

2026 *MusicRow* Awards Winners



MusicRow Magazine revealed the winners of the 38th annual *MusicRow* Awards on Wednesday (Sept. 2) on its online platforms, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

City National Bank is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2026 *MusicRow* Awards.

The *MusicRow* Awards are Nashville's longest-running music industry trade publication honors and celebrates the achievements of songwriters, artists, producers and more. Winners are voted on by *MusicRow*'s subscribers.

This year's winners includes: **Ben West, Blackbird Studio, Big Loud Records, WME, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Dan Alley, Hudson Westbrook, Ashley Gorley, Jessie Jo Dillon, "Choosin' Texas," Emily Ann Roberts, Carter Faith, Ella Langley, Riley Green and The Red Clay Strays.**

All the *MusicRow* Award nominees are profiled in the recently-released [MusicRow Awards print issue](#).

MusicRow also honors the Top 10 Album All-Star Musicians at the 2026 *MusicRow* Awards, recognizing the studio players who performed on the most albums reaching the Top 10 of *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart during the eligibility period. The honorees are: **Jimmie Lee Sloas, Jerry Roe, Jim Cooley, Joey Moi, Jenee Fleenor, Lucas Ruge-Jones, Bryan Sutton, Dave Cohen, Justin Schipper and Wes Hightower.**

The full list of winners can be found [here](#). **MR**

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

2026 *MusicRow* Awards
Winners

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Watson

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Records/Republic Records

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Island Records

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Ole Opry Debut

DISClaimer Single Reviews

And much more...

lanie gardner
faded polaroids (deluxe)
available now



Leadership Music Executive Director Debbie Linn To Retire



Leadership Music Board Past President Neal Spielberg, Executive Director Debbie Linn and Board President Diane Pearson

After serving Leadership Music as Executive Director for 15 years, **Debbie Linn** has announced that she is retiring. She will continue serving as Executive Director through 2027, allowing the organization time to make a leadership transition.

“Serving as Executive Director of Leadership Music has been the honor of my professional life,” says Linn. “This organization has never been just a job to me—it has been my passion and my purpose. I am deeply grateful to the board members, volunteers, donors, staff, founding council, alumni, and industry leaders who have made these past 15 years so meaningful. While I’m looking forward to this next chapter, I’m equally excited to spend my remaining time continuing the important work of Leadership Music and ensuring a smooth transition for the organization I love.”

Linn joined Leadership Music in April 2012. During her tenure, she has overseen a period of significant growth and engagement, strengthening the organization’s financial foundation, expanding alumni involvement, deepening industry partnerships, and guiding more than a dozen Leadership Music classes. Throughout her tenure, she has remained committed to the organization’s mission of cultivating a forward-thinking community of leaders who impact the creative industry.

The Leadership Music Search Committee will begin the process of identifying the organization’s next Executive Director in the coming months. Additional information regarding the search process, timeline and opportunities for stakeholder engagement will be revealed soon. **MR**

BMG & Concord Finalize Partnership, Name Leadership



BMG and Concord have completed their partnership, creating a new global music company. The transaction, which was first announced in April, has received all required regulatory approvals, and the company’s global headquarters will be located in Nashville, with Berlin serving as its European headquarters.

Operating under the BMG name, the combined company brings together two businesses spanning music publishing, recorded music, theatrical rights, digital distribution and film & TV.

Bob Valentine, formerly CEO at Concord, now assumes the role of CEO of BMG, with **Thomas Coesfeld** serving as Chairman. Others on the Executive Management Team include **Björn Bauer** (Chief Financial Officer), **Sebastian Hentzschel** (Chief Operating Officer), **Victor Zaraya** (Chief Revenue Officer), **Amanda Molter** (General Counsel) and **Kent Hoskins** (Chief Transformation Officer).

BMG has also established an 18-member Strategic Leadership Council, comprising the six members of the Executive Management Team and 12 additional senior leaders from across the company.

Nashville’s **Job Loba** has been named head of Global Frontline Recordings, and **Tom Becci** as head of Global Recorded Operations. Other members of the Strategic Leadership Council include **Alberto Chullen** (Corporate Development & Investments), **Sophia Dilley** (Concord Originals), **Sean Flahaven** (Concord Theatricals), **Celine Joshua** (Global Marketing & Streaming), **Nitsa Kalispera** (Global Supply Chain Operations), **Ruth Martinez** (Human Resources), **Kristal McKanders Dube** (Corporate Communications), **Alistair Norbury** (Senior Creative Advisor to CEO Bob Valentine), **Tom Scherer** (Global Catalog Recordings) and **Jim Selby** (Global Music Publishing). **MR**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE
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WINNERS**

Brittani Johnson Joins MCA, Chris Schuler Exits



Brittani Johnson & Chris Schuler

MusicRow has confirmed that **Brittani Johnson** has joined MCA as VP, Streaming. Additionally, **Chris Schuler**, VP, Audience Development has exited the company. *Country Aircheck* first reported both staff changes.

