

PTNA NEWS LETTER 2013

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Piano Teachers' National Association of Japan

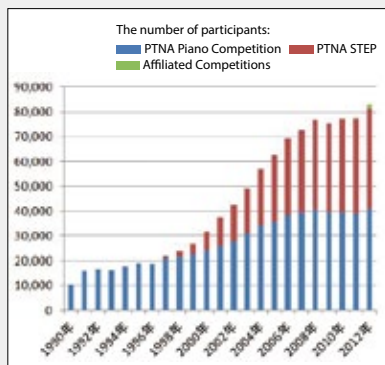
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PTNA (PIANO TEACHERS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of JAPAN), founded by Yasuko Fukuda, is a nonprofit organization of professional piano and music teachers. Our mission is to advance the value of piano and music teachers committed to furthering a higher level of the pedagogical skills, and to explore cultural and artistic activities by way of piano. We encourage piano and music teachers in the community to improve the quality of piano pedagogy and performance studies, promote a rich humanism from music pedagogy, communicate with internal and external associations, and contribute to a broader cultural development.

- Established : 1967
- Chairperson: Nobuyuki Idei
- Vice Chairperson: Yuichiro Hata, Yuko Ninomiya
- CEO & Secretary: Seikoh Fukuda
- Board Members: Trustees, Treasurers, Advisor, Councilors
- Groups & Committees
 - *Administration and Organization Group
 - *Research Group
 - *STEP Project Group
 - *Competition Group
- Networks: Branches (123), Stations (350)
- Number of Members: 14,000
- Membership Status: Authorized member, Teacher, Performer, Researcher, Supporter, Student, Corporation, Grandmuse (amateurs) Members *as of Dec.2013



Ideas from Everywhere! PTNA Branches & Stations Think Globally, Act Locally



How the “PTNA Community Network” Works

PTNA always welcomes new ideas! PTNA accepts opinions and ideas from active piano teachers and puts them into practice as soon as possible. Besides the committees consisting of chosen authorized members, all the PTNA members are eligible to join the activities of one of the branches (123) and/or satellite stations (350) in their regions. Recently those region-based activities have become more eminent due to their websites and SNS, and therefore their experience and knowledge are immediately shared by many piano teachers across the country.

“PTNA Community Network” is the

online platform for all of the satellite stations that enables them to introduce and share their activities, announcements and reports freely and swiftly. The Nagoya-Sakae Station, Aichi (chief: Hideo Sugiura) has been organizing events, seminars and lectures almost twice a month, inviting renowned pianists and professors. The theme of the events varies, from technical training to music interpretations, and they upload detail reports afterward. The Saitama-Oto-no-ha Station, Saitama (chief: Mayumi Nagase) also organizes study seminars for piano teachers, especially focusing on music analysis. Reviews of all the seminars are uploaded online. In another station, Chiba-Wakaba Station, Chiba (chief: Tazuko

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Hamamoto) organizes serial seminars to do in-depth study and practice of the Finnish Suomi Piano School Method, and learn how to nurture own creativity through improvisation.

In STEP, the concert-style evaluation, each satellite station has the freedom to plan various entertaining / educational programs within the event. Sabae Station, Fukui (chief: Ikue Sakai) called not only piano students but also a local chorus group and a hand-bell performance club to join and play on the stage. Kokura Station, Fukuoka (chief: Miyako Tamura) encouraged participants to play piano in various styles, including solo, ensemble with strings, voice accompaniment, piano duo with teachers / mothers, and even let all the participants to sing together at the lunch time under the instruction of a professional teacher. Similarly, Iyo Station, Ehime (chief: Araki Keiko) had lots of ensemble with families, and saw new friendships arose between participants who by chance played the same piece. PTNA Communication Letters also helped them build friendships.

