

WEEKLY



This is an inside look at the nominees for the 59th annual CMA Awards. The final nominations list was determined by eligible voting CMA members comprised of professionals within the country music industry.

Ella Langley, Megan Moroney and Lainey Wilson lead the pack with six nominations each, while other top nominees include **Zach Top** with five nominations, and **Riley Green** and **Cody Johnson** with four nominations each. **Kristian Bush, Carson Chamberlain, Luke Combs, Charlie Handsome, Chris Stapleton** and **Morgan Wallen** each secure three nominations. Wilson, Combs, Johnson, Stapleton and Wallen garnered a nomination for the night's top honor, Entertainer of the Year.

First-time CMA Awards nominees include **Johnny Clawson, Jon Decious, Jessie Jo Dillon, Josh Dorr, Alexandra Gavillet, Lalo Guzman, Jimmy Harnen, Brandon Lake, Micah Nichols, John Park, Aaron Raitiere, Matt Rovey, Kyle Sturrock, Wales Toney, Tucker Wetmore** and **Stephen Wilson Jr.**

The 59th Annual CMA Awards broadcasts live from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena Wednesday, Nov. 19 (8:00 – 11:00 PM/EST) on ABC and next day on Hulu.

"Each year, the CMA Awards shine a light on the creativity, passion and dedication of our community," says **Sarah Trahern**, CMA Chief Executive Officer. "The nominees announced today represent some of the most impactful work happening across Country Music, and we are deeply appreciative of our voting members for lending their time and expertise to this process. Their commitment helps ensure the CMA Awards remain a true reflection of the genre's excellence. On behalf of CMA, congratulations to all of this year's nominees."

Winners will be determined in a Final Round of voting by eligible CMA Professional voting members. The third and Final Ballot will be emailed on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Voting for the CMA Awards Final Ballot ends Wednesday, Oct. 29 (6:00 PM/CT). **MR**

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

LAINNEY WILSON

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

SINGLE OF THE YEAR
"4X4XU"

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
WHIRLWIND

SONG OF THE YEAR
"4X4XU"

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR
"SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO"



BMG

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR



LUKE COMBS

Became First Country Artist With Two Songs To Reach 1 Billion+ Spotify Streams
Celebrated 34 New RIAA Certifications
First Country Artist To Headline Bonaroo
Inducted Into Music City Walk of Fame

CODY JOHNSON

Earned Fourth Consecutive Chart Topper With “I’m Gonna Love You”
Host Of CMA Fest With Ashley McBryde
Sold Out Two Nights At Bridgestone Arena On "Leather Deluxe Tour"



CHRIS STAPLETON

Toured Alongside George Strait On Stadium Run
Headlined “All-American Roadshow Tour” This Summer
Headlined Healing Appalachia Festival

MORGAN WALLEN

MusicRow Entertainer Of The Year & Male Artist Of The Year
Released *I’m The Problem* Album Which Debuted At No. 1 Globally
Across Seven Countries
Headlined "I'm The Problem Stadium Tour"



LAINHEY WILSON

Took Home *MusicRow*’s 2025 Female Artist Of The Year
Released *Whirlwind (Deluxe)* 19-Track Record
Embarked On 37+ Date North American Leg Of Sold-Out "Whirlwind Arena Tour"

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

BLAKE SHELTON

SONG OF THE YEAR
"TEXAS"

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
"POUR ME A DRINK"
POST MALONE (FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON)



BMG

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

LAINNEY WILSON
4X4XU



"4X4XU"

Artist: Lainney Wilson; Producer: Jay Joyce; Mix Engineers: Jason Hall & Jay Joyce

No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck

No. 4 Billboard Country Airplay

No. 9 Billboard Hot Country Songs

No. 45 Billboard Hot 100

"AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA"

Artist: Luke Combs; Producers: Luke Combs, Chip Matthews & Jonathan Singleton; Mix Engineer: Chip Matthews

3x RIAA Certified Platinum

No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck & Billboard Country Airplay

No. 3 Billboard Hot Country Songs

No. 13 Billboard Hot 100



"AM I OKAY?"

