

MusicRow's 19th Annual CountryBreakout Awards Winners



In lieu of the annual in-person Country Radio Meet & Greet and CountryBreakout Awards, *MusicRow*, Nashville's leading music industry publication, virtually announced the winners of the 2021 CountryBreakout Awards on Feb. 16. The 19th Annual CountryBreakout Award winners were revealed on all *MusicRow* online platforms, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Announced in advance of Country Radio Seminar (CRS) 2021: The Virtual Experience, winners were calculated from spin performance on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart in 2020.

The 2021 winners included Male Artist of the Year **Luke Combs** (River House Artists/Columbia Nashville), Female Artist of the Year **Miranda Lambert** (Vanner Records/RCA Records Nashville), Group/Duo of the Year **Florida Georgia Line** (BMLG Records), Breakout Artist of the Year **Parker McCollum** (MCA Nashville) and Independent Artist of the Year **Cody Jinks** (Late August Records). **Capitol Records Nashville** was honored with Label of the Year for the 17th year, while SMACK Songs/ Sony Music Publishing's **Josh Osborne** was named Songwriter of the Year for the second time. This year's Reporter of the Year is WIFE's **Ted Cramer**.

Each winner is featured in *MusicRow's* Country Radio & Streaming issue, out now.

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BMG Signs Jordan Harvey

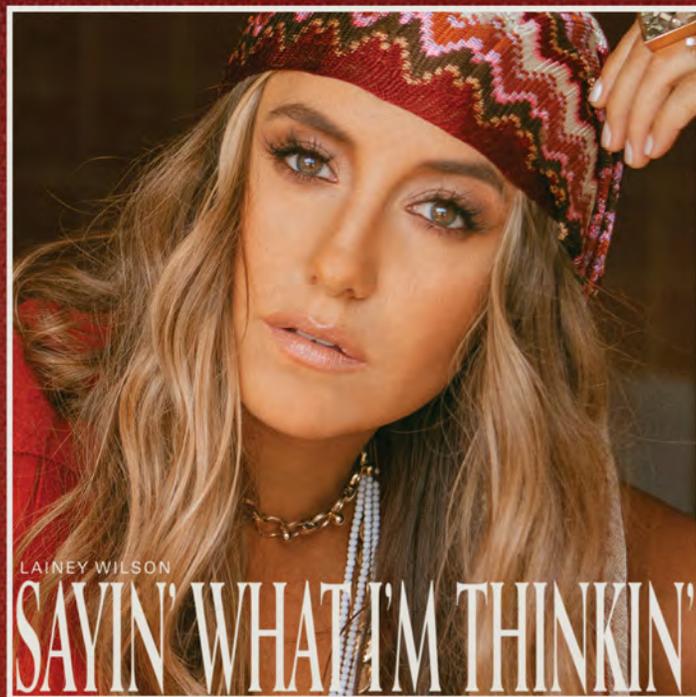
Hannah Dasher Inks with Sony Music Nashville

Willie Jones Signs with Warner Chappell Music

DISCLAIMER Singles Reviews

And much more...

LAINY WILSON SAYIN' WHAT I'M THINKIN'



FEATURING
"THINGS A MAN OUGHTA KNOW"
AND "NEON DIAMONDS"

"WILSON CONTINUES TO COMBINE TRADITIONAL COUNTRY -- WITH THAT STRONG SOUTHERN ACCENT, HOW COULD HER VOICE SOUND ANYTHING BUT? -- WITH ROCK ELEMENTS THAT ARE VERY APPEALING." - BILLBOARD

"MUSIC MOVES AND THE STYLE AESTHETIC THAT COMES WITH GENRES ALSO HAS THE POWER TO MOVE US. COUNTRY MUSIC SINGER LAINY WILSON HAS A DISTINCT RETRO STYLE THAT MAKES HER EASILY SPOTTED IN A ROOM." - FORBES

AVAILABLE NOW

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On The Cover: MusicRow Magazine's Country Radio & Streaming Issue Features Florida Georgia Line

MusicRow Magazine's 2021 Country Radio & Streaming Issue, with BMLG Records duo **Florida Georgia Line** gracing the cover, also released Feb. 16.

For their fifth album, Florida Georgia Line doubles down on what they do best: deep grooves, earworm hooks, and carpe diem-style songs for anyone who loves life, loves God, and loves having a good time. Whether a forever ballad like "Always Gonna Love You," the phased vocals and hip-hop stroll of "Ain't Worried Bout It," the banjo-flecked small-town philosophy of "Life Rolls On," or the lush soul sexiness of "Hard To Get To Heaven," Brian "BK" Kelley and Tyler Hubbard continue creating the soundtrack for people who are enjoying every minute.

The first country act to receive two Diamond certifications for "Cruise" [11x Platinum breakout track that spent 24 weeks at No. 1], and record-breaking, 10x Platinum collaboration with Bebe Rexha "Meant to Be" [50 straight weeks at No. 1], FGL knows how to drill into the moment.

Working with acclaimed songwriter/producer Corey Crowder for the first time, *LIFE ROLLS ON* shows America's favorite party duo finding a new elevation beyond the CMA, ACM, Billboard Music, Teen Choice, and American Music Awards accolades. Recorded mainly in the Bahamas, these fresh, light songs have everything fans love with a little bit more room to breathe. With the vivid acoustic instruments shining through on "Long Live," and buzzing-off trademark FGL vibes with "Beer: 30," it's still drive time power rotation for the people gearing up for their workday or party. But that's just the beginning... Over 16 tracks, BK and Tyler renew all the things that made them America's good time brokers and pals down the block.

FGL is signed with their own Tree Vibe Music for publishing, aligned with performing rights organization BMI, managed by Irving and Jeffrey Azoff at Full Stop Management, and booked by WME.

