

WEEKLY



WEEKLY

MusicRow's Top 100 Songwriters Of 2024



Zach Bryan. Photo: Trevor Pavlik

Since 2018, *MusicRow* has published a weekly Top Songwriter Chart that ranks the week's top 60 songwriters based on song activity according to airplay, digital download track sales and streams.

Through the use of proprietary software, the points awarded to each song are evenly distributed among its co-writers, mirroring the revenue and ownership structures common in Music City's publishing industry. This system highlights the overall success of active songs for each songwriter. As a result, the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart provides a weekly snapshot of the most active and successful songwriters in Nashville.

Zach Bryan accumulated the highest number of points on the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart in 2024, securing the top spot on the year-end rankings.

After earning the top spot in 2023 with songs from his *American Heartbreak*, *Boys of Faith* and self-titled projects, which stayed near the top of the charts throughout 2024, Bryan continued to release new music in 2024. The Warner Records artist released his *The Great American Bar Scene* album in July, consisting of mostly solo-written tunes, allowing Bryan to collect all of the points those songs earned.

Songs that contributed to Bryan's dominance on the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart include his Grammy-winning collaboration with Kacey

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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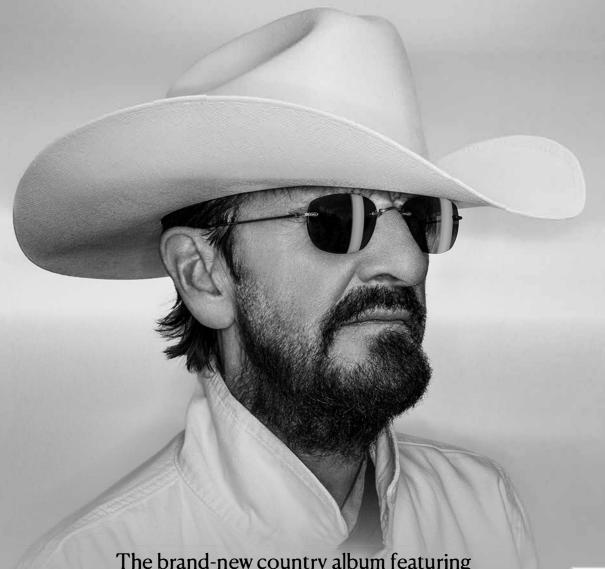
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"There is a lightness to his voice and an ease and the sentiments of the songs - never sentimental - seem exactly where I would want to be" – Elvis Costello



AVAILABLE NOW



The brand-new country album featuring 11 original songs produced by T Bone Burnett

LOST HIGHWAY

Musgraves "I Remember Everything,"
"28," "American Nights," "Bass Boat,"
"Bathwater," "Better Days," "Boons,"
"Funny Man," "High Road," "Like Ida,"
"Lucky Enough," "Mechanical Bull,"
"Memphis, The Blues," "Northern
Thunder," "Oak Island, "Pink Skies,"
"Sandpaper," "Sun To Me," "The Great
American Bar Scene," "The Way Back,"
"This World's A Giant," "Towers" and
more.

Ashley Gorley ranks No. 2 on *MusicRow*'s Top 100 Songwriters of 2024 list. A continuous mainstay on the country charts, Gorley added numerous hits to his songbook over the past year, including "Bulletproof," "Fix What You Didn't Break," "Hell Or High Water," "I Am Not Okay," "Liar," "Love Somebody," "Park" and "Whiskey Whiskey," among others.



Ashley Gorley. Photo: Katie Kauss

He also snagged multiple charting cuts on Post Malone's *F-1 Trillion* album, which

made waves in the country music industry this year. Throughout 2024, Gorley was recognized with numerous accolades, including ASCAP Country Songwriter of the Year for the 11th time, iHeartRadio Award's Songwriter of the Year, *MusicRow*'s CountryBreakout Songwriter of the Year and Male Songwriter of the Year, NMPA Top Gold & Platinum Songwriter and a TICUA Hall of Fame induction. Gorley currently has over 80 No. 1 hits.

Landing at No. 3 on *MusicRow's* Top 100 Songwriters of 2024 list is **Chris Stapleton**. Stapleton has his own "It Takes A Woman," solo-penned "Think I'm In Love With You," "What Am I Gonna Do" and the Grammy and CMA Award winning "White Horse" all from his *Higher* album featured on the charts this year, as well his collaboration with Post Malone, "California Sober." Stapleton was also named the Artist-Songwriter of the Year at the 2024 ACM awards and the 2024 ASCAP Country Music Songwriter-Artist of the Year.

Josh Phillips placed at No. 4 this year, largely attributed to his solo-penned Cody Johnson cut, "Dirt Cheap." The tune was awarded the *MusicRow* Song of the Year last summer and was nominated for many other awards. Phillips also earned points with his Luke Combs' recorded "The Man He Sees In Me."

Jessie Jo Dillon rounds out the top five songwriters of 2024. Dillon had two charting cuts on Megan Moroney's *Am I Okay?* album this year, with credits on "Am I Okay?" and "No Caller ID." Dillon also was recorded by a bevy of Nashville artists throughout the year, writing on "Baggage," "Friday Night Heartbreaker," "Lies Lies Lies" and "Messed Up As Me." She was named the 2024 ACM Awards Songwriter of the Year, and is nominated for Songwriter of the Year, Non-Classical at this year's Grammy Awards.

Dillon is also the highest-ranking female on the list. This year's data remains predominantly male, with only 16 other female songwriters appearing in the top 100, which includes 121 names due to tied scores. This marks a slight increase from last year's total of 15 female songwriters.

