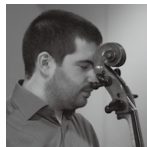




12th OSAKA INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION & FESTA

Rules and Regulations

第12回 大阪国際室内楽コンクール&フェスタ
募集要項



The 12th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition & Festa

Rules and Regulations

Music is called the universal language that touches the hearts of all ages. The Japan Chamber Music Foundation was established in 1992 to enhance the appeal of chamber music, described as the origin of music. It organized the first Osaka International Chamber Music Competition the following year. Since then, we have continued to hold this musical event every three years which produced many talented chamber music ensembles.

Devoted young ensembles will be invited from across the world to take part in the Chamber Music Competition. Prizes will be awarded to the outstanding ensembles selected by a group of internationally renowned musicians who are authorized by the foundation to serve as the jury. In the Competition, Section I features String Quartet, while Section II focuses on Piano Trio and Piano Quartet.

The Chamber Music Festa is open to all music genres from classical to ethnic or traditional music and has no restrictions on age or types of musical instruments. This unique style enables the audience to experience the joy and diversity of chamber music.

We hope that all the ensembles will be able to show the fruits of their work, prove their versatility and develop their musical talents. We believe this event will encourage local audiences and international musicians to interact with each other.

Dates	Competition: May 17th-24th, 2026 Festa: May 9th-13th, 2026
Organized by	Japan Chamber Music Foundation
Co-organizer (1st round of Festa)	Toyama Cultural Foundation Mie Prefectural Culture and Arts Promotion Foundation
Under the auspices of	Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Agency for Cultural Affairs / Osaka Prefectural and Municipal Governments / Japan Federation of Musicians / Sumitomolife Izumi Hall / Kansai Economic Federation / Osaka Business Park Council / The Yomiuri Shimbun
Collaborative Partners	Britten Pears Arts / Music in PyeongChang / Quatuors à Bordeaux / String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam / Verband der Streichquartette und weiterer Kammermusik-Ensembles VdSQ e.V. & Förderverein Festival4 e.V.
Special Support	MK Memorial

This "Rules and Regulations" is subject to change due to circumstances. Any updated information will be announced on the website of Japan Chamber Music Foundation if there will be any change.

The application of the 12th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition & Festa will be held with the latest "Rules and Regulations".

Organization



Executive Committee

President	Masayoshi MATSUMOTO	President, Japan Chamber Music Foundation Chairman, Kansai Economic Federation
Vice President	Yozo MATSUDA	Chairman of the Board of Directors, Japan Chamber Music Foundation President, Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation
Chairperson of Competition Jury	Monika HENSCHHEL	Violist, Henschel Quartet
Special jury of Festa	Shin-ichi GO	Trombonist, Professor emeritus, Kyoto City University of Art
Administrative Director	Hiroyuki FUJIKADO	Executive Director, Japan Chamber Music Foundation

Advisor

Yoshio UNNO	Violinist, Guest Professor, Tokyo College of Music
Noriko OGAWA	Pianist, Professor, Guildhall School of Music
Yoshinobu KURIBAYASHI	Vocalist, Member, The Japan Art Academy
Mihoko TAKAHASHI	Violinist, Former Lecturer, Kobe College
Toshio YOSHIKUMI	Advisor, Japan Association of Classical Music Presenters
Noriyuki INOUE	Honorary Chairman, Daikin Industries, Ltd.
Hiroshi OZAKI	Senior Advisor, Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.
Yoshio SATO	Senior Corporate Advisor, Sumitomo Life Insurance Co.
Shingo TORII	Representative Director and Vice Chairman, Suntory Holdings Ltd.
Akiji MAKINO	Chairman and CEO, Iwatani Corp.
Takayuki YAMAGUCHI	President, Non-Destructive Inspection Co., Ltd.

