

Country artists you won't hear on mainstream radio- 2024

These subgenres are loose guides, many people fit multiple subgenres here depending on the album. This list is crowdsourced from Reddit's r/CountryMusic and many other places. Thank you to everyone who's suggested artists and categories. This is mostly music from the past 8-10 years.

Wanna keep up with us? <https://www.reddit.com/r/CountryMusic/> . There are many other great places to look for independent country music. Look into all the great DJ's on Mixcloud. Find other internet radio. Step outside the Spotify algorithm.

If you want edit access, request it using the Google Docs 'request access' feature. Tell us who you are.

Bluegrass artists also doing country:

Molly Tuttle
Billy Strings
Mo Pitney
Sierra Hull
Carl Ray
Bela Fleck
Greensky Bluegrass
Steve Martin And The Steep Canyon Rangers
Jake Vaadeland
Buffalo Wabs & The Price Hill Hustle
Rhonda Vincent
Trey Hensley and/or Rob Ickes
The Infamous Stringdusters
A.J. Lee And Blue Summit

Ameripolitan (traditional honky tonk, rockabilly, western swing, some "outlaw" or participants in certain festivals):

Honky tonk and country-type rockabilly. See also neotraditional/90's-inspired below:

(In this list I'm ignoring the more rhythm and blues type rockabilly artists who have gotten Ameripolitan Awards nominations- search around if you're into that kind of music because there are some phenomenal bands. Take a look at www.ameripolitan.org . the event takes place in the wintertime and is a festival and awards event)

Amber Digby
Dale Watson
Rosie Flores
Wayne Hancock
Junior Brown
Joshua Hedley
Whitney Rose
Justin Trevino
James Hand
The Country Side Of Harmonica Sam
Jesse Daniel
Charley Crockett
Summer Dean
Deke Dickerson
Kimberly Murray
Big Sandy And The Fly-Rite Boys
The Shootouts
Casey James Prestwood
Jake Hooker
Victoria Bailey
Gus Clark And The Least Of His Problems
Olivia Ellen Lloyd
Kathryn Legendre
Bailey Dee
Jason Roberts
Miss Leslie And Her Juke Jointers
Sean Burns And Lost Country
Tommy Ash
Jake Penrod
Western Centuries
Celine Lee
Rex Hobart And The Misery Boys
Jittery Jack and Miss Amy Griffin
Mike And The Moonpies
JP Harris (multiple subgenres)
Coral Lee
Delta Bombers
Chris Scruggs
The Reeves Brothers
South Texas Tweek
Sterling Drake
Green Line Travelers
Hannah Juanita

Alison Self
Libbi Bosworth
Hang Rounders
Two Dollar Pistols
The Golden Roses
Geoffrey Miller
Timbo
Johnny Falstaff (does music in several subgenres)
Cory Grinder And The Playboy Scouts
Jason James
Ray Wylie Hubbard
Josh Ward
Reckless Kelly
Mike and the Moonpies
The Derailers
Jittery Jack and Miss Amy Griffin
Lara Hope
Western Centuries
Rex Hobart And The Misery Boys
James Intveld
Sterling Drake
Kim Lenz
Lars Pluto And The Reavers
jeremy pinnell
Blake Berglund
chuck mead and the grassy knoll boys
Chris Scruggs
Sarah Vista
Ginger Cowgirl
Kayla Ray
The Honkabillies
The Broken Spokes
Audrey Auld
Mose Wilson
Rolfast Ramblers
Garrett T Capps
Gal Holiday
Billy Mata And The Texas Tradition
Jeremy Slemenda
Elijah Ocean
Joshua Ray Walker
The Shining Dimes
Ags Connolly
Tilford Sellers

Josie Toney
Wild Earp
Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives
Les Greene And Televisionaries.
Erik Shicotte
High Desert Habit
Malpass Brothers
Mary Elizabeth Long
Merle Jagger
Olivia Harms
Hank And Ella And The Fine Country Band
Theo Lawrence
Mitch Polzak (also rockabilly)
Vaden Landers

