **Lainey Wilson** on her nine 2023 CMA Award nominations.

Williams said, "There is no place where I feel more safe than in a room full of songwriters, my tribe. You are my family. The city is changing, but the one thing that hasn't changed is the heart and soul of what you do. It is holy work. And it is needed now more than ever."

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



Pictured (L-R): ASCAP CEO Elizabeth Matthews, ASCAP President and Chairman of the Board Paul Williams, ASCAP Country Music Songwriter/Artist of the Year Jordan Davis, ASCAP VP, Nashville Membership Mike Sistad. Photo: Larry McCormack for ASCAP

SESAC Celebrates Hits & Heritage

The annual SESAC awards kicked off country-music week festivities Sunday night (Nov. 5) with a glamorous reception that honored the performance rights organization's biggest Nashville songs of 2023.

Jon Nite was honored as SESAC's Songwriter of the Year. "Amazing!" he exclaimed. "Thank you guys. I don't deserve this." Nite recalled moving to Music City in 1998 with \$500 in his pocket. "And now I'm here!" **Shannan Hatch**, who presented his award, also gave him a commemorative, gleaming, black Gibson J-200 guitar.

Nite was honored for co-writing "You Didn't," sung by **Brett Young**, the **Gabby Barrett** tune "Pick Me Up" and **Tyler Hubbard's** "Dancin' in the Country." Hubbard, Barrett, **Keith Urban**, **Dierks Bentley** and more saluted the songwriter via video. Sony Music Publishing Nashville, which publishes Nite's works, was named SESAC's Publisher of the Year.

Singer **Kane Brown** was on hand to present SESAC's Song of the Year award to **Christian Stalneck** and **Josh Hoge**, who co-wrote "Thank God." Brown recorded the chart-topping romantic country ballad as a duet with his singing wife **Katelyn**.

Amid the awards for contemporary songwriting, the program paused to present the SESAC Heritage Award to **Albert E. Brumley** Music, which has been affiliated with SESAC for 80 years. Albert E. Brumley (1905-1977) wrote "Turn Your Radio On," "Rank Strangers to Me," "I'll Meet You in the Morning," "Did You Ever Go Sailing," "If We Never Meet Again (This Side of Heaven)," "This World Is Not My Home" and "He Set Me Free." **Jamey Johnson** dramatically sang Brumley's most iconic song, "I'll Fly Away." **Betsy Brumley** accepted on behalf of her family.

The other country and Americana songwriters honored were **Kelsey Waldon** ("Tall and Mighty"), **Pete Good & Josh Jenkins** ("Y'all Life" sung by Walker Hayes), **Casey Brown** (Parmalee's "Girl in Mine"), **Justin Ebach** (Jon Pardi's "Your Heart Or Mine"), **Henry Brill** ("All I Really Wanna Do"), **Jim Lauderdale** ("That Kind of Life"), **Chris LaCorte** (Sam Hunt's "Water Under the Bridge") and **Jared Keim** (Dustin Lynch's "Party Mode").

Song of the Year co-writer **Josh Hoge** picked up a second SESAC Award for his work on **Kane Brown's** hit "Bury Me in Georgia." **Dillon Carmichael** performed a forceful version of "Son of A" before getting his award for it. The first performer of the evening was **Megan Moroney**, who sang a winsome "Tennessee Orange," which earned her a SESAC award. The song is a contender for Song of the Year at the CMA Awards. Not present at the gala were **Zac Brown & Ben Simonetti**, who won for their hit "Out in the Middle."

During the ceremony, Hatch asked veteran tunesmith **Rafe Van Hoy** to stand in the audience. She then led the attendees in a toast in honor of his induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame last month.

Presiding over the gala were SESAC CEO **John Josephson** and Senior Directors **ET Brown** and **Lydia Schultz Cahill**, plus SVP **Shannan Hatch**. The organization's event producer, **Tim Fink**, greeted guests as they arrived at the Country Music Hall of Fame. The museum's quietly elegant sixth floor event space was the SESAC venue.

