

**2024 Hamamatsu International Piano Competition
in the home of the piano
4 –25 November 2024 - Hamamatsu, Japan**



Monday 4 November 2024, 14:00

ACT CITY Hamamatsu Concert Hall

Opening Concert

Can Çakmur (*The 10th Hamamatsu International Piano Competition 1st prize*) Piano
Tomoharu Ushida (*The 10th Hamamatsu International Piano Competition 2nd prize*) Piano

Mt. Fuji Philharmonic Orchestra

Ken Takaseki Conductor

Saturday 9 November - Wednesday 13 November 2024

ACT CITY Hamamatsu Concert Hall

First Stage

Friday 15 November - Sunday 17 November 2024

ACT CITY Hamamatsu Concert Hall

Second Stage

Tuesday 19 November - Wednesday 20 November 2024

ACT CITY Hamamatsu Concert Hall

Third Stage

Saturday 23 November - Sunday 24 November 2024

ACT CITY Hamamatsu Main Hall

Final Stage

Sunday 24 November 2024

ACT CITY Hamamatsu Main Hall

Presentation of Awards

Monday 25 November 2024, 19:00

ACT CITY Hamamatsu Main Hall

Prize winner's Concert

The 12th Hamamatsu International Piano Competition returns from **4 - 25 November 2024**. The competition was started in 1991 in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of Hamamatsu City and takes place every three years. Previous winners have included **Seong Jin Cho** (also 1st Prize at the Chopin Competition), **Rafal Blechacz** (also 1st Prize at the Chopin Competition), **Alexander Gadjiev** (BBC New Generation Artist), **Sergei Babayan**, **Alessio Bax** and **Alexander Gavrylyuk**, as well as **Alexander Melnikov** as runner-up. The last winner of the 2018 Competition was **Can Çakmur**. This has resulted in a recording partnership with BIS Records which now sees the Turkish pianist record the complete Schubert piano works.

This year's Competition attracted 638 applications, double that of 2018, and 94 competitors from 26 countries have been chosen. The number of approved participants from Europe has doubled since the last competition, with 11 participants in 2018 compared to 22 this year.

The winner of the competition will receive ¥4,000,000 (just over £20,000), an extensive concert tour of Japan, a recording on Orchid Classics and a London showcase at **King's Place** in **January 2026** arranged by **Ikon Arts Management**. The runner-up will receive ¥2,500,000 (approximately £12,500).

Discounting the competitors' travel and hosted by the Competition for the entire 3-week duration, the Competition welcomes 100 candidates to take part. Those who are not involved in later rounds get opportunities to perform all over the city in community concerts at locations across the city, including numerous home concerts. The candidates form life-long bonds and often get reinvited in subsequent years.

While competitors have freedom to offer any solo repertoire, whether virtuosic, romantic, classical or baroque, for the second round, the Competition commissions a piece by a Japanese living composer - which 24 candidates will perform. This year's commission is a new work by **Toshiro Saruya**. In the semi-finals, competitors are asked to present a Mozart Piano Quartet as well as their solo recitals. For the finals round, finalists will perform with the **Tokyo Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Toshiaki Umeda** on a piano of their choice - whether a **Kawai, Yamaha or Steinway**.

The distinguished international jury chaired by **Noriko Ogawa** (Japan) features **Hortense Cartier-Bresson** (France), **Dang Thai Son** (Vietnam), **Paul Hughes** (UK), **Peter Jablonski** (Sweden), **Momo Kodama** (Japan), **Ewa Kupiec** (Poland), **Pedja Muzijevic** (USA), **Ronan O'Hora** (UK), **Ilya Rashkovskiy** (Russia), and **Akiyoshi Sako** (Japan).

As **Noriko Ogawa** explains,

"As jury members, we are privileged to listen to so many live performances rather than internet-jurying. That way we get the incomparable flavour of in-

person music-making. It's rather an intense time for us jury members as there is no conferring between us about the candidates. For three weeks, Hamamatsu is filled with the sound of the piano. The involvement of the city and its people is incredible - I don't think it could happen without the understanding and enthusiasm of its citizens. In 1987 when I won 3rd Prize at the Leeds Piano Competition, that performance changed my life, literally overnight. I only had seven pounds left in my bank account at the time. Though the prize money was small, I came away with many concerts and my life completely changed."

As Can Çakmur (winner of the 2018 Competition) commented: *"The food is amazing and it was the first time I saw the ocean! It has been an honour to go to Japan and now be reinvited back there three times a year since winning the competition".*

Hamamatsu

Hamamatsu is the home of piano manufacturers including Yamaha and Kawai. Hamamatsu and the two renowned piano makers share a bond forged by the city's special history of craftsmanship. The most famous Shogun Tokunaga Ieyasu gathered craftsmen from all over Japan to build a castle in Hamamatsu where he would rule from. In 1900, the first Japanese piano was built here, and now it is not only home to Roland Electric Pianos and Tokai Electric Guitars but also the world famous Shinkansen Super Express carriages, aircrafts, textile more.

Since its inauguration in 1991 by the City of Hamamatsu, this international cultural program has been held every three years to celebrate the history and tradition of the city of music and musical instruments. The purpose of this Competition is to encourage the development of music and culture, to promote international cultural exchanges and to contribute to the nurturing of musicians by providing promising young pianists from all over the world with an opportunity to display the fruits of their daily study.

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

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