



HIGHLAND
HOME

Contact: Zach Stevens, Promotions Director // zachaliath@gmail.com

www.highlandhomefilm.com

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High res images: www.highlandhomefilm.com/presskit

Highland Home

LOGLINE

A poignant tale of longing and loss is revealed when a timeworn journal transports a young girl to a place of enchanting wonders.

SYNOPSIS

A young girl exploring her family's attic discovers a trunk filled with memories and a timeworn journal. As she opens the cover and begins to read about a long-ago romance, the girl is transported to another time and place, where the wonders depicted within evoke a musical tribute to one woman's true love.

Format: Music Video and Short Film

Running Time: 4:59

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Executive Producer
Kurt Rosenberg

Written and Directed by Dan Schaefer

Produced by
Brent Rogers
Zach Stevens
Dan Schaefer

Based on the Original Song
"Highland Home" by Kurt Rosenberg

Music Arranged and Recorded by
Tim Gorman

Directors of Photography
John Waller
Ben Canales

Vocals by Karen Johnson Miller

*There's a place I know,
And I want to go,
Where the mountains kiss the clouds,
A gentle mist surrounds me,
And the air is so still,
Waves crash upon the shore,
Beyond the heathered hills.*

*I will take you with me,
And the wonders you'll see,
Lochs glistening in the twilight,
Fishing boats sail out to sea.*

--"Highland Home" by Kurt Rosenberg

CREDITS

Field Production by
Uncage the Soul Productions

Edited by
John Waller
Brent Rogers
Dan Schaefer

CAST

Karen Johnson Miller - Scottish Woman

Grant Gosch - Scottish Man

Taylor Hennelly - Young Girl

Daniel Compton - Fiddler

Gordon Convoy - Bagpiper

Technical Advisor/Colorist -
Chris Borges-Silva REX Post

VFX Producer - Kavita Jhaveri

Lead Digital Artist - Kaden Van Cook

FILMING LOCATIONS

Attic in Private Home
Salem, OR

Mt Tabor Presbyterian Church
Portland, OR

Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint
Depoe Bay, OR

God's Thumb
Otis, OR

CREW

Gaffer
Phil Gerke

Set Decorator
Vanessa Knoll

Special Props
Jake Eggers

Wardrobe Designer
Leslie Gilberston

Special Effects
Kai Shelton

Visual Effects by
Refuge VFX

**Assistant to the Director and Locations
Scout (Interiors)**
Susan Sittko-Schaefer

Compositing Artists
Stephen Lauser
Evan Thomas Phillips

Casting
Lori Lewis, Free Spirit Casting

Hair Stylist
Kellen Eason

Makeup Artist
Sarah Adams

Production Assistants
Emily Price
Jake Stevens
Jeffery Jenoff
Tracy Stepp

Dance Choreographer
Amy Shearer

Craft Services
Thomas Trieu





COMPOSER'S STATEMENT

I first visited Scotland some 40 years ago during Spring Break from the University of Bath in Bath, England. It was early spring and snow started to fall as my companions and I drove through The Highlands, heading for Portree on the ruggedly beautiful Isle of Skye. I vividly remember looking out the car window and thinking to myself, "This country is truly magical." During that visit, and the ones to follow, I fell in love with Scotland's music, The Highlands and Islands, its charming cities and towns, its mysterious lochs, lively pubs, single malt whiskies, and welcoming people.



Twenty-five years later, on a trip with my brother to the breathtaking Scottish Isle of Arran, we visited the stunning Brodick Castle. As we went from room to room, I stopped to chat with one of the guides who was greeting guests as they passed through the castle's ornate Drawing Room. The room was magnificent with its heraldic ceiling, historic family portraits, priceless furnishings, and glorious grand piano. The guide asked one of the tourists in the group if she played piano, and she said she did not, at which point my brother proclaimed loudly while pointing at me, "He does!"

