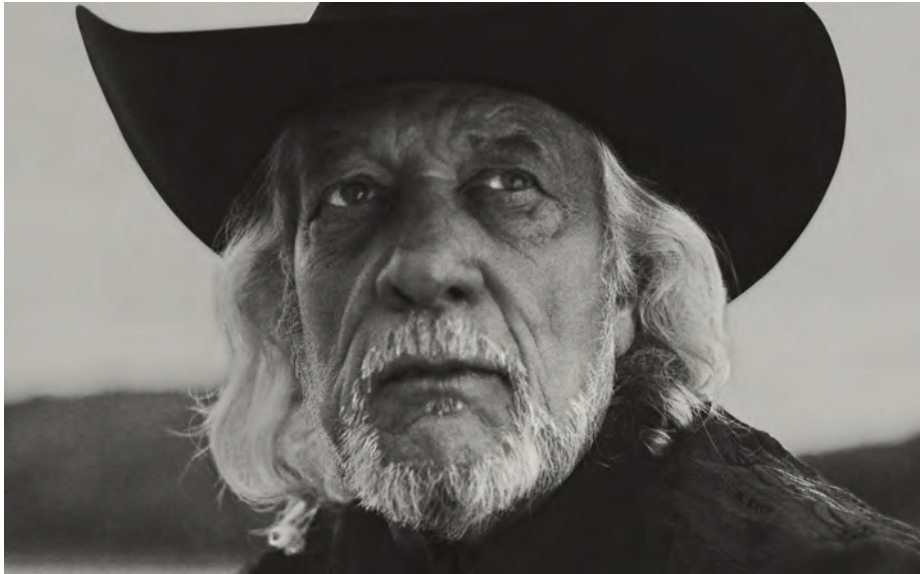


Country Music Hall Of Famer John Anderson Passes



John Anderson. Photo: Alysse Gafkjen

John Anderson, a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, has passed away. He was 71.

Known for his unmistakable drawl and a sound that blended traditional country with rock, Anderson scored chart-toppers including "Wild and Blue," "Swingin'" and "Money in the Bank." His 1991 single "Straight Tequila Night" sparked a major career resurgence, and the following year's "Seminole Wind" became his signature song, selling three million copies. He earned the CMA's Single of the Year and Horizon Award in 1983 and the ACM's Career Achievement Award in 1994, and he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2024.

The news was shared on Anderson's official [social media pages](#).

"It is with the heaviest of hearts that we share the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and best friend," the post reads. "To the world, he was a gifted country music singer whose voice and songs touched countless lives. To us, he was so much more. He was the heart of our family, the one who made us laugh, loved us fiercely, and made every ordinary moment feel special. We are completely heartbroken."

A cause of death has not been shared.

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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WSDQ-FM — JASPER, TN
WUPY — ONTONAGON, MI
WVNW — BURNHAM, PA

The below bio was provided by the Country Music Hall of Fame at the time of his induction, in 2024.

Some singers get the knock of being too Country for rock and too rock for Country. That was never the case with John Anderson. At his best, Anderson was too rock and too Country, as likely to sing songs by Van Morrison or Willie Dixon as he was ones by Lefty Frizzell or Marijohn Wilkin.

Born December 13, 1954, John David Anderson grew up in Apopka, FL, named for the large lake just northwest of Orlando. As a youth, he played in local rock groups like the Living End and the Weed Seeds. He soon turned to Country Music and counted Merle Haggard as one of his heroes.

He moved to Nashville shortly after graduating high school in the early 1970s, following his older sister Donna, singing with her in a duo. While in Nashville, he performed gigs for a few dollars a night and worked odd jobs. Of those, the one he held the longest, he told the Orlando Sentinel in 1979, was a construction gig where one of his jobs involved helping roof the Grand Ole Opry House prior to its 1974 opening.

He briefly recorded for a small independent label, which quickly folded, but not before he cut a song called "What Did I Promise Her Last Night." This got the attention of publisher Al Gallico, who got him a publishing deal and signed to Warner Bros. Records. He then moved to Texas to check out the progressive Country scene but soon returned to Nashville.

Norro Wilson produced his early records for the label. Each of Anderson's singles tended to do a little better than the previous one, enough so that Warner Bros. stuck with him, finally releasing his first, self-titled album in 1980. He'd put out seven singles, and with their echoes of Haggard, Frizzell, and Hank Williams, modest early hits like 1979's "Your Lying Blues" and "She Just Started Liking Cheatin' Songs" preceded fellow traditionalists Ricky Skaggs, George Strait and Randy Travis. In an era of pop overtures and crossovers, Anderson favored shuffles, waltzes, and heartbreak ballads sung with a back-of-the-throat drawl that could sound like he was choking back tears. His first Top 5 hit — a version of Billy Joe Shaver's "I'm Just an Old Chunk of Coal (But I'm Gonna Be a Diamond Someday)" — came nearly four years after his label debut.

In late 1982, as the title track for Anderson's fourth album, *Wild and Blue*, co-produced by Anderson and Frank Jones, was on a trajectory to become his first No. 1 single, several radio stations began playing another song from the album, one Anderson had written with Lionel Delmore, the son of the Delmore Brothers' Alton Delmore. The buzz on the other record became so loud that Warner's promotion team had to encourage programmers to wait until "Wild and Blue" had run its course. Sure enough, three weeks after "Wild and Blue" hit No. 1, "Swingin'" hit the Country charts. Ten weeks after that, the mildly suggestive number became Anderson's second chart-topper. The record became so popular that some rock and pop stations began spinning it.

The Country Music Association recognized "Swingin'" as the Single of the Year at the 1983 CMA Awards, where Anderson also was named the Horizon Award winner.

Anderson and Delmore wrote several other songs together, including the 1995 Top 3 single "Bend Until It Breaks."

