RCA’s Gale To Manage Owen

RCA SVP/Promotion Keith Gale will leave his label home of more than 22 years on Jan. 4 to join RCA artist Jake Owen and Owen’s Dir./Tour Marketing & Sponsorships Jon Andolina in forming a new management company to guide Owen’s career, with Gale as Owen’s manager. The new management company’s name and the booking agency that will be working with Owen going forward will be announced shortly after the New Year. For more than a decade, Owen’s management and booking have been handled by Morris Higham Management. Gale was WXTU/Philadelphia Dir./Promotion when he joined RCA for NE Promotion in Aug. 1994. He rose through the promotion ranks, being elevated to Dir./National Promotion in Sept. 1997, Sr. Dir. in May 1999, VP in 2006 and promoted to SVP in Dec. 2012. Gale can be reached at Sony here until Jan. 4. No word from Sony Music Nashville on plans to fill Gale’s post.

Check Pleased: KYGO/Denver staff and volunteers celebrate a successful Country Cares for St. Jude Kids Radiothon, which brings the station’s total for 2016 to $518,752.

RMLC & GMR: Not So Rate

As Christmas Eve exchanges go, the interim agreement between the Radio Music License Committee and Irving Azoff’s performing rights organization Global Music Rights falls into the awkward category. The good news is broadcasters have until Jan. 31 to sign an interim license covering GMR

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From the Grammy-nominated CMA DUO OF THE YEAR!

ADD JANUARY 17TH!
works through Sept. 30. Rates have not been disclosed, but the agreement allows for retroactive adjustments pending the outcome of ongoing litigation between the two entities or settlement.

Simultaneous statements found GMR attorney Dan Petrocelli slipping in a barb by noting, “GMR offered this license to the RMLC last month, but the RMLC refused it and, instead, chose to sue and seek an injunction. With today’s agreement, the RMLC has withdrawn its request for an injunction and radio stations across the country will have the opportunity to offer their listeners GMR’s quality music.” Meanwhile, RMLC Chair Ed Christian stuck with a just-the-facts approach.

iHeartMedia and Townsquare already had deals with GMR, joined late last week by Cumulus, which had previously warned stations they may have to remove GMR songs from their rotations beginning Jan. 1. In Country, GMR represents top songwriters Shane McAnally and Luke Laird, whose work includes Miranda Lambert’s “Vice” and Luke Bryan’s “Fast,” respectively.

Moby Retires

Country Radio Hall of Famer James “Moby” Carney is signing off and shuttering the syndicated Moby In The Morning as of Friday (Dec. 30). Moby worked his way from small-town radio in Tennessee to stops in Nashville, Tampa, Houston and Dallas riding the “shock jock” wave. He settled in to a highly successful decade in mornings at WKHX/Atlanta, eventually syndicating that show before building his own network of stations from his home base in Roswell, GA. “It’s been a great 12-and-a-half years doing an independent network that lots of folks told me wouldn’t last six months,” he tells Country Aircheck.
Kenny Chesney

Bar at the End of the World

On Your Desks Now

Impacting Immediately!
“Jerry Garcia said it best, I believe, ‘What a long strange trip it’s been.’” Reach him here.

Where Credit Is Due
The Media Rating Council (MRC) is withholding accreditation for Nielsen’s December 2016 PPM reports in 26 markets after 8% of installed meters lost connectivity during the first week of the December survey (CAT 11/10). “MRC believes the data analyses related to this incident with which we have been presented by Nielsen Audio, in addition to Nielsen Audio’s responses to a series of questions related to the incident ... are incomplete,” a statement reads.

Nielsen is standing by its data, however. “Following the PPM connectivity issue during week one of the December survey, Nielsen’s Data Science team conducted a rigorous analysis of data quality and we firmly stand behind the December PPM monthly estimates,” a company spokesperson says. “The sample performance for the December report is in line with the standards that have been used in prior months for the 26 accredited markets. While we disagree with the MRC’s decision to withhold accreditation of the December PPM monthly data, Nielsen remains committed to the MRC accreditation process.”

A subsequent statement from Nielsen reveals more about the cause of the connectivity problem. “We have isolated the issue to reboot logic in a subset of meters that were unable to connect to the collection server after multiple attempts,” the company says. “We are testing a software update to the reboot logic and upon successful testing and review with the MRC, we plan to implement the fix by the end of Q1 2017.”