Artist: Megan Morney; Producer: Kristian Bush; Mix Engineer: Justin Niebank

RIAA Certified Platinum

No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck

No. 2 Billboard Country Airplay

No. 12 Billboard Hot Country Songs



"I NEVER LIE"

Artist: Zach Top; Producer: Carson Chamberlain; Mix Engineer: Matt Rovey

2x RIAA Certified Platinum

No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck

No. 2 Billboard Country Airplay

No. 6 Billboard Hot Country Songs



"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME"

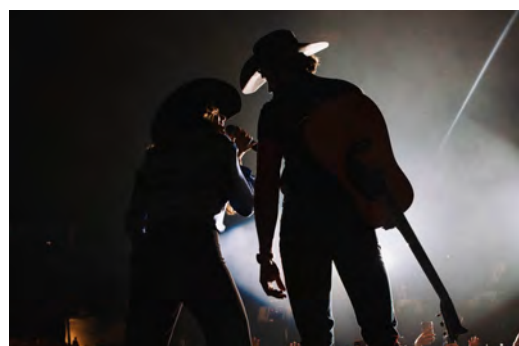
Artists: Ella Langley & Riley Green; Producer: Will Bundy; Mix Engineer: Jim Cooley

2x RIAA Certified Platinum

No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck & Billboard Country Airplay

No. 7 Billboard Hot Country Songs

No. 30 Billboard Hot 100



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

BEST NEW ARTIST

**STEPHEN
WILSON
JR.**



"ALL STEPHEN WILSON JR. HAS TO DO IS THROW HIS NAME ON A MARQUEE AND THE SHOW WILL SELL OUT....WILSON JR., IS A FORCE YOU WILL BE HEARING A LOT ABOUT IN 2025."

Tennessean.

"THE INDIANA SONGWRITER STEPHEN WILSON JR. IS A STRANGE BEAST.. ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING ARTISTS TO WATCH... A TRUE ORIGINAL."

RollingStone

"THROUGHOUT THE ALBUM, WILSON JR. OFFERS THE KIND OF NUANCED STORYTELLING THAT HAS HELPED MAKE STARS OF ARTISTS LIKE ERIC CHURCH AND CHRIS STAPLETON, AND HE HAS THE VOCAL PROWESS TO BACK IT UP."

billboard

BIG LOUD

ALBUM OF THE YEAR



AM I OKAY?

Artist: Megan Moroney; Producer: Kristian Bush; Mix Engineer: Justin Niebank
3rd biggest female country album debut of 2025
RIAA Certified Gold
No. 3 Billboard Top Country Albums
No. 9 Billboard 200

COLD BEER & COUNTRY MUSIC

Artist: Zach Top; Producer: Carson Chamberlain; Mix Engineer: Matt Rovey
RIAA Certified Gold
No. 4 Billboard Top Country Albums
No. 31 Billboard 200
Holds Top's first No. 1 single "I Never Lie"

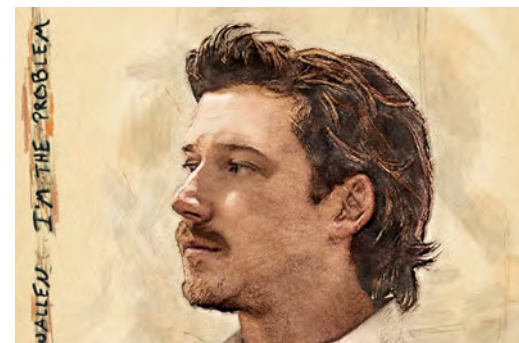


F-1 TRILLION

Artist: Post Malone; Producers: Louis Bell, Charlie Handsome & Hoskins; Mix Engineer: Ryan Gore
2nd largest country album release week of 2024
212 million streams in the first week
RIAA Certified Platinum
No. 1 Billboard 200 & Top Country Albums

