

BMI Elevates Mason Hunter To VP, Creative, Partnerships & Events



Mason Hunter

BMI has promoted **Mason Hunter** to VP, Creative, Partnerships & Events.

Hunter will focus on developing new brand partnerships that support BMI's business and creative goals, while creating additional revenue opportunities for BMI's songwriters, composers and publishers. He will also work to strengthen existing partnerships and increase brand visibility.

In addition, Hunter will work closely with BMI Vice President, Creative **Clay Bradley**, to support Nashville's songwriting community and help oversee the company's Nashville Creative team of writer representatives. Hunter is based at BMI's Nashville office.

He most recently served as Assistant Vice President, Creative since 2017. In that role, he developed new partnerships and created additional revenue and performance opportunities for BMI's music creators. During his time with the company, he has helped build partnerships with Gallagher Insurance, Xperi, Texas Roadhouse, Delta Air Lines, Nissan, INFINITI, Studio Bank, Shure, Diageo, J.P. Morgan and WP Global, among others.

Hunter has also helped develop several major BMI events, including the Rooftop on the Row series and the Ryman & BMI Block Party. He has played an important role in BMI's long-running partnership with C3 Presents, which has made BMI the only performing rights organization with branded stages at

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DISClaimer Single Reviews

And much more...

Tade Eagleson
& Midland



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BMG

both ACL Fest and Lollapalooza. He also worked with Yeti to launch the BMI/Yeti Day Party at SXSW, organized the Key West Songwriters Festival and other BMI showcases, and helped establish the BMI Troubadour Award and BMI Ambassador Award.

Hunter joined BMI in 2000 and has held several leadership positions in General Licensing and Industry Relations. He worked with major accounts and trade associations in the media and hospitality industries before joining BMI's Creative department in 2014 as Executive Director, Partnerships and Events. Before BMI, Hunter worked at Deloitte, where he earned his CPA license.

He currently serves on the Texas Heritage Songwriters Advisory Board and has previously served on the boards of the Academy of Country Music, Leadership Music and the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. Hunter earned a B.S. in Management and Accounting, graduating cum laude from Lipscomb University. **MR**

Lee Adams, Adrian Michaels & Ken Tucker To Exit BMG



Lee Adams, Adrian Michaels & Ken Tucker

Lee Adams, Adrian Michaels and **Ken Tucker** will exit their roles at BMG at the end of the month, as first reported by *Country Aircheck*.

Adams served as VP of Promotion Broken Bow, Michaels at Stoney Creek and Tucker at Wheelhouse.

"I've always said I wanted to retire from BBR while we were on top," Adams tells *Country Aircheck*. "After 25 years and 52 No. 1s while working with the reigning ACM Artist of the Decade and the reigning CMA Entertainer and Female Vocalist, that aspiration has been exceeded. And the label isn't slowing down, but I'm ready to! It wouldn't have been possible without the

support of **Jon Loba, JoJamie Hahr**, and the Broken Bow and BMG teams. I am beyond grateful."

"I informed BMG/Nashville Pres. Jon Loba several months ago that I intended to depart to begin my next venture," says Michaels. "Staying through the merger to assist the transition is tied to my pride in always leaving a company better than I found it. I feel like I accomplished that. I'm now overdue for what excites me about the future, having spent the past two years quietly building a foundation for my next chapter. Before I get there, however, I'm going to take the next few months giving my wife and family more of the time and love they deserve."

"The times they are a-changin', but I'm blessed to have witnessed, led and been a part of so many great teams throughout the music industry, from radio, records, streaming, journalism, artist management all the way to putting on my professor hat in the university classroom," says Tucker. "I'm thankful to Jon and JoJamie for the ride these last eight years and I'll continue to cheer on the Wheelhouse team and artists. I look forward to putting my experience and passion into my next music business adventure."

According to *Country Aircheck's* report, the new promotion reporting structure has National Dirs. Dawn Ferris, Stan Marczewski and Jennifer Shaffer reporting to BMG/BBR Music Group EVP JoJamie Hahr, as do VPs Shelley Hargis and Scotty O'Brien. **MR**

DREW BALDRIDGE

FARM FAITH FAMILY



ALBUM AVAILABLE NOW



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STONEY
CREEK



BMG

LYRIC RIDGE

CMA To Produce Two-Hour Live TV Special Honoring Dolly Parton



Dolly Parton

The Country Music Association will honor **Dolly Parton** with a two-hour television special, *CMA Presents I Will Always Love You: A Celebration of Dolly Parton*. The event will air live on ABC and Disney+ internationally on Oct. 21 from 8-10 p.m. CST. It will also be available the following day on Hulu.

The special will celebrate Parton's life and career through live performances, archival footage and personal stories. It will highlight her work as a singer, songwriter, entertainer, humanitarian and entrepreneur, as well as her lasting impact on generations of fans.

Robert Deaton is executive producer of the project. The special is being produced through a partnership between CMA and Belmont University and will be filmed live at Belmont's Fisher Center for the Performing Arts.

The tribute is part of Belmont University's ongoing work with Parton. Their partnership previously included the 2025 premiere of *DOLLY: A True Original Musical* at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, along with the creation of *DOLLY U*. The educational program gave students opportunities to gain real-world experience in entertainment, media and other creative fields while working with professional artists, producers and industry leaders.

