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NEWS RELEASE

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**DOWNTOWN HOLLAND AND GENTEX CORPORATION ANNOUNCE LINE UP OF PERFORMING ARTISTS FOR 2013 STREET PERFORMER SERIES**

# Holland, MI — Downtown Holland and Gentex Corporation are pleased to announce a diverse and exciting line-up of talented performing artists and groups for this summer’s Street Performer Series event. With 32 different performance locations in Downtown Holland and 95 different artists performing on a rotating basis, this year’s Series will be the largest one to date. And with 35 performers new to the Series, this popular event promises to be more exciting then ever before.

The Street Performer Series kicks off on Thursday, June 13 and continues every Thursday night this summer until August 29. From 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm every Thursday, performing artists from all backgrounds will line 8th Street, providing interactive entertainment and fun for the whole family. The line up of performers includes musicians, jugglers, caricature artists, aerial acrobats, magicians, dancers, henna tattoo artists, balloon twisters, sideshow acts and much, much more. While the Series is free to attend, tipping the performers is highly encouraged.

“Gentex Corporation is extremely proud to be part of the largest Street Performer Series ever this summer,” said Bruce Los, Senior Vice President at Gentex Corporation.  “We are looking forward to sharing this fun and engaging event with the community each week.”

Founded in 1974, Gentex Corporation (NASDAQ: GNTX) is the leading supplier of automatic-dimming rearview mirrors and camera-based active safety systems to the global automotive industry. Based in Zeeland, Michigan, the international company develops, manufactures and markets interior and exterior automatic-dimming automotive rearview mirrors that utilize proprietary electrochromic technology to dim in proportion to the amount of headlight glare from trailing vehicle headlamps. More than half of the company's interior mirrors are sold with advanced electronic features, and more than 98 percent of the company's net sales are derived from the sale of auto-dimming mirrors to nearly every major automaker in the world.

The 2013 Downtown Holland Street Performer Series is co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation with support from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs through the Holland Area Arts Council. For more information on the Street Performer Series, please contact the Downtown Holland Principal Shopping District at 616.796.1210.

The line up for the 2013 Street Performer Series includes:

**Balloon Twisters**

**Dan The Magic Man**

Dan is a self-taught balloon artist who performs regularly at birthday parties, scouting events and art fairs. He also volunteers weekly at several nursing homes, performing card tricks and visiting with elderly residents.

**The Balloon Guy**

Jim Perry, also known as “The Balloon Guy,” has been entertaining children of all ages for over 30 years. He can make over 100 different balloon animals, from anteaters to zebras, as well as swords, hats and flowers.

**Mady Buursma**

Mady learned her balloon twisting talents from her mother when she was just 10 years old. She can now make 25 different balloon animals and enjoys working with children at a variety of community and church events.

**Caricature and Graphic Artists**

**Caricatures by Britta**

Britta graduated from Grand Valley State University with a degree in art and design. As a caricature artist, Britta draws light-hearted and comical portraits on the spot.

**Caricatures by Corey Ruffin**

Corey has years of experience as a caricature artist, drawing exaggerated portraits in five minutes or less. Corey was taught how to draw caricatures by the lead artist for “Mad” magazine and spent two years drawing at the Mall of America.

**Sally Starr**

Sally was inspired by her artist mother in 1975 to use a child’s fingerprint to create a simple, but entirely unique drawing. She then creates a pin out of the drawing for the child to wear.

**Sara Danforth**

Donning a pair of safety goggle and using a magnifying glass and the rays of sunshine, Sara creates works out art by burning images onto wood. She has participated in Art Prize in Grand Rapids for the past two years.

**Thumb Buddy Loves You**

“Thumb Buddy Loves You!” is a multi-generational family art project. Grandma Melody Peterson and her two granddaughters, Clarissa Kovacs and Shelby Rose, work together to create artwork keepsakes out of person’s own thumbprint.

**Circus Acts**

**Bangarang Circus**

This entertainment troupe is filled with circus enthusiasts trained in a variety of acts, including aerial arts, fire juggling, hooping and acrobatics. Group members have opened for nationally touring bands, music festivals, variety showcases, street fairs and more.

**Knotty Bits, LLC**

Knotty Bits is an international touring group who present a fast and funny act of sideshow standards such as pain proof man, fire-eating and target bullwhip. See daring stunts and skill with a healthy dose of humor that is fun for the whole family.

