



# COUNTRY AIRCHECK

NOVEMBER 19, 8|7 CT

59<sup>TH</sup>

# CMA AWARDS<sup>®</sup>

*voter's guide*

A quick reference guide to the  
2025 CMA Nominees

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

# LAINNEY WILSON

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

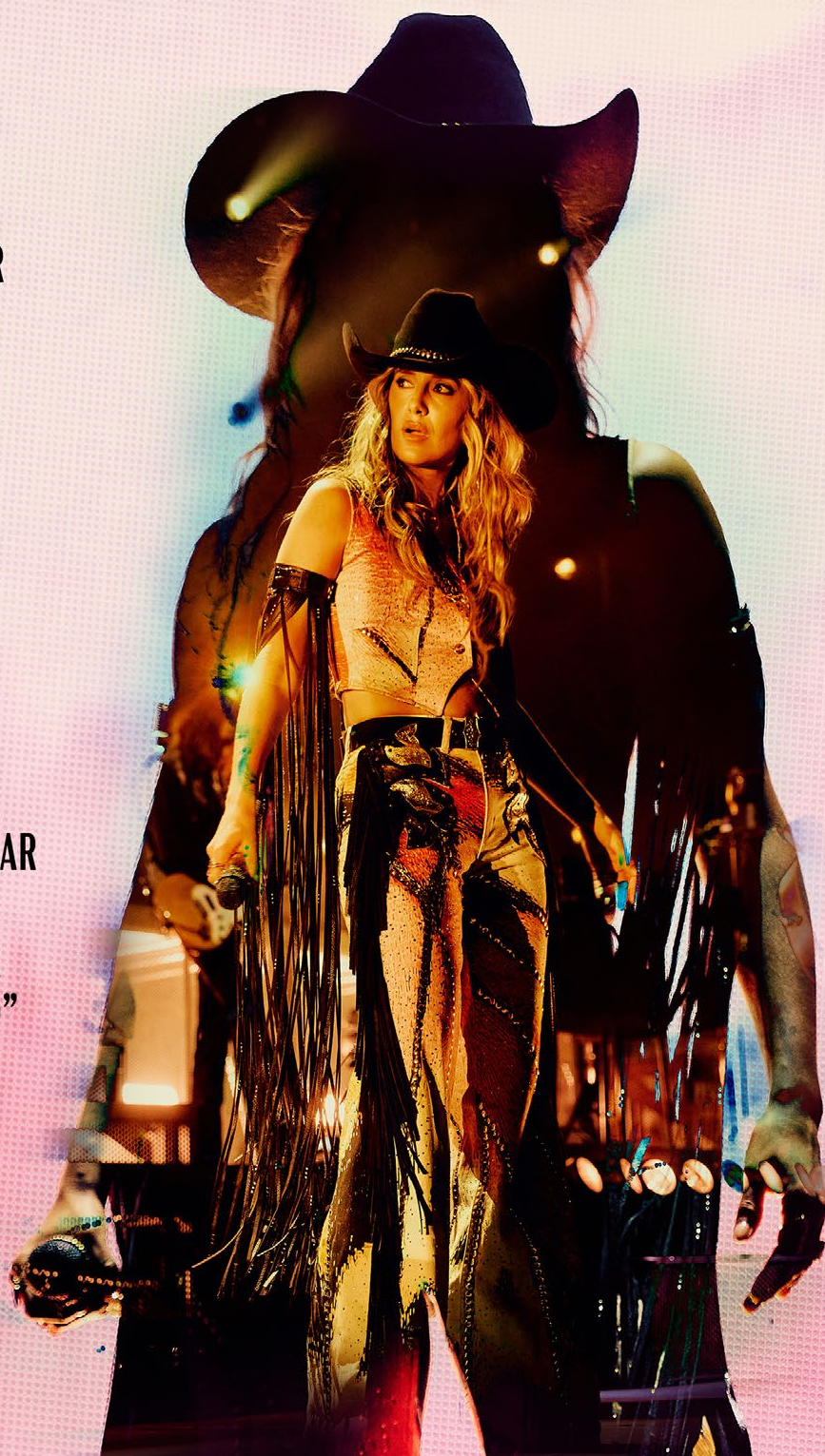
SINGLE OF THE YEAR  
"4X4XU"

ALBUM OF THE YEAR  
*WHIRLWIND*

SONG OF THE YEAR  
"4X4XU"

