



The 2nd ISAC International Lyric Competition

Purpose

This lyric competition aims to bring wider recognition to lyrics that combine creativity, deep lyricism, and musicality. Lyrics of all genres are welcomed from around the world.

This competition does not cover songwriting or composition. Those who wish to apply in those categories should consider the separate competition for those fields: <https://www.iseshimaart.com/popular-music-composition-competition>

Eligibility

- Open to applicants of all nationalities.
- There is no age restriction.
- Applicants who have a direct and personal connection with a member of our organization or with the Chair of the Jury (such as students or relatives) must declare this on the application form.

Members of our organization are listed here: <https://www.iseshimaart.com/about-us>

Registration Procedure

- Online registration opens on April 1, 2026.
- The application deadline is March 1, 2027, 23:59 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- Applicants must submit lyrics written by themselves. In the case of a collaborative work, the names entered on the application form should list all co-authors separated by slashes (/). Example: Lyricist 1 / Lyricist 2 / Lyricist 3
- The application fee is 2,000 JPY and must be paid through the application form (PayPal, Alipay, or credit card).

Reference for GMT time: <https://greenwichmeantime.com/current-time/>

- By completing the online application form, applicants can proceed directly to payment. If the payment page does not open, changing browser settings, security software settings, or the browser itself is recommended: <https://www.iseshimaart.com/internationallyric>
- Application fees are non-refundable.
- Communication will be sent from info@iseshimaart.com, so please ensure that you can receive emails from this address.
- Prize winners may later be asked to submit identification for verification purposes.
- The name printed on the certificate will be exactly the same as the name entered on the application form. Please ensure that the lyricist's name is entered accurately. A pen name or stage name is permitted; however, in that case, the applicant's legal name must also be entered in the address field so that the certificate can be delivered properly. For certificate delivery, applicants must provide an address where they can reliably receive the certificate; temporary addresses should not be used.

Rules

- The genre and length of the lyrics are unrestricted.
- If the language of the lyrics is neither Japanese nor English and no translation into either of those languages is provided on the form, our organization will translate the text and confirm its pronunciation for judging purposes.
- Applicants may submit an audio recording of a musical work using the submitted lyrics, but this is optional, and recording quality will not affect the judging.
- Both audio files and video files are accepted as recordings.
- It is recommended that recordings be uploaded to SoundCloud, YouTube, Youku, or Vimeo. Uploading to other drive services, including Google Drive, is also permitted, but applicants must make sure that the privacy settings allow our organization to access the recording until the announcement of the results.
- Lyrics that have already been published, as well as lyrics that have received awards in other competitions, may also be submitted.
- One lyricist may submit multiple lyrics; however, the same participation fee must be paid for each work, and the application form must be completed again for each submission.

- By applying, applicants agree that submitted lyrics may be introduced on our website or social media in order to promote prize winners. Likewise, if prize winners provide their social media accounts or website at the time of application for promotional purposes, that information may be published on our website.
- Depending on postal circumstances, certificates may be sent in electronic form in some cases, such as shipments to conflict regions.
- Copyright in the submitted work remains with the lyricist.
- Incomplete applications may result in disqualification.
- No additions, revisions, or corrections will be accepted after the application period has closed.
- Certificates will be prepared and sent within two months after the announcement of the results.
- The use of AI is strictly prohibited.

Prizes

- Grand Prize: 50,000 JPY and a certificate.
- Special Prize(s): certificate(s) for up to approximately 35 entrants.

Judging

- Our organization reserves the right, in accordance with the judges' decisions and the number of participants, not to award a prize, to amend the regulations, or to change the prize amount, including splitting it among multiple winners.
- For judging purposes, recordings may sometimes be listened to in non-standard ways, such as looping the same section repeatedly or listening to the entire piece multiple times. As a result, view or play counts may not be recorded in the usual way.
- Judging will be based on the effective use of language and the quality of poetic expression.
- A judge who has a personal connection with an applicant, or whose student has applied, may not take part in judging that work.
- No objections to the judges' decisions will be accepted.
- Submission to this competition constitutes acceptance of the above judging rules and all other regulations and terms.
- Works will be evaluated from a variety of perspectives, including syllabic and lexical accent, rhyme and form, line length and line usage, relationship to musical form, originality, and choice of vocabulary.

Notification of Results

- The results of this competition are scheduled to be announced on May 5, 2027 on the following website, and applicants will also be notified by email: <http://www.iseshimaart.com/>
- Depending on the applicant's environment, email may not always be received properly, so applicants are asked to confirm the results on the website as well.
- Questions regarding the competition may be directed to info@iseshimaart.com.