

# American ★ SONGWRITER

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**KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD** Ten Days Out (Blues from the Backroads) (WARNER BROS.) ★ ★ ★ ★

Kenny Wayne Shepherd's blues credentials and sincerity have occasionally been questioned by purists upset at his immediate and sustained commercial success, while older, more seasoned players languished. But Shepherd's always loved and respected the tradition and this valuable, inspiring new set affirms his desire to see cultural justice done. From the great anecdotes presented by Gatemouth Brown and Honeyboy Edwards, to the joyous music delivered in encounters between Shepherd and great but lesser known figures like Wild Child Butler and Jerry "Boogie" McCann, this is a blues lover's dream date. Sadly, six of the performers featured here have died since this was done, and it's as much a testament to their greatness as an indication of Shepherd's deep blues roots and genuine talent.—RON WYNN