



THE 3RD EDITION / 2027 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

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: 1 February 2027, 08:59
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ORGANIZER Ise-Shima Art Company Co., Ltd.

ENTRY GUIDE

Competition Regulations

IMPORTANT

These regulations apply to the 3rd competition, held in 2027. Every entry requires the prior consent of a parent or legal guardian and the applicant's agreement to these regulations. A teacher may complete, submit and pay for an entry on the participant's behalf only after obtaining the prior consent of the parent or legal guardian.

Eligibility	Ages 3–17 at the deadline; any 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 another service named on the official page
Entry fee	JPY 5,000 standard; JPY 7,000 in the final 14 days; individual feedback +JPY 3,000 per entry
Awards	As a rule, every valid entry receives Gold, Silver, Bronze or a Diploma of Merit

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:** Participants must be at least 3 and no more than 17 years old at the application deadline (31 January 2027, 23:59 GMT). There are no nationality or residency restrictions.
- **Eligible performance:** All instruments, including traditional instruments, and voice. Solo performances, with or without accompaniment, are eligible.
- **Applicant:** A parent or legal guardian, or a teacher previously authorized by one of them, may apply on behalf of the participant. A teacher acts as the person administering the application.

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 age category is determined by the participant's age on the application deadline. There is one category for each age from Age 3 through Age 17, with no further division by instrument or voice type.

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.

Fee period	GMT	Japan Standard Time (JST)	Entry fee
Standard	From opening to 17 Jan 2027, 23:59	Until 18 Jan 2027, 08:59	JPY 5,000
Final 14 days	18 Jan 2027, 00:00–31 Jan 2027, 23:59	18 Jan 2027, 09:00–1 Feb 2027, 08:59	JPY 7,000
Individual feedback	At application only	At application only	+JPY 3,000

Three steps to enter

1. **RECORD** — Film one uninterrupted performance, lasting from at least 30 seconds to no more than 10 minutes, from beginning to end as a single video.
2. **UPLOAD** — Upload the video as Public or Unlisted to YouTube, Youku, Vimeo, or another video service named on the official page for this edition, and prepare a URL that the jury can view.
3. **APPLY & PAY** — Enter the required information and video URL in the official form and complete payment of the entry fee.

Application and payment rules

- **Entry unit:** The fee is charged per performance. If the same participant enters more than one work, a separate form and fee are required for each work.
- **Refunds:** Entry and feedback fees are generally non-refundable after submission, except for duplicate payment, cancellation by the organizer, or where a refund is legally required.
- **Registration details:** Enter accurately the participant's name in Roman letters and date of birth; the name and contact details of the parent or legal guardian; the applicant type and contact details; and the certificate delivery address, including country and postal code. Use an address where the certificate can be received reliably after the results, not a temporary place of stay.
- **Applications by teachers:** A teacher may administer an application only with the consent of the parent or legal guardian.
- **Payment method:** Credit card or PayPal only. Bank transfers are not accepted. Follow the information shown in the official application form regarding accepted card brands and related payment details.
- **Feedback option:** Applicants requesting individual feedback must pay an additional JPY 3,000 per entry at the time of application (total JPY 8,000 in the standard period or JPY 10,000 during the final 14 days). It generally cannot be added or cancelled after the application is complete.

04 Repertoire Rules

- **Repertoire:** One free-choice work. Classical, contemporary, traditional and other genres are all accepted.
- **Duration:** The performed portion must be between 30 seconds and 10 minutes. If it exceeds 10 minutes, the organizer may assess only the first 10 minutes or may exclude the entry for non-compliance.
- **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 show that the participant is personally performing, provide sound of sufficient quality 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. Cuts, splicing, replacement of image or sound, speed changes, correction and all other editing are prohibited.

- **Camera angle:** The jury must be able to identify the participant, the instrument and the act of performing. Where the instrument makes it difficult to show the entire body or the hands at all times, use 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 invalid if low volume, severe distortion or continuous noise prevents adjudication. The price of the equipment and visual production values are not assessed.
- **Personal information:** Do not display or say the participant's name, age, address, school or other personal information in the video.
- **Rights and permissions:** The parent or legal guardian and the applicant are responsible for confirming all necessary rights and permissions concerning the work, arrangement, accompaniment track, location, accompanist and other third parties.

Upload and URL

- **Accepted services:** URLs from YouTube, Youku, Vimeo, or another video service named on the official page for the edition are accepted.
- **Visibility:** Set the video to Public or Unlisted so the jury can play it without signing in, entering a password or requesting access.
- **Availability:** Do not delete the video or change the URL or visibility from application through announcement of the results.
- **Link check:** Before submitting the form, confirm on another device or while logged out that the entire video plays from beginning to end.
- **Advertising and restrictions:** If advertisements, regional or age restrictions, copyright blocks or other platform conditions prevent access, the entry may be excluded from adjudication.

VIEW COUNT During adjudication, the video may not be played once from beginning to end in the usual way. The jury may pause, rewind and listen to the same passage several times. Multiple jurors may also view it through the same network or from several devices. Depending on the platform, these plays may not increase the public view count, may appear only after a delay, or may be excluded from the count. A low or unchanged displayed view count therefore does not mean that the entry has not been adjudicated. Completion is recorded internally by the organizer; requests to confirm progress or repeat the adjudication solely on the basis of view counts will not be accepted.

URL Replacement of the URL after the deadline is generally not accepted. Follow the specified method and deadline only if the organizer requests a correction.

