

Morgan Wallen Becomes RIAA Highest Certified Country Artist Of All Time



Morgan Wallen. Photo: Spidey Smith

Morgan Wallen has been named RIAA's highest certified country artist of all time, as well as the third most-certified artist, all-genre (behind Drake and Taylor Swift for solo titles).

Wallen has amassed 239.5 million certified singles (solo + collaborations) and 26 million album certifications across his catalog. This feat also makes him the No. 2 digital singles-certified solo artist, all-genre. He received his first Gold certification in 2018 for "The Way I Talk" and "Up Down" before notching Gold for "Whiskey Glasses" in 2019, which was 13x Platinum certified today (Dec. 16).

"Morgan Wallen's rise has been nothing short of remarkable. A trajectory powered through deep fan connection, multiple creative collaborations and partnerships with Big Loud and Republic Records," shares RIAA Chairman & CEO **Mitch Glazier**. "Less than a decade after earning his first Gold singles, he has officially become the highest RIAA certified Country artist with 265.5M units, including credits on five Diamond-certified or higher singles! The sheer volume of streams behind this achievement speaks to how actively audiences continue to show up and his sustained journey reshaping modern music. Congratulations on this new height as Morgan and his team set their sights on the next."

His 2025 *I'm The Problem* album is 4x Platinum certified, while 22 of its 37 songs are Gold-certified or higher. Additionally, every track on *If I Know Me* and *Dangerous: The Double Album* (including the bonus configuration) is now RIAA certified. *Dangerous: The Double Album* and *One Thing At A Time* are now both 9x Platinum certified. "Last Night," and "Wasted On You" are each 12x Platinum. Wallen now has five singles that are Diamond-certified or higher, including the newly Diamond certified "Heartless" with Diplo. **MR**

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Donna Duncan Receives 2025 CMA Media Achievement Award



Donna Duncan, veteran talent executive, is surprised with news of her 2025 CMA Media Achievement Award win by Luke Bryan at KP Entertainment offices. Photo: Courtesy of KP Entertainment

Veteran talent executive **Donna Duncan** is the second recipient of this year's CMA Media Achievement Award. Duncan was surprised with the news on Tuesday, (Dec. 16) at the KP Entertainment offices by **Luke Bryan**.

A seasoned talent executive with nearly two decades of experience shaping some of the most recognizable music and entertainment programming across the Paramount brand portfolio, Duncan spent 19 years at CMT, where she held multiple roles across production, development, talent booking, and franchise expansion. During her tenure, she served as Talent Producer for the CMT Music Awards, *CMT Crossroads*, and *CMT Hot 20 Countdown*, and contributed to top Paramount tentpole events, including the *MTV VMAs* on CBS.

Known for her deep industry relationships, creative instincts, and strategic approach to elevating artist-driven content, Duncan has built a consistent track record of high-profile bookings across television, digital franchises, and integrated marketing initiatives.

The CMA Media Achievement Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of print and online journalists, columnists, authors, editors, television writers, producers and bookers, and syndicated radio reporters in the media as they relate to country music. The award is voted on by publicist members of CMA. **MR**

Results Global Adds Two To Agency Team



Kelly Ridgway & Abbey Kovacevich

Results Global, a Nashville-based full-service marketing agency, has added **Kelly Ridgway** and **Abbey Kovacevich** to its team.

Ridgway joins as Global Marketing Lead/Head of NYC Office. She most recently served as VP of Global Marketing at CTK Enterprises. At CTK, Ridgway has contributed to two Clio-winning campaigns, including Dolly Parton's TikTok launch and *Rockstar* album campaign. Previously, she was US General Manager at WMA, leading award-winning digital campaigns for Republic Records and Celine Dion. She has been active in shesaid.so, previously co-directing its NY chapter and appearing in its 2019 Alternative Power List. She serves on the board of Music Will, is a member of the Recording Academy and CMA, and has previously mentored at SXSW, NYU, and as part of various student leadership programs.

Kovacevich joins as Manager, Marketing and Communications. She is a graduate of Miami University, where she earned her degree in Communications and Entrepreneurship. She began her career at Triple 7 PR, where for three years she supported and led high-profile campaigns spanning entertainment, lifestyle, and wellness. Her portfolio includes work on major events such as the MTV VMAs, the CMT Music Awards, and Scott Hamilton & Friends, in addition to numerous health and wellness initiatives and celebrity-driven projects. After her agency tenure, Kovacevich launched into a successful freelance career, partnering with clients across industries to deliver dynamic publicity and marketing support. Over the past year, she has managed campaigns for organizations including Wags & Walks, as well as various festivals, national tours, influencer initiatives, and brand collaborations. **MR**



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Margo Price Inks With Warner Chappell Music Nashville



Pictured (Top Row, L-R): Austen Adams (WCM), Kevin Morris (Red Light Management). (Bottom Row, L-R): Carianne Marshall (WCM), Margo Price, Christina Wiltshire (WCM)

Margo Price has inked a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music Nashville.

