

COUNTRY'S TOP

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BLADE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

1. "Ring of Fire," Johnny Cash
The horns, the tempo, Cash's smoldering voice and June Carter's songwriting remain as exciting now as in the 1960s.

2. "Sweet Dreams," Patsy Cline
The gold standard of songs for Cline wannabes — it takes pluck to attempt her triumph of vocal range and emotion.

3. "Mama Tried," Merle Haggard
Haggard was still a handsome rebel himself when this tale of misspent youth made us all a little restless.



George Jones

4. "He Stopped Loving Her Today," George Jones
Death, unrequited love, third-party gossip, it's all here — along with Jones' hangdog baritone.

5. "Whiskey River," Willie Nelson
How many concerts have you attended that started with TWANG, TWANG, TWANG, TWANG, then these two words? We thought so.

6. "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," Hank Williams, Sr.
He had bigger hits, but Williams' elemental ode to sadness has been covered by dozens of artists and taken to heart by millions of fans.



Bob Wills

7. "Faded Love," Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys
If the twin fiddles of this dance-hall favorite don't get you, you don't belong in Texas.

8. "Orange Blossom Special," Johnny Cash
Of the many versions of this fiddler's classic, anyone can sing along with Johnny Cash's cover of THE best train song ever.



Roger Miller

9. "King of the Road," Roger Miller
A quirky, laid-back sing-along song that was novel enough in the '60s to draw rock-crazed crowds back into country music. Miller was the perfect foil for the British popsters of the day.

10. "Cryin' Time," Ray Charles
Another vintage 1960s song that gave people something to slow-dance to, as Charles' wistful voice transformed the mournful tune into a crossover hit.

11. "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" the Charlie Daniels Band

12. "Blue Moon of Kentucky," Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys

13. "Luckenbach, Texas," Waylon Jennings

14. "San Antonio Rose," Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys

15. "I Can't Stop Loving You," Ray Charles

16. "Stand By Your Man," Tammy Wynette

17. "Making Believe," Emmylou Harris

18. "Coat of Many Colors," Dolly Parton

19. "You Never Even Called Me by My Name," David Allan Coe (with Steve Goodman)

20. "Folsom Prison Blues," Johnny Cash

21. "Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down," Kris Kristofferson

22. "Countin' Flowers on the Wall," the Statler Brothers

23. "Behind Closed Doors," Charlie Rich

24. "Take This Job & Shove It," Johnny Paycheck

25. "It's Only Make Believe," Conway Twitty

26. "Walking the Floor Over You," Ernest Tubbs

27. "Your Cheatin' Heart," Hank Williams, Sr.

28. "I Hope You Dance," Lee Ann Womack

29. "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," the Carter Family

30. "El Paso," Marty Robbins

31. "Waltz Across Texas," Ernest Tubbs

32. "Hello Darlin'," Conway Twitty

33. "Before the Next Teardrop Falls," Freddy Fender

34. "Crazy," Patsy Cline

35. "Okie From Muskogee," Merle Haggard

36. "Help Me Make It Through the Night," Kris Kristofferson

37. "Walking After Midnight," Patsy Cline

38. "Family Tradition," Hank Williams, Jr.

