

MUSICROW

Friday, February 28, 2025

WEEKLY

CHARLES WESLEY GODWIN



IEBA Names Brian Wagner New Executive Director



Brian Wagner. Photo: Courtesy of IEBA

Industry veteran **Brian Wagner** has been appointed Executive Director of IEBA, effective March 1, 2025. He succeeds **Pam Matthews**, who is retiring after helming the organization for more than a decade.

"IEBA is deeply committed to its membership and to the music community at large. Brian understands this, and that makes him the perfect person to lead this organization. It is with every confidence that I pass the torch to Brian," Matthews shares.

IEBA Board Chairwoman **Deana Baker** adds, "Brian brings with him a wealth of experience and a proven track record in leadership roles. Under his direction, the future of IEBA is bright. His vision and dedication resonate with our mission and goals, and we are thrilled to support him in this new role."

Wagner has nearly 30 years of experience working in multiple facets of the entertainment industry including artist management, concert promotion and as a booking agent. As the founder of Flashpoint Entertainment, he played a pivotal role in launching Nashville venues The Mercy Lounge, Cannery Ballroom and BB King's Blues Club. In 2006, he was tapped to lead marketing for Ryman Auditorium, where his responsibilities soon grew beyond marketing to curating the annual Bluegrass Series and Sam's Place – Music for the Spirit. During his tenure, the Ryman earned IEBA Theater of the Year

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

IEBA Names Brian Wagner
New Executive Director

Katie Fagan Joins Mom+Pop
Nashville

Major Bob Music Elevates
Two, Hires Aubrey Daniels

Hardy Launches Crow
Records

David Garcia Renews With
Spirit Music Group

Ringo Starr & Redferrin Make
Grand Ole Opry Debut

Rachel Deeb Launches
ELEKTRIK Haus Creative

SOLID Announces 2025
Board Of Directors

Something Out West Signs
With Big Machine Records

My Music Row Story:
SESAC's Lydia Schultz Cahill

DISClaimer Single Reviews

And much more...

CHARLES WESLEY GODWIN

Lonely Mountain Town

NEW EP OUT NOW

*Featuring
Scott Avett & ERNEST*

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can't get enough"*

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REPUBLIC

(2009), Pollstar Theater of the Year for six consecutive years (2010-2015), Academy of Country Music Venue of the Year (2010, 2012, 2014) and CMA SRO Venue of the Year (2011-2013).

Wagner became Assistant Commissioner of Marketing for the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development in 2015. His work on the “The Soundtrack of America. Made in Tennessee.” brand campaign was highlighted by collaborations with Dolly Parton, Garth Brooks, Jack White and The Roots.

“I am honored to join IEBA and excited about the opportunities,” Wagner shares. “IEBA has a long-standing reputation for excellence. Stepping into this role following Pam is no small task — her leadership has left an enduring legacy. I look forward to working with the Board, our membership, and our partners.”

At IEBA, Wagner joins IEBA staffers **Lori Bowman** and **Jason Conner**. Bowman served on IEBA's Board of Directors from 2011 to 2016 and was appointed Director of Events in 2022. 2025 marks Conner's 13th IEBA conference and third as the association's Director of Operations.

IEBA's 55th annual conference will take place Oct. 5-7, 2025, at Grand Hyatt Nashville with agency parties at The Pinnacle, the new concert venue in the Nashville Yards development. **MR**

Katie Fagan Named President Of Mom+Pop Nashville



Katie Fagan. Photo: Kevin D. Fagan

Katie Fagan has joined Mom+Pop Music as President of its Nashville office. She comes to the independent label after a 14-year stint at Prescription Songs, where she served as the Head of A&R in Nashville for the last eight years.

In her new role, Fagan will oversee the continuing development of the company's roster, and expand M+P's global footprint, searching for talent worldwide while overseeing the strategic vision for M+P in Nashville. She has first-hand experience creating a footprint in Nashville, having opened Prescription's first office outside of Los Angeles.

As Prescription's Head of A&R, Fagan worked closely with artists such as Anderson East, Maggie Rose, Nick Bailey, Soaky Siren, JT Daly, Sarah Hudson and Cirkut and Frenship, among others. She also worked with numerous top 10 multi-Platinum hits from songwriters on Prescription, landing placements throughout the years for artists such as Lana Del Rey, Chris Stapleton, Noah Kahan and Ethel Cain. Fagan signed Joy

Oladokun, who turned heads with her critically-acclaimed album *Proof of Life*, as well as Malibu Babie, who co-produced Nicki Minaj's hit “Super Freaky Girl” and Megan Thee Stallion's single “Her.”

An Indiana native, Fagan's musical passion led her to Los Angeles, landing an internship in A&R at Warner Chappell Music Publishing. In 2011, she joined Prescription as an assistant to Dr. Luke, which led to her ultimately ascending to Head of A&R at the company.

Fagan currently serves as a co-founder of The Other Nashville Society (TONS), which supports musicians and industry professionals in building community outside of commercial country music in Nashville, and now boasts over 1,500 members. She is also a She Is The Music Songwriting and Publishing Committee member, which helps open top-level opportunities for female creators, and has served as a Chapter Governor of The Recording Academy Board/Nashville since 2023. **MR**

PRYOR BAIRD

THE ONE LEFT BEHIND

[LISTEN HERE](#)

FIRSTHAND HEARTBREAK SOAKED IN
SOULFUL PEDAL STEEL GUITAR
NEW SINGLE AVAILABLE NOW

Major Bob Music Elevates Andy Friday & Emily Hasty, Hires Aubrey Daniels



Aubrey Daniels, Andy Friday and Emily Hasty

Major Bob Music has elevated and expanded three of its team members. **Andy Friday** has risen to Chief Operating Officer (COO) and **Emily Hasty** to Creative Director. **Aubrey Daniels** has been recruited serve as Head of Publishing.