Western swing

Asleep At The Wheel
Time Jumpers
Hot Club Of Cowtown
The Farmer and Adele
Katy Shore
Big Cedar Fever
Western Swing Authority
Ray Benson
Quebe Sisters
Rose Sinclair/Ida Red band
Kyle Eldridge/Kentucky Cowhands/Rhythm Rounders
Scotty Campbell And His Wardennaires
Melissa Carper (falls into several genres)
Bear Flag Trio
Carolyn Sills Combo
Nashville Honeymoon
Cheryl Deseree (multiple genres)
Carlos Washington Steel Horse Band
Brennen Leigh
Kristyn Harris
Bo DePeña (on at least one album)

"Outlaw"/Ameripolitan artists (nebulous category, nobody ever seems clear on what outlaw music is sonically but it's a sort of "other" category at the Ameripolitan Awards especially for artists following outlaw themes or evoking the 70's outlaw era sound):

Jamie Wyatt
Bonnie Montgomery
Taylor Hunnicut
Jesse Dayton
Sarah Gayle Meech
Dallas Moore
Cody Jinks
Whitey Morgan and the 78's
The Rhyolite Sound
Craig Gerdes
Nikki Lane
The Freightshakers
Ward Davis
Gethen Jenkins
Tyler Lance Walker Gill
Buck Fuffalo
Darby Sparkman
Waylon Payne
Jamey Johnson
Andrew Neville And The Poor Choices
Rob Leines
Darci Carlson
Sidney Abernathy
Colby Alcuff
Taylor McCall
Jason Hawk Harris
Alex Williams
The Bootstrap Boys
Jake Blocker
The Waymores
Bob Collum And The Welfare Mothers
Conrad F Campbell
Ellis Bullard
Jesse Lafser
David Quinn

Erin Viancourt
Shaela Miller
Weldon Henson
Domino Kings
Brule County Bad Boys
Dag Erik Oksvold
Rachel Brooke
Ward Hayden And The Outliers/Girls Guns And Glory
Waylon Hanel
Shooter Jennings
The Bastard Sons Of Johnny Cash
Marti Brom
Steel Woods
Austin Stanley
Cody Ikerd and the Sidewinders
Ray Scott

Countryopolitan and Nashville Sound evokers:

Zephaniah O'Hora
Charlie Marie
Johnny Falstaff (sometimes also honkytonk/rockabilly)
Sarah Gayle Meech (2024 album specifically)
Logan Ledger
Bobby Dove
Raul Malo
William Beckmann
Kimmi Bitter
Mamma Coal

"Appalachian" country songwriters

(not old-time/bluegrass music. Also a couple of these are a similar sound but not from Kentucky but i include them anyway)

Tyler Childers
Logan Halsted
Charles Wesley Godwin
S.G. Goodman
Drayton Farley

John R. Miller
Cole Chaney
Ian Noe
The Local Honeys
Nicholas Jamerson
Lance Rogers
Tim Goodin
Jayce Turley
Jake Kohn
Sydney Adams

Spaghetti western/fantasy western

Lindi Ortega
Slackeye Slim
Orville Peck
Sarah Vista
Taylor McCall (?)
Nick Sizemore (?)
Eilen Jewell
Huston Sonhouse
Solo Flight West
Shawn James (recent album especially)
P. Vines And The Cryptids
Ben Nichols Last Pale Light In The West album
Rattlesnake Milk
Jack Browning
Chuck Violence (early EP)
Beelzebub Jones
Heavy Horses

"Cowboy" western and rodeo country

Adrian "Buckaroogirl" Brannan
Andy Wilkinson
Bar-G Wranglers
Riddy Arman
Brenn Hill
Colter Wall
Carin Mari

