

# WEEKLY



MORGAN WALLEN

## ***MusicRow* Reveals 2025 Country Radio & Streaming Digital Issue**

# 2025 **COUNTRY RADIO & STREAMING** ISSUE

Welcome to *MusicRow's* 2025 Country Radio & Streaming digital issue—an edition dedicated to the essential role that radio and streaming platforms play in delivering country music to fans around the world.

In this issue, we recognize the artists who received the most airplay on *MusicRow's* CountryBreakout Radio Chart in 2024, along with the Nashville label group that earned the most spins throughout the year. We also spotlight our Songwriter of the Year—the writer behind the most No. 1 songs on our chart during the past year.

Nashville is filled with extraordinary talent, but it takes a strong, collaborative team to make sure our city's most celebrated export—great music—reaches its audience.

From traditional radio to streaming services and beyond, today's listeners have more ways than ever to discover new music. And as technology continues to evolve, new methods of music distribution will undoubtedly emerge. *MusicRow* will be here to cover those advancements, celebrating the industry professionals who ensure the music we love finds its way to the fans who love it.

Thank you for reading,

The *MusicRow* Team

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### **THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES**

*MusicRow* Reveals 2025 Country Breakout Award Winners

Industry Insiders Break Down Some Of Country's Biggest Hits

SiriusXM's Ashley Till Shares Her Journey Through Radio

Dennis Reese Returns To Sony Music Nashville

Dan Killian Joins FBMM Ownership Team

Paramount 'Pauses' CMT Music Awards

Alexandra Kay Signs With BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville

CountryBreakout Award Past Winners

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews

And much more...



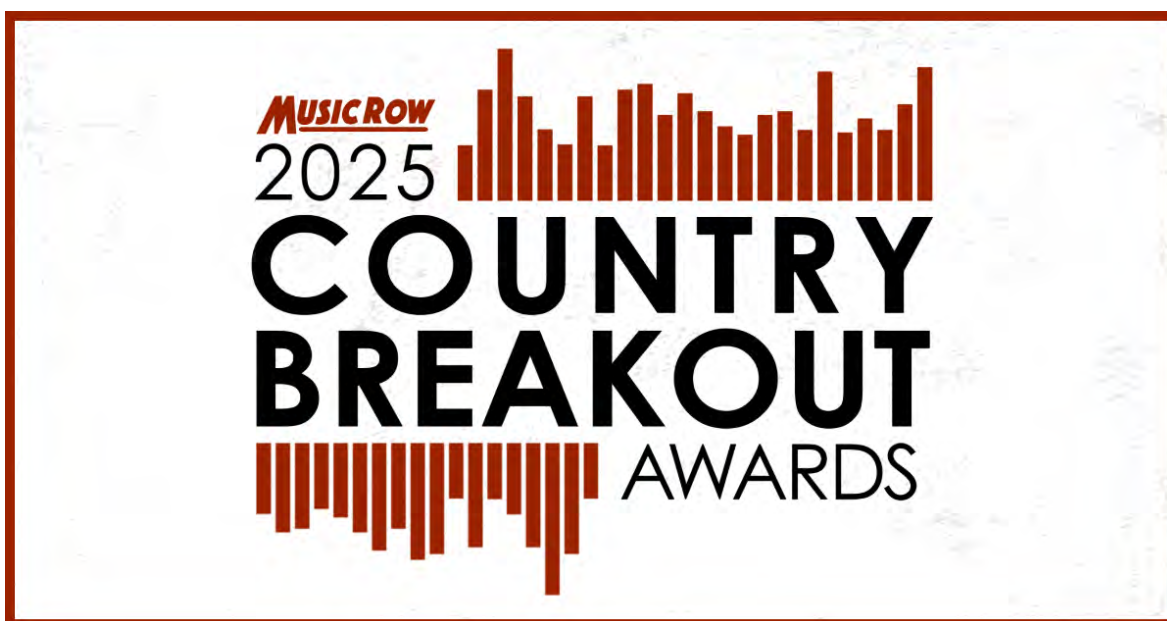
CONGRATULATIONS

MORGAN  
WALLEN



**MUSICROW**

**MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**



For 23 years, *MusicRow* has celebrated country music's success at radio in secondary markets with its annual *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Awards.

Based on spins on the secondary market stations that report to the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart panel each week, winners in eight categories are awarded. These artists and industry professionals wrote, recorded and promoted the music that played across small town America throughout 2024.

**Morgan Wallen, Lainey Wilson, Dan + Shay, Zach Top, Drew Baldridge** and **Big Machine Label Group** prevail at this year's CountryBreakout Awards for garnering the most spins in their own respective categories. Hit songwriters **Ashley Gorley** and **Charlie Handsome**, as well as *MusicRow* Radio Chart reporter **Dani Holland** are also victors for their esteemed skills.

Wallen is the winner for Male Artist of the Year for the third year in a row, while Wilson takes home her second win for Female Artist of the Year. Dan + Shay notch their third win in the Group/Duo of the Year category.

The Breakout Artist of the Year honor is given to a new artist whose first single or album was released in 2024, and earned the most spins on stations that report to the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart. Top takes this year's Breakout Artist of the Year distinction.

The Independent Artist of the Year award honors a top independent artist, based on the number of spins earned on stations that report to the chart, as well as factors including label size, distribution model and promotion staff. Baldridge takes home the honor this year for the first time for his independent work with "Somebody's Daughter."

For the first time, Big Machine Label Group earns the Label Group of the Year honor, with its artists earning the most spins of any label imprint on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart in 2024.

Songwriting juggernaut Gorley takes home his seventh Songwriter of the Year honor for penning the most No. 1 songs on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart in 2024. This year, Gorley tied with Handsome for the honor, his first time taking home the win.

This year's Reporter of the Year goes to Holland of WALZ. This honor is an editorial decision that recognizes a *MusicRow* station panelist that best epitomizes the spirit of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart.

The winners of *MusicRow*'s 23rd annual CountryBreakout Awards are highlighted on the pages ahead. **MR**



FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

# MORGAN WALLEN

**ENTERTAINER  
OF THE YEAR**

**MALE ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR**

**SINGLE  
OF THE YEAR**  
LOVE SOMEBODY

**MUSIC EVENT  
OF THE YEAR**  
COWGIRLS  
(FEAT. ERNEST)

**VISUAL MEDIA  
OF THE YEAR**  
SMILE

BIG LUD

Mercury

REPUBLIC





# MORGAN WALLEN

## MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

By Lorie Hollabaugh

This year's *MusicRow* Male Artist of the Year, **Morgan Wallen**, is no stranger to the top of the charts. Over the past year, collaborations with Thomas Rhett, Eric Church, Ernest and Post Malone propelled him to No. 1 again and again.

Wallen kicked off the year with "Mamaw's House" featuring Rhett, which he co-wrote and marked his 11th No. 1 hit. He then surprise-released the *Abbey Road Sessions*, recorded at London's iconic Abbey Road Studios, to commemorate the one-year anniversary of his 2023 *One Thing At A Time* album, which topped the *Billboard* 200 for 18 non-consecutive weeks.

Following "Mamaw's House," Wallen scored another No. 1 with "Man Made A Bar" featuring Church, the fifth chart-topper from *One Thing At A Time*. Summer brought his blockbuster hit "I Had Some Help" with Post Malone, which debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 with 76.4 million streams. From Malone's first country album, the song became only the second single in history to debut with the support of all reporting stations and dominated the *Billboard* Hot 100 for six weeks. It also topped *Billboard*'s Songs of the Summer chart, making Wallen the second artist ever to achieve back-to-back wins, following Andy Gibb in 1977 and 1978.

In July, Wallen teamed up with Ernest for "Cowgirls," which quickly rose to No. 1 on the *MusicRow* chart. That same month, he opened This Bar, his new downtown Nashville venue, named after a song from *Dangerous: The Double Album*. He also released "Lies, Lies, Lies," which became his record-breaking fifth No. 1 single in a single year—a feat unmatched since the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart launched in 1990. In August, he took his massive appeal overseas for a European tour with stops in Stockholm and Copenhagen.

Returning stateside, Wallen celebrated a triumphant homecoming in September with two sold-out shows at Knoxville's Neyland Stadium, playing for 156,161 fans—surpassing a record previously held by The Jackson 5. The following month, he dropped "Love Somebody," which debuted at No. 1 globally across five countries. It marked his first solo song to top the *Billboard* Hot 100 upon release and made him the first artist to have three singles atop the Hot 100 and Hot Country Songs charts simultaneously.

After wrapping his two-year, 87-show "One Night At A Time Tour" in October—where he played over 51 stadiums across 10 countries and three continents for more than three million fans—Wallen announced his return to the road this summer. His "I'm The Problem Tour" kicks off in June at stadiums nationwide.

"I'm so thankful for the way the fans continue to support my music. This recognition is always an honor," says Wallen of the honor. "We have a lot to look forward to in 2025, and I can't wait to share more with y'all soon." **MR**



FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

# ASHLEY COOKE

**NEW FEMALE ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR**

**SINGLE OF THE YEAR**  
"YOUR PLACE"

**VISUAL MEDIA  
OF THE YEAR**

"YOUR PLACE"  
(OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO)

