

ISANGYUN COMPETITION 2025

DISCIPLINE : CELLO

November 1 - 9, 2025
Tongyeong Concert Hall, Korea



TIMF



ISANG YUN(1917-1995)

The ISANGYUN Competition has been presented by the Tongyeong International Music Foundation since 2003. It is held in remembrance of Isang Yun (1917-1995), the renowned Korean composer, by promoting cultural exchanges among nations through music, and by supporting talented young musicians from all over the world. The Competition is held annually in November, alternating between Cello, Piano, and Violin disciplines. Following this year's Cello competition, the Piano category will be held in 2026, and the Violin category in 2027.

SCHEDULE 2025

July 31	Application Deadline
August 29	Notification of Acceptance
November 1	Registration & Drawing of lots
November 2-3	First Round
November 5-6	Second Round
November 8	Final Round with Orchestra & Awards Ceremony
November 9	Winners' Concert

VENUE

First, Second and Final Round	Concert Hall, Tongyeong Concert Hall
Winners' Concert	Gwangju Arts Center

JURY

Arto Noras	Finland Chairman
Kangho Lee	Korea
Maria Kliegel	Germany
Clive Greensmith	United Kingdom
Jian Wang	China
Doo-Min Kim	Korea
Andreas Vierziger	Austria
Hiroyasu Yamamoto	Japan
Louise Hopkins	United Kingdom

PRESENTERS



MANAGEMENT



SUPPORTERS



RULES AND CONDITIONS

A. APPLICATION

The ISANGYUN Competition is open to cellists of all nationalities, born between November 1, 1995 and October 31, 2010. Applicants must submit an online application form including all types of documents on the competition's official website (www.isangyuncompetition.org) by the application deadline, July 31, 2025.

1) Online application form

- Required info: personal information, education, teachers, prizes, and repertoire of each round

2) A recommendation letter (any format is accepted)

- The letter should be in English or Korean, or should include English or Korean translations.

3) A scan of the applicant's passport

4) A photograph of the applicant in JPG or TIFF format (no less than 1MB)

5) High-quality video recordings of the repertoire of the Preliminary Round

- All works must be recorded with no audio or visual editing.
- Tutti cuts are acceptable in all works.
- The date and place of each recording must be written on the application form.
- Each required piece should be on a single track and recordings must have been produced after May 1, 2024.
- The repertoire for the Preliminary Round is as follows (**Duration: 25-30 minutes**):

a) One work of the following pieces at free choice:

J. Haydn	Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major, Hob. VIIb:1, 1st movement including cadenza
J. Haydn	Cello Concerto No. 2 in D major, Hob. VIIb:2, 1st movement including cadenza
L. Boccherini	Cello Concerto No. 9 in B-flat major, G. 482, 1st movement including cadenza

b) Work(s) of the applicant's choice

(within the time limit above, not all movements are mandatory)

B. CONTACT

+82-55-650-0400
competition@timf.org
www.isangyuncompetition.org

RULES AND CONDITIONS

C. ENTRY FEE

Applicants who have been selected to participate in the First Round of the Competition are required to submit a non-refundable entry fee of KRW 300,000 by September 5, 2025. The fee can be paid online by credit card or by international bank transfer to the following account:

Bank:	Nonghyup Bank
Bank Branch:	Tongyeong Branch, 11 Hangnam 3-gil, Tongyeong
Account Number:	301 0143 2109 61
Swift Code:	NACF KRSE XXX
Account Holder:	TIMF

Payment of the entry fee will be considered the conclusion of a formal agreement between the participant and the competition regarding his/her participation in the Competition under the rules and conditions of the ISANGYUN Competition.

D. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

1) International flights: International participants regardless of their nationality, may apply for free round-trip international flights to attend the Competition. In this case, participants shall use the airline tickets booked directly by the competition.

2) Transportation in Korea: Travel expenses within Korea are the responsibility of the participants.

3) Accommodation & Meals: Participants selected for the First Round will be provided with free accommodation and board, from October 31, 2025 until the end of their active participation in the Competition.

4) VISA: Foreign nationals requiring a visa in order to enter the Republic of Korea will be provided with the necessary documents upon passing the Preliminary Round.

E. REHEARSALS

In the Second Round, the competition will provide piano accompaniment for performances. Otherwise, the competitors may choose to bring their own pianist. Each competitor will have two hours of rehearsal time with their assigned pianist.

The finalists will rehearse with the orchestra once before performing in the Final Round.

F. MUSICAL SCORES

During the Competition, participants are expected to use their own original musical scores for the works they perform. The competition cannot be deemed responsible for any violations committed by participants in this regard. (such as the public use of illegal copies)

RULES AND CONDITIONS

G. PERFORMANCE

Lots will be drawn to decide the order in which the participants will perform. Each participant must be present when the lots are drawn at the Competitors Meeting on November 1, 2025.

The order of performance will remain unchanged until the Final Round, when it may be adjusted for programming reasons.

Except for the Preliminary Round, all rounds of the Competition are open to the public.

H. FEEDBACK

Participants eliminated during public rounds will receive jury's feedback through the feedback session.

I. PERFORMANCE RIGHTS

By submitting an application form, participants give the competition unrestricted rights to broadcast, record, televise, live stream, and film their performances during the Competition. Any such recordings or broadcasts may be made without compensation to the participants.

J. JUDGEMENT

1) Preliminary Round

The Jury will select candidates from applications received. All applicants will be notified of acceptance or rejection on August 29, 2025.

