

MusicRow Releases 2026 InCharge Issue, Russell Dickerson Graces The Cover



MusicRow Magazine, Nashville's leading music industry trade publication, is proud to announce the 2026 release of its flagship print directory, InCharge.

This annual guide highlights some of the Nashville music business' most influential industry executives. This year's edition includes 384 profiles, accompanied by contact information, career biographies and detailed board and organizational membership affiliations.

The guide also includes a record label staff index, a company appendix and a professional categories appendix, which lists executives by their areas of expertise, including label, talent agency, management, music publishing, legal, finance, performing rights organizations and more.

"Nashville's music industry continues to evolve. Its strength remains rooted in the people doing the hard work, building careers, developing talent and finding new ways to connect music with audiences," says *MusicRow* Publisher/Owner **Sherod Robertson**. "Whether inside record labels, management companies, booking agencies, publishing companies, media organizations and other segments of our community, the people on these pages are the ones who move things forward."

Multi-Platinum chart-topper **Russell Dickerson** graces the cover of the 2026 InCharge issue.

The Triple Tigers recording artist burst onto the scene with a remarkable run of No. 1 hits—"Yours" (3X Platinum), "Blue Tacoma" (2X Platinum), "Love You Like I Used To" (2X Platinum), "Every Little Thing" (Platinum), "God Gave Me a Girl" and most recently the Platinum-certified "Happen to Me"—cementing his

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

MusicRow Releases 2026 InCharge Issue

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BMR/Nashville Harbor Taps Allison Jones As EVP Of A&R

Country Outlaw David Allan Coe Dies At 86

Musicians Hall of Fame Inducts Ninth Class

Avery Anna Wins ACM New Female Artist Of The Year

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Rolling Stone Elevates Joseph Hudak

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My Music Row Story: FlyteVu's Laura Hutfless

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews

And much more...



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Blue

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- ERNEST -

BIG LOUD

reputation as one of country music's most consistent hitmakers. Dickerson has amassed nearly four billion career streams to date.

His sold-out live show became the driving force behind his fourth studio album, *FAMOUS BACK HOME*, a high-energy, confidence-fueled project that mirrors the electricity of his sold-out "RUSSELLMANIA TOUR"—now extended through 2026.

Single copies of *MusicRow's* 2026 InCharge issue are available for purchase at musicrow.com for \$115, and are included with yearly *MusicRow* subscriptions. **MR**



COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

I Can't Love You Anymore/Ella Langley feat. Morgan Wallen/
Columbia Records/SAWGOD - 38

Son of Jolene/Belles with Dolly Parton/East Music Row Records - 66

Wouldn't Want Me Either/Erica Nicole/Kent Wells Productions - 73

Be By You/Luke Combs/Columbia Nashville - 75

Born To Roam/Addis Luv/Angel Eyes Music LLP - 79

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

I Can't Love You Anymore/Ella Langley feat. Morgan Wallen/
Columbia Records/SAWGOD - 515

Don't Tell On Me/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville - 225

Don't We/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 171

Hate How You Look/Josh Ross/Core Entertainment/Mercury
Nashville - 155

Painted You Pretty/Hudson Westbrook/River House Artists/Warner
Records Nashville - 149

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

I Can't Love You Anymore/Ella Langley feat. Morgan Wallen/
Columbia Records/SAWGOD - 28

Son of Jolene/Belles with Dolly Parton/East Music Row Records - 9

Painted You Pretty/Hudson Westbrook/River House Artists/Warner
Records Nashville - 7

Say So/Dan + Shay/Warner Records Nashville - 7

Get To Drinkin'/Zach John King/Sony Music Nashville - 5

Just A Mom/Alex Miller/Billy Jam Records - 5

Woman/Kane Brown/RCA Nashville - 5

Exes In Texas/Porter Martin/Lovable Losers Music - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Love Is Blind/Ian Munsick/Triple Tigers Records - 128

Country Raised Her/Greg Pratt/PGMG Nashville - 127

Nothing On You/Jet Jurgensmeyer/Simba Entertainment, LLC - 125

Daylight Saves/Calder Allen/Calder Allen Music, LLC - 124

Hey Rita/Sofia Lee Davis/Sofia Lee Davis Music - 111

NO. 1 SONG



Ella Langley notches a second week atop the *MusicRow* CountryBreakout Radio Chart with her track, "Be Her."

Langley co-wrote the song with **Jordan Schmidt**, **Smith Ahnquist** and **HARDY**. It appears on her sophomore album *Dandelion*.

"Be Her" currently sits at No. 8 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 6 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
WCTY Norwich, CT
WPPL Blue Ridge, GA
WUBB Savannah, GA
KXIA Marshalltown, IA
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID
WOOZ Cartersville, 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 +/-
9	1	1	Be Her / Ella Langley / SAWGOD Records/Columbia/Triple Tigers	2133/61	0	2
17	2	2	Change My Mind / Riley Green / Nashville Harbor Records	2130/59	1	27
16	3	3	Brunette / Tucker Wetmore / Back Blocks/EMI Nashville	2078/58	2	50
19	5	4	South Of Sanity / Zach Top / Leo33	1898/67	4	69
13	6	5	McArthur / HARDY feat. Eric Church, Morgan Wallen, Tim McGraw / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1815/65	1	14
14	4	6	Sleepless in a Hotel Room / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	1790/42	-3	-52
30	10	7	Hate How You Look / Josh Ross / Core Entertainment/Mercury Nashville	1774/59	10	155
24	8	8	Beautiful Things / Megan Moroney / Columbia Nashville/Columbia Records	1770/56	2	37
51	7	9	The Fall / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1741/45	0	-1
18	11	10	Rocky Mountain Low / Corey Kent feat. Koe Wetzel / RCA Records Nashville	1732/60	8	125
9	14	11	Don't Tell On Me / Jason Aldean / BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville	1692/59	15	225
27	12	12	Chevy Silverado / Bailey Zimmerman / Atlantic Records/Warner Music Nashville	1641/59	3	55
9	16	13	Don't We / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1549/60	12	171
50	13	14	Me & A Beer / Chris Janson / Harpeth 60 Records	1523/51	-1	-9
39	15	15	Fireworks / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	1455/59	0	-5
36	18	16	All My Exes / Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew / Big Loud Records	1389/59	5	69
12	17	17	Ride Ride Ride / George Birge feat. Luke Bryan / RECORDS Nashville	1369/58	1	15
23	9	18	Days Like These / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	1297/38	-20	-326
24	19	19	Killed The Man / Lee Brice / Curb Records	1296/56	1	10
33	20	20	Wish You Well / Vincent Mason / MCA Nashville/Music Soup/Interscope Records	1113/41	-3	-40
6	23	21	Woman / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1092/50	11	104
17	22	22	Boots Off / Jon Pardi / MCA	1087/54	6	66
29	21	23	the hell you are / Ashley Cooke / Big Loud Records	1082/51	0	-4
42	25	24	Wrong Hearts / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group	1039/45	10	91
5	27	25	Country And She Knows It / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	982/51	10	90
21	26	26	The Church On Cumberland Road / Shenandoah & Nickelback / 8-Track Entertainment	945/45	3	27
26	32	27	Kid Myself / John Morgan / Broken Bow Records	885/43	10	84
20	28	28	Gary / Stephen Wilson Jr. / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	868/47	3	23
20	30	29	Steady / Jenna Paulette / Leo33	859/38	4	32
17	31	30	Too Much Lonesome / Eric Lee Beddingfield / Marshals Of The Revolution	848/41	4	30
15	33	31	Make A Liar / Jackson Dean / Blue Highway	781/46	6	41
14	34	32	Let Him In Anyway / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	748/41	7	51
4	38	33	Say So / Dan + Shay / Warner Records Nashville	677/46	24	132
10	40	34	Painted You Pretty / Hudson Westbrook / River House Artists/Warner Records Nashville	657/39	29	149
11	35	35	Found / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	655/43	12	72
19	37	36	Rise / Laura Bryna & Common Tribe / LTD Entertainment	618/29	9	53
7	36	37	If I Don't Leave I'm Gonna Stay / Carly Pearce feat. Riley Green / Blue Highway Records	616/41	7	38
1	164	38	I Can't Love You Anymore / Ella Langley feat. Morgan Wallen / Columbia Records/SAWGOD	528/29	127	515
10	41	39	What If We Don't / Ashley McBryde / Warner Records Nashville	515/35	6	29



