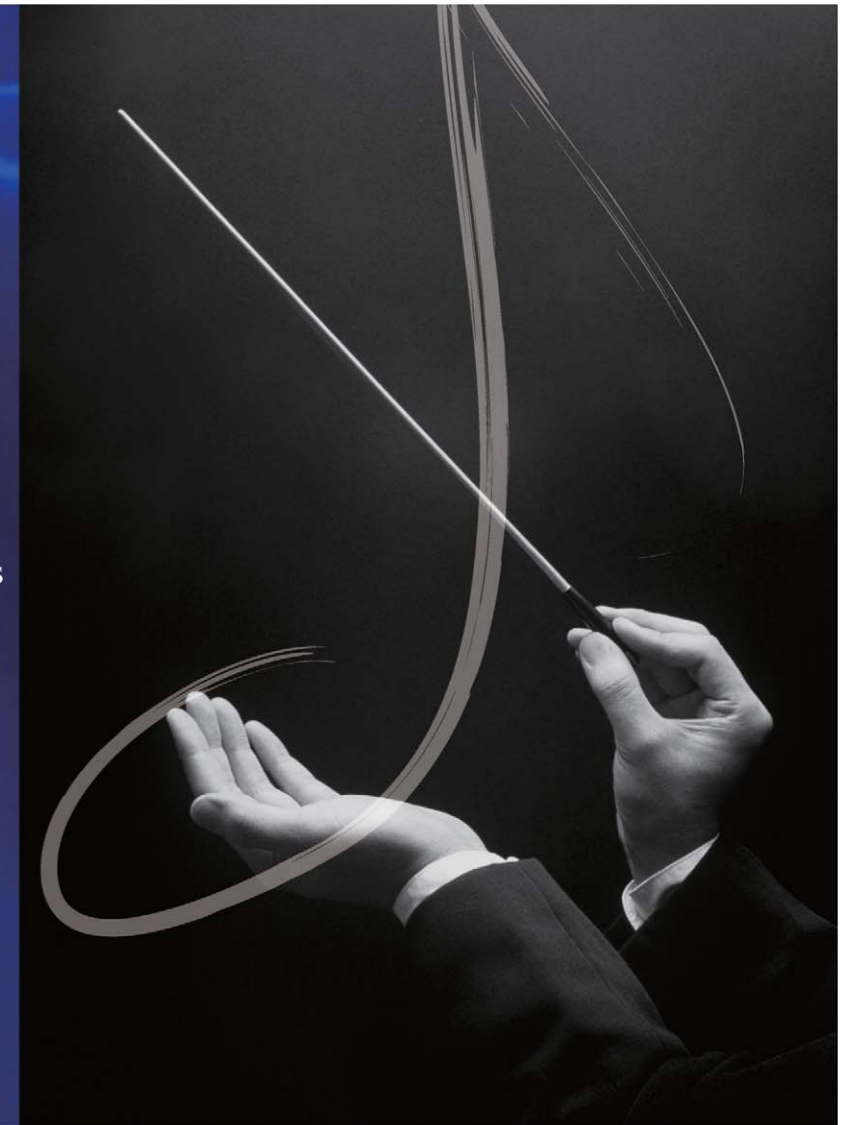


The 4th  
Fukushima Vocal Ensemble  
Competition 2011

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Inspiring singing voices, Resonating to the true skies



