

The 31th  OKIDEN

SUGARHALL Competition for Debut Concert

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Sections

Voice, Piano, Stringed Instruments,
Wind and Percussion Instruments

Application Period

October 1, 2025–
January 9, 2026

Competition

March 19–20, 2025

Organized by

Nanjo City
The Okinawa Electric Power Co., Inc.
The Okinawa Times

Application Guidelines for the 31th OKIDEN SUGARHALL Competition for Debut Concert

THE OKIDEN SUGARHALL Competition for Debut Concert began in 1994 in commemoration of the Opening of Sugarhall, as our concert hall is specifically designed for classical music.

The purpose of this competition is: (1) discovering and developing young, promising, and talented musicians, (2) contributing to the promotion of musical culture in the regional and international cultural exchange.

The Competition has been held annually ever since and is organized by Nanjo City, The Okinawa Electric Power Co., Inc. and The Okinawa Times.

Schedule: Competition	March 19, 2026 at 3:00 pm	Wind and Percussion Instruments, Voice
	March 20, 2026 at 10:00 am	Piano, Stringed Instruments
Debut Concert (as Gala Concert)	June 7, 2026 at 3:00 pm	

Venue: Nanjo City Culture Center - Sugarhall

Sections: The competition is divided into the following sections:
Voice, Piano, Stringed Instruments (Violin, Viola, Cello, Contrabass),
Wind Instruments (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba) and Percussion Instruments.

Organized by:
Nanjo City / The Okinawa Electric Power Co., Inc. / The Okinawa Times

Supervised by:
The Steering Committee of OKIDEN SUGARHALL Competition for Debut Concert

In Cooperation with:
Okinawa Prefecture / Japan Broadcasting Corporation Okinawa Station / Okinawa Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd.
Ryukyu Broadcasting Corporation / Ryukyu Asahi Broadcasting Corporation / The Ryukyu Shimpō Co., Ltd.
FM Okinawa Broadcasting / Radio Okinawa Corporation / FM Koza / FM Taman / FM21 / FM Naha / FM Lequio
FM Toyomi / Okiraji / FM Yomitan / FM Uruma / FM Yanbaru / FM Motobu / Okinawa Cable Network

Applicant Requirements:

- (1) Open to musicians of all nationalities
- (2) Age Limit
 - 〈1〉 Voice: Born on or after April 2, 1997, and no later than April 1, 2006
 - 〈2〉 Piano: Born on or after April 2, 1999, and no later than April 1, 2010
 - 〈3〉 Stringed Instruments: Born on or after April 2, 1999, and no later than April 1, 2010
 - 〈4〉 Wind and Percussion Instruments: Born on or after April 2, 1999, and no later than April 1, 2010
- (3) Grand Prize and Excellent Prize winners of previous OKIDEN SUGARHALL Competitions and First Prize winners of National and International Competitions are not eligible to entry.

Program and Performance Time:

Competition will be selecting young talented musicians for Debut concert. The selected musician/laureates will play the same pieces at the Debut concert that they've played in the competition. Please keep that in mind when you decide your program for competition and later in Debut Concert. Choice of your program will be one of the topic to judging.

The following are the performance time for each section.

Section	Performance Time
Voice	No more than 10 minutes
Piano	No more than 20 minutes
Stringed Instruments	No more than 15 minutes
Wind and Percussion Instruments	No more than 15 minutes

A performance of the program should be same piece(s) for both screening and competition.

A performance of the program for competition should be submitted as a performance video file. Repeats and small sections can be omitted at the discretion of applicant, further applicants can play one or more repertoire of his/her choice.

A performance time will be considered as judging criteria also at Screening/Preliminary Audition for your submitted video file.

Application Period:

October 1, 2025 – January 9, 2026 However, applications that arrive after the closing date will not be considered.

Application Procedure:

All entries should be sent by post or an E-mail to Secretariat Office:

(Address) The Secretariat of OKIDEN SUGARHALL competition for Debut Concert
307 Sashiki, Nanjo City, Okinawa 901-1403 JAPAN

(E-mail) info@sugarhall-okinawa.com

If you bring all the documents to office, please visit between 9am - 5pm.

The following should be enclosed with the application form.

- (1) A performance video file of the program for competition which is recorded after January 2025 with a fine sound quality on CD, DVD, SD, USB, or any other file delivery service (SSFD) on the web. Volume control in the recording is not allowed
- (2) A copy or an image file of a recent photograph which is taken after July 2025. Later it will be used in Competition publications.
- (3) A copy or PDF file of a passport or an official document that contains the applicant's name and date of birth

Application Fee:

The Application Fee is 12,000 JPY net into the Secretariat Office's account by January 9, 2026.
Application fee will not be returned under any circumstances.

Details of the Bank	: Bank of the Ryukyus
Address	: Yonabaru 3080 Yonabaru-town, Shimajiri, Okinawa, 901-1303
SWIFT number	: RYUBJPJZ
Account number	: 17976 Ordinary Account
Clearing	: 601 Yonabaru Branch
Account holder	: The Secretariat for Sugarhall Competition for Debut Concert

Screening / Preliminary Audition:

All applications will be screened prior to the competition by documents and performance video file. About 30 applicants will be selected to proceed to the competition. The result of the preliminary audition will be sent to the applicants no later than Feb. 10, 2026.