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
35	39	40	Long Live Country / Shane Profitt / Triple Tigers	513/27	-1	-4
10	42	41	Water At A Wedding / Greylan James / Nashville Harbor	490/36	2	8
9	43	42	If Daddy Says No / Harper Grace / Curb Records	487/40	3	12
46	45	43	Easy To Love / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	468/30	15	61
8	44	44	American Sky / Aaron Tippin / 8-Track Entertainment	459/36	3	14
10	48	45	Killin' Me / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	412/29	12	45
20	47	46	Worth Your Wild / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers	386/27	5	18
6	54	47	Get To Drinkin' / Zach John King / Sony Music Nashville	369/25	42	110
10	50	48	Psychological / The Band Perry / Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment	367/30	7	23
18	49	49	Too Good, Too Bad / Jason Scott & The High Heat / Leo33	362/22	4	14
12	46	50	Holdin' It Down / Chase Matthew / Warner Records Nashville	355/25	-4	-16
5	52	51	Good Time Gone / Lexie Stevenson / Lexquisite Music	322/25	15	42
6	53	52	Where Ya Been Girl / Chris Chitsey / Clientel/Sony/Orchard	282/21	8	22
11	58	53	Straight For The Heart / Alexandra Kay / Wheelhouse Records	280/20	24	54
13	55	54	So Afraid of Losing You Again / Danielia Cotton / CDX Records	260/15	2	4
16	56	55	Too Close For Closure / Brett Westgrove / Brett Westgrove Music	240/18	0	0
5	57	56	Good Damn / Brantley Gilbert / BBR Music Group/BMG/Wheelhouse Records	239/21	3	6
7	60	57	Warning You Whiskey / Brit Taylor / RidgeTone Records/Thirty Tigers	238/19	14	30
6	61	58	Tell Me That There Ain't A God / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	233/19	13	26
4	66	59	Cowboy Love Me / Lucie Tiger / 2120 Music	216/15	24	42
6	62	60	Ghost of You / Chuck Thomas / CDX Records	209/14	7	14
3	68	61	Something That I Need / Carson Beyer / Lucky Money Entertainment	205/21	23	39
4	63	62	Never Comin' Back / Flatland Cavalry / Lost Highway	202/16	6	11
8	59	63	Back In The Bottle / Randy Houser / Magnolia Music Group	199/15	-10	-22
5	64	64	This Beer's Broken / Ken Domash / Thunder Mountain Records	196/17	4	8
2	75	65	Exes In Texas / Porter Martin / Lovable Losers Music	185/16	35	48
1	95	66	Son of Jolene / Belles with Dolly Parton / East Music Row Records	176/17	110	92
2	73	67	Whiskey After Women / Adysen Malek / Write On Records	175/16	26	36
2	70	68	God Knew Better / Parmalee / Stoney Creek Records	173/12	7	12
2	81	69	Dry Spell / Kacey Musgraves / Lost Highway Records	171/11	35	44
4	67	70	Some Bridges / Jo Dee Messina / Dreambound Records	166/10	-2	-4
3	69	71	Bird In A Cage / Caryn Dixon / Caryn Dixon Music	163/12	-1	-1
8	72	72	Country Country / Amy Sheppard / Empire of Song	160/13	5	8
1	83	73	Wouldn't Want Me Either / Erica Nicole / Kent Wells Productions	156/14	30	36
2	76	74	Move On / Kevin Powers & Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	153/11	13	17
1	90	75	Be By You / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	152/9	60	57
4	74	76	Travelin' Soldier / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	144/7	4	5
3	78	77	One For The Road / Preston Cooper / Blue Highway Records	143/11	5	7
3	77	78	Since God Knows When / Michael Raven / Deadly Melody	138/11	1	2
1	82	79	Born To Roam / Addis Luv / Angel Eyes Music LLP	136/8	11	14
4	80	80	Mending Fences / Andrew Farriss / Rockingham Holdings	132/12	3	4

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut

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Date Revealed For 60th Annual CMA Awards



The Country Music Association has announced the date for The 60th Annual CMA Awards, which will air Wednesday, Nov. 18 from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena live on ABC and next day on Hulu.

The CMA has also revealed the full ballot schedule for the 60th CMA Awards, as well as key dates for the CMA Broadcast Awards, Touring Awards, International Awards and Industry Honors.

"Country Music is shaped by the people who dedicate their lives to it, whether on stage, in the studio, on the road, or behind the scenes," says **Sarah Trahern**, CMA Chief Executive Officer. "At CMA, celebrating that work is at the heart of everything we do. Across our awards and honors, it is this community that determines what excellence looks like, and in our 60th year, I hope every member of this industry truly understands the significance of that. Their participation is how Country Music recognizes itself, and how it shapes its future."

