



*MusicRow* Subscribed Members will vote to determine award winners.

Ballots Emailed: **July 14, 2021.**

Ballot Voting Period:

**July 14, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. CST –  
July 23, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

Winners Announced: **August 19, 2021**

To become a subscribed member, click [here](#).

By Sarah Skates

**MusicRow Magazine** is proud to reveal the nominees for the 2021 *MusicRow* Awards. This year's honors will be announced virtually on Thursday, August 19 and are presented by **City National Bank**.

Now in its 33rd year, the *MusicRow* Awards are Nashville's longest running music industry trade publication honors and celebrate the achievements of songwriters, artists, producers, and more.

The 11 awards categories are voted on by subscribed members of *MusicRow* Magazine.

The final nominees revealed in this announcement are determined by a committee comprised of critics and tastemakers. For the categories of Breakthrough Songwriter and Breakthrough Artist-Writer, outside nominations are also taken into consideration. For the Male and Female Songwriter of the Year categories, nominees are based on data from *MusicRow*'s Top Songwriter Chart. All nominations are based on projects that were active between the period of June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021.

Continuing *MusicRow*'s longstanding tradition of recognizing behind-the-scenes excellence, the Top 10 Album All-Star Musician Awards will be presented in conjunction with the *MusicRow* Awards. These honors salute Nashville's most in-demand studio players who performed on the most albums

reaching the Top 10 of *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart during the eligibility period.

*MusicRow* Subscribed Members will vote to determine award winners. The Ballot Voting Period runs Wednesday, July 14 at 11 a.m. through Friday, July 23 at 5 p.m.

To become a subscribed member, click [here](#).

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**AWARD**  
**NOMINEES.**

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## MUSIC ROW AWARDS IN



**DISCOVERY ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR**



DISCOVERY ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR



## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR



## DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



WARNER  
MUSIC  
NASHVILLE



## Category 1 | PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville producer's work on albums active during the eligibility period. Achievements may include, but are not limited to, single chart performance and album sales.*



### Dave Cobb

A Thousand Horses, Anderson East, Barry Gibbs, Blackberry Smoke, Chris Stapleton, Dawes, Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit, John Prine, Kaleo, Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real, Randy Rogers Band, The Highwomen, The Oak Ridge Boys, Travis Tritt



### Ross Copperman

Bexar, Brad Paisley, Darius Rucker, Gabby Barrett, King Calaway, Michael Ray



### Corey Crowder

Brian Kelley, Chase Rice, Chris Tomlin, Chris Young & Kane Brown ("Famous Friends"), Florida Georgia Line, Raelynn, Tim McGraw & Tyler Hubbard ("Undivided")



### Dann Huff

Brantley Gilbert, Brett Young, Brad Paisley, Danielle Bradbery, Dillon Carmichael, Heath Sanders, Kane Brown, Lady A, Lanco, Lindsay Ell, Noah Schnacky, Rascal Flatts, Restless Road, Robert Counts, Ross Ellis, Russell Dickerson, Thomas Rhett



### Jay Joyce

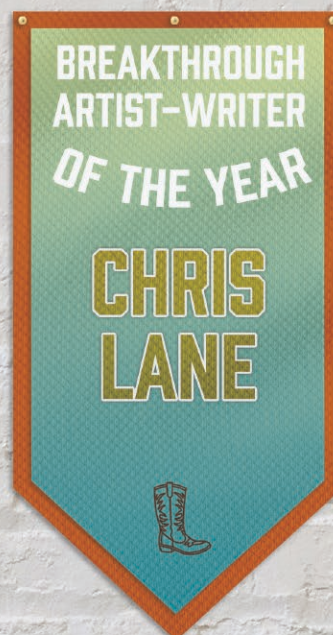
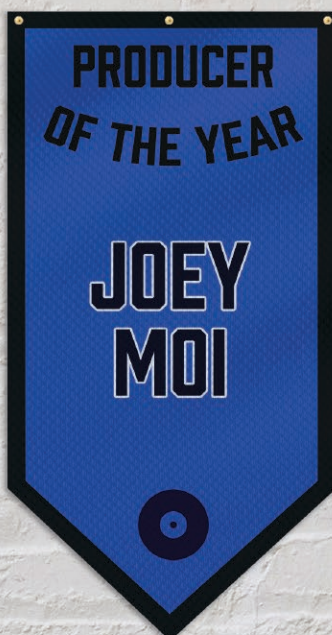
Ashley McBryde, Brandy Clark, Brothers Osborne, Charlie Worsham, Declan McKenna, Devin Dawson, Eric Church, Kip Moore ("Good Life"), Lainey Wilson, Miranda Lambert, Tenille Townes



### Joey Moi

Chris Lane, Ernest, Hardy, Jake Owen, Keith Urban, Larry Fleet, Lily Rose, MacKenzie Porter, Morgan Wallen, Sean Stemaly







CONGRATULATIONS  
**COREY CROWDER**

2021 MUSICROW AWARDS  
**PRODUCER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE**





## PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Dave Cobb** lent his production talents to a wide swath of artists, ranging from the traditional country sounds of Chris Stapleton to rock band Kaleo to Americana heroes Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit. Among his recent hits are Stapleton's "Starting Over" from the ACM Album of the Year by the same name. Cobb worked on the heralded album by The Highwomen, and with icons John Prine, Barry Gibb and The Oak Ridge Boys, as well as the talents of A Thousand Horses, Anderson East, Blackberry Smoke, Dawes, Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real, Randy Rogers Band, and Travis Tritt. Cobb was nominated for Producer of the Year, Non-Classical at the 63rd Grammy Awards. He is a two-time *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.

**Ross Copperman** is co-producer of Gabby Barrett's blockbuster debut album *Goldmine*, home to the hits "I Hope" and "The Good Ones." Over the last year Copperman also had hits including Darius Rucker's "Beers and Sunshine," and worked with newcomers Bexar and King Calaway. He produced new music by Darius Rucker ("My Masterpiece"), Brad Paisley ("City of Music") and Michael Ray ("Picture"). Copperman's own recent EP, *Somewhere There's A Light On*, is out now via Photo Finish Records. This is his fourth nomination for *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.

**Corey Crowder** enters the Producer of the Year category for the first time in 2021, thanks to numerous hits including Chris Young and Kane Brown's "Famous Friends," Tim McGraw and Tyler Hubbard's "Undivided," and Florida Georgia Line's "Long Live." His credits also include FGL's 6-Pack EP, *Chris Tomlin & Friends* and Chase Rice's "Drinkin' Beer. Talkin' God. Amen." featuring FGL. Crowder re-upped with Tree Vibe Music in late 2020, where he produces artists including Brian Kelley and RaeLynn, and also released his own song as an artist.

**Dann Huff** is the producer and/or co-producer of Kane Brown's "Worldwide Beautiful" and "Cool Again," Russell Dickerson's "Love You Like I Used To" and "Home Sweet," and Brett Young's "Lady." He also worked with *MusicRow* Artist of the Year nominee Thomas Rhett on "What's Your Country Song" and "Country Again," and produced Lady A's current single "Like A Lady," and Rascal Flatts' "How They Remember You." Additional credits include Brantley

Gilbert, Brad Paisley, Danielle Bradbery, Dillon Carmichael, Heath Sanders, Lanco, Lindsay Ell, Noah Schnacky, Restless Road, Robert Counts, and Ross Ellis. Huff has been voted *MusicRow* Producer of the Year for the last two years, and is an overall four-time winner.

**Jay Joyce** produced recent hits by Eric Church ("Stick That In Your Country Song," "Hell Of A View"), and Brothers Osborne ("I'm Not For Everyone"), as well as Miranda Lambert's Grammy-winning album *Wildcard*. In addition, "Hell Of A View" is nominated for *MusicRow* Awards Song of the Year, while Church and Lambert are nominated for *MusicRow* Awards Artist of the Year. Joyce also produced acclaimed artist Brandy Clark, and newcomer Lainey Wilson, who is in the running for Discovery Artist of the Year. He also has credits on fresh tracks from Charlie Worsham, Declan McKenna, Devin Dawson, Kip Moore and Tenille Townes. Joyce is a two-time *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.

**Joey Moi** produced one of 2021's most-streamed albums, *Dangerous: The Double Album* by Morgan Wallen. Moi, a partner at Big Loud, also produced many of the company's other artists including Chris Lane, Ernest, Hardy, Jake Owen, Larry Fleet, Lily Rose, MacKenzie Porter, and Sean Stemaly. This includes hits by Lane ("Big, Big Plans"), Owen ("Homemade," "Made for You") and Hardy ("One Beer," "Give Heaven Some Hell"). Hardy's "Give Heaven Some Hell" is nominated for *MusicRow* Song of the Year. This is Moi's second nomination for Producer of the Year.

The MusicRow logo is displayed in white, bold, italicized capital letters. It is centered within a dark green rectangular box that has a thin gold border and gold diagonal lines in the corners.

*MusicRow* Subscribed  
Members vote to determine  
award winners.