CMA and Belmont University will donate a portion of the proceeds to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The program provides children with a free book each month in an effort to encourage a love of reading from an early age. Disney will also support the Imagination Library. **MR**

J.I. Allison Named Sixth Member Of Nashville Songwriters Hall Of Fame Class Of 2026



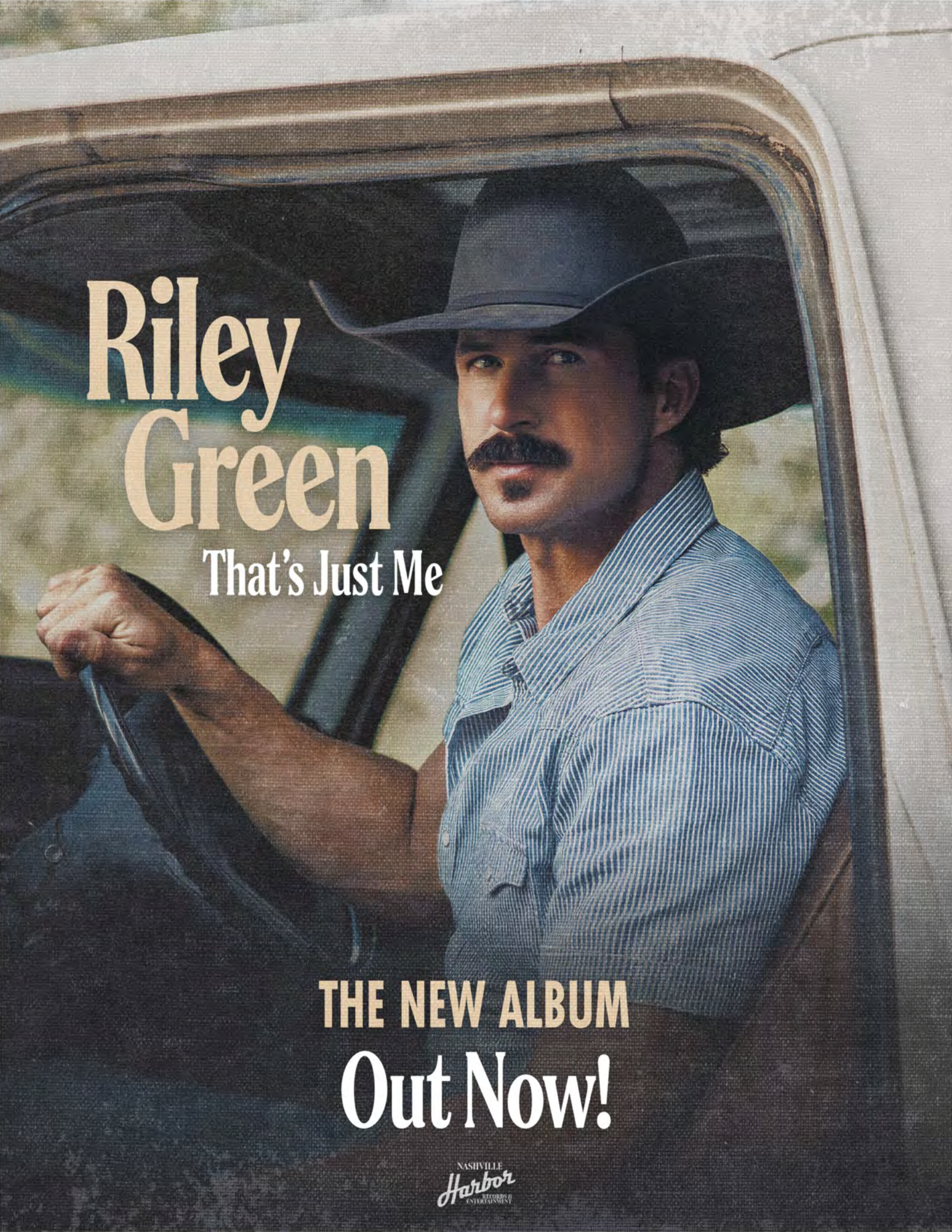
J.I. Allison

The late **Jerry Ivan (J.I.) Allison** has been named as the sixth member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Class of 2026, joining [previously announced](#) inductees **Taylor Swift, Lyle Lovett, Bruce Channel, Shawn Camp** and **Lee Thomas Miller**.

"What an honor it is to have J.I. Allison join this year's class," says **Rich Hallworth**, Chair of the organization's Board of Directors. "His body of work as both a songwriter and an artist continues to endure through classics like 'That'll Be The Day,' 'Peggy Sue,' and 'More Than I Can Say.' He's a member of two halls of fame already, and we're proud to soon welcome him into ours."

Allison has been elected in NaSHOF's Legacy category. The six new electees will join the 254 existing members of the Hall, which was established in 1970.

A native of Hillsboro, Texas, Allison began his music career playing drums for Buddy Holly. In 1956, he played on Holly's first recording sessions in Nashville and formed The Crickets a year later. As a songwriter, he co-wrote "That'll Be The Day," which became a No. 1 Pop hit and reached No. 2 on the R&B charts for Buddy Holly & The Crickets. Among notable covers by The Beatles, The Everly Brothers and Waylon Jennings, the song was later reached No. 11 on the Pop charts for Linda Ronstadt. Additional notable writing credits include "Peggy Sue," "More Than I Can Say," "Tell Me How," "Think It Over" and "Well.... All Right." The Crickets were inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame in 2007 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. **MR**

A photograph of country music artist Riley Green. He is wearing a dark cowboy hat and a light blue and white vertically striped short-sleeved button-down shirt. He is sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle, with his hands on the steering wheel. He is looking out the window to his right. The background outside the window is a blurred landscape with greenery and a hint of a rainbow.

