

Quarantine AND CHILL

Labels Q Us In On What To Expect

MUSIC PREVIEW

19th & Grand

Tenille Arts continues her chart momentum with “Somebody Like That,” with the label touting good research stories from radio partners. The single comes from her debut album, *Love, Heartbreak, & Everything In Between*. **Zac Brown Band**’s “The Man Who Loves You The Most” also remains a priority. “The father/daughter anthem brings a familiar superstar voice to a heartfelt song that’s sure to resonate with listeners,” notes VP/Promo **Jim Malito**.

Arista

The Arista team is excited about the introduction of **Robert Counts** and his debut single, “What Do I Know.” Counts was the first-ever Sony/Nashville artist to participate in a virtual promo tour, which was well-received according to VP/Promo **Josh Easler**, who adds “If you have not yet seen it, please let us know. We will get it to you ASAP.” Speaking of crazy times, the enthusiastic response to **Brad Paisley**’s “No I In Beer” is matched only by the number of Zooms he’s crashed. **Matt Stell** comes off his debut No. 1, “Prayed For You,” with “Everywhere But On.” Easler reports Stell has recorded new music this year and to “look for more music from [him] this fall.”



Arista’s Robert Counts

Average Joes

The label welcomed **Josh Mirenda** and **Jeremy McComb** to its roster with plans to release singles this fall. Also on tap is the introduction of **Camo Brian** and **Shelbykay**, who will have debut singles in the fourth quarter, as well. “We’ve been active during quarantine, signing and developing new artists and creating great music that we’re proud to showcase in the fourth quarter,” notes Sr. Dir./Business Development & Marketing **Nathan Thompson**. He adds to expect the first single from **Eddie Montgomery**’s debut solo project in early fall, and a follow-up to **Sam Grow**’s “Song About You” is on the way.

Big Label

The team will release “Silverado Saturday Night,” a new **Aaron Watson** single, in the fall. What Big Label promo chief **Tony Morreale** calls “an up-tempo country romp” was co-written by Watson, Monty Criswell and Phil O’Donnell. It’s the second new song released in the lead up to a full-length 2021 album.

Big Loud

Hardy’s debut solo album, *A Rock*, was released Sept. 4, and with “One Beer” accumulating more than 136 million streams to date and climbing up the chart, a follow-up radio single is anticipated before the end of the year. Coming off of his third No. 1, “Chasin’ You,” **Morgan Wallen** has been releasing new music throughout the year with even more expected. VP/Promo **Stacy Blythe** teases a “new project full of surprises” from newly signed **Hailey Whitters** and confirms **MacKenzie Porter**’s “These Days” is a “huge priority” for the label as she notches her third straight No. 1 in Canada (breaking Shania Twain’s record in the process). Blythe wraps, “In just five years, we’ve built a rock star roster that continuously one-ups itself.”

Big Machine

“The Machine is running hot,” warns SVP/Promotion & Digital **Kris Lamb**, citing **Tim McGraw**’s first solo studio album in five years, *Here On Earth*, and first new music since returning to the label (revealed at CRS), “I Called Mama.” Coming off the biggest chart

debut of their career with “How They Remember You,” **Rascal Flatts**’ new EP is currently available, and they’ll release *Twenty Years Of Rascal Flatts: The Greatest Hits* in October. **Carly Pearce**, having just peaked her platinum single “I Hope You’re Happy Now” at No. 1, is currently in the studio with Shane McAnally and set to release new music this fall. As **Midland**’s “Cheatin’ Songs” continues its upward trajectory, the trio’s 17-track live album, *Live From The Palomino*, comes out Oct. 30. **Ray Wylie Hubbard** released his debut project with the label, *Co-Starring*, featuring artists including Ronnie Dunn, Pam Tillis, Ringo Starr, Joe Walsh, The Cadillac Three and Ashley McBryde; and one of the newest additions to the roster, **Noah Schnacky**, recently put out his self-titled debut EP featuring seven tracks, including “Meet The Man” and “Comeback.”



Broken Bow’s Lainey Wilson

Black River

Touting a “very exciting fourth quarter ahead,” SVP/Promotion **Mike Wilson** references **Kelsea Ballerini**’s momentum with “Hole In The Bottle,” plus a new project scheduled for this fall that will “surprise many in the best possible way.” New act **Pryor & Lee**’s debut single, “Yallsome,” is well on its way to becoming a party anthem after **Pryor Baird** and **Kaleb Lee** first met in 2018 when they were forced to be roommates on season 14 of NBC’s *The Voice*. On their becoming a duo, Wilson says “Their chemistry is obvious, and their energy is powerful. These guys really bring it.”

