## Introducing the Introduction－Gady Costeff

The introduction is typically used by composers to reach the starting point of their thematic program． Naturally it reflects the aesthetics of the composer，but emotional and even commercial considerations play a role，though they are typically hidden from the audience．

Y．Bazlov， $1^{\text {st }}$ Prize $5^{\text {th }}$ World Cup， 2017


Win
1． f 2 亿e8！ 2 ． ff 3 ！

4．b7＋붑 7 5．b8＝焻＋ ©xb8＋6．${ }^{6} \mathrm{~d} 8$


6．． c c8＋！！！7． exc 8气d6＋8．．e．c7 气b5＋

 12．． B g 包 $7+$


©g5＋15． B xg6 0 xf 3







The first six and a half moves of this masterpiece comprise the introduction，when all the pieces move into their required squares．This is done at the expense of a single white pawn．The extraordinary sacrifice 6 ．．Rc8＋！！！is possibly even better than the beautiful subsequent play．To achieve these heights，the composer accepted that the introduction relies on RBN－RN being a general win approaching 100 moves．
J．Timman，Special Prize Polášek\＆Vlasák 602017


Draw

昌xb2



f4 7．曷b5！f3 8．．he4



10．等 $\mathrm{xc} 1+\mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{B}}^{\mathrm{g}} \mathrm{xc} 1$
11．旬d3 f2 12．旬e2
$\mathrm{f} 1=\mathrm{Q}$ 13． $\mathrm{H}_{6} \mathrm{xf} 1$ 晏d2
14． \％


16．曷f4 f6 17．雷f5 量e3

 21． G f4

In Timman＇s study the four－move introduction is markedly inferior to the rest of the study． Consequently，many composers would begin the study at move five，retaining the beauty and improving the economy．However，Timman is both a famous player with a strong game aesthetic， and a prominent composer，so he clearly had his reasons．In art，where there is no agreement on metrics and weights，we can only have preferences，not truth．

G．Costeff $1^{\text {st }}$ Prize，Die Schwalbe 2002


Draw
1． $\mathrm{ac} 8+$＋ b 7 2． $\mathrm{b} \mathrm{b} 8+$ 6c6 3．b5＋읍c5
4． $\mathrm{amc} \mathrm{bc}+$ 包c75． Ec x 7
4ibl 6 ． 1 f7＋e6
7． $\log 8$ 是xg8


8．马ec8！！11！！
9．．＂ c 1 ！！M M b 2 ！
10．R8c2！Both sides complete a Bristol．


10．．畑 h 8 11．党 c 8 ！县 g 7
12．R1c7！！Both sides complete a return Bristol．


Draw by perpetual Bristols．

The introduction of this study was composed strictly to lighten my mood．The analytic work involved in getting this study to be correct was on such a scale that it was my least enjoyable composing experience．Though I realized perfectly well that the introduction added nothing at all，I could still not bear looking at the thematic position．
Y．Afek $2^{\text {nd }}$ Prize，Schach 2008


Win
1．0）d6 cxd6 $2 . \mathrm{cxd} 6$








$11 . \mathrm{d} 7$ ©e7


12． b b＋흡 a 7 13． b e4 wins．

I thought a better introduction would be to start with the second diagram，with d5－d6 as the key．This would save two units and make the study a miniature．Proud of my technique I asked Yochanan why he chose as he did．
＂Because I was asked to compose a study that matched the Kramnik－Anand world championship game．＂


