

The 13th ARTE International Mandolin Festival & Competition – Guidelines

Competition Division

Dates: October 10 (Sat) – 11 (Sun), 2026

Venue: Kadoma Civic Cultural Hall “Lumiere Hall” (Small Hall), Osaka, Japan

Organizer: NPO ARTE MANDOLINISTICA

Divisions

Division A: Mandolin Solo

Division B: Mandola, Mandoloncello, and Liuto Moderno Solo

Jury (9 members)

- Keigo Fujii
- Annika Hinsche (Germany)
- Takayuki Ishimura
- Ayako Kojima
- Kenzo Kumei
- Chiaki Masukawa
- Ekaterina Mochalova (Russia)
- Kozo Onishi
- Kenji Suehiro

Division A – Mandolin Solo

Eligibility: Participants must be under 35 years of age as of October 10, 2026.

Prizes:

1st Prize ¥200,000

2nd Prize ¥100,000

3rd Prize ¥50,000

Preliminary Round (Video Screening)

Set Piece: One of the following works by Raffaele Calace:

Prelude No. 1, Op.45;

Prelude No. 2, Op.49;

Prelude No. 3, Op.63;

Prelude No. 5, Op.74.

Semifinal

Set Piece: Osamu Kawakami (b.1979) – Black Ghost (2014).

The sheet music will be distributed via a download site after the editing is completed.

Program must include this piece and total program time must be over 15 minutes and under 20 minutes, including entrance and exit. For the free-choice piece, accompaniment is optional, and the choice of accompanying instrument is unrestricted.

Final

Free-choice program. Total program time must be over 20 minutes and under 30 minutes, including entrance and exit. Accompaniments are optional, and the choice of accompanying instrument is unrestricted.

Division B – Mandola / Mandolncello / Liuto Moderno Solo

Eligibility: No age limit.

Prizes:

1st Prize	¥50,000
2nd Prize	¥30,000
3rd Prize	¥10,000

Preliminary Round (Video Screening)

Free-choice unaccompanied program up to 10 minutes.

Final

Free-choice program. Total program time must be over 15 minutes and under 20 minutes (no repetition of preliminary piece). Accompaniments are optional, and the choice of accompanying instrument is unrestricted.

Special Award

First-prize winners in both divisions will be invited to perform as guest artists in a future ARTE MANDOLINISTICA concert. The pieces to be performed in this concert will be decided through discussion between the performer and the Organizing Committee.

Judging Method

Division A:

Preliminary – A/B/C rating;

Semifinal – Set piece 25 points, free-choice piece 25 points (50 points total);

Final – 50 points total;

The final score will be the total of the Semifinal and Final scores, with a maximum of 100 points.

Division B:

Preliminary – A/B/C rating;

Final – 50 points total.

Application for Preliminary Round

Required Documents:

1. Application Form
 - ✓ Can send via e-mail.
 - ✓ Be sure to fill in the programs for both the Semifinal and Final rounds.
2. Video Recording Data for the Preliminary Screening
 - ✓ The performance must be recorded within three months prior to the application date and must not be edited or processed in any way. Any evidence of editing or processing will result in disqualification.
 - ✓ If the recording environment is deemed extremely poor, or if the distance between the performer and the microphone is considered excessively far, the applicant may be asked to resubmit the recording.
 - ✓ When submitting the video to the Competition Office, please use USB, DVD-R, or an online storage service.
3. Photo (Can send via e-mail as JPEG file).

Submission Deadline: July 13, 2026 (Mon).

Send to: NPO ARTE MANDOLINISTICA, c/o Inoue, 1-478, Fukakusa Sujikaibashi-kita, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto 612-0869, Japan.

Email: office@arte-mandolin.com

Preliminary Screening Participation Fee:

- ✓ The participation fee for both divisions is ¥10,000.
- ✓ The fee must be paid to the designated account by July 15, 2026, after completing the preliminary entry.
- ✓ If payment is not received by the deadline, approval for participation will be canceled.
- ✓ Bank transfer fees are to be borne by the participant, and the participation fee will not be refunded for any reason.
- ✓ For overseas entrants, payment methods and deadlines may be discussed individually.

Changes to the program or performance order are allowed until July 20.

If changes are made, they must be reported via the above email address

Preliminary Screening

The screening will be conducted anonymously, with the judges deliberating without disclosing the performers' names (A/B/C scale).

Results will be announced August 1, 2026 on website.

Supplementary Judging Notes

- ✓ The scores for the Semifinal and Final rounds will be determined based on the average of the middle seven judges' scores, excluding the highest and lowest, and finalized through deliberation among all nine judges.
- ✓ Performance time is measured from the performer's entrance onto the stage until their exit.
- ✓ If the performance exceeds or falls short of the time limit, 2 points will be deducted from the final average score.
- ✓ The evaluation results for each performer will be made public.
- ✓ Judges may not evaluate contestants who have previously studied under them, including in the preliminary screening.
- ✓ Repetition of pieces across the Preliminary, Semifinal, and Final rounds is not allowed.
- ✓ The decisions of the Jury are final and may not be contested or appealed.

Additional Notes

(1) Insurance

Competition participants are responsible for arranging their own insurance—covering health, injury, instruments, baggage, and other personal belongings—for the entire period from their departure from their home or residence country until their return. If deemed necessary, participants must take out such insurance at their own expense.

(2) Neighboring Rights

All rights related to performances in this competition—including those for the opening ceremony, award ceremony, and related concerts held after the competition—such as broadcasting, public performance, recording, filming, publication, and portrait rights, shall belong to the organizer.

(3) Prize Money

If prize money is subject to taxation under Japanese law, any withholding tax required by law will be deducted before payment.

(4) Restriction on Performance Activities During the Competition

Participants must not engage in any other performance activities during the two days between the Semifinal and Final rounds.

However, this restriction does not apply to participants who have been eliminated in earlier stages.

For overseas participants who pass the preliminary screening and come to Japan, the organizer may assist with or arrange accommodation and related logistics.