

Club Bluenote

Club Bluenote opened sometime in 1959 by Al Steiner on the second floor of 372½ Yonge St. Advertising in the usual places was irregular at best so this list is framed in a way it appears many do, by the house band. Using information from Rob Bowman and Daniel Tate's *The Flyer Vault*, Mark Doble and Frank Troiano's book *Domenic Troiano, His Life and Music*, various Facebook posts, with some dates tightened up using what could be found in the popular press, the house bands were:

Bobby Dean and the Gems 1959-Oct 1960 (Bobby Dean Blackburn, Jack Snow, Glen White, Bob Lenghall, Rod Campbell, Roger Farr as ID'd in an article announcing a Star Fund benefit at Club Trocadero - Star Dec 8th 1959 p.8

Kay Taylor and the Regents to August 1962

Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes to either Sept 13th or 20th, 1964

Whitey and the Roulettes to December 1964

The Rogues to April 1965

The Peepers to the spring of 1967

The Statlers until the end of 1969 when the Club closed, with the Messengers appearing Oct/68 to March 69

In practice the amount of advertising was probably a function of need. As long as we came in sufficient numbers, advertising wasn't needed.

Updated: September 12, 2022

This list is dedicated to my late friend Gary Scofield who brought the place to life for me with his numerous stories. RIP

1961

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Jun 15-18 | Kay Taylor and the Regents | Star Jun 15 th p.38 - display ad: Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun |
| Jun 16 | An article regarding charges against the Bluenote and other clubs | G&M Jun 16 th p.5 <i>Four Yonge St. dance clubs have been charged with operating as public halls without licenses, and the owners have declared they will fight the charges. They are the Caribbean Club, the Trinidad Club, the calypso Club and the Bluenote Club. Curiously Club Bluenote doesn't appear at this address in the 1959, 1960 or 1961 City Directories, trying to stay under the City radar?.</i> |
| Nov 3-5 | Kay Taylor and the Regents | Star Nov 3 rd p.34 Display ad: <i>"Everyone's Doing it! The Twist. Where? At Club Bluenote"</i> and <i>"The Swinginest group in Town"</i> |
| Nov 10-12 | Kay Taylor and the Regents | Star Nov 10 th p.26 similar ad as above with a come early we can't "accommodate everybody" note |
| Nov 17-19 | Kay Taylor and the Regents | Star Nov 18 th p.25 Display ad: <i>Make the Scene at</i> |
| Nov 24-26 | Kay Taylor and the Regents with Kathy Petrie "Queen of the Twist" | Star Nov 24 th p.34 Display ad as above; also a reference to the Twist phenomenon at the Bluenote and elsewhere by Dave Caplan the same week |
| Dec 1-3 | Kay Taylor and the Regents with Kathy Petrie "Queen of the Twist" | Star Dec 1 st p.32 display ad similar to the above with "Dancing Floor Show" |

1962

- Jan 21-25 **Kay Taylor and the Regents** Star Jan 23rd p.15 in a staff article titled *Dance Twist 60 Hours In Yonge St. Marathon*
- Mar 23-25 **Kay Taylor and the Regents and Jackie, Little Miss Twist** Star Mar 23rd p.25 display ad: "See Jackie, Little Miss Twist and the *Bluenote Twisters*"

1963

- Mar 15-17 **Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes** with the floor show **Jayson King, Dianne Brooks, Shirley Matthews, Stan Thomas and "Little" Augie** Star Mar 16th p.22
- Jun 14-16 **Steve Kennedy combo** Star Jun 14th p.23
- Jun 28-30 **Steve Kennedy** with vocalists **Skip Roberts, Shirley Matthews Jay King and Jayettes** Star Jun 28th p.21 Gerry Barker writing: *Al Boliska and "On The Scene" move into the Bluenote club.... to capture the sweet sound of rhythm and blues. Because Dave (sic) Kennedy's band in the club is non-union, a union standby band is unseen, unheard but paid for the performance.*
- Aug 15 Column by Gerry Barker Star Aug 15th p.31 Gerry Barker writing: *Two youngsters who are favorites at the rhythm and blues after-hours spot Club Bluenote, will make a record in New York within the next two weeks. Jay King, the blues belting shipper with be on Bob Crewe's Genius label as Jayson King while vocalist Shirley Matthews cuts the disk under her own name. Stan Cl of Tamara records here set up the recoding date.*

