

9th WCCI 2022-2024 – Director's Report

by Shankar Ram

Acknowledgements:



I would like to express my sincere thanks to the WFCC President, Marjan Kovačević for inviting me to serve as Director, and to the WFCC Presidium and delegates for endorsing his proposal. I am especially grateful to Marco Guida, the WCCI spokesman, for his ongoing support throughout the process. My appreciation also goes to Harry Fougias and Dmitri Turevski for generously sharing their valuable experience from previous editions.

Of course, a special thanks is due to the 40 judges whose outstanding work enabled us to complete the results well ahead of schedule. I should not forget the reserve judges, who were ready to step in if needed. I also acknowledge the supervising panel for their careful review and error-checking.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to all the composers who submitted entries. Their participation truly made this a world-class and genuinely international competition.

The Judge Hunt:

Marco and I initiated the search to finalise 40 judges for the 8 section around February 2023. Over the course of the next 6 months, we wrote to around 70 possible candidates from around 39 countries, before finalising the list of 40 judges. Subsequently, we added 2 more as one of the selected judges had passed away and one declined due to health reasons. We also managed to find reserve judges for 6 of the 8 sections. Earlier the supervising panel consisting of Brian Cook, Neal Turner and Gady Costeff was also constituted. The final picture before the announcement was:

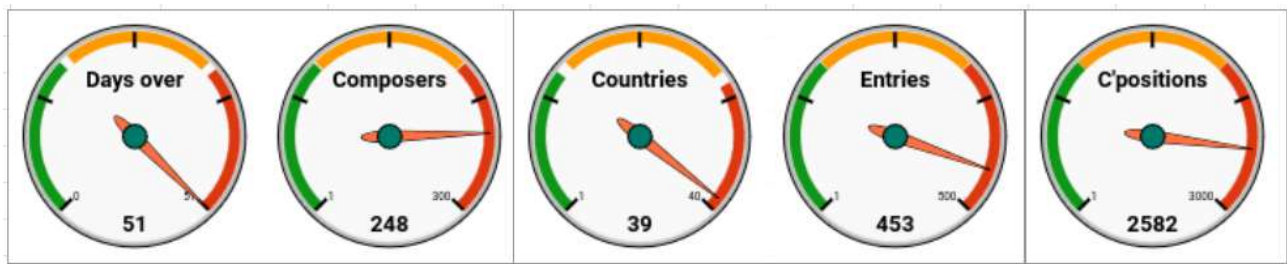
|  | WCCI 2022-24: Judges | | | 40 Judges, 6 Reserve Judges, from 29 Countries | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------|-------------|--|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | A (#2) | B (#3) | C (#n) | D (eg) | E (h#) | F (s#) | G (fairy) | H (retro) |
|  | Moen | Gavrilovski | Kraetschmer | Sprenger | Roland | Borodavkin | Widlert | Caillaud |
| | Khramtsevic | Onkoud | Mihalco | Pasman | Simoni | Laue | Wakashima | Brand |
| | Markovcij | Narayanan | Marandyuk | Gonzalez | Klasinc | Erenburg | Gadjanski | Crisan |
| | Mosiashvili | Stojnic | Shavyrin | Ostmoe | Velikhanov | Azhusin | Einat | Le Gleuher |
| | Shire | Valtonen | Schmitt | Gasparyan | Fougias | Havran | Klemanich | Prentos |
| Reserve Judge | Novitsky | Quah | | Nielsen | Comay | | Seetharaman | Frolkin |
| Spokesman: Marco Guida; Director: N. Shankar Ram; Supervising Panel: Neal Turner, Gady Costeff, Brian Cook | | | | | | | | |

Arrival of the entries:

The entries started coming in from 1-Dec-2024. Most participants followed the rules of submission: single file, PDF format, compositions numbered 1 to 6 (or 4 or 5), though some submissions were in .DOCX or image format, including scans. Most sent in their entries to multiple sections together, while others sent them separately. Some submissions were not numbered. All these discrepancies were easily corrected, except in a few cases where I asked the composers to resubmit in the correct format. One composer tried to send his compatriot's entry without a proper authorisation. After several futile attempts, I finally accepted that submission. After a rather slow beginning in December, the entries picked up speed in January, with the highest number of submissions on the last day (20-Jan).