Riley Green

That's Just Me

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Americana Music Association Hosts 25th Annual Americana Honors & Awards



Molly Tuttle accepts Artist of The Year award onstage during the 25th Annual Americana Honors & Awards at Ryman Auditorium on September 16, 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee. Photo: Terry Wyatt/Getty Images for Americana Music Association

The Americana Music Association honored several artists, songwriters and musicians Wednesday night (Sept. 16) at the 25th Annual Americana Honors & Awards at the Ryman Auditorium.

Molly Tuttle won Artist of the Year for the first time. **Tyler Childers** received Album of the Year for *Snipe Hunter*, produced by **Rick Rubin** and **Nick Sanborn**.

Brandi Carlile earned Song of the Year for “Returning to Myself,” the title track from her latest album, which she wrote herself. **Gillian Welch & David Rawlings** claimed Duo/Group of the Year for the second year in a row.

Ken Pomeroy received Emerging Act of the Year following a breakout year that included the release of her acclaimed 2025 album *Cruel Joke*. **Mandy Fer**, an electric guitarist and touring musician with Allison Russell, was named Instrumentalist of the Year.

The ceremony featured several special moments, including **Bernie Taupin** presenting Carlile with her award. **Hayes Carll** and **Elizabeth Cook** paid tribute to the late **Todd Snider**, while the evening closed with an all-star performance of **The Mavericks’** “Dance the Night Away” in honor of **Raul Malo**.

Buddy Miller returned as musical director of the Americana All-Star Band. The group also featured **Larry Campbell**, **Fred Eltringham**, **Jen Gundersman**, **Jim Hoke**, **The McCrary Sisters** and **Don Was**.

Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, **Robert Plant** and **Dolly Parton** were each recognized with Americana Lifetime Achievement honors.

The Heartbreakers reunited for the ceremony with special guest **Chris Stapleton**. **I’m With Her**, featuring **Sarah Jarosz**, **Aoife O’Donovan** and **Sara Watkins**, joined Carlile for a tribute to Parton with “Coat of Many Colors.”

Plant returned to the Ryman for the Americana Honors & Awards for the first time in 15 years. As a 2026 Lifetime Achievement honoree, he performed “Satan Your Kingdom Must Come Down” and “Angel Dance.”

A [video](#) recorded by Parton before her death in August 2026 was also shown during the ceremony as she accepted her honor.

Additional performances throughout the night came from **Boy Golden**, **Crowe Boys**, **Flatland Cavalry**, **Jesse Welles**, **Kashus Culpepper**, **Kathleen Edwards**, **Pomeroy**, **Margo Price**, **Tuttle**, **Mon Rovia** and **S.G. Goodman**.

“What an incredible way to celebrate the 25th annual Americana Honors & Awards,” said **Jed Hilly**, Executive Director of the Americana Music Association and Foundation. “The breadth and depth of talent on stage this evening is beyond words. Celebrating The Heartbreakers’ historic reunion with special guest Chris Stapleton, getting to honor the legendary Robert Plant and our beloved Dolly Parton made this show one of the most special ones I’ve been a part of. Congratulations to all the winners and honorees; we are so grateful to everyone who is a member of this Americana community.” **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Mess/Jordan Davis/MCA Nashville - 67

Talkin Bout/LOCASH/Galaxy Label Group - 69

On The Road/Eric Church/Mercury Nashville - 72

Love Me Lonely/Kennedy Reid/Independent - 77

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Jaded/Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley/Columbia - 244

Mess/Jordan Davis/MCA Nashville - 195

Medicine/Megan Moroney/Sony Music Nashville/Columbia

Records - 182

Anytime Soon/Jason Aldean/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville - 182

Been By Now/Morgan Wallen/Big Loud/Mercury/Republic - 177

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Mess/Jordan Davis/MCA Nashville - 16

On The Road/Eric Church/Mercury Nashville - 13

Love To Be That Guy/Kelsey Hart/Curb Records - 8

Medicine/Megan Moroney/Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records - 6

First Time Caller/CJ Solar/Raining Bacon Records - 6

Jaded/Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley/Columbia - 6

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

First Time Caller/CJ Solar/Raining Bacon Records - 149

Nothin' Better To Do/Carter Faith feat. Wyatt Flores/MCA Nashville - 137

Down For The Ride/Tristan Roberson/Tristan Roberson Music, LLC - 136

Damned If I Do/Vincent Mason/MCA Nashville/Music Soup/Interscope Records - 132

Fun/Chris Janson feat. David Lee Murphy/Harpeth 60 Records/Warner Records Nashville - 128

NO. 1 SONG



Morgan Wallen remains No. 1 on the *MusicRow* Radio Chart for the second consecutive week with "Been By Now."

The track was written by Wallen, **Rocky Block**, **Taylor Phillips**, **Charlie Handsome**, **Blake Pendergrass** and **John Byron**.