Dec 13-15 and Dec 20-22	<p>Tommy Hunt</p> <p>Diane Brooks, Shirley Matthews, "Little" Augie</p> <p>with the Steve Kennedy band</p>	<p>Star Dec 17th p17 " Gerry Barker writing: "...Tommy is a 'soul' performer who stays mostly within the rhythm and blues pattern of tunes". Club owner Al Steiner has signed the young New Yorker and his group to another go-round this weekend. Also on the bill was the fine young vocalist Diane Brooks whose rendition of 'Funny Valentine' almost brought the packed house down."</p> <p>Star Dec 21st p.20 Dave Capelan writing: "<i>The show includes the Steve Kennedy band with the exciting voice of Diane Brooks, Shirley Matthews, Little Augie. Headliner is the most vibrant "R and B" showman in years, Tommy Hunt with his combo</i>"</p>
-------------------------	---	---

1964

Feb 1	Article by Bob Reguly	Star Feb 1st, p.18 Shirley Matthews 'Big Town Boy' girl gospel singer at 5
Feb 28-30	The Dovells and Diane Brooks, Jay King, Pat Drizzel and the Steve Kennedy band	Tely Feb 29 th <i>What's going on</i> and Star Feb 29 th p.22
Mar 6-8	Joey Hollingsworth	Tely Mar 7 th <i>What's going on</i> " tap dancer Joey Hollingsworth and an all girl review" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joey_Hollingsworth
Mar 13-15	Diane Brooks, Pat Griesel with Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes	Tely Mar 12 th After Four Chum About Town

Mar 20-22	Jason King, Diane Brooks, Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes	Tely Mar 19 th After Four Chum About Town
Mar 27-29	Diana Brooks, Pat Gxxxx, Pinky Smith, Ester Hollis, Jason King, Doug Rxxxxxx	Tely Mar 26 th After Four Chum About Town (if you were there fill in the blank)
Apr 17-19	Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes with floor show featuring Diane Brooks, Pinky Smith, the Four Notes, and Jason King	Tely Apr 18 th <i>What's going on</i>
Apr 24-26	Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes with floor show featuring Diane Brooks, Pinky Smith, The Tiaras, Esther Hollis, and Jason King	Tely Apr 23 rd After Four Chum About Town
May 1-3	Steve Kennedy & the Silhouettes with Diane Brooks "heading" the floor show	Tely May 2 nd <i>What's going on</i>
May 8-10	advertised as last week	Tely May 9 th <i>What's going on</i>
May 15-17	advertised as last week	Tely May 16 th <i>What's going on</i>

May 22-24	Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes featuring Diane Brooks, Jason King, Pinky Smith, Jimmie George and Four Notes	Tely May 21 st <i>After Four Chum About Town</i> Tely May 23 th <i>What's going on</i>
May 29-31	advertised as last week	Tely May 28 th <i>After Four Chum About Town</i> Tely May 30 th <i>What's going on</i>
Jun 5-7	Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes with floor show featuring Diane Brooks	Tely Jun 4 th <i>After Four Chum About Town</i>
Jun 12-14	Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes featuring Diane Brooks, Jason King, Pinky Smith, Eddie Drake and Bob Francis	Tely Jun 11 th <i>After Four Chum About Town</i> Tely Jun 13 th <i>What's going on</i>
Jun 19-21	advertised as last week	Tely Jun 20 th <i>What's going on</i>
Jun 26-28	Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes with floor show Diane Brooks, Jay King and guest artists	Star Jun 27 th p.24
Jul 3-5	advertised as last week	Tely Jul 4 th <i>What's going on</i>
Jul 24-26	advertised as above	Tely Jul 26 th <i>What's going on</i>

