

The 3rd ISAC International Junior Music Competition

THE 3RD ISAC INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR MUSIC COMPETITION

One video URL. A stage open to the world.

ELIGIBILITY Ages 3-17	ENTRY FEE Standard JPY 5,000	SUBMISSION Performance video URL
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| APPLICATION DEADLINE

31 January 2027, 23:59 GMT

Japan Standard Time: 1 February 2027, 08:59

ORGANIZER Ise-Shima Art Company Co., Ltd.

ENTRY GUIDE

Competition Regulations

IMPORTANT

These regulations apply to the 3rd competition, to be held in 2027. Every entry requires a parent or legal guardian's prior consent both to the application and to the publication of the result information specified in Section 9, as well as the applicant's agreement to these regulations. If a teacher handles the application process, the teacher must have been asked to do so in advance by the parent or legal guardian.

Eligibility	Ages 3-17 at the time of application, regardless of nationality or place of residence
Performance	Any instrument or voice / one free-choice work / 30 seconds to 10 minutes
Submission	A playable performance video URL on YouTube, Youku, Vimeo, or a similar video service
Entry Fee	Standard JPY 5,000; JPY 7,000 during the final 14 days; feedback option +JPY 3,000 per entry
Awards	Every valid entry receives Gold, Silver, Bronze, or an Encouragement Prize

01 Purpose of the Competition

The ISAC International Junior Music Competition enables young musicians around the world to share their performances beyond the limitations of location and travel. There is no need to send a video file; entrants participate by entering a video URL in the application form.

Differences in age, instrument, and cultural background are respected. Entries are assessed comprehensively on musicality, expression, understanding of the work, and age-appropriate achievement, as well as technique.

02 Eligibility and Age Categories

- **Age:** The participant must be between 3 and 17 years old, inclusive, when the application form is submitted. Enter the participant's current age as a whole number from 3 to 17; do not enter their date of birth. There are no restrictions on nationality or place of residence.
- **Eligible Performances:** All instruments, including traditional instruments, and voice are eligible. Solo performances, either unaccompanied or with accompaniment, are accepted.
- **Applicant:** The applicant is the parent or legal guardian - or a teacher whom the parent or legal guardian has asked in advance - who completes and submits the form and makes the payment. The participant is the person who actually performs.

AGE 03 Age 3	AGE 04 Age 4	AGE 05 Age 5	AGE 06 Age 6	AGE 07 Age 7
AGE 08 Age 8	AGE 09 Age 9	AGE 10 Age 10	AGE 11 Age 11	AGE 12 Age 12
AGE 13 Age 13	AGE 14 Age 14	AGE 15 Age 15	AGE 16 Age 16	AGE 17 Age 17

AGE CATEGORY

The organizer determines the age category based on the participant's current age when the application form is submitted. Categories run in one-year increments from age 3 through age 17, with no further divisions by instrument or voice type. Enter only the participant's current age; do not enter their date of birth or select a category.

03 Application Period, Fees, and Procedure

OFFICIAL DEADLINE

The application deadline is 31 January 2027 at 23:59 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), equivalent to 1 February 2027 at 08:59 in Japan. GMT is the official time standard for both the deadline and the fee periods. Both the form submission and payment must be completed within the applicable fee period and by the final deadline. If either is completed after the standard period ends, the fee for the final 14 days will apply.

Fee Period	GMT	Japan Standard Time (JST)	Entry Fee
Standard	From opening to 17 January 2027, 23:59	Until 18 January 2027, 08:59	JPY 5,000
Final 14 Days	18 January 2027, 00:00 to 31 January 2027, 23:59	18 January 2027, 09:00 to 1 February 2027, 08:59	JPY 7,000
Feedback Option	At time of application only	At time of application only	+JPY 3,000

Three Steps to Enter

- 1 RECORD** - Record an uninterrupted performance, from beginning to end, as a single video lasting at least 30 seconds and no more than 10 minutes.
- 2 UPLOAD** - Upload the video to YouTube, Youku, Vimeo, or a similar video service with its visibility set to Public or Unlisted, and prepare a URL that the jury can view.
- 3 APPLY & PAY** - Enter the required information and video URL in the official application form and complete payment of the entry fee.

