

Competition Overview

■ Schedule

Preliminary round

Thursday 24 September	INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Friday 25 September	OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
Saturday 26 September	Tokyo Akasaka Campus

Semi-final

Sunday 27 September	INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Monday 28 September	OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
	Tokyo Akasaka Campus

Final

Wednesday 30 September	Suntory Hall (Main Hall)
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Award ceremony

Thursday 1 October	The venue will be announced later
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■ Organizers

Minato City

Minato City Sports, Community, Culture and Health Foundation (Kiss Port Foundation)

The Tokyo MINATO CITY International Music Competition & Workshop Executive Committee

■ Organization

The Executive Committee will establish a secretariat to plan and manage this competition, and each time it holds a competition, it will also establish a music committee and a judging committee.



The Music Committee and the Judging Committee consist of musicians from Japan and other countries with specialized knowledge.

■ Competition Flow

Monday 27 April 2026	Application deadline Upload performance data for Preselection * The names of jury members will be announced after the deadline.
Mid-May 2026	Preselection Evaluating the performance recordings of the required repertoire
Late May to early June 2026	Contestants admitted to the public rounds will be selected.
Wednesday 23 September 2026 (Public Holiday) 14:00 (JST)	Drawing of lots
Thursday 24 September 2026	Preliminary round
Friday 25 September 2026	Preliminary round
Saturday 26 September 2026	Preliminary round/Results announced
Sunday 27 September 2026	Semi-final
Monday 28 September 2026	Semi-final/Results announced
Tuesday 29 September 2026	Orchestral rehearsal
Wednesday 30 September 2026	Final
Thursday 1 October 2026	Award ceremony



Application Guidelines

■ Eligibility

The Competition is open to people of all nationalities who were born between 1996 and 2010. *All applicants must be aged at least 16 and have not yet reached the age of 31 on the first day of the competition (i.e., on 24 September 2026).

Those who are to participate in the competition may not be rejected on any ideological, linguistic, political, religious, or racial grounds.

■ How to apply

All applications must be made through the online application service “Muvac” (<https://www.muvac.com/>) . Applications submitted by any other method will not be accepted. *Please note that Muvac requires prior account registration (free of charge).

For inquiries regarding the application process, please contact the Competition Secretariat:

【Email : inquiry@tmcimc.jp】

If an applicant encounters any technical problems while using Muvac, the applicant must contact Muvac directly (English support only):

<https://www.muvac.com/>

■ Items required for application

- Name, address, age, contact information such as email address and telephone number etc. as well as CV/résumé (created on Muvac profile page)
- 3 Video files (the total performance time must be within 20 mins.) of applicant’s performance of the required repertoire for the Preselection.
- Programs for all round (Preselection/ Preliminary round/ Semi-final/ Final) of the competition (Please fill in the program for each round in Muvac's “Questionnaire on application”).



- Provide photo data (2 items below).

- (1) Image data of passport (color)

- (2) Portrait photo

- A portrait photo to be used for the website, brochures, and other promotional materials produced by the Executive Committee (commonly referred to as an artist photo). alongside your name for the competition. Color or black-and-white photographs are both acceptable. The photograph must have been taken after September 2025.

- Application Fee : JPY 10,000(tax included)

- Applicants must pay the said application fee on Muvac. The application fee is non-refundable under any circumstances.

- Notification of Approval for the Preliminary Round / Participation Fee

- The Executive Committee will send a notification of approval to those who have passed the Preselection(hereinafter referred to as the “Contestants”).

- Contestants must arrive in Minato City and complete contestant registration at the Secretariat no later than the start of the Drawing of lots, which will be held at 14:00 (JST) on September 23, 2026.

- Contestants who fail to complete registration by this deadline will forfeit the right to participate in the Preliminary Round.

- Contestants must pay a participation fee of JPY 20,000(tax included) in cash at the time of contestant registration in Tokyo.

- Travel / Accommodation Expenses

- Round-trip travel expenses to Minato City for participation in the Competition shall be borne by the Contestant. However, for foreign Contestants residing outside Japan (excluding those residing in Japan), a travel subsidy of JPY 100,000 will be provided. For Contestants from the Asia region, a travel subsidy of JPY 50,000 or the round-trip economy-class airfare from the international airport nearest to the Contestant’s place of residence to Tokyo, whichever is lower, will be provided.