Dave Stamey
Don Edwards
Ian Tyson
Michael Martin Murphy
Ned LeDoux
R.W. Hampton
Skip Gorman and the Waddie Pals
Sons of the San Joaquin
Trinity Seely
Wylie and the Wild West
Clint Bradley
Red Steagall
Wade Montgomery
Matt Robertson
Ryan Fritz
Darron Little
The Munsick Boys
Western Underground
Jarrod Morris
Hunter Ostler
Kellen Smith
Wade Forster
Mickey And The Motorcars
Dave Brinker

Gothic Country/Gothic Americana/Dark Americana

Neko Case
Slackeye Slim
Those Poor Bastards
Bonnie And The Mere Mortals
Sons of Perdition
Andres Miguel Cervantes
Strawfoot
Tarantella
The Handsome Family
Slim Cessna's Auto Club
J Munly & the Lupercalians
Lonesome Wyatt
16 Horsepower/Wovenhand
Jayke Orvis and the Broken band
The Goddamn Gallows
Zwyntar (Ukraine)

The Bridge City Sinners

traditional country/timeless-but-not-retro:

There's a traditional sound that's slightly different than straight Ameripolitan (1950's sounds) or neotraditional (1990's sounds) but people generally discuss them under another subgenre. Some red dirt artists do this timeless thing too. I'm leaving the rodeo/cowboy western themed sound mostly as a separate thing.

Sunny Sweeney
Jamie Lin Wilson
Katie Jo
David Miner
Tony Jackson
Emily Nenni
Wendy Newcomer
Tye Coleman
Will Banister
Randall King
Lori McKenna
Alecia Nugent
Dzaki Sukarno
Donice Morace
David Adam Byrnes
Curtis Grimes
Shelby Lee Lowe
Mike Casto
Dan Wallace
Matt Carson
Cody Joe Hodges

WTFTW (whatever the fuck they want to play):

Sturgill Simpson
Chris Stapleton
Whiskey Myers
Croy And The Boys
Sarah King
Dennis J Leise
Wild Earp
Lukas Nelson And The Promise Of The Real
Laid Back Country Picker
Allison Moorer

Particle Kid/Micah Nelson
Deslondes
Lasers Lasers Birmingham
Daniel Donato
Mayeux & Broussard
Hurray for the Riff Raff

Americana

(This category kind of encompasses some of the others depending on who you talk to, so Americana radio stations or podcasts might cover a lot of other country music)

Mandolin Orange/Watchhouse
Amanda Shires
Jason Isbell

Gillian Welch and David Rawlings
Kamara Thomas (several subgenres)
Kasey Chambers
Emily Zuzik
Joe Ely
Butch Hancock
Jimmie Dale Gilmore
Steve Earle
The Deslondes
Riley Downing
Secret Sisters
Rachel Baiman
Lula Wiles
Izzy cox
Secret Emchy Society
David Rawlings/David Rawlings Machine
Sarah King
Jen Sygit
Adeem The Artist
Iris Marlowe
Amanda Anne Platt and the Honeycutters
The Watson Twins
Wyatt Flores
Shovels And Rope

Miko Marks
Joshua Quimby
Hunter Root
Lillie Mae
Aaron Lee Tasjan
JD Graham
Jaye Madison
Taylor Alexander
Carson McHone
Margo Cilker
Lilly Hiatt
Lone Bellow
Van Plating
The National Reserve
Joe Henry
Madelyn Read
Larkin Poe
Esther Rose
Caitlin Cannon/Side Pony
Buffalo Kin
April Moon

country with punk or metal elements (or vice versa)

This is also what people mean by alt-country sometimes. Also see folk-punk and related genres of Americana. A good place to start is artists who play Muddy Roots festival

Hank III
Lydia Loveless
Jade Brodie
Texas Hippie Coalition
Speedbuggy USA
Darci Carlson
Hellbound Glory
Danny Horton Trio
Dusty Miles And The Cryin' Shame
IV and the Strange Band (Hank Williams IV)
Raelyn Nelson Band
Tucker Riggelman & The Cheap Dates
Sarah Shook And The Disarmers
Jason And The Scorchers
High Desert Habit
Matt Derda And The High Watts
Saddle Of Southern Darkness

Alt-country/No Depression:

huge category with bands new and old. Sorry we didn't even go there for this one, do some googling. People sometimes argue about whether this is the same thing as Americana or not. We're not doing this justice here.

