WEEKLY

Nashville Songwriter Hall Of Famer Brett James Passes



Brett James

Nashville Songwriter Hall of Fame member **Brett James** tragically died in a private plane crash in North Carolina on Thursday (Sept. 18). He was 57.

With more than 500 songs recorded throughout his career, Brett celebrated 27 No. 1s, a Grammy win for his mega Carrie Underwood hit "Jesus, Take the Wheel," and was named ASCAP's Country Songwriter of the Year in 2006 and 2010. His songs have been cut by country artists like Kenny Chesney, Tim McGraw and Rascal Flatts, to pop stars Bon Jovi, Backstreet Boys, Kelly Clarkson and Leona Lewis.

He was born Brett James Cornelius in Columbia, Missouri, but grew up in Oklahoma. His parents were musical—his father was a physician and a singer and his mother was a classically-trained pianist. Brett played guitar, piano, saxophone and drums, and sang in church and with a touring youth group

He was also a good student. After graduating from Baylor University, he started medical school at the University of Oklahoma but eventually left to pursue his musical passion in Nashville in 1992.

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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Steve Earle Welcomed Into Grand Ole Opry Family

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Cameron Whitcomb Signs To The Core Entertainment

Clay Street Unit Inks With Leo33

DISClaimer Single Reviews

And much more...



New Song "Brake Lights"

LISTEN HERE

From the upcoming album *I Didn't Come Here To Leave* Available 10/17

He first began his journey in music as a recording artist, spending several years signed to Arista/Career and releasing his self-titled debut album in 1995. After three singles and two music videos failed to gain traction on the charts, the label let him go—a setback that left him ready to give up music altogether and return to medical school in 1999. He reenrolled in Oklahoma, but just two days into classes, he got word that Faith Hill had recorded his song "Love Is a Sweet Thing." Within the next seven months, 28 more of his songs were recorded by country artists, pulling him firmly back into Nashville's music scene.

Reinvigorated, Brett signed with Arista again and notched top 40 hits with 2002's "Chasin' Amy" and 2003's "After All."

Brett's legacy as a professional songwriter kicked off with his co-written Jessica Andrews' hit "Who I Am," which became his first No. 1 in 2001. "Blessed" by Martina McBride quickly followed. Then came Rascal Flatts' "Love You Out Loud," Josh Gracin's "I Want to Live" and Kenny Chesney and Uncle Kracker's "When the Sun Goes Down." The chart-topping "Jesus Take The Wheel," sung by a new *American Idol* star Carrie Underwood, earned Brett the 2006 Grammy for Best Country Song, as well as the 2005 ACM Single of the Year, the 2006 ASCAP Country Song of the Year and the 2006 NSAI Song of the Year.

Brett served as Owner/CEO of Cornman Music, a successful music publishing company in Nashville. He was selected for induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2020, and released his self-written album titled *I Am Now* the same year.

Click here to read his full obit. MR

Capitol Christian Music Group Unveils Executive Promotions & Leadership Roles

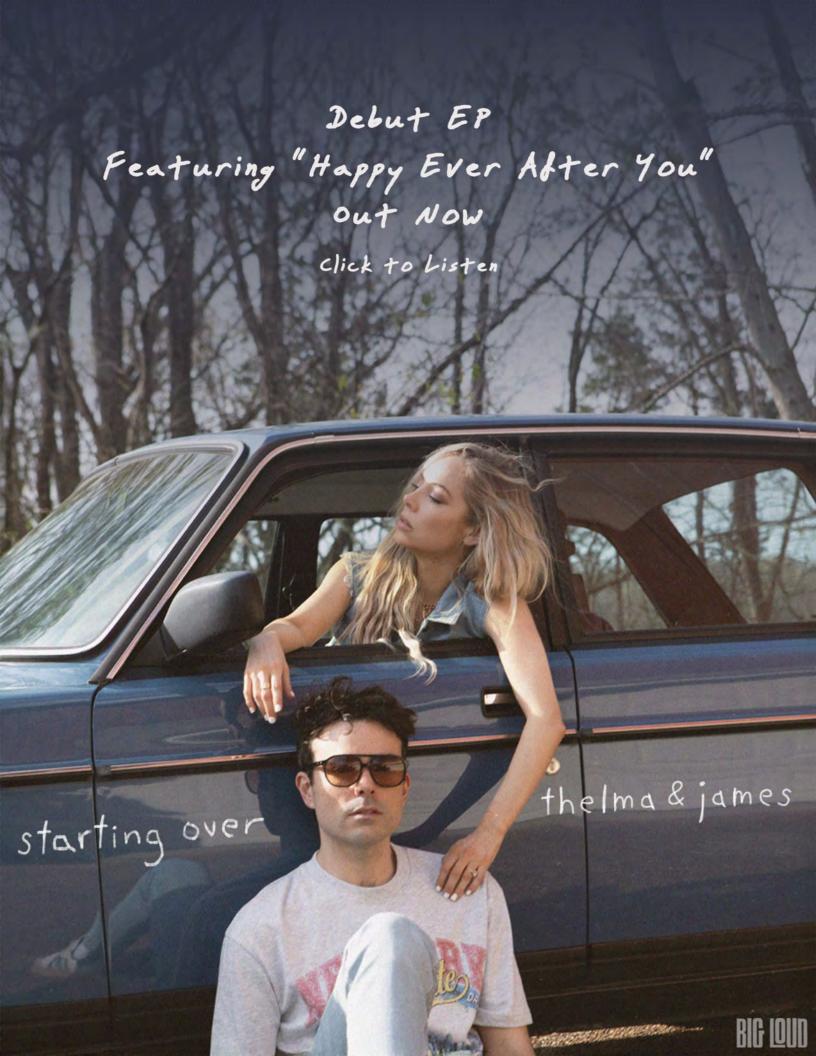
Capitol Christian Music Group has elevated **David Sylvester** to General Manager, CCMG Label Group, and **Kenny Rodgers** to Senior Vice President, CCMG Label Group. Both Sylvester and Rodgers will take on more leadership and responsibilities across the label, with Rodgers leading the organizations radio teams in addition to spearheading audience development and digital. Additionally, **Garrett Davis** has been upped to Vice President, A&R.

