

**Tigran Gorgiev, Maestro of Practical Studies:  
A World Champion's Favorite Composers**

Sergei Tkachenko

# **Tigran Gorgiev, Maestro of Practical Studies: A World Champion's Favorite Composers**

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Photos: from the author's and Gorgiev family's private archives

Front cover: photo of Tigran Gorgiev, 1930

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## FOREWORD

As can be seen from chess problem solving competitions, problems where the solutions require no more than six moves are particularly popular among chess players. The simple ideas behind such studies attract not only amateurs and club players but very strong players too.

It's no secret that many international masters and even grandmasters include short studies in their training programs. Even the very top players do this! World champion Emanuel Lasker contrived an original method to check whether he was on form. On the day of a game he would try to solve three or four studies, mostly with only a few moves in the solution. Lasker would then choose his strategic approach to his upcoming game depending on how well he solved the studies.

One of the world's greatest chess composers, chess composition grandmaster and over-the-board international master Henrikh Kasparyan, once wrote:

“Alongside long studies I also place value in short studies. Solving short studies by oneself can be just as satisfying as analyzing long ones.”

This book contains 100 short studies composed by the highly talented chess composition international master Tigran Borisovich Gorgiev.

mass use, and serial production of this unique fluid began in 1967 in the city of Kharkov.

Was this a great medical triumph? Well, it might have been! However, after several years of production of Gorgiev's bactericidal fluid, crafty medical functionaries registered what was absolutely the same solution with the Pharmacological Committee of the USSR, but under a different name, *Ecteritsid*. Gorgiev, with his innate stubbornness, did all he could to protect his hard-won brainchild. He wrote letters to the Health Ministry and to the Party... Alas, as is usually the case, the battle between a lone scientist and the System ends in defeat for the hero. The only positive news to come out of this story was that *Ecteritsid* continues to be used in medicine to this very day.

Gorgiev's list of achievements included: international arbiter (1956), master of sport of the USSR (1959) and international master (1969), all in chess composition. He was a five-time finalist in the Soviet studies championships. He produced around 400 studies and wrote three books and 101(!) articles with chess compositions. His rating in the FIDE Album reached 66.67 points, just 3.33 points below a chess composition grandmaster norm.

Tigran Gorgiev died from a heart attack on 13 December 1976.

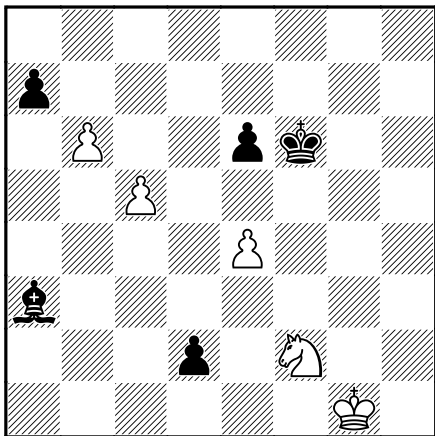


*Tigran Gorgiev's parental home in Kizlyar, 1912*



*Great composers of the twentieth century. Left to right: Philipp Bondarenko, Alexander Gulyaev and Tigran Gorgiev*

**No. 1. T. Gorgiev**  
**Izvestiia, 1927**



*White to move and win*

White's key plan is to advance the b6 pawn to the promotion square. However, he misses the win with the immediate advance 1.b7? due to 1... d1=♔+! 2.♘xd1 ♕xc5+ 3.♘f2 (alas, he cannot play 3.♘e3 due to 3...♕xe3+! 4.♔~ ♕f4, and black wins) 3...♕d6 4.e5+? (4.♘d3 draws) ♔xe5! and the white knight fails to attack the black king and bishop with tempo.

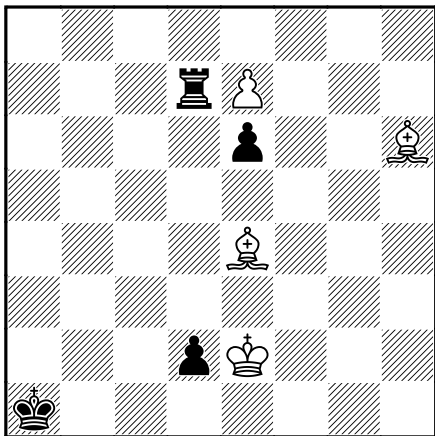
White first needs to play: **1.e5+!! ♔xe5.** Black cannot save the game with 1...♔e7 2.b7 ♕xc5 3.♔f1! ♕xf2 4.♔e2, and the white pawn is unstoppable.

**2.b7 d1=♔+! 3.♘xd1 ♕xc5+ 4.♘e3!!** This is the point of the combination!

**4...♕d6.** Now there is nothing to be gained from capturing the knight, as the b8-h2 diagonal is closed.

**5.♘c4+.** White wins.

**No. 2. T. Gorgiev**  
**Chess, 1927**



*White to move and win*



Black's ability to queen in reciprocity (with a tempo!) prevents the white pawn from immediately gaining promotion ...

**1.** ♖g7+ e5! Black loses quickly after 1...♔a2  
**2.** ♖d5+! ♖xd5 **3.** ♔d1!, and the white pawn cannot be stopped.

**2.** ♖xe5+ ♔a2 **3.** ♖d6! d1=♚+! (3...♖xd6  
4. ♔d1 ♖e6 5. ♖d5+).

**4.** ♔xd1 ♖xd6+. Black is counting on 5. ♔c2?!  
♖e6 6. ♖d5+ ♔a1! 7. ♖xe6, stalemate.

But suddenly: **5.** ♖d3!! ♖xd3+ **6.** ♔e2, and white's pawn's promotion cannot be stopped. White wins.