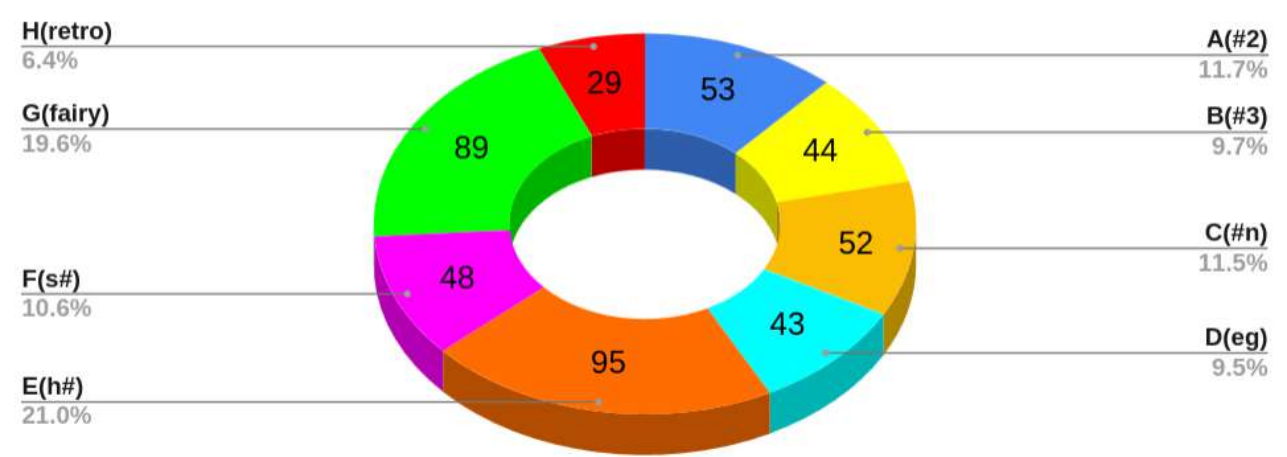


The final picture was:



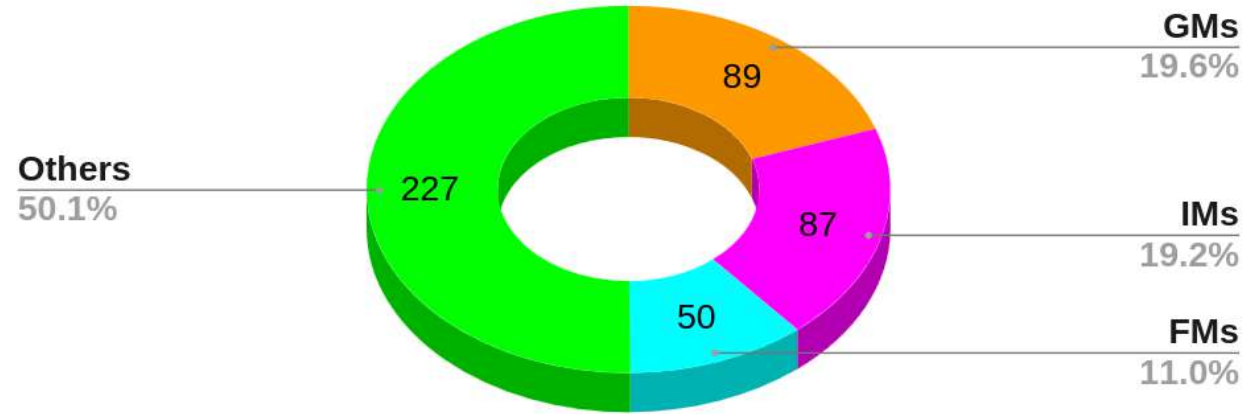
| | #2 A | #3 B | #n C | eg D | h# E | s# F | fairy G | retros H | Entries | Compositions |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|--------------|
| Section Totals (Entries) | 53 | 44 | 52 | 43 | 95 | 48 | 89 | 29 | 453 | |
| Section Totals (Compositions) | 297 | 249 | 282 | 249 | 551 | 274 | 512 | 168 | | 2582 |