The label has also named **Cole Linebarger** and **Becca RedI** both as Vice President, Marketing, with **Patrick Ogilvy** appointed as Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs.

"I'm incredibly proud of these individuals and excited to announce their promotions," says CCMG Co-President **Brad O'Donnell**. "I'm lucky to work alongside each of them. They bring an expertise, passion and a shared sense of mission to everything they do and I know will continue to serve our artists and songwriters at the highest level. These moves set CCMG up for its next season of even greater innovation and growth." **MR**



Pictured: (clockwise, from top left): David Sylvester, Kenny Rodgers, Garrett Davis, Patrick Ogilvy, Becca Redl and Cole Linebarger



September 19, 2025 The MusicRow Weekly

BMG Acquires Jason Aldean's Recorded Music Catalog



Jason Aldean. Photo: Matt Paskert

BMG has acquired **Jason Aldean**'s recorded music catalog. Additionally, the company has also acquired interests in the recorded catalogs and publishing rights of a music collection from 23 artists and songwriters, with the entire deal encompassing over 1,000 songs across multiple genres. The deal marks BMG's single largest catalog acquisition investment in company history.

"This landmark deal sets a new level of catalog acquisitions at BMG, while underscoring our commitment to the music and the discipline of our approach," says **Thomas Coesfeld**, BMG CEO. "By bringing together the iconic catalog of Jason Aldean, we are strengthening our footprint in country music while expanding across genres and deepening our investment in the U.S. – the world's largest music market. This move highlights our ability to maximize the value of music rights and represents a powerful step in BMG's strategy to be the most effective, artist-first music company in the world."

The deal brings Aldean's whole music catalog under BMG, the first time since it was acquired by BBR Music Group in 2017. Included in the acquisition is nine studio albums, including his Platinum self-titled debut project, the hit making 9 record, his most recent *Highway Desperado* and more.

"BBR Music Group and BMG have always shown a real commitment to my music and a belief in me as an artist," adds Aldean. "Knowing all of my music is in the hands of my long-time label team makes this a full-circle moment, and I'm proud to have my songs continue their journey with them through this next chapter." **MR**

MCA Taps Ailie Birchfield As VP Media Strategy & Communications





Ailie Birchfield & Connor Hunt

MCA has tapped **Ailie Birchfield** as Vice President, Media Strategy and Communications. In this newly developed role, Birchfield will lead media strategy and communications for MCA and the label's artists by driving awareness through creative storytelling, press campaigns, and strategic partnerships across traditional and digital platforms.

Birchfield comes to MCA from leading her own consulting firm, The Birchfield Group, providing strategic counsel to clients including Tribeca Festival, Sony Music, Outback Presents, One Country, Leo33 and RJ Young. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California and completed her MBA at Cornell University. She began her career in Los Angeles working at film and television studios, such as Paramount Pictures, before transitioning to personal publicity at Viewpoint and Slate PR. She later joined UMG Nashville, working with Kacey Musgraves, Reba McEntire. Brothers Osborne and more.

"I'm so excited to join MCA and work alongside such a talented team," shares Birchfield. "This is an amazing opportunity to help our artists share their stories in creative, authentic ways and to develop media campaigns that connect with fans while supporting MCA's legacy of shaping the future of country music."

Additionally, **Connor Hunt** has also joined MCA as Senior Director, Media. Hunt previously served as Director of Media & Strategic Development at Warner Records, where he led media campaigns for artists across country, pop, rock, and K-pop. He also brings experience from Anheuser-Busch, managing communications and marketing in the Beyond Beer portfolio, and represented various clients at DC-based strategic advisory firm Smith & Company. **MR**

DRAKE MILLIGAN TUMBLEWEED

OUT NOW

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Spirit Music Acquires Selection Of HARDY's Song Catalog, Signs Go-Forward Deal



Hardy with the Spirit Music team and executives from Milom/Crow/ Kelley/Beckett/Shehan PLC, Lyric Capital Group, Relative Music Group, TRACK mgmt and Safford Motley PLC. Photo: Courtesy of Spirit Music Nashville

Spirit Music has acquired select compositions from the music publishing catalog of country rock superstar **HARDY**. He has also signed a go-forward exclusive songwriting agreement with Spirit Music Nashville.

HARDY is a five-time ACM award winner and two-time CMA Award winner. He has won three CMA Triple Play awards, was named the 2022 BMI Country Songwriter of the Year and is a three-time AIMP Songwriter of the Year with 16 No. 1 singles under his belt. Some of his chart-topping hits include his own triple-Platinum "One Beer" featuring Lauren Alaina and Devin Dawson; the Platinum Dierks Bentley and BRELAND collaboration "Beers On Me," the triple-Platinum duet "Wait In The Truck" feat. Lainey Wilson and his first-ever rock radio No. 1 "JACK."

