

2027 FIRST ROUND

7th Competition

Ise-Shima International
Composition Competition
Competition Rules · English version

Version 1.8 | revised 3 September 2026



“To give as many composers as possible the opportunity to submit their work and receive an evaluation.”

An international competition open to outstanding works from around the world, exploring new possibilities in art music. From the 7th edition, it is normally held twice a year to give more works independent opportunities for evaluation.

Deadline	Results announced	Frequency
2027.01.31 23:59 GMT	2027.02.28 planned	Twice a year Independent rounds

Standard entry	Final 14 days	Consolidated jury feedback
JPY 5,000 / work	JPY 7,000 / work	+JPY 5,000 / work

ISE-SHIMA ART COMPANY

<https://en.iseshimaart.com/international-composition-competiti>

01 Purpose and format PURPOSE & FORMAT

The competition is devoted to the creation of art music, including classical, contemporary and experimental music, and aims to provide opportunities for the evaluation and presentation of new works regardless of nationality or generation.

Two rounds per year

To provide more independent opportunities for outstanding works to be evaluated, the competition is normally held twice a year. Each round is adjudicated as a separate competition and has its own awards. The official deadline and schedule for each round are published on the official website.

Previous-edition statistics

6th edition (2026): 348 applications / 277 applicants / 40 countries and regions

Schedule for this edition

All dates and times are based on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). A high volume of traffic may occur near the deadline, so early submission is recommended.

Item	Date and time (GMT)	Approximate Japan time
Standard period	From the opening of the form to 17 January 2027, 23:59	Until 18 January, 08:59
Final period	18 January 2027, 00:00–31 January 2027, 23:59	18 January, 09:00–1 February, 08:59
Deadline	31 January 2027, 23:59	1 February 2027, 08:59
Results	28 February 2027 (planned)	Official website and email

02 Eligibility ELIGIBILITY

- There are no restrictions on nationality or age.
- Only original works composed individually by the applicant are eligible. Collaborative works are not eligible.
- Prize recipients may be asked to provide identification or other documents for identity verification.
- A composer may submit more than one work, but each work requires a separate application and separate fee.

03 Eligible works WORKS

- Works in the field of art music, including classical, contemporary and experimental music, are eligible.
- Instrumentation and duration are unrestricted; eligible works include solo, chamber, choral, orchestral and concerto works, among others.
- Works that have already been performed, recorded or published, and works that have received awards in other competitions, are eligible.
- The presence of tonality, melody or harmonic progressions is not in itself a limitation. For works intended primarily as popular music, background music, or music for film, video or games, applicants are also encouraged to consider the ISAC International Popular & Media Music Composition Competition (<https://en.iseshimaart.com/popular-music-composition-competition>).
- Electroacoustic music, purely electronic works and works based mainly on electronic media are also eligible; depending on the work, applicants are also encouraged to consider the Aion Digital Art Prize (<https://www.aionlabo.com/en/blank-2>).

- The applicant warrants that the work does not infringe the copyright or other rights of any third party.
- A work that has not received an award in this competition may be resubmitted in a later round with a new application and fee. The same work may not be resubmitted after receiving a Grand Prize or Special Prize.

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Submission materials SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Submit at least one of materials A or B. Both may be submitted.

A | Score or description of the work

- If a score exists, it may be uploaded directly through the form as a PDF.
- If no score exists, a PDF explaining the structure, techniques, playback method and other essential information may be submitted.

B | Audio or video recording

- Enter an external link in the form that is available for streaming or download. Audio and video files cannot be uploaded directly to the form.
- A live recording is not required; a demonstration recording made with computer sound libraries is also acceptable. See the next section for the external-link conditions.
- Recommended filename for a score or description: ComposerName_WorkTitle_Score.pdf. Before submitting, verify that the name, title and content correspond.

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External links and review materials AUDIO LINKS & REVIEW**Requirements for external links**

1. SoundCloud, YouTube, Youku, Vimeo, Google Drive and similar services may be used.
2. Access must not require signing in to a viewer's personal account, individual approval, an access request from the competition office or entry of a password.
3. The same URL and the same content must remain available for streaming or download until the results are announced. Check for regional restrictions, link expiry, deletion and replacement of files.
4. The work or recording may not be replaced after the application has been completed. The competition office may ask for correction of an error in the URL or access settings, provided that the submitted content is not changed.

Public play and view counts

Counts shown by SoundCloud, YouTube and other platforms may not reflect the jury's actual listening because of platform counting methods, embedded playback or repeated listening to the same passage. The organizer does not use those public figures as proof of adjudication and separately records the review of each application. A public count indicates neither that a work has been assessed nor its quality.