“It’s an honor to become a part of the Warner Chappell family,” Price shares. “I’ve been writing songs for decades now so it feels empowering to be seen not only as an artist and a singer, producer and author, but also as a songwriter. I’m grateful for **Carianne Marshall** and the entire team at Warner Chappell for recognizing me as a composer and writer. At the core of everything I do, the writing has always come first and I can’t wait for all that’s ahead.”

Price first garnered attention with her breakthrough debut *Midwest Farmer’s Daughter* (2016), released on Jack White’s Third Man Records, making her the label’s first-ever country artist. The project hit No. 5 on the *Billboard’s* Americana/Folk Albums chart, and edged into the Top 10 on the Top Country Albums chart. It earned two Americana

Honors & Awards nominations, including Song of the Year, and a win for Emerging Artist of the Year. Her follow-up, *All American Made* (2017), opened in the Top 5 of *Billboard’s* Americana/Folk Albums chart, and earned Price nominations for Song of the Year and Album of the Year at the Americana Music Honors & Awards as well as a Grammy nod for Best New Artist. Over the last decade, Price has toured alongside Chris Stapleton and Willie Nelson, among others, and released additional projects including her latest, *Hard Headed Woman*, which recently earned two GRAMMY nominations. **MR**

Back Blocks Music Elevates One, Adds Two

Back Blocks Music has promoted **Elizabeth Cook** to Creative Director, and has added **Megan Clemens** as Director of Digital Marketing and **Laine Lonero** as Marketing Coordinator.

Cook joined Back Blocks in 2023 as Creative Coordinator while attending Belmont University. As Creative Coordinator, she worked on A&R admin, pitching songs, managing interns, coordinating writers’ calendars and retreats and more. She played a key role in the writing process for Tucker Wetmore’s *What Not To*, and was recently named to [MusicRow’s Next Big Thing Industry Directory](#). In her new role, she will lead creative development, calendars and catalog management, supporting artists like Ashley Cooke, Tucker Wetmore and Ethan Burdick.



Elizabeth Cook, Megan Clemens & Laine Lonero

Clemens joins Back Blocks from previously serving as Head of Digital at CSM Management, where she worked with Chris Isaak, Def Leppard, Fleetwood Mac, Lenny Kravitz, Stevie Nicks and more. In her new role, she will lead Back Blocks’ digital strategy for the company’s roster of artists and will focus on creating genuine fan relationships, through content.

In her new role, Lonero will oversee a wide range of marketing and digital initiatives, including content creation, website management, scheduling, data analysis and social media management. Lonero was previously an intern for the company in 2024, and recently graduated from Belmont University, where she studied media and entertainment industries and music. She has also held internships at Fort Nash and PEG Music. **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Rocky Mountain Low/Corey Kent feat. Koe Wetzel/RCA Records
Nashville - 63

Too Good, Too Bad/Jason Scott & The High Heat/Leo33 - 76

Tijuana Tonya/Roland Whitt/Get Joe Records - 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Choosin' Texas/Ella Langley/SAWGOD Records/Columbia - 310

Days Like These/Luke Combs/Columbia Nashville - 196

Rocky Mountain Low/Corey Kent feat. Koe Wetzel/RCA Records
Nashville - 148

South Of Sanity/Zach Top/Leo33 - 140

20 Cigarettes/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 133

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Rocky Mountain Low/Corey Kent feat. Koe Wetzel/RCA Records
Nashville - 11

Boots Off/Jon Pardi/MCA - 9

South Of Sanity/Zach Top/Leo33 - 9

Dream Come True/Carly Pearce/Big Machine Records - 6

Beautiful Things/Megan Moroney/Columbia Nashville/Columbia
Records - 6

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

I Want It All/Skip Ewing/Vere Music - 146

Too Close For Closure/Brett Westgrove/Brett Westgrove Music -
137

Too Much Lonesome/Eric Lee Beddingfield/Rebel Dawg Records
- 133

Waste of Time/Greg Pratt/PGMG Nashville - 124

Travelin' Soldier/Cody Johnson/CoJo Music/Warner Music
Nashville - 121

NO. 1 SONG



Ella Langley tops the last *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart of 2025 with "Choosin' Texas," which leaped from No. 8 to the top spot.

The breakout star co-wrote the track with **Luke Dick**, **Miranda Lambert** and **Joybeth Taylor**.

