

Sony Music Foundation presents

THE 11th
INTERNATIONAL

Since 1985



OBOE

COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2015

in Karuizawa

第11回 国際オーボエコンクール・軽井沢

2015 October 3 (Saturday) – October 12 (Monday, Holiday)

Karuizawa Ohga Hall (Karuizawa-machi, Nagano Prefecture) , etc.

Participation Requirements

Presented by:

Sony Music Foundation

Supported by:

Agency for Cultural Affairs / International Double Reed Society /
Japan Oboe Association / Town of Karuizawa/
Karuizawa Town Board of Education /
The Shinano Mainichi Shimbun / FM Karuizawa

With the cooperation of:

Sony Corporation

In collaboration with:

Gunma Symphony Orchestra / Japan Double-Reed Inc. /
Karuizawa Ohga Hall / Yamaha Corporation /
Schott Music Co. Ltd.

I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

“THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN in Karuizawa” began with an idea by the former chairman of the Sony Music Foundation, Norio Ohga (1930–2011), who was intrigued by the innocent and comforting sound of the oboe and advocated its importance as the instrument that could determine the quality of an entire orchestra. The Sony Music Foundation has been presenting the Competition every three years since 1985. It aims to promote the true artistic value of the oboe, as well as to contribute to the development of music culture with an international perspective through discovering and fostering talented musicians and helping them expand their scope of activities in Japan and abroad. It has established a reputation as a unique international Competition solely dedicated to the oboe, with past winners going on to become international music figures who have obtained principal and solo positions in world-renowned orchestras. The Competition is a member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions.

1. Name

THE 11th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2015 in Karuizawa

2. Operating Organization

Management Committee of “THE 11th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2015 in Karuizawa”

Chairman Masaru KATO (Chairman of Sony Music Foundation)

Committee Members Michiko OKA (Chief and Secretary General, Secretariat)
(Managing Director of Sony Music Foundation)
Ken-ichi FURUBE
Yoshiaki OBATA
Masaru YOSHIDA

Adjudication Committee

-Jury Chairman Hansjörg SCHELLENBERGER (Oboist, conductor)

-Members of Jury Maurice BOURGUE (Oboist)
Ken-ichi FURUBE (Principal Oboist / New Japan Philharmonic)
Gordon HUNT (Solo Oboist / Philharmonia Orchestra,
Solo Oboist / London Chamber Orchestra)
Yoshiaki OBATA (Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts)
Allan VOGEL (Principal Oboist / Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra)
Masaru YOSHIDA (Principal Bassoonist /
Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo)
(in alphabetical order)

Secretariat Secretariat of the 11th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2015 in Karuizawa
c/o Sony Music Foundation

3. Dates

Period for application:	February 16 (Mon.) – March 31 (Tue.), 2015 [must arrive by this date, Japan time]
Preliminary Screening with recorded materials: (closed to the public)	April 2015 (tbc)
Registration:	September 30 (Wed.), 2015
(Following rounds are all open to the public)	
First Round:	October 3 (Sat.), October 4 (Sun.), 2015 Results announcement: October 4 (Sun.)
Second Round:	October 6 (Tue.), 7 (Wed.), 8 (Thu.), 2015 Results announcement: October 8 (Thu.)
Final Round and Award Presentation Ceremony:	October 10 (Sat.), 2015
Prize Winners & Jury Concert:	October 11 (Sun.), 2015 at Karuizawa Ohga Hall
Prize Winners & Jury Concert:	October 12 (Mon., Holiday), 2015 at Tokyo Bunka Kaikan Recital Hall

4. **First to Final Rounds Venue** Karuizawa Ohga Hall <http://www.ohgahall.or.jp/> (altitude: 1000m)
Address: 28-4 Karuizawa Higashi, Karuizawa-machi,
Kitasaku-gun, Nagano-ken 389-0104, JAPAN

II. APPLICATION

1. Eligibility

Anyone born between January 1, 1985, and December 31, 1997, is eligible, except for past first-prize winners of this Competition.

2. Application

[A] Application Method:

Applicants must submit all of the following items, namely (a) through (d), by the designated date.

The application will be deemed complete when the Secretariat has confirmed the receipt of all of the following items in complete form by March 31, 2015. If any changes arise after the application, the Secretariat should be notified without delay.

[(a) and (b) may be submitted electronically, while (c) and (d) may not.]

(a) Application Form (Please fill out completely.)

Download the application form from the official site: <http://oboeck.jp> and fill it out.

- Via e-mail: Send it to info@oboeck.jp as an attachment. The application form should be printed out as well, and included in the packet to send along with (c) and (d) below.
- Via post: Send all of the items from (a) through (d) to the Secretariat.
If you fill out the application form by hand, please print all information clearly in block letters.

