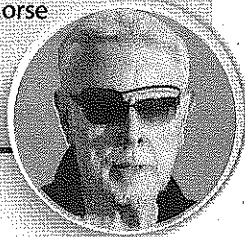


TALKING WITH ...

## Richard Williams

Prime seats are still available for the Kansas Concert Dec. 9 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.



By KRISTEN FIORE  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Legendary classic rock band Kansas is performing a concert at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Dec. 9 as part of the band's Leftoverture 40th Anniversary Tour, which celebrates the 40th anniversary of the album "Leftoverture" as well as other Kansas history.

Nearly 100 prime viewing seats still are available for the show. Tickets range from \$55 to \$125 and can be purchased online or at any box office in The Villages.

Audience members will hear Kansas classics such as "Carry on Wayward Son," "Dust in the Wind" and "Point of Know Return."

The show is a little more than two hours long and includes songs from 10 Kansas albums, as well as songs from the band's

newest album, "The Prelude Implicit."

The "Leftoverture" album will be performed in its entirety and original sequence.

This tour has been packing venues all over the United States, from the Moore in Seattle to the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh.

The Daily Sun recently spoke with original Kansas band member and guitarist Richard Williams about the Leftoverture 40th Anniversary Tour and other projects the band has in the works.

**The band has been around for a while. How have you stayed together so long and what has it been like to work together over the years?**

It's been almost 45 years now. Phil Ehart and I have played together since 1967. We're the only two originals of the original six. Other people have wandered away to do



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Kansas is performing a concert at The Sharon Dec. 9. Left to right are Richard Williams, Billy Greer, Zak Rizvi, Phil Ehart, Ronnie Platt, David Manion, and David Ragsdale.

other things. To keep six people together that long is pretty darn hard. In most bands, it doesn't happen. We've gone through several changes, but the unit has continued to move forward. I expect change to happen. You just have to keep taking the next step forward.

**How has this tour been going?**

It's been great. The Leftoverture 40th Anniversary Tour was only supposed to be about 15 dates last year, but it was successful so we added another week, added another week and so on. Then we continued doing it and have it all of this year. The 15 dates turned to 100 or so. We want to put it to rest at the end of this year, just because we have other things to do. Next fall is the 40th anniversary of the "Point of Know Return" album, so we'll do something for that. We're also planning on recording another studio album. We have a lot going on. This is the busiest I've ever been!

**How does it feel to be at the end of this tour?**

Usually I don't like to see the end of things. Last year it was the same way. By the time

we got to the end, there were no regrets. We'd left it all out there and worked and worked and worked. I'm not a big fan of breaks — about two weeks is my limit. But we're going to get together in February to start working on another album, so we'll be together. It's nice to be at the end because when you work hard and get to the end, at least you feel that you've earned the break.

**How will you run through the "Leftoverture" album at this concert?**

The last hour of the show is "Leftoverture" in its original order, but we will play other stuff for an hour and a half before that. We virtually play

songs from every album. We tried to recover as much of the Kansas history as we could, then play "Leftoverture" in its entirety and go home and go to sleep. It's a long night!

**What can you say about the new album you'll be sharing at the concert, "The Prelude Implicit"?**

It's the first studio album we've done in 17 years. We weren't trying to re-create ourselves or be something else. We were trying to be as quintessentially Kansas as we could be. That was really the focus and the goal, and we're very happy with the results. We're looking forward to doing it again with our next project.

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