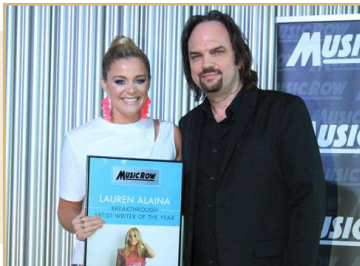


# 2018 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES REVEALED

## ◀ MUSICROW AWARDS REWIND



### In 2017...

Lauren Alaina won the Breakthrough Artist-Writer of the Year award.



### 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.

It's a milestone year for the *MusicRow* Awards, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary. We are proud to present Nashville's longest running music industry trade publication honors, and reveal the 2018 nominees for **Producer of the Year**, **Breakthrough Songwriter**, **Breakthrough Artist-Writer**, **Song of the Year** and **Breakthrough Artist**.

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

"This year's nominees exemplify Nashville's diverse and growing talent pool, and we are thrilled to highlight them in this special online publication," says *MusicRow* Publisher/Owner Sherod Robertson. "Having three categories dedicated to honoring rising songwriters and/or artists reflects the amount of budding creativity in this city. And helping our subscribed members salute their creative peers is one of the best parts of our jobs."

The *MusicRow* Awards date back to 1988 with the debut of the Musician Awards—Top 10 Album All-Stars. This tradition of toasting Nashville's most in-demand session players still continues today. Over the decades, the *MusicRow* Awards evolved with the addition of more categories. Award winners were selected by the magazine's critics until 2008, when they became reader voted.

Subscribed members of *MusicRow* will be emailed a ballot on May 18. Voting closes on May 25. To subscribe, click [here](#).

Final nominees for the *MusicRow* Awards are determined by a committee comprised of critics and tastemakers, with outside nominations being considered for Breakthrough Songwriter and Breakthrough Artist-Writer. Eligible projects were active between May 1, 2017 and April 30, 2018.

**SESAAC**

## CONGRATULATES

OUR BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER NOMINEES



**CASEY  
BROWN**



**MATT  
McGINN**



**SAMMY  
MITCHELL**

AND ALL THE 2018 MUSICROW NOMINEES



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 AWARDS NOMINEES!



RHETT AKINS



busbee



DAVE COBB



DEVIN DAWSON



JACOB DURRETT



JESSE FRASURE



RAY FULCHER



ASHLEY GORLEY



JAY JOYCE



LANCO



MIDLAND



JOSH MILLER



LIZ ROSE



AUSTIN TAYLOR SMITH



PARKER WELLING



ROB WILLIFORD



**KANE BROWN**

**SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE**  
CONGRATULATES  
OUR **MUSIC ROW AWARD** NOMINEES

**LUKE COMBS**



**BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

**LANCO**



**BMG**

BUILDING CAREERS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES!

SONG OF THE YEAR  
**"CRY PRETTY" - HILLARY LINDSEY**

SONG OF THE YEAR  
**"SHE AIN'T IN IT" - WYNN VARBLE**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
**CARLY PEARCE**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER  
**RUSSELL DICKERSON**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER  
**EMILY SHACKELTON**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER  
**JACOB DURRETT**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER  
**ANDREW DEROBERTS**

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR  
**busbee**



## CATEGORY ONE

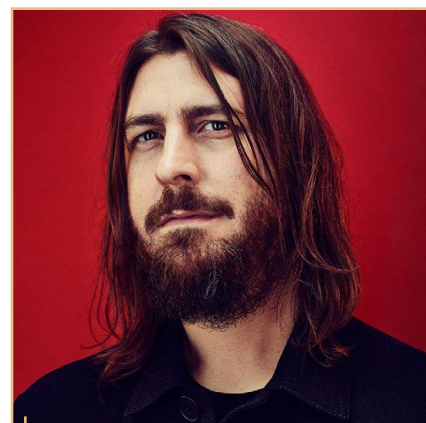
### PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

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.



#### **busbee**

Lauren Alaina, Lady Antebellum, Maren Morris, Carly Pearce, Rascal Flatts, Keith Urban, Drake White



#### **Dave Cobb**

Brandi Carlile, Brent Cobb, Anderson East, Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Ashley Monroe, Oak Ridge Boys, Old Crow Medicine Show, John Prine, Randy Rogers Band, Chris Stapleton, Zac Brown Band



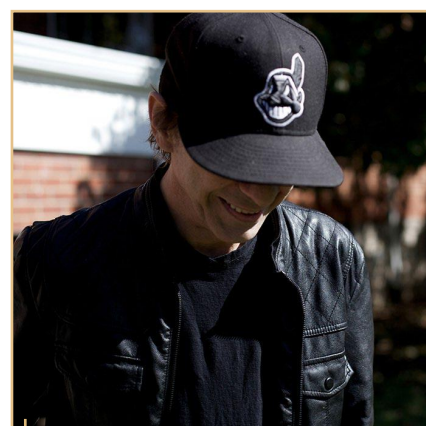
#### **Scott Hendricks**

Dan + Shay, Chris Janson, Tegan Marie, Michael Ray, Blake Shelton



#### **Dann Huff**

Kane Brown, Billy Currington, Brantley Gilbert, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, Midland, Thomas Rhett, Keith Urban, Brett Young



#### **Jay Joyce**

Brothers Osborne, Devin Dawson, LANCO, Little Big Town, Ashley McBryde, Tenille Townes, The Wild Feathers

