

Keith Urban And Mickey Guyton To Host 2021 *ACM Awards*



The Academy of Country Music announced that 15-time ACM Award winner **Keith Urban**, and New Female Artist of the Year nominee **Mickey Guyton**, will host the 56th *ACM Awards*.

This will mark a return for Urban as host, and Guyton's first time with hosting duties.

"I'm beyond thrilled to be co-hosting with my friend Mickey," says Urban. "I love that finally everyone will get to see her infectious energy and uber creative spirit in full light."

"Last year I had the opportunity to perform at the *Academy of Country Music Awards* with someone I long admired, Keith Urban, and this year I am incredibly excited to share hosting duties with him," says Guyton. "As I've said before 'if you can see it, you can be it,' and it's such an honor to step onto the ACM stage as the first ever Black woman to host the show. Over the years, the Academy of Country Music has always been a home for me through opportunities both onstage and throughout their work on diversity and inclusion. This is a moment of great significance for me and I am so thrilled to share it with all the fans."

"Following Mickey's groundbreaking and emotional performance featuring Keith Urban at last September's *ACM Awards*, the producers knew that they would make a perfect hosting duo," says ACM, dick clark productions and CBS in a joint statement. "Since then, Mickey had a stratospheric rise and Keith has continued to top the charts. They will make a dynamic pairing that captures the warmth, humor, and comfort that the fans are looking for, and join a legendary list of talented artists that have hosted the *ACM Awards* over the years."

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Urban is nominated in the Music Event of the Year Category for his collaboration with P!nk on his latest single, “One Too Many,” for which he received an additional nomination as the song’s producer. He is also nominated for his collaboration with Thomas Rhett, Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, and Chris Tomlin on “Be A Light.” To date, Urban has won 15 Academy of Country Music Awards, securing his first win in 2001.

Guyton was nominated for her first ACM Award in 2016 for New Female Vocalist. This last year, she performed her first solo *ACM Awards* performance of “What Are You Gonna Tell Her?” with labelmate Urban’s accompaniment on piano. She is up for New Female Artist of the Year at this year’s awards.

CBS will present the 56th *ACM Awards* live from Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry House, Ryman Auditorium and The Bluebird Cafe on Sunday, April 18 (8:00-11:00 p.m., live ET/delayed PT) on the CBS Television Network, and available to stream live and on demand on Paramount+. **MR**

Sony Music Publishing Extends Global Deal With Luke Bryan

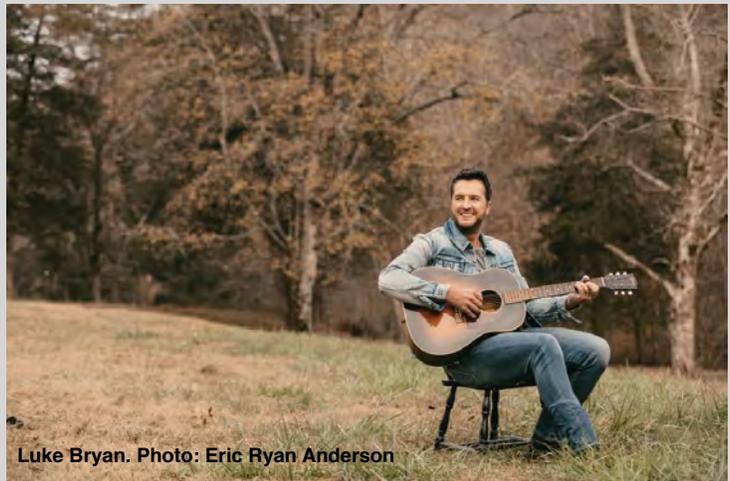
Sony Music Publishing announced it has renewed a global deal with **Luke Bryan**.

The four-time Entertainer of the Year and *American Idol* judge has earned 26 career No. 1 singles, including 13 he co-wrote—among them “I Don’t Want This Night To End,” “Huntin’, Fishin’, And Lovin’ Every Day,” “Move,” “Fast,” “What Makes You Country” and more.

“I’ve enjoyed many years with Sony Music Publishing and I’m happy to continue our partnership. Songwriters are the backbone of country music and being included in this category with arguably the biggest company in the business is unreal. I’m so thankful,” Bryan says.

Sony Music Publishing Nashville CEO **Rusty Gaston** says, “I am personally so excited for Luke to extend his long-standing relationship with Sony Music Publishing Nashville. His songs are genuine enough to touch the heart of the individual listener and engaging enough to bring an entire stadium to its feet.”

Bryan launched his music career as a songwriter. He first gained prominence after co-writing Billy Currington’s No. 1 single “Good Directions.” Soon to follow was Bryan’s success as an artist with his breakthrough



Luke Bryan. Photo: Eric Ryan Anderson

single “All My Friends Say,” from his debut album *I’ll Stay Me*.

