

# Spotting Nowhere

## for 4 players using string instruments

**Alexis Porfiriadis**

2010

*Spotting Nowhere* (2010) is a verbal score consisting of 36 verbally and 29 graphically instructed parts. Performers are invited to make a group realization of the composition using any amount of this material. The order of actions and their respective timings should be decided collectively prior to the performance. The resultant realization should be the product of a conversation between the performers and it should by no means be decided by one single person.

The actions of *Spotting Nowhere* may be combined in any manner (based on the performers' choice), so that an action can continue while another starts, more than one action can be performed simultaneously etc. An action can be repeated by the same person provided that one or more other actions are inserted between repetitions to avoid successive appearances of the same action. The order in which the actions are presented in this score is random and reflects no structural preference on the part of the composer. The duration of the performance of the piece is indeterminate but it should not be less than 6 minutes.

Where there are no specific instructions regarding the number of performers, the way a page of *Spotting Nowhere* should be performed (e.g. duration, repeats, order of events, ways of performing given actions) and the dynamics, the performers may decide freely, without any limitations.

You are encouraged to perform your chosen action(s) as naturally as possible. Extreme displays and theatrics should be avoided. Each version should be agreed on for the specific performance; it may not be rehearsed or played at an earlier performance.



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register

<ting>

speak normally

<n>

hold the consonant



Harmonic



Harmonic (forth position)



Blow in the instrument



Play on the bridge (pitchless)



Arco on a string behind the bridge



Quartertone vibrato

c.l. e crini arco

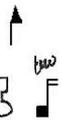
Arco with wood and hair

c.l.arco

Arco with wood

ex.s.p.

Extreme sul ponticello



Highest tone you can play



Knocking on the body of the instrument



Slapping on the body of the instrument



Maximum bow pressure



Maximum bow pressure behind the bridge

c.l.batt

Strike with the bow (wood)

c.l.batt

Strike with the bow on the instrument's body

pizz

Pizzicato



Pizzicato behind the bridge



Pizzicato fluido (do a small glissando using the metal tip of the bow)



Pizzicato Bela Bartok



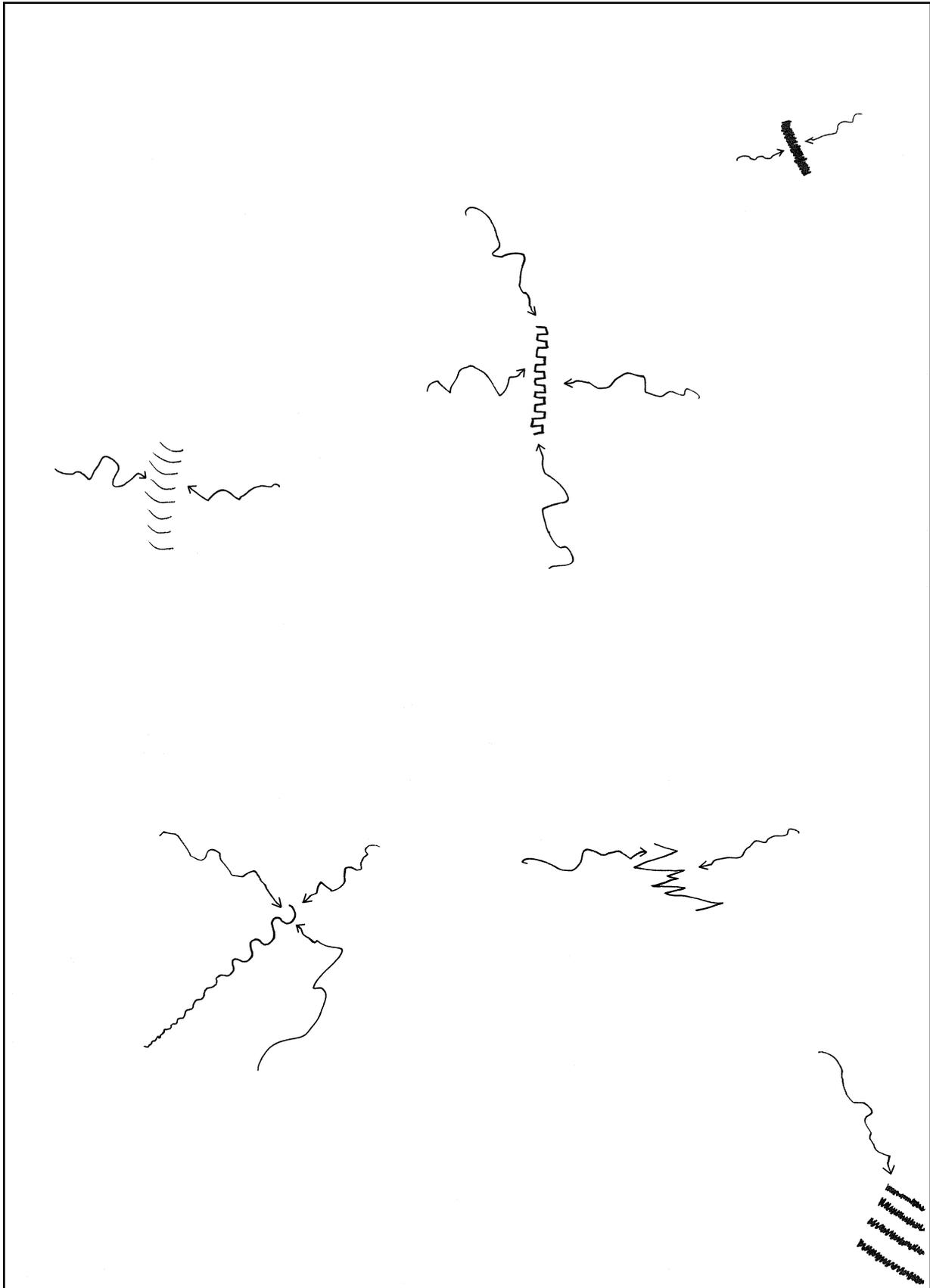
Harmonic Glissando



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Graphic 1)

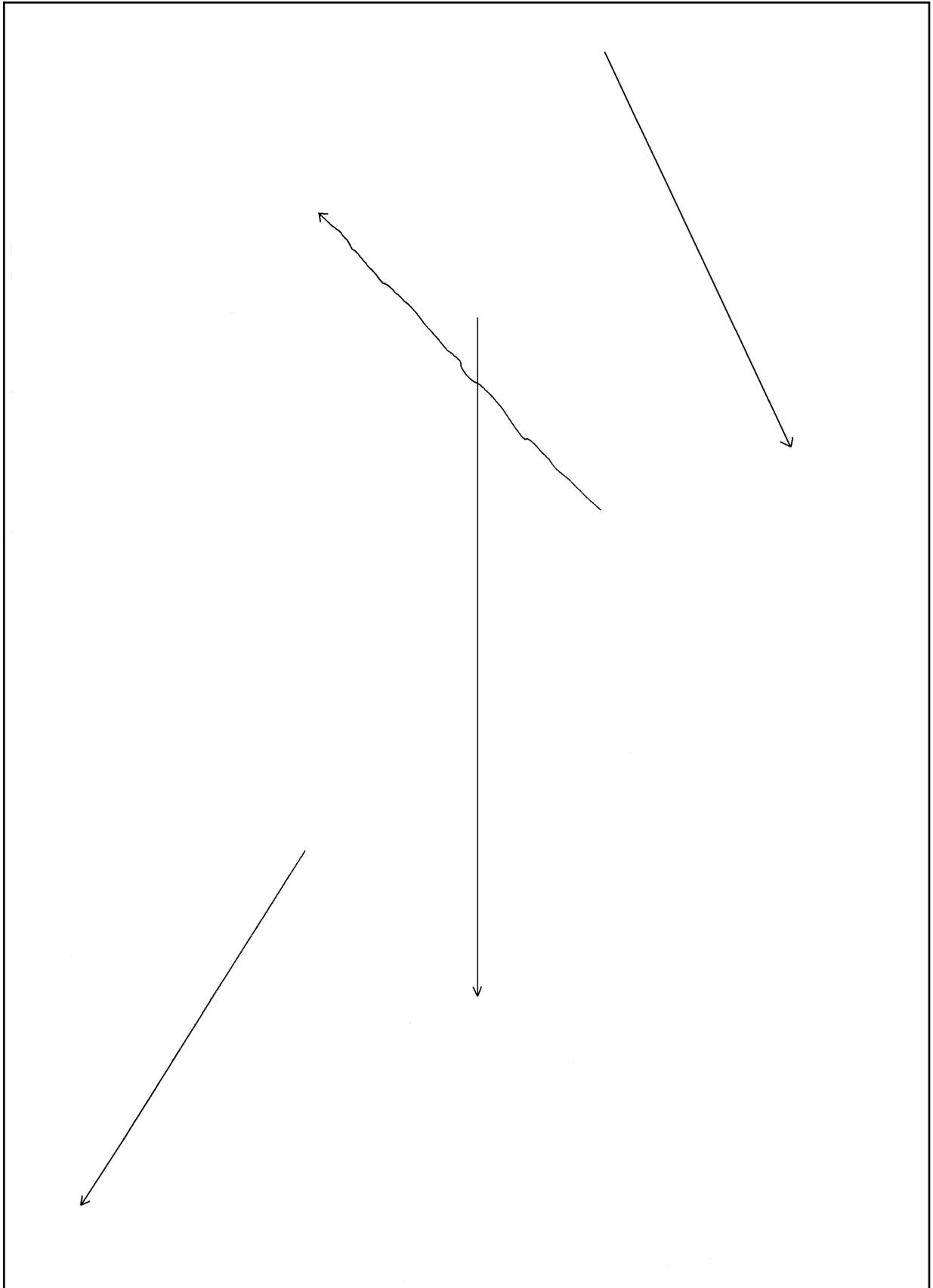
4 players , Duration: 2 to 3 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Graphic 2)

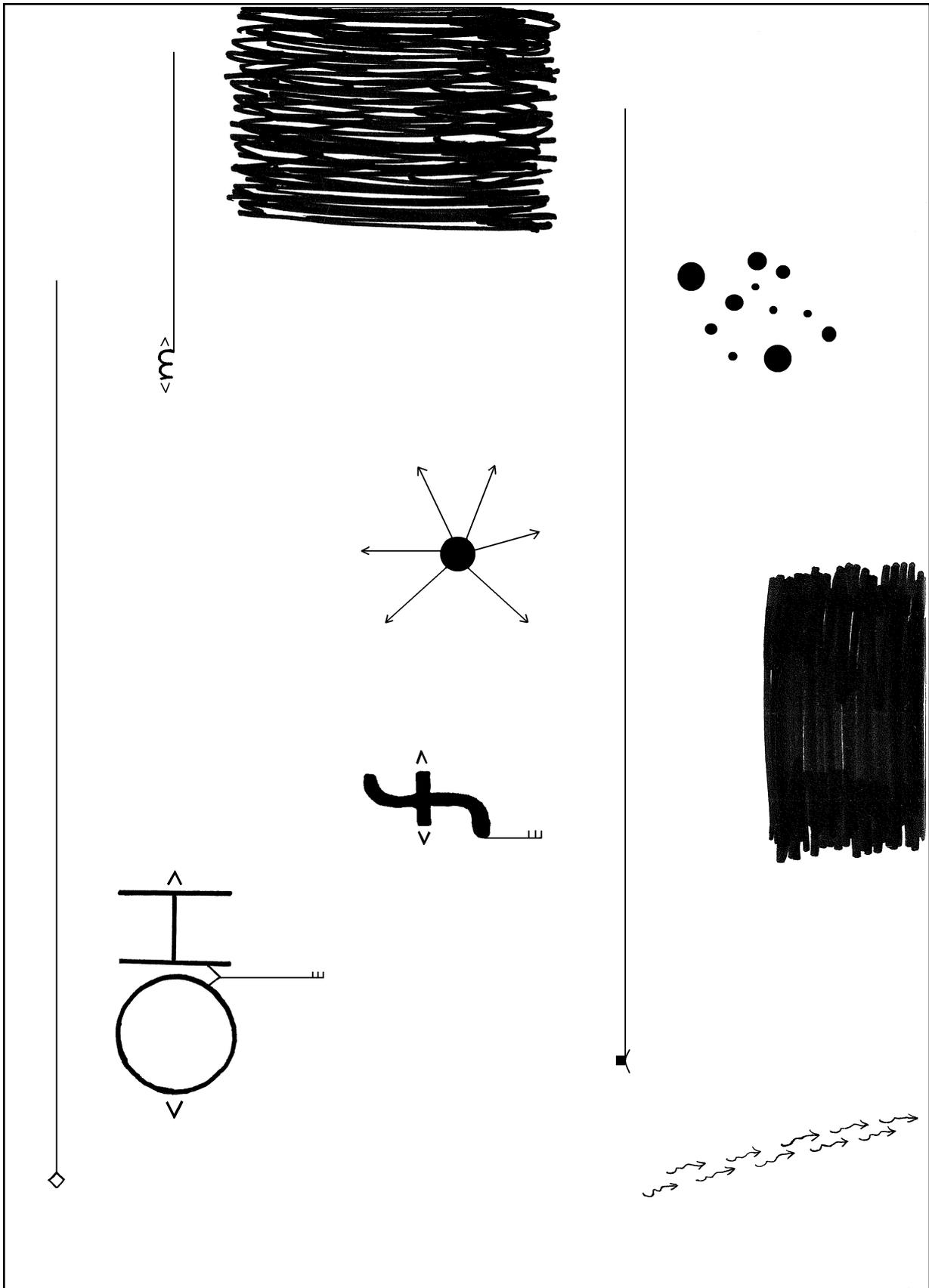
4 players - Duration: 30 seconds to 1.30 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Graphic 3)