Competition:

- (1) Applicants will perform the same musical piece(s) that they submit for entry.
- (2) Competition will take place over two days and by section. Applicants will be notified of the order of performances in advance.
- (3) Applicants should play the piece from memory. Competition is open to the public.
- (4) Jury reserves the right to stop any performance midway. However, this will not affect the outcome of the judgment.
- (5) A maximum of 8 applicants will be selected regardless of their instrumental sections. The results will be announced after the end of the competition on the second day.
- (6) Reception will be held after the competition on March 20 for judges and applicants.

Debut Concert:

- (1) All Laureates will be required to appear without remuneration in the Debut Concert.
- (2) Laureates and the organizer may make adjustments regarding the performance program.
- (3) Laureates will have rehearsals on stage for Debut Concert beforehand. Please make sure to be in Okinawa in the morning on the day before the concert.
- (4) Laureates will be asked to cooperate with Public Relation for Debut Concert.

Accompanist:

- (1) Only piano accompaniment will be accepted at the competition.
- (2) Applicants are responsible for arranging an accompanist. Those who live outside Japan may request the committee to make the arrangement within a week after he/she has heard of screening result. However, such applicants will pay for the accompanist.

Traveling Expenses and Accommodation:

- (1) Competition
Applicants accepted to the Competition will pay for their own travel to and from Okinawa and for their resident, and accommodation while in Okinawa.
- (2) Debut Concert
 1. We will provide a return air ticket to Okinawa for Laureates and his/her accompanist who lives in Japan between nearest airport from your resident and Naha airport, Okinawa.
 2. We will support travel expenses up to 200,000 JPY for Laureates and his/her accompanist who lives outside Japan between nearest airport from his/her resident and Naha airport, Okinawa.
 3. A return air ticket must be booked an economy class only.
 4. Accommodation will be provided while their stay for a certain period by the committee.

- Awards:**
- (1) Laureates performing at the Debut Concert will receive certificates from the committee. In addition, the Okinawa Times newspaper and other media will widely report the competition-related achievements of the applicants.
 - (2) The Okinawa Electric Power Company, Inc., will award prizes to all Laureates. The award ceremony will be held at the time of the Debut Concert.

Grand Prize	:1,000,000 JPY (one nominee)	*1 : This award may be given to only a native Okinawan laureate, in order to encourage local musician.
Excellent Prize	:500,000 JPY (one nominee)	
Okinawa Prize *1	:200,000 JPY (one nominee)	*2 : In case of non-nominee of the Okinawa Prize, six nominees can be selected.
The remaining Laureates *2	:100,000 JPY (Maximum five nominees)	
Outstanding Accompanist *3	:100,000 JPY (one nominee)	*3 : This prize may be given on the recommendation of the judges.

- (3) The Grand Prize winner will be given the opportunity to perform a recital at Sugarhall, however we will consider his or her experience after competition.

Judging Committee Members:

Shuya OKATSU (Conductor) Junko OMORI (Violinist) Ryoko SUNAKAWA (Opera Singer / Soprano)
Hiroki TOCHIMOTO (Trumpeter) Etsuko HIGA (Music Critic) Junji MITSUISHI (Composer / Corepetitor)
Rika YABIKU (Parcussionist) Masaharu YAMAMOTO (Clarinetist) Kenji WATANABE (Pianist)

Miscellaneous:

- (1) The committee reserves the copyright of all video and audio recordings and photographs of performances in the competition and the Debut Concert. Further, it reserves the right of the original author in the exploitation of a derivative work of these recordings and photographs.
- (2) Applicants are responsible for their insurance to cover any unexpected events that may occur at the time of the competition and the concert.
- (3) Applicants are requested to obtain a visa, if necessary, before traveling to Japan. Please contact the Secretariat for information on the documentation needed to apply for a visa.
- (4) Applicants are required to comply with the committee's decision on matters that are not specified in the Guidelines.
- (5) The Competition rules can be viewed by scanning the QR code on the right. (Available only in Japanese)



Inquiries: Nanjo City Culture Center - Sugarhall :

The Secretariat of OKIDEN SUGARHALL Competition for Debut Concert
307 Sashiki, Nanjo City, Okinawa, 901-1403, Japan
Tel : +81 (0)98-947-1100 Fax : + 81 (0)98-947-0099 E-mail : info@sugarhall-okinawa.com
Website: <https://www.city.nanjo.okinawa.jp/sugarhall/>

*For overseas inquiries, please Fax or E-mail. However, we are closed on Monday.

*Due to the COVID-19 or any other infection disease, the schedule may be changed or cancelled.
Please check the information on the website of Nanjo City Cultural Center Sugar Hall.

The 31th OKIDEN SUGARHALL Competition for Debut Concert APPLICATION FORM

Applicant

Surname

Given name
& Middle Initial

Date of Birth

Year

Month

Day

Age

Nationality

Section

1 Voice / Voice Type:

2 Piano

3 Stringed instruments / Instrument:

4 Wind and Percussion instruments / Instrument:

PHOTO

HEAD SHOT
(5cm×5cm)Contact
Information

Address:

E-mail:

TEL:

FAX:

Cell Phone:

Musical
Biography

*Include Diplomas, Awards and current educational status if you are student.

Repertoire

Total Time

_____ min.

*Name of composer, piece, tonality and opus-number of the piece should be written clearly.
Also playing time of your performance for each piece or a movement is required.Type of
recording
media

1.CD 2.DVD 3. SD, USB, or any other file delivery service (SSFD) etc

* Please let us know detail information by Email.

Description of the recording:

*Describe the place, date and so on. Example: Recorded at Sugarhall

Accompanist

Name

Nationality

Address

TEL

Musical Biography

*Describing training, awards and experience.