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR  
"SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO"



## LUKE COMBS

"A bona fide country music superstar." –*Rolling Stone*  
 "Just your neighborhood consistent, reliable global sensation ... bringing country to one of the widest non-pop crossover audiences it has ever had." –*Billboard*  
 "Combs continues to prove himself to be a top talent in the industry." –*American Songwriter*  
 "He's emerged as the field's much-loved everyman with hits that country aficionados could not possibly resist." –*Wall Street Journal*  
 "Has set a standard for breakthrough, stadium-filling artistry." –*Tennessean*



## CODY JOHNSON

"Johnson's superstardom will sustain itself because he embodies a culture and genre bigger than his Texas-tattooed heart." –*Tennessean*  
 Intent on delivering his kind of traditional country music, giving fans a show to remember, and just maybe bridging some gaps." –*Rolling Stone*  
 Johnson proved that he's the next big throwback thing in country. His performance showcased the kineticism of Kenny Chesney, the earnestness of Garth Brooks and the warmth of Alan Jackson." –*Minneapolis Star Tribune*  
 "In an age rife with division, he's maybe the only thing Americans all agree on ... one of the most reliable hit makers in music." –*GQ*  
 "One of the most consistent quantities in country music." –*Vulture*



## CHRIS STAPLETON

"One of the most reliably compelling figures in modern music." –*NPR Music*  
 "Stapleton is the rare country star with both traditional bona fides and broad commercial appeal. He has an outlaw soul and a pop star's capacity for inescapable hooks." –*New Yorker*  
 "In an age rife with division, he's maybe the only thing Americans all agree on ... one of the most reliable hit makers in music." –*GQ*  
 "One of the most consistent quantities in country music." –*Vulture*



## MORGAN WALLEN

"Decade-defining, stadium-commanding country superstar." –*Billboard*  
 "One of this moment's biggest stars." –*Rolling Stone*  
 "The most commercially successful musician of his era." –*New Yorker*  
 "He's managed incredible feats that few in his genre before him came close to." –*Forbes*



## LAINIE WILSON

"One of country music's brightest stars." –*Billboard*  
 "Lainie Wilson continues her reign as country's current queen." –*Grammy.com*  
 "Wilson is nothing short of a force of nature when she wraps her hands around a microphone." –*American Songwriter*  
 "The reigning current standard-bearer for women in country." –*Variety*



## KELSEA BALLERINI

Kelsea Ballerini's 35-date *Kelsea Ballerini Live On Tour* saw the 5x Grammy nominee headline sold-out arenas nationwide and marked her arrival at "a new echelon of stardom" (*Music Row*). Her acclaimed album *Patterns* earned her a career-first No. 1 debut on *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart. *Rolling Stone* said it "shifts the sonic lens in ways that feel natural and welcome," while *Billboard* called it her "most moving collection of songs to date" that "demonstrates why Ballerini remains such a captivating presence in the genre."



## MIRANDA LAMBERT

"Miranda has shown listeners time and time again that she's anything but singular."

—[Country Living](#)

"One of country music's most dynamic forces." —[Cowgirl Magazine](#)

"One of the biggest movers and shakers in country music" —[Cowboys & Indians](#)

"Miranda Lambert has certainly earned the right to be called a country superstar." —[Today.com](#)



## ELLA LANGLEY

With her rafter-reaching voice and straight-shootin' songwriting, Ella Langley has emerged as an absolute phenomenon. Her debut album *Hungover* earned praise from *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*, delivering back-to-back No. 1 hits with "You Look Like You Love Me" and "Weren't For The Wind," making Ella part of an elite group of female artists who have gone No. 1 back-to-back at Country radio with their first two singles.



## MEGAN MORONEY

Named "the Gen Z country queen we need" on [Rolling Stone](#)'s Future of Music cover and garnering *Billboard*'s "Rulebreaker" Award at "Women in Music," Moroney sets the tone for country music. Gathering 3.5 billion+ streams, [People](#) marvels at her "meteoric rise to stardom, somewhat due to her willingness to be vulnerable." An in-demand headliner who set multiple festival attendance records this summer, the [New York Times](#) proclaims she's "in the lineage of Dolly, The Chicks and Shania."



