

The Second Hiroshima International Conductors Competition Application Guidelines

1. Overview

1-1 Purpose

The Second Hiroshima International Conductors Competition is the main project of the Second Hiroshima Festival's Music Division, held to provide a gathering place to foster the next generation of young musicians, and to discover and nurture superb talent, opening the doors to the world for them.

1-2 Outline

A) Name

The Second Hiroshima International Conductors Competition

Note: The name has been changed since the previous competition held in FY2022, when it was known as the First Hiroshima Music Session Next-Generation Conductors Academy and Competition.

B) Dates

August 4-12, 2024

C) Contents

A call for applications from young conductors in Japan and overseas will be put out and competition participants will be decided based on a preliminary screening of video submissions. Before the competition, participants will attend events, such as the Peace Memorial Ceremony and An Evening of Peace Concert, to learn about the history of Hiroshima and its initiatives for peace. In addition, they will also participate in a master class about the piece for the preliminary screening by Mr. Tatsuya Shimono, producer of the Hiroshima Festival's Music Division. Afterwards, the Conductors Competition Selection Rounds 1 and 2, and the Finals shall be held at a hall in front of a live audience. This event is not simply a competition, but a unique competition unlike any other: it has an academy portion to foster young conductors and allow them to learn from one another, and a competition portion where they will compete against one another in terms of musical expression. In addition, it also serves as a place for next generation of young musicians to come together and exchange ideas.

D) Organizers and Operators

The Second Hiroshima International Conductors Competition is organized by the Hiroshima Festival Organizing Committee (hereafter "Organizing Committee") and operated by the Hiroshima Festival Organizing Committee Office (hereafter "Committee Office").

E) Jury Committee

Jury President

- Christian Arming (Conductor and next General Music Director of the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra)

Jury Members

- Ryusuke Numajiri (Conductor, Music Director of the Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra)
- Eiji Arai (Violinist, Principal Guest Concertmaster of the Japan Century Symphony Orchestra, etc.)
- Toshio Hosokawa (Composer, visiting professor at the Tokyo College of Music and Elisabeth University of Music)
- Morihide Katayama (Music Critic, Director of the Mihara Performing Arts Center POPOLO)

F) Schedule and Venue

Date	Details	Venue
November 1, 2023	Submissions open	—
January 31, 2024	Application deadline	—
Late March 2024	Announcement of preliminary screening results (approx. 15 candidates)	—
Early to Mid-August 2024		
Academy begins		
August 4 Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening ceremony • Orientation 	JMS Aster Plaza
August 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master class 	Grand Music Room, JMS Aster Plaza
August 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Peace Memorial Ceremony and testimony by atomic bomb survivor • Attend the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra's <i>An Evening of Peace Concert</i> (<i>Voluntary participation</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Memorial Park • HBG Hall
Competition begins		
August 7-8	Selection Round 1 (approx. six candidates)	Medium Hall, JMS Aster Plaza
August 9	Selection Round 2 (three finalists)	Medium Hall, JMS Aster Plaza
August 12	Finals (Final decision about winners)	Grand Hall, JMS Aster Plaza

*Details and venues for August 6 are subject to change.

2 Application Procedures

2-1 Application Criteria

- A) Applicants of all nationalities are welcome.
- B) The maximum applicant age is 40 by the time of the finals (August 12, 2024).
- C) Applicants must be able to attend all scheduled events (August 4-12, 2024).

2-2 Application Period

10:00 am JST on November 1, 2023 (Wed) to 6:00 pm JST on January 31, 2024 (Wed)

2-3 Application Procedures

Applicants must complete the online form with the necessary information on the official website for the Hiroshima International Conductors Competition and upload (1) to (3) as follows:

(1) Videos

Applicants will be required to choose one of the following two works and submit a video of the performance. Any edition of the musical score is acceptable. There is no standard orchestra composition that must be adhered to; however, all participating musicians **must** be seen in the video. Videos of the conductor facing the camera are preferred.

