billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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The Nashville Songwriters Hall Of Fame Inducts Six, Including Two Women



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Wetzel, Murph Hit New Chart 'High' >page 4

Beyoncè, Shaboozey Grammy Noms >page 8

Country Coda: Kathy Mattea 'Memories' >page 11 The vibe for the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame induction on Nov. 6 was a little odd.

Less than 24 hours after an election with results that many pundits see as a pushback against diversity, the Hall welcomed

six new members whose output covered a nicely diverse stylistic landscape that touches on country, pop and R&B.

The class featured two performing artists — The Bellamy Brothers' David Bellamy and late multigenre figure Tony Joe White — plus Liz Rose ("You Belong With Me," "Crazy Girl"), Victoria Shaw ("I Love the Way You Love Me," "The River"), Al Anderson ("Unbelievable," "Love's Gonna Make It Alright") and Dan Penn ("Cry Like a Baby," "Do Right Woman — Do Right Man").

It was just the third time in the Hall's 54-year history that two women were inducted together. Prior to Rose and Shaw simultaneously joining, **Shania Twain** and **Hillary Lindsey** ("Blessed," "Jesus, Take the Wheel") were installed in 2022, and **Tammy Wynette** and **Kye Fleming** ("Smoky Mountain Rain," "Nobody") were rec-

ognized in 2009.

"It's extra special that there's two women this time," Shaw noted in her acceptance speech. "Someday we won't have to point that out, but it's still nice."

> The diversity of the current class was represented by performances that ranged from swamp rock to gospel-flecked soul to pure country. Karen Fairchild applied a spiked tone to Little Big Town's fourpart harmony on Rose's "Girl Crush," **Nikki Lane** balanced a cutting vocal resonance against Kenny Vaughan's smoky guitar on White's bluesy "Polk Salad Annie," and Garth Brooks milked the silence between the phrases in a folky rendition of the Shaw co-writes "A = Friend to Me," "She's Every & Woman" and "The River." John Anderson offered a

eft) and Shaw posed with Nashville

Songwriters Rose (left) and Shaw posed with Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame executive director Mark Ford when they were inducted on Nov. 6.

greasy, driving interpretation of Bellamy's "Redneck Girl"; Wendy Moten prefaced Penn's induction with a dramatically dynamic version of the 1960s soul single "The Dark End of the Street"; and Vince Gill participated in Al Anderson's segment by performing "Some Things Never Get Old," a ballad



Anderson recorded as a solo artist, with backing vocalist Carolyn Dawn Johnson and bassist Glenn Worf.

Acceptance in the Hall is notable. It's an unpredictable — and thus, insecure — vocation, and sustained success is often elusive. Bellamy recalled that his father pestered him to develop a backup plan in the early part of his career, assuming that songwriting wasn't likely to pay the bills. Jim Stafford's recording of Bellamy's "Spiders and Snakes" changed that, starting a hit list that includes "Old Hippie," "Kids of the Baby Boom" and "If I Said You Have a Beautiful Body Would You Hold It Against Me."

"My dad called me—I was on the road somewhere," Bellamy noted during his speech. "He had been to the mailbox and got my first royalty check. He said, 'Son, I think you're going to be able to make a living at this.'"

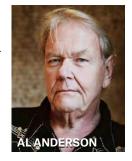
For Al Anderson, songwriting built upon his guitar skills, burnished during a run in the eclectic band **NRBQ**. He became adept at creating hooky, uptempo songs.

"He knows 400,000 chords," fellow songwriter **Sharon Vaughan** ("Powerful Thing") said while inducting Anderson. "During the writing of a song, he uses about 200,000 of them before you get to the second verse."

Anderson was enthusiastic. He enlisted fellow writer **Tia Sillers** ("I Hope You Dance") to speak on his behalf, and she stood at his side on a box, placing her at his eye level. But Anderson still got in a few words before leaving the stage.

"It's a beautiful thing, writing songs," he quipped. "You can't beat it. It's just the shit."

