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to other spouses. However, in 2001, they also gotten divorced from their respective partners, and Brooks and Yearwood married each other four years later. It was in 1997 when Brooks wrote the song. It was then released as the second single from Yearwoods compilation album A Collection of Hits, reaching No. 2 on the Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks chart. It also helped the country duo earn the Best Country Collaboration with Vocals award during the 40th Grammy Awards. Brooks and Dunn released Cowgirls Dont Cry in 2008 as the final single from their Cowboy Town album, featuring Reba McEntire. The song quickly became a hit, peaking at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart after McEntire and the country duo performed the song on the 2008 Country Music Association Awards. Ronnie Dunn wrote the song with his frequent collaborator Terry McBride, and he revealed that he first came across the title on a T-shirt at the Iowa State Fair. Terry McBride and I were on the bus, and I started talking about it and we started talking about Reba and hearing her talk about how she grew up, how rough she thought her dad was on her in her rodeo days, Dunn recalled. We wrote it and sent the lyrics to her that night. Though it wasnt intended to be a duet, a little friendly competition led them to a truce. She e-mailed me back about every other week going, Are you gonna cut that song? Cause if not, I am! So we finally called a truce, and were doing it together, Dunn said. These two country music legends collaborated on a plethora of duets together during their careers, but it was their lively hit Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man that made Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty a prime duet staple. In this song, Lynn and Twitty find themselves as long-distance lovers pledging that their love is bigger than the Mississippi Rivers wide distance thats keeping them separated. Twitty promises to brave the waters filled with alligators just to meet the woman he loves on the other side, while Lynn vows to go as far as swimming the distance. Later on, Lynn revealed that it was actually her husband, Doolittle, who suggested the song to them. Doo loved Conway, Lynn said. Wed been out on tour a couple weeks, and wed come home. We walked in, and my husband was sitting at the desk. He didnt usually come into the office. He says, Ive got a hit for you. And Conway says, Oh, my God, hes got a song for us?! It was called Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man. Indeed, the song went No. 1 both on US Billboard Country Songs and Canadian RPM Country Tracks chart. We kind of listened to Doo from then on, Lynn added. This 1988 classic is without a doubt the most beloved love song in country music. It was recorded and released by Keith Whitley off his Dont Close Your Eyes album. The song eventually reached No. 1 on the Billboard US Hot Country Songs, making it the second in Whitleys string of five consecutive No. 1 hits. Written by Paul Overstreet and Don Schlitz, Whitley knew he had to release the song immediately. He had previously recorded a masterpiece from the talented songwriting team that went on to be a No. 1 for Randy Travis, and Whitley does not want that to happen to him again. Five years after his untimely death, Alison Krauss recorded a tribute album to the late country superstar called Keith Whitley: A Tribute Album. Kraus made sure she includes her rendition of When You Say Nothing At All. After the album release, country radio started playing the song even though Krauss did not release it yet as a single. Krauss version quickly climbed the charts, that made them come up with an idea to edit both of Whitley and Krauss versions together to create a wonderful virtual duet. The two versions being merged is just so seamless, and it sounded as if the two singers were in the studio together. Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty played the funny blame game with their song Youre The Reason Our Kids Are Ugly. The two country legends poke fun at each other, pointing fingers at whoever gave their children the bad looks. While these two talented singers were not the first to record the feisty song, it was their rendition released in their 1978 collaborative studio album Honky Tonk Heroes that landed that song in the hearts of fans. Every time they perform the sassy duet, Twitty and Lynn prove how stellar their teamwork is, never failing to send fans to laughter over their fiery remarks along with the sacrifices theyve made and are willing to do in the name of love. Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers achieved long and successful solo careers in this genre while regularly joining forces for duets and tours that led to a lasting friendship. In 2013, the two legends further cemented their friendship when they recorded You Cant Make Old Friends for Rogers album of the same name. Now that summed up our relationship, Parton has said of the song. The ballad includes the lines How will I sing when you are gone? Cause it wont sound the same. Who will join in on those harmony parts when I call your name? Those lyrics became even more poignant when Rogers died on March 20, 2020. Drinking songs were never an unusual thing in country music they actually seem to be more popular than ever. But one of the few songs that focused on the outcome of too much drinking rather than its pleasures were Broo Paisley and Alison Krauss in the song Whiskey Lullaby. The song tells the tale of a couple whose painful separation and broken hearts led them to ultimately drinking themselves to death. One of its songwriters, Jon Randall, was going through a rough life at the time. He had just gotten a divorce from country singer Lorrie Morgan after almost three years of marriage. Then he lost a record deal and couldnt find any songwriting contract. Randall found himself frequently drinking whiskey that his manager told him: Hey man, every now and then, youve got to put a bottle to your head and pull the trigger. The line stuck on Randall, and he decided to use it in a song. When Paisley found out about the song, he immediately wanted to record it with either Krauss or Dolly Parton. Its an angelic, ghostly bluegrass ballad, really a tragedy, Paisley said about the song. And I think when I get to heaven, if the angels dont sound like Alison Krauss, we have been cheated. Ever since the songs composition and performance by Townes Van Zandt off his 1972 album The Late Great Townes Van Zandt, Pancho and Lefty has been recorded by several artists. One of the most notable versions was a duet by country legends Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard, selling the most copies and reaching No. 1 on Billboard US Hot Country Singles as well as on the Canadian RPM Country Tracks chart. Nelson and Haggards version also received the Grammy Hall of Fame award in 2020. This sweeping, romantic ballad reunited Reba McEntire and Vince Gill. It was released as the second single from McEntires album Its Your Call and it reached No. 1 on the Billboard US Hot Country Songs. But did you know the song was supposed to be recorded by McEntire with Kenny Rogers? Unfortunately, the two could never get the sound right because of their different vocal ranges. Later on, when McEntire was working on a new album, she remembered the song and asked Rogers if he would record it, and if not, McEntire wanted Rogers to pass it along to her. Apparently, Rogers agreed on the latter. We asked Vince Gill to sing the background harmonies on the song. Tony Brown, who was co-producing the CD with me, suggested letting Vince do more than just sing harmony on the song, so he took a couple of verses, and we decided to turn it into a duet, McEntire recalled. It worked out well in the end for everyone. Released in 1984 as the second single from Merle Haggards album Its All in the Game, A Place To Fall Apart was the first single Haggard and Janie Fricke had teamed up together. The song went to No. 1 on Billboard US Hot Country Songs and spent a total of fourteen weeks on that chart. Haggard actually wrote the track with fellow country singer Willie Nelson and songwriter Freddy Powers. It fell together from a series of events, beginning with Powers idea while driving around Austin, Texas with Nelson one afternoon. The two started throwing around a couple of lines to begin with. The other parts of the song came into fruition when Powers and Haggard were in Nashville at the Opryland Hotel. During that time, Haggard had been writing songs about his recent divorce from fellow country singer Leona Williams. He turned to Powers and said, I wish that I could write just one more little song to get her off my mind finalize it. Powers suggested just forgetting about melodies and rhymes and simply writing everything he wanted to say in a letter. The first line of Haggards note read, Leona, Ill probably never see you eye-to-eye again, which became the first line of A Place To Fall Apart. Reba McEntire and Linda Davis found themselves to be two women in love with the same man and battling out who he truly loves. Released in 1993 as the first single from McEntires compilation album Greatest Hits Volume Two, the song became one of the most awarded songs of their careers. It took home Best Country Vocal Collaboration during Grammy Awards and Vocal Event of the Year at the CMA Award. Calling Miranda Lambert and Carrie Underwood, the leading ladies of todays country music, would be an understatement. In 2014, the two made Somethin Bad sound really good when they premiered the fierce collaboration at the Billboard Music Awards. The song is from Lamberts album Platinum. It snagged the top spot on the Billboard Hot Country Songs, making it the first country song by a female duo to reach the country summit in more than two decades. When the Rascal Flatts members wrote the song four years before it was released as a single off their 2017 album Back to Us, they actually reached out to Taylor Swift first unfortunately, she said no. And so, we put the song on the back burner for a long time and circled back around this time, Jay DeMarcus said. And this time, its with Season 10 American Idol runner-up Lauren Alaina who showed off her powerful voice. Blake Shelton and Pistol Annies member Ashley Monroe played former lovers who reconnected for one last night in Lonely Tonight. It was released to country radio in 2014 as the second single off Sheltons album, Bringing Back the Sunshine. The song reached No. 1 both on Billboard US Country Airplay and Billboard Canada Country charts. It also