

KENNY SMITH

Kenny “Beedy Eyes” Smith was unquestionably born into blues royalty. He grew up in the same house where Muddy Waters once lived in Chicago, the home of the blues. Throughout his childhood, Kenny was surrounded by Muddy and his friends, which included his own father, Willie “Big Eyes” Smith (1936-2011). These same blues icons helped mold him into the person and drummer he is today and later in life asked him to provide his famous backbeat on some of the largest and most respected stages and recordings in the world. Kenny has played over 7,500 live performances to date and has earned the right to wear that royal blues crown. His father, Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, played drums for the Muddy Waters’ Band in the early 1960’s and then again from 1968 through 1980 and was featured on all of Muddy’s Grammy winning albums. Kenny “Beedy Eyes” Smith, one of the best known living blues drummers today, learned 99% of what he knows about drumming from his father and was also inspired by acclaimed drummers: Odie Payne, Fred Below, Earl Phillips, S. P. Leary, Francis Clay and Art Blakey and many others who paved the way.

GRAMMY AWARD WINNER

Kenny “Beedy Eyes” Smith is a world famous, multi-award winning, blues drummer extraordinaire who in 2011 won a Grammy award for his remarkable work on *Joined at The Hip* with Pinetop Perkins and Willie “Big Eyes” Smith. Kenny had the honor and privilege of contributing to that project both through song writing and drumming and is delighted that his accomplishments and talents were recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Honored all across the globe for his exceptional achievements, Kenny won Living Blues awards for most outstanding musician (drums) in 2008 (shared with Willie “Big Eyes” Smith), 2009, 2010 and 2011. In 2009, an album entitled “Chicago Blues: A Living History” on which Kenny recorded, was nominated for a Grammy Award. This same album won Best Blues Album in 2009 by the Academie de Jazz de France. Kenny is a four time nominee for a Blues Music Award for Best Drummer by the Blues Foundation. He performed at the Kennedy Center Honors in 2008 with Koko Taylor and B.B. King during a tribute for actor Morgan Freeman. And in 2010, Kenny toured with the Taproot group and the U.S. State Department in Africa where the group played for ambassadors, returnee/refugee camps and taught workshops to local musicians. Kenny’s also passionate about the Blues in the Schools program and is spreading the message about the Blues by providing education to students both in the United States as well as internationally.

Kenny “Beedy Eyes” Smith knows that his blues values go beyond just “choppin’ wood” to the back beat. He was told by his father, Willie “Big Eyes” Smith and many other legends (whom he considered as family at an early age) to carry on the blues and to not just play it- he was told to “live it, learn it and breathe it” and from those experiences he would be able to keep the past and present history of the blues alive and kicking all over the world. When Kenny is not stroking a blues groove, he is an active agent, bringing all-star musicians together for a fun filled night of blues at many events and festivals across the globe. Kenny is also a producer for many record labels/bands/ musicians in the studio, bringing out the best in their music for all of us to enjoy. It is through his work over the years with these blues experts that Kenny has perfected and imagined several different new blues shuffles- including his ingenious trademark, the “Kenny Smith Triple Blues Shuffle”. This is a genuine, original, blues shuffle (which is true to its and Kenny Smith’s roots) that has a modern, inventive flavor. You’ll have to see/hear it to believe it.

Kenny Smith has a stellar reputation for being an outstanding all around studio musician as well as performer, has spent hundreds of hours in recording sessions working everyday with an extensive range of brilliant artists and is credited on numerous music albums with some of the top blues artists and legends in the world. All of the labels on which Kenny has been featured are impressed by his authentic and versatile drumming skills as he brings new and innovative ways of drumming to the forefront while keeping the blues traditions alive. Kenny is honored to not only have played with but to consider many of these top blues legends as close friends:

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KENNY SMITH

Honeyboy Edwards
Homesick James
Pinetop Perkins
Willie "Big Eyes" Smith
Buddy Guy
Billy Boy Arnold
Dave and Louis Myers (from the original Little Walter Aces)
Hubert Sumlin
James Cotton
Carrie Bell
Koko Taylor
Junior Wells
Louisiana Red
John Brim
Big Jack Johnson
Detroit Jr.
Jerry Portnoy
Sam Lay

Big Bill Morganfield
Lurrie Bell
Jimmy Rogers
Calvin Fuzz Jones
Paul DeLay
Luther Guitar Junior
Aaron Burton
Bob Stroger
Henry Townsend
Buddy Scott
Bob Margolin
Kim Wilson and the Fabulous Thunderbirds
Jody Williams
The Legendary Blues Band
Tail Dragger
Easy baby
little Arthur Duncan
Lovie Lee

Without the amazing contributions of these musicians listed above, for which Kenny is extremely grateful, he would not have the opportunities he has today to play with such remarkable, phenomenal artists on a daily basis.

