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NEWS RELEASE

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HOLLAND NATIVE HOOPIN' HALES TO PERFORM AT THIS THURSDAY'S DOWNTOWN HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES

Holland, MI – Haylie Steketee, also known as Hoopin' Hales, will bring her hooping and poi talents to the streets of Downtown Holland this Thursday, August 7. The Downtown Holland Street Performer Series, co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, is held every Thursday night from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm during the summer and features 34 talented performing artists and groups each week. Performers include musicians, face painters, caricature artists, dancers, aerial acrobats, henna tattoo artists, magicians, and much more. While the Series is free to attend, tipping is highly encouraged.

Steketee began hula hooping just over a year and half ago when her friend introduced her to the art. With the help of YouTube videos and hours of patience, Hoopin' Hales built her range of hooping and poi skills over time. An attendee of the Street Performer Series since the 7th grade, Haylie decided to take a chance and submit her audition after realizing that she had a unique talent to offer.

“I love hooping and having the opportunity to entertain adults and inspire kids,” Steketee said. “It makes my heart so incredibly happy seeing little kids hula hoop and look up to me. Hula hooping has brought so much happiness, confidence and positivity to my life. I only hope that my audience can recognize that through my performances, and become inspired to try a hobby of any sort.”

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 August 7 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.

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.

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.

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.

Brucie Cooke

Brucie began taking piano and horn lessons when he was a child growing up in Holland. Since retiring from teaching, he enjoys pursuing his longtime appreciation for music by playing guitar and percussion and singing folk and blues. This is Brucie's sixth year performing in the Series.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Henna Tattoos by Anna Schierbeek

Anna is a junior at Kendall College of Art and Design with a Drawing major and a Painting minor. She started her henna tattoo business five years ago and is grateful for the continued the opportunity to participate in the Street Performer Series.

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.

Juggler Gerry Bose

Gerry has been a juggling enthusiast his whole life. Gerry is the former president of the Grand Rapids Juggling Club and has hosted four juggling festivals at the UICA in Grand Rapids. He is a member of the International Jugglers Association who had performed at a number of festivals and events and is particularly proud of his interview on National Public Radio.

Kara Seymour

Kara is a Hope College student pursuing a degree in Studio Art. With her skills and knowledge in artistry she will apply glitter and henna tattoos to those who wish to wear her expressions of creativity.

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.

La Blu

Jack Garcia and Jared Norwood have been involved in music from a very young age. As students at West Ottawa High School, they hope people feel the music through their performance of blues, funk, jazz and popular music.

Maciek the Magician

Maciek is an award-winning magician crowned by the community as Holland's favorite act. He has appeared on a variety of TV shows, and won the top award on AMC's original series "Showville." Maciek performs with a unique, energetic style that audiences of all ages can relate to.

Michael Fleckenstein

Michael is a singer/ songwriter involved professionally in folk, bluegrass and country music for over 40 years. During the course of his career he has performed with Tommy Cash, Jack Greene, Katlyn Rose and Gordon Lightfoot, among others.

Miquel Fuentes

Miquel loves music and has been playing the cello since he was 11. He also studied piano for nine years. He will be performing his repertoire of classical music for the Street Performer Series audiences.

Nate and Karl

Nate Roberts and Karl Fleck will be playing a mix of bluegrass, old-time and Irish tunes on guitar, mandolin and banjo. They wish to share their love for acoustic music with the audience and look forward to playing their music together.

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.

String Fury

Luke Westrate and Sky Lownds are a yo-yo duo out of Whitehall. They have been yo-yoing together for the past three years. On Thursday nights, they will be performing intermediate to advanced yo-yo tricks and skills to music.

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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