



The 27th 2026

OSAKA International Music Competition®

Artistic Director **Christopher Hinterhuber** Special Counselor **Michael Frischenschlager**

- Final Round Guidelines -
for
Overseas Regional Round

■ OBJECTIVE

The spirit of this competition is to find a number of artists from around the world and help them to compete in an international setting. The OSAKA International Music Competition is dedicated to promoting arts and culture under the banner of world peace and mutual understanding.

■ DISCIPLINES

Section I: Piano, Vocal Music, String, Wind

Section II: Early Music (Solo and Ensemble for Harpsichord, Period Instruments etc.)

Two Pianos, Four hands, Duo, Ensemble, Folk Instruments

Section III: Amateurs, Youth

■ SCHEDULE

FINALS

* The schedule/venues are subject to change without notice due to the number of participants.

Date	Category	Venue
October 3	Amateurs (Generale, Beginner, Silver, Duo/Ensemble Courses)	Muramatsu Recital Hall Shin-Osaka
	Youth (Repertoire Course, Free Program Course: Infant A)	Abeno Kumin (Ward) Center
October 4	Amateurs (Outstanding, Advanced, Student Courses)	Muramatsu Recital Hall Shin-Osaka
	Youth (Free Program Course: Junior, Infant B, C)	Abeno Kumin (Ward) Center
October 9	Piano Age-U	Muramatsu Recital Hall Shin-Osaka
	Piano Age-G, Early Music	Abeno Kumin (Ward) Center
	Folk Instruments, Duo, Ensemble	
October 10	Piano Age-E1/H	Muramatsu Recital Hall Shin-Osaka
	Strings Age-U/G	Abeno Kumin (Ward) Center
	Woodwinds Age-U, Brass Age-U/G	
	Piano Age-J, Two Pianos, Four Hands Vocal Music Age-J/H/Musical Course	Takatsuki Arts Theatre South Building
October 11	Piano Age-E2/E3	Muramatsu Recital Hall Shin-Osaka
	Strings Age-E1/J/H	Abeno Kumin (Ward) Center
	Wind Instruments Age-J/H, Woodwinds Age-G	
	Strings Age-E2/E3/Harp Vocal Music Age-U/G	Takatsuki Arts Theatre South Building

GRAND FINAL=GALA CONCERT



October 12 at Takatsuki Arts Theatre South Building Torishima Hall (Osaka)

Awards Ceremony

▪ Section I, II

October 12 at Takatsuki Arts Theatre South Building Torishima Hall after the Grand Final=Gala Concert

▪ Section III

October 3, 4 at Muramatsu Recital Hall Shin-Osaka, Abeno Kumin (Ward) Center

*Result announcement takes place at the judging venue and online on the day of judging.

■ PRIZES

Grand Prix: Best performer from Section I or Section II; Prize of JPY500,000, Certificate and Trophy

Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award: Second best performer; Certificate

Osaka Governor Award: Third best performer; Certificate

<Section I・II>

1st to 3rd Prize in each category: Certificate, Medal Espoir Prize: Certificate

<Section III>

Best Amateurs/Youth Award: Best performer in the Youth and Amateurs categories

Prize of JPY 30,000 for Youth, JPY 70,000 for Amateurs; Certificate
1st to 3rd Places: Certificate, Medal 4th to 6th Places: Certificate

Circle Wind Special Award: Presented by NPO 9.11 Circle Wind Memorial Concert

Chief Executive Award: Recommendation to play at a Gala Concert in 2027. (participation fee waiver)

Paris Music Forum Award: Concert in Paris or Seoul

Cap Ferret Music Festival Award: Invitation to Cap Ferret Music Festival in France

Sawallisch Award: Exemption from the participation fee for a masterclass organised by the Sawallisch Music Academy (Germany, 2027) or Engagement as a performer in a concert organised by the Wolfgang Sawallisch Foundation in Grassau (Germany)

IMK Prize: Perform with orchestra in Europe

Toccoa Falls College Award: Concert at Toccoa Falls College Recital Hall in Georgia, USA

Matsumoto Memorial Music Guest House Award: Concert at Matsumoto Memorial Music Guest House

Puccini Hall Award: Concert at Osaka Hommachi Puccini Hall

Thomas Kreuzberger Award: 500 euros a talented pianist aged 18 and under

Osaka Mayor Award, Takatsuki Mayor Award, Journalist Award, ALSO Award, Ongakugendai Award, Audience Award
Opportunity to perform at Concert or Concerto concert.