BMLG Records

Hot on the heels of **Florida Georgia Line**’s 17th No. 1, “I Love My Country,” the duo releases “Long Live” from their forthcoming project, impacting everywhere now. **Lady A**’s “Champagne Night” solidifies its chart and playlist takeover, while **Brett Young**’s new single “Lady” — a love letter to his daughter, Presley, about his wife, Taylor — is cranking up and “over-indexing in all key metrics across the board,” boasts SVP/Promo **Matthew Hargis**. **Danielle Bradbery**’s latest offering, “Never Have I Ever,” is advancing toward streaming and airplay domination, and ACM New Male Artist of the Year **Riley Green** just released EP *If It Wasn’t For Trucks*. The title track will impact Country radio playlists Oct. 12.

Broken Bow

Jason Aldean continues to release songs “taking him to the next level,” says VP/Promo **Lee Adams** in reference to *9’s* “Got What I Got” chart ascension. **Dustin Lynch**’s “Momma’s House” is on track to be his ninth hit, which VP/Promo **Shelley Hargis Gaines** attributes to his “consistency in delivering records that react big with the audience with the research to prove it.” **Chase Rice** continues to release new music with *The Album Part III*, showcasing his songwriting abilities. **Tyler Farr**’s new release, “Soundtrack To A Small Town Sundown,” is already getting attention at radio, following a strong kick off by SiriusXM, while **Lainey Wilson**’s vocals and writing shine in “Things A Man Oughta Know.”

Capitol

Just last month, **Luke Bryan**’s *Born Here Live Here Die Here* was released on the heels of his multi-week No. 1, “One Margarita,” and a new single announcement is already in the works. Speaking of new singles, expect one from **Keith Urban** later this month in addition to his new album, *The Speed Of Now, Part 1*, out Sept. 18. Christmas comes early with **Carrie Underwood**’s first-ever holiday album, *My Gift*, featuring traditional favorites and several originals Sept. 25. August was a busy month for the label’s **Jon Pardi**, whose eight-track cover project, *Rancho Fiesta Sessions*, dropped while his current single and second release from *Heartache Medication*, “Ain’t Always The Cowboy,” continued to gain momentum. “Wine, Beer, Whiskey,” **Little Big Town**’s current single, has VP **Bobby Young** noting it is posting impressive track sales and streams. Released in early August, **Darius Rucker**’s “Beers And Sunshine” is amassing airplay and consumption growth, Young notes. Also released in August was **Mickey Guyton**’s “Heaven Down Here,” a timely song about healing and moving forward co-penned by Guyton alongside Gordie Sampson, Josh Kear and Hillary Lindsey. **Caylee Hammack** remains busy with the release of “Just Friends,” her second single from her debut Captiol album, *If It Wasn’t For You*, impacting radio Sept. 21.

Columbia

The imprint’s storyline of breaking new acts – **Maren Morris**, **Luke Combs**, **Mitchell Tenpenny**, **Tenille Townes** – is now aimed at **Jameson Rodgers**, whose debut single, “Some Girls,” can be found at the top of the charts alongside friend and former tour mate, Combs, who is adding to his hit catalog with “Lovin’ On You.” Combs’ year has been filled with several career accolades, including being the first artist to have their first two studio albums spend 25 weeks or more at No. 1 on Billboard Top Country Albums chart. Morris has had a historic run with “The Bones,” finding multi-genre peaks and praise. Her current single, “To Hell & Back,” “is a positive message from an instantly recognizable voice, and few artists have had a brighter spotlight than Maren has in the past couple of years” says SVP **Shane Allen**. Tenpenny’s newly released single “Broken Up” is currently climbing the charts, while Townes recently released her debut album *The Lemonade Stand*. The team is also excited to share someone new with a voice they’re excited about, so be on the lookout for tunes from **Kameron Marlowe** soon.

