

The Cellar

169 Avenue Rd., Toronto

In early late February or early March, 1963, possibly earlier, the Cellar was opened by Steve Ciotlos and Sam Shirose at 169 Avenue Rd. The house was devoted to jazz music with occasional forays into folk. Classical pianist Clem Hambourg appeared regularly, often as "host", from March 1963, after his House of Hambourg at 23 Grenville closed. Many of the better known Toronto jazz bands were featured, often with extended residencies. In spite of a move northwest to 182 Dupont Street in late 1965, the club doesn't appear to have survived 1966 in its jazz house format. Unlike many clubs and coffee houses, as rock, R&B and blues swept into the Village in 1964/5 on, the Cellar never appeared to yield.



The Cellar, circa 1963

Fred Duligal (saxophonist) with Ron Peck on vibes and either Ian Henstridge or Carne Bray on bass; Norm Amadeo or Ian Bargh on piano. Drummer is perhaps Ron Rully. All either/or suggestions from FaceBook Nov 2021.

Picture with permission from Susan Duligal

Updated: November 12, 2021

1963

Mar 8	Fred Duligal Quintet	G&M Mar 8 th p.5 http://www.canadianjazzarchive.org.vsd10.korax.net/en/musicians/fred-duligal.html
Mar 9	Dave Caplan in his Man About Jazz article <i>Hambourg Padlocked But Not Silenced</i>	Star Mar 9 th p.22 noting that after the closing of the House of Hambourg at 23 Grenville, Hambourg is soon picked up by the newly opened Cellar. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/clement-hambourg-emc
Mar 15-16	Duligal-Angus Quintet	G&M Mar 15 th p.5 12:30 to 4 am
Mar 17	Ron Peck Trio	G&M Mar 15 th p.5 9:30 - 2 am From the Jazz FM 91 archive: Ron Peck (vibraphonist), now deceased, was a member of the Al Lawrie Quintet (Al Lawrie on clarinet).
Mar 22-24	same Duligal-Angus, Ron Peck line up as last week	G&M Mar 22 nd p.5
Mar 29-31	as last week	G&M Mar 29 th p.5
Sep 23	Vibist Ron Peck, Fred Duligal Quartet , with folk singers Klaas Van Graft, Jean Kassapian	Star Sep 23 rd p. 20 in Dave Caplan's <i>Man About Jazz</i> : "... and others split up the entertainment from Thursday to Sunday" see: https://www.discogs.com/artist/1577492-Jean-Kassapian
Nov 9	Eve Law	Tely Nov 9 th
Nov 15-16	Eve Law and Clem Hambourg	Tely Nov 16 th early and late respectfully, both nights, guessing that the Tely is referring to the night before but probably to their residency.

Nov 22-23, Nov 29-23, Dec 6-7	Eve Law and Clem Hambourg	Tely Nov 23 rd , Nov 30 th , Dec 7 th the residency continues
Nov 30	Alex Lazaroff & Fred Duligal with added attractions Eve Law comedienne, singer-guitarist Jean Kassapian and Clem Hambourg playing classical piano	Star Nov 30 th p.29 in Gerry Barker's <i>In Town and Out</i> "front modern jazz units"
Dec 13-14	Clem Hambourg now with Fred Duligal and Alex Lazaroff after hours	Tely Dec 14 th
Dec 20-21	Clem Hambourg now with Klaas Van Graft	Tely Dec 21 st
Dec 21	Alex Lazaroff & Fred Duligal with Clem Hambourg	Star Dec 21 p.21 in the ShowBill column: "two floors of modern jazz in action"

1964

Jan 3-4	Clem Hambourg	Tely Jan 4 th , jazz weekends only
Feb 14-16	Rod Dawson(sp) and the Fred Duligal Jazz Quintet with Clem Hambourg in intermissions	Tely Feb 13 th (After Four) note: every After Four going forward also notes "... plus odd folks singers every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30" ("odd" is not defined)
Feb 20-23	The above continue but with "folk singers" names not listed	Tely Feb 20 th (After Four) also: "every Wednesday the Cellar holds a free open house where local jazz groups my play"

