

For Immediate Release
July 8, 2014

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kara de Alvare
Marketing Coordinator, Downtown Holland
44 West Ninth Street, Holland, MI 49423
616-796-0472 | k.dealvare@cityofholland.com
www.downtownholland.com

DOWNTOWN HOLLAND TO CELEBRATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF STREET PERFORMER SERIES THIS THURSDAY, JULY 10

Holland, MI — The Street Performer Series is turning 10 this year...and Downtown Holland can't wait to celebrate! On Thursday, July 10, Downtown Holland will host a special celebration for the 10th anniversary of the Street Performer Series from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. In addition to 34 talented performing artists and groups, the event will feature three special guest performers, balloon giveaways from event sponsor Gentex Corporation, party hats for the first 2,000 attendees, an interactive art project for teenagers, a free photo booth, discounts and promotions from participating Downtown Holland businesses and a gift basket giveaway valued at over \$300.

“Gentex is thrilled to join all of Downtown Holland in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Street Performer Series this Thursday,” said Kurt Wassink, Director of Human Resources at Gentex Corporation. “We’re proud to be able to continue our partnership with Downtown Holland to ensure that the entire community has the opportunity to experience the performing arts firsthand.”

In addition to the weekly line-up of aerial acrobats, musicians, break dancers, face painters, jugglers, magicians, yo-yoers and more, Thursday night will also feature three special guest performers who will be strolling up and down 8th Street during the event. Bangarang Circus's Michael Hayataka will be performing hula hoop tricks, Street Performer Series veterans Knotty Bits will be stilt walking and recent Hope College graduate Stephen Skilling will be riding the unicycle.

Street Performer Series sponsor Gentex Corporation will be handing out balloons to children in front of GDK Park, next to Cold Stone Creamery. In addition, the Downtown Holland office will be handing out party hats to the first 2,000 attendees outside of the park. Attendees can also enter to win a Downtown Holland gift basket valued at over \$300. The basket includes merchandise and gift cards from over 20 Downtown Holland businesses. One entry is allowed per person the winner will be notified via phone and e-mail on Friday, July 11. Participating business will also be offering a variety of special promotions and 10% off discounts from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm during the event.

Ambrose, CultureWorks and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holland will also be hosting an interactive art project designed just for teenagers during the 10th Anniversary Celebration this Thursday. The project will take place on 8th Street in front of Glik's Boutique. Teens will be invited to share their thoughts about the Holland community by writing it on banners that will be displayed throughout the event. They can see first hand how the banners are screen-printed and learn more about the many ways teenagers can get involved in the arts in Holland.

A free photo booth, hosted by Walcott Imaging, will also be available from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm for attendees to capture all of the fun they're having at the Street Performer Series. Each group will receive one photo strip though the photos will also be available for download on the Street Performer Series Facebook page later on. The photo booth is free, but donations will be accepted to support the Boys and Girls Club of Great Holland.

“It's hard to believe that we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Street Performer Series this summer,” said Downtown Holland Marketing and Promotions Coordinator Kara de Alvare. “We are extremely grateful for the hundreds of performers who have participated in the Series, to our Downtown Holland merchants, our event sponsors and of course, to the entire community for their support of this event. We are honored to be able to bring the performing arts to the streets of Downtown each summer.”

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 2014 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 Series is free to attend, but tipping is highly encouraged.

The lineup for the Street Performer Series on July 10 includes:

Alec Haas

Alec will be entertaining his audiences with both covers of popular songs and some of his original music, often improvising and allowing his passion to control the sound. As a music enthusiast he plans on heading to Nashville in the fall to pursue a career in music.

Alex Perez

Alex is a long-time musician and songwriter, as well as a full-time music student. He started writing music when he was in high school and it quickly became one of his passions. He has performed at a wide array of events and has also released a full-length album.

Andrew Fathman

Andrew has been practicing magic and illusions for six years, ever since he discovered his mother was once a magician as well. He loves seeing the look of amazement on someone's face when they have experienced the impossible.

Bangarang Circus

Bangarang Circus Arts is a collective of performance artists who share a passion for all things circus and a desire for community. It is their goal to offer the circus arts to everyone who seeks it. Bangarang Circus specializes in aerial arts, hooping and acrobatics.

Benjy Joung

Benjy has been playing cello for eight years and is currently training classically to become a professional musician. Do not be fooled; he also enjoys playing bluegrass, jazz and improvising to educate, inspire and thrill the patrons of the Downtown Street Performer Series.

Birch and Oak

Samuel Boerckel and Chase Ockerse have been playing music together for over three years. They have led their church's worship team, played in their high school's jazz and concert bands and performed on the streets of Downtown Holland together.

Calico

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

Caricatures by Corey Ruffin

Corey is a nationally renowned caricaturist, having illustrated for events all over the country. Trained under MAD Magazine's Tom Richmond, his flair for comedy and exaggeration is guaranteed to tickle your funny bone.

Circle Junkeez Crew

The Circle Junkeez are a dynamic b-boy style dance crew from Holland who love to perform and entertain audiences. They travel throughout the Midwest and across the United States to battle in top-notch break-dancing competitions.