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Vandoliers
Prison Book Club
The Whiskey Charmers
ryan bingham
MJ Lenderman & the Wind
Wednesday
Fust
Tobacco City
Rosali
Ryan Davis & the Roadhouse Band
Florry

Neotraditional and 90's-inspired

(includes many artists who were active in the 90s and 2000s and still put out music today but were sidelined by mainstream radio/the coming of the bro era).

Elizabeth Cook (she crosses a bunch of genre boundaries)
Josh Turner
Dillon Carmichael
Chapel Hart
Zach Top
Coffey Anderson
Aaron Vance
Joshua Hedley
Shelby Lee Lowe
Kimberly Kelly
Pork McElhinny
Luke Hendrickson
Drake Milligan
Triston Marez

Heather Myles
Becky Hobbs
Moot Davis
Lee Ann Womack
Jake Jacobson Band
Kelly Willis
The Mavericks/Raul Malo (multiple genres)
Many bands in Mexico seem to be firmly in the neotraditional style- Coyote Country Band,
8 Segundos, and more
Shelby Lynne (and her sister Alison Maurer)
Jake Worthington
Zach Top
Jake Blocker
Jakota Wass
The Bell Brothers

Non-radio but pop inspired country

Priscilla Renea/Muni Long
Priscilla Block
Lauren Jenkins
Taylor Austin Dye
Emily Ann Roberts
Willie Jones

Country singer-songwriters

(country as opposed to more generic "folk, blues, or celtic inspired singer-songwriters". See also 'Appalachian' category and Americana for more of these)

Zach Bryan
john moreland
Andrés Miguel Cervantes
Brit Taylor
Pat Reedy And The Longtime Goners
Morgan Wade (though she's been produced as pop on recent album)
Darrell Scott
Robbie Fulks
Brennen Leigh and Noel McKay
Conrad Fischer
Gabe Lee
Robert Earl Keen

Hayes Carll
Nick Spear
Vincent Neil Emerson
Adeem the artist
JR Carroll
Tanner Usrey
Nolan Taylor
Jason Eady
Pony Bradshaw
Arlo McKinley
Graham Lindsey
Jeffrey Martin
Joseph Huber
Todd Snider
James McMurty
Slaid Cleaves
Fred Eaglesmith
Wes Shipp
Long Haul Paul
Chris Knight
The Droptines
Nathan Leazer
Robyn Ludwick
Mary Gauthier
Laura Cantrell
William Prince
Sam Barber
Jalan Crossland
Lathan Bryant

Red Dirt Music

(this is an enormous category all on its own, with it's own charts, radio, festivals, etc):

Silverada (formerly Mike and the Moonpies)
Turnpike Troubadours
Wade Bowen
Randy Rogers
Cross Canadian Ragweed
Jason Boland And The Stragglers
Stoney LaRue

Kaitlin Butts
Red Dirt Rangers
Flatland Cavalry
Copper Chief
Reckless Kelly
Cody Canada and the Departed
The Great Divide
Mike McClure Band
Bart Crow
Hayden Haddock
Randall King
Aaron Watson
Curtis Grimes
Roger Creager
Kolby Cooper
Koe Wetzel
Mike Ryan
Cody Johnson
Midland
Kevin Fowler
Pat Green
Casey Donahew
John Baumann
Corey Morrow
Jack Ingram
Zane Williams
Josh Abbott
Flatlanders
Hill Country Revival
The Wilder Blue (formerly Hill Country)
Kyle Nix
Prophets and Outlaws
Kylie Frey
Rich O'toole
William Clark Green
Parker McCollum
Wynn Williams
Tanner Usrey
Jarrod Morris
Ian Munsick
Triston Marez
Aaron McDonnell
David Adam Byrnes
The Panhandlers