More than 400 music-business attendees complimented the room. Sequined gowns were much in evidence, some accented with feathers. Male attire ranged from sport shirts to tuxedos, with smatterings of cowboy couture. Cocktail tables were draped in black with succulents as centerpieces. The stage was embellished with neon darts that changed colors.

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



Jon Nite wins Songwriter of the Year at the 2023 SESAC Nashville Music Awards. Photo: Terry Wvatt/Getty Images for SESAC

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Luke Combs 'Keeps You On The Edge Of Your Seat' With New Single



I have never been prouder to be a country fan than I was when experiencing this week's CMA Awards telecast.

The special brought out the best and brightest talents in the genre, delivering at the peak of their powers. **Kelsea Ballerini, The War And Treaty, Chris Stapleton, Luke Combs, Jordan Davis, Ashley McBryde, Morgan Wallen** with **Eric Church, Dan + Shay, K. Michelle** with **Jelly Roll, Tanya Tucker** and **Carly Pearce** as well as **Alan Jackson, Kenny Chesney, Mac McAnally** and the **Zac Brown Band**—these were performances for the ages. If you weren't a country fan going into the show, surely these moments would make you one. My chest was bursting.

Several songs in today's column were in the spotlight that night. The Disc of the Day is one of them—mega-talent Combs owns it.

The DISCOVERY Award goes to **HunterGirl**, whom I met at the ASCAP party. She is an American Idol alumna, but she needs no TV set to help her on the triumphant "Ain't About You."

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Louie TheSinger Signs With UMG Nashville](#)

['Hixtape Vol. 3: Difftape' To Honor Country Legend Joe Diffie](#)

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[Walker Montgomery Signs With CAA & Preps For Grand Ole Opry Debut](#)

[Industry Veteran Margie Hunt Passes](#)

[Musicians On Call Welcomes New Team Members](#)

[Lainey Wilson To Launch International Tour In 2024](#)

[Sheryl Crow To Release First Studio Album Since 2018 With 'Evolution'](#)

[Jo Dee Messina Extends 'Heads Carolina, Tails California Tour' Into 2024](#)

[Cirque Du Soleil Goes Country With New Touring Show For 2024](#)

[Russell Dickerson Notches Fifth No. 1 With 'God Gave Me A Girl'](#)

[Trish Williams Warren Passes](#)

[Bob Squence Named Creative Director At Lady Luck Songs](#)

[Kenny Chesney Plots 'Sun Goes Down' Stadium Tour For Summer 2024](#)

[Reba McEntire Celebrates 'Not That Fancy' With Special Ryman & Opry Appearances](#)

[LoCash To Shed Light On Life Of Ranchers Through New 44 Farms Partnership](#)

[Marcus K. Dowling Receives CMA Media Achievement Award](#)

HarbourView Acquires Select Publishing Assets From Kane Brown



HarbourView Equity Partners (HarbourView) has purchased certain publishing assets from multi-Platinum and award-winning country star **Kane Brown**.

Some of Brown's country chart-topping hits include "What Ifs," which received eight-time Platinum RIAA certification, "Homesick," "Used to Love You Sober," "Like I Love Country Music" and "Lose It." Additionally, Brown has had top 40 hits including "One Thing Right" and "Be Like That," which both remained on the Billboard Hot 100 chart for 23 and 22 weeks respectively. Brown has also collaborated with noteworthy artists such as **Khalid, H.E.R., Marshmello, Becky G, John Legend** and **Nelly**.

"Partnering with someone like Kane who adds such a beautiful texture to the country genre is consistent with who we are as a firm. Kane is a special talent, and we are excited to be on the journey," says **Sherrese Clarke Soares**, HarbourView Equity Partners CEO & Founder

"I'm grateful to Sherrese and HarbourView for their belief in my songwriting catalog. These songs that I've written are very meaningful to my fans and my career," shares Brown.

With the acquisition of some of Brown's publishing assets, HarbourView adds to a diversified catalog of more than 24,000 songs across both master recordings and publishing income streams.

