



REVIEW: 'On an Island' Stays True to Floyd

Staff and agencies

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By JIM BESSMAN, For The Associated Press

Since "On an Island" is David Gilmour's first solo album since 1984's "About Face" (and first studio recording since Pink Floyd's 1994 "The Division Bell"), his label — perhaps wanting to jog the memory of music fans — is selling the point that he's "the voice and guitar of Pink Floyd."

No need to worry: "On an Island" matches up with the best of Floyd — unlike "Ca Ira," last year's operatic effort from the group's departed founding member Roger Waters.

The opening foghorn sound and billowing, classical-tinged overture herald the album's aquatic undercurrents, and lead into an atmospheric title track buoyed by the familiar backup voices of David Crosby and Graham Nash. Present, too, are Pink Floyd's organist Richard Wright and early guitarist Rado Klose; broadening this Floyd stylistic base are co-producer Phil Manzanera (Roxy Music's guitarist) and orchestrator Zbigniew Preisner, the renowned Polish film composer.

The ironically titled finisher "Where We Start" caps Gilmour's auspicious return with an airy melody and time-themed, Floyd-worthy lyrics.