Midnight River Choir
Mark David Manders
Pecos And The Rooftops
Cody Cooke
Josiah Willits
Courtney Patton
Blaine Bailey

Folk-ish, old-time music inspired:

(see also Americana and cowboy western):

Amethyst Kiah (sometimes)
Sierra Ferrell
Lost Dog Street Band/Benjamin Tod
Matt Hecker
Todd Day Wait
Nick Shoulders
Dylan Earl
Willi Carlisle
Phillip Glenn (old time fiddler with electric country band)
Vivian Leva and Riley Calgagno (several subgenres)
JP Harris (multiple subgenres)
Luke Bell
Cactus Blossoms
Sabin McCalla
Sweetback Sisters
Sky Smead
Angela Autumn
Willie Watson
Dwight Hawkins
Chance McCoy
Dori Freeman
Sweetback Sisters Band (multiple genres, worth looking for)
Jalan crossland
Kaia Kater
Tre Burt
Two Runner

Maria Pendleton
Tommy Prine

Strong rock or blues influenced country (not metal or punk):

Mike West
Dave Alvin
Two Tons Of Steel (not sure what exactly where to put them category wise, honky tonk/alt country)
Rudy Parris (several styles of music depending on the song, he fronts the Buckaroos at Buck Owens' Crystal Palace but also plays metal I think)
Val Halla
Dustin Martin
Shannon McNally
American Aquarium (also Americana)
Raelyn Nelson Band
Koe wetzel
Blackberry Smoke
Trey Hensley and Rob Ickes (bluegrass artists who explore blues even more than is typical for bluegrass)
Noah Bowman
Andrew Leahey and the Homestead
Them Dirty Roses
Joe Stamm Band
Webb Wilder
Goatroper
Caden Gillard
Shawn James
Alejandro Escovedo

Contemporary Native American country bands

(these bands have kind of a sound of their own, and they tend to have less fiddle and steel guitar and more keyboards, and little in the way of formal 'official video' releases. Look up 'rez bands' on youtube for some idea of the sound)

Dirt Rhodes
Stateline
Dennis Yazzie & Night Breeze

The Wingate Valley Boys
Zuni Midnitters
Latigo
Native Country
Apache Spirit
Pete Sands & the Drifters
Sioux Savage
Chester Knight
Dine Boyz
Keith Secola
Ryan LittleEagle
Blaine Bailey

International country artists

(a few are scattered in the other categories above. There are hundreds of country artists around the world, search for some playlists based on country or region.. Not surprisingly there is some amazing neotraditional country coming out of Mexico, stuff that sounds very 1990s with fiddle and monster guitar playing. Also there is a huge Australian country scene that I haven't explored and it's missing below so far)

Yola (UK)
Country Side Of Harmonica Sam (Sweden)
Corb Lund (canada)
Colter Wall (Canada)
8 Segundos (Mexico)
Sean Burns And Lost Country (Canada)
Tammy Nielsen (New Zealand)
Sir Elvis (Kenya)
Steve Rogers (Kenya)
Ythera Cowgirl channel on YouTube (Kenya)
Coyote Country Band (Mexico)
Serious Sam Barrett
Josh Beddis
Alex Tempest
Sarah Vista (UK)
Brandon Ridley
Goat Roper Rodeo Band
Scott Ashworth
Moonshine Wagon (Basque Country)
Cleopatra Methula (Eswatini/Swaziland)
Claes Anderson
Sam Mundy