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES

## BBR MUSIC GROUP LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR



### LAINY WILSON DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

### ELVIE SHANE SONG OF THE YEAR: "MY BOY"



### BEN JOHNSON BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
**2021 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES**

BMG

**CARLY PEARCE**  
SONG OF THE YEAR: "NEXT GIRL"



**EMILY LANDIS**  
BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER &  
FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

**MATT ROY**  
BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER



## Category 2 | LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville label group during the eligibility period.*



BBR  
Music Group



Big Loud  
Records



Big Machine  
Label Group



SONY MUSIC

Sony Music  
Nashville



UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP  
NASHVILLE

UMG  
Nashville



WARNER MUSIC  
NASHVILLE

Warner Music  
Nashville



**LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR NOMINEE**  
**SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE CONGRATULATES OUR**  
**2021 MUSICROW NOMINEES**



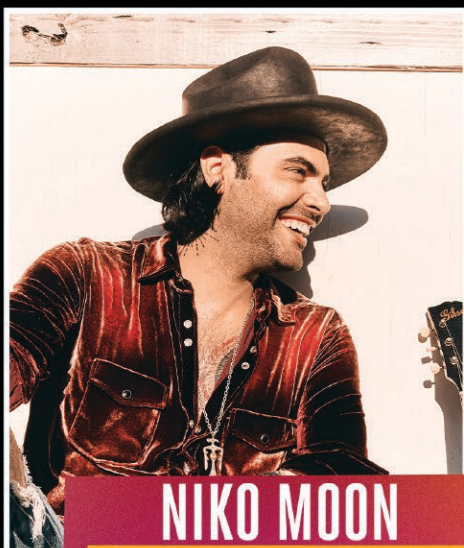
**LUKE COMBS**

ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**MIRANDA LAMBERT**

ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**NIKO MOON**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**JAMESON RODGERS**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR



SONY MUSIC | NASHVILLE



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 MUSIC ROW AWARDS NOMINEES

*KELSEA BALLERINI*

*LUKE BRYAN*

*TYLER BRADEN*

*ERIC CHURCH*

*ROSS COPPERMAN*

*HARDY*

*NICOLETTE HAYFORD*

*DAN ISBELL*

*MIRANDA LAMBERT*

*JAMES MCNAIR*

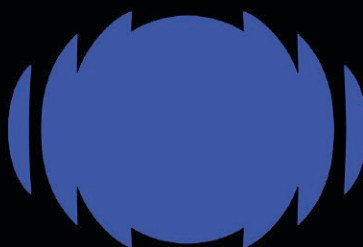
*JOSH OSBORNE*

*DREW PARKER*

*LEE STARR*

*DALLAS WILSON*

*LAINY WILSON*



**SONY MUSIC  
PUBLISHING**





## Category 3 | TALENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville talent agency during the eligibility period.*



Creative Artists  
Agency



Kinkead Entertainment  
Agency



Reliant Talent  
Agency



United Talent  
Agency



Wasserman  
Music



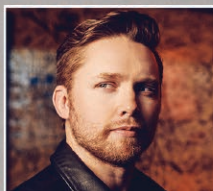
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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021  
**MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES**



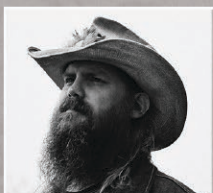
**LUKE BRYAN**  
ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**PARKER MCCOLLUM**  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR



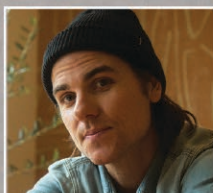
**JAMESON RODGERS**  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**LILY ROSE**  
DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**CHRIS STAPLETON**  
ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**LAINY WILSON**  
DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**ROSS COPPERMAN**  
PRODUCER OF THE YEAR  
MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR  
SONG OF THE YEAR

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AT **RED LIGHT**



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES



Parker Welling



Jesse Frasure



Mickey Guyton



Fraser Churchill



Thomas Rhett



Mark Trussell



Mitch Oglesby



Chris Stapleton



Parker McCollum



Nicole Galyon



Ashley McBryde



Joshua Murty



Niko Moon



Anna Moon



Nathan Chapman



Randy Montana



Jay Joyce



Shane McAnally



Corey Crowder



Hunter Phelps



Priscilla Block



**WARNER  
CHAPPELL  
MUSIC**

## Category 4 | BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville songwriter who wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song for the first time.*

### **Matt Alderman**

Curb I Word Entertainment, SESAC  
"Nobody" recorded by Dylan Scott

### **Benjy Davis**

Plaid Flag, BMI  
"Made For You" recorded by Jake Owen

### **Nicolette Hayford**

SMACK Songs, River House Artists, SESAC  
"One Night Standards" recorded by Ashley McBryde

### **Joey Hyde**

Concord, BMI  
"Made For You" recorded by Jake Owen

### **Dan Isbell**

Sony Music Publishing Nashville, BMI  
"Better Together" recorded by Luke Combs

### **Greylan James**

UMPG Nashville, BMI  
"Happy Does" recorded by Kenny Chesney

### **Alex Kline**

Reviver Music, SESAC  
"Somebody Like That" recorded by Tenille Arts

### **Chris La Corte**

Concord/Hang Your Hat Music, SESAC  
"Breaking Up Was Easy in the '90s" recorded by Sam Hunt

### **Emily Landis**

BMG, BMI  
"The Good Ones" recorded by Gabby Barrett

### **Michael Lotten**

Twelve6/Between The Pines, BMI  
"Momma's House" recorded by Dustin Lynch

### **James McNair**

Sony Music Publishing Nashville, BMI  
"Lovin' On You" recorded by Luke Combs

### **Neil Medley**

Mojo Music Media, ASCAP  
"Made For You" recorded by Jake Owen

### **Jordan Minton**

Boom Music/Kobalt, BMI  
"Good Time" recorded by Niko Moon

### **Jake Mitchell**

Reservoir, BMI  
"One Beer" recorded by Hardy ft. Lauren Alaina  
and Devin Dawson  
"Some Girls" recorded by Jameson Rodgers

### **Anna Moon**

Warner Chappell Nashville, BMI  
"Good Time" recorded by Niko Moon

### **Joshua Murty**

Warner Chappell Nashville, ASCAP  
"Good Time" recorded by Niko Moon

### **Mitch Oglesby**

Warner Chappell Nashville, ASCAP  
"Done" recorded by Chris Janson

### **Matt Roy**

BMG, BMI  
"Done" recorded by Chris Janson

### **Mark Trussell**

Warner Chappell Nashville, ASCAP  
"Good Time" recorded by Niko Moon

### **Dallas Wilson**

Riser House, BMI  
"Nobody" recorded by Dylan Scott



2021  
**MUSICROW**  
AWARDS

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NOMINEES



UNIVERSAL MUSIC  
PUBLISHING GROUP



**LUKE COMBS**  
ARTIST



**NATALIE HEMBY**  
FEMALE SONGWRITER



**DAVE COBB**  
PRODUCER



**IAN MUNSICK**  
DISCOVERY ARTIST



**ERNEST K. SMITH**  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER



**GREYLAN JAMES**  
BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER

## #SongwritersFirst

## BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: About the Nominees

**Matt Alderman** has a recent hit as a co-writer and co-producer of “Nobody” recorded by Dylan Scott. Perfect for summer, he’s also a writer on the sunny new single from Dustin Lynch and Chris Lane, “Tequila On A Boat.” This follows previous cuts by Clare Dunn, Matt Stell, Brett Young and Jake Owen.

**Benjy Davis** and fellow Breakthrough Songwriter nominees Joey Hyde and Neil Medley teamed up to write the hit song “Made For You,” recorded by Jake Owen. Davis has a track record of cuts by Dan + Shay, Eli Young Band, Josh Abbott Band, Rascal Flatts, and Chris Young.

**Nicolette Hayford** had her first hit as a co-writer of the award-winning song “One Night Standards,” recorded by Ashley McBryde. Hayford’s other McBryde credits include “Little Dive Bar In Dahlgonega,” “Shut Up Sheila,” “Voodoo Doll” and “Sparrow.” Additionally Hayford has recent cuts by Chrissy Metz and Kylie Morgan.

**Joey Hyde** scored his first hit with “Made For You,” co-written with fellow nominees Benjy Davis and Neil Medley, and recorded by Jake Owen. Hyde’s credits include the new single by Walker Montgomery and recordings by Luke Dick, Sam Grow, Lindsay Ell, and Ryan Hurd.

**Dan Isbell** earned his first hit as a co-writer of “Better Together” recorded by Luke Combs. He wrote the song with Combs, who is nominated for *MusicRow* Artist of the Year, and Randy Montana, who is nominated for Male Songwriter of the Year. Isbell also has new cuts by Flatland Cavalry, Kameron Marlowe, Laine Hardy, Matt Stell, Tucker Beathard and Scotty McCreery.

**Greylan James** was honored when his first hit single “Happy Does” was recorded by one of his heroes, Kenny Chesney. James is a Knoxville native with other cuts by Chris Young, Chris Janson, Drake White, and Alexander Ludwig.

**Alex Kline** is part of the first all-female team to write, perform and produce a No. 1 country radio single, with

Tenille Arts’ “Somebody Like That.” Accordingly, Kline is also nominated for Female Songwriter of the Year. She has previous cuts by Ronnie Dunn, Reba McEntire, Mitchell Tenpenny, Gary Allan, Terri Clark, and Cassadee Pope, as well as numerous production credits. Kline wrote the song with Arts, who is nominated for two *MusicRow* Awards, and Allison Veltz Cruz, who is also nominated for Female Songwriter of the Year.

**Chris La Corte** scored his first hit with “Breaking Up Was Easy in the ‘90s” recorded by Sam Hunt, from the album *Southside*. La Corte is the first writer signed to Hang Your Hat Music, Hillary Lindsey’s partnership with Concord. He also has a new cut by Andrew Jannakos.

