

*CBS Mornings*

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8:00:27 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Singer Brandon Lake]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Brandon Lake is one of the biggest stars in faith-based music, and now he's branching out. He spoke to our Jan Crawford about finding some new fans.

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8:05:29 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Singer Brandon Lake]

DUTHIERS: Plus, meet the mega popular artist who's redefining Christian music. Brandon Lake tells Jan Crawford how he found his calling.

(...)

8:48:06 a.m.

4 minutes and 48 seconds

[BRANDON LAKE SINGING *THE AUTHOR*]

DUTHIERS: That is Brandon Lake's song *The Author* from his new live concert album, *King of Hearts in the Room*. Lake is one of the biggest names in Christian music. The six-time Grammy winner has collaborated with artists like Jelly Roll and Lainey Wilson. Jan Crawford caught up with him on tour in San Antonio. She learned how a preacher's kid is finding new fans.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Brandon Lake's Musical Calling]

BRANDON LAKE: This isn't just about entertainment. This is like an encounter. People's lives are being changed. They're walking out better than they came in.

JAN CRAWFORD: For Brandon Lake, the shows are about more than music. [TO LAKE] Would you say that music is, in a way, your ministry?

LAKE: I feel like music is what God has called me to, the gift that He's given me, and that's how I'm able to share this message and reach people.

CRAWFORD: That message of hope and redemption and praise by the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter is helping redefine Christian music.

[LAKE SINGING *KING OF HEARTS*]

CRAWFORD: With more than four billion streams and sold-out arenas for shows he calls a joy bomb, bringing people of all ages and ethnicities closer to Jesus. Growing up a preacher's kid in South Carolina, Lake found his own calling singing in church.

LAKE: My parents just, they made it fun, and I think what church is supposed to really be about, and that's community and sharing in everything that you have.

CRAWFORD: That connection with community has been a focus throughout his career. He didn't have the money to make his first record, so he got creative.

LAKE: So, I decided, okay, well, I am going to have to ask people for money and raise this money, and I said, if you give me a certain amount of money, I'll tattoo your name on my leg, and so I have 23 last names tattooed on my thigh —

CRAWFORD: 23?

LAKE: — to get that record done. Yes!

CRAWFORD: Lake independently released that first album *Closer* 10 years ago.

LAKE: I was willing to do anything short of sin to — to get this record done.

CRAWFORD [TO LAKE]: Anything short of sin?

LAKE: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CRAWFORD: The hits on Billboard's Hot Christian Song Chart came quick, six number one songs.

[LAKE SINGING *GRAVES INTO GARDENS*]

CRAWFORD: But as his career was skyrocketing, Lake found himself mentally at the bottom.

LAKE: When I didn't have the next song write, invite, or I didn't have the next song I was excited about, or the next show, I started to panic, but I was too prideful to tell my wife what I was experiencing. So, I was having some weird thoughts, dark thoughts, like this is not who I am, and I'm on the mountain top right now, my dreams are coming true, and it's just crazy. I guess, I'd say a lot of people's lowest moments come from a low moment, and mine came from a high moment.

[LAKE SINGING *HELP!*]

CRAWFORD: He says he leaned on God and friends and family, finding balance on his farm in

South Carolina with his wife and three sons, but he saw how everyone struggles, and you can see that compassion in his music, and his community is continuing to grow. Many of the 36-year-old's high moments involve collaborations like this one with country superstar, Lainey Wilson. [TO LAKE] Why has that been so important to you?

LAKE: Here's the thing, the songs are cool, but I think God loves collabs.

[LAKE AND JELLY ROLL SINGING *HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH*]

CRAWFORD: His collaboration with Jelly Roll went platinum. During a stop on his "King of Hearts Tour" in San Antonio, we saw Lake join with another country star, Cody Johnson.

CODY JOHNSON: We didn't know each other —

LAKE: Yep.

JOHNSON: — and out of this song, not only did it help shape people's lives, it's helping him kind of segue into the country music realm.

CRAWFORD [TO LAKE]: There are people out there that they would never consider them religious or even believers.

LAKE: Right.

CRAWFORD: Like, what would you say your music offers them?

LAKE: The best thing I can do is offer my story, what God has done in my life, and allow God to do the rest. Like I'm not out here trying to, like, you know, beat people with a Bible, and you know, fire and brimstone. Like, I don't think that's effective. I think my songs are offerings, and they're open doors.

[LAKE SINGING *THAT'S WHO I PRAISE*]

CRAWFORD: For *CBS Mornings*, I'm Jan Crawford.

NATE BURLESON: It's beautiful.

DUTHIERS: I love the fact that you know he says that his music is an open door to everybody. It just really feels like that.

EVA PILGRIM: And he was honest, at the height, he didn't feel great.

DUTHIERS: Being honest.

BURLESON: That everybody struggles.

PILGRIM: Surprising for people.

DUTHIERS: That's right.

BURLESON: Yeah. An open door, an invite.