

It's time for another one of our specials.  
This time all about music.

Did you know that FIDE has its own anthem?

Here it is on p.2. Not many people know the words!

We know François-André Danican best under the name Philidor. He was the world's best chess player for 40 years in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

Sergei Prokofiev and Maurice Ravel are two greats of 20<sup>th</sup> Century classical music. Prokofiev was a strong player (see the finish against Alekhine on p.5) and made mincemeat of Ravel when they played.

Then we have items from the musical Chess and its best-known song – One Night in Bangkok.



In this issue:

- 2 FIDE Anthem
- 3 Strongest Composers
- 3 Philidor
- 5 Prokofiev & Ravel
- 6 Chess - the Musical
- 7 One Night in Bangkok  
Checkmate  
GM Mark Taimanov  
Robert Schumann
- 8 Robert Schumann's Puzzle page

Errors occur on stamps...

as well as on the chessboard!



Schumann (but music by Schubert!)



Schumann (with music by Schumann)

## ***FIDE Anthem***

It was written by Count Gian Carlo dal Verme. We think it highly appropriate that it was written by an Italian, since it was another Italian, Nicola Palladino who founded our Chess in Schools Commission in 1984. FIDE was founded in Paris on 20 July 1924, so it is also appropriate that the words, in French, were written by a Frenchman, Marcel Berman. We think that the whole was prepared in the late 1940s. Nowadays, the words are rarely if ever sung, but the anthem is played at the opening and closing ceremonies of major chess events around the world.



Gian Carlo Dal Verme  
(1908-1985)



FIDE flag



Marcel Berman  
(1895-1960)



FIDE logo

## The Strongest Composers

The all time greatest chess player among composers of music was, by a mile, François-André DANICAN – 'Philidor'. He was the best player in the world from 1755 (age 29) until his death in 1795.



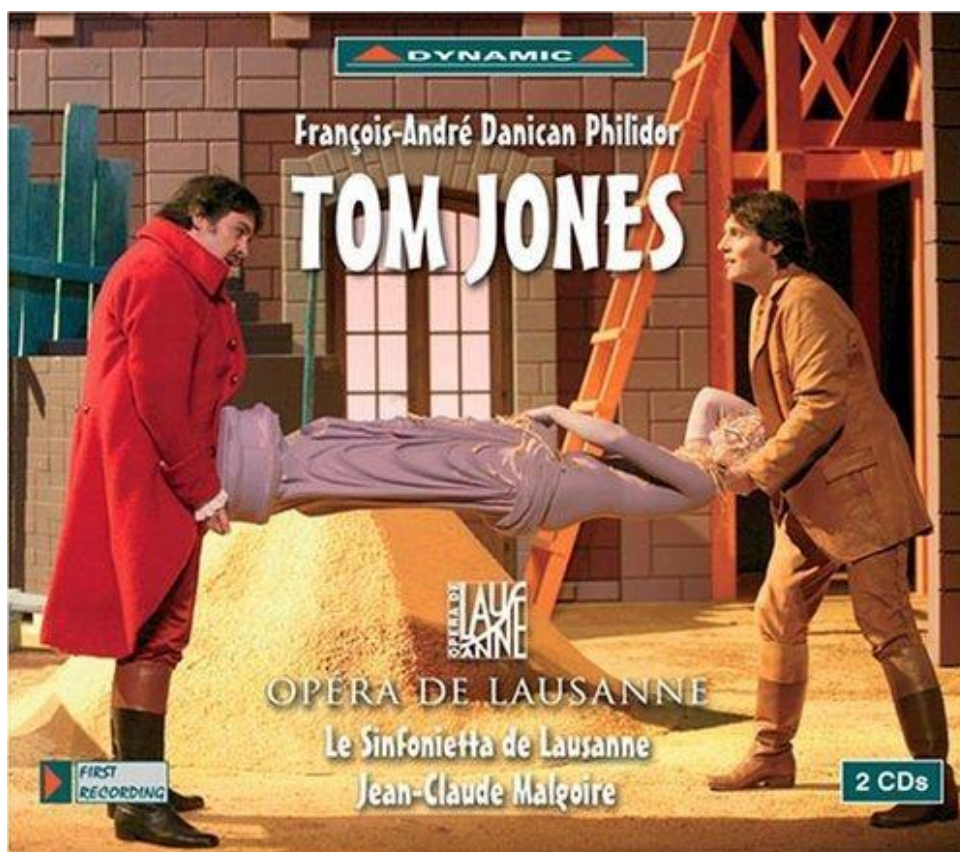


Paris Opera building



Paris street named after him

He wrote about 24 important works, mostly operas, of which Tom Jones is best known.



A few weeks ago, a Philidor Day was held in the Palace of Versailles. Main feature of the day was IM François Vaireille giving a simultaneous display against 60 opponents (+56 =2 -2). Vaireille was dressed in period costume, as were some of his opponents (photos ChessBase).





