

Trio had some trouble steering clear of Rush

By Teresa Mazzitelli

In their earlier days — keeping in mind the band is a mere two years of age — the Santers had difficulty getting bookings on the southwestern Ontario bar circuit.

Explains guitarist Rick Santers: "People used to say 'you're a three-piece band, you've got to be loud. Just like Rush.' I didn't say 'oh, that's Rush and oh, that's Triumph and I want to write and play that kind of music. But the similarities were there for club owners."

The trio played Edmonton on Tuesday for the first time. They're the opening act on Ozzy Osbourne's Canadian tour, no small feat for such a novice act. "We never thought it would lead to this," says bassist Rick Lazaroff while sipping his orange juice.

"Our music leans toward hard rock and that demands involvement from us and from the audience," says Santers. That's largely what attracted him and younger brother Mark, the band's drummer, to



Young band Santers

a contemporary sound.

As children both Santers had studied classical piano but their hearts were elsewhere and two years ago, they decided to get serious. Advertising for a bassist, they found Lazaroff and started playing whenever and wherever.

After the Osbourne

tour, the group goes into the recording studio to work on a second LP. Says Santers, who does most of the writing, "We're trying to cover a wide spectrum of music. The writing is more diverse on this next album. I'm trying to write more along the melody lines."

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