Sections and Entries



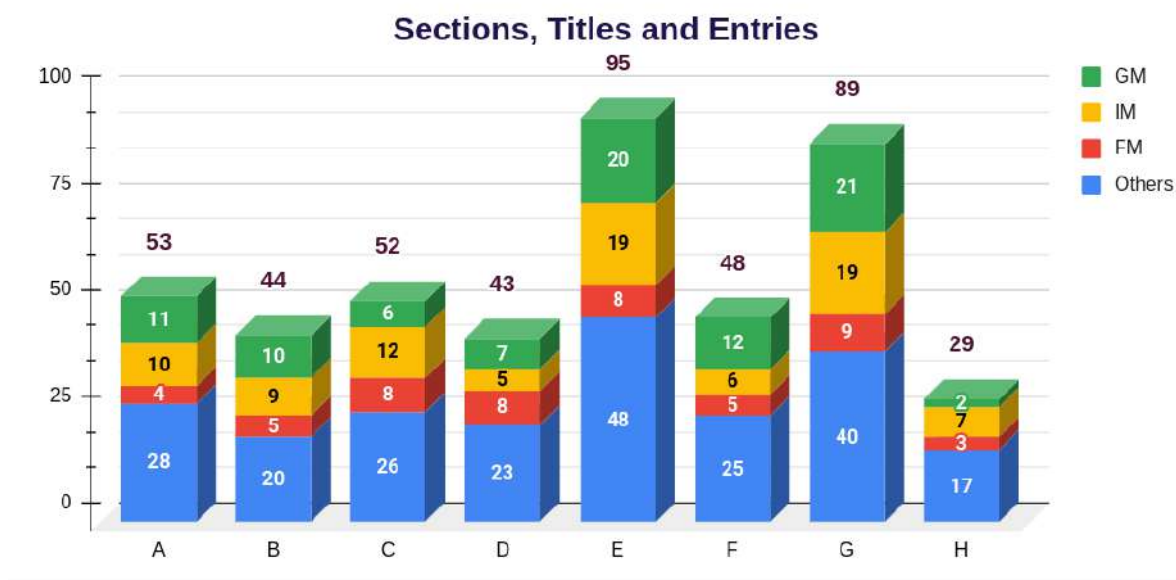
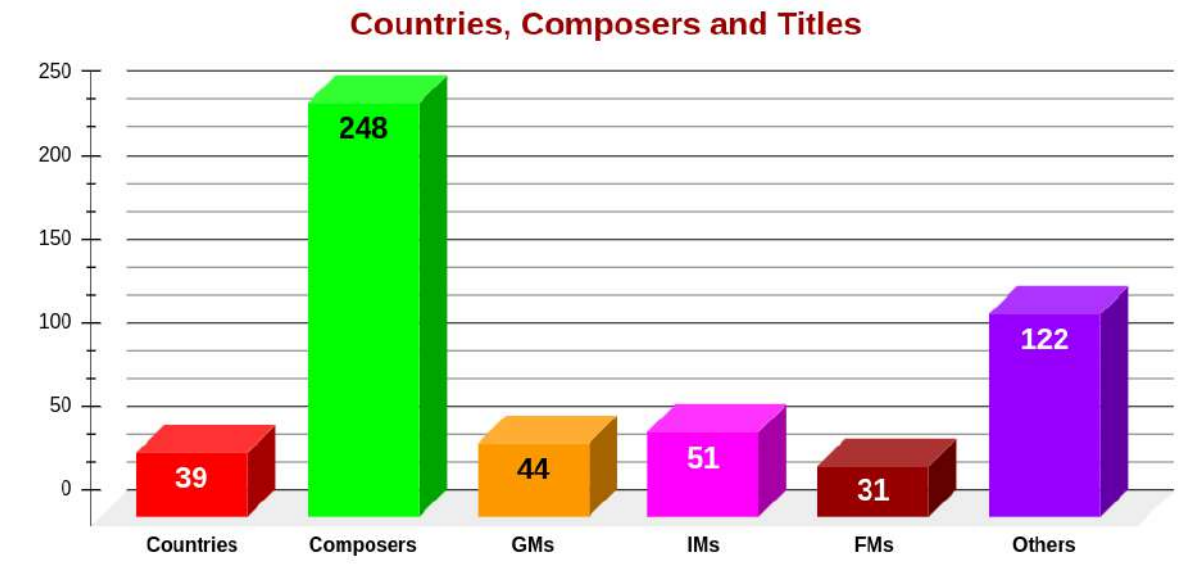
As expected, the h#s and fairies sections dominated.

Titles and Entries

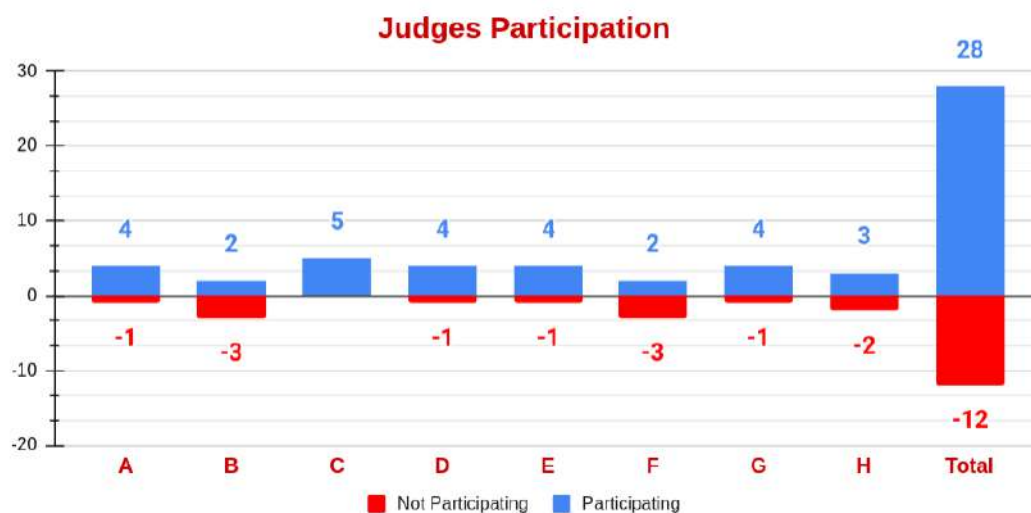


There was an even split between titled and other composers.