Click here to view MusicRow's Top 100 Songwriters Of 2024. MR



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

Smile/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 60 weren't for the wind/Ella Langley/Sawgod/Collumbia - 65 Darlin'/Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville - 73 Let Me Roll/Whitey Morgan and the 78's - 75 Maxed Out/Bayker Blankenship/Lone Star/Santa Anna - 76

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label — Spin Increase
Liar/Jelly Roll/BBR Music Group - 414
Hometown Home/Locash/Galaxy Label Group - 374
I Never Lie/Zach Top/Leo33 - 349
I Ain't Sayin'/Jordan Davis/MCA Nashville - 218
Smile/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 60

Most Added

song/artist/label-No. of Adds

Smile/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 17 weren't for the wind/Ella Langley/Sawgod/Collumbia - 15 All Again/Charles Wesley Godwin/Big Loud Records - 10 I Never Lie/Zach Top/Leo33 - 10 Tough People/Drew Baldridge/Stoney Creek Records - 7

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label-No. of Spins

Bones/Russell Dickerson/Triple Tigers Records - 111 10-90/Muscadine Bloodline/30 Tigers - 109 Friday Night (Radio Edit)/Wade Bowen/Bowen Sounds - 109 She Makes Dirt Look Good/Alex Miller/Billy Jam Records - 105 Cowboys/Madelyn Rose/Vere Music - 102

NO. 1 SONG



Lainey Wilson claims the first No. 1 of the new year on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with her track "4x4xU."

The track is part of her fifth studio album *Whirlwind* and was written by Wilson, **Jon Decious** and **Aaron Raitiere.**

"4x4xU" currently sits at No. 12 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 8 on the Mediabase chart.



Each songwriter and artist earning No. 1 credit on the *MusicRow* Chart receives a *MusicRow* Challenge Coin. Click <u>here</u> to view a full list of recipients.

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

WHMA Anniston, AL WXFL Florence, AL KDXY Jonesboro, AR KWCK Searcy, AR WCTY Norwich, CT WPPL Blue Ridge, GA WUBB Savannah, GA KXIA Marshalltown, IA KTHK Idaho Falls, ID WOOZ Carterville, IL WALS Peru, IL WAAG Galesburg, IL WYOT Rochelle, IL WRTB Rockford, IL WFMB Springfield, IL

WIFE Connersville, IN
WYGB Franklin, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
WKDZ Cadiz, KY
KRRV Alexandria, LA
KQKI Morgan City, LA
KJLO Monroe, LA
WKPE Hyannis, MA
WTCM Traverse City, MI
KZPK St. Cloud, MN
KFAV Warrenton, MO
WBBN Laurel, MS
WFAY Fayetteville, NC
WKVS Lenoir, NC
KZZY Devils Lake, ND

KYCK Thompson, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
KFGE Lincoln, NE
KBRX O'Neill, NE
WMLL Manchester, NH
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
WNWN Battle Creek, MI

WVNW Lewistown, PA
WNBT Mansfield, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
WVPO Stroudsburg, 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	5	1	4x4xU / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	1942/61	6	116
27	3	2	Wind Up Missin' You / Tucker Wetmore /	1913/54	0	-4
9	2	3	Love Somebody / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1899/51	-5	-92
21	1	4	Guy For That / Post Malone feat. Luke Combs / Mercury Records/Republic/Big Loud	1848/53	-9	-183
47	6	5	This Town's Been Too Good To Us / Dylan Scott / Curb	1798/57	5	80
21	8	6	I Ain't Sayin' / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	1684/56	15	218
49	7	7	Boys Back Home / Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott / Columbia/Curb	1600/48	-4	-64
12	11	8	I'm Gonna Love You / Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1536/56	11	149
5	12	9	Texas / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	1514/60	10	137
7	18	10	Liar / Jelly Roll / BBR Music Group	1512/56	38	414
42	9	11	Damn Good Day To Leave / Riley Green / BMLG Records	1382/46	-1	-12
48	13	12	Bigger Houses / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	1380/42	2	24
46	10	13	Life With You / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	1377/59	-1	-11
46	15	14	Think I'm In Love With You / Chris Stapleton / Mercury Nashville	1360/44	7	84
30	17	15	Friends Like That / John Morgan feat. Jason Aldean / Night Train Records/Broken Bow Records	1267/51	13	150
18	14	16	High Road / Koe Wetzel feat. Jessie Murph / Columbia Records	1146/29	-14	-194
26	29	17	Hometown Home / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group	1143/43	49	374
9	28	18	I Never Lie / Zach Top / Leo33	1128/57	45	349
18	20	19	Am I Okay? / Megan Moroney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records	1103/51	12	117
21	19	20	Whiskey Drink / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow Records	1077/52	8	77
28	23	21	Holy Smokes / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville	1032/48	17	152
23	21	22	Just To Say We Did / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	977/47	4	38
25	22	23	Cowboys Cry Too / Kelsea Ballerini feat. Noah Kahan / Black River Entertainment	950/50	3	30
24	30	24	Coming Home / Old Dominion / Columbia Nashville	915/48	21	160
32	25	25	Breakin' in Boots / Matt Stell / RECORDS Nashville	889/38	5	45
22	26	26	Truck On Fire / Carly Pearce / Big Machine Records	888/50	10	78
35	24	27	Forever To Me / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	849/41	-1	-10
41	31	28	Whatcha See Is Whatcha Get / Chris Janson / Nashville Harbor Records	787/38	5	37
8	36	29	Backseat Driver / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	761/44	31	180
12	34	30	Would If I Could / Ernest / Big Loud Records	695/43	9	58
14	35	31	Sunday in the South / Shenandoah, Jason Aldean & Luke Bryan / 8-Track Entertainment	635/38	6	37
17	32	32	High Road / Koe Wetzel / Columbia	623/20	-9	-63
6	42	33	Tough People / Drew Baldridge / Stoney Creek Records	608/38	36	161
10	38	34	Tele-Man / Ira Dean & Ronnie Dunn feat. Vince Gill, John Osborne, Brent Mason / 8-Track Entertainment	579/35	9	46
17	37	35	Working On Me / Donice Morace / Bad Jue Jue / CDX Records	555/35	2	9
17	41	36	Heavens To Betsy / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	543/38	13	
12	39	37	Truck Still Works / Brad Paisley / EMI Records Nashville	538/32	4	20
15	40	38	Whiskey in the Bottle / Scotty Hasting / Black River Entertainment	525/36	3	17





COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
29	43	39	Fall of Summer / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers	516/34	16	70
7	48	40	Country Song Came On / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	495/32	29	110
13	46	41	What Kinda Man / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	479/33	23	90
11	44	42	Heart Breaks You / BoomTown Saints & Sam Grow / 8-Track Entertainment	452/33	5	21
16	49	43	Hit The Hay Runnin' / Aaron Watson / Big Label Records	407/28	7	26
14	47	44	Friday Night Heartbreaker / Jon Pardi / Capitol Nashville	406/28	5	18
13	51	45	Beatles And Eagles / The Frontmen / Broken Bow Records	401/30	9	33
25	45	46	Over When We're Sober / Brantley Gilbert feat. Ashley Cooke / Valory	383/25	-2	-7
13	50	47	Run The Damn Ball / Jenna Paulette / Leo 33	381/28	2	9
6	58	48	Fix What You Didn't Break / Nate Smith / RCA Nashville	354/29	30	81
7	55	49	Time's Ticking / Justin Moore / Valory	341/25	11	33
8	53	50	Your Time to Stay / Aaron Goodvin / Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada	340/28	8	24
14	54	51	How It's Gonna Go / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Entertainment	339/25	8	26
7	56	52	Whose Tequila Are You Drinkin'? / Billie Jo Jones / Get Joe Records	323/26	17	46
2	66	53	All Again / Charles Wesley Godwin / Big Loud Records	269/27	70	111
16	57	54	Girl Problem / Trey Lewis / River House Artists	269/24	-2	-6
20	33	55	Beauty In The Broken / Pryor Baird / Black River Entertainment	251/18	-61	-397
15	59	56	Everybody Knows Your Name / Lucie Tiger / 2120 Music	245/17	-2	-4
4	61	57	Single Again / Josh Ross / Mercury Nashville/Universal Canada	241/20	26	50
16	67	58	Country House / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	219/17	40	63
8	60	59	Christian County (Homecomin' Queen) / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	217/18	9	17
1	0	60	Smile / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	202/17	0	202
9	63	61	Champagne Rampage / Tristan Mcintosh / Tristone Records	201/15	21	35
8	68	62	Your Loss / Tori Rose / Brown Lee Entertainment/The Orchard	195/13	28	43
10	62	63	Where You Gonna Run To Now? / Matt VanFossen /	195/16	4	7
7	65	64	Tough People Do / Jason Matthews / Valhalla Music Group	184/19	15	24
1	133	65	weren't for the wind / Ella Langley / SAWGOD/Columbia	175/16	127	153
4	69	66	Yours / Tony Evans Jr. / Aneva Music Group (AMG)	172/14	13	20
14	77	67	Everything I Need / Chayce Beckham / 19 Recordings/Wheelhouse Records	171/10	40	49
11	64	68	Relapse / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records	157/12	-5	-8
20	76	69	Park / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Records Nashville	156/11	23	29
3	71	70	Blackberry Brandy / Waylon Hanel & Madison Hughes / CDX Records	155/11	10	14
5	72	71	Highway / Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	153/10	14	19
6	70	72	Because of the Brave / Soul Circus Cowboys / Kismet Nashville	149/14	5	7
1	88	73	Darlin' / Chase Matthew / Warner Music Nashville	132/9	28	29
8	75	74	You Come Around / Herrick / CDX Records	131/7	2	
1	86	75	Let Me Roll / Whitey Morgan and the 78's / Whitey Morgan Music	130/11	18	20
1	83	76	Maxed Out / Bayker Blankenship / Lone Star/Santa Anna Records	129/13	15	17
3	79	77	Hey Dixie / Brian McComas /	122/12	2	2
7	78	78	What You're Looking For / Six One Five Collective / Six One Five Collective	121/10	0	0
2	82	79	Preachin' To The Choir (2024 Version) / Flynnville Train / Nine North Records Label Group	116/8	3	
2	81	80	Friday Night / Wade Bowen feat. Troy Aikman / Bowen Sounds	114/9	-2	

No. 1 Song

Greatest Spin Increase

Highest Debut

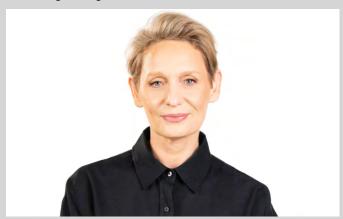
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Milly Olykan Joins Live Nation



Milly Olykan

Milly Olykan has joined Live Nation's Concert division as Senior Vice President of Artist Development & Global Touring. Reporting to President of Touring Omar Al-Joulani, Olykan will help to guide the development of the company's country and Americana strategy worldwide and work closely with Live Nation's global promoters to identify new touring opportunities, foster relationships with the artist community and drive the company's growth internationally.

She comes to Live Nation from the Country Music Association, where she served as Vice President of International Relations & Development for six years. During her tenure, Olykan further developed CMA's international strategy with a focus on expanding country music's global footprint and built a network of industry leaders that assisted in driving awareness for the genre worldwide. Olykan also oversaw CMA's programming strategy for CMA Fest and served as interim Festival Director for two years.

Prior to her time at CMA, Olykan was Vice President of Live Music & Major Arena Events at AEG Presents and established country touring in the United Kingdom for the company, earning her the CMA Jo Walker Meador International Award. She was also one of the founding promoters of Country to Country (C2C) Festival.

"Country and Americana artists are touring more of the world than ever before as the global demand for their music is on the rise, and Milly's extensive experience and industry connections make her a great asset to support our efforts in continuing to expand touring of those genres worldwide," says Al-Joulani. "We're excited for the opportunities her leadership will create for artists and their tours around the world." **MR**

AEG Presents Names Weston Hebert Vice President Of Global Touring



Weston Herbert

AEG Presents has appointed **Weston Hebert** as Vice President of Global Touring. Based out of the company's Nashville office, his responsibilities will include driving touring strategies and initiatives across the global market, reporting to President of Global Touring, **Rich Schaefer**.

Herbert began his career at WME in Nashville, focusing on international expansion of the agency's Country Touring business. Prior to joining AEG, he served as a Talent Buyer for Live Nation Entertainment in the Great Lakes region, overseeing bookings and programming at numerous prominent venues including Andrew J Brady Music Center, The ICON Festival Stage, Bogart's & The Bluestone. He also successfully booked and promoted tours for emerging artists such as The Red Clay Strays, Gavin Adcock and Lawrence.