This issue spotlights **Apple Music's** expansion into radio, features a conversation with **iHeartMedia's Rod Phillips**, and highlights **Triple Tigers** success at country radio. Also featured in the issue is an inside look at **Spotify's Indigo** playlist, and a look at secondary market radio with Radio 7 Media's **Charlotte Wright Stremier**.

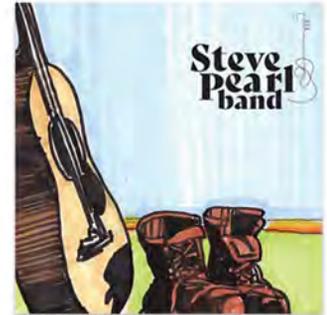


The magazine will be digitally available throughout CRS week [HERE](#) and members will receive their copy of the *MusicRow* Country Radio & Streaming issue by mail. Become a member of MusicRow Magazine at musicrow.com.

Single copies of *MusicRow's* 2021 Country Radio & Streaming issue are available for purchase at musicrow.com for \$20, and are included with yearly *MusicRow* memberships.

Please note that issues of *MusicRow Magazine's* Country Radio & Streaming issue can only be purchased online as the *MusicRow* building is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19.

Steve Pearl band



In March 2019 I started a recording project. Phase 1 was completed in October 2020. 132 songs were written and recorded. It couldn't have happened without the help of Nashville's finest musicians, some of the most remarkable players and people on the planet. I am most thankful. Sing loud and God speed! — Steve

THANK YOU!

Jenee Fleenor • Lonnie Wilson • Rob Byus • Mike Rojas • Doug Moffet • Gary Prim
Vicki Hampton • Paul Hollowell • Mike Johnson • Kara Britz • Jerry McPherson
Brent Mason • John Willis • Mike Brignardello • James Mitchell • Jimmy Carter
Wes Little • Jon Conley • Kelly Back • Buddy Hyatt • Jimmy Nichols • Alex Wright
Carl Miner • Gary Lunn • Jim Brown • Duncan Mullins • Mike Haynes
B. James Lowry • Jeff King • Jim Riley • Chris Leuzinger • Gordon Mote
Phillip de Steiguer • Mark Douthit • Joel Key • Dane Bryant • Madeline Sprengel
Olivia Grasso • Steve Patrick • Roy Agee • Jimmy Bowland

Eric Church, Jon Pardi, Lauren Alaina Play Team UMG at the Ryman Lunch Showcase



Universal Music Group Nashville artists **Eric Church, Lauren Alaina, Priscilla Block, Jon Pardi, and Parker McCollum** performed at the annual Team UMG at the Ryman luncheon for CRS virtual attendees on Feb. 18.

EVP Promotion UMG Nashville **Royce Risser** served as the host for the showcase, and kicked everything off with UMG Nashville Chairman/CEO **Mike Dungan** by his side. Before Dungan could introduce the first act, Risser surprised him with a loud blast of fireworks going off behind the two executives. This prank proved to be a favorite of Risser's, as he gave every UMG Promotion staff member who appeared throughout the stream the same fright.

Virtual attendees were treated to music from new UMG singee Block, who sang "My Bar" and her viral hit that's climbing at country radio, "Just About Over You."

McCollum played his first Gold, Platinum, and No. 1 song, "Pretty Heart," and then his newest single, "To Be Loved By You."

Alaina performed some tunes from her 2020 *Getting Over Him* EP, starting with the piano ballad, "What Do You Think Of." She then played her hot and heavy duet, "Getting Over Him," with label-mate Pardi.

Pardi himself started with mariachi-infused "Tequila Little Time." He then played a cover of Prince's version of "Nothing Compares 2

U," which appears on his surprise 2020 album, *Rancho Fiesta Sessions*.

Church started his acoustic set by talking about his upcoming three-album project, *Heart & Soul*, due out in April. The first tune he played, "Heart On Fire," is on the Heart project. It was the first song recorded on the 28-day retreat where he created the albums.

"I've never dreamed a song before, but I dreamed this song," Church said before going into the madness dreamscape, "Crazyland." The song features characters called emotions, such as Sad, Regret, All My Fault and I Told You So, who all come together in Crazyland.

Church then played his romantic current single, "Hell Of A View." He co-wrote "Hell Of A View" with frequent collaborator Casey Beathard, and it was most-added at country radio upon its debut and has already hit No. 1 on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart.

Church closed with a song that was motivated by and dedicated to the fans at the 2017 Route 91 Las Vegas shooting. He delivers a love letter to his fans with "Through My Ray-Bans," singing: *Everybody's got their arms around everybody else's shoulders / Guarding against the world outside like an army of Friday night soldiers / The battle wages tomorrow but tonight you don't give a damn / Wish you could stay the way I see you through my Ray-Bans.*

[Read MusicRow's full recap here.](#)



Pictured (L-R): EVP Promotion, UMG Nashville Royce Risser; Chairman/CEO, UMG Nashville Mike Dungan

Dan + Shay, Brett Eldredge, More Entertain for CRS Warner Music Nashville Lunch Showcase

Warner Music Nashville artists **Dan + Shay, Brett Eldredge, Cole Swindell, Drew Parker, Ian Munsick, Michael Ray, Robyn Ottolini, and Shy Carter** brought country radio some tunes at the virtual CRS luncheon showcase Feb. 17.

WMN's SVP/Radio & Streaming **Kristen Williams** kicked off the showcase, welcoming everyone to the "Warner Music Nashville house." The rest of the radio and streaming staff took viewers on a tour of the house, with each "room" revealing another WMN artist.