The amount of the travel subsidy shall be calculated based on the Contestant's place of origin (nationality). Claims based on the place of study abroad will not be accepted.

Foreign Contestants traveling from overseas may stay free of charge at the accommodation arranged by the organizer, including breakfast (hereinafter referred to as the "Official Hotel").

If a Contestant wishes for an accompanying person to stay at the Official Hotel, the Contestant must declare this intention after receiving the notification of approval.

Contestants accompanied by companions shall bear all expenses related to their companions, regardless of whether the companions stay at the Official Hotel or at other accommodations.

■ Practice

The Executive Committee shall provide foreign Contestants traveling from overseas with one practice session of 90 minutes per day free of charge.

One rehearsal with the orchestra will be provided prior to the Final Round. The allocation of rehearsal time with the orchestra on the day of the Final Round shall be determined at the discretion of the Conductor.

■ Performance

The order of performance shall be determined at the Drawing of lots.

Contestants must assemble at the designated location at the competition venue by the specified time on the day of their performance. However, if a Contestant is unavoidably delayed and requests to perform, the Competition Organizing Committee may approve the performance depending on the progress of the Competition.

All required repertoire must be performed from memory. Repeats are permitted.



The Preliminary Round, Semi-final, and Final Round shall be open to the public.

■ Cession of Rights Related to Performances

With regard to all performances related to participation in the Competition, as well as all performances given at concert arranged by the Competition as part of the prize for the First Prize winner, all of the rights listed below shall belong to the Executive Committee.

Contestants shall raise no objection to the use of such performances by the Executive Committee, nor shall they make any financial claims of any kind, regardless of the designation or reason.

- Broadcasting of performances by radio, television, or other media
- Audio and video recording of performances, whether for broadcast or not
- Audio and video recording for the production of CDs, DVDs, or other media, and the reproduction and sale thereof
- Photography of performances, and the reproduction, distribution, and sale of such photographs

■ Jury

The Competition shall be judged by seven internationally renowned juries (tentative).

Any jury who has taught a Contestant for a period of three months or more within the past two years must declare the name of such Contestant to the Jury Committee.

No objection or appeal of any kind shall be permitted with respect to decisions made by the Jury Committee.

Juries and Contestants shall have no contact whatsoever from the start of the Preliminary Round until the conclusion of the Final Round. In the event of a violation, the Contestant shall forfeit eligibility to participate, and the jury shall lose qualification as a jury.



The names of the juries reviewed the Preselection will be announced when the preliminary contestants are announced.

■ Prizes

First Prize	JPY 5,000,000, Certificate, Gold Medal
Second Prize	JPY 2,000,000, Certificate, Silver Medal
Third Prize	JPY 1,000,000, Certificate, Bronze Medal
Audience Prize	JPY 300,000
Certificate of merit	JPY 300,000

If there is more than one prize winner at the same rank, the total amount of prize money for that rank and the subsequent rank shall be divided equally among the recipients.

All prize money amounts shall include taxes in accordance with Japanese tax law.

Additional prizes donated by organizations and individuals who support the purpose of this Competition may also be awarded.

■ Recital Contract

The First Prize winner shall be guaranteed a recital in Japan prior to the next Competition. An appearance fee shall be paid for this recital.

The first recital held in Japan after winning First Prize must be a concert arranged by the Competition Organizing Committee. The timing of the engagement shall be determined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the prize winner.

If the First Prize winner plans to participate in another competition within one year, this must be reported to the Executive Committee without delay. In such cases, the timing of the above concert may be reconsidered.



■ CD Release

The Executive Committee may release a CD of the Competition's live performances.

■ Repertoire

At every round in this Competition, each Contestant is allowed to choose the order in which he or she will play the different works on his/her programme.

The works performed in the Preselection may be performed again in the Semi-final. However, the works selected in the Preselection may not be selected again in the Preliminary Round.

