



N AN AFTERNOON in mid-August, Astoria - the houseboat studio owned by David Gilmour - seems deceptively quiet. Moored at the end of a sloping garden along a quiet stretch of the River Thames, Gilmour's handsome Edwardian vessel is usually shut up during the summer holidays. But not, it transpires, this year. On closer inspection, signs of activity become apparent. In a large conservatory at the top of the riverside garden, coffee mugs and a small frying pan are stacked in a sink ready for washing up, while a spaniel lolls on a wickerframed sofa, content in a warm patch of sunlight. Meanwhile, the boat itselfnearly a victim of the floods that hit this stretch of the Thames earlier in the year is open for business. There are lights on in the elegant, mahogany-panelled cabins. The windows are open out across the river, and a breeze gently ruffles the thick curtains in the control room itself, set back at the stern of the boat.

This is wherePinkFloyd worked on $A$ Momentary Lapse of Reason nand The Division Bell, and where CGilmourhimself recorded his
mostrecentsoloalbum, OnAn $s$ sland. Lately, moswever, stotoria aas been the site of another astonishing-and entirely unexpecteddevelopmentin theremarkable life of Pink Flogd. Today, alength ofmasking tape is
streched acrossthe 7 -channel analogue stretched across the 7 Tr-channel analogue mixing console, markedin thick, black, felt.tip writing toidentifyeach separate channel.I. theegins, "side
 transcribed alongthe tape: "wibbly", "wank bass", "splangs", "end dhodest ebow", "ol/h", "amb".It becomesapparent hat theseseemingly accane signifiers
are in fact tantalising evidence ofthe achievements that have taken place here over the lasttwo years. Nothing
 River- the firist new Pink Floyd album since 1994's Th "foursides"), tis saninstrumentanal album - with one song "Louder Than Words" embedded within Side Fourthat largely priviliegesthe band's spaceey, ruminative qualities. Reassuringly, the elementst for which theyar
bestknown - ethereal synths, acoustic passages, best known - ethereal synths, acoustic passages,
melocic suutarsolos, exploratory digressions, swepir organ-areall very much to the foreground. But critically, there is salso another story here. The Endless Riveris asplendid tribute to oneo ftheir fallen comrades, the band'sco-founder and keyboardist, Rick Wright, who
died onSeptember 15, 2008, aged 65. Indeed, the source
of The Endless River lies in material originally recorded in sessions for The Divivion Bell by Wright, Gilmour and Nick Mason. "When we finished the Division Bell sessions," says
Gilmour, "we had many pieces of music, onlynineof which had become songs on the LP. Now with Rick gone and with him the chance of ever doing it again, itfeels right these revisited tracks should be made available as part of our repertoire."
The work here on Astoria - andalso at Gilmour's studios in Hove and on his farm in West Sussex, as well as other studios across London - has largely been carried out undera veil of secrecy. Inc ollaboration with producers Phil Manzanera,
Youth and Andy Jackson, Gilmour and Mason have edited and reshaped unused Division Bell material and fashioned new parts for The Endless River, quietly going about their business undisturbed. That was, until July thisyear, when the threat of a leak prompted Gilmour's wife, Polly Samson, to break the news on Twitter of this marvellous new
"Theeraking. Btw Pink Floydalibum out in Octoberis is Rick Wright's swansong and very beautiful."
"Itis a tribute to him," acknowledges Gilmour. "I mean, to $\square$ me, it's very evocative and "WithRick And listening toall the suff , gone, itfeels rightthat these revisited tracksare
made available" DAVBCLLCOUR mademe regrethis passing all chance someone will getto hear him playing along with usin that way thathedid." "Ithink the mosts significant elementwas really hearing what Rick did," agrees Nick
Mason. "HavinglostRick it Mason. "Having lostRick, it
really brought homewhata special playerhe was.And Ithink that was one of the elements that caught us up in it and made us think we ough to do something with this."

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## 10 greatRick Wrightsongs...

