

2023 KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL
PIANO COMPETITION

Rules and Regulations

[Message]

At KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL, we have been engaged in our music education activities with the goals of "learn through music, not just learn music", "not just aim to acquire techniques" and "nurture individuality and make a richer personality through activities to express oneself through music" based on our educational philosophy, "Through music, we guide the irreplaceable personality of each student, and through mutual respect for each person's personality, we create the joy of communicating and resonating with others".

It is thanks to the understanding and cooperation of all of you that we were able to hold this competition for the first time, inheriting the spirit of KAWAI MUSIC COMPETITION, "actively evaluate spontaneous musical expression rather than superiority or inferiority of technique", which is based on the educational philosophy of KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude.

We hope that every participant will be able to demonstrate in this competition the "eagerness to express your own music" that comes from the joy of creating your own music and the excitement of delivering music to other people.

Although the spread of the novel coronavirus is not yet under control and the situation is still severe, we hope that this competition will help you to rediscover the importance and necessity of music and make your musical life more meaningful and enriching.

We sincerely look forward to your participation.

KAWAI JAPAN

[Eligibility]

Students who live in China, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, or Vietnam, and are enrolled in a directly managed or licensed KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL in that region and have been recommended by the school.

<List of the representative KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOLS and licensed companies in each region>

- China : Kawai Musical Instruments (China) Co., Ltd.
- Indonesia : PT. Kawai Music School Indonesia
- Thailand : Prime Music Co., Ltd.
- Taiwan : Tong Ho Musical & Wooden Works Co., Ltd.
- Vietnam : Viet Thuong Trading and Service Manufacturing Corporation

[Category]

Categories are divided as follows according to the participants' age and level.

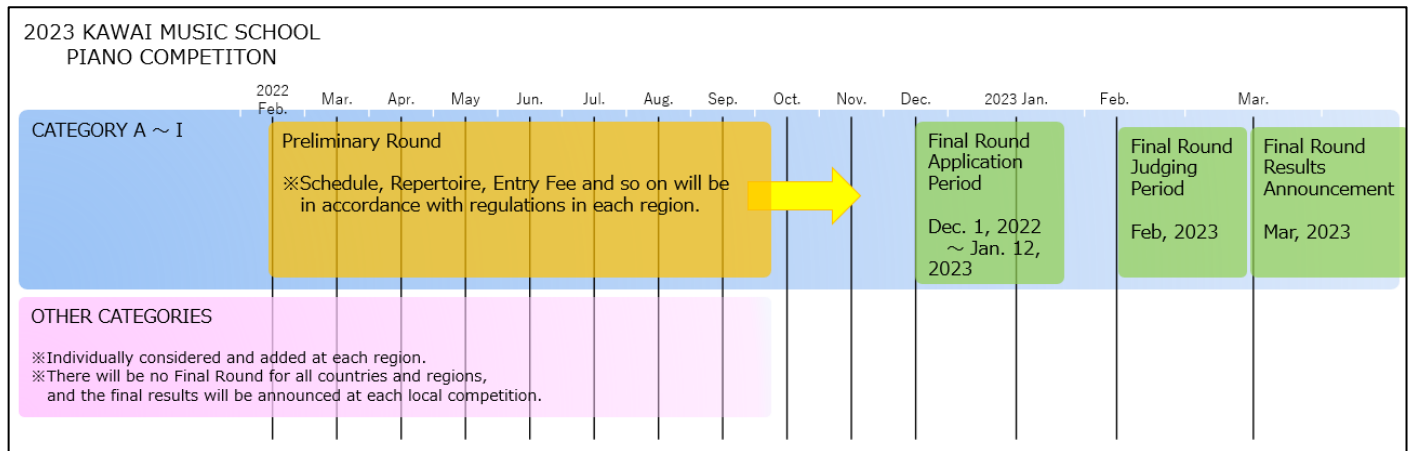
【CATEGORY】		【LEVEL】	【AGE】
Solo	A	SOUND TREE 6, SOUND TREE ALBUM	18 years old or younger (those born on or after April 1, 2004)
	B	SOUND TREE 5B, 5A, 4B	
	C	SOUND TREE 4A, 3B	15 years old or younger (those born on or after April 1, 2007)
	D	SOUND TREE 3A, 2	4-8 years old (those born between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2019)
	E	SOUND TREE J	9-11 years old (those born between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2014)
	F	SOUND TREE 1B, 1A	4-8 years old (those born between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2019)
Duo	G	SOUND TREE 3A, 2	4-8 years old (those born between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2019)
	H	SOUND TREE J	9-11 years old (those born between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2014)
	I	SOUND TREE 1B, 1A	4-8 years old (those born between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2019)

