

Zach Top Graces Cover Of 2025 *MusicRow* Awards Issue

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MusicRow Awards Issue

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MusicRow, Nashville's leading music industry publication, has released its 2025 *MusicRow* Awards print issue, with Leo33 breakout star **Zach Top** gracing its cover.

Hailed as "the future of country music" (*Billboard*), Zach Top will release his highly-anticipated new album, *Ain't In It For My Health*, on August 29 (Leo33). The project features Top's acclaimed new single, "Good Times & Tan Lines," which the *Los Angeles Times* recently selected as one of the "Best Songs of 2025 so far" calling it, "as crisp as country music gets."

The *MusicRow* Awards print issue highlights the [2025 MusicRow Awards nominees](#) in a range of categories, including Producer of the Year, Studio of the Year, Label Group of the Year, Talent Agency of the Year, Publishing Company of the Year, Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year, Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year, Male Songwriter of the Year, Female Songwriter of the Year, Song of the Year, Discovery Artist of the Year, Breakthrough Artist of the Year, Female Artist of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, Group/Duo Artist of the Year and Entertainer of the Year.

"What makes the *MusicRow* Awards special is that they are chosen by the very people who live and breathe this industry every day: our subscribers. These awards reflect the insight and respect of Nashville's music decision-makers—an authentic peer-to-peer recognition of excellence over the past year," shares *MusicRow* Owner/Publisher **Sherod Robertson**. "It's our privilege to shine this well-deserved spotlight on all of these outstanding talents."

The winners of the 37th annual *MusicRow* Awards will be announced virtually among all *MusicRow* platforms on Sept. 3. **MR**

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SOURCE Nashville Hall Of Fame Inducts Six More ‘Women Behind The Music’



Pictured (L-R, top row): Lori Badgett, Pam Russell, Kay West, Gina Keltner and Mary Self; (L-R, bottom row): Co-Host Kelly Sutton, Cheryl Harris and Co-Host Mandy Barnett. Photo: Moments by Moser

SOURCE Nashville hosted its annual SOURCE Hall of Fame Awards Tuesday night at the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum inside Nashville’s historic Municipal Auditorium, gathering industry insiders, songwriters, artists, producers, family and friends for the beloved event.

Six “women behind the music” were inducted into the prestigious hall: **Lori Badgett, Cheryl Harris, Gina Keltner, Pam Russell, Mary Self** and **Kay West**. They were honored throughout the sold-out evening, hosted by Grand Ole Opry star **Mandy Barnett** and radio/TV personality **Kelly Sutton**.

This year’s ceremony carried a reverent tone following the [recent passing](#) of longtime host and past inductee **Jeannie Seely**. Seely, along with co-host **Brenda Lee**—unable to attend this year—had long been a cornerstone of the event. Their warmth, humor and enduring friendship were remembered fondly, with Barnett and Sutton stepping in to lead the night with grace.

Founded in 1991 by **Shelia Shipley Biddy, Judy Harris** and **Pat Rolfe**, SOURCE is Nashville’s longest-running organization for women in the music industry, dedicated to fostering relationships, education, networking and community service. The SOURCE Awards, created by **Kay Smith** in 2003, honor the “women behind the music” who have shaped Nashville’s music business.

Each August, the event serves as a powerful reminder of the women whose work built and continues to sustain Music Row—and this year was no exception.

After welcoming remarks from SOURCE Awards chair **Erica Rosa** and dinner, SOURCE President **Kari Barnhart** introduced the hosts, who thanked sponsors and guests before beginning the presentations—starting with Cheryl Harris.

Harris, a fixture at Music Row business management firm O’Neil Hagaman, was celebrated by **Garth Brooks** and **Trisha Yearwood**. The superstar couple praised her steadiness and kindness through pivotal career and

personal moments. Harris spoke about her deep relationships in the business, and told stories about building O-Neil Hagaman with **Kerry O'Neil** and **Al Hagaman**.

"For someone who loves being behind the scenes, I'm overwhelmed standing here in front of you," Harris said. "God has truly guided me through my entire life, bringing so many special people and unexpected opportunities my way."

Next up was longtime publicist and journalist Kay West. West was honored with a video message from **George Strait**, who she worked with for a long time. He thanked her for her hard work, saying she had the tricky task of coming up with a lot of ways to say no to the media.

West reflected on her journey from a New York editor to Nashville publicist to writer once again. She shared humorous stories from her career but also spoke earnestly about mentorship from industry legends like Frances Preston.

"Frances, from our very first meeting, started putting me on committees and boards and things like that that really shaped my life. I emulated everything she did. I tried to be like her," West said. "It is our privilege to pay that forward to other women. SOURCE has been doing that now since it was founded."

Grand Ole Opry booker Gina Keltner followed, honored by a video from Opry executive **Dan Rogers** and the Opry staff decked out in Elvis costumes. Rogers spoke about her commitment to both the Opry and her family.

"One of my very first memories as a child was sitting in the back of my family car and watching my dad turn the radio dial. His ears perked up when music came through the speakers, and I can still hear him saying, 'that's the Grand Ole Opry coming all the way from Nashville, Tennessee,'" Keltner shared. "That little girl has been blessed to work at the Opry for 26 years."

Pam Russell, a celebrated sales executive, received a video tribute from **Reba McEntire**, who congratulated her and the other honorees. Russell recalled years of working with artists and buyers, from backstage at George Strait shows to industry gatherings at Reba's home during Fan Fair.