Working with **Bob** and **Mike Doyle** for over 15 years, Friday will oversee all companies owned by Doyle in his newly created position of COO. He also handles day-to-day management for Treaty Oak Revival in a co-management partnership with Eli Kidd of EKidd Artist Management, longtime manager of the band. Previously Major Bob's Head of Publishing, Friday signed Zach Top and Treaty Oak Revival to Major Bob Music/Bob Doyle & Associates.

Daniels, a Michigan native and Belmont alum, moved to Nashville in 2012. She brings to the role years of experience working closely with writers, artists and labels promoting songs between various publishing companies including Bluewater Music, SNG Music and KP Entertainment's publishing arm.

An MTSU alum hailing from East Tennessee, Hasty first interned at Major Bob in 2022 and officially joining the team as Administrative Assistant in 2023, soon promoted to Creative Coordinator. She officially signed her first writer, Anslee Davidson, in September of 2023. **MR**

Hardy Launches Crow Records With Debut Artist Sikarus



Hardy and Sikarus. Photo: Courtesy of Crow Records

Hardy has partnered with Big Loud Rock to launch his new label, Crow Records. The first artist signed to the new label is **Sikarus**, who has released his debut track "Nonchalant."

Sikarus is the solo project of **Jordan Brooker**, a songwriter with cuts for Luke Combs and others who is making his artist debut.

"The second I heard Sikarus' music I thought to myself, 'What a cool sound, I want to do anything I can to be able to work with him,'" says Hardy. "I've known Jordan for many years and I'm so excited to finally be able to say that we are officially working together. I love rock 'n' roll, I love exploring new things and I couldn't be happier for Sikarus to be the first artist signed to Crow Records."

Raised on country, Brooker found his major inspirations when his older brothers turned him on to rock in his early adolescence, starting with classics like Led Zeppelin and Nirvana and falling deep into turn-of-the-millennium alt-and pop-rock and '90s rock titans in high school. Hardy and Brooker, friends and collaborators during their early years in Nashville, reconnected in recent months, with Hardy making Sikarus his first Crow Records signing almost immediately upon hearing demos.

Sikarus will join Hardy on select dates of the "[Jim Bob World Tour](#)" this year, playing arenas and amphitheaters across the U.S. in August and September. **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

Walking The Floor/Porter Martin/Lovable Losers Music - 74
Not on Me/Randy Cobb/Randy Cobb Music - 76
Forever From Here/Tigirlily Gold/Monument Records - 79
Wildflowers In Whiskey Bottles/Tyson Leamon/American Roots - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

I'm The Problem/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 322
She Hates Me/Dierks Bentley/Capitol Records Nashville - 218
Worst Way/Riley Green/Nashville Harbor - 179
I Never Lie/Zach Top/Leo33 - 160
I Dare You/Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers/Big Machine Records - 135

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

She Hates Me/Dierks Bentley/Capitol Records Nashville - 18
Worst Way/Riley Green/Nashville Harbor - 8
After All The Bars Are Closed/Thomas Rhett/Valory - 8
The Working Man/Cody Jinks/Late August Records - 6
I Dare You/Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers/Big Machine Records - 5
If Drinking Was A Sport/Tori Rose/Brown Lee Entertainment - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Well Whiskey/Kelly & Sarah/Kelly Sarah Music - 95
232/Delaney Ann/Synapse Publishing & Entertainment - 94
Me & The Bottle (Hungover You)/Jason Scott & The High Heat - 85
Denim/Sarah Harralson/Synapse Publishing & Entertainment - 84
Perfect Day/Eden Delia/James Lugo Music - 77

NO. 1 SONG



Zach Top notches his first No. 1 on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with his track "I Never Lie."

The track is a part of Top's debut studio album *Cold Beer & Country Music* and was written by Top, **Carson Chamberlain** and **Tim Nichols**.

