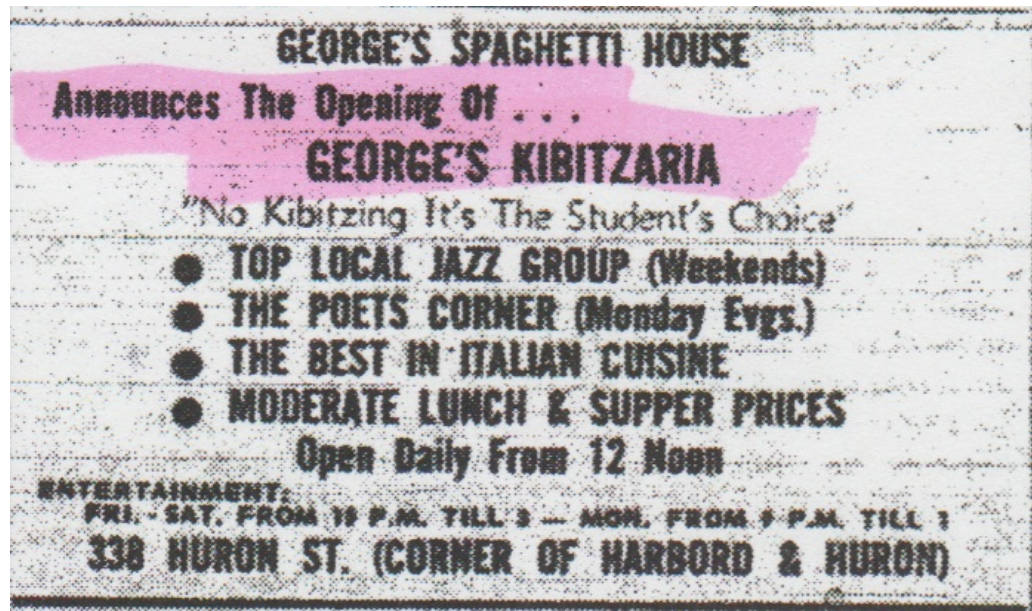


George's Kibitzeria

George's Kibitzeria, an offshoot of George's Spaghetti House, managed by Howard Matthews, opened at 338 Huron St. (NW corner Huron and Harbord) on Jan 17, 1966. Jazz was offered weekends in a restaurant aimed mainly at the university students, featuring "moderate lunch and supper prices".

It appears to have survived until some time after May 1969 and before May 1970 by which time a new restaurant appeared on that site. *Meat and Potatoes* appears in *Globe and Mail* articles into the mid-1970s also supporting live music. Publicity tailed off dramatically in the later years.

Toronto Telegram display advertisement January 27, 1966, After Four Section p.14.



For excellent descriptions of Lonnie Johnson's time at George's Kibitzeria see Mark Miller's book *Way Down That Lonesome Road* (2011), page 79 forward.

Updated: January 20, 2022

1966

Jan 21-22	"Jazz men will be playing"	Tely Jan 15 th in the "What's New" column in the entertainment section. Quoting it: "opening on January 17, this will be Toronto's newest home of Italian cuisine in the heart of the university district. It will also be a jazz gathering place. Jazz-men will be playing here Fridays, Saturdays from 10 pm to 3 am. On Monday nights, they'll be jam sessions with poetry readings. And Tely Jan 22 nd
Feb 4-5	Archie Alleyne Trio	Varsity Feb 4 th p.13
Feb 11-12	Ron Park Quartet	Varsity Feb 9 th p.11
Feb 18-19	Bill Collins Quartet	Varsity Feb 9 th p.11
Mar 11-12	Jon Hendricks and the LarryVukovich Trio	Star Mar 12 th p.26
Mar 18-20, 25-27, April 1-2	Jon Hendricks in concert with Salome Bey, Ola Skanks Dancers, Wray Downes Trio with Ed Thigpen on drums	Tely Mar 19 th "What's New" column and Star Mar 24 th p.26, 25 th p.35 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Hendricks https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salome_Bey https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ola_Skanks https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Thigpen G&M Apr 1 st p.14 and the Varsity Mar 7 th p.3, in an ad "Special Exam Relaxer" has the Larry Yukovich Trio there Mar 18-20, including excerpts from the " <i>Evolution of the Blues</i> "
Apr 8-9	Jim Heineman quartet with singer Erin Malone	Tely Apr 9 th p.19 in the "What's New" listing G&M Apr 8 th p.56
Apr 15-16	Wray Downes Trio	Tely Apr 16 th p.19 in the "What's New" listing