宝くじは、広く社会に役立てられています。

Japan Center for Local Autonomy

March 19th – March 21st, 2011  
Fukushima City Music Hall  
Fukushima, Japan

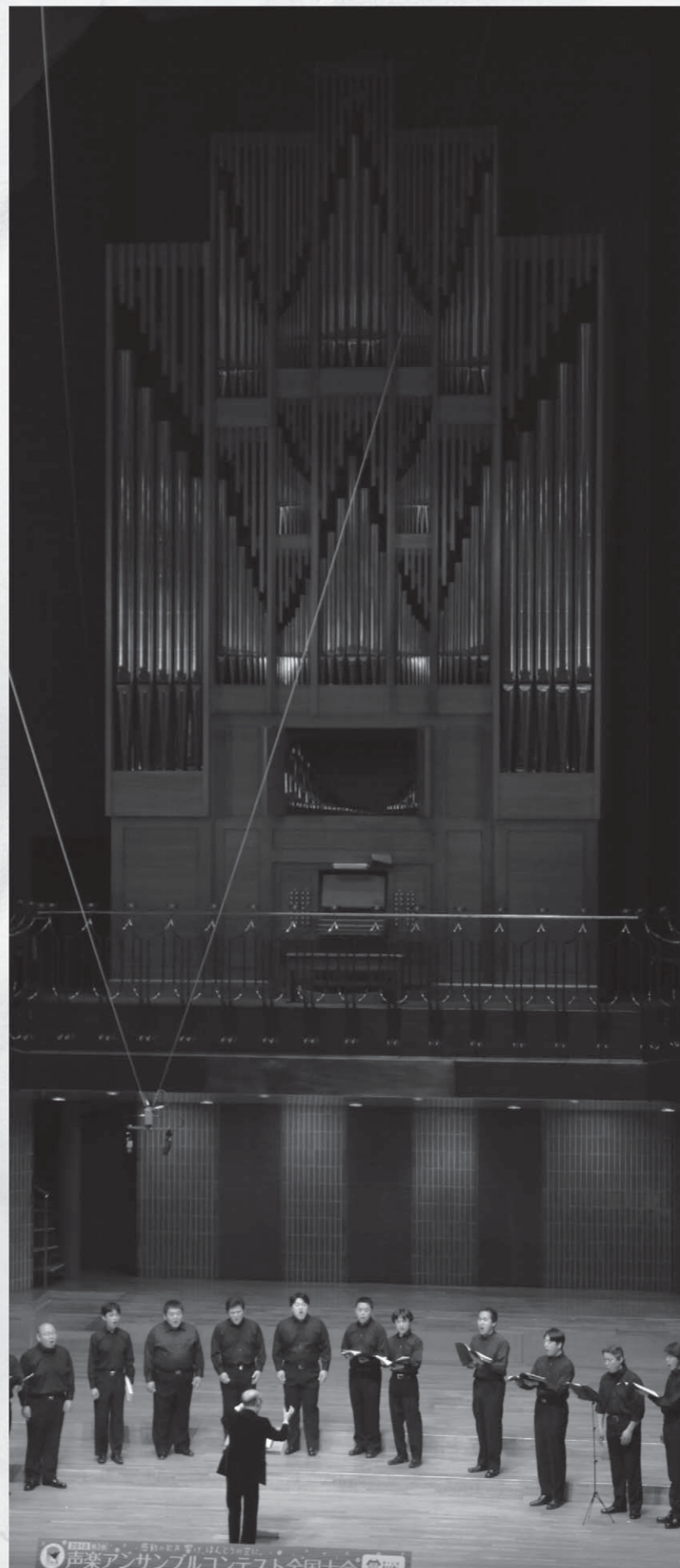
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**The 4th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2011**

**“Inspiring singing voices, Resonating to the true skies”**

**March 19th – March 21st, 2011**

**Fukushima, Japan**

The competition focuses on the “Ensemble” which is the most fundamental element of music, and has invited a total of 285 top level choirs selected from all over Japan to develop the music culture of Japan since its establishment in 2008. Now we are opening the competition worldwide to learn from each other and share the joy of singing with people from all around the world. Fukushima is known as the “Kingdom of Choirs” in Japan, which has a big population of music fans and award-winning choirs. You are cordially invited to experience the fascinating atmosphere of our music cities, and ring out your singing voices together under the sky, which a famous poet once described as the “True Sky.”

- Hosted by** • Fukushima Prefecture  
 • Fukushima Prefectural Board of Education  
 • Executive Committee of the Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition  
 • Japan Center for Local Autonomy

- Co-hosted by** • Japan Choral Association, Japan Choral Association Tohoku Branch, Fukushima Chorus League, Fukushima City, Fukushima City Board of Education

