

The Academy Of Country Music Celebrates Honorees At 19th Annual ACM Honors



Leslie Fram accepts the Lift Every Voice Award onstage during the 19th ACM® Honors™ at The Pinnacle on August 19, 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee. Photo: Jason Kempin/Getty Images for ACM

The 19th Annual ACM Honors took place Wednesday night (Aug. 19) at The Pinnacle in Nashville, raising over \$65,000 for ACM Lifting Lives, the philanthropic arm of the Academy of Country Music.

Carly Pearce returned for the sixth consecutive year as the evening's host, joined by **Parker McCollum**, who co-hosted the event for the first time. The evening's special honorees included **Bill Anderson**, **Brett James**, C2C: Country to Country, **The Carter Family**, **Dolly Parton**, **Eric Church**, **Kacey Musgraves**, Paramount+ hit TV series *Landman*, **Leslie Fram**, **Mike Curb** and **Scott Zolke**.

The ceremony also celebrated previously announced ACM Artist-Songwriter of the Year **Ella Langley**, ACM Songwriter of the Year **Jessie Jo Dillon**, as well as the ACM Studio Recording Award and Industry Award winners from the 61st ACM Awards cycle.

Hosts Pearce and McCollum kicked off the evening with a special tribute performance to ACM Poet's Award recipient **Dolly Parton**. The duo covered Parton's beloved hits including the Kenny Rogers duet "Islands in the Stream," and then Pearce, **Kaitlin Butts** and **Carter Faith** performed "9 to 5." Later in the evening, Pearce performed "Whiskey Lullaby" while McCollum additionally sang "Solid Country Gold" in honor of C2C: Country to Country.

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Dylan Scott then took the stage for a mashup of McGraw's "Don't Take The Girl," with his own hit "My Girl" before presenting Curb with the ACM Icon Award. **Trisha Yearwood** performed "Every Girl In This Town," then honored Leslie Fram with the ACM Lift Every Voice Award. **Gavin Adcock** also performed his song "Winner at Losing" and **Mark Collie** and **Flatland Cavalry** performed "Midland After Midnight" in honor of the TV hit *Landman*.

Margo Price and **Logan Ledger** joined forces for a version of "Coal Miner's Blues/Ring of Fire" in honor of The Carter Family. Prior to the Carter Family coming onstage to accept the award, **Brenda Lee** made an appearance and encouraged the crowd in a sing along of her beloved classic "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" before the Carter Family joined her in singing "Can the Circle Be Unbroken (By and By)," a Carter Family song.

Sheryl Crow celebrated Church by performing his fan-favorite hit "Drink in My Hand." Before presenting Church with his award Crow shared, "I've known Eric for years, and one of the things I've always admired about him is the way he goes about life. He's incredibly humble, he lets his music speak for itself, and he's always been someone who gives back without looking for recognition in return. He's a truly remarkable human being, and I'm so proud to call him a friend."



Margo Price and Logan Ledger perform onstage during the 19th ACM® Honors™ at The Pinnacle on August 19, 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee. Photo: Jason Kempin/Getty Images for ACM

ACM Artist-Songwriter of the Year honor. **Megan Moroney** offered up a performance of "Beautiful Things" before presenting Dillon with the ACM Songwriter of the Year honor, with **Zach John King** rounding out the evening, closing with a performance of "Get To Drinkin'." **MR**



David Kells accepts the Arena of the Year Award on behalf of the Bridgestone Arena onstage during the 19th ACM® Honors™ at The Pinnacle on August 19, 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee. Photo: Jason Kempin/Getty Images for ACM

Faith gave a riveting tribute to Musgraves, performing the breakthrough hit "Merry Go 'Round," and **Big Kenny** delivered an exuberant rendition of "I Fought the Law" as an introduction to his presenting entertainment attorney Zolke with the ACM Service Award.

Dierks Bentley delivered a powerhouse performance of "I Hold On" in tribute to his longtime friend James before presenting James' sons with the ACM Poet's Award. Before singing Bentley spoke about the writing process with James and how he cherished their time writing together but their friendship even more saying, "His friendship was one of the greatest gifts I have ever received."

Reigning ACM New Female Artist of the Year recipient **Avery Anna**, Butts and **Gabriella Rose** teamed up for a medley of Langley's hits "weren't for the wind," "Choosin' Texas," and "Be Her" as an introduction to her

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The Neal Agency Partners With WIN Artists



Austin Neal. Photo: Hunter Berry

The Neal Agency has partnered with WIN Artists, furthering TNA's roster integrations across the broader entertainment industry.

WIN Artists, a division of Patrick Whitesell and Jason Lublin's agency, WIN Sports Group, was started by **Josh Pyatt** to support its partners in growing enduring careers across performance, content, IP, brand, and business building.

"WIN Artists represent the gold standard in career stewardship, and we feel we've found the perfect partner to expand into the Television/Film world," shares TNA Founder and CEO **Austin Neal**. "Our shared 'less-is-more' philosophy ensures that every move is intentional, and this partnership provides our artists with a launchpad to dominate new arenas."

"Austin and his team represent generational artists whose influence reaches well beyond music, and our partnership is designed to match that ambition," says Pyatt, who leads WIN Artists. "By expanding into film, television, and strategic brand ventures, WIN Artists will help TNA's clients build enterprises that define the next era of entertainment." **MR**

Echo House Collective Launches, Taps Emma Kiefer As Senior Director Of A&R [Exclusive]



Emma Kiefer

Echo House Collective has launched, adding **Emma Kiefer** as Senior Director of A&R.

Co-founders, **Jet Harvey** and **Krysten Harvey** will invest in Kiefer to lead development of A&R, publishing, signing, roster management and more.

