

**TRACE ADKINS**

answers the fans' questions



**BILLY CURRINGTON**

gets fun and sexy with a summer single

# COUNTRY WEEKLY

THE INSIDE STORIES ON COUNTRY MUSIC'S HOTTEST STARS  
JULY 22, 2013

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BIG  
TOWN**

Sad song comes from personal experience



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makes new music a family affair

**BLAKE  
SHELTON**

# HE'S UNSTOPPABLE!

With a new single, a new album and a new tour, there is no slowing down for country's "It" boy



+

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on superheroes  
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# BEING BLAKE

No. 1 hits. Bona fide TV stardom. A new tour.  
Yep, it's good to be **Blake Shelton**.

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STORY BY BOB PAXMAN

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**EVEN BLAKE SHELTON HAS TO ADMIT** that being Blake Shelton is a pretty nice ride these days. "I've never been so comfortable in my own skin and in my own life," Blake recently commented to reporters as he celebrated two No. 1 hits, "Over" and "Sure Be Cool If You Did."





## BLAKE SHELTON CONTINUED

And well, why not? He's the current titleholder of country's most prestigious prize, Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year, a three-time CMA Male Vocalist of the Year and holds down a highly visible spot on the popular NBC talent competition show *The Voice*. Television, in reality, has made the devilishly handsome, bright-eyed Blake an in-demand cover guy, gracing the front of every entertainment magazine imaginable, and catapulted him to that desired one-name status (we all simply refer to him as "Blake," no explanation or last name needed). And just to top it off, he's married to the glamorous and multitalented Miranda Lambert, an award winner in her own right.

Though *The Voice* is on summer hiatus, Blake isn't taking the season off or heading for some exotic vacation spot. Instead, he's gearing up for his headlining tour, *Ten Times Crazier*, which kicks off July 19 in Virginia Beach, Va. Easton Corbin and Jana Kramer will serve as the opening acts on this cross-country trek, slated to wind up in early



October. The tour takes its name from a cut on *Based on a True Story...*, Blake's current album. Blake revealed some of his plans for the tour and talked about a variety of other hot topics, including how *The Voice* has upped his career profile to megaheights.

Last year's Well Lit & Amplified Tour, Blake's first nationwide series of shows as a headliner, was definitely a wild run. "But this year's tour is 10



times crazier," he says in his usual half-joking fashion. Expanding on that a bit, Blake shared in a release about the tour that he aimed to give fans the full-blown, good-time show that they've come to expect.

"My fans, country radio, friends, family, you name it—they know I love to perform. With *The Voice* schedule, I was not able to go out and perform as much as I wanted last year, but I plan

to make up for it this year," Blake said. "This summer is going to be a blast. I want everyone at my shows to feel like they got every penny's worth of their ticket. I am going to give them every ounce of me on that stage because they deserve it."

Ten Times Crazier also marks another first for Blake: his inaugural outing as the CMA Entertainer of the Year. Recently, Blake was asked by

BLAKE SHELTON PERFORMANCE BY TRAE BRATTON/NBC;  
JANA KRAMER BY JEROD HARRIS/ACMA; CORBIN BY  
IMAGES FOR JACM; EASTON CORBIN BY FREDERICK  
BREEDON/IV/GETTY IMAGES