Works:

Ludwig van Beethoven: Egmont Overture
Ludwig van Beethoven: Fidelio Overture

(2) Applicant Photograph

Applicants will be required to submit a photograph of themselves taken within six

months of the application date (will be used on the official website, program booklet, and other PR materials).

(3) ID Documents

Applicants will be required to submit documents that verify their date of birth, such as a copy of their driver's license, health insurance card, or passport.

Note 1: Applicants who are found to have submitted false information or data will be disqualified.

Note 2: Please note that all submitted data will not be returned.

2-4 Entry Fee

20,000 JPY

The entry fee must be submitted to the account designated on the online application form by February 7, 2024. Preliminary screening will be conducted after entry application and entry fee payment are confirmed. Entry fees will not be refunded once received.

Payment Method

Payments should be made via bank transfer or PayPal.

(1) Bank Transfer

Bank Name: Hiroshima Bank [SWIFT CODE (BIC CODE) : HIRO JP JT]

Branch Name: Ote-machi Branch

Bank Account: Savings Account no. 3496601

Transfer to: Kazutaka Yamamoto, Chairman of the Hiroshima Festival organizing Committee

(2) PayPal

Click the link below, log in to your PayPal account, and make your payment

<https://bit.ly/32ShWXS>

3 Judging Process

The following jury members and observers will conduct a preliminary screening based on the submitted documents and videos to select 15 competitors. Applicants will be notified of the results of the screening via email in late March 2024; results will also be announced on the official website.

Jurors

- Tatsuya Shimono (Conductor, General Music Director of the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Hiroshima Wind Orchestra)
- Gen Takeuchi (Violinist, Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra Second Violin Principal)
- Kazuyoshi Wakasa (Trombonist, Professor at the Elisabeth University of Music)

Observers

- Kenji Igata (Secretary-General of the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra)
- Tadahiro Ogihara (General Producer of the Hiroshima Wind Orchestra)

Participants shall gather in Hiroshima, and, in addition to learning about the city's peace initiatives, they will participate in a master class hosted by Tatsuya Shimono. Afterwards, they will be judged in three rounds of competition: Selection Round 1, Selection Round 2, and the Finals. The order of the performance for the selection rounds and the finals shall be decided by lottery; results shall be announced on the last day of each round.

In order to help foster music instructors in Hiroshima City and its surrounding cities and towns, a portion of the master class will be open to the public (fees apply). Regarding Selection Rounds 1, 2, and the Finals, they will also be open to the public (fees apply). Please note that the competition may be livestreamed on the official website or other sites.

3-1 Selection Round 1 (August 7-8)

Participants will be judged on conducting a chamber orchestra and six will be selected for the next round.

A) Orchestra: Hiroshima Festival Orchestra (primarily made up of musicians from the Hiroshima Regional Urban Area)

B) Works:

- 1) Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No.2 D major, Op.36 (Bärenreiter edition)
- 2) Mahler: Symphony No. 5 in C sharp minor - IV. Adagietto (Critical edition, Kubuk edition in 2002 Universal or Mahler edition)

Note: the designated portion of the pieces will be assigned during the master class held two days prior.

C) Judging

Judging will be conducted by the following three members of the Jury Committee: Christian Arming, Ryusuke Numajiri, and Eiji Arai.

3-2 Selection Round 2 (August 9)

Participants will be judged on conducting a wind ensemble and three finalists will be selected to move on to the Finals.

A) Orchestra: Hiroshima Wind Orchestra

B) Works:

- 1) Richard Georg Strauss: Serenade für 13 Blasinstrumente Op.7
- 2) Igor Stravinsky: Symphonies of Wind Instruments (1947)

Note: The designated portion of the pieces will be assigned after the announcement of the results of Selection Round 1.

C) Judging

Judging will be conducted by the following three members of the Jury Committee: Christian Arming, Ryusuke Numajiri, and Eiji Arai

3-3 Finals (August 12)

Finalists will be judged on conducting an orchestra to decide the first, second, and third place winners. Please note that, based on the judges' decisions, there may not be any winners.