- Sponsored by** • Agency for Cultural Affairs(expected), All Japan Senior High School Cultural Federation, Fukushima Prefecture High School Cultural Federation, Fukushima Prefectural Association of Junior High School Principals, Fukushima Prefectural Association of Elementary School Principals, Fukushima International Association, Fukushima-Minpo Co., Ltd., The Fukushima Minyu Shimbun, Fukushima Head Office of the Asahi Shimbun Company, Fukushima Branch of the Mainichi Newspapers, The Yomiuri Shimbun Fukushima Bureau, Fukushima Branch of the Sankei Shimbun, Fukushima Head Office of the Kahoku Shimpō, Fukushima Branch of Nikkei Inc., Fukushima Bureau, Jiji Press, Ltd., Fukushima Branch of Kyodo News, NHK Fukushima, Radio Fukushima Co., Ltd., Fukushima Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Fukushima Central Television, Fukushima Broadcasting Co., Ltd., TV-U Fukushima, Inc., FM Fukushima

- Tentative Timetable** • March 19th: Competition for Category I  
 Award Ceremony for Category I  
 Competition for Category II (the first half)
- March 20th: Competition for Category II (the latter half)  
 Award Ceremony for Category II  
 Competition for Category III  
 Award Ceremony for Category III
- March 21st: Competition for the Grand Champion  
 (competed by the gold prize-awarded choirs of each category)  
 Friendship Concert  
 Award Ceremony for the Grand Champion

- Venue** • Fukushima City Music Hall, Grand Hall  
 1-1 Irie Town, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture, 960-8117 Japan

## Competition Rules

- Competition Categories**
- Category I: Ages 12–15 (no younger than 12 and no older than 15 on the day of the competition) (Junior high school students for Japan-based choirs)
  - Category II: Ages 15–18 (no younger than 15 and no older than 18 on the day of the competition) (High school students for Japan-based choirs)
  - Category III: Other than the Category I and II
- Entry Qualification**
- a. For Japan-based choirs, choir members in Category I or II could be students of the same school or several different schools.
  - b. Category III could be any choirs other than Category I or II; i.e. university, company, etc.
  - c. 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.
  - d. A conductor and an accompanist will be included in the singers when they sing in the choir.
  - e. No singer shall compete as a member of more than one choir in the competition.
  - f. No qualification is required for a conductor or an accompanist. For Japan-based choirs, a principal shall approve a conductor or an accompanist for Category I or II.
  - g. The Gold titled choirs of each category shall proceed to the Grand Champion Competition on the last day.
- Performance**
- a. There is no compulsory work in any category. All music pieces performed will be determined by the competitors.
  - 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 10 minutes.
  - c. For the Grand Champion Competition, 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 15 minutes.
  - d. Failure to comply with the above rules will result in disqualification.
- Order of Performance**
- a. The order of performance in each category, including the performing day for Category II shall be determined by lot, drawn by representatives from each choir at the organizer's office on a specified date. Choirs that cannot attend the sortition shall leave the selection to the organizer.
  - b. The order of performance in the Grand Champion Competition shall be determined by lot, drawn by the organizer.
- Accompaniment**
- a. The instruments and style of accompaniment shall be up to each competing choirs.
  - b. A piano (Steinway), a cembalo, a positive organ and a pipe organ will be provided by the organizer. 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 prepare for it.

- Judging and Evaluation**
- a. The following judges will evaluate the competition. Peter Phillips (Chorus Master), Kunio Imai (Chorus Master), Shinsuke Kishi (Chorus Master), Masatoshi Sasaki (Vocalist), Rikuya Terashima (Composer), Tatsuo Minagawa (Music Historian), Saburo Watanabe (Chorus Master)
  - b. Each competition is evaluated according to a round system specified separately.
- Prizes and Awards**
- a. The competition will be evaluated in each category, and Gold (Top 5 choirs in each category), Silver, Bronze or Excellence prizes will be awarded to every participating choir in each category.
  - b. 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.
- Friendship Concert**
- All overseas choirs are asked to perform at the friendship concert on the last day. We will announce detailed information after the preliminary screening.
- Rehearsal**
- a. On the day of the performance, the participating choir will be able to do a rehearsal twice at the venue. For the further details, you will be separately informed after the preliminary screening.
  - b. The travel agency authorized by the organizer will be able to book a rehearsal room in the city for the day before the performance, upon request. Please see the information provided by the travel agency separately.
  - c. Up to 2 members of the participating choirs can look over the competition hall on the day before the performance at a time specified later.
- Copyright**
- a. If the competitors partially omit or arrange the piece, they have to gain an approval from the composer (the copyright holder) in advance.
  - b. Copyright royalties for the pieces performed in the competition will be paid by the organizer.
- Information**
- a. The information provided by the participating choirs will be used for organizing 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 organizers or the companies authorized by the organizer 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 authorized by the organizer will sell pictures and recordings in the form of photos, CDs or DVDs.

