

**MUSICROW**  
37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# 2025 MUSICROW AWARDS

PRESENTED BY:  
CITY NATIONAL BANK

*MusicRow* Subscribers will  
vote to determine award winners.

Ballots Emailed: **August 6, 2025.**

Ballot Voting Period:

**Aug. 6, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. CT –  
Aug. 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. CT.**

Winners Announced: **Sept. 3, 2025**

To become a subscriber, click [here](#).



*MusicRow* Magazine is proud to reveal the nominees for the 2025 *MusicRow* Awards, presented by City National Bank. The winners of this year's honors will be announced online on all *MusicRow* platforms on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Now in its 37th year, the *MusicRow* Awards are Nashville's longest running music industry trade publication honors and celebrate the achievements of songwriters, artists, producers and more. Winners of the 16 awards categories are voted on by subscribers of *MusicRow* Magazine.

The final nominees revealed in this announcement are determined by a committee. For the categories of Breakthrough Songwriter and Breakthrough Artist-Writer, outside nominations are also considered. For the Male and Female Songwriter of the Year categories, nominees are based on data from *MusicRow's* Top Songwriter Chart. All nominations are based on projects that were active between the period of June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025.

Continuing *MusicRow's* tradition of recognizing talent behind the scenes, the Top 10 Album All-Star Musician Awards will be presented in conjunction with the *MusicRow* Awards. These honors salute Nashville's most in-demand studio players who performed on the most albums reaching the Top 10 of *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart during the eligibility period.

*MusicRow* subscribers will vote to determine award winners. The Ballot Voting Period runs Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 11 a.m. through Friday, Aug. 15 at 5 p.m.

To become a subscriber and become eligible to vote, [click here](#).

## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Category 1: Producer of the Year

Category 2: Studio of the Year

Category 3: Label Group of the Year

Category 4: Talent Agency of the Year

Category 5: Publishing Company of the Year

Category 6: Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year

Category 7: Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year

Category 8: Male Songwriter of the Year

Category 9: Female Songwriter of the Year

Category 10: Song of the Year

Category 11: Discovery Artist of the Year

Category 12: Breakthrough Artist of the Year

Category 13: Female Artist of the Year

Category 14: Male Artist of the Year

Category 15: Group/Duo Artist of the Year

Category 16: Entertainer of the Year

Past Winners

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ONLINE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025**

## Category 1 | PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor a Nashville producer for work on commercially and critically impactful country projects during the awards time period. Can include, but is not limited to, single, chart position and album sales.*



### Will Bundy

Graham Barham, Drew Green, Ella Langley, Bryce Leatherwood, Chase Matthew, Hannah McFarland, McCoy Moore, Jenna Paulette, Cole Swindell, Lauren Watkins



### Charlie Handsome

Post Malone, Thomas Rhett, Jelly Roll, Dylan Scott, Morgan Wallen



### Dann Huff

Kane Brown, Mackenzie Carpenter, Ashley Cooke, Brooks & Dunn, Riley Green, Caylee Hammack, Brian Kelley, Chris Lane, Ryan and Rory, Kameron Marlowe, Thomas Rhett, Neon Union, Keith Urban, Brett Young



### Jay Joyce

Eric Church, LANCO, Kip Moore, Jon Pardi, Lainey Wilson, Whiskey Myers



### Joey Moi

Lauren Alaina, HARDY, ERNEST, Dallas Smith, Morgan Wallen, Lauren Watkins, Jake Worthington



### Alysa Vanderheyem

Kelsea Ballerini, Jelly Roll

# *Congratulations 2025 Nominees*

**MUSICROW**  
AWARDS

**WARNER  
CHAPPELL  
MUSIC**



## **MORGAN WALLEN**

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR  
MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



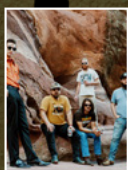
## **OLD DOMINION**

GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR



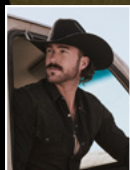
## **BROTHERS OSBORNE**

GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR



## **THE RED CLAY STRAYS**

GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR



## **RILEY GREEN**

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
SONG OF THE YEAR "DON'T MIND IF I DO"



## **JAY JOYCE**

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



## **KACEY MUSGRAVES**

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



## **TUCKER WETMORE**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF  
THE YEAR



## **ALYSA VANDERHEYM**

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR  
SONG OF THE YEAR "BAGGAGE"



## **MACKENZIE CARPENTER**

DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



## **WARREN ZEIDERS**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR



## **JESSI ALEXANDER**

FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



## **LYDIA VAUGHAN**

FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



## **JOSH PHILLIPS**

MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR  
BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF  
THE YEAR





**TAYLOR PHILLIPS**

MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**CHASE MATTHEW**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER  
OF THE YEAR



**JOSH ROSS**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF  
THE YEAR



**KK JOHNSON**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF  
THE YEAR



**BLAKE PENDERGRASS**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



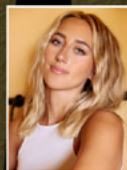
**WILL BUNDY**

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



**DYLAN MARLOWE**

DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**ASHLEY COOKE**

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**ROCKY BLOCK**

MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**SAM BARBER**

SONG OF THE YEAR "INDIGO"



**GRADY BLOCK**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**JENNA JOHNSON**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF  
THE YEAR



**NICK WALSH**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**JOEY MOI**

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



**KAREN FAIRCHILD**

SONG OF THE YEAR "BAGGAGE"



## PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Will Bundy** has continued to build momentum as both a producer and songwriter, contributing to a wide range of rising and established country acts. Over the past year, he produced tracks and projects for Cole Swindell, Ella Langley, Chase Matthew, Bryce Leatherwood, Graham Barham, Drew Green, Lauren Watkins, Hannah McFarland, McCoy Moore, and Jenna Paulette. In May, Bundy earned three ACM Awards, including one for producing Riley Green and Ella Langley's duet "You Look Like You Love Me."

**Charlie Handsome** produced major releases during the eligibility period for artists including Morgan Wallen, Post Malone, Thomas Rhett, Jelly Roll, and Dylan Scott. Alongside Joey Moi, he co-produced Wallen's fourth studio album *I'm The Problem*, which debuted at No. 1 in seven countries and helped set a new record for the most simultaneous entries in *Billboard* Hot 100 history. He also led production on Post Malone's country album *F-1 Trillion*. In addition to his production work, Handsome is a chart-topping songwriter.

**Dann Huff** continued his prolific run with production credits on recent projects by Kane Brown, Mackenzie Carpenter, Ashley Cooke, Brooks & Dunn, Riley Green, Caylee Hammack, Brian Kelley, Chris Lane, Ryan and Rory, Kameron Marlowe, Thomas Rhett, Neon Union, Keith Urban, Brett Young, and more. Highlights from the eligibility period include Riley Green's *Don't Mind If I Do*, Keith Urban's *High*, Kane Brown's *The High Road*, and Thomas Rhett's *About A Woman*. Huff remains one of Nashville's most sought-after producers.

**Jay Joyce** remained a go-to producer during the eligibility period, working on key projects for Eric Church, Lainey Wilson, Jon Pardi, Kip Moore, Whiskey Myers, and LANCO. He produced Church's *Evangeline vs. The Machine* and Wilson's *Whirlwind*, the latter earning him an ACM Award in May. Joyce also teamed up with Jon Pardi for his fifth studio album *Honkytonk Hollywood*, continuing a run of genre-shaping collaborations.

**Joey Moi** produced major releases during the eligibility period for Morgan Wallen, HARDY, ERNEST, Lauren Alaina, Dallas Smith, Lauren Watkins, Jake Worthington, and more. Alongside Charlie Handsome, he co-produced Wallen's fourth studio album *I'm The Problem*, which debuted at No. 1 in seven countries and broke the record for the most simultaneous entries in *Billboard* Hot 100 history. The project also generated multiple country radio hits. Moi is also Partner and President at Big Loud.

**Alysa Vanderheyem** produced Kelsea Ballerini's album *Patterns*, which debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Albums Chart and No. 4 on the *Billboard* 200—marking a major milestone in Ballerini's career. She also contributed production to Jelly Roll's album *Beautifully Broken*. In addition to her production work, Vanderheyem is an accomplished songwriter.



# CONGRATS TO OUR 2025 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES

LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR  
**WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE**



WARNER  
MUSIC  
NASHVILLE



**GAVIN ADCOCK**  
DISCOVERY ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR



**AVERY ANNA**  
SONG OF THE YEAR - "INDIGO"  
(WITH SAM BARBER)  
BREAKTHROUGH  
ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**CODY JOHNSON**  
SONG OF THE YEAR - "THE FALL"  
MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR



**CHASE MATTHEW**  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST  
WRITER OF THE YEAR



**HUDSON WESTBROOK**  
DISCOVERY ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR



**WARREN ZEIDERS**  
BREAKTHROUGH  
ARTIST OF THE YEAR



WARNER  
MUSIC  
NASHVILLE



WARNER  
RECORDS





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Celebrating our nomination for *MusicRow Magazine's* new category for "Studio of the Year."

Since 1969, Sound Emporium has been the studio home for so many Legends of yesterday, today and tomorrow with truly the best staff in town. We are so very proud to finally have a category recognizing that a recording studio is truly a sacred space where art is made. Without us, there is no music.

We congratulate our sister studios on their nominations, as well. Our community is unlike any other anywhere in the world. We truly have each other's backs. We are so very proud to be part of this amazing group of talented studio managers, engineers, assistant engineers and producers.

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## Category 2 | STUDIO OF THE YEAR

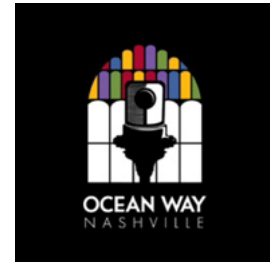
*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor a Nashville recording facility with notable activity on commercially and critically impactful country projects during the awards time period.*



Blackbird Studio



East Iris Studios



Ocean Way Nashville  
Studio



Sound Emporium  
Studios



SOUND STAGE STUDIOS

Sound Stage  
Studios



The Castle  
Recording Studios



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BIG LOUD ***MUSICROW*** AWARD NOMINEES



**MORGAN WALLEN**

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR  
MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



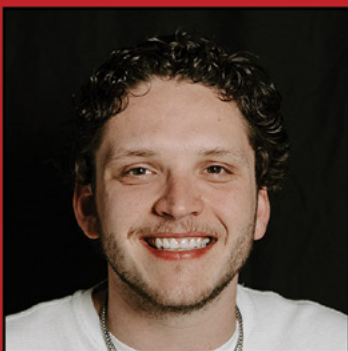
**ASHLEY COOKE**

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**DYLAN GOSSETT**

DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**ROCKY BLOCK**

MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**GRADY BLOCK**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**JOEY MOI**

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

**BIG LOUD**  
RECORDS

LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

**BIG LOUD**  
PUBLISHING

PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR

## Category 3 | LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor the achievements of a Nashville record label group during the past year.*



BBR Music Group/  
BMG Nashville



Big Loud  
Records



Big Machine  
Label Group



MCA



Sony Music  
Nashville



Warner Music  
Nashville



# W M E

WE PROUDLY CONGRATULATE OUR CLIENTS ON THEIR  
NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 MUSICROW AWARDS

Entertainer of the Year

**LUKE COMBS**  
**LAINIEY WILSON**

Female Artist of the Year

**ASHLEY COOKE**  
**KACEY MUSGRAVES\***  
**LAINIEY WILSON**

Male Artist of the Year

**KANE BROWN**  
**LUKE COMBS**

Group/Duo Artist of the Year

**BROTHERS OSBORNE**  
**PARMALEE**  
**THE RED CLAY STRAYS**

Breakthrough Artist of the Year

**AVERY ANNA**  
**THE RED CLAY STRAYS**  
**ZACH TOP**  
**TUCKER WETMORE**

Discovery Artist of the Year

**GAVIN ADCOCK**  
**MACKENZIE CARPENTER**

Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year

**ZACH TOP**  
**TUCKER WETMORE**

Song of the Year

**"I NEVER LIE"**  
**ZACH TOP**

**"INDIGO"**

**Sam Barber feat. AVERY ANNA**

*\*Denotes Shared Representation*

## Category 4 | TALENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor the achievements of a Nashville talent agency during the past year.*



CAA



The Kinkead  
Entertainment Agency



The Neal  
Agency



UTA



Wasserman  
Music



WME



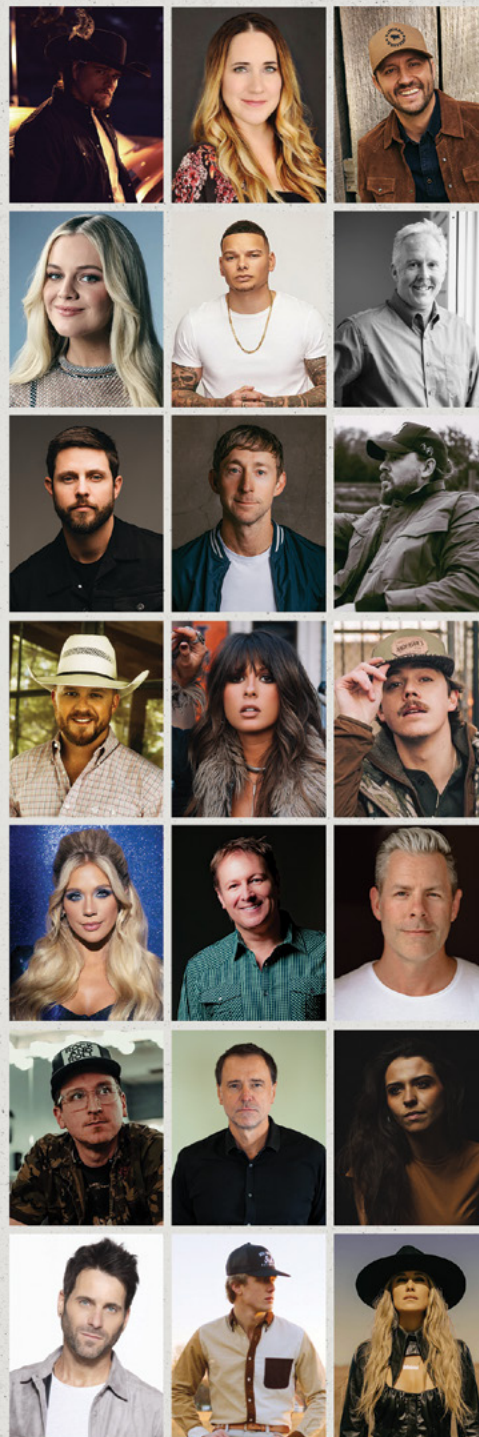
# CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR 2025 **MUSICROW** AWARDS NOMINEES