Conferences of PTNA Branches

Aside from online communication, members of branches / stations have active face-to-face communication through organizing music events, seminars, and the annual general meetings. Chiba branch, Chiba (chief: Yoshihisa Yura), one of the largest among 123 branches, held the annual general meeting with the attendance of 91 out of 410 affiliated members. After pre-



sentation of the branch's activities and financial reports, some members gave lecture concerts to help attendees enjoy a whole day meeting. This branch, settled 10 years ago, has 10 affiliated satellite stations that are active and in a good partnership with local music shops. Those well-balanced collaborations accelerate harmonious communication between members and also help improve the learning environment of students. The second largest branch, Nagoya branch, Aichi (chief: Yuko Obayashi) was established in 1978, having 350 members, 12 affiliated stations, and over 1,000 competition participants in the region every year. They held the annual general meeting in conjunction with the teachers' seminar, and had a large attendance this year. Small & new branches also have loyal members. Yanagawa branch, Fukuoka (chief: Noriko Kimura) had 60% attendance at the general meeting among 91 affiliated members. Based on a good partnership with a local music shop, the representative of the branch is eager to enhance reliable communication between members by planning unique seminars for piano teachers, as well as concerts of locally-raised young pianists.



Support from Local Sponsors & Media

Some branches / stations obtain financial support from local public / private bodies to organize music events like public school concerts, STEP, regional rounds of PTNA Piano Competition, etc. Last April, representatives of 12 branches across Japan had a conference in Tokyo and share their experiences and knowhow. Here are some

examples.

Hirosaki branch, Aomori (chief: Miyuki Tanaka) obtained a grant of one 100,000 yen from a local sightseeing convention association to support young pianists in the area, besides the awards from municipal government, the local education committee, and the local newspaper. Even during the time of recession, according to her, some local companies gave support and that compassionate feeling still remains in their hearts. Toyama Niikawa Station, Toyama (chief: Mikako Hatakeyama) also received favors from local sponsors and so invited them to a public school concert afterward.

Some branches organize concerts for PTNA winners in their regions, and successfully gained local sponsors to make the administration stable and sustainable. Miyazaki branch, Miyazaki (chief: Hisako Ishizaki) even gained supports from 70 local shops, enterprises and individuals. It proves how PTNA branches / stations take root in local communities as active music organizations.

After the conference, teachers became more aware of the importance of building relationships with local people. They further discussed how to offer ideas to make them satisfactory, such as reconstruction / revival of music halls, introduction of local key figures on stage at their music events, etc.

Branch / Stations also try to build up reliable partnerships with local media. Suwa branch, Nagano (chief: Fumiko Takei) has been working with the Nagano Nippo for 30 years. The president of the latter believes that investing to the young talents is important to vitalize the local area in the long run.





Station Original Logo Marks

- ① Niigata Minami Station : Rice field in Niigata, prefecture of the highest yield of rice
- ② Jonan Station: Haneda International Airport
- ③ Fuji Station: Keyboards and Mount Fuji
- ④ Ichinomiya Station: "Ichinomiya Tanabata Festival", one of the 3 big star festivals in Japan held on July 7th, that celebrates the meeting of two stars, Orihime (Vega of the constellation Lyra) and Hikoboshi (Altair of the constellation Aquila).
- ⑤ Nagoya Naka Station : The golden dolphin displayed on the roof of Nagoya castle
- ⑥ Hiroshima Peace Station: Hiroshima peace memorial park, described with pigeons and rainbow.
- ⑦ Southern Station: A hibiscus and a stingray of Okinawa

Satellite Station Logo Marks Symbolize Local Specialty

What is your local pride? Local specialty? Each satellite station is eligible to have a logo mark of one's original design. PTNA offers a "passport" for participants of STEP / Competition to record their stage performances, and stick logo seals on the booklet. Since each region has their specialties and characteristics, PTNA helps them take advantage of those "local brands", as well as enhances participants to make their visiting and performing experiences special. See the map for some examples.

Increase in the Number of Affiliated Competitions

PTNA helps promoting affiliated local competitions (13 competitions/2013) by accepting applications via PTNA online. The Japan Bach Competition (chief: Naomi Ishii), inaugurated in Kobe, steadily increases its participants after having reached nearly 2,500 this year. The Neyagawa-AruKas Piano Competition was launched in Neyagawa city (Osaka) this year in collabora-

tion with a local piano teacher, Hiroko Kojima and the 1st edition successfully acquired 500 participants.

STEP Lecture Concert (Talk Concert) in 180 Venues

STEP, the concert style evaluation stage, allows audiences to come and enjoy performances anytime free of charge. Occasionally audiences come for the special featured programs such as 15-30 min lecture concerts by professional pianists / teachers being present as advisors. Lecture concerts have been held in 180 STEP venues across Japan in 2013 and posters have been displayed at local public schools and institutions. Sometimes 200-300 audience members filled the hall for those special concerts. Among the pianists, Yusuke Kikuchi, who studied at the Paris Conservatoire, has served as advisor and performed at the lecture concerts more than 15 times.



