

Application Guidebook for the 13th OKIDEN SUGAR HALL COMPETITION AND DEBUT CONCERT

THE OKIDEN SUGAR HALL COMPETITION AND DEBUT CONCERT was started in 1994 to commemorate the opening of Sugar Hall, which is especially designed as music hall. The annual competition is sponsored by the Executive Committee consisting of members from Nanjo City in Okinawa Prefecture, The Okinawa Electric Power Co., Inc., and The Okinawa Times. The purpose of the Competition is to discover and develop young talented musicians of great promise as well as to contribute to the promotion of musical culture and international cultural exchange.

Dates:

Competition Sunday, March 25, 2007 Judging starts at 3 p.m.

Vocal Music, Piano

Monday, March 26, 2007 Judging starts at 10 a.m.

Stringed Instruments, Wind Instruments, and Percussion Instruments

Note: Competition will take place over two days from this year. Please find the time schedule of each section.

Debut Concert Sunday, May 20, 2007 Concert starts at 4 p.m.

Venue:

Nanjo City Cultural Center - Sugar Hall

Sections:

The Competitions is divided into five sections as follows.

Vocal Music, Piano, Stringed Instruments (Violin, Viola, Cello, Contrabass), Wind Instruments (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba) and Percussion Instruments

Organized by:

Nanjo City in Okinawa Prefecture

The Okinawa Electric Power Co., Inc.

The Okinawa Times

Supervised by:

The Executive Committee of OKIDEN SUGAR HALL Competition and Debut Concert

In Cooperation with:

Okinawa Prefecture

Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education

NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) Okinawa

Applicant Requirements:

(1) The Competition is open to musicians of any nationality

(2) Age Limit

Vocal Music:

Born on or after April 2, 1977 and no later than April 1, 1987

Piano and Stringed Instruments:

Born on or after April 2, 1981 and no later than April 1, 1989

Wind Instruments and Percussion Instruments:

Born on or after April 2, 1979 and no later than April 1, 1987

Note: The age limit for applicants will be revised from the 15th competition in 2009. Applicants for the Vocal Music must be between the ages of 20 and 27, applicants for the Piano and Stringed Instruments 16 and 25, and applicants for the Wind Instruments and Percussion Instruments 18 and 25.

* Those who have won other international or nationwide competitions in the past may not enter this competition.

Duration of the Performance:

Vocal Music: no more than 10 minutes

Piano: no more than 20 minutes

Stringed Instruments: no more than 15 minutes

Wind Instruments and Percussion Instruments: no more than 15 minutes

Application Procedure:

All entries should be sent with an official application form to:

The Secretariat of OKIDEN SUGAR HALL Competition and Debut Concert
307 Sashiki, Nanjo-City, Okinawa, 901-1403 Japan

The following documents must be enclosed with the application.

- (1) Recording of the whole program for the competition on CD, MD or VHS formatted video (NTSC only) with good sound quality.
- (2) A recent passport-style photograph (5x5cm) attached to the application form.
- (3) A copy of a birth certificate or similar official document such as driver's license, resident card or passport, confirming the applicant's date of birth.

Application Deadline:

Friday, January 19, 2007

*** Applications that arrive after the closing date will not be considered.**

Application Fee:

Applicants must remit an application fee of 10,000 Japanese yen to the designated bank account shown below by Friday, January 19, 2007. Please note that transfer, handling and bank charges are not included in this figure and must be paid by the applicant. The application fee is not refundable under any circumstances.

Bank of the Ryukyus

Yonabaru Branch

Account number: Ordinary Account 17 976

Account name: The Secretariat for Sugar Hall Competition and Debut Concert

Preliminary Audition:

All applications will be screened prior to the competition by documents and sound sources. About 30 selected applicants will proceed to the competition. The result of preliminary audition will be sent to the applicants by February 9, 2007. Please note that the number of successful applicants may vary, depending on the circumstances.

Competition:

- (1) Performing number has to be the same number as the one submitted for preliminary audition.
- (2) The competition will take place for two days by section. The Committee will decide the order of performances.
- (3) The contestants must play from the memory at the competition, which will be open to the public.
- (4) The performances may be stopped in the middle at the discretion of the jury. However, this will not affect the outcome of the judgment.
- (5) At the Competition, up to 10 contestants will be selected for the Debut Concert regardless of their instrumental sections. The results will be announced after the audition on the second day.
- (6) A reception will be held after the whole program on March 26, 2007 for the exchange between the judges and the contestants.

Debut Concert:

- (1) Successful contestants at the competition are obliged to give a performance at the Debut Concert, for which the contestants will not be paid.
- (2) Performing number has to be the same number as the one played in the competition in principle.
- (3) Performers will be able to rehearse at the Sugar Hall from one week before the Debut Concert.

Accompanist:

- (1) Only piano accompaniment will be accepted at the competition. Contestants must provide their own accompanist at their expense.
- (2) Those who are not living in Japan and will not be able to provide their own accompanist for the Competition may request the Committee to arrange an accompanist paid by the contestants.

Traveling Expenses and Accommodation:**1. Travel expense for the competition**

- (1) All travel and accommodation expenses for the competition must be paid by the contestants as well as accompanists.

2. Travel expense for the Debut Concert

- (1) For the Debut Concert, the Committee will provide a return air ticket to Okinawa for the successful contestants and accompanists who are living in other prefectures of Japan as of May 2007. Accommodations for a certain period will also be provided although which must be the designated by the Committee.
- (2) The Committee will pay a travel allowance for the successful contestants and accompanists for the Debut Concert who are not living in Japan as of May 2007. Please note that the amount of the allowance for each contestant and accompanist will be determined by the Committee.

Prizes:

- (1) All contestants who played at the Debut Concert will receive the certificates by the Committee. Also, the *Okinawa Times* newspaper and other media will widely report the contestants' achievement at the competition.
- (2) The Okinawa Electric Power Co., Inc. Award
Following prizes will be awarded for the successful contestants by the Okinawa Electric Power Company, Inc. The ceremony of awarding the honors and prizes will be held at the Debut Concert.
Grand Prize: 1,000,000 yen (one winner)
Excellent Prize: 250,000 yen (the number of winner of this prize may be determined by the judges)
Successful Competitor Prize: 100,000 yen (the rest of the competition winners except Grand Prize and Excellent Prize winners)
Outstanding Accompanist Prize: This prize may be given on the recommendation of the judges.
- (3) The Grand Prize winner will be given an opportunity to have a recital at Sugar Hall.

Judges:

Kyoko Ito (Vocalist)
Takumi Kubota (Violinist)
Naohiro Tsuken (Trumpeter)
Masaaki Niwa (Music critic)
Hidekazu Himoto (Conductor)
Takashi Hironaka (Pianist)
Misao Yokoi (Clarinetist)
Xu Mengdong (Composer)

Miscellaneous:

- (1) The Committee reserves the copyright of video and audio recordings and photographs of any performance in the competition and the Debut Concert, as well as the right of the original author in

- the exploitation of a derivative work of these recordings and photographs.
- (2) The contestants are responsible for their insurance to cover unexpected occurrences that can arise during the competition and the concert.
 - (3) The Contestants are asked to obtain a visa by themselves before traveling to Japan if necessary. Please ask for the Secretariat regarding any required documentation to apply a visa.
 - (4) The applicants and contestants are required to comply with the Committee's decision on matters that is not specified in this guidebook.

Inquiries:

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Website: <http://busvizu.town.sashiki.okinawa.jp/sugarhall/index.html>

***For overseas inquiries, we can only accept inquiries by facsimile or E-mail.**