**GAVIN ADCOCK  
KELLY ARCHER  
DREW BALDRIDGE  
KELSEA BALLERINI  
KANE BROWN  
CARSON CHAMBERLAIN  
RAY FULCHER  
ASHLEY GORLEY  
CHARLIE HANDSOME  
CODY JOHNSON  
ELLA LANGLEY  
DYLAN MARLOWE  
MEGAN MORONEY  
TIM NICHOLS  
TREVOR ROSEN  
ANDY SHERIDAN  
JEREMY STOVER  
JOYBETH TAYLOR  
MATT THOMAS  
HUDSON WESTBROOK  
LAINY WILSON**



SONY MUSIC  
PUBLISHING



HOME TO THE WORLD'S BEST SONGWRITERS

## Category 5 | PUBLISHING COMPANY OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor a Nashville publishing company whose songwriters were among the most active in creating country music's top hits during the eligibility period, as determined by data from MusicRow's Top Songwriter Chart.*



Big Loud  
Publishing



Big Machine Music



Sony Music  
Publishing Nashville



Tape Room  
Music



UMPG Nashville



Warner Chappell  
Music Nashville



# TAPE ROOM MUSIC CONGRATULATES OUR **MUSICROW** AWARDS NOMINEES

## ANDY SHERIDAN

Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year

Song of the Year, "Indigo" by  
Sam Barber ft. Avery Anna

## TAYLOR PHILLIPS

Male Songwriter of the Year

## ASHLEY GORLEY

Male Songwriter of the Year

## TAPE ROOM MUSIC

Publisher of the Year



## CHECK OUT TAPE ROOM'S SUMMER CHARTING LINEUP!

"Fix What You Didn't Break" (Taylor Phillips)

"Bar None" (Hunter Phelps and Ben Johnson)

"Heart of Stone" (Zach Crowell)

"All The Way" (Ben Johnson)

"Favorite Country Song" (Beau Bailey)

"You Had To Be There" (Ben Williams)

"Good Times and Tan Lines" (Wyatt McCubbin)

"Stay Country or Die Tryin'" (Beau Bailey)

"Indigo" (Andy Sheridan)

"Not At This Party" (Ben Johnson)

"Me & A Bar" (Taylor Phillips and Andy Sheridan)

"Easy To Love" (Ben Johnson and Hunter Phelps)

"Six Months Later" (Ben Williams)

## Category 6 | BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor a Nashville-based songwriter who earned their first top 10 country song via radio or streaming during the eligibility period. Outside nominations from Nashville's publishing community are considered for this award.*

### Grady Block

Big Loud with admin by Warner Chappell, BMI, "I'm The Problem" recorded by Morgan Wallen

### Blake Bollinger

Combustion Music, SESAC, "This Heart" recorded by Corey Kent

### Johnny Clawson

SMACKSongs, BMI, "Weren't For The Wind" recorded by Ella Langley & "Texas" recorded by Blake Shelton

### Abram Dean

Concord, BMI, "Gonna Love You" recorded by Parmalee

### Josh Dorr

SMACKSongs, BMI, "Texas" recorded by Blake Shelton

### Lalo Guzman

SMACKSongs, SESAC, "Cowboy Songs" recorded by George Birge & "Texas" recorded by Blake Shelton

### Lauren Hungate

Concord/Chromatic Music, BMI, "Holy Smokes" recorded by Bailey Zimmerman

### Jenna Johnson

Liz Rose Music with admin by Warner Chappell, BMI, "All The Way" recorded by BigXthaPlug feat. Bailey Zimmerman

### KK Johnson

Warner Chappell Music Nashville/Truth or Dare Publishing, BMI, "All The Way" recorded by BigXthaPlug feat. Bailey Zimmerman

### Blake Pendergrass

Back Blocks Music/Warner Chappell Music Nashville, BMI, "Just In Case" recorded by Morgan Wallen

### Josh Phillips

Warner Chappell Music Nashville, BMI, "Dirt Cheap" recorded by Cody Johnson

### Daniel Ross

Big Machine Music, BMI, "Lies Lies Lies" recorded by Morgan Wallen

### Andy Sheridan

Tape Room Music, BMI, "Gonna Love You" recorded by Parmalee

### Kyle Sturrock

UMPG Nashville, ASCAP, "Texas" recorded by Blake Shelton

### Joybeth Taylor

Verse 2 Music/Sony Music Publishing Nashville, BMI, "Weren't For The Wind" recorded by Ella Langley

### Nick Walsh

Warner Chappell Music Nashville, BMI, "Damn Good Day To Leave" recorded by Riley Green





BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER  
OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

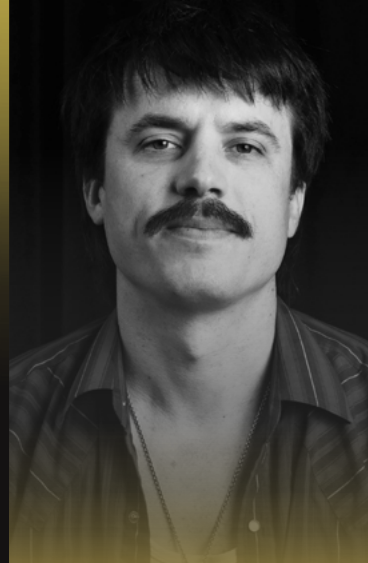
**LALO  
GUZMAN**



BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER  
OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

WRITER OF **SONG OF  
THE YEAR** NOMINEE

**JOHNNY  
CLAWSON**



BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER  
OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

**JOSH  
DORR**

# **SMACKSONGS**

## **WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE**

**LALO GUZMAN, JOHNNY CLAWSON, AND JOSH DORR** FOR THEIR  
NOMINATION FOR **BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR**

**SONG OF THE YEAR** NOMINEE, "WEREN'T FOR THE WIND"  
(**JOHNNY CLAWSON, JOYBETH TAYLOR, ELLA LANGLEY**)

# *Congratulations* **MusicRow Awards Nominees**



## **Old Dominion**

Group/Duo  
Artist of the Year

## **Sam Barber**

Song of the Year  
"Indigo"



## **The War And Treaty**

Group/Duo  
Artist of the Year

**Wasserman Music**  
Talent Agency of the Year



## BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: About the Nominees

**Grady Block** co-wrote the smash hit “I’m The Problem,” recorded by Morgan Wallen, alongside Wallen, Jamie McLaughlin, Ernest and Charlie Handsome. Block has also had other cuts with Wallen, Ernest, Josh Ross, Dylan Scott and more.

**Blake Bollinger** earned his first hit with the Corey Kent-recorded “This Heart” with Michael Tyler, Thomas Archer and Jacob Hackworth. Bollinger has also had songs cut by Jason Aldean, Darius Rucker, Justin Moore, LOCASH, Parmalee, Jake Owen and others.

**Johnny Clawson** scored two hits with “Weren’t For The Wind,” recorded by and written with Ella Langley and Joybeth Taylor, and “Texas” recorded by Blake Shelton and written with Josh Dorr, Kyle Sturrock and Lalo Guzman. Clawson has also had cuts with Jon Pardi, Chris Young and McCoy Moore.

**Abram Dean** co-wrote the Parmalee hit “Gonna Love You” with the band’s Matt Thomas and Andy Sheridan and David Fanning. Dean has also had songs recorded by Lainey Wilson, Josh Ross, Ian Munsick, Dylan Marlowe and more.

**Josh Dorr** earned his first hit with the Blake Shelton-recorded “Texas,” which he wrote with Johnny Clawson, Kyle Sturrock and Lalo Guzman. Dorr has also had cuts with Jordan Davis, Jon Pardi, Ella Langley, Lana Del Ray and Quavo.

**Lalo Guzman** scored his first hits with Blake Shelton’s “Texas,” co-written with Josh Dorr, Johnny Clawson and Kyle Sturrock, as well as “Cowboy Songs” co-written and recorded by George Birge with Michael Tyler and Matt McGinn. Guzman has also had other cuts with Jason Aldean, Nate Smith, Madeline Merlo and Dustin Lynch.

**Lauren Hungate** co-wrote the Bailey Zimmerman hit “Holy Smokes” with Zimmerman, Austin Shawn, Michael Tyler and Ben Stennis. Hungate has also had songs recorded by Carly Pearce, Tucker Wetmore, Mackenzie Porter, Lauren Watkins, Carter Faith and others.

**Jenna Johnson** earned her first hit with “All The Way” by BigXthaPlug featuring Bailey Zimmerman. The song was co-written by BigXthaPlug, Ben Johnson, KK Johnson, Charles Nelson Forsberg and Krishon Gaines. Johnson has also had cuts with Nate Smith, David Guetta, Bebe Rexha, Ty Dolla \$ign and more.

**KK Johnson** scored her first hit with BigXthaPlug’s “All The Way” featuring Bailey Zimmerman, written with BigXthaPlug, Ben Johnson, Jenna Johnson, Charles Nelson Forsberg and Krishon Gaines. Johnson has also had songs recorded by Avery Anna, Kylie Morgan, David Guetta, Bebe Rexha, Ty Dolla \$ign and others.

**Blake Pendergrass** scored his first hit with “Just In Case,” written with and recorded by Morgan Wallen with ERNEST, John Byron, Jacob Kasher Hindlin, Charlie Handsome, Josh Thompson and Alex Bak. Pendergrass has many more cuts on Wallen as well as Jelly Roll, Lainey Wilson, Post Malone, HARDY, ERNEST, Warren Zeiders and more.

**Josh Phillips** wrote the Cody Johnson-recorded hit “Dirt Cheap” alone. He has also had songs cut by Chase Matthew, Dillon Carmichael, Chris Janson, George Birge and Brantley Gilbert.

**Daniel Ross** earned his first hit with “Lies Lies Lies,” recorded by Morgan Wallen, with Jessie Jo Dillon, Josh Miller and Chris Tompkins. Ross has also had more cuts with Wallen as well as Jelly Roll, Jon Pardi, Tim McGraw, Chase Matthew and others.

**Andy Sheridan** co-wrote the Parmalee hit “Gonna Love You” with the band’s Matt Thomas and Abram Dean and David Fanning. Sheridan has also had songs recorded by Chris Janson, Sam Barber and Avery Anna.

**Kyle Sturrock** earned his first hit with the Blake Shelton-recorded “Texas,” which he wrote with Johnny Clawson, Josh Dorr and Lalo Guzman. Sturrock has also had cuts with Dierks Bentley, Chris Young, Matt Stell and more.

**Joybeth Taylor** scored her first hit with “Weren’t For The Wind,” recorded by and written with Ella Langley and Johnny Clawson. Taylor also has cuts with Gavin Adcock, Kameron Marlowe, Josh Ross, BigXthaPlug, Vincent Mason, Chase Matthew, Wyatt Flores, Corey Kent, Warren Zeiders and others.

**Nick Walsh** co-wrote the Riley Green hit “Damn Good Day To Leave” with Green, Jonathan Singleton and Erik Dylan. Walsh has also had other songs recorded by Green, Jake Worthington and McCoy Moore.

2025  
**MUSICROW**  
AWARDS

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NOMINEES

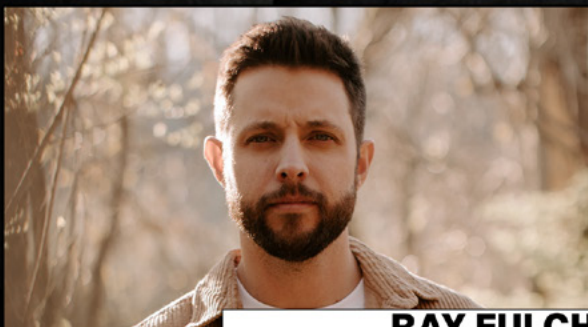
**UNIVERSAL**  
UNIVERSAL MUSIC  
PUBLISHING GROUP



**LUKE COMBS**  
MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR



**BRAD TURSKI**  
GROUP/DUO OF THE YEAR  
*OLD DOMINION*



**RAY FULCHER**  
SONG OF THE YEAR  
"THE FALL"



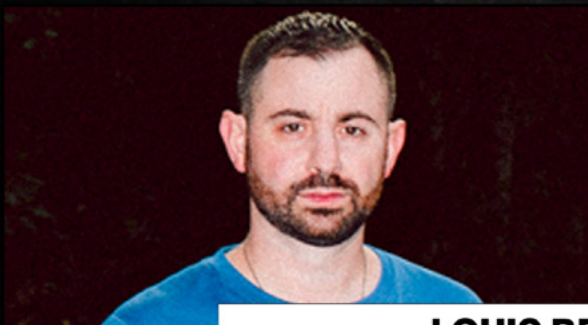
**KYLE STURROCK**  
BREAKTHROUGH  
SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**CARTER FAITH**  
DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**DYLAN GOSSETT**  
DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**LOUIS BELL**  
MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

**UNIVERSAL**  
UNIVERSAL MUSIC  
PUBLISHING GROUP

**UMPG NASHVILLE**  
PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR





# CONGRATULATES

OUR 2025 **MUSICROW** AWARDS NOMINEES



**TUCKER WETMORE**

Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year  
Breakthrough Artist of the Year