※Each participant may apply for only one category.

Exceptionally, it is possible to apply for two categories, one from solo category and the other from duo category.

※Students who won the “Best Performance Award” in the previous competition will not be accepted to the same category. (Application to the higher-level category will be accepted.)

[Schedule]



※The Final Round will be held online.

※In addition to categories A through I, each country or region may have its own categories.

For more information, please contact KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL or licensed company in each country or region.

[How to apply]

Preliminary Round : Please contact KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL or licensed company in your country or region.

Final Round : Information will be sent to those who are eligible to participate in the Final Round, before the start of the application period.

[Application Fee] ※You will have to pay the application fee for both the Preliminary round and the Final Round.

Preliminary Round : Please contact KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL or licensed company in your country or region.

Final Round : JPY 5,000

Payment information will be sent to those who are eligible to participate in the Final Round.

[Prizes]

Preliminary Round : Gold Prize / Silver Prize / Bronze Prize / Other Prizes

(The upper place winners will be qualified to participate in the Final Round.)

Final Round : [for Students] Grand Prize / Gold Prize / Silver Prize / Bronze Prize

[for Teachers] Best Teacher Award (given to the teachers of the Grand Prize winners)

[Jury]

Preliminary Round : Jury members appointed by KAWAI JAPAN will be the judge.

Final Round : Japanese jury will be the judge.

[Repertoire]

A * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform one piece from Assigned Pieces and one Free Piece (within 5 minutes) by ear.

※Please perform the Assigned Piece first and then the free piece.

※Assigned Piece must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※You can omit the “repeat” in the free piece. However, D.C. and D.S. must be performed.

※If you perform Free Piece for longer than the designated performance time, it will be subject to a penalty.

< Notes on the selection of the Free Piece >

- ① It must be a classical piece. However, any arrangement of the original piece for easy performance or any jazz arrangement will not be accepted.
- ② The piece must have a published score. (You will be required to show the composer's name and publisher's name in the application form. You may also be asked to submit the score.)
- ③ Original compositions by participant will not be accepted.
- ④ You may perform multiple pieces from a single suite or variation, as long as they are within the designated performance time.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE 6	Johann Sebastian Bach	4. Invention No. 1 C Major, BWV 772	
	Georg Philipp Telemann	13. Fugue G minor, TWV 30:21	
	Domenico Scarlatti	14. Sonata A Major, K.322	First one : play Second one : omit
SOUND TREE ALBUM	Ludwig van Beethoven	1. Bagatelle op.126-5 [6 Bagartellen op.126]	omit
	Jhon Blow	5. A Prelude	
	Jean-François Dandrieu	6. Rondeau [Pièces Courtes et Faciles "Quatrième Suite"]	omit
	Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer	21. Chaconne	
	J.S.Bach	23. Gavotte G-dur [Französische Suite 5 BWV816]	First one : play Second one : omit
	Louis-Claude Daquin	30. Le Coucou [Premier livre de pièces de clavecin, 3 ème suite]	

B * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform one piece from Assigned Pieces and one Free Piece (within 4 minutes) by ear.

※Please perform the Assigned Piece first and then the free piece.

※Assigned Piece must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※You can omit the “repeat” in the free piece. However, D.C. and D.S. must be played.

※If you perform Free Piece for longer than the designated performance time, it will be subject to a penalty.

