



I've Got Rhythm

Musical Feet presents toe-tapper.

Tap dance: Maligned, misunderstood, it might seem like a creaky art form. When we think of tap, we might gag on an image of wee Shirley Temple mincing about with bobbing curls, or feel numbed by the repetition of dance cadets high-kicking with wanton abandon. But tap is cool, man, like jazz: an American tradition.

The roots of tap find their way to Africa, to the West Indies, commingling with the rhythms of French, English and Irish culture. Tap embodies the sultry south and the urban north. Tap is an original. And Musical Feet Director Jeanette Frame gets this: The work her school produces gleams its style from a deeper chord. They're emulating the greats.

In their upcoming concert, Musical Feet tap students offer a range of new pieces. "The Way You Move" is a jazzy showcase that plays with the beat, gliding underneath it and hovering somewhere on top. Dancers with varying

degrees of fluidity and expression still pull off a piece that demands clicking precision.

"Sonar" is a ticklish nod to jazz standards, and the easy-breezy style that is so well suited to conversational duets or inventive soloing. The dancers slip through some clever combinations, but the overuse of unison makes the whole seem a little flat.

In "Hot Chocolate," the company finds success in that powerful form, the chorus line. Playful and zesty, the piece wins with simple lines and enthusiastic execution.

My only question is, where are the boys? Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Gregory Hines, Savion Glover – lots of talent there. But c'mon, fellas, dance is also a great way to meet girls.

Musical Feet's 27th annual Student Concert, "Rhythm & Shoes," is offered at 7:30 pm on Friday and Saturday, June 17-18 at the Hult Center. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$13 ages 12 and under. **EW**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Klaus from Germany, 17 yrs.
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