## LAINIE WILSON

"One of country music's brightest stars." —*Billboard*

"Lainie Wilson continues her reign as country's current queen." —[Grammy.com](#)

"Wilson is nothing short of a force of nature when she wraps her hands around a microphone." —*American Songwriter*

"The reigning current standard-bearer for women in country." —*Variety*



# ZACH TOP

FOR YOUR CMA AWARD CONSIDERATION



*NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
ALBUM OF THE YEAR  
MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR  
SINGLE OF THE YEAR  
SONG OF THE YEAR*

**LEO33**

PRODUCED BY CARSON CHAMBERLAIN

**LUKE COMBS**

"Combs consistently proves he has one of the most commanding voices in country music." –[Billboard](#)

"The best country singer of his generation." –[Esquire](#)

"One of music's mightiest voices and a hitmaking force arguably unlike any seen out of Nashville this century." –[USA](#)

Today "Powerhouse vocalist and songwriter." –[Rolling Stone](#)



**CODY JOHNSON**

"As a crooner, Johnson may have one of the underrated best vocal styles in music overall. When he grounds his feet and sets his mind to it, he unleashes a stunning instrument that leaves his crowd in awe." –[Tennessean](#)

"With steady-handed touring ... his hard-charging, energetic stage show has aided in building Johnson's reputation as one of the traditional country music's tip-of-the-spear torchbearers." – [Billboard](#)

"The future of country music is in good hands with Cody Johnson." –[Seattle Times](#)



**CHRIS STAPLETON**

"The most-gifted pure singer in country music." –[Rolling Stone](#)

"With his bluesy, rangy growl, Stapleton has a once-in-a-generation voice." –[Billboard](#)

"A generational talent." –[Forbes](#)

"It's hard to find a voice that is more powerful, soulful and honest in any genre than Stapleton." –[Tennessean](#)



**ZACH TOP**

"Top holds his own with the country greats ... Top's vocals soar with the confidence of a seasoned storyteller." –[Rolling Stone](#)

"Top's commitment to form remains immaculate: a high-wire routine so aesthetically faithful and brimming with theatrical mirth that he's almost winking." –[New York Times](#)

"Top has proven himself as a standout rising star ... and a premier vocalist in country music. His golden voice, a rare gem in the industry, is a testament to his unique talent." –[Country Central](#)



**MORGAN WALLEN**

"Popular on a scale that seems to circumvent genre entirely." –[New Yorker](#)

"Country's biggest star and one of the biggest stars in the music world right now." –[Billboard](#)

"A gigantic star." –[NPR All Songs Considered](#)

"Country giant." –[Forbes](#)



For Your CMA Consideration

*The* **RED CLAY  
STRAYS**

**VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR**



**RCA**

### LADY A

Built around rich vocal harmony, vivid emotional writing and a smooth fusion of country, rock and pop, Lady A has long been a model of mainstream success. The group released holiday album *On This Winter's Night (Volume 2)* Sept. 26, and will embark on the *This Winter's Night Tour* in December. A Country radio staple, the trio has amassed 11 No. 1 hits and nine billion+ digital streams, and earned ACM and CMA "Vocal Group of the Year" trophies three years in a row, as well as seven Grammys, while consistently delivering harmony-soaked performances "unlike any other" (*New York Post*).



### LITTLE BIG TOWN

"Little Big Town is not only Nashville royalty ... but a designated ambassador to the wider music universe." –*Billboard*

"The quartet has created a legacy in their two decades together, releasing soulful ballads and jovial party starters that have helped the three-time Grammy winners become one of the most critically acclaimed country groups of their generation." –*Grammy.com*

"Little Big Town are beacons of hope" –*American Songwriter*



### OLD DOMINION

Old Dominion's skyscraping anthems and electrifying live shows have propelled them to the forefront of country music. The 7x CMA Group of the Year has cemented their status as enduring Nashville hitmakers with their sixth studio album *Barbara* (August 2025), which *MusicRow* described as "a complete audio addiction," while raising \$1.25M for charity with a residency at the Ryman Auditorium this February. Their *How Good Is That – World Tour* has hit amphitheaters and stadiums worldwide.



### RASCAL FLATTS

One of the most influential groups in modern country history has emerged from hiatus with renewed passion. "Rascal Flatts is back and better than ever" (*Us Weekly*), and taking care of unfinished business in 2025 embarking on their sold-out arena reunion tour and releasing their collaboration album *Life Is A Highway: Refueled Duets*, "Celebrating their 25th anniversary as if no time had passed at all" (*Billboard*).



