

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	Toyama Cultural Foundation			
(1st round of Festa)	Mie Prefectural Culture and Arts Promotion Foundation			
Under the auspices of	Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Agency for Cultural Affairs / Osaka Prefectural and Municipa Governments / Japan Federation of Musicians / Sumitomolife Izumi Hall / Kansa 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, Japan Chamber Music Foundation Masayoshi MATSUMOTO President Chairman, Kansai Economic Federation

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Japan Chamber Music Foundation Yozo MATSUDA Vice President

Violist, Henschel Quartet

President, Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation Chairperson of

Monika HENSCHEL

Competition Jury Shin-ichi GO Special jury of Festa Trombonist, Professor emeritus, Kyoto City University of Art

Hiroyuki FUJIKADO Executive Director, Japan Chamber Music Foundation Administrative Director

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 YOSHIZUMI Advisor, Japan Association of Classical Music Presenters

Norivuki 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

Advisor Laureate of Festa

Toshikazu UMEMOTO Pianist, Professor Emeritus, Osaka College of Music

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 Director of Content Business Department Event Business Division,

Kuniko SATO 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 COMPETITION

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Jury of the Competition

Monika HENSCHEL, Chairperson Germany / Violist, Henschel Quartet

Weigang LI

Kazuki SAWA

USA / Violinist, Shanghai Quartet

Japan / Violinist, Sawa Quartet

Oliver WILLE

Germany / Violinist, Kuss Quartet

Mai MOTOBUCHI USA-Japan / Violist, former Borromeo String Quartet member

Alasdair TAIT UK / Cellist, former Belcea Quartet member

Sung-Won YANG South Korea / Cellist, Trio Owon

Rieko AIZAWA Japan-USA / Pianist, Horszowski Trio

Ichiro NODAIRA Japan / Pianist, President, Tokyo College of Music



1.1 Performance Categories

The Competition comprises the following two categories:

Section I: String Quartet (Two Violins, Viola and Cello)

Section II: Piano Trio (Piano, Violin and Cello) or Piano Quartet (Piano, Violin, Viola and Cello)

1.2 Selection Rounds

The Competition will be judged at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd (only for Section I) and Final Rounds.

1.3 Schedule Year 2026

Briefing for both se	May 15th		
Section I	1st Round	(8 ensembles)	May 17th
	2nd Round	(8 ensembles)	May 19th
	3rd Round	(5 ensembles)	May 21st
	Final Round	(3 ensembles)	May 22nd
Section II	1st Round	(8 ensembles)	May 18th
	2nd Round	(8 ensembles)	May 20th
	Final Round	(3 ensembles)	May 22nd
Awards Ceremony			May 22nd
Prizewinners' Concert	Osaka (Prizewinners)		May 23rd
	Tokyo (1st Prizewinners of the Section I and II)		May 24th

1.4 Venue

Sumitomolife Izumi Hall (Osaka)

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, profile and performance video for the purpose of promotion of the Competition.

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 for the selections will be open to the public at the venue, and be streamed online.

2.1 Eligibility

The Competition is open to ensembles of all nationalities, whose members were born on or after May 18th, 1990.

2.2 Duplicate Application

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

2.3 Reapplication

Any ensemble that has previously won the first prize in the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition cannot apply for the same category.

2.4 Application

Ensembles applying for the Competition should fill out and submit following items through the online application service "MUVAC" (www.muvac.com) which can be accessed from the Competition official website (https://jcmf.or.jp/competition-festa/) or (https://www.muvac.com/competition/japan-chamber-music-foundation-competition). After submitting your application, make sure that you have received a confirmation e-mail automatically sent from MUVAC.

Application is confirmed as the final upon submission all the items and the payment of application fee specified in 2.5.

- [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] Ensembles applying for the Competition must submit a letter of recommendation from their teacher or a musician equivalent to the instructor.
- [5] Biography of the ensemble.
- [6] Performance video
 - •A video must be recorded on or after January 1st, 2025. The recording format must be MP4.
 - •Ensembles applying for the Competition must select and record one complete work from the repertoire listed in [1] for the 1st round, and one complete work from the repertoire for the 2nd Round.

<Note for video recording>

- •A video must be taken clearly with one fixed camera and constantly shows the whole ensemble with their instruments.
- •Two works can be recorded separately. But all the movements must be played and recorded in one take for each piece.
- •A video should be professional recording quality. Applying ensembles should use adequate quality camera and microphone, and adequate room to apply for the international music competition. 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 _ the title of music".

2.5 Application Fee

Ensembles applying for the Competition must pay 20,000 Japanese yen through MUVAC.

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 items 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 Competition must not receive any lessons from the Competition jury after receiving the Approval of Participation.

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 Competition.