(In the order of the Japanese syllabary)

Advisor Laureate of Competition

Tsuyoshi TSUTSUMI	Cellist, Director General, Suntory Foundation for Arts
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Advisor Laureate of Festa

Toshikazu UMEMOTO	Pianist, Professor Emeritus, Osaka College of Music
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Expert Committee of Competition

Koichi IRIYAMA	Chairman, Japan Association of Classical Music Presenters
Michiko OSHIMA	Toho Gakuen College of Music Career Support Center
Tomohiro CHUBACHI	Senior Manager of Artistic Programming, Suntory Hall
Yawara WATANABE	Music journalist

Expert Committee of Festa

Shin-ichi GO	Trombonist, Professor emeritus, Kyoto City University of Art
Masataka KONO	Oboist, Representative, Kansai Chamber Music Association
Kuniko SATO	Director of Content Business Department Event Business Division, Yomiuri Telecasting Corp.
Shota FUKUOKA	Deputy Directors-General, The National Museum of Ethnology
Yoh MATSUDA	General Manager, Sumitomolife Izumi Hall

The 12th Osaka International Chamber Music F E S T A

Rules and Regulations



There are many types of music throughout the world rooted in various cultures, which are handed down through generations and still continue to develop to this day. Seemingly similar instruments and music have been developed uniquely in different countries and regions, evolving to their new music styles with the times. Others have remained steadfastly keeping their traditions and have maintained their practices for more than 100 years.

Japan Chamber Music Foundation will operate the Osaka International Chamber Music Festa to contribute to mutual understanding through cultural exchange by sharing the diversity of music with a wide people through performances of “chamber music”, a small ensemble music of the world's diverse cultures. In order to achieve this goal, the Festa calls for free expression of mainly instrumental music, including traditional instruments and folk music from the entire world. To embrace a wide range of musical culture and traditional performing arts, singing and dancing are also eligible as ensemble members accompanying instrumentalists.

Special Jury of the Festa

Shin-ichi GO	Trombonist, Professor emeritus, Kyoto City University of Art
Masataka KONO	Oboist, Representative, Kansai Chamber Music Association
Yunosuke YAMAMOTO	Cellist, Resident Conductor, Tokyo New Philharmonic Orchestra
Risa KATAOKA	Koto player, Specially Appointed Professor, Osaka College of Music
Hiroyuki FUJIKADO	Executive Director, Japan Chamber Music Foundation
Taku KAWAI	Producer, Osaka Chamber Music Competition & Festa

In addition to the Special Jury of the Festa, the Festa will be judged by a large number of audience members who will be selected in public offering beforehand.

Special Advisor of the Festa

Shota FUKUOKA	Deputy Directors-General, National Museum of Ethnology
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1.1 Eligible ensemble

Chamber music ensembles consisting of two to six instrumentalists and of any combination of musical instruments (electronically sound-amplified instruments are prohibited).

Singing and dancing can be included in the ensemble, however, instrument performance must be the main part of the ensemble according to the number of the musicians and to the performance. The performance of singing or dancing, if included, must be related to the musical performance.

*Performance which does not carry out the Festa's mission, and the ensemble of which instrumentalists are subordinated to singing or dancing are not eligible.

1.2 Selection Rounds

The Festa will be judged at the 1st, Semifinal and Final Rounds.

1.3 Schedule Year 2026

Briefing	May 7th
1st Round (Toyama)	
1st Round (Mie)	May 9th
Ensemble SHOWCASE #1(Osaka)	May 11th
Semifinal Round (Osaka)	
Ensemble SHOWCASE #2 (Osaka)	May 12th
Final Round (Osaka)	
Awards Ceremony	May 13th

*Participating ensembles will be assigned to go to Toyama or Mie, and perform at the 1st Round respectively on the same day.

<Ensemble SHOWCASE>

Ensembles which could not pass the 1st Round will appear at a concert "Ensemble SHOWCASE" at Sumitomolife Izumi Hall, Osaka instead of participating in the following rounds.