"We're very excited to welcome Weston to Global Touring, boosting our presence in Nashville," adds Schaefer. "We've been watching Weston's development as a touring promoter from afar and have been impressed by his relationships with the artist community, managers and agents and his impeccable taste in music. We're looking forward to Weston being a significant contributor to our team." **MR**

Morgan Wallen Claims No. 1 Spot On Top Billboard 200 Albums For 21st Century



Morgan Wallen. Photo: David Lehr

Morgan Wallen's *Dangerous: The Double Album* has been named the No.1 album on the Top *Billboard* 200 Albums of the 21st Century Chart. The 200-position ranking summarizes performance on the weekly *Billboard* 200 albums chart from the beginning of 2000 through the end of 2024.

Wallen has two albums in the top 10 of the Top *Billboard* 200 Albums of the 21st Century chart, with his *One Thing at a Time* holding the No. 6 spot. His debut project *If I Know Me*, ranks at No. 159 on the same chart.

Additional country albums landing on the top-200 chart include **Taylor Swift** (No. 18), *Red* (No. 85), *Speak Now* (No.

120) and *Red (Taylor's Version)* (No. 197); **Carrie Underwood**'s *Some Hearts* (No. 19) and *Carnival Ride* (No. 142); **Chris Stapleton**'s *Traveller* (No. 30); **Luke Comb**'s *This One's For You* (No. 35) and *What You See Is What You Get* (No. 44); **Lady A**'s *Need You Now* (No. 51); **Florida Georgia Line**'s *Here's To The Good Times* (No. 54); **Luke Bryan**'s *Crash My Party* (No. 71) and *Tailgates & Tanlines* (No. 130); **Rascal Flatts**' *Me And My Gang* (No. 74) and *Feels Like Today* (No. 160); **Jason Aldean**'s *My Kinda Party* (No. 88); **Dixie Chicks**' *Home* (No. 89); **Zach Bryan**'s *American Heartbreak* (No. 114) and *Zach Bryan* (No. 156); **Sam Hunt**'s *Montevallo* (No. 129); **Gretchen Wilson**'s *Here For The Party* (No. 136); **Zac Brown Band**'s *The Foundation* (No. 137); **Blake Shelton**'s *Based On A True Story...* (No. 138) and **Alan Jackson**'s *Drive* (No. 179).

See more data at Billboard.com.

Brown Sellers Brown Announces New Hires & Promotion

Brown Sellers Brown (BSB) has hired **Ash Bowers** as Director of Artist Management and A&R Support, **Wendy Buckner** as Day-to-Day Manager for artists, and **Abby Driscoll** as Day-to-Day Manager. **Angela Wheeler** has been promoted to Director of Content & Creative.

Bowers will lead management strategy for artists like Gallaher and Hatcher. In his new role, he will also provide A&R assistance across Quartz Hill Records and Stone Country Records while serving as a record producer for multiple acts. Buckner brings more than 25 years of experience in music publishing, music and television production and artist management to her new position. She most recently served as Executive Personal Assistant to Wynonna Judd and Assistant to Marion Kraft at ShopKeeper Management.

Driscoll, a Belmont University graduate, began her artist management career interning and working part-time as an assistant at Make Wake Artists and at CAA as a receptionist and floater. In her elevated role, Wheeler will provide leadership support for the production of creative assets, including cover artwork, music videos and social media content. **MR**



Pictured (clockwise from top left): Ash Bowers, Angela Wheeler, Abby Driscoll and Wendy Buckner

The *MusicRow* Weekly

Lyndsay Cruz Exits ACM Lifting Lives



Lyndsay Cruz

ACM Lifting Lives' **Lyndsay Cruz** has stepped down from her position of Executive Director after six years with the organization.

Under Cruz's leadership, Lifting Lives generated more than six million dollars in funding, with over four million dollars from its COVID-19 fund providing assistance to more than 2,000 individuals. As the pandemic subsided, the organization shifted focus to mental health, establishing a dedicated fund that has awarded \$400,000 in grants to support mental health initiatives within the country music community.

"This organization has touched so many lives and will continue to do so," she says. "I am beyond proud of what we accomplished over the last six years helping our community in their greatest time of need. It's been wonderful to witness the positive changes ACM Lifting Lives has had in this industry and I'll be honored to watch it grow and succeed."

Cruz began her career as a political appointee under President George W. Bush, serving as an Advance Representative for the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Vice President. She later joined the international nonprofit Oxfam America, where she spent 13 years creating and managing their first-ever public figures ambassador program. After Oxfam, Cruz transitioned to independent consulting, working with numerous nonprofit organizations on major events and fundraising initiatives. *MR*

National Museum Of African American Music's President/ CEO Dion Brown Retires



Dion Brown

Dion Brown, the National Museum of African American Music's President and Chief Executive Officer, has retired from his role effective immediately.

Brown replaced past CEO Henry Beecher Hicks III, guiding the Nashville organization through leadership transition, financial good standing and helping establish the museum as a cultural and educational cornerstone. During his tenure, he was instrumental in expanding the museum's educational programs, developing strategic partnerships with music industry leaders, and enhancing the visitor experience through innovative exhibits and performances. He also played a pivotal role in raising the museum's profile within the broader arts and cultural landscape. Under Brown's leadership, NMAAM has achieved significant growth, creating a vibrant and inclusive space that celebrates the impact of African American music on global culture.

"Serving as the CEO of the National Museum of African American Music has been one of the greatest honors of my life," says Brown. "It has been a privilege to work alongside so many talented individuals dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history and contributions of African American artists and musicians. I am proud of all we have accomplished together, and I leave knowing that the museum is well-positioned to continue its important work for generations to come."

The Board of Trustees has created a special leadership team of board members and key staff to lead the museum during the transition, and will work to identify a successor who will continue Brown's legacy and carry forward the museum's mission of honoring the central role that African Americans have played in the history and evolution of music across U.S. **MR**

Nate Smith, Morgan Wallen & Big Loud Top 2024 Mediabase Year-End Country Charts



Morgan Wallen, Nate Smith

Mediabase revealed its year-end charts for 2024, with **Nate Smith** topping the country songs list with his multi-week No. 1 "World On Fire."

