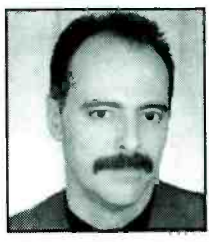


COUNTRY CORNER



by Wade Jessen

COUNTRYPOLITAN: With an album of highly polished pop songs in the quasi-country vein of highly commercial sets by fellow crossover diva **Shania Twain**, **Faith Hill** is the proverbial 900-pound gorilla that pounces on Top Country Albums and The Billboard 200. Hill's "Breathe" (Warner Bros.) perches atop both lists with 242,000 units. Her debut is monumental for several reasons, not the least of which is that it gives her label its first No. 1 on the country chart in almost 10 years (see Between the Bullets, page 98).

In the aftermath of Hill's wildly popular country and pop hit "This Kiss," the new package is rife with opportunities for pop airplay. For the time being, it's the album's lead single on country radio that's fanning the flaming airwaves. "Breathe" gains 547 detections to move 10-5 on Hot Country Singles & Tracks. Hill's gain is outdone only by bigger increases by **Dixie Chicks** and **Tim McGraw**, up 803 and 674 plays, respectively.

Elsewhere on the radio chart, other cuts from "Breathe" bite off a big chunk of spins, including "Let's Make Love," a duet with McGraw, and four other tracks. Collectively, these cuts account for 576 detections.

THOSE CRAZY CANADIANS: Our trophies for outstanding gains on Top Country Albums will travel north of the border, as **Shania Twain's** "Come On Over" (Mercury) captures Greatest Gainer honors for a 6,000-unit gain and **Anne Murray's** "What A Wonderful World" (Straightway/EMI) is up 97% to earn Pacesetter stripes.

Murray's set, a two-disc collection of country, gospel, and pop standards, is being heavily promoted to Christian retailers and jumps 20-8 on this issue's unpublished Top Contemporary Christian albums chart. She was also a guest on **Oprah Winfrey's** show.

HAPPY GIRL: Remember those wacky old television commercials for chewing gum that left chewers doing the "Teaberry Shuffle" and the margarine spots that left tasters wearing a huge crown? This is definitely one of those moments for **Martina McBride**, as "I Love You" (RCA) controls Hot Country Singles & Tracks for a fifth consecutive week.

Not only is it McBride's first chart-topper to hold at No. 1 for more than one week, it's also the first five-week No. 1 by a solo female act since **Shania Twain's** "Love Gets Me Every Time" reigned on the country chart for five weeks in 1997.

At the time of Twain's accomplishment, a female artist hadn't spent that many weeks at the top of the page since **Dolly Parton's** "Here You Come Again" did it in 1977.

HEY PEGGY, LOOK AT THIS: Based on unsolicited album play, **Brooks & Dunn** show up at No. 71 on Hot Country Singles & Tracks with a cover of **Bob Seger's** "Against The Wind." That track is found on the soundtrack to "King Of The Hill" (Elektra), which also features **Deana Carter**, **Willie Nelson**, **Faith Hill**, and **Trace Adkins**.

Encore Credits Top Writers, Pluggers For Successes

BY DEBORAH EVANS PRICE

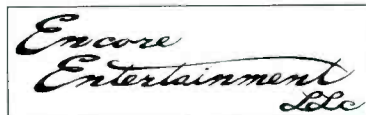
NASHVILLE—At a time when many companies are cutting back and regrouping to cope with country music's current flat sales situation, Encore Entertainment is in a growth mode, buoyed by recent successes on the publishing side, including the No. 1 hits "Something Like That" by Tim McGraw and "I Love You" by Martina McBride.

"The only time you can get hurt in



SCOTT

CONLEY



a declining market is if you are already a major player," says Jim Scott, managing partner in Encore. "Then you've got something to lose. But as a start-up company, Encore could grow very substantially."

