

29TH ANNUAL MUSICROW AWARDS

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 28 | 2017 **MUSICROW**

2017 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES REVEALED

◀ MUSICROW AWARDS REWIND



In 2016...

Maren Morris won the Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year award.



In 2015...

Co-writers Liz Rose and Hillary Lindsey performed their Song of the Year winning hit "Girl Crush."



In 2014...

Brandy Clark won Breakthrough Artist of the Year.



In 2013...

Dann Huff received the Producer of the Year award.

MusicRow is pleased to reveal the nominees for the 29th annual *MusicRow* Awards, with honors being presented for **Producer of the Year, Song of the Year, Breakthrough Artist, Breakthrough Songwriter, and Breakthrough Artist-Writer.**

Winners will be announced during a private ceremony at SESAC and will be featured in the upcoming print issue of *MusicRow* magazine.

"It is an honor to shine a much-deserved spotlight on this year's nominees with this special online publication," says *MusicRow* Publisher/Owner Sherod Robertson. "Our subscriber-voted awards are an opportunity for members of the music industry to salute their peers and highlight the undeniable amount of creative talent in Nashville. In fact there is so much rising talent, that this year brings a record number of nominees for Breakthrough Songwriter and the addition of the Breakthrough Artist-Writer category."

Subscribed members of *MusicRow* will be emailed a ballot on Wednesday, May 24. Voting closes on Tuesday, May 30 at 5 p.m. To subscribe, click [here](#).

The *MusicRow* Awards ceremony also provides a platform to continue the annual toast of the Top Ten Album All-Star Musicians, the studio whiz kids who played on the most albums that reached the Top Ten during the eligibility period.

Final nominees for the *MusicRow* Awards are determined by the publication, with outside nominations being considered for Breakthrough Songwriter and Breakthrough Artist-Writer. Eligible projects were active between May 1, 2016 and April 30, 2017.

(Continued on page 4)

Ballots will be emailed to *MusicRow* subscribers the afternoon of Wednesday, May 24
VOTING CLOSES Tuesday, May 30 at 5:00 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING
29TH ANNUAL
MUSICROW
AWARDS **NOMINEES**



BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER

TUCKER BEATHARD



BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

MAREN MORRIS



BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR & ARTIST-WRITER

JON PARDI



SONG OF THE YEAR: "LEAVING NASHVILLE" & BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER

ABE STOKLASA



BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR & ARTIST-WRITER

BRETT YOUNG

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AT **RED LIGHT**
MANAGEMENT

CARNIVAL MUSIC

congratulates

OUR MUSICROW NOMINEES



FRANK LIDDELL
**PRODUCER OF THE
YEAR**

SCOOTER CARUSOE
SONG OF THE YEAR
"WANNA BE THAT SONG"



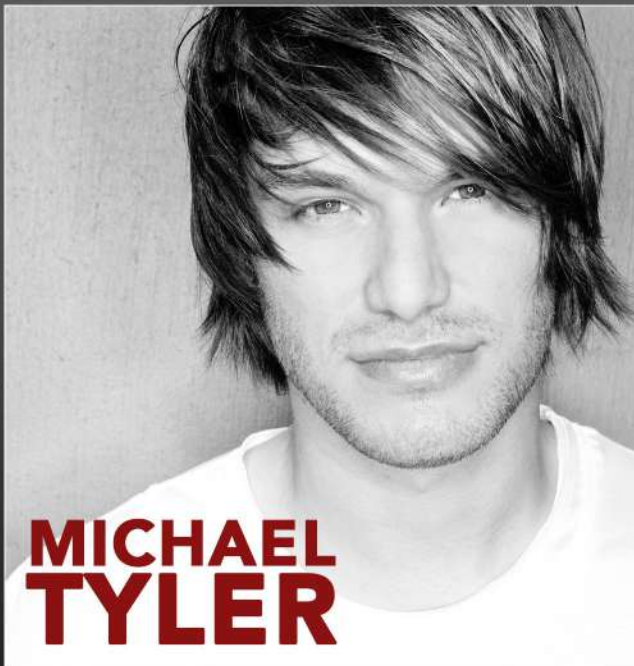
SESAC CONGRATULATES OUR BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER NOMINEES



**JUSTIN
EBACH**



**JESSE
LEE**



**MICHAEL
TYLER**

**AND ALL
THE 2017
MUSICROW
AWARD
NOMINEES!**



PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

Buddy Cannon continued helping longtime collaborator Kenny Chesney evolve, including producing his hit single featuring pop star Pink, "Setting the World on Fire." Cannon also re-teamed with Willie Nelson for the acclaimed project *God's Problem Child*, and took on production duties for a comeback album by revered songstress Alison Krauss (*Windy City*). Cannon was previously named *MusicRow* Producer of the Year in 2004.

Ross Copperman led Dierks Bentley, Jake Owen, Brett Eldredge, and many others to radio success this year. He produced No. 1s for Bentley ("Black") and Owen ("American Country Love Song"). His work with Eldredge yielded the chart-toppers "Drunk On Your Love" and "Wanna Be That Song," the latter of which is nominated for *MusicRow* Song of the Year. As a songwriter, Copperman co-wrote six No. 1s, including the aforementioned titles, and was named BMI Country Songwriter of the Year.

Dann Huff's lengthy list of credits includes Keith Urban, Thomas Rhett, Brantley Gilbert, Billy Currington, Brett Young, and many more. He received the 2016 CMA Award for Single of the Year for being a producer of Thomas Rhett's "Die a Happy Man," which spent 17 weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. Huff is a two-time *MusicRow* Magazine Producer of the Year (2006, 2013).