Since his debut in 2009, Bryan has earned more RIAA certified digital singles than any other country act with 54.5 million, tallied 14.6 billion streams, sold 12.5 million albums, and earned seven RIAA album certifications, 22 Platinum singles and 12 multi-Platinum singles.

Recently, Bryan announced that he plans to release a deluxe version of his seventh studio album *Born Here Live Here Die Here* on April 9, adding six new songs to the original 10 tracks. **MR**

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**BMLG
RECORDS**

Sony Music Nashville Signs Willie Jones In Partnership With The Penthouse



Pictured (L-R): Jonnie Forster, manager and owner of The Penthouse; Willie Jones; Jim Catino, Sony Music Nashville EVP, A&R. Photo: Sandor Torgyik

Sony Music Nashville has signed **Willie Jones** to an exclusive deal in partnership with The Penthouse.

“Whoa! I can’t wait to see what’s down this road,” says Jones. “I appreciate everyone who has been part of the Willie Jones story so far, and I’m truly blessed. Now, let’s get it.”

The Shreveport, Louisiana native blends hip-hop and country music. Jones has earned critical acclaim for his debut album *Right Now*, which features the poignant patriotic single “American Dream.” The video clip of this anthem was jointly premiered on CMT and BET, a first for the networks.

Jones is represented by **Jonnie Forster** at The Penthouse for management and **John Huie** at CAA for booking. He is signed to a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music Nashville. **MR**

Barrett Baber Signs With Sea Gayle Music



Pictured (L-R, top row): Sea Gayle’s Chris DuBois, Marc Driskill, JD Groover; (L-R, bottom row): Sea Gayle’s Kim Wiggins, songwriter Barrett Baber, songwriter Bobby Pinson

Barrett Baber has signed a publishing deal with Sea Gayle Music.

Baber gained national recognition as a finalist on Season 9 of NBC’s *The Voice*, logging weekly top 10 iTunes performances and a No. 1 *Billboard* single with his reinvented cover of the country classic “I’d Love To Lay You Down.” He later released a full-length album *A Room Full Of Fighters*, which debuted in the top 10 on the iTunes Top 100 Album Charts.

Baber has also been writing with respected songwriters including **Bobby Pinson**, who immediately saw something special in Baber’s writing and knew something had to be done. “Barrett Baber lights up a room as a person and I’m excited to watch him do the same thing with his music for years to come,” Pinson said.

“There are opportunities, and there are once in a lifetime opportunities,” said Baber. “It’s certainly not lost on me which one this is. I’m thrilled to have the chance to work closely with a legendary publishing company like Sea Gayle in partnership with an equally legendary songwriter in Bobby Pinson. I’m so excited and grateful for the chance to continue the development of my craft with the guidance of such a wonderful team of people, at a place that feels like home.” **MR**

FirstBank Named As Title Sponsor Of New Nashville-Area Amphitheater

Live Nation and Graystone Quarry announced that FirstBank will be the first name-in-title sponsor of a brand new amphitheater located in Thompson’s Station at the southern border of Franklin, Tennessee.

The nearly completed FirstBank Amphitheater, is in a completely authentic open-air Tennessee environment nestled on a 138-acre site convenient to Nashville and the surrounding cities. Located within a beautiful wooded, natural stone and park-like setting, it’s planned to open later this year for memorable music experiences whenever fans and artists can gather for concerts again.

“We are thankful for this opportunity,” says **Chris Holmes**, president and CEO of FirstBank. “It was evident from the very beginning that our partners share many of the same values as FirstBank, especially our dedication to the local community and our commitment to excellence. We know this top-of-the-line entertainment venue will provide memorable experiences for the community for years to come.”

The venue will have room for up to 7,500 concert attendees and a spacious 1.5-acre plaza area for gathering, dining and merchandise. The facility will feature state-of-the-art sound, event lighting and large screen image amplification.

“FirstBank has exactly the qualities we wanted in a naming sponsor—friendly people, strong presence in the local community and a history of delivering amazing financial services in the South,” says **Rick McEachern**, owner of Graystone Quarry. “We were looking for a naming sponsor who is as committed and invested in Tennessee as we are.”



The base of the new FirstBank Amphitheater is situated on a limestone rock quarry surrounded by cliffs up to 100 feet tall, creating a dramatic outdoor location with ideal visual and acoustic space for music events. The reclaimed quarry was active 50 years ago, with the rock used in the construction of Interstate 65 through Williamson County.