Scott came to Nashville in 1993. His first Music Row venture was Double J Music Group, a publishing company he started with Juan Contreras. During their run with Double J, the company was responsible for numerous hits, including Diamond Rio's "Love A Little Stronger" and George Strait's "Check Yes Or No."

In September 1996, they sold Double J to Platinum Entertainment. "After the expiration of a one-year non-compete agreement that I signed with Platinum in connection with their acquisition of Double J, I started another publishing company called Encore Entertainment," says Scott. "It was my encore in the music publishing business. That's where that

(Continued on page 86)

COUNTRY SINGLES A-Z PUBLISHERS/PERFORMANCE RIGHTS/SHEET MUSIC

TITLE (Publisher - Licensing Org.) Sheet Music Dist.

- 71 **AGAINST THE WIND** (Gear, ASCAP)
- 11 **ALL THINGS CONSIDERED** (Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/Smith Haven, BMI) WBM
- 17 **AMAZED** (Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/Golden Wheat, BMI/Careers-BMG, BMI/Silverkiss, BMI/Songs Of Nashville DreamWorks, BMI/Cherry River, BMI) CLM/HL/WBM
- 49 **ARE YOUR EYES STILL BLUE** (Curb, ASCAP/Family Style, SESAC/Glacier Park, SESAC/EMI April, ASCAP) HL/WBM
- 34 **BACK AT ONE** (Cancelled Lunch, ASCAP/Universal-PolyGram International, ASCAP) HL/WBM
- 32 **BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/Nothing But The Wolf, BMI/Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International, BMI/Seven Angels, BMI) HL/WBM
- 30 **BEER THIRTY** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/Showbilly, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/Constant Pressure, BMI) HL/WBM
- 15 **BIG DEAL** (Mighty Nice, BMI/AI Andersongs, BMI/Blue Water, BMI/Windswept Pacific, BMI/Yellow Desert, BMI/My Life's Work, BMI) HL/WBM
- 5 **BREATHE** (Cal IV, ASCAP/Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International, BMI/HopeChest, BMI) WBM
- 64 **BRING IT ON** (Songs Of Universal, BMI/Zomba, BMI/Teren It Up, BMI) WBM
- 50 **BUY ME A ROSE** (Rex Benson, BMI/Stone Forest, BMI/Tripp, BMI/Blue Plate, BMI)
- 47 **CAN'T NOBODY LOVE YOU (LIKE I DO)** (Universal-MCA, ASCAP/Chrysalis, ASCAP/Songs For Debin, ASCAP) WBM
- 45 **CARLENE** (EMI April, ASCAP/Phil Vassar, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood, BMI/Flybridge, BMI/Rory Bourke, BMI) HL
- 55 **THE COLD HARD TRUTH** (Sony/ATV Cross Keys, ASCAP/Trick Knee, ASCAP) HL
- 8 **COME ON OVER** (Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International, BMI/Loon Echo, BMI/Zomba, ASCAP) HL/WBM
- 46 **A COUNTRY BOY CAN SURVIVE (Y2 K VERSION)** (Bacchus, BMI)
- 18 **COWBOY TAKE ME AWAY** (Woolly Puddin', BMI/Bug, BMI/Careers-BMG, BMI/Floyd's Dream, BMI) HL
- 60 **CRUSH** (Chrysalis, ASCAP/Songs For Debin, ASCAP/EMI Blackwood, BMI/Singles Only, BMI/Starstruck Angel, BMI/Missoula, BMI) HL/WBM
- 61 **DADDY WON'T SELL THE FARM** (Kreditard, ASCAP/Penny Annie, BMI/Copperfield, BMI)
