



SPEAKING UP

Four new releases from the German audiophile outfit Speaker's Corner, pair off into contrasting genres. First, the jazz swing variants: Billie Holiday's 'Music For Torching' (1955), originally released on Clef including 'A Fine Romance' and 'Gone With The Wind' plus Ella Fitzgerald's 'Harold Arlen Song Book' (1960) from Verve, combining the previously issued and separate Volumes 1 and 2. The second genre is rock with Kansas's 'Leftoverture' (1976), the band's fourth album which mixed prog-rock concepts with deepest Americana. Probably the outfit's best album. Finally Mike Bloomfield, Al Kooper and Stephen (although 'Steve' here) Stills present 'Super Session' (1968), a three way blues-rock hook-up that tracked the continual maturing of the rock scene and is a superb moment in time, as we see songwriting become ever more considered, detailed and technical.