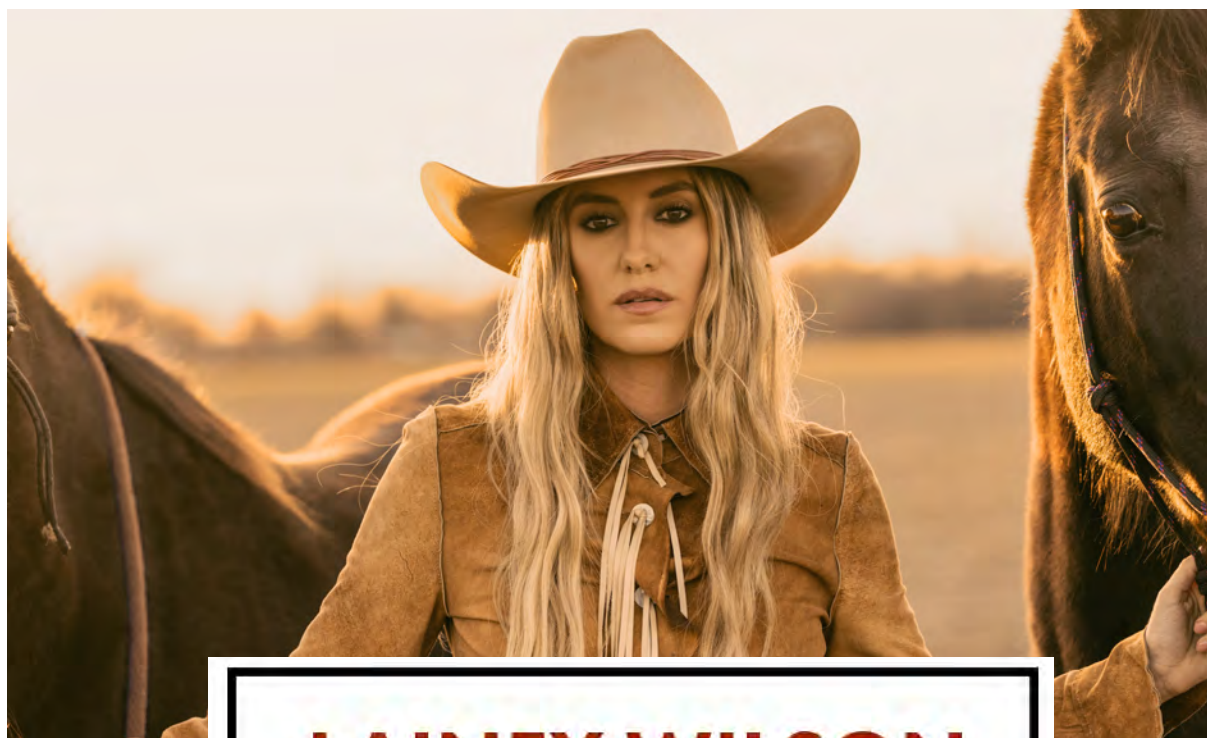
**MUSIC EVENT  
OF THE YEAR**

"OVER WHEN WE'RE SOBER"  
BRANTLEY GILBERT  
FEAT. ASHLEY COOKE



**BIG LOUD**

**BACK  
BLOCKS**



# LAINIEY WILSON

## FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

By Madison Hahnen

**Lainey Wilson** is a name on everyone's mind, with the singer appearing at just about every major music event last year. Honing in on her rapidly growing fanbase and spreading her music across the radio, Wilson has been honored as the Female Artist of the Year at the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Awards. This is Wilson's second consecutive CountryBreakout Award in this category.

In 2024, Wilson topped the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio chart twice with "Wildflowers and Wild Horses" and "Hang Tight Honey." "Wildflowers and Wildhorses" also hit No. 1 on the Mediabase country chart last year.

"Wow, this is such an honor! To be named *MusicRow*'s Female Artist of the Year and the most spun female artist by *MusicRow*'s secondary radio stations in 2024—it just blows me away," shares Wilson. "I remember when this journey started with nothing but a dream to tell stories that make people feel something and stand the test of time. I want to thank the programmers for believing in these songs and helping them reach more people every day. And to the fans who've been singing along and showing up, y'all are the heartbeat of everything I do. This is a humbling reminder of how lucky I am to do what I love, and I can't wait to keep sharing these stories with you this year!"

2024 was another groundbreaking year for the Louisiana native. Her year kicked off with a Grammy win for Best Country Album for *Bell Bottom Country*, following her performance at the MusiCares Person of the Year ceremony. But the Grammy wasn't the only trophy Wilson added to her collection last year. The Broken Bow Records artist also took home multiple honors from the ACM Awards, CMA Awards (where she co-hosted), CMT Music Awards and more.

Wilson kept the new music coming, releasing her *Whirlwind* album in August. The 14-track project debuted at No. 8 on the *Billboard* 200, cementing her place in the industry. Additionally, her song "Out Of Oklahoma" was featured on the *Twisters* soundtrack. On the road, Wilson toured extensively with her "Country's Cool Again Tour," playing 37 dates, many of which sold out. Fans around the world saw her perform at major festivals.

One of her biggest milestones of the year came in June when she was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry. This achievement was followed by the opening of her new Broadway bar, Bell Bottom's Up. Wilson also expanded her brand with new partnerships, including Barmen 1873 Bourbon, American Greetings, Tractor Supply and more.

Looking ahead to 2025, Wilson shows no signs of slowing down. She's already mapped out her European "Whirlwind Tour," which will kick off in Zurich and make stops in Antwerp and Copenhagen. **MR**



FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

- ERNEST -

"ERNEST, A WRITER OF HIT  
SONGS AND AN EMERGING  
STAR IN HIS OWN RIGHT."

*The New York Times*

"MORE THAN ANY  
PERFORMER, ERNEST BEST  
REPRESENTS HOW, IN THE  
NEXT DECADE, THE  
COMMUNAL SPIRIT DRIVING  
COUNTRY MUSIC IN  
NASHVILLE WILL LIKELY  
REDEFINE POPULAR CULTURE  
WORLDWIDE."

*THE TENNESSEAN*



**ALBUM OF THE YEAR**  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR**  
COWGIRLS - MORGAN WALLEN FEAT. ERNEST

**BIG LOUD**



## DAN + SHAY

### GROUP/DUO OF THE YEAR

By Lorie Hollabaugh

**Dan + Shay** received *MusicRow*'s Group/Duo of the Year distinction once again this year, and the pair celebrated plenty of firsts in 2024, including several career milestones, some significant chart success and a check off of their bucket list as well with a long desired holiday project.

The duo's leadoff single from their 2023 album *Bigger Houses*, "Save Me The Trouble," reached the top of the *MusicRow* chart in January, and the fanfare arrival of the hit song marked Dan + Shay's largest career add day ever. The two (Dan Smyers and Shay Mooney) also returned to the road after a lengthy hiatus, kicking off their extensive "Heartbreak On The Map Tour," their first headlining tour since 2021, named for the third song from *Bigger Houses*.

In addition to bringing their songs to the fans once again, they also brought their experience and knowledge to the NBC competition *The Voice* for the first time as the first-ever coaching duo on Season 25 of the Emmy-winning show, joining fellow coaches Reba McEntire, John Legend and Chance the Rapper in the legendary turnaround chairs.

In some familiar territory, the two also took home their fourth Duo of the Year honor at the 59th ACM Awards in Texas during the spring, and visited amphitheaters on the summer leg of their expansive "Heartbreak On The Map Tour" as well.

Fans were also thrilled to find out that Dan + Shay had also been hard at work on their first-ever holiday album, *It's Officially Christmas: The Double Album*, which was released on Oct. 18. The project was a decade in the making, and featured 21 songs including ten standards and 11 originals written or co-written by Dan + Shay, including three penned solely by Smyers himself. The project skyrocketed to No. 1 on the iTunes Holiday Albums Chart and debuted at No. 2 on the *Billboard* 200 Holiday/Seasonal Chart upon its release.

The album was a great present from the duo, and became an instant hit with fans as well, as evidenced by its streaming and chart success. The original tracks "Officially Christmas" and "Happy New Year" helped fuel the album's 550 million streams worldwide, incorporating 340 million streams in the U.S. alone. In addition, both "Happy New Year" and "Pick Out A Christmas Tree" reached No. 1 on the iTunes Holiday Songs Chart. "Pick Out A Christmas Tree" also made it to No. 3 on the AC chart and ended the year as the No. 1 most-played song of 2024 on the country current Holiday Airplay Chart and the No. 2 most-played song of 2024 on the all genre current Holiday Airplay Chart. In all, 13 tracks from the album enjoyed significant airplay across multiple formats throughout the season, capping off a Happy Holiday season and triumphant year indeed for the pair. **MR**



**MUSICROW**

**LABEL GROUP  
OF THE YEAR**

 **BIG MACHINE**   
L A B E L   G R O U P



**BE REMARKABLE**





## ZACH TOP

### BREAKOUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR

By Madison Hahnen

**Zach Top** seemingly burst onto the country music scene overnight. Over the past year, the Washington native has quickly made a name for himself in Nashville with his traditional country sound, captivating audiences and steadily growing his fanbase. With his breakout debut single “Sounds Like The Radio,” along with fan favorites “I Never Lie” and “Use Me,” all earning spins on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Chart in 2024, Top’s hard work has earned him the 2024 CountryBreakout Awards’ Breakout Artist of the Year.

Born and raised on his family farm in Sunnyside, Washington, Top grew up immersed in classic country music, which helped shape his musical style from an early age. By the time he was just seven years old, he had formed a band with his siblings, an experience that ignited his passion for music. As he got older, Top refined his craft by performing in several bluegrass bands, building a strong foundation for his future as a country artist. In 2021, he made the move to Nashville to pursue his dreams, where he’s since carved out a reputation as one of country music’s most exciting new talents.

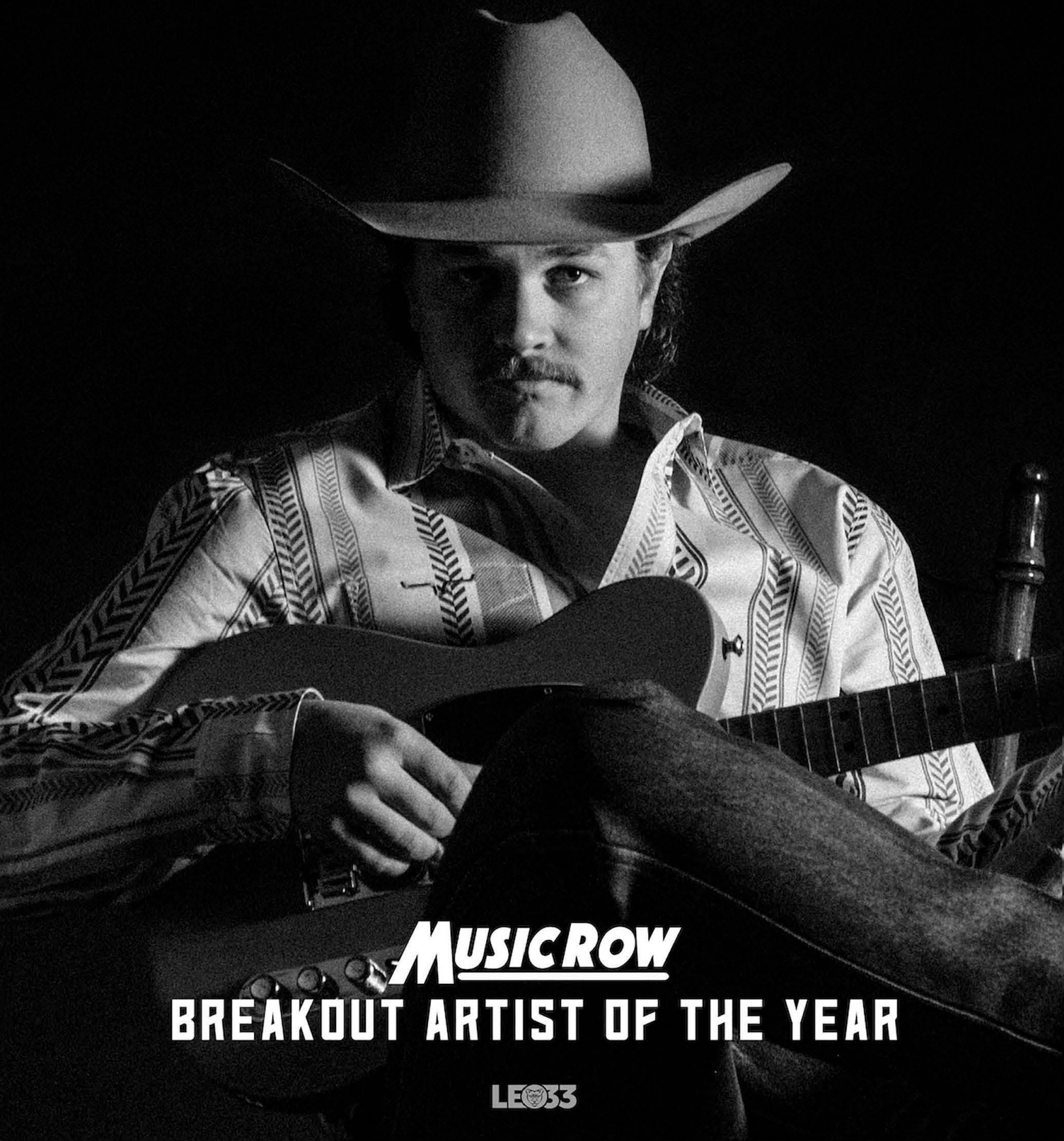
Top’s 2024 was a breakout year in every sense of the word. His debut single, “Sounds Like The Radio,” was sent to country radio in early January, where it became the No. 1 most-added track of the week, signaling that big things were on the horizon. In April, Top released his debut album, *Cold Beer & Country Music*. The 12-track project, which he co-wrote entirely, further showcased his songwriting talents and ability to craft songs that resonate with fans.

