*EYES WIDE OPEN* for flute, viola and harpwas commissioned by the Debussy Trio in 2016 and is published by FatrockInk.

More often than not my compositions are programmatic. They are inspired by nature, emotions, philosophical concepts, people I admire, and other things that cross my mind.

*EYES WIDE OPEN* however does not have such underlying content. Rather, its title refers to the state of mind I was in while writing this piece. Why? Because the harp is part of the ensemble. And why would that be relevant?

The harp is a gorgeous instrument with wonderful sonic possibilities. In order to achieve chromatic capability (the use of all twelve pitches within an octave) it relies on a set of pedals to alter the seven basic pitches of conventional major or minor scales by half-steps, up or down. There are physical limits to the speed with which such pedal changes can be made, and when writing for the harp one has to keep that in mind. As the piece unfolded I found myself watching its harmonic development like a hawk, to make sure that what I was writing would actually work on the harp. *EYES WIDE OPEN* was the motto while writing this piece.

Gernot Wolfgang

Los Angeles, March 2020