In an article in the Living Blues magazine, David Whiteis says "Since the beginning, Smith has been a roots-loving blues man, immersed in the traditional postwar style he learned from his father and still cherishes". Now one of the savviest drummers out there, Kenny is also gifted in learning and mastering different methods of playing music- which makes him one of the most in demand and sought out drummers in the world. Kenny's also a true leader and one that understands the music industry to a great extent. Whiteis quotes Kenny in saying:

"If you're really taking the music seriously, it's discipline. You need the discipline. If you really take the music seriously, it takes you to some different places, and it keeps you firmly disciplined. When you're on stage, you're a team. You should be a team when you're on stage. You should be family on stage. You should treat every musician on stage with respect."

Later, Whiteis goes on to say about Kenny that "balance, perspective and focus are more than mere musical values to him." Quoting Smith, Whiteis writes "I focus up there, I listen to the music around me, and I try my best to play the best that I can, and I feel good about myself when I'm finished". Kenny's stand-up reputation in the music business is based on these philosophies and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Read what other greats in the music business (OR BLUES LOVERS) have to say about Kenny Smith!

"If anyone asked me who some of the musicians are that I would consider for drums on one of my Blues recordings, the first name that comes to mind is always Kenny Smith. Kenny and I have worked together on many records over the years and he is without doubt the most reliable, the most committed and motivated, and the most fun drummer to have on session. He brings a sensibility and an energy to the music that is rare. He always gives 150%. In short he makes a huge and positive difference to every recording he is a part of. He has made all the difference on my records and I'm proud to know him, both as a colleague and as a friend." **-Michael Freeman, 2011 Recipient "Keeping The Blues Alive Award" – Producer and Producer, Grammy Award Winner "Best Traditional Blues Album" 2010 Awards, "Joined At The Hip", Pinetop Perkins & Willie "Big Eyes" Smith**

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"Kenny Smith is one of my all time favorite drummers- he listens and reacts well, can play in many different diverse musical settings, knows when to lay back and also when to push and drive the band, and always is so calm, cool, and collected, all while having an absolute ball! Although he is already one of the best blues drummers on the scene, he is always improving and evolving his already well established skills. I feel like Kenny is a very influential person in the blues world, not only as a young talented drummer, but more importantly because of him as a person- he is a man of great character, honesty, humility, humor, and quiet leadership with great positive energy." **–Kelvin Johnson, Delmark Records**

"Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith is, simply put, one of today's greatest blues drummers. It is from his rich upbringing as the son of the legendary Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, that Kenny absorbed all the nuances of "old school" blues drumming. This is an art that most in his youthful generation would never understand, let alone excel in. It is Kenny's amazing aptitude in the rich tradition of blues drumming, and his instinctual approach as a sensitive team player, that makes Kenny the most sought after session and gig drummer in Chicago. His professional demeanor, strong work ethic, and like-able, down-to-earth personality add to the greatness. If you want perfect blues drumming with all of the gravy, go to Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith." **–Bob Corritore**

"Kenny Smith has joined the ranks of great Chicago blues drummers. Men like Fred Below, Odie Payne, Sam Lay, and of course Willie Smith laid down the foundation of modern Chicago blues drumming. Kenny Smith carries this great tradition on into the future." **– Brett J. Bonner, Editor, Living Blues Magazine**

"Kenny Smith has been given important traditions. As the son of the great blues drummer, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Kenny was handed his sticks and lessons as a child. In an age when drummers pound, Kenny swings so understated, you can almost forget there is a drummer behind the kit. Because of his understanding of the blues shuffle, Kenny is the in-demand drummer for sessions and tours. Most recently, Kenny has distinguished himself as a powerful singer who brings passion and soulfulness to everything he sings. In all, Kenny Smith is a musician who lives deeply in the blues, respects its traditions, and continually pushes the music forward." **–Art Tibaldi, Editor, Blues Revue Magazine**

