

RECORDS Nashville Taps Josh Easler & Joe Fisher For Leadership Positions



RECORDS Nashville has appointed **Josh Easler** as Executive Vice President of Promotion and Commercial Strategy, and **Joe Fisher** as Executive Vice President. Both Easler and Fisher will report to **Barry Weiss**, RECORDS' Co-founder and Partner.

Easler comes to RECORDS from Sony Music Nashville, where he most recently served as Vice President of Promotion at Arista Nashville. While at Arista, Easler achieved two No. 1 country radio hits for RECORDS Nashville/Arista Nashville's **Matt Stell** in the last two years, including the Platinum "Prayed For You" and Gold "Everywhere But On."

With this news, Stell becomes an exclusive RECORDS Nashville artist.

Based out of the company's Nashville office, Easler will oversee all radio promotion as well as all commercial strategy which includes all DSPs, commercial platforms, and the like for RECORDS Nashville artists **Stell**, **Erin Kinsey**, **George Birge**, **Chris Bandi** and more.

Fisher joins RECORDS Nashville having previously spent most of his career at Universal Nashville, where he rose to VP of A&R under Luke Lewis. Most recently, Fisher has been working with Justin Timberlake on his Villa 40 Nashville label venture. Additionally, Fisher founded Boom, a publishing company with Keith Urban and Ross Copperman in 2017.

In his new role, Fisher will oversee the signing, developing, and cultivating of new talent for the label.

"We are so excited to be leveling up and raising the game with our efforts in Nashville and country music," says Weiss. "I can't think of two better executives to take us forward and achieve this task than Josh Easler and Joe Fisher. They're both established superstars in their respective fields in country music with great pedigree and substantial track records."

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

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And much more...

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"Barry has assembled one of the most dynamic teams in the business and an incredible roster of new talent. I'm excited to work with this amazing group of executives on breaking the next vanguard of country artists," shares Easler.

Adds Fisher, "I've respected Barry from afar for my entire career. He's a true music man and one of the industry's most visionary executives. The only thing more impressive than his track record is his passion for music. When he called, there was only one answer. I'm immensely honored to join the RECORDS team and kick off this new chapter." **MR**

Concord Music Publishing Inks With Andy Albert, Acquires Full Catalog

Concord Music Publishing has signed singer-songwriter **Andy Albert** to a worldwide publishing deal. The agreement covers Albert's full acquired catalog and future works.

Originally from Roswell, Georgia, Albert moved to Nashville in 2011 to be a part of the band Bonaventure, alongside Dan Smyers, now of Dan + Shay. He signed his first publishing deal with Downtown Music in 2014 and has since landed cuts with artists such as Blake Shelton, Carrie Underwood, Tim McGraw, Granger Smith, Dustin Lynch, Hardy, Chris Lane, Ryan Hurd, Lany, and more. Albert's catalog includes several chart-topping hits, including "She's Got A Way With Words" (Blake Shelton), "If The Boot Fits" and "Happens Like That" (Granger Smith), "Redneck" (Hardy), and more.

The songwriter came to Concord via the company's purchase of Downtown Music's publishing catalog earlier this year.

Brad Kennard, SVP of A&R in Nashville, says: "We're incredibly honored that we are able to continue to represent the great works that Andy has created, as well as those to come. He's an undisputed rising star who's on a path to becoming one of the best in the business. We couldn't be prouder to work alongside such a brilliant songwriter, who also happens to be one of the best human beings around."

Albert will end 2021 with a multi-week No. 1 song on country radio, "Thinking 'Bout You," performed by Dustin Lynch featuring Mackenzie Porter. Currently, the track has reached the top spot on Billboard Country Airplay for its second consecutive week. Most recently, Albert co-wrote four tracks on Dan + Shay's fourth studio album Good Things, including "Lying," "One Direction," "Let Me Get Over Her," and their latest single "Steal My Love," which is currently charting in the top 40 on country radio.

"I am thrilled that Andy has entrusted Concord with his catalog of songs. He is a gifted songwriter and storyteller. We are committed to supporting songwriters like Andy, recognizing the hits he's made and investing in the ones to come. I know the combination of Concord's seasoned Creative team and Andy's sheer talent will be a force in Nashville," says **Jim Selby**, Chief Publishing Executive at Concord.

"I couldn't be more excited to begin this next chapter of my career with Concord," adds Albert. "Brad [Kennard] has assembled one of the best teams in Nashville and I'm grateful to be part of the family." **MR**



Pictured (L-R, back row): Jim Selby, Melissa Spillman, Jen Hubbard, Garrett Stephenson, Ashley Nite, Courtney Allen, Duff Berschback; (L-R, front row): Matt Turner, Andy Albert, Brad Kennard.