**Emily Landis** charted her first hit as a co-writer of “The Good Ones” recorded by Gabby Barrett. Landis is a graduate of Belmont University where she studied songwriting and has other cuts by Smithfield, Carolyn Miller, Eric Paslay and Kassi Ashton.

**Michael Lotten** earned his first hit with “Mamma’s House” recorded by Dustin Lynch. This follows cuts by Mitchell Tenpenny (“Alcohol You Later”), Jon Langston (“All Eyes On Us”), Dylan Schneider, Chuck Wicks, Willie Jones, and Sam Grow.

**James McNair** has had several Luke Combs cuts and scored a hit with Combs’ recording of “Lovin’ On You.” Other artists who have recorded McNair’s songs include Kylie Morgan, Chase Rice, Raelynn, The Cadillac Three, Chris Janson, Scotty McCreery, Morgan Wallen and Craig Campbell.

**Neil Medley** teamed with Benjy Davis and Joey Hyde to write “Made For You,” a hit for Jake Owen. He has had previous singles by Lindsay Ell (“I Don’t Love You”) and Josh Abbott Band (“Wasn’t That Drunk”). Medley also has cuts by Hailey Whitters, Tiera, CJ Solar, Cody Johnson, Luke Bryan, Kid Rock, and Brent Cobb.

**Jordan Minton** is a co-writer of Niko Moon’s hit “Good

(Continued on page 21)



# RIVERHOUSE

## ARTISTS

# CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR 2021 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES



**LUKE COMBS**



**NICOLETTE HAYFORD**



**NEIL MEDLEY**



**DREW PARKER**



**JAMESON RODGERS**

RECORD LABEL | PUBLISHING | MANAGEMENT



CONGRATULATIONS  
***MATT ALDERMAN***

**MUSICROW AWARD NOMINEE**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



FROM YOUR TEAM AT **CURB | word**  
MUSIC PUBLISHING



## BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: About the Nominees

Time,” along with fellow Breakthrough Songwriter nominees Anna Moon, Joshua Murty, and Mark Trussell. He has cuts on Keith Urban’s *Graffiti U* record, as well as by Dan + Shay, Trent Harmon, Abby Anderson and Mitchell Tenpenny’s track “Telling All My Secrets.”

**Jake Mitchell** is the only nominee in this category with two qualifying songs: “Some Girls” recorded by Jameson Rodgers, and “One Beer” recorded by Hardy ft. Lauren Alaina and Devin Dawson. He co-wrote the title track to Luke Bryan’s current album *Born Here Live Here Die Here*, and has other cuts by Dawson, Rodgers, Ashley McBryde, Ashley Monroe, Matt Stell, Chrissy Metz, Florida Georgia Line and CJ Solar.

**Anna Moon** co-wrote “Good Time” with fellow Breakthrough Songwriter nominees Joshua Murty and Mark Trussell, and Breakthrough Artist nominee Niko Moon. Anna Moon contributed multiple songs to her husband’s debut project.

**Joshua Murty** teamed with Anna Moon, Niko Moon, Jordan Minton, and Mark Trussell to write Niko’s hit “Good Time.” They collaborated on much of the EP, with Murty co-producing. Murty’s career includes time as a touring guitarist with Maren Morris.

**Mitch Oglesby** scored his first hit with Chris Janson’s recording of “Done.” The song was co-written with Janson, Jamie Paulin and fellow Breakthrough Songwriter nominee Matt Roy. Oglesby has multiple cuts by Janson, as well as artists Cody Johnson, Tyler Booth, and Styles Haury.

**Matt Roy** earned his first hit with Chris Janson’s “Done,” co-written with Janson, Jamie Paulin and fellow Breakthrough Songwriter nominee Mitch Oglesby. Roy also has cuts by Chris Young, Alexander Ludwig, and Kane Brown.

**Mark Trussell** is a co-writer of the Niko Moon hit “Good Time,” which he penned with Niko, Anna Moon, Jordan Minton, and Joshua Murty. Trussell also has recordings by Chris Lane (“Fill Them Boots”), Keith Urban (“Polaroid”), Devin Dawson (“Range Rover”), Billy Currington (“Details”), Maren Morris (“RSVP”) and many others.

**Dallas Wilson**, Matt Alderman, and Dylan Scott penned Scott’s hit single “Nobody,” which earned Breakthrough Songwriter nominations for Wilson and Alderman. Among Wilson’s other co-writes are cuts by Mitchell Tenpenny, Lainey Wilson, Jimmie Allen, Dylan Scott and Karl Michael. He is the son of studio musician and songwriter Lonnie Wilson.

## ◀◀ MUSICROW AWARDS REWIND



### In 2007...

*MusicRow* Founder David M. Ross with 2007 New Artist of the Year Taylor Swift.



### In 2008...

Kerri Edwards, David M. Ross, 2008 Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year Luke Bryan, Roger Murrah, and Jody Williams.



### In 2013...

*MusicRow* Publisher/Owner Sherod Robertson with 2013 Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year Kacey Musgraves.



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**MICHAEL LOTTEN**  
*on your MusicRow nomination for*  
**BREAKTHROUGH**  
**SONGWRITER**  
**OF THE YEAR**



**twelve6**  
entertainment

**betweenthepines**





**RISER HOUSE**

C O N G R A T U L A T E S

BREAKTHROUGH  
SONGWRITER  
OF THE YEAR

N O M I N E E

DALLAS  
WILSON

## Category 5 | BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville songwriter and recording artist who wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song for the first time.



### Tenille Arts

Noble Vision Music Group, BMI, 19th & Grand Records; "Somebody Like That" recorded by Tenille Arts



### Ben Johnson (Track 45)

Tape Room Music, BMI, BBR Music Group (Stoney Creek Records); "Gone" recorded by Dierks Bentley, "One Of Them Girls" recorded by Lee Brice



### Chris Lane

Big Loud Publishing, BMI, Big Loud Records; "Big Big Plans" recorded by Chris Lane



### Ashley McBryde

Jody Williams Songs, Warner Chappell Nashville, BMI, Warner Music Nashville; "One Night Standards" recorded by Ashley McBryde



### Parker McCollum

Warner Chappell Nashville, BMI, UMG Nashville (MCA Nashville); "Pretty Heart" recorded by Parker McCollum



### Ernest K. Smith

Big Loud Publishing, BMI, Big Loud Records; "Big Big Plans" recorded by Chris Lane, "Breaking Up Was Easy in the '90s" recorded by Sam Hunt, "Heartless" recorded by Diplo ft. Morgan Wallen, "I Love My Country" recorded by Florida Georgia Line, "More Than My Hometown" recorded by Morgan Wallen



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**T E N I L L E   A R T S**  
**2 MUSICROW AWARD NOMINATIONS**  
**BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR**  
**BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR**



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WAVE



DREAMCATCHER  
MANAGEMENT





## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER: About the Nominees

**Tenille Arts** had a history-making single with “Somebody Like That.” Written by Arts, Allison Veltz Cruz and Alex Kline, it is the first country song performed and produced entirely by females to reach No. 1. This success earned the trio multiple *MusicRow* Awards nominations. Arts was selected for the CMT Next Women of Country Class of 2021, and was nominated for ACM New Female Artist of the Year. This summer she’ll be working her follow-up single “Back Then, Right Now” and hitting the road with Lady A.

**Ben Johnson** of trio Track45 has two qualifying songs which earned him a nomination for Breakthrough Artist-Writer: “Gone” recorded by Dierks Bentley, and “One Of Them Girls” recorded by Lee Brice. His chart action during the eligibility period also includes “All My Favorite Songs” by Weezer which was a hit on the Adult Alternative Airplay chart. Johnson’s other cuts include “Believe” by Meek Mill and Justin Timberlake, “On Me” by Thomas Rhett and Kane Brown ft. Ava Max, “Hot Beer” by Dillon Carmichael, and “Give Heaven Some Hell,” by Hardy, which is nominated for *MusicRow* Awards Song of the Year. Johnson also co-produced Kylie Morgan’s debut EP.

**Chris Lane** scored his first No. 1 as a songwriter with “Big Big Plans.” He wrote the song with Jacob Durrett and Ernest Keith Smith, a fellow nominee for Breakthrough Artist-Writer. Lane’s previous hits as a recording artist were outside cuts including “I Don’t Know About You,” “Fix,” and “Take Back Home Girl” ft. Tori Kelly. Lane is following the success of “Big Big Plans” with new single, “Fill Them Boots,” and a tour of the same name. He also dropped the tracks “Summer Job Money,” “That’s What Mamas Are For,” and is featured on Dustin Lynch’s “Tequila On A Boat.”

**Ashley McBryde** is a co-writer of her hit single “One Night Standards” along with Nicolette Hayford and Shane McAnally, marking her first entry into the top 10 as a songwriter, despite her notable past success. The song was released on Sept. 23, 2019, as the lead-off single to her second studio album, *Never Will*, and peaked at radio a year later. McBryde is the 2019 *MusicRow* Breakthrough Artist of the Year. Her co-writes have been recorded by artists including Chrissy Metz, Carly Pearce, Dan Smalley and Shy Carter. McBryde returns to the road this summer,

including her first headlining shows at the historic Ryman Auditorium.

