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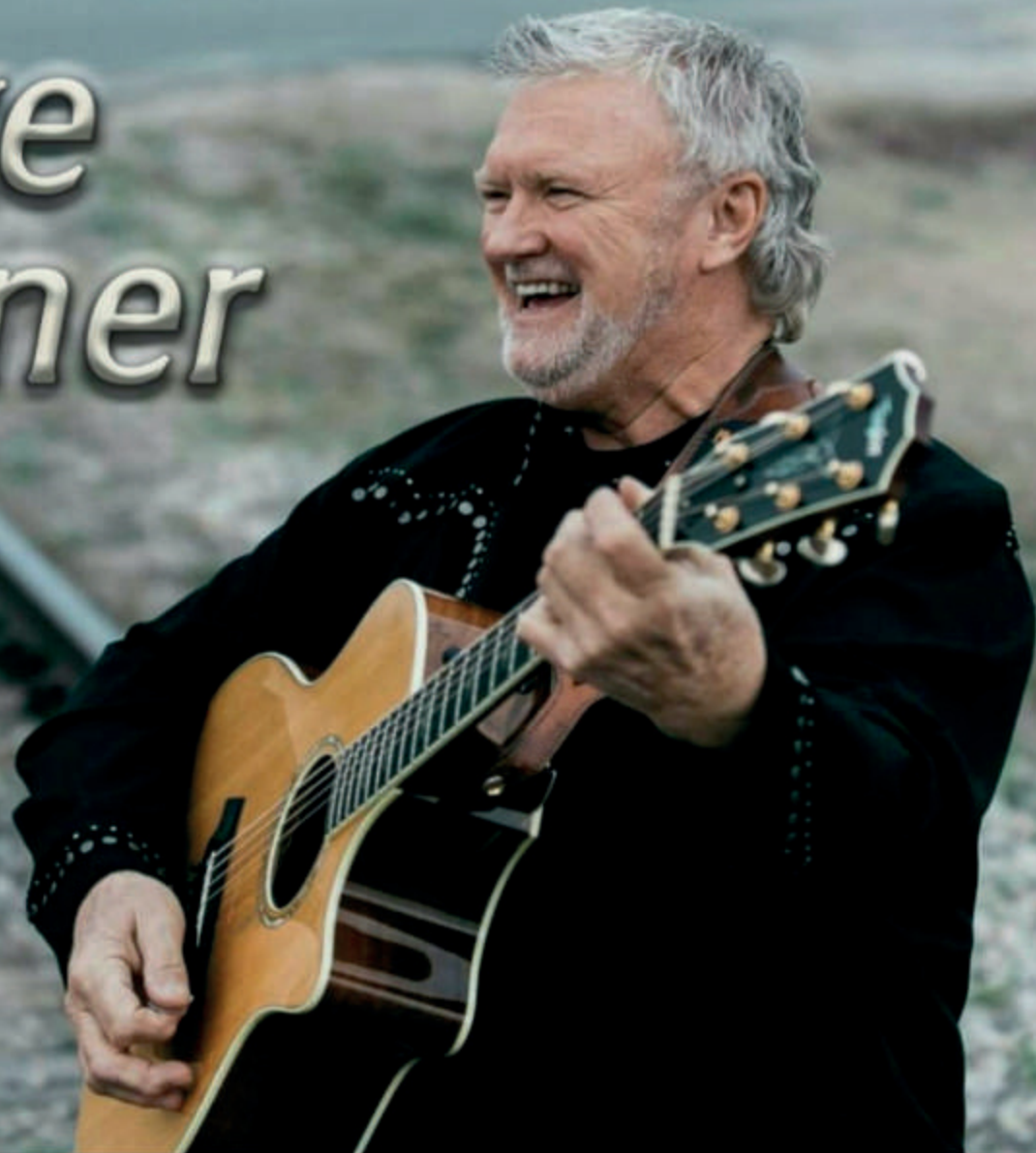
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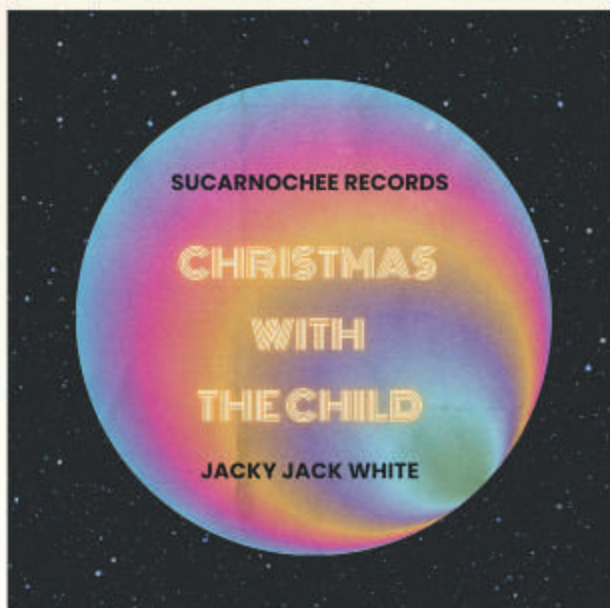
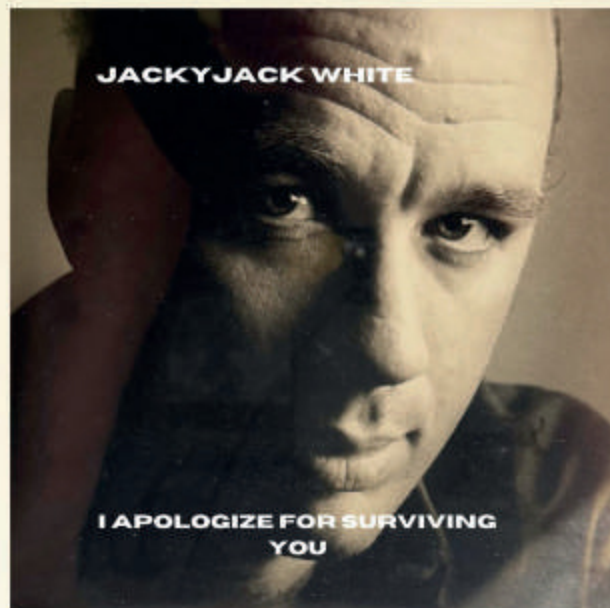
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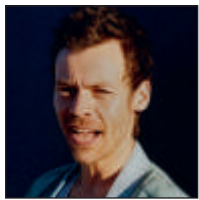


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Cash Box was founded by Bill Gersh in 1942. George Albert took ownership from the late 1950s until his passing in 1997. In 2006, Bruce Elrod, a music professional and record producer, revived the magazine as an online publication with the revised name, Cashbox. Bruce partnered with music promoter and magazine publisher, Randall Wilds, in 2018. This partnership re-established Cashbox as a printed publication. Today, Wilds & Associates continues the publication of Cashbox with integrity and pride, preserving the legacy of its founders and former owners - the late Bill Gersh, George Albert, and Bruce Elrod.

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# The New Guitar Slinger

## Inside the Rise of Ethan Lake, the Blues-Born Country Voice Shaking Up America's Roots Scene

By Jackson McKee



**A**t just twenty-three, Ethan Lake is emerging as one of the most compelling young voices in modern Country-Blues, a guitarist shaped by the grit of Baltimore, the soul of the Delta, and the restless drive of a generation finding its sound. With a band that's growing tighter by the mile and songs that feel both lived-in and brand-new, he's stepping into a moment that seems to be meeting him halfway.

Legendary Blues guitarist and singer/songwriter Buddy Guy once said, "The Blues is alive and well." If you need proof, look no further than a young man from Baltimore who picked up a guitar at twelve, fell in love with the Blues at sixteen and now, at twenty-three, is emerging as one of the most compelling new voices in American roots music. His name is Ethan Lake, and his rise has been anything but ordinary.

### **The Early Years: A Teenager Who Found the Blues**

Long before he became a Country-Blues powerhouse, Ethan was a curious kid digging through his dad's music collection. "My dad started introducing me to old Rock and Roll stuff like the Stones," he recalls. "Then it just kind of took off from there. I started getting into older music like the Blues, and just stuck with it."

That spark ignited a deep dive into the genre's roots. He followed the trail from the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin back to the Chicago sound, then further into the Delta, Memphis, Austin, and every Blues landmark he could find.

His father, Todd Lake, remembers watching it unfold. "I may have introduced it to him," Todd says, "but Ethan, completely on his own, started really deep-diving into the old, original stuff. I'm blown away by how he went there, stayed there, and is completely loyal to it. What's more is he really enjoys it."

By sixteen, Ethan wasn't just listening, he was studying. "I'm definitely into Chicago and Delta Blues," he says. "What really influenced me is [the music of] Howlin' Wolf, Clapton, Robert Johnson, all those people. Jimi Hendrix is definitely a big one too, but he had his own style."

Blues, his growth exploded. He quickly outpaced his peers - especially in a genre few teenagers were exploring.

By sixteen, he was showing up at local Blues jams, unafraid to climb onstage with anyone who would let him play. His favorite spot became Baltimore's iconic Cat's Eye Pub. "I played my first Blues jam there," he says. "Plus, it's a really nice place. The crowds get really into it. It's the Blues bar to play at in Baltimore."

Age restrictions made it tough to find stages, but Ethan's talent opened doors. Musicians welcomed him. Crowds cheered him on. Word spread.

He even caught the attention of Beale Street guitarist and historian Robert Allen Parker, who invited the Lake family to Memphis.



When asked about his dream lineup of guitar heroes, he didn't hesitate: "My fantasy team would be Robert Johnson, Howlin' Wolf, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley, Jimi Hendrix, and especially Clapton."

His method for discovering these legends was simple, and very Gen Z. "I would go to an artist I knew and enjoyed, then scroll down until I reached their related artists. Then I would just click on the music of different artists until I found the ones I liked."

### From First Guitar to First Stages

Ethan got his first guitar at twelve, took lessons, and joined School-of-Rock-style programs. But once he found the

And before he was old enough to vote, Ethan had already recorded a three-song EP, "15 Year Old Dreams," featuring *Little Wing*, *Bright Lights*, and *The Thrill Is Gone*. Arranged and mixed by Stephen Antonelli (SongBuilders Studios, Baltimore) and mastered by John Webber (AIR Studios, London), the project showcased a young artist with real fire.

### Fast-Forward to Today: A 23-Year-Old Rising Star

Now, at twenty-three, Ethan Lake is no longer the Blues kid from Baltimore. He's one of Country music's most exciting emerging voices. The Blues foundation is still there, but his sound has evolved into something richer, bigger, and unmistakably his own.

There are no gimmicks. No shortcuts. Just pure talent.

Known for his powerhouse vocals and crafty guitar work, Ethan blends Classic Country roots with a Bluesy, modern edge that feels both authentic and radio-ready. Influences like Chris Stapleton, Charlie Crockett, Billy Strings, and Vince Gill shape his palette, but the voice is all Ethan.

To bring that sound to life, he's assembled a standout band featuring regional heavyweights, including pedal steel master Matt Zuckerman.

### A Breakout Run: 2025/2026

Ethan's recent achievements read like the résumé of an artist on the brink:

- 1st Place out of 40 bands - Harmony Woods Music & Arts Festival Band Contest
- 1st Place (Judges) - Dirty Boots Country & Wine Festival Talent Contest
- Headliner - ZenWest Main Stage (Baltimore)
- Performances at Harmony Woods, NeverEarlyFest, and Dirty Boots Country Fest
- Opener for label artist Alyssa Flaherty - Old Line Country Festival
- Opener for Josh Tobias - Baltimore's iconic 8x10
- Release of his first major streaming single, *If I Could See Tomorrow* (January 14, 2026)

His current radio single is already gaining traction, signaling that Ethan's rise is accelerating.



### The Road Ahead

From a twelve-year-old with a new guitar... to a sixteen-year-old Blues prodigy... to a twenty-three-year-old Country-Blues force... Ethan Lake's story is still unfolding. But one thing is certain: he's not just chasing a dream, he's building a legacy.

And somewhere, Buddy Guy is still right. The Blues is alive and well. And its newest torchbearer is carrying it boldly into the future.

[www.ethanlakemusic.com](http://www.ethanlakemusic.com)



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# Country Tonite Theatre

## *A Smoky Mountain Tradition That Still Steals the Show*

By Robin Tanner

After nearly three decades on the Parkway, Country Tonite still feels as fresh and electric as the day it opened. Now celebrating its 29th year, the show continues to earn its title as the Best Show in the Smokies - and the 2026 season raises the bar even higher.

Step inside the 1,500-seat Country Tonite Theatre in Pigeon Forge, and the atmosphere hits you before the first note ever rings out. Ushers greet guests with warm smiles, families settle into their seats, and the hum of anticipation fills the room. When the lights finally dim, the stage erupts into a two-hour celebration of music, comedy, and heart - the kind of live entertainment that reminds you why people keep coming back to the Smokies year after year.

Country Tonite has mastered a rare blend: honoring the roots of Classic Country while embracing the energy of today's hits. The cast, a dynamic mix of seasoned performers and talented young artists, moves effortlessly from high-octane numbers to tender ballads. Their harmonies are tight, their choreography sharp, and their chemistry unmistakable. Between musical sets, comedy sketches bring genuine, belly-shaking laughter, the kind that leaves the whole room wiping their eyes.

The Gospel segment remains one of the show's most moving moments. Voices rise in harmony, filling the theatre with songs of faith, hope, and gratitude. It's a moment of stillness in a fast-moving world, delivered with sincerity that feels personal and deeply rooted in the Smoky Mountain spirit.

Then comes the finale - a patriotic tribute that never fails to bring the audience to its feet. As the American flag unfurls across the stage, the cast delivers a stirring salute to the land

of the free and the home of the brave. It's emotional, powerful, and unforgettable.

Whether you're visiting Pigeon Forge for the first time or you've lived in the Smokies your whole life, Country Tonite offers something rare: a show that truly is for everyone. Kids laugh at the comedy, grandparents hum along to the classics, and every generation in between finds something to love.



Located at 129 Showplace Blvd. on the Parkway, the theatre features state-of-the-art sound and lighting, two giant video screens, and a stage built for spectacle. Throughout the year, the Celebrity Concert Series brings legendary artists to town, and when November arrives, the theatre transforms for its beloved Christmas Show — a holiday tradition that fills the room with joy, nostalgia, and Christmas spirit.

For tickets or more information, call 865-453-2003 or visit [www.countrytonitepf.com](http://www.countrytonitepf.com). Whether you're planning a vacation or simply looking for a night out, make room on your itinerary for Country Tonite. It's a Smoky Mountain experience you'll be glad you didn't miss.



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A portrait of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a red collared shirt and large hoop earrings. The background is a soft, warm-toned pattern.

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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

By Robin Tanner

# LEVI COBY

Country music singer/songwriter Levi Coby grew up in a small town in Tillicoultry, near Stirling, off the coast of Scotland. He would often watch his father perform as a Scottish singer. “I grew up watching my dad sing, never dreaming I’d be trading boots with him or that I’d trade Scotland’s shores for Nashville’s bright lights. Life threw some curveballs - losing loved ones and surviving a near-fatal car wreck. So, I packed my bags, moved to Louisiana, and chased my dream to Music City.”

Levi grew up listening to George Jones, Jim Reeves, Randy Travis, Johnny Cash, and was influenced by Christian music. “I later fell for the music of George Strait, Tim McGraw and Jason Aldean’s style of music. Their sounds shaped my own, and I’ve penned over 1,000 songs since. I studied music and more at Stirling and Glasgow Universities, learning the ropes of production, voice, and business.”

His dream was to make music in Nashville, Tennessee, he shares. “When I arrived in Nashville, I met my mentor, Ralph Murphy, who lit a fire in my songwriting soul, helping me carve out a spot as Nashville’s first Scottish cowboy.” It was through this experience that he gained confidence and direction in songwriting, which has dramatically furthered his career. Levi is in a class of his own as there has never been a Scottish cowboy Country singer in Nashville!

Since coming to America in 2017, Levi has been presented numerous music awards, including ‘Best Love Song of the Year’ for *Lucky One* and ‘Best Male Vocalist of all Genres.’ He also won the ‘World Gospel Song of the Year’ award for *Let Your Light Shine Through* and ‘Best Modern Country Song of the Year’ award for *Ariat Boots*. Also, his songs *My F150* and *Southern Girl* received many awards in the USA, Netherlands, Australia and the United Kingdom. Levi recalls receiving these special honors. “I have won 27 awards since I came to the USA eight years ago. I was awarded a gold medal from the Veterans, for my Veterans songs. I just won ‘Best Male Inspirational Country Artist of the Year’ from the Infinity Music & Film Awards, which I love as it means my songs are making a difference. I also won ‘Original Country Male’ and ‘Best Country Song’ for *My F150*.”

After many life-long challenges and a recent heart attack, Levi realized he had yet another mission to fulfill with his music. “After a recent heart scare, God showed me a new



path. I’m on a mission to lift up motherless and fatherless kids, cancer fighters, and veterans battling PTSD with my music. I wanna help them shine through the darkest days, one song at a time.”

Levi recently performed for St. Jude Children Research Hospital. He was gifted a special belt buckle by Chad Gist from Gist Buckles for his kindness and performance for St. Jude.

He adds, “I just recorded many new songs with one of the top producers in Nashville, Bill McDermott.” His brand-new single release is *Let’s Make America Great Again*. He states, “It’s about my love for this country. I dedicated this song to Charlie Kirk who, I found out, has the same birthday as me which was on October 14th.”

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# The Music Lives On

We pause to remember these individuals whose music and legacies will live on in the hearts of music fans for generations.

Staff, Cashbox



## *Stuart John Phillips*

*January 19, 1933 – December 25, 2025*

Stuart John “Stu” Phillips was born on January 19, 1933, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and from his earliest years he carried a deep love for music, storytelling, and the wide-open world beyond his childhood home. As a young boy, he received his first guitar and spent countless hours learning to play and sing the songs of his hero, Gene Autry. Those early melodies shaped a lifelong passion that would eventually carry him across nations, airwaves, and generations.

By his early teens, Stu was already performing on radio shows in Montreal, and by sixteen he was singing at fairs and rodeos across western Canada. His warm baritone voice, natural charm, and gift for connecting with audiences quickly set him apart.

Stu’s first major breakthrough came in the 1950s through Canadian broadcasting. He became the host of several popular radio programs: *Stu for Breakfast*, *Town and Country*, and *Cowtown Jamboree*, each one expanding his reach and establishing him as a rising voice in Canadian Country music. These successes led to television opportunities on CBC, where he starred in *The Outrider* and later hosted *Red River Jamboree* from 1960 to 1964. During this era, he earned the affectionate nickname “The Travelling Balladeer.”

As a recording artist, Stu released early Canadian folklore albums on Rodeo Records beginning in 1957, including “Echoes of the Canadian Foothills,” “Visit Old Québec,” and “A Visit to British Columbia.” His music celebrated the landscapes and stories of his homeland, laying the foundation for a career that would soon expand far beyond Canada’s borders.

In 1965, Stu moved to Nashville and signed with RCA Victor under the legendary Chet Atkins. His hit singles during this period - *Bracero*, *The Great El Tigre*, *Juanita Jones*, and *Vin Rose* - introduced him to American audiences and solidified his place in the Country music world. His albums “Singin’ Stu Phillips” (1966), “Grassroots Country” (1967), and “Our Last Rendezvous” (1968) were warmly received and showcased his smooth, expressive voice.

As a young boy listening to distant Grand Ole Opry broadcasts on a crystal radio, Stu dreamed of one day standing on that stage. On June 1, 1967, that dream came true when he was inducted as a member of the Grand Ole Opry. He became a beloved and frequent performer, and at the time of his passing, he was the Opry’s oldest living member - a distinction he cherished deeply.

Stu toured extensively throughout his career, performing across the United States and internationally in England, Germany, and South Africa. In the 1970s, he hosted more than 50 episodes of *The Stu Phillips Show*, a nationally syndicated television program taped in Louisville, Kentucky.

In the 1980s, Stu followed a long-held spiritual calling. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and was ordained as an Episcopal priest. He balanced ministry and music with grace, often blending the two in ways that touched countless lives.

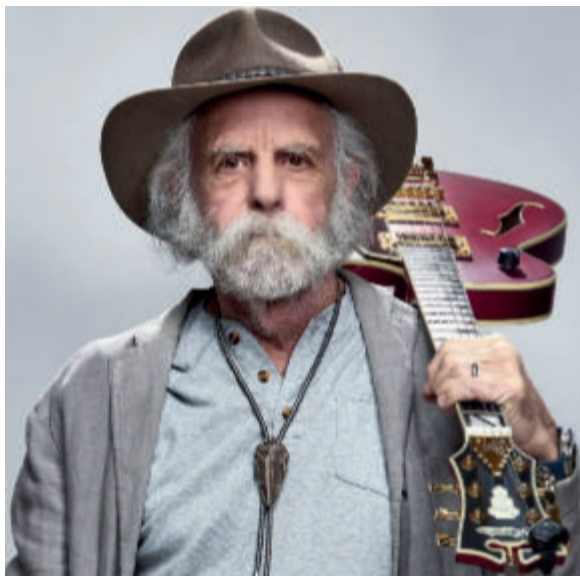
His achievements were recognized in 1993 when he was inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame. He remained known for his storytelling style, his smooth baritone voice, and his unwavering devotion to God, family, music, and fans.

Stu was also an entrepreneur. He founded Long Hollow Winery, Inc. in Goodlettsville, Tennessee, later passing it to his son and daughter-in-law, Joel and Benita Phillips, in 2013. In 2019, he founded Stage d’Or LLC, an entertainment venue and coffee shop that reflected his love for community and creativity.

Stuart John Phillips passed away peacefully on December 25, 2025, surrounded by his wife and family in Goodlettsville, Tennessee. He was 92. Known to many as “The Travelling Balladeer,” Stu looked “just beyond the next green hill” and stepped into the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

His family shared a final reflection that beautifully captures his spirit: “As Stu passed beyond the heavenly gates, we feel he looked back at us one more time to say, ‘Good night, and remember, just beyond the next green hill there’s a brand-new day awaiting you!’ Our love goes with him!”

Stu Phillips leaves behind a legacy of music, ministry, storytelling, and kindness, a life lived with purpose, faith, and joy. His voice, his songs, and his gentle spirit will continue to inspire all who were touched by his remarkable journey.



### **Bob Weir**

*October 16, 1947 – January 10, 2026*

Robert Hall “Bob” Weir was born on October 16, 1947, in San Francisco, California, and adopted shortly after birth into a loving home in Atherton. From the beginning, his life carried a sense of wandering curiosity, a mind drawn to sound, rhythm, and the wide-open possibilities of music. By his early teens, the guitar had become his constant companion, the instrument through which he would eventually help reshape American culture.

At age 16, a chance encounter in Palo Alto altered the course of music history. Bob heard Jerry Garcia playing banjo, struck up a conversation, and the two began jamming together. Their early jug band, Mother McCree’s Uptown Jug Champions, soon evolved into the Warlocks and ultimately became the Grateful Dead. What began as a spontaneous meeting between two young musicians became one of the most influential partnerships in modern music.

Bob’s rhythm guitar style quickly became one of the defining elements of the Grateful Dead’s sound. His unconventional chord voicings, percussive approach, and instinctive interplay with Garcia’s lead lines created a musical language all their own. Through the band’s fusion of Rock, Psychedelia, Folk, Country, and improvisational exploration, Bob’s playing served as both anchor and spark, a rhythmic engine that helped propel the Dead’s legendary live performances.

As a vocalist and songwriter, Bob contributed to many of the band’s most enduring works. Among the songs he co-wrote are *Sugar Magnolia* (with Robert Hunter), *Truckin’* (with Hunter, Garcia, and Phil Lesh), *The Other One*, *Playing in the Band*, and *One More Saturday Night*. His work helped shape albums such as “American Beauty,” “Aoxomoxoa,” and “Wake of the Flood,” and in 1994 he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame alongside his Grateful Dead bandmates.

After Jerry Garcia’s passing in 1995, the Grateful Dead disbanded, but Bob remained a central figure in the extended Dead musical universe. His post-Dead projects reflected both his versatility and his restless creativity. He formed RatDog in the mid-1990s, joined The Other Ones (later renamed The Dead), co-founded Furthur with Phil Lesh, and led Bobby and the Midnighters during the 1980s. In later years, his Wolf Bros project expanded into symphonic collaborations, performing at venues such as the Kennedy Center and Royal Albert Hall. In 2015, he co-founded Dead & Company with former bandmates and guitarist John Mayer, continuing to bring the Dead’s music to new generations through 2025.

