

GUITAR *EDGE*

ROCK



Marillion

*Happiness Is the Road
(Racket)* ★★★★★^{1/2}

Marillion has long existed in relative obscurity on American shores, where they scored their only Top 40 hit, "Kayleigh," in 1985.

But 23 years later, the quintet is strong as ever in their native England and throughout Europe, and have somehow managed to cultivate one of the most enduring and loyal fanbases the U.S. has ever seen. Their 15th studio album, *Happiness Is the Road (Racket)*, is a testament both to their perseverance and to their embracing of an ever-evolving musical landscape. Like his musical brother David Gilmour, guitarist Steve Rothery's phrasing and sense of melody on this two-CD set spans from epic and towering to graceful and fragile.

Highlights: "Whatever Is Wrong With You," "Especially True," "Asylum Satellite #1"

By Michael Mueller