



# Kansas

## **DOUBLE "DEVICE-VOICE-DRUM" LIVE 'BEST OF' CD RELEASED JAN. 27TH 2003 ON SPV**

**Phil Ehart - Drums  
Billy Greer - Bass & Vocals  
Robby Steinhardt - Vocals & Violin  
Steve Walsh - Vocals & Keyboards  
Richard Williams - Guitar**

American heartland art rock band Kansas, who have sold over 30 million albums during their long and illustrious career, are set to release 'Device - Voice - Drum', a double live CD (recorded at Earthlink Live! - Atlanta, Georgia - on June 15th 2002), on SPV Records on January 27th 2003.

'Device - Voice - Drum' is a live concert film recorded for DVD and CD. The 'Device - Voice - Drum' live CD also features a live multimedia bonus track not included on the upcoming DVD, which SPV are set to release later in the year.

Formed in Topeka in 1972, Kansas have played a minimum of 100 concerts a year before a million people a year over the last decade. A specially selected career-spanning set list was chosen for the gig and this double live CD features performances of such mega hits as 'Dust In The Wind', 'Carry On Wayward Son' and 'Point Of Know Return'. 'Device - Voice - Drum' also features the vocal talents of 60 members of Atlanta's New Advent Choir.

Kansas appeared on the Billboard charts for over 200 weeks throughout the 70s and 80s and the band remains a staple of U.S. classic rock radio, with "Carry On Wayward Son" named as the Most Played Track of that format in 1997.

'Device - Voice - Drum' is being released as a double CD audio set with enhanced features. Creative Edge Advertising designed a multimedia platform that includes the video outtake of the song "Distant Vision," screensavers for Mac and PC, and a photo album of the DVD production.

[www.kansasband.com](http://www.kansasband.com)  
[www.spv.de](http://www.spv.de)  
[www.workhardpr.com](http://www.workhardpr.com)

**Dives Very Deep - Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466 or 020 8769 6713.  
16th December 2002.**



# KANSAS

## SOMEWHERE TO ELSEWHERE

Released July 31 – 2000 on SPV through Koch

Phil Ehart - drums

Billy Greer - bass guitar, lead vocals and background vocals

Dave Hope - bass guitar

Kerry Livgren - keyboards and guitars

Robby Steinhardt - violins, violas, lead vocals and background vocals

Steve Walsh - lead vocals and background vocals

Richard Williams - guitars

"I don't think we fit anywhere. And I'm very proud of that; meaning that the band, to me, defies easy categorization. And that's something I personally hold very highly. I like that fact. I'd just call us an American progressive rock band, which I guess is different from the British approach because of the blues influence." Guitarist and keyboard player Kerry Livgren on Kansas reconvening for a full-on reunion album for 2000.

Kansas have sold 30 million albums during 30 years in the business, proving that their unique brand of heartland art rock can, and indeed will, live on. "Somewhere To Elsewhere", recorded at Grandy Zine Studios on Livgren's farm in Berryton, Kansas, underscores and emphasizes that fact in fine fashion, the band creating dynamic progressive rock that indeed takes the listener to Elsewhere, back to the multi-platinum strings and strains of Leftoverture, 'Carry On My Wayward Son' and 'Dust In The Wind', and forward to the front edge of creative music-making this collective has produced since 1970, with only a two year break between 1983 and 1985.

Since 1991 Kansas have played a minimum of 100 dates a year. "Somewhere To Elsewhere" has brought back each and all recent contributors and original members of the band, including lead singer Steve Walsh, frontman and violinist Robbie Steinhardt (essentially the band has had a unique two front man configuration), and chief writer of the album Kerry Livgren, back after a 17-year absence. The result is a record that flames and flares with the Kansas chemistry of two very different guitarists, three lead vocalists (Steve Walsh takes most of the leads, although original frontman Robbie Steinhardt takes two, and Billy Greer takes one), two different bassists, a drummer, and Robbie Steinhardt's signature violin.

