

The Penny Farthing

John and Marilyn McHugh opened The Penny Farthing at 112 Yorkville Ave., Toronto in March 1963, running it first as a coffee house, introducing “live” music by November, 1963 (probably earlier but not advertised in the local newspapers). It appears to have ceased presenting live music by July 1968. A plaque can be seen outside where the coffee house stood.



Columbia

Last updated: May 23, 2021

1963

Mar 18	Gerry Barker's <i>In Town & Out column</i>	Star Mar 18 th , p.29 "The Half Beat coffee house has an offspring called the Penny Farthing. The new coffee house on Yorkville St. is for coffee lovers who prefer taking the brew in elegant Victorian surroundings."
Nov 29-30	Margaret Milligan	Tely Nov 30 th "folk singer... weekends only, coffee all week"
Dec 6-7	Margaret Milligan	Tely Dec 7 th "strums beneath picture of Queen Victoria interrupted only by the espresso machine"
Dec 13-14	Margaret Milligan	Presumed because she now has a Fri/Sat residency upstairs opening the way for jazz and dancing downstairs, later referred to in other terms (basement, underground, etc.)
Dec 14	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Tely Dec 14 th "at midnight. Dancing too"
Dec 20-21	Margaret Milligan	Star Dec 21 st , p.21
Dec 19	Don Simmons quintet	Star Dec 19 th , p.25 "Yorkville's Penny Farthing coffee house turns to jazz in the basement featuring the Don Simmons quintet"
Dec 20	Le Hot Club Canadien led by Jan MacReal	Star Dec 19 th also p.25 "... perform in the tradition of Django Reinhardt"
Dec 21	Don Simmons (clarinet) Jazz Band	Star Dec 21 st , p.21
Dec 27-28	Margaret Milligan	again presumed

Dec 27	Jimmy Scott's jazz band	Tely Dec 21 st
Dec 28	Don Simmons	Star Dec 21 st "with dancing and jazz mix after midnight"

1964

Jan 3-4	Margaret Milligan	G&M Jan 3 rd , p.8: 9-11 pm "today and tomorrow", Tely Jan 4 th
Jan 3	Hot Club Canadien	G&M Jan 3 rd , p.8: 11pm to 4 am today
Jan 4	Don Simmons Group	G&M Jan 3 rd , p.8 from midnight tomorrow (4 th), Star Jan 4 th , p.21: "The Don Simmons 'middle of the road' sounds turn on at the Penny Farthing"
Jan 10-11	Margaret Milligan	G&M Jan 10 th , p.8 11pm to 4 am today
Jan 10	Black Eagle Jazz Band	G&M Jan 10 th , p.8 11:30 to 4 pm today (10 th) From Mike Daley: the " <i>Black Eagle Jazz Band - early band of Happy Pals cornetist Cliff "Kid" Bastien, though here he was on piano. He would lead his own band at Grossman's for decades, a Saturday afternoon tradition that is still being carried on today by Patrick Tevlin and his Happy Pals</i> ".
Jan 11	Don Simmons jazz group	Tely Jan 11 th
Jan 17-18	Margaret Milligan	G&M Jan 17 th , p.8 9 pm to midnight
Jan 17	Freddy Sargent Quartet	G&M Jan 17 th , p.8 11 pm to 4 am
Jan 18	Don Simmons Group	G&M Jan 17 th , p.8 from midnight, Tely Jan 18 th
Jan 24-25	Margaret Milligan	G&M Jan 24 th , p.8 residency continues

Jan 24	Hot Club Canadien	Tely Jan 18 th G&M Jan 24 th
Jan 25	Don Simmons jazz group	Tely Jan 18 th , Star Jan 25 th , p.29 “with cornetist Len Chandler sharing the spotlight” also G&M Jan 24 th , p.8
Jan 26	Don Simmons jazz group	Tely Jan 25 th a Sunday gig is added, G&M Jan 24 th , p.8
Jan 31-Feb 1	Margaret Milligan	residency continues
Feb 1	Don Simmons jazz group	Tely Feb 1 st
Feb 2	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Feb 1 st
Feb 7-8	Margaret Milligan	residency continues
Feb 7	Hot Club Canadien	Tely Feb 1 st
Feb 8	Don Simmons jazz group	Tely Feb 8 th
Feb 9	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Feb 8 th
Feb 14-15	Margaret Milligan	Tely Feb 8 th G&M Feb 14 th , p.8
Feb 14	Hot Club Canadien or Jim Scott Dixieland Band	Tely Feb 8 th (Hot Club), or G&M Feb 14 th , p.9 (Jim Scott)
Feb 15	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Tely Feb 13 th - first listing in the <i>After Four</i> section
Feb 16	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Feb 13 th - Sunday appearances continue
Feb 21-22	Margaret Milligan	Tely Feb 20 th G&M Feb 21 st , p.8
Feb 21	Jim Scott’s Dixieland Band	Tely Feb 15 th , G&M silent on the jazz bands this week
Feb 22	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Tely Feb 15 th , 20 th
Feb 23	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Feb 20 th , Feb 22 nd

Feb 29	Dave Caplan writing	Star Feb 29 th , p.29: "The Penny Farthing goes jazz four nights a week featuring a different combo nightly from Thursday to Sunday."
Feb 28-29	Margaret Milligan	Tely Feb 27 th , 29 th
Feb 28	Jim Scott's Dixieland Band	Tely Feb 27 th , 29 th
Feb 29	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Tely Feb 27 th , 29 th "Girls Admitted Free"
Mar 1	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Feb 27 th
Mar 6	Margaret Milligan	Tely Mar 5 th
Mar 6	Jim Scott's Dixieland Band	Tely Mar 5 th , G&M Mar 6 th , p.8 also a great picture of the Penny's sign in the Globe
Mar 7	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Tely Mar 5 th G&M Mar 6 th , p.8
Mar 7	David Tweed	Tely Mar 7 th - appears to replace Margaret Milligan on Sat
Mar 8	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Mar 5 th G&M Mar 6 th , p.8
Mar 12	Ron Simpson's Jazz Band	Tely Mar 12 th , entertainment is added on Thursday night or is just now advertised?
Mar 13	Jim Scott's Dixieland Band	G&M Mar 13 th , p.8
Mar 13	Margaret Milligan or "Big" Stan (Thomas)	Tely Mar 14 th (Milligan) G&M Mar 13 th , p.8 (Thomas)
Mar 14	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Tely Mar 12 th
Mar 14	Mark Stranger	G&M Mar 13 th p.8
Mar 15	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Mar 12 th