[Click here](#) for a snapshot of key dates, eligibility requirements and voting processes across CMA's annual awards cycle. **MR**

Big Machine Records/Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment Taps Allison Jones As EVP Of A&R



Allison Jones

Big Machine Records/Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment has tapped **Allison Jones** as EVP of A&R.

Jones joined Big Machine Label Group in 2008 and has been a key player in signing Thomas Rhett, Florida Georgia Line, The Band Perry, Riley Green, Carly Pearce and Midland, while contributing to the development and success of Tim McGraw, Rascal Flatts, Lady A and Taylor Swift.

Across her career, she has spent time as Head of A&R at multiple labels, including Giant Records, DreamWorks Nashville and Universal Music Group Nashville. Jones served as Toby Keith's longtime A&R representative for more than a decade during the peak of his career, and she worked closely with Reba McEntire across multiple projects, including her GRAMMY Award-winning gospel album *Sing It Now: Songs of Faith & Hope*.

Jones has been recognized on *Billboard's* Women In Music and Country Power Players lists, as well as on *Country Aircheck's* Power 31 list and at *Nashville Business Journal's* Women in Music City Awards.

"Allison is the consummate A&R executive," adds Founder, Chairman and CEO **Scott Borchetta**. "She knows every artist, every song, and every publisher, and is obsessed with being on the sharp end of pop culture. Big Machine simply would not be what it is today without Allison by my side, and I'm so thrilled that we get to continue together in this new season." **MR**

Country Outlaw David Allan Coe Dies At 86



David Allan Coe. Photo: Matthew Voitunski via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY 2.0)

Talented country star **David Allan Coe** has died at age 86.

The charismatic performer was known for recording such hits as “Mona Lisa Lost Her Smile”, “The Ride”, “You Never Even Called Me by My Name”, “She Used to Love Me a Lot”, and “Longhaired Redneck.” He notched 63 singles on the *Billboard* charts.

Coe was a talented songwriter, with artists including Johnny Cash, George Jones, Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette, The Oak Ridge Boys and many more recording his songs. His biggest hits as a songwriter were “Would You Lay With Me (In a Field of Stone),” recorded by Tanya Tucker, and Johnny Paycheck’s iconic rendition of “Take This Job and Shove It,” which later inspired a movie of the same name.

Coe often spurred controversy with lyrics, with frequent profanities, tales of drug use and sexually explicit material. His rebellious attitude and image garnered him

the title of the ‘outlaw’s outlaw.’

Coe was born in Akron, Ohio on Sept. 6, 1939. As a boy, he was sent to the Starr Commonwealth For Boys reform school. Coe would spend the next 20 years in correctional facilities, including three years at the Ohio Penitentiary.

After ending a prison term in 1967, Coe moved to Nashville where he reportedly lived in a hearse which he parked in front of the Ryman Auditorium. While street performing, he caught the attention of the owner of the independent record label Plantation Records, Shelby Singleton, who signed him.

In 1970 Coe released his debut album *Penitentiary Blues*. In 1971 he signed to Pete and Rose Drake’s publishing company Windows Publishing Company, and when Tanya Tucker’s recording of his “Would You Lay With Me (In a Field of Stone)” went to the top of the charts, Coe was signed to Columbia Records. He cut his own version of the song for his second Columbia album, *Once Upon a Rhyme*, released in 1975.

Once Upon A Rhyme also contained Coe’s biggest hit, “You Never Even Called Me by My Name,” written by John Prine and Steve Goodman.

His third album, *The Mysterious Rhinestone Cowboy*, was named for the rhinestones suit and a Lone Ranger mask he wore to perform.

Coe would go on to release a handful of more albums throughout the ’70s, including *Longhaired Redneck* (1976), *Human Emotions* (1978), *Family Album* (1978), *Compass Point* (1979) and *Spectrum VII* (1979).

In 1980 Coe enlisted producer Billy Sherrill for *I’ve Got Something to Say*, which included featured vocals from Guy Clark, Bill Anderson, Dickey Betts (of The Allman Brothers Band), Kris Kristofferson, Larry Jon Wilson, and George Jones.

Read his full obit [here](#). **MR**

Musicians Hall of Fame Inducts Ninth Class At Star-Studded Nashville Ceremony



Pictured (Back Row, L-R): Linda Chambers, Don Felder, Britt Chambers-Hawker, Keith Urban, John Boylan, Moira Hopkins, Dann Huff, Michael McDonald, Leland Sklar, Ricky Skaggs and Richie Owens. (Front Row, L-R): George Thorogood & The Destroyers, Buddy Leach, Bill Blough, George Thorogood, Jeff Simon and Jim Suhler. Photo: Royce DeGrie, Musicians Hall of Fame

The Musicians Hall of Fame inducted a new class during a sold-out ceremony at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts Monday night (April 28) honoring **Dann Huff**, **Dolly Parton**, who received the Industry Icon Award, **George Thorogood & The Destroyers**, **John Boylan**, who received the Producer Award, **Keith Urban**, **Leland Sklar**, **Michael McDonald** and **Nicky Hopkins** (posthumously). The evening began with a private friends-and-family medallion ceremony held in the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts' Brad Paisley Ballroom. Inductees received commemorative Hall of Fame medallions and custom jackets presented by **Linda Chambers**, co-founder and CEO of the Musicians Hall of Fame & Museum, with help from special guests and 2016 inductees **Ricky Skaggs** and **Don Felder**. Following the presentations and a group photo, inductees met with media along a 40-foot red carpet, followed by a Champagne reception.

The main program was hosted by actor and musician **Sam Palladio** and featured the Musicians Hall of Fame all-star band, comprised of Brent Rader, Mark Beckett, Paul Franklin, Mark Hill, Chris Leuzinger, John Jarvis, Michael Rojas, Sam Levine, Eric Darken, Alicia Enstrom and Gordon Kennedy, with background vocalists Marcia Ware Wilder, Brent Rader and Tania Hancheroff. The evening featured tribute performances and presentations honoring each inductee. **Dweezil Zappa** presented George Thorogood & The Destroyers (George Thorogood, **Jeff Simon**, **Bill Blough**, **Jim Suhler** and **Buddy Leach**), joining the band for their first song, "Move It On Over." The band closed their set with performances of "Who Do You Love" and "Bad to the Bone."