A) Orchestra: Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra

B) Works:

- 1) Toshio Hosokawa: Sublimation for violoncello and orchestra
- 2) Joseph Maurice Ravel: Daphnis et Chloé Suite No.2

Note 1: After a closed rehearsal with the orchestra (closed to the public and jury members), finalists will conduct the two pieces above in concert style.

Note 2: Information about receiving a score for Toshio Hosokawa's Sublimation will be provided to those who pass the preliminary screening.

C) Judging

All members of the Jury Committee will judge the finalists:
Christian Arming, Ryusuke Numajiri, Eiji Arai, Toshio Hosokawa, and Morihide Katayama

3-4 Awards Ceremony

After the finals have ended, the awards ceremony shall be conducted at the same venue. Finalists are obligated to participate in the ceremony, as well as to be interviewed by the Organizing Committee, Jury Committee, Committee Office, members of the press, and others.

Prizes

Category	Details	
First Prize	500,000 JPY, Certificate, Medal	
Second Prize	300,000 JPY, Certificate, Medal	
Third Prize	100,000 JPY, Certificate, Medal	
Audience Award	Certificate	Awarded via audience vote
Hosokawa Award	Certificate	Awarded by the composer
Orchestra Award	Certificate	Awarded via vote by Hiroshima

		Symphony Orchestra members
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Sponsorship Bonus

Should the competition receive sponsors, a sponsorship bonus will be added to the prize money listed above.

During the First Competition, an additional 500,000 JPY was added to First Prize, and 200,000 JPY to second and third prize.

Supplementary Prize

First, second, and third prize winners will be given the opportunity to perform with orchestras, including the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra.

During the First Competition, the first prize winner performed at the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra's Bouquet of Music: Fall Classics Concert, second prize at the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra's Regular Concert in Kure, and third prize at the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra's 60th Anniversary Concert.

4 Miscellaneous

4-1 Travel Expenses

Each competitor will be responsible for their own travel expenses.

4-2 Accommodation Expenses

Each participant must bear their own accommodation expenses. They are also responsible for making their own reservations.

4-3 Visas

Each competitor is responsible for applying for and acquiring their own visa for entry to Japan. Participants should contact the Japanese Embassies or Consulates in their respective countries of residence for more information. If an invitation letter is necessary, please contact the Committee Office.

4-4 Rights

- A)** When participants are filmed or interviewed, they will need prior approval from the Committee Office. Participants will also be obligated to be filmed or interviewed as designated by the Committee Office.
- B)** With respect to the participants, the Organizing Committee shall retain the following rights (1) to (3). As such, participants cannot file motions of objection or make any monetary claims to the Organizing Committee (including press conferences and additional prizes) regarding the following:
 - 1) Recording, photographing, or filming of the Competition.
 - 2) Broadcasting, airing, or releasing online footage from (1) above.
 - 3) Copying or selling (1) or (2) above.

4-5 Insurance and Compensation

The Organizing Committee, Jury Committee, and Committee Office shall bear no responsibility should any of the following occur during the event. It is preferred that participants purchase insurance out of their own responsibility.

- A)** Should the following happen to the participants themselves, their luggage, or their belongings: accidents, fires, thefts, or damages.
- B)** Should participants suffer physical or psychological damage, or should participants inflict physical or psychological damage upon others.

4-6 Terms of Agreement

- A)** Participants will not question decisions made regarding the operation of the Competition, decisions made by the Organization Committee regarding selections based on application documents and videos, or decisions made by the Jury Committee; all decisions are final.
- B)** Any matters not provided for in these guidelines will be decided by the Organizing Committee.
- C)** All dates appearing in these guidelines are in Japan Standard Time (UTC+9).

- D)** Applying on the Second Hiroshima International Conductors Competition official website indicates applicant acceptance of the terms and conditions of these guidelines. Please read these guideline details carefully before applying.

Inquiries

Hiroshima Festival Organizing Committee (JMS Aster Plaza)
4-17 Kako-machi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0812

Email: info@music.hiroshimafest.org

Website: <https://hiroshimafest.org/music/>