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

CHART ACTION

New On The Chart —Debuting This Week

song/artist/label—Chart Position

AA/Walker Hayes/Monument — 67

No Hard Feelings/Old Dominion/RCA Nashville — 70

Country'd Look Good On You/Frank Ray/Stoney Creek

Records — 73

When Love Comes Around/Wade Bowen/Bowen Sounds/

Thirty Tigers — 78

Born For A Friday Night/Christian Yeager/Lamon — 80

Greatest Spin Increase

song/artist/label—Spin Increase

Never Say Never/Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson/Warner Music

Nashville — 143

Beers On Me/Dierks Bentley feat. BRELAND & HARDY/

Capitol — 91

AA/Walker Hayes/Monument — 90

No Hard Feelings/Old Dominion/RCA Nashville — 85

Let Me Know/Smith & Wesley/Dream Walkin/Audium

Nashville — 85

Most Added

song/artist/label—No. of Adds

AA/Walker Hayes/Monument — 7

No Hard Feelings/Old Dominion/RCA Nashville — 7

Never Say Never/Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson/Warner Music

Nashville — 6

Doin' This/Luke Combs/River House Artists/Columbia

Nashville — 5

On Deck—Soon To Be Charting

song/artist/label—No. of Spins

Gave Him A Girl/Brei Carter/Brei Carter — 163

That Old Wind/Danny Kensity/Rad Records — 162

Albuquerque/Will Reid/Jordash — 142

NO. 1 SONG



Blake Shelton ends 2021 on a high note as his single, “Come Back As A Country Boy” tops the final CountryBreakout Radio Chart of the year. The song was written by **Michael Hardy**, **Josh Thompson**, and **Jordan Schmidt** and is the first track on his deluxe album, [Body Language](#).

Shelton will be the featured artist for The Artist Interview, sponsored by BMI, at CRS 2022. He will sit down with *Country Aircheck* Publisher/CEO and host of Westwood One's *Country Countdown USA*, Lon Helton, and will speak candidly on his career, artistic process, and what's on the horizon.

Shelton also plans to expand his chain of music venues, Ole Red in the coming years with plans to open a location in Nashville International Airport (BNA) for 2022 and the Las Vegas Strip for 2023.



Each songwriter and artist earning No. 1 credit on the *MusicRow* Chart receives a *MusicRow* Challenge Coin. Click [here](#) to view a full list of recipients.

MusicRow CountryBreakout Chart Reporting Stations

WHMA Anniston, AL
WXFL Florence, AL
KHBZ Harrison, AR
KQUS Hot Springs, AR
KDXY Jonesboro, AR
KWCK Searcy, AR
KRAZ Santa Barbara, CA
WPAP Panama City, FL
WUBB Savannah, GA
KXIA Marshalltown, IA
KIAI Mason City, IA
KBOE Oskaloosa, IA
KTHK Idaho Falls, ID
WOOZ Cartersville, IL

WAAG Galesburg, IL
WMCI Mattoon, IL
WYOT Rochelle, IL
WRTB Rockford, IL
WCCI Savanna, IL
WIFE Connersville, IN
KAIR Atchison, KS
WKDZ Cadiz, KY
WBKR Owensboro, KY
WDHR Pikeville, KY
KRRV Alexandria, LA
WUUU Covington, LA
WKPE Hyannis, MA
WVMD Cumberland, MD

WTCM Traverse City, MI
KYSM Mankato, MN
KZPK St. Cloud, MN
KWWR Mexico, MO
KFAV Warrenton, MO
WFAY Fayetteville, NC
KZZY Devils Lake, ND
KRVN Lexington, NE
KBRX O'Neill, NE
Jersey Shore Country
KQBA Santa Fe, NM
WDNB Monticello, NY
WOLF Syracuse, NY
WCJW Warsaw, NY

WFRY Watertown, NY
KITX Hugo, OK
KWEY Weatherford, OK
KWOX Woodward, OK
KRKT Albany, OR
WVNW Lewistown, PA
WNBT Mansfield, PA
WCFT Selinsgrove, PA
WFGE State College, PA
KMOM Aberdeen, SD
KZZI Spearfish, SD
WUCZ Carthage, TN
WDKN Dickson, TN
WLLX Lawrenceburg, TN

KFTX Corpus Christi, TX
KYKX Longview, TX
KYYK Palestine, TX
KXOX Sweetwater, TX
WAKG Danville, VA
WAXX Altoona, WI
WJVL Janesville, WI
WGLR Platteville, WI
WQPC Prairie du Chien, WI
WCOW Sparta, WI
WTNJ Beckley, WV
WDGG Huntington, WV

