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NEWS RELEASE

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**YO-YO DUO STRING FURY TO ENTERTAIN CROWDS AT DOWNTOWN  
HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES THIS THURSDAY**

Holland, MI — Whitehall natives Sky Lownds and Luke Westrate, who make up the yo-yo duo String Fury, will amaze attendees at the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series this Thursday, July 24 with their yo-yoing skills. Co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series is held each Thursday night during the summer from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. The Series features nearly 35 talented acts each week, including magicians, break dancers, musicians, aerial acrobats, face painters, caricaturists, hula hoopers, and much more. While the Series is free to attend, tipping is highly encouraged.

String Fury came to be after Lownds first showed Westrate a few basic tricks on an old Duncan Butterfly yo-yo. Westrate's interest was peaked, and they each bought new yo-yos to practice learning new skills. After many self-trained sessions, they decided to set their act to music. Lownds and Westrate realized that they wanted to perform for the public when they saw the reaction they got from their friends while performing. Lownds introduced Westrate to the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series, and the rest is history. This is String Fury's second year in the Series.

**“Our favorite part about being in the Street Performer Series is getting a reaction from the crowd,” said Westrate. “When we know we have landed a good trick and we look up to a wave of applause and kids smiling, it is the best feeling in the world.”**

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 24 includes:

### **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.

### **Bria West**

Bria is a 19-year-old soccer player at Cornerstone University. She has been soccer juggling since she was nine, and has fallen in love with it. She enjoys teaching kids how to play soccer in her free time.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Dan Davis & Meredith VanWieren**

Returning for his sixth year in the Street Performer Series, Dan has performed country, folk, pop, and Irish music for 50 years in a multitude of different venues. He will be accompanied this year on guitar and vocals by musician Meredith VanWieren.

### **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.

### **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.

### **40 Street**

Formerly known as the Asthmatic Blueberries, 40 Street features the talented musicians Skyler Adams and Erik Durham. Their music has become more original and more raw with both musicians focusing on the instruments they feel strongest with...Erik on piano and Skyler on percussion, with both band members providing vocals.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Mackenzie TenBrink**

Eleven-year-old Mackenzie loves to perform, and she is extremely excited to sing and play the guitar and ukulele in the Street Performer Series this year. She hopes to be a music artist when she grows up.

### **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.

### **Mystic**

Maribel Garza has been a belly dancer for over 12 years and Middle Eastern dancing is her passion. She has attended many seminars where she gets to meet and continue learning more about the art form from professional dancers.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 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 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.

### **Thumb Buddy Loves You**

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

### **Tucas**

Thomas Timmerman and Lucas Sturgess have been playing music together since they were freshmen in high school. Lucas and Thomas have created a musical/comedic duo called Tucas that makes weekly videos on YouTube, and despite the newness of their channel have gained a lot of praise from members of the Saugatuck community, their hometown.

### **12 Feet Tall**

Amanda Visser has been singing since the age of three, while Michael Terpstra has been playing the guitar for ten years. Both have been writing songs for a while and through conversation of their mutual love of songwriting and music, 12 Feet Tall was born.

### **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](#)

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