Steroid Maximus at the Knitting Factory.

Jim Thirlwell, a.k.a. Foetus, sometimes known as Clint Ruin or Wiseblood or DJ Otisfu or Manorexia or a few dozen other appellations, is a one-man music machine whose works dating back to the late '70s have for the most part been extreme electronics/tape-loop/drum-machine monstrosities set forth as a very idiosyncratic reaction to the standard punk-rock models of rebellion sucked up to by the general public. Known for his hugely varied and imaginatively colored sonic palette, Thirlwell also prefers his music in the key of up-your-nose, and his latest opus, Ectopia (Ipecac), under the artist name Steroid Maximus, is another bracingly brash tour de force of a jillion moods, rhythms, dynamics and wildly careening stereo effects. Ectopia's rapidly shifting textures and angles/scenes give it a cinematic aura; indeed, the album overtly pays tribute to Quincy Jones, Lalo Schifrin, Bernard Herrmann ("and Henry Mancini on PCP," says Thirlwell). It's the kind of MIDI/electronic work just loaded with orchestral possibilities, and to that end Thirlwell and his Ectopia trumpeter, Steve Bernstein (Sex Mob, Lounge Lizards), have assembled a 19-piece big band featuring heavies of the L.A. progressive music scene such as guitarist Nels Cline, bassist Devin Hoff, percussionist Danny Frankel and drummer D.J. Bonebrake, as well as drummer Scott Amendola and ex-Dizzy Gillespie/Tito Puente trumpeter Sal Cracchiolo. (John Payne)

WE ALSO RECOMMEND:
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TERRANOVA at the Echo.
WISKEY BISCUIT, BLUE EYED SOUL at Goldfingers.
JOSEPH ARTHUR at Largo.
NOISE THERAPY at the Roxy.
DEAD MOON, ROCK 'N' ROLL MACHINE at Spaceland.
ROBERT WALTER'S 20th CONGRESS at the Temple Bar.
MOVER, BART DAVENPORT at the 3 Clubs (see Other Rock & Pop).