**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, but discovers the emotional, sensual possibilities of bondage.

**Creative Team:**

Music by Nathan Hall. Libretto by Alan Olejniczak

**Synopsis:**

Guy, a young tourist, finds himself in a fetish club in Stockholm. Video streams bondage porn and Guy’s initial excitement gives way to disappointment. He realizes it’s Monday evening and it’s seemingly deserted. Guy notices Man One, 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 or foreplay and directs Guy on his knees. He quickly unbuckles his belt and unzips. This is what Guy came for, but none of this is sexy. Man One is frustrated and insults Guy in Swedish. Guy doesn't understand and asks, “Do you speak English?” Man One 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. Man Two, wearing full leather, approaches Guy with sexual authority. He is aggressive and assumes Guy is submissive and makes a sexual proposal, without clear consent or approval. Man Three sees this interaction and intervenes. Man Two walks away to find another. Man Three asks Guy what he’s looking for? Guy admits he’s just looking for sex. The man explains it’s not a sex club, but rather a fetish club. “Men don’t come for sex, they come for an experience - ones with no expectations.” Guy is intrigued and is attached to this handsome man. They kiss. Guy is not sure how this all works, but feels he can trust him. Man Three proposes a bondage scene with him directing - Guy consents. Man Three 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. Man Three blindfolds Guy who submits and relaxes into the scene, which is slow, sensual and compelling. Ensemble singing of all the men, builds to a musical climax. Man Three concludes the bondage scene tenderly and removes the blindfold. GUY is overwhelmed by the experience, but feeling connected to another in an altogether new way. Man three 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)* Man One *(bass)*

Man Two *(bass-baritone)* Man Three *(tenor)*

**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:**