

## **28<sup>th</sup> Kumamoto National Hōgaku Competition: In Commemoration of Nagatani Kengyō**

### **Application Guidelines**

The Kumamoto National Hōgaku Competition was instituted to celebrate the life and work of Nagatani Yukiteru (1842-1920), a figure of peerless eminence in the musical world of Jiuta-shamisen, with the aim of contributing to the transmission and development of Japan's illustrious legacy of music for traditional instruments (*hōgaku*). By providing gifted *hōgaku* performers with the opportunity to display and develop their skill and artistry, this competition is intended to spur on the development of Japanese traditional music for a new era.

#### **1. Categories**

- (1) Koto
- (2) Flutes (shakuhachi, etc.)
- (3) Biwa
- (4) Shamisen
- (5) Ensemble (sankyoku, etc.; max. 5 players)

Categories (1) to (4) are for solo performance. Accompanists may be used but only the applicant will be judged. Applications in Category (5) for ensemble performance (sankyoku, etc.) should involve participation of ensembles consisting of any of the instruments in Categories (1) to (4) or of the same instrument.

#### **2. Eligibility**

The competition is open to anyone wishing to pursue a career in Japanese traditional music, irrespective of age, nationality and professional or amateur status.

#### **3. How to apply**

The materials set out hereunder in items 1 to 4 should be sent to the office of the Executive Committee.

### 1) Application form

The competition application form can be downloaded from the Kumamoto National Hōgaku Competition website (<http://www.kumahou.com/>), or a written request for the form may be sent by mail to the Executive Office, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

### 2) A recording of the applicant's performance lasting no more than four minutes to be submitted in WAV or MP3 format

If the recording is submitted as a music CD, it should be in standard mode (LP mode is unacceptable). The state of the recording should be checked beforehand since a recording in an inferior state will be rejected.

If the recording is to be submitted online, large volume data files should be sent via GigaFile (<https://gigafile.nu/>) or any other large file transmission service.

### 3) Copy of arrangement authorisation certificate (in the case of excerpts or arrangements)

If a piece is to be performed as an excerpt or arrangement, authorisation must be obtained from the copyright-holder or from the publisher in the case of a published score. If not in possession of the prescribed form, an authorisation certificate may be downloaded from the competition website or a written request for the form may be mailed to the Executive Office, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

NB: Payment of a small authorisation fee may be required upon application. The applicant will be responsible for any related expenses.

### 4) Musical notation (in all categories required only when a performance is to be given by two or more players)

Original scores (copies not acceptable) should be submitted with clear indication of which sections of the score are to be performed and omitted.

NB: Music CDs and scores, etc. submitted by the applicant will not be returned.

- Addresses for submission (all materials except those in item 4 may be submitted online)

Online address: [k-hougakusai@kc-sks.jp](mailto:k-hougakusai@kc-sks.jp) (Office of the Kumamoto Dai Hōgokusai Executive Committee)

Mail address: Office of the Kumamoto Dai Hōgokusai Executive Committee, Civic Auditorium Sears Home Yume Hall, 1-3 Sakura-machi, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto Prefecture 860-0805

#### **4. Application fee**

¥5,000 (under no circumstances to be refunded)

Payment should be made employing one of the three following methods.

1) Transfer to the following bank account:

Ordinary deposit account, no. 3100873, at Nanaichihachi Branch, Yucho Bank in the name of Kumamoto Dai Hōgokusai Executive Committee

(Transfer charges to be borne by the applicant)

2) Transfer to the following PayPal account:

Account: @kumahou (Kumamoto Dai Hōgokusai Executive Committee)

Email address: [k-hougakusai@kc-sks.jp](mailto:k-hougakusai@kc-sks.jp)

[https://paypal.me/kumahou?country.x=JP&locale.x=ja\\_JP](https://paypal.me/kumahou?country.x=JP&locale.x=ja_JP)

(The full name of the applicant should be attached to the message. Charges to be borne by the applicant)

3) Postal money order for ¥5,000 to be enclosed with the application form.

#### **5. Deadline for applications**

Sunday, January 15, 2023 (postmark deadline)

#### **6. Announcement of successful applicants**

Participants in the competition will be determined following a preliminary examination of the submitted materials and will be notified early in February.

## **7. Main competition**

Performances in the koto, shakuhachi and flute, biwa, shamisen and ensemble categories will be given at Civic Auditorium Sears Home Yume Hall in Kumamoto City on Sunday, July 2, 2023. Individual performances should last no more than five minutes and feature the same piece as that performed for the preliminary examination.

## **8. Judges**

- Soh Fujimoto (traditional music producer)
- Mari Kanō (Japanese music researcher)
- Haruko Komoda (professor, Musashino Academia Musicae)
- Mihoko Nogawa (Japanese music researcher; Lecturer, Tokyo University of the Arts)
- Keizō Ideta (composer and conductor; Dean, Heisei College of Music)

## **9. Prizes**

- Grand Prix, Prize of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports Science and Technology: ¥500,000 (one individual or ensemble)
- Prize for Excellence: ¥200,000 (three individuals or ensembles)
- Encouragement Prize: ¥100,000 (four individuals or ensembles)

NB: A single certificate of commendation will be issued in the case of an award being given to applicants in the ensemble category.

## **10. Sponsor**

Kumamoto Dai Hōgakusai Executive Committee (Kumamoto City, Kumamoto Prefecture Cultural Association, Kumamotonichinichi shimbun)

## **11. Enquiries and applications**

Office of the Kumamoto Dai Hōgakusai Executive Committee, Civic Auditorium Sears Home Yume Hall, 1-3 Sakura-machi, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto Prefecture 860-0805 (closed on the first and third Mondays of each month)

Tel: 096-355-5235 Fax: 096-355-5239

Website: <http://www.kumahou.com/>