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NEWS RELEASE

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

**KEVIN KAMMERAAD BRINGS COOPERFLY PUPPET TROUPE, SPECIAL GUEST  
ANDRES SALGUERO TO DOWNTOWN HOLLAND'S STREET PERFORMER  
SERIES THIS THURSDAY**

Holland, MI—Kevin Kammeraad and the Cooperfly Puppet Troupe, with special musical guest Andres Salguero, will make a one-time appearance at the Downtown Holland Street Performer Series this Thursday, August 21. Co-sponsored by Gentex Corporation, the Street Performer Series is held each Thursday during the summer from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm and features nearly 35 performing artists and groups, including face painters, musicians, aerial acrobats, magicians, caricature artists, and much more. The Series is free to attend, but tipping the performers is highly encouraged.

Kammeraad's interest in puppetry began when he met Hollander Betty Essenburg while in the midst of creating his first children's poetry book, *The Tomato Collection*. Kammeraad commissioned Essenburg to build a puppet of Jacob, a character from *The Tomato Collection*, and Kammeraad's career as a children's performer took off. Kammeraad recently formed The Cooperfly Puppet Troupe with his cousin Justin Haveman.

Kevin and the Cooperfly Puppet Troupe began street performing right here in Holland. They have been involved with ArtPrize and Tulip Time, along with a variety of other special events in West Michigan. While he mainly speaks and performs at schools, libraries, festivals and conferences, Kammeraad loves street performing for the spontaneity and the opportunity to build connections with those passing by. This week's street performance will also feature bilingual music artist Andres Salguero. Salguero's family-friendly music showcases many different Latin genres, including as mariachi, bachata and salsa.

**"Our hope is to bring smiles to those passing by. They didn't know they'd be singing, dancing or playing along, but suddenly they are! That's one of the best things about street performing," Kammeraad said. "And with the size of Holland's Thursday night Street Performer Series, there's so much to stumble on! It has become a tradition for us to be part of it. For this performance, we're thrilled our friend Andres Salguero will be joining us. He brings fantastic family music to life in both English and Spanish. We're excited to be collaborating and trying out some new ideas together!"**

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 21 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.

### **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.

### **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 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Kellie & Zac**

Kellie Gysen and Zac Toth have been playing together for three years. After a previous appearance in the Downtown Street Performer Series in 2012, singer Kellie and guitarist Zac decided to return this year to bring their music to the people.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **The Showtime Singers**

The Showtime Singers are an offshoot of the Holland Chorale, made up of five men, five women, and their director/accompanist. The group sings a variety of jazz, Broadway and pop arrangements, as well as take to their chorale roots in well known chorale arrangements. This will be The Showtime Singers sixth year performing in the Series.

### **The Willows**

The Willows is a brother and sister duo made up of Thomas and Lindsay Timmerman. The singing/songwriting pair will perform covers and original pieces on the acoustic guitar accompanied by vocals.

### **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.

### **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!

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

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