**ASHLEY COOKE**

Female Artist of the Year

**BLAKE PENDERGRASS**

Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year

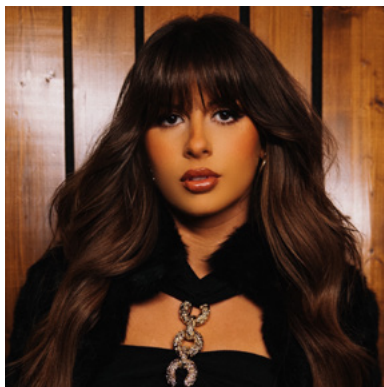
## Category 7 | **BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor a Nashville-based songwriter and artist who earned their first top 10 country song via radio or streaming during the eligibility period. Outside nominations from Nashville's publishing community are considered for this award.*



### **Drew Baldridge**

BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek Records/Lyric Ridge, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, BMI  
"She's Somebody's Daughter" recorded by Drew Baldridge



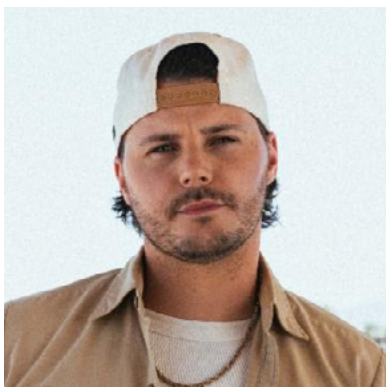
### **Ella Langley**

SAWGOD/Columbia Records, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, BMI; "You Look Like You Love Me" recorded by Ella Langley feat. Riley Green & "Weren't For The Wind" recorded by Ella Langley



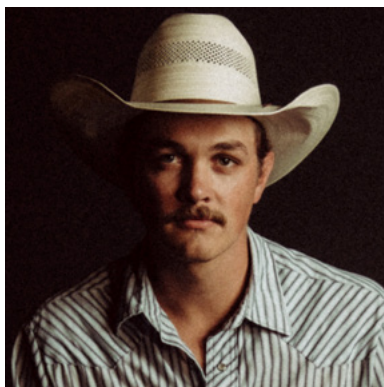
### **Chase Matthew**

Warner Music Nashville, Warner Chappell Music Nashville, BMI; "Love You Again" recorded by Chase Matthew



### **Josh Ross**

MCA (Mercury Nashville/Universal Canada/The Core Records), Warner Chappell Music Nashville, BMI; "Single Again" recorded by Josh Ross



### **Zach Top**

Leo33, Major Bob Music, BMI; "I Never Lie" recorded by Zach Top



### **Tucker Wetmore**

Back Blocks/MCA/Mercury Records, Back Blocks/Warner Chappell Music Nashville, BMI; "Wind Up Missin' You" recorded by Tucker Wetmore



# CELEBRATING OUR 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *MUSICROW* AWARDS NOMINEES



## LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR



**RILEY GREEN**

"DON'T MIND IF I DO (FT. ELLA LANGLEY)" - SONG OF THE YEAR  
MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**MACKENZIE CARPENTER**

DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**BIG MACHINE MUSIC**  
PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR



**JESSIE JO DILLON**

"BAGGAGE" - SONG OF THE YEAR  
FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**LAURA VELTZ**

FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**DANIEL ROSS**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



**MADDIE & TAE**

GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR

## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER: About the Nominees

**Drew Baldridge** earned his breakthrough with “She’s Somebody’s Daughter,” the co-written ballad that became the first independently released debut single to reach No. 1 on the *Country Aircheck*/Mediabase chart. Now RIAA Gold-certified, the viral hit has amassed more than 1.1 billion impressions and remains the highest-charting self-funded song on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart. The success of the single led to a deal with BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville, where Baldridge followed up with the Top 10 track “Tough People.” His newest release, “Get Me Gone” featuring Emily Ann Roberts, previews more music to come. Named to the CRS New Faces Class of 2025 and selected as an iHeart On the Verge artist, Baldridge was also honored as *MusicRow*’s Independent Artist of the Year. As a songwriter signed to Sony Music Publishing, he has penned more than 500 songs, recorded by artists such as Bailey Zimmerman, LOCASH, and Chase Matthew. Baldridge has toured alongside Eric Church, Cody Johnson, Jason Aldean, and Luke Bryan, and is currently on the road with Zimmerman ahead of another run with Johnson.

**Ella Langley** scored two breakout hits—both of which she co-wrote—including her chart-topping duet “You Look Like You Love Me” with Riley Green and the fan-favorite “Weren’t For The Wind.” The Alabama native built her foundation playing bars and festivals before moving to Nashville in 2019, where she quickly carved out a space with her gritty, no-frills sound. Her 2023 debut EP *Excuse The Mess* laid the groundwork for *Hungover*, her full-length debut released in August 2024. Co-writing all 14 tracks, Langley delivered an unfiltered look into her story, earning critical acclaim and spots on *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*’s “Best of 2024” lists. “You Look Like You Love Me” marked her first *Billboard* Hot 100 entry and first No. 1 at country radio, making her one of only two women to top the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart in 2024. The Platinum-certified single also earned CMA and ACM wins, including Musical Event and Single of the Year. After supporting Morgan Wallen and Luke Bryan, Langley sold out her first headline tour and returns to the road with Wallen and Green this summer.

**Chase Matthew** scored his breakout with the Platinum-certified “Love You Again,” a Top 5 hit he co-wrote and the first single to showcase his bold mix of country grit and emotional edge. The Nashville native built his career from the ground up, first finding viral success as an independent artist before signing with Warner Music Nashville. Now with more than 1.4 billion global career streams and 1.5 million social media followers, Matthew has emerged as a dynamic force in the genre. His Platinum debut single “County Line” put him on the map, and he continues his momentum with his third album *CHASE* and the Gold-certified single “Darlin’,” currently at country radio. Named to *MusicRow*’s Next Big Thing and the Opry NextStage Class of 2024, he’s also earned nods from *HITS* and the People’s Choice Country Awards. As a songwriter and performer, Matthew blends a rowdy, grounded persona with a deep twang and emotional delivery. After headlining his sold-out “Come Get Your Memory tour,” Matthew is out on his 2025 world tour now.

**Josh Ross** broke through with “Single Again,” the vulnerable, co-written hit that captured hearts across North America and marked a major turning point for the rising global artist. Blending rock influences with modern country and raw lyricism, the Canada-born, Nashville-based singer-songwriter has carved out a space uniquely his own. Ross followed the Platinum-certified “Trouble” with his 2024 8-song project *Complicated*, earning him his first JUNO Award for Country Album of the Year and setting the stage for his full-length debut *Later Tonight*, due September 19. With more than 1 billion global streams, Ross is known for his raspy vocals, heart-on-sleeve storytelling, and a sound that leans as much into arena rock as it does country. Named the 2024 CCMA Entertainer of the Year and recipient of the CMA’s Jeff Walker Global Country Artist Award, he has toured with artists ranging from Nickelback and Brantley Gilbert to Bailey Zimmerman and Luke Bryan. Most recently, Ross wrapped a Canadian run with Jelly Roll and will open select shows for Dylan Scott this fall.

**Zach Top** scored his breakout with “I Never Lie,” the co-written standout that helped catapult him into country music’s spotlight. With a voice rooted in tradition and a writing style that bridges classic sensibilities with modern finesse, Top made waves with his debut album *Cold Beer & Country Music*, released in 2024. The project drew critical acclaim, landing on year-end “Best Of” lists from *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, and *The New York Times*. After opening for Lainey Wilson through the summer and fall, Top launched his own “Cold Beer & Country Music Tour” in early 2025—selling out dates within hours. Along the way, he’s taken the stage with legends and innovators alike, including Alan Jackson, Dwight Yoakam and Billy Strings. In April, he was named ACM New Male Artist of the Year, affirming his growing presence in the genre. With a firm grasp on both storytelling and stagecraft, Top is poised as one of country music’s most promising young artist-writers.

**Tucker Wetmore** broke through with “Wind Up Missin’ You,” the Platinum-certified hit he co-wrote that helped fuel his rapid rise. The track, along with fellow smash “Wine Into Whiskey,” earned Wetmore multiple appearances on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and pushed his career streams past 1 billion in just over a year. Wetmore made his Grand Ole Opry debut in 2024 and released his first EP, *Waves On A Sunset*, followed by his full-length debut *What Not To*. He also contributed two songs—“Already Had It” and “Steal My Thunder”—to the *Twisters* soundtrack. Known for his rich vocal tone and emotional writing, Wetmore has built a loyal fan base through dynamic live shows. After supporting Kameron Marlowe and Luke Bryan, he launched a sold-out headline run in 2024 and continued with international dates across the UK, U.S., and Europe in early 2025. He’s currently on the road as direct support for Thomas Rhett’s “Better In Boots Tour.” An ACM New Male Artist nominee, Wetmore has earned “Artist to Watch” nods from *Billboard*, *MusicRow*, Spotify, the Opry, and more.



**LEO33**

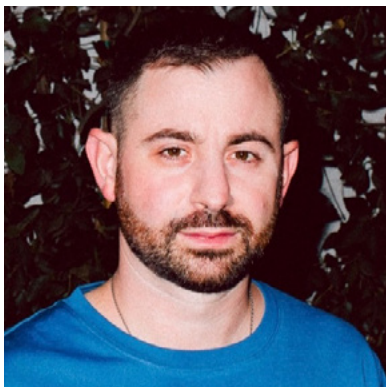
IS PROUD TO CONGRATULATE **ZACH TOP**  
ON HIS MUSICROW AWARD NOMINATIONS



NEW ALBUM  
**AIN'T IN IT FOR MY HEALTH**  
AVAILABLE AUG. 29TH

## Category 8 | **MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor a Nashville-based songwriter with notable activity on high-performing country songs during the eligibility period, as determined by data from MusicRow's Top Songwriter Chart.*



**Louis Bell**

UMPG Nashville, ASCAP



**Rocky Block**

Big Loud Publishing with  
admin by Warner Chappell,  
BMI



**Ashley Gorley**

Sony Music Publishing Nashville/  
Domain Capital Group, ASCAP  
BMI



**Charlie Handsome**

Sony Music Publishing  
Nashville, BMI



**Josh Phillips**

Warner Chappell Music Nashville,  
BMI



**Taylor Phillips**

Tape Room Music/Warner  
Chappell Music Nashville, BMI



# JELLY ROLL



Nominated for MusicRow's  
**MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**  
&  
**ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

left/right  
MANAGEMENT

# DREW BALDRIDGE

Nominated for MusicRow's  
**BREAKTHROUGH  
ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR**

left/right  
MANAGEMENT



## MALE SONGWRITER: Credits from the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart

### Louis Bell

"I Had Some Help" by Post Malone feat. Morgan Wallen  
 "Guy For That" by Post Malone feat. Luke Combs  
 "Wrong Ones" by Post Malone feat. Tim McGraw  
 "California Sober" by Post Malone feat. Chris Stapleton  
 "Losers" by Post Malone feat. Jelly Roll  
 "What Don't Belong To Me" by Post Malone  
 "Finer Things" by Post Malone feat. Hank Williams Jr.  
 "Nosedive" by Post Malone feat. Lainey Wilson  
 "Yours" by Post Malone  
 "Have The Heart" by Post Malone  
 "Goes Without Saying" by Post Malone  
 "Missin' You Like This" by Post Malone feat. Luke Combs  
 "Hide My Gun" by Post Malone feat. HARDY  
 "Devil I've Been" by Post Malone feat. ERNEST  
 "Hide My Gun" by Post Malone feat. Sierra Ferrell  
 "M-E-X-I-C-O" by Post Malone feat. Billy Strings  
 "Right About You" by Post Malone  
 "Pour Me A Drink" by Post Malone feat. Blake Shelton  
 "I Ain't Comin' Back" by Morgan Wallen feat. Post Malone

### Rocky Block

"Cowgirls" by Morgan Wallen feat. ERNEST  
 "Pour Me A Drink" by Post Malone feat. Blake Shelton  
 "Smile" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Dark Til Daylight" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Don't We" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Genesis" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Interlude" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Kick Myself" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Number 3 And Number 7" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Where'd That Girl Go" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Working Man's Song" by Morgan Wallen

### Ashley Gorley

"Young Love & Saturday Nights" by Chris Young  
 "This Town's Been Too Good To Us" by Dylan Scott  
 "Bulletproof" by Nate Smith  
 "Cowgirls" by Morgan Wallen feat. ERNEST  
 "I Had Some Help" by Post Malone feat. Morgan Wallen  
 "Hell Or High Water" by Bailey Zimmerman  
 "I Am Not Okay" by Jelly Roll  
 "Whiskey Whiskey" by Moneybagg Yo feat. Morgan Wallen  
 "Liar" by Jelly Roll  
 "Losers" by Post Malone feat. Jelly Roll  
 "What Don't Belong To Me" by Post Malone  
 "Yours" by Post Malone  
 "Have The Heart" by Post Malone  
 "Goes Without Saying" by Post Malone  
 "Missin' You Like This" by Post Malone feat. Luke Combs  
 "Fix What You Didn't Break" by Nate Smith  
 "Love Somebody" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Park" by Tyler Hubbard  
 "She Hates Me" by Dierks Bentley  
 "Not At This Party" by Dasha  
 "Favorite Country Song" by HARDY  
 "Me & A Beer" by Chris Janson  
 "Don't We" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Kiss Her In Front Of You" by Morgan Wallen  
 "TN" by Morgan Wallen