1.4 Venues

Sumitomolife Izumi Hall (Osaka)

The 1st Round of the Festa will be held at the following two venues.

Toyama Prefecture Takaoka Culture Hall (Takaoka, Toyama Prefecture)

Mie Pref. Fine Arts Center (Tsu, Mie Prefecture)

1.5 Copyrights

The Organizer shall have the rights to record, photograph, broadcast and stream any stage of the event, as well as all rights regarding production, sales, etc. of CDs and/or DVDs.

And the Organizer shall have the rights to use any application materials from applicants such as photograph, biography and performance video for the purpose of promotion of the Festa.

1.6 Others

- [1] Any problems that may arise regarding this Rules and Regulations shall be resolved in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of Japanese edition and the Japanese laws. The Organizer reserves the right to make additions, corrections or changes to the clauses in the Rules and Regulations even after the publication.
- [2] Personal information of the applying ensembles collected for these events will be managed by the Organizer and used only for the purpose of managing the events.
- [3] The Organizer shall not be liable for any physical, mental or material damage or injury to the participants arising during the event. The participants are required to subscribe an insurance policy on their responsibilities.
- [4] All performances will be open to the public at the venue, and the performances in Osaka will be streamed online.

2.1 Eligibility

The Festa is open to ensembles of all nationalities and any age.

2.2 Duplicate Application

An ensemble may apply for only one category: Section I, Section II or the Festa. Only one application per musician is accepted.

2.3 Reapplication

Any ensemble that has previously won the gold prize in the Osaka International Chamber Music Festa cannot apply for the Festa.

2.4 Application

Ensembles applying for the Festa should fill out and submit following items through the online application service “MUVAC” (www.muvac.com) which can be accessed from the Festa official website (<https://jcmf.or.jp/competition-festa/>) or (<https://www.muvac.com/competition/japan-chamber-music-foundation-festa>). Application is confirmed as the final upon submission all the items.

After submitting your application, make sure that you have received a confirmation e-mail automatically sent from MUVAC.

- [1] Basic information such as the ensemble name, members' name, base of the ensemble and so on (Refer to MUVAC).
- [2] A recently taken photo of the ensemble, preferably with their instruments.
- [3] A scan of official documents verifying name, birth date and nationality of each ensemble member, such as a passport or a driver's license.
- [4] Biography of the ensemble.
- [5] Program Note (no more than 300 words) of the repertoire for 1st Round and Semifinal Round. It is requested to contain the background, history and theme of the programs.
- [6] Photocopy of newspaper articles, programs or any other reference materials showing the ensemble's musical activities can be sent through the application form. (Not indispensable)
- [7] Performance video
 - A video must be recorded on or after January 1st, 2025. The recommended recording format is MP4.
 - **Ensembles applying for the Festa** must record all the works to be performed at the 1st Round and Semifinal Round. (The works for each round must be played without intermission in one take.)

<Note for video recording>

- A video must be taken clearly with one fixed camera and constantly shows the whole ensemble with their instruments.
- A video should be professional recording quality. Applying ensembles should use adequate quality camera and microphone to apply for the international music event. Low-quality recording may not be judged at the preliminary screening.
- If the recording video camera has the automatic sound adjusting function, turn off this function when recording.
- A video recording must not be edited or processed to improve sound quality.
- The name of submitted video file should be “Ensemble name _ performance round”.

2.5 Application Fee / Entry Fee

There is no application fee for the Festa. Instead, the ensembles which has passed the preliminary screening will be requested to pay an entry fee of 20,000 Japanese yen by cash at the registration when they arrive at Osaka.

2.6 Application Period

Application will open from **April 1st, 2025 through October 12th, 2025**.

Online application form will be closed at 23:59 on October 12th in Japan Standard Time. (JST=GMT+9)

3.1 Preliminary screening

Preliminary screening will be held in accordance with the submitted documents and performance videos. The results of the preliminary screening will be E-mailed to all applying ensembles by December 31st, 2025.