Smith is followed by **Warren Zeiders** "Pretty Little Poison" at No. 2, **Jelly Roll** and **Lainey Wilson** s "Save Me" at No. 3, **Sam Hunt** s "Outskirts" at No. 4 and **Bailey Zimmerman** s "Where It Ends" at No. 5.

Industry stalwart **Morgan Wallen** tops the most-played country artists list of 2024. He is joined by Jelly Roll, Smith, Wilson and **Luke Combs** as the top five most-played country artists. Wallen is also the No. 5 most-played artist on the overall Mediabase 2024 chart, with Jelly Roll

following him at No. 7 and Post Malone taking the No. 9 slot on the all-genre list.

Big Loud is once again the No. 1 country label of the year by market-share. They are followed by RCA (No. 2), Broken Bow (No. 3), Stoney Creek (No. 4) and Columbia (No. 5).

The 2024 chart year is based on the time period from Nov. 12, 2023 through Nov. 9, 2024.

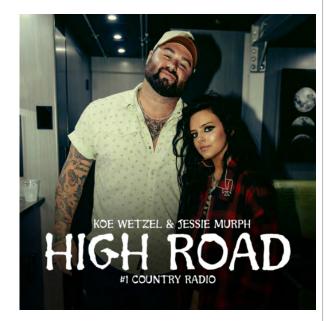
See the full slate of information here. MR

Koe Wetzel Reaches Country Chart Summit With 'High Road' Featuring Jessie Murph

Koe Wetzel has landed his first No. 1 at country radio with "High Road" featuring **Jessie Murph**, which topped both the *Billboard* Country Airplay and *Country Aircheck*/Mediabase country charts over the last two weeks while also achieving top 20 at Hot AC and top 25 on the Top 40 chart.

The single was co-written by Wetzel with **Amy Allen, Gabe Simon, Carrie Karpinen**, Murph, **Laura Veltz** and **Josh Serrato**, and is featured on Wetzel's album *9 Lives*, which was released in July as his fifth studio album. The project earned recognition on multiple year-end best-of lists, including *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, the *Tennessean*, *Holler* and more, with the *Los Angeles Times* naming "High Road" as the No. 8 best song of 2024 across all genres.

"Look at us with a No. 1! Jessie, you're a beast of a singer and writer, glad we share this one together. Amy, Carrie, Laura, Serrato and Gabe, it's an honor any time we're in a room together," shares Wetzel. "It's been an unbelievable year and to



cap it off with this is just unreal. Huge shoutout to the fans for already making this one Platinum, to our promo team for working their asses off all year and to country radio for taking a chance on a kid from East Texas." **MR**

Tucker Wetmore Winds Up Scoring First No. 1 At Country Radio



Tucker Wetmore. Photo: Jarrod Anthonee

Tucker Wetmore has scored his first No. 1 at country radio with Platinum single "Wind Up Missin' You."

Following his debut in February 2024 with back-to-back *Billboard* Hot 100 chart hits "Wine Into Whiskey" and "Wind Up Missin' You," the UMG Nashville/Back Blocks Music artist amassed 700 million total global streams. "Wind Up Missin' You" hit the country airwaves in June and topped the charts in just 30 weeks.

"I cannot say thank you enough to country radio for making 'Wind Up Missin' You' my first No. 1," shares Wetmore. "The last year has changed my life, and it wouldn't look the same without y'all!!! This is a dream come true and an incredible way to start 2025. I am beyond grateful to everyone who made this happen, and I'm excited to work even harder for you this year. God is so good!!"

Additionally, he was named as one of *MusicRow's* 2025 Next Big Thing Artists, and will perform during Luke Bryan's 10th annual Crash My Playa concert vacation later this month. Wetmore has also added 17 dates to his sold-out "Waves On A Sunset Tour," and plans to support Thomas Rhett's "Better In Boots Tour" this summer. *MR*

Splice Releases New Al Discovery Tool For Country Creators



Splice, the sounds catalog platform that helps music creators bring their ideas to life, is launching the country music genre in its Create Al tool, which allows producers, songwriters and instrumentalists to build song starters and create stacks using compatible sounds from across the vast Splice catalog.

The Splice team spent months in Nashville, Austin and Los Angeles to capture rich, authentic, human-made country sounds for this launch. Released under a new sample label, Splice Country features performances from country musicians including **Devin Malone** (Jelly Roll, Carrie Underwood), **Trevor Nealon** (Willie Nelson, Lee Ann Womack) and **Kate L. Malone** (Sam Hunt, Emma White).

"Create is already changing the game for producers across genres whose phones are filled with Stacks and I'm looking forward to seeing how the country community engages with the tool," says **Kenny Ochoa**, SVP of Content at Splice. "Our ability to deliver these beautiful country samples right into studio workflows is going to make such a difference for country producers. It was important to us to get this right, to find the right musicians to play on these sample packs and get the best recording quality and instrumentation that producers in the country space want to use.

Splice Country is home to 10 new sample packs featuring loops and melodies using the unique instruments that define the genre; the dobro, pedal steel, lap steel and banjo. These sounds are now accessible in Splice's Create Mode, providing country producers with the same technology embraced by songwriters, producers and Splice users worldwide. With the launch of Splice Country, the company now has 29 in-house sample labels spanning more than 130 genres, featuring hundreds of instruments. *MR*

DISClaimer Single Reviews: Morgan Wallen Takes First Disc Of The Day In The New Year



Photo: Courtesy of Big Loud/Mercury Records/ Republic Records

In keeping with the subdued emotions of wintery weather, today's edition of DISClaimer is a snow shower of ballads.

Morgan Wallen wins the Disc of the Day award with his bittersweet ballad "Smile," and he has plenty of company in the downbeat department. Kameron Marlowe, Muscadine Bloodline, Kat Luna, Warren Zeiders, Lee Brice and the trio of Mary Chapin Carpenter with Scottish stars Julie Fowlis and Karine Polwart are also crooning slow tunes.

Slightly more upbeat is Dylan Schneider, who takes home this week's DISCovery Award. Even more stirring is Mackenzie Carpenter's winking delivery of "Dozen Red Flags," which gets bonus points for cleverness.