Johnson most recently served as a Day-To-Day manager at The Core Entertainment. She moved to Nashville in 2017, where she started as an intern at Rebel Engine (now Big Sky Music Group). Afterwards, she joined Stephanie Quayle's team, where she sharpened her skills and passion for artist management. In 2019, Johnson joined Big Loud as Promotion Coordinator, before advancing to Director, Southwest Promotion. As Director, she played a key role in advocating for artists such as Morgan Wallen, Ashley Cooke, Hardy and Charles Wesley Godwin.

Schuler rejoined the company in 2023 as VP of Promotion for Capitol Records Nashville, gaining his current title in 2025 during the company's restructuring. A Middle Tennessee State University graduate, Schuler began his career in the Radio and TV/Film department of BMI. He then joined Mercury Nashville as a promotion

coordinator and worked his way up to becoming VP of Promotion & Radio Marketing in 2019, where he contributed to the success of artists across all four imprints of UMG Nashville. He also spent time at as VP of Promotion at Arista Nashville. **MR**

Breanne Miller Launches Wayfinders, Inc.

Breanne Miller, formerly of Martin, Allbee, Miller, Bryan & Associates LLC, has launched Wayfinders, Inc., a Nashville-based financial management firm serving recording artists, songwriters, performers, producers and entertainers at all stages of their careers.

Miller brings 25 years of experience in financial management within the music and entertainment industries.

"I am thrilled to bring the vision of Wayfinders to life," says Miller. "The experience I gained with Kirke Martin & Laine Allbee is an exceptional foundation, and I will forever be grateful for it. I will continue to honor this legacy as I work to build something lasting."

She is joined by longtime colleague and Belmont University alum **Kyle Malone**, who brings experience in the entertainment and music business.

Wayfinders plans to continue growing its client base while providing financial management services to both established and emerging members of the entertainment industry. **MR**



Breanne Miller & Kyle Malone

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Cowgirl/Shaboozey/American Dogwood/EMPIRE - 73

Know It All/Cody Jinks/Late August Records - 79

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Rethink Some Things/Luke Combs/Columbia Nashville - 212

Been By Now/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 200

Anytime Soon/Jason Aldean/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville - 161

Jaded/Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley/Columbia - 159

Loving Life Again/Ella Langley/SAWGOD Records/Columbia/ Triple Tigers - 137

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Rethink Some Things/Luke Combs/Columbia Nashville - 8

Anytime Soon/Jason Aldean/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville - 7

Cowgirl/Shaboozey/American Dogwood/EMPIRE - 6

Empty Words/Corey Kent/Combustion Music/RCA Records - 6

Good Time/William Clark Green/Bill Grease Records - 5

Move On/Kevin Powers & Shaboozey/American Dogwood/ EMPIRE - 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Blame it on the Whiskey/Ty Gregory/Ole Buster Music - 133

Talkin Bout/LOCASH/Galaxy Label Group - 132

Saturday Night/Jonathan Lee/Pacific Standard Entertainment Group - 128

Love Me Lonely/Kennedy Reid/Independent - 116

Two Step/Danielia Cotton/Cottontown LLC - 113

Down For The Ride/Tristan Roberson/Tristan Roberson Music, LLC - 112

NO. 1 SONG



Stella Lefty records her first No. 1 on the *MusicRow* Radio Chart with her breakout hit "Boston."

The track comes off of her debut album *Long Way Home* and was written by Lefty, **Grace Enger**, **Jacob Kasher Hindlin**, **Joe Reeves**, and **Noah Kahan**.