TO OUR  
NOMINEES

# CONGRATULATIONS

DEVIN DAWSON BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER



JAY JOYCE PRODUCER



LANCO BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST



CROSS  
NEON  
music

# “Drunk Girl”

Written & Performed by **Chris Janson**

SONG OF THE YEAR

# Jordan Davis

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER

# Adam Hambrick

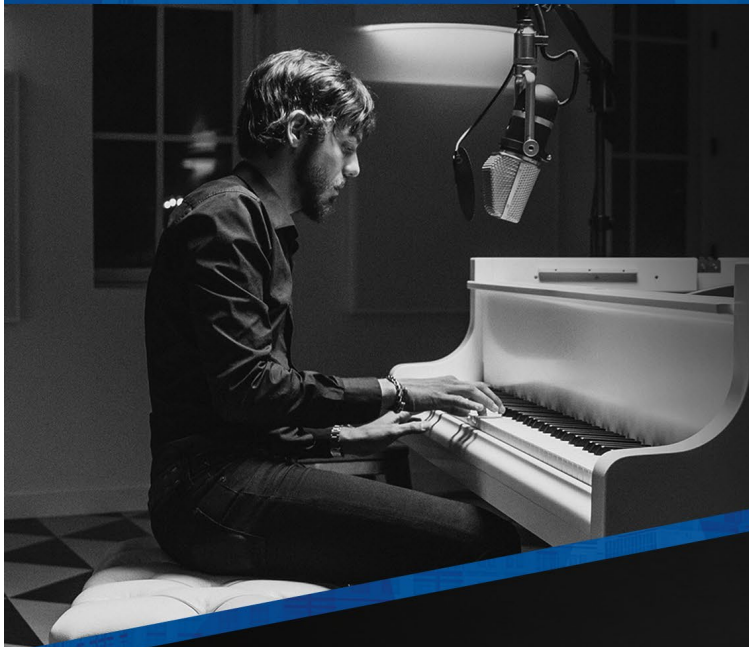
BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER

olê

majorlyindie.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
**WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE FAMILY**  
ON THEIR MUSICROW AWARD NOMINATIONS!



**CHRIS JANSON**  
"Drunk Girl"  
**SONG OF THE YEAR**



**D E V I N D A W S O N**  
**BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER**  
**OF THE YEAR**

**SCOTT HENDRICKS / PRODUCER OF THE YEAR**



## PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

**busbee** is a first-time *MusicRow Awards* nominee. His work led to hits by Maren Morris (“I Could Use A Love Song”) and Lauren Alaina (“Road Less Traveled”), as well as the 2018 trophy for ACM Vocal Event of the Year for “The Fighter” by Keith Urban featuring Carrie Underwood. busbee is a co-writer and producer of Carly Pearce’s *Every Little Thing*, which earned the singer a nod for *MusicRow* Breakthrough Artist of the Year. busbee is an in-demand producer who also helmed Lady Antebellum’s *Heart Break*, and music by Rascal Flatts and Drake White.

**Dave Cobb** conjured studio magic for Chris Stapleton and Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, who respectively took home Grammy Awards for Best Country Album and Best Americana Album. Additionally, Stapleton won Album of the Year from both the CMA and ACM for *From A Room: Volume 1*. From Cobb’s homebase at Nashville’s historic RCA Studio A, he also recorded projects by Zac Brown Band, John Prine, Brent Cobb, Ashley Monroe, Brandi Carlile, Oak Ridge Boys, Randy Rogers Band and Anderson East. Cobb won this award in 2016.

**Scott Hendricks**, longtime producer for Blake Shelton, continued his studio success with Shelton’s latest album *Texoma Shore*, home to the hits “I’ll Name The Dogs” and “I Lived It.” Adding to Hendricks’ recent tally are Dan + Shay’s pair of No. 1s “How Not To” and “From the Ground Up,”

Chris Janson’s rising single “Drunk Girl” (also nominated for *MusicRow* Song of the Year), and music by Michael Ray and newcomer Tegan Marie.

**Dann Huff** had a hand in hits by three 2018 *MusicRow Awards* nominees. He produced Thomas Rhett’s groovy *Life Changes* album, home to “Craving You,” “Marry Me,” and the title track, which is vying for *MusicRow* Song of the Year. Huff also steered *MusicRow* Breakthrough Artist nominees Kane Brown and Midland. He reunited with Tim McGraw and Faith Hill for their duets album and produced recent hits by Brett Young, Billy Currington and Brantley Gilbert. Huff is a two-time *MusicRow* Producer of the Year, who produced Keith Urban’s “Blue Ain’t Your Color,” the reigning *MusicRow* Song of the Year and CMA Single of the Year.

**Jay Joyce** continued scoring hits by his longtime studio collaborators Little Big Town, as well as rising artists Brothers Osborne and The Wild Feathers. Joyce played a major role in helping newcomers Ashley McBryde, LANCO, and Devin Dawson find unique sounds and hone their songwriting abilities, leading to *MusicRow Awards* nominations for LANCO (Breakthrough Artist) and Dawson (Breakthrough Artist-Writer). Later this year, listen for Joyce’s upcoming project with Tenille Townes. Joyce won 2017 and 2015 *MusicRow* Producer of the Year.



**CONCORD MUSIC** congratulates songwriter **SAMMY MITCHELL**  
 on his **MUSIC ROW AWARD NOMINATION**  
 for **BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR!**

**“ONE NUMBER AWAY”** - recorded by **LUKE COMBS**

# RIVERHOUSE

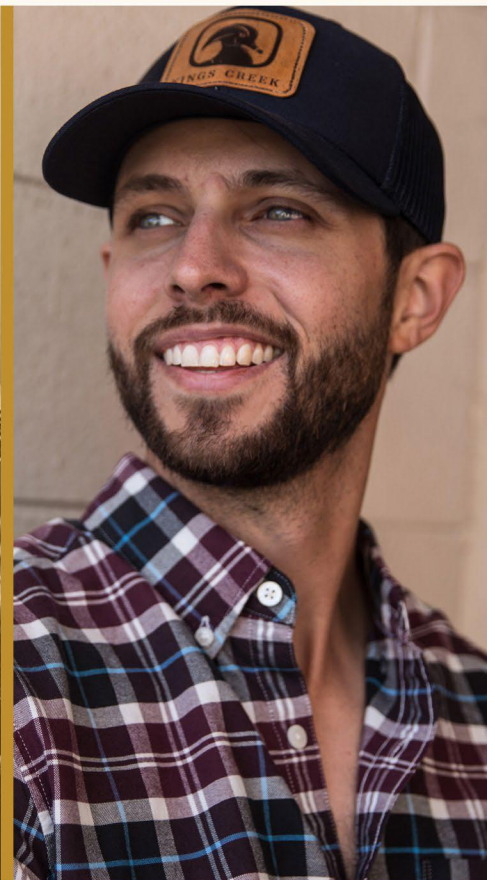
ARTISTS



**LUKE COMBS**



**ROB WILLIFORD**



**RAY FULCHER**

# CONGRATULATIONS

WE ARE PROUD TO BE ON YOUR TEAM

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING**  
**2018 MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINEES**