### Charlie Handsome (a.k.a. Ryan Vojtesak)

"This Town's Been Too Good To Us" by Dylan Scott  
 "Cowgirls" by Morgan Wallen feat. ERNEST  
 "I Had Some Help" by Post Malone feat. Morgan Wallen  
 "Whiskey Whiskey" by Moneybagg Yo feat. Morgan Wallen  
 "Guy For That" by Post Malone feat. Luke Combs  
 "Wrong Ones" by Post Malone feat. Tim McGraw  
 "California Sober" by Post Malone feat. Chris Stapleton  
 "Losers" by Post Malone feat. Jelly Roll  
 "What Don't Belong To Me" by Post Malone  
 "Finer Things" by Post Malone feat. Hank Williams Jr.  
 "Nosedive" by Post Malone feat. Lainey Wilson  
 "Yours" by Post Malone  
 "Have The Heart" by Post Malone  
 "Goes Without Saying" by Post Malone  
 "Missin' You Like This" by Post Malone feat. Luke Combs  
 "Hide My Gun" by Post Malone feat. HARDY  
 "Devil I've Been" by Post Malone feat. ERNEST  
 "Never Love You Again" by Post Malone  
 "M-E-X-I-C-O" by Post Malone feat. Billy Strings  
 "Right About You" by Post Malone  
 "Pour Me A Drink" by Post Malone feat. Blake Shelton  
 "Love Somebody" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Smile" by Morgan Wallen  
 "I'm The Problem" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Just In Case" by Morgan Wallen  
 "I Ain't Comin' Back" by Morgan Wallen feat. Post Malone  
 "Superman" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Come Back As A Redneck" by Morgan Wallen feat. HARDY  
 "Don't We" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Eyes Are Closed" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Falling Apart" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Genesis" by Morgan Wallen  
 "I Got Better" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Interlude" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Kick Myself" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Kiss Her In Front Of You" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Leavin's The Least I Could Do"  
 "Miami" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Missing" by Morgan Wallen  
 "TN" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Missing" by Morgan Wallen feat. Tate McRae  
 "Where'd That Girl Go" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Whiskey In Reverse" by Morgan Wallen  
 "Working Man's Song" by Morgan Wallen

### Josh Phillips

"Dirt Cheap" by Cody Johnson  
 "The Man He Sees In Me" by Luke Combs

### Taylor Phillips

"This Town's Been Too Good To Us" by Dylan Scott  
 "I Am Not Okay" by Jelly Roll  
 "Dead End Road" by Jelly Roll  
 "Liar" by Jelly Roll  
 "Yours" by Post Malone  
 "Fix What You Didn't Break" by Nate Smith  
 "Me & A Beer" by Chris Janson  
 "Kiss Her In Front Of You" by Morgan Wallen  
 "TN" by Morgan Wallen

BLACK RIVER ENTERTAINMENT  
CONGRATULATES

*Kelsea Ballerini*

37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINATIONS

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

SONG OF THE YEAR - "BAGGAGE"





## Category 9 | **FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville songwriter who earned the most points on the MusicRow Top Songwriter Chart over the eligibility period.*



**Jessi Alexander**

Warner Chappell Music  
Nashville, ASCAP



**Kelly Archer**

Sony Music Publishing  
Nashville/RED Creative Group,  
BMI



**Jessie Jo Dillon**

Big Machine Music, BMI



**Joybeth Taylor**

Sony Music Publishing  
Nashville/Verse 2 Music, BMI



**Lydia Vaughan**

Cornman Music/Warner  
Chappell Music Nashville,  
BMI



**Laura Veltz**

Big Machine Music, BMI

# CONGRATULATIONS

Will Bundy and Lydia Vaughan on your  
**2025 Music Row Awards Nomination!**



**WILL BUNDY**  
Producer of The Year

**LYDIA VAUGHAN**  
Female Songwriter of The Year



CORNMAN  
MUSIC



## FEMALE SONGWRITER: Credits from the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart

### Jessi Alexander

"Chevrolet" by Dustin Lynch feat. Jelly Roll  
"No Caller ID" by Megan Moroney  
"Ain't No Love In Oklahoma" by Luke Combs  
"Remember Him That Way" by Luke Combs

"Dreams Don't Die" by Jelly Roll  
"Crazy Eyes" by Morgan Wallen  
"If You Were Mine" by Morgan Wallen

### Joybeth Taylor

"Weren't For The Wind" by Ella Langley  
"Need To" by Gavin Adcock

### Kelly Archer

"I'm Gonna Love You" by Cody Johnson and Carrie Underwood

### Lydia Vaughan

"Friends Like That" by John Morgan feat. Jason Aldean  
"Bar None" by Jordan Davis

### Jessie Jo Dillon

"No Caller ID" by Megan Moroney  
"Messed Up As Me" by Keith Urban  
"Lies Lies Lies" by Morgan Wallen  
"Am I Okay?" by Megan Moroney  
"Friday Night Heartbreaker" by Jon Pardi  
"Baggage" by Kelsea Ballerini  
"Happen To Me" by Russell Dickerson  
"Nobody Likes Your Girlfriend" by Nate Smith and HARDY

### Laura Veltz

"High Road" by Koe Wetzel feat. Jessie Murph

***MUSICROW***

Connecting  
the Nashville  
music industry  
wherever  
you are.

***Congratulating our***

37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**MusicRow Awards**  
NOMINEES

**ABRAM  
DEAN**

BREAKTHROUGH  
SONGWRITER OF  
THE YEAR



**LAUREN  
HUNGATE**

BREAKTHROUGH  
SONGWRITER OF  
THE YEAR



**THE WAR  
AND TREATY**  
GROUP/DUO ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR

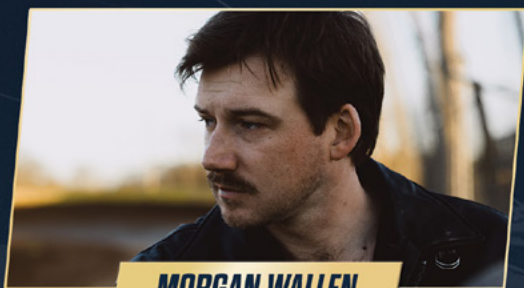


**concord**  
music publishing



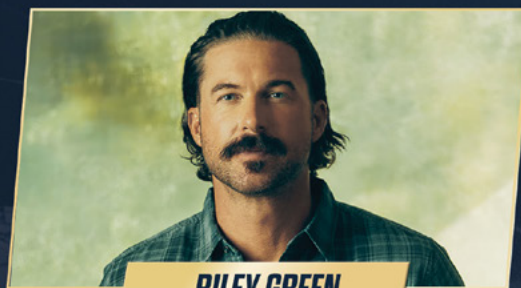
*The Neal*  
AGENCY

CONGRATS TO OUR  
2025 MUSICROW NOMINEES  
AWARDS



**MORGAN WALLEN**

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR  
MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**RILEY GREEN**

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
SONG OF THE YEAR  
"DON'T MIND IF I DO"



**ELLA LANGLEY**

SONG OF THE YEAR  
"DON'T MIND IF I DO"  
"WEREN'T FOR THE WIND"  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR  
FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**JOSH ROSS**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

**THE NEAL AGENCY**

TALENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

*The Neal*  
AGENCY

## Category 10 | SONG OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor Nashville writers and publishers on the craft of country songwriting, not necessarily chart position.*



### "Baggage"

**Songwriters:** Kelsea Ballerini, Alysa Vanderheyem, Jessie Jo Dillon, Hillary Lindsey, Karen Fairchild  
**Publishers:** Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP/Feel Your Way Through Publishing, ASCAP/Big Music Machine, BMI/Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Self Made Entertainment, BMI/The Piano Room, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/Vandeezy Songs, SESAC/Songs Of Rhythm House Black, SESAC  
**Recorded by:** Kelsea Ballerini (Black River Entertainment)



### "Don't Mind If I Do"

**Songwriters:** Riley Green  
**Publishers:** Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Back 40 Publishing International, BMI  
**Recorded by:** Riley Green feat. Ella Langley (Big Machine Label Group (Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment))



### "I Never Lie"

**Songwriters:** Zach Top, Carson Chamberlain, Tim Nichols  
**Publishers:** Rio Bravo Music, Inc., BMI/Zach Top Music, BMI/Too Broke To Quit Music, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Music And Magazines Publishing, BMI  
**Recorded by:** Zach Top (Leo33)



### "Indigo"

**Songwriters:** Sam Barber, Avery Anna, Andy Sheridan  
**Publishers:** Samuel Robert Barber Publishing Designee (BMI), Sparky Sky Songs (BMI)/To A T Creative (BMI), Andy Sheridan (BMI) – Sony Tree Publishing/Tape Room Hits/Firebird Country Tunes/Oakdale Market Publishing (BMI)  
**Recorded by:** Sam Barber feat. Avery Anna (Atlantic Records)



### "The Fall"

**Songwriters:** Bobby Pinson, Ray Fulcher, Jeremy Stover  
**Publishers:** Sea Gayle Ale House Music, BMI/Bobby Pinson Publishing Designee, BMI/Songs Of Universal, Inc., BMI/Keep Choppin Publishing, BMI/Exit 183 Songs, BMI/Anthem Music Publishing II, ASCAP/Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP  
**Recorded by:** Cody Johnson (Warner Music Nashville)



### "Weren't For The Wind"

**Songwriters:** Ella Langley, Joybeth Taylor, Johnny Clawson  
**Publishers:** Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Bridge 1 Music, BMI/Songs Of Smack, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Music Of CTM Outlander Music LP, BMI/Langley Publishing, BMI  
**Recorded by:** Ella Langley (SAWGOD/Columbia Records)





VERSE 2 MUSIC

CONGRATULATES ITS NOMINEES FOR THE  
37TH ANNUAL MUSICROW AWARDS



KANE BROWN

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

---

JOYBETH TAYLOR

BREAKTHROUGH  
SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

FEMALE SONGWRITER  
OF THE YEAR

"WEREN'T FOR THE WIND"  
SONG OF THE YEAR

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## SONG OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

### “Bagagge”

Serving as the current single off her *Patterns* album, Kelsea Ballerini’s “Bagagge” unpacks bringing old emotional weight into a new relationship, and learning to accept it. Penned by Ballerini with Alysa Vanderheym, Jessie Jo Dillon, Hillary Lindsey and Karen Fairchild, the track builds up with momentum about letting go past love to make room for a new relationship. “Clear out a drawer, clear out a shelf, I wouldn’t want to do it with anybody else,” Ballerini sings. “Everything that’s heavy, I check it at the door, Kind of feel like I don’t need it anymore.” As the beat picks up through the chorus, Ballerini ends her messaging with, “I got baggage, but I’m movin’ in.” The tune has had heavy streaming numbers since its release and is currently climbing up the radio chart, proving to be a fan favorite as well as a commercial hit.

### “Don’t Mind If I Do”

Riley Green continues to garner success with his solo-penned tracks, including his duet with Ella Langley “Don’t Mind If I Do,” the title track of his latest studio album. The tune starts with Green assessing the progress he’s made since his breakup. “I’ve been doing better, I hardly ever think of you, lately,” he sings. But the moving on isn’t all that easy—as random moments of missing her pop into his mind. “When you cross my mind, I start missing you, like crazy. I try to numb the pain, but there ain’t no damn way. I end up in that place and I’m just one whiskey away.” Langley then chimes in, echoing the sentiment, both not minding if they miss each other.

### “I Never Lie”

Breakout act Zach Top released his debut album *Cold Beer & Country Music* last year, filled with both feel-good and solid country tracks. “I Never Lie” is a standout from the project, eventually becoming Top’s first No. 1 radio single. Co-penned by Top, Carson Chamberlain and Tim Nichols, the tune opens up with Top seeing an old flame and commenting how they look as good as ever. “Well, it’s been some time, You still look like an angel, I heard you’re doin’ fine,” he shares initially. As the tune continues, it’s clear that Top isn’t telling the whole truth about how he’s doing. “Oh, and I ain’t been lonely since you said goodbye. I wish I could say I miss you, but you know I never lie.”

### “Indigo”

First gaining traction on TikTok, Sam Barber and Avery Anna’s “Indigo” has taken on a life of its own off the app. Written by Barber, Anna and Andy Sheridan, the track starts off with Barber talking to someone from his past, sharing that his leaving left him colorless. “I used to shine bright like gold, Now I’m all indigo. My colors are darker and cold, I think it’s time that I went home,” Barber sings with Anna’s evocative vocals in the background. As the track goes on, the two wind down the dark path to feeling numb, and wondering what can save them. “And the light fades away from my face, And the tears fall like rain. So I turn my words all into faith, Hope it’s me that they save.”

### “The Fall”

“The Fall” recorded by Cody Johnson is the latest in his collection of outside cuts. Written by Bobby Pinson, Jeremy Stover and Ray Fulcher, Johnson’s current radio single is an exploration of the ups and downs of life, sharing the universal truth that even a bad ending can be worth the good that happened leading up to it. “I’ve been good time drunk enough to be bad time sober. Broke a map dot’s heart when it disappeared over my shoulder,” Johnson admits. As the song builds to the chorus, he shares the powerful message, “The ride was worth the fall. The fall was worth the smiles. The smiles were worth the tears,” showing that some hard things are worth it in the end.

### “Weren’t For The Wind”

Coming off a breakout year, Ella Langley has put herself on the map with her songwriting and artistry, particularly showcased in “Weren’t For The Wind.” Co-penned with Johnny Clawson and Joybeth Taylor, the song has Langley taking an introspective look at her habits, past relationships and promises broken. “I wouldn’t paint me as a heartbreaker, But I’ve said a few goodbyes, I’d make a promise but I know later, I’m bound to change my mind,” Langley sings. She admits how, like a tumbleweed, she follows the direction of the wind, even if it means never being able to settle down with someone she loves. “Maybe I’d settle down, dig in some roots, Find me a farmhouse, find me you. Maybe I wouldn’t be already gone again, If it weren’t for the wind.”



