



Japan Jazz
Pop Piano
Competition

The 2nd JAPAN JAZZ POP PIANO COMPETITION

第2回 ジャパン・ジャズ・ポップ・ピアノコンペティション

**DATE : 2023 September 16th (Sat)
17th (Sun)**

*If there are many more applicants for one Division compared to the other, the performances may extend over both days

VENUE : Lazona Kawasaki Plazasol

Lazona Kawasaki Plaza 5F 72-1 Horikawacho Saiwaiku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa

The aim of this competition is to recapture the artistic freedom that was prevalent in the past. Through jazz and pop music, the participants will rediscover or further enhance their creativity and personal expression. The panel of judges consists of artists with active performing careers and extensive experience in teaching. The requirements and standards of the competition will differ depending on the level of the contestant. It goes without saying that advanced players would also be welcome.

The criteria of assessment would change accordingly based on the divisions. However, beauty of tone is essential and will be taken into consideration for all levels. The team of judges will evaluate the contestants' performances and offer individual advice. I hope you will join us, and most importantly, take something away from this experience.

Organized by : Sobkowiak Piano Association

Supported by : Kawasaki Jazz/Sunphonix Corp.

Endorsed by : Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Japan/Polish Cultural Institute in Tokyo/
Polish Chamber of Commerce And Industry In Japan/Showa University of Music/IMC Music
Publisher Ltd./European Piano Association/Polish Radio Chopin/Steinway Japan, Ltd./JAZZ
JAPAN Inc.

APPLICATION DEADLINE : August 26th (Sat), 2023

GENRES / DIVISIONS

Genres : Please choose from the following

JAZZ

This genre is for piano pieces that contain what is commonly understood as a "jazz" style, including ballad, bebop, blues, Latin, ragtime, swing, or other variations and combinations.

- ① **Performer**
- ② **Creator**
- ③ **Specialist**

POP

This genre is for piano pieces that contain what is commonly understood as "pop", which has undergone transformations since its birth in the 1950s. We understand this vast genre to include anime, country, dance, folk, lounge music, rock, urban, or other variations and combinations.

- ① **Performer**
- ② **Creator**
- ③ **Specialist**

Divisions : Participants can choose from either a solo or a four-handed performance, as well as one of the 3 Divisions.

① **Performer**

One may select any piano piece written in a jazz or pop style, including compositions and arrangements published by others. (If playing an original piece composed by the contestant, please refer to the **Creator Division**) The piece could be played while reading music, but playing by heart is recommended and will be taken into consideration when judging.

Due to the fact that some published pieces or arrangements may not be widely known, all contestants must send the music scores beforehand. With respect to the composers and arrangers, the contestants must play the piece exactly as written, including all repetitions. Otherwise, points will be deducted.

② **Creator**

One may arrange a composer's piece or even compose an original piece at home and perform in front of the judges. The piece (arrangement or composition) needs to be kept in the style of jazz or pop and be the contestant's own work. The contestants may play by reading the score, but playing by heart is recommended and will be taken into consideration when judging.

If an **arrangement**: We will require the submission of the original music score (or lead sheet). Contestants are free to change the structure or the tonality of the piece. If playing exactly the same as how another person has arranged the piece, the contestant should apply for the **Performer Division**, not the Creator.

If an **original piece composed by the contestant**: The submission of the music score is not required.

③ Specialist

This is a Division in which participants will be required to arrange a piece of music chosen at random by the judges. Once they signal to the judges that they are seated comfortably, the participants will be given a lead sheet out of a prepared list of jazz or pop standards as well as 30 seconds to prepare. Once the bell rings after 30 seconds, the participants will start playing. A free spontaneous arrangement can be based on any chosen style but must include jazz or pop elements.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- * If you do not know which genre (Jazz or Pop) is more fitting, please feel free to contact us prior to your registration. Send us a sample link, PDF file, or audio file and we would be happy to assist you.
- * It is possible to apply for multiple divisions and across both genres.
- * When playing multiple pieces, the break between pieces would also be included in their total playing time.
- * The timer will start after the contestant has sat down.
- * If the contestants go over the allotted time, their performance will be cut off, but this will not affect their result. It is advisable to bring a watch to keep track of the time. It is also acceptable to use smartphones as timers, but please make sure that it is on silent mode and would not disrupt the performance.
- * There will not be any support piano pedals for children, so please bring if needed.
- * Due to common restrictions of the hall, techniques involving the manipulation of the strings are prohibited.
- * The performance can only be recorded (audio or video) by the contestants themselves or their supporters. However, please note that the comments by the judges, as well as comments during the awards ceremony may not be recorded.
- * The copyright of the videos and photos taken by the staff belongs to the Competition, and participants shall not claim image rights. The videos and photos may be used on the official website, video distribution on YouTube, and pamphlets and videos for commercial purposes by sponsoring companies.
- * Changing rooms will not be available at the venue.

