

## Complex Middlegames 21-24

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, September 21 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 21: *Volga Gambit – typical middlegame structures*

The trademark Volga Gambit positions arise after White captures both of Black's pawns on b5 and later a6. That way, the queenside is completely opened up for Black to utilize the a- and b-files and get easy and smooth development, but at the cost of a pawn. In this class, we will look at typical endgame ideas in some of the main lines, and one interesting and important point is that Black is not afraid of an exchange of queens in many of these positions.

### Monday, September 28 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 22: *Blumenfeld Gambit*

Curiously enough, the best bet of a refutation of the Blumenfeld Gambit is to decline it and go for the active Bc1-g5. We will take a look at the complicated positions arising after this move, but also look at Blumenfeld specifics if White takes the pawn on b5. Furthermore, taking on b5 can lead to positions similar to those arising from the Volga Gambit.

### Monday, October 5 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 23: *Typical Benoni middlegame structures*

Like many of the openings in this cycle of 4 classes, there are many sharp sidelines for both sides early on – and this is also the case with the Benoni. In this class, we will focus more on typical Benoni middlegames where the d6-pawn (the trademark of the Benoni) is fixed and play evolves around the b5- and e5-squares. These are the typical breaks for Black and White, but we will look into the most important lines and also cover other main ideas. A tour de force through the Benoni setup.

## **Monday, October 12 at 7-9pm (ET).**

Class 24: *Other Benonis and transformations from KID*

With the knowledge acquired so far about Volga and Benoni structures, we will take a look at less popular Benoni structures and try to understand the differences. Schmidt Benoni allows White to play without c2-c4 and reserve c4 for a knight, and an early e7-e5 in the Czech Benoni gives White flexibility to find the right measure on the kingside (as Nf3 has not yet been played). These opening systems are regarded as favorable for White, but things are still complicated. Furthermore, we shall look at transformations from the King's Indian Defence and see how Black might try to trick White into playing the system he wants.

### **General Information**

**Dates:** Mondays on September 21-28 and October 5-12, 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](mailto: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](http://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>