

MUSICROW
35TH ANNUAL

2023
MUSICROW
AWARDS

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By LB Cantrell

MusicRow Magazine is proud to reveal the nominees for the 2023 *MusicRow* Awards, presented by City National Bank. The winners of this year's honors will be announced online on all *MusicRow* platforms on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Now in its 35th year, the *MusicRow* Awards are Nashville's longest running music industry trade publication honors and celebrate the achievements of songwriters, artists, producers, and more.

Winners of the 14 awards categories are voted on by subscribers of *MusicRow* Magazine.

The final nominees revealed in this announcement are determined by a committee. For the categories of Breakthrough Songwriter and Breakthrough Artist-Writer, outside nominations are also considered. 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, 2022 and May 31, 2023. Continuing *MusicRow*'s tradition of recognizing talent behind the scenes, 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 Subscribers will vote to determine award winners.

Ballots Emailed: **August 9, 2023.**

Ballot Voting Period:

**Aug. 9, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. CST –
Aug. 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

Winners Announced: **September 12, 2023**

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

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Category 1: Producer of the Year

Category 2: Label Group of the Year

Category 3: Talent Agency of the Year

Category 4: Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year

Category 5: Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year

Category 6: Male Songwriter of the Year

Category 7: Female Songwriter of the Year

Category 8: Song of the Year

Category 9: Discovery Artist of the Year

Category 10: Breakthrough Artist of the Year

Category 11: Female Artist of the Year

Category 12: Male Artist of the Year

Category 13: Group/Duo Artist of the Year

Category 14: Entertainer of the Year

Past Winners

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ONLINE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

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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.



Zach Crowell

Cole Swindell, Sam Hunt, Dustin Lynch, Russell Dickerson, Jelly Roll, Conner Smith, Madeline Merlo



Dann Huff

Kane Brown, Thomas Rhett, Keith Urban, Darius Rucker, Russell Dickerson, Brett Young, Brian Kelley, Kameron Marlowe, Restless Road, Caylee Hammack, Tiera Kennedy, Catie Offerman, Karley Scott Collins, Neon Union, O.N.E The Duo



Jay Joyce

Eric Church, Lainey Wilson, Corey Kent, LANCO



Shane McAnally

Carly Pearce, Sam Hunt, Old Dominion, Kelsea Ballerini, Walker Hayes, Kylie Morgan



Joey Moi

Morgan Wallen, HARDY, Lauren Alaina, Jake Owen, ERNEST, MacKenzie Porter, Lily Rose, Larry Fleet, Griffen Palmer, Lauren Watkins, Ben Burgess, Jake Worthington



Alysa Vanderheyem

Kelsea Ballerini, Russell Dickerson, Chase Matthew, Tyler Rich, Joy Oladokun, Fancy Hagood

Warner Chappell Music Congratulates all MusicRow Award Nominees

MUSICROW

**WARNER
CHAPPELL
MUSIC**



ALYSA VANDERHEYM

Producer of the Year



AUSTIN SHAWN

Breakthrough Songwriter



ASHLEY MCBRYDE

Female Artist of the Year



BAILEY ZIMMERMAN

Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year
Breakthrough Artist of the Year



BROTHERS OSBORNE

Group/Duo Artist of the Year



CAMERON BEDELL

Breakthrough Songwriter



CHRIS STAPLETON

Male Artist of the Year
Entertainer of the Year



CONNER SMITH

Discovery Artist of the Year



DAVID RAY STEVENS

Breakthrough Songwriter



GAVIN LUCAS

Breakthrough Songwriter



HAILEY WHITTERS

Breakthrough Artist of the Year



HEATH WARREN

Breakthrough Songwriter



HUNTER PHELPS

Song of the Year
"wait in the truck"



JAY JOYCE

Producer of the Year



JESSI ALEXANDER

Song of the Year
"Light On In The Kitchen"
Female Songwriter



JET HARVEY

Breakthrough Songwriter



JIMI BELL

Breakthrough Songwriter



JOE FOX

Breakthrough Songwriter



LITTLE BIG TOWN

Group/Duo Artist of the Year



MATTHEW RAMSEY

Song of the Year
"Memory Lane"



NICOLLE GALYON

Female Songwriter



OLD DOMINION

Group/Duo Artist of the Year



RIAN BALL

Breakthrough Songwriter



SHANE MCANALLY

Producer of the Year



STYLES HAURY

Breakthrough Songwriter



WARREN ZEIDERS

Discovery Artist of the Year



WILL BUNDY

Breakthrough Songwriter



ZACH BRYAN

Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

Zach Crowell lent his production talent to Cole Swindell for his award-winning, multi-week No. 1 “She Had Me At Heads Carolina,” in addition to other hits by the artist over the past year. He produced Dustin Lynch’s record-breaking duet with MacKenzie Porter, “Thinking ‘Bout You,” which was the No. 1 song on the Mediabase 2022 Year-End Country Chart. Crowell’s work can also be heard on Sam Hunt’s rising new single “Outskirts,” Russell Dickerson’s “God Gave Me A Girl” and Conner Smith’s “Creek Will Rise,” as well as music from Jelly Roll and Madeline Merlo.

Dan Huff continued his legacy of producing hit records over the past year. Continuing his long-standing relationship with Kane Brown, he lent his talents to his *Different Man* album, producing No. 1 hits “Like I Love Country Music,” “Thank God,” “One Mississippi” and “Bury Me In Georgia.” Huff also produced Thomas Rhett’s recent hits “Slow Down Summer” and “Half Of Me,” Keith Urban’s “Brown Eyes Baby” and Brett Young’s “Dance With You,” to name a few. His work can also be heard on music from Darius Rucker, Russell Dickerson, Brian Kelley, Kameron Marlowe, Restless Road, Caylee Hammack, Tiera Kennedy and more.

Jay Joyce helmed the production on longtime client Lainey Wilson’s fourth studio album, *Bell Bottom Country*, which won the ACM’s Album of the Year prize and secured Wilson more hits with its “Heart Like a Truck” and “Watermelon Moonshine.” He also produced another longtime collaborator Eric Church’s 2021 triple album *Heart & Soul*, containing recent hits such as “Hell Of A View,” and Corey Kent’s major label debut album *Blacktop* and new music from LANCO.

Shane McAnally was celebrated for his production credits on projects from Carly Pearce, Sam Hunt, Old Dominion, Kelsea Ballerini and more over the past year. Alongside Josh Osborne, McAnally worked on Pearce’s 29: *Written In Stone* album, containing hits “What He Didn’t Do,” “Next Girl” and “Never Wanted To Be That Girl.” He also lent his production skills to Old Dominion’s *Memory Lane* project, Ballerini’s *Subject To Change* album as well as singles for Hunt, Walker Hayes and Kylie Morgan.

Joey Moi is the production architect for Morgan Wallen’s record-breaking projects *Dangerous: The Double Album* and *One Thing At A Time*, both of which stayed in the top echelons of the country albums chart since their respective releases. Released in March, the record-shattering *One Thing At A Time* album has yielded hits such as “Last Night,” “You Proof,” “Thought You Should Know,” “Don’t Think Jesus” and “Thinkin’ Bout Me.” Moi also contributed to Hardy’s *The Mockingbird & The Crow* album, as well as projects from Jake Owen, Lauren Alaina, Ernest and more.

In addition to recent production credits with Russell Dickerson, Chase Matthew and more over the past year, **Alysa Vanderheyem** really impressed with her work with Kelsea Ballerini. Vanderheyem co-produced Ballerini’s lauded *Rolling Up The Welcome Mat* EP, which has become some of the star’s most well received work to date by both fans and critics. Vanderheyem’s talents can also be heard on music from Tyler Rich, Joy Oladokun, Fancy Hagood and more.

SMACK

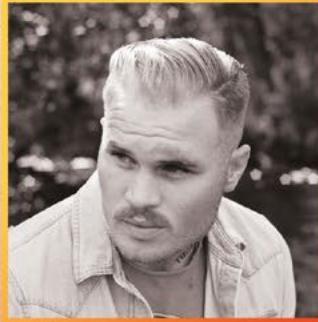
C O N G R A T U L A T E S



PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



CONGRATS TO OUR MUSICROW AWARD NOMINEES

ASHLEY MCBRYDE

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR: "LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN"

BAILEY ZIMMERMAN

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

COLE SWINDELL

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

WARREN ZEIDERS

DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

ZACH BRYAN

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE

LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR



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/BMG



Big Loud
Records



Big Machine
Label Group



SONY MUSIC

Sony Music
Nashville



UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP
NASHVILLE

UMG
Nashville



Warner Music
Nashville

BIG LOUD BIG LOUD BIG LOUD BIG LOUD BIG LOUD BIG LOUD BIG LOUD BIG LOUD BIG LOUD

A **BIG LOUD** CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 *MUSICROW* AWARDS NOMINEES

DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

ASHLEY COOKE

**MUSICROW'S BREAKTHROUGH
ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

HAILEY WHITTERS

**MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR AND
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

MORGAN WALLEN

**BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER
OF THE YEAR**

JOHN BYRON

JORDAN DOZZI

ROCKY BLOCK

SONG OF THE YEAR

"98 BRAVES" - (JOHN BYRON)

**"STANDING ROOM ONLY"
(CRAIG WISEMAN)**

**"WAIT IN THE TRUCK"
(MICHAEL HARDY)**

LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

BIG LOUD RECORDS

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

JOEY MOI

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.



CAA



The Kinkead Entertainment Agency



The Neal Agency



UTA



Wasserman Music



WME

THANK YOU
MUSIC ROW for the nomination of
TALENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

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our terrific roster of clients!

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Boomtown Saints
Britnee Kellogg
Byron Kennedy
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Chevel Shepherd
Chingy
Chuck Wicks
CJ Solar
Cowboy Troy

Craig Campbell
Exile
Flat River Band
Frankie Moreno
Ian Flanigan
Jamie O'Neal
Jenny Tolman
Jerrod Niemann
Josh Gracin
Keith Anderson
Lorrie Morgan

Outlaw Apostles
Presley & Taylor
RaeLynn
Skip Ewing
Stephanie Quayle
Taylor Hicks
The Nelsons
Tony Jackson
Ty Herndon
William Michael Morgan
Yakov Smirnoff



Bob Kinkead, Julie Devereux, Greg Scott, Art Benson,
Michelle Barnett Wichern, Nathan Brewer and Ben Costello
www.kinkeadentertainment.com

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.

