



JACK INGRAM

Ingram started writing songs and performing while studying psychology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. As his audience grew, he moved on to the Texas dancehall circuit — places like the legendary Gruene Hall, where his 2006 *Big Machine* debut album, *Live—Wherever You Are* was recorded. His latest single, “Lips of an Angel,” is from his forthcoming album *This Is It*, due out in March. He’s hitting the road with Brad Paisley on his *Hershey’s Presents Bonfires & Amplifiers* tour, kicking off April 26 in Chattanooga. He currently has his own weekly radio show, “Jack’s Tracks,” on Dallas’ KPLX “The Wolf,” as well as on XM satellite radio channel 12.

What was your station growing up?

I listened to KIKK-FM in Houston, but I mainly listened to KILT-FM. It ranged from George Strait to all the Outlaw stuff as well. Country music in Texas has never been uncool. It’s always been the rock n roll sound of our culture.

How many radio tours have you been on?

The unique part of my story is that I’ve been on a radio tour for the last 10 years. It’s just this last year that radio and I have had the opportunity to actually work hand-in-hand, as far as me visiting, and them being able to play my stuff. My CDs have been in the programmers’ car stereos for years.



How do you feel about your relationship with your regional label reps?

Those guys, they bust their asses. For every record they get played there’s always 10 that they can’t get played. I’m always amazed at the fight in these regionals. They go out there day in and day out and get told reasons why their records suck, but they still keep coming back.

Do you have any expectations about what the New Faces show will be like?

I have 20 to 25 minutes, and it’s my job to go and blow the roof off the joint. I’ve heard stories of people making a mark at *New Faces*, and surprising people. Whether I’ll surprise them or not, I don’t know. It’s hard to sneak up on people after 10 years.



Do you remember the first time you heard one of your songs being played on the radio and knew it was a hit?

I was in Chattanooga. It was November 2005, right after “Wherever You Are” had been released. I heard the song driving into town. I could feel the station was really behind it and it was starting to take off. You see those scenes in movies where time stops for a minute and something special is happening. It was just like that, only better.

FACE TIME CONTINUUM

Selected by radio from an eligible pool of new artists, this year’s *New Faces* have the opportunity to seize Country radio’s collective support with one memorable performance. Of course, seeking radio’s favor is something they’ve all been doing since well before their music made the airwaves. Country Aircheck asked each of them about their experiences with radio. And though Taylor Swift was forced to withdraw from the show, we’ve included her responses as well as those of her replacement Trent Tomlinson.

Starring In Seminar’s Signature Event

A two-time CMA Horizon Award nominee, Lambert earned a Grammy nomination for the single “Kerosene.” Her gold-certified debut album, also titled *Kerosene*, debuted at No. 1, an accomplishment only six other country artists in the history of SoundScan have achieved. A native of Lindale, TX [pop. 2,500], where the town motto is

MIRANDA LAMBERT

“Good country living,” Lambert gained national attention when she competed on the first season of *Nashville Star*, ultimately placing third (among 8,000 contestants). She earned a recording contract with Sony Music, and became the top-selling new country artist of 2005, touring with George Strait, Keith Urban, Dierks Bentley and Jason Aldean. Her new album, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, featuring the lead-off single of the same name, is due for release May 1.

Did you grow up listening to Country radio?

Yes, I listened to KYKX/Longview, TX. The very first time I sang onstage was in a contest that they put on.



What is your most vivid radio tour memory?

I guess it’s a vivid memory that I’ve eaten at every Morton’s restaurant! I always eat at Morton’s on radio tours so that’s a great memory!



Anything unexpected every happen during a radio tour?

When I was doing my first radio tour, before “Me and Charlie Talkin’” was released, we stopped in St. Louis, Mo. It happened to be during the World Series. Our Midwest rep, Bo Martinovich, somehow scored two tickets for the game. We got to go and watch the Cardinals play a home World Series game, which was unbelievable. I’m not really a baseball fan but that was amazing!

Do you remember the first time you heard yourself on the radio?

Not really. It’s always good to hear your songs. I do remember that when I heard my record had gone No. 1, I was on the side of the road with a broken-down truck thinking, “Wow, I sure feel like a big star!”

What are your expectations for the New Faces show?