Jay Joyce brought his production genius to albums of all genres, ranging from country hitmaker Eric Church to rock band The Wild Feathers. He earned CMA Album of the Year for Church's *Mr. Misunderstood*, and his work on Brandy Clark's *Big Day In A Small Town* album helped her earn multiple Grammy nods. In addition, Joyce produced recent hits by Carrie Underwood ("Dirty Laundry"), Little Big Town ("Better Man"), and the Brothers Osborne ("Stay A Little Longer"). He was the 2015 *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.

Frank Liddell teamed with longtime collaborator Miranda Lambert to produce her ambitious double album *The Weight Of These Wings*. The project debuted at No.1 on the *Billboard* Country Albums Chart and spawned two

Grammy Award nominations for Best Country Solo Performance and Best Country Song for lead single "Vice." Additionally, "Vice" is in the running for *MusicRow* Song of the Year. Liddell was voted *MusicRow* Producer of the Year in 2014, 2012 and 2010.

CORNMAN



MUSIC

Congratulations to our
MusicRow Awards Nominees!

SONG OF THE YEAR

"Blue Ain't Your Color"
 (Steven Lee Olsen)

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER

 <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">JOSH MIRENDA</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Cornman Music (ASCAP) <i>"Somewhere On A Beach"</i> recorded by Dierks Bentley</p>	
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">STEVEN LEE OLSEN</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Cornman Music (ASCAP) <i>"Blue Ain't Your Color"</i> recorded by Keith Urban</p>	

WE ARE PROUD
TO BE ON
YOUR TEAM



2017 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES

JORDAN SCHMIDT | JUSTIN EBACH | STEVEN LEE OLSEN | WILLIAM MICHAEL MORGAN | JASON SEVER
EMILY WEISBAND | JAY JOYCE | JOSH MIRENDA | LAUREN ALAINA | DONOVAN WOODS



FINAL NOMINATIONS

BMG / MAGIC MUSTANG MUSIC CONGRATULATES

KURT ALLISON



— 2017 **MUSICROW**
BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER
OF THE YEAR NOMINEE



Congratulations
to our Music Row
Breakthrough Songwriter
Nominees

Andy Albert

"She's Got A Way With Words," recorded by Blake Shelton
"If The Boot Fits," recorded by Granger Smith

Kelly Archer

"Sleep Without You," recorded by Brett Young

DOWNTOWN

Amsterdam

London

Los Angeles

Nashville

New York

Toyko

CATEGORY ONE

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Voted by *MusicRow's* subscribed members to honor a Nashville producer's work on albums active during the eligibility period. Achievements may include, but are not limited to, single chart performance and album sales.



Buddy Cannon

Kenny Chesney, Alison Krauss, Aaron Lewis, Willie Nelson, Randy Rogers Band



Ross Copperman

Dierks Bentley, Brett Eldredge, Trent Harmon, Ryan Kinder, Jake Owen, Darius Rucker, Drake White, Eli Young Band



Dann Huff

Kane Brown, Billy Currington, The Cadillac Three, Delta Rae, Ryan Follese, Brantley Gilbert, Hunter Hayes, Martina McBride, Midland, Thomas Rhett, Steven Tyler, Keith Urban, Brett Young



Jay Joyce

Brothers Osborne, Brandy Clark, Eric Church, Devin Dawson, LANCO, Little Big Town, Carrie Underwood, The Wild Feathers



Frank Liddell

Derik Hultquist, Miranda Lambert, David Nail, Aubrie Sellers, Charlie Worsham

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR 2017 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES



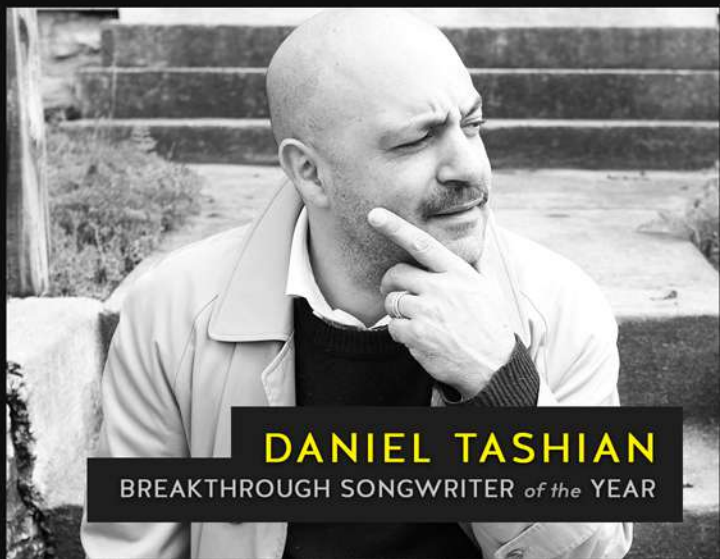
MAREN MORRIS

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST *of the* YEAR



ABE STOKLASA

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER *of the* YEAR
SONG *of the* YEAR "LEAVING NASHVILLE"



DANIEL TASHIAN

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER *of the* YEAR

BIG YELLOW **DOG**
MUSIC

BIGYELLOWDOGMUSIC.COM

CONGRATULATIONS



BRETT YOUNG

**2017 MUSICROW
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST
OF THE YEAR NOMINEE**



**2017 MUSICROW BREAKTHROUGH
ARTIST-WRITER NOMINEES**



BRETT YOUNG



LUKE COMBS



TUCKER BEATHARD

JOSH THOMPSON

**2017 MUSICROW
BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER
OF THE YEAR NOMINEE**





WORD COUNTRY CONGRATULATES
JUSTIN EBACH
ON HIS NOMINATION FOR
MUSICROW BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER



BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

Andy Albert turned love into a four-letter word with his hit song “She’s Got A Way With Words,” recorded by Blake Shelton. The Georgia native tallied a second hit with Granger Smith’s “If The Boot Fits,” co-written with fellow nominee Jordan Schmidt.