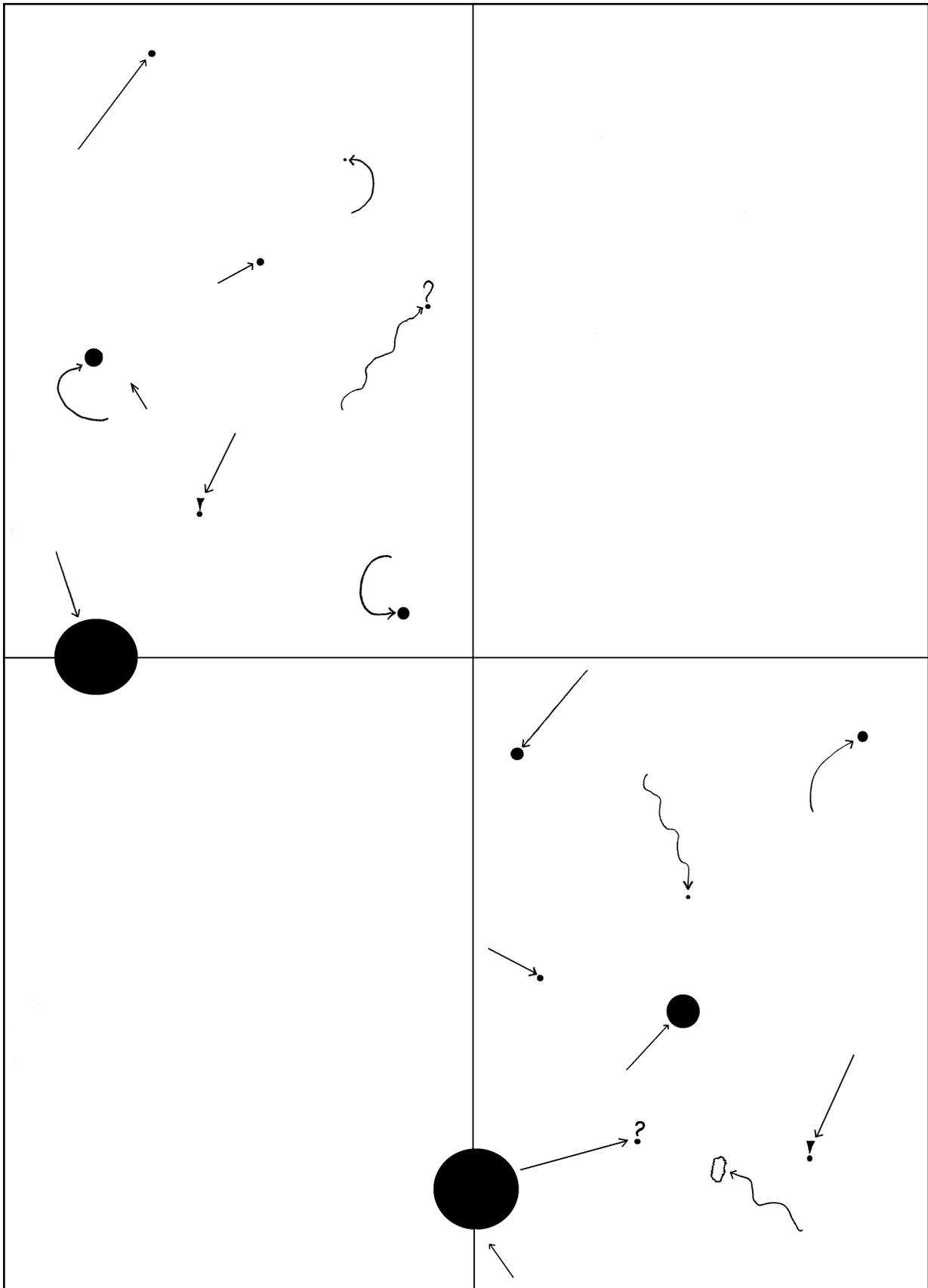
1 to 4 players, Duration: 1 to 3 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Graphic 4)

2 players, Duration: ca. 2 minutes



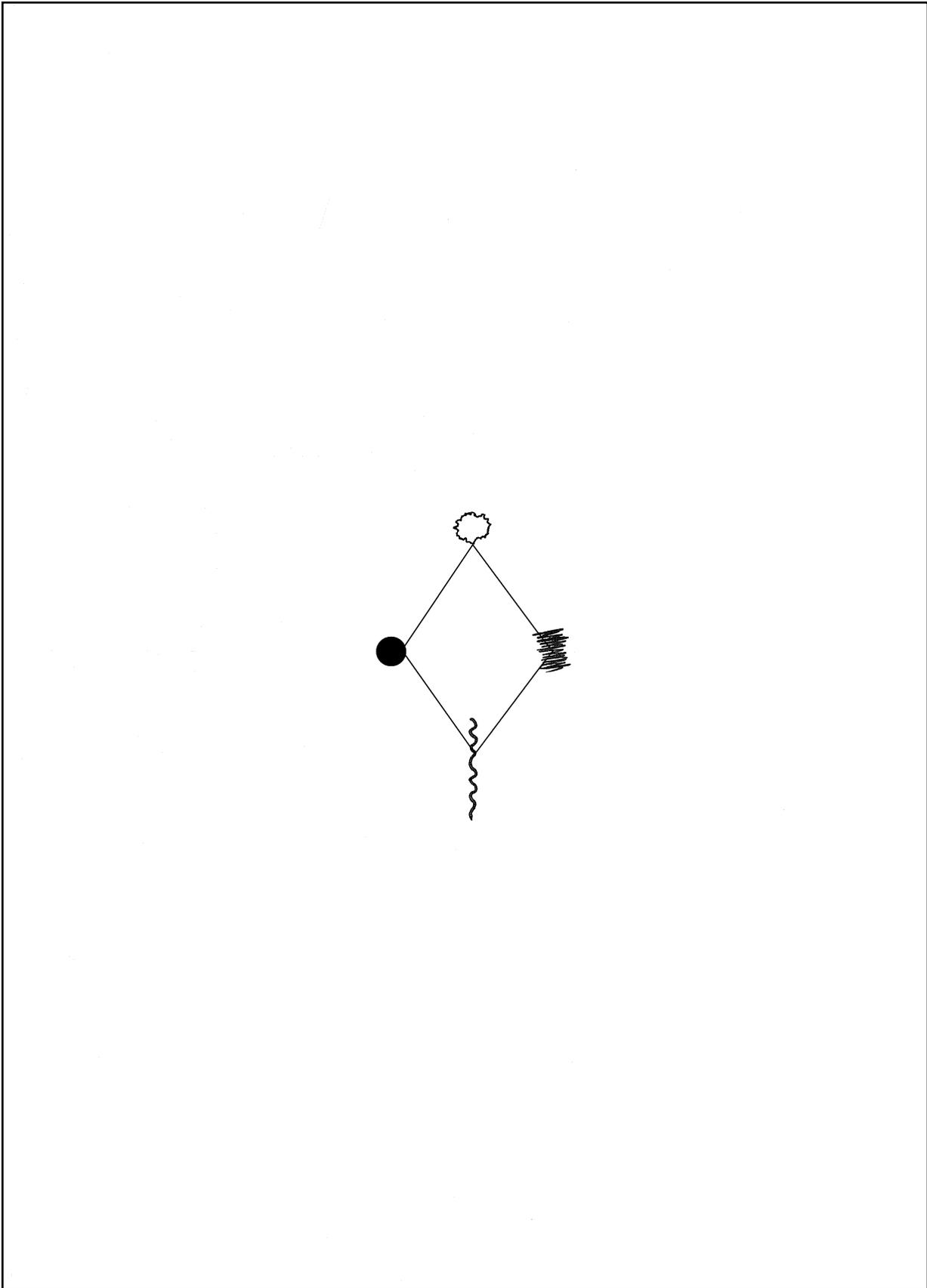




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**Spotting Nowhere** (Graphic 7)

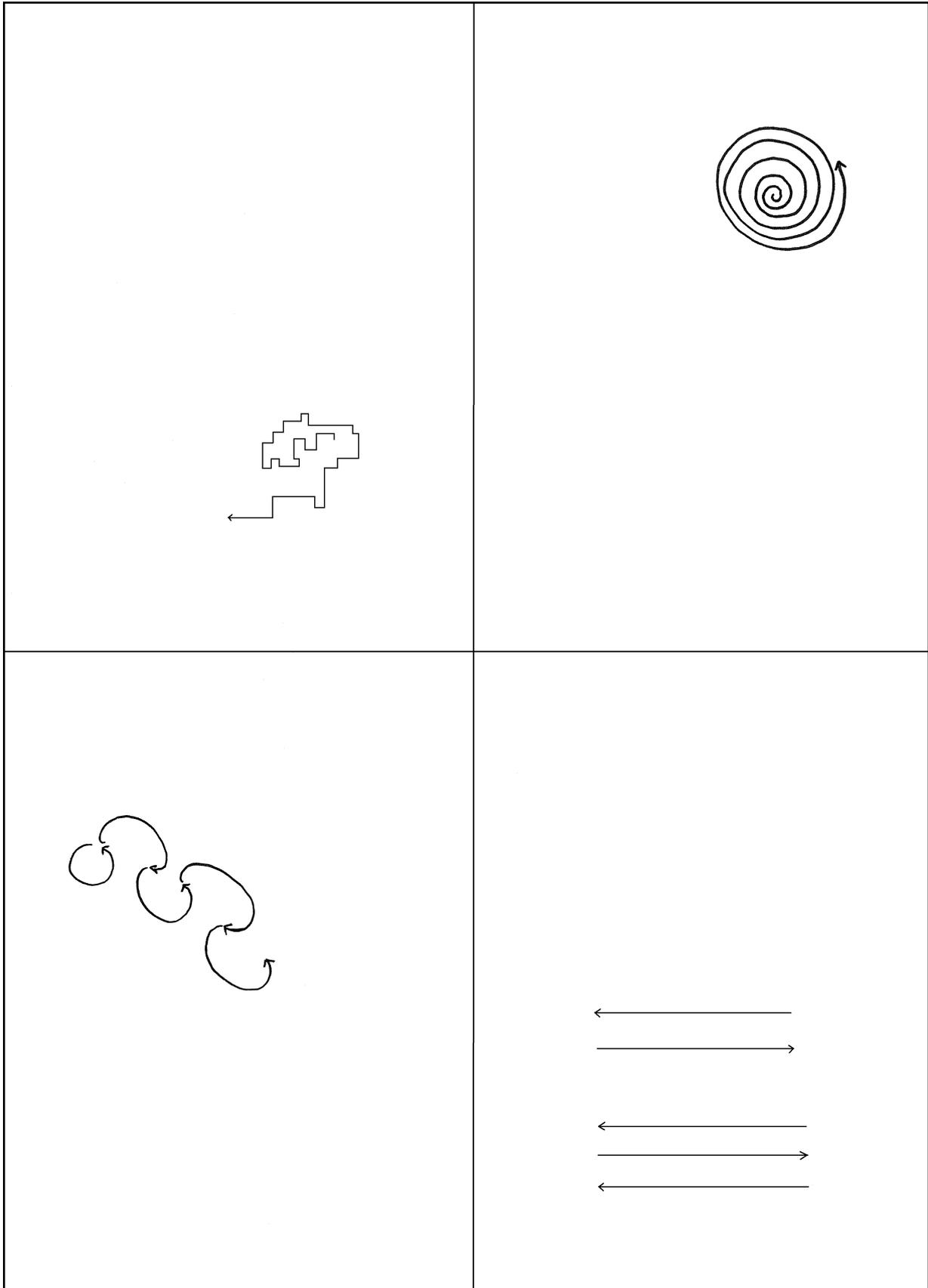
4 players, Duration: 5 to 30 seconds



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Graphic 8)