Anderson had five Top 5 singles, including three No. 1s, in two years, but subsequent records peaked farther down the charts as the next wave of young performers arrived.

Following brief stints with MCA Records Nashville and Universal Records, Anderson signed with BNA Records, a subsidiary of RCA, in 1991. When "Straight Tequila Night" came out late that year, Anderson had had just one Top 10 single in seven years.

But "Straight Tequila Night" brought Anderson's career roaring back, making him one of only a handful of acts who'd begun releasing records in the 1970s who continued to have major successes into the 1990s.

[Click here to read his full obituary.](#) **MR**

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Tim McGraw, Paul Overstreet & The Stanley Brothers Inducted Into The Country Music Hall Of Fame [Recap]



Pictured (L-R): Paul Overstreet, Ralph Stanley II, Lisa Stanley Marshall, Jeanie Stanley Allinder and Tim McGraw in the Hall of Fame Rotunda. Photo: Terry Wyatt/Getty Images for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

Sunday night (Oct. 18), another star-studded Medallion Ceremony took place at the Country Music Hall of Fame as **Tim McGraw**, **Paul Overstreet** and **The Stanley Brothers** became the 159th, 160th and 161st members of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Following remarks from the Country Music Hall of Fame's **Kyle Young**, the CMA's **Sarah Trahern** and the Hall's Circle Guard's **Jody Williams**, each inductee was celebrated with performances of songs that defined their careers.

The Stanley Brothers, inducted into the Veterans Era Artist category, were the first to be honored. Born in southwestern Virginia, **Ralph** and **Carter Stanley** pioneered the sound of modern day Bluegrass music, taking inspiration from the Monroe Brothers, the Grand Ole Opry and the Carter Family. Carter, the

main vocalist, wrote many bluegrass standards, such as "The White Dove" and "The Lonesome River." Ralph provided harmonies and top-tier banjo playing. Following Carter's death in 1966, Ralph kept their band, the Clinch Mountain Boys, going for another 50 years.

Billy Strings was first to honor the duo with "How Mountain Girls Can Love." Country Music Hall of Fame members **Vince Gill** and **Ricky Skaggs** offered "Rank Stranger," and the **First Ladies of Bluegrass** sang "Bound to Ride." Gill presented the medallion to their children, **Ralph Stanley II**, **Lisa Stanley Marshall** and **Jeanie Stanley Allinder**. They shared their gratitude for the country music industry's conscious dedication to keeping their fathers' memory and music alive.

Overstreet was next to be honored in the Songwriter category. The Mississippi native moved to Nashville in 1973. Since then, Overstreet has crafted modern country classics for many artists, including Kenny Chesney, George Jones, the Judds, Randy Travis, Tanya Tucker and Keith Whitley. He is the only person to be named the BMI Country Songwriter of the Year five consecutive times. He was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2003, and his songs have since amassed more than 50 million U.S. broadcast performances. As an artist, he also found success at the top of the charts. As part of S-K-O, he earned a No. 1 hit with "I Won't Take Less Than Your Love," and as a solo artist, Overstreet topped the charts with "Daddy's Come Around."

To honor Overstreet, Country Music Hall of Fame member **Dean Dillon** performed "If I Could Bottle This Up," **Jamey Johnson** offered a rendition of "Forever and Ever, Amen" and **Blake Shelton** sang "Some Beach." **Tanya Tucker** presented the medallion, sharing stories of her longstanding friendship with the Overstreet family. Overstreet shared his appreciation for his family's sacrifice through the years, the people that helped him behind the scenes during his early years and all of the artists who have believed in his songs.

Lastly, McGraw was inducted in the Modern Era Artist category.

On May 9, 1989, McGraw arrived on a Greyhound bus in Nashville, the same day his country music hero Keith Whitley died. He spent years playing gigs in Printers Alley before landing his first record deal with Curb Records. His 1994 sophomore album *Not A Moment Too Soon* topped both the country and pop charts and became the year's best-selling country album due to "Indian Outlaw," a song he first heard the first night he came to town while hanging out at the Hall of Fame Motor Inn. He moved from Curb Records to Big Machine Records in 2012 after a protracted legal battle. Over the course of his career, the northeast Louisiana native has earned 11 Platinum or multi-Platinum albums,

over 60 top ten country hits and 29 No. 1 country singles. He has recorded award-winning duets with wife **Faith Hill**, including the chart-topping hit "It's Your Love." As an actor, he starred in the television series *1883* and in such Hollywood films as *Friday Night Lights* and *The Blind Side*. He was named the CMA Entertainer of the Year in 2001.



Randy Owen and Tim McGraw during the Medallion Ceremony. Photo: Terry Wyatt/Getty Images for Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

Parker McCollum honored McGraw with a rendition of "Don't Take The Girl," **Lady A** stunned the crowd with "Live Like You Were Dying," and fellow Louisiana native **Lainey Wilson** offered "Just To See You Smile." **Randy Owen** presented McGraw with his medallion. McGraw shared his gratitude for his mother, **Betty D'Agostino Trimble**, who he praised as being "the one who stayed." He also thanked his wife, his daughters, **Gracie**, **Maggie** and **Audrey**, and every member of his team throughout the years.

McGraw took a moment to reflect on the well-known story of his arrival in Nashville, sharing that the news of losing Whitley that morning taught him early that the people who make it in the music business are willing to give everything they have for this dream. He also noted that this moment felt even more full-circle as he recently realized that Whitley learned to sing from The Stanley Brothers, and Overstreet penned one of his most enduring hits, "When You Say Nothing At All."

"The Stanley Brothers gave Keith his voice, Paul gave Keith his song, and Keith, without ever knowing it, gave me my first ever lesson in this town. I can't tell you what it means to walk into this Hall on the same night as the men whose fingerprints were on my very first day here" he shared.