"Kenny Smith has the same personality as his dad, the late great Willie 'Big Eyes' Smith. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree! Kenny is one of the most modern and best drummers in the blues circuit. He will never walk past you without saying hello. He will never turn away from his fans for a conversation and Kenny is always willing to talk and discuss blues music or other subjects. And also... Kenny is not an ordinary musician! In a recent discussion with Bob Stroger... Bob unveiled that Kenny is like his own son. And that means a lot! Right? Kenny is also one of the nicest guys I know in the blues business. He is a real gentleman... with his heart in the right place. If you hear Kenny singing and you close your eyes... you would swear that Willie Smith was singing. I'm always very impressed with Kenny. It's always a pleasure to talk. Kenny Smith is a person to cherish!" **–Philip, Back to the Roots, Belgium**

"If you're looking for a drummer who can play any style of blues or traditional R&B with soul and sensitivity, look no further than Kenny Smith. He has great chops, a terrific, positive attitude, and always comes to play the song, not just play a proscribed part. And if you want someone with the classic Chicago blues feel and technique, there's no one better in the world, period." **–Bruce Iglauer, President, Alligator Records**

"Boy, you know you are a bad Motor Scooter." **–Hubert Sumlin**

"Teenachi (Pinetop's nickname for Kenny), you sound just like your father did when we played with Muddy and I love you." **–Pinetop Perkins**

"You got it now. You're a man now. I'm proud of you." **–Willie "Big Eyes" Smith**

"Kenny Smith is one of the best blues drummer out here and he come from one of the greatest bloodline in the blues." **–Kim Wilson, The Fabulous Thunderbirds**

KENNY SMITH

"Kenny Smith is one of the hardest working drummers in Chicago or anywhere and rightfully So!! He is the link between the heart of Chicago Blues and Modern times, you can't find anyone better." **–Lil Frank**

"I look at Kenny Smith as family. Not only because of the relationship my dad and his dad had, but because of him, my brother. He is one of the greatest drummers in the world. He talks about me not falling far from the tree but he is more than what Willie and his mom could have expected of a son." **–Mud Morganfield**



"Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith is certainly the most in-demand Chicago Blues drummer in the world today. He carries on the drumming sound, style and legacy of his legendary father, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith while adding his own responsive and exciting versatility. He also carries on the friendliness and grace of the older generation of Chicago Blues legends like Hubert Sumlin, Bob Stroger, and of course his father. With all that going on, when Kenny sings, either behind the drums or in front of the band, he shows that he's a soulful Blues singer and captivating entertainer too. You can't hear Kenny or meet him without walking away with a big smile. In this photo I took in 1977, Muddy Waters and Gatemouth Brown couldn't know that the baby would be carrying on the style and spirit of their powerful music long after they're gone. But he is." **–Bob Margolin**

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"Proving that "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" after experiencing Kenny Smith's drumming live onstage, I can emphatically state that there's something spiritual about Kenny's drumming. One cannot ignore his in the pocket backbeat and flawless time. Having been taught the blues by his famous father, one can also hear that he would be just as comfortable on a gospel, jazz or and R&B set! If he is the future of the blues, then business is good!" **–Big LLou Johnson, Singer/Songwriter and Voice of BB Kings Bluesville**

"There are good reasons that Kenny Smith is one of the busiest working blues musicians anywhere. His excellent and supportive drumming has earned him steady work with a wide variety of bands on stage and in the studio. He can be counted on to bring a master's grasp of the Chicago blues tradition (instilled in large part by his father, legendary drummer Willie "Big Eyes" Smith), along with an outstanding sense of how to listen and what's appropriate, and a solid and positive personality. Now he's singing, too; look out, world! Kenny's resume and discography are already lengthy; his bright future should add to them immensely, and reward any and all who continue to call upon his musical services." **–Dick Shurman, producer and historian**

"Kenny Smith is a young man of considerable taste, truly a dynamic, first class drummer of the first magnitude. He is a world class drummer, internationally known, sort after by musicians all over the world. It is a pleasure to know him and to work with him." **–Billy Boy Arnold**

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"Kenny Smith is one of the brightest young stars in the blues galaxy. It always brings a smile to my face when I turn around and see my friend Kenny Smith sitting at the drum kit. Kenny Smith is not only a great drummer, but a real gentleman. The blues needs musicians like Kenny Smith to survive in the 21st century." **–Harlan Terson**

"Kenny Smith has quickly established himself as Chicago's favorite Blues drummer. His playing is infused with the history of the Blues, and yet sounds fresh and contemporary. And, like his father, he is one great guy, and easy and fun to work with." **–Sam Burckhardt**