"Choosin' Texas" currently sits at No. 10 on the Billboard Country Airplay chart and No. 9 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 +/-
7	8	1	Choosin' Texas / Ella Langley / SAWGOD Records/Columbia	2174/65	17	310
14	1	2	How Far Does A Goodbye Go / Jason Aldean / BBR Music Group	2032/58	-3	-59
10	7	3	20 Cigarettes / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	2008/65	7	133
22	3	4	6 Months Later / Megan Moroney / Columbia Nashville/Columbia Records	1983/54	-1	-27
37	6	5	What He'll Never Have / Dylan Scott / Curb	1957/66	3	62
32	2	6	Stay Country or Die Tryin' / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	1951/56	-3	-66
15	4	7	Ain't A Bad Life / Thomas Rhett feat. Jordan Davis / The Valory Music Co.	1925/65	0	2
36	5	8	Favorite Country Song / HARDY / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1906/51	0	1
38	10	9	House Again / Hudson Westbrook / River House Artists	1870/56	2	36
23	9	10	A Song To Sing / Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1862/68	1	18
56	13	11	Time's Ticking / Justin Moore / Valory	1701/57	2	37
45	12	12	It Won't Be Long / George Birge / RECORDS Nashville	1695/52	1	17
48	11	13	Cowgirl / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	1654/46	-5	-92
34	14	14	The Fall / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1573/56	6	86
42	15	15	Better Me For You (Brown Eyes) / Max McNow / Fugitive Recordings	1377/53	2	21
6	16	16	Days Like These / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	1350/62	17	196
8	18	17	Amen / Shaboozey & Jelly Roll / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	1236/51	11	118
25	22	18	Ends of the Earth / Ty Myers / RECORDS Nashville	1152/52	10	105
25	21	19	Weak / Preston Cooper / The Valory Music Co.	1145/57	7	73
46	17	20	I Dare You / Rascal Flatts feat. Jonas Brothers / Big Machine Records	1134/43	-1	-7
22	19	21	Fireworks / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	1126/55	2	24
37	20	22	Til The Last One Dies / Chris Young / Black River Entertainment	1078/51	-2	-24
19	23	23	All My Exes / Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew / Big Loud Records	1032/52	8	72
9	24	24	Turn This Truck Around / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	986/52	7	63
33	26	25	Me & A Beer / Chris Janson / Harpeth 60 Records	861/44	8	66
33	25	26	Baggage / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	849/45	1	9
7	27	27	Killed The Man / Lee Brice / Curb Records	823/50	5	36
12	29	28	the hell you are / Ashley Cooke / Big Loud Records	781/46	6	43
20	30	29	Making Good Time / Old Dominion / Three Up Three Down, LLC/Columbia Nashville	763/44	6	43
10	31	30	Chevy Silverado / Bailey Zimmerman / Atlantic Records/Warner Music Nashville	738/44	6	45
40	28	31	Golden Child / Meghan Patrick / Riser House	731/36	-2	-15
7	37	32	Beautiful Things / Megan Moroney / Columbia Nashville/Columbia Records	603/39	19	98
34	36	33	I Ain't Coming Back / Morgan Wallen feat. Post Malone / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	590/26	13	67
25	32	34	Wrong Hearts / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group	586/33	-1	-3
11	34	35	Turquoise & Silver / Billie Jo Jones / Get Joe Records	554/35	4	19
19	33	36	Hard Fought Hallelujah / Brandon Lake feat. Jelly Roll / Lyric Ridge Records/Essential Records	539/27	0	2
10	39	37	Pontiac (So Tell Me Momma) / Aaron Watson / Adub Records	509/35	7	34
5	42	38	Dream Come True / Carly Pearce / Big Machine Records	502/37	14	63
13	40	39	Three Sheets to the Wind / Kelly & Sarah / Kelly Sarah Music	498/29	7	32

2026 **MUSICROW**
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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
4	44	40	After Midnight / Nate Smith feat. Tyler Hubbard / Sony Music Nashville	485/33	17	69
16	49	41	Wish You Well / Vincent Mason / MCA Nashville/Music Soup/Interscope Records	451/29	27	95
14	41	42	Hell That I Call Home / Porter Martin / Lovable Music	449/27	0	2
12	54	43	Coulda Been Love / Braden Hull / Melody Place	440/20	29	100
37	43	44	I Wish You Would / Mackenzie Carpenter feat. Midland / The Valory Music Co.	432/20	-1	-5
11	47	45	Cowboy Pillows / Lexie Stevenson / Lexquisite Music	416/23	14	51
13	45	46	Hate How You Look / Josh Ross / Core Entertainment/Mercury Nashville	416/31	2	10
7	53	47	Kick Rocks Cowboy / Ashland Craft / Leo33	407/33	19	65
13	52	48	Never Call Again / Gavin AdCock / Thrivin Here Records LLC/Warner Music Nashville	379/27	10	36
29	48	49	Easy To Love / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	374/22	5	17
10	50	50	Perfume On My Jersey / Caleb Lathrop / CAL Production	367/25	4	14
18	46	51	Long Live Country / Shane Profitt / Triple Tigers	352/21	-5	-20
12	55	52	Pretty Much / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Entertainment	339/25	0	1
9	56	53	Kid Myself / John Morgan / Broken Bow Records	331/21	2	8
2	77	54	South Of Sanity / Zach Top / Leo33	318/23	79	140
4	57	55	The Church On Cumberland Road / Shenandoah & Nickelback / 8-Track Entertainment	312/27	6	17
7	60	56	Playing with Fire / Mika Lynch / Gravel Road Music Group	300/19	6	17
18	51	57	Said No Redneck Ever / Aaron Goodvin / New Motor Records/Warner Music Canada	298/23	-14	-50
19	58	58	Single Of The Year / Maddy Trew / TLG/Virgin/Trew Blue Music	297/23	1	2
16	59	59	Drink With You / Brett Young / Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment	292/20	1	2
6	62	60	Smells Like Whiskey / Jessie G / Jessie G Music	280/25	9	23
7	61	61	Working On a Good Night / Chuck Thomas / CDX Records	273/16	1	2
3	65	62	Gary / Stephen Wilson Jr. / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	259/20	15	34
1	89	63	Rocky Mountain Low / Corey Kent feat. Koe Wetzel / RCA Records Nashville	244/21	127	148
6	64	64	A Time or Two / Ryan Coleman / Hay Money Records	237/16	3	7
3	71	65	Harvest Moon / Lucie Tiger / 2120 Music	234/15	19	37
7	66	66	Scars / Scotty Hasting / Black River Entertainment	222/19	0	0
3	73	67	Steady / Jenna Paulette / Leo33	218/19	15	29
2	74	68	Rise / Laura Bryna & Common Tribe / LTD Entertainment	216/17	15	28
10	68	69	Wildfire featuring Cody Johnson / Michael Martin Murphey / Wildfire Productions	216/17	3	6
6	69	70	Less Than A Lady / Glen Shelton / Jordash Records	208/16	0	0
5	70	71	Life's Highway / Soul Circus Cowboys with Andy Griggs / Kismet Nashville	206/19	1	3
5	72	72	White Dress Direction / Adysen Malek / Write On Records	203/17	5	9
5	75	73	Rebel / Drew Baldridge / Broken Bow Records	198/12	7	13
6	76	74	Secondhand Smoke / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	196/18	9	16
5	79	75	The Whiskey Makes Her Miss Me / Ansel Brown / ABM	190/13	11	19
1	85	76	Too Good, Too Bad / Jason Scott & The High Heat / Leo33	189/15	48	61
9	67	77	Same Moon / Mitchell Tenpenny / Riser House Entertainment/Columbia Nashville	185/13	-16	-34
3	81	78	Worth Your Wild / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers	180/16	16	25
9	80	79	Burned Down Heaven / Chase McDaniel / Big Machine Records	175/12	11	18
1	83	80	Tijuana Tonya / Roland Whitt / Get Joe Records	162/16	23	30

