

13th Blue-T Concerto Competition — Other Instruments Division

Application Guidelines (Held concurrently with the Piano Division)

Schedule A: Tuesday, February 2, 2027, from 16:00 — Orchestra rehearsal: Monday, February 1

Schedule B: Tuesday, February 9 & Wednesday, February 10, 2027 — Orchestra rehearsals: Monday, February 1; Tuesday, February 2; Tuesday, February 9

- **Purpose**

This division is designed to assess the solo ability and ensemble skills required to perform a concerto on an instrument other than piano, to provide an opportunity to deepen musical understanding through collaboration with an orchestra, and to offer an experience that will help participants take on international stages and international competitions.
- **Eligible Instruments**

Solo instruments other than piano (strings, winds, etc.), subject to the following condition:

 - The accompanying orchestral score must be available as a free download from IMSLP (International Music Score Library Project).
- **Judges**

Judged by the same panel as the Piano Division (judges specializing in piano).
By applying, participants acknowledge that the judges may not be specialists in the applicant's own instrument, and no objection on this point will be accepted after application.
- **Conductor**

Takashi Niigaki (also serving as a Schedule A judge)
- **Orchestra**

Blue-T Piano Concerto Competition Orchestra (31 musicians, same personnel as the Piano Division)
*The solo instrument is not included in this ensemble.
- **Eligibility**

Open to all ages, professionals, amateurs, and students, regardless of nationality.
- **Application Period**

April 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026 (same as the Piano Division)
- **How to Apply**

By email
- **Number of Participants**

Other Instruments Division: approximately 10 participants (Piano Division: approximately 20 participants).
After the application deadline at the end of December, the number of places may be increased or decreased depending on the number of applications received.
- **Scoring**

Scored by a panel of 3 judges. Total of 300 points (100 points per judge). Scores and comments are communicated to each participant individually. Results are announced at the awards ceremony on the final day. Only prize winners' results are published on the website.

■ Awards

Held jointly with the Piano Division. In Schedule A, only the winner is awarded. In Schedule B, 1st through 3rd place are awarded. Winners receive a certificate and a commemorative gift.

The overall Grand Prize (across both Schedule A and B) and the Orchestra Prize will be announced and awarded together with the Piano Division at the awards ceremony on the 10th.

■ Competition Rules

No set repertoire is designated. Entries are accepted on a single-movement basis. The accompanying orchestral score used must be a version available as a free download from IMSLP.

For works not available on IMSLP, or works for which certain parts are difficult to obtain, the conductor, Takashi Niigaki, will determine whether the piece can be accommodated. Works that Mr. Niigaki determines cannot be accommodated — even through arranging — cannot be accepted.

Whether a piece can be accepted will be confirmed by the conductor after application, and may be discussed further at a judges' meeting before a response is given.

If the current orchestra instrumentation cannot accommodate a submitted piece, Mr. Niigaki will arrange it. In that case, a score arrangement fee of ¥30,000 will be charged separately (see "Optional Fees").

Entry fees are set separately based on the duration of the movement performed. The reference duration is taken from the track time of the top search result for the piece on Naxos Music Library. The organizer records the artist name, label, and date checked for the recording used, for reference in case of inquiries.

Performing from memory is optional.

For works requiring a cadenza, the cadenza must be included in the performance. The content of the cadenza is left to the performer's discretion.

■ Entry Fee

See attached schedule. Includes the rehearsal fee on the day of judging; total of the orchestra-rehearsal fee and the performance-day fee. (The performance-day fee below adds a flat ¥10,000 to the Piano Division fee, as a charge for securing stage space.)