**Parker McCollum** earned his first No. 1 at country radio with “Pretty Heart,” which received RIAA Platinum certification and was featured on his *Hollywood Gold* EP, the highest-selling debut country EP of 2020. McCollum’s year of many highlights includes numerous sold-out shows, and his debut performance on the Grand Ole Opry. His full-length major label debut album, *Gold Chain Cowboy*, is set for release July 30. McCollum wrote “Pretty Heart” with frequent collaborator Randy Montana, who is the reigning *MusicRow* Breakthrough Songwriter and is in the running for Male Songwriter of the Year this year.

**Ernest K. Smith** scored an impressive five qualifying hits during the eligibility period. His cuts include “Big Big Plans,” which also earned a Breakthrough Artist-Writer nomination for Chris Lane. Smith also co-wrote Sam Hunt’s “Breaking Up Was Easy in the ‘90s,” Florida Georgia Line’s “I Love My Country,” Morgan Wallen’s “More Than My Hometown” and “Heartless” recorded by Diplo ft. Morgan Wallen. Smith contributed eleven tracks to Wallen’s *Dangerous: The Double Album*. He has Lane’s current single “Fill Them Boots,” FGL’s “Blessings,” and Zayn’s “Tightrope,” as well as his own new single “American Rust.”

The MusicRow logo is displayed in a stylized, bold font with a horizontal line through the middle of the letters.

*MusicRow* Subscribed  
Members vote to determine  
award winners.

To become a member,  
click [here](#).



# SMACK SONGS

## C O N G R A T U L A T E S



NICOLETTE HAYFORD

**BREAKTHROUGH  
SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR**



JOSH OSBORNE

**MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR**

**SONG OF THE YEAR**

"NEXT GIRL"

*Carly Pearce*



SHANE MCANALLY

**SONG OF THE YEAR**

"NEXT GIRL"

*Carly Pearce*

**SONG OF THE YEAR**

"HALF OF MY HOMETOWN"

*Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney*

2 0 2 1  
**MUSICROW**  
A W A R D S  
N O M I N E E S

# CONGRATULATIONS **JESSE FRASURE**

ON YOUR 2021 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINATION

## **MALE**

SONGWRITER  
OF THE YEAR



**WARNER  
CHAPPELL  
MUSIC**



## Category 6 | **MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville songwriter during the eligibility period.*



**Ross Copperman**

Sony Music Publishing  
Nashville, BMI



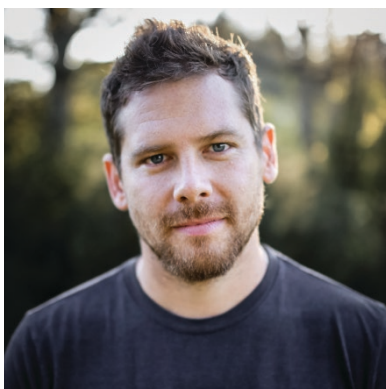
**Jesse Frasure**

Warner Chappell Nashville/  
Rhythm House/Roc Nation,  
BMI



**Ashley Gorley**

Round Hill Music, ASCAP



**Randy Montana**

Warner Chappell Nashville, BMI



**Josh Osborne**

Sony Music Publishing Nashville/  
SMACK Songs, ASCAP



**Josh Thompson**

MV2 Entertainment, BMI

*Congratulations, Josh Thompson!*

MusicRow **Male Songwriter of the Year** Nominee





## MALE SONGWRITER: Credits from the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart

### Ross Copperman

"Nobody But You" recorded by Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani  
 "The Other Girl" recorded by Kelsea Ballerini and Halsey  
 "Lady" recorded by Lady A  
 "We Were Rich" recorded by Runaway June  
 "Happy Anywhere" recorded by Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani  
 "Beers And Sunshine" recorded by Darius Rucker  
 "Half Of My Hometown" recorded by Kelsea Ballerini ft. Kenny Chesney

### Jesse Frasure

"Some People Do" recorded by Old Dominion  
 "Center Point Road" recorded by Thomas Rhett  
 "Hole In The Bottle" recorded by Kelsea Ballerini  
 "Almost Maybes" recorded by Jordan Davis  
 "Whiskey And Rain" recorded by Michael Ray  
 "What's Your Country Song" recorded by Thomas Rhett  
 "Minimum Wage" recorded by Blake Shelton

### Ashley Gorley

"Catch" recorded by Brett Young  
 "One Big Country Song" recorded by LoCash  
 "Hole In The Bottle" recorded by Kelsea Ballerini  
 "Hard To Forget" recorded by Sam Hunt  
 "One Of Them Girls" recorded by Lee Brice  
 "Single Saturday Night" recorded by Cole Swindell  
 "We Were Rich" recorded by Runaway June  
 "Give Heaven Some Hell" recorded by Hardy  
 "What's Your Country Song" recorded by Thomas Rhett  
 "You Should Probably Leave" recorded by Chris Stapleton  
 "Sand In My Boots" recorded by Morgan Wallen  
 "Warning" recorded by Morgan Wallen  
 "Country Again" recorded by Thomas Rhett

### Randy Montana

"I Hope You're Happy Now" recorded by Carly Pearce and Lee Brice  
 "Better Together" recorded by Luke Combs  
 "Pretty Heart" recorded by Parker McCollum  
 "Young Man's Blues" recorded by Parker McCollum  
 "We Didn't Have Much" recorded by Justin Moore  
 "Cold As You" recorded by Luke Combs  
 "If It Wasn't For Trucks" recorded by Riley Green

### Josh Osborne

"Never Be Sorry" recorded by Old Dominion  
 "Nobody But You" recorded by Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani  
 "Hard To Forget" recorded by Sam Hunt  
 "Breaking Up Was Easy In The '90s" recorded by Sam Hunt  
 "How They Remember You" recorded by Rascal Flatts  
 "Happy Anywhere" recorded by Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani  
 "Beers And Sunshine" recorded by Darius Rucker  
 "7 Summers" recorded by Morgan Wallen  
 "Next Girl" recorded by Carly Pearce  
 "Sand In My Boots" recorded by Morgan Wallen

### Josh Thompson

"One Margarita" recorded by Luke Bryan  
 "Ain't Always The Cowboy" recorded by Jon Pardi  
 "Be A Light" recorded by Thomas Rhett featuring Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin, Reba McEntire, Keith Urban  
 "Build Me A Daddy" recorded by Luke Bryan  
 "Whiskey And Rain" recorded by Michael Ray  
 "Wasted On You" recorded by Morgan Wallen