**SONG OF THE YEAR: "MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD"**

**LUKE BRYAN**



**BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER**

**JORDAN DAVIS**



**BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER**

**ADAM HAMBRICK**



**SONG OF THE YEAR: "DRUNK GIRL"**

**CHRIS JANSON**



**BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

**LANCO**



**SONG OF THE YEAR: "SHE AIN'T IN IT"**

**JON PARDI**

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

2018

MUSICROW  
AWARDS

FINAL NOMINATIONS

**RED**

CREATIVE GROUP

CONGRATULATES  
OUR  
MUSICROW  
*BREAKTHROUGH*  
*SONGWRITER*  
NOMINEE



***ADAM HAMBRICK***

## 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.

#### **Andrew DeRoberts**

BMG/Lanercost Publishing (ASCAP); "The Weekend," recorded by Brantley Gilbert

#### **Luke Dick**

Little Louder (BMI); "Kill A Word," recorded by Eric Church, "Round Here Buzz," recorded by Eric Church

#### **Kevin Bard**

Sony/ATV (ASCAP); "How Not To," recorded by Dan + Shay

#### **Casey Brown**

(SESAC); Song: "Yours," published by Provident/Essential, recorded by Russell Dickerson

#### **Jacob Durrett**

Warner/Chappell/BMG-Magic Mustang (BMI); "All On Me," recorded by Devin Dawson

#### **Kyle Fishman**

Play It Again Entertainment (BMI); "Small Town Boy," recorded by Dustin Lynch

#### **Ray Fulcher**

River House Artists/Warner/Chappell (BMI); "When It Rains It Pours," recorded by Luke Combs

#### **Adam Hambrick**

RED Creative Group/ole (ASCAP); "How Not To," recorded by Dan + Shay, "Somebody Else Will," recorded by Justin Moore

#### **Matt McGinn**

Kobalt/SMACK (SESAC); "What Ifs," recorded by Kane Brown ft. Lauren Alaina, "Heaven," recorded by Kane Brown

#### **Josh Miller**

Cornman Music/Warner/Chappell (BMI); "Meant To Be," recorded by Bebe Rexha ft. Florida Georgia Line, "More Girls Like You," recorded by Kip Moore, "Take Back Home Girl," recorded by Chris Lane ft. Tori Kelly

#### **Sammy Mitchell**

Tunes of R and T Direct/Self Shrevident Music, admin. by Concord Music (SESAC); "One Number Away," recorded by Luke Combs

#### **Lindsay Rimes**

Sony/ATV (BMI); "Heaven," recorded by Kane Brown

#### **Mitch Rossell**

Wrensong/Resonant (BMI); "Ask Me How I Know," recorded by Garth Brooks

#### **Emily Shackelton**

Roster: Liz Rose Music/BMG Music/busbee (BMI); Song: Liz Rose Music/Warner/Chappell, "Every Little Thing," recorded by Carly Pearce

#### **Austin Taylor Smith**

Warner/Chappell (BMI); "All On Me," recorded by Devin Dawson

#### **Parker Welling**

Roster: Home Team/Roc Nation/Warner/Chappell (BMI); Song: 3 Ring Circus, "Yours," recorded by Russell Dickerson

#### **Rob Williford**

River House/Warner/Chappell (BMI); "One Number Away," recorded by Luke Combs

**CORNMAN**  
MUSIC

**"Meant To Be"**

Recorded by Bebe Rexha  
ft. Florida Georgia Line

**"More Girls Like You"**

Recorded by Kip Moore

**"Take Back Home Girl"**

Recorded by Chris Lane  
ft. Tori Kelly



Congratulations to our *MusicRow*  
Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year Nominee

**JOSH MILLER**

## BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

**Kevin Bard** soared to his first No. 1 hit with "How Not To," co-written with fellow *MusicRow* Breakthrough Songwriter nominee Adam Hambrick, and established hitmaker Paul DiGiovanni. The track was recorded by Dan + Shay and helmed by Producer of the Year nominee Scott Hendricks.

**Casey Brown** teamed with Parker Welling and Russell Dickerson to co-write "Yours," which would eventually become Dickerson's first No. 1 as an artist, earning all three songwriters *MusicRow* Awards nominations in 2018.

**Andrew DeRoberts** scored his first Top 10 hit as a co-writer of "The Weekend," recorded by Brantley Gilbert. The rocking track was produced by *MusicRow* Awards nominee Dann Huff.

**Luke Dick** boosted his career with his first No. 1, "Round Here Buzz." This song and his previous hit "Kill A Word" were both co-written with Jeff Hyde and Eric Church. The songs were recorded by Church with *MusicRow* Producer of the Year nominee Jay Joyce.

**Jacob Durrett** and twin brother Devin Dawson have been collaborating for years, and their hard work came to fruition with Dawson's Top 10 hit "All On Me," which they

co-wrote with fellow *MusicRow* Awards nominee Austin Taylor Smith.

**Kyle Fishman** notched his first No. 1 as co-writer of Dustin Lynch's "Small Town Boy." The Platinum-certified track is Lynch's fifth consecutive No. 1 and spent four weeks at the top of the charts.

**Ray Fulcher's** fortune went into overdrive when he co-wrote "When It Rains It Pours," with fellow *MusicRow* Awards nominees Jordan Walker and Luke Combs. The catchy song about good luck was the first No. 1 for Fulcher and Walker.

**Adam Hambrick** scored two No. 1 hits during the last year. He is co-writer of Justin Moore's "Somebody Else Will" and Dan + Shay's "How Not To," the latter of which was tracked by *MusicRow* Producer of the Year nominee Scott Hendricks.

**Matt McGinn** was instrumental in Kane Brown's back-to-back hits. McGinn scored his first No. 1 as co-writer of "What Ifs" (ft. Lauren Alaina). McGinn and fellow Breakthrough Songwriter nominee Lindsay Rimes teamed for Brown's current single "Heaven."

(More Breakthrough Songwriter nominees on page 19)





**MATT MCGINN**

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER NOMINEE

**SMACKSONGS**

2018

MUSICROW  
AWARDS

FINAL NOMINATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS

LUKE DICK

ON YOUR MUSICROW  
BREAKTHROUGH  
SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR  
AWARD NOMINATION



LITTLE  
LOUDER  
MUSIC  
NASHVILLE

## BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

(Continued from page 16)

**Josh Miller** scored his first No. 1 as co-writer of Kip Moore’s “More Girls Like You.” Miller followed that with the monster chart-topper “Meant To Be,” recorded by Bebe Rexha ft. Florida Georgia Line. Miller also has writing credits on the currently climbing hit “Take Back Home Girl,” recorded by Chris Lane ft. Tori Kelly.