3.2 Approval of Participation

“Participation Guidelines” containing detailed information regarding participation will be sent to each selected ensemble.

Any change of the ensemble members once the ensemble receives the Approval of Participation are subject to disqualification.

Selected ensembles for the Festa will be notified of the venue for the 1st Round. The venue cannot be changed at the request of the selected ensembles.

3.3 Confirmation of Arrival

Participating ensembles should check in at the designated time, date and place and participate in the briefing. In principle, an ensemble that fails to check in at the specified place on time cannot participate in the event.

3.4 Practice Facilities

Participating ensembles of the Festa will be provided with a free-of-charge practice room for three hours a day one day before their performance day.

On the performance day, the rehearsal studio will be available shortly before their performance. Participating ensembles cannot select a time slot or a practice room.

3.5 Performance Order

The order of performance for the 1st Round will be decided by drawing lots at the briefing. The order of performance for the Semifinal, and Final Rounds will be decided in accordance with the prescribed methods. The Organizer may decide the order of performance for each round of the Festa depending on the instruments to be used.

3.6 Musical instruments

In principle, the participants must bring their own musical instruments. However, the Organizer will provide two Concert Grand pianos (tuned at a pitch of 442) and one harpsichord.

Inside-the-piano and harpsichord techniques involving the manipulation of the strings are prohibited.

It is not allowed to amplify the sound of an instrument through electronic means.

Singing and dancing can be included in the ensemble, however, instrument performance must be the main part of the ensemble according to the number of the musicians and to the performance. The performance of singing or dancing, if included, must be related to the musical performance.

*Performance which does not carry out the Festa’s mission, and the ensemble of which instrumentalists are subordinated to singing or dancing are not eligible.

3.7 Repertoires

Ensembles applying for the Festa may perform any work within 25 minutes at one round. One round should have up to 5 pieces. The duration starts from the first note of the first work, finishes at the last note of the last work, and includes time between compositions and between movements. Ensembles must prepare two different concert programs for the 1st Round and the Semifinal Round, respectively.

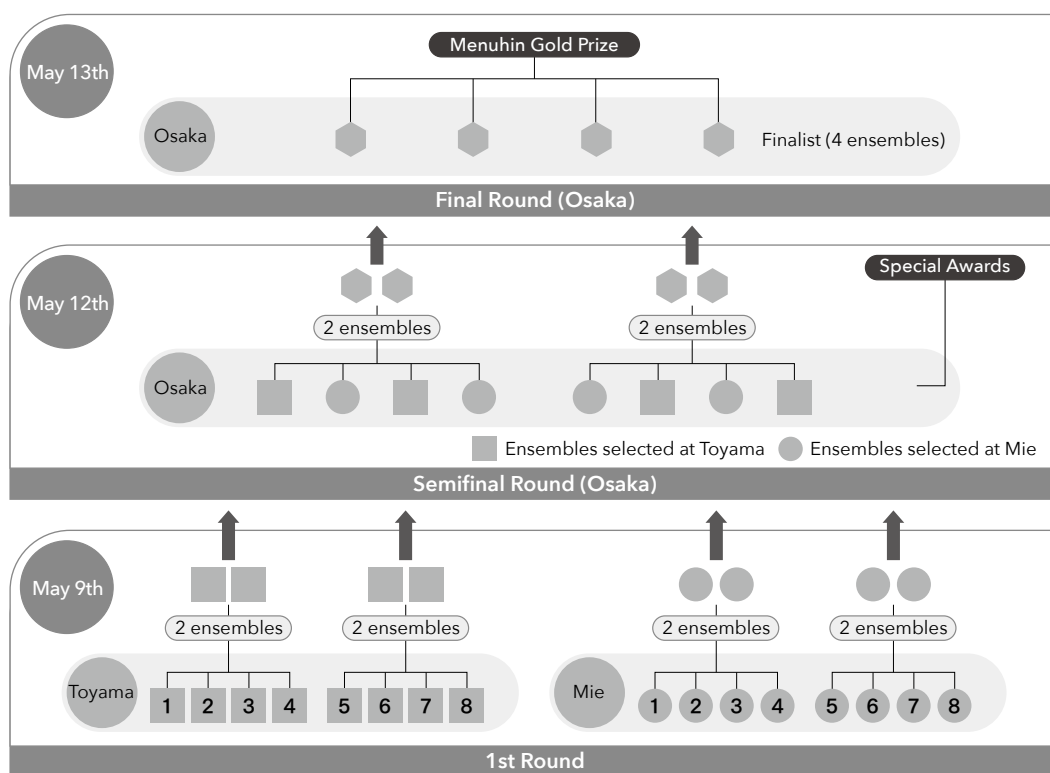
*The works to be performed at the Final Round must be selected from those two programs, and must be submitted after the Semifinal Round.