**ROUND  
HILL  
MUSIC**

2021  
**MUSICROW**  
AWARDS



ROUND HILL MUSIC CONGRATULATES  
OUR 2021 **MUSICROW** AWARDS NOMINEES

MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

**ASHLEY GORLEY**

SONG OF THE YEAR

**"GIVE HEAVEN SOME HELL"**

**ASHLEY GORLEY BEN JOHNSON** HUNTER PHELPS MICHAEL HARDY

&

**"HALF OF MY HOMETOWN"**

**JIMMY ROBBINS** SHANE MCANALLY ROSS COPPERMAN NICOLLE GALYON KELSEA BALLERINI





JOEY  
HYDE

*Breakthrough Songwriter*



HILLARY  
LINDSEY

*Female Songwriter of the Year*



CHRIS  
LA CORTE

*Breakthrough Songwriter*

CONCORD MUSIC PUBLISHING  
CONGRATULATES OUR  
2021 MUSIC ROW AWARD  
NOMINEES



**CONCORD**  
MUSIC PUBLISHING

## Category 7 | FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville songwriter during the eligibility period.*



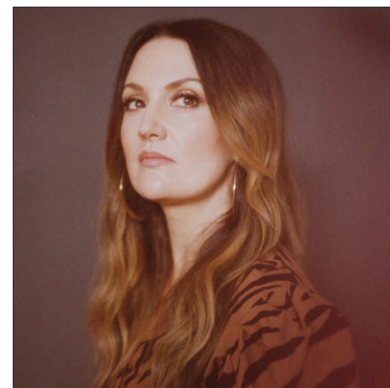
**Allison Veltz Cruz**

Hipgnosis Songs, SESAC



**Nicolle Galyon**

Warner Chappell Nashville,  
BMI



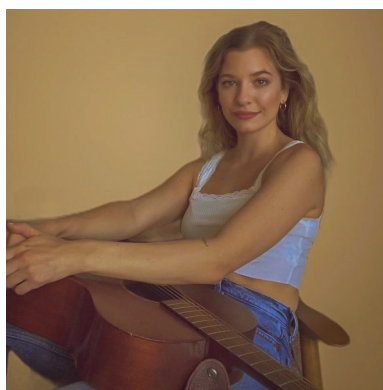
**Natalie Hemby**

UMPG Nashville, BMI



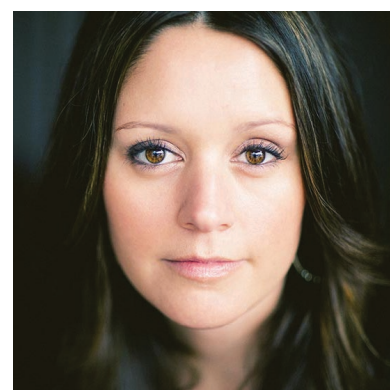
**Alex Kline**

Reviver Music, SESAC



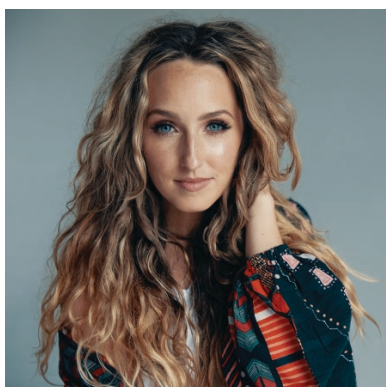
**Emily Landis**

BMG, BMI



**Hillary Lindsey**

Concord Music Publishing,  
ASCAP



**Parker Welling**

Home Team/Warner Chappell  
Nashville, BMI



REVIVER  
PUBLISHING

**CONGRATULATIONS**



**ALEX KLINE**

ON YOUR 2021 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINATIONS FOR

**BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER & FEMALE SONGWRITER**

## FEMALE SONGWRITER: Credits from the *MusicRow* Top Songwriter Chart

### Allison Veltz Cruz

"Somebody Like That" recorded by Tenille Arts

### Emily Landis

"The Good Ones" recorded by Gabby Barrett

### Nicolle Galyon

"We Were Rich" recorded by Runaway June

"Gone" recorded by Dierks Bentley

"Minimum Wage" recorded by Blake Shelton

"Half Of My Hometown" recorded by Kelsea Ballerini  
ft. Kenny Chesney

### Hillary Lindsey

"One Beer" recorded by Hardy ft. Lauren Alaina and  
Devin Dawson

"Hole In The Bottle" recorded by Kelsea Ballerini

"Almost Maybes" recorded by Jordan Davis

"Fearless (Taylor's Version)" recorded by Taylor Swift

### Natalie Hemby

"Bluebird" recorded by Miranda Lambert

"Settling Down" recorded by Miranda Lambert

"I'm Not For Everyone" recorded by Brothers Osborne

### Parker Welling

"Love You Like I Used To" recorded by Russell  
Dickerson

"What's Your Country Song" recorded by Thomas  
Rhett

### Alex Kline

"Somebody Like That" recorded by Tenille Arts

## ◀◀ MUSICROW AWARDS REWIND



### In 2016...

2016 Breakthrough Songwriter  
winner Maren Morris and Carla  
Wallace.



### In 2018...

*MusicRow* Publisher/Owner  
Sherod Robertson with 2018  
Breakthrough Artist winner  
Luke Combs.



### In 2019...

Robert K. Oermann, the first-  
ever Discovery Artist of the  
Year recipient Tenille Townes,  
and *MusicRow* Publisher/  
Owner Sherod Robertson.



**BLACK RIVER**  
RECORDS

congratulates kelsea, shane, ross, jimmy & nicolle

# half of my hometown (feat. kenny chesney)

nominated for musicrow awards  
**song of the year**

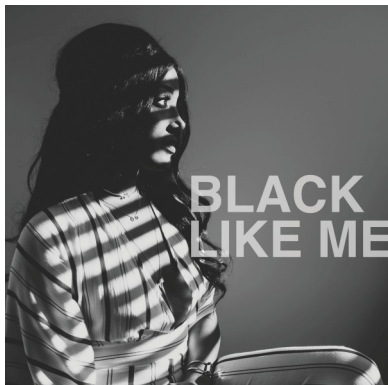
**CENTRAL**  
HOME OF THE BOBCATS

written by: kelsea ballerini, shane mcanally,  
ross copperman, jimmy robbins, nicolle galyon



## Category 8 | SONG OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor Nashville writers and publishers on the craft of songwriting, not necessarily chart performance.*

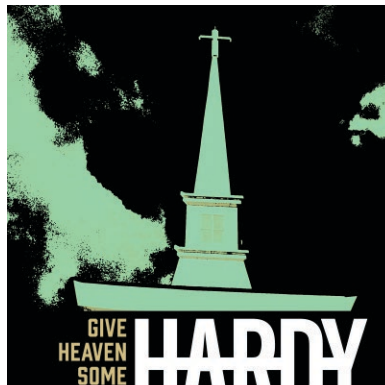


### “Black Like Me”

Songwriters: Mickey Guyton, Nathan Chapman, Emma Davidson-Dillon, Fraser Churchill

Publishers: Mickey's Island Publishing/Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.; Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp./Eighty Nine 89 Music; Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp./Fraser Churchill Publishing Designee; Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp./Emma Davidson-Dillon Publishing Designee, BMI

Recorded by: Mickey Guyton, UMG Nashville (Capitol Records Nashville)

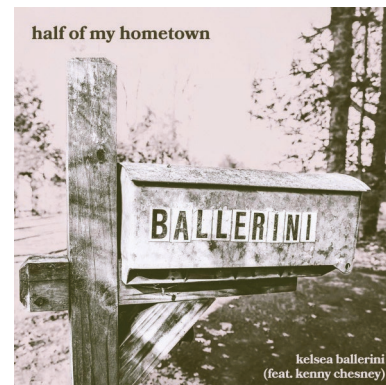


### “Give Heaven Some Hell”

Songwriters: Michael Hardy, Hunter Phelps, Ben Johnson, Ashley Gorley

Publishers: Relative Music Group, BMI/Redneck Music, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/Caleb's College Fund, ASCAP/8 Minutes Twenty Seconds Publishing, BMI/Artist Publishing Group West, ASCAP/Big Blue Nation Music, ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP/Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP/WC Music Corp., ASCAP

Recorded by: Hardy, Big Loud Records

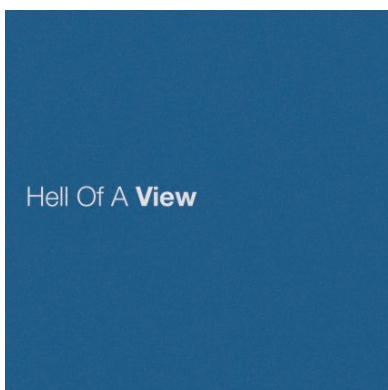


### “Half Of My Hometown”

Songwriters: Kelsea Ballerini, Shane McAnally, Ross Copperman, Jimmy Robbins, Nicolle Galyon

Publishers: Sony Accent, ASCAP/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Smackstreet Music, GMR/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/EMI Blackwood Music Inc., BMI/Iris In The Sky With Diamonds, BMI/Round Hill Songs II, ASCAP/JRM3, ASCAP/Muse Magic, ASCAP/A Boy Named Ford, BMI/WarnerTamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI

Recorded by: Kelsea Ballerini ft. Kenny Chesney, Black River Entertainment (Black River Records)



### “Hell Of A View”

Songwriters: Eric Church, Casey Beathard, Monty Criswell

Publishers: Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/Longer And Louder Music, BMI/Seven Ring Circus Songs, BMI/Little Louder Songs, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Spirit Of Nashville One, BMI/Tunes Of Fluid, BMI/Rust And Chrome Music, BMI

Recorded by: Eric Church, UMG Nashville (EMI Records Nashville)



### “My Boy”

Songwriters: Elvie Shane, Lee Starr, Nick Columbia, Russell Sutton

Publishers: Rome Phrey Songs, ASCAP/Kobalt Songs Music Publishing LLC, ASCAP/Rome Phrey Publishing, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/Nick Columbia Publishing, ASCAP/Block Of Marble Music, BMI/Lee Starr Publishing, BMI/SNG Music, LLP, BMI/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI

Recorded by: Elvie Shane, BBR Music Group (Wheelhouse Records)



### “Next Girl”

Songwriters: Carly Pearce, Shane McAnally, Josh Osborne

Publishers: Smackborne Music, ASCAP/Sony Accent, ASCAP/Warner Geo Met Ric Music, GMR/Tempo Investments-Smack Hits, GMR/Smackwood Music, GMR/For The Kids Gold, ASCAP/BMG Gold Songs, ASCAP

Recorded by: Carly Pearce, Big Machine Label Group (Big Machine Records)



# CONGRATS 2021 NOMINEES

**MUSICROW**  
AWARDS

**NIKO MOON**

**DREW PARKER**

**LUKE COMBS**



**BREAKTHROUGH  
ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

**DISCOVERY ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR**

**ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR**

**FROM YOUR FAMILY AT**

**MAKE  
WAKE**  
ARTISTS



# half of my hometown

**kelsea ballerini**  
**(feat. kenny chesney)**

nominated for musicrow awards  
**song of the year**

congratulations  
to the songwriters

**kelsea ballerini**  
**shane mcanally**  
**ross copperman**  
**jimmy robbins**  
**nicolle galyon**



**SANDBOX**  
ENTERTAINMENT



## SONG OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

### “Black Like Me”

“If you think we live in the land of the free / you should try to be Black like me.” It is a powerful sentiment delivered by Mickey Guyton’s equally powerful voice. The song was written by Guyton in 2019 at a cross-genre writing camp with Nathan Chapman, Emma Davidson-Dillon and Fraser Churchill. She released the recording in June 2020, making an important statement in a time of social unrest, and received widespread critical acclaim. Guyton’s remarkable year included making history as the first Black female solo artist to earn a Grammy nomination in a country category, for Best Country Solo Performance for “Black Like Me,” which she performed as part of the awards ceremony. In addition, she co-hosted the ACM Awards. This is her first *MusicRow* Awards nomination, and she is also nominated for Breakthrough Artist of the Year.

