As expected, The 48th Annual CMA Awards (11/5) got Country radio talking and Country Aircheck has been listening. Here is what broadcast pros say did and didn’t work, and what the show meant for the format.

**Pop Rocks Go Country:** Getting the most attention were some of the night’s cross-format performances. “It’s great,” says WDRQ (Nash FM)/Detroit PD Robby Bridges on the pop collaborations between Miranda Lambert and Meghan Trainor and Little Big Town and Ariana Grande. “It’s important for both formats to cross-pollinate – fans of Pop are sampling Country and vice versa. I know my audience knows who Ariana Grande is. It makes sense for her to want to grab some fans who might listen more to country.”

KPLX & KSCS/Dallas OM JR Schumann agrees. “The potential for those types of performances to introduce new audiences is incredible,” he says. “We need to get out of our own way and accept the fact that it’s okay to talk about other things that are super hot around the world – especially in music. That audience that may not have listened to you before might listen to you the next morning to hear you talk about Meghan Trainor. Why pass on that opportunity?”

Of course there’s a flipside. “I get needing TV moments,” says another major market Country programmer who wishes to remain anonymous. “But immediately after the show, the Today show launched a photo gallery of the ‘best dressed’ and the first picture was Meghan Trainor. That tells me that non-country people believe she’s a bigger star than everyone else in our format. Ariana Grande is a fantastic singer and adorable, but it was completely inappropriate to that Little Big Town won Vocal Group and were singing backup for Ariana.”

(continued on page 20)
COME ON FOLKS.....
LET'S COME TO THE TABLE
A LITTLE EARLY THIS YEAR!

SUNSHINE
& WHISKEY

# 1 THIS MONDAY!

MAX SPINS NOW!
ONE NATION UNDER GOD, WITH LIBERTY
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.....AMEN!
Paul Allen  
**Service:** USAF during Vietnam, GM of an AM-FM-TV American Forces Radio & Television Service combo in mid-state Alaska. Associate Professor, MTSU.  
**Military Memory:** For a guy from a small Ohio farming community, the initial shock to find myself stationed for three years in the Mojave Desert in southern California and then another shock to be plucked and stuck in the middle of Alaska as winter was beginning.  
**Story:** I hopped a seat on a plane heading to the now-closed base in Smyrna, TN from California for Thanksgiving. The Smyrna base was about six hours by car from my home in Ohio. It was okay to hitchhike in your uniform in those days, and I was lucky to be picked up by a civilian worker outside the base gate who took me home to dinner with her family in Nashville. They packed food for me and drove me to 31W to catch a ride. I was home in five hours. I’ve since lost their address, but I have been forever grateful for their kindness.

Mick Anselmo  
**Service:** USAF veteran of Vietnam, worked on F-100s, F-4s and C-130s as an engine tech. CBS Radio/Minneapolis SVP/MM.  
**Military Memory:** I’ll never forget what it was like to be alone at Christmas, and how terribly America treated our returning veterans.  
**Story:** I had a low lottery number and was destined to go to Vietnam with the Army. Being a smart-assed kid I figured I’d join the Air Force to be a typist so I wouldn’t have to go. After I took my oath, this big, burly sergeant told me, “I don’t have any room for typists, only missile or jet technicians.” I said, “No problem, I’ll go home and you can call me when you have that typist opening!” I can still hear him laughing. I left that day and 15 months later was in Vietnam.  
**Veterans Day:** In 2004 we embedded with the Minnesota Red Bulls in Iraq, beamed live video back so their families could see them and, upon return, created a slide show of photos and audio to play at every Rotary Club, Sertoma Club and Chamber of Commerce luncheon we could till the kids we met came home. I continue to volunteer for Minnesota Military Family Tribute, Patriot Guard and Folds of Honor. God Bless all who have served and their families.

Mick Anselmo

Gathering On The Green: Former MCA artist Chely Wright with then-KSON/San Diego morning team Tony Randall (l) and Kris Rochester during the Second Annual Tony And Kris Celebrity Golf Tournament to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in the early 2000s. Have vintage philanthropic shots of your own? Send them to pagethreepic@countryaircheck.com.

Roger Corkill  
**Service:** Army parachute rigger and jump master, 82nd Airborne, more than 300 jumps 1962-1969. Radio and label vet including Mercury and MCA.  
**Military Memory:** I joined the day Marilyn Monroe was found dead in the nude and years later worked with Elton John and told him the story. Lo and behold, a few years later came “Candle In The Wind.”  
**Story:** Twenty years after D-Day, myself and five others jumped into the first French town liberated that day, St. Mere Eglise, and walked 300 miles back to our base to commemorate our airborne brothers.

