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Breaking Benjamin Earns Its First No. 1 Album on the Billboard 200 Chart

By [Keith Caulfield](#) | July 01, 2015



Breaking Benjamin (credit: [Nicole Napier](#))

Rock band [Breaking Benjamin](#) celebrates its first No. 1 album on the [Billboard 200](#) chart -- and their best sales week ever -- as *Dark Before Dawn* arrives in the top slot. The set moved 141,000 equivalent album units in the week ending June 28, according to Nielsen Music. Of that sum, 135,000 were pure album sales -- the group's best week ever.

The Billboard 200 chart ranks the most popular albums of the week based on [multi-metric consumption](#), which includes traditional album sales, track equivalent albums (TEA) and streaming equivalent albums (SEA).

Previously, Breaking Benjamin's best sales frame came when its last studio effort, 2009's *Dear Agony*, bowed at No. 4 with 134,000. That wasn't their highest charting album, however, as that honor had fallen to 2006's No. 2-peaking *Phobia* (though it started with a smaller sum: 125,000).

Dark Before Dawn is Breaking Benjamin's first studio album in nearly six years, and first with an almost all-new lineup. Now a quintet, only its namesake lead singer, Benjamin Burnley, remains from its previous incarnation as a

quartet. (Two members of the band departed in 2010 after legal and contractual disputes, while another member left in 2013 due to creative differences.)

In May, *Dark Before Dawn*'s lead single, "Failure," became the act's third No. 1 on [Mainstream Rock Songs](#). The track is currently in its eighth week atop that airplay list -- the group's longest chart-topping run (surpassing the seven weeks at No. 1 for 2007's "Breath").

In addition, Breaking Benjamin becomes the first rock act on Hollywood Records to score a No. 1 album. The label -- which is part of the Disney Music Group -- is likely best known for its soundtracks and albums from pop stars like Miley Cyrus and Demi Lovato. Still, Hollywood has been home to a number of rock acts, ranging from Plain White T's and Queen to Atreyu and Fastball.

In total, *Dark Before Dawn* is Hollywood Records' 12th No. 1 album. (While Breaking Benjamin is the first rock act on Hollywood with a No. 1 album, *Dark Before Dawn* is the label's second rock album to hit the top. It follows last year's rockin' No. 1 soundtrack, *Guardians of the Galaxy, Awesome Mix Vol. 1*.) Breaking Benjamin leads a busy new top 10, as four more albums debut in the region.

Singer [Tori Kelly](#) sees her first full-length album, *Unbreakable*, bow in the No. 2 slot with 75,000 units (of which 65,000 are traditional album sales). The album was preceded by the singles "Nobody Love" (which reached No. 16 on the [Pop Songs](#) airplay chart) and "Should've Been Us" (which climbs 32-26 on the latest chart). Kelly previously reached the Billboard 200 with the EP *Forward*, which debuted and peaked at No. 16 in 2013.

Country star [Kacey Musgraves](#) is up next on the Billboard 200, as her second album, *Pageant Material*, debuts at No. 3 with 60,000 units (including 55,000 in pure album sales -- her best sales frame yet). Her 2013 debut *Same Trailer Different Park* launched at No. 2 with 43,000 -- her previous largest sales week. The new album's current single, "Biscuits," has so far peaked at No. 41 on the [Country Airplay chart](#).

Taylor Swift's *1989* dips 2-4 in its 35th week on the chart (54,000 units; down 6 percent) and last week's No. 1, James Taylor's *Before This World*, falls 1-5 with 50,000 (down 49 percent).

R&B newcomer [Leon Bridges](#) debuts at No. 6 with his first album *Coming Home*, as it enters with 42,000 units. It also starts at No. 1 on both [Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums](#) and [R&B Albums](#). The set's breakout single, "Coming Home," peaked at No. 3 on the [Billboard + Twitter Emerging Artists](#) chart in April. During the album's release week, Bridges played NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* (June 22) and garnered coverage on National Public Radio's *Fresh Air* (June 25).

Ed Sheeran's *x* descends 4-7 with 35,000 units (down 10 percent), Sam Hunt's *Montevallo* moves 6-8 with 30,000 units (down 6 percent) and Maroon 5's *V* is steady at No. 9 with 27,000 units (down 1 percent).

Rounding out the top 10 is a new entry at No. 10: Walt Disney Records' *Teen Beach 2* TV soundtrack, which sails in with 24,000 units. It follows 2013's *Teen Beach Movie* soundtrack, which debuted at No. 8 and later peaked at No. 3.

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