Bernie Leadon presented John Boylan, with a tribute highlighting Boylan's production work, including "More Than a Feeling," led by **Buck Johnson**; "Love Has No Pride," performed by **Trisha Yearwood**, and "Silver Threads & Golden Needles," featuring Yearwood with Don Felder and **Alicia Enstrom**. Leland Sklar was honored by **Tony Brown**, with performances including "Running on Empty," featuring **Wendy Moten**; "Your Smiling Face," and "How Sweet It Is," joined by **Garth Brooks**.

Steve Lukather introduced **Dann Huff**. The tribute included "Here I Go Again," performed by Buck Johnson; "My Heart Will Go On," performed by Wendy Moten, and "Waiting on a Whisper," performed by Huff on acoustic guitar. **Peter Frampton** honored Nicky Hopkins with a tribute and medley including "Sympathy for the Devil," "Revolution" and "Angie," performed by Buck Johnson. **Vince Gill** followed with "You Are So Beautiful." Hopkins' widow, **Moira Hopkins**, accepted the honor on his behalf.

Sheryl Crow presented Dolly Parton, who shared remarks via a pre-recorded video message. A tribute followed with a medley of "I Will Always Love You," "Jolene," "Coat of Many Colors," and "9 to 5," performed by **Steve Wariner**. Ricky Skaggs presented Keith Urban, who performed an acoustic version of "Long Hot Summer" before being joined by the all-star band for "Who Wouldn't Wanna Be Me," and "When Summer Comes."

Vince Gill presented Michael McDonald, who performed "What a Fool Believes," "Keep Forgettin'," and closed the evening with "Takin' It to the Streets," joined by fellow inductees, special guests, presenters, and the All-Star band. **MR**

Avery Anna Wins ACM New Female Artist Of The Year



Avery Anna. Photo: Megan Burch/Courtesy of ACM

Avery Anna has been named this year's ACM New Female Artist of the Year.

Sam Barber surprised Anna during her performance at Lone Star Smokeout with the news. She was joined on stage by her family and team.

"I'm just so grateful for this, I'm so honored," she shared from stage. "Thank you guys for rallying for me, supporting me and cheering me on. I thank God every day that I get to do this and that he put this passion on my heart. I'm so grateful for people like you that show up for artists like me and embrace the things that we have to say. Thank you guys so much. This is such an honor."

Anna released her most recent EP *forgive, forget* and embarked on her "Girl Of Constant Sorrow Tour" in March. The project followed her 2025 album *let go letters*, which has garnered over 1 billion global streams to date. **MR**

Music Industry Veteran Cliff Downs Passes Away

Cliff Downs, a respected music industry veteran who spent time as an artist, composer, producer and publisher, died on April 24 after a long battle with cancer. He was 72. As part of the 1980s duo Downes & Price with vocalist Jimmy Price, Downs began his career as a pop artist signed to Atlantic Records. He released a self-titled album in 1986 featuring AOR/pop tracks.

Later, Downs found himself in Nashville, beginning what would be a successful career as a songwriter and producer with hits across pop, country, contemporary Christian and jazz. His songs were recorded by artists such as Foreigner, Wynonna, Gabby Barrett, B.J. Thomas, Paul Rodgers, Glen Campbell and jazz artist Richard Elliott. Additionally, Downs' scores and songs appeared in major film and TV productions including the TNT movie *Red Water*, David Zucker's film *An American Carol*, *Red Dirt Rising* and network shows such as *Modern Family*, *MacGyver*, *General Hospital*, *One Life to Live*, *Days of Our Lives*, *The Young and the Restless* and *Sunset Beach*. He won an Emmy for Best Original Song for "When I Think of You" from *One Life to Live* and received multiple Emmy nominations and awards. Over his career, Downs' music garnered over 1,000 television placements and was featured in promos for *The Voice*, *American Idol*, the Super Bowl, Olympics coverage and more. **MR**



Cliff Downs

Rolling Stone Elevates Joseph Hudak



Joseph Hudak. Photo: Koury Angelo

Joseph Hudak has been upped to Deputy Editor and Head of Country at *Rolling Stone*. In his new role, he will oversee the magazine's country music coverage across editorial, digital, social, audio and live platforms, as well as expand *Rolling Stone's* presence in Nashville.

In 2014, he assisted in the launch of *Rolling Stone Country*. Hudak also hosts, writes, and produces *Rolling Stone's Nashville Now* podcast. The debut guest included Margo Price, and since then he has hosted Lainey Wilson, HARDY, Vince Gill, Charley Crockett, Amanda Shires, Carly Pearce, Lukas Nelson, Ne-Yo, Bryan Andrews and more.

"For more than a decade, *Rolling Stone Country* has been a leader in country music journalism, reporting on America's most popular genre with both the critical eye and the fan point of view that it deserves," says Hudak. "With *Nashville Now*, we're meeting our audience where they are on their screens and streaming services to deliver in-depth conversations that celebrate the music while also raising important issues. As Deputy Editor, Head of Country, I look forward to working with our writers and contributors to bring country fans the stories and access that have long been a hallmark of *Rolling Stone*."

Hudak also hosts The *Rolling Stone* Writers' Room and Musicians on Musicians, and has moderated live interviews with artists Kris Kristofferson, Lainey Wilson, Luke Combs, Charley Crockett, Portugal. The Man and Sleater-Kinney. He has been at *Rolling Stone* for over a decade. Prior to *Rolling Stone*, he served as managing editor of *Country Weekly* and spent 12 years at *TV Guide*. **MR**

Naomi Carman Signs With Big Machine Records



Pictured (L-R, back row): Julian Raymond, Senior Vice President of A&R, Big Machine Records; Jacqueline Sabec, Partner, King, Holmes, Paterno & Soriano, LLP; Brent James, Founder, Haptic Management; Ryan Dokke, Senior Vice President, Big Machine Records; Jimmy Harnen, President, Big Machine Records; Jason Turner, Partner, Keller Turner Andrews & Ghanem, PLLC; and Allison Jones, Executive Vice President of A&R, Big Machine Records. (L-R, front row): Naomi Carman and Scott Borchetta, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Big Machine Records. Photo: Courtesy of Big Machine Records

Country and Americana singer-songwriter **Naomi Carman** has signed with Big Machine Records.

The 23 year old Cincinnati native made her Big Machine debut during their annual CRS luncheon, where she performed a cover of Gene Vincent's "Be-Bop-a-Lula" and her unreleased tune "Little Sister."

"From the moment I met Naomi, I felt I'd met a timeless artist," says Founder, Chairman and CEO **Scott Borchetta**. "Her depth and knowledge of her craft, her deep understanding of the roots of Country, Rockabilly and Rock 'n' Roll, her uncanny ability to play practically any instrument, and her insanely original musical approach immediately had me hooked. And, I'm sure it will be the same for everyone else!"