Trannie Anderson

Sony Music Publishing, BMI
"Heart Like A Truck" recorded by Lainey Wilson

Rian Ball

Warner Chappell Music/Red Door Music Group, ASCAP
"Down Home" recorded by Jimmie Allen

Cameron Bedell

Liz Rose Music/Warner Chappell Music, BMI
"Down Home" recorded by Jimmie Allen

Jimi Bell

Warner Chappell Music, BMI
"Last Night Lonely" recorded by Jon Pardi

Rocky Block

Big Loud, BMI
"Man Made A Bar" recorded by Morgan Wallen feat. Eric Church

Will Bundy

Warner Chappell Music/Cornman Music, ASCAP
"Half Of Me" recorded by Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green

John Byron

Big Loud Music, BMI
"Last Night" recorded by Morgan Wallen

Jamie Davis

Sony Music Publishing, BMI
"The Kind of Love We Make" recorded by Luke Combs

Jordan Dozzi

Big Loud, BMI
"Man Made A Bar" recorded by Morgan Wallen feat. Eric Church

David Fanning

Reservoir, BMI
"Tennessee Orange" recorded by Megan Moroney and
"Take My Name" recorded by Parmalee

Joe Fox

Liz Rose Music/Warner Chappell Music, SESAC
"Last Night Lonely" recorded by Jon Pardi

Jaxson Free

Goat Island Sound, BMI
"Thank God" recorded by Kane Brown & Katelyn Brown

Jacob Hackworth

Boom Music Group/Goat Island Sound, BMI
"Rock and a Hard Place" recorded by Bailey Zimmerman

Jet Harvey

Warner Chappell Music, BMI
"Rock and a Hard Place" recorded by Bailey Zimmerman

Styles Haury

Warner Chappell Music, BMI
"Country On" recorded by Luke Bryan

Tate Howell

Sony Music Publishing/Bettie James Music Publishing, SESAC
"Down Home" recorded by Jimmie Allen

Reid Isbell

50 Egg Music, BMI
"The Kind of Love We Make" recorded by Luke Combs

Gavin Lucas

Warner Chappell Music, ASCAP
"Fall In Love" recorded by Bailey Zimmerman

Austin Shawn

Warner Chappell Music, BMI
"Fall In Love" recorded by Bailey Zimmerman

Christian Stalnecker

Reservoir, SESAC
"Thank God" recorded by Kane Brown & Katelyn Brown

David Ray Stevens

Warner Chappell Music, BMI
"Son of a Sinner" recorded by Jelly Roll

Heath Warren

Warner Chappell Music, BMI
"Rock and a Hard Place" recorded by Bailey Zimmerman

Ben Williams

Major Bob Music, ASCAP
"Tennessee Orange" recorded by Megan Moroney

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES**

LAINY WILSON

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

"WAIT IN THE TRUCK" (FEAT. HARDY) SONG OF THE YEAR

JELLY ROLL

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

PARMALEE

GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR

CARLY PEARCE (BMG PUBLISHING)

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

BBR MUSIC GROUP

LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS

REID ISBELL

2023 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEE

**BREATHROUGH SONGWRITER
OF THE YEAR**



**LUKE
GOMBS**

*The Kind of Love
We Make*

50 EGG MUSIC

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: About the Nominees

Trannie Anderson scored her first No. 1 hit this year with Lainey Wilson's "Heart Like A Truck," which she co-wrote with the country star and Dallas Wilson. Anderson has also written songs recorded by Tenille Arts, Gabby Barrett, Dan + Shay, Hannah Dasher, Pentatonix, Nate Smith, Noah Thompson and Meghan Trainor.

Rian Ball hit the top of the charts for the first time with "Down Home," which he co-wrote with Jimmie Allen, Cameron Bedell and Tate Howell, and Allen recorded. Ball has also had songs cut by Chris Young, Michael Ray, Filmore and more artists in other genres.

Cameron Bedell earned his first No. 1 with Jimmie Allen's "Down Home," which he co-wrote with Allen, Rian Ball and Tate Howell. Dylan Scott, Hailey Whitters, Lauren Alaina, Seaforth and more have cut Bedell's songs, and he produces Tiera Kennedy.

Jimi Bell scored his first No. 1 hit with Jon Pardi's "Last Night Lonely." He co-wrote the tune with Joe Fox and Dylan Marlowe. Bell's songs have also been recorded by Brantley Gilbert, Bailey Zimmerman, Kip Moore and more.

Rocky Block notched his first top 10 with Morgan Wallen's "Man Made A Bar," featuring Eric Church. He co-wrote the song with Jordan Dozzi, Larry Fleet and Brett Tyler, which is one of four of his credits on Wallen's third album. Block has also had songs recorded by Breland, Jake Owen, Nelly, Jordan Davis, Chris Lane and more.

Will Bundy hit the top of the charts for the first time with "Half Of Me," recorded by Thomas Rhett featuring Riley Green. He co-wrote the song with Rhett, Josh Thompson and Rhett Akins. Bundy has also written songs recorded by Keith Urban, Jordan Davis, Parker McCollum, Jon Pardi, Jason Aldean and more.

John Byron had a big hit with Morgan Wallen's "Last Night," which he co-wrote with Ashley Gorley, Jacob Kasher Hindlin and Ryan Vojtesak. It is one of nine songs Byron co-wrote for Wallen's third album. He's also had songs cut by Chris Lane and Sean Stemaly.

Jamie Davis hit the top of the charts for the first time with Luke Combs' "The Kind of Love We Make," which he co-wrote with Combs, Dan Isbell and Reid Isbell. Davis has also had songs recorded by Lily Rose, Jenna Paulette, Leith Loftin and others, and is also a member of Combs' touring band.

Jordan Dozzi co-wrote the Top 10 hit, "Man Made A Bar," recorded by Morgan Wallen featuring Eric Church. Dozzi co-wrote the tune with Rocky Block, Larry Fleet and Brett Tyler. He has also had cuts with Nelly, Jake Owen, Seaforth, Chase Matthew and more.

David Fanning has had lots of success as a producer and manager to Parmalee. He added "hit songwriter" to his resume with "Take My Name," recorded by Parmalee and co-written with Matt Thomas, Ashley Gorley and Ben Johnson, and "Tennessee Orange," co-written and recorded by Megan Moroney along with Ben Williams and Paul Jenkins.

Joe Fox topped the charts with the Jon Pardi-recorded "Last Night Loney," which he co-wrote with Jimi Bell and Dylan Marlowe, whom he produces. Fox has had songs recorded by Blake Shelton and Matt Stell as well.

Jaxson Free celebrated his first No. 1 with "Thank God," recorded by Kane and Katelyn Brown. He wrote the duet with Christian Davis, Kyle Fishman, Josh Hoge and Jared Mullins. Free also has cuts with Chase Rice, Dalton Dover, Zach Seabaugh and others.

Jacob Hackworth scored a big hit with Bailey Zimmerman's "Rock and a Hard Place," which he co-wrote with Jet Harvey and Heath Warren. Hackworth has also had songs recorded by Chase Matthew and Logan Crosby.

Jet Harvey hit the top of the charts with Bailey Zimmerman's "Rock and a Hard Place," which he co-wrote with Jacob Hackworth and Heath Warren. The song was Harvey's first cut.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MUSIC ROW AWARDS NOMINEES



TRANNIE
ANDERSON



KELSEA
BALLERINI



KANE
BROWN



ERIC
CHURCH



ROSS
COPPERMAN



JAMIE
DAVIS



ASHLEY
GORLEY



CONNIE
HARRINGTON



HARDY



TATE
HOWELL



PAUL
JENKINS



MIRANDA
LAMBERT



KAMERON
MARLOWE



MEGAN
MORONEY



PATRICK
MURPHY



JON
NITE



NATE
SMITH



COLE
SWINDELL



MATT
THOMAS



RYAN
VOJTESAK



LAINAY
WILSON



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BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: About the Nominees

Styles Haury earned his first hit with Luke Bryan’s “Country On.” He co-wrote the tune with Mark Nesler, Mitch Oglesby and David Frasier. Haury has also written songs recorded by Craig Morgan and Craig Campbell.

Tate Howell earned his first No. 1 with Jimmie Allen’s “Down Home,” which he co-wrote with Allen, Rian Ball and Cameron Bedell. He has also had songs recorded by Nate Smith and LANCO.

Reid Isbell hit the top of the charts with Luke Combs’ “The Kind of Love We Make.” He co-wrote the tune with Combs, Dan Isbell and Jamie Davis. Isbell has also had cuts with Jon Pardi, Lainey Wilson, Kameron Marlowe, King Calaway and more.

Gavin Lucas celebrated his first No. 1 with Bailey Zimmerman’s “Fall In Love,” which he wrote with Zimmerman and Austin Shawn. Zimmerman has cut many of Lucas’ songs.

Austin Shawn hit the top of the charts with Bailey Zimmerman’s “Fall In Love,” which he wrote with Zimmerman and Gavin Lucas. Lucas has also produced Zimmerman’s hits, as well as some work with Chase Matthew.

Christian Stalneck earned his first No. 1 with “Thank God,” recorded by Kane and Katelyn Brown. He wrote the duet with Jaxson Free, Kyle Fishman, Josh Hoge and Jared Mullins. Stalneck has also worked with Blake Shelton, Chris Young, T-Pain, Rick Ross and more.

David Ray Stevens celebrated his first rock No. 1 with Jelly Roll’s “Dead Man Walking” and his first country No. 1 with his “Son Of A Sinner,” which he wrote with Jelly Roll and Ernest.

Heath Warren scored a big hit with Bailey Zimmerman’s “Rock and a Hard Place,” which he co-wrote with Jet Harvey and Jacob Hackworth. Warren has also had songs recorded by Waterloo Revival, Colbie Caillat, Josh Ross and more.

Ben Williams earned his first No. 1 with “Tennessee Orange,” recorded and co-written with Megan Moroney as well as David Fanning and Paul Jenkins. He co-wrote seven of the 13 songs on Moroney’s debut album.

⏪ 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.



CONGRATULATES
BEN WILLIAMS
2023 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEE

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

SONG OF THE YEAR
"TENNESSEE ORANGE"



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.



