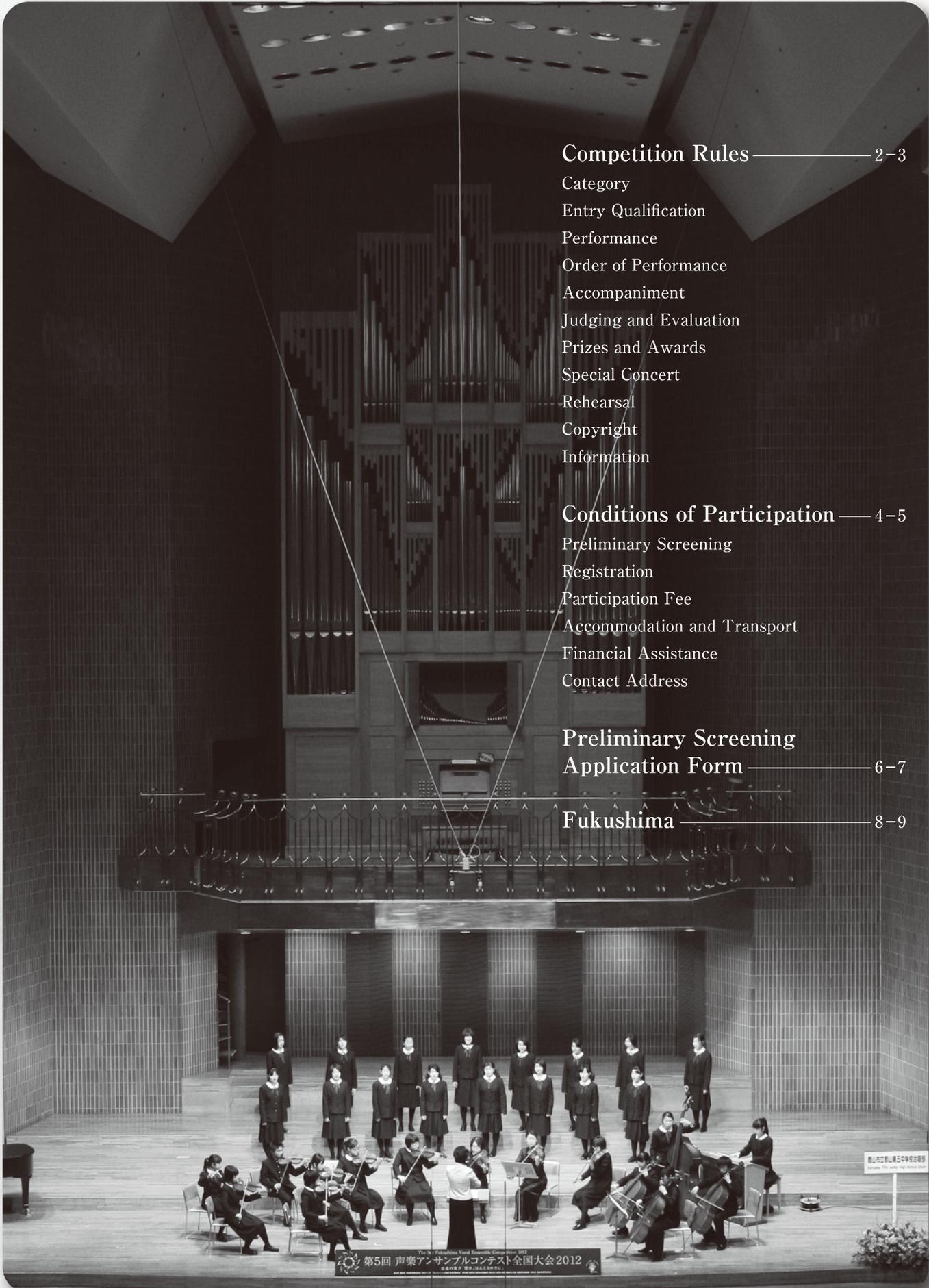


The 6th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2013



March 21st – March 24th, 2013
Fukushima City Music Hall
Fukushima, Japan



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第5回 声楽アンサンブルコンテスト全国大会2012
The 5th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2012

福島県立山形高等学校
Fukushima Prefectural Yamagata High School

The 6th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2013

“Inspiring singing voices, Resonating to the true skies”

March 21st – March 24th, 2013

Fukushima, Japan

The competition focuses on the “Ensemble” which is the most fundamental element of music, and has invited a total of 396 top level choirs selected from all over Japan to develop the music culture since its establishment in 2008. Now we are making the competition worldwide in order 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 let your singing voices ring out together under the sky, which one 19th-century poet once described as the “True Sky.”

Hosted by | • Fukushima Prefecture
• Fukushima Prefectural Board of Education
• Executive Committee of the Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition

Co-hosted by | Japan Choral Association, Japan Choral Association Tohoku Branch, Fukushima Prefecture 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 Senior 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, Fukushima Head Office of the Asahi Shimbun Company, The Mainichi Newspapers Fukushima Branch, The Yomiuri Shimbun Fukushima Bureau, The Sankei Shimbun Co. Ltd. Fukushima Branch Office, The Kahoku Shimpo, Nikkei Inc. Fukushima Bureau, JIJI PRESS Ltd. Fukushima Bureau, Kyodo News Fukushima Branch, NHK Fukushima, Radio Fukushima, Fukushima Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Fukushima Central Television, Fukushima Broadcasting Co., Ltd., TV-U Fukushima, Inc., FM Fukushima

