

maxwell's demon
for improvising ensemble

christopher burns

Maxwell's Demon is dedicated to Matt Ingalls.

Performance notes:

Maxwell's Demon is scored for five improvising performers with a conductor for cuing and coordination. Any instrumentation may be used. Duration and ensemble relationships are governed by the score; all other aspects of the performance are free.

Each performer should improvise phrases which span the full extent of the given durations. Phrases may or may not include rests. However, the entire duration should be perceivable as a single musical object, and performers must sound the beginning and ending of each time span. The conducted tempo and meter are for cuing purposes only; the performers' material need not conform to them.

Each performer should improvise independently of the others except when given one of the following instructions:

“to player”: gradual transition towards a duet with the named player.

“with player”: play in a duet or trio with the named player or players.

“from player”: gradual transition from a duet or trio to independent improvisation.

“follow player”: imitate / adopt (to the fullest extent possible) the named performer's current or last played material.

Ensembles which perform the work repeatedly are encouraged to exchange roles at each performance.

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♩ = 108

	3 4	17 16	5 8	3 4	7 8	15 16	7 8		3 4			
player 1	3 4		1 8	2 4	1 4	2 4			7 16	13 16	16 4+8	
player 2	3 4		3 16	7 16	1 8	5 8			3 4	6 4		
player 3	3 4		1 4	3 8	1 4	2 4			9 16	13 16	10 4+8	
player 4	3 4		1 8	2 4	5 16	7 16			3 16	8 4+16		
player 5	3 4		3 8	5 16	6 4+16				7 16	7 4+16	3 16	

	5 8	9 8	3 4		13 16	5 4		3 4	13 16	3 4	
1		18 4+16	3 16								
2	7 4	with player 4									
3											
4	7 4	with player 2									
5	13 16	8 4							25 4+8	1 8	

Handwritten musical notation for five staves (1-5). Above the staves are various time signatures and musical notes with stems pointing down to the staff lines.

Staff 1: $\frac{13}{16}$, $\frac{4}{4}$, $\frac{9}{16}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{7}{8}$, $\frac{15}{16}$, $\frac{9}{8}$, $\frac{15}{16}$. Notes include quarter notes, eighth notes, and a dotted quarter note.

Staff 2: $\frac{12}{4}$, $\frac{15}{4+8}$, $\frac{20}{4+16}$

Staff 3: $\frac{5}{4+16}$, $\frac{9}{4}$, $\frac{13}{4+16}$

Staff 4: $\frac{7}{8}$, $\frac{6}{4+16}$, $\frac{8}{4+16}$ to player 4 →, $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{15}{16}$, $\frac{5}{4}$, $\frac{6}{4+16}$

Staff 5: (Empty)

Handwritten musical notation for five staves (1-5). Above the staves are various time signatures and notes with stems pointing down to the staff lines.