The evening concluded with a moving all-star performance of "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," led by Country Music Hall of Fame member **Patty Loveless**.

The Medallion All-Star Band consisted of **Mark Beckett** (drums), **Jen Gunderman** (keyboards), **Tania Hancheroff** (vocals), **Alison Prestwood** (bass), **Deanie Richardson** (fiddle and mandolin), **Scotty Sanders** (steel guitar), **Biff Watson** (bandleader and acoustic guitar), **Jeff White** (acoustic guitar and vocals) and **Charlie Worsham** (electric guitar and vocals). **MR**

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart—Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

Drink Things Through/Josh Ross/Universal Music Canada/
Mercury Nashville - 65

Blacktop Blues/Jackson Dean/Blue Highway - 71

String By/Mack Geiger/RECORDS NASHVILLE/Columbia Records
- 76

Last Call For Trouble/Lucie Tiger/2120 Music - 77

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Snakeskin Boots/Miranda Lambert feat. Ella Langley/MCA
Nashville - 210

All My Exes/Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew/Big Loud
Records - 153

Empty Words/Corey Kent/Combustion Music/RCA Records - 150

Remember Me That Way/Kenny Chesney/HEY NOW Records -
146

Anytime Soon/Jason Aldean/BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville -
145

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

Snakeskin Boots/Miranda Lambert feat. Ella Langley/MCA
Nashville - 9

Something To Lose/Stella Lefty & Vincent Mason/Atlantic
Outpost - 8

Remember Me That Way/Kenny Chesney/HEY NOW Records - 8

Earnhardt/Casey Donahew/Almost Country Records - 7

Cowgirl/Shaboozey/American Dogwood/EMPIRE - 6

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Neon U/Rob Fitzgerald/Riverbend Recordings/For The Record -
128

Rolling Home/Andrew Farris/Rockingham Holdings - 127

Bootfirst/Bella Lam/Bella Lam Music - 119

Long As I Can/Sofia Lee Davis/Sofia Lee Davis Music - 117

My Circus/Kimberly Burke/Tidewater Records - 114

NO. 1 SONG



Lauren Alaina has reached the No. 1 spot on the *MusicRow* Radio Chart alongside **Chase Matthew** with “All My Exes.”

The track comes off of her recent album *Stages* and was written by Alaina, **Jimmie Gutch**, **Ben Johnson**, and **Whitney Phillips**.

“All My Exes” currently sits at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay 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
KXIA Marshalltown, IA
WOOZ Cartersville, IL
WALS Peru, IL
WAAG Galesburg, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WFMB Springfield, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN

WYGB Franklin, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
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
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 +/-
61	3	1	All My Exes / Lauren Alaina feat. Chase Matthew / Big Loud Records	2174/59	8	153
21	1	2	Think As You Drunk / Riley Green / Nashville Harbor	2057/62	-4	-83
11	4	3	Jaded / Koe Wetzel feat. Ella Langley / Columbia Nashville	2006/62	4	82
14	5	4	Rethink Some Things / Luke Combs / Columbia Nashville	1997/57	6	110
20	2	5	Phone, Keys, Wallet / Lainey Wilson & John Mayer / Broken Bow Records	1955/59	-5	-105
29	6	6	Say So / Dan + Shay / Warner Records Nashville	1817/54	-1	-20
31	7	7	Get To Drinkin' / Zach John King / Sony Music Nashville	1804/52	3	58
35	8	8	Painted You Pretty / Hudson Westbrook / River House Artists/Warner Records Nashville	1666/59	1	12
12	10	9	Anytime Soon / Jason Aldean / BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville	1567/61	10	145
19	9	10	Horseback / Cody Johnson / Cojo Music/Warner Records Nashville	1479/61	1	16
20	11	11	I Didn't Come Here To Leave / Chris Young / Black River Entertainment	1474/63	5	65
23	13	12	Medicine / Megan Moroney / Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records	1447/56	6	86
35	14	13	Water At A Wedding / Greytan James / Nashville Harbor	1381/54	3	43
17	15	14	Hands Up / Jelly Roll / BMG/Stoney Creek Records	1279/49	0	5
45	17	15	Worth Your Wild / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers	1158/45	4	47
21	18	16	baby blues / Ashley Cooke / Big Loud/Back Blocks	1134/56	6	68
39	16	17	Let Him In Anyway / Blake Shelton / Wheelhouse Records	1112/47	0	-5
9	23	18	Empty Words / Corey Kent / Combustion Music/RCA Records	1020/47	17	150
15	21	19	Who Told You That / Tucker Wetmore / Back Blocks Music/MCA/Mercury Records	1013/48	9	83
23	19	20	The Years Are Short / Rodney Atkins / Curb Records	985/49	2	21
16	22	21	Dear Big City / Dylan Scott / Curb Records	903/47	3	27
22	24	22	Better That Way / Charles Wesley Godwin feat. Luke Combs / Big Loud Records/Sony Music Nashville	883/49	3	29
21	26	23	High Noon / Jenna Paulette / Leo33	860/47	7	53
35	25	24	Killin' Me / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	854/40	5	37
27	28	25	Move On / Kevin Powers & Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	801/43	7	53
4	33	26	Remember Me That Way / Kenny Chesney / HEY NOW Records	789/49	23	146
5	31	27	Finders Keepers / Luke Bryan feat. Luke Combs / Capitol Nashville	779/47	10	73
37	29	28	Holdin' It Down / Chase Matthew / Warner Records Nashville	765/40	4	30
26	27	29	Son of Jolene / Belles with Dolly Parton / East Music Row Records	754/40	-2	-19
18	30	30	Message in a Bottle / Jo Dee Messina / Dreambound Records	733/37	0	2
3	41	31	Snakeskin Boots / Miranda Lambert feat. Ella Langley / MCA Nashville	707/48	42	210
11	32	32	underneath the harvest moon / Harper Grace / Curb Records	707/46	4	30
5	40	33	Something To Lose / Stella Lefty & Vincent Mason / Atlantic Outpost	645/45	25	129
9	38	34	Bet On That / Blake Whiten / Enchtmnt/Warner Records	632/35	19	99
13	34	35	Drinkin' Town / Laura Bryna / LTD Entertainment powered by Regime Music Group	625/32	2	13
21	36	36	Family Man / Trey Pendley / Leo33	623/37	8	45
21	35	37	What Took You So Long / Jacob Hackworth / MCA Nashville	607/38	1	5
14	37	38	Cowboy On The Run / Kelly & Sarah / Kelly Sarah Music	593/34	4	23

