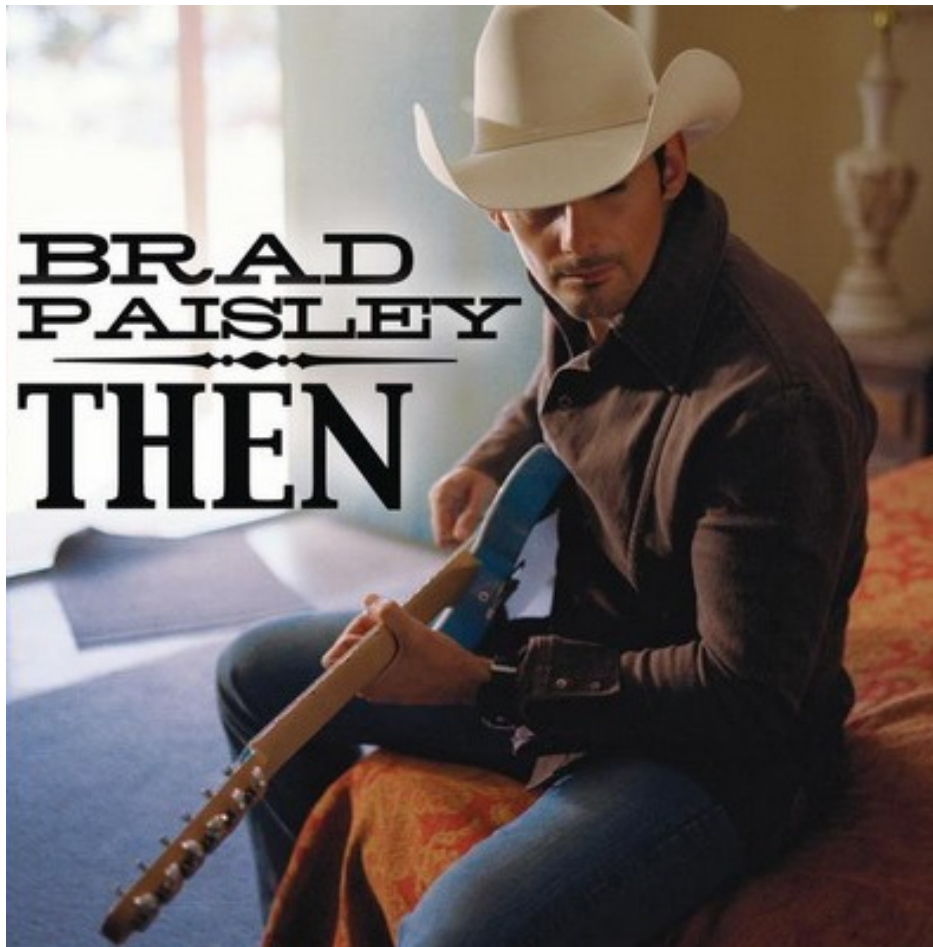


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## Brad Paisley



## Part One: Biography

Brad Paisley was born on October 28, 1972. His hometown was Glen Dale, West Virginia. His father is Douglas Paisley who worked at the West Virginia Department of Transportation. His mother is Sandra Paisley, she was a school teacher. His love for music came his maternal grandfather, Warren Jarvis who gave him a guitar at age of 8, in addition taught him how to play it. From that moment on Brad Paisley played in local churches and other gatherings he could. After his first song called *Born on Christmas Day* he joined his guitar teacher, Clarence "Hank" Goddard to form a band called *Brad Paisley and the C-Notes* with two of Brad Paisley's friends; Brad was only 13 at this time. His musical career really started when his principal heard his first song he wrote (*Born on Christmas Day*), his principal inadvertently introduced Brad to Tom Miller. Tom Miller was the radio station direct located at Wheeling, West Virginia. Miller invited Paisley to play for a special on Jamboree USA. For the next eight years, Brad played on a weekly lineup for Jamboree USA, opening for famous artists like George Jones, The Judds, etc. In fact, Brad Paisley would become the youngest person to be inducted into the Jamboree USA Hall of Fame. After graduating from *John Marshall High School* Brad Paisley went to West Liberty State College in West Liberty, West Virginia for two years. Brad Paisley then transferred to Belmont University in order to finish his degree in music business, he received his Bachelors in Business Administration in 1995. Most importantly however, during this time Paisley studied under the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers scholarship. He met some lifelong friends there: Kelley Lovelace and Frank Rogers. His first step to a successful music career finally came after graduation at Belmont, Brad Paisley signed with EMI Records.