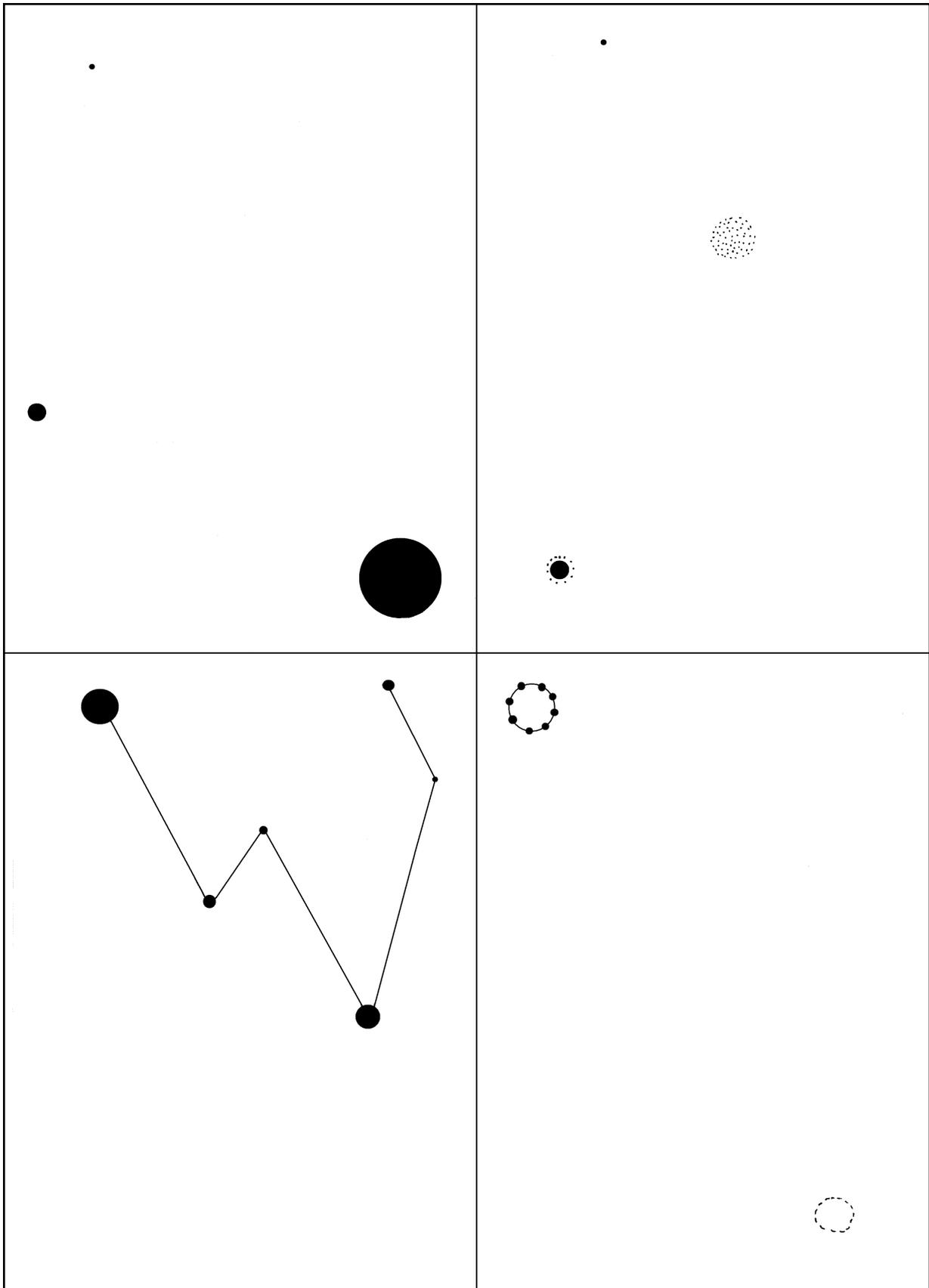
4 players, Duration: 30 seconds to 3 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Graphic 9)

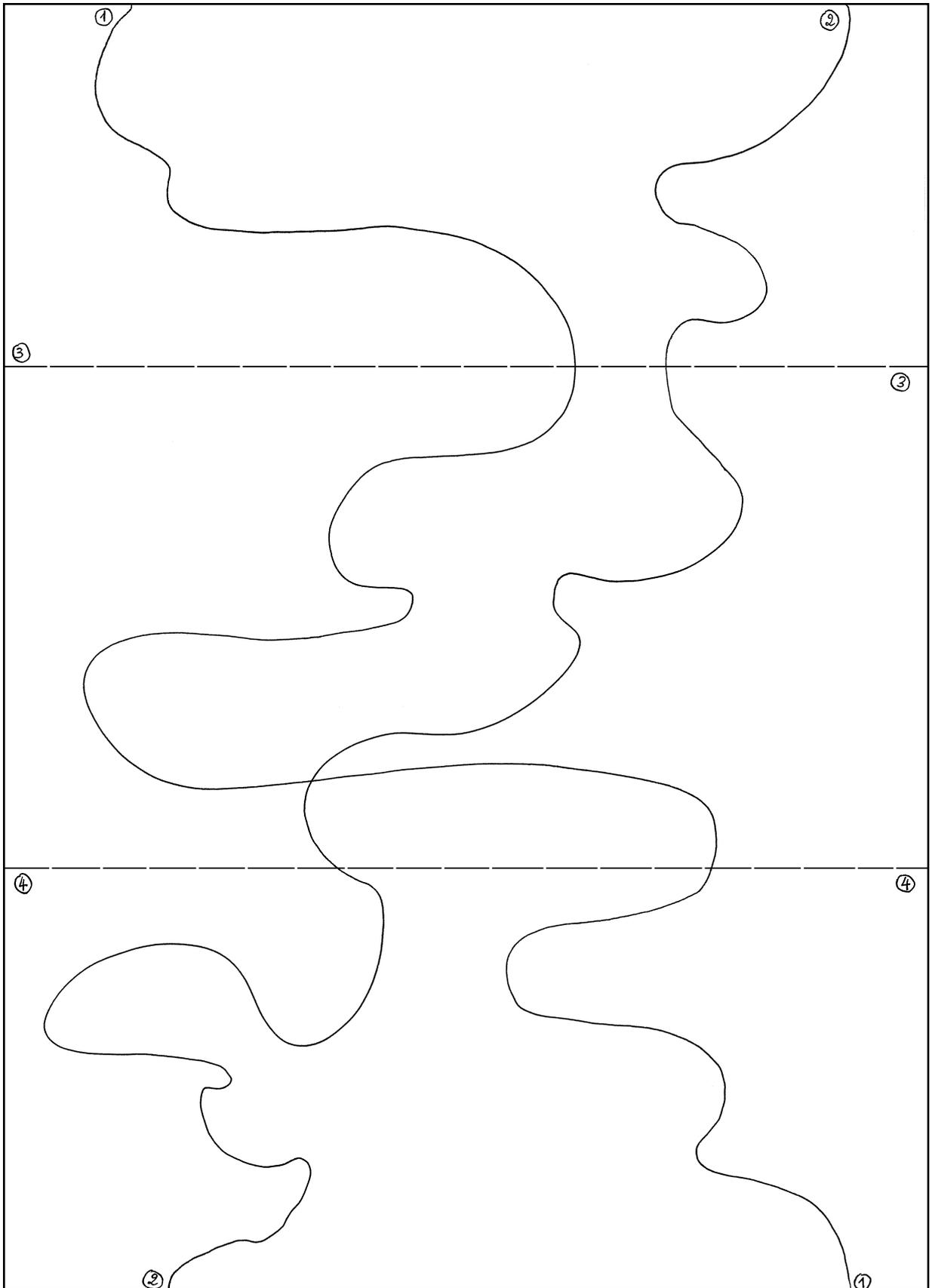
4 players, Duration: 1 to 3 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Graphic 10)

4 players, Duration: max. 3 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 1)

4 players, Duration: 1 to 2 minutes

The musical score is organized into four systems, each containing various musical notations and performance instructions:

- System 1:** Includes a pizzicato instruction with notes marked *f* and *mf*. A *c.l. arco* instruction is shown with a downward-pointing line. Another *c.l. arco* instruction is shown with a dotted line. A *blow* instruction is shown with a square and a triangle. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *mf*.
- System 2:** Features a wavy line with notes and a *p* dynamic. A *c.l. arco* instruction is shown with a dotted line and a *p* dynamic. An *ex.s.p.* instruction is shown with a note and an *up* dynamic. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *ff*.
- System 3:** Starts with a *c.l. arco* instruction and a note with a downward-pointing line and *p* dynamic. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *ff*. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *p*. A *c.l. arco* instruction is shown with a downward-pointing line and *pp* dynamic. A pizzicato instruction is shown with notes marked *f*, *ff*, and *mf*. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *pizz*. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *pp*.
- System 4:** Includes a note with a downward-pointing line and *pp* dynamic. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *ff*. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *mf*. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *pp*. A *c.l. arco* instruction is shown with a downward-pointing line and *pp* dynamic. A note with a downward-pointing line is marked *pizz*.

