English

Sony Music Foundation presents

THE 14th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2027

in Tokyo

第14回 国際オーボエコンクール・東京

<< Participation Requirements&Rules >>

Presented by: Sony Music Foundation

Ⅰ. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

"THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN" is an international music competition organized by the Sony Music Foundation since 1985.The competition was established at the initiative of Norio Ohga, the first Chairman of the Foundation and former Chairman of Sony Corporation, who emphasized the importance of the oboe as an instrument that plays a decisive role in determining the quality of an orchestra.
The competition aims to promote a broader appreciation of the true value of the oboe, discover and foster talented young musicians, and expand opportunities for them to perform both in Japan and internationally, thereby contributing to the development of global musical culture.
Today, the competition is highly regarded as an international music competition that attracts exceptional oboists from around the world. It has also produced many performers who have gone on to successful international careers.
As an international music competition dedicated exclusively to the oboe, it is considered unique in the world and has earned a firmly established international reputation.

1. Name of Competition

THE 14th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2027 in Tokyo

2. Committees of "The 14th International Oboe Competition of Japan 2027 in Tokyo"

Chairman Keiko ISHIKAWA (Chairman, Sony Music Foundation)

[Management Committee]

Satoshi AOKI (Secretary General, Secretariat / Executive Managing Director, Sony Music Foundation)
Fumihiko KANAGAWA (Deputy Secretary General, Secretariat / Executive Adviser, Sony Music Foundation)
Kanami ARAKI
Ken-ichi FURUBE
Isao TSUJI

[Review Committee]

Jury Chairman

Hansjörg SCHELLENBERGER (Former Principal Oboist, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra / Conductor / Oboist)

Jury members (in alphabetical order)

Kanami ARAKI (Principal Oboist, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra)
Ken-ichi FURUBE (Specially Appointed Principal Oboist, New Japan Philharmonic / Associate Professor, Tokyo College of Music)
Gordon HUNT (Conductor / Former Principal Oboist Philharmonia, London Chamber and London Philharmonic Orchestras)
Ramón ORTEGA QUERO (Principal Oboist, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra)
Dwight PARRY (Principal Oboist, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra)
Isao TSUJI (Oboist / Visiting Professor, The Showa University of Music, Senzoku Gakuen College of Music / Specially Appointed Professor, Kunitachi College of music / Lecturer, Nihon University College of Art)

3. Secretariat

Secretariat of the "14th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2027 in Tokyo"
c/o Sony Music Foundation
Address: SME-Rokubancho Bldg. 4-5, Rokubancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8353 JAPAN Phone: +81-(0)3-3515-5261 (10:00–18:00 Japan time, on weekdays)
e-mail:smf@sonymusic.co.jp URL: https://oboec.jp/index_e/
Please note: Any inquiries from abroad will only be accepted via e-mail.

4. Dates

Period for application: March 15 (Mon) - April 14(Wed) 23:59(CET), 2027 [Must arrive by this date]

*Application must include the video for preliminary screening

*All times are in Central European Time (CET).

Preliminary screening by Jury (with videos): May -June 2027 (Closed to the public)

◇Results announcement: Around early July

Registration: October 9, 2027 (Sat)

First Round : October 11(Mon),12(Tue), 2027

◇ Results announcement：October 12(Tue)

Second Round : October 14 (Thu),15 (Fri), 2027

◇Results announcement: October 15 (Fri)

Final Round and Award Presentation Ceremony: October 18, 2027 (Mon)

5. Venue

Nerima Culture Center
1-17-37, Nerima, Nerima-Ward, Tokyo 176-0001, Japan

https://www.neribun.or.jp/en/nerima/

◆First Round, Second Round : Small Hall
◆Final Round / Award Presentation Ceremony：Main Hall

6. Prizes & Awards

- ◆ **First Prize** Certificate / cash prize of JPY 1,300,000 / trophy

  [Ohga Award] (Additional Prize)

  Recipients will be offered performance opportunities in Japan.
- ◆ **Second Prize** Certificate / cash prize of JPY 700,000
- ◆ **Third Prize** Certificate / cash prize of JPY 300,000
- ◆ **Honorable Mention** Certificate / cash prize of JPY 100,000
- ◆ **Audience Award** Certificate

◇ If there are two or more winners for the First, Second, and/or Third Prizes, the Committee will revise the amount of the cash prize at its own discretion.
If no one is deemed qualified, the relevant place will be left vacant.

