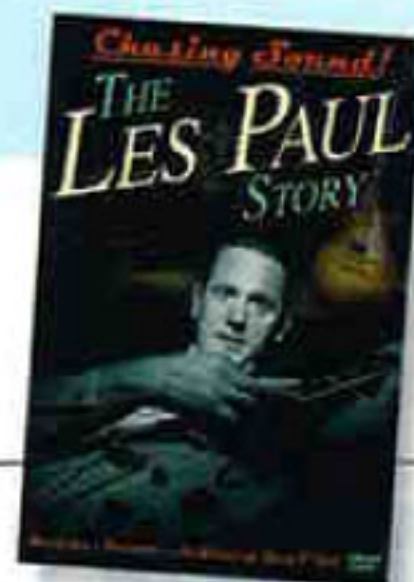




162 Extreme
The latest from Nuno Bettencourt and co

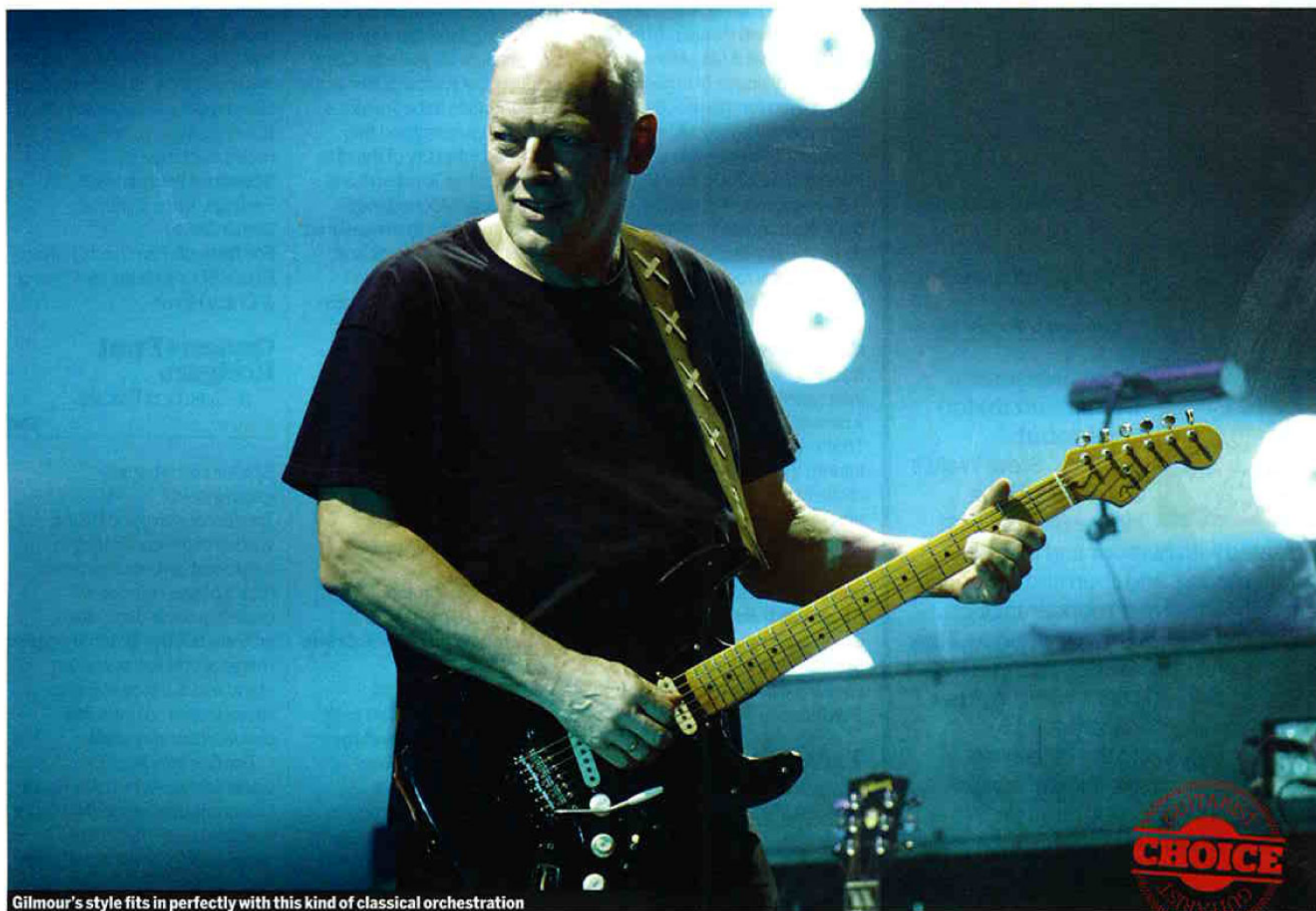


160 Mogwai
An entirely instrumental album from the post-rockers



161 Les Paul
The story of the guitar playing legend captured on DVD

Music



Gilmour's style fits in perfectly with this kind of classical orchestration



David Gilmour
Live In Gdańsk CD & DVD

★★★★★ EMI

In 2006, Polish trade union Solidarity celebrated its 26th birthday and invited a well-known guitarist to provide music for the party. This is the result...

Collaborations between established guitarists and a full-piece orchestra rarely turn out well. Great players though they are, Messrs Malmsteen and Vai couldn't help looking out of place in their respective attempts to drown out the horn section. On this two-DVD, two-CD package, though, the tables are turned, as Gilmour and his brilliant band, which includes back-up from expert guitar slinger and Roxy Music man Phil Manzanera, enlist the help of the

Baltic Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra to embellish classic Floyd and solo tunes.

Gilmour's legendary feel is suited perfectly to classical orchestration and, as the strings and woodwind swell enigmatically beneath his accomplished lead lines during Castellorizon, or sprinkle A Pocket Full Of Stones with beautiful harmonies, the die is cast for a genuinely moving musical experience in the hands of a master.

He may parp convincingly on an alto sax during Red Sky At Night, or wield the unusual Cümbüs guitar – a 12-string fretless banjo-style instrument – for Then I Close My Eyes, but it's when he coaxes pure gold from that battered black Strat that you really feel the goosebumps.



The combination of neck pickup and Whammy pedal for the solo to On An Island deserves specific mention, as does the deft blend of major and minor during Where We Start.

The Floyd numbers allow the orchestra to actually improve upon the original arrangements (especially that of High Hopes), although a doddering vocal from ivory-tinkler Richard Wright on

Comfortably Numb squashes the mood somewhat – and it's a bit of a shame that Shine On You Crazy Diamond didn't make it from the CD on to the DVD. The level of musicianship is astonishing and that's recommendation enough: this is essential for Gilmour fans; indeed anyone who loves the sound of a great guitar. Tasty stuff, this. [SB]
DVD extras: Diary documentary
Standout tracks: Castellorizon, On An Island, Shine On You Crazy Diamond

Gilmour's legendary feel is perfectly suited to classical orchestration... it's when he coaxes pure gold from that battered black Strat that you really feel the goosebumps

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