Bob’s life extended far beyond the stage. He was the subject of the 2015 Netflix documentary *The Other One: The Long Strange Trip of Bob Weir*, and he co-authored the children’s book *Panther Dream: A Story of the African Rainforest* with his sister. A longtime vegetarian and advocate for animal rights, he supported organizations such as Farm Sanctuary and the Rainforest Action Network. His compassion, curiosity, and commitment to causes he believed in were as much a part of his legacy as his music.

Bob Weir passed away on January 10, 2026, at the age of 78. Though he had recently faced cancer, his family shared that he ultimately succumbed to underlying lung issues. He passed peacefully, surrounded by loved ones.

Those who knew him best remember not only the musician, but the man - gentle, thoughtful, endlessly creative, and deeply devoted to his family. His bandmates, collaborators, and fans speak of a spirit that was both grounded and adventurous, a soul who lived with openness, generosity, and an abiding love for the music that connected millions.

Bob Weir leaves behind a legacy that spans generations: a body of work that helped define an era, a musical language that continues to inspire, and a life lived with authenticity and heart. His songs, his playing, and his unmistakable presence will echo for decades to come - a long, beautiful, and unforgettable trip.



### ***Francis Buchholz***

*February 19, 1954 – January 22, 2026*

Francis Buchholz was born on February 19, 1954, in Hanover, Lower Saxony, West Germany. From an early age, he gravitated toward music, drawn especially to the deep, resonant voice of the bass guitar. His first public performance came while he was still in high school in Hanover, the beginning of a journey that would eventually place him on some of the world's largest stages.

Though music was his passion, Francis was equally gifted academically. He studied mechanical engineering at the University of Hannover and took classes at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover. These parallel pursuits - precision and creativity - would later shape his disciplined, melodic approach to bass playing. Eventually, music won his full attention, and he stepped into a career that would help define one of Hard Rock's most iconic bands.

In 1973, Francis joined Scorpions following a merger between the band and his previous group, Dawn Road. His first recording with Scorpions appeared on the 1974 album "Fly to the Rainbow," marking the start of a nearly two-decade tenure that would coincide with the band's rise to global fame. Over the next 18 years, he contributed to 12 albums and helped power some of the most enduring songs in Rock history, including *No One Like You*, *Rock You Like a Hurricane*, *Still Loving You*, and *Wind of Change*.

As Scorpions' sound evolved from progressive Hard Rock to international arena dominance, Francis's bass lines remained a steady, driving force. His musicianship helped propel the band to tens of millions of album sales worldwide and more than 50 gold and platinum awards. His work became part of the soundtrack of a generation, music that filled stadiums, shaped Rock radio, and crossed borders during a time when few German bands had broken through globally.

After leaving Scorpions in 1992, Francis continued to share his expertise and creativity. He authored the instructional book "Bass Magic," offering insight into the techniques and musical philosophy that shaped his career. He

later performed with Dreamtide and joined Michael Schenker's Temple of Rock, touring and recording well into the 2010s. His playing remained as precise, powerful, and expressive as ever - a testament to a lifelong dedication to his craft.

Francis Buchholz passed away on January 22, 2026, at the age of 71, following a private battle with cancer. "He departed this world peacefully, surrounded by love," his family shared in their announcement.

Their tribute continued: "Throughout his fight with cancer, we stayed by his side, facing every challenge as a family, exactly the way he taught us. To his fans around the world: we want to thank you for your unwavering loyalty, your love, and the belief you placed in him throughout his incredible journey. You gave him the world, and he gave you his music in return. Though the strings have gone silent, his soul remains in every note he played and in every life he touched."

Francis Buchholz leaves behind a legacy of musicianship, innovation, and quiet strength - a life marked by discipline, creativity, and a deep love for the music that carried him across continents. His bass lines continue to echo through arenas, headphones, and hearts around the world, a lasting reminder of the power of a single musician to shape the sound of an era.



### ***LaMonte McLemore***

*September 17, 1935 – February 3, 2026*

LaMonte McLemore was born on September 17, 1935, in St. Louis, Missouri, and from the beginning his life carried the unmistakable imprint of curiosity, creativity, and quiet determination. Adopted into a loving family and raised with strong values, he grew into a young man whose talents would eventually span music, photography, sports, and cultural diplomacy - a rare and remarkable blend that shaped one of the most multidimensional careers in American entertainment.

# STEVE WARREN

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A photograph of Mike McCarrell, a man with short brown hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and dark jeans. He is standing in front of a light blue background, holding a black and white electric guitar. A brown and tan amplifier is on the floor next to him.

# MIKE MCCARRELL



**Thanking for playing and charting  
"SHOW ME"  
Produced by Beverly Jenkins**

*At Radio now and available at all major digital music outlets*



## <<< *The Music Lives On, continued from page 20*

Before the world knew his voice, LaMonte served in the United States Navy, where he trained and worked as an aerial photographer. The camera became a lifelong companion, opening doors to a parallel career that would run alongside his musical achievements for decades. After his military service, he pursued professional baseball in the Los Angeles Dodgers' farm system, becoming one of the first African Americans to participate. Though his baseball career was brief, it reflected the same courage and trailblazing spirit that would define his later work.

Settling in Southern California, LaMonte turned his attention fully to music and photography and in Los Angeles, he co-founded The 5th Dimension with Billy Davis Jr., Florence LaRue, Marilyn McCoo, and Ron Townson. His warm bass vocals, steady presence, and natural charisma helped anchor the group's sophisticated harmonies and modern Pop sensibility. Together, they broadened the palette of Soul and R&B on mainstream radio, bringing a polished, genre-blending sound to American Pop in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

With The 5th Dimension, LaMonte helped create era-defining hits including *Up, Up and Away* and *Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In*. The group earned two Grammy Awards for Record of the Year: first for "Up, Up and Away" (1968) and again for *Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In* ("The Flesh Failures") (1970). Both recordings were later inducted into the GRAMMY Hall of Fame ("Up, Up and Away," 2003; "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In," 2004). The *Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In* medley topped the Billboard Hot 100 for six weeks in the spring of 1969, becoming one of the signature recordings of its generation.

Other major hits included the No. 1 *Wedding Bell Blues* and the iconic *Stoned Soul Picnic*, all part of a catalog that contributed to seven Gold albums and six Platinum RIAA-certified singles. In 1991, The Original 5th Dimension received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a testament to their enduring cultural impact.

Beyond the stage, LaMonte built a distinguished reputation as a photographer. His work spanned entertainment, sports, and editorial portraiture, capturing many of the defining figures of 20th-century popular culture. His images appeared for decades in *Jet* magazine, where he became one of the publication's most recognizable contributors. His artistry behind the lens was marked by the same warmth and intuition that defined his music.

In later years, LaMonte and The 5th Dimension reached new audiences through Questlove's Oscar-winning documentary *Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*, which revisited the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival and its profound musical legacy. In 2014, he co-authored his autobiography, *From Hobo Flats to The 5th Dimension: A Life Fulfilled in Baseball, Photography, and Music*, reflecting on a life that moved effortlessly between the stage and the camera.

LaMonte McLemore passed away on February 3, 2026, at his home in Las Vegas, surrounded by his wife of 30 years

and his family. He was 90. He died of natural causes following complications from a stroke suffered several years earlier.

LaMonte McLemore leaves behind a legacy of joy, harmony, artistry, and generosity - a life lived with purpose, creativity, and a heart turned toward others. His music, his images, and his spirit will continue to inspire generations, reminding the world that kindness and creativity are among the greatest gifts a person can give.



### ***Bradley Kirk Arnold***

*September 27, 1978 – February 7, 2026*

Bradley Kirk Arnold was born on September 27, 1978, in Escatawpa, Mississippi, where small-town life shaped the humility, honesty, and grounded spirit that would later define both his music and his character. Even as a boy, Brad carried a natural gift for melody and storytelling, a quiet creativity that emerged long before the world ever heard his voice.

His musical journey began early. At just 15 years old, he wrote the lyrics to *Kryptonite*, a song that would one day become a global anthem. In 1996, he co-founded 3 Doors Down with friends Matt Roberts and Todd Harrell, stepping into the rare dual role of drummer and lead vocalist before ultimately becoming the band's full-time frontman. What began in a small Mississippi town soon grew into one of the most recognizable sounds in modern Rock.

The band's debut album, "The Better Life" (2000), became a phenomenon, achieving septuple-platinum status and introducing Brad's earnest, unmistakable voice to the world. His songwriting - emotionally direct, accessible, and deeply human - resonated with listeners navigating hope, heartbreak, and the search for meaning. Albums like "Away from the Sun" (2002), "Seventeen Days" (2005), and "3 Doors Down" (2008) continued that momentum, with *Seventeen Days* and *3 Doors Down* both debuting at No. 1 on the Billboard 200. His work earned multiple Grammy

nominations, including for *Kryptonite* and *When I'm Gone*, and his lyrics became cultural touchstones for a generation.

Yet for all the accolades, Brad remained a man of humility and faith. He carried success lightly, always more interested in connection than acclaim. His kindness, humor, and generosity were constants, whether he was onstage before thousands or sitting quietly with friends and family. Those who knew him best speak of a man whose warmth was as memorable as his voice.

In May 2025, when Brad publicly acknowledged his stage IV cancer diagnosis, he did so with the same honesty and faith that marked his life. "You know what? We serve a mighty God, and He can overcome anything," he said. "I have no fear. I really, sincerely am not scared of it at all." It was a window into the courage and peace that carried him through his final season.

Brad passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at the age of 47, with his beloved wife Jennifer and his family by his side. In a statement, the band wrote, "As a founding member, vocalist and original drummer of 3 Doors Down, Brad helped redefine mainstream Rock music... His music reverberated far beyond the stage, creating moments of connection, joy, faith and shared experiences that will live on long after the stages he performed on."

Bradley Kirk Arnold leaves behind a legacy of anthems, a voice that shaped an era, and a life marked by sincerity, faith, and connection. His songs will continue to echo across generations - reminders that the truest art comes from a heart anchored in humility and hope.



***Jerry Glenn Kennedy***  
*August 10, 1940 – February 11, 2026*

Jerry Glenn Kennedy was born on August 10, 1940, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Gordon and Essie (Laird) Kennedy. From the beginning, his life carried the unmistakable mark

of a prodigy. At just eight years old, he picked up a guitar for the first time, took lessons, and quickly mastered the instrument with a natural ease that astonished everyone around him. By the age of ten, he had already signed his first major record deal - the earliest sign of a career that would become one of the most influential in American music.

As he grew, Jerry's gifts only deepened. His musical instincts, versatility, and creative intuition allowed him to move effortlessly between roles: musician, vocalist, songwriter, record producer, and industry executive. His fingerprints can be found across some of the most iconic recordings of the 20th century. Over the decades, his work became woven into the artistry of legends including Roger Miller, Tom T. Hall, Elvis Presley, Reba McEntire, Kris Kristofferson, Ringo Starr, Bob Dylan, Tammy Wynette, Jeannie C. Riley, Roy Orbison, and many others. His influence was not confined to a single genre, Jerry helped shape Country, Pop, Rock, and Americana with equal mastery.

His achievements were recognized at the highest levels. Jerry was honored with four Grammy Awards, inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame in 2007, and celebrated by the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008 as part of their prestigious "Nashville Cats" series. These accolades reflected not only his technical brilliance, but the respect he earned from peers, artists, and industry leaders who knew the depth of his talent and the integrity of his character.

Jerry Glenn Kennedy passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 85. Though the world knew him as a music icon, his greatest legacy was the one he built at home. He leaves behind his sons - Gordon, Bryan, and Shelby - each of whom has followed in his footsteps with their own successful and celebrated music careers. Jerry shared a deep love of sports with his boys, and he cherished every family gathering, every holiday, and every moment spent together.

His life was a testament to talent, discipline, humility, and heart. Jerry Kennedy shaped the sound of generations, mentored countless artists, and left behind a body of work that continues to inspire. But to those who loved him most, he was simply a devoted father, a steady presence, and a man whose passion for music was matched only by his love for family.

Jerry's legacy lives on in every note he played, every artist he lifted, and every life he touched - a lasting melody that will continue to echo for years to come.





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# ***Adam Grant***

Congratulations to Cashbox Magazine

**POWERHOUSE LEGEND GOLD ATEAM Artist ADAM GRANT**

Singer/Songwriter does it again after going to #5 in July 2025 with his hit song

**"IN AMERICA"**

Adam reaches #1 spot in February kicking 2026 off strong with

**"Even Though You're Gone"**

#1 in CASHBOX MAGAZINE INDEPENDENT COUNTRY TOP 100 CHART for February 2026

With his 1000s of followers (30,000 right now)) and millions of views on his platforms,

Adam Grant is one to keep eyes and ears on in 2026.





## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# BILLY RAY ROCK

By Jason Airy

When Billy Ray Rock calls himself the “King of Funk Rock,” there’s no wink, no irony - and no hesitation. But it’s not bravado either. For him, the crown wasn’t claimed in a moment of ego. It was earned over time.

“I believed in Funk and Rock when a lot of musicians abandoned them,” he says. “Funk especially - some people thought it was an old genre. But you can’t spell Funk without FUN. It embodies people’s ability to dance, to connect.”

For Rock, staying loyal to both genres - keeping them vibrant and relevant - is what gives him the right to wear the title. He didn’t chase trends. He stayed the course.

That belief pulses through his latest single, *4 Fingers Get Up*, a celebration of nightlife, rhythm and release. Yet when the lights go down and the crowd disperses, Rock isn’t living in permanent afterparty mode.

“I’m a guy who loves to laugh. I love quiet time. I love intelligent conversation,” he says. He’s fascinated by human interaction - relationships, dating, the ways people connect. Offstage, he often centers himself with 1970s Alternative Rock. “It gives me my hippie moments,” he laughs. “That’s how I reset.”

Despite earning a #1 iTunes hit and a #2 chart success, Rock insists accolades don’t fuel his hunger. “There isn’t a chart listing that can make me hungrier than I already am,” he says. That hunger, he explains, was forged early, shaped by doubters who questioned his voice, his bass playing, even his path.

“Most skills are learned,” he says. “Nobody’s born making shots like Michael Jordan. But if you practice enough, rehearse enough, prepare enough, you can become highly skilled.” For Rock, that work ethic is baked in. Success didn’t create his drive. It revealed it.

His ambition extends beyond music charts. His videos have won Film Festival Awards, and he’s a 2021 LJ Diamond Awards nominee. Visually, he wants audiences to see him without limits.

“I don’t want to be viewed through one lens,” he explains. A headlining stand-up comedian for nearly 20 years, Rock has often kept his comedy separate from his music to avoid being boxed in. “Once people find out you’re funny, they don’t take your music seriously.” He points to Jamie Foxx as one of the few who successfully balanced both worlds. “I just want people to embrace what applies to them.”



Growing up the youngest of 11 siblings shaped him in unexpected ways. While age gaps meant he didn’t fight to be heard, he admits he sometimes lacked attention from fatigued parents. “Maybe my music is part of an endless search for that love and attention,” he reflects. But the upside was freedom - space to create - and a work ethic inherited from his father.

For all the bravado of Funk Rock, Rock makes space for quiet vulnerability. “I’m all those things at different points of my day,” he says simply.

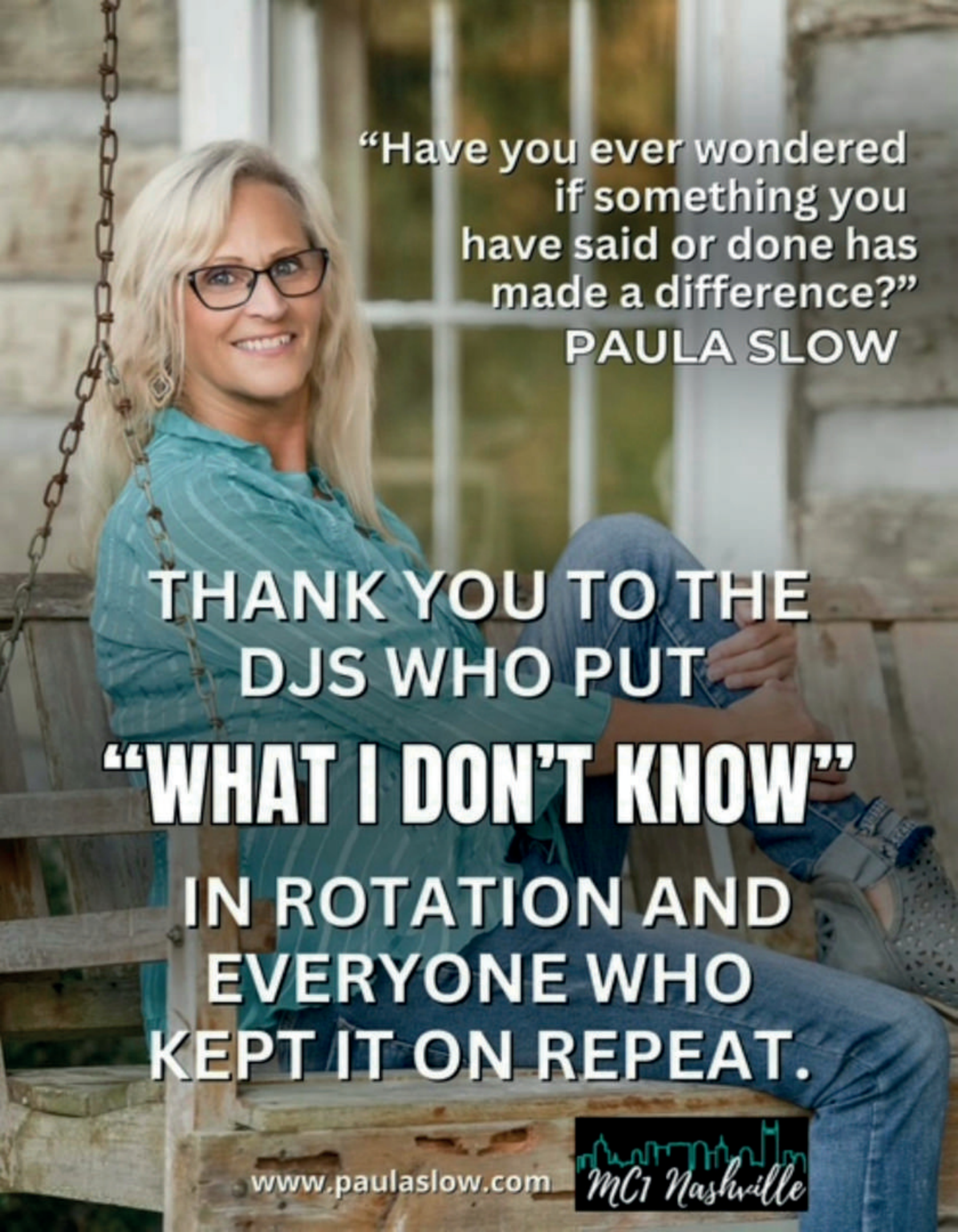
And it’s the people who keep him grounded. He recalls a recent show where a woman, newly divorced, found strength in his lyrics about love and mental health. “She left feeling better,” he says. “If she becomes a better parent because of that night, that matters.”

Moments like that, he says, outweigh any streaming milestone. The screaming festival crowds, the hotel lobby conversations, the quiet thank-you messages from fans - they accumulate. “It’s a lot of little moments,” he explains. “Those are what make me believe this is possible.”

Looking ahead five or ten years, Rock defines impact not by trophies but by memory. “If someone says something I did made them smile, helped them through a day, or inspired them - then I’ve been successful.”

For Billy Ray Rock, the crown isn’t about status. It’s about connection - one groove, one memory at a time.

[www.billyrayrock.com](http://www.billyrayrock.com)



“Have you ever wondered  
if something you  
have said or done has  
made a difference?”

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MC1 Nashville

**Country Music Star Craig Morgan  
Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 2  
by Secretary of War Pete Hegseth**

Country music star, Army veteran, and patriot Craig Morgan has officially been promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2) in the United States Army Reserve during a ceremony held at the Pentagon and officiated by Secretary of War Pete Hegseth.

Morgan - whose full name is Craig Morgan Greer - received the honor surrounded by family, military leadership, and supporters. The promotion marks a significant milestone in a military journey spanning nearly two decades and reflects Morgan's continued commitment to service while maintaining a successful music career.



**L-R: Karen Greer (wife of Craig Morgan), Craig Morgan, Pete Hegseth**

Morgan previously served 17 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve, including time with the 101st Airborne Division and 82nd Airborne Division, before reenlisting in 2023. His reenlistment took place on one of Country music's most iconic

stages - the Grand Ole Opry - symbolizing his dual dedication to his country and to Country music.

At age 61, Morgan continues to balance his artistic career with military service, contributing his experience to Army initiatives, including efforts supporting mental health and suicide-prevention programs within Army bands.

Speaking about the promotion, Morgan expressed "humility and pride," noting how deeply honored he felt to continue serving his country in this new capacity.

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who presided over the ceremony, praised Morgan's unwavering dedication to service, patriotism, and leadership - qualities that have defined both his military and musical careers.

**30th Annual Inspirational Country Music Awards  
Set for the Grand Ole Opry House**

The stage is set for a landmark evening of faith, harmony, and heritage as the Inspirational Country Music Association (ICMA) presents the 30th Annual Inspirational Country Music Awards on April 6 at the world-famous Grand Ole Opry House.

This milestone celebration will honor the artists, songwriters, and industry leaders who continue to shape and elevate the Christian Country genre. For three decades, the ICMA Awards have stood as a beacon of Christ-centered creativity, spotlighting music that inspires, uplifts, and transforms lives. Find more information at [www.opry.com](http://www.opry.com).



*About the Inspirational Country Music Association*

The ICMA is dedicated to advancing the Christian Country music movement worldwide. Rooted in Christ-centered values and a mission of compassion, the organization equips artists with the tools, community, and support needed to expand their reach and impact audiences across the globe.

To learn more about the ICMA, its initiatives, and its ongoing commitment to the genre, visit [www.inspirationalcountrymusic.com](http://www.inspirationalcountrymusic.com).

## Veteran Artist and Trailblazer Announces New Album "Undefeated"



After more than three decades of breaking barriers and shaping the sound of Christian music, acclaimed artist and pioneer DPB announces the release of his highly anticipated album, "Undefeated," arriving March 9.

From his early days singing with the Brooks Family to rapping onstage with Salt-N-Pepa, his journey has been anything but ordinary. His career expanded further as a member of the Grammy- and Dove-nominated group D.O.C, and sharing stages with iconic Christian artists including TobyMac and Kirk Franklin. His influence spans worship, Black Gospel, Contemporary Christian music, and even a historic crossover moment - becoming one of the first Christian rappers to reach No. 1 on the Country music charts.

Across 35+ years of faithfully following Jesus, he has endured pain, betrayal, love, loss, and the loyalty of those who stood by him. Through every season, one truth remained constant: Jesus at the center.

"Undefeated" is more than an album - it's a sonic autobiography. Each track draws from the genres and legends that shaped his life: *Find No One* carries the influence of Michael Jackson, reflecting the Pop brilliance that inspired him as a young artist. *Consume Me* emerges from his deep love for worship. *God Loves Ya* channels the unmistakable funk of Bootsy Collins and the late-70s Groove era.

The project blends decades of musical evolution into a cohesive celebration of resilience, faith, and artistic survival. "This album represents my life," DPB says. "The highs, the lows, the genres that raised me, and the God who carried me. After more than three decades in this industry, I'm still standing. I am Undefeated."

## Gaither Music Group and Capitol Christian Music Group Celebrate 30 Years of Partnership and Surpass 10 Billion Career Streams

Gaither Music Group and Capitol Christian Music Group (Capitol CMG) commemorated a landmark moment in their long-standing alliance as executives and staff from both organizations gathered in Nashville to celebrate 30 years of partnership and the achievement of more than 10 billion global career streams across the Gaither music brand.

The milestone reflects a relationship that has shaped and sustained one of the most influential catalogs in Gospel and Inspirational music. Since joining forces in the mid-1990s, Gaither Music Group and Capitol CMG have worked together to bring the music of Bill and Gloria Gaither - along with the Gaither Vocal Band and the broader Homecoming family - to audiences across generations and formats.



