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The CDX-TRACtion weekly newsletter is published on Wed. mornings by CDX, Inc. — Connecting Nashville's music industry and country radio for over 25 years. For more information call 615-292-0123 or email VP/GM Joe Kelly- [joe@cdxcd.com](mailto:joe@cdxcd.com)

## From The Mailbag



### Dear Readers;

We felt compelled to shine a light back on you this week. The feedback we get here at CDX is very important to us, as it helps us to steer our ship. Thank you to everyone who has written with words of praise, joy, encouragement, and criticism. Your words are our rudder.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for clearing things up in this week's article ("Straight...No Chaser"). I have to admit that I have had suspicions that perhaps CDX might be using the chart as a means to increase its distribution business, which would mean that your system would not recognize any song that you weren't paid to distribute.

I had been tempted to ask, but now I don't have to. Thanks for a good product and for your weekly charts, which give me an additional source to aid me in programming my music.

*Brad Allen, Program Director/West Virginia Radio Corporation of Elkins*

\*\*\*\*\*

"Finding the right balance of songs on a station depends on the market, the demo, and the overall sound. But I've found that you can get away with playing a 90s country tune into a pop country tune and then segue to a brand new artist that nobody has ever heard of but, as a PD/MD, I feel has a hit (recent examples for me are Brian Collins, Olivia Lane, Keith Walker, Rachelle Lynae, etc). The crazy thing is that it has ended up not only working but making sense as you listen to the station. It all fits."


*From a TRACtion monitored station*

\*\*\*\*\*

Still have my "Golden Ears" with 35 plus years' experience. Remember first hearing Brooks and Dunn, Alan Jackson, Toby Keith, and so many others and most of the time getting chill bumps at how good the songs were. When I lived in Huntsville, Alabama a couple of hours... (Continues on Page 10)

L W	T W	CDX TRAction Empowering Artist Careers	Artist / Song Title / Label	Spins	±	Stations	Adds	Wks On Chart
1	1	BRETT ELDREDGE/Drunk On Your Love/Atlantic (WMN)	**Fourth Week**	3338	-177	110	0	10
2	2	COLE SWINDELL/You Should Be Here/Warner Bros. Records (WMN)		3111	-235	105	0	10
3	3	OLD DOMINION/Snapback/RCA Nashville (SMN)		3068	-72	107	0	10
5	4	CHRIS YOUNG (WITH CASSADEE POPE)/Think of You/RCA Nashville (SMN)		3025	164	108	0	10
4	5	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE/Confession/Republic Nashville (BMLG)		2866	-21	106	0	10
9	6	DIERKS BENTLEY/Somewhere On A Beach/Capitol Records Nashville (UMGN)		2856	200	110	0	10
6	7	MAREN MORRIS/My Church/Columbia Nashville (SMN)		2835	-21	107	0	10
8	8	RASCAL FLATTS/I Like The Sound Of That/Big Machine Records (BMLG)		2770	45	106	0	10
7	9	CHRIS STAPLETON/Nobody To Blame/Mercury Records (UMGN)		2622	-152	110	0	10
10	10	TIM MCGRAW/Humble and Kind/Big Machine Records (BMLG)		2582	73	108	2	10
11	11	DUSTIN LYNCH/Mind Reader/Broken Bow Records (BBRMG)		2501	169	106	0	10
15	12	THOMAS RHETT/T-Shirt/Valory Music Co. (BMLG)		2312	152	106	1	8
14	13	CHASE BRYANT/Little Bit Of You/Red Bow Records (BBRMG)		2254	55	97	0	10
17	14	BLAKE SHELTON/Came Here To Forget/Warner Bros. Records (WMN)		2164	317	106	3	4
13	15	JON PARDI/Head Over Boots/Capitol Records Nashville (UMGN)		2124	-121	103	0	10
16	16	LEE BRICE/That Don't Sound Like You/Curb Records		1832	-34	101	0	10
21	17	FRANKIE BALLARD/It All Started With A Beer/Warner Bros. Records (WMN)		1722	134	102	2	10
18	18	BRANTLEY GILBERT/Stone Cold Sober/Valory Music Co. (BMLG)		1691	-52	101	0	10
20	19	JUSTIN MOORE/You Look Like I Need A Drink/Valory Music Co. (BMLG)		1679	90	102	0	10
22	20	CHRIS LANE/Fix/Big Loud Records		1601	36	95	0	10
25	21	ERIC CHURCH/Record Year/EMI Records Nashville (UMGN)		1589	130	100	3	7
23	22	DAVID NAIL/Night's On Fire/MCA Records (UMGN)		1440	-106	96	0	10
26	23	CANAAN SMITH/Hole In A Bottle/Mercury Records (UMGN)		1359	68	93	3	10
29	24	JAKE OWEN/American Country Love Song/RCA Nashville (SMN)		1325	262	93	15	4
28	25	KIP MOORE/Running For You/MCA Records (UMGN)		1133	53	79	0	10
27	26	ERIC PASLAY/High Class/EMI Records Nashville (UMGN)		1097	3	82	2	10
30	27	DAN + SHAY/From The Ground Up/Warner Bros. Records (WMN)		1090	99	83	7	6
31	28	BIG & RICH (FT. TIM MCGRAW)/Lovin' Lately/Big & Rich Records		898	-39	72	1	10
32	29	JENNIFER NETTLES/Unlove You/Big Machine Records (BMLG)		856	63	66	2	10
35	30	SAM HUNT/Make You Miss Me/MCA Records (UMGN)		826	131	59	7	5