COUNTRYBREAKOUT RADIO CHART

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
11	2	1	Come Back As A Country Boy / Blake Shelton / Warner Music Nashville	1677/63	1	20
35	3	2	Half Of My Hometown / Kelsea Ballerini / Black River Entertainment	1625/53	-1	-22
13	6	3	Never Wanted To Be That Girl / Carly Pearce and Ashley McBryde / Big Machine/WMN	1591/67	2	24
14	5	4	23 / Sam Hunt / MCA Nashville	1581/59	1	8
17	4	5	One Mississippi / Kane Brown / RCA Nashville	1556/50	-4	-71
20	10	6	Beers On Me / Dierks Bentley feat. BRELAND & HARDY / Capitol	1476/63	7	91
17	7	7	Wild Hearts / Keith Urban / Capitol	1476/62	1	19
19	8	8	Best Thing Since Backroads / Jake Owen / Big Loud Records	1454/65	0	1
52	9	9	Whiskey And Rain / Michael Ray / Warner Music Nashville	1419/44	-1	-10
47	1	10	To Be Loved By You / Parker McCollum / MCA Nashville	1303/48	-22	-377
34	11	11	It's Cause I Am / Callista Clark / Big Machine	1242/50	-8	-113
9	13	12	If I Was A Cowboy / Miranda Lambert / Vanner Records/RCA Records	1241/58	6	74
49	12	13	Give Heaven Some Hell / HARDY / Big Loud Records	1229/50	1	8
11	14	14	Up / Luke Bryan / Capitol	1184/59	3	32
6	15	15	Slow Down Summer / Thomas Rhett / Valory	1106/58	1	11
25	16	16	Old School / Toby Keith / Show Dog Nashville	1048/50	-1	-15
21	17	17	7500 OBO / Tim McGraw / Big Machine	1033/54	1	11
12	19	18	'Til You Can't / Cody Johnson / CoJo Music/Warner Music Nashville	1019/50	7	70
43	18	19	Getting Over Him / Lauren Alaina feat. Jon Pardi / Mercury Nashville	970/46	-1	-6
28	23	20	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) / Elle King & Miranda Lambert / RCA Nashville	889/40	6	52
30	22	21	Back Then, Right Now / Tenille Arts / 19th & Grand Records	885/51	3	23
16	20	22	New Truck / Dylan Scott / Curb	877/50	0	2
33	24	23	Fill Them Boots / Chris Lane / Big Loud Records	793/41	-2	-15
42	25	24	Home Sweet / Russell Dickerson / Triple Tigers Records	776/35	1	9
13	27	25	All It Cost Me Was Everything / Cody Jinks / Late August Records	739/46	2	17
34	26	26	I'm Not For Everyone / Brothers Osborne / EMI Records Nashville	715/38	-3	-19
14	28	27	Stealing Home / James Robert Webb / Bison Creek Records	692/44	4	24
3	35	28	Never Say Never / Cole Swindell & Lainey Wilson / Warner Music Nashville	676/44	27	143
8	29	29	Damn Strait / Scotty McCreery / Triple Tigers Records	673/41	1	6
17	30	30	Steal My Love / Dan + Shay / Warner Music Nashville	664/39	1	5
16	31	31	Broke It Down / Brian Callihan / Reviver Records	645/42	1	9
16	32	32	Sunrise Tells The Story / Midland / Big Machine	628/39	3	18
22	34	33	Grow Up / Ian Flanigan feat. Blake Shelton / Reviver Records	578/32	7	36
9	33	34	With A Woman You Love / Justin Moore / Valory	568/37	4	21
16	37	35	They Don't Make 'Em Like That No More / Travis Tritt / Big Noise	529/30	5	26
21	21	36	Get To Work Whiskey / Ward Davis / Ward Davis/Thirty Tigers Records	528/32	-39	-338
15	36	37	I Know A Girl / MaRynn Taylor / Black River Entertainment	526/36	2	11
18	38	38	Record High / Randall King / Warner Music Nashville	509/30	4	18
5	39	39	I Bet You Think About Me / Taylor Swift feat. Chris Stapleton / MCA	500/33	6	30
14	40	40	Music Man / Shane Owens / AmeriMonte Records	486/33	6	26