Carman has built her fanbase from posting covers of her influences, including Loretta Lynn Patsy Cline, Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis. In addition to singing, she plays guitar, lap steel, piano and drums. Earlier this year, she joined Carter Faith on select dates of the "Cherry Valley Tour."

Growing up, Carman performed with her father, Blair, in bars and festivals nationwide. In 2024, she inked with Big Machine Group songwriter and Haptic Management Founder **Brent James**. She is slated to release new music in the coming months. **MR**

Owen Riegling Makes Grand Ole Opry Debut



Owen Riegling. Photo: Chris Hollo

Owen Riegling made his Grand Ole Opry Debut last week.

Riegling released his sophomore album, *In The Feeling*, last week via Universal Music Canada and Big Loud Records.

After winning the 2022 Boots & Hearts Festival Emerging Artist Competition and signing with Universal Music Canada, Riegling broke through with his Platinum-certified hit “Old Dirt Roads.” His expanded EP-turned-album *Bruce County (From The Beginning)* earned major recognition, including 2025 CCMA Album of the Year, multiple Country Music of Ontario Awards, and a 2025 Juno Award nomination for Breakthrough Artist of the Year. He has amassed more than 170 million global streams and has shared stages with Brett Young, Jake Owen, Tyler Hubbard, Chase Rice, Tyler Braden, Kashus Culpepper, Dierks Bentley and more. **MR**

Sam Drysdale Signs With ONErpm Nashville

Sam Drysdale has signed with ONErpm Nashville.

The Toronto-based singer-songwriter’s 2024 breakout single “Only The Strong Survive” amassed 65 million views and 10 million streams globally, earned a Folk Ontario Award nomination for Song of the Year. His follow-up, “Cold Water,” landed on iHeartRadio’s Future Star program and Rogers’ One to Watch, charting across Top 40, Hot AC, and AC formats and marked his first impact at Canadian radio.

“Artistic independence has always felt like a bit of a high-wire act for me,” Drysdale shares. “Creatively, I value having full control and take pride in doing as much as I can on my own, but the most meaningful part of this journey has been the people I’ve met along the way. ONErpm stood out to me because they truly respect that independence and are committed not only to supporting it, but to empowering it. So much of this industry has started to lean on data, but as an artist I still understand the power of raw belief. That’s where the magic is.”



Sam Drysdale

“From his voice to his writing, Sam Drysdale stands out immediately,” says **Ryan Cunningham**, ONErpm’s Director of A&R. “There’s a clear vision behind what he’s building, and that came through from our first meeting. We’re excited to partner with Sam and bring that vision to a wider audience.”

Drysdale is slated to release more music this fall. **MR**

My Music Row Story: FlyteVu's Laura Hutfless



Laura Hutfless

Laura Hutfless is the CEO and Co-Founder of FlyteVu, an award-winning creative agency that connects brands with culture in bold and unexpected ways. Following a 15-year career as a talent agent at WME and CAA, she grew FlyteVu into a rapidly expanding, industry-recognized agency known for culture-shaping campaigns honored by the Emmys, GRAMMYS, Cannes Lions and more.

Under her leadership, FlyteVu has been recognized on *Adweek's* Fastest-Growing Agencies list and Chief Marketer's Top 200. She also led the creation of the FlyteVu Fund, which has donated more than \$1.2 million to charitable causes through employee-directed giving.

MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a military family, so we moved every couple years. Because of that, I was introduced to a lot of different types of music based on the preferences of the community or where we were based. In high school, I was introduced to country in West Virginia. So when I went to college at NC State, I found the country label and the country radio station that was there and I interned. That's how I started in music.

What did you do for the radio station?

Promotion. I tried hosting one early morning show, and that was a disaster [laughs], so I decided that was definitely not for me. I worked with the record labels and the artists coming through town hosting listening experiences for fans and worked a lot backstage. That's where I got to know a lot of managers and production managers, and I started to network.

Did you always want to work in the music business?

No, I started in college in a graphic design and art design major, thinking I wanted to be an animator. Then after a few internships in that space, I decided that was not for me. I discovered that there were art directors at record labels, who made the designs for albums and tour posters, and that's what I wanted to do.

Who were you designing for?

When I moved to Nashville, I picked up some freelance gigs from different orgs in town, including labels, but I was still young and I needed a full time job. My first job was as an assistant at WME on the desk of the first agent who was doing sponsorships. I got that job because I could make PowerPoint presentation, so it was a perfect opportunity for me to learn the business and design skills, and we know how much that part of the industry has taken off in the past 20 years. I just got in at the perfect time.

Did you move right from Nashville right out of college?

I may have moved before graduation [laughs]. I moved without a job. I worked at a little boutique called Flavor. All of the stylists and artists would come to shop there. Networking was the name of the game then, so I worked retail for the first six months of being here.

Where did you go after WME?

The company I was working for after WME was acquired by Ticketmaster, and during the acquisition, the department I was working in essentially disbanded. In that process, a lot of the clients I was working on were represented by CAA and they pursued me, but it took me a while to take that role because I was making great money on my own.

I really liked my job, but I was still in my early twenties and I realized I still had a lot to learn and CAA was an amazing training program to understand the music industry and beyond. It was music, TV, brand deals, marketing, gaming...and the networking there—there's nothing else like it. I'm really grateful I ended up taking that role because it really did set me on the road that I'm on today.

How did you go from CAA to starting FlyteVu?

About seven years into CAA, quite a few of the brands who I was negotiating with on behalf of my talent roster started to bloom. This was right at the time that social media was coming onto the scene. Influencers and brands navigating the music space, they did not understand the rights. So they would make a deal with the label, but they didn't understand that they didn't get better appearances, or they would make a deal with the talent director that didn't understand they had to clear music with the publisher.

So I was helping them as an agency navigate that. They wanted me to come work in house. I didn't want to work for one, but it's really interesting to craft deals and campaigns and partnerships from the onset. That sounded like the next challenge for me, so I decided to start FlyteVu because I could then take them all on.

What was the journey like to start FlyteVu?

Jeremy Holley and I put together a business plan and ultimately decided to bet on ourselves and fill a gap we were seeing in the industry.

We had the support of CAA and Warner and we had the business, and unlike a lot of entrepreneurs that are starting from nothing, I feel like we really shaped off their base. We were really blessed right out of the gate from day one to have enough business to start the company.

Who were some of your first clients?

American Red Cross, Cracker Barrel and a fitness brand called Snap Fitness.

What's been your personal journey with the company throughout the past 10 years?