L W	T W	 <b>CDX</b> TRAction Empowering Artist Careers	Artist / Song Title / Label	Spins	+ -	Stations	Adds	Wks On Chart
34	<b>31</b>	CAM/Mayday/Arista Nashville (SMN)	771	44	66	1	8	
33	<b>32</b>	CHRIS JANSON/Power Of Positive Drinkin'/Warner Bros. Records (WMN)	679	-56	60	1	10	
36	<b>33</b>	DRAKE WHITE/Livin' The Dream/Dot Records (BMLG)	666	42	61	6	10	
40	<b>34</b>	BILLY CURRINGTON/It Don't Hurt Like It Used To/Mercury Records (UMGN)	582	74	53	3	10	
39	<b>35</b>	LOCASH/I Know Somebody/Reviver Records	573	51	56	4	9	
37	<b>36</b>	WILLIAM MICHAEL MORGAN/I Met A Girl/Warner Bros. Records (WMN)	564	-48	51	0	10	
41	<b>37</b>	BROTHERS OSBORNE/21 Summer/EMI Records Nashville (UMGN)	477	-1	50	5	5	
42	<b>38</b>	TRACE ADKINS/Jesus and Jones/Wheelhouse (BBRMG)	461	11	51	3	10	
46	<b>39</b>	KELSEA BALLERINI/Peter Pan/Black River Entertainment	432	123	40	13	3	
43	<b>40</b>	KANE BROWN/Used To Love You Sober/RCA Nashville (SMN)	404	-24	42	4	6	
44	<b>41</b>	LAUREN ALAINA/Next Boyfriend/Mercury Records (UMGN)	331	-37	31	1	10	
45	<b>42</b>	JORDAN RAGER (WITH JASON ALDEAN)/Southern Boy/Broken Bow Records (BBRMG)	329	-21	34	2	8	
48	<b>43</b>	BRANDY CLARK/Girl Next Door/Warner Bros. Records (WMN)	229	24	23	1	10	
49	<b>44</b>	LOVE AND THEFT/Whiskey On My Breath/Curb Records	225	21	24	3	9	
47	<b>45</b>	OLIVIA LANE/Make My Own Sunshine/Big Spark Music Group	220	-12	26	0	9	
50	<b>46</b>	A THOUSAND HORSES/Southernality/Republic Nashville (BMLG)	188	-2	18	0	5	
55	<b>47</b>	BRIAN COLLINS/Healing Highway/Blue Light Entertainment LLC	159	13	19	4	4	
54	<b>48</b>	JASON PRITCHETT (FT. BILLY DEAN)/Already A Dead Man/BDMG	157	-3	13	0	5	
52	<b>49</b>	HIGH VALLEY/Make You Mine/Atlantic (WMN)	156	-16	17	3	6	
62	<b>50</b>	CLARE DUNN/Tuxedo/MCA Records (UMGN)	155	40	14	2	6	
51	<b>51</b>	VINCE GILL (FT. LITTLE BIG TOWN)/Take Me Down/MCA Records (UMGN)	152	-25	17	1	7	
53	<b>52</b>	PRESLEY & TAYLOR/While You Were Gone/SMG Records Nashville	142	-26	15	1	8	
57	<b>53</b>	STICKERS, THE/Countrified/Wodarek Music	138	6	17	1	10	
60	<b>54</b>	SPENCER'S OWN/Livin' In The Moment/Electric House	128	11	15	1	6	
59	<b>55</b>	PETE SCOBELL/Walkin' A Wire/FrogBonz Entertainment	121	-4	12	2	5	
58	<b>56</b>	SOUTHERN HALO/Little White Dress/Southern Halo Records	120	-12	12	1	9	
61	<b>57</b>	DAVE AND WHITNEY/Alibi/Chelsea Creek Entertainment	114	-2	11	0	10	
56	<b>58</b>	SARABETH/Runnin' Outta Lipstick/Circle S Records	109	-29	15	0	10	
66	<b>59</b>	JANA KRAMER/Said No One Ever/Elektra Nashville (WMN)	104	12	14	5	2	
75	<b>60</b>	BROSEPH E. LEE/Right Where She Wants Me/Broseph E. Lee Music	103	23	12	0	10	