Kurt Allison notched his first No. 1 with Dustin Lynch’s sexy outing, “Seein’ Red.” Allison broke through in the music business as Jason Aldean’s guitar player and a member of the New Voice Entertainment production team.

Kelly Archer has had a lot of activity since moving to Nashville in 2001, but scored her first No. 1 in 2017 with “Sleep Without You.” The song was co-written with fellow nominees Justin Ebach, and Brett Young, who took it to the top of the charts. Archer is originally from Vancouver, Canada.

Thomas Archer’s first hit went all the way to No. 1. He co-wrote the song “Hurricane” with fellow nominees Taylor Phillips and recording artist Luke Combs. Archer is a Georgia native who moved to Nashville in 2012.

Justin Ebach teamed with fellow nominees Kelly Archer and artist Brett Young to pen the upbeat single “Sleep

Without You,” which became his first No. 1. The Florida native is also a Dove Award-nominated producer.

Jesse Lee brought her idea for a song called “Peter Pan” to co-writers Kelsea Ballerini and Forest Glen Whitehead. The song about a boy who won’t grow up was released as a single and flew up the charts, earning Lee’s first No. 1.

Josh Miranda and fellow nominee Michael Tyler are two of the writers of Dierks Bentley’s hit “Somewhere On A Beach.” It was the first No. 1 for both, and they likely celebrated by “sippin’ something strong.” Miranda is a Music City native.

Jamie Moore earned his first country No. 1 as co-writer of “May We All,” recorded by Florida Georgia Line featuring Tim McGraw. Moore is a four-time Grammy nominee thanks to work with CCM artists including TobyMac. He is originally from Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Steven Lee Olsen celebrated his first No. 1 as a co-writer of “Blue Ain’t Your Color,” recorded by Keith Urban. The single spent multiple weeks at the top of the charts and earned two Grammy nominations. Olsen is a native of Canada.

(More Breakthrough Songwriter nominees on page 14)

CONGRATULATIONS
GRAMMY WINNER
EMILY WEISBAND
ON THE NOMINATION FOR
**2017 MUSIC ROW
BREAKTHROUGH
SONGWRITER**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

Taylor Phillips brewed up his first No. 1 in 2017, with the hit single "Hurricane." The North Carolina native co-wrote the song with fellow nominees Thomas Archer and Luke Combs, who recorded the track. The song first charted in July 2015 when Combs was an independent artist.

Jordan Schmidt notched his first two hits as a songwriter during the last year. His co-write "Lights Come On," recorded by Jason Aldean, lit up the No. 1 spot. Additionally, Schmidt kicked up dust on the airwaves with "If The Boot Fits," recorded by Granger Smith and co-written with fellow nominee Andy Albert.

Jason Sever has had numerous cuts by top artists, but his first hit came as co-writer of Dustin Lynch's "Seein' Red." Sever penned the No. 1 song with Kurt Allison, who is also nominated in this category.

Abe Stoklasa notched his first two radio hits, getting listeners hooked on his No. 1 "Fix," recorded by Chris Lane. He also co-wrote Ben Rector's "Brand New" which went top-10 on *Billboard's* Adult Top 40 chart. Stoklasa scored on collaborations with Charles Kelley, as co-writer of the Grammy-nominated song "The Driver," and "Leaving Nashville" which is vying for *MusicRow* Song of the Year.

Daniel Tashian, a longtime artist and songwriter, broke through on the country charts as co-writer of Josh Turner's No. 1 "Hometown Girl." Tashian is lead singer of The Silver Seas, and has had sync placements in hit television shows including *Nashville* and *Pretty Little Liars*.

Josh Thompson, an established songwriter and artist, scored his first No. 1 hit in 2017, as a co-writer of "Any Ol' Barstool," recorded by Jason Aldean. The Wisconsin native turned Nashville mainstay previously charted six other singles, the highest reaching No. 15.

Michael Tyler earned his first No. 1 with "Somewhere On A Beach," co-written with fellow nominee Josh Mirenda and driven to the top of the charts by Dierks Bentley. Tyler is a Missouri native who signed a recording contract with Reviver Records in 2016.

Emily Weisband's first writing appointment with Hillary Scott resulted in the Grammy-winning song "Thy Will." Recorded by Hillary Scott and The Scott Family, it was a major CCM hit and marked Weisband's first No. 1.

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JON PARDI

Breakthrough Artist of the Year
Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year

“Head Over Boots”

#1 most played Billboard Country Song of 2016

#1 most shazamed country song

“Dirt On My Boots”

3 Week #1 Hit • RIAA Certified Gold

“California Sunrise is a triumph of gritty, honky-tonkin’, old-school country with a healthy dose of ballsy guitar rock” – Hits Magazine



UMG Nashville congratulates our
MusicRow Award Nominees!

LAUREN ALAINA

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

“There’s a reason Lauren Alaina manages to stay top of mind... and that’s her powerhouse, honey-toned vocals that meld timeless twang with a modern sass.”