3.4 Practice Facilities

Participating ensembles of the Competition will be provided with a free-of-charge practice room for three hours a day from May 16th, 2026 during their participation except for performance day. Participating ensembles cannot select a time slot or a practice room.

On the performance day, the rehearsal studio will be available shortly before their performance.

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 2nd Round and subsequent rounds will be decided in accordance with the prescribed methods.

3.6 Musical instruments

The participants must prepare their own instruments. However, the Organizer will provide a Concert Grand Piano tuned at pitch of 442 to ensembles participating in the Section II.

3.7 Repertoires

Ensembles applying for the Competition must select works from the repertoire listed on pages 30, 31 or 32. If the ensembles select the works with publishers' names, they must use those editions.

3.8 Judgement

Judgement of the Competition will be made by the jury commissioned by the Organizer in accordance with the judging rules.

Any decision of the jury shall be final and there shall be no appeal against the results.

3.9 Announcement of the Results

The results of the respective rounds will be announced at the venue after completion of the performances scheduled for the day.

4.1 Prizes for the Competition

The following prizes will be awarded to the winners of Section I and II.

First Prize: 2,500,000 yen, Certificate of Commendation

Second Prize: 1,200,000 yen, Certificate of Commendation

Third Prize: 800,000 yen, Certificate of Commendation

[Special Awards of the Competition]

Britten Pears Arts Award

The award-winning ensemble will join the Britten Pears Young Artist Programme held in 2027/28 series in the United Kingdom operated by Britten Pears Arts.

BRITTENPEARS

Music in PyeongChang Award

The award-winning ensemble will join the Music in PyeongChang (South Korea) held in 2027.



Bordeaux String Quartet Festival Award

This award will be sent to a string quartet selected from the ensembles in the Section I. The award-winning string quartet will be invited to the "Vibre! Bordeaux International String Quartet Festival" in may, 2027 to join masterclass and concert.



String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam Award

The first-prize winner of the Section I will perform in a concert of "String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam" in 2028, held between January 29th and February 5th, 2028.



"Ambassador Ensemble of the 12th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition" Award This award will be sent to an ensemble selected from all the ensembles in the Competition. The award-winning ensemble will perform in a concert as an ambassador of the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition in the chamber music festival "Verband der Streichquartette und weiterer Kammermusik-Ensembles VdSQ e.V. & Förderverein Festival4 e.V." to be held in Germany in 2028. It will be awarded by the president of the VdSQ.



The price is not divisible.

*MK Memorial Special Support

Award-winning ensembles will receive financial support for a part of their travel fee when they join the festival or program of Special Award. The support will be financed from the generous donation by MK Memorial.

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 ven.

4.3 Prizewinners' Concerts

- [1] The prizewinners of each section of the Competition must perform without fee at the concert to be held at Sumitomolife Izumi Hall in Osaka on Saturday, May 23rd, 2026.
- [2] The first-prize winners of each section of the Competition must perform without fee at the concert to be held at Suntory Hall in Tokyo on Sunday, May 24th, 2026. The Organizer will cover travel expenses between Osaka and Tokyo as well as accommodation fee for the night.

Venue: Blue Rose, Suntory Hall in Minato-ku, Tokyo

4.4 Concert Tours

As part of the prize, the first-prize winners of each section of the Competition will be invited to perform in a concert tour (called Grand-Prix Concerts). They will give about ten concerts to be held across Japan on the following schedule. The performance for the concerts will be remunerated.

First-prize winner of the Section I: Late October through November, 2026

First-prize winner of the Section II: Late October through November, 2027

^{*}Applying ensembles must inform the Organizer if they have any other appointment during these periods when they apply.

4.5 Member change after winning the prize and award

If an ensemble change its member after winning the prize or award, it might be disqualified from the concert tour or the special award.

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 economy class airline tickets (round-trip) from the international airport nearest to their home to Kansai International Airport or Osaka International Airport. The Organizer will pay for their flights and an extra seat for a cello. Participants must enter and leave Japan using the flight specified by the Organizer.

Participants must bear the expenses for transporting their instruments, except for a cello, to and from Japan.

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 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.

[1] For Participants disqualified for the Final Rounds

May 15th - Morning of May 23rd

[2] For Participants qualified for the Final Rounds

May 15th - Morning of May 24th

[3] First prize winners

May 15th - Morning of May 25th

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".

(Applying ensembles are requested to use the assigned sheet music if required.)

1st Round:

Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order.

[1] One of the following:

*Participating ensembles can select the same work with the preliminary screening.

F. J. Haydn: String Quartet op. 33, 42, 50, 54, 55, 64, 71, 74, 76 or 77 L. v. Beethoven: String Quartet op. 18 No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 (Bärenreiter, Henle)

[2] One of the following:

A. Berg: String Quartet op. 3

A. Webern: 5 movements for string quartet op. 5

G. Kurtág: String Quartet op. 1

2nd Round:

Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order. (Approx. 60 minutes or shorter) *Participating ensembles can select the same work with the preliminary screening.