MUSICROW  
AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
**NOMINEE**

DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

HUDSON WESTBROOK



**MUSICROW** AWARDS  
DIGITAL "NOMINATOR"  
& PRINT ISSUE

**RIVERHOUSE**  
ARTISTS



## Category 11 | **DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor a Nashville developing artist who has demonstrated the most promise of future success during the eligibility period.*



### **Gavin Adcock**

Warner Music Nashville/Warner Records, Sony Music Publishing Nashville/Good Cock Tunes, Red Light Management, WME, BMI



### **Mackenzie Carpenter**

Big Machine Label Group (The Valory Music Co.), Warner Chappell Music Nashville, Rich MGMT, WME, BMI



### **Carter Faith**

MCA (Capitol Records Nashville), UMPG Nashville, Range Media Partners, CAA, BMI



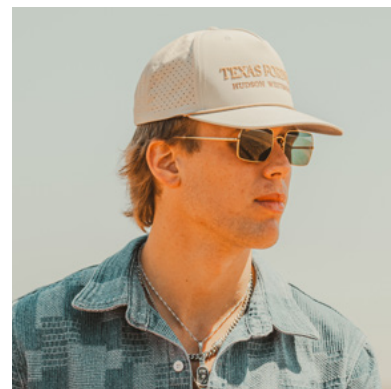
### **Dylan Gossett**

Big Loud Texas/Mercury Records, UMPG Nashville, Range Media Partners, UTA, BMI



### **Dylan Marlowe**

Sony Music Nashville, Relative Music/Play It Again Music with admin by Warner Chappell, PIA Music, CAA, BMI

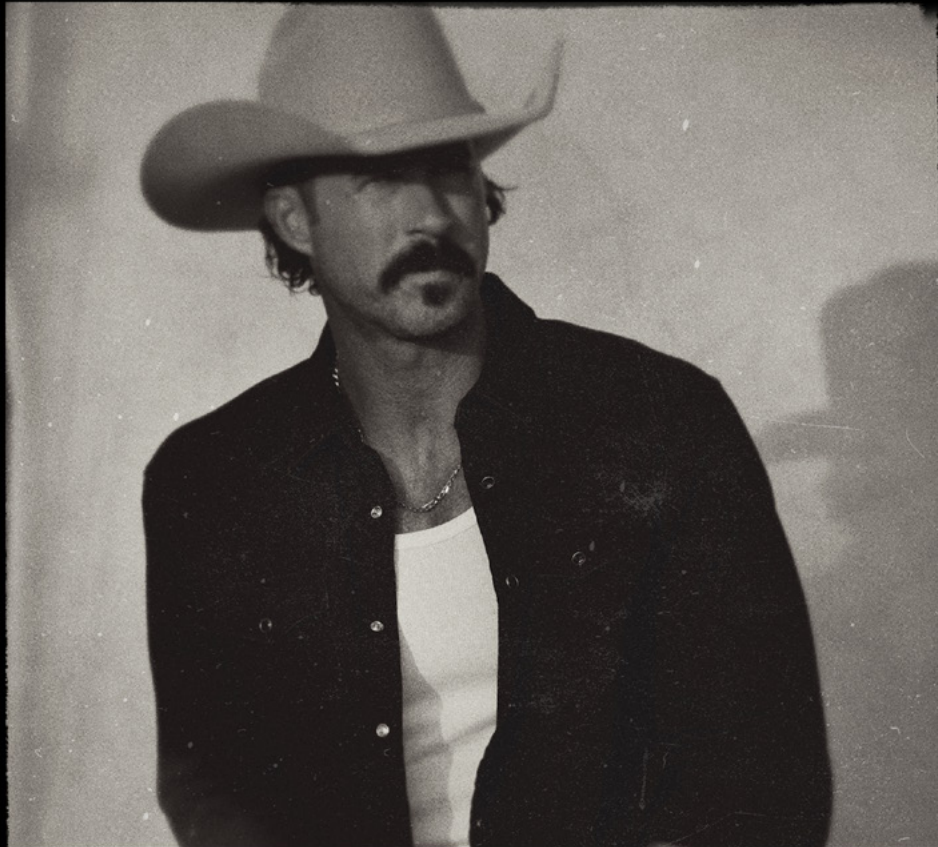


### **Hudson Westbrook**

River House Artists/Warner Music Nashville, River House Artists/Sony Music Publishing Nashville, River House Artists, Evergreen Artist Group, BMI



**CONGRATULATIONS  
ON YOUR MUSIC ROW AWARDS!**



**MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
SONG OF THE YEAR  
"DON'T MIND IF I DO"  
(WITH ELLA LANGLEY)**

***fusion***  
MUSIC

**RED LIGHT**  
MANAGEMENT

## DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

Watkinsville, Georgia native **Gavin Adcock** began releasing music in 2021 after a knee injury paused his time as a football player at Georgia Southern University. During recovery, he shifted focus to songwriting and recording, independently building a catalog that has since amassed over 1 billion global streams. His breakout track “A Cigarette” is RIAA Platinum-certified, while “Run Your Mouth,” “Deep End” and “Four Leaf Clover” have each earned Gold status. In 2024, Adcock released his major-label debut album *Actin’ Up Again*, which became the largest country debut by a solo male artist that year, earning over 15 million U.S. streams in its first week and marking the year’s top streaming debut in the genre. His next full-length project, *Own Worst Enemy*, is set for release on Aug. 15, 2025. Over the past year, Adcock has sold out headline tours across the U.S., including the “Monster Energy Outbreak Tour” and the “Need To Tour.” He also joins Morgan Wallen on select dates of the “I’m The Problem Tour,” alongside scheduled festival appearances and new headline shows through the end of 2025.

Hailing from the small town of Hull, Georgia, **Mackenzie Carpenter** is the spunky girl-next-door who grew up writing songs with her brothers and singing in church. Raised on a foundation of family, faith and music, she developed a warm, authentic voice that blends classic country roots with a modern edge. Before stepping into the spotlight as an artist, Carpenter made her mark as a songwriter, penning standout cuts like Megan Moroney’s “I’m Not Pretty,” “Indifferent” and “28th of June,” as well as Lily Rose’s breakout track “Villain.” After signing with The Valory Music Co. in 2022, she earned industry attention from Spotify, CMT, *MusicRow* and *Nashville Briefing* as an artist to watch. She’s opened for Miranda Lambert, Jake Owen, Parker McCollum and more. On March 7, Carpenter released her debut album *Hey Country Queen*, a 13-track project she co-wrote in full. Featuring fan-favorite singles like “Dozen Red Flags” and the Midland duet “I Wish You Would.” Most recently, she joined Moroney on select dates of her “Am I Okay? Tour.”

Originally from North Carolina, **Carter Faith** relocated to Nashville to pursue a career in country music. Since making the move, she has accumulated over 117 million global streams. In 2024, she signed with UMG Nashville (now MCA). Her debut album, *Cherry Valley*, is set for release this October, following the 2023 launch of her Capitol Records Nashville debut, *The Aftermath* EP. Faith has performed alongside notable acts including Little Big Town, Keith Urban, and Willie Nelson. Most recently, she wrapped dates with Ella Langley and Carly Pearce. She was recognized on *MusicRow*’s Next Big Thing and *All Country News*’ Artists to Watch lists for 2025. Her industry momentum is further reflected in her inclusion in CMT’s Next Women of Country Class of 2023 and Listen Up Class of 2024 campaigns. She also became the first country artist ever featured in Spotify’s multi-genre Fresh Finds program, an early indicator of her wide-ranging impact and cross-genre potential.

**Dylan Gossett** began writing and recording music as a teenager, using GarageBand on his mom’s computer. Throughout high school, college at Texas A&M and a job at Formula 1 Racing, music remained his true passion. Inspired by a new wave of online singer-songwriters, he began posting videos in April 2023. His debut single, “To Be Free,” which was entirely self-written, recorded, produced, and mixed in his bedroom, arrived that June. A month later, his breakout song “Coal” went viral and has since racked up over 428 million streams, gone Platinum in multiple countries, and landed on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and Spotify’s U.S. Top 200. In October 2023, Gossett released his first EP *No Better Time*, earning critical acclaim and followed that with his 2024 EP *Songs In The Gravel*. He’s sold out multiple headline tours, supported Noah Kahan and Morgan Wallen, and played top festivals like Stagecoach and CMA Fest. Now, his self-written and produced debut album *Westward*, which released July 18, marks a bold new chapter.

Blending traditional country storytelling with a modern sound, **Dylan Marlowe** is a Sony Music Nashville artist from Statesboro, Georgia. Influenced by a wide range of artists from Eric Church and Kenny Chesney to Linkin Park and Blink-182, Marlowe brings a genre-blurring approach to his songwriting and production. He first gained attention in 2021 with a reimagined cover of Olivia Rodrigo’s “drivers license,” drawing over half a million followers on TikTok. Since then, he’s released self-penned projects including *Record High* and *Dirt Road When I Die*, and co-wrote Jon Pardi’s No. 1 hit “Last Night Lonely.” In 2025, Marlowe earned his first No. 1 at country radio with “Boys Back Home” (featuring Dylan Scott), which he co-wrote with Seth Ennis and Joe Fox. The track is RIAA Gold-certified. His debut album *Mid-Twenties Crisis* followed, contributing to over 400 million global streams to date. Marlowe has supported artists like Dan + Shay, Cole Swindell, Hardy, and Brantley Gilbert, steadily building a fanbase through consistent touring and a sound that bridges country tradition with rock-influenced edge.

**Hudson Westbrook** hails from Stephenville, Texas, raised on George Strait, Turnpike Troubadours, Parker McCollum, Koe Wetzel, and Tracy Lawrence. After making waves with his viral 2024 debut “Take It Slow,” he quickly followed with a series of grassroots hits while enrolled at Texas Tech University. His breakout Texas radio single “Two Way Drive” topped charts, followed by his first national country radio single “House Again.” Blending the classic country he grew up on with his own fresh perspective, Westbrook delivers a sound that’s both nostalgic and new. His debut album *Texas Forever*, a 17-track project that arrived July 25, captures that vision in full. In just one year, Westbrook has amassed nearly 500 million global streams and averages over 20 million streams per week. He kicked off 2025 with two nearly sold-out headline tours and upcoming support slots for Parker McCollum, Midland, Eli Young Band, Cole Swindell, and Ian Munsick. Named a Highway Find by SiriusXM and a top 2025 Artist to Watch by Spotify, Westbrook is taking Texas country far beyond state lines.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025  
**MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES**



**LAINey  
WILSON**

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR



**RILEY  
GREEN**

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
SONG OF THE YEAR "DON'T MIND IF I DO"  
FEATURING ELLA LANGLEY



**TUCKER  
WETMORE**

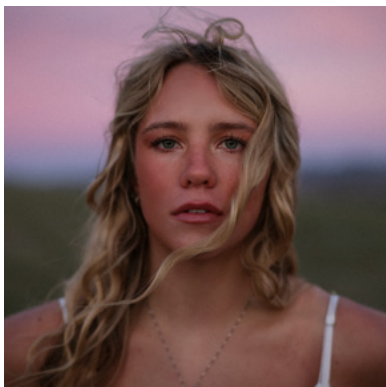
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AT

**RED LIGHT**  
MANAGEMENT

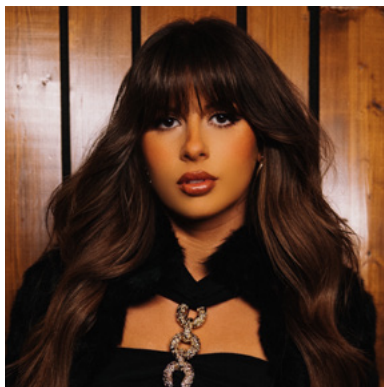
## Category 12 | **BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor a Nashville artist who achieved significant career progress for the first time.*



### **Avery Anna**

Warner Music Nashville, self-published, 33 Creative, WME, BMI



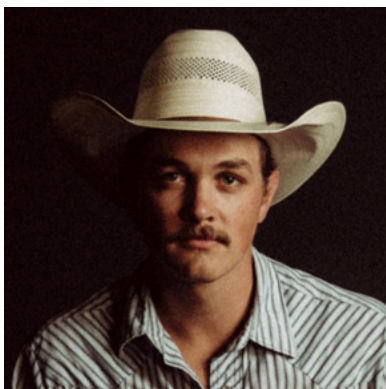
### **Ella Langley**

SAWGOD/Columbia Records, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Painted Rock Management, The Neal Agency, BMI



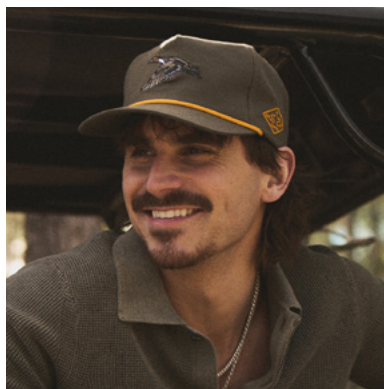
### **The Red Clay Strays**

RCA Records, Warner Chappell Music Nashville, Ontourage Management, WME, BMI



### **Zach Top**

Leo33, Major Bob Music, Major Bob Music, WME, BMI



### **Tucker Wetmore**

Back Blocks/MCA/Mercury Records, Back Blocks Music/Warner Chappell Music Nashville, Autumn Ledgin (management), WME, BMI



### **Warren Zeiders**

Warner Records, Warner Chappell Music Nashville, Underscore Works, CAA, BMI



## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

Fresh off the release of her sophomore album *Let Go Letters*, **Avery Anna** has been connecting with fans in a unique way. The project is tailored around real situations Anna's fans have shared with her during her "Let Go Letters" series on tour. The sophomore project came less than a year after her 17-track debut album *Breakup Over Breakfast*, which earned critical acclaim across multiple outlets. Both projects are completely co-written by Anna, showcasing her success as an artist and writer. Anna has been named an Artist to Watch by Amazon Music, Apple Music, Pandora, Spotify, YouTube, *MusicRow* and CMT. Anna's first breakthrough moment was her 2022 viral hit "Narcissist," leading her to her 2023 CMT Music Awards Breakthrough Artist of the Year nomination. Anna is currently climbing up the streaming and radio charts with the Sam Barber duet "Indigo." The viral hit has amassed more than 450 million global streams. Anna is spending the summer opening for Luke Bryan and Brad Paisley, and will embark on her headline "Let Go Letters Tour" this fall.