"Been By Now" currently sits at No. 4 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay as well as 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
WRDE Salisbury, MD
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 +/-
8	1	1	Been By Now / Morgan Wallen / Big Loud/Mercury/Republic	2413/67	8	177
10	3	2	Loving Life Again / Ella Langley / SAWGOD Records/Columbia/Triple Tigers	2251/65	8	165
16	4	3	Think As You Drunk / Riley Green / Nashville Harbor	2141/66	3	66
18	2	4	Boston / Stella Lefty / Atlantic Outpost	2124/55	0	10
15	5	5	Phone, Keys, Wallet / Lainey Wilson & John Mayer / Broken Bow Records	2076/63	1	26
25	6	6	Country And She Knows It / Luke Bryan / Capitol Nashville	2047/59	4	86
56	7	7	All My Exes / Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew / Big Loud Records	1927/57	4	77
24	8	8	Say So / Dan + Shay / Warner Records Nashville	1690/54	3	44
26	9	9	Get To Drinkin' / Zach John King / Sony Music Nashville	1632/52	8	127
46	10	10	Kid Myself / John Morgan / Broken Bow Records	1612/48	8	113
12	11	11	Hands Up / Jelly Roll / BMG/Stoney Creek Records	1490/57	7	98
30	13	12	Painted You Pretty / Hudson Westbrook / River House Artists/Warner Records Nashville	1442/60	10	136
6	18	13	Jaded / Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley / Columbia Nashville	1429/61	21	244
14	12	14	Horseback / Cody Johnson / Cojo Music/Warner Records Nashville	1341/59	2	25
9	17	15	Rethink Some Things / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	1317/55	11	129
15	14	16	I Didn't Come Here To Leave / Chris Young / Black River Entertainment	1298/60	5	63
37	15	17	Boots Off / Jon Pardi / MCA	1271/48	3	36
34	16	18	Let Him In Anyway / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	1214/54	2	20
30	19	19	Water At A Wedding / Greylan James / Nashville Harbor	1115/51	7	77
18	20	20	Medicine / Megan Moroney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records	1113/52	20	182
7	22	21	Anytime Soon / Jason Aldean / BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville	1024/52	22	182
16	21	22	baby blues / Ashley Cooke / Big Loud/Back Blocks	978/51	5	48
30	25	23	Killin' Me / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	865/44	7	53
21	23	24	Son of Jolene / Belles with Dolly Parton / East Music Row Records	862/46	4	33
18	24	25	The Years Are Short / Rodney Atkins / Curb Records	862/45	4	35
40	27	26	Worth Your Wild / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers	859/41	11	83
23	26	27	Something That I Need / Carson Beyer / Lucky Money Entertainment	847/39	6	50
32	29	28	Holdin' It Down / Chase Matthew / Warner Records Nashville	727/41	3	23
17	30	29	Better That Way / Charles Wesley Godwin feat. Luke Combs / Big Loud Records/Sony Music Nashville	718/45	7	44
11	33	30	Dear Big City / Dylan Scott / Curb Records	701/44	16	98
16	32	31	High Noon / Jenna Paulette / Leo33	652/37	6	39
13	31	32	Message in a Bottle / Jo Dee Messina / Dreambound Records	641/35	1	7
21	34	33	Wouldn't Want Me Either / Erica Nicole / Kent Wells Productions	636/31	5	33
10	36	34	Who Told You That / Tucker Wetmore / Back Blocks Music/MCA/Mercury Records	587/35	6	34
15	39	35	End This Way / Braden Hull / Melody Place	586/38	14	72
22	38	36	Move On / Kevin Powers & Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	549/34	4	22
17	37	37	Land / Tyler Hubbard / Mercury Nashville	507/29	-8	-46
4	45	38	Empty Words / Corey Kent / Combustion Music/RCA Records	476/29	16	67