"My job over the years took me to a lot of places. Amarillo, Texas, Bentonville, Arkansas and Minneapolis—in the dead of winter," Russell said. "Countless concerts and endless in-stores. It gave me moments I will never forget."

ASCAP's Mary Self was honored next, with ASCAP President **Paul Williams** praising her decades of dedication to songwriters and her generosity of spirit. Self will mark 40 years with the PRO in January.

"I've been fortunate to work at ASCAP for four decades. I've worked in three different buildings and have had five bosses, all of which I've learned something from," Self said. "An essential part of my journey have been the friendships I've made along the way. I've worked with some incredible people who have become much more than co-workers."

The evening concluded with City National Bank's Lori Badgett, honored by country legend **Gene Watson**, who has known her since childhood through her late father, **Ed Stone**.

Badgett reflected on her path in entertainment banking and expressed gratitude to her partner **Diane Pearson**, the CNB team and her family.

"There's so much love and history in this room. I hope you feel the love and support from City National Bank. We want to take good care of you," she said. "Thank you for my SOURCE Award. I'm so honored." **MR**

Katie Studley Joins Spotify As



Katie Studley.

Spotify has hired **Katie Studley** as its new Head of Nashville Editorial.

Studley joins Spotify from her most recent role as Nashville VP at distribution leader The Orchard, where she led a team that delivered release campaigns for artists including Kelsea Ballerini, Max McNown and Russell Dickerson.

Prior to The Orchard, Studley spent 10 years at Jack White's Third Man Records, serving as VP of Operations and Marketing Director. There, she built a record-breaking label team, spearheaded the diversification of Third Man's business and oversaw major releases for Jack White, The Raconteurs, Billie Eilish, Paul McCartney, Margo Price, Coldplay, and others—earning three No. 1 debuts on the Billboard Top 200.

Studley began her career in artist development and marketing at Thirty Tigers, where she contributed to the rapid rise of artists like the Avett Brothers, Jason Isbell and more. She earned a degree in Musicology in 2005. **MR**

MCA & Jessie Jo Dillon Launch Gatsby Records



Pictured (L-R): MCA's Chief Creative Officer Dave Cobb, Gatsby Records' Founder & President Jessie Jo Dillon, MCA's President & CEO Mike Harris. Photo: Libby Danforth

MCA and lauded songwriter **Jessie Jo Dillon** have partnered to launch Gatsby Records, a new imprint under MCA. Rising country artist **Carter Faith** is the imprint's first signed act, with her debut album *Cherry Valley* set to be the first release on the imprint on Oct. 3.

"Like Fitzgerald's Jay Gatsby, I believe in the 'green light' – the unwavering hope of a dream coming true. This imprint is a home for artists who aren't afraid to be themselves, sound different and transform. If it's raw, if it's beautiful and if it even scares you a little, then it belongs at Gatsby Records," shares Jessie Jo Dillon, Founder & President of Gatsby Records. "Carter Faith isn't just a rising voice in country music – she is a unique storyteller who blends vulnerability with edge. We share a strong creative synergy and vision and I couldn't be prouder to work alongside her to bring the world of *Cherry Valley* to life. I'm so excited for this new venture and deeply grateful to Dave Cobb, Mike Harris and MCA for collaborating with me to bring my lifelong aspiration of Gatsby Records to fruition."

Mike Harris, President & CEO of MCA, comments, "At MCA, we pride ourselves on not just signing artists but truly building long-lasting, meaningful careers. The creation of Gatsby Records is an extension of that vision. We're honored to work with an incredible talent like Jessie Jo Dillon, who is not only one of the premiere songwriters in country music but also a visionary who will push the creative talents of the artists she works with. We're equally thrilled to have Carter Faith as the first artist to join the imprint – she is truly an immensely talented artist who has an amazing future." **MR**

MTSU Renames Media College In Honor Of Scott Borchetta



Scott Borchetta. Photo: John Shearer

Middle Tennessee State University has renamed its world-renowned College of Media and Entertainment in honor of Founder, Chairman & CEO of Big Machine Label Group, **Scott Borchetta**. Effective Aug. 26, the college is now called the Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment.

"I am humbled and profoundly grateful to have MTSU's College of Media and Entertainment bear my name," Borchetta shared with [Billboard](#). "The opportunity that this school affords to its students didn't exist for me through college education in the 1980s, so it is an honor to now be part of building those bridges for young minds. My goal is to inspire others and give back, betting on the creativity of students who dedicate themselves to the entertainment

field. The Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment represents the next generation of innovators and creators, whose bold ideas will transform the media landscape."

"I can't overestimate how important this is to the life and history of the college," said Media and Entertainment Dean **Beverly Keel**, a former record label executive herself. "This propels us to international acclaim because Scott's name is recognized and respected around the world. By partnering with Scott, we are exposing our students to cutting-edge ideas and perspectives. **MR**

Taylor Wolf Promoted To Executive Director Of ACM Lifting Lives

The Academy of Country Music has promoted **Taylor Wolf** to Executive Director of ACM Lifting Lives, the Academy's philanthropic arm. In her new role, Wolf will continue to expand ACM Lifting Lives' fundraising initiatives, deepen partnerships across the country music industry and beyond, and oversee a diverse portfolio of programs that provide support for music therapy, disaster relief and community outreach.

