

## PRESS RELEASE

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### BEN CONNOR'S NEW ALBUM, 'STONE FIELDS'

**[Katoomba, NSW, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023]** - Ben Connor's alternative rock, blues and folk album, *Stone Fields*, was released on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023, and launched with a sold-out show at The Baroque Room in Ben's hometown of Katoomba on 4th February 2023. Ben has been described as the musical love child of Leonard Cohen, Nick Cave and David Gray and has been performing regularly, both solo and with his duo, Ben Connor & The Buttermen, at venues and festivals in the Blue Mountains and beyond since 2017.

Dark, with splashes of light, layered with instrumental palates and propelled by Ben's special brand of husky baritone vocals, 'Stone Fields's' songs journey through love, fatherhood, contemplations on mortality, majestic and mythical landscapes and more.

'Something that I think comes through in my songs is my love of music with a kind of sweet, deep, honey-like melancholy', Ben says.

'Stone Fields is a lyric I took from one of the songs, but I also thought it summed up, or at least hinted at, a bit of a theme and tone that runs through a lot of the songs on the album. That being that no-matter how harsh the environment you find yourself in or, as the author Albert Camus said, 'no matter how hard the world pushes against you', there's always this thing inside you, this 'invincible calm' or life energy... whatever you want to call it, 'pushing right back'. So, there's melancholy in there, but I reckon there's also a kind of celebration of life, love and beauty triumphing over adversity'.

Throughout the album Ben's guitar playing also features, providing texture, tone and melody as it weaves its way in, out and around his vocal, or breaks into a solo, all to the accompaniment of a professional rhythm section.

*Stone Fields* was recorded at a number of locations over the course of the pandemic, including *Sky Valley Studios* in Warrimoo, *BCMuse Studios* on the Queensland Sunshine

Coast and Ben's home studio in Katoomba. It features session musicians Ryan Van Gennip on bass and rhythm guitar and Brian Cachia on drums and percussion. Brian, also an accomplished sound engineer and award-winning film composer (APRA Feature Film Score of The Year, 2021), mixed the album and mastering was done by Grammy Award winning William Bowden (Gotye's *Somebody That I Used To Know*, 2013).

You can learn more about (and hear snippets of) *Stone Fields* on Ben's social media via his website [www.benconnormusic.com](http://www.benconnormusic.com).

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