**Sammy Mitchell**, Rob Williford, Steven Andre Battey and Luke Combs co-wrote “One Number Away,” which became Combs’ third consecutive hit. Williford is also nominated for *MusicRow* Breakthrough Songwriter and Combs is up for Breakthrough Artist.

**Lindsay Rimes** scored his first hit with “Heaven,” co-written with fellow *MusicRow* Awards nominee Matt McGinn and veteran hitmaker Shy Carter. The song was recorded by Kane Brown and produced by Dann Huff, who are also 2018 nominees.

**Mitch Rossell**’s “Ask Me How I Know,” was his first major cut and first No. 1, recorded by one of the biggest artists of all time—Garth Brooks. Rossell is the only nominee in this category to earn his nomination with a solo-written song.

**Emily Shackelton** and Carly Pearce brought female perspectives to the ballad of lost love, “Every Little Thing,” which they co-wrote with *MusicRow* Producer of the Year nominee busbee. Breakthrough Artist nominee Pearce recorded the No. 1 hit.


**Austin Taylor Smith** co-wrote “All On Me,” alongside Jacob Durrett and Devin Dawson, the latter of which recorded the song and turned it into a cool radio Top 10 hit. All three are 2018 *MusicRow* Awards nominees.

**Parker Welling**, Casey Brown and Russell Dickerson co-wrote “Yours,” which became the first No. 1 for all three singer-songwriters, earning them each *MusicRow* Awards nominations. The same trio collaborated for Dickerson’s new single “Blue Tacoma.”

**Rob Williford** is Luke Combs’ guitarist and band leader. They teamed with co-writers Sammy Mitchell and Steven Andre Battey to craft Combs’ latest Top 10-and-climbing hit “One Number Away.”



3 RING CIRCUS MUSIC  
 CONGRATULATES  
**PARKER WELLING**  
 ON HER NOMINATION FOR  
 2018 MUSIC ROW  
 BREAKTHROUGH  
 SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 MUSICROW AWARD NOMINEES FROM  
**G MAJOR MANAGEMENT**

*G Major*  
MGMT



## THOMAS RHETT

SONG OF THE YEAR - "LIFE CHANGES"

RHETT AKINS  
JESSE FRASURE  
ASHLEY GORLEY  
THOMAS RHETT

**HOME  
TEAM**  
PUBLISHING



BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER  
"YOURS" - RECORDED BY RUSSELL DICKERSON

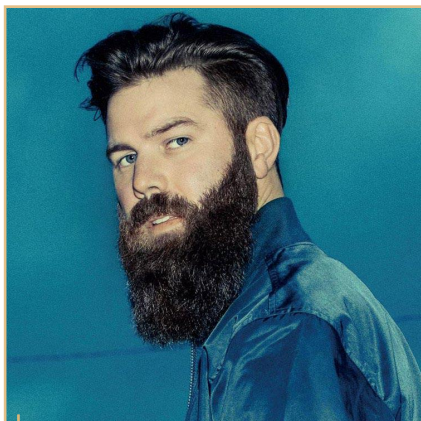
## PARKER WELLING

# HOME TEAM PUBLISHING

## CATEGORY THREE

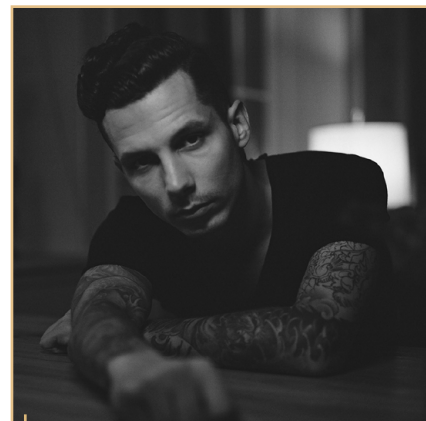
### BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

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



#### Jordan Davis

ole, ASCAP, UMG Nashville; "Singles You Up," recorded by Jordan Davis



#### Devin Dawson

Neon Cross Music/Warner/Chappell, BMI, Warner Music Nashville; "All On Me," recorded by Devin Dawson



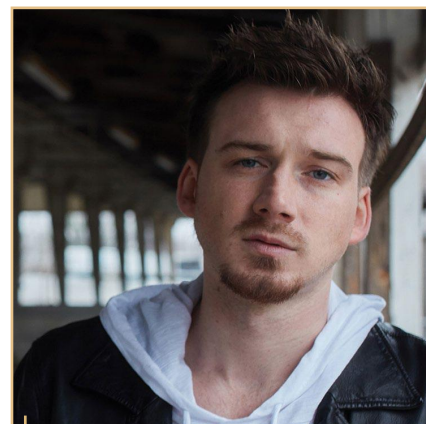
#### Russell Dickerson

BMG/Darrell Franklin Music, BMI, Triple Tigers/Sony; "Yours," recorded by Russell Dickerson



