

The 9th Youth Chess Composing Challenge - 2025

Introduction

The ninth edition of the Youth Chess Composing Challenge has engaged 34 young chess composers from 14 countries, aged 9-23 years, and inspired them to create 66 chess problems and studies. As in previous years there were three sections: A – thematic twomover, B – endgames without a set theme, and C – all kinds of problems without any restrictions about the content.

It was great to see the composers from Belgium, Brazil, China, and Singapore coming to YCCC for the first time, and to notice several new and promising names from Romania and Ukraine, presenting these two countries better than ever before.

The quality of the YCCC kept rising, and the already experienced participants kept improving. The same as the previous year, Ural Khasanov from Russia dominated the field, with a golden medal in Section A, and silver medals in Sections B & C.

The most exciting novelty was the appearance of Shang Riye. The first ever participant from China has already secured important place among very rare chess composers in the history of his country, thanks to his outstanding win in Section C. For the first time one entry got the maximal mark of 4.0 points from all the eight judges, and the composer climbed to the 2nd place in overall standings. Another great newcomer was Stefan-Constantin Harnagea from Romania on the third place, with convincing win in the study section. For Lim Bin Yang from Singapore, it was a great debut to climb to the 8th place thanks to only one entry – his endgame.

Overall standings: 1. Ural Khasanov 41.5, 2. Shang Riye 29.5, 3. Stefan-Constantin Harnagea 26, 4. Ilija Serafimović 22.5, 5. Joachim Hambros 21, 6. Dylan Schenker 17, 7. Ben Smolkin 16.5, 8. Lim Bin Yang 11.5 points, etc.

The five most successful composers have earned 500 Euros vouchers for WCCC/ECSC 2026, granted by the Fujairah Government. The next three will have the status of reserves.

The standard YCCC Team of 11 judges and two organizers worked with the same passion and devotion as always. This year Hans Gruber took the role of assistant to the traditional YCCC director Julia Vysotska, and brought a significant improvement in quality and speed of the final presentation of results.

We are ready for the 10th edition of the YCCC!

Marjan Kovačević

YCCC Coordinator

Participants of the 9th YCCC

No.	Name	Sec.A	Sec.B	Sec.C
1	Anton Lysojvan (Ukraine, 2002)	A12		C1
2	Joachim Hambros (Austria, 2003)	A7		
3	Ilija Serafimović (Serbia, 2004)	A13		C3
4	Lim Bin Yang (Singapore, 2004)		B8	
5	William Dolmer (USA, 2004)		B1	
6	Cauã Leite (Brazil, 2005)		B14	
7	Ural Khasanov (Russia, 2006)	A3		C4
8	Anton Nasyrov (Russia, 2006)	A15		C5
9	Ben Smolkin (Canada, 2006)	A2		C6
10	Shang Riye (China, 2006)	A14		C7
11	Yaroslav Ship (Ukraine, 2006)	A8		
12	Ruslan Stetsenko (Russia, 2007)			C8
13	Daniel Dumitrescu (Romania, 2007)	A6		C9
14	Dylan Schenker (USA, 2007)	A4		C11
15	Anirudh Daga (India, 2008)			C10
16	Stefan-Constantin Harnagea (Romania, 2009)	A1		C12
17	Maxim Avvakumov (Russia, 2009)			C13
18	Mihails Šalašovs (Latvia, 2010)		B16	
19	Idan David (Israel, 2010)	A16		C15
20	Fedor Polovkov (Russia, 2010)			C16
21	Taras Rudenko (Ukraine, 2011)	A9		C17
22	Arthur Frolov (Russia, 2011)			C18
23	Andrei Moga Crăciun (Romania, 2011)			C19
24	Justys van der Beek (Belgium, 2011)			C20
25	Georgie Eruslanov (Russia, 2011)		B18	
26	Pedro Maset (Brazil, 2012)			C21
27	Arseniy Saga (Russia, 2013)		B19	
28	Oleksandr Veksler (Ukraine, 2013)	A10		C23
29	Flora Sarmento (Brazil, 2013)			C24
30	Arthur Reimberg (Brazil, 2013)			C25
31	Nikolay Sheviakov (Russia, 2014)			C26
32	Maksym Kryshafor (Ukraine, 2014)	A5		C27
33	Egor Malanin (Russia, 2015)	A11		C28
34	Gabriel Francisconi (Brazil, 2016)			C29