

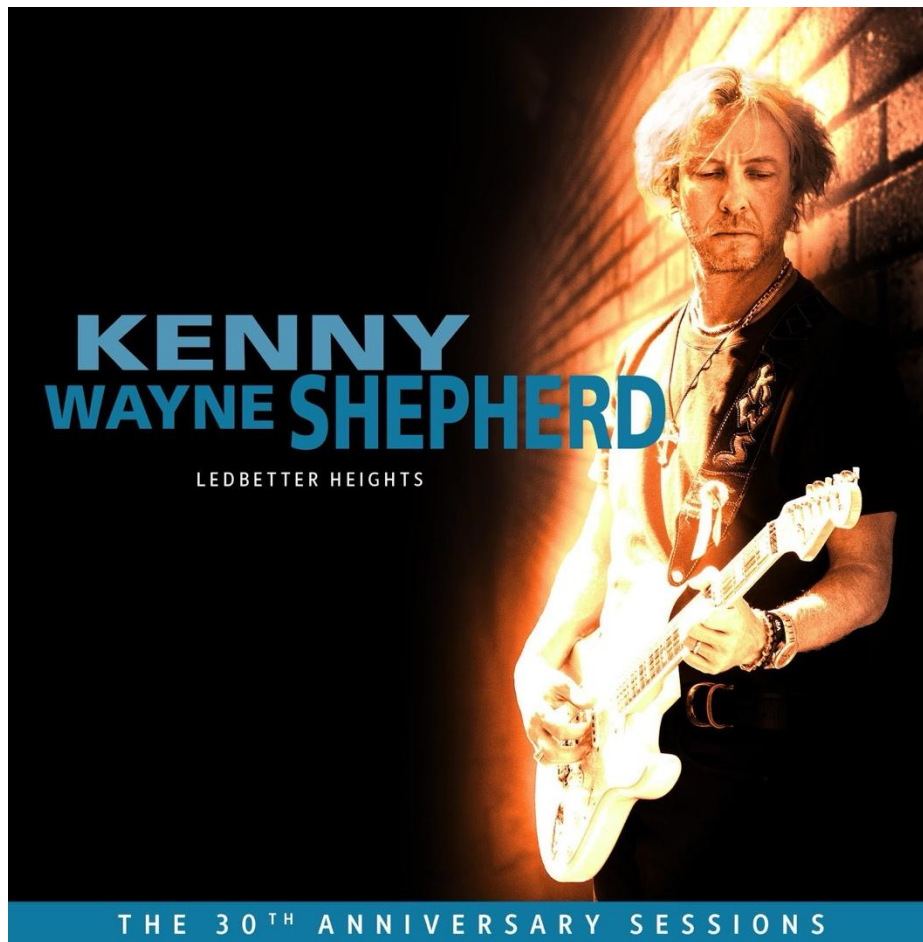
Kenny Wayne Shepherd
announces 30th anniversary re-recording of
Ledbetter Heights,
out May 8th

The album that launched his career is reborn with renewed power and
perspective,

LEDBETTER HEIGHTS (The 30th Anniversary Sessions)

Lead single “Deja Voodoo” sets the tone with a blistering new take; listen [HERE](#)

For more information, visit KennyWayneShepherd.com



Thirty years after a Fender Strat-wielding teenager from Shreveport, Louisiana bought the blues back into the mainstream, the platinum-selling, six-time GRAMMY-nominated blues-rock guitarist **Kenny Wayne Shepherd** returns to the album that started it all with **a newly recorded 30th anniversary edition of *Ledbetter Heights***, arriving **May 8th**. Marking the announcement, Shepherd has also released the lead single “Deja Voodoo,” available now on [all streaming platforms](#).

At a time when grunge dominated the cultural conversation, Shepherd emerged unapologetically rooted in a genre often pushed to the margins. With fiery fretwork, pop-rock hooks, and a deep reverence for the blues, his arrival cut through the noise and connected with a new generation of listeners. Signed by legendary executive Irving Azoff at just 16, Shepherd **recorded the album while still in high school**, splitting his time between classes in Louisiana and sessions in Memphis.

Now, three decades later, Shepherd is as vital as ever. No longer the teenage prodigy, he has grown into a master, touring, recording, collaborating, and evolving. The new release revisits *Ledbetter Heights* from the vantage point of a career shaped by decades of experience, returning to the album that first put him on the map and established him as a torchbearer for the blues.

“This is the album that put me on the map, and I still enjoy listening to it because my goal has always been to make music I want to listen to,” Shepherd says. “Unfiltered and straight from the heart.”

A key presence on the project is longtime collaborator and legendary drummer **Chris “Whipper” Layton**, a founding member of **Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble**, who has played alongside Shepherd since the original *Ledbetter Heights* sessions. The album was co-produced with **Jerry Harrison**, whose history with Shepherd spans multiple records including *Trouble Is...* and its 25th anniversary re-recording. Guitar fans will recognize another full-circle detail, as Shepherd returned to his original 1995 rig for the sessions, grounding the recordings in the same sonic palette that first introduced him to audiences.



Photo credit: Larry Philpot

When *Ledbetter Heights* was first released, it quickly became a breakout success, going Gold within months and earning Platinum certification by early 1996. The album also spent **10 weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Blues Chart**, *Guitar World* ranked Shepherd **the No. 3 blues artist in the world**, behind only B.B. King and Eric Clapton. He wrote or co-wrote the majority of the material, an uncommon accomplishment for a teenage blues guitarist at the time, and named the album in honor of a historic neighborhood in his hometown that pays tribute to blues legend Huddie “Lead Belly” Ledbetter.

