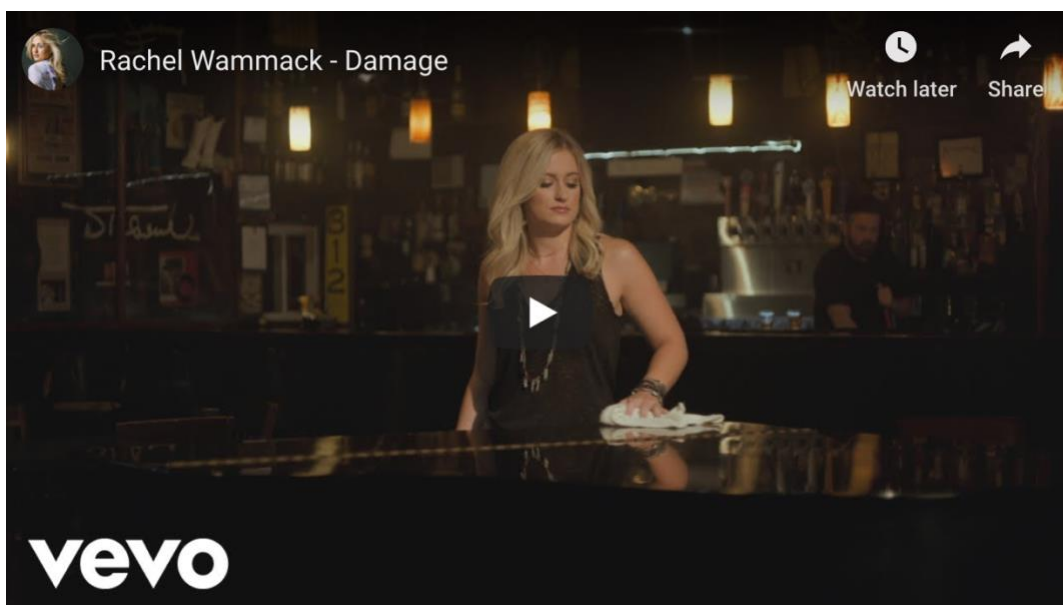




(12.21.18) - <https://www.npr.org/2018/12/21/679105640/a-portrait-of-a-subtly-changing-nashville-from-25-angles>

Best Music Of 2018

A Portrait Of A Subtly Changing Nashville From 25 Angles



The story circulated in **Rachel Wammack's** promotional materials was that she was discovered performing in a piano bar by a label executive and if she'd been born into a different musical generation, she might've been viewed as a potential pop heir to Sarah McLachlan or Kelly Clarkson. In her first single "Damage," Wammack acknowledged lasting relational wounds with a swelling display of compassion and composure reminiscent of McLachlan. Elsewhere on this year's digital EP, the younger singer-songwriter mustered [a bit of soul-pop heat](#) from an empowered posture. As to where she fits in the changing landscape, Spotify put her on its Country Coffeehouse playlist, alongside Townes, McKenna, Musgraves and an assortment of acts who might ordinarily be classified as indie-folk, roots rock, the pop side of bluegrass or the gentle side of country. As with so many Spotify playlists, vibe seems to be the primary organizing principle; everything leans ruminative and acoustic, a distant, rootsy cousin to the unobtrusively chilled-out pop that Liz Pelly [has described](#) as a Spotify-driven "streambait" genre.