HARDY has also collaborated with Morgan Wallen ("Born With A Beer In My Hand" and "Tennessee Fan"); Jelly Roll ("Church"); Carrie Underwood ("Hate My

Heart"); with other songs recorded by Kenny Chesney, Blake Shelton, Jason Aldean, Toby Keith, Dierks Bentley, Thomas Rhett, Dylan Scott, Nate Smith, Florida Georgia Line, Cole Swindell, Mitchell Tenpenny and many more. *MR*

Steve Earle Officially Welcomed Into Grand Ole Opry Family

Steve Earle was formally inducted as a member of the Grand Ole Opry Wednesday night (Sept. 17) by friend and fellow Opry member **Emmylou Harris**.

"Steve is my captain. We have done so many shows together," said Harris during the induction. "He has been my friend. He has been an inspiration. He is such a fantastic songwriter. I've known Steve for so long, and I know that he went through the fire, but he came out with his sense of humor, his intellect and his humanity, not just intact but even stronger. Steve, I am so proud to know you. I can't think of a better way to begin the next 100 years than with these words, 'Steve Earle, congratulations on becoming the next member of the Grand Ole Oprv."

During the special evening Earle performed his hits "Guitar Town," "Hillbilly Highway" and his signature hit "Courtesy of Grand Ole On "Copperhead Road," and said, "There has never been any time since I had a guitar that I didn't want to be on the Grand Ole Opry. Being a member is about as good as it's ever going to get for me."



Steve Earle inducted in the Grand Ole Opry family. Photo: Chris Hollo, Courtesy of Grand Ole Opry

Earle's friends and fellow Opry members who performed on the show in his celebration included Harris, **Vince Gill, Connie Smith, Marty Stuart, Don Schlitz** and **Deana Carter.** *MR*



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

How Far Does Goodbye Go/Jason Aldean/BBR Music Group - 51 Want You Back/Brantley Gilbert/The Valory Music Co. - 63 Hell That I Came Home/Porter Martin/Loveable Music - 76 Leaving Louisiana in the Broad Daylight/Flat River Band feat. The Oak Ridge Boys/Flat River Band/Early Bird Records - 79

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

How Far Does Goodbye Go/Jason Aldean/BBR Music Group - 351 Ain't A Bad Life/Thomas Rhett feat. Jordan Davis/The Valory Music Co. - 256

Pretty Much/MaRynn Taylor/Black River Entertainment - 122 Cowgirl/Parmalee/Stoney Creek Records - 110 Want You Back/Brantley Gilbert/The Valory Music Co. - 107

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

How Far Does Goodbye Go/Jason Aldean/BBR Music Group - 25 Ain't A Bad Life/Thomas Rhett feat. Jordan Davis/The Valory Music Co. - 17

Pretty Much/MaRynn Taylor/Black River Entertainment - 11 Want You Back/Brantley Gilbert/The Valory Music Co. - 9 Wildfire featuring Cody Johnson/Michael Martin Murphey/ Wildfire Productions - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Coulda Been Love/Braden Hull/Melody Place - 152

Three Sheets to the Wind/Kelly & Sarah/Kelly Sarah Music - 135 Sounds Like A Memory/Rob Fitzgerald/Riverbend Recordings/ For The Record - 127

Pretty Much/MaRynn Taylor/Black River Entertainment - 125 Never Call Again/Gavin Adcock/Thrivin Here Records LLC/ Warner Music Nashville - 125

NO. 1 SONG



Morgan Wallen remains atop the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart for the third week with his track, "I Got Better."

The song comes off of Wallen's recent, fourth studio album *I'm The Problem*, and was written by Wallen, **Michael Hardy, Chase McGill, Blake Pendergrass, Ernest Smith, Charlie Handsome** and **Joe Reeves**.