Application and Payment Rules

- **Entry Basis:** The entry fee is charged per performance. If the same participant enters more than one work, a separate form submission and entry fee are required for each work.
- **Refunds:** After an application has been completed, entry and feedback fees are non-refundable, except in cases of duplicate payment, cancellation by the organizer, or other circumstances in which a refund is required by law. No feedback will be provided for an entry that is excluded from adjudication or disqualified, and neither the entry fee nor the feedback fee will be refunded.
- **Registration Details:** Please enter the participant's name in Roman letters, current age, title of the piece, performance video URL, the applicant's role, name, and email address, and the certificate mailing address, including the country or region and postal code. If the country or region to which the certificate will be sent does not use postal codes, you may enter N/A in the postal-code field. Results notifications, the Encouragement Prize certificate in PDF format, feedback, and important communications will be sent to the email address of the person completing the form. Do not provide a temporary address; specify an address at which the certificate can reliably be received after the results are announced.
- **Applications by Teachers:** If a teacher handles the application process, the teacher must have been asked to do so in advance by the parent or legal guardian. If the applicant wishes to register a teacher for consideration for the ISAC Teacher Award, that teacher must also be entered separately in the teacher field.
- **Payment Method:** Credit card or PayPal only. Bank transfers are not accepted.
- **Feedback Option:** To receive a feedback report compiling comments and advice from multiple jury members, pay an additional JPY 3,000 per entry at the time of application. As a rule, this option cannot be added or cancelled after the application has been completed.

04 Repertoire Rules

- **Repertoire:** One free-choice work. Classical, contemporary, traditional, and other genres are all accepted.
- **Duration:** The performed portion must be at least 30 seconds and no more than 10 minutes. A performance exceeding 10 minutes is ineligible and will not be adjudicated.
- **Excerpts:** One movement of a suite or sonata, or another excerpt from a work, may be performed.
- **Accompaniment:** Unaccompanied performance, live accompaniment, and recorded accompaniment are all accepted. Accompanists are not assessed.
- **Memorization:** Optional. No points are added or deducted for using a score.

05 Video Recording and Upload Rules

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The video must be filmed from an angle that clearly shows the participant personally performing, have sound quality sufficient for adjudication, contain one continuous unedited performance, and remain accessible after the deadline. Professional recording equipment is not required.

Recording

- **One Take:** Record continuously from the beginning to the end of the performance. Cutting or splicing the footage or audio, replacing any portion, changing the speed, applying corrections, or making any other edits during the performance is prohibited. Only brief trimming before the performance begins and after it ends is permitted.
- **Camera Angle:** Film the performance so that the jury can clearly identify the participant and the instrument being used, and can see that the participant is actually performing. If the nature of the instrument makes it difficult to show the participant's entire body or hands at all times, choose an angle that still confirms that the participant is actually performing.
- **Sound Quality:** An ordinary smartphone or similar device is sufficient. A video may be deemed invalid if low volume, excessive distortion, continuous noise, or similar problems prevent adjudication. The price of the equipment and the visual production values themselves are not assessed.
- **Personal Information:** Do not display or state the participant's name, age, address, school name, or other personal information in the video.
- **Rights and Permissions:** The parent or legal guardian and the applicant are responsible for ensuring that all necessary rights and permissions have been secured for the work, arrangement, accompaniment track, filming location, accompanist, and any other third-party material or involvement.

Upload and URL

- **Accepted Services:** URLs from YouTube, Youku, Vimeo, or similar video services are accepted.
- **Visibility:** Set the video to Public or Unlisted so that the jury can play it without signing in, entering a password, or requesting access.
- **Availability:** From the time of application until the results are announced, do not delete the video or change its URL or visibility setting.
- **Restrictions:** If regional restrictions, age restrictions, copyright blocks, or other restrictions imposed by the video service prevent access, the entry may be excluded from adjudication.

During adjudication, a video may not simply be played once from beginning to end in the usual manner. The jury may pause and rewind the video and review the same passage several times as needed. Multiple jury members may also view it through the same network or from multiple devices.

Depending on the video service's specifications, such plays may not be reflected in the view count, may be reflected only after a delay, or may be excluded from the count. Therefore, a displayed view count that remains low or does not increase does not mean that the entry has not been adjudicated.