"I've played many gigs over the past 15 years or so with Kenny. When he started playing drums he was good and he just keeps getting better and better. Kenny not only learned from the greats, he has now become one. He is the drummer who will carry the tradition of real Chicago blues drumming to the next generation. A hundred years from now drummers will be saying, "Man I got to get that Kenny Smith thing down". I always look forward to seeing him on the bandstand with that great smile. I'm proud to call him a friend." **–Rick Kreher**

"Wow, Kenny is one of the nicest guys I know. He is a gentleman and a good business man and a very good drummer. I love working with him and we do lot of work together and he is my friend and just like my son." **–Bob Stroger**

"Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith is not only a great drummer, he is a gifted all-around musician, producer and educator and a world-class blues artist in his own right who invariably brings so much and so many intangibles to every musical situation he participates in. His ultimate goal and engagement is always in service to the ensemble and the music, and because of that, he makes everyone around him better. That is what a great ensemble player is all about. Drumming is in Kenny's blood, having the distinct privilege of growing up at the feet of the pioneers of the Chicago Blues and learning first-hand from his legendary father and long-time drummer for Muddy Waters, Willie "Big-Eyes" Smith. Kenny is carrying on his father's legacy and other seminal blues drummers such as Fred Below, Odie Payne, SP Leary, Francis Clay and others. But it would be inaccurate to merely lump Kenny into the "blues-drummer" category because he carries his talent to a variety of musical styles and brings with him all those qualities that make him a valuable asset to any music project." **–Larry Skoller, Grammy-Nominated Producer, Director, Raisin Music Productions**

"Kenny Smith... Great guy, great musician. Always the perfect touch, a gifted entertainer, Kenny is a consummate drummer who respects his legendary musical heritage, shares it with every audience, and lovingly passes his gifts to the next generation. Knowing and performing with Kenny is an honor and a privilege. He is my friend for life." **–Mister Mojo, MOJO & The Bayou Gypsies**

"When I'm playing with Kenny, I completely forget that there's a person holding wooden sticks back there, beating on some drums. I just feel music. I've realized over the years that the very best musicians aren't the ones who make you sit up and take notice of the players and their chops, their speed, their power or their technique--they're the ones who magically make you forget that there ARE even players up there, because all you hear and feel is the emotion, beauty and soul of the music. If you think that me forgetting that we even have a drummer on stage when it's Kenny Smith back there isn't the highest compliment, then, to quote Dave Mason, "we just disagree." **–Johnny Iguana**

"Talking about SOLID!!!! Solid as a drummer and solid as a man. You are talking about Kenny Smith. Everybody who knows him wants him in their band." **–Deitra Farr (Mama D)**

"Kenny Smith has one of the best feels for both blues and rock music. He timing is impeccable and is a pleasure to play with and a great personality." **–Keith Scott**

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"Kenny Smith is one of the last humans on Earth who actually knows how to play Blues drums. He is a consummate pro with incredible time and groove who makes everyone else around him sound better." **–A.J. Love**

"I could try to put all the nice things I have to say about Kenny Smith into one short statement, but that's pretty tough to do. Kenny Smith is the greatest drummer I have ever seen. Period. Beyond being born into it, Kenny has done his homework, and has a true understanding, and love for the Blues. Obviously, he was paying attention growing up. Kenny Smith understands what a groove is. He understands dynamics. He plays drums in a way nobody else seems to grasp. Old school, or new, as long as you give him a tempo, he's right there. He makes it fun to play music! Kenny is literally the meaning of 'The Next Generation of Blues'. On top of all that, he has class. You could not ask for a better person to do business with. I say this about Kenny Smith because I love him like a brother. And I don't even like anybody." **–Tad Walters**

"I've known Kenny Smith since he was about 16. He would come out and play drums with us and his father, Willie. He was the nicest kid back then and now has grown up to be a remarkable man. Since then I have played dozens of gigs, recorded, and collaborated on design projects with Kenny. His combination of pure talent, positive attitude, and creativity puts Kenny Smith on my highest level of regard. Kenny inspired me to write the title track of the Special 20s, Eatin' Dirt, with his wonderful words of wisdom. Kenny is a true pleasure to work with and I am honored to know him." **–Ted Beranis**

"I have recorded Kenny on countless recording projects and he is by far one of the most creative and imaginative drummer/percussionists I've had the pleasure of working with. No one can shuffle like he can and he shines at Rock, R&B, and any other genre you can name." **–Blaise Barton, Grammy Award winning Producer / Engineer JoyRide Studio, Chicago**