In the years since, Shepherd has built one of the most enduring careers in modern blues-rock. His sophomore album, *Trouble Is...*, marked another major breakthrough, reaching No. 1 on Billboard’s Mainstream Rock chart and spending 20 consecutive weeks atop the Billboard Blues Chart. Across his career, Shepherd has earned six GRAMMY nominations, multiple Platinum

and Gold records, and a reputation as one of the genre's most consistent touring artists, sharing stages with **Bob Dylan, B.B King, Van Halen, The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, and Lynyrd Skynyrd**.

Shepherd's longevity is rare for an artist who broke through so young in a genre like the blues. That staying power stems from a refusal to stand still. A restless creative, he has always kept one foot firmly planted in blues tradition while the other explores the broader rock landscape. His 12-album catalog, along with projects like **The Rides** alongside **Stephen Stills and Barry Goldberg**, reflects a wide-ranging artistic continuum that bridges classic and contemporary sounds. Recent work, **Young Fashioned Ways**, from his Grammy nominated collaboration with blues legend **Bobby Rush** to his genre-bending double album **Dirt on My Diamonds Vol. 1 & 2**, underscores an artist who continues to push his sound forward.

That same instinct is embedded in the re-recording. The new version revisits the original 12-song collection with a deeper sense of nuance and intention. While the spirit and energy of the original recordings remain intact, the updated version reflects a more deliberate approach to arrangement and a more expressive guitar voice. The fire that defined the original sessions still burns, now shaped by years of touring, recording, and collaboration.

"Before I could identify with the lyrics, I always could identify with the feeling of the blues," Shepherd says. "When you pour your heart out, everyone can feel that."

The release of the album arrives alongside Shepherd's ongoing *Ledbetter Heights* 30th Anniversary Tour, where he and his band are performing the full album live for the first time, along with a second set spanning his three-decade career. The tour has brought the celebration to theaters and performing arts centers across the country, with select dates featuring special guests Jimmie Vaughan and Eric Johnson, and continues to build momentum as it expands into new markets.

Additional dates will be announced in the coming weeks. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit kennywayneshepherd.net/tour.

Ledbetter Heights (The 30th Anniversary Sessions)

Born with a Broken Heart
Deja Voodoo
Aberdeen
Shame, Shame, Shame
One Foot on the Path
Everybody Gets the Blues
While We Cry (Live)
I'm Leaving You (Commit a Crime)
(Let Me Up) I've Had Enough
Riverside
What's Goin' Down
Ledbetter Heights

2026 Ledbetter Heights 30th Anniversary Tour

Friday, April 10th – Joe Bonamassa's Beach Vacation – Miramar Beach, FL
Saturday, April 11th – Tampa Bay Blues Festival – St. Petersburg, FL
Sunday, April 12th – Hard Rock Live – Orlando, FL

Tuesday, April 14th – Broward Center @ Au-Rene Theater – Ft Lauderdale, FL**
Wednesday, April 15th – Florida Theatre – Jacksonville, FL**
Thursday, April 16th – Charleston Music Hall – Charleston, SC
Saturday, April 18th – Hollywood Casino – Charles Town, WV
Sunday, April 19th – Palace Theatre – Greensburg, PA
Wednesday, April 22nd – Brown County Music Center – Nashville, IN
Thursday, April 23rd – Taft Theatre – Cincinnati, OH
Friday, April 24th – Hard Rock – Gary, IN
Saturday, April 25th – MGM – Northfield, OH
Sunday, April 26th – Hollywood Greektown Casino / Music Hall – Detroit, MI
Wednesday, April 29th – GLC Live @ 20 Monroe – Grand Rapids, MI
Thursday, April 30th – Pabst Theatre – Milwaukee, WI
Friday, May 1st – Blue Gate PAC – Shipshewana, IN
Saturday, May 2nd – Hard Rock – Rockford, IL
Sunday, May 3rd – Hoyt Sherman Theatre – Des Moines, IA
Tuesday, May 5th – Virginia Theater – Champaign, IL
Thursday, May 7th – Uptown Theatre – Kansas City, MO
Friday, May 8th – Walker’s Bluff Casino – Carterville, IL
Saturday, May 9th – The Factory – St. Louis, MO
Saturday, June 13th – Paradise Theater @ Margaritaville Resort Casino – Bossier City, LA
Sunday, June 14th - The Buddy Holly Theatre - Lubbock, TX
Wednesday, June 17th - Kiva Auditorium - Albuquerque, NM
Thursday, June 18th - Rialto Theatre - Tucson, AZ
Friday, June 19th - Celebrity Theatre - Phoenix, AZ
Saturday, June 20th - Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts - Cerritos, CA
Sunday, June 21st - Oxnard Performing Arts Center - Oxnard, CA
Tuesday, June 23rd - California Center for the Arts - Escondido, CA
Thursday, June 25th - Capitol Theatre - Salt Lake City, UT
Thursday, September 10th – Big Blues Bender – Las Vegas, NV
Friday, September 11th – Sunset Center – Carmel, CA
Saturday, September 12th – Blue Note Summer Sessions – Napa, CA
Sunday, September 13th – Center for the Arts – Grass Valley, CA
Tuesday, September 15th – McDonald Theatre – Eugene, OR
Wednesday, September 16th – Moore Theatre – Seattle, WA
Thursday, September 17th – First Interstate Center for the Arts – Spokane, WA
Friday, September 18th – Alberta Bair Theater – Billings, MT
Friday, October 16th – Four Winds Casino – New Buffalo, MI

***With Special Guest Eric Johnson*

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