Celebrating the genius of Pink Floyd's fallen hero
INTERSTELLAR
THEPJPERATTHE GATES OFDAWN, 1967
At the centre of this opens with his echoing piano notes and
ends with trippy keyboard effects. But
his expansive organ duels with is expansive organ duels with

THE GREAT GIG IN THE SKY THEDARKSIDEOFTHEMOON, 1973 psychedelic freakout from Everyone remembers $\begin{aligned} & \text { psychedelic freakoutfrom } \\ & \text { the Floyd's debut were }\end{aligned} \quad=\|, \quad \begin{aligned} & \text { Everyone remembers } \\ & \text { Clare Torry's incredible }\end{aligned}$ exploratory free-form improvisations led by Wright and Syd Barrett

SEE-SAW
a Saucerfulof
SECRETS, 1968
A marvellous
A marvellous
showcase for showcase for
Wright's multiWright's multi-
instrumental skills, instrumental skills, he wrote, sang
and played orga Mellotron,
xylophone and
piano on this.
SUMMER'68 ATOMHEART ATOM HEART
MOTHER, 1970 Written and sung by Wright, this harmonyheavy piece of protoambience included the Abbey Road Sessio

ONE OF THESE DAYS MEDDLE, 1971
Gilmour called this ominous instrumental "the most collaborative effort of anything we ever did". Wright's keyboards defined the mood.

ECHOES
MEDDLE, 1971
This 20-minute psychedelic masterpiece is bookended by Wright: it
vocal gymnastics, but at the heart of "Great
Gig." was Wright's Gig..." was Wright's
pensive piano motif.
SHINE ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND WISH YOU WEREHERE, 1975 Wright's pastoral keyboard
lines prove the perfect bed lines prove the perfect b
for Gilmour's chiming guitar notes and Waters' poignant notes and
tribute to Syd Barrett.
WAVES
WETDREAM, 1978
From Wright's first solo album, this recalls the atmospheric
soundscapes of More-era soundscapes
Pink Floyd.
CLUSTER ONE THEDIVISIO NBELL, 1994 This delicate, cosmic,
ambient trat ambient track was one
of two instrumentals on The Division Bell; a returnto form for Wright after a period of creative inactivity.
NIGHT OF A THOUSAND FURRY TOYS A single from Wright's second solo album, this comes with some excellent Orb remixes that foreground Wright's discreet keyboard digressions.

would bi bases on the
'Bigppiff'mash-up made by Andy Jackson. This is categorically not the case. But, as Jackson explains, 'The Big Spliff' was built from 1993 jams
to showcase a potential to showcase a potential The Division Bell... "It was just a mash-up of
some of the psychedelic some of the psychedelic noodling from the Division Bell jams. H You ever watched
MasterChef? It's th where they say ' 'Ok, here you go, a pile of ingredients, make something.' Sol made something and said, 'W could do something like this!' Everyone quite liked
it. As Nick said in Inside Out, there was a thought that we could have the songs album and the psychedelic mash-up album. It could have happened if there had been more time. But tour was booked. And work expands to fill the available time. We just got the album done. It never got thought Another rumour bo The Endless River is that it also incorporates material from the 'soundscape' used on the cassette
edition of Pulse, the edition of Pulse, the
"That soundscape existed "That soundscape existed says Jackson. "I made another new one which was to go into 'Astronomy Domine'. It was a much shorter one of spacey fitted in with the way Div Bell started. It's just birds and lawnmowers. It's just bit of fun to get you into the mood for the gig."


- Jackson described the material as ranging from "undeveloped" to "psychedelic instrumental noodles" comparable to the middle section from "Echoes". The tapes -marked functionally as "DAT 1, piece 7", "Brit
Row 1" or perhaps with the slightly more descriptive "Ebownoodle"remained in Gilmour's tape store, untouched. Meanwhile, Pink Floyd ended their Division Bell Tour on October 29, 1994 at Earl's Court and