**CAM MAYDAY**

**CDX 629  
TRACK #2**



L W	T W	 Artist / Song Title / Label	Spins	+ -	Stations	Adds	Wks On Chart
73	<b>61</b>	CHRIS CHITSEY/Just Don't Know It Yet/Premier Nashville Records	98	16	13	0	10
69	<b>62</b>	DIANA UPTON-HILL/Southern Gentlemen/Third Floor Records	98	13	12	1	2
72	<b>63</b>	BRETT YOUNG/Sleep Without You/Republic Nashville (BMLG)	98	15	11	4	3
63	<b>64</b>	LINDSAY ELL/By The Way/Stoney Creek Records (BBRMG)	97	-16	12	0	9
65	<b>65</b>	CALLIE TWISSELMAN/Hung Me On The Line/Sugar Cube Records	97	1	10	0	8
67	<b>66</b>	DREW BALDRIDGE/Dance With Ya/Cold River	95	6	11	2	10
74	<b>67</b>	ROBBY JOHNSON/Hate Me Tonight/Contrast Music Records Nashville	95	14	10	0	10
64	<b>68</b>	CHASE RICE/Whisper/Columbia Nashville (SMN)	93	-13	10	1	4
--	<b>69</b>	SHANE OWENS/Where I'm Comin' From/AmeriMonte Records	83	11	5	0	6
68	<b>70</b>	ERIC CHESSER/I Can't Read Your Mind/BIG BIG Records Nashville	80	-9	9	1	4
70	<b>71</b>	RACHELE LYNNAE/Quicksand/Momentum Label Group	80	-4	9	0	10
80	<b>72</b>	RANDY ROGERS BAND, THE/Neon Blues/Thirty Tigers	73	9	10	0	6
78	<b>73</b>	BROOKE EDEN/Daddy's Money/Red Bow Records (BBRMG)	71	6	7	1	2
71	<b>74</b>	TUCKER BEATHARD/Rock On/Dot Records (BMLG)	70	-14	8	1	2
--	<b>75</b>	AARON WATSON/Bluebonnets/Thirty Tigers	70	4	5	2	1
--	<b>76</b>	TONY JACKSON/Drink By Drink/DDS Entertainment	66	-4	8	0	1
79	<b>77</b>	MACY MARTIN/Baby What Ya Doing/Go Time Records	65	1	10	0	4
--	<b>78</b>	TARA THOMPSON/Someone To Take Your Place/Valory Music Co. (BMLG)	63	22	8	1	4
77	<b>79</b>	CAINS, THE/Knock Knock/GMV Nashville	60	-7	8	0	3
--	<b>80</b>	JAKE WORTHINGTON/Just Keep Falling In Love/W3 Music, LLC	59	4	8	0	3

TRAcTion only recognizes detections on songs that have been "fingerprinted." We do our best to obtain and fingerprint all new releases; songs serviced through CDX are encoded automatically. A song .wav file and information can also be sent to [chart-editor@cdxnashville.com](mailto:chart-editor@cdxnashville.com).

