You may be familiar with common Western musical notation, which identifies exactly what is to be played, the “notes” of the music, on a ground of five lines. But this emphasis on individual notes is not the standard, and many musical traditions, spanning across time and place, depict the contours and nuances of compositions in artful ways. These notation systems, some of which are explored here, visualize an invisible experience—an auditory performance—that inherently defies representation.