(From L to R) Brad O'Donnell, President CCMG; Bill Gaither; Gloria Gaither; Paul Sizelove, President Gaither Music Group

"With God's strange sense of humor, this whole thing happened," said Bill Gaither. "All I am is a cook in the kitchen. To have any claim on the success of this would not be honest. There are many people who are involved in [the process]."

"I still believe that when I write a song and shoot it into the air, I have no idea where it's going to land and what life it's going to change," said Gloria Gaither. "We hear from folks all over the planet who tell us, 'That arrow landed in my heart.' I believe in art. After the debates are done, and the news is turned off... art will still speak."

"For more than 30 years, our partnership with Gaither Music has been built on a shared commitment to music that brings people together across generations and around the world," said Brad O'Donnell, President of Capitol Christian Music Group. "We're grateful for what we've accomplished together and excited about what's ahead."

"I've been blessed to be part of this for 30 years. We create and build community by partnering with artists, ministries, musicians, and songwriters," said Paul Sizelove, President of Sun Label Group. "Our partnership with CCMG has brought our music to the world."

Over the course of their career, the Gaithers have written more than 700 songs, many of which have become foundational standards in Gospel music. Their partnership with Capitol CMG has helped ensure these songs continue to reach new listeners through traditional recordings, touring, television, digital media, and today's streaming-first landscape.

The celebration underscored not only the longevity of the partnership but also its continued relevance in a rapidly evolving industry - demonstrating how a body of work rooted in tradition can thrive in a digital world.

"We're going to write just as long as it takes for us all to set sad, heavy spirits free," said the Gaithers. "It's all we know."

### Harry Styles Together, Together 2026 Tour



Harry Styles is going back on tour this year with all new music. The newly announced tour, called Together, Together, features 50 dates in a total of seven cities with Styles visiting Europe, North America, Latin America and Australia. The tour is in support of the British artist's upcoming fourth solo LP, "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally," due for release on

March 6 via Columbia. The first show kicks off in Amsterdam, Netherlands, on May 16 and is slated to conclude in Sydney, Australia, on December 13.

The first stop in America is in New York on August 26 at Madison Square Garden and will end in the same place, Madison Square Garden, on October 31. That's a 30-night stint at the iconic New York venue, giving American audiences plenty of time to see the star before he heads to Melbourne.

Celebrity hitmakers will be making appearances on Styles' tour, including Robyn, Shania Twain, Fcukers, Jamie xx, Jorja Smith, Fousheé, Skye Newman and Baby J. This is his first tour since his "Love On Tour" ended in 2023.

### Cody Johnson Announces "Live 26" Tour

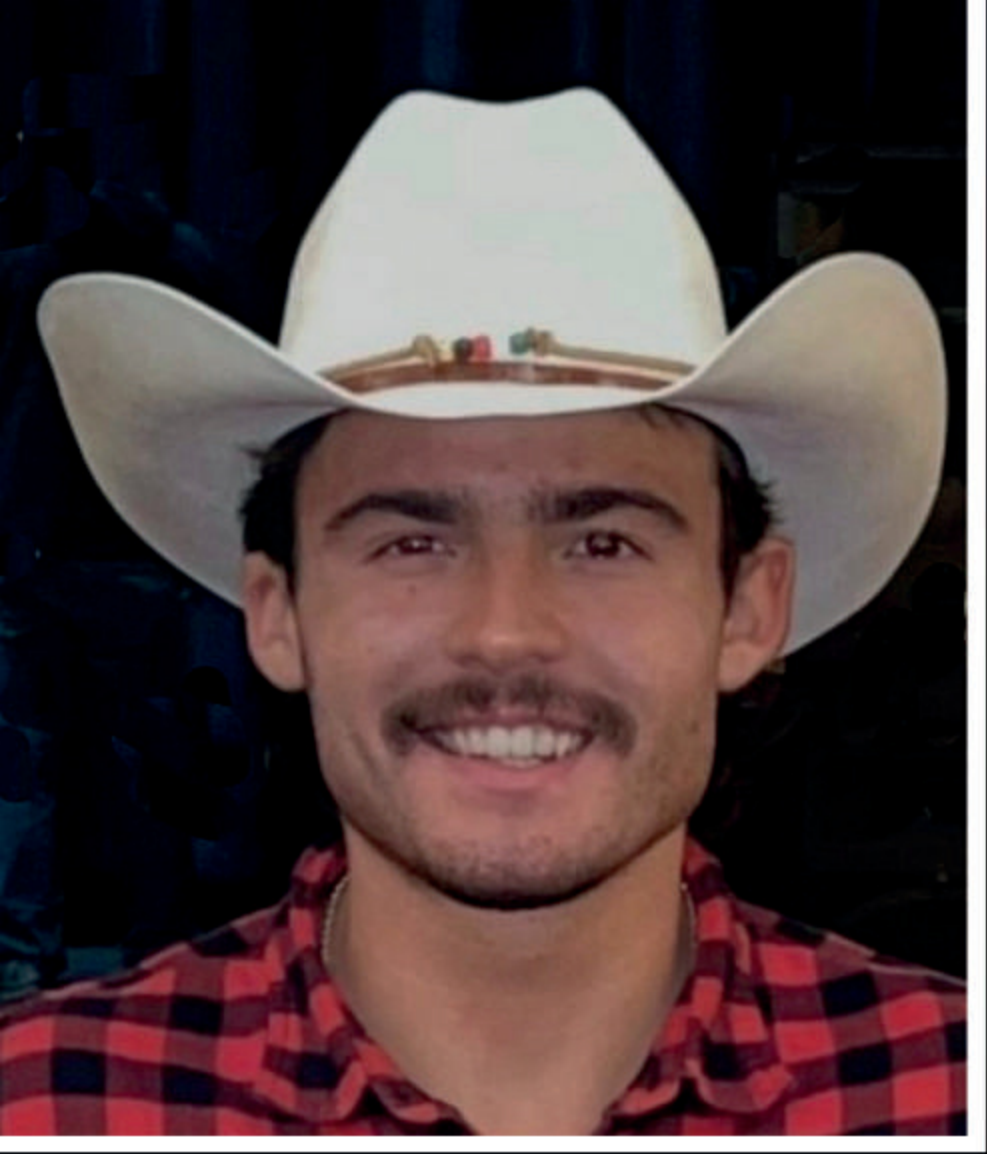
Country music powerhouse Cody Johnson has officially launched his "Cody Johnson Live '26" Tour, kicking off the year with two sold-out nights at Birmingham's Legacy Arena at The BJCC. The shows mark Johnson's return to the road after undergoing eardrum surgery last fall, and fans welcomed him back with overwhelming enthusiasm.



The Live '26 Tour will continue across the United States with nearly 30 dates scheduled through September 12, including major stops in Champaign, Louisville, Tacoma, and more. Fans can expect to hear Johnson's rising single *The Fall*, along with his new collaboration *When a Cowboy Prays* featuring Christian artist Brandon Lake.

Johnson's 2026 tour features an impressive lineup of rotating special guests, including Clint Black, Randy Houser, Scotty McCreery, Kip Moore, Jon Pardi, Ian Munsick, Drew Baldridge, Chayce Beckham, Carter Faith, Alexandra Kay, Walker Montgomery, and Emily Ann Roberts.

*Cashbox News & Scoops continued on page 33 >>>*



# EDDIE JOHNSON

Eddie is a 20-year-old up-and-coming country music artist has a deep passion for country music. Inspired by his grandfather who introduced him to the guitar at a young age and who cultivated his love of country music, Eddie has recorded original songs at the renowned Curb Studios in Nashville, backed by talented session musicians including the legendary guitarist, Brent Mason. In addition to his own compositions, Eddie's repertoire covers a wide range of country music, from classic artists like Johnny Cash to contemporary stars like Luke Combs and Riley Green. He also incorporates a touch of Southern rock into his performances, showcasing his versatility and musical prowess. Eddie is the recipient of the 2025 Hugs 24/7 Radio Best New Male Artist Award and his song 'I Reckon,' won 2025 Song of the Year honors. His song 'Don't Meet Your Heroes' just earned the #1 spot on Hugs 24/7 Radio's Top 200 Chart.

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and charting  
**"I Reckon"**

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In response to growing international demand, Johnson has also announced his first-ever UK and Ireland headline arena run, set for fall 2026. The six-date expansion includes: UK/Ireland Extension: Dates announced for October and November 2026 include Manchester, London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin, with Parker McCollum and Emily Ann Roberts supporting. More information is available at [www.CodyJohnsonMusic.com](http://www.CodyJohnsonMusic.com).

With more than 400,000 tickets sold in 2025 and a spot on Billboard's Top 100 Tours, Cody Johnson continues to solidify his place as one of Country music's most electrifying live performers. His blend of Traditional Country roots, heartfelt storytelling, and powerhouse vocals has earned him a devoted global fanbase and widespread critical acclaim.

### **Chart-Topping "King of Funk Rock" Returns with a High-Energy Party Anthem on MTS Records**

Acclaimed Funk Rock powerhouse Billy Ray Rock, widely known as the "King of Funk Rock," is set to electrify fans once again with the release of his new single, *4 Fingers Get Up*, available on all major digital platforms via MTS Records, on March 6, 2026.

With the previous success of a #1 iTunes chart-topper and a #2 iTunes hit, Billy Ray Rock continues his upward momentum with a bold, infectious anthem built for clubs, festivals, and packed arenas. *4 Fingers Get Up* blends swagger, groove, and raw Rock energy into a celebratory soundtrack for nightlife, unity, and unapologetic fun.



Driven by chant-ready hooks, booming production, and undeniable attitude, the single captures Billy Ray Rock's signature fusion of Funk, Rock, and Hip-Hop. It is a track designed to move crowds and elevate live performances, further cementing his reputation as one of today's most exciting independent artists.

"Music is about the people, and people are about the music," says Billy Ray Rock. "This song is about coming together, letting go, and feeling that energy in the room."

Originally from Mount Pleasant, Texas, and the youngest of 11 siblings, Billy Ray Rock brings a rich and diverse musical background to every project. A multi-instrumentalist who plays more than 10 instruments, he has worked as a ghost producer and built his foundation in EDM and Rock before rising as the lead vocalist of Level 21.

His creative impact extends beyond music. Billy Ray Rock's music videos have earned Film Festival Awards, and he was recognized as a 2021 LJ Diamond Awards nominee, highlighting his influence across both music and visual storytelling. Billy Ray Rock recently appeared on the mega-hit television show, *Yellowstone* (Season 5.)

Drawing inspiration from legends such as Earth, Wind & Fire, Cameo, Ray Parker Jr., Van Halen, In Living Colour, and Metallica, Billy Ray Rock delivers performances with the presence of Rick James and the impact of Mick Jagger. Known for treating every audience "like a sold-out show at Madison Square Garden," his live shows are celebrated for their energy, authenticity, and connection.

*4 Fingers Get Up* represents the next chapter in his ongoing mission to redefine modern Funk Rock and inspire audiences worldwide.

### **Harry Kappen Releases "After the Crossing," a Bold New Album Marking a Life Transformed**



International recording artist, producer, and multi-instrumentalist Harry Kappen announces the release of his new album, "After the Crossing" - his first full-length project created since relocating from Europe to Mexico, a move that reshaped both his life and his music.

The album features ten deeply personal songs that reflect the emotional, spiritual, and geographical journey behind his "great crossing." Ranging from understated acoustic moments to expressive, full-bodied arrangements, the project showcases the signature musical breadth listeners have come to expect from Kappen. Every track is written, performed, and produced by Harry himself.

"After the Crossing" explores themes of transformation, truth, love, and resilience. Several songs reflect pivotal moments in Harry's own story - choosing a new future,

crossing an ocean for love, and embracing a new chapter in Mexico City. Others speak to broader human experiences: the search for balance in a polarized world, the plight of refugees, the value of honesty in an age of distortion, and the quiet power of everyday Good Samaritans.

While each song stands on its own, the album as a whole forms a narrative arc - one that moves from reflection to renewal, from loss to hope, and from uncertainty to purpose.

"After the Crossing" marks Harry's fifth album since the Covid era, following "Escape," "Time Will Tell," and "Four." With "After the Crossing," Harry Kappen offers a compelling, heartfelt portrait of a man who has crossed oceans - literally and figuratively - and emerged with renewed clarity, purpose, and artistic fire.

The album is available now on all major streaming platforms.



### Kid Rock Announces 2026 Freedom 250 Tour Dates

Kid Rock announced the Freedom 250 Tour this spring that includes several mainstream hitmakers on tour with him in 2026.

The Freedom 250 Tour includes 10 dates from May 1 to June 20. It's mostly outdoor dates for the Country Rap-Rocker and it surrounds his scheduled appearances on the Rock the Country Festival series.

Kid Rock's Freedom 250 Tour begins on May 1 in Dallas. Jon Pardi, Brantley Gilbert and Big & Rich are among a rotating group of support acts. Parker McCollum and Them Dirty Roses are two more acts opening for Kid Rock this spring. The Freedom 250 Tour celebrates America's 250th birthday in 2026. Visit [www.Kidrock.com](http://www.Kidrock.com) for more information.

A promotional graphic for Judi Kellar's single "Come to the Water". The background is a lush green field with tall grasses. On the right side, there is a portrait of Judi Kellar, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. The text is arranged as follows:

Thank You to all DJs for playing and charting  
my new Radio Single

**"COME TO THE WATER"**

Available now at Christian Radio Stations everywhere  
and at [Pattersonmusicgroup.com](http://Pattersonmusicgroup.com) on DJ Corner

Also available on all major digital music outlets

Logos for Amazon Music, Spotify, Apple Music, and Pandora.

**Scheduling & Contact Information:**  
Judi Kellar Ministries | (865) 640-5982  
[judikellar@comcast.net](mailto:judikellar@comcast.net) | [www.judikellar.com](http://www.judikellar.com)

Logos for Patterson Promotions and Chapel Valley.

*Judi Kellar*

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# *Eleyet McConnell*

By Jason Airy

For Angie and Chris of Eleyet McConnell, music isn't something they clock in and out of. It's stitched into the fabric of their marriage, their home life, and the quiet rituals that anchor their days. When the studio lights go down and the business calls stop, they don't so much separate music from marriage as they return to the rhythm that started it all.

“**M**usic has always been a strong bond between us,” Chris says. Long before it became a business, it was the language that brought them together. Angie agrees. Creating songs feels as natural as tending their garden, sitting around a backyard fire, or taking a morning drive for coffee that stretches into hours of conversation. They live on a small homestead where Chris, now retired, builds fences and sheds while Angie works from home in the medical field. They carve out space for individual quiet time, but more often than not, they find themselves missing each other.

That closeness wasn't forged without fire. Their sophomore album, “The Journey,” due March 6, 2026, lays bare storms of betrayal, resilience, and renewal - chapters pulled directly from their own lives. There was a time, Angie admits, when she believed they might not make it. She had begun imagining a future without him. Chris remembers a 45-day stretch when they didn't see each other at all. “The music felt shallow without her,” he says. “When we write songs, it's our spirit of us. You can't get that with someone else.”

That separation ultimately revealed how deeply intertwined they were - not just creatively, but emotionally. Today, they can joke about those early days. But the scars left their imprint on their songwriting. “We got all the hard stuff out of the way in the beginning,” Angie says with a laugh that carries both humor and hard-earned wisdom.

That lived experience fuels her voice. Onstage, Angie's vocals carry a striking duality - strength braided with vulnerability. When she sings about breaking chains or standing on a ledge, she isn't playing a role. “Both,” she says when asked if she's reliving or releasing those moments. “We lived every bit of life described in these songs.” Joy, heartbreak, anger, frustration - it's all there. She channels it, not as performance, but as testimony.

Chris, as bassist and co-writer, moves around her vocals with instinctive grace. “I just dance around her voice,” he says. Live, he sometimes has to remind himself they're onstage at all. The emotional pull of the songs can be overwhelming. Though he's quick with humor - joking that his “real claim to fame” is being the bass player who got the lead singer - his creative role is anything but secondary. He's

fiercely critical of every note, every breath in a recording, even if he prefers to let Angie represent the band publicly.

Their dynamic thrives on mutual respect and a willingness to experiment. They don't shy away from creative disagreements. Instead, they try new ideas, even if it means Angie occasionally changes a vocal delivery in the studio that makes Chris cringe later. "I like to keep it fresh," she says with a grin. It's a push and pull that sharpens the work rather than splintering it.

Songs like *King of Glass* confront illusion and ego without fear of who might recognize themselves in the lyrics. They don't name names, but they don't soften the truth either. "These are our lived experiences," Angie says. The universality of those experiences is what makes their performances resonate. Before playing certain songs, they share the backstory with audiences, deepening the emotional connection.

Recognition and award success, rather than straining their bond, have strengthened it. If there's pressure, it's self-imposed: the urgency to keep creating. Even as they prepare to release "The Journey," they're already planning the next record. Time, they know, is precious.

Onstage, when they look at each other, they see more than a spouse or bandmate. They see the road traveled - blood, sweat, tears - and the blessing of having endured it together. "If we lose it all tomorrow," Chris says, "I know I have a friend and a soul by my side."



For young couples dreaming of building a life and art together, their advice is simple but profound: protect the love first. Enjoy the small things. Stay open. Compromise. Don't chase recognition at the expense of your values. Above all, love one another for the love of it all.

In the end, Eleyet McConnell isn't just a band. It's a marriage set to music - a testament to what can happen when two people refuse to retreat from adversity and instead choose to write their way through it, together.

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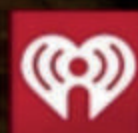
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# SAY IT TWO TIMES

*Pam Ross on  
Love, Lyrics,  
and the Courage  
to Mean It*

By Jason Airy

**F**or Pam Ross, “I love you” isn’t a throwaway phrase or a sentimental reflex. It’s a declaration that deserves to be spoken clearly, repeated freely, and backed up by action. Her latest single, *Say It Two Times*, captures that philosophy with warmth and conviction - asking to hear the words again not out of insecurity, but because they matter.

Ross believes there are many reasons people hesitate to repeat those three words. Sometimes, she suggests, it’s because they don’t truly mean them and don’t want to keep saying something hollow. Other times, it may be fear - uncertainty about whether the feeling is returned. But in her own life, repetition isn’t a problem. “My wife and I are always saying it,” she shares simply. In her world, love is not rationed.

Though *Say It Two Times* is undeniably joyful, Ross doesn’t see happiness as emotionally riskier than heartbreak. Writing about pain may come easily to many artists, but for Ross, crafting a happy love song carries no sense of vulnerability. On the contrary, it’s something she delights in.

She relishes walking into the room and playing a new love song for her wife, watching the reaction, sharing that private spark. Joy, for her, is not fragile - it’s worth celebrating out loud.

The song almost didn’t make it to listeners. Originally slated for her previous album, “When Therapy Fails,” Ross pulled it back after rhythm tracks were already recorded. The issue wasn’t doubt in the sentiment but dissatisfaction with the structure. She felt the lyrics could go deeper, that one verse echoed another too closely. Rather than rush it, she set it aside. Over the following months, she honed her craft, and when she returned to the song, she rewrote the section that needed movement. The result is a track that feels lived-in and forward-driving - emotionally and musically.

Part of what gives *Say It Two Times* its resonance is its focus on the everyday. Ross paints scenes of morning coffee and rocking a child to sleep - small domestic rituals that often slip past unnoticed. She believes we absolutely undervalue those moments. As life speeds up, people rush from obligation

to obligation, forgetting to pause and recognize what truly holds meaning. "The simplest and most precious things get pushed aside," she notes. Her song gently pushes them back into the spotlight.

Ross speaks openly about the road that led her to this happiness. Before the love she now celebrates, she endured difficult relationships. Looking back, she would tell her former self that better days were coming. That reassurance - simple, steady, hopeful - echoes through her music. It's not naïve optimism. It's hard-earned belief.

Despite chart success and industry accolades, Ross defines achievement in far more intimate terms. When she considers what success means today, it isn't applause or airplay. It's lying in bed at night with her wife, her cat, and her dog. "They are the glue that holds me together in this crazy world," she says. A happy home, she emphasizes, is not something everyone gets. For her, that's the real prize.

Ross has built her career on refusing to fit neatly into any genre box. Her album "Outside The Box" reflects that refusal to conform. Traditional labels never quite fit, so she created her own lane - what she calls "Pam Music," a multi-genre blend that reflects who she is without compromise. At first, she wanted to belong somewhere specific. Eventually, she realized being different was better. It wasn't about escaping confinement; it was about declaring independence and embracing authenticity.

In a culture that often equates independence with distance, Ross sees lasting love differently. She doesn't believe commitment requires sacrificing individuality. Instead, she views enduring relationships as rooted in communication, trust, and dedication. People struggle with those elements, she admits. Communication falters. Trust wavers. Many give up when things get hard. Love, she says plainly, is "never beer and roses 24-7." Sometimes you have to step back, remember what it all means, and dig in deep. Another song on the album, *Tonight*, explores that reality.

Ultimately, Ross hopes *Say It Two Times* leaves listeners smiling. She wants them to dance. More importantly, she wants them to think about the priceless pieces of life that build a happy home. And when the song ends, maybe they'll turn to someone they love and say the words again.

As for the last time she truly heard "I love you?" About an hour ago. Her wife says it before leaving in the morning, texts it during the day, and repeats it in the evening. They say it often. And the best part, Ross adds, is that it's never just words.

They mean it.

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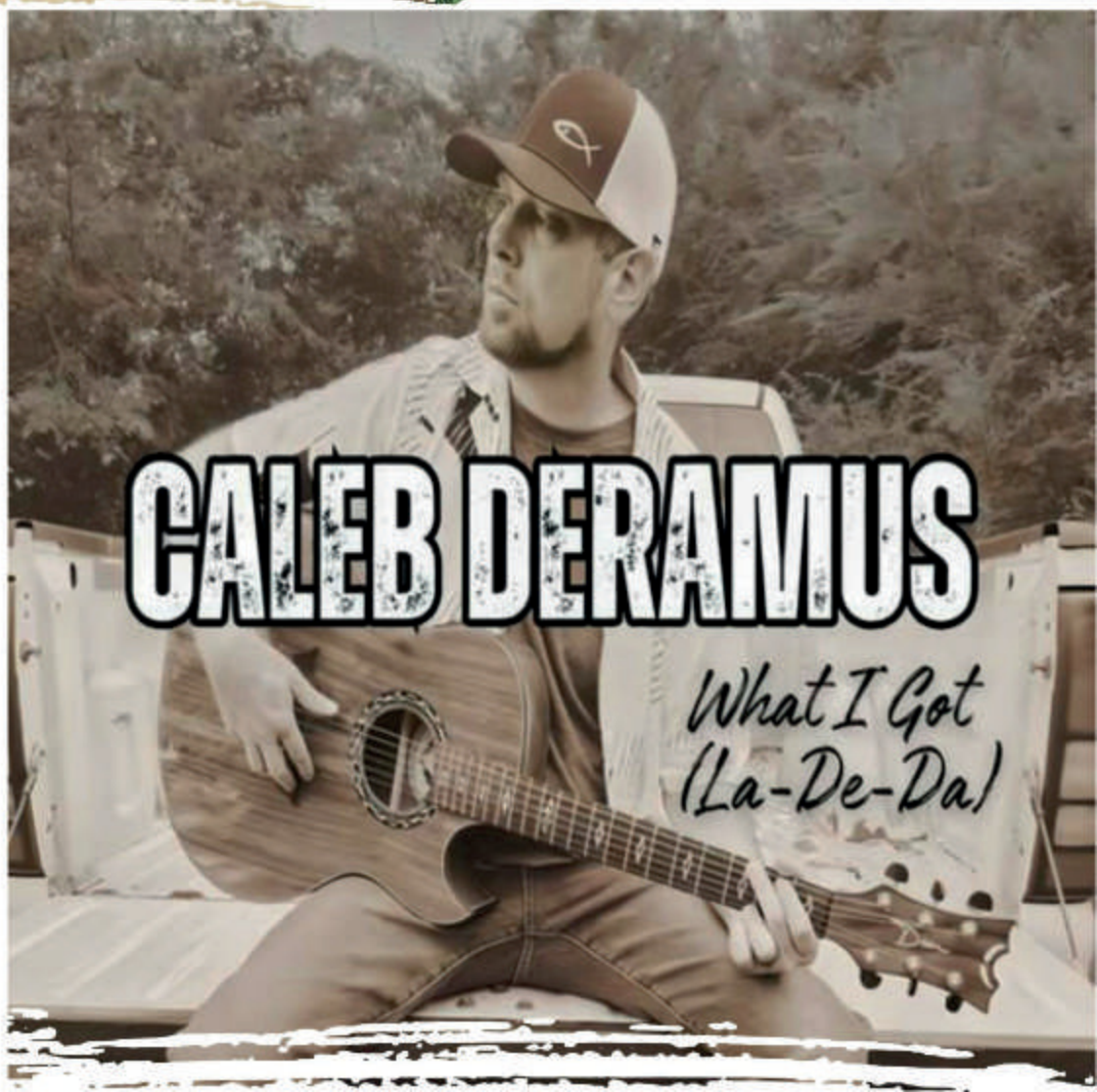
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Country recording artist Sammy Sadler's journey is one of resilience, talent, and unwavering faith. His career, marked by triumph and tragedy, is unlike any other in Nashville. Through music and testimony, Sammy shares a story of second chances and saving grace - making new memories while honoring the past.