The organizer maintains internal records of completed viewing. The organizer will not respond to requests to confirm the status of adjudication or to conduct a re-adjudication based solely on the displayed view count.

URL

As a rule, URL replacements are not accepted after the deadline. A replacement may be made only if requested by the organizer and must follow the method and deadline specified.

06 Adjudication

- **Jury:** Several musicians, educators, and other professionals appointed by the organizer will adjudicate the submitted performance videos.
- **Assessment:** Technique, musicality, expression, understanding of the work, the overall shaping of the performance, and age-appropriate achievement are assessed comprehensively, with due consideration for the characteristics of the instrument or voice type.
- **Recording Environment:** The quality of the recording equipment and filming location is not assessed, provided that the minimum standard required for adjudication is met.
- **Fairness:** To ensure fairness, at the time of scoring, each jury member must disclose to the organizer any teacher-student, family, or other direct personal relationship with a participant. That jury member must not take part in scoring, preparing feedback, or jury deliberations concerning that participant's work or performance.
- **Feedback:** The organizer plans to email each applicant who orders feedback one report in the selected delivery language within two months after the results are announced. The report will compile comments and advice from multiple jury members. The feedback service does not include changes to the adjudication result, responses to questions, additional explanations, re-adjudication, or revisions to the report.
- **Final Decision:** Scores, individual jury assessments, rankings, and reasons for selection are generally not disclosed, and objections or appeals will not be accepted.

07 Awards and Certificates

Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards are determined according to the adjudication criteria. Every valid entry not selected for one of these awards receives an Encouragement Prize. The number or proportion of recipients for each award is not fixed in advance. Invalid or disqualified entries receive no award.

Award	Certificate	Delivery
GOLD	Paper certificate	Mailed to the registered address
SILVER	Paper certificate	Mailed to the registered address
BRONZE	Paper certificate	Mailed to the registered address
ENCOURAGEMENT PRIZE	PDF	Sent by email as a PDF

- **Postage:** The organizer will cover postage and mail the paper certificates for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards and the ISAC Teacher Award to the registered mailing address.
- **PDF:** The Encouragement Prize certificate will be sent by email in PDF format. Gold, Silver, and Bronze certificates will be issued on paper and mailed to the registered address.
- **Reissue:** Applicants may be charged the actual cost of reissuing or resending a certificate if the registered name or address was entered incorrectly, delivery was refused, or for a similar reason.

08 ISAC Teacher Award

ISAC Teacher Award

The ISAC Teacher Award is presented to a registered principal teacher who, in the same edition of the competition, has taught a combined total of at least two Gold or Silver Award recipients. Gold and Silver Award recipients are counted across all age categories, regardless of instrument or voice type.

- **Counting Participants:** A participant counts only once for the same teacher, even if the participant enters multiple works or receives multiple awards.
- **Registration:** To be considered for the ISAC Teacher Award, register the principal teacher in the teacher field of the application form. Only one principal teacher may be registered per entry, and unregistered teachers will not be counted.
- **Consent and Address:** After obtaining the teacher's consent, the applicant must accurately enter the teacher's name in Roman letters exactly as it should appear on the certificate, email address, and mailing address, including the country name and postal code. If the teacher's country does not use postal codes, N/A may be entered in the postal-code field. The organizer may contact the teacher to confirm the registration details if necessary.
- **Changes:** Teachers cannot be added or changed after the application deadline. If there are variations in spelling or similar discrepancies, the organizer will verify and determine whether they refer to the same person.
- **Certificate:** A teacher who meets the requirements will receive a paper certificate by mail at the address registered in the teacher field.

09 Results and Communications

- **Announcement:** Results are scheduled to be announced at the end of March 2027 through publication on the official website and notification by email. Inquiries about when individual results will be announced will not be accepted.
- **Published Information:** When the results are announced, the organizer plans to publish the participant's name, age category, and award on the official website and other channels.
- **Email:** Check your spam settings to ensure that you can receive emails from the organizer.
- **Feedback Delivery:** The organizer plans to email each applicant who orders feedback, within two months after the results are announced, one report compiling comments and advice from multiple jury members. Applicants may select the delivery language. The original comments will be written in Japanese, and their language cannot be selected. If the selected delivery language is not Japanese, a translated feedback report will be provided.
- **Certificate Dispatch:** The organizer plans to dispatch paper certificates for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards and the ISAC Teacher Award within approximately one month after the results are announced. International delivery may take additional time.