Philidor would have been familiar with much of the Palace, although not the room in which the simultaneous display took place – the galerie des Batailles was reconfigured from older rooms and opened in 1837.

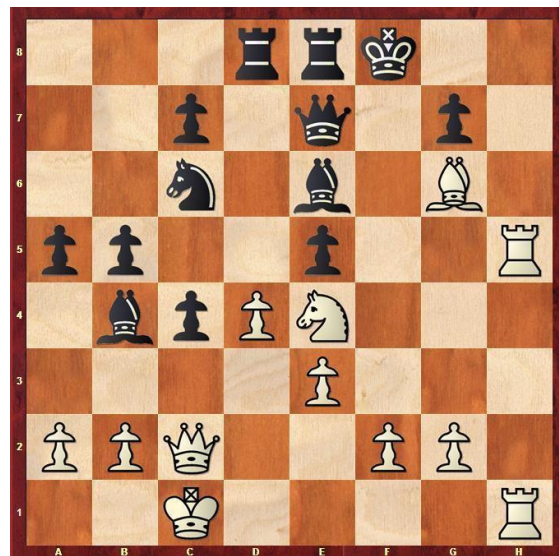


In second place, at a considerable distance, we can put the great Soviet composer Serge PROKOFIEV. He was of master strength as a chess player. In simultaneous displays, he defeated several world champions. Here are a couple of his games, where he defeated Alexander ALEKHINE (a few years before he became the 4<sup>th</sup> world champion) and a neat


**h7+ c̄g8–f8 14.xc3– e4 f̄f6–e7 15.x̄e2–f4 b7–  
b5 16.†h1–h5 e6–e5**

17.xf4-g6+ f7xg6 18.¥h7xg6 ¥c8-e6 19.¡d1- h1  
¡a8-d8

1.f2-f4 d7-d5 2.e2-e3 c7-c5 3.♘g1-f3 ♚c8-g4  
4.♜f1-e2 e7-e6 5.b2-b3 ♜f8-e7 6.0-0 ♟b8-c6 7.h2-h3 ♔g4xf3 8.♜e2xf3 ♜e7-f6 9.♜a1-b1 ♟g8-e7  
10.♜c1-a3 ♔d8-a5 11.♔d1-c1 ♟c6-b4 12.♜a3xb4  
c5xb4 13.a2-a4 ♜a8-c8 14.g2-g4 g7-g6 15.d2-d4  
♔a5-c7 16.♔c1-d2 ♔c7-c3 17.♔d2-e2 0-0 18.♜b1-  
c1 ♜f6-g7 19.♜f1-d1 ♜c8-c7 20.h3-h4 f7-f6 21.h4-h5  
g6xh5 22.g4xh5 ♔g8-h8 23.♔g1-f2 e6-e5 24.e3-e4  
f6-f5 25.e4xd5 e5-e4 26.d5-d6 ♜g7xd4+  
27.♔f2-f1 ♟e7-d5 28.d6xc7 ♟d5-e3+ 29.♔f1-g1  
♟e3xd1+ 30.♔g1-h2 ♟d1-e3 31.♜f3-h1 ♔c3xc7 0-1.



1.d2-d4 ♖g8-f6 2.c2-c4 e7-e6 3.♘b1-c3 ♜f8-b4  
4.♜c1-g5  
♘b8-c6  
5.e2-e3  
0-0  
6.♜f1-d3  
d7-d5  
7.♖g1-e2  
a7-a5  
8.f d1-c2  
h7-h6  
9.h2-h4  
h6xg5  
10.h4xg5  
!f8-e8  
11.g5xf6  
f d8xf6  
12.0-0-0  
d5xc4  
13.♞d3-