Curb

“For the sake of all of us, I hope we never see a year like this ever again,” begins VP/Promo **RJ Meacham**. “And in spite of endlessly-challenging circumstances, I could not be prouder of my promo team, all of my other Curb teammates and our artists, on behalf of all of our accomplishments.” Meacham promises to ride their wave of summer success into and through Q4, remaining “laser-focused” on **Lee Brice**’s “One of Them Girls,” **Dylan Scott**’s “Nobody,” **Mo Pitney**’s “Ain’t Bad For A Good Ol’ Boy” and a new single coming soon from **Filmore**. Addressing his “friends in radio land,” Meacham emphasizes, “We stand by and with you as you continue to make the most of these crazy times.”

EMI Nashville

Jon Langston delivered his first Top 30 single in 2020. He’s writing and recording every day, reports VP/Promo **Jimmy Rector**, who adds, “We look forward to bringing you more new music from this talented, energetic performer and artist.”

The Chief delivered “Stick That In Your Country Song,” which Rector cites as one of the first times his show energy has been captured in a recording. “Our format

is the people’s music, and **Eric Church** is the people’s artist,” proclaims Rector. Lead single “All Night” from **Brothers Osborne**’s new album *Skeletons* (out Oct. 9) is one of the duo’s fastest rising singles to date. The multiple CMA/ACM Duo Of The Year winners earn Rector’s praise as “the future of our format.” *This Is Us* actress **Chrissy Metz** has returned to her first love – music – with debut single “Talking To God.” The promo team views its solid lyrics, vocal delivery and name known to almost all as a sure bet. **Gary Allan**’s “Waste of a Whiskey Drink” is just getting started, and Rector urges radio to keep their eyes open for **Kylie Morgan**, who several in radio had an opportunity to meet in-person, witnessing the talent and energy, before the pandemic. He points out, “We have something special about to take flight here.”

Forge Entertainment

Lucas Hoge has new music with a new producer coming in Q4. The two have been collaborating over the summer, and CEO **Laura Lynn** assures “the new music is what Lucas has been striving for.” In addition to creating in the studio, Hoge’s pre-pandemic filmed television series, *Hoge Wild*, is airing Monday nights at 6pm CT on Sportsman Channel. The show features him crisscrossing the globe — hunting, fishing, scuba diving and performing — and original music throughout each episode. The show will also air on Sportsman Canada in Q1 and Q2 of 2021, and season two is being filmed now. The flagship artist was recently ranked in the Top 10 and 20 by Pollstar’s Weekly Livestream Chart for multiple weeks with his *Sunday Sessions*. “Lucas keeps doing what he does best with partnerships as they continue to grow for him and his TV show with Salt Life, GoPro, Kroger, Smirnoff, GSM Outdoors, Walkers and others to be announced,” touts Lynn.

Foundry

The scoop from Pres. **Cole Johnstone** is **Shenandoah** will release their first album with all new original music in more than 20 years this fall ... the Buddy Cannon-produced *Every Road*. The project will feature collaborations with artists including Luke Bryan, Blake Shelton, Dierks Bentley, Brad Paisley, Zac Brown Band, Lady A, Carly Pearce, Cody Johnson and Ashley McBryde. Label mate **Austin Merrill** has been in the studio and is set to release his debut single, “All In,” to Country radio in Q4.

GrassRoots

Martina McBride returns to Country radio with the “relatable and powerful” single “Girls Like Me” from NBC’s songwriting competition series, *Songland*. Also on Managing Partner **Nancy Tunick**’s list is **Shane Owens**, who continues to bring traditional country music to the modern world with his latest offering, “Everybody Dies;” and country piano virtuoso **Eric Burgett** brings his personal wedding song to radio with new single “Sometimes Late At Night.” Nashville-based duo **Calamity Jane** send a message of perseverance laced with harmony and fiddle in their latest single, “The Mountain.” “Music is so important at this time to connect and uplift, and we are so excited about the music that we are releasing,” Tunick says. “Each single brings the country listener a unique and distinctive voice and message.”

In2une/AWAL

Canaan Smith will continue his single “Colder than You” “as long as it takes,” resolves VP/Promo **Jamice Jennings**, who also hopes to have a new single from **RaeLynn** coming to Country radio in Q4 or Q1. Records’ **Chris Bandi** will solidier on with his current single, “Man Enough Now.” Also on Jennings’ list is a new **John King** single in Q4, if not in 2021.