When we started, I was doing everything. Selling, creating, managing, activating, hiring, managing people—all of those. I mean it's chaos, but entrepreneurs thrive in that environment. As the company's grown, it moves. My role has shifted from doing the work in a founder-led mentality, taking big risks, to now CEO of the company, which is accomplishing work through others while maintaining the same quality and value system that the company was founded on. To me, that is much harder.

It's also now steering the shift, but understanding that any pivot that I would have made as a founder to be fast has a significant effect on everyone else. You can't make quick decisions like you used to as a founder. You have to have a lot more thoughtful strategic insight as you lead people. I still really love the creative. I think that's just my skills and my



Photo: Courtesy of Hutless



Photo: Courtesy of Hutfless

passion, so I still sneak into the creative meetings. [laughs].

Looking back on the past 10 years to now, what are some major milestones that you guys have hit over the past 10 years?

Definitely producing our first Super Bowl campaign. Surviving COVID was a milestone for any agency, entertainment or live event—and we adapted very quickly for our clients. Surpassing 30 employees and having employees in LA, New York and Austin, opening hubs in other markets. I'd say the last milestone was selling for eight figures. I'm still the CEO and that has allowed us to grow very quickly, continue expanding, but also develop our own AI tools, which we will roll out next quarter. It is really exciting to elevate our company in tech and AI.

Tell me more about the Super Bowl ad.

It was for Bumble. It did not start off as an ad, it started because the founder of Bumble wanted to work with **Serena Williams** and I helped broker that multi-year deal. In the course of growing that partnership, we decided to launch it at the Super Bowl. The problem is we decided that eight weeks before the ad took. It was wild and chaotic because that process had 20% of the time that it normally would've taken.

But I love that because that's the mentality of FlyteVu. We'll figure it out. That's the mentality of any successful entrepreneur. You also have to have a team that rallies behind you in those moments because everyone has to be on board,

What's the best advice that you've ever gotten?

Don't take no from someone who doesn't have the authority to give you a no. **Virginia Bunetta** told me that. Another one is you need to build the life you want, not for the life you have. That one was helpful personally and professionally because a big part of my story is that I adopted my daughter on my own, and that was during that season making some tough decisions. You have to build your life around what you want to have and start investing in your career and your lifestyle and making space for what you want—not just where you are now.

How do you balance motherhood and your career?

I just have priorities. I planned my life. I intentionally planned the chapter of life to support the life that I wanted in those challenges. For example, I did not start a company when I had a young baby or child at home. I started the company first, which gave me time to build the company up, have financial freedom and have a team now that can run the company where I'm now in the senior role, not the founder role. Now that puts more flexibility in my schedule. I could adopt a little girl and be able to prioritize her more than I could have if I adopted her when I was 25.

Who have been some of your mentors?

Virginia Bunetta has been a friend and mentor. **Lou Taylor**, she taught me how to read my first PNL. **Rob Light** at CAA—I didn't get to talk to him often because he was in LA, but every time he did speak to me, it was direct and it was honest, and it wasn't always what I wanted to hear. To me, that's what a mentor does. They make their time impactful. They're willing to bring light to blind spots at the risk of however you might respond because they care about you and your future.

Lastly **Jennifer Cooke**. She manages **Amy Grant**. She was one of the first female managers in town. She was also the first person I knew in Nashville to approach motherhood on her own.

What's a moment that your little kid self would be proud of?

I grew up in a very conservative Christian home, so Amy Grant was the only artist that I was allowed to listen to. At CAA, she was on my roster and I sold and negotiated some sponsorships for her. That was a little surreal, to work with the artists that you grew up listening to.

The second one was selling a company for eight figures. I would never have thought when I was little that I would build something and sell it. It's not just about the money — the money is financial freedom for my family, but it's not what I place my own worth or value in. Never did I think I could build something from scratch and then someone else would place that level of value on it. **MR**



Photo: Courtesy of Hutfless



DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Kassi Ashton 'Has Never Sounded Better'



The country stars are swinging into spring in wildly diverse ways.

In this edition of DISCLAIMER, you'll find flavors ranging from hip-hop to reggae, from rockabilly to pop.

You might think that one of the big star contenders would rule the listening session — Keith Urban, Jason Aldean, Lee Brice or Dylan Scott. But you would be wrong. The Disc of the Day belongs to Kassi Ashton. She's been musically all over the map during the past five years, but it sounds like with "Bitches" she has found her groove.

The DISCOVERY Award goes to Kelli Belles, who is billed with her last name only. She's an old-school country singer duet-ing with a Living Legend. More power to her.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[17th Annual 'Darius And Friends' St. Jude Benefit Set For June 1](#)

[Backstage Access Presents Unites Talent, Industry Leaders, & Tastemakers At Inaugural Napa Valley Event](#)

[BMG Combines With Concord](#)

[Crossroads Music Co-Founder Mickey Gamble Passes](#)

[CRS360 Series Releases 'The Music Test' On Demand](#)

[First Round Of AMERICANAFEST 2026 Showcases Announced](#)

[Gary LeVox To Host BIRDI Celebrity Golf Invitational Benefiting Folds Of Honor](#)

[HITS HOME Debuts In Nashville](#)

[Jackson Dean Threads The Needle On 'Magnolia Sage' \[Interview\]](#)

[Jacob Hackworth Makes Record-Breaking Radio Debut With 'What Took You So Long'](#)

[Jason Aldean & Luke Bryan Rock University Of Georgia's Sanford Stadium](#)

[Keith Urban Gets Into Laid-Back 'Flow State' On New Album Due In June](#)

[Live In The Vineyard Goes Country Wraps 2026 Event Stagecoach Wraps 2026 Festival](#)

[Luke Combs Makes Radio History](#)

[Musicians On Call To Honor Reba McEntire](#)

[Neon Union Announce Split](#)

[NSAI Unveils 2026 Board Of Directors](#)

[Ole Red To Open New Location In Indianapolis](#)