Betson Up In Frederick
Aloha Station Trust/Frederick, MD
Dir./Operations Phyliss Betson has been promoted to MM, responsibilities that include oversight of Country WFRE. She succeeds Michael Banks, who is leaving for an unspecified opportunity with Connoisseur Media. Betson has been with the group since 2001 and can be reached here.

Recapping Thursday’s Update
• iHeartMedia WNCB/Raleigh & WTQR/Greensboro PD Todd Nixon has resigned and is seeking new opportunities. Nixon took the posts more than two years ago (CAT 3/7/14) from then-Clear Channel WCKT/Fort Myers & WCTQ/Sarasota, FL. Prior stops include KRMD/Shreveport, LA; WYCT/Pensacola, FL; WYZB/Ft. Walton Beach, FL; WCTO/Allentown and KILT/Houston. He’ll remain through the end of the year and can be reached here thereafter. No word on plans for the open position(s).
• iHeartMedia’s decision to not to repay $57.1 million of

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NEW MUSIC
Nashville

celebrating it’s 1,000th show!

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WAAC WAAG WAAO WADI WATZ WAWC WBBS WBGK WBMH WBUG WBYG WBYZ WCCQ WCMJ
WCMS WCGS WBDN WDLR WDXB WEGX WEPG WFGI WFLE WFRB WFRE WFUS
WGGE WNGA WGSQ WHKX WHMA WHKW WIBL WIFE WIL WILQ WJCL WJMN WJNV
WTOO WKBQ WKCQ WKDQ WKGA WKIS WKKW WKKY WKRX WKSF WKUL WKWS WXXC
WLAV WLFZ WLJE WLFM WLWI WMCI WMIL WNAX WNCQ WNCY WNOE WOGI WOKO WOVK
WPAP WPGB WQCC WQDR WQEB WQHK WQIK WQZY WRCV WSAQ WSDQ WSEX WSOH WTHI
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We’re proud and pleased to have played over 12,000 of Country Music’s Biggest Hits over the last 9 years!

Our most sincere thanks to the hundreds of Top Country Stations in America, past and present, who have made this all possible.

Now let’s get started on the next 1,000 shows and see where life takes us.

Please contact our affiliations manager Chuck Mann at chuck.mann@newmusicnashville.com

Host, Bob Guerra
its 5.50% senior notes due recently (CAT 12/13) has been ruled a “failure to pay credit event” by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, according to the San Antonio Express-News. The decision isn’t expected to have an immediate impact on iHeartMedia’s balance sheet, but may be a sign of the company’s declining financial health. More here.

• Nielsen Audio will expand sample size by 10% across its 48 PPM markets in mid-2017, an increase of 6,000 panelists distributed proportionately across all demographics. Nielsen is also working to leverage recently acquired metadata company Gracenote to expand measurement of in-car and digital listening. More here.

• Frankie Ballard raised more than $40,000 for the FTL Sarcoma Fund (“For The Linds”) last weekend, performing two sold-out shows at the State Theater in Kalamazoo, MI.

Milestones
Kacey Musgraves got engaged to fellow artist Ruston Kelly Dec. 24.
Ashley Monroe and husband John Danks are expecting their first child.
Dan + Shay’s Shay Mooney and fiancée Hannah Billingsley revealed they’re expecting a boy, Asher James Mooney.
Love And Theft’s Stephen Barker Liles and wife Jenna revealed the gender of their second child yesterday (12/26) via a video here.

Songwriter Andrew Dorff died Dec. 19 at age 40.
Comedian and broadcast personality Gordie Tapp died Dec. 18 at age 94.

News & Notes
The Country Music Greats Radio Show is relaunching as Pure American Country Jan. 2. WSM-AM/Nashville’s Bill Cody hosts, and the show is shifting its focus to ’80s, ’90s and today’s country. In syndication since 2003, find out more about the show here.


The Randy Rogers Band’s Randy Rogers will play an acoustic set at the Black Tie and Boots 2017 Presidential Inaugural Ball Jan. 19 in Oxon Hill, MD. B&R/Thirty Tigers/New Revolution’s Big & Rich will headline the RIAA’s second annual inaugural fundraiser benefiting Musicians On Call. The show will be held at the 9:30 Club in Washington, DC Jan. 20.

Speaking of Randy Rogers, he and KRR Entertainment became the official owners of the Cheatham Street Warehouse, a legendary venue in San Marcos, TX, Dec. 20.