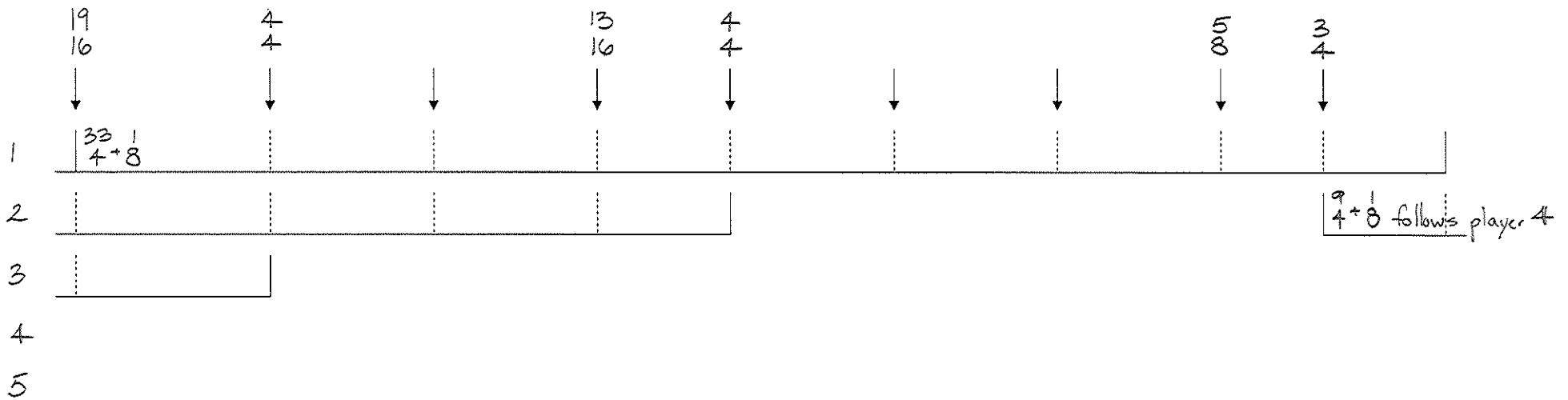
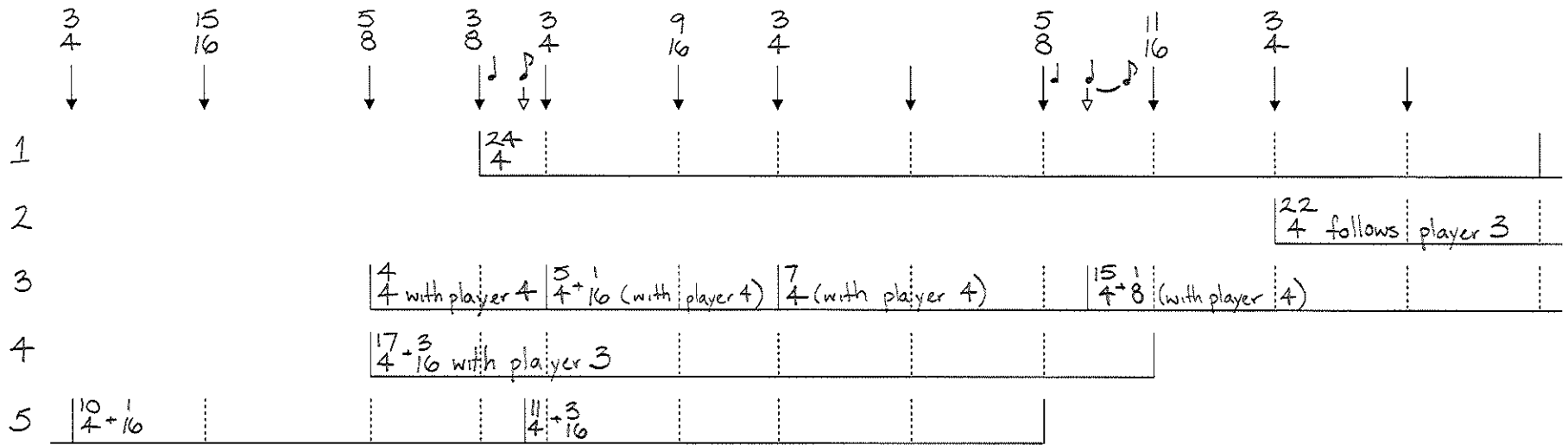
Staff 1: $\frac{4}{4}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{7}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{11}{16}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{11}{16}$

Staff 2: to player 3 →, $\frac{15}{4+16}$

Staff 3: $\frac{10}{4+8}$

Staff 4: (Empty)

Staff 5: $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{7}{4+8}$



$\begin{matrix} (3) \\ 4 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 7 \\ 8 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 15 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 19 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 7 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 7 \\ 8 \end{matrix}$ d. \downarrow

1

2 19
16 follows pl. 4

3

4 $\begin{matrix} 12 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 12 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$

5 $\begin{matrix} 16 & 1 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$

$\begin{matrix} 19 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$ d. $\begin{matrix} 11 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 9 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 17 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 15 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$

