

# The 46<sup>th</sup> Kusatsu International Summer Music Academy & Festival Masterclass Application Guidelines

## Overview

The purpose of this Academy is not only to acquire superior playing techniques, but also to purpose for wider musical experiences and knowledge through direct contact with top musicians who are invited from all over the world.

**Theme for this year: Bach is Cool**

## Duration

August 17<sup>th</sup> (Mon), 2026 –August 30<sup>th</sup> (Sun), 2026

\*Opening ceremony and orientation will be held at 13:30-15:00, August 17<sup>th</sup> (Mon).

\*Masterclass will be started after August 18<sup>th</sup> (Tue).

\*Closing ceremony will be held at 11:00-11:30, August 30<sup>th</sup> (Sun), after the student concert

## Venues

In the area around Kusatsu Onsen Ski Resort  
Kusatsu Ongakunomori Concert Hall and others

**Languages: Japanese/ English/ German/ Italian**

## Faculty, schedule and capacity

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<b>Angelika Kirchsclager</b> Vocal / 18th–29th/ 12 people Chair of Lied-Oratorio-Concert at the University of Music in Vienna	<b>Christopher Hinterhuber</b> Piano/ 18th–29th/ 12 people Professor for piano and deputy head of the piano department at the University for Music and performing Arts in Vienna	<b>Anthony Spiri</b> Piano/ 18th–29th/ 12 people Professor of piano chamber music at Hochschule für Musik Köln	<b>Karin Adam</b> Violin/ 18th–29th/12 people
	 <small>©Andres Herrera</small>	 <small>©Cyrus Allyar</small>	
<b>Enrico Bronzi</b> Violoncello/ 18th–24th/ 8 people Professor at the Universität Mozarteum Salzburg	<b>Thomas Indermühle</b> Oboe/ 18th–29th/ 12 people Professor at École Normale Alfred Cortot	<b>Reinhold Friedrich</b> Trumpet/ 26th–29th/ 8 people professor at Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe	<b>Claudio Brizi</b> Organ/Cembalo/Basso Continuo 18th-24th/6 people Professor at Conservatorio di Musica in Perugia

\*Please note that schedule might be changed.

\*Undersubscribed classes might be cancelled.

\*In the case there are a large number of applications, document screening or video audition might be held. In that case, a notification of audition might be sent to the applicants after the deadline.

\*No age limit. Elementary school students might be asked to submit a performance audio source depending on the faculties.

\*In principle, elementary and junior high school students must be accompanied by their guardian as an auditing student. For more details, please contact with Academy office.

\*Memorizing music is required for Prof. Hinterhuber class.

### **In principle, taking whole term is required.**

In the case of undersubscribed, the first-half or second-half application might be accepted.

Please fill out the required information when you register for the course. Please also let us know if you will be absent. If you do not report in advance, you may not be able to take the predetermined number of lessons.

### **Submission & Audition**

In the case there are a large number of applications, document screening or video audition might be held. Details will be provided to eligible applicants after the application deadline. Selection (judged by the instructor) will be based on the submission of the video and payment of the tuition fee by the deadline, and we will then determine whether you have been accepted into the course. Please note that there may be a short turnaround time between receiving notification of the audition and the video submission deadline. We appreciate your understanding in advance.

\*In the event that an audition is held due to oversubscription, those who will be away from home or who have taken a half-term course will not be able to participate.

**Fees: (Vocal/ Piano/ Violin/ Oboe) 110,000 JPY including tax**

**\*Bronzi (violoncello) class: 91,000 JPY**

**\*Friedrich (Trumpet) class: 50,000 JPY**

**\*Brizi (Organ) class: 45,000 JPY**

\*The fee is including course fee, entrance fee for concerts and open lessons.

\*Includes admission to half a term of master classes for Cello classes and admission to concerts (August 17-24) and public lessons during the term.

\*Includes admission to half a term of master classes for Trumpet classes and admission to concerts (August 26-30) and public lessons during the term.

\*Includes admission to a term of master classes for Organ classes and admission to concerts (August 17 · 21-24) and public lessons during the term.

**Lesson Repertoire: (Instruments) 2–4 works (Vocal) 8–10 works**

In principle, students' druthers are acceptable, however the pieces along the theme of the year may be preferable. Ensemble pieces between students are not eligible for the master class.

If you are selected for a student concert, you must have a performance time of 10 minutes or less. Please prepare it as a lesson work in advance. In principle, lesson works would not be able to change after masterclass' registration.

\*Please note that during this period, selected participants may be asked to perform at street corner concerts. Since you will be able to adapt your performance style flexibly, we encourage you to consider including unaccompanied pieces in your repertoire.