I can’t wait. Jack Ingram is one of my all-time heroes. I’ve been a die-hard fan since I was 16. And the first time I heard Taylor Swift’s record, I tracked down her phone number and called her and told her I loved [it]. With those two, Eric Church, Rodney Atkins and me, I think it’s a great representation of the “new faces” in town.



ERIC CHURCH

Church grew up in Granite Falls, NC. Within a year of moving to Nashville, he signed a publishing deal at Sony Tree and began getting cuts, including Terri Clark's "The World Needs A Drink." A record deal with Capitol followed, and in July 2006, his debut album, *Sinners Like Me* was released. His first two singles, "How 'Bout You" and "Two Pink Lines" have both reached the Top 20. "Guys Like Me" is his latest.



Did you have a favorite Country station growing up?

We had several good stations in my area. This was the late '80s/early '90s, during that big country boom. It's interesting that this was when I discovered Waylon, Merle and a lot of those great artists, not because they were being played on the radio, but because artists influenced by them were being played.

Have any good radio tour stories?

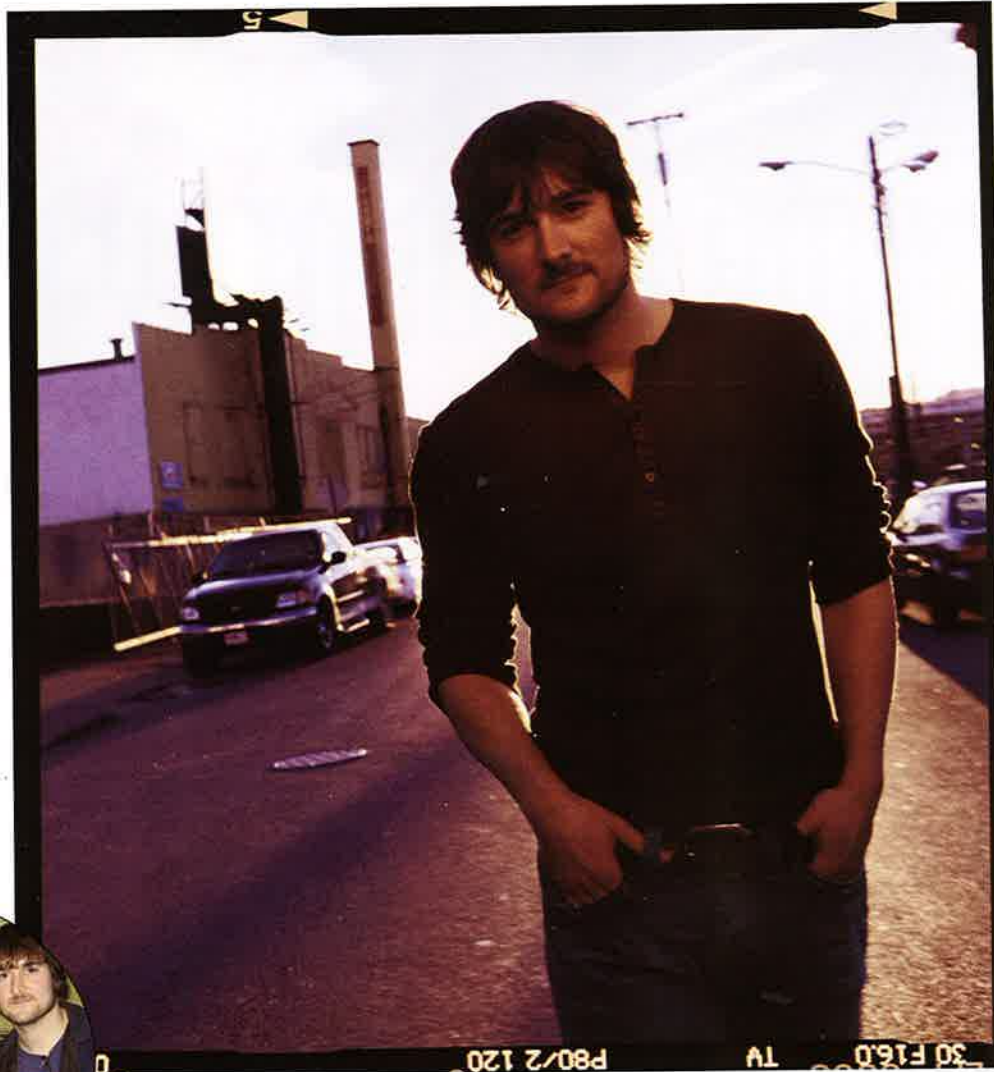
Angela Lange and I were visiting stations in the Southeast, and our luggage got misplaced coming off a flight in Virginia. It was one of those "hit the ground running" trips where you cover several cities in a day, so when the airlines said, "Don't worry, we'll get your bags to you," we just thought "How?" Rather than stay put in one town to wait for the luggage, we just kept going. After a few days of living in the same clothes, we looked pretty ragged.