3.8 Judgement

The screening for each round will be held in accordance with the specified rules below by special jury and jury consisting of audience members (non-professional musicians) who will be selected in public offering beforehand. The special jury will be commissioned by the Organizer.

- [1] 1st Round: Sixteen ensembles selected in the pre-screening will be divided into two groups and perform at either of the two venues for the 1st Round. Eight ensembles will be divided into two groups. The ensemble with the first and second highest number of votes in each group will be qualified for the Semifinal Round.
- [2] Semifinal Round: Eight ensembles will be divided into two groups. The ensemble with the first and second highest number of votes in each group will be qualified for the Final Round.
- [3] Final Round: The ensemble with the highest number of votes will be awarded the Menuhin Gold Prize.
- [4] Others: If some ensembles in each group receive the same number of votes, the special jury will discuss which ensemble should be selected to the next round. If the special jury consider an ensemble's performance is not abiding by the Rules and Regulations, they are able to deduct the number of the votes of the ensemble.
- [5] Any decision of the jury shall be final and without appeal.

Festa : Selection flow



3.9 Announcement of the Results

The results of the respective rounds will be announced on the stage after the performances of each block.

4.1 Prizes for the Festa

The following prizes will be awarded to the best four ensembles in the Festa by voting of the jury and the special jury.

Menuhin Gold Prize*: 1,000,000 yen, Certificate of Commendation

Finalist Prize (3 ensembles): 300,000 yen, Certificate of Commendation respectively

*To honor Lord Yehudi Menuhin, who served as Honorary Artistic Director from the first to the third Competition and Festa, and suggested the idea of Chamber Music Festa, the Organizer began to grant the "Menuhin Gold Prize" to the best ensemble participating in the Festa to remember his achievement since the third Festa in 1999.

[Special Awards of the Festa]

The following awards will be sent to the ensembles at the Semifinal Round by judging of the Special Jury. No ensemble might receive a special award if there is no eligible one.

The Folkloric Music Special Award

100,000 yen in award money will be sent to an ensemble which has presented the best performance of traditional/ethnic music.

Keyboard Ensemble Special Award

100,000 yen in award money will be sent to an ensemble including keyboard instrument (piano, accordion or so on) which has presented excellent performance.

String Ensemble Special Award

100,000 yen in award money will be sent to an ensemble including bowed string instrument (violin, fiddle or so on) or plucked string instrument (harp, guitar, or so on) which has presented excellent performance. Keyboard instruments with strings like piano are not eligible.

Wind Ensemble Special Award

100,000 yen in award money will be sent to an ensemble including wind instrument which has presented excellent performance.

Percussion Ensemble Special Award

100,000 yen in award money will be sent to an ensemble including percussion instrument which has presented excellent performance.

New-Wave Special Award

100,000 yen in award money will be sent to an ensemble which has presented excellent new-wave performance.

4.2 Taxation

The amount of money above is subject to taxation as stipulated in the Japanese tax laws and will be paid in Japanese yen.

