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NEWS RELEASE

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**CELLO DUO ANDREW PLASIER AND JOSHUA RUITER TO WOW CROWDS
WITH CONTEMPORARY HITS AT DOWNTOWN HOLLAND
STREET PERFORMER SERIES THURSDAY**

Holland, MI — Calvin College cellists Andrew Plasier and Joshua Rüter are scheduled to perform this Thursday, July 17 at the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series. The Street Performer Series, sponsored by Gentex Corporation, is held each Thursday night from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm during the summer. Each week features a variety of performing artists and groups, including jugglers, magicians, musicians, face painters, henna tattoo artists, dancers, hula hoopers, and many more. While the event is free, tipping the performers is highly encouraged.

Plasier and Rüter began performing together in the orchestra at Calvin College during the fall semester of their freshman year in 2012. They became fast friends after discovering their mutual respect for 2Cellos and Apocalyptica, two cello groups that cover rock and pop songs. The duo began composing their own renditions of popular songs, and together they play everything from Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal" to Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" and Rihanna's "We Found Love". Recently, their rendition of Guns N' Roses' "Welcome to the Jungle" took the top prize at Calvin's Got Talent, an annual talent competition held at the college. With combined experience of nearly 25 years, Plasier's and Rüter's talent and eagerness to please the audience are apparent in their performances.

"We like the exposure and instant feedback we get from the audience at the Street Performer Series," said Rüter. "If something's not working, we can tell from how the crowd shifts. We also get requests from people which gives us an idea of what people are looking for. One of the most fun things has been our friends coming out to see us and support us. It's such a joy to share our music with them and with everyone who wants to listen."

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 17 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.

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.

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.

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 Schierbeek 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 opportunity to participate in the Street Performer 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-hoopingtricks during her Street Performer Series debut.

John Kite and Kirby York

John and Kirby are an American roots band that entertains the crowds with rockabilly, country, folk, and blues music. John hails from California, while Kirby comes from Florida, and both have lived, worked and performed locally in West Michigan for several years now.

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.

Joshua Ruitter and Andrew Plaisier

Joshua and Andrew are both classically trained cellists who love entertaining audiences by playing their own arrangements of pop and rock. They recently won a talent competition at Calvin College with their rendition of "Welcome to the Jungle".

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.

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.

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.

Lia Weiss-Gelmi

Lia is a nine-year-old who has loved playing piano since the age of three. She loves her piano teacher and enjoys taking her piano lesson during school. She enjoys playing songs such as “Allegro”, “Minuet in G” and the popular hit “Let It Go” from the movie “Frozen”.

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.

Matthew Banas

Matthew, a student at Aquinas College, will be making his second appearance in the Series as he sings a collection of tunes accompanied by his acoustic guitar. He enjoys playing both in the Series and at the Holland Farmers Market.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Steam Powered Bluegrass

Steam Powered Bluegrass was formed by five bluegrass veterans, with many years of playing experience. With their clean, tasteful instrumentation, close two and three part harmonies and just the right mix of humor, they provide a stage show that will leave folks wanting more.

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.

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 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 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.

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!

Zachary Coles

The fun started at age 11 when Zachary's uncle showed him a simple, mathematical card trick, and after that he was hooked on magical illusions. Zachary was a contest winner for the Broadway hit Cirque Dreams Illumination and took 3rd place in a close-up magic contest held by

FAB Magic. Recently, he joined the AMTC (Actors Models and Talent for Christ) and is pursuing his dream.

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

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