Feb 28-Mar 1	Fred Duligal and Clem Hambourg	Tely Feb 27 th (After Four) ... still those “odd folk singers”
Mar 6-8	as above	Tely Mar 5 th (After Four)
Mar 7	Alex Lazaroff	Star Mar 7 th p.23 in Dave Caplan’s column “ <i>Exciting Lazaroff sound makes Avenue Rd. Swing</i> ”: “ Drummer Alex Lazaroff and his big band of skilled musicians are back for another bash tonight on the main level of the Cellar club at 169 Avenue Rd. Things start swinging at 1 am. The show may become a regular Saturday night affair if it receives healthy support.” Also referenced in Gerry Barker’s <i>In Town and Out</i> p.29.
Mar 7	A 14-piece band featuring Al Stanwyck, Ron Collier, Charlie Ralto, Dave Hammer, Ross Cully	Tely Mar 7 th (What’s Going On) though not agreeing with the Star but we’re getting some more names. See also: https://www.thebossbrass.com/2012/05/05/al-stanwyck/ and https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ron-collier
Mar 13-15	The Fred Duligal with Clem Hambourg combination continues	Tely Mar 12 th (After Four), Tely Mar 14 th expresses it differently but basically confirms the line-up
Mar 20-22	The Fred Duligal with Clem Hambourg combination continues	Tely Mar 19 th (After Four). Tely Mar 21 st adds critical names: Ron Collier, Graham Topping, Rick Williams, Jerry Toth, Freddy Stone (sp. all, very blurry scan).
Mar 27-29	as last week	Tely Mar 26 th (After Four), Tely Mar 28 th (What’s On) mentions Adriane Harmon folk singer.
Apr 3-5	as last week	Tely Apr 2 nd (After Four)

Apr 10-12	as last week, but Tely What's On notes Alex Lazaroff on the late shift	Tely Apr 9 th (After Four); Tely What's On Apr 11 th
Apr 17-19	The Fred Duligal with Clem Hambourg but again, <i>What's On</i> has Alex Lazaroff on the late shift on Saturday	Tely Apr 16 th (After Four), Apr 18 th (What's On)
Apr 24-26	as last week	Tely Apr 23 rd (After Four), Apr 25 th (What's On)
May 1-3	as last week	Tely Apr 30 th (After Four), May 2 nd (What's On) also an interesting article in the Star May 2 nd p. 28 by Nathan Cohen describing a disagreement between the Yorkville area proprietors and the “Upper Village” owners of the Cellar Club, Village Corner and the Night Owl being excluded from their upcoming “Village of Yorkville Festival”.
May 8-10	as last week	Tely May 7 th (After Four), May 9 th (What's On)
May 15-17	as last week	Tely May 14 th (After Four), May 16 th (What's On)
May 22-24	as last week	Tely May 21 st (only After Four reporting this week but same line up presumed)
May 29-31	The Fred Duligal with Clem Hambourg only	Tely May 28 th (After Four), May 30 th (What's On) both with similar posts
Jun 5-7	as last week	Tely Jun 4 th (After Four), Jun 6 th (What's On) both with similar posts and still “... <i>plus odd folks singers every Friday Saturday and Sunday at 9:30</i> ” appearing in the After Four listing

Jun 12-14	as last week	Tely Jun 11 th (After Four), Jun 13 th (What's On) both with similar posts
Jun 19-21	as last week	Tely Jun 18 th (After Four only)
Jun 26-28	as last week	Tely Jun 25 th (After Four only)
Jul 3-5	as last week	Tely Jul 2 nd (After Four only)
Jul 10-12	as last week	Tely Jul 9 th (After Four only)
Jul 24-26	as last week	Tely Jul 23 rd (After Four only after skipping a week)
Jul 31-Aug 2	Fred Duligal Quintet	Tely Jul 30 th (After Four only) and the message changes: "The Fred Duligal Quintet has syncopated cellar sounds on weekends"
Aug 7-9	Fred Duligal Quintet	Tely Aug 6 th (After Four only) The Tely listings now drop the Cellar for a while
Nov 20-21	Don Thompson Quintet, Roger Renwick and host Clem Hambourg	Tely Nov 21 st (What's Going on) ... swings from Mid-night on with folk singer Roger Renwick and host Clem Hambourg in charge early in the evenings, open Fri. and Sat."
Nov 27-28	as above	Tely Nov 28 th (again only in the What's Going On listing)
Dec 4-5	as above	Tely Dec 5 th (again only in the What's Going On listing)
Dec 11-12	as above	Tely Dec 12 th (What's going on)
Dec 13	Sonny Greenwich quintet	Tely Dec 12 th (What's going on) see also: http://sonnygreenwich.com/
Dec 18-20	same weekend line up as previous week	Tely Dec 19th (What's going on)