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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 2)

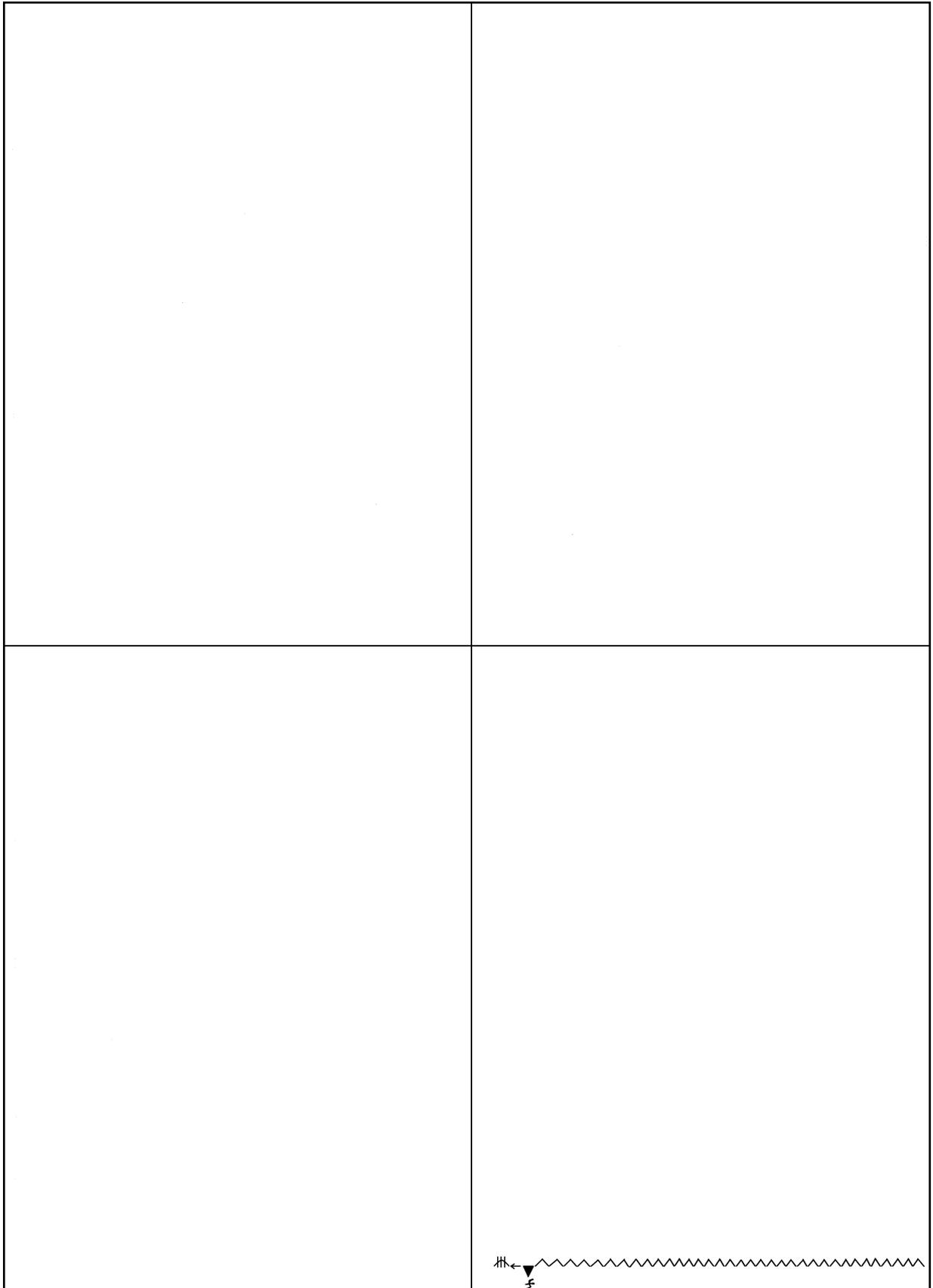
4 players, Duration: 1 to 30 seconds

<p>pizz H f ff</p>	<p>F f</p>
<p>H f f</p>	<p>o F H f ff</p>

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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 3)

1 player, Duration: 30 seconds to 1 minute



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 4)

1 to 4 players, Duration: 30 seconds to 1 minute

The central square contains the following musical notation and instructions:

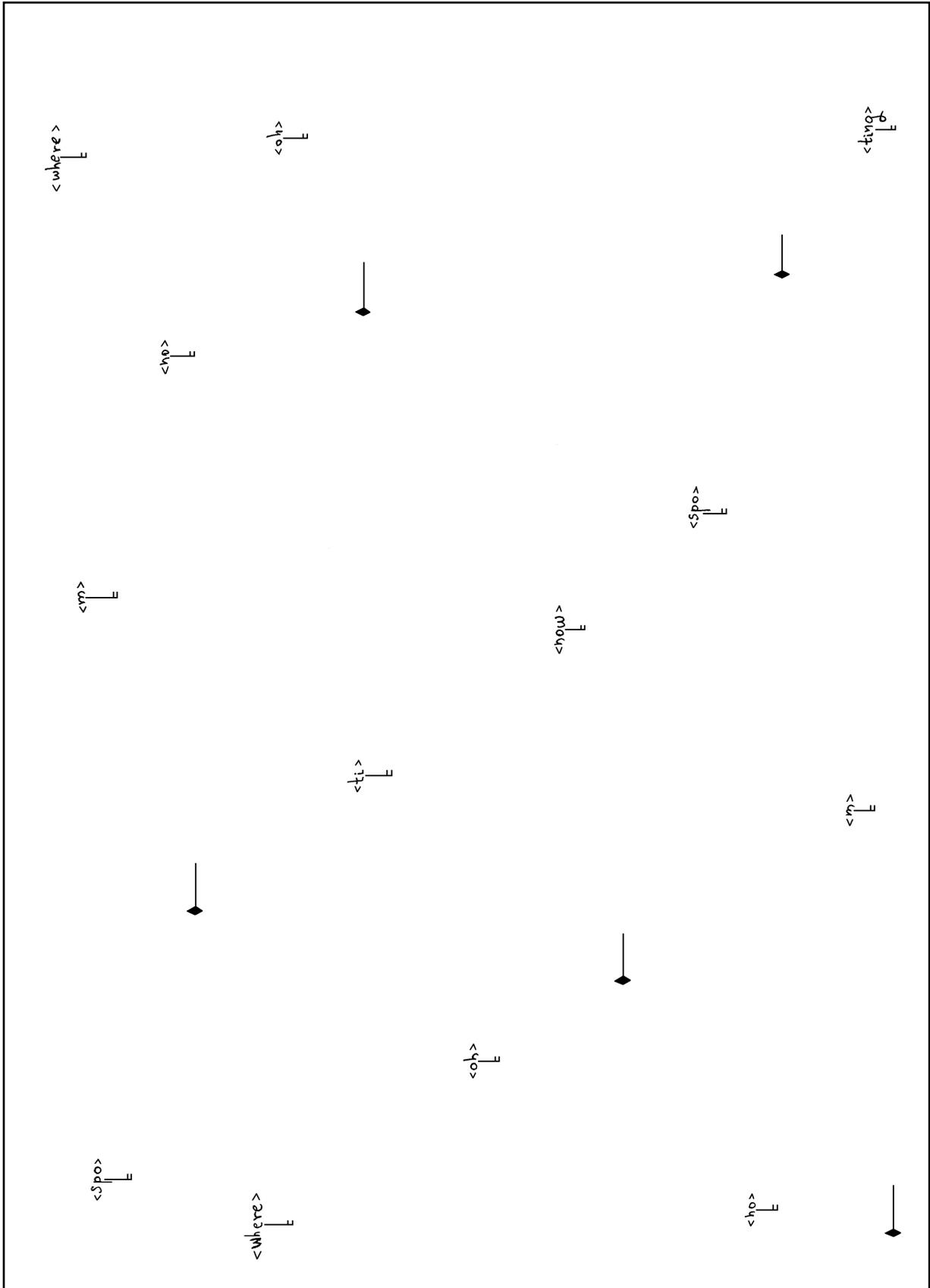
- Top-left: *pizz* (pizzicato), a quarter note, *ff* (fortissimo).
- Top-center: A quarter note with a downward-pointing arrow above it, *f* (forte).
- Top-right: A quarter note with a downward-pointing arrow above it, *f* (forte).
- Middle-left: *ex. s.p.* (extraordinary speed), a quarter note, *ff* (fortissimo).
- Middle-center: A quarter note with a downward-pointing arrow above it, *ff* (fortissimo).
- Middle-right: A quarter note with a downward-pointing arrow above it, *fff* (fortississimo).
- Bottom-left: A quarter note with a downward-pointing arrow above it, *ff* (fortissimo).
- Bottom-center: A quarter note with a downward-pointing arrow above it, *ff* (fortissimo).
- Bottom-right: A quarter note with a downward-pointing arrow above it, *f* (forte).

Additional performance instructions include *blow* (blow) and *blow* (blow) written near specific notes.

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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 5)

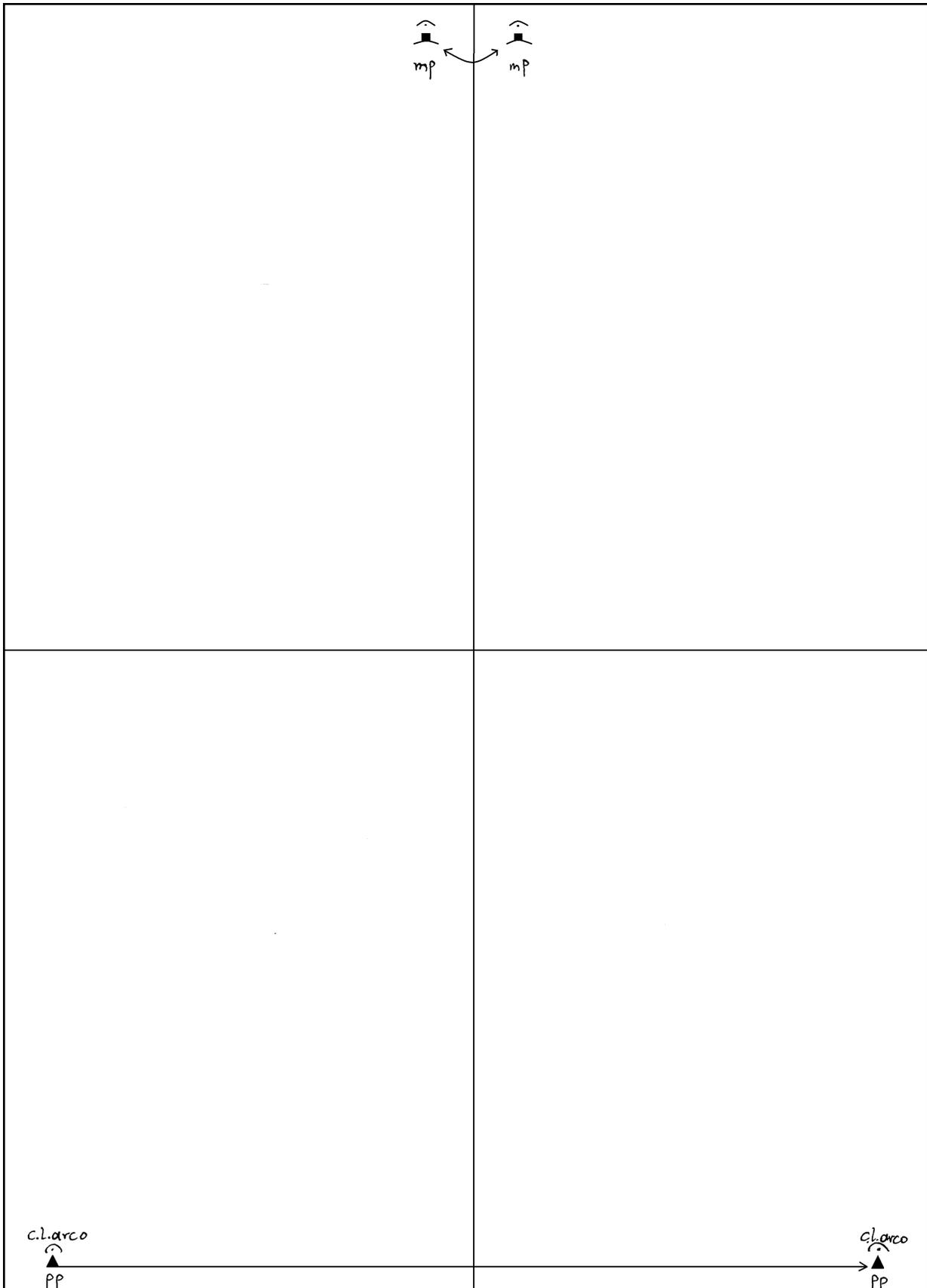
1 to 4 players, Duration: 30 seconds to 2 minutes, Dynamic: pp



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 6)