Mar 20-21	Stan Thomas	Tely Mar 19 th early (9-11 pm) show, Star Mar 21 st , p.24 “Stan Thomas picked up the guitar under the guidance of Tony Giosefitto and solos tonight ...”
Mar 20	Jim McHarg’s Vintage Jazz Band	Tely Mar 19 th late (11-4) show, G&M Mar 20 th , p.12
Mar 21	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Tely Mar 19 th late (12-4) show, G&M Mar 20 th , p.12
Mar 22	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Mar 19 th , G&M Mar 20 th , p.12
Mar 26-29	last week’s lineup repeats	Tely Mar 26 th , G&M Mar 27 th , p.15
Apr 3	Jim McHarg’s Vintage Jazz Band	G&M Apr 3 rd , p.9
Apr 3-4	Stan Thomas	Tely Apr 4 th early show (Note: <i>After Four</i> stops listing the Penny meaning Friday performances are not advertised)
Apr 4	Article by Patrick Scott: <i>Jim McHarg’s Booming Bass More Propulsive Than Ever</i>	G&M Apr 4 th an excellent article on Jim McHarg’s band: bass players will enjoy it!
Apr 4	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Tely Apr 4 th late show G&M Apr 3 rd , p.9
Apr 5	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Apr 4 th , Sunday show as usual, G&M Apr 3 rd p.9
Apr 11-12	last week’s lineup repeats	Tely Apr 11 th
Apr 18-19	last week’s lineup repeats	Tely Apr 18 th
Apr 25-26	last week’s lineup repeats	Tely Apr 25 th
May 2-3	last week’s lineup repeats	Tely May 2 nd

May 8-10	Jim McHarg's Vintage Jazz Band, Don Simmons Jazz Band and Black Eagle Jazz Band continue their Friday, Saturday, Sunday rotation	G&M May 8 th , p.10
May 9	Gerry Barker's <i>In Town & Out</i> column	Star May 9 th , p.32 "Three after hours clubs are joining forces (an unusual development in itself), to repeat the music on ferry boats again this summer. Three dates are set; modern jazz sponsored by the Green Door, traditional jazz put forward by the Penny Farthing and folk songs by the Purple Onion."
May 15-17, 22-24	The March 8-10 Friday, Saturday, Sunday rotation continues	Tely "What's Going On" lists only the Sunday gigs this month; G&M May 8 th p.10, 22 nd , p.8 by extension, fill in the gaps
May 22	Gerry Barker's <i>In Town & Out</i> column	Star May 22 nd , p.25 "Nine weeks ago Jim McHarg formed the Vintage Jazz Band which played the Penny Farthing Club in Yorkville Village."
Jun 7, 14, 21, 28	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely <i>What's Going On</i> listings this month, with the only Sunday
Jun 13	Don Simmons Jazz Band	Star Jun 13 th , p12 mentions Don Simmons - he appears to be keeping his Saturday night residency
Jun 27	Jurgen Hesse article: <i>Has the Zest Gone Out of Yorkville Village?</i>	G&M Jun 27 th , p.15 with quotes from John McHugh of the Penny and Werner Graeber of the Inn on the Parking Lot
Jul 5, 12	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely "What's Going On" listings these two weeks, with only listings for Sunday

Jul 23	Comments in the listing	Tely Jul 23 rd - note in listing: "Bikini-clad waitresses take a refreshing dip in the new status symbol backyard pool at the repolished Penny on the city's coffee house street"
Aug 1	Arnold Rockman's <i>Dining Out</i> column	Star Aug 1 st , p32 provides an insight into John McHugh and a note about the redecorated Penny, the prices and service "a kind of slackly casual, well-intentioned amateurishness" are the same"
Aug 13	Note in the listing	Telly Aug 13 th "The biggest outdoor café and patio in the Village also has a baby swimming pool in the back along with several siren-type waitresses in bikinis to serve your coffee and baguettes"
Aug 13	Don Wilson Trio	Tely Aug 27 th - the Penny is now offering "entertainment nightly"
Aug 14-15	Doug Brown followed by Art Ayre Trio	Tely Aug 27 th , from Mike Daley: "Art Ayre would be recruited by Jack London and the Sparrows soon after this."
Aug 16	Black Eagle Jazz Band	Tely Aug 27 th
Aug 17-Sep 24	Doug Brown, Art Ayre Trio, the Black Eagle Jazz Band and John Wilson	Tely Aug 29 th Monday, Wed, Friday, Saturday folk singer Doug Brown from 10-1 with the Art Ayre Trio from 1:30 am on Fri and Sat. The Black Eagle Jazz Band appearing Sunday nights. John Wilson Trio the following Tuesday and Thursday, 10 pm on
Sep 25-26	Chick Roberts followed by the Art Ayre Trio	Tely Sep 24 th , Star Sep 26 th , p.27
Sep 27	Art Ayer Trio	Tely Sep 24 th Star Sep 26 th , p.27
Sep 28,30	Doug Brown	Tely Sep 24 th