- 29 **DON'T LIE** (EMI April, ASCAP/Sea Gayle, ASCAP) HL
- 37 **DON'T MAKE ME BEG** (EMI April, ASCAP/Sea Gayle, ASCAP) HL
- 58 **DON'T TELL ME** (Bug, ASCAP/Tinkie, ASCAP/Martha Road, ASCAP)
- 44 **GOD GAVE ME YOU** (Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/Nonpareil, BMI/Scoggini, BMI/On The Mantel, BMI) WBM
- 63 **GOODBYE EARL** (EMI Blackwood, BMI/Rising Gorge, BMI) HL
- 4 **HE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE** (EMI April, ASCAP/Sea Gayle, ASCAP/Love Ranch, ASCAP) HL
- 42 **HERE COMES MY BABY** (Mainstay, BMI)
- 3 **HOME TO YOU** (Arios Smith, SESAC/Good Of' Delta Boy, SESAC/Mamalama, ASCAP)
- 40 **HOW DO YOU LIKE ME NOW?** (Tokeco Tunes, BMI/Wacissa River, BMI/CMI, BMI)
- 74 **IF I'M NOT IN LOVE** (Little Reata, BMI/Chunky Monkey, BMI)
- 72 **IF YOU EVER LEAVE ME** (Chi-Boy, ASCAP) WBM
- 69 **I GOT MY BABY** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/Love Monkey, BMI/Almo, ASCAP/Anwa, ASCAP) HL
- 12 **I'LL GO CRAZY** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/Sony/ATV Cross Keys, ASCAP) HL
- 1 **I LOVE YOU** (Sony/ATV Cross Keys, ASCAP/Encore Entertainment, BMI/Scott And Soda, ASCAP/Bud Dog, ASCAP/Fallazoo, ASCAP) CLM/HL
- 10 **I'M ALREADY TAKEN** (Fleetside, BMI/CMI, BMI/Steve Warner, BMI) WBM
- 57 **I'M DIGGIN' IT** (Burg-Isie, BMI/Starstruck Angel, BMI) HL
- 41 **IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING** (Windswept, ASCAP/Yellow Desert, BMI/My Life's Work, BMI/Almo, ASCAP/Daddy Rabbit, ASCAP) WBM
- 28 **IT'S A LOVE THING** (Coburn, BMI/Sony/ATV Cross Keys, ASCAP) HL
- 36 **IT WAS** (Universal-MCA, ASCAP/Gary Burr, ASCAP/Songs Of Universal, BMI/Marketwright, ASCAP) WBM
- 68 **IT WILL BE ME** (Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International, BMI/Sondance Kid, ASCAP/Warner-Tamer-
- lane, BMI/Sell The Cow, BMI) WBM
- 62 **I WILL BE** (Titania, BMI/Songs Of Note, BMI/Ensign, BMI/Bob Farrell, ASCAP/MRBI, ASCAP/Summerdawn, ASCAP/McSpadden-Smith, ASCAP) HL
- 21 **LESSON IN LEAVIN'** (Chappell & Co., ASCAP/Sailmaker, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Cross Keys, ASCAP/Blue Quill, ASCAP) HL
- 39 **LESSONS LEARNED** (SLL, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Cross Keys, ASCAP/Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/Asifits, BMI) HL
- 52 **LET'S MAKE LOVE** (Songs Of Nashville DreamWorks, BMI/Cherry River, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/Golden Wheat, BMI/Careers-BMG, BMI/Silverkiss, BMI) HL/CLM/WBM
- 51 **LITTLE BIRD** (Reynsong, BMI/Lucky Lady Bug, BMI/Bayou Boy, BMI/Wrensong, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/Mother Tracy, BMI) HL/WBM
- 23 **LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE** (Gary Nicholson, ASCAP/MRBI, ASCAP/Built On Rock, ASCAP/CMI, ASCAP/Song Matters, ASCAP/Famous, ASCAP) HL
- 9 **LOVELY AND GONE** (House Of Integrity, BMI/Little Tornadoes, BMI/Nomad-Noman, BMI/Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International, BMI/Warner-Tamerlane, BMI) HL/WBM
