WAVES for bassoon and harp was made possible through a commission by an international consortium of 36 bassoonists and harpists. The principal commissioner was the Archipelago Collective, an organization based in Seattle that stages an annual summer music festival on San Juan Island, WA. Since I knew that the premiere was going to be on an island, the title Waves seemed fitting, and the harp lends itself well to evoking that kind of imagery. But at the same time, I also wanted to write a piece that simply sounded good and idiomatic for both instruments individually, as well as for the ensemble.