Before moving to Nashville in 2019, **Ella Langley** cut her teeth gigging around bars and festivals in her home state of Alabama. After a few years in Music City, her 2023 debut EP *Excuse The Mess* introduced fan-favorite singles and set the stage for her breakout. In August 2024, she released her debut album *Hungover*, co-writing all 14 tracks and giving fans a raw look into her story. The project earned praise from *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*, landing on both outlets' "Best of 2024" lists. Its standout track, "You Look Like You Love Me" featuring Riley Green, marked Langley's *Billboard* Hot 100 debut and her first No. 1 on country radio, making her the first and one of only two women to top the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart in 2024. The Platinum-certified hit also earned CMA and ACM honors, including Musical Event and Single of the Year. After opening for acts like Morgan Wallen and Luke Bryan, Langley sold out her first headline tour in 2024 and is currently back on the road, supporting Wallen and Green this summer.

**The Red Clay Strays**, comprised of Brandon Coleman (lead vocals, guitar), Drew Nix (electric guitar, vocals, harmonica), Zach Rishel (electric guitar), Andrew Bishop (bass) and John Hall (drums), were formed in 2016 in Mobile, Alabama. Their breakthrough single "Wondering Why" has amassed more than 75 million streams, and hit No. 1 on Spotify's Viral 50 USA Playlist. The tune also spent six weeks atop the Americana Singles chart, and made appearances on *Billboard*'s Hot 100, Hot Rock Songs, AAA chart and Hot Country Songs charts. Their *Moment of Truth* album hit No. 2 on the Americana Albums Chart and received critical acclaim. As fans flock to their electric live shows, the band wrapped up their headline tour last fall, which included a three night sold-out run at the Ryman Auditorium. Alongside making their Opry debut last year, they have also opened for Dierks Bentley, Eric Church, Elle King and Old Crow Medicine Show. Their 2024 album *Made By These Moments* include hit tracks such as "Wanna Be Loved," "I'm Still Fine" and "Drowning."

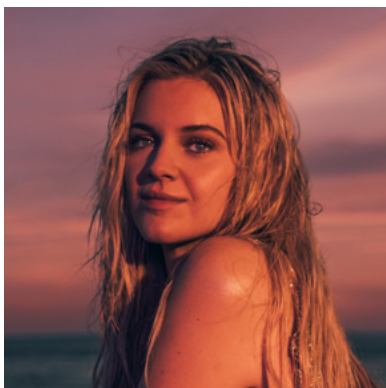
Following the release of his debut project *Cold Beer & Country Music* last year, **Zach Top** has been non stop proving himself. The album was named on several best of year-end lists, including *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard* and *The New York Times*. The project included his first No. 1 hit at country radio, "I Never Lie," as well as fan-favorites "Bad Luck" and "Sounds Like The Radio." Top spent the summer/fall of last year supporting Lainey Wilson, and kicked off 2025 on his headlining "Cold Beer & Country Music Tour." The tour sold out within hours of tickets going on sale. Alongside Wilson, he has also opened up for Alan Jackson, Dwight Yoakam and Billy Strings Top was also crowned ACM New Male Artist of the Year in April. He will release his next album, *Ain't In It For My Health*, in August, continuing to build his fast-growing fan base.

**Tucker Wetmore** has been spotted on *Billboard*'s Hot 100 chart throughout the year with his breakthrough singles "Wine Into Whiskey" and "Wind Up Missin' You," both now RIAA Platinum certified. The two tracks also had a hand in helping Wetmore amass 1 billion streams in just over a year. He released his debut EP *Waves On A Sunset* last year and also made two appearances on the *Twisters* soundtrack with "Already Had It" and "Steal My Thunder." Making his Grand Ole Opry debut in 2024, Wetmore also spent time on the road supporting Kameron Marlowe and Luke Bryan, before embarking on his sold-out debut headline tour. To kick off 2025, Wetmore notched more headline shows across the UK, U.S. and Europe. He is currently on Thomas Rhett's "Better In Boots Tour" as direct support. Wetmore was also nominated for ACM New Male Artist of the Year this year, and released his debut album *What Not To*. He has earned nods on Artists To Watch lists from *Billboard*, *MusicRow*, Vevo, Spotify, the Grand Ole Opry and more.

Since making his mark on Music City, **Warren Zeiders** has garnered 3.6 billion career streams, 2 billion TikTok views, and averages 7.9 million monthly Spotify listeners. Last year, Zeiders took home the Breakthrough Male Music Video of the Year at the CMT awards and was nominated for two People's Choice Country Awards. Zeiders was also featured on the blockbuster *Twisters* soundtrack with "The Cards I've Been Dealt," and notched his first No. 1 country radio single with the RIAA 2x Platinum "Pretty Little Poison." The hit was also the second most played song on country radio in 2024. Zeiders kicked off 2025 with the release of his 21-track *Relapse, Lies, & Betrayal*. The project was featured on *NPR*, *GQ*, *Cowboys & Indians*, *Forbes* and more. He has also made the rounds on network television, with performances on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* and *The Kelly Clarkson Show*. He recently wrapped his first ever European tour before headlining Houston Rodeo, and is currently on his 30-date "Relapse Tour." He will stay busy through the end of the year with his "Relapse, Lies, & Betrayal Tour" kicking off in the fall.

## Category 13 | FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor the achievements of a Nashville female artist during the eligibility period.*



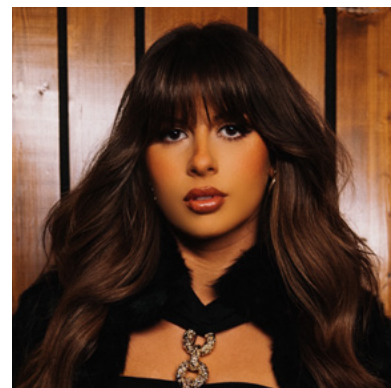
**Kelsea Ballerini**

Black River Entertainment, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Sandbox Entertainment, CAA, ASCAP



**Ashley Cooke**

Back Blocks/Big Loud Records, Back Blocks/Big Loud Publishing with admin. by Warner Chappell, Back Blocks, WME, BMI



**Ella Langley**

SAWGOD/Columbia Records, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Painted Rock Management, The Neal Agency, BMI



**Megan Moroney**

Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records NY, self with admin. by Sony Music Publishing, Punch Bowl Entertainment, UTA, SESAC



**Kacey Musgraves**

The Lost Highway, Warner Chappell Music Nashville, Sandbox Entertainment, Wasserman, ASCAP



**Lainey Wilson**

BBR Music Group/Broken Bow Records, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Red Light Management, WME, BMI



## FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Kelsea Ballerini** continues to help shape the sound and direction of modern country music. Her 2024 studio album *Patterns* debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Albums Chart and No. 4 on the *Billboard* 200, marking the highest debut of her career. The Gold-certified single "Cowboys Cry Too" anchored the project, which was followed by *Patterns (Deluxe)* featuring five new tracks that further expanded the album's narrative. In spring 2025, Ballerini launched her first arena headline run, the 36-date "Kelsea Ballerini Live on Tour," across major U.S. markets. These achievements followed the 2023 release of *Rolling Up the Welcome Mat*, a six-song project and accompanying short film that earned a Grammy nomination for Best Country Album and critical praise for its honesty and craft. A five-time Grammy nominee with seven No. 1 singles and 34 RIAA certifications, Ballerini remains a consistent presence on both the charts and the stage. She recently made her *Saturday Night Live* debut, appeared on the cover of *TIME* and served as a coach on NBC's *The Voice*.

**Ashley Cooke**'s breakout year was defined by career-firsts and continued momentum across radio, touring, and releases. Her debut album *shot in the dark*, released via Big Loud/Back Blocks Music, introduced a 24-track collection that showcased her range as both a vocalist and songwriter. The album produced her first No. 1 at country radio with "your place," and earned her the 2024 CMT Award for Breakthrough Female Video of the Year. She also received nominations for ACM New Female Artist of the Year and iHeartRadio's Best New Country Artist. In addition to making her debuts at the Grand Ole Opry and Ryman Auditorium, Cooke has become a standout live performer, wrapping multiple headline tours in 2024 and early 2025 while also opening for acts including Luke Bryan, Brett Young, Cole Swindell, and Kane Brown. She's made national TV appearances on *The Bachelorette* and *TODAY*, and will head out as direct support for Parker McCollum this August. With new music on the way, Cooke enters her next chapter with a growing audience and a sharpened creative voice.

Before moving to Nashville in 2019, **Ella Langley** cut her teeth gigging around bars and festivals in her home state of Alabama. After a few years in Music City, her 2023 debut EP *Excuse The Mess* introduced fan-favorite singles and set the stage for her breakout. In August 2024, she released her debut album *Hungover*, co-writing all 14 tracks and giving fans a raw look into her story. The project earned praise from *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*, landing on both outlets' "Best of 2024" lists. Its standout track, "You Look Like You Love Me" featuring Riley Green, marked Langley's *Billboard* Hot 100 debut and her first No. 1 on country radio, making her the first and one of only two women to top the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart in 2024. The Platinum-certified hit also earned CMA and ACM honors, including Musical Event and Single of the Year. After opening for acts like Morgan Wallen and Luke Bryan, Langley sold out her first headline tour in 2024 and is currently back on the road, supporting Wallen and Green this summer.

Just a few years after her debut, **Megan Moroney** has quickly established herself as a standout in modern country music. Her 2023 album *Lucky* introduced her to a wide audience with the 3X Platinum No. 1 hit "Tennessee Orange," while her 2024 follow-up, *Am I Okay?* debuted at No. 9 on the *Billboard* 200 and became one of the year's biggest releases by a female country artist. The album includes her second No. 1 at country radio, "Am I Okay?," as well as "No Caller ID," which broke the record for the largest U.S. streaming debut for a female country track. Moroney's catalog has now surpassed 3 billion global streams. Her work has earned recognition from the ACMs, CMAs, and *Billboard* Women in Music, where she was honored with the Rulebreaker Award in 2025. In addition to festival appearances and international dates, she's joined Kenny Chesney on stadium dates and is currently headlining her largest shows to date on the "Am I Okay? Tour," a 50-date run across North America.

**Kacey Musgraves** released her fifth studio album *Deeper Well* in March 2024, marking the biggest chart debut of her career. The project landed at No. 1 on the Top Album Sales chart and became her fifth album to debut at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart. *Deeper Well* follows 2021's *star-crossed* and 2018's *Golden Hour*, the latter earning Musgraves Album of the Year honors at the Grammy, CMA and ACM Awards. In 2023, she scored her first *Billboard* Hot 100 No. 1 with "I Remember Everything," a duet with Zach Bryan which marked the first country duet to top the chart since 1983. The song won Best Country Duo/Group Performance at the 2024 Grammy Awards, making Musgraves the only artist to win in all four country Grammy categories. In recent years, she's been recognized by *TIME*, *GLAAD*, *Billboard*, and *Variety*, and was the subject of a full-length exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

**Lainey Wilson**'s work continues to shape the current landscape of country music, both on the charts and within the broader creative community. In 2025, she earned four ACM Awards: Entertainer of the Year (for the second year in a row), Female Artist of the Year (third consecutive win), Album of the Year, and Artist-Songwriter of the Year. Her single "Somewhere Over Laredo" became the most added at country radio upon release and marked her biggest first-day streaming debut to date. The track will appear on the deluxe edition of her album *Whirlwind*, out August 22. Across her catalog, Wilson has tallied eight No. 1 singles, including "Heart Like a Truck," "Watermelon Moonshine," and "4x4xU." She has also collaborated on tracks with Jelly Roll, Hardy, Reba McEntire, Miranda Lambert, Dolly Parton and Post Malone. A Grand Ole Opry member, she contributed to the *Twisters* soundtrack and is currently on her sold-out "Whirlwind World Tour." Her upcoming role in *Reminders of Him* follows her on-screen debut in *Yellowstone*.

## Category 14 | **MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor the achievements of a Nashville male artist during the eligibility period.*



### **Kane Brown**

Sony Music Nashville/Zone 4, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Neon Coast, WME, BMI



### **Luke Combs**

Sony Music Nashville, UMPG Nashville, Make Wake Artists, WME, BMI



### **Riley Green**

Big Machine Label Group (Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment), Warner Chappell Music Nashville, Fusion Music/Red Light Management, The Neal Agency, BMI



### **Cody Johnson**

Warner Music Nashville, self-published with admin. by Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Durango Artist Management, CAA, BMI



### **Jelly Roll**

BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek Records/Republic, BMG, Left I Right Management, CAA, BMI



### **Morgan Wallen**

Big Loud Records/Mercury Records, Warner Chappell Music Nashville, Sticks Management, The Neal Agency, BMI



## MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Kane Brown** started 2025 off with the release of his fourth album, *The High Road*. Among the album's track list is the global hit "Miles On It" with Marshmello, and his recently crowned 13th No. 1 radio single "Backseat Driver." Accompanying the album was his headline arena tour, where he brought his famous live shows to fans across the country. Known for his performance skills, Brown has been a 2x ACM Entertainer of the Year nominee. At the end of 2024, Brown was recognized with People's Choice Country Awards' Country Champion Award. Brown has also continued his work with The Boys & Girls Club, and through that has been honored with the Country Radio Seminar (CRS) Humanitarian Award and the Champion of Youth Award from The Boys & Girls Club.

Two-time CMA Entertainer of Year **Luke Combs** started off 2025 with an induction into the Music City Walk of Fame, and became the first country artist to have two songs reach a billion streams on Spotify. He also was honored as the first country artist to have three RIAA Diamond certified singles. Combs recently notched another No. 1 at country radio with his hit *Twisters* soundtrack song "Ain't No Love In Oklahoma." His 2024 *Fathers & Sons* album was released with critical acclaim, and takes a look into the emotional bond of fatherhood. Combs had his own exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame. He joined forces with Opry Entertainment Group to open his own music venue and bar on Broadway, Category 10, and his touring schedule this year included headline performances at Stagecoach, New Orleans' JazzFest, Lollapalooza and Boston Calling, as well as Bonnaroo, where he was the first ever country act to headline the festival. Combs also created and headlined "Concert for Carolina" at Bank of America Stadium, raising over \$24.5 million for Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

Since breaking out with "There Was This Girl" and "I Wish Grandpas Never Died," **Riley Green** has continued to embody the rowdy and emotional sides of country music. His third studio album *Don't Mind If I Do* was released in October, and set Green on a non stop upward trajectory. The 18-track project includes fan favorites such as "Jesus Saves" and the 2x Platinum "Worst Way," both of which are solo-penned by Green. The title track, also solo-written, finds Green back with Ella Langley after their monster year off successes with "You Look Like You Love Me," which gained Green three ACM Awards this past April. He is currently on his own headline "Damn Country Music Tour," with stops in New York, Nashville, Chicago, Boston and more. Green also recently opened his own bar, Riley Green's Duck Blind in Nashville's Midtown, connected to Loser's Bar & Grill.