- 54 **LOVE'S THE ONLY HOUSE** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/Buzz Cason, ASCAP/Southern Writers Group, ASCAP) HL
- 38 **LOVE TRIP** (Saddle Tan, BMI/Ensign, BMI/Dreaming In Public, SOCAN/Nimby, ASCAP/Mo Fuzzy Dice, ASCAP/Famous, ASCAP) HL
- 16 **A MAN AIN'T MADE OF STONE** (Universal-MCA, ASCAP/Gary Burr, ASCAP/Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/Puckalecia, BMI/Nomad-Noman, BMI/Franne Gee, BMI) HL/WBM
- 73 **ME AND MAXINE** (Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/New Works, BMI/WB, ASCAP/Lunmusic, ASCAP) WBM
- 75 **MEMPHIS WOMEN & CHICKEN** (Sony/ATV Cross Keys, ASCAP/Four Sons, ASCAP/Dan Penn, BMI/Sony/ATV Tree, BMI) HL
- 43 **MISSING YOU** (Markmeem, ASCAP/Paperwaite, BMI/Trio, BMI/Alley, BMI/WB, ASCAP) HL/WBM
- 19 **MY BEST FRIEND** (Careers-BMG, BMI/Silverkiss, BMI) HL
- 33 **ORDINARY LOVE** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/Songs Of Peer, ASCAP/Almo, ASCAP/Daddy Rabbit, ASCAP) HL/WBM
- 14 **POP A TOP** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI) HL
- 53 **POWER WINDOWS** (Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International, BMI/Pretty Blue, BMI) HL/WBM
- 24 **PUT YOUR HAND IN MINE** (Acuff-Rose, BMI/Milene, ASCAP) HL
- 27 **THE QUITTIN' KIND** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/Sam's Jammin', BMI/Suffer In Silence, BMI/Starstruck Writers Group, ASCAP/Universal-MCA, ASCAP) HL/WBM
- 20 **SHE THINKS MY TRACTOR'S SEXY** (EMI Blackwood, BMI/Jeinda, BMI/Scarlet Moon, BMI/CMI, BMI) HL
- 35 **SMALL STUFF** (Daniel Island, BMI/How Ya Ooin', BMI/Leipers Fork, BMI/Tender Vittles, BMI) HL/WBM
- 25 **SMILE** (DreamWorks, BMI/Encore, ASCAP) CLM
- 26 **SMOKE RINGS IN THE DARK** (Universal-MCA, ASCAP/Bar R, SESAC) HL/WBM
- 7 **SOMETHING LIKE THAT** (Mr. Noise, BMI/We Make Music, BMI/Encore Entertainment, BMI/Bud Dog, ASCAP/Fallazoo, ASCAP) CLM
- 67 **SOMETHING REAL** (Careers-BMG, BMI) HL
- 22 **STEAM** (Sony/ATV Tree, BMI/BMG, BMI/Yessiree Bob, ASCAP) HL
- 66 **TAKE A LETTER MARIA** (Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International, BMI) WBM
- 31 **THIS WOMAN NEEDS** (Without Anna, ASCAP/Songs Of Hamstein, ASCAP/The Key Club, ASCAP/Leta's Voice, ASCAP) CLM
- 65 **THE WAY YOU LOVE ME** (Encore, ASCAP/Scott And Soda, ASCAP/Fallazoo Crew, ASCAP/Airstream Dreams, ASCAP/Coyote House, ASCAP/Famous, ASCAP) HL
- 6 **WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT** (Laudersongs, BMI/Mighty Nice, BMI/Blue Water, BMI/Caroljac, BMI/CMI, BMI) HL
- 13 **WHAT DO YOU SAY** (Michael Duaney, BMI/Dulaney-house, BMI/Ensign, BMI/Major Bob, ASCAP) HL/WBM
- 59 **WHAT I NEED** (Warner-Tamerlane, BMI/Golden Wheat, BMI) WBM
- 48 **WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS** (Acuff-Rose, BMI) HL
- 2 **WHEN I SAID I DO** (Blackened, BMI) WBM
- 56 **WHEN LOVE FADES** (Tokeco Tunes, BMI/Wacissa River, BMI)
- 70 **THE YODELIN' BLUES** (Acuff-Rose, BMI) HL/WBM