Click here to read Robert K. Oermann's full single reviews. \emph{MR}

MORE TOP STORIES

Art Director & Jewelry Designer Thomas 'Lynn' Baker Passes

Bailey Zimmerman Plots 'New To Country Tour' For Summer

<u>Brian Magerkurth Named Chairman Of The Board Of SongwritingWith:Soldiers</u>

Country Music Stars Show Out For 'New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash'

<u>Eric Church & Jelly Roll To Close Out CRS 2025 With</u>
<u>Special Conversation</u>

Grand Ole Opry Kicks Off 'Opry 100' At Ryman Auditorium

Kirk Franklin To Receive Black Music Icon Award At Fourth Annual Recording Academy Honors

Looking For A New Job In 2025? Check Out MusicRow's Job Board

<u>Luke Combs, Marcus King, The Red Clay Strays, More Among Bonnaroo 2025 Lineup</u>

Martha Earls To Serve As Keynote Speaker For Women In Music Virtual Summit

Nominations Now Open: MusicRow's 12th Annual Rising Women On The Row Honors

Rani Hancock Appointed Executive Vice President, Head Of U.S. Creative At Kobalt

Sony Music Publishing Unveils New Administration Office On Music Row [See Inside]

SoundExchange Reveals 2024 Top Tracks & Breakout Creators

Submissions Now Open For 60th Annual ACM Awards

The Wiggles Go Country With 'Wiggle Up, Giddy Up!'
Due In March

UMG & Amazon Music Expand Global Relationship

Zach Top & Adrien Nunez Among Shazam Fast Forward 2025 Artists

Quartz Hill Records Signs 2 Lane Summer



Pictured (L–R, back row): Ash Bowers, Wendy Buckner and Jason Sellers; (L–R, front row): Chris Ray, Benny Brown and Joe Hanson. Photo: Courtesy of Quartz Hill Records

Quartz Hill Records has signed country-pop duo 2 Lane Summer. Comprised of Joe Hanson and Chris Ray, 2 Lane Summer has amassed more than five million streams with their original songs, and gained over 300,000 social media followers in the past year. Last month, the pair joined Chapel Hart for five "Hartfelt Family Christmas Tour" dates. Hanson has also previously toured with Brantley Gilbert, Randy Houser, Russell Dickerson and Lindsay Ell.

"Signing a record deal is a lifelong dream for both of us, and we're grateful to Quartz Hill for giving two friends this opportunity to take their music to the world," adds Ray. "And, obviously, I'm Black and Joe's white, so it's cool to be a part of something that's bigger than just us in terms of bringing people together through music."

They released "Eyes That Ain't Yours (Wedding Version)," a piano-led reimagining of their most-streamed track to date, today (Jan. 10). Produced by **Ash Bowers**, the love song was co-penned by Hanson, Ray, **Dustin James** and **John Marlin**.

Additionally, 2 Lane Summer is booked by 1271 Entertainment and will be managed by Bowers and **Wendy Buckner**. *MR*

Makayla Lynn Inks With Eclipse Music Group, Wrensong Entertainment & Harvey Dog Hits

Singer-songwriter **Makayla Lynn** has signed a global publishing deal with Eclipse Music Group in partnership with Wrensong Entertainment and Harvey Dog Hits.

"Our writers have been collaborating with Makayla for quite some time, and we've long been fans of her talent, so we're thrilled to join forces with our friends **Ree Guyer** and **Abbe Nameche** as her publishing partner," shares Penny Gattis, Partner, Eclipse Music Group.

A Canada native, Lynn was named as one of *Rolling Stone*'s "New Artists You Need To Know." With a presence on both sides of the border, she spent time at No. 1 on CMT's 12-Pack Countdown and has earned two East Coast Music Awards in Canada. Recently, Lynn was honored as part of the 2024 Class of the Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP) Nashville Songwriter Series. She has collaborated with artists and songwriters, such as Trisha Yearwood, Lori McKenna, Gordie Sampson, Marcus Hummon, Leslie Satcher, Matraca Berg and Ronnie Bowman, among others. *MR*



Pictured (L-R): Eclipse Music Group's Anna Thiel, Courtney Crist, Penny Gattis, Makayla Lynn, Wrensong Entertainment's Ree Guyer and Harvey Dog Hits' Abbe Nameche

My Music Row Story: City National Bank's Lori Badgett



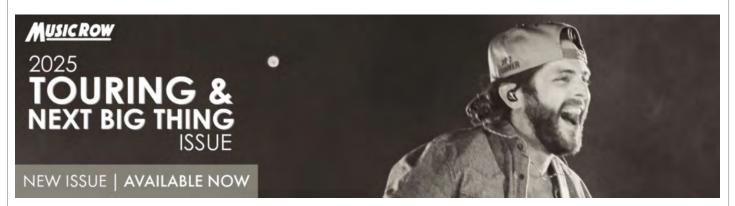
Lori Badgett

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

Lori Badgett is Senior Vice President & Team Leader of Entertainment Banking for City National Bank (CNB), and has spent over 25 years serving the entertainment industry nationwide. Badgett helped launch the first Nashville office in 2011 and co-manages the office with Diane Pearson. The bank has quickly become Nashville's premier entertainment bank, now serving over 85% of the Nashville music industry. The bank is instrumental in financing some of the top business and creative names—including artists, songwriters, producers, managers, performing rights organizations, agencies, publishers, business managers and law firms.

Badgett enjoys giving back through nonprofit board involvement. She previously served as Chairman of the Academy of Country Music and ACM Lifting Lives, and actively sits on the Boards for the Americana Music Foundation, Belmont Curb School of Music, Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and Girls Give as well as Music Health Alliance. Badgett also served as past President of Leadership Music and was part of the 2002 class.

She has been recognized as one of *Billboard*'s Top Women in Business, Top 50 Women in Music, Country Power Players as well as *Variety*'s Women Who Power Country Music, Top Entertainment Industry Dealmakers and Top 30 Music City Impact Players. She lives in Brentwood with her husband Jon and their daughters.



MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up outside of Nashville, in Hendersonville. My father worked at Opryland USA, which included the Grand Ole Opry, the hotel and the theme park. He was Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations.