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	3	Ella Langley	Be Her Bottom Of Your Boots Broken Butterfly Season Choosin' Texas Dandelion girl you're taking home I Gotta Quit Last Call For Us Loving Life Again Low Lights Most Good Things Do (Acoustic) Somethin' Simple We Know Us You & Me Time	Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley (feat. Miranda Lambert) Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley
2	10	Joybeth Taylor	Broken Butterfly Season Choosin' Texas Dandelion Empty Words girl you're taking home I Gotta Quit Last Call For Us Low Lights Most Good Things Do (Acoustic) Somethin' Simple Speaking Terms We Know Us You & Me Time	Ella Langley Ella Langley (feat. Miranda Lambert) Ella Langley Ella Langley Corey Kent Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley
3	4	Luke Combs	Days Like These Rethink Some Things Sleepless In A Hotel Room	Luke Combs Luke Combs Luke Combs
4	1	Randy Montana	Change My Mind Make A Liar Sleepless In A Hotel Room	Riley Green Jackson Dean Luke Combs
5	2	Blake Pendergrass	20 Cigarettes Ain't A Bad Life Brunette Don't We I Got Better Wish You Well	Morgan Wallen Thomas Rhett & Jordan Davis Tucker Wetmore Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Vincent Mason
6	5	Chase McGill	20 Cigarettes Brunette I Got Better McArthur the hell you are Water At A Wedding	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Morgan Wallen HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw Ashley Cooke Greylan James
7	6	Michael Hardy	Be Her I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better Let Him In Anyway McArthur	Ella Langley Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Blake Shelton HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw
8	20	Aaron Raitiere	Days Like These I Gotta Quit Most Good Things Do (Acoustic) Never Comin' Back You & Me Time	Luke Combs Ella Langley Ella Langley Flatland Cavalry Ella Langley

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
9	11	Chris LaCorte	20 Cigarettes Brunette Somethin' Simple Wish You Well	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Ella Langley Vincent Mason
10	28	Austin Goodloe	Broken Dandelion Empty Words Last Call For Us Rocky Mountain Low	Ella Langley Ella Langley Corey Kent Ella Langley Corey Kent (feat. Koe Wetzel)
11	12	Josh Thompson	McArthur Turn This Truck Around Wrong Hearts	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw Jordan Davis LOCASH
12	13	Josh Miller	20 Cigarettes Brunette Country And She Knows It	Morgan Wallen Tucker Wetmore Luke Bryan
13	29	Luke Dick	Butterfly Season Choosin' Texas Make A Liar Most Good Things Do (Acoustic)	Ella Langley (feat. Miranda Lambert) Ella Langley Jackson Dean Ella Langley
14	9	Ashley Gorley	Ain't A Bad Life Don't We Me & A Beer Woman	Thomas Rhett & Jordan Davis Morgan Wallen Chris Janson Kane Brown
15	16	Ernest Keith Smith	I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better Loving Life Again	Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen Ella Langley
16	17	Jonathan Singleton	Sleepless In A Hotel Room	Luke Combs
17	15	Devin Dawson	Loving Life Again Turn This Truck Around	Ella Langley Jordan Davis
18	21	Jordan M. Schmidt	Be Her Kid Myself	Ella Langley John Morgan
19	32	Miranda Lambert	Butterfly Season Choosin' Texas	Ella Langley (feat. Miranda Lambert) Ella Langley
20	8	Jeremy Stover	The Fall	Cody Johnson
21	22	Ray Fulcher	The Fall	Cody Johnson
22	23	Bobby Pinson	The Fall	Cody Johnson
23	18	Ryan Vojtesak	Don't We I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen
24	19	Morgan Wallen	Don't We I Ain't Comin' Back I Got Better	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (feat. Post Malone) Morgan Wallen
25	26	Brent Cobb	Days Like These	Luke Combs
26	25	Erik Dylan	Change My Mind	Riley Green
27	27	Riley Green	Change My Mind	Riley Green
28	14	John Byron	Ain't A Bad Life Don't We Woman	Thomas Rhett & Jordan Davis Morgan Wallen Kane Brown
29	30	Jessie Jo Dillon	Beautiful Things Wish You Well	Megan Moroney Vincent Mason
30	34	Smith Ahnquist	Be Her	Ella Langley
31	7	Zachary Lane Bryan	Plastic Cigarette Say Why	Zach Bryan Zach Bryan
32	49	Matt Dragstrem	Country And She Knows It Water At A Wedding Wrong Hearts	Luke Bryan Greylan James LOCASH
33	41	John Morgan	Don't Tell On Me Kid Myself	Jason Aldean John Morgan
34	36	Robbie Gatlin	What He'll Never Have	Dylan Scott
35	37	Ricky Rowton	What He'll Never Have	Dylan Scott

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
36	38	Logan Robinson	What He'll Never Have	Dylan Scott
37	39	Dylan Scott	What He'll Never Have	Dylan Scott
38	31	Megan Moroney	Beautiful Things Wedding Dress Wish I Didn't	Megan Moroney Megan Moroney Megan Moroney
39		J.D. Miller	It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels	Ella Langley
40	43	Taylor Phillips	Me & A Beer Woman	Chris Janson Kane Brown
41	55	Dan Alley	Be By You	Luke Combs
42	56	Sam Banks	Be By You	Luke Combs
43	57	Nick Walsh	Be By You	Luke Combs
44	112	Jon Nite	Bottom Of Your Boots girl you're taking home	Ella Langley Ella Langley
45	61	Ben Johnson	All My Exes Easy To Love Woman	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew) Dustin Lynch Kane Brown
46	40	Thomas Archer	Get To Drinkin' Rocky Mountain Low	Zach John King Corey Kent (feat. Koe Wetzel)
47	35	Luke Laird	Boots Off Dry Spell Never Comin' Back Wish I Didn't	Jon Pardi Kacey Musgraves Flatland Cavalry Megan Moroney
48	44	Jordan Davis	Turn This Truck Around	Jordan Davis
49	45	Jake Mitchell	Turn This Truck Around	Jordan Davis
50	73	Stephen Wilson Jr.	Gary	Stephen Wilson Jr
51	66	Parker Welling	Country And She Knows It Ride, Ride, Ride Worth Your Wild	Luke Bryan George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan) Russell Dickerson
52	84	Brett Tyler	Dandelion Last Call For Us	Ella Langley Ella Langley
53	50	Jessi Alexander	Beautiful Things	Megan Moroney
54	51	Connie Harrington	Beautiful Things	Megan Moroney
55	47	Will Bundy	Bottom Of Your Boots	Ella Langley
56	33	Tyler Hubbard	Kid Myself Ride, Ride, Ride	John Morgan George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan)
57	58	Jameson Rodgers	McArthur	HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw
58	46	Corey Kent	Empty Words Rocky Mountain Low	Corey Kent Corey Kent (feat. Koe Wetzel)
59	59	Lydia Vaughan	Don't Tell On Me Empty Words	Jason Aldean Corey Kent
60		Helene Cronin	Speaking Terms	Ella Langley

Newly Added Job Listings

Dark Horse Institute: Commercial Songwriting Instructor

Dark Horse Institute is seeking a part-time Commercial Songwriting Instructor (approx. 25 hours/week) with proven cuts, placements, or releases. This role will teach song structure, melody, lyrics, foundational theory and the Nashville Number System, as well as publishing, sync, and commercial writing. Instruction also includes songwriter branding, social media strategy, and introductory DAW concepts. Candidates should bring strong industry knowledge, mentoring ability, and excellent communication skills. Responsibilities include teaching, student support, grading, maintaining records, and contributing to curriculum and program growth. Bachelor's degree or 10+ years equivalent experience preferred, along with teaching experience and an active industry network.