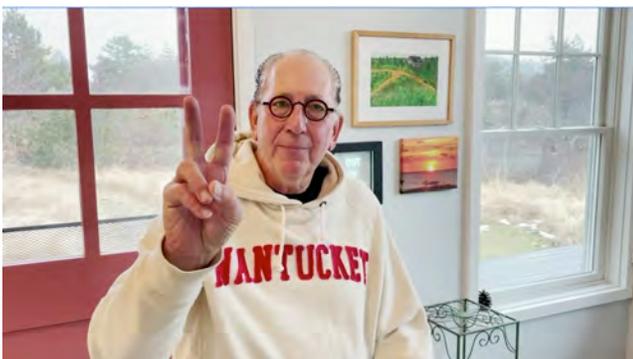
Virtual attendees were treated to new music from Eldredge, with a bright and sunny song called "Good Day." The song impacts radio on March 1.

The label group's newest signing, Parker, was up next. A cowboy hat-clad Parker sang his "While You're Gone" by the staircase.

Next up was Swindell. From a library, Swindell sang his latest release, "Single Saturday Night." The song is the follow-up to his No. 1 single "Love You Too Late," and is the hitmaker's 11th career single.

Ottolini offered her TikTok viral sensation, "F-150," from a vibey garage. The track impacted country radio Feb. 15, and has garnered over 16 million streams globally.

Next, Ray played his steamy breakup song, "Whiskey And Rain," wearing a leather jacket to further personify the moody song. Currently Top 50 and climbing on the Mediabase and *Billboard* country charts, "Whiskey And Rain," written by



Warner Music Nashville Chairman & CEO John Esposito



Dan + Shay

Jesse Frasure and Josh Thompson, has been streamed over 10 million times since its fall release.

Munsick, clothed in traditional western garb, performed his debut single "Long Haul," with a fiddle accompaniment. The tune is part of his debut album *Coyote Cry*, due out Feb. 26.

Then Carter, who just seemed to be in the next room, performed his debut single, "Good Love." The Platinum-selling, Grammy-nominated songwriter played the keys on his sunny artist debut.

WMN hitmakers Dan + Shay were the last acts to perform on the showcase. The duo sang their recent hit "I Should Probably Go To Bed" outside by a pool. Shay's clear, gorgeous voice shined against Dan's harmonies and acoustic guitar accompaniment.

The duo then performed their new song "Glad You Exist," which is most added at country radio this week for the second consecutive week.

To end the showcase, Warner Music Nashville Chairman & CEO **John Esposito** appeared on Shay's phone. "Greetings from Nantucket," Esposito said. "I know we're all coming from everywhere around the world but I wish I was in that big ballroom with you."

The label head closed with a statement that WMN's mission is to focus and prioritize even more on bringing radio program directors "the best of the best" from the Warner Music Nashville roster.

[Read MusicRow's full recap here.](#)

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Lonely Drum/Aaron Goodvin/Reviver Records/Warner Music Canada — 52

Do Ya/Tiffany Woys — 75

Dreams And Gasoline/Shelley Lynch/Lynch Records — 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Lonely Drum/Aaron Goodvin/Reviver Records/Warner Music Canada — 290

Glad You Exist/Dan + Shay/Warner Music Nashville/WAR — 217

Undivided/Tim McGraw and Tyler Hubbard/Big Machine Records — 190

Minimum Wage/Blake Shelton/Warner Music Nashville — 156

Gotta Go Rodeo/Darlinghurst/Helium — 115

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Lonely Drum/Aaron Goodvin/Reviver Records/Warner Music Canada — 26

Glad You Exist/Dan + Shay/Warner Music Nashville/WAR — 19

Gotta Go Rodeo/Darlinghurst/Helium — 10

Getting Over Him/Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi/Mercury Nashville — 7

Under It With You Tonight/Smith & Wesley/Dream Walkin'/Audium Nashville — 6

Gettin' Her Over You/Bobby Wills/Willing — 5

Just About Over You/Priscilla Block/Mercury Nashville — 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Good To Go/Rebel Hearts/Rebel Hearts Records — 145

Same Dirt Road/Eric Lee/Blue Hill Records — 142

Home Sweet/Russell Dickerson/Triple Tigers Records — 141

Truck Huntin'/Jared MacLane — 141

NO. 1 SONG



Dierks Bentley graces the top of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart this with his single, “Gone.” The single appears on his ninth studio album, *The Mountain*, and was written by **Nicolle Galyon**, **Ben Johnson**, and **Niko Moon**.

In his weekly DISCLAIMER, Robert K Oermann described the single as “Stompin’ on heartache and misery with the emphasis on a shouted chorus that is super catchy. Nicely produced and sung with believability. Dierks strikes again.”

The music video for “Gone” finds Bentley hitting rock bottom as his life plays out before him through some of his favorite TV shows. Watch the [music video here](#).



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

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

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

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

WTCM Traverse City, MI
 KYSM Mankato, MN
 KZPK St. Cloud, MN
 KWWR Mexico, MO
 KFAV Warrenton, MO
 KZZY Devils Lake, ND
 KRVN Lexington, NE
 Jersey Shore Country
 KQBA Santa Fe, NM
 WDNB Monticello, NY
 WOLF Syracuse, NY
 WCJW Warsaw, NY
 WFRY Watertown, NY
 KWHW Altus, OK

KITX Hugo, OK
 KWEY Weatherford, OK
 KWOX Woodward, OK
 KRKT Albany, OR
 WNBT Mansfield, PA
 WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
 WFGE State College, PA
 WMIR Myrtle Beach, SC
 KIQK Rapid City, SD
 WUCZ Carthage, TN
 WDKN Dickson, TN
 WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
 KAYD Beaumont, TX
 KFTX Corpus Christi, TX