Roger Corkill
LUKE BRYAN

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CMA ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR AWARD!
LITTLE BIG TOWN
Congratulations on your CMA Vocal Group of the Year Award!
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CMA AWARD FOR
MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR!

DRUNK ON A PLANE
Big Spark/Star Farm’s Olivia Lane discusses her most influential artists, concerts, songs and albums.

1. Brooks & Dunn/Boot Scootin’ Boogie: This was the first country song I heard that made me get up and dance. It made me fall in love with country music even more. I cover it to this day because I always get the same feeling.

2. The Eagles/Linda Ronstadt/Desperado: It changed the way I looked at songwriting. When my guitar teacher played it for me for the first time I actually started crying because it made me feel so much that I couldn’t explain. That feeling was what I had to do as a songwriter in my own songs.

3. Michael Jackson/Beat It: This is the first song where I realized what instruments were (I was 5 or 6). I was blown away by Eddie Van Halen’s guitar solo and I was like, “Mom, what is that sound?!?” She laughed and said it was the electric guitar. That song sent me into musical fascination and the rest is history.

4. The Spice Girls in Houston: Most little girls in the ’90s had an obsession with the Spice Girls and I was absolutely one of them. I saw them in Houston when I was 10. It was the first time I realized performing was what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to be up there with them! Being onstage is the best feeling in the world. I hope I never lose that passion.

5. Patsy Cline/Crazy: This is a favorite not only because it’s a brilliant song with a brilliant vocalist but because I emulate the big female voices like Patsy, Patty Loveless, Trisha Yearwood, Reba, Sara Evans – the list goes on.

Highly regarded music you’ve never heard: Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon. For some reason everyone has been telling me to give it a listen.

An album you played incessantly: The Very Best of The Eagles. I can’t pick a specific album of Eagles music because they are my favorite band of all time. From “New Kid In Town” to “I Can’t Tell You Why,” I love them all!

Obscure or non-country song everyone should listen to right now: “Not Cause I Wanted To” by Bonnie Raitt. Her album Slipstream is one of my favorites.

Music you’d rather not admit enjoying: Broadway show tunes. They make me happy! Les Mis anyone?
WE PROUDLY CONGRATULATE OUR CLIENTS ON THEIR 2014 CMA AWARD® WINS

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
LUKE BRYAN

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
Platinum
MIRANDA LAMBERT

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
BLAKE SHELTON

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
We Were Us
MIRANDA LAMBERT*

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
MIRANDA LAMBERT

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR
Drunk on a Plane
DIERKS BENTLEY

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR
FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO
VINCE GILL
Irving Waugh Award of Excellence

SINGLE OF THE YEAR
Automatic
MIRANDA LAMBERT

BRAD PAISLEY
2014 CMA Award Show Co-Host

*SHARED AWARD
Valory/Republic’s RaeLynn and KUPL/Portland’s B-Dub discuss restaurants they go out of their way to visit.

The Place: Alexis Greek Restaurant in Portland, OR.

The Appeal: “I’m obsessed with Greek food,” says RaeLynn. “It’s an authentic Greek restaurant owned by a Greek family and the owner’s name is Jeffrey. I know everything about this restaurant! I get to go back there soon and I’m on cloud nine.

“We were just walking around waiting to go to the next station visit recently, trying to figure out somewhere to eat when we saw this little restaurant. I was with my radio rep Amy Staley, my cousin Leland and [SVP/Promotion] George Briner. We just fell in love with the place and the guy was so sweet. The food was amazing and I promised him I’d come back next time I’m in town. It was just a cool random thing that we found that place.

“I got the Greek salad. It’s really big and awesome. But they have this cheese – I forget what it’s called – but they have a fire on top of it and it’s so good. The pita bread and the hummus are good; oh my gosh, everything is.”

Counterpoint: “I have never been to Alexis, but have heard great things about it,” says B-Dub. “My go-to restaurant for out-of-town guests is Veritable Quandary. It’s local, fresh and they print their menu every day. They have a ribeye that is absolutely fantastic. The meat is always high quality and prepared the same, but the garnish is different. One day it’ll be served with lentils, the next it’s Brussels sprouts and burnt kale. And sometimes it’s a nice creamed corn. Always super tasty.