MUSICROW
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 **AWARDS**
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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
16	44	39	What Took You So Long / Jacob Hackworth / MCA Nashville	454/32	9	37
22	41	40	Exes In Texas / Porter Martin / Lovable Losers Music	454/29	3	14
8	47	41	Drinkin' Town / Laura Bryna / LTD Entertainment powered by Regime Music Group	440/27	13	52
13	43	42	Girl Dad / Cole Swindell / Warner Records Nashville	435/33	3	12
16	46	43	Family Man / Trey Pendley / Leo33	430/32	9	34
20	40	44	Just A Mom / Alex Miller / Billy Jam Records	427/26	-6	-27
6	48	45	underneath the harvest moon / Harper Grace / Curb Records	404/30	9	35
9	49	46	Cowboy On The Run / Kelly & Sarah / Kelly Sarah Music	376/26	4	13
7	53	47	Highway Robbery / Jason Scott & The High Heat / Leo33	343/23	12	38
24	54	48	Never Comin' Back / Flatland Cavalry / Lost Highway	338/20	13	38
8	52	49	Say La V / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	338/22	8	24
16	51	50	Me & God And a Fishing Pole / Skip Ewing / Vere Music	337/27	3	11
17	50	51	We Make America Run / Ansel Brown / ABM Records	336/18	3	10
11	56	52	Howdy / Cole Goodwin / Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment	305/24	4	12
2	73	53	Love To Be That Guy / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	293/26	60	110
3	64	54	Cowgirl / Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	284/18	24	55
4	61	55	Bet On That / Blake Whiten / Enchntmnt/Warner Records	284/20	18	43
11	57	56	Small Town / Rebekah Snyder / CDX Records	278/17	-4	-12
12	58	57	The Grass Looks Greener / Karly C / Quirky Cowgirl Records	276/20	5	12
11	65	58	Whiskey And Vinyl / Stephen Styles / Plow House Records	272/14	22	49
5	59	59	Nowhere Town / Jacob Smalley / Jacob Smalley Music	271/19	9	23
5	70	60	Wannabe / Gavin Adcock / Warner Records Nashville	270/21	40	77
25	66	61	Good Damn / Brantley Gilbert / BBR Music Group/BMG/Wheelhouse Records	257/19	17	38
14	60	62	Goodbye Looks Like / Johnathon Heilbroun / Johnathon Heilbroun Music	250/18	2	4
17	63	63	Love is Blind / Ian Munsick / Triple Tigers Records	235/16	2	5
15	62	64	For You Girl / Robert Ross / CDX Records	221/11	-8	-19
8	68	65	Thank You For This Moment / Brad Lee Schroeder / Stray Bullet Records/CDX Records	211/10	0	-1
3	69	66	Know It All / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	205/18	6	11
1	179	67	Mess / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	200/17	127	195
4	75	68	Live Again / Glen Shelton / Jordash Records	197/15	11	20
1	82	69	Talkin Bout / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group	191/14	39	54
4	72	70	Digging In The Dust / Jason Charles Miller / One Opportunity Records	191/12	4	7
8	76	71	Dry Spell / Kacey Musgraves / Lost Highway Records	186/16	18	29
1	135	72	On The Road / Eric Church / Mercury Nashville	183/17	127	152
3	79	73	Done For / Max McNown / Magnolia Music Group	174/9	14	21
4	74	74	When One Door Closes / Steve Anthony / CDX Records	174/10	-3	-5
2	80	75	Saturday Night / Jonathan Lee / Pacific Standard Entertainment Group	168/13	12	18
2	78	76	Blame it on the Whiskey / Ty Gregory / Ole Buster Music	167/13	8	12
1	83	77	Love Me Lonely / Kennedy Reid / Independent	160/12	25	32
22	81	78	Back In The Bottle / Randy Houser / Magnolia Music Group	159/13	7	11
7	71	79	King of Coal Dust County / Adam Chaffins / Sprit Music	151/11	-18	-34
18	67	80	If I Go Missin' / Tim & The Glory Boys / Buckaroo Records	150/8	-32	-69

No. 1 Song
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Midland Renews Worldwide Publishing Deal With Warner Chappell Music Nashville



Photo: Harper Smith

Midland has renewed their global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music Nashville.

The group broke onto the country music scene in 2017 with “Drinkin’ Problem,” which has since earned six-time RIAA Platinum status and reached No. 1. They have continued to build their catalog with Platinum and Gold-certified songs including “Burn Out,” “Cheatin’ Songs,” and “Make A Little.” They recently released their newest album, *Stages*, and earned a [CMA nomination](#) for Vocal Group of the Year.

Midland formed in Dripping Springs, Texas, and takes its name from a Dwight Yoakam song. The trio, comprised of **Mark Wystrach**, **Cameron Duddy** and **Jess Carson**,

has become known for its harmonies, steel guitar and classic country sound. The group’s catalog includes its RIAA Gold-certified debut album, *On The Rocks*, the *Billboard* Top Country Albums No. 1 *Let It Roll*, *The Last Resort: Greetings From*, 2024’s *Barely Blue*, and projects including *The Sonic Ranch* soundtrack and *Live From The Palomino*. Their creative work also extends to lifestyle ventures such as Insólito Tequila and Kingsmaker cigars.

This fall, Midland will take its “[Stages Tour](#)” across North America. Along with headlining shows, the trio will join [Kacey Musgraves](#) for select dates before partnering with Clint Black for an eight-date [co-headlining run](#). **MR**

Johnny Clawson Renews Publishing Deal With SMACKSongs

Johnny Clawson has renewed his global publishing deal with SMACKSongs.

Clawson earned his first No. 1 in 2025 with Blake Shelton’s “Texas,” which was nominated for Song of the Year at the 2025 CMA Awards and named one of NSA’s “10 Songs I Wish I’d Written.” Ella Langley’s “weren’t for the wind” became Clawson’s second chart topper at country radio. The triple-Platinum track earned Song of the Year at the 2026 AIMP Awards. Clawson has earned additional cuts with Kenny Chesney, Billy Currington, Chris Young, Dasha, Josh Ross, McCoy Moore, Redferrin, Jon Pardi, Ashley Cooke, Tyler Halverson, Ava Hall and Seaforth, among others.



Photo: Courtesy of SMACKsongs

“Johnny is a dream to work with,” shares **Sam Sarno**, Senior Creative Director of Publishing at SMACK. “He brings so much talent, heart, and dedication into everything he does, and his work ethic is truly unmatched. We’re really proud of everything we’ve accomplished so far, and can’t wait to keep building together.”

“SMACK and I have had an amazing four years,” says Clawson. “I’m so pumped to continue the hard work and expand on all the awesome things we’ve already accomplished together.” **MR**

Apple Music & United Record Pressing Unveil 'This Is Country Music' Mural In Nashville



Photo: Courtesy of Apple Music/United Record Pressing

Apple Music and United Record Pressing have partnered for a new mural titled "This is Country Music."