Number 1	=	
Most Added	=	
Spin Gainer	=	

## TRAcTion Monitored Stations

Albany, OR	KRKT-FM	Frankfort, KY	WFKY-FM	Luckey, OH	WPFX-FM	Selinsgrove, PA	WWBE-FM
Albertville, AL	WQSB-FM	Franklin, IN	WYGB-FM	Mankato, MN	KYSM-FM	Shawano, WI	WJMQ-FM
Alexandria, LA	KRRV-FM	<b>Fredericksburg, VA</b>	<b>WGRX-FM</b>	Marion, VA	WMEV-FM	Sparta, WI	WCOW-FM
Altoona, WI	WAXX-FM	Geneva, OH	WKY-FM	Marshalltown, IA	KXIA-FM	Spokane, WA	KXLY-FM
Ardmore, OK	KKAJ-FM	Grand Forks, ND	KYCK-FM	Mason City, IA	KIAI-FM	St. Cloud, MN	KZPK-FM
Baxley, GA	WBYZ-FM	Grand Island, NE	KRGI-FM	Mattoon, IL	WMCI-FM	St. Joseph, MO	KSJQ-FM
Big Stone Gap, VA	WAXM-FM	Greenville, MS	WDMS-FM	Miami, AZ	KQSS-FM	State College, PA	WFGE-FM
Bowling Green, KY	WBVR-FM	Hardinsburg, KY	WXBC-FM	Moncks Corner, SC	WCKN-FM	Superior, NE	KRFS-FM
Bowling Green, KY	WGGC-FM	Harrison, AR	KHBZ-FM	Morgantown, WV	WKKW-FM	<b>Syracuse, NY</b>	<b>WOLF-FM</b>
Cadiz, KY	WKDZ-FM	Hazard, KY	WSGS-FM	Mount Hope, WV	WTNJ-FM	Tulare, CA	KJUG-FM
Cape Girardeau, MO	KEZS-FM	Hoisington, KS	KHOK-FM	Natchez, MS	WQNZ-FM	Tupelo, MS	WWMS-FM
Cartersville, IL	WOOZ-FM	Honolulu, HI	KHCM-FM	New Philadelphia, OH	WTUZ-FM	Union City, TN	KYTN-FM
Charleston, WV	WKWS-FM	Hot Springs, AR	KQUS-FM	Normal, IL	WIBL-FM	Waltham, MA	WKLB-FM
<u>Cheboygan, MI</u>	<u>WMKC-FM</u>	Hugo, OK	KITX-FM	<b>Ocala, FL</b>	<b>WTRS-FM</b>	Warrenton, MO	KFAV-FM
Clinton, MO	KDKD-FM	Huntingdon, TN	WEIO-FM	Odessa, TX	KMRK-FM	Weatherford, OK	KWEY-FM
Connorsville, IN	WIFE-FM	Huntington, WV	WDGG-FM	Ontonagon, MI	WUPY-FM	West Bend, WI	WMBZ-FM
Cottonwood, AZ	KVRD-FM	Hyannis, MA	WKPE-FM	Oskaloosa, IA	KBOE-FM	West Plains, MO	KKDY-FM
Crossville, TN	WOWF-FM	Idaho Falls, ID	KTHK-FM	Owensboro, KY	WBKR-FM	Worthington, MN	KUSQ-FM
Cumberland, MD	WVMD-FM	Iron Mountain, MI	WJNR-FM	Oxford, AL	WHMA-FM	Yuma, AZ	KTTI-FM
Danville, VA	WAKG-FM	Jackson, WY	KJAX-FM	Palestine, TX	KYYK-FM		
Dayton, OH	WHKO-FM	Jamestown, ND	KYNU-FM	Pikeville, KY	WDHR-FM		
Decatur, IL	WDZQ-FM	Janesville, WI	WJVL-FM	Pittsburg, KS	KKOW-FM		
Destin, FL	WHWY-FM	Jonesboro, AR	KDXY-FM	Platteville, WI	WGLR-FM		
Dickson, TN	WDKN-AM	Lamar, CO	KVAY-FM	Pulaski, TN	WKSJ-FM		
Douglas, GA	WOKA-FM	<u>Laredo, TX</u>	<u>KRRG-FM</u>	Ruston, LA	KXKZ-FM		
<b>Elizabethtown, KY</b>	<b>WLVK-FM</b>	Lawrence, KS	KMXN-FM	Salina, KS	KYEZ-FM		
Elkins, WV	WDNE-FM	Lexington, NE	KRVN-FM	Salisbury, MD	WKTT-FM		
Erie, PA	WTWF-FM	Liberty, NY	WDNB-FM	<b>San Angelo, TX</b>	<b>KGKL-FM</b>		
Florence, AL	WXFL-FM	Linden, AL	WINL-FM	<u>Sandpoint, ID</u>	<u>KICR-FM</u>		
Flagstaff, AZ	KSED-FM	London, KY	WKFC-FM	Scottsbluff, NE	KNEB-FM		
Frankfort, KY	WVKY-FM	Longview, TX	KYKX-FM	Searcy, AR	KCNV-FM		