An encore presentation of the 50th Annual CMA Awards will air Jan. 1 at 8pm ET on AXS-TV.
Available Jobs

Here’s a list of job seekers and open gigs. Not listed? Send info here and we’ll include you in a future update.

* Scripts’ WKTI/Milwaukee is searching for a PD/afternooner. Apply here.
* Townsquare/Duluth, MN has an opening for a GM. Apply here.
* CBS Radio’s WUSN/Chicago has an opening for a PD. Apply here.
* Mid West Family’s WRTB/Rockford, IL is searching for an afternoon personality. Reach Steve Summers about the position, which includes imaging duties, here.
* West Virginia Radio’s WKWS/Charleston, WV has an opening for a PD/air personality. Materials to MM Bob Visotcky here.
* Beasley’s WKLB/Boston has an opening for a morning show host. Airchecks and resumes to PD Mike Brophy here.
* Zimmer/Cookeville, TN is searching for an engineer. Three years experience is required. Materials here.
* Leighton’s KZPK/St. Cloud, MN has an opening in evenings. Airchecks, resumes and social media links here.
* Beasley’s WKML/Fayetteville, NC is searching for an MD/morning co-host. Materials to PD Dean Severance here.
* W&B’s WLKV/Elizabethtown, KY is searching for an APD/MD/afternooner. Materials to Owner/OM Rene Bell here.
* Townsquare/Amarillo, TX has an opening for an OM and Top 40 PD. Materials to Market President Brice Sheets here.
* iHeartMedia’s WEBG/Chicago has an opening for a Dir./Promotions. Apply here.
* Adams’ WBTU/Fort Wayne, IN has an opening for an APD/midday. Materials to PD Randy Alomar here.
* Bristol’s WXBG/Johnson City, TN has an opening on the morning show. Materials here.
* Cumulus’ WSJR/Wilkes-Barre has an opening for a PD/afternoon personality. Apply here.
* Steel City’s KBKJ/Kansas City has an opening for a middays. Materials here.
* Zimmer’s KCLR/Columbia, MO has an opening in middays. Airchecks, resumes and here.
* Cumulus’ WMDH/Muncie, IN is searching for a PD/afternoon personality. Apply here.
* Renda’s WGNE/Jacksonville has an APD/MD/midday opening. Materials to OM Chuck Beck here.
* Cumulus/Lexington has an opening for PD of Country combo WLQX & WVLK. Apply here.
* Midlands’ WWNO/Columbia, SC has on-air openings for all dayparts. Airchecks and resumes to Managing Partner/Programming & Operations Keith Clark here.
* Townsquare’s WOKQ/Portsmouth, NH has an opening for an air talent. Airchecks and resumes to OM JC Coffey here.
* AEG’s WKKW/Morgantown, WV has an opening for a morning host. Materials here.
* Cox’s KCYT/Boise has an opening in afternoons. Three years of experience is required. Apply here.
* Curtis’ WQDR/Raleigh has an opening for a Dir./Promotions. Materials including a cover letter and salary history to Dir./Human Resources Nancy Ginger here.
* CBS Radio’s KILT/Houston is searching for an evening talent. A minimum of two years experience is required along with “the swagger to be Houston’s only local Country night show.” Apply here.
* Cumulus’ WFMU/Indianapolis is still searching for a live and local midday personality. Airchecks and resumes to OM/ PD Stephen Giutari here.
* CBS Radio’s KNCI/Sacramento has an opening for a PD. At least five years programming experience is required and a four-year degree in a related field is preferred. Apply here.

Search

- Todd Nixon
  Departing WNCB/Raleigh, WTQR/Greensboro PD
toddnixonradio@gmail.com
- Jeff Kapugi
  Former CBS Radio VP/Country, WUSN/Chicago PD
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December 2016 PPM Scoreboard

Country radio shares were down by 2.2% compared to last month and down 4.5% compared to December 2015. Of the 87 subscribing stations listed, 29 increased, 54 decreased and four were flat.

The cume leader was Cumulus’ KPLX/Dallas with 1,194,800. Mt. Wilson’s KKKO/Los Angeles was second with 1,154,200.

Legend: A “+” indicates a Classic Country outlet; a “*” designates co-owned Country stations in the metro; “t” indicates a tie; and a “*+” indicates a station best in that statistic. Ranks are among subscribers.

### Format-Wide PPM Ratings

Aggregate share for Nielsen Audio subscribing stations month to month.

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