Dec 25-27 same weekend line up as previous week Tely Dec 26th (What's going on)

1965

Jan 1-3	as last week even though it's New Years?	Tely Jan 2 nd (What's going on)
Jan 8-10	as last week	Tely Jan 9 th (What's going on)
Jan 15-17	as last week	Tely Jan 16 th (What's going on)
Jan 22	Ada Lee with the Maury Kay's Combo	Star Jan 23 rd p.24 advertisement, see also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ada_Lee
Jan 23	Norm Amadio Combo with Ada Lee and Clem Hambourg	Star Jan 23 rd p.24 advertisement, confirmed by Tely Jan 23 rd (What's going on) for Norm Amadio see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Amadio
Jan 29-30	same weekend lineup Ada Lee signing with Maury Kay's Combo Friday night, Norm Amadio Saturday night and Clem Hambourg in the early hours	Tely Jan 30 th (What's going on)
Feb 5-6	same weekend band lineup but Tommy Ambrose replacing Ada Lee	Tely Feb 6 th (What's going on)
Feb 12-13	as last week	Tely Feb 13 th (What's going on from now on as the Tely's After Four listing ends)

Feb 19-20	as last week	Tely Feb 20 th
Feb 26-27	as last week	Tely Feb 27 th
Mar 5-6	Tony Collacutt Trio starts this week with Clem Hambourg hosting	Tely Mar 6 th
Mar 12-13	as last week	Tely Mar 13 th
Mar 19-20	Lineup now Tommy Ambrose signing with Maury Kay's Combo Friday night, and Norm Amadio Saturday night. Sonny Greenwich appears Sunday and Clem Hambourg in the early hours throughout	Tely Mar 20 th
Mar 25-28	Bob Angus Combo , Maury Kay's Combo , Norm Amadio with vocalist Tommy Ambrose and Sonny Greenwich	Tely Mar 25 th & 27 th appearing respectively Thursday through Sunday. Advertised in an After Four trailer on p.13. In the same advertisement; "Open Wednesday thru Sunday"
Apr 1-4	Bob Angus Combo , Maury Kay's Combo , Norm Amadio with vocalist Tommy Ambrose and Guido Basso and his jazz quintet	Tely Apr 1 st & 3 rd respectively (consolidating both lists) lists Clem Hambourg hosting and on piano

Apr 8-11	Bob Angus Combo, Maury Kay's Combo featuring jazz singer Ada Lee, Norm Amadio with vocalist Tommy Ambrose and Guido Basso-Rob McConnell Quintet	Tely Apr 8 th & 10 th respectively (consolidating both lists) with Clem Hambourg on the concert grand in the early hours, presumably every night
Apr 15-18	Bob Angus Combo, Maury Kay's Combo featuring jazz singer Ada Lee, Norm Amadio with vocalist Tommy Ambrose and Guido Basso-Rob McConnell Quintet	Tely Apr 15 th & 17 th respectively (consolidating both lists)
Apr 22-25	appearing as last week	Tely Apr 22 nd & 24 th respectively (consolidating both lists)
Apr 29 - May 2	appearing as last week	Tely Apr 29 th & May 1 st respectively (consolidating both lists)
May 6-9	appearing as last week	Tely May 8 th After Four stops publishing the trailer listing. Bob Angus is presumed to still be on Thursdays
May 13-16	appearing as last week but now with Tony Collacutt on Sunday	Tely May 15 th with same presumption, also a reference to Clem Hambourg playing earlier in the evening at the Place Pigalle (Regency Towers Hotel, 89 Avenue Rd.) You UofT drinkers will recall this place!
May 20-23	as last week	Tely May 22 nd referencing only "weekends" so perhaps the Thursday night gig has been dropped as Clem Hambourg was playing part time elsewhere.