Public Recording Concerts Extended to Regions & Abroad

The Public Recording Concert Series aims at recording live performances and sharing the music on the online library "PTNA Piano Encyclopedia" (via youtube). It started in 2010 in Tokyo and venues have extended to other regions in partnership with local music shops and members' private music salons. It seems to be a trend that owners of private salons (Sae Matsuda, Kyoto / Rikako Nakanishi, Osaka are both piano teachers) are enthusiastic about holding concerts at their places. A concert was also held in Paris last April (Espace Hattori, the first time abroad.) with a theme of Liszt and Thalberg.

Live concerts are open to the public without a fixed entrance fee. For the courtesy of the performers and for the administration, PTNA leaves decisions to each member of the audience whether and how much they contribute.



Raise Individual Ability As a Teacher, As a Student

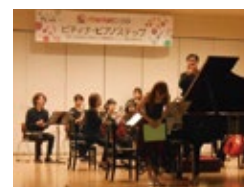


After being awarded the Prize of Education Ministry(MEXT), Ms.Urayama, the President and the CEO of PTNA visited the Minister.

discover young talented pianists under 17. After a 2 day lesson audition and a final concert, Ryota Yamazaki (14) won the Yasuko Fukuda Prize, followed by Shiori Kuwahara (17) for the prize of excellence. Yamazaki played Beethoven piano sonata No.23 Appassionata with full energy and vigor, and showed outstanding talent.

Enjoy Ensembles at STEP

PTNA Piano STEP, the concert style evaluation, has been expanding its number of venues and



participants and now it is organized in 400 venues across the nation (over 40,000 participants / year). In recent years, besides solo performances, opportunities for ensemble and concerto performances are on a steady increase. Participants can play with other instruments or orchestras at certain locations. This year 53 venues allowed them to play ensembles, one of which invited the president of the String Teachers' Association as an advisor. There were another 3 venues designed for concerto performances (Bunkyo Analyse Station/ chief: Tetsuya Akiyama). Participants were able to play not only with orchestras, but were also privileged to play their solo pieces (Sonatine, Burgmüller, etc) with orchestral accompaniments specially arranged for this opportunity.

PTNA Piano Competition, who was the top of 40,677?

The 37th PTNA Piano Competition was held in the summer of 2013 and Rui Urayama won the grand prize at the grade superior. She gave a 50 min recital with Beethoven, Akaishi (compulsory), D.Scarlatti, and Albeniz at the semifinal, and played Chopin's piano concerto No.1 in the final round with the Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra (cond. Kazumasa Watanabe). She reached the final round in 2006 and tried the same grade again after 7 years. The number of participants altogether was 40,677 this year.

Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Audition Discovers Talents!

On the following day, the 6th Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Audition was held inviting 3 international juries to



Grand Prize Rui URAYAMA



Born in 1988 in Hokkaido. After graduated from Kyoto City University of Arts, she continued her study at Boston Conservatory with full scholarship at the Master's degree. She won the 2nd prize at the Chopin Piano Competition in Hartford (U.S.) in 2012. She played in solo and chamber recitals (JEMUR Piano Trio) in many cities including Japan, U.S., Italy, Lithuania, etc.

Yasuko Fukuda Prize Ryota YAMAZAKI



Born in 1998, he started to play piano at the age of 7. He was awarded the Gold Prize at grade C of PTNA Piano Competition in 2008, the Silver Prize at grade G (the second highest grade) in 2012, and the Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Prize in 2013. He was awarded the 1st prize in the Gina Bachauer International Junior Piano Competition in 2012.

When Did They Start To Join STEP?

In 2013, 75% of the newcomers of PTNA Piano STEP (3,458 participants) were under 10 years old. They can enter either at the 23-level-STEP or the Free STEP, according to their demands. The 23 STEP is grouped into 5 levels and is easier for participants to evaluate how advanced they are. Free STEP allows them to play solo as well as in duos, ensembles, in accompaniment, eurhythmics, etc., so that they can freely enjoy any style of music.

Let's Do Peer Learning!

