MusicRow Reveals 2014 MusicRow Awards Nominees

by Sarah Skates



usicRow is pleased to announce the nominees for the 26th annual MusicRow Awards, Nashville's longest running music industry trade publication honors. The award winners, voted on exclusively by Subscriber Members of the publication, will be announced at BMI on Wednesday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Awards will be presented for Breakthrough Songwriter, Breakthrough Artist, Producer of the Year, Song of the Year, and the Top Ten Album All-Star Musicians.

"It's an honor for us to celebrate the incredible talent in our industry and present the *MusicRow Awards* for the 26th year," said Publisher/Owner **Sherod Robertson**. "Having a platform where our peers give nods to their most respected artists, songwriters, songs and producers, and spotlight their accomplishments makes this event very special. This unique event also gives us an opportunity to honor the top musicians that are such an important part of our industry's success."

The **Breakthrough Songwriter** award salutes a writer who had his or her first Top 10 hit during the eligibility period. 2014 nominees **Cole Swindell** and **Zach Crowell** scored multiple hits during that time frame. Crowell cowrote "See You Tonight" recorded by Scotty McCreery, and "Cop Car" made famous by Keith Urban. Swindell's writing credits include his first No. 1 as an artist, "Chillin' It," as well as "Get Me Some of That," a smash for Breakthrough Artist nominee **Thomas Rhett**, and "This Is How We Roll" by Florida Georgia Line feat. Luke Bryan.

After working for a decade as an artist and songwriter, **Lance Miller** scored his first Top 10 hit as a co-writer on Jerrod Niemann's "Drink To That All Night," which secured his nomination for Breakthrough Songwriter.

Also competing for Breakthrough Songwriter is rising duo **John and Jacob** (John Davidson and Jacob Bryant), who co-wrote The Band Perry's "Done." Newcomers **Nicolle Galyon**, **Caitlyn Smith** and **Rose Falcon** also earned nominations. Respectively, they had writing credits on the hits "We Were Us" (Keith Urban feat. Miranda



EMAILED OUT ON THURS...

MAY 15 AND MUST BE

RETURNED BEFORE

VOTING CLOSES AT

5 P.M. ON WED., MAY 21

FINAL NOMINATIONS



BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

COLE©SWINDELL

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR



HUNTER HAYES

"INVISIBLE" SONG OF THE YEAR

FRANKIE BALLARD **BLAKE SHELTON BRETT ELDREDGE**

SCOTT HENDRICKS

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

JANA KRAMER DAN + SHAY MICHAEL RAY







WARNER MUSIC

Lambert), "Wasting All These Tears" (Cassadee Pope), and "Friday Night" (Eric Paslay).

The **Breakthrough Artist** category is stacked with entertainers who are also talented tunesmiths. Artist nominee **Eric Paslay** penned "Friday Night" with Rob Crosby and Songwriter nominee Falcon. That song became Paslay's first No. 1 as an artist and fourth as a writer. He wrote or co-wrote all 11 tracks on his debut album, including rising hit "Song About A Girl." This spring, he and fellow Breakthrough Artist nominee **Thomas Rhett** will be on the road with Brantley Gilbert.

Rhett released the Platinum-selling "It Goes Like This" followed by the current smash "Get Me Some Of That." Before becoming a chart-topping artist, Rhett had a hand in writing hits for Florida Georgia Line ("Round Here") and Jason Aldean ("1994").

Similarly, **Brandy Clark** forged her own path as an artist after penning hits for others. Her album *12 Stories* earned the singer-songwriter critical praise and an opening spot on Jennifer Nettles' tour. Previously, Clark's writing credits on "Mama's Broken Heart" (Miranda Lambert) and "Better Dig Two" (The Band Perry) led to her 2013 nomination for *MusicRow's* Breakthrough Songwriter.

Rounding out the stiff competition in the Breakthrough Artist category are **Brett Eldredge** and **Tyler Farr**. Eldredge's debut album *Bring You Back* yielded his cowritten No. 1 "Don't Ya." Eldredge opened for Taylor Swift on her *Red* tour and will spend the summer on the road with Keith Urban.

