



1 David Gilmour

It must have been the Live8 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 gliding, shining playing with Pink Floyd not only stands the test of time, it seems to become ever 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 recognise that it's him, he's totally unique. After 20 years of touring with my tribute band I've dedicated a lot of time to trying to replicate his sound.

"I've spent years trying to master his vibrato work. David 'palms' the vibrato arm as well as 'warbling' it. When palming, 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 sharp. 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 thumbnail he makes that Strat squawk, honk and squeal – especially on the middle/bridge pickup.

"He has a lovely 'sweep' in his bends, too. It's rarely linear. If you were to analyse one of his bends and to plot it out on a graph with say, pitch versus time, I'm pretty certain it would be logarithmic. It starts off slow and then squeezes up to the note, giving it an emotional crying quality. Combine that with some tasty tremolo work on the end and you're on your way!

"I had the pleasure of playing at David's 50th birthday party and, after coaxing David on stage, I handed him my Strat and pick and he jammed out a few numbers. It was a moment I shall treasure for life. I made damn sure I got that pick back as a souvenir and there were literally shreds of plastic hanging off of it – he really digs in on the lower strings. So once again, I adjusted my playing technique.

"David has incredible strength in his hands, but he controls it with such grace and precision. I'm constantly learning things about his technique that keep me in awe..."

The Australian Pink Floyd Show tour the UK in April-May 2006. Go to www.aussiefloyd.com for more information

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