## Conditions of Participation

### Preliminary Screening

**Japan-based choirs**  
Applicants have to be recommended by the choral association of each prefecture or approved by the organizer through the preliminary screening. Some choirs could be qualified by recommendation by the organizer.

**Overseas choirs**  
Applicants have to be approved by the organizer through the preliminary screening. Some choirs could be qualified by recommendation by the organizer. All applications should be sent by registered post, by October 31st 2010, at the latest.

- a. An Application form written in English
  - b. A recent recording of the choir recorded by 2-16 expected singers, after April 2010. The time of performance shall be within 10 minutes, and the choral pieces can be different from the ones to be performed in the competition. The recording media shall be either a cassette tape, a CD or a MD. DVDs are not acceptable. The choir's name and any other sounds except the performance must not be recorded in the media. The recording media will not be returned.
  - c. One digital photo showing the choir
- The result of the preliminary screening will be announced by November 30th, 2010 at the latest.

### Registration

Choirs which are selected should provide the following documents to the organizer's address no later than December 15th, 2010.

- a. Fully completed registration forms.
- b. A list of the choir members
- c. Itinerary
- d. 7 original scores of the selected pieces of choir music
- e. A bank cheque or proof of bank transfer covering the participation fee.

### Participation Fee

**Japan-based choirs**  
Ticket fees will be charged when the choirs participate as an audience. The costs for CDs, DVDs and photos will be announced separately later.

**Overseas Choirs**  
For participation in the competition, a non-refundable participation fee of JPY 20,000 has to be paid per choir after being selected through the preliminary screening. Any banking costs that arise must be paid by the applicant.

The fees cover the following:

- a. Free entry to the competition and friendship concert for each choir member including the accompanist and the conductor
- b. Program booklet per choir member
- c. A CD recorded by the authorized agent
- d. A photo taken by the authorized agent

#### Bank Details

The bank details for registration are as follows:

Bank Name: Toho Bank Kencho Branch

Bank Code: 0126 BIC/SWIFT: TOHOJPJT

Address of Bank: 2-16 Sugitsuma-town, Fukushima city, Fukushima prefecture, 960-8670 Japan

Beneficiary: Masami Kanno, Chairperson of the Executive Committee,

Vocal Ensemble Competition

Address of Beneficiary: same as Address of Bank

Branch/Account Number: 103-1342795

Purpose: name of choir

### Accommodation and Transport

**Japan-based choirs**  
The participating choirs will be responsible for their travel and accommodation costs. The general travel services could be provided by travel agents authorized by the organizer.

**Overseas choirs**  
The participating choirs will be responsible for their travel and accommodation costs. Due to local conditions and organizational reasons, overseas choirs are encouraged to book accommodation during the stay in Fukushima through the travel agency authorized by the organizer. The following services will be organized by the travel agency. For more details, please refer to the registration guidelines to be sent after the preliminary screening.

- a. Accommodation
- b. Meals
- c. Local transportation between the hotel and the venue (in the downtown area)
- d. Airport transfer from Narita or Fukushima airport
- e. Airplane tickets
- f. Rehearsal room
- g. Sightseeing tour

The competition has financial assistance to which participating choirs may apply. Please see the section of "Financial assistance."

### Financial Assistance

- a. Japan-based choirs selected for the Grand Champion Competition will have financial assistance of Max JPY 7,000 per stay at hotels after selected for the finals for each choir member, including the accompanist and the conductor.
- b. Overseas choirs, who perform at the friendship concert, will receive financial assistance of Max JPY 7,000 per stay at hotels from March 19th to 20th (for the competitors performing on March 19th) or on March 20th (for the competitors performing on March 20th) for each choir member, including the accompanist and the conductor, regardless of whether or not they proceed to the Grand Champion Competition.
- c. When the participating choirs arrive at/depart from Fukushima airport, all costs of a chartered vehicle from Fukushima airport to the hotel in Fukushima city and back to Fukushima airport, JPY2,500 (one way) per person will be paid directly to the taxi company. The schedule and type of vehicles will be arranged by the organizer according to the flight schedule and the number of users.