2026

MUSICROW

PUBLISHER ISSUE

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Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
8	42	39	Cowgirl / Shaboozey / American Dogwood/EMPIRE	566/32	16	80
27	39	40	Exes In Texas / Porter Martin / Lovable Losers Music	535/30	2	11
29	45	41	Never Comin' Back / Flatland Cavalry / Lost Highway	501/27	10	45
7	44	42	Love To Be That Guy / Kelsey Hart / Curb Records	484/35	4	20
10	46	43	Wannabe / Gavin Adcock / Warner Records Nashville	447/31	1	5
18	43	44	Girl Dad / Cole Swindell / Warner Records Nashville	435/30	-7	-33
6	47	45	Mess / Jordan Davis / MCA Nashville	406/30	2	9
8	51	46	Know It All / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	403/33	15	53
12	48	47	Highway Robbery / Jason Scott & The High Heat / Leo33	401/27	6	23
10	50	48	Nowhere Town / Jacob Smalley / Jacob Smalley Music	387/24	7	24
16	49	49	Howdy / Cole Goodwin / Nashville Harbor Records & Entertainment	361/26	-1	-4
7	55	50	Blame it on the Whiskey / Ty Gregory / Ole Buster Music	334/23	6	20
17	53	51	The Grass Looks Greener / Karly C / Quirky Cowgirl Records	334/21	4	13
16	54	52	Small Town / Rebekah Snyder / CDX Records	324/18	1	3
19	60	53	Goodbye Looks Like / Johnathon Heilbroun / Johnathon Heilbroun Music	319/19	21	55
5	57	54	First Time Caller / CJ Solar / Raining Bacon Records	307/23	5	16
6	56	55	On The Road / Eric Church / Mercury Nashville	291/22	-6	-19
22	52	56	Land / Tyler Hubbard / Mercury Nashville	291/19	-16	-57
4	61	57	Good Ol' Girls / Sandee June / Sandee June Music	276/18	9	23
30	58	58	Good Damn / Brantley Gilbert / BBR Music Group/BMG/Wheelhouse Records	274/20	-3	-8
13	59	59	Say La V / Joe Nichols / Quartz Hill Records	273/17	-3	-8
9	62	60	Live Again / Glen Shelton / Jordash Records	253/16	5	12
5	63	61	Nothin' Better To Do / Carter Faith (feat. Wyatt Flores) / MCA Nashville	238/20	0	-1
6	64	62	Talkin Bout / LOCASH / Galaxy Label Group	231/16	5	11
6	65	63	Love Me Lonely / Kennedy Reid / Independent	214/14	1	3
2	68	64	Not Too Much To Hate / Aaron Goodvin / New Motor Records	206/21	16	28
1	82	65	Drink Things Through / Josh Ross / Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	197/16	55	70
4	69	66	Down for the Ride / Tristan Roberson / Tristan Roberson Music, LLC	187/11	5	9
22	78	67	Love is Blind / Ian Munsick / Triple Tigers Records	184/13	24	36
26	67	68	Back In The Bottle / Randy Houser / Magnolia Music Group	177/15	-5	-10
2	72	69	Drinks Can Drink / Cody Lohden / DeVille Records/Big Loud Records	175/15	7	12
3	71	70	Two Step / Danielia Cotton / Cottontown LLC	172/18	3	5
1	97	71	Blacktop Blues / Jackson Dean / Blue Highway	157/14	71	65
3	74	72	Fun / Chris Janson feat. David Lee Murphy / Harpeth 60 Records/Warner Records Nashville	155/11	-1	-1
3	77	73	What Do You Want / Chris Darlington / Back Home Records	151/13	-1	-2
13	70	74	Dry Spell / Kacey Musgraves / Lost Highway Records	151/14	-13	-23
3	73	75	Good Time / William Clark Green / Bill Grease Records	150/13	-4	-7
1	81	76	String By / Mack Geiger / RECORDS Nashville/Columbia Records	145/8	12	16
1	85	77	Last Call For Trouble / Lucie Tiger / 2120 Music	141/11	21	24
2	80	78	California Sunrise / Jordan Allen / Independent	140/13	4	6
9	79	79	When One Door Closes / Steve Anthony / CDX Records	139/7	0	0
8	76	80	Done For / Max McNown / Magnolia Music Group	138/7	-10	-16

No. 1 Song
 Greatest Spin Increase
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CMA Celebrates Dolly Parton; Partners With Belmont, Disney & NCVC For \$1 Million Donation To Imagination Library



"CMA Presents I Will Always Love You: A Celebration of Dolly Parton" is now available to stream on Disney+ and Hulu. Photo: John Shearer/Getty Images for CMA

This week's star-studded ABC special, *CMA Presents I Will Always Love You: A Celebration of Dolly Parton*, was a sparkling celebration of the light and love that Parton epitomized, filled with musical tributes to the icon the world is still mourning just months after her passing.