"Kenny has been one of the best blues drummers in Chicago – where there is a LOT of blues drummers – since before he was old enough to get into a blues club. Nowadays, nobody can touch him!" **–Scott Dirts**

"Kenny Smith is a contemporary blues master. The entire blues vocabulary is intact inside this artist and with this vocabulary Kenny makes statements that are simultaneously deeply traditional and brand new. He possesses the knowledge of the most well-versed archivist and the sound and energy of an innovator; there is never a false moment. Simply put he is one of the baddest--(shut my mouths)-- on the planet." **–Matthew Skoller**

"Always humble, on and off the bandstand, never looking for the spotlight, Kenny is a classy man. He is ever faithful as a friend, and always reliable and responsible as a musician. From a performance point of view, what I love most about Kenny is his musicality. Indeed, his drums sing with the band and his timing is impeccable. A human metronome! He is also an uncanny listener. He adds rhythmic touches to whoever leads a song, be they a singer or a lead instrument. He is a subtle player, never loud, always soulful. He sounds as wonderful with coins, with a simple cardboard as he does with brushes or a full drum-kit. Kenny is a dream to play with, and he is one of my closest friends though he is half my age. I consider him a member of my family." **–Pierre Lacocque**

"I have known Kenny since he was a kid and I have been playing and recording and touring with him for almost 20 years. He is one of the very best blues drummers I have played alongside. He has merged his Dad's sound with his own style and the result is instantly recognizable as his very own. He is the first choice for a whole lot of musicians around the world!" **–Barrelhouse Chuck**

"When I go to Chicago to play, the #1 drummer I call is Kenny Smith. He can play it all. I always have a great time when I play with Kenny. I'm grateful to have met such a professional and gentleman." **–John Garcia**

KENNY SMITH

"One of the first things you realize about Kenny is that he is a consummate professional, on and off stage, then you realize though he comes from one of the richest Blues lineages in History, he is not only in my opinion the best Blues drummer in the world, he is one of the Best Drummers in the world. A student of World percussion Kenny is at home in whatever the genre of Music he's asked to perform, I am truly honored to call him a colleague and a friend, You can't go wrong with Kenny Smith on Drums". **–Bill Sims Jr.**

"One of the baddest backbeats I've ever heard. In the studio or in the clubs, Kenny's always a pleasure to work with. A versatile drummer specializing in traditional Chicago blues, Kenny's always closely listens to the players around him - a true sign of a great musician." **–Dave Specter**

"Kenny's drumming sound is beautiful. I can feel from his playing how much he loves blues and how much he loves music. He is always a natural and thoughtful person. I can relax when I play with him and I respect him." **–Rie**

"Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith is carrying on the legacy of his father the late, great Willie "Big Eyes" Smith as the foremost blues drummer in the Chicago blues world. Kenny is the most in-demand blues drummer in the world and for good reason: he's a "human metronome" who has mastered the art of traditional Chicago blues drumming. His blues shuffle is the "gold standard" for blues drummers everywhere and he plays with a feeling that is natural, tasteful, and refined but also very powerful. Kenny is able to make more music with a snare drum, brushes and high hat than most blues drummers these days can make with their oversized modern drum kits. Perhaps what is most remarkable about Kenny is how well he "listens" to his band mates while he is playing with them and his almost telepathic ability to anticipate and respond to their playing at any given second during a live performance or recording session. It's an honor for me to be a friend of his and play music with him on a regular basis." **–Joseph Nosek, Cash Box Kings**

"Kenny Smith creates great Chicago blues every time he gets on the bandstand." **–Rockin Johnny**

"Kenny Smith is a good person; sincere, humble and honest with a charitable heart which was demonstrated with the Louisiana Swamp Stomp CD. As a drummer he plays the pocket with a solid groove and gives his fellow band members impeccable timing to rely on. He is dedicated, responsible, reliable and respectful." **–Dawn O'Keefe Williams**

"Kenny is a consummate professional & gem of a musician and person. The first day I meant Kenny, I instantly knew I wanted him to be my drummer & my friend. Musically, professionally, & personally, Kenny is the total package which is why he is one of the most in demand drummers in the world. Specifically, Kenny is known internationally as one of the top blues drummers. However, he is exceptionally versatile and can excel at virtually any genre with his great sense of groove and creativity. No matter what type of music, Kenny plays what is appropriate with confidence & style. Not to mention, Kenny has a deep, powerful, & soulful voice which he continues to showcase with increasing frequency. No matter if you are a musician & get the opportunity to perform with Kenny, or if you are a music fan & get the opportunity to hear Kenny, consider it a privilege & an honor." **–Matt Stedman**