[1] One of the following:

F. Schubert: String Quartet No. 13 D804 or No. 14 D810 (Bärenreiter)

F. Mendelssohn: String Quartet No. 3 op. 44-1, No. 4 op. 44-2 or No. 5 op. 44-3 R. Schumann: String Quartet No. 1 op. 41-1, No. 2 op. 41-2 or No. 3 op. 41-3 I. Brahms: String Quartet No. 1 op. 51-1, No. 2 op. 51-2 or No. 3 op. 67

A. Dvořák: String Quartet No. 13 op. 106 or No. 14 op. 105

B. Smetana: String Quartet No. 1 C. Debussy: String Quartet op. 10 G. Fauré: String Quartet op. 121

M. Ravel: String Quartet

D. Shostakovich: String Quartet No. 9 op. 117, No. 10 op. 118, No. 11 op. 122 or No. 12 op. 133

F. Swain: String Quartet No. 1

[2] One of the following:

B. Bartók: String Quartet No. 4 Sz. 91 or No. 5 Sz. 102 A. Schönberg: String Quartet No. 3 op. 30 or No. 4 op. 37

A. Berg: "Lyrische Suite"

B. Britten: String Quartet No. 2 op. 36

H. Dutilleux: "Ainsi la nuit"

G. Ligeti: String Quartet No. 1 or No. 2

"Tetras" I. Xenakis:

E. Carter: String Quartet No. 2 or No. 5 T. Ades: "Arcadiana" or "the Four Quarters" M. Trojahn: String Quartet No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5

Toru Takemitsu: "A Way a Lone" Akira Nishimura: String Quartet No. 6 Toshio Hosokawa: "Silent Flowers"

"Projection for String Quartet II" Joji Yuasa:

3rd Round:

Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order. Toal duration should be within approx. 60 minutes.

New commissioned work

*Score and parts will be sent to the participating ensembles by the end of February, 2026. *Duration of this work will be less than 15 minutes.

[2] Any string quartet work chosen by participating ensembles.

*Participating ensembles can choose more than two works, but excerpt of the movement is not allowed.

*Participating ensembles cannot choose same work with the works for other rounds.

*Arrangement from the music for other than string quartet is not allowed.

*Participating ensembles may be requested to submit score by the Organizer.

Final Round:

One of the works specified below must be performed.

String Quartet No. 12 op. 127, No. 13 op. 130, No. 14 op. 131 or No. 15 op. 132 L. v. Beethoven:

(Bärenreiter, Henle) Note: The final movement of op. 130 may be replaced by "Grosse Fuge" op. 133.

F. Schubert: String Quartet No. 15 D887 (Bärenreiter)

*Participating ensembles cannot select Schubert if they do not perform Beethoven's work (op. 59, 74, 95, 127, 130, 131, or 132) at the 3rd Round.

(Applying ensembles are requested to use the assigned sheet music if required.)

Piano Trio

1st Round:

Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order.

[1] One of the following:

*Participating ensembles can select the same work with the preliminary screening.

F. J. Haydn: Piano Trio Hob. XV-24, 25, 26, 27, 28 or 29

W. A. Mozart: Piano Trio K. 496, 502, 542, 548 or 564

L. v. Beethoven: Piano Trio No. 1 op. 1-1, No. 2 op.1-2 or No. 3 op. 1-3

[2] One of the following:

Toshio Hosokawa: Trio (2013, revised in 2017) (Schott Japan) W. Rihm: "Fremde Szenen" | or ||| (1982-1984) M. Kagel: Piano Trio No. 1, No. 2 or No. 3

J. Harbison: Piano Trio No. 2

2nd Round:

Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order.

*Participating ensembles can select the same work with the preliminary screening.

[1] One of the following:

J. Brahms: Piano Trio No. 1 op. 8 (revised in 1889), No. 2 op. 87 or No. 3 op. 101

F. Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 1 op. 49 or No. 2 op. 66

R. Schumann: Piano Trio No. 1 op. 63, No. 2 op. 80 or No. 3 op. 110

A. Dvořák: Piano Trio No. 3 op. 65 or No. 4 op. 90

B. Smetana: Piano Trio op. 15
G. Fauré: Piano Trio op. 120
M. Ravel: Piano Trio
E. Chausson: Piano Trio op. 3

A. Arensky: Piano Trio No. 1 op. 32

[2] One of the following:

C. Ives: Piano Trio (1910)

D. Shostakovich: Piano Trio No. 2 op. 67 (1947) Y. Höller: "Tagträume" (1994) (Boosy & Hawkes)

M. Weinberg: Piano Trio op. 24 (1945)

B. Martinů: Piano Trio No. 2 (1950) or No. 3 (1951)

R. Clarke: Piano Trio (1921)

Final Round:

Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order.