“We are excited to have FirstBank on board as we bring this incredible venue to life in Tennessee,” says **Bob Roux**, president of Live Nation Concerts. “There is no doubt they will be incredible partners in the community, and we can’t wait until we are able to work together to bring shows back to the area and unite artists and fans together again.” **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Under It With You Tonight/Smith & Wesley/Dream Walkin/
Audium Nashville — 75

Let It Flow/Dave McElroy/Greg Stevens Promotions/Tatum
Town LLC — 77

Good Day/Brett Eldredge/Warner Music Nashville — 78

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Forever After All/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia
Nashville — 171

Knowing You/Kenny Chesney/Blue Chair Records/Warner Music
Nashville — 122

Single Saturday Night/Cole Swindell/Warner Music
Nashville — 116

My Boy/Elvie Shane/Wheelhouse Records — 102

The Good Ones/Gabby Barrett/Warner Music Nashville — 100

Homesick/Veronika/Whattaguy Music — 98

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Homesick/Veronika/Whattaguy Music — 10

Knowing You/Kenny Chesney/Blue Chair Records/Warner Music
Nashville — 7

Things A Man Oughta Know/Lainey Wilson/Broken Bow — 6

I Can't/Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion/Monument Records — 6

Villain/Lily Rose/Big Loud Records — 6

Old School's In/Heath Sanders/Valory — 6

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Hands On The Bible/Chelsey James — 154

Homesick/Veronika/Whattaguy Music — 151

Camp Jackson/Michael B. Whit — 151

It Goes So Fast/Dwain Messer/N Crowd Music — 139

NO. 1 SONG



Keith Urban's duet with P!nk, "One Too Many," notches the top spot on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Chart this week. The single is nominated for Music Event of the Year at the 56th *ACM Awards*.

"One Too Many" was written by Cleo Tighe, Daniel Davidsen, James Norton, Mich Hansen, and Peter Wallevik. The music video has amassed over 20 million views on YouTube. Watch the video [here](#).

Urban was tapped to host the [56th ACM Awards](#) alongside Mickey Guyton. CBS will present the awards live from Nashville Sunday, April 18 (8:00-11:00 p.m., live ET/delayed PT) on the CBS Television Network, and available to stream live and on demand on Paramount+.



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
WDGG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
22	2	1	One Too Many / Keith Urban & P!nk / Capitol	1707/60	0	1
35	3	2	The Good Ones / Gabby Barrett / Warner Music Nashville	1700/55	6	100
9	6	3	Undivided / Tim McGraw and Tyler Hubbard / Big Machine Records	1668/63	5	85
25	4	4	Settling Down / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	1611/57	1	14
54	5	5	Nobody / Dylan Scott / Curb	1575/53	-1	-19
22	9	6	Next Girl / Carly Pearce / Big Machine	1533/65	6	93
8	8	7	Minimum Wage / Blake Shelton / Warner Music Nashville	1506/59	3	38
19	7	8	Just The Way / Parmalee x Blanco Brown / Stoney Creek Records	1480/42	-1	-13
20	11	9	Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	1471/54	6	81
16	13	10	Blame It On You / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow	1325/57	4	52
44	1	11	Made For You / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	1311/46	-27	-497
19	12	12	We Didn't Have Much / Justin Moore / Valory	1295/62	1	14
60	14	13	Somebody Like That / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand	1259/44	6	72
10	15	14	Famous Friends / Chris Young & Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1187/56	6	72
38	17	15	Hard Days / Brantley Gilbert / Valory	1033/46	2	19
17	18	16	Memory I Don't Mess With / Lee Brice / Curb	1031/54	8	80
56	16	17	Momma's House / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow	978/35	-5	-52
37	19	18	Wine, Beer, Whiskey / Little Big Town / Capitol	922/41	1	11
5	22	19	Glad You Exist / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville/WAR	901/48	11	92
20	21	20	If It Wasn't For Trucks / Riley Green / BMLG	872/42	5	43
18	20	21	Heaven On Dirt / Teddy Robb / Monument	872/48	2	19
9	23	22	Tequila Little Time / Jon Pardi / Capitol	842/46	5	41
14	25	23	Ain't Gonna Be Today / Ward Davis / Ward Davis Music/Thirty Tigers	837/45	10	74
3	29	24	Forever After All / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	826/46	26	171
20	24	25	Where I Find God / Larry Fleet / Big Loud Records	792/40	-1	-7
18	27	26	Just About Over You / Priscilla Block / Mercury Nashville	751/43	4	32
9	28	27	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	749/48	5	37
12	26	28	Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen. / Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line / Broken Bow/Dack Janiels	732/40	1	4
15	30	29	Anybody Else / Mira Goto / ArtistMax/Copperline	642/33	6	36
9	32	30	My Boy / Elvie Shane / Wheelhouse Records	634/38	19	102
28	36	31	Single Saturday Night / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	600/37	24	116
13	31	32	Cold Beer Calling My Name / Jameson Rodgers feat. Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	589/33	7	37
7	33	33	To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	548/37	7	35
6	34	34	Freedom Was A Highway / Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley / Stoney Creek Records	526/34	5	24
15	40	35	God Save The World / Jeff Carson / MC1 Nashville	510/22	10	48
4	39	36	Lonely Drum / Aaron Goodvin / Reviver Records/Warner Music Canada	509/38	8	37
13	37	37	Just Like You / Paige King Johnson / PCG Artist Development	495/37	4	17
14	38	38	Heartland / Hailey Whitters / Big Loud Records/S&D	477/28	0	1
17	41	39	You Time / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	466/31	5	22



