



ROCK

On an Island
David Gilmour

Columbia/
SonyBMG

★★★★

PINK Floyd guitarist David Gilmour's first solo album since 1984 is engineered to relax. Smooth, mellow and with generous helpings of his soaring guitar, it is evocative of white beaches, blue seas and lazy afternoons sipping cool wine. Sometimes richly textured, and at others starkly simple, it fuses jazz,

blues and orchestral influences with Gilmour's distinctive vocals and melodic instrumentals to weave a gentle and lyrical tapestry. Helping the mix are collaborators such as bandmate Rick Wright, Roxy Music's Phil Manzanera and pianist Jools Holland. Particularly notable are the pleasing harmonies of David Crosby and Graham Nash on the title track. Gilmour/Floyd fans will find few surprises; parts may remind them of quieter tracks from *Meddle* or *Obscured by Clouds*. Some might argue Gilmour is resting too much on his laurels, but this is a welcome and impeccably recorded journey to a favourite place.

Steve Creedy