“I went to dinner there with [Red Bow’s] Chase Bryant, [rep] Kendra Whitehead, and [VP/Promotion] Renee Leymon. Chase absolutely floored me with his knowledge of fine wine. If he ever needs a ‘Plan B,’ he should become a sommelier.”

 Reach B-Dub here. Have a must-visit restaurant and a fun story to go with it? Tell us here.

Sammy George


Military Memory: Part of my tour in Whiskey Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines was an helicopter landing ship the USS Okinawa, which had an on-board radio station. I requested and received permission to do a one-hour Country show sharing the latest Merle Haggard and Johnny Cash hits with my fellow Marines and Sailors in a war zone. I had radio friends in the states who regularly sent reel-to-reel of the latest music. Unfortunately the voltage difference between the states and Vietnam caused Haggard to sometimes sound like the Chipmunks (think “Okie” in time-and-a-half).

Veterans Day: Reflection and thanksgiving. I’m grateful for Country radio and the artists for standing up for our flag, honoring our troops and giving their time and talent to support those who served.

Bob Heatherly


“Veterans Day: Far too many have been killed, wounded or are suffering from the effects of war. We owe them a tremendous debt and should spend at least this day paying a minimal part of it.”

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CONGRATULATIONS BLAKE SHELTON
ON YOUR RECORD-SETTING WEEK

5 CONSECUITVE CMA MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR WINS
13 CONSECUITVE #1 SINGLES INCLUDING “NEON LIGHT”

THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO!

NEW SINGLE “LONELY TONIGHT”
FEAT. ASHLEY MONROE
AVAILABLE NOW
IMPACTING IMMEDIATELY
WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE CONGRATULATES
BRETTL ELDREDGE
CMA NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Thank you, Country Radio! You have changed my life!
Love ya! Brett

“MEAN TO ME”
TOP 20!
MB/CAC 20 +400 SPINS
BB 21 +1.97 MILLION AUDIENCE
Military Memory: Lots of training in cold weather (which led to lots of drinking). Lost a lot of friends in Vietnam. And the Germans still had a love/hate (thankfully mostly love) for Americans.

Story: When my wife (or state troopers) complain of my driving, I show them my discharge showing that I was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and Safe Driving Medal two years in a row.

Veterans Day: It’s a time to reflect on others that serve to keep our freedom to live in the greatest country on earth.

John Hendricks

Military Memory: Learning the real difference in a college education. Those with degrees ate steaks in the Officer’s Mess. I ate cold C-rations in a rice paddy. When I returned home I graduated with honors from St Martin’s University in Olympia, WA.

Veteran’s Day: So many of my brothers and sisters in arms have struggled with memories, drugs and alcoholism, isolation and homelessness. Our country continues to create veterans – we need to do so much more to make sure they can return to a healthy lifestyle when their service is complete. We remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice ... and also rededicate ourselves to helping those whose lives were irrevocably damaged during their military service.

Byron Kennedy

Military Memory: Going to the Middle East and experiencing third world countries. Very eye opening. Until that experience I had no idea the amount of things we take for granted in this country every day. I’m guilty of forgetting that now and then but I do try and remember the suffering and pain so many endure in this world.

Story: The military was the greatest thing that ever happened to me. It taught me I am capable of far more than I can imagine. We all are. Sometimes we just have to be put in situations that allow us to see that. I still benefit from it to this day. I don’t have a lot of stories you could print. The guys I served with were a wild bunch!

Veterans Day: It’s a day to be proud of my service and be thankful for the service of others.

Jim Mayo

Military Memory: The camaraderie. We all trained, sweated and bled together to serve our country, even in peacetime.

Story: I did a parachute jump into Holland and lost my glasses coming out the door. I’m blind as a bat and had to stumble around for half the day until I could get to my duffle bag for my spares.

Veterans Day: In the ‘70s I had to endure all of the same ostracizing crap the guys coming home from Vietnam did whenever I traveled in uniform. We were doing a job that the nation asked us to do, to put our lives on the line to protect all of our freedoms. Veterans Day shows me that the country cared and still cares.

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RASCAL FLATTS

THE BRAND NEW SINGLE FROM THE #1 ALBUM REWIND

RIOT AVAILABLE NOW IMPACTING 11/24

CLICK TO LISTEN
Charlie Monk


Military Memory: Having to get up before dawn and wearing them damn heavy boots.

Story: I drank a gallon of beer one night at the NCO Club and had a three-day hangover.

Veteran’s Day: It shows America cares and honors the men and women who put their life on the line for others around the world. I’m proud to have served in a small way.