The show was packed with moving performances of Parton's biggest hits, including **Ella Langley's** take on "Jolene," **Kelsea Ballerini** performing "Here You Come Again," **Carly Pearce** and **Kristin Chenoweth** on the Parton favorite "9 to 5," and many more. Heartfelt memories of the superstar were shared on screen from stars like **Julia Roberts**, **Oprah Winfrey**, and more, and **Reba** brought chills to the air with her stirring rendition of "He's Alive" with the Belmont Singers.

Ashley McBryde offered up a quietly powerful performance of Parton's signature "Coat of Many

Colors," **Zac Brown** shared his aptly named inspirational duet "Butterfly" during the tribute singing along with Parton, and **Brad Paisley** and **Sierra Hull** teamed for the poignant "When I Get Where I'm Going," along with many other touching and heartfelt moments throughout the night.

Following last night's tribute, the Country Music Association in collaboration with Belmont University, The Walt Disney Company and the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp has revealed that its previously announced commitment to Dolly's Imagination Library has resulted in a combined donation of \$1 million. The donation honors another defining part of Dolly's life: her deeply personal commitment to inspiring a love of reading and encouraging children to dream big. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly launched the Imagination Library in East Tennessee in 1995 with a simple dream: to inspire a love of reading in young children.

"Dolly has always brought people together, and we built last night's event with that same intention," says **Sarah Trahern**, CMA CEO. "Because of the artists who took that stage and the partners who stood beside us, a night full of her music resulted in a \$1 million donation to Imagination Library, so that children for years to come can open a mailbox and find a book with their name on it."

"Dolly knew that a single book could change the course of a child's life," says **Dr. Greg Jones**, President of Belmont University. "As a university, we see every day how a love of learning opens doors and shapes who young people become. It was a joy to celebrate her life on our campus, and we're grateful to play a part in putting more books into children's hands."

"Last night's celebration was a beautiful reminder of how Dolly spent her life bringing joy to people through her music and encouraging them to believe in their dreams," says **Jeff Conyers**, President & Vice Chair, The Dollywood Foundation. "The Imagination Library is rooted in that same spirit, inspiring children to love reading and imagine all the possibilities ahead of them. I couldn't think of a more meaningful way to celebrate Dolly's life than by investing in the dreams of future generations. We're incredibly grateful to CMA, Belmont University, Disney, and the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp for making this generous gift possible." **MR**

Position Music Taps Pete Robinson As GM, Creative Nashville



Pete Robinson

Position Music has tapped **Pete Robinson** as General Manager, Creative Nashville. Robinson will report to Position Music Founder/CEO **Tyler Bacon** and President **Mark Chipello**.

Robinson brings more than three decades of experience across the music industry, including senior executive positions at major record labels and nearly 20 years as a music publisher in Nashville. He was a founding partner of Big Deal Music. During its growth, the company accumulated 17 No. 1 country singles with artists such as Luke Bryan, Old Dominion, Kenny Chesney and more.

In 2022, following Big Deal Music's 2020 acquisition by Merck Mercuriadis' Hipgnosis Songs, he launched Pete

Robinson Consulting where he advised companies within the music industry and adjacent sectors.

Prior to Big Deal Music, Robinson held senior executive roles at several major record labels, including Sr. VP A&R at RCA and then moving to Epic as Sr. VP A&R. He was also the owner/operator of DUMBO STUDIOS in NYC. **MR**

Lauren Alaina Earns Fourth Chart-Topper

Lauren Alaina has earned her fourth No. 1 track at country radio with "All My Exes" featuring **Chase Matthew**.

"This one hits different," says Alaina. "It feels so incredible to be 15 years into this amazing career and be back in the number one spot. There were many days where I wasn't sure if I would ever get up there again, but I never gave up. My fans never gave up. My friends at country radio never gave up. My family at Big Loud fought and believed and helped make my dreams come true once again. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. I've been crying off and on for days now. I love y'all so much."

Alaina has become one of five female country artists to reach the top of the charts in 2026, joining Ella Langley, Megan Moroney, Stella Lefty and Taylor Swift. Alaina is also one of eight women to have earned multiple Country Airplay No.1s this decade.

Alaina recently released her new album [Stages](#). The 17-track project features writing credits from Lydia Vaughan, Parker Welling, Kyle Sturrock, Michael Hardy, Blake Pendergrass and more. Alaina is currently on her headlining "[The Stages Tour](#)" with upcoming dates in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and more. The tour wraps on Nov. 12 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. **MR**



Lauren Alaina and Chase Matthew. Photo: Jessie Addleman

Warner Chappell Music Signs Elizabeth Nichols To Global Publishing Deal



Pictured (L-R): Spencer Nohe (WCM), Elizabeth Nichols, Katy Wolaver (WCM) and Austen Adams (WCM). Photo: Courtesy of WCM

Warner Chappell Music Nashville has signed a global publishing deal with rising singer-songwriter **Elizabeth Nichols**.

Nichols burst onto the country music scene with her viral breakout single, "I Got a New One," which has amassed over 60 million global streams to date. She is currently on her [first-ever national headlining run](#), the "I Don't Kiss and Tell, I Kiss and Tour."

"I'm very excited to join Warner Chappell, where I can finally monetize my questionable taste in men. I have the best team in the world. Here's to many more songs," Nichols shares.

Katy Wolaver, SVP, A&R, Warner Chappell Music, says, "Elizabeth is a breath of fresh air... witty, clever, and unabashed in taking authentic life experiences and turning them into irresistible lyrics and melodies. Her songs embrace a wide range of moods and emotions, from unique takes on relationships to political satire. In just a short time on the country landscape, she's moved her career into high gear, and all of us at Warner Chappell are delighted to join her on what is sure to be an incredible ride." **MR**

Jared Conrad Inks With Sony Music Publishing & TAYCAN Entertainment



Pictured (L-R, back row): Rachel Guttman (Gutt Law), Scott Hendricks (TAYCAN), Brandon Perdue (BPM) and Cam Caldwell (SMP). (L-R, front row): Blake Duncan (TAYCAN) and Jared Conrad. Photo: Savannah Spencer

Jared Conrad has signed with Sony Music Publishing and TAYCAN Entertainment.