2021
**COUNTRY RADIO
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MUSICROW

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
12	44	40	Extra / Kylie Trout / Kylie Trout Music	435/27	5	20
10	47	41	Just Friends / Caylee Hammack / Capitol	418/27	11	43
21	43	42	I Can Tell By The Way You Dance / Josh Turner / MCA Nashville	411/24	-4	-17
10	49	43	Chain Breaker / Zach Williams / Provident Label Group	403/30	15	52
10	46	44	What Would Dolly Do? / Tori Martin / LuckySky Music	399/25	3	10
26	45	45	Waitin' On 5 / Chris Janson / Warner Music Nashville	378/19	-5	-20
13	48	46	River Bent / Caleb Kelley / River Bend Entertainment	376/22	3	10
2	64	47	Knowing You / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	366/28	50	122
8	51	48	Right Place Now / Hudson Valley / Hudson Valley	349/21	8	27
15	50	49	Worship You / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	346/20	3	9
5	53	50	Okfuskee Whiskey / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	340/31	9	28
3	59	51	Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville	329/26	30	75
6	61	52	Shallow / Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood / Pearl Records	313/20	25	62
10	55	53	You're Gonna Love Me / Tim Dugger / Curb	305/20	11	29
2	65	54	I Can't / Caitlyn Smith feat. Old Dominion / Monument Records	304/28	27	65
5	58	55	Together / for KING & COUNTRY feat. Hannah Ellis, Jackson Michelson / Curb Word Entertainment	301/25	15	40
5	56	56	What The Whiskey's For / Tom Sexton / Lots To Do Music	300/28	9	26
10	54	57	Freedom And Wings / Heather Smith /	290/16	4	12
9	63	58	Kickstart / Owen Howell / Kojax Entertainment	262/17	6	14
7	62	59	Can't Stop / Chloe Collins / Collins House Music	262/20	5	12
8	60	60	No Body, No Crime / Taylor Swift feat. Haim / MCA Nashville	255/16	1	3
12	57	61	Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	253/15	-4	-10
4	84	62	Things A Man Oughta Know / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow	235/15	68	95
8	66	63	I Do Thing / Kylie Frey / Deep Frey'd Music Group	222/18	4	9
6	67	64	Head Over Wheels / Joe Hanson /	213/14	1	2
5	73	65	See You Here / Courtney Dickinson / 117 Music	202/13	16	28
24	68	66	Dear Rodeo / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Bros.	200/11	2	3
2	77	67	It's All Yours / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	195/18	20	33
3	76	68	Gettin' Her Over You / Bobby Wills / Willing	192/16	18	29
8	71	69	More With Less / Frank Vieira / Frank Vieira Music	192/11	7	12
2	79	70	Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	183/13	19	29
4	70	71	Do Ya / Tiffany Woys /	183/12	1	2
6	69	72	New To Neon / Andrew Hopson / Tower Road Records	182/14	-1	-1
6	74	73	He Looks Good On Her / Michael McCall / MDM Entertainment	179/12	5	8
2	72	74	Come On Over / Kyle Elliott /	176/12	1	1
1	88	75	Under It With You Tonight / Smith & Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville	168/16	31	40
2	78	76	Gotta Go Rodeo / Darlinghurst / Helium	166/14	8	12
1	87	77	Let It Flow / Dave McElroy / Greg Stevens Promotions/Tatum Town LLC	165/11	22	30
1	82	78	Good Day / Brett Eldredge / Warner Music Nashville	163/15	13	19
3	81	79	Dreams And Gasoline / Shelley Lynch / Lynch Records	162/9	11	16
2	80	80	Same Dirt Road / Eric Lee / Blue Hill Records	162/15	10	15

No. 1 Song
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Niko Moon's 'Good Time' Climbs To No. 1



Breakout country artist **Niko Moon** earned his first No. 1 single as an artist with his Platinum-selling smash "Good Time." Moon's debut single

topped the Mediabase/*Country Aircheck*, *Billboard* Country Airplay and *Billboard* Hot Country Songs charts. The song also hit No. 1 on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart in February.

"I want to give a BIG, BIG thank you to everyone who has believed in me and believed in 'Good Time,'" says Moon. "I also want to thank country radio and streaming platforms for allowing me to connect with all of their amazing country music fans. This has been a dream of mine for a really long time, and y'all have made it possible."