Strikethrough = Removed    Bold = Newly Added    Underlined = Frozen this Week

## Most Added

## Adds

JAKE OWEN/American Country Love Song/ RCA Nashville (SMN)	15
KELSEA BALLERINI/Peter Pan/ Black River Entertainment	13
DAN + SHAY/From The Ground Up/ Warner Bros. Records (WMN)	7
SAM HUNT/Make You Miss Me/ MCA Records (UMGN)	7
DRAKE WHITE/Livin' The Dream/ Dot Records (BMLG)	6
BROTHERS OSBORNE/21 Summer/ EMI Records Nashville (UMGN)	5
JANA KRAMER/Said No One Ever/ Elektra Nashville (WMN)	5
LOCASH/I Know Somebody/ Reviver Records	4
KANE BROWN/Used To Love You Sober/ RCA Nashville (SMN)	4
BRIAN COLLINS/Healing Highway/ Blue Light Entertainment LLC	4

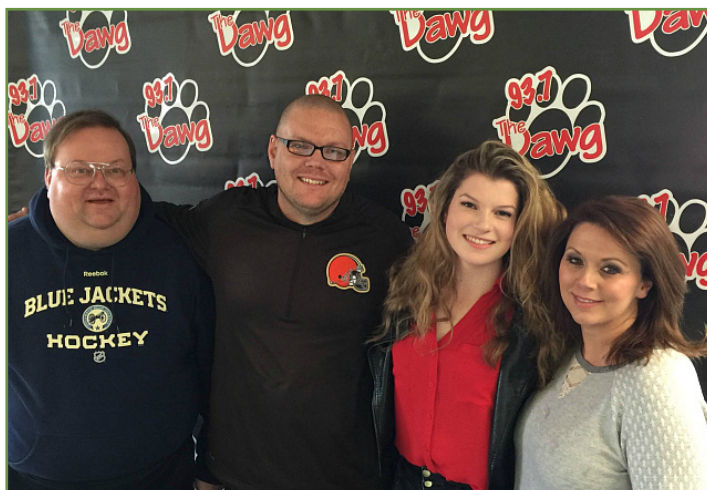


(L-R) Jessica Lynn, Becky Brenner, Glen Mitchell, SaraBeth and WXFL KIX96's Fletcher Brown enjoying the ACM activities.

## Greatest Spin Increase

## Increase

BLAKE SHELTON/Came Here To Forget/ Warner Bros. Records (WMN)	317
JAKE OWEN/American Country Love Song/ RCA Nashville (SMN)	262
DIERKS BENTLEY/Somewhere On A Beach/ Capitol Records Nashville (UMGN)	200
DUSTIN LYNCH/Mind Reader/ Broken Bow Records (BBRMG)	169
CHRIS YOUNG (WITH CASSADEE POPE)/Think of You/ RCA Nashville (SMN)	164
THOMAS RHETT/T-Shirt/Valory Music Co. (BMLG)	152
FRANKIE BALLARD/It All Started With A Beer/ Warner Bros. Records (WMN)	134
SAM HUNT/Make You Miss Me/ MCA Records (UMGN)	131
ERIC CHURCH/Record Year/ EMI Records Nashville (UMGN)	130
KELSEA BALLERINI/Peter Pan/ Black River Entertainment	123



Allie Louise at WDGG this morning. (L-R) Morning Newsman Billy C, Morning Host Nate Allen, Allie Louise and Morning Host Julie Reeves