RCA’s Niko Moon

MCA

Following the peak of “Hard to Forget” at No. 1, the next **Sam Hunt** single, “Breaking Up Was Easy In The 90s,” impacts in the fall. **Kip Moore** continues his chart climb with “She’s Mine,” and new artist **Parker McCollum** has cracked the Top 20 with his debut MCA release, “Pretty Heart.” The lead single from **Jordan Davis**’ self-titled EP, “Almost Maybes,” is impacting radio now with consumption stories on pace with his first three chart-topping, RIAA certified singles. Finally, the MCA team is thrilled to be working “Betty” by **Taylor Swift** to Country radio.

MCC|Curb

One of two flagship artists for the new imprint, **Jackson Michelson**, had two songs on the chart this year: “Stay Over” and “One Day,” a track about the importance of time and family. His digital numbers are up to 13.1 million on-demand streaming, according to the label. **Tim Dugger** has a new single, “You’re Gonna Love Me,” that is as “true and raw as country can get,” if you ask Label Head **Craig Powers**. You might have seen Dugger’s name and picture on the #98 Curb NASCAR racing truck this year, too. **American Young** — led by singer/songwriter/producer/TV and social media star **Jon Stone** and **Kristy Osmunson** — is on deck with music, adding to the new and traditional country expected from the all-new MCC|Curb Records in 2021.

Mercury

Travis Denning topped the chart with his No. 1 “After A Few” in the summer of 2020 and follows that up with tempo on “Where That Beer’s Been.” **Lauren Alaina** dropped six brand new songs Sept. 4 on EP *Getting Over Him* as her current single of the same name continues to climb the charts. **Maddie and Tae** rang the bell in August with their second No. 1 single, “Die From A Broken Heart,” and are coming back in the fourth quarter with a fresh new cut from their recent studio release, *The Way It Feels*.

Monument

VP/Promo **Drew Bland** says 2020 “didn’t slow down our efforts to invest in our belief in radio with the addition of our in-house promotion team.” It also didn’t slow down their two current singles at radio: **Walker Hayes**’ “Trash My Heart” is “proof that audiences are loving the fun energy boost the song gives listeners,” and **Teddy Robb**’s “Heaven On Dirt” is “solidifying” his country and midwestern sound. Bland affirms Robb is “the artist to stake your claim now for a strong 2021 payoff.” Co-President **Shane McAnally** teases, “Keep your ears open for fresh new music from **Brandon Ratcliff**, **Alex Hall** and exciting collaborations from one of Nashville’s strongest country songwriters and voices, **Caitlyn Smith**.”

RCA

RCA will finish 2020 with a busy single release schedule, including plans to continue breaking **Niko Moon**. His debut EP is out now, featuring music it’s “impossible not to listen to” (as SVP **Dennis Reese** tells it) without having a “Good Time.” In 2019, **Ryan Hurd**’s “To A T” was played more than 2,000 times at a number of stations, and his new song, “Every Other Memory,” has been getting strong out of the box support from many major markets. Both Moon and Hurd are big Q4 growth priorities for the imprint. **Miranda Lambert** follows up No. 1 “Bluebird” with “Settling Down,” impacting Sept. 21. New and upcoming singles to mark in your calendar: **Old Dominion**’s “Never Be Sorry” (Aug. 31), **Kane Brown**’s “Worship You” (Nov. 2) and **Chris Young** featuring Brown on “Famous Friends” (Dec. 14).

Rebel Engine

Stephanie Quayle’s single, “Whatcha Drinkin’ Bout,” passes the independent artist’s previous chart peak positions while building more markets than ever before.



EMI Nashville’s
Chrissy Metz

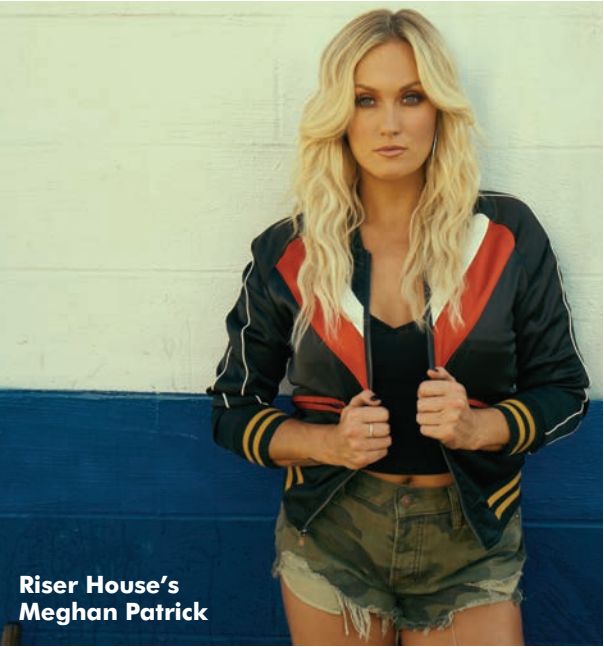
“These unprecedented times have brought out creativity and innovation from Stephanie and our team to increase exposure and growth,” says VP **Carli McLaughlin Kane**. Complementing the growth at radio, Quayle is in the studio recording new music, and readies for the launch of season two of her quarantine-inspired *Hay Y’all* series from her barn ... bringing heart, humor and country music each episode.