In April, the 46th Teacher's Seminar was held in Tokyo and hundreds of teachers attended. This year, for the first time, the poster session was introduced and 8 teachers gave 10 minute presentations on the following themes; how to connect eurhythmic activity to piano playing, how to teach a sense of rhythm, how to make children to improve finger techniques without reading notes, how to choose and teach popular music, how to maintain good balance between one's private life and the



teaching, how IT can be used in daily piano lessons, etc. After the poster session, many audience members came to the presenters to ask questions. During the event, a bazaar of sheet music was held and 9 individuals & 3 music publishers offered their properties. All the proceeds were donated to 6 music groups in "CrossGiving Projects".

PTNA e-learning Programs Become More Handy

The online distant learning system "PTNA e-learning" has been renewed and now you can see the programs on any PC/iphone. The following programs are currently available (registration & charge required); PTNA Teaching Seminars (2011-), Special seminar for learning required repertoires PTNA Piano Competition(2013), Special intensive lecture on Debussy (2012), Workshops for Comprehensive Musicianship (2011-), etc.

Live Musical Analysis on ipad

PTNA held a special lecture for the musical analysis. The lecturer, Ichiro Kaneko (2005 Grand Prize) wrote down his analysis on ipad, which was immediately shared by each member of the audience on his/her ipads at hand. The ipad tablets were distributed to each one, thanks to Hiroyuki Koike (IT software developer) and Softbank Corp.



Writing Program Notes Encourages Learning?

How should we write program notes properly? This might a question that many musicians have once asked themselves. Atsushi Oyamada, a music writer, wrote serial online articles to explain three basic components of program notes, and the importance of the effective delivery of words to make audiences better understand and be more interested in the music.

Senior Members Welcome New Members

PTNA acquires hundreds of new members a year and regularly holds orientation and exchange events for them. This year a senior member was invited to make a welcome speech. Kasumi Ishiguro, with 20 years of membership, has more than 100 students now, and knows how exciting but difficult it is to face various children. She talked about the importance of continuous learning and the necessity of the independent teachers' network. The similar events have been held in branch/stations.



Continuous Effort for Disaster Affected Schools

Michiko Shoji (chief: Sendai-Aoba Station, Miyagi), the representative of Piano Donations for Japan Disaster Affected Public Schools, has been making efforts to deliver pianos to the earthquake disaster areas in north-eastern Japan. Over 270 acoustic/electric pianos reached there in the past two and a half years. This activity was introduced in the national newspaper Nikkei. PTNA CrossGiving has also supported this project ("Charity category").



2013 Jury Members



Ronan O'Hora
Professor of Guildhall School of Music and Drama



Boris Petrushansky
Professor of Accademia Pianistica Internazionale "Incontri col Maestro"



Jerome Rose
Professor of Mannes College The New School For Music, Founder and Director of International Keyboard Institute and Festival

(C)John Landolfi

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For the Society, For the Future of Music!



"International" category of the CrossGiving Project;
Japan-Vietnam Exchange Concerts (left) &
Dispatching pianists to Piano Talents Milano (right)

PTNA CrossGiving Project

Since 2012, PTNA promotes "Cross-Giving Projects", a crowd-funding system that enhances music related projects for public purposes, and plays the role of matchmaker between contributors and beneficiaries. It already has three categories: "Education", "Public Assets", "Charity", and besides these, a new category, "International", was added this year. Ayuko Higuchi (1993 PTNA Grand Prize winner) launched an exchange concert project between Japan and Vietnam, and obtained 300,000yen in contributions. The concerts were held 7 times altogether, in which two young pianists, Airi Katada (Japan) and Ngyuen Le Binh Anh (Vietnam) performed. The concerts were successful with the attendance of the ambassadors of several countries, journalists, teachers and students, and also people from the Hanoi Children's Palace.

Aki Kuroda (chief of Tokyo-Milano Ciao Station) organized the preliminary audition of "Piano Talents in Milan",

funded by CrossGiving contributions, and two selected pianists participated in the final round in Italy in June. Nanako Shimooka and Kanon Takao both received the highest prizes (Assoluto) at each category. The two young pianists decided to dedicate half of their prize money to the 2nd preliminary audition in 2015.