2022

TOURING & NEXT BIG THING

ISSUE

Weeks On Chart	Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins / Reports	% Spin Power	Spins +/-
8	45	41	Let Me Know / Smith & Wesley / Dream Walkin/Audium Nashville	442/30	24	85
10	41	42	Bye Mom / Chris Janson / Warner Music Nashville	415/27	0	-1
18	42	43	These Boots Were Made To Dance / Timothy Baker & Clayton Smalley / YN Records	397/23	3	10
4	47	44	Soul / Lee Brice / Curb	383/26	11	39
12	43	45	Shuffle / Laci Kaye Booth / BMLG	373/31	3	10
13	46	46	At the End Of A Bar / Chris Young feat. Mitchell Tenpenny / RCA Nashville	366/27	3	9
13	44	47	Honky - Tonk / Josiah Siska / Black River Entertainment	359/28	0	1
2	53	48	Doin' This / Luke Combs / River House Artists/Columbia Nashville	337/22	20	55
4	55	49	You Didn't / Brett Young / BMLG	332/29	23	61
20	48	50	Please Don't Let Me / Dylan Gerard / SSM Nashville	331/24	0	1
14	52	51	Blue Collar / Kevin McCoy Band / Honky Tonk Hippie	315/15	9	27
7	51	52	New Wings / Alyssa Bonagura / ABON MUSIC	312/22	5	16
5	56	53	Quicksand / American Blonde /	310/27	16	43
11	54	54	It's Gettin' There / Dave Wilbert / Wilbilly Records	308/23	10	28
15	50	55	Who Cares / Filmore / Curb	308/18	1	2
16	49	56	Wilder Days / Morgan Wade / Ladylike Records	308/21	-2	-5
6	60	57	Baby Don't / Paige King Johnson / PCG Records	274/27	14	33
6	57	58	Hypocrite / Ruthie Collins / MCC/Curb	272/23	7	18
6	62	59	If I Were Rock & Roll / Chase Rice / Dack Janiels/Broken Bow	249/21	7	16
17	65	60	The American Face / The Isaacs / House of Isaacs	245/15	7	17
7	61	61	I Don't Live There Anymore / Andrew Marshall / Serenity Records	245/16	4	10
16	58	62	Version Of Me / Emily Rose / Growing Rose Recording Co.	245/15	-1	-2
10	63	63	Heart First / Jennifer Belle / JGSII Records	240/17	3	8
9	59	64	Hard Time / Cash Creek and Larry Stewart / CCB Nashville	240/14	-1	-2
6	66	65	Ain't Doing Something Right / After Midtown / The Core/10th St.	232/18	4	8
8	64	66	Think About Me / Maggie Baugh /	226/16	-1	-2
1	86	67	AA / Walker Hayes / Monument	225/19	67	90
3	67	68	Hand Me Downs / Janelle Arthur feat. Dolly Parton / Black Sheep Records	213/15	3	7
8	70	69	The Best Night / Tom Sexton / Lots To Do Music	207/18	4	8
1	96	70	No Hard Feelings / Old Dominion / RCA Nashville	198/18	75	85
5	72	71	Barely Breathing / Jeremy Studdard / Owen Entertainment Group	194/16	1	2
3	73	72	Better Life / Jason Byrd feat. George Jones / MayCourt Records	186/14	6	11
1	94	73	Country'd Look Good On You / Frank Ray / Stoney Creek Records	181/13	55	64
4	76	74	Somebody Else's / Chloe Collins / Collins House Music	179/17	7	11
6	75	75	Chaser / Frankie Justin / SMG Records	171/12	1	2
2	80	76	Dyin' For A Livin' / Muscadine Bloodline / Stancaster Music, LLC	170/17	10	16
4	77	77	Son Of A / Dillon Carmichael / Riser House	170/14	1	2
1	93	78	When Love Comes Around / Wade Bowen / Bowen Sounds/Thirty Tigers	169/15	44	52
2	74	79	Raining Hallelujah / Shannon LaBrie / Moraine Music Group	167/14	-1	-2
1	81	80	Born For A Friday Night / Christian Yeager / Lamon	164/9	7	11

No. 1 Song
Greatest Spin Increase
Highest Debut

ROW FAX

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The George Jones Museum & Restaurant Closes Permanently



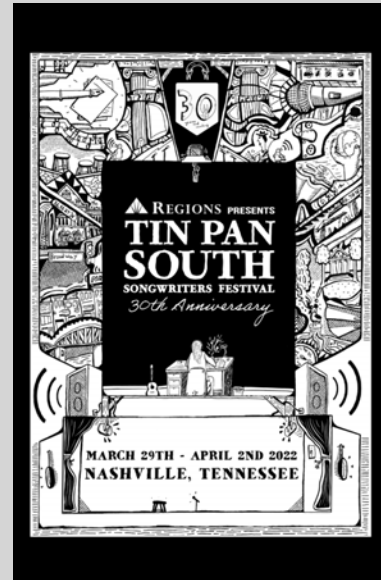
The **George Jones** Restaurant, Museum and Rooftop has announced that it will be closing its doors permanently.

Located on downtown Nashville's 2nd Avenue, the museum first opened in 2015 to honor the late country legend George Jones, as well as provide a place for his many fans to enjoy food and live music. However, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum has struggled like many other businesses.

"It has been a difficult 2 years for so many-our company has been no different. From the pandemic all the way through to the 2nd Ave. bombing one year ago—we have fought for what is right for our loyal staff and local partners. As many business owners know, between the workforce shortages and difficulty with consistency of products, it is a challenge day to day (to say the least) to make a business viable," the museum shared on social media.

"For these reasons, it is with a heavy heart that we announce we are closing The George Jones Entertainment Venue after a beautiful run. The museum and all of its contents are being handled with care. There will be more to come on where this exhibit will land next," the post continued. "We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of the fans, guests, staff (present and past) local partners and friends that have come through our doors over the last few years. We feel so fortunate to have shared terrific memories, food, drink and music." **MR**

Dates Revealed For 2022 Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival



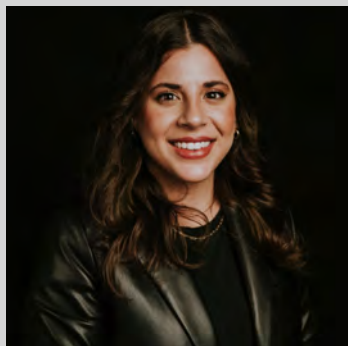
The Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) has announced the dates for the 30th annual Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival, presented by Regions Bank.

