

ISANGYUN COMPETITION 2026

DISCIPLINE : PIANO

October 31 - November 8, 2026
Tongyeong Concert Hall, Korea



TIMF



ISANG YUN(1917-1995)

The ISANGYUN Competition has been presented by the Tongyeong International Music Foundation since 2003. It is held in remembrance of Isang Yun (1917-1995), the renowned Korean composer, by promoting cultural exchanges among nations through music, and by supporting talented young musicians from all over the world. The Competition is held annually in November, alternating between the disciplines Piano, Violin and Cello. After Piano this year, it will be Violin in 2027 and Cello in 2028.

SCHEDULE 2026

July 31	Application Deadline
August 28	Notification of Acceptance
October 31	Registration & Drawing of lots
November 1-2	First Round
November 4-5	Second Round
November 7	Final Round with Orchestra & Awards Ceremony
November 8	Winners' Concert

VENUE

First, Second and Final Round	Concert Hall, Tongyeong Concert Hall
Winners' Concert	Busan Concert Hall

JURY

Klaus Hellwig	Germany Chairman
Ariel Cohen	Israel
Katsunori Ishii	Japan
Dasol Kim	Korea
Jinsang Lee	Korea
David Mareček	Czech Republic
Julian Martin	U.S.A
Xiaohan Wang	China
Peter von Wienhardt	Germany

* Last names in alphabetical order

PRESENTED by



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RULES AND CONDITIONS

A. APPLICATION

The ISANGYUN Competition is open to pianists of all nationalities, born between November 1, 1996 and October 31, 2011. Applicants must submit the application form and all documents on the official website (www.isangyuncompetition.org) by the application deadline, July 31, 2026.

1) Online application form

- Required info: personal information, education, teachers, prizes, and repertoire of each round

2) A recommendation letter (any format is accepted)

- The letter should be in English or Korean or should include English or Korean translations.

3) A scan of the applicant's passport

4) A photograph of the applicant in JPG or TIFF format (no less than 1MB)

5) High-quality video recordings of the repertoire of the Preliminary Round

- All works must be recorded with no audio or visual editing.
- The date and place of each recording must be written on the application form.
- Each required piece should be on a single track, and the videos must be recorded in or after May 2025.
- The repertoire for the Preliminary Round is as follows **(25-30 minutes)**:

a) F. Chopin: One Etude

b) Solo work(s) of the applicant's choice (within the time limit above; not all movements are mandatory)

B. CONTACT

+82-55-650-0400
competition@timf.org
www.isangyuncompetition.org

RULES AND CONDITIONS

C. ENTRY FEE

Applicants who have been selected to participate in the First Round of the Competition are required to submit a non-refundable entry fee of KRW 300,000 by August 31, 2026. The fee can be paid online by credit card or by international bank transfer to the following account:

Bank:	Nonghyup Bank
Bank Branch:	Tongyeong Branch, 11 Hangnam 3-gil, Tongyeong
Account Number:	301 0143 2109 61
Swift Code:	NACF KRSE XXX
Account Holder:	TIMF

Payment of the entry fee will be considered the conclusion of a formal agreement between the participant and the competition regarding his/her participation in the Competition under the rules and conditions of the ISANGYUN Competition.

D. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

1) International flights: International participants regardless of their nationality, may apply for free round-trip international flights to attend the Competition. In this case, participants shall use the airline tickets booked directly by the competition.

2) Transportation in Korea: Travel expenses within Korea are the responsibility of the participants.

3) Accommodation & Meals: Participants will be provided with free accommodation and board, from October 30, 2026 until the end of their active participation in the Competition.

4) VISA: Foreign nationals requiring a visa in order to enter the Republic of Korea will be provided with the necessary documents upon passing the Preliminary Round.

E. REHEARSALS

The competition will provide a number of practice pianos.

Each participant will have ample practice time during the competition.

Prior to the final round, each finalist will have an opportunity to rehearse with the orchestra.

F. MUSICAL SCORES

During the Competition, participants are required to use original scores of the works they perform. Scores of works by Isang Yun must be legitimately purchased from Boosey&Hawkes(www.boosey.com). The competition cannot be deemed responsible for any fraud that might be committed by a participant in this field.

RULES AND CONDITIONS

G. PERFORMANCE

Lots will be drawn to decide the order in which the participants will perform.

Each participant must be present when the lots are drawn at the Competitors Meeting on October 31, 2026.

The order of performance will remain unchanged until the Final Round, when it may be adjusted for programming reasons.

Except for the Preliminary Round, all rounds of the Competition are open to the public.

H. FEEDBACK

Participants eliminated during public rounds will receive on request the jury's feedback through the feedback session.

