

Kansas: "Leftoverture" - Steve Walsh (org, synth, p, keyb, vib, voc); Robbie Steinhardt (v; va, voc); Kerry Livgren (g, keyb); Rich Williams (g); Dave Hope (b); Phil Ehart (dr), a.o. Kirshner JZ 34224

Format: LP / standard sleeve

Release date: 08.08.2008

An abridged version of the career of the rock group Kansas reads rather like an American music fairy tale. In 1973 the band sent out a handful of demo tapes to various recording companies, one of which landed on Don Kirshner's desk in New York. As luck had it, Kirshner was just building up his new label, and after he had satisfied himself that the group were pretty impressive when performing live, he offered them a contract. This was the end of Kansas as a supporting band, but also the beginning of pressure and stress to satisfy their success-hungry benefactor with a chart-topping hit.

Their fourth album, with its eternally popular "Carry On Wayward Son", brought the eagerly awaited breakthrough. "Leftoverture", named after the snippets (or left-overs) of unused melodies which were then worked on and expanded into the title Magnum Opus, went platinum four times over and is one of the most successful progressive rock recordings ever. Just how overwhelmed the music fans were and are by this extremely melodic, warm, and by no means harsh or metallic sound is evidenced by highly informative websites such as [www.Kansasband.com](http://www.Kansasband.com) or [www.Kansasworld.de](http://www.Kansasworld.de) (also in English). Kansas fans who only have a tatty original LP from the 70s will certainly welcome this opportunity to get a top-quality replacement.

Production: ?Jeff Glixman