Farr's debut album *Redneck Crazy* has already spawned two hits; the Platinum-selling title track, and follow-up hit "Whiskey In My Water." In addition to previous opening slots for Florida Georgia Line and Lee Brice, he joined Jason Aldean's current stadium run.

Producer of the Year nominees Jay Joyce, Jeff Stevens and Frank Liddell were in the studio when three of the Song of the Year nominees were recorded. Miranda Lambert cut "All Kinds of Kinds," penned by Phillip Coleman and Don Henry, during her work with producer Liddell. Producer Stevens recorded Luke Bryan's take on the Jim Beavers and Chris Stapleton song "Drink A Beer." And longtime Eric Church cohort Joyce helmed production of the Church/Luke Laird cowrite "Give Me Back My Hometown."

Also vying for Song of the Year is **Dierks Bentley's** autobiographical hit "I Hold On" co-written with **Brett James**, and **Hunter Hayes**' anthem promoting positive self-esteem among teens "Invisible," co-written with **Bonnie Baker** and **Katrina Elam**.

Rounding out the Producer nominees are Mark Bright and Scott Hendricks. Among Bright's projects active during the eligibility period are hits by Carrie

Underwood. Similarly, Hendricks helped longtime collaborator Blake Shelton get to the top of the charts, as well as Breakthrough Artist nominee **Brett Eldredge**.

The MusicRow Awards are often a key predictor for select CMA Awards. In past years Song of the Year honors at both ceremonies went to "I Drive Your Truck" (2013), "If I Die Young" (2011), "The House That Built Me" (2010) and "In Color" (2009). Almost every year since 2006, MusicRow's Breakthrough Artist winners also received the CMA New Artist/Horizon Award later the same year, including Kacey Musgraves (2013), The Band Perry (2011), Zac Brown Band (2010), Lady Antebellum (2008),





Taylor Swift (2007), and Carrie Underwood (2006).

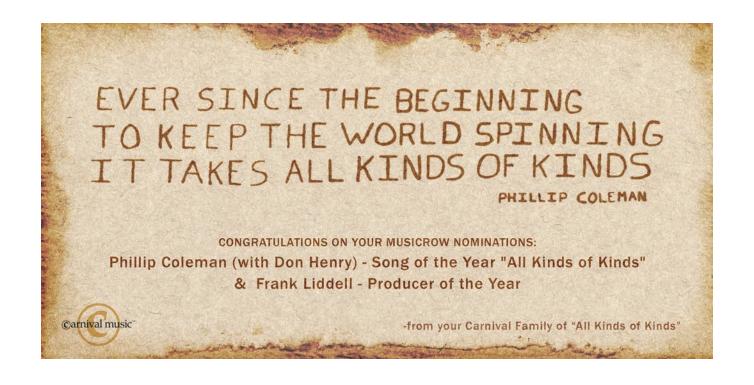
Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the *MusicRow Awards*, but the winners list marked a year of firsts. Exploding Country ingénue **Kacey Musgraves** became the first person ever to take home both the Breakthrough Artist and Breakthrough Songwriter awards. Not only that, she co-wrote her hit "Merry Go 'Round," which tied for Song of the Year. She penned the song with **Shane McAnally** and **Josh Osborne**.

That title tied for Song of the Year with "I Drive Your Truck," the superbly written song composed by **Connie Harrington**, **Jessi Alexander** and **Jimmy Yeary**, and made famous by **Lee Brice**.

In 2014, awards nominees were selected by *MusicRow* editors and critics. Additionally, outside nominations were considered for the Breakthrough Songwriter category, with *MusicRow* determining the final nominees. The Top Ten Album All-Star Musicians are determined by tallying which musicians played on the most Top Ten albums during the eligibility period. **The eligibility period is May 1, 2013 - April 30, 2014.**

Subscribed Members of *MusicRow* will be emailed a ballot later today (May 15). Voting closes at 5 p.m. on Wed., May 21. If not already a Subscribed Member of *MusicRow*, click here to subscribe and receive your ballot.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...