"Boston" currently sits at No. 3 on both the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and 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 Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
16	2	1	Boston / Stella Lefty / Atlantic Outpost	2250/60	3	75
6	7	2	Been By Now / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	2091/65	11	200
13	4	3	Phone, Keys, Wallet / Lainey Wilson & John Mayer / Broken Bow Records	2082/64	3	53
17	1	4	Carry On / Kenny Chesney / HEY NOW Records	2044/59	-10	-229
14	6	5	Think As You Drunk / Riley Green / Nashville Harbor	2029/65	2	47
24	3	6	Woman / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1986/50	-6	-116
8	9	7	Loving Life Again / Ella Langley / SAWGOD Records/Columbia/Triple Tigers	1951/64	8	137
23	8	8	Country And She Knows It / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	1853/58	0	-6
54	10	9	All My Exes / Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew / Big Loud Records	1798/56	1	14
22	11	10	Say So / Dan + Shay / Warner Records Nashville	1646/56	-2	-30
44	12	11	Kid Myself / John Morgan / Broken Bow Records	1543/46	4	64
24	13	12	Get To Drinkin' / Zach John King / Sony Music Nashville	1476/52	6	79
10	14	13	Hands Up / Jelly Roll / BMG/Stoney Creek Records	1364/58	0	0
12	17	14	Horseback / Cody Johnson / Cojo Music/Warner Records Nashville	1260/58	4	44
35	15	15	Boots Off / Jon Pardi / MCA	1259/49	-1	-19
28	16	16	Painted You Pretty / Hudson Westbrook / River House Artists/Warner Records Nashville	1245/56	1	17
13	18	17	I Didn't Come Here To Leave / Chris Young / Black River Entertainment	1181/57	2	20
32	19	18	Let Him In Anyway / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	1128/51	4	40
28	20	19	Water At A Wedding / Greylan James / Nashville Harbor	1041/50	2	20
4	23	20	Jaded / Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley / Columbia Nashville	1039/50	18	159
7	26	21	Rethink Some Things / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	1019/49	26	212
26	21	22	American Sky / Aaron Tippin / 8-Track Entertainment	1003/43	3	30
14	22	23	baby blues / Ashley Cooke / Big Loud/Back Blocks	937/49	5	42
16	29	24	Medicine / Megan Moroney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records	841/43	8	60
16	25	25	The Years Are Short / Rodney Atkins / Curb Records	819/44	1	7
19	31	26	Son of Jolene / Belles with Dolly Parton / East Music Row Records	817/44	11	82
28	24	27	Killin' Me / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	802/42	-3	-24
21	30	28	Something That I Need / Carson Beyer / Lucky Money Entertainment	785/39	3	24
23	27	29	Good Time Gone / Lexie Stevenson / Lexquisite Music	765/34	-5	-39
5	38	30	Anytime Soon / Jason Aldean / BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville	750/44	27	161
38	32	31	Worth Your Wild / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers	738/36	4	30
64	28	32	Easy To Love / Dustin Lynch / Broken Bow Records	679/32	-16	-125
30	34	33	Holdin' It Down / Chase Matthew / Warner Records Nashville	675/38	4	25
15	33	34	Better That Way / Charles Wesley Godwin feat. Luke Combs / Big Loud Records/Sony Music Nashville	665/43	-3	-19
24	35	35	Tell Me That There Ain't A God / Jon Brennan / CDX Records	640/29	0	1
11	37	36	Message in a Bottle / Jo Dee Messina / Dreambound Records	623/35	4	26
19	39	37	Wouldn't Want Me Either / Erica Nicole / Kent Wells Productions	594/31	4	22
14	40	38	High Noon / Jenna Paulette / Leo33	559/37	6	33

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
15	36	39	Land / Tyler Hubbard / Mercury Nashville	534/31	-16	-101
9	42	40	Dear Big City / Dylan Scott / Curb Records	528/38	4	19
13	43	41	End This Way / Braden Hull / Melody Place	502/38	6	30
53	41	42	Long Live Country / Shane Profitt / Triple Tigers	500/25	-5	-26
8	45	43	Who Told You That / Tucker Wetmore / Back Blocks Music/MCA/Mercury Records	497/32	9	40
20	49	44	Move On / Kevin Powers & Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	477/30	24	91
18	44	45	Just A Mom / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	465/28	1	6
20	47	46	Exes In Texas / Porter Martin / Lovable Losers Music	423/29	4	18
11	48	47	Girl Dad / Cole Swindell / Warner Records Nashville	406/31	4	14
14	50	48	Family Man / Trey Pendley / Leo33	379/29	4	13
6	56	49	Drinkin' Town / Laura Bryna / LTD Entertainment powered by Regime Music Group	361/22	18	54
14	52	50	What Took You So Long / Jacob Hackworth / MCA Nashville	359/27	6	21
7	53	51	Cowboy On The Run / Kelly & Sarah / Kelly Sarah Music	342/23	4	13
14	54	52	Me & God And a Fishing Pole / Skip Ewing / Vere Music	328/27	1	3
16	55	53	If I Go Missin' / Tim & The Glory Boys / Buckaroo Records	327/19	5	17
4	57	54	underneath the harvest moon / Harper Grace / Curb Records	316/25	5	16
2	69	55	Empty Words / Corey Kent / Combustion Music/RCA Records	302/21	44	92
15	59	56	We Make America Run / Ansel Brown / ABM Records	300/18	2	7
6	62	57	Say La V / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	297/20	7	20
5	63	58	Highway Robbery / Jason Scott & The High Heat / Leo33	293/19	7	19
9	61	59	Howdy / Cole Goodwin / Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment	283/23	2	6
9	60	60	Small Town / Rebekah Snyder / CDX Records	280/17	0	1
22	64	61	Never Comin' Back / Flatland Cavalry / Lost Highway	273/19	5	12
13	65	62	For You Girl / Robert Ross / CDX Records	258/13	0	0
12	66	63	Goodbye Looks Like / Johnathon Heilbroun / Johnathon Heilbroun Music	246/17	0	-1
10	67	64	The Grass Looks Greener / Karly C / Quirky Cowgirl Records	240/18	3	6
29	51	65	Straight For The Heart / Alexandra Kay / Wheelhouse Records	235/13	-32	-112
2	75	66	Bet On That / Blake Whiten / Enchntmnt/Warner Records	227/16	25	45
23	71	67	Good Damn / Brantley Gilbert / BBR Music Group/BMG/Wheelhouse Records	225/18	8	17
9	72	68	Whiskey And Vinyl / Stephen Styles / Plow House Records	224/14	9	19
3	74	69	Nowhere Town / Jacob Smalley / Jacob Smalley Music	220/14	12	23
15	73	70	Love is Blind / Ian Munsick / Triple Tigers Records	220/14	8	17
3	68	71	Wannabe / Gavin Adcock / Warner Records Nashville	218/16	1	2
17	46	72	Nothing On You / Jet Jurgensmeyer / Simba Entertainment, LLC	218/12	-52	-232
1	82	73	Cowgirl / Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	216/14	60	81
6	70	74	Thank You For This Moment / Brad Lee Schroeder / Stray Bullet Records/CDX Records	207/10	-1	-2
5	77	75	King of Coal Dust County / Adam Chaffins / Sprit Music	188/14	10	17
2	78	76	Digging In The Dust / Jason Charles Miller / One Opportunity Records	174/12	4	6
2	76	77	When One Door Closes / Steve Anthony / CDX Records	174/10	1	1
2	79	78	Live Again / Glen Shelton / Jordash Records	166/13	7	11
1	81	79	Know It All / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	164/14	21	29
6	84	80	Dry Spell / Kacey Musgraves / Lost Highway Records	163/13	24	32

