Country Music Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which artist turned a childhood experience with a homemade coat into the 1971 country hit ‘Coat of Many Colors’?
   - A. Dolly Parton
   - B. Tammy Wynette
   - C. Dottie West
   - D. Barbara Mandrell

   Correct answer: A. Dolly Parton
   Dolly Parton wrote ‘Coat of Many Colors’ about a patchwork coat made for her when she was a child.

2. Which country singer recorded ‘Coal Miner’s Daughter’ and later published an autobiography with the same title?
   - A. Connie Smith
   - B. Patsy Cline
   - C. Loretta Lynn
   - D. Jean Shepard

   Correct answer: C. Loretta Lynn
   Loretta Lynn wrote and recorded the song. She used the title again for her autobiography, published in 1976.

3. Which instrument was Bill Monroe known for playing as leader of the Blue Grass Boys?
   - A. Banjo
   - B. Mandolin
   - C. Fiddle
   - D. Upright bass

   Correct answer: B. Mandolin
   Monroe sang and played mandolin. His prominent solos helped establish the instrument as a lead voice in bluegrass.

4. In which city did station WSM start broadcasting the show that became the Grand Ole Opry?
   - A. Louisville
   - B. Memphis
   - C. Austin
   - D. Nashville

   Correct answer: D. Nashville
   WSM opened a studio in downtown Nashville in 1925. Its country music program developed into the Grand Ole Opry.

5. Which singer released Pure Country as both a studio album and the soundtrack to the film of the same name?

A. Alan Jackson
B. George Strait
C. Clint Black
D. Vince Gill

Correct answer: B. George Strait
Pure Country was George Strait’s first soundtrack and his thirteenth studio album. It includes ‘I Cross My Heart’ and ‘Heartland.’

6. In 1971, Charley Pride won the Country Music Association’s Male Vocalist of the Year award. Which other CMA award does the Hall of Fame list for him that year?

A. Entertainer of the Year
B. Album of the Year
C. Musician of the Year
D. Single of the Year

Correct answer: A. Entertainer of the Year
Pride won Entertainer of the Year in 1971 as well as Male Vocalist of the Year. He won the vocalist award again in 1972.

7. Which band led by guitarist and fiddler Don Rich played on Buck Owens’s records during the height of his 1960s success?

A. The Cherokee Cowboys
B. The Strangers
C. The Texas Playboys
D. The Buckaroos

Correct answer: D. The Buckaroos
Rich led the Buckaroos, Owens’s touring band. Owens regularly recorded with the same musicians, which gave the records much of their live sound.

8. Which Emmylou Harris album includes ‘Boulder to Birmingham,’ her tribute to Gram Parsons?

A. Luxury Liner
B. Elite Hotel
C. Pieces of the Sky
D. Quarter Moon in a Ten Cent Town

Correct answer: C. Pieces of the Sky
Harris included the tribute on Pieces of the Sky, her 1975 debut for the Reprise label.

9. Which Garth Brooks live album originally appeared in November 1998?

A. Double Live
B. Triple Live
C. No Fences
D. The Chase

Correct answer: A. Double Live
Brooks’s official discography dates the original release of Double Live to November 1998.

10. In the Recording Academy archive for 2010, which Taylor Swift release won both Best Country Album and Album of the Year?

A. Red
B. Taylor Swift
C. Speak Now
D. Fearless

Correct answer: D. Fearless
Fearless appears as the winner in both categories at the 2010 ceremony.

11. A fictional record shop labels a display ‘Victor recordings produced by Ralph Peer in Bristol, Tennessee, in 1927.’ Which pair of acts fits the label?

A. Bob Wills and Ernest Tubb
B. Bill Monroe and Roy Acuff
C. The Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers
D. Kitty Wells and Hank Thompson

Correct answer: C. The Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers
Both the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers recorded for Peer at the 1927 Bristol sessions. The Library of Congress selected the sessions for the National Recording Registry.

12. A fictional catalog says Hank Thompson’s ‘The Wild Side of Life’ was recorded in response to Kitty Wells’s ‘It Wasn’t God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels.’ Which revision gets the relationship right?

A. Wells and Thompson recorded the two titles as a duet.
B. Wells’s recording answered Thompson’s hit.
C. Thompson wrote both titles for Wells to record.
D. Both titles refer to the same recording by Wells.

Correct answer: B. Wells’s recording answered Thompson’s hit.
The Hall of Fame identifies Wells’s 1952 recording as an answer song to Thompson’s earlier hit.

13. A fictional catalog lists Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, and Waylon Jennings as singers on the 1985 recording of ‘Highwayman.’ It lists Jimmy Webb in the songwriter field. Who completes the recording’s four-person singing lineup?

A. David Allan Coe
B. Jimmy Webb
C. Merle Haggard
D. Kris Kristofferson

Correct answer: D. Kris Kristofferson
Webb wrote the song. Nelson recorded it with Cash, Jennings, and Kristofferson, and the song gave the group its name.

14. A film catalog credits George Clooney as both the actor seen singing ‘I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow’ and the vocalist heard in O Brother, Where Art Thou? Who should get the vocal credit for that performance?

A. Dan Tyminski
B. Ralph Stanley
C. Ricky Skaggs
D. Chris Stapleton

Correct answer: A. Dan Tyminski
Clooney performs the song on screen. Dan Tyminski’s singing supplies the voice heard in that performance.

15. A fictional caption calls Linda Martell’s ‘Color Him Father’ the original soul recording and places her Grand Ole Opry debut years later. Which correction fits the museum’s account?

A. Martell made the original soul recording and first appeared on the Opry in the same year.
B. Martell recorded a country version of the Winstons’ song and had already appeared on the Opry years earlier.
C. Martell recorded a country version of the Winstons’ song and first appeared on the Opry in the same year.
D. Martell made the original soul recording while performing with the Winstons on the Opry.

Correct answer: C. Martell recorded a country version of the Winstons’ song and first appeared on the Opry in the same year.
Martell released her country version of the Winstons’ song in 1969. That same year, she became the first Black female country singer to appear on the Grand Ole Opry.