

# Grapevine

K-tel album sells for \$232.50; highest price yet paid for label

Jeanette Frisk doesn't hide the fact that she is an avid collector of a one-named female singer who has sold millions of records and is regarded as one of the greatest performers in her country and abroad.

No, it's not Madonna or Cher, but Carola. "I've been a fan of Carola for years," said the Danish collector. "I'm trying to make a complete collection of all of her music."

The Swedish singer, who has a career of relative obscurity in America, has had 18 #1 songs in her native land. She has released 15 albums and 58 singles over her career, and her debut album, *Främling*, sold one million copies, the most of any artist in Sweden — including ABBA.

So when Fisk discovered the Canadian release of the 1984 album *Carola — With Love* (K-tel NC 576) on the online auction site eBay, no amount of money was going to keep her from the prize.

On Aug. 2, Fisk won the album with a final bid of \$232.50. "I would have paid more; this was great price for this record," she said. While that price might not be the highest price paid for a Carola recording, the auction did yield one particular feat. It was the highest amount received on eBay for a K-tel label recording, surpassing the Jan. 8 auction of the 1977 label release, *Alex Harvey Presents The Loch Ness Monster* (NE 984), which closed for \$188.72.

Visit any garage sale, rifle through any thrift store and chances are you will find K-tel's plentiful various artists' recordings, most often going for less than \$5 apiece. But for collectors looking to complete their favorite artist's discography, the label is considered an overlooked treasure trove.

"I've been an Alex Harvey fan from the mid-1970s, and I had never seen a copy of this album in 27 years," said high bidder and U.K. collector Ian Biggs. "This album will be



a nice addition to my collection." The spoken-word recording was released in the summer of 1977, with a very limited run of only 5,000.

The album features interviews conducted by Harvey (from The Sensational Alex Harvey Band) and his family, as well as supposed witnesses of the Loch Ness Monster.

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While K-tel was known primarily for its *Original Hits*, *Original Stars* concept of cramming (and condensing) up to 30 various artists' songs on one album, the label also released more than 500 albums featuring a singular artist's greatest hits or, in some cases, newly released material. In the case of Carola, K-tel released three other recordings, including *På egna ben* (CA 7071, 1984), *Runaway* (CH 7108, 1986) and *Carola & Per-Erik i Rättviks Kyrka* (CA 7132, 1987).

While most "serious" record collectors might have a hard time understanding why anyone would collect what many consider a garage sale staple, collectors such as Fisk say her Carola collection wouldn't be complete without them. "I only miss three singles. One from Japan, one from Portugal and one from Spain."

— Lisa Wheeler

[Lisa Wheeler operates [ktelclassics.com](http://ktelclassics.com), a Web site dedicated to all things K-tel. — Ed.]