– Rolling Stone

#1 Single “Road Less Traveled”



CATEGORY TWO

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

Voted by *MusicRow's* subscribed members to honor a Nashville songwriter who wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song for the first time. In addition, the qualifying song was not recorded by the nominated songwriter.

Kelly Archer

Stars And Stripes, Maple Leaf Music, Downtown (BMI)
"Sleep Without You," recorded by Brett Young

Thomas Archer

MV2 Entertainment (BMI)
"Hurricane," recorded by Luke Combs

Andy Albert

Downtown (ASCAP)
"She's Got A Way With Words," recorded by Blake Shelton;
"If The Boot Fits," recorded by Granger Smith

Kurt Allison

Magic Mustang Music, Makena Cove Music (ASCAP) "Seein' Red" recorded by Dustin Lynch

Justin Ebach

Wordcountry, Warner/Chappell (SESAC) "Sleep Without You," recorded by Brett Young

Jesse Lee

Roster: Parallel (SESAC)
Song: ole Purple Cape Music (BMI)
"Peter Pan," recorded by Kelsea Ballerini

Josh Mirenda

Cornman Music, Warner/Chappell (ASCAP) "Somewhere On A Beach," recorded by Dierks Bentley

Jamie Moore

Big Loud (ASCAP) "May We All," recorded by Florida Georgia Line ft Tim McGraw

Steven Lee Olsen

Cornman Music, Warner/Chappell (ASCAP) "Blue Ain't Your Color," recorded by Keith Urban

Taylor Phillips

InTune Entertainment (BMI)
"Hurricane," recorded by Luke Combs

Jordan Schmidt

Tree VibeZ, Warner/Chappell (ASCAP) "Lights Come On," recorded by Jason Aldean; "If The Boot Fits," recorded by Granger Smith

Jason Sever

Little Champion Music, Warner/Chappell (ASCAP) "Seein' Red," recorded by Dustin Lynch

Abe Stoklasa

Big Yellow Dog (ASCAP) "Fix," recorded by Chris Lane; "Brand New," recorded by Ben Rector

Daniel Tashian

Big Yellow Dog (BMI) "Hometown Girl," recorded by Josh Turner

Josh Thompson

Big Music Machine, Two Lane Collections (BMI) "Any Ol' Barstool," recorded by Jason Aldean

Michael Tyler

peermusic (SESAC) "Somewhere On A Beach," recorded by Dierks Bentley

Emily Weisband

THiS Music, Warner/Chappell (ASCAP) "Thy Will," recorded by Hillary Scott and The Scott Family



Sony/ATV

MUSIC PUBLISHING congratulates our
MUSICROW AWARD NOMINEES



Breakthrough Artist & Artist-Writer

JON PARDI



Song of the Year

KILL A WORD - ERIC CHURCH

(Eric Church/Jeff Hyde/Luke Dick)



VICE - MIRANDA LAMBERT

(Miranda Lambert/Josh Osborne/Shane McAnally)



WANNA BE THAT SONG - BRETT ELDREDGE

(Brett Eldredge/Ross Copperman/Scooter Carusoe)



Producer of the Year

ROSS COPPERMAN

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

Lauren Alaina's first No. 1 hit, "Road Less Traveled" is an empowering message of self-acceptance which she co-wrote with Jesse Frasure and Meghan Trainor. The rising star also contributed to all 12 songs on her album, which earned her first ACM nomination for New Female Vocalist of the Year. Alaina's career received a major jumpstart when she appeared on Season 10 of *American Idol*. She will spend the summer touring with fellow Georgia native Luke Bryan.

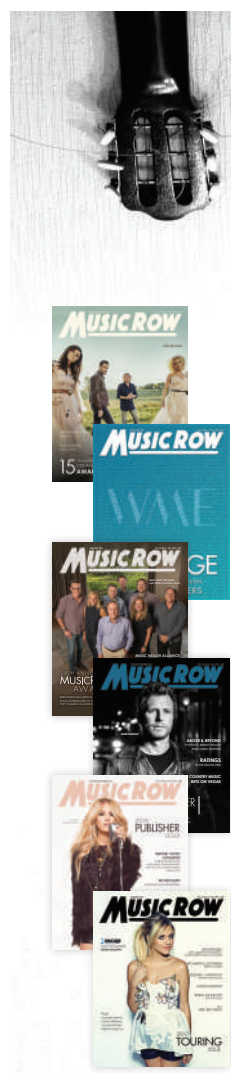
Tucker Beathard broke through with his debut single "Rock On," which reached No. 1 on *MusicRow's* CountryBreakout chart. He co-wrote the song with dad Casey Beathard and Marla Cannon-Goodman. A multi-instrumentalist, Tucker plays lead guitar and drums throughout his *Fight Like Hell* EP. This summer fans can catch Beathard performing at some of music's biggest festivals, including Summerfest, Bonnaroo and Lollapalooza.

Luke Combs built his career one show at a time, growing from 3-hour acoustic sets in his native North Carolina to touring this summer with Brantley Gilbert and performing at Bonnaroo and CMA Music Fest. Combs self-released music for years, including the song that would eventually become his debut single and first No. 1, "Hurricane." The singer co-wrote the song with fellow nominees Thomas Archer and Taylor Phillips. Combs has writing credits on every track on his album *This One's for You*, set for release on June 2.

