

Chris Sanders is an award winning #1 hit children's musician and self published author of 5 picture books.

In 2020 he was nominated for a prestigious Tui Award as Best Children's Music Artist along with a nomination for Best Children's Music Video at the New Zealand Children's Music Awards.

That same year he was given a New Zealand Honour from the Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy 'The Order of St John Priory Vote of Thanks' for his charitable services to St John NZ through music and books.

Chris released his first picture book with music in 2016, a beautiful story called 'Angel Star' which told the story of a young girl guiding a little star from the sky down to her family home – a story of sibling love, affection and guidance. The song reached #1 in iTunes and #3 in the NZ Music heatseeker chart.

In 2018 he released the song he has to this day become best known for in his home country of New Zealand, the '111 Ambulance Song'. Also available in 000 (Australia), 911 (USA) and 999 (UK) versions, the song helps children to know what to do in an emergency and become life savers! The song reached #1 in iTunes and #2 in the NZ Music Heatseeker Chart and the book which followed 'Call For The Ambulance' has also been a top seller.

The 111 Ambulance Song was written for the national St John Ambulance service, as part of their St John in schools program and has helped teach children vital skills as well as raise thousands of dollars for this incredible charity. Chris has since written the popular stage show musical 'Who Wants to be a Superhero' which launched to 18 sell out shows in January 2020 and he performed the song with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. It is for this work that Chris received his NZ honour.

Also, in 2018 Chris released his debut album/picture book 'These Memories Make You and Me.' The album features 8 songs and 6 lullabies and takes parents on a journey from the very first moment they hold their new born baby in their arms, to watching their baby grow and wondering where all the time has gone. The sentimental album is perfect to share together as a family.

In 2019 Chris' released his fourth self published picture book with music, The Lonely Book. Illustrated by Natalie Conaty (Weta Workshop) The Lonely Book is a funny song with an important moral about not judging a book by its cover, looking for the treasure inside everyone and being kind to one another.

In 2020 Chris has continued to write and develop more songs and books. In late October he is launching the 'Teddy Bear Hunt' song with the picture book 'The World's Greatest Teddy Bear Hunt' being released in December.

During lockdown the Teddy Bear became a symbol of comfort and joy to children and their family. Many hours were spent walking around neighbourhoods hunting out Teddy Bears (and the odd Penguin, Elephant and Robot!) It was a

chance to get out, enjoy some fresh air and exercise while sharing quality time with loved ones.

As a result, Chris Sanders and The Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) teamed together to create the 'Teddy Bear Hunt' song and book, seeking to evoke fond memories of family time and a strengthening of community spirit.

As well as a song and book (illustrated by Natalie Conaty), the Teddy Bear Hunt is a series 'How to write a song' videos angled for children aged 7-12 to inspire their creativity and involvement in the arts. The aim, to nurture the next generation of songwriters, musicians, illustrators and creative producers by imparting practical steps and positive reinforcement.

Production has already commenced on Chris' new NZ on Air funded children's album due out in early 2021, which features the hit 'Mittens – Official Song' written about the famous Wellington feline who received the key to the City from Wellington City Mayor Andy Foster. It reached #1 across all genres in iTunes and #12 in the Official NZ Music Hot Singles Chart over Christmas 2020.