**Dancers**

**Circle Junkeez Crew**

Circle Junkeez are a b-boy style dance crew. This large group of talented break-dancers ranges in age and background but share the common goal of being a positive influence on the youth in Holland and surrounding areas.

**Clair De Lune**

Clare Freeman is an Egyptian and fusion dancer who performs at restaurants, in stage shows and at private events. She owns eDance LLC in Grand Rapids and will be joined at the Series by Emad Ibrahim, a professional musician from Egypt who has recorded with leading artists in Egypt and the US.

**Devon Patterson**

Devon aka “Kid Dopeness” is a talented young break-dancer. You’ll be amazed at the skilled moves he performs using nothing but a piece of cardboard and a radio.

**Mystic**

Maribel Garza has been a belly dancer for over 12 years. Middle Eastern dancing is her passion and she enjoys exploring the many ways to express this beautiful form of art.

**Henna, Temporary Tattoo and Face Paint Artists**

**Anna Schierbeek**

This will be Anna’s fourth summer participating in the Street Performer Series. She will be sharing her long-standing passion for the arts by drawing temporary henna tattoos.

**Dezarae**

Dezarae draws a variety of face paintings including flowers and cartoon characters like Elmo. She enjoys entertaining children, including her own son and other young family members.

**Elisabeth Kruizenga**

Elisabeth has a love and talent for drawing and illustrating. She uses Sharpie markers to create temporary art on people in a creative and unique way. As a returning member of the Series, Elisabeth finds the opportunity to interact with the community to be a truly priceless experience.

**Henna Art by Jahara Begum**

Jahara was first taught the art of henna at the age of three and has been practicing it ever since. Henna is a form of temporary body art using natural plant-derived dyes.

**Painting For Water**

Robert Trethewey and Eddie Moncada will be face painting a variety of graphics for kids of all ages including cartoon characters, flowers, sports and other assorted designs. All proceeds will be donated to Water For Life.

**Semeneck Body Art**

Renea Semeneck will create free-hand temporary ink tattoos that last up to a week and henna art designs that can last up to two weeks. She likes bringing joy to others by creating a piece of art directly on them.

**Hoopers and Yo-Yoers**

**Connor Scholten**

Connor first began yo-yoing at age seven. He has competed in several competitions around the country and has won multiple awards, including the Michigan State Yo-Yo Championship.

**Miss Audacious & Her Audacious Hoops**

Miss Audacious has been hooping professionally for nearly a decade and is the founder of Audacious Hoops, Grand Rapids’ original hula-hoop company. She wows audiences by incorporating a variety of dance styles into exciting and fun hoop performances.

**String Fury**

Luke Westrate and Sky Lownds perform intermediate to advanced yo-yo tricks and skills to music. They have been yo-yoing together for two years.

**Magicians**

**Andrew Fathman**

Andrew was first introduced to the world of magic at age 12 when he came across a box of magic supplies his mom used when she was younger and has been practicing ever since. He enjoys performing for large groups including his church community.

**Joel Brogan**

Joel has been practicing magic for years and uses misdirection, slight of hand, card tricks and other common items from the audience to wow the crowd.

**Jonathan Hulst**

Jonathan is a young magician who relies on card tricks to impress his audience. Despite his age, his illusions will leave even adults puzzled.

**Maciek's Magic Show**

Maciek’s magic show and his reputation have grown over the years based on his strong visual effects, universal appeal, level of craft, extensive experience and unique style of presentation. Maciek is the winner of the Holland edition of AMC’s newest reality series, “Showville.”

**The Magic Of Trino**

Trino has been performing close-up, street and stage magic for five years. He has done it all from simple card tricks to making a Harley Davidson motorcycle appear on stage.

**Zachary Coles**

Zach is a talented young magician whose interest in magic began with a simple card trick. He has performed at DeVos Performance Hall with Cirque Dreams Illumination, in addition to performing at a number of other venues.

**Mimes, Jugglers and Clowns**

**Brain Blast**

Brain Blast was formed by eight young students at Innocademy in Zeeland as a way of improving their motor movement, hand eye coordination, balance and rhythm.  They will perform a 20-minute juggling routine utilizing these skills.