### “Give Heaven Some Hell”

Penned by Hardy with Ashley Gorley, Ben Johnson, and Hunter Phelps, “Give Heaven Some Hell” is a song full of heart, grief and ultimately, hope. On first listen it could come across as a redneck ode to the afterlife—a good ole boy’s dream of muddy fields, beer and clear, and hitting “gold streets on two-wheels.” But a few more listens reveal depth below the surface, with imagery and rhyme (“Make some thunder / make ‘em wonder how you got in”) and references to classic hymns (“Amazing Grace,” “Just As I Am”). Produced by Joey Moi with co-production by Derek Wells, it is from Hardy’s debut album *A Rock* and is the follow-up single to his No. 1 hit “One Beer.” Gorley is the reigning *MusicRow* Male Songwriter of the Year and is nominated again this year. Moi is vying for Producer of the Year and Johnson is up for Breakthrough Artist-Writer.

### “Half Of My Hometown”

Written by Kelsea Ballerini, Shane McAnally, Ross Copperman, Jimmy Robbins, and Nicolle Galyon, it is a heartfelt tribute to hometowns, and the conflicting desires to stay or leave the place where you grew up. (“Stay or leave / part of me / will always be / half of my hometown”). For the recording Ballerini tapped fellow Knoxville native Kenny Chesney to add harmonies. It is from her self-titled third album *Kelsea*, which she co-produced with Copperman and Robbins. Copperman is nominated for *MusicRow* Producer of the Year and Male Songwriter, while Galyon is up for Female Songwriter. Ballerini recently attained her sixth No. 1 song with “Hole In The Bottle.”

### “Hell Of A View”

Eric Church is “chasing life instead of dollar bills” in his hit song “Hell Of A View.” Co-written with longtime collaborators Casey Beathard and Monty Criswell, it’s an endearing and rebellious love story about the stellar view from life on the edge. Delivered with classic Church conviction and backing vocals by powerhouse Joanna Cotten, he sings, “This ain’t for everybody / Toes hanging off the ledge / Like we got nothin’ to lose / Ain’t always heaven, baby / This livin’ on the edge / You holdin’ me holdin’ you / It’s a hell of a view.” It is his tenth No. 1 and is on his critically acclaimed new triple album *Heart & Soul*. This summer the reigning CMA Entertainer of the Year returns to the road with The Gather Again Tour.

### “My Boy”

Elvie Shane proves that love and devotion transcend traditional family ties on his song “My Boy.” Written about his stepson (“He’s my son and that’s my choice / he ain’t my blood but he’s my boy”), the song became a viral hit which resonated with many blended families. This led to a record deal with BBR, which released it as a single, where it is Top 20 on country radio. It is featured on the Kentucky native’s debut EP, *County Roads*, which is chock full of blue-collar grit, vivid imagery and nostalgia delivered by Shane’s soulful vocals. His breakout year includes his debut on the Grand Ole Opry, and being direct support for Jason Aldean at his first live concert in more than a year. This summer he will join Brooks & Dunn’s 2021 Reboot Tour, Miranda Lambert’s amphitheater dates, and anticipate the arrival of his baby girl.

### “Next Girl”

Carly Pearce wrote this song of warning with hitmakers Shane McAnally and Josh Osborne. (“If he ever talks about the ex girl / she tried like hell / it was too late to save herself / so she’s just trying to help the next girl...I know what happens next... girl”). It’s a clever song found on Pearce’s acclaimed album *29*, which explores life after loss, and shows the songstress emerging from the ashes. Among her other recent successes are the hit “I Hope You’re Happy Now,” recorded with Lee Brice, and joining CCM artist Matthew West on a new version of his No. 1 “Truth Be Told.” She was recently surprised by Dolly Parton with an invitation to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry, and will spend the summer touring with Lady A. Co-writer Osborne is nominated for Male Songwriter of the Year.



# CONGRATULATIONS

# ELVIE SHANE



"MY BOY" NOMINATED FOR

# SONG OF THE YEAR

MAVERICK



## Category 9 | **DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville developing artist who demonstrates significant talent and potential to rise.*



### **Priscilla Block**

UMG Nashville (Mercury Nashville), Warner Chappell Nashville, Scillas Song Shop, F2 Entertainment Group, CAA, BMI



### **Tyler Braden**

Warner Music Nashville, 50 Egg/ Sony Music Publishing Nashville, WHY&HOW, WME, BMI



### **Ian Munsick**

Warner Music Nashville, UMPG Nashville, Not A Public Figure/ Erv Woolsey, UTA, BMI



### **Drew Parker**

Warner Music Nashville, River House/Sony Music Publishing Nashville, Make Wake, CAA, BMI



### **Lily Rose**

Big Loud Records/Republic Records, Back Blocks Music/ Fusion Music, WME, BMI



### **Lainey Wilson**

BBR Music Group (Broken Bow Records), Red Light Management, Sony Music Publishing Nashville, ASCAP

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
2021 MUSICROW NOMINEES

A portrait of Breland, a Black man with curly hair and round glasses, wearing a brown hoodie. The background is a gradient of blue and purple.

**BRELAND**

BREAKTHROUGH  
ARTIST OF THE YEAR

A portrait of Tyler Braden, a white man with a beard, wearing a black baseball cap and a black t-shirt. The background is a gradient of red and purple.

**TYLER  
BRADEN**

DISCOVERY  
ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**W&H**  
MANAGEMENT



## DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Priscilla Block** makes music on her own terms offering fans an unfiltered, honest point of view. Her twangy vocals have a unique lilt as she veers from the vulnerability of “Just About Over You” and “Wish You Were The Whiskey,” to the sass, self-love and humor of songs like “Thick Thighs” and “PMS.” She boosted her fanbase by posting videos on TikTok during quarantine, with fans rallying together to fund her recording of “Just About Over You.” (The song’s radio version was produced by Producer of the Year nominee Ross Copperman.) Block is a North Carolina native who released her major label EP in April and recently brought her self-described “Block Party” sound to her Grand Ole Opry debut.

**Tyler Braden** is a songwriter and storyteller with a voice to be reckoned with and a commanding sound ready for an arena-sized audience. His latest release, “Ways To Miss You,” is co-produced by Male Songwriter of the Year nominee Randy Montana and Mark Holman. This follows popular streaming releases including the solo-penned “Secret,” a testament to this newcomer’s songwriting talent. Braden is an Alabama native who spent seven years as a firefighter and first responder. His first major label release was a cover of Needtobreathe’s “Brother” which paid tribute to those on the front lines and quickly racked up more than two million views on YouTube.

**Ian Munsick** is a much-needed creative, adventurous addition to the country music landscape. Growing up on a ranch in Wyoming, Munsick played in a family band and his appreciation for the wide open west bleeds into his music. A multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, he spent the last decade honing his craft in Nashville. He co-wrote and co-produced his debut album *Coyote Cry* which he describes as a “handshake of the cowboy and the hippie, the traditional and the contemporary.” It is a varied project ranging from the roots/acoustic single “Long Haul,” to bluegrass territory, and even to a reimagined version of Fleetwood Mac’s “Dreams.”

**Drew Parker** is a country music traditionalist, offering a laid back song about heartbreak on his debut single “While You’re Gone,” which is already a fan favorite. (While his girl is gone he’ll be on a tailgate by the lake with a Lucky

Strike, “kicking it with a BP PBR.”) He co-wrote the song with Jameson Rodgers, who is nominated for *MusicRow* Breakthrough Artist of the Year. Parker has a knack for balancing heartbreak with imagery and humor throughout his EP, like the clever “Party In The Back” and the more vulnerable “The Runway.” His unique perspective is found on hits he’s co-written for Luke Combs (“Forever After All”) and Jake Owen (“Homemade”). The Georgia native will be on tour with Combs later this summer.

**Lily Rose** has a stand-out voice rich with texture and made for radio. Her strong songwriting chops are found on viral hit “Villain” and “Overnight Sensation,” which describes her success as being 13 years in the making. Her most recent track “Remind Me of You,” is the first outside song she has released, because she says it struck her as the “perfect combination of swag and country.” Rose grew up in Atlanta as a self-taught drummer, guitarist and singer. She continued performing while attending college in Athens, Georgia which led to sold out shows and prompted her move to Nashville in 2017. “Remind Me of You” is co-produced by Matt Morrissey and Producer of the Year nominee Joey Moi, and co-written by Sam Hunt, Ryan Vojtesak, and *MusicRow* Awards nominees Corey Crowder and Ernest Keith Smith.

**Lainey Wilson** is a tough-as-nails singer-songwriter who offers honesty with every lyric. Her debut album *Sayin’ What I’m Thinkin’* is an aptly titled introduction for the twangy songstress with the long tresses. The highly-listenable project portrays her self-described brand of “bell bottom country” and is home to current single “Things A Man Oughta Know,” and songs including “WWDD,” which stands for “What would Dolly do?” The Louisiana native has co-written songs recorded by Luke Combs and others, has had placements in the television series *Yellowstone*, and graced the Grand Ole Opry stage. *Sayin’ What I’m Thinkin’* is produced by Producer of the Year nominee Jay Joyce.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO RESERVOIR'S 2021 MUSICROW AWARD NOMINEES!