Kiefer moved to Nashville in 2020 and has previously held positions with Dave Cobb, Twelve6, Boom Music Group, and Group Projects Publishing, landing cuts for her writers with artists such as Morgan Wallen, Bailey Zimmerman, Megan Moroney, Tucker Wetmore, Carrie Underwood, Ben Fuller, Ernest, Luke Bryan, Corey Kent, Josh Ross, Tyler Braden, Chase Matthew and more.

"What an honor it is to be entrusted with the launch of Echo House Collective and to help bring the vision in which Jet, Krysten, and I strongly align with to life," says Kiefer.

"Echo House was born from the belief that every songwriter deserves a champion," shares Jet and Krysten Harvey. "Building a songwriting career comes with both incredible opportunities and unseen challenges. This raises the question: Who wakes up every day thinking about what's best for the writer? We don't believe the industry needs another publishing company. However, we believe it needs a new kind of partner. Our vision is to work with the entire creative community to strengthen the songwriter's journey." **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Nowhere Town/Jacob Smalley/Jacob Smalley Music - 78

Wannabe/Gavin Adcock/Warner Records Nashville - 79

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Jaded/Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley/Columbia - 298

Been By Now/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 298

Loving Life Again/Ella Langley/SAWGOD Records/Columbia/
Triple Tigers - 178

Boston/Stella Lefty/Atlantic Outpost - 149

Painted You Pretty/Hudson Westbrook/River House Artists/
Warner Records Nashville - 94

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Jaded/Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley/Columbia - 15

Medicine/Megan Moroney/Sony Music Nashville/Columbia
Records - 5

Bet On That/Blake Whiten/Enchntmnt/Warner Records - 5

Let Him In Anyway/Blake Shelton/Wheelhouse Records - 4

Been By Now/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 4

Anytime Soon/Jason Aldean/BBR Music Group/BMG
Nashville - 4

Exes In Texas/Porter Martin/Lovable Losers Music - 4

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

When One Door Closes/Steve Anthony/CDX Records - 165

Digging In The Dust/Jason Charles Miller/One Opportunity
Records - 163

Empty Words/Corey Kent/Combustion Music/RCA Records - 154

Done For/Max McNown/Magnolia Music Group - 146

Cowgirl/Shaboozey/American Dogwood/EMPIRE - 132

NO. 1 SONG



Kenny Chesney extends his run at No. 1 on the *MusicRow* Radio Chart with his hit "Carry On."

The track comes off of Chesney's twenty-first studio album *Silver Sands Marina* and was written by **Chase McGill**, **Matt Jenkins** and **Jessi Alexander**.

"Carry On" currently sits at No. 10 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and No. 7 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
WFFN Tuscaloosa, 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 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
KNZA Hiawatha, 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
WNWN Battle Creek, 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
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 Huntingdon, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
15	1	1	Carry On / Kenny Chesney / HEY NOW Records	2366/63	-1	-12
14	4	2	Boston / Stella Lefty / Atlantic Outpost	2195/58	7	149
17	3	3	Be By You / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	2077/50	0	-7
22	5	4	Woman / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1995/54	1	18
11	6	5	Phone, Keys, Wallet / Lainey Wilson & John Mayer / Broken Bow Records	1989/63	3	51
12	7	6	Think As You Drunk / Riley Green / Nashville Harbor	1909/65	3	47
21	9	7	Country And She Knows It / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	1863/58	4	67
35	2	8	South Of Sanity / Zach Top / Leo33	1767/53	-23	-533
20	10	9	Say So / Dan + Shay / Warner Records Nashville	1766/59	1	25
52	11	10	All My Exes / Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew / Big Loud Records	1729/56	5	75
28	8	11	Ride Ride Ride / George Birge feat. Luke Bryan / RECORDS Nashville	1687/54	-8	-152
6	15	12	Loving Life Again / Ella Langley / SAWGOD Records/Columbia/Triple Tigers	1573/61	13	178
4	19	13	Been By Now / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	1566/60	19	248
43	12	14	Chevy Silverado / Bailey Zimmerman / Atlantic Records/Warner Music Nashville	1554/43	-5	-83
42	16	15	Kid Myself / John Morgan / Broken Bow Records	1458/46	6	77
22	18	16	Get To Drinkin' / Zach John King / Sony Music Nashville	1343/50	0	3
8	17	17	Hands Up / Jelly Roll / BMG/Stoney Creek Records	1338/58	-1	-13
33	20	18	Boots Off / Jon Pardi / MCA	1285/52	2	22
26	23	19	Painted You Pretty / Hudson Westbrook / River House Artists/Warner Records Nashville	1155/52	9	94
10	21	20	Horseback / Cody Johnson / Cojo Music/Warner Records Nashville	1133/54	-1	-15
11	22	21	I Didn't Come Here To Leave / Chris Young / Black River Entertainment	1116/57	3	34
26	24	22	Water At A Wedding / Greylan James / Nashville Harbor	1016/47	-3	-32
30	25	23	Let Him In Anyway / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	991/47	2	23
24	27	24	American Sky / Aaron Tippin / 8-Track Entertainment	892/44	2	14
62	26	25	Easy To Love / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	836/39	-5	-46
12	28	26	baby blues / Ashley Cooke / Big Loud/Back Blocks	829/44	5	37
21	29	27	Good Time Gone / Lexie Stevenson / Lexquisite Music	796/35	2	12
14	31	28	The Years Are Short / Rodney Atkins / Curb Records	769/44	5	34
26	30	29	Killin' Me / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	740/40	-4	-28
19	32	30	Something That I Need / Carson Beyer / Lucky Money Entertainment	733/38	3	21
13	33	31	Land / Tyler Hubbard / Mercury Nashville	687/40	1	9
2	53	32	Jaded / Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley / Columbia Nashville	678/42	78	298
17	34	33	Son of Jolene / Belles with Dolly Parton / East Music Row Records	674/43	0	-1
5	41	34	Rethink Some Things / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	666/34	16	92
36	35	35	Worth Your Wild / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers	666/33	5	31
13	36	36	Better That Way / Charles Wesley Godwin feat. Luke Combs / Big Loud Records/Sony Music Nashville	664/42	5	31
28	38	37	Holdin' It Down / Chase Matthew / Warner Records Nashville	650/36	7	44
14	40	38	Medicine / Megan Moroney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records	641/37	10	57