As summer rolled around, Top’s career heated up alongside the season. He joined Lainey Wilson on her “Country’s Cool Again Tour.” He also made stops on Flatland Cavalry’s “Wandering Star Tour,” continuing to build his fanbase across the country. Awards and accolades also came his way, with Top taking home the Discovery Artist of the Year honor at the *MusicRow* Awards. His momentum continued in the awards circuit, earning a nomination for CMA’s New Artist of the Year.

Looking ahead to 2025, Zach Top is ready to make even bigger strides. His “Cold Beer & Country Music Tour” sold out immediately upon ticket sales, showcasing the growing demand for his live performances. He’ll also open for Alan Jackson on the legendary artist’s “Alan Jackson’s Last Call: One More For The Road” tour. Top’s 2025 is already packed with appearances at major events. To kick off the year, he was also named a Shazam Fast Forward artist, further solidifying his place as one of country music’s brightest stars. With 2024 as his launching pad, there’s no telling how high Zach Top will soar in the years to come. **MR**



CONGRATULATIONS  
**ZACH TOP**



**MUSICROW**  
**BREAKOUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR**



## DREW BALDRIDGE

### INDEPENDENT ARTIST OF THE YEAR

By LB Cantrell

**Drew Baldridge** has been named *MusicRow*'s Independent Artist of the Year at the 2025 CountryBreakout Awards, earning the most spins on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart in 2024 as an independent artist. This marks a career milestone for Baldridge, who takes home the honor for the first time thanks to his standout success with "Somebody's Daughter."

The Independent Artist of the Year award recognizes artists who achieve remarkable airplay without the backing of a major label, factoring in spins on reporting stations as well as the artist's overall strategy, including label size, distribution model and promotional efforts. Baldridge's steadfast dedication and strategic independent approach propelled him to the top spot, reinforcing his influence in the ever-evolving landscape of country music.

"This is such an incredible honor and a huge milestone that, just two years ago, felt unimaginable. I honestly can't believe this has happened," Baldridge shares. "The *MusicRow* stations play a vital role in breaking new artists, and their support—especially when I didn't have a major label behind me—is a powerful reminder that anything is possible for any dream you ever wanna reach."

"This recognition from *MusicRow* proves that with hard work, dedication, and a great song, independent artists can make a real impact in our industry. I'm deeply grateful to all the stations and listeners who have supported me on this crazy journey, and I hope I can continue to make music that y'all want and need in your life!"

Baldridge made history with "She's Somebody's Daughter", which climbed to No. 1 on the *Country Aircheck*/Mediabase chart, making it the first self-released debut single to reach the summit. The RIAA GOLD-certified viral hit has amassed over 1.1 billion streams and impressions, setting a new benchmark as the highest-charting self-funded song on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart. This unprecedented success not only cemented his place in country music history but also inspired countless independent artists to chase their dreams on their own terms.

Following the breakout success of "She's Somebody's Daughter," Baldridge partnered with BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville/Stoney Creek for his latest single, "Tough People." The song is already making waves at country radio, climbing into the Top 20 and continuing to gain momentum. Adding to his list of accolades, Baldridge was named to the CRS New Faces class of 2025 and recognized as an iHeart On the Verge artist—a testament to his growing impact. **MR**



# Billie Jo Jones



**FLAME**  
COMING APRIL 11TH



**GET JOE**  
RECORDS



## BIG MACHINE

### LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

By Lorie Hollabaugh

Big Machine roared in as *MusicRow's* Label Group of the Year for the first time this year, and the indie had plenty of musical horsepower to back it up with hits from Thomas Rhett, Justin Moore, Riley Green and others.

Among the powerhouse's many chart-topping hits was "Mamaw's House" by Thomas Rhett featuring Morgan Wallen, which topped both the Mediabase/*Country Aircheck* and *Billboard* Country Airplay charts after spending two weeks at the top of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart. Early in the year it had already garnered over 94.6 million global streams, and marked Rhett's 22nd career No. 1.

Justin Moore also tallied a No.1 for the label as well with "This Is My Dirt," his 13th trip to the top of the Country Mediabase chart, which also reached the top of the *Country Aircheck* Charts and the *MusicRow* chart. The song was produced by Jeremy Stover along with label head Scott Borchetta, and was the first single and title track from Moore's latest album.

The label picked up another chart-topper on both the Country Mediabase chart and the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with Rhett's "Beautiful As You," which became his remarkable 23rd No. 1 and was certified Gold.

BMLG artist Riley Green also waltzed to the top of the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart with his duet partner Ella Langley on Langley's sassy, fun "You Look Like You Love Me," which spent five weeks as a *MusicRow* No. 1 as well. And the label garnered plenty of additional spins on the *MusicRow* chart as well with tracks like Tim McGraw's "One Bad Habit", "Damn Good Day To Leave" by Green, "We Don't Fight Anymore" by Carly Pearce featuring Chris Stapleton, Jackson Dean's "Fearless," Chris Janson's "Whatcha See Is Whatcha Get," and "Rodeo Man" by Ronnie Dunn and Garth Brooks.

"I've always said that everyone has their own favorite hometown radio station and regardless of the size of the market, it's important for our artists' music to be everywhere their fans are," says Big Machine Label Group Chairman & CEO **Scott Borchetta**. "Therefore, winning in every market in the U.S. is paramount for all our artists."

Big Machine also flexed their creative muscle in a cool way partnering with the Tom Petty Estate to bring fans music from the late rocker on *Petty Country: A Country Music Celebration of Tom Petty*. The project featured Petty favorites reimagined by Petty's longtime friends and collaborators such as George Strait, Steve Earle, Willie Nelson with Lukas Nelson, Marty Stuart and The Heartbreakers' Mike Campbell and Benmont Tench, along with Dolly Parton, Chris Stapleton, Luke Combs, Wynonna Judd, Lainey Wilson, and more. "American Girl" by Dierks Bentley from the album was the most-added song of the week at country radio upon its release, and became a Top 20 hit at radio following the tribute project's rollout. **MR**





# 8 TRACK ENTERTAINMENT Est. 2022

Record Label (Dist ADA/WMG) • Publishing • Management • Film/TV

## JOIN US DURING CRS 2025

**The Joseph Hotel - Bailey Room for hospitality and performances**

401 Korean Veterans Blvd, Nashville, TN 37203

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

**3:30 - 6:00 pm**

**4:30 pm: BoomTown Saints Performance**



2024 Music Row Indie Artist of the Year

"Blacktop Don't" #13 Music Row

"Heart Breaks You" #30 Music Row

**8:00 - 10:00 pm**

**8:30 pm Ira Dean, Dan Tyminski Performance**



"Tele-Man" #28 Music Row  
Ira Dean, Ronnie Dunn

800k+ Music Video Views

Writer of #1 Song  
"Am I The Only One"  
by Aaron Lewis



2025 GRAMMY® Nominee  
Best Bluegrass Album  
"Live from the Ryman"

Two #1 Bluegrass Singles

#1 Billboard Bluegrass Album

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

**6:00 pm: Shenandoah Performance**



#1 iTunes All Genre

#1 iTunes Country

8 Million+ Music Video Views

"Sunday in the South"

w/ Luke Bryan & Jason Aldean

"Sunday in the South"

#25 Music Row

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

**4:00 - 6:30 pm**

**Hangout & wind down with 8TE staff**

[www.8TrackEnt.com](http://www.8TrackEnt.com)



## DANI HOLLAND

### REPORTER OF THE YEAR

By LB Cantrell

Each week, radio stations in secondary markets across the country report their current playlists to the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart. These industry professionals serve as key ambassadors for country music, helping to introduce new artists and songs to listeners across the nation. Their impact is deeply felt in Nashville and beyond as they champion the artists who shape the genre.

At the annual CountryBreakout Awards, *MusicRow* not only honors the artists who made an impact on the chart in the prior year but also recognizes a standout station panelist who epitomizes the spirit of the CountryBreakout Radio Chart. This year, the Reporter of the Year honor goes to **Dani Holland**, Program Director and Radio Announcer at WALS in Peru, Illinois.

Holland, who has been with WALS for nine years, got her start in radio at just 15 years old in Kewanee, Illinois, where she learned the ins and outs of production. She worked her way into a full-time position at WALS, ultimately landing the coveted morning show slot as the host of WALS Mornings With Dani, where she's been a staple ever since.

Since joining the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart panel, Holland has made it a priority to connect with promoters and listen to new music, ensuring that up-and-coming artists have a voice on country radio.

"I thoroughly enjoy chatting with all the promoters each week. I love listening to all the new music and being able to highlight new talent on country radio. I do my best to set time aside each week to listen to all the music that's given to me. I feel as though if a promoter is taking the time to call me and pitch an artist or new single, then I can take the time to listen and give my honest feedback. In doing so, I've discovered amazing new talent I would normally have never found and have made friends with the promoters who call me each week."

Holland's passion for radio began in high school, and she has never looked back.

"I got my first radio job when I was in high school and just fell in love with it and have been doing it ever since!" she says. "My favorite thing about radio is the connection to the music and my community. The connection you're able to make with your listeners and with your community is rewarding, along with being able to discover, play, and enjoy country music every day."

With nearly a decade at WALS, a dedication to showcasing rising talent, and a genuine passion for radio, Holland embodies what it means to be a CountryBreakout Reporter of the Year. **MR**



A portrait of Warren Zeiders, a man with long, wavy brown hair and a beard, wearing a black cowboy hat and a dark blazer. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a textured, light gray.