MUSICROW FINAL NOMINATIONS Thursday May 15, 2014 THOMAS AND THE STREET OF THE STREET



SONY/ATV

PUBLISHING congratulates our

MUSICROW AWARD NOMINEES



Breakthrough Artist

THOMAS RHETT



Breakthrough Songwriter

COLE SWINDELL

"Get Me Some Of That" - Thomas Rhett
"This Is How We Roll" - Florida Georgia Line & Luke Bryan



Song of the Year

"DRINK A BEER"

(Jim Beavers)



Song of the Year "GIVE ME BACK MY HOMETOWN"

(Eric Church)

MUSICROW FINAL NOMINATIONS Thursday May 15, 2014 THURSDAY FINAL NOMINATIONS

SEAGAYLE

~ m u s i c ~

Congratulates

Brandy Clark & Chris Stapleton

on their MusicRow Award Nominees



Brandy Clark
Breakthrough Artist

Chris Stapleton
Song Of The Year
"Drink A Beer" - Luke Bryan
written by Chris Stapleton & Jim Beavers



CATEGORY 1 PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

TO HONOR A PRODUCER'S WORK ON ALBUMS ACTIVE DURING THE AWARDS TIME PERIOD. CAN INCLUDE. BUT NOT LIMITED TO. SINGLE CHART PERFORMANCE AND ALBUM SALES.



Mark Bright (Carrie Underwood, Sara Evans, The Swon Brothers, Allison Veltz)



Scott Hendricks (Blake Shelton, Dan + Shay, Frankie Ballard, Jana Kramer, Brett Eldredge)



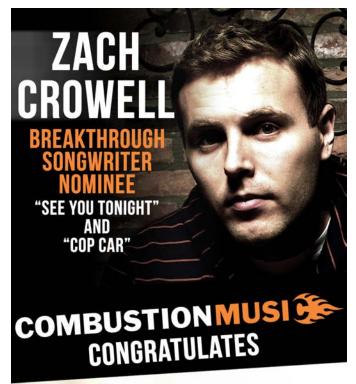
Jay Joyce (Eric Church, Gary Allan, Randy Rogers Band, Little Big Town, The Wild Feathers, Cage The Elephant, Amos Lee)

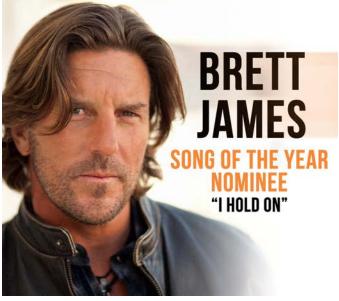


Frank Liddell
(David Nail, Eli Young Band, Miranda Lambert, Kellie Pickler)



Jeff Stevens (Luke Bryan)





MUSICROW FINAL NOMINATIONS Thursday May 15, 2014 THOUSE FINAL NOMINATIONS

Sony Music Nashville Congratulates OUR 2014 MUSICROW AWARD NOMINEES



TYLER FARR

MIRANDA LAMBERT

Breakthrough Artist Song of the Year "All Kinds of Kinds" (PHILLIP COLEMAN, DON HENRY)





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CONGRATULATIONS

CO-WRITER OF "DRINK TO THAT ALL NIGHT" RECORDED BY JERROD NIEMANN

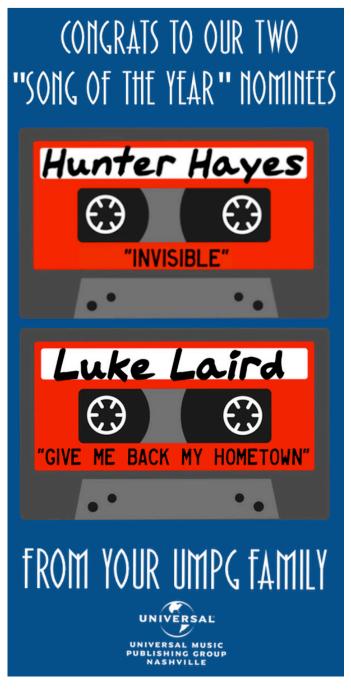
ON YOUR NUMBER ONE SONG AND NOMINATION FOR MUSICROW'S

BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT STYLESONIC, MELVIN'S PISTOL AND MELVIN'S BULLETS

CATEGORY 2 BREAKTHROUGH SONGWRITER

TO HONOR A NASHVILLE SONGWRITER WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME WROTE OR CO-WROTE A TOP 10 SONG.