Jon Pardi's "Head Over Boots" was his first No. 1 song as an artist and songwriter. Co-written with Luke Laird, the track has been certified Platinum and helped the singer secure the title of ACM New Male Vocalist of the Year. He followed that success with another No. 1, "Dirt On My Boots." Heading into summer, Pardi releases new single "Heartache on the Dance Floor" and hits the road with Dierks Bentley, and Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.

Brett Young co-wrote his first two singles, "Sleep Without You" and "In Case You Didn't Know," which also became his first No. 1 hits. In addition, the ACM nominee is a co-writer of "Love Again," the current single by Nash

Young will tour Canada with Thomas Rhett, before spending the summer on the road with Lady Antebellum. "Sleep Without You" was also the first No. 1 for Young's co-writers Justin Ebach and Kelly Archer, who are nominated for *MusicRow* Breakthrough Songwriter.



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Six annual issues including InCharge, Artist Roster, Touring Issue, Publisher Issue, Country Radio and *MusicRow* Awards
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Updates about annual events including the *MusicRow* Awards, CountryBreakout Awards and Rising Women on the Row

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FINAL NOMINATIONS

SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE CONGRATULATES OUR
MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES!

**MIRANDA
LAMBERT**
VICE

SONG OF THE YEAR



**MAREN
MORRIS**

**BREAKTHROUGH
ARTIST OF THE YEAR**



**LUKE
GOMBS**

**BREAKTHROUGH
ARTIST WRITER OF THE YEAR**



CATEGORY THREE

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

Voted by *MusicRow's* subscribed members to honor a Nashville songwriter and artist who for the first time wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song, which they also recorded.



Lauren Alaina

"Road Less Traveled"
Warner/Chappell (BMI)



Tucker Beathard

"Rock On"
Big Music Machine, Fade 49 Music (BMI)



Luke Combs

"Hurricane"
Big Music Machine, 50 Egg Music, Straight Dimes Publishing, (BMI)



Jon Pardi

"Head Over Boots"
The Song Factory, admin by Sony/ATV (BMI)



Brett Young

"Sleep Without You" and "In Case You Didn't Know"
Super Big Music, Caliville Publishing, admin by Big Machine Music (ASCAP)



SEA GAYLE

~ m u s i c ~

Congratulates

CLINT LAGERBERG

“BLUE AIN’T YOUR COLOR”

BY KEITH URBAN

**MUSIC ROW
SONG OF THE YEAR
NOMINEE**

SONG OF THE YEAR: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

“Blue Ain’t Your Color”

The title “Blue Ain’t Your Color” came to Steven Lee Olsen in the middle of the night. He took the idea to co-writer Clint Lagerberg and then recruited Hillary Lindsey. The result was a present-day classic about a woman feeling blue and the suitor trying to paint her bright. Keith Urban was hooked immediately when he heard the demo. *MusicRow* Producer of the Year nominee Dann Huff added studio finesse and the song went on to earn two Grammy nominations. Meanwhile, Olsen is also nominated for *MusicRow* Breakthrough Songwriter.

“Kill A Word”

Eric Church, Jeff Hyde and Luke Dick made a profound statement on Church’s hit “Kill A Word.” Dick had the initial idea for the song about stopping negative words—conjuring imagery with lyrics like “poison never,” “shoot goodbye,” “choke lonely” and “hang hate,” with a redeeming chorus that says, “I’d turn lies and hate to love and truth.” The track landed on Church’s album *Mr. Misunderstood*, which went on to win CMA Album of the Year. It was helmed by *MusicRow* Producer of the Year nominee Jay Joyce.

“Leaving Nashville”

Penned by Abe Stoklasa and Donovan Woods, this ode to songwriters and their community resonated up and down Music Row. “Leaving Nashville” is a journey through the highs and lows of the trade—where “If it ain’t a single, it don’t mean nothing.” But, ultimately, the song is about dedication to the music, because as Stoklasa and Woods wrote, they “ain’t never leaving Nashville.” The song was recorded by Charles Kelley. Stoklasa is also nominated for *MusicRow* Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year.

“Vice”

“When it hurts this good you gotta play it twice...” Miranda Lambert served up a cocktail of regret, sadness and escapism in her hit song “Vice.” Together with co-writers Josh Osborne and Shane McAnally, they crafted lyrics of simultaneous heartache and attraction: “All dressed up in a pretty black label/Sweet salvation on a dining room table/Waiting on me/Where the numb meets the lonely.” The song went on to earn a Grammy nomination Frank Liddell is nominated for *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.

“Wanna Be That Song”

“Every life has a soundtrack” and Brett Eldredge wants to be yours. He co-wrote these words with Scooter Carusoe and Ross Copperman, and says “Wanna Be That Song” captures who he wants to be as an artist. The poignant song describes lovers together in the “window booth at a bar,” “back pew on a Sunday” and “crowded bleachers,” and evokes emotions that “makes you dance, makes you fall/that melody rewinds years...makes time stall.” Copperman is also nominated for Producer of the Year.

The *MusicRow* Awards are Nashville’s longest-running music industry trade publication honors and often predict winners for the upcoming CMA Awards. For example, Song of the Year honors at both ceremonies went to “Humble and Kind” (2016), “Girl Crush” (2015), “I Drive Your Truck” (2013), “If I Die Young” (2011), “The House That Built Me” (2010) and “In Color” (2009). There is also a strong correlation between *MusicRow*’s Breakthrough Artist and/or Breakthrough Songwriter awards and CMA New Artist of the Year, including Maren Morris (2016), Kacey Musgraves (2013), The Band Perry (2011), Zac Brown Band (2010), Lady Antebellum (2008), Taylor Swift (2007), and Carrie Underwood (2006).