#### Jordan Walker

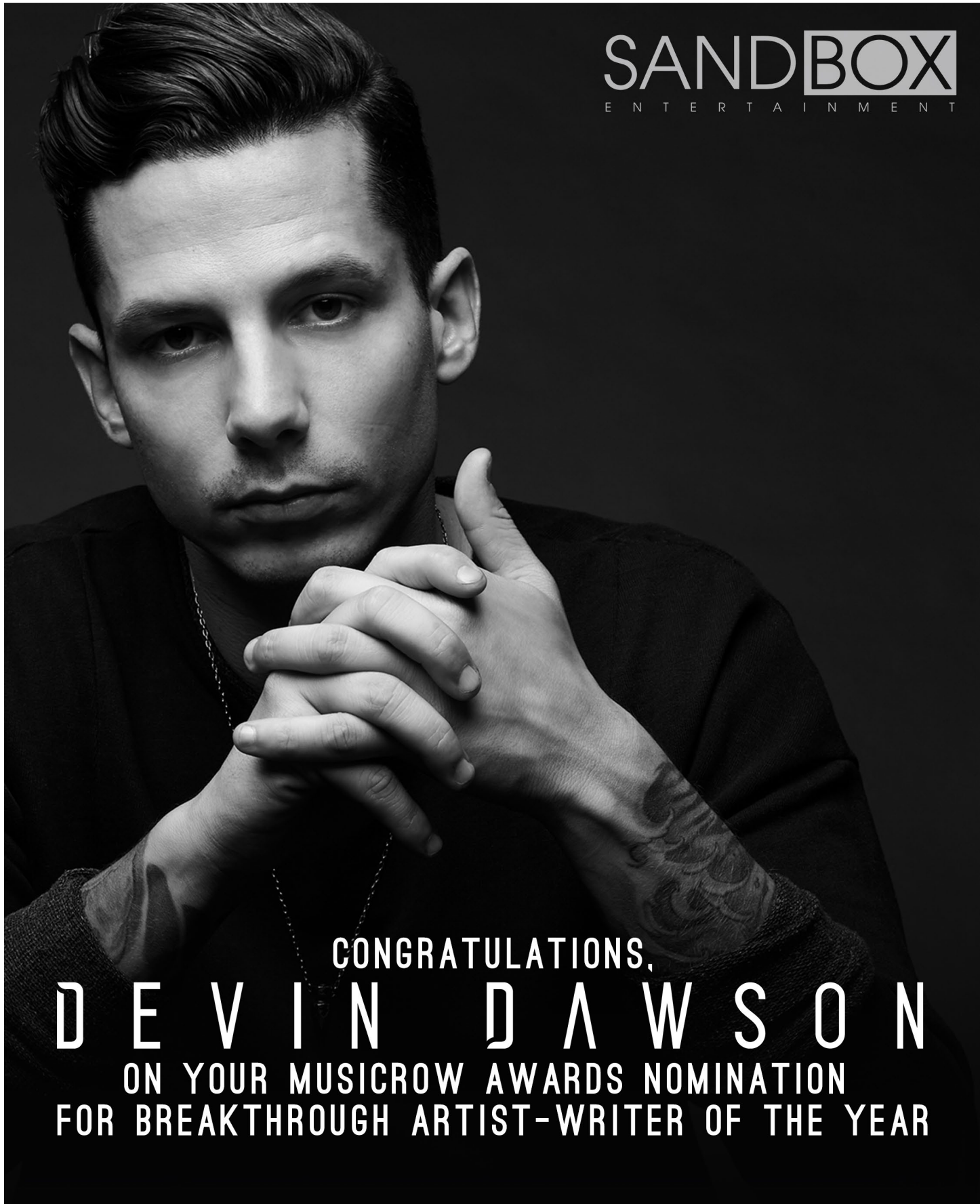
COR Music/Combustion, BMI, BBR Music Group; "When It Rains It Pours," recorded by Luke Combs



#### Morgan Wallen

Big Loud, BMI, Big Loud Records; "You Make It Easy," recorded by Jason Aldean

**SANDBOX**  
ENTERTAINMENT



CONGRATULATIONS,

**DEVIN DAWSON**

ON YOUR MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINATION  
FOR BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER OF THE YEAR

**MUSICROW**

Congratulations to Morgan Walker!!



2018  
**MUSICROW**  
AWARDS

Nominee

Breakthrough Artist - Writer of the year

**BIG LOUD**

## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST-WRITER: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

**Jordan Davis** took his self-penned debut single, “Singles You Up,” straight to No. 1 at radio. Davis co-wrote all 12 tracks on his album *Home State* (UMG Nashville), which marks the highest-selling debut release for a solo country artist this year, moving 10,739 units its first week. The Louisiana native recently wrapped his first headlining tour and will hit the road with Jake Owen this summer, stopping at minor league baseball parks across the country.

**Devin Dawson** blends pop influences but stays grounded in country’s storytelling tradition on his debut album *Dark Horse* (Warner Music Nashville). He is a co-writer on every track, including “All On Me,” which reached No. 1 on the *MusicRow* chart. The album was produced by Jay Joyce, who is nominated for *MusicRow* Producer of the Year. Dawson is currently on tour with Brett Eldredge as well as playing his own headlining dates.

**Russell Dickerson** notched his first No. 1 as an artist and as a songwriter when “Yours” reached the top of the radio charts earlier this year. The Triple Tigers Records artist had written the song almost four years earlier with friends and fellow Belmont alumni Parker Welling and Casey Brown, who also earned 2018 *MusicRow* Awards

nominations. The trio re-teamed to write Dickerson’s follow-up single, “Blue Tacoma,” which is currently climbing the charts. He will support Lady Antebellum and Darius Rucker on their summer tour and play select dates on Thomas Rhett’s outing.

**Jordan Walker** earned his first No. 1 as co-writer of the Luke Combs’ smash “When It Rains It Pours,” which also yielded nominations for Combs and their collaborator Ray Fulcher. Walker is half of the rising BBR Music Group duo Walker McGuire, along with Johnny McGuire. Walker co-wrote every track on the duo’s self-titled debut EP, including new single “Lost.”

**Morgan Wallen** scored back-to-back No. 1s on the *MusicRow* chart in recent weeks. In March, he had his first hit as a co-writer of Jason Aldean’s “You Make It Easy.” A month later, Wallen returned to the winner’s circle with his first No. 1 as a recording artist thanks to the catchy summer song “Up Down” featuring pals Florida Georgia Line. The track is on Wallen’s debut album, *If I Know Me*, released via Big Loud Records.





2018

MUSICROW  
AWARDS

FINAL NOMINATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS

JOSH KEAR

MUSIC ROW AWARDS NOMINEE

SONG *of the* YEAR

"MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD"

*performed by* LUKE BRYAN

*co-written with* ED HILL & DAVID FRASIER

BIG YELLOW DOG  
MUSIC\*

BIGYELLOWDOGMUSIC.COM



“  
THANK YOU FOR  
WRITING A SONG  
THAT TOUCHES  
SO MANY PEOPLE!  
HONORED TO  
BE THE ONE  
TO SING IT NIGHT  
AFTER NIGHT!