Zach Bryan

Warner Chappell Music, BMI, Warner Records; "Something In The Orange" recorded by Zach Bryan



Jackson Dean

Little Louder Music/Emileon Songs, BMI, Big Machine Label Group/Big Machine Records; "Don't Come Lookin" recorded by Jackson Dean



Megan Moroney

Georgiamo/Sony Music Publishing, SESAC, Sony Music Nashville/Columbia NY/Columbia Nashville; "Tennessee Orange" recorded by Megan Moroney



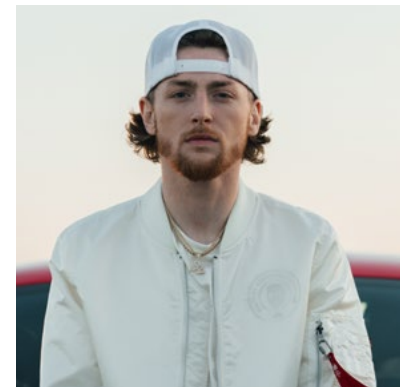
Jelly Roll

Bailee's Ballads/BMG, BMI, BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek Records; "Son Of A Sinner" recorded by Jelly Roll



Nate Smith

Sony Music Publishing, ASCAP, Sony Music Nashville; "Whiskey On You" recorded by Nate Smith



Bailey Zimmerman

Warner Chappell Music, BMI, Warner Music Nashville/Elektra Music Group; "Fall In Love" recorded by Bailey Zimmerman

CELEBRATING OUR MUSICROW AWARDS 2023 NOMINEES

BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP

LABEL GROUP OF THE YEAR



CARLY PEARCE
FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



JACKSON DEAN
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR



CONNER SMITH
DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR



MADDIE & TAE
GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR



JESSIE JO DILLON
SONG OF THE YEAR - "MEMORY LANE"

SONGWRITERS: BRAD TURSI, JESSIE JO DILLON, MATTHEW RAMSEY, TREVOR ROSEN



BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER: About the Nominees

Zach Bryan made an indelible impact this year with the release of multiple projects. His 34-song *American Heartbreak* debuted at No. 5 on the US *Billboard* 200. The album was preceded by six singles, including Bryan's most successful single to date, the solely-written "Something in the Orange." The tune became the longest charting country single for a male artist on *Billboard's* Hot 100 at an astounding 65 consecutive weeks. The evergreen track surpassed Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats" to become the second longest-charting country song of all time. *American Heartbreak* has remained in the top 10 in the US for more than a year after its initial release. To date, Bryan has accrued in excess of 6.3 billion global streams and 11 total RIAA track and album certifications. He is currently on the road on his completely sold-out "Burn Burn Burn North American Tour."

Jackson Dean broke ground this past year with his old school, gritty, lyric-driven, outlaw style of country. His co-written single "Don't Come Lookin'" was the fastest debut to reach No. 1 in 2022 and cemented Jackson as the youngest solo male country artist to reach the top of the charts with a debut. The song landed spots on the *Billboard* Hot 100, the soundtrack for Netflix's *The Ice Road* and a John Dutton scene in *Yellowstone*. The rugged music video for the track also earned a nomination at the 2023 CMT Music Awards for Breakthrough Male Video of the Year. His sophomore single, "Fearless (The Echo)" is currently climbing the country radio charts after being most-added upon impact. Dean's breakout landed him on a slew of artist to watch lists. Jackson has joined bills with superstar acts like Toby Keith, Miranda Lambert, Brantley Gilbert, Carly Pearce, Parker McCollum, Kane Brown, Jake Owen, Brooks & Dunn, Lee Brice, Hardy and Brothers Osborne.

Megan Moroney is a country newcomer with massive staying power. She broke onto the scene with her breakout, co-written single "Tennessee Orange," an immediate smash that soon led to her signing with Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records, in addition to notching her first No. 1 at country radio and earning an RIAA Platinum certification. Named a 2023 Artist to Watch by the likes of Amazon Music, Pandora, and Spotify, as well as an iHeart On The Verge Artist and one of CMT's Next Women of Country for 2023, Moroney released her debut album *Lucky* in May. Her accolades also include winning Breakthrough Female Video of the Year at the CMT Music Awards. She kicked off her first headline run with the sold-out "Pistol Made Of Roses Tour" and will embark on her sold-out "The Lucky Tour" this fall, bringing her magnetic live show to iconic venues across the U.S. — all while continuing a meteoric rise that now includes over 426 million total global streams to date.

Genre-bending singer-songwriter **Jelly Roll** has quietly been building a remarkable career, under the radar and on his own terms. Since his days selling his mix tapes out of his car, he has constantly been releasing new music, touring relentlessly, engaging a rabid fanbase and creating videos that have amassed more than 4 billion views on YouTube. His 2020 single "Save Me" set the stage for his new season of life and took him to new heights, with more than 160 million views on YouTube and a Platinum certification from the RIAA. His 2021 album *Ballads of the Broken* featured a multi-week No. 1 rock hit "Dead Man Walking" and his No. 1 country debut single "Son of a Sinner," both of which he co-wrote. His newest album, *Whitsitt Chapel*, was released earlier this year earned the biggest opening week for a first entry on the Top Country Albums charts since the list adopted a consumption-based methodology in 2017. The three-time CMT Award winner is currently on the road on his 44-city "Backroad Baptism Tour."

Since **Nate Smith** made his way to Nashville, he has made a huge splash with songs such as his Platinum-certified multi-week No. 1 hit "Whiskey On You," which he co-wrote. The tune amassed over 7.5 million total global on-demand streams in its first week, reaching No. 10 on the Country On-Demand Streaming Chart and has racked up over 320 million total global on-demand streams to date. Smith released his debut, self-titled album along with the deluxe version earlier this year. The hefty 26-song project hit No. 6 on *Billboard's* Country album charts and No. 30 on the *Billboard* Top 200. His latest single off the album, "World On Fire," is impacting country radio now. The CMT Awards and ACM Awards nominee is currently on tour with Thomas Rhett and will hit the road with Cole Swindell this fall.

At light speed, **Bailey Zimmerman** has already surpassed 2 billion global streams to date and recently celebrated a six-week No. 1 single with his multi-Platinum smash "Rock And A Hard Place." His record-shattering 2022 debut EP, *Leave The Light On*, propelled the breakout superstar to close out 2022 as *Billboard's* No. 2 Top New Country Artist. In addition, he received two Platinum certifications from the RIAA, beginning with his co-written No. 1 debut single "Fall In Love," the fastest debut single to reach No. 1 at country radio since 2015 and the first debut hit to make it all the way to No. 1 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart in 2022. His recently released debut, *Religiously: The Album.*, marked not only the biggest streaming debut album of the year across all genres, but also the biggest streaming country debut of all time. Zimmerman is currently out on the road on the Morgan Wallen's "One Night At A Time World Tour."



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NOMINEES



LUKE COMBS

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



CHASE MCGILL

MALE SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



BRAD TURSKI

GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR
OLD DOMINION

SONG OF THE YEAR
"MEMORY LANE"

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.



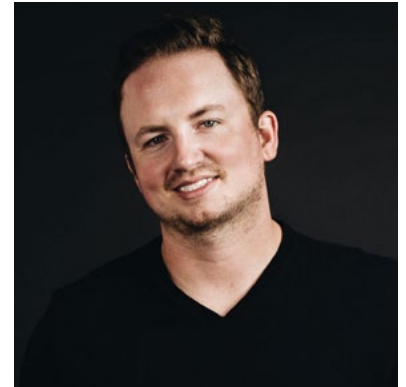
Ross Copperman

Sony Music Publishing, BMI



Ashley Gorley

Sony Music Publishing/Domain
Capital Group, ASCAP



Chase McGill

UMPG Nashville, BMI



Jon Nite

Sony Music Publishing, SESAC



Josh Thompson

MV2 Entertainment, BMI



Ryan Vojtesak

Sony Music Publishing, BMI

Congratulations, Josh Thompson!

MusicRow Male Songwriter of the Year Nominee



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

Ross Copperman

"Pick Me Up" recorded by Gabby Barrett
"Everyone She Knows" recorded by Kenny Chesney
"Worth A Shot" recorded by Elle King feat. Dierks Bentley
"Note To Self" recorded by Randy Houser
"Gold" recorded by Dierks Bentley
"Dancin' In The Country" recorded by Tyler Hubbard

Ashley Gorley

"What He Didn't Do" recorded by Carly Pearce
"Take My Name" recorded by Parmalee
"New Truck" recorded by Dylan Scott
"Slow Down Summer" recorded by Thomas Rhett
"You Didn't" recorded by Brett Young
"She Had Me At Heads Carolina" recorded by Cole Swindell
"You Proof" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Gold" recorded by Dierks Bentley
"Girl In Mine" recorded by Parmalee
"One Thing At A Time" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Tennessee Fan" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Truck Bed" recorded by Hardy
"Last Night" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Everything I Love" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"God Gave Me A Girl" recorded by Russell Dickerson
"All I Need Is You" recorded by Chris Janson
"Thinkin' Bout Me" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Whiskey Friends" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Cowgirls" recorded by Morgan Wallen feat. Ernest
"Me + All Your Reasons" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"180 (Lifestyle)" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Good Girl Gone Missin'" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Me To Me" recorded by Morgan Wallen

Chase McGill

"With A Woman You Love" recorded by Justin Moore
"Never Say Never" recorded by Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson
"Small Town Small" recorded by Jason Aldean
"Don't Think Jesus" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"5 Foot 9" recorded by Tyler Hubbard
"Next Thing You Know" recorded by Jordan Davis
"God Gave Me A Girl" recorded by Russell Dickerson
"Ain't That Some" recorded by Morgan Wallen

"5 Leaf Clover" recorded by Luke Combs
"Creek Will Rise" recorded by Conner Smith

Jon Nite

"Pick Me Up" recorded by Gabby Barrett
"You Didn't" recorded by Brett Young
"Dancin' In The Country" recorded by Tyler Hubbard

Josh Thompson

"Half Of Me" recorded by Thomas Rhett feat. Riley Green
"Brown Eyes Baby" recorded by Keith Urban
"Angels Don't Always Have Wings" recorded by Thomas Rhett
"Stars Like Confetti" recorded by Dustin Lynch
"Whiskey Friends" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Dying Man" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby)" recorded by Morgan Wallen

Ryan Vojtesak

"You Proof" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"One Thing At A Time" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Last Night" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Everything I Love" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Thinkin' Bout Me" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Whiskey Friends" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Cowgirls" recorded by Morgan Wallen feat. Ernest
"Hope That's True" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby)" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Me + All Your Reasons" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Single Than She Was" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"180 (Lifestyle)" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Good Girl Gone Missin'" recorded by Morgan Wallen
"Me To Me" recorded by Morgan Wallen

WINSONGS MUSIC
Congratulates
OUR MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEE



**EMILY
SHACKELTON**

FEMALE SONGWRITER
OF THE YEAR

WINSONGS
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.