**Cody Johnson** has built up his reputation by gathering a loyal fan base with sold-out shows and consistent streaming numbers. Johnson has cultivated his meaningful discography through releases of *Leather Deluxe Edition*, *Leather*, *Human The Double Album*, *A Cody Johnson Christmas*, *Cody Johnson & The Rockin' CJB Live* and *Ain't Nothin' To It*. His hit single "Dirt

Cheap" was awarded Storyteller of The Year at the People's Choice Country Awards and Song of the Year at the 2025 ACM Awards. Another hit track "The Painter" was awarded as the NSAI 2024 Song of the Year. Throughout his career, Johnson has been named CMT Artist of The Year and won three CMT Music Awards wins, four CMA Awards including Album of The Year (2024) for *Leather*, and Best New Country Artist at the iHeart Music Awards. Johnson has performed on the *Today Show*, the *Kelly Clarkson Show* and the *Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, as well as live TV performances at the iHeart Music Awards, the ACM Awards, CMA Awards, CMT Music Awards, CMT Giants honoring Vince Gill, the CMT Artist of the Year Special and more.

Grammy nominated Nashville native **Jelly Roll** ended 2024 with the release of his *Beautifully Broken* album, which topped the *Billboard* 200 All Genre Chart, the first time in his career. The critically-acclaimed project was accompanied by his sold-out arena tour across the country. The 2024 iHeart Radio awards gave him eight genre-spanning nominations and wins for Best New Country and Pop artist. At the 2025 Grammy Awards, Jelly Roll was nominated for Best Country Song and Best Country Solo Performance with "I Am Not Okay." Jelly Roll has amassed seven consecutive No. 1s to date at country radio. His hit song "Save Me" spent 28 weeks at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Emerging Artists chart, and is RIAA Platinum certified. Outside of music, Jelly Roll also donated a recording studio at the juvenile detention center he served in as a teen, and released his *Save Me* documentary.

Tallying a career 18 No. 1 singles at country radio, 19 *Billboard* Music Awards, more than 190 weeks spent atop *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart, **Morgan Wallen** continues to push the genre to its limits. Wallen won his first Entertainer of the Year award at the 2024 CMA Awards. His fourth studio album *I'm The Problem* was released in May. Upon its release, it debuted at No. 1 globally across seven countries. The project has also already had three No. 1s on country radio, including the eight week No. 1 title track. He also broke his own record for the most simultaneous entries in *Billboard* Hot 100 History, with all 37 songs charting upon release week. His 20 stadium show "I'm The Problem Tour" is currently taking place, and was preceded by his own Sand In My Boots Festival on the shores of Alabama. He also celebrated the release of the project with a show at The Roundhouse in London. Wallen also puts a portion of every ticket sold towards his Morgan Wallen Foundation, which donates funds to youth music and athletic programs.

## Category 15 | **GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor the achievements of a Nashville group or duo artist during the eligibility period.*



### **Brothers Osborne**

MCA (EMI Records Nashville),  
King Pen Music/Warner  
Chappell Music Nashville, Q  
Prime South, WME, ASCAP



### **Maddie & Tae**

MCA (Mercury Nashville), Big  
Machine Music, Steadfast Co.,  
CAA, ASCAP/BMI



### **Old Dominion**

Sony Music Nashville, Warner  
Chappell Music Nashville, Sony  
Music Publishing Nashville,  
UMPG Nashville, Morris Higham  
Management, Wasserman,  
ASCAP



### **Parmalee**

BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek  
Records, Sony Music Publishing  
Nashville, 33 Creative, WME, BMI



### **The Red Clay Strays**

RCA Records, Warner Chappell  
Music Nashville, Ontourage  
Management, WME, BMI



### **The War And Treaty**

Concord, Strongworld  
Management, Wasserman, BMI



## GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Brothers Osborne** have built a reputation as one of country music's most consistently bold and musically adventurous acts. The duo composed of siblings John and TJ Osborne have earned seven CMA Awards, seven ACM Awards, and a total of 13 Grammy nominations, including a 2025 nomination for Best Country Duo/Group Performance. They won their first Grammy in 2022 for "Younger Me," a song featured on the deluxe edition of their Grammy-nominated album *Skeletons*. Their latest self-titled album, *Brothers Osborne*, was released in September 2023 via EMI Records Nashville and includes the single "Nobody's Nobody." In 2024, they followed it with the *Break Mine* EP and returned in April 2025 with new track "Finish This Drink." The duo has surpassed 3.4 billion global streams, with multiple RIAA-certified singles. Known for their genre-defying sound and dynamic live shows, they've toured extensively, including over 50 headlining dates on the "We're Not For Everyone Tour," and previous support slots for Chris Stapleton, Miranda Lambert, and Eric Church. John Osborne also continues to work as a producer, collaborating with artists like Ashley McBryde, Grace Bowers, and Caylee Hammack.

Award-winning duo **Maddie & Tae** continue to bring harmony-driven storytelling to the forefront of country music. Their latest project, *Love & Light*, released in May 2025, follows the *What A Woman Can Do* EP and builds on a decade-long career defined by honest songwriting and tight-knit collaboration. This year, the pair launched their "Love & Light Tour" following the wrap of their "Here's To Friends Tour" in late 2024. Maddie Font and Taylor Kerr first broke out in 2013 with the Platinum-certified No. 1 hit "Girl In A Country Song," becoming only the third female duo in 70 years to top the Country Airplay chart. They followed with a second No. 1, the 3x Platinum-certified "Die From A Broken Heart," making them the only female twosome with multiple Country Airplay No. 1s. Their catalog includes *The Way It Feels* and the *Through The Madness* volumes. Maddie & Tae have received honors from the CMA, ACM, CMT and Radio Disney Music Awards, alongside critical recognition from outlets including *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, *NPR* and *The Washington Post*.

**Old Dominion** is known for combining its sharp songwriting with a dynamic live presence. The multi-Platinum band has earned nine No. 1 singles at country radio, over five billion on-demand streams, and more than a dozen RIAA-certified singles. They are the reigning 8-time ACM and 7-time CMA Group of the Year winners, most recently taking home their eighth consecutive ACM trophy in 2025 — breaking the record for both most consecutive and most total wins in the category. In 2024, they received their seventh straight CMA Vocal Group of the Year award, another record-setting milestone. To mark the achievement, the band held a seven-show residency at the Ryman Auditorium, raising over \$1.25 million for charity. Their sixth studio album, *Barbara*, arrives August 22 and explores deeper themes while retaining the band's melodic, hook-driven sound. The release coincides with their "How Good Is That — World Tour," which brings them to amphitheaters and arenas across the U.S. in 2025, further reinforcing their status as one of country's most consistent and in-demand touring acts.

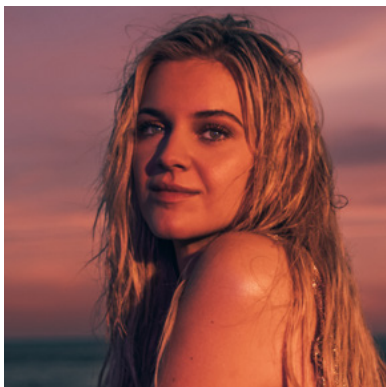
**Parmalee**, the North Carolina native band composed of brothers Matt and Scott Thomas, cousin Barry Knox, and longtime friend Josh McSwain, was the most-played group at country radio in 2023 and has now earned five No. 1 singles, multiple Platinum certifications, and over 1 billion on-demand streams. Their breakout hit "Carolina" first took them to No. 1, followed by the Platinum-certified "Just the Way" with Blanco Brown. In 2022, they released "Take My Name," which became *Billboard*'s Most Played Country Song of the Year. They followed that momentum with "Girl In Mine," the eighth most-played song of 2023, and continued their streak into 2024 with the chart-topping "Gonna Love You." Parmalee kicked off 2025 with their *Fell In Love With A Cowgirl* Tour, which spans across North America, and released their new full-length album of the same name on April 4. With four consecutive No. 1s and growing radio dominance, Parmalee remains a steady presence in today's country landscape.

**The Red Clay Strays**, comprised of Brandon Coleman (lead vocals, guitar), Drew Nix (electric guitar, vocals, harmonica), Zach Rishel (electric guitar), Andrew Bishop (bass) and John Hall (drums), were formed in 2016 in Mobile, Alabama. Their breakthrough single "Wondering Why" has amassed more than 75 million streams, and hit No. 1 on Spotify's Viral 50 USA Playlist. The tune also spent six weeks atop the Americana Singles chart, and made appearances on *Billboard*'s Hot 100, Hot Rock Songs, AAA chart and Hot Country Songs charts. Their *Moment of Truth* album hit No. 2 on the Americana Albums Chart and received critical acclaim. As fans flock to their electric live shows, the band wrapped up their headline tour last fall, which included a three night sold-out run at the Ryman Auditorium. Alongside making their Opry debut last year, they have also opened for Dierks Bentley, Eric Church, Elle King and Old Crow Medicine Show. Their 2024 album *Made By These Moments* include hit tracks such as "Wanna Be Loved," "I'm Still Fine" and "Drowning." The group also represented themselves at CMA Fest 2025 with their main stage debut at Nissan Stadium.

**The War And Treaty**, the husband-and-wife duo of Michael Trotter Jr. and Tanya Trotter, have emerged as a standout act at the intersection of country, soul, and roots music. In the past year, they earned two Grammy nominations for Best New Artist and Best American Roots Song, marking a major milestone in their continued rise. The duo has also received recognition from the CMA Awards (two-time Vocal Duo of the Year nominees), the ACM Awards (three-time Duo of the Year nominees), the CMT Music Awards, and the People's Choice Country Awards. They were named Duo/Group of the Year at the Americana Music Honors & Awards in both 2022 and 2023. Known for their powerful live performances and genre-blending sound, The War And Treaty will return to the road this fall for a headlining tour, bringing their genre-blending live show to audiences across the country. Their continued recognition across formats reflects a growing presence within both the country and Americana communities.

## Category 16 | **ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribers to honor outstanding achievements by a Nashville artist during the eligibility period.*



### **Kelsea Ballerini**

Black River Entertainment, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Sandbox Entertainment, CAA, ASCAP



### **Luke Combs**

Sony Music Nashville, UMPG Nashville, Make Wake Artists, WME, BMI



### **Cody Johnson**

Warner Music Nashville, self-published with admin. by Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Durango Artist Management, CAA, BMI



### **Jelly Roll**

BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek Records/Republic, BMG, Left I Right Management, CAA, BMI



### **Morgan Wallen**

Big Loud Records/Mercury Records, Warner Chappell Music Nashville, Sticks Management, The Neal Agency, BMI



### **Lainey Wilson**

BBR Music Group/Broken Bow Records, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Red Light Management, WME, BMI



## ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Kelsea Ballerini** continues to help shape the sound and direction of modern country music. Her 2024 studio album *Patterns* debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Albums Chart and No. 4 on the *Billboard* 200, marking the highest debut of her career. The Gold-certified single "Cowboys Cry Too" anchored the project, which was followed by *Patterns (Deluxe)* featuring five new tracks that further expanded the album's narrative. In spring 2025, Ballerini launched her first arena headline run, the 36-date "Kelsea Ballerini Live on Tour," across major U.S. markets. These achievements followed the 2023 release of *Rolling Up the Welcome Mat*, a six-song project and accompanying short film that earned a Grammy nomination for Best Country Album and critical praise for its honesty and craft. A five-time Grammy nominee with seven No. 1 singles and 34 RIAA certifications, Ballerini remains a consistent presence on both the charts and the stage. She recently made her *Saturday Night Live* debut, appeared on the cover of *TIME* and served as a coach on NBC's *The Voice*.

Two-time CMA Entertainer of Year **Luke Combs** started off 2025 with an induction into the Music City Walk of Fame, and became the first country artist to have two songs reach a billion streams on Spotify. He also was honored as the first country artist to have three RIAA Diamond certified singles. Combs recently notched another No. 1 at country radio with his hit *Twisters* soundtrack song "Ain't No Love In Oklahoma." His 2024 *Fathers & Sons* album was released with critical acclaim, and takes a look into the emotional bond of fatherhood. Combs had his own exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame. He joined forces with Opry Entertainment Group to open his own music venue and bar on Broadway, Category 10, and his touring schedule this year included headline performances at Stagecoach, New Orleans' JazzFest, Lollapalooza and Boston Calling, as well as Bonnaroo, where he was the first ever country act to headline the festival. Combs also created and headlined "Concert for Carolina" at Bank of America Stadium, raising over \$24.5 million for Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

**Cody Johnson** has built up his reputation by gathering a loyal fan base with sold-out shows and consistent streaming numbers. Johnson has cultivated his meaningful discography through releases of *Leather Deluxe Edition*, *Leather*, *Human The Double Album*, *A Cody Johnson Christmas*, *Cody Johnson & The Rockin' CJB Live* and *Ain't Nothin' To It*. His hit single "Dirt Cheap" was awarded Storyteller of The Year at the People's Choice Country Awards and Song of the Year at the 2025 ACM Awards. Another hit track "The Painter" was awarded as the NSAI 2024 Song of The Year. Throughout his career, Johnson has been named CMT Artist of The Year and won three CMT Music Awards wins, four CMA Awards including Album of The Year (2024) for *Leather*, and Best New Country Artist at the iHeart Music Awards. Johnson has performed on the *Today Show*, the *Kelly Clarkson Show* and the *Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, as well as live TV performances at the iHeart Music Awards, the ACM Awards, CMA Awards,

CMT Music Awards, CMT Giants honoring Vince Gill, the CMT Artist of the Year Special and more.