The festival is scheduled to take place Tuesday, March 29 through Saturday, April 2, 2022 in some of Nashville's most popular venues throughout town. Per usual, each venue will host two shows per night showcasing hundreds of songwriters from Nashville and beyond.

The 2022 Tin Pan South line-up will be revealed and tickets will go on sale on March 1 at 10 a.m. CST. Additional details will be made available in January.

The official 2022 Tin Pan South poster was created by **Charlie Hartrich**, a freshman at Watkins College of Art at Belmont University. **MR**

Big Loud Records Promotes Camille Kenny To Sr. Director, A&R



Big Loud Records announced the promotion of **Camille Kenny** to Sr. Director, A&R, effective immediately.

After time at WME and THiS Music, Kenny joined Big Loud as as A&R Coordinator in 2018, and quickly rose to A&R Manager. Over the last three years, Kenny has stewarded artist and songwriter development, provided actionable intelligence through A&R research, and delivered key releases from **Morgan Wallen, Hardy, Chris Lane, Jake Owen, MacKenzie Porter**, and more.

“As an integral member of our A&R team, Camille [Kenny] continues to lead with an unwavering passion for identifying hit songs and talent,” says **Patch Culbertson**, the newly promoted Senior Vice President & General Manager of

Big Loud Records. “Her devotion to artist development is tangible across every project she touches. In addition to her creative prowess, she is instrumental in measuring and disseminating actionable intel across our company.”

In her newly created role, Kenny will be responsible for scouting, signing, and leading A&R on behalf of designated Big Loud Records artists.

“I’m so grateful to be a part of the Big Loud family. The camaraderie and innovation within this company are unparalleled,” shares Kenny. “I am lucky to support our amazing artists and to collaborate with some of the best creative minds in the business each day. Thank you so much to Patch Culbertson and the Partners – **Seth England, Joey Moi, and Craig Wiseman** – for your mentorship and belief in me. I am excited to take on this new role and continue to dig in with our hardworking team.” **MR**

J.T. Harding Recounts His Wild Ride To Fame In Upcoming Memoir

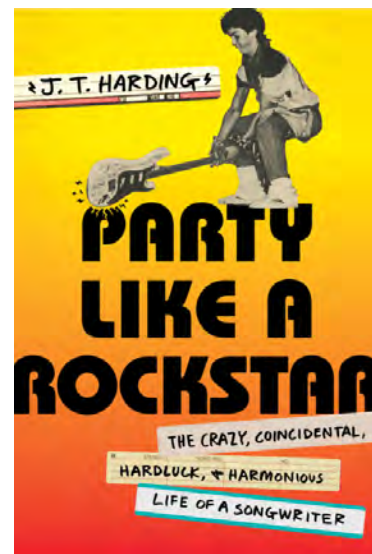
Songwriter **J.T. Harding** is sharing some of his fun-filled stories in a new memoir and songwriting how-to, *Party Like A Rockstar: The Crazy, Coincidental, Hard-Luck, and Harmonious Life of a Songwriter*, due out Feb. 22 from Twelve Books.

The new autobiography charts Harding’s life from a kid growing up in Michigan to a chart-topping songwriter living in Nashville and working with country stars like Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, and more.

Party Like A Rockstar, in addition to being a memoir, is also a how-to guide for anyone who wants to learn how to write a hit song. It tells the story of one man’s love for rock and roll, and how it guided him through some of the greatest tragedies triumphs of his life.

Inspired by his favorite artists from KISS to Prince and everything in between, Harding ran away to LA, where he formed a band and became part of the music scene there, all the while selling records to his favorite artists and producers at Tower Records. Harding made his first demo tape with prize money he earned by winning the VH1 game show Rock & Roll Jeopardy!

He’s penned several chart-topping hits, including the triple Platinum “Smile” with Uncle Kracker; “Somewhere In My Car” with Keith Urban; “Somewhere With You” and “Bar at the End of the World” for Kenny Chesney; Dierks Bentley’s “Different For Girls;” Jake Owen’s “Alone With You;” and Blake Shelton’s No. 1 “Sangria.” **MR**



Sarah Allison Turner Inks With Ebach Entertainment & Kobalt Music Nashville



Pictured: (L-R, top row): Scott Safford (Safford-Motley), Sarah Allison Turner, Sabrina Butera (Agent, CAA); (L-R, bottom row): Stephanie Cox (GM/SVP Creative, Kobalt Nashville), Janine Ebach (GM-Owner of Ebach Entertainment)

Sarah Allison Turner has signed an exclusive songwriting deal with Ebach Entertainment and Kobalt Music Nashville.

The West Virginia native began writing songs at 15 and interned for Seagayle Music Publishing during her time at MTSU. She signed her first publishing deal in 2015 with Horipro Music Publishing (now Mojo Music).

Since then she has had songs recorded by Alan Jackson, Randall King, Tyler Farr, Walker County and others, including a placement in Grey's Anatomy with her song "Hope." Her latest release, "Bad For Me," was co-written with Emily Falvey and Hayley McLean.