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { October 29, } 1994 \text { at Earl's Court and } \\
& \text { entered into what Mason wryly describes in his } \\
& \text { autobiography } / \text { side Out as "a s significant resat }
\end{aligned}
$$ autobiography Inside Out as "a a significant cessation of album On An Island and, critically, the subsequent tour 2006 "They had a great time," says Andy Jackson." "They hadn't been onstage together for an awfully long time. Particularly smaller stages, not the humungadomes. Doing a theatre tour, hey can see the whites of each other eyes. Things like that middle bit Echoes, where they' re trading

looking at each other and getting that spark again. David was really full about how much he enjoyed playing with Rick again, how special it was. In some ways, with Rick coming back into the fold after not having been involved in The Final Cut tall, then the remoteness of the whole thing when it got so
huge, then finding itagain it was huge, then findingita",
Phil Manzanera, the Roxy Music guitarist who co-produced On An Island and played on the live shows, recalls witnessing a warm moment between Gilmour and Wright at the end of the tour. "We played in Gdansk, at the shipyard, the biggest gig of David's solo tour.
We played 'Echoes'. Inly know this because I ended up mixing the live album from that tour and choosing the tracks wed recorded and all the different gigs, but that night the version was
20 minutes long. The interplay between him and David 20 minutes long. The interplay between him and David... Rick was so happy. He was right back at the top of his game, and Ilooked round and sawhim playing away and David answering on guitar. That was the most
of 'Echoes'. Peoplelovediton that tour."
"It wasn't that long after the tour that Rick died," continues Jackson. "I think David was really aware of what herd lost, personally but also musically. In some ways, that became the seed that led to this album. 'There won't be any more Rick,
but there is a bunch of material we've got from the past that
"Itwasan enjoyable, satisfying experience, rather like uncovering lostgems"

NHCKMASON
the mix were absolutely ty critical to what people recognise as the sound of Pink Floyd. Musically he knitted us all together. Evidently, then, it was essential that The Endless River deliver not only a Pink Floyd album strong enough to stand
alongside its many illustrious predecessors; but also one that alongside its many illustrious predecessors; but also one that
provided a substantial showcase for Wright's craftsmanship. Sitting in his smart north London studio, Phil Manzanera described his own firsthand experiences with Wright. "He was very astute and could speak very well. Though he didn't seem to have done tons of interviews, when he did, he nailed
it He could verbalisealot of what the music was about."

OOKING BACKONRickWright's contribution to Pink Floyd, Nick M Mason considers, "Where he really is unique, is this thing in him of
being able to comeup with ideas and just work them into whateverelse is going on at any given moment." Manzanera, meanwhile, describes
Wrights "a hippy musician, in itforthe music" and that he "provided a very broad musical context for David to play his guitar into and, earlier, for Syd to put his songs into. He held his line right through the career and provided sonority. You take that out of the equation, and Youth, for his part, cites "One Of These Days" as emblematic Youth, for his part, cites "One OfThese Days" as ember
of Wright's considerable talents. "His Farfisa, his organ playing... I canst think of anyone Id rather listen to on an is up there with Beethoven and Bach. It'sa stunning piece of music. Wish You Were Here .probably my favourite album, and it's Moog lead. The long keyboard sections, his remind me of the more German, Tangerine Dream-style ambient passages, buthe managed to imbue then with a very English, pastoral sensibility. There's something very melancholic and whimsical the same time Is beautiful music. He's always had massive part to play with me for Floyd."
Writing in Inside Out Mason noted " Writing in Inside Out, Mason noted, "Rick perhaps never received the credit - bot inside and outside the band - that he deserved for his talents, but the distinctive, "

