

# HALF LIGHT LOCATIONS

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## SOUNDTRACK

The soundtrack for 'Half Light' was released July 11th 2006 by [MovieScore Media](http://www.moviescoremedia.com/halfight.html) (<http://www.moviescoremedia.com/halfight.html>). An online petition was created by myself early in 2006 which got a fantastic response. For all those wondering about the Angus celtic song, 'Girl in the Storm' it is a part of the score and is on the soundtrack.

Click [here](http://www.moviescoremedia.com/halfight.html) (<http://www.moviescoremedia.com/halfight.html>) to purchase the soundtrack!

Congratulations to Brett who won 'Best new composer of 2006' for Half Light by the [IFMCA](http://www.filmmusiccritics.org/awards/) (<http://www.filmmusiccritics.org/awards/>)



Here is my interview with the extremely talented composer Brett Rosenberg. (March 2006)

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**Would you briefly describe your background in music.**

I come from a musical family, my dad was a pianist and arranger for

many years. I began taking piano lessons at age 7. I studied music at LaTrobe University in Melbourne, then went to study film scoring at UCLA Extension in Los Angeles. I have worked as a keyboardist, as well as composer and arranger.

### **How did you get started in film scoring?**

After I studied at UCLA I did a couple of short films. My wife and I moved back to Australia, and a few months later my brother Craig, who lives in LA and was at that time a screenwriter, got his first directing job on a self penned script, to be filmed in Melbourne. Since I didn't have any feature film experience I submitted a few cues (up against some experienced composers) and got the job. After that I have had pretty steady work.

### **How basically do you approach a film score once you're assigned to it?**

The most important thing to me is to come up with the right concept for the score. Sometimes you may be led in a certain direction by the film principals, who have a type of score in mind, and sometimes they may leave it up to you. I'll ruminate on the concept for as long as I dare, taking into account the time allowed for composing...you always feel like you just want to jump in and start writing, but it's so important to get the musical 'hook' of the film, whether it's a featured instrument, or a style of writing, anything. I'll set up a template in Digital Performer, which is a music composition program for the Mac, and try to get some of the main themes started. Often (but not always) a fair proportion of the score will come out of the thematic material.

### **Did you have any inspirations while doing the score for 'Half Light'?**

Craig and I have always loved mystery stories, and also some of the classic mystery/horror films. While this is not a horror movie per se (in fact part of the idea of the film is that you don't really know whether it is mystery, romance, something else, or everything) because I had the opportunity to write for a wonderful orchestra I decided I wanted to use quite a few avant-garde orchestral techniques ala Lutoslawski, Penderecki and Ligeti. For the melodic material we just wanted it so sound warm, to give a sense of warm family life.

### **You have worked with director Craig Rosenberg before on 'Hotel De Love', What it is like working with him?**

I think we communicate pretty well. I have a fair idea of his music tastes and knowledge and he's very supportive of different ideas. Also when we are struggling we can just stop and talk sport!

### **Did you use Scottish instruments, seeing as the film is set in Scotland or local musicians for the score?**

There is a Celtic band playing on screen for a short time, but my brief was to try and avoid being obviously Celtic sounding in the score. Nevertheless there is a violin feature which some have said has a 'subtle' Celtic feel.

### **Among all scores you composed for TV and movies, what is your favorite?**

Half Light is my favorite because I got to write for large symphony orchestra, recorded it in a great studio(Air Lyndhurst) with a wonderful engineer (Geoff Foster), great orchestra and wonderful conductor(Nick Dodd). I was able to not only write some melodic themes but could indulge my dissonant side as well. I also have a soft spot for 'Horace and Tina', a kids series I did a few years back that was awarded Best Television Theme and Best Children's Music by the Australian Guild of Screen Composers.

**In 'Half Light', did Craig Rosenberg make any major change in your music?**

No major changes, there's always a lot of back and forth initially when you are trying to get the right tone for the music, is it over the top, is it too subtle etc. It can be a bit of a shock sometimes for a filmmaker , who has possibly lived with a temp score(a temporary score, often music from other soundtracks that is used while editing) for sometime, to suddenly hear something completely different. The temp track is usually the best of the best, and you have to come up to that standard!

**In your music do you have any influence from classic or modern film music composers?**

I love all the major composers, from Morricone and Herrmann to James Newton-Howard, Danny Elfman, Thomas Newman and many others. I don't know that there is an obvious influence of any one composer, more like bits and pieces absorbed by osmosis and coming out twisted to the way I like to compose.

**Can we expect a theme in 'Half Light'**

There are a few themes in Half Light, a theme for Thomas(or rather Thomas and Rachel ,as a family), Rachel, a love theme, some ghost type thematic material, and a few other recurring melodies. I personally like to use a pretty thematic approach, and I love finding different ways to vary the theme to keep it fresh yet somewhat familiar, be it melodic, harmonic or instrumental variations. There is also an "orchestrational" type theme, using a boy soprano to represent Thomas, not with any particular melody but just the sound, very ethereal and haunting.

**Does the film have songs by artists or is it all music by you?**

No it is all original score apart from a couple of traditional celtic tunes played at a party.

**Will the 'Half Light' score be released?**

At the moment that is unsure. (It will be released July 2006)

**What can we expect from you in the future?**

Hopefully more feature scores!!

**Thanks a lot Brett!**

You're most welcome!

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Check out Brett's official website [here](http://www.bigdogmusic.com.au/mainmenu.html) (<http://www.bigdogmusic.com.au/mainmenu.html>)

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