"ACM Lifting Lives is built on the belief that music has the power to heal, unite, and transform lives, and it has been the honor of my career to help advance that mission," says Wolf. "I am humbled by this opportunity and deeply grateful for the trust of the Board, the Academy, and our partners. Together, we will continue to grow our impact and ensure that Country Music's spirit of generosity touches as many lives as possible."



Taylor Wolf. Photo: Steve Mekler

Wolf has risen through the ranks of ACM Lifting Lives since joining as Coordinator in 2019 in her six years at the organization. The Brentwood, Tennessee native and Pepperdine University grad played a critical role in producing high-profile benefit events, stewarding multi-million-dollar fundraising efforts, and overseeing the ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund, which provided vital relief to members of the country music community during the pandemic. She has also been a driving force behind the beloved ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp, as well as the organization's charitable giving and grant-making. **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Miss You More/Hunter Clark/Frontier Events - 77

Sippin On Summertime/Chris Darlington - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

I Got Better/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 207

Back In The Saddle/Luke Combs/Sony Music Nashville - 198

House Again/Hudson Westbrook/River House Artists - 187

6 Months Later/Megan Moroney/Columbia Nashville - 162

Darlin'/Chase Matthew/Warner Music Nashville - 151

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Wish You Wouldn't Go/Ken Domash/Thunder Mountain Records - 11

All My Exes/Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew/Big Loud Records - 6

Fireworks/Kelsey Hart/Curb Records - 6

6 Months Later/Megan Moroney/Columbia Nashville - 6

Don't Mind If I Do/Riley Green feat. Ella Langley/Nashville Harbor Records - 5

Three Sheets to the Wind/Kelly & Sarah/Kelly Sarah Music - 5

Wrong Hearts/LOCASH/Galaxy Label Groups - 5

The Fall/Cody Johnson/CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Wish You Wouldn't Go/Ken Domash/Thunder Mountain Records - 146

Summer Love/Andrew Salgado/Synapse Publishing & Entertainment, LLC - 146

You Were There/Thompson Square/T2 Records - 133

True Colors/Dugger Band/Dugger Band Music - 128

Drink With You/Brett Young/Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment - 119

NO. 1 SONG



Scotty McCreery keeps the No. 1 position on the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart this week alongside Hootie & The Blowfish with their song, "Bottle Rockets."

The track was released as the lead single from McCreery's recent EP *Scooter & Friends*, and was written by McCreery, Brent Anderson, Bobby Hamrick, Darius Rucker, Dean Felber, Derek George, Frank Rogers, Jeremy Bussey, Jim Sonefeld, Mark Bryan and Monty Criswell.

"Bottle Rockets" currently sits at No. 7 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 3 on the Mediabase chart.



Each songwriter and artist earning No. 1 credit on the *MusicRow* Chart receives a *MusicRow* Challenge Coin. Click [here](#) to view a full list of recipients.

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

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

WFMB Springfield, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN
WYGB Franklin, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
WKDZ Cadiz, KY
WULF Elizabethtown, KY
WSIP Paintsville, KY
KRRV Alexandria, LA
KQKI Morgan City, LA
KJLO Monroe, LA
WKPE Hyannis, MA
WTCM Traverse City, MI
KZPK St. Cloud, MN
KFAV Warrenton, MO
WBBN Laurel, MS

WFAY Fayetteville, NC
WKVS Lenoir, NC
KZZY Devils Lake, ND
KYCK Thompson, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
KFGE Lincoln, NE
WMLL Manchester, NH
KQBA Santa Fe, NM
WDNB Monticello, NY
WPIG Olean, NY
WCJW Warsaw, NY
KITX Hugo, OK
KPNC Ponca City, OK
KWEY Weatherford, OK
KWOX Woodward, OK

KRKT Albany, OR
KRWQ Medford, OR
WNWN Battle Creek, MI
WVNW Lewistown, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
WVPO Stroudsburg, PA
KZZI Spearfish, SD
WUCZ Carthage, TN
WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN
KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
KYKX Longview, TX
KLLL Lubbock, TX
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI

WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
WJMQ Shawano, WI
WCOW Sparta, WI
WDGG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
15	1	1	Bottle Rockets / Scotty McCreery feat. Hootie & the Blowfish / Triple Tigers Records	2200/57	5	96
10	3	2	I Got Better / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	2183/67	10	207
22	5	3	Heart of Stone / Jelly Roll / BBR Music Group	2024/59	4	73
17	2	4	Backup Plan / Bailey Zimmerman feat. Luke Combs / Warner Music Nashville/Atlantic	2016/53	-1	-12
24	4	5	Happen To Me / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers	1942/52	-1	-26
14	6	6	Somewhere Over Laredo / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	1907/63	4	76
12	7	7	Good Times & Tan Lines / Zach Top / Leo33	1767/68	4	73
23	9	8	Hands Of Time / Eric Church / EMI Music Nashville	1690/58	3	46
50	8	9	Heavens To Betsy / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	1633/57	-1	-24
31	10	10	Good News / Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	1631/45	3	40
5	14	11	Back in the Saddle / Luke Combs / Sony Music Nashville	1561/59	15	198
20	11	12	Favorite Country Song / HARDY / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1523/63	2	27
24	12	13	3,2,1 / Tucker Wetmore / UMG Nashville/Back Blocks Music	1492/60	3	37
22	15	14	House Again / Hudson Westbrook / River House Artists	1440/55	15	187
47	13	15	Friday Night Heartbreaker / Jon Pardi / Capitol Nashville	1427/46	0	2
46	16	16	What Kinda Man / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	1311/50	6	71
16	17	17	Stay Country or Die Tryin' / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	1252/60	7	79
21	18	18	What He'll Never Have / Dylan Scott / Curb	1231/61	7	84
7	19	19	A Song To Sing / Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1201/62	9	99
31	20	20	Darlin' / Chase Matthew / Warner Music Nashville	1170/47	15	151
40	21	21	Time's Ticking / Justin Moore / Valory	1052/54	4	42
29	22	22	It Won't Be Long / George Birge / RECORDS Nashville	1020/50	8	77
7	26	23	Don't Mind If I Do / Riley Green feat. Ella Langley / Nashville Harbor Records	986/52	18	148
21	23	24	This Side Of The Dirt / Boomtown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment	972/45	4	36
18	24	25	It Ain't The Whiskey / Jake Worthington / Big Loud Texas/Big Loud	968/51	4	33
30	25	26	I Dare You / Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers / Big Machine Records	942/42	5	44
32	29	27	Cowgirl / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	830/37	9	66
21	27	28	Til The Last One Dies / Chris Young / Black River Entertainment	829/45	2	13
27	28	29	Wildflowers In Whiskey Bottles / Tyson Leamon / Marshals of The Revolution	822/36	4	28
16	30	30	You Had To Be There / Megan Moroney feat. Kenny Chesney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records	728/41	3	24
6	37	31	6 Months Later / Megan Moroney / Columbia Nashville/Columbia Records	724/41	29	162
22	32	32	Paper Umbrellas / Tim McGraw feat. Parker McCollum / Big Machine Records	708/41	6	40
17	35	33	Baggage / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	703/43	10	63
24	34	34	Boys Growing Up / Ned LeDoux / Powder River Records/30 Tigers	690/34	7	46
19	33	35	My Crazy / Ashley Ryan / Spinville Entertainment	676/39	5	30
18	36	36	The Fall / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	675/43	12	71
21	38	37	I Wish You Would / Mackenzie Carpenter feat. Midland / The Valory Music Co.	559/32	7	35
9	39	38	Weak / Preston Cooper / The Valory Music Co.	555/39	13	65

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2025

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AWARDS

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
6	41	39	Fireworks / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	520/39	15	68
16	40	40	Hide and Go Cheat / Eric Lee Beddingfield / Marshals Of The Revolution	503/29	5	24
8	44	41	Freedom / Harper Grace & Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	470/34	17	69
3	47	42	All My Exes / Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew / Big Loud Records	454/34	28	98
20	43	43	Lie A Little / Ashland Craft / Leo33	448/31	6	25
15	42	44	The Dirt / Jenna Paulette / Leo33	448/32	4	18
8	45	45	Turn the Night On / Chris Kizzia / CAL Records	432/30	8	31
7	48	46	The Others / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	398/34	16	55
21	31	47	Gathering Memories / Donice Morace / CDX Records/Bad Jeu Jeu Records	373/24	-44	-298
9	52	48	Wrong Hearts / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group	370/24	16	51
17	54	49	Me & A Beer / Chris Janson / Harpeth 60 Records	369/25	17	54
13	46	50	Easy To Love / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	365/25	-2	-9
18	49	51	Underneath That Old Cowboy Hat / Herrick / CDX Records	356/19	6	19
13	51	52	I Got Mexico / Soul Circus Cowboys feat. Eddy Raven / Kismet Nashville	354/23	6	21
26	55	53	Better Me For You (Brown Eyes) / Max McNown / Fugitive Recordings	341/22	9	27
13	53	54	Kiss An Angel Good Mornin' / Danielia Cotton / CDX Records	341/18	7	23
8	56	55	Red / Jet Jurgensmeyer / Simba Entertainment	334/24	14	40
13	50	56	The Byrd / Alex Miller feat. Tracy Byrd / Billy Jam Records	321/22	-5	-16
6	57	57	When She Kissed Me / Casey Donahew / Almost Country Records	305/23	4	12
9	62	58	Ends of the Earth / Ty Myers / RECORDS Nashville	295/20	14	36
24	60	59	Golden Child / Meghan Patrick / Riser House	285/19	8	22
8	58	60	Baptized In It / The Haygoods / Legend and Legacy Records	283/18	2	5
6	66	61	Country See Country Do / Paige King Johnson / Tanglewood Records	282/15	26	59
11	59	62	Country Boy / Randy Cobb / South Sixty Five Entertainment Group	278/21	4	11
9	61	63	Slow Go The Days / Tim & The Glory Boys / Sony Music Canada	265/20	2	4
4	63	64	Making Good Time / Old Dominion / Three Up Three Down, LLC/Columbia Nashville	262/17	4	10
10	64	65	2 Pair / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	251/19	8	19
18	65	66	I Ain't Coming Back / Morgan Wallen feat. Post Malone / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	243/10	5	11
5	70	67	You've Seen Heaven / Karly C / Quirky Cowgirl Records	210/17	9	17
3	72	68	Hard Fought Hallelujah / Brandon Lake feat. Jelly Roll / Lyric Ridge Records/Essential Records	207/12	8	16
3	68	69	Don't Let The Gray Hair Fool Ya / Due West / Unwound Records	207/16	5	9
3	74	70	Single Of The Year / Maddye Trew / Trew Blue Music	200/18	12	22
5	71	71	Tow Truck Driver / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music/CDX Records	196/16	3	5
2	76	72	Said No Redneck Ever / Aaron Goodvin / New Motor Records/Warner Music Canada	193/15	12	21
2	73	73	Long Live Country / Shane Profitt / Triple Tigers	187/15	5	9
3	75	74	I Don't Know How To Say Goodbye / Dwight Yoakam feat. Post Malone / Via Records	181/12	2	4
2	79	75	Trouble I Chase / Kaitlyn Croker / Independent	179/13	12	19
2	80	76	She Gone / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	176/11	11	18
1	82	77	Miss You More / Hunter Clark / Frontier Events	173/13	13	20
6	69	78	She Loves My Country / Lewis Brice / Pump House Records	172/13	-12	-23
19	84	79	Not At This Party / Dasha / Warner Records	158/12	6	9
1	83	80	Sippin on Summertime / Chris Darlington /	153/13	3	4