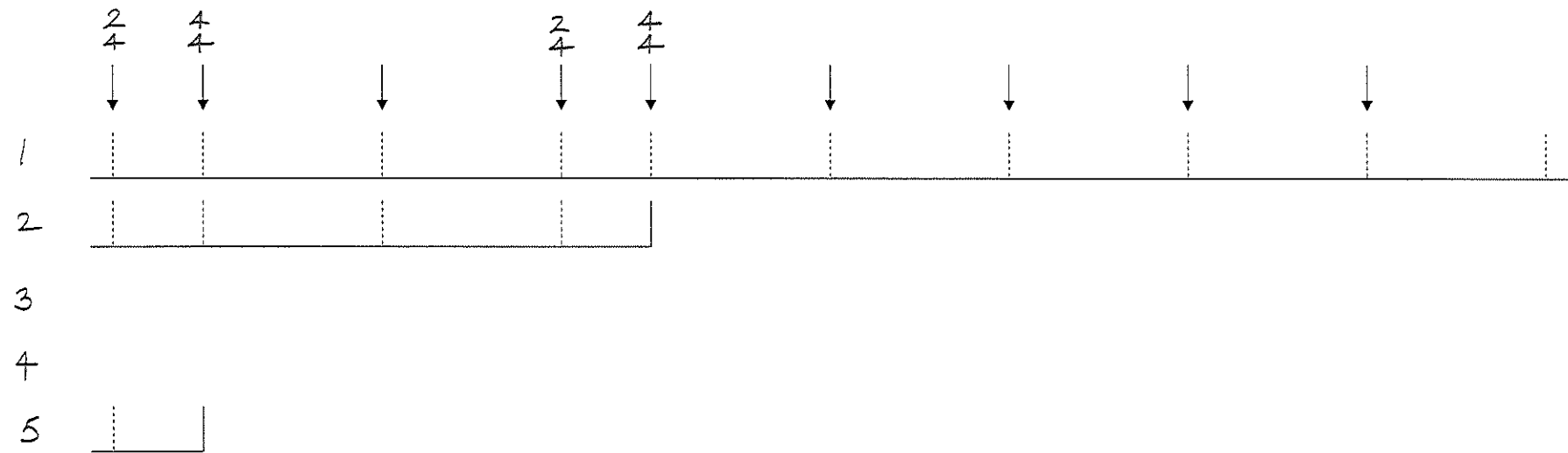
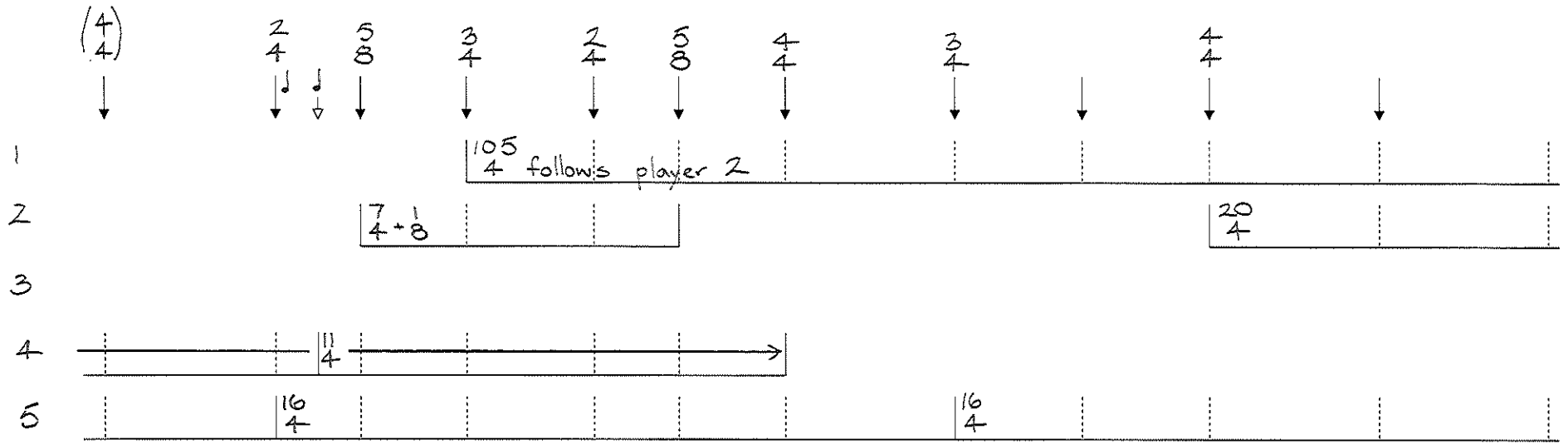
1