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Close by Manzaneras sits his cherished Gibson Firebird VII, a strap wound round it with Manzanera's nickname, 'El Magnifico, picked out in metal studs. On the wall, above compact black mixing desk built into a wooden frame, hangs projects, work was partly done on the unreleased Roxy Music album from 2005, and where his old friend RobertWyattis soon due to record some new music. Sipping a herbal tea, Manzanera considers an invitation he received in August 2012 from David Gilmour. "He just said. 'There's this stuff. Do you fancy having a listen to it, to leif there's anything there
So went down to Astoria. Andy Jackson wasthereand So I went down to Astoria. Andy Jackson was there and
Damon Iddins, who also works for the studio. said, 'Rig Damon Iddins, who also works for the studio. Isaid, 'Right,
I've come to listen to the stuff.' That was when Iheard that Andy had put together a thing called The Big Spliff, which rather annoyingly I said, 'Id ont wanna hear. I wanna hear every single piece or scrap that was recorded, everything. Outtakes from Division Bell. Everything.' So we commenced on a 2o-hour epic listening sessions over six weeks. That was
when learned they thought of having a double-album for The Division Bell. One was going to be the instrumentals, ab like Ummagumma. Or, as Nick calls it, ‘Oommagooma.' I was like, "Oommagooma? Who calls it that?"'
"Phil was heavily involved in On An Island," says Andy Jackson. "David had a huge amount of potential material,
and Phil was really and Phil was really good atkeeping track of everything. He'd really well as a middlle-eightin this...' He was really helpful
竍 to David in that way and it was an obvious thing for David to say, "Do you want to do that process again?"'
"They've got a very good archiving system," Manzanera continues. "So you can even find footage from them doing those original jams at Britannia Row. They'renot pretty it's like CCTV footage. But you have got footage, and footage of them on the boat, too. The material was all on different bits were on 24 -track, and some bits were on half-inch tape. Every time I heard something I liked, I wroteitdown. I had pages and pages. When they're looking through the tapes, there's time to think. 'OK, what the fuck am I going to do?' 'v got azo hours of stuff. How am I going to organise this? "Phil logged everything, recorded everything," continues up with the concept: 'Let's think of it like a symphony, let's make four pieces that are 10,12 minutes long that are thematic and it flows like a classical piece would.' We made
a mash-upat that point. The vast bulk of it was from these stereo DAT tapes. It was a skeleton at this point. It's like Masterchef. 'We can do this, here's a dish.'
"This inst what's on the album now,"M Manzanera stresses, "but I needed a narrative. I visualised a scenario with a tone
that was a product of the cosmic bang. Let's have its only people in a certain frequency can hear the tone. Eventually it arrives at the tunnel entrance to Astoria, under the road. The door clanks, and you can hear them walking on the gravel towards the boat, the three of them, our heroes, they come onto Astoria and start jamming. That's the first section. The second section, the boat takes off and we're in outer space.
They arrive on a planet that is all acoustic. Then there's this end bit, where it goes back. So I had this narrative and I started putting all the things together. I would take a guitar solo from another track, change the key oft, stickiton an outtake from another track... ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{Oh}$, that bit there, it reminds me of Live AtPompeii, but let's put beat underneath it.'So then Id take abit of Nick warming up in the studio at Olympia, say
take a bit of fall here and a bit of a fill there Join t together take a bit of a fill here and a bit of a fill there. Join it together,
makealoop out of it. My brief was to use what wasthere." Two months later, in December 2012, Manzanera prese his workings to Gilmour onboard Astoria. "I think he thought, 'This guy's mad," laughs Manzanera. "He said, "Can you play it to Nick"' So I got him here, played ditto him. He could see the potential in it, but he was slightly worried It's a lot more extreme than how it ended up. But they saw
there was enough stuff there to make something good. It ticked all the Pink Floyd boxes. A year passed of them wondering what to do with it, and towards the end of that year, David sent two parts of what Id id to Youth..." "David had started writing his own album and he didn't want to get torn away from it," Jackson explains. "He end up being quite busyall the time, not least of all living in twodifferenthouses. He ives in one in the week and
another in the weekend. It's like moving court. Child r another in the week. end
nannies and dogs. So the logistics of everyday life become..." he pauses. "And
the social life... Tuesdays and Thursdays, go to the gym and it's like the week's gone. So
itsaton the back-burnerfor a while. I'm notsurehe knew what to do with it knew what to do with
where to react tot."

Phil Manzanera on his friendship with Mr Gilmour...

N1967, I was at
Dulwich College," Dulwich College
begins Phil Manzanera. "My broth went up to Cambridge where he came into contact with David. I was
16 or 17 and 16 or 17 and said to my mum that I wanted to be I know this guy, he's just got into a band. Let's as him how youbecomea professional musician.'So we went to Earl's Court.I think he was living in Syd's
flat, but we went to the flat, but we went to the
restaurant opposite and restaurant oppose
had lunch. I can't remember what he said butit must've been bloody good, because I got into a band. After lunch, he went
off to Abbey Roadto, off to Abbey Road to, I
think, record A Saucerful think, record A Saucer OfSecrets.
Scroll forward Scroll forward
to when Roxy were recording
For Your For Your
Pleasure Pleasure
at Air studios. at Air Studios.
Chris Thomas Chris Thomas
was mixing Dark was mixing Dark
Side there. After he finished, he produced For Your Pleasure for
us. heard David's us. I heard David's
soloon'Money' solo on Mon
and thought,
'Fuck this 'Fuck, this is
fantastic' fantastic.' The
only way I could communicate was by sending him a telegram
said, 'Fantastic said, 'Fantastic guitar.
Guess what? 'm in band Guess what? ? min band
now'. We stayed in touch. During the 1980s, Thad the same manager,Steve O'Rourke.Steve said, 'Why don't you try and write something with
David?'He cameoter David?' He came over to
the studio and a track the studio and a track
evolved called 'One Slip' Actually, for the last io years, I seem to have been working with David on and off..." Sase
was