### Contact Address

The Executive Committee of the Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition  
(Cultural Promotion Division of the Fukushima Prefectural Government)  
2-16 Sugitsuma Town, Fukushima City,  
Fukushima Prefecture  
960-8670 Japan  
URL <http://www.pref.fukushima.jp/bunka/seigaku/en/index.html>  
e-mail [bunka@pref.fukushima.jp](mailto:bunka@pref.fukushima.jp)

The following documents are available on the website :  
Competition Rules and Conditions of Participation  
Evaluation System  
Preliminary Screening Application Form  
Registration Form

The 4th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2010  
**PRELIMINARY SCREENING APPLICATION FORM**

Fill in using block letters and put ✓ mark in the chosen boxes.

**Choir**

Choir Name in English script

Choir Name in Chinese or Korean Characters (if any)

Address

Country  E-mail

Phone  Fax

*Country code / Area code / Number*                      *Country code / Area code / Number*

Website

**Contact Person**

Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.  Dr.  Prof.

Name in English script  
 First Name  Last Name

Name in Chinese or Korean Characters (if any)  
 First Name  Last Name

Address

Country  E-mail

Phone  Fax

*Country code / Area code / Number*                      *Country code / Area code / Number*

**Participating in**

Category I - ages 12-15     Category II - ages 15-18     Category III - others

**Conductor**

Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.  Dr.  Prof.

Name in English script  
 First Name  Last Name

Name in Chinese or Korean Characters (if any)  
 First Name  Last Name

**Accompanist**

Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.  Dr.  Prof.

Name in English script  
 First Name  Last Name

Name in Chinese or Korean Characters (if any)  
 First Name  Last Name

**List of Choral Pieces - Recording (Max.10min)**

| No. | Title   | Composer   | Duration |
|-----|---------|------------|----------|
|     | Example | W.A.Mozart | 3:00     |
| 1.  |         |            |          |
| 2.  |         |            |          |
| 3.  |         |            |          |
| 4.  |         |            |          |

Number of Singers on the media recording  Male +  Female =  Total (2-16 singers)

Date of Recording  Date  Month  Year  =

**Profile of the choir**

Year of Establishment

Main Annual Activities

Award History

Highlights

### List of Documents

Put ✓ mark in the column if the document has been enclosed and fill in the number of copies of the document.

| ✓ | Document  | Number of Copies |
|---|---|------------------|
|   | Application Form (with signature)   |                  |
|   | Application Form (in digital form)  |                  |
|   | A separate CD, MD or tape of sound recording<br>(2-16 expected singers/ recorded after Apr.2010/ Max 10min) |                  |
|   | Digital photo of the choir  |                  |

All the documents should be submitted no later than October 31st, 2010 to:  
 The Executive Committee of the Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2010  
 (Cultural Promotion Division of the Fukushima Prefectural Government)  
 2-16 Sugitsuma Town, Fukushima City,  
 Fukushima Prefecture  
 960-8670 Japan  
 URL <http://www.pref.fukushima.jp/bunka/seigaku/en/index.html>  
 e-mail [bunka@pref.fukushima.jp](mailto:bunka@pref.fukushima.jp)

The result of the preliminary screening will be announced by November 30th, 2010 at the latest.

### Agreement

We hereby declare that the information given in this form is correct. We also understand and agree to the competition rules and conditions of participation.