”  


CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SONG OF THE YEAR NOMINEE  
**“MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD”**

## DAVID FRASIER

*SB21 Tunes/Purdy Beard Music, admin. by Bluewater Music Services Corp./Songs of Amylase Music,  
admin. by Amylase Entertainment, c/o Copyright Solutions*

## ED HILL

*Five Hills Music, LLC, admin. by Do Write Music, LLC (BMI)*

## JOSH KEAR

*Year of the Dog Music/Champagne Whiskey, admin. by Downtown DLJ Songs (ASCAP)*

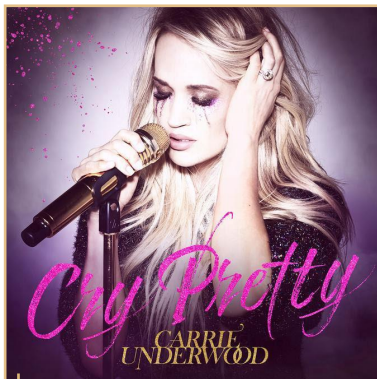
Special thanks to Jeff Stevens and Jody Stevens

**KPE**ntertainment

## 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.



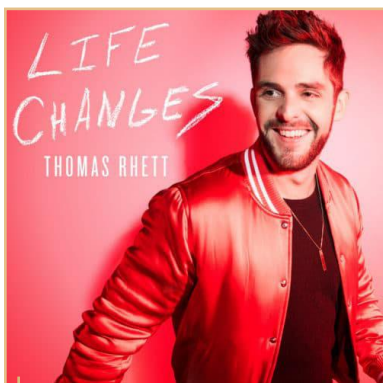
#### “Cry Pretty”

Recorded by: Carrie Underwood, Capitol Records Nashville  
 Writers: Carrie Underwood, Hillary Lindsey, Lori McKenna, Liz Rose  
 Publishers: Carrie-Okie Music, BIRB Music, BMG Gold Songs, Rezonant Music, Maps And Records Music, Creative Pulse Music, These Are Pulse Songs, Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., Songs Of Crazy Girl Music, ASCAP, BMI



#### “Drunk Girl”

Recorded by: Chris Janson, Warner Bros.  
 Writers: Chris Janson, Scooter Carusoe, Tom Douglas  
 Publishers: ole Red Vinyl Music, Buckkilla Music, Scrambler Music, Abbotts Creek Music Two, Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, Tomdouglasmusic, ASCAP, BMI



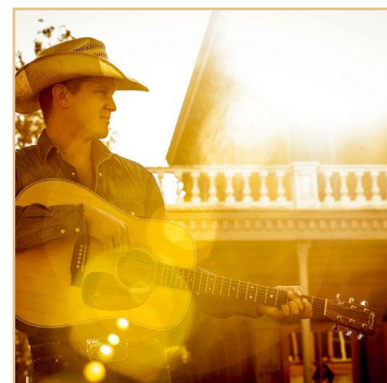
#### “Life Changes”

Recorded by: Thomas Rhett, The Valory Music Co.  
 Writers: Thomas Rhett, Rhett Akins, Jesse Frasure, Ashley Gorley  
 Publishers: EMI Blackwood, Cricket on the Line, Sony/ATV, Warner-Tamerlane, Ritten By Rhettro, Telemetry Rhythm House, Songs of Roc Nation, WB, Sadie's Favorite, Combustion Engine, ASCAP, BMI



#### “Most People Are Good”

Recorded by: Luke Bryan, Capitol Records Nashville  
 Writers: David Frasier, Ed Hill, Josh Kear  
 Publishers: SB 21 Music Publishing, Purdy Beard Music, Songs Of Amylase Music, Five Hills Music, Do Write Music, Year Of The Dog Music, Champagne Whiskey Publishing, Downtown DLJ Songs, ASCAP, BMI



#### “She Ain't In It”

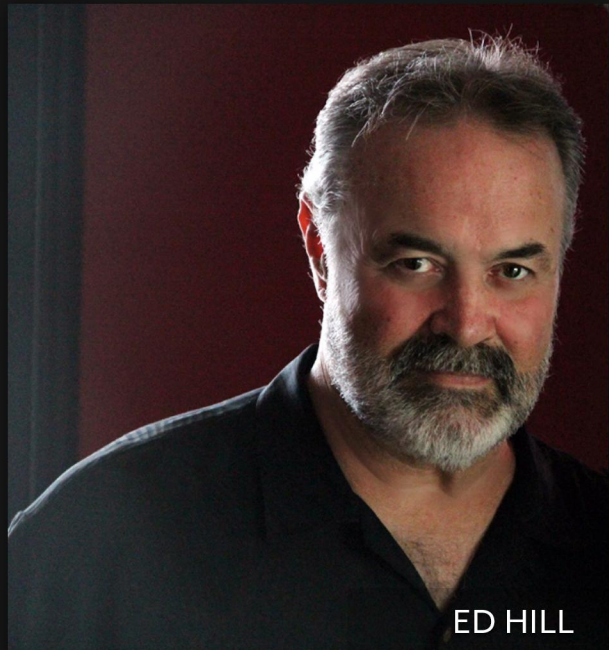
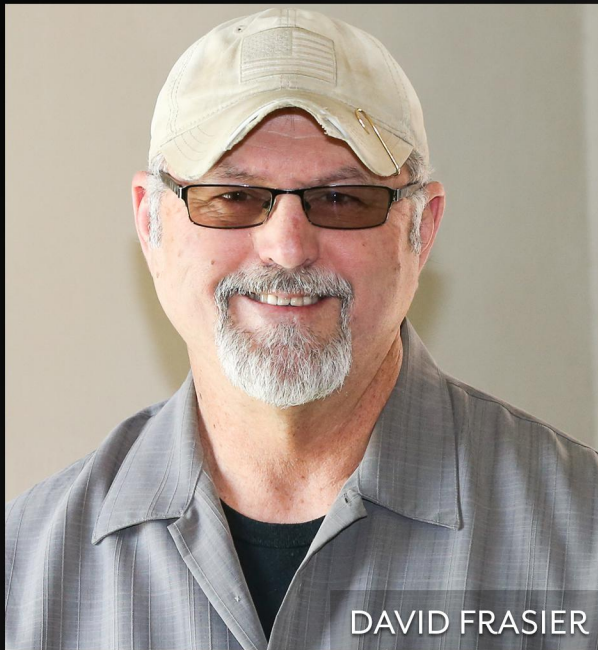
Recorded by: Jon Pardi, Capitol Records Nashville  
 Writers: Clint Daniels, Wynn Varble  
 Publishers: Writers of Sea Gayle, ClearBox Rights, Spirit of Catalog Holdings, Spirit of Nashville One, BMG Platinum, Mater Pie, BMI