Conrad has earned cuts with Cody Johnson, Lee Brice, Brothers Osborne, Ian Munsick, Randall King, Mitchell Tenpenny and Austin Snell, among many others. He co-wrote Pentatonix and Meghan Trainor's "Kid On Christmas" from the Grammy-nominated album *Holidays Around The World*. He recently produced Aaron Loy's "Take It Easy Cowgirl," which topped the Texas Country Radio chart. Additional recent releases include "Fool Proof" by Johnson ft. Brothers Osborne, "1000 Lifetimes" by Gareth, "Earn Your Spurs" by Munsick and "What Would You Do" by Tyce Delk. He is also working on upcoming projects for Stephen Wilson Jr., Tyler Braden and Tenpenny.

"I honestly could not dream up a better fit than TAYCAN & Sony. Blake has firmly established his reputation as one of the hardest working, well connected, and most strategic publishers in town, on top of being one of the most well-liked and respected people amongst both songwriters and other publishers alike," shares Conrad. "Plus, as a producer, getting to work with Scott is an undeniably exceptional opportunity. Very grateful to be a part of this team and excited for what's in store!" **MR**

DISClaimer Single Reviews: Kaitlin Butts Offers ‘A Breathtaking Single’



It's a day for ballads here at DISClaimer.

Randy Travis, Ana Cristina Cash, Hudson Westbrook, Emily Ann Roberts and Caylee Hammack/Trisha Yearwood are all issuing slowies this week. So is **Kaitlin Butts**, who wins the Disc of the Day award.

Also pay heed to Butts' closest competitors, Roberts, Westbrook, **LOCASH** and **K. Michelle. MR**

[Read Robert K. Oermann's weekly single reviews here.](#)

MORE TOP STORIES

[Ashley Cooke Puts A Bow On Some Holiday Classics On First-Ever Christmas EP 'Wrapped'](#)

[Black River Entertainment Hosts Showcase At Franklin Theatre](#)

['Clancy's Tavern' By Toby Keith Gets A Vinyl Release](#)

[Dan + Shay's 'Tequila' Reaches Rare RIAA Diamond Status](#)

[David Macias Readies New Book For January](#)

[Emily Ann Roberts To Kick Off 'The Thread Tour' In February](#)

[Garth Brooks Adds Matinee Shows In Kansas City & Seattle](#)

[Kelsea Ballerini Brings Musicians On Call To Her Hometown](#)

[Parking Management Company To Offer Nashville Musicians \\$5 Daily Parking Through New Initiative](#)

[Performers Revealed For 'New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash'](#)

[Tenille Townes Readies New Deluxe Edition Of 'The Acrobat'](#)

[Turnpike Troubadours Slate Return To Red Rocks Amphitheater](#)

[Vince Gill Celebrates 35th Opry Anniversary](#)

[WMG Unifies Global Sync Operations Across Recorded Music & Publishing](#)

[Wynonna Judd Slates First-Ever Headlining Ryman Shows](#)

[Zach John King Extends 'Get To Drinkin' Tour' Into 2027](#)

[Zach Top's 'Live From Red Rocks: The Concert Film' To Premiere At Stardust Drive-In & On YouTube](#)

Brent Rupard Inks With Creative Nation & EMPIRE



Pictured (Back Row, L-R): Abby Holcomb, Luke Laird, Beth Laird and Cole Brown. (Front Row, L-R): Jack Johns (EMPIRE), Eric Hurt (EMPIRE), Brent Rupard, Emily Furman and Alex Albanese Graham. Photo: Emily Stearns

Brent Rupard has signed with Creative Nation, in partnership with EMPIRE.

Raised in Shepherdsville, Kentucky and later cutting his teeth in the bars of Bowling Green while attending Western Kentucky University, Rupard moved to Nashville in 2011 to pursue music full time. That same year, he signed a publishing deal with Sea Gayle Music and earned the ASCAP Leon Brettler Award.

Rupard later became one half of the duo **Everette**, signing with Broken Bow Records. The duo toured with acts including Brothers Osborne, Larry Fleet and The Cadillac Three, and played the Grand Ole Opry over a dozen times. As a songwriter, Rupard has earned cuts with artists including Josh Turner, Larry Fleet, Lee Brice, Tracy Lawrence, Thompson Square, Randy Rogers Band and more. **MR**

Franklin Jonas & The Byzantines Make Grand Ole Opry Debut

Jonas Group Publishing artist **Franklin Jonas** recently made his Grand Ole Opry debut with his band the Byzantines, adding another first to a season of milestones in Jonas' musical journey.

Jonas, who is fresh off wrapping his "First of Many Tour," marked the occasion with a debut performance of "High and Sad," his collaboration with Noah Cyrus, and "Break the Levee."

"It's hard to put moments like this into words," says Jonas. "I'm continually reminded that things happen in their own time, and God's timing is always greater than anything I could have planned for myself. I'm grateful for every step that brought me here and excited for what's still to come."