Located outside the pressing plant that historically served as a refuge for Black artists during segregation, the mural honors the significant cultural impact Black artists have had in shaping country music's history. The two-panel mural was painted by Nashville-based artist, graphic designer and muralist **Christian Green** (also known as C3). Side A features **Linda Martell** and **Charley Pride**, recognizing their work breaking barriers for future generations. Side B pays homage to the past, present and future of Black artists in country music with vinyls bearing the names of **Kashus Culpepper**, **Tiera Kennedy**, **Ray Charles**, **Breland**, **Shaboozey**, **Rissi Palmer**, **Kane Brown** and more. A few vinyls have been intentionally left open as a symbol of future artists who will shape the genre.

"I am truly honored and excited to team up with Apple Music on a mural that means so much to me," shares Green. "It honors country music trailblazers Charley Pride and Linda Martell — two Black pioneers who opened doors for so many country artists of color to follow. My approach has been to capture not just their likeness, but their spirit — the joy, the power, and the grit. This mural means everything to me as a Black artist here in Nashville, TN. I'm pouring all of my heart, passion, and dedication into every layer and brushstroke."

All of the advertising revenue generated from the mural will be donated toward the renovation and preservation of the Motown Suite. **MR**

Ava Liv Mabry Signs With Blue Highway Records



Pictured (L-R, front row): Blue Highway Records CEO Jake Basden and Ava Liv Mabry. (L-R, back row): Blue Highway Records' Megan Joyce, Ashley Sidoti, Sam Lockhart, Chandler Nicole Sherrill and Danielle Carroll. Photo: Meg Reynolds

Singer-songwriter **Ava Liv Mabry** has inked with Blue Highway Records.

Mabry began pursuing music as a teenager, busking on the streets of her hometown. Now based in Franklin, Tennessee, she has built her career independently, writing much of her own material and developing her sound on her own terms.

In 2024, Mabry became the youngest-ever recipient of the Songwriters Hall of Fame's Abe Olman Scholarship for Songwriting Excellence. The award has previously gone to songwriters including Lori McKenna, Jordan Davis, Bebe Rexha, Madi Diaz, John Legend and Amy Allen.

At 20, Mabry continues to draw attention with songs like "Dreamboat," "Roman Empire," "Generations" and "Five Year Plan." Her music has appeared on editorial playlists such as Spotify's Fresh Finds and Apple Music's Breaking Singer-Songwriter, along with sync placements with Hallmark and Netflix. She has also worked with established writers including Dave Barnes, Mags Duval, Sam Tynes and Casey Smith.

Mabry's first release on the label, "Audrey," dropped today (Sept. 18). She recently sold-out her first-ever headline show at Cannery Hall in Nashville, and will support Jenna Raine and Jenna Davis on upcoming dates in New York, Los Angeles, Dallas, Boston, Atlanta and more. **MR**

Jared Scott Inks With Back Row Publishing



Pictured (L-R): Taylor Antle, Lindsay Will, Jared Scott and Michael Kozelj. Photo: Courtesy of Back Row Publishing

Jared Scott has signed with Back Row Publishing.

Scott's songs have been recorded by Chris Stapleton, Jon Pardi, Vincent Mason, Avery Anna, Walker Hayes, Sydney Rose, Jessica Baio and BRELAND. He also co-wrote Zimmerman's Gold-certified "Chase Her."

"Signing with Back Row feels like the beginning of a really exciting new chapter. I'm so grateful to have them in my corner and can't wait to see what we do together," says Scott.

"I've been a fan of Jared for years and am so excited that we finally get to work together," says **Lindsay Will**, Vice President of A&R. "He brings a fresh perspective into the room and writes from a place that feels honest and real and his ability to move seamlessly across genres makes him such a special talent. We're thrilled to welcome Jared to the Back Row Music family and to be a part of this next chapter!" **MR**

Jeremy Lister Inks With Jody Williams Songs & Warner Chappell Music

Jeremy Lister has signed a global publishing deal with Jody Williams Songs and Warner Chappell Music.

A Nashville-based vocalist, songwriter and producer, Lister has built a strong track record of music placements across film, television and advertising. His work has been featured on shows including *Grey's Anatomy*, *Found* and *All American*, as well as in campaigns for Jeep, Toyota, Google and T-Mobile.

Lister is also an accomplished recording artist, having performed with vocal group **Street Corner Symphony** and as a solo artist with Nashville songwriter collective **Ten Out Of Tenn**. He has most recently toured as a background vocalist for Post Malone. His solo releases and collaborations with Alison Krauss are among his career highlights. At Jody Williams Songs, Lister will serve as the company's first dedicated sync writer while also writing for artists across multiple genres. **MR**



Pictured (L-R, back row): Tenasie Courtright (JWS Director, Creative & A&R), Nina Fisher (JWS VP/GM), Sophie Hopkins (Warner Chappell Music Senior Director, Sync) and Jody Williams (JWS Founder and CEO) (L to R, front row): Jeremy Lister and Jonah Gordon (JWS Manager, Sync/A&R). Photo: Anna Norwood

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Sheryl Crow Delivers 'Dreamy Soundscape' On New Ballad



Sheryl Crow. Photo: Dove Shore/Courtesy of BMI

Hot enough for you?

Try cooling down with some of these Nashville sounds. Jordan Davis, Luke Bryan, Justin Moore, Shaboozey, and Stephen Wilson Jr. have some of the most refreshing tracks for your listening pleasure.