Jul 31 - Aug 2	Jayson King, Shirley Matthews, Shawne Jackson and the Counts taking part in the floor show	Tely Aug 1 st <i>What's going on</i> "A big holiday weekend will be celebrated here with...."
Aug 14- 16	Steve Kennedy's orchestra plays for dancing. Jo-Ann Brooks, Jayson King, Shawne Jackson, Jack Hardin are in the floor show.	Tely Aug 15 th <i>What's going on</i>
Aug 21- 23	advertised as last week	Tely Aug 22 nd <i>What's going on</i>
Aug 28- 30	Jo-Ann Brooks, Jayson King, Shawne Jackson, Jack Hardin and David Clayton Thomas are in the floor show. Steve Kennedy's orchestra plays for dancing	Tely Aug 29 th <i>What's going on</i>
Sep 4-6	Steve Kennedy's band along with the floor show entertainment of Diane Brooks, Shirley Matthews, Jayson King, Shawne Jackson, Jack Hardin, Little Jo-Ann Brooks and surprise guests	Tely Sep 3 rd After Four Chum About Town

Sep 11-13	advertised as last week with this the last reference to Steve Kennedy's band	Tely Sep 10 th After Four Chum About Town
Sep 18-20	Shawne Jackson, Shirley Matthews, Jayson King, Jack Harding and Daddy Long Legs	Tely Sep 17 th After Four Chum About Town and Tely Sep 19 th <i>What's going on</i>
		Note: neither Tely list names the band, making this Steve Kennedy's last or the Roulettes first performance at the Bluenote that summer
	Mark Doble and Frank Troiano describe shift to the Roulettes on pages 43-44 of their book <i>Domenic Troiano, His Life and Music</i> , published 2021	
Sep 25-27	Wild Willy, Shirley Matthews, Jayson King, Jack Harding and Daddy Long Legs now with The Roulettes named	Tely Sep 24 th After Four Chum About Town Tely Sep 26 th <i>What's going on</i> here however with Shawne Jackson
Oct 2-4	The Roulettes with the floor show: Daddy Long Legs, Frank Gray, Lady Eve, Terri Bryant, Wild Willy and Jayson King	Tely Oct 1 st After Four Chum About Town The <i>What's going on</i> section that week does not name performers
Oct 9-11 Oct 16-18	The Roulettes plus "all-star" floor show	Tely Oct 8 th After Four Chum About Town <i>Dance to the Roulettes</i>
Oct 23-25	The " Fabulous Counts " with Shawne Jackson & Jack Hardin head the floor show	Tely Oct 24 th <i>What's going on</i> section

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| Nov 6-8 | The Roulettes and a seven act all-star floor show | Tely Nov 5 th After Four Chum About Town |
| Nov 13-15 | The Roulettes plus an all-star floor show featuring th Charmaines, Jack Hardin, Duke Edwards, Shawne Jackson, Daddy Long Legs, Smitty and Jayson King | Tely Nov 12 th After Four Chum About Town combining the
Tely Nov 14 th What's going on section |
| Nov 20-22 | The Roulettes and "A special floor show includes Joey Hollingsworth and Shirley Lewis . Also featured: Jack Hardin, Smitty and Shawne Jackson | Tely Nov 19 th After Four Chum About Town: on Sunday night 5 new acts are introduced

Tely Nov 21 st What's going on section: Joey Hollingsworth entertains this week before departing on a series of Las Vegas dates |
| Nov 27-29 | The Roulettes , the floor show features Shawne Jackson, Jack Hardin, Duke Edwards, Jayson King, Daddy Long Legs, Shirley May Lewis and Smitty | Tely Nov 26 th After Four Chum About Town

Star Nov 28 th p.27 Shirley May Lawson headlines the floor show ... and the Roulettes play for dancing |

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Dec 25-27 | Jay Jackson, Jayson King, Jack Hardin, William Smith, Shawn Jackson, Augie and the Ugly Ones and Larry Ellis | Tely Dec 24 th After Four Chum About Town: Special Christmas Show featuring"

