

# Reviews music

## POP

### David Gilmour

On an Island

EMI, £12.99

Pink Floyd fans suffering withdrawal after their Live8 appearance should receive David Gilmour's offering with rapture. His first solo outing since 1984's *About Face*, this is essentially Pink Dave. Gilmour delivers his musical signatures with almost embarrassing relish, floating his high, clear voice on walls of breathy harmonies and rippling the airwaves with silvery, liquid guitar solos. Epic arrangements are decorated with saxophone and buoyed by the subtle keyboard flourishes of Gilmour's Floyd colleague Rick Wright, among a stellar yet unobtrusive lineup of guests, including Jools Holland, Robert Wyatt (on

cornet and percussion) and David Crosby and Graham Nash on backing vocals.

Though it lacks the lyrical edge Roger Waters once brought to the table, there is a sweetness and even femininity to this romantic song sequence, co-written with Gilmour's wife Polly Samson. It evokes a journey through love and danger to a simple appreciation of life. The watery images suit Gilmour's fluid playing; only the ominous *Take a Breath* and the bluesy *This Heaven* disturb the smooth tranquillity of what verges on being a chill-out album for '70s rock fans.

**Neil McCormick**