MUSICROW

ARTIST ROSTER THE 2026 REPORT

NEW ISSUE | AVAILABLE NOW



Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
18	37	39	Whiskey After Women / Adysen Malek / Write On Records	635/32	5	28
22	39	40	Tell Me That There Ain't A God / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	605/29	1	7
51	42	41	Long Live Country / Shane Profitt / Triple Tigers	560/26	-2	-9
17	43	42	Wouldn't Want Me Either / Erica Nicole / Kent Wells Productions	557/31	4	23
9	44	43	Message in a Bottle / Jo Dee Messina / Dreambound Records	522/32	3	17
12	45	44	High Noon / Jenna Paulette / Leo33	503/35	5	24
7	48	45	Dear Big City / Dylan Scott / Curb Records	470/35	7	30
11	47	46	End This Way / Braden Hull / Melody Place	469/36	3	12
3	54	47	Anytime Soon / Jason Aldean / BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville	462/31	22	82
16	50	48	Just A Mom / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	447/28	7	29
6	51	49	Who Told You That / Tucker Wetmore / Back Blocks Music/MCA/Mercury Records	431/30	5	21
26	46	50	What If We Don't / Ashley McBryde / Warner Records Nashville	427/23	-8	-38
9	49	51	Girl Dad / Cole Swindell / Warner Records Nashville	404/33	-6	-24
15	55	52	Nothing On You / Jet Jurgensmeyer / Simba Entertainment, LLC	398/25	6	24
18	56	53	Exes In Texas / Porter Martin / Lovable Losers Music	390/27	5	18
21	58	54	This Beer's Broken / Ken Domash / Thunder Mountain Records	374/21	4	13
18	57	55	Move On / Kevin Powers & Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	365/23	1	3
27	52	56	Straight For The Heart / Alexandra Kay / Wheelhouse Records	365/20	-8	-30
12	59	57	Me & God And a Fishing Pole / Skip Ewing / Vere Music	332/27	1	4
12	62	58	Family Man / Trey Pendley / Leo33	324/27	7	20
14	61	59	If I Go Missin' / Tim & The Glory Boys / Buckaroo Records	316/20	3	10
12	60	60	What Took You So Long / Jacob Hackworth / MCA Nashville	303/23	-1	-3
5	68	61	Cowboy On The Run / Kelly & Sarah / Kelly Sarah Music	287/20	20	47
13	63	62	We Make America Run / Ansel Brown / ABM Records	286/18	1	2
9	67	63	Something Stronger / Soul Circus Cowboys / Kismet Nashville	276/20	15	35
4	71	64	Drinkin' Town / Laura Bryna / LTD Entertainment powered by Regime Music Group	269/16	14	34
2	70	65	underneath the harvest moon / Harper Grace / Curb Records	265/21	12	28
4	65	66	Say La V / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	264/18	2	6
11	64	67	For You Girl / Robert Ross / CDX Records	261/13	0	-1
7	69	68	Small Town / Rebekah Snyder / CDX Records	255/16	7	17
20	72	69	Never Comin' Back / Flatland Cavalry / Lost Highway	252/16	7	17
10	73	70	Goodbye Looks Like / Johnathon Heilbroun / Johnathon Heilbroun Music	241/17	3	7
7	66	71	Howdy / Cole Goodwin / Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment	239/18	-4	-9
3	77	72	Highway Robbery / Jason Scott & The High Heat / Leo33	236/17	11	23
21	75	73	Good Damn / Brantley Gilbert / BBR Music Group/BMG/Wheelhouse Records	236/19	5	12
8	74	74	The Grass Looks Greener / Karly C / Quirky Cowgirl Records	228/17	1	3
4	76	75	Thank You For This Moment / Brad Lee Schroeder / Stray Bullet Records/CDX Records	215/10	1	2
7	78	76	Whiskey And Vinyl / Stephen Styles / Plow House Records	208/14	0	0
3	79	77	King of Coal Dust County / Adam Chaffins / Sprit Music	188/14	1	2
1	91	78	Nowhere Town / Jacob Smalley / Jacob Smalley Music	186/12	39	52
1	82	79	Wannabe / Gavin Adcock / Warner Records Nashville	178/14	4	7
13	80	80	Love is Blind / Ian Munsick / Triple Tigers Records	168/11	-7	-12

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut

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Josh Tatofi Makes Grand Ole Opry Debut



Josh Tatofi. Photo: Chris Hollo/Courtesy of the Grand Ole Opry

Josh Tatofi made his Grand Ole Opry debut on Aug. 11, becoming just the fourth Polynesian artist to perform on the legendary stage.

He performed two songs including his previously released fan favorite "Favorite Weather" and his new single "Baby Blue." Produced by **Tyler Cain**, "Baby Blue" was originally recorded 25 years ago by his father, **Tivaini Tatofi**, with the beloved Hawaiian group Kapena.

"It's everything. It's the pinnacle of country music to be able to sing in that circle right there and represent the South Pacific and the culture," he told WSM's Kelly Sutton on stage after the performance. "That means everything. The reason that this is such a big deal is because it lets the kids back home in the South Pacific know that if you work hard enough, put God number

one, you can be right here."

