

**STERIOD
MAXIMUS**
Gondwanaland
(Big Cat ABB37CD)

Having hauled his grim industrial machine music out of its underground bunker, performing remixes for chartbound acts EMF and NIN, Jim Thirwell's (alias Foetus) name has been conspicuous of late.

Over the last decade, Thirwell's many alter-egos and varied projects have trashed classical, jazz and tribal styles into a sound which is often casually dismissed as dustbin-like music for slaphead pseuds. But, while Thirwell certainly spent much of the late '80s trapped in an ugly white noise, *Gondwanaland* is an enjoyable mess of trumpeting jazz movements, animal squeals, bad puns, prayer chants, growls, grunts and bagpipes.

The sad, broken organ-grinder sounds of 'Homeo +' is reminiscent of Tom Waits' world-weary fare, the classical movements are full of Laibach-styled horror music, while much of the remaining 40 minutes shrieks and buckles with heavy-duty industrial jazz.