David Gilmour

It must have been the level of performance that swung it, but Gilmour has achieved what once seemed impossible: he's usurped Jimi Hendrix as your favourite Fender player ever. His forthcoming solo album, On an Island, will offer a rare taste of new material, while his gleaming, shining playing with Pink Floyd not only stands the test of time; it seems to become even more popular...

FURTHER LISTENING: Pink Floyd, Wish You Were Here (1975)

"DAVID IS TOTALLY UNIQUE"

By Steve Mac, "David Gilmour" in The Australian Pink Floyd Show

"David has a sound and style like no other - when you hear him play, you instantly recognize that it's him, he's totally unique. After 20 years of touring with my tribute band I've dedicated a lot of time trying to replicate his sound.

"I've spent years trying to master his vibrato work. David 'paps' the vibrato arm as well as warbling it. When warbling you are pushing downwards only, Sounds simple, but this can often make the note sound flat so you need to compensate by bending the string slightly back. The amount varies depending on which string you're hitting, its gauge and the tremolo/spring tension of your guitar... David's a master at this.

"Another huge factor in his playing is his picking technique. By angling the pick in many ways and combining his thumb it he makes those Strat swooshy, funk and squelch - especially on the middle/single pickup.

"He has a lovely 'swipe' in his bends, too, it's rarely linear, if you were to analyse one of his bends and plot it out on a graph with say, pitch versus time. I'm pretty certain it would be asymptotic. It starts off slow and then squeezes up to the note, giving it an emotional aura.

"David plays with such grace and precision..."