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Thirlwell ready to play hard

Bands like Nine Inch Nails, Pantera and The Red Hot Chili Peppers often say that Jim Thirlwell, also known as Foetus, is a musical influence.

Thirlwell admits to having bitter feelings about these



THIRLWELL

bands who copy his sound, then become big stars. But he says those days are past. "You can't copyright a style," he said.

He'll be performing at The Point in Atlanta on Monday.

His latest album, "Gash," features a variety of musical styles from Eastern-influenced sounds to Big Band, all with an insistent bass-driven sound. It's not a pretty sound, but it's powerful.

And he's nothing if not prolific. He has 13 albums coming out this year (although 10 are reissues) on Columbia Records.

Thirlwell grew up in Australia and moved to London in 1978. In 1983, he moved to New York, where he lives today.

He hasn't been back to Australia since he left. "New York is just my home," he said. "I've always been a fairly intense individual and I like the nervous energy of the city."

But even he has to leave the city every six months or so because he feels he'll be consumed by that same energy.

His last tour was three years ago and he's ready for this one. "I totally miss it," he said of the road. "I'm a total ham" and loves to perform. He's more relaxed on the road, he said. He's away from the phone. The band's been rehearsed and all he has to do is perform. "Just prop me up in front of the microphone," he said.

If you don't recognize his name or his music, if you watch MTV, you may recognize the voice. He's the on-air announcer for MTV's "Extreme Sports" shows. Thirlwell's done the show for four seasons for a total of 60 shows. He's the guy who says, "Life is short. Play hard."