Jessi Alexander

Warner Chappell, ASCAP



Trannie Anderson

Sony Music Publishing, BMI



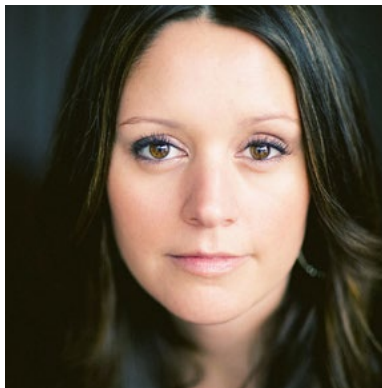
Kelly Archer

Anthem Entertainment/RED
Creative Group, BMI



Nicolle Galyon

Warner Chappell Music, BMI



Hillary Lindsey

Concord Music Publishing,
ASCAP



Emily Shackelton

Winsongs Music Publishing,
BMI

CONGRATULATIONS

Kelly Archer

on your

MUSICROW AWARDS

NOMINATION



Congratulations to

**KELLY
ARCHER**

**FEMALE
SONGWRITER
OF THE YEAR**
nominee at the
MusicRow Awards



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

Jessi Alexander

“Never Say Never” recorded by Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson
 “Don’t Think Jesus” recorded by Morgan Wallen
 “You, Me, And Whiskey” recorded by Justin Moore and Priscilla Block
 “Light On In The Kitchen” recorded by Ashley McBryde
 “5 Leaf Clover” recorded by Luke Combs

Nicolle Galyon

“Gone” recorded by Dierks Bentley
 “Beers On Me” recorded by Dierks Bentley feat. Hardy & Breland
 “Thought You Should Know” recorded by Morgan Wallen
 “If I Die Young Pt. 2” recorded by Kimberly Perry

Trannie Anderson

“Heart Like A Truck” recorded by Lainey Wilson
 “One Day Tonight” recorded by Noah Thompson

Hillary Lindsey

“Ghost Story” recorded by Carrie Underwood
 “Hate My Heart” recorded by Carrie Underwood
 “I Deserve A Drink” recorded by Morgan Wallen

Kelly Archer

“Wild As Her” recorded by Corey Kent

Emily Shackelton

“What He Didn’t Do” recorded by Carly Pearce

⏪ **MUSICROW AWARDS REWIND**



In 2016...

2016 Breakthrough Songwriter winner Maren Morris with publisher 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.



**HILLARY
LINDSEY**

Female Songwriter
of the Year

**concord
music
publishing**



**THE WAR
AND TREATY**

Group/Duo Artist
of the Year



**JOSH
MILLER**

Song of the Year
"98 Braves"

CELEBRATING OUR 2023
MusicRow Awards Nominees

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.

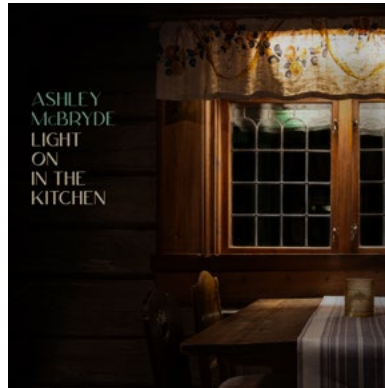


“98 Braves”

Songwriters: John Byron, Josh Miller, Travis Wood

Publishers: Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI; Big Loud Mountain LLC, BMI; Songs Of The Corn, BMI; Concord Copyrights, BMI; These Are Pulse Songs, BMI; Creative Pulse Music, BMI

Recorded by: Morgan Wallen (Big Loud Records/ Republic Records)



“Light On In The Kitchen”

Songwriters: Jessi Alexander, Ashley McBryde, Connie Harrington

Publishers: Canned Biscuit Songs, BMI; Damn Country Music Publishing, ASCAP; Songs Of Harpeth Valley, BMI; Sony Cross Keys Publishing, ASCAP; Sony Tree Publishing, BMI; Triple Rae Creative Inc, BMI; WC Music Corp., ASCAP; Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI

Recorded by: Ashley McBryde (Warner Music Nashville)



“Memory Lane”

Songwriters: Brad Tursi, Jessie Jo Dillon, Matthew Ramsey, Trevor Rosen

Publishers: WC Music Corp., ASCAP; Bird And Bean Music, ASCAP; Twelve6 Dogwood, ASCAP; Trevor's Advocate Publishing, ASCAP; Universal Music Corp., ASCAP; Turs And Chorus, ASCAP; Big Music Machine, BMI; Big Ass Pile Of Dimes Music, BMI

Recorded by: Old Dominion (Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Nashville)

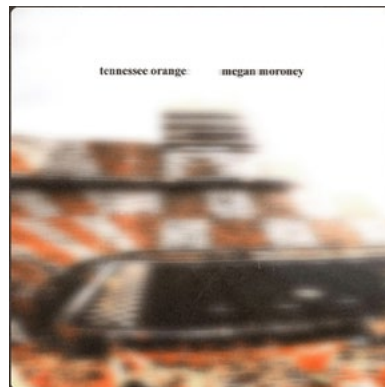


“Standing Room Only”

Songwriters: Craig Wiseman, Patrick Murphy, Tommy Cecil

Publishers: Amped 11 Publishing, BMI; Songs Inspired By Scrappy, BMI; Play It Again Entertainment, BMI; Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI; Sony Tree Publishing, BMI; Round Hill Songs BLS JV, ASCAP; Big Loud Proud Songs, ASCAP; Red Toe Rocker, ASCAP

Recorded by: Tim McGraw (Big Machine Label Group/Big Machine Records)



“Tennessee Orange”

Songwriters: Ben Williams, David Fanning, Megan Moroney, Paul Jenkins

Publishers: Georgiamo Music, SESAC; Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC; Reservoir 416, BMI; 33 Creative, BMI; Bone Bone Creative, BMI; Major Bob Music, Inc., ASCAP; Sony Tree Publishing, BMI

Recorded by: Megan Moroney (Sony Music Nashville/Columbia NY/Columbia Nashville)



“Wait In The Truck”

Songwriters: Jordan Schmidt, Michael Hardy, Hunter Phelps, Renee Blair

Publishers: Sony Tree Publishing, BMI; Relative Music Group, BMI; Redneck Music, BMI; Humerus Publishing Global, BMI; Round Hill Verses Publishing, BMI; Who Wants To Buy My Publishing, ASCAP; WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Nontypical Music, ASCAP; Sony Accent, ASCAP; Pile Of Schmidt Songs, ASCAP; The Money Tree VibeZ, ASCAP

Recorded by: HARDY (Big Loud Records), Lainey Wilson (BBR Music Group/Broken Bow Records)

CONGRATULATIONS
TRAVIS
WOOD

2023 MUSIC ROW AWARD NOMINEE
SONG OF THE YEAR

"'98 BRAVES"

(TRAVIS WOOD, JOSH MILLER, JOHN BYRON)

CREATIVE *Nation*

SONG OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

“Light On In The Kitchen”

Ashley McBryde’s single “Light On In The Kitchen” debuted to critical acclaim earlier this year. The tune, written by McBryde with Connie Harrington and Jessi Alexander, celebrates the warm glow shared across homes around the world, a symbol of affection signaling that someone may be missing tonight, but thoughts of them are present. In the song, McBryde retells comforting advice she’s heard, such as, *“Honey trust yourself, You better love yourself cause ‘till you do, you ain’t no good for anybody else... bless your heart, you’ll need someone to listen. That’s why I leave a light on in the kitchen.”*

“Tennessee Orange”

“Tennessee Orange” launched Megan Moroney’s career into stardom. Moroney co-wrote the tune with Ben Williams, David Fanning and Paul Jenkins, and her independent release of the track made waves on social media with its lyrics about a Georgia girl falling in love with a Tennessee boy. *“He ain’t from where we’re from but he feels like home,”* Moroney sings, *“In Georgia they call it a sin, I’m wearing Tennessee orange for him.”* After being sent to country radio as Moroney’s debut single, “Tennessee Orange” hit No. 1 on the charts in June. It appears on her major label debut album *Lucky*, released in May

“Wait In The Truck”

Hardy and Lainey Wilson made waves late last year with “Wait In The Truck,” a murder ballad about an abused woman being avenged. Co-written by Michael Hardy, Hunter Phelps, Jordan Schmidt and Renee Blair, “Wait In The Truck” features Hardy singing verses about finding a scared woman out in a storm, taking her to the home she was escaping and killing her abuser. In the chorus, Wilson sings, *“I never thought my day of justice would come from a judge under a seat, but I knew right then I’d never get hit again when he said to me... wait in the truck.”* The RIAA Platinum certified bombshell topped the Mediabase country chart and won multiple ACM Awards.

“‘98 Braves”

“‘98 Braves” is a unique song that appears on Morgan Wallen’s third studio album *One Thing At A Time*. The tune, written by John Byron, Josh Miller and Travis Wood, recalls a 1998 baseball game when the San Diego Padres beat the Atlanta Braves. The songwriters compare the heartbreaking loss to a relationship that almost worked, but didn’t. Wallen communicates it perfectly, singing, *“We swung for the fences and came up short. Yea, you win some and lose some, it ain’t always home runs and that’s just the way life plays. If we were a team and love was a game, we’d been the ‘98 Braves.”*

“Memory Lane”

Old Dominion impressed earlier this year with “Memory Lane.” The chart-topping tune was written by the band’s Matthew Ramsey, Brad Tursi and Trevor Rosen alongside Jessie Jo Dillon, and elicits nostalgia for life’s best moments. *“If I could buy a house on memory lane, I’d put my money down and sign my name,”* Ramsey sings in the song’s opening line. “Memory Lane” served as the title track for an 8-song EP that started a new chapter of great music for the award-winning band.

“Standing Room Only”

With “Standing Room Only,” Tim McGraw gives a heartfelt examination of what it means to truly live life fully. Written by Craig Wiseman, Tommy Cecil and Patrick Murphy, the tune is the title track to McGraw’s upcoming album. It quickly resonated with fans, eliciting a similar reaction to that of McGraw’s titanic “Live Like You Were Dying.” The country crooner sings that he wants to, *“Start forgivin’ and start forgettin’; be somebody that’s worth rememberin’. Live a life so when I die there’s standing room only.”*

MORRIS  HIGHAM
MANAGEMENT

congratulates
OLD DOMINION

on two 2023 MusicRow Awards
Nominations

Song of the Year
"Memory Lane"



Group/Duo
Artist of the Year



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.