These two charts show the breakup between composers, countries, titles, sections and entries:



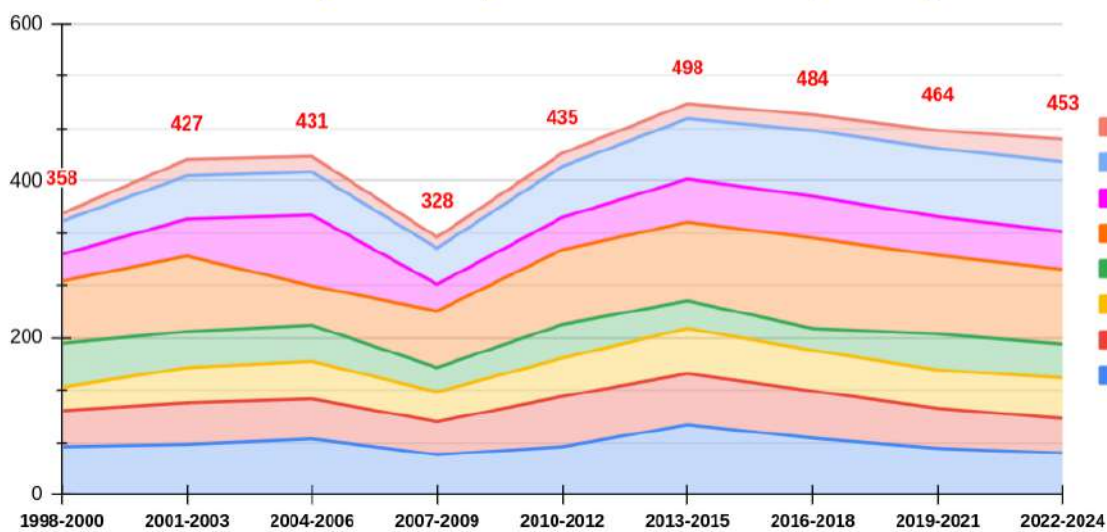
Judges participated in all sections, with only #3s and s#s showing a lower figure:



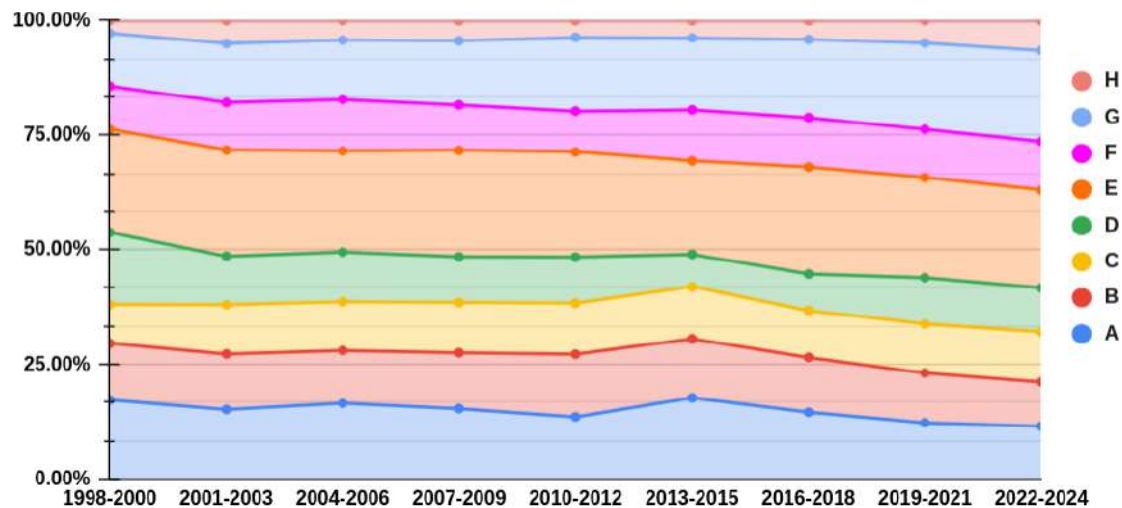
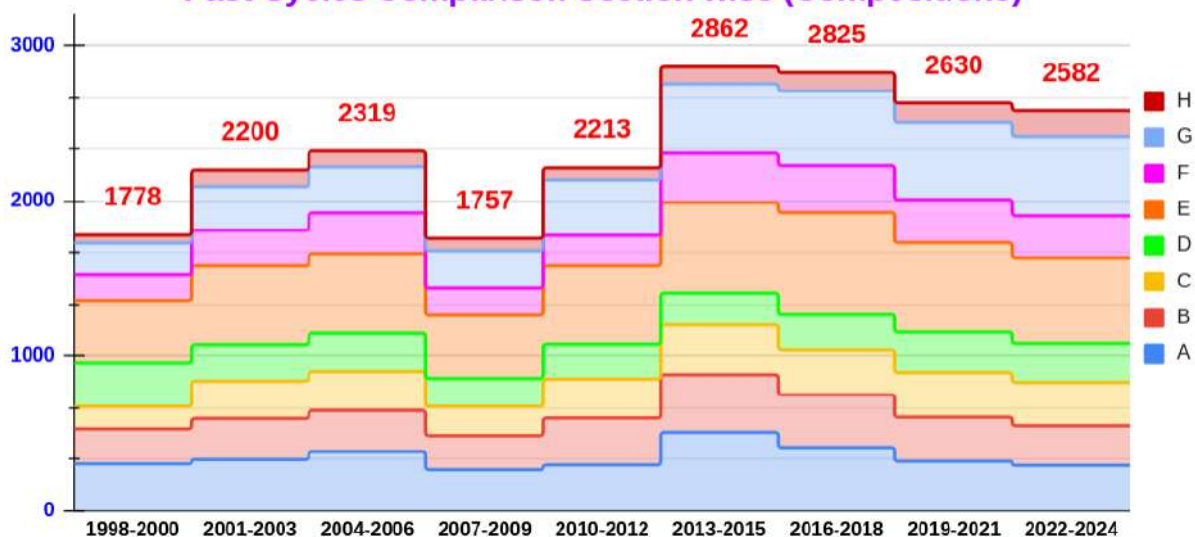
These two tables show the comparison with past cycles:

