

- Category**
- Category I : Ages 12-15
  - Category II : Ages 15-18
  - Category III : Ages 6-12 (up to 18)
  - Category IV : Other than Category I, II and III

\*Ages are determined as the age of the participant on the day of 22 March 2026

\*Participants of ages 12-15 (Category I) and ages 15-18 (Category II) may participate in Category III, provided that the majority of the singers of the choir shall be of ages 6-12.

\*The participants of ages 12-15 (Category I) and ages 15-18 (Category II) must sing as a children's choir when in Category III.

- Entry Qualification**
- a. The number of singers should be 2-16 (no fewer than 2 and no more than 16) and member changes between musical pieces will be permitted only among those registered at the time of application.
  - b. No singer shall compete as a member of more than one choir, regardless of the categories. This restriction does not apply to conductors and accompanists.
  - c. Each category can only accept a single choir from the same group.
  - d. No qualification is required for conductors or accompanists.
  - e. Conductors and accompanists will be considered singers when they sing as a part of the choir.
  - f. The Gold titled choirs in each category shall proceed to the Grand Champion Competition on 22 March.
  - g. In principle, singers who have not registered in the Category Competition may not perform in the Grand Champion Competition.

- Performance**
- a. There is no compulsory piece in any category. All music pieces performed will be determined by the choir. Any change will not be allowed after registration.
  - b. For the Category Competition, the total performance time from the beginning of the first piece until the end of the last piece (including time between songs) must not exceed 9 minutes.
  - c. For the Grand Champion Competition, the total performance time from the beginning of the first piece to the end of the last piece (including time between pieces) must not exceed 15 minutes.
  - d. Tuning musical instruments on stage is included in the performance time.
  - e. Failure to comply with the above rules will result in disqualification.

- Order of Performance**
- a. The Category-III performance will take place in the first half of the event on 21 March, followed by the Category-IV performance in the second half.
  - b. The order of performance in the Category Competition will be determined by a random lottery conducted by the Executive Committee Office in February 2026.
  - c. The timetable will be posted on the [ENTRIES/SCHEDULE] page of the official website in late February, as shown below.
  - d. The order of performance for the Grand Champion Competition will be posted on the [ENTRIES/SCHEDULE] page of the official website in mid-November, as shown below.  
URL : <https://www.vocalensemble.fukushima.jp/en/entries&schedule.html>

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- Accompaniment**
- The instruments and style of accompaniment are at the discretion of each choir.
  - A piano (Steinway & Sons), a positive organ and a pipe organ (Marcussen & Søn) will be provided by the Organiser. The pitch of the piano will be A=442Hz.
  - If a choir uses musical instruments other than the above, they must bring them on their own and be responsible for all associated expenses.
  - If a choir requires a page-turner, they shall make appropriate arrangements.
- Judging and Evaluation**
- The following judges will evaluate the competition:  
Avip Priatna (Conductor), Ichiro Uenishi(Conductor),  
Tetsuro Hanai (early music performer), Kazuhiro Fukunaga (Conductor),  
Tsutomu Matsumura (Conductor), Yuta Miyake (Composer),  
Hideki Motoyama (Conductor)
  - The evaluation of each competition will be conducted using a round-robin system specified separately.
  - Results of the Category Competition and judges' comments will be mailed to each participating choir after the competition.
- Prizes and Awards**
- The competition will be evaluated for each category, and Gold, Silver, Bronze or Excellence prizes will be awarded to every participating choir in each category.
  - In the Category Competition, Gold Prizes will be awarded to the top 5 choirs in each of the respective categories, I, II and IV, and to the top choir in Category III.
  - In the Grand Champion Competition, JPY 500,000 will be awarded to the best choir, JPY 300,000 to the 2nd-place winner, JPY 100,000 to the 3rd-place winner and JPY 30,000 to each of the other finalists.
  - In addition, an extra prize will be awarded to top-ranking choirs in the Grand Champion Competition.
- Rehearsal**
- Each choir will have at least one rehearsal slot at the venue on the day of the performance.
  - Also, the authorized travel agency will book a rehearsal room in the city for the choirs.
  - Up to 2 members of each choir may inspect the competition hall on the day before the performance.
- Copyright**
- Copyright royalties for works managed by the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers (JASRAC) or NexTone Inc. will be paid by the Organiser. For other songs, the choirs must obtain permission from the copyright holder by themselves.
  - If the choir partially edit or arrange the work, they must obtain prior approval from the copyright holder and submit a written proof of permission to the Organiser. Negotiations with copyright holders must be handled by the competitors.
  - If problems arise between a choir and the copyright holder for a song that requires copyright procedures, it must be handled solely under the responsibility of the choir.
- Use of Information**
- The information provided by the participating choirs may be used for purposes related to the organisation of the competition, such as posting on websites, printing in publications, recording to CDs or DVDs, and provided to the mass media and parties involved in the management of the competition.
  - The Organiser or the authorized entities may use pictures, audio and video recordings on the Internet, in publications and broadcast, and provide the information to the mass media. The authorised entities may also sell pictures and recordings in the form of photos, CDs or DVDs.