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NEWS RELEASE

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**ZEELAND NATIVE STEPHANIE GILLETT TO RETURN TO HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES FOR FOURTH YEAR**

Holland, MI – Talented acoustic guitarist and vocalist Steph Gillett will return to the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series this Thursday, June 25 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, where she will be joined by close to 40 other performing artists, including magicians, caricature artists, mimes, jugglers, aerial acrobats and more. The Street Performer Series is free to attend, thanks to the generosity of our event sponsors, Gentex Corporation and Holland Christian Schools, but tipping the performers is highly encouraged!

Gillett first began taking voice lessons when she was 14 and joined her church choir, which ignited a passion for performing. In addition to performing at local cafes, she has recently gained a strong following on YouTube and is participating in the Street Performer Series for the fourth year this summer. When she’s not entertaining crowds at the Street Performer Series, Gillett spends her summers working at Glik’s Men’s Shop in Downtown Holland. In the fall, she will return to Belmont University in Nashville, where she is pursuing an English Writing major with a background in Music Business.

**“I've always told myself that no matter how old I get, I'll keep singing,” said Gillett.
“Whether it's for 3 people or 3,000. The Street Performer Series is a perfect example of that. Sometimes, I'm singing to just one person and sometimes there's a big crowd. As long as someone is listening, I'll always be singing. The Series allows me to do that.”**

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.

Home of more than 1,700 students preschool – 12th grade, Holland Christian Schools embraces the educational excellence and a model of teaching and learning that integrates Christian faith into every experience. Holland Christian is a vibrant five-campus school system united by a common mission to equip minds and nurture hearts to transform the world of Jesus Christ. As part of their outreach to families in the community, staff from Holland Christian Preschool will host fun and interactive activities during the Street Performer Series free for children under the shelter in front of the Threads on 8th clothing boutique.

The complete lineup for the Street Performer Series on June 25 includes:

**Anna Kremer and Rachel Jacoby**

Both Anna and Rachel have always loved music, even before they met in high school. Rachel is a self-taught guitar player who got her start 7 years ago, and is known to dabble on the ukulele and the piano. Anna Kremer plays both the guitar and mandolin and was taught how to play by her father.

**The Appleberries**

This group is comprised of three, classically trained musicians who met at Hope College in 2010. With a shared interest in creating original songs, they started writing together shortly after meeting. They are an extremely vibrant and lively collective.

**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.

**The Bearded Ladies Men**

The Bearded Ladies Men are a four-piece musical group who play turn-of-the-20th century inspired songs. The group’s focus is on fun and entertaining sets that take people back to a bygone era. Residing in the Muskegon area, the group has performed in numerous live settings.

**Beauty in a Blink**

For her first year in the Street Performer Series, Brittany Davito will be using an air compressor to create unique airbrush tattoos from her large selection of stencils and colors. She is a certified makeup artist, who attended Makeup First School of Makeup Artistry in 2011.

**Ben Comedy**
Ben's dad taught him how to juggle at the age of four. Since then, Ben has been seen on TruTV's hit show "Fake Off," on cruise ships and on random corners around the world street performing. He will be teaming up with Will Oltman for the Street Performer Series for a dual juggling performance.

**Brass Brothers**

This young brass duo consists of Jack Joung and Athey Dykhouse. Jack plays the trumpet while Athey plays the tuba.

**Bria West**

Bria is a third-year student and 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.

**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.

**The Irish Street Musician: Celtic Kilroy**

Celtic Kilroy plays a variety of instruments, including guitar, banjo, harmonica, Irish penny whistle, Irish drum and rhythm bones. He was a member of the Kwils, a popular Celtic band, which was disbanded after a twenty-year musical journey. In 2012 Celtic Kilroy also began studying the art of human statue, which as become one of the most favorite attractions at a number of events.

**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 The Magic Man**

Dan Mutchler 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.

**Face Painting by Dez**

Dezarae Begay draws a variety of face paintings, including flowers and cartoon characters, using fluorescent paints, facial glitter and stick on gems. She enjoys entertaining children, including her own son and other young family members, with her face painting.

**Grace Metheany**

Grace is a part of both her school’s advanced choir, and the Kalamazoo Children’s Chorus. From a young age, Grace has been involved in singing and acting. Shortly after falling in love with performing, she began to learn the piano and the acoustic guitar.

**Henna Tattoos by Anna Schierbeek**

Anna Schierbeerk is a senior at Kendall College of Art and Design who currently studies drawing and painting. She started her henna tattoo business six years ago and is grateful for the continued the opportunity to participate in the Street Performer Series.

**Henna Tattoos by Jahara Begum**

Jahara has been a Street Performer in Downtown Holland for several years. She is able to use her talent as a henna tattoo artist to impress crowds, both young and old alike.

**Henna Tattoos by Kennedy Conrad**

Kennedy is a 15-year-old student at Zeeland West High School. She loves to play sports and is an extremely talented artist. One of the ways she enjoys expressing her art is in the form of temporary henna tattoos.

**Jonathan Hulst**

Jonathan is a young magician who has been performing for about six years. He relies on card tricks to impress his audience. This will be Jonathan’s third year participating in the Street Performer Series of Holland.

**Josie Vandermolen**

Josie is a student at Hope College who has been playing instruments since she could walk. She especially took a continued interest in the piano and ukulele. She is studying special education and hopes to infuse music and education in her future classroom.

**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.

**Kate Morrissey**

Kate is a sophomore at Portage Central High School, who has been studying vocal music for five years. She has a unique ability to sing theatrical songs from Broadway hits like “Les Miserables,” “Phantom of the Opera,” and “West Side Story.”

**Mackenzie TenBrink**

Twelve-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.

**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.

**The Magic Of Trino**

Trino began his journey in magic at the age of 13 as a way to pick up girls…not long after starting out, he realized that wasn’t going to happen! With a unique style, Trino has helped bring magic up-to-date by using a combination of popular music, comedy and theatrics. Trino recently won first place at West Michigan’s Got Talent.

**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.

**Michael Graverson**
Michael is a senior at Hope College, and will earn a degree in Jazz Studies. He is a talented musician that has been playing guitar since the age of fourteen. Michael has studied jazz guitar at Hope College for four years and classical guitar for three.

**Middle Ground**

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. This year, musician Meredith VanWieren will accompany Dan on guitar and vocals.

**Mystic**

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

**Paul Van Kempen**

Paul, a Hope College graduate, is currently the Family Ministries Director at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. Paul has been playing guitar and singing since the age of nine, and has developed these skills after spending many years leading and playing church music. For the past four years, he has led children's singing time with interactive children's songs.

**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.

**Seasonal Ginger**

Peter Smedley, from Grand Haven, has been performing his juggling act since fifth grade. Over the years, Peter has expanded his skill set to include juggling balls, clubs, and knives. This is Peter’s first year in the Street Performer Series.

**Steph Gillett**

Steph has been apart of the Series for three summers now. She has been singing her entire life and has been studying voice for the past six years. She is so excited to bring her acoustic guitar down to 8th Street for another summer!

**String Fury**

Luke Westrate and Sky Lownds are a yo-yo duo out of Whitehall. They have been yo-yoing together for the past four years. On Thursday nights, they will be performing intermediate to advanced yo-yo tricks and skills to music.

**Thom C Eno and Friends**

This group of six will feature two members at each scheduled performance date. Performances include guitar, mandolin, the fiddle, and vocal harmonies.

**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.

**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, knives, 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 third year in the Series.

Additional Information: [WEBSITE](http://www.downtownholland.com/) | [FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/streetperformerseries?fref=ts)

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