# CONGRATULATIONS “MOST PEOPLE ARE GOOD”

**2018 MUSICROW SONG OF THE YEAR NOMINEE**

## DAVID FRASIER, ED HILL WITH JOSH KEAR

RECORDED BY LUKE BRYAN



  
**SEA GAYLE**  
~ m u s i c ~

CONGRATULATES

**CLINT  
DANIELS  
& WYNN VARBLE**



**MUSICROW**

SONG OF THE YEAR  
NOMINEE

## SONG OF THE YEAR: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

### “Cry Pretty”

When Carrie Underwood was ready to release her first new music since 2015, following an injury and a change in record companies, a comeback song was in order. And when a superstar needs a heart-wrenching power ballad, they turn to The Love Junkies. Hillary Lindsey, Lori McKenna and Liz Rose co-wrote “Cry Pretty” with Underwood. She is the perfect vocalist for the soaring chorus and emotional delivery. The Love Junkies previously won *MusicRow* Song of the Year in 2015 for “Girl Crush.” Additionally, Lindsey is a reigning Song of the Year co-writer of “Blue Ain’t Your Color,” and McKenna won for “Humble and Kind” (2016) and “Stealing Kisses” (2007).

### “Drunk Girl”

Songwriters Chris Janson, Scooter Carusoe and Tom Douglas offer a sincere message about the *difference between a boy and a man... take a drunk girl home/ let her sleep all alone*. In the wake of last year’s #metoo movement, it is a timely subject matter. The lovely piano-driven ballad is full of imagery, delivered by Janson with just the right amount of sensitivity. Douglas is a previous Song of the Year winner for “The House That Built Me” (2010).

### “Life Changes”

The charm of “Life Changes” comes from the real-life details offered by Thomas Rhett, referencing everything from his major hit “Die A Happy Man,” to adopting a daughter from Uganda, and his wife Lauren’s surprise pregnancy. The sunny chorus rings true for everyone: *You never know what’s gonna happen, you make your plans and you hear God laughing*. Thomas Rhett co-wrote the song with father/hitmaker Rhett Akins, Jesse Frasure and Ashley Gorley. It is the title track to his current album.

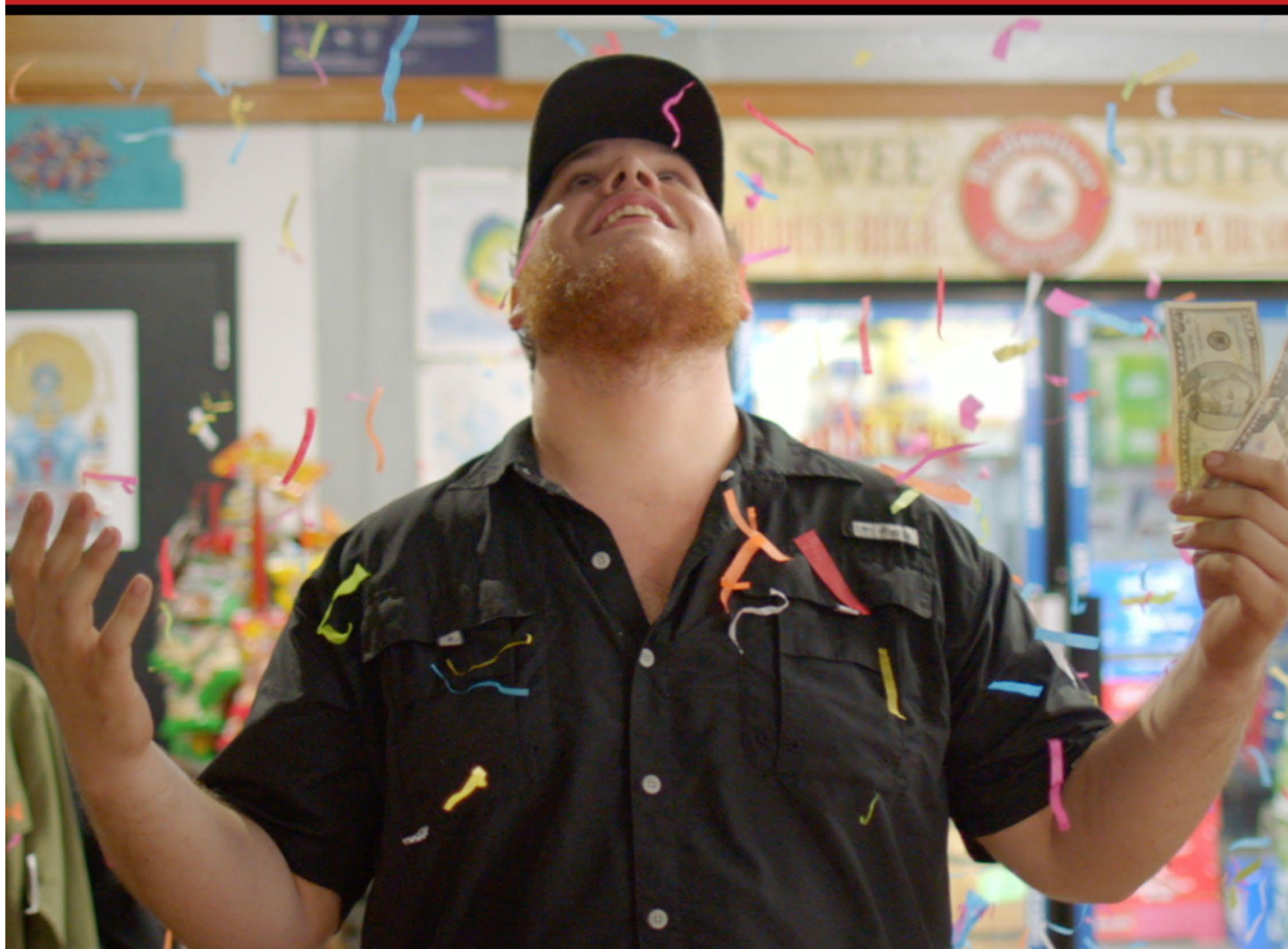
### “Most People Are Good”

Luke Bryan continues his strong track record of offering poignant country songs relatable to the everyman with “Most People Are Good.” Songwriters David Frasier, Ed Hill and Josh Kear offer a spot-on lyric about how the world might look some days: *If you just go by the nightly news, your faith in all mankind would be the first thing you lose*. But the true message of their song proves the opposite: *I believe this world ain’t half as bad as it looks, I believe most people are good*. Bryan and Kear are both previous recipients of *MusicRow*’s Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year award.