◇ The concert awarded as part of the Ohga Prize shall not be held if agreement cannot be reached with the prize winner regarding the concert arrangements.

◇ Other prizes and awards, such as a Special Award, may be offered.

◇ The amounts of cash prizes are inclusive of taxes according to the tax laws of Japan.

Ⅱ. APPLICATION

1. Eligibility

Anyone born between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 2009, is eligible, except for past first-prize winners of this Competition.

2. Period for application

March 15 (Mon) – April 14(Wed)23:59, 2027 [Must arrive by this date, Central European Time]

3. Where to apply

All applications must go through MUVAC, an online application facilitation service.

"MUVAC" (https://www.muvac.com/)

* Need to sign up for an account prior to application.

* Applications through other methods are not accepted.

4. How to apply

Applicants must complete all of the following requirements, namely (a) ~ (e), through the MUVAC website within the application period. The data can be modified or added as needed, within the period of application.

* Applications with any fraud and/or deficiency will be disqualified immediately upon detection.

*By submitting an application, applicants are deemed to have accepted all terms and conditions of these Participation Requirements and Rules.

*Those who have participated in the Second Round in any of our past Competitions are exempt from submitting the recording for the preliminary screening. If applicable, make sure to notify the Secretariat by email (smf@sonymusic.co.jp) prior to the application.

	Notes etc.	Where to look on the MUVAC website
(a) Basic information	Basic information of the applicant - Name / gender / date of birth - Nationality / address / phone #, etc.	Account Settings Personal Data
(b) Proof of age	ONE official documentation as proof of age (passport, etc.)	Certificates
(c) Photo	- Front face / from the waist up - Taken within the last 6 months of the application date - Color photo that is not subject to copyright restriction (A clipping from flyers, magazines, etc. is unacceptable.) - The image should be a JPEG 200KB or larger. - The photo will be used in the official pamphlet, website, and for the Competition's publication, etc. -Photos that are too dark, too bright, or unclear will not be accepted.	Portfolio and other documents

(d) Video for preliminary screening	The video of the Required Repertoire (stated in the latter part of this document) – Recording should be made no earlier than October 2026; non-edited recording only. "Non-edited" means that audio adjustments or editing during the performance of the tune has not been done. – The screening will be done without letting the jurors know the applicants' names. Therefore, make sure that anything that may identify you, such as your name, your school logo, etc., does not appear in the video. – Camera angle should be horizontal and fixed. Make sure that the oboist's hand and face show clearly from the front. As for the accompanist, make sure that his/her face shows too. – Audio-only applications are not accepted. – We recommend that you use the highest quality available for the audio/video. – Video recordings must be submitted exclusively by direct upload to the Muvac application form. Submissions via URLs to video-sharing services such as YouTube are not accepted.	Video
(e)Participation fee	Applicants to the Competition shall pay an application fee of JPY 15,000-through the payment system provided by Muvac.	Payment on application

5. **Preliminary screening** (closed to the public)

– In order to select the contestants for the First Round, Preliminary Screening will be done by way of reviewing the submitted videos stated in II-4.

– The Preliminary Screening will be done by the Jury Chairman and the Jury members who reside in Japan, after the Secretariat has confirmed the applications' eligibility. It will be a "blind screening" process, so no applicant's information will be disclosed to the Jury members at the time of the screening.

– The results of the Preliminary Screening will be provided to all applicants via e-mail from MUVAC (messages@muvac.com) around early July 2027. If you do not receive your result by July 20(Tue), please contact the Secretariat via e-mail (smf@sonymusic.co.jp). Any inquiries regarding the Preliminary Screening will not be answered prior to that date.

Ⅲ. COMPETITION PARTICIPATION

1. Participation fee/ Application Fee

Applicants to the Competition shall pay an application fee of JPY 15,000- through the payment system provided by Muvac.
Candidates who pass the preliminary round shall pay a competition participation fee of JPY 21,000- through the payment system provided on Muvac.
All fees are non-refundable under any circumstances.

