

“If this is a homecoming, then we’d better come back more often.”

JEFF MARTIN

# TEA PARTY WEEKEND



**THE FRONT MAN:** Guitarist and vocalist Jeff Martin performs during an appearance at Noi Restaurant on Erie Street on Sunday.

*Star Photo: Nick Brancaccio*

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SATURDAY

LaSalle Strawberry Festival

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TED SHAW

ENTERTAINMENT

## Trio Entertains on Perfect Night

The moshers were out in full force Saturday when LaSalle's famous sons, The Tea Party, staged a thunderous homecoming.

An at-times electrifying two-hour concert capped off the season's first real scorcher in Gil Maure Park.

But the ice cream and strawberries were in abundance at the LaSalle Strawberry Festival. And The Tea Party's first concert in their home town was cause for celebration.

About 10,000 turned out on an ideal late-spring evening to hear many of the rock trio's hardest-hitting tunes, from Temptation to Save Me and the epic Mantra from their most recent CD, The Interzone Mantras.

They delivered most of their best-known songs, too, including Walking Wounded, Psychopomp, Heaven Coming Down and Sister Awake.

Sister Awake was saved for last and in typical fashion it was elongated into a mini-suite and included quotes from The Rolling Stones (Paint It Black) and INXS (Never Tear Us Apart).

Earlier, front man Jeff Martin paid homage to The Beatles when he sang a few bars of I Want You (She's So Heavy) during the opener, The River. Save Me, a favourite with the mostly young audience, was made even more attractive when the guys launched into more than passable cover of Led Zeppelin's Kashmir.

This was one of several songs in which Martin pulled an odd instrument out of his kit bag - in this case an elongated guitar that he played with a bow.

The opening of Halcyon Days featured an Indian ood, which resembled a large lute. In lullaby, Martin had many in the audience craning their necks to watch him manipulate a Theremin, an early 20th-century sound synthesizer played by waving a hand in front of two antennae. Sister Awake featured Martin on tablas.