GENRE / DIVISION / GROUP

JAZZ	① Performer	KDIS	POP	① Performer	KDIS
		TEENS			TEENS
		ADULTS			ADULTS
		FOUR-HANDS			FOUR-HANDS
	② Creator	KDIS		② Creator	KDIS
		TEENS			TEENS
		ADULTS			ADULTS
		FOUR-HANDS			FOUR-HANDS
	③ Specialist	KDIS		③ Specialist	KDIS
		TEENS			TEENS
		ADULTS			ADULTS
		FOUR-HANDS			FOUR-HANDS

FEES

KIDS ages 12 and under		TEENS ages 13-19		ADULTS ages 20 and above		FOUR-HANDS (per pair) age does not apply	
¥9,000	~ 2min	¥12,000	~ 3min	¥14,000	~ 3min	¥16,000	~ 3min
¥10,000	~ 3min	¥13,000	~ 4min	¥15,000	~ 4min	¥17,000	~ 4min
¥11,000	~ 4min	¥14,000	~ 5min	¥16,000	~ 5min	¥18,000	~ 5min
¥12,000	~ 5min	¥15,000	~ 7min	¥17,000	~ 7min	¥19,000	~ 7min
¥13,000	~ 7min	¥17,000	~ 10min	¥19,000	~ 10min	¥21,000	~ 10min
¥15,000	~ 10min	¥20,000	~ 15min	¥22,000	~ 15min	¥24,000	~ 15min

APPLICATION

Please apply through the competition website and transfer the participation fee. If the application number reaches the limit before the deadline, the notice will be posted on this website. We cannot respond to any inquiries regarding this matter.

Deadline: Saturday August 26th, 2023

- * The winners of the Grand Prize may participate again this year if they apply under a different Division.
- * The payment should be completed within 2 weeks after the application. All bank charges are to be paid by the contestants.
- * The participation fee is non-refundable.
- * In the event of natural disasters, such as typhoons and earthquakes, this Competition may be cancelled and will be announced on this website. In such unavoidable cases, entry fees will be fully refunded to the participants.

Bank account:

Mizuho Bank, Kyodo Branch
Account number: 3026049
Swift: MHCBJPJT
Recipient: SOBKOWIAK PIANO ASSOCIATION

After the application :

A confirmation message will be sent within 3 business days once the application has been received. If you do not receive the email, please contact the committee (info@jazzpiano.jp).

- * Please be sure to provide us an address that accepts emails from our "info@jazzpiano.jp" domain.
- * The contestants will receive their schedule by **September 6th**.

Submission :

Contestants are required to send the following to the Competition Committee.
Requirements differ depending on the Division chosen.

1) The photo of the participant

- 2) If applying for the **Performer Division**: the music score of the chosen piece
If applying for the **Creator Division** and wish to arrange a composer's piece:
the original music score

Both JAZZ and POP	Scores	Photo
Performer Division	○	○
Creator Division (Arrangement)	○	○
Creator Division (Original Piece)	—	○
Specialist Division	—	○

The photo should be around passport-size (45x35mm). There is no need for an official ID photo, but it will be used for identification on the day of the Competition.

For contestants applying for Divisions for which submission of music scores is required, please send 5 copies to the Competition Committee.

1 page: A4 one side

2 pages: A4 double-sided

3+ pages: A3 booklet (no need to staple)

Address:

4-3-13 Sonan Minami-ku Sagami-hara-shi, Kanagawa
JAPAN 252-0312

* Please write the name of the participant on the envelope

* The materials sent will not be returned to the participant under any circumstances

JURY

Jury Members :

Michal Sobkowiak (Chairman)

Simon Cosgrove

Jonathan Katz

Sławomir Stanisław Kowalewski * The list of jury members is subject to change

Comments :

After each Group, the judges will give feedback on stage. Written comments regarding the individual performances will be available within 2 to 3 hours at the reception desk.

RESULTS / PRIZES

The results will be announced during the awards ceremony at the end of each day.

1) Prizes (Gold, Silver, Bronze, Encouragement)

For every group under each Division, winners will be chosen to receive a diploma. Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners will be given a medal and a chance to participate in the Winners Gala Concert.

The recipients of the following will be announced at the Winners Gala Concert scheduled for Monday, September 18th.

2) Grand Prize

Out of all the players, the top contestant from each Genre (Jazz/Pop) will receive a Grand Prize trophy.

3) Sunphonix Prize

The most outstanding pianist (or a duo) will be granted a cash prize of ¥100,000.

* Depending on the level of the performances, medals may not be given, and there may also be multiple recipients of the same award.

* 9/16-17: Winners who cannot attend the awards ceremony will receive their diploma/medal by post. Please be sure to bring the blue Letter Pack on the day of the Competition.

* 9/18: If the Grand Prize winner does not attend the Gala Concert, the trophy will be sent COD.

WINNERS GALA CONCERT

Cosponsored by: Kawasaki Jazz

Venue: Showa University of Music Yuri Hall

Date: September 18th, 2023 (Mon) *National Holiday

Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners, as well as the judges will perform at the Gala Concert. During the closing ceremony, the recipients of the Grand Prize and Sunphonix Prize will be announced. Further information will be provided closer to the date.

INQUIRY

JAPAN JAZZ POP PIANO COMPETITION Office

MAIL: info@jazzpiano.jp

TEL: 050-3134-5654

Sobkowiak Piano Association

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