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
 Highest Debut

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Jeff Tobias Named VP Of Sales At Mogul



Jeff Tobias

Jeff Tobias has been named Vice President of Sales at Mogul.

In this role, Tobias leads the company's enterprise sales and go-to-market strategy, with a focus on business management firms, artist management companies, distributors, catalog owners, royalty administrators and other organizations managing artists, rights and royalty income at scale.

Prior to joining Mogul, he served as Senior Director of Business Development at Tone, where he helped build the company's go-to-market strategy, expanded its client base, and drove significant revenue growth across artists, labels, business managers, and other music industry partners. He previously held senior commercial and artist-facing roles at Stem and ONErpm, including Head of Artist & Label Relations for Nashville at Stem and Head of Country Music at ONErpm. **MR**

SESAC Elevates Abbey Watson



Abbey Watson. Photo: Courtesy of SESAC

SESAC has elevated **Abbey Watson** to Manager, Creative Services.

A graduate of Belmont University, Watson joined SESAC in 2021. In addition to her client-facing responsibilities, Watson plays a vital role in fostering collaboration across the organization, serving as a key liaison between internal departments and external business partners.

"Abbey is someone our affiliates and teammates know they can always count on. Her professionalism, thoughtful approach, and passion for helping music creators succeed have made a lasting impact on both SESAC and the creative community," says **Lydia Cahill**, Sr. Director, Creative Services. **MR**

Muscadine Bloodline Partners With Trenches Records/Republic Records



Photo: Kellie Chen/Courtesy of Trenches Records/Republic Records

Muscadine Bloodline has partnered with Trenches Records/Republic Records.

The Alabama-born duo of **Charlie Muncaster** and **Gary Stanton** will mark their first release through the partnership on Sept. 18 with their new single, "Escatawpa Hollow."

Since 2015, the duo has amassed more than 1 billion streams, earned Platinum certifications for fan favorites "Me On You" and "Porch Swing Angel" and a Gold certification for "Pieces," which features Lainey Wilson. The band has sold-out headline tours across the globe and shares stages with Turnpike Troubadours, Post Malone, and Lainey Wilson. The band has upcoming dates with The Red Clay Strays and Turnpike Troubadours through December.

"This is about adding horsepower without changing the engine," shares the duo. "We've always believed that if you take care of the fans, everything else follows. That mindset isn't changing. We're just adding a team that can help us reach more people while staying true to everything that's gotten us here." **MR**

Maggie Antone Signs With Island Records

Maggie Antone has inked with Island Records.

Known for her honest songwriting and a sound that blends country, Americana, and pop, Antone has built a growing audience through her independent releases and live shows.

In 2024, she released her debut album, *Rhinestoned*, on her independent label, Big Love. The album's opening track, "Johnny Moonshine," has earned more than 12 million Spotify streams. That same year, she toured with 49 Winchester, Trampled by Turtles and Kat Hasty, and made her Grand Ole Opry debut.