I'M THE PROBLEM

Artist: Morgan Wallen; Producers: Jacob Durrett, Charlie Handsome & Joey Moi; Mix Engineers: Charlie Handsome, Joey Moi
Highest selling U.S. album of 2025 (as of 10/1/25)
Largest country album debut in 2025 as of release date
462 million streams in the first week
No. 1 Billboard 200 for six consecutive weeks



WHIRLWIND

Artist: Lainey Wilson; Producer: Jay Joyce; Mix Engineers: Jason Hall & Jay Joyce
48,000 first week units
No. 3 Billboard Top Country Albums
No. 8 Billboard 200
Landed on several "Best of 2024" lists

For Your CMA Consideration

The **RED CLAY
STRAYS**

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR



RCA

SONG OF THE YEAR

LAINNEY WILSON
4X4XU

"4X4XU"

Songwriters: Jon Decious, Aaron Raitiere & Lainey Wilson
No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck
No. 4 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 9 Billboard Hot Country Songs
No. 45 Billboard Hot 100



"AM I OKAY?"

Songwriters: Jessie Jo Dillon, Luke Laird & Megan Moroney
RIAA Certified Platinum
No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck
No. 2 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 12 Billboard Hot Country Songs



"I NEVER LIE"

Songwriters: Carson Chamberlain, Tim Nichols & Zach Top
2x RIAA Certified Platinum
No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck
No. 2 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 6 Billboard Hot Country Songs



"TEXAS"

Songwriters: Johnny Clawson, Josh Dorr, Lalo Guzman & Kyle Sturrock
156 first week adds on radio
No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck
No. 2 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 61 Billboard Hot 100

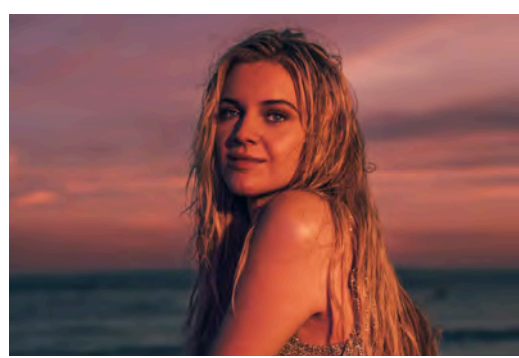


"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME"

Songwriters: Riley Green, Ella Langley & Aaron Raitiere
2x RIAA Certified Platinum
No. 1 Mediabase/Country Aircheck & Billboard Country Airplay
No. 7 Billboard Hot Country Songs
No. 30 Billboard Hot 100



FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

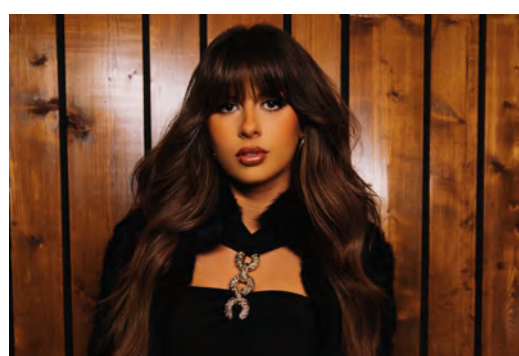


KELSEA BALLERINI

Released Fifth Studio Album, *Patterns* and *Patterns (Deluxe)*
Completed 30+ City Headline Arena Tour
Served As Coach On Season 27 Of The Voice

MIRANDA LAMBERT

Earned Biggest Streaming Debut Of Career With Chris Stapleton Duet “A Song To Sing”
Released 10th Solo Studio Album, *Postcards From Texas*
10 Consecutive Top 10 Singles On Country Radio
Opened For Select Dates Of Morgan Wallen’s “I’m The Problem” Stadium Tour