※ Travel, accommodation and other costs incurred participating in seminars and concerts must be paid by participants.

Section I

- ELIGIBILITY Piano / Strings (excluding Harp): Age-E – Age-G
 Winds / Vocal Music (excluding Musical Course): Age-J – Age-G
 Harp / Musical Course: Junior, Senior

■ AGE CATEGORIES

Age-E	1	Born between April 2, 2018 – April 1, 2020
	2	Born between April 2, 2016 – April 1, 2018
	3	Born between April 2, 2014 – April 1, 2016
Age-J	Born between April 2, 2011 – April 1, 2014	
Age-H	Born between April 2, 2008 – April 1, 2011	
Age-U	Born before April 1, 2008, and either a college or a university or a postgraduate student	
Age-G	Those who finished university, postgraduate and general. Those who wish to apply regardless of age categories.	
Junior	Born between April 2, 2011 – April 1, 2020	
Senior	Born before April 1, 2011	

■ REPERTOIRE

*Successful candidates from Overseas Regional Rounds should choose **different repertoire from the ones for the preliminary / regional rounds.**

i.e. different movements or pieces from the same opus number are NOT permissible.

Aria from the same opera etc. is permissible.

PIANO

	Finals	
	Repertoire	Duration
Age-E	A piece chosen by contestant.	5min.
Age-J	A piece chosen by contestant.	5 min.
Age-H	A piece chosen by contestant.	7 min.
Age-U • G	A piece chosen by contestant.	8 min.

VOCAL MUSIC

		Finals	
		Repertoire	Duration
Age-J • H		A piece chosen by contestant.	5 min.
Age-U • G	Aria Course	An aria chosen by contestant.	7 min.
	Art Song Course	Art song(s) composed in and after 1765	7 min.

Notes: Age-U • G candidates are required to choose the aria or art song course.

Title of the opera etc. must be clearly indicated on the application form.

Musical

		Finals	
		Repertoire	Duration
Junior		A musical song chosen by contestant.	5 min.
Senior		A musical song chosen by contestant.	7 min.

Notes: **Title of the musical must be clearly indicated** on the application form.

STRING INSTRUMENTS

Violin, Viola, Cello, Contrabass, Guitar

		Finals	
		Repertoire	Duration
Age-E		A piece chosen by contestant.	5 min.
Age-J		A piece chosen by contestant.	6 min.
Age-H		A piece chosen by contestant.	7 min.
Age-U • G	Vn. Va. Vc. Cb.	A piece chosen by contestant.	8 min.
	Guitar	Piece(s) chosen by contestant.	8 min.

Notes: Omission of the cadenza is not permitted if it falls within the performance time.

Guitar candidates are required to bring their own instrument and footrest.

Cello and Contrabass candidates are required to bring an endpin rest.

Harp *Limited to the Pedal Harp

		Finals	
		Repertoire	Duration
Junior		A piece chosen by contestant.	6 min.
Senior		A piece chosen by contestant.	8 min.

Notes: Contestants are required to bring their own instrument including Harp.

(In the finals, contestant wishing to hire a Harp should contact us.)

WIND INSTRUMENTS Age-U•G: Woodwind Instruments and Brass will be judged individually

	Finals	
	Repertoire	Duration
Age-J • H	A piece chosen by contestant.	5 min.
Age-U • G	A piece chosen by contestant.	7 min.

Notes: Performing from memory is required in the final round.

■ PARTICIPATION FEE

	Finals
Age-E	¥21,600
Age-J	¥21,600
Age-H	¥26,800
Age-U•G	¥29,800
Junior	¥21,600
Senior	¥29,800

Section II

■ ELIGIBILITY: Regardless of age.

Early Music: Harpsichord and other period instruments. Solo and ensemble (up to 8 members) are acceptable.

Two Pianos: Up to eight hands.

Four Hands: Up to eight hands.

Duo: No instrumental requirement.

Ensemble: No instrumental requirement, but up to 8 members.

Folk Instruments: Solo and ensemble (up to 8 members) incl. Marimba and Mandolin are acceptable.