"I Got Better" currently sits at No. 6 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 5 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 +/-
13	1	1	I Got Better / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	2294/62	-1	-19
18	2	2	Bottle Rockets / Scotty McCreery feat. Hootie & the Blowfish / Triple Tigers Records	2167/55	-2	-35
8	4	3	Back in the Saddle / Luke Combs / Sony Music Nashville	2091/62	4	75
25	3	4	Heart of Stone / Jelly Roll / BBR Music Group	2082/57	-1	-19
15	6	5	Good Times & Tan Lines / Zach Top / Leo33	1964/68	3	66
17	5	6	Somewhere Over Laredo / Lainey Wilson / Broken Bow Records	1839/61	-6	-127
53	8	7	Heavens To Betsy / Jackson Dean / Big Machine	1764/58	5	85
23	10	8	Favorite Country Song / HARDY / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1628/64	3	47
25	11	9	House Again / Hudson Westbrook / River House Artists	1586/56	2	35
27	12	10	3,2,1 / Tucker Wetmore / UMG Nashville/Back Blocks Music	1522/59	0	0
50	13	11	Friday Night Heartbreaker / Jon Pardi / Capitol Nashville	1504/44	2	27
19	14	12	Stay Country or Die Tryin' / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	1441/61	4	57
10	15	13	Don't Mind If I Do / Riley Green feat. Ella Langley / Nashville Harbor Records	1438/59	7	89
34	17	14	Darlin' / Chase Matthew / Warner Music Nashville	1434/46	7	91
49	16	15	What Kinda Man / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	1374/48	2	26
10	19	16	A Song To Sing / Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1305/64	2	23
24	18	17	What He'll Never Have / Dylan Scott / Curb	1302/63	1	18
43	20	18	Time's Ticking / Justin Moore / Valory	1225/57	8	87
32	21	19	It Won't Be Long / George Birge / RECORDS Nashville	1118/50	1	11
24	22	20	This Side Of The Dirt / Boomtown Saints / 8 Track Entertainment	1099/47	1	13
21	23	21	It Ain't The Whiskey / Jake Worthington / Big Loud Texas/Big Loud	1060/52	4	44
35	26	22	Cowgirl / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	1035/42	12	110
9	24	23	6 Months Later / Megan Moroney / Columbia Nashville/Columbia Records	1034/51	5	48
24	27	24	Til The Last One Dies / Chris Young / Black River Entertainment	932/48	6	54
30	28	25	Wildflowers In Whiskey Bottles / Tyson Leamon / Marshals of The Revolution	900/37	4	35
33	25	26	I Dare You / Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers / Big Machine Records	890/37	-4	-40
19	29	27	You Had To Be There / Megan Moroney feat. Kenny Chesney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records	879/43	5	44
21	30	28	The Fall / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	832/47	5	42
20	31	29	Baggage / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	772/44	1	7
12	34	30	Weak / Preston Cooper / The Valory Music Co.	739/46	12	78
22	33	31	My Crazy / Ashley Ryan / Spinville Entertainment	737/38	4	26
25	32	32	Paper Umbrellas / Tim McGraw feat. Parker McCollum / Big Machine Records	727/43	0	-1
9	36	33	Fireworks / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	643/42	6	37
11	37	34	Freedom / Harper Grace & Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	639/41	12	70
6	35	35	All My Exes / Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew / Big Loud Records	621/41	1	9
18	39	36	The Dirt / Jenna Paulette / Leo33	585/37	6	32
23	41	37	Lie A Little / Ashland Craft / Leo33	582/31	21	100
19	38	38	Hide and Go Cheat / Eric Lee Beddingfield / Marshals Of The Revolution	579/34	2	13







COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
24	40	39	I Wish You Would / Mackenzie Carpenter feat. Midland / The Valory Music Co.	523/30	-5	-26
11	42	40	Turn the Night On / Chris Kizzia / CAL Records	519/32	9	43
20	43	41	Me & A Beer / Chris Janson / Harpeth 60 Records	497/30	6	30
10	44	42	The Others / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	460/37	2	10
12	45	43	Wrong Hearts / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group	459/29	6	25
27	47	44	Golden Child / Meghan Patrick / Riser House	442/25	14	54
29	46	45	Better Me For You (Brown Eyes) / Max McNown / Fugitive Recordings	432/29	1	5
2	76	46	Ain't A Bad Life / Thomas Rhett feat. Jordan Davis / The Valory Music Co.	431/27	127	256
16	49	47	Kiss An Angel Good Mornin' / Danielia Cotton / CDX Records	381/19	1	4
21	48	48	Underneath That Old Cowboy Hat / Herrick / CDX Records	374/19	-2	-9
11	51	49	Red / Jet Jurgensmeyer / Simba Entertainment	368/26	5	18
16	50	50	Easy To Love / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	360/24	-2	-8
1	203	51	How Far Does Goodbye Go / Jason Aldean / BBR Music Group	358/26	127	351
9	55	52	When She Kissed Me / Casey Donahew / Almost Country Records	348/24	12	38
7	53	53	Making Good Time / Old Dominion / Three Up Three Down, LLC/Columbia Nashville	343/22	7	22
14	54	54	Country Boy / Randy Cobb / South Sixty Five Entertainment Group	334/23	5	17
12	52	55	Ends of the Earth / Ty Myers / RECORDS Nashville	311/22	-5	-17
12	57	56	Slow Go The Days / Tim & The Glory Boys / Sony Music Canada	284/20	3	9
11	56	57	Baptized In It / The Haygoods / Legend and Legacy Records	284/18	0	-1
4	63	58	Miss You More / Hunter Clark / Frontier Events	267/17	18	41
13	59	59	2 Pair / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	267/17	2	5
21	58	60	I Ain't Coming Back / Morgan Wallen feat. Post Malone / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	258/11	-2	-5
5	60	61	Said No Redneck Ever / Aaron Goodvin / New Motor Records/Warner Music Canada	248/19	2	6
3	68	62	Wish You Wouldn't Go / Ken Domash / Thunder Mountain Records	245/21	22	44
1	85	63	Want You Back / Brantley Gilbert / The Valory Music Co.	241/18	80	107
6	66	64	Don't Let The Gray Hair Fool Ya / Due West / Unwound Records	238/18	14	29
8	62	65	Tow Truck Driver / Waylon Hanel / Waylon Hanel Music/CDX Records	236/17	3	7
8	61	66	You've Seen Heaven / Karly C / Quirky Cowgirl Records	235/19	-1	-2
6	71	67	Hard Fought Hallelujah / Brandon Lake feat. Jelly Roll / Lyric Ridge Records/Essential Records	232/16	20	38
6	65	68	I Don't Know How To Say Goodbye / Dwight Yoakam feat. Post Malone / Via Records	225/18	4	9
22	64	69	Not At This Party / Dasha / Warner Records	218/14	-1	-3
6	67	70	Single Of The Year / Maddye Trew / TLG/Virgin/Trew Blue Music	211/18	4	8
2	79	71	True Colors / Dugger Band / Dugger Band Music	203/9	30	47
5	74	72	Long Live Country / Shane Profitt / Triple Tigers	201/14	5	9
5	70	73	Trouble I Chase / Kaitlyn Croker / Independent	193/14	-1	-2
2	78	74	Blue Jean Crazy / Laura Bryna / LTD Entertainment	189/14	12	20
5	75	75	She Gone / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House Records	187/13	-2	-4
1	83	76	Hell That I Call Home / Porter Martin / Lovable Music	179/16	22	32
3	77	77	Drink With You / Brett Young / Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment	170/14	-1	-2
2	80	78	Summer Love / Andrew Salgado / Synapse Publishing & Entertainment®, LLC	155/10	1	1
1	86	79	Leaving Louisiana in the Broad Daylight / Flat River Band feat. The Oak Ridge Boys / Flat River Band/Early Bird Records	153/11	14	19
9	69	80	She Loves My Country / Lewis Brice / Pump House Records	153/10	-22	-43
			No. 1 Song Greatest Spin Incre		High	act Dahut