"We are incredibly proud of Franklin and excited to celebrate this unforgettable moment in his musical journey. From wrapping his first tour to stepping onto the Grand Ole Opry stage, it's exciting to see these milestones unfold," adds Jonas Group Publishing's CEO and father of Franklin, **Kevin Jonas Sr.** "We look forward to celebrating many more with him in the years ahead." **MR**



Mark Kocourek, Aidan Harbeson, Ben Wood, Franklin Jonas, Tim Bruns, Nick Harrison and Kevin Jonas Sr. Photo: Savannah Lauren

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	1	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
2	2	Jordan M. Schmidt	Be Her Jaded Kid Myself Who Told You That	Ella Langley Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley) John Morgan Tucker Wetmore
3	3	Chase McGill	Carry On Hands Up Last Thing You Need Water At A Wedding	Kenny Chesney Jelly Roll Morgan Wallen Greylan James
4	5	Ernest Keith Smith	Jaded Loving Life Again Wannabe	Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley) Ella Langley Gavin Adcock
5	4	Jessi Alexander	Carry On Medicine Think As You Drunk	Kenny Chesney Megan Moroney Riley Green
6	7	Joybeth Taylor	Choosin' Texas Empty Words I Can't Love You Anymore	Ella Langley Corey Kent Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen
7	8	Matt Dragstrem	Country And She Knows It Water At A Wedding	Luke Bryan Greylan James
8	11	John Morgan	Anytime Soon Kid Myself	Jason Aldean John Morgan
9	15	Michael Hardy	Be Her GOOD DAMN Hands Up Let Him In Anyway Remember Me That Way	Ella Langley Brantley Gilbert Jelly Roll Blake Shelton Kenny Chesney
10	6	Riley Green	Go Again That's Just Me Think As You Drunk	Riley Green (feat. Hannah McFarland) Riley Green Riley Green
11	10	Parker Welling	Country And She Knows It Worth Your Wild	Luke Bryan Russell Dickerson
12	9	Mack Geiger	Pouring String By	Mack Geiger Mack Geiger
13	14	Devin Dawson	If I Don't Leave I'm Gonna Stay Loving Life Again	Carly Pearce & Riley Green Ella Langley
14	16	STELLA LEFTY	Boston Something To Lose	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
15	17	Grace Enger	Boston Something To Lose	STELLA LEFTY STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
16	18	Tyler Hubbard	Kid Myself Land	John Morgan Tyler Hubbard
17	20	Morgan Wallen	Been By Now Last Thing You Need Wannabe	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen Gavin Adcock
18	21	Dan Alley	Be By You	Luke Combs
19	22	Sam Banks	Be By You	Luke Combs
20	23	Nick Walsh	Be By You	Luke Combs
21	25	Rocky Block	Been By Now Hands Up	Morgan Wallen Jelly Roll
22	78	Miranda Lambert	Choosin' Texas Snakeskin Boots	Ella Langley Miranda Lambert & Ella Langley

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
23	24	Austin Goodloe	Empty Words I Can't Love You Anymore	Corey Kent Ella Langley & Morgan Wallen
24	27	John Byron	Been By Now Last Thing You Need	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
25	28	Blake Pendergrass	Been By Now Last Thing You Need	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
26	29	Ryan Vojtesak	Been By Now Last Thing You Need	Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen
27	13	Luke Laird	Boots Off Dry Spell Mexico Honey Never Comin' Back Workin' Man	Jon Pardi Kacey Musgraves Kacey Musgraves Flatland Cavalry Gavin Adcock
28	30	Luke Dick	Choosin' Texas Something To Lose	Ella Langley STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
29	12	Wyatt McCubbin	Boots Off Horseback Think As You Drunk	Jon Pardi Cody Johnson Riley Green
30	31	Jacob Davis	Mess Rethink Some Things	Jordan Davis Luke Combs
31	26	Beau Bailey	Finders Keepers Painted You Pretty	Luke Bryan & Luke Combs Hudson Westbrook
32	32	Josh Miller	Country And She Knows It	Luke Bryan
33	38	Jon Decious	Phone, Keys, Wallet Something To Lose	Lainey Wilson & John Mayer STELLA LEFTY (feat. Vincent Mason)
34	19	Matt Jenkins	Carry On	Kenny Chesney
35	35	Zach Top	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
36	36	Carson Chamberlain	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
37	37	Mark Nesler	South Of Sanity	Zach Top
38	33	Taylor Swift	I Knew It, I Knew You	Taylor Swift
39	34	Jack Antonoff	I Knew It, I Knew You	Taylor Swift
40	39	Ropyr Wetzel	Jaded	Koe Wetzel (feat. Ella Langley)
41	42	Luke Combs	Rethink Some Things	Luke Combs
42	43	Dan Isbell	Rethink Some Things	Luke Combs
43	44	Reid Isbell	Rethink Some Things	Luke Combs
44	54	Kyle Fishman	Get To Drinkin' I Didn't Come Here To Leave	Zach John King Chris Young
45	40	Hudson Westbrook	Painted You Pretty	Hudson Westbrook
46	41	Lukas Scott	Painted You Pretty	Hudson Westbrook
47	50	Ben Johnson	All My Exes	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew)
48	51	Whitney Phillips	All My Exes	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew)
49	52	Jimmie Gutch	All My Exes	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew)
50	53	Lauren Alaina	All My Exes	Lauren Alaina (feat. Chase Matthew)
51	46	Joe Reeves	Boston	STELLA LEFTY
52	47	Jacob Kasher	Boston	STELLA LEFTY
53	49	Noah Kahan	Boston	STELLA LEFTY
54	48	Taylor Phillips	Been By Now GOOD DAMN	Morgan Wallen Brantley Gilbert
55	45	Greytan James	Land Water At A Wedding	Tyler Hubbard Greytan James
56	57	Dan Smyers	Say So	Dan + Shay
57	58	Shay Mooney	Say So	Dan + Shay
58	59	Jimmy Robbins	Say So	Dan + Shay
59	60	David Hodges	Say So	Dan + Shay

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
60	56	Jessie Jo Dillon	Another Drink Medicine	Marshmello & Kelsea Ballerini Megan Moroney

Newly Added Job Listings

Belmont University: Dean, College of Entertainment & Music Business at Belmont University

Belmont University is seeking a dynamic visionary leader, scholar, educator, and practitioner to build upon the extraordinary success of the Belmont University College of Entertainment and Music Business, and lead its outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners into the future. The Dean will communicate Belmont's mission to external stakeholders; build philanthropic support among alumni, parents, donors, and partners; and bring a collaborative, relational leadership style to this work. Success in this role will require the ability to lead within a complex organization, understand future trends in the entertainment industry and higher education, and remain committed to Belmont's Christ-centered, student-focused mission.