| WCCI statistics - 1998-2000 to 2022-2024 (Entries) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| Period | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | Total |
| 1998-2000 | 61 | 46 | 30 | 56 | 79 | 34 | 42 | 10 | 358 |
| 2001-2003 | 64 | 53 | 45 | 46 | 96 | 47 | 55 | 21 | 427 |
| 2004-2006 | 71 | 51 | 48 | 46 | 50 | 90 | 55 | 20 | 431 |
| 2007-2009 | 51 | 42 | 38 | 31 | 72 | 34 | 46 | 14 | 328 |
| 2010-2012 | 61 | 64 | 49 | 43 | 95 | 41 | 65 | 17 | 435 |
| 2013-2015 | 89 | 65 | 58 | 35 | 100 | 55 | 77 | 19 | 498 |
| 2016-2018 | 72 | 60 | 52 | 28 | 115 | 53 | 84 | 20 | 484 |
| 2019-2021 | 59 | 51 | 49 | 46 | 100 | 49 | 87 | 23 | 464 |
| 2022-2024 | 53 | 44 | 52 | 43 | 95 | 48 | 89 | 29 | 453 |

| WCCI Statistics - 1998-2000 to 2022-2024 (Compositions) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Period | Composers | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | Total |
| 1998-2000 | 206 | 306 | 220 | 150 | 280 | 400 | 168 | 205 | 49 | 1778 |
| 2001-2003 | 226 | 333 | 267 | 236 | 233 | 510 | 229 | 283 | 109 | 2200 |
| 2004-2006 | 224 | 383 | 267 | 245 | 253 | 511 | 261 | 301 | 98 | 2319 |
| 2007-2009 | 168 | 269 | 215 | 192 | 176 | 408 | 174 | 246 | 77 | 1757 |
| 2010-2012 | 227 | 299 | 304 | 245 | 224 | 507 | 197 | 356 | 81 | 2213 |
| 2013-2015 | 248 | 506 | 369 | 325 | 202 | 584 | 319 | 449 | 108 | 2862 |
| 2016-2018 | 265 | 411 | 338 | 288 | 227 | 658 | 305 | 482 | 116 | 2825 |
| 2019-2021 | 258 | 322 | 286 | 281 | 266 | 575 | 277 | 495 | 128 | 2630 |
| 2022-2024 | 248 | 297 | 249 | 282 | 249 | 551 | 274 | 512 | 168 | 2582 |