CONGRATULATIONS
BRETT ELDREDGE
ON YOUR
MUSICROW NOMINATION
FOR SONG OF THE YEAR FOR
"WANNA BE THAT SONG"

NEW ALBUM AVAILABLE AUGUST 4TH



CATEGORY FOUR

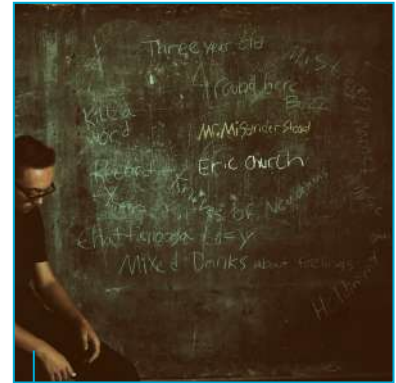
SONG OF THE YEAR

Voted by *MusicRow's* subscribed members to honor Nashville writers and publishers on the craft of songwriting, not necessarily chart performance.



“Blue Ain’t Your Color”

Recorded by: Keith Urban
 Writers: Steven Lee Olsen, Hillary Lindsey, Clint Lagerberg
 Publishers: WB Music Corp., Music Of The Corn, Rezolution Music, BMG Gold Songs, House Of Sea Gayle Music, Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l./Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP



“Kill A Word”

Recorded by: Eric Church ft Rhiannon Giddens
 Writers: Eric Church, Jeff Hyde, Luke Dick
 Publishers: Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, Longer And Louder Music, Little Louder Songs, Mammaw’s Fried Okra Music, Emileon Songs, BMI



“Leaving Nashville”

Recorded by: Charles Kelley
 Writers: Abe Stoklasa, Donovan Woods
 Publisher: Year of the Dog Music (Big Yellow Dog) administered by Words & Music, Shakapublishing, administered by Downtown DLJ Songs, ASCAP



“Vice”

Recorded by: Miranda Lambert
 Writers: Miranda Lambert, Josh Osborne, Shane McAnally
 Publishers: Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, Pink Dog Publishing, Smack Hits, GMR/Kobalt Music Group Ltd., GMR/Anderson Fork In The Road Music, Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc., Smackville Music, ASCAP, BMI



“Wanna Be That Song”

Recorded by: Brett Eldredge
 Writers: Brett Eldredge, Ross Copperman, Scooter Carusoe
 Publishers: Sony/ATV Countryside, Paris Not France Music, EMI Blackwood, Rezonant, Scrambler Music, Abbotts Creek Music Two, Carnival, ASCAP, BMI

CONGRATULATIONS

WILLIAM MICHAEL MORGAN

ON YOUR

MUSICROW BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST

OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

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New Face of Country
Music - 2017

MUSICROW

2017 Next Big Thing

amazon

Best Country Songs
of 2016

The New York Times

The Playlist:
21 Songs from 2016
That Nearly Got Away

npr

2016's Top 100
Songs - All Genre

billboard

12 Best Country
Singles of 2016

RollingStone

40 Best Country Albums
of 2016 & 25 Best Country
Songs of 2016

Apple iTunes

Best of 2016 Country
Albums & Best of 2016
Country Tracks

NEW SINGLE "MISSING" AVAILABLE NOW



BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

Lauren Alaina

Lauren Alaina celebrated her first No. 1 song in April 2017 with "Road Less Traveled." She had double reason to toast her success because she also co-wrote the song. It took the rising star five singles and six years of hard work to earn the hit, which she says made victory that much sweeter. *Road Less Traveled* is the title of her sophomore studio album, which is also home to her new single, "Doin' Fine." She recently wrapped the CMT Next Women of Country Tour with Martina McBride.

William Michael Morgan

William Michael Morgan went straight to the pinnacle of the charts with his debut single, "I Met A Girl," a love song that showcases his traditional sound. Morgan's debut album, *Vinyl*, was produced by Scott Hendricks and Jimmy Ritchey. Now the singer is working his follow-up single "Missing." The Vicksburg, Mississippi native recently wrapped a tour with Lee Brice and Justin Moore.