Antone continued that momentum in 2025 with performances at ACL Fest, Windy City Smokeout and Under the Big Sky. She also released "The Devil's Not In Hell." Her music has been featured by *People*, *Billboard*, *Holler* and *Rough Trade*, with praise for the honesty and emotion in her songwriting.

She will perform at Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion in Bristol, Tennessee, on Sept. 13, followed by the State Fair of Texas in Dallas on Oct. 13. **MR**



Maggie Antone

Slater Nalley Makes Grand Ole Opry Debut



Pictured (L-R): Mason Domke (Director A&R and Research, WRN), Stacey Cato (Senior Manager Artist Relations, Opry), Slater Nalley, Lexi Lampkin (Manager Artist & Industry Relations, Opry) and Cris Lacy (Chair & President, WRN). Photo: Benjamin Humphrey

Slater Nalley made his Grand Ole Opry debut Tuesday night (Sept. 1).

The Warner Records Nashville singer-songwriter played his breakout tune, "Stopped Loving You," from his debut EP, *Hey Georgia*, along with the unreleased "The Highway."

Nalley has more new music on the way, and will join Blake Whiten for his "[Something To Say Tour](#)" starting in October with stops in Lexington, Charleston, Washington D.C and more. He will also perform at Red West Music Festival and St. Pete Country Fest this fall. **MR**

Kyle Schuesler Inks With HEY NOW Records



Pictured (Front Row, L-R): Kyle Schuesler and Kris Lamb. (Back Row, L-R): John Esposito and Clint Higham. Photo: Zach Wesner/HEY NOW Records

Kyle Schuesler has inked with HEY NOW Records.

The West Coast-based guitarist, vocalist and writer signed to Liz Rose Music after releasing 12 individual singles on his own. Schuesler has played Austin's South By Southwest and Coastal Country Jam, and shared stages with Vance Joy, Alana Springsteen, Evan Honer, Jonah Kagen and Logan Crosby. He is slated to release new music later this year.

"Kyle has such a unique way of merging styles," shares **Kris Lamb**, HEY NOW President & Co-Founder. "It's seamless, all these genres that people love as his own sound. As a vocalist, not only does his voice have a real warmth that draws you in, he can do things very few singers can. When he goes into a falsetto, you don't realize how hard that is – and it's the way he makes everything seem so easy that makes you want to keep listening."

"People don't really know what to call it: Indie? Alt-folk? Acoustic-pop? Coastal country? I'm not sure why people feel they need to label it instead of just listening and enjoying the music," adds Schuesler. "The things I love don't fit in boxes – Noah Kahan, The Lumineers, Zach Bryan – but they feel right when you hear them. That's what drew me to HEY NOW, no one at the label cared what it was, as much as how much they loved these songs." **MR**

Anna Rae Inks With Joan Of Arc Music For Management



Cindy Mabe and Anna Rae. Photo: Adrienne Kelley

Anna Rae has signed with Joan Of Arc Music for management.

The Charlotte, North Carolina native began her music career starring as Young Elsa in Disney's *Frozen* on Broadway at 12 years old. She released her debut single, "Run Cinderella," today (Aug. 28), which she co-wrote with **Stephanie Chapman** and **Emily Landis**. Rae recently made her Bluebird Café debut and hosted a Tin Pan South writer's round at the Station Inn alongside award-winning songwriters Matraca Berg, Landis and Chapman.

"Anna is one of the purest and most timeless vocalists of her generation," shares **Cindy Mabe**, Founder and CEO of Joan of Arc Music. "She's a storyteller and songwriter with depth beyond her age, and she's

instantly relatable. We are so proud to help grow her career and introduce her to wider audiences."

"Cindy Mabe and the Joan of Arc Music team are true advocates of country music," says Rae. "They are entirely dedicated to the heart and stories of artists and believe in building careers with intention and longevity – caring for both the art and the soul behind it. I feel incredibly grateful to be supported in a way that gives me the freedom to evolve and take risks. I couldn't be more excited about everything we're building together!" **MR**

Bridey Costello Inks With Blue Harbor Music

Singer-songwriter **Bridey Costello** has signed a global publishing and strategic artist partnership deal with Blue Harbor Music.

The Chicago native's songwriting centers on honest, plainspoken storytelling, touching on family, queerness, growing up and finding your identity. Her raw recordings keep the focus on the songs themselves, often capturing the immediacy of a first voice memo or early demo rather than a polished studio production.

She has also built a growing live resume, opening for Olivia Barton, Abby Powledge, Taylor Bickett, Abby Holliday and Ethan Tasch. Costello is currently working on new music, with additional releases planned throughout the year. She has released her new single, "Knew What I Wanted."