**Lesson time: 9:00 – 12:00 ★**

For the entire period, Academy requests professors to provide three lessons of 45 minutes each per student and classes with 10 or more scheduled days to have mid-term breaks, however subject to change at the discretion of the professors. In addition, auditing other student' lessons is considered to a part of the study, please be sure to attend.

**Certificate of Completion:**

A certificate signed by the instructor will be awarded only to those who complete the master class and meet the completion requirements set by the administrative office. This certificate serves as a testament to your musical dedication and should be kept as a cherished memento.

<Completion Requirements> (★: Required)

① Attendance at all lessons during the program period ② Participation in the special open lesson on Saturday, the 22nd ③ Attendance at the concerts held every evening

\*Regarding ①, this includes lessons given to other students. For ② and ③, please refer to the following page.

## Practice room

A practice room will be set up near the Ski Resort.

Book online. Please understand the number of available rooms and hours are limited.

*Practice room fees*

Room charge: Free

Piano rental: 500 yen incl. tax for upright/ 1,000 yen incl. tax for grand (per 90 minutes for each room)

## Scholarships

Kusatsu International Summer Music Academy provides scholarships to support those who acquire musical skills.

**[Toyama Foundation Scholarship]** <https://kusa2.jp/en/academy-2/scholarships-en46/>

This is a scholarship system to support master class students based on the will of Mr. Kazuyuki Toyama, who was the executive committee chair at the time of the inauguration of this music festival and served as music director from the 11st the 30th.

- Eligibility: those who apply for the masterclass for entire duration and need financial aid.
- Applicable: Vocal, Piano, Violin, Oboe
- Scholarship: tuition exemption and provided 200,000 yen (incl. tax).
- Selection process: Screening applications by nomination committee after online application.
- Application period:  
12:00 (JST), May 7<sup>th</sup> (Thu), 2026 to 16:00 (JST), May 14<sup>th</sup> (Thu), 2026.
- \*There is an age limit.
- \*Previous grantee of each scholarship are not eligible.
- \*For more details, please refer to our website.

## Open lessons

Open lessons of masterclasses will be held.

-Entrance fee: **Student** Free **General** 1,500 yen (incl. tax)

-Advance reservation is required

-Venue: Kusatsu Now Resort Hotel Now Chapel

-Dates: 13:15-15:15 on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> –Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

\*Please note: The class on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, is a special open class exclusively for Master Class students. ★

\*The faculty will be announced in the official website and flyers.

## Entire schedule Organ Class: Excluded

Day/Time	9:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	18:00
August 17th					Opening ceremony			
August 18th to 21st								Concerts
August 22nd to 28th		Lessons			Open lessons			
August 29th								
August 30th		Student concert		←Closing ceremony				

\*Lesson has a possibility to be held in the afternoon due to the professors' circumstances.

\*Selected students from each masterclass to be in Student Concert on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

\*Schedule and details are subject to change.

\*The concerts on the 21st and 26th are scheduled to end at 5:00 PM.

## Festival (concerts) ★

Concerts performed by masterclass faculties is held every day from August 17<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>.

-Venue: Kusatsu Ongakunomori Concert Hall

-Program: please refer to our website.

## About accommodation

Those who wish to apply for accommodation through the academy office can also apply for accommodation at the time of Masterclass application.

For more information about accommodation, please contact our office.

\*In addition, if it is unavoidable to have an absence date during the period, please pay the accommodation fee for the absence.

### <About application>

How to apply

Apply online. URL : <https://kusa2.jp/en/>

Please attach a photo of your face that meets the following regulations to the application form.

As for how to fill out the form, please refer to the "Academy Application" page on the official website.

#### Photo in JPEG file

\*Please trim into square if you can.

\*A photo of the entire upper body square to the camera.

\*Taken within 6 months.

\*File name must be included the applicant's name. (e.g. Photo\_First name Last name)

#### Performance video

Elementary school students might be asked to submit a performance audio source depending on the faculties.

\*Please submit a recording of your performance of any piece that is 5-7minutes long and was recorded within the past 6 months. It must be made available exclusively on YouTube and the URL must be entered in the designated field on the application form.

\*In your video, please be sure to include your name and the name of your instrument in the YouTube video name.

\*If the URL entered cannot be viewed, the video will not be considered for judging.

### Application Period

**12:00 (JST), Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 to 16:00 (JST), Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

\*When the class is oversubscribed, audition announcement is notified to applicants after applications are closed.

\*After the course has been accepted, the masterclass guide is notified to the applicants by early August.

Gunma Kusatsu Music Society Foundation

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