Maren Morris

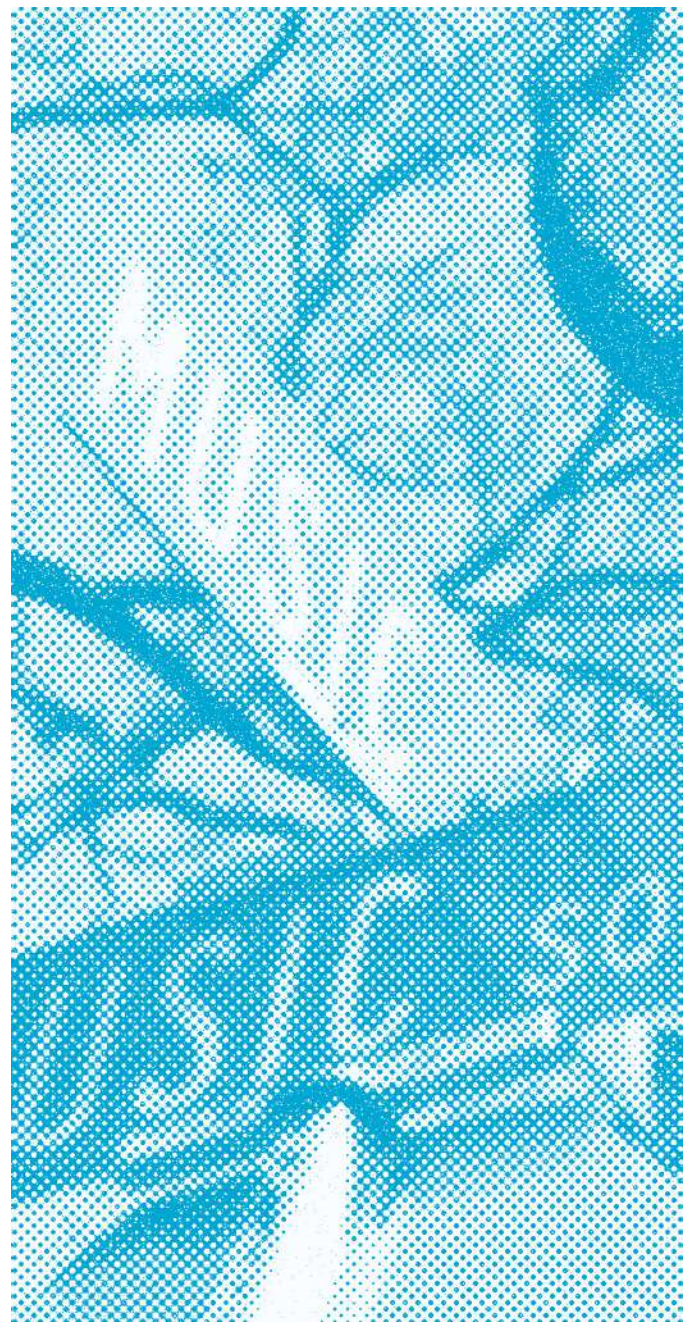
Maren Morris' first major-label album broke through in a major way. *Hero* yielded the Platinum single "My Church," and the follow-up hit "80s Mercedes." The Arlington, Texas native racked up trophies including a Grammy for Best Country Solo Performance, CMA New Artist of the Year, and ACM Album and Single Record of the Year. Now she's singing her new ballad "I Could Use a Love Song." Morris is busy on her sold-out headlining tour for the rest of the year.

Jon Pardi

Jon Pardi scored back-to-back No. 1 hits during the last year, with the tunes "Dirt On My Boots" and "Head Over Boots," the latter of which he co-wrote. The songs are representative of his brand of traditional country, drawing influences from '90s hitmakers and genre icons including George Strait. Pardi's current album, *California Sunrise*, is named for his home state and opened at No. 1. It is the follow-up to his 2014 debut, *Write You a Song*, which yielded the Top 10 "Up All Night."

Brett Young

Brett Young notched two No. 1 songs from his self-titled, debut album; the upbeat "Sleep Without You" and the sensitive ballad "In Case You Didn't Know." Both of the tracks have been certified Gold by the RIAA. The California native co-wrote these hits and all but one song on his album. The self-titled debut project was helmed by star producer Dann Huff, who is nominated for *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.



CATEGORY FIVE

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Voted by *MusicRow's* subscribed members to honor a Nashville artist who achieved significant career progress for the first time.



Lauren Alaina

UMG Nashville



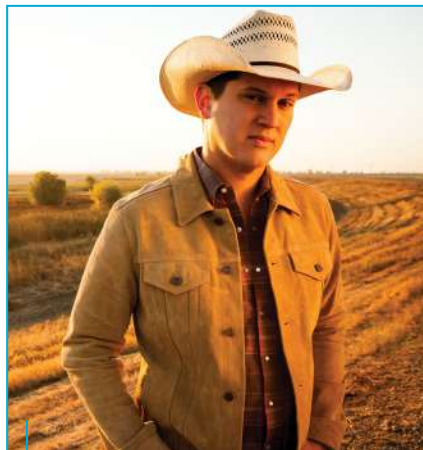
William Michael Morgan

Warner Music Nashville



Maren Morris

Sony Music Nashville



Jon Pardi

UMG Nashville



Brett Young

Big Machine Label Group

Awards were selected by critics until 2008, when they became subscriber voted.

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

To honor a producer's work on albums active during the awards time period. Can include, but is not limited to, single chart performance and album sales.

- 2016: Dave Cobb
- 2015: Jay Joyce
- 2014: Frank Liddell
- 2013: Dann Huff
- 2012: Frank Liddell
- 2011: Paul Worley
- 2010: Frank Liddell & Mike Wrucke
- 2008-09: Frank Rogers
- 2007: Byron Gallimore
- 2006: Dann Huff
- 2005: Frank Rogers
- 2004: Buddy Cannon
- 2003: James Stroud
- 2002: Keith Stegall
- 2001: Mark Wright
- 1999-2000: Byron Gallimore

PRODUCER HONOR ROLL

Producer earning the most Top 20 singles and Top 10 albums for each year. Became Producer of the Year in 1999.

- 1998: No award presented
- 1997: Wilbur C. Rimes
- 1996: Tony Brown
- 1995: Allen Reynolds
- 1994: James Stroud
- 1993: Tony Brown
- 1991-92: Allen Reynolds
- 1990: Tony Brown
- 1982-89: Jimmy Bowen

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST

Voted by readers to honor an artist who achieved significant career progress for the first time.

- 2016: Old Dominion
- 2015: Sam Hunt
- 2014: Brandy Clark
- 2013: Kacey Musgraves
- 2012: Eli Young Band
- 2011: The Band Perry
- 2010: Zac Brown Band
- 2009: Jamey Johnson
- 2008: Lady Antebellum

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER

To honor a Nashville songwriter(s) who, for the first time in their career, wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song.

