

From the Irish Midlands to US Charts

Laois rock artist Damien Cain enters US Alternative Charts at No. 6 - new album 'Standarte' gains international traction with global radio airplay



Mountmellick, Laois Feb 1, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](http://www.IssueWire.com)) - Irish-based rock artist Damien Cain has reached a major international milestone: his latest album *Standarte* has climbed to No. 6 on the American Alternative Charts, mirrored by an identical Top-10 position in the German Alternative Charts.

Cain, a German-born songwriter and producer now based in County Laois, describes the achievement

as “unexpected and deeply encouraging,” especially for an independent artist operating outside the major-label system.

“It’s surreal to see an album created across several countries resonate so strongly overseas,” Cain says. “To have it chart in the US while living and working quietly in Laois means a lot.”

Released in December 2025, Standarte blends alternative rock, melodic metal and gothic atmospheres with cinematic storytelling. The album marks Cain’s return under his own name after years of work under the project CAIN, best known for the cult classic Age of Darkness, which sold over 250,000 copies and received an IMPALA Diamond Award.

Since release, the album's first single 'Fascinating Face' has received regular radio airplay across Ireland, the UK and Europe, North- and South-America, and even Hong Kong and Australia. The album’s videos have also surpassed 100,000 YouTube views within four weeks.

International press has praised the record’s emotional depth and stylistic range. Italian 'ProgRockJournal' described Standarte as “a testament to the enduring power of emotion, atmosphere and narrative in rock,” while the Orkus! Magazine highlighted its “coherent, harmonious and entertaining” nature despite its stylistic breadth.

Cain lives and works in Mountmellick, Co. Laois, where he continues to write and produce music with an international network of collaborators. While Standarte is currently receiving global radio support, Cain remains closely connected to the Irish music community.



AAC
AMERICAN ALTERNATIVE CHARTS
ESTABLISHED IN 1988

American Alternative Charts - week: 4 year: 2026 category: album

Single Charts		Album Charts		Country		Genre	
Pos.	Trend	Artist	Title	Label	US	UK	Peak/Points
1	↑	Dark Minimal Project	Pleasure is a Sin	Infected Recordings	8	-	1 194
2	↓	Pending Position	Album 69	Infected Recordings	1	7	1 168
3	↓	NOVAKILL	BeLIEve	Repe Records	2	8	2 152
4	→	Brittany Birdlin	Counterposition	Black Dove Music	4	5	4 145
5	↓	DJ Worlock	Peace in the Beat	Pale Mountain Hall	3	6	3 146
6	↑	Damien Cain	Standarte	Audio-to-go	10	-	6 142
7	↓	Azam Ali	Synesthesia	COP International	5	4	4 128
8	★	Alex Braun	Angel Machine	Infected Recordings	-	-	8 126
9	★	Assemblage 23	Null	Metropolis Records	-	-	9 110
10	↓	Fall Seed	Octagram	Dependent	9	-	2 100

legend: ○ new entry ↑ climbed → unchanged ↓ fallen

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Source : Damien Cain (full EPK upon request)

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