

THE KEY OF G



WHAT ARE KENNY G'S PRE-SHOW RITUALS? FIND OUT AT PALMBEACHILLUSTRATED.COM/KENNYG

CHAPMAN BAEHLER



GOLF CLAP

Kenny G.'s love of golf extends to Palm Beach County. He is a regular at The Honda Classic and makes an annual sojourn to PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens to support and play in the philanthropic golfing event. Of course, there is a plethora of local spots to get swinging. Here are a few that stand out for all the right reasons:

Best Nineteenth Hole: At most golf courses, the nineteenth hole is a place to enjoy cocktails after a good round. But at the private Old Palm golf course, an actual Hole 19 serves as a way to settle contested wagers. *Palm Beach Gardens* (561-472-5120, oldpalmgolfclub.com)

Most Natural: When designing the private Emerald Dunes golf course, Tom Fazio worked with the existing landscape, complementing natural dunes with native grasses and adding paths made from coquina shells. *West Palm Beach* (561-687-1700, emeralddunesclub.com)

Prime Public: One of only two Nicklaus Signature municipal courses in the country, the Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course (pictured) at the North Palm Beach Country Club is nestled along the Intracoastal and available for public use. *North Palm Beach* (561-691-3433, village-npb.org)



On December 2, **Kenny G** arrives at the Kravis Center for an evening of contemporary jazz hits and festive holiday music. Kenny G (the "G" stands for Gorelick) picked up the saxophone at age 10 and landed his first professional gig in 1976 as a member of Barry White's Love Unlimited Orchestra. He broke out from behind the music stand to become a thriving solo artist, selling tens of millions of records worldwide. Today, he's a pop culture icon as famous for his curly locks as he is for his sax skills. Kenny G recently spoke with PBI about his musical style, admired artists, and passion for golf. (561-832-7469, kravis.org)

PBI: You're synonymous with the saxophone. Do you collect the instrument?

Kenny G: No, I'm not a collector at all. I have my high school saxophone, my soprano, that I still play. I also have my alto and my tenor, both [of which] I got just out of high school. Those three saxes are the same ones I play everywhere. I do have a couple other saxophones as spares that I found along the way. They presented themselves to me and were of the same era—the 1950s—that my saxophones are from. Also, I have my own saxophone line I created because I thought the design they did back in the '50s was so good that I wanted to recreate it in a modern way. I sell them at my shows and try to give good prices so that kids can afford them.

What did you listen to growing up and how did it influence your style?

I listened a lot to R&B music when I was going to high school. I listened to more jazz when I went to college. I think the two styles of music came together somehow. Anybody who has their own style, there's nothing conscious about it. It just happens because you have a perspective that feels right to you. Later on, you realize, "Oh, wow, it's very unique." But I wasn't really thinking about it like that in the beginning. I was playing in a way that sounded good to me and felt normal.

If you could collaborate with any musician, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Honestly, if I could get Stan Getz to do some music with me I would do it because I could learn a lot from his playing. If I could get John Coltrane to be standing next to me then I could learn a lot from him, too. So if you're asking me dead or alive, it's going to be a duet where I'm going to learn a lot.

One of your other hobbies is golf. What appeals to you most about the sport?

Anybody who gets into golf loves golf. It's just one of those things where it's up to you to hit a good shot—and you can. Then the same person can hit a really crappy shot minutes later. And then you hit a great shot. It's just the quest to repeat something and be great at it. It relates to music in that way. The problem is playing a saxophone is a lot easier than playing golf.