Contact: dave@darkhorserecording.com

Shore Fire Media: Publicity Assistant

Shore Fire Media is looking for a sharp, ambitious publicity assistant to join our company. We're looking for someone with a deep passion for music and culture. The applicant should be interested in working on a diverse client roster that will include some or all of the following: music, books, documentaries, podcasts, music venues, music businesses and more. This role is designed for those who possess a natural drive to work hard in a demanding, fast-paced environment. The ideal candidate is the person in their friend group who always knows the best bands/films/books and has a passion to share that knowledge.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman: Tax Manager

Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman is seeking a Tax Manager to join our team of dedicated professionals. The Manager is responsible for overseeing all financial and tax aspects related to assigned client accounts. They will act as a coach and trainer to develop staff members into efficient and effective client team members, and address performance issues and concerns as needed. They will also assist Managing Directors and Account Managers by onboarding prospective clients and assisting with client contracts, budgeting, home purchases, tours, and year-end processes. The annualized base pay range for this role is expected to be between \$135,000 – \$175,000. This position can be based out of our Encino, CA or Century City, CA office on a hybrid basis.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

found.ee: Sales & Marketing Associate (Music Tech)

We're seeking a Sales & Marketing Associate (Music Tech) to help drive outbound prospecting, support inbound demand, and grow our social presence as we scale in 2026. This is an entry-level, high-growth role for someone who's hungry to learn sales and marketing fundamentals, build confidence speaking with prospects, and contribute directly to new business. You'll help sell found.ee's platform tools and subscription offerings, with a focus on how our advertising and audience capabilities support measurable outcomes. This role is open to candidates based in Nashville, or remotely in North Carolina.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

International Bluegrass Music Association: Events Director

The Events Director will drive the planning and execution of IBMA's signature programs, including IBMA World of Bluegrass, Leadership Bluegrass, and Kids on Bluegrass, along with other member-focused events throughout the year. The position manages event strategy and logistics from start to finish, coordinating teams, production partners, ticketing systems, and operational processes to ensure seamless live and hybrid experiences.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases And Radio Add Dates

May 1

Diplo & Adrien Nunez/Two Steppin'/Atlantic Outpost
Cody Johnson/Hello Lonesome/CoJo Music/Warner Records Nashville
Lee Brice/Truck Bed Mixtape/Curb Records
Gavin Adcock/Wannabe/Thrivin' Here Records/Warner Records Nashville
Wyatt Flores/Driving All Night/MCA/Island Records
Bayker Blankenship/Keep Calm/Santa Anna Nashville
Matt Maher/Gonna Be Alright
Gretchen Wilson/Redneck Shit
Drew Baldridge/Love Needs You/BBR Music Group/BMG
Alana Springsteen/i loved you then/Santa Anna Nashville
Thompson Square/Lay It On Me
Jordan St. Cyr/Wild Love
Tyce Delk/Mind If I Smoke
Kyle Clark/Checking Out
Danny Worsnop/I Tried To Write A Sad Song
Robyn Ottolini/If Hell Were a Bar
Matthew Goodnough (feat. Mac Hankins & The Moonlighters)/Bad Terms/Santa Anna Nashville
Abbie Callahan/Drag, Queen
Cody Oliphant/When I Go/Santa Anna Nashville
Parker Ryan/Loaded Gun
Caryn Dixon/Accidental Cowgirl
Jonathan Lee/Saturday Night/Pacific Standard Entertainment Group
Frank Ray/Third Row George Strait/BBR Music Group/Broken Bow Records

May 4

Luke Combs/Be By You/Columbia Nashville
Kacey Musgraves/Loneliest Girl/Lost Highway Records
Jason Charles Miller/Digging in the Dust (Water On Rust Remix)/One Opportunity Records
Caroline Jones/you're it for me, honey/Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment
Soul Circus Cowboys/Something Stronger

Album/EP Releases

May 1

Kacey Musgraves/*Middle Of Nowhere*/Lost Highway
Lainey Wilson/*Lainey Wilson (Amazon Music presents: Live from Stagecoach 2026)*/BBR Music Group/BMG
ERNEST/*Deep Blue*/Big Loud Records
Tauren Wells/*Breathe On It*
Austin Snell/*Colors*/River House Artists/Warner Records Nashville
Southall/*Kinfolk*
Emily Nenni/*Movin' Shoes*/New West Records
Rita Wilson/*Sound of a Woman*
Ashley Anne/*Generational Heartbreak*
Alex Hall/*Turn This Love Around*/Yeehall Records/Blue Harbor Music
Jeff Bates/*Hymns From the Church in the Wildwood*/Tall Grass Records

CALENDAR

Industry Events

May 17

61st Annual ACM Awards

Upcoming Nashville Concerts

May 1

Ethel Cain/FirstBank Amphitheater
Bailey Zimmerman/Ascend Amphitheater
Ani DiFranco/Ryman Auditorium
Ashnikko/Marathon Music Works
Arm's Length/Brooklyn Bowl
The Nude Party/The Basement East
Aaron Hibell/Cannery Hall (The Mil)
Raven/Exit/In
Liz Cooper/The Blue Room
Multi Ultra/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

May 2

Florence + The Machine/Bridgestone Arena
Bailey Zimmerman/Ascend Amphitheater
Josh Ritter/Ryman Auditorium
Nettspend/Cannery Hall (Mainstage)
Flyte/The Basement East
Krooked Kings/Exit/In
Sluice/The Blue Room
Jesse Solomon/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

May 3

Maddox Batson/The Pinnacle
Tracy Lawrence/Ryman Auditorium
Strings & Heart/Exit/In
Vanessa Carlton/City Winery

May 4

Fender Presents: Tele Town/Ryman Auditorium
The Paper Kites/Brooklyn Bowl
Freddie Dredd/The Basement East

May 5

Disclosure Live/The Pinnacle
Courtney Barnett/Ryman Auditorium
Failure/The Basement East
Patrick Droney/Exit/In
David Broza/City Winery
Andrew Duhon/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)