Tatofi will release his new album *Paniolo Country* on Oct. 2 via ROCK WALL/EMPIRE. **MR**

Jaid Joice Inks With WME

Jaid Joice has signed with WME.

Joice began playing guitar at the age of nine. She signed her first label development agreement at 13 and publishing agreement at 18. Joice will provide support for both Muscadine Bloodline and Avery Anna on select tour dates.

"I am beyond excited to join the WME family. The artists WME has worked with have been a huge inspiration to me from a young age," shared Joice. "I am grateful for the journey to come, with a team built on perseverance and a true love for live music!"

"Every once in a while, an artist comes along whose talent is simply undeniable, and Jaid is one of those artists," shares WME's **Jon Folk**. "She has a voice you don't forget, incredible instincts as a musician and an authenticity that immediately connects. We're incredibly excited to represent her and help build what we believe will be a very special career."

Joice continues to be represented by F13 Music Group for management and Lost Highway Records for label services.

MR



Pictured (Front Row, L-R): WME's Lindsey Hastings, Jaid Joice and F13 Music Group's Keith Hoffman. (Back Row, L-R): WME's Lance Roberts, Geoff Turner, Jon Folk and Braeden Rountree. Photo: Courtesy of WME

Jade Eagleson Inks With BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville



Jade Eagleson and team. Photo: Kevin Grace

Jade Eagleson has inked with BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville. Eagleson also expanded his team signing with Range Music for management, CAA for booking and Spirit Music, in a joint venture with Alliance Music Partners, for publishing.

The Ontario native has amassed more than 430 million global streams and 130 million YouTube views while earning five No. 1 singles at Canadian country radio, and multiple Gold and Platinum certifications. He has amassed four JUNO Award nominations, 2025 CCMA Male Artist of the Year, 2024 CCMA Album of the Year, and 2023 CCMA Entertainer of the Year and Male Artist of the Year honors.

“Jade represents so much of what everyone loves about this format. He knows exactly who he is as an artist, has an undeniable respect for the genre and has built an incredible career by staying true to that,” says **JoJamie Hahr**, EVP, BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville. “What he has already accomplished is impressive, but we believe there is so much more ahead. We’re thrilled to welcome Jade to the family and excited to be part of this next chapter.”

“Spirit Music has been a big fan of Jade Eagleson for years,” shares **Frank Rogers**, CEO Spirit Music. We are excited to partner with Jade and help let the rest of the world discover what we (and all of Canada) have been excited about for a long time! Let’s go!” **MR**

Sons Of Habit Makes Grand Ole Opry Debut



Hagan Edge, Dalton Daniels, Jeffrey Parish, Mitchell Douglas and Noah Patrick. Photo: Grand Ole Opry, photos by Chris Hollo

Sons of Habit made their Grand Ole Opry debut last Friday night (Aug. 14) with a three-song performance.

The rising band opened their set with “5:21” and shed a few tears as they took in the significance of the moment. They followed with “Nostalgia” before closing with their breakout hit “Madeline,” the first song the band ever wrote and released. Their performance earned a standing ovation from the packed Opry audience.

“You dream your whole life for something like this. Ever since I can remember I’ve dreamt of every little detail about this place and this moment,” shared Sons of Habit’s **Mitchell Douglas** from inside the circle.

Originally from Owensboro, Kentucky, Sons of Habit, comprised of Douglas, **Hagan Edge**, **Dalton Daniels**, **Jeffrey Parish** and **Noah Patrick**, has amassed millions of streams and toured alongside Dylan Gossett, 49 Winchester, Ole 60 and Shane Smith & The Saints. The band signed with Lucille Records/MCA earlier this year.

MR

Mitchell Douglas & Hagan Edge Sign With Universal Music Publishing Nashville



Troy Tomlinson, Evan Miller, Hagan Edge, Mitchell Douglas, Matt Musacchio and Sam Nasr. Photo: UMPG Nashville

Mitchell Douglas and **Hagan Edge** of Sons of Habit have signed with Universal Music Publishing Nashville.

Originally from Owensboro, Kentucky, Sons of Habit, comprised of Douglas, Edge, Dalton Daniels, Jeffrey Parish and Noah Patrick, has amassed millions of streams and toured alongside Dylan Gossett, 49 Winchester, Ole 60 and Shane Smith & The Saints.

"I'm so excited to be working with Mitchell and Hagan," shares **Sam Nasr**, Manager, A&R UMPG Nashville.

"They are both incredibly talented songwriters and exceptional musicians who bring a distinct perspective to everything they create. Their music has the ability to resonate with audiences around the world, and I can't wait for more people to hear what they're creating."

"When I first walked into the UMPG office two years ago, I immediately felt a sense of family and a

longstanding tradition of songwriting that I've never forgotten," says Douglas. "I could have never imagined that two years later, I'd be blessed to be joining the most welcoming and passionate team." **MR**

Alison Nichols Inks With BMG

Alison Nichols has signed a worldwide publishing deal with BMG.

One of the first Asian-American artists in country music, Nichols describes herself as "half Korean, half redneck, and 100% American." Raised in Georgia and influenced by her time in Texas, she has built an identity around her personality, attitude and honest storytelling. Her music combines modern country with personal lyrics, gaining attention through songs including "is it just me?," "HOOPS," "John Deere Green," "Box Wine Problems," "Dressin' Down" and most recently, "All Heaven Broke Loose."