Riser House

The newly revamped and reinvented Riser House promo team will continue to support Columbia on **Mitchell Tenpenny**’s “Broken Up.” Also coming this fall, Team RH will launch the US debut single from **Meghan Patrick**, “My First Car (Was a Pickup Truck),” while **Dillon Carmichael** polishes his next batch of tunes with producers Jon Pardi and Dann Huff. “There’s so much exciting and compelling music coming from these Riser House artists,” says SVP/Promotion **Bob Reeves**. “The new gang here can’t wait to hit the streets!”

Show Dog

With their streaming numbers growing, the team will continue developing the new **Waterloo Revival** single “Something You Ain’t Ever Had.” *Digital Journal* notes, “The Austin natives are back stronger than ever with their infectious new single. What Country radio stations need is ‘Something You Ain’t Ever Had’ in heavy rotation on their airwaves. It garners an A rating.” The label is excited to introduce music from the newest addition to their roster, **Clay Walker**. His new single “Need A Bar Sometimes” was co-written by Walker and co-produced by Michael Knox. Despite his *When Country Comes to Town Tour* being postponed until 2021, Songwriters Hall of Famer **Toby Keith** is always in the mix. VP/Promo **Rick Moxley** advises to stay tuned, “With the reset button clicked, expect some top-shelf hits in the future.”



Riser House’s Meghan Patrick

Stoney Creek

The roster is creatively in a sweet spot, and all the metrics are showing that it translates to hit songs, submits VP/Innovation, Radio & Streaming **Adrian Michaels**. **Parmalee** have paired with **Blanco Brown** for “Just the Way,” resulting in 62+ million streams and hitting No. 1 on SiriusXM’s The Highway ... and they’re just getting started with radio. The first single from **Jimmie Allen**’s *Bettie James* collaboration project “This is Us” is getting “unbelievable reaction and metrics,” reports Michaels, as Allen’s fastest consuming single to date. **Lindsay Ell** explores the seven stages of grief on her sophomore album *Heart Theory*, and single “Ready To Love” has Michaels predicting a breakthrough hit. And, finally, team Stoney Creek is looking forward to introducing **Track45** to the world beginning this fall.

Triple Tigers

Russell Dickerson’s debut single from his sophomore project, “Love You Like I Used To,” is “zooming” up the chart thanks to the biggest add week in his career, coincidentally while he and wife Kailey are expecting their No. 1 son this month. The Triple Tigers debut single from **Cam** is off and running, with SVP Promo **Kevin Herring** hailing it as, “Zesty, deliciously fun and effervescent.” “Classic” will be a priority for the rest of 2020 and beyond. After three consecutive No. 1 singles, the wait for the first single from **Scotty McCreery**’s new album is almost over. “You Time” ships wide this month impacting in early October.

Valory

The evolution of the revolution continues at Valory. This year, **Thomas Rhett** celebrated his third No. 1 from *Center Point Road* and shared a personal message with single “Be A Light.” He continues building his hit catalog and is currently in the studio working on more new music. **Justin Moore** will follow No. 1 “Why We Drink” with new music coming soon. His first live album, *Justin Moore Live At The Ryman*, is slated to be released this month. **Brantley Gilbert** continues the chart march with current single “Hard Days,” and **Eli Young Band** are busy in the

studio working on new music to be shared soon. **Tyler Rich**’s debut album, *Two Thousand Miles*, is slated for an early September release, featuring his song “Feels Like Home.” “We look forward to closing out this year by introducing you to **Heath Sanders** and his incredible music,” closes VP/Promo & Marketing **Chris Palmer**.