Pictured (L-R): Kendall Lettow (Blue Harbor Music), Bridey Costello, Anthony Modica (management), Miller Arant (Blue Harbor Music) and Steve Markland (Blue Harbor Music)

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome Bridey Costello to the Blue Harbor Music family. Bridey is a uniquely talented writer with a voice and perspective that immediately stood out," says **Steve Markland**, President, Blue Harbor Music. "Her writing is honest, unexpected, and deeply personal, with a way of making specific experiences feel universal. We're also excited about the opportunity to continue expanding the diversity of voices and perspectives represented across our roster. Bridey brings something truly special to the company, and we're honored to support her as she develops her music and career." **MR**

DISClaimer Single Reviews: Luke Bryan & Luke Combs Team For Disc Of The Day



Luke Combs & Luke Bryan. Photo: Courtesy of MCA

DISClaimer is visited by three Country Music Hall of Famers this week, Randy, Vince and the Oaks.

They're joined by a bevy of new country stars, and who could deny the Luke-and-Luke show? Luke Bryan and Luke Combs cart off a Disc of the Day award, despite heavy competition from Warren Zeiders, Randy Travis, Mackenzie Carpenter and the Jackson Dean & Laci Kaye Booth duet.

This week's DISCcovery Award goes to Sunny Black.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[Black River Entertainment To Host Imagination Library Benefit Event](#)

[Carly Pearce Embraces Her Roots & Her 'Honest Woman' Era \[Interview\]](#)

[Centennial Park Dedicates Bench In Memory Of Dolly Parton](#)

[Cledus T. Judd Signs With Reliant Talent Agency](#)

['DOLLYFEST: The Celebration Of A Lifetime' To Be Held In Nashville & London In 2027](#)

[Dolly Parton Honored During Star-Studded Opry Show](#)

[Dustin Lynch Readies New LP For October](#)

[Dylan Scott Celebrates With Double No. 1 Party](#)

[Ella Langley Breaks Record For Most Consecutive Weeks At No. 1 On MusicRow Top Songwriter Chart](#)

[Ella Langley's 'Choosin' Texas' Breaks Billboard Chart Record](#)

[Governor Lee Announces Intentions To Name Nashville Airport In Honor Of Dolly Parton](#)

[Inaugural 9to5K Run To Celebrate Dolly's Legacy](#)

[Jacob Hackworth Slates Debut EP For October](#)

[Jason Isbell Files Class Action Lawsuit Against Suno Coded AI](#)

[Little Big Town Gets Back To What Matters On 'It's A Dying Art' \[Interview\]](#)

[Lucky Money Entertainment Celebrates New Office](#)

[Luke Bryan Unveils 'SIGNS' Track List](#)

[RIAA Releases 2026 Mid-Year Recorded Music Revenue Report](#)

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 Jaded Loving Life Again	Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley) Ella Langley
2	2	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	4	Joybeth Taylor	Choosin' Texas Empty Words I Can't Love You Anymore	Ella Langley Corey Kent Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen
4	3	Jordan M. Schmidt	Be Her Jaded Kid Myself Who Told You That	Ella Langley Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley) John Morgan Tucker Wetmore
5	5	Austin Goodloe	Empty Words I Can't Love You Anymore No Need For Leavin'	Corey Kent Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen Kameron Marlowe
6	8	John Byron	Been By Now Don't We Woman	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Kane Brown
7	6	Taylor Swift	I Knew It, I Knew You	Taylor Swift
8	7	Jack Antonoff	I Knew It, I Knew You	Taylor Swift
9	10	Ernest Keith Smith	Jaded Loving Life Again Wannabe	Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley) Ella Langley Gavin Adcock
10	9	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
11	11	Jessi Alexander	Carry On Medicine Think As You Drunk	Kenny Chesney Megan Moroney Riley Green
12	12	John Morgan	Anytime Soon Don't Tell On Me Kid Myself	Jason Aldean Jason Aldean John Morgan
13	13	Rocky Block	Been By Now Don't We Hands Up	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Jelly Roll
14	14	Parker Welling	Country And She Knows It Ride, Ride, Ride Worth Your Wild	Luke Bryan George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan) Russell Dickerson
15	16	Ben Johnson	All My Exes Easy To Love Woman	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew) Dustin Lynch Kane Brown
16	17	Tyler Hubbard	Kid Myself Land Ride, Ride, Ride	John Morgan Tyler Hubbard George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan)
17	15	Ashley Gorley	Don't We Hurts Like You Who Told You That Woman	Morgan Wallen Koe Wetzel Tucker Wetmore Kane Brown