"I Never Lie" currently sits at No. 12 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 10 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
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
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	2	1	I Never Lie / Zach Top / Leo33	2184/64	8	160
12	3	2	Texas / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	2066/59	3	52
28	4	3	I Ain't Sayin' / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	1948/53	-2	-33
19	1	4	I'm Gonna Love You / Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1903/53	-6	-122
33	6	5	Hometown Home / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group	1836/55	5	94
25	5	6	Am I Okay? / Megan Moroney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records	1820/58	3	48
37	7	7	Friends Like That / John Morgan feat. Jason Aldean / Night Train Records/Broken Bow Records	1701/53	7	114
42	10	8	Forever To Me / Cole Swindell / Warner Music Nashville	1527/48	0	1
28	11	9	Whiskey Drink / Jason Aldean / Broken Bow Records	1463/56	3	42
4	21	10	I'm The Problem / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1437/57	29	322
15	12	11	Backseat Driver / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1428/56	4	52
35	13	12	Holy Smokes / Bailey Zimmerman / Elektra/Warner Music Nashville	1400/51	3	45
53	14	13	Life With You / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	1389/51	4	57
13	16	14	Tough People / Drew Baldridge / Stoney Creek Records	1369/56	6	72
8	17	15	weren't for the wind / Ella Langley / SAWGOD/Columbia	1344/59	7	92
29	15	16	Truck On Fire / Carly Pearce / Big Machine Records	1335/60	1	16
31	20	17	Coming Home / Old Dominion / Columbia Nashville	1236/54	5	64
30	18	18	Just To Say We Did / Kenny Chesney / Blue Chair Records/Warner Music Nashville	1194/44	-5	-57
32	19	19	Cowboys Cry Too / Kelsea Ballerini feat. Noah Kahan / Black River Entertainment	1182/56	-1	-11
24	22	20	Heavens To Betsy / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	919/48	7	64
19	23	21	Would If I Could / Ernest / Big Loud Records	852/50	0	-1
21	24	22	Sunday in the South / Shenandoah, Jason Aldean & Luke Bryan / 8-Track Entertainment	841/39	6	51
11	25	23	Single Again / Josh Ross / Mercury Nashville/Universal Canada	833/45	6	50
17	26	24	Tele-Man / Ira Dean & Ronnie Dunn feat. Vince Gill, John Osborne, Brent Mason / 8-Track Entertainment	778/42	4	31
13	28	25	Fix What You Didn't Break / Nate Smith / RCA Nashville	758/42	7	47
14	27	26	Country Song Came On / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	753/40	4	28
20	29	27	What Kinda Man / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	736/41	5	32
4	33	28	I Dare You / Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers / Big Machine Records	705/46	24	135
36	30	29	Fall of Summer / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers	681/38	-3	-19
18	31	30	Heart Breaks You / BoomTown Saints & Sam Grow / 8-Track Entertainment	630/38	3	18
14	32	31	Time's Ticking / Justin Moore / Valory	618/39	6	35
6	34	32	Straight Line / Keith Urban / Capitol Nashville	617/38	13	72
23	36	33	Country House / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	607/33	15	81
27	37	34	Park / Tyler Hubbard / EMI Records Nashville	584/33	14	70
14	35	35	Whose Tequila Are You Drinkin'? / Billie Jo Jones / Get Joe Records	574/37	9	46
15	40	36	Your Time to Stay / Aaron Goodvin / Sakamoto Music/Warner Music Canada	551/33	22	100
5	44	37	Worst Way / Riley Green / Nashville Harbor	533/34	51	179
21	38	38	Friday Night Heartbreaker / Jon Pardi / Capitol Nashville	496/29	6	27



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
2	52	39	She Hates Me / Dierks Bentley / Capitol Records Nashville	473/38	85	218
7	39	40	10-90 / Muscadine Bloodline / 30 Tigers	461/41	2	10
3	45	41	After All The Bars Are Closed / Thomas Rhett / Valory	454/35	31	108
6	42	42	Only Heart I'm Breaking / Due West / Unwound Records	426/34	7	29
9	43	43	All Again / Charles Wesley Godwin / Big Loud Records	387/34	2	6
5	48	44	The Working Man / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	380/35	27	80
4	49	45	Cry / Lee Brice / Curb Records	356/28	19	57
19	41	46	Truck Still Works / Brad Paisley / EMI Records Nashville	328/22	-25	-109
15	47	47	Christian County (Homecomin' Queen) / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	317/21	3	10
21	51	48	Everything I Need / Chayce Beckham / 19 Recordings/Wheelhouse Records	298/21	12	33
5	53	49	Good News / Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	280/22	12	30
5	54	50	Pour Me Out / Kashus Culpepper / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	271/25	9	23
11	55	51	Yours / Tony Evans Jr. / Aneva Music Group (AMG)	267/23	10	25
5	64	52	This Heart / Corey Kent / RCA Nashville	262/17	44	80
6	56	53	Cowgirl / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	246/17	13	28
3	57	54	Run / Miranda Lambert / Republic Records	234/21	9	20
7	58	55	She Makes Dirt Look Good / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	233/20	11	24
4	67	56	When I Think Aldean / Cliff Dorsey / Black Sheep Records	228/18	37	61
3	68	57	20 Different Routes / Ken Domash / Thunder Mountain Records	214/22	41	62
14	59	58	Tough People Do / Jason Matthews / Valhalla Music Group	209/19	2	4
3	66	59	It Won't Be Long / George Birge / RECORDS Nashville	201/18	18	30
13	60	60	Because of the Brave / Soul Circus Cowboys / Kismet Nashville	201/16	3	5
8	61	61	Let Me Roll / Whitey Morgan and the 78's / Whitey Morgan Music	187/15	-1	-1
18	65	62	Relapse / Warren Zeiders / Warner Records	181/15	5	9
7	63	63	Bones / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	180/14	-4	-7
32	46	64	Over When We're Sober / Brantley Gilbert feat. Ashley Cooke / Valory	180/13	-46	-154
7	69	65	Everything Changes / The Ashley Sisters / Spellcast Records	178/11	21	31
7	62	66	Golden Child / Meghan Patrick / Riser House	167/12	-11	-21
3	73	67	Always Gonna Be / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	148/11	14	18
2	80	68	Our Song / Mags McCarthy / Emerald Fields Productions	142/14	26	29
7	70	69	Run Your Mouth / Gavin Adcock / Warner Music Nashville	140/11	-3	-4
4	71	70	Pass It On Down / The Wilder Blue / Hill Country Music	136/14	-3	-4
7	72	71	Better Than You / Joe Nichols feat. Annie Bosco / Quartz Hill Records	130/11	-4	-6
3	76	72	The Man My Daddy Made / Rob Fitzgerald / Riverbend Recordings	128/9	2	3
3	78	73	If I Die Before You / Chris Lane / Red Street/Voyager Records	122/9	0	0
1	86	74	Walking The Floor / Porter Martin / Lovable Losers Music	121/9	32	29
2	79	75	Bring Out The Country (In Me) / Danielia Cotton / Cottontown LLC	120/7	3	4
1	82	76	Not on Me / Randy Cobb / Randy Cobb Music	119/10	13	14
2	74	77	Dear Life / Blake Wood / Deluge Records	118/11	-8	-10
6	81	78	Darlin' / Chase Matthew / Warner Music Nashville	117/9	10	11
1	97	79	Forever From Here / Tigirlily Gold / Monument Records	106/7	77	46
1	99	80	Wildflowers In Whiskey Bottles / Tyson Leamon / American Roots	102/10	82	46