ROW FAX

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Spencer Jordan Signs With River House Artists & Sony Music Publishing Nashville



Pictured (L-R): Kayla Adkins, Spencer Jordan, Jessica Strassman and Lauren Lieu. Photo: Catherine Powell

Multi-genre songwriter **Spencer Jordan** has inked a worldwide publishing deal with River House Artists and Sony Music Publishing Nashville.

Based in Nashville, Jordan has co-penned Shaboozey's "Fire and Gasoline," LØLØ's "The Devil Wears Converse," Alex Coles & Mary Jo's "Sick of Me," and Blake Proehl's "Miss Carolina." He also co-wrote several song's on Knox's Going, Going, Gone album and has had additional cuts with Austin Snell, gavn!, Zach Seabaugh, Sara Kays, Livingston, Taylor Acorn and Arrows In Action, showcasing his dynamic cross-genre talent. Last year, Jordan saw his first Top 40 radio cut with Knox's "Not The 1975." The tune also went on to crack the Top 10 on Mediabase's Hot AC chart.

"River House has been family to me well before I ever signed there, now it's just official," says Jordan. "I've seen firsthand that no one works harder than this crew, and I couldn't feel more blessed and excited to be on this team."

"Spencer's songwriting consistently raises the bar, with an unmatched ability to craft stories full of emotion and heart that set him apart in every room he enters," adds EVP of River House Artists **Zebb Luster**. "Beyond his remarkable writing talent, Spencer's energy and infectious personality make him a true creative force. We're thrilled to officially welcome him to the River House family, and with the solid foundation we've already built together, we're ready to hit the ground running." **MR**

Underscore Works Adds Athena Puharic As Head Of Digital



Athena Puharic

Athena Puharic has joined underscore works as Head of Digital. In her role, she will spearhead digital campaigns for the company's roster, which includes Warren Zeiders, Priscilla Block, Dalton Dover, Wesko, Highway Home and Sister Hazel. She will lead strategy, content creation, fan engagement and shaping artists' online presence.

Hailing from Pittsburgh, Puharic graduated from Belmont University. Since graduating, she has gained more than ten years of industry experience in marketing and digital strategy. Prior to underscore works, she held positions at All Access Nashville and Big Machine Label Group as Project Manager, where she helmed digital marketing for new and established acts.

"Adding Athena to underscore works is a big step forward for us," says Founder **Charly Salvatore**. "Her background leading campaigns and digital strategy for some of the most respected names in Nashville will play a key role in elevating our artists and helping us expand what we're continuing to build. Athena's energy and enthusiasm are truly unmatched, and we couldn't be more excited to have her on the team." **MR**

Cameron Whitcomb Signs To The Core Entertainment For Management



Pictured (L-R): Chief Zaruk, Co-Founder of The Core Entertainment; Cameron Whitcomb and Simon Tikhman, Co-Founder of The Core Entertainment. Photo: Dylan Godfrey

The Core Entertainment has signed acclaimed singersongwriter **Cameron Whitcomb** to its artist management roster.

With more than 400 million global streams, over six million Spotify listeners and upwards of three million social media followers, Whitcomb is an exciting new voice in country music. His upcoming debut album, *The Hard Way*, arrives Sept. 26 via Atlantic Records. Whitcomb was recently named to both Spotify and Amazon Music's Artists To Watch lists, and has been selling out shows across North America.

"We're thrilled to welcome Cameron into The Core family," share **Simon Tikhman** and **Chief Zaruk**, cofounders of The Core Entertainment. "He's an extraordinary talent whose music reflects both grit and vulnerability, and he's already connecting with fans on a massive scale. We couldn't be more excited to support his journey and help him build a career with real longevity." **MR**

Clay Street Unit Inks With Leo33

Clay Street Unit has signed a record deal with Leo33.

Formed in Denver, Clay Street Unit combines the country-folk traditions of the Appalachians with the bluegrass spirit of the Rocky Mountains. The band is comprised of mandolinist **Scottie Bolin**, bassist **Jack Kotarba**, banjo player **Jack Cline**, pedal steel guitarist **Brad Larrison**, drummer **Brendan Lamb**, and singer/guitarist/band leader **Sam Walker**.