Sep 29	John Wilson	Tely Sep 24 th
Oct 1	John Wilson or Doug Brown	Tely Sep 26 th & Oct 1 st (listings don't agree) - betting they meant Doug Brown on Friday because Friday is missing in the listings. The Star Sep 26 th , p.27 breaks the tie, its John Wilson on Thursday
Oct 2-4	Art Ayer's Trio	Tely Oct 1 st with "special guest artists", Star Sep 26 th , p.27
Oct 6, 7	Doug Brown	Tely Oct 1 st
Oct 9-11	Art Ayer's Trio	Tely Oct 15 th "And in the basement there's more exciting music"
Oct 9-10	Chick Roberts with Ted McGillivray downstairs	G&M Oct 9 th , p.9 - now the "Famous" Penny Farthing
Oct 14	Nathan Cohen's column	Star Oct 14 th , p.44 a discussion of John McHugh's business dealing as in renting out his two coffee shops
Oct 12-18	Chick Roberts with Ted McGillivray downstairs	Tely Oct 15 th Chick Roberts "and his beard" entertain Monday through Saturday, G&M Oct 16 th , p.10 takes him to Sunday with Ted McGillivray downstairs Oct 16 th and 17 th
Oct 16-18	Ron Park and the Art Ayre's Trio	G&M Oct 16 th , p.10 at the "Famous Penny Farthing" with guest soloist Don Thompson on the 17 th
Nov 7	Chick Roberts with Elyse Weinberg	Tely Nov 7 th
Nov 8	Art Ayre's Trio	Tely Nov 7 th
Nov 19	Jim Cameron	Tely Nov 19 th "plays flamenco guitar"

Nov 20-21	Doug Brown followed by Ron Peck Trio with vocalist Dave Higgins	Tely Nov 19 th “on the main floor” Star Nov 21 st , p.26 ... joined by Brian Browne “the much talked about jazz pianist ... “
Nov 20-21	Greg Winkfield	Tely Nov 19 th “downstairs”
Nov 22	Art Ayre’s Trio	Tely Nov 21 st
Nov 22-26	Doug Brown	Tely Nov 19 th “Sunday through next week”
Nov 27-28	Doug Brown followed by Ron Peck Trio with vocalist Dave Higgins	Tely Nov 28 th
Nov 29	Art Ayre’s Trio	Tely Nov 28 th
Dec 3	Greg Winkfield	Tely Dec 3 rd
Dec 4-5	Doug Brown followed by Ron Peck Trio with vocalist Dave Higgins	Tely Dec 3 rd
Dec 4-5	Ted McGillevray	Tely Dec 3 rd downstairs in the “Underground with Jim”
Dec 6-10	Jim Cameron	Tely Dec 3 rd
Dec 11-12	Doug Brown followed by Ron Peck Trio with vocalist Dave Higgins	Tely Dec 10 th
Dec 11-12	Ted McGillevray or Jim McCarthy	Tely Dec 12 th “Underground with Jim” or per Tely Dec 10 th
Dec 13-16	Jim Cameron	Tely Dec 12 th

Dec 18-19	Doug Brown followed by Ron Peck Quartet with vocalist Dave Higgins	Tely Dec 19 th , G&M Dec 18 th , p.14
Dec 18-19	Ted McGillevray and/or Chick Roberts	Tely Dec 19 th , G&M Dec 18 th , p.14 , Chick Roberts in the "Underground with Jim room"
Dec 20-23	Jim Cameron and/or Chick Roberts	Tely Dec 19 th and 24 th
Dec 24	Ron Peck Quartet with vocalist Dave Higgins and Chick Roberts	G&M Dec 24 th , p.10

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Jan 1-2	Jim McCarthy	Tely Dec 31 st sings Underground with Jim
Jan 1-2	Chick Roberts upstairs followed by Dave Higgins with the Ron Peck Quartet	Tely Dec 31 st
Jan 3	Chick Roberts	Tely Dec 31 st
Jan 4-9	Doug Brown	Tely Jan 7 th upstairs
Jan 8-9	Dave Higgins with the Ron Peck Quartet	Tely Jan 7 th following late upstairs
Jan 8-10	Jim McCarthy	Tely Jan 7 th Underground with Jim on the 8 th and 9 th moving upstairs on Sunday
Jan 11-16	Doug Brown	Tely Jan 7 th upstairs
Jan 15-16	Dave Higgins with the Ron Peck Quartet	Tely Jan 14 th

Jan 15-17	Jim McCarthy	Tely Jan 14 th & 16 th Friday & Saturday downstairs (underground with Jim, moving like last week, upstairs on Sunday)
Jan 18-23	Doug Brown	Tely Jan 23 rd
Jan 22-23	Dave Higgins with the Ron Peck Quartet	Tely Jan 23 rd
Jan 22-23	Jim McCarthy	Tely Jan 23 rd Friday & Saturday downstairs (Underground with Jim), moving like last week upstairs on Sunday
Jan 25-31	Doug Brown, Dave Higgins with the Ron Peck Quartet and Jim McCarthy	Tely Jan 30 th same gig lineup as last week
Feb 1-7	Doug Brown, Dave Higgins with the Ron Peck Quartet and Jim McCarthy	Tely Jan 30 th combined with Feb 6 th same gig lineup as last week. The Tely's After Four (Thursday) listings end with the Feb 4 th edition and comparative detail is lost.
Feb 8-14	Doug Brown, Dave Higgins with the Ron Peck Quartet and Jim McCarthy	Tely Feb 6 th combined with the 13 th same again
Feb 15-21	Apparently the same line-up repeats	The Penny doesn't appear in the Saturday Feb 20 th What's Going On listing (missed during the shift to Saturday only listings?)
Feb 22-28	The Dirty Shames	Tely Feb 27 th "on nightly except Monday", Star Feb 27 th , p.30
Feb 26-27	Dave Higgins with the Ron Peck Quartet	Star Feb 27 th , p.30 following the Dirty Shames