Handling of review materials

- Solely for adjudication, the organizer may temporarily store and reproduce submitted scores, audio recordings and videos and share them securely with members of the jury.
- All officially accepted works for which at least one reviewable item is available are assessed. If only the score or only the recording is usable, the assessment may be based on that material.
- If none of the submitted materials can be accessed, the work may be excluded from adjudication. The competition office does not guarantee that it will request a correction.
- Materials retained for adjudication are normally deleted approximately six months after the results are announced, except for information required by law, payment and prize records, or system backups.

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Application and fees APPLICATION & FEES

1. A separate form must be submitted for each work. If submitting multiple works, complete one application for each work.
2. An application is valid only when both the form submission and online payment are completed by the end of the applicable fee period and by the final deadline. The fee is determined by the later of the two completion times. If either remains incomplete after the final deadline, the application is invalid.
3. Payment is made through the form by credit card or PayPal. All amounts are in Japanese yen; any exchange or payment-processing fees are borne by the applicant.

Fees | per work

Option	Standard period	Final period (14 days)
Application only	JPY 5,000	JPY 7,000
Application + consolidated jury feedback	JPY 10,000	JPY 12,000

The standard fee applies only if both the form and payment are completed by 17 January 2027, 23:59 GMT. Otherwise, the final-period fee applies if both are completed by 31 January 2027, 23:59 GMT. If the fee period changes while the form or payment page remains open, reload the page before proceeding.

Main information required in the form

- Composer's full legal name (for application administration, identity verification and certificate delivery); name for the certificate and published results; delivery address; Country/Region shown in published results; Country/Region for certificate delivery; delivery postal code (enter N/A if the destination does not use postal codes); contact email address entered twice.
- Title and submission type, with at least one of the following: a score or description of the work; an external link to an audio or video recording.
- Request for consolidated jury feedback and, if requested, delivery language; selection of the applicable fee; acceptance of these rules and the handling of personal data.
- An application may be declared invalid, excluded from adjudication or disqualified if required information or payment is missing, false information is provided, rights are infringed, the applicant does not cooperate with identity verification, or there are serious errors in the name or delivery address. No feedback is provided and neither the application fee nor the feedback fee is refunded for an application that is invalid, excluded from adjudication or disqualified. The competition office does not guarantee that it will request a correction. Make sure that messages from info@iseshimaart.com can be received.

Changes and refunds after submission

After payment, cancellation for reasons attributable to the applicant, replacement of the work or recording, and refunds are not accepted. No feedback is provided and neither the application fee nor the feedback fee is refunded if an application is invalid, excluded from adjudication or disqualified. Refunds are made only for duplicate payment, cancellation of the competition by the organizer, or inability attributable to the organizer to provide feedback for an otherwise valid application.

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Consolidated jury feedback (paid option)

CONSOLIDATED JURY FEEDBACK

At the time of application, an applicant may add JPY 5,000 per work to request consolidated jury feedback: one report compiling comments and advice from multiple jurors. This service is independent of the award decision.

Contents	Consolidated report compiling comments and advice from the jurors
Delivery method	To the registered email address
Expected timing	Within two months after the results (planned)
Additional fee	JPY 5,000 / work

Possible content

Content, format and length depend on the nature of the work and the comments contributed by the jurors; inclusion of every point listed is not guaranteed.

- Comments on strengths and musical or technical aspects, including structure, writing, timbre, notation and presentation.
- Specific advice useful for future composition, revision, performance preparation or presentation of the work.
- The consolidated jury feedback report is scheduled to be sent to the registered email address within two months after the announcement of the results. Applicants may select its delivery language. The jurors' original comments are written in Japanese or English, and applicants may not select the language of those originals. If the selected delivery language differs from the original language, a translated report will be provided. Individual jurors' original comments are not sent separately.

Scope and conditions

- Feedback may be requested only at the time of application and, in principle, cannot be added or cancelled after payment.
- It is not a score sheet, ranking or reconsideration and does not change the competition result. It does not include follow-up questions, reassessment or continuing consultation.
- Whether feedback is requested has no effect on adjudication or awards.
- The number of feedback requests accepted may be limited. If the limit is reached, applications with feedback may close while standard applications remain open until the deadline.

If feedback cannot be provided

If feedback for an otherwise valid application cannot be provided for a reason attributable to the organizer, only the additional JPY 5,000 is refunded. The application fee is non-refundable. Invalid, excluded or disqualified applications receive no feedback and no refund.

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Adjudication

ADJUDICATION

Officially accepted works are assessed comprehensively according to the criteria below. The jury does not exclusively favour any one style, tonality, technique or aesthetic.

