

## **Steve Smith and Vital Information - NYC Edition**

**Steve Smith (Journey/Steps Ahead) - drums**

**Mark Soskin (Sonny Rollins/Herbie Mann) - keyboards**

**Vinny Valentino (Jimmy McGriff/Bill Evans) - guitar**

**Baron Browne (Jean-Luc Ponty/Billy Cobham) - bass**

Steve Smith has been touring and recording with his all-star group Vital Information since 1983. The line-up of **Vital Information NYC Edition** incorporates players from all of Smith's bands: guitarist Vinny Valentino (from Vital Information and The Groove Blue Organ Trio), pianist Mark Soskin (from Jazz Legacy and Buddy's Buddies), bassist Baron Browne (from Jazz Legacy, Buddy's Buddies and Vital Information), with Smith on drums.

Since 2016 Smith started touring again with the iconic rock band **Journey**, the group in which he recorded nine albums with multiple massive hits. In 2018 alone, Journey played for over 1,000,000 fans in arenas and stadiums across North America.

With **VI NYC Edition** performing at clubs and festivals around the world, it's a perfect opportunity to see Smith with his jazz-fusion band in an intimate setting, with great sound, where you can appreciate the details of their high-level musicianship, their sense of joy onstage and experience their collective virtuosic improvisation.

Steve Smith had this to say about Vital Information NYC Edition's philosophy: *"Our music allows for individual expression and re-invention. We thrive on swing, groove and creativity. We want to surprise each other every night on the bandstand with new ideas and in the process keep our audience 'in the moment' with us."*

Over the years, Steve has won a number of *Modern Drummer* reader's polls including "#1 All-Around Drummer" five years in a row. In 2001, he was named "one of the Top 25 Drummers of All Time," and in 2002 he was voted into the *Modern Drummer* Hall of Fame.

In 2012 and 2015, the readers of *Modern Drummer* voted Smith "#1 Fusion drummer" and in 2017, he topped an unprecedented three categories: "#1 MVP," "#1 Rock drummer" and "#1 Educational Product" for his Hudson Music Book/DVD *Pathways of Motion*. On April 7, 2017 Smith was inducted into the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame** for his work with **Journey**. And in 2018 *Modern Drummer* readers voted him #1 Classic Rock drummer.

JazzTimes says: "Vital Information is one of improvised music's best-kept secrets, the tunes are adventurous and they always groove. The musicians shoot for, and achieve, real emotion rather than soulless fireworks." - **Felix Contreras, JazzTimes**

Vital Information NYC Edition's most recent releases on BFM Jazz: *Viewpoint* (2015) and *Heart of the City* (2017). [www.vitalinformation.com](http://www.vitalinformation.com) [www.facebook.com/vitalinformation](https://www.facebook.com/vitalinformation)