"Signing my first publishing deal is something I've dreamed about for a long time, and I'm so thankful to be doing it with the BMG family. Having people like Amy who believed in me and my songwriting from the very beginning makes this moment even more meaningful, and I can't wait to see where this next chapter leads," says Nichols. **MR**



Pictured (L-R): Chris Oglesby, VP, Head of Creative, BMG Publishing; Sherrie Austin, Go Long Entertainment Management; Amy Hendon Scott, Director, Creative, BMG Publishing; Alison Nichols; Jon Loba, President, Recorded Music, North & South America; Peter Strickland, General Manager, BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville and JoJamie Hahr, EVP, Recorded Music, BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville. Photo: Kevin Grace

My Music Row Story: CAA's Hunter Williams



Hunter Williams

Hunter Williams is a Music Agent at Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Based in the Nashville office, Williams works with a wide variety of touring artists across multiple genres of music, including Jelly Roll, Pretty Lights, Mark Ronson, GRiZ, HUGEL, Icona Pop, Fetty Wap, Three 6 Mafia and Moon Taxi, among others.

Since joining CAA in 2012 from The Progressive Global Agency, Williams has helped guide the growth and development of the agency's country and electronic music departments.

MusicRow: Where did you grow up?

I was born in Macon, Georgia, and I lived there till I was about six. Then I grew up in Darien, Connecticut, which is about an hour outside of New York City.

Were you into music or instruments or as a child?

I played the cello, the baritone horn, drums, and the piano early on and sang in the church choir until I was about 14 years old. Music was definitely a pretty big influence in part of my life when I was a kid.

Very musical! Did you know you wanted to go into the music business or even be a musician growing up?

I wanted to play music. As a youngster, you have these dreams. I played so many different instruments and honestly, I wasn't that great at any of them [laughs].

I wanted to be on stage. Whether that was a DJ or producer or whatever, but that was my dream as a kid. Then I quickly figured out that's a lot harder than it seemed.

Tell me about college.

I went to University of Tennessee for two years and studied business management. Then I moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, and attended University of North Carolina, Wilmington. That's where I started getting into the business side of music.

I started going to clubs and listening to all the DJs. I also played percussion in a band called **Waylandsphere**. I helped book gigs for them and assisted with the logistics. We played around North and South Carolina, so I was getting my feet wet.

Did you have any other internships or music jobs in college?

I interned for my dad at The Progressive Global Agency when I was 16 or so, I interned for him for a full summer during **R.E.M.**'s "Monster Tour" which was pretty exciting. I answered phones, highlighted finals in *Pollstar*, all the odds and ends of things.

What was your first job out of college?

I started working at full-time at Progressive Global Agency after graduation. We represented R.E.M, **Widespread Panic** and **The Wailers**. There were only five agents, so I was able to really learn a lot and get a lot of hands-on training. My dad was there everyday and my mom did the accounting, so it was fun being in the family business.

How long were you there for?

12 years. As time went on, the booking and touring world got more competitive. I had some acts such as **Pretty Lights**, and things were really starting to pick up. It felt like the time for me to make a move to a larger agency. My dad was super supportive.

So that's how you ended up at CAA?

Yes, I went straight to CAA. It'll be 14 years in November.

Wow! So tell me about your first few months at CAA.

The first few months were awesome. already had some existing friends here, **Bobby Cory** and **Jeff Krones**. The first couple months, it was definitely a transition, but it was also the bright lights and all the shiny things I didn't get at a small agency.

Who were some of your first clients at CAA?

When I came over to CAA, I brought **GRiZ**, **Pretty Lights**, **Fort Knox Five**, **Tipper**, **DJ Logic**, **3LAU** and a few others. I was predominantly focused on electronic music at the time.

One of the reasons I really wanted to come over to CAA is because you can do all sorts of genres here. By the time I came over here, I knew I wanted to do more than just dance music. I always loved hip hop, country and rock. Here you have an opportunity to branch out.

Who were some of your first clients outside the dance genre?

While at PGA, I was working on Widespread Panic. I was their agent for about 8 years. I did a lot in the jamband space with acts like **The New Mastersounds**, **John Popper Project** and **Stockholm Syndrome**.

Then at CAA, I signed **Jelly Roll** back in 2019. I also work with **Three 6 Mafia**, **STS9**, **Fetty Wap** and **Mark Ronson** now who sit outside of the dance world.

How has it been seeing Jelly Roll's rise since signing him?

It's been a great ride. I signed Jelly July of 2019 at The Signal in Chattanooga. I just saw a business that could really be built with him. He had done a really good job building his own independent business. I could see at least amphitheaters in his future. He also had this Phish or Grateful Dead type cult following. That's what was really attractive to me. I saw something there that I could build from a touring standpoint.

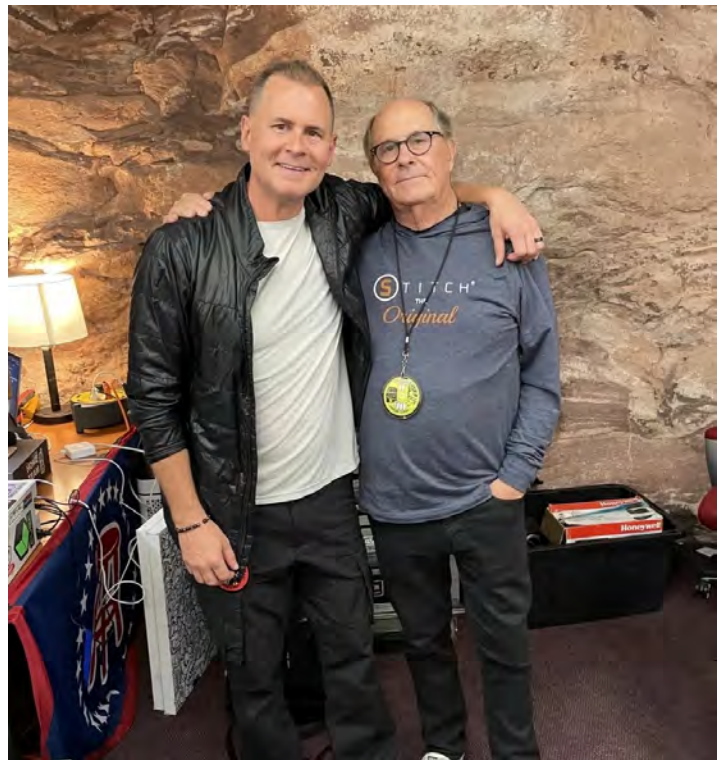


Photo: Courtesy of Williams



Photo: Courtesy of Williams

He started building his team around him; **John Meneilly** and his management team, who have been a huge, great partners for Jelly. Also his label at BMG. All these pieces started coming together that we didn't have when I started with him.