FOR YOUR ACM CONSIDERATION

# WARREN ZEIDERS

SINGLE OF THE YEAR  
"PRETTY LITTLE POISON"

ALBUM OF THE YEAR  
*RELAPSE*

VISUAL MEDIA OF THE YEAR  
"PRETTY LITTLE POISON"

NEW MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR





## ASHLEY GORLEY

### SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

By Madison Hahnen

If you ask anyone to name a songwriter on Music Row, the name **Ashley Gorley** is likely to come up. With over 80 No. 1 songs to his name, Gorley has built a legendary career that spans country music and extends across multiple genres. His impressive catalog of hits has earned him numerous awards, solidifying his status as one of the most respected songwriters in the industry. Among his latest accolades is the 2024 CountryBreakout Awards Songwriter of the Year, which he shares with close collaborator **Charlie Handsome**.

Throughout 2024, Gorley secured five No. 1 songs on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout chart. His chart-topping tracks included Post Malone and Morgan Wallen's "I Had Some Help," Wallen and Ernest's "Cowgirls," Wallen's "Love Somebody," Nate Smith's "Bulletproof," and Jelly Roll's "I Am Not Okay."

"*MusicRow* Magazine is a staple in our community," shared Gorley. "I really appreciate the way they highlight and celebrate songwriters through this chart and other stories. This past year I've been counting my blessings. I'm grateful to continue collaborating with such talented artists and teams who work hard to take these songs to the top!"

Gorley's accomplishments in 2024 were not only marked by chart success but also by a series of industry honors. In April, he was awarded three CMA Triple Play Awards, celebrating his success with multiple No. 1 hits. That same month, he won the iHeartRadio Music Award for Songwriter of the Year. The accolades continued throughout the year, with Gorley receiving recognition at the ASCAP Pop Music Awards for his work on Wallen's "Last Night" and "Thinkin' Bout Me."

The summer saw more milestones, with Gorley being named the NMPA's First Quarter Top Non-Performing Songwriter, followed by his win as *MusicRow*'s Male Songwriter of the Year. In September, his publishing company, Tape Room Music, celebrated its 50th No. 1 song, marking a major achievement in his career. The month also saw Gorley receive his eighth NSAI Songwriter of the Year award, and "I Had Some Help" was named The Song of 2024 at the People's Choice Country Awards.

October brought yet another honor, as Gorley was inducted into the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association Hall of Fame, and was named the NMPA Top Male Songwriter. To cap off a remarkable year, he collected his 11th ASCAP Country Music Songwriter of the Year award in November.

Looking ahead to 2025, Gorley's success shows no signs of slowing down. In June, he will be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2025, a fitting recognition for his decades of contributions to music. **MR**



# George Strait

## COWBOYS AND DREAMERS

FOR YOUR ACM® CONSIDERATION

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

*"On the 13-song album, with his warm vocal that eschews ostentation, Strait continues to evince why he is one of country music's most gifted singers and lyrical narrators"*

- Billboard

*"Strait's powers were in full force: Familiar sounds in a modern context. If you love Strait, you love him — and that makes it classic."*

- AP

MCA  
NASHVILLE





## CHARLIE HANDSOME

### — SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR —

By Madison Hahnen

Ryan Vojtesak, better known by his professional name **Charlie Handsome**, has made a significant impact on the music industry as both a producer and songwriter. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Handsome's musical journey began at the age of 14 when he started playing guitar and writing songs. He initially took a detour from music, dropping out of high school to pursue a career in construction, keeping music as a personal passion rather than a profession. His story took a turn in 2014, after a pivotal meeting with a record label president, which led him to pack up and move to Los Angeles. There, his career quickly began to gain momentum, and Handsome began collaborating with Jessie J, Mac Miller, Post Malone, Trey Songz and many more.

Handsome's country breakthrough came in 2018, when he co-penned Morgan Wallen's "If I Know Me" and also worked on Sam Hunt's "Downtown's Dead," which he co-penned and co-produced. These successes paved the way for Handsome to become a sought-after figure in Nashville's music scene. Over the years, he has contributed to several country tracks, including Breland's "Hot Sauce" and "WiFi," Ernest's "All We Need," "Kiss Of Death" and "Some Other Bar," Florida Georgia Line's "I Love My Country" and Walker Hayes' "Delorean." His talents also helped shape cross-genre hits like "Be Like That" and "Heartless," and he landed seven cuts on Wallen's *Dangerous: The Double Album* and 14 tracks on his *One Thing At A Time* project.

As 2024 unfolded, Handsome continued to build on his reputation, notching multiple chart-topping hits across a variety of genres. He achieved five No. 1 tracks on the CountryBreakout Chart, including Ernest and Wallen's "Cowgirls," Post Malone and Luke Combs' "Guy For That," Post Malone and Wallen's "I Had Some Help," Wallen's "Love Somebody" and Post Malone and Blake Shelton's "Pour Me A Drink." Other tracks that found their way onto the chart in 2024 were Wallen's "Everything I Love," and Dylan Scott's "This Town's Been Too Good To Us." Handsome's achievements earned him a well-deserved recognition as the 2025 CountryBreakout Awards Songwriter of the Year, alongside **Ashley Gorley**.

His contributions to the country and crossover worlds did not stop there, as Handsome also had a hand in a plethora of hits over the year. He also had a whopping 27 credits on Post Malone's *F1-Trillion* album, along with five credits on Ernest's *Nashville, Tennessee* project and four co-penned tracks on Jelly Roll's *Beautifully Broken* album. Additionally, he also collaborated with Cardi B, Mike, Peso Pluma, Trippie Redd and more.

In addition to his ongoing success as a songwriter and producer, Handsome was recognized with numerous industry accolades in 2024. He was honored with a CMA Triple Play Award in April, a testament to his exceptional songwriting achievements. His work on "Last Night" garnered further recognition, including placements on NSAI's "10 Songs I Wish I'd Written" list and a win at the People's Choice Country Awards and the BMI Country Song of the Year. **MR**



# COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

## CHART ACTION

### New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

After All The Bars Are Closed/Thomas Rhett/Valory - 56  
 Run/Miranda Lambert/Republic Records - 64  
 20 Different Routes/Ken Domash/Thunder Mountain Records - 75  
 The Man My Daddy Made/Rob Fitzgerald/Riverbend Recordings - 77  
 If I Die Before You/Chris Lane/Red Street/Voyager Records - 78  
 It Won't Be Long/George Birge/Records Nashville - 79  
 Always Gonna Be/Dan + Shay/Warner Music Nashville - 80

### Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase  
 I'm The Problem/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 428  
 After All The Bars Are Closed/Thomas Rhett/Valory - 212  
 I Dare You/Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers/Big Machine Records - 135  
 Am I Okay?/Megan Moroney/Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records - 111  
 Forever To Me/Cole Swindell/Warner Music Nashville - 253

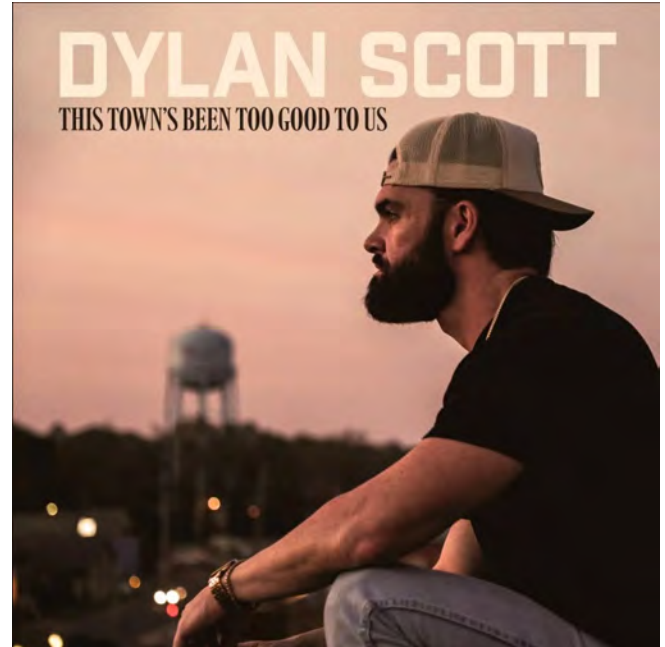
### Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds  
 I'm The Problem/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 19  
 After All The Bars Are Closed/Thomas Rhett/Valory - 16  
 Cry/Lee Brice/Curb Records - 9  
 20 Different Routes/Ken Domash/Thunder Mountain Records - 8  
 I Dare You/Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers/Big Machine Records - 7

### On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins  
 Bring Out The Country (In Me)/Danielia Cotton/Cottontown LLC - 113  
 Dear Life/Blake Wood/Deluge Records - 111  
 Not on Me/Randy Cobb/Randy Cobb Music - 103  
 Walking The Floor/Porter Martin/Lovable Losers Music - 83  
 232/Delaney Ann/Synapse Publishing & Entertainment - 83

## NO. 1 SONG



**Dylan Scott** jumps to the top of the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with his track "This Town's Been Too Good To Us."

The song is part of his second studio album *Livin' My Best Life* and was written by Scott, **John Byron**, **Charlie Handsome**, **Ashley Gorley** and **Taylor Phillips**.