## Ten Times crazier Tour

### JULY 19

Virginia Beach, Va.  
Farm Bureau Live  
at Virginia Beach

### JULY 20

Bristow, Va.  
Jiffy Lube Live

### JULY 21

Wantagh, N.Y.  
Nikon at Jones  
Beach Theater

### JULY 26

St. Louis  
Verizon Wireless  
Amphitheater

### JULY 27

Noblesville, Ind.  
Klipsch Music Center

### JULY 28

Cincinnati  
Riverbend Music Center

### AUG. 1

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio  
Blossom Music Center

### AUG. 2

Burgettstown, Pa.  
First Niagara Pavilion

### AUG. 3

Tinley Park, Ill.  
First Midwest Bank  
Amphitheatre

### AUG. 9

Raleigh, N.C.  
Time Warner Cable  
Music Pavilion

### AUG. 10

Camden, N.J.  
Susquehanna Bank Center

### AUG. 11

Bethel, N.Y.  
Bethel Woods Center  
for the Arts

### AUG. 29

Atlanta  
Aaron's Amphitheatre  
at Lakewood

### AUG. 30

Tampa, Fla.  
1-800-ASK-GARY  
Amphitheatre

### AUG. 31

West Palm Beach, Fla.  
Cruzan Amphitheatre

### SEPT. 5

Holmdel, N.J.  
PNC Bank Arts Center

### SEPT. 6

Hartford, Conn.  
Comcast Theatre

### SEPT. 7

Mansfield, Mass.  
Comcast Center

### SEPT. 12

St. Paul, Minn.  
Xcel Energy Center

### SEPT. 13

Milwaukee  
BMO Harris Bradley Center

### SEPT. 14

Auburn Hills, Mich.  
The Palace of Auburn Hills

### SEPT. 19

Charleston, W.Va.  
Charleston Civic Center

### SEPT. 20

Columbus, Ohio  
Nationwide Arena

### SEPT. 21

Lexington, Ky.  
Rupp Arena

### SEPT. 26

Charlottesville, Va.  
John Paul Jones Arena

### SEPT. 27

Knoxville, Tenn.  
Thompson-Boling Arena

### SEPT. 28

Nashville  
Bridgestone Arena

### OCT. 3

Kansas City, Mo.  
Sprint Center

### OCT. 4

Tulsa, Okla.  
BOK Arena

### OCT. 5

Wichita, Kan.  
INTRUST Bank Arena

reporters if that title added any extra pressure to headlining a tour. "I don't know, I suppose it could," Blake said. "I'm just trying to put together a good set list of hits and the songs people want." Blake tacked on the fact that early in his career he would start his tour set with a cover of George Strait's "All My Ex's Live in Texas" or another recognizable tune, then ease into his own material. Now, obviously, he has

to strictly concentrate on a hits list that, incredibly, dates back to 2001 and his debut single, "Austin." So how does he change it up and still give the fans what they want?

"That's interesting," he told reporters during the same media session. "What does that really mean, to be Entertainer of the Year? Does that mean I

>>>

Crazy loves company: Jana Kramer and Easton Corbin are along for the ride on Blake's Ten Times crazier Tour.

# Where the “Boys” Are

Blake's latest No. 1 gets an all-star remix.

You've just scored a No. 1 with an infectiously catchy anthem of rural pride. What do you do for a follow-up? Why, remix the chart-topper of course! While the original version of “Boys 'Round Here” features guest vocals from Pistol Annes and RaeLynn, Version 2.0 enlists a gaggle of Blake Shelton's country comrades—Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Ronnie Dunn, Brad Paisley, Josh Turner, Keith Urban, Hank Williams Jr. and Blake's wife, Miranda Lambert—to put their own spin on the song's signature *red, red, red, red, red, red, red-neck* line. And while it takes a keen ear to instantly identify all of the voices in the staccato refrain, there is one that leaps right out: Reba McEntire's. Her twangy “red” is as noticeable as her fiery hair.



Redneck guest spot club:  
Reba and Luke with Blake

The additional voices don't necessarily add much to the new “Boys 'Round Here” (the original was just fine, thank you), but the star power is hard to ignore. Written by Craig Wiseman, Thomas Rhett and Dallas Davidson (it's Dallas' voice who handles the “red” honors on the album track), the song is Blake's ninth consecutive No. 1 single, a trend started with 2009's Trace Adkins duet “Hillbilly Bone.” And like that smash, “Boys 'Round Here” is equally polarizing. While some maintain that it's representative of Southern life, others have skewered its hip-hop-influenced backbeat and taken the song as just the latest affront to traditional country.