2. First Round, Second Round, and Final Round

First Round, Second Round, and Final Round will take place in Nerima Culture Center, reviewed by all Jury members.
The contestants for the First Round must register for participation on Saturday, October 9, 2027, at the registration site in Tokyo designated by the Secretariat. Contestants must attend the Orientation that follows the registration process on the same day.
Details of the First Round will be informed at time of notification only to those who have passed the Preliminary screening.
Upon qualification from the Preliminary screening, the contestant should notify the Secretariat of the required information, such as his/her choice of required repertoire for the Second Round and the performing order, as well as requests for accommodation and accompanist.
Details of the Final Round will be informed at time of notification only to those who have passed the Second Round.

3. Stipend for contestants from abroad

For contestants residing outside Japan, a travel subsidy will be paid according to the amounts specified below. The amount of the subsidy shall be determined based on the contestant's nationality; requests based on the country of study or temporary residence will not be accepted.

- No travel subsidy will be provided if the contestant does not return to the point of departure (i.e., does not make a round trip), or if the travel includes purposes other than participation in this Competition.
- The contestant shall receive the amount after tax withholding according to the tax laws of Japan. (Tax rate is 20.42% in principle.)

	Amount (gross)	Amount to be received after tax reduction (net)
Contestants from the Americas / Europe / Africa	JPY 125,660-	**JPY 100,000-**
Contestants from Asia / Oceania	JPY 62,830-	**JPY 50,000-**

4. Accommodation for Contestants

The Secretariat will provide the accommodation at a hotel designated by the Secretariat (one single room for one person with breakfast) from the date of registration to the following dates.
All other accommodation expenses must be taken care of by the contestant.

◆Contestants in the First Round:
October 9 until the morning following the First Round (October 13)
◆Contestants in the Second Round:
October 9 until the morning following the Second Round (October 16)
◆Contestants in the Final Round:
October 9 until the morning following the Final Round (October 19)

5. Accompaniment

- The contestant may bring his/her own piano and/or cembalo accompanist, in which case, the contestant is responsible for all the costs to do so.
- If the contestant is not bringing his/her own accompanist, the Secretariat will arrange for the official piano and/or cembalo accompanist of the all rounds.
- The Secretariat will provide an orchestra and a conductor for all contestants in the Final Round.
- The Secretariat will determine the details, such as the time and place of the official rehearsal/s with the piano and cembalo accompanists, the orchestra, the conductor.
- Official accompanists will be assigned for the First Round, Second Round, Final Round respectively by the Secretariat. It is not guaranteed that the same accompanist/s will be assigned.

6. Others

[A] Contestant/ Participant

An applicant who has passed the Preliminary Screening and paid the participation fee is referred to as a "contestant." He/she will be referred to as a "participant" if he/she fails to proceed to the next round.

[B] Visa

The contestant and/or the accompanist is/are responsible for obtaining the visa/s to enter Japan, as necessary. For documents required for a visa application to enter Japan, please contact the Secretariat.

[C] Insurance

The contestant and/or the accompanist is/are responsible for obtaining insurance against illness, as well as accidents, fire, theft, damage to belongings (including his/her instrument), and/or other liabilities for the entire period of the Competition.

[D] Copyrights

Any rights including neighboring rights related to photographing, recording, filming, broadcasting, and streaming of all performances during the Competition will belong to the Secretariat.

[E] Presentation of the Performances

All the rounds of this Competition are open to the public, except for Preliminary Screening. The First, Second, and Final Rounds, as well as the Award Presentation Ceremony, may be broadcast live and/or recorded for TV, radio, and/or live/archive streaming on the Internet (on YouTube and other streaming services), and on the Competition's official website and social media accounts, and the contestants and accompanists shall agree to such broadcasting. Please note that no fee will be paid to the Contestants for these broadcasting, streaming, and sharing.

[F] Personal Information

The following information of the contestants in the First Round will be disclosed:
[nationality / region / full name / date of birth / titles of the repertoire to be performed / educational background / musical background]
The Secretariat will take necessary measures to keep the personal information provided by applicants in an appropriate manner and protect it against leakage, loss, and illegal access.

[G] Compliance with the Japanese Law

Any dispute in connection with these Participation Requirements shall be settled based on the original version (Japanese language) of this document and in accordance with the Japanese law.

