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NEWS RELEASE

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**KALAMAZOO CARICATURIST GENE HAULENBEEK TO APPEAR AT
DOWNTOWN HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES THIS THURSDAY**

Holland, MI – Attendees at the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series will have the opportunity to have one-of-a-kind caricature sketches drawn of them by artist Gene Haulenbeek this Thursday, July 31. The Street Performer Series, co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, is held every Thursday night in Downtown Holland from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm during the summer. Each week hosts nearly 35 performers, including hula hoopers, dancers, musicians, magicians, aerial acrobats, jugglers, face painters, and many more. While the Series is free to attend, tipping the performers is highly encouraged.

Haulenbeek was born and raised in New Jersey but has been a Michigan resident since 1968 when he came to Holland to attend Hope College. He first became interested in caricatures in his late teens when he came to know Al Hartley, who was at one time an artist for the Archie comic series as well as the producer of the Spire Christian Comics. Upon watching Hartley sketch a quick caricature of their pastor during church one morning, Haulenbeek became captivated by caricature art. Self-taught, Haulenbeek draws caricatures of faces and puts the people into a comical scene. While this takes a little longer than normal caricatures, the result has been “frame-worthy,” according to many of his subjects.

“It is always fun meeting people and attempting to field their requests,” said Haulenbeek. “Generally, the ideas come straight out of my head though and the impact is always fun. The subject of a drawing does not get to see the picture until I finish and I always appreciate the reaction after the reveal.”

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 lineup for the Street Performer Series on July 31 includes:

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.

Brad Lancaster

Brad is a talented magician, puppeteer, balloon artist and juggler who has been performing for over 30 years. Each of his performances offer a sense of good, clean humor, quick-wit and surprise that makes his show a marvelous offering of illusion and pure enjoyment that audiences of all ages, interests and backgrounds are sure to love.

Breaktime

Breaktime is a barbershop quartet composed of members of the Holland Windmill Chorus. They have performed at churches, schools, parties, corporate functions and the Street Performer Series for over three years.

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 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.

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.

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.

Hannah Johnson

Hannah is a music aficionada and has taught herself how to play the guitar as well as the ukulele. She has been playing the banjo for two years, and the violin for six years. She will be accompanying herself vocally as she performs. This is her second year in the Series.

Hoopin' Hales

Haylie has been hooping for a year and a half and wishes to spread the positivity that is emulated through hula-hoop dance. She will be demonstrating her dancing as well as various hula-hooping tricks during her Street Performer Series debut.

Jordan Nederveld

Jordan is the founder of Coda Studios, a professional guitar lessons studio and wedding music provider based in Jenison. He has been playing the guitar for 20 years and has been teaching for 15 years. He enjoys playing an array of musical styles.

Josie Vandermolen

When she received a ukulele for Christmas, Josie's passion for music fueled her ambition to teach herself how to play chords on the instrument. Over time, her confidence in performing had grown and she is excited to share her skills while performing popular cover songs during the Series.

La Bella Vita

La Bella Vita has been singing together for over four years. They sing in many parts, harmonies and languages (Japanese, Spanish, Italian, German, French and English) and have earned top ratings while competing in large and small ensembles.

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.

Marlies Otteman

Marlies is a 13-year-old singer and guitarist who plays a mix of pop and country favorites as well as a few well-known classics. She has been playing since she was eleven, and loves to captivate audiences with her musical talents.

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.

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.

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.

Rose of eDance

Rose teaches, performs and competes in west coast swing, hustle, bachata, and Middle Eastern dance, and enjoys engaging her audiences by spreading the love of dance. She owns eDance LLC in Grand Rapids, and will be making her second appearance in the Series this year.

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 favorites.

Steph Gillett

Steph has been performing publically since she was five years old. She enjoys playing the guitar and singing, and will be doing so for the crowds at the Series.

The Appleberries

Guitarist Christopher Rodriguez and bassist Forrest Dodson have been playing music for nine years. They met vocalist Kelsey Castillo at Hope College and have been playing music together ever since. Each member has had classical training and has spent years perfecting their talents.

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.

The Irish Street Musician: Celtic Kilroy

Celtic Kilroy plays a variety of instruments, including guitar, banjo, harmonica, Irish penny whistle, Irish drum and rhythm bones. He was a member of the Kwils, a popular Celtic band, which was disbanded after a twenty-year musical journey. In 2012 Celtic Kilroy also began studying the art of human statue, which has become one of the most favorite attractions at many events.

The Jimmy Rustlerz

Jordan Hill and Micah 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. This will be their fourth year in the Street Performer Series.

The Magic Of Trino

Trino began his journey in magic at the age of 13 as a way to pick up girls...not long after he realized that wasn't going to happen! With a unique style, Trino has helped bring magic up-to-date by using a combination of popular music, comedy and theatrics. Trino recently won first place at West Michigan's Got Talent.

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.

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.

Zach Rasmusson

Zach is an independent folk artist who writes his own original songs. Music is his 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. This will be his second year in the Series.

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

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