Penn's induction embodied the country/R&B blend that has become increasingly prominent in country circles. He fashioned hits for the likes of Ronnie Milsap, Johnny Rodriguez and T.G. Sheppard in the 1970s, though his journey was rooted more typically in pop and soul. His career started in earnest in the Muscle Shoals region and took off after he moved to Memphis, where he scored with James & Bobby Purify's recording of "I'm Your Puppet" and James Carr's "The Dark End of the Street"



"Dark End" exemplifies Penn's ability to fuse styles. It rose to prominence in the 1960s, when he still lived in Memphis, though he authored it during a break in a Nashville poker game. Despite its soul history, "Dark End" authors **David Cantwell** and **Bill Friskics-Warren** recognized it in the Country Music Foundation book *Heartaches by the Number: Country Music's 500 Greatest Singles*. It fits both blue-collar genres in part because of its theme.

"We were always trying to come up with the best cheating song ever," he was known to say, according to his inductor, songwriter **Gretchen Peters** ("Independence Day").

White's career path likewise wound through both Tennessee music capitals — son **Jody White**, in accepting his late father's induction, recalled



The Blues Brothers hanging out at the family's house in Memphis and watching football at Waylon Jennings' Nashville home. White's biggest copyright, "A Rainy Night in Georgia," also transcended boundaries, providing soul singer Brook Benton with a classic recording and becoming a country hit for Hank Williams Jr.

"It just invokes a feeling of loneliness," Jody said before ceremony, "and I think that's what's special about it. It's hard to just make someone have that strong of a feeling by listening to your song."

Rose is also a genre-hopper. While her songs

have succeeded primarily in country, she's co-written 17 **Taylor Swift** releases, and they include both country hits ("Tim McGraw," "Teardrops on My Guitar") and music from her pop era (particularly the 10-minute "All Too Well").

Despite the ceremony's proximity to a contentious election, the Hall of Fame demonstrated how songwriters can pull together even when they disagree. A bit surprisingly, during the course of the evening, neither presenters nor inductees mentioned the election.

"What's great about this community, everybody's walking in that room, [feeling] part of the music community as songwriters," Rose said on the red carpet. "There should be no politics. We all love each other, and that's being an American."



Alana Springsteen (right) had dinner with Audacy regional vp of programming Mark Anderson and his wife, Marie, on Nov. 2 in Pittsburgh.



Reba McEntire was a guest on Jimmy Fallon's NBC's show on Oct. 28.



Tyler Hubbard (right) greeted iHeartMedia/West Michigan senior vp of programming Dave Taft when he performed Oct. 31 in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Nate Smith spent time with WKLB Boston assistant PD Dawn Santolucito during a Nov. 8 station visit.

2024

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Dan + Shay

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billboard Country Airplay

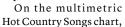
LUMINATE

ON THE CHARTS JIM ASKER jim.asker@billboard.com

Koe Wetzel And Jessie Murph's 'Road' **Leads To Country Airplay Top 10**

Koe Wetzel and Jessie Murph's "High Road" (YellaBush/Columbia/ RECORDS Nashville) travels to the top 10 on Billboard's Country Airplay chart as it rises 12-10 on the list dated Nov. 16. The song — which is both artists' first entry on the survey — increased by 17% to 17.5 million in audience Nov. 1-7, according to Luminate.

Murph and Wetzel cowrote "High Road" with Amy Allen, Carrie K, Josh Serrato, Gabe Simon and Laura Veltz. It's from Wetzel's album 9 Lives, which became his fourth top 10 on Top Country Albums when it opened at its No. 5 best in August. It's also on Murph's That Ain't No Man That's the Devil, released in September.



"High Road" debuted at its No. 8 peak in June, awarding Wetzel and Murph their second top 10 each.

WETZEL (left) and MURPH

Wetzel recently wrapped the European leg of his Damn Near Normal World Tour 2024. Murph is set to perform next in Huntsville, Ala., on Nov. 23.

HE'S ON A ROLL "I Am Not Okay" (Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek) by Jelly Roll dominates Country Airplay for a second week (32.3 million audience, down 5%). Of his six straight No. 1s from his start at the format, the song marks his third multiweek ruler. "Need a Favor" led for four weeks starting in August 2023, and "Save Me," with Lainey Wilson, notched two weeks on top last December.

Jelly Roll, who hoisted the trophy for best new artist at the 2023 Country Music Association Awards, is up for three awards this year, including the coveted entertainer of the year crown. This year's ceremony will air Nov. 20 on ABC and will be available to stream the following day on Hulu.