LOVE  
AND  
THIEF

CDX 632 • TRACK #7

WHISKEY ON MY BREATH

NEW RADIO MIX EDIT

curb.com



# Currently On CDX

Volume 631

JAKE OWEN/American Country Love Song/RCA Nashville  
 BLAKE SHELTON/Came Here To Forget/Warner Music Nashville  
 LUKE BRYAN/Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day/  
 Capitol Records Nashville  
 KELSEA BALLERINI/Peter Pan/Black River Entertainment  
 ALAN JACKSON/The One You're Waiting On/ACR/EMI  
 AARON WATSON/Bluebonnets/Big Label Records/Thirty Tigers  
 JOHN ANDERSON/Magic Mama/Bayou Boys Music Group  
 JASON PRITCHETT featuring Billy Dean/Already A Dead Man/  
 BDMG  
 VINCE HATFIELD/American Oil From American Soil/  
 Blue Moon Records  
 GINA MILLER/Angel From Montgomery/Playback Records  
 JESSIE G/Drop A Line/Hook And Line Records  
 KEITH WALKER/Friends With Boats/Keith Walker Music  
 CASSIDY HUCKABAY/I Heard It Through The Grapevine/  
 Cassidy Huckabay Music  
 KYLIE MORGAN/Mayer's In The Mailbox/Zavitson Music Group  
 ALEXANDRA DEMETREE/You Still Think I'm Beautiful/  
 SSM Nashville

## CDX Volume 632-(building)

EASTON CORBIN/Are You With Me/Mercury  
 CARRIE UNDERWOOD/Church Bells/19/Arista Nashville  
 CHARLES KELLEY/Lonely Girl/Capitol Records Nashville  
 KENNY CHESNEY/Noise/Blue Chair Records/Columbia  
 MICHAEL RAY/Think A Little Less/Atlantic/WN Nashville  
 KEITH URBAN/Wasted Time/ Capitol Records Nashville/Hit Red Records  
 LOVE AND THEFT/Whiskey On My Breath/Curb  
 RAY SCOTT/High Road/DeciBel Nashville  
 JEFF BATES/That Thing We Do/Skydancer Entertainment  
 RESTLESS HEART/Wichita Lineman/Restless Heart  
 RACHAEL TURNER/Aftershock/Rustic Records  
 PARKER WILLINGHAM/All Over You/Apple Row Records  
 BENJY GAITHER/Get Enuff/The Mansion Entertainment  
 JON & ANGELA/Livin' On The Lake/Jon & Angela Music  
 ANTHONY K/Marry Me/AMG/Bungalo/Universal  
 WARD DAVIS/No Goin' Home/Hawkvill  
 SOUTHERN HALO/Rewind/Southern Halo Records  
 DONOVAN LEE/She Stays/Dungeon Records  
 HOMEGROWN BAND/Summer Song/Homegrown Entertainment  
 MAIDEN DIXIE/The Whiskey'll Miss Me/Navigator Records  
 REAGAN JOHNSON/There's Only One/37 Records

CDX is the ONLY resource offering digital and CD distribution of new Country music to all key radio programming decision makers, labels, publishing companies and music business execs. In addition to our proprietary InstaTrack download delivery system, mobile app and numerous new music digital blasts, we deliver a compilation CD to our entire database on the third Monday of each month. For more information please contact Joe Kelly ([joe@cdxcd.com](mailto:joe@cdxcd.com)) or Pam Lovelace ([pamela@cdxcd.com](mailto:pamela@cdxcd.com)) 615-292-0123



Smith & Wesley with Lynn Rutledge of WMEV

Bubbling Under	Position
SAMMY SADLER/No Place To Land/ S Records	81
JAMES ROBERT WEBB/How That Feels/ Bison Creek Records	82
MATT GARY/It's On You/ 17 Music Entertainment (in2tune)	83
RYAN BROSHEAR/Spin Me/ Painted Horse Records	84
DAVID RAY/Light It Up/Basis/ Star Farm	85
JAKE MCVEY/Ya'll Girls/ Purple Cow Records	86
FRANK ORTEGA/Tell Me/ GrassRoots and Villa One Records	87
MIKE SMITH/Little Bit Of Us/ 22 Records	88
SARAH DUNN BAND/Backwoods Party/ Audacity Records	89
MAKENNA & BROCK/Burnin' The Night Down/ SoundByte Records	90



## Volume 631 Reviews

### By Jen Swirsky

**CDX Nashville Volume 631** is on its way to country music radio stations everywhere, and this is a versatile collection of songs that will find airplay success. Among the artists on the disc are the reigning Entertainer of the Year; a two-time Number 1 female; the man with the longest running chart-topping streak in genre history; and a Texas country sensation.

#### Jake Owen - "American Country Love Song"

In a song about a typical American country romance, Jake Owen honors the little moments that lead to the big picture in this upbeat, radio-friendly, catchy tune, penned by greats Ross Copperman, Ashley Gorley, and Jaren Johnston and produced by Shane McAnally. Recognizing that the "love song" that makes up many country boys' and girls' stories is oftentimes similar, Owen celebrates the backwoods fairytale that shapes the romantic futures of teenagers and young adults across the nation.