Note the House band is not named from this week to Jan 22 when the Rogues are named |
| Dec 31 - Jan 3 | Jay Jackson, Jack Hardin, Jayson King Shawn Jackson, Larry Ellis and William Smith, | Tely Dec 31 st After Four Chum About Town: <i>New year's Eve dance tonight. A special floor show plus dancing.</i> |

1965

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Jan 8-10 | Jayson King, Jack Hardin, William Smith, Smiling John Scott Shawn Jackson, and Sam Crombie of Ruby and the Romantics | Tely Jan 7 th After Four Chum About Town

Someone might want to check if Sam Crosbie was ever with Ruby and The Romantics |
| Jan 15-17 | Jack Hardin, William Smith, Smiling John Scott Shawn Jackson, Jayson King, and back by popular demand, Sam Crombie of Ruby and the Romantics | Tely Jan 14 th After Four Chum About Town |

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| Jan 22-24 | Floor show featuring the Rogues with Jay Jackson, George Olliver, Smiling Johnny Scott, Jayson King, Jack Hardin, Shawn Jackson and Sam Crombie | Tely Jan 21 st After Four Chum About Town |
| Jan 29-31 | The Rogues, Doug Kenner, Bobby Neilson, William Smith, Jay Jackson, George Olliver, Jack Hardin, Sam Crombie, and Shawn Jackson | Tely Jan 28 th After Four Chum About Town |
| Feb 5-7 | The Rogues, Doug Kenner, Jason King, William Smith, Jay Jackson, George Olliver, Jack Hardin, Sam Crombie, and Shawn Jackson | Tely Feb 4 th After Four Chum About Town |
| Aug 7 | Little Augie | Star Aug 12 th p.20 in a column by Nathan Cohen: |
- After this week the After Four section reporting of entertainment changes from a list format similar to the Saturday's "What's Going On" to, on Mar 25th paid display ads. Presumably the club was attracting enough guests that paid advertising wasn't needed. The Bluenote is not listed in Saturday's "What's Going On".
- "Last Saturday night a singer called "Little Augie" collapsed in the middle of his performance at the Bluenote He was rushed to the hospital, but was dead on arrival from the heart attack. He was 22 years old."*

1967

Jul 6 A reference to the club in Star Jul 6th p.B29 It wasn't all laughing and dancing; the article
the "In the Courts" column describes a fight and the court ruling that followed

1968

Feb 9 **The Fabulous Peeps** Tely Feb 8th, After Four Classified
with The Statlers,
Shawn Jackson,
Stephnie Taylor, Jay
Jackson, Shawne
Jackson, George
Olliver, Brenda Gordon
and Eric Mercury

Mar 22-24 **Kris Peterson** Tely Mar 21st, After Four Classified

Mar 29-31 **Kris Peterson** (held over) Tely Mar 28th, After Four Classified
with **Eddie Spencer,**
Shawne and Jay
Jackson, Stephnie
Taylor, Brenda Gordon
with the House band Al
Harris and The Statlers

Apr 11-14 **The Statlers, Al Harris,** Tely Apr 11th, After Four Classified
Shawne and Jay
Jackson, Horace Faith,
Toby Lark

May 3-5	Gwen Owen & Keith Washington and The Statlers, Shawne Jackson, Brenda Gordon, Bobby Dupont, Thomas Henry, Ike Isaacs with MC Jay Jackson	Tely May 2 nd , After Four Classified
May 24-26	The Fabulous Peps	Tely May 23 rd , After Four Classified
May 31 - Jun 2	The Evaliants plus The Statlers, Eric Mercury, Eddie Spencer, Shawne Jackson, Jay Jackson, George Olliver, Wisdom and Bob, Ike Isaacs	Tely May 30 th , After Four Classified
Jun 13-16	The Fabulous Peps now The Stone Brothers	Tely Jun 13 th , After Four Classified
Jun 28-30	The Stone Brothers with Shawne Jackson and Stephnie Taylor plus Keith Washington	Tely Jun 27 th , After Four Classified Keith Washington7 year old <i>James Brown Sensation</i>
Sept 6-8	Ronnie Pep, Toby Lark plus The Statlers, Bobby Dupont, John Brown, Al Harris, Wisdom and Bob	Tely Sep 7 th , After Four Classified
Sep 13-15	Edwin Starr	Tely Sep 7 th , After Four Classified https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Starr