**Juggler Gerry Bose**

Juggler Gerry relies on humor, various juggling acts, balance skills and audience participation to entertain the crowd. He has been featured in several Opera Grand Rapids productions and has been interviewed on National Public Radio.

**Mat Emerick**

Mat has been performing in West Michigan for 20 years. His wide array of fun and interactive skits include mime illusions, comedic juggling and balancing acts. His unique blend of art forms and charismatic personality draws his audience together for a shared experience of fun.

**Will Oltman**

Will has been juggling for over 15 years. His act showcases a wide array of talents including technical juggling, magic, comedy, Chinese yo-yo, gun slinging and more. His ever-expanding repertoire of tricks is certain to astound you.

**Musicians**

**Acoustic Vagabondi**

Acoustic Vagabondi has been playing music together for over three years all across West Michigan. Along with playing traditional Irish and folk music, they enjoy putting their own spin on classical rock and pop music, featuring the fiddle and rhythm guitar.

**Alex Perez**

Alex is the leader of the band Alex & The Brave, which recently released its first full-length album. He plays folk rock music on the acoustic guitar with vocals.

**Andrew Busscher**

Andrew plays the accordion and will be performing a variety of folk music, waltzes and his own compositions during the Street Performer Series.

**Anna Kremer & Rachel Szucs**

Anna and Rachel began playing music together in high school. Now that both performers are in college they are looking forward to reuniting this summer to sing old-time folk songs as well as popular favorites while playing the guitar and mandolin.

**Asthmatic Blueberries**

Lifelong friends Skyler Adams and Erik Durham are a two-person band that includes dual piano and vocals. The band’s first piece was a YouTube cover of “I Wanna Dance With Somebody.”

**Brandon Tracy**

Brandon has been a street performer since the summer of 2009. He plays traditional Irish and Scottish folk tunes on the Tin Whistle and the Low D Tin Whistle.

**Breaktime**

Breaktime is a barbershop quartet made up of four members: Al Walters, Bill McAndrew, Jay Bylsma and John Ellis. Together they have over 100 years of combined experience.

**Brucie Cooke**

Brucie began taking piano and horn lessons when he was a child growing up in Holland. After retiring from teaching, he is happy to be able to pursue his longtime appreciation for music by playing guitar and percussion and singing folk and blues.

**Calico**

Calico has been playing at an assortment of local venues for over 20 years. Members Peg Becker, Dave Kinsman, Gary Vruggink, Joe Thorstenson and Jack Dastoli sing and play an eclectic mix of genres on the guitar, banjo, harmonica and percussion.

**Carter Lezman**

Carter developed his passion for music at age 10 when he first started learning how to play the guitar. Earlier this year he released his first album and will be playing these tracks and more during the Series.

**Clay Howard**

Clay is a North Carolina native who has been performing as a musician across the United States, both in bands and as a solo artist. Clay has released 11 CDs over the last 10 years showcasing his talent on the guitar.

**Dan Davis**

Dan is an experienced musician and Street Performer Series regular. He has been performing Irish, country and folk music for 40 years in venues ranging from pubs to rest homes and even truck stops.

**Daniel Peaslee**

Daniel took up the tuba only last year and is the tuba section leader of his school band. He played his first solo at a band concert last December and also performed in the Tulip Festival parades this past spring.

**Dave Fable**

Dave is a seasoned singer/songwriter who plays acoustic folk and country. He has written over 70 original songs and is new to the Street Performer Series this summer.

**Denny Schepel**

Denny grew up around country music and his guitar playing and vocals reflect this influence. He donates all of his tips to the Holland Deacon’s Conference.

**Dixie Brass**

Dixie Brass is an instrumental music group consisting of nine local players who perform familiar upbeat Dixie and jazz music. Dixie Brass enjoys performing live music across West Michigan.

**Doug Marlink**

Doug began playing banjo in the mid 1970’s. He performs mostly bluegrass and some jazz music on the banjo. He is a regular performer both in Downtown Holland and at the Holland Farmers Market.

**Doug Peterson**

Doug entertains his audiences with original pieces, modern covers and traditional Celtic songs. Though you can find him performing all over Michigan, he most enjoys playing on the coast of Lake Michigan.

**Eli LaCroix**

Eli has been taking piano lessons since 2003 and has studied classical, jazz and contemporary piano. He has performed with the Holland Kids Chorale at their holiday and Tulip Time shows.