Criterion	Main considerations
Originality and artistic vision	The work's own idea, artistic necessity and creativity
Musical content and expression	Development of material, expressiveness and persuasive impact in listening
Form and organization of time	Overall form, proportion, development and concentration

Criterion	Main considerations
Technical realization	Use of forces, writing, timbre, notation and other means
Completeness and presentation	Coherence of the work and clarity of the submitted materials

- The jury may consult the score, recording, video, description and other materials together, and may listen again to the complete work or compare particular passages.
- Applicants are not required to disclose relationships with jurors or the organizer in the application form. To ensure fairness, each juror must proactively disclose to the organizer, at the time of scoring, any teacher-student, family or other direct or private relationship with an entrant. That juror must take no part in scoring or preparing feedback on the entrant's work, or in any jury deliberation concerning it.
- The jury's decision is final and no reconsideration is conducted after the results are announced.

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Awards AWARDS

Award	Number	Content
Grand Prize	Normally 1 work (maximum 2)	Total prize fund of JPY 100,000 and certificate
Special Prize	Approximately 35 works	Certificate

- Awards are counted by work, not by composer. Multiple works by the same composer may receive awards independently.
- Depending on the adjudication, an award may be withheld and the number of Special Prizes may vary slightly from approximately 35. No more than two works may receive the Grand Prize; if two are selected, the total prize fund of JPY 100,000 is divided equally, with JPY 50,000 awarded to each work.

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Results and certificates RESULTS & CERTIFICATES

- Results are planned to be announced on the official website on 28 February 2027; applicants will also be notified at their registered email address.
- Because email delivery cannot be guaranteed, the announcement on the official website constitutes the official result and must be checked by each applicant.
- The certificate and published results use the name entered in the corresponding form field; a pen name or stage name is permitted. The composer's full legal name is used only for administration, identity verification and certificate delivery, and is not normally published. 'Country/Region shown in published results' is used only for the published results. Certificate delivery uses the legal name, delivery address and 'Country/Region for certificate delivery' entered in the form. If the delivery destination does not use postal codes, enter N/A. Provide an address where the certificate can be received reliably after the results are announced; do not use a temporary residence. Certificates are normally prepared and dispatched within one month after the results are announced. Delivery may be delayed or replaced by an electronic version because of postal circumstances, security reasons or difficulty delivering to the region.
- Arrangements for payment of the Grand Prize money, identity verification and required documents will be communicated individually to the recipients.

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Rights, publicity and personal data RIGHTS & PRIVACY

- Copyright in the submitted work remains with the composer; submission does not transfer any rights to the competition.
- The name designated for the certificate and published results, the Country/Region shown in published results, and the work title are normally published on the official website, social media and other media for the announcement of results, presentation of recipients and works, and promotion of the competition.

- For an awarded work, the applicant grants the organizer a royalty-free, non-exclusive licence to reproduce, communicate to the public, publish and present, in whole or in part, the work, score, audio or video recording, description and promotional materials supplied with the application, solely for announcing results, presenting recipients and works, promoting and documenting the competition on the official website, social media, other online media, and promotional or archival materials.
- For the uses described above, the organizer pays no copyright or related-right royalties, performance fees, licence fees or other remuneration to the applicant or any other rights holder.
- Before applying, the applicant must obtain from any other copyright owner, performer, phonogram producer, publisher, collective management organization or other rights holder all permissions necessary for the uses described above. Submit only works and materials that the organizer may publish online without charge.
- Personal data is used to administer applications, verify payments, conduct adjudication, verify identity, communicate results, pay prizes, dispatch certificates, provide feedback and comply with legal obligations.

Chair of the jury (planned)

Sumio Kobayashi	https://www.sumiokobayashi.com/about
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Born in 1982 in Komono, Mie Prefecture, Sumio Kobayashi is a composer and linguist. He received a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Kent in the United Kingdom and is an associate professor in the Department of Music at Nihon University College of Art, where he teaches composition, harmony and musicology. His distinctions in Japan and abroad include selection in the Japan Music Competition, second prize in the Toru Takemitsu Composition Award, and first prizes in the Busan MARU International Music Festival and Wrocław European Capital of Culture composition competitions. He has been invited to the Takefu and Tongyeong international music festivals and received the Mie Prefecture Cultural Newcomer Award in 2022.

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General provisions GENERAL

- The deadline or schedule may be changed because of a problem with the organizer's systems, force majeure, adjudication requirements or other unavoidable circumstances. Material changes will be announced on the official website.
- Problems involving the applicant's connection, device, browser, payment method or external service do not normally entitle the applicant to an extension.
- If there is any discrepancy between language versions of these rules, the Japanese version prevails.
- By submitting an application, the applicant accepts these rules and the conditions shown in the form.

Organizer	Contact
ISE-SHIMA ART COMPANY Co., Ltd.	info@iseshimaart.com
https://en.iseshimaart.com	Office of the 7th Ise-Shima International Composition Competition