Chris Dover (UK)
Beans on Toast (UK)
Mike West (UK)
Kings & Queens
Lewis Burner (UK)
Val Halla (Canada)
Ian Tyson (Canada)
Little Miss Higgins (Canada)
Stompin' Tom Connors (Canada)
Ags Connolly (UK)
Rizdales (UK)
Country Heroes (Norway)
RAY COLLINS HOT-CLUB
Wiseguyz (Ukraine)
Cleopatra Methula (Eswatini)
Esther Konkara (Kenya)
Green Line Travelers (Sweden)
Hyacinth House (Sweden)
Hillbilly Rose (Mexico)
Jalapenos 4x4 (Mexico)
Curly Strings (Estonia)
Ot Vinta (Ukraine, folk-punk-rockabilly)
Wize Guyz (Ukraine)
Wade Forster (Australia)
Theo Lawrence (France)
April Moon (Canada/UK)
Jo Carley and The Old Dry Skulls (UK)
Savannah Gardner (UK)
Guile Rush (Ireland)
April Moon (Canada / UK)
Gombak Hillbillies (Malaysia)
Holler creek band (Spain)

Country plus soul, old R&B, or other vintage 60's/70's Black artists' sounds

All of these artists do this sound only on some albums

Yola
Tammy Nielsen
Raul Malo
Chris Stapleton
Charley Crockett

Paul Cauthorn
Lilly Locksmith
The War And Treaty

People to add to one of the categories above:

(please help- if you highlight one of the names Google Docs will let you leave a comment-
please suggest where different people in the following list belong)

49 Winchester
Ronnie And The Redwoods
Kenny Feidler
Angaleena Presley
Boots and the Hoots
Katie Pruitt
John Craigie
Brandi Carlile
Desert Hollow
Mark Erelli
K.C. Jones
Storey Boys
Angela Perley & The Howlin' Moons
Bindley Hardware Co.
Blackie and The Rodeo Kings
brent cobb
Courtney Marie Andrews
delbert mcClinton
drew holcomb & the neighbors
Jade Jackson
JD McPherson
paula nelson
Nora Jane Struthers (and the Party Line)
Watkins Family Hour
The Barlow
Gavin Powell
Robert Earl Keen
Sam Outlaw
Frannie Klein
Tommy Atkins
Senora May

The Hill Country Devil

Bella White
Jake Houston And The Royal Flush
Willie Tea Taylor
Cole Hinckle And The Debauchery
El Dorodo
Tommy Prine
The Pink Stones
Mickey Lamantia
Martha Spencer
Karen Jonas
Town Mountain
Dan Whitaker
Scott H. Biram
The Nickel Slots
Lucero
Langhorne Slim
Brothers Comatose
Boy Golden
Idanha
Bri Bagwell
John Surge & The Haymakers
Honeysuckle
The Harvest Thieves
Holler Creek Band
Josh Beddis
Lost Dog Street Band
Benjamin Tod
Hiss Golden Messenger

Australian Country

Troy Cassar-Daley
Brad Cox
Adam Brand
Kasey Chambers
Catherine Britt
Amber Lawrence
Angela Rose
Andrew Swift
Lee Kernaghan
Tania Kernaghan
Keith Glass

Shane Nicholson
The Flood
Sara Storer
James Blundell
Matt Joe Gow
Busby Marou
Travis Collins
Ben Ransom
Camille Trail
Luke O'Shea
Chloe Styler
Anne Kirkpatrick
The Wolfe Brothers
Adam Harvey
Blake Dantier
The Sunny Cowgirls
Fanny Lumsden
Nikita Karmen
Raechel Whitchurch
Melanie Dyer
Matt Ward
Jackie Bristow
Jamie McDell
Felicity Urquhart
Lisa Miller
Red Rivers
Lucie Tiger
The McClymonts
Mikhail Laxton
Cass Hopetoun
Missy Lancaster
The Flying Emus
Harmony James
Glass Hamilton Young
Sara Berki
Siobhan Cotchin
Roo Arcus
Tori Darke
Kirsty Lee Akers