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut

ROW FAX

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David Garcia Renews Global Publishing Deal With Spirit Music Group



Pictured (L-R, back row): Mike Fiorentino (Spirit), Megan Pekar (Loeb & Loeb), AJ Burton (Fluid), Brian Bradford (Spirit), Andy Hodges (Spirit) and Lucy Widmann (Spirit). (L-R, front row): Derek Wells (Spirit/2Mix), David Garcia, Frank Rogers (Spirit/Fluid) and Kennedy Murphy (Spirit). Photo: Courtesy of Spirit Music Group

David Garcia has renewed his global publishing deal with Spirit Music Group. Additionally, Spirit Music Group has acquired Garcia's co-publishing, writer's share and producer rights to specific songs. In 2019, Spirit Music Group [first signed](#) Garcia, which included acquiring his existing catalog and securing a publishing deal for his future works.

Garcia is a four-time Grammy Award winning record producer and songwriter, and has achieved chart-topping success across multiple genres, with 26 No. 1 songs to his name. His early success was with Christian music, where he produced and co-wrote several hit songs. He has been named ASCAP's Christian Songwriter of the Year twice, written three of ASCAP's Christian Song of the Year, and has garnered nine Dove Awards. Garcia also co-wrote and produced cross-genre mega hit "Meant to Be" with Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line. It made history as the longest-charting No. 1 song on the *Billboard* Country Music Chart, holding the top spot for 50 weeks and breaking multiple *Billboard* records. The tune has sold over 10 million copies and has earned Diamond certification from the RIAA. **MR**

Ringo Starr Makes Grand Ole Opry Debut

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member **Ringo Starr** made his debut on the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday night (Feb. 21) as part of the Opry's ongoing 100th Anniversary celebration and in support of his new country album, *Look Up*.

Starr was surprised onstage with an invitation to play the Opry by his friend and Opry member **Emmylou Harris** during his sold-out concerts at the Ryman Auditorium in January.

"As you may have noticed I dressed up a bit tonight. I'm a cowboy inside," Ringo said from the Opry stage wearing a slick white cowboy hat. "This is a great honor and an incredible moment for me. It's just a dream to end up here."

Starr's new album *Look Up* comes after a chance meeting with T Bone Burnett at an event in Los Angeles in 2022 (the two had first met in the 1970s), where Starr asked Burnett to write a song for an EP he was recording. Taking the task to heart, Burnett returned with nine songs, all in a country vein, which happily put Starr on a path to record *Look Up*.

The Beatles member has had a lifelong love of country music and performed and wrote numerous country and country-tinged songs throughout his years with The Beatles (i.e. "Act Naturally," "What Goes On," "Don't Pass Me By") as well as with the earlier Rory Storm and The Hurricanes. He also recorded a country album, *Beaucoups of Blues*, in 1970 as his second solo album. **MR**



Ringo Starr makes Grand Ole Opry debut. Photo: Chris Hollo

Rachel Deeb Launches ELEKTRIK Haus Creative



Rachel Deeb. Photo: Katie Mathis

Country music photographer and videographer **Rachel Deeb** has launched ELEKTRIK Haus Creative, a new creative matchmaking service designed to connect the music industry with top-tier visual artists.

The company bridges the gap between musicians, managers and industry professionals and the photographers, videographers, designers and artists who can bring their creative visions to life.

With a decade of experience, Deeb has worked with Maren Morris, Carly Pearce, Walker Hayes, Ashley Cooke, Miranda Lambert, The Lumineers and more. Beyond photography and videography, she is also a visual artist, having designed and painted a custom jacket for Carrie Underwood's "Reflection Tour" and has created murals around Nashville.

Deeb's inspiration for launching ELEKTRIK Haus Creative came from years of industry colleagues reaching out for referrals to trusted creatives.

"As I've learned, in this game, the right crew makes all the difference," Deeb shares.

Those interested in working with ELEKTRIK Haus Creative can connect through the company's [Instagram](#), reach out to Deeb directly via her [Instagram](#) or email rkdeebdesigns@gmail.com. **MR**

SOLID Announces 2025 Board Of Directors



SOLID's 2025 Board of Directors. Photo: Chrissy Nix

The Society of Leaders in Development (SOLID) has announced its 2025 Board of Directors.

This year's Executive Board includes President **Zach Green** (Green P&M), Vice President **Leah Ducey** (Universal Music Group Nashville), Secretary **Alannah Schwartz** (Endurance Music Group) and Treasurer **Kim Albritton** (ClearBox Rights, LLC).

The 2025 SOLID Board of Directors consists of Ambassadorship Chairs **Becky Parsons** (Found Sound Media) and **TC Courtney** (Universal Music Publishing Group); Communications Chairs **Nicole Marchesi** (Opry Entertainment Group) and **Ryan Nisley**; Community Outreach Chairs **Layne Faltinsky** (BMG Publishing) and **Leigh Ferro** (Curb Records); Education Chairs **Nina Owens** (The Teapot Legacy) and **Michelle Wichern** (Outback Presents); Music Market Chairs **Brendan McManus** (Warner Music Group), **Eunice Hernandez** (Studio Bank) and **Brian Day** (Curb Records); Social Chairs **Marisa Righi** (Freeman) and **Jessica Hamorsky** (Playback Studios, LLC) and DEI Chairs **Savannah Alday** (William Morris Endeavor) and **Taylor John** (Mechanical Licensing Collective).

Additionally, this year's SOLID Alumni Board will be led by President **Brooke Mansfield** (Riser House Entertainment). Board members include **Haley Webster** (Mtheory), **Jesse Flohr** (McIvor Marketing), **Lizzy Stone** (Wiles + Taylor & Co) and **Ryan Cunningham** (ONErpm). **MR**

Redferrin Makes Grand Ole Opry Debut



Redferrin. Photo: Chris Hollo

Warner Music Nashville artist **Redferrin** made his Grand Ole Opry debut on Tuesday night (Feb. 18).