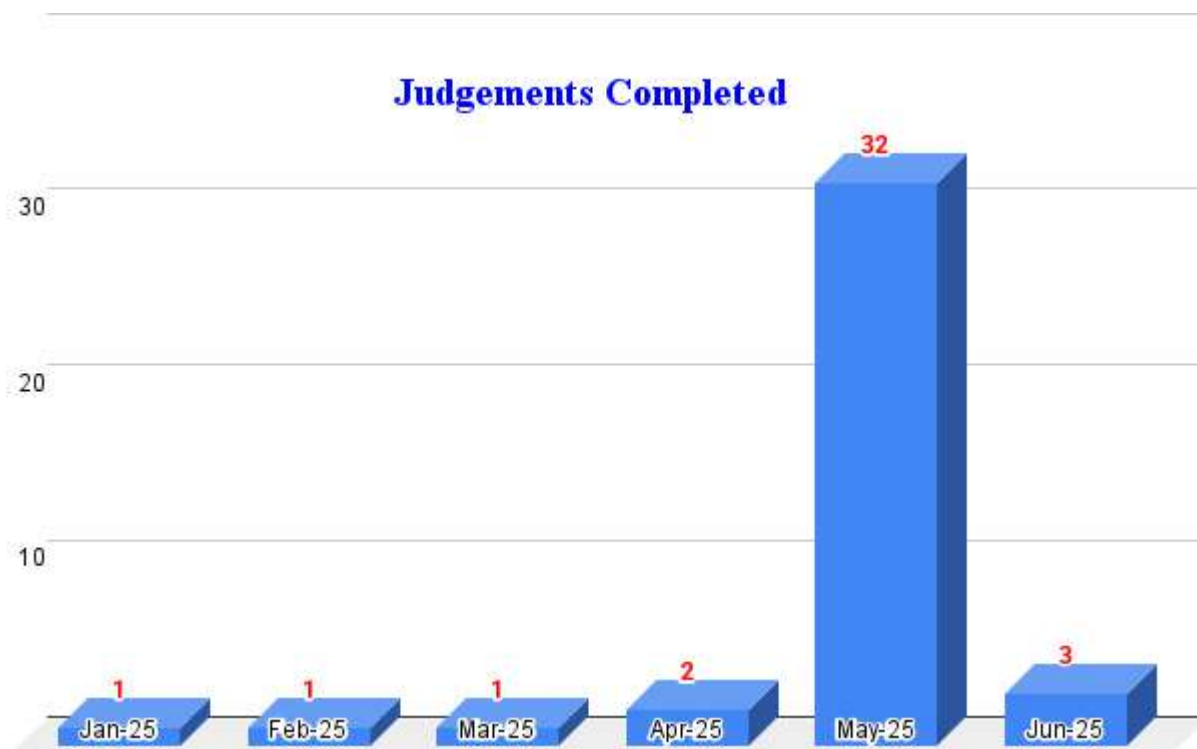


2862 2825



The Judging Run:

The majority of the judgements arrived in May-25, with 1-3 in the other months:



This was followed by a review process of entries which had zero scores by some but not all judges and entries which had a significant difference in their scores between judges. This phase was speedily completed and after a review by the President and the supervising panel, we were able to publish the results on 16-Jun-25, 2 weeks before the deadline of 30-Jun-25. The result tables included the details of points, eliminations and ranks of each composer's entries. Also published were the Winner summaries with photos of the 3 winners in each section, their top 4 entries and top entries by other composers.

Cook Thrills and Chills:

Then, a cook was reported in section G, which proved to be valid and resulted in the elimination of one entry and a rearrangement of the 4th to 6th places. Another cook reported in section H turned out to be invalid. With crossed fingers we waited for 30-June to publish the revised results. At the last minute another cook was reported in section H. This led to a see-saw of it being declared valid, then invalid, again valid and finally invalid and we eventually declared the results final!

WCCI: 1998-2024

All the super stars!

| Section | 1998-2000 | 2001-2003 | 2004-2006 | 2007-2009 | 2010-2012 | 2013-2015 | 2016-2018 | 2019-2021 | 2022-2024 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| A: Twomovers | Chepizhny Kovačević Slesarenko | Kovačević Slesarenko Dyachuk | Dyachuk Kovačević Bruch | Kovačević Gvozdják Dyachuk | Kovačević Dyachuk Shanshin | Kovačević Dyachuk Gvozdják | Dyachuk Kovačević Shanshin | Dyachuk Murashev Kovačević | Dyachuk Kovačević/Murashev |
| B: Threemovers | Marandiyuk Bruch Wessels | Shavryin Marandiyuk Marker | Marandiyuk Shavryin Bakharev | Marandiyuk Gvozdják Kuzovkov | Feoktistov Marandiyuk Kuzovkov | Marandiyuk Kuzovkov Feoktistov | Feoktistov Kuzovkov Shavryin | Kuzovkov Agapov Shavryin | Gvozdják Kuzovkov Agapov |
| C: Moremovers | Marandiyuk Herzberg Kuzovkov | Marandiyuk Shavryin Feoktistov | Marandiyuk Marker Feoktistov | Marandiyuk Kuzovkov Feoktistov | Marandiyuk Kuzovkov Feoktistov | Marandiyuk Kuzovkov Davidenko | Marandiyuk Kuzovkov Davidenko | Kuzovkov Marandiyuk Shavryin | Kuzovkov Shavryin Marandiyuk |
| D: Endgame Studies | Gurgenidze Kralin Vysokosov | Vysokosov Pervakov Gurgenidze | Pervakov Sochniev Gurgenidze | Pervakov Didukh Bazlov | Didukh Becker Pervakov | Pervakov Bazlov Arestov | Pervakov Minski Nielsen | Nielsen Pervakov Didukh | Pervakov Nielsen Pasman |
| E: Helpmates | Janevski Gurov Abdurahmanovic | Gurov Parrinello Pachl | Chepizhny Gurov Dragoun/Janevski | O. Semenenko Chepizhny Gurov | Dragoun O. Semenenko Chepizhny | O. Semenenko Krizhanivskiy Gurov | Krizhanivskiy O. Semenenko Abdurahmanovic | Kolesnik O. Semenenko Paliulionis | Ylijoki Gurov O. Semenenko |
| F: Selfmates | Petkov Selivanov Azhusin | Selivanov Feoktistov Janevski | Selivanov Avner Janevski | Selivanov Soroka Feoktistov | Selivanov Linn Kostadinov | Selivanov Feoktistov Erenburg | Selivanov Gavrilovski Kuzovkov | Selivanov Gavrilovski Kozlura | Selivanov Feoktistov/Kuzovkov |
| G: Fairies | Petkov Aschwanden Wakashima | Aschwanden Wenda Lörinc | Dragoun Lörinc Wenda | Petkov Gvozdják Wenda | Petkov Crisan Gvozdják | Dyachuk Lörinc Comay | Crisan Petkov Grolman/Gadjanski | Petkov V. Semenenko Kotěšovec | Gvozdják Dragoun Lörinc |
| H: Retros | Kislyak Le Gleuher Zolotarev | Le Gleuher Kislyak Aschwanden | Aschwanden Le Gleuher Baibikov | Baibikov Petrović Dupont | Baibikov Beluhov Dupont | Baibikov Baier Dupont | Baier Baibikov Dupont | Baier Baibikov Prentos | Baier Baibikov Frolkin |

