## CONTENTS

*CD audio examples performed by Rich Lackowski.*
*Instructional photos by Larry Lytle.*

**This book picks up** where *On the Beaten Path: Beginning Drumset Course, Level 1* leaves off. It is designed to help you get "on the beaten path," that is, to help you play the beats and solos that our mighty drumming predecessors play on the songs we love. You will learn everything you need to know to go from the first thought of "I want to play the drums" to playing some of the most legendary beats and solos ever recorded! Many books claim to do this very thing, but what sets this book apart from the rest is that here, you will learn by playing along with the greatest drummers in the world—all types of famous drummers from a variety of musical styles—and you'll learn how to play the beats that they perform on some of the most famous songs ever recorded. This book explains what these drummers play on their songs by breaking it down in a way that gets you to learn to read music and start developing your own ideas into beats, fills, and solos.

I believe that drummers learn by mimicking their heroes. Sure, beats grow and change and morph into original ideas, but all drummers—from aspiring beginners to seasoned professionals—are naturally inspired by what other drummers are playing. The proof is in all those people you've seen air drumming along to some key part in a song. Many of these people have never sat behind a drumset or even held a drumstick, but the drum beat and the framework of the song somehow gets them to raise their arms in the air and act out their interpretation of a moving drum passage. It's basic human instinct. When writing this book, I wanted to guide this natural instinct in a way that logically feeds you information as you need it so you can accelerate the process of learning how to play your drumming heroes' beats.

I know when I first started playing the drums, even though I had just begun taking group lessons on the snare drum in school, that the *real* learning happened when I got home and threw down my boring class snare drum book that our teacher assigned to us. I put on the headphones each day, sat behind my drum kit, and tried to mimic the beats and fills that the drummers were playing on my favorite songs. Through trial and error, I was eventually able to play the songs and at least fake my way through the more difficult parts.

In this book, I will accelerate this process of trial and error, and guide you through the things that every drummer needs to know in order to play the drums. This book can be used with or without a teacher. Although you don't *need* a teacher to use this book, it would benefit you to go find a drum teacher in your area and take lessons. A teacher will get you to practice if nothing else, but they will also correct any bad techniques you may be developing before they become hard-to-break habits.

Now let's get started and begin our journey On the Beaten Path!

## Icons Used in This Book

The following icons are used throughout this book to help you learn valuable information and to become a better drummer.
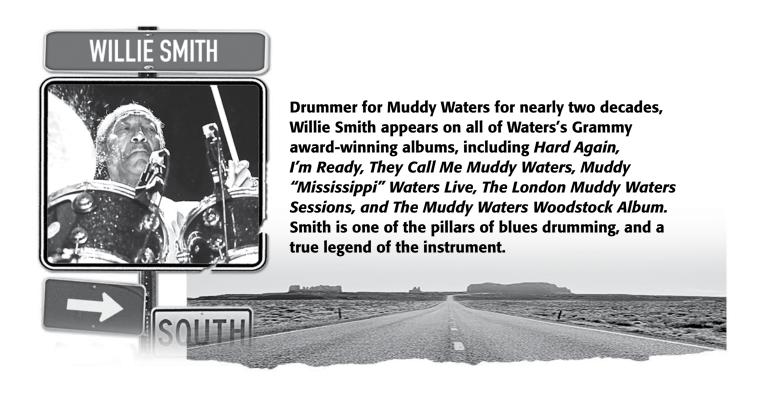
**TIP:** This icon is shown near helpful tidbits of advice.

**TOOL:** This icon is shown near key concepts or tools that will help you play the drums with more expression and personality.

**TERM:** This icon is shown near explanations of key music notations and concepts.

WILLIE SMITH

**Drummer for Muddy Waters for nearly two decades, Willie Smith appears on all of Waters's Grammy award-winning albums, including *Hard Again, I'm Ready, They Call Me Muddy Waters, Muddy "Mississippi" Waters Live, The London Muddy Waters Sessions,* and *The Muddy Waters Woodstock Album.* Smith is one of the pillars of blues drumming, and a true legend of the instrument.**

# "I Want to Be Loved #2"
## FROM MUDDY WATERS' *HARD AGAIN* (1977)

Drummer Willie Smith integrates a short triplet drum fill right into the drum beat of this song, which was written by the mighty bluesman Willie Dixon, and performed here by "the father of Chicago blues," Muddy Waters.

**Original transcription (Intro):**

♩ = 112

**Track 9**



Let's start by getting comfortable playing the basic blues beat before adding the triplet snare fills.



Now, let's add that triplet fill that comes at the end of the two-bar phrase, beginning on the "let" of beat 3 in bar 2.