(b) Photograph

- Front face / from the waist up
- Taken within the last 6 months of the application date
- Either a black-and-white or color photo that is not subject to copyright restriction. (A clipping from flyers, magazines, etc. is unacceptable.)
- The photo will be used in the official pamphlet, website, and for the Competition's publication, etc.
- If the photograph is in the form of a digital file, please send it online or put it on a CD to be sent by post.
 - The image should be a JPEG 300dpi or higher, or a JPEG 200KB or larger. The file should contain the applicant's name.
 - In case of sending CD, please use a CD, separate from the audio CD for the Preliminary Screening. (described later)
- If the photograph is in the form of a print.
 - please send TWO copies and write your full name on the back of each. The size should be 7cm x 10cm.

(c) Official documentation as proof of age (passport, etc. A photocopy is acceptable.)

(d) Recording of the Required Repertoire for the Preliminary Screening (described later) in audio CD format (data CD is not acceptable)

- Cassette tape, videotape, DVD, and other visual materials are not acceptable. Data transmission in a format such as MP3 is not acceptable.
- The recording should be labeled with the applicant's name, titles of pieces, recorded date and place.
- Recording should be made no earlier than October 2014; non-edited recording only.

* Those who have participated in the Second Round in any of our past Competitions are exempt from submitting the recording for the preliminary screening. If applicable, please clearly indicate it on your application form.

[B] Address to send the application:

Secretariat of THE 11th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2015 in Karuizawa

c/o Sony Music Foundation
SME Ichigaya Building, 8th floor
1-4 Ichigayatamachi,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0843

Japan

Phone: +81-(0)3-5227-5233 (10:00–18:00 Japan time, on weekdays)

Fax: +81-(0)3-5227-5232

e-mail: info@oboeck.jp (This address is for the application and inquiries only *)

* Please note that return mail from the Secretariat will be sent from [<smf@sonymusic.co.jp>](mailto:smf@sonymusic.co.jp).

[C] Period for application:

February 16 (Mon.), 2015–March 31 (Tue.), 2015

[Must arrive at the Secretariat by this date, Japan time]

Application form and materials will not be returned.

3. Preliminary Screening (closed to the public)

In order to select the contestants for the First Round, a preliminary screening shall be done by way of reviewing the aforementioned submitted materials.

The preliminary screening will be done by the Jury Chairman, as well as by the Jury members who reside in Japan. It will be a “blind screening” process, so no applicant's information will be disclosed to the Jury members at the time of the screening.

The result of the Preliminary Screening shall be sent to each applicant by post, aiming for no later than June 1 (Mon.), 2015. If you do not receive your result by the anticipated date of arrival, please contact the Secretariat in writing.

III. COMPETITION PARTICIPATION

1. Participation fee

Those who have passed the Preliminary Screening must remit JPY20,000 (plus remittance charge) so that the money arrives in the designated bank account by June 24 (Wed.), 2015.

The bank remittance charge shall be born by the applicant.

The fee, once paid, is not refundable under any circumstances.

2. Registration for participation

The Competition contestant must register for participation on September 30 (Wed.), 2015, at the registration site in Karuizawa designated by the Secretariat.

A reception will follow the registration, at which time a drawing will be held to determine the order of performances.

The order of performances, once decided, will be applied to the entire Competition.

3. Stipend for those coming from abroad

Those who reside outside Japan and come/return to Japan for the Competition shall receive a stipend as stated below in Japanese yen cash upon registration for participation, if deemed applicable by the Secretariat.

The stipend will not be paid for any purpose other than travel to/from Japan for the Competition.

The applicable region should be the place of embarkation/disembarkation for participation in the Competition.

The contestant shall receive the amount after tax withholding according to the tax laws of Japan.

	Amount	Amount to be received after tax reduction	
		foreign nationals	Japanese nationals
Participant from America / Europe / Africa	JPY59,060 (gross)	JPY47,000	JPY53,030
Participant from Asia / Oceania	JPY28,901 (gross)	JPY23,000	JPY25,951

4. Accommodation expenses

The Secretariat will pay for accommodations (i.e., basic room charge of one single room for one person with breakfast) for the period stated below, as long as the contestant stays at the hotel designated by the Secretariat.

All other accommodation expenses must be taken care of by the contestant.

◆ **Contestants in the First Round:**

From September 30 until the morning following the First Round (morning of October 5)

◆ **Contestants in the Second Round:**

From September 30 until the morning following the Second Round (morning of October 9)

◆ **Contestants in the Final Round:**

From September 30 until the morning following the Final Round (morning of October 11)

◆ **Contestants appearing in the Prize Winners & Jury Concerts:**

From September 30 until the morning following the Tokyo Concert (morning of October 13)

5. Accompaniment

The contestant may bring his/her own accompanists. In that case, the contestant is responsible for all the costs to do so.

If the contestant is not bringing his/her own accompanists, the Secretariat will arrange an official accompanist, as well as an orchestra and a conductor for the Final Round.

The Secretariat will determine, at its discretion, the details such as time and place of the rehearsals with the accompanist, the orchestra and the conductor.