Craig Morgan

Service: Ten years active Army, 101st and 82nd Airborne. USO Merit Award recipient, Grand Ole Opry member.

Military Memory: I most remember relationships I established that I still have today. When you spend that much time in that type of an environment, you know each other’s souls.

Story: After a jump, a close friend of mine was just wandering around on the drop zone – no Kevlar, no weapon, no gear. I ran up to him and asked him what he was doing and he said he was trying to find the keys to his HUMMV. First of all the HUMMV didn’t have keys. Second of all he didn’t have a HUMMV. He had received a severe concussion. This was one of the three times I saved his life!

Veteran’s Day: It’s a day to celebrate those who provide us with our freedom and remember those who have made great sacrifices for us.

Bear O’Brien


Military Memory: I served most of my active duty at a large airbase in England. I was a mechanic on F-4 fighters. I knew nothing about jets when I enlisted. The training was thorough and very good. One of my duty supervisors told me I sounded just like a disc jockey when I spoke and a light bulb went off in my head. Radio! I went to Brown Institute in Minneapolis on the GI bill shortly after I was discharged and have been blessed with a long career in radio.

Story: The funniest thing was being told I was getting deployed to Greece for a month. I thought it was just another alert TDY drill. I was wrong. I packed a duffle bag full of junk, rags etc. and headed for the flightline to sit on a C-130 cargo plane,
thinking I would be told “drill is over” and I would go back to my barracks. Much to my horror, the plane took off and I was bound for Greece with some tools and a bag full of junk! I didn’t even have a toothbrush. I had to beg borrow and steal until I could get a buddy of mine to send some of my stuff on a cargo flight a few days later.

Veterans Day: I lost an uncle I never knew in WWII and a few friends in Vietnam. It is the veteran, some of them carrying scars of conflict, that have helped us live free.

Steve Reuss


Military Memory: The Marines taught me the value of working hard and being reliable. They also provided a great life for my family and me. We traveled the world – lived in Japan, climbed Mount Fuji, shot video of air operations in the Philippines and worked with great people.

Story: I was in Lebanon before things got too bad and was lucky enough to visit the family of a college student from Lebanon who was studying at the university where my dad worked. My parents invited him to stay with them Thanksgiving weekend and we all became friends. His parents returned the generosity when I was in Lebanon and I saw a part of the country that had not been destroyed by years of civil war.

Veterans Day: I appreciate it for much more than discounted mattress prices. My father and brother are also vets and I was raised to respect my flag and country. The Marine Corps birthday is Nov. 10 so I typically call a longtime Marine friend and we hoist one (or more) in honor of all of the brothers and sisters who have and continue to serve.

Clark Taylor

Service: Vietnam veteran, Army active duty and civilian employee broadcaster, including hosting daily AFN/Europe show “Country Roads.” WLBE/Leesburg, FL

Military Memory: Faces and places. You develop friendships while in uniform that are different from the office or next door. These are guys who in some cases covered your butt and saved it a few times.

Story: I did a weekly interview show featuring country artists in the mid-’70s. My first interview was with Tammy Wynette and I was nervous. They gave me a reel-to-reel machine, I asked all my questions and everything was great until I lifted the cover and saw the tape had slipped over the top of the recording head. Without missing a second, Tammy said, “Well, it looks like we are going to have to redo our interview.” She could have ran me off her bus and called me names, but she was as gracious as the lady she was.

Veterans Day: I always think of a phrase I first saw on a wall in Vietnam in 1969: “For those who have fought for it, freedom has a flavor the protected will never know.” I would like to see more volunteers at the VA hospital who have not been in the military. That would be a good thing.

Keni Thomas


Military Memory: What I remember most is the value of the people on your left and right. Taking care of one another is an absolute. Lives are on the line. You miss that when you get out into the real world where it can seem people are just out for themselves.

Story: In addition to music, I get to do about 100 dates a year as a motivational speaker. I try my best to use the story of the men I served with and the battle we fought to inspire people to be better leaders. As many times as I’ve told our story, I still consider it a privilege and an honor. Because I know by the grace of God, the only reason I am here is because of those men he placed on my left and right that day.

Veterans Day: They are your neighbors, your family, your military. As this next generation begin to transition home from 15 years of fighting, we as a community must help them back into the real world. It’s as simple as saying, “Welcome home. Thank you for your service. You have earned the right to be happy. What can we do to help?”

Frank Wing

Service: USN 1979-1989, four years active, six reserve. APA VP

Military Memory: The countries, cultures, customs, economies and most certainly the people I encountered on my travels. Pretty eye-opening experience for an 18-year-old kid.

