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NEWS RELEASE

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**MIME, CLOWN AND JUGGLER MAT EMERICK TO APPEAR AT DOWNTOWN HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES**

# HOLLAND, MI — Mime, clown and juggler extraordinaire Mat Emerick will perform at the weekly Downtown Holland Street Performer Series this Thursday, July 18 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. The Street Performer Series, co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, features over 30 performing artists and groups each week, who perform free for the public all along 8th Street. Artists include aerial acrobats, magicians, caricature artists, musicians, balloon twisters and more.

Emerick has been performing in West Michigan for 20 years and as part of the Street Performer Series in Downtown Holland since 2007. His wide array of fun and interactive skits include mime illusions, comedic juggling and balancing acts. The unique blend of art forms and Emerick’s charismatic personality draws audience members together for a shared interactive experience.

# “Performing in the Street Performer Series has had a big impact in developing my skills, especially improvisation,” said Emerick. “It’s always an adventure when involving audience members in the show. Spectators are open, enthusiastic and rarely mind getting a little silly.”

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 Street Performer Series on July 18 includes:

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Jordan Nederveld**

Jordan has a passion for music and is excited to share it with the community on his acoustic guitar.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 two granddaughters, Clarissa Kovacs and Shelby Rose, work together to create artwork keepsakes out of person’s own thumbprint.

**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.

**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.

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

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