

Chart Chat

Congratulations to **LoCash** (Preston Brust and Chris Lucas), **Kerry Wolfe**, **Cheryl Broz**, **Kristen Brust**, **John Lessard**, **Ray Vaughn** and the **Galaxy** and **Studio2Bee** (Skip Bishop, Butch Waugh) promotion teams on keeping "Hometown Home" at No. 1 for a second week. It is the first multi-week No. 1 by a duo since "10,000 Hours" by Dan + Shay & Justin Bieber in January 2020. Songwriters are **Zach Abend**, **Andy Albert**, Brust and Lucas.



Kudos to **Stacy Blythe** and the **Big Loud** crew on racking up 82 adds for "Favorite Country Song" by **Hardy**. It is his fourth release to top the CA/MB Add Board.

News & Notes

Riley Green has been added as a performer for the **Jelly Roll**-hosted **Opry NextStage Live from Texas** May 7 in Plano (CAT 3/28). Tickets [here](#).

Willie Nelson has launched (and sold out the first run of) his THC-infused beverage, **Willie's Remedy+**. He is donating 1% of all sales to farmers via his **Farm Aid Foundation**.

Author and music biographer **Jake Brown** (Nashville Songwriter, *Behind The Boards: Nashville*) will release his newest book, *Songs Of Nashville: The Real Stories Behind Country Music's Greatest Hits*, June 24 via **Division Books**. **Liz Rose**, **Lori McKenna**, **Drew Parker**, **Josh Thompson**, **Jim Lauderdale**, **Hillary Lindsay**, **Natalie Hemby** and **Shane McAnally** are among those featured. Pre-order [here](#).

The **Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)** has elevated **Cox Media Group** Exec. Dir./Radio Engineering **Roz Clark** to the membership rank of Fellow. Clark served two terms on the SBE Board of Directors and has been the treasurer for SBE Chapter 39 since 2013.

Songwriter **Jeff Stevens** was inducted into the **West Virginia Music Hall of Fame** April 12 by Sony Music Publishing's **Dale Bobo**. Stevens' songs have been recorded by George Strait, Tracy Byrd, Tim McGraw and Luke Bryan.

Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI)'s 34th annual **Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival** will be held March 24-28, 2026 in venues across the city.

Runaway June, **John Conlee**, **Mandy Barnett** and **Charlie McCoy** are among the performers, and **Donna Fargo** will make an appearance, at the 11th annual **Country With Heart** benefit for **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** June 7 at the Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theatre. Tickets [here](#).

The **Patsy Cline Museum** in downtown Nashville will permanently close May 15 after an eight-year run to make more space for the co-owned **Johnny Cash Museum**, which shares the same building.

MY TUNES

Warner's **Warren Zeiders** shares the stories behind *Relapse*, *Lies*, & *Betrayal*:

"You For A Reason:" This song is something just about everyone can relate to. I wrote it from a romantic perspective, but it can be about friendships, too. A girl came into my life for just a season, but I truly believe the good Lord put her there for a reason. She changed me for the better and brought things out of me that really helped me grow – not just as a person, but in my career, too.

Seasons change, and we all go through different phases. People come and go, but I believe the Lord works through all of it – sometimes it's good, sometimes it's hard – but there's always a bigger picture at play.

Writing this song was a reflective and healing process for me. That chapter of my life may be closed, but I'm grateful she was part of my story, even if it was just for a season.

"Can A Heart Take:" Written with Ryan Beaver and Randy Montana during a writing retreat, and Beaver actually came in with the title. I was writing from the place of going through a breakup and trying to process it all. It was about asking myself, how much more can my heart really take? Loving someone deeply and then having to let go of that chapter, you try to fill the void in different ways, but in the end, you always find a way through it. For me, music has always been that therapy. Writing this song helped me work through it all.

"Lies:" Blake Pendergrass, Justin Ebach, Ross Copperman and I wrote my song "Relapse" together, and we wrote "Lies" the next time we all were back in the room again after that, and it felt like we were picking up right where we left off.

I had the title "Lies" saved in my phone, but no real melody or structure yet. We were at Ebach's studio that day, he played this one riff and I immediately went, "That's it. That's the one," and the song just locked in right away.

Blake's got incredible instincts when it comes to lyrics. He and I work so well together, especially when we're chasing down unique melodies. The last part of the song really hits for me – it's about how people talk big about the future and what they want down the road, but if they're not showing up in the little things now, that future's never going to happen.

"Take It To The Grave:" A straight-up rock song. We actually wrote it over two years ago, and my day-one fans already knew it as it has been teased on social media, played live and was even my show opener for all 39 dates on the Jelly Roll tour.

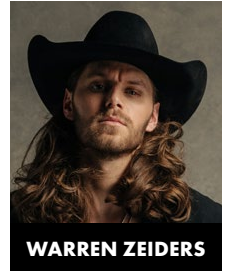
We sat on it for a long time, just trying to find the right moment and the right production team to really bring it to life. Once I started working with Mike Elizondo on this latest record – alongside Ross Copperman, too – it finally started to take shape.

This one's for the folks who love "Ride The Lightning" and that heavier side of what I do. This song is just about owning who you are, standing firm in it, and saying, "I'm gonna take all of this – all the good, all the bad, all the real – with me to the grave." It's a full-throttle anthem for anyone who lives unapologetically.

"Crying Whiskey:" Written during a retreat in Miami. Funny enough, it actually started without me. Jacob Kasher Hindlin, Ali Tamposi and Blake Pendergrass had already been working on it before I jumped in.

We've all been in those situationships, or gotten that late-night call from someone who's been out drinking or partying with friends. You pick up the phone, and you already know it's not real and they'll feel differently in the morning.

That Miami retreat brought out a lot of great songs, and this one was definitely a standout.



©2025 Country Aircheck™ – All rights reserved. Sign up free at www.countryaircheck.com. Send news to news@countryaircheck.com

JOHN MORGAN FRIENDS LIKE THAT

FEAT. JASON ALDEAN

POWER UP NOW – 4/20
FOR #1 ON 4/21!