KYKX Longview, TX
 KMRK Odessa, TX
 KYYK Palestine, TX
 KXOX Sweetwater, TX
 WAKG Danville, VA
 WAXX Altoona, WI
 WJVL Janesville, WI
 WGLR Platteville, WI
 WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
 WCOW Sparta, WI
 WTNJ Beckley, WV
 WDDG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
15	2	1	Gone / Dierks Bentley / Capitol	1792/67	0	-6
41	4	2	Made For You / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	1643/59	5	74
24	7	3	Good Time / Niko Moon / RCA Nashville	1571/44	4	66
22	3	4	Settling Down / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	1569/58	1	9
19	5	5	One Too Many / Keith Urban & P!nk / Capitol	1555/57	3	46
14	1	6	Hell Of A View / Eric Church / EMI	1517/55	-18	-327
51	6	7	Nobody / Dylan Scott / Curb	1513/54	1	21
32	10	8	The Good Ones / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	1427/54	5	62
19	9	9	Next Girl / Carly Pearce / Big Machine	1422/64	2	22
6	11	10	Undivided / Tim McGraw and Tyler Hubbard / Big Machine Records	1415/62	16	190
5	14	11	Minimum Wage / Blake Shelton / Warner Music Nashville	1256/57	14	156
17	13	12	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	1201/51	3	40
16	12	13	We Didn't Have Much / Justin Moore / Valory	1182/58	3	39
16	17	14	Just The Way / Parmalee x Blanco Brown / Stoney Creek Records	1134/40	7	77
13	15	15	Blame It On You / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow	1124/53	4	47
57	16	16	Somebody Like That / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand	1076/42	2	22
7	22	17	Famous Friends / Chris Young & Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1012/54	12	109
53	18	18	Momma's House / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow	1002/39	0	3
35	19	19	Hard Days / Brantley Gilbert / Valory	972/43	1	14
14	21	20	Memory I Don't Mess With / Lee Brice / Curb	970/53	5	44
34	20	21	Wine, Beer, Whiskey / Little Big Town / Capitol	890/41	-9	-83
15	23	22	Heaven On Dirt / Teddy Robb / Monument	831/49	5	40
17	24	23	If It Wasn't For Trucks / Riley Green / BMLG	817/41	4	28
17	25	24	Where I Find God / Larry Fleet / Big Loud Records	740/40	6	39
6	28	25	Tequila Little Time / Jon Pardi / Capitol	717/46	7	45
15	30	26	Just About Over You / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	682/42	13	81
11	27	27	Ain't Gonna Be Today / Ward Davis / Ward Davis Music/Thirty Tigers	675/44	1	8
9	31	28	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen. / Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line / Broken Bow/Dack Janiels	657/38	10	59
19	29	29	Waste Of A Whiskey Drink / Gary Allan / EMI	638/35	0	-1
6	32	30	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	626/45	8	47
19	33	31	Sometimes Always Never / Brandon Ratcliff / Monument	549/35	3	14
17	34	32	Comin' Home / The Desert City Ramblers / Crane Kick Records	543/29	5	24
12	35	33	Anybody Else / Mira Goto / ArtistMax/Copperline	519/29	7	33
10	36	34	Cold Beer Calling My Name / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/ Columbia Nashville	494/29	8	35
12	43	35	Meghan / Brecken Miles / Rhyme Partners	465/25	20	77
25	39	36	Single Saturday Night / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	449/29	5	21
2	63	37	Glad You Exist / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville/WAR	444/36	96	217
23	37	38	Waitin' On 5 / Chris Janson / Warner Music Nashville	435/24	-2	-11
27	38	39	We Were Rich / Runaway June / Wheelhouse Records	426/25	3	14



2021
**COUNTRY RADIO
 & STREAMING
 ISSUE**

**NEW ISSUE
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MUSICROW

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
6	41	40	My Boy / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records	422/31	4	18
11	42	41	Heartland / Hailey Whitters / Big Loud Records/S&D	414/27	4	15
14	40	42	You Time / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	408/30	-3	-12
4	49	43	To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	404/32	22	74
10	46	44	Just Like You / Paige King Johnson / PCG Artist Development	398/31	7	26
12	45	45	God Save The World / Jeff Carson / MC1 Nashville	398/21	4	16
9	44	46	Extra / Kylie Trout / Kylie Trout Music	395/28	5	18
18	47	47	I Can Tell By The Way You Dance / Josh Turner / MCA Nashville	377/23	8	28
3	51	48	Freedom Was A Highway / Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley / Stoney Creek Records	375/27	24	73
10	48	49	River Bent / Caleb Kelley / River Bend Entertainment	354/22	7	23
12	50	50	Worship You / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	333/19	7	22
7	54	51	What Would Dolly Do? / Tori Martin / LuckySky Music	322/22	10	29
1	138	52	Lonely Drum / Aaron Goodvin / Reviver Records/Warner Music Canada	316/29	127	290
7	52	53	Just Friends / Caylee Hammack / Capitol	315/22	5	15
7	53	54	Chain Breaker / Zach Williams / Provident Label Group	306/25	3	8
7	58	55	You're Gonna Love Me / Tim Dugger / Curb	263/18	3	7
5	57	56	Right Place Now / Hudson Valley / Hudson Valley	262/20	2	5
7	61	57	Freedom And Wings / Heather Smith /	260/15	11	25
9	59	58	Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	245/16	-2	-6
2	68	59	Okfuskee Whiskey / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	220/22	12	24
6	65	60	Kickstart / Owen Howell / Kojax Entertainment	220/15	1	3
8	64	61	Time Changes / Stephanie Nash /	216/14	-3	-7
5	60	62	No Body, No Crime / Taylor Swift feat. Haim / MCA Nashville	210/15	-7	-15
2	69	63	See You Here / Courtney Dickinson / 117 Music	207/18	7	13
21	62	64	Dear Rodeo / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Bros.	202/13	0	-1
5	67	65	I Do Thing / Kylie Frey / Deep Frey'd Music Group	200/16	1	2
4	71	66	Can't Stop / Chloe Collins / Collins House Music	199/15	10	18
3	76	67	Head Over Wheels / Joe Hanson /	195/14	19	31
3	70	68	Shallow / Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood / Pearl Records	194/13	1	1
2	77	69	Together / for KING & COUNTRY feat. Hannah Ellis, Jackson Michelson / Curb Word Entertainment	193/18	22	35
2	72	70	What The Whiskey's For / Tom Sexton / Lots To Do Music	192/19	9	16
3	74	71	Pushing Up Daisies / Lana Gail / Gail Force Entertainment	182/12	6	10
5	73	72	More With Less / Frank Vieira / Frank Vieira Music	176/10	0	0
3	78	73	He Looks Good On Her / Michael McCall / MDM Entertainment	170/12	9	14
3	75	74	New To Neon / Andrew Hopson / Tower Road Records	170/14	1	2
1	83	75	Do Ya / Tiffany Woys /	164/12	16	23
2	80	76	Joan of Arkansas / Lena Paige feat. Tanya Tucker / LP Records	152/12	7	10
14	66	77	Same Ole / Chris Kroeze /	149/9	-28	-57
2	79	78	Things A Man Oughta Know / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow	148/10	3	4
14	92	79	Beers To Catch Up On / LOCASH / Wheelhouse Records	146/10	14	18
1	87	80	Dreams And Gasoline / Shelley Lynch / Lynch Records	146/9	7	10