**BRELAND**

*BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST  
OF THE YEAR*

**JAKE MITCHELL**

*BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER  
OF THE YEAR*





## Category 10 | **BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville artist who achieved significant career progress for the first time.*



### **Tenille Arts**

19th & Grand, Noble Vision,  
Dreamcatcher Management,  
WME, SOCAN



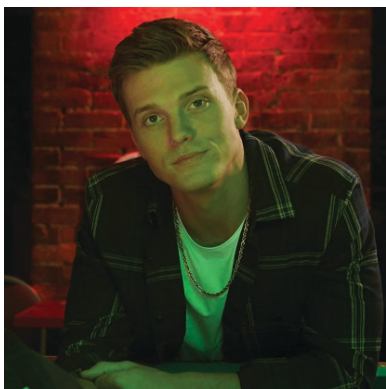
### **BRELAND**

Bad Realm Records/Atlantic  
Records, Reservoir, WHY&HOW/  
SALXCO, WME, BMI



### **Mickey Guyton**

UMG Nashville (Capitol Records  
Nashville), Warner Chappell  
Nashville, Borman Entertainment  
with Steve Moir, CAA, BMI



### **Parker McCollum**

UMG Nashville (MCA Nashville),  
Warner Chappell Nashville, 377/  
Red Light Management, WME,  
BMI



### **Niko Moon**

Sony Music Nashville (RCA  
Nashville), Warner Chappell  
Nashville, Make Wake, CAA,  
SESAC



### **Jameson Rodgers**

River House Artists/Columbia  
Nashville, Combustion, Red  
Light, CAA, ASCAP

# CONGRATULATIONS BRELAND

## Forbes

“ With the ears of a diverse music community on him, Breland has an opportunity to use his platform to challenge these opinions about who does and doesn’t belong — in a genre, or in a society. ”



“ Breland doesn’t just have the foresight to know where the genre can go. He’s creating the blueprint. ”

## billboard

“ If you want to see what the future of country looks like look no further than Breland. ”



“ 1,000 percent the whole package. ”



**2021  
MUSICCROW  
AWARDS**

**BREAKTHROUGH  
ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
NOMINEE**





## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Tenille Arts** has had a stellar year, including her single “Somebody Like That” becoming the first No. 1 song in country music written, performed and produced by all females. A native of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Arts is the first Canadian to reach No. 1 in the U.S. since 2007 and first Canadian female since Terri Clark in 2004. She also won the Rising Star award at the 2020 Canadian Country Music Association Awards. Arts is following up “Somebody Like That” with new single “Back Then, Right Now.”

**BRELAND** is a talented addition to the country music family. His autobiographical hit “Cross Country” is a well-written song with the dual meanings of literally moving across the country, while also crossing genre lines. Known for frequently tapping guest collaborators, he upped the ante by adding Mickey Guyton to a new version of “Cross Country.” With his career on the rise since his platinum debut song “My Truck” dropped in 2019, BRELAND has collaborated with Gary LeVox, Lauren Alaina, Chase Rice, and Sam Hunt, and most recently his second collaboration with Keith Urban on “Throw It Back.” BRELAND will kick off his first headlining tour at Bonnaroo Music Festival on Sept. 5.

**Mickey Guyton** had a hard-earned, much-deserved breakthrough year. Her important songs “What Are You Gonna Tell Her?” and “Black Like Me” made listeners sit up and take notice. Guyton made history as the first Black female solo artist to earn a Grammy nomination in a country category, for Best Country Solo Performance for “Black Like Me” which she performed on the show. In addition, she teamed with Keith Urban to co-host this year’s Academy of Country Music Awards. “Black Like Me” is nominated for *MusicRow* Song of the Year.

**Parker McCollum** is riding into the release of his full-length major label debut album with a No. 1 single and sold-out shows across the country. The upcoming project, *Gold Chain Cowboy*, was produced by the talented Jon Randall and features his No. 1 “Pretty Heart” and follow-up single “To Be Loved By You.” McCollum is a perfectionistic songwriter with the talent of being able to convey a feeling while leaving the lyrics open to interpretation, such as on his just-released solo-write “Rest of My Life.” He is also

nominated for *MusicRow* Breakthrough Artist-Writer.

**Niko Moon** scored his first No. 1 as an artist with debut single “Good Time.” He followed that success with new release “No Sad Songs” and is finishing up his debut full-length album with longtime collaborator and co-producer Joshua Murty. Moon’s track record is strong, with writing credits on five No. 1 hits for Zac Brown Band, plus cuts by Dierks Bentley, Ashley Monroe and others. His hit “Good Time” earned *MusicRow* Breakthrough Songwriter nominations for his four co-writers, including Murty.

**Jameson Rodgers** charted a No. 1 debut with “Some Girls” as well as his latest Top 20 and climbing hit “Cold Beer Calling My Name,” which features labelmate Luke Combs. All are on his excellent new EP *In It For The Money*. The Mississippi native moved to Music City more than a decade ago, and in recent years his hard work has paid off as co-writer of hits for Florida Georgia Line (“Talk You Out of It”) and Chris Lane (“I Don’t Know About You”), as well as the title track of Luke Bryan’s latest album *Born Here Live Here Die Here*. Rodgers is the reigning *MusicRow* Discovery Artist of the Year.

The MusicRow logo is displayed in a stylized, bold font with a horizontal line through the middle of the letters.

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to our

## 2021 MUSIC ROW AWARDS NOMINEE

# LUKE BRYAN

## ARTIST OF THE YEAR



FROM YOUR TEAM AT **KP**entertainment



## Category 11 | ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor outstanding achievements by a Nashville artist during the eligibility period.*



### Luke Bryan

UMG Nashville (Capitol Records Nashville), Sony Music Publishing Nashville, KP Entertainment/Red Light, WME, BMI



### Luke Combs

Sony Music Nashville (River House Artists/Columbia Nashville), UMPG Nashville, Make Wake, CAA, BMI



### Eric Church

UMG Nashville (EMI Records Nashville), Sony Music Publishing Nashville/Little Louder Music, Q Prime South, WME, BMI



### Miranda Lambert

Sony Music Nashville (Vanner Records/RCA Nashville), Sony Music Publishing Nashville, ShopKeeper Management, WME, BMI



### Thomas Rhett

Big Machine Label Group, Warner Chappell Nashville, G Major Management, WME, BMI



### Chris Stapleton

UMG Nashville (Mercury Nashville), Warner Chappell Nashville, Red Light Management, WME, ASCAP

## ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

**Luke Bryan** is one of country music's most multifaceted personalities: perennial radio hitmaker, television star, touring juggernaut. He is currently riding the success of new single "Waves," the fifth single from *Born Here Live Here Die Here (Deluxe Edition)* and the follow up to the project's already four consecutive No. 1s. Among his other ongoing accomplishments are the recently wrapped fourth season as a celebrity judge on *American Idol*, and adding the 2021 ACM Entertainer of the Year trophy to his collection. Bryan is gearing up to hit the road for his Proud To Be Right Here Tour in July, as well as bringing back his Farm Tour this fall. His new ventures include his first headlining run of shows in Las Vegas in 2022, and the upcoming *Luke Bryan: My Dirt Road Diary* five-part docuseries. Since his debut, Luke Bryan has garnered 26 No. 1 hits.

**Luke Combs** recently notched his 11th consecutive No. 1 single with "Forever After All." It is also the 6th consecutive No. 1 from Combs' deluxe album, *What You See Ain't Always What You Get*. He is the reigning CMA and ACM Male Artist and Album of the Year winner. His massive fall headlining arena tour will feature a new in-the-round stage design. Combs will also perform his first ever headlining stadium show in Boone, North Carolina on September 4. Combs recently made history as the first artist to have their first two studio albums spend 25 weeks or more at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart—breaking Taylor Swift's previously held record at 24 weeks. Combs has been voted *MusicRow* Artist of the Year the last two years.

**Eric Church** is nominated in two categories this year: Artist of the Year and Song of the Year for "Hell Of A View." The talented songman recently tallied his 10th career No. 1 with "Hell Of A View," an endearing anthem about rebellious love featured on his critically acclaimed new triple album *Heart & Soul*. The project is the result of a month spent writing and recording a song per day while sequestered in rural North Carolina. The reigning CMA Entertainer of the Year returns to the road on his 55-city The Gather Again Tour where he will perform in-the-round sets for the first time in his career. Church's longtime producer, Jay Joyce, is nominated for *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.

**Miranda Lambert** shined with versatility this year: releasing the celebrated *The Marfa Tapes*, continuing the success of her *Wildcard* album, and embarking on a wild night with Elle King on their infectious collaboration, "Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)." Continuing to diversify, Lambert made history by becoming the first female country star to have a bar and restaurant on Broadway in Nashville when she opened Casa Rosa. She collaborated with Jack Ingram and Jon Randall on *The Marfa Tapes* and an accompanying film, which was recorded raw and loose with just a pair of microphones and an acoustic guitar. Lambert earned her third Grammy Award when *Wildcard* was named Best Country Album. *Wildcard* producer Jay Joyce, is nominated for *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.

**Thomas Rhett** transitioned from the pop/rock stylings of his previous albums with a return to his roots. *Country Again: Side A* was released on April 30, with *Side B* planned for release later this year. Lead single "What's Your Country Song" marks Rhett's 17th career No. 1 and 11th consecutive No. 1. Other hits from the album include "Country Again." Most recently Rhett dropped "Things Dads Do," teaming up with his dad Rhett Akins. His headlining The Center Point Road Tour kicks off on Aug. 13 with back-to-back nights in Orange Beach, Alabama. His producer Dann Huff is nominated for Producer of the Year.

**Chris Stapleton** released the acclaimed album *Starting Over* in November, launching both the album and the title track straight to No. 1. It is Stapleton's second chart-topping single as an artist following 2018's "Broken Halos." Produced by Grammy Award-winning producer Dave Cobb, the record won Album of the Year at the 56th ACM Awards. Cobb is also nominated for *MusicRow* Producer of the Year. Stapleton has returned to the road with his extensive All-American Road Show. Among his recent highlights are joining forces with fellow Grammy Award-winner H.E.R. for a special performance of her single, "Hold On," during the 2021 CMT Music Awards. Stapleton's newest single, "You Should Probably Leave," is Top 30 and climbing at country radio.