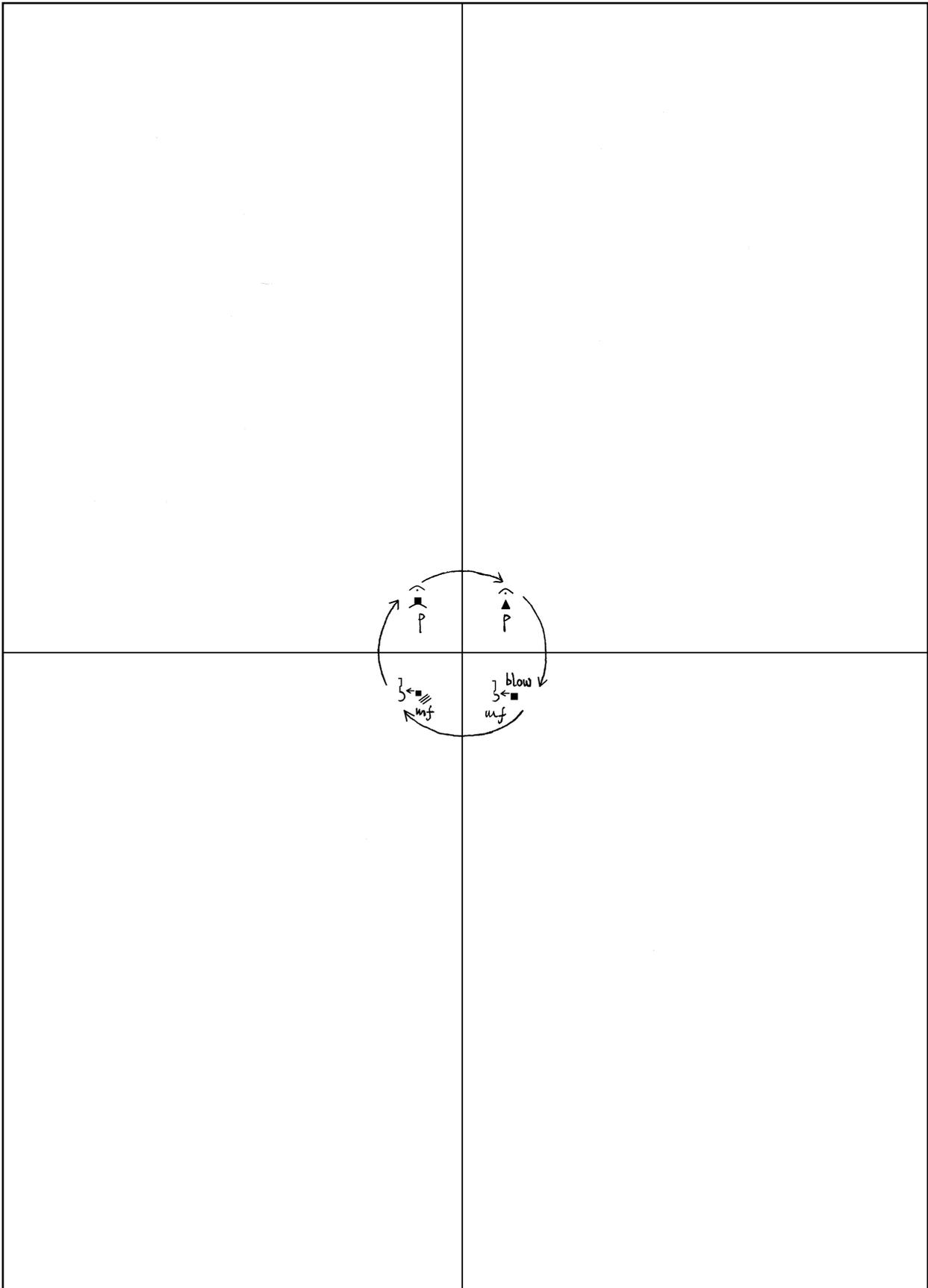
4 players, Duration: 30 seconds to 2 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 7)

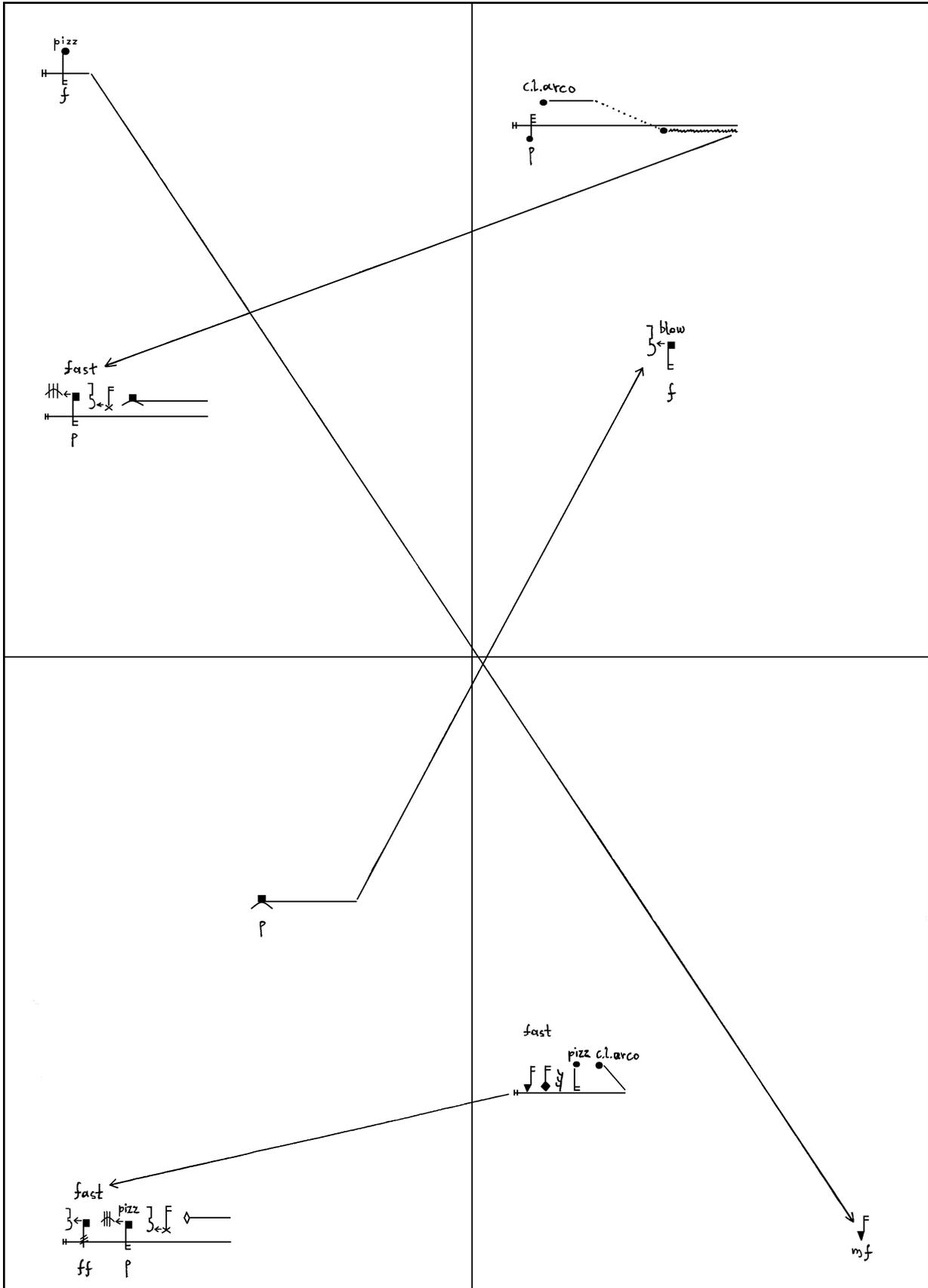
4 players, Duration: 30 seconds to 2 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 8)

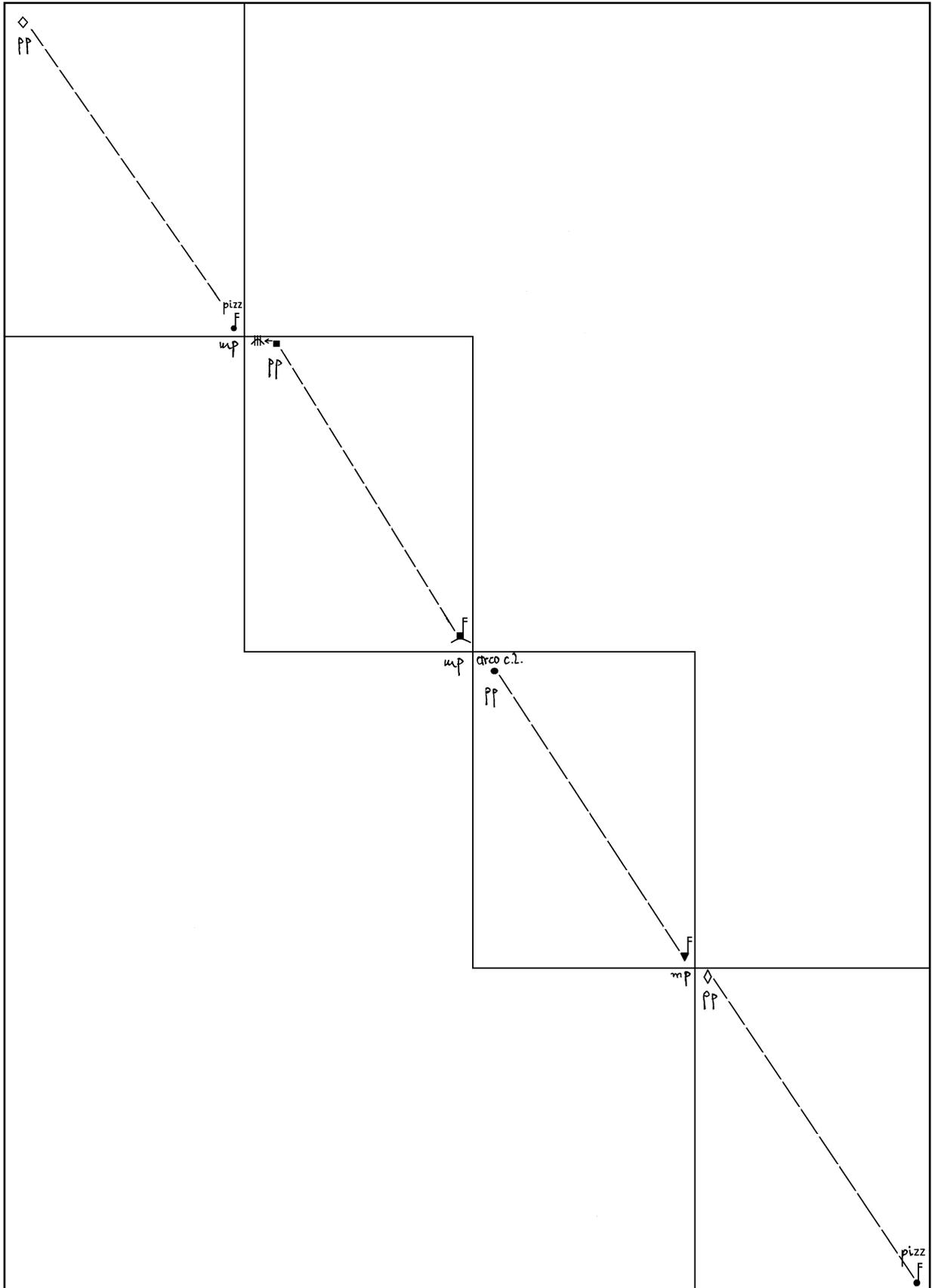
4 players, Duration: max. 3 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 9)

