



For Immediate Release
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**Vermont PBS Invites You to “Jump Up and Down” With Mister Chris and Friends
A Season of Family-Friendly Viewing Debuts On-Air and Online Thanksgiving Week**

Colchester, VT – November 13, 2018 – Just in time for the holidays, Vermont PBS debuts a new children’s series that’s guaranteed to entertain the kiddos. *Mister Chris and Friends*, a joyful new music and education series for kids, will premiere its full first season on Wednesday, November 21. The show encourages learning, exploration, and fun for the entire family.

Mister Chris and Friends features the songs and adventures of “Mister Chris,” performed by Chris Dorman, who is known throughout the region for his gentle, nurturing, and inquisitive approach to sharing music with children and their families. In each episode, Mister Chris makes a wish to learn something new and goes on a fun adventure of discovery and learning. Along the way, he meets new friends, interviews inquisitive kiddos, and celebrates with a Big, Big Concert. Throughout, he sings songs and focuses on listening to the people he encounters.

If this sounds reminiscent of *Mister Roger’s Neighborhood*, it is. Vermont PBS looked to Fred Roger’s iconic children’s show for inspiration around style, pace, and deep respect for children. Above all, *Mister Chris and Friends* meets children where they are. Geared toward kids age 3-6, the show looks to see the world with wondering eyes, and makes space for their voices, questions, and wishes.

“My hope is that each child who tunes in to *Mister Chris and Friends* feels listened to, respected, and encouraged to express who they are in their unique way,” says Chris Dorman. “The stories we tell through the show are directly inspired by the very real magic of how children explore the world and inspire curiosity and compassion in us all.”

Chris Dorman first partnered with Vermont PBS to produce the show’s pilot, “Honeybee,” which premiered in November 2017. Parents of young children have long flocked to his kid-focused concerts and musical classes, Music for Sprouts, with enthusiastic little ones in tow. It’s no surprise that initial response to *Mister Chris and Friends* has been overwhelming supportive as parents look for wholesome programming they can trust.

“*Mister Chris and Friends* is a live-action children’s program in a space dominated by animation. That’s increasingly unique in the world of kids’ programming,” states Holly Groschner, President and CEO of Vermont PBS. “In the current media climate, it’s more important than ever for children to have a safe and supportive learning environment.”

In each episode, Mister Chris will have help from reoccurring characters and special guests to share important messages about healthy social and emotional connections to self, trusted adults, and our place in the growing world. Music, movement, and routine help to build a safe social and emotional environment for young viewers. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematic (STEAM) concepts are explored through gentle, guided adventure, relationships, and song.

Vermont PBS has long been known for providing thoughtful, educational television to its youngest viewers. The station worked with an educational partner to ensure that the lessons in each episode are age-appropriate and presented in a way that makes sense to young children. Additional educational materials that tie to each episode will be available online.

And as Mister Chris went on journeys of discovery to make new friends during production, so too did Vermont PBS. Throughout the series *Mister Chris and Friends* found opportunities to team up with educational, cultural, and agricultural partners throughout Vermont, including ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, VINS Nature Center, Philo Ridge Farm, Farm to Ballet, and Shelburne Orchards.

The full first season, which includes the pilot plus five all-new, 30-minute episodes, will premiere Wednesday, November 21, at 10 am, following the series premiere of *Let’s Go Luna* on the main Vermont PBS channel. All of the new episodes will air back-to-back, followed by the previously released pilot episode. The full first season will also be available to stream starting November 21 at vermontpbs.org/misterchris, along with web extras.

Season one of *Mister Chris and Friends* was produced with support from Peter Swift and Diana McCargo of Charlotte, VT.

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