[1] One of the following:

F. Schubert: Piano Trio No. 1 D898 or No. 2 D929

*Participating ensembles can select the un-cut version for the last movement of D929 optionally.

[2] The following Japanese composer's work:

Toru Takemitsu: "Between Tides" (1993) (Schott Japan)

(Applying ensembles are requested to use the assigned sheet music if required.)

Piano Quartet

1st Round:

Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order.

[1] One of the following:

*Participating ensembles can select the same work with the preliminary screening.

W. A. Mozart: Piano Quartet No. 1 K. 478 or No. 2 K. 493

L. v. Beethoven: Piano Quartet op. 16

[2] The following work:

A. Schnittke: Piano Quartet

2nd Round:

Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order.

*Participating ensembles can select the same work with the preliminary screening.

[1] One of the following:

R. Schumann: Piano Quartet op. 47 R. Strauss: Piano Quartet op. 13 A. Dvořák: Piano Quartet op. 87

G. Fauré: Piano Quartet No. 1 op. 15 or No. 2 op. 45

C. Saint-Saëns: Piano Quartet op. 41
E. Chausson: Piano Quartet op. 30
W. Walton: Piano Quartet
F. Swain: Piano Quartet

[2] One of the following:

G. Enescu: Piano Quartet No. 1 op. 16 (1909) or No. 2 op. 30 (1944)

A. Copland: Piano Quartet (1950)

C. Looten: Piano Quartet op. 42 (1992) (Editions Musica-nova)

S. Stucky: Piano Quartet (2005) (Theodore Presser)

F. Donatoni: "Ronda" (1983)

Final Round:

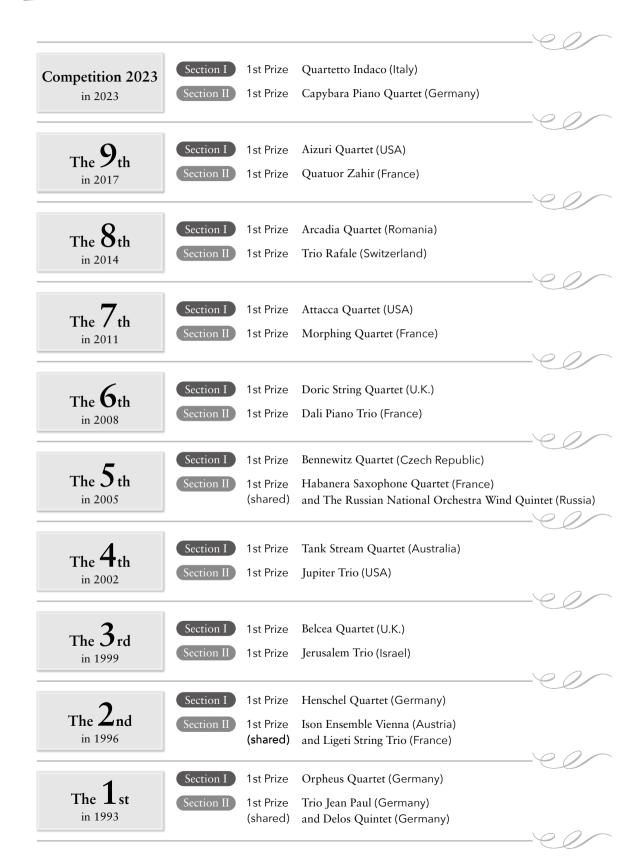
Two of the works specified below must be performed in any order.

[1] One of the following:

J. Brahms: Piano Quartet No. 1 op. 25, No. 2 op. 26 or No. 3 op. 60

[2] The following Japanese composer's work:

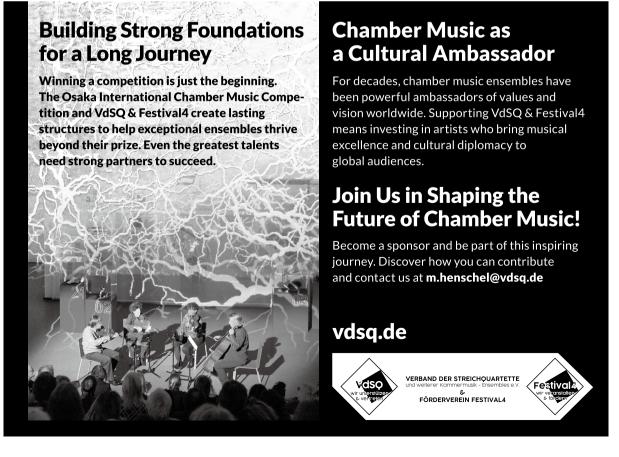
Toshio Hosokawa: "The Water of Lethe" (2015) (Schott Japan)















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第12回大阪国際室内楽コンクール&フェスタ