May 13-14	Jim Heineman quartet with singer Erin Malone	Tely May 14 th p.16 in the “What’s New” listing
May 20-21	Norman Zubis Trio	Tely May 21 st p.18 in the “What’s New” listing
May 27-28	Phil Branton Quartet	Tely May 28 th p.20 in the “What’s New” listing
Jun 3-4	Bill Collins Quartet	Tely Jun 4 th p.19 in the “What’s New” listing
Jun 10-11	Wray Downes duo with vocalist Salome Bey	Tely Jun 11 th p.18 in the “What’s New” listing
Jun 17-18, 24-25, Jul 1-2	Danny MacGroder (folk and blues signer) with Wray Downes (Fri), Brian Browne (jazz piano) (Sat) (on 1 st & 2 nd)	Tely Jun 18 th p.18 in the “What’s New” listing through to Tely Jul 2 nd p.20 G&M Jun 30 th p.12
Oct 1-2	Jim Heineman quartet with singer Erin Malone	Varsity Sep 30 th p.3
Oct 7-8	Murray McLauchlan	G&M Oct 7 th p.14 and the Varsity Oct 7 th p.11
Oct 14-15	Connie Maynard Quartet	Varsity Oct 14 th p.5
Oct 21-22	Jim Heineman quartet with singer Erin Malone	Tely Oct 22 nd p.22 in the “What’s New” listing Varsity Oct 21 st p.25
Oct 28-30	Jim Heineman quartet with singer Erin Malone with Don Thompson Quartet on Sunday	Varsity Oct 28 th p.23
Nov 4-5	Stan Thomas	Varsity Nov 4 th p.3
Nov 11-12	Phil Branton Quartet	Varsity Nov 11 th p.12
Nov 18-19	Ted MacGillivray	Varsity Nov 18 th p.6

Nov 25-26	Jim Heineman quartet with singer Erin Malone	Varsity Nov 25 th p.9
Dec 2-3	Murray McLauchlan	Dec 3 rd p.17 in the "What's New" listing & Varsity Dec 2 nd
Dec 9-11	Jim Heineman quartet with singer Erin Malone	Varsity Dec 9 th p.8. Page 9 adds pianist John Hanagan (a St. Mike's philosophy prof)
Dec 16-17	Bill Best Quintet featuring Jim Heineman	Varsity Dec 16 th p.11

1967

Jan 6-7	Stan Thomas	Varsity Jan 6 th p.11
Jan 13-14	Lonnie Johnson	G&M Jan 13 th p.10, Feb 3 rd p.10 Varsity Jan 13 th p.4
Jan 20-21	Phil Branton Quartet	Varsity Jan 20 th p.4
Jan 27-28	Stan Thomas	Varsity Jan 27 th p.4
Feb 3-4, 10-11, Feb 17-18	Lonnie Johnson	Varsity Feb 3 rd p.8, 10 th p.3, 17 th p.10
Feb 16	The Big Town Boys	Varsity Feb 10 th p.4 With the comment. <i>"This will be their permanent base, provided the building doesn't collapse"</i> .
Mar 2-5	The Quiet Jungle (2,3,5) Mr. Paul (Sat)	Varsity Mar 3 rd p.11
Mar 9-12, 16-19	The Big Town Boys	Varsity Mar 3 rd p.11, 8 th p.4, 10 th p.15
Mar 31-Apr 2	Stan Thomas (Fri/Sat) and The Big Town Boys (Sun)	Tely Mar 30 th After Four classified p.10

Apr 13,16, 21-22	Stan Thomas, Al Cromwell The Big Town Boys (Thur/Sun)	G&M Apr 21 st p.14, Tely Apr 13 th After Four classifieds Star April 14 th p.26
May 5-6, 12-13	Lonnie Johnson and Stan Thomas (folk and blues singers)	G&M May 5 th p.14, May 12 th p.14 Star May 12 th p.26
May 26-27 & May 30-Jun 3	Al Cromwell (folk singing)	Star May 26 th p.25 G&M May 26 th p.14
Jun 14-15, Jul 19-20	Don Thompson and Salome Bey	Star Jun 14 th p.28 and 19 th p.27
Jun 30- Jul 22	Lonnie Johnson	G&M Jul 21 st p.10, Star Jun 30 th p.23
Aug 30-31	Don Thompson and Salome Bey	Star Aug 24 th p.32 display ad
Sep 9	Bukka White	Star Aug 24 th p.32 display ad
Sep 29-30	Lonnie Johnson	Varsity Sep 29 th p.19
Oct 6-7, Oct 13-14, 20-21, 27-28, Nov 3-4, 17-18, 24-25, Dec 1-2, 8-9	Lonnie Johnson (10 pm to 2 am) Brian Browne trio (Fri 1-3 am and Sat midnight to 3 am)	G&M Oct 6 th p.14 Varsity Oct 6 th p.13, 13 th p.2, 20 th p.22, 27 th p.8, Nov 3 rd p.23, 17 th p.23, 24 th p. 3, Dec 1 st p.6
Dec 8-9, 15-16	Lonnie Johnson and Norm Amadio	Varsity Dec 8 th p.15, 15 th p.19