With EMI Records he was able to get his name out in the open. He helped write a song called *Another You* which David Kersh sang. Finally, Paisley was able to sign with Arista Nashville, this is where he was finally going to be able to start singing songs, not just writing them. He released his first official album in 1999, called *Who Needs Pictures*. His number one song was *He Didn't Have to Be* he wrote this with Kelley Lovelace and her stepson. This album contained many famous tracks that helped catapult Paisley to fame. The album sold over 1 million copies. This allowed Paisley to make his first appearance to the Grand Ole Opry and in 2001, at age 28 was the

youngest person to ever be inducted and join. In addition to this, the album, *Who Needs Pictures* led Paisley to obtaining the Best Male Vocalist Award from the Academy of Country Music; he was also awarded the Horizon Award from the Country Music Association. After winning his first Grammy Award, he released the second part of the album. This album allowed Paisley to win the Country Music Association Award for Best Music Video of the Year, on the song called *I'm Gonna Miss Her (The Fishin' Song)*. Paisley had many famous celebrities in the song, one in particular is Kimberly Williams who would eventually be his wife in 2003. Brad Paisley then started his touring career in 2002, opening for Lonestar. In 2003, Brad Paisley released his third album called *Mud on the Tires*. This album had many hit songs like *Celebrity* which in a way humored some television shows. However, the number one song was *Whiskey Lullaby*, Brad Paisley sang a duet with Alison Krauss. This song even ranked number three on the Hot Country chart. This album was certified double platinum, which means it had more than 2 million albums sold. In 2005, after finishing his tour, Brad Paisley released fourth album called *Time Well Wasted*, the biggest hits on this album were: *Alcohol*, *When I Get Where I'm Going* a duet with Dolly Parton, and *Out in the Parking Lot* also a duet with Alan Jackson. In 2006, *Time Well Wasted* won the CMA Award for Best Album of the Year, it also won the ACM's Album of the Year award. He also received four grammy nominations. Brad Paisley in 2007 released his album called *Fifth Gear* the main hit songs on it were: *Ticks*, *Online*, *Letter to Me*, and *I'm Still a Guy*. He was able to get three nominations for a grammy, but ended up winning only one for Best Country Instrumental for *Throttleneck*.

One of Brad Paisley's major steps in his music career took place in 2008. Paisley announced he was going to tour as the main artist in his tour called "Paisley Party", in addition he would have three artists open for his tour. His tour kicked off in New Mexico, 2008. *Play* was the title of Paisley's next album in 2008, this was largely instrumental, but did contain a very popular duet with Keith Urban called *Start a Band*. Paisley again won Male Vocalist of the Year and Music Video of the Year on his song called *Waitin' on a Woman*. In 2009, Brad Paisley released debatably the best album of his career called "American Saturday Night". In fact, Paisley performed at the White House to celebrate country music. Although things appeared to be going well, in 2010 Paisley was performing at a concert when he slipped, and appeared to have broken a rib (though the CAT scan came back as negative). He continued to host many events, usually with Carrie Underwood, and other famous country artists. In 2010, Brad Paisley announced he would have a greatest hits album coming out. After this, the most prestigious award the CMA has to offer, Entertainer of the Year award was given to Brad Paisley. Continuing with his music career, Brad released his eighth album called "This is Country Music". His main hit songs were: *Old Alabama* (a duet with Alabama) and *Reminds Me* (a duet with Carrie Underwood). To this day, Paisley is still

performing and has no signs of retiring yet, and in addition to this he has just barely released "Wheelhouse" in 2012 and "Moonshine in the Trunk" in 2014. He uses his music to bring out valid points in our society, and his life. For example, in one of his songs he speaks about how he is disappointed about his states history with slavery and racism, but at the same time he is proud his home state. In addition to this Paisley even has written a book in 2011. In conclusion Brad Paisley is a very talented artist with a very successful background in music.