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut



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56th ACM Awards To Be Held In Nashville



The Academy of Country Music, Dick Clark Productions, and CBS announced that the 56th *ACM Awards* will be heading back to Nashville, Tennessee.

The televised event will broadcast live from three iconic country music venues: the Grand Ole Opry House, Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium and The Bluebird Cafe on Sunday, April 18 at 8:00-11:00 PM, live ET/delayed PT on the CBS Television Network.

"We're thrilled to return to Music City's most iconic venues as we come together on April 18th to celebrate the best in Country Music, back in our normal awards cycle," said **Damon Whiteside**, CEO of the Academy of Country Music. "A huge thank you to the city of Nashville, Grand Ole Opry House, Ryman Auditorium and Bluebird Cafe for welcoming us back to Nashville, where we can look out for the safety of our artists while shining a spotlight on this vibrant city after a tough 2020."

Last year marked the first time in Academy of Country Music Awards history that the show was held in Nashville. More details regarding performances will be revealed in the coming months.

MORE TOP STORIES

[Dolly Parton Declines Proposed Tennessee State Capitol Statue](#)

[Tim Gray's Grayscale Marketing Celebrates 1 Million Event Tickets Sold \[Interview\]](#)

[Carrie Underwood Unveils Track List For 'My Savior'](#)

[Exit/In Property Listed For Sale](#)

[Niko Moon's 'Good Time' Gets Better With Platinum Status](#)

[Lainie Allbee Retires From Martin, Allbee, Miller, Bryan & Associates](#)

[Russell Dickerson Ties Record With 21 Weeks In The Top 10](#)

[Carman, CCM Trailblazer and GMA Hall of Fame Member, Dies](#)

[The MLC Receives \\$424 Million In Historical Unmatched Royalties From DSPs](#)

[Ashley McBryde Announces 'Never Will: Live From A Distance'](#)

[Blythe Scokin and John Geraghty Form New Management Company, rogue](#)

[Wyatt McCubbin Signs With Tape Room Music, 50 Egg Music](#)

[Chris Tomlin, Russell Dickerson At CRS Believers Breakfast](#)

[Country Music Hall Of Fame And Museum Promotes Mark DeLelys](#)

[Sammy Sadler Signs With BFD/Audium Nashville](#)

[Ray Stevens Announces Four New Albums Highlighting Classic Songs](#)

Black River Entertainment Signs Hitmaker Ray Fulcher



Black River Entertainment's President and CEO Gordon Kerr and Ray Fulcher.

Black River Entertainment has signed hit songwriter and artist **Ray Fulcher**, who brings a loyal fanbase which has streamed his music more than 30 million times.

Fulcher is a frequent collaborator of Luke Combs with writing credits on Combs' No. 1 singles "When It Rains It Pours," "Even Though I'm Leaving," "Does To Me" ft. Eric Church, and "Lovin' On You."

Signed to Black River Entertainment in 2021, Fulcher is working with producer Jonathan Singleton and is set to support Combs this fall on the What You See Is What You Get Tour.

Black River joins Fulcher's team including WME, Universal Music Publishing, River House Publishing, and Badlands Management.

"What a great day for all of us!" said Black River's President and CEO **Gordon Kerr**. "What an impressive team we are now partnered alongside. Most importantly, what an artist! We are honored to step into this already impressive journey and can't wait to see what is in store for Ray!"

Fulcher shared, "I always knew I didn't want to sign anywhere unless they really believed in our music and vision as much as we did ourselves. They had to really get the songs and what we wanted to do with them and believe that I was the guy to carry them to the masses. With Black River, we have gotten all that and more...and the more I've gotten to know the people, the more I see what a great group of not just professionals they are, but humans. Just felt like a real easy decision." **MR**

BMG Signs Jordan Harvey



BMG announced the signing of singer-songwriter **Jordan Harvey**. Already signed to BMG as a songwriter, the multi-instrumentalist now joins the roster as an artist.

Growing up in Edinburgh, Scotland, Jordan began working in a local recording studio at 16 years old. After moving to London and studying music at Tech Music School, Jordan headed back home to Edinburgh, where he opened for Simple Minds as a member of the OK Social Club. By 2016, he was playing his own shows as a solo act, and by 2017, he was singing on BBC One as a contestant on the singing competition *Let It Shine*.