**B**orn in Memphis, Tennessee, Sammy was raised in the small town of Bonham in Northeast Texas. His father hailed from Texas, his mother from Tennessee, and the family returned to Texas when Sammy was just two years old. He's called it home ever since.

Music was woven into Sammy's life from the beginning. "When I was just a little kid, my mom and dad said I pulled myself up to the stereo and danced with the music," he recalls. "I've had it in me ever since."

Early on, Sammy was captivated by Elvis Presley. As he grew older, his love for Country music deepened through the voices of George Jones, Merle Haggard, Marty Robbins, and Johnny Cash. But it was Steve Wariner who left a lasting impression. "I love his singing style and phrasing," Sammy says. "Some interviews and reviews have compared me to Steve Wariner, Collin Raye, and Vince Gill. I'm humbled - those are some of my favorite artists and the greatest singers in the business."

Sammy's parents nurtured his musical passion, taking him to Nashville several times a year. "We were typical tourists, exploring downtown and Music Row," he says. "It's a lot different now!" They also took him to Opry-style shows

across Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, including The Louisiana Hayride. Eventually, Sammy became a regular on Johnnie High's Country Music Revue in Fort Worth, touring with the roadshow.

By high school graduation, Sammy faced a pivotal decision: pursue baseball or chase music. "I love music," he says simply. "That's the road I chose."

He spent a couple of years as lead singer for the band Perfect Strangers before moving to Nashville in 1984. One memory stands out from his tourist days: "One time, instead of navigating Nashville ourselves, my parents rented a limousine. The driver showed us where everyone lived and all the sights. He gave us his number and said, 'Stay in touch, I've got a lot of contacts.'" That driver was Ronnie Cummings. When Sammy moved to Nashville, the two became friends and roommates. "Sure enough, he had a lot of contacts in the music business."

Ronnie introduced Sammy to Mae Axton, legendary songwriter of Elvis's *Heartbreak Hotel*. "I was so excited to meet her," Sammy says. "She ended up writing my first single." Together, they shopped Sammy's demo around town, eventually landing a deal with Evergreen Records. From 1985

to 1989, Evergreen released several singles, including Sammy's breakout hit, a cover of Aaron Neville's *Tell It Like It Is*. The song climbed the Billboard and Cashbox charts, and plans were underway to complete his debut album.

Then tragedy struck.

In 1989, just as his album was set to launch, Sammy was critically injured in the infamous shooting that killed Cashbox chart director Kevin Hughes, an event later dubbed the "Murder on Music Row." The high-profile case and long recovery brought Sammy's rising career to a sudden halt.

He returned to Texas to heal. "I had to come home to recuperate," he says. "Thankfully, my mom and dad were there. I never moved back to Nashville, just visited."

Sammy had only known Kevin for eight months, but their friendship was growing. "There are people you meet who become lifelong friends," he reflects. "I know what I went through, and I can only imagine what Kevin's family endured. At the time, I didn't know Kevin was a Christian. I wasn't. But God took Kevin and left me. I'm so thankful He thought enough of me to save me."

"If you'd told me this is what my life would look like, I wouldn't have believed it. But God had His hand on me, even when I didn't know it. I still get emotional. Whatever you're going through, you're not alone. Just call on the name of God, He's there."

Sammy shares more of his story in his autobiography, "A Hit With A Bullet." "I'm here to talk about my music, my life, and my career," he says. "I'm so much more than a survivor of the Murder on Music Row. I thank God every day for saving me and giving me a second chance."

Back in Texas, Sammy leaned into his faith. Raised in church, he remembers attending Pentecostal services as a child. "We never missed a day," he says. "But in high school, I drifted and rebelled."

Eventually, Sammy found his way to a small church near his home. "I'll never forget the pastor, Jerry Newton," he says. "He preached like a Pentecostal, but he was Baptist. I got baptized there. Afterward, he said, 'Sammy, I want to hear your story.' I told him about Kevin and the shooting. He said, 'You're like Job. The Lord said you can shoot him, but you can't kill him.' That stuck with me."

The pastor offered another analogy: "When you go fishing, you cast your line and wait. Sometimes you get nothing. Then you change your lure and cast again. Suddenly, you get a tug. That's how the devil works - he throws darts to see what gets your attention." Sammy adds, "Whatever you're going through - alcoholism, depression, anything - if the devil's throwing it at you and it upsets you, it can take

you down the wrong road. Be cautious. It could be the devil leading you to destruction."

After nearly a decade away from the spotlight, Sammy made a strong comeback with *Hard On a Heart* (2004), scoring Top 10 success in Texas and topping charts in Europe. He followed with *Heart Shaped Like Texas* (2009) and toured with Doug Stone, Ken Mellons, and Jeff Carson on the "Taking the Country Back Tour." Over the years, he's earned four Top 15 hits on the Texas Music Chart and was named 'Male Vocalist of the Year' in Dallas-Fort Worth in 1993.

In 2021, Sammy released "1989," featuring T. Graham Brown, Marty Raybon of Shenandoah, and Larry Stewart of Restless Heart and The Frontmen. "I wanted to revisit 1989 and record number-one songs from that era," he says. "The best music came from the '80s and early '90s. I'm so grateful to Larry, Marty, and T. Graham for joining me - it was humbling."



**Sammy and Dave**

Sammy continues to honor the legacy of '80s and '90s Country with the release of his latest single and music video for *I Can't Get Close Enough*. The video, filmed by Studio Dunlap, in Dunlap, Tennessee brings the song's emotion to life through heartfelt storytelling and Classic Country imagery, offering longtime fans a fresh new way to experience the track.

Originally penned by J.P. Pennington and Sonny LeMaire and first recorded by Exile, *I Can't Get Close Enough* continues to stand the test of time. Sadler's rendition not only pays tribute to the timeless original but also showcases his enduring ability to connect with listeners through sincerity and tradition. "Sammy has had more than his share of adversity and has found a way to persevere and keep believing in his dream of making music," shared Sonny LeMaire of Exile. We, Exile, are honored that he has recorded our song

and that he asked us to sing harmony vocals as well. Sammy, you've done us proud!" Exile appears on this recording courtesy of Clear Water Records.

"Country music has been my greatest passion since I was a little boy," shares Sadler. "My journey hasn't always gone the way I expected, but I'm grateful that God continues to give me the strength to keep sharing my music. Filming the video for *I Can't Get Close Enough* brought this song to life in such a powerful way - it's a reminder of how deeply love and faith can connect us. Here's to the next chapter."

Sammy's previous single in the Summer of 2025, *If I Had a Cheating Heart*, was first recorded by Mel Street around 1978. He mentions, "I heard the song from Ricky Lynn Gregg who had it out in 1993. Ricky and I have been friends for a long time, I was doing it at my shows. I went back and I re-recorded this song and a couple other things that I thought I just really loved. I'm a late 80s, 90s, Country singer and I just loved this song."

The singles are on an upcoming album. "I can't change who I am as a singer and entertainer," Sammy says. "I have to feel the songs I sing. I'm not trying to fit a trend, I'm just trying to record the music that I love and hopefully it connects with the people."

Sammy Sadler and Dave Gibson launched the Hits and History Tour in 2025. Dave Gibson was the lead singer of the Gibson/Miller Band in the early 90s, winning 'Top New Vocal Group' at the ACM Awards. Dave is an accomplished songwriter, writing many iconic hits such as, *Jukebox In My Mind*, for Alabama, *If It Don't Come Easy* for Tanya Tucker, *Ships That Don't Come In* for Joe Diffie, and including songs recorded by Confederate Railroad, Conway Twitty, and Montgomery-Gentry.

Sammy shares details about their tour. "Dave was one of the first guys that I met when I came to Nashville and over thirty years later, we put a tour together called the 'Hits and History Tour.' It's going to be a good mixture of the 80s and 90s Country. Dave's going to tell stories behind some of the hits and his history coming to Nashville and I'm going to tell the history of things that I've been through and sing the 80s and 90s hits as well as some of my original stuff."



Sammy will be writing another chapter for his book and a song and that will go with the book. "If anybody is interested in reading the story, it's through my eyes of what I lived through and everything that's gone on. Available anywhere you buy books and on Audible, or, for an autographed copy, on the website.

"It's always going to be a part of me, and a part of who I am. I didn't choose it, it chose me and there's so much more to Sammy Sadler than surviving and being a victim of a shooting. I'm still here! I've never left this business. I came to Nashville, just like any other young singer, to make music and to hopefully make a mark in music. I've never went away. I'm still here fighting and believing in what I came there so many years ago to do. I just thank God every day that I'm still here and he's gave me a voice and a talent and I've got music to be heard and a song to sing. If what I've been through can help somebody with what they are going through, I thank God that he's given me the opportunity."

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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# CELLO

By Cory Parker

**M**arcello Valletta has always lived at the intersection of story and sound. Under the name cello, he transforms that instinct into a body of work that feels less like music and more like a confession—raw, genre-fluid, and unafraid of emotional exposure. A singer-songwriter, poet, and seasoned actor, Valletta carries his narratives across mediums, but it is in music that they become their most unguarded. Every track he releases feels like a door cracked open, an invitation into the interior world he has spent years learning to articulate.

His creative identity was shaped long before he ever stepped into a studio. As an actor and published poet, Valletta learned to treat storytelling as survival—an anchor, a mirror, and a way to make sense of the fractures and revelations that define a life. Under the moniker cello, that instinct becomes sonic: voice as ritual, melody as reckoning, performance as release. His songs blur the line between art and admission, carried by a sound that refuses to sit neatly inside any single genre.

That ethos reaches its boldest expression yet in his upcoming LP, “Singing to Serpents,” arriving March 1, 2026. The project draws from personal mythology and emotional excavation, weaving nine tracks that explore transformation, faith, longing, and the quiet violence of growth. Rather than offering tidy resolutions, cello leans into honesty—letting the tension breathe, letting the truth stay uncomfortable, letting the listener sit with him in the dark. The album will be celebrated with a free release-show performance in Pittsburgh on March 12, a fitting setting for an artist whose work thrives on intimacy and connection.

For cello, music is not a performance of emotion - it is the practice of it. And in *Singing to Serpents*, he invites listeners into that practice with a voice that trembles, steadies, and ultimately tells the truth.



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# Where Are They Now?

A Retrospective Glimpse at Yesterday's Rising Music Stars  
Who Became Icons and Where They Are Today

## THIS EDITION: Kim Carnes

By Robin Tanner

**B**orn in Los Angeles, Kim Carnes penned her first song at the tender age of four and hasn't stopped since. Her first publishing deal, which teamed her with famed producer Jimmy Bowen, had her sharing demo-recording time with Bowen's other writers, which included future Eagles' Don Henley and Glenn Frey, as well as J.D. Souther. In 1971, Carnes sang *Nobody Knows*, written by Mike Settle, over the end credits of the road film, "Vanishing Point." Carnes also scored her first cut as a songwriter with *Sing Out for Jesus*, recorded by Big Mama Thornton for that same film.

Carnes signed with A&M Records and released a pair of albums. The second, "Sailin'" featured the American Song Festival grand prize-winning *Love Comes From Unexpected Places*, which also won 'Best Composition' at the Tokyo Song Festival and was the first of three songs she would eventually have cut by Barbra Streisand, one of which, *Make No Mistake (He's Mine)*, Carnes wrote and co-produced. In 1978, Carnes became the first artist signed to the EMI-America label and earned her first Top 40 hit, *You're a Part of Me*.

In her breakthrough year, 1980, Carnes was commissioned by Kenny Rogers to co-write the songs for his concept album, "Gideon." Their duet, *Don't Fall in Love with a Dreamer*, was a number four Pop hit, number three on the Country chart and number two on the Adult Contemporary survey. "Gideon" would go on to sell more than three million copies.

Carnes' first solo Top 10 hit followed with a sultry, soulful reworking of the Smokey Robinson classic, *More Love*. The following year, Carnes would release "Mistaken Identity," with the success of *Bette Davis Eyes*, reigning in the number one position for nine weeks. The album spent four weeks at number one in the U.S. and charted throughout the world. Meanwhile, *Bette Davis Eyes* would win a pair of Grammys for 'Record' and 'Song of the Year.'

While her place in music history was already secure, Carnes followed "Mistaken Identity" with "Voyeur," another Grammy-nominated collection that showcased her gift for both hard-charging rockers and passionate ballads. Her hitting streak, spread across the Pop and Adult Contemporary charts would continue with such tunes as *Crazy in Love*, *I Pretend*,



*What About Me*, *Crazy in the Night* and more. She also won her second Grammy award for *I'll Be Here Where the Heart Is* from the blockbuster movie soundtrack, "Flashdance." In 2000, she performed *Ring of Fire*, a duet with Jeff Bridges, for his film, "The Contender" and has contributed to the soundtracks of a wide variety of films, from "Spaceballs" to "Valentino: The Last Emperor."

In 1985, Carnes was among the cadre of singers who contributed vocals (as U.S.A. for Africa) to the all-star single and music video, *We Are the World*, which sold 20 million copies worldwide. In 1988, Carnes reunited with producer Jimmy Bowen and recorded "View from the House," which featured her Top 10 AC hit, *Crazy in Love*.

Continuing to perform and write songs, Carnes and family relocated to Nashville full-time in 1994. "I was making so many trips from Los Angeles to write songs with different people that it just got to the point where I needed to be there," she says. "Nashville has a great creative atmosphere. It's a small, close-knit music community that you can't find anywhere else."

It's that same sense of community that helped Carnes craft what has been one of the highlights of her professional career, the 2004 album, "Chasin' Wild Trains." The collection featured guest appearances from such notables as Kings of Leon producer Angelo, Al Anderson, Matraca Berg, Chuck Prophet, Anders Osborne, Kim Richey, among others. "It's the only album I did exactly the way I wanted," says the singer-songwriter. "Nobody told me 'no.' I did it with the help of these incredible songwriters. It was a collaborative 'love' project."

Carnes continued her songwriting credits on two number one Country songs, including, *The Heart Won't Lie*, a smash duet for Reba McEntire and Vince Gill and *Make No Mistake (She's Mine)*, recorded by Ronnie Milsap and Kenny Rogers. Carnes' Music City experience has paired her with other top tunesmiths including Kim Richey, Matraca Berg, Greg Barnhill, Al Anderson, Jeffrey Steele, Tim Nichols and Connie Harrington. Carnes' songs have been covered by Country superstar Tim McGraw, Deana Carter, Sawyer Brown, Tanya Tucker, Suzy Bogguss, Pam Tillis, and more.

In 2011, a pair of songs she wrote for (and with) the husband-and-wife duo O'Shea topped the charts in Australia. Around Nashville, you might find her sharing an "in-the-round" stage with the likes of John Hiatt, Michael McDonald, Lori McKenna, Barry Dean or any of her frequent collaborators.

She continued to take her full band out for shows, special events and TV in the U.S., Paris, Rome, Berlin, Chile, Argentina, and other destinations worldwide. "I write what I love and have always done that," she says, "I'm so lucky to be writing and performing with some of the best writers in the world. I'm having a blast."

In October 2012, American label Culture Factory reissued Carnes' "Mistaken Identity," "Voyeur" and "Cafe Racers" albums. In 2015, Carnes recorded *Under My Thumb* by The Rolling Stones for "80s Re:Covered," a conceptual compilation album featuring 80s-influenced covers of songs from the 1970s.

In the following year, Carnes featured on the track *To Be with You Again* from Frankie Miller's duets album, "Double Take." In 2021, Carnes performed at the Rheneypalooza Jam, an online concert and auction to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.



Carnes has enjoyed a remarkable global recording, performing, and songwriting career that has now spanned five decades. Carnes' ability to fuse heart-piercing lyrics to indelible melodies, her songs have distinguished the artist's own platinum-selling albums as well as those of her many peers. As respected Nashville music journalist Peter Cooper has noted, "Carnes' voice is a delight: Sorghum and whiskey and a howl of the heart, with phrasing that recalls Blonde on Blonde-era Dylan."

From Carnes website, "There's this whole part of what I do and what I started out doing, being a songwriter, that few people know," says Carnes. "I've always written songs, every day. That's how I started out and that's still so important to me. I'll be doing it forever."

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# ANANDA XENIA SHAKTI

## From Punk Rebellion to Sacred Fire

*There are artists who reinvent themselves. And then there are those whose lives unfold like a single flame - changing shape but never losing heat. Ananda Xenia Shakti belongs to the latter.*

By Jason Airy

Long before she was leading devotional chants or guiding students through breathwork and mantra, she was immersed in the raw, defiant energy of Punk Rock. At first glance, the worlds of punk rebellion and Bhakti yoga seem irreconcilable - one loud and confrontational, the other reverent and still. But for Ananda, they were never opposites.

“I have often felt that the Punk days were like a light that was shining me forward to who I am now,” she reflects. Both paths, she explains, require the heart of a seeker. Both demand dissatisfaction with surface living. Punk shuns, disrupts, and shouts. Yoga includes, heals, and listens. Yet beneath the outer expression lies the same inner fire - the refusal to accept a life without meaning. That fire would eventually lead her into profound spiritual awakening.

Her understanding of trauma shifted dramatically when she met her first mentor. Describing herself as a “live wire,” deeply sensitive to spiritual energies, Ananda experienced something that would redefine her relationship with her own history. Without prior knowledge of concepts like cellular healing, her body began spontaneously releasing old memories when exposed to spiritual teachings.

The awakening was not frightening, it was clarifying. “Alongside the memory came the knowing of what was

happening to me,” she says. It was a doorway she didn’t know existed, one that answered lifelong questions about patterns, emotions, and choices. Trauma, she realized, is not confined to the mind. It lives in the body, in breath, in muscle, in memory. This embodied awareness would later shape her work as both musician and teacher.

Through rigorous yogic training, she immersed herself in Sanskrit chanting, sometimes for 24 hours at a stretch. The experience was transformative. The vibration of voice, sustained and intentional, created tangible healing. In that realization, performance ceased to be entertainment. It became medicine.

Determined to carry that healing into public space, she formed Love Power the Band, a musical offering built not around spectacle, but around transformation. After experiencing the potential of sound as a tool for awakening, she says, there was no other version of being a musician that interested her. Song became ceremony. Celebration became therapy.

Her spiritual path eventually led her to India, where immersion in Bhakti practice altered her understanding of suffering and forgiveness. Surrounded by visible poverty and hardship, she observed something paradoxical: some of the most materially deprived people carried radiant joy.

Suffering, she came to see, is less about circumstance and more about relationship to circumstance. In India's karmic framework, mistakes are expected, part of the soul's journey. Forgiveness is not a grand gesture, it is embedded in the understanding that everyone is here to work something out.

Yet speaking openly about her own trauma did not come easily. Ananda describes herself as both transparent and fiercely protective. Sharing her story publicly meant risking misunderstanding or judgment. Still, she believes offering one's truth is among the greatest teachings possible.

"You can't control how another will take what you say," she explains. People filter truth through their own perceptions. Some respond with compassion; others react defensively. But in the act of sharing, she discovered a deeper layer of self-love. Ultimately, our lives unfold between ourselves and Creation.

At the core of her philosophy is what she calls "the inner fire." It is not reserved for mystics or artists. It lives in everyone. "Every single person reading this now has an inner fire," she insists. The choice lies in whether we allow it to transform fear into love.

For those overwhelmed by trauma or emotional strain, her advice is disarmingly simple: begin with the breath. The rhythm of our breathing reflects our stress. Learning to slow and deepen it through yogic techniques can shift the nervous system from fight-or-flight into coherence. It costs nothing. It travels everywhere. And it gently restores balance.

To skeptics who question yoga's role in mental health, Ananda points to physiology. Trauma tightens muscles, upsets digestion, disrupts sleep, and dysregulates emotion. Yoga intentionally relaxes the body, guiding it from

sympathetic activation into parasympathetic restoration - a state where healing becomes organic and intelligent.

In her live gatherings - where mantra, movement, and music converge - she witnesses the impact firsthand. Participants leave visibly transformed, often emotional, describing joy, release, and renewed vitality. The reflections she receives affirm what she already knows: this work matters.



And when the stage is empty? When there is no audience, no role to embody? Healing, she says, now looks like trust. Trust in the Divine presence guiding each moment. More stillness. More silence. More communion with what is. Less seeking. More remembering.

The punk rebel and the devotional yogini were never separate identities. They were chapters in the same unfolding, an ongoing journey toward a life lit by sacred fire.

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**HARRY  
STYLES**  
THE NEW ERA

By Jennifer Springs

Few artists reinvent themselves with the ease - and the audacity - of Harry Styles. As 2026 unfolds, he's not just returning to the spotlight; he's reshaping it. With a chart-topping new album, a visionary world tour, and a renewed creative fire that crackles through every beat, Styles steps into his most daring era yet. The boy-band prodigy turned global icon is moving with purpose, confidence, and a kind of joyful fearlessness that makes this chapter feel less like a comeback and more like a coronation.

Harry Styles entered 2026 not simply as a global superstar, but as an artist who has learned how to evolve in public without losing his center. A GRAMMY-winning singer, songwriter, and actor, Styles has spent more than a decade shapeshifting with intention - from boy-band phenomenon to fashion muse, from Rock traditionalist to genre-bending auteur. What makes him singular is not just the scale of his fame, but the way he carries it: lightly, playfully, and with a kind of emotional fluency rare in modern Pop.

After the conclusion of his record-breaking Love On Tour in 2023, Styles stepped away from the spotlight for nearly three years, a pause that recalibrated both his artistry and his life. "I needed to learn how to be a person again," he reflected in early 2026. "Not Harry Styles the idea, but Harry the human. I wanted to make music from a place that felt grounded, not frantic."

That reset became the foundation for his most adventurous chapter yet.

### A New Album, A New Pulse

On March 6, 2026, Styles released his fourth studio album, "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally" - affectionately dubbed KISSCO by fans. The project marks a bold pivot from the lush Pop-Rock of "Fine Line" and the warm Synth-Pop of "Harry's House." Instead, "KISSCO" leans into house-driven rhythms, glossy Indie-Pop, and a kind of late-night euphoria that feels both nostalgic and futuristic.

"I wanted it to feel like movement," Styles said. "Like the moment you realize you're allowed to be happy again."

The era ignited in January with *Aperture*, a cinematic, dance-driven single that debuted at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100. The album's palette ranges from the shimmering house anthem *American Girls* to the acoustic intimacy of *Paint By Numbers*, and the explosive fan-favorite *Ready, Steady, Go!* - a track that captures the album's spirit of joyful abandon.

Commercially, the "KISSCO" era has already become one of the biggest of his career. The Official Charts Company confirmed the album delivered Styles' strongest opening week ever, debuting at #1 with more than 183,000 units sold and setting the year's vinyl sales record.

### Together, Together: A Tour Built on Humanity

In January, Styles unveiled 'Together, Together,' a visionary series of concert residencies across seven global cities. Rather than the relentless pace of traditional touring, the run prioritizes mental health, stability, and community - for both the band and the fans.

The tour spans 67 shows, including a monumental 30-night residency at Madison Square Garden from August through October 2026. It begins in May in Amsterdam, followed by six nights at Wembley Stadium, then São Paulo, Mexico City, Melbourne, and Sydney.