2 $\begin{matrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$

3 $\begin{matrix} 5 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 5 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 5 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 5 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$ to player 4 $\begin{matrix} 5 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$ \longrightarrow

4 $\begin{matrix} 12 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 12 & 3 \\ 4 & 16 \end{matrix}$ to player 5 \longrightarrow

5 $\begin{matrix} 16 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} 16 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$



$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$

1

2

5 2 3
4 + 16

1

2

19
16

1

2

3

4

5

5
8

4
4

7
8

19
16

17
16

15
16

3
4

3
16

19
16

2
4

2
4

9
16

2
4

3
8

3
8

1

2

3

4

5

Handwritten musical notation for the first system. It features five staves. Staff 1 has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a '7' above and a '4' below. Staff 2 has a similar pattern with '15/16', '7/8', and '13/16' above. Staff 3 has a box containing '13/16'. Staff 4 has a box containing '2/4'. Staff 5 has a box containing '2/4' and '3/8'. Additional numerical annotations include '3/4', '13/16', '3/4', '11/16', and '5/8' with downward arrows.

1

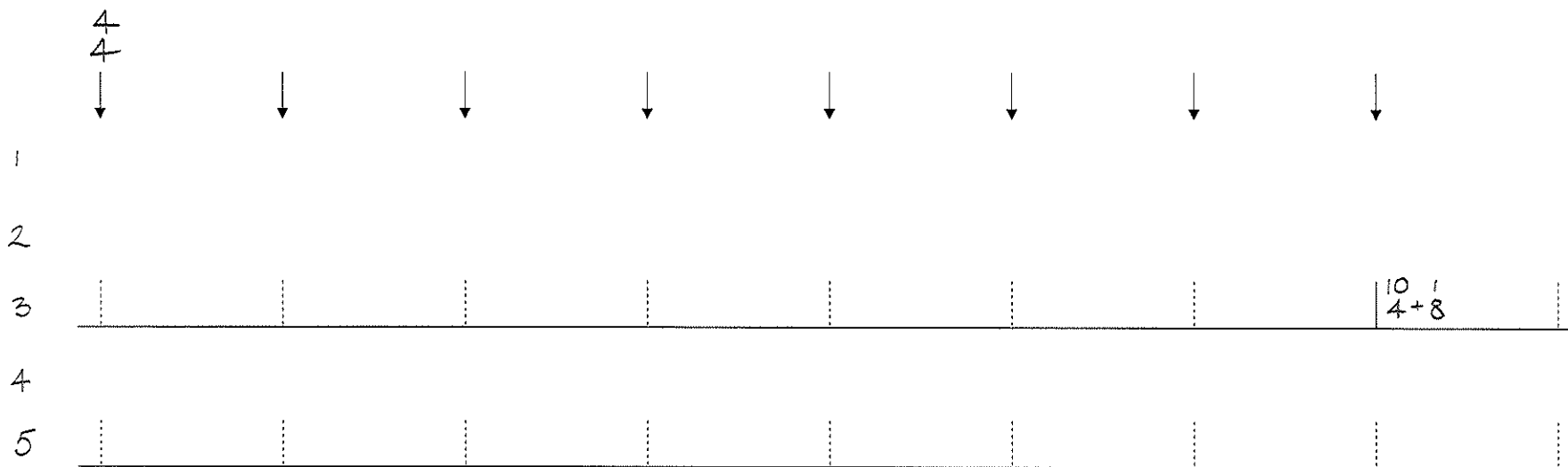