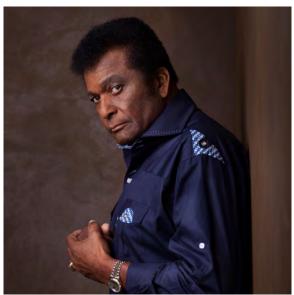
"We're honored to be signing with Leo33. Since our first conversation, their team has felt like the perfect home that fully understood the vision behind our music," shares Clay Street Unit. "As we prepare to release our debut album, we're confident that their passion and belief in us will help take our career to the next level, and we're incredibly grateful for the opportunity."

The band has gained attention globally with their *A Mighty Fine Evening* EP, and will release new music soon. *MR*



Pictured: (L-R, front row): Lucky Man Mgmt's Josh Nicotra, Leo33's Ana Shabeer, Leo33's Meg Goggins, CSU's Sam Walker, Leo33's Katie Dean, CSU's Brendan Lamb, and Madison House's Harry Woolsey. (L-R, back row): Leo33's Daniel Lee, Leo33's Chris Fabiani, Leo33's Dusty Cantrell, Lucky Man Mgmt's Andy Mertz, CSU's Scottie Bolin, CSU's Brad Larrison, CSU's Jack Cline and CSU's Jack Kotarba.

DISClaimer Single Reviews: Charley Pride Lost Tapes Are 'Finest Of His Career'



Charley Pride. Photo: Ben De Rienzo

This edition of DISClaimer covers country sounds, but takes a few detours along the way.

For your listening pleasure, we have a reissued blues classic by B.B. King, a disco tune from Dustin Lynch, a revival of a Buddy Holly standard by Joe Ely and a romping rock & roll outing by the Music City blues-rock band Piper & The Hard Times. The last-named is our DISCovery Award winner.

This week's Disc of the Day also colors outside the lines a bit. It is a masterful tribute to the music of the great Brook Benton by our late country superstar Charley Pride. It is absolutely essential listening.

Click here to read Robert K. Oermann's full single reviews. MR

MORE TOP STORIES

Bourbon & Beyond Wraps Kentucky Festival

Canadian Country Music Association Reveals CCMA Award Winners

<u>Canadian Country Streams Grow Globally On Spotify</u> <u>Over Past Five Years</u>

<u>CMA Foundation Honors Music Teachers Of Excellence</u>
At Ceremony In Nashville

<u>Country Radio Broadcasters Unveils 2025-2026 Board of Directors</u>

'DOLLY: A True Original Musical' Wraps Debut Residency

Drew Parker To Pursue Christian Country Artist Career

Ink Readies Debut EP Due In October

<u>Jake Owen Teams With Shooter Jennings For New Album 'Dreams To Dream'</u>

<u>Jessie Murph Delivers Acoustic Set, Conversation At</u> ASCAP Nashville Event At Analog Kenny Chesney To Celebrate Book Release With 'Heart Life Music Tour'

Morgan Wallen Wraps 2025 'I'm The Problem Tour'

Music Fights Fraud Alliance Launches Partner Program

New Research Unveils Streaming & Spending Habits Of Americana Fans

Russell Dickerson Nabs Sixth No. 1 Hit

SOCAN & Concord Music Publishing Host First-Ever Kenekt Nashville Song Camp

Sony & Spotify Ink New Multi-Year Deal

T.J. Martell Foundation Hosts Annual New York Honors Gala

Ty Herndon Bares His Soul In Upcoming New Memoir, 'What Mattered Most'

<u>Vincent Mason Slates Debut Album, 'There I Go,' For November</u>



TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Ryan Vojtesak	Hell At Night Holy Water I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better I'm The Problem Just In Case Miami Superman TN What I Want	BigXthaPlug (feat. Ella Langley) Marshmello & Jelly Roll Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
2	2	Blake Pendergrass	20 Cigarettes Brunette Heart Of Stone I Got Better Just In Case Miami Superman Wish You Well	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Jelly Roll Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Vincent Mason
3	3	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
4	4	Morgan Wallen	I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better I'm The Problem Just In Case Miami Superman TN What I Want	Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen
5	17	Riley Green	Don't Mind If I Do	Riley Green (feat. Ella Langley)
6	6	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	9	Josh Miller	20 Cigarettes 3,2,1 Brunette Friday Night Heartbreaker	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Tucker Wetmore Jon Pardi
8	8	Ben Johnson	All The Way Bar None Not At This Party	BigXthaPlug (feat. Bailey Zimmerman) Jordan Davis Dasha
9	5	John Byron	After All The Bars Are Closed Just In Case Superman TN What I Want	Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
10	10	Jason DeFord	Amen Box Me Up Hard Fought Hallelujah Heart Of Stone Holy Water	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll BigXthaPlug (feat. Jelly Roll) Brandon Lake & Jelly Roll Jelly Roll Marshmello & Jelly Roll