In the beginning, in my mind, I see a guy, he's got a developing touring business, a lovely human being, and he's built something that I think I can take to this next level. All of a sudden, all these things started happening that I never even factored in. No.1s, country hits, rock hits, an incredible label and manager, and then everything started taking off from there. It's been a really fun ride with the whole team.

How does the festival space play into your job?

I interact with all of the festivals for my clients. I booked all of the festivals while I was at Progressive, so by the time I got to CAA, I was good friends with almost all of the festival buyers.

For GRiZ, we've even built out his own festival that's 25,000 tickets, taking place outside Charlottesville, called Seven Stars.

Do you book the whole lineup for Seven Stars?

We do. From the start, the hardest part was actually finding the right site and finding the right time of year, since there's all these other artist curated festivals in that genre. We wanted a site that really connected with GRiZ,

where he could see the vision and he feels like he can give the fans the experience that he envisioned. He had a very distinct idea of what he wanted to deliver.

Now when it comes down to the festival, we do literally everything, we have a huge team around this. The whole team in general is involved in basically every piece of the festival to a degree and nothing that happens without them.

Over the last 14 years with your time at CAA, how have you seen yourself and the Nashville office grow overall?

We've had smart growth, but also we've grown businesses outside of just our touring business. We have TV, sports, digital businesses in Nashville. When I first came over, we had a couple brand people here and we had touring. Sports came in a couple years later. Where it is now is a completely different office in a good way.

There's so many different areas of the entertainment business that are based in Nashville, and there's so many great folks that have moved here internally to work in Nashville and in this office. So it's been really cool to watch it grow and be a part of it.

What's been your favorite moment from your time at CAA so far?

We have parties around CMA that have always been fun. They started off as a barbecue, and now we've built out these crazy cool parties. We did one on the rooftop this year with Stella Lefty, Tyler Hubbard, and a bunch of other acts. It's been fun building out events together. That's when we all shine is when we're all together, and we're all having fun too.

It's also fun to go to a festival with all your coworkers and have 30 of us running around together.

Who have some of your mentors been over your career?

My dad has always been my biggest mentor. He was an agent, so I grew up learning from him and seeing the business through his perspective. One of the great things about CAA is that mentorship is everywhere, across every facet of the company. Whether it's **Rob Light, Darryl Eaton, Richard Lovett** or people outside of touring, there are so many people here to learn from. The doors are always open, and you're constantly surrounded by people who challenge you to think differently and get better.

That was a big part of why I wanted to make the move to CAA, to put myself in an environment where I could continue learning and be mentored in new ways.

What's one of the best pieces of advice you've ever gotten?

Stay levelheaded through the highs and the lows. Be humble when things are going well and resilient when they're not. This business can change quickly, one day can feel like the best day in the world, and the next you're dealing with canceled shows or unexpected challenges. You have to keep perspective, take care of your mental health and not let any single moment define you.



Photo: Courtesy of Williams

What's a moment that your younger self would be most proud of?

Running around Stagecoach with Jelly Roll headlining is definitely one of those moments. Another would be Art Basel, having 10 clients performing in a single night and running from venue to venue at all hours. Those are the nights where you look around and realize, this is exactly what I dreamed of doing. **MR**



DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: The War And Treaty Nab Disc Of The Day



The War And Treaty. Photo: Luke Rogers

A lot of the sounds in today's DISCLAIMER are colored azure.

There's a blue tint to the new releases by Jordan Davis, Kashus Culpepper, ERNEST, The War And Treaty and the Little Big Town collab with Kelsea Ballerini. It will come as no surprise that the blues-iest of these tunes belongs to The War And Treaty and is thus the Disc of the Day.

Levi Foster earns a DISCOVERY Award for introducing country's first anti-AI single.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[2026 CCMA Awards Unveils Second Round Of Performers](#)

[Ashley Cooke Gets Honest About Life, Love & Lessons On Self-Titled Sophomore Album \[Interview\]](#)

[Ben Van Maarth Signs With Back Row Publishing](#)

[BMI's Rooftop On The Row Hosts Pynk Beard & Bryan Martin](#)

[City National Bank Celebrates 15 Years: Awards Six Grants To Nashville Nonprofit Organizations](#)

[CMHOFM To Feature Pat McLaughlin As Next Poets And Prophets Honoree](#)

[Ella Langley, Tucker Wetmore, Stella Lefty, More Among VMA Nominees](#)

['Grand Ole Opry: Live In London' To Air As First-Ever Two Part Opry Live Special](#)

[Hudson Westbrook Readies Sophomore Album 'Made You Look'](#)

[Jeannie Seely's 'Pennsylvucky' Home Becomes Creative Songwriting Hub](#)

[Katy Nichole Signs With WME Christian Media Group](#)

[Marcus King, Slash, More Unite For Sho-Bud Live At The Ryman Show Oct. 27](#)