We had a very unique childhood—growing up at a theme park, going to the Opry for various occasions. He was close to Mr. Roy Acuff, Bud Wendell, Jack Vaughn, Jerry Bradley and others of that generation. He worked there from 1974–1990. Those were really fun times in the music business, and for Nashville. Back then, there wasn't much happening downtown. Everyone went to Opryland. He had a lot of fun entertaining different people.

What's your earliest memory of those days?

I definitely spent a lot of nights in Roy Acuff's dressing room during shows as a kid. I remember listening to Marty Robbins in his dressing room, Porter and Dolly performing on stage, Max D. Barnes playing songs he had written on our back porch, going to see Vern Gosdin and Gene Watson at Twitty City and Opryland shows like "I Hear America Singing." There was always music playing in our house, including Conway & Loretta, George & Tammy, Ray Stevens and Don Williams, just to name a few. We had dinner a couple of times at the steakhouse in the Opryland hotel once with the cast of *The Dukes of Hazzard* and another with the cast of *Dallas*. Larry Hagman and Patrick Duffy—those kinds of moments were just strangely normal for us.

Did you know then that you wanted to do this?

Absolutely not! I've always loved country music and being part of music, but I graduated from the University of



Dwight Yoakam and Badgett

Tennessee in Knoxville without really knowing what I wanted to do. I was a business graduate and a marketing major, and banks were recruiting hard. I ended up in SunTrust Bank's Management Training program. It was a one-year program that taught you about the bank and helped you find your fit. This was in 1996. I remember that I was usually in heels, pantyhose and a Talbots dress because it wasn't appropriate for women to wear pants at that time.

The Head of the Music Division at SunTrust, **Brian Williams**, stood out to me during the training program. He was fun and well-connected in both the business and music communities. Back then, Nashville wasn't "Music City" as it is today. Brian was a true connector, bridging the gap between the people on Music Row and the downtown business community. He was my first boss, and I didn't realize how special that was at the time.

How did you get to work with him?

At the end of the training program, you figured out where you wanted to be, and they figured out who they wanted. Brian and I clicked. The other option was the Marketing department, and while that was appealing, I thought if I worked on Music Row as a banker, I'd better understand what the Marketing department needed. So, I leaned into that path—and here I am almost 30 years later.

What did you learn as you started your career as an entertainment banker?

Back then, we celebrated everything—Gold, Platinum and Diamond records. Record sales were so successful before streaming. I went through Leadership Music in 2002, when we were debating Napster and whether people would ever watch movies or listen to music on their phones.



Dolly Parton and Badgett

I went to graduate school at Belmont, where I earned an MBA in music business. We had roundtable discussions with industry legends like **Donna Hilly**, **Tim DuBois** and **Mike Curb**. Hearing their stories was fascinating.

The music business has changed a lot since then. When I started at the bank, it was about handling mostly deposits with some loans and mortgages. Over time, it grew heavily into the investment side and, by 2006, we were in large-scale syndications as music publishing began to grow. The number of labels has consolidated, and the same trends have happened in publishing.

I've always admired the entrepreneurs in the music business—they are so unique and take incredible risks with so much uncertainty, and somehow succeed. It's rewarding to watch and be part of their journey.

At what point did you decide to stay in music banking instead of marketing?

Probably five or six years into working with Brian. I had built a book of business and cared deeply about my clients. I never looked back after that. We built the business by understanding the unique cash flow and challenges of the music industry. I became a translator —explaining to creative people what banks can do and showing the bank why a creative person is a good risk.

However, Brian always knew that I enjoyed the marketing aspects of our office and let me run with projects. I worked closely with the Marketing department

on every campaign, photo shoot, taglines and promotions. That's why he was such a good leader—he let all of us do what we were good at. I still get to use all of my marketing expertise at CNB in promoting what we do best.

Bankers are involved in so much. How do you explain what you do now?

Recently my daughter had to write a college essay. She started it with, "Growing up, I never knew what my mother did." That's still accurate. I feel that my work is primarily about connecting people and helping them succeed, whatever success means to them. Sometimes that's finding financial investors or partners, or just introducing people I know who have similar goals and are good people at heart. I'm heavily involved in nonprofits, which is the most rewarding part. During the COVID pandemic, with ACM Lifting Lives, we doubled down on giving and distributed four million dollars in two thousand-dollar increments. It was life-changing for people who needed that support at an unprecedented time in history. CNB also took on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) lending process during the pandemic which was a monumental achievement.

You co-lead the Music Row office of City National Bank with Diane Pearson. Tell me about that.

Diane and I have worked together since the beginning of my career, and we're great partners and friends. We know each other's strengths, so any issue that comes up, we immediately know who will handle it. Our team is passionate and on-call 24/7. When clients are on the road or dealing with credit card issues, we're here to help, whether they're filling up a bus or checking into a hotel, we have to be sure things go as planned. Diane and I are so much alike in that

we're both extremely committed to helping the Nashville music community whatever that means on any given day.

What's your favorite part of the job?

The people! The people I get to work with—my colleagues and our clients are truly the best of the best, and I'm honored to be on their team. And of course, the music... I'm an avid fan, and there is nothing that will ever replace the live music experience.

I also really love the charitable component, and I'm grateful CNB is such a strong supporter. Our successful business allows us to lead in nonprofits. I've been deeply involved with ACM, ACM Lifting Lives, Leadership Music, Americana Music Association, Music Health Alliance and Young Leaders Council. Currently, I



Kenny Chesney, Badgett and Tracy Lawrence

serve on the Board at Belmont University for Curb College, and the newest expansion is going to provide incredible things for students and our music community. I'm also involved with the Community Foundation's Women's Fund. I recently attended a grantee lunch where recipients shared what they'll do with their grants—buying diapers, supporting self-defense programs, or helping to provide period products so girls don't miss school. It's humbling and inspiring to see the impact we can make.

What did your dad think about your career in the music business?

He loved it. Anytime I could take him to an industry event, like the Country Music Hall of Fame Medallion Ceremony or something at the Opry, he was thrilled. He passed away a couple of years ago, but we had a very special relationship. He was so proud of me, even though I think he found it surprising that his goofy, creative daughter became a banker!

Who have been your mentors?