So, I sat down and played two of my own original compositions, both Celtic in nature. Afterwards, as I got up to proceed with his tour, the guide and the other visitors all gave me a boisterous round of applause that rang throughout the castle. That wonderful experience of playing my own music in a Scottish castle became the inspiration for "Highland Home's" melody.

Later, when I was having the song professionally recorded, it sounded so good that I asked the musical arranger, the audio engineer, and the vocalist if they might want to make a music video. The answer was a resounding "Yes." And the rest is history!

Kurt Rosenberg

ABOUT THE TEAM

Dan Schaefer, Director and Writer

Dan Schaefer makes his directorial narrative debut with “Highland Home” – a music video and short film based on an original song by Kurt Rosenberg, for which Schaefer also created the film’s story.

Beginning in 2006, the award-winning filmmaker embarked on a career directing documentaries that include: “Mania,” Schaefer’s popular sports documentary on the 37 year history of the Portland Trailblazers; Filmed in the U.S. and Poland, Schaefer’s “Figaro! Living in the Moment of a Character” is the story of how two music schools were brought together by Amadeus Mozart’s comic opera; “Kings of the Road”: the Story of the Portland Buckaroos, and “House by the Side of the Road,” based on the stories of six generations of the Abbott family, whose Illinois Sesquicentennial farm was connected to the Underground Railroad.

Kurt Rosenberg, Composer: Original Song “Highland Home” & Executive Producer: “Highland Home” Music Video

Kurt is an entrepreneur, an avid world-traveler, a prolific composer, and self-taught pianist. He joined his family’s olive oil business, the Olive Farm, in 1999, and also ran their Portland-based commercial real estate development business, 300 Partners, for five years before retiring to pursue his number one passion – composing music!

Inheriting a love of music from his parents, Kurt taught himself how to play piano at 12-years-old, and started writing songs with lyrics in high school. He also started listening to Celtic Music from Scotland and Ireland. This growing exposure to Celtic Music ended up having a profound influence on Kurt’s compositions and led to the inspiration for writing the melody and lyrics for his ode to Scotland; the original song, “Highland Home.” Kurt is a Member of both Clan Scott Scotland and the Scottish Music Industry Association (SMIA), and a Patron of Scottish Heritage USA.

Future projects include refining the music and lyrics for his original musical “For the Lack of Laura,” and producing a music video for “The Moon Followed Me to Falmouth,” a song reminiscent of old sea shanties from the British Isles.



Brent Rogers, Producer

With over 25 years of experience working as an engineer and producer in both music and commercial studios in Dallas, Texas and Portland, Oregon, while at the same time performing and playing (even now) as a professional musician, Brent Rogers brings original music creation and Sound Effects Orchestration to the forefront in all of his projects.

Zach Stevens, Producer

Zach graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelors in Film. Since then he has worked on numerous commercial and television productions. He worked in the Locations Department on the final season of Portlandia, and worked in Wieden + Kennedy’s post production house, Joint Editorial, for two years before venturing out on his own in efforts to begin producing projects in Portland’s film and advertising world.

Tim Gorman, Music Arranger

Tim Gorman is an award-winning music producer, arranger, composer, keyboardist, vocalist, and arranged the music for “Highland Home,” adding the instrumentation to Kurt’s original song. With thirty years in the Music and Film Industry, Tim has worked with major artists including The Who, The Rolling Stones, Duane Eddy, and John Hiatt, and is also a successful solo artist. Film scoring credits include James Cameron’s “Titanic,” and Columbia Pictures “No Small Affair.” Gaming Industry contributing works include Electronic Arts, The Sims, and Spore.



ABOUT THE TEAM (CONTINUED)

Karen Johnson Miller, Scottish Woman & Vocalist

Karen has enjoyed a film, television, and voice over career spanning three decades. In addition to her film work, she has also landed over 75 national and regional commercials. In “Highland Home,” Karen plays the lead female role and is the vocalist on the film’s soundtrack. Her music and writing career includes both national and international performances as a singer and a musician (saxophone, percussion, and keys).