No. 1 Song
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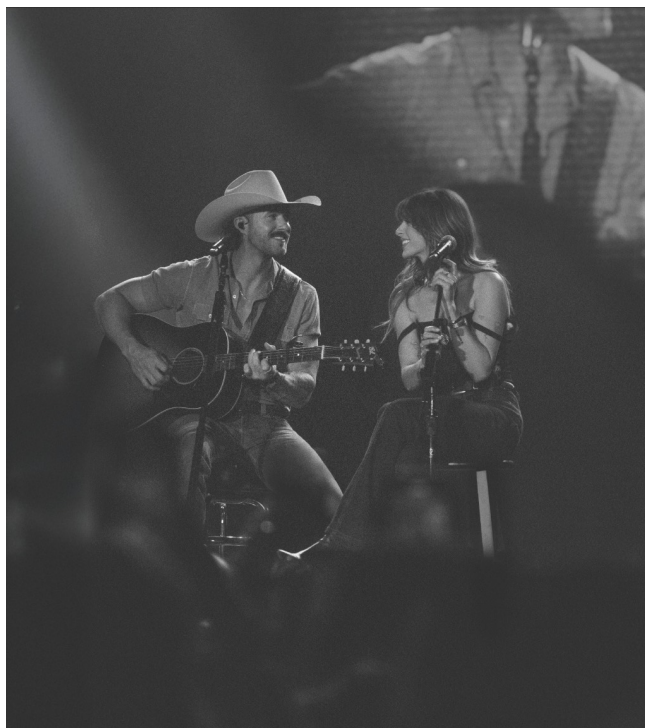
Bobby Bones. Photo: Courtesy of iHeartMedia

iHeartMedia and Netflix have partnered in an exclusive video podcasting agreement for more than 15 original iHeartPodcasts. New video podcast episodes will launch on Netflix in early 2026 in the US, with more markets to follow.

The agreement includes all new episodes from the podcast lineup, as well as select library episodes from each show. **Bobby Bones Presents: The BobbyCast**, *The Breakfast Club*, *Joe and Jada* and *Dear Chelsea* are among the included podcasts.

"Audio podcasting has been the fastest-growing medium over the past 20 years, and now we're thrilled to expand that experience with an exciting new category – video podcasts. Netflix has a leading video-first service, and this partnership perfectly complements our strong audio foundation. Working with Netflix—an important leader in entertainment— gives fans one more way to connect with the personalities they love and opens the door to new audiences, including viewers discovering these shows for the first time," says **Bob Pittman**, CEO of iHeartMedia. "These shows feature dynamic hosts, compelling conversations, and passionate fan communities— available in both audio and now as a natural video extension. Audiences can now not only listen but also watch and enjoy top-rated iHeartPodcasts alongside award-winning series and movies from Netflix." **MR**

Riley Green Earns Sixth No. 1



Riley Green & Ella Langley

Riley Green has landed at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay Chart, Mediabase Country Chart, and Canada Country Radio with "Don't Mind If I Do (feat. **Ella Langley**)."