### THE RED CLAY STRAYS

This past year marked a record high for the group, signing to RCA Records and releasing their critically acclaimed sophomore album, *Made by These Moments*. Produced by Grammy Award-winning producer Dave Cobb, *Made by These Moments* is filled with the band's signature genre-blending sound, as they meld electric rock and roll with southern soul. The record marked the band's first entry into the *Billboard* 200 and debuted in the top 10 of the *Billboard* Top Country Albums Chart.



**BROOKS & DUNN**

The Country Music Hall of Famers and current CMA Duo of the Year, are back with *Reboot II*, out now via Sony Music Nashville. A sequel to their acclaimed 2019 album, the project invites today's most compelling artists to reimagine iconic Brooks & Dunn hits – this time with complete creative freedom. Following their headlining 2025 *Neon Moon Tour* and summer stadium dates with Morgan Wallen, they continue to evolve with 20 number ones, multiple Grammys and the longest-running country residency in Vegas.



**BROTHERS OSBORNE**

"TJ Osborne's gritty vocals and his sibling John's rootsy riffs pack a one-two punch, melding harmonies with biting, bluesy grooves." –*People*

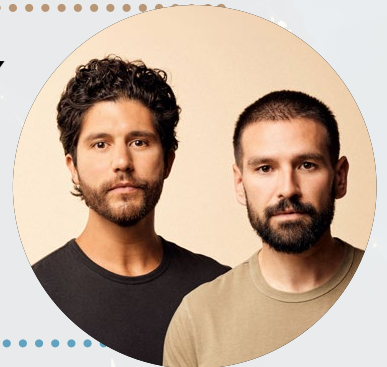
"They won over Nashville critics with a distinctive sound combining classic country and hints of soul, with songs centered on John's impressive guitar skills and TJ's rich baritone." –*Washington Post*

"Epic, full of harmonics, finger taps and inspired picking that identify the Maryland natives as one of Nashville's best" –*Rolling Stone*



**DAN + SHAY**

The two-time CMA Duo of the Year, four-time ACM Duo of the Year, three-time Grammy winners and reigning 2024 CMT Duo/Group Video of the Year honorees, Dan + Shay have become global superstars with nearly 13 billion streams and 139 multi-platinum, platinum and gold certifications, including 60 U.S. RIAA awards. In the 12-plus years since forming, they have released six studio albums, most recently the critically acclaimed *Bigger Houses*, and earned 11 No. 1 singles at Country radio.



**MADDIE & TAE**

Award-winning duo Maddie & Tae have "some of the tightest harmonies on Music Row" (*Rolling Stone*) and this year released their fourth studio album, *Love & Light*, which AP called "the soundtrack to a summertime road trip with girlfriends." Currently on tour, they made their headline debut at the Ryman Auditorium where they celebrated the success of two of their hits – the 4x platinum certified "Die From A Broken Heart" and platinum-certified "Friends Don't."



**THE WAR AND TREATY**

"One of the most exciting live acts in American roots music." –*LA Times*

"Giants of country music with the pipes to back it up." –*Associated Press*

"Every time they touch a stage, anywhere, the live tour crowds spontaneously burst into standing ovations." –*Tennessean*

"One of the most riveting acts in country and Americana music." –*American Songwriter*



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

# RILEY GREEN



## SONG

OF THE YEAR

*"you look like you love me"*  
Ella Langley ft. Riley Green

## SINGLE

OF THE YEAR

*"you look like you love me"*  
Ella Langley ft. Riley Green

## MUSICAL EVENT

OF THE YEAR

*"Don't Mind If I Do"*  
ft. Ella Langley

## MUSIC VIDEO

OF THE YEAR

*"you look like you love me"*  
Ella Langley ft. Riley Green

NASHVILLE  
*Harbor*  
RECORDS &  
ENTERTAINMENT

**"4X4XU" – LAINEY WILSON; PRODUCER: JAY JOYCE; MIX ENGINEERS: JASON HALL, JAY JOYCE**

"Picture-painting verses and sweeping choruses." – *Tennessean*

"A breezy ode to lasting love." – *Rolling Stone*

"The song has groove, filling the loved-up opus with an infectious energy." – *Holler*

"Romance in a pick-up truck sounds like a total delight when this woman sings it. Love the sizzling organ notes in this slow-burn banger." – *Music Row*