GAIN (IN MILLIONS **TITLE Imprint/Label Artist** LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen +4.031 HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph +2.559

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud +2.441 Morgan Wallen BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville **Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott** +1.998 **COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville** +1.907George Birge BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown +1.664 WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Back Blocks/EMI Nashville +1.415 **Tucker Wetmore** I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville Jordan Davis +1.236 FOREVER TO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell +1.098BEAUTIFUL AS YOU Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett +1.096

MOST INCREASED **TITLE Imprint/Label GAIN** LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen +1244 HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph +792 LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen +701 BEAUTIFUL AS YOU Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory **Thomas Rhett** +565 **COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville** George Birge +497 YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green +433 WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Back Blocks/EMI Nashville Tucker Wetmore +429 ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine +427 Tim McGraw BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott +368 BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR

RECURRENTS							
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)					
1	I HAD SOME HELP Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen	19.891					
2	CHEVROLET Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Jelly Roll	16.859					
3	AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA Universal Studios/Atlantic/Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	16.582					
4	COWGIRLS Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen Featuring ERNEST	14.932					
5	AUSTIN VERSION III/Warner/WMN Dasha	13.871					
6	WORLD ON FIRE RCA Nashville Nate Smith	12.236					
7	SHE'S SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER (REIMAGINED) Patoka Sounds/Lyric Ridge	12.070					
8	WHERE IT ENDS Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	9.605					
9	FAST CAR River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Combs	9.429					
10	OUTSKIRTS MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	9.320					



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 7, 2024

THIS WEEK		WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK		WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
0	2	23	HEAVEN SHINES DOWN ON YOU (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1 ★★ Sundance Hear	1645	102	11	10	18	TWO WAY DRIVE (River House) Hudson Westbrook	1134	11
0	3	22	DRUNK SINCE DALLAS (Independent) Grant Gilber	1542	38	12	11	8	FRIDAY NIGHT (Independent) Wade Bowen	1132	50
3	4	23	LOST IN THE COUNTRY (LuckySky Music) Tori Martin	1517	27	ß	15	11	HILL COUNTRY HOME (Independent) Kyle Park	1114	75
4	5	18	ME TIME (Flying C) Brooke Graham	1448	112	14	14	17	ROPE THE WIND (Rockin R) Amanda Kate Ferris	1089	36
6	6	26	WAKE UP LONELY (Independent) Caleb Young	1327	9	Œ	16	13	FRONT PORCH IN THE RAIN (Independent) Hayden Haddock	1083	88
6	7	18	WHEELS (Independent) Shane Smith & The Saints	1289	41	16	13	18	RIDE OR DIE (Independent) James Robert Webb	1070	3
7	1	14	HIT THE HAY RUNNIN (Independent) Aaron Watson	1251	-401	17	17	20	90SVILLE (Synapse) Derryl Perry	989	9
8	8	15	PAIN AND SORROW (Independent) Matt Castille	1236	81	13	19	11	ONE MORE FOR THE RIDE (Independent) Ryder Grimes	887	46
9	12	9	KEEPIN ME ALIVE (Independent) Matt Danie	1226	151	19	21	15	THIS COULD BE LOVE (Independent) Kaitlyn Kohler feat. Jamie Richards	832	28
10	9	22	BEER'S BETTER ON A BOAT (Independent) Clay Hollis & Jesse Raub, Ju	1214	82	20	22	8	GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING (Independent) Mike Ryan	819	29

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2024, Texas Regional Radio Report

