

Play with Ray – Global Violin Audition 2026

September 19, 2026 | Sumida Triphony Hall, Tokyo

Overview

“Play with Ray” is an international audition project led by violinist Ray Chen, in collaboration with Sumida Triphony Hall and Japan Arts (the “Organizers”).

Selected finalists will be given the opportunity to perform in Tokyo with Ray Chen and the New Japan Philharmonic.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

Non-professional (amateur) violinists

Open to all nationalities and ages, subject to applicable laws and regulations

For the purpose of this audition, an “amateur” is defined as a person who does not earn their primary income from violin performance.

Applicants under the age of 18 must apply through a parent or legal guardian. Proof of relationship may be required.

The following individuals are not eligible:

Members of the New Japan Philharmonic and their family members

Individuals affiliated with Ray Chen or the Organizers, and their family members

Repertoire

J.S. Bach: Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043

Movement I (1st Violin part)

Movement II (1st Violin part)

Movement III (2nd Violin part)

Entries must be submitted as video recordings of either all movements or just one of the three movements.

(One, two, or all of the first, second, or third movements.)

Application

Applications must be submitted in the form of a performance video by the applicant

Application period:

May 1 – May 31, 2026 (23:59 JST)

There is no application fee.

All costs related to recording and submission are the responsibility of the applicant.

Selection

Applications will be reviewed by:

Ray Chen

Members of the New Japan Philharmonic

Up to three finalists will be selected.

Results and Announcement

Finalists will be notified by email in late June 2026

Results will be published on the official website in early July 2026

Selected applicants will be required to sign participation and media release agreements prior to the public announcement.

Final Performance

Finalists will participate in rehearsals and perform at the concert on September 19, 2026, at Sumida Triphony Hall, Tokyo.

Details will be provided upon selection.

Support Provided

The Organizers will provide the following to each finalist:

Round-trip economy-class airfare to Tokyo

Accommodation during the stay

Transportation related to official program activities

For finalists under 18, the same support will be provided for one parent or legal guardian.

Personal expenses and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the participant.

Travel Requirements

Participants are responsible for obtaining valid passports, visas, and other necessary travel documents.

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Additional Information

Incomplete or non-compliant applications may be disqualified

The Audition may be modified or canceled if necessary

Submitted materials (including videos) may be used by the Organizers for promotional and related purposes on a non-exclusive, worldwide basis

Governing Law

This Audition shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Japan.