Feb 26-27, Mar 1	Jackie Washington	Tely Feb 27 th , p.30 Star Feb 27 th “downstairs”
Mar 2–6	The Dirty Shames upstairs with Ron Peck Quartet with vocalist Dave Higgins following	Tely Mar 6 th , Star Feb 27 th , p.30
Mar 5-6	Jackie Washington	Tely Mar 6 th “sings blues and ballads”
Mar 12	Joni Anderson	from Joni Mitchell’s website https://jonimitchell.com
Mar 12-14	Jackie Washington with the Ron Peck Quartet and vocalist Dave Higgins afterward on the weekend	Tely Mar 13 th
Mar 15	Vicki(y) Taylor	Tely Mar 13 th , the spelling of Ms Taylor’s first name varies between Tely posts and references elsewhere
Mar 16-	The Villagers	Tely Mar 13 th , no mention in Mar 20 th listing (really missing those <i>After Four</i> listings)
Mar 23-28	Mike Settle Trio	Tely Mar 25 th (<i>After Four</i> now has what’s probably paid ads in a trailer along one page) and Mar 27 th “folk rock”
Mar 24-25	Ron Peck Quartet and vocalist Dave Higgins & Henry Cuesta	Tely Mar 25 th
Mar 26-27	Stan Thomas	Tely Mar 25 th “downstairs”
Mar 30- Apr 3	The above weekly line-up continues	Tely Apr 3 rd , Star Mar 29 th , p.42
Apr 6-11	Mike Settle and Ron Peck	Tely Apr 8 th continuing their performances as previous week

Apr 9-10	Joni Anderson (but listed as "Johnny")	Tely Apr 8 th downstairs in the Penny's "Underground" This is the first listing I've found in the major Toronto press for Joni Anderson at the Penny, though we know from the reference above that she was a regular there from at least mid-March to early May 1965 a time during which she met her future husband Chuck Mitchell. I have her there a little longer May 8 th , than her website.
Apr 10	Stan Thomas	Tely Apr 10 th - there's some overlap between listings here
Apr 13-18	Mike Settle and Ron Peck's Quartet	Tely Apr 10 th remain on the same (week/weekend) schedule
Apr 16-17	Stan Thomas	Tely Apr 10 th underground gig
Apr 13-18	Biff Rose with the Ron Peck Quartet and vocalist Dave Higgins following on Fri/Sat	Tely Apr 15 th Biff Rose: "folk comedian from NY"
Apr 13-17	Joni Anderson (now called "Joanne")	Tely Apr 15 th "underground" (again overlap unless Stan Thomas is sharing the stage or is upstairs, possible since his listings here don't specify the "underground"). Showing the full week based on Joni Mitchell's website https://jonimitchell.com
Apr 20-24	Biff Rose with the Ron Peck Quartet and vocalist Dave Higgins following on Fri/Sat, also Olive Brown	Tely Apr 22 nd , G&M Apr 22 nd
Apr 19-26	Joni Anderson (finally calling her Joni)	Tely Apr 22 nd still underground. Again the full week is listed based on https://jonimitchell.com

Apr 27- May 1	Chuck Mitchell and Loring James followed afterward by the Ron Peck Quartet with vocalist Olive Brown and clarinetist Henry Cuesta	Tely Apr 29 th Star Apr 24 th , p.71 Olive Brown on the weekend only G&M Apr 28 th , p.14 with a rather critical review of the Penny and its coffee by Patrick Brown
Apr 30- May 1	Vicky Taylor	Tely Apr 29 th underground
May 7-8	Doug Brown and Joni Anderson followed afterward by the Ron Peck Quartet with vocalist clarinetist Henry Cuesta and pianist Brian Browne to 4 am Friday and Saturday	Tely May 8 th
May 7-8	Vicky Taylor	Tely May 8 th underground
May 9-10	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	G&M May 8 th , p.16 Also in the same <i>Jazz Scene</i> article by Patrick Scott (Montreal's Gain in More of a loss) you could have picked up a Stradivarius violin for \$58,500 or invested in a cheaper one for \$35,500 at a Sotheby's London auction that week
May 10	Nathan Cohen's column in the Star Michael Hanlon in the Globe: <i>"Talking with the Penny Farthing's Boss"</i>	Star May 10 th p.19 "And the Penny Farthing has been re-christened the Mersey club and will concentrate, says Brian Walker, on more commercial forms of entertainment: rhythm and blues, and rock and roll." The changeover of name and sound occurs Tuesday with the Sparrows as the first attraction. G&M May 14 th , p.15 Brian Walker defends his soon to be short-lived move to rock 'n' roll.
May 11-	The Sparrows	Star May 10 th , p.19

May 15	The Sparrows	Tely May 15 th - note in the listing: “This establishment’s switch partially over to rhythm and blues gets underway with the appearance of The Sparrows ”
Second two weeks of May		This presumably is the period referred to in the July 29 th article noted below. There’s no apparent advertising during this time but the Penny clearly returned to its former music policy by the beginning of June.
Jun 3-14	The Dirty Shames	Tely Jun 5 th listing and Star Jun 3 rd , 5 th advertisement: “... reopens with the Dirty Shames for the next two weeks”
Jun 4-5, 11-12, 18-19	Jim McHarg’s Metro Stompers	Tely Jun 5 th downstairs in what’s now “the jazz room” G&M Jun 11 th , p.12 and the 18 th , p.14
Jun 21-Jul 24	Lonnie Johnson accompanied on weekends by Jim McHarg’s Metro Stompers	Tely Jun 19 th Lonnie Johnson starts a month residency Star Jun 3 rd , p. 35 “staying until mid-July”, Star Aug 21 st , p.24, G&M Jun 23 rd p.15, Jun 25 th , p.14 and Jul 9 th , p.10 and the 23 rd p.10
July 29	Maggie Siggins article	Tely July 29 th in the <i>After Four</i> section quoting John McHugh referring to their other coffee house the Half Beat: “When we first opened in 1960 on Cumberland St. and then six months later on Avenue Rd..”
early Aug		Another break in listings and references in the Tely’s <i>What’s Going On</i> section
Aug 13-15, 20-21	Jim McHarg’s Metro Stompers	Tely Aug 14 th , Aug 21 st , G&M Aug 13 th , p.10
Aug 13-14	Al Cromwell	G&M Aug 13 th , p.10