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

		WKS		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)	PLAYS		
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	22	I AM NOT OKAY Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek ★★ No. 1 (2 Weeks) ★★ Jelly Roll	32.263	-1.569	8057	-832	2
0	4	19	LIES LIES LIES Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ Most Increased Audience ★★ Morgan Wallen	32.075	+4.031	8716	1244	1
3	3	20	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	27.803	-0.904	6727	-231	3
4	2	27	MILES ON IT Joytime Collective/RCA Nashville Marshmello & Kane Brown	26.897	-3.455	6478	-1063	4
5	5	28	A BAR SONG (TIPSY) American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey	22.773	-0.003	5540	135	8
6	6	53	GONNA LOVE YOU Stoney Creek Parmalee	20.267	+1.062	5853	221	5
Ø	7	16	YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME SAWGOD/Columbia/Nashville Harbor Ella Langley Featuring Riley Green	19.638	+0.623	5690	433	6
8	9	26	BEAUTIFUL AS YOU Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett	19.001	+1.096	5574	565	7
9	10	36	COWBOY SONGS RECORDS Nashville George Birge	18.287	+1.907	5207	497	9
0	12	17	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	17.472	+2.559	5112	792	10
0	11	42	ONE BAD HABIT McGraw/Big Machine Tim McGraw	17.155	+1.067	5012	427	11
Ø	14	44	BOYS BACK HOME PIA/Curb/Columbia Nashville Dylan Marlowe & Dylan Scott	15.544	+1.998	4251	368	13
B	13	40	BIGGER HOUSES Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	14.897	+0.991	4321	355	12
12	15	24	WIND UP MISSIN' YOU Back Blocks/EMI Nashville Tucker Wetmore	13.859	+1.415	4017	429	14
Œ	16	44	SOUNDS LIKETHE RADIO Leo33 Zach Top	12.007	-0.060	3637	16	16
10	20	3	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	11.607	+2.441	2870	701	19
Ð	17	36	MESSED UP AS ME Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban	11.070	+0.116	3645	40	15
B	18	34	DAMN GOOD DAY TO LEAVE Nashville Harbor Riley Green	10.504	+0.432	3276	103	17
19	21	16	GUY FORTHAT Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ** Airpower ** Post Malone Featuring Luke Combs	9.864	+1.000	2712	346	20
20	19	38	THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU Sound/Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	9.684	-0.048	2979	79	18
3	23	10	4X4XU Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	8.398	+0.851	2502	125	22
22	22	37	AMERICAN GIRL Tom Petty Legacy/Capitol Nashville/Valory Dierks Bentley	7.653	-0.089	2300	-3	24
23	25	16	I AIN'T SAYIN' MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	7.622	+1.236	2407	230	23
2	26	43	BREAKIN' IN BOOTS RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Matt Stell	7.137	+0.810	2679	261	21
25	28	30	FOREVERTO ME Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cole Swindell	6.841	+1.098	2014	230	27
20	24	35	THIS TOWN'S BEEN TOO GOOD TO US Curb Dylan Scott	6.667	+0.034	2045	-6	26
3	27	29	FRIENDS LIKETHAT Night Train/Broken Bow John Morgan Featuring Jason Aldean	6.395	+0.544	2231	120	25
23	30	6	I'M GONNA LOVE YOU CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/Capitol Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	4.841	+0.327	1458	105	36
29	29	21	HOLY SMOKES Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	4.830	+0.229	1517	142	34
30	31	23	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group LOCASH	4.730	+0.276	1690	168	28

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2024, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed in Luminate's online platform.

TIES

On Country Airplay, if two songs are tied in audience, the song with the larger increase in audience is placed first.

BULLETS

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles gaining audience or remaining flat from the previous week. A song will also receive a bullet if its percentage loss in audience does not exceed the percentage of monitored station downtime for the format. Titles that decline in audience but increase in detections will also receive a bullet if the total audience erosion for the week does not exceed 3%.

RECURRENTS

On Country Airplay, descending titles below No. 10 in either audience or detections are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks, provided that they are not still gaining enough audience points to bullet or if they rank below No. 10 and post a third consecutive week of (non-bulleted) audience decline, regardless of total chart weeks. Plus, songs that ascend to a peak between Nos. 1 and 5 will remain on the chart for one additional week even if dropping below No. 10.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

Awarded to the highest-ranking new entry on Country Airplay.

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

Most Increased Audience on Country Airplay lists the songs with the greatest week-to-week increases in total audience.

AIRPOWER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles ranking inside top 20 in plays and audience rankings for the first time, with increases in both plays and audience.

BREAKER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles achieving airplay (at least one detection) at 60% of reporting stations for the first time.