Anything surprise you about being out meeting stations?

Let me just say, for the record, that (Capitol Sr. VP /Promotion) Jimmy Harnen does not stop to eat. Ever. I'm not sure he's human. Has anyone ever checked him for a bellybutton? After a few days of being on the road with him the first time, I just went into survival mode: grabbing apples in hotel lobbies, asking the flight attendant for extra bags of pretzels on flights, anything to have a reserve of food. The only thing Jimmy thinks about on the road is RADIO – now, that's dedication.

What does CRS mean to you?

CRS is the reason I'm here. I credit [Capitol President] Mike Dungan with that. I wanted my first single to come out before Christmas of last year, and felt pretty strongly about it. But Mike said, "No, let's launch you at CRS." And after everyone had a chance to see me perform with my band at the Capitol luncheon [in 2006], it all seemed to change for me. I still hear comments from people about that performance.



Do you remember hearing your song on the radio the first time?

From the time you cut your songs in a studio, you play them all the time in your car, at home, everywhere, so actually hearing your song on the radio isn't what seems odd. It's when they announce your name! That is when it feels different. The first time I heard my song on the radio, it came between a Toby Keith song and one from George Strait – I'll never forget that.

FACE TIME CONTINUUM



Swift, who recently celebrated her 17th birthday, grew up in Wyomissing, Pa. Inspired by her maternal grandmother, a professional opera singer, Taylor began performing at karaoke contests, festivals and county fairs at age 10. At 11, she performed the national anthem at a Philadelphia 76ers game in front of thousands of fans. And at age 12 she was writing her own songs. In early 2007, her first Big Machine Records single "Tim McGraw," which she wrote, reached the Top 5, selling nearly 300,000 digital downloads along the way. Her self-titled debut album bowed at No. 3 in early November, and has recently certified gold. Taylor was chosen by George Strait to open his 2007 tour, and was forced to withdraw from the *New Faces* show to perform the Kansas City date of the tour.

TAYLOR SWIFT

What's your hometown station?

I grew up listening to WIOV out of Lancaster, PA. I just remember hearing LeAnn Rimes on that station for the first time and falling in love with country music. She was the first country singer I felt I could relate to.

What is your most vivid radio tour memory?

One time a DJ came into the studio and confessed that he had no idea who I was – which I didn't mind. So I gave him all the bullet points about who I was, and how I got here. He proceeded to go live on the air starting with "And today we have a special in-studio guest, Taylor Hicks!" Definitely a high point in my life.

Got any good road stories?

What happens on the road with my regionals stays on the road.

Ever been to CRS before?

No. I actually did one showcase for Big Machine when it was first starting, but I didn't get to do any artist stuff. I've been asking other artists about it, and I'm so excited. Never seen a *New Faces* show, but I'm still pinching myself that my radio peeps were kind enough to pick me.

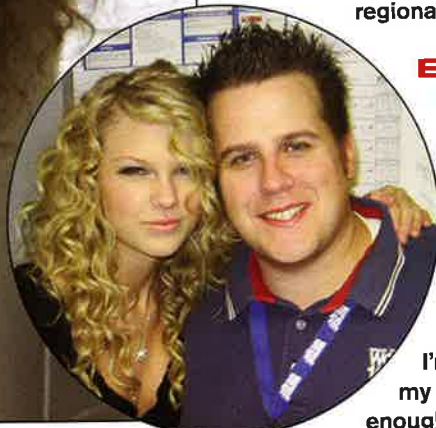
Are you used to hearing your songs on the radio yet?

It's the coolest rush possible for me to feel, other than the roar of the crowd. I especially love hearing it when I'm not expecting it, and I'm just driving down the road. It confirms that everything I've worked for is justified, hearing my song come on the radio is a beautiful thing. I don't think people in radio (DJs, PDs, MDs) really understand how much power they have to make my day.



Do you remember the first time you heard your song?