■ REPERTOIRE:

Two Pianos, Four Hands, Duo, Ensemble, Folk Instruments

Piece(s) chosen by contestant.

Early Music: Piece(s) up until the 18th century.

Note: Tuning pitch of Harpsichord is A=415 Hz.

■ DURATION / PARTICIPATION FEE

	Duration	Finals Fee
Early Music	8 min.	¥26,500
Two Pianos (per pair)	10 min.	¥39,900
Four Hands / Duo / Ensemble (per pair/group)	10 min.	¥32,000
Folk Instruments	10 min.	¥26,800

Section III

AMATEURS

■ ELIGIBILITY

* Students of music at high school, college, university, members of performing groups or music professionals are ineligible. Students outside of their majors are eligible.

* Silver Course: Graduates of music school who do not perform or teach primarily for professional pursuits or financial benefit for more than 10 years.

Course	Eligibility	
Outstanding	Advanced learner; no upper age limit	Piano
Advanced	Advanced learner, Born before April 1, 2011; no upper age limit	All instruments (include vocal music)
General	Born before April 1, 2008; no upper age limit	
Student	Born between April 2, 2008 – April 1, 2011	
Beginner	Beginners aged 18 and above; no upper age limit	
Silver	70 years old and above	
Duo/Ensemble	Regardless of age. No instrumental requirement, but 8 members and less.	

■ REPERTOIRE:

[**Outstanding Course**] One or more pieces are acceptable.

[**Other Courses**] A piece chosen by the contestant. *Classical guitar: more than one piece is permissible.

■ DURATION / PARTICIPATION FEE

Course	Duration	Finals Fee
Outstanding	20 min.	¥50,000
Advanced	7 min.	¥26,800
General; Student; Duo/Ensemble	5 min.	¥24,500
Beginner; Silver	4 min.	¥24,500

YOUTH

Free Program Course

■ ELIGIBILITY / REPERTOIRE

Course	Eligibility		Repertoire
Junior	Born between April 2, 2011 – April 1, 2014		A piece chosen by contestant
Infant	A. Those who were born between April 2, 2014 – April 1, 2017	All instruments (include vocal music)	
	B. Those who were born between April 2, 2017 – April 1, 2020		
	C. Those who were born after April 2, 2020	All instruments (include vocal music)	Piece (s) chosen by contestant

■ DURATION / PARTICIPATION FEE

Course	Duration	Finals Fee
Junior	5 min.	¥24,500
Infant A, B, C	4 min.	¥21,600

Repertoire Course

■ ELIGIBILITY / REPERTOIRE

Course	Eligibility		Repertoire
Infant	A. Those who were born between April 2, 2014 – April 1, 2017	Piano	Select one piece from the list below
	B. Those who were born between April 2, 2017 – April 1, 2020		
	C. Those who were born after April 2, 2020		

REPERTOIRE

*Same repertoire can be chosen for the semi-final/regional round and the final round.

Course	Repertoire	
Infant A	W.Gillock: Carnival Ball	M.Clementi: Sonatina Op.36 No.1 3rd mov.
	P.Tchaikovsky: Waltz Op.39 No.8	A.Khachaturian: Ivan Is Very Busy
	M.Moszkowski: Tarantella	A.Yuyama: Baumkuchen
Infant B	D.Kabalevsky: The Clown Op.39 No.20	W.Gillock: The Juggler
	C.Gurlitt: The Fair Op.101 No.8	C.Gurlitt: Gavotte Op.210 No.9
	H.V.Gael: Les Papillons	G.P.Telemann: Scherzino
	L.v.Beethoven: Sonatine No.5 G-Dur 1st mov.	S.Heller: Tarantella Op.46 No.7
Infant C	D.Kabalevsky: Marching Op.39 No.3	D.Kabalevsky: A Little Scherzo Op.39 No.6
	D.Kabalevsky: Hedgehog Op.89 No.8	G.Galynin: The Lovely Rabbit
	F.X.Chwatal: Little Playmates	J.Hassler: Minuetto
	L.Mozart: Bourrée	C.Rollin: Kitty Kat Meow

■ PARTICIPATION FEE

Course	Finals
Infant A, B, C	¥10,000

GRAND FINAL = GALA CONCERT
*Grand final
 concert*
 グランドファイナル = ガラコンサート

	Eligibility	Repertoire
Section I Section II	1st prize winner of each category	A piece chosen by contestant [Age-E, J, Junior] No more than 7 min. [Others] No more than 10 min.
Section III	Best Amateur/Youth Award winner	A piece chosen by contestant No more than 7 min.

