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NEWS RELEASE

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GUITARIST JOE “LITTLE EDGE” HEEMSTRA TO PERFORM THIS THURSDAY AT DOWNTOWN HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES

Holland, MI — Joe Heemstra, an up-and-coming rock guitarist born and raised in Grandville, will wow patrons at the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series this Thursday, June 26 with a mix of classic rock instrumentals. The Street Performer Series, co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, is held each Thursday night during the summer from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Each week, the event features 34 talented performing artists and groups, including musicians, henna tattoo artists, dancers, balloon artists, aerial acrobats, hula hoopers and many more. The Series is free to attend, but tipping is greatly appreciated.

Heemstra began playing the electric guitar at the age of eight after he receiving one as a Christmas present. He enjoyed the freedom an electric guitar gave him to play the rock songs that he loved, compared to the piano, which he was playing at the time. Heemstra has taken private guitar lessons from Paul Kleff of West Michigan Guitar School in Grand Rapids and has also taught himself a number of skill and techniques using videos posted online. He likes to play everything from Joe Satriani to Guns N’ Roses, and has even written his own version of “How Great Thou Art”. This is Heemstra’s third year participating in the Street Performer Series.

“Because I don’t play a traditional band or orchestra instrument, it has always been hard to find opportunities to perform,” said Heemstra. “Street performing gives me a chance to play for people in a positive and relaxed atmosphere. Playing outdoors on a summer evening with people stopping by to listen to a song is awesome. It’s just fun for everyone, and I appreciate the opportunity to participate as a performer.”

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 26 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

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.

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.

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.

Dying Will Be Easy

Brothers James and Ben Woiwode, along with friend Cameron Hurd, have been playing music together on and off for more than 10 years. The three have compiled an extensive repertoire consisting of many originals along with covers of old blues tunes such as "Jesus Gonna Make Up My Dying Bed" by Blind Willie Johnson, their namesake song.

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.

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.

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.

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".

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Rose of eDance

Rose teaches, performs and competes in west coast swing, hustle, bachata, and Middle Eastern dance, and enjoys engaging her audiences by spreading the love of dance. She owns eDance LLC in Grand Rapids, and will be making her second appearance in the Series this year.

Sally Starr

For 37 years Sally has been delighting audiences by transforming their fingerprints into a cartoon-like animal and placing it into a badge as a keepsake. Everyone enjoys this art form, young and old alike!

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 Kovacs work together to create artwork keepsakes out of a child’s own thumbprint.

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.

Tunes ‘N Tales by Tricia

Tricia provides family interactive entertainment for all ages. The combination of her degrees in early childhood development and reading education with over 30 years of classroom experience, made Tunes n’ Tales seem like the natural next step. Kids are invited to sing along, interact with puppets, play along with musical instruments and enjoy the fun!

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!

Zach Rasmusson

Zach is an independent folk artist who writes his own original songs. Music is his passion. He has been playing the guitar for over a decade, training other musicians and leading bands along the way. Though he is a solo singer/guitarist, he uses a loop station to create a full band’s sound. This will be his second year in the Series.

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

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