

**CHRIS PUREKA TO RELEASE HER SOPHOMORE ALBUM *DRYLAND*  
ON SEPTEMBER 26**

**NATIONAL RELEASE TOUR BEGINS IN BOSTON IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND CONTINUES  
THROUGH DECEMBER**

On September 26, Chris Pureka releases her highly anticipated sophomore album, *Dryland*. The release marks a major creative breakthrough for the rising talent whose 2004 debut *Driving North* was championed by critics from publications like *Performing Songwriter*, *Time Out New York* and *Nashville City Paper*. *The Boston Globe* wrote about Pureka, “[She] is such a gifted guitar player and singer that you have to listen to each song twice, once for her guitar playing and again for her passionate lyrics about love, loss and hope.” Pureka embarks on a national album release tour in late September beginning in the northeast that continues through December.

*Dryland* opens with the stark beauty of Pureka’s acoustic guitar and closes with the album’s title track which suggests one of the most poignant sentiments on the album. In Pureka’s own words, “One of the big themes is this idea of moving through something difficult to get to something better—putting things to rest and moving on...” The idea is captured in the line, “I’m holding myself, waiting and waiting, in the belly of the boat, praying for dryland.” Throughout the eleven tracks on *Dryland*, Pureka takes the themes of broken-hearted loss and desire from her previous release and pushes the narratives further. On “Swann Song,” Pureka departs from writing about her own experience and pens a narrative from the perspective of her grandmother with Patty Griffin-esque mastery. Another first is her decision to include a cover song on the album, “Everything is Free,” by Gillian Welch, one of Pureka’s strongest influences.

Pureka’s delicately crafted tales of relationships are rendered with her signature vocals that *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*, Pureka’s hometown paper, once described as, “homespun fabric that, when she lets emotion rise, becomes flocked with gold.” “31 and Falling” is perhaps the most mesmerizing of her love songs and also showcases her talent as producer. The track begins with Pureka’s hushed vocals and a single acoustic guitar. By the second chorus, layers of percussion, electric guitar, piano and harmony vocals build into a spirited lament of lost love. The production is entirely organic and unselfconscious and the song seems to come alive in the moment. It was a natural progression for Pureka whose first album was recorded in largely acoustic terms- to experiment with fuller, more spontaneous arrangements.

A native New Englander, the 27 year-old Pureka came to music at an early age, writing songs on her parents out of tune piano before the age of eight; but it wasn’t until she reached sixteen that she discovered the guitar and began playing in earnest. Following high school, Pureka attended Wesleyan University where she was a student of science and graduated to work as an assistant in a biology lab at Smith College. All the while Pureka’s musical ambitions persevered. In 2001 she released a 7-song, self-titled EP and shortly thereafter landed a three-month national tour with folk poet Alix Olson. With the release of *Driving North* in 2004, Pureka left science behind and discovered her niche as a touring singer songwriter.

*Dryland* was produced by Pureka and recorded at Slaughterhouse Recording Studio in Westhampton, MA. A growing cast of luminaries accompanies Pureka in full band arrangements. Featured on the record are jazz/pop drummer Allison Miller (Natalie Merchant) and renowned guitarist/producer David “Goody” Goodrich (Chris Smither, Kris Delmhurst, Jeffrey Foucault). Lyndell Montgomery (Ember Swift Band) plays bass. Additionally, several players from *Driving North* return: Sebastian Renfield assists in production and adds banjo and guitar and Merrill Garbus adds harmony vocals and fiddle.

**See Reverse for Tour Dates**

For further information, interview requests or photos, contact:  
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