**"AIN'T NO LOVE IN OKLAHOMA" – LUKE COMBS  
PRODUCERS: LUKE COMBS, CHIP MATTHEWS,  
JONATHAN SINGLETON; MIX ENGINEER: CHIP MATTHEWS**

"Combs issues one of his most ferocious vocals to date from the first blistering notes of this thumping barnburner." – *Billboard*

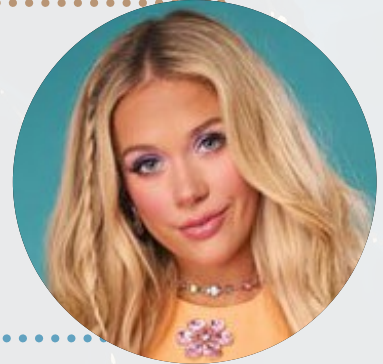
"A twangy, percussive tune with rockin' electric guitar." – *Tennessean*

"Electrifying." – *Country Now*

"A full-throttle anthem." – *All Country News*

**"AM I OKAY?" – MEGAN MORONEY; PRODUCER:  
KRISTIAN BUSH; MIX ENGINEER: JUSTIN NIEBANK**

Surpassing 350 million streams, platinum "[Am I Okay?](#)" became Moroney's second No. 1 at Country radio. Landing on [Billboard's](#) "50 Best Songs of 2025 (Staff Picks)," [Variety](#) also declared the song "a good, appropriate umbrella for the album." Soaring on her sold-out [Am I Okay? Tour](#) – likened to "group therapy," as Moroney told [USA Today](#), [Billboard](#) noted how it's "a song that would feel good in a stadium." [The Charlotte Observer](#) claimed, "Nearly every last one seemed to inspire a 'Sweet Caroline'-at-Fenway-Park-level singalong."



**"I NEVER LIE" – ZACH TOP; PRODUCER: CARSON  
CHAMBERLAIN; MIX ENGINEER: MATT ROVEY**

"Top's spin on this iconic sort of country song setup is almost divine in its execution." – *The Bluegrass Situation*

"Top leans on the strength of the writing and the emotion behind every note, a move that feels both bold and timeless." – *All Country News*

**"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME" – ELLA LANGLEY & RILEY  
GREEN; PRODUCER: WILL BUNDY; MIX ENGINEER: JIM COOLEY**

This inescapably catchy duet is certified 2x platinum, has earned over 500 million global streams to date, and completely captured the internet, notching over 10 billion views on TikTok. The song earned Ella her first No. 1 at Country radio and was named one of the best songs of the year by *Variety*, *Billboard*, *LA Times* and more.

"Immediately became an earworm that was impossible to get out of your head." – *Whiskey Riff*



**AM I OKAY? – MEGAN MORONEY; PRODUCER: KRISTIAN BUSH; MIX ENGINEER: JUSTIN NIEBANK**

Bowing at No. 9 on the *Billboard* 200 as 2024's third-biggest debut from a female Country artist and amassing 715 million+ streams, Moroney's [sophomore LP](#) "establishes that she's one of traditional-leaning country's best and brightest new standard-bearers," according to [Variety](#). The [New York Times](#) applauds its "charm, wit and solid hooks." It placed on year-end best-of lists from [Rolling Stone](#), [US Weekly](#) and [Esquire](#), who assured, "These 14 songs prove that Megan Moroney is for real."



**COLD BEER & COUNTRY MUSIC – ZACH TOP; PRODUCER: CARSON CHAMBERLAIN; MIX ENGINEER: MATT ROVEY**

"A cohesive, no-skips album where every track holds its own." –[Billboard](#)

"The music is airtight and fluent – a demonstration of vivid coloring within hard lines." –[New York Times](#)

"From Top to bottom, *Cold Beer & Country Music* is a masterclass in traditional country music." –[Country Central](#)



**F-1 TRILLION – POST MALONE; PRODUCERS: LOUIS BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME, HOSKINS; MIX ENGINEER: RYAN GORE**

Post released his debut country album, *F-1 Trillion* which landed at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200 chart and was just nominated for a Grammy award for "Best Country Album." Included on the album was hit single "I Had Some Help" featuring Morgan Wallen, which crash landed at No.

1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and remained at No. 1 for six consecutive weeks. "I Had Some Help" also landed the No. 1 title on *Billboard*'s Songs of the Summer chart for 2024 and was just nominated for a Grammy for "Best Country Song" and "Best Country Duo/Group Performance."