Aug 15-19, Aug 22-26	Gordon Lowe	Tely Aug 14 th , Aug 21 st , G&M Aug 13 th , p.10
Aug 27-28	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Aug 28 th , G&M Aug 27 th , p.10
Aug 29	Jazz record appreciation society meeting	Tely Aug 28 th
Aug 30-Sep 4	Lil(lian) Hardin Armstrong	Tely Aug 28 th Louis Armstrong's second wife, "a jazz pianist and singer", G&M Aug 28 th , p.15 - very complimentary reviews by Patrick Scott in an article titled: " <i>Fatha Hines Plays Pure Improvisation</i> " and again on Sep 1 st , p.11; " <i>Lil on the Levee: Still Picking</i> "
Sept 3-4	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Sep 4 th
Sep 6-11	Lil Hardin Armstrong	Tely Sep 4 th , G&M Sep 10 th , p.10
Sep 10-11	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Sep 11 th G&M Sep 10 th , p.10
Sep 13-18	Lil Hardin Armstrong	Tely Sep 18 th
Sep 17-19	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers with Lil Hardin Armstrong , but alone on Sunday	Tely Sep 18 th , G&M Sep 17 th , p.14

Sep 18	Patrick Scott article	G&M Sep 18 th , p.16 on jazz, the Penny and John McHugh including a reference in Patrick Scott's article Jazz Scene: "A <i>Metamorphosis in Yorkville</i> " of the return of the "long lost custom of 'sitting in' (that) finds musicians from other clubs literally sitting in after ... their own night's chores are done"
Sep 20-25	Lil Hardin Armstrong	G&M Sep 24 th , p.14 with a little interpolation
Sep 24-25	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	G&M Sep 24 th , p.14 with a little interpolation
Sep 27-Oct 2	Lonnie Johnson Lonnie Johnson with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers on the weekend	G&M Oct 1 st , p.14
Oct 2	Change in Tely listing	The Tely listing is re-branded (<i>Showcase on</i>) <i>What's New</i> . What's new sadly, there are fewer coffee houses listed.
Oct 6	Patrick Scott article	G&M Oct 6 th , p.17 - on Lonnie Johnson in the article "Two Treats After a Trying Weekend"
Oct 4-9	Lonnie Johnson Lonnie Johnson with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers on the weekend	Tely Oct 9 th , G&M Oct 8 th , p.14
Oct 11-16	Lonnie Johnson Lonnie Johnson with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers on the weekend	G&M Oct 15 th , p.12

Oct 18-23	Lonnie Johnson Lonnie Johnson with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers on the weekend	Tely Oct 23 rd "remains here for only one more week" G&M Oct 13 th , p.13, 22 nd , p.14
Oct 25-30	Lonnie Johnson Lonnie Johnson with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers on the weekend	Tely Oct 30 th G&M Oct 20 th , p.15
Nov 19-20	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Nov 20 th over the past few weeks we can presume Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers continued their residency
Nov 23	Malka and Joso	Tely Nov 20 th
Dec 3-4	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Dec 4 th their residency appears to continue
Dec 11-12	Elyse Weinberg followed by Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Dec 11 th
Dec 13-19	Alex Campbell with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers on the weekend as usual	Tely Dec 11 th Campbell: "variety performer" Tely Dec 18 th "Scottish folk singer"
Dec 20-23	Lonnie Johnson	Tely Dec 18 th "makes a welcome return", G&M Dec 18 th , p.16
Dec 24-25, 31	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Dec 24 th Star Dec 17 th , p.19 advert: "Christmas Eve Dance and Buffet at the Penny Farthing with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers" Tickets \$2.50, G&M Dec 18 th , p.16

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Jan 7-8	David Rea opens for Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Jan 8th
Jan 9	David Rea	Tely Jan 8 th
Jan 10-	Adam Mitchell	Tely Jan 8 th
Jan 17-29	Klaas Van Graft	Tely Jan 22 nd , p.20 "to sing folk ballads this week and next"
Jan 21-22, 28-29	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Tely Jan 22 nd their weekend residency continues (or resumes?) G&M Jan 21 st , p.10, 28 th , p.14
Jan 30	Arnie Chycoski modern jazz band	Star Feb 5 th , p.25 also: "Arnie starts a series of weekends there Feb 18"
Feb 1-20	Malka and Joso	Tely Jan 29 th , Star Feb 17 th G&M Feb 12 th , p.16 (advert)
Feb 18-20	Arnie Chycoski modern jazz band	Star Feb 5 th , p.25 19 th
Feb 22-	Lonnie Johnson	Star Feb 19 th p.24, G&M Feb 19 th (for 2 weeks from the 22 nd)
Mar 4-5	Arnie Chycoski modern jazz band	Star Mar 5 th p. A30 "Tijuana Brass sound"