Billboard Top Country Singles Sales

NOVEMBER 27, 1999

COMPILED FROM A NATIONAL SAMPLE OF RETAIL STORE, MASS MERCHANT, AND INTERNET SALES REPORTS COLLECTED, COMPILED, AND PROVIDED BY



THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL	ARTIST
NO. 1					
1	1	2	7	BIG DEAL CURB 73086 2 weeks at No. 1	LEANN RIMES
2	2	1	13	IT DON'T MATTER TO THE SUN/LOST IN YOU CAPITOL 58788	GARTH BROOKS AS CHRIS GAINES
3	3	3	8	STEAM EPIC 79269/SONY	TY HERNDON
4	6	6	8	I'M DIGGIN' IT MCA NASHVILLE 172121	ALECIA ELLIOTT
5	9	—	2	LITTLE BIRD ARISTA NASHVILLE 13184	SHERRIE AUSTIN
6	4	4	14	ALL THINGS CONSIDERED MONUMENT 79248/SONY	YANKEE GREY
7	16	—	2	DECK THE HALLS LYRIC STREET 164036/HOLLYWOOD	SHEDAISY
8	5	5	21	LONELY AND GONE COLUMBIA 79210/SONY	MONTGOMERY GENTRY
9	7	8	4	THE QUITTIN' KIND EPIC 79268/SONY	JOE DIFFIE
10	8	7	34	PLEASE REMEMBER ME/FOR A LITTLE WHILE CURB 73080	TIM MCGRAW
11	10	12	128	HOW DO I LIVE ▲ ³ CURB 73022	LEANN RIMES
12	11	10	25	LIGHTNING DOES THE WORK WARNER BROS. 16984/WRN	CHAD BROCK
13	13	11	13	ARE YOUR EYES STILL BLUE CURB 73085	SHANE MCANALLY

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE IMPRINT & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL	ARTIST
14	12	9	27	NEVER BEEN KISSED ARISTA NASHVILLE 13140	SHERRIE AUSTIN
15	15	14	13	A MATTER OF TIME BNA 65784/RLG	JASON SELLERS
16	14	13	20	YOU'RE STILL BEAUTIFUL TO ME ASYLUM 64035/EEG	BRYAN WHITE
17	17	17	35	WHO NEEDS PICTURES ARISTA NASHVILLE 13156	BRAD PAISLEY
18	18	15	30	ROCKY TOP '96 DECCA 155274/MCA NASHVILLE	THE OSBORNE BROTHERS
19	22	19	12	I WANT A MAN 143/WARNER BROS. 16932/WRN	LACE
20	21	20	10	I WEAR YOUR LOVE DREAMWORKS 459031/INTERSCOPE	LISA ANGELLE
21	20	18	26	THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH MERCURY 172118	SHANIA TWAIN
22	19	16	27	GOD MUST HAVE SPENT A LITTLE MORE TIME ON YOU RCA 65759/RLG	ALABAMA FEAT. 'N SYNC
23	23	—	75	I'M ALRIGHT/BYE BYE ● CURB 73034	JO DEE MESSINA
24	RE-ENTRY	2	DON'T MAKE ME BEG CURB 73087	STEVE HOLY	
25	25	24	52	COMMITMENT ● CURB 73055	LEANN RIMES

Records with the greatest sales gains this week. ● Recording Industry Assn. of America certification for net shipment of 500,000 units (Gold). ▲ RIAA certification for net shipment of 1 million units (Platinum), with multimillion titles indicated by a numeral following the symbol. © 1999, Billboard/BPI Communications and SoundScan, Inc.