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NEWS RELEASE

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**KEVIN KAMMERAAD BRINGS HIS COOPERFLY PUPPET TROUPE TO THE DOWNTOWN HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES**

# HOLLAND, MI — Kevin Kammeraad and his puppet friends will perform at the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series this Thursday, July 25 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. The Street Performer Series, co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, features over 30 performing artists and groups every Thursday night this summer. Jugglers, magicians, dancers, yo-yoers, musicians and more perform free for the public all along 8th Street…but don’t forget to tip!

Kammeraad has been an artist, children’s author, puppeteer and story-teller since 1999. Through puppetry, music, poetry, audience participation, multimedia and humor, Kammerad captivates the imaginations of children and adults alike, creating a fun environment for the entire family. His street performances are dynamic, age appropriate and educational.

**“I grew up in Holland so it's always fun to see family and friends I’ve met over the years,” said Kammeraad. “As a kid, I remember feeling like there wasn't much to do downtown. It's exciting to be part of a new downtown tradition that will hopefully create lasting memories for kids today.”**

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 25 includes:

**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.

**Bryson Altvater and Jared Tuene**

Bryson and Jared met in high school and enjoy performing together. Bryson, who is pursing music as a career, will play piano compositions and Jared, a GRCC journalist major, performs the guitar.

**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.

**Circle Junkeez Crew**

Circle Junkeez are a b-boy style dance crew. This large group of talented break-dancers ranges in age and background but share the common goal of being a positive influence on the youth in Holland and surrounding areas.

**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.

**Dixie Brass**

Dixie Brass is an instrumental music group consisting of nine local players who perform familiar upbeat Dixie and jazz music. Dixie Brass enjoys performing live music across West Michigan.

**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.

**Elisabeth Kruizenga**

Elisabeth has a love and talent for drawing and illustrating. She uses Sharpie markers to create temporary art on people in a creative and unique way. As a returning member of the Series, Elisabeth finds the opportunity to interact with the community to be a truly priceless experience.

**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.

**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.

**John Den Uyl**

John is a multi-instrumentalist, a singer and a songwriter. He will be making his Street Performer Series debut this summer.

**Kevin Kammeraad and Cooperfly Puppet Troupe**

Kevin has been an artist, children’s author and performer since 1999. Through puppetry, music, poetry, audience participation, multimedia and humor, Kevin captivates people of all ages. His programs are dynamic, age appropriate and educational.

**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.

**Matthew Banas**

Matthew has been coming to the Street Performer Series as a spectator for years and is excited to join as a performer this summer. He will be playing the acoustic guitar and singing.

**Mystic**

Maribel Garza has been a belly dancer for over 12 years. Middle Eastern dancing is her passion and she enjoys exploring the many ways to express this beautiful form of art.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Sally Starr**

Sally was inspired by her artist mother in 1975 to use a child’s fingerprint to create a simple, but entirely unique drawing. She then creates a pin out of the drawing for the child to wear.

**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.

**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.

**Steel Cut Oats**

Grace Byrd and her two young daughters form this string ensemble. They play hoedown music and often demonstrate dance moves to eager participants.

**Stephanie Gillett**

Stephanie has been performing publically since she was five-years-old. She enjoys playing the guitar and singing.

**String Fury**

Luke Westrate and Sky Lownds perform intermediate to advanced yo-yo tricks and skills to music. They have been yo-yoing together for two years.

**Taken For Granted**

Grant Teeple and Brittany Jullie are both members of the jazz band at their school. They perform music on the saxophone, piano, trombone and guitar playing music from swing and jazz to pop.

**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 Irish Street Musician: Celtic Kilroy**

Celtic Kilroy’s musical repertoire consists of a mixture of traditional Celtic tunes and contemporary classics. His performances include more than just music, as he is one of the most sought-out live statue acts in the Midwest.

**The Magic Of Trino**

Trino has been performing close-up, street and stage magic for five years. He has done it all from simple card tricks to making a Harley Davidson motorcycle appear on stage.

**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.

**Trenton Van Bronkhorst**

Trenton first began drumming at the age of two using his mother’s pots and pans. He began taking weekly drum lessons and is now proficient in a variety of musical styles, including Latin, jazz, funk, rock and even country.

**Violin by Claudia**

Claudia is a talented violinist and performer who has a love for entertaining and interacting with her audience. Claudia began playing the violin in fifth grade and continues to challenge herself with private violin lessons. She is a member of the Holland Symphony Youth Orchestra.

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

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