

Xian Xinghai International Showcase for Young Pianists

Event Guidelines

1. Aims

To carry forward and promote Xian Xinghai's patriotic devotion and musical legacy, the Showcase establishes a platform for young people worldwide to engage in musical sharing. It connects music education resources in Macao and overseas, and supports the city's developing into 'a base for exchange and cooperation where Chinese culture is the mainstream and diverse cultures coexist'.

2. Organisational Structure

Organiser: Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government

Co-organiser: Guangdong Piano Association

3. Important Dates

Date (2026)	Event	Venue / Platform
From now on until 6 November	Online Application	Website: www.icm.gov.mo/en/CMXXH
	Preliminary Audition Video Submission	Email: CMXXH@icm.gov.mo
9 November	Preliminary Audition Shortlist and Schedule Announcement	Website: www.icm.gov.mo/en/CMXXH
9 to 14 November	Final Audition Video Submission (Compulsory Piece)	Email: CMXXH@icm.gov.mo
16 November 18:00-20:00	Check-in for Macao Participants	Venue: G01, Macao Cultural Centre
17 November 16:00-20:00	Check-in for Participants from Outside Macao	
17 November	Preliminary Audition (for Macao Participants)	Venue: 4 th Floor, Macao Cultural Centre
18 to 19 November	Preliminary Audition (for Participants from Outside Macao)	
19 November (at night)	Final Audition Shortlist Announcement	Website: www.icm.gov.mo/en/CMXXH
20 November	Final Audition Rehearsal	Venue: Grand Auditorium, Macao Cultural Centre Website: www.icm.gov.mo/en/CMXXH
21 November	Final Audition and Selected Participants Announcement	
22 November 19:30	Showcase	Ruins of St Paul's

4. Repertoire and Duration Requirements

4.1 Preliminary Audition: One own-choice piece

A complete sonata by one of the following composers: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven (excluding op. 49 and op. 79) or Schubert. The duration must not exceed 20 minutes. If the time limit is exceeded, the audition examiners reserve the right to stop the performance. This will not affect the final score.

4.2 Final Audition: The performance repertoire is determined according to the participant's provenance, as detailed below:

- (a) Participants from outside Macao are required to perform two pieces, comprising one compulsory and one own-choice pieces.

(b) Participants from Macao are required to perform one own-choice piece, with the option to perform an additional bonus piece for extra marks.

4.2.1 Compulsory Piece: The third movement ‘Wrath of the Yellow River’ from Piano Concerto *The Yellow River*, with live accompaniment by a Macao professional orchestra.

Notes: Participants from outside China may contact the co-organiser to obtain the score.

4.2.2 Own-choice piece: One complete solo piano work of any genre, from the Romantic to the Contemporary period. The duration must be between 8 and 12 minutes. Performances shorter than 8 minutes will be disqualified. The audition examiners reserve the right to stop the performance if it exceeds 12 minutes. This will not affect the final score.

4.2.3 Bonus piece: Participants from Macao who opt to perform the additional piece specified in Section 4.2.1 are eligible to receive 1 to 10 marks. The exact bonus marks will be awarded by the audition examiners based on the participants’ technical accuracy and overall performance.

4.3 Showcase

The Final Audition will select 5 participants to perform at the Showcase held in the Ruins of St Paul’s. The performing piece will be drawn from the repertoire performed by the selected participants in the Preliminary or Final auditions.

5. Application

5.1 Eligibility

Participants must be aged 24 and under (born in 2002 or later) and meet the following requirements:

Region	Requirements	Number of Participants
Macao	A. Holders of a valid Macao Resident Identity Card¹; or B. Invited Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize winners of the Macao Young Musicians Competition or Macao residents recommended by a local full-time music school. ¹ Individuals mentioned in item A must submit a video recording of their preliminary audition at the time of application. ² If the total number of participants from Macao exceeds 20, video evaluation will be implemented. The video recordings submitted by individuals referred to in item A will be assessed, and the best participants will be shortlisted for the preliminary audition.	Up to 20 participants ²
Outside Macao	Piano students invited by the organiser and recommended by professional music institutions in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and other cities in Chinese Mainland, the Portuguese-speaking countries and the Belt and Road Initiative member countries. * The regions from which applicants originate may be subject to change depending on the actual number of applications received.	Up to 40 participants

