

## Steve Smith - Biography

Steve Smith started playing drums in 1963, at the age of nine. He studied music at the Berklee College of Music from 1972 to 1976. Over the past 35 years he has toured and recorded with some of the biggest names in jazz and rock - appearing on recordings that have sold over 100 million copies worldwide - including Journey, Bryan Adams, Mariah Carey, Andrea Bocelli, Zucchero and Jean-Luc Ponty.

Smith is currently touring with his own all-star band Vital Information featuring Tom Coster, Vinny Valentino and Baron Browne. They are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the release of their 2012 album *LIVE! One Great Night*. Smith also regularly tours with Steps Ahead and the Indo-Jazz Fusion groups The Raga Bop Trio and George Brooks Summit. Other notable artists he has played with include Zakir Hussain, Hiromi, Buddy DeFranco, Benny Golson, Ahmad Jamal, Dave Liebman, Randy Brecker, Michael Brecker, Bill Evans, Mike Stern, Richard Bona, Mike Mainieri, Andy Fusco, Mark Soskin, Baron and Walt Weiskopf.

Smith produced and played on a series of 16 jazz albums for the Tone Center label featuring players such as Frank Gambale, Stu Hamm, Oteil Burbridge, Larry Coryell, Jerry Goodman, Howard Levy, Steve Marcus, Scott Henderson and Victor Wooten. His release *The Best Of Steve Smith - The Tone Center Collection* is a sample of some of the best tracks from those collaborations.

Steve Smith was recently voted "#1 Fusion Drummer" in the 2012 Modern Drummer readers poll. Smith has previously been voted "#1 All-Around Drummer" in the Modern Drummer Magazine Readers Poll for five consecutive years from 1987-1991. The 2008, 2009 and 2010 Drum! Magazine readers poll voted Smith #1 Jazz Drummer. In 2001 Steve was named by Modern Drummer Magazine as one of the "Top 25 Drummers of All Time." In 2002, he was voted into the Modern Drummer Hall of Fame and in 2003 his Hudson Music DVD *Steve Smith Drumset Technique - History of the U.S. Beat*, was voted #1 Educational DVD." Hudson Music released Steve's DVD/CD *Drum Legacy - Standing on the Shoulders of Giants* in 2008, which was voted Best DVD of 2009 by the readers of Drum! Magazine.

In 2009 Steve played at Carnegie Hall in NYC with a special quartet version of "Zakir Hussain's Masters of Percussion"

that also featured "Vikku" Vinayakram and Giovanni Hidalgo. In 2010 The Raga Bop Trio featuring Prasanna, George Brooks and Smith released an album on the Abstract Logix label and toured extensively. In 2011 & 2012 Steve has been touring with the virtuosic jazz pianist Hiromi as a member of her "Trio Project" which also featured Anthony Jackson on bass.

For more info on Steve Smith go to:  
[www.vitalinformation.com](http://www.vitalinformation.com)