

## JAG Entertainment

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### **Kenny Aronoff** **Biography**

Kenny Aronoff is one of the world's most influential and in-demand drummers and percussionists. *Rolling Stone*, in fact, cited him as one of the "100 Greatest Drummers of All Time" and *Modern Drummer* named him #1 Pop/Rock Drummer and #1 Studio Drummer for five years. The list of artists he's worked with on the road and/or in the studio reads like a who's who of the music industry, and includes John Mellencamp, The Rolling Stones, The Smashing Pumpkins, Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Sting, Lady Gaga, Bruno Mars, Pharell Williams, Lenny Kravitz, Bob Seger, Bob Dylan, John Fogerty, Jon Bon Jovi, Elton John, Rod Stewart, Steven Tyler, Slash, Eric Clapton, Dave Grohl, Garth Brooks, Don Henley, Melissa Etheridge, Keith Urban, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Puddle of Mudd, Joe Cocker, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, John Legend, Beyonce, Mick Jagger, Bonnie Raitt, Ricky Martin, Santana, Crosby Stills and Nash, Celine Dion, Vince Gill, The Buddy Rich Big Band and many others. The full list fills pages ([www.kennyaronoff.com](http://www.kennyaronoff.com)). With a style of playing that combines power and finesse, his unique and versatile sound has been instrumental on over 60 Grammy-nominated or awarded recordings representing over 300 million in sales, with more than 1300 that were RIAA certified Gold, Platinum or Diamond.

Kenny's winning approach to drumming and to life has given him the ability to sustain a successful career for over three and a half decades.

He has an extraordinary gift and ability to manipulate sound using drums, cymbals and a variety of percussion instruments, the combination of which create a rare and custom accompaniment for each artist for whom he sets the pace – and raises the bar. His talent and acclaim have earned him recognition with signature gear including Vic Firth drumsticks, Meinl has Kenny Aronoff signature cowbells in two sizes, and Tama features three Kenny Aronoff Trackmaster signature snare drums bearing his name.

In addition to performing and creating amazing music, Kenny is so inspiring that he is now sought after as a motivational speaker, espousing “The 7 Keys to a Successful Life and Career.” He talks about becoming successful and sustaining that success in your chosen career and in life. Self-Discipline and Hard Work fueled by Passion and Education move you forward on the path. Persistence. Perseverance and the Repetition of anything is the Preparation for your for Success. Striving to always be better have been the tools that have kept Kenny at the top of his game for over 35 years.

Author is the most recent addition to his long line of credits. *Sex, Drums, Rock ‘n’ Roll! The Hardest Hitting Man in Show Business* (Backbeat Books, November 15, 2016). This is only a tell all in the sense that he shares his learning experiences both behind the drum set and with those he shared the stage with. This is not about sex; it is about the same passion that drives us all to be the best we can be doing what we love with those with whom we want to share our talents.

The book takes us from his early years when, like many other kids, Kenny joined his first band, The Alley Cats, in Massachusetts at age eleven after seeing the BEATLES on the Ed Sullivan show. A self-taught drummer, he played in local bands throughout junior high and high school. At 16, he decided to focus on classical music studied and played with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, including world-renowned timpanist Vic Firth. He went on to study at the University of Massachusetts and at

Indiana University, where, among other honors, he was awarded the school's prestigious Performer's Certificate. During summer breaks he played in the symphony orchestras at the Aspen Music Festival (run by The Juilliard School of Music) and the Tanglewood Music Festival (run by the Boston Symphony Orchestra).

After graduating, Kenny was offered timpani positions in several symphony orchestras, but instead studied drum set in Boston and New York. He began to concentrate on jazz and fusion music, and in 1977 he returned to Indiana and spent several years in a popular local band until 1980 when he joined the John Mellencamp band, recording 10 albums and touring with him over a 17-year period. Kenny's innovative style and solid backbeat became the driving force behind Mellencamp's long run of definitive hit records in the '80s and '90s, a list that includes *American Fool*, *Scarecrow*, *Uh Huh*, *The Lonesome Jubilee*, *Whenever We Wanted*, *Dance Naked*, *Big Daddy*, *Human Wheels*, *Mr. Happy Go Lucky* and others.

In the mid-80s, Kenny began an enormously successful career as a studio musician. Today he's among the world's most in-demand session drummers. Kenny has his own studio in North Hollywood, CA, Uncommon Studios LA where he records drums for artists and bands.