Styles is joined by a rotating cast of acclaimed artists: Robyn, Shania Twain, Jamie xx, Jorja Smith - each chosen not for hype, but for creative chemistry. "I wanted this tour to feel like a shared world," he explained. "Not just a show you watch, but a space you enter."

Adding to the momentum, Netflix premiered "Harry Styles: One Night in Manchester" on March 8, 2026 - the first full live performance of the new album, captured with cinematic warmth.

### The Long Road to Reinvention

To understand the clarity of this moment, it helps to trace the arc that brought him here.

Born February 1, 1994, in Redditch, England, Styles grew up singing on a karaoke machine gifted by his grandfather. At Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School, he fronted White Eskimo, a local Battle of the Bands winner. His life changed in 2010 when he auditioned for The X Factor UK with Stevie Wonder's *Isn't She Lovely*. Though eliminated as a soloist,



he was grouped with Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson, and Zayn Malik - forming One Direction, a name he suggested.

The group didn't just succeed; they detonated. Their debut album, "Up All Night," became the first by a British group to enter the US Billboard 200 at #1. Over five years, they released five consecutive albums, each one maturing in sound and ambition. Styles emerged as a key creative force, co-writing fan favorites like *Stockholm Syndrome* and *Where Do Broken Hearts Go*.

When the band announced an 18-month hiatus in 2016, few imagined it would stretch into a decade. Yet Styles has always honored the legacy. "I wouldn't be here without those boys," he often says. "We built something that still means something."

### **A Solo Career Defined by Curiosity**

Styles' solo debut in 2017 introduced him as a Rock-leaning traditionalist with a modern sensibility. "Fine Line" (2019) expanded his palette and produced the global #1 *Watermelon Sugar*. "Harry's House" (2022) cemented his status as a generational artist, winning the GRAMMY for 'Album of the Year' and delivering the worldwide smash *As It Was*.

His film career, including "Dunkirk," "Eternals," "Don't Worry Darling," and "My Policeman" showcased a performer

unafraid of risk. His fashion influence, amplified through his brand 'Pleasing,' has reshaped conversations around gender, beauty, and self-expression.

Through it all, Styles has remained disarmingly sincere. "I don't ever want to make the same thing twice," he said recently. "If I'm not growing, I'm not really living."

### **The 2026 Chapter: Expansion, Connection, Clarity**

With a chart-topping album, a global residency tour, a Netflix special, and a renewed artistic identity, Harry Styles' 2026 era feels like the culmination of everything he's learned, and the beginning of something even more expansive.

He enters this chapter not as a man chasing the next milestone, but as an artist who has found his rhythm. "I'm trying to make things that feel like me," he shared. "And right now, this is who I am - someone who wants to dance, to feel, to connect, to be present."

In a world hungry for authenticity, Harry Styles remains one of the rare figures who can evolve without losing the thread. His story is still unfolding, but one thing is clear: he's writing it with intention, joy, and a creative freedom that feels both earned and electrifying.

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# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# ALEX KRAWCZYK

Staff, Cashbox

Alex Krawczyk is a Canadian singer-songwriter from Toronto whose deeply personal, Folk-inflected music has earned growing recognition for its emotional honesty, spiritual depth, and gentle resilience. She emerged onto the Folk music scene in 2022 with her debut album, "Le Olam."

Her newest album, "Wonders Await," co-written with frequent collaborator Robbie Roth, is a poignant tribute to the spirit of unity and healing through music. Through her music, Alex strives to create an emotional discourse that beckons her listeners to contemplate different aspects of life. From grief and loss to love and new beginnings, Alex's music takes listeners on an emotional journey that ultimately helps them feel uplifted.



A nurse and community builder, Alex turned to songwriting and recording as a way to process her grief following the traumatic loss of her parents. When she's not working on her music, Alex devotes much of her time to her two charitable foundations, the Krawczyk Family Foundation and the Honey & Barry Sherman Legacy Foundation.

Alex's work has also earned her industry recognition. She was nominated for a Josie Award and as Best New/Emerging Artist at the Canadian Folk Music Awards (CFMAs) - a nod to her rising impact in the Folk community. She continues to write and record new music, sharing her journey of hope and healing through song.

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## STEVIE WONDER

By Robin Tanner

**B**orn in Saginaw, Michigan in 1950, Stevie Wonder became blind shortly after birth. He learned to play the harmonica, piano, and drums by age nine. By the time he was ten, his singing and other musical skills were known throughout his neighborhood, and when the family moved to Detroit, impressed adults made his talents known to the owners of Motown Records, who gave him a recording contract when he was age twelve.

His early hits included *Fingertips*, *Uptight (Everything's All Right)* *For Once in My Life*, *My Cherie Amour*, *Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours*, and *If You Really Love Me*. He undertook the study of classical piano, and later, music theory, and beginning in 1967, he began writing more of his own material. In the early 1970s, Wonder toured with the Rolling Stones and had major hits with the songs *Superstition* and *You are the Sunshine of My Life*.

In the mid-70s, his album "Songs in the Key of Life" topped the charts for fourteen weeks. Over the years, Stevie Wonder has garnered 25 Grammy Awards, as well as the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996. He collected an Academy Award for the 1984 hit *I Just Called to Say I Love You* from the film *The Woman in Red*. In 1989, he was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. In 1999, Stevie became the youngest honoree of the Kennedy Center Honors. He was inducted into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame in 1983, and in 2004 he won the Johnny Mercer Award in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding creative work.

In 2005, the Library of Congress added Stevie Wonder's 1976 double album "Songs in the Key of Life" to the National Recording Registry, which recognizes recordings that are "culturally, historically or aesthetically important, and/or inform or reflect life in the United States."



In August 2024, Wonder took the stage at the Democratic National Convention where he played his inimitable hit *Higher Ground*, from 1973's "Innervisions." Prior to performing, Wonder gave a keynote address at the event.

"This year I pray very hard for peace to come to our world's nations," Wonder said in his speech. "But, also, to each one of our hearts, even though our hearts have been beaten and broken. Beyond prayer, I know the importance of action, and now is the time to understand where we are, and what it will take to win."

He added: "We must keep on keepin' on, until we truly are a united people of these United States. And then we will reach a higher ground."

Released in 2024, Stevie's current single is *Can We Fix Our Nation's Broken Heart?* The song is a call for unity and empathy.



# Ethan Lake

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*Harry Kappen Finds Freedom,  
Balance, and the Courage to Move*

## AFTER THE CROSSING

By Jason Airy

**When Harry Kappen left  
Europe for Mexico, it  
wasn't just a relocation.  
It was a reckoning.**

**T**he Dutch musician, therapist, and songwriter had built a life across decades - family, friends, professional identity - all rooted in familiar soil. Crossing the ocean meant more than geography; it meant confronting attachment, culture shock, and the quiet ache of distance. Yet, for Kappen, the emotional reality arrived immediately. He knew he would miss his son, his sisters, and the rhythm of Dutch life. At the same time, he recognized the strange gift of modern connection. Technology would keep conversations flowing. Love would stretch across time zones. And living under the same roof as his wife, after years of distance, would make the sacrifice worthwhile.

"After the Crossing," his latest album, is the sound of that upheaval settling into clarity. Recorded and produced almost entirely by Kappen himself, it is a deeply personal document: ten songs shaped by migration, maturity, and reflection.

The album's centerpiece, *Balance*, feels especially urgent. In it, Kappen addresses a world split between extremes, arguing for the strength of the gray middle ground. While outrage dominates headlines and online discourse, he believes the majority of people reside in a quieter center where compromise and democracy still matter. He doesn't worry about being misunderstood by those shouting from either end of the spectrum. What concerns him more is that the middle often stays silent. *Balance* is less a political slogan than a plea: enter the conversation, bring reason, and find common ground.

That instinct toward understanding is no accident. Kappen has spent more than 20 years as a music therapist, working with young people to uncover the roots of their pain. Through improvisation and reflection, he helps clients surface subconscious emotions and reshape harmful patterns. That process, he admits, has shaped him just as profoundly. After two decades of sitting with other people's suffering, he has

gained sharper insight into his own frustrations and motivations. The result is songwriting that feels grounded, observant, and emotionally literate. His music doesn't dramatize pain, it studies it.

Nowhere is that perspective more evident than in *Distant Shore*, a haunting meditation on the refugee experience. Kappen's own relocation was voluntary, even privileged. Watching global crises unfold in the news forced him to confront the stark difference between choosing to move and being forced to flee. He speaks with admiration of those who risk everything for safety and a future for their children. The song is not performative empathy; it is a recognition of luxury, courage, and the tragedy of suspicion that refugees often face. It has become one of his favorite tracks on the album, and a likely single.

Despite the album's thematic weight, "After the Crossing" is not heavy-handed. There are love songs - radiant, steady, and unembarrassed in their devotion. Tracks like *We're Going to the Max* and *While Life's Rushing By* are tributes to the woman for whom he crossed continents. For Kappen, commitment was never complicated. When he met his wife, the love was immediate and undeniable. The ocean between them was an obstacle of logistics, not of feeling. The crossing, then, became inevitable.

That sense of inevitability extends to his creative process. Playing and producing nearly every note himself was not about control, it was about freedom. Freedom to shape each

song without compromise. Freedom to embrace imperfection. Freedom to be vulnerable without filtering his instincts through market calculations. Commercial pressure, he laughs, is foreign to him. Art, for Kappen, must reflect truth plainly. Facts are not negotiable. Emotion is not packaging.

His skepticism of image culture surfaces in songs critiquing ego, distortion, and "plastic smiles." In an industry often driven by branding, Kappen remains deliberately grounded. He sees himself less as a player in "the music business" and more as an observer translating the world into sound. Art, he believes, is a mirror for the times - and he intends to hold it steady.

The album closes with *Now*, a meditation on time's fragility. At this stage of life, "now" is not urgency, it is presence. It is breathing. It is choosing or choosing not to. It is making music without obsessing over career trajectory. It is meeting the world moment by moment.

Ultimately, "After the Crossing" is not just about relocation. It is about movement itself. "Change always comes from movement, never from stagnation," Kappen says. Begin moving, and the world shifts around you.

The album invites listeners to feel many things - comfort, challenge, reassurance - but above all, courage. The courage to step into the gray. The courage to love without reservation. The courage to cross whatever ocean lies before them.

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35	72	Human Mind	Mavis Staples	Anti
36	17	One Ray Of Shine	Alison Krauss & Union Station	Down The Road Records
37	8	Rabbit	Cactus Lee	Western Vinyl
38	14	Voodoo Charm	Christone Kingfish Ingram	RedZero Records
39	16	Poison In My Well	Maggie Rose & Grace Porter	One Riot Music
40	53	Ain't No Crime	Paul Cauthen	Velvet Rose Records/Thirty Tigers
41	78	Believe	Kashus Culpepper	Big Loud Records
42	79	Simple Side Of Me	Nicki Bluhm	Little Sur Records
43	76	Pocket Change	Sophie Gault (ft. Mando Saenz)	Torrez Music Group
44	66	When The Truth Comes Out	Kathleen Edwards	Dualtone/MNRK
45	73	Another Dimension	Daniel Donato & Elle King	Retrace Music/Red Light Management
46	60	Honeydew (No Light)	Josh Ritter	Pytheas Records /Thirty Tigers
47	31	Life By The Numbers	Noble Hops (ft. Miss Freddye)	MTS Records
48	83	If She's Lonely	John Hollier & The Reverie	WhollyABar/Thirty Tigers
49	74	El Cortez	Natalie Del Carmen	Torrez Music Group
50	36	It's Time Lord	Eddy Mann	MTS Records

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# MTS

Artist Management and Promotions

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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
51	71	Taking Flight	Rodney Crowell (ft. Ashley McBryde)	New West Records
52	82	Flowers On The Dash	William Prince	Six Shooter Records
53	32	Dumpster Diving	Brennen Leigh	Signature Sounds
54	84	Like The Passing Clouds	Alex Krawczyk	MTS Records
55	86	On My Own	Jon Nolan & Good Co.	Strolling Bones Records/New West Records
56	85	The Cowboy (Small Texas Town)	Waylon Jennings	Son Of Jessi/Thirty Tigers
57	90	Keeper	Courtney Marie Andrews	Loose Future Records/Thirty Tigers
58	--	Fire Season	John Craigie	Zabriskie Point Records
59	80	While We Still Have A Chance	Todd Snider	Lightning Rod Records/Thirty Tigers
60	--	Brand New Heartache	Yonder Mountains String Band	Frog Pad Records/Thirty Tigers
61	75	1800 Miles	Colter Wall	La Honda/RCA Records
62	49	Effortless	Caroline Spence	Tone Tree Music
63	--	Buzzkill	Jobi Riccio	Yep Roc Records
64	--	Me and You	Lance Roark	Tenkiller Records/Thirty Tigers
65	97	Cowboy Dreams	Boy Golden (ft. Cat Clyde)	Six Shooter Records
66	56	Never Gonna Let You Go	Drew & Ellie Holcomb	Magnolia Music
67	--	Good Luck To Ya	Melissa Carper & Theo Lawrence	Bee & El/Warner Records
68	93	This Little Heart	Ramona And The Holy Smokes	Ramona Martinez and The Holy Smokes Music
69	88	Piece Of Mind	Amanda Shires	ATO Records
70	94	Paradise Road	Clover County	Undercover Lover Records /Thirty Tigers
71	--	She Didn't Bother To Say Goodbye	Jacky Jack White	Sucarnochee Records
72	95	Who's That	Brother Wallace	ATO Records
73	100	It's Alright	Sons Of The East	Metropolitan Groove Merchants
74	65	Work Is Work	Willi Carlisle	Signature Sounds
75	--	Donnie Takes The Bus	Fantastic Cat	Missing Pierce Records
76	99	Dirtbag Saloon	Emily Scott Robinson	Oh Boy Records
77	--	Received	Avt/Pttn	Ramseur Records/Ipecac/Thirty Tigers
78	91	Boy	Baldy Crawlers	MTS Records
79	--	I Got You	Tedeschi Trucks Band	Concord Records/Concord
80	98	Returning To Myself	Brandi Carlile	Interscope /Lost Highway
81	--	True Black	Jay Buchanan	Sacred Tongue Recordings/Thirty Tigers
82	55	American Rose	Digney Fignus	MTS Records
83	--	Drive	Clay Street Unit	Leo33
84	77	Another Planet	Will Hoge	EDLO Records
85	--	Heavy Foot	Mon Rovia	Netwerk Music Group
86	67	The Candy Wrapper	Bob Augustine	MTS Records
87	--	In Your Ocean	Iron & Wine	Sub Pop Record
88	--	Rusty Mountain	Neko Case	Anti Records
89	--	Straight At The Sun	Midnight Sky	MTS Records
90	--	Hold Steady	Queen Esther	EL Recordings
91	92	Before You Hit The Ground	Dean Johnson	Saddle Creek
92	--	Warning You Whiskey	Brit Taylor	Ridgetone Records/Cut A Shine Records/Thirty Tigers
93	--	Step Outside	Cordovas	Yep Roc Records
94	--	Never Comin' Back	Flatland Cavalry	Lost Highway Records
95	--	Back Home	Garrett Boys (ft. Steve Earle)	Pond Ridge Records
96	--	Take The Cake	The Band Of Heathens	BOH Records
97	--	The Pharmacy Chronicles	The Black Crowes	Silver Arrow/Red Light
98	--	I Did It For Love	The Lone Bellow	Burly Bellow Music/Soundly Music
99	--	A Friend Like You	The Milk Carton Kids	Far Cry Records/Thirty Tigers
100	--	The Flood	Ye Vagabonds	Rough Trade Records



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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	14	Nobody But Jesus	Josh Copeland	RNU/Anointed
2	16	I'm In A Change	Mack Holland	Octiive
3	13	In The Room	Mr.Jae Tyson	Wilson
4	9	Peace In The Valley	Lil Blair & The Fantastic Violinaires	Millennium Music Group
5	17	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann	TillyMann
6	34	Praise In The Choir Stand	Brent Jones	JDI
7	1	Come Jesus Come	CeCe Winans & Cody Johnson	Pure Springs/Fair Trade
8	18	Unspoken	Jackee H	Musgrove
9	21	I Can Count On You	The Group Fire	Jet North / East
10	19	Make A Way	Vashawn Mitchell	Fair Trade / Columbia
11	28	God Did It	Kenny Lewis & One Voice	Puresound / Waynorth
12	7	Still Knocking	100 A.K.A. The Messenger	Mpact
13	23	Church Medley	John P. Kee	Kee/Tyscot
14	5	Trust And Obey	Erica Campbell	My Block/MNRK
15	24	Give You All My Worship (ft. Leon McCrary)	Marvin Dexter Moore	Give Me Moore/Never Stop
16	40	Confident	Bri Babineaux	Tyscot
17	26	Working On A Building	Larry Hill	VSC Promotions
18	42	Lift Me Up	Blessing Offor	Sparrow/Capitol CMG
19	27	God Is Amazing	Dee Echols	VSC Promotions
20	3	I Prayed For You	Major	Mnrk
21	12	Church Parking Lot	Otis Kemp	Motown Gospel
22	29	God Don't Cancel Me	Rudy Currence	Mike Chek/TRIBL
23	39	When I Think	Ricky Dillard	Motown / Capitol CMG
24	31	Rescue Me	Dr Leon Thompson	VSC Promotions
25	32	Your Name	Jovonta Patton	Newton Street
26	2	Do It Again	Kirk Franklin	Fo Yo Soul /RCA Inspiration
27	33	I'm A Child Of The King	Micahel Gi	D & D
28	4	Work It Out For Me	Zacardi Cortez	Blacksmoke
29	46	On The Way	Adia	Rock City
30	6	The Light	Jor'dan Armstrong	Jor'da Armstrong/LKG
31	10	Let The Church Sing	Tauren Wells	Sparrow/Capitol CMG
32	22	God Getting Your Attention	Keith McKinney	Grace Records Nashville
33	36	Somebody Touched Me	David Moore& Focused	VSC Promotions
34	15	He's Alive	Keith Mitchell	Kemitc
35	8	Your Glory 2 C U	Earnest Pugh	Black Smoke
36	38	Blessings	Tanya Nolan	ArtSessionz
37	43	Count It All Joy	The Scotts	Patterson Music Group
38	44	God's Prodigy	Jackee H	Millennium Music Group
39	37	Don't Faint	Jekalyn Carr	Waynorth
40	20	Right On Time	Fantastic Spiritual Voices	VSC Promotions
41	46	In The Room	James Fortune	Fiya World / Mnrk
42	49	Promises	Lisa Knowles	Evoworld
43	47	Do It Again	James Gear & Company	Blacksmoke
44	35	Nobody Knows	Prophet Yoshua	VSC Promotions
45	48	Vessel Of Mercy	Jennifer Harris Gray	Grace Records Nashville
46	--	Better Afterwhile	Donnie McClurkin	Camdon / Fair Trade
47	50	Church (ft. John Legend)	Tasha Cobbs Leonard	Motown / Capitol CMG
48	--	God Has A Plan For Your Life	Michael B Kirksey	Babyson
49	41	All About The Love	Calvin Bridges	Millennium Music Group
50	--	I'm A Child Of The King	Michael Gi	D&D



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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	3	That's What Kentucky Means To Me	Hammertowne	Independent Records
2	5	Way Back When	Larry Sparks	Rebel Records
3	8	The Hills Of Carter County	Southern Legacy	Pinecastle Records
4	16	Just A Holler Over	Sister Sadie, The Po' Ramblin' Boys	Mountain Home
5	22	Bear Creek Clay	Pitney Meyer	Curb
6	36	Along The Shenandoah	Crandall Creek	Copper Mountain
7	23	The Road Back To You	Songs From The Road Band	Charles Humphrey III
8	24	One Tin Soldier	Bibelhauser Brothers with Sam Bush	Independent
9	28	Ridin' My Thumb To Mexico	Jeff Brown & Wayne Taylor	Turnberry
10	30	What's The River Running From	Eddie Sanders	True Lonesome
11	33	Alabama Sugar	Haven Slay	Buckshot Records
12	26	Come On Home	Lakeside	Independent
13	25	Above The Clouds	Eighteen Mile	Mountain Home Records
14	21	Glory Land Is Just In Sight	Gospel Plowboys	Morning Glory
15	1	Broken Angels	The Grascals and Dolly Parton	Mountain Home
16	6	Uncle Jake	Dale Ann Bradley	Pinecastle
17	52	Love Gone Missing	JaeLee Roberts	Mountain Home
18	35	Cost Of Living	Authentic Unlimited	Edisonic
19	9	She's Heavenly	Del McCoury Band	McCoury Music
20	45	No Business Mountain	Lonesome River Band	Mountain Home
21	4	Amazing Grace	Tony Trischka ft. Sierra Ferrell	Down The Road
22	41	Mama Took Her Ring Off Yesterday	Vickie Vaughn	Mountain Home
23	31	Is Now The Time	Blue Highway	Down The Road
24	60	Working Man Blues	Bryan Sutton W/ Doc Watson	Mountain Home
25	38	With A Vamp In The Middle	Jason Carter and Michael Cleveland	Fiddleman
26	46	Broke Down In Georgia	Kristy Cox	Billy Blue
27	11	Seth Mulder & Midnight Run	1916	Rebel
28	67	Leave A Light On	Volume Five	Mountain Fever
29	37	The Song Of The Mountains	Burnett Sisters Band	Pinecastle Records
30	56	Virginia Girl	Balsam Range	Mountain Home
31	42	Nora McNally	Greg Blake	Turnberry
32	12	The Death Of John Henry	Daniel Grindstaff & The Uptown Troubadours w/Marty Stuart	Pinecastle
33	2	Outrun	The Steeldrivers	SteelDrivers
34	66	Under Over	Chris Jones & The Night Drivers	Mountain Home
35	51	New Camptown Races	Deanie Richardson & Kimber Ludiker	Mountain Home Records
36	13	Seesaw	Etsu Pride Band	Now And Then Records
37	63	Country Boy Rock & Roll	Wyatt Ellis	Knee High
38	50	Love Through Time	Amanda Cook	Mountain Fever
39	7	The Devil's Train	Junior Sisk	Turnberry Records
40	64	Bending The Iron	Nick Dumas	Skyline
41	53	Old Rueben No. 1	Seth Mulder & Midnight Run	Rebel
42	40	Polly's Revenge	Ralph Stanley II & The Clinch Mountain Boys	Stanley Family
43	18	Big Train	Don Rigsby w/ Ronnie Reno	Rebel
44	76	Coal Dust	Irene Kelley W/ Kruger Brothers	IRK Records
45	65	My Runaway	Kenny & Amanda Smith	Farm Boy
46	70	Can't Outrun The Blues	Trey Hensley	Pinecastle
47	10	North Side Gal	Alison Krauss & Union Station	Down The Road
48	17	The First Time I Heard About Heaven	Cox Family	Will House Records
49	19	Hazel Creek	Nick Chandler & Delivered	Pinecastle Records
50	72	Let 'em Know I'm From Virginia	Po' Ramblin' Boys	Sound Biscuit Productions



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# CASHBOX music charts

## APRIL 2026 Bluegrass Top 100

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
51	20	A Different Kind Of Lonesome	Will Clark	Mountain Fever
52	14	Polly's Revenge	Ralph Stanley II & The Clinch Mountain Boys	Stanley Family Music
53	73	Bully Of The Town	Benson	Mountain Home
54	55	Highland Rim	Andy Leftwich	Mountain Home
55	62	More Than Tell Me	Throwdown Thursday	Mountain Fever
56	34	1682	Shawn Lane & Richard Bennett	Bonfire
57	74	Soldiers Of Heaven	Ashleigh Graham	Pinecastle
58	15	50 Ways To Leave Your Lover	Travelin' McCourys	McCoury Music
59	85	Honey Babe Blues	Jason Burleson	Jason Burleson
60	91	Blue Skies	Buddy Melton	Melton & Miller
61	61	Choo Choo Coming	Wyatt Ellis	Knee High Records
62	71	Christmas Time Back Home	High Fidelity	Rebel
63	84	I Can Pray	Daryl Mosley	Pinecastle
64	79	Maple On the Hill	Tony Trischka W/ Sister Sadie	Down The Road
65	95	Everybody's Got Their Nine Pound Hammer	Ashby Frank	Mountain Home
66	82	King Of Tripoli	Jeff Autry	Huckleberry
67	39	Midnight Fire	Matt Wallace	Huckleberry
68	87	Down Life's Road	Olivia Jo	ATS
69	78	In The Mexican Sun	Red Caramel Collective	Pinecastle
70	80	Angels From The Realms Of Glory	Rrinaco	Rebel
71	75	Working Man Blues	Infamous String Dusters	Americana Vibes
72	89	I'm Leavin'	Jim Hurst	Pinecastle
73	88	Refugee	Unspoken Tradition	Mountain Home
74	49	Jesus Sweet Jesus	Mark Houser & Bluegrass Drive w/ Rhonda Vincent	Mark Houser
75	43	Gulf Shore Line	Kevin Denney	Turnberry
76	81	You Don't Come	Big Richard	Independent
77	93	The Sun Is Setting In Barrow	Milan Miller	Melton & Miller
78	90	The Lamb, The Lion, And The King	New River Bluegrass	Sound Biscuit
79	94	Won't Be Long	Appalachian Road Show	Billy Blue
80	57	Part Of The Burn	Elaine Roy	Grace Records Nashville
81	68	Come On Back	Downriver Collective	Independent
82	99	Let's Get Out Of Here	Alison Brown & Steve Martin	Compass
83	--	Need To Get Some Highway In	Newfound Road	Billy Blue Records
84	92	Come Jesus Come	Grascals	Mountain Home
85	--	You Took All The Ramblin' Out Of Me	David Parnley	615 Hideaway
86	97	Followin' You	East Nash Grass	Mountain Fever
87	--	Your Love	Retro 78	Retro 78
88	--	Killing Frost	Richard Bennett	Oakway Music House
89	98	Truth Be Told	Sierra Hull	Sierra Hull
90	--	The Checkered Shirt Band	Shawn Camp	Shawn Camp
91	--	Muddy Shoes	Blue Highway	Down The Road
92	96	Two Story Shack	Green River Revue	Mighty Cord
93	--	Seven Weeks In Country	Billy Strings	Billy Strings / Reprise
94	--	Telluride	Caroline Owens	Billy Blue Records
95	--	Dear Departed(feat. Jason Carter)	Gena Britt	Mountain Home
96	--	The Man I Want To Be	Jackson Harris	MJH Records
97	--	This Weary Road	Larry Cordle	Mighty Cord
98	--	Bernadette	Lonesome River Road	Mountain Home
99	--	Needle In the Heart Of West Virginia	Rebekah Speer	Turnberry
100	--	Streets Of Boulder	Shelby Means (ft. Molly Tuttle & Kyle Tuttle)	Shelby Means Bluegrass



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*At War With Myself*  
Cyndi Reynolds



*Let's All Go Down  
To The River*  
Steve Bruce Band



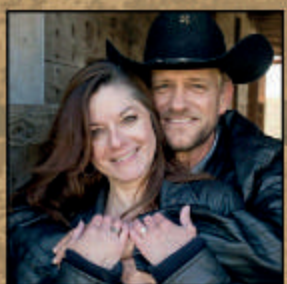
*The Last Song*  
Terry and Debra Luna



*That's The Way Mama  
Raised Me*  
Luke Hendrickson



*Snowy Sunday Morning*  
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Indiana



*River of Life*  
Sunshine Road



*The Turn*  
The Pauls



*Just A Little Talk  
With Jesus*  
Ray Epperson



*You Got It*  
Royel Clark



*Beverage Of Choice*  
Brother Daniel

# JOHAN SMYTHS



*Loving You makes me  
a Better Man*

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"Last Night"

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Johan Smits (aka John Smyths) was born in March 1961 in the old town of Nijmegen and was introduced to the world of music by his parents and older brother. Although it wasn't the kind of music he liked, it was music.