Yes. I was driving down the road in Hendersonville, TN, and it was an all-request Saturday night on the Big 98 [WSIX/Nashville] with Slam Duncan. It was about a week after my single had been released. I had the radio on, and some girl called in and said "I'd like to hear that 'Tim McGraw' song you played earlier, by Taylor Swift" and I about drove off the road. That was almost the end of it all right there!





RODNEY ATKINS

A native of Cumberland Gap, TN, Curb's Rodney Atkins broke through with the Top 5 single "Honesty" in 2004. His 2006 album, *If You're Going Through Hell* debuted at No. 1 country, No. 3 overall, with the title track earning multiple weeks at No. 1. In January 2007, the follow-up single "Watching You,"

inspired by Atkins' son Elijah, followed suit. Atkins will be touring with Martina McBride and Little Big Town beginning in April.

Did you grow up listening to Country radio?

Yeah, man! WIVK/Knoxville. I just remember the station always seemed larger than life. It's where I discovered Alabama singing "Old Flame." They changed my life.



Are you used to hearing your songs on the radio yet?

I'm not used to hearing myself. One of the greatest feelings in the world is hearing "Watching You" with my boy in his booster seat while we're going to the Co-op. Very cool.

What is your most vivid radio tour memory?

Which radio tour? I did one in '98 and one again in '02 and then another in '06! There are so many memories.

Any interesting stories about being out on the road with the regional label reps?

Joe O'Donnell ... something about Mexican food and a contact buzz. Karen McGuire and her power-shopping abilities are mystical.

Any particular memory of the first time you heard one of your songs on the radio?

I remember the first time my wife called and said, "I just heard 'If You're Going Through Hell' on the radio." I asked, "How'd it sound? Was it good?" She responded, "You sing like a hick!"

FACE TIME CONTINUUM

TRENT TOMLINSON

The Missouri native co-wrote and co-produced his debut album *Country Is My Rock*, which has spawned two hit singles — "Drunker Than Me" and "One Wing In The Fire." The album's title track is used in EA Sports' *NASCAR 07* video game, and "Hey Batter Batter" was the theme for ESPN's *Home Run Derby*. His *Tour of Hope* concert series, in partnership with FitzBradshaw Racing, raised funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Do you have any early memories of listening to the radio?

I remember sitting in the front seat of my parents' car when I was a just a little kid and pushing the buttons to find a song I liked so I could sing along. "The big one was

'Swingin', which I ended up going out and getting on a 45 after hearing it on the radio. I always listened to KTMO in Kennett, MO because they broadcast my dad's basketball games — he was the local coach.

What is your most vivid radio tour memory?

Me, Chris Loss and Eddie Haskell from KRST/Albuquerque taking all the casino's money!



Did people tell you scary stories before you went on your first one?

They did, but you know I didn't have one bad response or visit. Mine was great. You do end up eating steak every night. I gained 13 pounds on my radio tour. No kidding. It got to the point where I stopped being hungry.



Have you been to CRS and seen a New Faces show?

I was at CRS last year, but this is my first time there as an artist. I've always known how important [New Faces] is, but I'm just trying to focus on doing what I do and not getting caught up in the pressure cooker. I'll try and take the same approach I do every night. The label worries about that stuff, but I just have to be myself.

Is it at all humbling to think about the support you've already gotten from radio?

"One Wing In The Fire" has been on the charts more than seven months, and that's really a testament to radio being behind me. They've been good to me, and I do feel the need to work hard in return. It's a collective effort on all ends — radio, the label, everyone. If I can just try to do the right thing in everything I do, even though I fall short sometimes, I'll be holding up my end. **CAC**



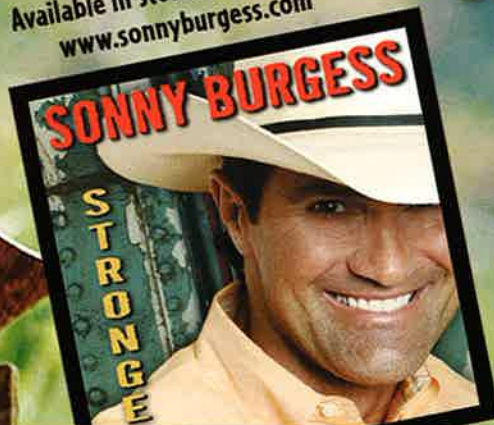
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