Notes: The registration for the Grand Final=Gala Concert will be notified after the announcement of the final round result.

■ Successive and the 27th Jury

Piano/Harpsichord: Christopher HINTERHUBER, Alexander MÜLLENBACH, Alexander PALEY, Boris BEKHTEREV, Dina YOFFE, Gabriel KWOK, Genevieve MARTIGNY, Gunther HERZFELD, Heyoung PARK, Helene BERGER, Henri BARDA, Ingomar RAINER, Janos CEGLEDY, Johannes KROPFITSCH, Luo XIAO, Michele INNOCENTI, Michael WLADKOWSKI, Norbert ZEILBERGER, Odile POISSON, Roland KELLER, Rafael GUERRA, Raffi BESALYAN, Serguei MILSTEIN, Shuhua CHEN, Sylvia CHU, Teresa LEOPOLD, Thomas KREUZBERGER, Veda ZUPONCIC, Waseem KOTOUB, Xia JIANG, Xiao WU, You Ju LEE, Zhe WEI, Aya HAMADA, Eri NAKAGAWA, Fumiko EGUCHI, Jun KANNO, Kazuko SUMI, Mitsuko ICHIMURA, Ryoko FUKAZAWA, Shinichiro NAKANO, Tomoko SAWALLISCH, Urara SASAKI, Yoko KITANO and others

Strings: Leon SPIERER, Michael FRISCHENSCHLAGER, Ida HAENDEL, Albert Yue CHENG, Andres CARDENES, Anna GUTOWSKA, Avri LEVITAN, Dae Hwan KIM, Debrawood SCHWARTZ, Ernst KNAVA, George BABUADZE, Gérard POULET, Helga-Marie KNAVA, Igor PETRUSHEVSKI, Jean MOUILÈLRE, Jong-jin HONG, John DUFFY, Mari TAMPERE-BEZRODNY, Martin STANZELEIT, Mauro IURATO, Michael VAIMAN, Midori SEILER, Min-Jun CHO, Naomi SEILER, Nathaniel ROSEN, Ngo Hoang LINH, Nicolas KOECKERT, Oleh KRYSA, Paris PARASCHOUDIS, Rainer CHRISTIANSEN, Robin BONNELL, Wolfgang KLOS, Seoyoung LEE, Soon-ik LEE, Stefan KROPFITSCH, Su-Lan HSU, William PRUNKL, Wing HO, Young-Sook YOUN, Yuri CHRISTIANSEN, Zaza GOGUA, Asako YOSHIKAWA, Atsuko YOSHINO, Ayako SHINOZAKI, Fumiaki KONO, Kazuki SAWA, Kiyoshi SHOMURA, Takashi SHIMIZU, Yuki HYAKUTAKE and others

Vocal Music: Claudia VISCA, Gianni KRISCAK, Jae-Moo YANG, Marcella REALE, Sun-Sook KIM, Tsui Ping WEI, Asako TAMURA, Chizuko MATSUNAMI, Harumi OKADA, Kotoko SAITO, Mari MIDORIKAWA, Miwako MATSUMOTO, Tsuyoshi MIHARA, Yasuo UZUKA, Yoichiro UCHIDA, Yoshiaki GYOTEN, Yuko ARATA, Yuko MITANI and others

Winds: Barbara GISLER-HAASE, Alongkorn LAOSAICHUEA, Carsten ECKERT, Christoph MOSER, Daren ROBBINS, Hae Kyung LEE, Hans Maria KNEIHS, Jae Young BAE, Luca BENUCCI, Mihi KIM, Sugree CHAROENSOOK, Taras DEMCHYSHYN, Asako INOUE, Kazuo TOMIOKA, Koji OKAMURA, Kozo KAGIZAKI, Masahiro MAEDA, Naohiro TSUKEN, Osamu KUMASHIRO, Shinichi GO, Tatsuzo AKASAKA, Yoshiaki TAKEMOTO, and others