When his wild years were over, he got more and more into country music and listened to Conway Twitty, Hank Williams, Waylon Jennings, Kenny Rogers, Tammy Wynette and so on. Moving to Germany, he would go to the studio regularly to record covers of some well-known country songs, even recorded three of his own songs and was on stage several times, mostly in Germany and Belgium. While he might have only started releasing music on digital platforms under the moniker John Smyths, Johan Smits has been sharing singles for years – so he's not all that much of a newbie on the scene.

Raised on a diet of Kiss, Van Halen, Iron Maiden and AC/DC, Smyths found a base in the oldschool rock scene; however, he's not afraid to saunter across different genres and found himself wading through country music with Hank Williams, Kenny Rogers and Waylon Jennings.

For 2025, John Smyths was on stage in Viechtach (Bavaria), Gerolstein, Stolberg, Wolfhagen, Nijmegen (NL) and many more. He has been awarded for his song "Loving You Makes Me A Better Man" at the Red Carpet Show International in Wageningen (NL) where he also was on stage. Another nomination was done by "the Elite Music Awards" in the States. He released his single at the end of August, called "Now I'm Wiser" which got great critics all over the world. And now getting back with "Last Night" which is a beautiful Country ballad.

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	3	Above The Clouds	Eighteen Mile	Mountain Home
2	6	There's A River	High Road	New Day Records/New Day
3	14	Follow The Leader	Nick Chandler & Delivered	Pinecastle Records
4	10	That Reunion	Tim Raybon Band	Independent
5	8	That Sweet Land Of God Somewhere	Primitive QT	Independent
6	23	Memories Of Mother	Junior Sisk with Ricky Skaggs	Mountain Fever
7	11	Come On Home	LakeSide	Independent
8	21	I've Made It Home	Shelton & Williams	Turnberry Records
9	28	These Old Burdens	Williamson Branch	Pinecastle
10	22	Child Of The King	Daniel Grindstaff	Pinecastle Records
11	27	On The Battlefield For My Lord	Larry Sparks	Rebel
12	16	No Empty Chairs In Heaven	David Parmley	615 Hideaway
13	25	In Spite Of My Yesterday	The Kapples	SGH Promotions
14	4	Can't You Hear Jerusalem Moan	Hammertowne	Independent
15	20	When I Get There	Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out	Independent
16	26	Rock Pile	Dave Adkins	Billy Blue Records/New Day
17	5	I'll Never Feel The Fire	Tim Davis (ft. Jeff Tolbert & Josh Swift)	Independent
18	1	Soldiers Of Heaven	Ashleigh Graham	Pinecastle
19	2	Lay Em Down	Benson	Mountain Home
20	38	Even Better When You Listen	Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers	Billy Blue
21	12	The News That Never Changes	King James Boys	Pinecastle Records
22	44	I Am The One	Jeff Tolbert & Primitive Road	Independent
23	32	Master Carpenter	Lincoln Mash & Heather Alley	ASMR Grass Records
24	29	When Jesus Calls My Name	Don Rigsby	RBR
25	15	Two Old Church Pews	Danny Paisley	Pinecastle Records
26	30	How Can You Refuse Him Now	Rhonda Vincent	Upper Management
27	31	Heaven Is Your Hometown	Wilson Banjo Company	Pinecastle
28	48	That Eternal Home	Eagle's Wings	Independent
29	--	Wings Of Love	Authentic Unlimited	Billy Blue Records
30	9	Are You Praying Hard	Gospel Plowboys	Mountain Fever Records
31	13	Good Time Get Together	Jesse Smathers	Mountain Home /Crossroads
32	41	I Can Pray	Daryl Mosley	Pinecastle
33	35	He's Gone	Jaelee Roberts w/ Ricky Skaggs, Sharon & Cheryl White	Mountain Home
34	19	Build Me An Ark	Caroline Owens	Skyline Records
35	42	Little White Church	Crandall Creek	Copper Mountain
36	40	No One But Jesus Can	Kristy Cox (with The Blackwood Brothers)	Billy Blue Records / New Day
37	7	Blue Collar Gospel	Jerry Salley & The Oak Ridge Boys	Independent
38	39	In The Shadow Of The Cross	Right Side	Independent
39	18	More Than A Hollow Hallelujah	The Isaacs	House Of Isaacs
40	45	I Found It All In The Blood	Bama Blu-Grace	FMG Bluegrass
41	47	The Lamb, The Lion , And The King	New River Bluegrass	Sound Biscuit
42	46	I'm Just A Nobody	Eric Horner	Sermon Song Records
43	36	Jordan	Darin & Broooke Aldridge w/ Ricky Skaggs, Mo Pitney, Mark Fain	Independent
44	17	Jesus Sweet Jesus	Mark Houser & Bluegrass Drive w/ Rhonda Vincent	Mark Houser
45	--	Touchdown Jesus	My Brother's Keeper	Robust Records
46	49	Angels From The Realms Of Glory	Rrinaco	Rebel
47	50	The Outlaw (ft. Becky Isaacs Bowman)	Becky Buller	Dark Shadow
48	25	Jesus Satisfies	Danny Roberts	Independent
49	--	Walk In The Way	Pitney Meyer	Curb
50	--	It'll Be Good To Be Home	Journeys	Independent

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1	10	I Saw A Miracle Today	Michael Ray Fain	Grace Records Nashville
2	9	Living Proof	Ken & Kim Stull	Nashville Christian Country
3	14	Hand In Heaven	The Murphys feat. Abigail	Canyon Creek Records
4	17	Get Out Of The Boat	Felicia Deramus Paul	Canyon Creek Records
5	5	If That Ain't True Love	Melanie Walker	Canyon Creek Records
6	19	Pushing You Away	Mike McAdoo	Canyon Creek Records
7	12	New Man	Chuck Day	Millennium Music Group
8	16	Blood Bought Cowboy	Marty Deroche	Nashville Christian Country
9	13	Greatly To Be Praised	Melissa Evans	Millennium Music Group
10	23	Everything You Do	Norman Lee Schaffer	Millennium Music Group
11	18	Back Pew Prayer	Woodie Kitchen	Nashville Christian Country
12	24	Say Hello To Heaven	Steve Warren	Millennium Music Group
13	39	My Everything	Tarrance Phillips	Millennium Music Group
14	4	Mama's Old Chest Of Drawers	Marvin Harrell	Millennium Music Group
15	2	God Talks To Me	Dawson Road	Nashville Christian Country
16	30	Three Nails And A Cross	George Strait	MCA Records
17	36	Hannah Whooped The Devil	Jason Welch	Nashville Christian Country
18	38	Footsteps Of My King	Todd Lee	Canyon Creek Records
19	33	Preachers In Hell	Troy Ervin	Nashville Christian Country
20	26	I've Been Thinking	Waymasters	Millennium Music Group
21	53	Make Heaven Crowded	Cole Swindle	CDX Records
22	27	Daddy's Hat	Debra Camp	Millennium Music Group
23	41	He Made It All	Dust And Grace	MTS Records
24	44	Honey In The Rock	Mary James	Canyon Creek Records
25	28	Shout Of Testimony	Mike Leichner	Canyon Creek Records
26	56	Why Me Lord	Richard Lynch	MTS Records
27	31	In Times Like These	Bruce and Betsy Mullen	Millennium Music Group
28	35	It's Time, Lord	Eddy Mann	MTS Records
29	1	It's Never Too Late	Chuck Hancock	Canyon Creek Records
30	11	You Can't Box Me In	Fortner Brothers	Nashville Christian Country
31	42	God Don't Waste The Hurt	Gary Russ	Nashville Christian Country
32	58	Your The Man	Judy Bailey	Canyon Creek Records
33	47	It'll Be Good To Be Home	The Journeys	Canyon Creek Records
34	43	My God Can	Valerie Ellis Hawkins	Canyon Creek Records
35	48	What I Got (La-De-Da)	Caleb Deramus	Canyon Creek Records
36	66	Man From Galilee	Jennifer Sides	Canyon Creek Records
37	49	Wish You Were Here	Johnathan Bond	Canyon Creek Records
38	51	Take Over Me	Rex Robards	Canyon Creek Records
39	67	Meanwhile Back At The Cross	Ron Hemphill	Millennium Music Group
40	20	Waiting In The Water	Debbie Mills	Millennium Music Group
41	63	Somebody Bigger Than You And I	David Smith	Millennium Music Group
42	46	In The Morning	Hunter Logan	Canyon Creek Records
43	59	If I Know Him	Kevin Kappler	Nashville Christian Country
44	71	Warrior Of God	Mark Umfleet	Millennium Music Group
45	81	What I Don't Know	Paula Slow	MC 1 Nashville
46	52	Footprints In The Sand	Dwight Sanders	SGH Promotions
47	61	God's About Had It	Steven Paul McCollum	MC 1 Nashville
48	60	Why Me	Jenny Dean	Grace Records Nashville
49	69	No Thought To Pray	Jerry Weatherly	Millennium Music Group
50	22	You Can Call On Him	Aaron Partridge and Steve Apirana	Grace Records Nashville



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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
51	88	Let Me tell Ya' Bout My Faith	Kali Rose	Canyon Creek Records
52	79	I Feel Knew	J'Lee	Canyon Creek Records
53	65	Give It All You've Got	Steve Anthony	CDX Records
54	68	The Most Perfect Gift	Clare Cunningham	Canyon Creek Records
55	72	Love Like Jesus Does	Aaron Justice	Canyon Creek Records
56	85	Find Your Way Back Home	LizzyG	Grace Records Nashville
57	74	You Can Talk To The Father	Richard Strong	New Beginnings Music Group
58	99	This One's For You	Rocky and Tamie Smith	Grace Records Nashville
59	--	Looking For The Light	Delnora	Canyon Creek Records
60	45	If That Isn't Love	Bruce Minchey	Canyon Creek Records
61	70	He Lives	Ed Bruce	Canyon Creek Records
62	77	Walking Out Of Egypt	One Voice	New Beginnings Music Group
63	92	Jesus Is The Way	Rachel Taylor	Millennium Music Group
64	80	The Way You Do	Michael Walsh	New Beginnings Music Group
65	--	Whiskey Road	Michael Tetrick	Grace Records Nashville
66	95	Brothers And Sisters	Ken Lehning	American Windsong Music
67	87	Tell Me That There Ain't A God	Jon Brennan	CDX Records
68	98	Jesus Is The King	Ken Mobley	New Beginnings Music Group
69	78	Don't Cry For Me	Teresa Johnson	Canyon Creek Records
70	94	When I Hear His Name	Victoria Steelman	Millennium Music Group
71	--	If I'm Guilty	Thomas Brown	Canyon Creek Records
72	89	Saving Grace	Krystina B	CDX Records
73	--	The Last Song	Terry and Debra Luna	Canyon Creek Records
74	91	God's Great	The Messengers	SGH Promotions
75	84	That's The Least That I Can Do	Greg Marlow	Canyon Creek Records
76	--	River Of Life	Sonshine Road	Canyon Creek Records
77	83	Picture This	Jessie Ritchie	MMG/New Beginning Music Group
78	90	The Crossroads	Richard Sprayberry	Canyon Creek Records
79	--	That's The Way Mama Raised Me	Luke Hendrickson	Canyon Creek Records
80	--	Heading Home With Jesus To Be	Lizzy G And Jeff Naper	Grace Records Nashville
81	100	God Is Good Ya'll	Wings of Love	New Beginnings Music Group
82	--	Soldier Of The Cross	John Penney	Millennium Music Group
83	93	Build Me An Ark	Caroline Owens	Skyline Music
84	--	The Turn	The Pauls	Canyon Creek Records
85	96	Cherished Memories	Jeff Hamilton	New Beginnings Music Group
86	--	When I Hear His Name	Victoria Steelman	Millennium Music Group
87	97	Someday Things Are Gonna Get Better	Johnny Jones	Millennium Music Group
88	--	My Tiny Soul	JW Jackson	Millennium Music Group
89	--	Snowy Sunday Morning	Biscuits and Gravy Band Indiana	Canyon Creek Records
90	--	Jesus To The Rescue	Beverly Brown Simms	Millennium Music Group
91	--	Beverage Of Choice	Brother Daniel	Canyon Creek Records
92	--	Wayfaring Stranger	Debbie Bennett	Grace Records Nashville
93	--	At War With Myself	Cyndi Reynolds	Canyon Creek Records
94	--	The Bridge	Daryl Baker	Millennium Music Group
95	--	There's Power In The Name Of Jesus	Jonathan Ray Smith	Canyon Creek Records
96	--	Getting Back Up	Troy Richardson	Millennium Music Group
97	--	Somebody Here	Linda Lanier	Canyon Creek Records
98	--	Just A Little Talk With Jesus	Ray Epperson	Canyon Creek Records
99	--	You Got It	Royel Clark	Canyon Creek Records
100	--	Let's All Go Down To The River	Steve Bruce Band	Canyon Creek Records

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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	11	How Good It Is	Chris Tomlin	Sparrow/Capitol CMG
2	8	No Survivors	Jeremy Camp	Sparrow / Capitol CMG
3	6	Heaven On My Mind	Toby Mac	Forefront/Capitol CMG
4	13	Won't Start Now	Seph Schlueter	Essential / PLG
5	5	Praise In The Choir Stand	Brent Jones	JDI
6	15	Amen	Pastor Mike Jr	Motown Gospel
7	17	God Story	Anne Wilson	Sparrow/Capitol CMG
8	22	Dusty Bibles	Josiah Queen	PLG / Capitol CMG
9	2	Come Jesus Come	CeCe Winans & Cody Johnson	Pure Springs / Fair Trade
10	21	I'm In A Change	Mack Holland	OCTIIVE
11	29	Have Your Way	Katy Nichole	Centricity
12	3	Still	Crowder & Zach Williams	Sparrow / Capitol CMG
13	12	Somebody Prayed	Crowder	Sparrow/Capitol Cmg
14	23	Blessings	Tanya Nolan	ArtSessionz
15	34	Can't Steal My Joy	Josiah Queen & Brandon Lake	PLG / Capitol CMG
16	39	That's Who I Praise	Brandon Lake	Provident/Sony
17	1	I Prayed For You	Major	MNRK
18	9	Oh Death	MercyMe	Fair Trade/Columbia
19	28	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann	Tillymann
20	4	Place In This World	For King & Country	Word-Curb
21	31	Get Behind Me	Emerson Day	Fair Trade
22	18	God Did It	Micah Tyler	Fair Trade/Columbia
23	35	Church (ft. John Legend)	Tasha Cobbs Leonard	Motown/Capitol CMG
24	33	Church Medley	John P. Kee	Kee/Tyscot
25	48	Mighty Name Of Jesus	Hope Darst & Josh Baldwin	Fair Trade
26	7	Yahweh	Jason Nelson	Fair Trade/Tyscot
27	36	Our King Has Come	Katy Nichole & Matt Maher	Centricity
28	43	I've Just Seen Too Much	Big Daddy Weave	Word-Curb
29	16	Jesus Loves	Zach Williams	Essential / PLG
30	40	In The Room	James Fortune	Fiya World / MNRK
31	20	I Believe You	Megan Woods	Fair Trade / Columbia
32	38	Homesick For Heaven	Phil Wickham	Fair Trade / Columbia
33	46	Is This The Thanks I Get	Ashley Collins	Grace Records Nashville
34	42	God Did It	Kenny Lewis & One Voice	Puresound/Waynorth
35	25	I Can Count On You	The Group Fire	Jet North/East
36	--	Goodbye Yesterday	Elevation Rhythm & Gracie Binion	Elevation Worship
37	41	God's Prodigy	Jackee H	Millennium Music Group
38	--	Unashamed	Matthew West	Reunion / PLG
39	47	The Love I Have For You	Colton Dixon	Fair Trade /Atlantic
40	--	Nobody Knows	Prophet YOSHUA	Prophet YOSHUA
41	45	For You	Ashes Awaken	MTS Records
42	19	Your Glory 2 C U	Earnest Pugh	Black Smoke
43	--	Where Would I Be	Peter Burton & Matthew West	Integrity
44	--	Finished	Caleb & John	Fair Trade / Columbia
45	49	Do It Again	James Grear & Company	BlacksMOKE
46	--	Still Waters (Psalm 23)	Leanna Crawford	Reunion / PLG
47	50	Three Kings	We Are Messengers	Word - Curb
48	--	God Has A Plan For Your Life	Michael B Kirksey	Babyson
49	--	Loves Got A Way	Andrew Ripp	Holly Street
50	--	I'm A Child Of The King	Michael Gi	D&D



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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	9	<b>Burning Bridges</b>	<b>Hammond Brothers</b>	<b>Millennium Music Group</b>
2	6	The Whiskey Ain't Workin'	Burt & Cody Winkler	Colt Records
3	10	Red Red Wine	Liz Beth	Timber Records
4	11	It's A Free Country	Kevin Tuckfield	Colt Records
5	5	She's Talkin With Her Eyes	Sean Poole	MC1 Nashville
6	8	The Cows Are Out	Kenny Crider	Colt Records
7	14	As Cowboy As They Come	Aspen Black	Independent
8	16	Did I Catch You On A Good Day	Hank Hopkins	Century II Records
9	1	This Time	Billy Payne	BGJ Promotions/MMG
10	15	We Must Have Been Out Our Minds	Brian Moon & Leona Williams	Clarksville Creative Sound
11	35	Angelina	Marty Chambers	Clarksville Creative Sound
12	21	He Made It All	Dust And Grace	MTS Records
13	19	Walk Me To The Door	Mike Hughes	Big Bear Creek Music
14	20	Have A Good Time	Pam Ross	MTS Records
15	3	Need A Shot Of You Again	Gary Grant Chamberlain	Colt Records
16	24	Barstow To HB	Ryan Bodine	Clarksville Creative Sound
17	13	When Love is Love	John Michael Ferrari	Millennium Music Group
18	27	Past The Point Of Rescue	Lee Sims	Adelphos Records
19	32	Sugar Lake	Lynne Taylor Donovan	Pacific Records
20	30	Wayfaring Stranger	Paul Williams	Colt Records
21	34	Wild Mustang	Abby Laine	Clarksville Creative Sound
22	17	You Can Count On Me	Donna Fargo	MMG/PrimDonna Records
23	7	Where Are You	Brent Beaudeau	Matador Legacy Records
24	36	Bait A Hook Cast A Line	Kish Moody	Century II Records
25	37	Little Things	Ryan O' Neill	Independent
26	43	Honky Tonk In Texas	Peggy Haverly	Matador Legacy Records
27	4	An Empty Glass	Brayden Ryle	Clarksville Creative Sound
28	31	Two Steppin' Song	Kent Thompson	Matador Legacy Records
29	53	That's How I Lost Mine	Robbie Cockrell	Grace Records Nashville
30	39	We Love Our Boys	Chris Mabb	Steam Whistle Records
31	38	Silver Eagle	J.K. Coltrain	Colt Records
32	2	Hey Baby Que Paso	Cody Winkler	Colt Records
33	40	Alabama Sugar	Haven Slay	Buckshot Records
34	41	White Picket Fence	Mahlissa	MidLand Records
35	55	Honor Bound	David Wills	BGJ Promotions/MMG
36	48	The Mirror Has My Soul	Ed Williams	Matador Legacy Records
37	12	Take My Hand	Mission Road	779 Music
38	54	Ain't No Grave	The Curse Of KK Hammond	MTS Records
39	64	Thanks To You	Caleb Montgomery	Label22 Records
40	62	Get Ready	Middy And The Crew	Formula Records
41	59	Mended Fences	Christine J. Scott	Major Record Distribution LLC
42	50	Wish You Were Here	Johnathan Bond	Millennium Music Group
43	67	Old Church Songs	Ken Mobley	New Beginning Music Group
44	79	Good Kind Of Crazy	Paula Slow	MC1 Nashville
45	73	My Dream Lover	Carol Stevens	Colt Records
46	75	Show The World What Love Is	Markey Blue	MC1 Nashville
47	23	Thing About Texas	Ronnie McDowell, Rodney Collins & Johnny Rodriguez	MMG/Lanier Records
48	57	My Own Worst Enemy	Johnathan Len	Millennium Music Group
49	65	I Reckon	Eddie Johnson	BGJ Promotions/MMG
50	97	Just Go To Church	Gary Grant Chamberlain	Colt Records



