

David Gilmour

Live In Gdansk

★★★★★

EMI 50999 2 35189 2 6

(2-CD+2-DVD)

Box set of 2007 live set



Joined by Pink Floyd colleagues Rick Wright, Guy Pratt, Jon Carin and

Dick Parry, as well as Roxy Music's Phil Manzanera and a 40-piece orchestra, Gilmour showcased his *On An Island* and numerous golden oldies in the Polish shipyards where the Solidarity trade union was born.

A suitably impressive backdrop for an equally impressive audio and visual extravaganza, the 2-CD set runs to nearly 160 minutes, kicking off with Floyd classics *Speak To Me*, *Breathe* and the timeless, er, *Time*, before the majestic orchestral *Castellorizon*, with its looming synths, and the somnolent new title track. Sweet sax on the gloaming of *Red Sky At Night* and the dreamy riverboat ride of *Smile* are followed by more milestones in the shape of a 12-minute *Shine On You Crazy Diamond* and gothic-psych of *Astronomy Domine*. The slide guitar zephyrs of *High Hopes* and a 25-minute *Echoes* also stand out, with a heartfelt *A Great Day For Freedom* and intense *Comfortably Numb* closing the 22-song set. An accompanying 15-song DVD and another with a 36-minute documentary add to the lustre.

Tim Jones