Chicago Tribune Totally tap sunday, MAY 16, 2004 experience



The German duo Tap & Tray made their Chicago debut with classic performance styles of the 1930s and 1940s, including one show-stopping number in which they twirled big silver trays while tapping in uninterrupted synchronicity. But while the tall, relaxed Kurt Albert and his shorter vivacious partner Klaus Bleis have resurrected a vaudevillian novelty approach to tap, they are remarkably avant-garde. Both bring a whimsical precision, speed and elegance to their astute and witty craftsmanship. And, although the spinning trays thrilled the audience, a segment in which they carved lithe musical phrases into the floor with effortless grace made the greater impression.

Tap & Tray performs styles of the 1930s and 1940s as the German duo makes its Chicago debut as part of the Chicago Human Rhythm Project festival at the Vittum Theatre.