< Notes on the selection of the Free Piece >

- ① It must be a classical piece. However, any arrangement of the original piece for easy performance or any jazz arrangement will not be accepted.
- ② The piece must have a published score. (You will be required to show the composer's name and publisher's name in the application form. You may also be asked to submit the score.)
- ③ Original compositions by participant will not be accepted.
- ④ You may perform multiple pieces from a single suite or variation, as long as they are within the designated performance time. Intermission between pieces shall be included in the designated time.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE 5B	Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach	2. March	First one : play Second one : omit
	Alessandro Scarlatti	3. Minuet from Toccata 4. ^a	play
	Johann Philipp Kirnberger	4. Gigue	First one : play Second one : omit
	Ignace Joseph Pleyel	8. Minuet	omit
	Franz Joseph Haydn	9. Scherzo The 3rd moment from Piano Sonata No.3 in F Major, Hob. XVI/9	First one : play Second one : omit
	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	10. Rondo from London Sketchbook (Londoner Skizzenbuch) K.15d	omit
	Ludwig van Beethoven	11. Happy and Sad Lustig und Traurig WoO.54	omit
	Friedrich Kuhlau	23. 1st movement of Sonatina F major, Op.88-4 from Four Sanatinas	omit

Category B

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE 5A	Johann Krieger	6. Minuet	First one : play Second one : omit
	Christian Petzold	7. Minuet G-dur BWV Anh.144 from Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach, 1725	omit
	Johann Sebastian Bach	8. Little Prelude Kleines Präludium C-dur BWV 939 from 5 Little Preludes (5 Kleine Präludien)	
	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	12. Minuet G-dur K.1e	First one : play Second one : omit
	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	13. Minuet F-dur K.5	play
	Franz Joseph Haydn	14. Allegro from Piano Sonata Hob. XVI/8 4th movement	First one : play Second one : omit
	Anton Diabelli	16. Sonatina (1st movement) from 7 Piano Sonatinas Op. 168-3	omit
SOUND TREE 4B	Jean-François Dandrieu	33. The Fifers	
	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	34. Minuet K.6	First one : play Second one : omit
	Jean-Philippe Rameau	35. Menuet en Rondeau	
	Louis Köhler	36. Sonatine No.1	omit

C * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform two of Assigned Pieces by ear.

※Please perform the two Assigned Pieces in the order you entered in the application form.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※Assigned Pieces must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE 4A	Austrian Folk Song	1. Augustine	
	Bohemian Folk Song	2. The Cheerful Duck	
	Mother Goose /Arrangement: Misako Hazemoto	7. Ding Dong Bell	
	English Christmas Carol	9. We Wish You a Merry Christmas	omit
	Anonymous / Arrangement: KAWAI	10. An Old French Air	
	Christoph Graupner	14. Bourrée	play
	Daniel Gottlob Türk	16. Arioso	First one : play Second one : omit
	W. A. Mozart	17. Minuet K.2	play
	William Duncombe	18. Sonatina	
	Béla Bartók	20. Short Piece	
	Russian Folk Song	21. Troika	play
	Michael Glinka/Arrangement: KAWAI	23. The Lark	
	English Folk Song	26. Greensleeves	
	H. Wohlfahrt	28. Sounds Like Something Good	play
SOUND TREE 3B	F. Beyer	3. Memories	omit
	Mother Goose /Arrangement: KAWAI	7. Sing a Song of Sixpence	play
	German Folk Song	8. Little Foxes	
	B. Bartók	12. Dialogue	
	Russian Folk Song	13. Quiet Sunset	
	KAWAI	17. Gentle Heart	
	Ukrainian Folk Song	19. Geese Fly to the Countryside	
	French Folk Song	22. Oh! My Tender Musette	
Finnish Folk Song	24. Kitty Cat Has a Cold		

Category C

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE 3B	Mother Goose /Arrangement: KAWAI	26. Old King Cole	
	KAWAI	28. In the Sunlight through Trees	
	L. Mozart	30. Minuet	First one : play Second one : omit
	French Folk Song	33. For He's a Jolly Good Fellow	
	Mother Goose /Arrangement: KAWAI	34. Three Little Kittens	
	C. M. v. Weber/Arrangement: KAWAI	35.The Mermaid Song	omit

D * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform two of Assigned Pieces by ear.