Zach Crowell

Combustion, Gorley Tunes, Warner/Chappell "See You Tonight," recorded by Scotty McCreery "Cop Car," recorded by Keith Urban

John Davidson and Jacob Bryant

Major Bob, Castle Bound Music "Done.," recorded by The Band Perry

Rose Falcon

Cal IV

"Friday Night," recorded by Eric Paslay

Nicolle Galyon

Warner/Chappell

"We Were Us," recorded by Keith Urban feat. Miranda Lambert

"Automatic," recorded by Miranda Lambert

Lance Miller

Melvin's Bullets Music, Melvin's Pistol Music, Songs of StyleSonic Music

"Drink To That All Night," recorded by Jerrod Niemann

Caitlyn Smith

Warner/Chappell

"Wasting All These Tears," recorded by Cassadee Pope, song published by Cornman/BMG

Cole Swindell

Sonv/ATV

"Chillin' It," recorded by Cole Swindell

"Get Me Some of That," recorded by Thomas Rhett

"This Is How We Roll," recorded by Florida Georgia Line feat. Luke Bryan

FINAL NOMINATIONS

HUMAS RHEIT

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST NOMINEE

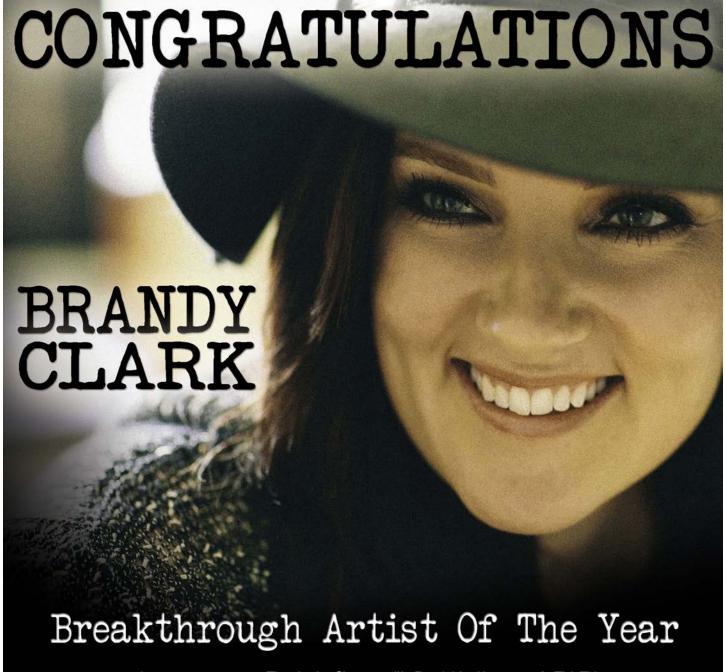


CONGRATULATIONS FROM



AND YOUR BMLG FAMILY!

MUSICROW FINAL NOMINATIONS Thursday May 15, 2014 THOUSIGN FINAL NOMINATIONS



Appearances on The Late Show with David Letterman & ELLEN Named one of CMT's "Women of Country"

On Tour with Jennifer Nettles & Eric Church

Sirius XM's Highway Find of the Year for "Stripes"

"Best of" Lists - Time Magazine, NPR, People, The Hollywood Reporter, Washington Post, New York Post, USA Today, Spin, Paste, Los Angeles Times, and Rolling Stone

SMACKMANAGEMENT

CATEGORY 3 SONG OF THE YEAR

TO HONOR WRITERS AND PUBLISHERS ON THE CRAFT OF SONGWRITING, NOT NECESSARILY CHART POSITION.