*Awards were selected by critics until 2008, when they became member voted.*

## PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville producer's work on albums active during the eligibility period. Achievements may include, but are not limited to, single chart performance and album sales.*

2019-20: Dann Huff  
2018: Dave Cobb  
2017: Jay Joyce  
2016: Dave Cobb  
2015: Jay Joyce  
2014: Frank Liddell  
2013: Dann Huff  
2012: Frank Liddell  
2011: Paul Worley  
2010: Frank Liddell & Mike Wrucke  
2008-09: Frank Rogers  
2007: Byron Gallimore  
2006: Dann Huff  
2005: Frank Rogers  
2004: Buddy Cannon  
2003: James Stroud  
2002: Keith Stegall  
2001: Mark Wright  
1999-2000: Byron Gallimore

## PRODUCER HONOR ROLL

*Producer earning the most Top 20 singles and Top 10 albums for each year. Became Producer of the Year in 1999.*

1998: No award presented  
1997: Wilbur C. Rimes  
1996: Tony Brown  
1995: Allen Reynolds  
1994: James Stroud  
1993: Tony Brown  
1991-92: Allen Reynolds  
1990: Tony Brown  
1982-89: Jimmy Bowen

## LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville label group during the eligibility period.*

2019-20: UMG Nashville

## TALENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville talent agency during the eligibility period.*

2019-20: CAA

## BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville songwriter who wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song for the first time.*

2020: Randy Montana  
2019: Jordan Reynolds  
2018: Emily Shackelton  
2017: Jesse Lee

2016: Maren Morris  
2015: Michael Carter  
2014: Nicolle Galyon and Cole Swindell (tie)  
2013: Kacey Musgraves  
2012: Johnny Bulford and Phil Barton  
2011: Kimberly Perry  
2010: Chris Young  
2009: James Otto  
2008: Luke Bryan  
2007: Chris Tompkins and Josh Kear  
2006: Jason Matthews  
2005: Vicky McGehee  
2004: Jim Brown and Don Rollins  
2003: Lee Thomas Miller  
2002: Anthony Smith  
2001: Troy Verges  
2000: Carolyn Dawn Johnson  
1999: Phil Vassar  
1998: Harley Allen  
1997: Cathy Majeski, Sunny Russ, Stephony Smith  
1996: Jim Lauderdale

## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville songwriter and recording artist who wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song for the first time.*

2020: Ingrid Andress  
2019: Jimmie Allen  
2018: Devin Dawson  
2017: Lauren Alaina

## MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville songwriter during the eligibility period.*

2020: Ashley Gorley  
2019: Josh Osborne

## FEMALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor the achievements of a Nashville songwriter during the eligibility period.*

2019-20: Hillary Lindsey

## TOP SONGWRITER

*Songwriter earning the most Top 20 singles for each year. Category merged with Breakthrough Songwriter in 1998.*

1997: Craig Wiseman  
1996: Mark D. Sanders  
1995: Tom Shapiro  
1994: Gary Burr  
1993: Clint Black  
1992: Garth Brooks  
1991: Pat Alger  
1987-90: Don Schlitz  
1986: Dave Loggins  
1985: Troy Seals

## SONG OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor Nashville writers and publishers on the craft of songwriting, not necessarily chart performance.*

- 2020: **"More Hearts Than Mine"** written by Ingrid Address, Sam Ellis, Derrick Southerland; published by What Is An Ingrid, Songs Of Universal, Inc., Straight From The Art Music, Songs For A Stone Heart, Universal Music Corp., Happy Rock Publishing, ASCAP, BMI
- 2019: **"Girl Goin' Nowhere"** written by Ashley McBryde, Jeremy Bussey; published by Songs Of Song Factory, BMI/Beejo Fetch Publishing, BMI/Universal Tunes, SESAC
- 2018: **(tie) "Drunk Girl"** written by Chris Janson, Scooter Carusoe, Tom Douglas; published by ole Red Vinyl Music, Buckkilla Music, Scrambler Music, Abbotts Creek Music Two, Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, Tomdouglassmusic, ASCAP, BMI  
**(tie) "Most People Are Good"** written by David Frasier, Ed Hill, Josh Kear; published by SB 21 Music Publishing, Purdy Beard Music, Songs Of Amylase Music, Five Hills Music, Do Write Music, Year Of The Dog Music, Champagne Whiskey Publishing, Downtown DLJ Songs, ASCAP, BMI
- 2017: **"Blue Ain't Your Color,"** written by Steven Lee Olsen, Hillary Lindsey, Clint Lagerberg; published by WB Music Corp., Music Of The Corn, Rezolution Music, BMG Gold Songs, House Of Sea Gayle Music, Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l/Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP
- 2016: **"Humble and Kind,"** written by Lori McKenna; published by Songs of Universal, Hoodie
- 2015: **"Girl Crush,"** written by Hillary Lindsey, Lori McKenna, Liz Rose; published by Warner-Tamerlane, Songs of Crazy Girl, Songs of Universal, Hoodie, HillarodyRathbone, BMG
- 2014: **"All Kinds Of Kinds,"** written by Phillip Coleman and Don Henry; published by Carnival Music, Warner-Tamerlane
- 2013: **(tie) "I Drive Your Truck,"** written by Jessi Alexander, Connie Harrington, Jimmy Yeary; published by Vistaville Music, Happy Tears Music, EMI Blackwood, Watch This Girl Publishing, Great Day At This Time Music, Beattyville Music  
**(tie) "Merry Go 'Round,"** written by Kacey Musgraves, Josh Osborne, Shane McAnally; published by 351 Music, Warner Tamerlane, Crazy Water Music, Little Blue Egg, Universal Music, Want A Fresh One
- 2012: **"You and Tequila,"** written by Deana Carter and Matraca Berg; published by Deanaling Music, Hannaberg Music, Songs of Universal Inc., WB Music Corp
- 2011: **"If I Die Young,"** written by Kimberly Perry; published by Pearlfeather, Rio Bravo
- 2010: **"The House That Built Me,"** written by Allen Shamblin, Tom Douglas; published by Sony/ATV-Tree Publishing Co., Tomdouglassmusic, Built On Rock Music
- 2009: **"In Color,"** written by Jamey Johnson, James Otto, Lee Thomas Miller; published by New Songs of Sea Gayle, EMI Blackwood, Warner Tamerlane, Eldorotto Music
- 2008: **"Letter To Me,"** written by Brad Paisley; published by EMI April Music, Sea Gayle Music
- 2007: **"Stealing Kisses,"** written by Lori McKenna; published by Melanie Howard Music, Inc.
- 2006: **"What Hurts The Most,"** written by Jeffrey Steele, Steve Robson; published by Songs of Windswept Pacific, Almo Music Corp.
- 2005: **"Whiskey Lullaby,"** written by Bill Anderson, Jon Randall; published by Sony/ATV-Tree, Mr. Bubba, Reynsong, Who Ya Say, Wrensong
- 2004: **"Almost Home,"** written by Craig Morgan, Kerry Kurt Phillips; published by Magic Mustang Music Inc., Sufferin' Succotash Songs
- 2003: **"Red Ragtop,"** written by Jason White; published by Sony/ATV Music

- 2002: **"Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning),"** written by Alan Jackson; published by EMI Music Publishing
- 2001: **"There Is No Arizona,"** written by Jamie O'Neal, Shayne Smith, Lisa Drew; published by EMI Music, Zomba Music
- 2000: **"He Didn't Have To Be,"** written by Brad Paisley, Kelley Lovelace; published by EMI April Music, Sea Gayle Music, Love Ranch Music
- 1999: **"Don't Laugh At Me,"** written by Allen Shamblin, Steve Seskin; published by Built On Rock Music, David Aaron Music, Love This Town Music
- 1998: **"Something That We Do,"** written by Clint Black, Skip Ewing; published by Blackened Music, Opryland Music Group
- 1997: **"Friends,"** written by Jerry Holland; published by That's A Smash Publishing, Mike Curb Music
- 1996: **"What Mattered Most,"** written by Vince Melamed, Gary Burr; published by MCA Music, Patrick Joseph Music

## DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville developing artist who demonstrates significant talent and potential to rise.*

- 2020: Jameson Rodgers  
2019: Tenille Townes

## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor a Nashville artist who achieved significant career progress for the first time.*

- 2020: Ingrid Address  
2019: Ashley McBryde  
2018: Luke Combs  
2017: Maren Morris  
2016: Old Dominion  
2015: Sam Hunt  
2014: Brandy Clark  
2013: Kacey Musgraves  
2012: Eli Young Band  
2011: The Band Perry  
2010: Zac Brown Band  
2009: Jamey Johnson  
2008: Lady A

## CRITICS' PICK/NEW ARTIST

*To recognize an outstanding new artist who released their first single in the awards year. Became Breakthrough Artist in 2008.*

- 2007: Taylor Swift  
2006: Carrie Underwood  
2005: Miranda Lambert  
2004: Buddy Jewell  
2003: Joe Nichols  
2002: Blake Shelton  
2001: Mark McGuinn  
2000: Eric Heatherly

## ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Voted by MusicRow's subscribed members to honor outstanding achievements by a Nashville artist during the eligibility period.*

- 2019-20: Luke Combs