Ashley Cooke

Big Loud Records/Back Blocks Music, Big Loud Publishing/Back Blocks Music, Big Loud Management/Back Blocks Music, WME, BMI



Chapel Hart

JT3D, Hyperphly Music, JTD3, APA, BMI



Kameron Marlowe

Sony Music Nashville/ Columbia Nashville, Sony Music Publishing, Red Light Management, WME, BMI



Kylie Morgan

UMG Nashville/EMI Records Nashville, SMACKSongs, SMACK Management, CAA, BMI



Conner Smith

Big Machine Label Group/Valory Music Co., Warner Chappell/Home Team/Miller Crow Music, HOMESTEAD/Red Light Management, WME, BMI



Warren Zeiders

Warner Records, Warner Chappell Music, Underscore Works, CAA, BMI

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023
MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES



**CHRIS
STAPLETON**

**ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

**JORDAN
DAVIS**

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



**KAMERON
MARLOWE**

**MUSICROW'S DISCOVERY ARTIST
OF THE YEAR**



**LAINIEY
WILSON**

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



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



CONGRATULATIONS

35TH ANNUAL MUSIC ROW AWARD NOMINEES

**ASHLEY
MCBRYDE**

SONG OF THE YEAR
"LIGHT ON IN THE KITCHEN"

FEMALE ARTIST
OF THE YEAR

WE'RE PROUD TO REPRESENT YOU!

JODY WILLIAMS SONGS

- EST'D *Song Forward* 2020 -
JODYWILLIAMSSONGS.CO

DISCOVERY ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

Since arriving on the scene, **Ashley Cooke** has garnered over 200 million global streams with chart-climbing hits like “Never Til Now” with Brett Young, Ryman and Grand Ole Opry debuts, and national TV appearances on ABC’s *The Bachelorette*. Cooke has recently been out on the road with Cole Swindell, Luke Bryan and more. In July, Cooke released her 24-track debut album, *Shot In The Dark*, that infuses heartfelt lyrics, captivating melodies and raw relatability as she invites listeners to come along for the ride. Among the album’s highlights are collaborations with some of Nashville’s most sought after names including Young, Jackson Dean, Colbie Caillat and Nate Smith. *Shot In The Dark* has already been making its mark, securing the No. 6 position in the Top 10 of Spotify’s Top Debut Albums USA.

Made up of sisters Danica and Devynn Hart along with first cousin Trea Swindle, **Chapel Hart** took 2022 by storm. Their meteoric rise came shortly after appearing on *America’s Got Talent* and receiving the second ever “Group Golden Buzzer” which prompted America and the rest of the world to pay attention. Shortly after the show, the ladies made their Grand Ole Opry debut and received four standing ovations. Chapel Hart released their album *Glory Days* in May of 2023. Their first-ever headlining tour, “The Glory Days Tour,” kicked off its initial run in January and spans coast to coast. With high praise from industry members, Chapel Hart collaborated with Darius Rucker on the redemptive ballad “O’ Church Hymn.” They also impressed with their single “You Can Have Him Jolene.”

Kameron Marlowe impressed the industry and fans alike with his 16-track debut album *We Were Cowboys*, released in August 2022. Featuring his Gold-certified songs “Giving You Up” and “Burn ‘Em All” as well as the buzzy “Girl On Fire,” the project has earned more than 378 million on-demand streams. Throughout 2022, Marlowe entertained on his celebrated “We Were Cowboys Tour,” for which he sold more than 22,000 tickets across numerous full-house venues. Following his headlining trek, Marlowe will be on the road the rest of this summer and fall with Dierks Bentley, Parker McCollum and Jordan Davis, and is set to open for Luke Bryan on his fall “Farm Tour” 2023. Marlowe is a member of the CMT Listen Up and Opry NextStage classes of 2023.

Kylie Morgan is currently turning heads with her clever and relatable songs. Pairing articulate, coming-of-age revelations with fun, up-tempo anthems, her recently EP, *P.S.*, features seven tracks each co-written by Morgan, including her debut single to country radio, “If He Wanted To He Would.” *P.S.* is the anticipated follow-up to her breakout EP, *Love, Kylie* – a bold introduction that scored the Oklahoma native a place as one of CMT’s Next Women of Country, VEVO’s 2021 DSCVR Artists to Watch and CMA’s coveted KixStart program. Already surpassing 250 million global streams, Morgan has been praised for her powerful voice and smart songwriting. Currently on her first-ever headlining “Independent With You Tour,” she has previously opened for artists including Dan + Shay, Little Big Town, Maren Morris, Kip Moore, Jason Derulo, Gavin DeGraw, Brett Eldredge and Billy Currington.

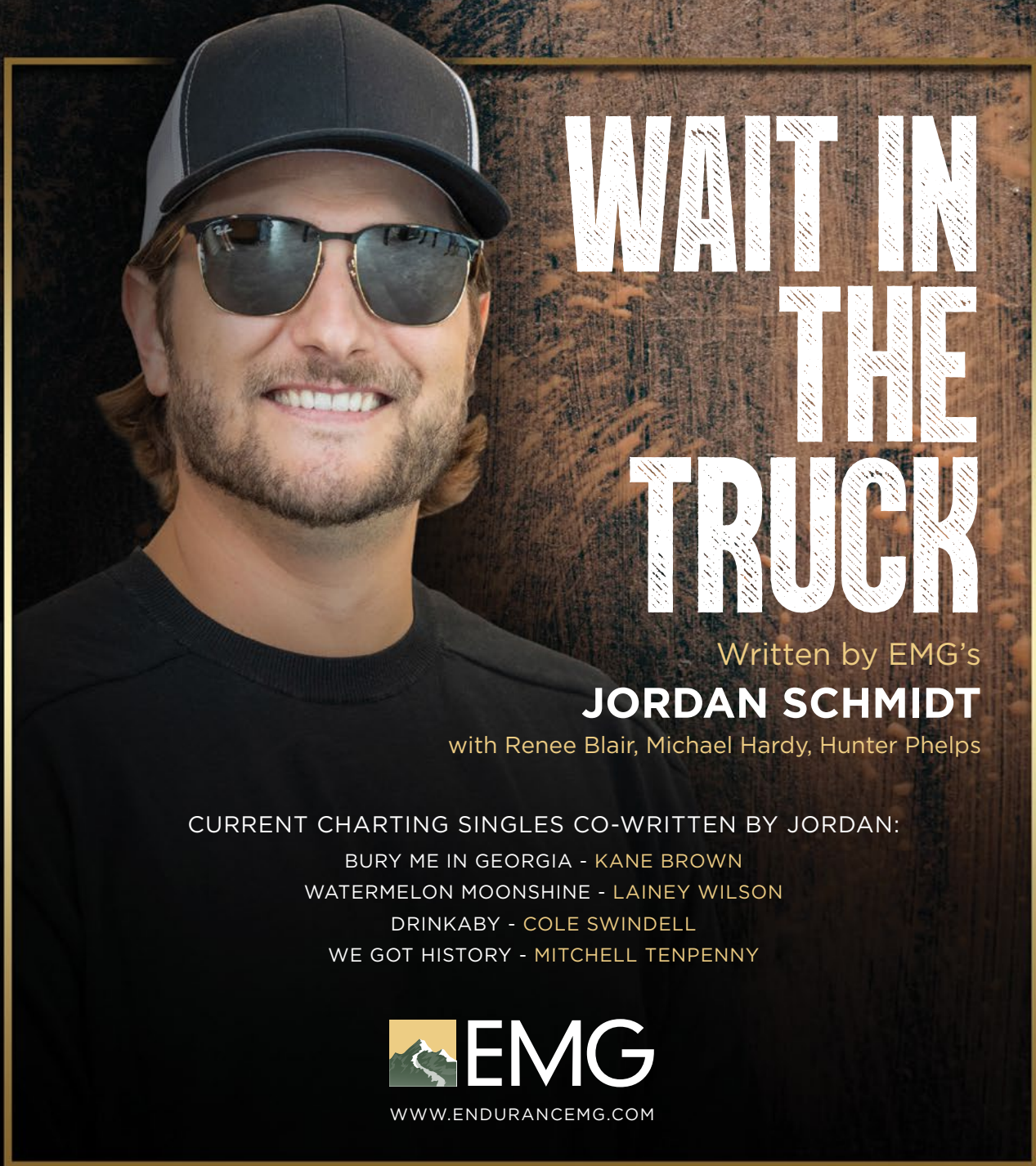
Rising singer-songwriter **Conner Smith**’s authentic storytelling and rich, soulful voice has resonated with audiences nationwide, earning him a dedicated and passionate following. His Top-30-bound single “Creek Will Rise” has quickly become an anthem among his loyal fanbase and amassed over 16 million streams to date. The tune follows his first Top 40 hit “Learn From It,” viral smash “I Hate Alabama” and Gold-certified “Take It Slow.” Smith earned 2022 Artist to Watch status from Spotify, Amazon Music and Opry NextStage, while also making him the only country artist on Pandora’s Ten List 2022 and securing 2023 recognition from *MusicRow*, CMT and more. Smith will support Jordan Davis and Cole Swindell on select dates through the fall.

Warren Zeiders is one of Nashville’s fastest-rising stars, with more than 6 million followers, 1 billion audio streams globally and 1.4 billion views on TikTok. His breakout single “Ride The Lightning” recently earned RIAA Platinum certification and was most-added when it impacted country radio in July. This summer, he played CMA Fest’s Chevy Riverfront Stage, the Spotify House and his first-ever stadium show at Ohio Stadium with Little Big Town, Chris Stapleton and George Strait. As part of his recently extended “Pretty Little Poison” headlining tour (following his sold-out spring run), he’ll play his first headlining show at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium on Oct. 4. He will release his debut *Pretty Little Poison* album on Aug. 18.

FOR YOUR VOTING CONSIDERATION

MUSICROW AWARDS

SONG OF THE YEAR



WAIT IN THE TRUCK

Written by EMG's

JORDAN SCHMIDT

with Renee Blair, Michael Hardy, Hunter Phelps

CURRENT CHARTING SINGLES CO-WRITTEN BY JORDAN:

BURY ME IN GEORGIA - KANE BROWN

WATERMELON MOONSHINE - LAINEY WILSON

DRINKABY - COLE SWINDELL

WE GOT HISTORY - MITCHELL TENPENNY



WWW.ENDURANCEMG.COM

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.



