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We're OBSESSED with women in country music!

Welcome to Girl Crush Country!



CLICK HERE TO WATCH THIS WEEK'S INTERVIEW

 [/@girlcrushcountry](#)

May is a month to celebrate -- new beginnings, mamas, and the best in country music at the ACM Awards. (Also my birthday, so please eat as much cake as you want in my honor, ok?) Speaking of birthdays and ACMs...

Women In Country Music History: Tomorrow (5/5), Tammy Wynette would have celebrated her 84th birthday if she were still with us. Tammy released her first single, a cover of Bobby Austin's "Apartment No. 9," in 1966, and it became one of the most significant songs of her career. It was the first winner of the Song of the Year award at the ACMs that year (that's the award that goes to the songwriter, so it was not considered her win). The following year, it appeared on her debut album, *Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad*. In 1969, Tammy won Top Female Vocalist at the ACMs, and in 1999 she was posthumously awarded the Cliffie Stone Pioneer Award.

Note: this newsletter contains some affiliate links, and I may earn a commission from purchases made after clicking them. Thank you for supporting small creators!



Jess Wright, Creator/Host



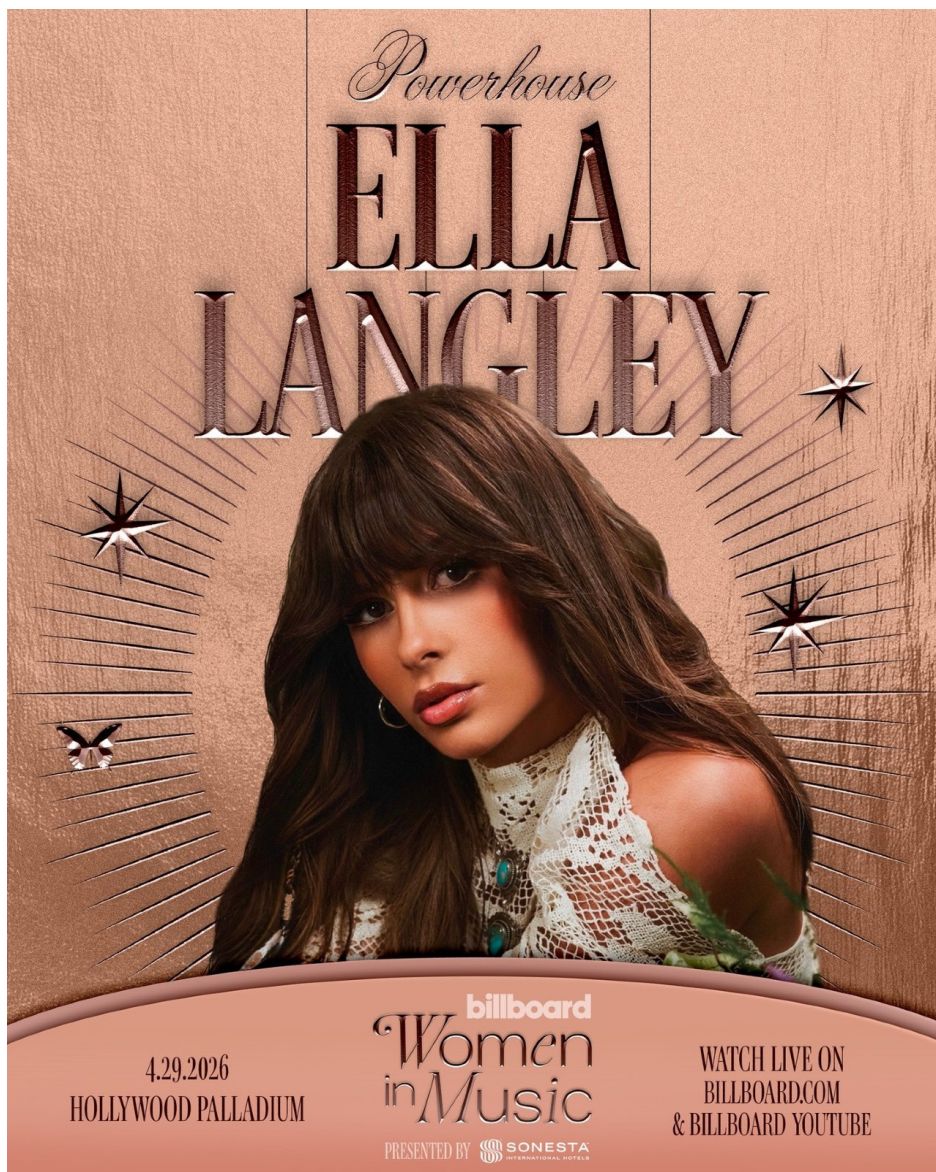
FEATURED GIRL CRUSH

Lou Ridley

This was one of those interviews I was *really* looking forward to. Lou Ridley is a fearless, unapologetic, badass who uses her privilege to fight for people who have less. From her viral country cover of "WAP" and her outspoken activism, Lou opens up about confronting a local church over their treatment of unhoused people (which resulted in police showing up at her door), co-writing protest music with Bryan Andrews, and why she believes the country music industry systematically excludes women. With her Lady Gaga energy and unwavering commitment to social justice, Lou represents everything Girl Crush Country stands for: artists who use their platform to demand change. Lou's message to the industry? Thank you for excluding us -- it's only making us more determined to break down those closed doors. [Watch the full interview here.](#)