"I am thrilled about this partnership with Kobalt and Sarah Allison Turner," says **Janine Ebach**, GM/Owner of Ebach Entertainment. "Her songwriting talent, work ethic and hustle along with her unique artistry set her apart from so many in this industry. I'm excited to see what we're able to do together."

"I have wanted to work with Sarah for a very long time," adds **Stephanie Cox**, GM/SVP Creative of Kobalt Nashville. "When the opportunity arose as a partnership with Janine, I could not have imagined a better team!" **MR**

Nick Walsh Signs With Warner Chappell Music Nashville & Duckman Music



Pictured: (L-R): Jessi Stevenson (WCM), Riley Green (Duckman), Nick Walsh, Erik Dylan, Ben Vaughn (WCM)

Singer-songwriter **Nick Walsh** has signed a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music Nashville and **Riley Green's** Duckman Music.

Before writing songs, Walsh was a punter on the Kansas State University football team. After college, he signed with an NFL agent but an injury landed him on the sidelines while participating in his pro-day where he was training for the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Lyndon, Kansas native has upcoming cuts for Green, Jake Worthington, William Clark Green, Logan Mize, and more, and frequently collaborates with singer-songwriter Erik Dylan. **MR**

DISCLAIMER Single Reviews: Brett Eldredge, Raleigh Keegan, Mickey Guyton



Brett Eldredge. Photo: Andrew Eccles

As usual at this time of year, the country stars are out in full force with holiday music.

This genre has created a bountiful harvest of enduring Christmas standards in the past—"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Blue Christmas," "A Holly Jolly Christmas," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Tennessee Christmas," "Christmas Time's A-Comin'," "Mary Did You Know," "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer," "There's a New Kid in Town" and the Gene Autry classics "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman," to name just a few. If there's a song here that could join that hit parade, it might be "New Star Shining" by Orleans.

The Disc of the Day in this second installment of our holiday-music overview belongs to Brett Eldredge, "Mr. Christmas," himself.

Give a DISCOVERY Award to Raleigh Keegan. Happy Holidays.

[Read Robert K. Oermann's weekly single reviews column here.](#)

MORE TOP STORIES

[Morgan Wallen, Dan + Shay Among RIAA Year-End Award Recipients](#)

[Randy Travis, Warner Music Nashville Premiere New Documentary 'More Life'](#)

[Superstar Manager Ken Kragen Dies](#)

[SOLID Announces New Board For 25th Anniversary Year](#)

[Carly Pearce Adds Spring Dates To 'The 29 Tour'](#)

[Bridgestone Arena Ranks First In World Ticket Sales By 'Pollstar'](#)

[Doug Waterman Exits 'American Songwriter'](#)

[Ronnie Milsap Celebrates The Holidays With A Special Reissue Of His Sole Christmas Album \[Interview\]](#)

[Maddie & Tae Push 'Through The Madness' Into 2022 With New Tunes](#)

[Tenille Arts Celebrates Historic No. 1 At Country Radio With Special Rooftop Party](#)

[The Bluebird Cafe & NSAI Announce Partnership With Bob Kingsley Estate](#)

[CMA Presents Several Industry Honors](#)

[Recalling The Country-Rock Sound Of Michael Nesmith](#)

[First Taste Of Music From New Country Music Drama 'Monarch' Out Now](#)

[Dennis Quaid Launches Production Company. Announces Upcoming Charley Pride Biopic](#)

[Tim McGraw Plots Amphitheater Tour For Spring](#)

Jimmie Allen Talks His Banner Year, Building His Business, & Fostering Talent Early [Interview]



2021 was good to country star **Jimmie Allen**.

This year the multi-Platinum singer-songwriter released his latest star-studded collaboration album, *Bettie James Gold Edition*, and currently has a top 10 single with **Brad Paisley** on "Freedom Was A Highway." He joined both Paisley and **Nelly** on their respective tours, and recently announced he will hit the road on his own headlining tour, the "Down Home Tour 2022," in February.

The "Make Me Want To" singer also took home several big trophies this year, including the ACM New Male Artist of the Year award and the CMA New Artist of the Year honor. He also received the only country nomination in an all-genre category for

the upcoming Grammy Awards, and will be competing for Best New Artist at the January ceremony.

While Allen was visibly honored by the wins at both the ACM and CMA Awards, he says it wasn't something he was focused on at the top of the year. "I never start a year saying 'I want to win this award and that award.' My goal every year is to make an impact and widen my platform to where I can help other artists."

Helping other artists has been a big part of Allen's work over the last few years. At only 36-years-old, Allen has launched multiple businesses and regularly shines a spotlight on rising artists. He believes it's better for him to bring up his peers and protégés now while he's on the rise, as opposed to starting entertainment companies when he's hit the crest of the career. It's a strategy he's observed from hip-hop culture.

"I love the way that hip-hop culture did it, especially **Lil Wayne**. Lil Wayne signed **Drake** and **Nicki Minaj**. Drake signed **The Weeknd** and took him out. It's all about using your platform to break your artists," Allen says. "If you sign someone, you're investing. The more successful they become, the more successful your business becomes. I'm trying to take that same approach and do it in the country world."

