

VIOLA SPACE 2025 vol.33
THE 6TH TOKYO INTERNATIONAL VIOLA COMPETITION
23 May 2025 – 1 June 2025
Guidelines for applicants

1 Outline of the competition

The Tokyo International Viola Competition is the only international competition in Asia-Pacific exclusively for viola. The competition is held every three years since 2009 as part of the Viola Space, a festival for viola founded in 1992 through the initiative of internationally distinguished violist Nobuko Imai, and dedicated to “celebrating the viola”, “introducing outstanding works and new works for viola”, and “fostering young artists”. Winners of the competition are guaranteed a chance to perform in concerts at Viola Space in future years. In parallel with the competition, regular concerts and open master classes for young musicians are held every year in the context of Viola Space, so as to explore the diverse appeal and wide range of possibilities offered by the instrument.

- 1) Title** Viola Space 2025 vol.33
The 6th Tokyo International Viola Competition
- 2) Dates** Friday, 23 May - Sunday, 1 June 2025
- 3) Venue** Toho Gakuen School of Music: Chofu, Tokyo, Japan
Kioi Hall: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

4) Jury

Ryo Sasaki, President

Viola

Hsin-Yun Huang

Viola

Masao Kawasaki

Violin / Viola

Sangjin Kim

Viola

Dimitri Murrath

Viola

Máté Szücs

Viola

Lars Anders Tomter

Viola

5) The honorary president of jury

Nobuko Imai

Viola

Antoine Tamestit

Viola

6) Organizers

Main-organizer

Tokyo International Viola Competition Executive Committee

Cooperator

Toho Gakuen School of Music

Administration

TV MAN UNION, INC.

2 Application

1) Eligibility

The competition is open to candidates from all nationalities born on or after 1 July 1993.

2) Application deadline

The complete application package must be received by the secretariat between 1 February and 1 November 2024.

3) Application procedure

The applicant must submit items ① to ④ below, and send the complete set (application form, photo, official document copy, and video recording) to the Tokyo International Viola Competition Secretariat.

- ① **Application form** (All sections must be completed. No change in repertoire is allowed after the application has been submitted.) The application form can be downloaded from the following website; <http://www.tivc.jp/>.
- ② **Photograph** A high-resolution digital photo of the applicant taken after February 2024, facing forward, from the chest up, with image quality sharp enough to be used in printed materials (300 dpi or higher).
- ③ **Photocopy of an official document (such as passport)** confirming the applicant's age
- ④ **Video recording** of the applicant's performance of the required repertoire (see page 5) for 6. Required repertoire 1) Preliminary selection.

- ☐ The recording must be made in or after February 2024.
- ☐ The video recording for the preliminary selection, 2 required repertoires must be played in a row, without stopping the video shooting between movements or pieces.
- ☐ The video data must be unedited, taken from the same one fixed camera.
- ☐ The video must show the entire body of the applicant and also must clearly show the applicant's face, arms and fingers.

4) Submitting your application

Via online service

- ☐ Save all items ① to ④ in 3) for the application in one single folder.
- ☐ The folder must be titled with the applicant's family and given name, and sent to the address below using an online delivery service such as Dropbox (<https://www.dropbox.com>), We Transfer (<https://wetransfer.com>).
- ☐ Applications should be sent to: **tivc@tvu.co.jp**

*All application materials should be submitted at the same time.

*Incomplete applications (applications which are missing any required documents or items) will not be accepted.

5) Preliminary selection

A preliminary selection will be carried out to select the contestants who will participate in the competition. This preliminary selection will be made on the exclusive basis of the documents and video recording submitted by the applicants. The results of the preliminary selection will be sent to the applicants by 31 January 2025.

3 Participation in the competition

1) Entry fee

All applicants who pass the preliminary selection must pay an entry fee of JPY 30,000 by bank transfer to the account designated by the secretariat no later than Wednesday, 26 February 2025. Applicants should burden bank transfer fee at your expense. If the entry fee is not paid by this date, the approval to participate in the competition will be withdrawn. The entry fee is not refundable under any circumstances.

