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INGRID ADDRESS



MORGAN EVANS

2020 **NEW FACES** OF COUNTRY MUSIC



RILEY GREEN



MITCHELL TENPENNY

AND PROUDLY SALUTE ALL THE RISING STARS
AT COUNTRY RADIO

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

Your
2020
CRS
New
Faces



Ingrid Andress

Warner/WEA's **INGRID ANDRESS** landed inside the top 10 most-heard female artists in **Country Aircheck's** 2019 year-end issue following the release of her lead single, "More Hearts Than Mine," from debut album *Lady Like*, due March 27. She kicked off the decade performing with Keith Urban in Las Vegas and will be featured on upcoming Tim McGraw and Dan + Shay dates.

There are a few other songs I've released already that were contenders to be my debut single. But, at the end of the day, I told my team I would look back and regret not giving "More Hearts Than Mine" a chance, even though it's not your typical radio debut song. It's validating to see how it's doing.

I was truly surprised I was chosen for the *New Faces* show, because all the other people have been around for longer than I have. I'm like the *new new*. It's usually people who have had songs on the radio for a while. I felt a little out of place, but I'm friends with Mitchell Tenpenny, so I texted him right away and was like, "Woohoo, we did it!"

Last year was my first CRS experience, because I had just signed with Warner. I hadn't heard of it, and then Warner was like, "Oh yeah, we're going to take you around just so you can see what it's all about."

CRS is a fascinating part of the music industry that I — as a songwriter — was never really aware of. It was really interesting meeting all of the people who play such a huge role in Country radio, which is a staple of country music. And, obviously, there's lots of partying happening. The funniest part is everybody was having so much fun that none of them remembered meeting me. So, whenever I went on radio tour and met them, they were like, "Oh, hi, nice to meet you." You know, I've actually met you.

If someone walked a day in my heels, they'd probably be surprised how challenging it can be gathering song ideas on the road. It's difficult to do, but it's vital to keeping your sanity as an artist. I constantly have a notebook or my phone and am writing down ideas. They might not even be song titles ... just ideas for songs.

When it comes to style, I've always loved trying new looks, but I came from a really conservative family where I wasn't allowed to wear a lot of things. Now

that I'm an adult, I'm like, "Oh my gosh, I get to try all these things, and I love all of it." It's really more of me doing what I would've wanted to do when I was younger.

Karen Fairchild said to always go with your gut, because the further along you get, the more cooks there are in the kitchen and the more opinions you're going to have to listen to. First and foremost as an artist, your job is to keep your goal and vision, because you're the one the art is coming from. Always keep that in mind, and no matter what everybody else is doing, just go with what you think is good for you.

In Nashville, there are a lot of cool, new speakeasies. I love having a conversation when I'm drinking, so Broadway's not really my thing, because you're just yelling. Food-wise, Rosepepper is a vibe, if you want a good margarita. All of my money is given to Rosepepper every month. But, if you want to get crazy, then obviously go to Broadway and drink your face off and kiss a cowboy.

In 2020, Country radio can expect my first album and a new single that we are still trying to decide on. It's actually a good problem to have, because there are so many songs that could potentially be it.

CRS New Faces

Morgan Evans

Warner/WEA's **MORGAN EVANS** recently released single "Diamonds" as the first new music since his 2018 U.S. debut *Things That We Drink To*. The album produced a 25-week No. 1 in Australia, "Day Drunk," and his gold-certified No. 1 American debut single "Kiss Somebody."

The New Faces news came out at the end of my world tour — we were between New Zealand and Canada (or something like that) — and at a point of complete jet lag. I didn't know I was a contender for a spot on there, and when I saw the tweet I was like, "Oh, what is that?" Then I actually saw it was from CRS' Twitter.

I still had to call my manager, Nick, and ask, "Dude, what's going on here?" He's like, "Oh yeah, how cool is this?" We had the celebratory call after the fact. I'm very aware of what it is and what it means to be on that show. I'm completely stoked and honored to be chosen to be part of it this year.

At your first CRS, there's no reason for people to want to talk to you, really, other than the fact that the people you work with are trying to introduce you. The memories from walking through the lobby of the Omni and having your radio rep or someone from the label team pulling you over, "Hey this is X radio programmer from X station. You guys should meet blah blah blah blah blah." And you can see they're completely hungover and on their way to something, and you're completely hungover on your way to something else. There's an exchange that feels weird at the time, but the next time you meet that person it's like, "Hey, how funny was that?" It's these bizarre memories that stick around and start relationships.

I got a lot of "Hey, these programmers couldn't see this specific showcase that night because there were a million other things going on. Garth Brooks was probably playing somewhere. But, hey, they're going to have breakfast at 9am, and we can set you up in the corner with a speaker and your loop pedal. How do you feel about that?" To me, that's what CRS was, and I look back on it very fondly, as bizarre as it was at the time.

