

(3.1.17) <http://www.rollingstone.com/music/lists/10-new-country-artists-you-need-to-know-march-2016-20160301/brett-young-20160301>

## 10 New Country Artists You Need to Know: March 2016



**Brett Young**

**Sounds Like:** Sam Hunt and Thomas Rhett's brand of approachable soul, destined for mass appeal

**For Fans of:** Old Dominion, Jake Owen, Tim McGraw

**Why You Should Pay Attention:** A former college baseball pitcher who started songwriting as a way to pass the time after an injury, Young is not lobbing softballs when it comes to his new craft. His self-titled six-song EP was released by Big Machine Label Group's Republic Nashville last month, with a radio push coming in April. Young's team calls his sound "Caliville" — an intersection of his Southern California upbringing and his passion for Nashville.

**He Says:** "I have always been a super-emotional dude," Young says of his affinity for authentic, poignant lyrics. "The first country song I ever heard was Tim McGraw's 'Don't Take the Girl.' I love to be able to tell a whole story in three-and-half minutes." Young may want honesty, but he also wants it to be clean. Having first performed music while leading worship services in his youth, he strives for songs to be the type that both moms and daughters can listen to and relate. "It can be mature without being offensive. There's no reason for the content to cross those lines."