Mar 8-13	John Hammond Jr.	Tely Mar 5 th , 19 th , a complimentary article in the G&M Mar 11 th p.14: “John Hammond sings in the style of blues greats” but in the Star Mar 18 th , p.D28 “John Hammond, originally hired to play two weeks at the Penny Farthing, quit at the end of his first week. Reason? He felt the club wasn’t right for him and that he wasn’t playing to ‘my type of audience’”. Ouch.
Mar 14-17	David Rea	also in the Star Mar 18 th p.D28 “Everyone’s favorite folk guitarist David Rea was hastily recruited to fill in”
Mar 31	Chick Roberts	Star Mar 31 st , p.B25
Apr 7	Patrick Scott article titled: “Frantic Four, go-go dancers at Colonial”	G&M Apr 7 th , “And Chez Patee and the Last Chance now join Club 76 and the Penny Farthing among others, as jazz oases in memory only”
Apr 18-23	Amos Garrett and Carol Robinson	Tely Apr 16 th
Apr 22-23	Modern Jazz sextet	Tely Apr 16 th
Apr 30	Arnie’s Out Crowd	Tely Apr 30 th “a swinging jazz sextet”
Apr 30-May 5	Eric Travis	Tely Apr 30 th “English singer and comedian”

May 21

Morris Duff staff writer article titled "*Teeny boppers are c-o-o-ling Yorkville*"

Star May 21st, p.45 a blunt summary of the music scene in Yorkville: "Yorkville Jazz still exists precariously. The Penny Farthing offers it on weekends. El Matador is trying to keep going with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers. Blues great Lonnie Johnson an old timer who has settled in Toronto, recently bought his own coffee house. Two years ago folk music was in every club. The Purple Onion replaced it with teen music last year. Act 1 Scene 1 has added Latin-a-go-go. The Village Corner Survives because it has gone non-union, operates only on weekends and is owned by people willing to subsidize it. The Gate of Cleve last month went broke and it's now a rock 'n' roll place called Boris's. Only the Riverboat and the Mousehole thrive on folk music. El Patio, which started as a home for Spanish music, lost so much money that it switched to the teen sound. Jacques Place started as an adult discotheque but survives because Jacques now keeps adults out.

Also catering to the kids are the Night Owl (which started with jazz), the In Crowd, the Hamburger Joint, Charlie Brown's (once a folk place), Chez Monique and the Mynah Bird. Except for Chez Monique they're solid money makers."

A comparable article by Bruce Lawson on Yorkville Village appears in the G&M May 14th, p.13 "Yorkville: money in the coffee beans"

May 27-28

Chick Roberts (of the **Dirty Shames**) followed by **Arnie's Out Crowd**

G&M May 27th, p.12

Jun 3-4	Arnie's Out Crowd	Tely Jun 4 th "a mixture of jazz and popular music"
Jun 10-11	Arnie's Out Crowd	Tely Jun 11 th
Jun 17-18	Dave Campbell followed by Arnie's Out Crowd	G&M Jun 17 th , p.12, Tely Jun 18 th
Jun 24-25	Arnie's Out Crowd	Tely Jun 25 th
Jul 1-2	Arnie's Out Crowd	Tely Jul 2 nd
Jul 3	Vic Garber	Tely Jul 2 nd
Jul 5-16	Malka and Joso followed by Arnie's Out Crowd on the weekends	Star Jul 2 nd , p.24 (good detail here on hours and costs) G&M Jul 8 th p.10, 15 th p. 10
Jul 8-9	Arnie's Out Crowd	Star Jul 2 nd , p.24
Jul 19-31	The Stormy Clovers	Star Jul 23 rd , p.24 "an excellent folk rock group", Star Jul 30 th , p.32, G&M Jul 20 th p.10 an article by John MacFarlane: "New sounds by Shannon, Stormy Clovers", Tely Jul 23 rd The group consists of Ray Perdue, lead guitar & vocal, Susan Jains, vocal, Pat Patterson, drums, & D.D. Frazer, bass.
Aug 1-12	Mora Brothers	Star Jul 30 th , p.32 "an authentic Mexican quartet from Vera Cruz", G&M Jul 29 th p.10 for "a two week appearance" and a touching article on p.5 with a picture showing "waitress" Mrs. Judith Edmonds comforting a shoeshine boy after someone smashed his shoeshine box, the Tely Aug 6 th has them until Aug 20 th
Aug 12-13	The Knack followed by Arnies Out Crowd	G&M Aug 13 th p.15, Tely Aug 13 th

Aug 15-Sep 3	Malka and Joso	Star Aug 17 th p. B26, 20 th , Aug 25 th p.24, Sep 2 nd same advert: "tonight", Tely Aug 13 th , 20 th , Sep 3 rd , G&M Aug 19 th , p.10
Aug 28	Michael Snow	G&M Sep 26 th , p.10 "featured in a Happening at the Farthing on Sunday"
Sep 2	The Brothers-in-law	An article by Bruce Lawson in the G&M Sep 3 rd , p.13 titled " <i>Away from the cells, Windsor's Brothers-in-Law sing about satire</i> " describing this group who look like cops, which three of them are (from Windsor) who played the Penny the previous night
Sep 4	Michael Snow (pianist with the Toronto New Music Ensemble)	Tely Sep 3 rd , G&M Sep 2 nd "featured on Sunday" after Malka and Joso's Friday and Saturday appearances
Sep 6-17	Jose Feliciano followed on the 16 th and 17 th , followed by Jim McHarg's Jump Band	Star Sep 7 th , p.38 with comment about the Penny's sound system "monolithically one-range - loud", also an advert on p.41, Tely Sep 3 rd , 17 th , also discussed in an article by Enn Raudsepp in the G&M Sep 7 th , p.13, Sep 16 th p.12, also with a reference to Jim McHarg's band
Sep 10	Note in Star listing	Star Sep 10 th , p.22 "After a couple of months of confusion, the Penny Farthing has initiated a fairly strong folk policy (which began with Malka and Joso in late August), scheduled to include Josh White, blues singer John Lee Hooker, and the reappearance of the Stormy Clovers towards the end of October."
Sep 19	Josh White	(see below)