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
18	18	Taylor Phillips	Been By Now GOOD DAMN Woman	Morgan Wallen Brantley Gilbert Kane Brown
19	19	Dan Alley	Be By You	Luke Combs
20	20	Sam Banks	Be By You	Luke Combs
21	21	Nick Walsh	Be By You	Luke Combs
22	23	Morgan Wallen	Been By Now Don't We Wannabe	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Gavin Adcock
23	24	STELLA LEFTY	Boston Lean In, Kiss Me Something To Lose	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
24	25	Grace Enger	Boston Lean In, Kiss Me Something To Lose	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
25	26	Blake Pendergrass	Been By Now Don't We	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
26	27	Ryan Vojtesak	Been By Now Don't We	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
27	22	Luke Laird	Boots Off Dry Spell Mexico Honey Never Comin' Back	Jon Pardi Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Flatland Cavalry
28	33	Mack Geiger	Pouring String By	Mack Geiger Mack Geiger
29	28	Lydia Vaughan	Don't Tell On Me Empty Words	Jason Aldean Corey Kent
30	29	Jon Decious	No Need For Leavin' Phone, Keys, Wallet Something To Lose	Kameron Marlowe Lainey Wilson & John Mayer STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
31	32	Matt Jenkins	Carry On Crazy To Yourself	Kenny Chesney Tucker Wetmore
32	30	Matt Dragstrem	Country And She Knows It Water At A Wedding	Luke Bryan Greytan James
33	34	Wyatt McCubbin	Boots Off Horseback Think As You Drunk	Jon Pardi Cody Johnson Riley Green
34	35	Devin Dawson	Loving Life Again	Ella Langley
35	31	Riley Green	My Way Think As You Drunk	Riley Green Riley Green
36	36	Luke Dick	Choosin' Texas Something To Lose	Ella Langley STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
37	37	Zach Top	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
38	38	Mark Nesler	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
39	39	Carson Chamberlain	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
40	40	Kurt Allison	Anytime Soon Don't Tell On Me	Jason Aldean Jason Aldean
41	41	Tully Kennedy	Anytime Soon Don't Tell On Me	Jason Aldean Jason Aldean
42	42	Joe Reeves	Boston Lean In, Kiss Me	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY
43	43	Jacob Kasher	Boston Lean In, Kiss Me	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY
44	44	Casey Brown	Ride, Ride, Ride Worth Your Wild	George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan) Russell Dickerson
45	50	Noah Kahan	Boston	STELLA LEFTY
46	45	Christian Yancey	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross
47	46	Jessica Farren	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross
48	47	Nicholas Sainato	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
49	48	Chris McKenna	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross
50	53	Bailey Zimmerman	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
51	54	Heath Warren	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
52	55	Gavin Lucas	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
53	56	Ilsey Juber	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
54	57	Tucker Beathard	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman
55	49	Josh Miller	Country And She Knows It	Luke Bryan
56	51	Ropyr Wetzel	Hurts Like You Jaded	Koe Wetzel Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley)
57	59	Kane Brown	Woman	Kane Brown
58	66	Hudson Westbrook	Painted You Pretty	Hudson Westbrook
59	67	Beau Bailey	Painted You Pretty	Hudson Westbrook
60	68	Lukas Scott	Painted You Pretty	Hudson Westbrook

Newly Added Job Listings

Melody Place: Director of Streaming

Melody Place is seeking a Director of Streaming to lead streaming strategy across our roster of country and pop artists. This role will serve as a key liaison between Melody Place, our artists and teams, and digital streaming platforms, while using streaming data and audience insights to help drive release strategy, identify opportunities, and grow our artists' presence across DSPs. The ideal candidate brings strong relationships within the streaming ecosystem, a deep understanding of DSP strategy and programming, and the ability to translate data into clear, actionable opportunities for our roster.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

Fort Nash: Contributing Writers

Fort Nash Media is accepting applications for a select group of Contributing Writers to join our editorial network for the upcoming semester. Contributors will receive published bylines across Fort Nash, with opportunities to interview artists and industry leaders, cover key moments in country music and culture, and develop original features, commentary, and thought leadership. We're looking for strong, culturally plugged-in storytellers with a distinct point of view and a passion for country music, entertainment, and digital media. Selected contributors are expected to publish a minimum of two original articles per week throughout the semester and will gain access to select artist interviews, media opportunities, and industry events.

Contact: kyra@fort-nash.com

Fort Nash: Digital Manager

Fort Nash Media is seeking a strategic, creative, and digitally savvy Digital Manager to help lead the growth of our social and digital ecosystem. This role will oversee social strategy and audience growth across the Fort Nash network, manage social team workflow and deliverables, analyze performance and translate data into actionable strategy, and develop original short-form concepts and digital IP. The Digital Manager will also oversee digital campaigns for artists, labels, and brand partners and lead weekly creative sessions. The ideal candidate has experience in social media, digital content, and audience growth, with a strong understanding of short-form video, analytics, and country music and culture. They should have a strong pulse on viral trends while also being able to think beyond them – reimagining formats and developing original, repeatable series for Fort Nash network IP, artist visits, and partner campaigns. This is primarily a weekday role; however, as a fast-moving media company, some real-time coverage outside traditional business hours will be required around breaking news, industry events, and major cultural moments.