In the end, however, it's hard to deny the ear-worm quality of the “Boys,” with its *oooh, let's ride* pre-chorus, the *chew tobacco spit* command and, yep, that *red, red, red* rap—one of the most fun musical stutters since Randy Bachman sang *b-b-baby* in Bachman-Turner Overdrive's “You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet.” Plus, “Boys” has folks talking. And that's always a good thing, ya “Here”?

— JOSEPH HUDAK



## BLAKE SHELTON CONTINUED

have to shoot myself out of a cannon or have fireworks?” To hear Blake explain it, that's not likely to happen. “I'll just keep being that guy that people expect,” Blake said. “I'll have a little banter with the audience and be goofy and funny.”

Headlining, Blake explained to MTV News as the tour was announced, does represent the culmination of a lifelong goal. “It's everything I ever worked for, from the first time I tried to play a chord on the guitar, this was the dream I had,” Blake said. “This was the image that was in my mind, of stepping out on one of those big summertime amphitheater stages and looking out and seeing a bunch of people having a good time.”

Blake is certain to include a selection or two from *Based on a True Story . . .*, an album that leans toward the uplifting message and

just-for-fun quality of current single “Boys 'Round Here.” The songs as well as the album's title serve as umbrella themes for the record. They also reflect Blake's present state of mind, as he told reporters.

“That's where I am in my life right now,” Blake said, smiling. “I'm very content, and who wouldn't be? I know how lucky I am and I'll be happy if it stays like this for a long time.” He's in such a good place, he added, that it briefly crossed his mind to forgo ballads altogether for the new album. But that was hardly realistic, as he quickly surmised.

“I was like, ‘I don't want to do those sad songs right now.’ But then, you have to remember, this is a country album,” Blake said with a laugh. “So there are a couple ballads on there, but I'm not really in that frame of mind.

CMA AWARDS BY KATHERINE BOMBOY/THORNTON/ABC; BLAKE & REBA COURTESY WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE; BLAKE & LUKE BY KEATHER WINES/CBS; BLAKE & USHER & ADAM (2) COURTESY BLAKE SHELTON TWITTER



Crystal palace: Blake collects one of his many CMA awards.

**“I’m very content, and who wouldn’t be? I know how lucky I am and I’ll be happy if it stays like this for a long time.”**

We came up with that title because when I listened to it, I thought this is my life from start to finish. So that’s what we’ll call it, *Based on a True Story*. Normally, when I have an idea like that, it doesn’t stick,” Blake deadpanned, eliciting laughs from the media. “But somehow, that one got through.”

During his No. 1 parties at CMA Music Festival, Blake was also asked about his ever-evolving style of music, which has featured elements of rock and pop. He also threw in some Jerry Reed-inspired talking rap

on “Boys ’Round Here,” a different touch for Blake. As any artist will tell you, getting out of the comfort zone is a welcome challenge, and it’s just necessary to change things up on occasion.

“As soon as people think they have me figured out musically, they realize they don’t,” Blake said. “I used to think that one day I’d figure out what my sound is gonna be, and now, looking back, I couldn’t be further from that. But that makes me happy. I enjoy reinventing myself.” **CW**