Sep 19	Joan Meyers	G&M Sep 20 th p.15, from a cutting article by Marvin Schiff: "a guitar-wielding school teacher from New York, 24-year-old Joan Meters, who substituted at the last minute for an ailing Josh White"
Sep 23-24	Jim McHarg's "New" Metro Stompers	G&M Sep 23 rd p.10 an article by Bruce Lawson in the G&M Sep 24 th p.21 suggests Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers continue their weekend residency
Sep 27-Oct 9	John Lee Hooker , after hours jazz with Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Star adverts Sep 30 th , p.C22 and Oct 1 st , p.32, the Metro Stompers probably only on the weekends, G&M Sep 28 th , p.15 a complementary article by Marvin Schiff: " <i>John Hooker proves the blues won't die</i> " and Cliff Martin poster
Sep 30-Oct 1	Jim McHarg's (now) New Metro Stompers	G&M Sep 30 th , p.14: paralleling/supporting the above
Oct 7-8	Jim McHarg's New Metro Stompers	G&M Oct 7 th , p.14
Oct 12-23	The Stormy Clovers with Jim McHarg's New Metro Stompers on the weekends	Star Oct 12 th , p.45 "opening tonight" Star Oct 19 th , p.47 "tonight and all this week", G&M Oct 13 th , p.11 an article by Marvin Schiff: " <i>The Stormy Clovers spell freshness</i> ", G&M Oct 14 th p.14, 21 st p.14 and Cliff Martin poster.
Oct 25-30	Eduardo Sasson	Star Oct 26 th , p.31 "singer and fine guitarist" Cliff Martin poster: "multi-lingual balladeer"
Nov 1-6	Josh White with Jim McHarg's New Metro Stompers on the weekend	Star Oct 29 th , p.33 advert, G&M Nov 5 th p.17 an article by Patrick Scott comparing Josh White and Lonnie Johnson: " <i>You can't compare Josh and Lonnie, but if you could ...</i> " Cliff Martin poster: "two shows nightly, 3 Friday and Sat.."
Nov 8-13	Alexander Zelkin	With thanks again to Cliff Martin for pic of poster showing these dates

Nov 15-27	Geula Gill Trio with Jim McHarg's New Metro Stompers on the weekend	Star Nov 15 th , p.B33 "Israel's Fabulous", Star Nov 26 th , p.30, G&M Nov 17 th p.15, 18 th p.14, 23 rd p.14 Cliff Martin Poster confirming the Sunday date
Nov 30-11	Lunch Bunch's "Hanging On" with Jim McHarg's New Metro Stompers on the weekend	Star Nov 30 th , p.42 for a "two week engagement", Star Dec 10 th G&M Dec 1 st p.15. Also in the Nov 30 th Star, same page, a critical review by Arthur Zeldin of Tom Paxton at the Riverboat, titled "Tom Paxton is likeable but ... The niceness is wearing thin". A bit hard on my favourite folk singer
Dec 13-17	The Irish Rovers	Star Dec 13 th , p.29, G&M Dec 16 th , p.18
Dec 31-Jan1	The Knack	Star Dec 31 st , p.44 "folk rock group", G&M Dec 24 th p.13

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Jan 3-21	Ramblin' Jack Elliot	Star Dec 31 st , p.44 (cover \$2pp), also Jan 7 th , p.34, 19 th , p.24
Jan 23-29	John Bassette	Star Jan 28 th , p.42 "folk singer", G&M Jan 26 th p.11: an article by Peter Goddard, " <i>John Bassette is prefabricated</i> " (don't be led astray by the title), 27 th , p.10. Also in this Globe <i>Things to do and see in Toronto</i> column is reference to Simon and Garfunkel's "first Toronto appearance" at Massey Hall. There's no reference here to them also dropping into the Riverboat as highlighted in the Souleppper production <i>Riverboat Coffee House: The Yorkville Scene</i> or mentioned in the Riverboat website: http://theriverboat.ca/history

Jan 31-Feb 11	3's A Crowd with the Don Thompson Jazz Quartet after hours	Star Jan 31 st p.19 and Feb 4 th p.30 "folk rock-jug band-vaudeville group". The jazz has probably continued for some time just not advertised. G&M Feb 1 st p.10: a good article by Peter Goddard: <i>"Who cares if 3's A Crowd ... it's also good music"</i>
Feb 22-26	Allen Ward Trio	Star Feb 22 nd , p. 35a with an article by Ralph Thomas on the Allen-Ward Trio: <i>As the man said, Allen-Ward trio is un-hip ... and it's also unfinished</i>
Mar 10	Doug Brown followed by the Don Thompson Jazz group	G&M Mar 10 th , p.10
Mar 11	Doug Brown followed by the Ron Peck Jazz Quartet	G&M Mar 10 th , p.10
Mar 12	Doug Brown	G&M Mar 10 th , p.10
Mar 14-26	Stormy Clovers	G&M Mar 15 th p.13 an article by Peter Goddard <i>"Stormy Clovers missed the boat"</i> , Star Mar 22 nd , p.39
Mar 28-Apr 9	Malka & Joso	Star Mar 22 nd , p.39, Mar 23 rd p.B46, Apr 6 th , p.38, Apr 8 th , G&M Apr 7 th p.12, 8 th p.28
Apr 14-16	Tom Ghent and Bill Dobson	G&M Apr 14 th , p.14
Apr 14	Rita Sikora jazz group	G&M Apr 14 th , p.14
Apr 15	Ron Peck jazz group	G&M Apr 14 th , p.14
Apr 26	Article by Peter Goddard in the Globe	G&M Apr 26 th , p.13 "The Green Briar Boys turn hick into hip" at the Riverboat and also discussing how the Penny down the street is "attracting artists and photographers sketching semi-nudes" and how "the place looks like Paris' Left Bank must have appeared on a busy night"