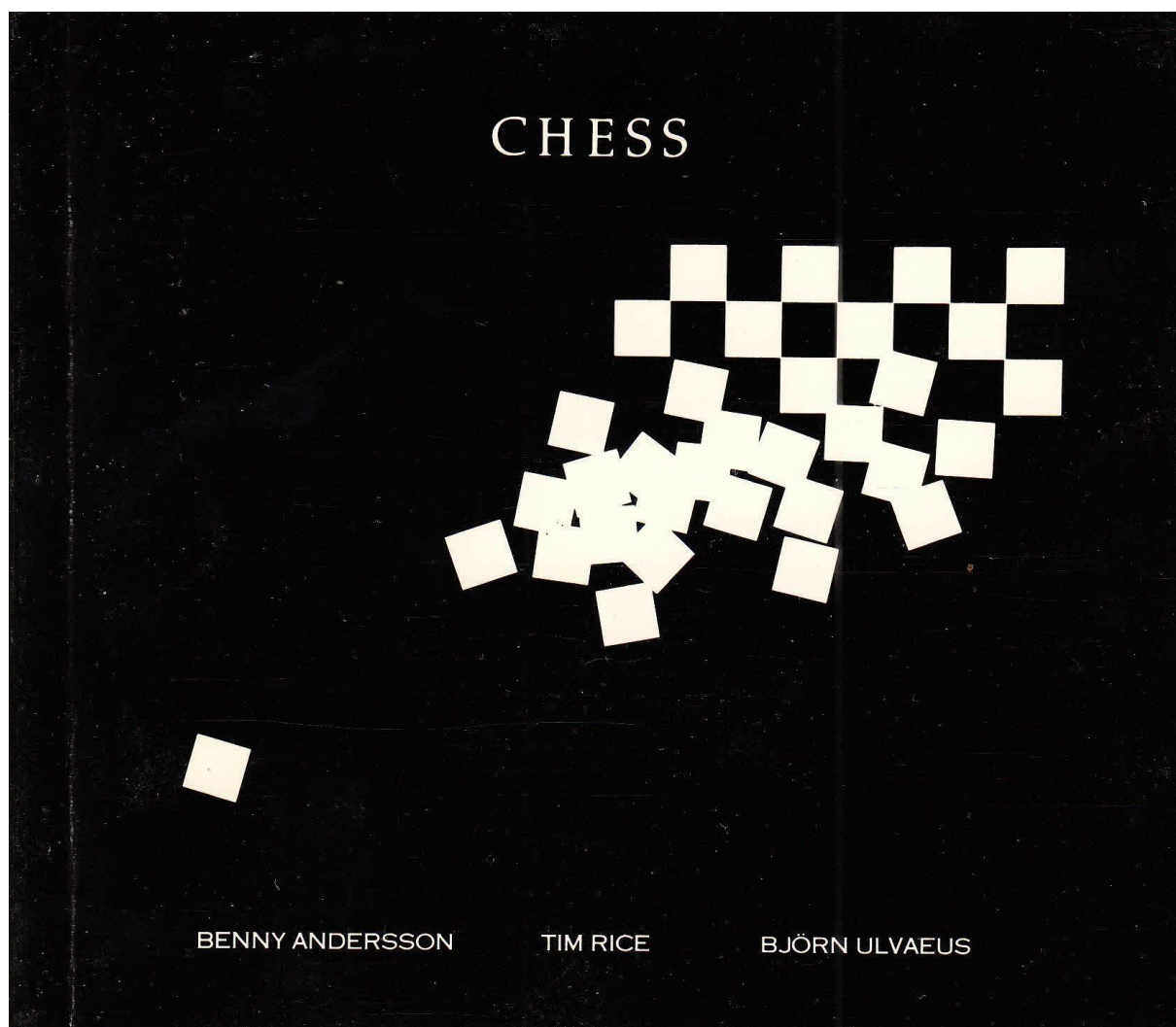
20. ♭h5-  
f5+ ♭f8-  
g8  
21. ♭c2-  
e2 ♯e6xf5  
22. ♭h1-  
h8+  
♭g8xh8  
23. ♭e2-  
h5+ ♭h8-  
g8  
24. ♭h5-  
h7+ ♭g8-  
f8  
25. ♭h7-  
h8#

## ***Chess – the Musical***

This famous musical is now more than 30 years old. The music was composed by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, previously of ABBA (ask your parents, or maybe your grandparents!) and the lyrics (words) were written by Tim Rice.

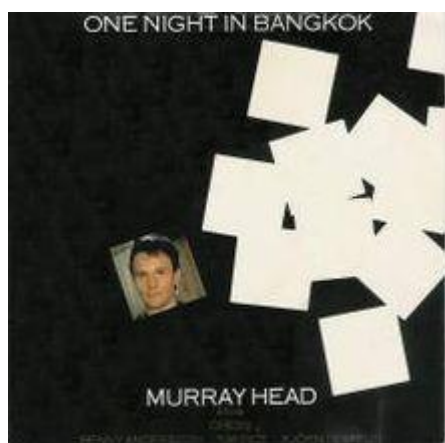


The story is loosely based on the 1972 Fischer-Spassky (Reykjavik), 1978 Karpov-Korchnoi (Baguio) and 1981 Karpov-Korchnoi (Merano) matches. Most of the action takes place in Merano, Italy during a title match.



The musical was a hit in London & New York in the 1980s and has been staged in many countries since. Memorable performances include two up near the Arctic Circle in Skelleftea 1989 and Tromsø 2014. The Skelleftea performance, during the World Cup tournament had Andersson, Ulvaeus and several members of the original cast, while the audience included several World Champions (including Kasparov, Karpov and Tal). Topalov (World Champion 2005-2006) was among those in the audience, the performance in Tromsø being during last year's Chess Olympiad.