Jackson Dean

Big Machine Label Group/Big Machine Records, Little Louder Music/Emileon Songs, TKO Artist Management, WME, BMI



Megan Moroney

Sony Music Nashville/Columbia NY/Columbia Nashville, Georgiamo/Sony Music Publishing, Punch Bowl Entertainment, UTA, SESAC



Jelly Roll

BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek Records, Bailee's Ballads/BMG, Emagen Entertainment Group, CAA, BMI



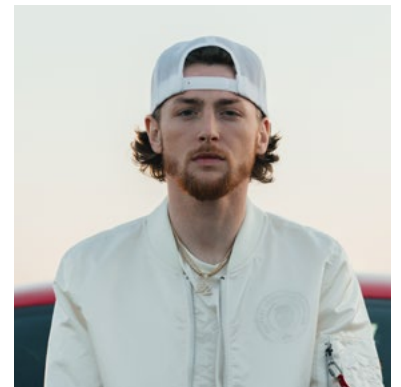
Nate Smith

Sony Music Nashville, Sony Music Publishing, The CORE Entertainment, The Neal Agency, ASCAP



Hailey Whitters

Big Loud Records/Songs & Daughters/Pegasus Records, Warner Chappell Music, Make Wake Artists/Range Media Partners, CAA, ASCAP



Bailey Zimmerman

Warner Music Nashville/Elektra Music Group, Warner Chappell Music, The Core Entertainment/10th Street Entertainment, The Neal Agency, BMI

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR 2023 MUSICROW AWARD NOMINEES



MORGAN WALLEN

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

SONG OF THE YEAR
"98 BRAVES"

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

HARDY

SONG OF THE YEAR
"WAIT IN THE TRUCK"
feat. Lainey Wilson



BAILEY ZIMMERMAN

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST
OF THE YEAR

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER
OF THE YEAR

NATE SMITH

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST
OF THE YEAR
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER
OF THE YEAR



The Neal
AGENCY

TALENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

Jackson Dean broke ground this past year with his old school, gritty, lyric-driven, outlaw style of country. His single, “Don’t Come Lookin’” was the fastest debut to reach No. 1 in 2022 and cemented Dean as the youngest solo male country artist to reach the top of the charts with a debut. The song landed spots on the *Billboard* Hot 100, the soundtrack for Netflix’s *The Ice Road* and a John Dutton scene in *Yellowstone*. The rugged music video for the track also earned a nomination at the 2023 CMT Music Awards for Breakthrough Male Video of the Year. His sophomore single, “Fearless (The Echo)” is currently climbing the country radio charts after being most-added upon impact. Dean’s breakout landed him on a slew of artist to watch lists. Dean has joined bills with superstar acts like Toby Keith, Miranda Lambert, Brantley Gilbert, Carly Pearce, Parker McCollum, Kane Brown, Jake Owen, Brooks & Dunn, Lee Brice, Hardy and Brothers Osborne.

Megan Moroney is a country newcomer with massive staying power. She broke onto the scene with her breakout single “Tennessee Orange,” an immediate smash that soon led to her signing with Sony Music Nashville/Columbia Records, in addition to notching her first No. 1 at country radio and earning an RIAA Platinum certification. Named a 2023 Artist to Watch by the likes of Amazon Music, Pandora, and Spotify, as well as an iHeart On The Verge Artist and one of CMT’s Next Women of Country for 2023, Moroney released her debut album *Lucky* in May. Her accolades also include winning Breakthrough Female Video of the Year at the CMT Music Awards. She made her debut appearance on NBC’s *Today* and kicked off her first headline run with the sold-out “Pistol Made Of Roses Tour” and will embark on her sold-out “The Lucky Tour” this fall, bringing her magnetic live show to iconic venues across the U.S. — all while continuing a meteoric rise that now includes over 426 million total global streams to date.

Genre-bending singer-songwriter **Jelly Roll** has quietly been building a remarkable career, under the radar and on his own terms. Since his days selling his mix tapes out of his car, he has constantly been releasing new music, touring relentlessly, engaging a rabid fanbase and creating videos that have amassed more than four billion views on YouTube. His 2020 single “Save Me” set the stage for his new season of life and took him to new heights, with more than 160 million views on YouTube and Platinum certification from the RIAA. His 2021 album *Ballads of the Broken* featured a multi-week No. 1 rock hit “Dead Man Walking” and his No. 1 country debut single “Son of a Sinner.” His newest album, *Whitsitt Chapel*, was released earlier this year and earned the biggest opening week for a first entry on the Top Country Albums charts since the list adopted a consumption-based methodology in 2017. The three-time CMT Award winner is currently on the road on his 44-city “Backroad Baptism Tour.”

Since **Nate Smith** made his way to Nashville, he has made a huge splash with songs such as his Platinum-certified multi-week No. 1 hit “Whiskey On You,” which he co-wrote. The tune amassed over 7.5 million total global on-demand streams in its first week, reaching No. 10 on the Country On-Demand Streaming Chart, and has racked up over 320 million total global on-demand streams to date. Smith released his debut, self-titled album along with the deluxe version earlier this year. The hefty 26-song project hit No. 6 on *Billboard*’s Country album charts and No. 30 on the *Billboard* Top 200. His latest single off the album, “World On Fire,” is impacting country radio now. The CMT Awards and ACM Awards nominee is currently on tour with Thomas Rhett and will hit the road with Cole Swindell this fall.

After working at it for over a decade, **Hailey Whitters** had a breakout year with her 2022 album *Raised*, which contained her infectious hit “Everything She Ain’t.” The Gold-certified tune has been played over 175 million times on TikTok, inspiring multiple trends on the platform, and has spent 64 weeks on their Country Airplay chart and marked her first appearance on the Hot 100 chart in May. Whitters won the ACM New Female Artist of the Year earlier this year and just released her follow-up EP, *I’m In Love*. Following her headlining “Raised” tour, she supported Shania Twain on her “Queen of Me Tour,” as well as select dates on Dierks Bentley’s tour. This September, she will hit the road with Eric Church followed by a run of dates supporting Luke Bryan. Whitters kicked off 2023 with her late night debut on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, her morning TV debut on NBC’s *Today* and a performance on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*.

At light speed, **Bailey Zimmerman** has already surpassed 2 billion global streams to date and recently celebrated a six-week No. 1 single with his multi-Platinum smash “Rock and a Hard Place.” His record-shattering 2022 debut EP, *Leave The Light On*, propelled the breakout superstar to close out 2022 as *Billboard*’s No. 2 Top New Country Artist. In addition, he received two Platinum certifications from the RIAA, beginning with his No. 1 debut single “Fall In Love,” the fastest debut single to reach No. 1 at country radio since 2015 and the first debut hit to make it all the way to No. 1 on the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart in 2022. His recently released debut, *Religiously. The Album.*, marked not only the biggest streaming debut album of the year across all genres, but also the biggest streaming country debut of all time. Zimmerman is currently out on the road on the Morgan Wallen’s “One Night At A Time World Tour.”

Category 11 | **FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

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



Kelsea Ballerini

Black River Records, Sony Music Publishing, Sandbox Entertainment, CAA, ASCAP



Miranda Lambert

Sony Music Publishing, ShopKeeper Management, WME, BMI



Ashley McBryde

Warner Music Nashville, Jody Williams Songs/Warner Chappell Music, Q Prime South, WME, BMI



Carly Pearce

Big Machine Label Group/Big Machine Records, BMG, Starstruck Entertainment, CAA, ASCAP



Carrie Underwood

UMG Nashville/Capitol Records Nashville, Carrie-Okie Music, The HQ, CAA, BMI



Lainey Wilson

BBR Music Group/Broken Bow Records, Sony Music Publishing, Red Light Management, WME, ASCAP

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

Kelsea Ballerini broke new ground this past year with the release of her fourth album, *Subject To Change*. The first single “Heartfirst,” quickly took over airwaves as the most added song at country radio, was certified Gold by the RIAA and earned Ballerini a Grammy nomination for Best Country Solo Performance. Soon after releasing *Subject To Change*, Ballerini surprised fans with the release of her intimate six-song EP *Rolling Up the Welcome Mat*. The EP, along with an accompanying short film written and directed by Ballerini, became an instant hit with fans and debuted to universal acclaim from critics. On the heels of the EP’s success, Ballerini made her *Saturday Night Live* debut on March 4, 2023. After the Grand Ole Opry member wrapped a stint as special guest on Kenny Chesney’s “I Go Back 2023 Tour.” She sold-out three legs of her exclusive headlining “Heartfirst Tour.” Her tune “If You Go Down (I’m Going Down Too)” continues to climb at country radio.

Miranda Lambert is the most-awarded artist in ACM history and has notched 11 No. 1 hit radio singles, more than 70 prestigious awards and countless sales certifications. Her eighth solo album, *Palomino*, arrived in 2022 as the largest female country album debut of the year and earned a Grammy nomination for Best Country Album. Lambert also became a *New York Times* best-selling author this year with her first book, *Y’all Eat Yet*. With her headlining “Velvet Rodeo Las Vegas” residency extended through late 2023 at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino’s Bakkt Theater, the top streaming female country artist of 2022 was also named to the *TIME100* list honoring the world’s most influential people. She is also the first female artist to have her own venue on Broadway in Nashville with her Casa Rosa Tex-Mex cantina. An avid animal lover, Lambert’s MuttNation Foundation has raised over \$8 million since its inception in 2009.

Grammy, CMA and ACM award winner **Ashley McBryde** elevated her artistry this year with the release of her collaborative project *Ashley McBryde Presents: Lindeville*. The album earned McBryde a Grammy nomination for Best Country Album, making her a six-time nominee. She will release her next studio album *The Devil I Know* in September, which features the chart-climbing lead single “Light On In The Kitchen.” The now Grand Ole Opry member hit the scene with her 2018 major label debut *Girl Going Nowhere*. Her follow-up, *Never Will*, was the only album nominated for Country Album of the Year by the ACMs, CMAs and the Recording Academy in the same award season. Her Grammy-winning duet with Carly Pearce, “Never Wanted To Be That Girl,” went all the way to No. 1 and earned McBryde and Pearce a CMA, ACM and Grammy award. McBryde is currently on the road with Jelly Roll and recently announced “The Devil I Know” tour.

Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter **Carly Pearce** raised the bar industry-wide with her critically acclaimed and commercially lauded third studio album *29: Written in Stone*, which earned her third and fourth No. 1 hits with “Never Wanted to Be That Girl” featuring Ashley McBryde and “What He Didn’t Do.” Her duet with McBryde went on to win both the ACM and CMA Music Event of the Year, Best Country Duo/Group Performance at the Grammys and it became the third duet between two solo women to top *Billboard*’s Country Airplay chart. The Grand Ole Opry and Kentucky Music Hall of Fame member recently started her next musical chapter with “We Don’t Fight Anymore,” featuring Chris Stapleton, which earned her the biggest add date of her career thus far. Pearce will hit the road in October on her “Country Music Made Me Do It Tour.”

Carrie Underwood is a multi-format, multi-media superstar, spanning achievements in music, television and film, and as a *New York Times* bestselling author and successful entrepreneur. She has sold more than 85 million records worldwide and recorded 28 No. 1 singles—14 of which she co-wrote. She is the most-awarded female country artist for singles in RIAA history and has seven albums that are certified multi-Platinum or Platinum by the RIAA, with over 72 million total RIAA certifications to date, all while continuing to sell out arena tours across North America and the UK. Underwood released her most recent album, *Denim & Rhinestones*, in 2022, and she also recently completed her 43-city U.S. arena tour, “The Denim & Rhinestones Tour.” In addition to becoming the first artist to perform at the new Resorts World Theatre with her ongoing “Reflection: The Las Vegas Residency,” Underwood just launched her exclusive year-round SiriusXM channel, Carrie’s Country. Her deluxe edition of *Denim & Rhinestones*, featuring six new tracks, will be out on Sept. 22.

Breakout star **Lainey Wilson** was the leading female nominee and winner at the 2023 ACM awards with Female Vocalist of the Year, Album of the Year, Visual Media and Musical Event of the Year. She’s also the reigning CMA 2022 Female Vocalist and New Artist of the Year. After landing her first No. 1 with her Platinum-certified ACM Song of the Year, “Things A Man Oughta Know,” Wilson has revisited the top of the charts with the two-week No. 1 hit “Never Say Never” with Cole Swindell, as well as her third and fourth No. 1 songs with “Heart Like a Truck” and collaboration with Hardy, “Wait In The Truck.” Her critically acclaimed album, *Bell Bottom Country*, reached No. 9 on *Billboard*’s Country Albums Chart, quickly rose to No. 1 on iTunes charts and has amassed over 350 million streams to date. Most recently, she made her acting debut in Season 5 of the smash hit series *Yellowstone* as a musician character named Abby.

Congratulations to
JORDAN DAVIS
MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR
nominee at the MusicRow Awards



anthem

ENTERTAINMENT

Category 12 | **MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

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



Kane Brown

Sony Music Nashville/RCA Nashville/Zone 4, Sony Music Publishing/Verse 2, Neon Coast, WME, BMI



Luke Combs

Sony Music Nashville/River House Artists, UMPG, Make Wake, WME, BMI



Jordan Davis

UMG Nashville/MCA Nashville, Anthem Music Publishing, Red Light Management, WME, ASCAP



Chris Stapleton

UMG Nashville/Mercury Nashville, Warner Chappell Music, Red Light Management, WME, ASCAP



Cole Swindell

Warner Music Nashville, Sony Music Publishing, KP Entertainment, WME, BMI



Morgan Wallen

Big Loud Records/Republic Records, Big Loud Publishing, Big Loud Management, The Neal Agency, BMI

CONGRATULATIONS TO
COLE © SWINDELL



**2023
MUSICROW
NOMINEE
MALE ARTIST
OF THE YEAR**

NO. 1 RIAA PLATINUM SINGLE "NEVER SAY NEVER"

**5 WEEK NO. 1 RIAA MULTI-PLATINUM ACM SONG
+ SINGLE OF THE YEAR "SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA"**

CURRENT SMASH SINGLE "DRINKABY"

CONGRATULATIONS
KANE BROWN

2023 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEE

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

SOLD OUT DRUNK OR DREAMING WORLD TOUR

HISTORIC SOLD OUT FENWAY PARK SHOW

*"the first Black artist to headline
the home of the Boston Red Sox." - Pollstar*

"THANK GOD" feat. KATELYN BROWN

MULTI-PLATINUM MULTI-WEEK MULTI-GENRE HIT

2023 CMT MUSIC AWARDS 'VIDEO OF THE YEAR'



Photo Credit: Miranda McDonald

NEON
COAST



VERSE 2 MUSIC

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

Since the arrival of his self-titled, 2x Platinum debut album in December 2016, **Kane Brown** has continued to expand the perception of country music and break musical boundaries. Named to the *Time*100 list of the most influential people in the world, five time American Music Award winner Brown has over 13 billion streams, multiple multi-Platinum certifications, sold out arenas all across the world with more than four million tickets sold internationally, and made history as the first artist ever to lead all five of *Billboard's* main country charts simultaneously. With the release of his most recent album, *Different Man*, Brown earned his ninth career No. 1 hit, the 3x ACM-nominated Platinum-selling single, "Thank God," as well as hits with "Like I Love Country Music," "One Mississippi" and "Bury Me in Georgia." Brown earned his first-ever nomination for the ACM's Entertainer of the Year this year and became the first Black artist to headline Boston's iconic Fenway Park solo.

Reigning two-time CMA Entertainer of the Year **Luke Combs** has notched 16 consecutive No. 1 hits at country radio and over 337 million global streams to date. The Grand Ole Opry member is also an eight-time CMA, three-time ACM and three-time *Billboard* Music Award winner. He recently topped the charts with his version of Tracy Chapman's Grammy Award-winning song, "Fast Car," which was certified RIAA Platinum just 16 weeks after it was released. The track is from Combs' fourth full-length album, *Gettin' Old*, following *Growin' Up*, 2019's 3-time Platinum *What You See is What You Get* and his 4-time Platinum debut *This One's For You*. Known for his electric live shows, Combs also recently expanded his massive sold-out "World Tour," adding four new US stadium shows due to overwhelming demand. With 44 shows across three continents and 16 countries, the record-breaking run is the largest tour ever for a country artist. Partnered with Opry Entertainment Group, Combs plans to open a massive multi-level entertainment complex in downtown Nashville during summer of 2024.

Having just notched his sixth career No. 1 single and third multi-week No. 1 with "Next Thing You Know," **Jordan Davis** is dominating the country scene. "Next Thing You Know" was Davis' third consecutive multi-week No. 1 off of his Gold-certified sophomore album, *Bluebird Days*. His previous two singles from *Bluebird Days*, "What My World Spins Around" and "Buy Dirt" ft. Luke Bryan, were 3-week and 2-week No. 1s, respectively. This year, Davis has tallied multiple awards nominations and wins, including his first ACM Male Vocalist of the Year nomination. He was a finalist for Top Country Song at the 2022 *Billboard* Music Awards and earned a nomination for Musical Event of the Year at the 55th CMA Awards, as well as nominations for Music Event, Single and Song of the Year at the 57th ACM Awards, and AMA Award and iHeart Award nominations. He is the reigning winner for CMA Song of Year and earned a win for NSAI Song of the Year. Davis is currently out on the road on his headlining "Damn Good Time Tour."

One of the country's most respected and beloved musicians, **Chris Stapleton** celebrated a year full of achievements this past year. He was named Entertainer of the Year at the 58th ACM Awards, resulting in a prestigious ACM Triple Crown Award, an elite honor that has been presented to only seven country acts in the history of the Academy of Country Music Awards. He also won his sixth Male Vocalist of the Year at the 2022 CMA Awards, setting the record for most wins ever in the category, and gave a rousing performance of the National Anthem at Super Bowl LVII. Currently in the midst of his extensive "All-American Road Show" tour, Stapleton recently announced his new album, *Higher*, will release in November. The new album follows 2020's acclaimed *Starting Over*, which went on to win three awards at the 67th Annual Grammys—Best Country Album, Best Country Solo Performance ("You Should Probably Leave") and Best Country Song ("Cold")—in addition to earning Album of the Year honors at both the CMA and ACM Awards.

In the spring of 2022, **Cole Swindell** released his fourth studio album, *Stereotype*, to massive success. The project charted three back-to-back, Platinum-certified, multi-week No. 1 hits, including "Single Saturday Night," "Never Say Never" (with Lainey Wilson) and, most recently, his five-week chart-topper "She Had Me At Heads Carolina." The latter garnered three ACM Awards and an iHeart Music Award for Country Song of the Year. In 2022, Swindell spent a total of 27 weeks in the Top 5 of the country singles chart with "Never Say Never" (8 weeks) and "She Had Me At Heads Carolina" (21 weeks). In the 10 years since his debut on Warner Music Nashville, Swindell has racked up an impressive 12 No. 1 singles as an artist—13 as a songwriter—as well as 12 certified Platinum singles, two Platinum-certified albums and a Gold-certified album. He is currently out on the road on Thomas Rhett's "Home Team Tour" and will headline again this fall on his "Twelve Tour."

With over 18 billion on-demand streams and nine chart-toppers at country radio, **Morgan Wallen** has had unparalleled success since his debut in 2016. His second full-length project, *Dangerous: The Double Album*, topped 2021's all-genre *Billboard* 200 Albums year-end chart and notched historical chart status as *Billboard's* longest running Top 10 album in history for a solo artist. Wallen followed the 5-time Platinum, ACM Album of the Year with 2023's 36-song, deeply personal third studio album, *One Thing At A Time*, which reigned atop the all-genre *Billboard* 200 chart for 12 consecutive weeks, the most weeks at No. 1 for a country album in over 30 years. Wallen recently became first artist to have three singles simultaneously in the top 10 on country radio with "Last Night," "One Thing At A Time" and "Thought You Should Know." He is currently on his "One Night At A Time World Tour," criss-crossing the globe and breaking attendance records in his wake.