Fox Rothschild LLP served as legal counsel to HarbourView in this transaction. Brown was represented by **Jess L. Rosen** at Greenberg Traurig LLP. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. **MR**

Aaron Eshuis Signs With Concord Music Publishing



Pictured (L-R, back row): Concord's Shawn Thompson, Melissa Spillman, Matt Turner, Brad Kennard and Ritholz, Levy, Fields LLP's Chip Petree; (L-R, front row): Aaron Eshuis and Jessica Turri Eshuis. Photo: Audrey Spillman

Songwriter and producer **Aaron Eshuis** has signed a worldwide publishing deal with Concord Music Publishing. The deal, effective immediately, includes a selection of his existing catalog and all future works.

The Kalamazoo, Michigan native has had cuts by **Rascal Flatts, A Thousand Horses, Kameron Marlowe, Corey Kent, Cole Swindell, Kylie Morgan, Meghan Patrick, Mason Ramsey** and more. He scored his first No.1 in late 2018 with **Scotty McCreery's** "This Is It."

In addition to songwriting, Eshuis produced **Ryan Hurd's** debut album *Pelago*, which included No. 1 song "Chasing After You," as well as McCreery's Seasons Change, which debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart, and his "Damn Strait," "You Time" and "It Matters To Her."

"We are thrilled to welcome Aaron to the Concord roster," says **Melissa Spillman**, VP of A&R at Concord Music Publishing Nashville. "He has already proven himself a multi-faceted songwriter, and Aaron's success as a producer in Nashville only adds to the excitement. We look forward to the future!"