It is not guaranteed that the same accompanist will be assigned for the First Round, Second Round, Final Round, and Prize Winners & Jury Concerts, which take place following the Final Round.

6. Required Repertoire

The Secretariat will designate the Required Repertoire for the Preliminary Screening and the First, Second, and Final Rounds, respectively.

The Required Repertoire will include a work commissioned for the Competition. The sheet music of this commissioned work will be sent to the contestant by post no later than three months before the Competition (July 2, 2015) once his/her participation has been admitted.

It is strictly prohibited to perform this commissioned piece in public prior to the Competition.

If the contestant wishes to change the repertoire of his/her choice after submitting to the Secretariat, please notify the Secretariat by e-mail immediately. The change of the choice can be accepted until the time for the registration on September 30 (Wednesday), 2015, but no later than that.

Throughout the Competition period, all instruments used for accompaniment (piano, cembalo, orchestra) will be tuned to A=442Hz.

For the Second Round, the cembalo will be tuned in equal temperament.

For the Second Round, each contestant is required to organize the program so that the recital is approximately 45 minutes in length.

7. Prizes and Awards

- ◆ **First Prize [Ohga Award]** Certificate / cash prize of JPY1,300,000 / trophy
[Ohga Award] : In honor of the late Norio Ohga (former chairman of Sony Music Foundation [1930–2011]), the first prize has been named after him from the 10th Competition.
- ◆ **Second Prize** Certificate / cash prize of JPY700,000
- ◆ **Third Prize** Certificate / cash prize of JPY300,000

If there are more than two winners for the same prize, the Committee will revise the amount of the cash prize at its own discretion.

If no one is deemed qualified, the relevant place will be left vacant.

- ◆ **Honorable Mention** Certificate / cash prize of JPY100,000
This will be given to all finalists other than the winners of the top three prizes.
- ◆ **Best Performance of Commissioned Work Award**
- ◆ **Mayor of Karuizawa Award (Audience Award)** Certificate / commemorative gift
- ◆ **Encouragement Award** Certificate
The jury will choose one contestant with Japanese citizenship for this award.
If no one is deemed qualified, the relevant place will be left vacant.
- ◆ The winner will be given an opportunity to perform in a concert by the end of the next Competition.
Sony Award Commemorative gift
- ◇ The Sony Corporation will give all finalists a commemorative gift. Other prizes and awards, such as a Special Award, may be offered.

The amounts of cash prizes mentioned above are inclusive of taxes according to the tax laws of Japan.

8. Prize Winners & Jury Concert

The winners (of the top three prizes, in principle) must perform at the “Prize Winners & Jury Concert” on the day (October 11) following the Final Round in Karuizawa and on the day after (October 12) in Tokyo.

There is no fee to be paid to the Prize Winners for this concert. The travel and accommodation expenses necessary in this respect shall be borne by the Secretariat.

The Adjudication Committee will decide on the pieces that will be performed from among the Required Repertoire that the winners performed at the Competition. It may suggest which section of the repertoire to perform.

9. Others

[A] Visa

The contestant and/or the accompanist is/are responsible for obtaining the visa/s to enter Japan, as necessary. For documents required for a visa application, please contact the Secretariat.

[B] Insurance

The contestant and/or the accompanist is/are responsible for obtaining insurance against illness, as well as accidents, fire, theft, damage to belongings (including his/her instrument), and/or other liabilities for the entire period of the Competition.

[C] Copyrights

Any rights including neighboring rights related to photographing, recording, filming, and broadcasting of all performances during the Competition including the “Prize Winners & Jury Concerts,” which take place on the day following the Final and the day after, will belong to the Secretariat.

[D] Presentation of the Performances

All the rounds of this Competition are open to the public, except for the preliminary screening. The First, Second, and Final Rounds, as well as the Award Presentation Ceremony, may be broadcast live and/or recorded on TV, radio, and/or the Internet (including YouTube, Ustream and so forth), and the contestants and accompanists will agree to such broadcasting.

[E] Personal Information

The following information of the contestants in the First Round will be disclosed:
[nationality / full name / date of birth / titles of the repertoire to be performed / educational background / musical background]

The Secretariat will take necessary measures to keep the personal information provided by applicants in an appropriate manner and protect it against leakage, loss, and illegal access.

[F] Compliance to the Japanese Law

Any dispute in connection with these Participation Requirements shall be settled based on the original version (Japanese language) of this document and in accordance with the Japanese law.

[G] Adjudication Method

The Adjudication Committee will evaluate the contestants' performances based on the adjudication criteria specified separately. The decision of the Adjudication Committee is final and absolute.

[H] Lecture on the Commissioned Work

After the Second Round, there will be a lecture on the commissioned work by the composer.

[I] Drawing to determine the order of performances

This will be held on September 30 (Wed.), 2015, the day of the registration during the reception to be hosted by the Secretariat.

All the contestants must attend this reception.

(June, 30, 2015, name of the Chairman of the Management Committee has been changed)