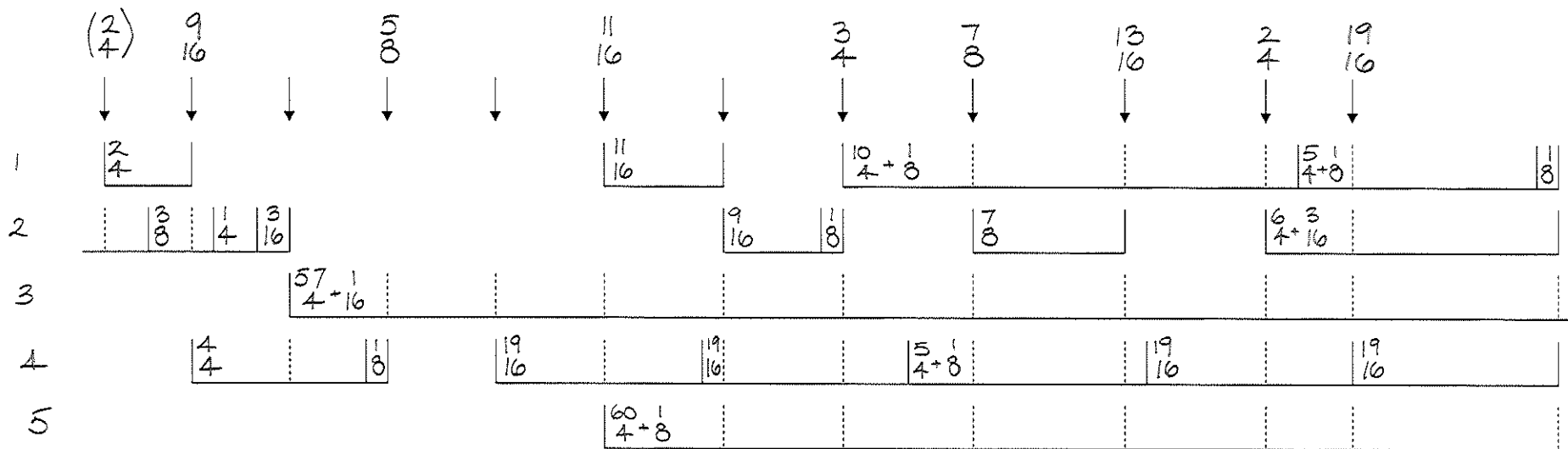
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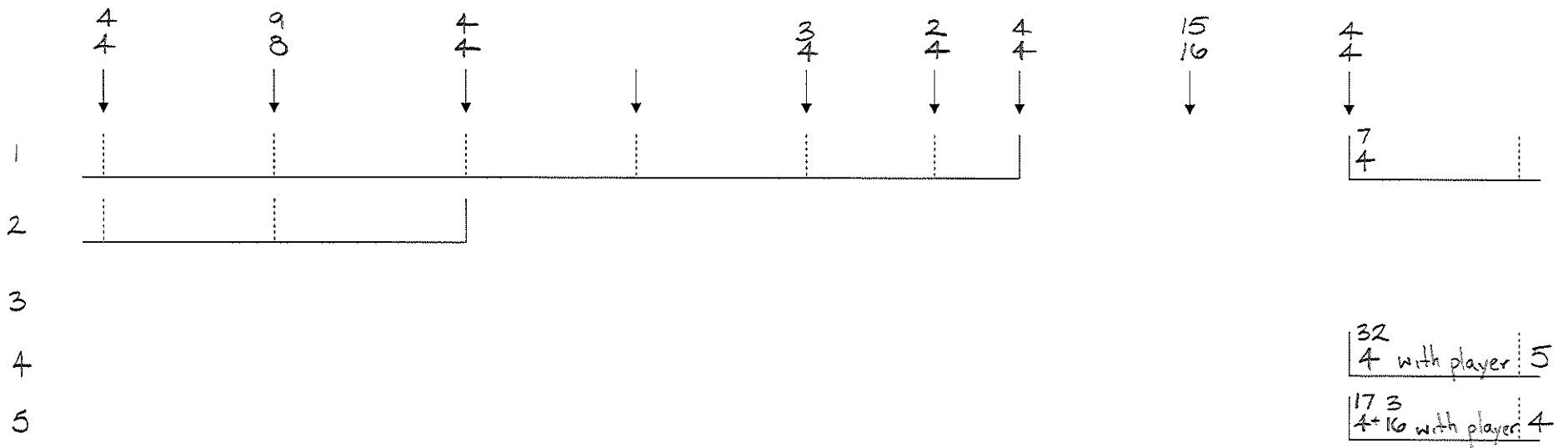
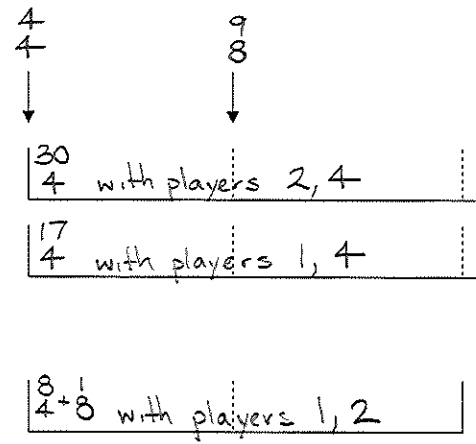
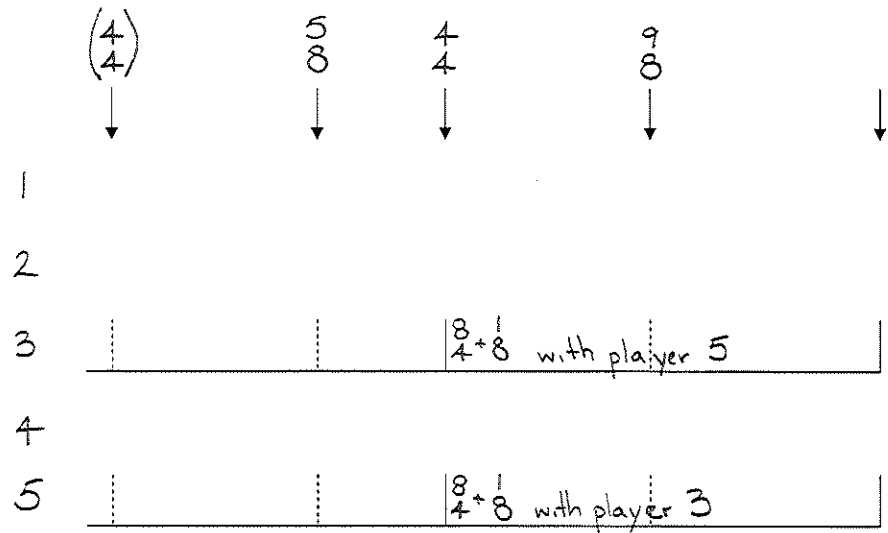
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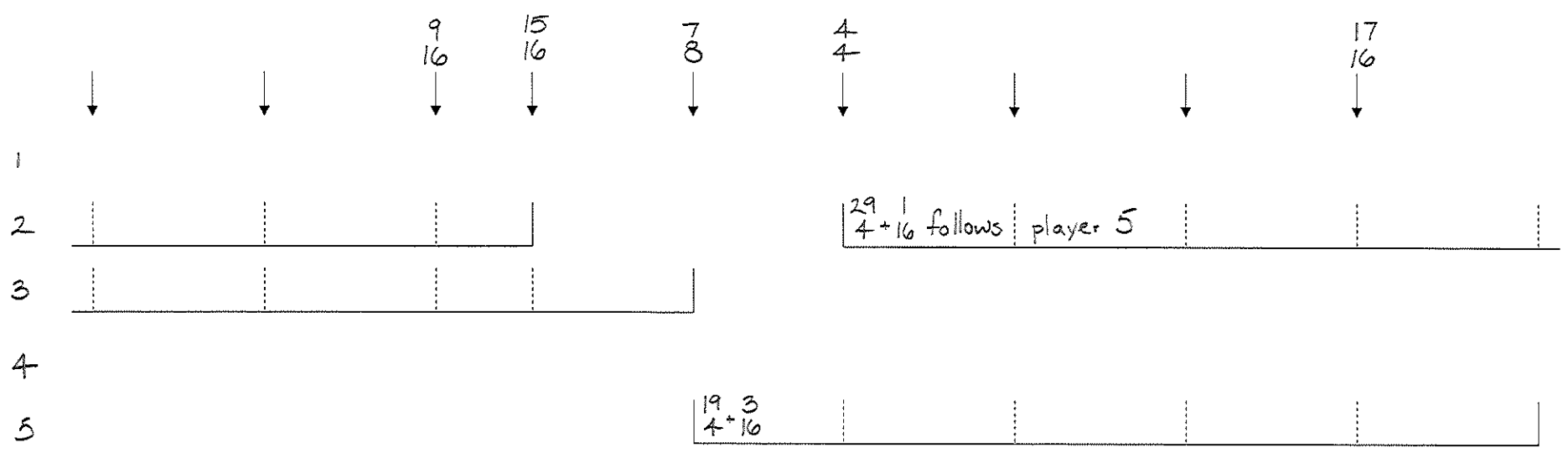
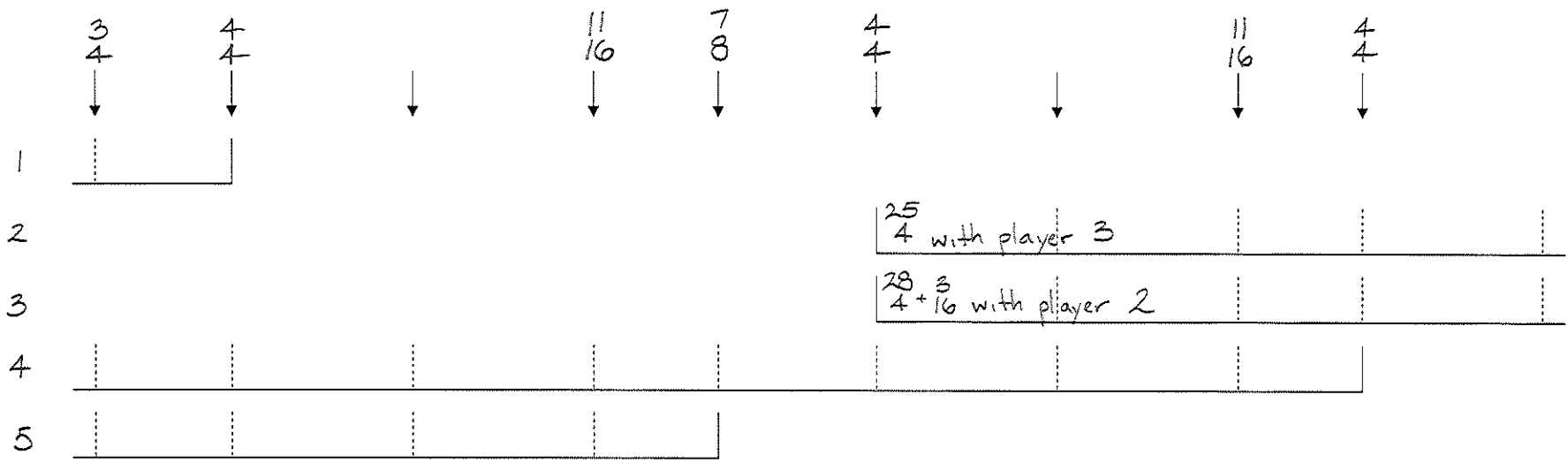
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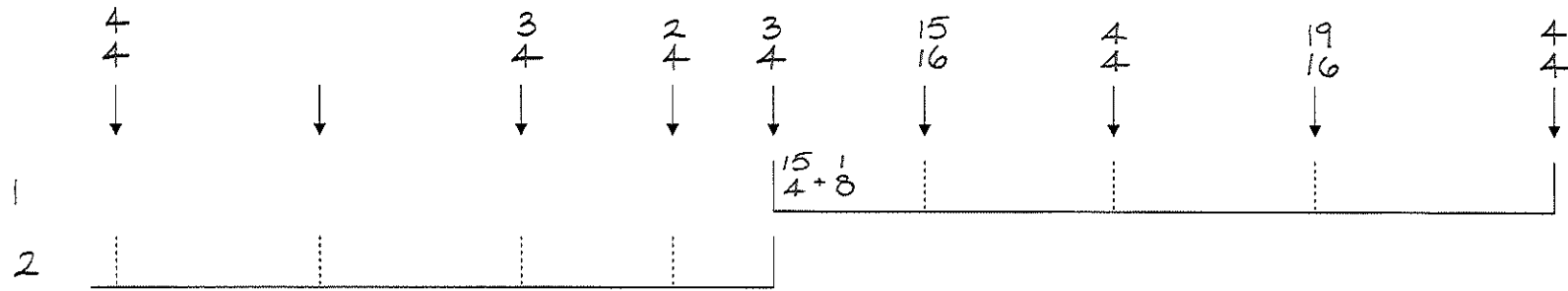
5