**I'M THE PROBLEM – MORGAN WALLEN  
PRODUCERS: JACOB DURRETT, CHARLIE HANDSOME, JOEY MOI  
MIX ENGINEERS: CHARLIE HANDSOME, JOEY MOI**

"Self-examining storytelling extravaganza." –[Billboard](#)

"He remains as eclectic as ever, shifting easily from R&B-inflected slow jams to rough-and-ready outlaw country stomps." –[Grammy.com](#)

"A 37-song cycle of self-reckoning ... he doesn't sugarcoat or make excuses." –[Hits](#)

"Commercially-speaking the biggest album of the year" –[NPR All Songs Considered](#)



**WHIRLWIND – LAINEY WILSON; PRODUCER: JAY JOYCE;  
MIX ENGINEERS: JASON HALL, JAY JOYCE**

"A blend of brawn, heart, and willingness to upend the status quo that's not only listenable, but also the kind of thing you can't help but root for." –[Rolling Stone](#)

"The best release of her career." –[Tennessean](#)

"She's becoming a major headlining country star and this album feels like it's cementing that position." –[NPR Music](#)

"The album is bold and fun, with Wilson clearly feeling her own strength, delivering songs that are sassy, clever, occasionally emotional and thoroughly country." –[Billboard](#)



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

# BLAKE SHELTON

**SONG OF THE YEAR**  
"TEXAS"

**MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR**  
"POUR ME A DRINK"  
POST MALONE (FEAT. BLAKE SHELTON)



**"4X4XU" – SONGWRITERS: JON DECIOUS, AARON RAITIERE, LAINIEY WILSON**

"Picture-painting verses and sweeping choruses." –Tennessean

"A breezy ode to lasting love." –Rolling Stone

"The song has groove, filling the loved-up opus with an infectious energy." –Holler

"Romance in a pick-up truck sounds like a total delight when this woman sings it. Love the sizzling organ notes in this slow-burn banger." –Music Row



**"AM I OKAY?" – SONGWRITERS: JESSIE JO DILLON, LUKE LAIRD, MEGAN MORONEY**

Moroney earned her second Country radio No. 1, went platinum and generated 350 million+ streams with the title track of her sophomore album. Embodying *American Songwriter's* claim of being "a new kind of love song for a new generation of lovers," Moroney explained to *Billboard*, "If I'm writing a love song, I must be ill. That's the whole premise of the song." Her goal was to mislead fans with the title, expecting another signature emo cowgirl sad song.



**"I NEVER LIE" – SONGWRITERS: CARSON CHAMBERLAIN, TIM NICHOLS, ZACH TOP**

"Dripping in sarcasm and Top's cool charisma, it's the country crooner at his very best." –Holler

"Zach Top's ability to blend humor with heartache, to write lyrics that are as fun as they are poignant, sets him apart in the ever-evolving country music landscape." –All Country News



**"TEXAS" – SONGWRITERS: JOHNNY CLAWSON, JOSH DORR, LALO GUZMAN, KYLE STURROCK**

Blake Shelton's 30th No. 1 – "Texas" – was a breakout, career-defining moment for songwriters Johnny Clawson, Kyle Sturrock, Josh Dorr and Lalo Guzman. Leading Shelton's latest album, *For Recreational Use Only*, Clawson, Sturrock and Dorr landed their first-ever No. 1 – and Guzman his second. "Anytime you have a situation where someone's getting their big break, and you can be a little tiny part of it, it makes it extra special." –Blake Shelton

"A massive hit." –MusicRow



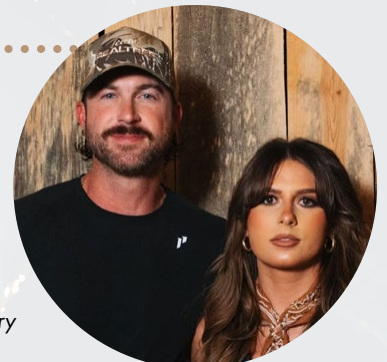
**"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME" – SONGWRITERS: RILEY GREEN, ELLA LANGLEY, AARON RAITIERE**

The massive hit song "You Look Like You Love Me" received 2x platinum certification, has earned more than 500 million global streams to date, hit No. 1 at Country radio and garnered over 10 billion views on TikTok.