5.2 Notes on Application

- 5.2.1 No entry fee is required.
- 5.2.2 Participants must ensure that all information provided is accurate. Upon submission, the information provided will be deemed true and valid. Participants take full responsibility for the authenticity and accuracy of the information provided. If any false declaration or incorrect information is discovered, the organiser reserves the right to disqualify the participant.
- 5.2.3 Once the audition repertoire has been submitted, no changes will be accepted. Any violations of this rule will result in disqualification.
- 5.2.4 Participants who have a family relationship with the audition examiners (including immediate family or close collateral kinship), or who have had a long-term teacher-student or business relationship with any of the audition examiners within the five years preceding the preliminary audition (e.g. having been instructed by an in-service teacher or mentored by the audition examiner on a long-term basis), must declare such relationship to the organiser prior to the audition. The participant will not be assessed by the relevant examiner. If a participant fails to make the required declaration, the organiser will disqualify the participant and revoke any awards or honours conferred.
- 5.2.5 By applying for the showcase, the participants agree that the organiser/co-organiser may, during the showcase and auditions, photograph, record (audio and video) and livestream the finals, featuring the participant's performance, image, statements and interviews. Such materials (including livestream content) will be used solely by the organiser/co-organiser for the purposes of documentation, selection and promotion. All copyrights in such materials belongs to the organiser, and no prior notice will be given for their use.
- 5.2.6 By applying for the showcase, the participants agree that the organiser/co-organiser may, where necessary, share the participants' application details (including name, contact details and audition video recordings) with relevant third-parties, whether local or overseas, for the purposes of application procedures and selection.

5.3 Document Submission:

Preliminary Audition	
Application Materials	1. Application Form *; 2. Short biography in Chinese and English (maximum 350 words in total); 3. Copy of identification document (identity card/passport); 4. Proof of piano studies (e.g. graded examinations or competition certificates) or a copy of the current student card; 5. One high-resolution artistic photo for promotional purposes (format: JPG or PNG only; file size: 1.5MB; resolution: at least 300 DPI); 6. Video recording of the preliminary audition repertoire, featuring the first movement of the own-choice piano sonata as declared at the time of application, performed from memory (Applicable only to individuals holding a valid Macao Resident Identity Card, as stipulated in Section 5.1 of these Guidelines) * The application form could be downloaded from the showcase website (www.icm.gov.mo/CMXXH).
Submission Methods	Please submit the application materials by any of the following methods: ➤ By email: Attach items 1 to 5 from the above to an email (total size of items 1 to 5 must not exceed 14MB). Upload item 6 to Baidu Drive, Google Drive, Dropbox or WeTransfer, and include the link in the email. All application materials must

	be submitted in the same email to CMXXH@icm.gov.mo. Both the uploaded file name(s) and the email subject line must be in this format: ‘Applicant’s Name + Application Materials for the Xian Xinghai International Showcase for Young Pianists’. ➤ By WeChat: Scan the WeChat QR Code in Section 13 of this Guidelines and add the contact person Ms. Lin. Submit items 1 to 6 in a single compressed file, named in this format: ‘Applicant’s Name + Application Materials for the Xian Xinghai International Showcase for Young Pianists’. * If any materials are incomplete, fail to meet the requirements, or remain so after notification to resubmit, the application will be deemed unsuccessful. * After submitting the application materials, participants must receive a confirmation reply via email or WeChat for the submission to be considered successful; otherwise, the application will be deemed invalid. * Please do not delete the submitted video within one month after submission, to avoid transmission errors or inability to download it during audition review or verification.
Date of Submission	On or before 6 November 2026
Requirements of Video Recording	The video must clearly show the participant’s hand movements, a full profile of the right side of their body, and the piano music stand throughout the entire performance. The recording must be continuous, with no cuts or splicing. Post-production editing, colour correction or audio enhancement are strictly prohibited. The video must be submitted as a single file (not exceeding 2GB) and in at least HD quality (formats: MP4 or MOV).