Learnings:

We came across many unusual cases and circumstances which had no precedents and had to be resolved using our judgement. All these will be considered in the preparation for the next WCCI.

Software choices:

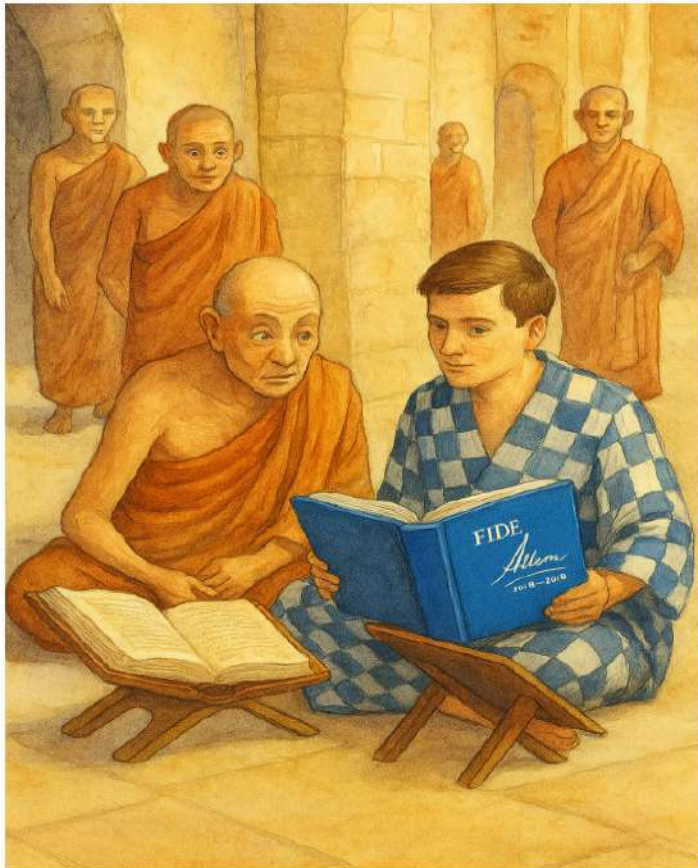
I used Google sheets with pure formulas for all the results tables, including the procedures to eliminate the highest and lowest scores, mark them with a strikethrough font; select the best 4 entries of each composer, marking the other entries with a strikethrough font; ranking the final scores with a tie break using the highest, second highest, third highest and fourth highest. Despite this the 2-3 places were tied in sections A and F. Some of the formulas were quite complex and were developed with the currently available AIs!

The Humourous Side:

Finally some topical AI-generated images and cartoons to keep things from getting too serious!

