
The 5th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2012 Information for the Participating Choirs

Application of Visa

Please contact the embassy of Japan in your country about visa. If you are requested to obtain a visa, we recommend you start a procedure as soon as possible. Documents to be issued by us will be sent to you only if we received fully-completed registration forms. If the list of members and the itinerary are not complete especially, we will not be able to prepare the documents for visa application. So, please make sure to submit the complete forms.

Order of performance

Category Competition

The competition of Category III will be held on March 24. We will determine the order of performance by the lot drawing to be held at 1:30 p.m. on February 21, and announce the result on the web site at the end of February. If you do not attend the drawing, the executive committee office will draw on behalf of your choir.

Grand Champion Competition

The order of performance has been determined by the lot drawing by the executive committee office as follows:

1	Category II	The 3 rd ranked choir
2	Category II	The 4 th ranked choir
3	Category III	The 5 th ranked choir
4	Category III	The 3 rd ranked choir
5	Category I	The 3 rd ranked choir
6	Category I	The 1 st ranked choir
7	Category II	The 5 th ranked choir
8	Category III	The 4 th ranked choir
9	Category I	The 5 th ranked choir
10	Category III	The 2 nd ranked choir
11	Category II	The 1 st ranked choir
12	Category I	The 4 th ranked choir
13	Category I	The 2 nd ranked choir
14	Category III	The 1 st ranked choir
15	Category II	The 2 nd ranked choir

Entry to the audience seats and admission tickets

Entry

You will need an admission ticket to enter the hall. All seats are unreserved. No one under 4 years old is admitted.

If you plan to re-enter the hall, you have to receive a re-entry ticket at the entrance when going out from the hall. When you re-enter the hall, please show the ticket stub at the entrance, and hand in the re-entry ticket to the staff.

Admission tickets for performers

Admission ticket fees for the participating choirs (singers, conductor(s), and accompanist(s)) are included in the participation fee. The tickets will be provided to you when you are participating in the hall visit or signing in at the reception desk.

Please be notified if too many visitors are coming to the competition, visitors with regular admission tickets will be given priority over participants.

Admission tickets for non performers (your family, friends etc.)

Anyone except the participating choir members (singers, conductor(s), and accompanist(s)) is required to pay the following ticket fee with the choir's participation fee through a bank transfer. The tickets will be provided to you when you are participating in the hall visit or signing in at the reception desk.

Date	Category	Advance Ticket	Day of Performance Ticket
March 22	Category I	JPY2,000	JPY2,500
March 23	Category II		
March 24	Category III		
March 25	Grand Champion Friendship Concert	JPY2,500	JPY3,000
4 days	All	JPY8,000	-

Day of Performance Ticket

The day-of-performance tickets will be sold at the door in the venue after 9:15 AM. You may purchase only one ticket at a time. Please note that the ticket sales are limited to 100 a day. Only when there are any seats available, some extra tickets will be offered.

Transportation

Please notify if you use Fukushima Airport and apply for the transportation service in the Registration Form VI. The organizer will arrange the transportation from/to Fukushima Airport to/from the hotel.

The organizer will also arrange the transportation from/to the hotel to/from the hall on the day of performance, unless you use a chartered bus, or directly move after the excursion. The details will be informed after received the registration forms.

If you arrange the bus by yourself, please notify the contractor to use the parking lot of Fukushima Culture Center, not Fukushima City Music Hall.

Lunch

The number of restaurants near the hall is limited. We recommend that you directly go to the hall after taking lunch near the hotel. Also you are able to order lunch boxes through the authorized travel company. Please refer to the attached leaflet. You will receive the lunch boxes at the baggage room (gymnasium), and eat your lunch at the designated places, such as the baggage room.

Friendship Concert

We would definitely like you to perform at the friendship concert on the last day. This concert is going to be held for about 60 minutes from 2:20 p.m. on March 25 (expected) to encourage and bring hope to Japan at the time of one year after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The time of your performance will be around 7 minutes. Any song to inspire people would be appreciated. If you agree to this idea, please fill out the section of the friendship concert in the Registration Form II and IV. Also, we are planning to have interview concerning the songs and the choir's activities. After performances by some choirs, for the grand finale, all the participants are supposed to sing a song together.