Category 13 | **GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

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



Brothers Osborne

UMG Nashville/EMI Records
Nashville, King Pen Music/
Warner Chappell Music, Q
Prime South, WME, ASCAP



Little Big Town

UMG Nashville/Capitol Records
Nashville, Warner Chappell,
Sandbox Entertainment, CAA,
BMI



Maddie & Tae

UMG Nashville/Mercury
Nashville, Big Machine Music,
Otter Creek Entertainment, CAA,
BMI/ASCAP



Old Dominion

Sony Music Nashville/Columbia
Nashville, Warner Chappell Music/
UMPG/Twelve6, Morris Higham
Management, Wasserman Music,
ASCAP



Parmalee

BBR Music Group/Stoney Creek
Records, Sony Music Publishing
Nashville, 33 Creative, WME,
BMI



The War And Treaty

UMG Nashville/Mercury
Nashville, Concord Music
Publishing, Red Light
Management, WME, BMI

GROUP/DUO ARTIST OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

The reigning CMA and ACM Duo of the Year winners, **Brothers Osborne** are connected by not just blood, but also a lifetime of performing together. The siblings, John and TJ, took home their first Grammy in 2022, winning Best Country Duo/Group Performance for their song “Younger Me,” inspired by TJ’s recent coming out. The song is featured on the deluxe version of their Grammy-nominated album, *Skeletons*. The band has been nominated for 10 Grammys in total, standing as a five-time CMA Vocal Duo of the Year and a four-time ACM Duo of the Year. Their critically acclaimed hit songs have tallied multiple RIAA Gold and Platinum certifications, while surpassing more than 2.7 billion global streams. Brothers Osborne’s upcoming, self-titled fourth studio album is set to release in September and features the chart-climbing single “Nobody’s Nobody.” The duo’s latest headlining “We’re Not For Everyone Tour” hit more than 50 markets.

Award-winning group, **Little Big Town** first entered the music scene over 20 years ago. Comprised of Karen Fairchild, Kimberly Schlapman, Phillip Sweet and Jimi Westbrook, the band has celebrated multiple No. 1 singles, including “Pontoon,” “Tornado” and “Day Drinking,” as well as the history-making, best-selling country single of 2015 “Girl Crush” and the Grammy-winning, multi-week No. 1 single “Better Man.” The band’s self-produced ninth studio album *Nightfall* was released January 2020 and hit the top of the *Billboard* Country Charts. The record included critically acclaimed and Grammy-nominated “The Daughters,” “Over Drinking” and “Wine, Beer, Whiskey.” Little Big Town has earned more than 45 award show nominations and has taken home nearly 20 awards, including multiple Grammy, AMA, People’s Choice, CMA and ACM Awards, in addition to an Emmy Award. Their 10th studio album *Mr. Sun* debuted as the Top Country Album by a group in 2022.

Since **Maddie & Tae** broke onto the scene in 2013 with their Platinum-selling smash, “Girl In A Country Song,” the duo’s Maddie Font and Tae Kerr have charmed fans with their tight harmonies, unbreakable bond and honest songwriting. In 2022, the two released volumes 1 and 2 of their *Through The Madness* projects, which follows their No. 1 debuting *The Way It Feels* album, including the 3-times Platinum-certified No. 1 hit, “Die From A Broken Heart.” With “Die From A Broken Heart” topping the country airplay charts, Maddie & Tae became the first and only female twosome with multiple No. 1s. They took home Group/Duo Video of the Year at the 2022 CMT Music Awards and were nominated an eighth time for Vocal Duo of the Year at the 56th CMA Awards. Maddie & Tae’s headlining “All Song No Static Tour” sold out major markets coast-to-coast in 2022, with additional shows extending through spring of 2023. The duo recently started a new chapter of music with the release of their new track, “Heart They Didn’t Break.”

Old Dominion has carved out a space for themselves at the forefront of country music with their clever lyrics and an infectious sound created by members Matthew Ramsey, Trevor Rosen, Brad Tursi, Whit Sellers and Geoff Sprung. Since breaking onto the music scene, the band has notched nine No. 1 singles at country radio, surpassed five billion on-demand streams, earned a dozen RIAA Platinum and Gold single certifications and headlined arenas and amphitheaters around the globe. The band are currently the reigning six-time Academy of Country Music and five-time Country Music Association Group of the Year. Old Dominion’s 8-song *Memory Lane* EP was released in June, and its title track recently topped the charts. They are currently out on the road on their “No Bad Vibes Tour,” which has sold out multiple dates and spread the joy found in Old Dominion hits.

The last few years for **Parmalee** have been nothing short of career years. The band—comprised of brothers Matt Thomas and Scott Thomas, along with their cousin Barry Knox and friend Josh McSwain—first topped the charts in 2013 with “Carolina.” The band didn’t return to the chart pinnacle until 2021 with their Platinum-certified “Just The Way” with Blanco Brown. They followed its massive success with “Take My Name,” which was *Billboard*’s Most Played Country Song of 2022. Their latest single “Girl In Mine” is Top 10 and climbing. Back in radio’s good graces, Parmalee recently announced they will release a new album, *For You 2*, in September. With a full slate of summer festivals and amphitheaters, Parmalee will take their hit-packed set on tour with Grammy Award winners Train, later this summer. In July, the band celebrated the tenth anniversary of their Grand Ole Opry debut.

Founded in 2014 by the husband-and-wife duo Michael Trotter Jr. and Tanya Trotter, **The War And Treaty** have emerged as one of the most electrifying new acts in American music. Earning respect, they’ve gone on to appear as top-flight collaborators, and have been recognized by the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Grand Ole Opry and the Americana Music Association as 2022 Duo/Group of the Year. The duo have dominated stages across the globe including North America, Europe, Italy, Australia, and Ireland, while headlining their own shows and opening for a diverse group of living legends such as Al Green, Brandi Carlile, Jason Isbell, John Legend, Lauren Daigle and Van Morrison among them. The War And Treaty released their major label debut album *Lover’s Game* in March. The Dave Cobb-produced project included fan-favorites “Dumb Luck,” “Blank Page,” “That’s How Love Is Made” and “Have You A Heart.”

Category 14 | **ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

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



Kane Brown

Sony Music Nashville/RCA Nashville/Zone 4, Sony Music Publishing/Verse 2, Neon Coast, WME, BMI



Eric Church

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



Luke Combs

Sony Music Nashville/River House Artists, UMPG, Make Wake, WME, BMI



Chris Stapleton

UMG Nashville/Mercury Nashville, Warner Chappell, Red Light Management, WME, ASCAP



Carrie Underwood

UMG Nashville, Carrie-Okie Music, The HQ, CAA, BMI



Morgan Wallen

Big Loud Records/Republic Records, Big Loud Publishing, Big Loud Management, The Neal Agency, BMI

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR: About the Nominees

Since the arrival of his self-titled, 2x Platinum debut album in December 2016, **Kane Brown** has continued to expand the perception of country music and break musical boundaries. Named to the *Time100* list of the most influential people in the world, five time American Music Award winner Brown has over 13 billion streams, multiple multi-Platinum certifications, sold out arenas all across the world with more than four million tickets sold internationally, and made history as the first artist ever to lead all five of *Billboard*'s main country charts simultaneously. With the release of his most recent album, *Different Man*, Brown earned his ninth career No. 1 hit, the 3x ACM-nominated Platinum-selling single, "Thank God," as well as hits with "Like I Love Country Music," "One Mississippi" and "Bury Me in Georgia." Brown earned his first-ever nomination for the ACM's Entertainer of the Year this year and became the first Black artist to headline Boston's iconic Fenway Park solo.

A seven-time ACM Award winner, four-time CMA Award winner and 10-time Grammy nominee, **Eric Church** has amassed a passionate fan base around the globe known as the Church Choir, as well as a beloved catalog of music. His most recent critically acclaimed and chart-topping project, the *Heart & Soul* triple album, yielded the Gold-certified No. 1 "Hell of a View" and recent Top 5 hit "Heart On Fire" as well as his latest single, "Doing Life With Me," climbing the charts at country radio now. Through the fall, Church will trek across North America on "The Outsiders Revival Tour," bringing with him a rotating lineup of emerging artists along for the first fully outdoor tour of his career. Church is currently the 18th artist-in-residence at Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, where he also is the subject of a new exhibition. He will soon open Chief's, a six-story venue on Nashville's famed lower Broadway.

Reigning two-time CMA Entertainer of the Year **Luke Combs** has notched 16 consecutive No. 1 hits at country radio and over 337 million global streams to date. The Grand Ole Opry member is also an eight-time CMA, three-time ACM and three-time *Billboard* Music Award winner. He recently topped the charts with his version of Tracy Chapman's Grammy Award-winning song, "Fast Car," which was certified RIAA Platinum just 16 weeks after it was released. The track is from Combs' fourth full-length album, *Gettin' Old*, following *Growin' Up*, 2019's 3-time Platinum *What You See is What You Get* and his 4-time Platinum debut *This One's For You*. Known for his electric live shows, Combs also recently expanded his massive sold-out "World Tour," adding four new US stadium shows due to overwhelming demand. With 44 shows across three continents and 16 countries, the record-breaking run is the largest tour ever for a country artist. Partnered with Opry Entertainment Group, Combs plans to open a massive multi-level entertainment complex in downtown Nashville during summer of 2024.

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Carrie Underwood is a multi-format, multi-media superstar, spanning achievements in music, television and film, and as a *New York Times* bestselling author and successful entrepreneur. She has sold more than 85 million records worldwide and recorded 28 No. 1 singles—14 of which she co-wrote. She is the most-awarded female country artist for singles in RIAA history and has seven albums that are certified multi-Platinum or Platinum by the RIAA, with over 72 million total RIAA certifications to date, all while continuing to sell out arena tours across North America and the UK. Underwood released her most recent album, *Denim & Rhinestones*, in 2022, and she also recently completed her 43-city U.S. arena tour, "The Denim & Rhinestones Tour." In addition to becoming the first artist to perform at the new Resorts World Theatre with her ongoing "Reflection: The Las Vegas Residency," Underwood just launched her exclusive year-round SiriusXM channel, Carrie's Country. Her deluxe edition of *Denim & Rhinestones*, featuring six new tracks, will be out on Sept. 22.

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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.

2022: Shane McAnally
 2019-21: 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
 1999-00: 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.

2022: Big Loud Records
 2019-21: 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.

2021-22: WME
 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.

2022: Josh Jenkins
 2021: Nicolette Hayford

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.

2022: Lainey Wilson
 2021: Ashley McBryde
 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.

2020-22: 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.

2022: Nicolle Galyon
 2021: Natalie Hemby
 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.

- 2022: **"Til You Can't"** written by Matt Rogers and Ben Stennis; published by Anthem Canalco Publishing, ASCAP/Dead Aim Music, BMI/Songs Of Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., BMI/The Stennis Mightier Music
- 2021: **"Hell Of A View"** written by Eric Church, Casey Beathard, Monty Criswell; published by 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
- 2020: **"More Hearts Than Mine"** written by Ingrid Andress, 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./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.

- 2022: MacKenzie Porter
- 2021: Lainey Wilson
- 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.

- 2022: Lainey Wilson
- 2021: Tenille Arts
- 2020: Ingrid Andress
- 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. Became Entertainer of the Year in 2023.

2019-22: Luke Combs

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