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For immediate release

**Contacts:**  
Michael MacFee | [mmacfee@mpt.org](mailto:mmacfee@mpt.org) | 410-581-4262  
Emily Greco | [egreco@nevinspr.com](mailto:egreco@nevinspr.com) | 443-686-1331

**NOTE:** Interviews are available upon request. In addition, production images are available [HERE](#).

## MPT to premiere *Dion Parson & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band in Concert* on June 9

*Concert special fuses rich traditions of jazz with the rhythms of the Caribbean*

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [Maryland Public Television](#) (MPT) will premiere its original special *Dion Parson & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band in Concert* at 9 p.m. on Friday, June 9 on MPT-HD and the [MPT live stream](#). The program will also air at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 11 on MPT2/Create® and at 10 p.m. on Thursday, June 15 on MPT-HD. It will be available for members with [MPT Passport](#) to view on-demand using MPT's [online video player](#) and the [PBS App](#) following its broadcast premiere.

In *Dion Parson & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band in Concert*, GRAMMY® Award-winning drummer and composer Dion Parson leads a seven-member ensemble in delivering a high energy performance of sophisticated Caribbean jazz – or “jazzribbean” – to a live studio audience gathered in The Irene and Edward H. Kaplan Production Studio at MPT in Owings Mills, Maryland.



Dion Parson & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band features a fresh and innovative sound that mixes Caribbean traditions with American music tastes to deliver a special brand of jazz that attracts audiences young and old. Their sold-out performances at prestigious venues such as Dizzy’s Club, part of Jazz at Lincoln Center, have paved the way for the genre’s recent popularity boom.

Parson will join MPT on-air personalities Tony Hill and Maggie Linton at MPT during a live pledge event taking place throughout the program’s June 9 premiere.

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### **About Maryland Public Television**

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and [Thinkport.org](http://Thinkport.org). MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit [mpt.org](http://mpt.org).