"This Town's Been Too Good To Us" currently sits at No. 10 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 [here](#) 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  
 WOZZ Cartersville, 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  
 WNNW Battle Creek, MI

WVNW Lewistown, 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 +/-
52	2	1	<b>This Town's Been Too Good To Us / Dylan Scott / Curb</b>	2062/54	3	53
10	5	2	<b>Texas / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records</b>	2004/60	5	93
17	3	3	<b>I'm Gonna Love You / Cody Johnson &amp; Carrie Underwood / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville</b>	2004/58	3	50
26	4	4	<b>I Ain't Sayin' / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville</b>	1985/55	4	72
14	6	5	<b>I Never Lie / Zach Top / Leo33</b>	1973/64	4	78
12	1	6	<b>Liar / Jelly Roll / BBR Music Group</b>	1972/52	-3	-63
23	8	7	<b>Am I Okay? / Megan Moroney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records</b>	1716/58	7	111
21	7	8	<b>4x4xU / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records</b>	1712/46	-3	-48
31	9	9	<b>Hometown Home / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group</b>	1638/52	4	56
35	10	10	<b>Friends Like That / John Morgan feat. Jason Aldean / Night Train Records/Broken Bow Records</b>	1516/53	1	19
40	13	11	<b>Forever To Me / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville</b>	1437/49	8	110
51	14	12	<b>Life With You / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records</b>	1329/53	0	6
33	16	13	<b>Holy Smokes / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville</b>	1310/49	6	76
26	15	14	<b>Whiskey Drink / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow Records</b>	1298/56	4	49
28	12	15	<b>Just To Say We Did / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville</b>	1295/48	-3	-46
13	17	16	<b>Backseat Driver / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville</b>	1257/54	6	76
11	19	17	<b>Tough People / Drew Baldridge / Stoney Creek Records</b>	1236/53	6	74
27	18	18	<b>Truck On Fire / Carly Pearce / Big Machine Records</b>	1224/57	4	49
30	20	19	<b>Cowboys Cry Too / Kelsea Ballerini feat. Noah Kahan / Black River Entertainment</b>	1196/56	4	47
29	21	20	<b>Coming Home / Old Dominion / Columbia Nashville</b>	1194/54	8	86
6	22	21	<b>weren't for the wind / Ella Langley / SAWGOD/Columbia</b>	1131/57	8	84
22	23	22	<b>Heavens To Betsy / Jackson Dean / Big Machine</b>	840/45	2	20
2	45	23	<b>I'm The Problem / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic</b>	827/48	107	428
17	24	24	<b>Would If I Could / Ernest / Big Loud Records</b>	816/47	1	6
19	25	25	<b>Sunday in the South / Shenandoah, Jason Aldean &amp; Luke Bryan / 8-Track Entertainment</b>	785/40	3	23
15	26	26	<b>Tele-Man / Ira Dean &amp; Ronnie Dunn feat. Vince Gill, John Osborne, Brent Mason / 8-Track Entertainment</b>	735/41	3	20
12	29	27	<b>Country Song Came On / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville</b>	712/40	13	80
18	27	28	<b>What Kinda Man / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville</b>	704/40	8	52
9	30	29	<b>Single Again / Josh Ross / Mercury Nashville/Universal Canada</b>	696/39	13	82
34	28	30	<b>Fall of Summer / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers</b>	692/41	8	49
11	32	31	<b>Fix What You Didn't Break / Nate Smith / RCA Nashville</b>	638/38	15	85
16	31	32	<b>Heart Breaks You / BoomTown Saints &amp; Sam Grow / 8-Track Entertainment</b>	601/37	5	30
12	37	33	<b>Time's Ticking / Justin Moore / Valory</b>	560/36	8	42
12	38	34	<b>Whose Tequila Are You Drinkin'? / Billie Jo Jones / Get Joe Records</b>	524/35	5	26
17	33	35	<b>Truck Still Works / Brad Paisley / EMI Records Nashville</b>	519/30	-5	-29
19	39	36	<b>How It's Gonna Go / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Entertainment</b>	505/27	10	45
25	47	37	<b>Park / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Records Nashville</b>	477/27	22	87
21	40	38	<b>Country House / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville</b>	472/29	10	42

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
4	42	39	<b>Straight Line / Keith Urban / Capitol Nashville</b>	469/33	10	44
19	41	40	<b>Friday Night Heartbreaker / Jon Pardi / Capitol Nashville</b>	462/28	8	35
2	50	41	<b>I Dare You / Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers / Big Machine Records</b>	432/35	45	135
13	43	42	<b>Your Time to Stay / Aaron Goodvin / Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada</b>	429/32	2	7
5	46	43	<b>10-90 / Muscadine Bloodline / 30 Tigers</b>	419/38	7	26
7	48	44	<b>All Again / Charles Wesley Godwin / Big Loud Records</b>	389/34	3	11
30	44	45	<b>Over When We're Sober / Brantley Gilbert feat. Ashley Cooke / Valory</b>	377/26	-10	-44
4	49	46	<b>Only Heart I'm Breaking / Due West / Unwound Records</b>	362/31	7	23
13	51	47	<b>Christian County (Homecomin' Queen) / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records</b>	299/21	10	27
3	57	48	<b>Worst Way / Riley Green / Nashville Harbor</b>	286/23	36	75
19	53	49	<b>Everything I Need / Chayce Beckham / 19 Recordings/Wheelhouse Records</b>	270/19	3	9
3	55	50	<b>The Working Man / Cody Jinks / Late August Records</b>	244/24	8	18
3	63	51	<b>Good News / Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE</b>	232/17	21	41
3	59	52	<b>Pour Me Out / Kashus Culpepper / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic</b>	232/23	15	31
9	54	53	<b>Yours / Tony Evans Jr. / Aneva Music Group (AMG)</b>	232/19	2	4
2	74	54	<b>Cry / Lee Brice / Curb Records</b>	228/21	65	90
4	58	55	<b>Cowgirl / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records</b>	212/16	1	3
1	0	56	<b>After All The Bars Are Closed / Thomas Rhett / Valory</b>	212/16	0	212
18	36	57	<b>Run The Damn Ball / Jenna Paulette / Leo 33</b>	210/11	-60	-310
12	60	58	<b>Tough People Do / Jason Matthews / Valhalla Music Group</b>	202/19	2	3
11	64	59	<b>Because of the Brave / Soul Circus Cowboys / Kismet Nashville</b>	193/16	3	6
5	56	60	<b>Golden Child / Meghan Patrick / Riser House</b>	193/14	-14	-31
5	65	61	<b>Bones / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records</b>	185/13	1	2
6	68	62	<b>Let Me Roll / Whitey Morgan and the 78's / Whitey Morgan Music</b>	181/15	15	24
21	52	63	<b>Hit The Hay Runnin' / Aaron Watson / Big Label Records</b>	175/9	-34	-90
1	86	64	<b>Run / Miranda Lambert / Republic Records</b>	173/14	77	75
16	61	65	<b>Relapse / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records</b>	171/14	-14	-27
5	70	66	<b>She Makes Dirt Look Good / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records</b>	167/17	17	24
5	71	67	<b>Cowboys / Madelyn Rose / Vere Music</b>	166/11	17	24
3	67	68	<b>This Heart / Corey Kent / RCA Nashville</b>	161/13	2	3
2	78	69	<b>When I Think Aldean / Cliff Dorsey / Black Sheep Records</b>	160/14	26	33
5	77	70	<b>Everything Changes / The Ashley Sisters / Spellcast Records</b>	143/11	11	14
5	73	71	<b>Run Your Mouth / Gavin Adcock / Warner Music Nashville</b>	141/12	2	3
21	69	72	<b>Girl Problem / Trey Lewis / River House Artists</b>	140/12	-10	-16
2	80	73	<b>Pass It On Down / The Wilder Blue / Hill Country Music</b>	138/13	19	22
5	75	74	<b>Better Than You / Joe Nichols feat. Annie Bosco / Quartz Hill Records</b>	134/11	-2	-3
1	101	75	<b>20 Different Routes / Ken Domash / Thunder Mountain Records</b>	132/15	120	72
10	72	76	<b>Highway / Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE</b>	126/6	-9	-13
1	81	77	<b>The Man My Daddy Made / Rob Fitzgerald / Riverbend Recordings</b>	122/9	7	8
1	89	78	<b>If I Die Before You / Chris Lane / Red Street/Voyager Records</b>	118/9	33	29
1	90	79	<b>It Won't Be Long / George Birge / RECORDS Nashville</b>	117/10	36	31
1	83	80	<b>Always Gonna Be / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville</b>	117/10	9	10

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# INDUSTRY INSIDERS BREAK DOWN SOME OF COUNTRY'S BIGGEST HITS

By LB Cantrell

Each year, a handful of songs not only dominate the charts but leave a lasting impact on country music. Whether breaking records, introducing new voices or pushing the genre forward, these tracks define the sound of the moment while shaping its future.

In 2024, there were many standout hits that topped the airwaves and streaming charts, each with a unique journey to success. Below are a handful of those hits, with commentary from industry experts on what made these songs resonate and how they found their place in country music history.

## Shaboozey's "A Bar Song (Tipsy)"



Shaboozey. Photo: Daniel Prakopcyk

Few songs in recent memory have had the staying power of **Shaboozey's** "A Bar Song (Tipsy)." The genre-blurring smash set a new record with 27 weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Radio Songs chart, surpassing The Weeknd's "Blinding Lights" for the longest reign in history. It also topped the Country Airplay chart for seven consecutive weeks, the longest No. 1 streak for a debut single.

**Heather Vassar**, SVP Operations at EMPIRE Nashville, says the song's radio takeover was part of the plan from the start.

"We anticipated the impact and had a strategy ready before release. Once streaming took off, we moved quickly to meet the demand at radio across multiple formats."

With its nostalgic J-Kwon flip, feel-good groove and viral appeal, the song crossed into both country and pop spaces, proving that genre lines are more flexible than ever.

"This success proves that with the right artist, song and authentic storytelling, barriers can be broken," Vassar says.



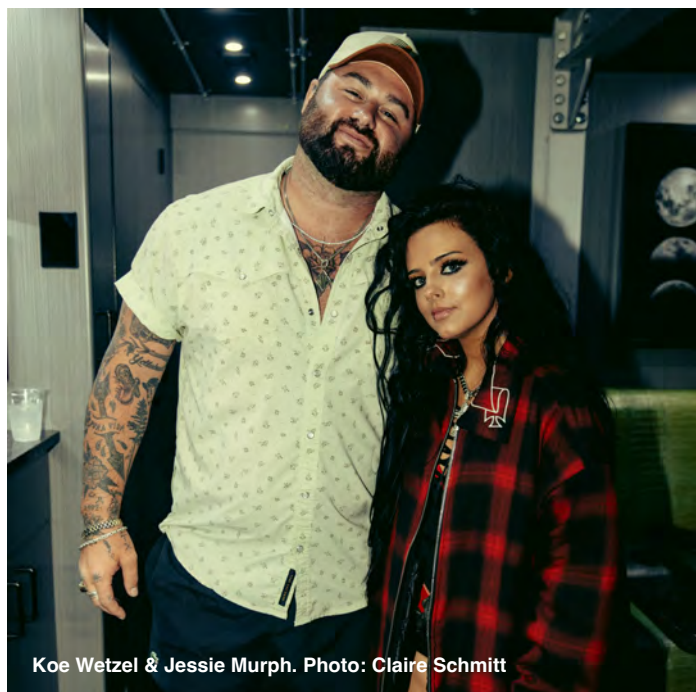
## Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph's "High Road"

Blending country, rock and pop, **Koe Wetzel** and **Jessie Murph** struck gold with "High Road." The track spent five weeks at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart, making it only the sixth debut single to do so since 1990.

**Josh Easler**, EVP of Promotion & Commercial Strategy at RECORDS Nashville, credits Wetzel's built-in fan base and Murph's youthful energy for its instant appeal.

"Koe was already headlining major venues, so radio was just the next step. Jessie brought a fresh perspective and a devoted fan base. But at the core, it's just a great song—one fans couldn't stop singing along to."

With over 330 million global streams and Platinum certification, the song's momentum was undeniable. Easler says its success shows how streaming and radio can work together, fueling each other for maximum impact.



Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph. Photo: Claire Schmitt

## Warren Zeiders' "Pretty Little Poison"



Warren Zeiders. Photo: Austin Screws

**Warren Zeiders** officially stepped into the country spotlight with "Pretty Little Poison," his first No. 1 single and the most-played song at country radio in 2024.

The title track of his debut album earned 380 million global streams, went double-Platinum, and even cracked the Hot 100's Top 25.

**Anna Cage**, VP of Radio at Warner Music Nashville, says they deliberately distanced Zeiders from the "TikTok artist" label, even though he originally gained attention online.

"Country radio can be hesitant with viral artists because TikTok fame is fleeting. We focused on the song itself, and thanks to an early initiative with Audacy, it got traction quickly."

She believes Zeiders' journey shows that platforms like TikTok can launch an artist, but long-term success comes from great songs and real artist development.

## Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott's "Boys Back Home"

For **Dylan Marlowe**, "Boys Back Home" was a defining moment—his first No. 1 single and an RIAA Gold-certified hit with 150 million global streams. Teaming up with **Dylan Scott** gave the song instant familiarity, helping it break through on radio.

According to Sony Music Nashville's Chairman/CEO **Taylor Lindsey** and President/COO **Ken Robold**, the groundwork for Marlowe's success was already in place.

"Dylan had a strong buzz—he was on Hot Country's 'Artists to Watch,' had toured with Morgan Wallen and Hardy, and built a real fan base. Adding Dylan Scott to the song helped it feel familiar to radio programmers."

Marlowe's dedication to meeting fans and engaging with radio also played a huge role.

"He did as many interviews as possible, made sure to connect with fans at every show and kept building momentum. That work ethic made all the difference."

With a collaboration with Yung Gravy and an upcoming tour with Bailey Zimmerman, Marlowe is using his first big hit as a launchpad for even bigger things.



## Drew Baldridge's "She's Somebody's Daughter"



Few independent artists have done what **Drew Baldridge** accomplished with "She's Somebody's Daughter." The song became the first self-released debut single to hit No. 1 on the *Country Aircheck*/Mediabase chart, making history as the highest-charting self-funded song ever on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart.

Baldridge's Lyric Ridge Records team, led by **Louie Newman** and **Chele Fassig**, knew they had a major challenge competing with major-label-backed singles, but they tackled it head-on.

"We had grit, determination, and above all, belief in Drew and the record," Fassig says. "We took a 'road less traveled' approach, focusing on Drew's personal relationships with programmers and the song's undeniable impact with fans."

Their persistence paid off as the song climbed the charts, fueled by an outpouring of fan support at Baldridge's live

shows.

Now signed to BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville, Baldridge is keeping up the momentum with his latest single, "Tough People."

"His success proves that independent artists can compete at the highest level with the right song and the right team," Fassig says. **MR**





By John Nix Arledge

Everyone has those songs – the ones that transport you back to a specific moment in time, the ones that fill you with nostalgia for an era filled with fond memories and simplicity. For **Ashley Till**, that isn't just a fleeting experience; it's the heartbeat of her daily life. As the host of SiriusXM's Y2Kountry, Till has the opportunity to bring that feeling to life and invite listeners back to experience the familiar, hometown sounds of the early 2000s.

Through her natural, engaging presence on-air and her undeniable passion for Y2K-era country, Till's career has flourished in ways that have made her a recognizable name in the world of satellite radio. Recently, *MusicRow* had the opportunity to sit down with her as she explored her early influences, her love for the Y2Kountry format and her experiences as a dynamic presence in country music radio and beyond.

To understand how Till found herself riding shotgun from your morning drive to your afternoon grocery stop, you have to look back to where her passion began—high school. “We actually had a station at my school in Indianapolis, Indiana, where we played the Top 40. During my junior and senior years, I became really interested in it, not realizing where it would eventually lead.”

When she reached graduation, full of confidence and a newfound calling, she recorded an aircheck, essentially a radio demo, and decided to go straight to the number one radio station in Indianapolis. As one might imagine, they did not immediately put her behind the mic. “They told me, ‘We can’t put you on air right away, but we could offer you a part-time job driving the station vehicle.’ So I took the opportunity, worked my way up, and eventually, I landed a weekend on-air position when I was 19. It was a Top 40 station in Indianapolis.”

This station was Till's first real, professional experience in radio—and she instantly fell in love. Shortly thereafter, she made the bold decision to unenroll from college and go all in on the radio thing, lamenting, “I always feel bad saying that because I know parents don't like to hear it!”

From there, Till jumped around Indiana, taking small roles at Top 40 stations all over the state before landing at a position in Fort Wayne, IN, as a midday country music host. But, there was a catch.

“You see, I grew up listening to country music and hearing my mom listen to [artists like] Billy Ray Cyrus. However, that meant that I did not want to do country because that's what my parents liked. So the radio station in Fort Wayne was



Ashley Till

like, 'We don't have any Top 40 positions open, but we do have the middays at our country station.' And I will never forget, I cried the day I accepted that job because I didn't want to switch. It seems so dumb now because it was such a blessing. It was truly meant to be."

Eventually, Till found herself traveling again, this time to Orlando, Florida, where she landed her biggest opportunity yet, a No. 1 morning show. However, she had one more objective that she had to get out of her system—moving to Music City. After two years at one of the biggest stations in Orlando, Till packed her bags, with only a chocolate lab and a couple thousand dollars to her name, and headed for Nashville.

"I've always been that person that just jumps all in. I don't put my toe in the water, I go right in with a cannonball. I knew that the heart of country music was in Music City, it is the center, the mecca for everything country music, so I decided that is where I needed to be."

However, leaving a top position in a huge market like Orlando did not ensure a top spot in Nashville. Till, once again, started at the bottom rung as a radio phone screener and then worked her way up to producer and, finally, to a position with SiriusXM in 2016.

Since then, she has called SiriusXM home. Previously a midday host on SiriusXM's country station The Highway, she now hosts five days a week on Y2Kcountry and the christian music station, The Message and weekends on the contemporary pop/throwback station, The Pulse.

Till's winding journey through radio has shaped not just her career, but the distinct on-air persona that listeners have come to recognize and love—no matter what station she is on. "As far as my persona across channels, the only thing that changes is the music. I like to think people see me as a relatable, hot mess...the girl next door. I am the girl that is shopping at Walmart and Target, running late to drop my kids off at school. I have a five and seven year old, so I feel like there are a lot of people who can relate to that. I like to tell stories and engage with the audience in that way as well."

Her stories, while not always "relatable" on a one-to-one scale, shine a light on the small, idiosyncrasies of life that make you shake your head and laugh. One fan-favorite story involves her son's late pet lizard named Spot who currently resides in the family's deep freezer as they search for a time and place to bury it. "There are listeners who will check in, asking, 'Have you buried Spot yet?' and I have literally forgotten that Spot is dead in my freezer."

Overall, she hopes her audience views her as a family-friendly, positive voice on the radio, "I like to think of myself as a friend riding in the car with my listeners. Hopefully, a friend they don't want to throw out of the car," laughs Till. "I don't have a super polarizing personality, and I am like that in real life. I want to be friends with everyone so that is the person you get on air."

For Till, radio means more than just spinning tracks. It is about crafting an atmosphere — one that celebrates not only the music but the people behind it. "I like to talk to the people outside of the artist to get to know the artist more, and I've done that a lot this year. I've talked to people like Rhett Akins, Thomas Rhett's dad, about Thomas growing up as well as Shay Mooney's wife, Hannah, about how it is when he's on the road, and she will talk about how tough it is. I want to show perspective and realness—I want to show that these people are just as real as you and I and their stories always show that."

Looking ahead, Till's future in radio is one of growth and new opportunities. With a clear ambition to expand beyond her role as an on-air host, she aims to delve into programming, curating playlists, and managing SiriusXM channels, particularly with the added potential of Pandora's reach. Her focus on being a relatable, positive voice for her audience will continue to drive her work, whether she's discovering new talent or sharing personal stories that resonate deeply with listeners. As she navigates these next steps in her career, her versatility and passion will undoubtedly shape the future of country music and radio. **MR**



## Dennis Reese Returns To Sony Music Nashville



Dennis Reese. Photo: Courtesy of Dennis Reese

Sony Music Nashville (SMN) has appointed **Dennis Reese** as Senior Vice President of Radio Marketing & Promotion. In this role, Reese will lead the development and execution of strategic radio promotional campaigns for both the RCA Nashville and Columbia Nashville labels. He will report directly to Chair and CEO **Taylor Lindsey**, as well as President and COO **Ken Robold**, and will start today (Feb. 14).

"We are thrilled to welcome back Dennis to the company," shares Lindsey. "His experience at both the country and pop formats, excellent leadership skills and dedication to the artists he's worked is unmatched and we are fortunate enough to have him this time at the helm of our promotion team. SMN remains committed to promoting our artists at radio and we know Dennis will continue to bring the No. 1s and advocate for our artists every day."

Reese spent the past year at Neon Coast, where he supported the label's roster, including Kane Brown, Restless Road, Nightly, Dylan Schneider and Kat Luna. Before that, he spent seven years leading the RCA Nashville imprint, where he helped secure 24 No. 1 records. Reese's career began with a successful tenure in pop music, working with Epic Records, Capitol Music Group, Elektra Records and Columbia Records. **MR**

## Dan Killian Joins FBMM Ownership Team



Dan Killian

**Dan Killian** has been named an owner and shareholder of FBMM, after nearly 15 years in the business and over a dozen at the entertainment business management firm.

"Becoming an owner of FBMM is more than sitting in an equity position," shares FBMM Owner and Chairman **Julie Boos**. "We are true partners in every sense of the word and take this decision very seriously. Dan becoming an owner is a testament to the trust and mutual respect we all have for him. We are excited to have him alongside us in the trenches of overseeing the firm's operations and setting the vision for its future."

Killian started his career at FBMM in an entry-level position and worked his way up to business manager, the firm's highest position, faster than anyone in company history. He is now the youngest owner in the firm's 35-year history.

Killian works with FBMM's teams in Nashville and Los Angeles, advising Grammy- and Emmy-award-winning headlining arena acts, spanning virtually every genre of music. He has also played a key role in spearheading internal initiatives, including creating a health and wellness program, leadership training and mentorship and business development.

"From celebrating successes to navigating 'foxhole moments,' I have seen FBMM's owners consistently operate with the highest level of integrity," says Killian. "I could not be more honored to take this next step and lock arms with each of them. To have worked my way to ownership from an entry-level position makes this an especially proud accomplishment for me." **MR**

## Paramount 'Pauses' CMT Music Awards



Jelly Roll poses with his awards during the 2024 CMT Music Awards.  
Photo: Matt Winkelmeyer/Getty Images for CMT

Paramount Global has put a hold on several major events, including the 2025 CMT Music Awards, as it reassesses the production's future. The news, first reported by *The Hollywood Reporter*, comes from an internal memo issued by **Bruce Gillmer**, Paramount's President of Music, Music Talent, Programming & Events, Media Networks, and Chief Content Officer, Music, Paramount+. It was confirmed by *MusicRow*.