Date      Month      Year  
  -   -

Signature

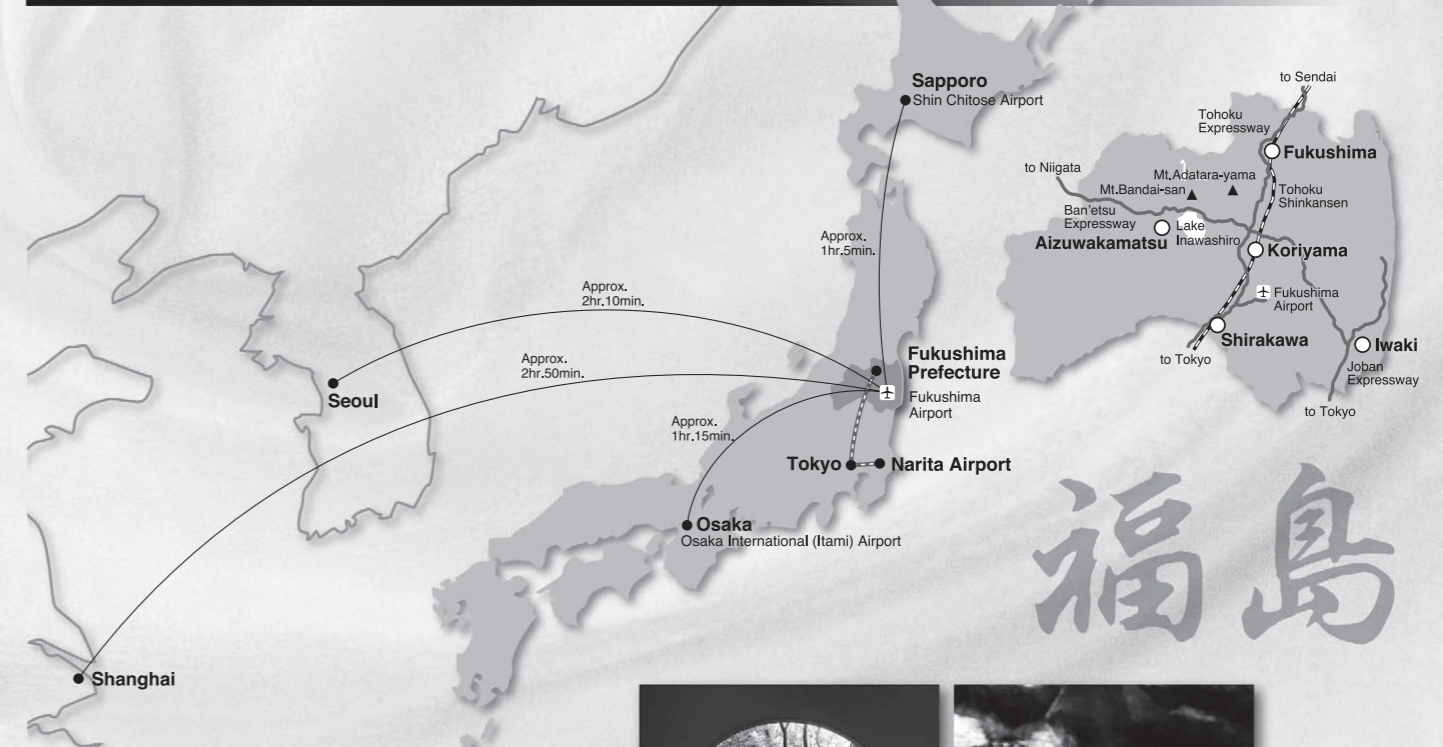
Name

Position

### Access to Fukushima

Fukushima is located in the north-east region of Japan and is approximately 200km from Tokyo. It is called the "Kingdom of Choirs" in Japan, which has a big population of music fans and award-winning choirs. Along with its unique music friendly culture, there you can find abundant natural beauty and traditional samurai culture, which is still being handed down over the generations. You can enjoy renowned hot springs, historical samurai sites, golf and even winter sports in splendid mountain resorts before/after the competition. Anyone looking for friendship with true music lovers and real experiences of Japan must not fail to visit Fukushima.

### Fukushima Prefecture



福島



Aizu-Wakamatsu, which used to be a castle town during the Edo Period (1603-1867)



Fukushima is an "onsen(hot spring)" kingdom with 139 gushing hot springs.

#### From Fukushima Airport

Approx. 75min to the hotel in Fukushima city by complimentary taxi

#### From Narita Airport

- Route1 **Narita Airport** ▶ **Tokyo Station** Approx.1hr - 1hr 30min by Express Train "Narita Express"  
**Tokyo Station** ▶ **Fukushima Station** Approx.1hr.40min by Express Train "Tohoku Shinkansen"
- Route2 **Narita Airport** ▶ **Keisei Ueno Station** Approx.45min - 1hr 50min by Keisei Railway trains  
**Keisei Ueno Station** ▶ **Tokyo Station** Approx. 5min on foot  
**Tokyo Station** ▶ **Fukushima Station** Approx.1hr.40min by Express Train "Tohoku Shinkansen"
- Route3 **Narita Airport** ▶ **Fukushima Station** Approx. 5hrs 20min by Highway Bus (only 2 services a day)