## on


lastJune. He said, 'I've got this thing I've been working on, it's not quite been working out. Could you come down and have a listen?' So I jumped on the train, he picked me up and we drove to his farm in Sussex. David's got this amazing
studio at the top of abarn. He put on this track up there. I was expecting to hear solo material. Within about 40 seconds, it sounded like Floyd. It was absolutely magical. The window was open and there were birds singing. June in England is the most beautiful place in the world you could be, listening to unreleased Pink Floyd recordings with David, the hair was
going up on the back of my arms. Then David explained that Phil had spent days going through all the tapes, and had put together these four pieces. What was interesting as well was that David had been working on it with Phil and without Phil. Hesaid, 'T'vegoneas far as I can, I just don't know. What do you think?' I thought maybe the arrangements weren't quite right. Because some of it's '9os Floyd, it doesn'tsound that much like Floyd. I said, 'Maybe I could experiment with some different arrangements and see if we can make it flow better.' His parting words were, 'Make sure it sounds like us!'" Among the many marvellous treasures unearthed by Jackson and Iddins from Gilmour's tape store was a recording dated from June 26,1969 , of Wright playing the Albert Hall
pipe organ during rehearsals for the Floyd's show there that evening. "Therewas 20 minutes of that," says Youth. "I think at that point, Rick was toying with ideas for writing a symphony." Taking all the material to his studio in Spain, he began rearranging and extending sections. As illustrative guides for Gilmour, he added guitar lines where he felt appropriate. At the same time, he was fighting a severe parasitic infection: "I thought, 'Even ifI die in a week, or a day, I've gotta finish this before I go - and don't hold back!'"

CCORDING TO ANDY Jackson's diary, on November 4,2013, David Gilmour and Nick Mason met with themanzanera, Youth and Jackson on Astoria to review you've done,"'s says Manzanera. "From that day onwards, he took possession of the thing. He said, 'We're changing the goalposts. So, OK, there's only meand Nick, but we're going totake a bit of what Youth's done, bits of what you've done,
 solo from the Albert Hall. This was recorded during the the band's show on June 26,1969 . The show was billed 'The Final Lunacy!' art pieces including a roadie dressed as a gorilla and band members sawing planks of wood onstage. In his memoir, Inside Out, Nick Mason describes the instrument with such power that it was rumoured certain stops they might either damage the building's foundations or cause an attack of mass nausea amongst the audience members." "At the time, playing the organ at the Albert Hall
was very controversial", remembers Phil Manzanera. "When the Mothers Of Invention played there, Don Preston went up and played 'Louie, was considered sacrilege! It was a great moment of rebellion. It sounds silly, doesn't it? But it was a big deal for a rock band to get into the Albert Hall."