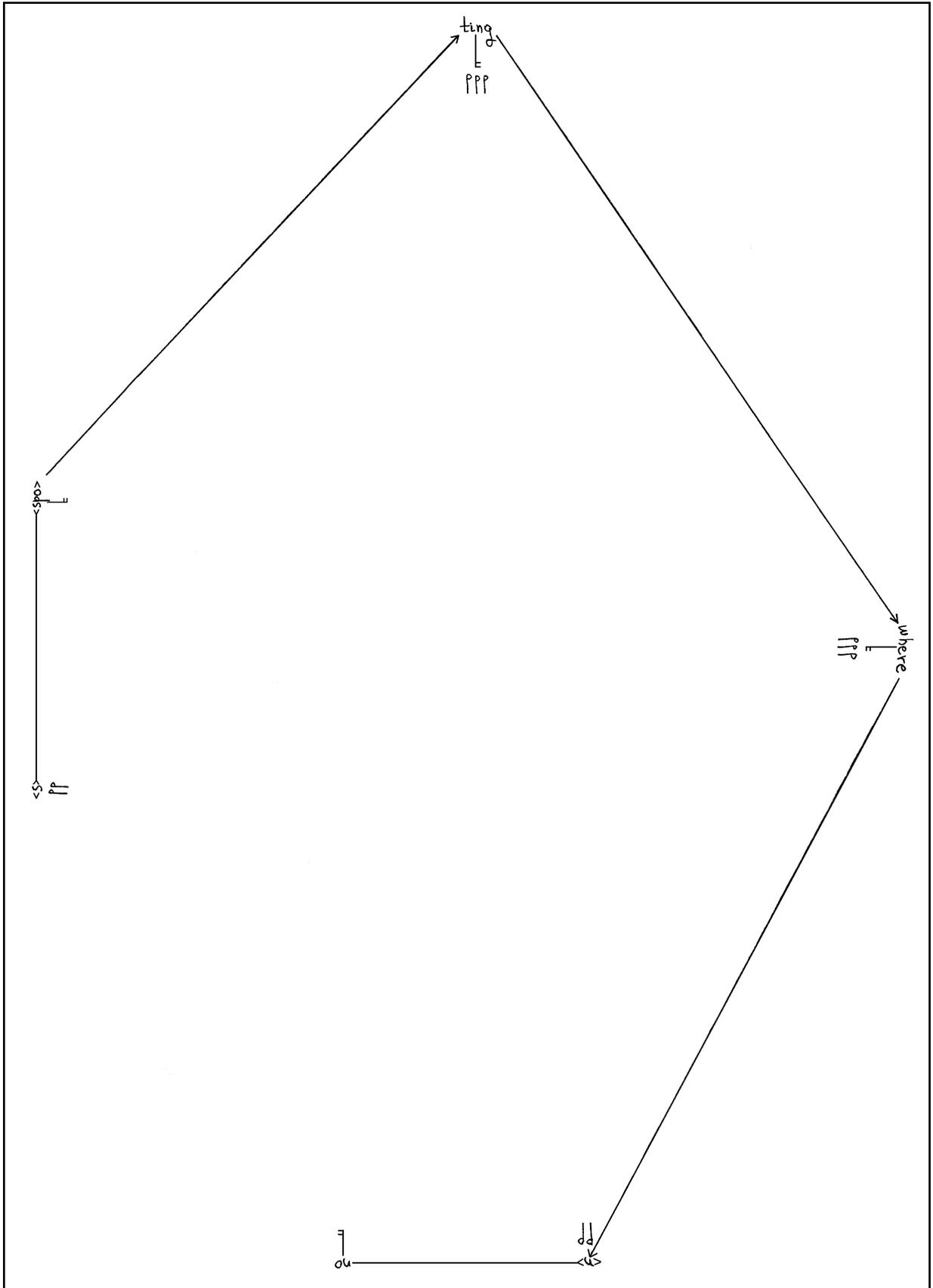
4 players, Duration: max. 40 seconds



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 10)

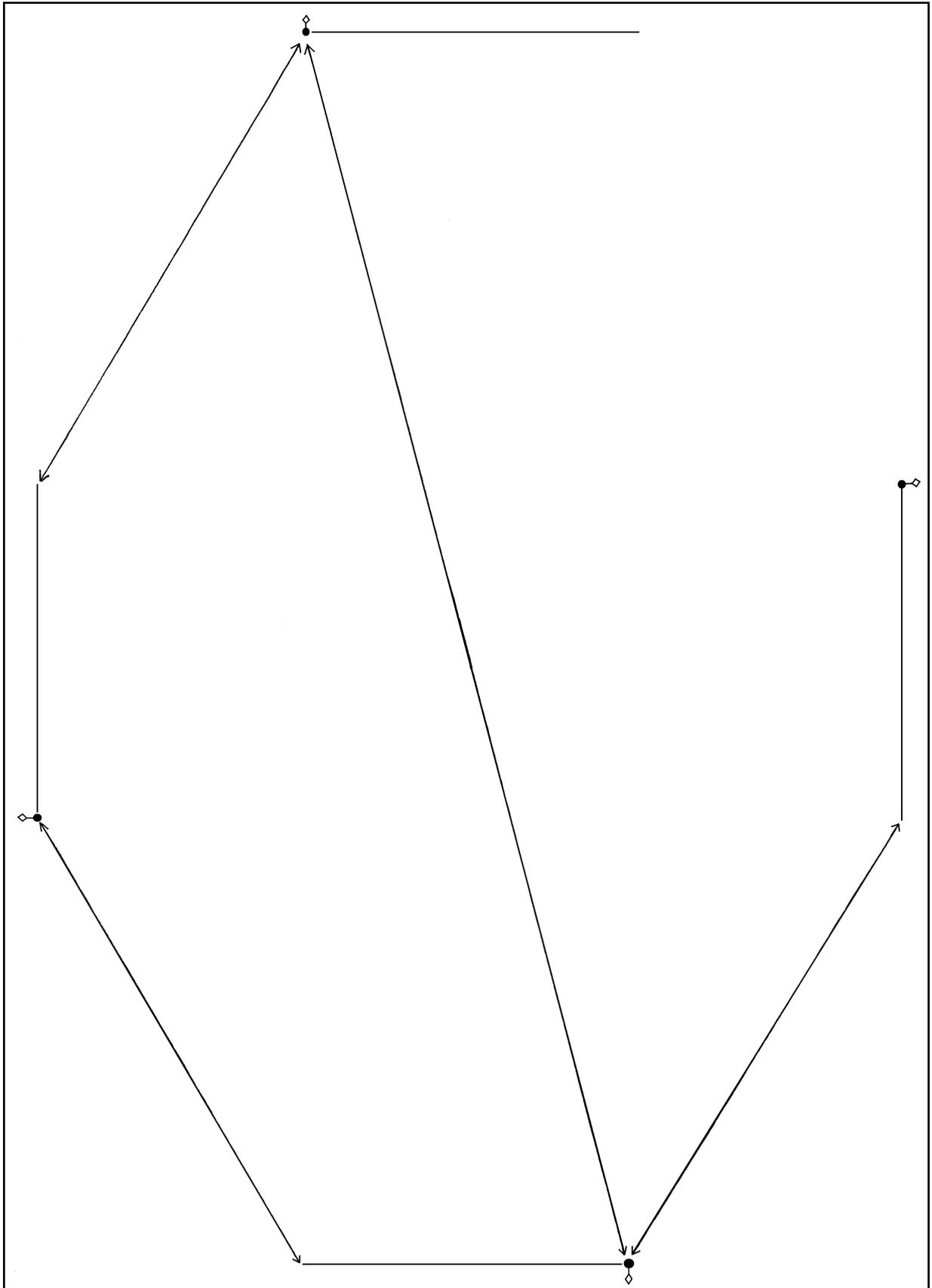
4 players, Duration: max. 1 minute



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 11)

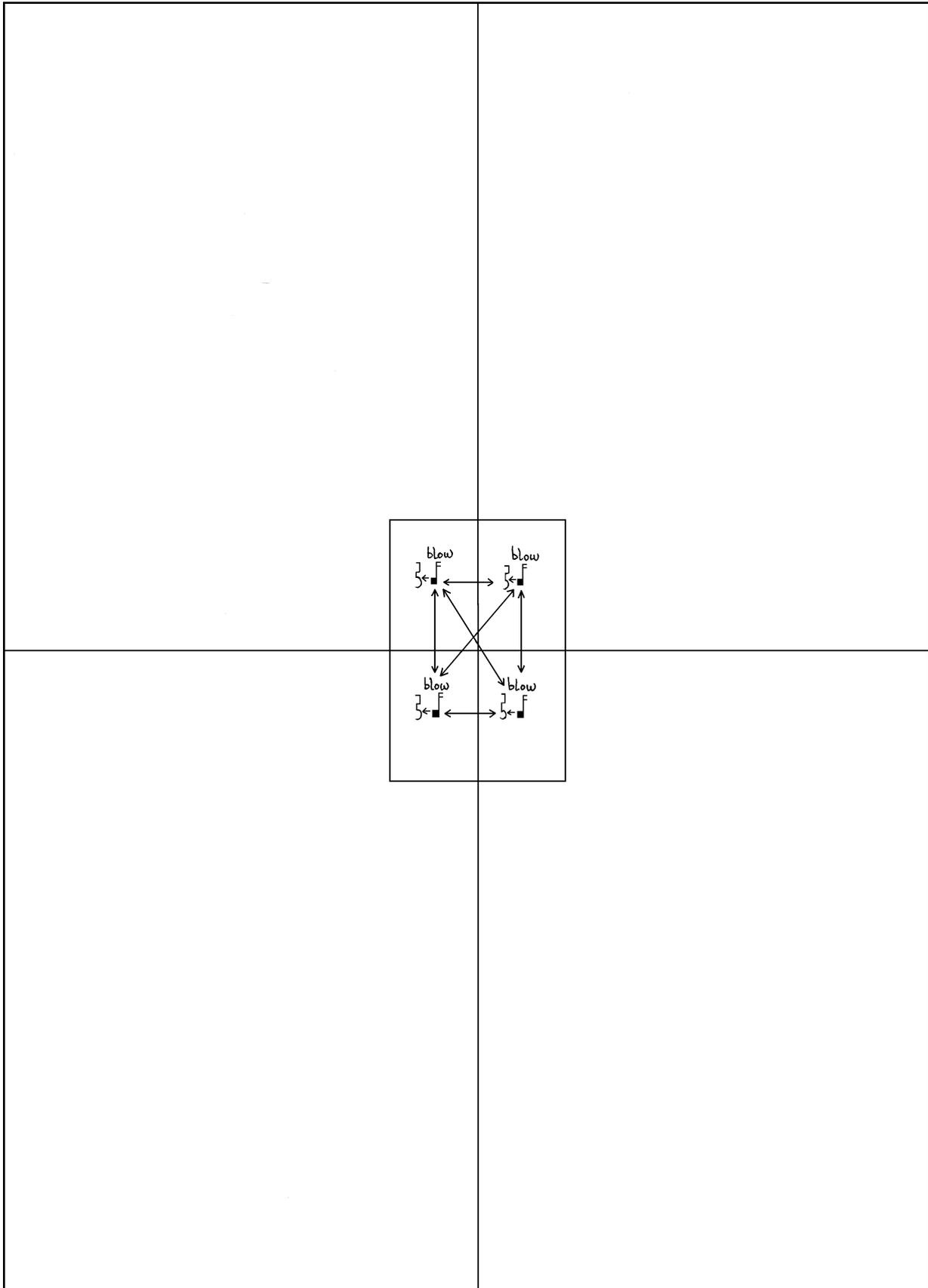
4 players, Duration: max. 3 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 12)