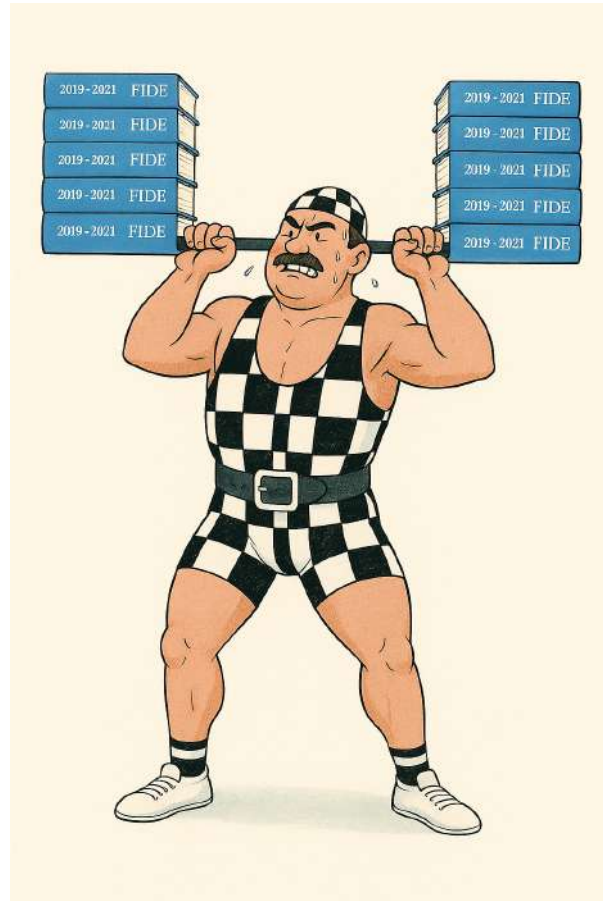


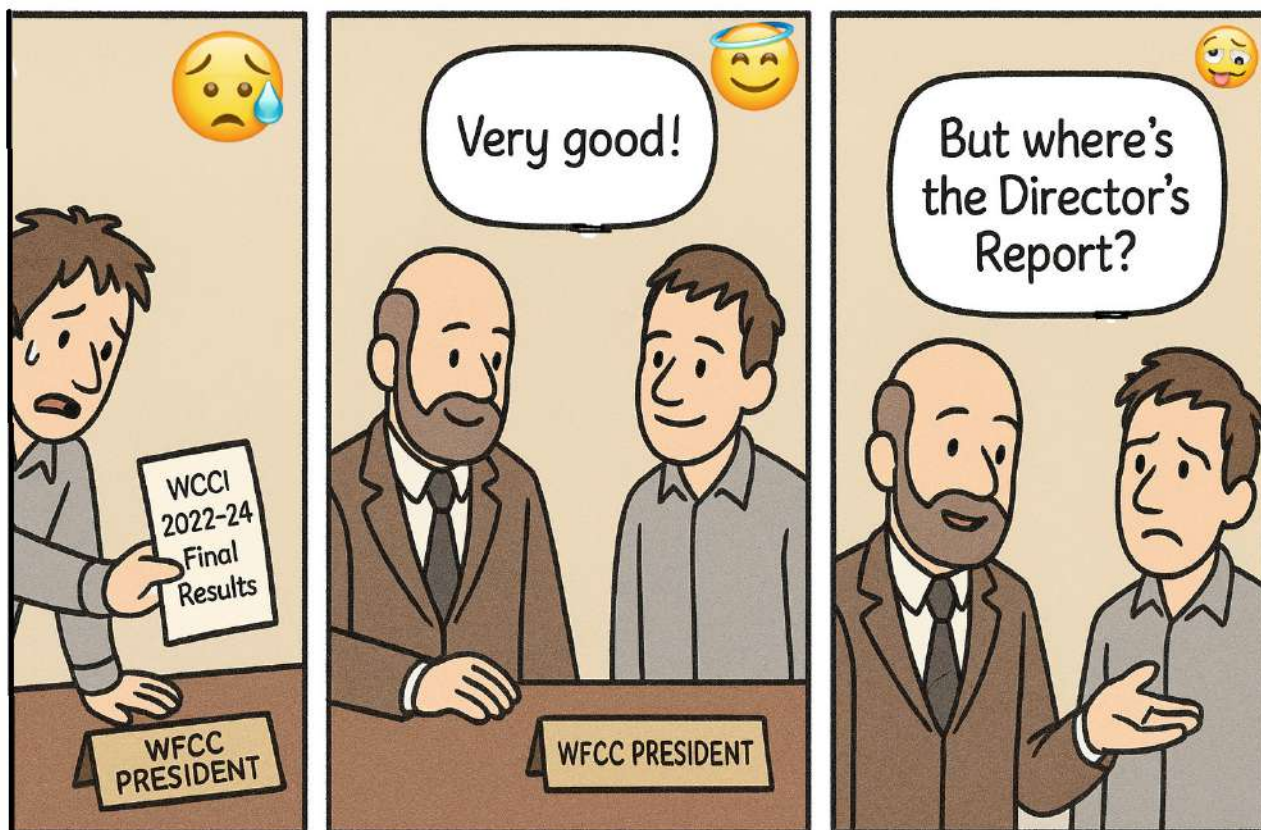




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A Director's Job is Never Done!

And here is the report and the job is hopefully done!

Shankar Ram

Bengaluru

2-Jul-2025