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NEWS RELEASE

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**GRAND RAPIDS DANCER ROSE TO DAZZLE CROWDS AT DOWNTOWN
HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES THIS THURSDAY**

Holland, MI – This Thursday, June 19, attendees at the Street Performer Series will have the opportunity to experience Middle Eastern dance up close when Clare Freeman, who goes by the stage name of Rose, brings her talents to Downtown Holland. Held every Thursday night this summer from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, the Street Performer Series, co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, features close to 35 different performing artists and groups who perform for free for the public throughout Downtown Holland. Each week, the talented line-up of performers includes musicians, jugglers, caricature artists, aerial acrobats, dancers, magicians and much, much more. While the Series is free to attend, tipping the performers is highly encouraged.

Rose was born in Chicago and raised on the West Coast, and took up Middle Eastern dance in 2002 as a supplement to her sailing career. She hoped that taking a dance class would increase the quality of her movement when she was training to become a member of the Olympic sailing team. She soon discovered that dance, not sailing, was her true passion. Rose is currently a criminal-defense attorney by day, but plans on making dance her full-time profession this summer. She likes to joke with people that she has spent more time on her dance training than she did on her law degree. Rose has trained with North American, European and Middle Eastern coaches all over the United States and takes private lessons weekly in ballroom, swing, hustle and Latin dance. She participates in eight to ten dance competitions a year and also teaches group and private dance and yoga lessons at her studio, eDance LLC, in Grand Rapids. This will be her second year participating in the Street Performer Series.

“I love street performing and I love visiting cities with vibrant street-performance cultures,” said Rose. “A dancer reaches only so many people performing on stage, but street performing lets you share your art with everyone! I love the energy, getting to interact with people, the complete freedom to choose my music and dance styles and most of all, the chance to get people up and dancing with me.”

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 19 includes:

Alex Perez

Alex is a long-time musician and songwriter, as well as a full-time music student. He started writing music when he was in high school and it quickly became one of his passions. He has performed at a wide array of events and has also released a full-length album.

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.

Birch and Oak

Samuel Boerckel and Chase Ockerse have been playing music together for over three years. They have led their church's worship team, played in their high school's jazz and concert bands and performed on the streets of Downtown Holland together.

Breaktime

Breaktime is a barbershop quartet composed of members of the Holland Windmill Chorus. They have performed at churches, schools, parties, corporate functions and the Street Performer Series for over three years.

Bria West

Bria is a 19-year-old 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.

Brucie Cooke

Brucie began taking piano and horn lessons when he was a child growing up in Holland. Since retiring from teaching, he enjoys pursuing his longtime appreciation for music by playing guitar and percussion and singing folk and blues. This is Brucie's sixth year performing in the Series.

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.

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.

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.

Dune Grass Duet

Band members Justin Merriman and Collin Saunders are both members of the Grand Haven High School's top orchestra and will be performing folk and bluegrass music during the Series. Justin plays the viola, ukulele, guitar and banjo and Collin plays the guitar and cello, along with singing.

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.

Elisabeth Kruizenga

Elisabeth uses Sharpie markers to create temporary tattoos on people in a creative and unique way. Elisabeth loves to meet new people while demonstrating her love of art for Street Performer Series audiences and is looking forward to her fourth year in the Series.

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.

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 the opportunity to participate in the Street Performer Series.

Hoopin' Hales

Haylie 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.

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.

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.

Karz Paintz

Kristen Zamora began face painting three years ago while living in Fort Lauderdale. Since then she has moved back to her hometown of Paw Paw, Michigan, and started her own business in 2012. Her favorite part of the job is seeing the kids grin from ear to ear after seeing their painting.

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".

Marlies Otteman

Marlies is a 13-year-old singer and guitarist who plays a mix of pop and country favorites as well as a few well-known classics. She has been playing since she was eleven, and loves to captivate audiences with her musical talents.

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.

Matthew Banas

Matthew, a student at Aquinas College, will be making his second appearance in the Series as he sings a collection of tunes accompanied by his acoustic guitar. He enjoys playing both in the Series and at the Holland Farmers Market.

Nate and Karl

Nate Roberts and Karl Fleck will be playing a mix of bluegrass, old-time and Irish tunes on guitar, mandolin and banjo. They wish to share their love for acoustic music with the audience and look forward to playing their music together.

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

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!

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 has become one of the most favorite attractions at many 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 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.

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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