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
11	15	Michael Hardy	Favorite Country Song I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better Miami Want You Back	Hardy Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Brantley Gilbert
12	16	Jessie Jo Dillon	Baggage Friday Night Heartbreaker Happen To Me Wish You Well	Kelsea Ballerini Jon Pardi Russell Dickerson Vincent Mason
13	14	Chris LaCorte	20 Cigarettes Brunette Happen To Me Wish You Well	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Russell Dickerson Vincent Mason
14	11	Tucker Beathard	Backup Plan	Bailey Zimmerman (feat. Luke Combs)
15	12	Jonathan Sherwood	Backup Plan	Bailey Zimmerman (feat. Luke Combs)
16	13	Jimi Bell	Backup Plan	Bailey Zimmerman (feat. Luke Combs)
17	48	Carson Chamberlain	Good Times & Tan Lines South Of Sanity When You See Me	Zach Top Zach Top Zach Top
18	49	Zach Top	Good Times & Tan Lines South Of Sanity When You See Me	Zach Top Zach Top Zach Top
19	7	Jacob Kasher	After All The Bars Are Closed Just In Case What I Want	Thomas Rhett Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
20	19	Hunter Phelps	Bar None Want You Back	Jordan Davis Brantley Gilbert
21	20	Lydia Vaughan	Bar None	Jordan Davis
22	18	Luke Combs	Back In The Saddle Pray Hard	Luke Combs BigXthaPlug feat. Luke Combs
23	24	Dan Isbell	Back In The Saddle	Luke Combs
24	25	Jonathan Singleton	Back In The Saddle	Luke Combs
25	26	Neil Medley	House Again Sober	Hudson Westbrook Hudson Westbrook
26	28	Hudson Westbrook	House Again Sober	Hudson Westbrook Hudson Westbrook
27	21	Scooter Carusoe	Hands Of Time	Eric Church
28	22	Eric Church	Hands Of Time	Eric Church
29	27	Dan Alley	House Again	Hudson Westbrook
30	55	Wyatt McCubbin	Good Times & Tan Lines When You See Me	Zach Top Zach Top
31	32	Joe Reeves	I Got Better What I Want	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
32	33	Megan Moroney	6 Months Later You Had To Be There	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney (feat. Kenny Chesney)
33	34	Ben Williams	6 Months Later You Had To Be There	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney (feat. Kenny Chesney)
34	30	Collins Obinna Chibueze	Amen Good News	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll Shaboozey
35	31	Sean Cook	Amen Good News	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll Shaboozey
36	35	Nevin Sastry	Amen Good News	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll Shaboozey
37	36	Jeremy Spillman	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
38	37	Parker McCollum	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
39	38	Natalie Hemby	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
40	39	Trannie Anderson	It Won't Be Long Somewhere Over Laredo	George Birge Lainey Wilson
41	46	Zach Crowell	Heart Of Stone	Jelly Roll



TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
42	47	Shy Carter	Heart Of Stone	Jelly Roll
43	44	Russell Dickerson	Happen To Me	Russell Dickerson
44	45	Robert Hazard	Happen To Me	Russell Dickerson
45	41	Ty Myers	Ends Of The Earth	Ty Myers
46	54	Ashley Gorley	Favorite Country Song Me & A Beer Not At This Party TN	Hardy Chris Janson Dasha Morgan Wallen
47	50	Michael Pollack	Good News	Shaboozey
48	51	Jake Torrey	Good News	Shaboozey
49	52	Sam Romans	Good News	Shaboozey
50	53	Jeremy Stover	The Fall Time's Ticking	Cody Johnson Justin Moore & Dierks Bentley
51	59	Beau Bailey	Favorite Country Song Sober Stay Country Or Die Tryin'	Hardy Hudson Westbrook Blake Shelton
52	23	Xavier Landum	All The Way Box Me Up Hell At Night Pray Hard	BigXthaPlug (feat. Bailey Zimmerman) BigXthaPlug (feat. Jelly Roll) BigXthaPlug (feat. Ella Langley) BigXthaPlug feat. Luke Combs
53	56	David Mescon	6 Months Later	Megan Moroney
54	57	Rob Hatch	6 Months Later	Megan Moroney
55	69	Hunter Huff	Darlin'	Chase Matthew
56	70	Ciaran Wilkie	Darlin'	Chase Matthew
57	71	Alex Maxwell	Darlin'	Chase Matthew
58	72	Chase Matthew	Darlin'	Chase Matthew
59	66	Jackson Dean	Heavens To Betsy	Jackson Dean
60	67	Driver Williams	Heavens To Betsy	Jackson Dean

Newly Added Job Listings

Ascot Travel: Administrative Assistant, Entertainment Services

The Assistant supports the travel team in delivering smooth, organized client experiences. This role involves coordinating itineraries, managing hotel bookings' billing, and promptly collecting client folios. The Assistant also helps with data entry into client grids and databases while maintaining strict confidentiality. Daily responsibilities involve supporting travel managers with their workload, solving problems quickly under pressure, and ensuring all client needs are met with accuracy and professionalism. Strong communication, flexibility, and attention to detail are essential. This entry-level position reports to an assigned Travel Manager or Coordinator.

Contact: KHood@ascot-travel.com

Listed: 9/18/25

RIAA: Director, Research and Gold & Platinum Program Operations

Manage and conduct the process of collecting industry shipment statistics, and apply research techniques and findings to aid industry initiatives, including communications, anti-piracy, government relations, and business affairs efforts. Responsible for compiling, organizing, and validating data related to sales trends and patterns, and communicating that data for use by RIAA management and member companies. Provide support and assistance to the Vice President, Research & Economics. Assist with management of Gold & Platinum Program data operations and analysis, manage label inquiries regarding Gold & Platinum data. Assist with conception and execution of research projects in the Communications Department; track industry and technological developments. Work with Communications Department to present industry data as appropriate in published releases. The applicant must be capable of effectively and reliably carrying out these duties with minimal supervision and guidance. Location: Washington, DC.