Apr 29	Don Thompson on Fridays, Ron Peck on Saturdays	G&M Apr 29 th p.29 John Norris in an article titled " <i>Toronto is through with after-hours jazz</i> " and noting the Penny as the only place in Yorkville offering jazz
May 9-21	Jose Feliciano	Hoot Magazine Feb/Mar 1967, with thanks to Mike Daley for the FB post of the advertisement
May 23-28	The Dickens	Star May 25 th , p.26 formerly The Knack with singer Kahariah, known as "Zack"
Jun 16-17	Natural Gass before mid-night Rob McConnell Quartet with Ed Bickert on guitar after hours on Friday and Ray Sikora's Latin Seven after hours on Saturday night	G&M Jun 16 th , p.12, the Natural Gass is listed as a "rock band" see also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rob_McConnell
Jun 18	In the afternoon a concert for children with Greg Winkfield and Bonnie Dobson . Byron Pope's New Music Ensemble in the evening.	G&M Jun 16 th p.12 reference to the Toronto Folk Music Guild's Sunday afternoon folk concert for children at the Penny, followed by jazz in the evening
Jun 23	Rob McConnell Quartet featuring Ed Bickert on guitar	G&M Jun 26 th , p.14 an article by John Norris covering this weekend including comments about John McHugh choice of music in: "Sikora's Latin Seven caught up in trends".
Jun 24	Ray Sikora's Latin Seven featuring Gary Morgan on sax	G&M Jun 26 th , p.14
Jun 25	Byron Pope's Ensemble	G&M Jun 26 th , p.14 - not kindly reported by Norris
Jun 27-Jul 15	Stormy Clovers	Star Jun 30 th , p.23 "return home for the Toronto folk group featuring the 'comely' Susan Jains", Star Jul 6 th , p.B24 and G&M Jun 28 th p.14 article by Peter Goddard on this band: "The Stormy Clovers change for the better"

Jul 21-22	Ben's Herd	G&M Jul 21 st , p.10 "Toronto folk group"
Aug 14-27	The Natural Gass	Star Aug 11 th , p.19 The second "s" comes and goes.
Aug 17	The Churls	G&M Aug 17 th , p.10 referenced in a rather uncomplimentary article by Peter Goddard: "Terry and McGhee make music fun"
Nov 4, 11	Russ Little's Jazz Group	G&M Nov 3 rd , p.12, 10 th , p.12
Nov 12	Billy Smith jazz group	G&M Nov 10 th , p.12
Nov 18	The Other Day	G&M Nov 17 th , p.14
Dec 1-2	Jim McHarg's Metro Stompers	Star Dec 1 st , p.B34 "Friday and Saturday only", G&M Dec 1 st , p.18
Dec 3	Russ Little's Jazz Group	G&M Dec 1 st , p.18

1968

Jan 26-27	The Churls	G&M Jan 26 th , p.13 as the Penny drifts to harder rock again
Jan 28	Soul Searchers	G&M Jan 26 th , p.13
Feb 2-3, 9-10	The Last Words	G&M Feb 2 nd , p.14, 9 th , p.12
Feb 4	Eric Mercury and the Soul Searchers	G&M Feb 2 nd , p.14
Mar 1-2	The Mushroom Castle	Star Mar 1 st , p.23
Mar 8-9	The Influence	G&M Mar 8 th , p.11 "a new rock group, which is sometimes amusing""

Mar 15-16, 22-23	The Young Ones	G&M Mar 15 th , p.15 “This weekend: “Ultra-super sound by The Young Ones a mixture of rhythm and blues, ultra-progressive jazz, hard rock”
Mar 30	Article by Blaik Kirby	G&M Mar 30 th , p.21 - quoting John McHugh owner of the Penny on live music and reference to it being offered “seven nights a week” (though no bands advertized in the daily press)
July 13	Article by Blaik Kirby	G&M Jul 13 th , p.21 “Two other locations have also dropped live entertainment, while remaining open as clubs or coffee houses. They are the long-established Penny Farthing and the Avenue Road Club”. Also a note under the accompanying picture: “Five Yorkville clubs, out of 12 last year, have live entertainment.”
Aug 10		G&M Aug 10 th p.1 article describes the impact of the hepatitis scare on the coffee houses. John McHugh is quoted: “The whole street is down” no author referenced
Aug 13		Star Aug 13 th , p.4 John McHugh still spoken of as owner of the Penny Farthing, no mention of music
Aug 17	Article by William Johnson	G&M Aug 17 th , p.11 titled “The street where the action isn’t”
Oct 16	Advertisement for meeting	Star Oct 16 th , p.C65: Penny Farthing Hosting a public hearing of the Le Dain Commission on the non-medical use of drugs, also on the 17 th G&M Oct 18 th last mention of the Penny in 1968

1969

Jan 18

G&M Jan 18th, p.23 - the Penny is still referenced as a coffee house by Blaik Kirby as one of “the two coffee houses where the regulars usually go” (at this time of year)

Oct 13,14, 17

G&M Oct 13th, 14th 15th - more notices regarding public sessions on *Commission of Inquiry into Non-Medical Use of Drugs* being held at the Penny Farthing

1976

Apr 24

Article by Jack Batten

G&M Apr 24th describes drinking at *The Pub* attached to UofT’s Innis College at the corner of St. George and Sussex, run by John and Marilyn McHugh

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* (October 1963 to July 1968 when the house appears to have ended live music) 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 and a bit beyond. Many of the Globe entries in the later years are from its *Things to do and see in Toronto* column.

In many cases the beginnings or ends of appearances were difficult to establish sometimes differing even between papers. Other times the published performances may not have taken place due to unexpected circumstances like rejections of American performers at the US/Canada border, sickness, police (drug- related) charges, etc. In some cases I interpolate for better or for worse, when performances start or finish based on previous weeks. Where I take words directly from a listing I use “quotation marks”. Where I cite an article I reference the reporter if identified.