peaked at No. 2 on Billboard US Hot Country Songs. Country music duo Big & Rich tapped their good friend Tim McGraw to sing Lovin Lately. That was his title, John Rich said. He told it to us in a parking lot in Canada, where we were doing a show with him. He said he had a song title Who You Been Loving Lately? We thought it was brilliant. We wrote it, recorded it, and emailed it to him. To which McGraw responded by writing an entire video script for the song. When the country music duo finished recording Loving Me Back, John Osborne said that though they thought it sounded really good, it felt like it was missing one extra thing that just made it spectacular. At the time, [getting Womack on the song] seemed like a wild idea. Luckily, Womack instantly agreed to lend her vocals to the song. Shes country music royalty, and shes one of the greats that will forever be. It was definitely, out of all the things we will achieve in our careers, that was one of the bucket list things, John added. Dolly Parton and Porter Wagoner famously worked together on several hit singles and duet albums, and Please Dont Stop Loving Me is just one among the many songs theyve written and recorded together. The song was released in 1974 as the first single from the album Porter n Dolly the duos eleventh collaborative studio album. Its their only No. 1 hit on the country chart as a duet act. When Bee Gees realized their method is going out of style by the early 1980s, they decided to start writing songs including Islands in the Stream. The song sailed into several charts, not only in the United States but also in several territories. It topped Billboards US Hot Country Songs, US Hot 100, and US Adult Contemporary. After becoming available for digital download, it has also sold over 800,000 digital copies in the United States as of 2019. Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow wrote the hit duet together and was released to radio in 2002 off Rocks album Cocky. The song turned out to be a success, not only commercially but also critically making it Rocks highest-charting single ever on the chart of Billboard Hot 100. The song was written by some of the biggest names in country music, namely Keith Whitley, Curly Putman, and Don Cook. However, Whitleys recorded demo version was never released. George Jones was the first one to do so in 1986 off his album Wine Colored Roses. Six years later, Lee Greenwood and Suzy Bogguss covered Hopelessly Yours as a duet. Their version earned a nomination for Best Country Vocal Collaboration during the Grammy Awards. Go Ahead and Break My Heart was Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefanis first collaboration. The ideas behind the song started after the now-engaged couple shared similar insecurities with each other. We were just writing it about it was hard to kind of let our guards down again, you know what I mean? Just going through some issues, and so thats what the song was even written about, Shelton said about the song. Its like, I know something bad is going to happen because it always does, so lets just get it over with now. The song that is warning every mother not to let their kids become cowboys because the nomadic and challenging life of cowboy culture became a big hit in 1978. Thanks to Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelsons rendition, which did not only reach No. 1 on Billboard US Hot Country Songs but also won Grammy Award for Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal. In 2004, Loretta Lynn recorded Portland, Oregon as a duet with American rock singer Jack White. But Lynn actually wrote the song years before its recording date, and it was based on a real event. At the time, Lynns husband got involved with other women that she put on an act of having a relationship with her guitarist to make him jealous. While Cassadee Pope was on a gig in West Palm Beach, Florida, little did she know that Chris Young was searching for a female singer to be his duet partner. So, I just do what I always do and belt it out and have fun, and I guess he liked what he heard, Pope said. So, the next thing I know, Im getting an email from my manager saying, Chris Young wants you to sing on a song with him, and I heard the song, freaked out. There was no hesitation I said yes right away! Kenny Chesney said that the songs lyrics are a perfect way of saying it, but when you feel that melody rise, the arrangement picking up momentum its bigger than you are, and all you want to do is throw yourself against the night. Then when Pink comes in, the singer added, well, that just brings this [song] to life. After their wildly successful co-headlining tour in 1997, If You See Him, If You See Her came to life a year later. The song peaked at No. 1 on the Billboard U.S. Hot Country chart and the Canada Country Tracks chart. Like many of the duets, George Jones and Tammy Wynette recorded when they were still husband and wife, the genuine sense of romantic tragedy in Golden Ring resonated with many fans. Especially on how hauntingly the same it is to the real-life timbre of their troubled, on-again-off-again relationship. In 2001, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill earned a Grammy Award for Best Country Collaboration with Vocals, thanks to Lets Make Love. The song was released as the third single