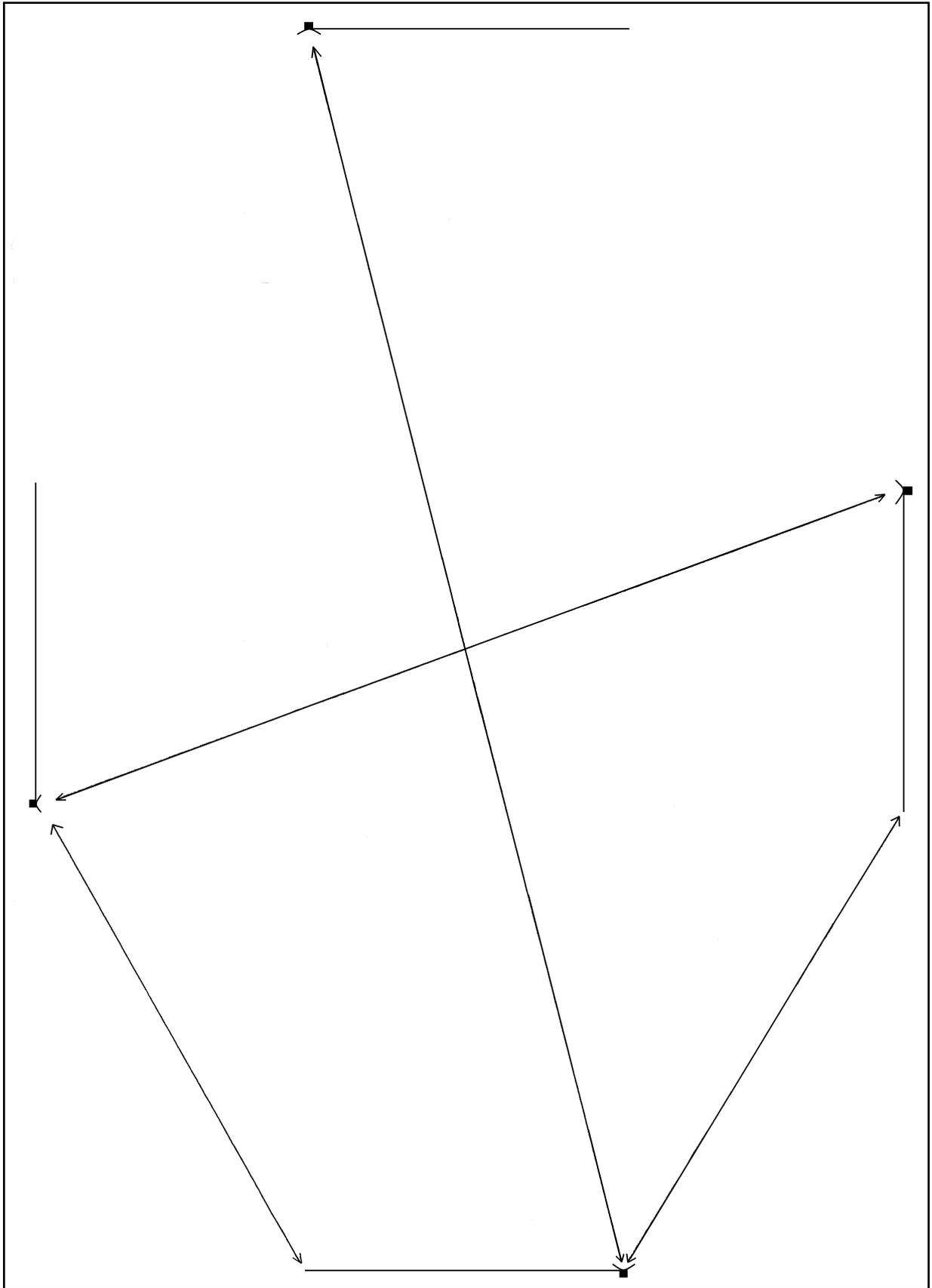
4 players, Duration: 1 to 30 seconds



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 13)

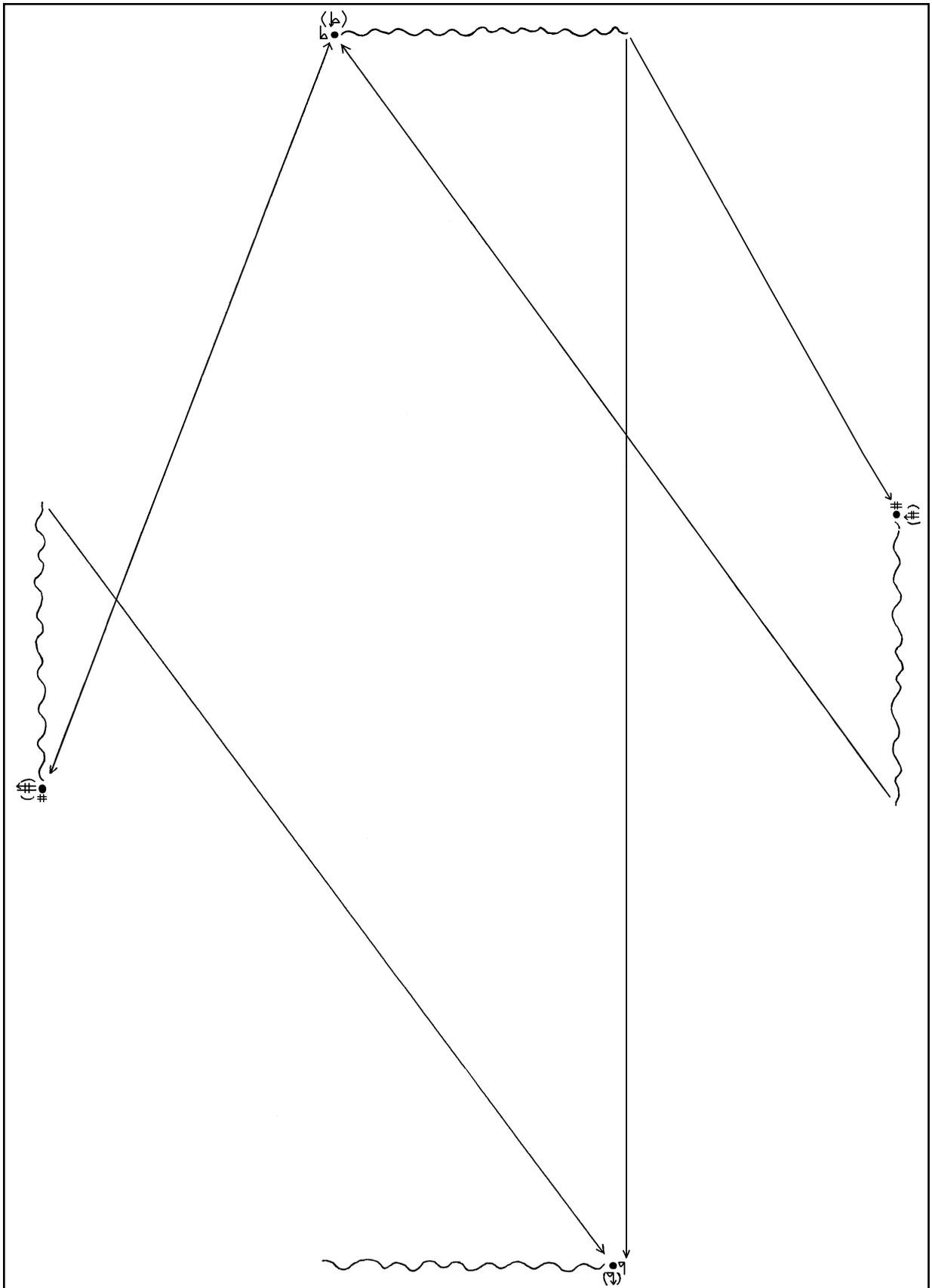
4 players, Duration: max.2 minutes, Dynamic: p



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 14)

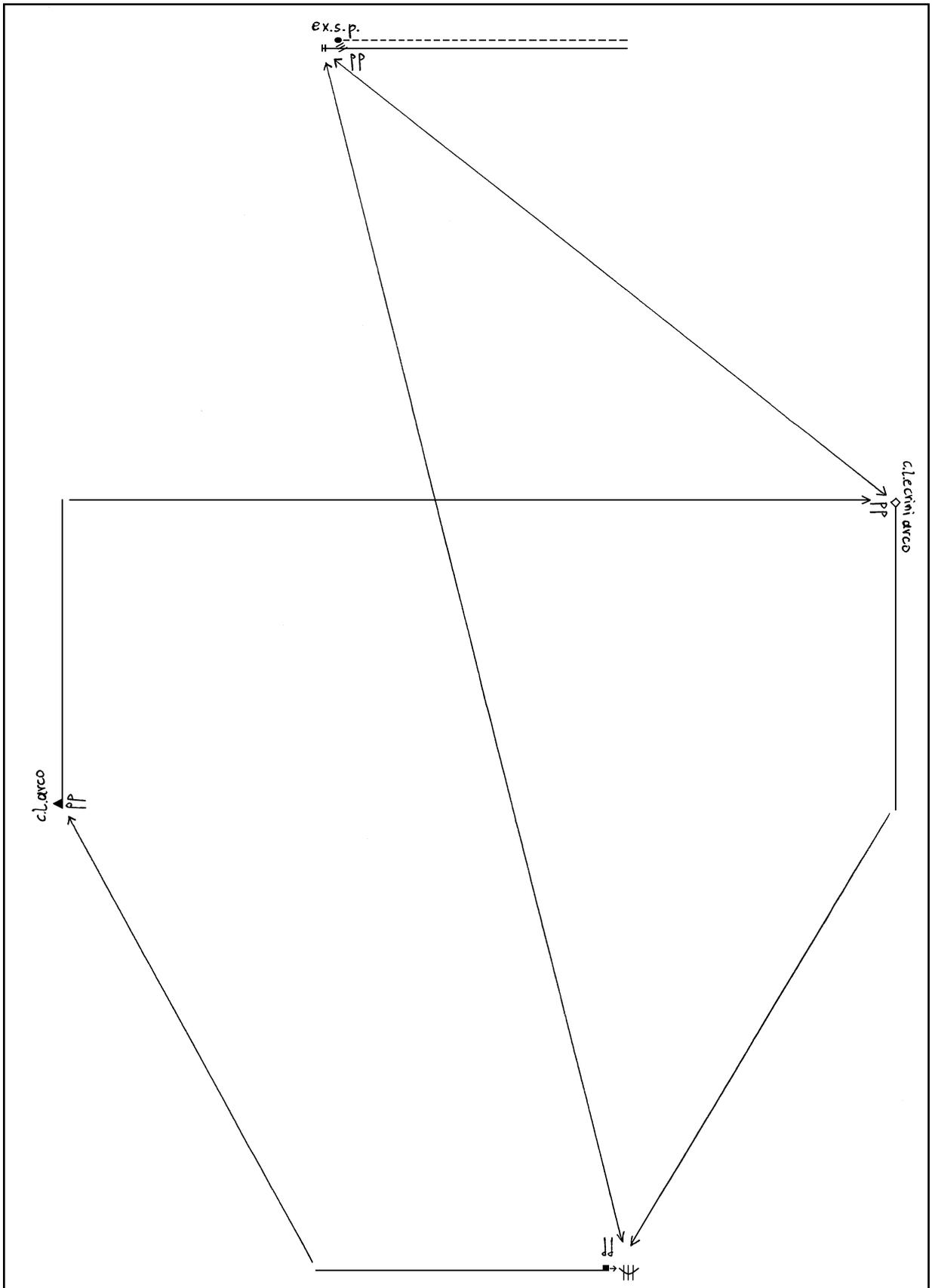
4 players, Duration: max.2 minutes, Dynamic: pp



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 15)

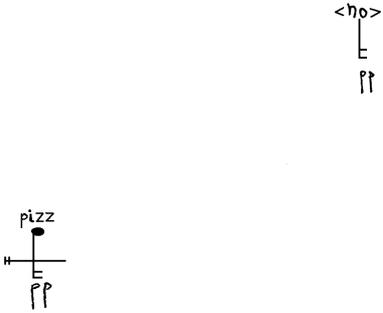
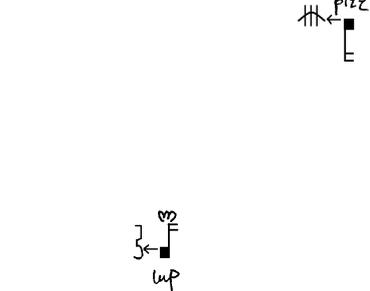
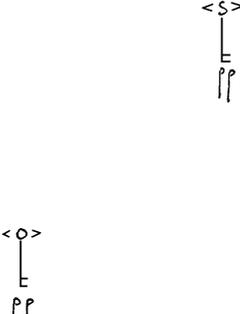
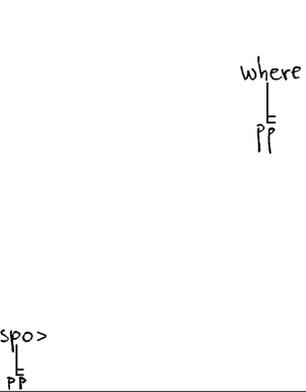
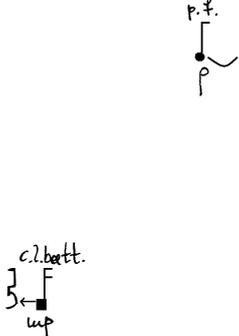
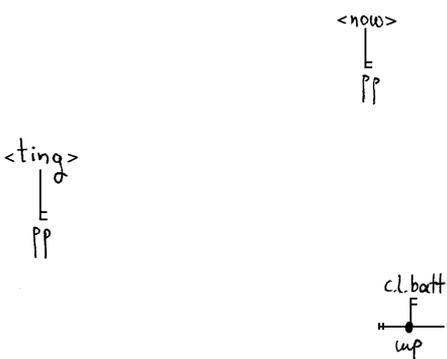
4 players, Duration: max.2.30 minutes