Veterans Day: When you’ve seen firsthand how other countries operate, you really are proud, grateful and lucky to be living in a country such as ours.
Blake Shelton

Chad Brock
Navy, country artist, radio personality.

Mike Carta
USN, voice-over artist.

Terry Dorsey

Ron Hurst

Angie Johnson
USAF, Staff Sgt. and Air Force Band vocalist, currently a country artist.

Gene Kennedy
USAF 1950-1960. Record promotion for 57 years, owned recording studio for 32 years.

Luke Lewis

Tony Magoo

James Otto
USN, country artist.

Mark Phillips

Clayton Pickard
(air name Clay Miller/Major Miller)
USN 22 years. Radio in Pittsburgh, Norfolk and Lawton OK. Retired in 2013.

Lewis Stokes

Mark Wintrow
Army, broadcast journalist. Graduate of the Defense Information School. Commercial radio for 26+ years, 25 years as a morning show host. Currently at KRRS/Corpus Christi, TX.

Chart Chat
Congrats to Blake Shelton, Kevin Herring, Kristen Williams, Katie Bright and the entire WMN promotion team on scoring this week’s No. 1 with “Neon Light.” The song extends his Country Aircheck record for consecutive chart-toppers to 13.

And kudos to Steve Hodges and the Capitol team on scoring 76 adds for Luke Bryan's “I See You.”

News & Notes
Forever's WBVR (Beaver 96.7)/Bowling Green, KY will hold its first Thanksgiving turkey fry for the local chapter of the Salvation Army Nov. 26. The goal is to cook 75 big birds to feed 1,500 people. Donations of turkeys, peanut oil, fryers and cash are being accepted now; volunteers are also needed. Call 270-843-3333 or reach PD Myla Thomas here.

Montana Radio's KVMO/Great Falls, MT has adopted the company's “Mo Legends” Classic Country brand.

Warner Music Group and Soundcloud have joined for a creator partner program, allowing for new promotional opportunities and licensing terms that give WMG content management of its artists and songwriters.

The CMA Foundation has donated $20,000 to the Nashville Notes for Notes chapter and has committed $375,000 to expand the program in 2015 to chapters in Atlanta, Austin, Brooklyn, Detroit, and San Francisco. Their longtime partner, Chevrolet, has committed an additional $25,000 for the auto manufacturer’s hometown, Detroit. Notes for Notes helps construct music studios in Boys and Girls Club facilities across the U.S. to support youth music education.

Nashville-based APEX Entertainment Management has an opening for a Day-To-Day Mgr./Digital & Marketing Manager. Contact Zac Koffler for details here.

Rock The Ocean’s Tortuga Music Festival will return to Fort Lauderdale Beach Park April 11-12. The lineup is TBA.
Congratulations
KEITH URBAN
and MIRANDA LAMBERT

on your
CMA Musical Event of the Year Award
“We Were Us”
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CMA SONG OF THE YEAR AWARD!

FOLLOW YOUR ARROW

KACEY MUSGRAVES
Congratulations on receiving the Irving Waugh Award of Excellence at the CMA Awards!

and congratulations on the Icon of the Year Award at the 2014 BMI Country Awards
Artist News

Garth Brooks has sold 44,176 tickets and counting for his Dec. 11-13 shows in Little Rock, surpassing George Strait’s previous 2001 state record for ticket sales at an entertainment event. The tour plays Tulsa Jan. 15-17.

Disney Music Publishing has signed songwriter Steven McMorran, whose credits include Tim McGraw’s “Still On The Line” and Celine Dion’s “This Time.”

The Week’s Top Stories

Full coverage at countryaircheck.com.

- The 48th Annual ACM Awards on ABC-TV last week was a ratings success. (11/6)
- Radio One/Indianapolis PD Leo Baldwin joined Palm Beach’s four-station West Palm Beach cluster, which includes Country WIRK. (11/6)
- Mighty Media/Memphis OM and Variety Hits WOWW PD Tom Freeman added PD duties for Country WEBL and Classic Country WUMY-AM. (11/6)

Radio Reacts To The CMAs

(continued from page 1)

KAJA/San Antonio PD Don Gosselin has his own reservations. “It was brief, but I loved Steven Tyler showing how much he loves our format by quickly turning ‘Crying’ into a country song. Brilliant. I wish Ariana Grande and Meghan Trainor had watched closer. I was hoping they would ‘countrify’ those songs a bit, but unfortunately they didn’t.”