Redferrin delivered performances of his tracks “Just Like Johnny” and “Jack and Diet Coke,” which have garnered 162M and 121M global streams respectively. After the Tennessee native wrapped up his set on the legendary Opry stage, he was pleasantly surprised backstage with two RIAA Gold Plaques for the same songs he had just performed.

The 2024 Amazon ‘Breakthrough Artist to Watch’ is preparing for the release of his sophomore EP, *Some City, Somewhere*, today (Feb. 28). Co-produced by Redferrin, the EP features seven tracks, all of which he either solo-penned or co-wrote. **MR**

Something Out West Signs With Big Machine Records

New duo **Something Out West**, comprised of **Drew Arthur** and **Chet Hanks**, has signed with Big Machine Records.

Something Out West launched in California, where band members Arthur and Hanks became roommates at a pivotal time in their lives when both were embarking on a journey toward sobriety. This shared path resulted in both a deep friendship, as well as a musical and creative collaboration of late-night jams and songwriting sessions, and eventually moves to Nashville and the formation of their duo. With a blend of distinctive vocals, memorable melodies, and timeless lyrics, Something Out West honors the genre’s storytelling roots while embracing a fresh musical perspective full of contemporary influences.

“Drew and Chet are building a one of a kind sound and story with Something Out West, powered by their undeniable energy and creative connection,” says Big Machine Label Group Chairman & CEO **Scott Borchetta**. “We’re thrilled for them to join the Big Machine Records family and for the world to experience this fresh, dynamic duo.”

“We’re thrilled to partner with Big Machine and Scott Borchetta,” says Hanks. “The support they’ve shown for ‘Leaving Hollywood’ and the rest of the music has been incredible. Drew and I have been making music together for a long time, and we feel really proud to have a home at Big Machine for this upcoming project.”

The duo is currently in the studio with producer **Julian Raymond** working on their debut project slated for release later this year. Their debut song for the label, “Leaving Hollywood,” is set for release today (Feb. 28.) **MR**



(L-R, back row): Big Machine Label Group’s Mike Rittberg and Allison Jones, EM.CO’s Scott Siman, Big Machine Records’ Kris Lamb, EM.CO’s James Stewart, Big Machine Label Group’s Andrew Kautz, Megan Joyce and Julian Raymond. (L-R, front row): Something Out West’s Drew Arthur, Big Machine Label Group’s Scott Borchetta and Something Out West’s Chet Hanks. Photo: Nick Rau for Big Machine Records

Ryan Charles Signs With Concord Music Publishing



Melissa Spillman (Concord) and Ryan Charles pose together with horses, Gunner and Rio. Photo: Emma Lee Golden

Western rapper **Ryan Charles** has signed a worldwide publishing deal with Concord Music Publishing.

The Wyoming native is known for his light-hearted twang and high-energy live shows, and combines the cowboy lifestyle with the flow of 2000s rap. Charles has released singles including “Gettin’ Western,” “Old Dirt Fancy” and “New Boot Goofin’.” He was also featured on Ian Munsick’s 2022 single “Cowboy Killer,” which has over 37 million streams on Spotify alone.

In 2022, Charles represented the state of Wyoming on the first season of NBC’s *American Song Contest* performing “New Boot Goofin’.” He returned to the show during its fifth season to compete in the semi-finals, becoming the show’s first “Redemption Artist” as “New Boot Goofin’” received the highest number of streams of any eliminated artist to date. Charles released “Turquoise Stones” and “Cold Beer Diet” in 2023, and this past year released the love ballad “Heartbreak Rodeo.” His most recent single, “What in Tarnation,” brought his global career streams to more than 65 million.

“I can confidently say Ryan is unlike anyone I’ve ever worked with, and I couldn’t be prouder that we’re adding someone so unique to our roster,” states **Melissa Spillman**, VP A&R at Concord Music Publishing in Nashville. “His music appeals to country music and rap fans and everyone in between! Ryan is an incredibly talented writer and performer, and I’m so excited for the world to hear what he’s been working on the last few months.” **MR**

Cameron Montgomery Inks With Downtown Music Publishing [Exclusive]



Cameron Montgomery

Songwriter and producer **Cameron Montgomery** has signed a worldwide publishing deal with Downtown Music Publishing.

Split between Los Angeles and Nashville, Montgomery has created chart-topping hits for Morgan Wallen, Kane Brown, 24kGoldn, Winona Oak and Hardy, whose “.30-06,” debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200. Montgomery is also currently creating music for film, brand partnerships and collaborations within the visual arts.

“I couldn’t be more thrilled to join the team at Downtown,” says Montgomery. “From the moment I met **Emily [Stephenson]** and **Jedd [Katrancha]**, it was clear that they are deeply committed to fostering a creative home where music and songwriters come first. Their passion and vision make Downtown the perfect place to continue growing as an artist and creator.”

“Cam is an exceptionally talented songwriter whose work resonates across genres and audiences,” shares Stephenson, Downtown Music Publishing President, “It’s an honor to have him join the Downtown family.” **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Trace Adkins 'Can Still Deliver The Goods'



Trace Adkins. Photo: Kristin Barlowe

Old-school country is on the menu today at DISCLAIMER.

Jon Pardi, Bryce Leatherwood and DISCOVERY Award winner Chase McDaniel set the tone of the listening session.