There's a lot in the lead up to a radio tour about maximizing your time and how to get the best results. There's some merit to that, but that clouds the fact that you're meeting other humans who love music.



Everything else comes after that. My favorite thing about CRS now, even just a couple of years later, is being able to walk up to the same people and say, "Hey, I'm hung over. You're hungover. Have a good CRS, great to see you again."

The secret's out. For this next chapter of music, we recorded with a full band for the first time. I grew up playing with a band. As much fun as I've had over the last few years playing solo and introducing myself as a singer/songwriter in that way, I'm really looking forward to sharing those experiences on stage with other people. And it is so early in the process that we

don't even have a band yet...the auditions are next week. The CRS *New Faces* show will be the first show with the band.

I realized at the end of last year that I'd been on the road pretty much nonstop for two and a half years and I'd written maybe 15-16 songs; the year before, I wrote 180. It came to the point of, "Well, do we go with another single from the album we have out?" "What's the song going to be?" And then I wrote "Diamonds," and it changed to, "We don't need a full album recorded to put out the first single from the next project. This is it. Let's go."

Riley Green

BMLGR's **RILEY GREEN** is currently at Country radio with his top 15 and climbing single, "I Wish Grandpas Never Died." He spent much of 2019 on the road with his *Get That Man A Beer Tour* and opening for Brad Paisley and Jon Pardi, and he's rolling into 2020 on Jason Aldean's *We Back Tour*.

I got a call from Jimmy Harnen at Big Machine about *New Faces*. It was pretty cool, because when they were

trying to sign me, he took me to *New Faces* and was taking me around to radio folks and introducing me. I got to see how big of a deal it was early on. It was a little bit crazy, especially first coming in, because I had not been to Nashville. I was still living in Alabama.

One thing I really enjoyed about radio tour was getting to play not only my first single and current singles, but brand new songs for people — acoustic — just the way I wrote them. I played a lot of shows like that for several years, so to be able to sit down and play a song completely broken down for somebody

who has maybe never heard of me before and get a reaction, that is how I always judge my songs.

The most surprising part of radio tour is the travel. I don't think I'd been on a plane in my entire life, then I sign a record deal and fly a couple of times a week now. Being on a bus three days and on a plane the other two, I rarely get to my house, and when I do it's just to do laundry and repack a bag.

I was a big Jamey Johnson fan when I was in college. We were playing golf in Nashville — I think Jimmy and Matthew Hargis were there — and Jamey was there talking about songwriting. He still writes a lot of songs by himself. That was kind of what led me to write "I Wish Grandpas Never Died" on my own as opposed to setting up a co-write.

"I Wish Grandpas Never Died" is about my two granddaddies — how they were a big influence on me growing up and values they taught me as a kid. I wrote the idea down when I was flying back from Las Vegas to go to my granddaddy's funeral. I didn't think it was even going to make my record; my album was done, and we had another single going to radio. I don't think I ever really judged a song of mine and said, "Okay, this is a hit," when I wrote it, and I certainly didn't about this song. But getting to play it live and see fans reacting to it the way they have and having a little bit of a life of its own, even before we recorded it, was a pretty crazy thing.

I am a big fan of John Pardi's last album. He does a good job of straddling that line of very easy to listen to on the radio and also very different. That's one thing I think is cool with guys like him and Eric Church who are writing stuff that's different. It doesn't sound like anything else.

Things are going pretty well for me, but if I could trade places with another artist, it'd be Brad [Paisley]. He's got about four buses going out; meanwhile, I'm jammed on the bus with my whole band. And he gets to play a handful of shows a week as opposed to flying all over and doing every little thing. It'd be nice to get to the point where I can start playing some of those big stages like he does in arenas.

Radio can expect some more country music from me in 2020. I've been writing quite a bit, and we're going to go in the studio, (I think) in February. As long as people want to hear it, we're going to keep putting music out.



THANK YOU!

Our country radio family is such an important part of our journey. From the first station to play us to the ones still rocking with us today and every single one in between, we say "THANK YOU!"

We are looking forward to celebrating everything we have accomplished together throughout the past 20 years of being on country radio. Cheers!!



RASCAL FLATTS



CRS New Faces

Runaway June

Naomi Cooke, Hannah Mulholland and Jennifer Wayne of Wheelhouse's **RUNAWAY JUNE** became the highest charting female trio in sixteen years with "Buy My Own Drinks" breaking into the top five in 2019. After spending time on Carrie Underwood's *Cry Pretty Tour 360*, the group's new single, "Head Over Heels," continues its upward trajectory.

HM: Our label reached out to let us all know we'd been selected, and we all jumped up and down! We've seen so many of our friends be spotlighted at this event throughout the years, so it's a huge honor to finally grace that stage!