2) Public Rounds

a. The Jury consists of nine internationally recognized jurors. For evaluation of Jury judgement on public rounds, a point system will be used for the First Round and Second Round, and a ranking system will be used for the Final Round.

b. The Jury will award all prizes. Except for the First Prize, all prizes may be shared in case of a tie.

c. Any juror having taught a participant for more than three months during the past two years must declare such teaching relationship and will abstain from voting on the participant's performances.

d. The decisions of the Jury are final.

e. Competitors may not exchange opinions with any member of the Jury at any time during the Competition on subjects that may influence the judging. There are no exceptions to this rule and any competitor who fails to comply will be disqualified.

K. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES AND CONDITIONS

Should any dispute arise regarding the interpretation of any part of the Rules and Conditions of ISANGYUN Competition 2025, the Rules and Conditions in Korean as well as related laws and codes of the Republic of Korea will be the only legal basis. All decisions made by the competition and the Jury are final.

PRIZES

Total KRW 79,000,000 in cash prizes will be awarded.

First Prize	KRW	30,000,000
Second Prize	KRW	20,000,000
Third Prize	KRW	10,000,000
Fourth Prize	KRW	5,000,000
Isang Yun Special Prize	KRW	10,000,000
Seong-Yawng Park Special Prize	KRW	2,000,000
UNESCO City of Music Special Prize	KRW	2,000,000

The Isang Yun Special Prize is awarded for the best interpretation of the work "Concerto for Cello and Orchestra" (1976).

The Seong-Yawng Park Special Prize is awarded for an exceptionally talented young Korean participant.

The UNESCO City of Music Special Prize is an audience award, and the participant with the majority of votes will receive this award.

Taxes will be deducted from prize money in accordance with Korean tax laws.

All prize winners agree to perform at the Winners' Concert at Gwangju Arts Center on November 9, 2025.

When requested within the next three years, prize winners shall perform at Tongyeong Concert Hall, or at other concerts managed by the Tongyeong International Music Foundation. For such performances, round-trip airfare as well as accommodation and board will be provided by the competition, but no additional fees will be paid.

The First Prize winner will be given an opportunity to perform at the 'Orchestra Festival' hosted by the Seoul Arts Center and 'Music in PyeongChang' organized by Gangwon Art & Culture Foundation, and the 'DMZ OPEN Festival' organized by the Gyeonggi Tourism Organization.

Winners will be given opportunities to perform with the Busan Philharmonic Orchestra and the Gwangju Symphony Orchestra.

The winner of the Seong-Yawng Park Special Prize will be given an opportunity to perform a recital organized by Kumho Cultural Foundation.

OFFICIAL REPERTOIRE

All repertoire must be performed from memory, except Sonatas for Cello and Piano, and works composed after 1950. The work presented in the Preliminary Round cannot be performed in First, Second and Final Round. Time limits will be strictly enforced.

PRELIMINARY ROUND (25-30 minutes, video selection)

Applicants must submit the video recordings of a) and b):

- a) One work of the following pieces at free choice:
 - J. Haydn Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major, Hob. VIIb:1, 1st movement including cadenza
 - J. Haydn Cello Concerto No. 2 in D major, Hob. VIIb:2, 1st movement including cadenza
 - L. Boccherini Cello Concerto No. 9 in B-flat major, G. 482, 1st movement including cadenza
- b) Work(s) of the applicant's choice (within the time limit above, not all movements are mandatory)

FIRST ROUND (Solo)

Each candidate will be required to perform a), b), and c):

- a) Prelude and Sarabande from one of the following Suites for Solo Cello:
 - J. S. Bach No. 3 BWV 1009, No. 4 BWV 1010, No. 5 BWV 1011 or No. 6 BWV 1012
- b) One of the following solo works:
 - Z. Kodály The 3rd movement of Sonata for Solo Cello, Op. 8 (1915)
 - P. Hindemith Sonata for Solo Cello, Op. 25 No. 3 (1923)
 - G. Ligeti Sonata for Solo Cello (1948/53)
 - B. Britten The 7th, 8th and 9th movements of Suite for Solo Cello No. 1, Op. 72 (1964)
 - I. Xenakis Kottos for Solo Cello (1977)
 - H. Dutilleux Trois Strophes sur le Nom de Sacher for Solo Cello (1976/82)
 - K. Penderecki Divertimento for Solo Cello (1994)
 - G. Cassadó Suite for Solo Cello (1926)
- c) Isang Yun Glissées for Solo Cello (1970)

OFFICIAL REPERTOIRE

SECOND ROUND (45-50 minutes, with Piano)

Each candidate will be required to perform a), b), and c) with piano accompaniment:

- a) Isang Yun Espace I (1992)
- b) One of the following sonatas, complete:
 - L. v. Beethoven Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 4 in C major, Op. 102 No. 1
 - L. v. Beethoven Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 5 in D major, Op. 102 No. 2
 - J. Brahms Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38
 - J. Brahms Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 2 in F major, Op. 99
- c) All or part of one of the following works, depending on duration:
 - F. Schubert Sonata for Arpeggione and Piano in A minor, D. 821
 - R. Schumann Adagio and Allegro for Cello and Piano in A-flat major, Op. 70
 - R. Schumann Fünf Stücke im Volkston for Cello and Piano, Op. 102
 - C. Debussy Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor, L. 135 (1915)
 - D. Shostakovich Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor, Op. 40 (1934)
 - S. Prokofiev Sonata for Cello and Piano in C major, Op. 119 (1949)

FINAL ROUND

Each finalist shall perform one concerto with orchestra to be chosen from the following:

- Isang Yun Concerto for Cello and Orchestra (1976)
- R. Schumann Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129
- A. Dvořák Cello Concerto No. 2 in B minor, Op. 104
- E. Elgar Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85
- P. I. Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme in A major, Op. 33
- D. Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 107

ORCHESTRA / CONDUCTOR

Tongyeong Festival Orchestra / TBA