The Tea 



Powerhouse
**ELLA
LANGLEY**

4.29.2026
HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM

billboard
Women
in Music

PRESENTED BY  SONESTA
INTERNATIONAL HOTELS

WATCH LIVE ON
BILLBOARD.COM
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NEWS

All Ella Langley Does Is Win

"She's the kind of chick that don't just walk into a room... she kicks the door in." That's what Lainey Wilson said as she presented Ella Langley with the Powerhouse Award at the *Billboard* Women in Music awards last week in Los Angeles. In a video montage played before her performance and acceptance speech, Ella said, "what I'm drawn to with strong women is their ability to be trailblazers in a way where they're not afraid to take risks, they're creating the music that they want to create because they love it and this is their art and it pays off." She also said, "women are about to take over. I can tell you that right now." YEP. You can watch the whole presentation at the event [here](#). And by the way, last week she also became the second most-streamed country artist on Spotify by monthly listeners, trailing only Morgan Wallen. Also in the top 10 are Lainey Wilson and Megan Moroney.



News

ACM Awards Performers

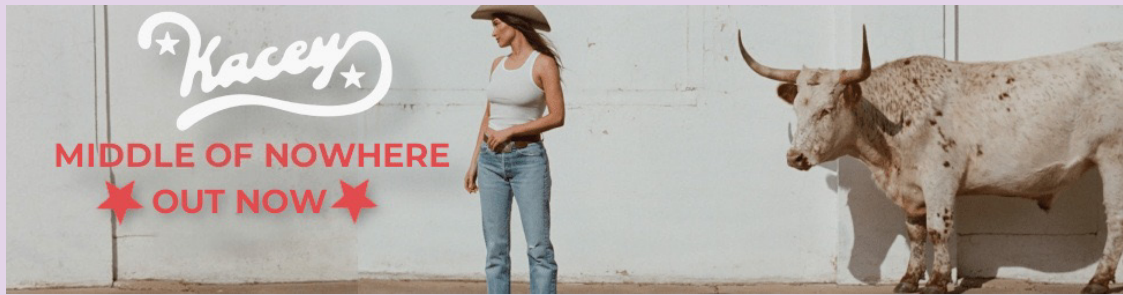
Another round of performers has been revealed for the ACM Awards, which are now just under two weeks away. While the lineup is typically male-heavy, there are some girl crushes in there -- all of them nominees. Joining previously announced superstars like Lainey Wilson, Kacey Musgraves, and Miranda Lambert (oooooh -- let's hope they're performing their new duet "Horses & Divorces" together!) are the unstoppable Ella Langley (Female Artist, Song, Single, Music Event, Artist-Songwriter of the Year), Carter Faith (Album of the Year), and Avery Anna (New Female Artist). You can watch May 17 on [Amazon Prime video](#), even without a Prime membership.



News

Runaway June's Next Mama To Be

Just ahead of Mother's Day, [Runaway June](#)'s Natalie Stovall has revealed she and her husband James are expecting. And it was no easy road to get here. Natalie posted that after 18 years of marriage, years of trying and three failed rounds of IVF, doctors told her it probably wasn't going to be possible to get pregnant. She says her tiny human will here at the end of the summer. We're sending all the love and congratulations to Natalie and James!



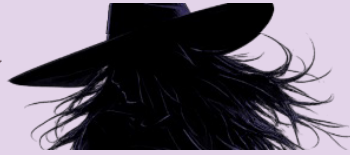
The drops

The freshest Girl Crush Country music:

- { Alana Springsteen i loved you then [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Kacey Musgraves Middle Of Nowhere [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Margo Price Rita Ballou [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Julianna Rankin XYZ71s [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Jade Bird LA Freeway [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Stella Lefty I Know I Know [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Ashley Anne nevermind [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Abbie Callahan Drag, Queen [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Gin Wigmore Country Diamond [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Rita Wilson Sound Of A Woman (album) [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Rachael Fahim Take It Back [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Cassa Jackson Yes! [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { McCall Chapin EXPERT [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Madison Spratley Back to the Future [Spotify](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Melanie Dyer Mama Knows Best [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Aniston Pate I Think You Should [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Hadlie Jo God Made Mama [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Sarah Jarosz She Ain't Goin' Nowhere [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Kelsey Waldon Nickel for the Fiddler [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)
- { Brennen Leigh Texas 1947 [Spotify](#) | [Pandora](#) | [Amazon](#)

Listen to all these songs, plus music from other kickass women, including all our featured guests, on the Girl Crush Country Playlist on [Spotify](#) and on [Pandora](#).

birthday queens



Girl Crushes celebrating birthdays this week:

- RaeLynn
- The late Tammy Wynette

The fits



Show your love for GCC and for women in country music when you buy some swag in the [Girl Crush Country Store](#)! Choose just the logo or pick a design with some added sass if you roll like that. Every design is available on multiple styles, colors, and items. Here are some of our newest designs (note: for purchases of any items in the PRIDE collection, 50% of proceeds will be donated to **The Trevor Project**)



Girl Crush Country PRIDE tee

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Nashville Rhinestone Rodeo mug

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Nashville Show Print tee - female cut

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Women & Whiskey label sticker

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