Brian Williams. Not only was he my first boss, he believed in me when he didn't have to. He always said I worked with him, not for him, and that stuck with me. His leadership taught me how to treat people and manage effectively.

Martha Henderson, who ran CNB's Entertainment division for 40 years, has also been a huge influence. She is the reason I made the change from SunTrust to CNB. She embodies integrity, always putting clients first, and her steady leadership has been inspiring.

What personality traits are crucial for this job?

You have to be dependable and trustworthy. Building trust is everything. You also have to be responsive—most calls or emails are time-sensitive. It's demanding but rewarding.

What advice would you give to future leaders in this business?

Show up. There are so many opportunities in the music business, but you have to take initiative. Talk to people. Most are willing to share their journey if you ask. Don't sit back and wait for things to happen.

I've been blessed to do this for almost 30 years, with a wonderful family and a career I love. I'm very lucky. MR

Newly Added Job Listings

Burning Ground Entertainment/Kore PR: Public Relations/Social Media Interns

Burning Ground Entertainment is looking to fill two internship positions – a Social Media Intern as well as a Public Relations Intern under subsidiary Kore PR. Burning Ground Entertainment is an independent entertainment firm with services that include management, artist development, publicity and social media marketing. Internships are hands-on and goal-oriented with tasks that can span various aspects of the industry to increase skillsets.

Contact: Send resume and preferred semester to anna@korepr.com

Tri Star Sports and Entertainment Group: Tax Manager, Integrated Tax and Financial Services

The Tax Manager, Integrated Tax and Financial Services will manage and oversee the preparation and review of complex tax returns (Corporations, S Corp, Partnerships, Individual, etc.), create client budgets and assist with tax planning. The ideal candidate should have previous experience providing services for high net worth individuals and their entities, and enjoy training, coaching, and mentoring junior staff members. This is a great opportunity for a CPA who loves working in a fast paced environment, variety in their day-to-day, but also appreciates having work/life balance.

Contact: Apply here

Henry Maier Festival Park: Production Manager

The Production Manager oversees and manages the production process of entertainment deliverables, ensuring that they are completed efficiently, within budget, and according to schedule. They collaborate with artists, musicians, engineers, and other stakeholders to facilitate the successful execution of entertainment deliverables. This role is responsible for identifying, developing, and executing resources and requirements to support the production of entertainment performances and events at Henry Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee, WI.

Contact: hr@summerfest.com

Riser House Entertainment: Product Manager

Product Manager is the hub of communication for artist's teams, management, press, external social media teams, etc. They will oversee the development of products from the recording timeline- to the promotional planning – and through the release of the product. Assist the Label Manager and Sr. Director of Digital Strategy in designing and implementing marketing plans. Oversee the music distribution process, upload, and communication. Communicating essential & important dates and deadlines. Organize weekly/ monthly artist focused meetings. Help to streamline all communication. Assist label director in all things. The ideal candidate is a team player with strong leadership qualities who will be responsible for guiding and organizing a team of high performing individuals. They will need to be very organized, detail oriented, and have strong communication skills as they will be coordinating and facilitating weekly phone calls/meetings.

Contact: megan.schultz@riserhouse.com

TKO Artist Management: Social Media Manager

We are seeking a passionate, innovative, and results-driven Social Media Manager to elevate the online presence of an established Country Music Artist based in Nashville, TN. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the growth of a celebrated artist's brand while traveling and engaging directly with fans worldwide. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: develop and execute social media strategies across all platforms to engage fans and grow the artist's audience; create, curate, and publish high-quality, engaging, and on-brand content in real-time during concerts, events, and appearances; monitor social media trends, tools, and analytics to optimize performance and identify opportunities for growth; collaborate with the artist's management team, publicists, and other team members to ensure cohesive messaging; manage behind-the-scenes content and other interactive fan engagement initiatives while on tour. Frequent travel is required.

Contact: megan@tkoartistmanagement.com

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases And Radio Add Dates

January 10

The War And Treaty/Save Me/UMG Nashville

Evan Honer feat. Michal Leah/Waiting For It/Cloverdale Records

Ty Myers/Drunk Love/RECORDS Nashville/Columbia Records

Redferrin/Pourin' In Nashville/Warner Music Nashville

Vincent Mason/Waitin' On You To Wear Off/MCA Nashville/Music Soup/Interscope Records

Kameron Marlowe/Hello Whiskey/Columbia Nashville

Kip Moore/Bad Spot/Virgin Music

Caylee Hammack/Bed Of Roses/Capitol Records Nashville

Tyler Rich/Give Up To Get It

Lily Rose/I'll Let You Know When I Get There

Mackenzie Carpenter/Dozen Red Flags/The Valory Music Co.

Zach John King/Slow Down/Sony Music Nashville

Noah Thompson/Here Lately

Madison Hughes feat. Brent Cobb/Nobody Knows Your Love

Dusty Black/I Don't Wanna Be Right/Stone Country Records

2 Lane Summer/Eyes That Ain't Yours (Wedding Version)/Quartz Hill Records

Grant Gilbert/West of Fort Worth/River House Artists

Neon Union/Helluva High/Red Street Records

Brendan Walter & Low Gap/If A Song Could Change Your Mind/Cloverdale Records

Austin G/Running My Mouth

Kat Luna/Happiest I've Ever Been/Sony Music Nashville

Thelma & James/Happy Ever After You

January 13

Chris Lane/If I Die Before You/Red Street Records

January 17

Joe Nichols & Annie Bosko/Better Than You (After Hours)/Quartz Hill Records

Drew Green/Comin' In Country/RECORDS Nashville

Emily Ann Roberts/Easy Does It

Chancey Williams/The Ballad Of Uncle Don

Matt Oakley/Fire & Water/C2 Records

Garrett Bradford/Watching You Burn/H.O.T. Records

Faith Schueler/Crush

Barefoot Joe/Soulmate/Yep Records

Album/EP Releases

January 10

Ringo Starr/Look Up/UMG Nashville

Trey Lewis/Livin' Left To Do

Nolan Taylor/Nolan Taylor/Atlantic Records

January 17

Lanco/We're Gonna Make It/Riser House Records

Ryan Waters/All I've Ever Known