Final Audition	
Final Audition Video	Participants from outside Macao must submit a video recording of the compulsory piece for the Final Audition (as specified in Section 4.2.1 of these Guidelines). Participants from Macao who opt to perform the bonus piece must also submit a video recording of the bonus piece (as specified in Section 4.2.3 of these Guidelines). All of the aforementioned performances must be performed from memory.
Submission Methods	Please submit the application materials by any of the following methods: ➤ By email: Upload the video to Baidu Drive, Google Drive, Dropbox or WeTransfer, and include the link in the email. Submit the email to CMXXH@icm.gov.mo. Both the uploaded file name and the email subject line must be in this format: ‘Applicant’s Name + Final Audition Video for the Xian Xinghai International Showcase for Young Pianists’. ➤ By WeChat: Submit the video in a single compressed file, named in the following format: ‘Applicant’s Name + Final Audition Video for the Xian Xinghai International Showcase for Young Pianists’ to the contact person Ms. Lin. * Please do not delete the submitted video within one month after submission, to avoid transmission errors or inability to download it during audition review or verification.
Period of Submission	9 to 14 November 2026 Late submissions will be deemed as an automatic withdrawal from the Final Audition.
Requirements of Video Recording	The video must clearly show the participant’s hand movements, a full profile of the right side of their body, and the piano music stand throughout the entire performance. The recording must be continuous, with no cuts or splicing. Post-production editing, colour correction or audio enhancement are strictly prohibited.

	Videos must be submitted as a single file (not exceeding 2GB) and in at least HD quality (formats: MP4 or MOV).
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5.4 Audition and Showcase Arrangements:

- 5.4.1 Accommodation: Preliminary Audition participants from outside Macao will be provided with complimentary hotel accommodation from 17 to 20 November 2026 (3 nights, single room, without breakfast). Participants advancing to the Final Audition may extend their stay free of charge until check-out on 22 November 2026. Participants performing in the Showcase may extend their stay free of charge until check-out on 23 November 2026. The check-in time is after 15:00, and the check-out time is by 11:00.
- 5.4.2 Audition Participation Fee: Participants who complete their performance in the preliminary audition will receive an Audition Participation Fee of MOP 2,000 upon presenting their Audition Pass.
- 5.4.3 Showcase Performance Fee: Participants will receive a Showcase Performance Fee of MOP 15,000 upon completion of their performance in the Showcase.
- 5.4.4 Except for the provisions under Sections 5.4.1 to 5.4.3 above, all other expenses incurred during the audition and showcase, such as round-trip transportation, meals, piano practice and other related costs, must be borne by the participants.

6. Audition Information and Rules

- 6.1 At 16:30 on 16 November 2026, under the supervision of the organiser, the supervisory members will conduct a live draw to determine the performance order. The audition schedule for each participant will be announced online later that day.
- 6.2 Participants must perform from memory. All works performed must be officially published. If the repertoire has repetitions, participants may decide whether to repeat.
- 6.3 Any audition repertoire not complying with the requirements specified in Section 4 of these Guidelines will result in disqualification.
- 6.4 No practice arrangements will be provided during the audition. Participants are responsible for arranging their own practice. If needed, please contact the co-organiser for assistance.
- 6.5 All unauthorised audio and video recordings during the audition process are strictly prohibited.
- 6.6 All showcase and audition-related information, including audition schedules, changes to the schedules, and latest announcements, will be published exclusively on the showcase official platforms. The organiser will not issue separate notifications.
- 6.7 Showcase official platforms:

Official Website	www.icm.gov.mo/en/CMXXH
Facebook	IC Art
WeChat	IC Macao, Guangdong Piano Association
WeChat Channel	Guangdong Piano Association
Xiaohongshu	Guangdong Piano Association

7. Check-in

- 7.1 The venue for Preliminary and Final Auditions: Macao Cultural Centre (Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, Macao, China)

- 7.2 Participants must register at the showcase check-in desk at the Macao Cultural Centre with a valid identification document to pick up their personal Audition Pass and their audition schedule. Participants from Macao must register on 16 November 2026, between 18:00-20:00; Participants from outside Macao must register on 17 November 2026, between 16:00-20:00. The Audition Pass must be kept safely; it will not be reissued if lost. Failure to check in within the specified time will be deemed an automatic withdrawal from the audition.
- 7.3 Participants must present their Audition Pass and arrive at the designated sign-in area within the specified time. They will be given a 15-minute warm-up in the assigned room before their performance, and await staff instructions. Those who fail to sign-in within the specific time will be disqualified.
- 7.4 If participant's performing piece is a contemporary work, the organiser reserves the right to require the participant to submit seven printed copies of the score at check-in for the audition examiners' reference. Scores will not be returned after the audition.