"In my book Kenny is my drummer of choice. He's EVERYBODY's drummer of choice, what more can I say? My only regret is not being able to do more things with him due to the distance between Madison and Chicago." **–Cadillac Rob**

"Playing with Kenny Smith has taught me so much about being a musician. Rhythm, Dynamics, timing, being a front man, professionalism. Kenny was really the first professional drummer I started playing with and it changed everything for me. On top of all of his skills, he is one of the nicest guys you will ever meet." **–Morry Sochat, The Special 20's**

"Kenny Smith is truly a son of the blues. Brought up near Muddy Waters Drive on Chicago's south side, the son of Willie 'Big Eyes' Smith, Kenny is keeping the Blues alive behind the drums as well as being able to lead his own combo singing the songs that have been an important part of the blues heritage throughout the years. It's always been a pleasure to work with Kenny at the Chicago Blues Festival in all kinds of contexts but more important it's been an honor to think of Kenny as a friend." **–Barry Dolins**

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"Kenny Smith is by far the most versatile, innovative drummer on the Chicago Blues scene today. His creativity and enthusiasm has made a huge difference in the recordings we've made together." **–Rick Bates- Bates Meyer Inc., Personal Manager for Lurrie Bell and Otis Rush**

"Kenny Smith is a member of the Royal Blues Family and Keeper of the Blues Flame. Groove Master in the 1st Degree." **–Big Bill Morganfield**

"Kenny Smith learned his craft from one of the best and it shows. He is one of the most sought after session musicians in the Blues business. He is so gifted with talent that much like his father, it would not surprise anyone if someday he started playing a second instrument and fronting his own band." **–Bob Keeser, Publisher Blues Blast Magazine**

"I have had the privilege of recording Kenny Smith on two releases for The Sirens Records. Kenny is the consummate professional who plays with high energy and good feeling. He is an integral part of the Chicago blues community." **–Steven Dolin's, President, The Sirens Records**

"Kenny is a phenomenal drummer and the nicest guy you'll ever meet." **–Andrew Diehl**

"The drums go deep into the soul and talks with the musical spirits. Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith is a consummate drummer." **–Harmonica Hinds**

"Kenny Smith is one of my favorite young drummers! His music is great and he is such a nice guy. Can't wait to hear him play the blues again!" **–Tom Foley**

"When I get on the gig and see Kenny behind the drums, I know it'll be a good night." **–Paul Kaye**

"Kenny is a drummer's drummer. Probably the most sought after drummer by the top bluesmen in the blues capital of the world. That should tell you all you need to know. But Kenny is also highly respected and approachable, and is a humble player despite his blues lineage. Even Kenny doesn't yet realize how many fans he has across Chicagoland and throughout the blues world, and he could already rest on the contributions that he has already made to recorded music, yet he is just getting started." **–BlackJack – Blues DJ at 90.9fm WDCB and Board Member of Windy City Blues Society**

"I've been recording American blues and roots music for over 35 years and Kenny Smith is what we in the business term a "first call musician". He's a great player, he's reliable, and he brings a positive attitude to every project. Quite simply, he's a pleasure to work with and a great guy to know." **–Jerry Blind PIG Records**

"Kenny Smith possesses such a natural, intuitive sense of groove and space that playing with him is effortless. The pocket is always deep and the entire band thrives because of it." **–Brian Burke**

"Kenny Smith is an incredible player whose drumming combines a total immersion in the blues tradition and a great contemporary feel; he is a rare, powerful and elegant musician and person!!" **–Vincent Bucher**

"When you're playing with Kenny, you can be sure you have someone back there who is tuned in...Really listening and responding to you at all times. That is what music is all about, and where the magic happens, and Kenny gets that. He's a special kind of musician, my favorite kind." **–Ernie Hendrickson**

"You are one of my favorite drummers to work with, and you know this.... Because after every gig, I always tell you how much "Fun" I have had playing with you! The reason behind this: You may NOT know this.... Sometimes, I may have experienced a not-so-great gig earlier in the week, but every opportunity I've had to perform with you, you make my job as a bassist seem very easy! And, I can only say, "Thanks for being there for me!" "NOBODY CAN WORK A HI-HAT LIKE YOUON A SHUFFLE!" **–E.G. McDaniel**

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