**Funnel Sunday**

Laura Brouwer and Al Gemmen are an indie folk-style duo that sing and play the acoustic guitar. Some of the artists they cover include Civil Wars, Adele, Mumford & Sons, The Lumineers, Sugarland and more.

**Grace MacMaster**

Grace began playing the violin when she was nine years old. Though taught mainly classical violin, Grace has a passion for the hard-driving rhythms of Cape Breton fiddle music, which she learned while attending a music camp.

**Grace and Joel VanZanten**

Grace studies violin with Mary Hofland. She enjoys playing familiar tunes often heard in musicals and plans to donate her tips to complete a water tower project in Kenya. Joel takes private violin lessons and has performed with the Holland Youth Orchestra Junior Strings, in addition to being a Series regular. Joel will donate a portion of his earnings to Dorie’s Promise, an orphanage in Guatemala.

**Hannah Johnson**

Hannah began pursuing music three years ago in her school orchestra. She plays a variety of instruments including the acoustic guitar, violin, ukulele and banjo. Hannah also enjoys singing.

**Jaren LaGore**

Jaren has been playing piano for four years and guitar for almost three. She loves to sing and entertain others. Her younger sister Jade will occasionally join at the Street Performer Series, playing her violin.

**Joe Heemstra**

Joe has been playing the electric guitar for five years. He enjoys classic rock and guitar instrumentals and his dream is to be the lead guitarist for a band someday.

**John Den Uyl**

John is a multi-instrumentalist, a singer and a songwriter. He will be making his Street Performer Series debut this summer.

**Katie Lowe**

Katie is a concert violinist who has been playing since she was nine-years-old. She will be studying Music Education at Northern Michigan University in the fall.

**Kaylie McConnell**

Kaylie has been playing violin for four years. She loves performing for people and playing a variety of music, including fiddle tunes, pop and classical.

**La Bella Vita**

La Bella Vita is made up of four members of a school choir. Denali Mokris, Kaitlyn Pilarski, Anna Smyk and MiKayla Singletary sing and harmonize on a variety of songs.

**Mallory & Grace**

Mallory and Grace met in the fall of 2012 and have been performing together ever since. They perform a vocal duet with ukulele and guitar.

**Matthew Banas**

Matthew has been coming to the Street Performer Series as a spectator for years and is excited to join as a performer this summer. He will be playing the acoustic guitar and singing.

**Miquel Fuentes**

Miquel loves music and has been playing the cello since he was 11. He also studied piano for nine years.

**Mitchell Roe**

Mitchell’s passion for music began at a young age, as he has been playing the guitar for nine years. He enjoyed playing in the Street Performer Series last year and is excited to return this summer.

**Nick Greendyke**

Nick has a natural talent on the guitar. He enjoys playing music, sharing his gift and entertaining a crowd.

**Olivia Mainville**

Olivia is a young singer and songwriter, who is a natural on guitar and has written over 40 original songs. Her style is described as an atmospheric mix of indie, folk and blues.

**Pilgrim's Way**

Gregg Pellegrino took up the guitar at age 16, teaching himself the chords from various books. He enjoys playing rock, blues, folk, R&B and ballad covers.

**Randy & Darlene Schaap**

Darlene plays many different instruments including, flute, Irish penny whistle and over 70 different hand percussion instruments. Randy plays cajon, Irish penny whistle, harmonica, congas, djembe, bodhran, keyboards, bass guitar, udu drum and hand percussion. The two recently appeared on “Showville”, a new reality TV show on the AMC channel.

**Rob Klajda**

Rob released his first solo album in 2012. “Hopening” is a collection of 17 songs with styles ranging from alt-country to children’s music to rock, with a touch of jazz, electronic and world beat music.

**Roosevelt Jones**

Roosevelt Jones combines the musical talents of guitarist/vocalist Mike McCarty and drummer Joe Lehman. With a sweet spot for the blues, the Grand Rapids duo’s eclectic tastes also include covers of vintage pop, country and Celtic tunes.

**Shannon Hughes**

Shannon sings and accompanies herself on piano or guitar. She has a rich, bluesy, mellow singing voice and a great stage presence. Her style ranges from acoustic to popular songs and jazz.

**Silent Film Forest**

Nate and Katie Vogel utilize a variety of instruments to paint an audible soundscape and express the joys in their life. This is their first year participating in the Street Performer Series.