Earlier this year, Allen established Bettie James Music Publishing, a publishing venture with Sony Music Publishing Nashville, and signed his frequent collaborator and bass player **Tate Howell**.

A few weeks back Allen announced JAB Entertainment, a full-service management and production company he launched alongside partners **John Marks** and **Aaron Benward**. The company's first signing for the company is **Neon Union**, a duo comprised of **Leo Brooks** and Andrew Millsaps that was featured on the track "Livin' Man" on *Bettie James Gold Edition*. Neon Union will join Allen on the "Down Home Tour 2022."

"When I was first getting started I had other artists and songwriters reaching out, but I wasn't in a position to help," Allen says. "You can only help others after you help yourself. You can't pull somebody up if you're not up. But I eventually got to the point where I could help."

In addition to his music and business ventures, the multi-hyphenate entertainer also found time to publish his first children's book *My Voice Is a Trumpet* this year, as well as collaborate with **Elton John** on *The Lockdown Sessions*, launch his own Bettie James Fest music festival, and serve as Executive Music Producer for the Netflix series *Titletown High*.

Allen also competed on the 30th season of *Dancing With The Stars*, and even reached the quarterfinals. He says the gig was an opportunity to expose more people not only to his music, but to country music in general.

“For me, it’s all about expanding and reaching people that don’t listen to country radio. I tell people all the time: my music is never going to change. I’m always going to be a country artist, I’m always going to have songs on country radio, I’m always going to be at country award shows and country festivals. But how do we get people that only listen to pop to know who Jimmie Allen is?”

“How do we get, not just for my music, but [the music of all] country artists to new markets? You have to place yourself there. They have to see you,” Allen says. “You have to come in first as a person—because that’s what they got to see on *Dancing With The Stars*. They saw Jimmie Allen, the person. Jimmie Allen the person warms them up to check out my music.”

When it comes to Allen’s Grammy nomination, he sees it as another chance to represent country music on a global stage.

“I didn’t even realize it until my publicist told me that it was an all-genre category. For me it says a lot about country music and about where we are,” Allen shares. “This Grammy nomination isn’t about winning. It’s about being the face of country music. If people can see that country music has accepted me, other people will feel comfortable getting in this business, whether it’s on the artist side or the business side.”

As for 2022, the sky is the limit for Allen.

When asked about his goals, he lists securing a record deal for Neon Union, executing a successful headlining tour, pushing “Freedom Is A Highway” as far as it will go on the charts, and continuing to build his brand and businesses.

“My biggest goal, though, is continuing to motivate people. That’s my goal for every show. I want people to leave a Jimmie Allen concert becoming better people than they were when they walked in, More inspired to love themselves, to make sacrifices, and take risks to achieve their goals,” he says.

Although he’s humble about his Grammy nomination, Allen wants to bring a win home in January. “Let’s bring this Grammy back to Nashville!” the entertainer says with a laugh.

To watch Allen compete in the Best New Artist category, as well as other Nashville acts vie for Grammy wins, tune in to the Grammy Awards on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022, broadcasting live on the CBS Television Network and streaming live and on demand on Paramount+ at 8 – 11:30 p.m. ET **MR**



Pictured (L-R): Leo Brooks (of Neon Union), Aaron Benward, Jimmie Allen, Andrew Millsaps (of Neon Union). Photo: Courtesy of JAB Entertainment

TOP SONGWRITER CHART

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
1	2	Ashley Gorley	New Truck You Should Probably Leave Sand In My Boots Beers On Me Give Heaven Some Hell Slow Down Summer Steal My Love Take My Name	Dylan Scott Chris Stapleton Morgan Wallen Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland HARDY Thomas Rhett Dan + Shay Parmalee
2	1	Taylor Swift	All Too Well I Bet You Think About Me Nothing New Red The Very First Night Better Man Traacherous	Taylor Swift Taylor Swift ft. Chris Stapleton Taylor Swift feat. Phoebe Bridgers Taylor Swift Taylor Swift Taylor Swift Taylor Swift
3	3	Jesse Frasure	Whiskey And Rain One Mississippi Slow Down Summer If I Was A Cowboy	Michael Ray Kane Brown Thomas Rhett Miranda Lambert
4	4	Michael Hardy	New Truck Sand In My Boots Beers On Me Come Back As A Country Boy Give Heaven Some Hell	Dylan Scott Morgan Wallen Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland Blake Shelton HARDY
5	5	Rhett Akins	Tequila Little Time To Be Loved By You Slow Down Summer	Jon Pardi Parker McCollum Thomas Rhett
6	6	Eric Church	Heart On Fire	Eric Church
7	7	Josh Thompson	Whiskey And Rain Come Back As A Country Boy	Michael Ray Blake Shelton
8	9	Matt Rogers	Freedom Was A Highway 'Til You Can't	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley Cody Johnson
9	8	Jonathan Singleton	Cold as You Same Boat	Luke Combs Zac Brown Band
10	10	Shane McAnally	Half Of My Hometown 23 Never Wanted To Be That Girl AA	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Sam Hunt Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde Walker Hayes
11	13	Hunter Phelps	Best Thing Since Backroads New Truck Thinking 'Bout You Give Heaven Some Hell	Jake Owen Dylan Scott Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter HARDY
12	14	Josh Osborne	Sand In My Boots 23	Morgan Wallen Sam Hunt
13	15	Josh Jenkins	Fancy Like Buy Dirt	Walker Hayes Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
14	17	Martin Johnson	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
15	18	Elle King	Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)	Elle King and Miranda Lambert
16	21	Parker McCollum	To Be Loved By You	Parker McCollum
17	29	Luke Laird	Tequila Little Time AA	Jon Pardi Walker Hayes
18	16	Luke Combs	Cold as You Doin' This	Luke Combs Luke Combs
19	22	Andy Albert	Thinking 'Bout You Steal My Love	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter Dan + Shay
20	19	Ben Simonetti	Same Boat	Zac Brown Band