"All Kinds of Kinds"

Writers: Phillip Coleman, Don Henry

Publishers: Gravitron, Carnival, Warner-Tamerlane Recorded by Miranda Lambert (RCA Nashville); Producers: Frank Liddell, Chuck Ainlay and Glenn Worf

"Drink A Beer"

Writers: Jim Beavers, Chris Stapleton

Publishers: Sony/ATV-Tree, House of Sea Gayle, Small

Fish, Warner/Chappell

Recorded by Luke Bryan (Capitol Nashville); Producer:

Jeff Stevens

"Give Me Back My Hometown"

Writers: Eric Church, Luke Laird

Publishers: Sony/ATV-Tree, Longer and Louder, Songs of Universal, Creative Nation, Twangin and Slangin Recorded by Eric Church (EMI Nashville); Producer: Jay Joyce

"I Hold On"

Writers: Brett James, Dierks Bentley

Publishers: WB, Songs of Brett, External Combustion,

Big White Tracks

Recorded by Dierks Bentley (Capitol Nashville);

Producer: Ross Copperman

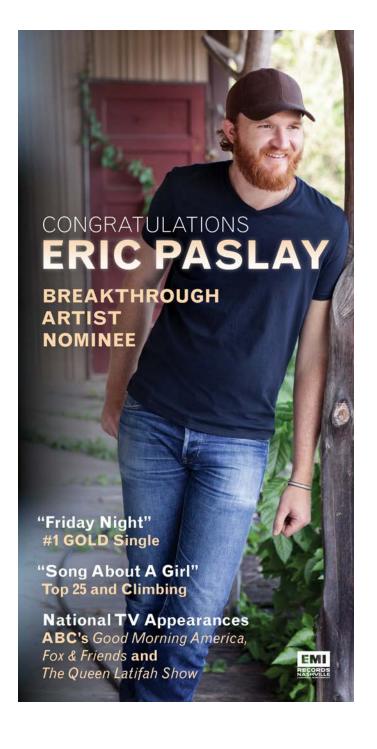
"Invisible"

Writers: Hunter Hayes, Bonnie Baker, Katrina Elam Publishers: Songs of Universal, Happy Little Man, Play

Fairchild, Devon, Katrinkadink

Recorded by Hunter Hayes (Atlantic); Producers: Dann

Huff and Hunter Hayes



MUSICROW FINAL NOMINATIONS Thursday May 15, 2014 THORSE FINAL NOMINATIONS



FINAL NOMINATION

SLATE CREEK CONGRATULATES BRANDY CLARK

"BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST NOMINEE"



Here's what they're saying about Brandy Clarks's Debut album "12 Stories"

"Her debut is all airtight craftsmanship, sly wit and precise detailing ..."

-Will Hermes, Rolling Stone

-Randy Lewis, Los Angeles Times "Impeccable debut album" -NY Times/Nate Chinen "Brandy Clark's 12 Stories, a staggeringly great collection of

"Brandy Clark's 12 Stories Is My Favorite Album of 2013" "a voice that slides easily between songbird prettiness and hard-drawlin' twang. You can hear her mastery of songform on "Stripes," her first single ..."

-Jody Rosen, New York Magazine

"The industry and fans are all asking where is the female talent? It's right in front of you in Brandy Clark. The more we play it, the more the fans react."

—John Marks, SiriusXM

"Year's best country album? Many think so." -Ann K. Powers/NPR

-Jon Freeman, Country Weekly

"the feistiness of Loretta Lynn and the

songwriting gift of Dolly Parton. ...

This is the country debut of the year"

original tunes that paint vivid, honest portraits of real life ..."

"Easily one the best albums of the year".

12 Stories, a record full of humor and Pain, remorse and reckoning, is one of the very best country debuts of 2013 -Jonathan Bernstein,

American Songwriter





facebook.com/theBrandyClark twitter.com/TheBrandyClark

CATEGORY 4 BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST

TO HONOR AN ARTIST WHO ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT CAREER PROGRESS FOR THE FIRST TIME.



Brandy Clark (SLATE CREEK RECORDS)



Brett Eldredge



Tyler Farr (COLUMBIA NASHVILLE/SONY)



Eric Paslay (EMI NASHVILLE/UMGN)



Thomas Rhett (THE VALORY MUSIC CO./BMLG)



PAST WINNERS

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

Producer Honor Roll

Producer scoring the most Top 20 singles and Top 10 albums for each year.