## Part Two: History of the Music Composition

Brad Paisley is a country musician. Country music can trace its roots back as far as World War 1. For the most part, modern country music can trace back to many types of genres. For the most part, country is a fusion of jazz, gospel, blues, pop, and folk. The main origins however came from the folk people of England and the slaves from Africa. Eventually it expanded and started to appeal to the rural people, with the help of Fiddlin' John Carson. Once he got famous, society started to proclaim his music as "hillbilly" music. Eventually into the 1930's many artists such as Cliff Carlisle, Riley Puckett, and Don Richardson followed the tradition of hillbilly music. However, without a man named Ralph Peer, the market for hillbilly music would have been very small, eventually killing the genre. This continued throughout the 1920's and throughout the early part of the Great Depression. The transition from records to radios took place, and from that famous musicians like Roy Acuff teamed up together with people (he teamed up with DeFord Bailey one of the first african american country singers) in order to increase fame. Finally near the end of the 1930's a new breed of hillbilly music formed, this was called western music. Influenced most likely by the new wave of rock and roll, western music changed its instruments. It took a few decades but eventually country and western music incorporated drums into their music, as well they started to use electrical guitars, and they led with a guitar. However at the same time pockets of resistance stayed, artists like Waylon Jennings tried to push for a genre called "outlaw country". This outlaw country brought forth some of the most legendary artists like Hank Williams, and Willie Nelson. Along with outlaw country new breeds of country were beginning to form such as: country rock, country pop, and rockabilly. Famous artists in this era included: Johnny Cash, John Denver, Bob Dylan, etc. At the turn of the 1980's the famous truck-driving country which was a mixture of honky-tonk and country rock. This was one of the first main genres that would be able to be classified under artists today. Again however, there were new artists who wanted to go back to the basics of country these artists included: George Strait, Alan Jackson, and the Judds. Their popularity however was usually contained around the South-East part of the USA. In 1990's however, thanks to Garth Brooks and a few other artists, country music became

a worldwide phenomenon. Also for the first time female artists were becoming largely recognized and famous people like Faith Hill, Shania Twain, etc were main leaders in this new era. From 2000's on country music seems to be split again, major cross genres were made prevalent, they include: country rock (artists like Eric Church Brantley Gilbert), country pop (Taylor Swift), country rap (Jason Aldean, Big and Rich), Folk (The Band Perry), Bro-country (Luke Bryan, Blake Shelton, Florida Georgia Line), and other minor genres. In conclusion, country is a genre usually crossed with another genre, and has become known as an "American" genre.

### Part Three: Time Listening Guide

Song: *Who Needs Pictures* by Brad Paisley (3:44)

- 0:00-0:06 lead guitar introduction and at 0:06 the B3 organ plays during lead guitar pause.
- 0:13 lead voice starts first versus, then along with a faint background guitar.
- At 0:34 you can hear a different background guitar increase volume.
- At 0:40 the guitar sound changes, becomes increasingly louder.
- At 0:59 Paisley begins the first chorus.
- At 1:14 the first versus is ended, and second begins with the same organ and guitar sounds.
- At 1:09 the pianist plays a few low notes and continues to play in the song.
- At 1:19 the drummer hits the first drum in the song.
- At 1:30 there is a faint sound of a fiddle.
- 1:44 the drummer plays a few notes to signify the second chorus though it is changed.
- From 1:46 there's a change in the song, the drummer and the pianist begin to play in harmony, each playing louder when the other is quieter.
- 2:20 the second chorus ends.
- The piano plays very loud, along with the vocalist at 2:21 onward, the drums fades quieter, this also begins the third and final versus.
- At 3:03 the third and final chorus begins.
- At 3:15 the drum completely fades and the piano plays lower keys, final chorus is repeated.
- 3:22 piano, guitar, and organ play conclusion piece.
- 3:39 last note is held, and finally at 3:44 the song ends.

Song: *American Saturday Night* by Brad Paisley (4:34)

- 0:00-0:06 piano plays introduction.