Grammy nominated Nashville native **Jelly Roll** ended 2024 with the release of his *Beautifully Broken* album, which topped the *Billboard* 200 All Genre Chart, the first time in his career. The critically-acclaimed project was accompanied by his sold-out arena tour across the country. The 2024 iHeart Radio awards gave him eight genre-spanning nominations and wins for Best New Country and Pop artist. At the 2025 Grammy Awards, Jelly Roll was nominated for Best Country Song and Best Country Solo Performance with "I Am Not Okay." Jelly Roll has amassed seven consecutive No. 1s to date at country radio. His hit song "Save Me" spent 28 weeks at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Emerging Artists chart, and is RIAA Platinum certified. Outside of music, Jelly Roll also donated a recording studio at the juvenile detention center he served in as a teen, and released his *Save Me* documentary.

Tallying a career 18 No. 1 singles at country radio, 19 *Billboard* Music Awards, more than 190 weeks spent atop *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart, **Morgan Wallen** continues to push the genre to its limits. Wallen won his first Entertainer of the Year award at the 2024 CMA Awards. His fourth studio album *I'm The Problem* was released in May. Upon its release, it debuted at No. 1 globally across seven countries. The project has also already had three No. 1s on country radio, including the eight week No. 1 title track. He also broke his own record for the most simultaneous entries in *Billboard* Hot 100 History, with all 37 songs charting upon release week. His 20 stadium show "I'm The Problem Tour" is currently taking place, and was preceded by his own Sand In My Boots Festival on the shores of Alabama. He also celebrated the release of the project with a show at The Roundhouse in London. Wallen also puts a portion of every ticket sold towards his Morgan Wallen Foundation, which donates funds to youth music and athletic programs.

**Lainey Wilson**'s work continues to shape the current landscape of country music, both on the charts and within the broader creative community. In 2025, she earned four ACM Awards: Entertainer of the Year (for the second year in a row), Female Artist of the Year (third consecutive win), Album of the Year, and Artist-Songwriter of the Year. Her single "Somewhere Over Laredo" became the most added at country radio upon release and marked her biggest first-day streaming debut to date. The track will appear on the deluxe edition of her album *Whirlwind*, out August 22. Across her catalog, Wilson has tallied eight No. 1 singles, including "Heart Like a Truck," "Watermelon Moonshine," and "4x4xU." She has also collaborated on tracks with Jelly Roll, Hardy, Reba McEntire, Miranda Lambert, Dolly Parton and Post Malone. A Grand Ole Opry member, she contributed to the *Twisters* soundtrack and is currently on her sold-out "Whirlwind World Tour." Her upcoming role in *Reminders of Him* follows her on-screen debut in *Yellowstone*.

*Awards were selected by critics until 2008, when they became member voted.*

## PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville producer's work on albums active during the eligibility period. Achievements may include, but are not limited to, single chart performance and album sales.*

2024: Jay Joyce  
2023: Joey Moi  
2022: Shane McAnally  
2019-21: Dann Huff  
2018: Dave Cobb  
2017: Jay Joyce  
2016: Dave Cobb  
2015: Jay Joyce  
2014: Frank Liddell  
2013: Dann Huff  
2012: Frank Liddell  
2011: Paul Worley  
2010: Frank Liddell & Mike Wrucke  
2008-09: Frank Rogers  
2007: Byron Gallimore  
2006: Dann Huff  
2005: Frank Rogers  
2004: Buddy Cannon  
2003: James Stroud  
2002: Keith Stegall  
2001: Mark Wright  
1999-00: Byron Gallimore

## PRODUCER HONOR ROLL

*Producer earning the most Top 20 singles and Top 10 albums for each year. Became Producer of the Year in 1999.*

1998: No award presented  
1997: Wilbur C. Rimes  
1996: Tony Brown  
1995: Allen Reynolds  
1994: James Stroud  
1993: Tony Brown  
1991-92: Allen Reynolds  
1990: Tony Brown  
1982-89: Jimmy Bowen

## LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville label group during the eligibility period.*

2022-24: Big Loud Records  
2019-21: UMG Nashville

## TALENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville talent agency during the eligibility period.*

2021-24: WME  
2019-20: CAA

## BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville songwriter who wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song for the first time.*

2024: Ryan Larkins  
2023: Trannie Anderson  
2022: Josh Jenkins  
2021: Nicolette Hayford  
2020: Randy Montana  
2019: Jordan Reynolds  
2018: Emily Shackelton  
2017: Jesse Lee  
2016: Maren Morris  
2015: Michael Carter  
2014: Nicolle Galyon and Cole Swindell (tie)  
2013: Kacey Musgraves  
2012: Johnny Bulford and Phil Barton  
2011: Kimberly Perry  
2010: Chris Young  
2009: James Otto  
2008: Luke Bryan  
2007: Chris Tompkins and Josh Kear  
2006: Jason Matthews  
2005: Vicky McGehee  
2004: Jim Brown and Don Rollins  
2003: Lee Thomas Miller  
2002: Anthony Smith  
2001: Troy Verges  
2000: Carolyn Dawn Johnson  
1999: Phil Vassar  
1998: Harley Allen  
1997: Cathy Majeski, Sunny Russ, Stephony Smith  
1996: Jim Lauderdale

## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville songwriter and recording artist who wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song for the first time.*

2024: Ashley Cooke  
2023: Jelly Roll  
2022: Lainey Wilson  
2021: Ashley McBryde  
2020: Ingrid Andress  
2019: Jimmie Allen  
2018: Devin Dawson  
2017: Lauren Alaina

## MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville songwriter during the eligibility period.*

2020-24: Ashley Gorley  
2019: Josh Osborne

## FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville songwriter during the eligibility period.*

2023-24: Jessi Alexander  
2022: Nicolle Galyon  
2021: Natalie Hemby  
2019-20: Hillary Lindsey



## TOP SONGWRITER

*Songwriter earning the most Top 20 singles for each year. Category merged with Breakthrough Songwriter in 1998.*

1997: Craig Wiseman  
1996: Mark D. Sanders  
1995: Tom Shapiro  
1994: Gary Burr  
1993: Clint Black  
1992: Garth Brooks  
1991: Pat Alger  
1987-90: Don Schlitz  
1986: Dave Loggins  
1985: Troy Seals

## SONG OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor Nashville writers and publishers on the craft of songwriting, not necessarily chart performance.*

2024: **"Dirt Cheap"** written by Josh Phillips; published by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI/Write Or Die Music, BMI/Write The Lightning Publishing, BMI  
2023: **"Wait In The Truck"** written by Jordan Schmidt, Michael Hardy, Hunter Phelps, Renee Blair; published by Sony Tree Publishing, BMI; Relative Music Group, BMI; Redneck Music, BMI; Humerus Publishing Global, BMI; Round Hill Verses Publishing, BMI; Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP; WC Music Corp., ASCAP Nontypical Music, ASCAP; Sony Accent, ASCAP; Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP; The Money Tree Vibe, ASCAP  
2022: **"Til You Can't"** written by Matt Rogers and Ben Stennis; published by Anthem Canalco Publishing, ASCAP/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/The Stennis Mightier Music  
2021: **"Hell Of A View"** written by Eric Church, Casey Beathard, Monty Criswell; published by Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI Spirit Of Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI  
2020: **"More Hearts Than Mine"** written by Ingrid Andress, Sam Ellis, Derrick Southerland; published by What Is An Ingrid, Songs Of Universal, Inc., Straight From The Art Music, Songs For A Stone Heart, Universal Music Corp., Happy Rock Publishing, ASCAP, BMI  
2019: **"Girl Goin' Nowhere"** written by Ashley McBryde, Jeremy Bussey; published by Songs Of Song Factory, BMI/Beejo Fetch Publishing, BMI/Universal Tunes, SESAC  
2018: **(tie) "Drunk Girl"** written by Chris Janson, Scooter Carusoe, Tom Douglas; published by ole Red Vinyl Music, Buckkilla Music, Scrambler Music, Abbotts Creek Music Two, Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, Tomdouglassmusic, ASCAP, BMI  
**(tie) "Most People Are Good"** written by David Frasier, Ed Hill, Josh Kear; published by SB 21 Music Publishing, Purdy Beard Music, Songs Of Amylase Music, Five Hills Music, Do Write Music, Year Of The Dog Music, Champagne Whiskey Publishing, Downtown DLJ Songs, ASCAP, BMI  
2017: **"Blue Ain't Your Color"** written by Steven Lee Olsen, Hillary Lindsey, Clint Lagerberg; published by WB Music Corp., Music Of The Corn, Rezolution Music, BMG Gold Songs, House Of Sea Gayle Music, Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r./Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP  
2016: **"Humble and Kind"** written by Lori McKenna; published by Songs of Universal, Hoodie  
2015: **"Girl Crush"** written by Hillary Lindsey, Lori McKenna, Liz Rose; published by Warner-Tamerlane, Songs of Crazy Girl, Songs of Universal, Hoodie, HillarodyRathbone, BMG  
2014: **"All Kinds Of Kinds"** written by Phillip Coleman and Don Henry; published by Carnival Music, Warner-Tamerlane  
2013: **(tie) "I Drive Your Truck"** written by Jessi Alexander, Connie

Harrington, Jimmy Yearly; published by Vistaville Music, Happy Tears Music, EMI Blackwood, Watch This Girl Publishing, Great Day At This Time Music, Beattyville Music  
**(tie) "Merry Go 'Round"** written by Kacey Musgraves, Josh Osborne, Shane McAnally; published by 351 Music, Warner Tamerlane, Crazy Water Music, Little Blue Egg, Universal Music, Want A Fresh One  
2012: **"You and Tequila"** written by Deana Carter and Matraca Berg; published by Deanaling Music, Hannaberg Music, Songs of Universal Inc., WB Music Corp  
2011: **"If I Die Young"** written by Kimberly Perry; published by Pearlfeather, Rio Bravo  
2010: **"The House That Built Me"** written by Allen Shamblin, Tom Douglas; published by Sony/ATV-Tree Publishing Co., Tomdouglassmusic, Built On Rock Music  
2009: **"In Color"** written by Jamey Johnson, James Otto, Lee Thomas Miller; published by New Songs of Sea Gayle, EMI Blackwood, Warner Tamerlane, Eldorotto Music  
2008: **"Letter To Me"** written by Brad Paisley; published by EMI April Music, Sea Gayle Music  
2007: **"Stealing Kisses"** written by Lori McKenna; published by Melanie Howard Music, Inc.  
2006: **"What Hurts The Most"** written by Jeffrey Steele, Steve Robson; published by Songs of Windswept Pacific, Almo Music Corp.  
2005: **"Whiskey Lullaby"** written by Bill Anderson, Jon Randall; published by Sony/ATV-Tree, Mr. Bubba, Reynsong, Who Ya Say, Wrensong  
2004: **"Almost Home"** written by Craig Morgan, Kerry Kurt Phillips; published by Magic Mustang Music Inc., Sufferin' Succotash Songs  
2003: **"Red Ragtop"** written by Jason White; published by Sony/ATV Music  
2002: **"Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning)"** written by Alan Jackson; published by EMI Music Publishing  
2001: **"There Is No Arizona"** written by Jamie O'Neal, Shaye Smith, Lisa Drew; published by EMI Music, Zomba Music  
2000: **"He Didn't Have To Be"** written by Brad Paisley, Kelley Lovelace; published by EMI April Music, Sea Gayle Music, Love Ranch Music  
1999: **"Don't Laugh At Me"** written by Allen Shamblin, Steve Seskin; published by Built On Rock Music, David Aaron Music, Love This Town Music  
1998: **"Something That We Do"** written by Clint Black, Skip Ewing; published by Blackened Music, Opryland Music Group  
1997: **"Friends"** written by Jerry Holland; published by That's A Smash Publishing, Mike Curb Music  
1996: **"What Mattered Most"** written by Vince Melamed, Gary Burr; published by MCA Music, Patrick Joseph Music

## DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville developing artist who demonstrates significant talent and potential to rise.*

2024: Zach Top  
2023: Ashley Cooke  
2022: MacKenzie Porter  
2021: Lainey Wilson  
2020: Jameson Rodgers  
2019: Tenille Townes

## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville artist who achieved significant career progress for the first time.*

2024: Shaboozey  
2023: Jelly Roll  
2022: Lainey Wilson

2021: Tenille Arts  
2020: Ingrid Andress  
2019: Ashley McBryde  
2018: Luke Combs  
2017: Maren Morris  
2016: Old Dominion  
2015: Sam Hunt  
2014: Brandy Clark  
2013: Kacey Musgraves  
2012: Eli Young Band  
2011: The Band Perry  
2010: Zac Brown Band  
2009: Jamey Johnson  
2008: Lady A

## CRITICS' PICK/NEW ARTIST

*To recognize an outstanding new artist who released their first single in the awards year. Became Breakthrough Artist in 2008.*

2007: Taylor Swift  
2006: Carrie Underwood  
2005: Miranda Lambert  
2004: Buddy Jewell  
2003: Joe Nichols  
2002: Blake Shelton  
2001: Mark McGuinn  
2000: Eric Heatherly

## FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor outstanding achievements by a Nashville female artist during the eligibility period.*

2023-24: Lainey Wilson

## MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor outstanding achievements by a Nashville male artist during the eligibility period.*

2024: Jelly Roll  
2023: Morgan Wallen

## GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor outstanding achievements by a Nashville male artist during the eligibility period.*

2023-24: Old Dominion

## ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor outstanding achievements by a Nashville artist during the eligibility period. Became Entertainer of the Year in 2023.*

2024: Lainey Wilson  
2023: Morgan Wallen  
2019-22: Luke Combs