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY LUMINATE

THIS	LAST	WKS ON			AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)			
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
3	32	12	AM I OKAY? Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville	Megan Moroney	4.365	+0.064	1214	33	41
€	36	15	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	3.988	+0.258	1538	149	33
3 3	35	17	JUSTTO SAY WE DID Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney	3.894	+0.158	1499	85	35
34	34	35	WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET Nashville Harbor	Chris Janson	3.723	-0.182	1646	89	29
35	33	32	LIFE WITH YOU Curb	Kelsey Hart	3.717	-0.271	1631	-71	32
36	38	27	WRANGLERS Vanner/Republic/Big Loud	Miranda Lambert	3.472	+0.143	1644	80	30
3	39	19	COMING HOME Three Up Three Down/Columbia Nashville	Old Dominion	3.332	+0.289	1260	95	40
38	37	4	DARKEST HOUR (HELENE EDIT) BigEC/EMI Nashville	Eric Church	3.287	-0.169	1456	38	37
39	40	32	SINGLE AGAIN The Core/Universal Music Canada/Mercury Nashville	Josh Ross	3.102	+0.104	1376	47	38
40	42	40	ITRIED A RING ON Monument	Tigirlily Gold	2.901	+0.325	1634	161	31
41	41	22	FALL OF SUMMER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	2.672	-0.175	1169	-21	42
②	44	15	TRUCK ON FIRE Big Machine	Carly Pearce	2.575	+0.030	1150	95	43
43	43	20	COWBOYS CRY TOO Black River Kelsea E	Ballerini & Noah Kahan	2.503	-0.052	1282	31	39
4	NE	EW	BACKSEAT DRIVER Zone 4/RCA Nashville ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Kane Brown	2.281	+1.664	503	319	59
45	45	7	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine	Jackson Dean	2.060	+0.177	893	92	44
46	47	22	EVERYTHING I NEED 19/Wheelhouse	Chayce Beckham	1.792	+0.187	848	49	45
4	49	9	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	1.735	+0.256	760	112	47
48	46	9	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	1.721	+0.083	639	36	50
49	50	12	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	1.714	+0.273	824	129	46
50	52	4	I NEVER LIE Leo33	Zach Top	1.665	+0.357	392	110	-
5	55	13	OVER WHEN WE'RE SOBER Valory Brantley Gilbert F	eaturing Ashley Cooke	1.553	+0.284	667	14	49
€	51	10	BONES Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson	1.547	+0.165	695	21	48
5 3	54	11	LOVETHE LEAVIN' Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Drew Parker	1.486	+0.198	586	68	54
54	48	8	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	1.392	-0.110	617	27	51
65	56	6	TRUCK STILL WORKS Loaded Goat/EMI Nashville	Brad Paisley	1.359	+0.154	561	35	56
56	NE	EW	TOUGH PEOPLE Patoka Sounds/Stoney Creek ★★ Breaker ★★	Drew Baldridge	1.349	+0.641	589	314	53
5	53	15	DEVIL YOU KNOW Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Tyler Braden	1.337	+0.029	495	36	60
58	59	2	RELAPSE 717/Warner/WEA	Warren Zeiders	1.248	+0.293	544	86	57
59	57	20	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	1.225	+0.195	609	66	52
60	60	2	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	ERNEST	0.971	+0.138	396	28	-



Kelsea Ballerini (center) chatted on the Oct. 24 edition of Amazon Music's *Country Heat Weekly* podcast with co-hosts Kelly Sutton (left) and Amber Anderson.



Chase Rice's team turned out when he performed at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville on Oct. 24. From left: WHY&HOW executive vp Eddie Kloesel and management assistant Rhiannon Ferronetti, Rice, WHY&HOW marketing director Avery Bon and chief marketing officer Halie Hampton Mosley, and Essential Broadcast Media publicist/owner Ebie McFarland.

EVAN DESTEFA



billboard

THE NO. 1s ISSUE

YEAR IN MUSIC

ISSUEDATE 12/14 | AD CLOSE 12/3 MATERIALS DUE 12/5

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Billboard's Year in Music: The No. 1s will wrap up 2024 with an extraordinary editorial package. Included will be year-end charts, interviews and analysis on the year's top artists, songs, albums and labels as well as the year's top producers, songwriters and publishers.

The year-end Billboard Boxscore charts will shine a light on the most successful tours and the top venues and promoters.