Contact: Apply here or submit a resume and cover letter to mleibfreid@riaa.com

Listed: 9/17/25

MCA: Manager, A&R Administration

We are currently seeking a Manager, A&R Administration to work closely with A&R, Business & Legal Affairs, and Production Department. If you enjoy spreadsheets, numbers, showing off your organizational skills, and assisting the creative A&R process from behind the scenes, this is the perfect job for you. Your days will include tracking important delivery paperwork, collecting and distributing audio, accounts payable activity, collaborating with artist/producer management, troubleshooting budget concerns with A&R, providing accurate and timely information to Senior Management and so much more.

Contact: mariah.douglas@umusic.com

Listed: 9/15/25

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

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

Contact: Apply here Listed: 9/15/25

All job listings are free-to-list and will be posted for 60 days. Listings are accepted and published at the discretion of MusicRow. To submit a listing, use the <u>MusicRow Listings Submission Form</u>.

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases And Radio Add Dates

September 19

Shaboozey & Kevin Powers/Move On/American Dogwood

Dasha/Train/Warner Records

HARDY/Dog Years/Big Loud Records

Kameron Marlowe/Let The Lonely/Columbia Nashville

Drake Milligan/Tumbleweed/Stoney Creek Records

Phil Vassar/What It Means

Lauren Watkins (feat. John Morgan)/Slippery Slope/Big Loud Records/Songs & Daughters

Jason Scott & The High Heat/Too Good, Too Bad/Leo33

Creed Fisher/Heaven Don't Want Me/

Spencer Hatcher/When She Calls Me Cowboy (Western Version)/QHMG/Stone Country Records

Ryan Larkins/Settle Down Side/Red Street Records

Adam Warner (feat. Josh Gallagher)/Get Down

Cyndi Thomson/Life Ain't Always Beautiful

Pynk Beard/2 Rich 4 My Blood

Coleman Jennings/Head Spinning/Big Loud Records/Mercury Records

Presley Tennant/Let Lying Dogs Sleep

Becca Bowen/Mama's Prayer

Rocco Gorelik/Turn Me Loose

HASTING/My Dog

September 22

Thomas Rhett (feat. Jordan Davis)/Ain't A Bad Life/The Valory Music Co. Michael Martin Murphey (feat. Cody Johnson)/Wildfire/Wildfire Productions

Album/EP Releases

September 19

Charley Pride/Endlessly: a Tribute to Brook Benton/Music City Records

Josh Ross/Later Tonight/MCA/Mercury Nashville

Evan Honer/*Everything I Wanted*/Cloverdale Records

Chase Rice/ELDORA

Zach Williams/Jesus Loves

Drew Green/What You're Looking For

Eddie And The Getaway/TUMBLEWEEDS & NICOTINE

Thelma & James/Starting Over/Big Loud Records

Chase McDaniel/Lost Ones/Big Machine Records

Briscoe/Heat Of July/ATO Records

Bones Owens/Best Western/Thirty Tigers

Payton Smith/The Bridge/Combustion Masters

Runaway June/New Kind Of Emotion/QHMG/Quartz Hill Records

Mat & Savanna Shaw/Just How Strong You Are

The Pink Stones/Thank the Lord... it's The Pink Stones/Normaltown/New West Records

Jack Schneider/Streets Of September

Andrew Mitch/still feeling outside the lines

Tera Lynne/Flowers From The Ground (Reimagined)

The Hollow Party/Why Would You Stop at This?

September 19, 2025 The MusicRow Weekly

CALENDAR

Industry Events

September 23

Eighth Annual NSAI Nashville Songwriter Awards

Upcoming Nashville Concerts

September 19

Houndmouth/Ryman Auditorium

Durand Jones & The Indications/Flowers Tour/Brooklyn Bowl

Valentino Khan/Cannery Hall (Main Stage)

The Hails/Home Field Advantage Tour/EXIT/IN

Various Artists/Wherever Is Your Heart: A Benefit For The Theater Bug/Riverside Revival

Foxwarren/The 2er/The Blue Room

MARIS & Caroline Kingsbury/Give Me A Tour!/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

September 20

MANA/Vivir Sin Aire Tour/Bridgestone Arena

"Weird Al" Yankovic/Bigger & Weirder Tour/Ascend Amphitheater

Lorde/Ultrasound World Tour/The Pinnacle

Reckless Kelly/Wicked Twisted Road Tour/Ryman Auditorium

Stereophonics/Back In The USA Tour/Brooklyn Bowl

The Prayer Chain/Mercury 30th Anniversary Live/Cannery Hall (Main Stage)

Ethan Regan/I Almost Graduated Tour/The Basement East

Joe Jordan/EXIT/IN

Foxwarren/The 2er/The Blue Room

September 21

Judas Priest & Alice Cooper/FirstBank Amphitheater

The Marias/Submarine Tour (Extended)/Ascend Amphitheater

Lorde/Ultrasound World Tour/The Pinnacle

TV On The Radio/Ryman Auditorium

Johnny Marr/Brooklyn Bowl

Sweet/Cannery Hall (Main Stage)

CMAT/It's The Euro-Country Tour!/The Basement East

mortal/Cannery Hall (The Mil)

Amble/The Reverie Tour/EXIT/IN

Peter White/City Winery

Fly By Midnight/The Fastest Time Of Our Lives/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

September 22

Slow Pulp/The Basement East

Various Artists/WE SAVE US: Benefit Series for Abortion Access/EXIT/IN

Walter Trout/City Winery

September 23

Rilo Kiley/Sometimes When You're On, You're Really F**cking On Tour/The Pinnacle