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut

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Owen Riegling Signs U.S. Deal With Big Loud Records



Pictured (L-R): Liam O'Brien (Marketing Manager, Big Loud Records), Seth England (Partner / CEO, Big Loud), JP Boucher (SVP of Marketing, Universal Music Canada), Julie Adam (President & CEO, Universal Music Canada), Royce Risser (Head of Country Music, The Familie), Lucy Bartozzi (VP of Marketing, Big Loud Records), Steve Astephen (Founder / CEO, The Familie), Owen Riegling, Brianne Deslippe (SVP of Marketing, Big Loud Records), Cody (Kode) Roberts (Manager, The Familie), Sara Knabe (SVP of A&R, Big Loud Records), Amanda Kingsland (VP of A&R, Universal Music Canada)

Owen Riegling has signed with Big Loud Records as his U.S. label partner, alongside Universal Music Canada.

"I couldn't be more excited to have Big Loud Records join my label team alongside Universal Music Canada," says Riegling. "On my very first trip to Nashville, I stood outside the Big Loud building and dreamed about one day getting the chance to work with them. To see that dream come full circle and become a reality is truly surreal. Big Loud has a proven track record of building artists that I've looked up to for years, and I'm honoured to now have their support as I continue to grow my career."

Since 2022, the Mildmay, Ontario native has earned two Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) Awards, released his expanded EP *Bruce County (From The Beginning)*, achieved a Platinum-certified hit with "Old Dirt Roads," and recently earned five 2025 CCMA nominations. He has toured alongside Brett Young, Jake Owen, Tyler Hubbard, Chase Rice and more. He will release his next single, "Taillight This Town," on Oct. 3. The song was written with **Jimi Bell** and **Kyle Sturrock** and produced in Nashville by **Oscar Charles**.
MR

Emily Ann Roberts Signs With RECORDS/Sony Music Nashville



Pictured (L-R): Sony Music Nashville's Ken Robold; RECORDS' Joe Fisher; SMN's Lexi Stringer; RECORDS' Andrew Saltman and Barry Weiss; Emily Ann Roberts; Starstruck Entertainment's Narvel Blackstock and Berkley Kriz; SMN's Jason McColl; Starstruck's Jamie Wendt and SMN's Taylor Lindsey. Photo: Courtesy of Sony Music Nashville

Emily Ann Roberts has signed a record deal with RECORDS/Sony Music Nashville. The first release at her new label home, "Jack & Jill Daniel's," will be released Sept. 5.

"They say Nashville is a 10-year town, and that would add up since I got into the music business back in 2015. While this is a massive accomplishment, I know this is just the beginning," says Roberts. "I'm excited to get to partner with RECORDS/Sony Music Nashville and I can't wait to see all we accomplish together."

Hailing from Knoxville, Roberts journey began as a standout on Blake Shelton's team on *The Voice*, with her becoming a runner-up before graduating high school. Since then, she has amassed a wealth of experience in performing, songwriting and recording, garnering nearly 75 million global streams thus far. Her debut album *Can't Hide Country*, released in 2023, earned critical acclaim for its showcase of her unique blend of traditional country and bluegrass roots.

Roberts is represented by Starstruck Entertainment and **UTA** with **publishing** by Jody Williams Songs. **MR**

Sony Music Publishing Nashville Signs Aniston Pate

Sony Music Publishing Nashville has signed rising singer-songwriter **Aniston Pate** to a global publishing agreement.

Hailing from Texas, Pate is a recent Belmont University grad, where she ended her college experience with a win at the university's iconic Country Showcase. She has recently earned success with releases including "Honky Tonk Without a Woman," and is working on a new project alongside acclaimed producers Rob Williford and Aaron Raitiere.

Pate shares, "I want to say thank you to everyone in the Sony team for believing in my songs. Thank you to **Emily Carignan** for sticking by my side. Thank you to my friends that make even the hardest of times fun. Thank you to Mom and Ian for helping me believe I could do this. And thank you to the Lord for every time He heard me pray."