1982-89: Jimmy Bowen 1990: Tony Brown 1991-92: Allen Revnolds 1993: Tony Brown 1994: James Stroud 1995: Allen Reynolds 1996: Tony Brown

1997: Wilbur C. Rimes 1998: No award presented

(Becomes Producer of the Year in 1999)

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.

1999: Byron Gallimore 2000: Byron Gallimore 2001: Mark Wright 2002: Keith Stegall 2003: James Stroud 2004: Buddy Cannon 2005: Frank Rogers

2006: Dann Huff 2007: Byron Gallimore 2008: Frank Rogers

2009: Frank Rogers

2010: Frank Liddell & Mike Wrucke

2011: Paul Worley 2012: Frank Liddell 2013: Dann Huff

Top Songwriters

Songwriter scoring the most Top 20 singles for each year.

1985: Troy Seals 1986: Dave Loggins 1987-90: Don Schlitz 1991: Pat Alger 1992: Garth Brooks 1993: Clint Black 1994: Garv Burr

1995: Tom Shapiro 1996: Mark D. Sanders

1997: Craig Wiseman

(Category merged with Breakthrough Songwriter in 1998)

Breakthrough Songwriter

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

1996: Jim Lauderdale

1997: Cathy Majeski, Sunny Russ, Stephony Smith

1998: Harley Allen 1999: Phil Vassar

2000: Carolyn Dawn Johnson

2001: Troy Verges 2002: Anthony Smith 2003: Lee Thomas Miller 2004: Jim Brown/Don Rollins 2005: Vicky McGehee

2006: Jason Matthews 2007: Chris Tompkins and Josh Kear

2008: Luke Bryan 2009: James Otto 2010: Chris Young 2011: Kimberly Perry

2012: Johnny Bulford and Phil Barton

2013: Kacey Musgraves

Critics' Pick/New Artist

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

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

2007: Taylor Swift

(Becomes Breakthrough Artist in 2008)

Breakthrough Artist

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

2008: Lady Antebellum 2009: Jamey Johnson 2010: Zac Brown Band 2011: The Band Perry 2012: Eli Young Band 2013: Kacey Musgraves

Song of the Year

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

1996: "What Mattered Most," written by Vince Melamed, Gary Burr; published by MCA Music, Patrick Joseph Music

1997: "Friends," written by Jerry Holland; published by That's A Smash Publishing, Mike Curb Music

MUSICROW FINAL NOMINATIONS Thursday May 15, 2014 THOMAN STATEMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

- 1998: "Something That We Do," written by Clint Black, Skip Ewing; published by Blackened Music, Opryland Music Group
- 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
- 2000: "**He Didn't Have To Be,**" written by Brad Paisley, Kelley Lovelace; published by EMI April Music, Sea Gayle Music, Love Ranch Music
- 2001: "There Is No Arizona," written by Jamie O'Neal, Shaye Smith, Lisa Drew; published by EMI Music, Zomba Music
- 2002: "Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning)," written by Alan Jackson; published by EMI Music Publishing
- 2003: "Red Ragtop," written by Jason White; published by Sony/ATV Music
- 2004: "Almost Home," written by Craig Morgan, Kerry Kurt Phillips; published by Magic Mustang Music Inc., Sufferin' Succotash Songs
- 2005: "Whiskey Lullaby," written by Bill Anderson, Jon Randall; published by Sony/ATV-Tree, Mr. Bubba, Reynsong, Who Ya Say, Wrensong
- 2006: "What Hurts The Most," written by Jeffrey Steele, Steve Robson; published by Songs of Windswept Pacific, Almo Music Corp.

- 2007: "Stealing Kisses," written by Lori McKenna; published by Melanie Howard Music, Inc.
- 2008: "Letter To Me," written by Brad Paisley; published by EMI April Music, New Sea Gayle 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
- 2010: "The House That Built Me," written by Allen Shamblin, Tom Douglas; published by Sony/ ATV-Tree Publishing Co., Tomdouglasmusic, Built On Rock Music
- 2011: "**If I Die Young**," written by Kimberly Perry; published by Pearlfeather, Rio Bravo
- 2012: **"You and Tequila,"** written by Deana Carter and Matraca Berg; published by Deanaling Music, Hannaberg Music, Songs of Universal Inc., WB Music Corp
- 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