06 Adjudication

- **Jury:** Several musicians, educators or other professionals appointed by the organizer assess 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 regard to the characteristics of the instrument or voice.
- **Recording environment:** Recording equipment and location are not assessed as long as the minimum quality required for adjudication is met.
- **To ensure fairness, each juror must proactively disclose, at the time of scoring, any teacher-student, family, or other direct or private relationship with an entrant. The juror must take no part in scoring, preparing feedback on, or jury deliberations concerning that entrant's work or performance.**
- **Feedback:** Applicants who request feedback receive a consolidated individual feedback report compiling comments and advice from multiple jurors. It summarizes the jurors' professional observations and does not involve changing the result, answering questions, providing further explanation, readjudication or rewriting.
- **Finality:** Award decisions are final. Scores, individual juror assessments, rankings and reasons for selection are generally not disclosed, and appeals are not accepted.

07 Awards and Certificates

Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards are determined according to the adjudication criteria. As a rule, every valid entry not selected for Gold, Silver or Bronze receives a Diploma of Merit. The number and proportion of each award are not fixed in advance. Invalid or disqualified entries receive no award.

Award	Certificate	Delivery
GOLD	Paper certificate	Mailed to registered address
SILVER	Paper certificate	Mailed to registered address
BRONZE	Paper certificate	Mailed to registered address
DIPLOMA OF MERIT	PDF	Sent to registered email address

- **Postage:** The organizer pays the postage for paper Gold, Silver, Bronze and Teacher Award certificates and sends them to the registered delivery address.
- **PDF:** The Diploma of Merit is sent as a PDF to the registered email address. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are all issued on paper and mailed to the registered delivery address.
- **Reissue:** Actual costs may be charged for reissuing or resending a certificate due to an incorrectly registered name or address, refusal of delivery or a similar reason.

08 ISAC Outstanding Teacher Award

TEACHER RECOGNITION

The award is presented to a registered principal teacher who, in the same edition, has taught at least two participants who receive either a Gold or a Silver Award. Participants are counted across age categories, instruments and voice types.

- **Counting participants:** If one participant enters several works or receives several awards, that participant counts as one person for the same teacher.
- **Registration:** To be considered for the Teacher Award, register the teacher in the relevant field of the application form. Only one principal teacher may be registered per entry, and an unregistered teacher is not counted.
- **Consent and address:** With the teacher's consent, enter accurately the teacher's certificate name in Roman letters, email address and postal address, including country and postal code. The organizer may contact the teacher to confirm the registration.
- **Changes:** A teacher cannot be added or changed after the deadline. The organizer determines whether variations in spelling refer to the same person.
- **Certificate:** A qualifying teacher receives a paper certificate at the postal address registered in the teacher field.

09 Results and Communications

- **Announcement:** Results are scheduled to be announced at the end of March 2027 on the official website and by notice to the registered email address. Inquiries about individual announcement timing are not accepted.
- **Published information:** The participant's name, age category, instrument or voice type, and award may be published on the official website and related media when results are announced.
- **Email:** Check spam settings so messages from the organizer can be received. To prevent non-delivery, do not change the email address after applying.
- **Feedback delivery:** A consolidated individual feedback report is scheduled to be sent to applicants who ordered it at 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.
- **Certificate dispatch:** Paper Gold, Silver, Bronze and Teacher Award certificates are scheduled for dispatch approximately one month after the results. International delivery may take additional time.

10 Copyright, Video Use and Personal Data

- **Copyright:** Rights held by the participant and other lawful rights holders in the performance and video remain with those rights holders after application.
- **Use of videos:** Submitted video URLs are shared only with the organizer, its service providers and jurors to the extent necessary for administration, identity verification, adjudication and fraud prevention. The organizer will not repost or republish an entry video on its official website, social media, advertising or other publicity media.
- **Personal data:** Registration details of participants, parents or legal guardians, applicants and teachers are used for application processing, payment and parental-consent checks, adjudication, results, certificate production and dispatch, Teacher Award counting, inquiries and fraud prevention.

11 Invalid Entries, Disqualification, Liability and Amendments

- **Invalidity and disqualification:** The organizer may exclude an entry from adjudication or disqualify it if it is submitted after the deadline or without payment; if its video is inaccessible or edited; if it contains false information; if required parental or legal-guardian consent or, for a teacher-filed entry, the necessary authorization is missing; if the performance is by someone other than the participant; if it infringes rights, contains inappropriate content, or otherwise seriously violates these regulations.
- **Opportunity to correct:** The organizer may request a correction but does not guarantee notice or an opportunity to remedy every defect.
- **Technical problems:** Apply early to allow for device, connection, video-platform or payment-service problems and delays. Entries cannot be accepted after the deadline.
- **Force majeure:** The organizer may change or cancel the schedule, adjudication or dispatch due to disaster, infectious disease, communications failure, law or sanctions, suspension of delivery or other circumstances beyond its reasonable control.
- **Amendments:** Necessary changes are posted on the official website, and important changes are communicated to the registered email address where practicable. Check the latest regulations published on the official website.
- **Language:** If interpretations of language versions differ, the Japanese version prevails unless otherwise officially stated.

ORGANIZER & CONTACT

Ise-Shima Art Company Co., Ltd.

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

HEAD OF JURY

Sumio Kobayashi

SUMIO KOBAYASHI · COMPOSER · INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST · LINGUIST

Sumio Kobayashi (born 1982 in Mie Prefecture, Japan) 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 festivals in Asia and Europe.

He won first prize at the Wrocław European Capital of Culture International Composers' Competition in 2016 for Music by Krasnale, 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 Hamburg Camerata International Composition Competition in 2018. His music has been presented at the Takefu and Tongyeong international music festivals, 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 for his contribution to music.

His practice also 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 movement 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 Associate Professor of Music at Nihon University College of Art in Tokyo.