This highly anticipated issue serves as a compilation of must-have information. It is referenced year-round by everyone in the music business and touring industry as their de facto resource for *Billboard*'s historical data and information.

Advertise in this signature collector's edition and position your company, artist or breakthrough achievement in front of the power players in the industry. This issue provides the ideal showcase to run a brand or congratulatory message to acknowledge success over the past year.

NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com



Members of the cast and crew of *Shucked* had a conversation with Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum writer-editor Angela Stefano Zimmer on Nov. 3, ahead of the production's run at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. From left: Stefano Zimmer and *Shucked* songwriters Shane McAnally and Brandy Clark, book author Robert Horn and co-producer Mike Bosner.

BEYONCÈ COUNTRY SET LEADS GRAMMYS

Cowboy Carter roped 'em in.

Beyoncè lassoed 11 Grammy nominations, making her the top finalist on this year's ballot, released Nov. 8. The haul gives her 99 career nominations, the largest total in the awards show's 67-year history.

Carter Cowboy is up for album of the year, while lead single "Texas Hold 'Em" competes for record and song of the year. **Shaboozey**, whose appearance on Beyoncé's album assisted the setup for his own project, is also in the running for song with "A Bar Song (Tipsy). Plus, he is among the final eight for new artist of the year.

The Beyoncè/Shaboozey collaboration — "Spaghettii," which also features Linda Martell — snagged its own nomination, for best melodic rap performance. Additionally, Beylanded a nomination in each of the four country categories: best country solo performance ("16 Carriages"), best country duo/group performance (II Most Wanted," featuring Miley Cyrus), best country song ("Texas Hold 'Em") and best country album (Cowboy Carter).

The Grammys' affinity for genre-busting acts also benefited **Post Malone**, who appears in the country duo/group and best country song arenas with "I Had Some Help," featuring **Morgan Wallen**, and among the best country album contenders, with *F-1 Trillion*.

Kacey Musgraves, Chris Stapleton and Jelly Roll all placed in two of the four country categories.

Notably, two Nashville women are up for songwriter of the year, non-classical: Jessi Alexander ("Ain't No Love in Oklahoma," "Chevrolet") and Jessie Jo Dillon ("Messed Up As Me," "Am I Okay?").

The awards will take place Feb. 2, 2025, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. Go $\underline{\text{here}}$ for the full list of nominees.

RADIO & RECORDS®

Randy Hawke was promoted to Mid-West Family Marketing/Madison, Wis., market manager, RadioInk.com reported. He was previously content manager for the cluster's eight on-air brands, including country WWQM and classic country WHIT-AM ... Jordan Fasbender rose to iHeart Media general counsel from chief legal officer, according to RadioInk.com ... WYRK Buffalo, N.Y., parted ways with morning personality Kadie Daye in a round of budget cuts, $Radio In sight. com \ reported \dots A series \ of local layoffs \ took \ place \ at \ iHeart Media.$ Losses at country stations, according to RadioInsight.com, included KMJX Little Rock, Ark., afternoon host David "DJ" Taylor and WNCB Raleigh, N.C., assistant PD/afternoon talent Nick Jordan ... Skyview Networks' Country Top 40 With Fitz is offering several holiday specials to local broadcasters through the end of the year. The lineup includes a Veterans Day collaboration with military-family charity Fisher House, available Nov. 9-10; Thankful for the Hits, pairing Fitz with Dan + Shay, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1; Deck the Halls With Fitz, featuring Gabby Barrett, Dec. 21-22; and CT40's Year of Hits With Fitz, Dec. 28-29 ... Compass Media's Y'All Access to the CMA Awards With Kelly Sutton will be available for broadcast Nov. 16-20 in the run-up to the

Country Music Association's Nov. 20 telecast ... Country Radio Broadcasters amended its selection process for Country Radio Seminar's New Faces of Country Music Show. *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart has been added as a qualifying tool, and the weight for submissions will shift to record labels and artist representatives. The new parameters will take effect during the 2026 edition of CRS.

