

The 5th Para International Music Competition

Application Guidelines

I. Objectives

Being open to diversity has become a crucial issue in our society; it is beneficial to foster opportunities in which people who have different abilities can contribute using their strengths and unique talents. Therefore, we have established the Para International Music Competition. This competition is open to people with disabilities who embrace music with love and enthusiasm. Their continuous effort, dedication, and accomplishment shall be valued. In addition, participation will motivate them to enhance their skills and creativity, create opportunities to build confidence and self-esteem, and celebrate their achievement. We would like to contribute our effort to guide hard-working musicians in making their first steps as artists and help to nurture their potential; this would be meaningful collaborative work with everyone who would be a part of this competition.

II. Purpose

We aim to create a diverse community by identifying, fostering, and presenting the talents of people with disabilities. Additionally, we develop music programs, workshops, etc., that can utilize and appreciate their distinctive and significant contributions.

III. Guideline for the application

This competition is open to any musicians with disabilities; all applicants who pass the first screening (a video screening) will perform at the final performance.

1. Application and Competition Dates

The preliminary round submission period: 4/13/2026-9/11/2026 (JST)

Notification of the result: We will e-mail you by 10/9/2026

The final competition: 11/28/2026

2. Instruments and categories:

Instruments: Piano, wind, percussion instruments, string instruments, and vocal music

Categories:

※Keyboard instruments that require a power source are not allowed

: e.g., digital pianos/electones, electric guitars, etc.

Categories:

① Solo (piano accompaniment accepted)

② Freestyle (Open to the instruments that are not listed above/Open to original pieces/ Choir/ Chamber music)

3. Eligibility

The competition is open to enthusiastic and serious musicians who live with a mental or physical disability across all nationalities and ages.

4. Application

Complete the online application form with documents/files and other required materials. The following 4 items are required for the application.

①The application form : Please fill it out with the necessary information.

②Participation fee and receipt : Following the deposit of the admission fee to the designated bank account, please attach the receipt of your payment to the photo. If selected as a finalist, we will inform you of further information regarding the admission fee for the final competition. The admission fees are non-refundable.

③Portrait photo : The portrait photo and any other promotional photos of the applicant must be sent digitally.

- The photos may be used for public relations on SNS, Instagram, and HP of the Para Artist Management Association. Please inform us in the application form if the photos are not to be shared publicly. Please look at the section "Handling personal information" for details.
- ④ Digital Video Recording : The video recording of the applicant's performance in any repertoire (10 minutes maximum) must be uploaded using a file transfer service or a large file transfer service. Please see section IV for the details about repertoires. The video needs to be recorded within 6 months of application.
 - The submitted materials are not returnable. We encourage the applicants to copy the materials.

5. Application Fee and methods of payments

Participation fee: Solo/Freestyle(solo) - 6,000 Jp Yen. Freestyle(multiple people) - 10,000 Jp Yen

Methods of payment

- Paypal: Check the "PayPal" section on the application form
- Bank deposit:

Please deposit to

Bank name: Mitsubishi UFJ Bank Ichinomiya Branch

Account number: Ordinary deposit-0103072

Account name: Non-profit organization Kyoai Gakuen Director-Mariko Kojima

※The receipt photo of the deposit shows the following items: the names of the recipient and the sender, the deposit amount, and the date) is required to be attached to the application form.

※The participant fees are non-refundable under any circumstances.

6. Application

Apply to: Para Artist Management Association - Para International Music Competition

Attention: Management Office

E-mail address: m-compe@para-artist.org

When you e-mail us regarding the competition, please enter "The 5th Para International Music Competition Application" as the subject.

Please read the QR code on the right and enter the necessary information in the appropriate fields.



IV. Performing pieces and the final competition

(1) Initial selection jury: Video screening

Solo:

- Repertoire: Free program: The applicants can play as many pieces as they wish as long as the entire recording is within 10 minutes. The performed pieces should be classical or classically based, and the music scores should be currently in print or easily obtained by standard methods.
- Performing Duration: Within 10 minutes.
- Recording material: The recording of the applicant's performance taken within the past 6 months should be attached.
- Note: If an extended technique, assistive devices, or any other devices are required, the applicant needs to notify the committee office by e-mail. If the applicant proceeds to the final competition, the preparation, transportation, setting, and removal from the premises are the applicant's responsibility. Official accompanists are not provided. Participants may bring along their accompanist at their own expense. The applicants can play as many pieces as they wish within 10 minutes.

Freestyle:

- Repertoire: Free program. Original pieces are accepted. The applicants can play as many pieces as they wish within 10 minutes.
- Performing Duration: Within 10 minutes
- Recording material: The recording of the applicant's performance taken within the past 6 months should be attached.
- Note: If an extended technique, assistive devices, or any other devices is required, the applicant needs

to notify the committee office by e-mail. If the applicant proceeds to the final, the preparation, transportation, setting, and removal from the premises are the applicant's responsibility.

- Official accompanists are not provided. Participants may bring along their accompanist at their own expense.

(2) The 5th Para International Competition Final: Public Performance

- Date and Time: November 28, 2026 (Saturday) 10:00–20:00 (Time may be subject to change)
- Venue: Nagoya Minami Cultural Small Theater (2-10-2 Chikazudori, Minami Ward, Nagoya City, 457-0071)
- [Access] Get off at "Horita" Station on the Meijo Subway Line, Exit 3, then take the city bus (Kikan Line No.1, Kanayama Line No.18) and get off at "Chikazudori 2-chome"—right in front.
- Repertoire: Free choice with 10 minutes maximum (a different piece from the initial selection is accepted).

* A piano is available at the stage. Other instruments cannot be provided.

(3) Prizes and Award Concert

The following prizes will be awarded in each category: Gold Prize, Silver Prize, Bronze Prize, PAM Prize, etc. (The titles of the prizes are subject to changes). A performer may receive multiple awards.

An award concert will be held, and prize winners will be able to perform at Prize Winners Gala Concert .

V. Judgement

An advisory panel of judges comprises of distinguished music, educational, and medical professionals who are experienced and knowledgeable in the field of disabilities and teaching. The decision-making will be carried out under their fair review.

VI. Result and Achievement

The result and achievement of the Para International Music Competition will be publicized in various media, including journals in the field of music, education, and disabilities.

Any achievements and beneficial results regarding improvements in technique, music scores, and instruments will be contributed to the field of music, education, and disabilities.

Organizer: Para Artist Management Association (PAM)

Chair: Mariko Shimada

HP: <https://para-artist.org/>

Phone: +81 070-5259-0992 (10 : 00 am~5 : 00pm)

E-mail: info@para-artist.org

*We do not handle cash in order to ensure fairness and avoid any problems or mistakes. For any questions or concerns, please contact us via e-mail or telephone.