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SGH Promotions

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
51	66	I Got To Drunk Again Last Night	Michael Deese	BGJ Promotions/MMG
52	45	In America	Dawn Rix	BGJ Promotions/MMG
53	52	Uncertain Texas	Sheila And The Caddo Kats	Independent
54	69	Hard Times In Arkansas	Ozark Gypsy	BGJ Promotions/MMG
55	68	What's Wrong With This Jukebox	Dennis Ledbetter	Saint and Sinner Records
56	80	Country Roots	Brian Shartzter	BGJ Promotions/MMG
57	71	High Roller	Brendan Kelly	Independent
58	70	Back When We Were Young	Webb Dalton	BGJ Promotions/MMG
59	74	Whiskey Road	Michael Tetrick	Grace Records Nashville
60	87	Memories	Adam Grant	BGJ Promotions/MMG
61	76	Who Needs Whiskey	J. Abbott	Grace Records Nashville
62	42	Our Flag Flies in Dover	JW Jackson	Millennium Music Group
63	86	Show Me	Mike McCarrell	BGJ Promotions/MMG
64	88	My Man	Rose Angelica	Big Bear Creek Music
65	46	Freedom's Calling	Thomas Charles Clukey	Independent
66	77	AA Meetings	Travis Reid Ball	Independent
67	49	Faded Love	Lizzy Beth Goldman	Clarksville Creative Sound
68	--	Never Told Me	Andrew Dean and Georgette Jones	BGJ Promotions/MMG
69	61	Bed Of Roses	Eleyet McConnell	MTS Records
70	44	The Back Of My Truck	Jace Aaron	MC1 Nashville
71	--	Slow Dance	Lyndel Lucas	BGJ Promotions/MMG
72	84	Cowboy Killer	Macy Tabor	MC1 Nashville
73	93	If I Could See Tomorrow	Ethan Lake	BGJ Promotions/MMG
74	98	As Close As We Get To The Mountains	Robin Johnston	Millennium Music Group
75	81	Set 'Em Up	John Landry	BGJ Promotions/MMG
76	90	Got No Reason Now For Going Home	Cody Winkler	Colt Records
77	100	Stand In	Kerr Donnelly	K.D.M.I. Records
78	85	What I Believe Is Right	Michael G. Sparger	BGJ Promotions/MMG
79	--	Can't Stop Loving You	Hammond Brothers	Millennium Music Group
80	94	Should I Be Doing This	Brian Moon	Clarksville Creative Sound
81	83	Goodbye	Jenny Dean	Grace Records Nashville
82	--	Buzzin'	Gary Pratt	MTS Records
83	99	Stop	Cat Lion	My Redemption Records
84	92	Old Country Road	Juliette Brown	Millennium Music Group
85	--	Watching You	Dennis Dichario & WNO	Colt Records
86	95	One More Minute	Marie Norris	Millennium Music Group
87	--	For You Girl	Robert Ross	MTS Records
88	--	Just One More Time	Clabe McGuire	Independent
89	--	Old Man In The Corner	Dennis Lowery	BGJ Promotions/MMG
90	--	The Only Thing Missin' Is You	Jerry Weatherly	Millennium Music Group
91	96	Rockin' and Rollin'	Mary Hoey	BGJ Promotions/MMG
92	--	Last Night	Johan Smyths	BGJ Promotions/MMG
93	--	I'll Still Go On Lovin' You	Nora Dickerson	Midland Records
94	--	Cowgirl Swing	Trevor Carlesi	Bongo Boy Records
95	--	Kiss My Bad American Ass	Bott Mark	BGJ Promotions/MMG
96	--	That's What I Don't Want No More Of	P. J. Gilly	Midland Records
97	--	Little Country Church	Terry LeMaster	Clarksville Creative Sound
98	--	That's All I Had To Do	Denis Element	BGJ Promotions/MMG
99	--	The Flag	Kenny Lee	KLP Records
100	--	Freedom's Calling	Thomas Charles Clukey	Independent



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LEON EVERETTE

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	9	Til The Last One Dies	Chris Young	Black River Entertainment
2	3	Favorite Country Song	Hardy	Big Loud/Mercury/Republic
3	11	Straight Line	Keith Urban	Capitol Records Nashville (UMGN)
4	5	Country Song Came On	Luke Bryan	Capitol Records Nashville
5	12	Ain't A Bad Life	Thomas Rhett (ft. Jordan Davis)	The Valory Music Co. / MCA
6	22	Time's Ticking	Justin Moore	The Valory Music Co.
7	19	Me & A Beer	Chris Janson	Warner Music Nashville/Harpeth 60
8	13	Would If I Could	Ernest	Big Loud Records
9	20	Days Like These	Luke Combs	Columbia Nashville
10	21	How Far Does A Goodbye Go	Jason Aldean	Broken Bow / Macon Music
11	23	Killed The Man	Lee Brice	Curb Records
12	29	A Song To Sing	Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	Big Loud/Republic
13	31	Drink With You	Brett Young	BMLG Records
14	10	2 Pair	Kane Brown	RCA Records
15	28	Baggage	Kelsea Ballerini	Black River Entertainment
16	1	I Dare You	Rascal Flatts (with Jonas Brothers)	Big Machine Records/Republic
17	25	Fireworks	Kelsey Hart	Curb Records
18	24	Brunette	Tucker Wetmore	Back Block/EMI Nashville/Mercury
19	41	Wish You Well	Vincent Mason	MCA Nashville/Music Soup/Interscope
20	32	When She Kissed Me	Casey Donahew	Amost Country Records
21	34	Hate How You Look	Josh Ross	Mercury Nashville/Universal Music Canada
22	27	Cowgirl	Parmalee	Stoney Creek Records (BBRMG)
23	53	20 Cigarettes	Morgan Wallen	Big Loud Records Big Loud/Mercury/Republic
24	54	I Ain't Coming Back	Morgan Wallen (ft. Post Malone)	Big Loud Records
25	16	What He'll Never Have	Dylan Scott	Curb Records
26	49	Making Good Time	Old Dominion	Three Up Three Down LLC/Columbia Nashville
27	18	Thing About Texas	Ronnie McDowell, Rodney Collins and Johnny Rodriguez	Lanier Records
28	38	What Kinda Man	Parker McCollum	MCA Nashville
29	17	Weak	Preston Coper	The Valory Music Co.
30	37	Same Moon	Mitchell Tenpenny	River House/Columbia Nashville
31	40	Kid Myself	John Morgan	Night Train Records/Broken Bow Records
32	14	Somewhere Over Laredo	Lainey Wilson	Broken Bow Records
33	42	Chevy Silverado	Bailey Zimmerman	Warner Music Nashville / Atlantic Records/WMN Radio
34	43	Choosin' Texas	Ella Langley	SAWGOD/Columbia Records
35	48	Amen	Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	Empire/Magnolia Music/Stoney Creek
36	39	The Hell You Are	Ashley Cooke	Big Loud Records/Back Blocks Music
37	60	Turn This Truck Around	Jordan Davis	MCA Nashville
38	15	Better Me For You (Brown Eyes)	Max McNown	Magnolia Music Group/Fugitive
39	86	South Of Sanity	Zach Top	Leo33
40	90	After Midnight	Nate Smith (ft. Tyler Hubbard)	RCA Nashville (SMN)
41	51	All My Exes	Lauren Alaina (ft. Chase Matthews)	Big Loud Records
42	30	Pontiac(So Tell Me Momma)	Aaron Watson	Adub Records
43	56	Wish You Wouldn't Go	Ken Domash	Thunder Mountain Records
44	50	Said No Redneck Ever	Aaron Goodvin	New Motor Records/Warner Music Canada
45	62	Dream Come True	Carly Pearce	Big Machine Records
46	36	Golden Child	Meghan Patrick	Riser House
47	68	Last One To Know	Gavin Adcock	Warner Music Nashville
48	33	House Again	Hudson Westbrook	Warner Music Nashville/WAR Radio/River House
49	63	Past The Point Of Rescue	Ghost Hounds	Gibson Records
50	66	No Tellin'	Caroline Jones	Nashville Harbor Records And Entertainment

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Tire Swinger Records

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
51	65	Worth Your Wild	Russell Dickerson	Triple Tigers
52	58	Burned Down Heaven	Chase McDaniel	Big Machine Records
53	89	I Want It All	Skip Ewing	Write! Records
54	76	Second Hand Smoke	Alex Miller	Billy Jam Records
55	74	Want You Back	Brantley Gilbert	The Valory Music Co.
56	47	She Gone	Dillon Carmichael	Riser House
57	73	Straight For The Heart	Alexandra Kay	Wheelhouse Records
58	99	Kick Rocks Cowboy	Ashland Craft	Leo33
59	84	Rebel	Drew Baldridge	Stoney Creek Records(BBRMG)
60	81	Two Hands	Pat Green & Corey Kent	Greenhouse Records Inc.
61	69	Water At A Wedding	Greylan James	Big Machine Label Group/Nashville Harbor Records And Ent.
62	77	Pretty Much	Marynn Taylor	Black River Entertainment
63	97	Beautiful Things	Megan Moroney	Columbia Nashville
64	100	Gary	Stephen Wilson Jr	Big Loud Records
65	88	The Church On Cumberland Road	Shenandoah & NickelBack	8-Track Entertainment
66	45	Hell That I Call Home	Porter Martin	Lovable Music
67	57	Easy To Love	Dustin Lynch	Broken Bow
68	78	Smells Like Whiskey	Jessie G	Jessie G Music
69	52	Wrong Hearts	Locash	Galaxy Label Group
70	55	Cloud Of Dust	Tracy Lawrence (ft. Rick Huckaby)	Independent
71	--	Let Him In Anyway	Blake Shelton	Wheelhouse (BBRMG)
72	98	Rocky Mountain Low	Corey Kent (ft. Koe Wetzell)	RCA Nashville (SMN)
73	75	Heaven Passing Through	Turnpike Troubadours	Bossier City Records/Thirty Tigers/Akando Music
74	82	Three Sheets To The Wind	Kelly & Sarah	Kelly & Sarah Music
75	71	Perfume On My Jersey	Caleb Lathrop	CAL Production
76	91	Travelin' Soldier	Cody Johnson	CoJo Music / Warner Music Nashville / WMN Radio & Streaming
77	80	Keeps Me Sane	Tyler Nance	Santa Anna/Akando
78	94	Boots Off	Jon Pardi	Capitol Records Nashville
79	92	Wildfire	Michael Martin Murphey (ft. Cody Johnson)	Wildfire Production
80	83	Turn The Night On	Chris Kizzia	CAL Records
81	46	Paper Umbrellas	Tim McGraw (ft. Parker McCollum)	Big Machine Label Group
82	79	Devil Ain't Done	Atlus	Stoney Creek Records(BBRMG)
83	93	Ends Of The Earth	Ty Myers	Records Nashville / Columbia Records
84	--	McArthur	Hardy (ft. Eric Church, Morgan Wallen, Tim McGraw)	Big Loud Records
85	--	Too Much Lonesome	Eric Lee Beddingfield	MOTR Music / Rebel Dawg Records
86	59	Long Live Country	Shane Profitt	Triple Tigers
87	95	Life's Highway	Soul Circus Cowboys (with Andy Griggs)	Kismet Nashville
88	--	Make A Liar	Jackson Dean	Big Machine Records
89	61	I Wish You Would	Mackenzie Carpenter (ft. Midland)	Big Machine Records/The Valory Music Co.
90	72	It Won't Be Long	George Birge	Records Nashville
91	--	Holdin' It Down	Chase Matthew	Warner Music Nashville/WAR Radio
92	--	Too Good , Too Bad	Jason Scott & The High Heat	Leo33
93	--	Cowboy Pillows	Lexie Stevenson	Lexquisite Music
94	70	My Crazy	Ashley Ryan	Spinville Entertainment
95	--	Change My Mind	Riley Green	Nashville Harbor/Big Machine Label Group
96	85	We Can Always Move On	Cole Swindell	Warner Music Nashville
97	--	The Next Right Thing	Kristen Kelly	Kristen Kelly Music
98	--	I Was Wrong	Mike Ryan	Bad Rep Records
99	--	What If We Don't	Ashley McBryde	Warner Records Nashville
100	--	Steady	Jenna Paulette	Leo33



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Tommy Smith  
(903) 566-3347*

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	13	Nice To Meet You	Myles Smith	Sony UK
2	31	Opalite	Taylor Swift	Taylor Swift/Republic
3	6	Never Enough	Turnstile	Roadrunner
4	9	Lose Control	Teddy Swims	Warner
5	8	Archbishop Harold Holmes	Jack White	Third Man/Orchard
6	10	The Garden	Jeremy Parsons	MTS Records
7	12	Wonderful Life '25	Hurts & Purple Disco Machine	Columbia/Sony UK
8	20	Be Mine	Kamrad	Epic Germany
9	15	Birds Of A Feather	Billie Eilish	Darkroom/Interscope
10	19	Midnight Sun	Marc Atlas	Valeria/Republic
11	21	Life By The Numbers	Noble Hops (ft. Miss Freddye)	MTS Records
12	3	Born Again (ft. Doja Cat & Raye)	Lisa	Llound/RCA
13	5	Daisies	Justin Bieber	RBMG/Def Jam
14	28	Show Me Love	Wizthemc, Bees & Honey	Bamboo/10K Projects
15	1	Lachryma	Ghost	Loma Vista/Concord
16	23	That's So True	Gracie Abrams	Interscope
17	30	Which One Is Real	Shweta Harve (ft. Dario Cei)	MTS Records
18	34	The Emperor Wears No Clothes	Digney Fignus	MTS Records
19	58	Pride	Felix Jaehn (ft. Jhart)	Crash Your Sound/UMG
20	41	FreeFall (ft. Chris Daughtry)	Nothing More	Better Noise
21	52	The Dead Dance	Lady GaGa	Streamline/Interscope
22	43	Man I Need	Olivia Dean	Island/Republic
23	2	Espresso	Sabrina Carpenter	Hollywood/Island
24	44	Lift	Toy Called God	Warner Brothers
25	38	Gabriela	Katseye	HYBE/Geffen
26	35	Twilight Zone	Ariana Grande	Republic/Universal
27	32	I Could Do Much Worse	We Are Scientists	Groenland
28	4	Hot Pepper Doll	Cerrito	MC1 Nashville
29	49	Mutt	Leon Thomas & Chris Brown	Ezmony/Motown
30	45	Love Of My Life	XDB	MTS Records
31	66	Don't Click Play	Ava Max	Atlantic
32	48	The Longing	Harry Kappen	MTS Records
33	42	Out Of The Night	Luke David Carlsen	MTS Records
34	46	Love Me Not	Ravyn Lenae	Atlantic
35	62	Asking For A Friend	Foo Fighters	Roswell/RCA
36	55	Golden	Huntr/X	Republic
37	60	Say It Two Times	Pam Ross	MTS Records
38	27	Apologies	Three Days Grace	RCA
39	67	For I Am Death	The Pretty Reckless	Fearless
40	22	Blue Strips	Jessie Murph	Disruptor/Columbia
41	76	Pale Horse	Chevelle	Alchemy / BMG
42	47	No Broke Boys	Disco Lines & Tinashe	Good Good / Atlantic
43	54	Adore Ya	ClockClock	Wefor
44	89	Band-aids	Katy Perry	Capitol
45	74	Sorry I'm Here For Someone Else	Benson Boone	Night Street / Warner
46	33	Blessings (ft. Clementine Douglas)	Calvin Harris	Sony UK
47	53	What The Troll	Shweta Harve (ft. Dario Cei)	MTS Records
48	68	12 To 12	Sombr	Warner
49	65	Downstairs	Matt Maeson	Neon Gold/Atlantic
50	29	End Of The World	Miley Cyrus	Smiley Miley/Columbia

**22nd Annual**

# GOSPEL MUSIC FANFAIR

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# CASHBOX music charts

## APRIL 2026 Pop / Rock Top 100

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
51	57	Someday	Novai	MTS Records
52	86	As Alive As You Need Me To Be	Nine Inch Nails	The Null
53	84	All I Got Is Time & Beer	Southern Outlaws Band	SOB Records/MMG
54	56	From Disco To Disco	Alle Farben & Majestic	Universal Germany
55	72	Lost All Control	Seether	Fantasy
56	82	Lifeline	Argyro	MTS Records
57	61	Jealous Type	Doja Cat	Kemosabe/RCA
58	39	Luther	Kendrick Lamar & Sza	TDE/Interscope
59	70	Unraveling	Muse	Warner UK
60	99	Losing My Mind	Seraphina	In-Sanan -TY
61	78	The Horizon	Eleyet McConnell	MTS Records
62	77	Tit For Tat	Tate McRae	RCA
63	97	Gone Gone Gone (ft. Tones And I)	David Guetta & Teddy Swims	Parlophone /Warner UK
64	83	Song For My Friends	The Perfect Storm	MTS Records
65	--	Demonic Depression	Volbeat	Vertigo Berlin/Universal
66	50	Pink Pony Club	Chappell Roan	Island
67	71	Like It Like That	Dasha	Warner
68	87	Blind Love	Elvira Kalnik	MTS Records
69	80	The Spell	Mammoth	BMG
70	59	I Had Some Help (ft. Morgan Wallen)	Post Malone	Republic
71	75	Glide	Meiked & Portugal. The Man	Columbia/Sony Germany
72	85	All Time High	Nico Santos	Universal
73	--	Die With A Smile	Lady GaGa & Bruno Mars	Streamline/Interscope
74	81	Body	FireBoy DML, Nico Santos, Topic	Universal Germany
75	--	Folded	Kehlani	TSNMI/Atlantic
76	64	Too Sweet	Hozier	Columbia
77	90	No Need To Try Harder	Laura Cox	VeryCords/EarMusic
78	--	Bloodline	Alex Warren & Jelly Roll	Atlantic
79	100	Coastin'	Cathleen Ireland	MTS Records
80	94	Man Get Out	Wet Leg	Domino
81	69	Timeless	The Weeknd & Playboi Carti	Republic
82	--	Everything Ends	Architects	Epitath
83	91	Searchlight	Shinedown	Atlantic
84	88	For You	Ashes Awaken	MTS Records
85	92	The Bottom	Daughtry	Dogtree / BMLG
86	96	The Trunk	Noble Hops	MTS Records
87	--	Camera	Ed Sheeran	Gingerbread Man/Warner
88	93	The Perfumed Garden	Ananda Xenia Shakti	MTS Records
89	79	Messy Day One	Lola Young	Day One/Universal
90	95	If Darkness Had A Son	Metallica	Blackened / Rhino / ADA
91	--	Specter	Bad Omens	Sumerian
92	--	Aperture	Harry Styles	Erskine/Columbia
93	--	The Emptiness Machine	Linkin Park	Warner Brothers
94	98	Run Free	Michael Patrick Kelly	Columbia
95	--	Cry For Me	The Weeknd	Republic
96	--	The Big Goodbye	AJR	AJR/S-Curve
97	--	Die On This Hill	Sienna Spiro	Capitol/UMG
98	--	Dracula	Tame Impala	Columbia
99	--	Profane Prophecy	The Black Crowes	Silver Arrow
100	--	White Horses	Wolf Alice	Columbia/Sony UK



**MARIE NORRIS**  
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Thanks to all radio stations for continuing to play my music and also for giving me 2 Top 40 hits! "Perfume & Diesel" is #26 and my current chart song is "End Of The Road" which just broke into the Top 40 at #39 for the month of May!



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# Jesus Is the Way

Rachel Taylor

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rachelshields1969@gmail.com



# RICHARD LYNCH



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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	4	Humanity	Denisha Osbourne	Three 2 Go
2	5	Trash	Ramp Lo	Push Artist
3	13	What's My Name	Gran Centennial	Gran Centennial
4	15	Boss	Stelly	Showout
5	19	Pop	AL99	TPC
6	17	Young Hearts Run Free	Cindy Davis	The Sound Of LA
7	21	Be Mine (ft. CherTrease)	Styngray	First Kings
8	16	Affirmations	Flippa T	Flippa T/Hitmaker
9	6	Soulfully Sublime	Ingram Street	Ingram Street
10	28	Still Wanna Go On	The Al Ur Pal Project	WordLaw/The Sound Of LA
11	25	Big Hearted Pt.II	Austn Taylr	Jaylivan
12	2	Creepin'	Metro Boomin' (ft. The Weeknd and 21 Savage)	Boominati/Republic
13	32	On This Silent Night	U Of Soul	U Of Soul
14	30	Deep Down (ft. Kozze)	Grizz Da Bizz	Grizz Da Bizz
15	1	Residuals	Chris Brown	RCA
16	24	Island Summer (On My Mind)	Heidi Tann & Kinsman Dazz Band	Bell Tellephunk/Ecmd
17	36	Who's Next (ft.Compton AV)	BlackDiamond	RunAMok
18	9	In The City	Cathleen Ireland	MTS Records
19	14	Burning Blue	Mariah The Scientist	Epic
20	3	Bad Girl	TN Da Entertainer	Platform
21	33	How You Been	YK Osiris	ToTheTop
22	12	30 For 30	SZA & Kendrick Lamar	Top Dawg /RCA
23	41	Wet Like The Rain	Harold Kiel	Lounge Renown
24	35	Our Favorite Things	Iani	Laudation Records
25	8	King Of Kings	God's Son Orlando	Hottraxx
26	10	Guess What	Blah DE	Laid-Back Hardcore
27	7	Like That (ft. Kendrick Lamar)	Future & Metro Boomin'	Epic/Republic
28	11	You And Me Baby	Elaine Stepter	Elaine Stepter
29	35	Get To Know You (ft. Angie Stone)	Omar Wilson	BSE
30	--	Girl, Get Up	Doechii & SZA	TDE/Capitol
31	46	TV Off (ft. Lefty Gunplay)	Kendrick Lamar	TDE/ Interscope
32	--	Woe Am I	ET Boys	Wake Up!
33	43	Bring It On Back	Illegal	HBN
34	--	Whatever You Want (ft. Kendrick Lamar)	Future & Metro Boomin'	Epic/Republic
35	--	WGFT (ft.Burna Boy)	Gunna	YSL/300
36	42	You I Adore	Ron C Walters	GT/ STYLZ
37	48	Mutt	Leon Thomas & Chris Brown	EZMNY/ Motown
38	49	No Regrets	Novai	MTS Records
39	--	Go Girl (ft. Latto& Doja Cat)	Summer Walker	LVRN/Interscope
40	--	Friend Do	Belly Gang Kushington	LVRN
41	--	I Try (ft. Imani-Grace)	Forrest Robinson's Funk Asylum	Flower Plot
42	--	Signed Sealed Delivered	David Ruff	David Ruff
43	38	Nokia	Drake	OVO/Republic
44	50	All This Time	Mr. B. E. I.	The Parish Empire
45	--	Watching Us	Wale & Leon Thomas	Wale/Def Jam
46	--	It's What I'm Made For	G.Dep & Shzzy 8ando	Black Market
47	47	American Strong	DPB	MTS Records
48	23	All She Do Is Shake (ft. Sexy Red)	J Traxx	Untouchable
49	--	Have To	Brent Faiyaz	Lost Kids/Venice/Stem
50	--	I Just Might	Bruno Mars	Atlantic

