

David Gilmour



On An Island EMI

Star guests include David Crosby, Graham Nash, Robert Wyatt and Georgie Fame.

Ostensibly the follow-up to 1994's Gilmour sans Waters Floyd album, *The Division Bell*, *On An Island* is a hugely sensual work, its prevailing mood one of Zen-like calm. Two gorgeous, carpe diem love songs – the acoustic waltz *Smile*; the blissed-out *Where We Start* – remind us that much of Floyd's dark side stemmed from Waters, and elsewhere, when Gilmour sings, "This earthly heaven is enough for me", you believe him. His wife Polly Samson penned most of the lyrics, but as with Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan's co-writes, tasteful, often affecting results transcend cosy domesticity. Sensitive orchestrations by Polish composer Zbigniew Preisner further cement the notion of a class act reborn, and examples of Dave's 'feel personified' guitar solos are legion. The one on *The Blue* – a sublime piece of virtuosity you can sense coming – gave me goose bumps.

James McNair