For the icing on this traditionalist cake, we also have a collection of proven masters of old-school country craft. Joe Nichols, Moe Bandy and Disc of the Day winner Trace Adkins are here to show the kiddies how it's done.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Applications For MusicRow's 2025 InCharge Print Directory Now Open](#)

[ASCAP Posts Record-Breaking \\$1.835 Billion In Revenue For 2024](#)

[BMI To Honor John P. Kee At 2025 BMI Trailblazers Of Gospel Music Awards](#)

[Bobby Bones' Live Broadcast Event To Air In Movie Theaters](#)

[CRS Highlights Five Talented Artists At 2025 New Faces Of Country Music Showcase](#)

[Dr. Valerie Cordero Named Executive Director Of W.O. Smith Music School](#)

[Fancy Hagood To Receive HRC Visibility Award](#)

[First-Ever Las Vegas Songwriters Festival Set For August](#)

[Ian Munsick To Showcase Evolution On 'Eagle Feather'](#)

[Jelly Roll Hosts Grand Opening For Goodnight Nashville](#)

[Kobalt Music Launches New KOSIGN Platform](#)

[LeAnn Phelan To Host Creative Therapy Workshop In March](#)

[Maddie & Tae To Showcase 'Love & Light' This May](#)

[Nominees Revealed For 2025 AIMP Nashville Awards](#)

[Singer-Songwriter Matthews Signs With Curb Records](#)

[Third Annual 'Groceries With Dignity & Comedy Without' Coming In April](#)

[Tin Pan South Unveils 2025 Schedule & Lineup](#)

[Weekly Register: Zach Bryan Nabs No. 5 On Country Album Charts](#)

My Music Row Story: SESAC's Lydia Schultz Cahill



Lydia Schultz Cahill

Lydia Schultz Cahill is Senior Director of Creative Services at SESAC PRO, where she oversees the country genre in Nashville. She supports songwriter and publisher affiliates, recruits new talent and collaborates with artists like **Blanco Brown, Jon Nite, Allison Veltz Cruz, Dillon Carmichael** and **Jenny Tolman**. Cahill also produces SESAC-sponsored events, including Tin Pan South, SESAC Presents at the Bluebird and songwriter showcases across the Southeast.

Before joining SESAC in 2016, Cahill was Creative Director at Magic Mustang Music, where she worked with acclaimed songwriters **Steve Bogard, Kristian Bush, Rob Hatch** and **Justin Lantz**. She began her career as an assistant to Grammy-winning songwriter **JD Souther** and later held roles in the Legal and Finance Department at Broken Bow Records. A Wisconsin native, Cahill graduated from Belmont University with a bachelor's degree in business administration from its Music Business program. In 2024, she completed her master's degree in social work from the University of Tennessee.

Cahill will be honored as part of *MusicRow's* Rising Women on the Row class of 2025 on March 20 at the Omni Nashville Hotel.

Hotel. [Read more about the event here.](#)

MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a town called Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. It's about 45 minutes north of Madison.

Tell me about that. What was childhood like?

People from the Midwest always know it because it's the water park capital of America. Whenever I say I'm from Wisconsin Dells, people are like, "Oh my gosh, we went on vacation there." It's a small town with a beautiful river, known for having tons of water parks. People are always surprised that you can actually live there. It's a sister city to Gatlinburg—similar, but on a river instead of a mountain.

My mom was in nursing, and my dad is a farmer. I grew up on a farm just outside of town, so my upbringing was more rural.

How did music come into your life?

My mom's mom always had music on. She had a radio and later got a CD player. No one in my family was particularly musical—my grandpa played guitar, but it wasn't a big thing. We sang in church, but mostly it was country music.

We didn't have many TV channels growing up—we had something called "The Farmer Five," which was about five channels and none of them were that interesting to me as a kid. So, we just played outside a lot.

After high school, did you know you wanted to do this?

No. I had a guidance counselor meeting where they asked if I was going to college. I didn't really have a plan, just figured I'd go because my friends were going. I remember telling my dad, "I think I want to go to college," and he said,

"Does your mom know?" [Laughs] It just wasn't something we talked about much.

A friend who was a songwriter went to Belmont and told me about the music business major. I was in Wisconsin for two and a half years, just partying and having fun, then transferred to Belmont because I loved music and figured I could get paid to sing songs.

I didn't know artists like **Reba McEntire** didn't write all her songs. I didn't even know what a songwriter was. Belmont opened my eyes to the industry—publishing, song pluggers, the whole ecosystem supporting creative people.

Tell me about Belmont.

I went from a public party school to a private liberal arts school, and it was a shock to my system. Wisconsinites just like to have a good time—beer, football—then I came to Belmont, and it was a totally different vibe.

I was a student loan kid, and when I got to Belmont, none of my friends had loans. That was eye-opening. It was an educational experience in every way—catching up academically but also realizing how much was on the line. My parents helped, but I was paying for it, and at one point, my loan doubled in a semester. I had to take it seriously.

Did you intern anywhere?

I did the BMI Catalog Cast internship, where we worked with publishers and learned about song plugging. It was an amazing way to understand publishing and the industry. I remember playing songs for **Taylor Lindsey** and **Sara Knabe**.

I also interned with **Kelly King**, which was incredible. She included me in everything, and it was inspiring to see her champion artists like **Brothers Osborne**.

Sounds like you were pretty set on publishing at that point.

Yes! I've always loved creativity, and once I realized that the songs I loved weren't necessarily written by the singers, I became fascinated by songwriters. They were the ones who made these songs happen, the ones who gave me something to connect to as a rural kid.

What happened after graduation?

I wanted to work in publishing so badly. I worked as an assistant to **JD Souther** for a few months, which was wild. He had high expectations.

Then I interviewed for a song plugging job at Broken Bow, but **Benny Brown** noticed on my resume that I had taken copyright law, and made up a job for me in legal and finance instead. I worked in QuickBooks for a while and even wondered if I should be an accountant. Eventually, I moved into a song plugging role and did that for about three years and it was wonderful.