[Miranda Lambert To Open Nashville's The Truth On Oct. 1](#)

['Nashville' Actress Hayden Panettiere Passes](#)

['Opry Country Christmas' Series Returns In November](#)

[Star-Studded Ray Stevens Tribute Set For Nov. 9 At The Opry House](#)

[Vince Gill To Receive Country Icon Award At 12th Annual Josie Music Awards](#)

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Ella Langley	Be Her Bottom Of Your Boots Choosin' Texas I Can't Love You Anymore Loving Life Again	Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen Ella Langley
2	3	Chase McGill	Carry On Hands Up McArthur Water At A Wedding	Kenny Chesney Jelly Roll HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw Greytan James
3	2	Joybeth Taylor	Choosin' Texas Empty Words I Can't Love You Anymore	Ella Langley Corey Kent Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen
4	4	Austin Goodloe	Empty Words I Can't Love You Anymore No Need For Leavin'	Corey Kent Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen Kameron Marlowe
5	6	Taylor Swift	I Knew It, I Knew You	Taylor Swift
6	7	Jack Antonoff	I Knew It, I Knew You	Taylor Swift
7	5	John Byron	Been By Now Don't We Woman	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown
8	8	Michael Hardy	Be Her GOOD DAMN Hands Up Let Him In Anyway McArthur	Ella Langley Brantley Gilbert Jelly Roll Blake Shelton HARDY, Eric Church, Morgan Wallen & Tim McGraw
9	11	John Morgan	Don't Tell On Me Kid Myself	Jason Aldean John Morgan
10	9	Jessi Alexander	Carry On Medicine Think As You Drunk	Kenny Chesney Megan Moroney Riley Green
11	10	Rocky Block	Been By Now Don't We Hands Up	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Jelly Roll
12	13	Parker Welling	Country And She Knows It Ride, Ride, Ride Worth Your Wild	Luke Bryan George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan) Russell Dickerson
13	12	Ashley Gorley	Don't We Hurts Like You Who Told You That Woman	Morgan Wallen Koe Wetzel Tucker Wetmore Kane Brown
14	16	Jordan M. Schmidt	Be Her Kid Myself Who Told You That	Ella Langley John Morgan Tucker Wetmore
15	18	Tyler Hubbard	Kid Myself Land Ride, Ride, Ride	John Morgan Tyler Hubbard George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan)
16	15	Ben Johnson	All My Exes Easy To Love Woman	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew) Dustin Lynch Kane Brown
17	14	Luke Laird	Boots Off Dry Spell Mexico Honey Never Comin' Back	Jon Pardi Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Flatland Cavalry
18	20	Dan Alley	Be By You	Luke Combs
19	21	Sam Banks	Be By You	Luke Combs

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
20	22	Nick Walsh	Be By You	Luke Combs
21	19	Morgan Wallen	Been By Now Don't We Wannabe	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Gavin Adcock
22	17	Taylor Phillips	Been By Now GOOD DAMN Woman	Morgan Wallen Brantley Gilbert Kane Brown
23	26	Lydia Vaughan	Don't Tell On Me Empty Words	Jason Aldean Corey Kent
24	23	Blake Pendergrass	Been By Now Don't We	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
25	24	Ryan Vojtesak	Been By Now Don't We	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
26	29	Luke Combs	Rethink Some Things Sleepless In A Hotel Room	Luke Combs Luke Combs
27	27	STELLA LEFTY	Boston Something To Lose	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
28	28	Grace Enger	Boston Something To Lose	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
29	25	Riley Green	My Way Think As You Drunk	Riley Green Riley Green
30	31	Matt Dragstrem	Country And She Knows It Water At A Wedding	Luke Bryan Greytan James
31	30	Jon Decious	No Need For Leavin' Phone, Keys, Wallet Something To Lose	Kameron Marlowe Lainey Wilson & John Mayer STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
32	34	Ernest Keith Smith	Loving Life Again Wannabe	Ella Langley Gavin Adcock
33	32	Matt Jenkins	Carry On	Kenny Chesney
34	33	Wyatt McCubbin	Boots Off Horseback Think As You Drunk	Jon Pardi Cody Johnson Riley Green
35	35	Devin Dawson	Loving Life Again	Ella Langley
36	36	Luke Dick	Choosin' Texas Something To Lose	Ella Langley STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
37	37	Kurt Allison	Don't Tell On Me	Jason Aldean
38	38	Tully Kennedy	Don't Tell On Me	Jason Aldean
39	99	Mack Geiger	String By	Mack Geiger
40	44	Zach Top	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
41	45	Mark Nesler	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
42	46	Carson Chamberlain	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
43	39	Kacey Musgraves	Dry Spell Mexico Honey	Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves
44	40	Christian Yancey	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross
45	41	Jessica Farren	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross
46	42	Nicholas Sainato	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross
47	43	Chris McKenna	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross
48	47	Casey Brown	Ride, Ride, Ride Worth Your Wild	George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan) Russell Dickerson
49	53	Josh Miller	Country And She Knows It	Luke Bryan
50	50	Joe Reeves	Boston	STELLA LEFTY
51	51	Jacob Kasher	Boston	STELLA LEFTY
52	52	Noah Kahan	Boston	STELLA LEFTY
53	49	Randy Montana	Horseback Sleepless In A Hotel Room	Cody Johnson Luke Combs

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
54	48	Steph Jones	Hurts Like You Mexico Honey What Took You So Long	Koe Wetzel Kacey Musgraves Jacob Hackworth
55	54	Bailey Zimmerman	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
56	55	Heath Warren	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
57	56	Gavin Lucas	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
58	57	Ilsey Juber	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
59	58	Tucker Beathard	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
60	59	Kane Brown	Woman	Kane Brown