WAR

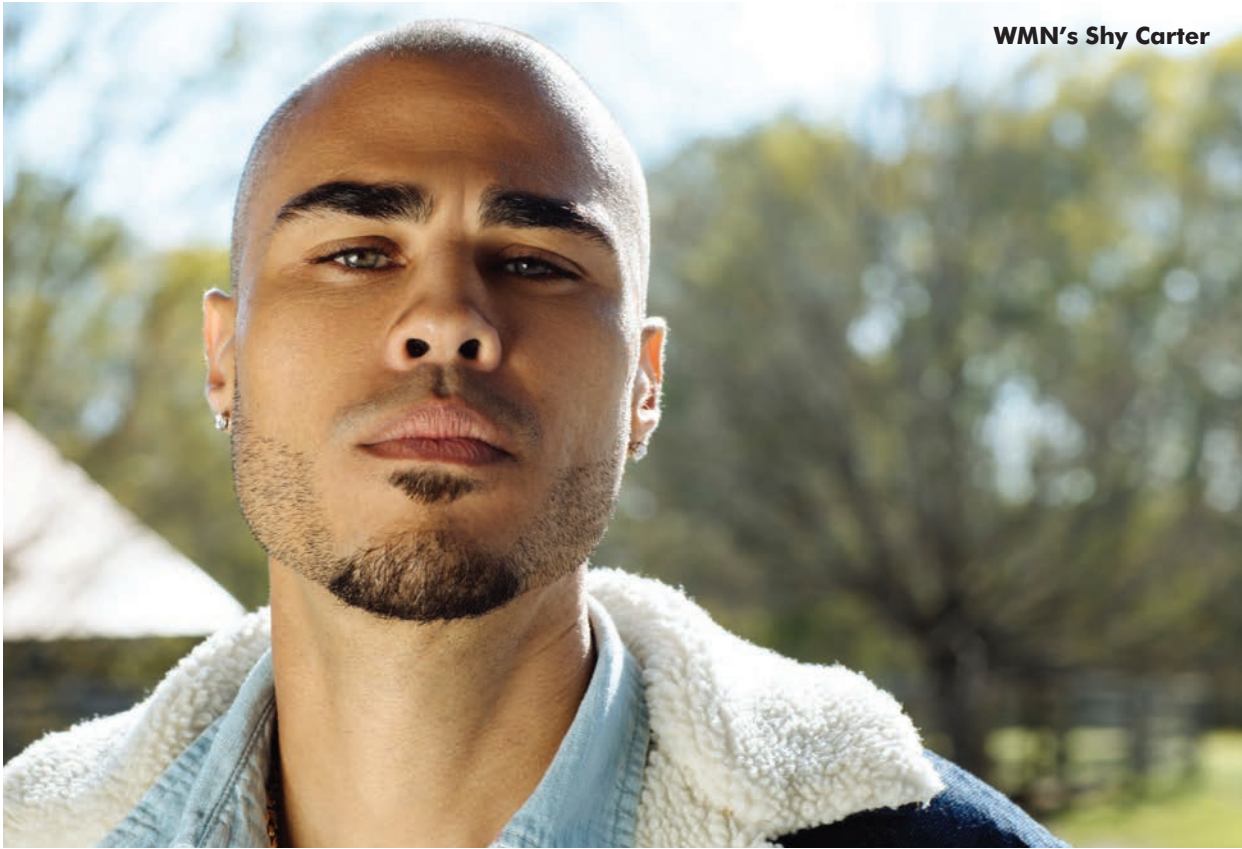
Only three shows into their U.S. arena tour, **Dan + Shay** found themselves at home instead of playing packed venues all over America due to the global pandemic. One of the positives of quarantine is that it created an opportunity for creativity, from which came “I Should Probably Go To Bed.” VP Radio & Streaming **Tom Martens** says, “It’s one of the most dynamic bodies of work to come from this pair and has been incredibly well-received by their fans and radio stations alike.” Fresh off another No. 1, **Chris Janson** has become one of the most consistent and reliable voices in Country radio. The third radio single from *Real Friends* – quitting time anthem “Waitin’ On 5” – is poised to become another hit at radio. “**Gabby Barrett**’s history-shattering debut album has firmly positioned her as a trailblazer for women in country music and for all new artists in the format,” says SVP Radio **Kristen Williams**. Her *Goldmine* album set the record for the most first-week streams for a debut album in country music history, including the most-streamed country song of 2020. Barrett’s second single, “The Good Ones,” continues its ascension on the chart. **Shy Carter** is stepping into the spotlight after spending most of his time behind the scenes writing and producing hits for some of music’s biggest artists (including Charlie Puth, Meghan Trainor and Keith Urban). The label touts “Good Love” as a soul-lifting radio debut as an artist. “His talent and versatility are unmatched, and we’re excited to watch him showcase his songwriting and producing success as an artist,” says WAR National Director **Michael Chase**.