bits of what Andy's done and we're gonna work it, and I want you all to be there."' Events moved swiftly after that. Jackson's diary records that they gathered in Gilmour's home studio in Hove a week later, on November 11: a momentous date, as it and Mason had recorded new Floyd music since the Division Bell sessions. Says Mason, "With encouragement from Andy, Phil and Youth, David and myself eitherre-recorded,
 and satisfying experience, rather like uncovering lost gems." Iremember one of those early times, when near his beloved Neve 88R console in Astoria. "Nick was very concerned about, 'I only want to do this if we make something good.' We're taking some stuff from 20 years ago because it's got Rick on it - but is it actually up to standard? As it got fleshed out, and turned into the album proper, everyone gotrevved upabout it."
"I think David and Nick are both in a really good place at the moment," adds Youth. "Also because Rick's no longer with transcend all the problems they've had in the past. There were concerns as to whether they'd be into it, or whether Nick would be up for it. But Nick was core to the project, and the amazing thing is that whenever those two play, whatever In fact, Mason's drums were the first element to be officially recorded for the album on November 11. "Nick was just great, straight away," remembers Manzanera. "It sounded like what Robert Wyatt calls 'Pink Floyd time'. It was just magic.' The sessions lasted for three days, overdubbing guitars and fecording drums; the following week, they were backin Hove 20 , to review the material. The process of adding new overdubs continued into early 2014. In total, Jackson estimates the work took 30 days. "It became an interactive process of mixing and recording. You putdrums on this, flesh that, do a layer of mixing to make itsound like a record and then go, "Great, but this has revealed that we now need this..." "It was really about illustrating Rick's genius," adds Youth. "Sowe navigated around his keyboards to give them as much spotight as possible. Although it was quiteadelicate and time-consuming task, it works really well and they adjusted joking with each other between takes - to see their rapport with each other, all harnessed to Rick's playing. Their humour is very dry. One day, I wanted some more gongs. Nick asked his drum tech, 'Where's my gong?' His tech said,
this guy keep hisdrum shop going a few years go and donated some kit thathe keptin the window, including the gong. The gong arrived, avid came in and said, 'Where's that from?' an Nick replied, 'Oh, a shop in Camden.Ilentitto them, and they're lending iit back. So they started giving each other a hug, and David giving Nick the ffirmation of his drumming being amazing." One of the key elements of The Endless River is "LouderThan Words", the album's one conventional song. Introduced on a bed of stately keyboard melodies and acoustic flourishes, a more solid structure gradually emerges to carry
Gilmour's first new Pink Floyd vocal in 20 years. With lyrics co-written with Polly Samson, "Louder Than Words" is concerned with providing an appropriate full stop to the Pink Floyd saga, mbracing the full history of the band across nearly 50 years - as Gilmour sings, "We bitch and words....t the sum of ourparts the the beatofour hearts.... it'slouder than words". Manzanera describesitas "a comment on their methods of working over their whole careers; it seemed likea fitting summation of the complexity of the music. Jackson considers "it's about the dynamics of being in bands, which ''ve always thought of as Big Brotheron wheels. You become best of
and worst of enemies all a the same time." The song was recorded during the latter part of the Endless Riversessions, at Gilmour's home studio in Hove. "Both Phil and myself had been pushing David to get the lyric and get the vocal," recalls Youth. "Everyone around him was saying
howhehatesdoing vocals, and he always leaves hom to the lastminute... Hedoees this amazing thing when he's composing and gets a melody. He does this skatvocal. It is absolutely perfect. Apparently, that's how he did 'Comfortably Numb'. I've never heard a singer skat alead vocal soexact, with the right emotion and everything. So we had this skat vocal, and then we waiks "David had come up with a concept that wh went into the chorus, he would golowand the backing singers would go an octave up from him," continues Jackson. "He's a big Leoonard Cohen fan,

until he gotall the lines he wanted. He ended up just doing it alone. It had been a while since he sang, so he had to get his voice limbered up, abit every day. If's now the closing part butit was originally the end of part three. We
reiigged three and four, moved some sections around. It made alot more sense at the end of the record.It's abit like, 'You have been listeningto.. Additional work followed - Youth recorded backing vocals with DurgaMcBroom in his sout London studio, while Manzanera recorded clarinetand sax contributions from Gilad Atzmo at Astoria. Youth remembers Guy Prattalso keen to stress the fluid nature of the work. "There was a very blurred line between mixing and recording. It was a constantly interactive process We were still working on it quite eecently. 'rve got August 6 in my diary, I was in here and David's saying, 'Maybe we should cut one cycle out of tha bit. Meanwhile, it had already gone to James
Guthrie in California for mastering. 'You know that bit you just did? You're going to have to do it again...'There's odd bits of dialogue on the album and even really late David wanted to getrid of one Which meant I was having to put it back on the board and remixa section. That was August. You couldn't. Pandora's Box is well and truly open,"

## Whatmade Ricktick

Phil Manzanera on the essential components o Rick Wright's sound.
66 HERE'S THREE THINGSI the Duo Compact Farfisa. It's almost like an arpeggiator and you hear it at the beginning of Side Two of The Endless
River. There is his keyboard French Horn sound, which you hear on Wish You Were Here and that he played in the 1993 jams aswel. Then his piano playing, and his very distinctive."