Topping my list for the week is Sheryl Crow, who has the Disc of the Day. New Warner artist Wesko earns the DISCOVERY Award.

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

MORE TOP STORIES

[57th Annual GMA Dove Awards Unveils Second Round Of Performers & Presenters](#)

[BMI Honors Sheryl Crow With 2026 Troubadour Award](#)

[BMI Launches BMI Health Connect Healthcare Coverage Service](#)

[Braxton Keith Brings 'Real Damn Deal Tour' To Nashville](#)

[Brooks & Dunn To Be Honored With 2026 CMA Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[City Of Nashville Names September 25 As 'Dolly Day'](#)

[Dolly's Life Of Many Colors Museum & Integrity Toys Launch New 'Dolly Dolls' Collection](#)

[Gene Simmons To Receive IEBA Lifetime Achievement Award In October](#)

[Luke Combs Notches 23rd Consecutive No. 1](#)

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[Priscilla Block Kicks Off New Career Chapter As An Indie Artist](#)

[Riley Green, Zach Top & Garth Brooks To Headline Stagecoach 2027](#)

[Sam Bush & Sierra Hull To Co-Host IBMA Bluegrass Music Awards In October](#)

[T.J. Martell Foundation Hosts Annual New York Honors Gala](#)

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	Dolly Parton	9 to 5 I Will Always Love You Jolene	Dolly Parton Dolly Parton Dolly Parton
2	2	Ella Langley	Be Her Choosin' Texas I Can't Love You Anymore Jaded Loving Life Again	Ella Langley Ella Langley Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley) Ella Langley
3	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
4	5	Jordan M. Schmidt	Be Her Jaded Kid Myself Who Told You That	Ella Langley Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley) John Morgan Tucker Wetmore
5	4	Joybeth Taylor	Choosin' Texas Empty Words I Can't Love You Anymore	Ella Langley Corey Kent Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen
6	6	Taylor Swift	I Knew It, I Knew You	Taylor Swift
7	7	Jack Antonoff	I Knew It, I Knew You	Taylor Swift
8	9	Ernest Keith Smith	Jaded Loving Life Again Wannabe	Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley) Ella Langley Gavin Adcock
9	12	Jessi Alexander	Carry On Medicine Think As You Drunk	Kenny Chesney Megan Moroney Riley Green
10	10	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	8	Austin Goodloe	Empty Words I Can't Love You Anymore No Need For Leavin'	Corey Kent Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen Kameron Marlowe
12	14	Taylor Phillips	Been By Now GOOD DAMN Woman	Morgan Wallen Brantley Gilbert Kane Brown
13	13	Ben Johnson	All My Exes Woman	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew) Kane Brown
14	16	Dan Alley	Be By You	Luke Combs
15	17	Sam Banks	Be By You	Luke Combs
16	18	Nick Walsh	Be By You	Luke Combs
17	15	John Byron	Been By Now Woman	Morgan Wallen Kane Brown
18	22	Luke Laird	Boots Off Dry Spell Mexico Honey Never Comin' Back	Jon Pardi Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Flatland Cavalry
19	21	Mack Geiger	Pouring String By	Mack Geiger Mack Geiger
20	19	STELLA LEFTY	Boston Lean In, Kiss Me Something To Lose	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
21	20	Grace Enger	Boston Lean In, Kiss Me Something To Lose	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
22	23	Parker Welling	Country And She Knows It Ride, Ride, Ride Worth Your Wild	Luke Bryan George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan) Russell Dickerson
23	24	Matt Dragstrem	Country And She Knows It Water At A Wedding	Luke Bryan Greytan James
24	26	Wyatt McCubbin	Boots Off Horseback Think As You Drunk	Jon Pardi Cody Johnson Riley Green
25	27	Devin Dawson	If I Don't Leave I'm Gonna Stay Loving Life Again	Carly Pearce & Riley Green Ella Langley
26	11	John Morgan	Anytime Soon Kid Myself	Jason Aldean John Morgan
27	29	Rocky Block	Been By Now Hands Up	Morgan Wallen Jelly Roll
28	30	Matt Jenkins	Carry On	Kenny Chesney
29	31	Tyler Hubbard	Kid Myself Land Ride, Ride, Ride	John Morgan Tyler Hubbard George Birge (feat. Luke Bryan)
30	40	Riley Green	My Way That's Just Me Think As You Drunk	Riley Green Riley Green Riley Green
31	28	Jon Decious	No Need For Leavin' Phone, Keys, Wallet Something To Lose	Kameron Marlowe Lainey Wilson & John Mayer STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
32	32	Luke Dick	Choosin' Texas Something To Lose	Ella Langley STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
33	41	Ashley Gorley	Hurts Like You Who Told You That Woman	Koe Wetzel Tucker Wetmore Kane Brown
34	33	Joe Reeves	Boston Lean In, Kiss Me	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY
35	34	Jacob Kasher	Boston Lean In, Kiss Me	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY
36	35	Zach Top	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
37	36	Carson Chamberlain	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
38	37	Mark Nesler	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
39	45	Josh Miller	Country And She Knows It	Luke Bryan
40	42	Noah Kahan	Boston	STELLA LEFTY
41	48	Ropyr Wetzel	Hurts Like You Jaded	Koe Wetzel Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley)
42	47	Morgan Wallen	Been By Now Wannabe	Morgan Wallen Gavin Adcock
43	53	Hudson Westbrook	Painted You Pretty	Hudson Westbrook
44	54	Beau Bailey	Painted You Pretty	Hudson Westbrook
45	55	Lukas Scott	Painted You Pretty	Hudson Westbrook
46	46	Kane Brown	Woman	Kane Brown
47	49	Luke Combs	Rethink Some Things	Luke Combs
48	50	Dan Isbell	Rethink Some Things	Luke Combs
49	51	Reid Isbell	Rethink Some Things	Luke Combs
50	52	Jacob Davis	Rethink Some Things	Luke Combs
51	58	Whitney Phillips	All My Exes	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew)
52	59	Jimmie Gutch	All My Exes	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew)
53	60	Lauren Alaina	All My Exes	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew)