I loved working with songwriters, but I also wanted to engage with other sectors of the industry. When **ET Brown** at SESAC told me they were expanding the creative department, I jumped at the opportunity. It made so much sense to me—I could still work with songwriters, which is my absolute favorite population, as well as other sectors of the industry.



Photo: Courtesy of Cahill



Photo: Courtesy of Cahill

When did you start at SESAC?

2016. I started as a country rep, getting familiar with our roster and building relationships. In 2020, I was promoted to senior director, which was a lot of the same work but at a higher level. It was a huge shift, but COVID actually made it more manageable—I could handle everything without constantly being in person. It gave me time to adjust.

What's your favorite part of what you do now?

The one-on-one time with songwriters. Supporting them, giving them space to reflect—it's an honor to be someone they trust to bounce ideas off of.

What is something you're most proud of?

So much of what I do at SESAC is making sure our songwriters are happy and truly taking care of them. Getting to be a part of their wins has always been really exciting. I'm proud of signing **Chris LaCorte** and **Jon Nite**—having people trust you and your company is truly humbling.

Something else I'm proud of is that I got my masters degree in mental health during the pandemic and have been working as a therapist on the side. I've really enjoyed getting to be a resource for other people, especially in the music industry.

Who have been your mentors along the way?

With the exception of JD, I have almost always worked for a woman. Kelly King was so amazing. **Melissa Kramer** at Broken Bow and **Juli Griffith** at Magic Mustang took great care of me. **Shannan Hatch** is far too young to be a mother figure to me, but she has nurtured me so much.

What would you say is the best piece of advice you've ever gotten?

Nobody is thinking about you as much as you're thinking about you. It's not that people don't care about you, because people care about you. But you need to do what is best for you.

You will be honored next month at our Rising Women on the Row breakfast. In a few words, can you share about what your experience as a woman in the music industry has been like?

It's so interesting because the gender disparity became so much more clear after I got married. Watching my husband's work experience versus my work experience—specifically around finances—is very different. He might ask for something and just get it, whereas I've always felt like I needed to make a case for the things that I wanted to have financially.

In the songwriting community, unfortunately, there are a lot fewer women. I work with so many men, just because there are more of them, so I really make an effort to prioritize working with other women.

What would you say to a college student reading this that wants to do what you do one day?

I would honestly tell her she'll probably be my boss someday. Young people are so smart, and they have access to so much more information than we ever did. Statistically, I don't think I should have made it to where I am—to be the first in my family to go to a four-year school and then be as successful as I've been. The cards were not in my favor, so I would tell her to work really hard and enjoy it. **MR**

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Ashley Gorley	Park Love Somebody I Had Some Help Liar Fix What You Didn't Break This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Tyler Hubbard Morgan Wallen Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Jelly Roll Nate Smith Dylan Scott
2	5	Zachary Lane Bryan	Blue Jean Baby Dear Miss High Road	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan Zach Bryan
3	3	Ryan Vojtesak	Love Somebody I'm The Problem I Had Some Help Smile Guy For That This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Morgan Wallen Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs) Dylan Scott
4	4	Taylor Phillips	Liar Fix What You Didn't Break This Town's Been Too Good To Us	Jelly Roll Nate Smith Dylan Scott
5	6	Ernest Keith Smith	I'm The Problem I Had Some Help Smile Guy For That	Morgan Wallen Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Morgan Wallen Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs)
6	8	Jordan Walker	Tough People Backseat Driver	Drew Baldridge Kane Brown
7	7	Morgan Wallen	Love Somebody I'm The Problem I Had Some Help Smile	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Morgan Wallen
8	16	Riley Green	Worst Way Don't Mind If I Do	Riley Green Riley Green (feat. Ella Langley)
9	9	Johnny Clawson	Weren't For The Wind Texas	Ella Langley Blake Shelton
10	12	Zach Top	I Never Lie Use Me Bad Luck	Zach Top Zach Top Zach Top
11	13	Carson Chamberlain	I Never Lie Use Me Bad Luck	Zach Top Zach Top Zach Top
12	21	Jacob Davis	Backseat Driver In Case You Missed It	Kane Brown Jordan Davis
13	11	John Byron	Love Somebody Smile This Town's Been Too Good To Us After All The Bars Are Closed	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Dylan Scott Thomas Rhett
14	20	Tim Nichols	I Never Lie Use Me	Zach Top Zach Top
15	17	Jon Decious	4x4xU	Lainey Wilson
16	18	Aaron Raitiere	4x4xU	Lainey Wilson
17	19	Lainey Wilson	4x4xU	Lainey Wilson
18	14	Rocky Block	Smile Forever To Me	Morgan Wallen Cole Swindell
19	22	Jessie Jo Dillon	Friday Night Heartbreaker Am I Okay? Baggage	Jon Pardi Megan Moroney Kelsea Ballerini
20	23	Travis Denning	I'm Gonna Love You	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood
21	24	Kelly Archer	I'm Gonna Love You	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood
22	25	Chris Stevens	I'm Gonna Love You	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
23	15	Ty Myers	Ends Of The Earth Thought It Was Love	Ty Myers Ty Myers
24	33	John Morgan	Friends Like That Whiskey Drink	John Morgan (feat. Jason Aldean) Jason Aldean
25	10	Jason DeFord	Liar Winning Streak	Jelly Roll Jelly Roll
26	30	Collins Obinna Chibueze	A Bar Song (Topsy) Good News Last Of My Kind	Shaboozey Shaboozey Shaboozey (feat. Paul Cauthen)
27	31	Sean Cook	A Bar Song (Topsy) Good News Last Of My Kind	Shaboozey Shaboozey Shaboozey (feat. Paul Cauthen)
28	27	Megan Moroney	Am I Okay?	Megan Moroney
29	28	Luke Laird	Am I Okay?	Megan Moroney
30	36	Travis Wood	I Ain't Sayin' In Case You Missed It	Jordan Davis Jordan Davis
31	32	Nevin Sastry	A Bar Song (Topsy) Good News	Shaboozey Shaboozey
32	26	Ben Johnson	Liar	Jelly Roll
33	43	Joybeth Taylor	Need To Weren't For The Wind	Gavin Adcock Ella Langley
34	34	Steve Moakler	I Ain't Sayin'	Jordan Davis
35	35	Emily Reid	I Ain't Sayin'	Jordan Davis
36	37	Mark Holman	I Ain't Sayin'	Jordan Davis
37	38	Greylan James	Forever To Me	Cole Swindell
38	39	Cole Swindell	Forever To Me	Cole Swindell
39	42	Ella Langley	Weren't For The Wind	Ella Langley
40	44	Michael Tyler	This Heart Holy Smokes Cowboy Songs	Corey Kent Bailey Zimmerman George Birge
41	41	Luke Combs	Tough People Guy For That	Drew Baldridge Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs)
42	48	Brent Anderson	Fall Of Summer Friends Like That	Scotty McCreery John Morgan (feat. Jason Aldean)
43	53	Justin Ebach	Truck On Fire Relapse	Carly Pearce Warren Zeiders
44	40	Lalo Guzman	Texas Cowboy Songs	Blake Shelton George Birge
45	45	Louis Bell	I Had Some Help Guy For That	Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs)
46	46	Austin Post	I Had Some Help Guy For That	Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs)
47	47	Hoskins	I Had Some Help Guy For That	Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen) Post Malone (feat. Luke Combs)
48	51	Kyle Sturrock	Texas	Blake Shelton
49	52	Josh Dorr	Texas	Blake Shelton
50	70	Lindsay Rimes	Everything I Need Fix What You Didn't Break	Chayce Beckham Nate Smith
51	59	Alysa Vanderheym	Cowboys Cry Too Baggage	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan Kelsea Ballerini
52	60	Kelsea Ballerini	Cowboys Cry Too Baggage	Kelsea Ballerini & Noah Kahan Kelsea Ballerini
53	54	Mark Williams	A Bar Song (Topsy)	Shaboozey
54	55	Joe Kent	A Bar Song (Topsy)	Shaboozey
55	56	Jerrel Jones	A Bar Song (Topsy)	Shaboozey
56	49	Jamie McLaughlin	I'm The Problem	Morgan Wallen
57	50	Grady Block	I'm The Problem	Morgan Wallen