※Please perform the two Assigned Pieces in the order you entered in the application form.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※Assigned Pieces must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE 3A	Misako Hazemoto / Arrangement: Toshinori Nishizaki	1. Can You Hear a Sound?	play
	Mother Goose	6. London Bridge is Falling Down	
	German Folk Song	8. Volksweise (Folk Tune)	
	German Folk Song	10. Little Bird Carries the Mail	
	Swedish Folk Song	13. The Little Cowherd	
	A. E. Mueller	15. Andante	First one : play Second one : omit
	KAWAI	16. Little Miss Moon	play
	German Folk Song	19. Fallen Leaves	
	French Folk Song	21. Air Populaire	
	German Folk Song	23. Jolly Night	
	German Folk Song	24. Green Pasture	
	D. G. Turk	31. Work for Joy!	play
	German Folk Song	34. If I were a Little Bird	
	French Folk Song	35. Little Papa	
	French Folk Song	36. Lullaby of the Moon	
SOUND TREE 2	French Folk Song	4. Bourrée	
	Mother Goose	7. Girls and Boys Come Out to Play	play
	American Folk Song / Arrangement: KAWAI	10. Row Your Boat	
	American Folk Song / Arrangement: KAWAI	12. Skip to my Lou	
	Mother Goose / Arrangement: KAWAI	13. Little Polly Flinders	play
	Mother Goose / Arrangement: KAWAI	16. Pease Porridge Hot	
	M.J. Hill & P.S. Hill	18. Happy Birthday to You	play
	Mother Goose / Arrangement: KAWAI	19. Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush	

Category D

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE 2	KAWAI	21. Lamb Seller	Play
	American Folk Song	23. Pig in the Poke	play
	Polish Folk Song	25. Polka in the Woods	
	German Folk Song	27. Stars Twinkle	
	Traditional / Arrangement: KAWAI	28. Silent the Night	
	Jacques Offenbach	29. Barcarolle from "Tales of Hoffmann"	
	V.O. Stamps	31. When the Saints Go Marching In	play

E * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform two of Assigned Pieces by ear.

※Please perform the two Assigned Pieces in the order you entered in the application form.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※Assigned Pieces must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE J	KAWAI	23. The Candy House	play
	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	24. Everybody's March	
	American Folk Song	25. Mary Had a Little Lamb	
	German Folk Song	26. Cuckoo	
	J. Pierpont	27. Jingle Bells	
	Mayuki Motohashi	28. Mallards Moving	
	French Folk Song	30. On the Bridge	
	French Folk Song	33. Bourrée	
	Mother Goose Song	36. Girls and Boys Come Out to Play	play
	American Folk Song / Arrangement: KAWAI	37. Row Your Boat	
	American Folk Song	38. Skip to my Lou	
	Mother Goose Song	39. Little Polly Flinders	play
	Mother Goose Song	41. Pease Porridge Hot	
	M. J. Hill	42. Happy Birthday to You	play
	Mother Goose Song	43. Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush	
	Mother Goose Song	44. Lamb Seller	play
	American Folk Song	46. Pig in the Poke	play
	Polish Folk Song	48. Polka in the Woods	
	German Folk Song	49. Stars Twinkle	
	Traditional / Arrangement: KAWAI	50. Silent the Night	
J. Offenbach	51. Barcarolle from "Tales of Hoffmann"		
American Folk Song	53. When the Saints Go Marching In	play	

F * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform two of Assigned Pieces by ear.