Jordan then moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where he joined King Calaway. The group opened for Garth Brooks and a host of shows including Jimmy Kimmel Live!, The Late Late Show with James Corden, TODAY, The Kelly Clarkson Show and the internationally-acclaimed show Neighbours. Jordan separated from the band late last year.

"We've known Jordan for years and there has always been a special magic about him that lights up a room," said **Jon Loba**, President, BMG Nashville. "We're excited to see his creativity flourish and where his talent leads him."

"I couldn't ask for a better birthday present—since day one the people at BMG have become family and I can't imagine entering this next chapter with any other team," said Jordan. "I am so grateful for their relentless support and especially Loba for believing in me."

Jordan is currently focused on writing with new music anticipated this year. **MR**

Hannah Dasher Inks with Sony Music Nashville

Hannah Dasher has signed with Sony Music Nashville.

Dasher has been named to CMT's Next Women of Country Class of 2021, and she recently surpassed one million followers on TikTok for her viral "Stand By Your Pan" series, where she whips up traditional Southern recipes with a twist. She recently released her latest track "Left Right," which she co-wrote with **Brandon Hood** and **Wynn Varble**.

Raised in Savannah, Georgia, Dasher would spend hours reading album covers front-to-back as a child, all while taking cues from a diverse lineup of influences like Alan Jackson, Hank Jr., Tom Petty, Eric Church, and Aretha Franklin. After graduating from the University of Georgia, Dasher moved to Nashville and took a job selling fishing boats and outboard motors at Bass Pro Shops to make ends meet. She eventually landed her first publishing deal, and her first cut, Brad Paisley's "Go To Bed Early." Dasher has since rocked audiences across the country, opening for acts including her hero Bocephus, The Cadillac Three and Lynyrd Skynyrd.



Hannah Dasher. Photo: Andrew Morton

"You think this news is big?! You should see what I can do with a can of hairspray! Can't wait to share with the world what the Sony Family and I've got cookin'," said Dasher.

MR

Willie Jones Signs with Warner Chappell Music



Pictured (L-R): Will Overton (WCM), Jonnie Forster (The Penthouse), Spencer Nohe (WCM), Willie Jones, and Ben Vaughn (WCM)

Genre-bending singer/songwriter **Willie Jones** has signed a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music (WCM) Nashville.

Jones is already gaining traction with his debut album, *Right Now*, which has amassed 27.5 million streams and counting on Spotify. He co-wrote the entire project including his thought-provoking single "American Dream."

"American Dream' is a powerful song with a unique

sound that does what country music does best—it tells a story," said **Ben Vaughn**, President & CEO of Warner Chappell Music Nashville. "It's honest yet hopeful, and its message is an important one. All of us at Warner Chappell are excited to work alongside Willie, and we applaud the great work he's done with the NMAAM to advocate for change."

Jones is also represented by The Penthouse, EMPIRE, and Creative Artists Agency. The Louisiana native was recently named to Spotify's Hot Country Artist To Watch list and hosts his own Apple Music show, *The Cross Roads Radio*.

"As we all watch the evolution of Willie before our eyes, it's a huge win to have such a passionate juggernaut like Warner Chappell with Ben, **Spencer [Nohe]**, **Will [Overton]**, and the entire team on our side," said **Jonnie Forster**, CEO of The Penthouse. "This is a vital piece of the puzzle for Willie's growth on the national and international level especially as the genre continues to evolve." **MR**

Luke Combs, Maren Morris Have a Timely Conversation About Racism in Country Music



In an incredibly powerful conversation led by NPR Music's **Ann Powers**, **Luke Combs** and **Maren Morris** acknowledged racism in the country music industry and spoke about their roles in helping to mend the genre's complicated past and current issues.

Country Radio Broadcasters Exec. Dir., RJ Curtis, introduced the panel, saying that Combs and Morris raised their hands to participate in the discussion. "CRS believes this is a timely and important discussion," he said.

The panel is very timely, following the events of Feb. 3, when a video surfaced of Morgan Wallen using the N-word outside his Nashville home opened up a national conversation about racism and racial inequity in the country music format.

Powers first acknowledged that the conversation, while important, is incomplete, as the participants were three white people.

Morris, who has historically been one of the most outspoken artists in the country genre, released a song in October, "Better Than We Found It," that address racial inequity and racism.

"I really didn't set out to be this activist, and obviously none of us are the authority on racism because we are white and existing as white people in a space that is historically rooted in a lot of racism," Morris said. "It's really hard for me as a white person to deconstruct all of that. The initial white fragility moment is, 'I'm not racist, I haven't done anything racist. I have friends that are Black,' but I think that once I took that layer away, it's liberating to not bow up anytime someone questions a motive or an action of yours. I'm still shedding that

insecurity, that edge that white people—especially in country music—get when we don't want to face the history of this genre that I would say we all love dearly."

Combs, who has shied away from politically charged conversation, recently released a collaboration with Billy Strings that addresses division and conflict, called "The Great Divide."

Combs commended Morris for speaking out, and admitted the risks associated with such. "Maren has obviously done a fantastic job of sharing her opinions and the things that she believes in, and I admire her a lot for that because that's a big risk in the climate of our genre. It's a hard thing to get on here and talk, to have these tough conversations because you're nervous as an artist."

Combs points out that the music industry has to acknowledge the problem of lack diversity and racism in country music. "Just saying there are things that need to change, taking a moment to be aware of that and knowing that there are problems that exist is the biggest first step that I have taken. The biggest first step that anybody out there in the industry that may be watching can take is just saying, 'Hey, these things do happen. Let's not sit here and say that they don't, because they do.'"

At a very successful point in his career, Combs doesn't want to miss his chance to take a stance on the issue. "I couldn't just sit back and not do anything. I couldn't not say that I want people to know that we as a genre care about this issue."