1968

Jan 5-6	Lonnie Johnson with Brian Browne Trio and special guest Al Cromwell	Varsity Jan 5 th p.6 G&M Jan 5 th p12
Jan 12-13, 19-20, 26-27	Lonnie Johnson and Brian Browne trio (on the late shows), again with special guest Al Cromwell for first 2 weekends	G&M Jan 12 th p.12 Varsity Jan 12 th p.7, 19 th p.17, 26 th p.15
Feb 2-17	Lonnie Johnson with Brian Browne Trio now also with Ted MacGillivray and Salome Bey vocalist	Varsity Feb 2 nd p.9, 16 th p.2 Varsity Feb 2 nd p.9 Varsity Mar 1 st p.10 also noting Lonnie Johnson then playing Monday to Thursday 5:30 to 8:30
Mar 11-23 (Tues-Sat)	Val Pringle with Clyde Williams	Star Mar 11 th p.23, 14 th p.37, 21 st p.23 Varsity Mar 1 st p.10
Mar 26-30	Stan and Doug Trio (folk, blues, pop and rock replacing Len Chandler)	Star Mar 27 th p.52 Varsity Mar 15 th p.16 had Len Chandler Mar 25 to April 16 but is replaced G&M Mar 20 th p12
Apr 8-20	Sunnyland Slim and Willie Dixon	G&M Apr 10 th p.13, Star Apr 11 th p.B12, 19 th p.B28
Apr 26-May3	Al Cromwell	G&M Apr 23 rd p.14 "Lack of audience has forced Howard Matthews of George's Kibitzeria to cancel the appearance of folk singer Rev. Gary Davis who was to have started a two-week booking last night (Apr 22 nd)". Star Apr 26 th p.26 reports Al Cromwell filling in for Davis.
May 6-11	Jesse "Lone Cat" Fuller	G&M May 9 th p.13, Star May 3 rd p.26

May 27-Jun 1	Roosevelt Sykes with Lonnie Johnson and Al Cromwell (Fri and Sat)	G&M May 30 th p.10, Star May 28 th p.25
Jun 14-15	Don Thompson and Salome Bey	Star Jun 14 th p.28
Aug 16-17	Don Thompson and Salome Bey	Star Aug 16 th p.26
Sep 9-14	Bukka White plus the Charlie Mountford Trio with Salome Bey and Lonnie Johnson (weekend only)	Star Sep 9 th , p.23 (Bukka White: "Star of 1968 Mariposa Festival"), Star Sep 13 th p.30 20 th p.30
Sep 20-21	Salome Bey and the Charles Mountford Trio	Star Sep 20 th p.30
Sep 23-29	Sunnyland Slim plus Salome Bey	Varsity Sep 27 th p.8 in an article by Peter Hatch describing Sunnyland Slim and Star Sep 27 th p.31
Oct 24- Nov 2	Al Cromwell	Varsity Oct 28 th p.12 Advertising in the Varsity is now tailing off as the club is struggling, per article in the)Varsity Sep 27 th p.17 and Star Sep 23 rd p.24
Nov 8-9	Salome Bey with Gene Edwards ("for many years the guitarist with Richard 'Groove' Holmes")	Varsity Nov 8 th p.20
Nov 22-23	Salome Bey returns with Gene Edwards and the Don Thompson group	Varsity Nov 22 nd p.22

1969

Apr 26	An article by Melinda McCracken	G&M Apr 26 th p.23 referring to Howard Matthews as “formerly manager of George’s Kibitzeria”
May 6-11	Casey Anderson (Tues thru Sun)	Star May 7 th p.B83, 8 th p.34 but just “Kibitzeria” (no George)

1970's

By 1970 the restaurant *Meat and Potatoes* can be found at 338 Huron St., though music continues

For example: G&M Oct 3rd p.T3 Classical guitarist Peter Acker on the weekend and Peter Cobbler weekdays in October 1970 and G&M Feb 12th p.T3: Chris Kearney, Toronto singer song writer performs

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 Sections and classifieds, augmented by electronic searches of the Toronto Star (Star), Globe and Mail (G&M) and the University of Toronto newspaper archives of The Varsity 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, as best I can.