This marks Green's sixth career chart-topper and his second consecutive self-penned chart-topper this year, following "[Worst Way](#)." With "Worst Way" and "Don't Mind If I Do" both reaching No. 1, Green becomes the first country artist to earn back-to-back solo-written No. 1 singles on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart since Taylor Swift topped the charts with "Sparks Fly" (2011) and "Ours" (2012).

Green recently released *Don't Mind If I Do (Deluxe)*, an expanded edition of his 2024 album that adds six new tracks. In 2026, his headlining "[Cowboy As It Gets Tour](#)" will take him to cities across the country including Nashville, Cleveland, Saratoga Springs, Salt Lake City, and more, with a lineup of special guests joining him on select dates, including Justin Moore, Drake White, Mackenzie Carpenter, Adam Hood, Hannah McFarland, and Zach John King.

Chris Martignago Helps Guide Prescription Songs' Nashville Growth [Interview]



Chris Martignago. Photo: Taylor Christian Jones

Early this year, **Chris Martignago** was promoted to Vice President of A&R at Prescription Songs' Nashville office, formalizing his leadership role as the company continues to expand its presence in the market.

Martignago brings more than 14 years of A&R experience to the position, including nearly a decade at Atlantic Records and the last four years at Prescription Songs. In Nashville, he has helped shape a roster that spans pop, alternative, and country-adjacent spaces, while maintaining Prescription's reputation as one of the city's more genre-fluid publishing companies.

Originally from outside Washington, D.C., Martignago was raised by parents who immigrated from France in the late 1980s. Music was always present in his household, but in varied forms. "My mom was really into pop radio and divas like Celine Dion and Shania Twain," he says. "My dad was a total rock person. So early on, it was never just one thing."

After his family relocated to South Florida, Martignago's relationship with music shifted from passive to immersive. A friend convinced him to attend a local show as a teenager, a screamo concert in the back of a church.

"I couldn't tell where the floor ended and where the ceiling began," he recalls. "The energy was insane. I just remember thinking, I want to be a part of whatever this is."

That instinct initially led him toward performing. Martignago spent his late teens and early twenties touring in bands, an experience he now credits with teaching him skills he did not fully appreciate at the time. "I didn't realize how much I was learning just from being on the road," he says. "You're watching how rooms work, how crowds react, how songs land night after night."

Eventually, practicality pushed him toward the business side. Encouraged by his parents to pursue a more stable path, Martignago enrolled at Full Sail University in Orlando, where he studied music business. A pivotal moment came when

he was selected to meet **Steve Robertson**, a longtime Atlantic Records executive. The meeting led to an internship at Atlantic, where Robertson became an early mentor. Martignago's initial responsibilities were simple but demanding.

"My job was basically, when he put the phone down, I had to play something amazing," he says.

One moment during that internship became foundational to how Martignago approaches A&R. After struggling to find music he truly believed in, he chose not to play anything at all. "I told him I hadn't found anything good enough," Martignago says. "Instead of that being a problem, it actually shifted how he saw me. It was about raising the bar on listening and being more discerning."

The moment led to increased responsibility and deeper trust, reinforcing the idea that strong A&R instincts are as much about what you pass on as what you champion.

That emphasis on discernment carried through Martignago's rise at Atlantic, where he moved from intern to consultant and eventually to Director of A&R and Research. His role blended creative development with emerging data-driven approaches, providing early exposure to developing artists and projects, including work around **Melanie Martinez**, **Billie Eilish** and **Twenty One Pilots**.

"I still believe in research," he says. "I just believe it works best when it's paired with taste and intuition, not replacing them."

In 2015, Martignago relocated to Nashville after Robertson made his own move to the city, a decision that ultimately prompted Martignago to follow. While the city offered a strong songwriting culture and sense of community, it also presented challenges for pop-focused A&R work at the time.

"There weren't a lot of people doing what I was doing here," he says. "In some ways, it felt like moving to a new place with some of the same challenges and some new ones."

Those tensions became more pronounced during the pandemic, as TikTok accelerated the industry's focus on metrics and short-term performance. When Martignago's contract came up for renewal in early 2021, it became clear that his priorities and the label's evolving needs were diverging.

"It wasn't dramatic," he says. "Everyone was kind, and I was treated well. But it became obvious that what they valued most from me wasn't the part of the job that got me into music in the first place."

Shortly after, Martignago joined Prescription Songs Nashville, shifting from label A&R to publishing. The move required a recalibration, particularly around timelines and financial expectations.

"One of the first things I learned was how long it takes for money to come in on the publishing side," he says. "And what makes money there isn't always the same thing that makes money on the label side."

He also had to adjust his mindset. "At a label, you're often working on very specific puzzles," he explains. "You need the single, or the producer, or one missing piece. In publishing, you're working with pieces and deciding what puzzles you even want to build."

That shift led to a more proactive approach, both creatively and strategically.

"I actually think Prescription made me a better A&R person," he says. "You can't just react. You have to be intentional about who you bring in, because you're committing to them for the long term."