JW: I was honestly in shock. It's such a huge honor. It took me a second to catch my breath, and I was so thankful in that moment for every single person who took a chance on us and believed in us.

HM: This year will be our fifth year attending CRS. I think Runaway June has a CRS curse, because one of the three of us is always sick that week. We've had fevers, flu, you name it!

JW: One CRS, I was working for Mike McVay at a booth, and I had just adopted my dog, Blue. Mike let me bring him to the booth, and Blue was the highlight of CRS that year! Everyone wanted to stop by to see the cute dog.

HM: There are many ups and downs in the music biz. Things change every day. The journey of every radio single is the perfect example of that. It's so exciting to watch them climb, and so sad once that song's journey is over.

JW: My favorite part of radio tour is making all of the friendships! Some of my best friends in the world, who have been there for me through ups and downs for the last 10 years, are radio programmers.

NC: Pros outweigh the cons of being in a group. You have two other people to help share the workload and



share a hard day or a good day with. Because at the end of the day, no matter what, two other people have had the exact same day.

JW: We are truly sisters. Every win we celebrate, and every struggle we lift each other up. The con is there are three women and eight people on a bus sharing a bathroom.

HM: The CMAs are such a special event, so to be invited in any capacity is huge. Then to be honored by Little Big Town as a new face in country music? Forget about it.

JW: And looking at all of our peers, being up there with them, all of us supporting each other was so special.

NC: It meant that we were being welcomed into the country family on a high level and being recognized by our heroes, Little Big Town, and the CMAs themselves, who have been such a huge supporter for us.

JW: We aren't stopping, baby! Look out, 2020!

Mitchell Tenpenny

Riser House/Columbia's **MITCHELL TENPENNY** hit No. 1 with the double platinum-certified "Drunk Me" from his debut album *Telling All My Secrets* at the end of 2018. He's taking his new single, "Anything She Says," featuring Seaforth, into 2020 while extending the tour by the same name.

My team called me early in the morning to tell me about New Faces, and I woke right up and was so excited. It's something that I've attended three times, and I wanted to be up there, but definitely was not expecting it. I didn't even know it was up-and-running time or that people were voting for it yet. My team knows to just keep me unaware of everything, so it's always new and fresh when I hear things.

I've gone to CRS for about five years. My favorite part is meeting artists, especially at the very beginning when I didn't have the chance to travel or tour a lot. You're walking in as a naive, brand new artist who knows nothing and you see all these superstars — the people you look up to. I remember walking up to the elevator and seeing Garth and being blown away. Then seeing Tim McGraw, then Sam Hunt. It's weird how there's all these superstars in this one little building.

I lost my father to cancer a few years ago. When we got the opportunity to start our own foundation, we decided to start something called the Tenpenny Fund. At the very beginning, you don't have a lot of ways of getting your foundation out there. We started asking around and having meetings, and Sarah Cannon Research Institute was the first that got our concept. It

was a true blessing when they wanted to partner and help us get our vision out.

When you hear you have cancer, there are a million amazing doctors and all these incredible drugs. But the other half of it is, are you mentally prepared to battle this? There's not a lot of access to 24-hour phone centers to help you through something like that. I know, personally, my dad didn't have it. Even my aunt, who's going through it now, has struggled. It was something that was very heavy on my heart, and they saw that vision and instantly wanted to be a part of it. We were so grateful and blessed to have Sarah Cannon to lean on for those connections. They've helped us build this bigger than we ever thought it could be and helped us build a room at Hope Lodge. We're just so grateful for it.

Getting to travel is the best part of radio tour. Before any of this happened, before we got a record deal, I went to Kentucky and Florida. That was about it. And my brother came on the road, which is awesome. He plays bass with me. Anytime we're in a city with a sports team, we like to go to the stadium or the arena and see the whole area, see how their lifestyle is around there. Take a picture vibe. It's been neat to see other cultures and other cities and how they do their things.

You don't exist without the people who listen to your music. I don't like the word "fans." We're in this together. This is a team. When I go on Instagram after every show, I try to comment and at least say thank you for coming. But I'm looking at every aspect of these messages and seeing...what was their favorite song? Where did they say they had the best moment? How many videos did we have for certain songs? That's what we need to home into on our set, because we want to give them the best experience possible. I know when I find an artist I love, I do the same thing. When I tag a song, I know what I'm feeling. I'm listening, and that's what we want to build our entire career around — listening to exactly what people want.

"Anything She Says" was recently released. We have the new music video out with it, and that's what we're going to be touring on. The tour went really well, so we extended into the new year. It's been crazy to see the reaction at shows. That single was picked solely based on the fans and streaming numbers. Before we went to Country radio, we were like, "Okay, we have data from people who are listening to you. This is the song that was being put in front of our face. That's why we went with it, and here we go." **CAC**