8. Audition Examiners

8.1 Audition Panel

The panel will consist of music professionals from home and abroad, including pianists and faculty members from universities or conservatories. The Preliminary Audition will comprise five audition experts, while the Final Audition will comprise seven audition experts. The panel has the right to assess participants, assign scores, and determine the results.

8.2 Conflict of Interest

- 8.2.1 Prior to the audition, all audition examiners must acknowledge the conflict of Interest mechanism and sign the 'Audition Examiner Declaration of Interest'. They must truthfully declare any family or teacher-student relationships. Intentional concealment will be regarded as a breach of conduct and may result in disciplinary action.
- 8.2.2 If a participant has a family relationship (immediate family or close collateral kinship) with the audition examiner or has maintained a long-term teacher-student or business relationship with the audition examiner within the five years prior to the Preliminary Audition, the audition examiner must proactively declare a conflict of interest and withdraw from assessing that participant.
- 8.2.3 If such conflicts of interest are not declared, and this situation once verified by the organiser, the audition examiner will be immediately disqualified and the related participant will be disqualified from the audition.

9. Supervisory Panel

The audition will establish a three-member Supervisory Panel, comprising representatives from the music industry, legal or authoritative music institutions from outside Macao, and professionals with extensive

experience in national and international music competitions. The Supervisory Panel is responsible for overseeing the execution, procedures, rules and results of the auditions, as well as the conflict of interest compliance throughout the audition, from commencement to conclusion, to ensure a fair and impartial audition. The Supervisory Panel does not have the right to award marks to participants or determine the results.

10. Judging Criteria

- 10.1 The audition will be marked out of 100.
- 10.2 The audition examiners will assess participants' performances based on technical accuracy, musical interpretation, stylistic understanding and stage presentation.
- 10.3 The result will be calculated as the average of the total marks given by all audition examiners, rounded to two decimal places.
- 10.4 The audition examiners' decisions on all musical matters are final. Their marks are final and must be respected and accepted by participants. The organiser will not accept any appeals made on the grounds of the marks given by the audition examiners.

11. Certificates and Qualification for the Final Audition

- 11.1 All Preliminary Audition participants will be awarded a Certificate of Participation.
- 11.2 Number of participants for the Final Audition: A maximum of three participants from Macao will advance to the Final Audition, provided that they achieve 85 marks or above and rank among the top three highest-scoring participants from Macao. A maximum of six participants from outside Macao will advance, provided that they achieve 85 marks or above and rank among the top six highest-scoring participants from outside Macao.
- 11.3 Final Audition qualification for participants outside Macao: The audition examiners from the Preliminary Audition will review the video recordings of the compulsory piece for the Final Audition submitted by the participants who have secured a place in the Final Audition. Only those who demonstrate the required standard to perform the compulsory piece will be officially granted qualification for the Final Audition. If a participant does not pass the video review, the qualification will be awarded to the next highest-scoring participant who has achieved 85 marks or above, and demonstrate the required standard to perform the compulsory piece.
- 11.4 Five participants will be selected for the Showcase by the Final Audition examiners, and the results will be announced on 21 November 2026, after the conclusion of the Final Audition.

12. Other Provisions

- 12.1 By applying for the showcase, participants are deemed to have accepted and agreed to comply with these Guidelines.
- 12.2 The organiser reserves the right to make final decisions and interpretations of this Guidelines.

12.3 The organiser reserves the right to adjust audition arrangements as it deems necessary. Any amendments to these Guidelines will be published on the showcase official platforms, and the latest announcements on the official platforms shall prevail.

12.4 The audition will be open to the public free of charge. Audience members may queue to enter 30 minutes before the official start of each session. Seating is limited and unreserved; admission is on a first-come, first-served basis.

13. Contact Us:

Phone	Outside Macao Inquiry	(86) 16624613810 (Ms. Ye) or (86) 13760871062 (Ms. Lin)
		Time: 10:00-15:00 (Mon to Fri)
	Local Inquiry	(853) 8399 6849
		Time: 9:00-13:00, 14:30-17:45 (Mon to Thu) 9:00-13:00, 14:30-17:30 (Fri) (except public holiday)
Email	CMXXH@icm.gov.mo	
WeChat	 (Ms. Lin)	