Since joining Prescription, Martignago has helped develop a Nashville roster that includes **Anderson East**, **Trent Dabbs**, **JT Daly**, **Nick Lobel**, **Tony Esterly**, **Brett Truitt**, **Josie Dunne**, **Dominique Sanders**, **Derik Fein**, **Heather Russell** and **Vancouver Sleep Clinic**. Recent highlights include the signings of East and Dabbs, along with

contributions from Prescription writers and producers to **BigXthaPlug**'s latest project, which featured four cuts involving Nashville-based creatives and collaborators such as **Thomas Rhett**, **Shaboozey**, **Darius Rucker** and **Ink**.

Earlier this year, longtime Prescription Nashville leader **Katie Fagan** announced her departure to [launch](#) Mom + Pop Records' Nashville operation. Martignago raised his hand to help guide the office forward. "I knew I couldn't replace Katie," he says. "But I also knew I cared deeply about what we'd built and where it could go next."

In early 2025, Prescription named Martignago Vice President of A&R, a title that reflects expanded responsibilities but not a shift in focus. Martignago sees Prescription's role in Nashville continuing to evolve from an alternative presence into a competitive one, while staying grounded in the identity the company has built. "We've always been an alternative," he says. "Now the goal is to compete while staying authentic to who we are." That approach includes supporting genre-fluid creatives and expanding the company's footprint across country and hybrid spaces. "I don't think writers want to be put in boxes anymore," he adds. "They want flexibility, and they want to feel like their identity can evolve."

Martignago also points to the importance of diversity, both in signings and staffing, as Nashville's creative ecosystem continues to broaden. "If music in this town is going to look different," he says, "the industry has to reflect that."

As VP of A&R, Martignago will continue overseeing signings, creative development and cross-genre initiatives for Prescription Songs Nashville. "I want to build something sustainable," he says. "And I want the work to speak for itself." **MR**



Historic Nashville Holiday-Music Deluge Swamps Reviewer

Several people have asked me if there is going to be a DISCLAIMER review column covering this year's seasonal records. The answer is, "No." The reason is that this year, there are more than 130 new holiday singles and at least 25 Christmas albums. For whatever reason, Nashville's music makers seem to believe that we need the comfort-and-joy of Yule tunes more than ever in 2025. This is just anecdotal, but I cannot recall a year when there was such a bonanza of holiday music. Realistically, there are not enough working hours in a day, week or month to listen and write about all of these releases.

I can offer the following guideposts. Of the classic Christmas tunes, "Winter Wonderland" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" were the most recorded by Nashville-associated acts in 2025. Of the new Xmas tunes, the 10 titles that intrigued me most were (1) "Santa Claus Was My Uber Driver," (2) "Shut Up, Santa," (3) "Trucker's Christmas," (4) "Ugly Sweater," (5) "Santa Had a Rough Year," (6) "Socks and Underwear," (7) "How to Make Gravy," (8) "I Hate Christmas," (9) "Christmas In Jail" and (10) "The Wayward Turkey From Albuquerque" (leftover from Thanksgiving).

Among the albums, there is no denying the talent of Brad Paisley. And the golden voices of Trisha Yearwood, Natalie Grant and Mickey Guyton seem to be made for the season. Old Crow Medicine Show deserves a shout-out for creativity. Gabby Barrett gets a nod as the best newcomer to Christmas music making..

Anyhow, in lieu of an exhaustive column, [here's a menu of this year's selections](#). Have fun creating your own playlists. **MR**

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[Big Machine Music Celebrates 2025 Accolades](#)

[BMG & TikTok Expand Partnership](#)

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[Musicians On Call Announces National Board of Directors Appointments](#)

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[NSAI Accepting Submissions For 34th Annual Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival](#)

[Odyssey Entertainment Group Surpasses \\$30 Million Sales Milestone In First Four Years](#)

[PD Mac Bruno Receives 2026 Steve Ferguson CRS Scholarship](#)

[Tennessee Songwriters Week Sign-Ups Open](#)

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Riley Green	Don't Mind If I Do	Riley Green (feat. Ella Langley)
2	2	Chase McGill	20 Cigarettes Happen To Me I Got Better It Won't Be Long the hell you are	Morgan Wallen Russell Dickerson Morgan Wallen George Birge Ashley Cooke
3	6	Josh Miller	20 Cigarettes 3,2,1	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore
4	4	Blake Pendergrass	20 Cigarettes Ain't A Bad Life I Got Better Just In Case Wish You Well	Morgan Wallen Thomas Rhett & Jordan Davis Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Vincent Mason
5	3	Ryan Vojtesak	Hell At Night Holy Water I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better I'm The Problem Just In Case What I Want	BigXthaPlug (feat. Ella Langley) Marshmello & Jelly Roll Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
6	5	Ty Myers	Ends Of The Earth	Ty Myers
7	7	Beau Bailey	Favorite Country Song Painted You Pretty Sober Stay Country Or Die Tryin'	Hardy Hudson Westbrook Hudson Westbrook Blake Shelton
8	9	Morgan Wallen	I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better I'm The Problem Just In Case What I Want	Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
9	8	Bruce Robison	Travelin' Soldier	Cody Johnson
10	10	Michael Hardy	Favorite Country Song I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better	Hardy Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen
11	11	Ashley Gorley	Ain't A Bad Life Favorite Country Song Me & A Beer	Thomas Rhett & Jordan Davis Hardy Chris Janson
12	15	Chris LaCorte	20 Cigarettes Happen To Me Wish You Well	Morgan Wallen Russell Dickerson Vincent Mason
13	13	Jeremy Stover	The Fall Time's Ticking	Cody Johnson Justin Moore & Dierks Bentley
14	16	Ernest Keith Smith	I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better I'm The Problem Just In Case	Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
15	17	Megan Moroney	6 Months Later Beautiful Things	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney
16	12	Hudson Westbrook	House Again Painted You Pretty Sober	Hudson Westbrook Hudson Westbrook Hudson Westbrook
17	14	Joybeth Taylor	Choosin' Texas Hell At Night Need To Never Call Again	Ella Langley BigXthaPlug (feat. Ella Langley) Gavin Adcock Gavin Adcock
18	18	Trannie Anderson	It Won't Be Long Somewhere Over Laredo	George Birge Lainey Wilson