Powers gave Combs the opportunity to talk about some images and videos of him where confederate flags were present.

"There is no excuse for those images. I'm not trying to say 'This is why they were there and it's okay that they were there,' because it's not okay," Combs said. "As a younger man, that was an image that I associated to mean something else. As I've grown in my time as an artist and as the world has changed drastically in the last five to seven years, I'm now aware of how painful that image can be to someone else. I would never want to be associated with something that brings so much hurt to someone else. It's not about history or this or that. This is something that hurts someone else."

[Read MusicRow's full recap of the conversation here.](#)

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Ryan Hurd & Maren Morris, Taylor Swift, Walker Hayes



This seems to be a day for group harmonies and vocal collaborations.

Darlinghurst, Track45, Jesse & Noah and the Dirt Band comprise our duo/group entries. The last named is collaborating with The War & Treaty, Steve Earle, Rosanne Cash and Jason Isbell. Our other collabs include The Bellamys with John Anderson, and Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris.

The DisCOVERY Award belongs to Track45. Ryan Hurd & Maren Morris ride off with the Disc of the Day.

[Read Robert K. Oermann's reviews of Ryan Hurd & Maren Morris, Taylor Swift, Walker Hayes, Track45, and more here.](#)

MORE TOP STORIES

[Weekly Register: Morgan Wallen's 'Dangerous' Notches 5 Weeks At No. 1](#)

[Tim McGraw and More Shine at Amazon Music's CRS 2021 Country Heat Showcase](#)

[Warehouse West Expands Team](#)

[Soundstripe Paid \\$2.5 Million To Music Creators Last Year](#)

[Track45 Plots 'Big Dreams' For New EP Out February 26](#)

[Kip Moore Celebrates 'Wild World Deluxe' Live At The Ryman](#)

[Brandy Clark Taps Brandi Carlile, Lindsey Buckingham For Deluxe Album](#)

[Kari Jobe Announces 22-City The Blessing USA Tour](#)

[Callista Clark Drops Debut EP 'Real To Me'](#)

[Tracy Lawrence Marks 30 Years In Country With 'Hindsight 2020'](#)

[Producer, Engineer Brian Tankersley Passes](#)

[Nick Norman Debut Features Guests Jamey Johnson, Josh Abbott](#)

Hit Songwriter Shy Carter Makes Artist Debut [Interview]

Singer-songwriter **Shy Carter** is making his Warner Music Nashville debut with “Good Love,” a soulful song about a relationship being his saving grace on dark days.

The Platinum-selling, Grammy-nominated songwriter has written many hits for others, including Kane Brown’s “Heaven” and “Good As You,” Billy Currington’s “It Don’t Hurt Like it Used To,” Sugarland’s “Stuck Like Glue” and Charlie Puth’s “One Call Away.” Now Carter is ready to step into the spotlight as an artist.

Carter wrote “Good Love” with **James Slater**, **Micah Carter** and **Carlo Colasacco**. Named as a Highway Find on SiriusXM’s The Highway and climbing at country radio, Carter delivers the message: *‘When I feel like I’m dying, you come around with that good love / Good love, good love / Make me feel like it’s alright, make me believe in this good life’*

Directed by **Erika Rock**, the music video for “Good Love” features footage of family, friends and the two who bring the most love to Carter: his children.

he single is the first taste of a soon-to-come collection of work. “We wrote for two years for this project, and we’re still writing. We have a lot of songs that we really love,” Carter tells *MusicRow*. “We wrote [‘Good Love’] before the pandemic, but then it hit. We thought we still need to put some music out. With ‘Good Love,’ people need it right now. We just wanted to supply the world with what we felt like it needed at the time.”



Shy Carter. Photo: Jess Williams

Carter is a co-writer on another song about positivity in dark days, with Kane Brown’s “Worldwide Beautiful.” Carter says he’s inspired to bring listeners healing and joy. “I’m just trying to bring healing to people. When people say that they’re having a hard day and they put on the song and it makes them feel happy, that’s the best feeling.”

To promote “Good Love” in the midst of a pandemic, Carter has been traveling on radio tour on a quarantine friendly bus.

“It was so much fun,” Carter says. “The idea came from the fact that we actually did it for a few awesome people around Nashville in the back of a truck. We pulled up and just sang in the back of a truck, and they just loved it so much because they weren’t getting to see anybody. So we put it on a bigger scale and we took it out there on [radio tour]. We had so much fun on the bus, just being able to be around people.

“We all made sure to socially distance and wear the masks, but it was still a great time to see the joy that it was bringing to people because we were the only ones out there singing some music. We were coming out there and bringing that ‘good love’ straight to them.” **MR**



Picture (L-R): Tom Martens (VP Radio & Streaming, Warner Music Nashville), Shy Carter, Charlie Cook (VP, Country/Cumulus). Photo: Warner Music Nashville