from Hills album, Breathe, and was also featured on McGraws first compilation album, Greatest Hits. Two decades ago, Alan Jackson and George Strait joined forces to record a song that indirectly criticized the pop-inspired country music transition that most classic artists believed was weakening the genres roots. Even if it was never released as a single, the song received so much attention that it landed on the Billboard US Hot Country Songs. The song was released during a time when violence in the country was quite rampant. Its a pretty charged-up time right now. At the end of the day, we all have to get along. I dont care what your belief is we cant kill each other. It cant happen that way, Eric Church said. Theres a lot of racial tension in this country, a lot of authoritative tension with police, and I think all that stuff makes for a tumultuous time. Keith Urban and Carrie Underwood played the roles of two lovers having a meaningful conversation. The song was actually inspired by Urbans relationship with his wife Nicole Kidman when they were just starting to date. It was just a very quick, quick song to write because I literally thought about Nic and I and our relationship in the beginning, and some of the things we had said all went into that song, Urban revealed. Whenever Brad Paisley teams up with female vocalists, the singer never fails to transform every duet into a massive hit. Take, for instance, When I Get Where Im Going, which features harmony vocals from Dolly Parton. The song was well-received, not only in country music but as well as in the Christian genre. It became a No. 1 hit on Billboard US Hot Country Songs and won Vocal Event of the Year during the CMA Award. When Shania Twain teamed up with her fellow country singer Billy Currington, she achieved one of the most successful duets in her career. The song is a dialogue between Twain and Currington where she asked him to join her party, but the big catch was that it would be just the two of them. In 2017, Brad Paisley teamed up with Rock and Roll Hall of Famer John Fogerty for Love and War a song that details the mistreatment of veterans in our nation. The song was released as the title track of Paisleys album, and the country superstar has said he knew he could only write the powerful ballad with Fogerty, and if the song didnt come to life, hed need to change the title of his album. So, there you have it, the top country duets of all time. We could actually still go on and on if we want to!Thetopcountry music duos dominated the genre during their peak years. They were must-see live performers, radio hitmakers and bet-on-it awards show winners.You cant describe each artist on this list of country music's 20 best duos that way, but No. 1 fits that trilogy. Longevity is often the hardest part. Several of theunions described here ended early because of creative differences, in-fighting or tragedy. A 10-year run as a member of a country duo is nearly unheard of.Related: The 50 Greatest Classic Country Artists, RankedSome you'll know. If you're expecting to see Brooks & Dunn and the Judds near the top, we won't let you down. If you wonder how contemporary duos like Dan + Shay and Florida Georgia Line stack up, we may surprise you.If you're curious about legendary duos that existed before or without chart metrics, you'll findthem here as well. Thereisn't one single metric to rank each of these 20 country music duos, but a combination of radio success, influence, critical acclaim and legacy sorts it out.Only true duos were considered for this list. That means successful solo artists who came together for a song or album were not considered, even if like Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn they won a bunch of CMA Awards. Duos were carved out of Vocal Group categories at country awards shows starting in 1988, which made a scan through classic country group winners necessary. We think we found them all, but you can bethe final judge.The best country duos combine unbelievable talent, songwriting skills and proficiency as live entertainers. These 20 do that to varying degrees, but only one has been certified as Entertainer of the Year.Finding that duo at No. 1 but, but learn about many more from the 1960s, '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s before you get there. This list of country music's top duos focuses on artists who broke as a duo, not solo artists who came together for an album or series of projects after enjoying commercial success. Contemporary artists are mixed with legends and Country Music Hall of Famers throughout this list. How do you feel about our Top 20?Gallery Credit: Billy DukesToday's country music stars owe a debt of gratitude to the legends who formed and cultivated the genre, starting in the early 20th century. These 50 classic country artists remain relevant today. Some developed a style that's emulated on today's country radio. Others set a bar for vocal talent or songwriting skill.This list of 50 influential classic country artists features country music singers who started their careers before 1990. It's ranked by each artist's current influence on the country music format today, not individual, lifelong impact. Tell us where we got it right or wrong on Twitter.Gallery Credit: Billy Dukes

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