[H] Review Method

The Review Committee will evaluate the contestants' performances based on the reviewing criteria. The decision of the Review Committee is final and absolute.

[I] Contact with Jury Members

Contestants and jury members shall not have any contact whatsoever from the date of contestant registration until the conclusion of the Final Round.

Any jury member who has taught a contestant for a period of three months or longer within the two years preceding the Competition shall declare the contestant's name to the Jury Committee.

Ⅳ. REQUIRED REPERTOIRE

The Secretariat will designate the Required Repertoire for the Preliminary Screening and the First, Second, and Final Rounds, respectively.

Throughout the Competition period, all instruments used for accompaniment (piano, cembalo, orchestra) will be tuned to A=442Hz. The cembalo used in the Second Round shall be tuned in equal temperament.

PRELIMINARY SCREENING (with video)

The Participant must submit a video recording of the required repertoire listed below.:

1) C. Saint-Saens: Sonata op.166 2nd and 3rd movement

2) G. Ph. Telemann: Fantasie Nr.7 TWV 40-32 from Fantasies for Viola da Gamba transcribed for oboe by H. Schellenberger (1st repeats only in each movement) [Edition BEFOCO]

FIRST ROUND(Public review in Japan)

The Contestant must perform the following two pieces:(performing order of the pieces is optional)

1) R.Schumann: Adagio and Allegro op.70 (Violin-version) [Publisher: Peters]

2) Heinz Holliger: Sonata for oboe solo (1956 rev.1999). 1st and 4th movement [Publisher: Schott]

SECOND ROUND(Public review in Japan)

The Contestant must choose one piece each from groups < A >, < B >, and < C >, which makes a total of three pieces, to constitute a recital of 50 minutes in length. (Including entrance, exit and intervals) Up to one piece can be selected for the performance without accompaniment. (performing order of the pieces is optional)

< A >

1) J. S. Bach: Sonate g-moll BWV1030b (No repeats for the 3rd Movement) [Publisher: Peters]

2) J.S.Bach : Partita BWV1013 (orig. Flöte) (either the a-moll or the g-moll version is acceptable; 1st repeats only in each movements) [Publisher: Peters/Karthause-Schmülling]

3) C.Ph.E.Bach: Sonate für Querflöte solo a-moll Wq.132(no repeats in all movements) [Publisher: AMADEUS]

4) F. Couperin: "Les gouts reunis" ou "Nouveaux Concerts" , concert No.7 or No.11 or No.14(Accompanied by the cembalo, repeats optional) [Publisher: Breitkopf & Härtel]

< B >

1) A. Dorati: Cinq pieces for oboe solo[Publisher: Boosey & Hawkes]

2) A. Pasculli: Fantasia sull'opera "Poliuto" di Donizetti
[Publisher: Musica Rara (Breitkopf & Härtel)]

3) G. Silvestrini: 6 Etudes pour hautbois (perform any three) [Publisher: Delatour]

4) T. Hosokawa: Spell Song for oboe
Commissioned by Sony Music Foundation for "THE 11th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2015 in Karuizawa" [Publisher: Schott]

5) G. Paggi: Souvenir de Bellini, Grande Fantaisie de Concert for oboe and piano, Op. 16
[Edition BEFOCO]

6) M. Dranishnikova: Poème for Oboe and Piano [Publisher: TrevCo Music Publishing]

< C >

W. A. Mozart: Oboe Concerto in C major, K.314 (285d)
[Publisher: Breitkopf & Härtel (Revised by Henrik Wiese) / Henle (Revised by Ingo Goritzki) / the latest edition of Bärenreiter (Revised by Frank de Bruine) *]
* You must perform the "Ossia Version" if you are using this edition.
[Performing from memory is preferred; however, the use of sheet music is permitted. Accompanied by the piano.]

FINAL ROUND（Public review in Japan）

The Contestant must perform the following two pieces:

1) A. Doráti: Duo concertante [Publisher: Boosey & Hawkes]

2) R. Strauss: Concerto in D major for Oboe and small Orchestra AV144 [Publisher: Henle]
[Performing from memory is preferred; however, the use of sheet music is permitted. Accompanied by the orchestra.]