ELLA LANGLEY

Leads Wins For *MusicRow* Awards With Three Wins
Earned Two No. 1 Singles With “You Look Like You Love Me” & “Weren’t For The Wind”
Sold-out Headline “Hungover Tour”
Joined Tours With Morgan Wallen & Riley Green This Summer

MEGAN MORONEY

Notched Second No. 1 Hit With “Am I Okay?”
Sold-Out 50 Date Headline “Am I Okay? Tour”
Received Rulebreaker Award At The 2025 *Billboard* Women in Music
Took Home First Ever Country Award At VMAs



LAINHEY WILSON

Took Home *MusicRow*’s 2025 Female Artist Of The Year
Released *Whirlwind (Deluxe)* 19-Track Record
Embarked On 37+ Date North American Leg Of Sold-Out “Whirlwind Arena Tour”

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR



LUKE COMBS

Became First Country With Two Songs To Reach 1 Billion+ Spotify Streams
Celebrated 34 New RIAA Certifications
First Country Artist To Headline Bonaroo
Inducted Into Music City Walk of Fame

CODY JOHNSON

Earned Fourth Consecutive Chart Topper With "I'm Gonna Love You"
Host Of CMA Fest With Ashley McBryde
Sold Out Two Nights At Bridgestone Arena On "Leather Deluxe Tour"



CHRIS STAPLETON

Toured Alongside George Strait On Stadium Run
Headlined "All-American Roadshow Tour" This Summer
Headlined Healing Appalachia Festival

ZACH TOP

MusicRow Song Of The Year Winner
Celebrated First No. 1 Hit With Double-Platinum "I Never Lie"
Released New Album Ain't In It For My Health
Headlined "Cold Beer & Country Music Tour" & Joined Dierks Bentley's "Broken Branches Tour"



MORGAN WALLEN

MusicRow Entertainer Of The Year & Male Artist Of The Year
Released *I'm The Problem* Album Which Debuted At No. 1 Globally Across Seven Countries
Headlined "I'm The Problem Stadium Tour"

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

LADY A

Set To Release Holiday Album & Embark On Holiday Tour
Named 2025 Cornerstone Building Brands Home For Good
Ambassadors



LITTLE BIG TOWN

Headlined 22-City “Summer Tour ‘25”
Celebrated Band’s 25th Anniversary At Bridgestone Arena Show
To Host 2025 Holiday Residency At Ryman Auditorium



OLD DOMINION

2025 *MusicRow* Group/Duo Artist Of The Year
Released New Album, *Barbara*
Headlined “How Good Is That - World Tour”
Hosted 7-Show Ryman Auditorium Residency



RASCAL FLATTS

Completed 21 City “Life Is A Highway Tour”
Released Reimagined *Life Is a Highway: Refueled Duets*
Headlined CMA Fest Night 3 At Nissan Stadium



THE RED CLAY STRAYS

Headlined "Get Right 2025 Tour”
Released *Live At The Ryman* Album In November 2024
First International Tour With Dates In Australia, Germany,
France, More



VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR



BROOKS & DUNN

Released *REBOOT II* Album In November 2024

Celebrated Sold Out “Neon Moon Tour”

Co-headlined Fenway Park With Jason Aldean

BROTHERS OSBORNE

Released New Track “Finish This Drink” In April

Serving As Guest Advisor On CBS *The Road*



DAN + SHAY

Earn Eleventh No. 1 Hit With “Bigger Houses”

Released First Holiday Album, *It's Officially Christmas: The Double Album*, In October 2024

Perform On Ninth Stand Up To Cancer Fundraising Special

MADDIE & TAE

Released Fourth Studio Album *Love & Light* In May

Headline “Love & Light Tour” Over Spring

Featured On Colbie Caillat’s *This Time Around* Duets Album



THE WAR AND TREATY

Performed With Zach Bryan For Inaugural Michigan Stadium Concert

Performed On Season Finale Of *American Idol*

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR



"DON'T MIND IF I DO"