Drummer Phil Ehart explains how the project got its start. "Kerry and I discussed over the number of months leading up to this that he was writing material that sounded very much like early Kansas. He was just as surprised as we were. The stuff was coming out of him and getting demoed and he was like 'This sounds like classic Kansas.' So that's when we took a good listen, and when we heard it we said, 'we really want to do this. This is powerful material.'"

Then band then convened at Kerry's rural studio. Kerry speaks fondly of the sessions that ensued; "Probably the most significant thing was the relaxed and pleasant atmosphere minus all the normal stresses of recording, and I think that really contributed greatly to the album's vibe. I think that's one of

the reasons I like this album so much. For one thing it is a reunion; it's a bunch of guys with an incredible past that haven't worked together in a long time. I guess we got together to see if we could still do it, and not only could we still do it, but maybe in a lot of ways, we found that we could do it better than we ever did."

Kerry continues; "I guess that in the nature of things writing seems to be cyclical. We got to a point where we no longer cared about trying to fit neatly into any of the format niches. I came to the resolution myself

that 'why not write what I do best and not worry about the consequences?' Be true to your school (laughs). And what seems to be interesting, with the buzz about the band, is that people are generally very glad we did that rather than try to fit in."

Vocal dramatist Steve Walsh sees 'mood' in the final result: "I think every song on this album has sections that vacillate between extremes. It is incredibly moody. And I think things people identify with us in terms of the past, are also here in the present. And moody means a variety of moods, not just purples and browns and blacks. It's uplifting as well."

"Somewhere To Elsewhere" is studded with interesting twists and turns, soaring choruses ('When The World Was Young' should be a rock smash), celebrated Kansas styles, and some drop-dead surprises. For example, 'Myriad' is the first song Kansas ever wrote, albeit here offered in radically different form. "Myriad was an interesting song because parts of it were written even before this particular Kansas was even formed," says Phil. "It was one of the songs we learned when Kerry and I were back in the very first Kansas. It basically harks back to 1970, 1971 and the song never saw the light of day. And Kerry thought about it in this particular context. He kind of rewrote the whole thing. But there are parts in that that I remember playing 30 years ago. And it was actually called 'Myriad' back then too; we kept the title."

Opener 'Icarus II' is an instant Kansas classic, in essence, a follow-up to 'Icarus' from 1976's "Masque" album. Through elegant harmonies, hot solo performances, quirky arrangements, and a lead vocal from Steve that cuts through to the heart of the matter, 'Icarus II' tells a tragic tale. "'Icarus II' is actually based on a historical event about a World War II pilot who commanded his crew to bail out when the plane was all shot up. He stayed with it all the way to the ground to keep it from crashing into American troops. It's quite a heroic story."

The album also contains what is perhaps the band's funkier song ever - 'Grand Fun Alley' featuring a lyric which Kerry says is "kind of poking fun at the apocalypse; It's a song about a fictitious character who realizes he's at the very end of the ages and he still has a good attitude about it." 'Byzantium', according to Phil, is also firmly in the departure camp; "'Byzantium' is unlike any Kansas song we've ever done. It might hark back a little bit to early Zeppelin, or maybe Robert Plant circa Now & Zen, kind of that Arabic sound, which we've never addressed."

On the title of the album, Kerry says that "One of the reasons this title was chosen is that it has relevance to the project. For one thing I live on a farm out in the middle of nowhere, and all the guys that live in Atlanta, arguably live somewhere. From their perspective, they definitely came to elsewhere (laughs). And I also think the somewhere refers to the fact that we are all so scattered and apart and we suddenly reunited elsewhere."

Phil adds another twist; "It was a title that could pretty much mean anything, but for me it meant that this music can take you from somewhere to somewhere else, that Kansas music always evokes interesting images and that the music can take you from one point to another point."

Last word goes to Steve; "I would say Somewhere To Elsewhere is a branch of the tree that got us to wherever we are now. There's still experimentation going on, as there always will be. But there's a certain element where you go 'oh, I see now. I hear this and I recognize who this is.' There's definite identity in this material."

**3.8 seconds to go 0-60mph on me Triumph Thunderbird from er, somewhere to elsewhere:-**

*Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466.*

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