#### Blake Shelton - "Came Here To Forget"

Blake Shelton fans have long awaited the first song from the chart-topper since his personal life became splashed across respected publications and less appreciated tabloids. Shelton's first single off his forthcoming album, "Came Here to Forget", will not disappoint fans -- in message or music. The track explains a relationship that was built on a mutual need to escape a past, placing two people in the same position in life in the same place in time, making it a natural progression to bond as one. The smooth groove is typically Shelton, but coupled now with honest, life-like lyrics, which, together, create a recipe that should serve him with his next Number 1

#### Luke Bryan - "Huntin', Fishin' And Lovin' Every Day"

What do you get when you cross Luke Bryan with the Peach Pickers (Dallas Davidson, Rhett Akins, and Ben Hayslip)? A bro-country song that radio and fans can't help but love. The track is about appreciating the simple things and being grateful for the life with which a country boy is blessed. Though not a complex message, it is an inspirational one, encouraging listeners to embrace the every day things they enjoy and thank their lucky stars for having the opportunities to experience them. Undoubtedly, Bryan's fans are going to be hunting for another hit with this one and will be fishing for programmers to give it as many spins as possible.

#### Kelsea Ballerini - "Peter Pan"

Black River Entertainment's pride and joy, Kelsea Ballerini, is back with her third radio single, this time slowing things down and relying on a more vulnerable offering to bring her her next round of success. Fresh on the heels of calling "dibs" on her second Number 1 hit, the fan-favorite ballad, "Peter Pan", makes its way to stations with the hopes that this track will, likewise, grow wings and fly up the charts. Revealing a less sassy Ballerini, the song shows the brilliant and witty songwriter's abilities to think outside the box and bring a new level of creativity to an occasionally static genre.

#### Alan Jackson - "The One You're Waiting On"

Class of 1989 member, Alan Jackson, is back with a brand new single that showcases his signature vocals and commitment to traditional country. "The One You're Waiting On" pays homage to the over twenty-five year career of Jackson, creating a sound that is reminiscent of yesteryear and refusing to conform to an evolving genre and its common topics. Posing questions about the certain man a woman is waiting on, Jackson ultimately shares that he would be happy to step in and relieve the object of his affection of her wait. Fans of Jackson who have awaited his return will feel like an old friend has made a comeback into their lives, and we will be interested to see how radio receives this timeless artist's latest offering.

#### Aaron Watson - "Bluebonnets"

In a touching and personal release, Texas country superstar Aaron Watson sings of the comings and goings of his state's flower, the bluebonnet, in an ode to his daughter whom he lost shortly after her birth. Encouraging listeners to never take for granted what they have because it can be gone in an instant, Watson uses his stellar vocals to convince himself and others to "pack light and love heavy" while they are here on Earth. Though the transition from Texas to Nashville is not always an easy road, if anybody can hop horizontally from chart top to chart top, it is the man from Amarillo.

#### John Anderson - "Magic Mama"

Putting his swingin' style on the Merle Haggard-penned song that "the Hag" brought directly to John Anderson from a hospital room, Anderson translated the breezy tune exactly how Haggard had imagined. A laid-back delivery with quick-fingered piano keys and a variety of strings, "Magic Mama" sounds like it could go straight from 2016 to throwback country radio.

#### Jason Pritchett (FT. Billy Dean) - "Already A Dead Man"

In a true country western song, Jason Pritchett and Billy Dean revisit the outlaws in the days of yore, only transporting to a modern sound by virtue of a roaring electric guitar in the bridge of the collaboration. The voices of Pritchett and Dean fit together as naturally as cops and robbers, making this song one that will likely perk up the ears of radio programmers.

#### Vince Hatfield - "American Oil From American Soil"

The Vince Hatfield "American Oil From American Soil" is a classic sounding country tune that throws it back to George Strait in his "One Night At A Time" era. The track boasts deep, steady vocals and an impressive woodwind instrumental section. Those who appreciate a relaxing, easy listening song will flock toward Hatfield's patriotic piece.

#### Gina Miller - "Angel From Montgomery"

Gina Miller lends her folksy vocals to the 1971 John Prine "Angel From Montgomery" in hopes of seeing the track gain its wings and take flight again after several interpretations of it have been cut. With a vibe akin to that of Patty Griffin's, Miller croons the sad and somewhat hopeful lyrics of being taken away to something more after living a difficult life.