※Please perform the two Assigned Pieces in the order you entered in the application form.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※Assigned Pieces must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Composer	Piece	Repeats
SOUND TREE 1B	Russian Folk Song	18. Sowing the Seeds of Spring (Spring Song)	
	KAWAI	19. The Candy House	play
	German Folk Song	20. Butterfly	
	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	21. Everybody's March	
	KAWAI	24. Dance	
	German Folk Song	25. Cuckoo	
	J Pierpont	26. Jingle Bells	
	Mayuki Motohashi	27. Mallards Moving	
	French Folk Song	30. On the Bridge	
SOUND TREE 1A	KAWAI / Arrangement: Yukinori Tsujita	23. Ferris Wheel	
	KAWAI / Arrangement: Yukinori Tsujita	25. Teacup	
	KAWAI / Arrangement: Yukinori Tsujita	26. Merry-Go-Round	
	Misako Hazemoto / Arrangement: Toshinori Nishizaki	33. Whap! Bap! Rice Cake!	
	Mother Goose / Arrangement: Toshinori Nishizaki	34. Hot Cross Buns	
	Bohemian Folk Song / Arrangement: Jun Takeuchi	37. Buzz, Buzz, Buzz	

G * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform two of Assigned Pieces by ear or from the music score.

※The student is required to play the students' part and the teacher is required to play the teachers' part.

※Please perform the two Assigned Pieces in the order you entered in the application form.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※Assigned Pieces must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Piece	Notes	Repeats
SOUND TREE 3A	24. Green Pasture		
	26. Little Piece	The part indicated with "I" is the student's part, and the part indicated with "II" is the teacher's part.	
SOUND TREE 2	7. Girls and Boys Come Out to Play	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.	play
	12. Skip to my Lou	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.	
	18. Happy Birthday to You	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.	play
	19. Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush		
	26. Merry Thoughts		
	31. When the Saints Go Marching In	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.	play

H * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform two of Assigned Pieces by ear or from the music score.

※The student is required to play the students' part and the teacher is required to play the teachers' part.

※Please perform the two Assigned Pieces in the order you entered in the application form.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※Assigned Pieces must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Piece	Notes	Repeats
SOUND TREE J	13. Ferris Wheel		
	14. Teacup		
	15. Old MacDonald Had a Farm		
	18. Sol-Sol-Sol, Mi-Mi-Mi		
	21. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star		
	22. Turkey in the Straw		
	24. Everybody's March!		
	36. Girls and Boys Come Out to Play	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.	play
	38. Skip to My Lou	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.	
	42. Happy Birthday to You	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.	play
	43. Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush		
	53. When the Saints go Marching In	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.	
	54. Merry Thought		

I * Common to the Preliminary Round and the Final Round *

Perform two of Assigned Pieces by ear or from the music score.

※The student is required to play the students' part and the teacher is required to play the teachers' part.

※Please perform the two Assigned Pieces in the order you entered in the application form.

※When you participate in the Final Round, you may change the pieces from those you performed in the Preliminary Round.

※Assigned Pieces must be selected from the list below.

Please note that any performance of a piece not on the list will be subject to a penalty.

【Assigned Pieces】

※Those pieces from SOUND TREE textbooks must be performed.

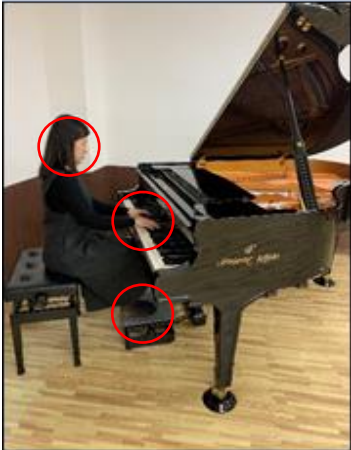
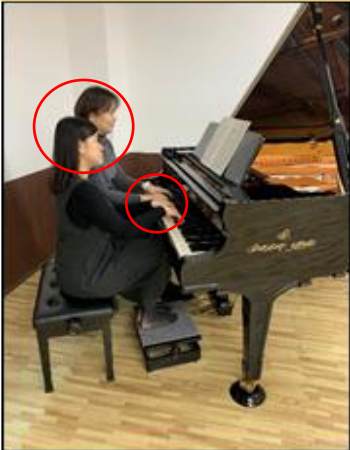

※D.S. and D.C. must be played.