In the "Public Assets" category, two projects were launched to promote Japanese compositions. The 2nd Ishikawa International Piano Competition asked Michio Kitazume for a commission of a compulsory piece, "Four Seasons in Kenroku-en", and was realized by donations from 20 contributors. It was published by Kawai Co.,Ltd. "Exhibition of the Works of Eisuke Tsuchida" was also supported by CrossGiving.

In the "Education" category, PTNA shifted "School Concert Project" into this collaborative funding system to be more sustainable and omnipresent across the nation. It was inaugurated in

2005 and has been held in 770 public schools for nearly 60,000 students. PTNA finds that there are areas where public schools have no appointed music teachers and thus asks branch / satellite stations to dispatch pianists. The startup program includes distribution of 50,000 yen from the head office to each collaborative partner who promise to continue the project for at least 3 years. Kanonji Station (chief: Taeko Oba) took the lead of this movement and held the first concert at a local school. The CrossGiving funding system is expected not only to obtain financial contributions but also to enhance understanding of the value of music locally.

Collaboration between Music Colleges

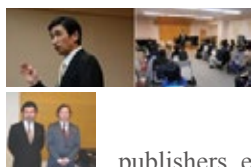
The PTNA School Concert Project collaborated with a music college for the



first time. Two students from the Tokyo College of Music (piano and flute) have been working on a workshop of music creation and they integrated it within the 45 minute school concert. This workshop is a part of the collaborative research project between 3 music colleges (Tokyo College of Music / Showa Academia Musicae / Kobe College).

Promote One's Favorite Composers

There are a number of voluntary associations of composers in Japan. A recent one is the Kapustin Association, led by Masahiro Kawakami, who has been playing and promoting Kapustin's works in Japan since 2001. He plans to hold joint concerts, world-premiere



performances, lectures, collaboration with music

publishers, etc. The Japan Liszt Association was also

established this year, led by researcher Yukio Nomoto and pianist Rintaro Akamatsu. They plan to collaborate with the Austrian Liszt Society and an agency in Hungary.

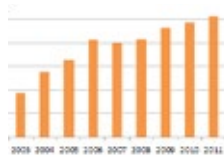
A Book Born from Online Articles

One of the online articles, “100 Lesson Key Points”, written by Reiko Ikegawa, was published as a book from Ongakuno-tomo. The ideas of this weekly article were based upon daily lessons and various types of students from children to adults she has taught and thus was popular among piano teachers.



Teachers Introduction Service Extends

Teachers Introduction Service, which had been exclusively offered to PTNA members,



extends the service to non-members to enhance the freedom of choices. It seems to be over 130% increase in the number of users compared to last year.

Memorial Service with Music for Late Yasuko Fukuda

A memorial concert for Yasuko Fukuda was held on Nov.10th. After the founder of PTNA was passed away in 2001, the Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Foun-

datation was established upon her will to encourage young

talented pianists to study abroad. At the concert, 3 former winners (Shohei Sekimoto, Rina Sudo, Tomoki Sakata) played pieces, and the attendees (families, executive board members, contributors to the Foundation) exchanged past memories and shared future aspirations. “The Yasuko Fukuda Prize” has also been given to winners of several international piano competitions (Queen Elisabeth, Mozart, etc). And it was recently offered to the winner of Student Music Concours of Japan.



International Federation of Piano Societies (IFPS) Launched!

On November 13th-14th, the preliminary meeting of piano societies was held in Hong Kong, having 25 attendees representing 16 piano societies and institutions in 9 countries, including 2 guests from Canada. PTNA took initiatives to launch this network to connect individual associations / groups of piano teachers or music institutions mainly in Asia for mutual communication. This network will hereafter be called “The International Federation of Piano Societies” (IFPS), aiming at exchanging information for the advancement of piano teaching in each country. Meetings will be held annually.



Guests from Abroad

PTNA welcomes guests from abroad, jury members of PTNA piano competition (p5) and teachers at the master classes; Andreas Staier/ Federico Colli / Olivier Gardon / Enrico Pace / Alexander Kobrin / Ronan O’Hora / Piotr Paleczny / Michel Béroff / Jacques Rouvier

Awards & Prizes

Tsutomu Hata, the former Prime Minister of Japan and the former PTNA president (1985-2009), received the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers, the most honorable award this year.

Akihiro Sakiya (PTNA student member, PTNA Silver Prize 2005) won 3rd prize at The F.



