

## Mark Petrie – BIO

What do a deaf New Zealand boy, the Glasgow Hilton, and Boston's Berklee College of Music have in common? They are all points on composer Mark Petrie's map -- a map that guided a small, young, outsider into a world of melody, harmony, and frame rates.

Unable to hear fully until he was nearly five years old, Mark regained this precious sense through several innovative operations, and went on to attend a boarding school in Auckland at the tender age of nine. Although starting out as the youngest boy at the largest boarding school south of the equator meant living out scenes reminiscent of *Lord of the Flies*, Mark acknowledges that he wouldn't have been able to learn music if it hadn't been for this school. It's a unique institution that has been serving underprivileged children with full scholarships since the early 1900's (Mark's father died when he was five). The school considers music a part of its core curriculum.

Mark recalls one teacher showing scenes from movies during class -- pointing out musical nuances, changes in rhythms and beats in order to make the audience feel a certain emotion - never dreaming that he'd actually be composing his own film scores a decade later.

Of course, there were a few detours along the way. An accomplished pianist, Mark headed to Scotland after high school graduation and landed a gig at the Glasgow Hilton where he lived his own version of Billy Joel's *Piano Man* (or "piano boy" as they called him -- he was only 17 at the time). Mark became the resident entertainer with an adult schedule -- four hours a night, five days a week, for 10 months.

"I learned a lot, and not just about music," he says simply.

Mark traveled to Boston to study Film Scoring at Berklee College of Music, and landed a prestigious internship at Segue Music, the largest company in LA specializing in music editing for film. "I actually got to see the biz first hand, the way it worked, and the people behind it all. Scoring sessions, dubbing sessions, sitting in the console booth talking with the composers; it was truly an eye-opening experience of a lifetime." In 2001, Mark received his Bachelor of Music degree, graduating magna cum laude from Berklee.

Over the last two years, Mark has worked non-stop writing endless commercial jingles (*Hanover Dodge, Cornerlot Realty, Hearthside Restaurant*), music for a variety of American and European documentaries (*Cindy's Diary, PBS's In the Mix*), and most recently the score for *Minimal Knowledge* (2002), a feature film starring Chilean heartthrob Cristián de la Fuente and *Coyote Ugly* star Izabella Miko. The movie has won awards at a number of film festivals around the world, including Best Film at the 2002 Ajijic International Festival in Mexico.

Producer David Schoner says Mark is "a composer with an acute sensibility and an exceptional talent to watch in the years ahead." On writing for pictures, Mark admits, "It takes something quite different than being a great composer or fantastic musician. It's a really subtle art that requires you to truly understand the drama of a film and the psychological impact you need to provide with the music. There are a lot of incredible musicians and composers who don't write

well for picture because they don't understand that, or they can't handle being part of a team of decision makers.”

When he's not at his studio composing, you might find him catching a matinee for research (work expense), or getting outdoors. Mark currently resides in Newton, Massachusetts.