"Totally charming, original and like nothing else currently on the radio." –Billboard

"Langley's old school voice is perfect." –Cosmopolitan

"Langley delivers a master class in how to create old-school country music in a brand new way." –Taste of Country



**"DON'T MIND IF I DO" – RILEY GREEN f/ ELLA LANGLEY  
PRODUCERS: SCOTT BORCHETTA, JIMMY HARNEN, DANN HUFF**

"A lovelorn ballad that aches with yearning. Green carries the song, then Langley floats in with her harmonies and a gentle, haunting finale. Sublime listening." –*MusicRow*

"Their voices combine seamlessly, accentuating the passion and longing laced into each lyric." –*Holler*

"Each vocalist's performance is extraordinary, and the song's structure allows so much more room for interpretation." –*Taste Of Country*



**"HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH" – BRANDON LAKE  
w/ JELLY ROLL; PRODUCER: MICAH NICHOLS**

With over 220 million streams and an RIAA platinum certification, this unprecedented collaboration between Lake, a "superstar in the Christian music space" (*Billboard*), and Jelly Roll, one of "country music's most intriguing stars" (*Grammy.com*), has been featured across the globe, from the crowd at Stagecoach in April to the steps of the Vatican this September.

"'Hard Fought Hallelujah' with Jelly Roll is one of the 25 best songs of 2025 so far." –*LA Times*

"A universal message so powerful that it has become a crossover hit." –*Grammy.com*



**"I'M GONNA LOVE YOU" – CODY JOHNSON  
w/ CARRIE UNDERWOOD; PRODUCER: TRENT WILLMON**

"Cody carries the melody while Carrie harmonizes perfectly on this lovely romantic outing. The piano ballad is a beautifully crafted piece of songwriting, and these two singers make the most of it. An instant wedding classic."

–*Bob Oermann, MusicRow* critics have praised "I'm Gonna Love You," claiming it as a "classic country duet" blending Cody's "charismatic baritone" with Carrie's "commanding delivery."



**"POUR ME A DRINK" – POST MALONE f/ BLAKE SHELTON  
PRODUCERS: LOUIS BELL, CHARLIE HANDSOME**

**"YOU HAD TO BE THERE" – MEGAN MORONEY  
f/ KENNY CHESNEY; PRODUCER: KRISTIAN BUSH**

"*You Had To Be There*" for Moroney's stadium run on Chesney's *Sun Goes Down* Tour. Reflecting on her "best summer ever," she wrote the "breezy, jaunty summer tune" (*Billboard*) as an end-of-tour gift. "You had to be there" when they performed at the *Sphere* and *surprise pop-in* Charleston on her *Am I Okay?* Tour. With 60 million streams and charging Country radio, *MusicRow* raves "a complete delight" while *Whiskey Riff* affirms it "tugs at the listener's heartstrings."



MUSICIAN

**JENEE FLEENOR**  
Fiddle

**PAUL FRANKLIN**  
Steel Guitar

**BRENT MASON**  
Guitar

**ROB MCNELLEY**  
Guitar

**DEREK WELLS**  
Guitar

**"AM I OKAY?" – MEGAN MORONEY; DIRECTORS: ALEXANDRA GAVILLET, MEGAN MORONEY**

Moroney's "[Am I Okay?](#)" video made history receiving the first-ever MTV VMA for Best Country and has amassed 7.2 million+ YouTube views. Hands-on cementing her status as a multidimensional creative force with no limit to her vision, the video delivers more of the can't-look-away storytelling and captivating visuals Moroney has become known for. With three co-directing credits to date, the clip embodies her unfiltered vision of finally meeting the one that makes all the wrong ones feel worth it.



**"I'M GONNA LOVE YOU" – CODY JOHNSON w/ CARRIE UNDERWOOD; DIRECTOR: DUSTIN HANEY**

The video was shot in Wells, Nevada by award-winning director Dustin Haney. The song reigned at No. 1 for two weeks and has garnered more than 200 million global streams and counting. Written by Chris Stevens, Kelly Archer and Travis Denning, the song became Cody's fourth No. 1 and the 29th No. 1 for Carrie.



