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Nashville artists to watch in 2020

Caylee Hammack



Caylee Hammack bleeds creativity, fire and determination so completely that she's a beacon in an industry of thousands.

Born in Ellaville, Ga., Hammack prayed nightly as child for God to “just please make me different.” A self-described hippie from a hillbilly town, Hammack used fake IDs to get gigs around her native South Georgia before she was of age. She turned down a college scholarship that would have brought her to Nashville for a boy that ceremoniously broke her heart soon after. She moved to Nashville anyway, slept in her car in a Target parking lot until she could afford a place to stay and then her home burned down in an electrical fire.



“My dad has always said that the most beautiful and strongest things are forged in the fire,” Hammack said in a statement. “Iron is nothing until you work it in a fire. Glass cannot be blown without intense heat. You can’t make anything beautiful or strong without a little heat.”

Hammack released her debut single “Family Tree” – which she co-wrote and co-produced in 2019 – and it was the most-added debut song at country radio by a female artist in more than three years.

Her first album will be released in 2020, and she’ll spend the spring opening shows for Reba McEntire.