

## A perfect summer day



Matt Costa performs yesterday.

Continued from PAGE C1

Just ask Susan Olszynko.

Basking in the sun in front of the main stage by 12:30 along with several dozen other ultra-early birds, Olszynko and family had already claimed a prime spot for their lawn chairs.

"We plan our whole year around this," said Olszynko, who hasn't missed a Bluesfest in the event's 13-year history. "I love the blues. It's deep soul music, it's raunchy, it gets down to the gut."

Armed with Bluesfest essentials — food and refreshments, an umbrella, blankets, and, most importantly, a big bottle of sun-tan lotion — Olszynko said, "I love this hot, steamy weather. It just goes with the blues."

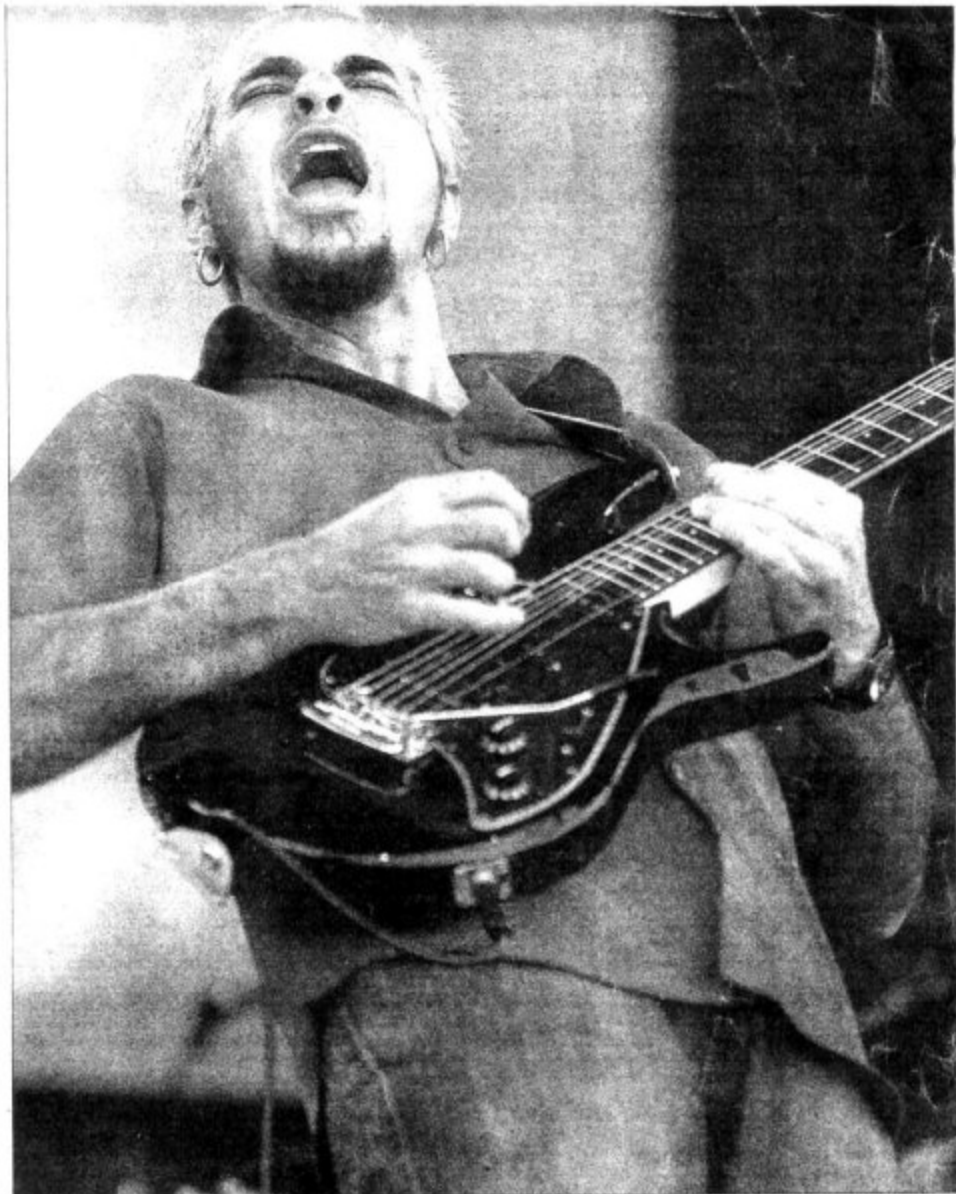
In fact, a steady breeze made yesterday afternoon comfortable for the shorts- and sandals-wearing crowd, friendly and in no hurry to get anywhere, gradually building at the side stages.

Over at the MBNA Stage, several hundred spectators clearly enjoyed the ironically named Brazilian Girls. The four-person band, whose heavily textured and electrifying music incorporates electronics, funk, reggae and everything else, is neither Brazilian nor, with the exception of lead singer Sabina Sciubba, female.

Sporting heels, culottes, a lacy face veil and a black fedora jammed low over her eyes, Sciubba slunk sensuously around the stage as she performed tunes like *Sing to the Ball*, which is exactly what she did, singing to her soccer ball purse.

The MBNA Stage, newly moved to a generous area south of Lisgar Collegiate, seems to be a success despite reported long line-ups Friday night. Ringed by its own food, beer and other vendors, the grassy venue is an oasis that has escaped the sound bleed that can plague Bluesfest shows.

While Sciubba was vamping on the



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Elmer Ferrer Band rocked the main stage yesterday afternoon.

recycling sleeves," reminded the emcee as Taylor wrapped up, referring to the plastic cylinders attached to garbage pails for the countless compostable beer cups drained during the festival. It's messy for those who have to empty the sleeves, with beer sloshing over their gloved hands, but it's part of Bluesfest's greener philosophy that includes the use of bio-diesel that Raitt lauded.

Other side-stage performers yesterday afternoon included Detroit's Deadstring Brothers, a little too close to Exile on Main Street-era Rolling Stones to be really interesting, and Elvis Perkins, the son of the late actor Anthony Perkins and the photographer Berry Berenson who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack.

Hard to say if his tragic family background adds to the apparent appeal of his tame songs and his bearded good looks, but Perkins, wearing torn and incredibly grubby blue jeans, was a particular favourite of young, tank-topped women in the audience.

One of the best afternoon shows was Walter Trout & the Radicals. A one-time sideman with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers,