39. "I'm Gonna Miss Her (The Fishin' Song)," Brad Paisley

40. "Blue," LeAnn Rimes

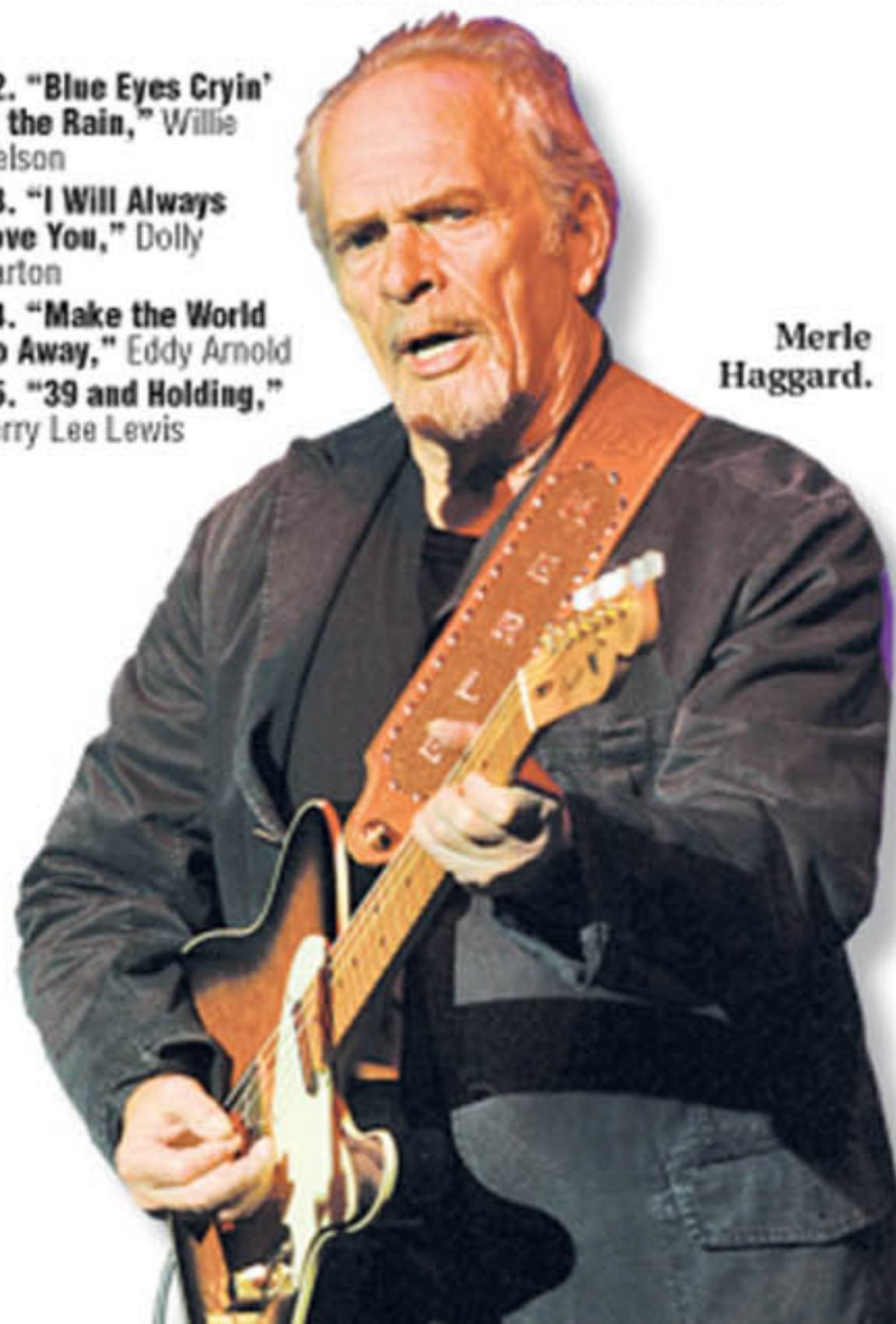
41. "On the Other Hand," Randy Travis

42. "Blue Eyes Cryin' in the Rain," Willie Nelson

43. "I Will Always Love You," Dolly Parton

44. "Make the World Go Away," Eddy Arnold

45. "39 and Holding," Jerry Lee Lewis



Merle Haggard.

46. "Live Like You Were Dyin',"
Tim McGraw



June Carter
Cash

47. "Wildwood
Flower," June
Carter Cash

48. "Act Natural-
ly," Buck Owens

49. "Guitars,
Cadillacs," Dwight
Yoakam

50. "My Home's in Alabama,"
Alabama

51. "The Dance,"
Garth Brooks

52. "When I Get Where I'm Go-
ing," Brad Paisley/Dolly Parton

53. "Kaw-Liga," Hank Williams,
Sr.

54. "For the Good Times,"
Ray Price



Garth
Brooks

55. "Friends in
Low Places," Garth
Brooks

56. "Dang Me,"
Roger Miller

57. "Sixteen
Tons," Tennessee
Ernie Ford

58. "All My Rowdy Friends (Have
Settled Down)," Hank Williams, Jr.

59. "Forever & Ever Amen,"
Randy Travis



George
Strait

60. "All My Ex's
Live in Texas,"
George Strait

61. "Take Your
Memory With
You," Vince Gill

62. "I'm Tryin',"
Trace Adkins

63. "My Maria," Brooks & Dunn

64. "Love Hurts," Emmylou Harris
& Gram Parsons

65. "The Fireman," George Strait

66. "Wreck of the Old 97," Vernon
Dalhart



Buck
Owens

67. "Stand by Me,"
Mickey Gilley

68. "Together
Again," Buck
Owens

69. "Battle of New
Orleans," Johnny



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Dolly Parton performs in 2001.



Loretta
Lynn

Horton

70. "You Ain't
Woman Enough (To
Take My Man),"

Loretta Lynn

71. "I Sang Dixie,"
Dwight Yoakam

72. "Whoever's in
New England," Reba McEntire

73. "Elvira," the Oak Ridge Boys

74. "When I Stop Dreaming," the
Louvain Brothers

75. "Grandpa (Tell Me 'Bout the
Good Old Days)," the Judds



Clint
Black

76. "A Better
Man," Clint Black

77. "Please Re-
member Me," Tim
McGraw

78. "Get Drunk and
Be Somebody,"
Toby Keith

79. "Love in the First Degree,"
Alabama



Lefty
Frizzell

80. "Long Black
Veil," Lefty Frizzell

81. "Travelin' Sol-
dier," Dixie Chicks

82. "Neon Moon,"
Brooks & Dunn

83. "Am I the Only
One (Who's Ever
Felt This Way)," Dixie Chicks

84. "Don't Rock the Jukebox,"
Alan Jackson

85. "Hurt," Johnny Cash



Tammy
Wynette

86. "Golden Ring,"
George Jones &
Tammy Wynette

87. "Ya'll Come
Back Saloon," the
Oak Ridge Boys

88. "Ode to Billie
Joe," Bobbie
Gentry

89. "My Favorite Memory," Merle
Haggard

90. "I Still Miss Someone,"
Johnny Cash

91. "Kiss an Angel
Good Morning,"
Charley Pride

92. "Tumbling
Tumbleweeds,"
Sons of the Pio-
neers

93. "Riders in the
Sky," Burl Ives

94. "Drive (For Daddy Gene),"
Alan Jackson

95. "Ain't Livin' Long Like This,"
Waylon Jennings

96. "Believe in Love," Don Wil-
liams

97. "If I Could Only Win Your
Love," Emmylou Harris

98. "Holding Her, Loving You,"
Earl Tomas Conley

99. "Louisiana Saturday Night,"
Mel McDaniel

100. "Rose Colored Glasses,"
John Conlee