**"SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO" – LAINIEY WILSON  
DIRECTOR: TK MCKAMY**

"Blends dreamlike visuals with Wilson's signature storytelling." –Country Now

"Charming and whimsical." –Whiskey Riff

"One of her most commanding, dynamic vocal performances to date, crescendoing from a soft-focus, tender vocal, before gradually reaching into her upper register for powerful moments that heighten the song's emotional acuity." –Billboard

"Wilson's rapturous country ballad puts a new spin on the rainbow with keen storytelling and a spellbinding vocal." –Hits Daily Double



**"THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU" – CHRIS STAPLETON;  
DIRECTOR: RUNNING BEAR**

"Jubilant ... It's both sad and joyous, but it renders an afterlife so comforting that we'd almost be happy to hasten our demise." –Rolling Stone

"It's always refreshing to see a music video that is full of actual creativity." –Whiskey Riff

"A sonic snapshot of all his best qualities. From the husky opening 'baby!' into the question of 'do you ever wonder?', Stapleton quickly and perfectly sets the stage for his story to unfold." –Billboard

"Totally awesome. A groove-soaked, rump shaking, classic soul sound. Stapleton is an artist who grips you tightly with every note he sings." –Music Row



**"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE ME" – ELLA LANGLEY & RILEY GREEN; DIRECTORS: ELLA LANGLEY, JOHN PARK, WALES TONEY**

Set in the wild west, the video stars Ella and Riley with a special appearance by Jamey Johnson. The video, co-directed by Ella alongside Wales Toney and JP Park (Whale Tale Media), has earned 50 million views to date, and was praised as "a cinematic knockout" by *Taste of Country*.

"Is it possible to nominate a music video for an Academy Award? Because 'you look like you love me' just might deserve it!" –All Country News





FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

AD

Shaboozey



NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION**

**NEW ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR**

**STEPHEN  
WILSON  
JR.**



**"ALL STEPHEN WILSON JR. HAS TO DO IS THROW HIS NAME  
ON A MARQUEE AND THE SHOW WILL SELL OUT....WILSON JR.,  
IS A FORCE YOU WILL BE HEARING A LOT ABOUT IN 2025."**

**Tennessean.**

**"THE INDIANA SONGWRITER STEPHEN WILSON JR. IS A  
STRANGE BEAST.. ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING ARTISTS  
TO WATCH... A TRUE ORIGINAL."**

**RollingStone**

**"THROUGHOUT THE ALBUM, WILSON JR. OFFERS THE KIND  
OF NUANCED STORYTELLING THAT HAS HELPED MAKE STARS  
OF ARTISTS LIKE ERIC CHURCH AND CHRIS STAPLETON, AND  
HE HAS THE VOCAL PROWESS TO BACK IT UP!"**

**billboard**

**BIG LOUD**

## ELLA LANGLEY

"Langley's determination has helped usher her to the forefront of a new generation of country artists," says *Billboard*. With over 1.5 billion streams, two Country radio No. 1s and headline shows selling out immediately, she was named *Billboard*'s Country Power Players Rising Star, and her debut album *Hungover* earned widespread critical acclaim.

"A voice that pulses with regret and stories that leave dark, stubborn stains." –*New York Times*

"One of country's most promising new stars." –*Grammy.com*



## SHABOOZEY

Staying true to his Virginian roots, 5x Grammy-nominated Shaboozey strives to continue the region's long-standing tradition of prolific creativity and is carving his lane in the country space.

Album *Where I've Been, Isn't Where I'm Going* featured the breakthrough anthem/Diamond certified "A Bar Song (Tipsy)" and made history (over a billion+ streams across DSPs, the longest Hot 100 No. 1 while topping *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs, Country Airplay, Mediabase/Country Aircheck charts).



## ZACH TOP

"The fastest-rising star in country music." –*Variety*

"The future of country music." –*Billboard*

"Top has shown that he's here to carve out a new seat at the table among the next generation of country music's greats." –*Holler*



## TUCKER WETMORE

Tucker Wetmore is "on the doorstep of true stardom" (*Billboard*), having "taken country music by storm" (*Holler*). His debut album *What Not To* made history as 2025's biggest country debut from a new artist and was praised as "a statement articulating who he is as an artist and person, and a statement articulating that he is here to stay" (*American Songwriter*). With *People* noting he's "showing no signs of slowing down," the Tennessean sums it up: "He's built differently."



## STEPHEN WILSON JR.

"One of country music's most electrifying artists." –*Rolling Stone Future of Music* issue

Appeared on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *CBS Saturday Morning*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and *Later...with Jools Holland*.

His viral cover of "Stand By Me" garnered over 5 million views on YouTube and 20 million views on socials.

Collaborated with Shaboozey on "Take A Walk" from a new Stephen King movie.

Two sold-out headline shows at the Ryman this November.