- 2016: Marren Morris
- 2015: Michael Carter
- 2014: Nicolle Galyon and Cole Swindell (tie)
- 2013: Kacey Musgraves
- 2012: Johnny Bulford and Phil Barton
- 2011: Kimberly Perry
- 2010: Chris Young
- 2009: James Otto
- 2008: Luke Bryan
- 2007: Chris Tompkins and Josh Kear
- 2006: Jason Matthews
- 2005: Vicky McGehee
- 2004: Jim Brown/Don Rollins
- 2003: Lee Thomas Miller
- 2002: Anthony Smith
- 2001: Troy Verges
- 2000: Carolyn Dawn Johnson
- 1999: Phil Vassar
- 1998: Harley Allen
- 1997: Cathy Majeski, Sunny Russ, Stephony Smith
- 1996: Jim Lauderdale

TOP SONGWRITERS

Songwriter earning the most Top 20 singles for each year. Category merged with Breakthrough Songwriter in 1998.

- 1997: Craig Wiseman
- 1996: Mark D. Sanders
- 1995: Tom Shapiro
- 1994: Gary Burr
- 1993: Clint Black
- 1992: Garth Brooks
- 1991: Pat Alger
- 1987-90: Don Schlitz
- 1986: Dave Loggins
- 1985: Troy Seals

CRITICS' PICK/NEW ARTIST

To recognize an outstanding new artist who released their first single in the awards year. Became Breakthrough Artist in 2008.

- 2007: Taylor Swift
- 2006: Carrie Underwood
- 2005: Miranda Lambert
- 2004: Buddy Jewell
- 2003: Joe Nichols
- 2002: Blake Shelton
- 2001: Mark McGuinn
- 2000: Eric Heatherly

PAST WINNERS

SONG OF THE YEAR

To honor writers and publishers on the craft of songwriting, not necessarily chart performance.

- 2016: **"Humble and Kind,"** written by Lori McKenna; published by Songs of Universal, Hoodie
- 2015: **"Girl Crush,"** written by Hillary Lindsey, Lori McKenna, Liz Rose; published by Warner-Tamerlane, Songs of Crazy Girl, Songs of Universal, Hoodie, HillarodyRathbone, BMG
- 2014: **"All Kinds Of Kinds,"** written by Phillip Coleman and Don Henry; published by Carnival Music, Warner-Tamerlane
- 2013: **(tie) "I Drive Your Truck,"** written by Jessi Alexander, Connie Harrington, Jimmy Yeary; published by Vistaville Music, Happy Tears Music, EMI Blackwood, Watch This Girl Publishing, Great Day At This Time Music, Beattyville Music
"Merry Go 'Round," written by Kacey Musgraves, Josh Osborne, Shane McAnally; published by 351 Music, Warner Tamerlane, Crazy Water Music, Little Blue Egg, Universal Music, Want A Fresh One
- 2012: **"You and Tequila,"** written by Deana Carter and Matraca Berg; published by Deanaling Music, Hannaberg Music, Songs of Universal Inc., WB Music Corp
- 2011: **"If I Die Young,"** written by Kimberly Perry; published by Pearlfeather, Rio Bravo
- 2010: **"The House That Built Me,"** written by Allen Shamblin, Tom Douglas; published by Sony/ ATV-Tree Publishing Co., Tomdouglassmusic, Built On Rock Music
- 2009: **"In Color,"** written by Jamey Johnson, James Otto, Lee Thomas Miller; published by New Songs of Sea Gayle, EMI Blackwood, Warner Tamerlane, Eldorotto Music
- 2008: **"Letter To Me,"** written by Brad Paisley; published by EMI April Music, New Sea Gayle Music
- 2007: **"Stealing Kisses,"** written by Lori McKenna; published by Melanie Howard Music, Inc.
- 2006: **"What Hurts The Most,"** written by Jeffrey Steele, Steve Robson; published by Songs of Windswept Pacific, Almo Music Corp.
- 2005: **"Whiskey Lullaby,"** written by Bill Anderson, Jon Randall; published by Sony/ATV-Tree, Mr. Bubba, Reynsong, Who Ya Say, Wrensong
- 2004: **"Almost Home,"** written by Craig Morgan, Kerry Kurt Phillips; published by Magic Mustang Music Inc., Sufferin' Succotash Songs
- 2003: **"Red Ragtop,"** written by Jason White; published by Sony/ATV Music
- 2002: **"Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning),"** written by Alan Jackson; published by EMI Music Publishing
- 2001: **"There Is No Arizona,"** written by Jamie O'Neal, Shaye Smith, Lisa Drew; published by EMI Music, Zomba Music
- 2000: **"He Didn't Have To Be,"** written by Brad Paisley, Kelley Lovelace; published by EMI April Music, Sea Gayle Music, Love Ranch Music
- 1999: **"Don't Laugh At Me,"** written by Allen Shamblin, Steve Seskin; published by Built On Rock Music, David Aaron Music, Love This Town Music
- 1998: **"Something That We Do,"** written by Clint Black, Skip Ewing; published by Blackened Music, Opryland Music Group
- 1997: **"Friends,"** written by Jerry Holland; published by That's A Smash Publishing, Mike Curb Music
- 1996: **"What Mattered Most,"** written by Vince Melamed, Gary Burr; published by MCA Music, Patrick Joseph Music

29TH ANNUAL
MUSICROW
 AWARDS

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TOP 10 ALBUM ALL-STAR MUSICIANS

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER

SONG OF THE YEAR

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Ballots emailed to subscribed members on Wednesday, May 24