"I'm thrilled to be joining up with the team at Concord," says Eshuis. "These are some of the best people I've met in Nashville, and I knew from our first meeting that we could do some great work together." **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Zachary Lane Bryan	Boys Of Faith East Side of Sorrow El Dorado Hey Driver I Remember Everything Sarah's Place Spotless Tourniquet	Zach Bryan feat. Bon Iver Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan ft. The War And Treaty Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves Zach Bryan feat. Noah Kahan Zach Bryan ft. The Lumineers Zach Bryan
2	2	Ashley Gorley	All I Need Is You Everything I Love God Gave Me A Girl Last Night Save Me The Trouble Thinkin' Bout Me Truck Bed World On Fire Young Love & Saturday Nights	Chris Janson Morgan Wallen Russell Dickerson Morgan Wallen Dan + Shay Morgan Wallen Hardy Nate Smith Chris Young
3	3	Tracy Chapman	Fast Car	Luke Combs
4	4	Jason DeFord	Need A Favor Save Me Wild Ones	Jelly Roll Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson Jessie Murph feat. Jelly Roll
5	5	Chase McGill	But I Got A Beer In My Hand Creek Will Rise God Gave Me A Girl Mamaw's House	Luke Bryan Conner Smith Russell Dickerson Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen
6	6	Chayce Beckham	23	Chayce Beckham
7	7	Ryan Vojtesak	Everything I Love Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
8	8	Zach Crowell	God Gave Me A Girl Outskirts Stars Like Confetti	Russell Dickerson Sam Hunt Dustin Lynch
9	11	David Ray Stevens	Save Me	Jelly Roll with Lainey Wilson
10	12	Taylor Phillips	Love You Again Thinkin' Bout Me World On Fire	Chase Matthew Morgan Wallen Nate Smith
11	10	Taylor Swift	All Too Well Enchanted (Taylor's Version) I Can See You (Taylor's Version) (From the Vault)	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift Taylor Swift
12	13	Jordan Schmidt	Watermelon Moonshine We Got History	Lainey Wilson Mitchell Tenpenny
13	9	Chris Stapleton	White Horse	Chris Stapleton
14	15	Dan Wilson	White Horse	Chris Stapleton
15	14	Christopher Anthony Lunsford	Rich Men North Of Richmond	Oliver Anthony Music
16	16	John Byron	Last Night Thinkin' Bout Me	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
17	18	Thomas Rhett	Mamaw's House Stars Like Confetti	Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen Dustin Lynch
18	17	Kacey Musgraves	I Remember Everything	Zach Bryan ft. Kacey Musgraves
19	27	Randy Montana	Different 'Round Here Where the Wild Things Are	Riley Green ft. Luke Combs Luke Combs
20	19	Lainey Wilson	Watermelon Moonshine	Lainey Wilson
21	20	Josh Kear	Watermelon Moonshine	Lainey Wilson
22	21	Matt Dragstrem	But I Got A Beer In My Hand Mamaw's House	Luke Bryan Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
23	22	Josh Thompson	Stars Like Confetti Young Love & Saturday Nights	Dustin Lynch Chris Young
24	26	Liz Rose	All Too Well Burn It Down	Taylor Swift Parker McCollum
25	28	Geoff Warburton	Back Then Right Now But I Got A Beer In My Hand	Tyler Hubbard Luke Bryan
26	23	Patrick Murphy	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
27	24	Tommy Cecil	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
28	25	Craig Wiseman	Standing Room Only	Tim McGraw
29	34	Warren Zeiders	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
30	35	Ryan Beaver	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
31	36	Jared Keim	Pretty Little Poison	Warren Zeiders
32	29	Kurt Allison	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
33	30	Tully Kennedy	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
34	31	Kelley Lovelace	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
35	32	Neil Thrasher	Try That In A Small Town	Jason Aldean
36	33	Michael Hardy	See You Next Summer Truck Bed	Brian Kelley Hardy
37	38	Morgan Wallen	Everything I Love Mamaw's House	Morgan Wallen Thomas Rhett feat. Morgan Wallen
38	39	Dallas Wilson	Can't Have Mine	Dylan Scott
39	40	Josh Melton	Can't Have Mine	Dylan Scott
40	41	Dylan Scott	Can't Have Mine	Dylan Scott
41	42	Matt Alderman	Can't Have Mine	Dylan Scott
42	45	Russell Dickerson	God Gave Me A Girl	Russell Dickerson
43	37	Shane McAnally	If You Go Down (I'm Going Down Too) We Don't Fight Anymore	Kelsea Ballerini Carly Pearce feat. Chris Stapleton
44	49	Hillary Lindsey	Burn It Down See You Next Summer	Parker McCollum Brian Kelley
45	43	Riley Green	Different 'Round Here	Riley Green ft. Luke Combs
46	44	Jonathan Singleton	Different 'Round Here	Riley Green ft. Luke Combs
47	46	Ryan Larkins	The Painter	Cody Johnson
48	47	Kat Higgins	The Painter	Cody Johnson
49	48	Benjy Davis	The Painter	Cody Johnson
50	52	Lindsay Rimes	World On Fire	Nate Smith
51	53	Nate Smith	World On Fire	Nate Smith
52	50	Hunter Phelps	Truck Bed	Hardy
53	51	Ben Johnson	Truck Bed	Hardy
54	63	Dylan Gossett	Coal	Dylan Gossett
55	54	David Garcia	Back Then Right Now Out Of That Truck See You Next Summer	Tyler Hubbard Carrie Underwood Brian Kelley
56	86	Parker McCollum	Burn It Down	Parker McCollum
57	87	Lori McKenna	Burn It Down	Parker McCollum
58	55	Ernest Keith Smith	Everything I Love	Morgan Wallen
59	56	Robert Kim Payne	Everything I Love	Morgan Wallen
60	57	Gregg Allman	Everything I Love	Morgan Wallen

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

November 10

Shaylen/*Cowboys Never Cry*

Meghan Pulles/*Ear Baby*

November 13

Caroline Jones/*Million Little Band-aids* (feat. Zac Brown Band)

Bucky Covington/*Wheels/BareFootin* Inc.

Album/EP Releases

November 10

Chris Stapleton/*Higher*/Mercury Nashville

Todd Snider/*Crank It, We're Doomed*/Aimless Records

Brei Carter/*Twinkling Tales of Christmas*/Brown Lee Entertainment/The Orchard

Fish Fisher/*Nashvillain*/Fish Fisher Productions

November 14

Amy Jack/*Red Bird Little Red Bird*

Industry Events

November 14

12th Annual Touring Career Workshop

November 19

Billboard Music Awards