Newly Added Job Listings

Outback Presents: Tour Marketing Manager

Outback Presents is looking for an experienced Tour Marketing Manager who is passionate about live entertainment with an emphasis in comedy, and lives and breathes ticket sales! The Tour Marketing Manager is responsible for leading the strategic planning, campaign execution, analysis, and performance marketing of tours and live events across North America. They will collaborate with talent agencies, artist management teams, venues, media, internal stakeholders and cross-functional teams to develop integrated marketing campaigns that drive ticket sales, growth, and profitability for touring acts and live entertainment properties.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

Outback Presents: Digital Manager, Tour Marketing

Outback Presents is looking for an experienced, data-driven Digital Manager of Tour Marketing who is passionate about live entertainment (with an emphasis on comedy) and lives and breathes ROAS & CVR! Objective: Ticket Sales! The Digital Manager, Tour Marketing is responsible for the strategy, execution, optimization and analysis of in-house paid media campaigns, driving fans from awareness to conversion, and maximizing ticket sales across our touring and live event portfolio.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

The Caverns: Marketing Coordinator

The Caverns is seeking a creative, organized, and self-motivated Marketing Coordinator to help grow audiences and drive ticket sales for concerts, festivals, cave tours, and other venue experiences. This hands-on role combines social media management, content creation, email marketing, event promotion, analytics, and creative campaign development. The ideal candidate is comfortable capturing photo and video at live events, creating short-form content, managing social channels, developing promotional ideas, and using data to improve marketing performance. A passion for live music, entertainment, and tourism is essential. The position offers a mix of remote and on-site work at The Caverns in Grundy County, Tennessee, with regular nights and weekends required.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

All job listings are free-to-list and will be posted for 60 days. Listings are accepted and published at the discretion of MusicRow. To submit a listing, use the [MusicRow Listings Submission Form](#).

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases & Radio Add Dates

August 21

Gavin Adcock/Having One Now/Thrivin' Here Records/Warner Records Nashville
Zach Top/Good Girls & Cowgirls/Leo33
Warren Zeiders/Looks Good on You/Warner Records
Nate Smith/Pray/Sony Music Nashville
Cole Swindell/Bronco/Warner Records Nashville
Tyler Braden/Quick Fix/Warner Records Nashville
Dylan Marlowe/No Coincidence/Sony Music Nashville
Cole Barnhill & Sterling Elza/Drugs Don't Work/Santa Anna Nashville
Aaron Watson/Camel Lights
Wade Bowen/Burned In The Fire
Lauren Watkins/Daydreams/Big Loud Records/Songs & Daughters
Tigirlily Gold/70 And Neon/Sony Music Nashville
Katie Pruitt/The Aftermath
Karley Scott Collins/Hang It Up/Sony Music Nashville
Mitchell Ferguson/My Whole World
Braden Hull/Thanks To You
Bradley Gaskin/Dyin' Proof
Chandler Walters/Paper Tiger/DeVile Records/Big Loud Records
Maddie Lenhart/why in the world

August 24

LOCASH/Talkin Bout/Galaxy Label Group
William Clark Green/Good Time

Album/EP Releases

August 21

Reba/*Tourist – EP*/MCA
Dan + Shay/*Young*/Warner Records Nashville
David Allan Coe/*Texas Moon (Deluxe)*/Sun Records
STELLA LEFTY/*Long Way Home*/Atlantic Outpost
Ian Munsick/*The Mountain Goat*/WEST TO THE REST RECORDS/Triple Tigers Records
Hayden Blount/*American Icon*/Santa Anna Nashville
David Nail/*Flowers*/One Five Sound
Keb' Mo'/*The Breakdown*/Concord Records
Ray Wylie Hubbard/*Reel 2 Reel 4 Real*/Bordello Records
Clay Street Unit/*Live From The Road, Vol. 1*/Leo33
Ghost Hounds/*Justified*/Maple House Records
Robyn Ottolini/*A Safe Place To Land*/ONErpm
Brandon Wisham/*Ain't What It Looks Like*/The Core Records/Capitol Records
Slater Nalley/*Hey Georgia*/Warner Records Nashville/19 Entertainment
Band Reeves/*How To Forgive*/Centricity Music
Adam Chaffins/*Trailer Trash: Doublewide*/Spirit Nashville Recordings/Fluid Music Revolution
Carolyn Miller/*Carolyn Miller*
Tony Hannah/*Love it or Leave it*
Michael Sarver/*Layer One*/S&G Music Enterprises

CALENDAR

Industry Events

August 25

SOURCE Hall of Fame Awards

September 16

25th Annual Americana Honors & Awards

Upcoming Nashville Concerts

August 21

Megan Moroney/Bridgestone Arena

Rick Springfield/Ryman Auditorium

Chance Pena/Brooklyn Bowl

SoDown/Cannery Hall (The Mil)

Kenny Lattimore/City Winery

Hannah Cole/The Blue Room

August 22

Megan Moroney/Bridgestone Arena

Big Thief/Ryman Auditorium

Heyz/Cannery Hall (The Mil)

Kyndal/Riverside Revival

Kenny Lattimore/City Winery

August 23

Big Thief/Ryman Auditorium

Various Artists: Rocky Steady Nashville/The Basement East

Kevin Ross/City Winery

August 24

Jenny Tolman/City Winery

August 25

Jack Johnson/Ascend Amphitheater

August 26

ILUKA/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

August 27

Ne-Yo/Ryman Auditorium

Mountain Grass Unit/Brooklyn Bowl

Mustang McGee & Freedom Junction/The Basement East

Robert Lester Folsom/The Blue Room

August 28

O.A.R./FirstBank Amphitheater

Daniel Donato/Ryman Auditorium