David Gilmour + Lorien
Royal Festival Hall - Jan 16-17
While Pink Floyd haven't played a live concert for a good seven years and seem content to compile their past on Echoes, guitarist David Gilmour has not exactly rested on his laurels. Having helped Paul McCartney cover a bunch of rock'n'roll classics on 1999's Run Devil Run and toured with the former Beatle, Gilmour seems to enjoy life away from the lumbering dinosaur that became Pink Floyd and is certainly ageing much more gracefully that his old sparring partner Roger Waters. Over the last year, the guitarist has contributed to Jools Holland's Small World Big Band album, taken part in the tribute concert to songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller and helped fellow '60s survivors the Pretty Things present the conceptual SF Sorrow live. In fact, during that concert, he even guested with support act the Soft Boys on a supreme version of Syd Barratt's 'Astronomy Domine.' Gilmour obviously feels at home at the Royal Festival Hall since last June, he also took part in Robert Wyatt's Meltdown. Expect another not quite Unplugged ensemble and the odd surprise - including some Bizet - alongside the more obvious 'Division Bell' and 'Shine On You Crazy Diamond'. And listen to the distinctive way Gilmour has of bending and stretching the notes.

PIERRE PERRONE