Other affected events include the MTV Europe Music Awards (EMAs), Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards Mexico and the MTV MIAW.

"Our world-class events remain a key component of Paramount's music offering as we continue to raise the bar in delivering iconic, unforgettable performances and moments that drive pop culture. We have the best team in the business, and we are grateful for your hard work and dedication in bringing these events to life," Gillmer wrote in the memo.

The decision follows a series of organizational changes at Paramount, including [layoffs](#) that impacted CMT, notably affecting then-Senior Vice President of Music Strategy & Talent, Leslie Fram. **MR**

## Alexandra Kay Signs With BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville



Pictured (L-R): Peter Strickland (BMG), Katie Kerkhover (BMG), JoJemie Hahr (BMG), Jon Loba (BMG), Alexandra Kay, Beth Keith (Sound Talent Group), Nick Simmonds (Whole Brain Digital) and Quinn Bauducco (BMG)

**Alexandra Kay** has signed with BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville.

With over 8.5 million social media followers, Kay, who starred on Netflix's series *Westside*, dropped her debut album, *All I've Ever Known*, in 2023. The project reached No. 1 on the iTunes All Genre and Country charts globally and earned her a spot in the Top 10 on *Billboard's* Country Album, Emerging Artist and HeatSeeker charts, independently.

Kay wrapped 2024 with breakout releases and a packed tour schedule on the road performing on Jelly Roll's sold-out "Beautifully Broken Arena Tour." She also landed a track on *Twisters: The Album* soundtrack, has sold over 80,000 tickets as an independent headlining artist and is one of the top-selling artists on TikTok Shop for music.

Currently in the studio readying her debut project for BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville, Kay is set to release her catchy, spunky uptempo new sing-along "Cupid's A Cowgirl" on Feb. 21. She'll embark on her headlining U.S. and Canadian "[Cupid's A Cowgirl Tour](#)" on Feb. 23 in Jacksonville, Florida. **MR**



## DISClaimer Single Reviews: Riley Green 'Keeps The Sultry Mood Rolling'



Riley Green. Photo: Matthew Simmons on behalf of Gildan

The sound of love is in the air this week.

In keeping with the Valentine's Day holiday, the country stars are full of romance in this column. To get in the mood, lend your ears to Mackenzie Carpenter & Midland, to Thomas Rhett and to Disc of the Day winner Riley Green as well as to our DISCOVERY Awardee, Adrien Nunez.

For those of you on the losing side of love, I direct your attention to this week's country heartbreakers Jordan Davis and Karley Scott Collins. Happy listening.

[Click here to read Robert K. Oermann's full single reviews.](#)  
**MR**

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### MORE TOP STORIES

[Cole Goodwin Signs With Concord Music Publishing](#)

[CRS Reveals Lineup For 'Team UMG At The Ryman'](#)

[CRS Unveils Lineup For Big Machine Label Group Luncheon](#)

[Hueston To Release New Album 'Huey' In March](#)

[Jameson Rodgers Inks With Sony Music Publishing Nashville & Relative Music Group](#)

[Katherine Godwin Joins Tape Room Music As Manager/ A&R](#)

[Lauren Thomas & More Exit Sony Music Nashville](#)

[Lineup Revealed For Palomino Stage At Stagecoach](#)

[Matt Lang Signs With Anthem Entertainment \[Exclusive\]](#)

[Morgan Wade Shines On Ryman Auditorium Stage](#)

[Mtheory Expands Team](#)

[Music Row Remembers Ben Vaughn](#)

[Old Dominion Gives Back During '7 For 7' Finale](#)

[Ryan Hurd Gives A Nod To The Heartland Dreamers On New Album, 'Midwest Rock & Roll'](#)

[Ryan Hurd Inks With The Core Entertainment](#)

[Shane Profitt Signs With Triple Tigers Records](#)

[Sony Music Publishing Elevates Henry Naldjian](#)

[Steve Turner, CMHOFM Champion & Nashville Developer, Passes Away](#)

[Tim Wipperman Joins Humanable As CEO](#)

[Trent Dabbs Inks With Prescription Songs](#)

[Warner Music Nashville Luncheon Returns To CRS 2025](#)

## Newly Added Job Listings

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**Fort Nash: Digital Media Intern**

Fort Nash is a Nashville-based media company dedicated to celebrating and creating “All Things Country”. We’re looking for a motivated and creative Social Media Intern to join our team for the Spring 2025 semester. Ideal applicants have experience creating/editing/publishing content, strong collaboration skills, and immense knowledge of the country music space.

**Contact:** Send resume, cover letter and portfolio (optional) to [caleb@fort-nash.com](mailto:caleb@fort-nash.com)

**Listed:** 2/11/25

**MusicRow: Staff Writer**

This position is responsible for creating high-quality content for MusicRow.com and its six annual print issues. Key duties include writing and proofreading daily news articles, covering concerts and events, collaborating with the Editor to produce diverse content for Music Row Enterprises and maintaining editorial standards. The ideal candidate will efficiently write a set number of articles each day, review press releases and identify newsworthy content aligned with MusicRow.com’s audience.

**Contact:** Send resume (with salary requirement) to [jobs@musicrow.com](mailto:jobs@musicrow.com)

**Listed:** 2/10/25

**All job listings are free-to-list and will be posted for 60 days. Listings are accepted and published at the discretion of MusicRow. To submit a listing, use the [MusicRow Listings Submission Form](#).**



## TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	<b>Ashley Gorley</b>	Fix What You Didn't Break I Am Not Okay I Had Some Help Liar Love Somebody Park This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Nate Smith Jelly Roll Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Jelly Roll Morgan Wallen Tyler Hubbard Dylan Scott
2	2	<b>Chris Stapleton</b>	Think I'm In Love With You	Chris Stapleton
3	3	<b>Taylor Phillips</b>	Fix What You Didn't Break I Am Not Okay Liar This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Nate Smith Jelly Roll Jelly Roll Dylan Scott
4	15	<b>Zachary Lane Bryan</b>	Blue Jean Baby High Road	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan
5	4	<b>Ryan Vojtesak</b>	Guy For That I Had Some Help Love Somebody Smile This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs) Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dylan Scott
6	9	<b>Jordan Walker</b>	Backseat Driver Tough People	Kane Brown Drew Baldridge
7	6	<b>Jason DeFord</b>	I Am Not Okay Liar Over When We're Sober	Jelly Roll Jelly Roll Brantley Gilbert & Ashley Cooke
8	7	<b>Johnny Clawson</b>	Texas Weren't For The Wind	Blake Shelton Ella Langley
9	8	<b>John Byron</b>	Love Somebody Smile This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dylan Scott
10	10	<b>Ty Myers</b>	Ends Of The Earth Thought It Was Love	Ty Myers Ty Myers
11	29	<b>Jacob Davis</b>	Backseat Driver	Kane Brown
12	5	<b>Riley Green</b>	Damn Good Day To Leave Don't Mind If I Do Worst Way	Riley Green Riley Green (feat. Ella Langley) Riley Green
13	20	<b>Rocky Block</b>	Forever To Me Smile	Cole Swindell Morgan Wallen
14	16	<b>Jon Decious</b>	4x4xU	Lainey Wilson
15	17	<b>Aaron Raitiere</b>	4x4xU	Lainey Wilson
16	18	<b>Lainey Wilson</b>	4x4xU	Lainey Wilson
17	19	<b>Ernest Keith Smith</b>	Guy For That I Had Some Help Smile	Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs) Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Morgan Wallen
18	12	<b>Zach Top</b>	I Never Lie Use Me	Zach Top Zach Top
19	13	<b>Tim Nichols</b>	I Never Lie Use Me	Zach Top Zach Top
20	14	<b>Carson Chamberlain</b>	I Never Lie Use Me	Zach Top Zach Top
21	22	<b>Travis Denning</b>	I'm Gonna Love You	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood
22	23	<b>Kelly Archer</b>	I'm Gonna Love You	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood
23	24	<b>Chris Stevens</b>	I'm Gonna Love You	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood
24	21	<b>Jessie Jo Dillon</b>	Am I Okay? Baggage Friday Night Heartbreaker	Megan Moroney Kelsea Ballerini Jon Pardi

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
25	25	<b>Morgan Wallen</b>	I Had Some Help Love Somebody Smile	Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
26	26	<b>Joe Fox</b>	Boys Back Home Single Again	Dylan Marlowe, Dylan Scott Josh Ross
27	30	<b>Ben Johnson</b>	Liar	Jelly Roll
28	27	<b>Collins Obinna Chibueze</b>	A Bar Song (Topsy) Good News	Shaboozey Shaboozey
29	28	<b>Sean Cook</b>	A Bar Song (Topsy) Good News	Shaboozey Shaboozey
30	31	<b>Lalo Guzman</b>	Cowboy Songs Texas	George Birge Blake Shelton
31	32	<b>Nevin Sastry</b>	A Bar Song (Topsy) Good News	Shaboozey Shaboozey
32	33	<b>Megan Moroney</b>	Am I Okay?	Megan Moroney
33	34	<b>Luke Laird</b>	Am I Okay?	Megan Moroney
34	40	<b>John Morgan</b>	Friends Like That Whiskey Drink	John Morgan (feat. Jason Aldean) Jason Aldean
35	35	<b>Michael Tyler</b>	Cowboy Songs Holy Smokes This Heart	George Birge Bailey Zimmerman Corey Kent
36	36	<b>Steve Moakler</b>	I Ain't Sayin'	Jordan Davis
37	37	<b>Emily Reid</b>	I Ain't Sayin'	Jordan Davis
38	38	<b>Travis Wood</b>	I Ain't Sayin'	Jordan Davis
39	39	<b>Mark Holman</b>	I Ain't Sayin'	Jordan Davis
40	41	<b>Luke Combs</b>	Guy For That Tough People	Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs) Drew Baldridge
41	45	<b>Ella Langley</b>	Weren't For The Wind	Ella Langley
42	46	<b>Joybeth Taylor</b>	Weren't For The Wind	Ella Langley
43	52	<b>Greylan James</b>	Forever To Me	Cole Swindell
44	53	<b>Cole Swindell</b>	Forever To Me	Cole Swindell
45	54	<b>Brent Anderson</b>	Fall Of Summer Friends Like That	Scotty McCreery John Morgan (feat. Jason Aldean)
46	47	<b>Louis Bell</b>	Guy For That I Had Some Help	Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs) Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen)
47	48	<b>Austin Post</b>	Guy For That I Had Some Help	Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs) Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen)
48	49	<b>Hoskins</b>	Guy For That I Had Some Help	Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs) Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen)
49	56	<b>Justin Ebach</b>	Relapse Truck On Fire	Warren Zeiders Carly Pearce
50	55	<b>Thomas Archer</b>	This Heart Wind Up Missin' You	Corey Kent Tucker Wetmore
51	50	<b>Kyle Sturrock</b>	Texas	Blake Shelton
52	51	<b>Josh Dorr</b>	Texas	Blake Shelton
53	57	<b>Chris LaCorte</b>	Bones Wind Up Missin' You	Russell Dickerson Tucker Wetmore
54	63	<b>Mark Williams</b>	A Bar Song (Topsy)	Shaboozey
55	64	<b>Joe Kent</b>	A Bar Song (Topsy)	Shaboozey
56	65	<b>Jerrel Jones</b>	A Bar Song (Topsy)	Shaboozey
57	66	<b>Alysa Vanderheym</b>	Baggage Cowboys Cry Too	Kelsea Ballerini Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan
58	67	<b>Kelsea Ballerini</b>	Baggage Cowboys Cry Too	Kelsea Ballerini Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan
59	58	<b>Dylan Marlowe</b>	Boys Back Home	Dylan Marlowe, Dylan Scott
60	59	<b>Seth Ennis</b>	Boys Back Home	Dylan Marlowe, Dylan Scott



# COUNTRY BREAKOUT AWARDS PAST WINNERS

Although the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart debuted on April 12, 2002, *MusicRow* began tallying for its first CountryBreakout Awards at the beginning of 2003, the same year the inaugural *MusicRow* Meet & Greet was held.