Connor Scholten "Flying Fingers"

Connor has competed in several competitions around the country and has won multiple awards, including the Michigan State Yo-Yo Championship and the 2nd annual Grand Rapid's Got Talent Competition. This is Connor's 10th year performing in the Series. He named his act Flying Fingers, the name that was first coined when he performed in the inaugural Street Performer Series.

Dan Geary

Dan has been playing saxophone for eight years. He has received a superiority award in both regional and state MSBOA solo and ensemble festivals. He also received a Michigan Youth Arts

Festival nomination. During the Series he will use improvisation and saxophone mastery to create a fun atmosphere for fans of all ages.

Denny Schepel

Born and raised in the Holland area, Denny grew up listening to honky-tonk and began playing guitar at age five. In 1981 he had a terrible accident with a table saw, which limited his playing, but not his love for music. He relearned to play using open tunings and two fingers. 100% of his tips go to the Holland Deacons conference.

Dixie Brass

Dixie Brass plays traditional Dixie music, jazz standards and a few popular tunes. The members are all lifelong musicians that display their talents at a variety of community events all over Michigan.

Dune Grass Duet

Band members Justin Merriman and Collin Saunders are both members of the Grand Haven High School's top orchestra and will be performing folk and bluegrass music during the Series. Justin plays the viola, ukulele, guitar and banjo and Collin plays the guitar and cello, along with singing.

E2

E2 is made up of friends Emmalyse Kleyn, a keyboardist, ukulele player and singer, and Esther Pleune, a keyboardist, guitarist, ukulele player and singer. E2 started playing together six years ago and have performed in churches and camps around the area along with multiple Broadway productions.

Elisabeth Kruizenga

Elisabeth uses Sharpie markers to create temporary tattoos on people in a creative and unique way. Elisabeth loves to meet new people while demonstrating her love of art for Street Performer Series audiences and is looking forward to her fourth year in the Series.

Ethan Heyboer

Sixteen-year-old Ethan has been studying cello for six years and has been a member of the Holland Area Youth Orchestra for the past four years. He will be using his talents to perform a variety of pieces for the audience.

Face Painting by Dez

Dezarae draws a variety of face paintings including flowers and cartoon characters like Elmo using fluorescent paints, facial glitter and stick on gems. She enjoys entertaining children, including her own son and other young family members.

Funnel Sunday

Funnel Sunday is an indie, folk-style duo comprised of Laura Brouwer and Al Gemmen. They have been playing together for three years, first as a praise band, before branching out over a year ago to perform as Funnel Sunday. They cover everything from The Civil Wars and Adele to Mumford & Sons and Simon and Garfunkel.

Gene Haulenbeek

Gene is an experienced caricature artist who has earned a great reputation for the quality of his work in many different venues. Using a black marker and blender he will draw creative portraits of you and your friends.

Jaren & Jade LaGore

Sisters Jaren and Jade bring a fun energy to the Street Performer Series and have a great time entertaining people with their musical talents. They cover songs ranging from the Beatles to current pop hits.

Joel and Grace VanZanten

Joel has been playing violin for seven years. He is a member of the Holland Christian High School Orchestra and has played with the Holland Youth Orchestra. Grace has been studying violin for the past four years. Joel and Grace both enjoy raising money to donate to various charities.

Karz Paintz

Kristen Zamora began face painting three years ago while living in Fort Lauderdale. Since then she has moved back to her hometown of Paw Paw, Michigan, and started her own business in 2012. Her favorite part of the job is seeing the kids grin from ear to ear after seeing their painting.

Kellie & Zac

Kellie Grysen and Zac Toth have been playing together for three years. After a previous appearance in the Downtown Street Performer Series in 2012, singer Kellie and guitarist Zac decided to return this year to bring their music to the people.

Mady Buursma

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

Mat Emerick

Mat engages the audience with a gift for comedy, mimicry and silent acting reminiscent of great mimes and physical comedians like Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and Red Skelton. Mat tosses, balances and spins a variety of objects in a juggling show that will both excite and amuse an audience of any age.

Miss Audacious and The Audacious Hoopers

Miss Audacious and the Audacious Hoopers is a dynamic performance group that has been showcasing the best and boldest in professional hoop dance since 2008. Taking hoop dance to a new level, the Audacious Hoopers incorporate circus tricks, flow skills and audience interaction for an unforgettable experience that wows adults and children alike.

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 from the Series will be donated to Water For Life.

Randy & Darlene Schaap

Darlene plays a number of 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 reality TV show on the AMC channel.

The Almost Amazing Marco

The Almost Amazing Marco has been almost thrilling audiences with his uncanny ability to predict what people will say or do. His predictions are fun and the show is family-oriented. Marco has been performing magic for 12 years.

The Balloon Guy

Jim Perry, also known as “The Balloon Guy,” has been twisting balloons for more than 30 years. He can make more than 100 different animals, swords, flowers and hats and has been entertaining crowds at the Street Performer Series since 2006.

Thumb Buddy Loves You

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

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.

Will Juggle

Will Oltman has been juggling for over 15 years. You will be impressed by the multitude of objects he can juggle while bantering with the crowd. Clubs, balls and rings, yes, but also traditional cigar boxes, shaker cups, Chinese yo-yo, tennis cans, a hat, cane and more!

Additional Information: [WEBSITE](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [TWITTER](#)

###