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
54	69	Kyle Fishman	Get To Drinkin' How To Not I Didn't Come Here To Leave	Zach John King Zach John King Chris Young
55	56	Blake Pendergrass	Been By Now	Morgan Wallen
56	57	Ryan Vojtesak	Been By Now	Morgan Wallen
57	63	Kacey Musgraves	Dry Spell Mexico Honey	Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves
58	67	Steph Jones	Hurts Like You Mexico Honey What Took You So Long	Koe Wetzel Kacey Musgraves Jacob Hackworth
59	43	Cynthia Weil	Here You Come Again	Dolly Parton
60	44	Barry Mann	Here You Come Again	Dolly Parton

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases And Radio Add Dates

September 18

Gavin Adcock/Rockstar Life/Thirvin' Here Records/Warner Records Nashville
Muscadine Bloodline/Escatawpa Hollow/Trenches Records/Republic Records
Craig Morgan/I'm Country Music/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville
Adrien Nunez/AND THEM SOME/Warner Records
Matthew West/Younger Me/Story House Collective
Dylan Marlowe/In This Boat/Sony Music Nashville
Emily Ann Roberts/Lonely Boy/Sony Music Nashville
Noah James/What's The Reason/Santa Anna Nashville
Morgan Wade & John Paul White/Old History/Warner Records Nashville
Kaleb Sanders/Time Will Tell
Elizabeth Nichols/Nice Girl/Thirty Tigers
Noeline Hofmann/Wilson Silver Star 402 Blues/Mercury Records
Matthew Goodnough/Your Loss, My Misery/Santa Anna Nashville
HAFFWAY/Wind Up/Sony Music Nashville
Ethan Miller/Linda Lou/Santa Anna Nashville

September 21

Jordan Davis/Mess/MCA Nashville
Christopher Shayne/Arizona/16 Camino/NiceRide Records

Album/EP Releases

September 18

Riley Green/*That's Just Me*/Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment
Luke Bryan/*Signs*/MCA
Dave Stewart/*The Way It Was Back Then*/Bay Street Records
Cory Asbury/*Outsing The Angels*
The 502s/*Easy Street (Deluxe)*/Big Loud Records
Matthew West/*Jesus Is King*/Story House Collective
Drew Baldridge/*FARM FAITH FAMILY*/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville
Franni Cash/*Here I Am*
Orville Peck/*Mule*/Warner Records
The Bends/*If You Insist*/Warner Records
Emma Smalley/*Breaking Habits*/Santa Anna Nashville
Rhiannon Giddens/*Hope is the Thing with Feathers*/Nonesuch Records
Laci Kaye Booth/*Love Ain't For The Faint Of Heart*/Lost Highway Records
Cassandra Coleman/*End Of Your Love*/Warner Records
Jason Scott & The High Heat/*Play Boy*/Leo33
Katie Pruitt/*Fools for the Fleeting*/Rounder Records
Aubory Bugg/*i think i had something once*/Dualtone
Dave Wilbert/*The Good News*
Nicole Atkins/*Drama*/Sun Records/Wicked Game Records
Cassidy Daniels/*What Have I Got To Lose*/101 Music/Thirty Tigers
Skip Ewing/*DRAGONFLY*
Junior Pro/*Cool*/Easy Does It Records
Ned Hill/*Saw Jesus at the Park*

CALENDAR

Industry Events

September 22

Nashville Songwriter Awards

October 4-6

IEBA 2026

October 6

GMA Dove Awards

Upcoming Nashville Concerts

September 18

Shaboozey/Ascend Amphitheater

Danzig/The Pinnacle

Black Veil Brides/Brooklyn Bowl

Tom Morello/Cannery Hall (Mainstage)

Jenna Raine/Cannery Hall (The Mil)

SWMRS/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

September 19

Face To Face/Brooklyn Bowl

Wind Walkers/Cannery Hall (The Mil)

Lacey Sturm/City Winery

CARDINALS/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

September 20

Gnash/EXIT/IN

Stella Cole/City Winery

Margaret Glaspy/The Blue Room

Various Artists/Nashville miniFEST/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

September 21

Jungle/The Pinnacle

Adela/The Basement East

Brother Bird/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

September 22

Muna/The Pinnacle

Slayyyter/Brooklyn Bowl

King Mala/The Basement East

Nate Smith/City Winery

Haute & Freddy/The Blue Room

September 23

World Famous Pets/The Basement East

Warren Zeiders/EXIT/IN

Gyedu-Blay Ambolley/The Blue Room