Grant Gosch, Scottish Man

Grant Jürgen Gosch is an actor, writer, and producer in Portland, Oregon. When Grant is not acting or writing he enjoys spending time with his family fly fishing, skiing, reading and exploring the Oregon Coast. As a music lover, Grant is very excited to be part of the “Highland Home” production and is appreciative of the opportunity to help bring the song to life.



Taylor Hennelly, Young Girl

Taylor is a sophomore in High School who has been acting off and on her entire life. She was in the dramatic short “Balloons Float to Heaven” when she was just five-years-old, and won a Best Supporting Actress award through The Fox College Movie Program. She has been an extra in several movies and television shows, and is continuing to hone her career as an actress. She also has two older sisters who she adores, and loves her dog, Zara, a Black Russian Terrier.



Dan Compton, Fiddler

Dan Compton plays fiddle, guitar, mandolin, tenor banjo, and sings. Based in Portland, Oregon, he has been active in the Pacific Northwest traditional folk music scene and beyond for a long time, performing at many concerts, festivals, and music and dance camps - as well as the odd pub gig, contradance and ceili. Dan also teaches extensively, does studio session work, and has written and performed music for film and theater.



Gordon Convoy, Bagpiper

Gordon was born in a small village in Scotland on the banks of Loch Lomond. At the age of 12, he started piping and is currently the Pipe Major for the Portland Police Highland Guard as well as the musical director for Military Honors by the Pipes. He has lived in the United States for over five years and continues to enjoy piping for a variety of events including charities, golf tournaments, and memorials. Gordon was also very honored to pipe for Diana Gabaldon, author of the Outlander series, when she visited Portland.





Q&A WITH COMPOSER KURT ROSENBERG

Q: What are your hopes for this project?

A: The primary goal for the music video is to get my song, “Highland Home,” out to a wider audience with the hopes that a Celtic singer, or band, will hear it and want to play and record it as part of their repertoire. I would also like the music video to be screened at film festivals, in the USA and internationally, where leaders in the film and music industries will hear the song and choose to incorporate the music into one of their film or television productions.

Q: What have you learned from the process of making a music video?

A: I have learned that the visual impact, musical feel, and success of a music video ultimately depends on bringing together a collaborative team of highly talented, experienced, and enthusiastic individuals. Without those professionals, the “Highland Home” song would have never blossomed into the heartfelt “Highland Home” Music Video. I also learned that sunny days are vastly superior to rainy ones when the cast, crew, and actors are shooting on location in the great outdoors!

Q: What was it like seeing your original song come to life on screen?

A: Seeing the music video, and hearing the “Highland Home” song come to life on the big screen, was just overwhelming. I actually shed a few tears when I previewed the video’s first rough cut. That little Scotland-inspired melody I had written so many years ago had turned into a soaring vocal and magnificent orchestral piece, ready to be heard, and hopefully appreciated, by a world-wide audience.

Q: What is it about Celtic Music that speaks to you?

A: There is something about the way that Celtic Music stirs my soul. It doesn’t matter whether it is a lively Scottish jig or a soulful Irish ballad, listening to this music has a way of making me tap my feet or fight back the tears. Rooted in age-old traditions that go back centuries, Celtic Music is melodic, evocative, and somehow reassuring. No wonder Celtic Music burst back on the scene a few decades ago, quickly becoming one of the world’s most beloved, and recorded, musical genres.

Q: What’s the next step for you creatively?

A: My songwriting continues unabated. I have written three new melodies in the past few months, with titles and lyrics soon to follow. I have big plans for the year 2021. I am going to produce another music video based on my song, “The Moon Followed Me to Falmouth.” Looking to make the film as authentic as possible, I plan to have the video shot on location in Falmouth, England! I have also turned my musical attention back to my musical “For the Lack of Laura.” While I work on the script, a few of the songs are being reworked and polished. Someday, in the not-to-distant future, I hope to have the musical performed in a community theater.



Special Thanks to Oregon State Parks and Recreation

In Loving Memory of Mary Rosenberg