May 28-29	Paul Hoffert on Friday; Norm Amadio on Saturday	Tely May 29 th Clem Hambourg now the “champion of Yorkville Village” but reference to the Sunday slot now gone. See Paul Hoffert at: http://www.paulhoffert.ca/
Jun 4-5	as last week	Tely Jun 5 th
Jun 18-19	as previous week	Tely Jun 19 th having missed Jun 12 th
Aug 21	Tommy Ambrose preceded by Clem Hambourg	G&M Aug 20 th p.10 “a new jazz group after midnight tonight (Friday)”, Tommy Ambrose “after midnight Saturday, preceded by pianist Clem Hambourg and “another jazz group Sunday”
Aug 27	Ada Lee	G&M Aug 27 th p.10
Dec 31	Announcing it's “back in business” and focusing on folk singing	Tely Dec 27 th p.27 “What's New” listing. “The big opening night takes place New Year's Eve, with a parade of folk singers and revue artists”.

1966

Jan 14-15	The Rob McConnell Big Band and Norma Locke singer	Star Jan 14 th p.31 An advertisement for this gig. “‘Steve’ of the Cellar Jazz Club ..” ... now at 182 Dupont Street, and Tely Jan 15 th p.B20
Feb 20	Poemime Players	G&M Feb 18 th p.14
Mar 4-6	The Toronto Repertory Ensemble , Ron Rully and his orchestra with C.J. Feeny's Rhythm & Blues Band	Star Mar 4 th p.22 another advertisement for the Cellar Jazz Club at 182 Dupont. Friday and Saturday “Till Morning” Sunday night Jam session

Mar 13	Marion Brown - Grachan Moncur Quartet	G&M Mar 11 th p.14
Mar 15-19 Mar 22-27	Lenny Tristano Quartet	Star Mar 10 th p.22. "... excellent jazz man Lenny Tristano is coming to Steve Ciotlos' Jazz Cellar starting Tuesday"- in Nathan Cohen's column titled "Rehearsal' has one asset -- Mulcahy and the Tely Mar 12 th and 19 th
Apr 19-24	The Art Farmer Quintet featuring Jimmy Heath, Walter Booker, Albert Dailey, Mickey Roker	Apr 22 nd p.33 Advertisement for the Cellar Jazz Club, nightly 9:30- 3 am and G&M Apr 22 nd p.12
May 28	Al Stanwyck's Big Band	Star May 28 th p.B32 ... with Gary Morgan, Fred Duligal, Eugene Amaro, Ed Sossin on saxophone, Julius Piekarz, Rainer Schmidt, Bobby Van Evera (on trumpet), Ray Sikora and Laurie Brown on piano, Lenny Boyd on bass and Stan Perry on drums
Jun 3-5	The New York Jazz Ensemble	Star May 28 th p.B32
Jun 14-19	Charles Lloyd Quartet	Tely Jun 18 th p.18
Jun 26	Lonnie Johnson	G&M Jun 24 th p.12
Jul 1-2	Marion Brown	Tely Jul 2 nd p.19

1969

Dec 15	Francois Jourdan in an article by Jack Batten titled "Modern Jazz making modest comeback"	Star Dec 15 th , p.24 " Le Fauche.... a restaurant at 169 Avenue Rd Francois Jourdan from France who sings in the Jacques Brel manner"
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Data collection

These listings are a composite of what appeared in the Toronto Telegram's (the Tely) What's Going On listing in the Showcase Section and the Chum About Town listings in the After Four Section (Feb 1964 - Feb 1965) augmented by electronic searches of the Toronto Star (Star) and Globe and Mail (G&M) archives from the 1960s on. Where I take words directly from a listing I use "quotation marks" and/or italics. Where I cite an article I reference the reporter if identified.

Please recognize, these are only the musicians who were publicized in the daily press. Many others performed and risk going unrecognized except in memory. As usual, the spelling of artists names was variable in the press of the day, my apologies for mistakes not caught, corrections welcome.

With thanks to Don Vickery, a photo of a group playing in Eglinton Park in 1961. In his words: "... this was a group put together by Bob Angus on trombone. The other players are me on drums, Fred Duligal tenor, Stan Zadak bass, Mike Massey piano, Fred Stone trumpet. We rehearsed for this gig at the Cellar. The drummer setting up behind me is Rickey Marcus who played with Moe Koffman in the early 60's.