- 0:07 there is male laughter, and 0:08 there's a guitar that plays very techno sounding piece.
- 0:09 Drums start playing, and by 0:12 they are very loud and then plays a consistent beat.
- 0:13 Right after drums, an organ sound plays very rapid keys.
- 0:17 Lead guitar starts beat of the song.
- 0:20 Both a keyboard and another backup guitar make fluctuating sounds.
- 0:27 Male harmonized vocals sound.
- 0:30-0:39 Guitar and keyboard exchange fluctuating sounds with the lead guitar rhythm.
- 0:40 Lead vocalist begins first versus.
- 0:40-0:50 guitar and drums play a harmonized instrumental with the vocals, then at 0:51 there is a fiddle sound then again at 0:58 to 1:04.
- 1:05 First chorus is played.
- 1:10 Harmonized male vocals.
- 1:15 End of first chorus, there's a repeat with the guitar, keyboard, and drums.
- 1:20 Second versus begins.
- In this versus an electronic like keyboard plays in dissonance with the voice (when the voice fades the keyboard sounds).
- 1:44 Second chorus begins exact repeat of the first.
- 1:56 Third versus begins with a much louder vocal.
- 2:01 Backup guitar chords
- 2:10 Fiddle sound returns again
- 2:20 Bass Guitar sounds with deep chords, signifying a guitar and drummer solo.
- 2:44 Guitar and Drummer solo ends, and lead vocals begins again.
- 3:06 Final Chorus begins, with crowd yelling chorus.
- 3:10's Lead Vocalist repeats title three times.
- 3:21 Guitar and Drummer solo again and the final chorus ends.
- 3:30 Faint laughter and cheering in the background.
- 3:30-4:32 Acoustic and Electric Guitar solo, with drummer backup.
- 4:32-4:34 People cheering and yelling again, and 4:34 song ends.

Song: *Celebrity* by Brad Paisley (3:43)

- 0:00 Begins with a guitar introduction, and people yelling in during the guitar pauses.
- 0:04-0:16 backup guitar sounds in harmony with the lead guitar.
- 0:16 Male lead vocals start first versus
- 0:16 Drummer establishes a beat in harmony with the lead voice.
- 0:37 Fiddle like sound plays during softer notes.

- 0:46 First chorus starts tempo increases
- 1:01 Third guitar is heard during pause.
- 1:18 First chorus ends.
- 1:19 Guitar and Drummer harmony during transition to next versus.
- 1:26 Second versus starts and fiddle plays low chords.
- Second versus backup guitar plays less harmonized with the lead guitar.
- 1:38 Backup guitar plays quiet dissonance piece.
- 1:56 Second versus ends.
- 1:57 Second chorus starts.
- 2:28 Guitar and drum solo begins.
- 2:35 Bridge starts.
- 2:50 Near end of bridge, crowd of people begin to yell.
- 3:00 Final chorus begins.
- 3:04 Harmonized lead voice and backup voice along
- 3:26 Chorus ends, people speaking in the background and guitar and drums take it to the end notes.
- 3:43 Song ends.

Song: *River Bank* by Brad Paisley (3:00)

- 0:00 Guitar and Drum introduction, very rigid guitar notes.
- 0:08 Man yells here we go, and 0:16 Lead vocals starts the first versus.
- 0:19 Fluctuating guitar sounds during pauses.
- 0:28 Backup singer says just right with the lead vocal.
- 0:33 Tempo increases from earlier.
- 0:41 First Chorus starts, backup guitars start to increase sound.
- 0:47 Background people voices and again 0:56
- 1:05 First chorus ends, Second versus starts.
- 1:14 background fiddle chimes in during singer pause.
- 1:23 Vocal tempo increases again.
- 1:30 Second versus ends, second chorus starts.
- 1:35-1:40 Fiddle and crowd cheers take turns sounding during pause.
- 1:45 Background singers sing last lines of second chorus with the lead vocalist.
- 1:50 Second chorus ends, guitar and drum solo plays.
- 1:55 Bridge starts at a slower tempo
- 2:10 Change in beat by the guitar and the drummer.
- 2:30 Final chorus is repeated.
- 2:50 drums and guitar take it to the end.
- 2:59 Song ends.

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