"Good Time" is the first debut single to simultaneously peak on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay and Hot Country Songs charts since Sam Hunt's "Leave The Night On" in 2014. The hit single, which has more than 197 million on-demand audio streams, is co-written by Moon, his wife **Anna Moon**, **Jordan Minton**, **Joshua Murty** and **Mark Trussell**.

Moon is currently self-producing his debut full-length project alongside Murty, a longtime collaborator and friend. **MR**

Creative Nation Taps Emily Furman As Sr. Director, Creative

Creative Nation has announced the addition of **Emily Furman** to their team as Sr. Director, Creative. In her new role, Furman will help lead the publishing team, sign new talent, and develop the current roster of songwriters and artists.

At age 17, Furman moved to Nashville to attend Belmont University. She graduated in May of 2009 with a BBA in Music Business and in July of 2009, was hired at Carnival Music where she spent over eleven years working in publishing and artist development.

"Emily's 11 years of experience at a respected independent publishing company, and her passion for great songs and songwriters, make her a perfect fit for Creative Nation. We are excited to add her fresh perspective to our publishing team," Co-Founder and CEO, **Beth Laird**, says.

"Creative Nation operates with a strong team culture and a commitment to quality and success in a way that's unique and forward-thinking. I'm grateful for Beth and **Luke [Laird]**'s belief in me and to be a part of what they're doing in the Nashville music community and beyond," Furman says. **MR**



Emily Furman. Photo: Spencer Combs

Thomas Rhett Announces Double Album, *Country Again*



Reigning ACM Entertainer of the Year **Thomas Rhett** has announced his fifth studio double album: *Country Again*. *Side A* will release on April 30 via The Valory Music Co, while *Side B* is planned for release later this year.

“*Country Again: Side A* is everything I wanted to say when I was 19 years old, but hadn’t lived enough to know how to say any of those things yet,” Rhett says. “It’s about the crazy journey that took me out into the world over the last ten years and ultimately brought me back home, more centered and content than ever, with a deep understanding for what’s important in life. I’ve had a blast sharing some of these songs in their acoustic form during quarantine and am blown away by the reaction the fans have already shown.”

In what is described as a musical and thematic return to his roots, Rhett co-wrote every song on *Side A*. He teamed up with longtime producers **Dann Huff** and **Jesse Frasure** for the project.

Rhett, who was reportedly already feeling a pull back to his musical roots, was prompted to make the music when the pandemic struck and the world shut down.

“How else do you slow down unless you’re forced to?,” Rhett says. “For the first time, I had to look at myself and say ‘Who am I? Who is Thomas Rhett without a microphone or a guitar or a stage?’ I had to really dig deep and figure it out. So in many ways, 2020 was a big ol’ reality check, a complete reset. And when I finally settled into myself and my family, and started to work again, it completely influenced all of my songwriting.” **MR**

Miranda Lambert, Jack Ingram And Jon Randall To Release *The Marfa Tapes* In May

Jack Ingram, **Miranda Lambert**, and **Jon Randall** are releasing a collection of intimate and raw songs written and recorded together in the tiny town of Marfa, Texas, called *The Marfa Tapes*, on May 7.

Over the past several years, the desolate location has become a songwriting haven for the trio, yielding hits and some profound personal growth. When they returned for five days last November, they recorded the new project, inspired by the stark beauty of west Texas and the deep, lasting bonds the three have forged there. Recorded raw and loose with just a pair of mics and an acoustic guitar, *The Marfa Tapes* is an intimate, unadorned snapshot of a moment in time fueled by love, trust, and friendship.

“I’ll never forget pulling into Marfa that first night at 4 a.m.,” said Lambert. “The stars were like nothing I’d ever seen before, just this endless blanket hanging so low you could reach up and touch them. I immediately understood why this place was so special.” **MR**



Morris Higham / SB Projects Sign Alana Springsteen



Pictured (L-R): Basak Kizilisik, Alana Springsteen and Clint Higham. Photo: David Bradley, Osprey Media

Rising country newcomer **Alana Springsteen** has signed a management deal with Morris Higham in partnership with Scooter Braun’s SB Projects.

The 20-year-old Virginia Beach native has amassed more than 21 million on-demand streams in just over a year, and is set to release a duet with collaborator Roman Alexander on March 19. They penned “Trying Not To” along with the track’s producers **Jerry Flowers** and **Jared Keim**.

With a knack for storytelling, Springsteen has also been collaborating with Parker Welling, Gordie Sampson, Jon Randall and Casey Brown. She was named a Pandora 2021 Artist to Watch.