Sony Music Publishing Nashville Vice President, Creative A&R **Tom Luteran** adds, "Aniston is a true unicorn as an artist. When Emily Carignan first played me her music I was intrigued, and when I met her, I was hooked – we both can't wait for the rest of the world to hear this budding superstar." **MR**



Pictured (L-R): Rusty Gaston, Emily Carignan, Aniston Pate and Tom Luteran. Photo: Savannah Spencer

Julia Cole Inks With Broke Records & Neon Coast



Pictured (L-R, top row): Martha Earls (Owner, Neon Coast), Bryan Bernstein (A&R, broke), Nathaniel Kosko (Marketing Director, broke), Armin Sadeghzadeh (Operations Director, broke), Tiger Greene (Tour Manager) and Jess Tomlins (Management, Neon Coast). (L-R, bottom row): Brandon De Oliveira (Founder, COO, broke), Julia Cole and Andre Benz (Founder, CEO, broke).

Julia Cole has signed a global recording deal with broke Records, the independent label founded by **Andre Benz** and **Brandon DeOliveira** under Create Music Group. With over 600 million global streams and 2.5 million followers across platforms, the Texas-born singer-songwriter becomes the label's first country signing.

Cole has also signed with Nashville-based music management and entertainment company Neon Coast under the leadership of **Martha Earls** and **Jess Tomlins**, joining a roster that includes Kane Brown, Restless Road, Dylan Schneider, Kat Luna and Nightly.

Cole has built her career entirely independently thus far. Her latest single, "Day Late & A Buck Short," has amassed 200 Million views on social media, 52 Million on demand streams and is in rotation on SiriusXM The Highway. It has been featured on flagship playlists including Spotify's Hot Country, Apple Music's Today's Country and Amazon Music's Breakthrough Country. Cole has toured globally in over 10 countries, and is gearing up for Australia dates. **MR**

Levi Hummon Inks With Withrow Street Music & CTM Publishing



Pictured (L-R): Bob Squance (Founder & CEO, Withrow Street Music), Michael Thomas (Co-founder, Withrow Street Music), Levi Hummon, Kevin Jonas Sr. (Founder & Chairman, Jonas Group Entertainment), George Kreis (President, Jonas Group Entertainment)

Levi Hummon has signed an exclusive publishing deal with Withrow Street Music and CTM Publishing. Hummon has amassed over 215 million streams over his career, collaborating with Walker Hayes and touring with Hardy and Jordan Davis. In March of 2023, Hummon [signed](#) a management deal with Jonas Group Entertainment, followed by a [label deal](#) with Red Van Records.

"I'm thrilled to be joining the team at Withrow Street Music and CTM," says Hummon. "From my first conversation with Bob, it was clear we share a passion for music and a vision for innovation—exploring new ways to grow both within Nashville and beyond. With Michael, Bob, and Thomas leading the way, this new company has an incredibly bright future, and I'm excited to be part of this journey together."

"We've been fans of Levi's music for years and are excited to be working together on all of the big things he has coming," says Withrow Street Music Founder & CEO **Bob Squance**.

"We're thrilled to see Levi take this exciting next step in his career," adds Jonas Group Entertainment's **Kevin Jonas Sr.** "His passion, talent, and commitment to the craft continue to inspire us, and we look forward to watching him grow in this new creative chapter." **MR**

Downtown & FUGA Amplify Nashville Footprint With New Leadership & Signings [Exclusive]



Sam Cope & Bryan Mooney

Downtown Artist & Label Services and FUGA have relocated **Bryan Mooney**, Global Vice President of A&R at DA&LS, and **Sam Cope**, Director of Digital Accounts Strategy, Americas at FUGA, to their Nashville office.

FUGA is a B2B distributor owned by Downtown. In Cope's role in Music City, she will serve as a marketing link for clients, alongside key local expertise to foster greater discovery and engagement with DSPs.

Alongside Mooney and Cope's relocations, Downtown has added new signings to its roster, led by Porcello, Director of A&R. The new talent included **Erin Kinsey** and **Jack Blocker**. Downtown is also working on developing projects with **Brye**, **Cate Canning**, **BLÜ EYES** and **The Nude Party**. These all join the company's roster of Colbie Caillat, Judah & The Lion, Drew Holcomb and Hunter Hayes, among others.

The news also includes the signing of Integrity Music, a division of David C Cook. Headquartered in Franklin, Tennessee and an additional office in Brighton, UK, Integrity Music is focused on modern worship music. FUGA has also strengthened its relationship with management and artist services company GoodCopBadCop. The new partnership included integration with Downtown-owned Curve Royalties System, as well as an enhanced catalog strategy. **MR**

DISClaimer Single Reviews: Billy Currington Wins Disc Of The Day With 'Enchanting' Tune



Billy Currington.

Music veterans keep pace with the youngsters today in DISClaimer.

Little Anthony, Michael Martin Murphey, Eddy Raven and Jackson Browne are all on tap, matching their still-vital voices with another generation of music makers. Of the solo tracks, Kashus Culpepper, Dylan Marlowe and Dasha are stand outs.

The Disc of the Day belongs to Billy Currington.