I. PERFORMANCE RIGHTS

By submitting an application form, participants give the competition unrestricted rights to broadcast, record, televise, live stream, and film their performances during the Competition. Any such recordings or broadcasts may be made without compensation to the participants.

J. JUDGEMENT

1) Preliminary Round

A preselection jury will select candidates from applications received. All applicants will be notified of acceptance or rejection on August 28, 2026.

2) Public Rounds

a. The Jury consists of nine internationally recognized jurors. For evaluation of Jury judgement on public rounds, a point system will be used for the First Round and Second Round, and a ranking system will be used for the Final Round.

b. The Jury will award all prizes. Except for the First Prize, all prizes may be shared in case of a tie.

c. Any juror having taught a participant for more than three months during the past two years must declare such teaching relationship and will abstain from voting on the participant's performances.

d. The decisions of the Jury are final.

e. Competitors may not exchange opinions with any member of the Jury at any time during the Competition on subjects that may influence the judging. There are no exceptions to this rule and any competitor who fails to comply will be disqualified.

K. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES AND CONDITIONS

Should any dispute arise regarding the interpretation of any part of the Rules and Conditions of ISANGYUN Competition 2026, the Rules and Conditions in Korean as well as related laws and codes of the Republic of Korea will be the only legal basis. All decisions made by the competition and the Jury are final.

PRIZES

Total KRW 74,000,000 in cash prizes will be awarded.

First Prize	KRW	30,000,000
Second Prize	KRW	20,000,000
Third Prize	KRW	10,000,000
Fourth Prize	KRW	5,000,000
Isang Yun Special Prize	KRW	5,000,000
Seong-Yawng Park Special Prize	KRW	2,000,000
UNESCO City of Music Special Prize	KRW	2,000,000

The Isang Yun Special Prize is awarded for the best interpretation of the work “Interludium A(1982)” in the Second Round.

The Seong-Yawng Park Special Prize is awarded for an exceptionally talented young Korean participant.

The UNESCO City of Music Special Prize is an audience award, and the participant with the majority of votes will receive this award.

Tax will be deducted from prize money in accordance with Korean tax laws.

All prize winners agree to perform at the Winners’ Concert at Busan Concert Hall on November 8, 2026.

When requested within the next three years, prize winners shall perform at Tongyeong Concert Hall, or at other concerts managed by the Tongyeong International Music Foundation. For such performances, round-trip airfare as well as accommodation and board will be provided by the competition, but no additional fees will be paid.

The First Prize winner will be given an opportunity to perform at the ‘Orchestra Festival’ hosted by the Seoul Arts Center and ‘Music in PyeongChang’ organized by Gangwon Art & Culture Foundation

Winners will be given opportunities to perform with the Busan Philharmonic Orchestra, the Gwangju Symphony Orchestra and the Incheon Philharmonic Orchestra.

The winner of the Seong-Yawng Park Special Prize will be given an opportunity to perform a recital organized by Kumho Cultural Foundation.

OFFICIAL REPERTOIRE

All repertoire must be performed from memory, except for works composed after 1950.

The work presented in the Preliminary Round cannot be performed in the First, Second, and Final Rounds.

Time limits will be strictly enforced.

PRELIMINARY ROUND (25-30 minutes, video selection)

Applicants must submit the video recordings of a) and b):

- a) **F. Chopin:** One Etude
- b) Solo work(s) of the applicant's choice (within the time limit above; not all movements are mandatory)

FIRST ROUND (35-40 minutes)

Each candidate will be required to perform a), b), and c):

- a) One complete sonata by **W. A. Mozart**, **J. Haydn** or **L. v. Beethoven**
- b) **Isang Yun:** Fünf Stücke für Klavier (1958) or Shao Yang Yin für Klavier (1966)
- c) Solo work(s) of the candidate's choice (within the time limit above; not all movements are mandatory)

SECOND ROUND (45-50 minutes)

Each candidate will be required to perform a) and b):

- a) **Isang Yun:** Interludium A für Klavier (1982) or other composers' solo work written after 1950 with a minimum duration of 10 minutes
- b) Solo work(s) of the candidate's choice (all movements are mandatory)
 - One important work with a minimum duration of 15 minutes
 - Optional solo work(s), if a) and b) do not reach the duration of 45 - 50 minutes

FINAL ROUND

Each finalist shall perform one concerto with orchestra to be chosen from the following:

L. v. Beethoven	Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37
	Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58
J. Brahms	Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15
S. Prokofiev	Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26
S. Rachmaninov	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43
R. Schumann	Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54
P. I. Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23

ORCHESTRA / CONDUCTOR

Tongyeong Festival Orchestra / Daejin Kim