

UNBOUND

A Full-Length Kink Opera in One Act

UnBound is an erotic chamber opera with BDSM themes of gay sex, submission, consent, and bondage. It's a gay man's exploration of sexual desire and discovers the emotional, sensual possibilities of bondage.

Creative Team:

Music by Nathan Hall. Libretto by Alan Olejniczak

Synopsis:

Guy, a young American tourist, finds himself in a fetish club in Stockholm. Video streams bondage porn and Guy's initial excitement of finding a scene gives way to disappointment. He realizes it's Monday evening and seemingly deserted. Guy notices a rugged-looking man with a mustache. They connect, but when Guy goes in for a kiss, he's denied. The man doesn't want intimacy and directs Guy on his knees. He quickly unbuckles his belt and unzips. For Guy, this is not what he's looking for and none of this is sexy. The man is frustrated and insults Guy in Swedish. Guy doesn't understand and asks, "Do you speak English?" He zips up his pants and replies in English, "Where I'm from, guys like you are killed for this." Guy has worked past this shame long ago, but he's humiliated just the same. This evening continues to not go well. A man in full leather approaches Guy with sexual authority. He is aggressive and assumes Guy is submissive and makes a sexual proposal without clear consent. Dom sees this interaction and intervenes. The leather man walks away to find another. Dom asks Guy what he's looking for? Guy admits he's looking for a scene, a sexual fantasy that seems he's unable to make happen. Guy is attached to this handsome man and they kiss. Guy is not sure how this all works, but feels he can trust him. Dom proposes a bondage scene with him directing. "Leave behind the guilt and shame. Lose yourself in the surrender." Dom sets the conditions and asks Guy to trust and to give himself over to the experience - he'd rather not have to cut his rope. Dom blindfolds Guy who submits and relaxes into the scene, which is sensual and compelling. Ensemble singing of all the men, builds to a musical climax. Dom concludes the bondage scene tenderly and removes the blindfold. Guy is overwhelmed by the experience, but feels connected to another. Dom checks in with Guy and asks to walk him back to his hotel for his safety. They exit and over the final song of the opera.

Duration: 85 minutes

Language: English and Swedish

Cast of Four Male Identified Singers: Guy (*baritone*) Dom (*tenor*) Man One (*bass*)
Man Two (*bass-baritone*)

Proposed Instrumentation: electronics, with flexible sections controlled by DJ Music Style:
Electronic Ambient, contemporary classical

Staging and Venue: No set except for multiple video screens; ceiling anchor for ropes.
Blackbox or a site-specific location.

Current Development: Vocal parts are nearing completion.