### **Jessie G - "Drop A Line"**

With powerful vocals, Jessie G makes a strong introduction to country music radio in her song "Drop A Line". The track, produced by Gretchen Wilson, cleverly compares sealing the deal in a relationship to casting a line and reeling in a keeper. With just the right combination of sass and spirit, Jessie G explosively enters the scene with the necessary confidence of a new female in a class dominated by men.

### **Keith Walker - "Friends With Boats"**

A party song that comes at the topic from a different angle, Keith Walker's "Friends With Boats" celebrates the good times and friendships that develop out on the water. Lucky to experience a day of fun in the sun, Walker takes the occasion to revel in his enjoyment over the fact that he made out like a bandit when it came to the "friends and their belongings" department. With summer fast approaching, Walker's "Friends With Boats" is hitting waves and making waves at a perfectly opportune time to set sail.

### **Cassidy Huckabay - "I Heard It Through the Grapevine"**

Putting a modern-day spin on the 1968 Marvin Gaye classic, "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," Cassidy Huckabay takes the Motown hit from Detroit to Nashville. The result is Huckabay introducing the song to a new generation that post-dates Gaye, Gladys Knight, and the California Raisins.

### **Kylie Morgan - "Mayer's In the Mailbox"**

Using her unique bluesy vocals, Kylie Morgan sings of a breakup and returning things to their resting places from before she was able to claim them as her own for a sliver of time. Once those items are left behind, Morgan has no choice but to drive away without looking back, leaving the relationship in the dust, along with a John Mayer album in the mailbox. Though the track isn't mainstream country, it possesses an incredibly special sound of which music lovers should not be deprived. Morgan is deserving of attention and accolades for this beautiful work of art.

### **Alexandra Demetree - "You Still Think I'm Beautiful"**

A poppy tune with crossover potential, Alexandra Demetree's "You Still Think I'm Beautiful" is a fun proclamation that, despite flaws and faults, you can still be loved by the right person. The upbeat, positive song, written by Phil Barton, Suzie McNeil, and Victoria Shaw, is a windows down, foot on the gas, dance in the driver's seat jam that will become a fast favorite of those who take a chance on the Demetree track.



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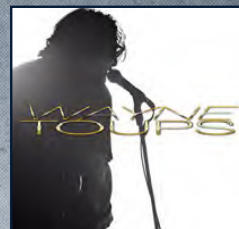


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(Continued from page 1) ...from my home here in Oxford, Alabama I would listen to all the latest albums when they first came out and put all my picks on a cd that we would listen to on the way to see the grandparents. My boys would always know brand new songs word for word the first day they were added to the radio station because they had already heard them. When I was in Birmingham, Alabama I remember Little Big Town bringing the tour bus in to sing their first album for me. Again chill bumps but this time because of the harmony. I told them I loved them but just did not hear any big hits on the CD. This industry is all about the songs of course being delivered by great artists. Glad their later albums had some better songs so we can continue to hear that great harmony. I must admit though I did not like "Achy Breaky Heart" and was late on it, and I am not a fan at all of the hip hop influence in much of today's country. Seems we have forgotten that the format has traditionally appealed to the 25-54 female more than the 12 to 24 male. Don't take that wrong, I totally love the different sounds country has given us through the years and would not want to go back to the country of the 60s or 70s, however I am concerned. I remember feeling concerned in the 90s after Alan, Garth, and the likes took country to the mountain top and all of a sudden every record label felt they had to put out a dance mix of every song and many programmers felt they needed to play every one of those. The format did a nose dive. I am concerned we are headed in that direction again especially with so few "Golden Ears" being used instead of big box radio groups telling stations what to play. Through the years I have often wondered and made this statement to record company friends. Why is it that lots of old radio pros have been hired to pitch songs to radio programmers when they are probably better equipped for A&R? Many have some of the best "Golden Ears" in the business. Anyway, I guess I ramble because of the 35 plus years, but I do still use my "Golden Ears" and would be happy to lend them to you any time you need them.

*Tex Carter, WHMA FM Anniston/Oxford Alabama*

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Also, there needs to be a light shone on a four week #1 record for Brett Eldredge and everyone at Atlantic (WMN). What a huge accomplishment! Lastly, it is worth highlighting several of the new acts in the Top-50 including Olivia Lane, Brian Collins, and Jason Pritchett.

Care to weigh in? [joe@cdxcd.com](mailto:joe@cdxcd.com)

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