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
58	62	Andy Albert	Hometown Home	Locash
59	63	Zach Abend	Hometown Home	Locash
60	64	Preston Brust	Hometown Home	Locash

Newly Added Job Listings

Gaither Music: Accounting Manager

We are looking to add an Accounting Manager to our finance team to support the accounting processes, financial and analytical reporting, and budgeting and forecasting functions of Gaither Music and Sun Label Group. This position will report to the Director of Finance and will work closely with our team to support the month end close process, financial statement reporting and other report analysis functions. The position will require proven accounting experience, intermediate to advanced knowledge of Excel, critical thinking, analytical skills and strong communication and collaboration skills.

Contact: rcelsor@gaithermusic.com

Listed: 2/25/25

Country Thunder Music Festivals: Digital Content Creator

The Country Thunder Music Festivals Digital Content Creator will be responsible for the content curation and execution across the digital platforms utilized by Country Thunder, Big Valley Jamboree, and Rockin' Thunder music festivals. This includes, but is not limited to, social media, email newsletters, the website, and external communication tools.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

Listed: 2/21/25

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](#).

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases And Radio Add Dates

February 28

Dasha/Not At This Party/Warner Records
Gavin Adcock/Unlucky Strikes/Thrivin' Here Records/Warner Music Nashville
Dani Rose & Brent Cobb/I Ain't Livin'
Clay Walker/Cowboys In Heaven
Alison Krauss & Union Station/Granite Mills/Down The Road Records
Lily Rose/I Know What I Want
Dillon Carmichael/Keepin' Country Alive/Riser House Records
Sam Williams/Countrystar/Mercury Nashville
Ashley Anne/Lead A Horse To Water
Ben Gallaher/Kinda Can't Say No/Stone Country Records
Jordan Fletcher/Me And The World/Triple Tigers
Taylor-Rae/Bittersweet
Braedon Barnhill/Front Porch Lights/The Valory Music Co.
Pryor Baird/The One Left Behind/Black River Records
Daniel Jeffers/Leavin' Dallas
Karissa Ella/Last Call Cowboy
Shea Fisher/Take Me Back To Texas
Something Out West/Leaving Hollywood/Big Machine Records

March 3

Dan + Shay/Always Gonna Be/Warner Music Nashville
James Hollingsworth & Molly Lovette/Fixin' Too/Big Mac Entertainment

March 6

Adam Wright/Yellow Bird/Carnival Recording Co.

Album/EP Releases

February 28

Koe Wetzel/*Live from the Damn Near Normal Tour*/Columbia Records
Redferrin/*Some City, Somewhere*/Warner Music Nashville
Charles Wesley Godwin/*Lonely Mountain Town*/Big Loud Records
Kip Moore/Solitary Tracks/Virgin Music Group
Craig Morgan/*American Soundtrack*/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville
JD Clayton/*Blue Sky Sundays*/Rounder Records
Kasey Tyndall/*Kasey Tyndall*/MNRK Music
Brook Ellingworth/*Roll The Dice*

Industry Events

March 3

CMA Touring Awards
 Song Suffragettes' 11th Anniversary Celebration