### “She Ain’t In It”

If you want a stone-cold country song about a broken heart, look no further than traditionalist hitmakers Wynn Varble and Clint Daniels. Their song, “She Ain’t In It,” fits singer Jon Pardi as perfectly as his Wranglers and belt buckle. Playing the role of a lonesome cowboy, Pardi sings, *My life won’t be the same, as long as she ain’t in it*. Fiddle and steel accent his twangy delivery, to create one of the countriest songs on the radio today.

**CONGRATULATIONS LUKE COMBS**  
**ON YOUR MUSIC ROW**  
**BREAK OUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR**  
**NOMINATION!**



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CONGRATULATIONS  
KANE BROWN

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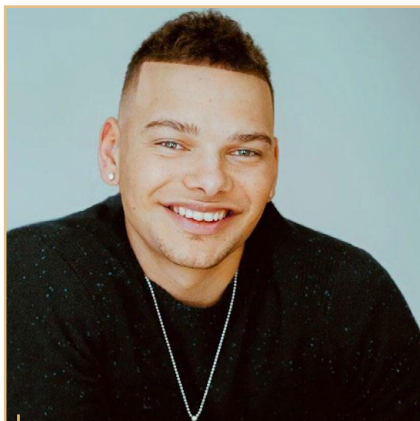




## CATEGORY FIVE

### 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.



**Kane Brown**

RCA Nashville/Zone 4



**Luke Combs**

River House/Columbia Nashville



**LANCO**

Arista Nashville



**Midland**

Big Machine Records



**Carly Pearce**

Big Machine Records



CONGRATULATIONS,

# MIDLAND

ON YOUR MUSICROW AWARDS NOMINATION FOR  
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**SANDBOX** BRND **MGMT**  
ENTERTAINMENT

## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST: ABOUT THE NOMINEES

By Sarah Skates

### Kane Brown

Kane Brown's skyrocketing year earned a Guinness World Record, as the first artist to simultaneously top five *Billboard* Country charts, thanks to his self-titled album, and the songs "Heaven" and "What Ifs." The Georgia native scored his first major radio success with the double-Platinum No. 1 "What Ifs" featuring childhood friend turned hitmaker Lauren Alaina. That song, as well as Brown's follow-up, "Heaven," were tracked by *MusicRow* Producer of the Year nominee Dann Huff. Next up, listen for Brown as the guest on a new genre-crossing version of Camila Cabello's "Never Be The Same."

### Luke Combs

Luke Combs is a major force among country's rising stars. The self-made songwriter and road warrior built a fan base by touring and releasing music independently prior to signing a record deal. His 2017 major label debut *This One's For You* earned Gold certification and yielded the two-times Platinum single "Hurricane." The breakout song topped the *Billboard* Country Airplay chart and Mediabase chart for two consecutive weeks. This makes Combs the first debut country artist to hold a multi-week No. 1 since Florida Georgia Line with "Cruise." Combs followed "Hurricane" with "When It Rains It Pours" and "One Number Away," earning those co-writers nominations in *MusicRow's* Breakthrough Songwriter category.

### LANCO

LANCO has come a long way since their early days practicing in a carpet warehouse. Fast forward five years, 400 shows and one old RV later, and the hard working band is the first country group in a decade to debut at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Country albums charts. The band is made up of Brandon Lancaster and company: Chandler Baldwin, Jared Hampton, Tripp Howell and Eric Steedly. Their success was driven largely by the multi-week chart-topper "Greatest Love Story," one of the 11 tracks Lancaster wrote for the album *Hallelujah Nights*. Helmed by *MusicRow* Producer of the Year nominee Jay Joyce, the album tallied more than 220 million digital streams as of March. LANCO wrapped a sold-out club run in major

markets before touring the UK and joining Dierks Bentley for their first amphitheater trek.

### Midland

Midland's remarkable mix of '90s country and Texas twang proved irresistible for music fans. Donning Nudie-style suits, Mark Wystrach, Jess Carson and Cameron Duddy wooed listeners with debut single "Drinkin' Problem," which went to No. 1 and earned Platinum certification. The trio took home the ACM Award for New Vocal Group of the Year, and scored two Grammy nominations. They followed that success with current single "Burn Out" and a Spanish version of "Drinkin' Problem" featuring Jay De La Cueva. Midland didn't spend much time at home in Dripping Springs, Texas over the last year, as they were busy on major tours with Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, Kenny Chesney, Little Big Town and Thomas Rhett.

### Carly Pearce

Carly Pearce's "Every Little Thing" went to No. 1 and earned her the highest charting solo female debut single since July 2015. The Gold-certified breakout hit was co-written by Pearce, Emily Shackleton and busbee, who scored nominations for *MusicRow* Breakthrough Songwriter and Producer of the Year, respectively. Pearce's follow-up single "Hide The Wine" is now climbing the charts. During the last year, Pearce spent time on the road with Blake Shelton, and will join Thomas Rhett, Rascal Flatts and Luke Bryan for upcoming dates. Pearce, a longtime hard worker, has been singing since age 8 and honed her skills by performing at Dollywood as a teenager.

The *MusicRow* Awards are a key predictor of future success for artists and songwriters. There is a strong correlation between *MusicRow's* Breakthrough Artist and/or Breakthrough Songwriter winners who go on to win Grammys, CMA and ACM Awards including Luke Bryan, Lady Antebellum, Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris, Kacey Musgraves, Taylor Swift, Carrie Underwood and Zac Brown Band.

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.*

2017: Jay Joyce  
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 SONGWRITER

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

2017: Jesse Lee  
2016: Maren 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

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## BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST

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

2017: Maren Morris  
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 ARTIST-WRITER

*Voted by readers to honor a Nashville songwriter and recording artist who for the first time wrote or co-wrote a Top 10 song.*

2017: Lauren Alaina

## 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

## SONG OF THE YEAR

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

- 2017: **"Blue Ain't Your Color,"** written by Steven Lee Olsen, Hillary Lindsey, Clint Lagerberg; published by WB Music Corp., Music Of The Corn, Rezolution Music, BMG Gold Songs, House Of Sea Gayle Music, Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r./Spirit Two Nashville, ASCAP
- 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, 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

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