**More Blake! >>>**

# Darn Tweetin’



## B.S. EDITION

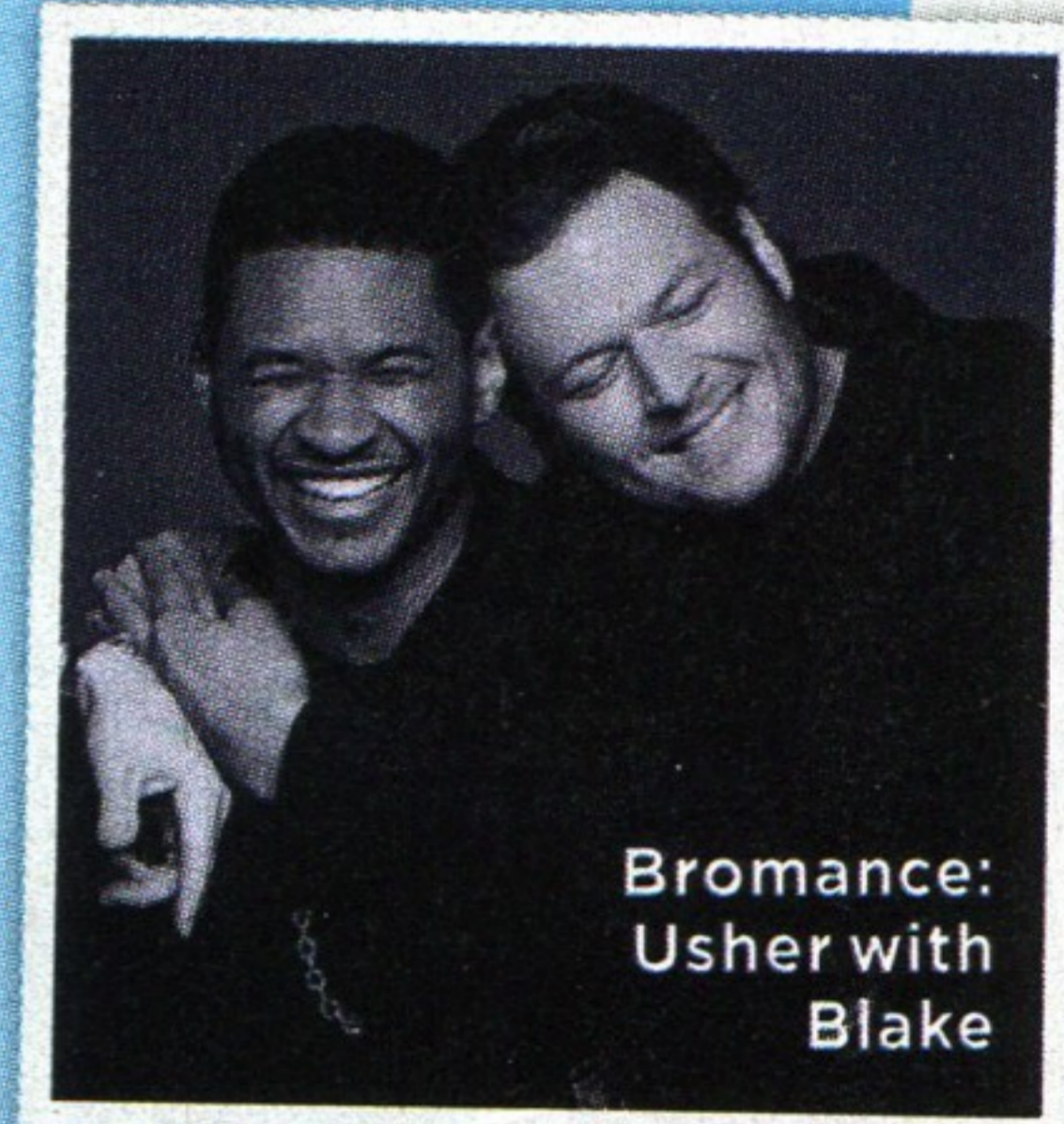
A look at Blake’s latest and greatest online hits.

