

The Third Hiroshima International Conductors Competition

Application Guidelines

1. Overview

1-1 Purpose

The Third Hiroshima International Conductors Competition is the main project of the third 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 Third Hiroshima International Conductors Competition

B) Dates

August 4 -12, 2026

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 combines an 'academy' for nurturing and mutual learning with a 'competition' for artistic expression. It is not merely a contest, but also serves as a platform for young musicians who will lead the next generation to gather, interact, and grow together — a unique feature that sets it apart from other competitions.

D) Organizers and Operators

The Third 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

Michiyoshi Inoue, Conductor (Conductor Laureate, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa)

Jury Members

Yoshimichi Hamada, Conductor, recorder and cornett player (Director of Early Music Ensemble *Antonello*)

Fuminori Shinozaki, Violinist (Chairperson of the non-profit association Music Force)

Toshio Hosokawa, Composer

Yasuhisa Toyota, Acoustic designer (Chairman, Fukuyama Arts & Culture Foundation)

F) Schedule and Venue

Date	Details	Venue
November 1, 2025	Submissions open	—
January 31, 2026	Application deadline	—
Late March 2026	Announcement of preliminary screening results (approx. 15 candidates)	—
Early to Mid-August 2026		
Academy begins		
August 4 Afternoon	• Opening ceremony • Orientation	JMS Aster Plaza
August 5	• Master class • (Lottery for the order of judging after the event, rehearsal)	Grand Music Room, JMS Aster Plaza
August 6	• Attend Peace Memorial Ceremony and testimony by atomic bomb survivors • Attend the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra's <i>An Evening of Peace Concert</i> (Voluntary participation)	• Peace Memorial Park • HBG Hall
Competition begins		
August 5	Preliminary round rehearsal (Rehearsal with singer and piano accompanist)	Grand Music Room, JMS Aster Plaza
August 7 and 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 10 and 11	Final round rehearsal	Grand 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, 2026).
- C) Applicants must be able to attend all scheduled events (August 4-12, 2026).

2-2 Application Period

10:00 am JST on November 1, 2025 (Sat) to 6:00 pm JST on January 31, 2026 (Sat)

2-3 Application Procedures

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

(1) Videos

Regarding the required pieces, please submit a video recording of your performance. The edition of the sheet music used is not restricted. Additionally, the performance format is flexible; however, the conductor and performers must both appear on the same screen. It is also preferable that the conductor's front view while conducting is clearly visible.

Work:

F.J. Haydn: Symphony No. 101 in D major, 1st Movement

(2) Applicant Photograph

Applicants will be required to submit a photograph of themselves taken within six months of the application date (for use 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 noon of February 7, 2026 (Sat). 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

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 2026; results will also be announced on the official website.

Jurors

- Tatsuya Shimono, Conductor (NHK Symphony Orchestra Principal Conductor, Music Director of Hiroshima Wind Orchestra, Conductor Laureate of Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra)
- Maya Kai, Violinist (Associate Professor, Elisabeth University of Music)
- Hideyo Shinagawa, Clarinetist (Principal Clarinetist, Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra)

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) L.v. Beethoven: "Egmont" Overture Op. 84 (Breitkopf Edition)
- 2) Michiyoshi Inoue: Musical Opera "Koufuku kara no Michi" Op.4
From Act 2: [Conflict] ~ [Time to Head to the Room] (Hustle Copy)
Note 1: The performance sections will be specified during the masterclass on August 5.
Note 2: After the masterclass, there will be a piano rehearsal with the singers for the preliminary round.
Note 3: The score for Michiyoshi Inoue's "Koufuku kara no Michi" will be provided later to those who pass the preliminary screening.

C) Judging

Judging will be conducted by the following three members of the Jury Committee: Michiyoshi Inoue, Yoshimichi Hamada, and Fuminori Shinozaki.

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) A. L. Dvořák: Serenade in D minor, Op. 44 (B.77) (Bärenreiter edition)

C) Judging

Judging will be conducted by the following three members of the Jury Committee: Michiyoshi Inoue, Yoshimichi Hamada and Fuminori Shinozaki

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: Sakura (2021) for Orchestra (Schott Music)
R.A. Schumann: Symphony No. 4 in D minor, Op. 120 (Breitkopf & Härtel Edition, No. 5264)
Note 1: A rehearsal with the orchestra will be held (closed to the public; judges will not be present), and the two pieces mentioned above will be performed in concert style.
Note 2: The score for Toshio Hosokawa's "Sakura" will be provided later to those who pass the preliminary screening.

C) Judging

All members of the Jury Committee will judge the finalists:
Michiyoshi Inoue, Yoshimichi Hamada, Fuminori Shinozaki, Toshio Hosokawa, Yasuhisa Toyota

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

Supplementary Prize

The first-place winner or highest-ranking participant will be given the opportunity to perform with the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra and the Hiroshima Wind Orchestra, among others.

Sponsorship Bonus

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

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

4 Miscellaneous

4-1 Travel Expenses

Each competitor will be responsible for their own travel expenses.

4-2 Accommodation Expenses

Participants in this competition (those who pass the preliminary screening) are requested to make and secure their own accommodation reservations. For those who wish, the secretariat will arrange accommodations at designated lodgings (*) (Arrangement of accommodations is limited to the participant only.) Accommodation costs are to be borne by the participant. The secretariat will not cover these expenses.

*Hiroshima City Bunka Koryu Kaikan (3-3 Kako-machi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City)

Room rate per person per night: ¥8,680 (including consumption tax and service charge, as of August 2025)

URL: <https://h-bkk.jp/stay/>

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 Third 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/>