“Alana’s star quality, individualism, and devotion to her artistry make her a talent that stands out effortlessly,” said Morris Higham President **Clint Higham**. “She brings a fresh perspective with honest storytelling, powerful vocals, and an undeniable presence. We are honored and excited to have the opportunity to help Alana launch this new chapter.”

“I couldn’t imagine a better fit than **Basak Kizilisik**, Clint Higham, and the incredible people at Morris Higham and SB Projects for my management team,” said Springsteen. “I’m so thankful for their passion, their belief in me and my music, and so excited to walk into this year with such a powerhouse group of individuals behind me. Truly feels like the dream team!” **MR**

Sony Music Publishing Promotes Tom Foley



Sony Music Publishing has announced the promotion of **Tom Foley** to Senior Vice President, Worldwide Portfolio Management and Analysis. Based in the company’s Nashville office, Foley reports to Sony Music Publishing Global Chief Financial Officer, **Tom Kelly**.

In his new role, Foley is responsible for providing analysis on the performance of the company’s investments around the world and working with regional and local management teams to maximize investment returns.

Sony Music Publishing’s Kelly says “Tom has been a vital and dedicated member of our team since he began at EMI Music Publishing in 1998—his knowledge and expertise have helped us adapt to the industry’s ever-changing landscape and I’m confident he will create more growth opportunities for our roster in this new role.”

“I am very excited to continue working with Tom and **Jon [Platt]**, who have guided and mentored me throughout my career. I look forward to helping them deliver for Sony Music Publishing and its songwriters the greatest value for their catalogues in an ever growing and evolving music marketplace,” says Foley.

Previously, Foley held the position of Vice President, North American Royalty Administration in Nashville, where he helped his team implement several new technologies, such as Real-Time Foreign accounting and Cash Out. He first joined Sony from EMI in 2013 as Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis, where he led the department during period of rapid expansion after the EMI Music Publishing acquisition. He originally began working at EMI Music Publishing in 1998, holding various roles in royalties and finance. Tom is a graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in business administration. **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Travis Denning, Breland, Miranda Lambert



Travis Denning, Breland

There are a number of conflicting country forces in today's stack of wax.

With two Shenandoah entries, there's a hint of nostalgia in the air. Matthew West and Lathan Warlick bring a CCM flavor to the proceedings. The Wild West is an all-female band. Brett Kissel is a gust of Canadian country. Miranda Lambert, Jack Ingram and Jon Randall represent the acoustic, troubadour, singer-songwriter wing of our format. Robert Counts and Hardy are Southern rock.

Wandering through this forest of diverse sounds, we emerge with a Discovery Award for Montana's Jonah Prill. Finishing in a dead heat for the Disc of the Day honor are Travis Denning and Breland, two thoroughly different artists who are doing superb work in their respective arenas.

[Click here to read Robert K. Oermann's reviews of Travis Denning, Breland, Miranda Lambert, Jack Ingram, Jon Randall, Shenandoah, and more.](#) **MR**

MORE TOP STORIES

[Miranda Lambert, Brandi Carlile, Mickey Guyton, Maren Morris To Perform At 'Grammy Awards'](#)

[Red Light Management And Twitch Partner To Launch CTRL_MUSIC_](#)

[Lindsay Ell, Phillip Phillips, Breland Added To 2nd Ave Strong Concert](#)

[Josh Turner To Release 'Your Man' Deluxe Edition For Its 15th Anniversary](#)

[Margo Price And Nathaniel Rateliff To Perform On 'CMT Crossroads'](#)

[Wells Fargo Private Bank's Nashville Entertainment Group Ups Danielle Lares-Bouharoun](#)

[Circle Network To Launch On Peacock With Blake Shelton Takeover](#)

[Entertainment Companies Comment On Passage Of American Rescue Plan Act Of 2021](#)

[Lindsay Ell, Brett Kissel, Tenille Townes, More Nominated For 2021 Juno Awards](#)

[Grammy-Winning Female Engineer Launches We Are Moving the Needle Foundation](#)

[ASCAP Overcomes Pandemic Challenges To Collect \\$1.327 Billion in 2020](#)

[Scott Sexton Upped To Director Of Publicity, Logan DeLoye Promoted At 2911 Media](#)

[Annenberg Inclusion Initiative Study Reveals No 'Meaningful' Change For Women In Recorded Music](#)

[Big Yellow Dog Music Promotes Two In Label Services Department](#)

[Weekly Register: 'Dangerous' Joins Elite List Of Record-Breaking Albums](#)

[Lonestar Welcomes Drew WOMACK As Lead Singer](#)

CMA Announces Donation Drive, Sarah Trahern Talks Ongoing COVID Support [Interview]

Through its Music Industry COVID Support (MICS) initiative, the Country Music Association has helped aid music industry professionals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 9, the organization announced a support donation drive benefiting Musically Fed and will be accepting goods at the CMA office (35 Music Square East, Nashville, TN 37203) Monday, March 15 through Friday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Among the items needed are basic food items such as pasta and rice, as well as toiletries.