Considering the extraordinary circumstances around its genesis, and the processes diligently undertaken to complete The Endless River, Phil
Manzanera muses that
for the 2 2st Century".
S6 FITHADN'T been for the leak, this wouldn't existyet," acknowledges Andy Jackson in mid-August, while the waters of the Thames lapat the flanks of Astoria. "Still Wo-one knows where it came from. At that pon Warners and Sony knew about it and that don'tseem like the likely source, butitcertainly wasn'tany of us within the inner circle.' Polly Samson's pre-emptive tweet on July 5 may have revealed this fresh twist in the Pink Floyd narrative earier than intended, butall the same it reflected the banc spervasive abilly toadaptan
survive Historically, the band havereinvented surve. 1 istoricaly,
themselves on many occasionss first, following Syd Barrett's departure, then after the transitional, experimental run of albums in the late' 6 os to mid- 70 's, and again when Roger Wate left. With The Endless River, their 15th studio album, they've mutated once again; using elements of their past to find a place in the presen day. Manzanerad describes the record as having
"thatPink Floyd slow groove, that ifyou're in the right mood just washes through you". Certainly, across its four sides it focuses on the more atmospheric and digressive aspects of Pink Floyd's music. From the guitar loops and snippets of conversation ""This is what we do, we turn up
and we and we play") at the start of the firstside, on Gilmour, itfeels very much of a piece with the band'scherished exploratoryjourneys. Manzanera flagsup"the classic Farfisa, arpeggiated sound that to me is Pink Floyd, from 'Arnold Layne' right through DarkSide Of The Moon", that runs through the second side. Sid Trreecontains more typically articulate guitar from Wright; as well as the AlbertHall organ recording. Itall ends with "LouderThan Words" "It's part documentary, this album," notes Manzanera. "Itcaptures a moment where they were jamming, butitalso capturesa bit of talking from interviews, and the Albert Hall."
"Those guys, they'veall been through much," offers Youth. "Addictions, broken marriages, the band collapsing, reinventing itself. Them coming together nowhas this air of redemption. It would have been wonderful if Rick had been alive to share in that. But nevertheless, to do this took a lot of courage,
and emotional strength. If these guys can and emotional strength.If these guys can
work together again and find theharmony out of discord, then anyone can.I found it very beautifult to bear witness to." "We had got into what one might call a professional way of making records," reflects NickMason. "Never really suited toit. The thing specific parts. Butactually" -headds,
 when you've got musicians whojust shine when they're not given the partand are just allowed to be creative in their own right."©
The Endless River is released on November 10


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[^0]:    NDYJACKSONHAS good memories ofthe Division Bellsessions. As Pink Floyd's long-standing Wright eng Masiner, Jack convenened at Astoria, after week's jamming at Mason's Britannia Row studios, in early 1993 . "The idea was to try and find kernels for songs," he explains. "That was the way they had always worked, up untilI suppose The Wall and maybe even Animals. It was a very
    deliberate attempt to try and get back to that ethos, because they felt it gave them something they didn't getby going off into separate corners and writing. It was recorded in a very minimalistic way.Justa handful of mics. They fed into a DAT machine sitting by David and as soon as anything started happening that was good, he'd just press record." As Jackson remembers, "apile of tapes of jams"" was brought to Astoria and asifting process began, with the band,
    producer Bob Ezrin and Jackson whittling down alistof over producer Bob Ezrin nand Jackson whititing down a listofover
    6 opieces of music to thenine that became The Division Bell. "Initially, we had considered making The Division Bell as a two-partrecord," says Mason. "Half to be songs, and the ther a series of ambient instrumental pieces. Eventually, wedecided to makeita singlealbum and inevitably much of the preparation work remained unused."
    "Itookit upon myself to make 'The Big Spliff," admits companion LP, "which was justa comical title I came up with. It never got thought aboutagain, really." Theseremaining tapes were assiduously catalogued in Gilmour's warehouse "It has a hugetape store," Jackson reveall. "Fortunately, we're Very anal about that. We library everything, even hard