Had such a great first date last night . . . I’m so glad we’re finally going there!!! ▶

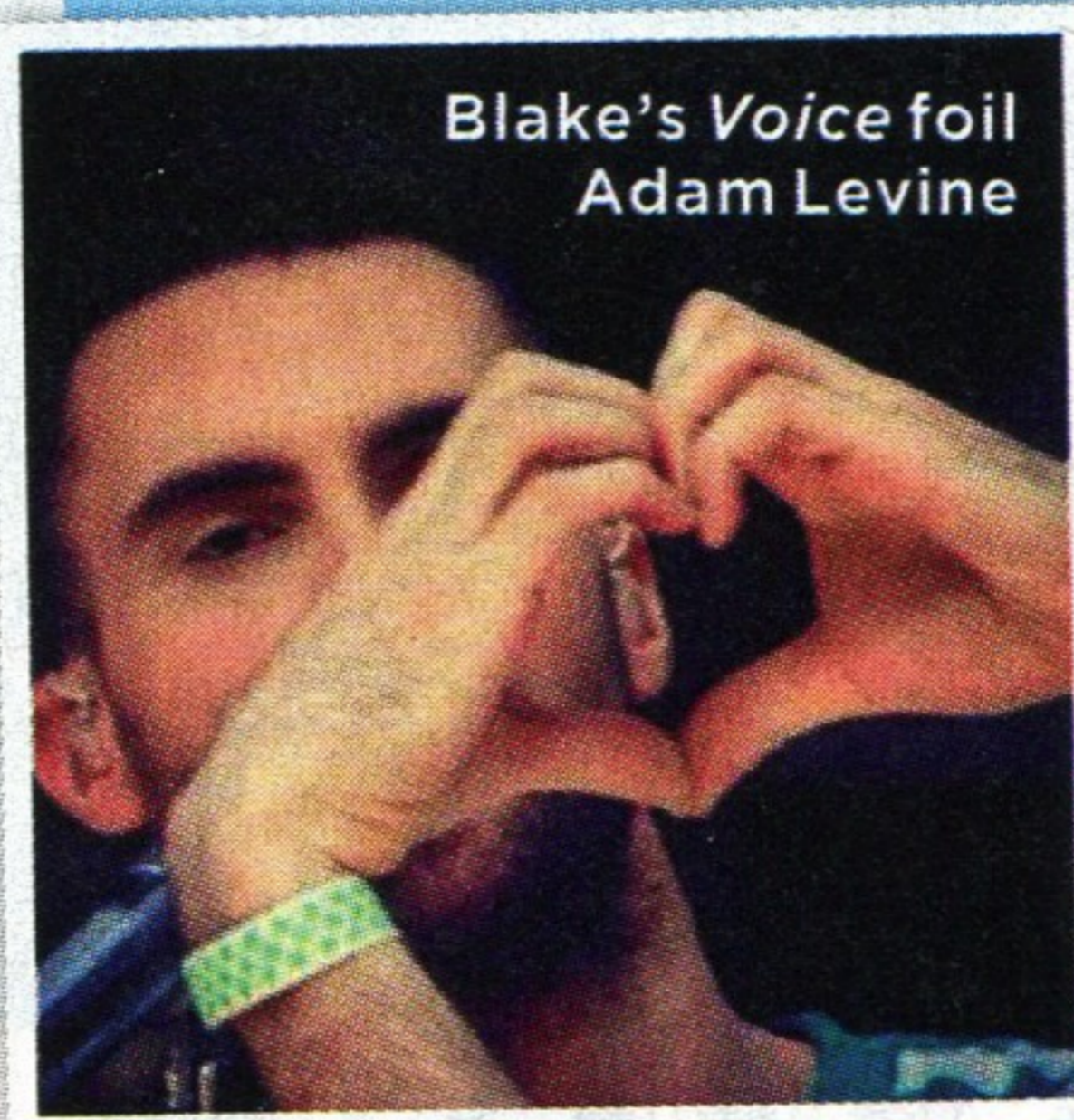
I’m so hungover right now I just buttered my Bellamy Brothers greatest hits cd and told the paper to fetch my dog . . .

If you find yourself too serious to just have fun with music then unfollow me and go back to playing video games and spying on your sister.

Whatever you do right now don’t yawn. Don’t do it!! Don’t yawn!! Don’t even think about yawning!!!