Food Items Needed:

- Dried Pasta & Sauce
- Oatmeal, Cereal
- Canned Fish/Meat
- Canned Fruits/Veggies
- Soup, Crackers
- Rice, Quinoa, Dry Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Nuts

Toiletries Needed:

- Toothpaste
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Hand Soap
- Body Wash
- Shaving Cream
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels



Musically Fed also has an Amazon Wish List, from which donations can be purchased before March 19. To direct your purchase to the food drive, select “Country Music Association, c/o FOOD DRIVE’s Gift registry” as the shipping address.

CMA CEO **Sarah Trahern** spoke to *MusicRow* about the donation drive, and about CMA’s continued efforts to help support music industry professionals who are struggling during this health crisis.

In the state of Tennessee alone, more than 50,000 music jobs have been impacted by the pandemic, and that number is estimated to be hundreds of thousands more nationwide.

“One of the people on our board drew a diagram for us one day and around this person’s artist, there were about 140 people directly on the road food chain—not to mention the manager in the office, a publicist, and a freelance staff,” Trahern says.

“We started working on ‘What can we do over the course of the year?’ Some of it is hard investment dollars.”

At the onset of the pandemic, CMA donated \$1 million to The Recording Academy’s MusiCares COVID-19 Relief Fund in addition to a \$100,000 donation to Music Health Alliance.



CMA has since outlined additional funding to six nonprofit partners—Music Health Alliance, Musically Fed, Notes for Notes, Porter’s Call, The Store and Touring Professionals Alliance Kitchen — which, along with previous nonprofit investments, are funded through CMA’s \$3 million long-term COVID-19 commitment that began in early 2020.

The organization has continued to analyze and assess the specific needs of music professionals to determine the most vital resources and services to provide. Established as a portal for key resources in the categories of food supply, health and wellness, and career services, MICS helps to connect industry professionals with appropriate nonprofit partners offering critical support.

“One of the things that I was most proud of during this time was a small program that we worked on to help people with their resumes and to find temporary jobs for people who don’t have work right now. We don’t want them to leave our business, but they might need access to a job for six months.

“[The donation drive] is something easy for us to engage the people in the Nashville community and the people in the music community, the ones who are doing okay right now to say, ‘Hey, come lean in and help us. Help us help our brethren get back on their feet.’”

While Trahern is hopeful that touring is on the horizon with vaccines beginning to roll out, programs like the resume workshop and the upcoming donation drive are put in place to

help get touring professionals to the other side. “They’re not a population that is used to asking for help,” she says. “They’re the people in black, they’re the ones who crawl up in the rafters. Our business was one of the first businesses to close and we’ll probably be the last one to open back up in a lot of ways.”

CMA will march on to support the music industry during this hardship. “We’re going to continue to support programs around the country. We’re doing another nationwide program that will be announced in the next few weeks with six to eight markets that are music cities outside of Nashville, but that have a high density of people in the music business who are hurting right now. We’ll continue our support with groups like the Music Health Alliance, and Porter’s Call to work on creating access to mental health resources during this time.” **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Josh Osborne	Sand In My Boots Beers And Sunshine How They Remember You Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's Next Girl	Morgan Wallen Darius Rucker Rascal Flatts Sam Hunt Carly Pearce
2	2	Jesse Frasure	What's Your Country Song Almost Maybes Minimum Wage Whiskey And Rain	Thomas Rhett Jordan Davis Blake Shelton Michael Ray
3	4	Ross Copperman	Beers And Sunshine Lady We Were Rich	Darius Rucker Brett Young Runaway June
4	3	Ashley Gorley	Bandaid on a Bullet Hole Sand In My Boots Warning What's Your Country Song Single Saturday Night We Were Rich	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Thomas Rhett Cole Swindell Runaway June
5	6	Corey Crowder	Long Live Minimum Wage Famous Friends Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen	Florida Georgia Line Blake Shelton Chris Young + Kane Brown Chase Rice feat. Florida Georgia Line
6	7	Luke Combs	Better Together Forever After All	Luke Combs Luke Combs
7	11	Tyler Hubbard	Lil Bit Long Live Undivided	Nelly & Florida Georgia Line Florida Georgia Line Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
8	12	Jon Nite	I Hope Lady	Gabby Barrett Brett Young
9	8	Ernest Keith Smith	Somebody's Problem Wasted On You Warning Dangerous Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90's	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
10	9	Mike Henderson	Starting Over	Chris Stapleton
11	10	Chris Stapleton	Starting Over	Chris Stapleton
12	13	Randy Montana	Better Together We Didn't Have Much	Luke Combs Justin Moore
13	18	Niko Moon	More Surprised Than Me Good Time Gone	Morgan Wallen Niko Moon Dierks Bentley
14	16	Gabby Barrett	I Hope The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett Gabby Barrett
15	17	Zachary Kale	I Hope The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett Gabby Barrett
16	19	Nicolle Galyon	Minimum Wage Gone We Were Rich	Blake Shelton Dierks Bentley Runaway June
17	14	Morgan Wallen	Bandaid on a Bullet Hole Somebody's Problem Still Goin Down Livin' The Dream Wasted On You Dangerous Neon Eyes	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
18	24	Dallas Davidson	Silverado For Sale Down To One	Morgan Wallen Luke Bryan