## CURRENT CATEGORIES

### MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the male artist receiving the highest total spins from all singles during the prior year.*

2023-24:	Morgan Wallen
2020-22:	Luke Combs
2019:	Jason Aldean
2018:	Blake Shelton
2017:	Eric Church
2016:	Jason Aldean
2015:	Eric Church
2014:	Blake Shelton
2013:	Dierks Bentley

### FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the female artist receiving the highest total spins from all singles during the prior year.*

2024:	Lainey Wilson
2021-23:	Miranda Lambert
2020:	Carrie Underwood
2018-19:	Kelsea Ballerini
2017:	Carrie Underwood
2016:	Kelsea Ballerini
2013-15:	Miranda Lambert

### GROUP/DUO OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the group/duo receiving the highest total spins from all singles during the prior year.*

2024:	Dan + Shay
2023:	Old Dominion
2022:	Dan + Shay
2021:	Florida Georgia Line
2020:	Old Dominion
2015-19:	Florida Georgia Line
2014:	The Band Perry
2013:	Zac Brown Band

### BREAKOUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to an artist, group or duo whose first single or album was released in the year they earned the highest total spins. [First albums were considered after 2011]*

2024:	Megan Moroney
2023:	Jackson Dean
2022:	Priscilla Block

2021:	Parker McCollum
2020:	Riley Green
2019:	Jordan Davis
2018:	Luke Combs
2017:	Maren Morris
2016:	Kelsea Ballerini
2015:	Cole Swindell
2014:	Kacey Musgraves
2013:	Kip Moore
2012:	Thompson Square
2011:	The Band Perry
2010:	Love and Theft

### INDEPENDENT ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the indie label artist who earned the highest total spins based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff.*

2024:	BoomTown Saints
2023:	Cody Jinks
2022:	James Robert Webb
2021:	Cody Jinks
2020:	Smith & Wesley
2019:	CJ Solar
2018:	Shane Owens
2017:	Aaron Watson
2016:	Erica Nicole
2015:	Chris Weaver Band
2014:	Tracy Lawrence
2013:	Taylor Made
2012:	Eric Lee Beddingfield
2011:	Burns & Poe
2010:	Cody McCarver

### SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to a songwriter for writing the most No. 1 songs on the chart the prior year.*

2023-24:	Ashley Gorley
2021-22:	Josh Osborne
2020:	Ashley Gorley
2019:	Shane McAnally
2018:	Ashley Gorley
2017:	Ross Copperman
2016:	[tie] Shane McAnally, Josh Osborne, Ashley Gorley
2015:	[tie] Rodney Clawson, Brett James
2014:	Rodney Clawson

### LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the record label with the highest total spins. [Distinguishes among label after 2012]*

2024:	UMG Nashville
2023:	Warner Music Nashville
2010-22:	Capitol Records Nashville

### REPORTER OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to a chart reporter who epitomizes the essence and embodies the spirit of the chart, showing exemplary dedication to country radio the prior year.*

2024:	Bryce Burtner   KRWQ
2023:	Erik Lane   WVNW
2022:	Jeff Meek   WDHR
2021:	Ted Kramer   WIFE
2020:	Steve Shettler   KBOE
2019:	Derek Beck   KRGI
2018:	Alex Hardy   KYK
2017:	Greg Almond   WGGC
2016:	Melissa Frost   KRRV
2015:	Ryan McCall   WGLR
2014:	Kelly Green   WEIO
2013:	Paul Ciliberto   WDNB
2012:	Jim Quinton   WPPL
2011:	Dale Desmond   KTHK
2010:	Steve Ferguson   WTHO
2009:	Jason Drake   KAIR
2008:	Christie Matthews   KDX
2007:	Mike Thomas   KFAV
2006:	Susie Martin   WATZ

## PAST CATEGORIES

### ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo that received the highest total spins during the prior year. [Award diversifies in 2013, distinguishes between Male, Female and Group/Duo categories]*

2012:	Brad Paisley
2011:	Lady A
2010:	Toby Keith

# COUNTRY BREAKOUT AWARDS PAST WINNERS

Although the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart debuted on April 12, 2002, *MusicRow* began tallying for its first CountryBreakout Awards at the beginning of 2003, the same year the inaugural *MusicRow* Meet & Greet was held.

## MAJOR LABEL ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo that received the highest total spins during the prior year based on a label, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category returns to Artist of the Year in 2010]*

2009: Rascal Flatts  
2008: Keith Urban  
2007: Rascal Flatts  
2006: Keith Urban

## MID-SIZE LABEL ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo receiving the highest total spins from all singles during the prior year based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category retired after 2009]*

2009: Jason Aldean  
2008: Emerson Drive  
2007: Jason Aldean  
2006: Craig Morgan

## SMALL LABEL ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo receiving the highest total spins from all singles during the prior year based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category becomes Independent Artist of the Year in 2010]*

2008-09: Cody McCarver  
2007: Pirates of the Mississippi  
2006: Derryl Perry

## ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo that received the highest total spins during the prior year. [Award to distinguish for label size after 2005, category becomes Major Label Artist of the Year in 2006]*

2005: Kenny Chesney  
2004: Tim McGraw

## MAJOR LABEL BREAKOUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo whose first single peaked and received the highest total spins during the prior year based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category becomes Breakout Artist of the Year in 2010]*

2009: Lady A  
2008: Bucky Covington  
2007: The Wreckers  
2006: Sugarland

## BREAKOUT AWARD

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo whose first single peaked and received the highest total spins during the prior year. [Award to distinguish for label size after 2005, category becomes Major Label Breakout Artist of the Year in 2006]*

2005: Gretchen Wilson  
2004: Dierks Bentley

## MID-SIZE LABEL BREAKOUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo whose first single peaked and received the highest total spins during the prior year based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category becomes Breakout Artist of the Year in 2010]*

2009: No award given  
2008: Whiskey Falls  
2007: Heartland  
2006: Jason Aldean

## SMALL LABEL BREAKOUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo whose first single peaked and received the highest total spins during the prior year based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category retired after 2009]*

2009: Rick Huckaby  
2008: Cody McCarver  
2007: Bailey  
2006: Derryl Perry

## INDIE BREAKOUT AWARD

*Awarded to the artist, group or duo on an indie label whose first single peaked and received*

*the highest total spins during the prior year. [Award to distinguish for label size after 2005, category becomes Small Label Breakout Artist of the Year in 2006]*

2005: Brooks Atwood  
2004: Jill King

## MAJOR LABEL OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the record label that received the highest total spins from all of its artists during the prior year based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category returns to Label of the Year in 2010]*

2006-09: Capitol Records  
Nashville

## LABEL OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the record label that received the highest total spins from all of its artists during the prior year. [Award distinguishes among label size after 2005, category becomes Major Label of the Year in 2006]*

2005: Arista Records  
2004: Capitol Records  
Nashville

## MID-SIZE LABEL OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the record label that received the highest total spins from all of its artists during the prior year based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category retired after 2009]*

2009: Lofton Creek Records  
2006-08: Broken Bow Records

## SMALL LABEL OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to the record label with the highest total spins from all of its artists during the prior year based on label size, distribution model and promotion staff. [Award no longer distinguishes for label size, category retired after 2009]*

2009: PLC Records  
2007-08: Aspirion Records  
Group  
2006: Quarterback Records



## CALENDAR

### Single/Track Releases

#### February 14

**Dierks Bentley**/She Hates Me/Capitol Records Nashville  
**Treaty Oak Revival**/Bad State Of Mind/TOR Records/Interscope Records  
**Muscadine Bloodline**/Chickasaw Church Of Christ  
**Vincent Mason**/Wish You Well/MCA Nashville/Music Soup/Interscope Records  
**Brent Cobb & Adam Hood**/Four On The Floor  
**Craig Campbell**/Missing You/Grindstone Records  
**Grace Tyler**/She Wasn't Crazy  
**Chapel Hart**/Perfect For Me  
**2 Lane Summer feat. Kieran The Light**/God Made You/Quartz Hill Records  
**Sheyna Gee**/Rooster  
**Lucie Tiger**/Tequila Talking/2120 Music  
**Ashlie Amber**/Champagne Bubbles  
**Dawn Rix**/Broken Pieces/Dawn Rix Music  
**Katie Fee**/What You're Getting Yourself Into

#### February 17

**Mags**/Our Song/Emerald Fields Productions

#### February 18

**Thomas Rhett**/After All The Bars Are Closed/The Valory Music Co.  
**Dierks Bentley**/She Hates Me/Capitol Records Nashville

### Album/EP Releases

#### February 14

**Neil Young**/*Oceanside Countryside*/Reprise Records  
**The War And Treaty**/*Plus One*/Mercury Nashville  
**Wyatt Flores**/*Live at Cain's Ballroom*/Island Records  
**Sidewalk Prophets**/*Looking Up*/Curb Records  
**Smithfield**/*Love You To The Moon*

#### February 21

**Chase Matthew**/*Chase*/Warner Music Nashville  
**Kameron Marlowe**/*Sad Songs For The Soul*/Columbia Records Nashville  
**Randall King**/*Neon (Unplugged)*/Warner Music Nashville  
**Hannah McFarland**/*Broken Hearts*  
**Garrett Bradford**/*Honkiest of Tonkers (Part 1)*/H.O.T. Records  
**Allie Colleen**/*Sincerely*, Rolling Stone/Evangeline Records

### Industry Events

#### February 19-21

CRS 2025