Contact: info@fort-nash.com

Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman: Senior Tax Staff Accountant

Focus Partner firm, GRF, is seeking a Senior Tax Staff Accountant with ideally entertainment business management experience to join our team of dedicated professionals. The Senior Tax Staff Accountant is responsible for the preparation and review of various reports in support of servicing clients, preparation of simple to moderately complex tax returns, as well as tax projections and tax research. They will also assist with tour preparation and planning, including budgets and state, local and international tax clearances, and reductions for touring artists. This role is hybrid out of our Encino, CA office or our Century City, CA. The annualized base pay range for this role is expected to be between \$82,000 – \$125,000.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

117 Entertainment: Publicity Manager

We are seeking a highly motivated Publicity Manager to help lead our Public Relations efforts. Our Publicity Managers each carry a portion of the roster and drive their campaigns day-to-day, working closely with the Founder, who stays actively involved on every account. The ideal candidate is comfortable running campaigns with real ownership while collaborating closely as part of a small, tight-knit team — bringing established relationships with music, pop culture, and national media outlets, journalists, and influencers.

Contact: [Apply here](#)

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases And Radio Add Dates

September 4

Kane Brown (feat. Shania Twain)/Boots/Sony Music Nashville
Gavin Adcock/One Hell Of A Steal/Thrivin' Here Records/Warner Records Nashville
Hudson Westbrook/The Joker/River House Artists/Warner Records Nashville
Dylan Scott/Girl From Louisiana/Curb Records
Kameron Marlowe/I Won't/Sony Music Nashville
Waylon Wyatt & Carter Faith/I'm Sorry But I Love You/Music Soup/Darkroom Records
Justin Moore/Missing You Night/Blue Highway Records
Owen Riegling/Me Without My Hometown/Big Loud Records/Universal Music Canada
Kassi Ashton/Chrome Pony/MCA
Bo Staloch/I Won't Be There Waiting For You/Capitol Records
Thelma & James/The Way That It Wasn't/Big Loud Records
Ian Martir/Problem/Santa Anna Nashville
Cody Lohden/One Boot Out The Door/DeVile Records/Big Loud Records
Alex Lambert/Beautiful Mind/Big Loud Texas
Macy Todd/luckiest girl alive/Atlantic Outpost
Kyle Gates/Cold Beer Sold Here/Santa Anna Nashville
Harper Grace/what was mine (tennessee waltz)/Curb Records
Chanel West Coast/Tennessee
Lindstrom/Run Boy Run/Santa Anna Nashville
Halle Kearns/Message in a Bottle

September 7

Cam Shelton/The Outlaws/Cam Shelton Music
Jordan Allen/California Sunrise
Sofia Lee Davis/Long As I Can/Sofia Lee Davis Music

September 9

Darius Rucker/I Believe/MCA Nashville

Album/EP Releases

September 4

The War And Treaty/*Country Baptism*/Atlantic Outpost
Lanie Gardner/*Faded Polaroids (Deluxe)*/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville
Cole Barnhill & Sterling Elza/*Country Album Of The Year*/Santa Anna Nashville
Medium Build/*King of Having Fun*/slowplay/Island Records
Leon Majcen/*The Leaving Kind*/Cloverdale Records
Tommy Emmanuel/*The Mystery(20th Anniversary Edition)*
Myles Erlick/*HANDCRAFTED*/OneRPM/Huff Co. Nashville
Kurt Stevens/*Better with a Breeze*
Dan Alley/*Keepin' On*
Lena Rich/*Emerald City*
Dani Jack/*Dear John*

September 9

Natalie Layne/*Still Running To You*/Centricity Music

CALENDAR

Industry Events

September 10

60th CMA Awards nominee announcement

September 16

25th Annual Americana Honors & Awards

September 22

Nashville Songwriter Awards

Upcoming Nashville Concerts

September 4

Ray Lamontagne/Ryman Auditorium

PRESIDENT/Brooklyn Bowl

Galactic Empire/EXIT/IN

Christopher Williams/City Winery

Dom Corleo/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

September 5

Various Artists/Music City Kickoff Concert/Ascend Amphitheater

Ray Lamontagne/Ryman Auditorium

Various Artists/Nashville Indie Night/The Basement East

September 6

The Suicide Machines/The Basement East

Various Artists/Project Pat/EXIT/IN

September 7

Richard Elliot/City Winery

September 8

Kehlani/Nashville Municipal Auditorium

Ugly Kid Joe/The Basement East

The Barbarians Of California/EXIT/IN

September 9

Roger Daltrey/Ryman Auditorium

Charlotte Sands/EXIT/IN

John Cowan Quartet/City Winery

September 10

Little Feat/Ryman Auditorium

Isaiah Rashad/Marathon Music Works

Uncle Aid & The Deadbeats/Brooklyn Bowl