



June 29, 2010

 WEEKLY SPECIAL

"BETTY LOU" - SEAN J. KENNEDY (DRUMS)



Drummer Cafe member, **Sean J. Kennedy**, recently produced, arranged and played drums/percussion on new debut EP disc, **Ramblin' Ant & The Locust Street Band**. The fourth cut is entitled "Betty Lou", which has a great opening groove that I wanted to share with you this week.

The skeleton rhythm for this groove is nothing new ... a three-beat repeated figure that some referred to as a 'broken clave', 3-3 clave ... the names go on and on. In music terms, the rhythm I'm talking about could be (in 4/4) and notated as a dotted-quarter-note, followed by a dotted-quarter-note, followed by a quarter-note. This rhythm is extremely common, in fact it can be found in almost every culture on the planet. In the case of the groove I've notated for you here, the skeleton rhythm has been diminished to an eighth-note version.

Sean has found a fun way to take this rhythm and flip it a bit by placing the Snare drum on beat one; something you might hear in New Orleans second line or New Orleans funk drumming. The legato accent notations I've made signify a loose, accented HiHat.

Enjoy and keep it cookin',

Bart Elliott



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