

# People COUNTRY SPECIAL

MARCH 2008

## MUSIC



### RISSI PALMER

**WHO SHE IS:** With her hit "Country Girl," Palmer, 26, became the first black woman to land on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart in 20 years.

**DOWNLOAD:** "Hold On to Me," a ballad about unrequited love.

**HER INSPIRATION:** "I've been in a similar situation as this song, where you're in love with someone but that person's heart is somewhere else," says Palmer, who is single. "So this song touches me when I sing it."

## NINE NEW STARS WORTH LISTENING TO

BY ERICKA SÓUTER AND LUCY HITZ