Sep 20-22	Ronnie Pep, Tommy Stone plus Tony Borders	Tely Sep 21 st , After Four Classified
Oct 4-6	Otis Clay plus Tony Johnson, Shane Jackson, Eddie Spencer	Tely Oct 5 th , After Four Classified
Oct 18-20	Shawne Jackson and the Stone Bros plus Eddie Spencer, Vici Scott, George Chubby, Bobby Bruce and the Statlers	Tely Oct 19 th , After Four Classified
Oct 25-27	Trevor Payne and the Triangle, Pinky Smith and Joe Pep plus Vici Scott, Wisdom and Bob, Tom Fair & The Soul Messengers	Tely Oct 26 th , After Four Classified
Nov 8-10	The Precisions	Tely Oct 26 th , and Nov 2 nd After Four Classified <i>"Direct from The Dick Clark and Up Beat Shows"</i>
Nov 15-17	The Precisions	Tely Nov 16 th After Four Classified <i>"Held Over"</i>

1969

Jan 17-19	Timmy Willis plus Jay Jackson, Al Harris, Allister Simmons, Little Fran, Tom Fair and The Soul Messengers	Tely Jan 16 th After Four Classified
-----------	--	---

Jan 24-26	Shawne Jackson, Joe Pep, Tommy Stone, Gene Royston plus Al Harris, The Soul Messengers and Tom Fair	Tely Jan 23 rd After Four Classified
Jan 31 - Feb 2	Toby Lark and the Parliaments plus Ike Issac, The Soul Messengers and Tom Fair	Tely Jan 30 th After Four Classified
Feb 8	Bill Robinson and The Quails and as house band The Messengers	Tely Feb 6 th After Four Classified Star Feb 8 th p.C35 In an article by Lanny Salsberg titled <i>Making Toronto's Saturday night scenes</i> in which he describes a number of Toronto clubs including the Bluenote. He refers to The Messengers as the house band
Feb 21-23	Little Charles & The Sidewinders	Tely Feb 20 th After Four Classified
Mar 14-16	Toby Lark plus Gene Royston, Little Fran, Al Harris, The Soul Messengers	Tely Mar 13 th After Four Classified
Mar 21-23	Jay Jackson, Little Fran, Al Harris, Tom Fair, Cecille Parker, The Soul Messengers	Tely Mar 20 th After Four Classified
Mar 28-30	Doug Romaine	Tely Mar 27 th After Four Classified

Apr 3-6	The Precisions plus The Tempo	Tely Mar 27 th After Four Classified (an apparently rare Thursday opening?)
May 2-4	The Soul Agents (Edwin Starr's band from Detroit) plus The Temple (Tempo?)	Tely May 1 st After Four Classified
May 16-18	Jackie Gabrielle with the Doug Richardson Quintet	Tely May 15 th After Four Classified
May 23-25	Shawne Jackson plus Al Harris, Little Fran, and the Original Statlers	Tely May 22 nd After Four Classified - with a note that starting June 5 th , open every Thursday night
Jun 6-8	The Magic Tones plus the new house Band The Statlers	Tely May 22 nd and Jun 5 th After Four Classifieds (longer club hours to 4am and "totally renovated") or the old house band?
Jun 13-15	The Parliaments plus The Statlers	Tely Jun 12 th After Four Classified
Jun 21	Doug Riley	Star Jun 21 st p.59 an article by Jack Batten focusing on Doug Riley's career at the time, with references to the Bluenote and various musicians he played with including Dom Troiano The above is the last entry found in the popular press though not the end of the Bluenote. The end however wasn't far away.

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 and ads in the After Four Section Classifieds augmented by electronic searches of the Toronto Star (Star) and Globe and Mail (G&M) archives from the 1960s