Handwritten musical notation for the second system. It features five staves. Staff 1 has a '4/4' with a downward arrow. Staff 2 has '9/16', '19/16', '4/4', '7/8', '3/4', '11/16', '5/8', and '9/16' with downward arrows. Staff 3 has a box containing '9/16'. Staff 4 has a box containing '5/16' and '1/4'. Staff 5 has a box containing '1/4', '5/16', '5/16', '1/4', '3/16', and '1/8'. Additional numerical annotations include '2/4', '3/4', '3/8', '3/8', '7/8', '3/16', '1/4', '3/4', '5/8', '13/16', '5/8', and '7/16' with downward arrows.

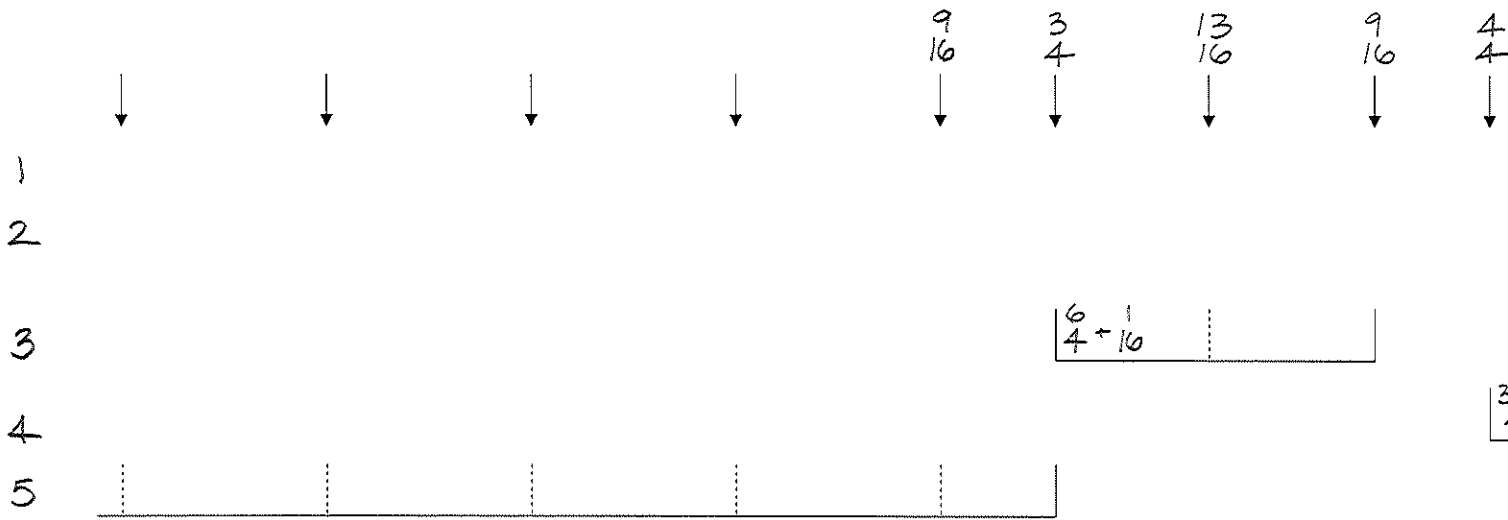








$\frac{31}{4}$ follows player 1



$\frac{6}{4+16}$

$\frac{36}{4+16}$ follows player 3

