

JAPAN UKULELE CONTEST presents.

International “ON-STAGE” Contest

ENTRY GUIDELINES

#### ■Contest Overview

- The preliminary screening for this contest will be conducted through video submissions online.
- To enter, participants must:
  - Upload their performance video to YouTube
  - Submit the entry form via the official website
- Categories:
  - “Song” and “Instrumental” categories are for solo performances
  - “Group” category is for 2 to 10 performers
  - “Kids” categories is for solo or duo performances
  - Instrumental: Only solo ukulele instrumental performances are eligible
  - Song: Only solo ukulele + vocal performances are eligible
  - Group: A ukulele ensemble consisting of 2 to 10 members. While configurations that include additional instruments such as acoustic guitar, bass, and cajón are permitted, the performance must remain ukulele-centric.
  - Kids: For performers aged 12 and under by the time of November 23th 2026. Solo or duo performances in either instrumental or song format are eligible
- The final competition will be held on Monday, November 23th on a special stage at JAPAN UKULELE CONTEST
- Finalists from each of the four categories will perform on stage and be judged by professional musicians

## ■ Judging Criteria

- Instrumental: Emotionally moving ukulele performance; overall musical expression and technical skill
- Song: Emotionally moving ukulele + vocal performance; evaluated for vocal ability and performance
- Group: Emotionally moving ukulele ensemble; evaluated for musical expression and coordination
- Kids: Emotionally moving performance (instrumental or song); overall performance and expression

## ■ Award per Categories

- Grand Prize (Only 1 individual or group)
  - Original trophy
  - Products provided by sponsors
- Other Special Awards
  - Products provided by sponsors

※ Please note that the awards and prizes are subject to change.

## ■ Entry Requirements

1. All performers must use a ukulele. For the Group category only, configurations that include ukulele bass, acoustic guitar, bass, and cajón are permitted, but the performance must remain ukulele-centric.
2. Open to all nationalities. Applicants must meet all of the following:
3. Must not be a professional ukulele performer
  - Those affiliated with an entertainment or music agency, or who distribute CDs or music commercially, may not apply
4. Must upload a video to a public YouTube account and pay the entry fee
  - Entry fee payable by credit card or bank transfer

○Entry Fee: ¥3,000 (incl. tax) for Instrumental, Song, and Kids categories / ¥5,000 (incl. tax) for Group category

5. Finalists must be able to perform at JAPAN UKULELE CONTEST on Monday, November 23th

○Travel and accommodation costs are not provided; participants are responsible for their own arrangements

## ■ Entry Submission Details

●Name of applicant

○Professional ukulele players or musicians of other instruments are not eligible

●Stage name (as it will appear on the official website)

●List of performers

●Full name, age, gender, nationality

●For minors: include guardian's information

●Contact details: postal address (with zip), phone number, email address

●Title of the performance piece

●Specify if it's original, cover, or original arrangement of a cover

○For originals, list the composer (must be the applicant in principle)

○For covers, indicate the original artist

○“Original arrangement” means uniquely arranged by the applicant/group

●URL of the YouTube video (must be set to “public”)

●Video title format: [japanukulelecontest2026] Song Title by Stage Name

●Include the hashtag # japanukulelecontest\_2026 in the video description

●Video length must be within 3 minutes 0 seconds

○A margin of 1–2 seconds due to YouTube auto-adjustments is allowed, but the actual performance must be under 3 minutes

○Videos exceeding 3:00 in actual performance will be disqualified

●One video per person/group per category

●Medleys count as one song

- Use a fixed-position camera
- Ensure the video clearly shows the performance
- No camera effects or editing (titles, subtitles, zooms, effects, cuts, filters, etc.)
- Audio and video must be recorded simultaneously (no overdubbing or separate audio mixing)
- Looper pedals, multi-tracking, or effects are not allowed
- Short self/group introduction (within 200 characters)
- Image of the performer(s) (within 2MB)
- Credit card info of bank account info for payment
- Entry fee of ¥3,000 or ¥5,000 (incl. tax) depending on the category
  - Group category is required to pay via bank transfer, however card payment would be accepted for oversea entries. Please contact the organizing committee.

#### ■ Final Round Stage Guidelines

- Finalists will perform at JAPAN UKULELE CONTEST, scheduled for the afternoon of November 23(Monday)
- Performance time must be within 3:00
- Be punctual for the call time
- No effect pedals may be brought or used; performances will use a DI box
  - DI and cables will be provided at the venue
  - Personal mics are not allowed; venue mics must be used
- Performances will be held among other events and noise; this will not affect judging
- Finalists must perform the same song as the preliminary round
  - Minor variations within expressive range are allowed; major rearrangements or song changes will lead to disqualification
- A stage plot must be submitted in advance
- Only 3 lines and 3 microphones will be available on stage
- Groups are limited to a maximum of about 20 members.

- All participants are judged and managed under the same conditions; no individual exceptions will be made
- Each finalist participating in the final round at Asakusa Public Hall must purchase one admission ticket to the JAPAN UKULELE FESTIVAL.

#### ■ Important Notes

- Submitted videos and images may be used for media promotion, online links, distribution, and sales related to the contest
- By entering, applicants agree to allow secondary use for the purpose of promoting ukulele culture
- Please adhere to YouTube's terms regarding copyright for music and performances
- Any content violating public standards will be disqualified
- Minors must have parental consent, granted by their teacher or organization if applicable
- For minors, please send an email to confirming guardian consent and include:
  - Guardian's full name
  - Address, phone number, and email