

REVIEWS

SPOTLIGHTS

Releases deemed by the review editors to deserve special attention on the basis of musical merit and/or *Billboard* chart potential.

ALBUMS



DAVID GILMOUR

On an Island

Producers: David Gilmour, Phil Manzanera, Chris Thomas
Columbia

Release Date: March 7

Even without having released any new music in more than a decade, David Gilmour remains a towering figure in rock: a guitar hero and master song craftsman whose influence has never waned. Close your eyes, and a host of songs on this solo effort will transport you right back to Pink Floyd's 1970s salad days, from the "Meddle"-ish title cut (with vocals by David Crosby and Graham Nash) to the languid stoner's delight "The Blue" and the elegant "A Pocketful of Stones." Gilmour's guitar work is as memorable as ever, even when he unexpectedly veers off into the straight-up blues of "This Heaven." To be sure, the majority of "Island" could be Pink Floyd in all but name only. Still, the project is a success on its own merits, thanks to its substantial songs rooted in a still-classic sound.—JC

Billboard