The starting time will be changed based on the performing time of the Grand Champion Competition. So we would like to inform the fixed schedule at the representative meeting to be held on the previous day of the concert. Please refer to paragraph 'Schedule – March 24.'

Message Cards

Please find the enclosed message cards. We would like you to put out any message to encourage people in Japan.

This is a part of the campaign to “get us together by singing together”, and we are planning to put up a bulletin board in the venue, where you can find various messages from all over the world.

Any message is appreciated (support message, joy of singing together, etc.) Attached photo is also welcomed. Please help us make the competition more heart-warming and friendly at the time of one year after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

International Exchange Program

We have an exchange program including home stays and cultural activities in Fukushima. Travel expenses and accommodation fees of the project (only in Fukushima) will be paid by the organizer. It is a perfect opportunity to get to know each other and develop friendship with music! We will suggest some activities after received your registration forms.

Schedule - March 23

1 Rehearsal

You are able to use the following rehearsal rooms at free of charge on the previous day of performance as well as the day of performance. Please refer to the enclosed leaflet. The

authorized travel company will arrange them for you. The travel agency will also provide some pay rooms if you need.

March 21 Fukushima City Music Hall
 Mochizuri Culture Center

March22-25 Fukushima City Senior Center
 Mochizuri Culture Center

2 Experiencing the competition

If you would like to listen to other choirs' performances, please receive the tickets and program booklets at the reception desk. Please refer to the paragraph, Admission tickets.

3 Hall Visit

After the all the performances of the day were finished, you can look over the stage, if you wish. Please indicate if you like to participate in it or not in the Registration Form I. Up to 2 persons from each organization will be able to look over the hall. Please do not forget to check in at the reception desk on the 1st Fl. of the Fukushima City Music Hall.

Schedule - March 24

1 Departure

In time for your performance, you will leave the hotel with a vehicle arranged by the organizer. Details of the timetable on the day of performance will be notified upon determining the order of performance and accommodation at the end of February.

2 Signing in (Entrance Hall, 1st Fl. of the Fukushima City Music Hall)

Please do not forget to register at the reception desk. We will give guidance of the hall, and confirm the participating members. Tickets and program booklets will be provided to the choirs that have not come to the venue on the hall visit of the previous day.

3 Move to Baggage Room

As you will not be able to bring large baggage to the audience seats, please keep your baggage in the gymnasium next to the hall. Please have the valuables with you or use a coin locker (100 yen for use) in the hall.

If you keep the valuables with you during the guided tour (Refer 5-10 of this section), the staff will keep valuables for you only during the performance time (from the time to be waiting at the stage wing to the time to leave from the stage wing). Please put all the valuables together and show the name of the choir. The staff will pay attention to prevent any loss caused by robbery, but please understand they will not be responsible for the loss caused by robbery.

4 Dressing

A dressing room will be provided in a building next to the hall. It will be cold while moving within the hall, so please bring your jacket to keep you warm. The staff will keep your jackets while performing (from the time to be waiting at the wing to the time to leave the stage).

5 Gathering / Start of Guided Tour *1 hour approx. before performance

(Entrance Hall, 1st Fl. of the Fukushima City Music Hall)

All the participants are supposed to gather at the time shown in schedule which will be notified at the end of February. If you are late, you will be assumed to cancel the performance. The guiding staff will have a placard with your choir name on it, and show you the route from rehearsals to photo taking.

6 Rehearsals

The 1st rehearsal

— 20 min approx.

at the Practice Room of the Music Hall including the time of entering and leaving the room.

The final rehearsal

— 8 min approx.

at the Small Hall of the Music Hall including the time of entering and leaving the room.

*Based on the performing time of the participating choirs, the 1st and the final rehearsal times may be changed.

** Please be punctual. You are not allowed to move the piano placed in the rehearsal room.

7 Waiting at the Stage Wing

The staff will check the number of performers, while you are waiting at the right wing. We will also adjust the height and the angle of the music stand with a conductor during the waiting time.

8 Performance

You will go to the stage from the right wing, being headed by the guiding staff with a placard. Conductors and accompanists are supposed to go to the stage together.

9 Photo Taking

Authorized photographers will take group photos at the entrance square. We will mail you the group photo after the competition.

