



## Competition Rules

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- Category**
- Category I : Ages 12-15
  - Category II : Ages 15-18
  - Category III : Ages 6-12 (up to 18)
  - Category IV : Other than Category I, II and III

\*Ages are determined as the age of the participant on the day of 23 March 2025

\*Some singers of ages 12-15 (Category I) and ages 15-18 (Category II) can participate in Category III. However, the majority of the singers in Category III must be between ages 6-12.

\*The singers of ages 12-15 (Category I) and ages 15-18 (Category II) must sing as a children's choir, when in Category III.

- Entry Qualification**
- a. The number of singers should be 2-16 (no fewer than 2 and no more than 16) and member changes for musical pieces will be approved only within the registered members.
  - b. No singer shall compete as a member of more than one choir, regardless of the categories. A conductor and an accompanist will not be included in this regulation.
  - c. For Japan-based choirs, each category can only accept a single choir from the same group.
  - d. No qualification is required for a conductor or an accompanist.
  - e. A conductor and an accompanist will be included in the singers when they sing in the choir.
  - f. The Gold titled choirs in each category shall proceed to the Grand Champion Competition on 23 March.
  - g. In principle, singers who have not registered in the category competition will not be able to perform in the Grand Champion Competition.

- Performance**
- a. There is no compulsory work in any category. All music pieces performed will be determined by the competitors. Any change will not be allowed after registration.
  - b. For each category, the overall duration of performance time from the beginning of the first piece until the end of the last piece (including time between songs) must not exceed 9 minutes.
  - c. For the Grand Champion Competition, the total performance time from the beginning of the first piece to the end of the last piece (including time between songs) must not exceed 15 minutes.
  - d. Tuning musical instruments on stage is included in the performance time.
  - e. Failure to comply with the above rules will result in disqualification.

- Order of Performance**
- a. The Category-III performance will take place during the first half of the event on 22 March, and followed by the Category-IV performance in the second half.
  - b. The order of performance in each category will be determined by a random lottery conducted by the executive committee office in February 2025.
  - c. The timetable will be announced on the [ENTRIES/SCHEDULE] page of the competition homepage in late February, as shown below.
  - d. The order of performance for the Grand Champion Competition will be announced on the [ENTRIES/SCHEDULE] page of the competition homepage in mid-November, as shown below.  
URL : <https://www.vocalensemble.fukushima.jp/en/entries&schedule.html>

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- Accompaniment**
- a. The instruments and style of accompaniment shall be up to each competing choir.
  - b. A piano (Steinway & Sons), a positive organ and a pipe organ (Marcussen & Søn) will be provided by the organiser. The pitch of the piano will be A=442Hz.
  - c. If the contestants use musical instruments other than the above, they are expected to carry their own instruments, and will be responsible for the required expenses.
  - d. If the contestants require a person to turn the pages of notes, each choir shall make appropriate arrangements.

- Judging and Evaluation**
- a. The following judges will evaluate the competition:  
Dieter Wagner (Tenor, Conductor), Fumiya Amamori (Conductor),  
Yoshio Saida (Conductor), Masahiro Sato (Conductor), Emiko Maruyama (Soprano),  
Yuta Miyake (Composer), Hideki Motoyama (Conductor)
  - b. The evaluation of each competition will be conducted using a round-robin system specified separately.
  - c. Results of the Category Competition and judges' comments will be mailed to each participating choir after the competition.

- Prizes and Awards**
- a. The competition will be evaluated in each category, and Gold, Silver, Bronze or Excellence prizes will be awarded to every participating choir in each category.
  - b. In the Category Competition, Gold prizes will be awarded to the top 5 choirs in each of the respective categories, I, II and IV, and the top choir in Category III.
  - c. In the Grand Champion Competition, JPY 500,000 will be awarded to the best choir, JPY 300,000 to the 2nd winner, JPY 100,000 to the 3rd winner and JPY 30,000 to other finalists.
  - d. In addition, an extra prize will be awarded to the higher-ranking winning choirs in the Grand Champion Competition.

- Rehearsal**
- a. On the day of the performance, the participating choir will be able to do a rehearsal at least once at the venue.
  - b. Also, the travel agency authorised by the organiser will book a rehearsal room in the city.
  - c. Up to 2 members of the participating choirs can look over the competition hall on the day before the performance.

- Copyright**
- a. Copyright royalties for performances managed by the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers (JASRAC) or NexTone Inc. will be paid by the organiser. For other songs, the participating choirs must obtain permission from the copyright holder by themselves.
  - b. If the competitors partially omit or rearrange the piece, they must gain approval in advance from the copyright holder and submit a document showing permission has been obtained to the organiser. Negotiations with copyright holders should be handled by the competitors.
  - c. If problems arise between a participating choir and the rights holder for a song that requires copyright procedures, it must be handled under the responsibility of the participating choir.

- Information**
- a. The information provided by the participating choirs will be used for organising the competition, such as posting on websites, printing in publications, recording to CDs or DVDs, and provided to the mass media and parties related to management of the competition.
  - b. The organiser or the companies authorised by the organiser may use pictures, sound recordings and video recordings on the Internet, in publications and broadcasting, and provide the information to the mass media. The companies authorised by the organiser will sell pictures and recordings in the form of photos, CDs or DVDs.