10 Copyright, Video Use, and Personal Data

- **Copyright:** Any rights held by the participant or other lawful rights holders in the performance video and performance remain with the respective rights holders after submission.
- **Use of Videos:** Access to submitted video URLs will be limited to the organizer, its service providers, and jury members to the extent necessary for administration, identity verification, adjudication, and fraud prevention. The organizer will not repost or otherwise republish an entry video on its official website, social media, advertisements, or other publicity channels.
- **Personal Data:** Registration details for participants, applicants, and teachers will be processed for application administration, payment confirmation, verification of consent from a parent or legal guardian, adjudication, announcement of results, preparation and dispatch of certificates, determination of eligibility for the ISAC Teacher Award, responses to inquiries, and fraud prevention.

11 Invalid Entries, Disqualification, Disclaimers, and Amendments

- **Invalidity and Disqualification:** An entry may be excluded from adjudication or disqualified if the form is submitted or payment is completed after the deadline; if the video is inaccessible or has been edited during the performance; if the entry contains false information; if the required consent of a parent or legal guardian is missing; if a teacher handles the application without having been asked to do so in advance; if the performance is by someone other than the participant; if the entry infringes rights, contains inappropriate material, or otherwise seriously violates these regulations. Trimming only before and after the performance, as specified in Section 5, is permitted.
- **Opportunity to Correct:** The organizer may request a correction when necessary but does not guarantee that it will notify applicants of every defect or provide an opportunity to correct it.
- **Technical Problems:** Apply well in advance to allow for device, internet connection, video service, payment service, or other failures and delays. Applications cannot be accepted after the deadline.
- **Force Majeure:** The organizer may change, postpone, or cancel the schedule, adjudication, dispatch, or other arrangements due to disasters, infectious diseases, communications failures, laws, regulations, or sanctions, suspension of delivery services, or other circumstances beyond its reasonable control.
- **Amendments:** Necessary changes will be posted on the official website, and important changes will be communicated by email where practicable. Check the latest version of the regulations published on the official website.
- **Language:** If there is any difference in interpretation between language versions, the Japanese version prevails unless otherwise officially stated.

ORGANIZER & CONTACT

Ise-Shima Art Company Co., Ltd.

<https://en.iseshimaart.com/> | info@iseshimaart.com

HEAD OF JURY

SUMIO KOBAYASHI · Composer · Interdisciplinary Artist · Linguist

Sumio Kobayashi is a Japanese composer, interdisciplinary artist, and linguist. Working in both notated concert music and technology-based art, he explores connections among musical structure, language, perception, and the natural world. His works include solo, chamber, and orchestral music and have been performed at music festivals in Asia and Europe.

He has received honors at numerous competitions, including the Music Competition of Japan. He won first prize at the Wrocław European Capital of Culture International Composers' Competition in 2016 for Music by Krasnale, which was premiered by the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic under Rune Bergmann. He also won first prize at the 2016 Busan MARU International Music Festival Composition Competition and second prize in the 2013 Toru Takemitsu Composition Award for The Lark in Snow, performed by the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. He received second prizes at the Pablo Casals International Composition Competition in 2015 and the Hamburg Camerata International Composition Competition in 2018. His works have been presented at the Takefu International Music Festival, Tongyeong International Music Festival, Melos-Étos International Festival of Contemporary Music, and Weimar Spring Festival for Contemporary Music. In 2022, he received the 21st Mie Prefecture Cultural Newcomer Award in recognition of his contribution to music.

His practice extends beyond concert music. In April 2025, he presented a new work at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. That year, a digital work received the Best Creativity Award at ArtX Gallery's Synthetica and Alterica exhibition, and Femininity on the Midnight Sun received an Honorable Mention from Blue Koi Gallery. His poem Sirin was Highly Commended in The Poetry Kit Spring Competition 2020. In 2026, Aquatic Score for a Performing Goldfish - an interactive work that transforms the movements of a live goldfish into piano sound through a computer system - was selected for the Lumen Prize.

He holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Kent and is currently an associate professor in the Department of Music at Nihon University College of Art.