10 End of Guided Tour

The tour by the guiding staff with a placard ends at the entrance. If you want to keep the placard, it will be provided after the award ceremony.

11 Dressing

There is no dress code specified for the award ceremony. You will be able to change the dress beforehand.

(Picking up of luggage)

(Listening to other choirs' performances)

12 Receiving of Musical Notes

After all the performances of the section finished, you can receive the musical notes used for judging at the reception desk. Please note unless you come to receive them by the award ceremony, they may be disposed.

13 Awarding Ceremony

One representative from each choir is required to gather at the right wing of the stage before the awarding ceremony. At the stage, either one of the awards will be presented.

14 Representative Meeting

Up to 2 representatives are required to gather at the small hall on the 2nd floor after the award ceremony. We would like you to confirm the schedule and transportation of the following day. An organization that is awarded with the Gold prize is supposed to submit 7 original scores for the performance at the Grand Champion Competition. Please refer to "How to Register the Competition."

15 Returning to the hotel

You will return to the hotel by a competition vehicle.

Schedule - March 25

Except the followings, the schedule will be the same as the one for March 24.

1 Departure

Based on the schedule notified at the representative meeting to be held on the previous day, you will move to the hall from the hotel by a competition vehicle.

2 Rehearsal (for the Grand Champion Competition)

The 1st rehearsal

— 30 min approx.

at the Practice Room of the Music Hall including the time of entering and leaving the room.

The final rehearsal

— 10 min approx.

at the Small Hall of the Music Hall including the time of entering and leaving the room.

3 Friendship Concert

The guiding staff will show you the route for gathering, rehearsal, waiting, performance and dismissal. The timetable will be notified at the representative meeting on the previous day. Rehearsal will take 30 minutes approx.

4 Award Ceremony (for the Grand Champion Competition)

The award ceremony will start just after the Friendship Concert.

Two representatives from each choir are required to gather at the right wing. At the stage, either one of the awards will be presented.

(Dressing)

(Picking up of luggage)

5 Receiving of musical notes (for the Grand Champion Competition)

After the award ceremony, please receive the musical notes used for judging of the Grand Champion Competition at the reception desk. Please note unless you come to receive them, they may be disposed.

Medical institutions

A first-aid room will be provided within the hall. Please ask the staff when you need it. Also you can use the following hospitals.

General hospital

Fukushima Red Cross Hospital

*A light green building standing on the left from the Music Hall.

Address: 11-31 Iriemachi, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture z/c 960-8530

TEL: 024-534-6101

Night-time emergency clinic

Fukushima City Health & Welfare Center (all year around)

*Next to Fukushima Central Post Office / Reception hour: From 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Address: 10-1 Moriaimachi, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture z/c 960-8003

TEL: 024-525-7672

Holiday clinic

Please inquire at the information counter or the first-aid room.

Earthquake

The organizer will pay strict attention to earthquake for visitors' safety and decide to stop performance and evacuate the stage promptly.

When the performance was interrupted by earthquake, the choir will be guaranteed to perform again. The order of performance will be determined by the organizer.

Radiation doses

The "city" of Fukushima is in the mid area of the "prefecture" of Fukushima, and Fukushima Music Hall is more than 60km away from the Fukushima Daiichi Plant. Although there is no restriction advised on Fukushima city, we will keep monitoring radiation doses cautiously and announce it through the website.

Disclaimer

The organizer will insure (facility liability insurance, injury insurance) for participants in the competition and visitors. If you get injured within the hall, please notify the staff about your injury. The organizer will not be responsible for any damage for which the insurance does not cover.

Remarks

- a. Please follow the staff's instructions within the hall.
- b. In the hall, please refrain from leaving, entering or moving during the time of performance.
- c. Recording, video taping or photo taking by any person other than the authorized companies will not be allowed, even the performance of his/her own choir.
- d. Please turn off the alarm watch or a cell phone in the hall. Also, we would like you to remove an item to make sounds, such as a key holder in advance.
- e. Please do not put luggage on the audience seats. If you keep luggage for a long time, the staff may take it out.
- f. Please do not leave rubbish in the hall.
- g. For the prevention of infectious diseases like flu, please keep in mind preventive manners, such as coughing into a handkerchief, tissue papers or a sleeve or careful hand washing.
- h. Voice training around the hall will be prohibited for neighbors.