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
19	28	Michael Hardy	Still Goin Down Livin' The Dream Sand In My Boots Single Saturday Night What Do I Know	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell Robert Counts
20	20	Dan Isbell	Better Together	Luke Combs
21	21	Kevin Bard	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown
22	22	N.W. Sipe	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown
23	23	Matt Thomas	Just The Way	Parmalee x Blanco Brown
24	26	Kyle Fishman	Down To One	Luke Bryan
25	27	Justin Ebach	Down To One	Luke Bryan
26	25	Ryan Vojtesak	Still Goin Down Wasted On You Warning Worship You	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown
27	30	Brett Young	Lady	Brett Young
28	29	Rodney Clawson	Somebody's Problem Momma's House	Morgan Wallen Dustin Lynch
29	5	Taylor Swift	Love Story	Taylor Swift
30	41	B. Davis	Made For You Memory I Don't Mess With	Jake Owen Lee Brice
31	34	Allison Veltz Cruz	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
32	35	Tenille Arts	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
33	36	Alex Kline	Somebody Like That	Tenille Arts
34	31	Chris Loocke	Undivided	Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard
35	38	Eric Church	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
36	39	Monty Criswell	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
37	40	C. Beathard	Hell Of A View	Eric Church
38	32	John Thomas Harding	Beers And Sunshine	Darius Rucker
39	33	Darius Rucker	Beers And Sunshine	Darius Rucker
40	50	N. Medley	Made For You	Jake Owen
41	51	Jeffery Hyde	Made For You	Jake Owen
42	15	Hillary Lindsey	Almost Maybes	Jordan Davis
43	44	Dallas Wilson	Nobody	Dylan Scott
44	45	Dylan Scott	Nobody	Dylan Scott
45	46	Matt Alderman	Nobody	Dylan Scott
46	47	Jordan Davis	Almost Maybes	Jordan Davis
47	37	Rhett Akins	What's Your Country Song Tequila Little Time	Thomas Rhett Jon Pardi
48	48	Emily Landis	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
49	49	J. McCormick	The Good Ones	Gabby Barrett
50	42	Allen Shamblin	How They Remember You	Rascal Flatts
51	43	M. Beeson	How They Remember You	Rascal Flatts
52	56	Justin Wilson	Momma's House	Dustin Lynch
53	57	Michael Lotten	Momma's House	Dustin Lynch
54	58	Dylan Schneider	Momma's House	Dustin Lynch
55	52	Josh Murty	Good Time	Niko Moon
56	53	Anna Moon	Good Time	Niko Moon
57	54	Jordan Minton	Good Time	Niko Moon
58	55	Mark Trussell	Good Time	Niko Moon
59	62	Thomas Rhett	What's Your Country Song	Thomas Rhett
60	63	Parker Welling	What's Your Country Song	Thomas Rhett

CALENDAR

Singles

March 12

The Highway Women/Dead Man Walking/Heart Songs

March 15

Kenny Chesney/Knowing You/Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville

Lady A/Like A Lady/Big Machine

Dianña/Calm Down Karen/Slippery Eel Productions

Austin Tolliver/Yodelay You Down/Average Joes Entertainment

Faith Schueler/Rainy Day Lover/Gulko

Queeva/Show Off

March 19

Lauren Davidson/Backfire/Loaded Gun Productions

Trevor Martin/Wife You Up

Albums

March 12

CeCe Winans/*Believe For It*

Joey Hendricks/*Between The Clouds* EP/Sony Music Nashville

March 19

Loretta Lynn/*Still Woman Enough*/Legacy Recordings

Midland/*Midland: The Sonic Ranch (Soundtrack)*/Big Machine

Steve Gulley & Tim Stafford/*Still Here*/Mountain Home Music

Morgan Wade/*Reckless*

March 26

Carrie Underwood/*My Savior*/Capitol Records Nashville

David Olney & Anana Kaye/*Whispers and Sighs*/Schoolkids Records

The Alex Leach Band/*I'm The Happiest When I'm Moving*/Mountain Home Music

Chevel Shepherd/*Everybody's Got A Story* (EP)

Industry Events

March 14

Grammy Awards

March 15 - 21

SXSW