As for the repertoire to be performed from the Preliminary Round onward, Contestants must select and declare their programme when applying for the Preselection. Should they wish to make any changes to their pre-declared programme, they must notify the Executive Committee by Wednesday, 15 July, 2026. No changes will be accepted after this deadline.

■ Preselection (within 20 mins.)

Contestants will select one work each from the below Categories A, B, and C and upload their performance videos to the online application service "Muvac The Tokyo MINATO CITY International Music Competition & Workshop" before the deadline.

- The recording must not be older than October 2025.
- The total performance time must not exceed 20 minutes.
- No editing is allowed within each one work of the repertoire.
- Deadline: Monday, 27 April, 2026, 23:59 (JST)
- Upload one video per category (three videos in total), and include the category name in the file title. (e.g., "A.mp4" "B-yourname.mp4")
- No alteration will be accepted after the deadline.



A :

Any one first movement of a sonata by one of the following composers
(at Contestant's choice):

F. J. Haydn

W. A. Mozart

L. van. Beethoven (Limited to one sonata from No.1 through 18)

B :

Any one etude by one of the following composers (at Contestant's
choice):

F. Chopin / F. Liszt / C. Debussy / S. Rachmaninov / A. Scriabin

C : Free-choice piece

Any one published work (exclude concerto) at the Contestant's choice.
However, the work must be by a composer other than those selected in
Categories A and B.

■ Preliminary Round (within 30 mins.)

Contestants will select and perform one work each from the below Categories A
and B, and several works from Category C.

The works performed in the Preselection may not be performed again in the
Preliminary Round.

The total performance time must not exceed 30 minutes.

A :

J. S. Bach

Any one piece from The Well-Tempered Clavier Book 1 and Book 2
(at Contestant's choice)



B :

Any one etude by one of the following composers (at Contestant's choice):

F. Chopin / F. Liszt / C. Debussy / S. Rachmaninov / A. Scriabin /
I. Stravinsky / S. Prokofiev / B. Bartók / K. Szymanowski

C :

Contestants will select and perform several pieces from the works of the composers listed below. However, the works selected must not include the work chosen in Category B.

S. Rachmaninov / I. Stravinsky / F. Chopin / F. Liszt / R. Schumann /
G. Fauré / C. Debussy / M. Ravel / O. Messiaen / A. Scriabin /
S. Prokofiev / I. Albéniz / M. d. Falla / E. Granados / B. Bartók /
L. Janáček / A. Schoenberg / K. Szymanowski

■ Semi-final (within 70 mins.)

Contestants will create and perform a recital programme (within 70 mins.) consisting of works of their choice. However, it must include at least one of the following pieces.

L. van. Beethoven / One piano sonata
(exclude.No.1, No.5, No.6, No.9, No.10, No.19, No.20, No.22. and No.25)

■ Final

Contestants will select and perform any one from the following (with orchestra):

W. A. Mozart

Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-Flat Major, K. 271, "Jeunehomme"
Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor, K. 466
Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467
Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488
Piano Concerto No. 24 in C Minor, K. 491



Piano Concerto No. 26 in D Major, K. 537, "Coronation"

Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-Flat Major, Op. 17, K. 595

L. van. Beethoven

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 37

Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58

Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-Flat Major, Op. 73, "Emperor"

F. Chopin

Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 11

Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, Op. 21

R. Schumann

Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54

F. Liszt

Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-Flat Major, S124/R455

Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major, S125/R456

J. Brahms

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 15

Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-Flat Major, Op. 83

C. Saint-Saëns

Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22

Piano Concerto No. 4 in C Minor, Op. 44

Piano Concerto No. 5 in F Major, Op. 103, "Egyptian"

P. I. Tchaikovsky

Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-Flat Minor, Op. 23

S. Rachmaninov

Piano Concerto No. 1 in F-Sharp Minor, Op. 1 (Revised Version)

Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 18



Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 30
Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43

M. Ravel

Piano Concerto in G Major

B. Bartók

Piano Concerto No. 3 BB 127

S. Prokofiev

Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 16

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26

- Orchestra
Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra
- Conductor
Kimbo Ishii

These Guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the Tokyo MINATO CITY International Music Competition Regulations. Any issues arising in connection with these Guidelines shall be resolved in accordance with the Japanese version of the official Regulations and the laws of Japan.