Bromance: Usher with Blake



Blake’s *Voice* foil Adam Levine

◀ Ever feel like the biggest idiot on the planet? I do. Then I look at this and realize I’m not . . .

Just had a great moment of vindication . . . Turns out that word means what I always thought it did!!! Ha! Ha! I win . . .

Hey @957KKAJ that’s not the original version of “slow burn” by T.G. Sheppard!!!! #bitchylister

So funny when a hater gets offended that I have THE NERVE to respond to them . . . #growup

Hey person who writes @michaelbuble’s tweets. (I know who you are) I demand the MAN actually write one himself!! #thisiswar

Excuse me bartender . . . Could I get another drink, some crack and 2 hookers? Just put it on my tab . . . loid.

Follow Blake on Twitter @blakeshelton.



# The King of The Voice

With three consecutive wins, can anyone best Blake?

**ADAM LEVINE HAS TO** be thinking, "This is getting a little ridiculous." After winning the inaugural season of *The Voice* with Javier Colon, the Maroon 5 frontman has watched as his fellow coach Blake Shelton led his team's singers to victory for the next three seasons, most recently with country wunderkind Danielle Bradbery. And veteran coaches Christina Aguilera and Cee-Lo Green, along with newbie chair-fillers Usher and Shakira, haven't fared much better. Like, come on, Blake, share the wealth a little, will ya?

Hardly. Blake is awfully passionate about the singers on his team, whether they win or not. He's championed the careers of *Voice* alums Gwen Sebastian and RaeLynn and, as he said recently, wishes he could do more for his charges.



"I'm kind of professionally taken out of these artists' lives and they move on with the record company and managers and stuff," Blake has said. "You kind of feel helpless at that point sometimes, and you want to see them take off."

Which Blake does by talking them up and even enlisting them as support acts on the road.

"The only things that I can really do, and have done in the past, is take them out on tour with me and promote them in times like this right here when I've got microphones in front of me," he told reporters. "That's really all I have to offer. But still, I'm going to do that. If it'll help just a little bit, that's what I want to do."

Danielle and last season's champ, Cassadee Pope, likely won't need much assistance. Both have signed to powerhouse label Big Machine Records (home of Taylor Swift). Here's a look at what the four winners of *The Voice* have going on.

— JOSEPH HUDAK

BLAKE SHELTON BY TRAE PATTON/NBC; GWEN SEBASTIAN BY LEWIS JACOBS/NBC; JAVIER COLON BY GREGG DEGUIRE/FILMMAGIC; JERMAINE PAUL BY STEVE GANITZ; CASSADEE POPE BY TRAE PATTON/NBC; DANIELLE BRADBERRY BY TRAE PATTON/NBC





**Javier Colon**

**Won:** Season 1

**Team:** Adam

**Blind Audition Song:**

Cyndi Lauper's  
"Time After Time"

**Where He Is Now:** After releasing his album *Come Through for You* on Universal Republic Records, Javier parted ways with the label.



**Jermaine Paul**

**Won:** Season 2

**Team:** Blake

**Blind Audition Song:**

Avril Lavigne's  
"Complicated"

**Where He Is Now:** Jermaine released the single "I Believe in This Life" in 2012 and recently announced on Twitter that a new single, "Next to You," and his album are coming "real soon."



**Cassadee Pope**

**Won:** Season 3

**Team:** Blake

**Blind Audition Song:** "Torn," made famous by Natalie Imbruglia

**Where She Is Now:**

Cassadee signed with Big Machine's Republic Nashville offshoot in January and recently released her debut single for the label, "Wasting All These Tears," which sold more than 125,000 downloads in its first week. She's currently on tour with Rascal Flatts.



**Danielle Bradbery**

**Won:** Season 4

**Team:** Blake

**Blind Audition Song:**

Taylor Swift's "Mean"

**Where She Is Now:** At

16, the youngest competitor to ever win *The Voice* immediately signed with Big Machine and is readying her debut album.