4.3 Concert Tour

As a part of the prize, the Menuhin gold prize winners of the Festa will be invited to perform in a concert tour (called Grand-Prix Concerts). The concert tour will be operated from the late October through November, 2028 (the date will be subject to change). They will give about ten concerts to be held across Japan. The performance for the concerts will be remunerated.

*Applying ensembles must inform the Organizer if they have any other appointment in this period when they apply.

4.4 Member change after winning the Menuhin Gold Prize

If the Menuhin Gold Prize ensemble change their member after winning the prize, they might be disqualified from the concert tour.

5.1 Travel Expenses

In principle, all participants must bear their own travel expenses. However, the Organizer will provide them with travel expenses as specified below.

5.2 Participants Residing Outside Japan

The Organizer will provide the following financial assistance:

- [1] 85,000 yen to each participant residing in the Asia region; and
- [2] 170,000 yen to each participant residing in any other part of the world.

*The above financial assistance is subject to taxation as stipulated in the Japanese tax laws.

5.3 Participants Residing in Japan

The Organizer will provide 20,000 yen to the participants residing in a remote area of Japan (300 km or more from the venue).

*The above financial assistance is subject to taxation as stipulated in the Japanese tax laws.

5.4 Domestic Travel Expenses for Festa Participants

The Organizer will provide Festa participants with travel expenses between Osaka and the venue for the 1st Round.

5.5 Lodging Facilities

The Organizer will cover lodging expenses for all participants for the period described below. Participants should stay at the accommodation specified by the Organizer. Expenses for food, transportation, communication, etc., must be borne by the participants.

From May 7th until the morning on May 14th, 2026.











Contact

Japan Chamber Music Foundation

1-3-50 Shiromi, Chuo-ku, Osaka 540-8510, Japan Tel: +81-(0)6-6947-2184 Fax: +81-(0)6-6947-2198

E-mail: osaka-comp@jcmf.or.jp

*Our E-mail messages may not be received by some E-mail addresses especially with Gmail. Please set up your E-mail address to be able to receive from our E-mail domain "@jcmf.or.jp".

Festa 2023 in 2023	Tenger Ayalguu (Mongolia)	
The 9th in 2017	Duo Prokopiev-Davtyan (Russia)	
The 8th in 2014	Das Kleine Wien Trio (Austria)	
The 7th in 2011	Trio "Classic Without Borders" (Russia)	
The 6th in 2008	Moscow Quartet (Russia)	
The 5th in 2005	Duo Admony (Israel)	
The 4th in 2002	Duo Romanov-Kougaevski (Russia)	
The 3rd in 1999	BackBeat (U.K.)	
The 2nd in 1996	ARS Instrumentalis Pragensis (Czech Republic)	
The 1st in 1993	Stankov Radionov Duo and Nestorova (Bulgaria)	



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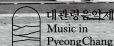
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Building Strong Foundations for a Long Journey

Winning a competition is just the beginning. The Osaka International Chamber Music Competition and VdSQ & Festival4 create lasting structures to help exceptional ensembles thrive beyond their prize. Even the greatest talents need strong partners to succeed.



Chamber Music as a Cultural Ambassador

For decades, chamber music ensembles have been powerful ambassadors of values and vision worldwide. Supporting VdSQ & Festival4 means investing in artists who bring musical excellence and cultural diplomacy to global audiences.

Join Us in Shaping the Future of Chamber Music!

Become a sponsor and be part of this inspiring journey. Discover how you can contribute and contact us at m.henschel@vdsq.de

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The 12th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition & Festa

第12回大阪国際室内楽コンクール&フェスタ



JAPAN CHAMBER MUSIC FOUNDATION

公益財団法人 日本室内楽振興財団

コンクール & フェスタ2026の最新情報は、こちらから確認できます。
<http://www.jcmf.or.jp/competition-festa/>



You can check the update of the Competition
and Festa 2026 on our website.
<http://www.jcmf.or.jp/competition-festa/en>