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	2	Morgan Wallen	7 Summers Bandaid on a Bullet Hole Dangerous Livin' The Dream More Than My Hometown Neon Eyes Only Thing That's Gone Somebody's Problem Still Goin Down Wasted On You Wonderin' Bout The Wind	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen feat. Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
2	1	Josh Osborne	7 Summers Beers And Sunshine Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's How They Remember You Next Girl Sand In My Boots	Morgan Wallen Darius Rucker Sam Hunt Rascal Flatts Carly Pearce Morgan Wallen
3	3	Ashley Gorley	Bandaid on a Bullet Hole Hole In The Bottle Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night Warning We Were Rich What's Your Country Song	Morgan Wallen Kelsea Ballerini Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen Runaway June Thomas Rhett
4	4	Ernest Keith Smith	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Dangerous More Than My Hometown Somebody's Problem Warning Wasted On You Wonderin' Bout The Wind	Sam Hunt Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
5	5	Jesse Frasure	Almost Maybes Hole In The Bottle Minimum Wage What's Your Country Song Whiskey And Rain	Jordan Davis Kelsea Ballerini Blake Shelton Thomas Rhett Michael Ray
6	7	Ross Copperman	Beers And Sunshine Lady We Were Rich	Darius Rucker Brett Young Runaway June
7	8	Michael Hardy	Livin' The Dream More Than My Hometown Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night Still Goin Down What Do I Know	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen Robert Counts
8	6	Ryan Vojtesak	More Than My Hometown Still Goin Down Warning Wasted On You Worship You	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown
9	9	Luke Combs	Better Together Forever After All	Luke Combs Luke Combs
10	10	Mike Henderson	Starting Over	Chris Stapleton
11	11	Chris Stapleton	Starting Over	Chris Stapleton
12	13	Randy Montana	Better Together We Didn't Have Much	Luke Combs Justin Moore
13	14	Jon Nite	I Hope Lady	Gabby Barrett Brett Young

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
14	12	Tyler Hubbard	Lil Bit Long Live Undivided	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line Florida Georgia Line Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
15	15	Niko Moon	Gone Good Time More Surprised Than Me	Dierks Bentley Niko Moon Morgan Wallen
16	17	Hillary Lindsey	Almost Maybes Hole In The Bottle	Jordan Davis Kelsea Ballerini
17	21	Corey Crowder	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen Famous Friends Long Live Minimum Wage	Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line Chris Young + Kane Brown Florida Georgia Line Blake Shelton
18	18	Gabby Barrett	I Hope The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett Gabby Barrett
19	19	Zachary Kale	I Hope The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett Gabby Barrett
20	20	Dan Isbell	Better Together	Luke Combs
21	22	Jason Isbell	Cover Me Up	Morgan Wallen
22	23	Dallas Davidson	Down To One Silverado For Sale	Luke Bryan Morgan Wallen
23	24	Parker Welling	Love You Like I Used To What's Your Country Song	Russell Dickerson Thomas Rhett
24	27	Kevin Bard	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown
25	28	N.W. Sipe	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown
26	29	Matt Thomas	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown
27	30	Brock Berryhill	Happy Does Hard Days	Kenny Chesney Brantley Gilbert
28	25	Kyle Fishman	Down To One	Luke Bryan
29	26	Justin Ebach	Down To One	Luke Bryan
30	32	Nicolle Galyon	Gone Minimum Wage We Were Rich	Dierks Bentley Blake Shelton Runaway June
31	31	Rodney Clawson	Momma's House Somebody's Problem	Dustin Lynch Morgan Wallen
32	37	Brett Young	Lady	Brett Young
33	34	Greylan James	Happy Does	Kenny Chesney
34	35	Brad Clawson	Happy Does	Kenny Chesney
35	36	Jamie Paulin	Happy Does	Kenny Chesney
36	33	Chris Loocke	Undivided	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
37	38	John Thomas Harding	Beers And Sunshine	Darius Rucker
38	39	Darius Rucker	Beers And Sunshine	Darius Rucker
39	16	Shane McAnally	7 Summers Next Girl	Morgan Wallen Carly Pearce
40	44	Rhett Akins	Beers To Catch Up On Tequila Little Time What's Your Country Song Your Bartender	LOCASH Jon Pardi Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen
41	41	Allison Margaret Cruz	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
42	42	Tenille Arts	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
43	43	Alex Kline	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
44	45	Eric Church	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
45	46	Monty Criswell	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
46	47	C. Beathard	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
47	79	Jacob Durrett	Bandaid on a Bullet Hole Livin' The Dream Somebody's Problem	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
48	40	Thomas Rhett	What's Your Country Song Whiskey'd My Way Your Bartender	Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
49	51	Allen Shamblin	How They Remember You	Rascal Flatts
50	52	M. Beeson	How They Remember You	Rascal Flatts
51	55	Josh Murty	Good Time	Niko Moon
52	56	Anna Moon	Good Time	Niko Moon
53	57	Jordan Minton	Good Time	Niko Moon
54	58	Mark Trussell	Good Time	Niko Moon
55	48	Jordan Davis	Almost Maybes	Jordan Davis
56	53	Steph Jones	Hole In The Bottle	Kelsea Ballerini
57	54	Kelsea Ballerini	Hole In The Bottle	Kelsea Ballerini
58	59	Emily Landis	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
59	60	J. McCormick	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
60	65	Dallas Wilson	Nobody	Dylan Scott

CALENDAR

Singles

February 19

Walker Hayes/I Hope You Miss Me/Monument Records

James Robert Webb/A Horse Named Freedom

February 20

CreatiVets (featuring Blackjack Billy)/ Until it Feels Like Home/ Big Machine Label Group

February 21

Drew Taylor feat. Kristina Nichol/Waiting On Love

February 22

Matt Stell/That Ain't Me No More/Records/Arista

Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi/Getting Over Him/Mercury

Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion/I Can't/Monument

Danny Kensy/Lonely Girl/Rad Records

Dave Wilbert/It's All Yours/Wilbilly Records

Albums

February 19

Carly Pearce/29/Big Machine Records

Lainey Wilson/*Sayin' What I'm Thinkin'*/BBR Music Group/Broken Bow Records

John Driskell Hopkins/*Lonesome High*

February 26

Willie Nelson/*That's Life*/Legacy Recordings

Hailey Whitters/*Living The Dream*/Pigasus Records/Big Loud Records/Songs & Daughters

Ian Munsick/*Coyote Cry*/Warner Music Nashville

Pat Barrett/*Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly*/Bowyer & Bow/Capitol Christian Music Group

Industry Events

February 17-19

Country Radio Seminar (Virtual)