Contact: Apply [HERE](#)

Results Global: Digital Marketing Intern

Results Global, a talent-centric marketing and brand management firm, is looking for a Digital Marketing Intern to join our team in the Nashville office. This candidate will assist with the development and execution of digital marketing initiatives across social media, email marketing, websites, and paid media, with experience in digital strategy, audience development, content management, analytics, and campaign reporting. This position is fully in-person, 15-20 hours per week. This is a paid, hourly internship. We're accepting applications for immediate and January openings.

Contact: Apply [HERE](#)

Results Global: Publicity Intern

Results Global, a talent-centric marketing and brand management firm, is looking for a Publicity Intern to join our team in the Nashville office. This candidate will support publicity campaigns through media research, press outreach, event coordination, influencer marketing, and media monitoring, with hands-on experience in entertainment and lifestyle public relations, media strategy, and communications. This position is fully in-person, 15-20 hours per week. This is a paid, hourly internship. We're accepting applications for immediate and January openings.

Contact: Apply [HERE](#)

Results Global: Graphic Design & Content Creation Intern

Results Global, a talent-centric marketing and brand management firm, is looking for a Graphic Design & Content Creation Intern to join our team in the Nashville office. This candidate will collaborate with our creative and digital teams on graphic design, short-form video editing, content production, and creative asset development across social media and digital platforms for a variety of artists, brands, and campaigns. This position is fully in-person, 15-20 hours per week. This is a paid, hourly internship. We're accepting applications for immediate and January openings.

Contact: Apply [HERE](#)

Results Global: General Marketing & Business Development Intern

Results Global, a talent-centric marketing and brand management firm, is looking for a General Marketing & Business Development Intern to join our team in the Nashville office. This candidate will support agency-wide marketing initiatives, client research, brand strategy, and new business development, with exposure to campaign planning, competitive analysis, and partnership opportunities for our entertainment and consumer brand clients. This position is fully in-person, 15-20 hours per week. This is a paid, hourly internship. We're accepting applications for immediate and January openings.

Contact: Apply [HERE](#)

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases And Radio Add Dates

October 23

Max McNown (with Carly Pearce)/Not Falling Out/Fugitive Recordings
Walker Hayes/Back By Then
Mack Geiger/How It Ends
Matt Cooper/Wonder/QHMG/Quartz Hill Records
Evan Bartels/Nothing From Nowhere/Joan of Arc Records
Jason Cross/Spent
Halle Kearns/Could've Been
Jordan Rowe/If Jesus Lived In My Hometown/Capitol Christian Music Group/Tape Room Music
Lakelin Lemmings/I Ain't For Everybody (Piano)/QHMG/Quartz Hill Records
Halie Ridge/Cheating/Eclipse Records
Zoe/Time Of Our Lives
Remy Garrison/Body Count
Regan Rousseau/Talk About It
Isa Morin/Queens of the Rink
Justin Phillips/Running on Empty

October 26

Luke Bryan & Luke Combs/Finders Keepers/MCA
Paul Cauthen/Ain't The Denim/Thirty Tigers
Dionya Marie/Leavin It All Behind/Billeegee Productions

October 28

Cody Parks and The Dirty South/Hairy Buffalo/Country Metal Records/Frontiers Records

Album/EP Releases

October 23

Brothers Osborne/Watertown/MCA
LOCASH/Chris & Preston/Galaxy Label Group
Isabel Dumaa/Reverie/Lucille Records/Republic Records
Marfa/We'll All Be Okay/Big Machine Records/ASCEND Music
Josh Rouse/Museums and Women/New West Records
Jacob Hackworth/What Took You So Long/MCA/Goat Island Sound
Matt Lang/Ain't That Bad
Brandon Jane/Stolen Horses
JP Harris/Shaving A Dead Man/Bloodshot Records
Colby T. Helms/One For The Losers/Photo Finish Records
Wooten Hill/How Did We Get Here/Parker & Yon Records

October 28

Drew Ryder Smith/The Deep End

CALENDAR

Industry Events

October 26

Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala

October 30

WAMCon Nashville

October 30- Nov. 1

AES Show Nashville

Album/EP Releases

October 23

The Red Clay Strays/Bridgestone Arena

Dom Dolla/The Pinnacle

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit/Ryman Auditorium

DJ Shadow/Marathon Music Works

Machine Girl/Brooklyn Bowl

Michigander/The Basement East

Pony Bradshaw/Cannery Hall (The Mil)

Sueco/EXIT/IN

Andrew McMahon/City Winery

Wishy/The Blue Room

Dent May/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

October 24

Dom Dolla/The Pinnacle

Kevin Gates/The Truth

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit/Ryman Auditorium

Stephen Day/Brooklyn Bowl

Adam Paddock/Cannery Hall (The Mil)

Alana Springsteen/EXIT/IN

Lennon Stella/The Blue Room

Dev Lemons/Cannery Hall (Row One Stage)

October 25

Morrissey/The Pinnacle

Esdeekid/The Truth

Patrick Droney/Ryman Auditorium

Bethel Music/Brooklyn Bowl

Edgehill/The Basement East