WEA

Kenny Chesney kicked the summer off with his ninth career *Billboard* 200 No. 1, led by its title track and Chesney’s 30th chart-topping single, “Here And Now.” His new single “Happy Does” hit radio in July and is climbing the charts. In 2019, **Ingrid Andress**’ “More Hearts Than Mine” was the only debut from a solo female to crack the Top 20 at Country radio, a feat she followed this year by taking it to No. 1. Now, she is tackling the charts with “The Stranger,” the second single from her recently released album *Lady Like*. “It has been an absolute blast working with **A Thousand Horses**,” says newly-appointed WEA National Director **Shari Roth**. “They’re a talented band that has accrued an organic fanbase with their earnest talent and honest songs. Our team is excited to help get their music heard the way it deserves to be.” The group’s “A Song To Remember” was released in August. **High Valley** mined experiences from their childhood in rural Canada as well as current roles as husbands and fathers in Nashville to create the *Grew Up On That* EP. The title track, which earned more than 10 million streams prior to terrestrial airplay, will impact Country radio Sept. 21.

Wheelhouse

Fresh off their recent No. 1, **LoCash**’s it’s-been-too-long-since-we-hung-out single “Beers To Catch Up On” is particularly poignant now. The third release from **Chris Lucas** and **Preston Brust**’s album *Brothers* is “one of a half-dozen hits on this project,” says VP **Ken Tucker** of the song penned by Rhett Akins, Jeremy Stover and Paul DiGiovanni. Not only do **Runaway June** have a comfort food chart-climber in “We Were Rich,” the trio of **Naomi Cooke**, **Jennifer Wayne** and **Natalie Stovall** will release a Christmas EP in October. The holiday set will include both traditional songs and new classics. *Country Thing*



WMN’s Shy Carter

Vol. 1 from **Granger Smith** is due Sept. 25. The EP, which includes “That’s Why I Love Dirt Roads,” will be followed by a second EP in November. Elsewhere, Tucker proclaims radio programmers are falling in love with down-to-earth Kentucky native **Elvie Shane**, whose true-to-life single “My Boy” and southern rock-leaning tunes were recently exposed via a virtual radio tour. Thomas and Rhett Akins



Valory’s Heath Sanders

protégé **Sykamore** will release an EP (date TBD) to follow her Michael Knox-produced collection *California King*. Meanwhile, *Billboard*’s Top New Country Artist of 2019 **Blanco Brown** is riding high via collaborations with Diplo and Parmalee. He’ll unleash an as-yet-untitled collection in October with a follow-up due in early 2021.

WMN

Girl goin’ somewhere **Ashley McBryde** is reveling in the current success of “One Night Standards,” the highest charted single of her career. Dir./National Director **Anna Cage** shares, “This single has cemented Ashley within an elite group of artists who have managed to shatter glass ceilings in both the critically acclaimed and commercially viable worlds. Everybody is rooting for Ashley to win.” **Blake Shelton**’s current single “Happy Anywhere” is the follow-up to his multi-week, platinum-certified No. 1 “Nobody But You.” The “upbeat song of contentment” (*Rolling Stone*) offers an optimistic perspective on these difficult times, and it is on track to be his 28th career chart-topper as well as Gwen Stefani’s second consecutive Country radio No. 1. After nearly a year away from Country radio following the success of his eighth career chart-topper “Love Someone,” **Brett Eldredge** returns with a new perspective in the nostalgic, piano-driven “Gabrielle” from *Sunday Drive*. **Cole Swindell** is comfortably in his element with the release of fan-demanded “Single Saturday Night,” the quirky music video for which was one of the first in the format to be filmed during quarantine. The new single follows nine chart-toppers. **Cody Johnson** offers Country radio a compelling reflection in “Dear Rodeo” in which he bids farewell to his lifelong passion in pursuit of a new one. **CAC**