

For Immediate Release
June 10, 2014

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kara de Alvare
Marketing Coordinator, Downtown Holland
44 West Ninth Street, Holland, MI 49423
616-796-0472 | k.dealvare@cityofholland.com
www.downtownholland.com

STILT-WALKER MIKE HAYATAKA TO HELP KICK-OFF WEEKLY STREET PERFORMER SERIES IN DOWNTOWN HOLLAND

Holland, MI – Stilt-walker and hula-hooper extraordinaire Michael Hayataka will be towering above the crowds as the 2014 Downtown Holland Street Performer Series kicks off this Thursday, June 12. The Street Performer Series, co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, will be held every Thursday night this summer from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Each week, the event features close to 35 different performing artists and groups who perform for the public throughout Downtown Holland. The talented line-up of performers includes musicians, jugglers, caricature artists, aerial acrobats, dancers, magicians and much, much more. The Series is free to attend, but tipping the performers is highly encouraged.

Hayataka, a Rockford, Michigan native, is a professional stilt-walker or “stilter” and hula-hooper who has been performing part-time for over two years. He first began hula hooping as an extension of his longtime passion for dance and most recently added stilt walking to his long list of talents. Currently residing in Grand Rapids, Hayataka co-founded the performing arts group Bangarang Circus Arts in 2012. He is self-trained and practices daily to master his craft while creating new characters to drive his performances. During the Street Performer Series, he will be strolling throughout Downtown Holland on stilts, performing hula-hoop tricks and socializing with Series attendees. This is his second year as a featured guest performer.

“The Street Performer Series is a great opportunity to demonstrate the skills I’ve been practicing, especially with the street being so full of people,” said Hayataka. “I also like the opportunity to see other artists perform...since I’ve got such a good vantage point.”

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 June 12 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

Brioso String Quartet

From Bach to Broadway to the Beatles and beyond, the Brioso String Quartet plays music for all ages. Violinists Amy Piersma and Tammy Clark hold college degrees in violin performance and have performed with the Holland Symphony. Laurie Van Ark plays the viola and is also active with the Holland Symphony. Cellist Ginger VandenBrink is a charter member of Brioso and the Holland Symphony. She also teaches private cello lessons.

Caricatures by Britta

Britta first learned to draw caricatures during a summer job at Michigan's Adventure while attending Grand Valley State University for Illustration. She now draws independently at different events and enjoys interacting with costumers while giving them a silly memento they can keep forever.

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.

Corey Ruffin, Caricaturist

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.

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.

Danny Hargrove

Danny is an exciting new artist bringing Chicago-style blues in an acoustic one-man package; occasionally sprinkling in guilty pleasure songs from the 80's to keep things fun and interesting. His percussive guitar style and superb rack harmonica playing combined with his big voice fill out his complete sound.

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.

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.

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 Steketee 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.

Joe Heemstra

Joe has been playing electric guitar for six years and enjoys playing classic rock and guitar instrumentals. He has also written and co-written several songs of his own. Joe recently became the lead guitarist for the band Vertical Bridge.

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.

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.

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 Ruiter 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.

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.

La Blu

Jack Garcia, Jared Norwood and Samantha Rithamel have all 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.

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.

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.

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 from the Series 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.

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.

Time Out

Time Out is a jazz quartet featuring Tommy Pancy and Luke Dionise on the saxophone, Even Schippers on drums and Nick Sterenberg on the keyboard. This quartet of young men play everything from 40's swing to modern jazz.

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.

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](#)

###