**Songs Against Slavery**

The mission of Songs Against Slavery is to awaken hearts to the injustice of sex trafficking. Chris Maybury, Grace Theisen, Jon Underwood, Kevin Maybury and Catherine Liang are singers, songwriters and musicians who perform with acoustic guitars, vocals, the djembe hand drum, Tin whistle, harmonica and keyboard.

**Steam Powered Bluegrass**

Steam Powered Bluegrass is a high-energy, traditional bluegrass band featuring two and three part harmonies as well as fiddle, mandolin, banjo, bass and guitar. With their clean, tasteful instrumentation, close two- and three-part harmonies, and just the right mix of humor, the band provides a show that will leave folks wanting more.

**Steel Cut Oats**

Grace Byrd and her two young daughters form this string ensemble. They play hoedown music and often demonstrate dance moves to eager participants.

**Stephanie Gillett**

Stephanie has been performing publically since she was five-years-old. She enjoys playing the guitar and singing.

**Taken For Granted**

Grant Teeple and Brittany Jullie are both members of the jazz band at their school. They perform music on the saxophone, piano, trombone and guitar playing music from swing and jazz to pop.

**Tears On A Porch**

Ryan Wisner’s music is inspired by a life change that he experienced, and his purpose in performing is to share his music with others who may be hurting, broken, or lost in this world. He is currently finishing up his first album.

**The Irish Street Musician: Celtic Kilroy**

Celtic Kilroy’s musical repertoire consists of a mixture of traditional Celtic tunes and contemporary classics. His performances include more than just music, as he is one of the most sought-out live statue acts in the Midwest.

**The Jimmy Rustlers**

Jordan Hill and Mica Gargala make up this instrumental acoustic guitar duo. With a combined 18 years of guitar experience between the two of them, they have built a lot of chemistry together, which translates into fresh improvisation that makes every performance unique.

**The Willows**

The Willows is a brother and sister duo made up of Thomas and Lindsay Timmerman. The singing/songwriting pair will perform covers and original pieces on the acoustic guitar accompanied by vocals.

**The Woiwode Brothers**

Brothers Ben and James Woiwode have been making music together for a few years now. The brothers mostly sing their own original folk songs, though occasional tributes to some old time blues men are mixed in as well.

**Time Out**

Time Out is a jazz trio featuring Tommy Pancy and Luke Dionise on the saxophone and Nick Sterenberg on piano. This trio of young men play everything from 40’s swing to modern jazz.

**Trenton Van Bronkhorst**

Trenton first began drumming at the age of two using his mother’s pots and pans. He began taking weekly drum lessons and is now proficient in a variety of musical styles, including Latin, jazz, funk, rock and even country.

**True Calamity**

Morgan Wolffis and Libby Grace are a vocal duo performing with a guitar, ukulele, piano and percussion. The duo has performed in chapels for school and at quaint coffee shops, in addition to leading church services.

**Violin by Claudia**

Claudia is a talented violinist and performer who has a love for entertaining and interacting with her audience. Claudia began playing the violin in fifth grade and continues to challenge herself with private violin lessons. She is a member of the Holland Symphony Youth Orchestra.

**Zack Lindell**

Zack has been writing music for five years and is excited for a chance to share his passion during the Street Performer Series. He will perform original music and covers on the guitar and harmonica.

**Zach Rasmusson**

Zach is an independent folk artist who writes his own original songs. Music his is passion. He has been playing the guitar for over a decade, training other musicians and leading bands along the way. Though he is a solo singer/guitarist, he uses a loop station to create a full band’s sound.

**Puppetry and Theatre**

**Kevin Kammeraad and Cooperfly Puppet Troupe**

Kevin has been a children’s author, artist and performer since 1999. Through puppetry, music, poetry, audience participation, multimedia and humor, Kevin captivates people of all ages. His programs are dynamic, age appropriate and educational.

**Robert Engle**

Robert is a puppet enthusiast and crowds love to watch his puppets dance to recorded ragtime music. Robert has performed his show at a variety of different venues, including two nights a week for a full year at street side evening markets in Lampang, Thailand.

Additional Information: [WEBSITE](http://www.downtownholland.com) |[FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/streetperformerseries)| [TWITTER](https://twitter.com/HollandSPS)

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