2) Travel expense and travel expense grants

In principle, all travel expenses shall be borne by the contestant. However, if the secretariat deems it necessary, grants shall be provided to contestants not residing in Japan, who passed the first round. The amounts vary according to the region as listed below. The travel expense grants shall be given after any necessary taxes are deducted. (The applicable tax rate may be about 20.42%).

Region	Amount (tax included)
- North and Latin America, Europe, Oceania, Africa....	JPY 60,000
- Asia.....	JPY 30,000

3) Accommodation and accommodation grants

In principle, all accommodation expenses shall be borne by the contestant. However, if the secretariat deems it necessary, the secretariat shall cover accommodation expenses (basic single room charge) for contestants who do not reside in Tokyo area from the registration day for the competition (21 May) until the day specified below, provided that a contestant uses a hotel designated by the secretariat.

- Contestants who pass the First Round.....until next morning after the day of the First Round
- Contestants who pass the Second Round..... until next morning after the day of the Second Round
- Contestants who pass the Semi-Final Round.... until next morning after the day of the Semi-Final Round
- Finalists.....until next morning after the day of the Final Round
- Prizewinners.....until next morning after the day of the Prizewinners' Gala Concert

4) Accompanists

Official accompanists for all rounds will be provided by the secretariat. The secretariat will specify the time and place for rehearsals. At the first and second rounds, the contestants may also bring their private accompanist at their own expense (including travel and accommodation).

5) Official prizes

- First Prize.....JPY1,000,000
- Second Prize.... JPY 600,000
- Third Prize..... JPY 300,000
- * The prize money shall be paid after any necessary taxes are deducted.

6) Special prizes

- Audience Prize.... JPY100,000 (The winner will be selected by audience vote in the Final Round.)
- Appearance in the Prizewinners' Concert and Prizewinners' Gala Concert
- Appearance at Viola Space in or after 2026
- * The prize money shall be paid after any necessary taxes are deducted.

4 Others

1) Visa acquisition

The contestant must obtain appropriate visas to enter Japan to participate in the competition. The same applies to the accompanist. If an invitation letter and/or any other document is required for the visa application, the applicant must make a request to the secretariat.

2) Insurance

The contestant and the accompanist are responsible for their own insurance to cover health care, injury, loss, or damage to the instrument, luggage, or other personal belongings in case of accident, fire, or theft during travel and during their participation in the competition.

3) Copyright

The Tokyo International Viola Competition Secretariat has unrestricted rights to broadcast or televise, publicly perform or present, record or video-record, publish and portray any part of the contestant's and accompanist's participation in the competition, including, but not limited to, rehearsals and performances during the competition, as well as ceremonies, rounds, and related events.

4) Governing law

Any problem arising from or related to these guidelines for applicants shall be settled in accordance with the Japanese text of the guidelines and laws of Japan.

5) Restrictions

The contestants shall not give any public performance during the period of the competition other than those required for the competition. This condition will no longer apply once the contestant fails to pass a competition round.

5 Schedule

2024

1 February Applications accepted from this date.

1 November Deadline for applications (must be received by this date)

2025

By 31 January Notice of the Preliminary Selection

26 February Deadline for submitting confirmation of participation / payment of participation fees.

21 May Registration
22 May Rehearsal with official accompanists
23 May – 1 June First Round
 Second Round
 Semi-Final Round
 Final Round
 Prizewinners' Concert
 Workshops for participants
 Gala Concert by Jury members

2 June – Prizewinners' Gala Concerts

6 Required repertoire

1) Preliminary Selection: two pieces

Note: Please follow the instructions in page 2, 2 Application 3) Application procedure, ④ Video recording.

① One fantasia from Georg Philipp Telemann: 12 Fantasias for solo viola
(original: 12 Fantasias for solo violin TWV40: 14-25)

② One of the following suites.

