

Nils
Lofgren

Sacred
& Weapon



Powerful instrumentation

CD Nils Lofgren - *Sacred Weapon*
Wienerworld

Nils Lofgren - *Nils Lofgren Band Live*
Wienerworld

Nils Lofgren sprang to public notice as a solo artist in the 70s with a series of very strong compositions and performances such as 'Cry Tough', 'Keith Don't Go', 'Incidentally.... It's Over', 'I Came To Dance', 'It's Not A Crime', and 'Shine Silently'.

His distinctive voice and guitar and piano style are apparent on these two re-issues from the current millennium.

It takes a while to find definitively characteristic material on the studio album 'Sacred Weapon', a decidedly reflective project that includes gospel, pedal-steel country, and even funk. It entails instrumentation from dobro, accordion, dulcimer, glockenspiel, violins and synthesizers, and a choir. One track has Willie Nelson as a guest vocalist. David Crosby and Graham Nash are on another.

There's a more expected sound prevalent on the double-disc live album, which covers more familiar territory in terms of general approach. It incorporates a number of lesser-known songs from Lofgren's earlier years, with the other tracks including 'Driftin' Man', written with Lou Reed, and some unusual versions of 'First Time Ever I Saw Your Face', 'The Star Spangled Banner', and 'I Don't Want To Talk About It' – the last-named having been recorded in the early 70s by Neil Young's backing band Crazy Horse, which included a young Nils Lofgren.