Journalists, Conductors and others: Narong PRANGCHAROEN, Silvain GUIGNARD, Hiroyuki KOMIBUCHI, Ken FUKUMOTO, Kiichi YOKOYA, Nobuo NISHIOKA, Nobuya MONTA, Takashi ASANO, Takuo IKEDA, Tokihiko UMEZU, Yuki HASEGAWA and others

(As of Jan. 2026)

■ NOTES

<Performance>

- If contestants play the specific movement(s) or excerpt(s) from a suite or variation, these must be clearly noted on the application form.
- If contestants play more than one piece/movement, pieces/movements must be played in order written on the application form.
- In principle, no repeats are allowed.
- Arranged or shortened pieces are not accepted. (Accompaniment may be omitted.)
- Improvisation, prepared piano, etc. are not permissible.
- Except for unaccompanied pieces, contestants should play with a piano accompanist.
- The piece must be performed without music, except for the following categories.

【Finals】 <Section II> All categories

<Section III> Silver and Duo/Ensemble Courses

- The piece chosen by contestant may not be changed after the submission of the application form.
- Contestants are required to bring their own accompanist. (If you need an accompanist, apply and send a score to the office. The cost is the contestant's responsibility.)
- Except for Piano and Harpsichord (for solo), contestants must bring their own instrument, pedal extender/platform, footrest, etc.

<Final Round Judging Duration>

- Actual performing time may be longer or shorter than designated. Depending on schedule, judging duration might be changed.
- If piece is longer than judging duration, a bell will be rung to stop the performance. The performing time will not affect the result.
- Duration will be timed from the line marked on the stage.

<Result>

Finals Grand Final=Gala Concert	To be announced on the day.
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<Others>

- The contestant will receive the schedule and other information approximately 10 days before the date of each scheduled final round.
- Position of Piano lid and position of the two pianos are controlled by the Executive Committee.
- Photos and video/audio recording are **not permitted**.
- The order of performances shall be decided based on an alphabetical order. Starting letter is decided by the Executive Committee.
- Recorded media, fees and other materials submitted are non-returnable.
- Travel, accommodation and other costs must be paid by the contestants.
- If judging has to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather conditions or natural disaster, judging shall be postponed. If contestants are impossible to attend rescheduled date, their final round participation will carry over to next competition. Organiser shall not be liable to refund of fees.
- The contestants must obtain the necessary visas to visit Japan.
If an invitation letter or any documents are required for the visa application, the applicant must request them from the secretariat. ¥10,000- will be charged for the visa documents.

- No enquiries about the judging procedures are permitted.
- Section III Best Amateurs Award and Best Youth Award winners are required to attend the Grand Final=Gala Concert.
- Grand Final=Gala Concert performers must attend the awards ceremony.
- Certificates and medals can be sent to those who fail to attend the awards ceremony. (Shipping fee will be charged)
- All the performances, broadcasting rights, recording, filming and photography in the competition and concert which are related to the competition belong to the OSAKA International Music Promotion Society. The contestant can't claim the rights to them.

■ APPLICATION

- Application must be submitted by online registration from the designated URL.
- For more than one category, the application form should be submitted per category.
- The application may not be processed if the application form is not completely filled out.
- Confirmation e-mail will be automatically sent after the application submission.
Please contact to <entry2026@osakaimc.com> if applicant doesn't receive the confirmation email.

■ APPLICATION METHOD

Applicant must submit the items listed in (1) - (3) below by the application deadline.

(1) Application	Fill out and submit the registration form at https://www.osakaimc.com/en/webform-final-en
(2) Participation fee	The participation fee must be paid before the application submission.
(3) Photograph of the applicant, taken within six months of the date of application	Image data of the applicant must be attached to the registration form. *A formal profile photo is not required. Photos taken with a smartphone or similar device are acceptable.

■ PAYMENT OF FEE

Participation fee should be paid by PayPal.

*The entry fee is non-refundable regardless of the reason.

Online Payment via PayPal <https://www.osakaimc.com/en/web-paypal-final/>

■ CONTACT

OSAKA International Music Competition Secretariat * Please enquire by **e-mail**. (Japanese or English)

2-3-13 Oji-cho Abeno-ku Osaka-shi Osaka 545-0023 JAPAN

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