This Week	Last Week	Songwriter's Name	Song(s)	Artist
21	20	Zac Brown	Same Boat	Zac Brown Band
22	23	Chris Stapleton	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
23	24	Chris DuBois	You Should Probably Leave	Chris Stapleton
24	25	Kat Higgins	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
25	26	Adam James	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
26	27	Brett James	Knowing You	Kenny Chesney
27	28	Ben Stennis	'Til You Can't	Cody Johnson
28	31	Jon Pardi	Tequila Little Time	Jon Pardi
29	54	Walker Hayes	Fancy Like U Gurl AA	Walker Hayes Walker Hayes Walker Hayes
30	34	Jimmie Allen	Freedom Was A Highway	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley
31	35	Ash Bowers	Freedom Was A Highway	Jimmie Allen & Brad Paisley
32	33	Liz Rose	All Too Well	Taylor Swift
33	41	Will Weatherly	Thinking 'Bout You	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
34	42	Dustin Lynch	Thinking 'Bout You	Dustin Lynch feat. MacKenzie Porter
35	53	Ben Johnson	Best Thing Since Backroads New Truck Give Heaven Some Hell Take My Name	Jake Owen Dylan Scott HARDY Parmalee
36	37	Kurt Allison	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
37	38	Tully Kennedy	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
38	39	Lydia Vaughan	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
39	40	John Morgan	If I Didn't Love You	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood
40	49	Emily Kroll	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
41	50	Sarah Jones	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
42	51	Priscilla Block	Just About Over You	Priscilla Block
43	43	Randy Montana	Cold as You	Luke Combs
44	44	S. Minor	Cold as You	Luke Combs
45	58	Nicolle Galyon	Pick Out A Christmas Tree Half Of My Hometown	Dan + Shay Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney
46	48	Ross Copperman	Half Of My Hometown Beers On Me	Kelsea Ballerini feat. Kenny Chesney Dierks Bentley, Hardy & Breland
47	45	Jordan Davis	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
48	46	Jacob Davis	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
49	47	Matt Jenkins	Buy Dirt	Jordan Davis feat. Luke Bryan
50	32	Lori McKenna	I Bet You Think About Me	Taylor Swift ft. Chris Stapleton
51	11	J. Flowers	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
52	12	Brinley Addington	Chasing After You	Ryan Hurd with Maren Morris
53	30	Ernest Keith Smith	Fill Them Boots One Mississippi	Chris Lane Kane Brown
54	36	Kane Brown	One Mississippi	Kane Brown
55	52	Levon Gray	One Mississippi	Kane Brown
56	61	Miranda Lambert	If I Was A Cowboy	Miranda Lambert
57	55	Charles Kelley	Home Sweet	Russell Dickerson
58	56	Casey Brown	Home Sweet	Russell Dickerson
59	57	Russell Dickerson	Home Sweet	Russell Dickerson
60	59	Carly Pearce	Never Wanted To Be That Girl	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde

CALENDAR

Single/Track Releases

January 11

Jake Gill/*If Jesus Was A Cowboy*/Maverick Promotions

January 14

Josh Mirenda/*Til The Neon's Gone*/Average Joes Entertainment

Album/EP Releases

January 14

Jacob Bryant/*Bar Stool Preacher*/Thirty Tigers/American Roots Records

Casting Crowns/*Healer*/Provident

January 21

Keb' Mo'/*Good To Be*/Rounder Records

Walker Hayes/*Country Stuff The Album*/Monument Records

Texas Hill/*Heaven Down Here*

January 28

Maddie & Tae/*Through the Madness, Vol. 1*/Mercury

Rod + Rose/*Rod + Rose*/Curb Records

Brent Cobb/*And Now, Let's Turn To Page...*/Ol' Buddy Records

Aaron Lewis/*Frayed At Both Ends*/Valory Music Co.

Adam Shoenfeld/*All the Birds Sing*/Lozen Entertainment Group/Copperline

Styles Haury/*One Life Ain't Enough*

Industry Events

January 14 – 17, 2022

30A Songwriters Festival

January 31, 2022

The 64th Annual Grammy Awards