

For Immediate Release
July 7, 2015

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

JUGGLER EXTRAORDINAIRE PETER SMEDLEY TO PERFORM AT THIS THURSDAY'S DOWNTOWN HOLLAND STREET PERFORMER SERIES

Holland, MI – Peter Smedley, who goes by the stage name Seasonal Ginger, will bring his comedy and juggling act to the streets of Downtown Holland this Thursday, July 9 as part of the weekly Street Performer Series. The Downtown Holland Street Performer Series is held every Thursday night from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm during the summer and features nearly 40 talented performing artists and groups each week. Performers include musicians, face painters, caricature artists, dancers, aerial acrobats, henna tattoo artists, magicians, and much more. The Street Performer Series is generously sponsored by Gentex Corporation and Holland Christian Schools.

Smedley will be entering his junior year at Grand Haven High School this fall and has been perfecting his self-taught juggling act since the fifth grade. His stepfather, who paid his own way through college by performing, originally inspired Smedley to pick up the art of juggling. His performance ranges from juggling balls, knives, and fire, to riding a unicycle and balancing on a roll-a-bolla, a type of balance board. The Street Performer Series is Smedley's first time publically performing and he has been overwhelmed by the community's support. Outside of his juggling career, he is also an Electrical Intern for Apex Controls in Hudsonville.

“Joining the Street Performer Series has helped me in that I struggle with social anxiety,” said Smedley. “I have been able to really make myself vulnerable and performing for the crowds helps me overcome 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 July 9 includes:

Andrew Fathman

Andrew is a senior at Hamilton High School who has been practicing magic and illusions for seven years, ever since he discovered his mother was once a magician as well.

Andrew prides himself on performing an engaging, family-friendly performance, each and every time.

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 ukelele and the piano. Anna Kremer plays both the guitar and mandolin and was taught how to play by her father.

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.

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.

Bear Hug

Bear Hug started in the summer of 2011 as a group of recent Hope College grads busking together at the Holland Farmers Market. As they honed their craft of raucous bluegrass and indie folk, they expanded their performances to include weddings and benefit dinners. Bear Hug has recently reunited and is excited to return to its roots at the Street Performer Series.

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.

Calico

Calico has been playing at an assortment of local venues for over 20 years. Members Peg Becker, Dave Kinsman, Gary Vrugink, Joe Thorstenson and Jack Dastoli sing and play an eclectic mix of genres on the guitar, banjo, harmonica and percussion.

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.

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 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.

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.

E2

E2 is made up of friends and singers Emmalyse Kleyn and Esther Pleune, who also play the keyboard, ukulele and guitar. E2 started playing together six years ago and have performed in churches and camps around the area along with multiple local theatre productions.

Giggles and Chuckles Carnival

Lia McCormick Le-Tran and Thao-Chau Le-Tran are proud owners of Giggles and Chuckles Carnival Cart, a balloon twisting, face painting, and specialty shop cart now in its third year at the Rivertown Mall.

The Glistenettes

Baton twirling is often a forgotten art, but The Glistenettes are excited to join the Street Performer Series in order to expose young girls to the Holland/Zeeland group and to the fun that comes with the sport!

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.

Grace VanZanten

Grace is twelve years old and has performed in Downtown Holland for a number of years. She studies violin with Mary Hofland and has enjoyed the opportunity to share her love of music with the Holland community.

Greg Hulsebos

Greg Hulsebos plays early jazz, blues, country, and gospel mostly from the 1920's and 1930's. He sings and plays guitar and slide guitar. He enjoys playing music from artists like Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller, Rev. Gary Davis, Bessie Smith, Memphis Minnie, Lonnie Johnson and many others.

The Guesstimation Band

Joining the Street Performer Series for the first time, Jonas Edge and Camden Lechenet are two local area high school students who fell in love with street performing last summer. Although their talents are vast, Jonas plays the guitar and Camden plays his saxophone.

Harrison Gugino

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

Henna Tattoos by Anna Schierbeek

Anna Schierbeek 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.

Jason Chertos

For Jason, writing lyrics and playing guitar have become his strongest outlet for expressing emotion. He has been perfecting his art for nearly ten years and desires to inspire his audience to live a better lifestyle through music.

Joe Heemstra

Joe is a sophomore at City High School in Grand Rapids. He has been playing electric guitar for seven years, and currently acts as the lead guitarist for the band Vertical Bridge. He has performed as part of the Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts and the Street Performer Series, along with performances at Wealthy Theatre, John Ball Zoo and his church.

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.

Kayden Bryce

Kayden has been singing all her life, and playing guitar for the last three years. She has performed at a number of venues, including local coffee shops, last year's Street Performer Series and the Backpacks for Success Music Festival in Detroit. Kayden also loves art, theatre, animals and gymnastics.

Lia Weiss-Gelmi

Lia is a ten-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 "Pachabelle in Cannon," "Für Elise," and "Let it Go" from the movie "Frozen."

Lian Robinson

Joining the Street Performer Series for the first time, Lian, a Holland Christian student, will hit 8th Street with her acoustic guitar and incredible vocals.

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 an award on AMC's original series "Showville." Originally from Poland, Maciek performs with a unique, energetic style that audiences of all ages can relate to.

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.

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.

The Oxford Commas

The Oxford Commas is a group of three young musicians from Holland, composed of Mitch Frauenheim, Cole Hook, and Zach Snoek. Having enjoyed playing a number of

pop arrangements in their high school orchestra, they decided to play them together in a group outside of school.

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.

Skyler & Nikki

Skyler Adams and Nikki Hildenbrand are apart of the worship team at Central Wesleyan Church, and have both been singing and performing most of their lives. Nikki graduated from Spring Arbor, and Skyler from Hope College, where both were active in the schools' music programs.

Steven Michael

This is Steven's first year as a Street Performer Series participant. Although his love for magic was sparked several years ago, Steven has recently been taking private one-on-one lessons with John Sterlini, in Colon, MI, the Magic Capital of the World.

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.

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.

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.