Textbook	Piece	Notes
SOUND TREE 1B	9. Old MacDonald Had a Farm	
	12. Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree	
	13. Sol-Sol-Sol, Mi-Mi-Mi	
	17. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star	
	20. Butterfly	The teacher should sit to the right of the student.
	21. Everybody's March	
SOUND TREE 1A	23. Ferris Wheel	
	25. Teacup	The teacher should play only the left hand part of the teachers' part.
	26. Merry-Go-Round	The teacher should play only the left hand part of the teachers' part.
	27. Green, Green Field	

[Rules of performance and recording]

※These rules below are for the Final Round.

For the Preliminary Round, please contact KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL or licensed company in each country or region.

Instruments	<p>Please perform on a grand piano or an upright piano.</p> <p><u>Make sure the piano is well-tuned</u> before recording the performance video so that the student can perform in a good condition.</p> <p>For tuning inquiries, please contact KAWAI MUSIC SCHOOL or licensed company in each country or region.</p>
Period of video recording	Information will be sent to those who are eligible to participate in the Final Round, before the start of the application period.
Equipment and quality of the recording	<p>Please use a smartphone, tablet, or video camera to record your performance.</p> <p>Please record in portrait mode and in the highest quality possible, taking care not to be flipped or reversed.</p>
Recording location	<p>If possible, please record the performance at your classroom.</p> <p>If you have a grand piano or an upright piano, you can take the video at home.</p>
Video editing and processing	<p>No editing or processing is allowed.</p> <p><u>Make sure to record the entire performance</u> at once, in a single video.</p> <p>(Please note that if you start recording just before the start of the performance, the beginning of the performance may not be recorded.)</p>
How to submit the performance video	Information will be sent to those who are eligible to participate in the Final Round, before the start of the application period.
Noises	<u>Please be careful not to record any unnecessary sounds and noises.</u>
How to set the recording device	<p>Set up the device from the treble side, so that the entire body of the performer is clearly visible.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SOLO</p>  <p>Make sure to record the entire body, especially the face, hands and feet. Also, please use a footrest if the foot does not reach the floor.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>DUO (Teacher on the bass side)</p>  <p>Make sure to record student's and teacher's face and hands.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>DUO (Teacher on the treble side)</p>  <p>Some pieces require the teacher to sit on the treble side. If so, please ensure to record the student's face and hands.</p> </div> </div>
Handling of submitted videos	<p>All rights (copyrights, portrait rights, etc.) to the video data received will belong to the organizer, Kawai Musical Instruments Manufacturing Co., Ltd.</p> <p>The video may be used on the website or in other advertisements.</p>

[Judging Philosophy]

The judging for this competition will be focused on the musical expression, not just the technique. Therefore, whether you choose an easy piece or a difficult piece, you will be evaluated according to your own expression.

In particular, we will evaluate the following points.

1. Whether the performance shows your willingness to express yourself.

- Whether you are putting your emotions into the sound and trying to convey them to the audience.
- Whether you try to do your best.
- Whether you have a positive and enthusiastic attitude.

2. Whether the performance shows the results of the lesson you have taken.

- Whether the results of your efforts to create a beautiful sound are apparent.
- Whether you understand the characteristics and elements of the piece (beat, rhythm, dynamics, phrasing, chord movement, balance of notes in each part, use of pedals, etc.) and express them in your performance.
- Whether you understand and perform the differences in the characteristics of music depending on the era in which the music was composed, the type of music, and the composer.

<To instructors>

It is often believed that the students' own individual expression is unlikely to occur in the beginning of the piano lesson because the directions by the instructor have a great influence on the students' performance.

However, we believe that there are cases in which the students' own individual expression comes out to some extent in their performance as the study progresses, or the students actively express their individuality from the beginning of the study.

Therefore, the performance in this competition will be evaluated as the result of the collaboration between the instructor and the student, in which the individuality of each student is expressed to the fullest.

[Contact us]

If you have any questions, please visit our Web site (<https://musicschool.kawai-global.com/>) and select "contact" button to contact us.