

Complex Middlegames 9-12

The 4 classes outlined below are part of the ongoing online program *Complex Middlegames*. Sign up for only \$75 for 8 hours of chess training!

Format: In all endgame classes, there will be 1 hour of presentation, then ½ hour with puzzles, followed by the last ½ hour with feedback on the puzzles.

The puzzles for this class, together with the *Zoom Meeting* link, will be emailed out to the participants shortly before the class. Afterwards, I will follow up by sending out a raw database of the material used in the class.

Monday, June 22 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 9: *Pawn sacrifices for the initiative – examples from Alekhine's games*

When I read the books by former world champion Alexander Alekhine as a youngster, I was struck by the clarity of the comments and the richness of the variations when he annotated his own games. Also, he seemed to be able to create an attack out of nothing. It was from the study of Alekhine's games that I first learned about the pawn sacrifice, long before I was able to practice it in my own games. In this class, we shall see some great examples from the hand of the 4th world champion.

Monday, June 29 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 10: *Carlsbad Structure in the QGD – classical approach to AlphaZero's inventive treatment*

In this class, I will give a complete overview over this popular middlegame structure that usually arises from the Queen's Gambit Declined. We will look at typical plans for White and Black in the middlegame, as well as classical model games. Lately, these positions were interpreted anew in the hands of the strong AI chess engine *AlphaZero*, and we will also take a look at its surprising and dynamic approach.

Monday, July 6 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 11: *Exchange sacrifices – rook for knight*

We have already done exchange sacrifices with rook for bishop (class 4) which is the most common of the two. As for rook vs knight, the knight side must be careful that the rook is not able to display its long-range abilities. For that reason, a mere pawn is often not enough compensation for the knight side - as is often the case with a bishop. We will look at some great examples, and along the way I will make comparisons between the knight and bishop.

Monday, July 13 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 12: *The risky strategy with Na5 in the Grunfeld Indian Defence*

It is quite the modern trend to place the knight on the edge of the board. It is a risky strategy that can pay off – unless the White player is able to start a kingside attack on the other side of the board. We will focus on the Grunfeld Indian, but also include other openings. With modern and classical examples, we will try to get a sense of just how risky this approach is, and also what the rewards can be if Black's strategy succeeds.

General Information

Dates: Mondays on June 22-29 and July 6-13, 2020.

Time: Evenings at 7-9pm (Eastern Time).

Rating level: Approximately 1600-2200. Ambitious players or players on their way up might want to join.

Pricing: \$75 for one program consisting of 4 classes.

Discount: If you are already participant in another of my online programs, you can sign up for only \$65. I currently have 3 online programs.

Payment: Visit our online shop at <https://silasesbenlund.com/online-chess-classes-shop/> By paying the fee, you automatically sign up.

Questions? Send an email to silas.lund@gmail.com

About me

An International Master and 7-time chess author, I settled in New York in 2017 and currently work full time with chess as a trainer, writer and blogger on silasesbenlund.com. My 4 books for Quality Chess include *Opening Simulator: King's Indian Defence* (2019, co-written with IM Andreas Hagen), *Sharp Endgames* (2017), *The Secret Life of Bad Bishops* (2014) and *Rook versus Two Minor Pieces* (2005). I use ideas from my books in the online classes, but always with new material. It is my trademark style to always have handouts for the students during class. In 2018, my wife Lu and I launched SILU Game Products LLC with a variety of products, most notably our math game *Equation Gamble* and the *2020 Chess Calendar*. Our products can be found on our Amazon Store. The chess calendar has 366 positions, one for each day of the year, with solutions the next day. A Chess Calendar for 2021 is in the making.

Check out the other 2 online programs *Interesting Endgames* and *Endgame Studies*:

<https://silasesbenlund.com/online-chess-classes>