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
19	30	Jordan Reynolds	3,2,1	Tucker Wetmore
20	31	Summer Overstreet	3,2,1	Tucker Wetmore
21	26	Luke Combs	Back In The Saddle Days Like These	Luke Combs Luke Combs
22	19	Miranda Lambert	A Song To Sing Choosin' Texas	Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton Ella Langley
23	20	Neil Medley	House Again Sober	Hudson Westbrook Hudson Westbrook
24	25	Ella Langley	Choosin' Texas Hell At Night	Ella Langley BigXthaPlug (feat. Ella Langley)
25	27	Dan Alley	House Again	Hudson Westbrook
26	24	Jessie Jo Dillon	Baggage Beautiful Things Happen To Me Wish You Well	Kelsea Ballerini Megan Moroney Russell Dickerson Vincent Mason
27	21	Jeremy Spillman	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
28	22	Parker McCollum	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
29	23	Natalie Hemby	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum
30	32	John Byron	Ain't A Bad Life Just In Case What I Want	Thomas Rhett & Jordan Davis Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Tate McRae)
31	28	Carson Chamberlain	Good Times & Tan Lines South Of Sanity	Zach Top Zach Top
32	29	Zach Top	Good Times & Tan Lines South Of Sanity	Zach Top Zach Top
33	33	Ben Williams	6 Months Later	Megan Moroney
34	34	David Mescon	6 Months Later	Megan Moroney
35	35	Rob Hatch	6 Months Later	Megan Moroney
36	38	Ray Fulcher	The Fall	Cody Johnson
37	39	Bobby Pinson	The Fall	Cody Johnson
38	37	Luke Dick	Choosin' Texas	Ella Langley
39	40	Wyatt McCubbin	Good Times & Tan Lines	Zach Top
40		Sam Canty	Bad State of Mind Happy Face Misery Port A Shit Hill Stay a While Sunflower West Texas Degenerate Withdrawals	Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & Muscadine Bloodline Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & William Clark Green Treaty Oak Revival & Gannon Fremin & CCREV
41		Lance Vanley	Bad State of Mind Happy Face Misery Port A Shit Hill Stay a While Sunflower West Texas Degenerate Withdrawals	Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & Muscadine Bloodline Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & William Clark Green Treaty Oak Revival & Gannon Fremin & CCREV
42		Jeremiah Vanley	Bad State of Mind Happy Face Misery Port A Shit Hill Stay a While Sunflower West Texas Degenerate Withdrawals	Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & Muscadine Bloodline Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & William Clark Green Treaty Oak Revival & Gannon Fremin & CCREV

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
43		Cody Holloway	Bad State of Mind Happy Face Misery Port A Shit Hill Stay a While Sunflower West Texas Degenerate Withdrawals	Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & Muscadine Bloodline Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & William Clark Green Treaty Oak Revival & Gannon Fremin & CCREV
44		Andrew Carey	Bad State of Mind Happy Face Misery Port A Shit Hill Stay a While Sunflower West Texas Degenerate Withdrawals	Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & Muscadine Bloodline Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival Treaty Oak Revival & William Clark Green Treaty Oak Revival & Gannon Fremin & CCREV
45	36	Zach Abend	Favorite Country Song	Hardy
46	42	John Morgan	How Far Does A Goodbye Go Kid Myself	Jason Aldean John Morgan
47	51	Aaron Raitiere	Days Like These	Luke Combs
48	52	Brent Cobb	Days Like These	Luke Combs
49	44	Jamie Kenney	Better Me For You (Brown Eyes)	Max McNown
50	45	Ava Suppelsa	Better Me For You (Brown Eyes)	Max McNown
51	46	Max McNown	Better Me For You (Brown Eyes)	Max McNown
52	47	Trent Dabbs	Better Me For You (Brown Eyes)	Max McNown
53	41	Jason DeFord	Amen Hard Fought Hallelujah Holy Water	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll Brandon Lake & Jelly Roll Marshmello & Jelly Roll
54	53	Graham Barham	Stay Country Or Die Tryin'	Blake Shelton
55	54	Sam Ellis	Stay Country Or Die Tryin'	Blake Shelton
56	55	Drew Parker	Stay Country Or Die Tryin'	Blake Shelton
57	43	Dallas Wilson	Same Moon Somewhere Over Laredo	Mitchell Tenpenny Lainey Wilson
58	48	John Edwards	How Far Does A Goodbye Go	Jason Aldean
59	49	Kurt Allison	How Far Does A Goodbye Go	Jason Aldean
60	50	Tully Kennedy	How Far Does A Goodbye Go	Jason Aldean