'ROUND THE ROW

Reliant Talent made six staff changes concurrent with a move to new headquarters at 1610 West End Ave., Suite 120 in Nashville. Keith Richards was hired as an agent in the festival department, following four years atop the Wasserman festival wing. Kailey Edgerton, Cole Speed and Robert Baugh were promoted to agent from coordinator. Additionally, Ron Kaplan and Garry **Buck** were promoted to executive vp from agent ... Entertainment law firm Keller Turner Andrews & Ghanem added three attorneys to the roster. J. Rush Hicks joined as counsel, having owned a practice since 1995. Cheshire Rigler moves to the new company with Hicks. Additionally, Alyssa Johnson folded up her independent firm to join the Keller team. Reach Hicks here, Rigler here and Johnson here ... Nate Smith performed for an Oct. 30 party celebrating the launch of Autobus, a tour-coach partnership with Prevost. The soiree also welcomed private-jet company Ryan Aviation Group to Nashville. The Ryan enterprise was previously headquartered in Los Angeles ... Empire Publishing signed Billy Ray Cyrus to the roster ... Writer-artist Ben Wagner, a frequent collaborator of Wyatt Flores, agreed to a joint-venture publishing deal with Warner Chappell Nashville and Twelve6 Entertainment ... Shaboozey, Ashley McBryde and ABC co-hosts Luke Bryan and Lainey Wilson are among the first performers revealed for the Country Music Association's 58th annual CMA Awards on Nov. 20. Also on tap are a Post Malone collaboration with Chris Stapleton, a Thomas Rhett duet with Teddy Swims and a Tom Petty cover by Dierks Bentley with Sierra Hull, Molly Tuttle and Bronwyn Keith-Hynes ... CMT Digital launched CMT Live on Nov. 7, with Elle King in the debut episode. Additional installments on the way will feature lan Munsick and Flatland Cavalry ... OneCountry.com, a membership-driven content platform, has expanded into Canada with Meghan Patrick featured as artist of the month for November ... Dan + Shay, Dasha, Walker Hayes and The War and Treaty are among 24 performers appearing in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on NBC ... **Kelly Clarkson** will return as host of NBC's *Christmas in* Rockefeller Center on Dec. 4 ... Craig Morgan performs with military band Six-String Soldiers during PBS' Salute to Service 2024: A Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 8. The program is hosted by **Mickey Guyton** ... RFD-TV will air An All-Star Salute to Lee Greenwood on Veterans Day with a guest lineup that includes Jamey Johnson, Crystal Gayle, Big & Rich and The Oak Ridge Boys, among others ... Songwriter Ashley Gorley is donating his royalties from Jelly Roll's "I Am Not Okay" to Onsite's Creatives Support Network, a program designed to assist songwriters ... Miranda Lambert's MuttNation-Tractor Supply Relief Fund has donated a total of \$250,000 to 32 animal shelters and organizations that were harmed by hurricanes Helen and Milton.



WSM-AM Nashville morning host Bill Cody (left) was inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame on Oct. 30, with Larry Gatlin handling the presentation.



Cody Johnson chatted with Apple Music host Kelleigh Bannen on the Oct. 31 edition of *Today's* Country Radio.

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International: Ryan O'Donnell | rodonnell@pmc.com

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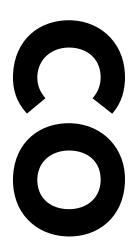
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35 Years Ago Kathy Mattea Ignited A No. 1

In 1989, "Burnin' Old Memories" became her fourth Hot Country Songs chart-topper

On Nov. 11, 1989, **Kathy Mattea**'s "Burnin' Old Memories" hit No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart. It became the most recent of her four leaders, among 16 career top 10s, tallied in 1986-94.

The song—co-written by Larry Boone, Gene Nelson and Paul Nelson and produced by Allen Reynolds—was released as the second single from Mattea's album Willowinthe Wind, after "Come From the Heart" led that July.

Born in Cross Lanes, West Va., Mattea left the University of West Virginia in 1978 and drove to Nashville in her 1975 Volvo station wagon with a mattress fastened to its roof. After signing her first recording contract, with Mercury Nashville, in 1983, she later won the female vocalist of the year trophy from the Country Music Association in 1989 and 1990.

Mattea is currently touring, with her next stop set for Florence, Ala., on Nov. 24. She and her husband, songwriter **Jon Vezner**, reside in West Virginia, where Mattea has hosted NPR's *Mountain Stage* since September 2021. The show airs more than 280 stations.

-JIM ASKER