Busoni International Piano Competition in Italy. After 2 solo recitals, he played Mozart’s piano concerto No.27 in the final and Rachmaninoff’s piano concerto No.3 in the grand final round. Other prizes: Daiki Kato (PTNA Silver Prize 2009), 3rd prize at the International Paderewski Piano Competition / Yuka & Ayaka Yamamoto, Gold prize at the Dranoff International Two Piano Competition / Yuna Kobayashi, 2nd prize at the International Piano Competition”Luciano Luciani / Tomomi Sonoda, Special Prize for Spanish music at the International Competition “Music & Earth” in Bulgaria / Nanako Shimooka & Kanon Takao, Assoluto at the Piano Talents in Milan / Kaori Nakamura, finalist at the 2013 Rocky Mountain Amateur Piano Competition (Best Classic & Impressionistic Performance Awards).

Kotaro Fukuma (PTNA performer member) and Nobuyuki Tsujii received Japan Chopin Prize for the best Chopin performances among the recitals in Japan this year.

38th PTNA Piano Competition for Promising Pianists

Final Round : 18th-21st August, 2014 Tokyo

Grand Prize: 1,000,000 Yen, Concerts in Japan and abroad



▶ Purpose

To recognise and develop musicians of exceptional talent as well as providing an inspiring music experience to all participants and teachers for greater fulfilment. The goal of the competition is to generate greater musical appreciation among all and achieve the equalisation of levels throughout the country.

▶ Grade

Grand Superior (no age limit)

▶ Eligibility

Open to pianists of all nationalities and ages.

▶ Past prize winners and further careers

Tomoki Sakata (Finalist, Van Cliburn, 2013)
Akihiro Sakiya (3rd, Busoni, 2013)
Kei Takumi (6th, Hamamatsu, 2012)
Keina Sato (2nd, HongKong, 2011)
Masataka Goto (1st, Liszt, 2011)
Mami Hagiwara (1st, Geneva, 2010)
Nobuyuki Tsujii (1st, Van Cliburn, 2009)
Hibiki Tamura (1st, Long-Thibaud 2007)
Rina Sudo (5th, Dublin 2006)
Yuhi Ozaki (1st, Ettlingen 2006)
Shohei Sekimoto (4th, Chopin 2005)
Kotaro Fukuma (1st, Cleveland 2003)

▶ Past Jury

2009 Chong-Pil Lim
Nikolai Petrov
Joaquin Soriano
Dina Yoffe
Zhang Jin
2010 Gabriel Kwok
Robert Levin
Christoph Lieske
Warren Thomson
2011 Alexander Braginsky
William Grant Naboré
Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń
2012 Andrea Bonatta
Martin Hughes
Li Mingqiang
Natalia Troull
2013 Ronan O'Hora
Boris Petrushansky
Jerome Rose

▶ Sponsors

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,
Science and Technology of Japan
The Tokyo Metropolitan Government
YAMAHA Corporation
KAWAI Musical Instruments Mfg. Co., Ltd.
Yomiuri Newspaper Co.
Hinoki Crinical Co., Ltd.
YAMAHA Hall
Oji Hall
Hamarikyū Asahi Hall
Dai-ichi Seimei Hall
Senzoku Gakuen
Seitoku Gakuen
Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra

Schedule 2014

▶ First Preliminary Rounds Solo

First Round (1)

Dates: June 14 (Sat) + 15 (Sun)
Deadline: May 12 (Mon)

First Round (2)

Dates: June 21 (Sat) + 22 (Sun)
Deadline: May 19 (Mon)

First Round (3)

Dates: July 12 (Sat) + 13 (Sun)
Deadline: June 9 (Mon)

▶ Second Preliminary Round Solo

Dates: August 5 (Tue) + 6 (Wed)
Place: Katsushika Symphony Hills (Tokyo)

▶ Semi-Final Round Solo

Date: August 18 (Mon)
Place: Dai-ichi Seimei Hall (Tokyo)

▶ Final Round Concerto

Date: August 21 (Thu)
Place: Dai-ichi Seimei Hall (Tokyo)
Japan Philharmonic Orchestra
Chikara Iwamura (cond.)



2013 Grand Prize Winner
Rui Urayama



Presented by PTNA

The Piano Teachers' National Association of Japan

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