- Max Reger: Suite for solo viola no. 1 in G minor, op.131d, no.1
- Max Reger: Suite for solo viola no. 2 in D major, op.131d, no.2
- Max Reger: Suite for solo viola no. 3 in E minor, op.131d, no.3

2) First Round: two pieces

③ One of the following suites, some movements.

- J.S. Bach: Suite for solo cello no. 2 in D minor BWV1008
- J.S. Bach: Suite for solo cello no. 3 in C major BWV1009
- J.S. Bach: Suite for solo cello no. 4 in E-flat major BWV1010

**To be performed from memory.*

**The movement to be played will be announced on the morning of the day of the round.*

④ Franz Schubert: Arpeggione sonata in A minor D821, one movement.

**The movement to be played will be announced on the morning of the day of the round.*

3) Second Round: three pieces

⑤ TBA: New work for solo viola commissioned by the 6th Tokyo International Viola Competition

⑥ One of the following pieces:

- Robert Schumann: Märchenbilder op.113
- Johannes Brahms: Sonata for viola and piano no.1 in F minor, op.120, no.1
- Johannes Brahms: Sonata for viola and piano no.2 in E-flat major, op.120, no.2
- Johannes Brahms / Thomas Riebl (arr.): Sonata for viola and piano in G major from Edition Peters
(original: Sonata for violin and piano in G major, op.78)

⑦ One of the following pieces:

- Hindemith: Sonata for viola solo, op.11, no.5 (1919)
- Hindemith: Sonata for viola solo, op.25, no.1 (1922)
- Hindemith: Sonata for viola solo, op.31, no.4 (1923)
- Hindemith: Sonata for viola solo (1937)

**To be performed from memory.*

4) Semi-Final Round: two pieces

⑧ One of the following contemporary pieces:

- Benjamin Britten / Nobuko Imai (arr.) : Suite for solo viola no.1, some movements
*The movement to be played will be announced on the morning of the day of the round.
- Benjamin Britten / Nobuko Imai (arr.): Suite for solo viola no.2, some movements
*The movement to be played will be announced on the morning of the day of the round.
- Benjamin Britten / Nobuko Imai (arr.): Suite for solo viola no.3, some movements
*The movement to be played will be announced on the morning of the day of the round.
[Faber Music] (original: Suite for solo cello no.1-3)
- György Ligeti: Sonata for solo viola (1991-94), 1st, 4th and 6th movements [Schott Music]
*The movement to be played will be announced on the morning of the day of the round.
- Toru Takemitsu: A bird came down to the walk(1994) [Schott Music]
- Ichiro Nodaira: 'En plein air' pour alto (2003), some movements [Henry Lemoine]
*The movement to be played will be announced on the morning of the day of the round.
- Garth Knox: 'Fuga libre' for solo viola (2009) [Schott Music]
*commissioned by the 1st Tokyo International Viola Competition
- Toshio Hosokawa: Threnody-to the victims of the Tohoku Earthquake 3.11-for viola (2012) [Schott Music]
*commissioned by the 2nd Tokyo International Viola Competition
- Dai Fujikura: Engraving for viola (2014) [Ricordi Berlin]
*commissioned by the 3rd Tokyo International Viola Competition
- Ichiro Nodaira: Transformation III on five fragments of J.S.Bach for viola (2018) [Henry Lemoine]
*commissioned by the 4th Tokyo International Viola Competition
- Akira Nishimura: Amrita, for viola (2021) [Zen-On Music]
*commissioned by the 5th Tokyo International Viola Competition

⑨ One of the following pieces

- Hoffmeister: Viola concerto in D major from without conductor
- Stamitz: Viola concerto in D major, op.1 without conductor
*To be performed from memory.

5) Final Round: two pieces

⑩ Johannes Brahms: Trio for viola, cello and piano in A minor, op.114

⑪ Béla Bartók: Viola concert (Tibor Serly version)

*To be performed from memory.