Brendan Walter takes home a DisCOVERY Award.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[AIMP Nashville To Host 'State of the Music Publishing Industry'](#)

[Apple Music Partners With TuneIn To Expand Access To Apple Music Radio](#)

[Ben Gallaher Reveals Sophomore Album Due In September](#)

[BigXthaPlug Embraced By Country Community On Bold New Project \[Interview\]](#)

[Black River Entertainment Elevates Kellie LaJack](#)

[Capitol Christian Music Group Hosts First-Ever Partner Summit](#)

[Chapel Hart Announces Split](#)

[Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood Celebrate Chart-Topper 'I'm Gonna Love You'](#)

[GMA Dove Awards Unveils Second Round Of Performers & Presenters](#)

[Lineup Unveiled For 2025 CCMA Songwriters Unplugged Series Presented By SOCAN & Apple](#)

[Luke Bryan, Lionel Richie & Carrie Underwood To Return As Judges On 'American Idol'](#)

[MaRynn Taylor Embraces Vulnerability On Debut Project \[Interview\]](#)

[Neil Vance Joins Quartz Hill Music Group](#)

[Old Dominion Balance Humor, Heart & Hard Truths With 'Barbara' \[Interview\]](#)

[Red Bull Jukebox Returns To Nashville With Pinnacle Show In November](#)

['Tip Of The Hat To Texas' Singer-Songwriter Series Set For October](#)

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

August 28

Rachel Lipsky/Welcome To The Fun House/Riot South

August 29

Braxton Keith/Wind Blows/Warner Music Nashville

Laci Kaye Booth/Luck Of The Draw/Geffen Records

Ian Martir/Blame Me/Alamo Records/Santa Anna

Noah Brigden/Hurt Like Hell/Alamo Records/Santa Anna

Christian Hayes/Good As It Gets/Capitol Records

Fabrizio/Highway Kind/Alamo Records/Santa Anna

Ben Gallaher/Rearview/QHMG/Stone Country Records

Ashley Brooks/Red Wings

Sheyna Gee/Clean

Carson Beyer/Reason To Stay

Cat Lion/Stop!

Austin Harris/Blame Me/Alamo Records/Santa Anna

Album/EP Releases

August 29

Riley Green/*Don't Mind If I Do (Deluxe)*/Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment

Colbie Caillat/*This Time Around*/Blue Jean Baby Records

Zach Top/*Ain't In It For My Health*/Leo33

Pecos & the Rooftops/*From Me: Part 1*/Warner Records

Stephen Wilson Jr./*Blankets*/Big Loud Records

Margo Price/*Hard Headed Woman*/Loma Vista Recordings

Rodney Crowell/*Airline Highway*/New West Records

Kyle Clark/*I Hope You Will Be Someday*

John Oates/*Oates*

Wynn Williams/*COUNTRY THERAPY*

Dylan Ault/*The Thicket*/Alamo Records/Santa Anna

Coyle Girelli/*Out Of This Town*/Sun Records

Levi Foster/*We Made Fire*

Chandler Dozier/*Bakersfield East*

September 5

Jonah Kagen/*Sunflowers and Leather*/Arista Records

The 502s/*Easy Street*/Big Loud Records

Graham Barham/*WHISKEY RAIN*/Sony Music Nashville

Jonas Conner/*Chattanooga Tapes*

Belles/*Belles*/East Music Row Records

Grant-Lee Phillips/*In The Hour Of Dust*/Yep Roc Records

Daniel Jeffers/*Not Yet The E.P.*

Robbie Fulks/*Now Then*/Compass Records

TracieLynn/*Doing Fine*

Mike Reid & Joe Henry/*Life & Time*/Work Song/Thirty Tigers

Hannah Delynn/*Trust Fall*

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Ryan Vojtesak	Don't We Eyes Are Closed Hell At Night Holy Water I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better I'm The Problem Just In Case Kiss Her In Front Of You Miami Superman TN What I Want	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen BigXthaPlug (feat. Ella Langley) Marshmello & Jelly Roll Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
2	3	Blake Pendergrass	20 Cigarettes Brunette Don't We Eyes Are Closed Heart Of Stone I Got Better Just In Case Miami Superman Wish You Well	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Jelly Roll Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Vincent Mason
3	2	Morgan Wallen	Don't We Eyes Are Closed I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better I'm The Problem Just In Case Miami Superman TN What I Want	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
4	4	Chase McGill	20 Cigarettes Brunette Happen To Me I Got Better It Won't Be Long Miami Straight Line TN	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Russell Dickerson Morgan Wallen George Birge Morgan Wallen Keith Urban Morgan Wallen
5	6	John Byron	After All The Bars Are Closed Don't We Eyes Are Closed Just In Case Kiss Her In Front Of You Superman TN What I Want	Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
6	7	Ernest Keith Smith	I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better I'm The Problem Just In Case Miami	Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
7	8	Neil Medley	Country Song Came On House Again	Luke Bryan Hudson Westbrook
8	9	Dan Alley	Country Song Came On House Again	Luke Bryan Hudson Westbrook
9	10	Jacob Kasher	After All The Bars Are Closed Just In Case What I Want	Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
10	12	Josh Miller	20 Cigarettes 3,2,1 Brunette Friday Night Heartbreaker	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Tucker Wetmore Jon Pardi
11	13	Ben Johnson	All The Way Bar None Not At This Party	BigXthaPlug (feat. Bailey Zimmerman) Jordan Davis Dasha
12	15	Tucker Beathard	Backup Plan Chevy Silverado Need To	Bailey Zimmerman (feat. Luke Combs) Bailey Zimmerman Gavin Adcock
13	14	Chris LaCorte	20 Cigarettes Brunette Happen To Me Wish You Well	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Russell Dickerson Vincent Mason
14	11	Michael Hardy	Favorite Country Song I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better Miami	Hardy Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
15	17	Jonathan Sherwood	Backup Plan	Bailey Zimmerman (feat. Luke Combs)
16	18	Jimi Bell	Backup Plan	Bailey Zimmerman (feat. Luke Combs)
17	23	Jason DeFord	Amen Hard Fought Hallelujah Heart Of Stone Holy Water	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll Brandon Lake & Jelly Roll Jelly Roll Marshmello & Jelly Roll
18	22	Jessie Jo Dillon	Baggage Friday Night Heartbreaker Happen To Me Wish You Well	Kelsea Ballerini Jon Pardi Russell Dickerson Vincent Mason
19	5	Ashley Gorley	Don't We Favorite Country Song Fix What You Didn't Break Kiss Her In Front Of You Me & A Beer Not At This Party Park TN	Morgan Wallen Hardy Nate Smith Morgan Wallen Chris Janson Dasha Tyler Hubbard Morgan Wallen
20	20	Scooter Carusoe	Hands Of Time	Eric Church
21	21	Eric Church	Hands Of Time	Eric Church
22	27	Riley Green	Don't Mind If I Do	Riley Green (feat. Ella Langley)
23	24	Dan Isbell	Back In The Saddle	Luke Combs
24	25	Luke Combs	Back In The Saddle	Luke Combs
25	26	Jonathan Singleton	Back In The Saddle	Luke Combs
26	30	Ryan Beaver	Country Song Came On	Luke Bryan
27	19	Hunter Phelps	Bar None	Jordan Davis
28	29	Lydia Vaughan	Bar None	Jordan Davis
29	31	Zachary Lane Bryan	Bowery Madeline	Zach Bryan (feat. Kings of Leon) Zach Bryan (feat. Gabriella Rose)
30	34	Hudson Westbrook	House Again	Hudson Westbrook
31	37	Joe Reeves	I Got Better What I Want	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
32	39	Collins Obinna Chibueze	Amen Good News	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll Shaboozey
33	40	Sean Cook	Amen Good News	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll Shaboozey
34	41	Nevin Sastry	Amen Good News	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll Shaboozey
35	38	Jaxson Free	After All The Bars Are Closed Kiss Her In Front Of You	Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen
36	61	Tyler Childers	Bitin' List	Tyler Childers
37	49	Megan Moroney	6 Months Later You Had To Be There	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney (feat. Kenny Chesney)

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
38	50	Ben Williams	6 Months Later You Had To Be There	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney (feat. Kenny Chesney)
39	42	Julian Bunetta	After All The Bars Are Closed	Thomas Rhett
40	43	Thomas Rhett	After All The Bars Are Closed	Thomas Rhett
41	35	Carson Chamberlain	Good Times & Tan Lines South Of Sanity	Zach Top Zach Top
42	36	Zach Top	Good Times & Tan Lines South Of Sanity	Zach Top Zach Top
43	46	Jeremy Spillman	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
44	47	Parker McCollum	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
45	48	Natalie Hemby	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
46	51	Russell Dickerson	Happen To Me	Russell Dickerson
47	52	Robert Hazard	Happen To Me	Russell Dickerson
48	16	Taylor Phillips	Fix What You Didn't Break Kiss Her In Front Of You Me & A Beer TN	Nate Smith Morgan Wallen Chris Janson Morgan Wallen
49	55	Trannie Anderson	It Won't Be Long Somewhere Over Laredo	George Birge Lainey Wilson
50	53	Zach Crowell	Heart Of Stone	Jelly Roll
51	54	Shy Carter	Heart Of Stone	Jelly Roll
52	57	Michael Pollack	Good News	Shaboozey
53	58	Jake Torrey	Good News	Shaboozey
54	59	Sam Romans	Good News	Shaboozey
55	56	Chris Tompkins	Dark Til Daylight Friday Night Heartbreaker	Morgan Wallen Jon Pardi
56	60	Wyatt McCubbin	Good Times & Tan Lines	Zach Top
57	79	Jeremy Stover	The Fall Time's Ticking	Cody Johnson Justin Moore & Dierks Bentley
58	88	Ryan Hurd	Friday Night Heartbreaker Lost	Jon Pardi Bailey Zimmerman (feat. The Kid LAROI)
59	67	David Mescon	6 Months Later	Megan Moroney
60	68	Rob Hatch	6 Months Later	Megan Moroney

CALENDAR

Industry Events

September 8

Nominees Announced for the 59th Annual CMA Awards

September 9-13

Americanafest

September 10

Americana Honors & Awards

September 13

2025 Canadian Country Music Awards

September 23

Eighth Annual NSAI Nashville Songwriter Awards

Upcoming Nashville Concerts

August 29

Anderson East/Ryman Auditorium

Oaul Wall/Skydeck

Elvie Shane/EXIT/IN

Collin Raye/City Winery

August 30

Men I Trust/Equus Tour/The Pinnacle

The Starting Line/The Eternal Youth Tour/Brooklyn Bowl

VeryGentley & Brother Elsey/EXIT/IN

Riot/The Machine Tour/Cannery Hall

August 31

The Darkness/Dreams On Toast/Brooklyn Bowl

Jae Street/EXIT/IN

Jagged Little Pill/City Winery

September 2

Howard Jones/Ryman Auditorium

September 3

Coheed and Cambria & Taking Back Sunday/Ascend Amphitheater

Cherub/Everything Changes and That's Ok/The Basement East

Vola/EXIT/IN

Karyn White/City Winery