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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 16)

4 players, Duration: 5 seconds to 2 minutes

 <p>pizz F PP</p> <p>&lt;no&gt; E PP</p>	 <p>&lt;t&gt; E PP</p> <p>up F up</p>
 <p>pizz F PP</p> <p>up F up</p>	 <p>&lt;s&gt; E PP</p> <p>&lt;o&gt; E PP</p>
 <p>where E PP</p> <p>&lt;spo&gt; E PP</p>	 <p>p.f. P</p> <p>c.l.batt. F up</p>
 <p>&lt;n&gt; E PP</p> <p>up F up</p>	 <p>&lt;now&gt; E PP</p> <p>c.l.batt. F up</p>

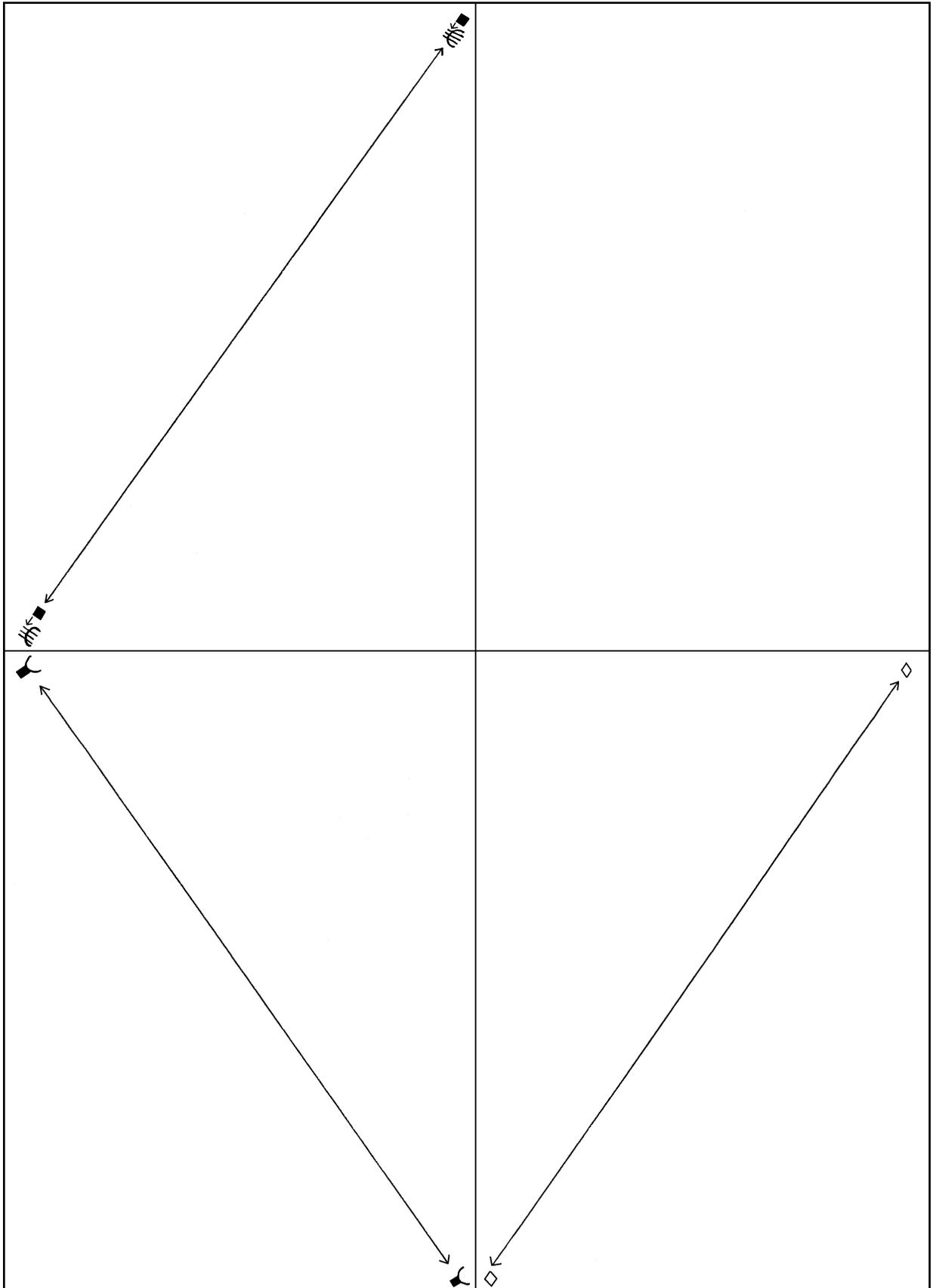




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**Spotting Nowhere** (Score 19)

3 players, Duration: 2 to 3 minutes



### **Bow hair**

count the strings on your bow

calmly, with focus and without unnecessary movements  
for 2 to 3 minutes

(1 to 4 players)

### **Arco on me**

play *arco* on your body until you are out of bow resin  
perform the action with the utmost calmness, concentration and  
dedication

(1 to 4 players)

### **Connection**

let's all play on one another's instrument a sustained sound  
while still holding our own instrument

let's all start and finish together

for about 2 minutes

(4 players)

### **High**

choose a page from a string quartet of the classical or romantic  
period

retreat in a point within the space where you can no longer see your  
fellow performers

perform your part 2 octaves higher than written

(1 to 4 players)

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2010

**SpottingNowhere** (actions: *Bow hair*, *Arco on me*, *Connection*, *High*)



### **Collegno**

choose a page from a string quartet of the classical or romantic period

retreat in a point within the space where you can no longer see your fellow performers

perform your part *col legno arco*

(1 to 4 players)

### **Outside**

prior to the concert, prepare between you a continuous chord, which will not bear musical associations for any member of the quartet.

during the concert, stand directly outside the entrance of the concert space and close the doors (the audience should stay inside)

perform for 90 seconds

(4 players)

### **Play the air**

play the air *arco*, 2 cm upon the strings

slowly, calmly, with the utmost concentration and dedication for 90 seconds

(1 to 4 players)

### **Intimate**

pick a member of the audience

play *arco*, making a continuous noise in *pp*

as near their ear as you can

(1 to 4 players)

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2010

**SpottingNowhere** (actions: *Collegno*, *Outside*, *Play the air*, *Intimate*)



### **Melody**

choose a member of the audience  
go near them and ask them to sing their favorite melody to you, by  
whispering in their ear

he/she has to whisper in your ear too to convey that information.

if you are not familiar with this melody, ask somebody else,  
until you find a melody that you have heard at least once.

distance yourself from the spectator  
and choose an inconspicuous point in the performance space

try to play the melody in *ppp*

(1 to 4 players)

### **Close**

approach two of your fellow players, get as near them as you can

play *p*, 15 different sounds on your instrument

### **Pizz**

choose a point in the space where you do not have eye contact with  
your fellow players

play one note *pizz* every time, trying not to play simultaneously with any  
of the other players

play 30 times with dynamics *mf* to *ff*

(4 players)

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2010

**Spotting Nowhere** (actions: *Melody*, *Close*, *Pizz*)



### **On her**

pick a member of the audience

play *col legno arco* on him/her, slowly and with the utmost calmness  
for one minute

(1 to 4 players)

### **Bow**

apply resin to your bow

with very slow and calm movements  
for at least one minute

(1 to 4 players)

### **Leave it**

leave your instrument in the hands of a member of the audience for  
about 2 minutes

don't ask the person to do anything  
don't stop him/her if he/she plays

after the 2 minutes ask politely for the instrument to be returned to you

(1 to 4 players)

### **Swap**

let's keep swapping our instruments for 2 minutes  
without unnecessary or extravagant movements

let's just swap instruments  
with the utmost concentration, calmness and seriousness

(4 players)

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**SpottingNowhere** (actions: *On her, Bow, Leave it, Swap*)



### **Circle**

let's leave all our instruments on the floor together  
let's form a circle, touching hands

let's close our eyes

let's try to bond with our fellow players mentally  
counting slowly and silently, to ourselves, from 60 to 0

(3 or 4 players)

### **Contact**

feel the closest possible connection with each of your fellow players  
physically as well as mentally

when you feel that you have established an absolute connection  
with each and every one of the players,

play one sustained sound for one minute

(4 players)

### **Play the breath**

listen to your breath.  
concentrate.

play one short sound at the beginning of your every inhalation and  
exhalation

don't play the same sound 2 times in a row.  
perform the process 30 times

(1 to 4 players)

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**SpottingNowhere** (actions: *Circle*, *Contact*, *Play the breath*)



## **Hold**

inhale

exhale

inhale

exhale

I hold my breath playing a harmonic until I need more air

inhale

exhale

inhale

exhale

I hold my breath playing on the bridge until I need more air

inhale

exhale

inhale

exhale

I hold my breath until I need more air and I go on

(1 to 4 players)

## **Harmonic**

Inhaling deeply

Exhaling all the air

My exhalation becomes a harmonic that breathes calmness,  
relaxation and concentration

I repeat as desired

(1 to 4 players)

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**Spotting Nowhere** (actions: Hold, Harmonic)



### ***In and out***

inhale = a sound

exhale = another sound

inhaling and exhaling slowly playing the sounds of my choice

slowly breathing in and out, getting gradually faster and faster  
while the 2 sounds accompany every inhalation and exhalation

faster and faster until I'm panting and I don't have the energy to go on  
(1 to 4 players)

### ***Exhale***

let all the air out

while playing *arco* on the bridge without pressure and effort

stop playing when your air has run out

(1 to 4 players)

### ***Noise***

choose a point in the space

play *arco* on your instrument only at points

where no definite pitch is produced

so quietly that you will be the only one to hear it  
for 2 minutes

(1 to 4 players)

### ***Bow 2***

bow 15 times

(1 to 3 players)

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2010

***Spotting Nowhere*** (actions: *In and out*, *Exhale*, *Noise*, *Bow 2*)



### **Touch**

touch a fellow player with your left hand  
forming, in this way, a circle

perform a sustained sound with your right hand for 1 minute

(4 players)

### **No string**

let's all play simultaneously on one of the 4 instruments  
anywhere except the strings

for 2 minutes

(4 players)

### **Breath**

stop!

listen to your breath for one minute

(1 to 4 players)

### **Look**

pick one of your fellow players

look at him/her carefully for one minute

(1 to 4 players)

### **Mbp**

maximum bow pressure

(where?)

for one minute

(1 to 4 players)

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**Spotting Nowhere** (actions: Touch, Nostring, Breath, Look, Mbp)



### **Move**

place your hands on your musical instrument

hold them there for 30 sec

raise them from the instrument with a continuous movement

that will last one minute

(1 player)

### **Hug**

leave the bow beside you

hold your instrument in your arms

close your eyes and become one with the instrument

(1 to 4 players)

### **Bow 3**

leave your instrument beside you

take the bow in your hands

close your eyes and scrutinize every inch of the bow

with the utmost concentration and dedication, for 2 minutes

(1 to 4 players)

### **Just for yourself**

pick a cozy spot in the space

close your eyes

forget about the audience

you are alone

nobody can hear you

play one sound/one chord/one melody only for yourself

(1 to 4 players)

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2010

**SpottingNowhere** (actions: Move, Hug, Bow 3, Just for yourself)



### **Four to one**

four corners

four people

one sound

one minute

### **Audience**

moving calmly, find a spot you like in the space

sit on the floor and leave your instrument beside you

close your eyes and stay there until you hear

an interesting sound from the audience

when that happens, stand up and continue, calmly

(1 to 4 players)

### **Ocean**

close your eyes

fill your head with an ocean of sounds

you could potentially produce on your musical instrument

no rush

think of more sounds

they are endless

open your eyes

choose without reasoning one of the sounds that had previously

flooded your head and perform

(1 to 4 players)

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2010

**SpottingNowhere** (actions: *Four to one, Audience, Ocean*)