Performance: Tuesday, February 2 / Tuesday, February 9 / Wednesday, February 10, 2027

Duration	Fee	Duration	Fee
Up to 5 min	¥100,000	Up to 26 min	¥170,000
Up to 8 min	¥110,000	Up to 29 min	¥180,000
Up to 11 min	¥120,000	Up to 33 min	¥190,000
Up to 14 min	¥130,000	Up to 36 min	¥200,000
Up to 17 min	¥140,000	Up to 40 min	¥210,000
Up to 20 min	¥150,000	Up to 45 min	¥220,000
Up to 23 min	¥160,000		

Orchestra Rehearsal: Monday, February 1 / Tuesday, February 2 / Tuesday, February 9, 2027 —

*One run-through + spots needing attention

Duration	Fee	Duration	Fee
Up to 5 min	¥50,000	Up to 26 min	¥71,000
Up to 8 min	¥53,000	Up to 29 min	¥74,000
Up to 11 min	¥56,000	Up to 33 min	¥77,000
Up to 14 min	¥59,000	Up to 36 min	¥80,000
Up to 17 min	¥62,000	Up to 40 min	¥83,000
Up to 20 min	¥65,000	Up to 45 min	¥86,000

Up to 23 min	¥68,000		
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■ Optional Fees (excl. tax)

Score arrangement fee (only if applicable)	¥30,000
Recording / video filming fee	¥20,000
Photography fee	¥12,000
Reception (after-party)	TBD
Overseas Administration Fee	¥30,000

■ Cancellation

Cancellation after application is subject to a 100% cancellation fee.

■ Rehearsal

A brief rehearsal of approximately 5 minutes is held on the day, before the performance. This does not apply to participants taking part in the orchestra rehearsal that day.

■ Instrument

Participants must bring their own instrument. Preparation and procurement of instruments other than piano, and any accessories (bow, reeds, mallets, etc.), are the participant's responsibility.

■ Venue

Minato Mirai Hall, Small Hall (Minato Mirai Line, Minatomirai Station)

Supplementary Notes

“Selection of Eligible Instruments and Repertoire”

For this Other Instruments Division, no pre-set list of required or candidate pieces is established; each submitted piece is reviewed and considered individually based on the applications received.

“Reference Performance Duration”

No cross-instrument public database equivalent to PTNA's Piano Music Encyclopedia exists, so the track time of the top search result on Naxos Music Library is used as the reference. Even for the same work and movement, timing can vary by a few minutes between recordings; the search result at the time of confirmation is applied consistently to all participants.

“Screening for Orchestration Feasibility”

The conductor, Takashi Niigaki, determines whether a submitted piece can be accommodated by the orchestra, including whether it can be accommodated through his own arranging. A piece determined not to be feasible cannot be accepted for any reason.

“Regarding the Judges”

Judging for this division is conducted by the same judges as the Piano Division (judges specializing in piano). Participants are asked to accept, prior to applying, that the judges may not be specialists in their own principal instrument.

“Orchestra Instrumentation” — planned personnel (shared with the Piano Division, 31 musicians)

Violin I	4	Flute	2
Violin II	4	Oboe	2
Viola	3	Clarinet	2
Cello	3	Bassoon	2
Double Bass	2	Horn	2
		Trumpet	2
		Trombone	1

	Percussion	2
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Consent

By submitting an application email to Blue-T Records, applicants are deemed to have agreed to the following:

1. Photographs may be taken of the performance, and such photographs may be included in a Google Photos album and shared with all participants.
2. The performance may be recorded by Blue-T Records, and the recorded data may be reproduced and edited.
3. The performance may be filmed by Blue-T Records, the filmed data may be reproduced, and the edited footage may be published on YouTube as an unlisted video.
4. In connection with the YouTube publication described above, the participant's name (in Japanese and/or English) will be displayed.
5. Blue-T Records may, for a fee, transfer the recorded data described in item 3 and the video data described in item 4 to participants who request them.
6. Each participant (who requests such data) is granted use of the photographs in item 1, the recorded data in item 3, and the video data in item 4 for personal use only, and agrees not to reproduce such data for commercial purposes or post it on social media.
7. Judging for this division (Other Instruments Division) is conducted by judges specializing in piano, and the participant accepts this in advance.

Handling of Personal Information

1. Blue-T Records will use personal information collected from participants to the extent necessary for operating and communicating about the competition, sending photo/recording/video data, providing information about future competitions, and other purposes related to running the competition.
2. Blue-T Records may, to the extent necessary, share personal information collected from participants with the judges, conductor, orchestra, and other related parties.
3. In addition to the above, if disclosure becomes necessary under applicable laws, Blue-T Records may provide personal information collected from participants to third parties to the extent necessary.

For details, inquiries, and applications Blue-T Records

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