Artists: Riley Green & Ella Langley; Producers: Scott Borchetta, Jimmy Harnen & Dann Huff
RIAA Certified Platinum
No. 19 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 19 Billboard Hot Country Songs
No. 69 Billboard Hot 100

"HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH"

Artists: Brandon Lake & Jelly Roll; Producer: Micah Nichols
No. 1 Hot Christian Songs
No. 12 Hot Country Songs
No. 37 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 40 Billboard Hot 100



"I'M GONNA LOVE YOU"

Artists: Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood; Producer: Trent Willmon
2025 CCMA Award for Songwriters of the Year
No. 3 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 7 Hot Country Songs
No. 37 Billboard Hot 100

"POUR ME A DRINK"

Artists: Post Malone & Blake Shelton; Producers: Louis Bell & Charlie Handsome
RIAA Platinum certification
No. 1 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 3 Billboard Hot Country Songs
No. 12 Billboard Hot 100



"YOU HAD TO BE THERE"

Artists: Megan Moroney & Kenny Chesney; Producer: Kristian Bush
No. 23 Billboard Country Airplay
No. 25 Hot Country Songs
No. 86 Billboard Hot 100
117 first week radio adds

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR



JENEE FLEENOR

Bailey Zimmerman, Cody Johnson, Kane Brown, Keith Urban, Trisha Yearwood and more

PAUL FRANKLIN

Blake Shelton, Brooks & Dunn, George Strait, Kane Brown, Luke Combs, Morgan Wallen, Post Malone, Riley Green, Thomas Rhett and more



BRENT MASON

Brooks & Dunn, George Strait, Luke Combs, Post Malone, Zach Top and more

ROB MCNELLEY

Brooks & Dunn, Eric Church, Lainey Wilson, Luke Combs, Morgan Wallen, Riley Green and more



DEREK WELLS

Brooks & Dunn, Jelly Roll, Kane Brown, Kelsea Ballerini, Luke Combs, Morgan Wallen, Post Malone, Thomas Rhett and more

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR



"AM I OKAY?"

Artist: Megan Moroney

Directors: Alexandra Gavillet & Megan Moroney

7.1 million views

"I'M GONNA LOVE YOU"

Artists: Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood

Director: Dustin Haney

20 million views



"SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO"

Artist: Lainey Wilson

Director: Tk McKamy

2 million views

"THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU"

Artist: Chris Stapleton

Director: Running Bear

10 million views



"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME"

Artist: Ella Langley & Riley Green

Directors: Ella Langley, John Park & Wales Toney

51 million views

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR



ELLA LANGLEY

Leads Wins For *MusicRow* Awards With Three Wins
Earned Two No. 1 Singles With “You Look Like You Love Me” & “Weren’t For The Wind”
Sold-out Headline “Hungover Tour”
Joined Tours With Morgan Wallen & Riley Green This Summer

SHABOOZEY

Earned Platinum Certification And Passed One Billion Streams
For “A Bar Song (Topsy)”
Launched American Dogwood Label
Headlined Fall “Great American Road Show Tour”
Released Deluxe Album: *Where I’ve Been, Isn’t Where I’m Going: The Complete Edition*



ZACH TOP

MusicRow Song Of The Year Winner
Celebrated First No. 1 Hit With Double-Platinum “I Never Lie”
Released New Album *Ain’t In It For My Health*
Headlined “Cold Beer & Country Music Tour” & Joined Dierks Bentley’s “Broken Branches Tour”

TUCKER WETMORE

Scored First Radio No. 1 With “Wind Up Missing You”
Released Debut Record “What Not To”
Join Thomas Rhett As Direct Support For “Better In Boots Tour”



STEPHEN WILSON JR.

Released *Søn Of Dad Deluxe* Album
Headlined “Søn Of Dad Tour”
Shared stages with Hardy & Eric Church