The duets with Grande and Trainor weren’t the only not-so-country moments that got attention – the big Doobie Brothers closer did, too. “When Michael McDonald was doing ‘Takin’ It To The Streets,’ I was like, ‘Oh my god!’” says WJVC/Nassau PD Phathead. “They sounded like they did 40 years ago. It was like being in church! I’m Jewish, but I imagine that’s what being in church would be like.”

Song & Dance Span: “I love George Strait and I love Eric Church, but why put them together?” asks Gosselin. “If anything, singing for two the show was spectacular. Carrie Underwood is singing for two and she rocked it.”

The night’s most touching performance according to KKG/O Los Angeles PD Tonya Campos was the duet with Kacey Musgraves and Loretta Lynn. “It was like we were watching the passing of the torch,” she explains.

KJUG/Visalia, CA PD Rik McNeil wasn’t satisfied. “It was a quick drive-by,” he says. “I would have liked to see a little more time spent on that.”


Hosts With The Most: Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood earned consistent praise. “I’d love to see Brad and Carrie host a Saturday Night Live together,” says WAMZ/Louisville and WBUL/Lexington, KY PD Michael Jordan. “And I really respected how they had some fun at Taylor Swift’s expense, but acknowledged her accomplishments, showed support and welcomed her back anytime. It shows how much of a family the country music community really is.”

Adds WCKN/Charleston, SC PD Garret Doll. “My favorite bit was the pregnancy thing and revealing the baby’s sex. It was very creative.”

Campos thought the two were strong, but wonders if it was too much. “Brad and Carrie both have a natural comedic side, but I thought the intro of the show was a bit long and some of the humor was a bit forced.”

Better Recognize: Radio had kinds word for Vince Gill and his acceptance of the Irving Waugh Award of Excellence. “We could all do better by being more like Vince Gill,” notes Schumann. Adds Gosselin, “The man personifies class and dignity. All new artists should go to Vince Gill training camp before they start their careers.”

Gosselin was also pleased to see Brett Eldredge win New Artist. “Anyone that has ever spent time with him knows what a wonderful person he is and what an absolute monster voice he has. Any one of the nominees could have won and it would have been great, but at least now [label group President/CEO] John Esposito doesn’t have to burn the building down.”

Radio was equally happy with Luke Bryan’s Entertainer win. “I mean, if you’re going to get yourself your very first CMA, go big!” exclaims Schumann. Adds Phathead, “Seeing how sincere Luke is and the moment he and his wife had was probably the nicest moment of the night.”

That’s A Wrap: “The Oscars should try to keep it as tight as the CMAs did, ending right at 10:59:59,” notes Bridges. “It was fast-paced, had good momentum and a nice mix of performances.” McNeil notes, “The visuals were fantastic with Little Big Town and even Keith Urban’s performance.”

“The CMA and ABC peeps obviously know our audience,” notes KTEX/McAllen, TX PD JoJo Cerda. “It’s not just a bunch of straw eatin’ country folks. We are attracting listeners from all genres. To see Steven Tyler, the Doobies, Ariana, Meghan and Tim Tebow – it’s become a significant social event and I am really excited for our format.”

Ultimately, “I love how we come together as one big country family,” says Jordan. “Labels, artists, management and radio put the competition and business aside for a few hours and celebrate the music and the artistry behind this great format. It’s something very special.”

–Rus Penuell, Jess Wright

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“Quit listening to Country radio.” Yep, The Tennessean is at it again. Only this time, the shots are coming from columnist Beverly Keel, who is also the Chair of MTSU’s Department of Recording Industry and a former executive at UMG/Nashville.

In Sunday’s column (11/9), Keel drops a pretty sweeping sexism label on the business as a whole. “The country music industry doesn’t give its female artists the respect their music deserves based on its commercial success and critical acclaim.” Citing award wins by Miranda Lambert and Kacey Musgraves, as well as Taylor Swift’s album sales, she concludes that country should have had more than three female Entertainers of the Year in the last 25 years. And she knows where the problem lies: “Largely at Country radio.”

Keel explains: “Many radio programmers examine the music of female artists through a harsher lens than songs released by men. Some believe that women’s songs don’t work on Country radio, while other programmers want to break women through radio, but they just haven’t had much success.

“Record executives say they’ve been told there’s only one slot for a new female. If a female artist’s first single doesn’t perform well on radio, they have a much more difficult time than a male artist getting a second chance by programmers. Then it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy: Programmers don’t believe that women will break through because it hasn’t happened.”