Newly Added Job Listings

Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman: Tax Manager

Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman is seeking a Tax Manager to join our team of dedicated professionals. This position can be based out of Century City, CA or Encino, CA on a hybrid basis. The Manager is responsible for overseeing all financial and tax aspects related to assigned client accounts.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

TKO Artist Management: Executive Assistant to the President

Seeking an experienced full-time Executive Assistant to the President. The ideal candidate exhibits strong administrative qualities in areas such as typing, taking dictation, attention to detail, coordinating travel, managing calendars, research; has a good memory and knowledge of the music industry. A professional attitude and appearance are required. Requirements: 2-3 years music industry experience or executive assistant experience preferred, Knowledge of the music business and important industry executives preferred, Must be proficient in Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint, 70+ WPM typing speed preferred. Duties include but are not limited to: Work closely with President to read and respond to high quantity of emails daily, Schedule and organize meetings, calls, calendar management, Manage all travel needs and work closely with the company travel agent, Expense reports, Research projects as needed, Assist at functions (including after hours), Miscellaneous errands.

Contact: cassie@tkoartistmanagement.com

Shore Fire Media: Spring 2026 Entertainment Publicity Intern

The entertainment publicity intern will assist their team in all aspects of daily publicity duties including compiling daily press clips, maintaining and updating publicity resources, researching appropriate journalists for campaigns, drafting press notes, and more. Our educational enrichment program give interns a real-world, hands-on publicity experience they can take into future roles. This internship is a wonderful opportunity to learn the inner workings of a top arts, culture, and entertainment PR agency. This is a remote position for Shore Fire's Nashville office.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases And Radio Singles

December 19

Austin Michael/Why Not Whiskey

Jacob Hackworth/Bad As I Do

January 2

Abby Nissenbaum/If You Wanted to You Would

January 9

HunterGirl/Somewhere Wild/BMG

Lucie Tiger/Cowboy Love Me/2120 Music

NORA./Since I've Been Gone

January 12

Riley Green/Change My Mind/Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment

Tucker Wetmore/Brunette/Back Blocks Music/Mercury Nashville

January 15

Tyler Ramsey & Carl Broemel/In The Willows/Duo Quest Records/Tone Tree Music

January 19

Sofia Lee Davis/Hey Rita/Sophia Lee Davis Music

Album/EP Releases

January 2

Josh Weathers/*Neon Never Fades*

January 9

Zach Bryan/*With Heaven On Top*/Warner Records

Meghan Patrick/*Golden Child (The Final Chapter)*/Riser House Records

January 16

Langhorne Slim/*The Dreamin' Kind*/Dualtone Records

Courtney Marie Andrews/*Valentine*/Thirty Tigers

January 23

Trisha Yearwood/*The Mirror (Deluxe)*/Virgin Music Group/Gwendolyn Records

Hudson Westbrook/*Exclusive*/Warner Records Nashville/River House Artists

Kashus Culpepper/*Act 1*/Big Loud Records

Jamie O'Neal/*Gypsum*/BFD/Audium Nashville

January 30

Emily Scott Robinson/*Appalachia*/Oh Boy Records

Cordovas/*Back to Life*/Yep Roc Records/Redeye

CALENDAR

Upcoming Nashville Concerts

December 19

For KING + COUNTRY/A Drummer Boy Christmas: The Live Experience/Grand Ole Opry House
Amy Grant & Vince Gill/Christmas At The Ryman/Ryman Auditorium
Bear Grillz/Cannery Hall (Main Stage)

December 20

Amy Grant & Vince Gill/Christmas At The Ryman/Ryman Auditorium
The Lemonheads/Love Chant World Tour/The Basement East
Christmas With Kyla/City Winery

December 21

HEART/The Pinnacle
Lady A/This Winter's Night Tour/Ryman Auditorium
Silent Planet/Lovers Fest/The Basement East
El DeBarge/City Winery

December 22

Lady A/This Winter's Night Tour/Ryman Auditorium
Ryan Greenawalt & Melissa Greene/Evergreen Christmas/The Basement East
Kibby & The Biscuits/EXIT/IN
El DeBarge/City Winery

December 23

Lady A/This Winter's Night Tour/Ryman Auditorium
Mowtown Christmas/City Winery

December 27

Mau P/The Pinnacle
Nora Brown/City Winery

December 30

Old Crow Medicine Show/Ryman Auditorium
John Corabi/The Basement East
Marc Broussard/City Winery

December 31

Old Crow Medicine Show/Ryman Auditorium
Moon Taxi/Brooklyn Bowl
Marc Broussard/City Winery