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NEWS RELEASE

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**DOWNTOWN HOLLAND TO HOST TUNES N' TALES BY TRICIA
AT STREET PERFORMER SERIES THIS THURSDAY**

Holland, MI – This Thursday, August 14, attendees at Downtown Holland's Street Performer Series will have the opportunity to experience Tunes N' Tales by Tricia, a fun and interactive musical performance for the whole family. The Street Performer Series, co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, is held each and every Thursday night during the summer from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm and features nearly 35 performing artists and groups, including magicians, caricature artists, musicians, jugglers, balloon twisters, dancers, aerial acrobats, mimes and much, much more. The Series is free to attend, but tipping is greatly appreciated.

Patricia Kjolhede grew up in Lakeview, Michigan and graduated from Central Michigan University with both her Bachelors and Masters degrees in education. Hailing from a large musical family, Patricia grew up around country and gospel music, which inspired her to take lessons in guitar and drama. It was in the classroom that Kjolhede first began utilizing music and puppets to entertain and teach her students, but she did not decide to perform full-time until nearly thirty years later. While Kjolhede has been performing for nearly 10 years, this is her first year participating in the Street Performer Series.

Kjolhede's main objective while performing Tunes N' Tales by Tricia is to get the children in the audience actively involved with the performances, allowing them to become the focal point. She brings props and instruments that allow everyone watching to interact with each song.

“It is amazing and energizing to watch their confidence grow as they become part of the event as it unfolds,” said Kjolhede. “It has given me so much joy to see parents, grandparents and siblings having fun and singing together, playing instruments and clapping along with songs that we sing.”

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:

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.

Benjy Joung

Benjy has been playing cello for eight years and is currently training classically to become a professional musician. Do not be fooled; he also enjoys playing bluegrass, jazz and improvising to educate, inspire and thrill the patrons of the Downtown Street Performer Series.

Calico

Calico has been playing at an assortment of local venues for over 20 years. Members Peg Becker, Dave Kinsman, Gary Vruggink, Joe Thorstenson and Jack Dastoli sing and play an eclectic mix of genres on the guitar, banjo, harmonica and percussion.

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.

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 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

Jonathan Hulst

Jonathan is a young magician who has been performing for about five years. He relies on card tricks to impress his audience. His favorite thing to do is to perform, and he always has two decks of cards with him to leave even the adults in the audience puzzled.

Kayden Bryce

Ten-year-old Kayden Bryce has four years of theater experience, two years of guitar and vocal revues and seven years of dance. Kayden sings and plays acoustic versions of songs popularized by artists such as Katy Perry, Taylor Swift, Adele, and Sara Bareilles. She can also play by ear, so requests are always welcome!

Kaylie McConnell

Kaylie has been playing violin for five years. She is in the top orchestra at her high school, and plays in the Holland Youth Symphony Orchestra. She loves performing for people and playing a variety of music, including fiddle tunes, pop and classical music. This will be Kaylie's third year in the Series.

La Bella Vita

La Bella Vita has been singing together for over four years. They sing in many parts, harmonies and languages (Japanese, Spanish, Italian, German, French and English) and have earned top ratings while competing in large and small ensembles.

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”.

Logan Dolence

Logan loves to act and sing and has experience performing in a variety of shows in the West Michigan area. He is involved in the dance ensemble program and Madrigals program at Zeeland High School, and is an aspiring Broadway performer. He will be singing a wide array of songs sure to please the crowds.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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