Later she adds, “Because of these programming choices, radio has become a testosterone-fueled sonic playground that is virtually unlistenable. It reinforces the pop culture trend that strips women of their dignity by defining them solely by their bodies and appeal to men. Is this the atmosphere in which we want to raise our children? Is this the legacy we want to leave for Nashville and country music?”

Finally, her solution: “What can be done to hear more females and fewer songs that define women solely as physical specimens? First, quit listening to Country radio and contact the stations to let them know why.” Keel goes on to suggest contacting advertisers and refusing to purchase their products if they run spots on Country radio.

The issue of female country artists and airplay is a good one that has been widely debated ... and likely will continue to be. Unfortunately, Keel’s piece has set the discussion back further than song lyrics about cut-offs and bikini tops. With holes big enough to drive a pickup truck through, the column misses many opportunities.

Perhaps the biggest flaw is writing completely unsubstantiated opinion as fact. “Programmers examine the music of female artists through a harsher lens.” Really? Says who? How so? “Some believe women’s songs don’t work on radio.” Why not? Who are those PDs? “Female artists have a much more difficult time getting a second chance.” According to what? Where’s the data? If true, what’s the cause?

The leap from wildly unsupported assertions about programmer opinions to concluding that country music disrespects female artists to suggesting a radio boycott as the solution is a hop-skip-and-jump of monumental proportions. That canyon’s so wide even the late Evel Knievel wouldn’t have taken a look.

But the greatest gap of all is in failing to contribute something meaningful on the subject. It seems ridiculous to have to point this out to a degree-holder from Columbia’s Graduate School of Journalism, but Country radio programmers have phones. They also have email addresses. Some of them – in major markets and at important stations – are women. Shocking! There are women and men who oversee multiple formats, who might be able to speak to differences in how audiences respond to music.

There are also music tracking services like Mediabase that can show airplay trends and even whether stations with female PDs or MDs approach the male/female mix differently. Likewise, there’s a ratings service called Nielsen Audio that can attest that the “unlistenable” format Keel assails is pretty much on fire right now. And that doesn’t even get into the notion that for-profit conglomerates and stations put enormous resources and energy into figuring out exactly what their audience wants to hear. That female artists would be locked out by nothing more than the biases of programmers is absurd.

To be sure, the relative imbalance of male and female voices on the radio and in country music is a real phenomenon and worthy of serious discussion. To address it with vague suppositions about what radio programmers think, feel or do as a means to cheap-shot Country radio as a whole is lazy and unprofessional. One has to wonder what kind of grade Professor Keel would give a student who turned in such weakly sourced and argued writing.

As for her employer, The Tennessean’s disregard for Country radio, which must be understood to properly cover country music, is so longstanding as to almost be beyond arguing at this point. And we might urge our readers to engage in a similar boycott of the newspaper industry, but it seems most of the population has already gotten that message.
BRANTLEY GILBERT
ONE HELL OF AN AMEN

THE NEW SINGLE FROM JUST AS I AM

“ANYTIME YOU GO OUT FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE - OR FIGHTING FOR YOUR COUNTRY - THAT’S ONE HELL OF AN AMEN.” - BRANTLEY GILBERT

BRANTLEY HAS SOLD OVER 7.5 MILLION TRACKS

#2 SELLING NEW COUNTRY STUDIO ALBUM OF 2014

AMA NOMINEE FOR “FAVORITE COUNTRY ALBUM”

Brantley was hand-picked for 2015 Chesney/Aldean co-headlining stadium tour. “Brantley’s the man for the job. He knows how to reach the crowd, how to make them rock and he’s not afraid to push the rest of us.” - Kenny Chesney
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<th>Artist/Title (Label)</th>
<th>Total Points +/-</th>
<th>Points Total Plays +/-</th>
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Haley & Michaels

It's "JUST ANOTHER LOVE SONG"

...or is it?

EARLY BELIEVERS: SIRIUSXM THE HIGHWAY, KKGO, KRTY
VIDEO #1 CMT PURE - 7 WEEKS
TOP 10 GAC
SINGLE DOWNLOADS: 25,000+
STREAMS: 1 MILLION+

What's YOUR Just Another Love Song?

"The truth is, 'Amazed' IS just another love song to me now. It was my wedding song, but since the divorce I haven't been able to listen to it. The first time I heard your song it immediately became my new theme song to my brand new life."  