## ***One Night in Bangkok***



This is one of the most famous songs from the musical Chess. Sung by Murray Head, it reached number 1 in the charts of Australia, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland.

## ***Checkmate***

Did you know that there is a ballet of that name? Created by famous choreographer Ninette de Valois with music by Arthur Bliss, its premiered in Paris in 1937.



There are several versions that can be watched or listened to on YouTube.

## ***GM Mark Taimanov***

Taimanov (89) played in 23 Soviet Chess Championships, sharing first place twice in 1952 (losing the play-off to Botvinnik) and 1956 (winning the play-off against Averbakh & Spassky). Here he is featured in the series of Great Pianists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in piano duets with his wife.



## ***Robert Schumann (1810-1856)***

Famous romantic composer born in Zwickau, Germany. His monument there pictured below (Wikipedia).



He was very fond of chess and an avid player. We know this from his own writings, not least his Leipziger Lebensbuch 1831–1838, in which he jotted down a number of puzzles.



# Robert Schumann's Puzzles page!

1. ♖e3-g5+ h6xg5 2. ♔d2xg5#. 3. ♖a5xa7+ ♔b8xa7 2. ♖b2-a2+ ♖d7-a4 [2... ♔a7-b8 3. ♖a2-a8#] 3. ♖a2xa4+ ♔a7-b8 4. ♖a4-a8#. 4. 1. ♔f3-g5+ ♖g6xg5 2. ♖f1-f6+ ♔e6xf6 3. ♖d1-d6#.

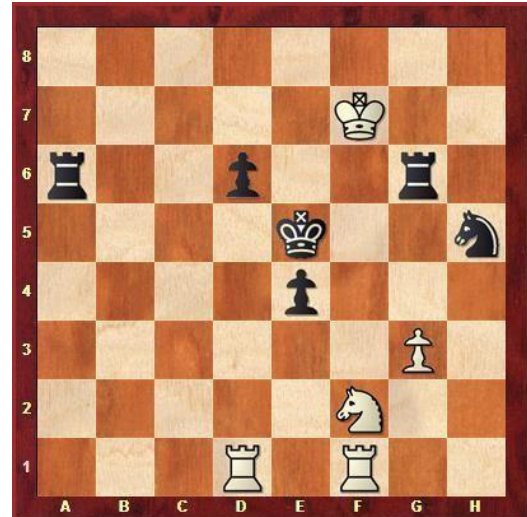
## SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES

1 White to play. Checks & checks.



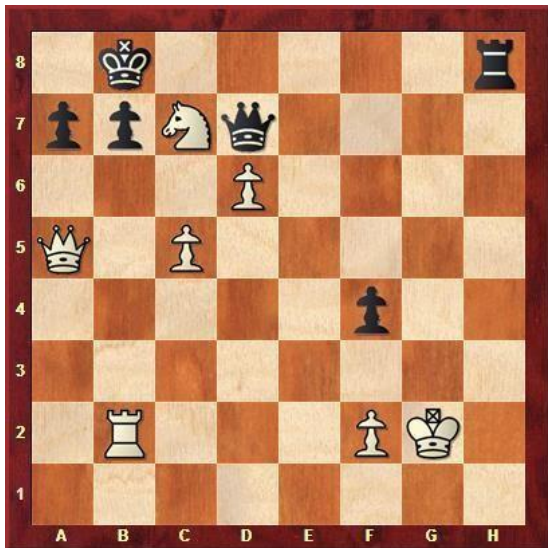
Schumanns Leipziger Lebensbuch 1831–1838

3 White to play. Al-Adli 1000 years!



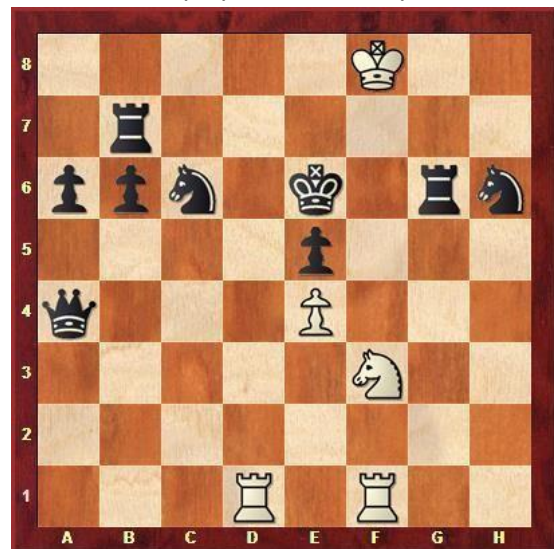
Schumanns Leipziger Lebensbuch 1831–1838

2 White to play. Simple technique.



Schumanns Leipziger Lebensbuch 1831–1838

4 White to play. Al-Adli 1000 years!



Schumanns Leipziger Lebensbuch 1831–1838