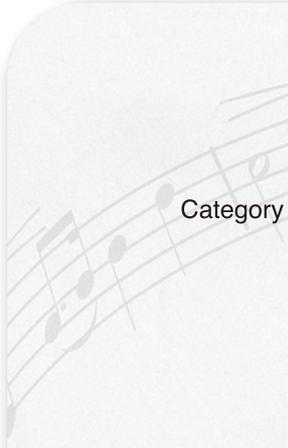
Timetable | **March 21st:** Open at 9:30a.m. Start at 10:00 a.m.
Competition and Award Ceremony for Category I

March 22nd: Open at 9:30a.m. Start at 10:00 a.m.
Competition and Award Ceremony for Category II

March 23rd: Open at 9:30a.m. Start at 10:00 a.m.
Competition and Award Ceremony for Category III

March 24th: Open at 9:30a.m. Start at 10:00 a.m.
Competition for the Grand Champion
(competed by the gold prize-awarded choirs of each category)
Special 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

- Category**
- Category I:** Ages 12 - 15 (no younger than 12 and no older than 15 on the day of the category 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 category competition)
(High school students for Japan-based choirs)
 - Category III:** Other than 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 up to and including 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, regardless of the categories. A conductor and an accompanist will not be included in this regulation.
 - 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 (5 choirs in each category) shall proceed to the Grand Champion Competition on the last day.
 - h. In principle, a singer who have not performed 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 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 shall be determined by lottery, 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 competition for 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 choir.
 - b. A piano (Steinway&Sons), a cembalo (J.C.Neupert), a positive organ and a pipe organ (Marcussen&Sons) 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.
Carl Høgset (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.
- c. In addition, the “Governor of Fukushima” Award will be awarded to the best choir, “Mayor of Fukushima” Award to the 2nd winner, “Superintendent of Education” Award to the 3rd winner.

Special Concert

Overseas choirs are asked to perform at the special 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, 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.

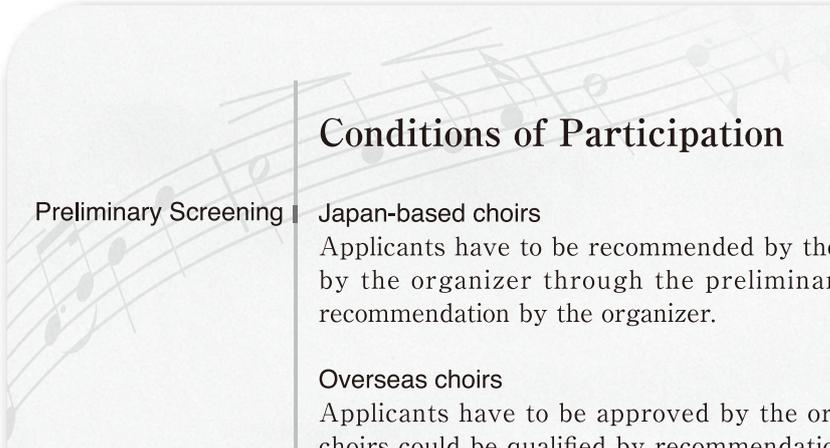
Copyright

- a. Copyright royalties for the pieces managed by the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers (JASRAC) will be paid by the organizer.
- b. If the competitors partially omit or rearrange the piece, they have to gain an approval from the composer (the copyright holder) in advance.

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 2012, 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 2012. 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 (CD-DA format) 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 each pieces must be recorded on separate tracks. The media will not be returned.
- c. One digital photo showing the choir

The result of the preliminary screening will be announced by November 30th, 2012 at the latest.

Registration

Choirs that are selected should provide the following documents to the organizer's address no later than December 15th, 2012.

- a. Fully completed registration forms.
- b. 7 original scores for the category competition
- c. 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 special 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. If the choirs should return due to inevitable reasons, such as attending school events, they will be subsidized partial expenses up to 7,000 yen per contestant.
- b. Overseas choirs, who are asked to perform at the special concert, will receive financial assistance of Max JPY 7,000 per stay at hotels from their category competition to the day before the finals 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 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.
- d. The Fukushima prefectural government has a project to support overseas choirs with accommodation and cultural activities costs in Fukushima. This is a restricted fund, however, and the competition will determine the candidate groups after considering the results of the preliminary screening as well as the regional balance.

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.lg.jp

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

The 6th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2013
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

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 and Highlights

Award History

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)	
	A separate CD, MD or tape of sound recording (2-16 expected singers/ recorded after Apr.2012/ Max 10min)	
	Digital photo of the choir	

All the documents should be submitted no later than October 31st, 2012 to:

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
 e-mail bunka@pref.fukushima.lg.jp

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



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 and outdoor activities 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 was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Thanks to the support and encouragement from all over the world, we are now heading for reconstruction. The 5th annual competition, which was held just one year after the disaster, was participated by more than 100 choirs, and received hundreds of messages to encourage people in Fukushima. It was a warm and heart-felt moment of lifetime.

Now we are sure music has the power to get people together and bring about hope and encouragement.

We are rebuilding Fukushima with the help of music.

*The “city” of Fukushima is in the middle of the “prefecture” of Fukushima, and the Fukushima Music Hall is more than 60km away from the Fukushima Daiichi Plant. There is no restriction advised on Fukushima City. For more details, please refer to our website.



The “Friendship Concert” and hundreds of support messages to Fukushima

Fukushima Prefecture



Fukushima
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)

絆

Kizuna



The 6th
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