



6th ISAC International Popular Music Composition Competition

Aim

Our mission is to support composers by offering opportunities through our competitions and by promoting their creative activities. This competition is open to a wide range of popular music genres, including songwriting, jazz, rock, film music, and related styles listed here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_popular_music_genres

For classical or modern classical composition, please see the Ise-Shima International Composition Competition:

<https://en.iseshimaart.com/music-competitions>

Applicants who also write lyrics may be interested in our Ise-Shima International Lyric Competition:

<https://en.iseshimaart.com/internationall lyric>

Eligibility

- The competition is open to applicants of all nationalities.
- There is no age limit.
- Composers who have a close personal relationship with any member of our organization may apply only if they disclose this by answering the relevant question on the application form. Our members are listed here:
<https://www.iseshimaart.com/about-us>

Application Process

- Online application opens on September 28, 2025.
- Deadline: July 1, 2026, 23:59 GMT (current GMT: <https://greenwichmeantime.com/current-time/>).
- Applicants must submit the URL of their music file through the online application form: <https://en.iseshimaart.com/popular-music-composition-competition>
- Application fee: 5,000 yen, non-refundable (approximately 35 to 40 US dollars). After completing the application form, applicants may pay by credit card, Alipay, or PayPal through the following page: <https://en.iseshimaart.com/popular-music-composition-competition>
- All important messages will be sent from "info at iseshimaart.com". Please confirm your email settings so that you can receive messages from this address.
- Depending on the situation, winners may be asked to submit a copy of an identification document.
- Applicants must write their full name or stage name correctly on the application form, as this name will be used on the certificate. If a stage name is used, the applicant must also provide their real name in the address section so that certificates can be sent correctly.
- A group may submit a work instead of an individual applicant. In that case, please do not write the group name as the applicant name. Instead, list each composer's name separately using slashes: Composer 1 / Composer 2 / Composer 3.

General Rules

- The style and duration of the submitted work are freely chosen by the applicant.
- The submitted work may have already been performed or awarded.
- Composers may submit more than one work, but a separate application form and application fee are required for each work.
- Composers may apply by submitting the URL of an audio recording uploaded to an online storage service, video platform, or audio sharing platform, provided that the privacy settings allow the jury to access and listen to the file until the competition results are announced.
- To promote the winners, awarded works will be published on our website if the audio file's privacy setting is public. If winning composers provide their SNS information in the application form, we may also publish it for promotional purposes.
- Due to postal restrictions in certain locations, we may be unable to send physical certificates to those areas. In such cases, a PDF certificate will be provided by email instead.
- Incomplete applications may be disqualified.
- After submission, works cannot be altered under any circumstances.

Prizes

- Grand Prix - 100,000 yen and certificate.
- Special Prizes - certificates for up to 35 winners.
- Diploma of Merit - Applicants who state their age on the application form, do not receive another prize, and whose submitted composition is judged to be of sufficiently high quality for their age may receive a Diploma of Merit, provided in PDF format.

Rules and Regulations

- The judging panel is selected solely by the Ise-Shima Art Committee, and its decisions are final.
- By applying to the competition, applicants agree to all published rules, regulations, and procedures.
- The Ise-Shima Art Committee reserves the right, in consultation with the competition judge, to withhold prizes, amend the regulations, or change or divide the prize money if the judge considers such action justified for any reason.
- Submitted works will be evaluated by the jury based on compositional technique, sound quality, and originality.
- During the judging process, jury members may listen to the submitted music files in ways different from ordinary listening, such as repeating a single passage or replaying the entire work multiple times. For this reason, platforms such as YouTube may not register an increase in view counts. Therefore, even if the view count does not rise, it does not mean that the jury has not listened to the work.
- Results will be sent by email on July 31, 2026.
- Results will also be published on our website: <https://en.iseshimaart.com/>
- Contact: info[at]iseshimaart.com

Head of the Jury

Dr. Sumio Kobayashi

Dr. Sumio Kobayashi has received formal musical training, excelling in piano and solfege, since 1985. He has won the I.C.O.M.S. 29th International Composition Competition, the Gyeongsangnam-do Special Prize at the Isang Yun Prize, second place at the Toru Takemitsu Composition Award in 2013, and the International Composers' Competition of the European Capital of Culture Wroclaw 2016. He was also a finalist at the Pablo Casals International Composition Competition in 2015. He has appeared at festivals including Takefu International Music Festival, Tongyeong International Music Festival, and Weimarer Fruehjahrstage fuer zeitgenoessische Musik. He is currently an associate professor at Nihon University in Tokyo and received a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Kent in the United Kingdom.

<https://www.sumiokobayashi.com/>

Statistics

Applications by country (5th ISAC International Popular Music Composition Competition)

Austria	1
Belgium	1
China	23
Denmark	1
Italy	7
Japan	81
Mexico	2
Netherlands	1
Poland	2
Russia	1
Singapore	1
South Korea	2
Spain	1
United States	7