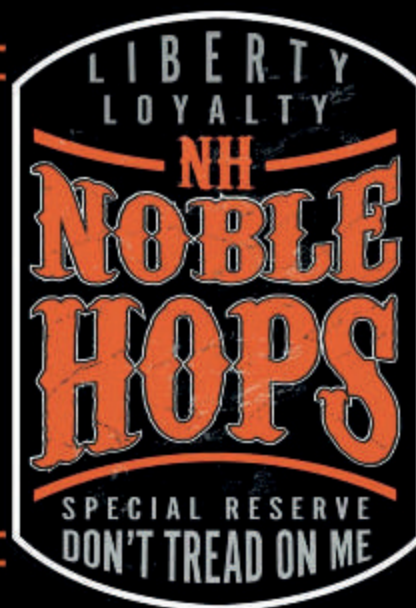


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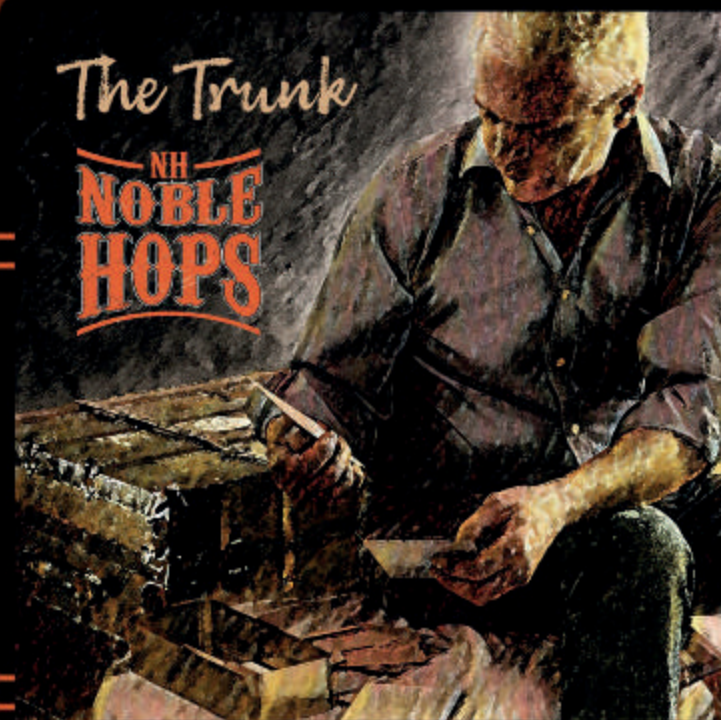
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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	9	All He's Ever Been	Chronicle	New Day
2	7	I Speak Jesus	Karen Peck & New River	Daywind/New Day
3	4	Troubled	LeFevre Quartet	New Day Records
4	13	He'll Never Stop Being God	Sunday Drive	Stow Town/Provident Sony
5	21	You Can Sleep Tonight	Big Mo	Tentop Music Group
6	16	I'm Gonna Make It	Freemans	Millennium Music Group
7	24	Behind My Praise	Brian Free & Assurance	Daywind/New Day
8	17	Come Along Let's Fly	Keith Barkley & Family Tradition	Millennium Music Group
9	2	I Will Sing	Hoppers	Gaither Music/Capitol Christian
10	19	Highway To Heaven	Rick Towle	Millennium Music Group
11	22	Sent By The Father	Donna Kilmurray	Millennium Music Group
12	23	I Went Down	Kingdom Heirs	Sonlite/Crossroads
13	26	Overflowing	Kenny Keith	Millennium Music Group
14	30	A Million Reasons	Perrys	StowTown Records
15	11	On My Way Back	Donna Burke	Millennium Music Group
16	36	If The Good Lord's Willin'	Doug & Gina Green	Millennium Music Group
17	43	He Did It All For Me	Ernie Haase & Signature Sounds	Stow Town/Provident Sony
18	58	Hard Trials Will Soon Be Over	Gaither Vocal Band	Spring House Music Group
19	29	All I Need	Mark S Dubbels	Millennium Music Group
20	48	So Many Reasons	Tribute Quartet	Daywind/New Day
21	35	I Am Saved	Tate Emmons	ARS/New Day
22	1	When Believers Will Be Leaving	Down East Boys	Sonlite/Crossroads
23	68	In The Middle	Gold City	New Haven
24	54	Sea Of Forgetfulness	Inspirations	Horizon/Crossroads
25	39	The Only Way He Knew How	Jeff & Sheri Easter	Gaither Music/Capitol Christian
26	37	Carry Me	Lori King	Grace Records Nashville
27	3	Tell The Devil	Joseph Habedank	Daywind/New Day
28	46	There's Coming A Day	Common Bond Quartet	Millennium Music Group
29	55	Lord Are You Busy	Loretta Jent	Millennium Music Group
30	38	Thank God For The Darkness	Barbara Jean	Millennium Music Group
31	5	Sow The Good Seed	Greater Vision	Daywind/New Day
32	57	God, You've Done Me Good	The Knight Family	Hey Yall Media
33	8	The Big Move	The Masseys	New Beginning Music Group
34	47	Where The Soul Never Dies	Joyful Sound Trio	SGH Promotions
35	64	Greatly To Be Praised	Melissa Evans	Chapel Valley
36	44	Bring Back The New Again	The Hagers	SGH Promotions
37	6	More Than A Hollow Hallelujah	Isaacs	House of Isaacs
38	85	I Just Stopped By On My Way Home	Kingsmen	Horizon/Crossroads
39	15	Grand Homecoming	Lorraine Howard	Millennium Music Group
40	56	What's It Like At Home	Mark Dubbeld Family	Big Picture Records/New Day
41	18	Audience Of One	The Pearly Gates	New Beginning Music Group
42	75	Count It All Joy	The Scotts	Patterson Music Group
43	72	He's Still Writing In The Sand	Troy Burns Family	Hey Yall Media
44	14	Fired Up And Filled Up	Angela Seng	Millennium Music Group
45	53	Let Me Tell Ya	Rhapsody Praise	Millennium Music Group
46	80	Put Your Hand In The Hand	Ronnie Booth and The Blackwood Brothers	Daywind/New Day
47	33	It Should've Been Me	Amanda Rosales	Millennium Music Group
48	65	Scars	Dean	Patterson Music Group
49	52	Fear Not	Gil Magee	Millennium Music Group
50	66	I Love The Lord	Greater Purpose Trio	SGH Promotions



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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
51	28	His Hand Can Reach Your Heart	Keith Buchanan	Millennium Music Group
52	70	Don't That Sound Like Heaven	Porter Family	Chapel Valley
53	20	Go Ahead And Shout	Sacred Call	Chapel Valley/Millennium Music Group
54	31	Come On Down The Road	Journey N Faith	Millennium Music Group
55	32	Robes Of Pure White	Heartland Quartet	SGH Promotions
56	62	Come To The Water	Judy Kellar	Patterson Music Group
57	77	Saints	Kenny Evans	Millennium Music Group
58	40	I Surely Will Someday	New Salem	Millennium Music Group
59	42	A Work In Progress	Denise Edwards	Heartsong Pigeon Forge Music Group
60	69	I'm Not Worried	Jennifer Harris Gray	Grace Records Nashville
61	73	Wish You Were Here	Jonathan Bond	MMG & SGH Promotions
62	71	Say Something	Tim Menzies and The Isaacs	ARS/New Day
63	60	All That Glitters	Cathy Guffey	Grace Records Nashville
64	59	In Spite Of My Yesterday	The Kapples	SGH Promotions
65	81	Symphony Of Grace	Austin Glover	Patterson Music Group/MMG
66	41	Saved Delivered and Healed	Craig Stone	SGH Promotions
67	78	Spread The News	Greg Sullivan	Hey Yall Media
68	100	God Shows Up	Wings Of Love	New Beginning Music Group
69	83	That's Who He Is	11th Hour	Sonlite/Crossroads
70	45	Open Hands	Amy Michelle	Grace Records Nashville
71	--	Lord I Know You Are Able	Debra Schultz	Millennium Music Group
72	76	Walking Each Other Home	Gordon Mote	New Haven
73	91	Rise Up	Chris Perdue	SGH Promotions
74	82	Grace Is Sufficient	Jonathan Wilburn	Daywind/New Day
75	49	All Ready	Alan Frink	SGH Promotions
76	--	What Is Man	Carroll Roberson	Millennium Music Group
77	74	We'll Understand It Better By And By	Collingsworth Family	Gaither Music/Capitol Christian
78	88	Show Me The Way	Going Higher	New Beginning Music Group
79	87	To God It's Nothing New	McKamey Legacy	Horizon/Crossroads
80	97	Address Change Notification	Susan Hicks	Grace Records Nashville
81	92	Wayfaring Stranger	Debbie Bennett	Grace Records Nashville
82	67	All About The Love	Calvin Bridges	Millennium Music Group
83	94	Goodbye	Jenny Dean	Grace Records Nashville
84	--	Pieces	John Westling	Dwayne Castle Music/MMG
85	--	I'm Not Ashamed	Pearly Gates	New Beginning Music Group
86	--	In The Holy Ghost	Ed Drury	Millennium Music Group
87	90	They're Holding Up The Ladder	Allen Baker	New Beginning Music Group
88	--	Is This The Thanks I Get	Ashley Collins	Grace Records Nashville
89	96	Sweet Holy Spirit	Singing Byrds	Millennium Music Group
90	98	Love From The Father	The Garmons	Patterson Music Group
91	--	Paradise	Donna Burke	Millennium Music Group
92	93	You Me And Jesus	Robin Johnston	Millennium Music Group
93	99	It's Never Too Late For A Miracle	The Mayo Family	SGH Promotions
94	--	Papa's Love	Ben Coulter	Millennium Music Group
98	--	But I Believe	Ever Present	New Beginning Music Group
96	79	When I Think Of Calvary	Violet Maynard Family	Millennium Music Group
97	--	Thus Saith The Lord	Jennifer Leanna Phillips	SGH Promotions
98	--	At Calvary	Trinity Heirs	Millennium Music Group
99	--	Miracle Working Power	Latrelle Lindon Pharr	Grace Records Nashville
100	--	It's Not Just Another Day	Marcus Ellis	Millennium Music Group

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AMERICA



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Dixie Echoes  
Resurrection Quartet  
New Ground

#### Friday, July 3rd 6:00 PM

Inspirations  
Troy Burns Family  
Down East Boys  
Jeff Tolbert & Primitive Road  
Bibletones

#### Saturday, July 4th 6:00 PM

Inspirations  
Troy Burns Family  
Kingsmen  
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# Calvin Bridges

## The Voice God Anointed for the World

By Jackson McKee

Calvin Bridges has spent more than four decades proving that Gospel music isn't just sung - it's lived. From Chicago choir stands to global stages, his voice has carried faith, fire, and a testimony shaped by miracles, milestones, and divine appointments. His journey is a reminder that when God anoints a calling, the world can't help but hear it.

**F**ew artists embody the soul of Gospel music the way Calvin Bridges does. For more than forty years, he has stood as one of the genre's most innovative and influential voices - an artist whose ministry has crossed continents, cultures, and generations. His songs have been sung by legends, his compositions have traveled the world, and his testimony continues to inspire audiences from Chicago to Kenya.

But ask Bridges how it all began, and he'll take you back to a little boy who simply loved music. "As a child, I loved music - singing in the choir, listening to records, and regularly attending concerts of the great artists and choirs of Chicago. I started at age 9 as a church musician, not realizing how much I would grow to love Jesus, and establish a career in Gospel music lasting decades!"

### A Journey From Chicago Stages to Global Platforms

Before the world knew him as a Gospel icon, Bridges was a sought-after musician in Chicago's vibrant music scene. After high school, he played in bands, recorded in studios, and worked alongside R&B royalty - Curtis Mayfield, Natalie Cole, Jerry Butler - and opened shows for B.B. King, Ike & Tina Turner, Richard Pryor, Bill Cosby, Don Rickles, and others.

His talent eventually led him to Philadelphia, where he signed as an artist and writer with Gamble, Huff & Bell, the powerhouse behind the Sound of Philadelphia.

But God had a different assignment.

One Sunday morning, Bridges heard his pastor say something that changed everything: “When we pray, we talk to God; but when we read the Bible, God speaks to us.” That single line ignited a spiritual awakening. Bridges began devouring Scripture, seeking God’s voice, and soon realized his calling wasn’t in R&B, but in ministry. “I realized the greatest gift that I have received from God is my voice. I want to use it to sing to the whole world of God’s love!”

He asked to be released from his contract. Miraculously, Kenny Gamble agreed. And Calvin Bridges stepped into the purpose that would define his life.

#### **A Career of Milestones, Miracles, and Music That Endures**

Bridges’ Gospel career reads like a highlight reel:

- Grammy-nominated for his hit composition “Spread the Word”
- Featured performer on the 26th Annual Grammy Awards telecast with Albertina Walker
- Cast in the PBS National Special *Going Home to Gospel* with Patti LaBelle
- Performances at the 1996 Olympic Games, Michael Jordan Foundation Gala, Oprah Winfrey Show, and Umbria Jazz Festival
- Collaborations with Stevie Wonder, Patti LaBelle, and the Oslo Gospel Choir
- His classic *I Can Go To God In Prayer* recorded by Alicia Keys, Albertina Walker, Luciano Pavarotti, Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, Jessy Dixon, and many more
- His first solo album, “Renew My Spirit” (1985), stayed on the Billboard Gospel Chart for 53 weeks, cementing him as a rising force in Gospel music.



But the journey wasn’t without hardship. “I was told by major labels that I was too traditional to be contemporary and too contemporary to be traditional... so God encouraged me and I continued to write and record songs that spoke to my faith.”

He faced financial scams, unpaid royalties, and industry betrayal. Yet even in injustice, God redirected his path. “I wanted to sue them. But God took me to Psalm 37: ‘Seek peace and pursue it.’ That connection opened a door for European touring for the following 20 years.”

#### **The Patti LaBelle Connection: A Door Only God Could Open**

One of Bridges’ most cherished memories began with a letter - an actual handwritten fan letter - from Patti LaBelle and her husband, Armstead Edwards. “When I opened the letter, I was shocked and delighted beyond measure!”

That letter led to Bridges being cast in “*Going Home to Gospel*,” where three of his compositions were performed. Patti sang *Come On In This House*, Albertina Walker delivered *I Can Go To God In Prayer*, and Bridges himself performed *Stand Up for Jesus*.

Years later, he found himself backstage at a Patti LaBelle concert without a pass, standing among fans hoping to get in. When the door cracked open, Patti’s assistant pointed: “You can go up... you, you, and you.”

Bridges laughs when he tells it. “It was good that I knew Patti LaBelle... but it was better that Patti knew me! That experience taught me something. It’s good if we know God, but it’s even better when God knows us!”

## Songs That Became Global Anthems

Bridges' catalog is a treasure chest of Gospel standards:

- *I Can Go To God In Prayer*
- *Spread the Word*
- *Chosen*
- *In Your Arms* (now included in the Norwegian National Hymnal)
- *Celebrate*
- *Come On In This House*
- *So Much To Be Grateful For*
- *All About the Love*

His latest single, *All About the Love*, is crossing genres and continents - featured on Amazon R&B playlists, charting on Cashbox Magazine's Southern Gospel and Black Gospel charts, and surpassing 1.1 million Instagram views.

And he's not slowing down. "I'm currently in the studio preparing another single for late Spring and an album for release in 4th quarter '26."

## A Testimony of Healing and Purpose

In 2020, while touring in Switzerland and Denmark, Bridges contracted COVID-19. His condition worsened quickly. "I talked with God saying, Lord, if it's my time, take me home... but if it is not, heal me and raise me up so I can finish my work!"

He was hospitalized and given an experimental drug. Even in weakness, he ministered to nurses and doctors. After five days, he was released. "The doctor said my recovery was remarkable... I'm still here, in Jesus' Name! And I'm not tired yet, running for Jesus!"

## A Ministry of Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Global Love

Bridges' ministry has taken him to more than 20 countries, including recent work in Nairobi and Nakuru,

Kenya, where Chicago Praise Ministries supports the Displaced Peoples Camp - thousands living in extreme poverty.

His message is simple and universal: "People are just people. Everyone appreciates and needs love and being valued."

"It doesn't matter what church you belong to or denomination you are. What matters is that we are a reflection of the Father's love."

His concerts, affectionately called Gospel Church, draw audiences ages 8 to 80. They sing the classics, dance, laugh, worship, and hear new music with timeless messages.



## Still Spreading the Word

Calvin Bridges stands today as a Gospel statesman, an artist who has lived the music, carried the message, and walked the miles. His life is a tapestry of divine appointments, global ministry, and unwavering faith.

"If I had ten thousand tongues, I would praise Him with every one!"

And with every song, every stage, every testimony, he continues to do exactly that.

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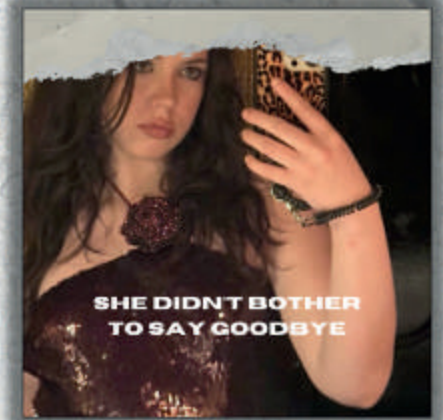


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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# CATHLEEN IRELAND

By Cory Parker

Cathleen Ireland's story unfolds with the energy of an artist who has spent years sharpening her craft while refusing to be boxed in by genre or medium. Her music lives at the intersection of emotional honesty and rhythmic sophistication, a place where soulful storytelling meets the kind of production that lingers long after the last note fades. That duality - heart and precision - has become her signature, shaped through collaborations with creatives like 4x platinum producer Dannyebtracks and Pittsburgh legend Sean McDonald. Together, they've helped her build a sound that feels both intimate and cinematic, grounded in lived experience yet polished with a modern edge.

Her rise has been marked by a steady stream of recognition from the global music community. *Body For You* became an early breakthrough, earning Honorable Mention in the USA Songwriting Competition's R&B category and later advancing as a semi-finalist in the UK Songwriting Competition, where both the single and its video received coveted Five-Star ratings. Another milestone followed with *Love Is A Luxury*, which reached the finals of the International Acoustic Music Awards - further proof that Ireland's writing resonates across genres and borders.

But her artistry doesn't stop at the studio door. Ireland has become just as known for the visual world she builds around her music. Working closely with film director Joe Chilcott, she has crafted videos that feel like short films - moody, narrative-driven, and visually striking. These projects have traveled the globe, earning official selections in more than seventy film festivals and taking home twenty-two awards. Among the standouts are *Elevator*, which won 'Best Independent Music Video' at the International Music Video Underground Awards, and *Drive*, which captured the Special Jury Award for 'Best Music Video' at the Thilsi International Film Festival in 2024. Each release reinforces her instinct for pairing sound with story, turning songs into immersive experiences.

Her roots run deep in Pittsburgh's music scene, where she first made her mark as the frontwoman of Friday's Child during the late '90s, followed by a new chapter with the FIVE6 in 2012. Those early projects helped shape her identity as a performer - bold, expressive, and unafraid to experiment. Today, she channels that same spirit as the founder and lead vocalist of Hot Weather Holiday, a band that blends her love of melody, groove, and emotional depth into a cohesive, evolving sound.



Ireland's newest creative chapter signals a fresh evolution. Partnering with multi-platinum producer Ryan M. Tedder - whose credits include Ariana Grande, Jennifer Lopez, and Meghan Trainor - she has stepped into a sonic space that feels both radio-ready and unmistakably personal. The collaboration has allowed her to refine a style built on infectious rhythms, memorable hooks, and the kind of emotional resonance that invites listeners to stay awhile. It's a sound that feels like the natural next step for an artist who has always balanced vulnerability with ambition.

Through every phase of her career, Cathleen Ireland has remained a storyteller at heart. Whether she's crafting a lyric, shaping a beat, or building a visual narrative, she approaches each project with the same intention: to create work that moves people. Her voice is powerful, her songwriting evocative, and her creative vision continually expanding. With a growing list of international accolades and a fearless approach to crossing artistic boundaries, she stands as a dynamic force - one whose influence is only beginning to reach its full horizon.

[www.cathleenireland.com](http://www.cathleenireland.com)

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## SWAMP-BORN AND SHADOW-CROWNED: THE PRIVATE HAUNTINGS OF THE CURSE OF K.K. HAMMOND

By Jason Airy

**T**here's something otherworldly about The Curse of K.K. Hammond, a presence that feels less like a stage name and more like a whispered legend carried on swamp mist. Yet behind the shadowed imagery and Southern gothic atmosphere stands an artist disarmingly clear about who she is and why she creates.

Step into the studio with her, and there's no costume change happening behind the curtain. "It's definitely a deeper layer of myself," she explains. "It's when I'm at my most honest." While her music videos may lean into character and ritualistic drama, the songs themselves are stripped of artifice. The persona amplifies the mood; the music reveals the marrow.

That marrow runs deep into the Delta. Hammond cites the legendary Skip James as her favorite artist of all time - not casually, but reverently. His haunting falsetto and stark, minor-key blues left a permanent imprint on her emotional landscape. "I've listened to his songs countless times and still get emotional every new occasion," she says. It's that fragile balance - exquisite beauty entwined with profound sorrow - that shapes her own sound.

But the pull isn't just musical; it's geographical and mythic. Hammond speaks of swampland the way poets speak of doomed lovers. Ethereally beautiful. Overflowing with extraordinary life. Yet bleak and dangerous. That duality - light and shadow, bloom and decay - is the axis on which her songwriting turns. Some of her most emotionally profound songs, she says, were written in that setting. You can hear it in the reverb-soaked slide guitar and the patient, brooding spaces between notes.

Her rendition of *Ain't No Grave* embodies that defiant spirit, rising when everything insists you should remain buried. Like most people, she has faced periods where life unraveled in ways she didn't anticipate. Dark battles. Private reckonings. Music became her processing ground. "Whatever I've been through tends to show up there," she admits, often cloaked in metaphor. The Blues has always been a vessel for transmuting pain into power; Hammond simply carries that lineage forward in her own voice.

To try and label her strictly as musician feels incomplete. She considers herself a "generalized artist," having explored poetry, sculpture, painting, story writing - nearly every art form except dance, she jokes. At its simplest, she believes artists transform lived experience and emotion into form. That philosophy explains the cinematic quality of her work. Her videos aren't literal translations of lyrics but visual languages that deepen atmosphere and emotional weight.

Watch one of her darker pieces alone at night, and it feels less like entertainment and more like initiation. She hopes her work stirs awe, anticipation, surprise - even fear - the way a good horror film might. Not to shock gratuitously, but to awaken something dormant in the viewer. To frame the music in a mood that lingers.

Loss has shaped her voice profoundly. So she has a keen awareness of the world's fractures. Sorrow and resilience live side by side in her tone, neither overwhelming the other. That equilibrium is the beating heart of the Blues, and she guards it fiercely. Despite chart recognition and growing acclaim, she insists she never set out to craft a calculated sound. "I just run on instinct," she says. Her music isn't rebellion against mainstream or tradition; it's simply the only honest way she knows to create, drawn from something primal and deeply internal.

The "curse" in her name speaks to that tension. Being a musician, for her, is a double-edged sword. She treasures the connection with fans but describes herself as extraordinarily private, perhaps even a hermit. The expectations of visibility can feel suffocating, like being paraded. It's why she has chosen not to tour, preferring instead to remain an enigma: heard but not constantly seen.

And yet, invisibility doesn't mean detachment. When the final note fades, she hopes listeners carry more than just a melody. She wants them to feel seen. Understood. To recognize that their private pain isn't strange or isolated. If her songs echo in their heads long after the silence settles - not just as earworms, but as quiet companions in the dark - then the conjuring has worked.

In that space between sorrow and strength, The Curse of K.K. Hammond doesn't play a character. She reveals a truth. Shadowed, yes, but fiercely alive.

[www.thecurseofkkhammond.com](http://www.thecurseofkkhammond.com)



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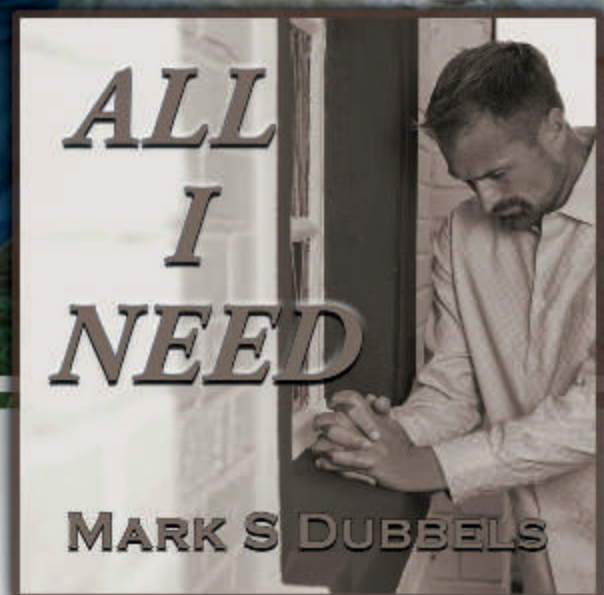
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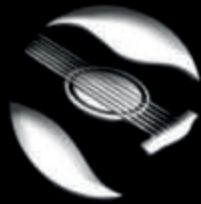
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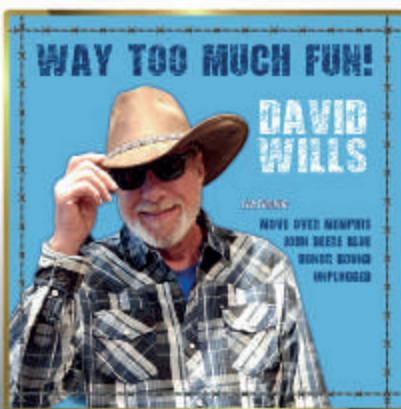
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