(Jessica/Ann Arbor, MI)
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<th>Artist/Title (Label)</th>
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Debut 50 COLE SWINDELL/Ain't Worth The Whiskey (Warner Bros./WMN) | 1467 | 565 | 462 | 199 | 2.79 | 1.056 | 70 | 16 |

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Country Aircheck Top Spin Gainers

**FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE**/Sun Daze (Republic Nashville) 743
**ERIC CHURCH**/Talladega (EMI Nashville) 583
**KENNY CHESNEY**/Til It's Gone (Blue Chair/Columbia) 533
**KEITH URBAN**/Somewhere In My Car (Capitol) 526
**MADDIE & TAE**/Girl In A Country Song (Dot) 496
**BIG & RICH**/Look At You (B&R/New Revolution) 464
**RANDY HOUSER**/Like A Cowboy (Stoney Creek) 463
**BRAD PAISLEY**/Perfect Storm (Arista) 435
**TIM MCGRAW**/Shotgun Rider (Big Machine) 431
**BRETT ELDRIDGE**/Mean To Me (Atlantic/WMN) 400
**COUNTRY AIRCHECK ACTIVITY**

**CANAAN SMITH**/Love You Like That (Mercury)
- Moves 46-45*
- 1,793 points, 674 spins
- No adds

**GLORIANA**/Trouble (Emblem/Warner Bros./WAR)
- Debuts at 46*
- 1,662 points, 579 spins
- 9 adds: KBEQ, KKBQ*, KSKS*, KWJJ, WCOL, WKLB, WKMK, WQYK, WXBQ

**JON PARDI**/When I’ve Been Drinkin’ (Capitol)
- Moves 48-47*
- 1,600 points, 569 spins
- No adds

**TRISHA YEARWOOD f/KELLY CLARKSON**/PrizeFighter (Gwendolyn/RCA)
- Moves 47-48
- 1,530 points, 541 spins
- 4 adds: KWJJ, WKLB, WQMX, WXTU

**KELSEA BALLERINI**/Love Me Like You Mean It (Black River)
- Remains at 49*
- 1,525 points, 571 spins
- 5 adds: KHEY, KKBQ*, WPCV*, WQMX, WXBQ

**COLE SWINDELL**/Ain’t Worth The Whiskey (Warner Bros./WMN)
- Debuts at 50*
- 1,467 points, 462 plays
- 16 adds including: KBEQ, KCYY*, KHEY, KMPS, KSSN, WCKT, WDAF, WHKO*, WIRK, WKMK

**BILLY CURRINGTON**/Don’t It (Mercury)
- 1,410 points, 502 spins
- 3 adds: KTST, WKMK, WPAW*

**JACKIE LEE**/She Does (Broken Bow)
- 1,354 points, 475 spins
- 1 add: KWJJ

---

**ADD DATES**

**NOVEMBER 17**
- **HALEY & MICHAELS**/Just Another Love Song (H&M/NewVision)
- **RODNEY ATKINS**/Eat Sleep Love You Repeat (Curb)
- **BRANTLEY GILBERT**/One Hell Of An Amen (Valory)

**NOVEMBER 24**
- **KRISTY LEE COOK**/Lookin’ For A Cowgirl (Broken Bow)

**DECEMBER 1**
- **STEVEN LEE OLESEN**/Raised By A Good Time (Columbia)

Send yours to adds@countryaircheck.com.

---

**CHECK OUT 11/11**

**Garth Brooks** Man Against Machine (Pearl/RCA)
- The g man returns with his first album of new material since he retired in 2001, featuring “People Loving People” and “Mom.”

**Jeff Bates** Me And Conway (Sony RED/Red River)
- This tribute to Conway Twitty includes the classics “Don’t Take It Away,” “I’d Love To Lay You Down” and “That’s My Job.”

Nov. 17 **Trisha Yearwood** PrizeFighter: Hit After Hit (Gwendolyn/RCA)

Nov. 18 **Diamond Rio** Diamond Rio Live (Rio Hot Records)

Nov. 24 **Tim Rushlow & His Big Band** Classic Christmas (Row Entertainment)

Dec. 2 **Sundy Best** Salvation City (eONe)

Dec. 9 **Carrie Underwood** Greatest Hits Decade #1 (19/Arista)

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**DON’T BE A CHICKEN**

**GIVE UNIQUELY NASHVILLE GIFTS TO YOUR STAFF THIS HOLIDAY**

**SHOP NOW**
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**ST. JUDE GIVE THANKS. WALK.™**

**WALK. To help us live.**

Saturday, November 22, 2014

[Register]

[Support a Participant]
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